



P i C C A

ANNUAL REPORT
2020



OVERVIEW

2020 will be forever remembered as the year of the Coronavirus. For us at PiCCA that has meant changes to the way we work including a complete halt on overseas visits, a freeze on many face-to-face meetings, an increase in zoom calls, and a curtailment of plans to extend our project work beyond current partners. It also put an end to the possibility of working in Cambodia last year, as the proposal we were looking at there could not be delivered in a Covid impacted world. Otherwise, for the most part, the pandemic has not stopped us. We have managed to deliver on PiCCA's program regardless.

For so many around the world however, this last year has been an ever-deepening catastrophe, the death toll staggering, the economic cost crippling and for developing countries, vital progress towards development goals has been disrupted.

In such a year, we became even more committed to the vision that led us to form PiCCA in the first place. The goals we wrote down at the start of our journey, Equity, Justice, Opportunity and Peace, always aspirational, may seem even further off now. Yet they continue to inspire our work. We have always had an optimistic belief that we can contribute something to making lives better no matter the state of the big systemic issues that sit well beyond our control. Now, more than ever, this belief motivates us to continue to find those small practical projects that do make a real difference, that pack a punch beyond their weight, that are life changing for the communities where they are delivered.

Our major project in 2020 was aimed at improving hygiene and sanitation in the village of Quang Nham in Vietnam. Together with our partners Hearts for Hue, we have built 15 hygienic toilets and wash house facilities and rolled out training in all matters to do with water, sanitation and hygiene across the village. Implementation

was delayed by a series of catastrophic storms that destroyed infrastructure, homes and lives. PiCCA members rallied in solidarity to support the relief effort coordinated by Hearts for Hue, and the project was quickly back on track.

Meanwhile, we also continued or finalised work on a number of projects still ongoing from the previous year. A solar fridge was placed in Mbuji Mayi in the Congo enabling the chicken inoculation project we started there to carry on to its next stage. A sewing training program was developed and delivered in Kamrangirchor, Dhaka as the final stage of our project supporting the development of a community service hub there. We continued to support the Hako Women's Collective in Bougainville with funding to purchase capital items, and with advice, training and support aimed at strengthening their governance capacity.

We are deeply grateful to all who have enabled this work to happen. To our members, donors, partners, friends and supporters, a heartfelt thank you. In the year of Covid, your support and contribution have reaffirmed our optimism. No matter the challenge, there is always something that, together, we can do.





OUR PROJECTS

Quang Nham, Vietnam

On 23 August 2020 PiCCA members voted to support the proposal to partner with Hearts for Hue to deliver a sanitation and hygiene project in Quang Nham, Vietnam.

Only about 75 kms from the centre of Hue, Quang Nham is nonetheless a remote community in a mountainous area of the A Luoi district. A village of 4,525 people, it has very few sanitary toilets and wash facilities and a high percentage of preventable diseases which occur due to poor sanitation conditions.

The project, designed as a partial response to these issues, facilitated the construction of 15 hygienic toilets and washrooms. Training was provided in construction techniques and beneficiaries assisted in the building work.

A series of training programs in matters to do with water supply, sanitation and hygiene was also rolled out across the village. This included Train-the-Trainer programmes with community leaders and specific programs delivered to children in primary school.

Mrs Tran Thi Minh Tam, a WASH expert from Thua Thien Hue's Water Company delivered the Train-the-Trainer program with community leaders. Doctor and Lecturer at Hue Medical University, Dr Dao Nguyen Dieu facilitated the training with the school children of Quang Nham.





OUR PROJECTS



Houses damaged by the storm



Direct food supply to families affected by the storm



Storm Relief, Vietnam

In September a series of devastating tropical storms hit the Hue region in Vietnam. This caused multiple deaths and damaged or destroyed thousands of houses, particularly in the poorer rural areas around Hue. The storms also temporarily side-tracked all work on our 2020 project.

PiCCA's project partners, Hearts for Hue put out a call for assistance in response to the many immediate relief needs. PiCCA members and supporters rallied to that call and as a result we were able to contribute A\$1,350 to the relief effort. Hearts for Hue determined that the immediate priority for allocating those funds was direct food supply to vulnerable families. PiCCA's contribution was used to provide rice, noodles and other basics to 50 of the affected families to help them survive until the usual processes of food acquisition and distribution could be re-established. It worked out at about a week's supply of food for each family.

Emergency relief is not what we usually do. In this case, we acted on our project partner's call for help, and in solidarity with the communities where we work together.





OUR PROJECTS

Mbuji Mayi, The Democratic Republic of the Congo

In 2018, PiCCA and partners Kyeema Foundation and AusCongo began a chicken vaccination program in Mbuji Mayi in the Kaisai-Oriental province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. AusCongo has let us know that the vaccination program continues to be rolled out, now reaching 16 villages.

PiCCA's contribution was finalised in 2020 with the purchase and placement of a solar powered fridge, enabling vaccines to be stored on site and enabling the work in protecting chickens to continue beyond our initial involvement.

Improving the survival rate of village chickens has been demonstrated to be a simple but effective way to improve nutrition, health and income for farming communities. AusCongo is still working now with Kyeema to build on the success of the original vaccination campaign. They are working with farmers to improve chicken farming, housing and management techniques and, over time, to replicate the project in many other villages across the region. A fine example of how PiCCA likes to work: seed the change.



New solar fridge for chicken vaccines in the Congo





OUR PROJECTS



Dhaka, Bangladesh

In 2019, PiCCA began working with the Symbiosis Foundation to facilitate the development of a community service hub in Kamrangirchor, Dhaka. The hub has been set up to enable the delivery of a range of much needed services to the community including pre-school education, vocational training, women's self-help, and dental health, eye health and birthing clinics. Much of PiCCA's contribution has assisted in the purchase of equipment and resources for the dental and eye health clinics.

Fatema is an optician at KCDP Eye Clinic. "I work at the clinic in the mornings and I make spectacles for people with eye problems. In the afternoon, I go to the field and I talk to people about the problems they face. We also do mobile clinics."



PiCCA visited the project in February 2020 to review progress, talk to staff and beneficiaries and look at financial documentation about the use of PiCCA funds. It was clear that the hub is well situated, in a high-density, low-income area where many people have relocated from regional areas in order to find employment, unfortunately mostly insecure, in factories and other arrangements.



Ruma is a teacher at the KCDP pre-school. "Children must go to preschool before they can be enrolled in school, it's a government policy. I meet with parents from the local community and find out if their children are going to preschool. If not, I try to motivate them to enrol their children "

Following a change in community priorities, the component of PiCCA funds originally destined to support a driver training program was redirected to support a sewing training program designed to increase employment opportunities for women. The training program was inaugurated on 1 December 2020.

While some services were disrupted by the Covid pandemic, the Hub proved an extremely useful resource, disseminating accurate information and raising awareness about the risks of Covid transmission and about the hygiene practices designed to ameliorate spread.



OUR PROJECTS

Hako Women's Collective, Bougainville

PiCCA has undertaken two significant projects with the Hako Women's Collective in Bougainville: building a community centre (Luman Hipakoko) and supporting an agricultural program (including building a hub and training). Since these projects have been completed, PiCCA has supported HWC in 2020 as follows.

During 2020, PiCCA funded capital items, through a generous donation of 30,000 kina, received in November 2019, from the Murphy family. A program of works was agreed between HWC and PiCCA focussing on upgrades to the Agricultural Hub and Community Centre buildings. These upgrades included the installation of water pumps, guttering and associated plumbing works, the installation of solar safety lights and proper pathways and miscellaneous works to upgrade the kitchen facilities.

Also during 2020, PiCCA supported HWC in developing operational procedures, financial management processes and non-profit business enterprise development. PiCCA undertook a pro bono consultancy project, which included representatives visiting for a week in January 2020 and producing a detailed business procedures manual and training videos in consultation with HWC team members.

Due to COVID-19, PiCCA was unable to fully expend all of the donated funds dedicated to HWC in Bougainville during 2020. These funds include those donated by the Country Women's Association of Bangalow and the remaining unspent funds from the Murphy family. PiCCA is currently in discussions with HWC about how these funds can best support the community's needs.





OUR COMMUNITY

Congratulations Marilyn Havini AM



PiCCA was delighted to congratulate Marilyn Havini on her appointment as a Member of the Order of Australia.

Marilyn is a woman of courage, conviction and compassion, a peace builder, a women's rights activist, a community leader, and a powerful advocate for the people of Bougainville. Together with her late husband, Moses, she represented the Bougainvillean Interim Government in Australia from 1990 – 2005 and worked tirelessly to support peace, human rights and independence in her adopted home. She is a founding member of the Hako Women's Collective, the incredible and formidable group of women with whom PiCCA has been proud to work in partnership over the last 3 years. On 7 June 2020, she was deservedly recognised by the nation of her birth for her significant services to the international communities of Papua New Guinea and Bougainville. Marilyn is a great friend to PiCCA, a great Australian and a great Bougainvillean.

Happy Birthday Hako Women's Collective

Our partners in Bougainville, the Hako Women's Collective celebrated 15 years since their inception. Covid of course meant that our planned trips to the island had to be cancelled and so we were unable to be there to commemorate this significant event. Nowhere near as satisfactorily, happy birthday wishes were transmitted via the internet.





OUR STORY TELLING

PiCCA Dialogues

Mediating Democracy - What Australia Can Learn from Political Dialogue in Bougainville

A PiCCA Zoom Webinar

**Sunday 29 Nov 2020, 3 - 4.15pm AEST
4 - 5.15pm AEDT**

Places are limited

In 2020 we launched the first of our program of conversations on topics of interest to members and supporters. Dr Serge Loode of the Peace and Conflict Studies Institute took us (via Zoom) on a journey through the peace building work he has been leading in Bougainville since 2015.

The process of dialogue is central to that work. Bougainvilleans coming together to talk and learn from each other and to contribute to political decision making: an informed, constructive and civil democratic engagement in action. Something we could all learn from.



Participants in the zoom webinar, all keen supporters of our partnership projects with the Hako Women's Collective, were riveted by the information Dr Loode shared with us, and deeply engaged with him in discussion and shared hopes for a bright future for the people of Bougainville.





OUR STORY TELLING

PiCCA the Movie

A story of camaraderie and support for PiCCA from arts and journalism professionals in Melbourne who would not let a mere Covid lockdown dampen their generosity of spirit.

Film maker Elissa Henderson volunteered her time to put together a video telling the story of PiCCA and our projects overseas. Colin Tyrus, former head of Victoria's ABC Radio News joined in offering his mellow radio voice to the voice over.

The result was an 8-minute video capturing the PiCCA message and the work we have done from 2015 to 2020. It can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wIAyGiYd4k&t=4s>

PiCCA members and friends gathered in Kingscliff on 21 February 2021 to launch the video, to celebrate the work we have done together so far and the connection that links us together as a group of people committed to work together into the future. So much gratitude to Elissa and Colin and all who help us create and tell our story.



Some social media data 2020



Facebook Followers: 629

Facebook posts: 30



Newsletter editions: 3



Blog updates: 12



YouTube Videos: 2



BEHIND THE SCENES

Web Presence

Our web page, email and other internet services all seem to happen rather seamlessly. For the first six years of our story, this has been due to the quiet, behind-the-scenes efforts of web master, Katie White (Phoenix Web and Graphic Design) who has managed our server space, our back-ups, our plug-ins, our upgrades and our less than technologically savvy questions. Katie has changed direction in her career and decided to leave us at the end of 2020.



We have been extremely fortunate to find a new service provider to take on the role vacated by Katie. Mario Bono, a former Systems Engineer, Technical Project Engineer and Senior IT specialist with IBM for over 28 years has generously and enthusiastically embraced this role.

Our universal vote of thanks to Katie for all the work in the past and to Mario for stepping in so promptly to keep us “on-line”.

Thank you!

More Gratitude

PiCCA’s projects are made possible by donations from our members, friends and supporters. We are deeply grateful to PiCCA’s members who in addition to paying a membership fee contribute generously to establishing the core of funds that sustain the bulk of our work with our overseas partners. In 2020 we were also delighted to have received support from the Brisbane Dante Alighieri Society, from Ashgrove Acupuncture and Massage Clinic, and from a number of private individual donors. We are deeply appreciative to all for their support.

PiCCA gratefully acknowledges the pro bono contribution of Auditor Simon Hancox from Grant Thornton.

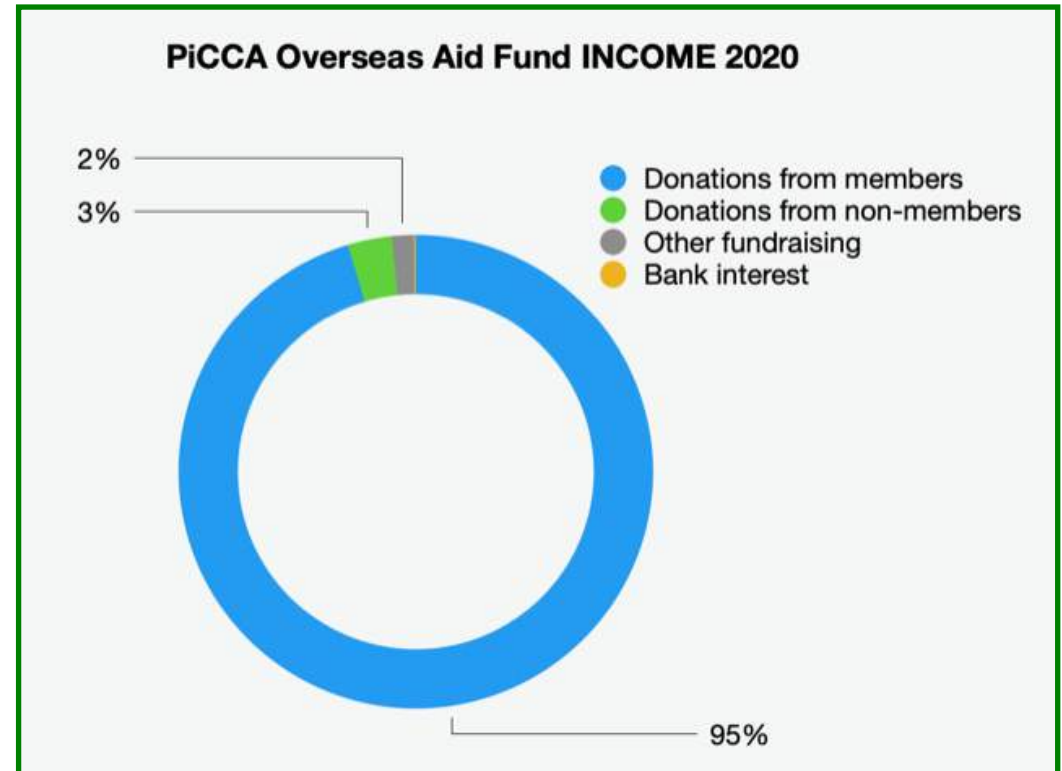
Our deepest gratitude goes to the people in the communities where we work. We are privileged to be invited into their lives and to walk side by side with them in solidarity and support.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

During 2020, the income received to PiCCA's Overseas Aid Fund totalled \$20,038. PiCCA members donated 95% of this total.

Income for PiCCA's administration totalling \$3,100 came from membership fees and Director contributions. No donated funds are used to fund administration.

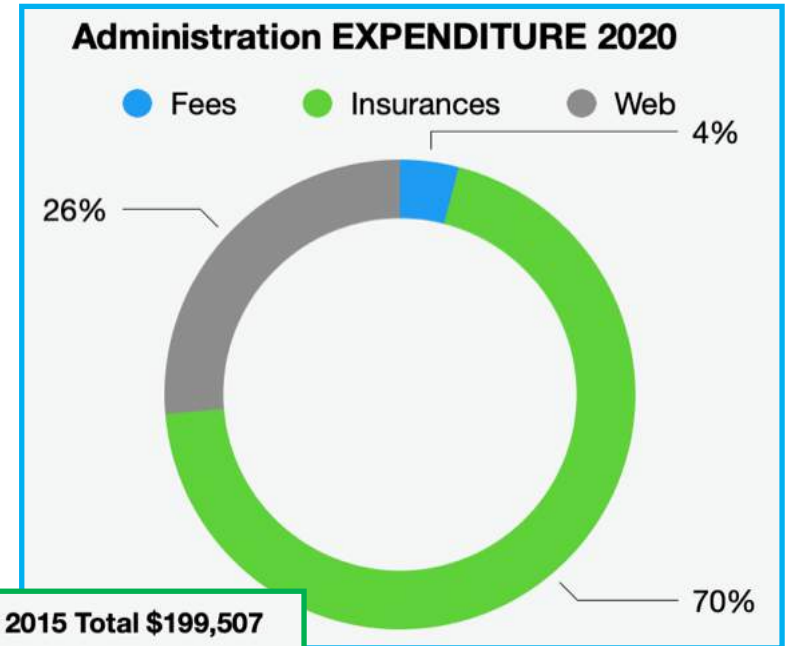
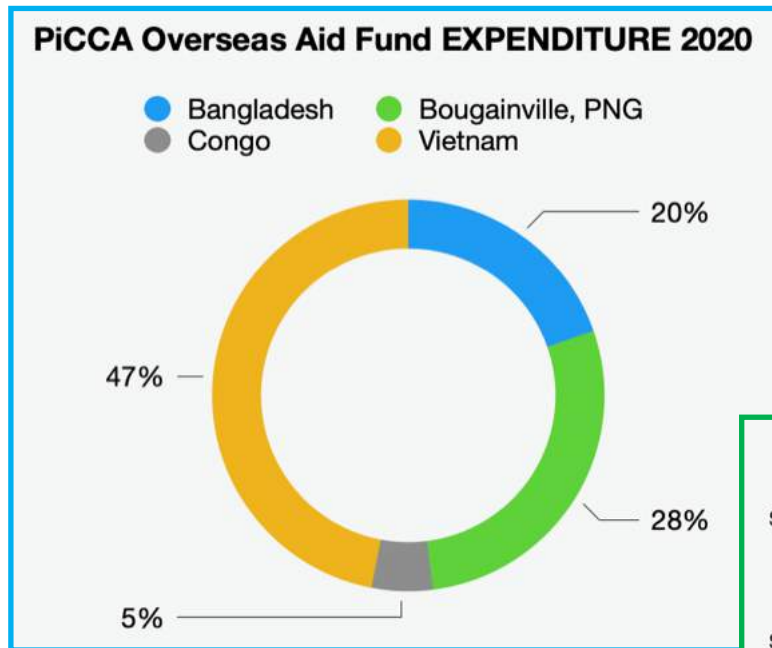




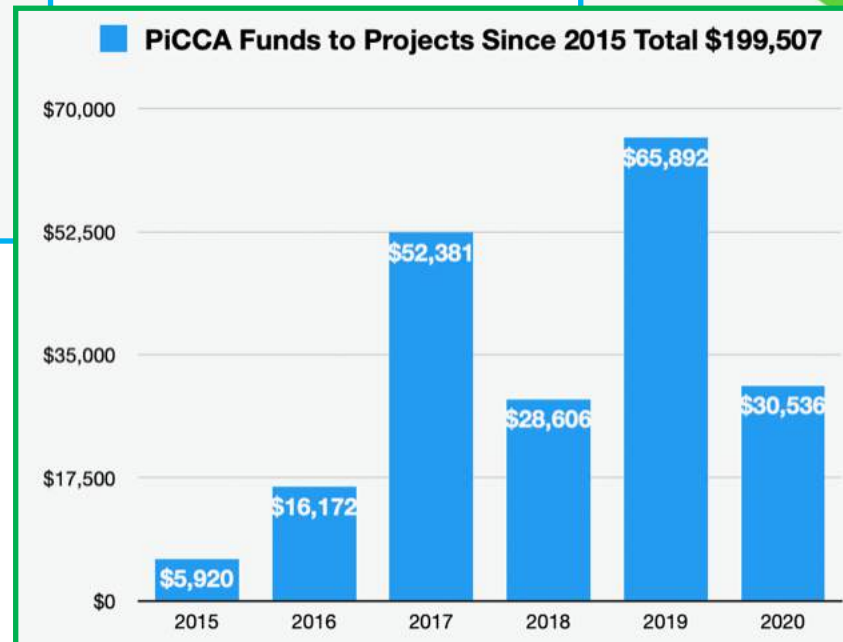
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

During 2020, PiCCA expended \$30,536 on projects: Bangladesh (\$6,000), Bougainville PNG (\$8,650), Democratic Republic of Congo (\$1,536) and Vietnam (\$14,350).

Expenditure on administration totalled \$2,787.



Since its inception, PiCCA's has expended \$199,507 supporting practical, high-impact projects overseas.





ABOUT PICCA

Partners in International Collaborative Community Aid Ltd is an Australian not-for-profit. Our small group of members (currently 27) is passionate about improving education, health, livelihood and food security for people in developing countries.

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

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. No donations go to support PiCCA's administration expenses which are covered in part by the membership fee, and in bigger part by Directors in both cash and in kind.



Board members Terry Parker, Stephanie Boldeman, Steve Maguire, Tiziana Miceli, Warren McMillan with Marilyn Havini (3rd from right)

PiCCA is overseen by a Board elected by its members. Longstanding Board Members, Stephanie Boldeman, Steve Maguire, Tiziana Miceli and Warren McMillan were joined by Terry Parker in 2020. With wide-ranging experience in government and program management in local, central government and multilateral organisations and a deep empathy for humanity, Terry has strengthened our team and contributed mightily to enhancing our governance and delivery. Warren and Stephanie formerly Treasurer and Chair respectively, swapped roles in 2020. Steve remained as Secretary and Tiziana remained as Director. The Board operates collectively to the best of its capacity to ensure that PiCCA continues to deliver on its vision, on its promise to its members and on its commitment to the communities it serves.



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