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Development Aid Abroad  
— Australia Fund Inc.**  
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**HADA'S VISION**  
To see medical, educational,  
agricultural and sanitation  
programs established in  
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# A Place to Live, to be Loved, to Learn and Grow

INDIA  
Bill Watson

Vocational and Career Development (VCD) administers the Shepherd International School and the Jeevan Jyoti Ashram (residential home for children) and is situated on a 4.5-hectare site called the VCD Campus, in Orissa, India. It is under the leadership of Mr and Mrs Jeesur Das.

**65 CHILDREN** living on the campus have lost their homes, and family members are now unable to support them. Most are victims of Hindu/Christian violence. With the outbreak of violence against Christians in the Kandahal district in 2008, the children's home suddenly doubled in residential size, taking in children from affected areas. At least 50 more children are on a waiting list, however, the lack of residential facilities is a restriction on the VCD Campus.

**EDUCATION:** Contrary to many Indian schools, vocational training and counselling are integrated with God-centred education for these young children. The school also provides training in gardening, fishing, tailoring, crafts, cooking, milk production, small business development and management. Having seen other local institutions, and then firsthand the way these children are cared for, I concluded that the VCD Campus was unique in terms of the love and caring that these children receive.

**THEIR NEEDS:** A project trip in 2009 from Engineering Ministries International to the VCD Campus (for which I was a volunteer architect), produced a complete master plan which includes the overall concept

master plan for the site, plans for a dormitory and classroom building and sketch plans for a new dining hall. It is hoped that funding for the dormitory building may start soon. As well, the existing dining area that is made of bamboo and tarpaulin covering was badly damaged by cyclone *Laila* in May this year. VCD is currently



hoping for immediate funding that will allow them to cover the existing space with a more permanent structure including proper dining tables and chairs.

## NORTHERN IRAQ

## Hardan Widows' Project

*Emma Baxter*

### Project Timeline

I visited Barzan early in June to re-establish my relationship with the local community organisation Vazheen, and to discuss proceeding with the project. The president of Vazheen and I visited the village of Hardan and discussed the project again with the village leadership. Last year they selected fifty widows in the community for the project previously planned with the Kurdish Regional Government.

From these we selected thirty ladies that we could provide with a micro-loan with the funds from HADA.

I asked the village leaders to select the thirty with the proviso that the ladies were selected from all thirteen destroyed villages that Hardan now constitutes. The leadership have the best knowledge of who meets the criteria for the project participants. Requiring the ladies to be chosen from all thirteen villages adds a balance and accountability to the selection.

It was agreed that each woman would receive US\$500. Half of the funds are a loan and the other half a gift. The ladies will pay back US\$250 over 12 months. The ladies were divided into three groups that would meet monthly to pay back the loan. The leader of each group records all the transactions and brings the collected cash to the village leadership office.

Vazheen and the leaders of Hardan wanted to use the loan repayments to fund loans for another twenty ladies. I agreed to the proposal as Hardan is a close community and everyone knows that a project for widows has been started. It is better to share the benefits with as many as possible and cause no bad feeling. The funds may be able to be recycled through the community a number of times.

Two weeks later I returned to Barzan with the project funds and was accompanied by my team leaders. I entered into the spirit and excitement of the day and wore the traditional clothing of the area that had been a gift from a Vazheen member. The funds were distributed, the loan groups formed and group leaders appointed. A number of ladies who had heard about the project turned up at the village office at the time of the loan distribution wanting to be part of the project. It supports the leadership decision to redistribute the loan repayments as a first loan for other ladies. The ladies wanting to be part of the project were satisfied that they would be considered for the next round of loan distributions.

The community and Vazheen organisation are absolutely delighted with the project and were so thankful for a project dedicated to the widows affected by the 1983 genocide, as they have felt so overlooked in the past.

### A New Life for Hardan

In the twelve months since I last visited Hardan, the Kurdish Regional Government has decided the residents can now settle permanently on the land. Their own traditional lands are still too dangerous to resettle and may always be so. The border area was still being bombarded by the Turkish Air Force in their ongoing conflict with the Kurdistan Workers' Party hiding out in the Iraqi mountains.

The government is providing funds for the building of permanent housing. Two hundred homes are currently being built in the community. The loan money from our project comes at a good time to inject some cash into the community.



Signing in the account book

On my visit to Hardan, a year before, I had met a brave but struggling midwife in the community. She was committed to her volunteer role but was hindered by not having a place to deliver the babies. She made a visit to the local mayor at the time plans for the new housing were being drawn up. She requested and was granted an extra room in her house to be used as a birthing room.

I gave her US\$300 from the HADA donations to be used towards equipment, furniture and materials for the birthing room. The midwife and the ladies gathered were delighted. They felt it was a great contribution to the work of this dedicated community volunteer.

### Project Supervision

I have now returned to Australia after ten years service in Iraq. I have confidence that the loan group leaders, the village leaders of Hardan and the Vazheen organisation will all supervise the project well and uphold its intent for the benefit of the widow beneficiaries.

INF, NEPAL

Solar Panels Installed



# Maxton Strong School

BANBASSA, INDIA

The Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission (GSAM) is an orphanage home for around 100 children in North India. Rick and Clifton Shipway, a father and son from Tasmania run the orphanage. The GSAM is completely non-profit and the children receive food, education and training to better equip them for life.

Education takes a very high priority. In India it is very difficult for anyone to get a job if they have not completed at least grade ten. The GSAM currently has a school building but it is grossly undersized and in a terrible condition.

With the support of HADA and several individuals in Australia the GSAM is seeking to construct a new school for its children and children from the outside community. The building was designed to be constructed in stages; first the ground floor, then later a second and possibly a third level.

The total project cost is \$150,000, but it is expected that this should also cover most, if not all, of the furnishings.

Construction is already underway on the first level, which includes ten classrooms, four offices, three bathrooms and several storage rooms. The foundation has been completed but currently the construction is on hold as more finances are needed before it can continue.

There are plans to use the building outside of school hours for adult education, free medical camps, conferences, and a facility for local community meetings.

*For more information about this project, please see the GSAM's website <http://indianorphanage.com/>*



# A Threatening Social Problem

## MONGOLIA

### The Problem

A report by the UN's World Health Organisation notes that alcohol abuse could be Mongolia's biggest stumbling block to economic and social progress. A 2006 survey carried out by Mongolia's Ministry of Health and WHO found that 22 percent of Mongolian men and five percent of women are dependent on alcohol, rates three times higher than in Europe.

**Betel** is a charitable organisation that is dedicated to recovery and rehabilitation of drug addicts and alcoholics. It was formed in Spain in the mid 1980s when that country was suffering from heroin addiction in epidemic proportions. Betel now operates in 22 countries.

### The History

In 2006 a recovered alcoholic, Mr Ganbat Ishkhuu, contacted Betel staff and expressed his desire to help his fellow Mongolian alcoholics recover from their addiction so they could live a normal life. He had been frustrated in his efforts to find an organisation that would support him in this endeavor. Ganbat accepted an invitation for both he and his wife to spend one year working in Betel in India to be trained in its methods.

Early in 2008 Betel Mongolia was registered, as a branch of Betel America. Two Betel counsellors from India assisted in launching the program. Keith Bergmeier oversees the operations of Betel Mongolia. Keith, an Australian, is a director of Betel America and resides in India and makes regular visits to Mongolia.

A large residence was purchased for approximately AU\$82,500. The program was inaugurated on 15 May 2008, under the direction of Mr Ishkhuu. Entry into the Betel program is free of charge, but recovering alcoholics, health permitting, are required to be involved in the work and income-generating projects operated by Betel. This is both to develop a work ethic as well as to contribute to the cost of their recovery.

These projects include a food store, public shower house and car wash centre. Betel Mongolia's day-to-

day operating expenses are totally financed by the projects mentioned.

In April 2010 a building was rented in order to begin one of the first residential programs for women in Mongolia. This project is overseen by Ganbat's wife, Davaa, together with her staff who were also trained in Betel India.

Currently 35 men and ten women are undertaking this residential alcohol recovery program.

Some 14 men have graduated from the 18-month program since it began two years ago. Others who have participated in the program, but have not completed the full course, are also living alcohol-free lives.

### The Future

At the beginning of 2010, Betel acquired a one-hectare block of land on the outskirts of Ulaanbaatar, the capital. This is for the construction of additional residences and also for income-generation projects such as a greenhouse garden (photo) and animal care.

It is planned that the future buildings will house a further 40 recovering alcoholics and generate an annual income of approximately AU\$20,700, primarily from the sale of meat and vegetables.

At the present time water has to be purchased and transported to this property. In order to proceed with our plans, the first priority is to arrange for the drilling of a well, and the provision of a regular water supply.

Despite our initial successes in Mongolia, there is still much to be done, and many more alcoholics to be helped. Finance for the drilling of this well will greatly enhance our progress to develop this property and advance with our plans to increase both our income and residential capacity.



# Current HADA Projects

*All projects listed here are approved  
for tax deductibility*



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## Cambodia

### Siem Reap.

Manager: Valéria Pires

- Bridge of Hope: Working with families and communities to prevent children at risk becoming street children.

### Phnom Penh.

Manager: Martin Aerne

- Vocational Training Program: Tailoring Workshop, Metal Workshop and I.T. Support / Customer Service.

## China

### Kham Health Associates, Sichuan Province.

Managers: Keith and Barbara Richardson

- Screen and treat people with Hydatids; educate the whole community in Hydatids prevention.
- Disaster Relief: help in the form of food, blankets, shoes and shelter, and provision of yaks in the summer.

### Bridgewater Care, Guiyang.

Manager: Karen Kirkland

- Hospital and community-based physiotherapy/rehabilitation training for recently disabled individuals from stroke, head injury, spinal cord injury and neuromuscular disease.

### Entreaide Globale, Hohhot, Inner Mongolia.

Manager: Kate Lee

- A Cup of Water Community Centre Project: provide finances for poor children to attend school; teach English, and English teacher training.
- Community Centre.

## Democratic Republic of Congo

### Heal Africa, Goma

- Equipping a new hospital.

## India

### Maxton Strong School, Banbassa.

Manager: Rick Shipway

- School buildings for orphans and local children.

### Vocational and Career Development, Orissa.

Manager: Bill Watson

- Construction of Shepherd International School for very poor children.
- Construction of Jeevan Jyoti Ashram home for orphaned children.

## Ivory Coast

### Literacy Project.

Manager: Alfred Koussi

- Literacy for adults.

## Kazakhstan

### HADA, Astana.

Manager: David Pichotta

- Alcoholism: Education, literature, and support groups for alcoholics and their families in order to break the cycle of this devastating problem.
- Open Doors Community Centre: a place to gain employable skills and life skills for young adults, couples and parents.
- Valueology teaching: assisting schools by providing teaching materials, and teaching values to teenagers and students.

## Mongolia

### Good Neighbor Society, Ulaanbaatar.

Manager: Mark Jennings

- Feeding poor children; Mobile Library; Hearing Aid Projects; Reading Glasses Project; Kindergarten Project; Character Training; Micro Loans.

### Betel

Manager: Keith Bergmeier

- Digging wells for market garden

## Nepal

### International Nepal Fellowship, Dang Province.

Manager: Dr Julie Lincoln

- CATS: Community development; environmental health; TB patient hostel; youth awareness program and scholarships for poor children.
- Leprosy/rehab project: care of leprosy, general disability and burns patients; footwear provision; training government health workers; income generation.

## Zambia

### Oasis Care Project, Ndola.

Manager: Margaret Parry.

- Oasis Care Project - market garden for orphanage.

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**Do not include the name of the  
person or project on the cheque.**



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**Health and Development Aid Abroad –  
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ABN 43 739 862 351**

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***We reserve the right to use designated gifts for another project if the  
one identified is sufficiently funded or closed.***