

ISSUE THREE 2023

RESPONSE



BLESSING THEIR DAYS

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 GIVE HOPE TODAY
AsianAID



DEAR SUPPORTERS

Thank you for the **overwhelming support and contributions** made towards our 'Walk A Day With Me' campaign.

Through all our different projects and activities, we seek to bless and empower the most vulnerable section of society - the children. Our aim, and challenge, is to reach out to the most vulnerable and socially excluded children and create an environment where, not only is every child protected, but also has access to opportunities and education for their all-round growth and development.

In the past year,

- 3,323 children continued to be sponsored, which means they can have nutritious meals every day, have the chance to attend an English-medium school, and can learn life skills that will help them build a bright future.
- 167 children have graduated and are working towards defining their careers and personal offering to their community.
- 3,663 women and girls received livelihood training and opportunities that have helped children stay in school and improved overall family health.

We were able to share our successes and the challenges we have faced the past year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on August 6th. Thank you

to everyone who joined in and gave your valuable time and insights.

On page five, we have included some important updates and changes that we wanted to share with you, our donors. At Asian Aid, we value you, and your suggestions and feedback are always welcome. Thanks to your support, we have been able to bless the lives of many this past financial year in India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Thanks again for your ongoing trust and support, this is much appreciated.

Blessings

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul." with a large, stylized initial 'P'.



Weaving The Future

Thank you for helping us provide two schools in Bangladesh with 45 sewing machines and two overlocking machines.

These machines allow the project school staff to empower their students with practical skills in addition to academic support and life skills training. Teachers will be able to teach and train in dressmaking, design and other sewing skills. This will especially benefit students who are struggling academically to thrive in practical vocational avenues.



Our partner team in India launched the much-anticipated Computer on Wheels project catering to 20 girls from two villages in the project community.

These girls, who attend government-run schools, come from tribal communities and are first generation learners. Although we knew that most of the girls didn't have access to computers or laptops, it was eye-opening to find

out that this was their first hands-on experience with a computer or laptop.

The concept of our Computer on Wheels program is simple – our partner staff carry laptops in the Blue Rickshaw (pictured) to villages with limited infrastructure and resources, to provide access to digital literacy. This program could transform learning for children who, if not for this project, may not learn the basics of such an essential skill set.



CHILDREN GET Glasses!

Through our partner child health screening camps in rural Nepal, 22 children received pairs of much-needed glasses. Our partner staff say the children were very excited to wear their new glasses and were also very grateful to be able to see the blackboard clearer now. "They all giggled with excitement as they received their new glasses. The smiles and the happiness were infectious, and it touched each of the team members," remarked one of our partner staff.

Thank you to our donors who support our Health program.



HAMEEDA

Hameeda, 38-year-old mother of three studied only till Grade 8. **When she married and migrated to a new city, she faced many hardships** as her husband was not very regular at work and would change jobs often.

Even the little money he earned he would not use to support the family. When Hameeda was pregnant, she had no access to the nutritious meals that a pregnant mother needs. Added to this, her husband's family did not care for her and stopped speaking to her, cutting Hameeda off emotionally from others. Hameeda was bound to the four walls of her house without any contact with the outside world. She would sit and ponder on all that she was going through for months, and she slowly started slipping into depression. Her mother took note of her deteriorating health and took her to a government hospital where she was diagnosed with severe depression and was put on medication. She battled through this for many years and continued to be under medication (psychological treatment).

Being in this state of discouragement for many years, coming to know of our partner in India and their projects was a beam of comfort to her. She quickly joined our vocational tailoring program. "It has been like a breakthrough in my life. I now have such a friendly and positive atmosphere to spend

time in, a steady friend circle, and some good encouragement to do something in life," she says. Because she hadn't completed formal schooling nor had any job-related skills, she was always low on confidence. Now after completing the tailoring course, she can take small orders and stitch clothes for her neighbours in the community – this she feels is indeed a commendable initiative that she has taken in her life, as she is now able to support her family financially.

More importantly, there has been a bigger change in Hameeda. Each time she encountered a problem or had to make a decision, she would lack confidence and could not handle uncertain situations – primarily because of her medication - and all that she could do to face the situation was to sit and cry. Gradually things started changing due to the regular engagement and the support and counselling that she received from our partner team. Hameeda has improved to the extent that she has reduced her

medication and her consulting doctor has been happy with her progress.

"I want to thank the team and our donors for giving me such a life changing training opportunity," she says. "The staff respected me and treated me as an equal instead of looking down on me as a woman. Usually in our community women are looked down upon and women usually can't talk to other men, nor are they allowed to sit or socialize with others. So, I was happy to see that everyone is being treated equally and that men are treating women equally. My time here feels of my yesteryears of childhood where I had all the freedom and choice in life. It has changed my life."





TO OUR DONORS

We want to share our thanks and appreciation for your generous support to Asian Aid and the children in our schools and programs. Our latest campaign – ‘Walk A Day With Me’ – has garnered a huge amount of attention and support, and we look forward to doing more for the children and communities we work with.

As we move forward in keeping up with needs in-country, staying in compliance with government and industry regulations, as well as staying true to the heart of Asian Aid, there are a few important messages we want to share with you.

CHILD TO SPONSOR COMMUNICATION

We are streamlining our direct child to sponsor communications. As a donor you will receive two Sponsorship Impact Reports per year. These reports will include an updated photo and information on the wellbeing and development of your child. The end of year Sponsorship Impact Report will provide an academic update on how your child is progressing at school. Our partner staff conduct regular checks on your child, confirming their attendance at school, assessing their wellbeing, and reporting on specific benchmarks. If you would like further details on the progress of your child, please contact our supporter services team.

MOVEMENT WITHIN THE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

While we work very closely with our partners to monitor the wellbeing of each sponsored child and their family, sponsored children may leave the program for various reasons, including:

- The child has graduated from the highest year available at their school.
- The child has completed their tertiary studies.
- The child has migrated with their family to another area for seasonal earning.
- The financial situation of the child's family has improved, and they no longer require sponsorship.

In some cases, families may choose to remove their sponsored child from private-Adventist schools and place them

instead in government schools where additional services may be available and provided free of charge. We want to assure you that for whatever reason your sponsored child leaves the program, Asian Aid and partner staff will ensure that all children involved in our programs are served to the best of our ability.

We will always strive to stay transparent, keep you our donors updated on any developments that impact you, and ensure your relationship with your sponsored child(ren) is maintained. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please call us and ask to speak to Tiane or Ineka on ☎ 02 6586 4250 or email us at ✉ contact@asianaid.org.au

STAFF
PROFILE



MEET

LINDA

I have been with Asian Aid two and a half years now and love working with a team of dedicated, God-loving people.

My role is Programs Finance Coordinator which means I am part of the Asian Aid Programs team working with our field partners. I'm also involved in finance items like fund transfers to our partners, reviewing program budgets and expense reporting, various other finance tasks and managing the logistics and travel plans when any of our team head overseas for partner visits.

My husband Paul and I have four kids, one girl and three boys, although most are now grown up, moved away and doing their own thing. My youngest son is 16 and is currently in year 11. My extended family also live in the same town so I feel blessed to gather regularly for family dinners and spend time together with everyone.

Enjoying the beach, swimming, paddle boarding, hiking, camping or anything out in nature is how I love to spend my downtime. You'll also find me hanging out with family and friends at home around the fire pit enjoying some good food, or at the sidelines of my son's hockey games proudly cheering him on.

The Asian Aid team are such an awesome bunch to be around, so every day is a joy to go to work. I think what I love most is the fact that we are so supportive of whatever is happening in each of our lives. There's always a lot of laughter, hugs, sometimes tears, prayers and fun!

It is such a privilege to visit our in-country projects. Spending time with our partners in their part of the world helps build great relationships where you feel more like friends than anything else.

CHILDREN GET INVOLVED IN

Life Skills PROJECT ACTIVITIES



Birma, 16 years old, is a peer educator in our project in remote Nepal. She is in Grade 10.

A peer educator in our projects learns about crucial issues in their community and shares practical knowledge and awareness with their peers and community members.

Birma conducted sessions for her classmates where they learnt to make reusable sanitary pads at school using locally available materials.

Menstrual hygiene is a very sensitive topic in her community and there was no awareness on learning and coping with menstrual health for girls like Birma. Basic necessities like sanitary pads and clean toilets have been out of reach for many

years in these communities. Now these resources are slowly being made available, and some schools are even fitted with an incinerator to help dispose of used sanitary pads and manage environmental waste.

Birma thanks Asian Aid's project for enhancing her knowledge and skills on menstrual health management and making reusable sanitary pads, which will make her days better and ensure her continued attendance at school. She says, "It was a very good experience facilitating the session and making reusable pads. Now I will teach my friends and family members to make reusable sanitary pads and encourage them to use it."

SPONSOR A CHILD

277 CHILDREN IN OUR DIRECT SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM AND 128 CHILD REPRESENTATIVES IN OUR CHILD-FOCUSED PROGRAMS ARE STILL LOOKING FOR A SPONSOR. EACH SPONSORSHIP MEANS A CHANGED FUTURE FOR THAT CHILD, THEIR FAMILY, AND THEIR COMMUNITY.



RONGDI
BB02446 - \$55

Six-year-old Rongdi is a very sincere and responsible girl and already takes pride in ensuring she attends her classes regularly. She lives with her parents and sister in Bangladesh. Through sponsorship she will be able to continue her education, learn important life skills as she grows, and raise awareness on child rights in her community.



SUSMIKA
A21753 - \$55

Susmika is a bright young girl who loves learning new things. She loves to play with her friends. Having a sponsor will ensure Susmika can continue to attend our Adventist school in Nepal, ensuring her access to quality education, and helping to protect her from practices like menstrual isolation or early child marriage.



PRANAY
H101906 - \$55

Little Pranay has just started school in India. He has a baby sister and his mother stays at home to care for her. Their father is a day labourer. Even at this age he enjoys sports and has dreams of becoming a police officer. He is currently part of our latest child-focused school project in a remote village in India.

I WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR (child's name) _____

- Sponsorship at \$49 a month Sponsorship Plus* at \$55 a month
*Plus helps us run additional child-focused activities in vulnerable communities

I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT (Please write project name below)

- A regular donation of _____ a month
 A one-off donation of _____
 A one-off donation of _____ to Family Food Fund

I WILL GIVE MY DONATION BY

- CHEQUE (Make payable to Asian Aid Organisation and post with this form)
- FUNDS TRANSFER call us on (+61) 02 6586 4250 for banking details
- CREDIT CARD

Name on Card _____

Expiry _____ / _____ / CSV _____ Amount \$ _____

Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

YOUR DETAILS

Name _____

DOB _____ / _____ / _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

ID _____



You can also take a photo of your filled-in form above and send the image to us by scanning the QR code.

All donations above \$2 are tax-deductible
 If you do not wish to receive updates or promotional materials from Asian Aid please tick this box. This excludes our quarterly newsletters. Promotional materials will be sent by email unless otherwise requested.

