



Studying in the village library, Vietnam



2010

Doing Justice, Seeking Truth

in Australia and around the World

Vietnam



Background

At a glance, Vietnam looks to be achieving many of the MDGs. A high percentage of children are enrolled in, and completing primary school, the literacy rate is 93%, the unemployment rate is very low and only 2.2% of the population are living on less than \$1 per day. However, particular groups in Vietnam, ethnic and religious minorities, girls and women are not benefiting from these improvements. Ethnic minority students have a 40% drop out rate because they have not learnt the Vietnamese language, their families cannot always afford to send them to school and young people are expected to work on family farms. Almost 60% of young people living in ethnic communities in rural areas are unemployed.

Loreto responds...

Loreto has been working in Vietnam since 1997, carrying out much needed education and development projects in Ho Chi Minh City.

More recently, Loreto Sisters have worked to improve education in rural communities where there are ethnic minorities and refugees.

Help these Loreto projects achieve the MDGs

Children's Libraries: Loreto Sisters are working towards MDG2 by helping to set up libraries in rural areas for the children of ethnic minorities and refugee groups. Suitable and attractive books can help children improve their language skills and better engage with school.

Get online!

Track Vietnam's progress at www.mdgmonitor.org

Visit the MWIA website for more information about projects in Vietnam www.loreto.org.au

Where is Vietnam? <http://maps.nationalgeographic.com/maps/map-machine>

MWIA would like to thank Bruize PR & Advertising for their generosity in the design of this publication.

Welcome to the 2010 edition of Mary Ward International Australia Doing Justice, Seeking Truth. This year our particular focus is on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which governments of the world have committed to achieving by 2015.

As in the previous year, this booklet provides information on the many education and development projects Loreto Sisters are carrying out in Australia and around the world. These Loreto projects work in partnership with the local people enabling them to have a voice and an involvement in their own development.

The booklet highlights how these projects help in achieving the following 8 MDGs:

1. Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

The Millennium Development Goals campaign needs your support. MWIA, together with the staff, students, past pupils and friends of the Loreto community can be a powerful voice for a better world. As members of the Loreto community, we are partners in these works for justice.

We can strengthen this partnership by informing ourselves, educating others, advocating for change and making connections with the Loreto Sisters and their projects in Australia and beyond.

At the centre of this booklet, you will find some **ideas and suggestions** as to how you, your schools and communities, can support Loreto projects and Mary Ward International Australia to enable the most vulnerable communities to achieve the MDGs.



Australia

Background

Research shows that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia have a lower score on almost every key social and economic indicator than non-Indigenous Australians. Indigenous Australians are more likely to suffer from low income, unemployment, lack of education, poor housing, substance abuse, high infant mortality rates and family violence. In addition to these, dispossession, lack of recognition and the experience of the stolen generations have had an enormous impact on Indigenous Australia. Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's apology to the stolen generations in 2008 was a great first step in addressing these problems, but more needs to be done. We can all play a role in creating positive change and working towards achieving the MDGs in our own backyard.



Strong Young Mums program, Rural NSW

Loreto responds...

Loreto is focusing on education and social support programs in remote and rural areas of Australia. Loreto Sisters work with local organisations and governments to improve literacy and empower women.

"Come down from the ivory tower of your comfort zones, your personal worries and routines. Engage with people, become involved, find out what is oppressing people and driving them to despair"

- Sr. Marta Zechmeister CJ, speaking as Mary Ward, Rome 2009.



Help these Loreto Projects achieve the MDGs

Strong Young Mums is helping to achieve MDG 3 and MDG 5. Since 2005, Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes has run this program to support teenage mothers return to education and develop their parenting skills throughout rural NSW. The program has the potential to create systemic change and break the generational cycle of poor health, poor educational achievement and family violence in Aboriginal communities.

Mary Ward in the Kimberley is helping to achieve MDG2 by establishing early literacy programs in primary schools. MWIA funds Reading Recovery Programs in 6 schools in the Kimberley. Students' literacy skills have improved greatly as a result. This has a positive impact in their classrooms, schools and communities.

Get online!

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission
www.ncca.org.au/departments/natsiec

Strong Young Mums homepage -
www.centacarewf.org.au

Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation - www.antar.org.au

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues -
www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/

Find more information from MWIA at
www.loreto.org.au



Reading Recovery in the Kimberley



Transport to Baucau, Timor Leste

Timor-Leste



Background

Timor-Leste is a newly-independent nation recovering from severe conflict. With a population of 1.2 million people, this small country is Australia's closest neighbour. Timor-Leste faces many obstacles along the road to achieving

the Millennium Development Goals. Addressing the UN General Assembly in 2008, the President of Timor-Leste, Jose Ramos Horta stated, "... my Government is keenly aware of the link between peace, stability and poverty reduction. We reaffirm our commitment to meeting at least some of the MDG targets in the fastest possible way, particularly in education, health and gender."



Learning English in Timor Leste

Loreto responds...

Loreto Sisters have been working in Timor-Leste since 2006 and are aware that education is crucial to re-building the country. Only 68% of children are enrolled in primary education and only 50% of Timorese adults are literate. Loreto Sisters work with the Marist Brothers' Catholic Teachers' Training College in Baucau. This is the only College in the country that trains primary school teachers. Training teachers is vital to creating good schools and educating the future leaders of this nation.

Help these Loreto Projects achieve the MDGs

Loans scheme: Loreto Sisters are helping to achieve MDG1 and MDG2 by providing small loans to local staff of the Teachers' Training College in Baucau who are facing financial difficulties.

Scholarships for Student Teachers are giving more Timorese the opportunity to access teacher-training and thus contributing to achieving MDG2.

English tuition: There is great desire among the Timorese to learn English as a way of communicating with the wider world, and to improve their employment prospects. The Sisters are providing classes for children and adults in Dili and Baucau.

Get online!

Visit the East Timor Action Network for information www.etan.org/timor

Track Timor Leste's progress at www.mdgmonitor.org

MWIA has more information about Timor Leste at www.loreto.org.au

Where is Timor-Leste?
<http://maps.nationalgeographic.com/maps/map-machine>



Graduating from Teachers' Training College, Baucau, Timor Leste

Darjeeling



Background

The Loreto Darjeeling Region covers two countries, India and Nepal and includes diverse ethnic communities such as the Adivasis, Nepalis, Lepchas, and Sikkimese. These communities are located in remote and isolated places. People work mainly in agriculture, and on large tea estates where working conditions are poor. Wages are low and poverty is high. The literacy rate is only 57% and for women, it's even lower. Malnutrition is prevalent and preventable diseases are common. TB and HIV/AIDS are also a problem in this region. Maternal health is poor because health services are often unavailable. Human trafficking and unsafe migration take place regularly from remote areas into larger cities. Compared with the rest of India, this is a region that is falling behind in achieving the MDGs.



Tea Estate in Panighatta, Darjeeling, India

Loreto responds...

The Loreto Sisters, through the Mary Ward Social Centre, are working with disadvantaged communities in Darjeeling and Nepal to improve education, employment opportunities, healthcare and to ensure communities are informed and feel confident in demanding their rights.

Help these Loreto projects achieve the MDGs

Collective Voices in Panighatta is helping local communities, especially women and children, to achieve all the MDGs and play a role in their own development. Loreto Sisters and the Child in Need Institute (CINI) educate tea plantation workers about their rights so they can access government health, nutrition, education and protection services and feel confident to work together to demand better opportunities.



Weighing tea in Panighatta, Darjeeling, India

Vehicle for Loyal: Loyal is an isolated town in the steep and rocky hilltop areas and the Loreto Sisters need a vehicle to carry out their work effectively. The Sisters need a vehicle to carry out their work in Loyal, which is an isolated town in the steep and rocky hilltop areas.

Generator for the Mary Ward Social Centre: This Centre is the base of the Loreto Sisters' work in the Darjeeling region and requires a stable supply of electricity.

Sustainable Vegetable Garden: In Dharan, Nepal, the Loreto Sisters have expanded their centre to include an eco-friendly, sustainable vegetable garden. This is helping to achieve MDG1 and MDG7 by providing a midday meal for the children in the Child Care and Development Centre and vegetables for the students in the hostel. The garden is also used to teach nutrition and subsistence gardening.

Upgrade of Schools and Provision of Library: Loreto Sisters are upgrading their primary schools for children from remote villages who do not have access to education. This is helping to achieve MDG2.

Get online!



Visit the homepage of the Mary Ward Social Centre in Darjeeling - <http://darjmwsc.org/>

Learn about human trafficking at www.stophetraffik.org

Find out about fair trade tea and other products at www.fta.org.au

Where are Darjeeling and Nepal? <http://maps.nationalgeographic.com/maps/map-machine>



Women's self-help group, Darjeeling, India



Doing Justice, Seeking Truth

in Australia and around the World



2010

Education and raising awareness

Use the information in this booklet to find out more about the MDGs and the social justice issues facing marginalised people in Australia and beyond. This booklet can help you with your social justice activities throughout the year.

Some examples may include:

Inviting a guest to speak to your class or school about Timor Leste or Indigenous issues in Australia. Contact MWIA for details.

Holding a fair trade morning tea at school in support of the tea plantation workers in Darjeeling, India.

Investigating fair trade products in your own school: How are your uniforms made? Can you buy fair trade tea, coffee or chocolate at your canteen?

Coordinating your awareness raising events with important International Days of Observance. (Listed on this page)

What Loreto projects and MDGs relate to these days? Visit www.un.org/observances/days.shtml for more information.

Fundraising

Raising money is an important part of supporting MWIA and all of these projects need financial support.

It is essential that you are educating yourselves and others about justice and development while you are raising funds.

Choose a project or area that you are interested in and that you think requires your school's support.

Use your imagination to think of fun and interesting ways to increase awareness while you are raising funds!

You could for example, hold a **rice bowl day** for India, or an **African music day** for Kenya and Zambia.

How about holding a **bottled-drink free day** and donating the money you would usually spend on bottled water or soft drink? Give up coffee and chocolate for a week and donate this money instead?

If you have any questions, or need some ideas or information, contact MWIA on mwiaustralia@loreto.org.au

Making connections

As Loreto students, you are part of a worldwide movement for change, so find out how you can make some connections!

Think of an area where Loreto works that you and your class or year level would like to learn about for the school year.

Find out more about the Loreto projects taking place and research the bigger issues. Contact MWIA or visit www.loreto.org.au for information.

Find out about the people Loreto Sisters are assisting, their language, culture and way of life. For example, you could with your classmates write letters to students learning English in Timor Leste. Contact MWIA for details.

Did you know Loreto has an office at the United Nations? In 2003, the IBVM (Loreto) became a non-governmental organisation (NGO) registered with the UN in New York. See what this UN-NGO Office is doing and jump on board the campaigns. Visit www.ibvm.org and follow the links.

Lobbying

Writing letters to politicians is a great way to put pressure on our Government and have your voices heard. You and your class could write letters about the following MDG issues that the Australian Government has made promises about:

- Spending 0.7% of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on foreign aid by 2015.
- Cancelling debt for the poorest nations.
- Raising MDG issues at the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations General Assembly, World Trade Organisation and other important international forums.

TAKE ACTION!

Read more about all of these projects at www.loreto.org.au

Contact MWIA for more info about projects or ways to support us mwiaustralia@loreto.org.au

International Women's Day
March 8

World Environment Day
June 5

International Day of the
World's Indigenous People
August 9

International Literacy Day
September 8

International Day of Peace
September 21

International Day for the
Eradication of Poverty
October 17

World AIDS Day
December 1

Human Rights Day
December 10

Kolkata



Background

In a country of over 1 billion people, India has a huge task ahead to achieve the MDGs by 2015. In comparison with many other parts of the world, India has done a great deal to reduce poverty. A major challenge for India is ensuring that this success is benefiting all regions of the country, urban and rural. Although around 94% of children are going to primary school, there are many children in India who are unable to attend because they can't afford it or because they are working to earn a living for their families. Health, education, employment opportunities and gender equality are still major concerns in many areas of India.

Loreto responds...

Loreto came to India in 1842 and established schools to educate women. Now, the Sisters in Kolkata are also working to run health, employment, income and gender equality programs in communities. These programs aim to improve health, employment opportunities, income and gender equality.

Help these Loreto projects achieve the MDGs

Education in the Brickfields is achieving MDG2 by providing schools for the children of workers in brickfields in Kolkata. These seasonal workers are paid very low wages and have to move around in search of work.



School in the brickfields, Kolkata, India



Vocational training in Kolkata, India

Children are given student cards so they can attend school when they arrive in a new place.

Hostel Accommodation for young women living in rural areas is achieving MDG2 and MDG3 by making it possible for women to attend secondary school.

Village Health Centres are helping achieve MDG5 and MDG6 by dispensing medicines and transporting people from remote areas to hospitals.

Village Coaching Classes are achieving MDG2 by giving first-generation learners extra support to attend primary school.

Self Help Groups are helping to achieve MDG1 by raising incomes through micro-credit schemes.

Barefoot Teachers' Training is achieving MDG2 by training village teachers to hold primary classes for the children.

Vocational Training for Women, including a bakery in Entally, is achieving MDG1 and MDG3 by equipping women with skills that can help them earn better incomes and take more control over their futures.

Get online!

Visit the Loreto India homepage at www.loreto.in

Track India's progress at www.mdgmonitor.org

MWIA has more information about projects in India at www.loreto.org.au

Where is Kolkata?
<http://maps.nationalgeographic.com/maps/map-machine>



Zambia



Background

The Lukulu District of Zambia is one of the most remote and poor rural areas of this small country. The Lukulu District is economically poor and the majority of people can barely survive on their small incomes. Fewer than two thirds of primary aged children attend school in Zambia and this number is lower in Lukulu. Survival and food security in the Lukulu District are major issues.

There is considerable malnutrition despite the abundance of fruits in season because without fertilizer and sufficient water, growing nutritious food in this area is a challenge. The community is also greatly affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Zambia is hard pushed to meet MDGs 1, 2 and 6 by 2015.

Loreto responds...

Loreto has been working in Zambia since 2006. The Sisters work closely with the community in Lukulu to improve health and education.



Building classrooms, Lukulu , Zambia

Help these Loreto projects achieve the MDGs

Loreto Sisters support primary and secondary education in Lukulu in a number of ways. This is supporting the achievement of MDG2.

Building classrooms at Kayeo Primary School to give students a better learning environment.

Providing science equipment for secondary science classes so the students can participate in practical classes.



Science practical classes, Lukulu

Supporting Interactive Radio Instruction (IRI). IRI is one attempt by the government to provide primary education. An English speaking mentor in a village translates daily lessons into the childrens' local language from a wind up radio. The children are provided with one A5 exercise book and 1 pencil for the year.



Baby milk program, Lukulu

Funding a local Milk Feeding Program helps to achieve MDG1, MDG4 and MDG6. Babies need powdered milk if their mothers have died, are HIV positive or are too sick to breastfeed.

Get online!

Read Loreto Sisters' letters from Lukulu at www.loretosisters.org.za

Track Zambia's progress at www.mdgmonitor.org

Where is Zambia?
<http://maps.nationalgeographic.com/maps/map-machine>



Mathare Valley, home to most women being trained by Loreto Sisters in Eastleigh (Nairobi Kenya)

Kenya



Background

Kenya is well positioned to make some good progress on the MDGs by the 2015 target. However, the country faces some big challenges. There is a huge gap between the rich and the poor in Kenya and 22% of Kenyans live on less than \$1 per day. Unemployment is very high especially in the cities, almost 5% of the population are living with HIV/AIDS and there is a major drought which has led to food shortages across the country. With a population of 38.5 million people, Kenya is home to many different ethnic groups. This diversity can lead to conflict, as seen after the 2007 elections when 1500 people died and 300,000 were displaced as a result of violence.

Loreto responds...

Loreto Sisters have been in Kenya since 1921 and mainly operates schools in and around the country's capital, Nairobi. Despite the obstacles to good education in Kenya – low pass rates, poor teacher training, a lack of resources and restricted vocational options – Loreto Schools in Kenya are empowering young women with high quality education. More recently, Sisters have been working with communities to tackle issues of health, poverty and structural injustice.

Help these Loreto projects achieve the MDGs

Education for Girls is achieving MDG2 and MDG3. The Loreto Sisters operate schools and boarding accommodation for young women who live in the slum areas around Nairobi.

Safety and security as well as poverty and HIV/AIDS are serious problems in these areas. Education is vital for breaking the cycle of poverty.

Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation Education Campaign

is achieving MDG3 and MDG5. The Sisters are building a National Holistic Growth and Research Centre to serve as a community meeting place; training space for project workers; space for education programs; and accommodation/retreat space for women affected by FGM. They are empowering young women and their families to make informed decisions and have the confidence to refuse FGM.

Support for victims of HIV/AIDS is helping to achieve MDG6. Loreto Sisters provide training for women and men suffering from HIV/AIDS so they can

generate income to support themselves and their families. In Nyumbani Children's Home and in communities surrounding Nairobi, the Sisters are caring for HIV positive children who have been orphaned or abandoned.

Get online!



Track Kenya's progress at www.mdgmonitor.org

World Health Organisation FGM factsheet - <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs241/en/>

Find out more about projects in Kenya on the MWIA website at www.loreto.org.au

Where is Kenya? <http://maps.nationalgeographic.com/maps/map-machine>



Educating women in Kenya