



Anglican  
Overseas  
Aid

# ANNUAL REPORT

23/24



A photograph of a woman in a light-colored shirt carrying a baby in a colorful patterned sling. The baby is wearing a red and white striped hat. In the background, a group of people is visible in an outdoor setting with trees and hills.

# We are

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

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# Our Vision



## TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

We work with communities to alleviate the pressures of poverty, moving towards greater gender equality and climate resilience.

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

We prioritise long-term partnerships with Anglicans who are 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.

## CONNECTING ANGLICANS GLOBALLY

Australian Anglicans are relationally connected with global partners for greater impact. Responding to poverty demands both action and relationship.

## CHAMPIONING FUTURE GENERATIONS

We see new generations of Australian Anglicans who, motivated by their faith, are responsible and involved global neighbours working towards a world free of poverty.

# Our Values

## 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 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 with the abundance we have been given.

# President's Report



Dear Friends,

As President of Anglican Overseas Aid (AOA), I have been privileged to meet many of our global partners supported by our wonderful organisation. On occasions when I have visited personally, I saw God's Kingdom working for the restoration of all God's people; from Africa to the Pacific I have seen churches working in their communities to support those who have been marginalised and are experiencing poverty. At these times I witnessed God's light shining into communities that had experienced unimaginable hardships. I saw AOA partners work with the strengths of the communities they themselves belonged to, enabling sustainable and authentic change to take place.

On one of these visits, I witnessed the work of al-Ahli Arab Hospital which, since 1882, has worked to ensure positive health outcomes for the people of Northern Gaza. During its 142 years of service it has endured immense trials, and today, despite all it has faced, it still stands as a beacon of peace and a place of acceptance and healing for anyone who needs it. The courage of the staff is astounding, and their service should be commended. I thank them and all our partners who have dedicated their lives to pursuing the dignity of all people experiencing poverty and injustice.

I have also felt privileged to witness the immense generosity of AOA's Australian supporters, in their dedication to God's mission of creating a poverty-free world. Many have been contributing since the organisation's inception. Regular giving is essential for the long-term support our partners need to provide strengths-based community support. It is heartening to know that our Australian family understands this and continues to serve faithfully, not only through their donations but also through their prayers. Prayer is vital in addressing the injustices faced by our global neighbours, and we are grateful that our supporters prioritise our work in their prayers.

Recently I hosted the Victorian Anglican Schools at a service at St Paul's Cathedral. At this service AOA was able to share the work the Anglican Church of Kenya, Mt Kenya West Diocese is doing to address the impacts of poverty that prevent student participation in schools. It was excellent to see the next generation of people engaged in the work of our global neighbours. As I move into retirement, I have a confident anticipation that they will take up the task of fulfilling God's mission to renew our world, to ensure the voices of those most marginalised are heard and the strengths of communities across the globe are recognised and supported.

I am honoured to have been President of an organisation that so strongly aligns itself with the dignity of all people. I am grateful for all those who have worked for AOA in the past and give my heartfelt thanks to the Board, our CEO Jo Knight and her staff and the Anglican communities who work so hard to ensure God's love can shine in such practical and transformative ways.

**The Most Revd Dr Philip Freier**

Archbishop of Melbourne and President of Anglican Overseas Aid

# Board Chair's Report



It takes open hearts to ensure that justice prevails. This quality unites every AOA staff member, board member, international partner and supporter. Open hearts create the potential for pain, and our hearts grieved much this year for the ongoing suffering, violence and injustice experienced in many of the communities our partners serve. But they also create in us a shared desire to restore God's world, through which we have accomplished so much this year.

Our partners are at the forefront of fighting the underlying causes of poverty – building resilience to the changing climate, promoting the equality of women and girls, spreading life-changing health information and responding to horrific disasters. I am so grateful for the generosity of supporters; because of you our partners can achieve these goals ensuring sustainable, long-term community development and humanitarian responses.

I want to thank all members of our board. They continue to dedicate their time and expertise, ensuring that AOA's work aligns with our strategic direction and values and demonstrates the highest level of compliance. This year, we welcomed the Ven Dr Tim Johnson to the board. Tim is senior minister of St John's Diamond Creek and Archdeacon of the Yarra. We also welcomed Holly Crocket to the board; she brings a wealth of strategic communications and advocacy experience, including in the international development sector, and is a member of Merri Creek Anglican.

In early 2025, Archbishop Philip Freier, the president of AOA, will step down from this role when he retires from the office of Archbishop. We are grateful for his support for our organisation as he has brought issues facing our global neighbours to the attention of Anglican churches and congregants for over 17 years.

Anglican Overseas Aid is powered by an incredible team that continues to work towards its strategic goals. Our funds to international partners was \$1.6m. I give thanks to our generous supporters and the diligence of our board and management over many years that has ensured we have a strong financial base and continue to grow our funds to the field.

Another key focus this financial year has been growing our online presence and connecting with the next generation of supporters. Our CEO, Jo Knight, also continues to expand AOA's reach and profile – including through her work with Micah Australia and ACT Alliance – exemplifying that the next generation of Australian Anglicans can be good global neighbours to those who are experiencing poverty, marginalisation and, unfortunately for some partners, devastating tragedy.

As the team continues to implement our strategic plan in the coming years, we are excited about developing initiatives that will focus on the ever-growing intersection of climate change, inequality and poverty. I look forward to continuing to work together, seeing God's mission advance as communities near and far actively participate in God's plan for a restored and renewed creation.

**Tom Craven**  
Board Chair

# CEO's Report



This year I have been able to build deeper connections with our global partners as I joined the end-of-program evaluation with the Anglican Diocese of Nampula, Mozambique, and our Africa Learning Forum, involving our programs team and African partners, hosted by the Diocese of Mt Kenya West. During these visits, I witnessed the immense challenges faced by communities and observed how our partners are acting as agents of change through holistic, volunteer-led community development.

It is now more than one year since the conflict began in Gaza; as I witness the tragedy that has evolved from this heartbreaking situation, I have been in awe of the sacrifice of the staff at al-Ahli Arab Hospital in northern Gaza. Their determination to stay and assist patients during bombings and forced evacuations demonstrates a deep love and courage and we are proud to continue to support them as they provide free healthcare to the people they serve.

In Australia, where we live in relative peace but with a rising cost of living, I have been humbled to see our supporters continue to give generously and invest in the work of our partners through prayer and action. I am heartened at our growing partnerships with churches that take the time during their services to pray for our work.

AOA continues to advocate for peace, opportunity and security for our global brothers and sisters. This year, I again took part in the Micah Women Leaders lobbying in Canberra, where politicians are encouraged to support a generous aid budget and the Safer World For All campaign. We were also excited to have the Revd Dr Rachel Mash from the Green Anglicans in Southern Africa visit us to share how God's people can become more engaged in protecting and restoring God's creation.

The team at AOA are experienced and passionate about the fight for justice and the restoration of the world. I am immensely grateful for their work and look forward to another year as we work together with our partners and supporters to bring restoration to God's good creation.

**Jo Knight**

CEO



# Head of Program's Report



AOA takes a strengths-based approach to all our overseas programs. This involves assessing and then building on the strengths our partners and their communities already possess. AOA does this by supporting partners in designing impactful programs, walking alongside them during project implementation, and taking active roles in evaluating and learning from them.

We support a combination of long-term integrated community development programs that reduce poverty and strengthen resilience in areas such as health, education, and sustainable livelihoods. At the same time, AOA prioritises emergency response programs in places where people are suffering from flood, drought, or displacement due to conflict.

In 2023 AOA increased its focus on climate action, which partners chose to deliver through existing projects. In Kenya the focus was on disaster risk reduction through raising awareness and supporting communities to develop disaster response plans. AOA's newest partner the Ethiopian Anglican Diocese Social Development Organisation (EACSDO), commenced an innovative project focused on tree planting and capturing water for agriculture through a series of restored areas known as 'watersheds'.

Another significant focus was on building sustainable livelihoods. In Sri Lanka women organised self-help groups to increase savings and build skills to work and earn an income. Similarly, in India women were actively involved in skills training to enable them to work and build a better future for their children.

We undertook two program evaluations, one with Wise Choices For Life Uganda and the other with the Anglican Diocese of Nampula, Mozambique. Both assessments demonstrated the powerful impact our partners have within their communities and provided valuable insights into how they can continue to work effectively.

**Louise Currie**

Acting Head of International Programs

# A Year of Doing Good



**1,245** supporters donated to our programs



**5** countries and **40,862** people assisted with Emergency Response



**188,730** people reached through our partners



**121,266** women and girls reached through our programs



**16** International Programs were implemented



**47%** of our programs' primary or secondary focus was on building climate resilience

# Our Global Partners

## AFRICA

**Mozambique:** The Anglican Diocese of Nampula, Mozambique  
Funding: \$178,756\*

**Kenya:** Anglican Church of Kenya,  
Mt Kenya West Diocese\*  
Funding: \$259,300 **Emergency Hunger Crisis:** \$200,000

**Ethiopia:** Afar Pastoralist Development Association  
**Emergency Response:** \$74,355  
**Rapid Response Fund:** \$20,000

Ethiopian Anglican Church Social and  
Development Organisation  
Funding: \$30,000

**Uganda:** Wise Choices For Life, Uganda  
Funding: \$110,335

**South Sudan:** South Sudanese Development and Relief Agency  
Funding: \$30,000 **Rapid Response Fund:** \$14,939

**Anglican Church of Southern Africa Environmental Network:**  
Green Anglicans  
Funding: \$30,000



## ASIA

**Cambodia:** Ponleu Ney Kdey Sangkhum (PNKS)\*  
Funding: \$89,812

**India:** Cathedral Relief Service  
Funding: \$30,000

**Sri Lanka:** Lanka Evangelical Alliance Development Service  
**Economic Recovery:** \$50,000

## THE PACIFIC

**Solomon Islands:** The Anglican Church of Melanesia – Solomon  
Islands\*  
Funding: \$97,500

CAN DO – Solomon Islands  
**CDCS Grant:** \$151,721  
**Disaster READY 2.0:** \$60,661\*\*

**Vanuatu:** The Anglican Church of Melanesia – Vanuatu  
Funding: \$20,000

**Fiji:** Anglican Diocese of Polynesia – Fiji  
Funding: \$20,000

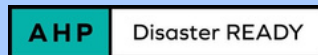
## OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

**Gaza:** al-Ahli Arab hospital  
Funding: \$39,314 **Rapid Response Fund:** \$20,000  
**Emergency Response:** \$100,000

**East Jerusalem:** The Spafford Children’s Center  
Funding: \$20,000

\*These programs receive funding from the Australian Government, through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

\*\* Disaster READY is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP).





# Climate Resilience

Despite contributing the least to its causes, the communities affected by climate change are highlighting its impact on poverty and instability.

# Ethiopia

This year AOA partnered with the Ethiopian Anglican Church Social and Development Organisation (EACSDO) to implement the Self-Reliant, Climate Resilient project in Tigray. Communities in this arid region were experiencing persistent food insecurity and shortage. Project activities included effective management of natural resources such as water and soil for better crops, tree planting to combat the negative impacts of climate change, and better and more sustainable access to healthy food.

## Program Highlights

355 households, 1,240 individuals trained in water and soil conservation

12.6 kms of trenches built in the participant villages for water catchment



Farmers build trenches in their farmland

## Farmers Collaborate to Reap Rewards

‘Resilient’ and ‘strong’ are words that might describe the people who reside in Ethiopia. Not vulnerable. However, with a population that depends on rainfall-based agriculture, the repercussions of civil war and the impacts of climate change have made communities particularly vulnerable to famine.

To mitigate the effects of ever-increasing dry periods, EACSDO is working with 355 farming households, totalling 1,240 people, to build carefully designed trenches in their arid farmland that will capture water and prevent the loss of both topsoil and water. The farmers are paid for their time and will reap the rewards with access to better food crops for longer.

The restored areas, known as watersheds, are protected until the land recovers. Crops are then planted and animals able to graze. In the meantime the group of farmers moves to a new area to start the process again. Through this collaborative effort communities take charge of their livelihoods and wellbeing.

# Kenya

The Anglican Church of Kenya, Mt Kenya West Diocese, through the Imarisha Maisha II program, works to increase the resilience of agriculturalists and pastoralists to the worsening effects of climate change. The program promotes improved self-reliance across 13 locations in Nyeri and Laikipia North counties by strengthening community structures to ensure greater inclusion and by empowering vulnerable people to build climate-resilient livelihoods. They also support communities in undertaking disaster risk assessments, which assists them in mitigating and responding to disasters. The project works with leaders to educate community members on building safer families, schools, workplaces and churches.

## Program Highlights

2,394 participated in sessions on climate related hazards and disasters

28,607 people participated in sessions on gender issues and women's equal rights



## A Resourceful Approach to Climate Change

Reverend Rahab Wanjiru (above) isn't someone to give up easily. Having overcome many gender barriers to achieve her dream of working directly in the church, she understands how important it is to be resourceful.

Seeing the effects of climate change, she wasn't about to let her community succumb to its impacts. After participating in a strengths-based development approach with our partner, she realised the community is surrounded by natural resources that are not well-utilised due to a lack of awareness.

Reverend Rahab encouraged people to use their vacant land for farming, livestock and pasture production. Men have increased pasture growing and recently harvested approx 340 bales in just 2.5 acres of land. Women have begun savings groups to ensure they can diversify their income and support their families.



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



# Women's Equality

Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by poverty, discrimination, inequality and abuse. Compelled by God's mandate of the dignity of all people, we continue to pursue equality for those who are affected by poverty.

# Solomon Islands

The Gender and Climate Justice Program, run by the Anglican Church of Melanesia (ACOM), supports six communities in the Solomon Islands. ACOM works with faith and community leaders, transforming deeply held beliefs and equipping them as changemakers on issues of gender justice. Women are empowered through access to financial services. Committees are formed and trained to help communities prepare for disasters.

## Program Highlights

Six village-based disaster risk committees established with 41 community representatives (21 women, 20 men)

Two Gender and Theology trainings reached eight women and 19 men



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



## Saving for a Secure Future

Melinda (above) lives in Koa Hill in Solomon Islands. This village has breathtaking views but is also prone to landslides and flooding. Melinda and many other women in the village had just completed financial literacy training run by ACOM.

Melinda was particularly eager to start the Savings Group, explaining that while she might receive her wages on a Friday, by Monday or Tuesday they would be spent.

In Melanesian culture there is an expectation to support your extended family, so when her brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews regularly ask for money for bus fares or food, she supports them. The cycle continues each week, making it difficult for Melinda to do more than make ends meet. Now with training and the support of her Savings Group, Melinda is confident she will be able to support her family but also put money aside to ensure she can look after herself in retirement as she doesn't have children who will provide for her in old age.



# Vanuatu

The Safe Resilient Communities project is run by the Anglican Church of Melanesia in Vanuatu. The project supports key leaders to change beliefs and harmful attitudes towards Gender-Based Violence and advocate for gender equality. The project works to improve protection for women and girls and people living with disabilities in church and community settings. ACOM Vanuatu creates and nurtures safe, resilient communities before, during and after disasters, training volunteers in Mental Health and Psychosocial care and support.

## Program Highlights

40 volunteers trained on Mental Health Psychosocial Support

287 students in four secondary schools received awareness on psychosocial issues and support services



Program Manager Ethel George

## A Safe Space

A Safe Space for women can be hard to find in a patriarchal society. In Vanuatu, domestic violence is so prevalent that 60% of women agree with at least one justification for a man to beat his wife. Safe places to explore and challenge traditional beliefs are vital. \*

Church leaders are crucial in shifting cultural norms and making their communities safer for women and girls. They also play a role in dispute resolution. The Anglican Church facilitates Faith and Gender training sessions for church leaders. Wives of church leaders are also invited to attend the training, recognising that they too play an essential role in their community and supporting survivors.

One recent attendee explained that she had kept quiet for a long time about her husband's treatment of her but was relieved to be able to express her feelings. And a church leader who attended the workshop acknowledged his sin of violence and that he had no right to abuse his wife.

These examples show how this training changes hearts and minds, creating champions for change who will work for safer communities.

\*Vanuatu National Survey on Women's Lives and Family Relationships | Pacific Environment Data Portal (sprep.org)



# Health & Education

Our partners are working as lights in their communities, providing transformative knowledge about health, safety and equality through community-based initiatives.



# Mozambique

Towards Abundant Life for All applies a strengths-based approach to building resourcefulness among communities in northern Mozambique. Their health and wellbeing goals are achieved through better linkages with the government and a community-based volunteer network called Equipa de Vida (Life Teams). These teams focus on infectious disease prevention, gender equality, and increasing household savings. The Life Teams adopt a house-to-house approach, discussing critical health issues and raising awareness of prevention and treatment options.

## Program Highlights

24,700 women, men, girls and boys have better access to local health services including access to consultations, medicines and follow-up

42,200 women, men, girls and boys received training and resources to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS



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



## A Powerful Force

If someone asked you what the force for change in your community is, could you answer? And would your answer be the Church?

Joaquim (pictured above with his family), who lives in northern Mozambique, is adamant that the Life Teams established by the Anglican Diocese of Nampula have been a positive force for change in his community.

At first he wasn't so sure about these teams, assuming they were vehicles of the church to get people through their doors, but when serious illness struck his son, and he had no way of taking him to hospital, Joaquim's view changed.

'That's when one of the members of the Life Team realised my situation, came to me and offered to help. At the moment didn't believe it until he called three more members who volunteered and took my son and me to the medical centre, where he had adequate treatment and thus saved my son.'

From that moment on Joaquim, his wife Aida and their five children committed themselves to the Diocese's program. Joaquim even became a Life Team member. 'I was the person who promoted behavioural changes within my community by teaching my neighbours and friends.'

# Uganda

Wise Choices For Life Uganda (WCFL) seeks to improve access to reproductive health education and promote healthy family planning. It has a particular focus on schools where it works with students and educators to reduce teen pregnancies and enable young people to stay in school longer. The project also works in churches, prisons and with men's and women's groups to promote reproductive education for all, prioritising partnerships with community leaders who can share knowledge through a 'train the trainer' program.

## Program Highlights

2,743 teenagers between the ages of 12 and 17 trained on communication and life skills, critical thinking, age appropriate sexuality education, and resisting peer pressure

3,456 people provided with counselling on family planning and contraceptives

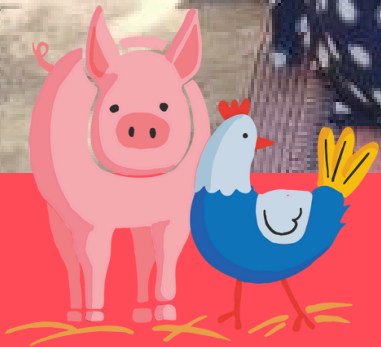


## A Gap Worth Bridging

When it comes to the chance of having a skilled birth attendant during one of the most physically demanding times of a woman's life, in Uganda one thing seems to matter. Do you have an education? If not, the likelihood of having a skilled attendant during labour is 38%. If you have a primary school education it increases to 55%. Those fortunate enough to have graduated to secondary school have a 93% chance of having a skilled birth attendant. This is because the more educated a woman, the more likely she is to seek out skilled help.

To bridge this enormous gap, WCFL brings education into the community, so even if a girl leaves school early, she is still given the same opportunities to gain important knowledge on reproductive and maternal-child health.

Health assistant Kharunda (above) noticed the difference. Just one month after WCFL held community training in her area she saw an overwhelming influx of patients to the health centre where she works, so much so that they needed to add another staff member. It's a relief for Kharunda, who had seen mothers and their newborns tragically die without trained birth attendants present during labour. The challenge now, she says, will be keeping up with demand.



# Livelihoods

Creating livelihood security through group training, resource provision, income diversification and emergency aid.

# Sri Lanka

The Livelihood and Food Security program aims to increase economic resilience by improving incomes and community savings. It forms Self-Help Groups to upskill members, empowering them to begin their business journeys. It also provides resources and financial support to promote business growth, giving group members the tools needed to bring themselves and their families out of poverty by independently generating income.

## Program Highlight

10 new self-help groups established, which provided savings advice and support for 160 women



## Paying It Forward

Upheaval sat heavily in the air as Sri Lanka faced an unprecedented multi-dimensional crisis beginning in 2022. An economic crisis, the rising cost of living, shortages of essential goods, and reduced agricultural production resulted in up to a third of the population facing food insecurity.

Our partner, Lanka Evangelical Alliance Development Service (LEADS), was quick to act. Already working with people living in informal settlements, plantation communities, and those still suffering the effects of civil war, they began creating Savings Groups for women living in Sri Lanka who have been marginalised.

Their goal of reaching 150 households to enhance economic resilience is progressing well. One group (above) has been so successful at developing their livelihoods and managing their income that they have started their own community outreach initiatives. They support vulnerable families with 5kg of rice monthly and work with a midwife to ensure pregnant women receive nutritious food. These outcomes demonstrate community-led development at its best. Through training and witnessing their financial transformations, group members can now support others in their community. Rachel, who is part of the group, proudly shares: 'We hope to create a common marketplace for the sale of products from all the Savings Groups, and hope to use the knowledge we received to work for the well-being of women and children in our community.'

# India

Cathedral Relief Service (CRS) works alongside women and girls to empower them through education and skill development. Recognising the vulnerabilities of women across Kolkata, CRS provides 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 cultural resistance to education with compassion and empathy. They also provide nutritional support for children and encourage them to enrol in the education program.

## Program Highlight

161 women and girls provided with skills training

62 men provided with gender inclusive information and the important role of fathers in the lives of children



## A Micro-business with Macro-benefits

When Kanika's world was turned upside down by her husband's death, she started working as a maid to earn an income. However the inconsistency of the work meant that, at times, she had no money to support her family. Kanika (above), who hails from Kolkata, heard about a tailoring class run by CRS. The year-long course gives women over 14 the opportunity to learn how to sew, embroider and knit. It also prepares women to run their own micro business, with financial and business management training and the setting up of individual bank accounts.

'I am so happy that I joined the sewing training and now can earn some money to sustain myself and my children,' says Kanika. 'I am grateful to all who support this initiative and to Cathedral Relief Service for providing this opportunity and giving us the liberty to use the sewing machines for our work.'



Photo: DSPR/ACT



# Emergencies



# Emergencies Report

The post-COVID humanitarian sector has become increasingly complex, driven by a combination of factors such as climate change impacts and protracted conflicts on multiple continents, compounded by political instability and decreasing resources. Many of our partners face growing demands while navigating evolving risks, strained international cooperation and funding shortages. As crises grow in scale and intensity, steadfast support and collaboration are more critical than ever.

**Ukraine Conflict:** Over the two years of conflict, our partners have been able to expand from providing immediate relief and psychosocial support to displaced Ukrainian refugees in the surrounding countries, to operating directly within Ukraine. Support has ranged from cash vouchers for basic food and medical assistance to providing safe spaces for children and communal heating centres. With no end in sight, our partners faithfully continue to serve those most at risk.

**Kenya Hunger Crisis:** Kenya was severely impacted by droughts and flooding across many of its counties, resulting in dire food shortages. Through their strong community roots our local partners responded rapidly, providing a school feeding program and support to vulnerable households across Laikipia County. This intervention was a major success, far exceeding its initial targets and supporting more than 32,000 people. Primarily utilising schools as feeding centres saw enrolments increase by up to 48 %, and widespread adoption of kitchen gardens and small-scale farming.



## An Update on al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza

Our partner al-Ahli Arab Hospital still stands as a beacon of healing for people in the north of Gaza. Since the conflict began in October 2023, staff have cared for more than 30,000 people. With the recent escalation of airstrikes and ground forces shelling in the region, the hospital has been overwhelmed by patients; they are currently treating more than 700 people each day and accommodating 150 inpatients. For a hospital with just 50 beds, this is a considerable number. They have now increased to 80 beds, opening the hospital chapel and library to accommodate the overflow.

There are now five operating theatres instead of three, and the small emergency department has expanded, with the physical therapy department and hospital yards turned into triage and emergency units. Medical supplies are limited; sometimes medical staff must use vinegar instead of sterilisation solutions. When there is no anaesthesia, doctors must still perform surgeries. In cooperation with the Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre, the hospital has opened a small unit to support children living with disabilities. A new chemotherapy centre has also opened. Staff have commenced providing psychosocial support for children living in southern Gaza and have opened a clinic in the city of Khan Yunis where they care for approximately 200 patients. Staff now live at the hospital with their families to avoid the perilous journey to and from work.

We are working with seven other agencies from the Anglican Alliance to support the Diocese of Jerusalem's health and education programs. Due to our extensive history with al-Ahli Arab Hospital we will continue to support their work, with other agencies focusing on different institutions.





## CAN DO Report

AOA is a small agency with big partners. Through the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) consortium we collaborate with other faith-based agencies to maximise our impact in communities in need. This year CAN DO welcomed Global Mission Partners, overseas aid for Churches of Christ, as its ninth member, further increasing our collective global reach to faith communities.

In March 2024 AOA hosted the CAN DO members at our new office to reflect, plan, and celebrate the milestones achieved in the seven years of collaboration. Despite the increasing global challenges, CAN DO has received \$28m in humanitarian funding from the Australian Government and \$14m for the Disaster READY preparedness program, in which AOA undertakes a lead coordination role in the Solomon Islands.

This year we also said farewell to Geoff Shepherd, the manager of the CAN DO Coordination Unit, who has retired from humanitarian work. AOA hosted Geoff throughout his 7.5 years with CAN DO, and he was a valued contributor and mentor to AOA. His knowledge and experience saw CAN DO go from an unconventional idea to a highly collaborative, widely recognised mechanism that supports our local partners in times of disaster.



# Welcome to EACSDO

Ethiopia, one of Africa's most populous nations, boasts a strong and diverse cultural heritage. However, recent humanitarian crises have wreaked havoc on its local communities. To help them recover from the lasting effects of civil conflict and hardship, the Ethiopian Anglican Church Social and Development Organisation (EACSDO) is providing sustainable support to communities in Northern Ethiopia.

The Tigray region, in Northern Ethiopia is the centre of EACSDO's response efforts. The most recent conflict began in November 2020 after an extended period of complex escalating tensions and resulted in 2.2 million people becoming internally displaced and in need of critical assistance. Due to the conflict, a total of 5.2 million people in the country required food and non-food items.

Tigray's infrastructure was devastated by the conflict, with 75% of all medical facilities destroyed or looted. All schools and banks in the area closed. The conflict compounded pre-existing food insecurity from ongoing droughts and the movement of humanitarian supplies became challenging. The conflict ended in 2022, but displaced peoples and a devastated regional community still feel the effects.

As EACSDO continue to support displaced peoples, an emerging area of need is to rebuild and restore agricultural lands so that the community can return to self-sufficiency. This is particularly the case given the environmental pressure in the area, with a lack of rain causing ongoing drought.

EACSDO is working with communities to develop soil and water conservation activities to restore the land to support local families. This will also involve creating springs and protecting water sources to increase accessibility. EACSDO is also supporting Tigray regional communities by offering sustainable energy options as infrastructure is rebuilt.

We look forward to partnering with EACSDO as they undertake invaluable work that responds to communities in need.



Program Coordinator  
at EACSDO, Bisrat



# Program Learnings



## Gender Transformative Practice

Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by poverty, discrimination inequality and abuse. AOA's efforts are advancing gender-transformative approaches that challenge social norms, redressing gender inequalities and structural barriers. Investing in gender equality not only acknowledges that women have fundamental human rights but also improves the economic development and health of their families. This year we updated our gender policy and created a strategy to ensure all our work with partners is aligned with this goal. We provided technical support to four partners, helping them identify and expand their gender-transformative practices in flexible, responsive and partner-led ways. We also tested new methods of collaboration, partnering with Australian Lutheran World Service and their international partners, enabling peer learning over six months through interactive workshops on gender transformation. Our partner, the Anglican Church of Melanesia, also shared successful practices with 45 peers across seven countries, now published in the resource 'Promoting Gender Justice in and through Faith Communities in Oceania'.



## Partner Learning Forum

With support from Australian Aid, 17 representatives from four partners in Africa and AOA staff met in Kenya in November 2023 for a Partner Learning Forum. This focused on 'Building resilience in a changing climate' and developed a collective climate action plan for AOA-supported work in Africa. Our partners reflected that they had deepened their partnership with AOA and connections with each other and felt enriched in their professional practice around climate and resilience and the use of data collection tools. Peer learning was enhanced through field visits to the Imarisha Maisha Project run by the Anglican Church of Kenya, Mt Kenya West Diocese.

## Evaluations

The evaluation of the Towards Abundant Life For All program of the Anglican Diocese of Nampula in Mozambique demonstrated delivery of positive changes across 90 communities in Nampula in health and management of infectious diseases. The evaluation affirmed how the project has engaged with communities and ensured the inclusion of the poorest and most vulnerable women. A lesson learnt was the need to extend program timeframes to achieve a more significant impact.

Wise Choices For Life Uganda's Reproductive Health and Life Skills training program in Mbale District, Uganda was also evaluated. The program filled knowledge gaps in reproductive health and life skills in these communities, with 92% of participants reporting they had shared what they learnt with others. The evaluation identified the need to strengthen transformative practice, which led to Wise Choices For Life revising its gender policy, training staff, and including gender technical advice in forward planning.

A shared theme across both evaluations is the need to more intentionally consider the needs and inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of work and support and build the capacity of staff to implement inclusive approaches.

## Inclusion

Progress in disability inclusion has occurred in AOA's disaster preparedness programming through collaboration with People With Disabilities Solomon Islands. This partnership has helped our partners improve how they connect with, listen and respond to the needs of people with disabilities. Disaster READY staff were trained to sensitively gather information about people with disabilities, and plans are in place to supplement baseline surveys with a community disability inclusion profile. This will help identify and address the specific inclusion needs in each village, ensuring that no one is left behind in times of disaster.



# Strength in Partnership

## 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.



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.



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 12 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.



ACT Alliance is a coalition of more than 145 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.



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



**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



**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  
FRAC member



**Ms Nicole Butera**  
B.Acc, CA  
Company Secretary



**The Ven Dr Tim Johnson**  
PhD (Psych), MDiv,  
GradDipDiv, BSc (Hons)  
GAN Chair



**Ms Holly Crocket**  
BA (Hons), MA  
(International Crisis  
Management)

\* Mr Glenn Scott retired in December 2023  
\* Assoc Prof Robin Ray retired in December 2023  
\* Mrs Ros Clowes retired in December 2023

# 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\*\*

\* Glenn Scott retired in December 2023

\* Irene Yu resigned from DevCom June 2024

\*\* Denotes committee members who are not Board members

## 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)
- Mark Richardson\*\*
- Glenn Scott\*
- Dr Andrew Smith

## 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:

- The Ven Dr Tim Johnson (Chair)
- Glenn Scott \*
- Bishop Paul Barker
- Seak-King Huang



#### 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 a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. As a signatory we are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, conducting our work with transparency, accountability and integrity. 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](mailto: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.

# Accountability

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

## 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](mailto:complaints@anglicanoverseasaid.org.au) or call us for free from anywhere in Australia on 1800 249 880.

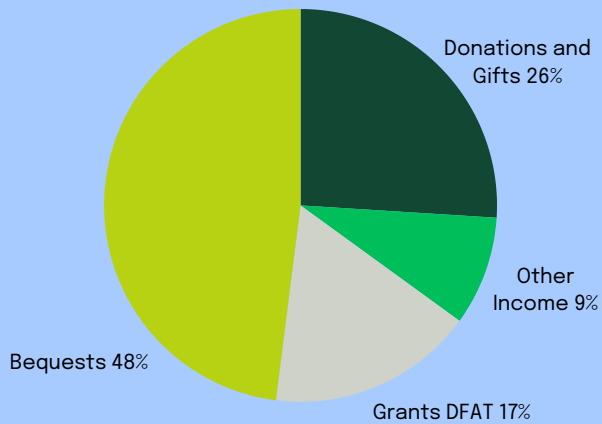
Calls from outside Australia can be made to +61 3 9495 6100.

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

During 2023-24 AOA received no complaints.

# Financials

Revenue (income) sources 2023/24



Expenditure (costs) sources 2023/24



We recorded a surplus of \$1,444,448 for Financial Year 2023-2024.

We are grateful to our supporters who continue to enable our organisation despite these uncertain times. AOA continues to work hard to manage costs and deliver as much to our international partners as possible.

Revenue was recorded at \$4.4m for the year, an increase of 57% over the prior year's \$2.8m. The increased income resulted from a generous bequest left to the organisation.

Donations from supporters rose by 19% and, as noted above, bequest income was significant at \$2.1m. We are grateful for the donations and bequests that help our international partners create sustainable, long-term impact. Bequest income enables AOA to guarantee commitments to existing projects and identify new projects that can be supported.

Total expenditure for the year was just over \$3m, up 6% on the previous year's \$2.8m. \$1.6m was directed to our international programs, representing 55% of total expenditure. Total expenditure on international programs, including \$1.6m in payments to our partners and the essential costs of supporting our high-quality program, accounted for 76% of our total expenditure. This investment ensures robust management and accountability, enabling us to deliver impactful and sustainable outcomes for communities in need.

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 direction. Inflationary pressures also impacted some expenditures.

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

# Statement of Income

The following financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code please refer to the ACFID website at [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au).

## Revenue

	FY2024 \$	FY2023 \$
Donations and gifts		
Monetary	1,144,860	1,012,120
Bequests and Legacies	2,098,061	240,636
Grants		
DFAT	773,079	772,155
Other Australian	225,607	240,473
International		451,971
Investment Income	133,303	82,066
Other Income	22,938	22,135
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>4,397,848</b>	<b>2,821,556</b>

## Expenditure

	FY2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>International Aid and Development Program Expenditure</b>		
International Programs		
Fund to international programs	1,646,693	1,629,951
Program support costs	717,136	761,152
Community education	252,671	134,913
Fundraising costs		
Public	239,034	144,324
Government, multilateral and private	27,720	20,640
Accountability and administration	204,966	125,756
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>3,088,221</b>	<b>2,816,736</b>

## Comprehensive Income

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses from continuing operations</b>	<b>1,309,627</b>	<b>4,820</b>
Project funds raised/ (used) for future disbursement	80,202	(19,658)
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,389,829</b>	<b>(14,838)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income/(loss)</b>		
Changes in the fair value of investments	54,619	89,429
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	<b>1,444,448</b>	<b>74,591</b>



# Balance Sheet

## Assets

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Current Assests</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,598,534	1,544,890
Trade and other receivables	45,973	777,444
Financial Assets	3,080,120	1,038,908
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>4,724,627</b>	<b>3,361,242</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>		
Property plant and equipment	13,278	4,852
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>13,278</b>	<b>4,852</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>4,737,905</b>	<b>3,366,094</b>

## LIABILITIES

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	58,556	96,869
Current tax liabilities	(27,628)	(11,410)
Other financial liabilities	718,631	797,783
Provisions for employee entitlements	114,601	53,555
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>864,160</b>	<b>936,797</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>864,160</b>	<b>936,797</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>3,873,745</b>	<b>2,429,297</b>

## Equity

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Retained earnings	3,148,807	1,704,359
Reserves - Restricted	724,938	724,938
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>3,873,745</b>	<b>2,429,297</b>

## Changes in Equity

	Retained Earnings	Unrestricted Reserves	Restricted Reserves	Total \$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2023</b>	<b>1,704,359</b>		<b>724,938</b>	<b>2,429,297</b>
Transfers from/to reserves				
Excess of revenue over expenses	<b>1,389,828</b>			<b>1,389,828</b>
Other comprehensive income for the year	<b>54,619</b>			<b>54,619</b>
<b>BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2024</b>	<b>3,148,807</b>		<b>724,938</b>	<b>3,873,745</b>



Ou is a part of a Community Initiative Development Group in Cambodia. Groups work with their community to identify, prioritise and over time address shared challenges faced by their community.

## Field Group Audit

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 2024.

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on that financial report in our report dated 21 October 2024.

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 2024 complies with the requirements of the Australian Council for International Development.

The Field Group – Audit  
Chirnside Park  
21 October 2024

Gavin Fraser  
Director

The Field Group Audit Pty Ltd  
ABN : 36 660 478 820  
info@fieldgroup.com.au

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Paul pictured with his son, is chairman of his community in the Solomon Islands. His community is participating in Financial Literacy and Community Based Disaster Risk Management training undertaken by the Anglican Church of Melanesia.