



Anglican
Overseas
Aid



Annual Report 22/23

We are Anglican communities working together for God's renewed creation, free of poverty.

Together...

- We long to see the world as God designed it to be – renewed and restored.
- We recognise our attitudes and actions impact people around the world, especially those facing poverty, exacerbated by the impacts of climate and inequality.
- We have a love for those who are poor. That's why we choose to not walk past our neighbour.
- We connect Australian Anglicans with our partners: global neighbours with a shared faith.
- We are mindful of power dynamics and seek to find commonality with our partners to engage relationally towards shared goals.
- Hope pervades as, together, we imagine and work towards a renewed creation, free of poverty.

Our Values

A Commitment to the poor – Deuteronomy 15:4

The Bible compels us to remember people who are living in poverty, to be generous and address the underlying causes.

Dignity of all people – Genesis 1:27

Our work pursues the dignity, equality and inclusion of people experiencing poverty and marginalisation, with a particular focus on women.

Restoration of all creation – Colossians 1:20

The Bible compels us to be good stewards of creation and partner with God's work of renewal.

Church as light in the world – Matthew 5:14

God works through the Church as light in the world to bring good news, justice and love.

Integrity and accountability – Luke 12:48

We are called to be wise and act with integrity. We connect Australian Anglicans with our partners: global neighbours with a shared faith.

‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind’; and, ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

Luke 10:27

WOMINJEKA

The office of Anglican Overseas Aid stands on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri / Woiwurrung people of the Kulin Nation. We pay our respects to elders past and present, and affirm our support for the work of reconciliation.



Contents

Reports	2
Who We Are	4
Our Collective Impact	6
Program Updates	9
Emergencies	35
Program Learnings	36
How We Work	38
Governance	39
Financials	42

Cover Image: Tarwila in Mozambique, credits the health education delivered through the Towards Abundant Life program with the good health of her daughter Daya.

This page: Loretta is the President of her local health committee in Mozambique which is supported by the Towards Abundant Life program.

Reports

President's report



Dear Friends,

This year has been marked by significant milestones, including the successful completion of a strategic review undertaken by the leadership of our board, CEO, and dedicated staff. Together, they have finalised a new strategy to guide our efforts over the next three years. This strategic vision positions AOA to respond effectively to the evolving challenges communities worldwide face.

As we reflect on the achievements and challenges of the past fiscal year, it is with deep gratitude and admiration that we bid farewell to our departing board members. The Rev Canon Dr Ray Cleary and Ms Claire Miller retired during the year from the AOA Board after many years of distinguished governance and leadership. Their dedication and service have been instrumental in steering the course of Anglican Overseas Aid (AOA) through the challenging times of COVID-19 towards positive change. I would also like to thank Mr Glenn Scott for his long service as Board Chair and for staying on the board until the end of his term for a smooth transition.

Simultaneously, I warmly welcome our new Board Chair, Mr Tom Craven and board member, Mr Andrew Smith, who bring fresh perspectives and a wealth of experience to our organisation. We look forward to their valuable contributions in the pursuit of our mission.

In the face of continued inequalities and emergencies across the globe, I am genuinely humbled by the overwhelming response of our supporters. Your generosity has made a tangible impact, providing crucial assistance to those in desperate need.

I would also like to acknowledge those who have left bequests to AOA in their wills. During the year, one supporter's thoughtful legacy helped provide emergency feeding for over 40,000 Kenyan children.

To our supporters, we express our deepest thanks for your faithfulness. Your ongoing support is a beacon of hope for people living in poverty. Despite the uncertainties presented by global events, your steadfast dedication empowers us to continue our mission with vigour and determination.

Finally, I extend our heartfelt appreciation to the Board, our CEO Jo Knight, and the entire AOA staff. Your tireless efforts and unwavering commitment to serving God's world and the Church have been inspiring.

Together, let us continue this journey with grace, peace, and the shared purpose of creating positive change in the world.

Grace and peace,

The Most Revd Dr. Philip Freier
Archbishop of Melbourne and President of
Anglican Overseas Aid

Board Chair and CEO report



Dear Supporters and Friends,

With immense gratitude, we reflect on the accomplishments and milestones Anglican Overseas Aid (AOA) achieved in the past year.

Throughout the year, our mission to positively impact God's world has been at the forefront of our endeavours. We long to see the world as God designed it - renewed and restored.

We are privileged to connect Australian Anglicans with our partners supporting communities around the globe. This connection is central to our mission, and it's gratifying to share that our funding of international partners has increased significantly in the past year.

As the Board Chair, I am honoured to acknowledge the unwavering dedication and tireless efforts of our board members. I would like to acknowledge and thank my predecessor, Glenn Scott, for his outstanding leadership and service over many years.

Under the leadership of our CEO, Jo Knight, AOA has moved into a new chapter as we seek to engage in new ways with Anglicans and explore the growing impact of climate change and poverty. Jo's commitment and energy to our mission have been instrumental in steering AOA through developing a new strategic plan and a year of strong impact.

The past year has been a testament to Jo and our staff's hard work, resilience, and innovative thinking. We look forward to the opportunities and possibilities God has prepared for us in the coming year. We invite you to join us in this journey as we seek to be channels of God's grace for our neighbours near and far.

Tom Craven

Board Chair, Anglican Overseas Aid



Greetings to our AOA community,

As we shifted from the pandemic to its aftermath, responded to conflict in Ukraine, and a climate and hunger crisis in East Africa, we saw the threats multiply against the communities we serve. God's grace flows through our work and partners in this challenging context, transforming lives and communities.

We recognise the transforming connections at the heart of AOA, as our relationships mutually change us, whether as supporters in Australia or as partners responding on the frontlines. One story that moved our community to action was that of a young Maasai woman in Kenya named Feli, who shared how promising developments in her life were unravelled by the impacts of prolonged drought and hunger. The AOA community responded with generosity and prayer. To our supporters, churches and funders, we say thank you.

During the year, we developed a new strategic plan, a revitalised brand identity, and a user-friendly website to enhance our connection with our supporters and partners.

One of our proudest accomplishments is the most significant financial investment in overseas programs in a decade, underscoring our commitment to creating sustainable change in the communities we serve.

I extend our deepest gratitude to every supporter for your critical role in bringing positive change in the lives of those in need.

With thanks and anticipation for the journey ahead.

Jo Knight

CEO, Anglican Overseas Aid

Who We Are

We are Anglican communities working together for God's renewed

Anglican Overseas Aid is a humanitarian relief and development agency of the Anglican Church of Australia. Established in 1988, we now work in fourteen countries across Africa, the Middle East and Asia-Pacific, responding to disaster and emergency responses worldwide.

Our community development programs focus on work in four key areas:

- Climate Resilience,
- Livelihoods,
- Health and Education, and
- Women's Equality.

Although we understand our work as an integral part of the mission of the Church, we do not engage in evangelism or proselytising and do not use funds – whether public donations or from the Australian Government – for such activities.

We seek to connect Anglican communities globally, believing that responding to global poverty demands action and relationship. As Anglicans in Australia, we are called to love our neighbour in places like Africa and the Asia-Pacific. That's why we connect Anglicans here with partners around the world to work towards a renewed creation, together.

We prioritise long-term partnerships with Anglican partners leading change in their local communities. Theologically informed and solutions-orientated, we work with our partners to build their capacity, seeking to do good, not harm. We use a strengths-based approach, helping communities take charge of their development and lift themselves out of poverty. Our programs are available to all without discrimination of any kind.

Our partners continue to alert us to how climate change increases poverty and instability in their communities. We share God's vision for a renewed creation, and our faith compels us to respond to our hurting, warming world.

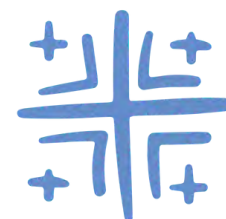
Championing responses to climate-exacerbated poverty and disaster, there are many ways to participate in an active global Anglican Church response to climate justice.

In the communities where we partner in Africa and the Asia-Pacific, the Church is an excellent network for change; it has significant influence and is growing in numbers. The work towards equality for women and eliminating gender-based violence can often start within the Church and then lead into the community. As a result, more women are empowered to lead change in their families and communities.

We are known for delivering strategic, sustainable development as a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and underpinned by full Australian Government accreditation with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). We collaborate through alliances and networks to ensure best practice development that delivers quality programs and multiplies impact.

Below: Mario Muromua, Project Officer Anglican Diocese of Nampula Mozambique, Aaron Bwana, Finance Manager Wise Choices for Life Uganda, with Tim Hartley, AOA's Disaster Response and Resilience Coordinator, at the African Partners Learning Forum.





creation, free of poverty.

More than an organisation, Anglican Overseas Aid (AOA) is the sum of churches, community groups, families, individuals, board and staff members all working for a renewed creation, free of poverty.

This annual report clearly demonstrates that the heartbeat of AOA's success lies in the unwavering commitment and generosity of its supporters; people who champion the cause of positive change in the countries where we operate.

Their contributions have empowered AOA to address complex challenges and implement sustainable solutions in areas such as women's equality, health, livelihoods, education, and climate resilience. The ripple effect of this support is evident in the 261,566 lives touched and transformed, echoing the belief that propels AOA's mission: that all people are made in the image of God.

AOA is particularly grateful for the swift response from our supporters during humanitarian crises. This generosity has facilitated emergency relief efforts, ensuring that vulnerable populations affected by natural disasters, conflicts and other emergencies receive desperately needed assistance. This was best illustrated by the response to the Kenya famine, which threatened the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and the future of AOA's Imarisha Maisha program. The faithful response of supporters has been a beacon of hope and inspiration in times of adversity.

As we express our gratitude, AOA also reaffirms its commitment to transparency and accountability. We understand the responsibility that comes with the trust placed in us by our supporters, and we are dedicated to ensuring that every contribution is utilised effectively and efficiently to maximise its impact.

The importance of our supporters cannot be overstated. Their commitment to the biblical command to remember people living in poverty, be generous, and address injustice is fundamental to our collective journey. We also appreciate those who faithfully pray for us: for our partners, who face continued challenges, and for our staff and board in Australia.

AOA is not merely an organisation; it is a testament to the power of collaboration and compassion, where supporters and communities come together to create positive change on a global scale.

Again, our deepest gratitude to our supporters. Their commitment, compassion, and generosity are the pillars upon which we build a future marked by resilience, empowerment, and hope, building a legacy of positive change that transcends borders.



Right: A montage of organisations, churches and individuals supporting AOA.

Our Collective



Gaza
Ahli Arab Hospital



East Jerusalem
The Spafford Center



Ethiopia
APDA



India
Cathedral Relief Services



South Sudan
SSUDRA



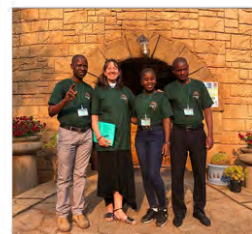
Sri Lanka
LEADS



Uganda
WCFL Uganda



Mozambique
Diocese of Nampula



Southern Africa
Green Anglicans



Kenya
Diocese of Mt Kenya West

Photo Credits: Ethiopia: APDA, South Sudan: SSUDRA, India: CRS, Ukraine and Türkiye: Daniel Fekete Act Alliance, Sri Lanka: LEADS, Tonga: AMNZ

Impact



Ukraine and Türkiye
Act Alliance



Cambodia
PNKS



Solomon Islands
ACOM



Vanuatu
ACOM



Fiji and Tonga
Anglican Missions NZ

Partner Abbreviations

ACOM: Anglican Church of Melanesia

APDA: Afar Pastoralist Development Association

PNKS: Ponleu Ney Kdey Sangkhum

SSUDRA: South Sudanese Relief and Development Agency

WCFL: Wise Choices for Life Uganda

Collectively

In partnership with our supporters over the last year:



261,566

People directly benefitted through



21

International programs implemented by



15

International Partners in



14*

Countries

*For the purposes of counting program countries, we follow the UN definition of Gaza and East Jerusalem as Occupied Palestinian Territories, and not legally part of the state of Israel.

The number of people benefitting from our emergency relief support in Ukraine and Türkiye are not included pending confirmation from our partner Act Alliance.

Right: Freda is a student in a school within the Towards Abundant Life for All program in Mozambique.



Program Updates



Neath is a member of her Community Development Committee and, with the support of AOA's Cambodian partner PNKS, has started to raise chickens to improve her livelihood.

Mozambique

Towards Abundant Life for All

Program Overview

Towards Abundant Life for All applies a strengths-based approach to build resourcefulness among communities in Northern Mozambique. Their health and well-being goals are achieved through better linkages with the government and a community-based volunteer network called Equipa de Vida (Life Teams).

These teams initially focused on HIV/AIDS, but over time they have expanded their work to address other social issues. The teams adopt a door-knocking approach to discuss critical health issues and raise awareness of prevention and treatment options.

Program Goals

Women and men have improved health knowledge and skills, which they apply to their everyday lives

- Communities continue COVID-19 prevention measures and build resilience
- Life Teams increase health knowledge and skills
- Community barriers to health information uptake understood
- Gender equality promoted
- 21 Self-Help Groups provide social and economic support

Women and men are accessing formal health services

Health committees are active, engaging their communities, providing training, promoting change and monitoring health centres



FY23 Funding: \$202,000
FY24 Funding requirement: \$243,000

Towards Abundant Life for All receives funding from the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



Key Program Achievements

- Life Teams in 90 communities trained in the prevention and management of malaria, HIV, water-borne disease, nutritional deficiencies and gender-based issues
- Health committees monitored health services and supported mobile vaccination and malaria campaigns in 44 communities
- 17 health committees trained in malaria/diarrhea/nutrition/vaccine effectiveness
- 10 new health committees established



108,906

People benefitted from the program



13,500

Households received health awareness education and COVID-19 prevention information



60

Leaders trained for 30 new Self-Help Groups



50

50 farmers trained, provided with sweet potato shoots and connected to Self-Help Group's

Lawrence is a member of one of the program's Health Committees, which meet to share their progress.



Location: Nampula and Cabo Delgado

Partner: Anglican Diocese of Nampula



Antonio and Nadia's Story

Antonio and Nadia became members of the Towards Abundant Life for All program when public speeches and community visits from Equipa de Vida (Life Teams) members began introducing them to the benefits of family planning. Previously, the couple had resisted discussing such things, wanting to maintain a traditional lifestyle with their six children.

However, Antonio was becoming increasingly concerned for his wife as she struggled to recover from birthing five children in five years. He felt that if she kept getting weaker, she would not survive having another baby. With compassion and care from the Life Team, the family has embraced modern contraceptive methods, which means Nadia has not had a child for five years.

While her body has recovered, Nadia has been able to return to school and complete her education. Having previously left school to get married, she quickly started having children, which gave her no time or energy to continue her education. However, thanks to the support of the program, she has a dream to one day be a teacher and contribute to her family financially.

Antonio has been encouraging and supportive of his wife's education. He hopes that one day their daughter will also become a teacher, empowered to have her own source of income without relying on a husband.

Both Nadia and Antonio have recognised how family planning has transformed their dreams for their family. It has given them hope for a healthier and happier future where their children can grow and thrive. They have now begun encouraging others in their community to seek the help and support of Life Teams.



Nadia and Antonio with their daughter. They believe their family now has a brighter future.

Kenya

Imarisha Maisha II

Program Overview

The Anglican Church of Kenya, Mt Kenya West Diocese, through the Imarisha Maisha II program works to increase the resilience of agricultural communities to the worsening effects of climate change.

The program promotes improved self-reliance across 13 locations in Nyeri and Laikipia North counties in Kenya by strengthening community structures to ensure greater inclusion and by empowering vulnerable people to build climate-resilient livelihoods.

The project establishes and supports avenues for preventing abuse and injustice. They work with leaders to educate and train community members on building safer families, schools, workplaces and churches.

Program Goals

Strengthened community-based structures that promote gender equality, vulnerable group inclusion, and protect children.

- Families and vulnerable groups strengthened
- Community leadership structures sensitised to child protection and gender equality issues
- Religious leaders educated about gender equality and child protection

Strengthened community groups engaging in climate-smart income-generating activities.

- Strengthen Income Generating Groups (IGA)
- Train groups in disaster and risk management



FY23 Funding: \$349,000
FY24 Funding requirement: \$303,000

Imarisha Maisha II receives funding from the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



Key Program Achievements

- Over 40,000 people participated in sessions promoting the safety and protection of women and children.
- Community groups have engaged in climate-resilient food security projects in schools to build risk management skills.
- The program has sought to up-skill, train and empower community leaders to carry out activities necessary for program goals.



49,193

People benefitted from program activities



28,802

People participated in sessions on the prevention, reduction and response to violence and abuse



14,816

People participated in sessions on gender issues and women's equal rights



3,137

People participated in sessions on climate related hazards and disasters



Imarisha Maisha leader Millicent and her team implemented the program in the last year, along with a major emergency feeding program.

Location: Nyeri and Laikipia North counties

Partner: Anglican Church Mt Kenya West Diocese



A road to recovery

Edward, at 53 years old, was left with a debilitating injury after a motorcycle accident. He was delivering tomatoes for work and swerved to avoid goats on the road, and since then, he has been unable to work due to ongoing physical challenges. His wife Mekena has taken on work and the responsibility for his care while he recovers.

The family faces continued challenges, including Mekena being criticised by other community members for taking on her husband's care and the financial burden of less income. The couple have been together for over 30 years and have established a life together with their children, but this has been one of the most challenging times in their lives. They attribute being able to thrive despite Edward's injury to the strengths-based approach support of Imarisha Maisha, which helped them focus on the strengths and capabilities they had.

When asked about their involvement in the project, Edward stated that "if there's a couple that has benefitted from Imarisha Maisha, it's us".

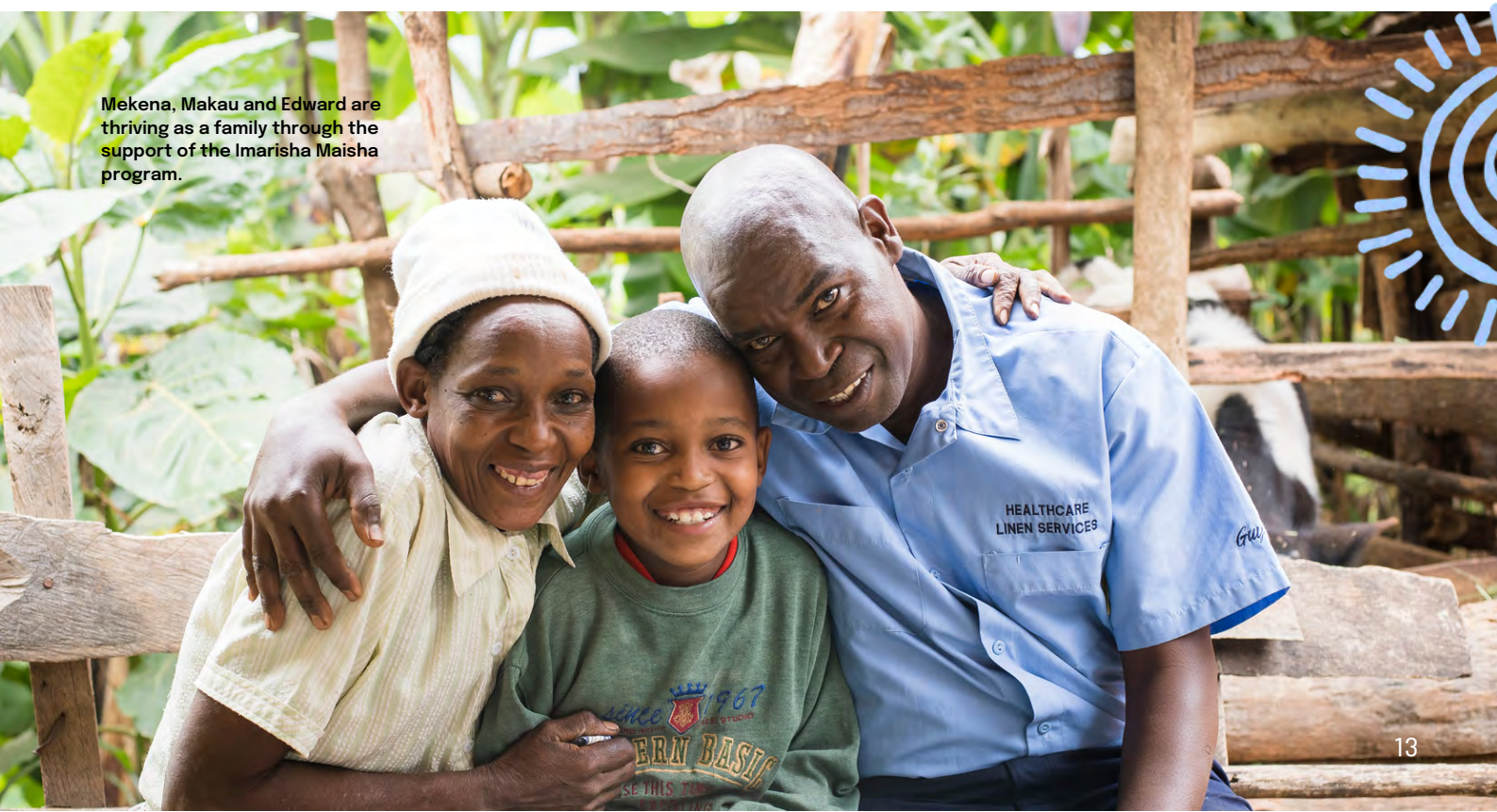
He explained that they were taught not to just sit at home, but to find ways to use whatever little they had to contribute to their finances.

The project trained them in agricultural skills with the intention of the family being able to support themselves. Mekena has since rented pieces of land to grow crops for sale and keeps goats to sell. They both work in their garden to ensure the family can live on the fruits and vegetables they produce.

However, the couple attributed more than just financial advice to Imarisha Maisha's impact. The support of their local community group also transformed their marriage. Edward and Mekena were encouraged to reflect on how they relate to each other and openly discuss how they can be better partners. Their son, Makau, has noticed this and stated that "it feels good to see my parents love and support each other the way they do".

Edward and Mekena thank Imarisha Maisha for teaching them the skills needed to thrive as a family.

Mekena, Makau and Edward are thriving as a family through the support of the Imarisha Maisha program.



India

Women's Empowerment

Program Overview

Cathedral Relief Service (CRS) works alongside women and girls to empower them through education and skill development. The project creates opportunities for women in rural areas of India to learn and grow, mainly catering to women who cannot generate their own incomes.

Recognising the vulnerabilities of women across the country, CRS provides education and training in textiles, sewing and beauty therapy to increase employment opportunities and break the cycle of poverty.

Teachers partner with girls and their families, overcoming resistance to education with compassion and empathy. They walk alongside their students to deliver the best quality education and mentoring possible, even providing nutritional support for children and encouragement to enrol in the education program.

Program Goals

- Empower vulnerable women and girls in slums and villages through skill development
- Increase employment opportunities for women and girls by raising levels of education and practical skills
- Provide high-level training in vulnerable communities to women most in need
- Equip women to generate incomes independently



FY23 Funding: \$10,000
FY24 Funding requirement: \$31,000

Key Program Achievements

- 118 women and girls completed a one-year sewing training program
- 43 women and girls are now self-employed, working in beauty parlours after completing their one-year beautician final evaluation



728

Women and girls engaged with the project



118

Women and girls received education about Reproductive Child Health



265

Women and girls enrolled in skill training



250

Girls enrolled into the education program



Siya learning tailoring at a CRS centre. Credit: CRS

Location: Kolkata, India
Partner: Cathedral Relief Service



Training delivers hope and improved livelihoods.

Shasti is 17 years old and a homemaker. She dropped out of school at a very early age, married and has one daughter.

During the home visits made by the skill development teacher from Cathedral Relief Service (CRS), she showed interest in joining the training, but her mother-in-law did not permit it. After continuous home visits made by the teacher and convincing the mother-in-law, Shasti was allowed to join the training. This was an opportune moment for her, and she delivered her best. This brought a new ray of hope to her life.

“I feel stronger than before...I was so stressed, but now I can learn and communicate,” Shasti says.

Kaira is married and has three children. Her husband works for a private company and earns a meagre salary to try and support his family.

One day, a woman came to her house and explained that she was from CRS, visiting homes to encourage women to join the free tailoring training at the CRS centre. Kaira did not know anything about sewing and embroidery. Still, she joined the group and is now being trained in order to earn a livelihood.

“Someday, I wish to become a sewing and embroidery teacher myself,” she says.

Below left and right: Shasti and Kaira work on their embroidery skills. Bottom: Learning to sew on an industrial machine. Credit: CRS



Palestinian Occupied Territories

Speech and Occupational Therapy for Vulnerable Children

Program Overview

The Spafford Children's Center in East Jerusalem seeks to improve the well-being and development of vulnerable children through specialised therapy services. The project aims to address the unique needs of children facing communication challenges, developmental delays, disabilities, socio-economic disadvantages, and traumatic experiences.

The project enhances children's communication skills, cognitive abilities, motor coordination, social interactions, and overall independence by providing targeted therapy interventions.

Program Goals

The main program goal is to ensure that vulnerable children have access to high-quality therapy services that meet their unique needs, enabling them to thrive and participate fully in society.

Specifically:

- Improved speech and communication
- Improved behaviour and socio-emotional and motor development
- Parental awareness of the importance of early intervention and support of their child with specific needs.

Key Program Achievements

- Independence and communication skills were developed in over 200 children to positively impact their academic and social success
- More than 70 mothers received individual counselling to support their child's progress.
- Increasing efforts were made to collaborate with schools, healthcare providers and other local disability-support organisations to identify children who may benefit from support
- Throughout the year, ongoing staff training was conducted to ensure high-quality professional care
- Over 50 families were provided with educational resources for therapy at home



166

Children accessed the program



60

Mothers received counselling and awareness training to enable them to support their children as they receive trauma-related therapy



98

Children accessed speech therapy



68

Children accessed occupational therapy



FY23 Funding: \$23,000
FY24 Funding requirement: \$22,000

AOA gratefully acknowledges the support of the Spafford Center program by the Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem.



A therapy session in progress
Credit: Spafford Center

Location: East Jerusalem

Partner: Spafford Children's Center



Laila's journey

Laila, a six-year-old girl living in the Palestinian Occupied Territories, was diagnosed with autism early in life. As a result, she suffers from significant communication challenges and cannot express her physical and emotional needs nor engage in social interactions. Laila also experienced limited physical movement, which meant she could not engage in play without significant support. After a difficult start to life, Laila was brought by her mother to the Spafford Center where she received intensive speech and occupational therapy services.

Over the course of her time with the project, Laila made remarkable progress. She learned various communication strategies that would allow those closest to her to use critical words and pictures to understand her needs. Laila's speech therapist taught her to improve her articulation and language skills, while her occupational therapist focused on sensory integration and fine motor coordination through playing together.

After considerable work, including training Laila's caregivers in helpful strategies to support her development, Laila began using simple sentences to express herself and engage in conversations with others. She started to play with her peers and demonstrate independence in daily activities.

Laila's journey has not only increased her social inclusion but also dramatically changed what life looks like for her family. The support provided created a stronger sense of unity, and increasing social interactions mean the family no longer feels isolated from their community.

The Spafford Center has given Laila the opportunity to engage in community life meaningfully and has provided her and her family with the support they need to learn and grow together.



Laila attends a therapy session.
Credit: Spafford Center

Sri Lanka

Promoting Self-Reliance through Self-Help Groups

Program Overview

The program looks to increase economic resilience through improving incomes and increasing community savings. It supports communities by forming Self-Help Groups to upskill group members, empowering them to begin their business journeys. It also provides business resources and financial support through grants to promote business growth. Through the program's work, group members are given the tools needed to bring themselves and their families out of poverty by independently generating income.

Program Goals

- Increase savings and access to loans among 150 members across two communities
- Conduct training on leadership, income generation, marketing and fund management
- Facilitate process for Self-Help Groups to register and maintain a bank account
- Provide income generation grants to small local businesses to foster their growth
- Monitor and measure the growth of Self-Help Groups business endeavours to support them in making informed financial choices
- Link member groups with stakeholders in the local economy to improve their resources and support networks

Key Program Achievements

- The formation of new Self-Help Groups in the last year provided 96 women with new business ideas and skills
- Self-Help Groups prioritised the needs of their local communities, for example, by establishing businesses that provide low-rent tent shelters and others that provide mid-day meals to underweight children
- Several Self-Help Group members received income generation grants, providing the financial support needed to grow their businesses



27

Self-Help Group members commenced their own small business activities



96

Members gained skills in leadership, income generation, marketing and financial management



7

New groups formed

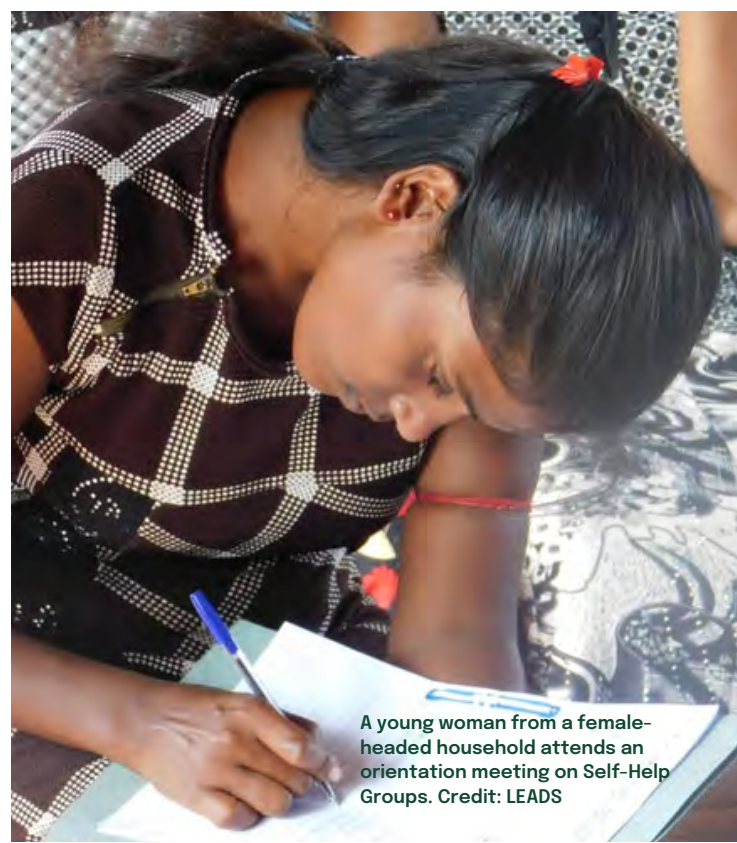


4

Groups have opened accounts with a bank.



FY23 Funding: \$20,000
FY24 Funding requirement: \$20,000



A young woman from a female-headed household attends an orientation meeting on Self-Help Groups. Credit: LEADS

Location: North-East Sri Lanka Partner: LEADS



Story

Late in 2022, the Periyakulum Self-Help Group was formed. The enthusiastic members gather at the community hall, eager to share their stories and experience with the Self-Help Group. “Previously, we had no knowledge or experience working in a group like this,” says Rachel, secretary of the group. “LEADS project officers organised a joint meeting and introduced us to the project’s benefits and the objective of forming Self-Help Groups. The idea sounded interesting, and those of us who were interested came together to form the group. “Today, we have 15 members, and we even supported forming two more groups in our village.”

The group is very active and has initiated a programme to select the three most vulnerable families and provide them with 5kg of rice during these difficult times. The first distribution has been planned. They hope to continue this donation and select three different families the following month. All members of the Self-Help Group mutually agree on the chosen families.

“Being in this Self-Help Group, we have benefitted a lot,” continues Rachel. “We have never been in the habit of saving before. Although it is a great challenge, we see how useful it is to us. We can do so much with the little savings we have. The fellowship among the members has increased, and we are like one family now. We know we can rely on each other, and we support each other through difficult times. We celebrate birthdays together, and for some members, this has been the first time they have ever cut a cake for their birthday. Through the leadership and money management training, we learnt how to run the group well and manage our household income effectively.”

This determined and enthusiastic group has already drafted three project proposals for income-generation initiatives, including one based on the production of palm trees. The income from this initiative will be shared among the group, and a mutually agreed percentage will be given back to the common Self-Help Group fund to maintain its sustainability.



The Self-Help Group meeting.
Credit: LEADS




**UGANDA PRISONS
SACCO**

Jina, a prison officer and WCFL trainer, with training materials.

Wise Choices for Life

Formally welcomed into Anglican Overseas Aid

Anglican Overseas Aid (AOA) began partnering with Wise Choices for Life in 2022. This consolidation aimed to enhance the impact of the Wise Choices for Life program in Uganda by providing governance and program development expertise together with communication support in Australia.

Wise Choices for Life aims to break the cycle of inter-generational poverty by transforming thinking and behaviour with culturally relevant reproductive health literacy. The organisation was founded by Marg Docking OAM, an Australian midwife who, after working in Uganda in 2011, was deeply moved by the tragic results of preventable maternal deaths. Marg returned to Australia determined to help break the poverty cycle created by ignorance surrounding reproductive health.

The Wise Choices for Life program identifies high fertility rates, cultural myths and traditions, and poor knowledge of reproductive health as critical drivers of the poverty cycle. These factors contribute to high abortion and maternal mortality rates, gender inequality, excessive numbers of orphans, and abandoned babies.

The program employs a unique approach to address these issues. Training helps individuals develop critical thinking skills, new attitudes, and cultural awareness. The goal is to move men and women together towards behavioural change. Proponents believe that many maternal deaths could be prevented if male leaders in the community could lead and guide the men with new ideas and thinking around pregnancy and family planning.

The role of traditional faith leaders in providing meaning and guidance to life is respected. Holistic training gives these male leaders their rightful place and empowers them with knowledge and communication skills in reproductive health. This approach leads to women having a safer journey through puberty and childbirth.

The vision is to see thriving communities where every child is born into a caring, healthy, and loving family. To achieve this, the program provides professional training in reproductive health and life skills to key community leaders, who then share this knowledge with their communities. The program's ultimate goal is the elimination of inter-generational poverty.

Like AOA's other partners, Wise Choices for Life Uganda continues as an independent organisation with its own board and operates under the leadership of Country Director Joyce Kidulu.

In Australia, AOA is responsible for maintaining a global Wise Choices for Life training curriculum and supporting Wise Choices for Life Uganda in program quality, policy development, technical support and fundraising. AOA is privileged to have Dr Janice Smith, the former Board Chair of Wise Choices for Life and a GP specialising in antenatal care, join AOA's Development Committee, bringing her professional expertise and passion for Wise Choices for Life.

Mr Andrew Smith, a Upper Gastro-intestinal specialist general surgeon (and husband of Janice), has joined the AOA Board, bringing his skill set and passion for community health.

Marg Docking is pictured below (right) with Joyce Kidulu. Sadly, Marg passed away in 2021. Her legacy continues through the Wise Choices for Life program she established and the thousands of lives her work has touched.



Uganda

Reproductive Health and Life Skills

Program Overview

Wise Choices for Life seeks to improve access to reproductive health education to promote healthy family planning in Uganda. As large families often struggle to feed, clothe and house their children, family planning can empower people to lower their household spending, limiting financial burdens that create generational poverty.

Wise Choices for Life works in schools, churches, prisons and with men's and women's groups to promote reproductive education for all. The project seeks to partner with community leaders who can share knowledge with others; a "train the trainer" program that empowers and equips communities with reproductive education.

Program Goals

- Lower maternal mortality rates in Uganda through increasing health literacy
- Youth, adults, and children are more aware of, have access to, and use information about Reproductive Health and Life Skills in their everyday lives
- Establish and strengthen reproductive health networks, linkages, and referral processes within and between health facilities and communities
- Partner with local community leaders to facilitate effective reproductive education training sessions across Uganda



FY23 Funding: \$90,000
FY24 Funding requirement: \$134,000

Key Program Achievements

- Conducting training across multiple community areas: schools, prisons, churches, remand homes and women and men's groups
- 25 prison wardens trained as champions to continue the training with future inmates and their community networks
- 32 school administrators trained as champions to continue training with prospective pupils and their community networks



32

School administrators were trained to implement training in their schools



2,361

School students were educated by the WCFL program on reproductive health



1,238

People received a modern method of contraception



11,647

People accessed WCFL programs and services



Dan and Rachel with their WCFL program materials.

Location: Mbale

Partner: Wise Choices for Life Uganda



Alice's Story

Alice became a mother at 17 years old. She knew when she became pregnant that she would have to leave home, so she lived with a friend for a month before being evicted. She then sought help from the father of her child, but his family felt strongly that she should abort the baby. Feeling alone and out of options, Alice returned to her mother, who took her to the police. Alice was asked to confirm her pregnancy and report the father of her child, which would mean he would be fined or imprisoned.

Alice spent four days in prison when she was five months pregnant as punishment. The baby's father spent a week in prison and was forced to pay a fine to Alice's mother "for defilement". Upon release Alice stayed with her mother, who helped her give birth four months later. Her mother then left, leaving Alice alone with a newborn.

Wise Choices for Life supported Alice to discover a path forward and create a good life for both her son Tom and herself.

Life transformed for Alice when she met a trainer from the Wise Choices For Life team, Joshua. He saw her sitting on the side of the road with her child and asked her to share her story. Joshua encouraged Alice to join Wise Choices for Life training, where Alice met other girls with similar experiences.

Alice explained that at Wise Choices For Life, she was taught how to manage money and find an income. She has opportunities to learn income-generating skills such as hairdressing and tailoring. When she became pregnant Alice had to leave school, which she now hopes to return to and attend a computer course.

Alice feels a strong sense of gratitude, mainly because the Wise Choices For Life training helped her find her feet as a mother and start to provide for her son, Tom. Through Wise Choices For Life Alice feels God has provided for her and Tom and blessed them with all they need.

Wise Choices for Life supported Alice to discover a path forward and create a good life for both her son Tom and herself.





Anglican
Overseas
Aid

A farmer in Preah Vihear attending a meeting to discuss the impacts of climate change on the community livelihoods.



PNKS

Ponleu Ney Kdey Sangkhum: AOA's new partner in Cambodia

Anglican Overseas Aid (AOA) is excited to introduce its new partner, Ponleu Ney Kdey Sangkhum (PNKS), an organisation that operates in the poorest regions of Cambodia. PNKS is establishing and supporting Community-led Development Groups (CDGs) in 27 villages. These CDGs are designed to build skills and capacity to develop responses to identified needs within communities.

The program, known as Somleng Prey Lang, is an initiative aimed at empowering indigenous communities and marginalised groups. In Cambodia, the Kuy people are an ethnic minority and live as “hill tribes”. Mainly concentrated in Preah Vihear and Stung Treng, the Kuy live in the poorest regions in the country. These provinces are located in the northern part of Cambodia, next to the Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Kuy people have traditionally depended on the natural environment for nutrition, shelter and income. This means there is a high dependency on sufficient rainfall, and increasing vulnerability to climate change and deforestation.

Unfortunately, illegal logging and restrictions on access have harmed traditional practices, land rights, livelihoods, and the ability to protect the forest. This has led to a significant tree cover loss in Cambodia – approximately 64% loss since 2011. Despite these challenges, the Kuy people continue to maintain a close connection with the traditional forested lands.

The focus areas of PNKS include education, improved livelihoods, climate change adaptation, peacebuilding, and health.

The project forms CDGs by selecting community volunteers motivated to work for positive change in their community. CDGs meet regularly to plan development work and to address community problems.

The program provides CDG members and other key community leaders training in organisational skills, leadership, project management, livelihoods, climate-smart agriculture, and disaster risk reduction. The project also provides training to staff/leaders from other local organisations, including Local Authorities, Health Posts/Centres, School Management Committees and other civil society organisations.

Some minor infrastructure is provided to schools and vulnerable families, where appropriate (e.g., latrines and wells).

The Somleng Prey Lang program relies on funding from AOA supporters and also receives funding from the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



Members of a CDG meet to discuss community issues.



Cambodia

Livelihoods and Education for Minority Communities

Program Overview

The program, known locally as Somleng Prey Lang, is an initiative to empower indigenous communities and marginalised groups in Preah Vihear and Stung Treng, Cambodia. These provinces are among the poorest in the country and are home to the indigenous Kuy community, who are heavily dependent on nature and rain-fed farming.

Working through Community Development Groups (CDGs), the program focuses on enhancing income-generating activities, primary health care, education, and integrated community development with a climate and environmental change lens.

Program Goals

- Youth and CDG work together to address challenges, including training in leadership, peace, advocacy, and women's representation
- Indigenous communities initiate small businesses and income-generating activities, link products to the market for profit, and access safe financial sources
- Communities practice Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), access adequate health services, and develop local water sources
- Children from the indigenous Kuy community and low-income families finish at least ninth grade.



FY23 Funding: \$150,000
FY24 Funding requirement: \$188,000

The Somleng Prey Lang program receives funding from the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



Key Program Achievements

- CDGs in 19 villages supported
- 41 youth/CDG leaders trained in organisational and leadership skills
- 65 people participated in developing disaster risk/climate change adaptation planning in project areas
- 58 people participated in savings groups, building financial literacy and developing savings habits
- Access to safe water improved through the introduction of pump wells



2

Schools received new WASH facilities



19

Community Development Groups supported



15

Farmer/marketing groups received training on livestock production.



1

School library established



Teachers and School Support Committee members use the new wash station and drinking water facility.

Location: Preah Vihear Province

Partner: PNKS



Story

It's the beginning of August. The seasonal rains are yet to arrive, but the humidity envelopes everyone sitting under the shade of a traditional Cambodian stilt house. In remote Preah Vihear Province, amongst the indigenous Kuy community, a Community Development Group (CDG), which forms the building block of our local partner PNKS's approach to sustainable community development, is meeting.

The role of each CDG is to improve village well-being, particularly for vulnerable families, promoting increased involvement in community activities and decision-making. The project establishes CDGs by selecting community volunteers motivated to work for positive change in their community.

In a culture that recognises and respects age, it's not long before Kunthea starts to share about the challenges and successes of the group she has joined. Formed just one year ago, the group commenced a savings club. Although they have not yet generated many savings, they have established a reserve fund that members and the broader community can call upon for medical emergencies. A loan for emergencies can range from \$25-\$50 depending on the need and availability of funds.

Located in one of Cambodia's poorest regions, 96% of families rely on growing rice or cassava to survive, with almost half having an annual income of less than AUD\$ 390 per annum. So, in this farming community, it's not unexpected that the conversation starts with the changing weather patterns, the delay in rain this year, and its impact on their crops.

At 63, Kunthea speaks confidently of the pig-raising initiative recently started in the community by PNKS. As a leader, she is one of 16 households selected to begin the breeding program, and she insists on taking us to see her pig pen. Kunthea is raising three of the village piglets, and as they breed new piglets will be distributed to program members.

It's a modest start, but for the members of the CDG and the broader community, it represents hope for a critical future income stream.

Kunthea was in her mid to late teens during the reign of the Khmer Rouge. Yet despite the many challenges Kunthea has faced in her life so far, her resilience, passion, and commitment to creating a better community are inspiring.



At 63, Kunthea is playing a vital role in developing an income stream through pig raising in her community.

Program Overview

The Gender and Climate Justice Program run by the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM) operates in the Solomon Islands and aims to transform communities through increased protection, inclusion and climate justice.

ACOM works to establish savings groups bringing financial services to rural areas and supporting the independent financial growth and income generation of vulnerable community members. The program empowers women with financial knowledge to increase their independence.

Empowering women to overcome gender discrimination and violence is also a key function of the project as is working with faith leaders to build commitment and confidence to speak up and address gender issues in their community. ACOM also works to address impacts of climate change in the region, with disaster preparation at the forefront of the program.

Program Goals

- Create safer and more cohesive communities through strengthening of human equity
- Empower women and youth to flourish through financial independence
- Address the risks climate change poses to individual livelihoods through preparation and education
- Combat issues of gender-based violence and discrimination in Solomon Islands communities



FY23 Funding: \$165,000
FY24 Funding requirement: \$193,000

Gender and Climate Justice receives funding from the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



Key Program Achievements

- Project redesign with community consultations resulting in six new communities joining the program, with other communities ready to exit. Selection based on vulnerability, exposure to hazards, high rates of gender-based violence, accessibility and lack of economic exposure
- 1,023 women, men and young people participated in savings groups in Ysabel, Malaita, and Guadalcanal
- 73 leaders and savings group members received financial literacy training
- Commissioned partnership with the group, People Living with Disability Solomon Islands. The group will provide advice for the program so that people living with a disability can live a full and meaningful life.



2,915

People benefitted from the program



900

New members joined Savings Groups in Ysabel



148

Savings group members and leaders received Pacific Financial Inclusion Program Training to enhance financial literacy.



4

Village-based taskforces were established in target areas of eastern Malaita and Guadalcanal to lead community initiatives.



Cathy, leader of the Aibu Savings Group.

Location:

Partner: Anglican Church of Melanesia

Kelly's visit to the Solomons

Kelly Rae, the AOA Program Manager of Quality and Innovation who manages gender equality projects in the Solomon Islands, recently visited our partner, the Anglican Church of Melanesia. While there, she spoke to several involved in the Gender and Climate Justice Program.

Kelly first visited the Gwaunoa Savings Club, where she met Sicilia, a retired teacher and the club's leader. Sicilia has thrived in her role, nurturing the women's self-confidence, skills and independence. Each member saves \$8 a week and no longer needs to take out loans in times of crisis. Their main priority is covering children's school fees and starting small businesses.

As Kelly continued on her journey, she met Father Walter at the Diocese of Malaita; the personal transformation he has experienced through "Gender and Theology" training is profound: "I grew up in a strongly male-dominated culture - it's in my blood." While he found the first few days of the training confronting, he places his hand on his chest and insists, "The training moulded me; it helps".

Faith leaders can deepen their understanding of gender and gender-based violence. Creating safe spaces for this exploration and change takes excellent skill, respect for faith and culture, and grace.

Kelly's final visit was to the Aibu Savings Group, where she met leader Cathy, who had mobilised group members to make brightly coloured sarongs to sell. The project provided the fabric and dye with profits shared among members. This helped get them through the hardship of COVID lockdowns. Their confidence and business plans have grown, and they now jointly sell 10kg bags of rice in their village. When the group started, Cathy explained their mentality was, 'What we earned today, we spent today'. Now, they set goals, save and allocate spending carefully.

Below: Members of the Gwaunoa and Aibu savings clubs.



Program Overview

While the Ahli Arab Hospital (AAH) continues its women's health program, over the last year AOA has worked to transition its support to a new program, Empowered Women for Child Health.

In the Gaza Strip, 48% of Palestinians society are children under 18 years old. Children are the segment of the population suffering the most from physical and mental health challenges. Increasing levels of poverty have resulted in a high risk of child malnutrition.

It is estimated that 35% of children under five years of age are at risk of not meeting their full developmental potential due to factors including poverty, diminished access to essential nutrition and inadequate nutritional training for caregivers.

Within the male-dominant culture, women are the care/ hygiene providers at the household level but are generally not the decision-makers for the health of their children or themselves.

Along with cultural traditions, a lack of knowledge, communication skills and confidence in self-expression create barriers for women to champion child health.

The project aims to target malnourished children, improving their health and well-being. The approach to achieve this goal will be to support, train and empower women to advocate for their children's health and, in the process, gain improved levels of confidence and equality for themselves.



FY24 Funding requirement: \$82,000

Program Goals

The program is composed of two main parts.

The diagnosis, treatment and follow-up of 100 malnourished/underweight children per year which includes:

- Initial screening for 300 children by AAH medical team (paediatrician, nurse and nutritionist)
- Paediatrician conducts physical examinations and laboratory and radiological investigations to diagnose each child's specific cause of malnutrition
- Treatment is prescribed according to the cause of malnutrition (drugs against parasites, iron supplements, fortified biscuits, formula etc)
- Follow up for three months where haemoglobin levels, weight and height are monitored
- A nutrition specialist assesses the caregiver's knowledge about proper nutrition and provides individual targeted nutritional capacity building through counselling/training sessions

The second part is to empower 100 mothers of the malnourished children together with 50 women whose children are at risk of malnutrition to improve their knowledge and awareness of improved family/child wellbeing which includes:

- Creating a pool of well-trained community mobilisers who can empower women to take more active roles concerning their lives in particular health issues
- Home visits by the community mobilizers. Two visits per month to discuss one topic, covering six areas of the program:
 - Public health and hygiene and self-care
 - Nutrition, food safety and malnutrition
 - Gender and communication skills
 - Self-esteem, self-assertion, self-confidence, problem-solving and decision-making sessions.
 - Protection - mainstreaming women's and children's rights
 - Community participation.

Fiji and Tonga

Church and Community Disaster Resilience

Program Overview

Families living in the Pacific are increasingly experiencing the impacts and adversity of climate change, with cyclones and flooding becoming regular events. The impact of repeated disasters not only destroys infrastructure and homes but can produce instability in family life and place children at risk.

The Church and Community Disaster Resilience Project (CCDR) equips and empowers youth to prepare their communities to be safer, better prepared, and able to respond in times of adversity. Additionally, the project provides prepositioned supplies, enabling communities to respond immediately to a disaster.

Youth are trained in the well-regarded Community Integrated Vulnerability Analyses (CIVA) program, which enables them to identify and map both the physical and human capabilities and vulnerabilities that exist in each community.

The process identifies potential shelters and evacuation centres, such as churches and halls, but also the human skills and capabilities that can be called upon in a crisis.

Program Goals

- Conduct high-level disaster preparation training for at-risk communities
- Support community leaders in preparing action plans for disaster preparation
- Prepare water supplies, evacuation centres, food security and social support networks

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

13 CLIMATE ACTION

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

FY23 Funding: \$29,335
FY24 Funding: \$20,000

AOA gratefully acknowledges the support of the Church and Community Disaster Resilience program by Mothers Union Australia.



Key Program Achievements

- 6 prepositioned containers established at various dioceses across Fiji and Tonga
- Youth trained in the CIVA program and mapping of their community's strengths and vulnerabilities completed
- Work to secure improved water storage and sustainable food sources that can support communities through the impacts of climate change



4,000

People engaged by the CIVA program



23

Community leaders attended CIVA training



6

Prepositioned containers of emergency supplies positioned at Tongan dioceses



1

CIVA program completed to form the base of the strategic action plan

Community members and program staff clear water channels to assist water drainage during tropical storms.
Credit: Anglican Missions NZ



Green Anglicans

South Sudan

Youth Ecumenical Summit

The Diocese of Nampula (Mozambique) is part of the Green Anglican movement, an initiative of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa Environmental Network. Green Anglicans inspire and equip faith communities to practical actions as “Earth Keepers”. The Bishop of Nampula plays a lead role in this movement and ensures the churches he leads understand the importance of creation care and are working with communities to make sure the environment is cared for and protected.

AOA is proud to partner with the Green Anglicans to ensure young climate activists and leaders from faith traditions can come together to identify, inspire and implement grassroots actions on climate justice and eco-system restoration in Southern and East Africa. They are Climate YES! (Youth Ecumenical Summit) and are already working to advocate for climate action at the local, national and regional levels.

Rev Carlos Cesar was the Diocese of Nampula's youth delegate to the Climate YES! summit in South Africa in September 2022. He reports:

It was quite a learning moment. We shared many experiences regarding the factors that influence climate change. That humanity is the promoter of environmental problems. With this, we concluded that young people must work in favour of the environment, educating our communities. Faith leaders have an important role to play.

When I came back to [northern Mozambique], I was given the task to be the [Anglican Church's] Environmental Coordinator and a link person to the youth network on environment issues. Together with the Bishop, we have started an environmental movement with youth groups, making specific plans on what we can do to improve our environment including biblical teachings on environment, as well as participating in campaigns.

FY23 Funding: \$30, 000

Integrated Farming Practices

The South Sudanese Relief and Development Agency (SSUDRA) has implemented a project to improve integrated farming practices and increase climate change resilience for communities in the Diocese of Mundri.

The Diocese is a rural community in South Sudan and reliant upon traditional farming, hunting, fishing and gathering of wild fruits and honey for survival. Each year, their food yield varies depending on the climate. South Sudan has been impacted by flooding, droughts and ethnic conflicts, all of which are having a significant impact on food insecurity. People within the Diocese of Mundri are also struggling in securing labour, which is required for traditional agriculture, non-performing locally sourced seeds and soil fertility that requires new forest clearance every year.

The project is equipping communities to adapt to community farming and agroforestry techniques. It is also promoting sustainable livelihood activities that ensure diversification of income sources and the establishment of food gardens during the rainy season to ensure good harvest supply throughout the dry season.

Lead farmers have been selected to undertake training, establish vegetable gardens and procure vegetable seeds; they will then train other farmers within their community to ensure ongoing diversification and localisation of agriculture.

Locally adapted agroforestry practices are being promoted on land belonging to the Anglican Church of South Sudan, 500 teak trees will be grown to encourage sustainable farming practices. Teak trees are a sustainable product with a long-life span and economic benefits, being used for furniture, railway carriages and electricity poles.

FY23 Funding: \$30, 000
FY24 Funding: \$30, 000

Reweaving the Ecological Mat

Program Overview

This year, AOA supported pioneering, movement-building work entitled Reweaving the Ecological Mat (REM), highlighting our commitment to localised ways of working and innovation. We are grateful for the flexible support of the Australian Aid program.

REM is an emerging Pacific-led theological framework and movement for ecological and holistic development. Respected Pacific theologian Dr Cliff Bird writes, “REM is a rethinking and rearticulating of development as it happens and affects the countries of the Pacific, and all the Churches in the region”. The framework values the Pacific worldview, indigenous knowledge, culture, spirituality, and ecology and redefines wellbeing.

Program Goals

Program goals evolved across the year as new opportunities emerged and were focussed on movement-building goals, including:

- Supporting the Pacific Conference of Churches’ (PCC) desire to see a broad uptake of REM across the region
- Fostering an “enabling environment” within the region, where funders know and understand REM and are open to supporting churches and organisations as they pilot REM initiatives
- Facilitating self-reflection and learning among peer Australian and Pacific-based organisations as we work towards localised approaches to development

Key Achievements

- Developed a comprehensive package of training materials to be used by the PCC to support churches and organisations to pilot their own REM initiatives
- Designed and delivered two Australian-based training workshops, with a Pacific REM expert and members of the PCC. This deepened understanding of REM and strengthened interest and commitment to support initiatives. The workshops invited self-reflection on our role as supporting partners in working with Church partnerships in the Pacific. We brought together 24 representatives from 15 Australian and Pacific based funding partners, including most members of the Church Agency Network, representation from the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Micah Australia and the Humanitarian Action Group
- Explored the possibility of REM as a new way of working with the Anglican Church of Melanesia. AOA used this process to self-reflect and learn. We actively adjusted our working pace, timelines and funding modalities to maximise flexibility in response to partner needs. Our partner strengthened organisational understandings of REM through coaching interactions with Dr Cliff Bird
- Recognising REM as a movement of young people, AOA supported Karen Chute-Delaivoni, a youth delegate representing the Anglican Church of Polynesia, to attend the Pacific Australian Emerging Leaders Summit, building leadership and advocacy skills, engaging with Australian parliamentarians, and networking with other Pacific and First Nations youth leaders

FY23 Funding: \$60,000
FY24 Funding: \$85,000

The Reweaving the Ecological Mat program receives funding from the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



Left: Pacific Theologian Rev Dr Cliff Bird during the first REM Conference held at the AOA office.



Three of the 44,000 children who received a daily cup of nutritious porridge in Kenya.



Emergencies

Responding to emergencies and humanitarian relief

Anglican Overseas Aid (AOA) was born out of the then Archbishop David Penman’s vision to respond to human tragedy. Sadly, the last year has seen natural and human-inflicted catastrophes worldwide.

Once again, AOA was able to draw on a broad range of partnerships and networks, including the ACT Alliance, the Church Agencies Network – Disaster Operations (CAN DO), and the Emergency Action Alliance (EAA), responding together where and when most needed.

Africa

Our partner, Wise Choices for Life Uganda (WCFLU), was able to access funding from our Rapid Response Emergency fund to respond to flash flooding that displaced over 5,600 people and resulted in over 20 casualties.

Kenya experienced its worst drought in 40 years in 2022-23. Following four successive failed rainy seasons, over 4.5 million people were affected, with approximately 2.14 million of those children. More than four million people became “food insecure,” and 3.3 million couldn’t access enough drinking water.

AOA supported our partner, the Anglican Diocese of Mt Kenya West (ACK), to conduct an emergency feeding program focused on 4,000 of the most vulnerable families. At high risk, 44,000 children in 77 schools received a daily nutritious porridge for three months to minimise malnutrition.

The growing climate crisis and conflict in South Sudan again brought need and malnutrition. AOA’s partner, the South Sudanese Development and Relief Agency (SSUDRA), the relief and development arm of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan, played a vital role in supporting relief efforts with funding from the Emergency Action Alliance.

Europe and the Middle East

AOA’s membership of the ACT Alliance enabled us to respond through local partners to support people fleeing the war in Ukraine and respond to the massive earthquake in Türkiye.

Asia

Sri Lanka’s economic crisis, which started in 2019, continues to cause hardship for people experiencing poverty. AOA was able to provide emergency funding at the height of the problem and committed further funding to support the most affected people through our partner LEADS.

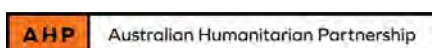
The Pacific

Emergency funding was provided to support the lingering impacts of the tsunami and volcanic eruption in Tonga, COVID-19 in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu’s twin tropical cyclones Judy and Kevin, along with a 6.5 magnitude earthquake in February 2023.

Combined funds of \$128,000 were received from the Australian Humanitarian Partnership and Emergency Action Alliance enabled responses in South Sudan and the Solomon Islands. The generous response of AOA supporters funded an additional \$288,000, enabling the emergency response to all other crises.

Emergency Funding

Country	Project	Partner	Funding
Kenya	Hunger Crisis	ACK	\$130,000
South Sudan	Hunger Crisis	SSUDRA	\$53,000
Uganda	Floods	WCFLU	\$10,000
Türkiye	Earthquake	ACT Alliance	\$8,600
Ukraine	Conflict	ACT Alliance	\$48,000
Sri Lanka	Economic Crisis	LEAD's	\$55,000
Solomon Is.	COVID-19	CANDO	75,000
Tonga	Tsunami	AMNZ	\$27,000
Vanuatu	Cyclones	ACOMV	\$10,000



Program Learnings

Learning and effectiveness

Restarting Field Travel

It has been refreshing to restart field travel with partners this year following multiple years of travel restrictions. Time spent face-to-face, sharing and listening nurtures our partnerships and enhances AOA's well-established rhythms of distance communication.

Field visits are integral in deepening our understanding of how effectively projects reach people experiencing poverty and marginalisation and create positive change. Areas of good practice such as safeguarding, financial management, community participation and accountability are also reviewed, and open discussions around these areas help AOA and partners prioritise learning and development going forward.

Visits to Uganda, Kenya and Solomon Islands involved precious time spent with communities where our partners are present, listening directly to people's experiences of how they are leading and shaping change in their own lives and their broader communities.

Hearing firsthand the brutal impacts of drought in Kenya with severe challenges in maintaining food and water security, emphasises the strategic importance of AOA and our partners providing flexibility in our support for marginal communities as they adapt to and mitigate the most pressing climate impacts. In collaboration with AOA's partner, the Anglican Church of Kenya, Anglican Development Services in Mt Kenya West Diocese (ACK), has adeptly shifted programming in response to these immediate and urgent needs, delivering additional emergency response activities while continuing their significant long-term contribution with project activities that build resilience.

Influencing Networks

In March 2023, AOA was invited, along with 17 ACT Alliance member agencies also advancing gender justice, to strategise the future of the ACT Alliance Global Gender Justice program. The program created space for reflection and learning, reviewing evaluation findings, articulating achievements and challenges, identifying the unique role of ACT as a faith-based alliance, and collectively mapping out future program growth and direction.

AOA contributed to the in-person meeting of the Oceania Regional Anglican Council of Anglican Alliance (ORAC), which gathered for the first time in several years to develop a cohesive strategy, share good practices, identify capacity-building opportunities and jointly advocate for issues to be taken up by the meeting of the Anglican Primates of Oceania.

AOA presented on the areas of Gender and Safeguarding accompanied by Ethel George from the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM) in Vanuatu, delivering the findings of the "Gender, Disability and Social Inclusion Analysis" conducted by ACOM and the Mothers Union Gender Justice Taskforce in 2021. The conclusion that 85% of respondents identified reasons they believe justified a man abusing/harming his partner was discussed at length. Recognising that women are as likely to hold this belief as their male counterparts identified the need for re-constructed understanding around gender relations, power dynamics, community cohesion and a shared vision for safe and just communities.

ORAC recognised and affirmed the need to integrate contextualised, theologically sound, gender transformative practices, including safeguarding procedures across the work of the Anglican Church in the Pacific. The report findings were presented to the Oceania Anglican Archbishop Primates and Provincial General Secretaries for consideration and action.



Organisational and Program Strengthening Initiatives

AOA prioritises and invests in the organisational capacity of our partners. For example, this year, at our partner Wise Choices for Life's (WCFL) request, AOA facilitated an initial strategic planning workshop during the field visit involving WCFL board members, staff and critical Australian stakeholders. The workshop prompted analysis and reflection as the team looked back with thankfulness for God's inspired work through their organisation and activities. Participants took time to look ahead, considering organisational strengths, needs, opportunities and broader trends. This resulted in development of initial plans with clear signposts for action needed to reach the WCFL vision. AOA will continue to support many of these organisational development priorities in the future.

Emphasis was placed on integrating learning and opportunities to strengthen program quality identified through evaluations conducted last year (no evaluations were completed this year). For example, with additional technical support, AOA engaged intensively with the Anglican Church of Melanesia in the Solomon Islands, guiding the project team as they led a participatory process of project design and began gathering baseline data. The "Gender and Climate Justice Project", supported through the Australian NGO Co-operation program with the assistance of the Australian Government and AOA's supporters, will enter six new work areas to address the dual challenges of climate change and gender justice issues.

Demonstrating commitment to learning and improvement, collaboration and consultation with People with Disabilities Solomon Islands (PWDSI), an organisation of people with disabilities, has played an essential role in moving towards more inclusive practice within the program.

PWDSI staff with lived experience of disability reviewed the project design. It assisted in developing appropriate survey questions to understand the lived experiences of people with disabilities and broader community attitudes. It will accompany the survey team in communities and plan to undertake broad community awareness-raising about disability to reduce stigma and discrimination.

Across the next five years, AOA will intentionally engage with partners to shift and strengthen gender transformative practices - beyond improving access and inclusion for women and girls, to enhance voice and agency and address underlying causes of inequality. In consultation with partners this year, AOA assessed progress towards gender transformative practices. The review highlighted that progress varies across our partners. In response, AOA has developed a gender strategy and roadmap considering the different thematic focus of our partner's work and where they are in their journey, identifying organisational and program starting points for change.

To equip our partners as we embark together in this ambitious change process to ensure all AOA's programming is gender transformative, we collaborated with Australian Lutheran World Service to commence the delivery of training modules in gender transformative practice for our partners. The workshop sessions are highly interactive, bringing together partners from both agencies from across the Pacific, Africa and the Middle East to receive quality training input (pre-work and online), work through practical case studies, share contextualised examples of good practice and have the opportunity to raise questions in a supportive environment of peers.

How We Work

Our Partners and Coalitions

As an agency of the Anglican Church, we make the most of the Church's connections and the vital guiding role that the Church and faith-based agencies can play in transforming people and society.



Anglicans worldwide have long been concerned with environmental issues. From extreme weather to food shortages, all of us are affected. Guided by the fifth Mark of the Mission, members of the Anglican Communion Environment Network strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the earth.



ACT Alliance is a coalition of more than 130 churches and affiliated organisations working around the world on long-term development and emergency response. AOA often responds to disasters and emergencies through ACT Alliance, allowing us to respond quickly and effectively, knowing that the activities are being carried out to the highest global standards.



The Anglican Alliance brings together those in the Anglican family of churches and agencies to work for a world free of poverty, inequality and injustice, to raise the voices of the vulnerable, to reconcile those in conflict, and to safeguard the earth.



The Church Agencies Network is a group of 11 Australian church-based international development agencies that seek to support each other in improving their effectiveness. The Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) is a collaboration of eight of the 11 agencies working to strengthen communities facing humanitarian crises.



Emergency Action Alliance (EAA) is a group of 15 leading aid organisations in Australia that use their reach and resources to save lives. When disaster strikes overseas, EAA helps Australians respond with speed and impact, getting lifesaving aid to the affected communities.



Micah empowers Australian Christians to advocate for the most urgent global justice issues facing our world today - extreme poverty, rising conflict and climate change. As a member of the coalition of Christian international development agencies supporting Micah, AOA engages and equips our supporters to think and act justly.

Governance

President and Board



**The Most Revd
Dr Philip Freier**
BAppSc, DipEd, BD, MEdSt,
PhD, FAICD
Anglican Archbishop of
Melbourne
President



Mr Tom Craven
BCom (Ec), LLB (Ec, Law)
Board Chair



**The Right Revd
Dr Paul Barker**
BA, ThL, BTh (Hons),
Dip Min, PhD
Deputy Board Chair
GAN member



**The Revd Canon
Dr Ray Cleary AM***
BEc, DipEd, BSW, BTheol,
MMin, DMinStuds
FRAC member*



Mrs Ros Clowes
BEc (Mon), CPA



Mr Grant Dawson
BComm, MBA, GAICD, CA
FRAC Chair



Ms Seak-King Huang
BA, LLB (Hons), GAICD
DevCom member
GAN member



Ms Claire Miller*
BA, LLB, AGIA, MAICD
GAN Chair
Company Secretary*



Mr Andrew Newmarch
MIDEA
DevCom Chair



Assoc. Prof. Robin Ray
B Ed, MHSc, PhD
DevCom member



Ms Carolyn Sandiford
BA (Hons)
Communications Advisor



Mr Glenn Scott
BCom, FCPA
FRAC member
GAN Chair



Mr Andrew Smith
MBBS (Hons), FRACS



Ms Nicole Butera
B.Acc, CA
Company Secretary*

* Ms Claire Miller resigned in February 2023

* Rev Canon Dr Ray Cleary resigned in May 2023

* Ms Nicole Butera was appointed Company Secretary in March 2023

Note: for descriptions of the committees and full list of members see the following page.

Governance

Committees

The Anglican Overseas Aid (AOA) Board has established standing committees to improve board effectiveness and efficiency where activities require more concentrated effort and specialist skills.

Development Committee (DevCom)

The Development Committee is responsible for ensuring AOA's development programs are of the highest quality and are consistent with the agency's strategic direction. Members of the committee also provide technical resources and support to AOA staff in relation to programs. Their roles include shaping and reporting on the geographic and sectoral focus of programs, recommending new programs, partners and program controls, and reviewing the quality and effectiveness of our work.

Committee members:

- Andrew Newmarch (Chair)
- Roscel Diego**
- Seak-King Huang
- Dr Robert Kelly**
- Assoc. Prof. Robin Ray
- Dr Janice Smith**
- Irene Yu**

Governance and Nominations Committee (GAN)

The Governance and Nominations Committee is responsible for working with and supporting the CEO to ensure that the governance of AOA meets the highest standards. This includes recommending appointments to the board of directors and committees, the appointment and performance of the CEO, education and development of board members, and assisting the CEO in appointing candidates for senior management positions.

Committee members:

- Glenn Scott (Chair)*
- Claire Miller (Chair)*
- Bishop Paul Barker
- Seak-King Huang

Finance, Risk and Audit Committee (FRAC)

The Finance, Risk and Audit Committee is responsible for statutory compliance, accounting, risk management and finance. Members of the committee also offer an expert resource for supporting AOA staff when dealing with such matters. Their work includes oversight of all financial reporting, preparing the annual budget, and governance of our risk and compliance systems.

Committee members:

- Grant Dawson (Chair)
- Revd Canon Dr Ray Cleary AM*
- Mark Richardson**
- Glenn Scott

Notes about structure:

1. The President is a member of Anglican Overseas Aid, and takes an active interest in its work and direction.
2. Archbishop-in-Council approves the directors of AOA. The persons approved as directors are subsequently confirmed by the company's membership at the AGM.
3. The CEO reports to the board, and executive staff report to the CEO.
4. The committees can be made up of board members, staff and external experts.

*Revd Canon Dr Ray Cleary AM resigned from FRAC in May 2023

*Ms Claire Miller resigned as Chair of GAN in February 2023

*Mr Glenn Scott was appointed Chair of GAN in February 2023

** Denotes committee members who are not Board members

Accountability

As an accredited international development organisation, Anglican Overseas Aid is held accountable for its use of funds and the way it works.



ACFID Member

The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) is the peak body for Australian not-for-profit aid and development organisations. It was founded in 1965 and has more than 100 member agencies.

AOA is an ACFID member and signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which defines minimum standards of governance, management and accountability for non-government development organisations. The Code has an independent complaints-handling process. To find out more about the Code or lodge a complaint against AOA's compliance with the Code, please email complaints@anglicanoverseasaid.org.au



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

DFAT Accredited

We are fully accredited by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), meeting all the standards required. DFAT is responsible for managing Australia's overseas aid program.

As an accredited agency, we receive government funds for a number of our programs.



ACNC Member

We are registered as a charity and Public Benevolent Institution with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).



FIA Member

We are an organisational member of the Fundraising Institute of Australia (FIA), the national peak body representing professional fundraising in Australia. We adhere to and comply with FIA's Principles and Standards of Fundraising Practice.

Feedback and Complaints

We welcome feedback of all kinds, and have a formal complaints process.

To provide feedback, read our complaints policy, or to lodge a complaint, please email complaints@anglicanoverseasaid.org.au or call us for free from anywhere in Australia on 1800 249 880.

Calls from outside Australia can be made to +61 3 9495 6100.

Feedback and complaints may also be emailed directly to the Chair of the Board: chair@anglicanoverseasaid.org.au

During 2022-23 AOA received no complaints.

Financials

Finance and Accountability

Anglicord (which includes the results of Anglican Overseas Aid and Wise Choices for Life) recorded a surplus of \$74,591 for the financial year. In a year with rising inflation and global uncertainty continuing from the war in Ukraine and other natural disasters, we are extremely grateful for our supporters who continue to make the needs of others their priority.

Revenue was recorded at \$2.8m for the year, which was an increase of 12% over the prior year (\$2.5m). The increase in income was the result of increased donations and additional funding from DFAT and other grant agencies.

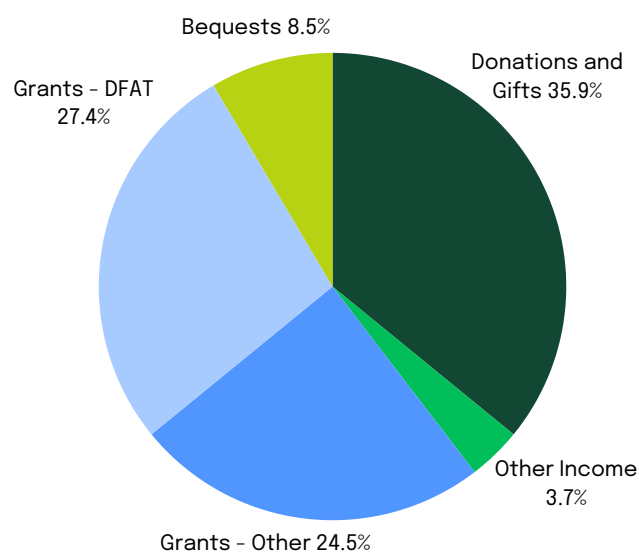
Donations from supporters rose by 10%. Bequest income, while below the prior year, was significant at \$240k. We are continually reminded that AOA is a channel for supporters to express their commitment to the world's poor, and immensely grateful for bequests that are so significant in creating long-term change.

Total expenditure for the year was just over \$2.8m, up 32% on the previous year (2022 \$2.1m) with a 37% increase in expenditure directed to our international programs which represented 57% of total expenditure.

While AOA works hard to manage costs to deliver as much to our partners as possible, the year also included some strategic investment in the organisation's future strategy. Inflationary pressures also impacted some expenditures.

The below pie charts represent our income and expenditure as a proportion of the totals. Each category is adapted from the summary financial statements within the Consolidated Annual Financial Report and is based on the definitions described in the ACFID Code of Conduct.

Revenue (income) sources 2022/23



Expenditure (costs) sources 2022/23



Financials

Income Statement

REVENUE	2023 \$	2022 \$
Donations and gifts		
Monetary	1,012,120	909,458
Bequests and legacies	240,636	599,737
Grants		
DFAT	772,155	654,080
Other Australian	240,473	93,366
International	451,971	121,535
Investment income	82,066	56,326
Other income	22,135	26,226
	-	-
TOTAL REVENUE	2,821,556	2,460,728
EXPENDITURE		
International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		
International Programs		
Funds to international programs	1,629,951	1,188,160
Program support costs	761,152	591,148
Community education	134,913	136,676
Fundraising costs		
Public	144,324	194,105
Government, multilateral and private	20,640	15,840
Accountability and administration	125,756	121,680
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,816,736	2,247,609
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Excess/(shortfall) of revenue over expenses from continuing operations	4,820	213,119
Project funds raised for future disbursement	(19,658)	103,836
Excess/(shortfall) of revenue over expenditure	(14,838)	316,955
Other comprehensive income/(loss)		
Changes in the fair value of investments	89,429	(85,298)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	74,591	231,657

Financials

Balance Sheet

ASSETS	2023 \$	2022\$
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,544,890	1,772,157
Trade and other receivables	777,444	749,346
Financial Assets	1,038,908	507,116
Total Current Assets	3,361,242	3,028,619
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	4,852	9,700
Total Non-Current Assets	4,852	9,700
TOTAL ASSETS	3,366,094	3,038,319
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	96,869	72,033
Current tax liabilities	(11,410)	(11,103)
Other financial liabilities	797,783	593,418
Provisions for employee entitlements	53,555	66,300
Total Current Liabilities	936,797	720,648
TOTAL LIABILITIES	936,797	720,648
NET ASSETS	2,429,297	2,317,671
EQUITY		
Retained earnings	1,704,359	1,547,328
Reserves - Restricted	724,938	770,343
TOTAL EQUITY	2,429,297	2,317,671

CHANGES IN EQUITY	Retained Earnings	Unrestricted Reserves	Restricted Reserves	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2022	1,547,328	-	770,343	2,317,671
Transfers from/to reserves	-	-	(45,405)	(45,045)
Excess of revenue over expenses	(14,838)	-	-	(14,838)
Other comprehensive income for the year	89,429	-	-	89,429
Balance at 30 June 2023	1,704,359	-	724,938	2,429,297

Notes about Financials:

We are fully accredited by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), meeting all the standards required. DFAT is responsible for managing Australia's overseas aid program.

As an accredited agency, we receive Government funds for a number of our programs.

Rather than accumulating large reserves, AOA's goal is to distribute funds over a two to five year timeframe, maintaining a high level of governance and ensuring the greatest impact.

Audit Report



Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements

To the Members of Anglicord

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise, the income statement, statement of financial position and statement of changes in equity, are derived from the audited financial report of Anglicord for the year ended 30 June 2023.

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on that financial report in our report dated 21 November 2023.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report of Anglicord.

Director's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation of the concise financial report in accordance with the requirements of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation of the concise financial report, selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial report of Anglicord for the year ended 30 June 2023 complies with the requirements of the Australian Council for International Development.

The Field Group Audit

The Field Group – Audit
Chirnside Park
21 November 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gavin Fraser".

Gavin Fraser
Director



Ratana is a vital member of the Community Development Group working for change in her village in Preah Vihear Province, Cambodia.



**Anglican
Overseas
Aid**

4 Bloomburg Street
Abbotsford 3067

PO Box 389
Abbotsford VIC 3067

(03) 9495 6100 or
(Freecall) 1800 249 880

ABN 39 116 072 050

www.anglicanoverseasaid.org.au