



AFAP Newsletter

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VIET NAM - Typhoon Durian

Typhoon Durian started in earnest on November 28, 2006 and moved through the Philippines, killing at least 720 people. It tracked westwards towards Viet Nam and moved along the coast from Nha Trang to HCMC on December 3. Eventually, Durian began to weaken again, and by December 4, it had been downgraded to a severe tropical storm. The storm maintained intensity as it skirted the Vietnamese coast moving southwest. After a second stint at typhoon strength, Durian finally made landfall in Ben Tre province on December 5. The system rapidly weakened over land, and emerged in the Gulf of Thailand as a weak tropical depression. Durian was the worst typhoon to hit Ben Tre since 1904.

One of the AFAP project areas on their dengue program in southern Viet Nam is with Thanh Tri commune, in Ben Tre province. Thanh Tri has over 2,000 households and a population of close to 10,000 people. "From a project perspective we are working with the entire commune, supporting 46 collaborators, 3 schools and the commune health centre. 37 collaborators lost their homes, all the schools were damaged and the commune health centre lost part of its roof" said Simon Kutcher, Health Program Manager for AFAP's three dengue programs funded by AusAID, Big Lottery UK and Gates Global Challenge in Viet Nam.



The data on the destruction from Typhoon Durian is only collated down to the district level, where they have 19 communes and 130,000 people living in 26,000 households. Durian killed 4 people in the district and injured over 250, 40 of them severely. 9,026 homes were completely destroyed and over 13,000 were damaged.

19 classrooms were completely destroyed and over 350 were damaged.

The entire district lost all power and telecommunications, and these services were not restored until 12 days later. Estimates at property and agriculture losses range as high as A\$42 million. Many households lost their stocks of food and rice. The local authorities are thankful that Durian struck the district during the day, where people could be better prepared for its impact.

In response, AFAP, provided A\$5,000 for a series of goods to help the people of Thanh Tri recover. 4.5 kgs of rice was distributed to every household in the commune, while the project collaborators each received a mosquito net, a large box of instant noodles, and 50,000VND. Since the middle of January 2007 the collaborators have rebuilt their homes, are restoring the areas around their houses, and have crops of rice not destroyed by Durian close to harvest. The project collaborator network is again up and running and the community focused on dengue prevention for the coming wet season. The funds used for the relief were some of the funds raised at the Tamworth Concert organized by Diane Drew.

AFAP is a not for profit organisation concerned with emergency relief operations, sustainable international development and the eradication of poverty worldwide.

AFAP promotes self-reliant community development projects in the areas of:

institution building;
health;
education;
literacy;
agriculture;
environmental protection;
hospital rehabilitation;
village improvement;
disaster relief; and
small industry development
which emerge from the aspirations of the local people.

AFAP supports projects that are environmentally and economically sustainable, gender balanced and supportive of the integrity and self-determination of local communities.

AFAP aims to improve the status of women, children, ethnic minorities, handicapped and other disadvantaged or marginalised sections of society.

AFAP is a membership organisation, which provides opportunities for Australians who wish to volunteer their services in supporting our overseas development programs.

AFAP aims to:

Promote the advancement of education and the relief of poverty and sickness through innovative and appropriate community based development throughout the developing world where needed.

Tax Deductible Donations
Donations to AFAP of \$2.00 or more are Tax Deductible.

Call 1800-007-308

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Solomon Islands Earthquake

An earthquake measuring 8.1 struck 345km northwest of the Solomon Islands' capital Honiara at 0740 local time on 2 April 2007. (2040 GMT 1 April). The earthquake created a tsunami causing significant damage in the Solomon Islands.

The NDC reports that the affected area includes Gizo, Simbo, Ranogga, Shortlands, Munda, Noro, Vella la Vella, Kolombangarra and parts of the southern coast of Choiseul. Aerial surveillance shows that the worst-affected areas are the southern coast of Gizo, Simbo Island and the central southern coast of Choiseul between Moli and Posarae and Sasamunga.

AFAP was in the process of packing a container of Hospital Equipment and supplies for the Solomon Islands for distribution through the Rotary Club of Honiara. We will now be sending additional containers to assist with the rehabilitation of hospitals and equipment in the earthquake damaged areas.



Bairo Pite Clinic - East Timor

During the recent humanitarian crisis in East Timor, Bairo Pite Clinic played a key role in health service provision to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Timorese nationals affected by conflict. Between June and November BPC staff carried out 352 Mobile Clinics to 21 IDP Camps providing 10,968 consultations. A wall was built to secure the clinic in



an attempt to provide a safe environment for patients. This project was funded by AusAID and also included radios for the ambulance and mobile clinic vehicles for the safety of the staff. BPC consulted with 32,956 patients providing services for inpatients, births, Anti Natal Care, Vaccinations, Dental, Counseling, Malnutrition, Emergency and TB. BPC is still providing health services to IDPs and need your support for this.

HIV and Avian Influenza Projects in Viet Nam

AFAP has recently received funding from both the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to coordinate two new projects in Viet Nam.

In this current 'flu season' Avian Influenza (AI) has been recorded in more than 7 provinces throughout Viet Nam, and many chickens and ducks have been culled in an attempt to stop its spread. Culling clearly has



drastic consequences for local small-scale farmers, whose sole income is generated through sales of their poultry. To help address this problem, AFAP has been awarded funds by the USAID to work in Hoa Binh Province, just north of Ha Noi. According to Viet Nam's Country Director, Uma Menon, "This new funding is timely and we look forward to working with local communities in Hoa Binh to minimise the economic losses for small-scale poultry farmers and to prevent the further spread of AI. AFAP will work with vets, poultry farmers and private sector livestock pharmaceutical companies not only to increase awareness of

AI, but also to increase uptake of safe farming practices, which can halt the spread of the virus".

AFAP continues to support HIV care, prevention, treatment and support programs in Viet Nam – not only through our ongoing home care and HIV community awareness programs at Dong Da Hospital in Hanoi – but now also through a new ADB funded project working with youth in Phuc Tan, a poor area on the banks of the Red River in Hanoi. Dr. Minh, AFAP's Program Officer, has been actively working on HIV programs in Viet Nam and notes that "Phuc Tan's poorest residents live in shanty boats on the river, and it is not uncommon to see young people living on the streets. HIV awareness is low among many of the poorer residents, and

here, as well as across Viet Nam more generally, HIV rates are on the rise". This ADB funded project will see AFAP partner with local organizations including the local Phuc Tan Youth Union, the Hanoi HIV/AIDS Centre and 'Bright Futures', an HIV-positive community group. Together we will work directly with youth in Phuc Tan to increase awareness of HIV and to promote HIV risk-averse



behaviours. The project also targets HIV at a broader level, aiming to reduce the stigma and discrimination currently faced by people and their families living with HIV and AIDS. The project will see the establishment of youth health clubs as well as outreach services to young people living in cheap guesthouses and on the streets. Together these activities will provide opportunities for young people to learn about reproductive health and ways to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases and HIV. The project will run for 2

The FSPI Network

AFAP is a member of the FSPI (the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International) network, which was formed by independent organisations in 1990.

FSPI's network of affiliates work together with their respective governments and community groups in a broad range of community development initiatives, focusing on primary health care, education, community-based natural resource management (terrestrial and marine), capacity building, local institutional building, conflict management, and sustainable enterprise development.

FSPI member organisations are committed to:

Advocating and fostering human dignity and sustainable development

Striving for world justice and peace through programs of social, cultural and economic development, relief and reconstruction

Continuing to work at institution building and the development of self reliance

Building public awareness and understanding as a necessary prerequisite for humanitarian assistance

Initiating and continuing dialogue with government and public bodies on public policy issues of importance to the member organisations

Being accountable to the individual constituencies, partners in development and the people we strive to assist

Respecting the diverse perspectives and methods of operation of member agencies as a source of strength and creativity

Working in a spirit of collaboration as the most effective way to achieve common objectives

Encouraging professional competence, ethical practices and quality services

Advocating and fostering human dignity and sustainable development



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MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member of AFAP please request a Membership Application Form. Membership fees are \$25.00 per annum including GST.

FSPI Member Organisations

- ◇ Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia & the Pacific (AFAP)
- ◇ Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF)
- ◇ Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific, Kiribati
- ◇ Foundation for People and Community Development, PNG
- ◇ Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific, Vanuatu
- ◇ Counterpart International, USA
- ◇ Solomon Islands Development Trust
- ◇ Tonga Community Development Trust
- ◇ Tuvalu Association of Non-Government Organisations
- ◇ O le Siosiomaga Society (OLISSI), Samoa
- ◇ Timor Aid, East Timor

AFAP International Partners

- ◇ FSPI
- ◇ Kathmandu Environmental Education Project (KEEP), Nepal
- ◇ Sikkim Development Foundation, India
- ◇ Neo-Synthesis Research Centre (NSRC), Sri Lanka
- ◇ Commutech, Zimbabwe
- ◇ Concern Universal: Malawi, Kenya, Mozambique
- ◇ Chikuni Mission, Zambia
- ◇ Bairo Pite Clinic, East Timor
- ◇ Alola Foundation, East Timor
- ◇ Moris Rasik, East Timor
- ◇ Arte Moris, East Timor
- ◇ Pradet, East Timor

Supporting some inspirational African women

This story is submitted by David Brett—Africa Program Manager

I am really pleased to be able to tell you that AFAP's African Women's Program is becoming firmly established as one of our core development activities. Given the scale of the challenge, it is a small program. But, by working with our established local partners and dovetailing with AFAP's larger projects funded by the Australian Agency for International Development, AFAP is able to make small amounts of money go a long way.

Thanks to funds raised from Annalisa Kerrigan's benefit concerts in Tamworth (and the hardworking volunteers in that music capital who organise it) and the generosity of many AFAP supporters who contributed to last year's Christmas appeal – "Send Your Season's Greetings to a Proud African Woman" – we've been able to support several women's groups in Kenya and Zambia over the last 12 months.



In Kenya, for example, following business and technical training for women's groups in Nairobi's Mathare slum, AFAP provided two sewing machines, an overlocker and a knitting machine along with enough material and wool to start a small business making low-cost school uniforms. (Although primary

education is free, it's mandatory for children to wear the appropriate school uniform. As well as uniforms, parents also have to pay for books and other school supplies.) Proceeds from the small business are being used to buy more machines for other women's groups and to provide Home Based Care kits for trained care givers.

And in Zambia, your "Season's Greetings" meant that many positive

groups received vegetable seeds and hand tools. Others received disease-free chickens and strong male goats for breeding – including one goat which was named "007" by an AFAP supporter who gave the goat as a 40th wedding anniversary present to some friends (Coral and Paul) who are keen fans of James Bond.



All the groups who receive livestock agree to hand on some of the off-spring to other groups, in an approach commonly known as "revolving or 'pass-on' schemes". This multiplies the benefit of the gift several times.