

AUSTCARE IN THE FIELD



WINTER 2005

SMILES APPEAR IN ACEH

ACEH, INDONESIA: For the first time since the devastating tsunami, AUSTCARE workers in Banda Aceh are seeing some smiles from the locals. "Despite the tragedy, the people here are remarkably resilient and eager to re-establish their lives," says Nichola Krey, AUSTCARE's Operations Manager in Aceh.



AUSTCARE is helping the community rebuild their fishing industry after the tsunami.

Thanks to the generous help of AUSTCARE supporters, we have made positive progress in helping displaced people rebuild their lives. **Your financial support gives us the stability to keep working here for the long term.**

During the tsunami, whole villages were destroyed, along with people's livelihoods.

AUSTCARE is providing materials and training to rebuild small fishing and farming businesses so that livelihoods can be restored. We are also supporting communities to access education and medical services by providing local transport.

Before the Tsunami, Aceh already had at least 35,000 internally displaced people resulting from civil conflict. Since then,

this has grown to around 400,000 displaced people who continue to live in either makeshift accommodation or with friends or relatives.

AUSTCARE is committed to staying in Aceh to support those who have been displaced. To use our resources effectively, AUSTCARE is working closely with local NGOs and Indonesian authorities. This provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen existing community and local networks, **sharing valuable knowledge and expertise.**

AUSTCARE's approach encourages community ownership and participation, ensuring that local people gain the skills and knowledge that will enable them to keep the benefits of all programs for the long-term.

Reconstruction has only just begun. Villages still need to be rebuilt, livelihoods and communities re-established. With your help, we can provide the assistance that the displaced people of Aceh so desperately need.



Women in Lam Bada village have shown remarkable resilience and now with the help of AUSTCARE are rebuilding their lives. All pictures courtesy Nichola Krey.



Children in Lam Bada village are now able to return to school thanks to AUSTCARE providing transport.

In the village of Lam Bada, located about 15km from Banda Aceh, only 570 members of the community of 2,300 survived the tsunami. After the tragedy, AUSTCARE is working with the local Leuser Foundation, helping to rebuild fishing boats, provide new ones and plant mangroves to ensure sustainable fish and prawn breeding grounds. We are supporting the women of Lam Bada, to re-establish their livelihoods with small businesses like kiosks and chicken farming.

Of Lam Bada's 250 children, only 50 survive today. With AUSTCARE's support, a mini-bus was purchased and 30 eager children were able to go back to school for the first time. The bus also helps adults access the market and medical services.

With continuing assistance, the people of Lam Bada will slowly be able to rebuild their community.

PLEASE SUPPORT AUSTCARE AS WE BRING SMILES TO THE FACES OF DISPLACED PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD. PHONE 1300 66 66 72 OR VISIT www.austcare.org.au

A better world for refugees

A PLACE TO CALL HOME



CAMBODIA: AUSTCARE faces an unusual obstacle in helping displaced Cambodians to rebuild their lives. Land is a resource that is fundamental to social and economic development. Yet, until recently, no-one has been able to own land. AUSTCARE is currently working in Cambodia to secure land titles for the landless poor. This work is vitally important to Cambodia's development and future prosperity. With legal titles in place, displaced Cambodians can settle securely and work towards building a sustainable livelihood.

Landlessness is a major cause of poverty in Cambodia. When the Khmer Rouge took power in April 1975, they collectivised the land, confiscated all property, destroyed almost all land records, emptied the cities and displaced entire populations from their traditional lands. From 1975 until 1989 there was no legal private property. At the beginning of 1979, all land was declared state property.

Just a few years ago, the situation started to change. The land law passed in 1992, and subsequent land laws provide a way for state property to be transferred to the landless poor through Social Land Concession grants. The allocation of state property to the landless poor is complicated due to landmines and unexploded ordnance which contaminate vast tracts of land.

Land grabbing, illegal settlement and ownership disputes are just some of



AUSTCARE's work with land allocation in Cambodia is ensuring that the most vulnerable people get the opportunity to rebuild their lives. Photo courtesy Bron Lin.

the risks involved in prioritising and distributing mine-cleared land and threaten to undermine the value of the development activities undertaken by AUSTCARE.

To ensure that the most vulnerable people get maximum benefit from the mine-cleared land and AUSTCARE's integrated mine action program, and to further support poverty reduction and self-reliance, we are capacity building the Mine Action Planning Unit (MAPU). This provincial government unit is responsible

for the prioritisation of land for mine clearance and for the identification of beneficiaries for the allocation of cleared lands.

Through this work AUSTCARE is assisting the process of land allocation and strengthening land tenure rights to the landless poor in mine affected areas. This will promote social stability and reduce the vulnerability of Cambodia's poorest communities. With your help we can continue building sustainable futures for Cambodians.



INTERVIEW FROM THE FIELD

Louise Brunero
*Project Officer,
Land Management, Cambodia*

Where are you located?

AUSTCARE's field office in Anlong Veng, a poor, small, dusty town in Otdar Meanchey Province, northwest Cambodia.

What struck you most during your first weeks in Cambodia?

The wonderfully positive attitude of the Khmer people! Despite their difficult living conditions and poverty, Khmer people have plenty of determination and smiles.

What does your work involve?

I'm helping to create permanent land titling for de-mined land and allocate it to landless people in two of Cambodia's poorest provinces. This involves working

EMMA'S BRIGHT FUTURE



KENYA: AUSTCARE's work in Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya with the Don Bosco Vocational Training Centre, is helping people like twenty three year old Emma, look forward to a brighter future. Emma, who is from Wau in Sudan, has lived in Kakuma refugee camp since 1992 when her family fled the civil conflict in Sudan. **She is now one of five women taking part in an electrical engineering course, which is teaching her skills like electrical wiring.**

The skills Emma is learning through the AUSTCARE training will be of benefit to her when she eventually returns home. **After more than 21 years of conflict in Southern Sudan that killed 2 million people and displaced millions more, a comprehensive peace treaty has been signed between the Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army that finally opens the door for over three million displaced people and more than 500,000 refugees in neighbouring countries, to return home.**

At Kakuma camp, which is currently home to 65,000 Sudanese refugees, the signing brought much celebration in the camp.

For now, life in the camp continues to be challenging for Emma. In a typical day, she attends her course from 7.30am till 2pm. Before and after class, she also helps her mother care for her four brothers and sisters, cooks meals for her extended family of 35 people, washes dishes, sweeps the family compound and fetches water.

Despite the hardship, Emma is very positive.

"Maybe in the future, these skills will help me to be happy. In the future, this training will help me not to fail in life. I hope to get a job wherever I can."

For most Sudanese refugees like Emma, returning home is unlikely before 3-5 years and it will take even longer to rebuild their lives. In the meantime AUSTCARE is providing vital skills training to help them gain employment to have an income source when they do.



Sudanese refugees like Emma in Kakuma Camp receive training through AUSTCARE programs to gain new skills. Photo courtesy Celia Paoloni.



YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS TO OUR RECENT TAX APPEAL WILL HELP PEOPLE LIKE THOSE IN CAMBODIA LIVE SAFELY ON LAND FREE OF LANDMINES. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

with local counterparts to integrate the existing land allocation process with recent law. I'm also helping develop a "legal literacy" training package and workshop for Land Use Planning Unit staff.

What challenges do you face?

Accessing information is difficult. There are few written records, no newspapers and most adults are illiterate, so printed materials have limited effect. Also, approximately 80% of Cambodia's population lives outside the cities. So communicating information from Phnom Penh to the provinces is a major hurdle in assisting Cambodia's landless poor.

How will your work improve the lives of Cambodians?

We hope that our legal literacy training package and workshop will provide the people involved in land allocation with the tools and skills necessary to carry out their roles. We also hope to provide basic legal information to beneficiaries so that they understand their legal rights to the land they have been allocated.

What have been your most memorable moments so far?

Meeting AUSTCARE's local de-mining partner, Halo Trust. I saw first hand the vitally important work they are doing in

Cambodia to clear land mines and assist the landless poor. However, my heart skipped a few beats when the metal detector started beeping. Fortunately, it turned out to be just a piece of scrap metal – phew!

What have you learnt from your experience in Cambodia?

To be thankful for all the simple things in life that I have taken for granted living in Australia – access to clean water, life without fear of landmines, adequate food and shelter, just to name a few.



JOIN OUR GLOBAL ACTION PARTNERS!

The world's 40 million refugees and internally displaced people face an uncertain future. AUSTCARE has launched a new program called Global Action Partners, where your regular donation will help AUSTCARE reduce poverty, uphold human rights and offer protection to people who are uprooted by conflict or persecution. As little as \$25 a month can support individuals and families in many practical ways. **For more details, call 1300 66 66 72 or join online at www.austcare.org.au**

A refugee woman who has returned home to Afghanistan benefits from AUSTCARE's work in education program. Photo courtesy UNHCR/L. Slezcic/Global Aware.

OUR MISSION

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

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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



SELLING FAST – TRIP TO EAST TIMOR

There are still places available on the AUSTCARE East Timor tour from 3–12 September 2005, led by Mike Smith, AUSTCARE CEO. Places are filling fast so if you want to join us on this one-off adventure be sure to call **World Expeditions on 1300 720 000.**



WORLD REFUGEE DAY 20TH JUNE

*Mark your diaries for World Refugee Day.
Find out how you can get involved by calling AUSTCARE
on 02 9565 9111 or go to www.austcare.org.au*



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APWN05

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Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible

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