

AUSTCARE IN THE FIELD



SPRING 2005

OVERCOMING FOOD SHORTAGES IN ZAMBIA

It is often a daily struggle for refugees to find enough food for survival. Even for those escaping conflicts that have found relative security within camps, food shortages can still be a major concern. For refugees without a regular and secure source of food, poverty is a fact of life.

AUSTCARE has been working in Kala refugee camp since 2002. Kala is located near Kawambwa town in Luapula Province, northern Zambia. It houses mainly Congolese refugees, most of whom fled the country at the height of civil strife in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2000.

Food security is a major concern in the camp. Each household receives rations, however, these are usually inadequate and more recently contain a type of grain called brown sorghum that is unfamiliar to the refugees and reportedly causes throat irritation and stomach swelling.

AUSTCARE is working with local partner Hodi on a food security project that helps refugees in the camp grow their own crops to supplement their food rations.

Katumba Mutanga is a refugee involved in the project. He now has access to seeds, tools and training.

On his land he grows beans, sweet potatoes and cassava to help feed his family. Cassava is especially important because it is dried into a powder for use in 'nshima', a porridge-like meal that is a staple in the Congolese diet.

Katumba was recently given additional land so he can grow more crops to feed his family for a year. The seeds and training were provided by AUSTCARE. When he is not farming his land, Katumba works as the Deputy Headmaster for Kala 5 School, one of the six primary schools in the camp. His wife is also a teacher.

Of the project Katumba says, *"If it hadn't been for this help, I would have considered returning to the Congo, rather than starve in the camp, even though it's still dangerous."*

Your support is helping refugees like Katumba escape poverty and provide regular meals for his family.



Children in Kala Camp are often orphaned and living with friends or other relatives. *Photo courtesy Celia Paoloni.*



Katumba and his wife came to Kala Camp in 2001 after fleeing from war in the Congo. *Photo courtesy Celia Paoloni.*



Featured in this issue:

- Aceh, Indonesia
- Zambia
- East Timor

**YOU CAN HELP MAKE POVERTY HISTORY FOR REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PEOPLE.
VISIT www.austcare.org.au OR PHONE 1300 66 66 72**

A better world for refugees

FISHING LIVELIHOODS BEING RESTORED



ACEH, INDONESIA: In Lam Bada village in the province of Aceh, Ismail Yusuf is benefiting from your generosity.

Ismail lost his wife and three of his sons in the tsunami. He also lost his source of income as the fishing boat he was employed to work on each day was destroyed, along with so many others in his community.

Thanks to your help, AUSTCARE has helped establish a local co-operative in Lam Bada that loans fishermen boats and equipment so they can earn an income. Part of the income generated by each fisherman is paid to the co-operative. These funds are then used to buy additional fishing boats to help other members of the community.

Ismail now has his own fishing boat loaned to him from the co-operative. He works on it six days a week with the help of one of his relatives.

Ismail is thankful to AUSTCARE donors for providing him with the tools he needs to earn an income to support his family. *“If I don’t have my boat, my family and I wouldn’t be able to survive,”* he says.

“The boat has meant improvements to my income,” Ismail says. *“Once I own the boat after making repayments, I will be able to make more profit.”*

For now, Ismail and his family live in tents as more permanent housing is still being constructed. While there is some concern about rebuilding houses along the coast in case of future tsunamis, Ismail is intent on staying close to the sea. This is his home.

He is positive about the future and is eager to rebuild his life and those of his two remaining children. He acknowledges this is now possible thanks to your support.



60-year-old Ismail Yusuf is thankful to AUSTCARE donors for helping him obtain his fishing boat. *Photo courtesy Tomex Iskandar.*

SEEDS DISTRIBUTED TO FARMERS

Seeds are starting to sprout in Pidie District of Aceh following the distribution of over 45,000 kg of seeds to farmers who were most severely affected by the tsunami of 26 December.

AUSTCARE is working with farmer groups to not only regain their livelihoods and establish self-sufficiency but also to diversify their crops and regenerate land fertility.

In Pidie District alone, over 800 hectares of crops were destroyed after the tsunami, impacting 1970 farmers.

With your support AUSTCARE has helped 357 farmers plant 25 hectares of red onion, 425 farmers plant over 100 hectares of peanut seed and 374 farmers plant 100 hectares of soybean seed.

Thank you for helping the farmers of Aceh gain a secure future free from poverty.



Women of Pidie District receiving seeds for planting thanks to your support. *Photo courtesy Nichola Krey.*



Results of the planting – peanut farming in Peukan Baru. *Photo courtesy Nichola Krey.*

MAKING POVERTY HISTORY IN EAST TIMOR

EAST TIMOR: Despite gaining their independence six years ago, East Timor is still one of the poorest nations in our region. The poor, particularly in remote border regions have meagre resources which are not adequate for subsistence living let alone for saving and investing for the future. In a recent AUSTCARE study, 27 villages across 3 border districts reported a need for support to improve their agricultural production.

To continue our vital poverty reduction work with the most vulnerable communities in rural border areas of East Timor, AUSTCARE launched an appeal in August this year.

With your support, AUSTCARE would like to expand our integrated rural development work to further help people in the fragile border areas to gain reliable food sources and increase their incomes. We aim to:

- improve food security in impoverished rural communities
- train more people in sustainable land and water management
- provide education in pest management and agricultural

practices so that farmers can increase their yields

- help farmers diversify crops, use fertilisers more effectively and learn better planting techniques
- ensure women are treated equally so they can fully participate in their community

Your ongoing support will help AUSTCARE to remain in East Timor and continue to help our closest neighbours Make Poverty History. Thank you for your generosity.



Women will have equal participation in AUSTCARE's ongoing work. Photo courtesy Elaine Glen.



Training in upland soil management will be an ongoing component of AUSTCARE's rural development work. Photo courtesy AUSTCARE.

INTERVIEW FROM THE FIELD



Nurhayati

Jangka Buya village, Aceh, Indonesia

Nurhayati is 33 years old and has two sons and one daughter. Recently, she received soybean seed to plant on her farm thanks to AUSTCARE.

Could you describe the place where you live?

I live in the refugee barracks now. My house was washed away by the tsunami and only the floor remains. My most important possessions are my children.

Could you give me some details about the effects the AUSTCARE project is having on your day to day activities?

I plant paddy, cucumber and everything that I have. Now I have been given soybean seed and fertilizer so I use them.

Do you have any help with your work?

Some other farmers who help me on the farm.

How do you think this project will benefit you in the future?

I am grateful and I'm so happy that AUSTCARE has given me seed and fertilizer. I will have an income that I can use to plant my rice fields and to give money to my children.

Could you tell me the problems you and your community have faced in the past? Have you had to leave your home?

I have lived here since I was born and only moved to the refugee barracks since the tsunami. I don't have a problem to stay here.

MICHAEL MILTON TO VISIT SUDAN REFUGEES

Australian Paralympian skier and adventurer, Michael Milton, will combine his ascent of Mt Kilimanjaro in Africa in September with a visit to Kakuma Refugee Camp to see first hand the work AUSTCARE is doing to help the mainly Sudanese refugees who live there.

Michael plans to help raise public awareness of the plight of Kakuma refugees and for landmine survivors when he returns.

"I want to use my profile in Australia and overseas to change people's lives, and in particular those with disabilities," Michael says.



Michael Milton. Photo courtesy of Jennie Milton.

WORLD EXPEDITIONS TRIP TO CAMBODIA



Photo courtesy of World Expeditions.

Following the sell-out success of our recent fundraising tour to East Timor, AUSTCARE and World Expeditions have partnered again to develop another unique itinerary, this time to Cambodia. The journey will take you to Anlong Veang in the remote north of the country and a former Khmer Rouge stronghold and the magnificent temples at Angkor. There will also be the opportunity to visit the work of AUSTCARE in the field while a portion of the trip price will go to our ongoing work assisting landmine impacted communities in Cambodia. Please call **World Expeditions on 1300 720 000** for detailed trip notes. Tour departs Australia on 18 Jan 2006.

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

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

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Major-General Michael G. Smith AO (Retd)

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

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Mr Ian Mansfield, Mr John Rodsted

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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



YES! I WILL HELP AUSTCARE MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

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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

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



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