

## TEACHER'S NOTES

### Global Inequalities - DVD

#### 1. Poverty, hunger and education

Arcanjo is eight years old and has one brother and one sister. He lives with his mother and his father is dead. Arcanjo had difficulties at birth that have led to partial blindness in both eyes. This disability, along with suffering from epilepsy, has meant that Arcanjo struggles at school. In fact, his teachers have suggested he leave school. There are times when he gets bullied by the other boys at the school.

People with disabilities, like Arcanjo, have the same rights as anybody else. But because of discrimination and a lack of resources, they are often more vulnerable to the effects of poverty.

#### 2. Maternal and child health

According to UNICEF estimates, the total number of under-five deaths around the world decreased from 12.4 million in 1990 to 8.1 million in 2009. This means that 12,000 fewer children are dying each day around the world compared to 1990. In part, this fall is due to key health interventions such as immunisations, including measles vaccinations, the use of insecticide-treated bed nets to prevent malaria and Vitamin A supplements. However the tragedy of preventable child deaths continues. Some 22,000 children under five still die each day, and 70 percent of these deaths occur in the first year of the child's life.

#### 3. Food and poverty

Seven-year-old Abito lives in East Timor with his mother, brother, sister and grandfather. His family are poor and do not have enough money to buy food during the "hungry season". The hungry season occurs when the crops are growing, and most of the produce from the previous crop cycle has been eaten, resulting in a lack of food until the new crops are ready. Abito and his family must eat whatever is available. One dish is akar, made from dried sago tree that is ground into a flour, mixed with water, and cooked. This does not provide a balanced, nutritious diet but can ease hunger pains.

Due to poverty, people like Abito and his family do not have enough food to eat, nor do they have access to a sufficient variety of food required for good nutrition. This results in lifelong impacts from malnutrition, such as stunting, fatigue, difficulty concentrating, and susceptibility to disease.

#### 4. Poverty, hunger and social acceptance

Lily is a seven-year-old orphan. She lives in East Timor with her Grandmother, who is extremely poor. Her Grandmother wants her to have enough food to eat, and to be able to go to school, but doesn't know how to change things. Other children in the village pick on Lily because of her poverty and "shabby" clothes, which makes her feel embarrassed. She spends her days helping with the washing, cooking, and tending their small plot of crops. Depending on food availability she and her Grandmother will only have breakfast and possibly another small meal later in the day.

Extreme poverty can lock families into a generational cycle of hunger, poor health, lack of education, discrimination, and lack of resources to bring about change.

#### 5. East Timor

Includes an interview with Emilia Pires (East Timor Finance Minister) and a brief overview of the history of East Timor; Australia's engagement with the country, and issues and challenges facing East Timor today.

#### 6. Water and sanitation

Water is essential for human life, yet almost 900 million people (a fifth of the world) don't have access to clean, safe water. One in every three people in the world does not have access to adequate sanitation. Some 6,000 people die each day from water-related diseases. It is a crisis that is experienced by the poor and is holding back human development around the world.