

UnitingWorld
connecting communities for life

Annual Report

JULY 2024-JUNE 2025

Year at a glance

117,745 people served by our projects, including

65,321 women and girls

27,849 children

2,595 people with disabilities




Through the work of
UnitingWorld and our church
partners, children like these
have new opportunities to thrive.



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

Images on cover and page 3: With changing weather patterns making Timor-Leste hotter and drier, families are facing food insecurity and child malnutrition. Our church partner provides training and equipment to help families make their kitchen gardens climate-resilient and productive all year long, leading to better nutrition and healthier children.

This page: In coastal communities in West Papua, many homes are now built on stilts as communities face rising sea levels and higher king tides. Destruction of mangroves means they are even more exposed to waves and typhoons, and beaches and soil are being washed away. Our West Papua church partner's Statement of Faith commits the church to care for the environment to ensure the flourishing of future generations.



Explore the difference we have made in the world together. Thank you for being part of the work we do.

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Report from the Board Chair and National Director

FY25 was a year of renewed focus and purpose as we put our new strategic plan into action.

Our mission remains unchanged: partnering with churches overseas to fight poverty and injustice. Our strategy recognises a sobering truth: every injustice in the world is made worse by climate change.

Climate change affects everyone, from urban centres in wealthy nations to subsistence farming villages. Bushfires, floods, cyclones and droughts have become part of everyday life. But for people already facing poverty, discrimination or isolation, the impacts are earlier, harsher and more devastating.

Rural families who've farmed for generations now face hunger as crops fail. Island communities see their land swallowed by rising seas and their fish stocks vanishing. In the Himalayas, even the iconic tea gardens around Darjeeling are struggling, threatening thousands of livelihoods. And no matter where vulnerable people live, storms, droughts, fires and floods are striking more often, repeatedly taking what little they have.

This is the reality UnitingWorld has set ourselves to address. Over the past year, we have worked closely with our partners to integrate climate resilience into our programs, designing or transitioning projects to address the intersection of human vulnerability with climate change and environmental degradation. We are pleased to be over a third of the way through this transformation.

Importantly, this shift was driven by our partners and their communities. They have embraced climate adaptation with energy and innovation. From village gardens improving food security to community-led disaster preparedness, their commitment at every level has affirmed the urgency of this work.

This year we deepened the conversation with our Australian supporters, connecting the dots between poverty and climate change. Our donors are deeply committed to liberating people from injustice, but it's not enough to help those suffering the worst impacts, we must also address the root causes, including our own emissions. That's why we have stepped up our advocacy for climate action and recruited staff to engage relationally with Uniting Church congregations, urging greater understanding of the unique and prophetic role that Christians can play at the intersection of poverty and climate change.

Alongside our advocacy to the Australian Government, in Lent 2025 we launched *40 for the Future*, a community campaign inviting supporters to reduce their carbon footprint for 40 days, while raising funds for climate justice projects.

The link between poverty and climate is now undeniable. In FY25, we faced this challenge with focus, urgency and faith, and we invite all who seek justice to join us.

Rev Dr Steve Bevis
Chair of the Board, UnitingWorld

Dr Sureka Goringe
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.



(L-R) Debora Murthy from UnitingWorld's South East Asia Regional Office with Debora, Rev Apselina and Marisa from our church partner, the Evangelical Christian Church in the Land of Papua.

Our Mission

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

Our Charitable Purpose

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

Our Vision

Honouring God through global relationships which bring justice and hope.

Our values

Distinctive values make us who we are

We are personally invested in the mission.

We take joy in our work. Our personal values and aspirations are strongly aligned with UnitingWorld's mission. We commit to hard work and healthy rest, caring for ourselves and each other with compassion.

We invest in relationships.

We invest time and resources in knowing and being known by each other and our stakeholders. We hold relationships on behalf of the Agency across time. We monitor and nurture the health and integrity of our relationships.

We are courageous in innovation.

We are not afraid to do new and radical things to deliver our mission. We are not afraid to critically evaluate our ideas and change our approach when they don't work.

We ground all we do in Christian theology.

We believe the good news of Jesus means justice and hope for all, particularly for the oppressed and vulnerable. We are free to collaborate with those who share our vision and values.

Shared values bridge us to our networks

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.

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.

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.

Sustainability

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

Working in partnership

Our partnerships with churches across Asia, Africa and the Pacific are at the heart of everything we do.

Many of these relationships are now more than a century old, grounded in shared faith, trust, genuine friendships and a common call to overcome poverty, injustice and violence in our world.

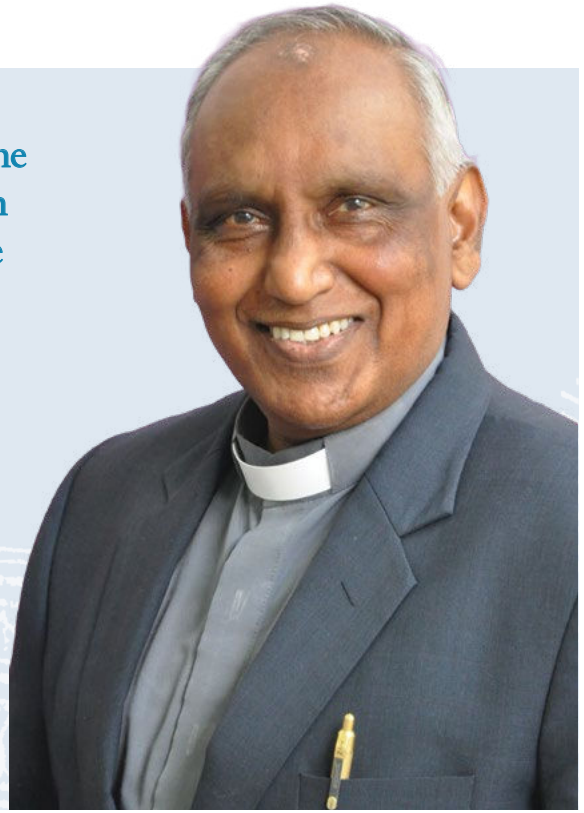
Working together, we invest in our partners' priorities and projects that grow from deep listening, local wisdom and enduring commitment to serve their communities. Our partners are formidable agents of change and trusted voices within civil society, so strengthening their institutions is a critical part of our work.

In FY25, we've accompanied partners as they've engaged governments to improve education for children with disabilities and marginalised groups; implemented new financial systems, procedures and training; built skills to respond to climate change; and deepened their work for gender equality, disability inclusion and social justice.

"Ever since the partnership between UnitingWorld and the Diocese of Amritsar began, the Dalit community in our project area has experienced significant transformation, through access to education, social upliftment and empowerment. This has enabled people to rise above socio-economic and political oppression.

"Beyond financial support, the consistent engagement by our partners, including field visits and regular evaluation meetings with UnitingWorld team members, has helped us shape policies and stay informed about the evolving social, political and economic realities of the world. The Diocese of Amritsar, Church of North India, remains deeply grateful to UnitingWorld for their unwavering financial and moral support in continuing this noble mission - for the good of people, and for the Glory of God. Thank you."

Rev Ayub Daniel, Administrator, Diocese of Amritsar



God is always fair. He will remember how you helped his people in the past and how you are still helping them. You belong to God, and he won't forget the love you have shown his people.

Hebrews 6:10 (CEV)



Elder Martha Yamsiu Kaluatman, General Secretary, Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union Vanuatu (L), with Shivani Patel, UnitingWorld Projects Officer



Rt Rev Sameer Khimla, Bishop of Durgapur, Church of North India (L), with Apwee Ting, UnitingWorld International Partnership Manager



Steph Dalton, UnitingWorld Programs Lead - Grants (L), with Rev Junior Paradza, MeDRA Project Officer, Methodist Church in Zimbabwe



UnitingWorld National Director Dr Sureka Goringe (L) with staff from the Diocesan Social Empowerment and Education Project, Diocese of Amritsar, India

Our partners and projects

Africa

Zimbabwe

Methodist Church in Zimbabwe
Safety and Inclusion

South Asia

India

Church of North India - Diocese of Amritsar
Social Empowerment and Education

Education for Vulnerable Girls

Church of North India - Diocese of Durgapur
Education and Social Empowerment

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

Climate Resilience and Community Development

Sri Lanka

Methodist Church of Sri Lanka
Education and Social Empowerment for People with Disabilities



South East Asia

Indonesia

Protestant Christian Church in Bali
Empowering Women and Poor Families

Protestant Church in Maluku
Fulfillment of Community's Economic and Social Rights

Christian Evangelical Church in Timor
Village Health and Climate Resilience Development

Emergency Response to the Volcanic Eruption in East Flores

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

Timor-Leste

Protestant Church in Timor Lorosa'e
Community Health

El-Nino Preparedness

Anticipatory Action - Disaster Preparedness

Pacific

Fiji

Methodist Church in Fiji
Resilient, Inclusive and Safe Churches and Communities

Pasifika Communities University
Governance and Compliance Strengthening

Reweaving the Ecological Mat (REM) 2

Kiribati

Kiribati Uniting Church
Gender Equality and Climate Resilience

Papua New Guinea

United Church in Papua New Guinea
Church Partnership Program

Solomon Islands

United Church in the Solomon Islands
Gender Equality and Climate Resilience

Vanuatu

Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu
Gender and Leadership

Anticipatory Action - Disaster Preparedness

Pacific Regional

Women in Ministry
Pasifika Communities University, Davuilevu Theological College and Methodist Church in Fiji

Oceania Faith Communities Advancing Safety and Equality
Methodist Church in Fiji, Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, Kiribati Uniting Church, United Church in the Solomon Islands, United Church in Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu Christian Church, Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, Pacific Conference of Churches and the Pasifika Communities University

Theology of Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate

Methodist Church in Fiji and United Church in Papua New Guinea

Pacific Regional and Australia

Pacific Australian Emerging Leaders' Summit and Network
Micah Australia and Pacific Conference of Churches

International Networks

Lebanon

ACT Alliance
Emergency Response to the Conflict in Southern Lebanon

Myanmar

ACT Alliance
Emergency Response to Earthquake-affected Communities in Myanmar

UnitingWorld, on behalf of the Uniting Church in Australia, maintains relationships with many churches with whom we did not do projects in FY25. They remain an important part of our global network and contribute to the wider conversations that fuel our learning and strategy. These partners include:

Christian Conference of Asia, China Christian Council, Cook Islands Christian Church, Church of South India, Presbyterian Church of India, Christian Church in Sumba, Evangelical Christian Church in Talaud, Evangelical Christian Church in Halmahera, Evangelical Christian Church in Minahasa, Indonesian Christian Church - West Java, Korean Christian Church in Japan, United Church of Christ in Japan, Korean Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church of Korea, Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East, National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon, National Evangelical Church of Beirut, Nauru Congregational Church, Methodist Church of New Zealand, Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, Christian Church of Niue, National Council of Churches in the Philippines, Philippines Central Conference of the United Methodist Church, United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Congregational Christian Church of Samoa, Methodist Church of 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, Vanuatu Christian Council, United Church of Zambia

Where we work

117,745 people reached

29 projects

22 partners

15 countries



Disability inclusion

In India, our church partner in Durgapur is fostering a more equitable society by assisting people with disabilities to access income-generating opportunities. p28

Clean water

In Zimbabwe, our church partner is transforming dry land around church schools through solar-powered water bores, creating school gardens to fight malnutrition and providing reliable water to the community. p18

India
5 PROJECTS

Myanmar
1 PROJECT

Sri Lanka
1 PROJECT



Working with nature

In Indonesia, community members are planting mangroves as part of the environmental sustainability strategy implemented by our church partner and local authorities. p22

Pacific Regional
4 REGIONAL PROJECTS

Papua New Guinea
3 PROJECTS

Indonesia
5 PROJECTS

Kiribati
2 PROJECTS

Solomon Islands
2 PROJECTS

Tuvalu
1 PROJECT

Timor-Leste
3 PROJECTS

Vanuatu
3 PROJECTS

Tonga
1 PROJECT

Fiji
6 PROJECTS



Food security

Our church partner in Timor-Leste is supporting families to grow their own food, combatting malnutrition and providing income opportunities. p16

Australia
1 PROJECT



Gender equality

UnitingWorld and its church partners across the Pacific are working closely together to end gender-based violence and promote gender equality. p29



Advocacy

UnitingWorld partnered with Micah Australia and the Pacific Conference of Churches to support the third Pacific Australian Emerging Leaders' Summit, training young leaders from the Pacific, First Nations communities and across Australia in advocacy. p32



We see...

gardens growing, families nourished and futures secured

Project participants in Timor-Leste pictured with Hindra Sulaksono (5th from left) and Debora Murthy (3rd from right) from UnitingWorld's South East Asia Regional Office.

Too many families face the daily uncertainty of not knowing if there will be enough to eat. Climate extremes, rising costs and limited opportunities mean children go hungry and communities remain trapped in cycles of poverty.

Through training, tools and innovation, our partners are transforming this story. Families are growing climate-smart gardens, raising livestock and creating small businesses that provide food and income. Together, we are strengthening food security, building independence and giving families the chance to plan for tomorrow with hope.

Growing food, health and hope together in Timor-Leste

FUSONA, the development agency of the Protestant Church in Timor Lorosa'e, supports families to grow food to overcome the widespread malnutrition and stunting of children in the country.

In one village, FUSONA facilitated a group of 15 families to work together to grow vegetables, corn and sweet potatoes on an area of almost 8,000 square metres. Traditional leader, Calisto, is now leading the garden group, motivated by his concern about the health of malnourished children and women in his community.

FUSONA supports the group's activities by providing vegetable seeds, agricultural tools and hoses, subsidising wells for irrigation, and providing training.

Four times a year, they teach participants new nutritious recipes and conduct health checks for children and pregnant women.

Through the new reliable water supply, better agricultural knowledge and the commitment and hard work of group members, crop yields have dramatically increased. Families are better nourished, and selling excess crops provides an income for other needs. People are now hopeful for a future where all the children can thrive and their families can prosper.

Feeding the hungry

Rev Laura had a dream: that her church would not only preach but also contribute to the wellbeing of its community.

In her village on Alor Island, East Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia, poverty and malnutrition are common. Rev Laura wanted to provide nutritious, fresh vegetables to vulnerable community members. She had the support of the church council, but she did not have the expertise.

That changed when Rano from TLM* visited the village to share about their program helping people establish vegetable gardens and poultry projects for better health. Rev Laura saw this as an opportunity to fulfill her dream.

With TLM's support, the congregation created a garden on land donated by a church member. They were overjoyed when they saw their crops flourishing. TLM then provided 20 egg-laying chickens to increase the nutritional impact of the church's outreach.

Rev Laura's church now serves nutritious meals to community members regularly, with children and their families, orphans and the elderly benefitting from the vegetables and eggs.

Excess produce is sold locally, and the income supports the church's programs and covers the costs of the garden and chicken farm.

*Our church partner is the Christian Evangelical Church in Timor. Their development agency is *Tanaoba Lais Manekat* (TLM).

Australian Aid

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



3,302 people, including **1,233** children, have gained access to enough food

1,988 people across 3 countries have adopted better ways to produce food for their community



Students help in the school food gardens, learning climate-resilient gardening techniques as well as producing crops for school feeding programs.

We see... water flowing with life and dignity

Water is life. Yet for millions of families, changing weather patterns and deepening droughts are making it harder to grow food, stay healthy and thrive. Without access to water, every part of life becomes a struggle.

We're supporting our partners to see a different future. One where reliable water flows freely in schools and communities, bringing nourishing food gardens to life and creating opportunities for families to thrive.

Water for schools and communities in Zimbabwe

In rural Zimbabwe, changing weather patterns are contributing to drought and food insecurity.

Our church partner, the the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe (MCZ), through its Methodist Development and Relief Agency (MeDRA), is turning dry land into school gardens, installing solar-powered water systems and training students and families in climate-smart farming, using church schools as hubs.

Felistas, a single mother of three, lives near an MCZ school. Her daily routine revolves around fetching water, carrying heavy water containers over three kilometres for her family's drinking water, cooking and sanitation needs.

Australian Aid

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

Felistas dreams of a better life for her children. The water supply and school garden being established as part of MeDRA's project offer her hope. She shared:

"If the school can grow vegetables, my children will have something to eat while they're there. Knowing they are eating healthy meals at school gives me peace of mind.

"With water available, I can start a small vegetable garden since I live close to the school. I'll have enough to feed my children and sell the surplus for some income."

"Reliable, clean water means everything to these villages. Since we installed the bore, people are so happy they can now keep crops growing and feed their families."

MeDRA Project Officer Rev Junior Paradza

Rainwater harvesting in Durgapur

A group of marginalised farmers in Durgapur were experiencing failing crops due to the lack of irrigation during the dry season. Our church partner saw an opportunity to assist by renovating an old rainwater harvesting structure that had silted up through soil erosion many years ago, with the farmers co-investing in the work.

This dam now provides eight families with water for irrigation and will result in more productive farms, increasing crop yield throughout the year and enhancing food security and income.

In FY25, the Church of North India – Diocese of Durgapur, working with UnitingWorld, has renovated two old rain water harvesting structures in Ranibandh and provided two submersible pumps in Sarenga, providing water for irrigation to over 90 families.

Australian Aid

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



7,789 people across 2 countries have better access to clean drinking water

We see...

people lifting their communities out of poverty

When people have access to the right tools, training and technology, they can transform not only their own livelihoods but the wellbeing of their families and communities.

Through savings groups, entrepreneurial training and access to innovative solutions like solar lights and small-scale farming equipment, our partners are empowering people to create sustainable income, improve health and strengthen resilience. Together, we are supporting communities to turn opportunity into lasting change.

Solar lights, bright future

Access to practical, locally-appropriate technology can transform how communities earn, learn and thrive. From solar lights and energy-efficient stoves to small-scale irrigation and farming tools, these innovations help people work smarter, protect their health and increase income.

Husband and wife entrepreneurial team, Komang and Ni Luh, joined the livelihood program in their village run by *Maha Bhoga Marga*, the development agency of the Protestant Christian Church in Bali, to learn more about kitchen gardening and business skills.

In addition to seeds and training, they received support to install solar lights in their garden. The solar lights enable them to water their crops and to wash and sort vegetables at night, so they can work longer with no cost for lighting.

The increased productivity has boosted their income from vegetable sales, which they use to support their family's daily needs and pay school fees for their children.

Australian Aid

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





Self-organised Internal Savings and Lending groups in rural Zimbabwe enable people to access financial resources so they can save and invest in income-generating activities to support their families and reduce poverty.

Empowering women, building livelihoods

Christine from Zimbabwe did not think she could do anything productive or profitable herself. Her husband made only a meagre living from subsistence farming and their household, including four of their children and three granddaughters, was living in severe poverty.

Through its Building Resilience project, the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, through its Methodist Development and Relief Agency (MeDRA), is funding livelihood interventions for vulnerable community members. In 2019, Christine was nominated to join the project by her neighbours who recognised her need and her willingness to work hard.

Joining a local savings group meant Christine had, for the first time, a way to save money and obtain credit to fund income-generating activities. Her first venture was a poultry project, which has expanded so much that she bought an incubator to hatch eggs for her own farm and for her neighbours. She now farms goats too and has gained enough business experience to serve as the facilitator of the local goat owners group.

Christine is confident and financially independent, and her family is healthy and thriving.

Australian Aid

MeDRA has allocated funds for the savings groups component of this project with support from the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). This project is co-funded with Bread for the World.

5,817

people are accessing free renewable electricity

1,357

people participated in a savings group

We see...
people and nature flourishing together

Across our world, the changing climate is eroding coastlines, damaging forests and threatening the ecosystems that sustain us. Too often, the poorest communities, those who rely most directly on land and sea for survival, are the ones who suffer first and worst.

Our partners are showing another way forward: protecting the environment by working with it, not against it. From restoring mangroves to cultivating sustainable farms, solar lights and disaster preparedness, communities are using local knowledge and innovation to adapt and thrive. Together, we're nurturing creation, safeguarding livelihoods, and planting hope for a world where people and nature flourish side by side.



In June 2025, leaders and members of the Church of North India - Diocese of Durgapur marched to celebrate World Environment Week. They reached over 2,000 people with their awareness programs and rallies, promoting reduced use of plastic, water conservation and organic farming.

Protecting fragile communities and coastlines

On Alor Island, in the East Nusa Tenggara Province, Indonesia, coastal erosion is threatening residential areas and increasing the risk from natural disasters. The local community is taking action.

SInce 2022, *Tanaoba Lais Manekat* (TLM), the development agency of the Christian Evangelical Church in Timor, and the Lawahing Village Government have implemented a Disaster Risk Reduction and Environmental Sustainability Strategy, establishing Disaster Management Teams made up of community members.

One local Disaster Management Team and residents saw the risk to their community from coastal erosion, so they took the initiative to protect themselves by planting mangrove trees.

Mangroves are a key to maintaining the sustainability of coastal ecosystems. They have strong roots that resist erosion to protect shorelines, they absorb carbon, and they provide a breeding ground for fish and other sea life.

One hundred mangrove seedlings, provided by TLM, were planted.

TLM and the village government commended the initiative taken by the local community and expect that it will motivate other villages to take greater care in protecting their local environment.

Australian Aid

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

7,949 trees planted across 2 countries



We see... communities protected and prepared for disasters

When disasters strike, the poorest are often hardest hit. Preventative action saves more lives than waiting for help to arrive from outside. Our partners equip people with skills, tools and networks to stay safe, reduce risk and build resilience so communities are ready before disaster comes.



Anticipatory Action pilot project

Anticipatory Action (AA) equips communities with targeted support before disasters strike, building resilience and saving lives.

On the island of Tanna, the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu is piloting an AA project that equips local leaders and families with the skills and resources to be disaster-ready, through awareness sessions, materials to reinforce houses, and a local coordination network. More than 1,300 people attended community awareness sessions, gaining confidence and skills, and identifying their most vulnerable neighbours so they would be taken care of during disasters.

In early 2025, the system was tested when a cyclone warning was issued. Local leaders immediately mobilised, warning their communities, strengthening houses of vulnerable people, and securing vital documents in weather-proof containers.

Communities shared that they had better understanding of disaster preparedness because of the project, and that all community members prepared themselves for the cyclone based on the early alert provided by the church.

Australian Aid

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



Disaster Risk Reduction

Community members in Tambrauw, West Papua, mapped local climate risks and opportunities for disaster risk reduction during a consultation in April 2025.

Responding when disasters strike

The increasing frequency and severity of disasters is one of the first ways climate change impacts local communities.

In FY25, the world continued to experience not only climate-exacerbated disasters but also others driven by conflict, volcanos and earthquakes. In each of these situations, local churches are uniquely situated to be on the frontlines of response before others can get in, and to stay the course over the long haul, ensuring that communities rebound from disasters with greater resilience.

UnitingWorld works with our longstanding church partners to provide immediate support to their response efforts when disasters hit their local communities.

We also invest in powerful church networks to expand our reach, enabling our generous supporters to respond to natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies outside our own network. This includes the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) consortium of nine Australian churches, and ACT Alliance, which networks over 140 church and faith-based agencies globally and is one of the largest development, humanitarian and advocacy coalitions in the world.

When the volcanic eruptions in Flores, Indonesia, affected local communities, we enabled our local partner, the Christian Evangelical Church in Timor, to work with families to provide for emergency food, water and shelter needs.

When an earthquake hit Port Vila, Vanuatu, we were in close communication with the Presbyterian Church in Vanuatu and mobilised an appeal ready to support any re-building efforts required. Fortunately the physical impact was not as great as initially feared, and we were able to direct these resources to continue their efforts to prepare for similar future disasters.

In Papua New Guinea, following the devastating landslide in Enga Province in May 2024, our CAN DO ecumenical partners continued response efforts during FY25.

Following conflict in Lebanon and an earthquake in Myanmar, we worked through ACT Alliance partners, including local churches, to enable the generosity of our supporters to be directed to relief and recovery efforts.*

*Funds were distributed to ACT Alliance for Myanmar and Lebanon in FY25, but impact data is not yet available. It will be reported in the FY26 Annual Report.



Our partner in Flores mobilised staff and volunteers to quickly deliver supplies to families affected by volcanic eruptions, with support from UnitingWorld.

Erupting volcano in East Flores (Image: Shutterstock)

8,280
people in 8 countries trained in climate related hazards and disasters

4,270
people in 3 countries engaged in disaster risk reduction strategies or climate change plans

1,702
people in 2 countries were provided with emergency humanitarian assistance

We see...

communities leading with faith, culture and wisdom

Lasting change begins when responses are locally led and rooted in culture. Locally-led development means listening first, and recognising that theology, indigenous knowledge and psychosocial care are not add-ons, but essential foundations for resilience and renewal.

Through our partners, this takes many forms: theological reflection that inspires church communities to act for justice; trauma-informed chaplaincy equipping leaders to walk alongside people in times of crisis; and indigenous knowledge shaping education, economics and care for creation. Together, we are nurturing approaches led by communities in their own unique voices.



"I think theology is important in the sense that we have to study and get it right, we have to know what we are talking about. Not only in education, but you also have to live it and to be able to marry it together (the theory and the practice). So that it's not only from the head; it has to be from the hand and the heart."

Pastor Leinamau from Vanuatu, former UnitingWorld Women in Ministry scholar (pictured centre).



Building resilience, even on the rugby field

The Methodist Church in Fiji conducts Disaster Chaplaincy and Psychological First Aid training for church and community leaders as part of the Resilient, Inclusive and Safe Churches and Communities project, equipping leaders to support people affected by disasters and other traumatic experiences.

One of the participants, Jiuta, didn't need to wait for a disaster to make a difference for his community.

As President of the Nadroga Rugby Union, he could see that on-field indiscipline of the players was a symptom of trauma, and that problems were also apparent in their family lives, often resulting in domestic violence.

He is setting up counselling sessions as part of rugby training camps, to support the players to process their experiences and develop strategies to recover from trauma.

Australian Aid

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

621

people learned to apply theology to support development and emergency response

221

people applying indigenous knowledge in projects

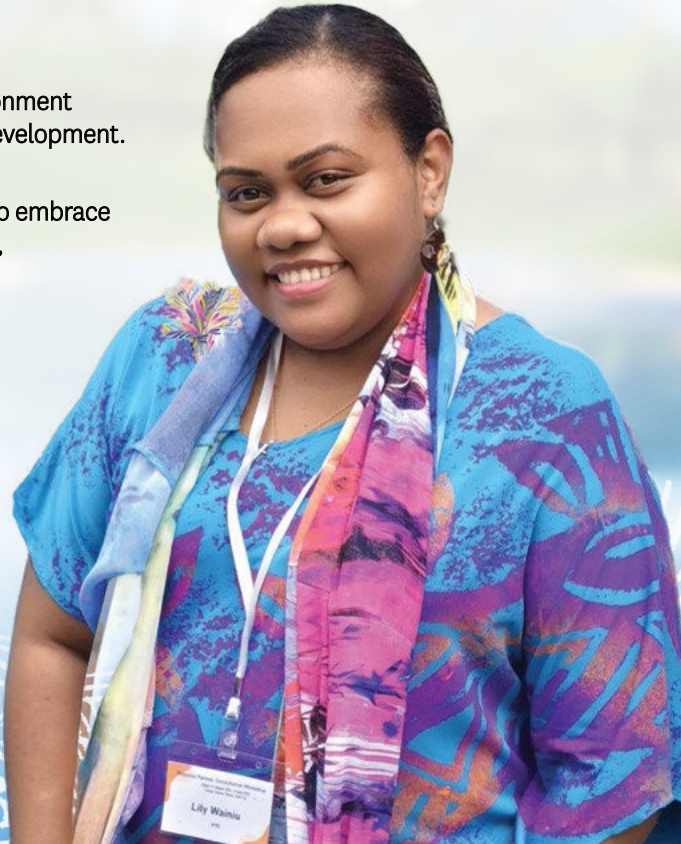
Accounting for the whole of life

The Pasifika Communities University (PCU) in Fiji is adopting a Whole of Life philosophy by integrating traditional wisdom and spiritualities of Pacific peoples into its operations and academic offerings to create a Pacific-centred development story that prioritises community, culture and environment.

Lily, an accountant from Fiji, is a graduate of the pilot Certificate in Ecological Resilience and Intemerate Accounting course, which challenges the understanding that only financial results are important. It incorporates measurement of the impact on cultural values, social wellbeing and natural environment when calculating the full cost of development.

For Lily, it meant setting aside her conventional accounting training to embrace Pasifika values of care, community, sustainability and responsibility – not just balancing figures but also protecting ecosystems and honouring the intrinsic value of nature.

*Formerly known as the Pacific Theological College, PCU was launched in 2025.



Australian Aid

This project was supported by the Australian Government through the Office of the Pacific's Pacific Church Partnership Program.

We see...
every person valued and empowered

In many places, people with disabilities face barriers that deny them safety, opportunity and voice. Inequality deepens poverty and robs communities of the gifts each person has to offer.

Our partners are challenging these barriers through education, advocacy and practical support. From providing livelihood opportunities to ensuring schools and churches are accessible, they are working for justice and dignity for all.

A greater vision for Khokan

Khokan from Durgapur, India, was born with a physical disability. In rural communities like his, people with disabilities are often excluded and looked down upon. This meant he could not earn an income to support his family, so they were dependent on his wife selling firewood and plates made from leaves from the forest.

Our church partner, the Church of North India – Diocese of Durgapur, has been providing new opportunities for people with disabilities through their disability mainstreaming initiative. People neglected by their communities are identified and assisted to access income-generating activities and vocational training.

Khokan received a one-time grant to open a variety store at his home. He is now able to support his family and save funds to invest in future business activities. He and his wife have been able to construct a strong permanent home and are planning to start livestock farming.

Australian Aid

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

2,595
people with a disability took part in our projects

292
people trained in disability Inclusion

4
women with disability raised to leadership roles

"Before it was very difficult for me and my wife to run the household and we had to depend mostly on forest resources. But getting financial assistance from the project gave me a greater vision, and I'm planning to extend my business in future."

Khokan



We see...

faith communities rising for gender justice

Across the Pacific and beyond, women and girls face violence, discrimination and unequal opportunities. We support our partners to build networks and share life-giving theology that transforms communities with equality, safety and hope.

Gender justice runs through all our programs, recognising that women are often most affected by poverty and climate impacts. Together we're spreading the message that women and girls deserve safety, dignity and the chance to lead.

65,321 women and girls participated in UnitingWorld projects

813 women raised to leadership roles



Community of Practice steering committee members from Pacific partner churches

Regional initiative for faith-led collaboration on gender justice

UnitingWorld and its church partners in the Pacific have launched the Oceania Faith Communities Advancing Safety and Equality project. This broad collaboration has the potential to reach more than 989,000 people across the region.

Each of our church partners brings unique strengths to efforts to end gender-based violence and promote equality. This project is building stronger networks and opportunities to learn by establishing a new Community of Practice (CoP) for churches to advance gender equality, safeguarding and theological change.

The CoP will serve as a regional hub for collaboration, joint learning and advocacy, connecting leaders, theologians and safeguarding focal points to share and develop resources, strategies and training for gender equality.

As churches deepen their commitment to the safety, inclusion and leadership of women, girls and vulnerable groups, everyone benefits.

PACIFIC WOMEN LEAD

Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique

Australian Aid

This project receives support from the Pacific Women Lead at the Pacific Community (PWL at SPC) program.



"When theology is life-giving and affirms the dignity of all people, it becomes a powerful force for change. We're equipping churches to lead efforts for gender equality, social justice and family safety in ways that are culturally grounded and sustainable."

Rev Siera Bird, UnitingWorld International Program Manager

Learning and growing

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

Social Empowerment and Education in Amritsar*

A study of the impact of this project in Punjab, India from 2008 to 2023 revealed transformative outcomes across education, health and social empowerment. It confirmed that the community-driven approach has laid a strong foundation for sustainability.



For example, the study centres established by the project have driven remarkable improvements in education outcomes in the target villages. In 2008, only 38% of children in the target communities attended formal school until 10th grade (~15yrs). In 2023, the figure was 100%, with most students also going on to complete 12th grade. The study concluded that the improvement in enrolment rates could be attributed to the study centre staff's consistent engagement with parents and caregivers on the importance of education.

During its history, this project has impacted 20 villages and supported 2,700 households, most of whom are from marginalised Dalit families.

*This project is a partnership between UnitingWorld and the Church of North India - Diocese of Amritsar, supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



Village Health and Climate Resilience Development, East Nusa Tenggara*

The Village Health and Climate Resilience Development project supports eight villages within the Alor and Rote districts of East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), Indonesia.

An independent evaluation of the project for the 2022-2025 period identified that the community-led approach has improved child and maternal health, strengthened community preparedness for disasters, and supported the economic empowerment of vulnerable families.

One key finding was that the project had contributed to a 51% reduction in stunting* in the area. NTT has one of the highest stunting rates in Indonesia and the project addressed this through healthy gardens, food distribution programs and nutrition education for pregnant women.

The evaluation recommended the project be extended by a year to enhance sustainability and ensure lasting impact. This project serves as a model for successful, community-based social development.

*This project is implemented by *Tanaoba Lais Manekat* of the Christian Evangelical Church in Timor, in partnership with UnitingWorld and supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

*Stunting refers to chronic malnutrition leading to impaired growth and development in children under five.

Investing in our own effectiveness

In FY25 we completed our three-yearly ACFID Code Self-Assessment against the updated Code of Conduct, using the review to reflect on our practice against both Code requirements and wider industry standards. The process highlighted opportunities for continuous improvement, which we have incorporated into our FY26 business planning.

We also conducted our two-yearly Staff Climate Survey, which showed strong engagement. We were delighted that staff reported feeling supported, connected and aligned with our mission. We have identified areas to strengthen, such as helping people to link daily work to the new strategic plan, prioritising career development conversations, and supporting teams to better manage work demands.

Recognising the need to bring on newer, younger supporters to UnitingWorld's mission, we undertook market research to identify more effective language for communicating our work and have begun testing this messaging.



GEDSI progress update: putting audit insights into practice

The FY24 Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Audit of UnitingWorld confirmed key strengths including our gender balance in the Board and leadership team, a culture that supports and celebrates diversity, and championing GEDSI within our work with partners.

In response to recommendations, we strengthened the GEDSI focal point role, developed a new climate/GEDSI analysis tool, rolled out partner training, and dedicated a portion of project budgets to disability inclusion. We have also made improvements to our recruitment procedures. Plans are in place for further improvements in FY26.

Our partner in Sri Lanka builds opportunities for education and social empowerment for people with disabilities.

We raise our voices

As our mission to end poverty brings us closer to communities affected by climate change, we must advocate not only for aid but also for strong climate action in Australia. Guided by the voices of our church partners, we work with the Uniting Church in Australia and groups like the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), Micah Australia, and the Church Agencies Network (CAN) to amplify our impact.

A Safer World for All

We're part of a broad alliance of Christian and secular organisations, led by Micah Australia and ACFID, advocating for a compassionate and generous aid program under the *A Safer World for All* banner. Together, we called on the Federal Government to allocate at least 1% of the budget to international development and humanitarian needs, on both moral and strategic grounds.

With FY25 being an election year, raising the profile of aid was a priority.

Led by our National Director, we met with parliamentarians, including the Foreign and International Development Ministers, co-signed public statements and petitions, and used our networks to rally more allies to the cause.

Uniting Church President Rev Charissa Suli joined us in supporting *A Safer World for All*, travelling to speak at Parliament House in Canberra.

We also supported public Election Forums where local candidates shared their views on aid and took audience questions.

The campaign mobilised churches nationwide, secured cross-partisan support, and helped protect Australia's aid budget during the 2025 election.

"As a person of faith, I believe love must be shown in action. Our aid program is exactly that: a lifeline, an act of justice and a reflection of our shared humanity."

Rev Charissa Suli (pictured, centre)







"You are here because you care about your community ... your country ... your culture."

Senator Penny Wong addressing delegates of PAELS 2025.

A platform for raising young voices

UnitingWorld once again partnered with Micah Australia and the Pacific Conference of Churches to support the third Pacific Australian Emerging Leaders' Summit (PAELS), bringing together 66 leaders aged between 21 and 35 from 16 Pacific nations, First Nations communities, and across Australia.

The week-long program builds lasting connections between diverse young leaders, training them in advocacy and setting up access to Australian parliamentarians to share their vision of a safer, more just and sustainable future.

UnitingWorld administered the DFAT grant and supported the participation of 11 delegates from our Pacific partner churches and 17 delegates from Uniting Churches across four states.

Supporting the UCA's Vision for a Just Australia

"Australia acts with courage and conviction to build a just and peaceful world. We are a nation that works in partnership with other nations to dismantle the structural and historical causes of violence, injustice and inequality." *

Ahead of the 2025 federal election, the Uniting Church updated its "Vision for a Just Australia" election resource, with UnitingWorld proudly contributing a global perspective.

We highlighted Australia's role in advancing aid, climate action, human rights, peacebuilding and ending modern slavery. Drawing on the voices of our global church partners, we called on Australians to be good neighbours, working together for the common good of people and planet.

Alongside the wider Uniting Church, we helped shape a vision that responds to urgent challenges and amplifies voices from our region.

*Contributing to a just and peaceful world. Our Vision For a Just Australia 2025, p43.

uniting.church/a-vision-for-a-just-australia/

Our supporters

We are deeply grateful to our supporters for

$2,902,476 in donations and bequests, through

12,641 gifts from

2,362 individual donors and **198** congregations

40 for the Future

As part of Lent Event 2025, we launched *40 for the Future*, a new community campaign for climate action. Supporters and church groups took up a challenge to reduce their carbon footprint by changing how they ate, shopped, travelled or used energy for 40 days. They asked family and friends to sponsor them to raise funds to support vulnerable communities adapt in the face of climate impact.

One wonderful supporter raised more than $3,000 with her efforts. Uniting Church President Rev Charissa Suli and General Secretary Andrew Johnson both took up the challenge.

Rev Suli shared, *"Lent reminds us that transformation is not just about giving something up, but about making space for something greater – God's justice, peace and love in our lives and in the world."*

UnitingWorld at the Uniting Church 17th Triennial Assembly

UnitingWorld hosted leaders of four overseas partner churches to attend and address the 17th Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia. They spoke with deep feeling of the transformative impact of the friendship and solidarity they have shared over the years, and reminded us that while we may sail different canoes, we are all propelled by the same winds of God's spirit.

We hosted a panel discussion for Assembly members from around Australia to engage more deeply with our guests and hear first-hand the wisdom and perspectives of the global church. The leaders spoke of the interconnectedness of poverty, climate change and gender equality and challenged the Church to keep up the fight against injustice.

As an agency of the UCA National Assembly, UnitingWorld presented our triennial impact report, which was received with warmth and affirmation by the Assembly members.



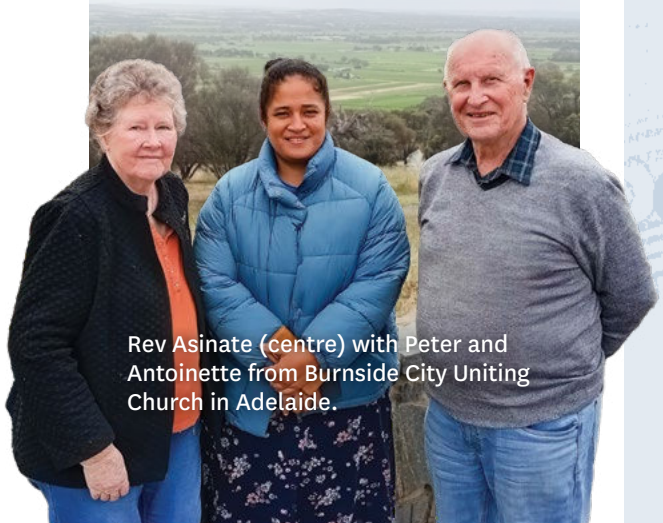
International church leaders at the Assembly (L-R): Rev Dr Demianus Ice, Moderator, Evangelical Christian Church in Halmahera, Indonesia, Rt Rev Sameer Khimla, Bishop of Durgapur, Church of North India, Rev Dr Tevita Havea, President, Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga and Rev James Bhagwan, General Secretary, Pacific Conference of Churches.

Women in Ministry scholar visits UCA congregations

In November 2024, Chermside Kedron Community Church in Brisbane and Burnside City Uniting Church in Adelaide worked with us to bring Women in Ministry scholar, Rev Asinate, to Australia for a cultural exchange.

Over five weeks, Asinate spent time in Brisbane, Adelaide, Sydney and Canberra, preaching at several churches, visiting Uniting Church offices and colleges, exploring chaplaincy in schools, hospitals and aged care, and attending a youth ministry conference and the Pacific Australian Emerging Leaders Summit.

This visit gave supporters of the Women in Ministry project a chance to build personal relationships with one of the women they had been supporting and praying for, and experience first-hand the talent of women leaders in the Pacific and the value of the Gender Equality program.



Rev Asinate (centre) with Peter and Antoinette from Burnside City Uniting Church in Adelaide.

Our staff

Our people are the beating heart of UnitingWorld. They do complex work in a constantly changing world, there's never enough time and never enough money, and yet they deliver.

Energised by the focus of our new strategic plan, they have brought their sharp minds, warm hearts and unwavering commitment to tackle the year's challenges.

Our team grew in number this year, with the addition of three theologically-trained advocates to our renewed Engagement Team, to educate and inspire Australian Christians to join us in our mission. Our programs team strengthened their connections with our Pacific partners with two members of our partner churches coming on board to support our projects.

We are also very proud of the way UnitingWorld staff contribute to the wider work of the development sector. Almost all our staff are active in various sector communities of practice and actively share their expertise in these peer learning environments. We particularly celebrate the international leadership offered by Peter Keegan who serves on the Board of ACT Alliance, and Laura Fontaine and Siera Bird who serve on the ACT Alliance Global Reference Groups on Climate Justice and Gender Justice respectively.

While FY25 saw our team dispersed across four states and three countries, the bonds of collaboration and mutual support remain strong. We continue our tradition of bringing all our staff together twice a year, ostensibly for a week of learning, reflection and planning, but actually it's because we value the joy of being together, sharing stories, building trust and friendship. It is by weaving these connections that we grow the strength we need to do our work.



Our Board

The UnitingWorld Board is responsible for our governance. Our Board is made up of volunteers recruited for their complementary skills to provide oversight and direction for our work.



Rev Dr 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 and is currently serving at Burwood-Croydon Uniting Church in NSW.



Roger Bednall

Board Member, Chair of the International Programs Committee

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.



Rev Lindsay Cullen

Uniting Church in Australia Assembly Associate General Secretary (Ex-Officio Board Member until October 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 Uniting Church where he has served since 2003. Lindsay has served in rural, regional and urban contexts with a major focus on Adult Education. He has served on boards of various community organisations as well as in church governance committees at regional, state and national levels.



Catriona Flavel

Board Member (commenced August 2024)

M EVAL, LLB, BIntRel, DipLang

Lives on the land of the Kaurna people

Catriona is an experienced development professional with proven expertise undertaking complex monitoring, evaluation and learning processes in a range of sectors including education, civil society, private sector development and governance. She has worked in the private sector, for government and as an independent consultant. Catriona is committed to decolonising monitoring and evaluation practice by ensuring that frameworks are culturally appropriate and that different ways of knowing and learning are supported.



Dr 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 and as the Chair of the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations. 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.



Andrew Johnson

General Secretary of the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia (Ex-Officio Board Member from October 2024)

B.Sc, LLB, GDLP, GradDipTheol, GAICD

Lives on the land of the Ngunnawal and Ngambri people

Andrew Johnson has served as the General Secretary of the National Assembly of the Uniting Church in Australia from October 2024. He is a deeply committed member of the Uniting Church and is one of its recognised experts on Uniting Church polity and law. Andrew has extensive governance and leadership experience within the Church including as a long-time member of both the Uniting Church Assembly Standing Committee and Legal Reference Committee. He has held a variety of social justice roles in the Uniting Church in Queensland, and management roles with World Vision and Uniting Care.



Ashleigh Johnston

Board Member (stepped down March 2025)

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 underrepresented minorities and is a founding member of Pride@SAP Singapore, an employee network group championing equality.



John Manning

Board Member, Chair of the Finance Audit and Risk Committee

B.Com, M.Div. GAICD

Lives on the land of the Kaurna people

John is Managing Director and Equity Partner of Chartered Accountants, Trellis.
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 (stepped down October 2024)

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, the Australian Public Service, development organisations and academia. She works in public policy, with strong interest and experience in gender, development and international relations.



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 in the Uniting Church of Australia. 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 in areas of Intra-cultural Ministry and Mission and serves on a number of community care boards.



Geoff Tooth

Board Member (commenced August 2024)

BA (Hons), MA, MICDA

Lives on the land of the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples

Geoff recently retired after 34 years with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He had multiple overseas postings, including two at Ambassadorial level, and managed a number of Australia's largest bilateral and multilateral aid programs, notably Papua New Guinea, Afghanistan, East Africa and climate change. He has been involved in many multilateral processes including the negotiation of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. Geoff, originally from Tasmania, has masters and honours degrees in international relations.



James Williams

Board Member (commenced August 2024)

B.Com, LLB, L.Mus.A., FGIA, FCIS

Lives on the land of the Gadigal and Bidjigal peoples

James has over 40 years' experience in commercial law and corporate administration, working as General Counsel and Company Secretary in a number of large publicly-listed companies and major corporates. He was previously a partner in a medium-sized law firm in Sydney before leaving private practice. James holds degrees in Commerce and Law and is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and the Governance Institute of Australia. His experience is diverse, covering the manufacturing, retail, health and financial services sectors. James has extensive experience in the not-for-profit sector and serves as an Elder at St Stephen's Uniting Church, Sydney.



Rev Thresi Mauboy Wohangarra

Board Member (stepped down November 2024)

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 in the Uniting Church 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.

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

Fundraising Institute Australia (FIA)

Our fundraising directly supports development projects shaped and led by our local partners. UnitingWorld is a member of the FIA, the national peak body representing professional fundraising. FIA provides sector standards and guidance to achieve ethical best-practice fundraising. www.fia.org.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 FY25, 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.

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) and are proud of our longstanding partnership.

In FY25, we received just over $1.1M through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and matched it with $420K provided by our donors. With this funding we supported seven projects, directly impacting 104,205 people across India, Indonesia, Fiji, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

We also received almost $720K through the Australian Government's Church Partnership Program in Papua New Guinea. This twenty-plus year program continues to epitomise the power of church-based development in the Pacific.

We received just over $980K through the Office of the Pacific's Pacific Church Partnership Program. Around $740K was for the Pacific Australian Emerging Leaders' Summit and Network, supporting Micah Australia and the Pacific Conference of Churches as we have in previous years. We received just over $240K to support institutional strengthening for the Pasifika Communities University (PCU, formerly Pacific Theological College) and PCU's Reweaving the Ecological Mat (REM) 2 project, which supports communities and governments to shape development initiatives around indigenous knowledge and Pasifika ethics and theology.

We accessed emergency relief and disaster preparation funding from the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP) through the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO). In FY25, we received just over $65K for disaster response and preparedness in Timor-Leste and Vanuatu. We also received just over $100K through the AHP Disaster Ready program for the Theology of Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate work across Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands.

We started a new project, Oceania Faith Communities Advancing Safety and Equality, which is an initiative of UnitingWorld and its Pacific partner churches with funding and technical assistance from the Pacific Women Lead at the Pacific Community (PWL at SPC) program, supported by the Australian Government. The project builds on past successes using faith-based approaches to advance gender equality across the region.

Our Head of Programs, Peter Keegan, was reappointed for a second term on 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



Pictured (L-R): Tariro Washaya-Mpofu and Kudzaiishe Ndawana from the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe's Methodist Development and Relief Agency (MeDRA) and UnitingWorld's Steph Dalton met with the Australian Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Minoli Perera. They spoke about MeDRA's work strengthening climate resilience, gender equality and disability inclusion in schools with funding from the Australian Government through ANCP.

Our finances

FY25 ended with a windfall surplus of $1.3M with higher than anticipated bequests and investment income.

We saw a small but pleasing increase in our fundraising income, and our grant income remained above $3M, accounting for 37% of our revenue.

Overall operating expenditure was managed in line with budget, with a small increase in our program investment and operating costs keeping pace with inflation.

However, in FY25 we made a significant additional investment in new fundraising initiatives to drive longer term growth. We contracted a specialist Head of Growth who led us in developing a new brand platform to articulate our value proposition to new donors, creating a new Church Engagement Team with three additional part-time staff, and launching a new community campaign, *40 for the Future*. This investment was approved by the Board to be deficit funded but was fortunately offset by higher than budgeted income.

On the balance sheet, net changes to equity are directly correlated to increases in the value of our invested funds. Our provision for redress claims remains at $1.4M with no payments made in FY25.

Unrestricted reserves can be spent at the discretion of the Agency within our charitable objectives. They include accumulated surpluses in prior years, and some historical property assets received from the Uniting Church in Australia for the work of the Agency.

Restricted reserves are made up of Bequeathed Trust Funds ($2.2M), Endowment Funds ($3.5M) and Specific Funds ($5M). Bequeathed Trust Funds are where UnitingWorld is a trustee for gifted 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.

Our funding agreements with partners are made at the beginning of each financial year. To reduce risk and uncertainty for our partners, we ensure that at the end of each financial year, UnitingWorld holds the public funds that we allocate to our projects for the next financial year. The windfall surplus from FY25 will be allocated to our mission in following years.

Full audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2025 can be requested by emailing info@unitingworld.org.au.



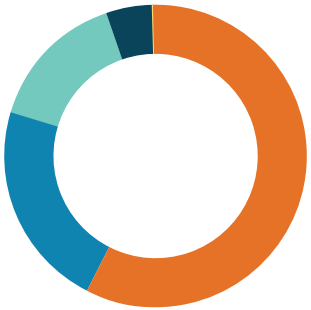
Where our funds came from*

- 37% DFAT Grants
- 27% Donations
- 28% Investment Income
- 8% Bequests & Legacies



Where our funds went to*

- 68% Programs
- 19% Fundraising
- 13% Accountability & Administration



Where we work*

- 58% Pacific
- 22% South East Asia
- 15% South Asia
- 5.5% Africa
- 0.47% Middle East

*All ratios and charts are based on the financials presented on pages 42-44. Chart totals may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Reliable water supplies save lives in areas increasingly affected by droughts due to climate change. This well and pulley system, developed with the support of UnitingWorld's church partner in Timor-Leste, means more productive gardens and improved sanitation for Miguel and his family.

Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

for the year ended 30 June 2025

	30 June 2025 $	30 June 2024 $
REVENUE		
Donations and Gifts		
To international aid and development programs	2,168,256	2,002,309
To International aid that includes welfare services*	70,857	124,042
Bequests and Legacies	663,363	51,770
Grants		
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	3,102,906	3,221,583
Other	-	23,816
Other Income	14,954	1,221,861
Investment Income	2,363,394	1,663,240
Total Revenue	**8,383,730**	**8,308,621**
EXPENDITURE		
Programs Expenditure		
International aid & development programs	3,123,234	3,078,832
International aid that includes welfare services*	40,749	110,990
Program Support development programs	1,317,187	1,353,310
Program Support welfare services*	30,108	13,052
Community Education	301,390	175,255
Total Programs Expenditure	4,812,668	4,731,439
Fundraising Costs - Public**	1,331,874	889,986
Accountability and Administration**	915,540	815,873
Total Expenditure	**7,060,082**	**6,437,298**
Operating Surplus	**1,323,648**	**1,871,323**
Finance Costs	19,178	19,153
Total Comprehensive Income	**1,304,470**	**1,852,170**

*Development activities that meet the DFAT definition of welfare.
**Fundraising costs and accountability and administration costs and other expenditure are not separated between international development and welfare services, as the welfare services component is negligible.

Statement of financial position

as at 30 June 2025

	30 June 2025	30 June 2024
ASSETS	$	$
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2,296,631	4,707,139
Term Deposits	1,212,236	712,236
Trade and Other Receivables	1,515,221	788,429
Other Assets	57,658	14,260
Total Current Assets	**5,081,746**	**6,222,064**
Non-Current Assets		
Financial Assets	14,845,448	12,377,281
Property, Plant and Equipment	960,800	930,081
Lease - Right-of-Use Assets	564,469	592,688
Total Non-Current Assets	16,370,717	13,900,050
Total Assets	**21,452,463**	**20,122,114**
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables	593,809	530,420
Contract Liabilities	853,440	958,563
Provisions	1,717,292	1,624,997
Lease Liabilities	93,917	100,336
Total Current Liabilities	3,258,458	3,214,316
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	30,506	24,161
Lease Liabilities	539,223	563,831
Total Non-Current Liabilities	569,729	587,992
Total Liabilities	**3,828,187**	**3,802,308**
Net Assets	**17,624,276**	**16,319,806**
EQUITY		
Unrestricted Reserves	6,998,936	6,901,610
Restricted Reserves	10,625,340	9,418,196
Total Equity	**17,624,276**	**16,319,806**

Statement of changes in equity

for the period ended 30 June 2025

	UNRESTRICTED RESERVES	RESTRICTED RESERVES				TOTAL EQUITY
	General Fund $	Endowment Fund $	Specific Fund $	Bequeathed Trust Funds $	Sub-Total $	Total $
Balance at 1 July 2023	5,180,036	3,127,451	4,322,859	1,837,290	9,287,600	**14,467,636**
Net surplus for the period	1,721,574	30,851	-23,090	122,835	130,596	**1,852,170**
Balance at 30 June 2024	**6,901,610**	**3,158,302**	**4,299,769**	**1,960,125**	**9,418,196**	**16,319,806**
Balance at 1 July 2024	6,901,610	3,158,302	4,299,769	1,960,125	9,418,196	**16,319,806**
Net surplus for the period	97,326	303,573	696,747	206,824	1,207,144	**1,304,470**
Balance at 30 June 2025	**6,998,936**	**3,461,875**	**4,996,516**	**2,166,949**	**10,625,340**	**17,624,276**

Our environmental impact

With partners and communities

UnitingWorld's strategy is to address poverty and human vulnerability experienced by communities impacted by climate change and environmental degradation.

Many approaches to adapting to climate change have direct and positive impacts on environmental sustainability, including the restoration of the local ecosystems, careful management of natural resources, and adaption of food production and water resource management. These are critical components of the projects we are designing and delivering with partners.

In FY25 we started to transition our portfolio to integrate responses to climate change and environmental degradation. We made better progress than planned, with 38% of projects already incorporating significant activities focused on climate and the environment by the end of the financial year. The speed of the transition reflects how much this shift has been driven by our partners' priorities.

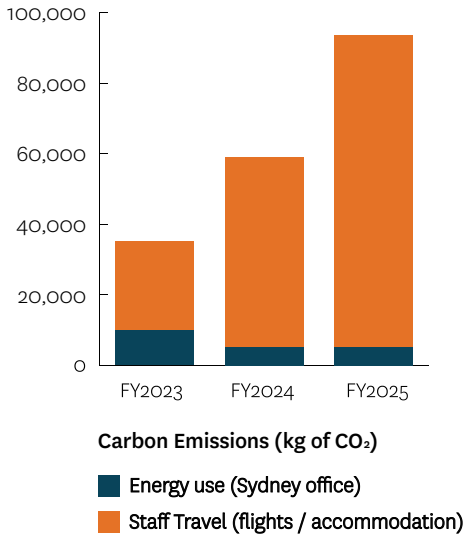
Within in our Agency

We have tracked our emissions since FY23, and the data reflects the changes in our work practice as we emerged from COVID.

We adopted practices to minimise office power consumption to reap the benefits of hybrid work. Consequently, office energy use has reduced by almost half since FY23, now representing less than 10% of our footprint.

By contrast, emissions from staff travel have almost tripled since FY23. The FY23 figure is an artificially low base as post-COVID travel only started partway through that year. The increase between FY24 and FY25 is directly related to spending in-person time with partners to refresh project designs to build in strong climate resilience.

Air travel is likely to remain high for some of FY26 but is expected come down after portfolio design transition is complete. However, emissions from travel relating to regional partner learning forums are likely to continue for the foreseeable future.





In Timor-Leste, climate change threatens survival as crops fail more often, causing families to experience hunger and malnutrition. Our church partner, with support from UnitingWorld, is helping turn things around with practical projects that build food security, reliable water supplies, economic independence and climate resilience.

Board Declaration and Independent Auditor's Report

UNITINGWORLD
(an Agency of The Uniting Church in Australia – National Assembly)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 30 June 2025

DECLARATION BY THE UNITINGWORLD BOARD

In accordance with a resolution of the UnitingWorld Board we state that, as set out on pages 3 to 24:

- 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 Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures 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

Stephen Bevis
Chairperson

ACT
24 September 2025

John Manning
Board Member

ACT
24 September 2025

HLB MANN JUDD

Independent Auditor's Report to the Board Members of UnitingWorld

Opinion

We report on the Summary Financial Report of UnitingWorld ("the Entity") for the year ended 30 June 2025 on pages 42 to 44 of the accompany Annual Report of the Entity. The Summary Financial Report is derived from the audited financial report of the Entity.

In our opinion, the accompanying Summary Financial Report of UnitingWorld is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report of UnitingWorld for the year ended 30 June 2025, 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:

(a) Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025;
(b) Statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended; and
(c) Statement of changes in equity for the year then ended.

Basis of Opinion

The Summary Financial Report has been derived from the Audited Financial Report but does not include all disclosures required by the *Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure*. As such, the Summary Financial Report and this Auditor's Report thereon should not be regarded as a substitute for reading the Audited Financial Report and the auditor's report thereon.

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the Audited Financial Report, as detailed in our auditor's report dated 1 October 2025.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on use and Distribution

The Summary Financial Report has been prepared to assist UnitingWorld and the Board 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.

Our report is intended solely for the Board of UnitingWorld and should not be 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.

Responsibilities 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 its derivation from the Audited Financial Report of the Entity for the year ended 30 June 2025.

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, Aidan Smith, am currently a member of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand and my membership number is **241602**

HLB Mann Judd

HLB Mann Judd Assurance (NSW) Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants

A Smith

A G Smith
Director

Sydney, NSW
4 November 2025

UnitingWorld
connecting communities for life

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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.

