

In this issue...

It's been a few months since our last newsletter & there's been a lot happening!

Crops are growing well in Swaziland (see page 3),

Extra partners come on board to support the women's catering company in Sri Lanka (see page 3),

.....and... very exciting...

All donations over \$2 to PiCCA are now fully tax-deductible!



We're always looking for new Members, and welcome any donations.



Rebuilding started in Nepal

Remote villagers around Tawal in the 'hilly region' of Nepal are working and volunteering to rebuild a large school that was significantly damaged in earthquakes almost two years ago.

Local builders were trained in specific building techniques for earthquake zones in November last year, and the work is being overseen full-time by a qualified engineer from Kathmandu.

PiCCA is helping the rebuild by funding materials and labour for one of the classrooms, a multi-purpose room used as a science lab, library and community meeting room.

The project is a partnership among the local development organisation (the Hilly Region Development Club), PiCCA and NAFA Qld.

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Meet Mrs Masuku

My name is Mrs Albertina Masuku. I work at the Ngwane Park Social Centre in Manzini, Swaziland.

I'm part of a team of elderly women who prepare food for children five days a week.

Our menu includes mealie meal porridge and beans, rice and beans, and a sour porridge for breakfast.

Over and above cooking meals, we also ensure that the cooking and food storage areas and utensils are clean at all times.

I have been a Community Care Giver volunteer at this social centre for 14 years.

My team and I feed approximately 110 children per day. The children love the food and receive it with enthusiasm.

PiCCA's project in Swaziland will ensure social centres have a sustainable source of food for the meals that volunteers (like Mrs Masuku) prepare.

Rebuilding in Nepal (continued)

Preparing for this stage - actual construction - has been a long process. Architects and engineers from Nepal and Australia have worked hard to design the new school (and a protective gabion wall), so it resists damage from any future earthquakes.

Extra land had to be bought from private landholders, and the design had to be approved by various government departments - a very time-consuming process.

Site preparation was also very difficult, with many large boulders needing to be removed first before foundations could be laid.

Women continue to play a key role: after the earthquakes, women sorted through rubble to identify reuseable materials where possible. Now, women are making aggregate for the new buildings' foundations.



The local builders (see photo below) were very happy receiving extra training on how to best use locally available materials (wood, bamboo and masonry) to build structures that can better withstand earthquakes.

Building is on track, for the first classrooms to be completed before the monsoon season starts around May/June.





Look at these crops grow!

These are maize crops at a farm at Nhlngano in Swaziland, looking very healthy - good news after last year's drought prevented planting of any crops.

The maize will be used to feed AIDS orphans and other vulnerable children who attend a 'social centre' for basic pre-schooling and health care.

PiCCA funding was used to install a borehole, and purchase and erect fencing to protect the land from roaming, hungry animals.

At this stage, only one part of the farm has been planted. In the future, PiCCA's partner, AMICAALL Swaziland envisages that there'll be a sustainable source of food for up to 4,000 children across the 49 centres, and some leftover to 'pay' volunteers like Mrs Masuku, the farm caretaker and maintain the farm equipment.



New partners for women's catering company in Sri Lanka

Following an introduction by PiCCA, our partner in Sri Lanka has secured the support of Rotary in Columbo to help fit-out the new kitchen for the women's catering company.

Shanaka Fernando, founder of the Lentil As Anything restaurants in Sydney & Melbourne, has agreed to provide additional training for the women on running a food business.

While the women are still operating out of a temporary



site (until a new facility can be built), Initiatives of Change delivered some personal development workshops with women in the company. This recognises the reality of a post-war society where no-one escaped trauma.

Unfortunately, there has been a further bureaucratic delay in starting construction of the new facility. Who said development work was predictable? It's not unusual for these processes to take up to two years, so with that timeline, PiCCA is perfectly on track!

What's next for PiCCA?

2017 promises to be another interesting year for PiCCA.

We're continuing existing projects with our partners AMICAALL Swaziland, Bridging Lanka, the Hilly Region Development Club and NAFA. Throughout the year we'll bring you further progress reports from our partners and from our own visits to these projects.

As well, there's another project in the pipeline - currently going through PiCCA's rigorous assessment process - which PiCCA's members will make a decision on in mid-March.



Would you like to be more involved in PiCCA?

Join or renew your membership

- suggest & decide on projects
- receive more detailed info about the projects members and donors fund
- attend members-only events

Donate

- 100% of your donation goes to projects
- donations over \$2 are tax deductible
- your contributions have a catalytic impact for communities

'Like' us on Facebook.

Or contact us: we'd love to hear from you!



The PiCCA philosophy

Supporting locally-driven, locally-managed, locally-resourced projects in less-developed countries overseas, projects that are addressing issues at the heart of a problem, projects that are designed to be self-sustaining over time and build the skills & expertise of local people.

We learn as much as we give. We offer our overseas partners a bridge to financial and non-financial resources (e.g. advice, useful contacts through our networks). And we absolutely love what we do!