

the first thing we offer is respect

iNK

indigo news & knowledge

CLUB RAFIKI



MAY 2025





contents

from us to you	2
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25 YEARS OF IMPACT

"Celebrating a transformative journey with indigo foundation in our community"

Message from Club Rafiki	3
Message from HAKO	4
Message from PEAB	5

PEAB - the power of education in Pasumbar

by Jennifer Barton, PC India	7
------------------------------	---

AFGHANISTAN - update on the winter education program

by Ali Reza, PC Afghanistan	9
-----------------------------	---

JDN - young people making their country safe

by JDN advisor, Bernie McEvoy	11
-------------------------------	----

New board member Louisa	13
-------------------------	----

25 year anniversary tributes from long term supporters	14
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COVER IMAGE: CLUB RAFIKI IN RWANDA CELEBRATING INDIGO FOUNDATION'S 25 YEARS.

OPPOSITE: HAKO WOMEN WAITING FOR 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS, BOUGAINVILLE

from us to you

This year the *indigo foundation* turns 25! That's a quarter of a century walking shoulder-to-shoulder with some of the most courageous and inspiring community partners across the globe. We invite you to share this moment as we pause, reflect, and celebrate the impact they are having in their communities.

Since day one, indigo has been committed to doing development differently. No top-down quick fixes or one-size-fits-all approaches—just genuine, respectful partnerships built on trust, integrity, and the belief that communities know best what they need. We wouldn't be here without the passionate people who've backed that vision every step of the way.

In this special 25th birthday edition of *indigo ink*, we have pulled together a heartfelt collection of stories, insights, and reflections that shine a light on what makes indigo tick. From Bougainville, India and Rwanda, our dedicated grassroots partners share powerful tributes—testaments to the courage and grit that drive real change in their communities. These are the stories that remind us why we do what we do.

There's a special update from Ali Reza Yunespour, our amazing Partnership Coordinator for Afghanistan. Despite devastating restrictions under the Taliban, especially for women and girls, our partner communities are quietly and bravely continuing their work in education building on many years of educating girls and boys, supporting women teachers and improving school infrastructure.

From Timor Leste, JDN's advisor, Bernie McEvoy, shares how young people are stepping up to address sexual harassment and violence through peer support, training and advocacy. And don't miss the warm and uplifting reflection from Jennifer Barton, our Partnership Coordinator in India, on Nivetha's journey. It's a reminder of the depth and transformative impact of PEAB's work in Dalit villages outside Chennai.

You'll also hear from some of our much-loved

volunteers who have helped to shape indigo into the foundation it is today. They contribute expertise, time, passion and advice, that expands our capacity, profile and networks.

And we are over the moon to share a thoughtful piece from our new board trainee, Louisa Yasukawa. Louisa has been volunteering with indigo since 2012 and now brings her deep experience and commitment to the Board. We are delighted to have her on board as we look to the future.

indigo foundation was founded by Sally Stevenson and a group of aid practitioners who were disillusioned with the way international development was managed and delivered. They dared to believe in the power of community led development and direct partnerships with communities. Twenty-five years on, as the global aid system faces some serious shake-ups, international community development organisations like indigo matter more than ever. We remain committed to our guiding principles – equity, community ownership, transparency and sustainability – and to respectful local partnerships.

So, here's to 25 years of belief, tenacity, and the fierce generosity that defines indigo. Whether you've been part of the journey from the start or have only just come across our work, we'd love to hear from you. Your support and engagement are an important part of our story and will continue to sustain us as we look to the future.

If you've got a memory, a message, or a testimonial you'd like to share, **click it through to Stav by 15 July** (stav.zotalis@indigofoundation.org). We'll be sharing your words in our annual report and the next edition of *indigo ink*.

Thanks for being part of the indigo community and here's to the next 25 years!

Lyla and Stav

25 YEARS OF IMPACT

Celebrating a transformative journey with indigo foundation in our community - Club Rafiki, Rwanda



Club Rafiki in Rwanda celebrating indigo foundation's 25 years

Club Rafiki began its partnership with indigo foundation in 2012, meaning we have been part of this 25 year journey for over 13 years. This partnership holds significant meaning for us, rooted in actions that have positively impacted our wider community, especially young girls and young women. This collaboration has played a remarkable role in transforming the way we approached our work back then. Programs like Urban Dance School, Our Girl Program, English Corner Workshops, and many others were initiated and have been embraced with enthusiasm by our community. One cannot

speak about this partnership without highlighting the wonderful efforts in empowering girls. For instance, in 2012, only 15% of participants in our programs were female; by 2024, that number had risen to 33%, as shown in our latest annual report. Moreover, the voices of girls have grown stronger and present in everything we do.

It's also important to mention that this partnership has contributed to building the capacity of Club Rafiki not just through financial support, but also through the invaluable advice and mentorship provided by indigo's close collaborators, which helped sharpen the

organisation's strategic directions. To gather insights on the impact of this partnership, we engaged with both beneficiaries and the team of Club Rafiki. They shared powerful stories of change:

One young woman, now committed to mentoring girls in Kanyinya, a rural area where our programs have gained strong traction, shared her story:

"I had dropped out of school. My family was pressuring me to get married, but that plan was disrupted because I had learned about my rights through programs promoting girls' empowerment organised by Club Rafiki in partnership with indigo foundation. I've now completed high school, and I'm deeply thankful."

— Clementine, 22 years old, Kanyinya

Another young girl involved in Club Rafiki's Urban Dance School described indigo foundation as a powerful guardian in her life:

"I joined Club Rafiki in 2018 when I was just 10 years old. What made the biggest difference for me was the honest conversations about sexual and reproductive health and the personal guidance I received. That's what shaped me into a girl with strong values. Sometimes I wonder if I hadn't had this opportunity, I might have become a woman who wasn't ready for that life."

— Shakira, 17 years old, UDS participant

A young man from rural Mageragere also reflected on how his views were transformed through these programs:

"I'm not sure if others feel the same, but I used to think girls weren't worth talking to or advising. But after joining this group, I realised I was completely wrong. Some girls can dance better than me, they have brilliant ideas anyone would admire, and incredible patience. I've come to realise I need girls in my life just as much as anyone else."

— Shaffy, 18 years old, UDS Mageragere

As we wrapped up, we spoke with Ms. Alamba Stephanie, the representative of Club Rafiki, who has been part of this partnership from the beginning. She shared:

"This partnership with indigo has been like wings that allowed Club Rafiki to fly to new heights. It's because of this that other partners have seen the value in collaborating with us. the indigo foundation is more than a partner, it has become a friend. Today, we celebrate 25 years of indigo foundation supporting those who need it most. These years symbolize love, commitment, and empowerment, especially for girls and women. We are proud to wish them a happy anniversary and pledge to walk together for the next 25 years to come."

In conclusion, we again extend our heartfelt congratulations, joining our fellow partners around the world in celebrating this important milestone. We also express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed, however big or small, to help the indigo foundation achieve its mission.

Club Rafiki Team

Club Rafiki in Rwanda celebrating indigo foundation's 25 years



Message from Hako, Bougainville



Marilyn and Dorcas inspecting the equipment at Buka port

Our Hako Women's Collective Association Inc (HWC) congratulates indigo foundation most heartily on the attainment of 25 years as an organisation. We wish we could be with you and give our appreciation in person for your wonderful funding and capacity building support; for Jenny Clement's in-service training, and her attendance on your behalf to our own HWC 20th anniversary in 2024.

HWC was referred to indigo foundation in 2019 by Roslyn Kenneth (formerly working at the gender desk for DFAT in Port Moresby) - and also by indigo foundation member Leigh Cupitt, who at the time was Law and Justice Consultant to JSS4D. Leigh witnessed our struggles to deliver programs in voluntary capacities while Roselyn often donated her time and resources to her fellow sisters of Haku in Bougainville. When Christina Northey first visited us in February of 2019, she witnessed the grass roots approach our women use in development by addressing needs from experience and vision. Since then the partnership has grown and deepened with committed indigo members and leaders to support us. We pay tribute to Lyndene Wan

and currently - since 2021- Jenny Clement for dedicated partnership coordination.

All the programs, human resources, and infrastructure support that indigo has provided over the past seven years has been instrumental to our own ability to care for our Hako community and the people of Bougainville as a whole. Your support to our Safe House, Mens Hub, Library and human rights advocacy programs has been enhanced by capacity building with skills training and allowances to burdened volunteers to carry on. As HWC has developed, indigo recognised the urgent need for full time staff, and has assisted by providing modest wages in administration and financial management to support the volunteers.

The indigo partnership has played a key role in the turning point of HWC operations, allowing us to flourish with increased capacity for HWC to engage with other funders, government, law and justice partners, community leaders, chiefs, women leaders, youth and churches to form peace committees in addressing Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence (SARV). Indigo's funding over a 3 year partnership agreement between 2023-2025 has enabled HWC participation and input into all these sectors.

HWC continues to grow in support and delivery to vulnerable families, children and whole village communities with our GBV and SARV responses to crisis situations; in engaging development partners, government departments and actively working alongside our own Hako Community Government in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea.

The greatest gift indigo has given HWC is the trust you have for our women and our organisation. You have understood when HWC asks to adjust budgets and respond meaningfully to priority needs. We share the same principles

and guiding policies to maintain integrity and accountability for our conduct, our acquittals and reporting, our interventions and programs.

indigo has much to celebrate! We admire the dedication and personal sacrifices and donations of funding and time of indigo individual members, spread across vast distances in voluntary capacities. Thank you for linking up HWC with other like minded funder partnerships such as the Roberts Pike Foundation. We are blessed by such charitable hearts for our Pacific indigenous communities facing post conflict trauma in third world development conditions.

HWC looks forward to a long term partnership and dearly hope that our current agreement - due to expire this year in 2025, can be renewed

for another three years and, if possible, beyond. We sincerely hope that Jenny Clement will want to continue as our wonderful coordinator. I very much appreciate being indigo's liaison officer.

With all our best wishes and warmest greetings to one and all,

Marilyn Havini AO on behalf of HWC President Delphine Gatana and all the HWC executives, volunteers, staff and members.

indigo foundation is deeply grateful to the Roberts Pike Foundation for their extraordinary generosity. Their phenomenal support has been instrumental in Hako's growth and flourishing

PEAB's Journey with indigo foundation

It has been an incredible journey partnering with indigo foundation over the past 16 years in empowering Dalit children through education - an opportunity that has long been denied to them due to systemic discrimination and poverty.

indigo foundation has not only provided essential financial support for running evening education centres, but has also strongly upheld the belief that every Dalit child - historically considered "untouchable" by Indian society - deserves access to quality education and the chance to build a better future.

As the liaison between local volunteers (PEAB) in the villages of Maduranthakam and Indigo Foundation, I have witnessed the transformative impact of this partnership. Most of the children in our centres are first-generation learners, and the mentoring and tutoring they receive within their own communities, supported by indigo foundation, has been a crucial pillar in ensuring their continued education.

During times of crisis like the COVID-19 Pandemic, when many parents were unable to

work due to disruptions in daily labour, indigo foundation's support in providing dry rations and medical kits to the families of our students was a timely help. This compassionate response was deeply appreciated by the community and served as a testament to indigo's commitment beyond education.

On behalf of the PEAB community, our volunteers, and the children from our village education centres in Tamil Nadu, India, we extend our heartfelt appreciation and best wishes to the indigo foundation. Congratulations on this incredible milestone, and thank you for your unwavering support and belief in the power of education to transform lives.

Semmalar Selvi, PEAB

indigo foundation extends our heartfelt thanks to Navitas for their generous support of the PEAB program . Their funding has made it possible for PEAB to continue their vital work supporting the education of Dalit children

The power of education in Pasumbar

PEAB, India



Nivetha at her tuition class

by Jennifer Barton, PC India

Nivetha lives with her family in the village of Pasumbur, which is little more than a cluster of dwellings surrounded by agricultural land in the Maduranthakam district, south of the busy metropolis of Chennai in Tamil Nadu. Many aspects of family life and work in this rural area have not changed in centuries. Those living in similar tiny villages around the main village of Karunghuzi, are mostly Dalits (once referred to as ‘untouchables’) who traditionally have lived separately from those in the Hindu caste system. The standard of their dwellings varies considerably – depending on family income.

Many families in the district rely on seasonal agricultural work and local government jobs, such as weeding, road maintenance and drain clearing. Underemployment is a major issue for most living in this district. People walk where they need to go if they do not have a bicycle or motorcycle or cannot access a rickshaw or government bus.

Nivetha is now in Grade 11. She has attended after school tuition sessions at a Village Education Centre (VEC) since she was in Grade 5. The VEC closest to her home is held on the back porch of the home of her tutor, Mrs Samundeshwari. Around twenty students gather there with their school textbooks for two hours after school each day. They help each other revise the day’s lessons and do their homework. They ask their tutor to explain anything they can’t understand.

Nivetha’s tuition class is part of the Program for Education and Awareness Building (PEAB), which has been funded by indigo since 2007. The program includes seven VECs held on house porches, roof terraces and outdoor community spaces. PEAB funding also covers the cost of rent for a Coaching Centre in the village of Karunghuzi for senior students preparing for the state exam at the end of Grade 10.

Senior students are coached by trained teachers who work at secondary schools in the district. Around 200 students are enrolled in the VECs and the Coaching Centre each year. The Program aims to help students stay at school until at least Grade 10. Job opportunities improve for those who pass the state exam at this level and continue their education to Grade 12. Participation in PEAB helps build student confidence as well as awareness of broader social issues.

Like many in this district, Nivetha’s parents are not educated and face many financial constraints. Nivetha’s father has had heart surgery and is currently unable to work. Her mother works as a daily wage earner in a local private beer company and her brother works part time in a finance company. Their earnings help fund his studies at a polytechnic, and Nivetha’s older sister studies for a diploma of nursing. Nivetha’s sister also benefited from PEAB tuition for many years.

When in Grade 10 Nivetha struggled initially with science and maths. Her tutor and other senior

students helped her whenever she had a question. Her tutor also helped her create a study plan for her final exams. Nivetha achieved an outstanding score of 466 out of 500 in her Grade 10 exam and was one of four girls in the Program who scored above 80%. Nivetha decided to study in the science and maths stream in Grade 11, but her progress was initially hampered while her government school endeavoured to recruit a science teacher. A PEAB science teacher stepped in and provided Nivetha with extra tuition on Saturdays until her school recruited a teacher.

PEAB tutors and teachers are incredibly committed to their students, and most have been involved in the Program for several years. Some of the tutors were participants in the program when they were at school. The community respects them for their contribution to the education and wellbeing of both boys and girls in the district.

Some young students in the district dropout of school before Grade 10 – especially if they do not attend tuition and fall behind with their studies or there are problems at home. Drug addiction is a problem among those in the ‘dropout gang’.

PEAB staff visit the homes of all students to help parents understand the value of education and the importance of doing extra study in order to pass the all-important state exams. They work hard to convince parents to allow their daughters

to continue their education rather than following the traditional path of domestic duties and early marriage.

The contrast between life in this rural area as opposed to the metropolis of Chennai, only 80k away, is immense. The PEAB team take students to Chennai to expose them to the life and opportunities in the city and broaden their views on possible futures. Visiting speakers also inspire the students and expand their awareness of their rights as well as opportunities. The teachers provide study and career guidance to students and encourage them to pursue their education beyond Grade 12.

Nivetha wants to complete her secondary school studies and then do an undergraduate degree in Law at a government college. This will depend on support from her parents and brother. Nivetha’s parents have expressed their gratitude to the PEAB team for the support given to both their daughters.

indigo’s volunteer Partnership Coordinator, Jennifer Barton, met Nivetha and other students in the Program when she visited the district in January this year accompanied by PEAB Liaison Officer Semmalar Selvi, who is a lecturer at a University in Chennai and has guided this community-based program in Maduranthakam since 2012. Semmalar is a strong advocate for Dalit rights and access to quality education.

Tuition class



Update on the winter education program

Afghanistan



Afghanistan winter education program

I, Amina, was employed in one of the community supported schools last year to teach Grade 4 students. Amidst many challenges for women and girls in our community, I felt proud of my teaching last year because my students, especially little girls, were so happy to see me in the class. In social gatherings, many mothers spoke of my work and the impact it had on their girls and families. Many mothers encouraged me to stay in the school even if it gets harder for women and girls to study and work.

by Ali Reza Yunespour, PC Afghanistan

We take heart in the quote from Amina and admire her courage and determination. We see this commitment in many of the teachers and students we help with your generous support.

We are glad to also share that our partner communities' winter education programs in Afghanistan helped over 700 students in 25 local mosques and madrasas from mid-Dec 2024 to mid-March 2025. Despite increased restrictions on girls' education, our partner communities stood together to support their winter education programs.

Supporting the winter education program was an opportunity for us and our partner communities

to maintain long-standing education traditions in their mosques and madrasas. For instance, mosques and madrasas, which were historically funded largely by religious endowment or waqf, were the primary centres of learning in these communities. Young boys - and some girls specially in the 1980s and 1990s - attended mosques and madrasas to study Quran, Islamic (Shi'a) jurisprudence, hadith (the sayings of the Prophet Mohammad), Persian poems, and calligraphy. In the past two decades (2001-2021), international efforts, Afghan government education programs and indigo foundation's support helped our partner communities to establish schools and make them the primary centres of learning. Consequently, the community supported three-month education programs in their mosques in Afghanistan's winter seasons to

help students prepare for the university's national admission exams and catch up on studies that they perhaps missed during school's academic calendars. After the return of the Taliban in August 2021 and their restrictions of education for girls and women, our partner communities have worked with indigo foundation to maintain their winter education programs to support male students and provide informal education for young girls.

The Taliban interim authority officially opened primary and secondary schools on 20 March 2025 to start the new schooling year in Afghanistan. Due to recent snow and relatively cold weather, our partner schools will start their new academic year from mid-April 2025. Sadly, the restrictions on girls' education in secondary and tertiary levels will continue this year. On International Women's Day and during the recent Afghan New Year, education and human right advocates, foreign governments, and relevant UN agencies called on the Taliban to allow girls and women to participate in all levels of education, work, and civic activities. To date, however, the Taliban's response has remained the same as the last three years.

A further contextual challenge for education in Afghanistan in 2025 is the global uncertainties

that have been created by the new US administration and the reduction of funding by other education donors. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), US funds made nearly 45 percent of all reported humanitarian funding in Afghanistan in 2024. Since 20 January 2025, USAID's Stop Work Order has had a real impact on a deteriorating humanitarian situation within the country and on forcefully displaced Afghans in the neighbouring countries. According to [a report](#) that was published on 1 April 2025, 'around 36% of US funding to Afghanistan has been cut (including humanitarian, private companies, and USAID costs themselves)'. As such, more than 50 national and international NGOs have reportedly suspended entirely or in part their life-saving activities. The sudden and disruptive USAID funding cuts have deteriorated the gaps between needed and delivered funds to Afghanistan in the initial months of this year.

In such a challenging time, our commitment to our partner communities will continue with your understanding, your generous support and your solidarity. If you want more information on indigo's work or would like to support us this year, please contact Ali Reza Yunespour and Stav Zotalis to arrange a Zoom or phone call.

Afghanistan winter education program



Young people making their country safe

JDN, Timor Leste



Ines, a Microlet Driver for JDN

by JDN advisor, Bernie McEvoy

Two days ago, a young woman was travelling home on a microlet in Dili. All the other passengers disembarked and she was alone with the driver. He locked all the doors and she was forced to crawl out the window to get out.

A few months ago, a young woman with sight impairment stepped off the microlet and fell into a hole.

JDN (Juventude ba Dezenvolvimentu Nasional) a Dili based Youth NGO, has been campaigning since 2020 to increase the safety of women and

people with disabilities on public transport. The two main strategies they are currently working on with the Ministry of Transport and Communications are:

- To implement a Code of Conduct for Microlet Drivers:
- To make specific seats on every microlet and bus available to people with disabilities.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Transport (MTC), the National Directorate of Transport (DN TT) and the National Police (PNTL), JDN put 800 Stickers in microlets informing passengers

which seats are designated for people with disabilities so other passengers could vacate these seats to allow people with disabilities to sit there. As part of the socialisation of the stickers the Minister of Transport said: *"The sticker will be close to the available seat and drivers should ensure that their microlets always display this sticker."*

Youth leaders from JDN are currently monitoring the effectiveness of the stickers on the microlets. This has involved 3 leaders (one with a disability) getting on the microlet. They wait to see if the passengers move to give the designated seat to the person with a disability. If they don't – one of the leaders points to the sticker and comments on this. The person with a disability says that it is easier if I am sitting down. If the passenger does not offer their seat to the person with a disability one of the leaders points to the sticker and asks the person if they have noticed it. Often another passenger will comment *"don't you see the sticker telling you that the seat is allocated for people with disabilities"*. JDN leaders then go on to explain why the seats have been allocated. Sometimes the driver also comments that people must move to allow people with disabilities to sit there.

The Code of Conduct for Public Transport Drivers is going to be launched by the Ministry of Transport next month. After the launch, workshops to socialise the Code to drivers will

begin. This is a very important step as sexual harassment of young women is seen as 'normal' behaviour. The education of drivers will sensitise them to what is happening on their microlet and give them strategies to keep their passengers safe and also offer protection to them when they have threatening passengers.

The young people who are making this happen have committed their time and energy over many years to build this campaign in a very persistent effort to see change. Young people with disabilities and without have come together to discuss with one another the challenges they each face. They have built networks and sought support from relevant Government departments. They have collected case studies of experiences of young women, interviewed microlet drivers and owners and made a short film about this issue (see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHTxN8V3ewo0>). They have organised public meetings, designed stickers and posters and continued to gather the evidence for change. Key to their efforts is the education of other young people in the community, inviting them to become activists to prevent harassment and discrimination.

Let's hope the adult leaders in Timor-Leste reward this effort by implementing the Code of Conduct for Public Transport drivers that will improve the safety of public transport in Timor-Leste.

[Left to right] Venezia, Sonia, Nea and Lucia on JDN microlet, October, 2024



Introduction to new board member, Louisa Yasukawa



It all began with a very lucky Google search.

It was 2012 and I had just started studying at the Australian National University (ANU). As I was searching online for volunteering opportunities, indigo's slogan *"the first thing we offer is respect"* caught my eye.

As a volunteer, I had the pleasure of creating content for indigo's website, donning Lycra in support of the Bilberry Fund bike ride, and helping to organise several fundraising dinners. I accidentally shut off the sound system during an Indonesian dance performance at one fundraising dinner... so my contribution hasn't always been positive!

After graduating from the ANU, I worked in the humanitarian sector in Geneva and South America for six years. I returned to Sydney last year and am honoured to have recently joined indigo's board as a trainee member.

So, what brings me back to indigo all these years later?

Put simply, indigo turns buzzwords into a reality. During my time in Geneva, there were calls for greater "community-ownership" and "localisation" in the humanitarian and

development sectors. I remember thinking it odd that these were often presented as "new" and "innovative" concepts when they had long been at the core of indigo's mission.

indigo offers an alternative to the top-down approach to aid that tends to overlook local expertise and reinforce colonial legacies. Whether it's in Afghanistan, India, Rwanda, Indonesia, Timor-Leste or Bougainville, indigo celebrates local organisations' capacity to lead change on their terms.

I'm also attracted to indigo's vibrant and inclusive community in Australia. I'm grateful to have met incredible mentors and role models at indigo, including Libby, Lyla and Stav. I've loved engaging with other board members, partnership coordinators, and diverse supporters, and hearing what drew them to indigo.

As a high school Latin nerd, I was interested to learn that the word "respect" derives from the Latin *"respicere"*, which means "to look back at" or "to look again". Professor Patricia Harris writes, *"respect signifies acknowledgement of the inherent worth of a particular person, quality or practice"*. To me, respect involves pausing before dismissing, judging or controlling another, and taking a closer look at their views and values.

Sadly, we live in a world where we are losing the art of respect. We struggle to respectfully communicate, respectfully disagree and respectfully collaborate with others. What makes indigo's approach special is the way that it recognises the inherent worth of the people and practices behind each community partner. In being grounded in respect, this unique approach ultimately has a more lasting impact.

What have I learnt since I first stumbled across indigo 13 years ago?

I've learnt that *"the first thing we offer is respect"* is more than just a catchy slogan. I've learnt that even small amounts of funding can be a powerful catalyst for change. And I've learnt that you never know where a lucky Google search can lead you.

25 year anniversary tributes from long term supporters

Libby Lloyd AO

indigo Patron

It is wonderful to share this milestone of indigo foundation's 25-year anniversary. Personally, I am proud to have been associated with indigo for nearly two decades. 'From small things big things grow'.

We celebrate the vision of a committed group of young women friends who, 25 years ago, worked to create a new model of partnered development by establishing the foundation and defining its enduring principles.

I have cherished witnessing the progress and growth of partners over the years, each contributing to the betterment of its own community. The foundation and each project has been supported by dedicated large numbers of volunteer project managers, donors, general volunteers, and staff from Australia and beyond.

These achievements in Australia, India, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Rwanda, Timor-Leste, The Congo, Papua New Guinea, and more, have been hugely rewarding. The combined vision and efforts have transformed small ideas into impactful outcomes through their enthusiasm, cleverness, kindness, and generosity.

The foundation's work stands out for fostering meaningful transformations.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the indigo foundation and everyone who is, or has been involved with indigo, on this milestone and look forward to celebrating many more years of success together.

Rob Mitchell

Former General Manager

My support for the indigo foundation started 15 years ago when I was Projects Director for the Rotary Club of Ryde, working with the foundation to develop and support its work in Afghanistan.

Perhaps the most significant factor in my continued commitment has been the certainty that all work is within the framework of "respectful partnerships".

The longevity of community partnerships and the obvious appreciation of partner communities are, in my view, standout aspects of the foundation's work.

I think the greatest long-term impact has been from the education-based projects/partnerships, made possible by long-term commitments which have lasted for the entirety of a students primary and secondary education.

My advice to potential donors and supporters is to consider the outstanding results of the indigo foundation "respectful partnership paradigm", and to give it their support.

Leigh Cuppitt

Former Board member

I would say that the chance to meet Hako during my work in Bougainville gave me the opportunity to see the amazing work they were already achieving with such small resources.

I was so pleased that indigo supported my belief that Hako was a very viable organisation, capable of much more work to support a large community with needs resulting from the previous troubles in Bougainville.

I think indigo's total commitment to support - but not lead - communities to help themselves is indigo's greatest strength.

Pam Hargerink

Development Committee to the Board (DCB) member since 2020

I have been an external member of the Development Committee to the Board of the indigo foundation since early 2020, though I first heard of indigo some years before that through a work colleague who had been involved in indigo over a number of years. I joined indigo just as the COVID-19 pandemic began to sweep through the world, with all that that entailed. The great care, thoughtfulness and flexibility indigo demonstrated in working with partners through the covid years, in which partners had to adapt or pause their activities significantly, was truly inspirational.

indigo continues to show the same care, thoughtfulness and flexibility with partners experiencing major political changes, environmental disasters, and organisational issues. It really does live up to its principle, "the first thing we offer is respect".

I continue to be in awe of the amazing skills, experience and commitment of the indigo board, volunteers and staff, all with such warmth and generosity.

Jude Finch

Development Committee to the Board (DCB) member since 2020

I have been fortunate to be involved in the indigo foundation for 5 years as a member of its Development Committee to the Board. I was invited to join because of my experience in the international development sector but I quickly learned that I would gain much more than I could ever offer! I saw that indigo was a truly value led organisation, that fostered deep and trusting relationships with partners, considered its programs and impact with great care, balancing the important unique needs of partners with the demands of donors. Mutual respect is one of indigo's touchstones and I have seen this now unusual value played out again and again in relationships with partners abroad and members here.

Separately, I have a long term and particular commitment to Timor-Leste, our nearest neighbour and still one of the poorest nations on the planet. This means that I have paid particular attention to the way that indigo's people have gone about developing funding relationships and contributing to development in Timor. I am especially impressed with the volunteer / never-the-less professional model of partnership coordinators that is core to indigo's connections. PCs are highly skilled individuals who donate their time and careful expertise to act as the key links with selected partners and then support and resource them in ways that are mature, responsive, warm and very smart. I see that partners benefit and grow through indigo's direct support but also through the immense skills, networks and sheer hard work that the PC brings to the relationship. Bravo PCs and bravo indigo!



support our work

We only exist as a result of the generosity of a huge range of supporters.

Whether it is by making a small donation every month, volunteering your time or expertise, or by helping us raise funds and awareness about our projects, it is all critical to our objective of improving the lives of those in marginalised communities and building the power of small grassroots organisations.

No matter how big or small your contribution might be, every little bit counts.

On behalf of everyone we work with, thank you for your ongoing support.



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