

# AUSTCARE IN THE FIELD



SPRING 2006

## JAVA EARTHQUAKE – AUSTCARE RESPONDS

**JAVA:** In May 2006, an earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale struck the island of Java, Indonesia. Within minutes 5,700 people were killed, 20,000 were injured and over one million were homeless.

With so many people needing urgent medical attention, local hospitals and clinics were quickly overcrowded, unable to cope with the demand. Working in partnership with Australian Aid International, AUSTCARE sent a medical team to Yogyakarta to help treat the injured and to reduce the stress on local hospitals and clinics. The team of five medical personnel visited one hospital that was so badly damaged they treated patients in the hospital walkways outside.

Travelling on motorbikes with the local Tigers motorbike club volunteers, the medics then provided help in remote areas that could not be reached by car. Over four days the team treated 170 patients, from those with small scrapes to life-threatening situations.

*"I watched the medical team save two lives today,"* said Nichola Krey, AUSTCARE's Special Emergency Coordinator in Java. *"The man had a serious blow to the head while the woman had gangrene. Both will live because we were able to get medical care to them."*

Next, the AUSTCARE medical team moved to Bantul, where the community health clinic had been destroyed, so a tent clinic

was set up in its place. Seeing up to 70 patients a day, the team worked well into the evening to treat respiratory illnesses, eye conditions and wounds.

As well as providing medical care, AUSTCARE helped distribute emergency supplies of baby food, milk and underwear to 350 children and 1,000 women living in villages in two of the worst affected areas of Bantul and Klaten. In Yogyakarta, nearly 100 families received tools to build temporary shelters. This allowed people to live close to where their homes had previously stood and use materials from the rubble to help rebuild their homes.



*A makeshift shelter*

Peter O'Neill, Director of the Wollongong City Gallery, travelled to Java as a representative of his community who generously supported the AUSTCARE emergency appeal. He says, *"I talked to a 90 year old man and his grandsons who were cutting bamboo and old timbers to construct a temporary dwelling. Next they would rebuild their workshop. The sooner they could restore their earning capacity, the sooner they could regain their independence and not rely on aid."*



*Above: AUSTCARE Special Emergency Coordinator, Nichola Krey, delivers baby supplies to mothers in the worst affected areas. Inset: Tool kits provided by AUSTCARE are helping people begin rebuilding. Photos courtesy Peter O'Neill.*

**YOU CAN HELP PEOPLE IN YOGYAKARTA FOR THE LONG-TERM.  
VISIT [www.austcare.org.au](http://www.austcare.org.au) OR PHONE 1300 66 66 72**

**A better world for refugees**

# MEETING PEOPLE'S NEEDS AMONGST VIOLENCE



**EAST TIMOR:** The recent violence in the East Timorese capital of Dili caused 69,000 people to flee their homes within the city and another 78,000 fled to and within the districts. Many were women and children, who sought shelter in makeshift camps and churches so they could feel safe.

In partnership with Australian Aid International (AAI), AUSTCARE sent a team of medical personnel to the troubled region in early June. They set up a mobile clinic to provide basic medical care to people in the camps.

AUSTCARE staff ensured that food, water, sanitation, medical treatment and security were all adequate for the camp's fluctuating population. Two Protection Officers are working with UNHCR, and a Child Protection Officer has been deployed to UNICEF, working with vulnerable children in the displacement camps.

AUSTCARE CEO, Mike Smith, remained in Dili during the violence to ensure the AUSTCARE office was able to stay open to help the people who had fled their homes. *"East Timor is the poorest nation in our region,"* said Mike. *"The current*



*A large proportion of the displaced are women and children. Photo courtesy John Rodsted.*



*An AAI medic consults with a woman and baby in a mobile clinic set up under a tree. Photo courtesy John Rodsted.*

Edio Da Costa, who lives in Dili, fled to the camp at Comoro Airport and is now the leader of the Airport camp. *"Our first reaction was shock at how quickly the situation deteriorated,"* Edio told staff at the International Organization for Migration. *"One day we were living ordinary lives, and the next we didn't have a roof over our heads."*

Working as the Site Liaison Support to three of the makeshift camps in Dili where over 6,000 people sheltered,

*situation is a tragic reminder that building peace and ending poverty require a sustained and long term commitment."*

Partnering with the International Labour Organization, AUSTCARE implemented a Cash-for-Work program to clean streets, canals and the beach, and later to build a sporting complex. The objectives of this project are to engage internally displaced persons (IDPs) particularly youth, in constructive and productive activities. The aim is to reduce disturbances and conflict,

and to provide vulnerable IDPs with much needed income.

AUSTCARE will expand its peacebuilding program that has been successful in reducing violence in communities in the western districts of East Timor. By offering social programs that address issues such as peace, security, reconciliation and human rights, combined with poverty reducing programs such as AUSTCARE's Agricultural Development Program, a long term solution for peace in East Timor may be found.

We welcome the contributions of our donors in helping us to achieve this goal to support one of our nearest neighbours.



*People queue for medical treatment in a displacement camp. Photo courtesy John Rodsted.*

# DIARY FROM THE FIELD



*"We arrived at the camp to the sight of many families camping around trees under plastic sheets." Photo courtesy John Rodsted.*

Acclaimed photographer, John Rodsted, visited East Timor at the height of the recent crisis, along with AUSTCARE's medical team. Read extracts from his diary below:

## **Day 1:**

**2-3 June** *The airport was surrounded by frightened refugees. They are just ordinary people like you and me who are scared and need protection.*

## **Day 3:**

*There are 493 pregnant women in their final stages of pregnancy living under plastic in the camps today. Yesterday there were five births; small new lives, born into an uncertain future.*

## **Day 5:**

*No medical team had visited this camp since the start of the emergency. The team just drove in and set up under a palm tree and began. After a morning's work they had dealt with 87 cases.*

## **Day 7:**

*Mike had a busy day of strategic planning for the protection of people in the camps. This is essential as people are very vulnerable when their lives unravel. Then the next task must be to get them back home as soon as possible.*

## **Day 9:**

*There are many people who have escaped Dili and are living under plastic at the Metonaro military base.*

*They are flocking to the base in the hope of protection from the gangs. They blend into a mass of misery and bewilderment.*

## **Day 11:**

*Nothing here as yet is fixed but maybe the worst of the crisis is over. The violence has definitely dropped. I believe the worst is past.*

You can read John's complete diary journal at [www.austcare.org.au](http://www.austcare.org.au) under the East Timor Appeal page.



*"Our vehicle gets swamped by kids when we pull up to calls of 'Viva Timor-Leste, VIVA, VIVA' then 'Viva Australia, VIVA, VIVA'." Photo courtesy John Rodsted.*

# REDUCING POVERTY

Most people living in poverty are looking for a way out, not a hand-out. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, here are some of the ways AUSTCARE is helping people to get themselves out of poverty.

## Improving food security

Food security is achieved when people have adequate access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food in order to stay healthy. By improving crop yields farmers can grow more food to feed their families, and then sell what is left at the market.

Having an adequate variety of food also helps the community's overall health and wellbeing.

AUSTCARE has been working with rural communities to teach agricultural techniques that increase the amount of food produced per square metre of land.

In Toul Tbeng village, in the Otdar Meanchey Province, Som Run and Soem Vanthorn are receiving training in sustainable farming methods. Som Run says *"This program has changed the way I grow rice*

*and vegetables. There is more work to do these days but my production is much higher so I am more motivated to work."* Before the training, they had a food shortage for two months per year. Now they are self-sufficient and make an income from the work.

Similar success stories can be found in Balibo in the Bobonaro District of East Timor. Martina dos Santos was taught new planting techniques and was given vegetable seeds and tools. By selling her vegetables at the market she has been able to pay school fees for two of her children and to buy sugar, coffee and soap for her family.

*"I want to secure a future for my kids. Being active in the project is a new start,"* Martina said.

## Micro-credit and Livelihoods Recovery

Micro-credit provides poor people with access to small loans at more manageable interest rates, aimed at creating self-sufficiency and alleviating poverty.



Receiving a micro-loan through AUSTCARE was an unforgettable moment for Zuriaty.

Before the tsunami, Zuriaty ran a business for 30 years, producing and selling 100 cakes per day. As part of a post-tsunami Micro-finance Livelihoods Recovery project in Aceh, Zuriaty received a loan from AUSTCARE for capital to restart her business and build a small stall in front of her new house. Zuriaty said that *"By having the loan as my capital, I can attain profit, so my son and my husband are able to get medical treatment"*.

## Empowering through education

Education is the most empowering tool people use to overcome the challenges of poverty. By being educated, employment prospects and income-earning potential are greatly improved. Literate women can also provide better healthcare and nutrition for their children.

While in East Timor recently, photographer John Rodsted visited a school AUSTCARE had built. John said, *"This village is two hours over very bad roads into the mountains to the nearest town. Without this project, these children wouldn't be going to school. Now there are 300 kids getting an education and the start of a brighter future. This is the kind of project that gives solutions to problems on a larger scale."*

As Anti-Poverty Week draws near, AUSTCARE will continue to work with people and their communities to help them break free from poverty.



Som Run says, *"We now go to the market to sell produce – not just to buy"*.

# ANTI-POVERTY WEEK

## 15-21ST OCTOBER 2006

Around the world, more than a billion people are desperately poor. During Anti-Poverty Week help fight poverty and hardship. If you'd like to organise a fundraiser for AUSTCARE, contact Christie Lim on (02) 9565 9153 or email [clim@austcare.org.au](mailto:clim@austcare.org.au)

## WELCOME TO TIMOR PHOTO EXHIBITION

Before the recent violence in East Timor, photographer Ian Provest travelled to the country in late 2005. As part of the World Expeditions group led by AUSTCARE CEO, Mike Smith, Ian volunteered to document AUSTCARE's work and visually record the people, sites and culture of this amazing country.

As part of Anti-Poverty Week, you can see Ian's photography exhibition 'WELCOME' at The Muse Gallery, TAFE Sydney Institute in Ultimo, Sydney from 25 September to 19 October 2006. See [www.welcome.asn.au](http://www.welcome.asn.au) or go to the events page on our website for the event details.



## AUSTCARE FREE SIMPLE WILL SERVICE

AUSTCARE is now providing assistance to create a simple will online free of charge. Visit the bequest page on our website, call our Bequest Officer on (02) 9565 9117, email [bequests@austcare.org.au](mailto:bequests@austcare.org.au) or complete the tick box on the reply coupon on the back of this newsletter. We will be happy to help.

If you have already made a bequest to AUSTCARE but have not let us know, please contact us. We would like to thank you for your support and it can help us to better plan and invest in future programs.

*Special thanks to our Honorary Solicitor Member of the AUSTCARE Companion Club, Phillips Fox.*



*Cyril Francis Horton passed away in 2000 and his bequest to AUSTCARE is now helping to rebuild lives overseas. Read his story at [www.austcare.org.au/WaystoSupport/Bequest.htm](http://www.austcare.org.au/WaystoSupport/Bequest.htm).*

## LEBANON CRISIS APPEAL

In July, AUSTCARE launched an emergency appeal in response to the humanitarian crisis in Lebanon affecting over half a million people.

*"The humanitarian imperative to alleviate the suffering of civilians displaced by the current conflict is as great as in the natural disasters that continue to plague the world,"* said the

Rt Hon Ian Sinclair AC, President of AUSTCARE.

AUSTCARE worked with local partners, including Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), to procure and distribute emergency relief items. This included food, water and medicines for people displaced, particularly women, children and those most vulnerable, including people with

a disability in Beirut, Sidon and other affected areas. In addition we also supported existing partner, Women's Humanitarian Organisation, in Bourj al-Barajneh Refugee Camp, home to 20,000 Palestinian refugees, to provide similar aid to women, youth and the elderly.

# AUSTCARE PUBLIC FORUM AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Come along to hear about AUSTCARE's achievements over the past year, and to celebrate our successes. The Forum and AGM will be held on Wednesday 22 November 2006, at The Theatre, NSW Parliament House, Sydney. See our website under Events for details of the soon-to-be announced Keynote Speaker.

Public Forum: 5:00pm for 5:30pm

AGM: 7:30pm to 8:30pm

## NEW CORPORATE MEMBER

AUSTCARE would like to welcome new corporate member, Minelab.

## AUSTCARE WINE CLUB

Support our work while enjoying some great quality wines. Visit [www.austcarewineclub.com](http://www.austcarewineclub.com) for more details.



## TELL A FRIEND ABOUT AUSTCARE'S WORK

To continue and expand our important programs, AUSTCARE needs to recruit new supporters. Help us save costs by passing this newsletter onto someone you know to spread the word about AUSTCARE's work.

## OUR MISSION

To assist refugees overseas, displaced people, returnees and those affected by landmines to rebuild their lives and to reduce poverty through the expert delivery of development programs in partnership with local communities and other agencies.

### Patron-in-Chief

Major-General Michael Jeffery, AC CVO MC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

### President

The Right Honourable Ian Sinclair, AC

### CEO

Major-General Michael G. Smith, AO (Retd)

### Ambassadors for Mine Action

Mr Ian Mansfield, Mr John Rodsted

### Ambassador for Protection

The Hon. (Justice) John Dowd, AO QC

### Ambassador for Refugees

The Hon. (Justice) Marcus R. Einfeld, AO QC PhD

### Ambassador for People with Disabilities

Michael Milton

### Ambassador for Cambodia

Lieutenant General John Sanderson, AC (Retd)

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As a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct, AUSTCARE is committed to high standards in financial reporting, management and ethical practice. Further information on the Code is available at: [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au)



## YES! I WILL HELP AUSTCARE TO REDUCE POVERTY

Donor No. \_\_\_\_\_

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Age 18-34  35-50  51-64  65+

### 1. Please accept my gift of:

\$75  \$55  \$125  \$195  \$ Other \_\_\_\_\_ AND/OR

### 2. I would like to become a GLOBAL ACTION PARTNER and make a regular monthly gift of:

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Please send me information about including AUSTCARE in my will

**3 EASY WAYS TO DONATE:** Post Fill out donation slip and send to address below Phone 1300 66 66 72 Online [www.austcare.org.au](http://www.austcare.org.au)

Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible. If you do not wish to receive further information from AUSTCARE please let us know by calling (02) 9565 9103 or email [donations@austcare.org.au](mailto:donations@austcare.org.au)



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