Annual Report

July 2023-June 2024



UnitingWorld
connecting communities for life

Year at a glance FY24

132,555
people reached

34 projects

23 partners

13 countries



220 Uniting Churches supporting our projects

13,891 donations made

70 church visits by UnitingWorld representatives





people educated on health and hygiene

42,197 people educated on access to social services and government payments

1,229 people engaged with Gender Equality Theology

4,669 people trained in safeguarding



8,691 community leaders made disaster risk reduction and climate change plans

252 people trained in Theology of Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate

61,870 people messaged about safeguarding, inclusion and gender equality

852 people trained in improving gender equality and inclusion practices for programs and services





29,802 people reached through our emergency response activities

350 people received counselling and support from disaster chaplains

Credits

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

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

Graphic Design: Boheem

Cover image: Rev Taisia Fififita-Heimuli of the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga works to implement UnitingWorld projects in communities, including the ongoing volcano and tsunami recovery projects.

This page: Our partner in India, the Church of North India's Diocese of Durgapur, supports livelihood enhancement for members of disadvantaged groups in West Bengal. By providing training in agriculture and animal husbandry, installing irrigation, and providing subsidies where needed, the program has led to improved agricultural practices and increased financial independence.

Welcome to the UnitingWorld Annual Report for the 2023-2024 Financial Year (FY24). Explore the difference we have made together in the world. Thank you for being part of the work we do.

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Board Chair's Report



As our world continues to struggle through volatile and uncertain times, UnitingWorld and our partners have been responding to human need with faith, anticipation and courage to meet the future.

I recently had the great privilege of visiting a remote community in northern Bali to see some of the community development work being led by our partner, the Protestant Christian Church in Bali (GKPB). As I listened to the stories and challenges faced by the people there, I was struck by the urgency of this mission we are part of.

The changing climate means their staple crop of cloves has been failing. Young people have been forced to leave town to find work. People are worried. The community is working hard to make change, with our church partners by their side. Together, they endeavour to create new livelihoods, collaborate with local government, and strive to ensure everyone is safe, included and reaping the full benefits of our programs.

Climate change derailing sustainable development is a reality that confronts us across all our church partnerships and, as a result, the UnitingWorld team spent much of FY24 developing a comprehensive response. What came out of it was an ambitious new 10-year strategy, with accompanying plans and budgets, to do all we can to safeguard vulnerable communities from the impacts of the climate crisis.

The Board wholeheartedly approved the new strategy, and I commend the UnitingWorld team for their courage, their wide consultation with partners, and their drive to see it implemented from the first day of FY25. I believe it will be truly transformative for people and communities at both ends of our partnerships as we face our changing world together.

The other major milestone was full reaccreditation following a comprehensive organisational review by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. This arduous five-yearly process underpins our partnership with the Australian Government, and we received positive feedback on our unique partnership approach, strong programs, skilled Board and comprehensive reporting and finances. It was a testament to the passion and dedication of the team.

We look forward to building on the momentum for change—embracing new opportunities, learning from our partners and continuing to offer hope and practical support in a world that so desperately needs it.

Thanks to the dedication of our staff and Board, partners and our generous supporters, we remain resolute in our vision for a world where God's peace, justice and renewal are available to all.



Rev Steve Bevis, PhD
Chair of the Board, UnitingWorld

National Director's Report



The UnitingWorld team and I spent FY24 charting a course for our future. We didn't take our foot off the pedal though. Working together with 23 partners across 13 countries to deliver 34 projects, we impacted the lives of 132,555 people.

We were supported by twelve Australian Government grants and 3,095 generous donors who made 13,891 separate gifts.

We provided excruciatingly detailed evidence, to the satisfaction of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, that our governance and management processes are ship-shape and delivering effective programming and we were successfully reaccredited for another five years.

Following consultations with our partners, we worked closely with our Board to review the global and regional context and crystallise a strategy for how we might best deliver our mission. We affirmed our identity as a church agency and recommitted to our mandate to collaborate with the global church to fight poverty and injustice.

As we walk alongside those on the road towards a more whole and hopeful life, we cannot ignore the fact that climate change and environmental degradation threaten every aspect of human flourishing. Therefore, we will join our partners in building resilience where human vulnerability is most exacerbated by the ecological crisis. And we will match this with action and advocacy to reduce carbon emissions in Australia.

This year again highlighted the stark challenge of charitable fundraising. UnitingWorld is unique in our sector as the only agency working exclusively through churches but delivering programs without religious discrimination or proselytisation. We are a creature of the Uniting Church in Australia's theology of social justice and our future relies on the people of the UCA championing and funding our work.

To address this challenge, we are investing from reserves to grow our supporter base, reaching out to UCA members and to adjacent communities with strong social justice agendas.

With an eye on growing our reach and our impact, I continue to engage in advocacy and building relationships, spending time in Canberra lobbying government, and across the country speaking at UCA congregations seeking to raise supporters and collaborators.

What we do is not easy, and there are few quiet days. But I still consider it a privilege to serve in this role, alongside faithful supporters, inspiring church partners and dedicated staff and Board to whom I am deeply grateful. We get a front-row seat to witness God transform the world through grace. What could be better?



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

As per our Constitution

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.

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.

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.

How We Work

The longstanding relationships between the Uniting Church in Australia and our partner churches in Asia, Africa and the Pacific are the foundation of our work. They provide the scaffold for our collaboration, mutual learning, advocacy and equality of partnership.

We recognise that we must overcome colonial legacies so that our partners can hold the power of decision-making in our collaborative work.

We are privileged to partner with indigenous churches that are deeply rooted in their local communities, and are best positioned to assess the changing needs of their people. They have wisdom and experience of how to best make change in their unique contexts and have the trust of their communities.

We lend our capacity as an accredited development agency to help fulfil their vision. Our partners initiate and implement the programs, we offer technical support, translating sustainable development principles through the lens of our Christian faith. We help our partners build networks and collaborations, and provide funding and governance to maximise their effectiveness.

But the impact of our partners doesn't end there. We ourselves are changed by their rich wisdom accrued through years of expertise and experience. We offer this gift back to our supporters and our church who learn from and are inspired by our partners' testimonies and stories.

Each of you has been blessed with one of God's many wonderful gifts to be used in the service of others. So use your gift well.

1 Peter 4:10 (CEV)

Pictured: Mia Berry, UnitingWorld International Programs Manager, (second from left) with three scholars supported by our Pacific Women in Ministry Project, Amalaini, Rev Geraldine and Rev Asinate.

Our Changing World

Our world is changing rapidly, with ecosystems, economies and societies being impacted by climate change, economic downturns and political conflicts. It will take major shifts in mindset and lifestyle for all of us to adapt and survive.

Most of these changes hit the poorest the hardest. That includes many of the communities that our partners serve in the Pacific, Asia and Africa.

Our partners tell us of their own experiences: more droughts, more floods, more intense storms, less predictable rainfalls and rising sea levels. They share how these changes have a ripple effect throughout communities, affecting many areas of life.

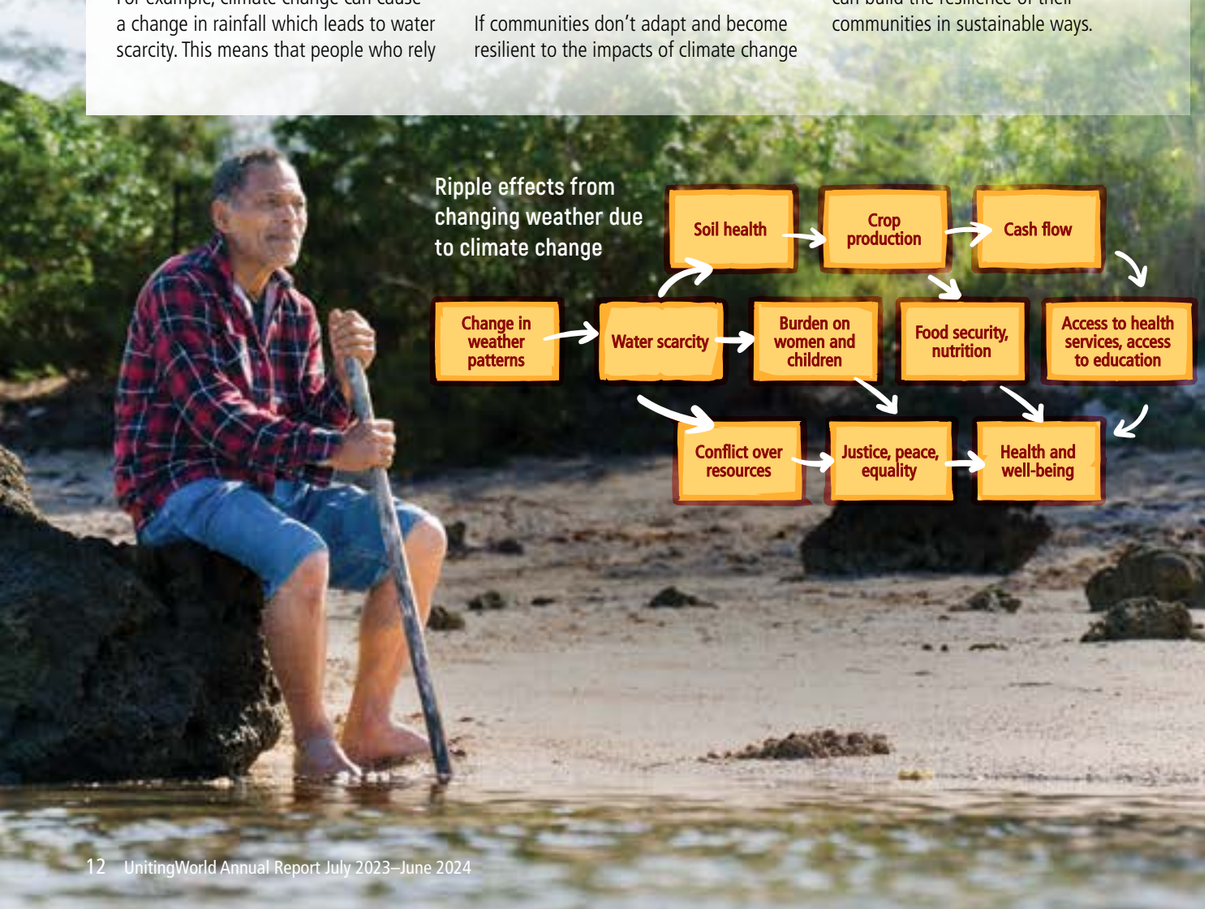
For example, climate change can cause a change in rainfall which leads to water scarcity. This means that people who rely on their crops for income or household food have less money and food security. It intensifies gender inequality, because women are often responsible for farming and collecting water.

The loss in income leads to poorer health and education if families can't afford health services or school fees. Without water for sanitation and hygiene, illnesses spread, and so on. The systems map below shows how every aspect of life may be altered.

If communities don't adapt and become resilient to the impacts of climate change and disasters, decades of development gains will be lost with devastating effect.

Only by building on the strengths of communities can we find solutions. Sometimes, inexpensive initiatives like using drought-resistant crops, establishing community gardens or planting trees can help to restore soil health and productivity.

By combining traditional local knowledge and proven best practices, our partners can build the resilience of their communities in sustainable ways.



Doing our own part

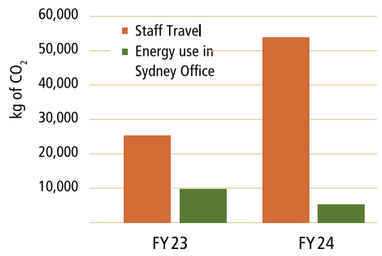
UnitingWorld must be part of the solution here in Australia. We are committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2040 and advocating for stronger climate action by our government and our society.

Our efforts at cutting emissions in our Sydney office are ongoing, and the lower carbon footprint this year is pleasing.

However, our strongly relational form of partnerships will always demand that we do at least some international travel. This matters because air travel is by far our highest emitting activity.

FY24 travel is our post-COVID baseline for travel, and we will work with our partners to develop an offset methodology that moves us toward our net-zero commitment by investing in carbon capture through our projects that can counterbalance our own necessary emissions.

Our Carbon Emissions



Putting the brakes on the climate crisis is going to require personal, collective and structural change to cut emissions and renew our world.

What about our projects?

The environmental footprint of our partners' projects is either negligible or positive. Many of the communities engaged in our projects are dependent on natural resources for their livelihood, and our work has a remedial impact on the environment.

We also resource our partner churches with theological and practical ways to engage with climate change action.

In Timor-Leste, our community garden project is helping people adapt to dryer conditions and addresses both food security and soil health issues.

In our India projects, tree planting contributes to absorbing carbon emissions, while restoring soil health and promoting a more balanced ecosystem.

Our project in Bali includes tree planting, kitchen gardens, the use of renewable energy and waste management, all contributing positively to the environment as well as improving nutrition and fostering employment opportunities.



A Sunday school class in Bali, Indonesia, learning about growing food, waste management and caring for their environment from our partner, the Protestant Christian Church in Bali.

Our Programs

132,555 people reached

34 Projects **23** Partners **13** Countries

Türkiye
1 PROJECT

India
5 PROJECTS

Sri Lanka
1 PROJECT

Indonesia
4 PROJECTS

Timor-Leste
4 PROJECTS

Papua New Guinea
2 PROJECTS

Solomon Islands
1 PROJECT

Kiribati
1 PROJECT

Tuvalu
1 PROJECT

Vanuatu
1 PROJECT

Fiji
2 PROJECTS

Tonga
2 PROJECTS

Zimbabwe
2 PROJECTS

Poverty Alleviation

With relatively small inputs and training from our partners, doors are opened for people to access income opportunities, improved nutrition and social empowerment. Read more about our Poverty Alleviation projects on pages 18-19.



Pak Sipil, Bali



Rev Makoni, Tonga

Pacific Regional
7 PROJECTS

Climate Resilience

Climate change makes inequalities and poverty worse. Our partners are advocating for climate justice for the most vulnerable and helping communities to adapt. Read about our partners' Climate Resilience activities on pages 20-21.

Emergency Response

As well as immediate assistance following disasters, our partners are faithfully working with communities to rebuild and prepare for the future. Read more about our partners' Emergency Response projects on pages 26-27.



Flood relief in India



Rev Junior Paradza, Zimbabwe

Good Leaders, Strong Institutions

In Zimbabwe, our church partner is taking action on disability inclusion in its churches and the wider community. Read more about our Good Leaders, Strong Institutions projects on pages 24-25.



Amalaini, Fiji

Gender Equality

In the Pacific, we are supporting women to access leadership positions in their churches through advanced theological studies. Read more about how our partners are addressing Gender Equality on pages 22-23.

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
Harare Cholera Emergency Response

South Asia

India

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

Church of North India–Diocese of Durgapur
Empowerment of Excluded Castes
Dinajpur Flood Emergency Response

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

Sri Lanka

Methodist Church of Sri Lanka
Empowering People with Disabilities

South East Asia

Indonesia

Christian Evangelical Church in Timor
Village Health and Climate Resilience Development

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

Protestant Christian Church in Bali
Poverty Alleviation

Protestant Church in Maluku
Livelihoods and Peacebuilding

Timor-Leste

Protestant Church in East Timor
Community Health
El Nino Preparedness Project
Anticipatory Action
Bilateral Disaster Ready Phase 2

Pacific

Fiji

Methodist Church in Fiji
Resilient Inclusive Safe Churches and Communities

Pacific Conference of Churches
Strengthening Disaster Resilience

Kiribati

Kiribati Uniting Church
Gender Equality and Climate Resilience

Papua New Guinea

United Church in Papua New Guinea
Church Partnerships for Community Service

Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO)
Enga Landslide Emergency Response

Solomon Islands

United Church in the Solomon Islands
Gender Equality and Climate Resilience

Tonga

Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga
Volcano and COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience Activation
Volcano Emergency Response 2022

Tuvalu

Congregational Christian Church of Tuvalu
Drought Emergency Response 2022

Vanuatu

Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu
Gender Equality and Climate Resilience

Pacific Regional

Micah Australia
Pacific Australian Emerging Leaders Summit and Network 2024

ACT Alliance
Pacific Faith Actors Promoting Healthy, Safe and Just Communities

CAN DO
Pacific Disaster Ready 2.0

Multiple Pacific Partners
Pacific Regional Gender Equality and Climate Resilience

Pacific Theological College
Governance and Compliance Strengthening
Reweaving the Ecological Mat 2.0

Pacific Theological College and Davuilevu Theological College
Women in Ministry

Türkiye

ACT Alliance
Earthquake Response

UnitingWorld, on behalf of the Uniting Church in Australia, maintains relationships with many churches with whom we did not do projects in FY24. They 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–West Java, Evangelical 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, Solomon Islands Christian Association, 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.



Poverty Alleviation

Fighting poverty is more urgent than ever before. Weak economic growth, conflicts and climate change are entrenching poverty and leaving millions behind. Resourcing locally-led, sustainable solutions to poverty remains an urgent focus of our work.

We work with our partners to provide greater access to education, health care and economic opportunities for people in poverty. Our evaluations have shown that, alongside poverty alleviation activities, the increased agency of participants to advocate for themselves is a significant outcome. So we also prioritise equipping and empowering people to speak up for their rights and participate in local leadership.

12,106 people educated on health and hygiene

1,363 people adopted improved agricultural practices

42,197 people educated on access to social services and government payments

1,923 children accessed education

5,691 people supported to improve livelihoods

541 people accessed improved clean water facilities



Goat entrepreneurship in India

Sohadi, a widow, and her family lived off what they could grow on a small patch of land: paddy, mustard and vegetables. In 2013, Sohadi joined a Self-Help Group established by our partner, the Church of North India–Diocese of Durgapur.

She received a single goat and livestock breeding training. An incredibly determined Sohadi has increased her goat flock to 15 in ten years! In 2023, she sold seven goats, which added an extra AUD$551 to the family income.

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

Australian Aid

Paying vegetables forward in Bali

Pak Sipil (pictured) wanted to start a kitchen garden at his home, so he attended basic agriculture training provided by MBM, the development agency of our partner, the Protestant Christian Church in Bali. As part of the training, Pak Sipil received seeds for growing chillies, eggplants, tomatoes and water spinach, as well as compost soil.

Through care and attention, and a little goat manure from his neighbour as fertiliser, hundreds of seedlings began to emerge! After just three months, Pak Sipil and his family of seven are already enjoying fresh eggplants, water spinach and tomatoes. The chillies are still coming along.

Pak Sipil gave some plant seeds to Komang, the wife of the village head.

Komang had heard about the kitchen garden program and saw how easy it would be to grow vegetables for her family. Pak Sipil also showed Komang and her husband how to use goat manure to improve soil fertility. Komang has been seeing good results from her water spinach and green vegetables.

Komang in turn passed on chilli seedlings to her cousin to show him how easy it is to grow vegetables. Chilli is one of the main ingredients in Balinese food, so she hopes her cousin will start his own garden too.

From small interventions like seeds and training, entire communities can reap the benefits of sustainable farming, one garden at a time.

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

Australian Aid

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ADDRESSED BY THIS WORK:



Climate Resilience

Climate change and environmental degradation intensify every threat to peace, security and human well-being in our world, especially for those already living in poverty. The impacts of climate change now touch every aspect of our work, driving us to respond with greater urgency and focus across all our programs.

In response to the climate emergency, our partners draw strength from their faith, offering hope and biblical teaching that inspires care for creation. They advocate both locally and globally for urgent action on climate change, while equipping communities to build local food security, secure clean water sources and prepare for disasters.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ADDRESSED BY THIS WORK:



8,691 community leaders made disaster risk reduction and climate change plans

55 disaster chaplains trained

252 people trained in Theology of Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate

"We call the world to embody neighbourly love, compassion and hope, which are needed more than ever to turn the tide for climate and ecological justice."

From the Tuākoi 'Iei Declaration from Pacific church leaders, May 2024

Communities learning to protect their environments



Ofa from Nadroga, Fiji, attended a training workshop on the Theology of Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate in early 2024. She shared:

"In my place, we live along the coastal side of Viti Levu, and we are faced with disasters like tsunami and king waves.

Lately, we have companies that come around, giving money to cut down big big trees to make furniture. They cut down those big trees, [which] will bring about soil erosion [and landslides] from the mountain to the seaside. If only they knew that by cutting down trees, we are minimising the things that trees can give back to us ... we have a give and take with trees and plants around us.

We should be preaching and practicing about climate change. It is so important for the church to have awareness for the people in the villages, in the community, about climate change and what we need to do and what we shouldn't do."

Australian Aid

This project was supported by the Australian Government as part of the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP), and implemented through Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO).

Reliable clean water access, Alor Island

Accessing clean water has been difficult for people in a village in Alor Island, East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia, especially during the dry season when rainwater is not available. It is two kilometres to the spring to fetch water.

Our local partner, the Christian Evangelical Church in Timor, through their agency TLM, worked with the village Disaster Risk Reduction team, the local government and community members to develop a water supply system that would continue to provide clean and safe water in times of drought and low rainfall. They installed eight water supply points across the village and trained a group of people on how to maintain the system so the benefits are sustainable.

One community member shared: *"This is the first time I have seen the water from the spring come up to the front of my house … I did not forget to thank God."*



Australian Aid

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

Gender Equality

Across the Pacific, up to two in three women have experienced physical or sexual violence. Fewer than 7% of Pacific parliamentarians are women. Through the influence of respected leaders and Christian teaching, our partners are driving cultural change, promoting gender equality and fostering nonviolence in communities.

We work with our church partners to equip leaders to engage with their communities about the biblical call for equality between men and women, and to raise up female and male champions for equality and nonviolence.

We also support women to study theology and seek ordination, equipping them for leadership in the church and community, enabling our partner churches to model the equality they teach.

Gender equality, alongside disability and social inclusion, is a cornerstone in all our projects. It ensures safe and equitable approaches to development for all people.

54 women supported to assume leadership roles

61,870 people targeted with messaging on protection, inclusion and gender equality

852 people trained in improving GEDSI* practices for programs and services

1,229 people engaged with Gender Equality Theology

*Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ADDRESSED BY THIS WORK:

Gender equality theology shaping young lives

Leila attended training in gender equality theology through her church, the United church in Papua New Guinea. She says the training had a big impact on her because in PNG communities there is domestic violence, neglected families, rape and harassment, and church teachings do not often touch on these topics. She shares:

"I learnt more about God's love for all people and different theological perspectives and ways of interpreting Scripture.

By empowering women and educating the community through gender equality, there is more peace and communities can flourish and thrive. Because violence and inequality affect everyone, I believe the solution also needs to involve the whole community, including churches."

Leila's training inspired her to continue to work and advocate for gender equality. She decided to study to become a journalist, so she can share the stories of women in the Pacific and the challenges they face.

Leila's passion to see change led her to the Australian Parliament House in 2023 as part of the Pacific Australian Emerging Leaders Summit, where she spoke to members of parliament about violence against women and how climate change is impacting vulnerable communities in PNG.



Women in Ministry Scholarship Program

The Women in Ministry Scholarship Program (WiM) is a joint initiative between Pacific churches and UnitingWorld. Since 2014, WiM has supported 33 women from five Pacific nations to study theology and access positions of leadership in the church. They are now leading and serving their communities as ordained ministers, deaconesses, chaplains, gender equality theology staff and lecturers.

In FY24, the project supported three Masters of Theology students and one PhD student at Pacific Theological College, Fiji, and two women at Davuilevu Theological College, Fiji, studying for a Bachelor of Divinity and a Diploma of Theology.



"The reason I wanted to study was to broaden my knowledge and dig deeper so that I can give something back to my church. I'm especially interested in the voices of women and children and youth, and I want to take something back for them concerning their voices, their abilities, their roles and what they can contribute."

Amalaini, Fiji



"There have been a lot of changes in my life since studying. Being a minister and having the opportunity to come to another shore and interact with other students from across the Pacific region has broadened my vision and perspective. It has been a really fruitful opportunity and has given me a larger vision of the future."

Rev Toobora, Kiribati



"Being here, I'm able to do things that half the talatalas *(ministers) in the Methodist Church only aspire to do. For instance, preaching in some of the churches around the Suva area, to some of the congregations including Members of Parliament, even the Prime Minister himself and the President."*

Rev Asinate, Fiji

Good Leaders, Strong Institutions

Effective leadership and well-managed institutions are key to tackling poverty, injustice and violence. We work alongside our partner churches to enhance their leadership skills and strengthen governance and management practices, equipping them to drive meaningful, lasting change in their communities.

Our partners don't just invest in the skills needed to design and lead community development programs, they also assess and improve their structures, policies and practices with the guidance of skilled experts.

Leaders from our partners come together for regional workshops to share lessons and insights on effective programming and to support one another on critical issues like safeguarding and child protection.



"Anything that dehumanises or threatens God's creation creates a role for us to play. The church should step in to assist, to support, to give direction."

Rev Dr Semisi Turagavou, President, Methodist Church In Fiji

West Papua safeguarding training

The Women's Development Centre of our partner in West Papua, the Evangelical Christian Church in Tanah Papua (GKI-TP), invited UnitingWorld to conduct safeguarding training for the leadership of the church.

The Moderator, Rev Adrianus Mofu, supported the training by encouraging all Synod leaders to attend. In his opening speech, he asked all leaders to take safeguarding seriously and to build their commitment to create a safe environment for all staff and congregations of the church. Sixty-one leaders and staff of GKI-TP and the Women's Development Centre attended the training.

The impact of this training will be felt across the church, which has around one million members.

4,669 people trained in safeguarding

4 partner institutions completed an organisational review

3 partner institutions approved new or updated safeguarding policies and procedures

2 partner institutions established or revised disaster response policies and procedures

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ADDRESSED BY THIS WORK:

Zimbabwe Disability Inclusion

Our partner, the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe (MCZ) has a strong commitment to promoting disability inclusion in its churches and the wider community. They adopted their inaugural Disability Inclusion Policy in 2022 and partnered with Deaf Zimbabwe Trust to provide sign language training for members and leaders from MCZ and other churches.

Coordinator of the project, Rev Junior Paradza, is proud of the work being done:

"I am happy to see that the MCZ has not only adopted a Disability Inclusion Policy but is putting it into practice. Church leaders encouraged circuits to send participants for sign language training, which is helping to bridge the communication gap."

Tecla, a church member and nurse at her local clinic, was able to attend an introductory sign language course and then advanced training with members of the MCZ and Anglican churches. Tecla is thankful to MCZ and its partners that she can play a part in ensuring everyone who needs access to health support can get it. She shares:

"The workshop helped in giving me a better understanding of sign language ... I can now communicate with persons with hearing and speech impairments. I have assisted mothers with hearing impairments who come for baby clinic and medical check-up. Usually, these women were left [unattended] by other health workers for lack of communication, but I was able to help them."

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

Australian Aid



Rev Junior Paradza, MCZ Safeguarding and Gender Officer (right) and Tabith Sibanda, volunteer District Gender and Safeguarding Coordinator for Marondera District.

Emergency Response

Disasters, made worse by climate change, have the greatest impact on vulnerable communities in low-income regions. Our partners are deeply embedded in these communities, allowing for rapid and effective response.

When disasters strike, we work alongside our partners to provide immediate relief like water, food and shelter. We also coordinate with larger international efforts to add the most value where we can. Beyond short-term aid, we apply a 'build back better' approach to help communities better withstand future crises long-term.

During FY24, we supported our partners in the following emergency response and recovery programs. The sheer number of natural disasters is reflective of the climate crisis.



Flood Emergency Response, Dinajpur, India

Our partner provided emergency relief, including clothing and blankets, to families impacted by the floods in Dinajpur District in West Bengal in September 2023.

Tuvalu Drought Emergency Response

Rainwater tanks were installed in FY24, although most of the funds were distributed in FY23.

Cholera Emergency Response, Zimbabwe

In early 2024, our local partner provided health education and access to clean water to reduce sickness and death caused by a cholera outbreak in the suburb of Dzivarasekwa in Harare.

Türkiye Earthquake Response

We do not have a local partner but were able to contribute funds to ACT Alliance's work there. Although funds were raised in FY23, implementation and reporting took place in FY24 (see below).

Tonga Volcano Recovery and Resilience

This work was finalised in FY24 with livelihood training for displaced people, and capacity building to prepare for future disasters.

Cyclone Response and Recovery in Vanuatu

Our partner's emergency response project concluded in FY24 although our ongoing partnership and project work continues. Affected communities received health outreach as well as gender and safeguarding training, as gender violence is known to increase in times of disaster.

Enga Landslide Emergency Response in Papua New Guinea

We contributed funds raised by our supporters for this project, working through Church Agency Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) partners on the ground in that area of PNG. Most implementation is taking place in FY25.

20,000 people accessed clean drinking water after a disaster

5,458 people received health and hygiene advice

350 people received counselling from disaster chaplains

6,131 people supported after the Türkiye earthquake

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ADDRESSED BY THIS WORK:

621 people received emergency/recovery supplies after a disaster

Tonga livelihoods rebuilding

Rebuilding after the volcano and tsunami in Tonga in 2022 continued in FY24. One aspect of recovery is rebuilding livelihoods. Our partner, the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, distributed sewing equipment and fabric so women who lost their homes have been able to set up tailoring businesses. They have also been training other women every month to "pay it forward" so more people can benefit.

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

Australian Aid





Türkiye earthquake response

Following a severe earthquake affecting Türkiye and Syria in early 2023, UnitingWorld supporters gave generously. As we do not have a local partner, our funding contributed to the response implemented by ACT Alliance member, Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA).

Working in the Hatay region, where there were 150,000 people living in temporary shelters, HIA distributed packages of essential items to displaced people. HIA also provided psychological support services and social assistance programs to help people cope with the emotional effects of the earthquake, including loss of loved ones and homes, post-traumatic stress disorder and domestic violence.

Advocacy

We strive to create spaces for our partners' 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.

Equipping the next generation of leaders and advocates

The Pacific Australian Emerging Leaders Summit (PAELS) is an initiative that equips young leaders to advocate on justice issues. UnitingWorld manages the Australian Government's grant funding for the event, which is organised by Micah Australia.

In 2023, more than 70 young Christian leaders from the Pacific and Australia, including delegates from seven of our Pacific partner churches and 12 Uniting Church representatives, gathered for leadership development, network-building and advocacy. The week-long program included worship services at Blacktown and Campbelltown Uniting Churches, where Rev Charissa Suli, then President-elect of the UCA, encouraged them to boldly share their stories:

"Your advocacy and voices are critical in shaping a future where the dignity of all human life and God's creation is recognised and celebrated."



Delegates then spent two days in advocacy training and met with over 50 members of parliament to discuss critical development priorities for their communities.



Inspiring people to 'think global, act local' on climate change

In 2024, Lent Event shifted focus to 'faithful climate action', calling on Australians to make personal, practical and political changes during the 40 days of Lent. Participants took on challenges to reduce their carbon footprints and raise funds for our partners' climate adaptation projects in the Pacific and South East Asia, raising over $240,000.

Through the Safer World for All campaign, many also advocated for increased aid to vulnerable communities.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who participated, prayed and gave so generously.



Urging the Australian Government to commit to a more generous aid program

Throughout FY24, National Director, Dr Sureka Goringe, engaged in high-level advocacy to urge the Australian Government to listen to the voices of our partners and commit to a more generous aid program.

In her role as ACFID Board member, Dr Goringe contributed to a forum on Australia's new Development Policy and a series of consultations about the policy with senior members of parliament, including the Minister for International Development, Pat Conroy (pictured with Dr Goringe).

As part of the Micah Australia Women Leaders Network, Dr Goringe attended multiple meetings with MPs to advocate for cross-party support for the Safer World for All campaign, which seeks to increase investment in Australian Aid.

During DFAT's review of the ANCP program, Dr Goringe and two other CEOs led a coalition of small to medium NGOs to advocate for a more equitable funding model for the program.

"International aid isn't charity, it's justice, and it's an investment in a safer world for all," said Dr Goringe.

Learning and Growing

Continuous improvement is core to our work. We are committed to ongoing reflection and learning across our organisation and our programs.

The first half of this year was dominated by our five-yearly reaccreditation, an intensive organisational review by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). Following a detailed examination of our governance and management practices, we were able to demonstrate with evidence that we met the required standards. We are thrilled to continue in our partnership with the Australian Government.

In a challenging climate for fundraising, we invested in strengthening our digital marketing and recruited a Head of Growth to diversify and expand our donor base.

We had an independent consultant undertake a Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) audit of our agency and our programs implemented by partners. Learnings will inform policy development and improvement in our practice in FY25.

We built on the design reviews we completed in FY23 by conducting consultations with all our partners on their strategic priorities.

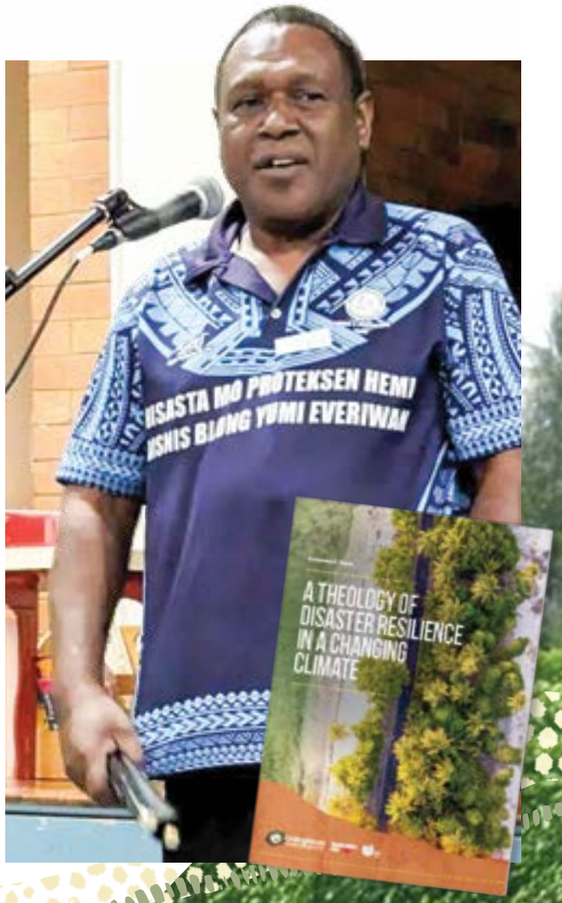
Theology of Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate (TDRCC)

TDRCC is a theological approach to support disaster preparedness and resilience in communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

It is supported by the Australian Government and is being implemented through the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

An independent evaluation identified that this approach, with strong Pacific theologian ownership, is highly relevant in the Pacific, supporting communities to overcome barriers to preparedness such as beliefs that disasters were punishments from God. In some churches, including the Methodist Church in Fiji and the United Church in PNG, it has been incorporated into the church's strategies and plans, which will support the ongoing sustainability of TDRCC.

To further enhance the impact, recommendations from the evaluation included continuing to strengthen relationships with regional and national church bodies and national government agencies and bolstering monitoring and evaluation to more effectively capture community impact.



Vanuatu TDRCC representative, Pastor George, proudly wears a shirt that says "Disaster and protection is everyone's business" at a TDRCC workshop in December 2023 in Brisbane.

West Bengal Empowerment of Excluded Castes

We commissioned a study to identify the achievements and sustainability of the West Bengal Empowerment of Excluded Castes project from 2008-2023.

This holistic community development project is a partnership between UnitingWorld and the Church of North India–Diocese of Durgapur. It has been supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

The study indicated the project's success comes from its commitment to community-led development through training and equipping community based organisations and self-help groups. For example, Village Development Committees have been established in 16 locations under this project. They play a vital role in addressing various village issues, advocating for community needs, facilitating access to government services, and helping economically disadvantaged families.

This project has transformed the lives of marginalised communities through social empowerment, livelihoods, education and health initiatives and stronger local governance. This has fostered a sense of local ownership and supported the long-term sustainability of project outcomes.

During its history, this project has impacted 19 villages and two urban slum communities, supported 1,698 households and directly reached at least 7,691 people, mostly from socially-excluded caste groups. Since this study, the project has expanded to an additional ten villages, furthering the project reach.

We believe this study is a vindication of the long-term, partnership-centred, contextually-responsive approach to development practised by UnitingWorld.



Members of a Village Development Committee.

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, Dr Sureka Goringe, serves on the Board of ACFID as a Vice President.

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 network of twelve aid agencies established by the major Australian Christian denominations who collaborate for greater impact. The Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) is a consortium of nine CAN members who collaborate on humanitarian emergency response and disaster preparation. CAN DO is a member of the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) between the Australian Government and Australian NGOs. AHP funds members to respond to emergencies and prepare for disasters. In FY24, UnitingWorld National Director, Dr Sureka Goringe, served as Chair of the CAN DO Governance Committee. www.churchagenciesnetwork.org.au

Micah Australia

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

ACT Alliance

UnitingWorld is a member of ACT Alliance, a global coalition of relief and development agencies affiliated with the World Council of Churches, working in over 120 countries. Our membership expands our capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies beyond our direct church partnerships as well as grow our expertise through the global network. www.actalliance.org

Australian Aid

UnitingWorld is 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)

UnitingWorld is 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. www.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

We access Australian Aid funds through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). We are proud of our longstanding partnership with DFAT.

In FY24, we received just over $1M through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and matched it with ~$319K provided by our donors. With this funding, we supported seven projects, directly impacting 81,737 people across India, Indonesia, Fiji, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

We also received $900K through the Australian Government's Church Partnership Program in Papua New Guinea. This twenty-year program continues to epitomise the power of church-based development in the Pacific.

We accessed emergency relief and disaster preparation funding from the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) through the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO). In FY24, we received approximately $170K for disaster response and preparedness in Timor-Leste, Tonga and Vanuatu.

We also received just over $105K through the AHP Disaster Ready program for the Theology of Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate work across PNG, Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.

We received almost $818K through the Office of the Pacific's Pacific Church Partnership Program. $750K was for the Pacific Australian Emerging Leaders Summit (PAELS) 2023, supporting Micah Australia and the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) to expand the program significantly. The remainder supported institutional strengthening for the Pacific Theological College (PTC) and pilot projects with PTC and PCC supporting communities and governments to shape development initiatives around indigenous knowledge, Pasifika ethics and theology and climate resilience.

In FY24, our Head of Programs joined 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.

We and our partners are truly grateful to the Australian Government and DFAT for their support of our programs.

Australian Aid



We support our local partners in Bali to contribute to the development of healthy, economically secure and resilient communities by providing vulnerable community members with opportunities to increase their income. This project is supported by the Australian Government through ANCP.

Living Partnerships

The Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) and UnitingWorld can trace the relationships with our partners back many decades.

But every moment of that history is made of individual connections, forged over shared meals, long meetings, intense collaborations and much laughter. These give substance to things like trust, integrity and respect, and teach us to serve and be served.

Every generation builds on what has come before but brings texture and beauty for its own time and leaves a legacy that makes the whole greater.

While we can only support development projects with a subset of our partners at any one time, in collaboration with our parent church, we nurture our connections with all our partners, seeking out opportunities for sharing learning and experience.



Rev Dr Eteuati Sili Leuo Tuioti, General Secretary of the Methodist Church of Samoa, Rev Faaimata Havea Hiliau, Moderator UCA Synod of NSW and ACT, and Rev Dr Apwee Ting, UnitingWorld International Partnerships Manager, at the Pacific Partner Forum.

Partner Learning Forums

Since 2016, UnitingWorld has gathered partners to learn together each year. The gatherings provide a space for sharing of experience and resources, fostering collaboration and strengthening interpersonal relationships. They are also a celebration of all that has been achieved by our partners.

At the **Pacific Partner Forum**, eight church partners and two regional institutions gathered in Suva with UnitingWorld and UCA representatives to work on their most significant shared priority, building climate resilience in their communities.

At the **South Asia Partner Forum**, hosted by Church of North India–Diocese of Amritsar, UnitingWorld and partners from India and Sri Lanka came together to exchange ideas on various technical aspects of programming. The focus of this year's workshop was on gender, disability inclusion and sustainability.

The **South East Asia Partner Forum**, held in Bali, brought together partners from Timor-Leste, the Philippines and several Indonesian provinces. This year's workshop focused on climate justice, monitoring, evaluating and learning, financial management, anti-fraud policy and safeguarding, which support partners in building resilience, accountability and ethical practices.



Collaborating at the South Asia Partner Forum.

Leadership Exchange Visits

Our partner churches regularly invite UnitingWorld staff and UCA leaders to attend significant events. When UCA leaders visit, UnitingWorld provides background briefings and connections to project work. We also regularly connect with members of our partner churches who are now Australians, as these diaspora communities are key supporters of our collaborations with our partners.

Exchanges during FY24 included Rev Charissa Suli, then President-elect of the UCA, visiting Tonga and Rev Mata Havea, Moderator of the UCA NSW/ACT Synod, joining our Pacific Partner Forum.

UnitingWorld International Partnerships Manager, Rev Dr Apwee Ting, attended the Synod meeting of our partner church in West Timor and hosted a delegation from the Presbyterian Church of Korea in Melbourne.

Regional Ecumenical Relations

The UCA is privileged to be a member of two regional ecumenical bodies of the global church, the **Christian Conference of Asia** (CCA) and the **Pacific Conference of Churches** (PCC). They both held their regional Assembly meetings in late 2023, giving us an unprecedented opportunity to not just connect with our own partners, but to experience and understand the wider regional context.

CCA, representing 52 million Asian Christians, met in India under the theme 'God, Renew Us in Your Spirit and Restore the Creation' with the church's spiritual and practical response to environmental degradation and climate change pervading the agenda. The CCA Assembly responded to a request by the UCA to pass a motion encouraging the Asian diaspora in Australia to support the referendum for the Indigenous Voice to Parliament. UnitingWorld's National Director was elected to the CCA Programs Committee, which oversees its regional programming work.

PCC had their Assembly in Kanaky New Caledonia. The theme '*Do Kamo*' was inspired by the Kanaky philosophy of people in constant transformation towards our authentic humanity. Robust conversations about Pasifika self-determination, Christian unity and the harnessing of indigenous wisdom to address the ecological crisis dominated the agenda.

Pastor Mark Kickett, Chair of the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress (pictured below right at the PCC Assembly), was a delegate at both these gatherings and spoke compellingly of the experience of First Peoples in Australia.





Our Supporters

Penguin Church connections

The members of Penguin Church in Tasmania are avid UnitingWorld supporters. This small regional church raised over $5,500 through their Everything in Common stall last Christmas, the highest total in Australia! The congregation was delighted at its achievement!

Church member Jeanne shared: *"To us [Everything in Common] was a wonderful way to give twice: gift cards to family and friends especially at Christmas, then for the money raised to be given to countries where it will make a difference."*

As true global neighbours, the Penguin congregation has reached out to seasonal workers in Tasmania. Around 40 young people, mostly women from Timor-Leste, joined the church for the special UnitingWorld Sunday service and sang in multiple languages as well as giving a blessing to the congregation.

Find out more: www.everythingincommon.com.au, www.unitingworld.org.au/sunday

"In giving to UnitingWorld, we can be assured that we are 'connecting Australian people to God's work in the wider world'."

Jeanne, Penguin Uniting Church, Tasmania

13,891
donations made

220
UCA congregations supporting our work

70
church visits by UnitingWorld representatives

4,500+
gift cards sold

Out and about in the Uniting Church in Australia

Our Church Engagement Team loves bringing stories about UnitingWorld and our partners to people of the Uniting Church.

In FY24, we showed up at the Synod meetings in NSW & ACT, Queensland and Victoria & Tasmania, as hundreds gathered. We connected with faithful UnitingWorld supporters and church leaders, and joined the conversations on the work of the church.

It was also a great way to increase awareness of our work and distribute resources for UnitingWorld Sunday and Everything in Common and our Global Neighbours Bible Study.

At the VIC/TAS Synod, Donor Relations Manager Mardi Lumsden ran a Sustainable Development Goals Simulation Activity, a role play that helps explore how injustice, poverty and climate change impact our overseas partners.

We also attended a gathering of UCA school chaplains and service-learning staff in Sydney, ran workshops at Moreton Bay College and Unity College (both in Queensland), and fostered connections with chaplains in a range of schools.

"It's so great to get amongst our supporters," said Mardi. *"It makes a big difference when we can meet Uniting Church members in person, sharing stories of the work they've supported and hearing of their connections with UnitingWorld's work and the global church."*



UnitingWorld's Megan Richter (right) with the NSW Pulse Team and PAELS delegates at NSW/ACT Synod.

Paddle for Participation: a fundraiser story

At Revesby Uniting Church, we place great value on welcoming and celebrating everyone. *In Lent 2024, we chose to raise funds for UnitingWorld's partners in Sri Lanka. Paddle for Participation was created!*

Barry kayaked 20km up the Georges River to raise funds for UnitingWorld, cheered on by our community.

People gave generously, raising $4,000 over the 40 days of Lent. As we value connection, conversation and hospitality at Revesby Uniting, our community celebrated the Paddle for Participation with a picnic together on beautiful Bidjigal land.



Story from Fiona Morgan at Revesby Uniting Church, NSW. Photo by Ian Bertram.

Our Staff

As we strive to deliver our mission in a constantly changing world, it is the big brains and bigger hearts of our team that make it possible to be agile, responsive and effective.

Their hard work, creativity and unwavering commitment made a profound impact, enabling us to achieve milestones that seemed out of reach. Our people embody the values of our organisation and deeply appreciate each other! The team tackled the year's challenges with resilience and innovation, demonstrating what true collaboration looks like.

UnitingWorld Staff Retreat 2024

Our whole team gathered for our annual staff retreat in Sydney in February 2024. We spent time reflecting on our achievements of the previous year, but our core discussions were around imagining and envisaging our new strategic direction. It was great to see the energy and excitement everyone brought as we wrestled with the possibilities for UnitingWorld's future impact, working with our church partners to help local communities fight poverty and inequality in the face of climate change and environmental degradation.





Shreshtha (right) with students from an education project in India.

Shreshtha Kumar

International Programs Manager

"What I love most about working for UnitingWorld is the strong commitment to our shared values–kindness, honesty, compassion and a deep sense of social justice."

Together with our partners it feels like we're one big family, working to overcome injustice, fight poverty and end violence. There's no sense of "us and them". We're all in it together, and that relationality with our partners is what makes this work so meaningful.

At UnitingWorld, my voice is always heard and I feel truly respected. We're led by our partners' priorities and, even when there are disagreements, we have open conversations and move forward together. The favourite part of my job is when we design projects with partners. They lead and we listen and learn and work collaboratively to find solutions.

This work gives me a sense of purpose and I feel empowered to make a difference every day."

Mia Berry

International Programs Manager

"Working with UnitingWorld has expanded my world so much. I love that I am constantly learning from remarkable people across the world who are transforming their communities.

I love the unexpected friendships and human connection that happens when different people come together to work on a common goal.

I care deeply about making the world a better and safer place for all people. This is why I resonate with UnitingWorld's commitment to working with the communities who are the most vulnerable and where the need is greatest. I also am proud to work for an organisation where inclusion, partnership and mutual respect underpin everything we do."



Mia (left) and Peter Keegan, Head of Programs (right) with Lochana, a member of an Inclusive Self-Help Group, run by our partner Deaf Link, part of Methodist Church of Sri Lanka. The group provides income opportunities for people with disability and their families.

Our Board

The UnitingWorld Board is responsible for our governance. Our Board is made up of volunteers recruited for complementary skills and diversity of backgrounds. These people worked diligently throughout FY24 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.

Our Board Chair was re-appointed by the 2024 Triennial Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA), to whom the Board is ultimately accountable. Board members are appointed by the UCA Assembly Standing Committee.



Rev Steve Bevis

Chair of the Board
PhD
Lives on the lands of the Wangal people

Steve has spent a lifetime working and reflecting at the interface of Christianity and society. For 13 years, Steve worked with 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. Steve chaired 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 in the UCA and is currently serving at Burwood-Croydon Uniting Church in NSW.



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 and Australian Ambassador to Timor-Leste, as well as other diplomatic positions in Lebanon, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.



Roger Bednall

Board Member
MA, LLB, GDLP, BA
Lives on the land of the Kaurna 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 the land of the Kaurna people

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 the land of the Ngunnawal people

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 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.



Rev Thresi Mauboy Wohangarra

Board Member
B.Th
Lives on the land of the Larrakia people

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 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. 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

Vinnie is of Fijian origin and an ordained Minister of the UCA. She currently serves as the Senior Chaplain of MLC School in Sydney, Chair of Sydney Presbytery and Deputy Chair of the Fijian National Conference. She plays a significant role and areas of Intra-cultural Ministry and Mission and serves on a number of community care boards.



Colleen Geyer

General Secretary of the UCA National Assembly (Ex-Officio Board Member) (stepped down December 2023)
B.Th, GCELead, DipTeach, Cert IV WTA
Lives on the land of the Turrbal people

Colleen was the General Secretary of the UCA National Assembly until December 2023. She has held executive leadership positions across the community services work of the UCA for over ten years, and UCA leadership roles at both state and national levels for twenty years. She has extensive experience in organisational strategy, leadership development, innovation, ethics and environmental sustainability, and building programs for culture change and engagement.



Lindsay Cullen

UCA Assembly Interim General Secretary/ Associate General Secretary (Ex-Officio Board Member from Jan 2024)
B.Th (Hons), Dip. Min, Grad. Cert. (Leadership), MAICD
Lives on the land of the Wangal people

Lindsay has been a Minister for almost 30 years, initially within the Baptist Union of NSW. After a period of five years studying Philosophical Theology in the UK, he transferred to the UCA where he has served since 2003. Lindsay has served in rural, regional and urban contexts with a major focus on Adult Education. He has a particular interest in enabling the Church to evolve in new and surprising ways which engage Australians in the 21st century. Lindsay has served on boards of various community organisations as well as in church governance committees at regional, state and national levels.



Sureka Goringe

National Director of UnitingWorld (Ex-Officio Board Member)
BA(Hons), PhD, GAICD
Lives on the land of the Durramurragal people

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, her experience prior to working in the aid sector includes capital raising, research and development, and intellectual property commercialisation in venture-funded start-ups and large public sector organisations.

Our Finances

While FY24 ended with a surplus of $1.85M, this result needs some unpacking to fully understand.

A significant contributor to the surplus was the profit on the sale of a manse (~$1.2M) noted in Other Income. This sale was approved by the Board to offset UnitingWorld's $1.5M provision in FY23 (Other Expenditure) to support the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) National Assembly's redress payments*. These transactions are outside UnitingWorld's normal operations.

However, even without the manse income, UnitingWorld had a comfortable surplus of around $630K due to higher-than-average investment income of $1.6M. Fundraising donations were lower than the previous year as was bequest income, but these were fortunately offset by the fruit of the investment strategy.

Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) grants increased this year to over $3M, representing 45% of our operational revenue (not including the manse profit). In addition to our Australian NGO Cooperation Program and Church Partnership Program grants, we received DFAT funding to support the Pacific Australian Emerging Leaders Summit and for disaster preparation and disaster response work in the Pacific.

Operating expenditure was managed effectively to stay in line with donor income. Program expenditure increased to reflect the additional grant funding.

On the balance sheet, net changes in equity relate to the sale of the manse and redress payments made during FY24. The remaining provision for the redress at 30 June 2024 is $1.4M.

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.

Restricted reserves are made up of bequeathed trust funds ($1.96M), endowment funds ($3.2M) 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.

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.

Full audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 are available from info@unitingworld.org.au.

* Redress claims relate to historical incidents of abuse dating from before the formation of the UCA. In response to request by the UCA Assembly Standing Committee and considering the moral obligation of the UCA to recompense survivors, UnitingWorld resolved to support the National Assembly's redress payments using historic assets received from the UCA, unconnected to donor fundraising. See previous years' annual report for more details.



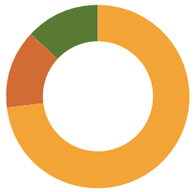
Laboni (right, pictured with her mother) was the first in her family to graduate school and attend university, thanks to the long-term support and encouragement of our partner in Durgapur, India, through their study centre in her village.

Our funds came from*



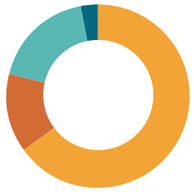
- **26%** Donations
- **39%** DFAT Grants
- **0.3%** Other Grants
- **1%** Bequests & Legacies
- **20%** Investment Income
- **15%** Other Income

Our funds went to*



- **73%** Programs
- **14%** Fundraising
- **13%** Accountability & Administration

Where we work*



- **65%** Pacific
- **18%** South East Asia
- **14%** South Asia
- **3%** Africa

*All ratios and charts are based on the financials presented on pages 43-45. Chart totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Statement of Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	30 JUNE 2024	30 JUNE 2023
Revenue		
Donations and Gifts	$	$
Monetary (Deductible Gift Recipients)	2,126,351	2,241,573
Total	2,126,351	2,241,573
Grants		
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	3,221,583	2,233,554
Other Grants	23,816	57,930
Bequests and Legacies	51,770	853,131
Investment Income	1,663,240	1,053,340
Other Income	1,221,861	32,080
Total Revenue	**8,308,621**	**6,471,608**
Expenditure		
Programs Expenditure		
International Program Expenditure	3,189,822	2,700,527
Program Support Costs	1,366,362	1,347,764
Community Education	175,255	181,688
Total Program Expenditure	4,731,439	4,229,979
Fundraising Costs – Public	889,986	822,607
Accountability and Administration	815,873	789,832
Other Expenditure	-	1,500,000
Total Expenditure	**6,437,298**	**7,342,418**
Operating Surplus (Deficit)	**1,871,323**	**(870,810)**
Finance Costs	19,153	19,550
Net Surplus (Deficit)	**1,852,170**	**(890,360)**
Other Comprehensive Income	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	**1,852,170**	**(890,360)**

Statement Of Financial Position
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	30 JUNE 2024	30 JUNE 2023
Assets		
Current Assets	$	$
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4,707,139	3,383,636
Term Deposits	712,236	2,730,762
Trade and Other Receivables	788,429	476,366
Assets held for sale	-	469,338
Other Assets	14,260	34,379
Total Current Assets	6,222,064	7,094,481
Non-Current Assets		
Financial Assets	12,377,281	9,656,401
Property, Plant and Equipment	930,081	965,881
Lease–Right-of-Use Assets	592,688	678,171
Total Non-Current Assets	13,900,050	11,300,453
Total Assets	**20,122,114**	**18,394,934**
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables	530,420	321,496
Contract Liabilities	958,563	805,229
Provisions	1,624,997	2,006,853
Lease Liabilities	100,336	99,032
Total Current Liabilities	3,214,316	3,232,610
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	24,161	54,548
Lease Liabilities	563,831	640,140
Total Non-Current Liabilities	587,992	694,688
Total Liabilities	**3,802,308**	**3,927,298**
Net Assets	**16,319,806**	**14,467,636**
Equity		
Unrestricted Reserves	6,901,610	5,180,036
Restricted Reserves	9,418,196	9,287,600
Total Equity	**16,319,806**	**14,467,636**

Statement of Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

As required by ACFID

	30 JUNE 2024	30 JUNE 2023
Revenue		
Donations and Gifts	$	$
To international aid and development programs	2,002,309	2,106,182
To international aid that includes welfare services*	124,042	135,391
Bequests and Legacies	51,770	853,131
Grants		
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	3,221,583	2,233,554
Other	23,816	57,930
Other Income	1,221,861	32,080
Investment Income	1,663,240	1,053,340
Total Revenue	**8,308,621**	**6,471,608**
Expenditure		
Programs Expenditure		
International aid and development programs	3,078,832	2,602,847
International aid that includes welfare services*	110,990	97,680
Program Support development programs	1,353,310	1,321,436
Program Support welfare services*	13,052	26,328
Community Education	175,255	181,688
Total Program Expenditure	4,731,439	4,229,979
Fundraising Costs - Public**	889,986	822,607
Accountability and Administration**	815,873	789,832
Other Expenditure**	-	1,500,000
Total Expenditure	**6,437,298**	**7,342,418**
Surplus (Deficit)	**1,871,323**	**(870,810)**
Finance Costs	19,153	19,550
Total Comprehensive Income (Loss)	**1,852,170**	**(890,360)**

*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

ACT
26 September 2024

John Manning
Board Member

ACT
26 September 2024

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 2024. 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 2024.
- Statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended.

The Summary Financial Statements are contained in the *UnitingWorld Annual Report July 2023-June 2024* on pages 43 and 44.

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 26 September 2024.

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 Report 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 2024.

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

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Partner

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Sydney
26 September 2024



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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, present and emerging, 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.