



AUSTRALIAN AID INTERNATIONAL



Australian Aid International Ltd

Annual Report 2008

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Mission

The mission of Australian Aid International (AAI) is to mitigate the double burden of poverty and poor access to quality health care in regions where the health systems have either collapsed or are in crisis through the provision of emergency medical care, general and public health services and humanitarian assistance programs.

AAI's goal is for this right to be realised in some of the most remote and dangerous regions in the world where underserved and vulnerable populations may not ordinarily enjoy assistance from governments or other international organisations.

CEO's Report

2008 has been another successful year for AAI in the delivery of international medical relief and humanitarian programs to the underserved in need of assistance as a result of natural disasters and complex emergencies.

The most significant international disaster that occurred during this period was Cyclone Nargis in Burma where AAI deployed its Disaster Assistance Response Team to distribute emergency medical supplies and provide training assistance to national responders. AAI also continued its longer term programs in Indonesia, the Thai-Burma border region and Timor-Leste where it continued a highly successful partnership with Oilex Ltd in the implementation of its medical outreach program on Atauro Island.

The strength of AAI in both providing and maintaining such an effective capability has and will always be the commitment and energy of its staff, volunteers and supporters. Quality people are the medium through which AAI delivers the highest level of humanitarian assistance and programming and it is very privileged to engage some of the best and most experienced people in the sector.

The AAI management team forms the backbone of its current organisational structure and drives its most significant initiatives. Its volunteers, both local and international, bring with them a unique set of skills and competencies and a common desire to "make a difference" to the less fortunate. AAI's valuable work would, of course, not be possible without the generosity and support of its donors (organisational, individual and corporate) and also its Advisory Board who play both an active and representational role.

2008 also saw the further enhancement of AAI's professionalism in the NGO sector with the achievement of both approved status under the Overseas Aid Grant Development Scheme and Deductible Gift Recipient status recognised by the Australian Taxation Office. AAI will build on these achievements during 2009.

AAI's strives to become recognised internationally as a humanitarian leader with a reputation for providing relief and assistance well outside the scope and capability of similar organisations and to effectively complement and augment the international humanitarian community in the delivery of outcomes anywhere in the world.

Thank you all once again for your support during 2008 and your continued commitment to the humanitarian imperative.

Marc Preston
CEO

Global Programs

During Jun 2007 – Jul 2008 AAI continued to implement longer term programs in Indonesia, Timor-Leste and on the Thai-Burma Boarder. The most significant international disaster during this period occurred in Burma from the Cyclone Nargis. AAI was one of only a few International Non Government Organisations (NGO) to get emergency personnel into Burma and provide a significant response.

Indonesia

Almost two years after the 2006 Jogjakarta Earthquake recovery programs to assist communities to rebuild their lives continued in Indonesia. Through funding with the Australian Indonesian Partnership (AIP) AAI completed a Clinic Reconstruction and Community Base Disaster Risk Reduction Project in Java. This substantial project included the construction of three earthquake resistant health clinics and engaging associated communities to develop long term disaster mitigation planning strategies so that they may be better prepared and be able to cope with disasters in the future.



AAI conducting Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Training. One of the completed healthcare clinics constructed by AAI

Timor-Leste

AAI's long term association with Oilex LTD in corporate social responsibility continued in Timor-Leste providing long term rural healthcare projects in some of the most remote areas of the country. Through collaboration with the Ministry of Health (MoH) AAI determined that support and supervision of the District Health Services (DHS) in the provision healthcare to remote communities would have the most positive impact on decreasing mortality and morbidity and reducing the strain on the already struggling and under-resourced healthcare system.



AAI staff providing outreach mobile medical healthcare services to remote communities on Atauro Island

AAI provided community and primary healthcare to the people on Atauro Island. By providing basic health services, AAI ensured that those members in the community with preventable health problems were treated early on in the disease process and thus reduce the number of seriously ill and referable patients who otherwise end up in the already struggling healthcare service of the in Timor-Leste.

AAI have already completed over one year of a 3 – 5 year healthcare project to assist the DHS on Atauro Island. The goal of this project is to support and strengthen the DHS in filling gaps in healthcare provision and promoting a healthy environment through health promotion activities. AAI promotes a social justice approach to healthcare by assisting with a sustainable health service and capacity building of local healthcare professionals. It is AAI's aim that these healthcare professionals will be able to meet the health needs of the population and fill gaps in healthcare services without the need of further international assistance in the future.

AAI have also completed a number of water purification projects in Timor-Leste including projects for UNICEF, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Government and the SkyJuice Foundation.

Thai-Burma Boarder

AAI continued to work on the Thai-Burma Boarder implementing the Landmine Surgical Trauma Course to Burmese medics within Thailand. AAI have been a long term contributor to the course and provide training management and medical expertise in partnership with the Global Health Access Program (GHAP). The Trauma Management Training Course (TMTC) was conducted in Mae Sot, Thailand in February this year in consultation with the Karen Department of Health and Welfare (KDHW), and in partnership with the GHAP organization.



AAI Medical volunteer providing training to Karen Medics on the TMTC

The TMTC commenced in 2002 with the aim of training medical teams who could quickly get to the site of injured victims, resuscitate them and perform life saving procedures before transporting the patient to a referral clinic for further treatment and care. Since the inception of the course Larry Stock MD and other medical professionals have conducted medical training through theoretical lessons, role-playing, practical workshops, simulation models and surgical labs.

Recent statistical analysis from the GHAP organisation and the KDHW indicates that of the victims who are alive when the trauma medics arrive, there is a 90 percent survival rate for land mine victims and an 82 percent survival rate for gun-shot victims.

Burma

The situation in Burma caused by the Cyclone Nagaris in May of this year created a desperate humanitarian emergency. However, relief efforts were hampered by the Burmese Military Junta. AAI were aware that a humanitarian response from organisations such as AAI, without previous programs in Burma, was going to make access into the country difficult. However, we were confident that with our skills and expertise we would still be able to find ways, working around the Junta, in the relief effort where our unique abilities would be of important value.



A devastated village in the Irrawaddy region

With the support of partners such as Direct Relief International (DRI) and Renewtek AAI developed a valuable relief project for the people of Burma and consequently has lead to longer term capacity building of local groups to respond and cope with this and future disasters.

AAI activated its emergency response base in Timor-Leste, which had good access to Bangkok and once funding was secured AAI deployed its forward elements of the DART including the team leader and project assistant to Thailand. Whilst waiting for visas in Bangkok AAI were able to commence developing a course of action. When AAI finally obtained approval for the forward element of the DART to enter Burma AAI quickly entered the country and began providing immediate assistance. In Burma AAI supported DRI with relief logistics and provided a medical training capability for the local healthcare providers. AAI were also able to secure eleven water purification systems through partners, the SkyJuice Foundation, and handed over this project to local groups to implement water and sanitation activities.

During this emergency response phase, AAI achieved successes in a number of key areas in medical training of local Burmese healthcare workers and support locals in Disaster Medical Emergency Healthcare so that these groups could provide healthcare to the thousands of affected victims of the cyclone.



The photograph depicts Burmese healthcare staff conducting a simulated lesson to practice passing medical training on to villagers.

Advisory Board

Francis Galbally
Craig Rubenstein
Maureen Wheeler
Michael Hillardt
Felicidade de Sousa Guterres

Directors

Chief Executive Officer.

Marc Preston, is a qualified lawyer with over 20 years commercial experience as both a legal practitioner and businessman. He is also a consultant in Crisis Leadership and Disaster Management and has assisted government instrumentalities and corporations in implementing crisis management strategies. Marc has travelled extensively throughout the Asia and Asian Pacific regions and has been involved in many of the major humanitarian emergencies of this decade.

Director of Operations.

Frank Tyler, has been involved in humanitarian aid for over 16 years in numerous disaster and conflict zones around the world including the Middle East, Balkans, Africa, Asia and South East Asia. His experience ranges from emergency relief to post conflict development in both natural and manmade disasters, specialising in health programs to underserved communities. He is well known for establishing successful relief programs in some of the most remote and dangerous regions in the world.

Frank has a Masters of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Bachelor of Health Science, Nursing, Certificates in Aviation, Underwater Medicine, Training, and Assessment, a Diploma in Building Surveying and various diplomas' and certificates in project and operational management.

Director

Michael Carr is a partner with Mason Sier Turnbull, Lawyers and conducts a broad commercial practice with a focus on advising on major sale and purchase of land and business transactions for public and large private corporate. He has acted on behalf of clients in relation to Initial Public Offerings and capital raisings generally.

Management

Executive Director

Marina Tyler, has a Masters degree in Forced Migration, Asylum and Refugees and a post graduate degree in International Social Development. Marina is a full time public servant with the Australian Department of Immigration working in refugee settlement. She also has a long history in volunteering with Australian community based organisations. Internationally, Marina has worked with a number of NGOs. Marina has worked with the Kosovar refugees in Northern Albania and in Kosovar with the returnees. Marina has also spent a substantial amount of time post Tsunami as a manager in Banda Aceh, Indonesia with a medical aid organisation. She has also been involved with Burmese refugees on the Thai-Burma border and has worked in Thailand on a number of consultancies.

Global Medical Director

Larry Stock MD, FACEP is an American Emergency Medicine Physician with many years of humanitarian aid experience. Dr Stock has extensive experience in teaching/training, leading/organising, and practicing Emergency Field Medicine, in man made and natural disasters. Dr Stock holds a number of senior positions including Diplomat and Examiner on the American Board of Emergency Medicine, Clinical Associate Professor at UCLA School of Medicine, Assistant Medical Director, Emergency Department at Antelope Valley Hospital and Attending Physician, Emergency Department, Harbor UCLA Medical Centre. Larry's extensive International Emergency Medicine experience includes operations in; Bosnia, Albania, Kosovo, Thai Burma Boarder, Liberia, Sri Lanka, Kashmir/Pakistan, and Burma.

Deputy Director of Operations

James Judge, is a full time public servant with a Commonwealth Government Agency. James' relief experience includes advising as a Management Consultant in Indonesia after the Tsunami, Team Leader for AAI's Pakistan emergency mission, AAI's Country Manager for the Java Earthquake program and Country Representative for AAI in Timor-Leste.

International Security and Information Manager

Dominic Bowen, is a security training consultant and former police officer, who also devotes his time with AAI on a volunteer basis. Dominic deployed to Pakistan, Kashmir in response to the South-Asian Earthquake with as part of AAI's Disaster Assessment and Response Team. Dominic also served as AAI's Country Director in Indonesia.

International Program Manager

Nathan Mullins, is a security and training consultant and former police officer and provides security consulting in the Middle East. Nathan has deployed, as the Team Leader for AAI's Disaster Assessment and Response Team to many of AAI's international emergency response programs including; the Pakistan/Kashmir earthquake, Timor-Leste crisis and the Burma Cyclone. Nathan also works on the Thai-Burma Boarder in AAI's medical and educational projects and in Indonesia with AAI's reconstruction and Disaster Risk Reduction Project. As International Project Manager Nathan travels extensively between AAI's international operations and Australian Headquarters.

Public Relations Officer and Information Technician

Paul Piaia, is a Project Manager for a web design company who has been part of AAI's Disaster Assessment and Response Teams to Pakistan and Timor-Leste. Paul was responsible for compiling village assessments, drawing maps of the area and assisting AAI's medical teams. Paul now volunteers his time in promotion and media liaison duties.

Marc Preston
CEO

31 August 2008