

# peacemail

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POSTAGE PAID  
OFF PEAK  
AUSTRALIA

**act for peace**  
reduce poverty | protect refugees  
prevent conflicts | empower communities



The HIV/AIDS situation in West Papua has been described as a generalised epidemic. Reported AIDS case rates in Papua Province are amongst the worst in all of Indonesia.

AIDS prevalence is estimated at 2.4% of the 15-49 age group across Tanah Papua (Papua and West Papua). In urban and rural based settings, risky sexual behaviours (unprotected sex and frequent changing of partners) account for over 90% of HIV transmission in Papua.

One of our partners, The Christian Non Government Organisation Network in Indonesia (CNNI), is training young community leaders to be trainers in their communities for awareness and prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS. In September 2009, nineteen women and twelve men attended a training of trainers workshop in Makbon, West Papua. Through this training they are able to dispel myths about contagion and encourage compassionate care of people living with the disease. They assist with voluntary pastoral counselling and help arrange testing for families whose members are believed to be exposed to HIV/AIDS. Accurate information to local media is an important part of the prevention strategy.

**\$70** can provide for one person to attend a Training of Trainers course on HIV and AIDS awareness and support to affected persons allowing them to train others in their community

**\$1,200** can provide for an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign in a high risk target community

Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA).

**actalliance**



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**THANK YOU Partners** for your commitment to Act for Peace through your prayers and regular gifts. Through your generosity, we are making a real and lasting difference to the lives of many people affected by conflict or extreme poverty.

If you would like to upgrade your regular gift, simply free call Howard or Sarah on **1800 025 101** or email [hgraham@ncca.org.au](mailto:hgraham@ncca.org.au). Also, all feedback and suggestions are welcome, as we love to hear from you and to pass on comments to project partners.

On the other hand, if you are not yet an Act for Peace Partner and would like to be, or would just like to help this project, your call or email will be welcomed! *All gifts of \$2 or more are tax deductible.*

## HIV/AIDS Awareness Training Saves Lives in West Papua

*Dear Act for Peace Partner,*

My name is Timothy Faa. I am twenty-seven years old and a member of the Youth Fellowship at the Evangelical Christian Church in Makbon Lahai Roy. Our district is in the regency of Sorong, West Papua, Indonesia.

When I went to a Trainers' Workshop here in Makbon, I did not really know anything about HIV/AIDS. I thought that HIV/AIDS was only a kind of common disease like flu, fever or headaches, but I've learnt that it is much more complex. My community was always suspicious of someone who was sick and lost weight drastically. They thought that the affected person definitely must have HIV/AIDS and accused them of liking to drink liquor, having sex with sex workers and frequently changing partners.

Makbon is a port town and one of the vulnerable areas which are susceptible to HIV/AIDS infection. People at high risk of contracting HIV are not aware of their greater chance of being diagnosed, because they do not know and do not dare have a blood test. Men who travel have a high contribution to increasing the rate of growth of HIV in Papua, and this happens at all levels, especially those who have money and always travel out of the house.

Figures for HIV/AIDS in Papua have skyrocketed, particularly with native Papuans who have been victimised. We want to stop this disease and protect the next generation. We want to learn more so we can talk more extensively and work together, hand in hand, with many parties to prevent this happening.

My community was frightened and not only kept away from the person suspected to have HIV/AIDS, but even from their family, because it was believed to be transmitted easily. I feel particularly pleased with the training as participants were encouraged to escape from ignorance about the dangers of HIV/AIDS.

I no longer feel anxious when among people who are allegedly living with HIV. I am no longer afraid or isolate families of the victims. Instead, I encourage them.

### Partner's Prayer Points:

**Give thanks for the volunteers who work in their community to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS.**

**Pray for those living with HIV/AIDS that they may receive adequate care and compassion.**



*Agus and Lucia, HIV/AIDS awareness program workers*

*Timothy*

