

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2021

MARY WARD INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA



IMAGE: Distribution of sanitary pads to women and girls in West Bengal, India

Making Change Happen on a Global Scale

Mary Ward International Australia (MWIA) is the Australian and international development organisation of the Loreto Sisters. Through providing much-needed resources, we support the Sisters and those in our Loreto broader community to assist where the need is greatest.

Inspired by the founder of the Loreto Sisters, Mary Ward, MWIA is committed to working towards a just world where women share leadership, children thrive, and communities live in harmony with each other and the Earth.

We are dedicated to supporting women and children to receive the education, skills and support they need to transform their lives and the world around them. We believe helping them reach their potential is one of the single best investments we can make to end poverty.

Mary Ward International Australia is part of a global network. Together, we work with Loreto Sisters across 23 countries to create just and sustainable change for women, children and communities.

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Mary Ward International Australia respectfully acknowledges all Traditional Custodians of the land and waters of Australia. We pay respect to their Elders, past and present, and young leaders of today and the future.

MARY WARD INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

MWIA is a full member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). We are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, managing our work with transparency, accountability and integrity.

MWIA is an approved organisation under the Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme (OAGDS) and endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient.

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ACFID
MEMBER



“

It's pretty simple - good strong leadership, playing to people and organisations' strengths, and leaning in or leaning out when you are or are not needed. No one person/organisation is the champion but we couldn't do it without each other. Extremely humbling.

Rebecca Walker, MWIA Board Member

Our Vision

A just world where women share leadership, children thrive, and communities live in harmony with each other and the Earth.

OUR PURPOSE

Creating just and sustainable change with women, children and communities.

OUR MISSION

In the spirit of Jesus and Mary Ward, we support Loreto Sisters and the broader MWIA network as we work with women and communities to transform unjust structures and reduce poverty and oppression, primarily through formal and non-formal education.

OUR VALUES

Verity | Freedom | Justice | Sincerity | Felicity

Message from the Chair

In my introduction to the last MWIA Annual Impact Report, I referred to a time of massive change: a global pandemic, destructive climate events, and increasing geopolitical tensions. 2021 was certainly no different, and the needs of the communities across the world served and supported by the Loreto Sisters and Mary Ward International Australia have remained pressing.

Nevertheless, 2021 was a year filled with hope and purpose. The MWIA team of just three people for most of the year, including Executive Officer Hannah George, worked tirelessly and effectively to support the work of the Loreto Sisters in the field. As you will see elsewhere in this report, the 2021 impact chart shows that 70,728 people from 76 communities were supported through 23 projects funded by MWIA.

The MWIA Board and its committees also worked hard in steering MWIA. By the end of 2021, the board had its full complement of nine directors, with the inclusion of David Ballhausen in November, who had already contributed to the strategy preparation processes.

In May 2021, the MWIA Strategy 2021-2024 was launched. The result of much consultation and collaboration, our strategy provides us with a clear direction for the future, focused on four major goals.

The strategy process further enabled us to clarify the purpose of MWIA - *Creating just and sustainable change with women, children and communities* - in support of our Vision of *A just world where women share leadership, children thrive, and communities live in harmony with each other and the Earth*. This undertaking and its accompanying documents now serve as inspiration and as a yardstick for keeping us accountable.

Looking ahead to 2022, the future looks promising. As the audited financial statements show, fundraising results significantly improved in 2021, despite the local and global challenges. That is a good start. More funding is needed to enable MWIA and the Loreto Sisters to continue creating more just and sustainable change with women, children and communities worldwide.

I thank each person who contributed in any way to the work of MWIA in 2021. May we continue, together, to form a powerful 'Circle of Friends'.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Leoni Degenhardt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Leoni Degenhardt AM
Chair, Mary Ward International Australia

Executive Officer Report

As Leoni notes, with 2021 came a refreshed vision – a vision underpinned by four strategic goals:

1. Women and community-led, sustainable programs, transforming unjust structures and reducing poverty and oppression.
2. Sustainable, systemic change through effective, respectful collaborations and partnerships.
3. Increased awareness of and commitment to MWIA and its mission.
4. Strong, streamlined governance and expanded organisational capacity, enabling MWIA to achieve its mission.

At MWIA, we recognise that to bring these words to life and achieve these goals, we must walk our talk. We must live up to our call on gender and social equity in our work with all stakeholders, from the communities we work with to the generous donors that invest in us. We must ensure gender and human rights are at the core of development initiatives we support.

While this is still very much a work in progress, our 2021-2024 Strategic Plan drives us forward, and we celebrate the milestones along the way.

We are working on deepening our understanding of, and skills in, effectively identifying barriers to the inclusion of women and girls in development initiatives. Subsequently, we aim to better identify opportunities for their participation to ensure our projects are truly transformative by supporting women's leadership and community ownership.

In the spirit of Mary Ward and the Loreto Sisters, we 'go where the need is greatest'. We prioritise people in the most marginalised or vulnerable situations who face the biggest barriers to realising their most basic rights and dignity.

In 2021, we worked toward better integrating into our approach the principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination and equality and empowerment in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the initiatives we support. By doing so, we can better support partners in implementing joint initiatives in a manner consistent with best practice.

We also worked toward improving organisational performance in achieving our vision, resulting in an ever-increasing understanding of what needs to be done to address the root causes of inequity and poverty. As a result, we are greatly focused on durable and lasting change through strengthened local, female-led ownership.

This report shares with you our progress and impact made across the year. Included are many stories that are a testament to this in the areas of women's and community empowerment, education and health, and environmental sustainability.

We proudly finished 2021 with our heads held high, knowing we were on track for an even stronger 2022.

Thank you for your continued support.



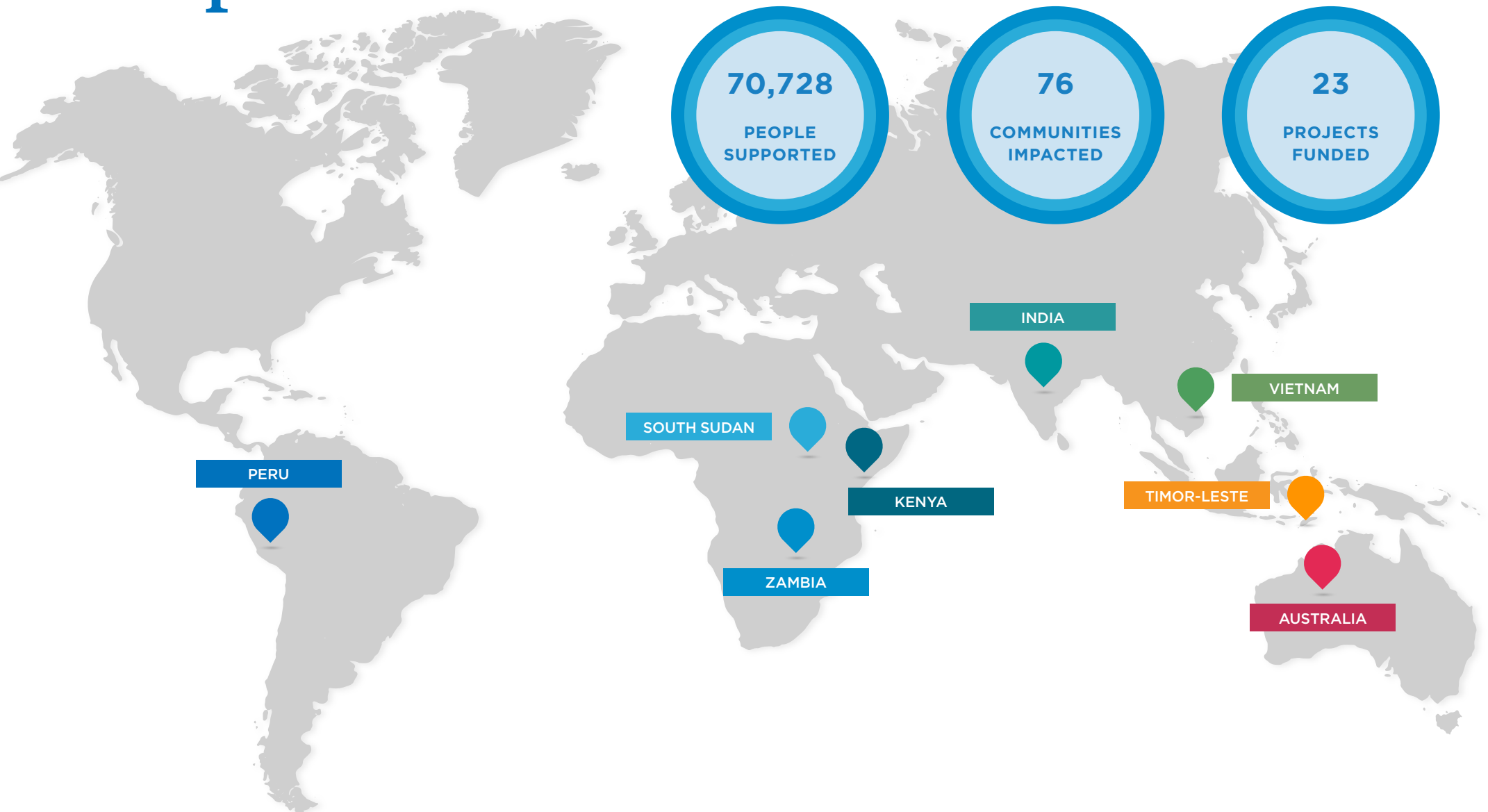
Hannah George

Hannah George
**Executive Officer,
Mary Ward International Australia**

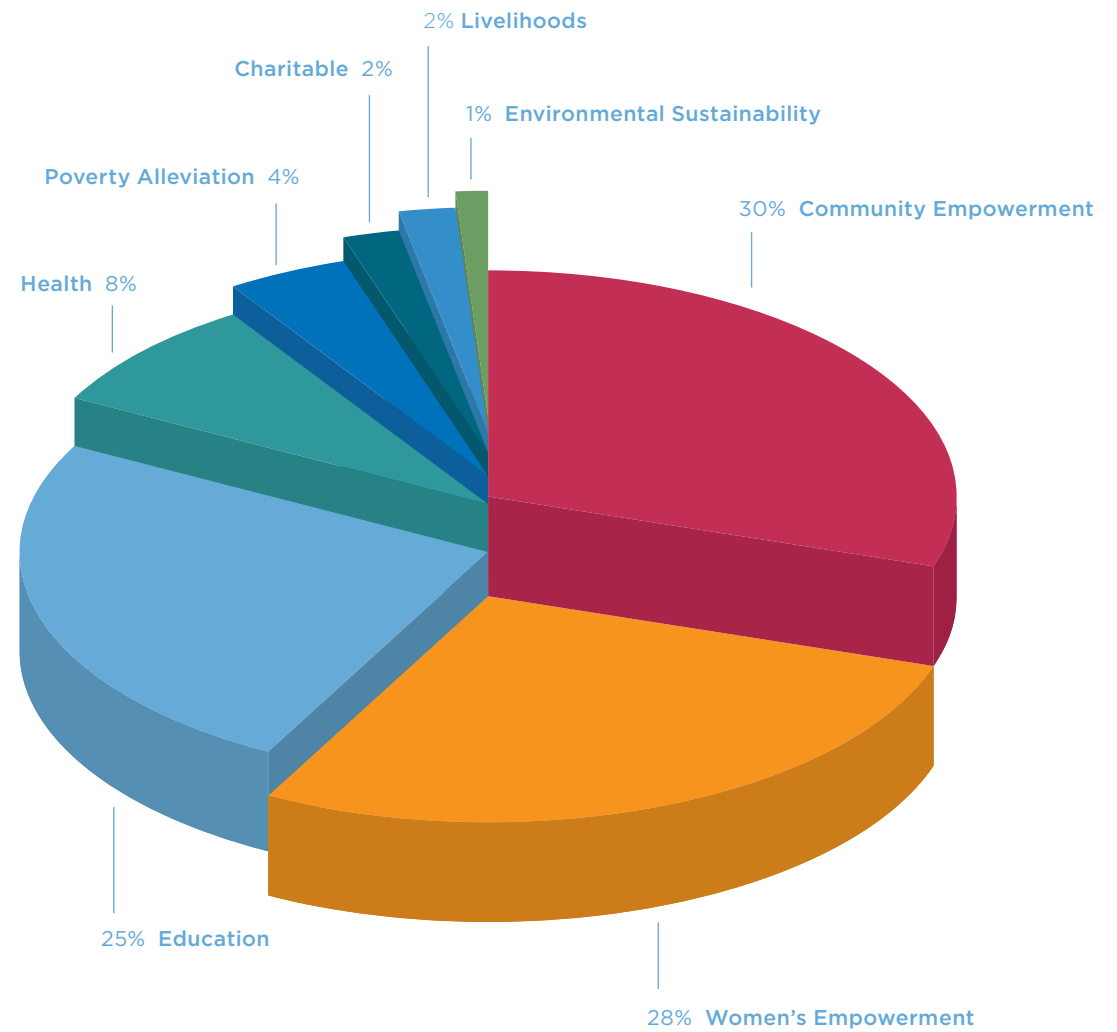


IMPACT

Global Impact Snapshot 2021



This chart shows an approximate breakdown of MWIA's project spending over 2021 by impact area, appreciating that most projects aim to deliver change across a number of areas, in particular to alleviate poverty and marginalisation.



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

MWIA works with the Loreto Sisters and other partners to implement projects that promote women's rights and gender equity in all aspects of life.

COLLECTIVE VOICES

DARJEELING, INDIA

In partnership with the Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre (DMWSC)

Through this project, the DMWSC worked with communities in India's north eastern tea estates to promote the rights of women and children in the four key areas of education, protection, health and nutrition. Women and children were encouraged to form self-help groups and access services provided by local government and non-government agencies and banks.

Many of the communities where Collective Voices operates are still unaware of their rights and the strict laws regarding the protection of those rights. Without awareness, women and children remain vulnerable and exposed to many forms of social abuse, domestic violence and human trafficking.

The regions where the project was delivered reported a reduction in human trafficking, domestic violence and child abuse, as well as improved health outcomes and increased access to legal entitlements. In 2021, 30 new cases of domestic violence were registered with government authorities, 10 missing persons were recovered, and six cases of child marriage were reported. Another 2,500 people accessed their legal entitlements to health care, rations, pensions and voting rights.



ETHICAL ENTERPRISES INITIATIVE FOR YOUNG WOMEN

WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre (DMWSC)

The Ethical Enterprise Initiative assisted vulnerable young women living near the tea plantations of West Bengal to become independent and financially self-sufficient, by providing them with vocational training and micro-enterprise opportunities. Learning skills in making jute products and sewing allowed the women to seek local employment and provided them with opportunities to meet, socialise, network, and learn about laws relating to their rights, health and protection.

Women are at risk of exploitative work practices at the tea plantations and, should they travel further afield to find other work, risk human trafficking and sexual abuse.

The initiative created a network amongst the women, acting as a safety net against human trafficking and abuse, and educated them about their rights and how to access their entitlements. Specifically, the initiative provided vocational training for 20 participants and developed important skills useful for their future employability. In 2021, 10 participants explored microenterprise opportunities, while four used their income from project sales to enrol in further education.



ELIMINATING FGM

RIFT VALLEY, KENYA

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Kenya

This project works toward eradicating female genital mutilation (FGM) and enabling young women to enjoy a full life. It operates in over eight constituencies of the Rift Valley, Kenya, with an established network of field officers who assist in coordinating the project, its progress and milestones.

A key barrier to eradicating FGM is the cultural importance placed on this rite of passage, which is believed to prepare a girl for motherhood. Traditionally, villagers cut most victims; however, girls are now increasingly being cut by healthcare providers to reduce complications – a practice known as the medicalisation of FGM.

In 2021, two community leader seminars were held with over 80 people in attendance, including health workers, business owners, village elders and teachers. Seminars included awareness training related to the negative consequences of FGM and the need to safeguard children and adults against such practices. Over 2,500 students participated in workshops educating them on the harm that FGM can cause, their rights, and the reporting channels available if they feel forced to undergo FGM. Over 200 girls participated in an alternative rite of passage ceremony to womanhood.

ELIMINATION OF FORCED MARRIAGE

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

In partnership with Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH)

This project worked to combat human trafficking, specifically in the form of forced marriage. The project delivered training to frontline educators, healthcare staff and youth workers to equip them when identifying and responding to potential victims and survivors of forced marriage.

The pandemic restricted ACRATH's ability to present face-to-face training, the preferred method of delivery given the sensitive nature of the course content.

However, in 2021, ACRATH could still deliver 35 awareness training sessions to over 800 teaching staff and students in Australian school communities. Through these presentations, participants were made aware of the reporting procedures, and referral pathways available to anyone they suspected was vulnerable to forced marriage. Another eight training sessions were presented to almost 200 healthcare staff and community workers who provide support for victims and survivors of forced marriage. Participants were from various organisations, including the Red Cross, Victoria Police, In Touch, Safe Steps, Orange Door, Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights, Project Respect, Mental Health Practitioners Australia and several Victorian Government departments.





Women's Supported Accommodation

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

In 2021, MWIA supporters contributed toward providing secure accommodation to women and children seeking refuge in Australia. The House of Welcome's Women's Supported Accommodation initiative provides safe and secure accommodation and wraparound support for vulnerable women who would otherwise be at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness.

The challenges faced by the women who participate in this project are acute and range beyond the stresses and implications of the refugee journey. Referrals include women who have experienced family and domestic violence or sexual and gender-based violence, as well as women who have a history of mental health issues. Many fear that reporting violence will have consequences for their protection, visa applications, or ability to remain in Australia. This risk to women and children is further exacerbated as people seeking asylum in Australia are not eligible for social or community housing and rely on organisations like the House of Welcome to provide transitional accommodation.

The program integrates several House of Welcome services to provide a holistic person-centred approach; it delivers an intensive casework model that includes safe and secure housing, an initial period of financial and food security assistance, and access to a weekly employment program.

In 2021, MWIA supporter funds provided:

- access to safe housing and housing transition support
- intensive casework with the goal of gaining employment and finding private accommodation
- financial and foodbank support
- enrolment into the House of Welcome's specialised employment program, 'Empowered to Work,' a job-readiness program aimed at mentoring people into training, employment, or work experience

The impact of this support has reduced barriers to women accessing employment and job opportunities, increased their understanding of Australian tenancy processes and responsibilities and ability to enter the private rental market, and helped them safely transition from the program to greater independence.

EDUCATION

MWIA works toward ensuring children receive the education and support they need to reach their full potential and transform the world around them.

Sancta Maria

College of Nursing and Midwifery

LUKULU, ZAMBIA

In 2020 the Bishop of Mongu approached the Loreto Sisters to manage the construction and operations of a new nursing and midwifery college in the remote community of Lukulu. A year later, this vision was a reality.

The college, developed on the abandoned Sancta Maria Mission Hospital site, opened its doors to its first intake of 60 students on 23 August 2021. It now provides local young people with an opportunity for tertiary and professional training otherwise inaccessible to them in this underdeveloped area of Zambia.

Without education, local youth are unable to break the cycle of poverty for themselves and their families. An environment of hopelessness has perpetuated amongst the region's youth, manifesting through significant dropout rates from school, teenage pregnancies, sex work, alcohol and drug problems, and the confinement of young girls to village life with no apparent future.

In addition, the remote districts of Lukulu and nearby Mitete do not have sufficient qualified nurses to adequately provide local health services.

A nursing and midwifery college that recruits students predominantly from the local area with deep, established family connections and a familiarity with the adverse living conditions means that qualified nurses graduating from the college will be more inclined to stay and work in the region. Ultimately, this will result in more stable and skilled staff delivering quality health services in these marginalised areas of the country.

Priority recruitment is given to female students to ensure greater equality in terms of opportunities afforded to girls and women within the local community. The college will also promote much-needed future economic development by creating a hub for health education and encouraging complementary business and health services to establish themselves in the region while supporting local suppliers and tradespeople.

The next phase of construction, commencing in 2022, will safeguard the long-term future of the college. Building on the works to date, it will ensure the college is fit for purpose through the construction of new classrooms and more extensive accommodation to cater to the increasing student numbers, with projected new intakes of up to 100 annually.

MWIA is committed to ensuring the sustainability and ongoing success of the college, giving the community a solid foundation and great hope for the future development of the Lukulu region.

Mary Ward International Australia thanks the Noel and Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation for its generous support of this project.



BRICKFIELD SCHOOLS

WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre (KMWSC)

The Brickfield Schools Project delivered quality education, life skills training and health awareness programs to children of brickfield workers in West Bengal, India. The project also sought to raise awareness amongst itinerant families about social issues such as child marriage, labour, healthcare, rights and legal entitlements.

Throughout India, there are thousands of brickfields – open-air factories where clay bricks are made by hand. Most of the workers are itinerant, including children, who spend up to 8 months of the year in these dusty fields in temperatures that can reach 40 degrees. There is no accessible education within the brickfields except at temporary schools set up by organisations such as the KMWSC.

With support from MWIA, the KMWSC operated ten brickfield schools in the Basirhat area of West Bengal. Via these schools, nearly 700 children from 402 families received quality education delivered by 22 teachers trained on the special educational needs of brickfield students. The children were not only provided with all study materials, but also received a nutritious meal at the end of each school day.

In addition, over 30 health awareness camps were held for more than 2,000 children and their parents. Attendees were given vital health information and where appropriate, received immunisations, medicine, vitamin supplements and hygiene products. Fifty rights awareness meetings took place during 2021, covering issues such as child protection, the right to education and how best to access essential government support.







JOHN XXIII TEACHER TRAINING

HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Vietnam

John XXIII Teacher Training Scholarships provided annual bursaries for disadvantaged students studying to become teachers. The funds helped them to meet the costs associated with higher education, such as study materials, accommodation, food and transportation.

Poverty and geographic remoteness are barriers to education and greatly hinder a child's ability to complete the most basic primary education. Insufficient remuneration or incentives to motivate teachers to work in remote areas means that the educational needs in rural Vietnam are not being met. This problem is exacerbated by an increase in student enrolments and a decrease in the supply of available teachers in rural areas.

The scholarship program supported six rural and disadvantaged students studying to become teachers by providing bursaries to assist with tuition costs. Three of these students completed their studies at the end of 2021 with the intent of returning home to teach at schools in their local rural community.

LUKULU TEACHER TRAINING

LUKULU, ZAMBIA

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Zambia

The Lukulu Teacher Training Program worked towards improving the standard of education in schools located in Zambia's Lukulu and Mitete districts by providing bursaries for local volunteer teachers to study a three-year diploma in primary education.

Many rural village schools operating in the most disadvantaged regions of Zambia have no trained teachers working in them. They are often run by a person whose only qualification is that they are literate. Most of the 'teachers' in these schools are voluntary until the government agrees to take over the school, only once it has proven viable.

During 2021, six students completed their second year of study and will begin their final year in 2022. A further four completed their studies and, while awaiting exam results, began teaching voluntarily at community-led schools in their local villages.

Five graduates previously supported by the teacher training program applied for permanent government teaching roles – all in the Lukulu and Mitete districts. Another five teachers who received past support, upgraded their qualifications from a diploma to a degree, allowing them to teach in Zambian secondary schools.

IBVM HOSTEL SCHOLARSHIPS

HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Vietnam

The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM) Hostel Scholarships Program provided students from rural Vietnam with a safe and healthy living environment at the St Mary's Hostel while they pursued tertiary education in Ho Chi Minh City. The project subsidised rent, food and utilities and fostered a sense of belonging to a community away from home.

Students receiving support through this project are from disadvantaged rural communities and would otherwise not be able to access tertiary education because of the overwhelming financial impact it would have on their families.

During 2021, scholarships were provided to ten female university students to cover the costs associated with living away from home and alleviate the financial burden on each student's family. Courses studied include nursing, pharmacy, tourism, accounting, economics and international trade. Many final year students returned home to improved employment prospects and an opportunity to end the intergenerational poverty cycle.

NYUMBANI VILLAGE SCHOLARSHIPS

NYUMBANI, KENYA

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Kenya

This project provided tertiary education scholarships to orphaned young people from the Nyumbani Village, located in the Kitui District, eastern Kenya. Established in 2004, the village provides a stable home for the nation's most vulnerable population. Currently up to 1,000 children and 100 grandparents displaced by the Kenyan AIDS epidemic live at Nyumbani in small cottages that function as family units.

HIV/AIDS is still an enormous challenge in Kenya, with over 120,000 Kenyan children under the age of 14 infected with AIDS, and an estimated 850,000 Kenyan children orphaned by AIDS-related death. Over 3,200 immunosuppressant children either live in the Nyumbani Village or are beneficiaries of Nyumbani programs.

During 2021, the project provided high-quality tertiary education scholarships to three orphaned young people living in the Nyumbani Village. Scholarship recipients studied chemical engineering, supply chain management and tourism. Once these students complete their further education, they will be able to seek skilled employment, providing them and their remaining family members with future life-changing opportunities.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

MWIA supports opportunities that strengthen self-esteem, dignity and inclusion through drawing on the skills and knowledge of marginalised communities.

A group of children in school uniforms are standing on a dirt path, pointing towards a construction site in the background. The children are wearing blue and white uniforms. The background shows a dirt area with some trees and a clear sky.

Loreto Ostico Community Centre

OSTICO, TIMOR-LESTE

Construction of the Ostico Community Centre, which will bring life-changing beneficial transformation to the Timorese village and wider community, ramped up in 2021. The year commenced with excavation works, making way for fence foundations, footings, and masonry to secure the property. Further earthworks allowed the community centre and residence foundations to be laid. Walls were constructed, ready for a roof, windows, and doors to be fitted in 2022. The number of local workers increased throughout the year, with 36 working on site by year end.

The intricacies of building in a remote area with limited infrastructure can be complex. Timor-Leste was significantly affected by COVID-19. Movement restrictions and national lockdowns slowed the supply of materials, causing delays to the construction schedule. Nonetheless, onsite works continued throughout the year, albeit slower than predicted. It is anticipated the project will be completed in late 2022.

The space will deliver inclusive and equitable learning opportunities and provide a place for meetings and community events. It will further be a base for volunteers to reside when participating in community and educational outreach activities. Finally, it will be a space for the Loreto Sisters, visitors and interested Timorese women to reside.

The centre will enable the community to manage learning programs, create employment opportunities, generate income and become a model of financial sustainability.

The people of Ostico have had limited educational opportunities. Investing in their education will help them reach their potential and lead to positive change within the community. Improved education promotes economic growth and employment opportunities, results in healthier families and communities, and leads to empowerment and greater socio-political involvement.

Mary Ward International Australia thanks the Noel and Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation for its generous support of this project.

BOURKE MEN'S CENTRE

BOURKE, AUSTRALIA

In partnership with CatholicCare Wilcannia Forbes

The Bourke Men's Centre supported a dedicated space for Aboriginal men to meet, attend to men's business, share stories, reconnect with their culture, spirituality and community, and become role models to other young men and boys. MWIA funds enabled the centre to employ a coordinator to engage men in a range of activities, including peer support groups, skills workshops, behavioural-focused programs, and health education seminars.

The remote community of Bourke was heavily impacted by COVID-19 lockdowns during 2021, forcing the project into a lengthy hiatus. However, during this time, the project coordinator used his connection to project participants to promote COVID-19 testing and dispel myths and misinformation surrounding vaccination. He also took a lead role in assembling and delivering food hampers to those most in need.

Thankfully, the Bourke Men's Centre has thrived since the lockdown ended. It has again become a vibrant hub of activity for Aboriginal boys and men and a safe space for conversation about issues affecting them and their community. Attendance at the weekly Men of Bourke (MOB) meetings has tripled and over 200 people have received direct support through educational and mentoring workshops, school holiday programs and parenting classes.



HEALTH

MWIA works with the Loreto Sisters to ensure those most in need have access to vital healthcare, nutrition and clean water.



Landing Pad

KOLKATA, INDIA

In many communities in India, menstruation is a taboo subject associated with feelings of shame, disgust and impurity.

Many girls and young women grow up with limited understanding of why they have periods as their mothers and the women of the community shy away from discussing the issue with them.

For many girls in rural areas, having their period is a reason to quit school due to lack of basic facilities such as toilets and unavailability of appropriate sanitary products. Lack of awareness combined with the extreme poverty that some of these girls and women live in, results in them using unsanitary materials such as old rags, husks, dried leaves, grass, ash, sand, or newspapers as 'sanitary pads'.

Supported by MWIA, the Landing Pad initiative run by our colleagues at the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre looks to pave the way for future innovative programs concerning female reproductive health.

Through the project, sanitary pads are locally manufactured in the centre by women of the community, providing them with employment opportunities for financial wellbeing and safe sanitary products for good health. They are then distributed among women in local vulnerable communities including the red-light district of Sonagachi and the brickfields. Raising awareness is a key aspect of this project with a focus on training to eliminate the social stigma surrounding menstruation and reproductive health education.

Over the year, this project equipped approximately 5,000 adolescent girls and women with sanitary pads, trained them on use, and educated women, girls, and men on health, hygiene, and menstruation.

The success of this project will further result in the gradual elimination of social taboos surrounding menstruation and thereby increase the number of adolescent girls attending school who would otherwise stay at home during menstruation.

LUNCH FEEDING

LUKULU, ZAMBIA

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Zambia

The Free Lunch Program at St Columba's Secondary School provided food for orphaned and vulnerable students to improve school attendance, support academic performance and reduce nutrition-related disease. By thriving at school, students have the opportunity to access further study or seek skilled employment, ultimately breaking the cycle of poverty that exists in this region.

For many students attending the St Columba's Secondary School, the free lunch is their only food intake for the day. These children camp in makeshift homes in the Lukulu township or travel from rural villages in the surrounding districts of Lukulu and Mitete, two of the most remote and least developed areas in Zambia.

Throughout 2021, approximately 80 students received a daily meal allowing them to be in a better position to attend afternoon classes and evening study programs. Students who could afford to pay for their meal did so, thereby providing much needed funds for the program's sustainability.

JICAMARCA HEALTH SUPPORT

JICAMARCA, PERU

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Peru

This project provided much-needed support to the vulnerable community of Jicamarca, where the local Loreto Sisters oversee a health clinic that delivers services to thousands of people, primarily women, children, and the elderly.

Peru faced many challenges during 2021. COVID-19 vaccination rates remained low following a campaign of misinformation about the virus, leaving a large part of the nation's most vulnerable communities unprotected. Peru was also hit by a political crisis, generating uncertainty and rising inflation rates, which resulted in increased food prices and a lack of opportunity for its people to earn an income.

Through the support of this project, the health clinic acquired three oxygen concentrators required for COVID-19 positive patients unable to attend a hospital. Project funding was also used to secure vital personal protective equipment such as medical-grade masks, gloves, disposable aprons and disinfectants.



HEALTHCARE VEHICLE SUPPORT

LUKULU, ZAMBIA

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Zambia

This project assisted with critical transport for all aspects of the Integrated Health Care Support Program designed by the Loreto Sisters to provide impoverished communities across the districts of Lukulu and Mitete with access to vital health care and nutrition. The vehicle primarily supported the home-based care program; the Baby Milk program for vulnerable babies; and the HEPS program, which produces and distributes high energy protein supplements (HEPS) to those in need of nutritional support.

The districts of Lukulu and Mitete consist of many scattered rural village communities over vast expanses. Without transportation, these vulnerable communities are unable to get the medical treatment or support they need.

Throughout 2021 the vehicle was used to transport dozens of highly vulnerable and marginalised patients to hospital, including those needing emergency, specialist and other life-changing treatment. Thousands of other people benefitted from the logistical support the vehicle provided, such as:

- transporting nurses for home-based health check-ups
- collecting and distributing medicine to home-based care patients
- delivering milk to babies receiving care through the Baby Milk program
- collecting and distributing testing reagents for people living with HIV/AIDS
- distributing high energy protein supplements to sick and vulnerable people living in the wider community



HEALTHY FOUNDATIONS

RUMBEK, SOUTH SUDAN

In partnership with Loreto Rumbek

The Healthy Foundations project improved the general health and nutritional wellbeing of children under the age of five in the remote community of Maker Kuei in South Sudan. Children were enrolled in a nutrition feeding program at the Mary Ward Primary Health Care Centre where they received free meals, medical check-ups, nutritional supplements and necessary medication.

Access to food and nutrition is always a challenge for the wider community of Maker Kuei. The situation further deteriorated during the pandemic as travel restrictions and the closure of borders limited trade and access to markets. Unexpected flooding also limited the movement of goods and people, leading to the destruction of many food crops in the region.

This project supported the health centre's programs that focussed on nutrition and healthcare for malnourished children and enabled medical consultations both at the centre and during medical outreach camps. During 2021, MWIA's support ensured essential medical care was provided for over 25,000 patients, many of whom were children under the age of five, school-aged children and women. It also assisted the centre in purchasing medicine to treat malaria, which remains the most common illness in Maker Kuei, particularly during the rainy season.



“Our Clinic has become the focus of so much activity. Each month the team treated over 5,000 new patients. Before coronavirus we were only able to support 1,500. This was possible because of your support.

The Mary Ward Primary Health Care Clinic team





BABY MILK

LUKULU, ZAMBIA

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Zambia

The Baby Milk program provided milk and nutrition support to orphaned and undernourished babies in the impoverished district of Lukulu, located in remote Zambia. Since the program's inception in 2006, the lives of hundreds of babies have been saved by the provision of milk formula and nutritional supplements.

The need for this program is immense given the rates of HIV and malnutrition in the district of Lukulu. With 17% of the Zambian population HIV positive, many babies are orphaned or unable to be breastfed by their mothers after the age of six months due to the risk of mother-to-child transmission. Another ongoing challenge faced by the program is the rising cost of milk formula, and with the present global economic situation as it is, this is likely to continue.

In 2021, over 60 babies received regular and life-saving milk and nutrition support from birth to 18 months of age. Important health education and awareness training was delivered to parents and guardians by health workers at the program's three milk distribution centres. Topics included child nutrition, hygiene, the importance of birth registration, child protection and how to seek support in instances where a mother has been abandoned by the child's father.

Covid-19 Emergency Relief

WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In a sign that community extends far beyond our immediate surrounds, MWIA supporters contributed over \$70,500 to Loreto emergency relief efforts as India faced devastating numbers of COVID-19 cases, a collapsing medical system and a shortage of oxygen.

These funds provided desperately needed medical, nutritional and educational support to those in India who had been hit the hardest, particularly those who lost work and could not afford to provide food or medical treatment for themselves and their families.

As the Loreto Sisters and their teams live and work in the communities directly impacted, they were able to ensure medical support and emergency relief reached those who needed it quickly, save lives and help stop the spread of COVID-19.

This included:

- Purchasing oxygen concentrators for the communities of Darjeeling, Champasari, Shillong, Ranchi and Kolkata
- Delivering food, medical, and educational support for over 1,000 families from West Bengal province's poorest, most remote communities
- Providing medical and educational support for 250 young female street children as part of the Loreto Rainbow Homes program
- Running COVID-19 awareness and protection training to local communities. This included the distribution of masks made by the youth group of the Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre





ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

MWIA believes we must learn, grow and work together in our journey toward achieving full ecological sustainability.



Solar Energy Sustainability

NAIROBI, KENYA

Drought and water scarcity are both very real issues experienced across Kenya today. In dealing with these challenges that have been exacerbated by climate change, staff at the Mary Ward Retreat Centre in Nairobi identified the use of solar energy to support their community while simultaneously delivering sustainable development outcomes.

With MWIA's support, the installation of a solar-operated water bore and drip irrigation system in 2021 has resulted in an efficient and continual water supply to the various crops and greenhouses on its farm, even amid regular power outages. On average, interruptions to power in Nairobi occur 20 times per month, reinforcing the importance of operationalising solar technology to reduce reliance on the national electricity grid.

The project has positively impacted the centre by strengthening its financial position. The use of solar energy resulted in decreased overhead costs, particularly in relation to the cost of electricity which fell by 15% - a saving of approximately US\$300 per month.

Income from the sale of vegetables has generated a profit of approximately US\$1,500 per month, providing the centre with funding to purchase much-needed training materials for workshops and retreats.

As the agricultural yield has significantly improved with the efficient water supply, the centre has come to rely more on the farm. Since project implementation, the quantity and value of the food supplied to the centre's kitchen has increased from 40% to 75%, providing a variety of fresh produce to make meals for the guests attending retreats and workshops.

The growth and expansion of the farm through solar technology has given staff a platform from which to adopt more environmentally-sustainable technology to reduce the farm's carbon footprint and help curb the impact of climate change.

By promoting improved environmental outcomes through this project, we hope that it will serve as a model for other MWIA projects worldwide.

Mary Ward International Australia thanks missio München for its generous support of this project.

BRINGING LIGHT TO THE SUNDARBANS

WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In Partnership with the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre (KMWSC)

Through this project, people from remote communities in the Sundarbans have made and distributed solar lanterns to cyclone-affected families living in tents without electricity. The light has enabled children to safely study at home and provided light to cook meals and weave fishing nets. The solar lanterns further protect villagers at night when outside – tigers and poisonous snakes are prevalent in the Sundarbans due to the lack of streetlights in the villages.

Unfortunately, the Sundarbans will continue to be affected by its volatile environment, making solar power even more critical to local communities. Solar energy is the best solution for light in the region. It is clean, environmentally friendly, and long-lasting.

Throughout 2021, solar lanterns were assembled by locals trained by KMWSC staff at the new solar production centre. The centre was responsible for distributing solar lanterns to 80 cyclone-affected families in the Sundarbans, providing an independent and reliable light source. The project also provided a pathway for women to access their legal rights through a locally-formed self-help group. Over 130 women joined the group, which provided training on the use of solar lights and supported them to access government support services and other legal entitlements.

WATER ACCESS

OSTICO, TIMOR-LESTE

In Partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Timor-Leste

The long-term aim of the Water Access project is to provide the people of Ostico with an accessible and sustainable source of clean water, fundamental to any community wishing to thrive and grow. Through this initiative, approximately 500 families living in Ostico will have access to clean water within close proximity to home.

Currently, the only water supply in Ostico is a contaminated stream located about two kilometres from the township. As it is the role of women and girls to ensure their households have a supply of clean water, they can spend hours each day walking to the stream and carting full water bottles home. Once home, the water then needs to be boiled before it can be used. It is both a time consuming and physically exhausting task.

During 2021, the local community assisted in locating an underground stream and constructing a water bore. In 2022, the village turns its attention to completing the project by setting up a resource efficient series of tanks and pipes to equitably distribute water throughout the township. Importantly, the community has met and agreed to establish a fund into which those accessing the water will pay a nominal monthly fee. The fund will be used to maintain the water tanks and pipelines and promote a sense of local ownership and engagement.





LEARNING FROM OUR WORK

Safeguarding

In many ways, 2021 was a year of reflection at MWIA. Although the impact of COVID-19 was still being felt across the world, the year presented us with the opportunity to better understand how to provide meaningful assistance to the communities we seek to support.

Beyond financially supporting Loreto Sisters and other partners in the field, MWIA works to strengthen their skills to implement projects in local communities effectively. This includes ensuring important safeguards are in place to protect the people, communities and environments where our projects are delivered.

Safeguarding may take many forms but is, above all, guided by the principle of 'do no harm'. This means protecting the rights, health, safety and livelihoods of people – children, women, Indigenous people, and other vulnerable or disadvantaged groups – while maintaining the health, diversity and productivity of the natural environment.

In 2021, we sought to redefine our own role in safeguarding. We are looking beyond a simple compliance-based view of prevention and protection and towards a more justice-driven approach for those we seek to protect.

Reframing our approach to safeguarding was underpinned by the new MWIA Strategic Plan. The plan focuses on sustainable, systemic change through effective, respectful collaborations and partnerships. This strategic goal has sharpened our focus on the systemic causes of injustices, issues of accountability, and how power is disproportionately held, including recognition of the power imbalance between MWIA and our partners.

We approached this task by reviewing our current suite of safeguarding policies and commitments. We updated policies that address the prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, protection of human rights and vulnerable persons, and financial wrongdoing to provide our local partners with the agency to use local knowledge and experience rather than burdening them with a traditional

compliance mandate. Work in this area will continue throughout 2022 and include a review of our approach to environmental sustainability, inclusivity and diversity.

In 2021, new reporting mechanisms were implemented to include partner-led conversations about what they are doing to further local safeguarding and what MWIA can do to support processes already in place. Not only does this shift the dynamic between MWIA and our partners, but it also respects their local knowledge and experience and provides them with agency and ownership – essential elements in any true partnership.

Our partners and project beneficiaries are provided with accessible procedures and channels for reporting misconduct through our website. The development of an internal suite of safeguarding courses for staff, volunteers and partners is in progress. These courses will provide a deeper understanding of safeguarding, beginning with child protection.

Focal persons remain in place for reporting misconduct relating to child protection, sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, and financial wrongdoing. This includes an external whistleblowing contact for those wishing to report anonymously. No cases of misconduct were reported to MWIA throughout 2021.

It is important to acknowledge that this work is ongoing and will require continued re-evaluation and tailoring to meet the needs of each partner, whether it be in Zambia, Peru, India or Timor-Leste. We also recognise that safeguarding requirements differ depending on the nature of the project; for example, construction projects require a different approach to safeguarding compared to educational programs delivered in a school environment.

Regardless of the project location or theme, protection and safeguarding must be permanently embedded in our values and those of our partner organisations. Ultimately this will lead to stronger partnerships consistent with development best-practice and more effective support for the communities we seek to assist.

FINANCIALS

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE & POSITION

This financial year, Mary Ward International Australia reported a consolidated operating deficit of \$0.33 million compared to a deficit of \$0.43 million for the previous 18-month period.

This spending reflects MWIA's strategic intent as outlined in our [2021-2024 Strategic Plan](#).

MWIA remains in a healthy financial position, with positive net assets of \$3.14 million at year end. This included:

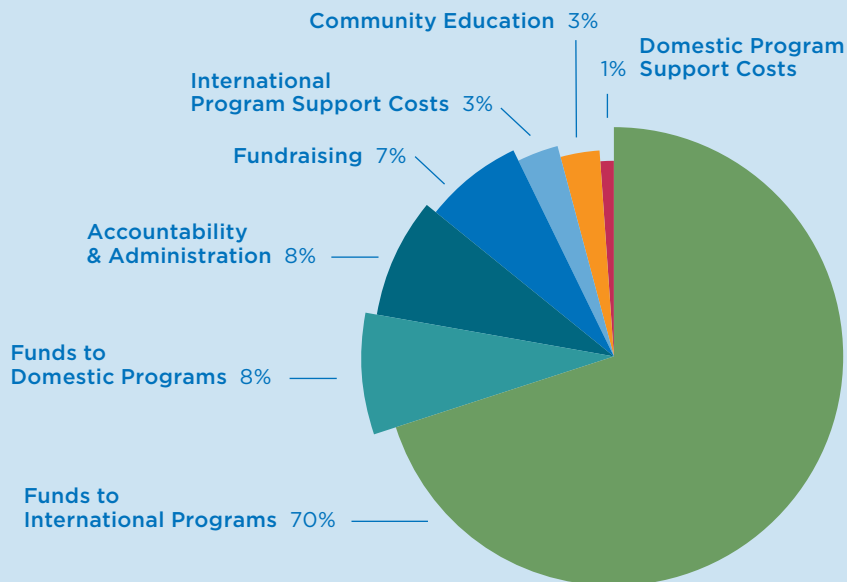
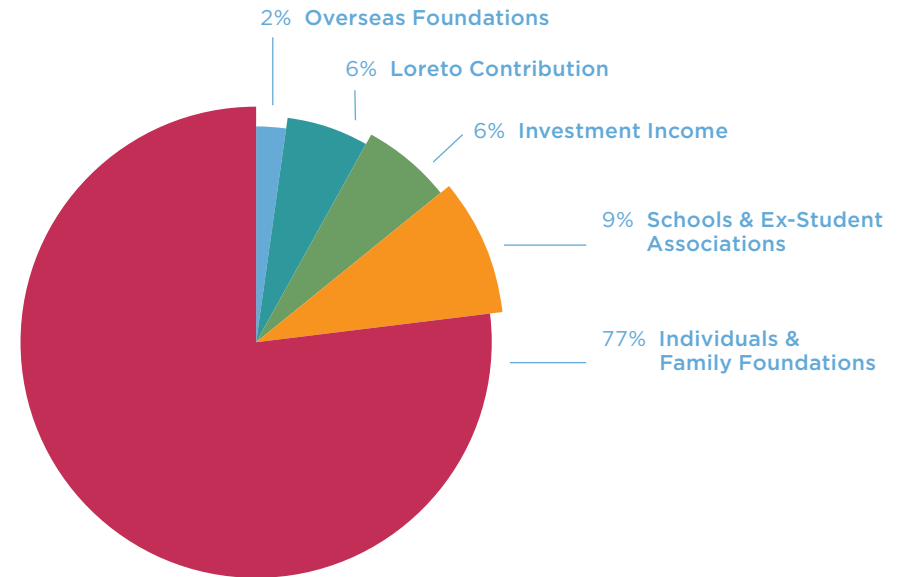
- Maintaining a minimum operating reserve of \$0.5 million to support ongoing operations, meet any unexpected costs and remain viable if needed. As at 31 December that reserve was \$0.73 million.
- The remaining net assets of \$2.64 million comprised:
 - Corpus funds spread across two of MWIA trusts. The Loreto Sisters/Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary and MWIA founders provided these funds on establishment of the trusts as a capital base to be invested in perpetuity in a long-term portfolio of assets to generate income to spend on projects.
 - Funds donated for specific purposes to assist with achieving MWIA's strategic goals over the coming years.

2021 INCOME

Our consolidated income for 2021 was \$1.84 million, compared to \$1.38 million over the prior 18-month period.

Donations from individuals and family foundations in Australia made up our most significant income in 2021, contributing \$1.41 million.

Schools and related parent and ex-student associations brought in 2.5 times more than the 2020 school year, despite continuing to face COVID-19 lockdowns. While the market value of the investments increased, interest income declined compared to the 18 months prior.

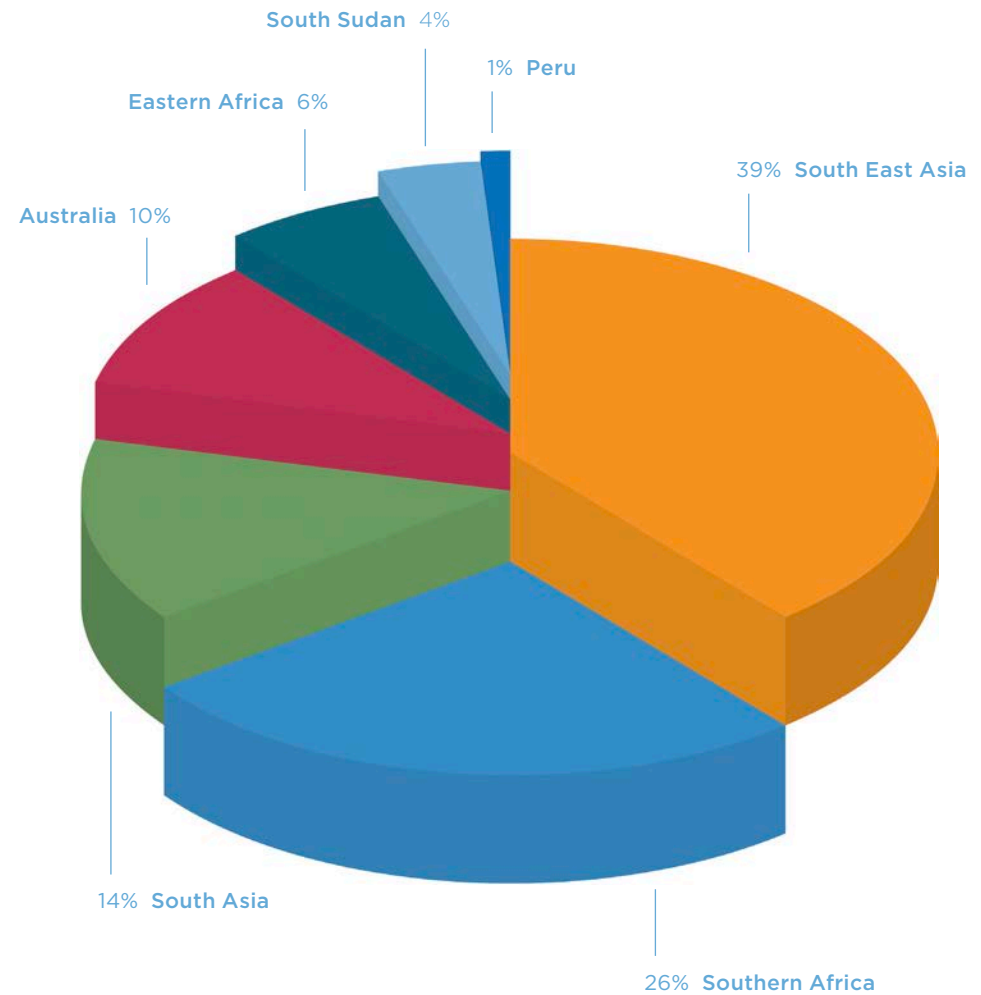


2021 EXPENDITURE

Over 2021 we contributed \$1.52 million to the Loreto Sisters' work with women and communities overseas to create just and sustainable change. We also provided \$0.18 million to project partners in Australia.

Expenses incurred in 2021 included: \$0.1 million to support international and domestic programs; \$0.2 million to promote MWIA and its supported programs in schools and across the broader community as well as raise funds; and \$0.17 million to meet governance, compliance and regulatory requirements.

PROGRAM SPEND BY REGION OR COUNTRY



DIRECTORS DECLARATION

Mary Ward International Australia Limited administers and acts as trustee of three charitable trust funds:

- Mary Ward International Australia Charitable Trust
- Mary Ward International Australia
- Mary Ward International Australia Overseas Development Fund

The following summary financial statements reflect the results and financial position of the trustee company and the three trusts that it controls, referred to as 'the group', for the period 1 January to 31 December 2021. The comparatives are for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 December 2020. MWIA changed its year end from 30 June to 31 December to be consistent with associated Loreto entities. This was approved by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission in 2020, therefore the last reporting period covered 18 months. The current reporting period is for 12 months ending 31 December 2021. The consolidated special purpose financial report of Mary Ward International Australia Limited was approved by the Board on 12 May 2022.

This Summary Financial Report is derived from the audited financial report of Mary Ward International Australia Limited for the year ended 31 December 2021. It has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 2 of the audited financial report and as set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code, please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance available at www.acfid.asn.au

This Summary Financial Report is approved on behalf of the MWIA Board.¹



Dr Leoni Degenhardt AM Chair

16 June 2022

¹ Copies of our audited financial reports can be obtained by writing to the Executive Officer, PO Box 4082, Auburn South, VIC 3122, Australia, or by visiting mwia.org.au

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

REVENUE		
	2021 (12 months)	Restated 2019/2020 (18 months)
Donations and gifts - monetary	\$619,988	\$775,889
Refunded domestic project expenditure	-	\$50,000
Grants - Australian	\$950,000	\$268,605
Grants - Overseas	\$31,327	\$19,499
Investment income	\$39,951	\$85,927
Gain on investments	\$79,916	-
Loreto Sister contribution	\$117,000	\$181,557
Total Revenue	\$1,838,182	\$1,381,477

EXPENDITURE		
	2021 (12 months)	Restated 2019/2020 (18 months)
International aid and development programs		
Funds to international programs	\$1,518,205	\$1,093,096
Program support costs	\$73,786	\$106,983
Community education	\$63,963	\$75,813
Fundraising costs - public	\$139,359	\$193,359
Accountability and administration	\$172,276	\$235,736
Total international aid and development programs expenditure	\$1,967,589	\$1,704,987
Domestic programs expenditure		
Domestic programs distributions	\$177,194	\$52,318
Domestic programs support costs	\$27,501	\$35,598
Loss from investments	-	\$20,260
Total Expenditure	\$2,172,284	\$1,813,163
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$334,102)	(\$431,686)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(\$334,102)	(\$431,686)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

ASSETS		
	2021 (12 months)	2019/2020 (18 months)
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,102,319	\$747,791
Other receivables	\$21,964	\$4,753
Financial assets	\$2,069,795	\$2,834,441
Total current assets	\$3,194,078	\$3,586,985
Non-Current Assets		
Computer & IT Equipment	\$7,000	-
Total non-current assets	\$7,000	-
Total Assets	\$3,201,078	\$3,586,985

LIABILITIES		
	2021 (12 months)	2019/2020 (18 months)
Current Liabilities		
Other payables	\$55,088	\$106,893
Community education	\$55,088	\$106,893
Total Liabilities	\$55,088	\$106,893
NET ASSETS	\$3,145,990	\$3,480,092

EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	\$3,145,990	\$3,480,092
TOTAL EQUITY	\$3,145,990	\$3,480,092

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Other	Total
Balance as at 30 June 2019	3,911,778	-	-	3,911,778
Excess of expenses over revenue	(431,686)	-	-	(431,686)
Balance as at 31 December 2020	3,480,092	-	-	3,480,092
Excess of expenses over revenue	(334,102)	-	-	(334,102)
Balance as at 31 December 2021	3,145,990	-	-	3,145,990

MWIA AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

Deloitte.

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu ABN
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Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements to the Members of Mary Ward International Australia Ltd

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the consolidated ACFID statement of financial position and the consolidated ACFID statement of changes in equity as at 31 December 2021 and the consolidated ACFID statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended and the related notes (the "summary financial statements"), are derived from the audited financial report of Mary Ward International Ltd for the 12 months ended 31 December 2021.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report and the auditor's report thereon. The summary financial statements and the audited financial report do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial report.

The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial report in our report dated 12 May 2022.

Other Information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises commentary and graphs of the financial performance, 2021 income and 2021 expenditure, but does not include the summary financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the summary financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the summary financial statement, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the summary financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

The Directors' Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

The Directors are responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with the ACFID financial reporting requirements.

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Deloitte Asia Pacific Limited and the Deloitte Organisation.

Deloitte.

Auditor's Responsibility

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

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of subdivision 60-C of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*. We confirm that the independence declaration required by subdivision 60-C of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*, which has been given to the directors of Mary Ward International Ltd would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU

Isabelle Lefevre

Isabelle Lefevre
Partner
Chartered Accountants
Melbourne, 16 June 2022

GOVERNANCE

MWIA is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors with unique skills and experience, united by the purpose of creating just and sustainable change with women, children and communities.

Meet the Board



Dr. Leoni Degenhardt AM
Chair

Board member since 2019



Nicole Gibson
Deputy Chair

Board member since 2017
MWIA Projects and Operation
Committee Chair



Rebecca Walker
Board Member

Board member since 2018
MWIA Projects and Operation
Committee member



Sr Libby Rogerson ibvm
Board Member

Board member since 2017



Chris Dureau
Board Member

Board member since 2019



Mary Cook
Board Member

Board member since 2019
MWIA Fundraising and
Communications Committee Chair



Sr Wendy Hildebrand ibvm
Board Member

Board member since 2015
Province Leader | Loreto Australia
and South East Asia



Kelly Morrison
Board Member

Board member since 2018
MWIA Audit, Risk and Finance
Committee Chair



David Ballhausen
Board Member

Board member since November 2021
MWIA Audit, Risk and Finance
Committee Member since May 2021

THANK YOU



www.mwia.org.au



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[Mary Ward International Australia](https://www.linkedin.com/company/mary-ward-international-australia)