

**Dr. Dave Jenkins** qualified from Otago University Medical School in New Zealand in 1982. His career includes general practice, senior lectureships at Auckland Medical School, Executive Director for Education for an Asian corporate health project, and founding Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) SurfAid International where he currently holds the position of Medical Director.



SurfAid began in 1999 during a surfing holiday in the Mentawai Islands of Sumatera Indonesia where Dr. Dave discovered communities with extreme but preventable childhood mortality and morbidity. "It became a life changing moment when I realized that I could not sail away back to my wealthy lifestyle without making a significant contribution to turning this situation around." He left his job, sold his house to help fund SurfAid, and set about establishing a NGO. SurfAid has grown from Dr. Dave's vision to employing over 120 employees with 90% working in the field, establishing fundraising entities in four countries, and presently working in five locations in Indonesia.

Dr. Dave recognized that most of the deaths would be prevented by changes to a key set of low cost and high impact behaviors such as correct breastfeeding, clean birthing tools, and salt and sugar solutions for diarrhea. Using innovative techniques such as participatory drama and other approaches, SurfAid has become well known for its determination to get a real long-lasting change and high returns to the donor - or as Dr. Dave likes to call them, their social investors. "We have to take a business approach to aid. What is giving the best returns? How do we improve cost-effectiveness, reduce expenses, and scale successful projects? These are questions that we ask every day."

SurfAid has won many awards including the prestigious Social Entrepreneur Award and the Rainer Arnold Fellowship. In addition, it was chosen from over 49,000 NGOs and was voted "One of the Best Non-Governmental Organizations in the World" in 2007 by the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (WANGO) where it was also awarded their humanitarian award for that year as well.

Since 2004, SurfAid has become the lead agency for both the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and the New Zealand Agency for International Development (NZAID) in emergency preparedness and response to five earthquakes and tsunamis in the island chain of Sumatera.

Dr. Dave continues to research and apply new behavioral approaches that save lives and create lasting change.

