



PiCCA Australia

A photograph of three young girls standing on a stone path in a rural village. They are wearing school uniforms: light blue long-sleeved shirts, dark purple pleated skirts, and black leggings. The girl on the left is also wearing a black jacket and has yellow flowers in her braids. The girl in the middle is wearing a black backpack. The girl on the right is carrying a metal water pot. In the background, there are several houses with colorful corrugated metal roofs (blue, green, red) built on a hillside, surrounded by trees and vegetation.

Annual Report 2018



Welcome

2018 was a particularly exciting year for PiCCA. The number and range of our active projects kept everyone especially busy in a very rewarding way.

Our projects in Swaziland and Nepal were substantially completed. We took on two new projects which though continents apart, both involved chicken farming. In the Congo we are helping to keep chickens alive by way of vaccinations, while in Vietnam we are helping to skill farmers to raise chickens. Both projects aim to improve farmers' incomes and livelihoods.

To cap off a great year PiCCA was awarded a grant from the Australian Government through the newly established Friendship Grants program. This grant enables PiCCA to support the Hako Women's Collective to embark on stage two of their plans. The first stage was the construction of the Community Centre – Luman Hipakoko - which together we completed last year. The second stage is about improving the skills of local farmers to increase the supply, diversity and nutrition of food grown locally. See more details in this report.

PiCCA is working with in-country partners of the highest calibre. It is their vision, hard work and willingness to go the extra mile which can elevate a good project into a great project. Thank you, and a special thank you to all the unpaid staff and volunteers involved.

Thank you also to PiCCA's generous and loyal members. Without you nothing can be achieved. Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Directors for your mighty efforts, passion, good humour and collaborative spirit.

Stephanie Boldeman

PiCCA Chair

2018 Overview

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Members pool their resources to fund the PiCCA projects they choose.

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PiCCA commenced projects in Vietnam and the Democratic Republic of Congo, and our project in Nepal made further progress.

\$

PiCCA members pooled around \$31,000 of their donations to support the two new projects.



Since 2015, PiCCA has positively impacted up to 4,000 vulnerable Swazi children, up to 30,000 children, young people, women and families in Bougainville.

The Nepal project will benefit up to 450 students per year; for Vietnam, 50 households with a person with a disability; in Congo, more than 200 households across 14 villages.



2018 Projects

Vietnam

PiCCA partnered with Hearts for Hue (H4H) to deliver our project - Improving Living Quality for People with Disability by Chicken Raising. H4H is based in Hue, Central Vietnam and the project centres on one of the poorest communes in the area, Vinh Phu which is about 30km from Hue.

H4H is a non-profit organisation which has operated since 2007 to improve the lives of disadvantaged people in Hue through microfinance, water security and livelihood support programs. PiCCA committed \$19,176 to this project.

H4H conducted a survey of the families in the area to target the neediest families. All the families involved have at least one member with a disability.

The families have all participated in training workshops, run by experts from Hue University, aimed at developing farming skills, including worm farming and coop building techniques, and a deeper understanding of how to raise disease free chickens.

H4H worked with each of 50 families to help build chicken coops, 2,000 chicks were distributed to the families in September 2018 and 2,500 chicks were distributed in December 2018. All chickens had been vaccinated against the flock-destroying Newcastle disease.

The chicken farming project aims to increase families' income and provide meaningful and valuable opportunities for people with a disability.

The project is expected to conclude in 2019 and PiCCA looks forward to reporting on its outcomes. PiCCA Treasurer, Warren McMillan said "It has been wonderful working with H4H. The organisation is highly organised, resourceful, well connected and holds the needs of local people foremost in its work."



PiCCA member Mary Denver visited the project in December 2018 on behalf of the Board. Mary spoke to Mrs Truong and her daughter Chuyen (pictured left, with Professor Ba, a local expert in chicken farming) who live on a small holding in the commune that Mrs Truong farms, with voluntary help from the commune for some of the heavier work. Mrs Truong, who has an Agent Orange-related disability said that she is happy to be in the project because the work brings her an income and that she had already sold 17 of her 90 healthy and thriving chickens at a good price per kilo.



Democratic Republic of Congo

PiCCA partnered with Kyeema Foundation and AusCongo to deliver our project - Village Poultry for Better Livelihoods: Vaccination Training. Kyeema Foundation runs vaccination programs throughout Africa and Asia. AusCongo is committed to sustainable community development in the Mbuji-Mayi area of Congo where the project is based. This is an area of Congo where unemployment and poverty are the norm.

PiCCA committed \$11,937 to the project which aims to set up a sustainable vaccination program for chickens so that flocks survive Newcastle disease (endemic in the Congo) and, as a consequence, farmers improve their incomes and livelihoods.

In August 2018 a cadre of supervisors and vaccinators (pictured at left) were trained on the project, including inoculating chickens. A community awareness campaign about the disease was also undertaken. The vaccine is affordable for farmers and a portion of what they pay goes towards vaccinators' wages.

Once farmers see the benefits of the vaccine for their flock (and livelihood), the vaccination program becomes sustainable without outside help. (Left, a beneficiary selling eggs.)

The first vaccination campaign resulted in 2,900 chickens being vaccinated. Vaccinated chickens are thriving and there is now a high level of interest in vaccination with many people in outlying villages wanting to know how to become involved.

Monitoring visits were undertaken. Further work was done to ensure that the villagers pay the community vaccinators a fair price to ensure that a second round of vaccinations could be done.

The second round was done in December 2018 involving 215 households in 14 villages. Women are predominantly responsible for the chickens - 132 females and 83 males are participating. A total of 6,225 chickens were vaccinated.

Dr Pat Boland, Secretary to the Board of the Malawi Rural Poultry Centre, commenting on the progress of this project said "one of the key ways in which we can boost production in rural poultry is simply to stop chickens dying." This is happening in Mbuji-Mayi.





Swaziland project visit

In June 2018 PiCCA Directors' Stephanie Boldeman and Steve Maguire visited PiCCA's project in Eswatini (formerly Swaziland). PiCCA's partner AMICAALL is the consortium of local governments in southern and central Africa formed to take action on HIV/AIDS.

Mr Benedict Xaba, AMICAALL's National Director in Esawtini (pictured left in red with the Mayor of Nhlangano), was keen for PiCCA to meet the teachers, cooks and program staff involved in running the social centres and the feeding program for vulnerable children, as well as some of the local Mayors. Time was also spent inspecting the farm which PiCCA's funding helped to establish.

The farm is proving its value having provided 150 bags of maize last year, which fed about 400 children in four of the most needy towns for a period of 4-6 weeks. AMICAALL harvested a similar sized crop in 2018 and hopes (subject to available funds) to expand the size of the farm and install irrigation so that two crops can be grown each year.



Nepal project continues

Students at Pasang Chok Mhadev secondary school in Tawal finally returned to their classrooms in late 2018 after about three years of painstaking rebuilding work following the April 2015 earthquakes.

PiCCA partnered with the Hilly Region Development Club and the Nepal Australia Friendship Association to rebuild a multi-purpose classroom at the school. Funding of \$10,000 was made available.

The school was rebuilt to an earthquake-resistant design and a gabion wall was constructed to protect it from landslides caused by heavy monsoon rains.

The school's official grand opening ceremony has been rescheduled to February 2019 (from November 2018) to enable donors from a number of international nonprofits to attend.

Local partners

PiCCA is very grateful for the support of a number of Australian-based organisations. We particularly acknowledge Grant Thornton for its generous pro bono support in undertaking PiCCA's Annual Audit.

While almost all of the donations made to PiCCA come from individuals we would like to thank the Bangalow Country Women's Association which has donated \$2,000 in the past 12 months.

The Dante Alighieri Society of Brisbane has been very generous in allowing PiCCA to successfully conduct fund raising activities which have boosted the funds available to projects.

Future projects

As noted above, PiCCA will be working with the Hako Women's Collective on Stage 2 of its Bougainville plans.

During 2018, PiCCA commenced its detailed information-gathering and assessment process for new projects in 2019. This included a potential project in Dhaka, Bangladesh. Subject to careful assessment this project may be presented to PiCCA members for consideration at PiCCA's AGM in May 2019.



Grant Thornton

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Treasurer's report

At the end of 2018, PiCCA held assets of \$10,547. This was made up of \$9,015 in cash in the bank and the component of insurance pre-paid in November 2017 for the subsequent 12 months. 11 months of that value is therefore considered an asset for 2018. Against this, we held \$8,472 in liabilities being funds received in donations but yet to be allocated or distributed to projects. The company therefore held total equity of \$2,075 at the end of 2018.

In accrual accounting terms, PiCCA reports a loss of \$910 for the 2018 financial year but because of its retained earnings from 2017 retains positive equity.

Revenue attributed to 2018 was \$30,812. Revenue was generated from (1) membership fees of \$1,150, (2) contributions recorded as gifts to the company from the directors of \$1,000, (3) donations from members and other fundraising contributions of \$27,891, and (4) bank interest of \$56. Membership fees and gifts from Directors covered administrative expenses, while donations and other revenue were 100% earmarked for distribution to projects.

In 2018 PiCCA distributed \$28,605.76 in project funding, \$11,155.26 to the Kyeema/AusCongo project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and \$17,450.50 to the Hearts for Hue project in Vietnam. Small amounts remained to be forwarded to both projects at the end of 2018 but have since been distributed so that at the time of the tabling of this report at PiCCA's annual general meeting in May 2019, all commitments to these projects have been honoured. Members will be aware also that at the

time of tabling this report, PiCCA is fully engaged in a second stage project with the Hako Women's Collective in Bougainville. This project has been significantly funded by the Australian Government through the Friendship Grants program. All funds associated with this project fall outside the time frame for this report and will be documented and acquitted in the 2019 annual report.

The major administration expenditure in 2018 remained as in previous years the insurance which cost \$1,840 for the current period. The second significant item of administration expenditure also remained as in previous years expenses to do with web upgrades, web maintenance and server fees which combined cost \$1322.85 in 2018. The only other expenditure on the books for 2018 was a \$12 bank fee on an international transfer of funds. This is not a complete reflection of the cost of administering the company as PiCCA is supported by off-the-books contributions from many people who provide pro bono support in a number of ways.

Our auditor Simon Hancox from Grant Thornton is one such source of support, very generously providing his professional services to PiCCA on a pro bono basis. He has again forensically trawled through our records and submits his report which is available on PiCCA's website. In short, the audit again finds that all documents and records are in order and show that our finances are appropriately managed. PiCCA expresses its gratitude to Simon and Grant Thornton for this generous support.

PiCCA also gratefully acknowledges its members and others who have made generous donations and/or additional in-kind contributions to PiCCA. We love what we do but very little of it would be possible without this support.



About PiCCA

Partners in International Collaborative Community Aid Ltd ('PiCCA') is a not-for-profit whose members are passionate about improving education, health, livelihood and food security for people in developing countries.

We find local organisations with wide support and a clear purpose, then support them with funding and in-kind resources for a specific project. Mostly our projects are one-off, but are housed within a broader community plan.

We learn as much as we give. And we absolutely love what we do!

PiCCA is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, and is registered to fund-raise through the Queensland Office of Fair Trading.

The PiCCA Overseas Aid Fund is a Deductible Gift Recipient, meaning all donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. 100% of the funds donated go to projects.

We seek always to operate with fairness, transparency and accountability in all the work we do.

Donations, new members and general enquiries are very welcome!

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