



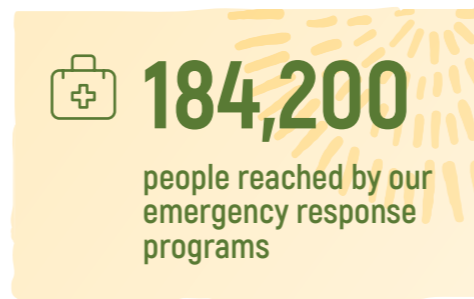
Annual Report

2023

JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023



UnitingWorld
connecting communities for life



Year at a Glance FY 23





Welcome to the UnitingWorld Annual Report FY2023. Explore the difference we have made together in the world.

Thank you for being part of this amazing story.

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Credits

A copy of this Annual Report can be downloaded from our website: www.unitingworld.org.au

All photographs taken by UnitingWorld staff, volunteers and overseas partners in Africa, Asia and the Pacific unless otherwise specified. All photos and stories used with permission. The names of some individuals have been changed to protect their privacy.

Graphic Design: Boheem

Cover image: Families in rural Bali now face more secure, healthy and hopeful futures, thanks to the life-changing work of our local partner and gifts from UnitingWorld supporters like you. After receiving technical help to launch a chicken-breeding venture and cash to buy the things needed to get started, this boy's family now has a thriving poultry business.

This page: Verasea Manurung, staff member of our Bali partner's *Maha Bhoga Marga* Foundation, delivered training to 250 volunteers, equipping them to deliver health messaging to communities in the assisted villages in nine districts in Bali.

Board Chair's Report



In an era of deepening crises and rapid transitions, UnitingWorld faithfully continues the work of partnering with churches in the Pacific, Asia and Africa. This work enables many to live with dignity and hope, and to realise their God-given potential in their communities.

The Board of UnitingWorld has also been going through transitions. As a new Chair, and with several new members beginning their terms in 2022, this has been an important time of stabilisation and renewing our Board culture. We have been building a rigorous but collegial approach that can inform our governance.

Localisation and decolonisation have been areas of strategic focus as we have sought to wrestle in humility with the deep questions these critiques raise. Our partner churches bring invaluable wisdom to this conversation, and we continuously seek to be transformed in our own practices and decision-making. Intentional recruitment to bring on Board members with lived experience of the places we work in resulted in two significant appointments in July 2022. We have followed this up with training for the whole Board on cross-cultural competence.

We continue to adapt to the impact of COVID and orient ourselves to respond to the escalating impacts of climate change and conflict. Disasters

have become the focus of much 'aid' thinking and practice. Yet we continue to invest in building capacity and resilience among our partner churches and the communities that they serve, believing these to be foundational to human flourishing.

I am proud of our team who work tirelessly to bring our plans to life. With our National Director's leadership, they have emerged post-COVID with both flexibility and focus. With the Board's strong support, the National Director's focus has shifted outwards, lifting our profile, leveraging sector networks to make direct connections with the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister for International Development and cultivating good relations with DFAT, in particular the Office of the Pacific. Consequently, our advocacy engagements have influenced policy, demonstrating our capacity to have impact despite our small size.

All we do as UnitingWorld is on behalf of the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) and the faithful congregations and donors whose gifts, prayers and advocacy sustain us. We believe our overseas church partners have much

to offer the UCA, and we remain committed to bringing their voices and wisdom back into our community to be a prophetic challenge to us all.

My heartfelt thanks to everyone who is part of this beautiful web of relationships that enables UnitingWorld to do truly transformative work, with our hope in the coming Kingdom that brings peace, justice and renewal for all.

Rev Steve Bevis, PhD
Chair of the Board, UnitingWorld

National Director's Report



In June 2022, we recognised the need to take stock and restore our strength after the pandemic, and re-orient ourselves for recovery and growth in a fundamentally changed world. The past year has been one of re-building core capacity after the disruption caused by COVID-19.

In deep conversation with our partners, we undertook two major initiatives. The first was to review every project, to verify that the assumptions and design were fit for the post-COVID world. We supported our partners to do fresh community consultations, baseline data gathering and gender and disability audits.

Secondly, we reviewed our own programming approach and refreshed the tools we use to support project design and management. We sharpened our focus on putting partners' own strengths and aspirations at the core and integrating cross-cutting issues such as climate change and gender and disability into all projects.

We built up capacity in the UnitingWorld team with two senior appointments. Peter Keegan took over smoothly from Jane Kennedy, who finished at UnitingWorld after 10 years. Rev Apwee Ting joined us as International Partnerships Manager, a strategic role funded from reserves. His job is to strengthen the theological framework for our mission and our relationships with our partner churches.

The post-COVID travel freedom has meant more personal engagement with our Uniting Church supporters. Our donor relations team and volunteer ambassador team expanded, visiting congregations and launching the UnitingWorld Sunday initiative. We continue to invest in digital communications as we seek to bring new supporters into our family.

It was a tough economic climate for fundraising. Despite the timely roll-out of high-quality campaigns, our fundraising was lower than previous years. The Australian Aid program remains a significant contribution to our work. While many COVID-related grants finished this year, we received new funding for emergency responses in Tonga and Vanuatu as well as our longer-term project grants. We continue to partner with the DFAT Office of the Pacific to support their engagement with the Pacific Conference of Churches.

At the Board's request, I am investing more of my time in raising UnitingWorld's profile, leveraging my role on the ACFID Board and our membership of Micah Australia

to spend more time in advocacy in Canberra and travelling to speak at UCA congregations across the country. Raising UnitingWorld's profile is key to growing supporters and collaborators.

Amidst many challenges, I remain grateful to be part of UnitingWorld's unique and powerful ministry, and to have the joy of connecting with faithful supporters, inspiring church partners and dedicated staff and Board. I thank each one of you for your trust and support.

Sureka Goringe, BA(Hons), PhD
National Director, UnitingWorld

Who We Are

UnitingWorld is the international aid and partnerships agency of the Uniting Church in Australia.

We are a channel for connecting Australian people to God's work in the wider world, collaborating with the global church to address the causes and consequences of poverty, injustice and violence.

We are motivated by the belief that every person is beloved by God and invited to a life in all its fullness.

OUR VISION

Honouring God through global relationships which bring justice and hope.

OUR MISSION

Mandated by the Uniting Church in Australia

In response to God's purpose for the world and its people, to connect the people of the Uniting Church in Australia in missional collaboration with churches overseas in order to strengthen the church in ministry, to address the causes and consequences of poverty, injustice and violence.

OUR CHARITABLE PURPOSE

Motivated by service of God through serving those in need, the purpose of the organisation is to relieve the poverty, distress, sickness, disadvantage due to disability, destitution, suffering, misfortune or disempowerment of individuals and communities in need, with a focus on those living overseas.

Our Values

Our work is infused with our values, shaping what we do and how we do it.

RELATIONSHIP

We give generously and receive humbly, committing to long term change and growth.

MUTUAL RESPECT

We are sensitive to context, mindful of power imbalance; we recognise difference and embrace diversity.

INTEGRITY

We are ethical, accountable and open in our relationships and work practices.

FULLNESS OF LIFE

We believe the good news of Jesus means justice and hope for all, particularly for the oppressed and vulnerable.

INCLUSION

We actively seek equality for all, ensuring no discrimination due to age, culture, gender, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or social or political affiliation.

SUSTAINABILITY

We care for creation and build resources for the future.

INNOVATION

We collaborate for courageous and creative possibilities and solutions in everything we do.

Mr Koko works in the Environment section of our partner *Maha Bhoga Marga* in Bali. He manages the permaculture demonstration plot, planting and taking care of the crops, which include eggplant, tomato, corn, chilli and spinach. He also manages the composting program.

How We Work

We're blessed to be a part of a powerful network of people and organisations working together to make sustainable progress to end poverty in our world. We made this diagram to show our supporters how we work in partnership and how it takes all of us to create change.



WE WORK IN PARTNERSHIP

The first thing to know is that ending poverty and injustice isn't just on you. Partnership is about working together, and you're part of a powerful network of like-minded people taking action across our world.

What we learn informs how we partner.



WE CONNECT OUR PARTNERS

We host workshops so our partners can partner with each other! It strengthens our network to work together, learn from one another and determine our shared future.



Our partner churches are deeply embedded in their communities and are formidable change agents.

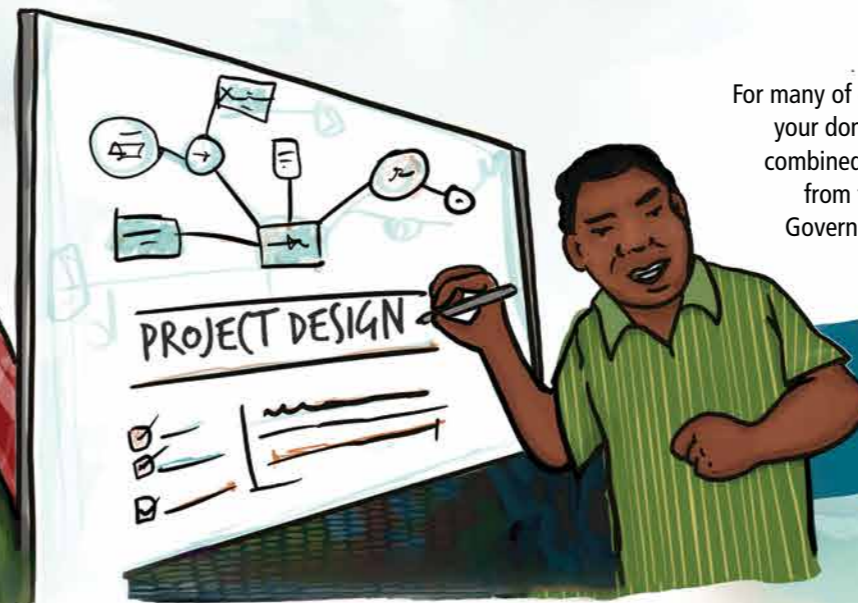
WE LISTEN

Our partners meet with community members to hear about the challenges they face and find out what they can do to help.



WE PLAN AND DREAM TOGETHER

We believe sustainable change arises when all aspects of development are owned and led by local communities themselves. Your donations help our partners fulfil their vision of a better world.



WE PARTNER TO MAKE A BIGGER IMPACT

which means your gift goes further

For many of our programs, your donations can be combined with funding from the Australian Government to reach more people.



But we need to contribute your donations to win these grants.

So your donation can have up to six times the impact!

WE CHECK-IN



Our team works hard to identify problems and areas for improvement, and to help our partners use your donation in the best way possible to make long-term change!

WE AMPLIFY



We lift up the voices of our partners through faith-filled advocacy and collective action to point out the structural barriers that keep people in poverty.

We invite you to pray and act alongside our partners.

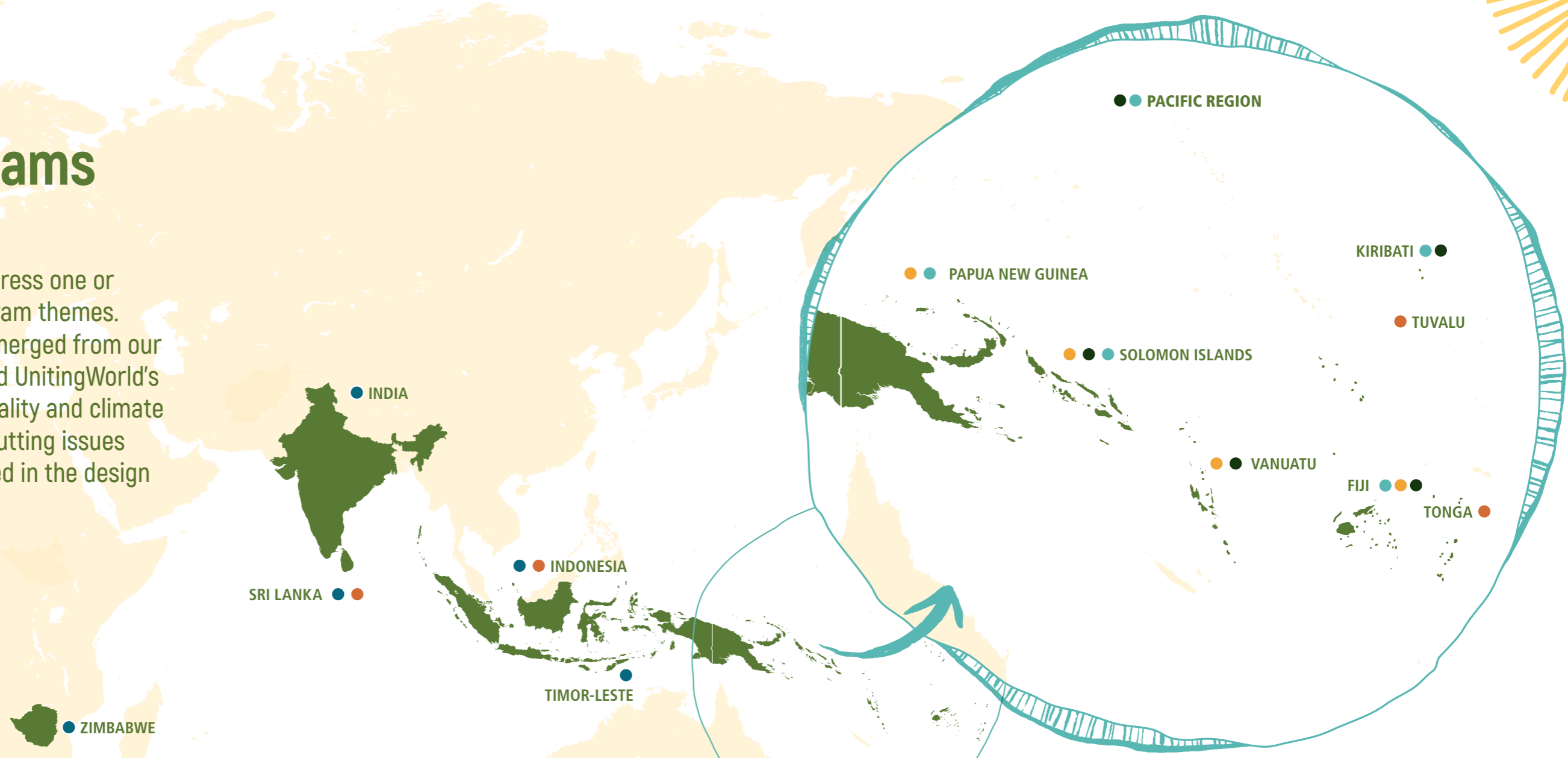
OUR PARTNERS ROLL OUT LIFE-CHANGING PROJECTS

Your support makes it happen, giving people the tools to overcome poverty and injustice through long-term, community-wide development.



Our Programs

All of our projects address one or more of our five program themes. These themes have emerged from our partners' priorities and UnitingWorld's expertise. Gender equality and climate resilience are cross-cutting issues and have been included in the design of all projects.



 **22**
partners

 **27**
projects

 **12**
countries

 **257,502**
people impacted



● Poverty Alleviation

Poverty alleviation projects seek to remove the barriers that stop people from living life to the full. They give them tools to break the poverty cycle, access greater opportunities and speak up for their rights (more on pages 16-17).

People reached: **53,792**
Projects: **11**
Countries: **5**



● Gender Equality

Gender equality projects challenge churches and communities to value and empower women as equals and transform communities into places where they are safe from violence (more on pages 18-19).

People reached: **18,675**
Projects: **5**
Countries: **4 (+ 1 regional Pacific)**



● Good Leaders, Strong Institutions

Leadership projects train leaders and strengthen the governance of organisations to help them protect the vulnerable and improve effectiveness, sustainability and accountability (more on pages 20-21).

People reached: **342**
Projects: **3**
Countries: **3**



● Climate Resilience

Climate resilience projects equip church leaders and communities to prepare for environmental disasters in practical, spiritual and pastoral ways (more on pages 22-23).

People reached: **493**
Projects: **2**
Countries: **4**



● Emergency Response

Emergency response projects provide urgent assistance to people whose lives or livelihoods are threatened by disasters such as cyclones or earthquakes (more on pages 24-25).

People reached: **184,200**
Projects: **5***
Countries: **4**

*An additional component was added to an existing project to assist with emergency response to Cyclones Judy and Kevin in Vanuatu in Feb-Mar 2023.

Our Partners and Projects

UnitingWorld's partners are resilient change-makers who inspire us with their faithfulness and joy.

Africa

Zimbabwe

Methodist Church in Zimbabwe
Safety and Inclusion

South Asia

India

Church of North India – Diocese of Amritsar
Education for Vulnerable Girls
Empowerment of Excluded Castes

Church of North India – Diocese of Durgapur
Empowerment of Excluded Castes

Church of North India – Diocese of Eastern Himalayas
Education for Remote Area Children

Sri Lanka

Methodist Church of Sri Lanka
Empowering People with Disabilities
Sri Lanka Economic Crisis Emergency Response 2022

South East Asia

Indonesia

Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua
Women's Livelihoods

Protestant Christian Church in Bali
Poverty Alleviation
COVID-19 Response

Protestant Church in Maluku
Livelihoods and Peacebuilding

Christian Evangelical Church in Timor
Livelihoods and Microfinance

Timor-Leste

Protestant Church in East Timor
Community Health

Pacific

Fiji

Methodist Church in Fiji
Disaster Ready
Fiji Resilient Inclusive Safe Communities

Pacific Conference of Churches
Strengthening Disaster Resilience

Kiribati

Kiribati Uniting Church
Kiribati Gender Equality and Climate Resilience

Papua New Guinea

United Church in Papua New Guinea
Church Partnerships for Community Service
Disaster Ready

Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands Christian Association
Safe Churches
Disaster Ready

United Church in the Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands Gender Equality and Climate Resilience

Tonga

Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga
Tonga Volcano Emergency Response
Tonga Volcano and COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Activation

Tuvalu

Tuvalu Christian Church
Tuvalu Drought Emergency Response 2022

Vanuatu

Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu
Vanuatu Gender Equality and Climate Resilience

Pacific Regional Projects

Davuilevu Theological College
Pacific Theological College
Women in Ministry

Multiple Pacific Partners
Pacific Regional Gender Equality and Climate Resilience

Micah Australia
Pacific Australian Emerging Leaders Summit 2022

UnitingWorld, on behalf of the Uniting Church, maintains relationships with many churches with whom we did not do projects in FY23. They nevertheless remain an important part of our global network and contribute to the wider conversations that fuel our learning and strategy. These partners include:

China Christian Council, Cook Islands Christian Church, Church of South India, Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa, Indonesian Christian Church in Halmahera, United Church of Christ in Japan, Korean Christian Church in Japan, Korean Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea, Presbyterian Church of Korea, National Evangelical Church of Beirut, Nauru Congregational Church, Methodist Church of New Zealand, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand,

Christian Church of Niue, United Church of Christ in the Philippines, National Council of Churches in the Philippines, Philippines Central Conference of the United Methodist Church, Methodist Church in Samoa, Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, Supreme Council of the Evangelical Churches in Syria and Lebanon, Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, Church of Christ in Thailand and Vanuatu Christian Council.

UnitingWorld's church partners often have a presence in the most remote areas on earth. This church in the highlands of West Papua was established by UnitingWorld partner, the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua, to serve a community only accessible by several hours on foot.

Poverty Alleviation

Over the past three years an additional 165 million people fell below the poverty line*. Inflation, conflict and climate change continue to put pressure on the world's most vulnerable. Poverty alleviation remains a primary and urgent focus of our work.

When people have access to education, health care, clean water, financial services and income opportunities, it can break the cycle of poverty. We work with our overseas partners to address the complex dimensions of poverty, while equipping people to speak up for their rights and participate in local leadership. This is especially important for people who experience discrimination and inequality because of their disability, caste, gender or indigenous identity.

* United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 2023



53,792

people participated in poverty alleviation programs



2,053

people received training in income generation and business development



7,179

people received training in agricultural practices



1,959

children supported to remain in formal education

1,704

children supported to participate in non-formal education and alternative education pathways



11,385

people participated in health and hygiene education

What does it take to lift a village out of poverty?

There's a village in Sarenga, West Bengal, that had a unique problem. Each year, the harsh dry season would drive the majority of the village's 250 people to migrate away for up to five months at a time. Most village families are subsistence farmers. During those months, the creeks would dry up and there was never enough rainfall to grow crops, so they moved away to find work to survive.

The village became practically deserted, leaving only the elderly. Access to health services, education and employment opportunities were severely limited as the population was unstable, and community development suffered.

Our partners, the Church of North India (CNI) through the Diocese of Durgapur, asked how they could help. The villagers' request was a simple one: find a way to water their crops so they don't dry up when the rain stops.

Thanks to the generosity of UnitingWorld supporters and the Australian Government through ANCP, our partners were able to purchase and install two submersible pumps that can channel large volumes of water across long distances.

The new sources of irrigation mean that the community can continue farming throughout the year and not have to travel away and work for others to earn a living.

The 2023 summer months in Sarenga had the usual erratic rainfall and dryness. But thanks to this project, there is now an entire village of people who no longer need to uproot their lives for months at a time and who are hard at work contributing to their families and their community.

UnitingWorld Program Manager Shreshtha Kumar visited the village

this year and was blown away by the complete turnaround described by the people:

"It's so heart-warming to see how the village has become a self-sufficient community. The people can now rely on far better food security and the whole life of the village is benefitting."

This project, supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), impacted the lives of 19,725 people across 26 rural villages in Sarenga and Ranibandh provinces as well as in two urban slums in Durgapur in FY23.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ADDRESSED BY THIS WORK:



Gender Equality

Our partners shift mindsets and behaviour in communities through the influence of respected leaders and Christian teaching.

In Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati and the Solomon Islands, trained leaders are steering discussions that highlight Biblical teaching about the equality of men and women, inspiring men and women to be champions of equality and nonviolence.

Women across the Pacific are studying theology and seeking ordination, equipping them for leadership in the Church and community.

Beyond the Pacific, gender equality is a cross-cutting issue being included in all project designs.

Women in Ministry

Since 2014, the Women in Ministry project has supported over 32 women from Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, and Vanuatu in pursuing theological studies.

Graduates now serve as ordained ministers, deaconesses, community leaders, gender equality theology staff, and lecturers in Pacific theological colleges.


Often pioneering as the first women in their churches to hold such roles, two recent Master of Theology graduates, Daphney and Rev Susana, earned distinctions and faculty prizes. Rev Susana, from Fiji, also served as the Student Body Association President, contributing to her leadership growth.

Currently, there are six Women in Ministry scholars.



 **18,675**
people reached

 **29,485**
people targeted through one-way messaging on protection, inclusion and gender equality

 **1,645**
people participated in sessions on Inclusion Theology

 **52** women supported to assume leadership roles

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
ADDRESSED BY THIS WORK:

1 NO POVERTY



5 GENDER EQUALITY



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



13 CLIMATE ACTION



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Preventing gender-based violence during disasters

Global evidence indicates a surge in sexual and gender-based violence during disasters, a concerning trend for the Pacific, where violence rates are already alarmingly high.

In the aftermath of twin Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin and a 6.5 magnitude earthquake in Vanuatu in March 2023, we supported the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu (PCV) to safeguard vulnerable people during the recovery. PCV were able to leverage their expertise in gender equality and child protection gained by working with UnitingWorld over previous years.

PCV Women's Fellowship worked with affected communities to raise understanding of gender equality and disability inclusion and to highlight reporting pathways for abuse incidents. They led a three-day workshop in June 2023 for 43 participants from 11 communities, fostering shifts in gender norms and attitudes toward protection, particularly among men.

This project was supported by the Australian Government through the Australian Humanitarian Program (AHP).



Good Leaders, Strong Institutions

We support our partners to build their leadership capacity and strengthen their governance and management practices to be more effective changemakers in their communities.

Churches review their structures, policies and practices with the help of skilled experts, identifying strengths and gaps, and map their own path for development.

Leaders from different partners gather regionally to share hard-won lessons on effective programming and to strengthen each other on core issues such as safeguarding and protection.


Changing the church's 'lifestyle'

The safety and inclusion of vulnerable people and gender equality must become the 'lifestyle' of the church, ingrained in internal culture and in community work.

This message rang out loud and clear from a panel at the Southeast Asia Regional Learning Forum featuring Moderator Bishop Nyoman Agustinus and Rev Dr Ni Luh Suartini of the Christian Protestant Church in Bali, and Rev Hendriana Mbui Takalogo from the Christian Evangelical Church in Timor.

These leaders delved into the safeguarding journey of their churches, emphasising the importance of visibility of women in leadership and decision-making roles to challenge patriarchal norms that contribute to violence. It was a dynamic conversation that highlighted the transformative power of cultural shifts within the church community.

 **5,539** people trained on safeguarding

 **4** of our church partners underwent organisational effectiveness reviews

 **845** people trained on practices to improve programs and services in terms of gender equality, disability inclusion and inclusion of other marginalised groups

Including people with disabilities in Zimbabwe

In 2021, the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe (MCZ) initiated its first Disability Inclusion Policy to foster inclusivity for people with disabilities. Since the policy's launch, MCZ has actively worked to integrate individuals with disabilities into church life.

Gweru, an administrative district of MCZ, has made notable progress, training 75 ministers and preachers in sign language to address the needs of congregants reliant on it. As a result of the new policy

developed through this project, five MCZ congregations have adopted an inclusivity focus, incorporating ramps and disability-friendly facilities. The district aims to make all churches easily accessible to individuals with disabilities by the end of 2024.

Gweru district plans to survey people with disabilities to better understand their needs, with MCZ leadership aiming to convey a strong message that individuals with disabilities are welcome in churches without discrimination.

"This is a new gospel that is bridging a gap that has been created in society between people with disabilities and people without," says Reverend Obert Shatai, a senior minister in Gweru District.

This project was supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
ADDRESSED BY THIS WORK:



Climate Resilience

Our partners support people to confront the existential threat of climate change within the framework of their faith, building material and psychological resilience.

They equip communities to find local solutions for their needs, and to plan and prepare to reduce the impact of disasters. They draw on Biblical teaching to inspire people to care for creation and advocate to their leaders and governments. This year, the designs of all projects were refreshed to integrate climate action and disaster resilience outcomes.

Building resilient communities in the face of climate change

The Theology of Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate (TDRCC) Program is advancing in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and Papua New Guinea. Communities and churches are exploring the biblical perspectives on resilience, preparedness, and suffering in the face of disasters. Partners are emphasising the shared responsibility for preparation, response, and mitigation of the impacts of climate change and disasters.

Over the past year, efforts have focused on contextualising theological resources, training advocates for disaster resilience workshops, and implementing community education initiatives.

Rev Tomasi Jale, from the Methodist Church in Fiji, works with churches, schools, and the Climate Change Division Office of the Prime Minister of Fiji, to advance the program. Rev Jale, an advocate for indigenous traditional

knowledge, has integrated ancient wisdom into a new TDRCC training manual, emphasising the importance of sustainable living practices. He said:

"The biggest challenge of this project is to shift the minds of people from their very comfortable corner... if [they] do not change their way of living... dumping rubbish, mining and the many forms of extraction, and deforestation... then we are simply doing nothing more than recreating our own pitfalls."



TDRCC Theological Coordinators from Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Fiji.

 **15,701**
people participated in sessions about disaster preparedness

 **65**
people trained to lead or facilitate community peacebuilding efforts

 **831**
people participated in the development or revision of local disaster risk reduction strategies or climate change plans

 **284** people adopted improved agricultural practices, including for climate and disaster resilience

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ADDRESSED BY THIS WORK:

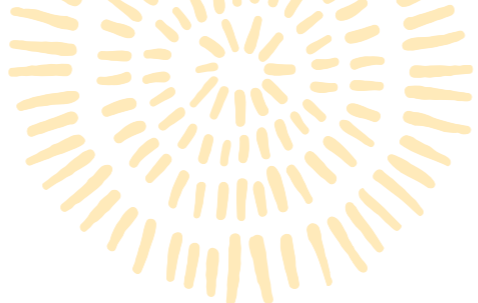


Climate change is intensifying poverty, food insecurity, conflict, forced migration and inequality. It disproportionately affects women, children, people with disabilities, the already poor and the marginalised.

"Climate change is an ongoing issue that affects our livelihood... back in the village, the sea-level rise has caused damage and coastal erosion along the shore. This also leads to water salinity and we have to fetch for fresh water up in the hill. Add on to that, changes in the weather has caused loss of soil fertility which affects the harvest from our garden."

- Sally Kura, Project Officer for the GET IT project at the United Church in Solomon Islands





Emergency Response

Churches have unique strengths that they bring to a disaster response. We support our partners to coordinate with government and other responders to make a complementary meaningful contribution.

In FY23 we supported partners to respond to five humanitarian emergencies. These were in Tonga after the tsunami, the economic crisis in Sri Lanka, cyclones Kevin and Judy in Vanuatu, COVID recovery and public health in Bali and the earthquake in Türkiye. Many of these projects combined supporter funding with Australian government funding via the Australian Humanitarian Program.



Recovery after the Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'apai volcano and tsunami crisis

Following the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano eruption and tsunami on January 2022, the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga (FWCT) recognized the prolonged recovery ahead.

The FWCT assisted communities in rebuilding their livelihoods by providing seedlings, tools, stoves, sewing machines, fishing gear, and contracting local shipbuilders to repair damaged fishing boats. Reports indicate that these measures improved fishing, stabilised income, and enhanced accessibility to education and healthcare.

The church also facilitated psychosocial support through *talanoa*, aiding communities to share stories as a tool for coping with trauma.

Mahealani, a 20-year-old seamstress, lost her sewing machine when tsunami waters flooded her house.

With project assistance, she now uses a community sewing machine, receiving numerous orders, particularly for children's clothes. Mahealani and her family participated in *talanoa* sessions, finding solace in sharing their story and receiving community support.

"The *talanoa* helped us recover and feel optimistic about the future," she said.

Thank you to the many UnitingWorld supporters in Australia who donated to help with the immediate humanitarian response as well as this critical long term support.



Part of the work is funded by the Australian Government as part of the Australian Humanitarian Partnership Program (AHP), through Church Agencies Network-Disaster Operations (CAN-DO).

Families from Atata island, completely washed out by the tsunami, had to be resettled on the main island. Program Manager Rev. Taisia Fifita-Heimuli (pictured) visited the Atata Sii, the new settlement, to deliver supplies requested by the community.



Sri Lankan economic crisis

In 2022 and 2023, Sri Lanka faced its worst economic crisis, marked by a 50% inflation rate, soaring costs of essential goods, service shutdowns, and widespread power cuts. Responding to escalating protests, the Methodist Church Sri Lanka publicly committed to alleviating suffering.

Deaf Link is the development agency of our partner, the Methodist Church of Sri Lanka, and UnitingWorld is a long term supporter of their disability empowerment program.

Despite transportation challenges, Deaf Link staff visited rural families known to be vulnerable through their connection with disability services. They distributed dry ration packs to families in need.

The Methodist Church in Sri Lanka also engaged in public advocacy on behalf of the poorest who suffered most during the crisis.

 184,200 people reached	 100 disaster chaplains trained	 880 people assisted with food, water and shelter following a disaster
 1,140 people received counselling and support from disaster chaplains		

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ADDRESSED BY THIS WORK:



Learning and Growing

FY23 gave us a chance to reflect and learn from all that had changed during the COVID years.

After a COVID-induced hiatus, partners convened in person in South East Asia for a Regional Learning Forum and a dedicated workshop to enhance safeguarding systems. Looking ahead, we anticipate organising similar in-person forums for South Asia and the Pacific in the coming year.

We conducted a meta-review of nine project evaluations from the past three years, revealing consistent evidence of our partners' projects being contextually relevant, adaptable to changing circumstances (especially during the pandemic), and achieving community impact in many intended outcome areas. However, the review highlighted gaps for several projects, both in baseline

studies and in the gender and disability analysis used to inform activities.

The findings influenced new project designs in seven locations, as well as four consortium-based projects. Each new design includes a completed gender and disability analysis, with a baseline study either in place or underway.



Back to meeting face to face! Participants in the UnitingWorld and South East Asia Partners Conference in Bali, September 2022. The Conference theme was Recovering Faster and Rising Stronger Post COVID-19.



Leadership, Safety and Inclusion in Zimbabwe

A project evaluation highlighted effective use of the church structure and leadership to establish a safe and inclusive environment in both church institutions and the wider community. The initial phase laid a strong foundation for long-term goals, introducing new policies on disability inclusion, safeguarding, and anti-human trafficking.

The appointment of a female minister with a disability as the Gender and Safeguarding Officer increased visibility in these areas. Targeted activities, such as sign language training and speaking engagements, disseminated policy messages to leaders and community members.

To enhance future efforts, recommendations include increased engagement with people with disabilities to receive input on accessible safeguarding reporting mechanisms. While sign language adoption has been successful, attention should be given to the specific needs of those with other forms of disability.

In June, male ministers from the Methodist Church of Zimbabwe gathered to discuss gender issues, recognizing the role they can play in promoting safe churches and families.

“The discussions have been an eye opener... I have learnt a lot of things that I had not realised affect me in carrying out my ministerial duties as well as my role as a spouse and father.” – Rev Roy

Education for Vulnerable Girls Project, Amritsar, India

In Amritsar, India, the Education for Vulnerable Girls project successfully supported over 66 families directly and numerous others indirectly, enabling vulnerable girls to access education, life skills, and a safe environment, integrating them into society.

The girls demonstrated leadership, excelling in cultural activities and sports, participating in various competitions and conferences. Their health and psycho-social adaptation significantly improved, facilitating easier integration into life beyond the hostel due to a structured lifestyle.

Looking ahead, the project should prioritize tuition, career support, trauma-informed counselling, and skills training to enhance the girls' post-hostel success.



Environmental Sustainability

We are committed to measuring, reporting and reducing our own environmental impacts. We support the UCA's stated aim to reduce emissions by 5% per annum and become a net-zero emissions church by 2040.

Our original baseline year was FY2020, but the metrics for the past few years are distorted by COVID-related lockdowns and travel restrictions. The data shown here for FY23 does not include commuting or home-working carbon emissions.

Reducing our office environmental impacts

In 2020, we moved to smaller premises, to an office refurbished with sustainably sourced materials or recycled materials wherever possible. Ongoing carbon reduction initiatives include low-power LED lighting, air conditioning that is only used as needed and paperless information management.

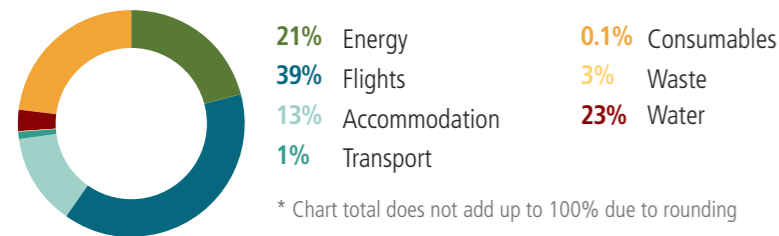
What about our projects?

A review of our project environmental risks showed project activity impact on the environment is predominantly undetectable or minimal.

Our projects don't involve infrastructure or significant alteration to the environment and their carbon footprint is primarily related to travel and meetings. We use our quarterly risk monitoring processes to identify and manage all environmental risks for each project.

However, several projects address sustainability directly. Environmental risk assessments for community garden projects in Indonesia included partners and communities assessing soil quality and pesticide use impacts and learning more about optimum gardening conditions and water use, especially relevant in drought prone areas. Planting native plants and trees are included in project activities to stabilise landslide-prone areas and offset carbon.

UnitingWorld Carbon Emissions FY23* 47.79 Tons of CO2



Good environmental practice, good outcomes for project participants

In Bali, the *Maha Bhoga Marga* Foundation's Waste Banks are a community recycling initiative that enables community members in various locations to utilise household waste to generate income and reduce plastic waste in their neighbourhoods:

"waste management activities, organic fertiliser/composting and biogas have helped beneficiaries to increase their income and save on family finances as well as (being) good initiatives for environment activities related to climate change adaptation".



Advocacy

We strive to create spaces for our partner's voices to be heard. We are driven by our values and the needs of our partners, and wherever we can, we pass the mic. We leverage our memberships with ACFID, Micah Australia* and the Church Agencies Network and collaborate with other churches to facilitate this.

Thursdays in Black

On Thursdays, staff at UnitingWorld and many of our international church partners wear black as an act of solidarity to honour women everywhere facing violence and injustice, Thursdays in Black is a global advocacy campaign started by the World Council of Churches. It's a small gesture, but a powerful symbol of our unity of purpose and commitment to act.



Staff members of our partner in Bali taking part in Thursdays in Black.



Hayden Charles, Wiradjuri man and UCA member, and Remwata Nokite from the Tuvalu Christian Church were among the young leaders who took part in PAELS 2022.

Pacific Australian Emerging Leaders' Summit

Young people from eight of our partner churches in the Pacific, from the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress were among 100 young people from 14 countries who came together to build a community that identified issues of shared concern, trained together in advocacy, and then met with Australian parliamentarians in a wide range of meetings.

UnitingWorld provided administrative support to Micah Australia to receive Australian Government grant funding to run this event. UnitingWorld supporters helped us fund two young women from our partner church in West Papua to join the delegation.

* UnitingWorld is a member of Micah Australia, a coalition of churches and Christian organisations raising a powerful voice for justice and a world free from poverty.



National Director Sureka Goringe accompanied South Sudanese/Australian UCA minister, Rev Amel Manyon, with other prominent UCA leaders to Canberra in a Christian women's delegation organised by Micah Australia*, to meet with members of the new government and advocate for international aid. Amel spoke powerfully about the famine affecting her homeland.

Our Place in The Development Sector



Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC)

UnitingWorld is registered as a Charity and a Public Benevolent Institution by the ACNC. Our annual information statement to the ACNC appears on their website, and we comply with the ACNC's External Conduct Standards for agencies sending funds overseas. www.acnc.gov.au



Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)

UnitingWorld is a member of ACFID and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. We review our compliance each year against the Code which sets the standard for how we are governed and managed, how we communicate with the public and how our funds are used. Our National Director, Sureka Goringe, was elected by ACFID members to serve on the Board of ACFID.

Our Summary Financial Reports have been prepared to meet the requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code, please see the ACFID website. www.acfid.asn.au



Church Agencies Network (CAN)

CAN is a group of twelve aid agencies established by the major Australian Christian denominations, who are a community of practice collaborating for greater impact. The Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) is made up of eight CAN members that act as a consortium to enhance community resilience to disaster and conflict. CAN DO is a member of the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP), a partnership between the Australian Government and Australian NGOs. AHP funds members to respond to emergencies and focuses on disaster response and disaster preparedness. In FY23, UnitingWorld National Director Sureka Goringe served as Chair of the CAN DO Governance Committee. www.churchagenciesnetwork.org.au

actalliance ACT Alliance

We are a member of ACT Alliance, a global coalition of relief and development agencies working in over 140 countries. ACT Alliance is affiliated with the World Council of Churches. Our membership expands our capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies outside our direct church partnerships as well as grow our expertise through the global network. www.actalliance.org

Australian Aid Australian Aid

We are fully accredited with the Australian Government as part of the Australian Aid Program. Each year we gratefully receive funding from the Australian Government as described in this report. www.dfat.gov.au



Uniting Church in Australia (UCA)

We are an agency of the UCA, whose mission is to transform lives and communities. UnitingWorld and our Board are overseen by our parent body, the National Assembly of the UCA. <https://uniting.church/>

We are committed to handling complaints and incidents promptly and fairly.

Our full complaints and incident handling policy appears on our website. We will accept reports in any format from anyone, including anonymously. To provide feedback, lodge a complaint or discuss ways to lodge a report, please email complaints@unitingworld.org.au or phone +61 1800 998 122 or 0466 226 170.

We are also committed to full adherence to the ACFID Code of Conduct. If you think we have breached the code, please talk to us. Information about lodging a complaint against UnitingWorld for a breach of the Code can be found at <https://acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints/>

Partnering with the Australian Government

Our partnership with the Australian Government is vital to increasing our capacity to support our church partners.

We engage with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to access Australian Aid funds.

In FY23, we received just over \$1M through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). We matched this with around \$253K provided by our donors to support six projects, directly impacting 52,279 people in Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, and Zimbabwe. We are deeply grateful for the flexibility and responsiveness of this aspect of our partnership with DFAT.

We also received just over \$876K through the Australian Government's Church Partnership Program in Papua New Guinea, now in its 4th phase and 19th year.

Through the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO), we also accessed emergency relief funding via the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP). In FY23, we received just over \$267K for three projects in Tonga, Vanuatu and Indonesia. We also received close to \$94K through the AHP Disaster Ready program for the Theology of Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate work across PNG, Fiji, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands

We received grants from the DFAT Office of the Pacific to support Micah Australia in taking a delegation of young leaders from the Pacific to advocate to the Australian parliament in November 2022, and again in November 2023.

We have worked closely with the Office of the Pacific as part of the Pacific Church Partners Advisory Network, a community of church leaders across all denominations from the Pacific and Australia.

We have been pleased to provide our Compliance Manager as an NGO representative to the Committee for Development Cooperation, the joint DFAT/NGO advisory and consultative body made up of members from the Australian NGO community and the Department, throughout FY23.

We and our partners are truly grateful to the Australian Government and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for their support of our programs.



UnitingWorld National Director Dr Sureka Goringe joined sector colleagues to engage with Senator Penny Wong, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Pat Conroy MP, Minister for International Development and the Pacific, and officials from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade about working together to make Australia's development program as effective as it can be.

Photo: Australian Council for International Development

Our Supporters

The work of UnitingWorld is sustained by the love, prayers, and generosity of our supporters across Australia. We could not do any of this without you.

UnitingWorld Sunday

This year, congregations across the Uniting Church celebrated UnitingWorld Sunday, honouring our global neighbors and the transformative work they do.

Reverend James Bhagwan of the Pacific Conference of Churches delivered an inspiring sermon, highlighting our collective role in the global body of Christ from the *Uto ni Yalo* voyaging canoe.

Glenbrook Uniting Church in NSW embraced the worship resources enthusiastically. Reverend Ellie Elia expressed her gratitude: *"The recorded sermon beautifully portrayed our valued role in Christ's Pacific canoe through UnitingWorld's work."*

A huge thanks to the many churches who hosted UnitingWorld Sunday services. Resources are available at www.unitingworld.org.au/sunday

Left: Rev James Bhagwan on board the *Uto ni Yalo*
Photo by Jason Chute / Lumen Films Fiji

UnitingWorld Ambassadors

"Congregations of terrific people with outreach at their heart!"

That's how UnitingWorld Ambassadors Don and Sylvia Wright describe the UCA congregations they visited during their latest "tour". In late 2022, they covered 8,000 km, visiting 30 churches over nine weeks. Sylvia praised the warm welcomes they received, and says she was amazed by the willingness of people to include them and to learn about the work of UnitingWorld.

Don and Sylvia are part of our team of volunteer Ambassadors, who advocate for UnitingWorld in their own communities and through speaking opportunities in congregations.

We are deeply grateful to the army of volunteers who help connect us to our supporters. Alongside our Ambassadors, we have over a hundred others who promote our work in their congregations, and help raise funds through Everything in Common stalls, Lent Event and other appeals.



13,506

gifts from our generous supporters



Support from
256
congregations



3,934
individual donors



370
regular givers



83
speaker events



Over
100
volunteers supporting our work



32
congregations and groups supporting specific projects

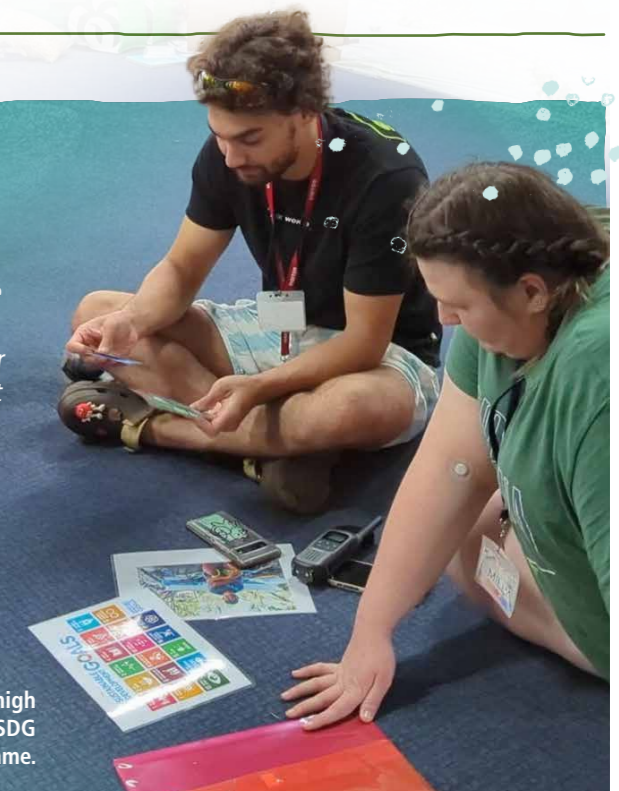
Inspiring a new generation

Young people across the Uniting Church have been learning about the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by participating in simulation games.

Mardi Lumsden, UnitingWorld Donor Relations Manager takes this activity to schools, youth groups and Synod youth camps. Mardi finds joy in the 'light bulb' moments when individuals realise the world isn't on a level playing field when it comes to injustice or poverty, and that there are sustainable ways the church can help.

"We love having UnitingWorld come and share! it is important for the campers to know that we are part of something bigger than our local churches, that awesome work is getting done outside their own suburbs." - Rev Fa Matangi, at the Queensland Synod Youth Camp

Sam and Millie leading high school age campers in the SDG simulation game.



Women in Ministry (Pacific) scholar information and prayer cards are shared to project sponsors.

Leaning in and stepping up

Heartfelt gratitude to our congregational supporters for embodying the spirit of "connecting communities for life." Nowhere is this more manifest than where congregations or community groups commit to sponsoring a project over a few years through project sponsorships. Their commitment is truly inspiring, extending beyond fundraising. Regular prayer, messages of friendship, and advocacy for project partners makes this a deeply transformative connection, with impact across the Pacific, in India, Timor-Leste, and Papua New Guinea. Thank you for being a vital part of transforming lives and fostering connections that truly make a lasting difference.

Weaving Connections

We are committed to strengthening the connections between our international partners and our Australian supporters.

By sharing the stories of amazing achievements and heartbreaking challenges of the people we work with overseas, we seek to bring inspiration and prophetic wisdom back to our Australian people. By facilitating personal connections between our partners and our Australian stakeholders, we invest in nurturing the multi-layered web of friendships that is both our legacy and our future.

UnitingWorld facilitates crucial connections between our partner churches and their diaspora members in the UCA in Australia. In September 2022, we celebrated Rev Pita Qasevakatini's induction into the Sydney Fiji Parish, on loan from the Methodist Church in Fiji. We also maintain ongoing communication with Rev Dr Solmon Zwana, on loan from the Methodist Church of Zimbabwe, as he serves the Zimbabwe Fellowship through the Uniting Church.

In March 2023, the past Moderator of the Queensland Synod, Rev David Baker, and Chair of the Dostana Group, Andrew Solomon, travelled with the National Director to the Diocese of Amritsar, a wonderful chance to cement old friendships and plan more exciting collaborations.

Our involvement in the Australian Government-sponsored Pacific Church Partnerships Advisory Network effectively connects the UCA's Pacific diaspora and First Nations leaders with Pacific Island churches. Rev Mark Kickett (Chair of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress) and Rev Vinnie Ravetali (Chair of Sydney Presbytery) have played crucial roles in discussions covering topics such as the self-determination of indigenous people and justice for seasonal workers.

Sureka Goringe and Vinnie Ravetali at a Pacific Church Partnerships Advisory Network meeting



As we work to shift power to our partners, we acknowledge Australia's ongoing decolonisation journey. In February 2023, Professor Anne Pattel-Gray*, a UCA theologian and Aboriginal leader, spoke at our annual staff retreat. Anne's wisdom challenged us to reflect on our role in the dominant society and combat racism as responsible local and global citizens. She emphasized the Church's purpose to bring justice to communities and nations, urging Christians to transform the dominant system from within. Professor Pattel-Gray shared her hope for transformation from the Creator, who has the power to change individuals and communities. When asked what gives her hope, Professor Pattel-Gray gave the whole team this encouragement: "My hope comes from the Creator, who has the power to transform people and communities".

* Professor Pattel-Gray is Professor of Indigenous Studies and the inaugural Head of the School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Divinity. She is a descendant of the Bidjara/Kari Kari people of Queensland and a celebrated Aboriginal leader.



In September 2022, UCA President Sharon Hollis joined our South East Asia Regional Conference in Bali, having warm and robust conversations with all the Heads of Church in that region, sharing the UCA experience on the need for churches to embrace safeguarding and child-protection, and planting her own tree in the Bali Church community garden.



Our Staff

Our big lesson from the pandemic: when we look after our people, our people look after our mission. During COVID, all aspects of our work were upheaved.

UnitingWorld staff and UCA leaders gathered to celebrate the induction of Rev Apwee Ting as International Partnerships Manager.



Most of our systems, processes and business practices had to be adapted, jettisoned, or reinvented. Yet, we implemented programs and delivered impact.

People innovated, improvised, worked around, and went the extra mile to get things done. They also carried the emotional strain from the disruption to their personal lives, and the secondary pain from the struggles of our partners.

So we introduced incentives to take leave and offered extra days off. We organised workshops on secondary trauma, self-care and mental health.

We invested in rebuilding social cohesion in our team, creating time and space for informal connections. We rediscovered the joy we shared in the work that we did and our friendships and camaraderie with each other. We were thrilled at the strong positive responses in the Staff Engagement Survey, with high scores on alignment, belonging and staff wellbeing all showing significant improvements against the 2020 scores.



Hindra Sulaksono (left) and Debora Murthy (right) from UnitingWorld's South East Asia Regional Office, with Rev Apwee Ting, International Partnerships Manager.

Right: UnitingWorld staff had the opportunity to join the Uniting Church in Australia and the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress in expressing strong support for a First Nations Voice to Parliament.



Our Board

Our governance rests with the UnitingWorld Board. Our Board is made up of volunteers recruited for complementary skills and diversity of backgrounds. These are the people who worked diligently throughout FY23 to provide outstanding oversight and direction. Through their guiding efforts, we continue to grow and flourish, driving greater change for our partners in communities across the world.

Board members are appointed by the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) Assembly Standing Committee. Our Board is ultimately accountable to the National Assembly – a triennial gathering of representative UCA members from across Australia.



Rev Steve Bevis
Chair of the Board

Lives on the lands of the Wangal people

Steve Bevis has spent a lifetime working and reflecting at the interface of Christianity and society. Steve worked for 13 years for Tearfund Australia and completed a PhD in the theology and practice of church-based community development with a focus on the Kenyan context. For six years Steve ministered in Alice Springs, working alongside first peoples and helped co-create the Alice Springs Meeting Place Foundation. Steve also chaired ITECA, a joint Uniting, Catholic, Anglican and AusSIL project to support the ministry training of local Aboriginal people across Central Australia. Steve is an ordained Minister of the Word in the Uniting Church in Australia and is currently serving as the minister at Burwood-Croydon Uniting Church in NSW. He is also a songwriter and performer.



Lin Hatfield Dodds
Chair of the Board
(stepped down November 2022)

BSc (Hons), MPsy, MAICD
Lives on Ngunnawal/Ngambri country and Yuin country

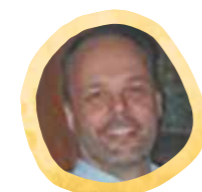
Lin is an active member of the Uniting Church and has contributed in many ways to its life and witness. In her day job, she leads The Benevolent Society. Lin has held senior roles in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Australian and New Zealand School of Government and in the Uniting Church with UnitingCare Australia.



James Batley
Board Member and Chair of the Finance Audit and Risk Committee

BA (Hons), PSM

Since 2015 James has worked as a Distinguished Policy Fellow in the Department of Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University. His previous roles include Deputy Secretary of DFAT; Deputy Director-General of AusAID; Australian High Commissioner to Fiji; Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands; Special Coordinator of the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands; Australian Ambassador to East Timor; as well as diplomatic positions in Lebanon, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.



Roger Bednall
Board Member

MA, LLB, GDLP, BA
Lives on the land of the Kurna people

Roger brings over twenty years' experience in International Development to the UnitingWorld Board. This includes program and project management in Asia and the Pacific, senior management roles in an international development organisation, and experience in governance and compliance in a donor-funded organisation. Roger brings skills in working with donors, partner governments and organisations, and program teams. He has a Bachelor of Laws and a Master's Degree in International Relations and is a member of the Uniting Church.



John Manning
Board Member
B.Com, M.Div. GAICD
Lives on Kurna country

John is Managing Director and Equity Partner of Chartered Accountants, Dewings Pty. Ltd. He has previously served as HR Manager and Practice Manager. From 2000-2002 he undertook a Bachelor of Ministries at Morling College, Sydney, and later completed a Master of Divinity through the Australian College of Theology. John is a Graduate of the Institute of Company Directors and serves on boards for a number of not-for-profit organisations.



Renee O'Shanassy
Board Member and Chair of the International Programs Committee
MPPM, BIR/LLB
Lives on Ngunnawal country

Renee started her engagement with UnitingWorld as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development in 2010 and later as an intern, proudly joining the Board in 2019. Renee holds a Master of Public Policy and Management, and a Bachelor of Laws and International Relations and researches feminist social movements. Renee has worked with the UNDP, Australian Public Service, development organisations and academia. She works in public policy, with a strong interest and experience in gender, development, and international relations.



Ashleigh Johnston
Board Member
BA-BCMS
Grew up on the lands of the Darawal people

Ashleigh has over a decade of experience in the technology industry, holding leadership roles both locally and internationally. She has a background in digital strategy, focusing on growth through digital transformation and equipping teams to thrive with changing technology. Ashleigh is a mentor to emerging leaders from under-represented minorities and is a founding member of Pride@SAP Singapore, an employee network group championing equality.



Andrew Johnson
Board Member and Chair of the International Programs Committee
(stepped down in October 2022)
LLB, BSc, GrDipLegPrac, GradDipTh
Lives on the country of the Ngambri and Ngunnawal peoples

Andrew is a consultant with the Social Economy Group, with clients spanning international development, community and religious organisations. His key areas of expertise include strategy, governance, government relations and public affairs. Prior to that, he worked for World Vision for seven years in various roles. He is an active member of the Uniting Church, having served in many leadership roles, including as a member of the Assembly Standing Committee for twelve years.



Rev Thresi Mauboy Wohangarra
Board Member
B.Th
Larrakia Country

Thresi is an Indonesian woman who grew up in Soe, West Timor. She was ordained as a Minister of the Word in 1992 and became a Minister of the Word within the UCA in 2005. She is highly committed to working respectfully and effectively with First peoples and has a great appreciation of other cultures, languages and world views. Thresi brings her cultural experience to maintain unity in diversity, to engage and build relationships, and to listen to people within their context, especially the marginalised. Through various organisations, she is also a part of an emergency response chaplaincy team.



Rev Viniana Rokomasi Ravetali
Board Member
Dip. Admin Management and Leadership, Dip. Management & Life Insurance, B.Th
Lives on the land of the Bidjigal people of the Eora Nation

Vinnie is of Fijian origin and an ordained minister of the UCA. She currently serves as the Senior Chaplain of MLC School, Chairperson of Sydney Presbytery, as well as Deputy Chair of the Fijian National Conference. She plays a significant role in areas of Intra-cultural Ministry and Mission and serves in a number of Community Care Boards.



Colleen Geyer
General Secretary of the UCA National Assembly (Ex-Officio Board Member)
B.Th, GCELead, DipTeach, Cert IV WTA
Lives on the land of the Turral people

Colleen is the General Secretary of the Uniting Church National Assembly. She has held executive leadership positions across the community services work of the Uniting Church for over ten years, and leadership roles with the Church, at both state and national levels for twenty years, including serving on Councils of the Church and numerous governance groups. She has extensive experience in organisational strategy, leadership development, innovation, ethics and environmental sustainability; and building programs for culture change and engagement.



Sureka Goringe
National Director of UnitingWorld (Ex-Officio Board Member)
BA(Hons), PhD, GAICD
Lives on Durrumurragal Country

Sureka has been National Director since July 2017 and brings senior executive and board-level leadership experience from fifteen years in the technology sector. She currently serves on the Board of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and as the Chair of Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO). A scientist by training, prior to working in the aid sector, her experience includes capital raising, research and development, and intellectual property commercialisation in venture-funded start-ups and large public sector organisations.

Our Finances

The financial story for FY2023 is not one that can be understood by a quick glance at the bottom line. While the year ended with a deficit of \$890K, there were several significant factors that mitigated this figure.

The primary reason for the deficit was a \$1.5M provision made to contribute towards redress payments. In FY21, the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) Assembly Standing Committee requested assistance from UnitingWorld to pay redress claims arising from historical incidents of abuse dating from before the formation of the UCA in 1977. While UnitingWorld has no direct connection to the claims, we are in possession of some historic assets received from the UCA, unconnected to donor fundraising. Considering the close relationship between UnitingWorld and the UCA National Assembly, and the moral obligation of the UCA to recompense survivors, the UnitingWorld Board resolved to support the National Assembly's redress payments using these untied assets. Payments towards redress were made in FY21 and FY22.

In FY23, in response to a further request by the UCA Assembly Standing Committee, the UnitingWorld Board made an additional provision of \$1.5M towards the redress payments, shown in the 'Other Expenditure'

line. The UnitingWorld Board further approved the sale of a property owned by UnitingWorld to meet this expenditure. However, the proceeds and profits from the sale will not be recognised until FY24.

Australian Government (DFAT) grants remain critical to us, making up over a third of our income. In addition to our Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and Papua New Guinea Church Partnership Program grants, we received DFAT funding for disaster preparation and disaster response work in the Pacific.

It was a challenging year for fundraising with donations lower than previous years but offset by strong bequest income. Campaigns for sustainable development continue to face strong competition from multiple international emergencies which divert donor attention.

Fortunately, the significant work done by the Board in recent years to sharpen our investment strategy paid off this year with investment income of just over \$1M, which cushioned the slightly lower income in other areas.

Operating expenditure was managed effectively to stay in line with donor income.

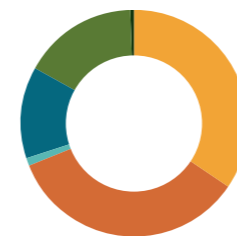
The balance sheet is largely comparable to previous years, with net change in equity relating to the redress provision.

Restricted reserves are made up of Bequeathed trust funds (\$1.8M), Endowment funds (\$3.1M) and Specific funds (\$4.3M). Bequeathed trust funds are where UnitingWorld is a trustee to a bequest and administers the funds, but the funds are not available for UnitingWorld programs. Endowment funds are donations that must be invested, and the income used for programs. Specific funds are donations set aside exclusively for UnitingWorld programming. Unrestricted reserves include historic property assets received from the UCA for the work of the agency, the income generated from these properties and other income set aside for the operations of the Agency.

UnitingWorld raises public donations in the year ahead of making funding commitments to partners, to reduce risks and provide certainty for our programs. Thus, at the end of each financial year, we hold in hand most of the public donor funds that we will allocate to our projects for the next financial year.

All ratios and charts are based on the financials presented on pages 39-41. Full audited statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 are available from info@unitingworld.org.au.

Our funds came from*



- 35% Donations
- 35% DFAT Grants
- 0.9% Other Grants
- 13% Bequests & Legacies
- 16% Investment Income
- 0.5% Other Income

Our funds went to*



- 37% International Program Expenditure
- 18% Program Support Costs
- 3% Community Education
- 11% Fundraising Costs
- 11% Accountability & Administration
- 20% Other Expenditure

* Chart totals do not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Statement of Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	30 JUNE 2023	30 JUNE 2022
Revenue		
Donations and Gifts	\$	\$
Monetary (Deductible Gift Recipients)	2,241,573	2,712,158
Total	2,241,573	2,712,158
Grants		
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	2,233,554	2,917,237
Assembly Allocation	-	200,000
Other Grants	57,930	24,541
Bequests and Legacies	853,131	431,251
Investment Income	1,053,340	(420,550)
Other Income	32,080	1,634,177
Total Revenue	6,471,608	7,498,814
Expenditure		
Programs Expenditure		
International Program Expenditure	2,700,527	3,167,559
Program Support Costs	1,347,764	1,124,105
Community Education	181,688	158,341
Total Program Expenditure	4,229,979	4,450,005
Fundraising Costs – Public	822,607	728,228
Accountability and Administration	789,832	731,170
Other Expenditure	1,500,000	300,000
Total Expenditure	7,342,418	6,209,403
Operating Surplus	(870,810)	1,289,411
Finance Costs	19,550	20,985
Net Surplus	(890,360)	1,268,426
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	(890,360)	1,268,426

Where we work*



- 53% Pacific
- 24% South East Asia
- 17% South Asia
- 6% Africa



Our Finances continued

Statement Of Financial Position FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	30 JUNE 2023	30 JUNE 2022
Assets		
Current Assets	\$	\$
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3,383,636	4,640,894
Term Deposits	2,730,762	712,236
Trade and Other Receivables	476,366	822,920
Assets held for sale	469,338	-
Other Assets	34,379	42,694
Total Current Assets	7,094,481	6,218,744
Non-Current Assets		
Financial Assets	9,656,401	9,273,857
Property, Plant and Equipment	965,881	1,453,395
Lease - Right-of-Use Assets	678,171	760,569
Total Non-Current Assets	11,300,453	11,487,821
Total Assets	18,394,934	17,706,565
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables	321,496	235,665
Contract Liabilities	805,229	282,231
Provisions	2,006,853	976,677
Lease Liabilities	99,032	95,935
Total Current Liabilities	3,232,610	1,590,508
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	54,548	53,669
Lease Liabilities	640,140	704,392
Total Non-Current Liabilities	694,688	758,061
Total Liabilities	3,927,298	2,348,569
Net Assets	14,467,636	15,357,996
Equity		
Unrestricted Reserves	5,180,036	6,230,925
Restricted Reserves	9,287,600	9,127,071
Total Equity	14,467,636	15,357,996

We now use AASB 1060 General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures for For-Profit and Not-For-Profit Tier 2 Entities.

Statement of Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023 Showing development and non-development as required by ACFID

	30 JUNE 2023	30 JUNE 2022
Revenue		
Donations and Gifts	\$	\$
To international aid and development programs	2,106,182	2,576,767
To International aid that includes welfare services*	135,391	135,391
Bequests and Legacies	853,131	431,251
Grants		
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	2,233,554	2,917,237
Assembly Allocations	-	200,000
Other	57,930	24,541
Other Income	32,080	1,634,177
Investment Income	1,053,340	(420,550)
Total Revenue	6,471,608	7,498,814
Expenditure		
Programs Expenditure		
International aid & development programs	2,602,847	3,052,303
International aid that includes welfare services*	97,680	115,256
Program Support development programs	1,321,436	1,103,970
Program Support welfare services	26,328	20,135
Community Education	181,688	158,341
Total Program Expenditure	4,229,979	4,450,005
Fundraising Costs - Public**	822,607	728,228
Accountability and Administration**	789,832	731,170
Other Expenditure**	1,500,000	300,000
Total Expenditure	7,342,418	6,209,403
Surplus (Deficit)	(870,810)	1,289,411
Finance Costs	19,550	20,985
Total Comprehensive Income (Loss)	(890,360)	1,268,426

*Development activities that meet the DFAT definition of welfare.

**Fundraising costs, accountability and administration costs and other expenditure are not separated between international development and welfare services, as the welfare services component is negligible. Other expenditure is Redress claim expenses.

Board Declaration

DECLARATION BY THE UNITINGWORLD BOARD

In accordance with a resolution of the UnitingWorld Board we state that, as set out on pages 3 to 25:

in the Board's opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Agency will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable; and

in the Board's opinion, the attached financial statements and notes thereto are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 including compliance with accounting standards and giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Agency.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board made pursuant to s.60.15 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

On behalf of the Board

Steve Bevis
Chairperson

NSW
28 September 2023

James Batley
Board Member

ACT
28 September 2023

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board Members of UnitingWorld

Report on the audit of the Summary Financial Report

Opinion

We report on the **Summary Financial Report** of UnitingWorld (the Agency) as at and for the year ended 30 June 2023. The Summary Financial report is derived from the audited financial report of the Agency.

In our opinion, the accompanying Summary Financial Report of UnitingWorld is consistent, in all material respects, with the Audited Financial Report, and has been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct.

The **Summary Financial Report** comprises:

- Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023.
- Statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended.

Scope of the Summary Financial Report

The Summary Financial Report does not contain all the disclosures required by *Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure Framework* applied in the preparation of the Audited Financial Report. Reading the Summary Financial Report and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the Audited Financial Report and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the Audited Financial Report in our auditor's report dated 28 September 2023.

Emphasis of matter – basis of preparation and restriction on use and distribution

The Summary Financial Report has been prepared to assist the Board Members of UnitingWorld for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the ACFID Code of Conduct. As a result, the Summary Financial Report and this Auditor's Report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

The Auditor's Report is intended solely for the Board of UnitingWorld and should not be used by or distributed to parties other than the Board of UnitingWorld. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this Auditor's Report, or on the Summary Financial Statements to which it relates, to any person other than the Board of UnitingWorld or for any other purpose than that for which it was prepared.

Responsibility of Management for the Summary Financial Report

Management are responsible for the preparation of the Summary Financial Report in accordance with the requirements of the ACFID Code of Conduct, including their derivation from the Audited Financial Report of the Agency as at and for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Auditor's responsibility for the audit of the Summary Financial Report

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the Summary Financial Report is consistent, in all material respects, with the Audited Financial Report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

I, Stephen Isaac, am currently a member of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand and my membership number is 374502.

KPMG
Tower Three
International Towers Sydney
300 Barangaroo Avenue
Sydney, Australia

Stephen Isaac

Partner
Sydney

28 September 2023

KPMG contact details:

Tel – +61 2 9335 7000

Email – info@kpmg.com.au



Level 3, 262 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000

PO Box A2266
Sydney South NSW 1235
Australia

T 1800 998 122
E info@unitingworld.org.au

www.unitingworld.org.au

  [@unitingworld](https://www.instagram.com/unitingworld)

ABN 47 817 183 926



UnitingWorld is the international aid and partnerships agency of the Uniting Church in Australia. Together we work for a world where lives are whole and hopeful, free from poverty and injustice. Because every person matters.

UnitingWorld acknowledges the sovereign First Peoples of the lands and waters of Australia. We pay our respects to their elders past and present, and all descendants of these nations who have cared for this place since creation. This land is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here. We commit ourselves to working for reconciliation in this land.

