



**AFAP**

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.

## WE ARE SPREADING OUR WINGS.....

AFAP is traditionally known for its work in the Asia Pacific region. However over the past three years we have extended our successful philosophy of working with local partner organisations, to include several new partner African organisations. While AFAP's presence in Africa has been relatively short, our Africa program is now one of our largest.



**Soap Making in Zimbabwe**

Life is particularly hard in Zimbabwe at the moment. The political situation is increasingly difficult, and inflation is out of control. The cost of basic necessities like food, medicine and paraffin for cooking is rising by the week. The situation is particularly harsh on the rural population whose already limited income now buys less than ever.

For the women of Mhondoro district there is however a new opportunity for them to improve their situation. As part of the *AFAP Zimbabwe Forrest Garden Project* some of these rural women now have access to a micro-credit and savings scheme. This scheme allows groups of women to borrow small amounts of money, which is paid back, and reinvested. To date a variety of short-term, income generation activities, such as peanut butter and soap making have been established. Activities such as this have now helped provide an additional income for at least 60 families in the district.

A Savings group will comprise of 25 women, who meet once a week to work at their new enterprises. Above is one group of women who have been very successful with their soap making business.



They are cutting large blocks of soap into smaller bars for sale. In just four months these women have managed to save AUD\$550, which represents a small fortune to them. They report that they can not meet the local demand for their product, and hope that others will be able to join them soon. These women agree that some of their profit should be relented to other women, and some should go to the individuals to use for school fees and buying food.



**A Celebration in Malawi (East Africa)**

While offering micro-credit facilities is a well-established way of helping people help themselves; most institutions focus their activities in urban centres. There are very few organisations that work with rural communities, and certainly none in this area of Zimbabwe. By Australian standards it costs very little to establish a seed fund for enterprises such as this. As little as \$1,000 is enough to establish a community savings group, and give 25 women an opportunity to improve their own, and their families situation. For more information on this program, or the work that AFAP's partner, Counterpart Zimbabwe involved with, please contact Chris Murphy at AFAP's Sydney office.



**Peanut Butter making in Zimbabwe**



### AFAP Staff

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AFAP is a signatory to the ACFOA Code of Conduct representing our commitment to ethical standards in governance, financial management and public accountability.



## 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

## ACFOA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA) was held in Brisbane earlier this month. It was an action packed agenda over two days with many presentations and debates. Some of the topics presented and debated were:

- Major trade issues for developing countries and the role of NGO's
- A common voice on human rights and development
- A changing role for NGO's working in the Pacific
- Seeking asylum from fear and persecution – the facts and myths on refugees
- Values, ethics and the role of codes of conduct.

Amongst other things, we discussed the profile of the voluntary overseas aid sector in Australia. More than 1.6 million Australian's including 600,000 regular supporters give \$278 million dollars in cash and kind to overseas aid.

The Australian Government through AusAID provides \$89 million for overseas aid. Australian overseas aid is spent in the following regions:

Africa 19.2% - East Asia 33.7% - South Asia 5.5% - Central & South America 4% - Pacific 6.2% - Middle East 8.1% - Europe 17.8% (for refugee programs) —International 5.5%.



Australian Aid funds Training Workshop in Nepal

The ACFOA Annual General Meeting was also held during the conference. ACFOA currently has 96 members and AFAP is a member organisation. AFAP is also a signatory to the ACFOA Code of Conduct of which there are currently 123 signatories. AFAP's Financial Manager Christine Carberry is a member of the Code of Conduct Committee.

The ACFOA Code of Conduct Committee monitors compliance to the Code's annual reporting requirements and organises workshops and resources providing guidance on good practice in areas covered by the code.



## Gardening Good Governance and Democracy in the Pacific

With thirty-five years of experience in the Pacific, the FSPI Network partners have learned that many of the challenges confronting the Pacific Island communities – whether it be inadequate health care, environmental degradation, or poverty – are intertwined.

Recent events in Fiji and the Solomon Islands, as well as governance problems elsewhere in the region, have highlighted the tenuous hold that democracy and good governance has in many parts of the Pacific.

FSPI seeks to respond to this challenge through **its Voices and Choices – Gardening Good Governance and Democracy in the Pacific** program, which seeks to ‘garden’ civil society, democracy, good governance and rights in five Pacific nations – Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati and East Timor.



**Rex Horoi – Executive Director of FSPI**

Activities include:

Community governance mapping to analyse local governance structures, governance pressure points, and develop means for “building bridges’ between traditional and introduced governance systems. Human rights and civil society capacity-building in communities.

Establishment of a virtual think-tank – **The Pacific Centre for Good Governance** – which will promote regional dialogue and act as a focal point for networking and advocacy on Pacific democracy and good governance.

### FSPI

#### Member Organisations

- Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia & the Pacific (AFAP)
- Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific, Fiji
- Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific, Kiribati
- Foundation for People and Community Development, Papua New Guinea
- 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
- Just World Partners, UK
- 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

### 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.

### DONATIONS TO AFAP

If you wish to make a donation to any AFAP Programs please contact the office to make your donation via credit card, or mail a cheque to AFAP nominating the program you wish to support.

**Phone: 1800-007-308**