

Inspire

Issue 79, September 2020



encouraging development
... inspiring hope

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Health And
Development Aid
Abroad — Australia
Fund Inc.
ABN 43 739 862 351

HADA's Vision

To see medical, educational, agricultural and sanitation programs established in countries as needed.

All projects listed in *Inspire* are tax deductible. All monies for these projects, and personnel involved in them, are sent in their entirety except for bank charges. HADA does not use these funds for administration.

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A Safe Environment in Times of Great Insecurity

CAMBODIA

In times of insecurity and despair, Bridge of Hope is creating a safe environment for children to come to, and make memories that might carry them through difficult times in their lives.

~ Jun Kim, project director of Bridge of Hope

WHEN the Cambodian government announced in March 2020 that all schools were to be closed, it also affected the work that Bridge of Hope (BOH) is doing among the poorest of the poor in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Our beneficiaries are living under the poverty line of \$1.71 per day per person. They often make their living through selling homemade cakes, collecting recyclable rubbish or as workers in the tourism sector. Their income is not enough to be able to



send their children to school. Instead their young ones need to help create income or watch their younger siblings while their caregivers (parents or sometimes grandparents, aunts and uncles etc) are working. BOH offers grades one and two teaching to these children on our compound and then integration into the government school from grade three onwards.

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We then support them with catch-up lessons half-a-day-a-week for one year. While the children learn with us, our social workers offer counselling, guidance, advice and practical support to the caregivers in the various struggles they are facing.

Through COVID-19 our 55 families were badly impacted. Many of them had very low or no income at all due to people staying home and the tourism sector shutting down. We saw how our families struggled to find something to eat, to pay their rent and put hygiene standards in place.

That was the starting point for us; while our school



remains closed, our compound is open as a drop-in centre, where the children can come every day to eat a nutritious meal, shower and to pick up school lessons to do at home. We also started to hand out monthly food packages to our families to support

their living. Hygiene standards were kept high in order to protect the health of our beneficiaries as well as our staff.

It is not clear when schools in Cambodia reopen. Until then we will continue to put all our effort into creating a space where our beneficiaries can experience security and hope in times of great despair.

~ Danilo Gross

Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness and Addiction

MONGOLIA

TRY to imagine my life in their shoes... the homeless and addicted people of Ulaanbaatar (UB), Mongolia. How would my life have turned out if I had a similar past of failure, hurt, wrong choices, continuing abuse or loss and no social safety net to fall back on? Would I have done things differently? Better, wiser? And could I have done that all on my own? Or would my life have turned out the same or perhaps even worse? I am sure that none of my homeless contacts

dreamed as a kid of a future life addicted and homeless...

Since 2015 with a local team I have had the privilege — with the challenges — to reach out to these people. The homeless of UB are a

neglected group, complete outsiders of society. Since they are young adults the general thought is that there is no longer hope for change so there is no reason to reach out or care. Regularly I am being told, 'Go do something else, use your energy for some other good work, but not on these people'.

But my Sergelt Ood team thinks differently and feels called to reach out and acknowledge these people. Some of my local team members have come out of that life



Giving care, attention and recognition to homeless people in Mongolia

Weekly we visit homeless people groups with our remodelled drop-in bus to build relationships and provide some basic needs such as first-aid and wound care, hot meals,

themselves, and some of their old buddies are still out there on the streets.



washing facility, haircuts and second-hand clothing. We help with family mediation, getting access to healthcare and connect with alcohol rehabilitation centres. Over the past years, hundreds of people have been able to receive medical attention during visits with our drop-in bus and around 200 have made the step into an alcohol rehab centre.

Empowering the homeless to take steps out of homelessness and addiction

We want to see changes and results through our relationship with the homeless, but even if these stay on the street, that relationship by itself can help someone to hold on in unchanging and painful living conditions and make them more bearable. If it was one of us out there lonely, having lost all hope and dignity,

wouldn't we want someone to notice us, dare to shake our hand, care for our wounds or give us a haircut, acknowledge our existence and pain and remind us of our value?

Right now, we are in the middle of a building program to set-up a reintegration project: a 'halfway house' to prepare homeless addicted graduates from alcohol rehabilitation centres for their re-entry into society.

Providing assistance to regain their place in society

To rebuild a life back in society as a homeless person is incredibly hard and the support needed after alcohol rehabilitation is basically non-existent. Rehab centres are indispensable as a first step towards recovery, but in most cases they don't offer guests sufficient preparation or opportunities for a life outside of the centre.

Too often we see people who return back to society after rehabilitation relapse heavily into their addiction, ending up back on the street again. Others linger on for years in a centre because they see no future for themselves outside of it. With our reintegration project, we aim to offer a temporal, alcohol-free, living community with rental accommodation, work placement and skills for starting up small businesses, along with regular training for personal growth.



For 2021 we hope to rebuild a small structure on our land to start a coffee house and bakery business for participants in the reintegration project. Would you consider contributing towards the realisation of this step and help the homeless addicted people in Ulaanbaatar to have a better future?

~ Corrie van der Esch

on behalf of Sergelt Ood NGO

Donations to this project MNG-500 will be appreciated.

Thank you to all contributed to the
Lebanon Disaster Appeal.

People deeply affected by the tragedy
there have been provided with practical
help and comfort in their time of suffering.

Teaching Values to Young People

KAZAKHSTAN

We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends.

~ Mary McLeod Bethune

YOUNG people are so full of energy and often do not know what they cannot do, or at least what adults think is impossible. This provides so much potential for good or for bad. We are trying to help the young people of Kazakhstan to grow in their understanding of what is right and wrong as they look at using their energies and talents.

A few months ago, I had the opportunity to visit a local meeting of the youth wing of the country's main political party. It was an informal time to expose the young people to different ideas. It was a good time to share with this group about what is really important and why certain practices are destructive, not just for the individual but for the wider society.

Out of this came an invitation to provide a number of talks in the group's special lecture series geared towards university students throughout the capital. This was an excellent opportunity to influence the influencers and those who are likely to play a role in shaping Kazakhstan's future.

I was busy preparing some interactive lectures on topics such as:

- Values and morals
- Corruption and community responsibility
- Addictions and good health practices
- Sexual behaviour and its affects
- Suicide prevention

And, then the Coronavirus pandemic hit, putting everything on hold. These lectures will not be taking place, so we wait for future opportunities.

SUICIDE PREVENTION

A big problem in Kazakhstan is suicide, especially among youth. The country has some of the highest suicide rates in the world. The issue is not an easy one to deal with. The problem is multi-faceted with no simple solution. As part of our Valueology project, we have been researching the situation to see what we can do to help fight this problem. When dealing with univer-



sity students, HADA-Astana tries to help them see that they are valuable and valued. We are in the early stages of developing materials in order to inform young people and adults in how to help those who might be suicidal and to discourage them from taking their own lives. Our desire is to develop materials which fit the unique local situation with its culture and context and which are not simply a translation of information developed in other countries.

~ David Pichotta

Donations to this project KAZ-012 will be appreciated.

Current HADA Projects

All projects listed are approved for tax deductibility



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AFRICA and Asia

Medical training in Africa and Asia

- training African and Asian doctors in treating women with genital tracts fistula [AFR-500]

AFRICA and FIJI

Library Aid International Inc

Manager: Peter Cunningham

- Providing books for schools to improve educational outcomes and life opportunities. [AFR-011]

AUSTRALIA

Food Plants International

Manager: Bruce French

- Researching edible food plants suitable for growing in various regions of the world [AUS-500]

BANGLADESH

New Hope Ministry Bangladesh Trust

Manager: Warwick Lloyd

- **Multi-Purpose Educational Buildings** Building multi-function education facilities [BGD-012]
- **Orphanage and School Self-Sufficiency Project** (Replaces BGD-010) Provides high-level schooling and gains funds for the orphanage [BGD-013]
- **Orphanage and Schools Benevolent Project** Provides self-sufficiency projects for communities, training to gain employment and adult education [BGD-500]

BURUNDI

Mustard Seed Projects

Manager: Des Willmott

- Meat chickens, fish farming and biogas projects [BDI-010]

CAMBODIA

Siem Reap

Manager: Jun Kim

- **Bridge of Hope:** Working with families and communities to prevent children at risk becoming street children (or sold/ending up in prostitution). [KHM-500]

INDIA

Asha Bhawan Community Building Project

Manager: Keith Bergmeier

- Rescuing men and women from drug and alcohol addiction and seeing them transformed into responsible citizens [IND-050]

Ashir Children's Home

Manager: Ashir [IND-520]

Assistant Manager: Ashirvadam Mylaram [IND-521]

- Providing homes for orphaned children [IND-500]

INDIA

Maxton Strong School Kindergarten Upgrade

Manager: Clifton Shipway [IND-015]

- Kindergarten Upgrade: to provide suitable education facilities for early learners [IND-019]

Maxton Strong School Staff

Accommodation

Manager: Rick Shipway [IND-014]

- Building accommodation for school staff [IND-018].

Good Shepherd Agricultural Mission

Manager: Clifton Shipway [IND-015]

- The care and protection of orphaned children [IND-501].

IRAQ

Sulaymaniyah, Kurdistan

Optician Training Centre

- Apprenticeship program for opticians [IRQ-010]

KAZAKHSTAN

HADA, Astana

Manager: David Pichotta [KAZ-013]

- **Alcoholism:** Education, literature, and support groups for alcoholics and their families [KAZ-010]
- **Open Doors Community Centre:** a place to gain employable skills and life skills for young adults, couples and parents [KAZ-011]
- **Valueology:** assisting schools by providing materials, and teaching values to teenagers [KAZ-012]

MONGOLIA

Good Neighbor Society, Ulaanbaatar

Manager: Sarantsetseg Baasankhuu

- Family Development Program [MNG-010]

Sergelt Ood

Manager: Corrie van der Esch [MNG-019]

- Assist homeless people in Ulaanbaatar [MNG-500]

NEPAL

Nepali Health, Development & Disaster Response (ACN)

Manager: Dr Julie Lincoln [NPL-011]

- Providing access to safe drinking water and toilets, improve knowledge of hygiene/ sanitation, nutrition and preventable diseases [NPL-500]

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Haus Pikinini P4K Orphanages Development

Manager: Donna Harvey-Hall

- Building orphanages to create a positive, loving environment for abandoned and neglected children [PNG-010]

SIERRA LEONE

Education Community Care Program

Manager: Dr Themis Adamopoulos

- Providing school canteen, medical clinic, and toilets [SLE-500]

P4KA Orphanages Development

- Building orphanages to create a positive, loving environment for abandoned and neglected children. [SLE-012]

SOUTH AFRICA

My Father's House Worcester

Manager: Jan Buchanan [ZAF-011]

- Community Centre for vulnerable teenagers [ZAF-010]

UGANDA

Grace Care Child Program Secondary School

Manager: Emmanuel Kanuli

- To build classrooms for orphaned/ disadvantaged children [UGA-022]

Grace Care Child Sponsorship Program

[UGA-500]

VANUATU

Victory School of Hope

Manager: Zebedee Tanga

- To build new classrooms for school in Blacksands community [VUT-010]

ZAMBIA

P4K Zambia Education and Community Care Program

Manager: Joyce Chimbila

- Community care and education [ZMB-500]

DISASTER RELIEF

- Bangladesh floods [DIS-000]
- Help for Syrian refugees [DIS-010]
- Lebanon disaster appeal [DIS-100]

WHERE MOST NEEDED

The board will allocate these funds to projects in most need [WMN-010]



Health and Development Aid Abroad —Australia Fund Inc.
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*We reserve the right to use designated gifts for another project
 if the one identified is sufficiently funded or closed.*