



# Palms Australia

## Program Development Goals and Country Strategies

## **INTRODUCTION**

Through the placement of participants in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, PALMS AUSTRALIA is committed to the reduction of poverty using knowledge and skills transfer processes to build the capacity of local individuals and institutions. Informed by the PALMS AUSTRALIA development philosophy & policies and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Global Mission program has identified five key development areas. These are:

- Education
- Health & Social Wellbeing
- Rural Development, Appropriate Technology & Trades
- Governance, Institutional Strengthening and Administration
- Infrastructure

## **EDUCATION**

Education is a fundamental right and plays a crucial role in the reduction of poverty and the realisation of other basic human rights. PALMS AUSTRALIA through the placement of PALMS AUSTRALIA Global Mission participants aims to increase the accessibility, gender equity and the relevance and quality of all levels of education and vocational training.

PALMS AUSTRALIA will work with our partners to improve and provide high quality education at all levels and to work against the barriers that prevent this.

PALMS AUSTRALIA Global Mission participants will be placed in a variety of educational and capacity building roles in secondary educational institutions, special education, tertiary and vocational institutions. PALMS AUSTRALIA will work to improve the quality and effectiveness of teachers at all levels of the formal and informal education system through teacher training and professional & curriculum development. Where teacher shortages exist, PALMS AUSTRALIA will provide classroom teachers, in particular English and Information Technology teachers, provided that these teachers are also involved in teacher training and mentoring.

PALMS AUSTRALIA will actively work with vocational or non-formal educational institutions to provide learning opportunities through vocational training or community education projects.

In all placements, PALMS AUSTRALIA Global Mission participant will work with cultural sensitivity to address gender equity issues.

## **HEALTH & SOCIAL WELLBEING**

Improving the access to, and quality of health & social services is crucial in reducing mortality & morbidity rates, improving maternal health and expanding opportunities for development and full participation in community life.

PALMS AUSTRALIA will work with partners to improve the quality and availability of health and social services by strengthening the capacity of health and social work professionals through support and training. We will support, where possible community-based services, in the improvement and provision of health promotion and treatment in rural areas.

With the escalating HIV/AIDS situation, PALMS AUSTRALIA will aim to work in HIV/Aids education programs, provision and improvement of health services in this area.

## **RURAL DEVELOPMENT & APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY**

PALMS AUSTRALIA recognises that the majority of the poor live in rural areas where resources, opportunities and infrastructure are limited.

PALMS AUSTRALIA is committed to placing participants to work with partners to enhance income generation schemes, agriculture development and build capacity to effectively manage natural resources effectively. Within this context, PALMS AUSTRALIA, will work towards the sustainable development and use of appropriate technology. Supporting and improving local capacities is important in the promotion of secure livelihoods in rural areas.

## **GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING & ADMINISTRATION**

PALMS AUSTRALIA aims to strengthen the capacity of individuals and civil society to participate in their communities and influence decisions that affect their lives.

PALMS AUSTRALIA recognises the importance of good governance and places participants in organisations where they can collaboratively work towards strengthening accountability, governance and responsiveness. PALMS AUSTRALIA will work towards strengthening justice, human rights and law through the support of civil society and specific programs of partner organisations.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

The importance of developing and improving basic infrastructure is recognised by PALMS AUSTRALIA as crucial in sustainable development. PALMS AUSTRALIA will work towards strengthening the capacity of partner organisations to maintain and develop infrastructure.

## **GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS**

PALMS AUSTRALIA recognises the strengths and benefits of long standing relationships with partners.

PALMS AUSTRALIA will continue to work with partners in the Pacific through capacity building and knowledge & skills transfer. These partnerships have been based in the following countries - Papua New Guinea, Kiribati, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Marshall Islands, Micronesia and Solomon Islands.

We will also continue to work, support and develop partnerships in Africa recognising the diversity of development needs and the ability of PALMS AUSTRALIA to build local and organisational capacity.

We will develop relationships with organisations in South East Asia where our vision, aims and objectives coincide. Timor Leste became the focal point within the Asian region in 2001 however we are open to developing partnerships in Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam and China.