I'd Like You To Know
I'd Like You To Know
...What changed my life
...What I hope for the future
...What I dream for my children
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Just as a picture is worth a thousand words, a “voice” can be worth a hundred statistics. In the pages that follow you will see the pictures and hear the voices of our partners in development: a mother cradling her little boy who is alive because of a new health facility in Cambodia; a school principal in Beijing who talks with passion about how her school is part of the solar energy wave; a cocoa farmer in Papua New Guinea who happily works with youth to help them build a sustainable crop and a sustainable future; a village chief in Lao PDR who lovingly holds his grandson and talks about the better life he now knows the boy can have; and a student in Vietnam whose life changed when she received a scholarship.

Together they present powerful stories of how projects can affect and transform lives, and offer us a memorable glimpse behind the numbers. Stories like these motivate me both personally and professionally. At the end of the day the work we do in development is not about numbers; it’s about supporting people to change their own lives for the better, to build a future for their children and, with a little help, to pull themselves out of poverty.

Of course, numbers and statistics are important. They help us understand the bigger picture—the pivotal role governments play in ensuring economic growth and a livable future for their people, and the catalytic role the private sector and development institutions like the World Bank Group can play in helping to achieve the results we see. As a global growth driver, the East Asia and Pacific region accounts for over 25 percent of world gross domestic product. Extreme poverty has fallen faster than in any other region. Over the last 10 years more than 400 million people were lifted out of poverty—people that were living on less than $2 a day. This is good progress, but much work remains: 142 million people do not have access to power and 600 million people lack access to adequate sanitation.

You may not remember the numbers, but I hope you remember the people you will meet in the pages of this book. They put a human face on development statistics. They are testimony to the power of seemingly small things that gave them an opportunity to build a better life for themselves, their families, their communities. As Glenda, Siv Mao and others tell their stories, they give us a sense of how they are succeeding, with courage and determination, to change their own lives and the world around them. They represent millions of other men and women who are transforming their communities and countries into more prosperous societies. We are privileged to support their efforts in creating a better world for themselves and their children.
Introduction

In Indonesia it was $50, in Vanuatu a cell phone, in Cambodia a night in the hospital, in Vietnam just $90—small by any measure but immeasurable in the outcome—that saved a life, created a future, allowed people to dream and empowered women.

Meet Siti Robe’ah in Indonesia who has built her snack food business with a $50 grant; Kelson in Vanuatu who can grow a tourism business because he now has a cell phone; Siv Mao in Cambodia who can hug her baby because a new provincial hospital saved his life; Pham Quoc Bao in Vietnam who has turned his idea to build a rice paper factory into a thriving business because he was able to purchase land quickly.

They are some of the faces of development in the East Asia and Pacific region, which is home to more than two billion people. They live in more than 20 different countries; they speak more than 3,000 languages; they are farmers and fishermen, business men and women, students, workers, nomadic herders—all showing that a little can go a long way.
They are improving their own lives with a little help from the World Bank Group, their own country and other development partners in the form of investments in the basics of daily life like water, electricity and health care; a small grant, a community-driven development program; business initiatives that cut bureaucratic red tape; scholarships that enable disadvantaged students to skill up for the future; and initiatives to protect the environment and tackle climate change.

This dynamic region has experienced remarkable growth and prosperity, with extreme poverty falling faster than in any other region. The rate of extreme poverty—people living on $1.25 a day—fell from 26.5 percent in 2002 to about 5.1 percent in 2014. As encouraging as that is, much more remains to be done to end extreme poverty and build shared prosperity. And this has to happen as the world is confronting the very real threat that a changing climate could unravel decades of development progress.

Today, there are still more than 340 million people across the region living on just $2 a day. Siti, Kelson, Siv Mao, Pham Quoc Bao and the others you will get to know in the pages of this book are helping to change that statistic. They are the real partners of the World Bank Group. They are persevering, making a better life for themselves, their families and their communities. They will tell you, in their own words, about their failures and successes, what changed their lives, how they are overcoming challenges, their hopes for the future, and what they dream for their children.
I'D LIKE YOU TO KNOW

3.3 MILLION RESIDENTS OF METRO MANILA HAVE BENEFITED FROM IMPROVED SEWERAGE AND SANITATION SERVICES.

IN MYANMAR, WHERE OVER 70% OF THE PEOPLE LACK ACCESS TO POWER, THE WORLD BANK GROUP WILL BE INVESTING $1 BILLION TO EXPAND ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY.

90% OF RESIDENTS OF PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA HAVE ACCESS TO A RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY.

INDONESIA’S PAMSIMAS PROJECT, SUPPORTED BY THE WORLD BANK, HAS IMPROVED ACCESS TO WATER SUPPLY FOR 4.8 MILLION PEOPLE AND ACCESS TO SANITATION FOR 5.5 MILLION PEOPLE.
It’s hard to imagine. Over 1.3 billion people, almost 20 percent of the world’s population, still have no access to electricity. Most of them are concentrated in about a dozen countries in Africa and Asia. Not only does this hurt people at a personal level, it impedes the development potential of entire countries.

Electricity is just one of the missing basics. About 768 million people worldwide lack access to clean water and 2.5 billion do not have adequate sanitation. In East Asia and the Pacific alone about 600 million people lack sanitation. This takes a heavy toll on human health, the environment and economies.

In Vietnam and Lao PDR, the World Bank Group has been working with the government and communities to expand electricity distribution networks, enabling millions to gain access to power from the grid.

That was the case for Phim Siphavong in Lao PDR who had no electricity until early in 2014. Today Phim is expanding her small business with the help of a new refrigerator and electric blender.

The World Bank Group is an active partner in helping people meet their basic needs—people like 27-year-old Glenda Vaha who will tell you how clean water has changed her life and the life of her village in Solomon Islands.

On top of these challenges, climate change is altering the development equation and posing a critical question: how can we achieve universal access to energy in a sustainable way? In Mongolia, nomadic herders Batzaya and Sarangerel have an answer. They are using the power of the sun to light up their lives.
Lao PDR: Power empowers

**THEN:** In 1995, only 16% of rural households, which made up 68% of the total population in Lao PDR, had access to electricity.

It's something most of us take for granted—with the flick of a switch we light up the room, cook our dinner, turn on the heat. But that's not the case for the nearly one in five people in the world who live without electricity.
NOW: Today, more than 87% of Lao households have access to electricity.

The 110 families that live in the village of Hard Yeun are among the 200,000 households that now have electricity through a World Bank Group-supported program.

Established in 1918, the village of Hard Yeun spent 95 of its 96 years without electricity. It was in early 2014 that the people of Hard Yeun finally saw what power could do for their lives.
I learned weaving from my mother, but I only started to weave here in my village since we got electricity, because the silk spinning machine is powered.
The Story of Hard Yeun Village

Like many of the villages of Lao PDR, most of the residents of Hard Yeun are engaged in slash-and-burn cultivation, growing vegetables and rice.

Their houses are simple straw and wood, built on stilts, like any other Lao village, except for the power lines running from house to house—and that has made all the difference.

Tum Kedleusy

A weaving machine sat unused in 27-year-old Tum Kedleusy’s house until the village got electricity. Married with a two and a half year old son, Tum now earns money selling her weaving in the capital, Vientiane.

“With the arrival of electricity we now have the refrigerator, fan, television and also a silk spinning machine. It has made a big difference in our lives.

“I am weaving tinh sinh (the bottom of the Lao skirt). I can make two pieces of tinh sinh per day which I sell in Vientiane.”
Other women in the village are also seeing the improvements that electricity can bring to their businesses. Phim Siphavong, 49, lives with her husband and two children in Hard Yeun village. For the last 20 years she has sold snacks and daily-use items from her house. But now there is a difference.

Every day, from early morning, I cook food in the house, feed the pigs and chickens and then sell the goods at our home. Before, it was not possible to turn on and use the electrical appliances because there was no electricity.
Now, we have a refrigerator and lights. Now we can sell cold drinking water, soft drinks. I have even begun to sell fruit shakes to my customers. My daughter helps me make the shakes.
Phouvieng Phiakeo

“When there was no electricity, there were a lot of difficulties. When the evening came and the sun was going to set, we had to quickly take out the lamps for lighting. Looking for food was also difficult; we get food in nature; we eat what we can collect. When we got food, there was no place to keep it—some days, we caught many fishes but we could only keep them for a day or so. Travel was also difficult because there was no light. Sometimes, the husband and wife were arguing because they could not light the lamp because it had no fuel.

“Now, the living condition of the people in the village has changed significantly. Before, we used fire wood for cooking, but now we can use an electric pot to cook rice; it is more convenient and labor-saving, because there is no need to go to collect firewood.

“With the electricity, there is no need for women to go to fetch and carry water because we have the well and can pump out water. We just turn on the switch and the water is flowing out, so it is very convenient. We even get to watch television. We even got to watch the World Cup football games!

“Without electricity, we would not have a future. Earning a livelihood would be as difficult as it was in the past. Now, because of the electricity, just in the last several months we have all sorts of possibilities. A rice mill is being established. Some villagers have bought a milling head to combine with the dynamo for milling rice.

“In the future, I think there will also be profit from building furniture; villagers have started a workshop because now they can use power tools to make the furniture.”
What I Dream for My Children

“I want a different life than I’ve had for my children and grandchildren, like my grandson. He is five years old. I want him to have a job, a future. I don’t want him to do physical labor like we have done. In the past, we worked in slash-and-burn cultivation.

“I do not want him to have to work like that. I want him to use ideas, to pursue high study in order to use knowledge in the future, to become an official. I look at him and see another kind of future for him.”
Solomon Islands: Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink

Almost 85 percent of Solomon Islanders live in rural areas cut off from basic services like health and schools. The huge distances make service delivery very costly for the government. The Solomon Islands Rural Development Program (RDP) funded by the World Bank, Australia, the European Union (EU) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), is helping to address service delivery gaps in rural areas. RDP has helped transform the lives of people in rural areas with water supply systems, health clinics, classrooms and other essentials. In 2012, Glenda Vaha’s life was changed when 25 water pipes were installed in her village of Nagholau.

THEN: Solomon Islands sits in the middle of the vast Pacific Ocean, but fresh water is an issue. In the early 1980s, less than 20% of people in rural areas had access to a fresh water supply.
NOW:
77% of Solomon Islanders have improved access to rural water supply.
Glenda Vaha’s Story

“My name is Glenda Vaha. I am 27 years old. I have three children, two boys of eight and seven months and a girl of two. My husband left me for another woman. I met another man but it didn’t work out. I am back in my parents’ village with my children.

“When I came back to the village we didn’t have fresh water; we did not have water piped to the village—life was very hard. The women do most of the work in carrying water to the family. They carry everything else, pots, plates, clothes for washing; these are the things they normally have to do, so most times women have this huge responsibility of carrying water.

“We had to paddle every day to find water, or walk to find water. Sometimes we paddled through rough seas; we even faced the risk of sinking with the canoe, but when we really needed the water, we had no choice but to go. Sometimes the canoe would sink and we’d lose everything at sea. Luckily no one died.

“Now, since they installed the water pipes in the village, life is easier. You can do everything that involves water—it’s always there. So we are very happy we have water come to us; it’s really great. It has lifted a huge burden off our shoulders.”

Oh, life now is very easy. When we need water it’s easy for us to get it.
My Hopes for the Future

“When I was little, my dream was to get an education to enable me to get a job. But then my dream did not work out.

“They told me to put my education first but I wanted to get married instead. If I had continued my schooling, I would have caught up with my dream by now.

“I still have hope and I still aim to have something good happen in the future. I want to have a job, and I want to go back to college. I’m still young; I’m just 27.

“I want my children to get a good education to be able to have decent jobs in the future. That’s my hope. I will make sure they go to school to be able to avoid the hard life that I am experiencing.”
I’D LIKE YOU TO KNOW

THEN: One quarter of Mongolia’s population are nomadic herders who live in gers—traditional tent homes. As late as 2000, herders had limited or no access to modern electricity services. Sometimes, they would simply put sheep dung in a bowl, drop in some fat and light it.
NOW: Today, more than 500,000 people, over half the rural population of Mongolia—including 60-70% of nomadic herders—have electricity through portable and affordable solar home systems.

The National 100,000 Solar Ger Electrification program was launched by the Mongolian government with support from the World Bank Group’s International Development Association (IDA), the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the government of the Netherlands. With electricity, herders are now able to listen to the radio, watch television using satellite dishes and recharge their cell phones—all of which keep them informed about the market prices of their products and connected to a wider world. Children are also able to read and study under electric lights after the sun goes down.
It was beyond imagination for us to think of turning on a light in the evening.
Batzaya and Sarangerel’s Story

Sarangerel, 38, and her husband Batzaya, 40, are herdsmen from Lun Soum, Tuv Aimag in Mongolia. Together with their three children, they live a nomadic life on the Mongolian steppes in a ger (a portable dwelling). During the transition from a centralized economy to an open market society, many of their friends and neighbors moved to cities because they no longer wanted to herd cattle. But Batzaya and Sarangerel stayed. Batzaya says it was a good decision. They have a comfortable life with about 2,000 head of livestock. Their children study in the city.

Batzaya: “Before, there was no light after sunset. It was even difficult during the winter season. We held candles. With a candle you can only see as far as the face of the person that is sitting in front of you. Since we couldn’t watch TV or read books we went to bed early after fencing our cattle. Before solar panels, sometimes we used a small generator to produce electricity. We couldn’t use it for a long period because it was very noisy. Also, since we were far away from any settlements we couldn’t use the generator because the fuel would run out. That is how our childhoods were spent.

“Almost every herder household today has solar panels, but I remember how amazing the idea of solar power was the first time I heard about it. Beginning in 2000, people began talking about these black panels which are fixed on top of gers and can produce electricity—and we were in awe.”

Sarangerel: “Mongolia has lots of sunlight all year round. So, as long as there is a sun we will have electricity. People in urban areas pay a large amount of money for electricity consumption every month. Here, we are using the sun.”

Before, we used to carry our scriptures and Buddhas on top of our loads, but now it’s the solar panels on top.
“We started using solar panels when our two eldest children were little. They were so happy to be able to watch TV and they kept turning the light on and off. We were the first household to install solar panels and to have TV in our community. At the time our neighbors who lived one or two kilometers away rode their horses over just to watch a movie.”

Batzaya: “Our first panel was enough for lighting, TV and recharging our mobile phones. Recently, we purchased a freezer along with its solar panel. We no longer have to worry about our meat going bad. Some households have purchased washing machines. Now, we can make calls to people up on the mountain and ask them where our cattle are grazing. We are able to know the price of raw materials right away. Because of that we can now sell at competitive prices.”

Sarangerel: “It is very useful that we can get information on weather. If there is a possibility of snowstorm we can graze our cattle close to us. We are no longer in danger of losing livestock and people in storms.

“Before we thought that having electricity for lighting and watching TV was sufficient, but now I am thinking about putting solar paneled lights outside. We have even started thinking about purchasing more appliances. But there is one obstacle. Mongolians are nomads. We live by following our cattle. We move about five or six times a year. Because we move so often it is difficult to carry more loads. We have to make sure that when we move we carry our solar panels without breaking them.”

Our daughter Ariungerel is five years old. She doesn’t know what it was like not to have electricity. Now, she just fights over the remote with us.
Life is Good

Batzya: “Our eldest son is a college student and our daughter goes to high school. We bought an apartment in the city. Our children live there. If our children do not want to herd cattle then we won’t pressure them. Here, we are living comfortably with income by selling our livestock and having electricity. If dzud (a severe winter) does not happen often and the weather doesn’t change drastically, our livestock increases.

“When we first became a family we had around 300 livestock. Now, excluding camels, our livestock number almost 2,000 including horses, goats, sheep and cows. We have a truck and a SUV for moving. There is no shortage in the countryside, as long as there is electricity for people to live comfortably.”
In rural areas, home to over 70% of the population of Timor-Leste, the World Bank is supporting a new medical system that will ensure availability of medical supplies.

In the Philippines, the rate of childbirth in health facilities jumped from 23% to 58% over a six-year period with help from a World Bank-supported women’s health and safe motherhood project.

To date, IFC has provided more than $2.2 billion to 164 private health care and life sciences projects in 53 countries worldwide, including China, Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam in East Asia.

68% in Vietnam, as of 2013, 68% of the population was covered by fully subsidized health insurance.
The First Wealth Is Health

It’s no secret that without good health, life can be miserable or tragically cut short. The East Asia and Pacific region has a high prevalence of communicable diseases and emerging diseases (recall the global SARS outbreak in 2003). Non-communicable diseases have become increasingly prevalent in recent decades. Cardiovascular disease, for instance, accounts for about one third of all deaths in the region.

Health indicators such as life expectancy are on the rise across the region as a result of better living standards, nutrition, water and sanitation. Japan, Singapore and Korea have life expectancies over 80, while China and Vietnam stand in the mid-70s. In contrast, Papua New Guinea and Myanmar have life expectancies lower than 65. Maternal mortality and malnutrition are just some of the major health problems that persist across the region.

There are also large inequalities in access to care between the poor and those who are better off. While many countries have introduced wide-ranging reforms in their health financing systems, implementation has not been very strong, and health-related expenditures continue to be a cause of impoverishment for millions of families every year.

Every country in the region has its reasons for the paucity of healthcare. The Cambodian story is particularly poignant.

The Cambodian genocide dominates the nation’s recent history. Carried out by the communist Khmer Rouge regime led by Pol Pot between 1975 and 1979, the genocide killed 25 percent of the Cambodian population.

The horrific events of those years have left lasting scars on the Cambodian psyche and on all areas of development—education, infant and maternal mortality and health care in general. Many health facilities around the country were destroyed during the conflict. The government has since taken steps to reconstruct and revitalize the public health system with the assistance of donors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Donors include the World Bank, Australia, UK Department for International Development, UNICEF and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).

The hospital 16 Makara is testament to the resilience of the Cambodian people. In a tiny northern village, 26-year-old Siv Mao will tell you what the new hospital has meant to her and her family.
Cambodia: The long journey back

From 1975-1979, the period in which the Khmer Rouge aimed to turn Cambodia into a model agrarian society, the entire health care system was destroyed—hospital buildings, equipment, supplies and personnel. With the medical system in tatters, many people, especially in remote areas, turned to traditional healers that were all they knew.

In the 1980s, Vietnamese soldiers in Cambodia built a makeshift hospital (see above) in the province of Preah Vihear. Even though the roof leaked and the earthen floors became mud when it rained, people still flocked to the old wooden building for medical treatment until it closed in 2007.

THEN:
In 1990, life expectancy in Cambodia was 54 years.

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THEN:
In 1990, life expectancy in Cambodia was 54 years.
A new hospital facility in Preah Vihear is a symbol of the incredible change over the last 20 years in Cambodia’s health care system. The once ill-equipped hospital had a major upgrade and officially opened in 2013. Patients living in rural areas can now get the modern medicine they need without traveling far or trying to come up with money they don’t have.

Today, 16 Makara is the largest hospital in Preah Vihear. It has modern equipment and is staffed with doctors and medical specialists including hospital director Dr. Koung Lo. Two of the patients were Chet Doc and Siv Mao.
Siv Mao’s Story

In a tiny village in northern Cambodia, a young woman can thank her quick-thinking mother-in-law and the new provincial hospital for her and her baby’s survival. Thanks to improvements in health care, maternal mortality in Cambodia has fallen approximately two-thirds since 1990. Siv Mao puts a human face on that statistic.

A year ago, 26-year-old Siv Mao had a cesarean section at 16 Makara Hospital after a traditional midwife could not help deliver her baby at home. Mao and her husband Ra Reth, 27, and their son live with her mother-in-law in Char Village, Preah Vihear province, about 400 kilometers from Phnom Penh.
“My job is farming. I live with my mother-in-law. My health is normal, but last year towards the end of my pregnancy I saw that I was bleeding. I was very afraid. I worried about my life and my baby. I was at home alone—my mom and my husband had gone to farm. Then I called them to come back.

“Some patients use Khmer traditional healers, but some go to a health center. If we don’t have money, we borrow from relatives. I was sent to the health center. When we arrived at the health center, they started an intravenous drip, but the bleeding didn’t stop. They told me they could not treat me and sent me to the provincial hospital. It was there that the doctors operated on me to deliver my son. He is now one year old. His name is Rith Samnang ‘Lucky’. We are all very lucky. He is in good health.”
Siv Mao’s mother-in-law, Sin Savy, 58, picks up the story…

“When we arrived at the hospital, doctors told me that if she had been sent to the hospital even two days later, she would have died. The doctor told me that they would operate on her the next day. I was so happy to hear that my daughter-in-law would survive. My son was worried, but I told him that there are good doctors here and they can rescue your wife.

“I thanked the doctors and the organization¹ for helping us. Today, my grandson is in good health. I am also a trained midwife, but when I saw my daughter-in-law’s condition, I was very worried because I had never seen such a case. She was lucky to have the organization and hospital to help her and that we had a good road that could take her quickly to the hospital.”

If there were no support from the organization and no new hospital with skilled doctors, I would have spent everything I have to save her—even if I had to sell my house or my land—because I love her very much.

¹ People call the Health Equity Fund the organization. The Health Equity Fund is implemented by several non-governmental organizations based inside the hospital. Health Equity Fund schemes are supported by the government of Cambodia and various development partners including the World Bank. The fund pays for each patient’s treatment fee, meals, transport and other costs.
“This new hospital has been able to cater to many people, especially the poor. It is a source of pride for me, for my colleagues, and for our people here in Preah Vihear province. I think that the new building and modern equipment is truly contributing to reduce poverty for our people here. Now they don’t have to spend so much money to look for health services in other areas which are very far from their homes.

“We have some modern equipment that our hospital didn’t have before such as a ventilator that is used to save patients that have breathing problems; we have ECG machines for heart check-ups; and we have some equipment for delivering babies by cesarean section. We also have an incubator for saving a child born earlier than expected.”
When I was young, I didn’t think broadly enough. But after I graduated, I realized that being here in Preah Vihear province where we meet with poor people and they come to us for service, is like going to the pagoda to earn our good karma. Doing good deeds with them here is the most important thing.
Chet Doc’s Story

The Health Equity Fund was introduced at 16 Makara Hospital to subsidize treatment costs, food for the patients and their care givers, and transportation for the impoverished. This encourages the poor in remote areas to seek professional health services. In 2014, 1.5 million treatment services were provided free for people in Cambodia through the Health Equity Fund—supported by the World Bank and other donors—covering 78 percent of the nation’s poor. Chet Doc’s treatment was one of those 1.5 million cases.

Chet Doc, 66, who lives in North Kulen Village, Preah Vihear, was treated at the hospital. Doc’s husband, 65-year-old En Tel, was blinded in a land mine explosion during the civil war in 1989.
“My name is Chet Doc. I have six children—four sons and two daughters. They all are married and live with their own families. I live with my husband. My children support us. We used to farm but I cannot do any farming now. We didn’t have buffalo or cows for plowing so we did it ourselves. My health is poor. Before the hospital or health center was built, Khmer traditional healers treated our illnesses.

“Before I was sent to hospital, my children spent a lot of money to buy traditional medicine for me. They borrowed money to buy the medicine, but I didn’t get better. Then my husband asked my children not to treat me with the Khmer traditional medicine. He asked them to take me to the provincial hospital. I was very lucky that he made that request.

“My children hired a transport with 100,000 riel ($25) that they had and borrowed 1 million ($250) more to send me to the hospital. In the hospital I was unconscious for three days. When I finally woke up, the first thing I did was to ask my children how will we pay the hospital bill? They told me that the Health Equity Fund paid all the treatment fees and they also paid for transportation.

“My children also told me that the doctors took very good care of me. I told my children that because of the care I received, my life was saved. Then I prayed for the doctors and I wished them good health so they could treat me again.”

Before I was treated my body was shaking all the time. My body was so painful, I could not sleep. Now I am better. I can walk and carry some water. Before I could not carry anything—not even a plate.
3,560 classroom libraries were built in 383 rural primary schools in Mongolia through the Rural Education and Development project.

Timor-Leste’s Ministry of Education has rebuilt or rehabilitated almost 2,200 classrooms with help from the World Bank.

56,000 secondary school students in Cambodia received scholarships through an education project supported by the World Bank.

Vietnam has a literacy rate of 97% and an unemployment rate of 2%.
Long ago in Vietnamese society, education was so valued that a teacher’s position was considered higher than the parents and only lower than the king. Today, countries in the East Asia and Pacific region continue to recognize just how important education is to their growing economies and their future prosperity.

From early childhood development and education, to higher learning, to vocational training, the World Bank Group is working with countries and partners to help fulfill the potential of the region’s greatest assets for the future—children and youth.

In most countries, higher education systems are the primary producers of cutting-edge skills, knowledge and technologies. A robust higher education system can be a valuable engine for economic growth and advancement.

Although access has increased dramatically in low- and middle-income East Asia and Pacific, higher education is not yet fulfilling its potential. In Vietnam, 18-year-old Cao Thi Phuong Huyen is one of 8,000 students from poor rural areas who are helping to turn that situation around. As you will read, fulfilling her potential is what Huyen is all about.

In many cases the solutions fit the lifestyle. On the steppes of Mongolia where nomadic herders pack up and move their gers (portable homes) every five or six months, 171 mobile kindergartens were provided in various districts.
In 1987, there were just 133,000 students in higher education in Vietnam.

Then: In 1987, there were just 133,000 students in higher education in Vietnam.

Education has played an important role in making Vietnam a development success story over the last 20 years. Vietnam’s rapid economic growth in the 1990s was driven by increases in productivity that came in the wake of a rapid shift of employment out of low-productivity agriculture into higher-productivity non-farm jobs.

As Vietnam’s economy began to industrialize and modernize, poverty fell dramatically. Advancements in education followed. Between 1999 and 2013, the total number of higher education enrollments increased by 143 percent (from 893,000 to almost 2.2 million).
NOW: By 2013, almost 2.2 million students were enrolled in higher education facilities in Vietnam.

Not all students can be accommodated in public high schools in Vietnam. Some are able to turn to private schools, but because of high tuition fees, that’s not an option for the poor. A World Bank-supported project is providing grants to students in 12 of the poorest provinces of Vietnam so they can continue their studies at private high schools and vocational schools.

From 2010 to 2013, with a total budget of $3 million, the project has enabled 8,000 students to change the course of their lives. Cao Thi Phuong Huyen—Huyen to her friends—is one of those students. Like the others, $90 a year is buying her a better future.
After finishing secondary school, I didn’t pass the exam to enter public high school. I thought about getting a job, because I thought I couldn’t go to private school. It was partly because I felt discouraged, but primarily because we couldn’t afford it.
Huyen’s Story

For Huyen, getting accepted to college has taken her one step closer to her dream of becoming a teacher. Now in her freshman year at Hung Vuong University in Phu Tho Province (about 80 kilometers from Hanoi), Huyen is majoring in teaching English as a second language. But her dream would not have come true if she had dropped out of school three years earlier, when school became unaffordable for her and her family. Her parents divorced when she was six and she has lived with her mother since. Her mother, Nguyen Thi Trang, 52, is a worker in the Thuy Van Industrial Zone located seven kilometers away from their house. She earns VND 2 million ($100) per month. For Huyen, the grant of $90 dollars a year was more than just a much-needed financial lifeline.

“I am the only child in the family. Since I was younger I have always dreamed of becoming a teacher. I want to be a teacher of English.

“There are many things that helped my dream come true. My parents have encouraged me a lot and the scholarship I received helped me continue my education. Without the scholarship, my family would never have been able to afford the school fee.

“The scholarship was very important to me. It was both a spiritual and material gift that gave me more energy and provided necessary conditions so that I could continue studying. It was not just important to me, but to all other poor students.”
“My biggest challenge right now is the difficult situation of my family, because there are many things that we have to pay for when I study at the university. Another challenge is my capability—but I will make my best effort. To overcome these challenges I study hard and help my parents at home. We have a piece of land and I help my mother by working in the fields.

“My hope over the next few years is to do a very good thesis so that I can get a job as an English teacher when I graduate. I think that today English is a very popular language.”

If I didn’t have this opportunity, I know I would have gone a different path. I cannot imagine how my life would have turned out.

2 Since Huyen was first interviewed, she has received a scholarship from Hung Vong University to cover her tuition fee to continue pursuing her studies.
My advice to my friends would be that they should never give up. They should keep trying to achieve their dreams, however difficult it seems. Study hard and work hard.
From memorizers to problem-solvers

Giving students access to a good education is just one step in the skilling-up process that Vietnam is taking to keep its workforce competitive in the global arena. It’s not just what you learn, but how you learn that’s important. As part of Vietnam’s efforts to strengthen education, the government is promoting a different approach to learning instead of the traditional approaches that lean heavily on memorization and copying.

Building a skilled workforce entails revising school curriculum and teaching Vietnamese students to become more effective problem-solvers, critical thinkers, better communicators and team players. Work on a new curriculum is already underway, and Vietnam has adapted a promising model from Colombia called Escuela Nueva. This approach features more group-learning and problem-solving than the memorization and copying often seen in Vietnamese school classrooms today. A pilot underway in 1,500 primary schools across Vietnam is already showing success and holds lessons for broader reforms.
Spotlight:
China—Taking vocational training to the next level

For the past 30 years, China’s abundant supply of labor has been driving the country’s economic boom. But only half of China’s 140 million employees of urban enterprises can be classified as ‘skilled’, according to the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of China. As the country’s industries are shifting from low-skilled and labor-intensive to more skill-intensive, the need for skilled workers is rising. The World Bank has been working for over two decades with China to try and fill the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) gap.

TVET has gone big in China. According to the Ministry of Education, there are now more than 1,100 college-level TVET institutes and almost 15,000 secondary TVET schools—enrolling a whopping 11 million students per year.

In collaboration with the Chinese government, four World Bank-supported projects have helped improve the quality of education in 21 vocational and technical schools in Guangdong, Liaoning, Shandong and Yunnan provinces. These provinces are part of China’s growth story. Guangdong is the engine behind the country’s export-led growth; Shandong’s economy is the second biggest, just after Guangdong; Liaoning is one of the most important industrial bases; and Yunnan is a strategic border province and the “bridge” between China and Southeast Asia.

The aim is to modernize curriculums through the introduction of a modular, competency-based curriculum and student-centered teaching methods. Wei Bincheng, a student majoring in construction management, says the changes are quite apparent:

“It used to be that the teacher was the leader in class, and we would be just listening to them. Now a new way has been adopted—teachers work together with us on the subject, and together we make progress.”
Economies in the East Asia and Pacific region implemented 24 regulatory reforms in the past year alone, to make it easier to do business.

In Kiribati, the cost of business start-up procedures dropped by about 40% between 2003 and 2014.

In Indonesia, the time required to start a business dropped by almost 70%, from about 168 days in 2003 to 53 days in 2014.

In the last 10 years Vietnam has implemented 23 business regulatory reforms—the largest number of reforms in the region for ease of doing business.
Growing economies in the developing world have brought hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in the last two decades. In most developing countries, 90 percent of job creation comes from the private sector. It is also the engine of trade, the integrating force with the global economy that is often one of the most important factors in supporting long-term poverty reduction.

But the fact is that in many developing countries, doing business is cumbersome and frustrating, and private entrepreneurs hit roadblocks at every turn. Even getting simple permits can take weeks or months or sometimes years.

Countries across East Asia and the Pacific are taking on the challenge of making it easier to do business. With some help from the World Bank Group, countries are streamlining regulations to help unlock private sector opportunities.

In Vietnam, the World Bank Group’s International Finance Corporation (IFC), which focuses on the private sector, is helping to increase access to finance for small and medium enterprises, which contribute 40 percent to the country’s gross domestic product (GDP).

IFC also supports the government’s efforts to simplify administrative procedures and streamline processes for business start-ups, tax administration and business land acquisition. This doesn’t only improve the bottom line; it improves people’s lives.

In this chapter you will meet Pham Quoc Bao, who has been able to turn two start-up companies into thriving businesses that are creating good jobs for people in his hometown. You will also meet Nguyen Thi Dieu, whose whole life changed when Bao reached out to her to work in his factory.
Vietnam: Creating a competitive edge

**THEN:** Before 1988, there were no private enterprises operating in Vietnam, apart from family firms that did not employ wage labor.

The late 1970s and 1980s were a rough patch for the economy of Vietnam. When the Vietnam War ended in 1975, the whole country adopted a centrally planned economy in the Soviet style from the North. The economy stagnated. People faced severe shortages of food and goods, soaring inflation and deteriorating living standards.

Vietnam in those years was an agricultural society—80 percent of the population and 70 percent of the labor force were dependent on agriculture or related sectors. However, annual agricultural production was not enough to feed the people. The country suffered from constant famine and the government was forced to import thousands of tons of food annually. By the early 1980s, Vietnam’s debt equaled its annual national income.
NOW: In 2000, the Company Law was enacted to create a more business-friendly environment. The law was revised in 2014. As of the start of 2015, there were more than 480,000 active private businesses in Vietnam.

In 1986, Vietnam began its gradual transition from a command to a market economy.

In the 1990s, the economy began to bustle with small entrepreneurs, creating an important foundation of capital and skills.

Since 2006, the IFC has been supporting the government of Vietnam in its efforts to reform key business licensing procedures. Simplifications have been made in business registration in transportation, mining, banking, customs and advertising.

Entrepreneurs like Pham Quoc Bao have felt the difference. Thanks to streamlined administrative procedures, Bao was able to start building his rice paper factory much earlier than anticipated. And thanks to the opening of the rice paper factory, Nguyen Thi Dieu has been able to find a good job close to home.

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3 Rice paper is a thin translucent edible paper made from rice flour and used in Vietnamese spring rolls.
Pham Quoc Bao’s Story

“My name is Pham Quoc Bao. I am 44 years old. I got married in 1991 and had a son before moving to Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) in 1993. This is my company, the Nhan Hoa Company Ltd. It was always my idea to go out to open my eyes and come back after some years to start my own business, since I was the only son and I have my duties to my parents and my hometown. When I went to Saigon, I worked in several different lines of work and also went back to school to learn about business management.

“I was working in building construction in Saigon for about 15 years before I came back here. During that time, there were a lot of women from my town who went to Saigon to work and support their families. So when I came back in 2008, I thought it would be great to continue my family’s work in rice paper production on a more industrial level and at the same time help the women have a job close to home.”

My mother used to make and sell rice papers for a living and everyone I knew in Saigon who had tasted her rice papers always asked me to bring back some more.
“I had difficulties in the beginning. To start up a factory, you first need to have the space for it so I had to go through the paperwork to acquire a piece of land. However, the machines cannot wait for the space so we had to rent the space somewhere else. We only built this factory a year ago.

“The time before we moved here was also a time of trials. We almost went bankrupt during the first two years in business. The company was new and the name of our rice paper was unfamiliar in the market, so there were not enough customers.

“On the good side, I was very happy with how streamlined the procedures and regulations were that I dealt with to get the land to build the factory. Since I had worked in building construction back in Saigon, I was used to all the procedures. When I saw the way the officials worked here in my hometown, I knew it was going to work out well. They were all supportive of the project and quite helpful in giving instructions. I was pleasantly surprised at how fast all the procedures were being dealt with.”

At first I planned to start building the factory in 2013, thinking it would take three years to go through all the paperwork to obtain the land, but to my pleasant surprise all the paperwork was done and approved by 2010.
My Hopes for the Future

“Now I can look down the road 20 years and see an expanding business in the future. In the first two years of business, we only had 16 workers and we had days off because there was no work. Now we have 50 workers, mostly in their mid-20s and 30s, working every day and sometimes working overtime. In the future, I would like to use more technology in the production line—like dryers and more escalators—so that the female workers won’t have to work so hard outside under the hot sun. I have also started a rattan handcraft factory, which has been open for a year and a half.

“I have three children—two are in college and one just started first grade. I am hopeful that my first born will continue my work after he finishes studying business management and that my second child will help with the rattan craft factory after finishing studying industrial design. I am very sure that the future is bright. I might even venture into a different industry in 20 years’ time.”

My ambition is to create 1,000 jobs in my hometown.
I'D LIKE YOU TO KNOW
Nguyen Thi Dieu’s Story

“My name is Nguyen Thi Dieu and I am 37 years old. I am from Hoai Xuan commune, Binh Dinh province. I was 22 years old when I got married and now I have two children, one in grade nine and one in grade three. It was too hard to stay in our hometown because we didn’t have a stable job, so my husband and I decided to go to Saigon.

“I was working in construction there. We stayed there for two years but weren’t able to improve our life much. So we returned here to do some farming work and odd jobs—whatever type of job that we could get paid for.”

It was a very hard time for us. We had no idea how to provide for the children and send them to school.
“When Bao opened the factory, I was so happy. However, in the first two years, when the factory was not built yet and our rice paper was not welcome by the consumers, we did not have enough work to do and I was very pessimistic. At that time I couldn’t imagine that this would be my permanent job. When the factory first opened, it was a difficult time, but it was still much better than working on the farm or raising pigs at home.

“I never would have thought that this factory would be this successful and I am confident that I will have a stable job now. Also, I can stay at home to take care of my children after working hours. I very much appreciate that.”

We now have full work throughout the month with a salary of about 2 million VND ($100). It helps take some of the financial burden off my husband since I contribute something to the family income. I can now cover the monthly expenses, paying for our kids’ tuition.
What I Dream for My Children

“I really want my children to pursue their education. My husband and I only finished grade nine, so I want my children to go much further than we did. We are determined to provide for them, even if they have to go to Saigon to go to college. If they do not want to pursue higher education, I hope they will be able to get a job in one of the factories close to home that have sprung up here in the last few years.”
IN SOLOMON ISLANDS, THE ANNUAL TURNOVER AT THE HONIARA CENTRAL MARKET IS BETWEEN $10-16 MILLION, WITH WOMEN RESPONSIBLE FOR ABOUT 90% OF THIS ACTIVITY—BOTH AS BULK BUYERS AND RETAILERS.

650,000

650,000 PEOPLE IN LAO PDR GAINED ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES THROUGH A WORLD BANK-SUPPORTED PROJECT THAT FOCUSED ON PRIORITIES CHOSEN BY WOMEN.

WOMEN HEAD ABOUT 40% OF MICRO BUSINESSES THAT ACCOUNT FOR 80% OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN SAMOA.

6.6%

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WIPES OUT 6.6% OF FIJI'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT EVERY YEAR.

FOUNDED BY TWO WOMEN, CHINDEX IS A LEADING HEALTHCARE NETWORK IN CHINA THAT IS DEDICATED TO EMPOWERING ITS FEMALE STAFF THROUGH LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING. THE IFC HAS PROVIDED $45 MILLION IN FINANCING TO SUPPORT ITS GROWTH.
Whether you’re a human rights activist or an economist, the evidence is plain to see—gender inequality not only makes life difficult for women, it’s also detrimental to economies. There is substantial evidence to show that when the inequality gap between men and women narrows, economic growth accelerates, people rise out of poverty, and there’s greater well-being for all.

It has been estimated that if societies in the East Asia and Pacific region allocated resources on the basis of people’s skills and abilities as opposed to gender, the productivity of each worker could shoot up by as much as 18 percent.

Across the region, women earn on average between 70-80 percent of what men earn for similar work. They also own less land, and in some countries are at very high risk of experiencing violence, both inside the home and out. That is not unique to the region. A recent UN analysis found that one in three women worldwide have experienced physical violence in their lifetime.

The World Bank Group recognizes both the moral and economic imperative to achieve gender equality. It works to help empower women through its investments, knowing that this will also impact children’s education, health and nutrition.

We’ve tallied up our spreadsheets—in 2015, 100 percent of the East Asia and Pacific lending operations took into account gender across all development areas. And microfinance is breaking ground in the region, with hundreds of thousands of women reached through World Bank Group-supported microfinance activities in Vietnam, Mongolia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste. This is helping to make an impact on gender empowerment in countries where glass ceilings are practically concrete.

Nowhere has that ‘concrete’ ceiling been more impenetrable than in Papua New Guinea. But even that is beginning to crack with the persistence of people like Lady Winifred Kamit and the 60 companies that make up the Business Coalition for Women.
Papua New Guinea: Breaking the silence

THEN: In the 1980s, less than 1% of business boards in Papua New Guinea had female representation.

With a population of seven million speaking over 800 indigenous languages, Papua New Guinea (PNG) is the largest country in the Pacific and one that has come a long way. Over the past decade, PNG’s economy has seen steady improvement, largely due to a boom in extractive minerals and the oil and gas sector. One of the single largest investments—valued at 140 percent of the country’s GDP—was the construction of a major liquefied natural gas (LNG) pipeline to increase LNG exports. Completed in 2014, the project is expected to triple the country’s export revenue by 2020.
To ensure that increased revenues benefit all Papua New Guineans equitably, the government of PNG has taken on much-needed public sector reforms and capacity building of the civil service through a national education plan to introduce free primary education, as well as a health plan aimed at tackling the country’s high infant and maternal mortality rates.

Despite the glowing economic report, PNG is facing some difficult social challenges. Poverty and social inequality are persistent, the rates of malnutrition and sexually transmitted infections are high, gender equality is low, and most shocking, gender-based violence afflicts about two-thirds of women—twice the worldwide percentage cited in a recent UN study.

**NOW:** The numbers have still not changed. In the 2010s, less than 1% of business boards in Papua New Guinea have female representation.
Lady Winifred Kamit’s Story

Violence against women and its impacts are stalling women’s progress on the business and economic front in PNG, and are a barrier to integrating and promoting women in the workplace. According to statistics from the PNG National Department of Health, almost 70 percent of women in the country have been victims of physical or sexual violence.

Sixty companies, through the Business Coalition for Women, are working to change that paradigm for PNG women. The Coalition, supported by the Australian government and the World Bank Group’s IFC, is focusing on four key areas: addressing violence against women; promoting women into leadership roles; developing gender-smart workplace policies and best practices; and expanding opportunities in the supply chain for women-owned businesses. One powerful voice for the Coalition is its patron, Lady Winifred Kamit.

You can’t sit there and tolerate one person subjecting another one to the awful physical and mental torture that women in Papua New Guinea experience. For us to even start talking about development and start talking about women’s issues, this particular issue has got to be dealt with.

“I live in Port Moresby, the capital of Papua New Guinea. I’m a lawyer by profession—I’ve always been a lawyer. I have two children, a girl and boy. They are now 37 and 32. I also have a granddaughter. I started in my law firm in 1988, was made partner in 1993, and I ran the office as a managing partner in 1997.

“I was lucky that I grew up in a part of PNG that was matrilineal, which means that the inheritance and also leadership went through the women line. Women did play some leadership role, more specifically in terms of decisions that were of enormous consequences to the community.

“I was also lucky that I had an elder brother and a father who encouraged me and my sisters to go to school. If I’ve advanced to the stage where I am, it is partly because there was support in the family to send girls to school. And in my adult life I had mentors and you know there were no women out there—they were men—and so I give credit to the mentors that I had as I started my career.

“Making sure that men and women and boys and girls are given equal opportunity has always been my dream and I am optimistic that one day, someday, we will achieve that.”
Violence Against Women

“Violence against women in Papua New Guinea is quite entrenched. The survey that was done in the 1980s, which is contained in a report by the PNG Law Reform Commission of 1992, is quite astounding. It is a report that tells us and the world that it is a shameful issue that domestic violence and violence against women is tolerated in this country.

“I think if we were to ignore the 50 percent of our population that are women and for them not to have a say or to contribute to the development of whichever issues we’re talking about, it would be a sad state of affairs for Papua New Guinea.

“Development in the whole sense should include men and women because any subject of importance to a country needs both the inputs of men and women.

“The Business Coalition for Women was set up to help the private sector and the men who really support women to do something in their workplaces to help women progress through their careers—recognizing some of the challenges that these women have, raising their families, maternity leave issues, the violence and how employers can work on educating their workforce about managing not only their anger, but also managing acceptance of women in the workplace.

“So I know for the businessmen out there it’s good business sense for them to encourage women and I am very optimistic and welcome the establishment of the Business Coalition for Women.”

The Business Coalition for Women is an initiative in the right direction. It will pave the way for bringing up the level of women’s participation in all developmental issues including decision-making at political and business levels.
My Dream for all the Daughters of Papua New Guinea

“Papua New Guinea is a beautiful country. I dream of a country that will make it possible for all girls and women to be able to express themselves fully. If they choose to stay at home and raise their children, that’s fine too, but they should have a choice to do something else—to be a doctor, to be a pilot, to be anything they want to be.

“And most of all that they can walk around the major towns in Port Moresby or wherever without fear for their safety. I’d like to have an education system that will help them to become achievers. I’d like to see better health services so that they can live healthy lives. I’d also like an environment that will encourage investors, businessmen and businesswomen so that they can also have the financial power to maintain and sustain their lives.”

It makes business sense to include women; we bring a different perspective to the table; we are made differently and so we bring a balance to the boardroom about what should be done and could be done and how it could be done better.
Spotlight: The PNG Business Coalition for Women

The National Catering Service (NCS), one of the largest PNG-owned businesses today, is a founding member of the PNG Business Coalition for Women.

NCS has about 1,500 local staff providing catering services across PNG. Half of its employees are women and it is the aim of its managing director, John Gethin-Jones, to make sure that those women thrive and prosper in the company.

“The Business Coalition for Women is a group of like-minded individuals—mostly from corporate, government and chamber of commerce groups—who have a charter which is set up to advance women in PNG. It’s important to have women involved in business and government because the perspective they bring is very different.

“The Coalition is a long-term initiative that involves mentoring and helping women establish themselves in business and in senior business roles.

“I think we all need to deal with this issue of violence against women because I have witnessed it every couple of days at work. I think it’s an issue that everyone needs to push to be eliminated—both at home and at work.

“I’d like to see opportunities opened up for women in PNG. I envision an environment where very successful PNG women and PNG men stand equally at a board room table or at an executive group meeting or in the workplace and they are considered to be equal.”
In Vietnam, a Community-Driven Development (CDD) project generated 8,462 infrastructure facilities, 1.8 million days of labor and $4.5 million in income.

An $80 million CDD project is supporting investments in over 3,000 rural villages in 15 townships throughout Myanmar.

In the Philippines, the average real net household income of farmers participating in the Community Agrarian Reform Project (CARP) increased by 21% after three years.

Over 300,000 people in 155 war-torn communities in Mindanao in the southern Philippines have received training to plan, construct, operate and maintain their priority development projects, including classrooms, health stations, access roads, water supply systems and community centers.
In 1932 during the Great Depression, a man named Herman Lay borrowed $100 and founded the H.W. Lay Distributing Company based in Atlanta, Georgia in the United States. The company, famous for its potato chips, eventually merged with the Frito Company and PepsiCo and today is worth over $12 billion. So how does this relate to community-driven development in East Asia and the Pacific you might ask? Keep reading.

Today, most entrepreneurs in developed countries would not even imagine starting any profitable business with $100. But throughout the developing world, industrious people are doing just that—thanks in part to community-driven development programs.

Since the mid-1990s, organizations including the World Bank Group, other multilateral development banks and NGOs have invested heavily in community-driven development (CDD)—an approach that empowers local decision-making and gives communities control over resources to develop solutions tailored to their needs.

Here are some of those stories—U Aye Than of Pan Zin Village in Myanmar tells what CDD has meant to his village; Viscuso de Lira of Balangiga in the Philippines tells how CDD helped recovery after a deadly typhoon; and Siti Robe’ah talks about how CDD has helped parlay her $50 grant into quite the chip business.

Through community-driven development

$9.3 billion
I’D LIKE YOU TO KNOW

NOW: The World Bank-supported CDD programs are currently valued at $30 billion, with the highest commitment amounts in East Asia and the Pacific, Africa and South Asia.

Over the past 10 years, CDD investments have represented between five and 10 percent of the World Bank’s overall lending portfolio. In the East Asia and Pacific region, one of the most notable projects continues to be Indonesia’s National Program for Community Empowerment (PNPM Mandiri), which has its origins in the 1990s. An estimated 45 million poor people have benefited from the investments. Infrastructure built by the community has been 30-50 percent cheaper than building through government systems.
Indonesia: A little can go a long way

It helps to come from a community called Sukadami, which means ‘happy to discuss.’ It helps too that $50 can go a long way in the rural areas of Indonesia. It also helped that budding entrepreneur Siti Robe’ah was able to take advantage of a program that the Indonesian government had started with support from the World Bank.

PNPM Mandiri, Indonesia’s largest community-driven poverty-reduction program, works nationwide to provide funds for poor urban and rural communities so they can invest in their own development priorities.
Before, I was an ordinary housewife, but since I got married in 1992, I liked making snacks like cheese sticks and onion chips. I didn’t have much money, so I could produce only two kilograms per day, or 50 packs. We sold the packs to small shops for Rp 500 (5 cents) each. We had to wait until our snacks sold before we could buy food for the family. Sometimes, our products didn’t sell. But I never gave up. I never stopped trying until I could make better snacks.
The Little Business that Grew

“I am 40 years old. I live in Sukadami Village, West Java Province. I am the ninth child of 10 siblings. I have five children. My oldest child is 22 years old and the youngest one is two and a half.

“My husband’s name is Abdurohim. In the beginning, he sold snacks outside the high school. But then the school didn’t permit any street vendors to be in front of the school. So now my husband helps me deliver snacks to the small shops around the school.

“There was a person who knew that I made snacks. She said my cheese sticks and onion chips were delicious. She told me if I needed more capital, I could get it from UPK (Activity Management Unit) from PNPM. Then I came to UPK with a friend and we were advised to set up a group.

“In 2004, I got the loan—it was Rp 500,000 ($50). I bought a frying pan and cooking materials. In 2005, the loan amount became Rp 1 million ($100). Thankfully they increased my loan so that I could replace some old production equipment. By 2011, my loan totaled Rp 10 million ($1,000).

“In 2006, I became head of the group. Its name is Sistik. I had training from PNPM, such as bookkeeping, financial management, packaging and marketing. I implemented in my daily work what I learned from the training.

“I used some of the money from PNPM to renovate our work space. This space was very small and in my kitchen, at the back of my house. It was only 1x1 meter. Now we have a bigger and better place. We call it a production house. We also produce more kinds of snacks.

“Now I have 10 employees. I asked my relatives and neighbors to join my business. They work half the day, every day—except me. In the afternoon, I go shopping again if I think I need more raw materials. And if there are snacks that need to be packaged or boxed again, I’ll do it.

“Our snacks are sold in Purwakarta, Karawang, Subang (towns outside her village). Some people buy them as gifts and send them to the Netherlands and to Saudi Arabia. As our income has increased, now I can also have my own shop attached to my house. Because of PNPM, I can have this kind of life, a better life. The loan from PNPM has changed my life.”
When I first got the loan, we produced five kilograms of snacks a day. Now, our production reaches on average 50 kilograms a day. If we work longer, we could produce around 70 kilograms a day.
Hopes for the Future

“I already have some partners. They told me they want to do business with me. So we agreed. My profit at the moment is on average Rp 200,000 ($20) per day. Later, I hope I can set aside some funds to help other people, especially the elderly and orphans.

“I want people to know me as a beneficiary of PNPM and that I have a successful small business. My family and I now live happier. I never thought it would be like this.”

Sometimes people call me directly from the Netherlands and ask me to deliver some snacks to their relatives to be brought to the Netherlands.
What I Dream for my Children

“Hopefully my children can take over the business someday. Right now I am preparing my eldest child to take over my business. The District Health Office sometimes asks me to train other women on how to produce snacks. When I do that, my daughter Siti Rokayah takes over my role. I have taught her what materials to buy and how to buy them. So if I have to go somewhere, I don’t worry anymore. My daughter is ready to replace me.

“Hopefully she can open franchises in surrounding areas. My second child sometimes comes with me to shop for the materials. If I am too busy, he is the one who does the shopping. He is interested in marketing and distributing the products. But right now he is finishing his studies. So I will wait.

“At the moment, I still have no capacity to send my products to big cities such as Jakarta. Many people have asked, but I replied to them that I have to think it over. I hope my son can help me someday to realize this plan.”
Myanmar is currently in a triple transition—from an authoritarian military system to democratic governance, from a centrally directed economy to a market-oriented one, and from 60 years of conflict to peace in its border areas.

Since 2011, the government has embarked on an ambitious agenda of reforms to promote economic development, reduce poverty and improve the lives of its people. It is also seeing the initial results of the community-driven development project, the first World Bank-supported project in Myanmar in 25 years.

The CDD project takes a people-centered approach and enables poor rural communities to benefit from improved access to basic infrastructure and services. Almost 200 rural communities in 15 townships are identifying and implementing the investments they need most—from roads and bridges to irrigations systems, schools, health clinics and rural markets. The project encourages participation of women, vulnerable groups and ethnic minorities.

Over the next few years the project will address community needs and reduce poverty in more than 3,000 villages, home to more than two million people. One of those villages is Pan Zin Village.
**U Aye Than’s Story**

U Aye Than, a 46-year-old fisherman, lives in Pan Zin village. It is located in the southernmost part of Myanmar and is home to 2,800 people. Most villages in this area are located on small islands, surrounded by blue sea and covered with lush green mangrove trees. Depending on the season, U Aye Than goes to sea almost every day to fish. He is married to Daw Khine Win, 42, and they have six children. His story is the story of CDD in Myanmar and how it is making a difference nationwide.

It is our culture that the villagers work together for the benefit and development of the village.
“Every morning at 4 am, I get up to prepare to go to the sea with my small boat. This is crab season so I need to prepare the traps for catching crabs. At home, my wife runs a noodle shop to earn extra money to support the family. In the evening, I come back home from the sea to have dinner with my family.

“Two elder children are in Myeik city. Four children are with us in the village and they all go to school. I encourage all my children to finish their schooling. I want my daughter to become a teacher. She is now in the 10th grade. My eldest son is studying at university and also working as a motorbike taxi driver in Myeik. I don’t want them to work as a fisherman like me. It is a very tiring job. I want them to get educated and get a better job.”
“It’s very common for us to work together in the village, for example renovating the road or repairing the bridge. We help each other; we value teamwork and we work together.

“An important part of the CDD project is to encourage men and women to participate equally in the project. Everybody has his or her own right and responsibility to contribute and is responsible for the success of the project.

“With the CDD, we identified our priorities for our village. We decided that our priority is to renovate the school, then the road and bridges, and then upgrade the water and electricity supply for the third year.”

We needed to fix up the school for our children because it kept getting flooded when it rained or the tide was high. Now our children can go to school throughout the rainy season without worrying about getting wet.
The Philippines: Rising from the ruins of Yolanda

The Philippines is among the most vulnerable countries in the world to weather-related extreme events, earthquakes and sea-level rise, and is already feeling the consequences of climate change. On November 8, 2013, one of the most intense storms in recorded history made landfall in the country. Packing winds of up to 312 kilometers per hour and storm surges as high as seven meters (21 feet), Typhoon Haiyan, known in the Philippines as Typhoon Yolanda, was the deadliest Philippine typhoon on record, killing at least 6,300 people. Economic losses reached $12.9 billion.

No one knows that better than the 13,000 residents of the coastal town of Balangiga, one of the poorest of Eastern Samar located in central Philippines. For decades, life in the municipality came to a standstill when vicious storms and monsoon rains brought floods and sickness.
But in the early 2000s, residents made floodwater control and the construction of a seawall a priority through a CDD program called KALAHI-CIDSS, which in English means ‘linking arms against poverty.’ With support from the World Bank, KALAHI-CIDSS has financed 6,000 projects worth $265 million, benefiting over 1.6 million families in the poorest areas of the Philippines.

In Balangiga, KALAHI-CIDSS trained residents in project planning, technical design, financial management and procurement. It also provided townspeople with opportunities to access information, express their opinion and influence local governance. It set up a community organization with volunteers operating at every level.

For almost a decade the town withstood the impact of the most intense typhoons—until Yolanda. But on the heels of Yolanda, the spirit of the CDD program came to the rescue. The mayor of Balangiga, Viscuso de Lira, describes what happened and James Padil, a fisherman, also talks about the aftermath of Yolanda.
“Yolanda made landfall on Friday, November 8. But as early as Wednesday afternoon, November 6, we were able to notify people that there’s going to be a very strong typhoon, a super typhoon. We told them that we had designated areas for evacuation. Despite our population of around 13,000, we had a small number of casualties because of our preparation—13 people.

“But the damage of Yolanda was so great. Damage to agriculture was more than four hundred million pesos ($8.8 million). The damage to infrastructure, including private buildings, reached almost 1.8 billion pesos ($40.5 million).

“Community-driven development is really about empowering the community. We were able to apply what we had learned from CDD. The CDD setup made it easier to get reliable information on the ground that was important for making decisions.

“Even the relief distribution was systematic because of the CDD volunteers. They were the ones identifying who are the most vulnerable families, the ones who should be given priority, given assistance. They have data on how many fisher folks, how many farmers are in the area. We were able to unload or distribute relief goods immediately in the barangays (villages) because based on the data we received from the network of volunteers, we knew exactly how many families and households there were in a barangay and who were most affected.”

“We had no one to turn to. But because Balangiga is one of the pioneers of the CDD process in the Philippines, I believe it greatly helped us recover after Yolanda.”
“There was one national government agency that witnessed the distribution and told us that in all the disaster areas that they’ve been to, ours was the only place that they saw that the distribution was orderly and smooth. And it’s because of the volunteers (from the KALAHI-CIDSS).

“No matter what preparations were done, we can never totally anticipate the impact of a disaster. Here in Balangiga, our experience is different because the people are empowered. The community is empowered. People here are involved—something that we learned from KALAHI.”

After the storm, I saw that people in the community all had the spirit of compassion. Everybody wanted to get involved. Because of the CDD process that they went through, the people here are not the type who would just wait for what was coming; they were on the ground working, helping each other.
James Padil’s Story

One of the village’s fishermen is James Padil, who lives with his parents and his seven younger brothers and sisters at the seashore.

“When I don’t have classes, I fish while my father repairs pump boats. When classes start, my father takes over fishing so I can go to school. When I was younger I was very unruly. I didn’t realize one shouldn’t waste one’s life. I had many vices then—smoking, gambling, and drinking—but I am very thankful that I’ve changed through the word of God. Before, my parents used to be scared of me because sometimes I would come home drunk and penniless because I spent all my money on my vices. Now they are happy for me because when I am able to work and when I have money I give it to them.

“I remember the day Yolanda hit. There was an advisory telling us to prepare because the storm would be strong. We evacuated. We prepared all our things. We pulled my father’s boat out of the sea and kept it in a corner. It was not carried away, but it was destroyed because a mango tree fell on it.

“After Yolanda, the whole community worked together right after the storm so we could rebuild our houses. We helped one another clean the surroundings because there was lots of debris. We saved all the wood that was lying around, so we could use it to build our shelter.”

We tied our house down, but it was useless because the waves were huge and they washed away all the houses along the seashore.
My Hopes for the Future

“I want my community to develop so that the people won’t suffer, just like before Typhoon Yolanda. After Yolanda, people here find it hard to look even for food.

“We are only informal settlers. We don’t have our own land. We are staying on the seashore. I want to have our own land that is stable where we will not fear the coming of monsoons and our home won’t be destroyed.

“The land we live on is government property, so if we have our own land where we can build our own house, it would be better.

“My dream is to go to college and get an education and a good job so I could support my brothers and sisters so they can also study.”
BETWEEN 2006 AND 2013, MOBILE PHONE SUBSCRIPTIONS IN FIJI MORE THAN TRIPLED. TODAY, BASIC MOBILE COVERAGE IS NOW NEARLY UNIVERSAL AT 89.5%.

IN SAMOA, MORE THAN 165,000 PEOPLE—ABOUT 85% OF THE POPULATION—GAINED ACCESS TO A MOBILE PHONE OVER THE PAST DECADE.

IN TONGA, AN 830-KILOMETER UNDERWATER FIBER-OPTIC CABLE CONNECTING TO FIJI AND THE WIDER WORLD WAS INSTALLED IN AUGUST 2013, BRINGING HIGH-SPEED INTERNET FOR THE FIRST TIME TO THE CAPITAL CITY OF NUKU’ALOF A.

IN VIETNAM, MORE THAN 159,000 PEOPLE WERE ABLE TO USE E-BANKING SERVICES THROUGH AN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY-BASED WORLD BANK OPERATION. THE PROJECT SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED THE SPEED AND RELIABILITY OF INTERBANK PAYMENTS FROM TWO WEEKS IN 2005 TO LESS THAN ONE DAY TODAY.
Connecting to a Wider World

Information and communications technology (ICT) has seen incredible growth rates in the East Asia and Pacific region, particularly with mobile phone usage. China now has the largest smartphone user base in the world, and Korea and Singapore are among the top 10 countries in the world in smartphone penetration.

Thousands of kilometers away in Kiribati in the Pacific, where the cost of ICT services is high, less than one percent of the population has access to broadband Internet and only 14 percent use a mobile phone.

The Pacific is one of the most dispersed and remote regions on Earth. Comprised of some 9,000 islands spread across a vast ocean, its governments and the private sector deal with some of the highest costs of doing business in the world. The lack of communications systems has been a barrier to development.

In many parts of the world, cell phones are a convenience that we take for granted, but in the Pacific access to cell phones is essential for development and the key to thriving, and in some cases, surviving.

The World Bank Group places ICT high on its agenda in the Pacific to help support the area’s development.

Despite the challenges of distance, the spread of ICT is now happening fast. Villagers, who for years had made treacherous hours-long boat trips to make a simple phone call, are now calling and texting family in other provinces and other countries. This ‘telecommunications revolution’ is also creating jobs, such as livelihoods for at least 30,000 people in Papua New Guinea.

From Papua New Guinea to Samoa to Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, cell phones are changing lives and livelihoods. It is happening in Tanna, one of the 82 islands that make up the Pacific Island country of Vanuatu. Tanna is just a tiny dot on the map, but if you look closely you can see a big dream emerging from that dot—all because of a cell phone. It is Kelson’s dream.
Vanuatu: 
A little mobile phone makes a big difference

THEN: 
In 1994, only 4% of Vanuatu’s population used a mobile phone.

Back in the 1980s, Vanuatu was an island nation as unconnected as you can get. By 1994, only four percent of Vanuatu’s population used a mobile phone. Most people in those years made a living from coconuts or subsistence farming. But in the mid-1980s Kelson Hosea and his father had another idea. They wanted to invite the world to their island home. They were pioneers of eco-tourism on the remote volcanic island of Tanna, Vanuatu. In those early days the lack of communications was a tremendous challenge for these new entrepreneurs.
How times have changed! Today Kelson can count himself as one of the 4.1 billion mobile phone users in the world. He now books tourists from home. Over the last six years, more than two million people in PNG and the Pacific Islands gained access to mobile phones thanks to an increase in provider options facilitated by the World Bank Group. In Vanuatu, 90 percent of the people now have a mobile phone connection.
Kelson’s Story

More than 30 years ago, in a country that only knew coconuts and copra (the dried meat of coconuts), a young man dreamed of bringing tourists to his island home. It seemed like a far-fetched idea. How would he get the word out to the world that he was open for business? Even if you wanted to get news to someone on another island, you had to jump in a boat and travel there. If you wanted to make a phone call, you had to walk kilometers to the nearest town to one of the few public phones at the time. But even that didn’t deter Kelson Hosea.

In the beginning, I faced a lot of difficulties with my tourism business. I used to walk four kilometers to town and back in order to make phone calls for bookings. With no phones I faced hard times in my business.

“My name is Kelson and I was born on Tanna. I am 48 years old. My wife’s name is Joyce and we have two daughters, Lusianne, 18, and Ajay, 12. I started the business nearly 30 years ago when I left school.

“Before, there was no tourism here and no accommodation here in my area, the White Sands area. I was the first to start a tourist business; I started with one hut. Since 2008, we have mobile phones here. And we were lucky. Now everywhere I go—in the jungle, wherever I go in the car—I have the phone with me.

“Now, we just stay in our rooms, or outside, or even in the shower…and the mobile phone rings…I grab it…answer the call.

“For my children, the technology and the knowledge are increasing. In my youth, I didn’t even know what a mobile phone was—and now, I have the mobile phone, but I don’t know some of the things inside. But my children know how to do everything—like how to go into the Internet. They know everything you can do with mobile phones. But I just know how to answer the call and call out.”

Once we had this technology, I felt like I had a new baby born to my family. I was happy. The phone is like my friend. It changes a lot. I can take bookings right from my phone—from Germany, from France, from Australia.
“My hope for the future is to upgrade my business. I am thinking to have Internet here if it’s possible. We still don’t have access to the Internet; we have to go to town to check our bookings. It would be easier just to stay in our rooms or bungalows and get the bookings directly.

“So I will have my own office in the future and maybe I will build some bungalows with the private facilities inside. And I have a big plan for the treehouses—to build toilets and showers inside the treehouses. That’s the future. And I hope to get a car, a good car, a comfortable car for this business and expand it more as my family is also expanding.”

I want to be an example to other people so everyone can build a better life. Even with the phones we now have an easier life. Now everyone here, people who haven’t got a job, someone who is a gardener in the bush, everyone has phones!
Spotlight: Alert! Alert! A volcano is erupting!

Kelson is getting an added advantage from his cell phone—you might call it a survival advantage. The new cell phone networks have been a huge asset for disaster risk management in Vanuatu. There are several active volcanoes in Vanuatu, including Lopevi and several underwater volcanoes. Volcanic activity is common, with an ever-present danger of a major eruption. There was one such eruption in 2008, with luckily no casualties. Now with the cell phone network, if a volcano blows, people like Kelson can get a warning through instant messaging on their phones.

“We get the SMS (instant messaging) on our phones from the National Disaster Management Office. I helped them to install the machines around the volcano. The machines collect information on activity from the volcano and send the information to Port Vila. If the volcanic activity is increasing they send the SMS.

“Before we had cell phones, we just heard the explosions and we didn’t know how dangerous it was. We just thought it was normal. Now we can find out how dangerous the eruption is right away on our mobile phones.”
Coral reef-related fisheries in Indonesia and the Philippines alone are valued at around $2.2 billion a year with reef-based tourism valued at another $258 million a year.

In China’s Jiangxi province, about 1.3 million people benefited from better irrigation systems, increased agricultural production, and higher incomes through a World Bank-supported integrated agricultural modernization project. The average per capita income for farmers doubled within six years to $520.

Over $508 million is being invested to improve the productivity of two million small farmers and fishers and expand their access to markets through the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP).

37%

China is projected to account for 37% of global fish production by 2030.
The world today continues to suffer from a dramatic loss of biodiversity, with major consequences for the provision of food, clean water and other necessities critical for human well-being and green growth.

More than 2.5 billion people in developing countries worldwide depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. The loss of agricultural biodiversity is weakening the ability of societies to respond to demands for higher crop productivity and adapt to the effects of climate change.

In the Pacific, small and remote island nations are custodians of the last great ocean fishery, but face huge challenges as a multitude of countries compete for this important resource.

Running like a beautiful multi-colored mosaic along much of Indonesia’s coast, coral reefs are perfect examples of the interdependence of people and nature. As goes the health of the reefs, so will go the coastal communities—people who depend on the reefs to sustain their lives. It is an intricate dance with nature that is being played out all over the world—with reefs, with forests, with biodiversity. This complex web of challenges facing the world requires practical solutions and investments.

In Papua New Guinea, the World Bank is working with descendants of the Earth’s earliest farmers, like David Vaorete, to bring the valuable cocoa crop back from the brink.

In Indonesia, in the village of Waha in Wakatobi in South Sulawesi, marine tourism operator Sudirman and food vendor Ibu Jaurana are seeing just how interconnected their lives are with the coral reefs and how the Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Program, COREMAP, is promising them a sustainable future.

In Solomon Islands, with help from the World Bank Group’s IFC, a tuna cannery is giving new meaning to the lives of people like Adrian Wickham and Nellie Kagovai—making real the expression ‘small is beautiful.’
Papua New Guinea: Descendants of Earth’s earliest farmers count on cocoa

THEN: Cocoa production in Bougainville totaled 22,000 tons in 2008. This declined sharply after the pest cocoa pod borer (CPB) caused farmers in the province to lose up to 90% of their crops.

In the rich soil of the island nation of Papua New Guinea (PNG) lies evidence of the earliest agriculture on the planet—dating back almost 10,000 years—some 3,000 years earlier than anywhere else. At Kuk Swamp in PNG’s Wahgi Valley, scientists have discovered ancient irrigation systems and evidence of cultivation of taro (a root vegetable), finding plant residues in the soil and on ancient stone tools.

Fast forward some 10,000 years and you find the same rich agricultural traditions supporting rural livelihoods and providing a big chunk of PNG’s export market.

Over 85 percent of PNG’s 7.3 million people live in rural areas and most depend on small-scale agriculture for their food and livelihoods. After coffee, cocoa is PNG’s second most important agricultural export crop. Together the two crops provide critical income for more than half a million households.
The government of Papua New Guinea has set an ambitious annual cocoa production target of 310,000 tons to be reached by 2030. As of May 2014, nearly a million cocoa trees have been rehabilitated or planted.

The decimation of the cocoa crop in the late 2000s by the cocoa borer disease left many farmers without income.

Since 2011, the Productive Partnerships in Agriculture Project (PPAP) has been financing community-led projects in East New Britain and Bougainville to help thousands of small farmers control the outbreak and restore their livelihoods. The $51 million project is supported by the government of Papua New Guinea, with help from multiple donors including the World Bank, the European Union, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the private sector.

The aim of PPAP is to double coffee and cocoa yields and increase farmers’ incomes by 50 percent. Five cocoa partnerships have been established under the first round of the project, helping to provide seedlings of more CPB-tolerant cocoa varieties and insect-resistant clones.

One area of focus is the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, which became part of independent PNG in 1975. Over the next five years, the project will help 60,000 coffee and cocoa farmers, 40 percent of them women, regain their livelihoods.
I'D LIKE YOU TO KNOW
David Vaorete's Story

David Vaorete, 61, is chairman of the Namatoa Village Nursery, in the Tinputz region in Bougainville. He is passionate about helping the community recover from the devastating impact of cocoa pod borer.

Cocoa and copra have been the main cash crops of his community for generations. With the onset of cocoa pod borer, cocoa volumes are at their lowest in many years, leaving many households without their main source of income.

Cocoa is important to us because it is a sustainable cash crop and we see that we can survive on it and it can build the community.

“My name is David Vaorete. I was born in 1953 in the village of Namatoa, not far from Bougainville. I have seven children, a perfect number, one girl and six boys. The eldest boy is 27, Leon. Raymond is 20-something or 18; another one tends to my cabbage patch—he’s just finished school. My daughter also finished year 10 at school; she helps me tend to the cocoa—Rosetty. Another is in year three and the last two are in elementary school.

“I received a bit of education, I went to high school but didn’t finish. The PNG Defense Force came along at that time and ran a few recruitment exercises and tests. I was happy that I was tested to be physically fit and able to join the army. So I was 15 years old when I was sent off to Goldie River for training.

“In 1979, I went back to the village and started growing cocoa and planting hybrids.

“Now, my role is to make sure the clones, the seedlings, are grown properly. We don’t get paid for doing these jobs, we just do the work. When we first started, we didn’t have proper tools. I didn’t even have a wheelbarrow or a hose to water the crops.

“I document everything about the clones. I have a little notebook that I record the details in. Suppose they are budding and not growing well—I record how many have died and how many have grown.”
It is now my job to get young people involved in growing cocoa. I will take them through the steps, teaching them how to plant the cocoa, showing them by example.

“I’ve seen from past experience, people have gotten money from planting and selling cocoa. A bag now brings in about 500 Kina ($200), so I tell them, if you want this type of money you have to plant cocoa first.

“You need to plant first and worry about the prices later, you will get the money. So that’s an incentive for them to start growing. I estimate there has been about 40,000 Kina ($16,000) in income to the village by cocoa sales and it’s helping to sustain the community.”
My Hopes for the Future

“In 10 years’ time, I’d like the community’s economic development to be restored to what it used to be years ago. We used to have permanent buildings, generators and big trucks and buses for transport.

“We would use two-way radio signals especially when trying to transport our crops to town and find out what the prices were like, without having to go the full distance on a day that didn’t have a good price. So we had efficient communications means as well. We had everything, even ice cream! But now it’s not the same.”

We don’t have much money so I would really like to see the economy restored. That’s why I say cocoa is like gold. I would like cocoa farming to thrive and I would like to see it having a positive impact in our area. I don’t want to see poverty among my people. The cocoa is our livelihood.
Solomon Islands:
A ton of potential in a small can of tuna

The Pacific fisheries have been feeding the world’s tuna appetite for decades. This includes one of the planet’s last healthy tuna stocks—supplying over a third of the world’s tuna, worth over $4 billion per year at first sale, with prices steadily rising. If managed well, the tuna could be a natural living resource that just keeps on giving. To mix a metaphor, the tuna is the goose that is laying the golden egg. But that golden egg is threatened. Many of these stocks have reached their limits as catch volumes have steadily climbed over the past decades. Future returns will have to come by earning more on a fixed volume of fish, rather than increasing it.

For example, the skipjack tuna is a migratory species that swims through the waters of a number of Pacific countries, each one taking a piece of the fishery action. It is a classic example of the ‘tragedy of the commons’—everyone exploiting the bounty, but few wanting to protect the resource or make it sustainable.

THEN: Marine fishery production in Solomon Islands contributed $27.4 million to the country’s GDP in 2007.
Out of necessity and with a lot of forward thinking, the story is changing. Nowhere is that more evident than in Solomon Islands.

Solomon Islands tuna accounts for around seven percent of the total Western and Central Pacific Ocean catch—more than 150,000 tons—with an estimated value of $180 million. However, the bulk of the catch is taken by foreign fishing vessels under licensing agreements and processed elsewhere. Access fees paid to Solomon Islands represent only about five percent of the landed (not retail) value of the catch.

The SolTuna canning facility is looking to change those numbers. The idea is to get the full value out of the tuna by processing the fish rather than selling the whole fish offshore. The company, based in Noro, Western Province, is the only tuna loining and canning processor in Solomon Islands. SolTuna is the largest employer in Noro, with about 1,800 staff—65 percent of them women.

SolTuna is the first of the IFC’s investments in Pacific fisheries and its first wild catch investment in more than 15 years. The IFC’s $10 million loan is part of a $27 million upgrade and expansion project, which is expected to increase the company’s processing capacity from 90 tons a day to 150 tons a day. Perhaps no one sees the future potential of the tuna stock better than Adrian Wickham, SolTuna’s managing director.
Adrian Wickham’s Story

“My name is Adrian Wickham, managing director of SolTuna. I was born on an island just off Munda, Hobu Peka, in Solomon Islands. There was no primary school around there at that stage so we had to leave home early and live with relatives in Honiara to go to school. And then from there I went to Australia to continue school and then to university in Papua New Guinea.”
“I joined NFD (National Fisheries Development), the Solomon Islands fishing company, when it was still a government-owned enterprise in 1989, and I was very fortunate to get that job. We moved the NFD operations to Noro in 2001. For me it was coming home—it was great. I’m one of the few Solomon Islanders who can really work at home, where most people have to leave and go to Honiara for opportunities.

“I became managing director of SolTuna in January of 2013. We have two shifts producing roughly 55-60 tons a day—so averaging now about 110 tons a day total. It’s quite an achievement. But we’d still like to take that figure above 120 tons a day.

“The lightmeat loins—light meat being yellowfin and skipjack—go to Europe, mainly to Italy and some to Spain. Albacore loins go mainly to the United States. The canned product is mainly local and the sub-regional markets: Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Fiji. We’re also kosher and halal certified.

“This is the type of operation that the Solomons need more of—you’re really adding more value to the tuna and also employment opportunities and spin-off benefits to the wider community.

“With NFD and SolTuna you’ve probably got one of the most unique operations in this part of the world. You’ve got locally flagged boats and locally crewed vessels, locally managed fishing-fleet operations supplying a local canner here. It’s quite unique. You won’t find this type of operation anywhere else.

“There’s a rule of thumb: for every one job that the tuna industry creates, there are two or three others that are created as spin-off. Things like rope mending provide employment, and we use local suppliers wherever we can. And if you go around Noro you’ll see not only trade stores, but other businesses open. In the last couple of years especially, you’re starting to see more hospitality facilities, general trading—things have really improved.”
Seeking Sustainability

“Unlike other extractive industries like mining and logging, this industry, if managed well, is sustainable.

“There are definitely lessons we can learn from the problems with logging. Fishing really is a national resource, where logging is a landowner resource. Everyone in the Solomons owns the tuna. If we manage it well, it will be there for future generations.

“The Tuna Commission’s job is to identify problems with stocks, and Solomon Islands must play its part and must stick to the measures that they put in place. I can comfortably say Solomon Islands is doing its part. But unfortunately not all countries are doing their part and it’s a regional resource so everyone has to pull together and manage it uniformly.

“Otherwise, overfishing will take place. There’s not enough coordination and staying within the limits. That’s a danger when you’re managing a migratory species.

“We like to think of the fishing industry—ourselves and NFD—as partners in the community. As we speak, there’s a school hall being built by the industry, supported by SolTuna buyers in Europe. The chairman of Tri Marine (SolTuna’s majority shareholder) is also building four classrooms for the local community school.

“There’s a program here at Noro called the safehouse for domestic violence and SolTuna has been very supportive—we’ve provided facilities and make sure our staff have access to all the training.”

I can’t stress enough the importance of fishing to Solomon Islands, and the fact that we have to manage it carefully. It’s a regional resource so we’re custodians in transit, really, for these fish. We have to work with all the regional countries to ensure that we have compatible measures put in place to effectively manage it—together.
My Dreams for my Children

“I hope my children, like me, can all come back and work at home—not necessarily in the tuna industry, but in Western Province. If Noro continues to grow, then other opportunities will avaihemselves for my children and many other Solomon Islanders. But especially those around here will be able to be employed and enjoy the benefits of both being employed and staying at home—which not many Solomon Islanders can do.

My Hopes for the Future

“For SolTuna, I want to see it expand, and we have plans to go up to 180, possibly 200 tons a day, which would be great for employment. The future is great—as long as the resource is managed properly.

“I’d like people to know about an industry that’s local in many respects, that the community is deriving great benefits from. This is really an example of how the rest of the Pacific should be in terms of developing local industry. I’m very proud of the fact that—while we do have expats in critical positions—you can comfortably say that 90-95 percent of the workforce is local. And that goes right from the top, all the way down.”
Nellie Kagovai’s Story

Many of SolTuna’s employees come from Noro and surrounding islands. More than 65 percent of its work force are women who now have an opportunity to make a contribution to their families and to the community. Nellie Kagovai is one of these women.

I would like people in other countries to have a fair idea of how a small country like the Solomons is producing tuna that supplies the rest of the world. Tuna is very important—it’s the main resource that we have. Fish provides employment—those who aren’t working at the factory can go fishing and sell fish at the market. So it’s very important.
“My name is Nellie Kagovai. I am a quality control supervisor at SolTuna. I am married and I have two children—the first, a girl, is 11 years old and the second, a boy, is seven years old. My husband works as a shopkeeper. He sells *kaliko* (clothes), food, and other things that people need.

“When I finished school I came to work at SolTuna. I started as a trainee supervisor in the factory, supervising women and their work. At the time there were three (production) lines—now there are four. When I started there were about 60 workers per line and I looked after about 10, making sure the fish was cleaned to a high quality—mainly skipjack and yellowfin.

“Now I am a quality control supervisor, supervising the inspectors in the plant, checking their job and the reports that they do daily. I supervise about 20 inspectors. I check the color coding of work trays in the factory, move the production line along and check on timing. The fish need to move through the factory quickly.

“It’s important I have a job—like many women—to provide money for the family. It is here at SolTuna that many women come to work to help their families like I do.

“I like working here because everyone knows SolTuna. Most of the people in the Solomons eat tuna; that is the main food that we have. So if they cannot get the fresh fish, they go to the shop and buy the cans. When I’m not working here I help my husband in the shop—selling cans of tuna—or work with my children.”
About two-thirds of Indonesia’s coastline is bordered by coral reefs, which play vital roles in coastal fisheries, marine tourism and protection against wave erosion. They also provide habitat for numerous marine organisms and fish. Healthy reefs are an important source of food and economic opportunity for some 67,000 coastal villages.

Almost 70 percent of Indonesia’s coral reefs are considered threatened by overfishing. Half of the problem is caused by destructive fishing practices like dynamiting the reefs to stun and catch fish.
For the past 16 years, the coral reef ecosystem has been protected and rehabilitated to achieve sustainable use through a multi-donor biodiversity initiative—Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Project (COREMAP). Through COREMAP, communities receive incentives, training and resources to protect the coral reefs. The result has been a sea change in attitude and practices.

In Waha Village in Wakatobi, marine tourism operator Sudirman and food vendor Ibu Jaurana are experiencing first-hand what conserving the coral reefs means for their lives.
“My name is Sudirman and I am 50 years old. My wife and I have three children. I have a tourism business; we offer diving and snorkeling facilities. I also have a boat that takes tourists to the diving and snorkeling site, which is quite far. The boat has a glass bottom so people can enjoy the coral reefs without getting wet.

“When there are lots of tourists I can earn about Rp 5 million (about $450) a day. When there are only few tourists, I earn only Rp 100,000 to Rp 200,000 a day ($10-20).

“Before I got involved in this activity, I spent my days cleaning up the areas around the beach and preparing the diving facilities for customers. I would sweep and clean.

“When there are no tourists, I visit my neighbors to help them understand about our concern for conservation, so that our environment is well protected and preserved.

“Before the COREMAP program started, I was not so fortunate. It was difficult to survive, because we live in a coastal area with only the sea as our source of livelihood. I looked for ways to survive, but it was hard. I took whatever job I could. But raising a family with three kids—who at the time were still little—was a huge challenge. It was like trying to plant a garden in a place that could not support any life.”
“When the COREMAP program ended, I decided that our conservation efforts should continue so I developed this idea for an ecotourism business. With ecotourism, we can continue conserving this area in a sustainable manner, so that it remains beautiful.

“After my income improved, I could fulfill my duty to help develop this community. My friends and I in ecotourism gave 60 percent of our ecotourism business for supervision of the coastal areas, and for other activities that support conservation.

“I now have a brick house. I used to have a very old motorcycle—now I have four new motorbikes. My son is a policeman and my daughter is in college in Makassar (South Sulawesi) studying nursing.”

After COREMAP, my life really opened up. I gained knowledge in so many areas, and received training and experience. My life improved and so did my income. I could send my kids to school.
Hopes and Dreams

“I hope that our business can continue to develop, that I can continue to support my family well, and that my children share my commitment to conservation. I hope that they realize that without conservation, we will not live well.

“I used to think that the coral reefs were so destroyed and beyond hope. Now I see that they have improved so much. The numbers of tourists have increased, and everyone always comments about how beautiful the reefs are now.”

I am so proud about the growth of these reefs. I am now convinced that through conservation, our activities in the sea will only improve in results, and that my grandchildren’s future will be assured. I am so confident of that.
Spotlight: A better life through COREMAP

Women in COREMAP project communities play a central role in household economies. The project empowers women by helping them to develop their small businesses and get access to credit.

“My name is Jaurana; I am 40 years old. I work as a food vendor. I have two sons, Novan, 19 and Fandri, 15. My husband’s name is Zaifudin. I have been living here in Waha Village since I was born.

“My life used to be very hard. I was a farmer and my husband was a fisherman. Our income was barely enough for daily consumption. Now, I have a better life because I have this small business selling yellow rice and fried bananas.

“Since we have COREMAP, my life is much better. COREMAP takes care of the coral reefs, so that they are in good condition. The marine protected areas do not allow fishermen to use dynamite to catch fish. COREMAP also increased my income because it provided me a loan for starting my business.

“The COREMAP program has helped many women here. Now they have their own small businesses, selling many kinds of items on the roadside. Because of COREMAP, the coral reefs are now healthy and beautiful, attracting many tourists. It also brings good income to the roadside vendors.”
17 out of the top 48 countries most vulnerable worldwide to climate-related threats are in East Asia and low lying Pacific Island states.

Land use changes represent 34% of greenhouse gas emissions in East Asia and the Pacific.

Climate change is expected to threaten water availability for 270 million people in Western China.

REDD pilot projects (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) are underway in Indonesia to protect up to 22 million hectares of forests—preventing 60 million tons of CO₂ emissions per year.

Thailand, a country that depends heavily on imported energy, is pursuing renewable energy consumption nationwide with the goal of increasing from 1% today to 20% by 2022.
HOPE is a big word, but in November of 2014, the world got a big dash of hope when the United States and China announced a landmark climate change agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

China is now the world’s second largest economy, but it has come at a cost. Poisonous haze, which is threatening to shorten millions of lives, hangs dangerously over the country’s cities and its carbon emissions along with the United States account for 45 percent of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions. The joint U.S.-China announcement may literally have come in the nick of time.

In its most dire warning yet, the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), reflecting a consensus of hundreds of scientists worldwide, said in November of 2014 that on the current path, global average temperatures could go up anywhere from 3.7 to 4.8 degrees Celsius (6.7 to 8.6 degrees Fahrenheit) over pre-industrial levels by 2100. According to the IPCC, to stay below a 2-degree Celsius increase, greenhouse gas emissions need to fall as much as 70 percent around the world by 2050, and to zero by 2100.

That means industrial powers and major emitters such as the United States must change how they produce and use energy, and emerging economies including China, India and Brazil must avoid long-term energy dependence on fossil fuels such as coal and oil.

It will take an extraordinary effort for China to meet its carbon reduction challenge. It must add 800 to 1,000 gigawatts of wind, solar and other zero-emission generating capacity by 2030—more than all the coal-fired power plants that exist in China today. But China already has a head start. It has carbon emissions cap-and-trade pilot programs in five provinces and eight cities. It is also the world’s largest investor in solar and wind energy. Today China’s non-fossil fuels account for about 10 percent of its primary energy.

Farmer Ou Yuqun in Guangxi, school principal Chen Suqin in Beijing, and energy company chairman Cai Yuchi in Shanghai will tell you how their lives have changed through renewable energy initiatives in biogas, solar energy and energy efficiency and how their actions are helping to create a livable future.
China: A vital partner in combating climate change

A dubious title has passed from the developed to the developing world. Where once western countries were acknowledged as the biggest culprits for greenhouse gas emissions that are heating the world and threatening humanity's future, China is now the largest contributor to global greenhouse gas emissions by volume. For the past 15 years, China has accounted for about 60 percent of the growth of carbon dioxide emissions worldwide. Its per capita emissions have risen to 7.2 metric tons of carbon dioxide, comparable with countries of the European Union.
NOW: Wind power in China has seen meteoric growth over the last decade, consistently meeting government targets ahead of schedule. By the end of 2014, wind power installations totaled about 96.4 GW.

The good news is the Chinese government is addressing the challenge on an equally massive scale. Even before its recent agreement with the United States, it had pledged to reduce its carbon intensity by 40-45 percent by 2020 compared to 2005 levels, and committed to increase its non-fossil fuel-based energy consumption to 15 percent by 2020. China now leads the world in small hydropower development and in wind power capacity. Its renewable energy consumption between 1990 and 2010 was as high as all European countries combined.

China is beginning to look at every aspect of daily life to reduce carbon emissions—from using biogas in rural areas to solar schools and energy efficiency in its major cities. For example, China and the World Bank Group are working together to transform Shanghai into a low-carbon city by improving energy efficiency in buildings.

Here are stories of three people, from all walks of life in China, who are doing their part to help secure a livable future for the next generation.
The biogas units set up through this project will displace about 1.55 million tons of greenhouse gases.

In 2004, there were about 15.4 million household biogas digesters in China. They take organic waste products and turn them into usable methane gas. The number of household biogas digesters in China nearly doubled by 2008 to 30.5 million. The World Bank has worked with the government of China to install biogas digesters for more than 400,000 households. The Chinese government provided the bulk of the $440 million funding; the World Bank contributed $120 million and farmers also contributed through their labor.

On average, a biogas digester prevents 2.83 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually. The benefits the project provides to the environment don’t stop there. Biogas replacing firewood helps prevent deforestation, and residue slurry from the digesters is good fertilizer, which could reduce farmers’ use of chemical fertilizers and help maintain soil quality.

Ou Yuqun is a Yao ethnic farmer who lives in the Guangxi Autonomous Region, in China’s southwest. In 2012 she had a biogas system installed. She is now cooking with gas; some of the lights in the house use the gas; the toilet waste goes to the digester; and the residue slurry from the digester is good fertilizer for the vegetables and peanuts she plants.
Ou Yuqun’s Story

“My name is Ou Yuqun, I was born in 1957. I live in Xiaoshipai Village, Guilin, Guangxi. My husband died in 2000 leaving me with three teenage children—two daughters ages 16 and 14 and a 12-year-old son. I had to earn a living to support my children.

“We make our money from persimmon trees. I started to grow persimmon in 1987 before my son was born. My son and daughter-in-law have taken over that job. I look after the house and my grandson who is three. I will give him a good education, not like me. I went to school for only two years.

“We have about 30 mu (two hectares) of persimmon. Last year we produced and sold over 40,000 kilograms of persimmon. We earned about 80,000 yuan ($12,800). My son bought a truck to take the fruits to the city to sell.

“I also grow peanuts, corn and vegetables around our house. We do not buy vegetables. We live a very happy life. Our living standards have improved.”
I’D LIKE YOU TO KNOW
“This new biogas digester was built in 2012. I used to raise pigs. Pig dung and urine produce biogas. Now, instead of raising pigs, I gather a bag of wild grass every week and put it in the digester to produce biogas so I do not need to keep pigs. Our toilet is on top of the biogas digester. Night soil goes directly into the digester.

“Now we use the biogas every day. We use biogas to cook three meals and boil water. We do not have to use wood, liquid gas or electricity. We have bought a pump to pump out the biogas residue as fertilizer, which I use on the vegetable garden.”

The biogas is very good. In the past, I cooked breakfast with wood. It was so smokey that the kids all had watery eyes. With the biogas, there is no more smoke.
China plans to boost solar capacity 20-fold by 2020, from 800 megawatts in 2010 to almost 20 gigawatts.

China is using the power of the sun and the enthusiasm of students to help tackle climate change. Two million students and teachers in schools across Beijing will have access to green electricity through a renewable energy program supported by the local and central governments.

As the nation’s capital and a pilot city for low-carbon growth, Beijing—with a metropolitan population of about 20 million—is striving to become a model for other Chinese cities. With support from the World Bank, Beijing is implementing a project to install 100 megawatts of rooftop solar photovoltaic systems in about 1,000 primary and middle schools—the largest of such initiatives in the country so far.

The ‘Sunshine Schools’ program will generate clean energy for schools to meet their electricity needs, provide clearer skies and healthier air for Beijing residents and serve as a tool to raise environmental awareness among young students. The program is contributing to the country’s efforts to expand renewable energy use and address climate change. Chen Suqin is the principal of one of Beijing’s ‘sunshine schools.’
Chen Suqin’s story

“My name is Chen Suqin and I am the principal of Jingtong No. 2 Primary School. In 1988, after my graduation from university, I worked in Daxing District of Beijing for two years and then came to Chaoyang District in 1990 to support education development.

“There are a few things to know about me—I have not been to many places; my character is not assertive; and I prefer to have my feet on the ground and do something. That was my opportunity with Jingtong Primary School. The size of the school grew from 86 students and 16 teachers to more than 800 students and 70 teachers. It is a model school now in Chaoyang District.

“Our school is an experimental school for sustainable development, one of the first in the District. We started early to go ‘green’.

“When I first came to the school, the sports field was all yellow earth. Some colleagues and I worked hard and turned the yellow earth into green meadows. It would have taken over one million yuan ($160,000) to turn earthy ground into green meadows. Where could we find the money? To achieve the goal, we started to work by ourselves. We mobilized students to grow grass, and we mobilized parents to advise and participate in greening the school. In the end, we got it done without spending money and generated a big social impact.”
“In a way, that impact led to the solar energy project for us. For the Sunshine Schools project, the District Government, District Education Commission, as well as the Beijing Sustainable Development Research Center placed great emphasis on the sustainable development motivation of schools. Our faculty, students, and our school philosophy all fit the profile for this solar project.

“The solar project has also had another impact—it’s influencing the lives of my students, igniting their environmental awareness for example, for saving water, electricity and recycling.

“After the installation of the solar panels, they became a source of electricity for the school. But the solar panel project was important to the school for other reasons. It is a project with high science content, and is also a vehicle for environmental education.”
Warning Signs

“Particularly in Beijing, the weather is such a state. Now suddenly there is a word called ‘haze’. This haze is a terrible thing. When there is haze, people have to wear face masks. Where does haze come from? It is related to over-exploitation of energy, including car emissions and factory emissions, which are all directly related. Haze had led us to recognize how bad climate change can be.

Hopes for the Future

“The solar project can inspire people in terms of energy conservation—exhaustion of nonrenewable energy sources will have terrible consequences, but solar energy is inexhaustible. China should do its best to conserve its energy sources to leave to our future generations. We can use renewables now, and recycle such energy. This can have a positive effect on climate improvement.”

Now we have to wear face masks when we go out. It is so terrible. We did not have to do so when we were children. The sky was blue and the clouds were white.
From 1980 to 2011, China’s energy intensity per unit of GDP declined by about 70 percent.

More than 80 percent of China’s greenhouse gas emissions come from the energy sector. Transforming China’s energy sector towards a low-carbon path could be the most important climate change mitigation action.

The government of China has embarked on one of the most aggressive energy conservation campaigns in the world, to fulfill its pledge to reduce its carbon intensity by 40-45 percent by 2020 compared to 2005 levels.

To help the government achieve its ambitious energy conservation and emission reduction targets, the World Bank Group has played a significant role in introducing market-based approaches to improving energy efficiency in China. Cai Yuchi is the chairman of one of the earliest of these companies, Shanghai Zhongji Energy Co. Ltd. Cai is working to increase energy efficiency by utilizing waste heat. It has become his mission in life.
Cai Yuchi’s Story

“I’m from Wenzhou, Zhejiang. I was born in 1966 in the year of the horse. It has been 16 years since I came to Shanghai, where I started manufacturing power transmission and distribution equipment. My company has over 300 employees.

“When I started my company, I found that there is a lot of ‘no-load’ in electric machinery. Let me explain what that means and why it is important for my business and for energy efficiency. To ensure safe operation of a factory, the design would have to be 20-30 percent more than its actual operation. For example, take a building in which the actual electricity consumption might be 30 kilowatts. But it is overdesigned to 50 kilowatts. So 20 percent of the energy is wasted. My goal is to put that wasted energy to use.

“Our company is focused on power generation with waste heat. Ten years ago, our company was the first to propose this overall energy saving in the whole sector. Many companies followed us. Many sectors can use waste heat, such as coking, iron and steel, cement, glass, sulfuric acids and papermaking.

“Let me give you an example of a company we have helped—the Shanxi Jiucheng Coking Co. Ltd. We used its waste heat effectively to generate electricity.”
“The company used to buy electricity from the power grid company at about 0.45 yuan ($0.07) per kilowatt hour. We use its waste heat to generate power and sell it to the company at the on-grid price for only 0.32 yuan ($0.05) per kilowatt hour. And we sell the surplus to the state power grid. In this way, the Shanxi company can save almost 10 million yuan ($1.6 million) a year. The use of waste heat has several benefits for the Shanxi company—it solves the environmental problem; it increases economic benefits; it saves a lot of energy, equivalent to over 20,000 tons of coal; and it reduces emissions of more than 60,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

“Energy efficiency and climate change are linked. I do not know how many coking plants there are in China. If all the plants in the sector are added up, it would be a huge number. So when we talk about emission reductions, the prerequisite is energy efficiency. We always believe that our energy service has an impact on climate.”

China has huge space for energy efficiency and environmental improvement. There is much room for energy efficiency revamping. Even by my rough calculation, it would be a market of a few trillion yuan.
Spotlight: Winds of change

China leads the world in wind capacity, which has doubled every year since 2005 and reached 96.4 gigawatts in 2014. It accounts for two percent of China’s electricity generation today, but those numbers are destined to rise dramatically in the coming decades. Wind power is now China’s third largest power source behind thermal and hydropower and the government aims to have 200 gigawatts of wind power capacity by 2020.

A big challenge is getting wind energy integrated into the power grid. To help, CRESP is working to enable commercial renewable electricity suppliers to provide energy to the electricity market efficiently, cost-effectively and on a large scale. China’s wind power is mostly concentrated in the less populated regions of the country. Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region has almost three times more turbines installed than any other area in China.

The World Bank is supporting China in its effort to meet this ambitious target through the China Renewable Energy Scale-up Program (CRESP). CRESP is a strategic long-term partnership among the government, the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). This program has supported the landmark Renewable Energy Law (one of the first in the developing world) and its regulations, as well as the domestic wind and solar manufacturing industry to improve quality and reduce costs.

China is also looking offshore to develop its wind future. Shanghai, the country’s most populous city with 23.9 million people, may soon become a test case for China’s winds of change. As one of China’s leading industrial cities, Shanghai is a major contributor to China’s greenhouse gas emissions. It gets most of its energy from coal.

Because of its coastal position, Shanghai is planning to invest heavily in wind power. The city is looking to put 13 major off-shore wind farms into operation by 2020. They could provide enough energy to meet the annual needs of four million households.
Postscript

No matter where we are in the world, Washington or Wakatobi, Tokyo or Tanna, Seoul or Suva, Sydney or Sipalay—people everywhere have hopes and dreams, and all of us want to make a better life for ourselves and our children.

As this book was going to press, the devastating Category 5 ‘Super Cyclone’ Pam slammed into Vanuatu and struck Kiribati, Solomon Islands and Tuvalu.

The small island of Tanna took a direct hit. It’s home to 26,000 of Vanuatu’s 260,000 people, including Kelson whom you met in chapter seven. The hopes and dreams of the people of Tanna and the progress they’ve made have unraveled.

“It’s a setback for the government and for the people of Vanuatu,” said Vanuatu’s President Baldwin Lonsdale, who laid the blame for the intense storm on a changing climate. “After all the development that has taken place, all this development has been wiped out.”

Super storms like Pam are part of a terrible trend. As the climate changes, there are more intense typhoons and cyclones. From Yolanda, one of the deadliest storms ever to strike the Philippines, to Pam in Vanuatu, we are reminded that decades of development can be destroyed in an instant.

Ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity means putting action on climate change at the top of the development agenda.
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Carl P. Hanlon
Editor-in-Chief
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