

ANNUAL REPORT
JULY 2020 - JUNE 2021

UnitingWorld
connecting communities for life

YEAR AT A GLANCE

383,847
people participated in **poverty alleviation programs**

13,803
people benefitted from **organisational leadership development**

229,310
women empowered and supported through programs

42
life-changing projects delivered by our church partners

23,109
people participated in **gender equality programs**

464,495
lives impacted

in 13
countries

15
bequests leaving a lasting legacy

134,026
children reached through programs

44,957
people reached during **emergencies**

11,212
gifts from our **generous supporters**

6,783
people with **disability supported through programs**

24
international church partners

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"I can do things you cannot,
you can do things I cannot;
together we can do great things."

MOTHER THERESA

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: Cocoon Creative.

Cover image: Silas has been breeding pigs with the support of UnitingWorld's partner, the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe through their development agency MEDRA. He's proud of his herd and plans to invest more into the business so that he can continue to support his extended family.

This page image: In Ambon, women like Maya have been supported by the Protestant Church of Maluku to invest in hydroponic gardening. Their families' health is improving and they sell their vegetables to create income for school and medical needs.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



The last year has been challenging. It has been full of anxiety as people accommodated to the realities of life in a 21st century pandemic. Yet, amidst all of this, we have seen faithful and dedicated people supporting their communities.

While COVID-19 occupied much of our thinking, the underlying issues of poverty and inequality in many countries are as prevalent as ever, even made worse, by the pandemic. UnitingWorld continued to work with our partners in the Pacific, Asia and Africa, not just on COVID-19 response, but also on preserving past progress and setting up for recovery in poverty alleviation, gender equality and climate justice.

Our staff—working from home, unable to travel, concerned for the future—have nevertheless been magnificent. Their dedication and commitment has been an inspiration. They have been very ably led by the National Director Dr Sureka Goringe, who has provided clear, calm leadership. It is my hope that next year may see a more normal working year.

There was inspiration aplenty too from many of the leaders of our partner churches. They provided organisation, leadership and practical help to their communities. They remained faithful and committed to the cause of justice. We shared their sadness as we heard the news of the deaths and severe illness of family and friends of our partners.

Because UnitingWorld works through strong relationships with our partners, deepened by regular face-to-face contact, we have felt keenly the lack of personal contact because of the ban on international travel. Endless Zoom meetings—sometimes with frozen screens—have helped, but they are not a complete substitute for the informal contact and sharing that foster and deepen these connections.

In July 2020 we had significant apprehension that the pandemic would cause a downturn in our funding as the economy contracted. This would have meant shutting down projects at a time when they were deeply needed. We modelled various economic scenarios; the notion of an annual budget seemed but a fond memory! However, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our supporters and the swift and flexible response from the government, we ended the year in far better financial shape than we had expected. We are deeply grateful for the faith and trust that our loyal supporters continue to place in us.

The new Strategic Plan for FY22-24 was a significant achievement this year. The Board and staff have worked assiduously on a plan that will lead us into a post-COVID future, as the world learns to live with the virus. We look forward to that future with confidence, with renewed focus on our relationships and a commitment to strengthening the capacity of our partners and ourselves.

As many of the existing members of the Board would retire in mid-2021—after their nine years of service—we instituted and, I'm pleased to say, accomplished an orderly succession process. The new chair, Lin Hatfield Dodds, is an experienced, well-connected and accomplished leader who will take the agency in new and different directions. The Board is more diverse and more deeply skilled than at any time in the history of UnitingWorld. The future of the governance of UnitingWorld is in very good hands!

Looking back over the past nine years with UnitingWorld, I know that I treasure the memories of the people. The inspiring staff who energised me. The great leaders of the agency who stimulated and encouraged me. The faithful leaders of our partner churches who helped me to realise what is truly important in life. All this has been a gift beyond price. A gift for which I am truly grateful.

In the final note of this, my last report as chair of UnitingWorld, I look forward. Forward to the time when people will gather internationally, and those critical personal contacts will be renewed. To the time when lockdowns are a memory. To a world in which poverty and inequality have been reduced and our partners have greater capacity and power to take charge of their own destiny. A world where fear and distrust of those who are different has diminished. And if we should have a part in such a noble future, we will count ourselves as blessed.



Andrew Glenn BSC (Hons) D Phil, FAICD
BOARD CHAIR, UNITINGWORLD.

REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR



Our partner churches have been torchbearers in the dark night of the pandemic, providing moral, spiritual and practical leadership, and it has been an absolute privilege to walk with them in support and solidarity.

They have communicated vital information about hygiene and physical distancing; preached against fear, misinformation and domestic violence; reinforced medical and public health messages; delivered soap, masks and food to those left jobless and isolated; sourced oxygen tanks for hospitals; and set up livelihoods projects and barter-systems to help survive lockdown.

I hope this report gives you a glimpse of the powerful way the global church has responded to the call for love and justice in the face of a pandemic, with war, cyclones and climate change ever in the background.

The work of liberation from poverty and injustice belongs to local people with whom we stand in solidarity; sharing our money and our skills, to help them to do what they need to do. Local churches, with membership and leadership at village and suburb levels, are powerful civil society organisations, through whom liberation and transformation is being delivered every day.

This truth has underpinned UnitingWorld's approach to partnership and development for years. It was brought into sharp focus again during the global COVID-19 crisis. Our partner churches showed up without fail when government services didn't have the reach and big international NGOs were grounded.

Everything we do at UnitingWorld has impact at two levels: at the grassroots, in the lives and actions of everyday people; and on organisations, in the structures and processes that enable people to work together to do more than they can do alone.

We cannot fund work in every village or every province in a country. But when we support the strengthening of a partner church's organisational capacity, it transforms a whole national church, lifting every ministry in every geography.

We have taken advantage of this year of disruption to help our partners strengthen themselves as organisations, developing strong policies and staff training on the safeguarding and protection of vulnerable people and reinforcing financial governance systems.

Of course, none of this would have happened without our supporters. In July 2020, I was preparing for a loss of half our income. But we thank God that through our faithful supporters' unstinting generosity; our government stepping up to support our region; and a welcome investment return, we did not have to cut back support to our partners.

The unsung heroes of last year are the staff of UnitingWorld. With personal and professional lives turned upside down by lockdowns and uncertainty, they nevertheless worked exhausting hours, took extraordinary efforts to stay connected with partners, leapt complex barriers to secure funding and advocated tirelessly for vaccine justice. They are weary now, and their care is my main priority.

As we head into the future with a fresh Strategic Plan, we know that we face serious global uncertainty. But we remain firmly rooted in our identity, with the people of the UCA at our backs and our partner churches calling us to exciting new work. We will adapt and respond to context, but who we are in God's service will not change.



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. We collaborate with the global church to address the causes and consequences of poverty, injustice and violence.

Because every person is beloved by God and invited to a life that is whole and hopeful.

We work for a world where lives are whole and hopeful; free from poverty, injustice and violence.

"Individually we are one drop; but together we are an ocean."

RYUNOSOKE SATORO

Our Mission

In response to God's purpose for the world and its people, is to connect the people of the Uniting Church in Australia in missional collaboration with churches overseas, strengthening the church 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 Vision

Honouring God through global relationships which bring justice and hope.

HOW WE WORK - RELATIONSHIPS

Relationships are our source of strength and hope.

Across the Pacific, Asia and Africa, we are privileged to partner with indigenous churches which are deeply rooted in their local communities. In the Pacific the Church is central to life and an authority on important matters. In all our partner communities, the local churches are in the best position to assess the changing needs of their communities.

Our partners are knowledgeable, resilient, and committed people of God.

We do brave, innovative and effective programs together; we are willing to take risks and to work hard with passion and joy.

Through regional connections nurtured by UnitingWorld, our partners share experience and expertise with other partners in neighbouring countries, and together with funding and professional support from UnitingWorld staff, they can create lasting and meaningful change.

Faith is the heart language we share. We believe in solidarity over charity, and our partner relationships extend beyond just projects. We ourselves are changed by the rich wisdom of our partners, their courageous actions, and their tenacious faith. We offer this gift back into the life of our donors and the Uniting Church.

We share the stories of our partners and communities to inspire, advocate and grow support.

Our work together has been vital in a year of disaster. Our partners have stayed at the frontline, risking their lives to serve communities fighting fear, starvation, economic ruin and disease. They have lost leaders, friends and family to COVID-19. It has been a privilege to stand with them in solidarity, weeping and praying together and offering friendship and comfort.

Our Values

Our work is infused with our values which shape the way we treat each other and our partners:

Relationship
We give generously and receive humbly, committing to long-term change and growth. We deliberately consult and collaborate, asking for and offering help, nurturing trust, loyalty and teamwork.

Mutual Respect
We are sensitive to context, mindful of power imbalance; we recognise difference and embrace diversity. We understand and value all roles and contributions, and practice grace and courtesy in relationships.

Integrity
We are ethical, accountable, and open in our relationships and work practices. We keep promises, own up to mistakes and challenge behaviour that does not align with our organisational values.

Fullness of life
We believe the good news of Jesus means justice and hope for all, particularly for the oppressed and vulnerable. We commit to hard work and healthy rest, caring for ourselves and each other with compassion.

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. We create space for all to contribute, and open opportunities for all to grow.

Sustainability
We care for creation and build resources for the future. We strive to be efficient, minimising waste of resources, time and human energy.

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

"UnitingWorld listens and encourages open communication... they are open to suggestions and alterations depending on the context and the challenges experienced on the ground."

FEEDBACK FROM PARTNERS IN AFRICA



Image: Grace is part of a community development project in rural Zimbabwe, run by UnitingWorld's partner, the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe through their development agency MEDRA. The women have learnt to bake and market their own fresh bread, as well as breed chickens and goats.

HOW WE WORK - PROGRAMS

Our Approach

We nurture genuine and collaborative relationships in Australia and overseas.

We work with and through churches, but our programs include all people regardless of their faith, sexuality, ethnicity, ability or gender.

Our programs are initiated and implemented by our partners. They are the local church, who help communities unlock their God-given potential to set themselves free from poverty and injustice; they are best placed to identify the solutions to their own problems.

We contribute our capacity as an accredited development agency to help fulfil their vision.

Our partners have a first-hand understanding of their context, local wisdom and experience, and the trust of their community. They initiate and implement the programs.

We provide the funding and strong governance to maximise their effectiveness. We translate rigorous sustainable community development principles through the lens of our Christian faith.

"Alone we can do so little. Together we can do so much."

HELEN KELLER

SUPPORTER STORY

Living Water

Inner city Melbourne is a long way from way from Alotau, Papua New Guinea, but the diverse congregation of Richmond Uniting Church is determined to find ways to bridge the gap. They've been praying for and giving to UnitingWorld partner, the United Church of Papua New Guinea, for many years to help support projects that give people access to clean water and sanitation.

"We love the image of Christ as living water and know how important clean water is to give people a chance to thrive," says Rev Sally Douglas. "We made a commitment as a congregation to support local, national and international projects that reflect new life. We regularly get updates from the Project Coordinators, pray and fundraise for the people in the remote areas where the church is active. It's a good way to be aware of our global neighbourhood."

Program Areas

Our portfolio is balanced to meet partner needs and match UnitingWorld's technical capacity.

Each of our projects is mapped against the Sustainable Development Goals and aligns with these global priorities.

All of our projects address one or more of the following themes:

Poverty Alleviation

Poverty Alleviation projects seek to remove the barriers that stop people from having life's necessities; to give them the tools to break the poverty cycle and access to greater opportunities. They also educate people to speak up for their rights.

Leadership

Leadership projects train leaders and strengthen the governance of organisations to help them protect the vulnerable, and improve effectiveness and accountability.

Gender Equality

Gender Equality projects aim to educate churches and communities to value and empower women as equals, and transform the community into one where women are safe from violence.

Disaster Preparation

Disaster Preparation projects equip church leaders and communities with theology that can enable them to face natural disasters and conflict with hope.

Emergency Response

Emergency Response projects provide urgent assistance to partners supporting people whose lives or livelihoods are threatened by disasters such as cyclones or the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHERE WE WORK - COUNTRIES AND REGIONS



42 PROJECTS
13 COUNTRIES
24 PARTNERS

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A STORY FROM ZIMBABWE

The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe is supported to speak up against government corruption and human rights abuses.

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SUNITA'S STORY

In India, Sunita was given the education she never had and fulfilled her dream of being able to read and write her own name – and much more!

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REGINA'S STORY

After floods in her hometown in Timor-Leste, Regina was in even greater need than before, and our partners were able to help by providing the basics, allowing her and her children to survive the crisis.

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A STORY FROM THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Gender Equality Theology – Institutional Transformation program is equipping churches to lead community change in the way women and girls are treated.

WHERE WE WORK - PROJECTS AND PARTNERS

Pearl from Vanuatu has taken part in gender equality training run by our partners in the Pacific.

AFRICA

South Sudan

Peacebuilding and Emergency *Presbyterian Church of South Sudan*

Zimbabwe

Livelihoods and WASH in Zimbabwe *Methodist Church in Zimbabwe*

Zimbabwe Leadership and Child Protection *Methodist Church in Zimbabwe*

ASIA

India

Empowerment of Excluded Castes in Punjab
Church of North India - Diocese of Amritsar

Empowerment of Excluded Castes in West Bengal
Church of North India - Diocese of Durgapur

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

Education for Vulnerable Girls
Church of North India - Diocese of Amritsar

Indonesia

Cyclone Seroja Livelihood Recovery *Christian Evangelical Church in Timor*

Poverty Alleviation in Bali *Protestant Christian Church in Bali*

Livelihoods and Microfinance in West Timor *Christian Evangelical Church in Timor*

Women's Livelihoods in West Papua *Evangelical Christian Church in Tanah Papua*

Livelihoods and Peacebuilding in Maluku *Protestant Church of Maluku*

Sri Lanka

Peacebuilding and Reconciliation *Methodist Church in Sri Lanka*

Empowering People with Disabilities *Methodist Church in Sri Lanka*

Timor-Leste

Cyclone Seroja Emergency Response *Protestant Church in Timor-Leste*

Community Health and Nutrition *Protestant Church in Timor-Leste*

Leadership and Child Protection *Protestant Church in Timor-Leste*

THE PACIFIC

Regional

Disaster Readiness & Climate Change
Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) partners (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu)

Gender Equality Theology – Institutional Transformation
Methodist Church in Fiji, Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, Kiribati Uniting Church, United Church in the Solomon Islands, Solomon Islands Christian Association

'Safe n Redi' Project *CAN DO partners in Fiji and Vanuatu*

Women in Ministry
Methodist Church in Fiji, United Church in Papua New Guinea, Pacific Theological College

Fiji

Tropical Cyclone Yasa Response *Methodist Church in Fiji*

Disaster Response Chaplaincy Network *Methodist Church in Fiji*

Kiribati

COVID Response *CAN DO and Kiribati Uniting Church*

Papua New Guinea

Church Partnerships for Community Service *United Church in PNG*

Safe Water for Remote Communities *United Church in PNG*

COVID Response *CAN DO and United Church in PNG*

Solomon Islands

COVID Response *CAN DO and United Church in Solomon Islands*

Safe Churches Solomon Islands *Solomon Islands Christian Association*

Tonga

Tropical Cyclone Harold and COVID Response
CAN DO and Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga

Tuvalu

Gender Equality, Child Protection and Disaster Chaplaincy *Tuvalu Christian Church*

Vanuatu

COVID Response *CAN DO and Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu*

RESPONDING TO COVID-19

The world felt the full impact of COVID-19 this year, but not everyone was affected equally. In low-income countries, two-thirds of households lost income; and women, young people, and the uneducated were the most likely to have lost their job.

Poorer governments were unable to provide a sufficient safety net. The impact of missed schooling on children is yet to be felt but is expected to disproportionately affect the disadvantaged.

And just as in the pandemic, those on the margins are also in danger of being left behind in the recovery. Women, the young, and the less educated are returning to work more slowly than others. For the first time in decades, we have lost ground in the battle against poverty, and our focus now is to turn that around.

Wealthy countries have used widespread vaccination to reopen their economies and lower their death rates, but developing countries have had greater challenges accessing vaccines. Challenges with remote locations and lower levels of education have resulted in slow roll outs and vaccine hesitancy.

Vaccine justice is a key plank of an equitable global recovery from the pandemic. "For everyone's sake, we must urgently bring all countries to a high level of vaccination coverage", said United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

UnitingWorld is not set up to support primary health care provision. Nevertheless, we have stood by our partners as they shored up their communities' resilience during lockdown, persuaded anxious people to heed public health guidelines to get tested and get vaccinated, fought an upswing in domestic violence and planned and invested in recovery.

Meena's story - Dalit communities served in Punjab

The Church of North India, Diocese of Amritsar serves Dalit communities in Punjab. During COVID-19 they have suffered great economic setbacks. The Diocese has supported rural women to strengthen their livelihoods by encouraging female self-help group members to produce saleable items such as face masks, cloth bags, woollens, and pickles, a sought-after item for festivals.

Restrictions on mobility and scarcity of resources has pushed many families to the brink of starvation and death. Among them is Meena, a young mother from Bangalore. One of her two children suffers from multiple disabilities. Meena lives with her parents who are also dependent on her for their daily needs. When she called on the Diocese helpline number, she shared her difficulty in finding food for the family, in addition to paying for her son's medical needs. The financial support provided to Meena from the Diocesan COVID-19 Outreach Program helped to ensure her family's wellbeing and also contributed towards her son's ongoing treatment.

The Diocesan workers and clergy have also been encouraging people to get vaccinated. Since there is a general shortage of vaccines in the public health centres, the Diocese is teaming up with like-minded organisations and mobilising vaccination drives in the villages.

Project: Empowerment of Excluded Castes in Punjab
Country: India
Partner: *Church of North India - Diocese of Amritsar*
Project Established: 2009
Number of participants this year: 17,228

Supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



"While church members were asked to pray fervently for God's protection, they were also encouraged to listen to and obey instructions from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services."

UNITED CHURCH IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

Below left: Women from Dalit communities in Punjab working together to produce wool and cloth bags for festivals. This project created by The Church of North India enables these women to earn income to feed their families.

Below: Ranjit from rural Punjab is a widow and unable to work. She and her family received food and essential items, and were supported to access much-needed pensions.





PARTNER STRENGTH IN THE FACE OF COVID-19

UnitingWorld pays tribute to the quiet strength and faith of our partners during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their communities are being impacted in devastating ways, from hundreds of thousands of deaths in India to the economic shock of the tourism collapse in Bali. Members of our partner staff, and their families, became ill. Some of those we know and love have died.

Throughout it all, our partners continued to make the love of God known in practical ways, serving tirelessly. We are humbled by their resilience, faith and determination, and we offer them our love as they grieve and recover.

Memories we'll carry with us

An email from South Sudan to say people can't wash their hands because they don't have water, and they can't stay home because they have no food saved up. And yet the church team go out every day to distribute masks and sanitiser and what food they can find. "For everything there is a season" says Rev John Yor, General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan; "I'll be here serving my people, when peace returns to South Sudan."

On a Zoom call with a colleague from India, we hear how 40 people in his circle of acquaintance have fallen to COVID-19. We sit with the sadness. And in another call, an Indian colleague shares how the day-labourers they took food rations to had knelt to say thanks, exclaiming 'we didn't know who to turn to, but we thought maybe the Christians would come.'

In Bali the church opened up their buildings to provide isolation and quarantine facilities as the hospitals overflowed, even as COVID-19 spread through their own staff. In Timor, the head of the church shared her own painful journey of recovery from the virus to encourage their members. In the Pacific, churches collaborated to fight the shadow of domestic violence that reared its head in lockdown.

The Christian Evangelical Church in Timor has been heavily impacted by the arrival of COVID-19, yet our partners are still actively assisting communities impacted by Cyclone Seroja, and are training builders to 'build back better' to resist climate related disaster.



POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Poverty Alleviation removes barriers to human thriving.

When people have access to education, health care, clean water, financial services, and income opportunities, it breaks the poverty cycle. We work with our overseas partners to **address the complex and multifaceted dimensions to poverty**, and equip people to speak up for their rights and be directly involved in local leadership.

383,847
lives impacted by **Poverty Alleviation** programs

26,864
people gained skills and materials to **improve livelihoods**

337,418
people equipped to **access services and understand their rights**

48,923
people now have **handwashing facilities at home**

2,615
people provided access to better **education opportunities**

SUPPORTER STORY

A legacy for life

In 1951, a young pair of newlyweds arrived in South India. Shirley and Keith Coomes were committed to helping serve the Church of India and set about learning the language, preaching and teaching in local communities in Sholinghur. Shirley was house mother to a boarding house for girls. Their daughter Heather was born in India, with a son to follow on return to Australia a few years later.

"Mum and Dad's enduring partnership in Christian ministry continued in rural and suburban areas of New South Wales for many years," Heather and Mal recall. "Dad died in 2004, and Mum in 2019 with a lasting legacy of faithful servanthood. Both had a fondness for India. They also strongly encouraged those who struggled and persevered."

In memory of their parents, Mal and Heather gave a generous gift to the work of UnitingWorld, specifically to help support a school in the Eastern Himalayas.

"We wanted to honour their memory and generosity of spirit by supporting the diligent work of this school in discovering possibilities within the hearts of pupils and staff," Mal and Heather said.

Sunita's story - the gift of education

Raised in a poor family and living in an urban development near Durgapur in West Bengal, Sunita never had the chance to attend primary school. She was married at 15 to a 19-year-old who works as a daily labourer.

Sunita's parents-in-law loved and cared for her as their own child and provided everything she needed within their home. But Sunita dreamt of being able to read and write her own name.

UnitingWorld's partner, the Church of North India, run a study centre in Sunita's area. Sunita watched other young people attending and longed to be part of their learning. She eventually told her mother-in-law about her dreams and together, they went to the study centre to see if Sunita could be involved.

"Sunita is now my daughter!" explains her mother-in-law. "I would love to see her studying!"

The centre staff agreed, inviting Sunita to be part of the classes, and she now attends every day with a smile. Her new reading and writing skills will not only open up opportunities for her future, but Sunita is a role model for other children, proving that it's never too late to learn.

Project: Empowerment of Excluded Castes in West Bengal **Country:** India / **Partner:** Church of North India - Diocese of Durgapur / **Project Established:** 2009 / **Number of participants this year:** 10,689

Supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



Girls just like Sunita are receiving support to access education through our partner the Church of North India.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



LEADERSHIP

Developing *Leadership* is an investment in the future of communities.

Skilled leaders and effective institutions are key to combatting poverty, inequality and injustice. We support our partner organisations to build leadership capacity and strengthen governance and financial management practices. Our partner churches are on the ground in vulnerable communities, so we **support them to develop systems to safeguard their communities**, improve accountability and equip them to support meaningful and lasting change in the wider community.

Leadership in action – a story from Zimbabwe

Life is not easy in Zimbabwe. Along with an economic collapse and deepening poverty, the government is accused of corruption and human rights abuses. Those speaking out against injustice can be jailed and publicly criticised.

In spite of the challenges, UnitingWorld partner The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe (MCZ) is one of many groups taking a stand. It is championing the need for improved political dialogue and the acceptance of differing opinions.

"We have been pushing for peace," said then Presiding Bishop Solmon Zwana. "Not a negative peace but one that is driven by respect, tolerance and the political will to sit down together and talk."

UnitingWorld supports the church not only to advocate to government, but to implement strategies that change power structures from the top down in churches, schools and communities. These include child protection, disability inclusion and anti-trafficking policies.

While specific acts to reduce poverty on the ground are critical, leadership development means addressing the big picture of injustice and inequality that keeps people poor.

Project: Zimbabwe Leadership / **Country:** Zimbabwe / **Partner:** The Methodist Church in Zimbabwe
Project Established: 2019 / **Number of Participants this year:** 225

13,803
lives impacted through **Leadership programs**

1,195
trained to **facilitate peacebuilding**

92
statements from churches publicly promoting **gender equality and inclusion**

51
new **policies introduced by churches** addressing gender equality and inclusion

10,241
people trained in **preventing and responding to child abuse and exploitation**

2,997
people trained in **preventing and reducing abuse, exploitation and trauma**



The smile of a successful man! Clement has been breeding pigs with the support of UnitingWorld's partner, the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe through their development agency MEDRA. He's able to support his own family and several grandchildren with the income he's earning.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



GENDER EQUALITY

Advancing *Gender Equality* makes a world of difference in the Pacific.

In the Pacific, women and girls do not enjoy the same access to education, work or leadership as men, and they are frequently the victims of violence.

Pacific churches know they have great influence, as the vast majority of people identify as Christian, and so **churches have great potential to use Biblical teaching to challenge culture and transform behaviour**. Our partner churches have started by addressing gender inequality in their own organisations, both in structure and theology. We're working with partners in six countries, engaging in a theological dialogue, re-imagining communities where women are valued and empowered as equals, and are safe from violence.

When the Church leads, change follows - a story from Solomon Islands

Christian leaders are rejoicing in the Solomon Islands because, in an historic move, all the mainline Christian denominations in the country came together in April 2021 to commit to a world where women and girls are treated with dignity, men find the resources to reject violence, and both men and women embrace the idea of being made in God's image.

This is a critical development in a country with some of the worst gender-based violence statistics in the world. In the Solomons, men hold most positions of power, and 64% of women have experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner.

The United Church in the Solomon Islands (UCSI) introduced gender equality theology to all their theology students, ministers and their spouses in 2018. In November 2020, they established a Gender Equality Community of Practice to help embed it into every facet of life. Selected ministers and their spouses from each region of the church are trained to take the message of gender equality and child protection to their communities, as well as model what they're preaching in their own relationships.

"The Gender Equality Theology project started with one married couple," says Superintendent Minister David Herokana. "It has had a multiplying effect with more married couples and families." There are stories of families discussing gender equality with their children after they've been to a workshop, and brothers starting to treat their sisters with more respect.

This approach works because gender equality is introduced as the very heart of the gospel, not a western idea. Using the Bible and resources developed by local theologians is the key to its effectiveness.

Project: Gender Equality Theology - Institutional Transformation (GET-IT)
Country: Fiji, Kiribati, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands
Partners: Methodist Church in Fiji, Kiribati Uniting Church, Presbyterian Church in Vanuatu, United Church in Papua New Guinea, United Church in Solomon Islands & Solomon Islands Christian Association
Project Established: 2018
Number of participants this year: 14,462

Supported by the Australian Government through the Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development Program (Pacific Women)

Image: Women are embracing leadership opportunities through our partners training for gender equality throughout the Pacific.



23,109
lives impacted by **Gender Equality** programs

2,830
women and individuals from other vulnerable groups felt **increased safety and wellbeing**

7,476
people engaged in workshops on **gender issues and women's equal rights**

366
women supported to assume **leadership roles**

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



DISASTER PREPARATION

Climate Change makes *Disaster Preparedness and Resilience* crucial to survival.

Across the Pacific we are hearing an urgent and heartfelt message from our partners: the effects of climate change in a region vulnerable to natural disasters mean they are fighting for the survival of their people.

We are working with the Church Agency Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) to help prepare communities to withstand environmental disasters, climate change and conflict; and to plan for smart and effective recovery.

With our partners and with the wider Christian community, we have **promoted dialogue and teaching with a Theology of Disaster Resilience.** We support leaders and communities to examine how their beliefs affect the way they think about, prepare for, and respond to disasters, so they can act with hope

Churches are the backbone of their communities - a story from the Pacific

We know the critical role churches have before, during and after disaster strikes. People are asking their church leaders questions like:

"Who is to blame for the disaster?"

"Should Christians follow the medical advice or trust God to save us?"

"What is the role of traditional knowledge and of faith in preparing for natural disasters?"

When church leaders are equipped with Biblical educational resources they have the power to influence behaviour for the better.

In collaboration with CAN DO, we have been able to support Pacific Islander theologians to develop theological resources to address these burning questions. Church leaders are using these resources across Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu to drive change in belief and behaviour.

In Vanuatu, as part of the Safe n Redi project (funded by DFAT's Australian Humanitarian Program) the team is launching a national media and community education campaign to include marginalised groups when preparing for and responding to disasters. Representatives of the Vanuatu Society for People with Disability are core to discussions and event planning.

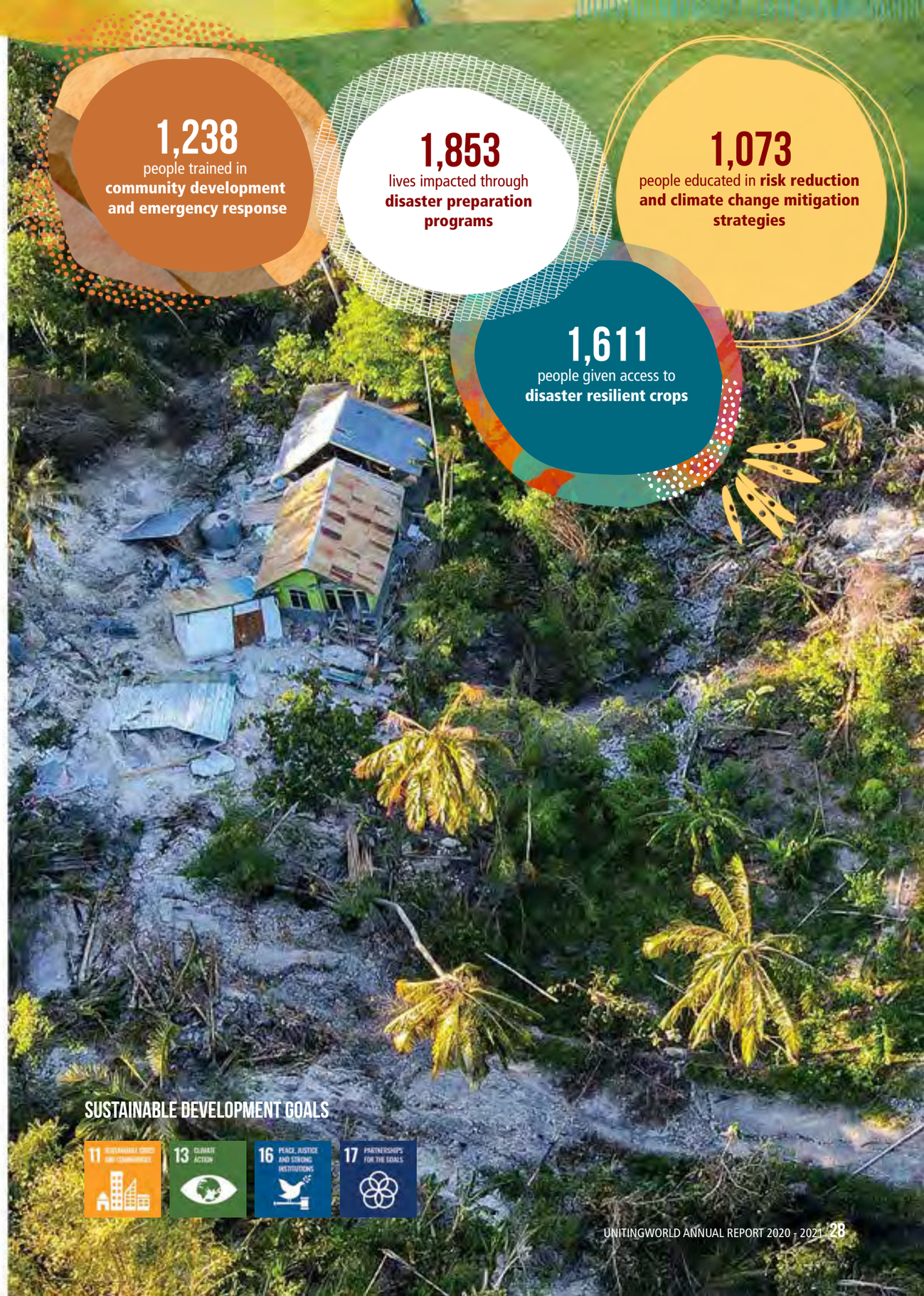
The group decided on four key messages: 1) God loves everyone effected by disaster; 2) disasters are not caused by God; 3) we need the whole community to build resilience together; and 4) disaster preparedness is everyone's business.

The messages in Bislama, the local language, will include quotes from the Bible and appear on social media, television, radio, posters, music, t-shirts, flags and even a student essay competition. The Government of Vanuatu is also on board and supporting the initiative.

Project: Safe n Redi / **Country:** Fiji, Vanuatu / **Partner:** Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations partners in Fiji, Vanuatu Christian Association / **Project Established:** 2019 / **Number of participants this year:** 632

Supported by the Australian Government through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership via CAN DO.

Image: Hundreds of families were left homeless after Cyclone Seroja in Timor-Leste and West Timor – our partners are working in the recovery and rebuilding effort.



EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Cyclones don't stop for pandemics - *Emergency Responses* are still critical.

While most of our work aims to provide long-term benefits, when disaster strikes there is the need for urgent assistance. Basics like food, water and healthcare – including psychosocial support through Chaplaincy – can **get people through the worst of an emergency allowing them to rebuild their lives.** COVID-19 has been a global disaster for the last two years, but cyclones and floods have not taken a break. People who were suffering from the effects of poverty before disaster strikes are even more vulnerable.

Regina's story - emergency food for families

Regina is the mother of three children. She lives in Timor-Leste, which recently experienced some of the worst flooding in its history when Cyclone Seroja hit in April 2021. Hundreds of people were left homeless.

Even before the floods hit, Regina's family were feeling the strain. Her husband no longer lived with or supported his wife and children, leaving them dependent on the neighbours for help.

Immediately after floods, UnitingWorld's partner Fusona, through the Protestant Church of Timor-Leste, were seeking out those in need. Regina heard about the assistance and eagerly requested help, receiving basic food items to support her during the emergency.

"I really thank Fusona and its partners who have kindly assisted me and my children to have some food to eat," Regina told the project workers. "Frankly speaking, actually our rice just finished last night. I really did not know how I could I get food for the children because I myself do not have a job. Again thank you for your help, may God Bless Fusona and all its partners."

Project: Cyclone Seroja Floods Emergency Response / **Country:** Timor-Leste / **Partner:** Protestant Church of Timor-Leste (Fusona Foundation) / **Project Established:** 2021 / **Number of participants this year:** 959

4
emergency responses to cyclones

44,957
people provided with
emergency food, water and shelter

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Destruction from Cyclone Seroja, which ravaged Timor-Leste and West Timor (pictured).

LEARNING AND GROWING

Continuous improvement is core to our work.

Partnering and programming

We regularly monitor and evaluate projects to help us reflect and learn. We hold regular multi-partner regional workshops to encourage shared innovation and problem solving. We invest in networks and communities of practice among Australian Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) to share knowledge. The constant dialogue with our partners, who are very frank with us about what's helpful and what's not and are constantly deepening our understanding of their context is also a powerful driver of our growth.

We completed four evaluations in FY21 (two in India and two in Indonesia) and started three more (Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka and the Pacific gender program). They have taken longer to complete because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Adapting to crisis and exploiting opportunities

We developed a new Strategic Plan while steering our way through a pandemic. It helped to crystallise two significant contextual drivers for learning. On one hand, pandemic recovery joined climate change as a major source of risk and uncertainty for community development. On the other hand, the forced disruption to long-established ways of working opened up exciting new ways of progressing localisation (greater leadership and autonomy to local organisations) and power-transfer to our partners.

The experience of the last year has led us to help our partners build local ecosystems of expertise around themselves that lessened their reliance on our skills. We solved monitoring, capacity assessment, governance development and multi-media story gathering by connecting with local service providers. While nothing will replace the relational richness of meeting in person, the simplicity of video calls meant more frequent conversations and more real-time resolution of issues.

Our new Strategic Plan starts us on a path to mapping institutional strengthening for our partners, not just based on our assessment of their capacity, but by their own choice as to how much community development expertise they wish to outsource to us.

As our regional multi-partner conferences moved online, it became easier to include subject matter experts, and partners from other regions into these gatherings. We invited our donors to join as observers, hearing stories of impact first hand. We hosted Facebook events and Zoom conferences between partners and donors. Our Zimbabwe and several Pacific Island partners contributed to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Conference in 2020.

Reflecting on our own journey

We have never before had a time when both our partners and we had to live and work through a protracted crisis. The clearest learning from this year has been that if we look after our people, our people will look after our mission.

At the onset of the pandemic, we put in extensive measures to support staff wellbeing and morale.

In December 2020 we conducted our staff climate survey, done every two to three years since 2010. Our response rate was higher than before (90.5%, up from 2018's 50%). There was 100% agreement by staff that UnitingWorld responds well to change, that we provide a high level of service to our overseas partners and that staff were regularly informed about how UW was handling the pandemic and related risks. We received 90-95% agreement on communication with partners, supervision, internal cooperation, communication with supporters, training and being proud to work with UnitingWorld.

We also saw a significant reduction in poor scores from staff. In 2018, eight wellbeing statements scored below 60%. In 2020, only six of 71 statements received a score of 80% or below. We still need to work on how to recognise and reward performance, fair compensation, accountability, skills-building/ career development and managing poor performance. Management sought more feedback on these issues.

Despite this great result partway through last year, we know that our staff are now exhausted. They have stretched themselves to the utmost to respond to the crisis, but are running low on resilience now. We have made a firm commitment in our new Strategic Plan to adapt to the uncertainty and complexity of the post-COVID context by simplifying and streamlining our approach, focusing on return-on-effort, and scaling our aspirations to match the capacity of our partners and ourselves.



Children learning the importance of clean water and hand washing in remote Bali, supported by the Protestant Christian Church in Bali.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND MEMBERSHIP

We value integrity, excellence and collaboration

Our efforts to learn and grow are strengthened by the standards set by industry bodies, and the partnership of peer organisations who join with us in our work to address poverty and injustice.

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

UnitingWorld was registered as a Charity and a Public Benevolent Institution by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission in March 2020. Our annual report to the ACNC will be available on their website, and we will comply with the ACNC's External Conduct Standards for agencies sending funds overseas.

www.acnc.gov.au

ACFID MEMBER

UnitingWorld is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. We review our compliance each year against the Code. It sets high standards for how we are governed and managed, how we communicate with the public and how our funds are used.

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 Code of Conduct Guidance Document available at www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct.

church agencies network

can do

The Church Agencies Network (CAN) is a group of twelve aid agencies established by major Australian Christian denominations, who are a community of practice collaborating for greater impact.

The Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) is a consortium of eight CAN members, that operates through its global network of partners to enhance community resilience to disaster and conflict. CAN DO is a member of the Australian Humanitarian Program and eligible for Australian Government emergency funding. As a member of CAN DO, UnitingWorld supports churches seeking to collaborate and coordinate efforts to prepare for and respond to disasters.

UnitingWorld National Director Dr Sureka Goringe is the current Chair of the CAN CEOs group and serves on the CAN DO Steering Committee.

www.churchagenciesnetwork.org.au

actalliance

We are a member of the 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. Membership expands our capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies in a well-coordinated and effective way. It also increases our ability to raise and direct donations from our supporters to emergencies across the world.

www.actalliance.org

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, which is described within this report.

www.dfat.gov.au

Internally, UnitingWorld and its Board are under the oversight of its parent body, the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia.

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

Our full complaints policy appears on our website. We will accept reports in any format from anyone, including reports provided 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.

We are also committed to full adherence to the ACFID Code of Conduct. Should you wish to lodge a complaint against UnitingWorld for breach of the Code, please email ACFID at code@acfid.asn.au or phone (02) 6285 1816.

PARTNERING WITH THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

This year our partnership with the Australian Government was more vital than ever in helping us respond to our partners' needs.

Our engagement with the government is through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Every year we participate in the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). In FY2021, UnitingWorld accessed $1,078M which we matched with $466K of our own donor funding. These funds supported seven projects, directly impacting 283,251 people. We are deeply grateful for the flexibility and responsiveness shown by DFAT in allowing us to adapt the plans for these projects to address rapidly evolving impact of COVID-19 on our partners.

We also continued to receive grants of $272k for our gender equality theology work from DFAT's Pacific Women Shaping Pacific Development program, of $142k for our disaster resilience work from DFAT's Australian Humanitarian Program (AHP), and of $1.1M for the Church Partnership Program in PNG.

In FY21, The Australian Government also made available new COVID-19 response funding through the AHP, and we were able to access $500k via the CAN DO consortium to support our Pacific partners in promoting public health, fighting misinformation and vaccine hesitancy, as well as addressing the shadow pandemic of domestic violence.

We have also continued to engage with DFAT and the Australian Government in advocacy on issues material to our partners. We participated in the big public 'End COVID For All' campaign through our Micah Australia and ACFID membership, which supported the new COVID-19 funding from the government for our region. We also engaged heavily with other faith-based NGOs in advocacy for PNG's unique COVID-19 crisis, the National Director travelling to Canberra to meet with the Minister for International Development to make the case.

UnitingWorld also played a key role in supporting the DFAT Office of the Pacific in engaging with the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC) and setting up the Pacific Church Advisory Network (PCAN). We administered a small grant of $35k on behalf of the PCC.

UnitingWorld is also pleased to provide 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.

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

Women gardeners with the Moderator of the Evangelical Christian Church in Timor, Rev Mery Kolimon.



OUR FAITHFUL SUPPORTERS

"When one rejoices, we all rejoice..."

There have been great joys and sorrows in our work together over the past twelve months, many of them shaped by COVID-19. The Apostle Paul describes the Church as members of one body, with different parts to play depending on our function – an eye for insight, a hand to help.

UnitingWorld's supporters have stepped up with huge hearts to pray and to give, and have sent messages of support that have buoyed us throughout the year. We had some of our strongest responses ever to our campaigns throughout the year, exceeding expectations and reassuring us that our work makes a difference not only to our partners in challenging places around the world, but to those of us here in Australia who are committed to compassion and change.

One of our most faithful supporters, Margo, writes:

> *"Hearing about your wonderful work in videos and emails makes it possible for me to live my life way beyond myself... Ever since I 'met' the people from the Seven Days of Solidarity campaign, I have been praying for them daily, by name. For me, to draw alongside our people means so much more than you could imagine... I am so grateful."*

On behalf of our partners, we're thankful to members of Uniting Churches around Australia, as well as individuals, schools and those who have left generous legacies to our shared work through bequests.

Recently we were able to send news to one of our Project Coordinators in India of funds donated in memory of a faithful couple from the Uniting Church.

Sanjay responded: "Thank you for sharing this story! It's because of such thoughtful persons we are being able to engage in uplifting the education of our children and also strengthen our organisation, and we feel encouraged and challenged as we move forward in our work. I will be sharing this with our church leadership."

To be part of UnitingWorld is to be part of one body in Christ, each contributing as able. Thank you for rejoicing in our successes and offering comfort in our challenges.

This year you chose to give 11,212 times to support God's work amongst our partners, with 392 of you choosing to support us with a regular gift. Your generosity added up to $3.2M for the year. Many of you gave up your time to help us tell our story to others or serve in our office. 162 Congregations supported the work of UnitingWorld and our partners, with us able to attend 39 congregations and share our work and stories of our partners' resilience and faith.

We also wanted to say a huge thank you to each and every one of you that took part in our first ever Seven Days of Solidarity. Each day we shared a beautiful glimpse of God using ordinary people to create extraordinary change in the world through our partners. For those that took part across the country, we hope you found the stories enriching and inspirational. We look forward to sharing more with you in the coming years.

Image: Children in rural Zimbabwe can experience a range of challenges from malnutrition to human trafficking. UnitingWorld's partner, the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe through their development agency MEDRA, are working to support livelihood opportunities and help communities make a commitment to children's rights.

6,381
Facebook followers

Support from
162
congregations

392
regular givers

15
bequests

11,212
gifts
from donors

39
presentations
to congregations



OUR BOARD

We strive for sound and transparent governance.

These are the people who worked diligently throughout the FY21 to provide outstanding oversight and direction to the organisation. Through their guiding efforts, we continue to grow and flourish, driving greater change for our partners in communities all across the world.

Our governance rests with the UnitingWorld Board. Board members are appointed by the UCA Assembly Standing Committee. We welcomed three new board members this year. Our Board is ultimately accountable to the National Assembly – a triennial gathering of representative UCA members from across Australia.



ANDREW GLENN (CHAIR) *Lives on the land of the Merrimeneer people.* Bsc (Hons), D Phil, FAICD

Andrew has held a number of senior administrative roles in Universities, including Pro-Vice Chancellor (Research) and Vice President (Research) at Murdoch University and the University of Tasmania. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He has also taken a leadership role in the councils of the Uniting Church, including as chairperson of the Presbytery of Tasmania.



PAUL SWADLING (DEPUTY CHAIR) *Lives on Guringgai country.* MA, LTH, FAICD

Former General Secretary of the NSW/ACT Synod and former Connexional Secretary of the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, Paul served as a Minister in congregations from rural, to inner suburban, spent six years on the staff of the Australian Council of Churches and three years on the staff of the NSW/ACT Board of Mission. Paul also chaired the Synod Budget Committee and the Board of UnitingCare NSW/ACT.



DAVID HODGES (CHAIR, FINANCE, AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE)
Lives on Darramurra-gal country. BA, BLegS, LLM, GDipEd, GAICD, JP.

Following a public service career of 15 years David worked as a lawyer in private practice, in the commercial, corporate and government enterprise sectors. David later served as a consultant and director in the agribusiness sector, taking an interest in governance, strategy setting and policy development. David has been an active member of various UCA congregations for more than 35 years. He recently retired from the Board of Margaret Jurd College.



LIN HATFIELD DODDS (CHAIR OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE)
Lives on Ngunnawal/Ngambri country and Yuin country. BSc (Hons), MPsych, MAICD

Lin is CEO of The Benevolent Society. Her previous roles include Deputy Secretary in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Associate Dean in the Australian and New Zealand School of Government and 15 years as National Director of UnitingCare Australia amongst many other senior NGO positions. She in an active member of the Uniting Church, holds a Masters degree in applied psychology, is a member of the Australia Institute of Company Directors, and was ACT Australian of the Year in 2008. Lin has worked as a counselling psychologist with families and young people, serves on the board of Better Evaluation and mentors emerging women leaders.



COLLEEN GEYER (EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBER) *Lives on the land of the Gadigal people.*
BTh, GCELead, DipTeach, Cert IV WTA

Colleen Geyer has held roles including Director of Mission at UnitingCare Queensland, Associate Director at UnitingCare Australia, and National Consultant for the Assembly Gospel and Gender Unit. Working for the Uniting Church and its agencies since 1995, she has held positions at state and national level. As Assembly General Secretary, Colleen has sought to improve national cooperation and resource-sharing across the Uniting Church.



SUREKA GORINGE (EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBER) *Lives on Durramurragal Country.*
BA(Hons), PhD, GAICD

Sureka has been National Director since July 2017. Sureka brings 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 the Church Agencies Network (CAN). She was previously Chair of UnitingWorld's National Committee and the founding director of UnitingWomen. Sureka comes via university in England, and a childhood in Botswana, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. She has a PhD in Materials Science, is the wife of a UCA minister, and the mother of two kids and a dog.



JAMES BATLEY 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 includes 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. He was awarded the Public Service Medal in 2002.



ASHLEIGH JOHNSTON *Grew up on the lands of the Darawal people.* BA-BCMS

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 and marketing, focussing 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. She holds a Bachelor of Communication and Media Studies.



JOHN MANNING *Lives on Kaurna country.* B.Com, M.Div. GAICD

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 *Lives on Ngunnawal country.* MPPM, BIR/LLB

Renee grew up in the Uniting Church and first engaged with UnitingWorld as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development in 2010 and later as an intern. Renee holds a Master of Public Policy and Management, and a Bachelor of Laws and International Relations. Renee has worked with the UNDP, agencies of the Australian Public Service, development organisations and academia. She works in public policy, with a strong interest and experience in gender, development, and international relations.



TINA RENDELL-THORNTON *Lives on Gandangara country.*
BA, GradDip Ed, Assoc Dip Social Welfare, M Social Admin

Tina is well known in the Uniting Church for her eleven years of service as Executive Director of the Board of Mission of the Synod of NSW and ACT. She has a background and qualifications in education, community development and social welfare and is currently Children, Youth and Families Service Delivery Lead for Uniting NSW/ACT. Tina has 30 years' experience in cross-cultural relationships and brings that expertise to her current role. In her previous role interactions with UnitingWorld included a review of social services in the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga.



WARREN TAPP *Lives on Yugambeh Aboriginal country.* *RFD, MBA, LLM, Grad Dip App Corp Gov, JP*

Warren joined the Board of UnitingWorld in 2020 and brings extensive governance experience to this role. He has consulted to the Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod over many years and has been an active UCA member. He has been a Chair or Director on over two dozen Boards and has lectured and published books on governance. He is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and conducts governance workshops for the World Bank in the South Pacific and Southeast Asia. He has much interest in the work that UnitingWorld does in these regions and is keen to contribute to the role of the Board.

OUR FINANCES

Financial Overview

The financial year 2021 ended well despite the uncertain environment created by the pandemic. Donor income recovered, we received new government funding for COVID-19 responses, and thanks to an incredibly generous bequest and exceptional investment returns, our revenue finished 22% higher than the previous year.

The significant increase in investment income is the result of the Board's relentless focus on optimising our investments in recent years. The $500,000 bequest was to our endowment fund and it will be invested, and only the income expended.

We are grateful for ~$500k of COVID-19 response grants from the Australian Government that enabled us to provide critical support to our Pacific partners.

Thanks to the unwavering support from our donors, income from donations is ~$126,000 above the previous year; a humbling and welcome outcome in an uncertain economic environment.

Other income includes assistance received from the Australian Government through JopKeeper and cashflow boost programs for which we were eligible for just one quarter.

COVID-19 lockdowns have resulted in lower program expenditures this year. Fundraising costs are higher as we continue to invest in acquiring new sources of support.

The UCA Assembly Standing Committee requested assistance from UnitingWorld to pay redress claims arising from historical incidents of abuse dating from before the formation of Uniting Church in Australia. While UnitingWorld has no direct liability linking it to the claims, we are in possession of some historic assets received from the UCA, unconnected to donor fundraising. In this light, considering the close relationship between UnitingWorld and the UCA National Assembly, and the moral obligation on the UCA to recompense survivors, the UnitingWorld Board resolved to make a one-off provision of $1.425M from these assets towards the National Assembly's redress payments, shown in the 'Other Expenditure' line of the of the Statement of Profit and Loss (P&L).

FY21 also marked our transition to operating under our own ABN on the 1st of October 2020. Previously, UnitingWorld operated under the National Assembly's ABN, but we are now registered as Charity and a Public Benevolent Institution. This means that we can offer our donors tax deductibility for all donations, and our staff some benefits in salary packaging.

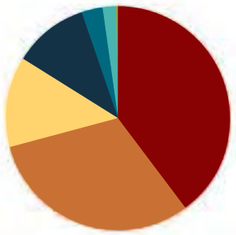
We have re-organised the P&L reporting of programming work in FY21 to reflect the change in our charity status. In the past, we reported our work under two headings; Relief and Development projects—funded by tax deductible donations—and Church Connections. All projects are now eligible for tax-deductible donations as they all align with our charitable purpose. However, to comply with ACFID reporting requirements, we segment our projects into those that are entirely development activities, and the small number that include elements of welfare and social service. Please note this makes the P&L component of this year's accounts less comparable with the previous year.

The balance sheet is comparable to previous years. Restricted reserves are made up of Bequeathed trust funds ($1.8M), Endowment funds ($2.4M) and Specific funds ($4.25M). 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 before making funding commitments to partners to reduce risks and provide certainty for our programs. Hence, at the end of each financial year, the Balance Sheet shows virtually all the public donor funds required for project and agency operations in the following year.

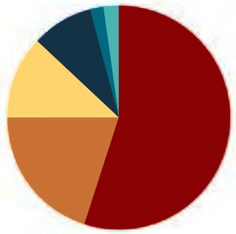
Our funds come from



- **40%** DFAT Grants
- **31%** Donations
- **13%** Investment Income
- **11%** Bequests and Legacies
- **3%** Other Income
- **2%** Assembly Allocation
- **0.1%** Other Grants

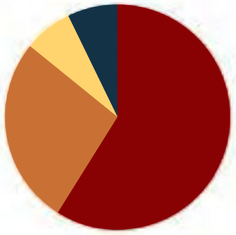
All ratios based on financial statements as presented on Pages 40-42.
Full audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021 are available from info@unitingworld.org.au.

Our funds went to



- **55%** International Aid and Development Programs
- **20%** Other Expenses
- **12%** Fundraising Costs
- **9%** Accountability & Administration
- **2%** Community Education
- **2%** International aid that includes welfare services

Where we work



- **59%** Pacific
- **27%** Asia
- **7%** Africa
- **7%** Cross Region

"Don't tell me what you value, show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value."

JOE BIDEN

Statement of Profit or Loss and other comprehensive income

YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2021

Revenue	30 JUNE 2021	30 JUNE 2020
Donations and Gifts		
Monetary (Deductible Gift Recipients)	2,321,852	1,864,399
Monetary (Non-Deductible Gift Recipients)	48,617	379,291
Total Donations and Gifts	2,370,469	2,243,690
Grants		
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	3,098,545	2,986,221
Assembly Allocation	195,000	221,520
Other Grants	14,631	7,963
Bequests & Legacies	836,256	381,528
Investment Income	1,005,587	259,982
Other Income	243,704	269,476
Total Revenue	**7,764,192**	**6,370,380**

Expenditure		
Programs Expenditure		
International Programs	3,056,428	3,245,378
Program Support	1,067,021	1,178,276
Community Education	153,468	174,228
Total Program Expenditure	4,276,917	4,597,882
Fundraising Costs - Public	867,919	824,583
Accountability & Administration	669,738	730,045
Other Expenses	1,425,000	-
Total Expenditure	**7,239,574**	**6,152,510**
Operating Surplus	**524,618**	**217,870**
Finance Costs	22,988	2,227
Net Surplus	**501,630**	**215,643**
Other Comprehensive Income	–	–
Total Comprehensive Income / (Loss)	**501,630**	**215,643**

Statement of Financial Position AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

Assets	30 JUNE 2021	30 JUNE 2020
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4,310,424	2,916,302
Term Deposits	1,938,609	2,438,609
Trade and Other Receivables	194,894	247,143
Assets Held For Sale	688,661	–
Other Assets	124,498	20,035
Total Current Assets	**7,257,086**	**5,622,089**
Non-Current Assets		
Financial Assets	8,336,540	7,486,461
Property, Plant and Equipment	1,491,263	2,244,679
Lease-Right-of-Use Assets	866,116	958,083
Total Non-Current Assets	**10,693,919**	**10,689,223**
Total Assets	**17,951,005**	**16,311,312**
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables	1,314,663	603,023
Contract Liabilities	715,396	973,080
Provisions	886,723	146,508
Lease Liabilities	88,903	81,171
Total Current Liabilities	**3,005,685**	**1,803,782**
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	55,425	40,647
Lease Liabilities	800,326	878,944
Total Non-Current Liabilities	**855,751**	**919,591**
Total Liabilities	**3,861,436**	**2,723,373**
Net Assets	**14,089,569**	**13,587,939**
Equity		
Unrestricted Reserves	5,713,871	6,114,799
Restricted Reserve*	8,375,698	7,473,140
Total equity	**14,089,569**	**13,587,939**

"In the hands of God's children, [money] is food for the hungry, drink for the thirsty, clothes for the naked."

JOHN WESLEY

Statement of Profit and Loss and other comprehensive income

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2021

SHOWING DEVELOPMENT AND NON-DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION AS REQUIRED BY ACFID

In previous years, UnitingWorld operated two programs, the Relief and Development program (OAGDS eligible) and the Church Connections program, funded by non-DGR funds. These two programs were shown as Development (with DGR donations) and Non-Development (with non-DGR donations) respectively. In October 2020, UnitingWorld started operating as a charity with Public Benevolent status, making all donations post 1 Oct 2020, tax-deductible. Consequently, these accounts show both income and expenditure delineated as Aid & Development (for programs that fall entirely within the DFAT definition of Development) separately from aid activities that include welfare services as well as development.

Revenue	30 JUNE 2021	30 JUNE 2020
Donations and gifts		
To international aid and development programs	2,113,507	1,921,754
To international Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs	-	-
To International aid that includes welfare services*	256,963	685,460
Bequests & Legacies	836,256	206,027
Grants		
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	3,098,545	2,986,221
Assembly Allocations	195,000	221,520
Other	14,631	7,963
Investment Income	1,005,587	72,109
Reimbursements from other Australian agencies and Government COVID-19 assistance (JobKeeper/Cash Flow Boost)	243,703	269,326
Total Revenue	**7,764,192**	**6,370,380**
Expenditure		
Programs Expenditure		
International aid & development programs	2,952,053	2,972,635
International political/religious adherence promotion programs	-	-
International aid that includes welfare services	134,735	543,125
Program Support	1,036,661	1,001,695
Community Education	153,468	80,427
Total International Program Expenditure	**4,276,917**	**4,597,882**
Fundraising Costs - Public**	867,919	668,339
Accountability & Administration**	669,738	668,597
Other Expenses**	1,425,000	-
International aid that includes welfare services fundraising cost and accountability and administration cost	-	217,692
Total Expenditure	**7,239,574**	**6,152,510**
Surplus / (Deficit)	**524,618**	**217,870**
Finance Costs	**22,988**	**2,227**
Total Comprehensive Income / (Loss)	**501,630**	**215,643**

* Development activities that meet the DFAT definition of welfare

** Fundraising costs, accountability and administration costs and other expenses are not separated between International development and welfare services, as the welfare services component is negligible. Other expenses covers Redress claim expenses. Historically, fundraising costs were split between Relief and Development and Church Connections based on percentage of fundraising income while accountability and administration costs were split based on percentage of direct program expenditures.

BOARD DECLARATION AND AUDITOR REPORT

Declaration by the UnitingWorld Board For the Year Ending 30 June 2021

In accordance with a resolution of the UnitingWorld Board we state that, as set out on pages 3, 4 and note 18:

(a) 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

(b) in the Board's opinion, the attached financial statement thereto is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013.

On behalf of the Board

Lin Hatfield-Dodds
Chairperson

ACT
23 September 2021

James Batley
Board Member

ACT
23 September 2021

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 2021. 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 2021
- 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 – Reduced Disclosure Requirements* 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 23 September 2021.

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 2021.

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*.

KPMG

KPMG

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

Stephen Isaac
Partner

Sydney

23 September 2021



COVID-19 has decimated tourist economies in Bali – our partners are helping families stay safe from disease and giving them the opportunity to rebuild their lives through livelihood training.



UnitingWorld
connecting communities for life

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UnitingWorld is an agency of the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia.