



NEWS

Welcome to another roundup of PiCCA’s activities and impact during the last few months. The prospect of travel to current projects or to check out potential new projects is off the agenda for quite a while yet. However, PiCCA is still able to act as a bridge for communities overseas to funding, skills and networks, albeit remotely.

Read on, about

- Nine schools in Vietnam now have new wash stations thanks to PiCCA’s newest project
- ‘Preventing atrocities and the role of partnerships’: PiCCA’s next public webinar
- PiCCA seeks \$24,000 to start a pig farming project
- New media available showcasing PiCCA’s work
- PiCCA’s in-kind support for work in Ethiopia and the Pacific
- Back to basics: Reasons why we ‘WASH’

Nine schools in Vietnam now have new wash stations: PiCCA’s newest project

PiCCA’s newest project started on 7 June and our partner Hearts For Hue (H4H) has already made fantastic progress. The project aims to improve handwashing and personal hygiene among 220 teachers and over 3,300 pupils at 10 primary schools in Huong tra Town. This will lower both the spread of preventable diseases and the risk of Covid transmission.

H4H has chosen the 10 priority schools in consultation with community leaders and 26 schools in the town. Local trademen have already completed new handwashing stations in 9 of the 10 schools. The next step is to deliver personal hygiene training in the 10 schools, using train-the-trainer and peer-to-peer learning approaches. Two teachers from each school will be trained by the Vice Dean of the Nursing Faculty of Hue Medical University, Dr Dao Nguyen Dieu Trang. The teachers will then train 100 pupils from each school, before pupils share what they learned with their classmates (under teachers’ supervision).



‘Preventing atrocities and the role of partnerships’: PiCCA’s next public webinar

Following the success of PiCCA’s inaugural interactive webinar in November 2020, we’re offering another one. Ms Nikki Marczak is a genocide scholar, survivor advocate and the Atrocity Prevention Coordinator for the Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (see www.r2pasiapacific.org). Nikki will introduce us to the concept of ‘the responsibility to protect’ and how it developed, and talk about the role and work of the Centre. She will also discuss the atrocity prevention network and how civil society organisations like PiCCA can contribute.

Anyone is welcome to attend: please contact us at picca@picca.org.au by Friday 30 July.



The graphic features a light green background on the left with the PiCCA logo, which consists of several overlapping circles in shades of green, blue, and orange. To the right of the logo, the text reads: **PiCCA DIALOGUES**. Further right, on a blue background, is the title of the webinar: **Atrocity Prevention, Responsibility to Protect and the Importance of Civil Society Partnerships**. Below the title, it says *A PiCCA Zoom Webinar with* followed by **Ms Nikki Marczak**, her title *Atrocity Prevention Coordinator, Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect*, and the date and time **Sunday 8 Aug 2021, 3.00 - 4.15pm AEST**. On the far right is a portrait of Ms Nikki Marczak, a woman with short brown hair, wearing a colorful floral top, smiling.

PiCCA seeks \$24,000 to start a pig farming project

PiCCA is on the lookout for opportunities to fund another project in Vietnam which is all ready to go. The project will increase the household incomes of up to 100 families by helping them to establish small-scale pig farms. Funding of \$24,000 would train families on all aspects of pig raising and marketing, establish a local Pig Raising Club, subsidise the cost of building pig shelters and provide each of the poorest families with a sow to start their pig farm enterprise.

We have identified two philanthropic foundations which may be interested, but, as we know from previous experience, it is often a highly competitive process. If you know of any possible avenues for the pig farming project, please get in touch at picca@picca.org.au.

PiCCA also discovered a Foundation that may be interested in the sanitation and hygiene project in Vietnam. PiCCA and Hearts For Hue collaborated on an application to fund a duplicate program in another location, but have not yet heard whether these efforts were successful.



Image: Kenneth Schipper Vera via Unsplash

New media available showcasing PiCCA's work



PiCCA is committed to being fully transparent and accountable, particularly to its members. Our Annual Report for 2020 was presented at PiCCA's Annual General Meeting on 23 May. The report provides a great snapshot of a challenging yet fulfilling year. Thank you to everyone who made PiCCA's project work and administration possible.

Visit: <https://picca.org.au/reports/>

A new video showcases the positive impact on 15 households from PiCCA's recently completed sanitation project in Quang Nham, Vietnam. The project resulted in new latrines and wash facilities for 15 households, and training for families in construction, water supply, sanitation and hygiene.



We thank and applaud our partner, Hearts for Hue, for making this video. Paste this into your web browser: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y_t-Reyddjc

PiCCA's in-kind support for work in the Pacific and Ethiopia

PiCCA members have been contributing their time and expertise recently. Some PiCCA members are advising two innovative entrepreneurs how to turn their exciting ideas about recycling plastics into a rigorous business plan. They hope that the huge amount of plastic pollution that washes up on many beaches around the Pacific can be turned into business opportunities for local villagers through chemical recycling technology.



Image: Blue Ocean Network

We are also switching gears in our efforts to helping the Haku Women's Collective improve their administration and financial skills. Our original approach relied on us travelling to Bougainville to deliver training and mentoring. We are now planning how to do this over the web in the most effective way possible. We are helping a Brisbane-based nonprofit supporting development work in Ethiopia to apply for tax-deductibility.

Back to basics: Reasons why we ‘WASH’

Clean water is as precious as life itself. Given PiCCA’s 2020 and 2021 projects are about water, sanitation and hygiene (or ‘WASH’), we have been thinking about the value of PiCCA’s investments to deliver benefits across all of PiCCA’s priority areas (see ‘About PiCCA’).



For example, a toilet saves lives, preventing the spread of disease. It is also a protector of human dignity, improves safety for women and girls and is part of the process of breaking the cycle of poverty for communities across the world. As we know, handwashing prevents the spread of infectious diseases. Applied in home and school settings, spin-off effects include reducing school absences due to illness, thereby improving not just health but children’s futures.

Access to clean and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene is improving at a global level. However, there are still enormous gaps. This priority area is number 6 of 17 Sustainable Development Goals in recognition that:

- 1 in 4 people lack access to safely managed drinking water services.
- Nearly half the world’s population lack access to safely managed sanitation services.
- 2.3 billion people lack access to basic hygiene services with 670 million having no access to handwashing facilities at all.
- WASH in health care settings should be a non-negotiable but a quarter of the world’s health care facilities do not have basic water services.
- Every day over 1,000 children die due to diseases which could be prevented quite easily with improved water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure and practice.

For more information, visit un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation , unwater.org/water-facts/scarcity , and waterpeacesecurity.org

You may also be interested in looking up a TED talk by Rose George, “Let’s talk crap...seriously”: a blunt, funny, powerful, 13-minute talk about a once-unmentionable problem.

About PiCCA

PiCCA is a community of like-minded people providing financial and in-kind support to communities overseas. We support practical, locally-developed and led projects that improve education, health, livelihood, food security and the participation of women and girls. PiCCA is a nonprofit company supported by generous members and donors, probono giving and other funding partners.

We learn as much as we give, and we absolutely love what we do!

Every dollar donated goes to projects. Donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. PiCCA welcomes new members. www.picca.org.au www.facebook.com/piccaaustalia

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