



NTA June 2020 Newsletter

Thank you for your previous support for the **NTA**. As the end of the 2019-20 financial year draws closer the *NTA **again needs your assistance***. If you are able, please follow the links at the end of this Newsletter and [make a donation](#).



Figure 1 Children using an NTA supplied hand washing station outside a school

In this newsletter you will see:

- A brief overview of what the NTA does in Eastern Indonesia and why we are involved with Eastern Indonesia.
- The NTA's response to the Challenges of COVID-19.
- How the NTA monitors progress of the projects **YOU** help to fund in Eastern Indonesia.
- NTA has a new website.

The Main areas the NTA operate in Eastern Indonesia are the island of Flores, West Timor and surrounding smaller islands.

You could say Australian involvement in the area dates back to Captain William Bligh's arrival in the Dutch colony of Timor when he navigated his open long boat into Kupang at the end of his epic journey after the mutiny on the Bounty.

During the Second World War many of the people of Timor at great risk to their own safety aided the Allied servicemen who were able to evade capture by the Japanese after the February 20th 1942 invasion of Timor.

In 1947 Australian Service personnel were involved in the first UN Peace Keeping operation that over saw the transition of Indonesia from Dutch Colonial rule to Independence.

Today the West Timor and Flores areas are amongst the poorest areas in Indonesia. The farmers of Eastern Indonesia are amongst the poorest people in the world, yet they live right here on our doorstep. They have no food or financial reserves and no access to social security. Many of these people already experience high levels of child mortality, malnutrition, diarrhoea and other diseases. There is an

annual dry season of about 8 months which is known locally as “the hunger season”. Water is scarce and this directly impacts on good hygiene practice and health.

Prior to the advent of COVID-19 The NTA’s focus was on providing guidance for the subsistence farmers to improve their cropping and develop cash crops. To Improve the farmers and remote villages access to healthy water supplies and to help provide materials for schools in the remote areas.

The NTA’s response to the Challenges of COVID-19.



Figure 2 father and son displaying leaflets produced by the NTS

As Australia starts to recover from COVID-19 it is important to keep in mind our vulnerable and closest neighbours.

NTA supports the pledge for “End COVID for all”. We ask donors to support us with this pledge. We need your support to keep rolling out and expanding our efforts. NTA is in this for the long term. Ending COVID is also about ending many other hygiene related health issues. We want to get immediate assistance to communities to tackle COVID. But we want to continue and expand our efforts for improved water supply and hygiene training for communities and schools now and for the long term. Water-tanks, toilets and washing facilities coupled with the promotion of good hygiene practices is vital for improving the lives of these people.

Where to now?

- NTA needs donor support to continue the momentum.
- Keep collating and distributing key information
- Expand to new areas for educational banners, training, soap and hand wash stations. Provide larger and more durable hand washing stations, hygiene related educational material and training in more than 60 Schools, to ensure they are set up to establish good hygiene practices for children and to encourage them to take these messages home. Hand washing is vital for reducing COVID-19 and a range of other diseases and viruses and will have a lasting impact on people’s health and quality of life.

Our achievement so far.

COVID-19 was NTA’s first emergency response. Poor farming families, such as the ones supported by NTA typically have very limited access to water, no food reserves and no social security systems and limited access to health care and reliable information. This makes them extremely vulnerable. To date we have been able to get the message out to all of our communities and to provide the first wave of support concentrating on community education and awareness raising.

With support from regular and new donors NTA was able to mount a quick and effective response program. NTA immediately changed operational practices to protect and reduce the risks to our Partners staff and NTAs target communities.

We briefed our Partners on some relevant facts and shared reliable websites - where they can find further updates on the development of the situation on a national (Indonesia) and international level.

At the same time, our main partner in Kupang keeps us informed on a regular basis on the development of the Covid-19 related situation and connected government regulations on the ground.

NTA produced and distributed 48 banners and over 600 posters with key COVID-19 messages throughout the villages in our implementation sites.

We have distributed soap and 46 hand washing stations in strategic locations of our key communities such as Covid-19 posts at the entrance of villages. The hand washing stations have all been provided with graphic illustrations of correct hand washing techniques and their distribution has been followed up with verbal training in the importance of hand washing. The success of this project has been documented by local television stations, which helped to spread the message of NTA's efforts and the recommended behaviour to reduce the spread of the virus.

NTA Indonesia has excelled at this task. They have been very effective at getting the information to communities, identifying, acquiring and distributing banners, posters, soap and wash stations. They have been at the forefront making sure communities got the right messages and knew what to do.

How the NTA monitors progress of the projects YOU help to fund in Eastern Indonesia.

The NTA works with its Indonesian partners NTA Indonesia to roll out the programmes they fund. Villagers and farmers who are supported by your donations are given materials and education to improve their lives including health. Hygiene, practical knowledge about agricultural practices and school assistance. Future funding is contingent on the funded tasks being completed by the farmers and villages receiving the assistance.

NTA Indonesia carry out this work.

Up until this year and the advent of Covid-19 NTA Australia would make to visits in May and November to assist progress and look for future opportunities.

DATA COLLECTION

NTA ramping up systems to report on success using electronic data systems

NTA visits all our participants twice a year to monitor progress and better understand their needs. During these field visits we collect a range of data including information on crops, issues affecting crops, health information, and income information. We also assess the condition of previous supports from NTA, and what they feel they need in future to improve their livelihood.

Over the past two years, we have been looking at ways we can better collect this kind of data, so that it can be used more effectively. In late 2018 we started collecting this data electronically. Through this process, we now have instant access to a range of important information from our participants. For example, we now have detailed information on crops that shows that in the first half of 2019, cashews, cocoa and coconut were most commonly used for profits, while corn, cassava and rice were most commonly used for consumption.

We are now in the process of training our Indonesian counterparts in using the electronic questionnaires so we can continue to collect similar data on a more regular basis. This data is uploaded to a Cloud based system providing live access to information in Australia. It also allows the uploading of photographs showing progress and completed projects.

Many thanks to Kate Sollis who's infectious energy has made this development possible and to the Rotary Club of Pennant Hills and Cherrybrook and Telstra for donating Tablets.

Below, Kate. 2nd from the left.



Last year the NTA implemented Data collection processes that would assist in the transfer of information between NTA in Australia and NTA Indonesia. During COVID-19 this ability has been extremely helpful in monitoring progress and importantly for you monitoring how your donations are helping the people of Eastern Indonesia

100% of your [Donations](#) to COVID-19 go to NTA Indonesia to support their work.

The NTA has a new Website: nta.org.au

Check **NTA's** revitalised webpage!

We have updated the photos and provided more information on our activities. We now have a series of activities for donor's support – pick the activities which best meet your priorities. We plan to keep up the momentum and to provide greater feedback on our achievements and also introduce pages in Indonesian language.

We welcome comments on how we can do better. We particularly wish to thank those who have made the big efforts – NTA volunteers Iona Main and Carys Chan plus Jaspreet Gill and Chevelle Millhouse from **Oxide Interactive**.



Figure 3 NTA's Phil and Carys met recently with Chevelle and Daniel from Oxide Interactive. Oxide has provided support to NTA over a number of years and have been invaluable in helping to make our webpage look and run well.

Thank you for taking the time to read all this information. The **NTA** hopes that you can see your way clear to making a donation. In the words of one of our donors. *"I decided to donate again to the NTA as they are a small efficient aid organisation helping needy people in an area close to Australia that could be easily over- looked in the current COVID-19 environment"*.



Donate now

See our new website