

**AFAP**

**Action** on  
**poverty**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015**

The Australian Foundation for the Peoples  
of Asia and the Pacific Limited





AFAP is working with COCD to provide children who live in poor communities with greater access to education in Cambodia.

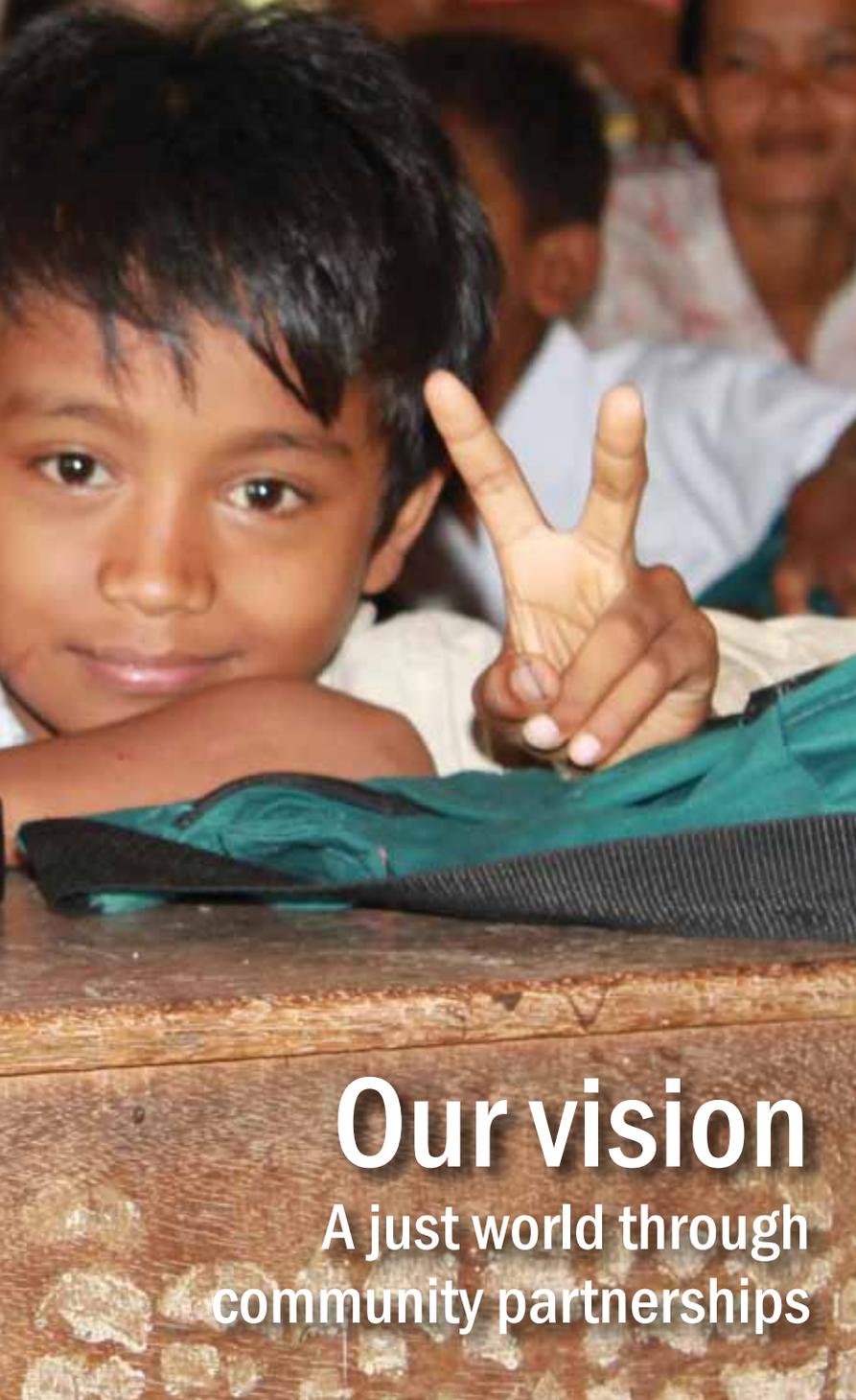


ACFID  
MEMBER

#### code of conduct and complaints

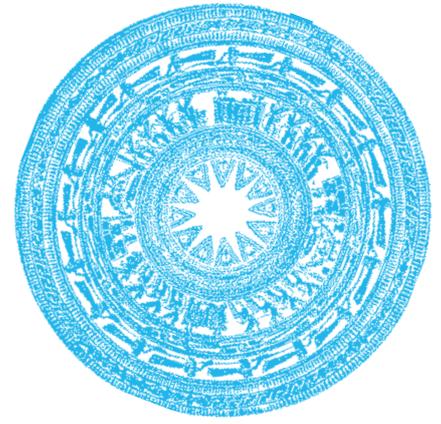
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*Cover photo: 'Uncle' Baltazar, a farmer from a remote region of Timor Leste, has improved his vegetable crop yield and now has a flourishing fish farm. This agricultural training program is a joint initiative of AFAP and Timor Aid, funded by DFAT. Photo by Alex Hurley.*



# Our vision

## A just world through community partnerships



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## ABOUT US

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### OUR STORY

Established in 1968, AFAP Action on Poverty is an independent, secular, fully-accredited Australian non-government organisation. We alleviate poverty in developing countries by helping people to help themselves. We work with local partners that are independent agencies employing local professionals as we believe this approach is cost-effective and sustainable.

### OUR MISSION

To be a leading agent for poverty alleviation through effective, community-based development.

### OUR VALUES

As we work towards achieving our mission, we commit to the following core values:

- upholding the dignity and human rights of every individual
- dealing truthfully, honestly and transparently at all times
- supporting communities to help themselves
- undertaking activities that address the needs and interests identified by the people with whom we are working
- being accountable to all our development partners
- operating with a spirit of collaboration in achieving common objectives
- maximising the impact of donor contributions
- respecting the environment
- providing challenging, supportive and safe work environments where people can improve their skills and knowledge.



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## REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

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### CHAIR | JOHN ROCK

In a few days from writing this report, the Un will meet in new York to adopt the post 2015 development agenda. In the 15 years since the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) were agreed at the 2000 Un Summit and targets set for poverty reduction by 2015, there has been great progress against many of the eight goals. However there are still huge gaps where we as a global community have failed to deliver. It remains to be seen what commitments the world will make to carry forward the development agenda through new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Without strong and ambitious goals, member states are less likely to live up to their obligations, especially when it comes to funding development.

To bring this back home, 2014/15 underscored for AFAP Action on Poverty the need to be resilient and flexible in the face of a quickly changing environment for development. Despite all the pressures and challenges, AFAP Action on Poverty broke through a new level of investment with over \$10 million revenue. This was the result of a very clear strategy we adopted a few years ago to diversify our funding base. However, as predicted last year, the cuts to foreign aid by the current Australian government have been savage, even more so than was expected. The excellent work that we have undertaken in Africa through the Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES) will no longer be funded by the Australian Government and that means this work will likely come to a halt next year. Australia has retreated from being a good global citizen and the generosity for which it has previously been known.

It is paradoxical that the willingness of governments to provide foreign aid is declining while the need for it is increasing. on the one hand there has been large progress over the last 15 years in lifting people out of poverty. Yet at the same time there are other negative factors such as huge disruptions through political instability and the consequences of climate change. Even in countries

moving into middle income status there are populations that continue to live in poverty. often as economies grow, a disparity between the rich and the poor increases sharply.

The programs AFAP Action on Poverty implements are thus of particular relevance today and for the future, addressing the fundamentals of poverty including sustainable livelihoods, water and sanitation, and especially governance and climate change. We anticipate these will all be central to the SDGs about to be adopted in new York.

our job is to continue to work with the Australian public as well as government and institutional donors to ensure the work we do can be supported in a sustainable way. So often when we Australians arrive back in our country after a visit overseas, we note how lucky we are to live here, notwithstanding the challenges we face at home. We are indeed still fortunate. Yet we are part of a global community and I would urge you all to reflect on our relative good fortune, and be prepared to share some of that with others far less fortunate than ourselves. If our own government is not prepared to live up to our obligations as a fortunate nation, then we as individual Australians can.

AFAP Action on Poverty wouldn't be able to operate in this tough climate without the passion and dedication of its staff. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Christine Murphy, CEO of AFAP Action on Poverty, and all the staff and volunteers for their hard work and commitment to alleviating poverty in a constantly changing world.



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## REPORT FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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### CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | CHRISTINE MURPHY

While planning this year has been very difficult with severe cuts to the Australian aid program and weak global markets, we remain focused on supporting vital work and developing strategic partnerships. We are mid-way through implementing our 2014-2016 Strategic Plan and have already met many of the targets we have set ourselves, and remain on track to accomplish the rest.

our poverty alleviation program in Africa continues to deliver increased food security, access to safe water and improved health to communities in South and East Africa. The highly successful Shared Futures Program is drawing to a close and, given that there has been a 70 per cent cut to African funding by the Australian Government, it's unlikely this will continue. Many thanks to Sem Mabuwa, who has steered our Africa portfolio through a tumultuous year, and also to Lachlan Keen, who recently left AFAP after successfully managing a number of our Africa projects.

Ta Van Tuan and our Vietnam team have shown tremendous leadership managing ongoing and new programs in South-East Asia. This is a region facing serious issues such as climate change, equitable access to economic benefits, and international migration and trafficking. One of the year's highlights for me was the opportunity to participate in the first international tourist trek with our Community-based Tourism team in Da Bac. This initiative is part of a larger rural development program that aims to bring economic opportunities to rural ethnic minorities and was a great success for all involved. our work on social accountability was also recognised with a new grant from Irish Aid, while the access to education and economic empowerment work we support in Cambodia has continued to develop well. I'd like to thank both Laura Bayndrian and Ragna Gilmour for all their hard work – Ragna in particular has been at the forefront of developing a new partnership with Credit Union Foundation Australia (CUFA), who we're planning to collaborate with on a small pilot project in Myanmar next year.

Perhaps the most challenging but exciting part of our story this year has been the diversification of our funding sources. Although our sector has been badly affected by the political climate in Australia, AFAP has increased the community of people who want to take action on poverty with us and we have more supporters than ever before thanks to Tiffany Kellar and Justin Alick from our Communications, Fundraising and Marketing team. our life-changing work would not be possible without the support and generosity of the Australian public, who took action with us when we voiced our concerns about the budget cuts and strived to uphold Australia's reputation as a caring and giving nation.

nowhere was this support more evident than right on our doorstep with Cyclone Pam, which devastated the Pacific in March. Because of your support, AFAP was able to assist our partner in Kiribati to help local families establish gardens and get their lives back on track. We've also been working with our partners in Fiji and the Solomon Islands on integrated development and governance projects. Many thanks to Siobhan Clark for her diligence managing the Pacific portfolio.

our Program team, led by Vanessa Zulueta, is working to evaluate all our partnerships and programs by developing a Design, Monitoring and Learning Framework. This grew out of the findings of six evaluations we undertook last year. The findings revealed that while our approach to partnerships effectively supports community development and mutual learning opportunities, we still need to systematically review approaches with a view to ongoing improvement.

As always, my report would not be complete without thanking the administration team, Christine Pollard, Manjita Gurung and Joanna Bednarska, who underpin all our operations, and the members of the AFAP Board who freely give their time, effort and expertise. I would also like to thank the many volunteers, AFAP members and interns who help us do the work that matters most. It is because of you that AFAP is a vibrant organisation that continues to challenge the status quo.

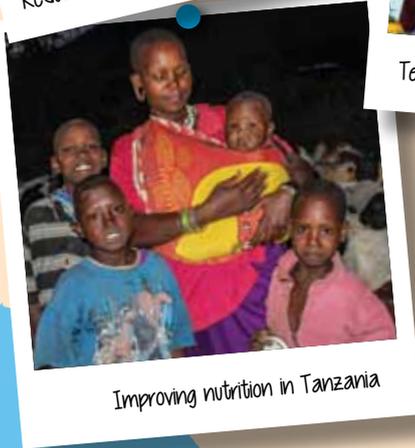
Over **19,000**  
people in Africa  
benefited from  
our clean water  
programs



Reducing gender-based violence in Malawi



Teaching business skills in Mozambique



Improving nutrition in Tanzania



Treating children with clubfoot in Bangladesh



Nepal

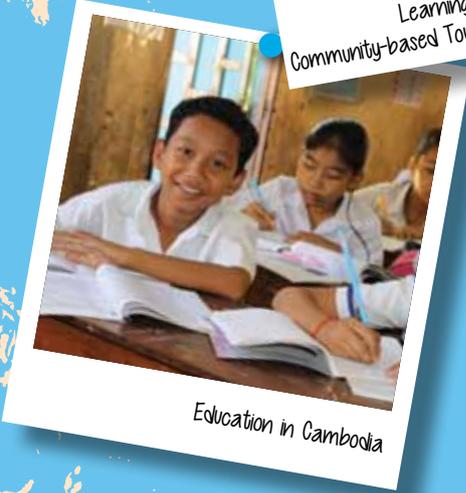
Bangladesh



Through our network  
of partners, this year  
we directly helped over  
**320,000** people



Learning English as part of the Community-based Tourism project in Vietnam



Education in Cambodia



Helping people re-establish gardens in the Solomon Islands



Providing access to health care in Timor Leste



Community education in Australia

4,643 people benefited from food security projects in Asia

2,287 people benefited from our health programs in the Pacific



Margaret has a thriving pig farm thanks to our Small Livestock Pass-on Scheme in Malawi

## OUR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

AFAP's Strategic Framework 2014-16 is our guiding document that embodies our ambition, priorities and the positive change we want to make over three years. The document includes broad strategic directions for the organisation and core thematic areas that outline the issues we are tackling, as well as more operational key performance indicators (KPIs).

### STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Underpinning all of our projects, we strive to achieve the following strategic directions:

#### 1. innovation and quality

Deliver innovative and quality programs, which build inclusive, sustainable communities that are better able to tackle poverty and injustice.

#### 2. partnerships

Forge partnerships that add value to our work and contribute to reducing extreme poverty.

#### 3. inspire Australians

Inspire Australians to take action on reducing poverty

through informed conversations about what their individual roles could be to address this complex challenge.

#### 4. Strengthen ourselves

Progressively strengthen AFAP as an organisation so we can continue to deliver effective development programs and achieve our strategic goals.

### CORE THEMATIC AREAS

We alleviate poverty through projects that focus on the following core thematic areas:

**Food security** – ensuring access to adequate amounts of nutritious food

**Livelihoods and economic empowerment** – providing people with the means to help themselves

**environment, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction** – building resilience and reducing vulnerabilities to climate change hazards through ecosystem and community-based approaches



“Despite the year’s challenges, we’re inspired by the swell of interest, support and innovation for building sustainable partnerships.”

Christine Murphy, CEO

**Governance** – strengthening community involvement, human rights, civil society action and social accountability

**Health** – institutional strengthening and public health initiatives, especially maternal and child health, and HIV and disability services

**Water and sanitation** – increasing access to safe water and sanitation and reducing the incidence of water-borne diseases.

#### KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

We have already completed 18 of the 29 KPIs set in the Strategic Framework, with notable achievements in the finance and partnership arenas. This year we achieved \$10 million in revenue, thanks largely to increased income from our Action on Poverty Partnership (APP) Program, which has led to a healthy growth in our unrestricted reserves. This year we completed the roll out of the new APP Program, which involved developing a comprehensive manual and head agreement. Under the new program, partner organisations share systems and resources, participate in learning and networking opportunities, and jointly implement projects. We have also increased our engagement with the Australian public and started measuring the effectiveness of our communication channels.

Although Da Bac is only 90 kilometres outside of Hanoi, 34 per cent of the population, including many vulnerable ethnic minorities, live in poverty, earning on average less than US\$300 per year. The region is extremely remote – the mountains make agriculture difficult and many farmers have been displaced due to the construction of a nearby hydroelectric dam. And yet the beautiful landscape with its mountains, forests and reservoir, together with Da Bac’s unique languages, literature and festivals, make it an inviting tourist destination.

In 2014-15, AFAP established Community-based Tourism (CBT) in Da Bac with the aim of creating long-term livelihoods for its communities. Through CBT, locals manage their own tourism resources to create long-term employment, sustainable incomes, education opportunities and better infrastructure for their communities.

CBT in Da Bac allows tourists to experience the diverse cultures of the region and learn about poverty alleviation, while helping local communities improve their livelihoods. Four locations were selected as homestays for visitors, each capable of accommodating 10-12 people. We helped their owners repair their stilt houses, purchase decorations, and build kitchens and toilets. We also provided training in hospitality and cooking for hosts, and in English, first aid and environmental awareness for guides.

AFAP held a pilot trip in April 2015 with eight tourists. Starting out in Hanoi, they journeyed through Hien Luong, Xom Sung, Xom Bai and Tien Phong communes over four days. The group enjoyed activities such as hiking, swimming and cultural performances. At the end of the trip, the group provided essential feedback to help improve the experience for future visitors.

For those living in Da Bac, CBT fosters economic empowerment as well as a greater sense of social cohesion and self-esteem. Villagers are now more aware of environmental protection, and work together to keep their surroundings clean and hygienic. Learning from the homestay model, some households have renovated their own houses with the creation of a more open living space and the addition of sanitation systems. Through CBT, other villagers improved their livelihoods by offering activities such as tours, kayaking, rafting and cultural performances. Local farmers also sell their agricultural products such as taro and honey to provide food and gifts for tourists.

“My family’s life has been significantly improved due to CBT,” said nhem, who runs a Tien Phong homestay with her husband. “Previously, we had to sometimes borrow rice for meals from relatives or neighbours. After each visit of guests to our house, my husband and I have improved our service of food preparation, accommodation and also improved our bookkeeping skills.”

As tourism in the region develops, AFAP remains committed to reducing poverty while preserving the cultural assets and identity of ethnic minorities. For more information visit [www.dabaccbt.com](http://www.dabaccbt.com)



Masai women showcasing their keyhole gardens in Longido, Tanzania

## FOOD SECURITY

Food security occurs when people have access to safe and nutritious foods at all times. While great progress has been made, according to the United Nations there are still 795 million undernourished people in the world today.

AFAP targets undernourished and underweight people throughout developing countries with the aim of eliminating hunger and improving nutrition. We work at household and community levels to develop sustainable and resilient food sources and educate people about the importance of a nutritious diet. We also increase farmers' access to markets so they can derive a fair income for their produce.

### HIGHLIGHTS

In Timor Leste's Bobonaro District, farmers traditionally rely upon agriculture to feed themselves and sell any surplus to others to raise cash. This year we helped to improve 128 farmers' ability to analyse markets, develop budgets and plan for improving their farming activities. our partner Timor Aid's Rural Development

Training was adapted to suit the educational levels of local farmers. Timor Aid used visual learning techniques to teach farmers how to sell their produce at more profitable prices and how to use agricultural tools to improve their yields. As a result of this project, seven agricultural groups were formed and each group successfully increased their income through selling their surplus vegetable produce. The farmer groups sold their vegetables at the local market and schools.

In Fiji, we worked with our Partner in Community Development Fiji (PCDF) to promote food security and agricultural productivity for communities in Navakasiga District. We implemented Sustainable Land Management Training with 24 villagers to increase their understanding of available land resources and the impacts of harmful agricultural practices. Vegetable nurseries were planted to provide access to nutritional food sources and women's groups have begun selling their freshly grown vegetables at the local market.

# 9,550 people in Mozambique are now more food secure

We support food security programs in Zimbabwe and Mozambique as part of the Australian Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES). In Zimbabwe, we organised a learning tour of the Pig Industry Board of Zimbabwe. The farmers received a lecture on disease management and pig-pen maintenance to assist them in their own pig production. The team also toured two pig-pens, where they received tips on how to construct appropriate and low cost pens for their stock. In Mozambique, 1,550 people have benefited from four sweet potato demonstration centres, with farmers selling two to three tonnes of produce for between \$US300–500.

In Tanzania, we worked with our partner Testigo to improve permaculture approaches of Masai villages and enhance women's roles in community leadership and decision-making processes. We provided permaculture agricultural training to 110 community members, specifically in preparing keyhole gardens, sack gardens and double dug beds, as well as in capturing rainwater through plastic-lined household dams known as hafirs. The project has resulted in improvements to the diet of the Masai households, with all project participants now eating the produce from their own kitchen gardens. The project has also increased economic empowerment for Masai women by providing them with a source of income from selling their produce.

In Ethiopia, we worked with our partner Vita in the Gama Gofa District to increase food security and incomes through the sustained productivity of the local potato industry. This year the project helped increase the competencies of 180 local farmers in integrated soil fertility management. They improved seed and agronomic practices such as rotations, inter-cropping and disease control. Twenty on-farm seed stores with a storage capacity of four tonnes were built and handed over to selected seed producer farmers.

Ellen lives in Thyolo in southern Malawi. She is 45 and is a divorced mother with five children. Since her divorce 15 years ago, Ellen has found it difficult to grow enough food for her family. Her banana field, which was her sole source of income, was completely wiped out by disease. The crops she planted would only last for seven months of the year. She had no one to help her support her family, and was unable to fertilise her small plot of land.

"I used to run out of food and my children could not go to school because they were hungry. People mocked me because of my desperate situation," said Ellen.

one day, Ellen was visited by her uncle who told her about the benefits of conservation agriculture he had learnt about from AFAP's partner Concern Universal. The farming technique has the power to improve fertility, relieve labour, conserve soil moisture and control weeds.

From that moment, Ellen decided to try conservation agriculture and this made a dramatic change in her life. In one season she harvests 11 bags of maize of 50kg each from her quarter acre. Previously she harvested only five bags.

Later, Ellen secured a second piece of land to cultivate and from this she grew eight bags of maize, which she sold to repay her debts and pay for other family needs. now her children are back at school and she has bought two goats and 10 pigs to diversify her income.

"I have food throughout the year and enough time to concentrate on other productive activities because conservation agriculture requires less work and the mulch protects the crops against weeds," Ellen said.





Improving taro farming yields in Vietnam

## LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

While the number of people living in extreme poverty has more than halved since 1990, there are still 836 million people in the world living on less than US\$1.25 per day.

We address the root causes of poverty by empowering people to establish their own sustainable means of living. By increasing their income and taking ownership of decisions about their resources, marginalised communities can improve their access to food, water, health care and education, lifting themselves out of poverty.

AFAP works with partners in Africa, Asia and the Pacific to help communities establish village savings and loans groups, set up livestock schemes, access agricultural technology, and learn more about markets and value chains. We work closely with women in particular, who are disproportionately affected by poverty throughout the developing world because of barriers to education and employment. Women often lack access to financial services and sometimes are not aware of their rights as employees.

### HIGHLIGHTS

In Malawi and Zimbabwe, AFAP helped establish village savings and loans (VSL) schemes with support from the Australian nGo Cooperation Program (AnCP) and the Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES). VSL groups provide rural communities not served by commercial banks with access to financial services so they can buy essential agricultural products, pay for children's school fees and improve their accommodation. In Malawi alone, 1,200 people have benefited from these VSL schemes.

Through our Small Livestock Pass-on Scheme, 318 of the most vulnerable households in Thyolo, Malawi received livestock and were trained in pig or goat farming. These households passed another 201 animals on to neighbouring households after their livestock reproduced, benefiting 1,480 people. The farmers' increased income means they are more able to feed their families, send their children to school and improve their homes.

# We helped 5,694 people improve their livelihoods

In Zimbabwe, a group of 38 poultry farmers participated in vocational training with a large-scale breeder. A further 65 farmers visited the Harare International Agricultural Show where they met buyers interested in their produce and discussed market access and prices. This program also established 51 farmer groups and trained them in business skills, which helped them generate their own income and offer loans to their members. In total 1,850 farmers began using our mobile agri-business platform to access information such as market prices, which gave them more negotiating power and saved them money because they no longer had to use middlemen.

In Kenya, we partnered with Happy Villages to train 150 women in agri-business, micro-finance and leadership. Five of these women are now employed full-time – two with Happy Villages and three with the government's Agriculture Development Services. In Tanzania, we worked with Testigo to train women in permaculture and helped them create kitchen gardens. The women use the produce to feed their families and can sell any surplus vegetables to cover household costs.

In the Pacific, AFAP worked with Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF) to provide business skills training for small businesses in nayawa, including the Women's Store, Youth Beekeeping Group and Youth Piggery Group, while in Timor Leste, we worked with Timor Aid to train 128 farmers in analysing markets, budgeting and planning.

In South-East Asia our work has a strong economic empowerment focus and we support a variety of self-help and savings groups in Vietnam and Cambodia. This work revolves around helping groups of women to support themselves and each other by setting up initiatives that will produce income. An interesting dimension of this program this year is in Vietnam, where we supported the set-up of Community-based Tourism (CBT), which saw over 200 people visit homestays in Da Bac District, bringing economic benefits to local households and communities. This program also helped 900 families in Cambodia increase their income by over 30 per cent to US\$210 per month, partnering with the Cambodian organisation for Children and Development to facilitate access to loans, capital assistance and technical support. We are now piloting

a youth program, training 10 vulnerable people aged 15 – 16 so they can find work or create a small business.

So far the pilot has helped participants earn between US\$100-200 per month and their developing careers will support them into the future.



## CASE STUDY | ZIMBABWE

Pascal is a 33 year old father of two living in Mutoko, Zimbabwe, a very dry, remote area where many families face high unemployment and hunger. After his father passed away, Pascal had to provide for his mother and younger sister, as well as his own family.

When we met him in May 2013, Pascal had a very difficult life. Food was hard to come by and he could not afford to buy seeds, tools or fertiliser to farm his own land. He and his young family were living in his mother's home and he could not afford to send his sister to school.

As we firmly believe the most effective way to alleviate poverty is to provide families with the means to make their own living, we trained Pascal in business skills, chicken farming and financial management. We also gave him 50 chickens, a coop and feed to get him started.

"In the business skills training, I was taught to go out and find my own market. I met two butchers and they asked me to bring them one chicken as a sample. They were impressed and now I am their regular supplier," said Pascal, who earns \$US340 per batch and is looking for alternative markets in schools and villages.

With Pascal's increased income he built his own house for his family to live in, reinvested in the business, bought tools and seeds to farm his land, and sent his younger sister to secondary school.

Five female neighbours saw the success of Pascal's chicken farming business and asked for his help in setting up their own. Pascal gladly passed on the training we gave him to his neighbours, who have each set up thriving chicken farming businesses of their own.

As a batch of chickens is only sold every six weeks, there are times in between when the families are short of money. As a way of addressing this problem, we facilitated the formation of a village savings and loans (VSL) group. The VSL is like a community bank, where participants pool their savings each week and can borrow from the 'pool' when needed. Loans are repaid at 20 per cent interest and after six months the pool is returned to the five farmers, giving them extra savings. This ensures Pascal's family and the other farmers have a reliable income all year round.

This project was delivered in partnership with our local partner the Community Technology Development organisation (CTDo), with funding from the federal government's Australian African Community Engagement Scheme (AACES).



*Beekeepers in Ha Tinh, Vietnam, not only earn sustainable incomes but also learn about environmental management and protecting local forests*

## ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

With cyclones, floods and earthquakes devastating many vulnerable communities, 2014-15 saw a renewed urgency in global efforts to address climate change, fuelled by increased scientific understanding and international cooperation.

AFAP helps communities increase their resilience, recover from environmental disasters, and strengthen infrastructure in countries as diverse as Kiribati, Malawi, Samoa, the Solomon Islands and Vietnam. our approach recognises that climate change and disasters hit hardest among those already suffering from poverty and exclusion. Reducing the risk of disasters is key to many of our projects and essential for truly sustainable development.

### HIGHLIGHTS

Mangroves act as 'living shield' in Samoa, a country highly vulnerable to the risks of climate change. They reduce wave energy and height, prevent erosion, protect on- and off-shore ecosystems, provide habitat

and breeding grounds, and act as a powerful carbon sink. Yet years of bad development have shrunk Samoa's mangrove forests to less than one per cent of total land area, and even this is under threat from land clearing, invasive species and improper waste disposal. When disturbed, mangrove forests are also a potent source of greenhouse gas emissions.

We partner with o' Le Sisiomaga Society Inc (oLSSI) in the villages of Fasitoo-tai and Vailuutai to assess the health of mangrove forests and promote their restoration. This year we completed two Mangrove Biodiversity Audit Reports that engaged community members in the data collection process. Data was then shared with village leaders and local committees to help improve communities' understanding of their ecosystems, and their roles in managing and protecting mangrove wetlands for the future.

There is very little financial incentive for maintaining mangrove forests, and no leadership in policy or governance. By educating local communities about

# We trained 650 farmers, 600 youths and 2,440 school children on environmental protection and climate change adaptation

the importance of the forests, we strive to address the interlinked socio-economic factors that contribute to the degradation of Samoan wetlands that threaten not only environmental but also human security.

In Vietnam, we scaled up successful resilience and sustainable livelihood models in Soc Trang province at the heart of the Mekong Delta. We focused on four communes where the local poor, particularly ethnic minorities, are extremely vulnerable to soil salinisation and rising sea levels.

We trained 650 farmers, 600 youths and 2,440 school children on environmental protection and climate change adaptation using new 'green' technologies and media. Many took action to improve waste management, water hygiene and sanitation – for example, youths and farmers collected and classified waste for treatment to make fertiliser or sell at the market; students from the University of Labor and Social Affairs (ULSA) helped build two water purification systems and 15 small community-based waste treatment systems; and 52 secondary school teachers developed communication plans.

We provided 680 farmers and youths with technical training in skills such as rice-fish farming, pig bio-gas, integrated pest management and self-made bio-pesticide. As a result, local farmers are better able to identify and classify different types of pests and use their own pesticides. We also helped 30 community interest groups to scale up effective livelihood models piloted in previous years, and new models were developed, focusing on pig bio-gas, fish farming and chicken farming. In addition, we supported 300 farmers in Ha Tinh in up-scaling their beekeeping model. This is important for a number of reasons including the potential for job creation, sustainable income generation and also environmental management. Local farmers who have adopted the beekeeping model have a renewed interest in better protecting nearby forests, planting more fruit trees, and limiting the use of chemical fertilisers and treatments.

We worked closely with local governments to improve the likelihood of activities being scaled-up. We also collaborated with local government partners and other organisations, and relied on technical support from research institutes and agricultural centres to work towards our common goals of community-based resilience.

David is 18 years old and lives with his parents, brothers and sisters in a rural village in Guadalcanal province. David was at school in Central Isabel province when his home village was hit by devastating flash floods in April 2014.

When he returned to the village, David saw his family's home had been washed away. His family lost their house, their pigs and all their belongings.

David was shocked by the level of devastation caused by the floods. "I could never have imagined a flood could be so powerful," he said. David was concerned for his family and wondered how they would be able to rebuild.

With the generous support of the Australian public, AFAP and local community partner the Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT) were able to provide David's village with building materials to assist in recovery efforts.

David used the donated materials, including a hammer, saw and nails, to help his family build a home away from the river and out of the path of future flash floods.

David is very thankful for the support of the Australian public as he is now able to return to school with the knowledge that his family are safe in their new home.





Students with visual impairment learn Braille thanks to improved disability policy in Mozambique

## GOVERNANCE

Good governance is a precondition for poverty reduction. It fosters peaceful, prosperous, stable and fair societies. However, many developing countries face challenges to effective governance, such as vast distances between administration and population centres, lack of communication infrastructure, corruption or social upheaval.

AFAP works directly with local communities, encouraging local leadership, and with local and national organisations in an effort to foster the development of a vibrant civil society, encourage active citizenship and increase social accountability. our projects aim for people to increasingly be able to advocate for themselves by proactively giving them access to the tools they need to do so. This may be as simple as providing access to information so people know they have rights. or it may be through helping to create and train issues-based groups that can advocate more effectively on their own behalf. Importantly, we aim to enhance existing governance structures, rather than

importing new models that have no connection to local people or their contexts. In doing so, we aim to generate positive social change that supports poverty reduction initiatives.

### HIGHLIGHTS

This year AFAP has continued to work with local communities, civil society organisations and academic institutions in Vietnam to advocate for public programs and services, and ensure accountability through monitoring and reporting.

on a community level, we used Citizen Report Cards to assess social services and support for agricultural production in some of the most challenging and isolated communes and villages. We consulted with 1,460 poor farmers and service users, local Fatherland Front members, the People's Council and the University of Labor and Social Affairs (ULSA), and developed action plans to improve monitoring and increase social accountability.

# 3,082 people took part in governance projects

In April this year, AFAP Vietnam trained 43 officials from local NGOs, mass organisations, the People's Council and the Fatherland Front in social accountability. As locally elected officials themselves, they need the skills to monitor local government and hold them accountable, while also incorporating social accountability principles into their own practice. As part of this program, ULSA drafted a social accountability reference book that students and teachers can use in their programs at the university.

In the Solomon Islands, AFAP continued to work with the Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT) supporting their Governance Program. With SIDT, we measured levels of voters' education in five provinces – Choiseul, Isabel, Guadalcanal, Central Islands and Malaita – in the lead up to the national election in 2014. This project built on SIDT's work with the European Union, educating voters so they could make more informed decisions and exercise their democratic rights during the election.

We also continued to partner with SIDT to strengthen links between rural villages and local governments in Samasodu village. SIDT trained communities in developing Village Action Plans, giving villagers the confidence to present their needs and concerns to local government authorities. The community identified a lack of sanitation, communication and transport as key development priorities, which were communicated at a village forum attended by government officials and neighbouring communities.

In Mozambique, we work with Concern Universal and the Association of Blind and Partially Sighted People (ACAMo) in Niassa Province to advocate for disability inclusion rights in education and livelihoods. This year our work has seen Braille included as standard teacher training and more disability inclusive policies at a national level.



## CASE STUDY | VIETNAM

Ms Thien is 28 and lives with her husband and three year old daughter in the Pu nhi commune of Dien Bien province. They make a living growing rice, corn and cassava, along with small-scale husbandry of chickens and Muscovy ducks. Their limited income is spent on household needs. "I had not participated in any village activities before because I did not really care about social issues," said Ms Thien. "I just thought I had to work as hard as I can in order to harvest plenty of crops so that my family would not starve. I raised a few chickens and Muscovy ducks so as to provide more nutrition for my children. I lived on that way day by day."

Like Ms Thien, other villagers were too preoccupied with keeping their families warm and fed to seriously consider any social issues. In 2014, Ms Thien met Ms Van from the Dien Bien Centre for Community Development at a village meeting. Ms Van told her about the Awakening the Silent Voice project, funded by Irish Aid. When Ms Thien realised her family and the rest of her community could benefit from the project, she signed them up for the Community Self-Governance Group. She was proudly elected secretary of the group, and began participating in training workshops on topics such as child marriage, social accountability and gender issues in land rights. She was also trained in local ordinances and group management skills, and shared her training with the rest of her group in their monthly meetings. By participating in the group, Ms Thien and the other members not only increased their awareness of social and legal issues affecting them, but also generated more income from cultivation and husbandry practices.

"I used to be very passive in my life," Ms Thien said. "As I have more access to information day by day, I am proud to be more proactive.

I used to be just a female villager who did not dare to speak up for herself and for people around her. now I am confident enough to speak in public and share what I know to benefit my audience."

In 2015, Ms Thien was a member of the Citizen Report Card (CRC) core team. She surveyed villagers on the progress and success of government programs, working to advance villagers' rights and improve government support.

"I am empowered now," said Ms Thien. "I would highly recommend anyone to participate in such a project."



Community collaborator, Hanh, is helping to release dengue-eliminating mosquitoes on an island off Nha Trang, Vietnam

## HEALTH

According to the World Health Organisation, almost 40 per cent of deaths occur among children under 15 in low-income countries. In contrast, 70 per cent of deaths are among people over 70 in high-income countries such as Australia and the US.

People living in poverty have the least access to food, clean water and decent housing, which makes them more susceptible to disease and poor health. They also have fewer options for treatment and less support in managing health conditions. Preventable and treatable infectious diseases, such as HIV/AIDS, diarrhoeal diseases, malaria and tuberculosis, account for almost one-third of all deaths in developing countries. Young children are particularly vulnerable to the negative health outcomes of living in poverty. Poor nutrition causes nearly half (45 per cent) of deaths in children under five – 3.1 million children each year. One in four of the world's children are stunted. In developing countries the proportion can rise to one in three.

AFAP supports work that combats some of the biggest killers in developing countries, especially of

children under five. Our programs include initiatives to reduce HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and vector-borne diseases such as dengue and malaria. We partner with governments and local health services to offer broader access to health care. We also work directly with communities to access nutritious food and safe water, and provide health training and information.

### HIGHLIGHTS

According to UNICEF more than 50 per cent of children under five are stunted due to malnutrition in Timor Leste. In 2014-15, we continued to work with the Alola Foundation to provide nutrition and feeding training to households. The Mothers' Support Groups (MSGs) worked in rural villages in Dili and Manufahi District to disseminate maternal health information and counselling to 437 pregnant and lactating women. In addition to this, the MSGs successfully identified 11 children under five who were malnourished and referred them to the local health centre for treatment.

# 59,379

people gained better access to health care

## CASE STUDY | TIMOR LESTE

We also worked with the Bairo Pite Clinic, which provides free health care to 300 people daily. The clinic treats common illnesses such as tuberculosis, HIV and malnutrition, and they also run mobile health clinics for people living in rural areas.

Mental health issues can be largely ignored in developing countries. We partnered with Psychosocial Recovery and Development in East Timor (PRADET) and the Gleno prison to take action on mental health in Timor Leste. AFAP supported a pilot program providing mental health support services to 17 women, building on our existing mental health program, providing psycho-social support and life skills training to over 60 people living with mental illness in Dili.

In South Asia we continued to work with Walk for Life, supported by the Glencoe Foundation, to provide non-surgical treatment for young children born with clubfoot. This year we provided 1,323 children with access to treatment so they will no longer face a life of disability. Building on the success of Walk for Life in Bangladesh, this year we piloted the program in Myanmar, training a further 900 doctors and 2,200 community support workers.

In Vietnam, we participated in the Eliminate Dengue research program in partnership with Monash University and the Vietnamese Government. The program is developing a natural bacteria to reduce the ability of mosquitoes to pass Dengue on to people. This approach has reduced dengue transmission in the laboratory and trials have been running in dengue-affected communities since 2011. This year, the trials expanded from Tri Nguyen Island to nha Trang City, with further trials planned for nha Trang.

our health program is extensive in Africa. In Malawi, we built two irrigation schemes. While these may not, at first glance, seem like health initiatives, they have increased food production and levels of household income, which lead to reduced levels of malnutrition in the area.

This year our DFAT-funded African Shared Futures program also continued to promote initiatives such as exclusive breastfeeding, sleeping under insecticide-treated bed nets and vaccination for children under five.

The three maternity waiting homes built in Mutoko District as part of the Shared Futures program continue to thrive. The centres, built with community and government support, have given over 200 women access to increased levels of care including treatment to prevent the transfer of HIV from mother to child.

In Mozambique, we continued to support the government's district mobile health clinics, which target children under five. Similarly, in Kenya, we supported the establishment of a health clinic focusing on women's health, maternal health and antenatal care. The clinic also provides family planning, laboratory services and access to a pharmacy in the Lwala community.

Combating the spread of Tuberculosis (TB) is a significant medical challenge for the people of Timor Leste. Young children with household exposure to TB are at high risk of infection, disease and death. Bairo Pite Clinic (BPC) tests the children and family members of existing TB patients to determine if they have a high risk of contracting the disease. In children who have been exposed to TB but have not yet developed the disease, a six-month course of Isoniazid Preventative Therapy (IPT) prevents TB and reduces mortality.

Eden is four years old and lives with her family in rural Timor Leste. When BPC first visited Eden's family, they conducted household symptom-based screening to check for the presence of TB. Sadly, Eden's grandmother tested positive for infectious pulmonary TB. This placed Eden at high risk of contracting TB as well as other subsequent diseases. To prevent Eden from contracting the virus, BPC started her on IPT. BPC visited the family fortnightly to deliver the treatment and monitor the family's health.

Eden visited BPC to conduct a final health check after successfully completing her six-month IPT treatment. Eden's health check found that she was well and demonstrated no clinical signs of active TB. The IPT treatment greatly reduced Eden's risk of developing TB disease into the future.





Students enjoying their new water system in Ha Tinh, Vietnam

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## WATER AND SANITATION

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While over 90 per cent of the world's population now has access to improved sources of water, people living in developing countries are still missing out. In the regions where AFAP works – Africa, Asia and the Pacific – more than 40 per cent of people do not have access to clean water. over 2.4 billion people use unimproved sanitation facilities, including 946 million people who still practise open defecation.

To address this, we implement water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) programs by partnering with nGos, government, the private sector, research institutions and communities to deliver sustainable solutions that target marginalised communities, women and children.

This includes repairing or constructing new bore holes and sanitation facilities, forming and training community asset management committees to maintain their facilities, establishing community revolving funds to pay for future repairs, advocacy to influence government policy so WASH services are included in future budgets and plans, and linking

local entrepreneurs with communities to motivate households to build their own toilets.

### HIGHLIGHTS

In Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe we helped over 18,500 people access safe drinking water in 2014-15. In these communities we have also greatly reduced the distances people, particularly women, need to travel to reach their nearest clean water source. The maximum distance they need to travel is one kilometre. This provides many benefits including improved security, a reduction in the incidence of water-borne diseases and better nutrition.

We also provided over 24,000 people in these countries with improved access to sanitation facilities such as toilets and handwashing amenities. To support this, we ran community education campaigns to highlight the importance of hand washing, which reduces the incidence of water-borne diseases such as diarrhoea – one of the leading cause of death among children under the age of five.



We  
helped over  
**24,000 people** access  
sanitation facilities in Malawi,  
Mozambique and Zimbabwe

In Mozambique, we trained 87 local female artisans to repair water points. This has led to the local government of Niassa employing the women to repair bore holes in other villages. These women now have economic independence and report feeling more socially empowered to start their own business ventures.

This work was funded by the Australian Government's Australian Community Engagement Scheme (AACES) and the Charitable Foundation, with implementing partners Concern Universal and the Community Technology Development organisation.

In Fiji, AFAP worked with Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF) to install 10 rainwater harvesting systems and conduct water safety planning refresher workshops with four communities. During the training, water and waste maps were developed by villagers. We facilitated the formation of community-based water committees responsible for managing resources and implementing water safety plans to ensure the quality of the water remains suitable for drinking. The water committees are responsible for monitoring, regulating and distributing the water supply, especially during the dry season.

In Tanzania, we worked with local nGo Testigo to train 110 rural Masai, the majority women, in capturing rainwater through hafirs or plastic-lined household dams. This provides households with water that can be used to irrigate their kitchen gardens.

In Mozambique, young women and girls are usually responsible for collecting water and often have to walk long distances to fetch it. AFAP worked with community leaders in Niassa province to not only improve WASH facilities, but also empower women economically by expanding their roles in the community.

We worked with Concern Universal Mozambique and the district government to train 87 artisan women in bore hole maintenance, small business management, hygiene education and advocacy – traditionally men's responsibilities. The government also hired many of the women to repair water points in neighbouring communities.

"We feel empowered because we can now see the results of the training provided to us and are now able to repair our own bore holes and neighbouring community bore holes," said Mary, one of the artisans. "We are transferring the knowledge we have gained through the project to other districts and the government is acknowledging this as they are now implementing the models introduced through the project to other districts as well as hiring artisans, especially women, to repair bore holes in other districts."

Women earn on average US\$15 per month through fees for repairing water points. They have more economic independence and are also leaders in educating children on sanitation and hygiene.

"Traditionally women's roles in WASH was to fetch water for the family and ensuring that the sanitation facilities, where available, were clean, but now women are being trained to repair water points as well," said a Matukata man. "We are seeing women's roles in the community differently now and the benefits as well."

Alisa said she felt empowered in her new profession. "It is knowledge that is going to remain in the community after the project finishes. We will be organising ourselves to provide services to other communities as a business venture. I am very much empowered and can also teach others in the community."



School children in Zimbabwe are delighted with a new clean water system that reduces the spread of water-borne disease

## ACTION ON POVERTY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

AFAP recognises that working in partnership is the most sustainable and cost-effective way to alleviate poverty. Partnerships foster inclusiveness and cross-ownership, and provide opportunities for resource-sharing, all of which are key ingredients of sustainable development.

In striving towards a just world through community partnerships, AFAP works with around 30 partners based in Australia as well as developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, who each play important roles in fundraising for, supporting or co-implementing development projects.

Many of these partners work with us through our Action on Poverty Partnership (APP) Program, a formal structure within which long-term partnerships can develop, operate, evolve and achieve lasting results. Growing this program is one of our key objectives. The projects involved are managed by AFAP in accordance with Australian law, as well as the high standards of policy and practice set out in the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct, to which AFAP is a signatory.

over the years, our partnership work has helped to mobilise tens of millions of dollars in support of incredible, grassroots initiatives. We build the capacity of in-country and Australian partners alike – they learn industry best-practices from AFAP, other organisations and each other. Through our partnership work, many of our partners have become independent agencies.

Most importantly, our partnerships help lift thousands of people out of poverty every year.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Improved the lives of 1,756 at-risk women and children in Timor Leste by addressing health and food security issues.
- Extended free healthcare to more than 35,000 patients in Timor Leste, delivering more than 1,400 babies safely.
- Rescued 130 Vietnamese men, women and children from trafficking for exploitative labour, forced marriage or sex work.



- Provided scholarships, training and work experience to aspiring teachers in Timor Leste.
- Constructed a safe shelter that each year will house 130 women and girl survivors of domestic violence in Cambodia.
- Supported a new family and sexual violence case management centre in Lae, PnG's second largest city, which helped 376 clients and their families to access services.
- Trained 100 farmers in Kenya to increase their incomes.
- Helped 124 children recover from malnutrition in Timor Leste.
- Enabled 150 girls to complete their education in Cambodia.
- Introduced 30-minute English lessons to 600 students in five slum schools in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- Helped 335 people to cope with mental illness at a Psychosocial Rehabilitation Centre in Timor Leste.
- Delivered reading and writing instruction for school children in 909 classrooms across 262 schools in Cambodia and Laos.
- Worked to rebuild community gardens in Kiribati after Cyclone Pam and schools in nepal after the 2015 earthquakes.
- Provided clean water to over 2,500 school children in Malawi and Vietnam.
- Enabled over 4,500 children to overcome clubfoot.

As part of the APP Program, AFAP works with Lotus outreach Australia to fundraise for and monitor the Girls Access to Education (GATE) program in Cambodia. The project is implemented by our local partner the Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC) and provides scholarships and support to families to keep girls in school.

Marady is 18 years old and is a recipient of a GATE scholarship. She is the oldest of three children and lives with her father, oeun, her two sisters and her elderly grandmother, who is bedridden due to illness. Her mother abandoned the family when Marady was in primary school. Around the same time they were forcibly relocated from their home in the centre of town to an outlying area. In town, oeun had worked as a bicycle mechanic but there was little work of this kind in the new area. There was a lot of competition for other work as many people had been relocated.

Due to the family's circumstances, Marady was at risk of being taken out of school to help look after the family and contribute to earning an income. However, because of the support she receives through the GATE program, Marady is attending school and getting excellent grades.

Marady received some school supplies, a uniform and bicycle to travel to school, which shortens an hour long walk to a 20-minute cycle, giving her more time to study. Every month her family receives 20kg of rice and \$3 to pay for tuition.

"I can stay at school and I have better nutrition. My sisters and I eat three meals a day – we didn't before," said Marady.

**ACTION ON POVERTY PARTNERS:**

- Alola Foundation
- Bairo Pite Clinic
- Bega Valley Advocates for Timor Leste
- Blue Dragon Children's Foundation
- Cambodian organisation for Community Development
- Cambodian Volunteers for Community Development
- Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre
- Chikuni Mission
- Femili
- Glencoe Foundation
- Happy Villages
- HIAM Health
- Lotus outreach Australia
- Mates Abroad Foundation
- PRADET
- Room to Read
- Sailung Tri netra





A group of Australians were among the first to try our new Community-based Tourism project in Da Bac, Vietnam

## INSPIRING AUSTRALIANS

Whether it's a mother's joy in delivering a healthy, HIV-free baby in Zimbabwe or a farmer's pride in selling his first crop of potatoes in Vietnam, we see the positive changes we are making in people's lives every day.

These changes wouldn't happen without the support of the Australian public, who help out in many ways. It could be as simple as making a donation or attending an event that supports our work. or it could be more involved – such as volunteering, becoming a member, organising a fundraising event or partnering with us on an overseas project.

In recognition of this, we have made 'inspiring Australians' a strategic direction for our organisation. By sharing the stories of those benefiting from our projects, we seek to improve the public's understanding of the complexities of poverty and highlight our shared humanity.

### HIGHLIGHTS

This year we launched Storyworld, an online learning platform, to engage Australian school students in learning about development issues. Through the story of one poor community in Vietnam, students learn there is not just one simple solution to alleviating poverty. Job creation, secure sources of food, clean water, health and education are needed to break the poverty cycle. Teacher lesson plans were also developed to accompany the platform. Storyworld was funded by the Australian Government's Development Awareness Raising program and can be accessed on our website.

Another way we inspired Australians was by holding fun and educational events. our Quiz for a Cause event at Gilroys Hotel in Sydney in October 2014 was peppered with development-related questions and we gave a brief talk about our work. our AFAP on Tap event, generously held at the offices of our pro-bono lawyers, Hunt and Hunt, gave supporters the opportunity to enjoy a drink and the beautiful Sydney Harbour view on



a Friday evening in November. The audience heard from two Malawian aid workers who shared their stories about how clean water, toilets and hygiene education are changing people's lives.

one of our dedicated volunteers, Clare Lovelace, ran Yoga in the Park sessions to raise money for AFAP throughout the year. In February we also had a group of volunteers, led by Polly Brett and Sean Hall, organise an impressive concert at Spectrum Hotel, Sydney. The concert raised over \$5,000 to fund clean water for two schools, helping over 2,000 people in Thyolo, Malawi.

We placed three Australian volunteers in-country to directly implement projects. Their research, training, mentoring and project management were a great support to our partners in Malawi, Vietnam and Cambodia.

We shared stories from the field to universities, workplaces and rotary clubs, with our events reaching over 500 people. We also kept our supporters informed via our website, social media and newsletters.

To reach the wider public, we achieved positive media coverage in local, metropolitan and industry publications around Australia. Regarding our advocacy towards public policy, we became a vocal part of a coalition instigated by the Campaign for Australian Aid, which brought together Australian international NGOs and members of the public to advocate for an increase in Australia's foreign aid budget.

Funded by the Pratt Foundation, we were successful in securing a place in the Capacity Building Initiative. The initiative involves being mentored by an expert fundraiser for 12 months to improve our engagement with Australian donors and increase our revenue. The initiative began in February 2015 and we have already seen positive results.

We conducted three fundraising appeals, which asked donors to fund three projects: clean water for two schools in remote Vietnam, relief for those affected by Cyclone Pam in Kiribati and the small livestock pass-on scheme in Malawi. Compared with last year, donations to AFAP's programs rose by over 15 per cent. This reflects our increased effort to inspire Australians, engage with new donors and keep everyone better informed about the work we are involved with.

After retirement, former public servant Dr Bryan Humphrey, 62, from Geelong, Victoria, decided he wanted to use his skills to help others in need. A role that AFAP had advertised at the time ignited his interest and Bryan applied for the volunteer role with us through the Australian Volunteers International (AVI) program, working with a number of our partners in Cambodia to improve their capacity to undertake vital work. Bryan shares his experience in his own words:

*I am coming to the end of two magnificent years in Cambodia. I have had the privilege of sharing this journey with Khmer colleagues in four non-government organisations (NGOs) working across Cambodia, and many other Khmer and expatriate friends who make up the rich diversity of Phnom Penh and Cambodia.*

*I provided support to skilled staff in a cluster of four NGOs who work on the front line dealing with critical issues in the areas of child protection and development, women's issues (protection and advocacy) and working with the marginalised poor in Phnom Penh and the provinces. My colleagues are already making a difference but they are constantly seeking ways to improve what they are doing.*

*As a learning and development mentor, I worked on effective learning and teaching, communicating with vulnerable groups, leadership and management, financial processes, monitoring and evaluation, child protection and developing social enterprises. We tackled strategic planning, prepared policies, wrote reports and prepared submissions. Mentoring was a particular pleasure because it was always a two-way process of learning.*

*I became a volunteer in order to give back and to continue life's journey of learning. I was ready for a new challenge after 'retiring' from a senior position in government and after teaching for six years at Deakin University. I was ready for the many opportunities and challenges.*

*There were many challenges. I am still learning a new language and endeavouring to understand a new culture. I worked within different organisational cultures with competing time commitments and pressures. I was separated from family and also had the misfortune of contracting a serious illness.*

*But I was also immersed in the city of Phnom Penh, with restaurants, culture and never a dull moment. I explored the countryside on bikes each weekend with friends. I enjoyed literature and writing through the organisation of a monthly open mic. With Phnom Penh Rotary colleagues, I contributed to other charitable projects in Cambodia.*

*Thank you to AFAP Action on Poverty and Australian Volunteers International for the opportunity. I am alive with the daily stimulation of working with, and sharing, this journey with so many Khmer and expatriate friends and colleagues.*

**Dr Bryan Humphrey**

*Learning and Development Cluster Mentor, Cambodia 2013-2015*



Children learning about agriculture and nutrition at their school garden in Mutoko District, Zimbabwe

## OUR ORGANISATION

AFAP Action on Poverty is committed to ensuring the work we do is effective. We do this in a number of ways including:

- Attracting and retaining well qualified staff
- Developing new programs based on previous learning
- Participating in relevant learning forums
- Resourcing peer learning activities within our program work.

As part of our commitment to understanding our impact and building the effectiveness of our programs, this year we conducted gender, fraud and child protection training with partners in the Solomon Islands, Fiji, Cambodia and Malawi. We also commissioned the development of a trial pilot methodology aimed at documenting how our programs are providing value for money beyond the economic indicators normally used. This work has included training our partners in Africa about how to assess

value for money in their projects and we hope to trial the pilot across more of our work next year. AFAP staff and Australian partners participated in disability training to increase awareness of disability, and develop programs that address disability and related issues.

AFAP staff and consultants undertook a meta-evaluation of our work, funded by the Federal Government's Australian nGo Cooperation Program (AnCP). This involved assessing six project evaluations from 2013-14 to determine strengths and weaknesses in the different approaches. The meta-evaluation identified a need to develop an overall evaluation framework and methodology to ensure greater consistency across different projects. It also affirmed our partnership approach is an effective model for community development.



## BOARD

**John rock**  
Chairperson  
*B.Sc. Hons*

**prof Jock Harkness**  
Vice-chairperson  
*MBBS DCP (Lon) FRCPA FASM*

**Dr Angeline Low**  
Treasurer  
*PhD MMgmt BEcons (Hons) MAICD*

**David A Brett**  
*BSc(For) MAgr*

**cynthia Halim**  
*BCommEng BCompSci*

**John Kell**  
*MEnvStud, LLB BA (Hons), FAICD*

**Denis Wolff**  
*MEnvMgt*

## SENIOR EXECUTIVE TEAM

**christine Murphy** Chief Executive Director

**christine pollard** Finance Director

**vanessa Zulueta** International Program Director

**t a van t uan** Vietnam Country Director

## STRATEGIC PARTNERS



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

|  | 2015 (\$)         | 2014 (\$)        |
|--|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>revenue</b>   |                   |                  |
| <b>Donations and gifts</b>   |                   |                  |
| - monetary   | 6,209,209         | 4,516,500        |
| - non-monetary   | 19,112            | 65,564           |
| <b>Legacies and bequests</b>   | -                 | -                |
| <b>Grants</b>  |                   |                  |
| - Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  | 2,953,197         | 3,812,896        |
| - other Australian   | 1,153,421         | 287,955          |
| - other overseas   | 244,717           | 77,284           |
| <b>investment income</b>   | 56,298            | 57,698           |
| <b>other income</b>  | 282,371           | 18,703           |
| <b>revenue for international political or religious adherence promotion programs</b> | -                 | -                |
| <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>   | <b>10,918,325</b> | <b>8,836,600</b> |

|  | 2015 (\$)           | 2014 (\$)          |
|--|---------------------|--------------------|
| <b>expenditure</b>   |                     |                    |
| <b>international aid and development programs expenditure</b>                        |                     |                    |
| - Funds to International programs  | (9,315,251)         | (7,188,898)        |
| - Program support costs  | (695,716)           | (864,664)          |
| <b>community education</b>   | <b>(8,601)</b>      | <b>(145,802)</b>   |
| <b>Fundraising costs</b>   |                     |                    |
| - Public   | (151,411)           | (54,610)           |
| - Government and multilateral and private  | (10,335)            | (1,433)            |
| <b>Accountability and Administration</b>   | (364,911)           | (361,658)          |
| <b>non-monetary expenditure</b>  | (19,112)            | (65,564)           |
| <b>total international aid and development programs expenditure</b>                  | <b>(10,565,337)</b> | <b>(8,682,629)</b> |
| <b>international political or religious adherence promotion programs expenditure</b> | -                   | -                  |
| <b>Domestic programs expenditure</b>   | -                   | -                  |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>   | <b>(10,565,337)</b> | <b>(8,682,629)</b> |
| <b>excess/(shortfall) of revenue over disbursements</b>                              | <b>352,988</b>      | <b>153,971</b>     |

### note 1: Annual Financial report

This financial report is derived from the company's annual statutory report for the year ended 30 June 2015 which is available upon request.

### note 2: reporting Standards

The summary financial reports have been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code, please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance available at [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au)

### note 3: non-Monetary expenditure can be broken down as follows

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Professional pro bono legal support          | \$9,706         |
| Volunteers - community education - 11 days   | \$1,879         |
| Volunteers - project support - 18 days       | \$3,078         |
| Volunteers - fundraising support - 20 days   | \$3,338         |
| Volunteers - administration support - 7 days | \$1,111         |
| <b>total</b>                                 | <b>\$19,112</b> |

# DEFINITIONS

## WHERE OUR SUPPORT COMES FROM

**Donations and Gifts:** Monetary and non-monetary contributions from the Australian public, trusts and foundations

**DFAT Grants:** The Australian Government's overseas aid program

**other Australian Grants:** Grants from all Australian institutions other than DFAT

**other overseas Grants:** all grants sourced from non-Australian institutions

**investment income:** income from interest and other income earned on investment assets

**other income:** Fundraising events, sponsorships, foreign exchange gains.

## WHERE THE MONEY GOES

**Funds to international programs:** funds actually remitted overseas to aid and development projects

**international projects – program Support costs:** direct costs of project management in Australia including salaries of program staff in Australia, project design, monitoring and evaluation

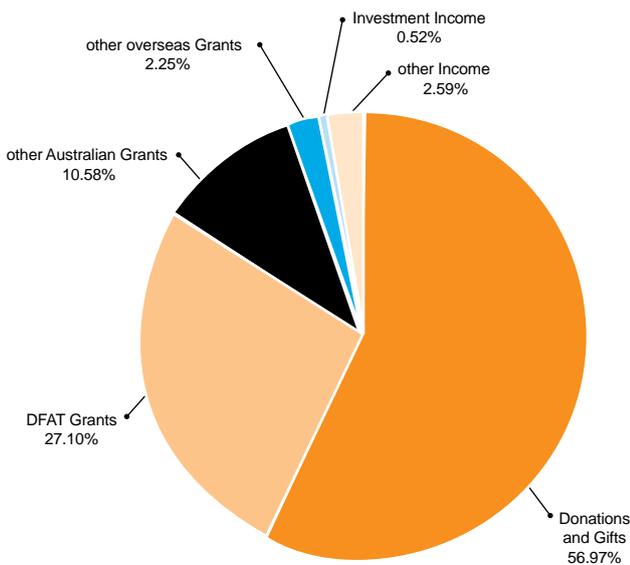
**community education:** costs related to informing and educating the Australian public of, and inviting their active involvement in, global justice, development and humanitarian issues

**Fundraising – public:** all costs related to the purposes of raising funds from the public including salary costs of fundraising staff and production and mailing of fundraising materials

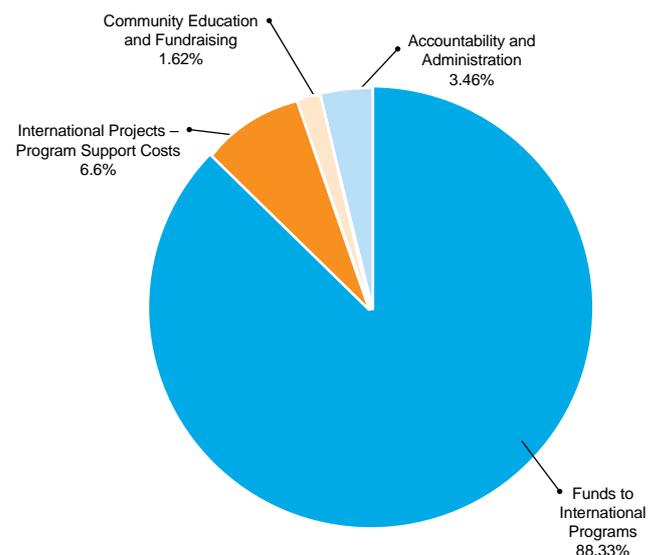
**Fundraising – Government, Multilateral and private Sector:** personnel and related costs involved in the preparation of funding submissions and reporting against grants

**Accountability and Administration:** relates to the overall operational capability of AFAP, such as audit fees, personnel, IT, finance and administration costs, insurance premiums and membership to peak bodies.

## REVENUE



## EXPENDITURE



### note 4: HoW pie cHArtS Are DeriveD

Pie chart category income and expenses percentages are derived from AFAP's Statement of Comprehensive Income categories (excluding donations in-kind). AFAP's Statement of Comprehensive Income follows the ACFID format with financial definitions for each category.

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014**

|                                 | 2015 (\$)        | 2014 (\$)        |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                   |                  |                  |
| <b>current assets</b>           |                  |                  |
| Cash and cash equivalents       | 3,658,985        | 2,807,212        |
| Trade and other receivables     | 17,076           | 8,070            |
| <b>total current assets</b>     | <b>3,676,061</b> | <b>2,815,282</b> |
| <b>non-current assets</b>       |                  |                  |
| Property, plant and equipment   | 36,942           | 42,962           |
| Other financial assets          | 12,440           | 15,048           |
| <b>total non-current assets</b> | <b>49,382</b>    | <b>58,010</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>             | <b>3,725,443</b> | <b>2,873,292</b> |

|                                      | 2015 (\$)        | 2014 (\$)        |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                   |                  |                  |
| <b>current liabilities</b>           |                  |                  |
| Trade and other payables             | 1,220,377        | 760,331          |
| Taxation liabilities                 | 115,705          | 89,013           |
| Provisions                           | 44,278           | 37,723           |
| <b>total current liabilities</b>     | <b>1,380,360</b> | <b>887,067</b>   |
| <b>non-current liabilities</b>       |                  |                  |
| Employee provisions                  | 14,847           | 8,977            |
| <b>total non-current liabilities</b> | <b>14,847</b>    | <b>8,977</b>     |
| <b>total liabilities</b>             | <b>1,395,207</b> | <b>896,044</b>   |
| <b>net assets</b>                    | <b>2,330,236</b> | <b>1,977,248</b> |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                        |                  |                  |
| <b>reserves</b>                      | 3,870            | 3,870            |
| <b>Accumulated funds</b>             | 2,326,366        | 1,973,378        |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>                  | <b>2,330,236</b> | <b>1,977,248</b> |

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015**

|   | restricted funds | Unrestricted funds | Harold Webber Memorial Fund | pre-incorporation reserve | total            |
|---|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Balance at 1 July 2013</b>                 | <b>1,668,159</b> | <b>151,248</b>     | <b>2,270</b>                | <b>1,600</b>              | <b>1,823,277</b> |
| Adjustments or changes in equity              | -                | -                  | -                           | -                         | -                |
| other comprehensive income for the year       | -                | -                  | -                           | -                         | -                |
| Excess of revenue over expenditure            | 104,737          | 49,234             | -                           | -                         | 153,971          |
| other amounts transferred to or from reserves | -                | -                  | -                           | -                         | -                |
| <b>Balance at 30 June 2014</b>                | <b>1,772,896</b> | <b>200,482</b>     | <b>2,270</b>                | <b>1,600</b>              | <b>1,977,248</b> |
| Adjustments or changes in equity              | -                | -                  | -                           | -                         | -                |
| other comprehensive income for the year       | -                | -                  | -                           | -                         | -                |
| Excess of revenue over expenditure            | 102,042          | 250,946            | -                           | -                         | 352,988          |
| other amounts transferred to or from reserves | -                | -                  | -                           | -                         | -                |
| <b>Balance at 1 July 2015</b>                 | <b>1,874,938</b> | <b>451,428</b>     | <b>2,270</b>                | <b>1,600</b>              | <b>2,330,236</b> |

## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AFAP achieved a surplus of \$352,988 for the 2014-15 financial year. Total revenue increased by 23.6 per cent from the previous financial year and total expenditure increased by 21.7 per cent.

AFAP's relationship with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) remains an essential partnership. We received \$974,667 to undertake development activities in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe through the Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES). Based on support from the Australian public, we also received an Australian nGo Cooperation Program (AnCP) grant of \$1,978,530 to fund community-based development in Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

our sincerest thanks must go to the many generous donors whose contributions meant we raised over \$1.5 million more than last year, coming in at \$6,209,209 for 2014-15.

AFAP spent \$10,010,967 on delivering overseas aid programs

– an increase of \$1,957,405 on the previous year. Funds to international programs increased as we scaled up a number of our programs. This year program support costs came down significantly (\$168,948) from the previous year. This is due to higher costs in 2013-14 when we conducted the AACES mid-term evaluation.

AFAP's community education expenditure dropped significantly in 2014-15 due to the withdrawal of development awareness raising funding from DFAT.

AFAP is pleased to report that restricted funds grew from \$1,772,896 at the end of 2013-14 to \$1,874,937 in 2014-15. Unrestricted funds grew from \$200,482 at the end of 2013-14 to \$451,248 in 2014-15.

### TABLE OF CASH MOVEMENTS FOR DESIGNATED PURPOSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

|   | cash available at<br>beginning of year | cash raised<br>during year | cash disbursed<br>during year | cash available at<br>end of year |
|---|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Australian nGo cooperation program (AnCP)</b>            | 305,842                                | 2,020,255                  | 2,055,545                     | 270,552                          |
| <b>Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Australia Africa community engagement Scheme (AACES)</b> | 128,837                                | 2,063,245                  | 977,767                       | 1,214,315                        |
| <b>School and Library Building program</b>  |  |                            |                               |                                  |
| - Laos  | 3,510                                  | 1,864,574                  | 1,867,084                     | 1,000                            |
| - Cambodia  | 0                                      | 2,510,139                  | 2,321,148                     | 188,991                          |
| - General   | 83,626                                 | 61,776                     | 83,626                        | 61,776                           |
| <b>end Dengue program Vietnam (eDpv)</b>  | 753,328                                | 505,729                    | 1,051,095                     | 207,962                          |
| <b>total for other non-designated purposes</b>  | 1,532,069                              | 2,388,795                  | 2,206,475                     | 1,714,389                        |
| <b>total AL</b>   | <b>2,807,212</b>                       | <b>11,414,513</b>          | <b>10,562,740</b>             | <b>3,658,985</b>                 |

The Table of Cash Movements is only required to disclose cash raised for a designated purpose if it exceeds 10% of total international aid and development revenue.

**Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements of The Australian Foundation For The Peoples Of Asia And The Pacific Limited "AFAP"**

The accompanying summary financial statements as set out on pages 28 to 31, which comprises the summary statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, the summary statement of comprehensive income, summary statement of changes in equity and table of cash movements for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial report of AFAP for the year ended 30 June 2015. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on that financial report in our report dated 27th October 2015. That financial report and the summary financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on that financial report.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Australian Accounting Standards. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report of AFAP.

**Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial report prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.

**Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

**Independence**

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial report of AFAP for the year ended 30 June 2015 are consistent, in all material respects, with that audited financial report, prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards.



Owen Houston Registered Company Auditor No 4548

Dated: 27th October 2015



Vu Quang District, Vietnam

## COMPLIANCE AND REGULATION

AFAP, like all Australian charities and not-for-profit organisations, operates in a highly regulated environment, and complies with a range of laws, regulations, licences and codes of conduct to demonstrate accountability to the community and our stakeholders.

### **AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION (ACNC) AND THE AUSTRALIAN TAXATION OFFICE (ATO)**

The ACnC is the independent national regulator of charities. AFAP is registered with the ACNC and complies with financial and organisational reporting obligations and governance standards. Please refer to [www.acnc.gov.au](http://www.acnc.gov.au) for details of these obligations and standards.

The ATo has given AFAP Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status as an overseas Aid Fund, granted exemption from Income Tax and provided concessions for Fringe Benefits Tax and GST.

### **DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE (DFAT) ACCREDITATION**

DFAT is responsible for managing the Australian Government's official overseas aid program. AFAP is a fully accredited and trusted recipient of funds from DFAT.

The DFAT accreditation process is thorough, robust and undertaken every five years. It involves a detailed assessment of AFAP's systems, operations, management capacity, governance and linkages with the Australian community against a set of agreed criteria.

### **AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ACFID)**

ACFID is the peak body for aid and development nGos, and its Code of Conduct upholds the highest standards of ethics, effectiveness and accountability. AFAP is a member of ACFID and a signatory of the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code, please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Guidance Document available at [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au)

### **FUNDRAISING**

In accordance with state fundraising laws, fundraising licences are required by many of Australia's states to raise funds within their borders. AFAP is licenced to fundraise in all states and territories, and complies with the requirements associated with these licences, including annual reporting to particular states.



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## OUR SUPPORTERS

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We are committed to working in partnership to deliver effective development programs that take action on poverty. our success is based on the ongoing support we receive from our donors, partners, members and volunteers.

We would like to acknowledge the many partners with whom we work, as our success is built on their dedication and commitment. our special thanks must be given to the following major supporters during 2014-15.

### **INSTITUTIONAL**

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

Irish Aid

Monash University

USAID

### **OTHER DONORS**

Atlassian Foundation

Australian Communities Foundation

Baly Douglass Foundation

The Beeren Foundation

City of Stonnington

Cochrane - Schofield Charitable Fund

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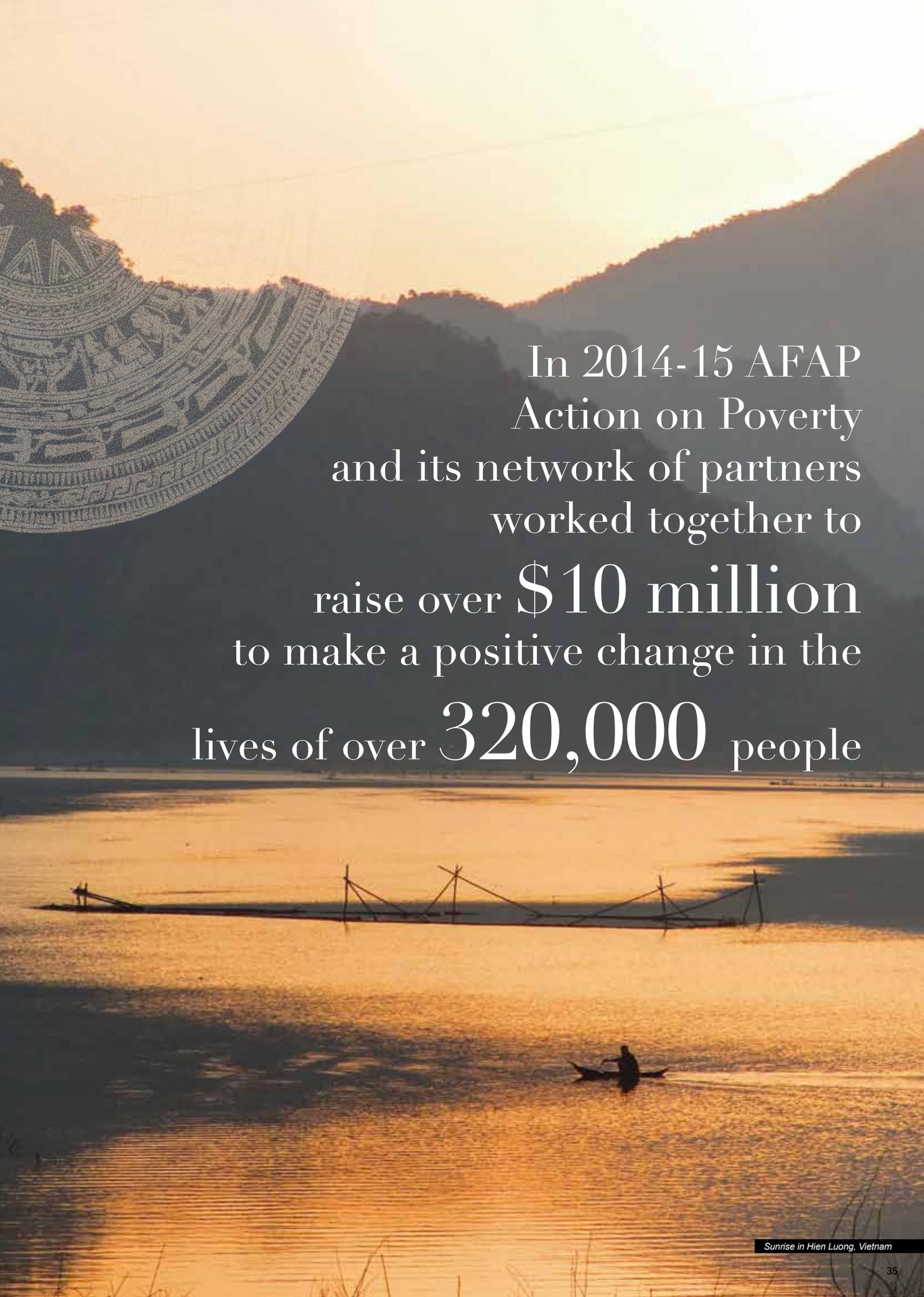
UBS Australia Foundation

Weily Tribe Foundation

### **PRO BONO SUPPORT**

Hunt & Hunt Lawyers

*Eleven of our donors and supporters have chosen to remain anonymous in this report.*



In 2014-15 AFAP  
Action on Poverty  
and its network of partners  
worked together to  
raise over \$10 million  
to make a positive change in the  
lives of over 320,000 people



*The Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific Limited*

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