



# ACTION ON POVERTY NOW

March 2016

Homes destroyed by Fiji cyclone

## ABOUT US

AFAP Action on Poverty is an Australian NGO that was established in 1968. Our mission is to play an active and important part in ultimately creating a more equitable world where resources are better distributed and used.

By working directly with local communities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, we provide the means for communities to become more self-reliant, meet their basic needs and better advocate for themselves into the future.

To achieve empowerment, we focus on existing strengths and capabilities, identify root causes of poverty and structural barriers that continue to keep people and communities vulnerable and work to systematically bring about conditions leading to self-sustainability.

Our programs have a strong track record in measurably improving people's access to basic needs such as food, clean water, health care services and livelihood opportunities.

Our methods are built on bringing local people, governments, available resources and local expertise together in innovative ways, and result in driving positive, sustainable change over the long haul.

## CYCLONE WINSTON STRIKES FIJI

We were devastated to learn that four villages we've been working with for the last two years in the Bua province were demolished by Cyclone Winston on 20 February 2016. All the villagers' crops were destroyed, their homes were flattened and they have no clean water.

**We urgently need your help to raise funds for over 600 people who have lost their homes. A gift of just \$10 can feed a family of five for two weeks. In addition to food and water, people are also in immediate need of shelter, clothes, blankets and medical supplies.**

Bua province suffers from the worst health and economic conditions in Fiji. Water borne diseases are common due to unsafe water and poor sanitation. We work with Partners in Community Development Fiji

(PCDF) in the rural district of Navakasiga in Bua to improve food security, water, sanitation and health. Our projects include establishing vegetable nurseries so women can harvest fresh produce and feed their families, and installing rainwater systems to ensure water during the dry season.

Unfortunately the cyclone has destroyed the vegetable gardens and rainwater and sanitation systems, just four years after Cyclone Evan struck in 2012 and obliterated the region's crops. Now families are again without food, water and shelter, with 80 per cent of homes destroyed.

This is the one of the worst disasters this community has seen in living memory. Please give generously today: [www.afap.org/donate](http://www.afap.org/donate)



Aritema and Alivereti (Village headmen) with the installed storage tank. (Naiviqiri)

## UNCLE BALTAZAR'S GIFT

'Uncle' Baltazar lives in a remote region of Timor Leste and has often struggled to grow enough produce to feed his family and sell at market. But education makes a huge difference in people's everyday lives – after receiving training in agriculture and business skills from our partner Timor Aid, Baltazar now has a thriving fish farm, chicken coop and vegetable gardens. This means he can send his four grandchildren to school and feed them three nutritious meals a day.

You might recognise Baltazar, who is from a remote region of Timor Leste, from the cover of our Annual Report. When we met Baltazar in December last year, we presented him with a copy of the report and a framed photograph as a memento. He was very excited – he'd never seen his photo before.

Baltazar is just one of 128 farmers who received this life-changing training to improve their food security. Our partner Timor Aid adapted their Rural Development Training to suit the educational



levels of local farmers, using visual learning techniques to teach them how to sell their produce for greater profit, use agricultural tools to improve their yield, and analyse markets and develop budgets to improve their income.



*Top: Baltazar and farmers in fields. Above: Baltazar with a copy of the Annual Report featuring his photo on the cover*



*Teacher and students with bore hole providing them with clean water*

## MUSIC FOR MALAWI PROVIDES CLEAN WATER FOR 2,000 CHILDREN

We were absolutely blown away by your generosity at our Music for Malawi fundraiser last year. Thanks to our donors, we raised over \$5,000 to repair two bore holes at schools in the Thyolo district. Over 2,000 children and surrounding communities now have access to a reliable water supply for drinking and washing.

Clean water and sanitation are major problems for Malawian children, contributing to poor attendance and high dropout rates at school. Girls in particular suffer as they lack the facilities to care for themselves while menstruating. Children are often forced to walk long distances to access clean water and turn to nearby polluted streams as an alternative, putting their health at risk.

**This means the money raised from Music for Malawi doesn't just provide clean water - it also helps students stay in**

**school and perform well. Rather than worrying about where their next drink will come from, these children can instead concentrate on learning so they can build a brighter future for their country.** "Now that the school has access to clean potable water there are **few cases of absenteeism** of pupils in class, and we are witnessing **fewer dropouts by adolescent girls**," said head teacher Mr Posman Mwale.

Almost three-quarters of Malawians do not have access to safe water or functional toilets, and water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea and cholera are the leading causes of child mortality, with many not living to see their fifth birthday.

If you'd like to make a donation to help more children access clean water visit [www.afap.org/donate](http://www.afap.org/donate)

## CAMBODIA: 125 ENROL FOR A GOOD START

Huge thanks to everyone who donated to our Good Start program over the New Year. We raised over \$5,000 to train four local teachers and build new toilets at two schools in the Veal Veng district in northern Cambodia. But the best news is that 125 children have now enrolled in preschool to get the best possible start to their education.

Rotha is five and loves going to school because she can play volleyball with her friends and eat snacks. Before she started preschool, she often had to look after her younger sister because her parents work in the vegetable fields all day.

Unfortunately, this is common in the village where Rotha lives. Many families are simply too poor to send their children to school. Many are kept at home or taken with their parents to labour in the fields, often in terrible weather conditions. They don't get to play, develop social skills or receive the basic education they need before starting primary school. When they do start, they're already behind and often have to repeat the first few years. Unsurprisingly, this leads to high dropout rates.

We know education drastically improves a child's chances at escaping poverty. That's why we partnered with the Cambodian Organisation for Children and Development (COCD) to build four new preschools and 15 home-based preschool programs to give more children like Rotha the start they need.



*Children learning at Good Start preschool*

"Before, Rotha did not talk much," says her teacher. "But now, she talks a lot with me and other students, and is learning how to count and how to write."

You can still donate to Good Start at [www.afap.org/good-start-cambodia](http://www.afap.org/good-start-cambodia). Your generous gifts can build new classrooms, buy educational toys and games, and provide free health checks and vaccinations.



*Above: Mary building her house in May 2015  
Below: January 2016 Mary's house is complete*

## MALAWI: PIGS BUILT THIS HOUSE

For Mary, one pig is all she needed to build her dream home.

Mary is a 48-year-old widow from the Thyolo district in Malawi. She takes care of her children and grandchildren. This gives her very little time to make a living for herself.

Mary was given a \$20 voucher to buy a pig through the Small Livestock Pass-on Scheme last year. When the pig produced a litter of six piglets, Mary paid back the scheme with two piglets, which were then passed on to two other families in her village, while the others were hers to keep or sell. Since pigs reproduce quickly, seven families received pigs from Mary in a single year, and Mary had enough money to start building her dream house and buy new blankets for her children.

Mary says having enough food to eat is a significant change in her life.

"Pig farming has changed my destiny, I consider myself worthy of living now and have a peace of mind," she says.

Mary and her family are just one of 318 households in Thyolo who received livestock and were trained in pig or goat farming. Since then, the households have passed on 201 animals. Their increased incomes mean they can feed their families, send their children to school and, like Mary, improve their homes.

You can buy a pig, a goat or a chicken and help someone like Mary today. Visit [www.afap.org/livestock](http://www.afap.org/livestock) to find out more.



Above: Trekkers taking in the beautiful landscape. Below: Homestay host

## SEE VIETNAM LIKE NEVER BEFORE

Experience the stunning landscape and culture of Vietnam while helping take Action on Poverty on a six-day trek through Da Bac province.

Enjoy kayaking, rafting and swimming at the lake, walk through pristine forests, stay in traditional stilt houses, and sample the traditional cuisine and culture of the Muong people.

This trek is like no other. As part of our community-based tourism (CBT) project in Da Bac, you'll be immersed in the unique landscapes and cultures of one of Vietnam's most remote regions while supporting local communities in their business and social enterprises. You will also have the opportunity to experience development projects first hand.

CBT provides tourists with an inclusive and responsible way of travelling. It allows the Muong people to increase their income, reap the socio-economic benefits of tourism, and share their language and traditions with others. CBT also empowers local communities to improve their livelihoods and protect their heritage and natural environments. It also fosters equality in tourism,



with whole communities benefiting from improved services and infrastructure, such as roads and water.

Visit [www.afap.org/trek-vietnam](http://www.afap.org/trek-vietnam) for more info.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming treks: [www.facebook.com/AFAPActiononPoverty](https://www.facebook.com/AFAPActiononPoverty)

## FUNDRAISE FOR US

Do you want to take Action on Poverty and fundraise for us? Our fabulous fundraisers have run the City2Surf, organised live music events, cycled through Vietnam and more, raising thousands of dollars to help people lift themselves out of poverty.

By taking the causes you care about into your community, you can raise awareness of poverty and support our work in some of the most disadvantaged regions of the world.

If you've got a fabulous fundraising idea, check out our Fundraising Guidelines or submit your idea to us at [www.afap.org/fundraise](http://www.afap.org/fundraise)

## CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY WITH US

We'll be hosting a special Mother's Day event on **Tuesday 10 May** at the offices of Norman Disney & Young in North Sydney to celebrate working mothers. Save the date and tell your friends and family. It will be a wonderful evening with drinks, canapés, and discussion of how poverty disproportionately affects women and mothers.

Like us on Facebook for all the latest news and events: [www.facebook.com/AFAPActiononPoverty/](https://www.facebook.com/AFAPActiononPoverty/)

## BECOME A MEMBER FOR JUST \$5

With your help, we can realise our shared vision of a future where everyone has access to clean water, health care and education. As a member of AFAP, you'll receive event invitations, discounts and special offers. Join us now at [www.afap.org](http://www.afap.org)

