Rotary E-Club Of Greater Sydney

International Projects Update November 2020

Our International projects continue to help with the impacts of COVID.

Lautoka Fiji received generous donations from 4 x e-club members with matching grant FJ$15,000 to provide seedlings, small trees and food. Local fashion warehouse has been engaged to make Days for girls kits.

Feeding Dreams Cambodia school remains closed due to covid so the team continue to deliver care packages to impoverished families to help provide food due to the lack of opportunity to find work amidst the coronavirus impact to tourism.

Bo Childrens Hospital is still being run by the government as a Covid treatment centre. Hopefully will resume as BCH in the next couple of months.

The **Medical equipment program** have provided 2,000 finger oximeters to Village Health workers in Myanmar to test oxygen saturation levels in their villages.

For the **Maternal and Child Health project** increased pregnancies due to disruption of supplies of 4 year Contraceptive Implants to parts of East Africa and East Myanmar led to massive increases in pregnancy rates. Medical facilities will be sorely tested from Nov into next year.

Oecusse GREENTL has been delivering food packages and face masks, to the villages. They now are planning to provide large water storage tanks, pumps and piping to get water from the mountain springs down to the villages. Two villages, Lela Ufe and Maunaban are to be done over the next few weeks. My team has to negotiate the mountain roads on motor bikes as the car has broken down and spare parts are as yet not available. There is some discussion at Government level of opening the borders for a few days a month, which whilst risky as Indonesia has thousands of cases of covid, will reduce the food and good shortage in the enclave.

The United Mission Hospital, Tansen, Nepal

Fund raising activities have been restricted this year due to Covid 19. The fundraising dinner is on hold until early next year at this stage, as the restaurant where it is normally held, is only allowed 25 customers under the 4sqm Covid Safety Rule.

When India closed their borders in mid-May, they had to let two million young seasonal workers back into Nepal. The workers had to isolate at overcrowded schools in their municipalities, as there was nothing prepared for them at the border. The positive cases (nearly 75,000 and 481 deaths at 28 September) are increasing exponentially in Kathmandu and the next District now, but the death rate is considerably less than ours because the age group is relatively young. Elderly now are becoming infected with some not expected to survive. The population of Nepal is approximately 4 million more than in Australia. When people attend the hospital with a fever, they also have to be screened for typhoid, typhus and other monsoon illnesses.

The team at **School for Life** has been working hard to adapt our Ugandan operations to continue to provide weekly home learning materials to the students via motorbike, delivered monthly food and hygiene packages to all the families in our communities, we have also set up handwashing stations in all surrounding villages, conducted small group handwashing and sanitation classes, conducted

professional development workshops and trainings for all staff and produced approx 24,000 reusable face masks with our KUMI tailoring team.

KINI have put down a well and are getting it ready to use for irrigation of our gardens the girls helped plant. This inspired them to plant their own smaller gardens at the school site and have been enjoying all the new learning opportunities.

KINI has also sponsored the local community soccer team and have sponsored a tournament which is currently running with 7 teams. This has been a huge boost to the community and with all the young men being home from school is a great opportunity to keep them focused on sport and exercise rather than other non-healthy social practices.

Hand Up Congo

- AUSTRALIA

- In collaboration with fellow eClub member Emmanuel Musoni's Great Lakes Agency for Peace and Development www.glapd.org.au, assisting African refugees to find employment in Australia, as well as facilitating social cohesion and professional development opportunities.

- DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- RAWCS project 47-2015-16: "Building a Healthy Congo"- achievements include:
  - ✓ conducting research with Congolese healthcare workers on the feasibility of Continuing Education on a Stick, in collaboration with Techies Without Borders and the DRC Emergency Medicine Association. Findings will be presented in November at the African Federation for Emergency Medicine's virtual conference.
- RAWCS project 20-2013-14: "Lotumbe Community Development" – successful fundraising has resulted in
  - ✓ A clean water project to reduce waterborne diseases and to free up women and girls so that they can focus on income generating projects as well as education, rather than carrying water.