



Annual Report

2022



UnitingWorld
connecting communities for life

Year at a Glance



201,691
people reached



14 countries



31 projects



23 international partners



77,109 people supported to improve their livelihoods



2,505 people reached with gender equality programs



106,671

people reached with COVID-19 prevention and recovery



Support from
280
UCA
congregations



11,336

gifts from our generous supporters





3,330

people with a disability
supported through our programs



6,593

people supported in
disaster preparation and
emergency response



1,777

children accessed
education

164

teachers trained



38,183

people accessed
health and
hygiene services



6,930

people trained in
safeguarding and
protection





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

This page: Through gender equality theology, Rev Noa Turaganivalu says his life has changed in a way that now makes him proud as a husband, father and grandfather.



Welcome to the UnitingWorld Annual Report 2022. Explore the difference we've made together this year.

Thank you for being part of this amazing story. Happy reading!

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Board Chair's Report



Back in June 2021, as borders opened and lockdowns eased, many of us expected things to start stabilising. Our Strategic Plan for FY22–24 was created for a world focused on recovery after COVID-19. But that is not quite what happened. The very day after we signed off on the plan, news of the new Delta variant made headlines and Sydney was plunged back into lockdown.

Rather than recovery, FY22 has been another year of adapting and responding to waves of change of unprecedented intensity. It has challenged us and stretched our organisation and our partners like never before, teaching our staff and our partners important lessons in adaptability, resilience and communication.

However, the heart of our strategy remains true. We remain focused on supporting our partners to respond to the needs of their communities in ways that bring lasting change. The agility and responsiveness that we built into our strategic plan have proved valuable assets.

Our Board has not been immune to the waves of change either. I began the year in my new role as Chair, taking over from Dr Andrew Glenn. We also welcomed Andrew Johnson and Roger Bednall to the Board, who brought deep development experience from different parts of the sector. In March, we farewelled Warren Tapp whose valuable contribution we were sad to lose.

A significant project for the year was recruiting new Board members to add to our team. The Board's commitment to maintaining a strong mix of professional skills and a diversity of life experience guided our search, and we were very pleased to identify two strong candidates who were subsequently approved by the Assembly Standing Committee of the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) to join the Board in FY23. We look forward to working with Rev Viniana Ravetali and Rev Thresi Mauboy in the coming year.

I conclude my report to say that I will be finishing my time as the Board Chair. It has been a pleasure working alongside the Board to help make a world free of poverty, injustice and violence a reality. Thank you to my fellow Board members for your hard work, and thank you, our supporters and partners, for your unwavering commitment to God's mission. I move on with confidence knowing that UnitingWorld is in good hands.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Lin Hatfield Dodds'. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Lin Hatfield Dodds, BSc (Hons), MPsy, MAICD
Board Chair, UnitingWorld

National Director's Report

FY22 was not the year we planned, and I am glad that agility and responsiveness were at the core of our Strategic Plan. Far from the end of a crisis, we faced the Delta and Omicron waves of COVID-19, floods at home, a war in Europe and the global phenomenon of COVID-fatigue.

It is a testament to the resilience and resourcefulness of the people we work with that, despite the volatility of the context, we reached 201,691 people with tangible benefits, across 31 projects in 14 countries with 23 partners. Our projects addressed poverty, gender equality and climate resilience, and supported stronger governance and management. We leveraged our alliances with other church agencies, our partnership with the Australian Government and the faithful generosity of our supporters to make it all happen.

Our loyal and generous supporters remain crucial to our success. Despite the impacts of COVID-19 on their own lives, our donors have stood with us, funding our long-term programs, and digging deep to support the emergency appeal following the volcanic eruption in Tonga. And I am deeply grateful for the emails and letters of encouragement that they have sent our way – sweeter than nectar to my weary staff.

We have continued to offer the wisdom and insights from our partners back to our supporters and our church. We have preached in Uniting Church in Australia congregations, calling people deeper into God's work in the world. We have published inspiring stores of change. We have supported the ongoing connection between UCA leaders and diaspora communities with partner churches overseas.

We continued to receive significant funding through our partnership with the Australian Government. Our advocacy, undertaken through my membership of the ACFID Board, and through UnitingWorld's membership of Micah Australia, saw us part of successful campaigns to secure COVID-19 recovery funds for our region, to advocate for a compassionate response to those fleeing the fall of Afghanistan and to build good relationships with the incoming government.

Within our team, a few of our longstanding staff moved to new pastures, and some smart, passionate folks joined us, bringing energy and new ideas. We have reorganised our teams and introduced a new Head of Operations role. This strategic appointment will enable us to run a tight ship, and free up my time to face outward, building collaborations and connections for our future.

The COVID-19 world is tired. Two years of uncertainty, anxiety, relentless change and isolation have wreaked havoc on the mental health and resilience of most people; our staff, our partners' staff and our supporters are no exception. But we have learnt that when we look after our people, our people look after our mission. Creating opportunities for connection, being flexible with work hours, supporting wellbeing, rediscovering joy in our work, and nurturing our relationships with partners, supporters and each other have been core priorities for me.

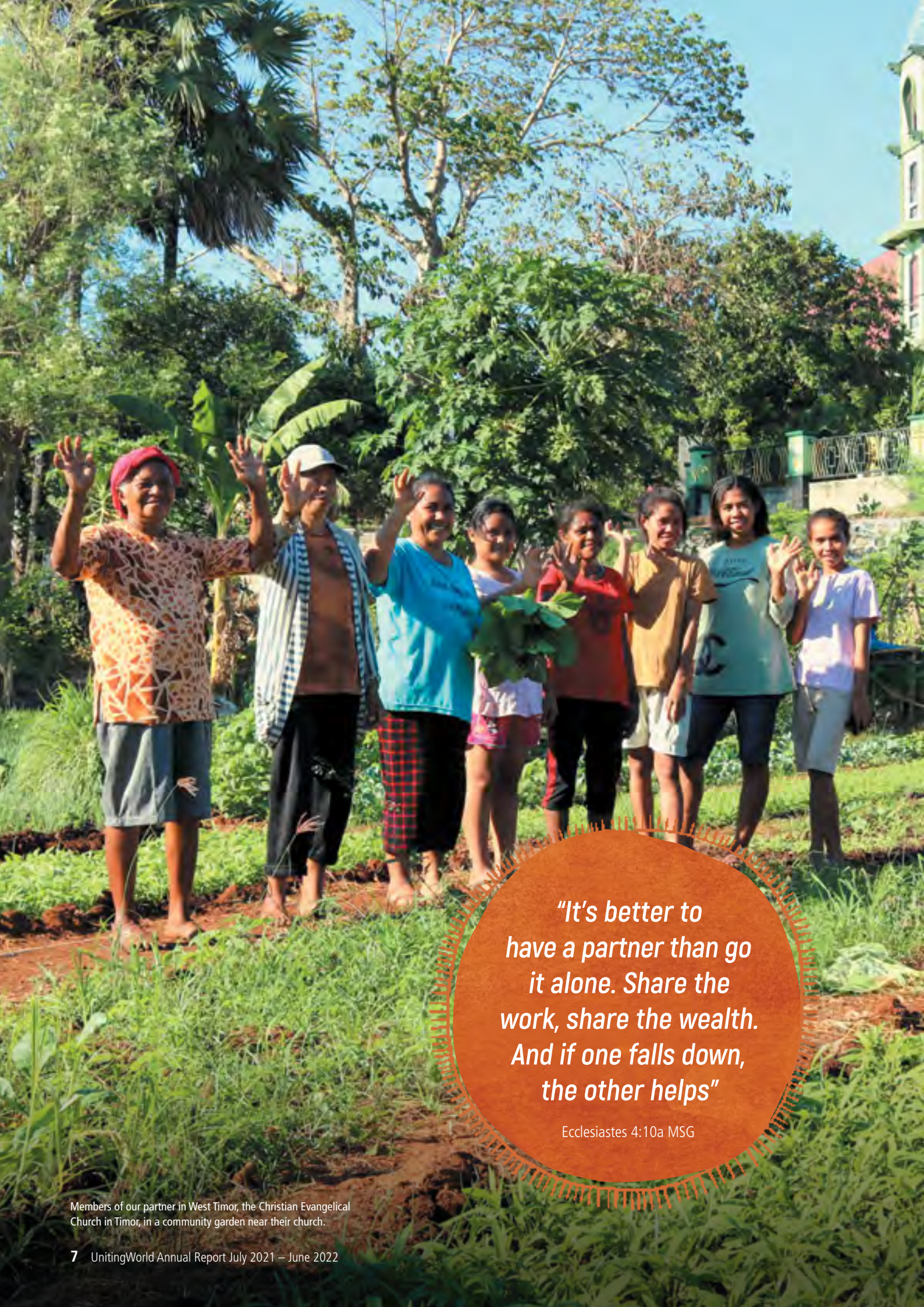
The world is not what it was, the future looks very different to the past, and there is no silver bullet to ready us for it. We must take time to heal and recover strength. We must renew personal connections with partners and donors. We must rebuild systems weakened by crisis. We must grow our network of collaborators, co-investors, donors and partners. We must ready ourselves to take the opportunities that come our way.

However, at our core, we are defined by our relationships. We are what you make us. I hope you will journey with us as we chart the road ahead.



Sureka Goringe, BA(Hons), PhD
National Director, UnitingWorld





*"It's better to
have a partner than go
it alone. Share the
work, share the wealth.
And if one falls down,
the other helps"*

Ecclesiastes 4:10a MSG

Members of our partner in West Timor, the Christian Evangelical Church in Timor, in a community garden near their church.

Who We Are

UnitingWorld is the international aid and partnerships agency of the Uniting Church in Australia.

We are a channel for connecting Australian people to God's work in the wider world, collaborating with the global church to address the causes and consequences of poverty, injustice and violence.

We are motivated by the belief that every person is beloved by God and invited to a life in all its fullness.

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



OUR VISION

Honouring God through global relationships which bring **justice** and **hope**.

.....▶.....



OUR MISSION

mandated by the Uniting Church in Australia

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

.....▶.....



OUR CHARITABLE PURPOSE

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

How We Work

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

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

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

We contribute our capacity as an accredited development agency to help fulfil their vision. While our partners initiate and implement the programs, we offer technical expertise, translating sustainable community development principles through the lens of our Christian faith, and providing the funding and governance to maximise their effectiveness.

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

Relationship

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

Partners working together: Steph Dalton and Sureka Goringe from UnitingWorld, Olivia Baro and Rev Siera Bird from the Pacific Conference of Churches and Bairenga Kirabuki from Kiribati Uniting Church.



Integrity

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

Mutual Respect

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

Our Values

Our work is infused with our values, shaping what we do and how we do it.

Fullness of Life

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

Inclusion

We actively seek equality for all, ensuring no discrimination due to age, culture, gender, disability, race, religion, sexual orientation or social or political affiliation. We create space for all to contribute, and open opportunities for all to grow.

Innovation

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

Sustainability

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

Our Programs

All of our projects address one or more of our five program themes. These themes have emerged from our partners' priorities and UnitingWorld's expertise.

AFGHANISTAN

INDIA

Durgapur, Eastern Himalayas, Amritsar

SOUTH SUDAN

SRI LANKA

INDONESIA

Bali, Maluku, West Timor, West Papua

TIMOR-LESTE



23
partners



31
projects



14
countries



201,691
people impacted



Emergency Response

Emergency response projects provide urgent assistance to people whose lives or livelihoods are threatened by disasters such as cyclones or the COVID-19 pandemic (more on pages 15-16).

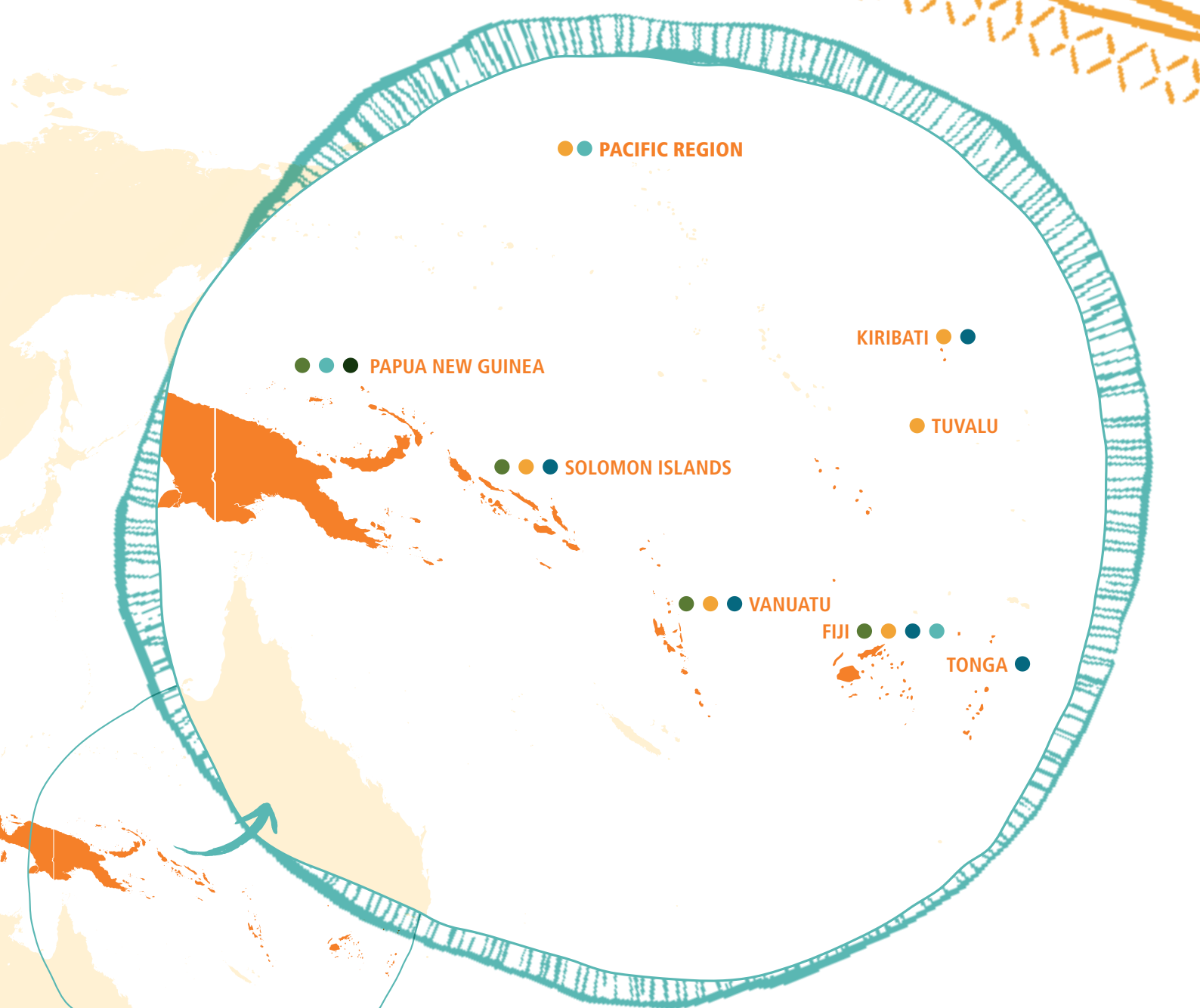
People reached: **58,554**
Projects: **6**
Countries: **6**



Gender Equality

Gender equality projects challenge churches and communities to value and empower women as equals and transform communities into places where they are safe from violence (more on pages 17-18).

People reached: **21,829**
Projects: **3**
Countries: **5**



● Poverty Alleviation

Poverty alleviation projects seek to remove the barriers that stop people from living life to the full. They give them tools to break the poverty cycle, access greater opportunities and speak up for their rights (more on pages 19-20).

People reached: **104,330**
Projects: **12**
Countries: **5**



● Strong Leadership

Leadership projects train leaders and strengthen the governance of organisations to help them protect the vulnerable and improve effectiveness, sustainability and accountability (more on pages 21-22).

People reached: **14,987**
Projects: **6**
Countries: **4**



● Climate Resilience

Climate resilience projects equip church leaders and communities to prepare for environmental disasters in practical, spiritual and pastoral ways (more on pages 23-24).

People reached: **1,991**
Projects: **3**
Countries: **4**

Our Partners and Projects

UnitingWorld's partners are resilient change-makers who inspire us with their faithfulness and joy. They continue to adapt and innovate during difficult times and see people's lives transformed in their communities.

This year, our partners included 18 churches and church agencies, the Pacific Conference of Churches, Solomon Islands Christian Association, ACT Alliance, Micah Australia and Pacific Theological College.

Africa

South Sudan

Presbyterian Church of South Sudan
Peacebuilding and Emergency Response

Zimbabwe

Methodist Church in Zimbabwe
Safety and Inclusion

South Asia

India

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

Church of North India – Diocese of Durgapur
Empowerment of Excluded Castes

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

Sri Lanka

Methodist Church of Sri Lanka
Empowering People with Disabilities

Afghanistan

ACT Alliance
Afghanistan Emergency Response

South East Asia

Indonesia

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

Protestant Christian Church in Bali
Poverty Alleviation
COVID-19 Response

Protestant Church in Maluku
Livelihoods and Peacebuilding

Christian Evangelical Church in Timor
Livelihoods and Microfinance

Timor-Leste

Protestant Church in East Timor
Community Health

A family visited by our partner church staff in Timor-Leste as part of their outreach work providing community health and nutrition education.





Pacific

Fiji

Methodist Church in Fiji

Cyclone Yasa Emergency Response
Safe n Redi
Disaster Ready
Disaster Recovery Chaplaincy Network
Gender Equality Theology

Kiribati

Kiribati Uniting Church

COVID-19 Response
Gender Equality Theology

Papua New Guinea

United Church of Papua New Guinea

Church Partnerships for Community Service
Safe Water for Remote Communities
Disaster Ready
COVID-19 Response

Solomon Islands

Solomon Islands Christian Association

Safe Churches
Gender Equality Theology
Disaster Ready

United Church in the Solomon Islands

COVID-19 Response
Gender Equality Theology

Tonga

Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga

Volcano Emergency Response

Tuvalu

Tuvalu Christian Church

Gender Equality Theology
COVID-19 Response

Vanuatu

Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu

COVID-19 Response
Gender Equality Theology
Safe n Redi
Disaster Ready

Pacific Regional Projects

Pacific Theological College

Women in Ministry

Pacific Conference of Churches

Accreditation for DFAT Funding

Micah Australia

Regional Young Leaders Summit

UnitingWorld, on behalf of the Uniting Church, maintains relationships with many churches with whom we did not do projects in FY22. They nevertheless remain an important part of our global network and contribute to the wider conversations that fuel our learning and strategy. These partners include:

China Christian Council, Cook Islands Christian Church, the Church of South India, the Presbyterian Church of India, Christian Evangelical Church in Minahasa, Evangelical Christian Church in Halmahera, Indonesian Christian Church – Java, the United Church of Christ in Japan, Korean Christian Church in Japan, Korean Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church of Korea, Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea, the Supreme Council of the Evangelical

Churches in Syria and Lebanon, National Evangelical Church of Beirut, Nauru Congregational Church, Methodist Church of New Zealand, Christian Church of Niue, United Church of Christ in the Philippines, the Philippines Central Conference of the United Methodist Church, Methodist Church in Samoa, Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and Church of Christ in Thailand.



Emergency Response

While most of our work focuses on sustainable community development, when disasters strike, we and our partners want to assist however we can. Basics like food, water, shelter and healthcare, and psychosocial support through chaplaincy can get people through the worst of a crisis and allow them to rebuild their lives.

People who are already suffering the effects of poverty are especially vulnerable to disasters. Our partners are typically part of affected communities themselves and can use existing projects to deliver aid and crisis support. This past year, in addition to continuing COVID-19 response work in existing projects, we were able to stand with our partners in Tonga and Bali as they responded to the urgent needs of their communities. UnitingWorld supported an urgent appeal from the ACT Alliance to provide emergency assistance in Afghanistan after the fall of Kabul.

Responding to the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano and tsunami

Rev. Felekoni Vaipulu, Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga

I was one of those pastors that the Free Wesleyan Church sent to visit and help the people of Nomuka Island the next day after the tsunami. We got to Nomuka during daylight, it was a beautiful sunny day. You could see from afar that the whole Island was covered in ash, it's something new because the green leaves of the trees always bring out the beauty of nature on Nomuka Island.

I was shocked to see the destruction that happened there because in Tongatapu the harsh damage mostly happened to the villages along the coast. But in Nomuka, many houses were destroyed, not only on the coast but also inland also.

I felt compassion towards the families and the people of Nomuka. You can tell from the reaction, even though the tsunami has passed, but on their faces, we can tell the fear and anxiety is still within them.

We took food, drinking water, clothes and blankets with us to give to the people of Nomuka. We also had a chance to talk one to one with men and women to help them psychologically. From each session, I was able to indicate that the people felt insecure because of the incident that happened. We were able to help in cleaning the island, demolishing damaged houses and washing off the ashes from cars and roofs of the houses that weren't destroyed.

In the aftermath of the disaster, our partners visited eight villages in the hardest-hit areas across Tongatapu and Ha'apai islands to provide emergency supplies and disaster chaplaincy.

Funds raised are also helping communities rebuild boats that were destroyed and providing tools and building materials, as well as providing livelihood opportunities and ongoing psychosocial support by trained disaster chaplains.



COVID-19 response in Bali

In FY22, *Maha Bhoga Marga (MBM)*, the social service agency of our partner church in Bali helped support the sub-national health response to COVID-19 by improving knowledge about COVID-19, promoting the uptake of vaccines and strengthening community resilience with psychosocial support and mental health referrals, as well as livelihood support for those who were severely impacted by the economic downturn.

MBM reached 15,262 people in rural communities in Bali with funding from the Australian Government through the Australian Humanitarian Program (AHP) in partnership with Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO).

This project is supported by the Australian Government through AHP via CAN DO.



58,554 people reached



351
disaster chaplains trained



3,740
received counselling from disaster chaplains



7,296 people able to access vaccination against COVID-19



21,601 items of personal protective equipment supplied

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ADDRESSED BY THIS WORK:



In the days after the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano and tsunami devastated communities, our partners the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga delivered urgent aid, shelter and psychosocial support to affected people.



Gender Equality

In the Pacific, rates of violence are among the highest in the world. Women's voices are often excluded in decision-making, reinforcing power imbalances in society, as well as attitudes that contribute to gender-based violence.

We've been supporting our partners in Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati and the Solomon Islands to lead a dialogue in Gender Equality Theology to shift community norms that allow or excuse family violence. Along the way, they are inspiring men and women leaders to be champions of equality. We also support Pacific women to study theology and seek ordination, equipping them for leadership in the Church and community.

Training champions of equality and anti-violence

Methodist Church in Fiji Circuit Minister, Rev Uluilakeba Ligoraki, was one of 26 leaders who attended a workshop on Gender Equality Theology, run by the church in partnership with UnitingWorld.

He found the training confronting, challenging his whole perspective about gender and what the Bible has to say about positive human relationships.

"I used to have the perspective of male-dominant rule in the family, and issues of gender were confronting to me, but after the workshop my perspective of seeing things changed," said Rev Ligoraki.

"It drastically changed my thoughts and behaviour. Before, I used to see household chores as female work but now my wife is happy to see me helping her out in washing the dishes, ironing my children's uniforms in the morning, cooking and other little tasks. My wife has spoken to me about the changes that she has seen in my life, and [that] she is happy about it. I really thank God for that."

This change of perspective has also become a part of his preaching and work as a Circuit Minister.

Methodist Church in Fiji Gender Equality Theology (GET) Minister, Rev Noa Turaganivalu presents Circuit Minister Rev Uluilakeba Ligoraki with his GET Advocate and Trainer certificate.



"I now view violence against women as one of the most important issues to address especially in the church. I am doing it through preaching, teaching and talanoa sessions," Rev Ligoraki said.

"Women in the church have now positively voiced out their opinions and men are willing to accept to hear from them in a respectable manner. That wasn't the norm before in the circuit that I now serve."

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ADDRESSED BY THIS WORK:





21,829 people reached



1,784 women received training for income generation and business development



7,375

people targeted with protection, inclusion and gender equality messages



2,505

participants in sessions on Gender Equality Theology



1,971

women and girls received financial services or loans



62 women supported to assume leadership roles in the Pacific and Southeast Asia

"My hope is to strengthen women in ecumenical and interfaith dialogues at the community level. My dream is to hold a leadership position within the church so it sets a pathway for more women coming into ministry."

When UnitingWorld-supported scholar, Rev Geraldine, graduates with her PhD, she will be one of the most qualified Biblical Studies theologians in the Methodist Church in Fiji.



Poverty Alleviation

The COVID-19 crisis saw the number of people in poverty increase for the first time in a generation. Now, rising inflation and the impacts of the war in Ukraine mean the global goal to end extreme poverty by 2030 is becoming further and further out of reach. There's so much work to do to get back on track.

When people have access to education, health care, clean water, financial services, and income opportunities, it can break the cycle of poverty. We work with our overseas partners to address the complex dimensions of poverty, also equipping people to speak up for their rights and get involved in local leadership.

Getting help to people impacted by COVID-19

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Bali, tourism stopped, devastating the economy. People like Slamet, a chef who had regular work, suddenly found themselves struggling to make ends meet.


"During the COVID-19 pandemic, my usual income decreased a lot," said Slamet.

"I took any job opportunities I could to meet my family's basic needs: cleaning, labouring, planting vegetables... In the beginning, I used my savings to survive and meet basic family needs. But then the situation was so long and hard for us. I never imagined the pandemic would take so long."

Many other hospitality workers like Slamet faced the same uncertain future as the economic and health crisis continued.

That's why *Maha Bhoga Marga* (MBM), the social service agency of our partner church in Bali, provided chickens and feed to people like Slamet severely impacted by COVID-19 to give them a sustainable income and a hopeful future.

"We received training in March 2022, and I received the chickens in April. I learned not only how to do chicken farming but also how to sell the chickens and earn an income," said Slamet.



After Slamet lost his job, our partners helped him generate a sustainable income through a successful chicken venture!

"In August 2022 I already have two times what I received; around 200 chickens!

"I was really happy with this assistance because it really helped my family to survive during difficulties we faced."

Slamet says he now plans to keep going with the business.

"I am happy to continue this business ... I think it is not so difficult and fits with the limited land I have around my house."

This project impacted the lives of 67,680 people like Slamet.

Supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program.

"I was really happy with this assistance because it really helped my family to survive during difficulties we faced."



104,330 people reached



55,911

people with improved access to sufficient food



5,930

people provided with financial services or loans



3,049

people with increased incomes



2,942

people received skills training for income generation and business development



2,160

people received training on government policies and support for community issues



96

community groups making decisions addressing community issues

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ADDRESSED BY THIS WORK:



Strong Leadership

Skilled leaders and effective organisations are key to combating poverty, inequality and injustice. We support our partner organisations to build leadership capacity and strengthen governance and financial management practices.

With your help, we support our partner churches on the ground to safeguard their communities, improve accountability and be equipped to create meaningful and lasting change in the wider community.

A safer, more inclusive church in Zimbabwe

Over the last three years, UnitingWorld has been supporting the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe (MCZ) to become a safer and more inclusive church through the development of gender, safeguarding, prevention of anti-human trafficking and disability inclusion policies, as well as the preaching manuals and training needed to put these policies into practice.

Liniah, a local preacher, is one of the participants supported by this project.

"In 2019, I was invited by the church for a preachers' workshop where we received knowledge on different issues including disability inclusion and human trafficking. It was during this workshop that I realised that I had not been imparting my word fully to the people of God as I was ignorant of the differences that define people.

"The training was my turning point, I prayed to God to give me wisdom and guide me in my sermons. I was now aware that disability inclusion was an important issue that should be talked about in the church. Christianity teaches that all human beings are created in the image of God and all people are equal (James 2:1–9 and Gen 1:26–27). Now, whenever I preach, I share a message of disability inclusion, I encourage the congregants to ensure that people with disability should not be discriminated against and should also enjoy all human rights such as education, employment and worship. I also encourage the church leaders to help in making our church buildings disability friendly.

"I now enjoy my sermons as I feel that I am imparting the word of God to everyone without leaving anyone behind. I continue to pray to God to guide me in my sermons and all other preachers in our church as well as outside.

This project reached 500 people, helping equip the church and its leaders to combat poverty, inequality and injustice.

Tariro is one of our Project Managers with the Methodist Church of Zimbabwe, helping to build a safer and more inclusive church.



 **14,987** people reached

 **4** church partners supported to complete an organisational effectiveness review



Participants in a preachers workshop in Zimbabwe

 **834** people participated in training to improve gender equality, disability and social inclusion in programs and services

 **7,375** people targeted with messaging on protection, inclusion and gender equality

 **3** national church denominations adopted safeguarding policies

 **6,930** people participated in safeguarding sessions



Our partners used COVID-19 lockdowns to take the safeguarding and protection work introduced in our projects to their wider church ministries. It has been great to hear of the development of Biblical teaching and practical policies being rolled out by our partner churches across their congregations, schools and other ministries.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ADDRESSED BY THIS WORK:



Climate Resilience

The climate is changing, and climate resilience has never been more crucial. Across the Pacific and beyond, we are hearing an urgent and heartfelt message from our partners: climate change is destroying their lives and livelihoods.

That's why with your help we are working with the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) to prepare communities to withstand chronic environmental degradation, more frequent disasters, and to plan for smart and effective recovery.

Getting clean water to Tongan families

In Tonga, regular and severe weather events have made access to clean water a challenge for many. For those living in remote communities, water security is even harder, with some people having to walk more than a kilometre to collect water every day. Most cannot afford a water tank and are forced to pay for bottled water if there isn't a suitable source of water nearby. People with disabilities are disproportionately affected.

The impacts of Tropical Cyclone Harold, which hit Tonga in April 2020, made the issue even more important.

Through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership's COVID-19 response and with the help of UnitingWorld partner, the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, 20 new water tanks were installed across Tongatapu, the country's main island, in 2021. This life-changing work was carried out as part of the part of the CAN DO.

In Halamaui, one family has been using the project to help care for a 37-year-old man with paralysis. The installation of a water tank means they can now care for him more easily, no longer having to travel long distances for water.

"It is a big improvement and all are welcome to use this water tank," one of the family members said.

A large communal tank at their local church, replacing one destroyed by fire, is also supporting the broader community.

"It's a great relief for the people of the congregation and this community," a community member said.

"When the water tank was destroyed, we walked further to get water. Today we feel much better, though we still need more tanks, this 10,000 litre tank is a great help. It is a huge improvement for the families in Halamaui."

Of the 20 water tanks provided to Tongan communities, eight were 10,000 litre tanks intended for communal buildings like churches and schools, and twelve were 5,000 litre tanks for households. UnitingWorld partners on the ground carefully chose which families and communities would benefit the most, prioritising those affected by disability, extreme hardship and Tropical Cyclone Harold.

Through this project, more than 1,000 people in Tonga now have access to clean water and hygiene through water tanks, supporting COVID-19 prevention measures, as well as improving their quality of life.

Story via the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP)
This project is supported by the Australian Government through the AHP via CAN DO.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ADDRESSED BY THIS WORK:





2,077

people participated in sessions about disaster preparedness



7,986

people adopted improved agricultural practices, including for climate resilience



26,045

people participated in sessions on sanitation, health and hygiene



351

disaster response chaplains trained



105

people trained to lead post-disaster community peacebuilding

Community members in Halamaui, Tonga, install a water tank at a church building. The installation means that several households reduce the time taken to walk to collect water. Photo by Rev Moses Holi.



Learning and Growing

Adapting to COVID-19 and other crises

Much of this year was spent continuing to adapt to COVID-19 prevalence and restrictions both in Australia and in the communities our partners work in. As with the previous year, the impact of COVID-19 demonstrated the agility of partners to adapt project implementation in response to changes in context.

Projects were also impacted by things like the political crisis in Sri Lanka and the Solomon Islands, and elections in Zimbabwe and Papua New Guinea. We expect the increased frequency and intensity of disasters and changed weather patterns will continue to compromise project implementation.

We and our partners have accepted that these risks may derail projects mid-cycle, and with the lessons learned from COVID-19, we feel better positioned to support partners to pivot to respond to crises in their project communities.

Our partners leading by listening

Having previously surveyed staff to understand their comprehension and attitudes to Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion, *Tanaoba Lais Manekat* (TLM), an agency of our church partner in West Timor, wanted to go further, to hear directly from program participants.

In February 2022, TLM hosted a series of focus group discussions for a diverse range of program participants across four regions. 40 people attended the discussions, including men and women identified as poor, nine women with disabilities, two men with disabilities, three LGBTQI people, six people living with HIV and AIDS and seven women pastors.

The focus group participants took the opportunity to give valuable feedback and propose activities that would best help them access programs and make the most of education and economic opportunities.

The LGBTQI participants suggested that TLM could be a valuable partner for their marginalised community in West Timor, not only to support them with vocational training but help be a valuable connection to the wider society and help end discrimination.

TLM is incorporating what they've learned from the focus groups into an action plan and project design for the next three years.



One of the focus groups hosted by our partner TLM.

Driving local ownership through our partnership model

A recent Master's project done by a staff member researched how donor-led compliance requirements play out in the relationship between an international NGO and a local civil society partner, using UnitingWorld's experience in supporting the adoption of safeguarding standards.

The research found that a relational approach, that used a values-based dialogue to frame the conversation, a theological approach to articulate the issues, enough time for internal champions to emerge, and created space for collaboration with other churches, is highly effective in creating a strong sense of ownership and a high degree of contextualisation in addressing these challenging social/cultural subjects. However, external regulatory pressure did provide a useful platform for internal change agents to advocate for issues that matter to them.

In Kiribati, it was the Women's Fellowship (RAK), and the Mission Secretary, a respected female leader in the Kiribati Uniting Church that championed the development of their Safeguarding policy. Realising that the mere idea of such a policy made it possible for them to discuss issues that had been previously unmentionable, they became champions. When they finally got the policy passed by their church's national leadership, we asked them if they experienced any push back from people who thought this was a cultural imposition from Australia. They laughed, and said 'we didn't tell them it was anything to do with you'.

Kiribati Uniting Church women hold up a copy of Rev Siera Bird's 'Child Protection and Care' Bible study at a safeguarding workshop.

Evaluations

Six partners completed an organisational assessment with an external accounting firm and are using the recommendations from their reports to improve their operations.

The following four projects had external evaluations conducted as they completed their current phase.

- Gender Theology Equality – Institutional Transformation Program across Fiji, Vanuatu, Kiribati and the Solomon Islands.
- Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations – Theology of Disaster Resilience in a Changing Climate Program across Fiji, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands
- Empowering People with Disabilities in Sri Lanka through Deaf Link, the Methodist Church in Sri Lanka
- Safe Water in Papua New Guinea through the United Church in Papua New Guinea

Evaluations found that while project implementation was disrupted by COVID-19 and lockdowns, these projects were all still able to achieve results. Projects were found to be relevant in the issues they were targeting and approaches taken. The studies suggested that more targeted data collection will help to demonstrate the extent to which outcomes are being achieved.



Our Place in the Development Sector



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

UnitingWorld is registered as a Charity and a Public Benevolent Institution by the ACNC. Our annual information statement to the ACNC appears on their website, and we comply with the ACNC's External Conduct Standards for agencies sending funds overseas. www.acnc.gov.au



ACFID Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)

UnitingWorld is a member of ACFID and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. We review our compliance each year against the Code which sets the standard for how we are governed and managed, how we communicate with the public and how our funds are used. Our National Director, Sureka Goringe, was elected by ACFID members to serve on the Board of ACFID from 2021–2023.

Our Summary Financial Reports have been prepared to meet the requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code, please see the ACFID website. www.acfid.asn.au



Church Agencies Network (CAN)

CAN is a group of twelve aid agencies established by the major Australian Christian denominations, who are a community of practice collaborating for greater impact.

The Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) is made up of eight CAN members that act as a consortium to enhance community resilience to disaster and conflict. CAN DO is a member of the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP), a partnership between the Australian Government and Australian NGOs. AHP funds members to respond to emergencies and focuses on disaster response and disaster preparedness. In FY22, UnitingWorld National Director Sureka Goringe served as Chair of the CAN CEOs group.

www.churchagenciesnetwork.org.au

actalliance ACT Alliance

We are a member of ACT Alliance, a global coalition of relief and development agencies working in over 140 countries. ACT Alliance is affiliated with the World Council of Churches. Our membership expands our capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies outside our direct church partnerships as well as grow our expertise through the global network.

www.actalliance.org

Australian Aid Australian Aid

We are fully accredited with the Australian Government as part of the Australian Aid Program. Each year we gratefully receive funding from the Australian Government, as described in this report.

www.dfat.gov.au



Micah Australia

We are a member of Micah, a Christian advocacy organisation seeking to influence the Australian people and government in support of global social justice. We hold this membership on behalf of the Uniting Church and use it to join the voices of our supporters to those of like-minded Christians across the country.

www.micahaustralia.org



Uniting Church in Australia (UCA)

We are an agency of the the UCA. UnitingWorld and our Board are overseen by our parent body, the National Assembly of the UCA.

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

Our full complaints and incident handling policy appears on our website. We will accept reports in any format from anyone, including anonymously. To provide feedback, lodge a complaint or discuss ways to lodge a report, please email complaints@unitingworld.org.au or phone +61 1800 998 122 or 0466 226 170.

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

UnitingWorld National Director Sureka Goringe is serving on the Board of ACFID from 2021–2023.



Partnering with the Australian Government

Our partnership with the Australian Government is more vital than ever in helping us respond to our partners' needs.

We engage with the government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) to access Australian Aid funds.

In FY22, we received \$927,236 through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). We matched this with \$259,169 provided by our donors. These funds supported six projects, directly impacting 88,624 people. We also participated in a DFAT review of the ANCP program and we look forward to the results and recommendations. We are deeply grateful for the flexibility and responsiveness of this aspect of our partnership with DFAT.

We also received \$907,416 from the Australian Government's Church Partnership Program in Papua New Guinea which continues on for its 18th year.

Through membership of CAN DO, we also access emergency relief funding via the Australia Humanitarian Program. In FY22, we received \$638,723 for eight projects.

Our growing relationship with DFAT's Office of the Pacific has seen us receive a \$75,000 grant to support Pacific Conference of Churches to become accredited to receive DFAT funding directly, and a grant of \$218,136 to support a delegation of young emerging leaders from the Pacific join a delegation to the Australian parliament in November 2022. We have also worked closely with the Office of the Pacific to help set up the Pacific Church Partners Advisory Network, a community of church leaders across all denominations from the Pacific and Australia. This forum provides a space for dialogue on critical issues, and it also acts as policy consultation for DFAT.

We are also pleased to provide an NGO representative to the Committee for Development Cooperation – the joint DFAT/NGO advisory and consultative body made up of members from the Australian NGO community and the Department.

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

COVID-19 vaccinations were encouraged by our Bali church partner's social services agency, MBM.



UnitingWorld's Dr Debora with program participants in Timor-Leste.



Our Finances

As for most organisations, the 2022 financial year was not without its challenges. While the year ended with a strong surplus of \$1.3M, there were several significant factors underlying this figure.

Australian Government (DFAT) grants remain critical to us, making up over a third of our income. In addition to our Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and Papua New Guinea Church Partnership Program grants, a number of COVID-19 response grants continued on from FY21, and we received a significant new grant for COVID-19 response work in Bali.

Supporter income was strong overall. Fundraising for development projects was lower than hoped for but was offset by very generous giving towards the Tonga volcano and tsunami response. Campaigns for sustainable development faced strong competition from multiple emergency appeals such as the New South Wales floods, and the Afghanistan and Ukraine crises which diverted donor attention. Nevertheless, the loyalty of UnitingWorld's supporter base was evident in the total figure for the year.

Income from other sources was a mixed affair. Sale of a property asset above book value brought in around \$1.6M of additional revenue. However, while our investments yielded \$1.1M in distributions, the downturn in the markets towards the end of the year resulted in an unrealised loss of \$1.5M. The \$1.3M net surplus in total comprehensive income can be mostly attributed to these three figures. Operating expenditure was managed effectively to stay in line with donor income.

In FY21, the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) Assembly Standing Committee requested assistance from UnitingWorld to pay redress claims arising from historical incidents of abuse dating from before the formation of the UCA. While UnitingWorld has no direct liability linking it to the claims, we are in possession of some historic assets received from the UCA, unconnected to donor fundraising. Considering the close relationship between UnitingWorld and the UCA National Assembly, and the moral obligation of the UCA to recompense survivors, the UnitingWorld Board resolved to support the National Assembly's redress payments using these untied assets. In FY22, in response to a further request by the UCA Assembly Standing Committee based on updated actuarial assessments, the UnitingWorld Board made an additional provision of \$300K towards the redress payments, shown in the 'Other Expenditure' line. The sale of the property was undertaken to finance this.

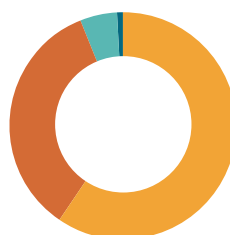
The balance sheet is largely comparable to previous years. Restricted reserves are made up of Bequeathed trust funds (\$1.8M), Endowment funds (\$2.4M) and Specific funds (just below \$5M). Bequeathed trust funds are where UnitingWorld is a trustee to a bequest and administers the funds, but the funds are not available for UnitingWorld programs. Endowment funds are donations that must be invested, and the income used for programs. Specific funds are donations set aside exclusively for UnitingWorld programming. Unrestricted reserves include historic property assets received from the UCA for the work of the agency, the income generated from these properties and other income set aside for the operations of the Agency.

UnitingWorld raises public donations in the year ahead of making funding commitments to partners, to reduce risks and provide certainty for our programs. Thus, at the end of each financial year, we hold in hand most of the public donor funds that we will allocate to our projects for the next financial year.

All ratios and charts are based on the financials presented on pages 30-32.

Full audited statements for the year ended 30 June 2022 are available from info@unitingworld.org.au.

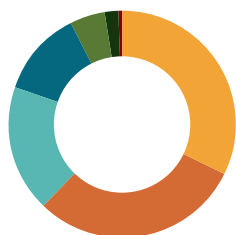
Where we work*



- 60% Pacific
- 35% Asia
- 5% Africa
- 1% Cross Region



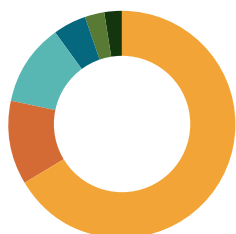
Our funds came from*



- 32% DFAT Grants
- 30% Donations
- 18% Other Income
- 12% Investment Income**
- 5% Bequests & Legacies
- 2% Assembly Allocation
- 0.3% Other Grants

** Chart includes distributions from investments but not the unrealised income for FY22.

Our funds went to*



- 67% International Aid and Development Programs
- 12% Accountability & Administration
- 12% Fundraising Costs
- 5% Other Expenditure
- 3% Community Education
- 3% International aid that includes welfare services

*Chart totals do not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Statement of Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

	30 JUNE 2022	30 JUNE 2021
Revenue		
Donations and Gifts	\$	\$
Monetary (Deductible Gift Recipients)	2,712,158	2,321,852
Monetary (Non-deductible Gift Recipients)	–	48,617
Total Donations and Gifts	2,712,158	2,370,469
Grants		
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	2,917,237	3,098,545
Assembly Allocation	200,000	195,000
Other Grants	24,541	14,631
Bequests and Legacies	431,251	836,256
Investment Income – Interest, distributions and rent	1,122,594	758,269
Investment Income – Unrealised (loss) / gain	(1,543,144)	247,318
Other Income	1,634,177	243,704
Total Revenue	7,498,814	7,764,192

Expenditure

Programs Expenditure		
International Program Expenditure	3,167,559	3,056,428
Program Support Costs	1,124,105	1,067,021
Community Education	158,341	153,468
Total Program Expenditure	4,450,005	4,276,917
Fundraising Costs – Public	728,228	867,919
Accountability and Administration	731,170	669,738
Other Expenditure	300,000	1,425,000
Total Expenditure	6,209,403	7,239,574
Operating Surplus	1,289,411	524,618
Finance Costs	20,985	22,988
Net Surplus	1,268,427	501,630
Other Comprehensive Income	–	–
Total Comprehensive Income	1,268,427	501,630

Our Finances continued

Statement of Financial Position AS AT 30 JUNE 2022

	30 JUNE 2022	30 JUNE 2021
Assets		
Current Assets	\$	\$
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4,640,894	4,310,424
Term Deposits	712,236	1,938,609
Trade and Other Receivables	822,920	194,894
Assets held for sale	–	688,661
Other Assets	42,694	124,498
Total Current Assets	6,218,744	7,257,086
Non-current Assets		
Financial Assets	9,273,857	8,336,540
Property, Plant and Equipment	1,453,395	1,491,263
Lease – Right-of-Use Assets	760,569	866,116
Total Non-current Assets	11,487,821	10,693,919
Total Assets	17,706,565	17,951,005
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade and Other Payables	235,665	1,314,663
Contract Liabilities	282,231	715,396
Provisions	976,677	886,723
Lease Liabilities	95,935	88,903
Total Current Liabilities	1,590,508	3,005,685
Non-current Liabilities		
Provisions	53,669	55,425
Lease Liabilities	704,392	800,326
Total Non-current Liabilities	758,061	855,751
Total Liabilities	2,348,569	3,861,436
Net Assets	15,357,996	14,089,569
Equity		
Unrestricted Reserves	6,230,925	5,713,871
Restricted Reserves	9,127,071	8,375,698
Total Equity	15,357,996	14,089,569

Statement of Profit or Loss and other Comprehensive Income FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022

Showing development and non-development as required by ACFID

	30 JUNE 2022	30 JUNE 2021
Revenue		
Donations and Gifts	\$	\$
To international aid and development programs	2,576,767	2,113,507
To International aid that includes welfare services*	135,391	256,963
Bequests and Legacies	431,251	836,256
Grants		
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	2,917,237	3,098,545
Assembly Allocations	200,000	195,000
Other	24,541	14,631
Other Income	1,634,177	—
Investment Income	(420,550)	1,005,587
Reimbursements from other Australian agencies and Government COVID-19 assistance (JobKeeper/Cash Flow Boost)	—	243,703
Total Revenue	7,498,814	7,764,192
Expenditure		
Programs Expenditure		
International aid and development programs	3,052,303	2,952,053
International political/religious adherence promotion programs	—	—
International aid that includes welfare services*	115,256	134,735
Program Support	1,124,105	1,036,661
Community Education	158,341	153,468
Total Program Expenditure	4,450,005	4,276,917
Fundraising Costs – Public**	728,228	867,919
Accountability and Administration**	731,170	669,738
Other Expenditure**	300,000	1,425,000
Total Expenditure	6,209,403	7,239,574
Surplus/(Deficit)	1,289,411	524,618
Finance Costs	20,985	22,988
Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss)	1,268,427	501,630

In October 2020, UnitingWorld started operating as a charity with Public Benevolent status, making all donations post 1 Oct 2020 tax-deductible. Consequently, these accounts show both income and expenditure delineated as international aid and development (for programs that fall entirely within the DFAT definition of Development) separately from aid activities that include welfare services as well as development.

*Development activities that meet the DFAT definition of welfare

**Fundraising costs, accountability and administration costs and other expenditure are not separated between international development and welfare services, as the welfare services component is negligible. Other expenditure is Redress claim expenses.

Board Declaration

DECLARATION BY THE UNITINGWORLD BOARD for the year ended 30 June 2022

In accordance with a resolution of the UnitingWorld Board we state that, as set out on pages 3 to 25:

- (a) in the Board's opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Agency will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable; and
- (b) in the Board's opinion, the attached financial statements and notes thereto are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* including compliance with accounting standards and giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Agency.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board made pursuant to s.60.15 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

On behalf of the Board



Lin Hatfield-Dodds
Chairperson

ACT
29 September 2022



James Batley
Board Member

ACT
29 September 2022

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board Members of UnitingWorld

Report on the audit of the Summary Financial Report

Opinion

We report on the **Summary Financial Report** of UnitingWorld (the Agency) as at and for the year ended 30 June 2022. The Summary Financial report is derived from the audited financial report of the Agency.

In our opinion, the accompanying Summary Financial Report of UnitingWorld is consistent, in all material respects, with the Audited Financial Report, and has been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct.

The **Summary Financial Report** comprises:

- Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022.
- Statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended.

Scope of the Summary Financial Report

The Summary Financial Report does not contain all the disclosures required by *Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure Framework* applied in the preparation of the Audited Financial Report. Reading the Summary Financial Report and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the Audited Financial Report and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the Audited Financial Report in our auditor's report dated 29 September 2022.

Emphasis of matter – basis of preparation and restriction on use and distribution

The Summary Financial Report has been prepared to assist the Board Members of UnitingWorld for the purpose of meeting the requirements of the ACFID Code of Conduct. As a result, the Summary Financial Report and this Auditor's Report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

The Auditor's Report is intended solely for the Board of UnitingWorld and should not be used by or distributed to parties other than the Board of UnitingWorld. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this Auditor's Report, or on the Summary Financial Statements to which it relates, to any person other than the Board of UnitingWorld or for any other purpose than that for which it was prepared.

Responsibility of Management for the Summary Financial Report

Management are responsible for the preparation of the Summary Financial Report in accordance with the requirements of the ACFID Code of Conduct, including their derivation from the Audited Financial Report of the Agency as at and for the year ended 30 June 2022.

Auditor's responsibility for the audit of the Summary Financial Report

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the Summary Financial Report is consistent, in all material respects, with the Audited Financial Report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with *Australian Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

I, Stephen Isaac am currently a member of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand and my membership number is 374502.



KPMG

Tower Three
International Towers Sydney
300 Barangaroo Avenue
Sydney, Australia



Stephen Isaac

Partner

Sydney

29 September 2022

KPMG contact details:

Tel – +61 2 9335 7000

Email – info@kpmg.com.au

Our People

Our Board

Our governance rests with the UnitingWorld Board. Our Board is made up of volunteers recruited for complementary skills and diversity of backgrounds. These are the people who worked diligently throughout FY22 to provide outstanding oversight and direction. Through their guiding efforts, we continue to grow and flourish, driving greater change for our partners in communities across the world.

Board members are appointed by the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) Assembly Standing Committee. Our Board is ultimately accountable to the National Assembly – a triennial gathering of representative UCA members from across Australia.



Lin Hatfield Dodds
Chair of the Board

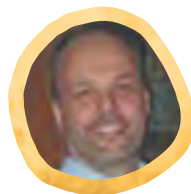
BSc (Hons), MPsych, MAICD
Lives on Ngannawal/Ngambri country and Yuin country

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



James Batley
Board Member and Chair of the Finance Audit and Risk Committee
BA (Hons), PSM

Since 2015 James has worked as a Distinguished Policy Fellow in the Department of Pacific Affairs at the Australian National University. His previous roles include Deputy Secretary of DFAT; Deputy Director-General of AusAID; Australian High Commissioner to Fiji; Australian High Commissioner to the Solomon Islands; Special Coordinator of the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands; Australian Ambassador to East Timor; as well as diplomatic positions in Lebanon, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, and Vanuatu.



Roger Bednall
Board Member

MA (International Relations), LLB, GDLP,
BA (Politics History Economics)
Lives on the land of the Kurna people

Roger brings over twenty years' experience in International Development to the UnitingWorld Board. This includes program and project management in Asia and the Pacific, senior management roles in an international development organisation, and experience in governance and compliance in a donor-funded organisation. Roger brings skills in working with donors, partner governments and organisations, and program teams. He has a Bachelor of Laws and a Master's Degree in International Relations and is a member of the Uniting Church.



Colleen Geyer
General Secretary of the UCA National Assembly (Ex-Officio Board Member)

BTh, GCELead, DipTeach, Cert IV WTA
Lives on the land of the Gadigal people

Colleen is the General Secretary of the Uniting Church National Assembly. She has held executive leadership positions across the community services work of the Uniting Church for over ten years, and leadership roles with the Church, at both state and national levels for twenty years, including serving on Councils of the Church and numerous governance groups. She has extensive experience in organisational strategy, leadership development, innovation, ethics and environmental sustainability; and building programs for culture change and engagement.



Sureka Goringe
National Director of UnitingWorld (Ex-Officio Board Member)

BA(Hons), PhD, GAICD
Lives on Durrumurragal Country

Sureka has been National Director since July 2017 and brings senior executive and board-level leadership experience from fifteen years in the technology sector. She currently serves on the Board of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and as the Chair of Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO). A scientist by training, prior to working in the aid sector, her experience includes capital raising, research and development, and intellectual property commercialisation in venture-funded start-ups and large public sector organisations.



Andrew Johnson
Board Member and Chair of the International Programs Committee
 LLB, BSc, GrDipLegPrac, GradDipTh
Lives on the country of the Ngambri and Ngunnawal peoples

Andrew is a consultant with the Social Economy Group, with clients spanning international development, community and religious organisations. His key areas of expertise include strategy, governance, government relations and public affairs. Prior to that, he worked for World Vision for seven years in various roles. He is an active member of the Uniting Church, having served in many leadership roles, including as a member of the Assembly Standing Committee for twelve years.



Ashleigh Johnston
Board Member
 BA-BCMS
Grew up on the lands of the Darawal people

Ashleigh has over a decade of experience in the technology industry, holding leadership roles both locally and internationally. She has a background in digital strategy and marketing, focusing on growth through digital transformation and equipping teams to thrive with changing technology. Ashleigh is a mentor to emerging leaders from under-represented minorities and is a founding member of Pride@SAP Singapore, an employee network group championing equality.



John Manning
Board Member
 B.Com, M.Div. GAICD
Lives on Kurna country

John is the Managing Director and Equity Partner of Chartered Accountants, Dewings Pty. Ltd. He has previously served as HR Manager and Practice Manager. From 2000–2002 he undertook a Bachelor of Ministries at Morling College, Sydney, and later completed a Master of Divinity through the Australian College of Theology. John is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and serves on boards for a number of not-for-profit organisations.



Renee O'Shanassy
Board Member
 MPPM, BIR/LLB
Lives on Ngunnawal country

Renee started her engagement with UnitingWorld as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development in 2010 and later as an intern, proudly joining the Board in 2019. Renee holds a Master of Public Policy and Management, and a Bachelor of Laws and International Relations and researches feminist social movements. Renee has worked with the UNDP, Australian Public Service, development organisations and academia. She works in public policy, with a strong interest and experience in gender, development, and international relations.



Warren Tapp
Board Member (stepped down in March 2022)
 RFD, MBA, LL.M, Grad Dip App Corp Gov, FAICD, JP
Lives on Yugambah country

Warren joined the Board of UnitingWorld in 2020 and brought extensive governance experience to this role. He has consulted with the Uniting Church in Australia Queensland Synod over many years and has been an active UCA member. He has been a Chair or Director on over two dozen Boards and has lectured and published books on governance. He is a fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and conducts governance workshops for the World Bank in the South Pacific and South East Asia.

Our Staff

"Our people drive excellence in culture and impact."

UnitingWorld is a small agency, but our team is diverse and highly skilled, full of passionate and loyal people, whose personal values align strongly with our mission.

It's been a tough year, and not only has our team delivered in spades for our partners and supporters, but they have also cared for each other, sharing the joys and sorrows of life together. We've had weddings and babies, loss and illness. We've had beloved team members move on to new jobs, and exciting new folks join us. All through this, we have endeavoured to be whole people together, making time and space to build trust and friendship, committed to a safe and joyful workplace that is relationally rich while committed to excellence.

The last year saw some significant changes in team structure and a lot of fresh initiatives as we took our new strategic plan and broke it down into concrete actions. We are grateful for the trust of our team during these changes.

Throughout all this, one truth rings clear – UnitingWorld is our people. They embody our values, our mission and our very identity. We are very proud of them.

UnitingWorld Sydney staff gather to celebrate together.



Our Supporters

Families, individuals, schools and congregations, folks who leave us bequests in their wills – they are the fuel in the fire that keeps us burning bright. Ordinary people, through extraordinary faithfulness, make impossible things happen in our programs. To be part of UnitingWorld is to be part of one body in Christ, each contributing as we are able. Your generosity added up to \$3.14M for the year. We are incredibly grateful for your trust.

Our Supporters

"I just want to congratulate you on another newsletter and letter from UnitingWorld. They are always so positive and wonderful to read. I love your good ideas such as the ones used in Lent Event. Then the note thanking me for a donation in Lent and saying you don't expect another donation immediately was amazing... the fact that you don't pressure people into giving a certain amount of money TODAY is such a relief and I know your supporters must love you for it."

– Carmyl Winkler, UnitingWorld supporter



"Ever since I 'met' the seven people of solidarity I have been praying for them – and their people – daily, by name. And I have now added Rev Mery. I feel as if I am coming to know them – and now, to see and hear them in their context moves me so, so deeply. They come here into my home. Sureka, you – and your wonderful staff – allow me, make it possible for me to live my life way beyond myself... For me, to draw alongside 'your' people – 'our' people – means so much more than you could imagine. Thank you for making it possible for me to be part of this wondrous journey – you and your staff nourish me and lead me on. I am so grateful."

– Margot Higgins, UnitingWorld supporter

"Thank you for the update on Tonga disaster response. Your news was so heartening, both as simple good news of humanitarian relief, and as a case study of best practice in relief work... Profound, appropriate, sustainable, effective impact on all stakeholders. As a community professional who has worked in the Pacific for 50 years I was sooo delighted to read this story. It has actually brought tears of joy that we can Do It Right."

– Roland Lubett, UnitingWorld supporter



"I chose UnitingWorld as my main charity because I like the values that they hold and the way they work with the local community. There is a delicate balance between promoting equality and justice vs forcing your beliefs/principles onto someone else, and I trust UnitingWorld to handle that balance. I particularly value UnitingWorld's programs on gender equality and disability empowerment."

– Renata, UnitingWorld Regular Giver



By joining our Global Neighbour regular giving program, you enable us to commit we can commit long-term to our partners, and they can plan ahead with confidence. Learn more at www.unitingworld.org.au/globalneighbour.

Don and Sylvia Wright, volunteer
UnitingWorld Ambassadors, share about our
work in churches as they travel Australia.

Our Uniting Church mandate extends beyond our programming. We speak and preach in UCA congregations. We support the ongoing connection between diaspora communities in the UCA and partner churches overseas, and between the leaders of the UCA and our partner churches. We publish stories and videos that tell of the courage and resilience of God's people serving their communities. We seek to share back with our church and our supporter community the wisdom, experience and prophetic insight that our partner churches offer us. And we call people to step deeper into God's work in the world.

"UnitingWorld played an integral role in liaising with our partner church in Fiji and we are grateful for the support and leadership provided in assisting us in calling a Minister of the Word to the Fiji Parish."

– Osia Tuivakano, Chairperson, Fiji Parish, Sydney, NSW

"In God we trust. The Zimbabwe Methodist community in Australia greatly cherishes and appreciates the magnificent help and assistance offered by UnitingWorld in bringing Rev Dr Solomon Zwana to be Chaplain of the Zimbabwe Methodist Fellowship in Australia. Rev Zwana will be working closely with the Fellowship in Australia and also with Uniting Church in Australia to cement the already existing bond between the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe and UCA."

– Enock Mukucha, Coordinator, Zimbabwean Methodist Fellowship



4,132 donors



11,336 donations



18 project sponsorships



Over 100 volunteers supporting our work

- Lent Event and Seven Days of Solidarity organisers
- Everything in Common stall holders
- Ambassadors in congregations



Over 50
speaker events



401
regular givers



280 congregations



UnitingWorld volunteers visiting Orange UC, 2022.



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UnitingWorld is the international aid and partnerships agency of the Uniting Church in Australia. Together we work for a world where lives are whole and hopeful, free from poverty and injustice. Because every person matters.

UnitingWorld acknowledges the sovereign First Peoples of the lands and waters of Australia. We pay our respects to their elders past and present, and all descendants of these nations who have cared for this place since creation. This land is God's land and God's Spirit dwells here. We commit ourselves to working for reconciliation in this land.