

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

MARY WARD INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA | 2023



Driving Global Change

Mary Ward International Australia (MWIA) is the Australian and international development organisation of the Loreto Australia & South East Asia Province. Through providing much-needed resources, we support the Loreto Sisters and those in our Loreto broader community around the world, assisting where the need is greatest.

Inspired by Loreto's founder, the Venerable 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.**

MWIA's approach to development is rigorous, community-led and sustainable. Its work is grounded in a history of collaboration, listening, and sharing knowledge, ideas and challenges – and, importantly, Loreto values.

Contents

Our Vision	4
Message from the Chair	5
Executive Officer Report	6
Global Impact Snapshot 2023	7
Our Impact	8
Strong Women Equal Strong Communities	9
Amplifying Voices	15
Educating Tomorrow's Leaders	21
Learning From Our Work	24
Financials	26
Financial Performance and Position	27
2023 Income and Expenditure	28
Directors' Declaration	29
Financial Statements	30
Audit Report	33
Governance	34

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.

Cover Image: Hamelale Chicken House, Ostico, ©MWIA

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.

P: 03 8832 0411
E: mwiaustralia@loreto.org.au
W: www.mwia.org.au
A: PO Box 4082, Auburn South, VIC 3122



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

The work of Mary Ward International Australia continued apace in 2023, supporting women to bring about positive change in communities and countries across the world. As we know, strong women = strong communities.

Immediately, Timor-Leste comes to mind. In the village of Ostico within the Baucau District, the Loreto community centre – a place where local people can gather, learn, and celebrate – was completed. This major MWIA project faced numerous delays due to COVID-19; however, the official opening in November was a great celebration, with much rejoicing by the local community. My visit in October with MWIA staff members, Hannah and Kirstin, was a wonderful opportunity to meet local people, the Loreto Sisters in Ostico, and others in international development or education roles working with Timorese people.

For me, it was special to meet the people of Ostico and see the projects that MWIA has supported: small-scale agricultural irrigation systems, domestic water supply solutions, and simple communal laundries that relieve local women from the laborious task of walking long distances with their families' laundry balanced on their heads to wash it in roadside streams. Now, these women can gather and talk with other women while they work.

I was delighted to meet the women of Hamelale, a cottage industry that manufactures local products made from locally grown chickpea flour and is now expanding into raising chickens for sale, and the inspiring founder of HAFUCO, which provides healthy meals weekly to around 80 women with small children, whilst also providing education in nutrition for young children.

The work of the Board also involves much behind the scenes work. We ensure that our organisation remains compliant with legal and ethical requirements and reflects the Mary Ward mission and values. In 2023, the Board approved new governance policies and recruitment processes, and conducted a skills matrix review to ensure diverse and skilled membership.

I am grateful to Nicole Gibson, Deputy Board Chair, who took over as Acting Chair for the first half of 2023, and for the support of the rest of the MWIA Board while I was on a period of unexpected leave. In 2023, we farewelled Emma Lawler and David Ballhausen from the Board, both of whom made extremely valuable contributions to MWIA during their time as Directors.

As always, I am grateful to all who have donated to MWIA over the past year. Without your generosity, there is little we could do to help women achieve the improvements they want for their children and communities.

It continues to be a privilege to be part of Mary Ward International Australia as, together with our many friends and supporters, we progress towards our vision of 'a just world where women influence, children thrive, and communities live in harmony with each other and the Earth.'



A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Leoni Degenhardt'.

Dr Leoni Degenhardt AM
Chair, Mary Ward International Australia

Executive Officer Report

In 2023, Mary Ward International Australia (MWIA) achieved significant milestones in supporting women and community-led sustainable programs. Notably, the completion of the Loreto Community Centre in Ostico, Timor-Leste, provided a vital resource for education and community engagement. In Zambia, the construction of additional facilities at the Sancta Maria College of Nursing and Midwifery addressed critical educational and healthcare needs, while legal aid projects in India engaged thousands, raising awareness on social issues and providing critical legal support. The expansion of the sanitary pad initiative in Kolkata significantly improved school attendance and community health, demonstrating MWIA's commitment to addressing fundamental needs that impact women's education and wellbeing.

MWIA prioritised sustainable, systemic change through effective collaborations and partnerships in 2023. We joined the Stronger Charities Alliance advocacy trip in Canberra to highlight the importance of not-for-profit advocacy and launched the Voices for Change report. Our involvement with ACFID included urging the Australian Government to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and Israel, emphasising human rights and the need for a ceasefire. Furthermore, we joined our counterparts worldwide in signing the 2024 Civil Society Declaration for the 62nd session of the UN Commission for Social Development, advocating for inclusive social development and justice.

Throughout 2023, MWIA enhanced awareness and commitment to its mission through continuous engagement with Loreto schools and communities. We organised and participated in various school activities to foster connections, engage students, teachers, alumni, and our broader network in MWIA's work, and encourage their role in social change.

This engagement has been instrumental in building a supportive community around our initiatives, reflected in strong individual giving and bequests. MWIA also continued to secure support from family foundations. These grants have strengthened our financial foundation, ensuring the sustainability of future projects. We plan to leverage these successes to boost future fundraising efforts in 2024, ensuring continued support for our vital programs.

In governance and organisational capacity, MWIA made significant strides. We streamlined bank accounts and investments, and revised the budget and constitution for better financial management and compliance. Our compliance with ACFID standards was reaffirmed, and new governance policies were implemented to ensure we remain aligned with best practice. Recruiting a new full-time Fundraising and Community Engagement Manager in December and prioritising staff performance reviews and professional development opportunities further strengthened the team.

Overall, MWIA made considerable progress in governance, financial management, and organisational capacity in 2023. I wish to acknowledge and thank MWIA Board Directors and our two Company Secretaries over this period, Soulla Nicodimou and Rob Wright, for their generous time, expertise, advice, and support throughout the year.

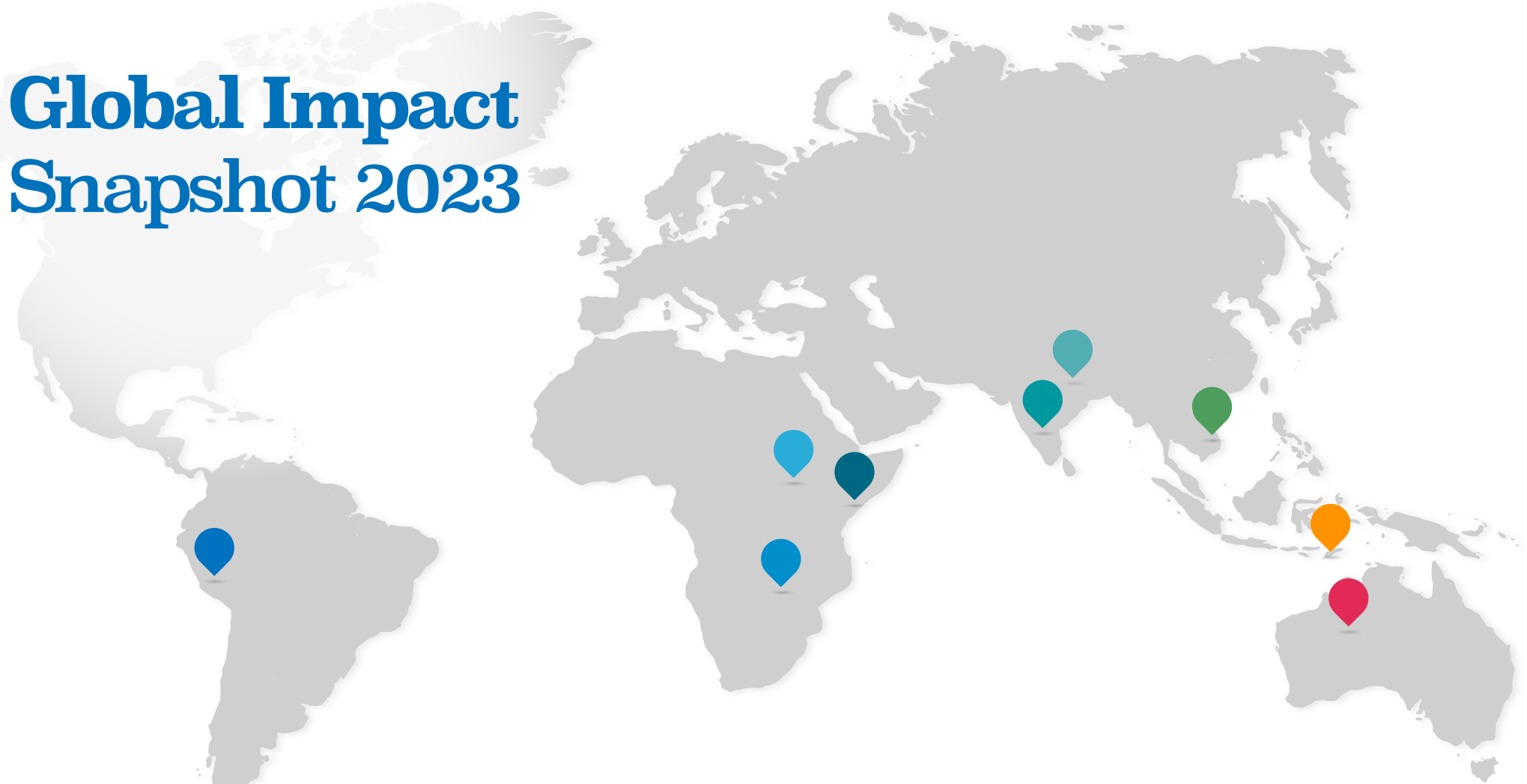
In particular, I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to our ever-generous donors and supporters—everything in this report has been achieved thanks to you. Your continued support is crucial as we strive to make a lasting impact in the communities we serve.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hannah George".

Hannah George
Executive Officer,
Mary Ward International Australia

Global Impact Snapshot 2023



65,577

people supported

67

communities impacted

23

projects funded

97%

of project funding aimed to advance gender equity

91%

of projects led by women - up 5% on 2022

52%

of projects led by women from local communities

Strong Women Equal Strong Communities

A Year of Transformation

OSTICO, TIMOR-LESTE

In partnership with Fundação Loreto Timor Leste.

Our journey in Ostico took a significant leap forward in 2023 thanks to the generous support of the Noel and Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation. Moving into our new community centre marked a pivotal moment, transforming it into a vibrant hub for community engagement and development initiatives.

At the heart of our new space lies a commitment to inclusivity and collaboration, particularly with the women of the community. We've hosted a myriad of events and meetings that have brought together the Ostico community and various stakeholders. From planning sessions with local farmers to discussions on innovative off-grid power solutions, our centre has been a catalyst for meaningful dialogues and actionable plans.



New Community Centre, Loreto Ostico Building Project, Ostico, ©MWIA

Beyond formal meetings, the space aims to become a beacon of learning and growth. Weekly English classes resonated through the walls, echoing the aspirations of individuals seeking to broaden their horizons. Children's singing sessions, upcoming workshops on health and nutrition, and sewing lessons will further enrich the tapestry of activities that define our community engagement efforts.



New, Piped Water Tank, Water Access, Ostico, ©MWIA

One of our proudest achievements this year has been the successful implementation of a clean water project, benefiting approximately 500 families in Ostico. Overcoming the geographical challenges posed by Ostico's limestone plateau, we supported the local community in installing a bore and a network of tanks that now distribute clean water throughout the local area. This transformation has not only alleviated the burden of water collection but has also improved overall wellbeing and hygiene standards.

In parallel with infrastructure projects, we've continued to invest in initiatives that uplift local communities. Hamelale, a women-led farming cooperative, has blossomed into a model of economic empowerment, offering opportunities for women to pursue financial independence through sustainable agricultural practices.



Similarly, our new partnership with HAFUCO (Haburas Futuru Comunidade - Growing the Future with the Community group) has focused on holistic community development, including agricultural production, health education, and maternal and child health training.

Our vision remains steadfast: create a thriving, resilient community in Ostico and beyond. By fostering partnerships, investing in sustainable solutions, and empowering individuals, we believe in a future where every member of our community can flourish



Women-Led Farming Cooperative, Hamelale Chicken House, Ostico, ©MWIA



ETHICAL ENTERPRISES INITIATIVE FOR YOUNG WOMEN

WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre

The Ethical Enterprises Initiative for Young Women, led by the Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre in Panighatta, empowers young women in tea plantations to combat trafficking and unsafe migration through vocational training, fostering local employment and enhancing decision-making abilities. Seventy jute-making students and 27 tailoring students gained skills, improving their social and financial conditions. Empowered, they now advocate for their rights and contribute positively to their families and communities, have established tailoring businesses, or have gained private-sector employment. This initiative provides financial support and boosts confidence, granting women greater influence in decision-making. With newfound skills, vulnerable youth have sustained economic stability through entrepreneurial ventures and job opportunities.

Panighatta Sewing Project, Ethical Enterprises Initiative for Young Women, West Bengal, ©MWIA



WOMEN'S SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

In partnership with House of Welcome

The Women's Supported Accommodation project by the House of Welcome (HoW) offers safe shelter and comprehensive support for women seeking asylum and at risk of homelessness. Integrating various services, it ensures a holistic, person-centred approach. During the reporting period, HoW provided transitional housing and support for women and children. Financial assistance facilitated employment, while case workers tailored individual plans, fostering independence and reducing reliance on external aid. Through this project, women could concentrate on securing employment, achieving financial autonomy, and smoothly reintegrating into society. HoW's commitment to safe housing and wraparound support has helped these women pursue their goals with confidence, ensuring a positive trajectory towards independence and stability.

UNDER 5 HEALTH SUPPORT

RUMBEK, SOUTH SUDAN

In partnership with Loreto Rumbek

Through education, this project has enabled mothers and caregivers to emerge as leaders in safeguarding their children's health – thereby significantly improving healthcare access for children in the rural villages of Maker Kuei, Rumbek, South Sudan. The project ensured sustained provision of health education, elevating knowledge on health, hygiene, and nutrition. Through weekly mobile clinics, the project reached seven remote villages, benefiting 4,000 community members, including 1,000 children under five years of age. Free medical consultations provided crucial support for early childhood health, addressing the needs of rural families lacking affordable healthcare. Nearly 10,000 consultations were conducted, with malaria identified as the predominant illness. The project's Health Education Program focused on new mothers and female empowerment through increased access to vital health education resources.

Piriwa Strategy & Governance

BALGO, AUSTRALIA

In partnership with Enterprise Partnerships WA

Throughout 2023, the Piriwa Enterprise Hub continued to provide First Nations women living in the remote community of Balgo with the opportunity to explore pathways to self-employment and wellbeing via culturally-based enterprise development.

During this initiative, the Piriwa leadership team underwent significant capacity building in governance to effectively and independently manage the hub's operations in the future. Consequently, the hub has already strengthened many of its governance procedures, including record-keeping, cash management and banking systems.

A key focus of the initiative was to enhance local leadership's ability to develop a comprehensive strategic plan. This strategic blueprint, completed in December, now serves as a guiding framework to secure Piriwa's long-term sustainability.

The strategic plan outlines immediate objectives and lays the groundwork for Piriwa's growth and development. Strengthening partnerships with stakeholders, within and beyond the community, is essential for sustaining operations, expanding services, and ensuring the hub's enduring impact on the community.

The plan focuses on developing pathways for the continued engagement of young women who are economically marginalised by providing them with the skills and resources to test and launch their own enterprises.



Ongoing support from Enterprise Partnerships WA remains pivotal to Piriwa's success. This support will be tailored to meet evolving needs, providing crucial assistance where necessary, while fostering a culture of self-reliance within the community. Over time, as the women of Piriwa continue to enhance their skills and self-sufficiency, the reliance on external support will diminish, paving the way for a self-sustaining model that is resilient and adaptable to changing circumstances.

Since its inception in 2020, the Piriwa Enterprise Hub has been pivotal in driving positive change within the Balgo community. With enhanced governance and leadership, Piriwa can continue to strengthen cultural identity via culturally-based enterprise development initiatives and foster the health and overall wellbeing of the community.

Amplifying Voices

Barefoot Lawyers

WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre

This pilot initiative sought to drive positive social change and enhance the overall quality of life for those living in the tea estates of Darjeeling, India, by improving access to legal resources, education, and essential services.

The project was implemented under the guidance of frontline workers, known as 'barefoot lawyers'. Although not formally qualified in law, barefoot lawyers have received training to support community members in legal matters, including worker exploitation, family violence, and human trafficking.

Before the project's implementation, most community members were unaware of their legal rights, often resolving issues internally due to the cultural taboos surrounding them. Throughout implementation, community members learned about their rights and how to seek justice and support through the formal legal channels available to them.

Community engagement emerged as a significant challenge throughout the year. Thanks to the efforts of the barefoot lawyers, who conducted frequent home and community visits, trust was established, and strong bonds grew. Through this targeted outreach, community members gained a deeper appreciation of the project's goals and became more knowledgeable about their legal rights.

Over 2,000 people attended community meetings and awareness programs throughout 2023. The sessions provided the community with basic legal knowledge about their human rights and how to access them. They further encouraged participants to register their concerns at the legal clinic run by the Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre.

Educational initiatives in schools were key to gaining support from both teachers and students, and throughout the year, 1,350 students participated in legal awareness sessions that addressed issues such as cybercrime, child abuse, and child labour. A further 145 people attended workshops addressing specific legal issues regarding human trafficking and child protection.

Looking ahead to 2024, it is imperative to continue efforts to expand legal literacy, improve access to justice, and address systemic issues that perpetuate social injustices. Moreover, ongoing collaboration with stakeholders, including legal professionals, community leaders, and government bodies, will be essential to ensure equitable outcomes for all members of society.





COLLECTIVE VOICES TOWARDS ATTAINING LIVELIHOOD & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre

This project supports marginalised communities to understand, enact, and promote their rights in four key areas: education, protection, health, and nutrition. Through networking and self-help groups, participants in 2023 learnt how to access healthcare, government support, and community resources. Workshops engaging hundreds covered child rights, gender equality, family and sexual violence, and human trafficking. Field associates also organised health camps, providing free services and awareness sessions, enhancing community wellbeing. Results included newly formed self-help groups driving microfinance and income generation activities, tea plantation workers securing ID cards, and youth groups advocating for women's rights and against child labour and violence. This active engagement enabled communities to shape a brighter future for their children.

EDUCATING FOR THE ELIMINATION OF FORCED MARRIAGE AUSTRALIA

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

Led by ACRATH, the project raised awareness amongst key groups particularly vulnerable to forced marriage. The project targeted groups vulnerable to forced marriage, delivering school presentations, engaging key networks, and supporting three young women at risk. Across Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria, the project conducted 56 awareness sessions, reaching over 1,600 community members, healthcare workers, teachers, and students. ACRATH's community development workers collaborate with NGOs, government departments, and law enforcement. Years of advocacy culminated in the Federal Government's commitment to offer support to trafficked individuals facing forced marriage, independent of law enforcement involvement, a significant milestone after 17 years of persistent efforts by ACRATH.

COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

KANGEMI, KENYA

In partnership with Loreto Eastern Africa Province

The project aimed to empower Kangemi residents with awareness to combat human trafficking, ensuring their safety and wellbeing. Year one showcased considerable progress; in particular, there was heightened vigilance among school children and increased community reporting of trafficking incidents. Loreto Eastern Africa's collaborative efforts with local authorities, health volunteers, and paralegal officers enhanced community resilience and health system strengthening. Notably, the project's impact earned it a role in the review of Kenya's Countering Trafficking Act. Achievements surpassed targets, reaching 11,933 individuals through awareness campaigns, supporting 19 trafficking survivors, training 30 animators, and implementing 50 outreach programs. Ongoing efforts include addressing issues like child trafficking, with active police investigations fuelled by incident reports from monthly meetings and annual reviews.

LANDING PAD

WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre

Landing Pad empowers women in West Bengal's informal settlements, including the Sonagachi red light district, to overcome menstrual stigma. Through education and support, it provides access to sanitary pads and promotes menstrual hygiene. The project boosts female confidence, reduces school absenteeism among adolescent girls, and fosters community interaction. In 2023, it produced 61,465 pads and distributed 57,400 free pads to marginalised women, tribal communities, and migrant workers' daughters. The Sanitary Pad Unit, initiated by the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre, aims to raise awareness and break taboos surrounding menstruation. On October 11, 2023, the project launched the brand My-Days on the International Day of the Girl Child. Additionally, 34 community outreach activities engaged over 2,700 participants in integrated education sessions, extending the project's impact on underserved communities.

Community Outreach and Education, Landing Pads, West Bengal, ©MWIA





Woman Using Solar Lantern to Read, Bringing Light to the Sundarbans, West Bengal, ©KMWSC

BRINGING LIGHT TO SUNDARBANS WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre

In the Sundarbans of West Bengal, where dense forests cover many of its 102 islands, the solar lanterns initiative brings light to disadvantaged families. Through home visits in 2023, field associates distributed 100 solar lanterns and conducted six awareness sessions, reaching 477 parents across three villages. They also provided guidance on accessing government schemes, resulting in over 40 women in need successfully applying for monthly financial support. Additionally, 100 women received baby chickens to help generate income to support their families. Three 'Child Parliaments' were organised as part of this initiative, engaging 60 children. Through these gatherings, children learnt about such pressing issues as child labour and sexual abuse, empowering them to become advocates for the rights of themselves and their peers.

CHILD RIGHTS COMMUNITY EDUCATION HUAYCÁN, PERU

In partnership with Mary Ward International Peru

In communities like Huaycán, where children face daily threats of violence, the Child Rights Community Education project plays a crucial role. In 2023, the project conducted 24 violence prevention workshops attended by 94 students from 4th to 6th grade. 90% of participants actively engaged in discussions promoting effective treatment and violence prevention. Additionally, 94% of 616 elementary students received vital information on these topics. MWIA's funding enabled the employment of specialised personnel, the procurement of workshop materials and provided school supplies to all 658 students. It also covered expenses for various activities like workshops, home visits, and casework. This support empowers Huaycán's children to speak out against violence and abuse, fostering a safer and more respectful community for all.



Violence Prevention Workshop, Child Rights Community Education, Huaycán, ©MWIA

Educating Tomorrow's Leaders

Fostering Health Through Education

LUKULU, ZAMBIA

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Zambia

In 2023, significant strides were made across several pivotal projects aimed at enhancing education in Western Zambia's Lukulu region, particularly in the area of healthcare.

The construction of the College of Nursing and Midwifery, initiated in 2020 with the support of the Noel and Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation and other incredible supporters, reached a milestone with the completion of Phase 3. This phase included the addition of essential infrastructure such as dormitories and classrooms, providing not only education but also creating economic opportunities and improving healthcare access in the region. The college's development marks a significant investment in the future of healthcare professionals and quality care for the community.

The Nursing College Bursaries program has been instrumental in supporting students in need, overcoming challenges like fee payment and managing donor expectations. The bursaries have facilitated access to a comprehensive health education program for deserving students who will lead the delivery of quality healthcare across this remote region in the years to come. Over 2023, the program successfully supported 17 students, all meeting academic expectations and contributing to the healthcare workforce.

MWIA's support for the Integrated Health Care Support vehicle continued. The vehicle has been a lifeline for many, facilitating transport to local hospitals and distant facilities for specialised treatment, providing home visits by nurses for patient review and medicine distribution, and supporting various health programs. Notably, emergency transport services have been crucial in critical situations, potentially saving lives and ensuring timely medical care for residents.

The Baby Milk program, supported by MWIA, was a beacon of hope for 70 babies facing challenges such as malnutrition and health complications. It continues to play an essential role in nurturing the health of vulnerable infants.

Similarly, the Lunch Feeding program continued to provide nutritious meals to secondary students, benefiting 45 in Term 1 and 65 in Term 2. This program has been particularly crucial for children from households facing food insecurity, ensuring they receive essential nutrition to support their growth and development. These initiatives collectively reflect MWIA's commitment to holistic community development, fostering a healthier, educated, and nourished future for all in Lukulu.



New Classrooms, Sancta Maria Nursing and Midwifery College, Lukulu, ©Loreto Sisters

BRICKFIELD SCHOOLS

WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre

In India, the brickfield industry heavily relies on migrant labour, often resorting to child employment to cut costs. However, families in these areas often prioritise income over their children's education. Funded by MWIA, the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre operates 10 open-air schools in West Bengal's Brickfields, providing education, nutritious meals, health check-ups, and other vital support, breaking the cycle of illiteracy for 527 children in 2023. The schools fostered engaging learning environments with age-appropriate curricula. Furthermore, 64 children successfully transitioned to government schools in their home villages, health camps and awareness programs reached 344 families, and tailoring classes saw 64 women and teenagers skilled with increased economic prospects. The initiative employed 21 teachers and two lead teachers, reinforcing local engagement. Through these efforts together, we have equipped children and families with essential skills and knowledge for a brighter future.

EDUCATION SUPPORT FOR GIRLS IN DHARAN

DHARAN, NEPAL

In partnership with Nepal Loreto Shiksha Sadan (Loreto Development Centre)

In Nepal, as the government strives to enhance education in rural areas, the IBVM Hostel Dharan stands as a sanctuary for young girls to pursue their studies safely. With a capacity of 20 residents, the hostel has successfully fulfilled its mission of offering a secure environment for girls attending local government schools. In 2023, 15 girls excelled in their board exams, paving the path for higher education. Besides academic support in math, science, and English, the hostel nurtures creativity through tailoring and computer classes. Nutritious meals and cooking guidance from the hostel cook ensured students' physical well-being. Enhanced by supportive infrastructure and essential supplies, the students remain motivated to excel academically.

Children in Class, Brickfield Schools, West Bengal, ©MWIA



Learning From Our Work

Inclusion Drives Diversity & Leadership

Ensuring inclusion is fundamental to our achievements, within our own workplace and in the initiatives we champion. We understand that embracing diversity strengthens our team and promotes an atmosphere where each individual feels valued and respected. Our commitment to inclusivity also ensures our initiatives benefit from a wide array of perspectives and insights, leading to greater innovation and effectiveness.

We promote inclusion in our development initiatives by placing communities at the centre of decision-making processes so their voices are heard and valued. Engaging diverse stakeholders, including those who are marginalised, in the project design, implementation, and evaluation, guarantees initiatives are responsive to the needs and priorities of those most affected.

As an organisation committed to women's development, 97% of project funding aimed to advance gender equity. Over 90% of the projects supported by MWIA were led by women and of these, nearly 60% were led by women from the local community.

In 2023, we discussed the fundamental purpose of our work with our partners and agreed to place a greater emphasis on developing women's leadership and decision-making potential. Already, several of our partners have integrated this focus into their project planning, offering mentorship opportunities to nurture future leaders.

While strides are being made in promoting gender equality, there is still much to be done regarding the inclusion of people with disabilities.

Despite its importance, incorporating disability inclusion into our development initiatives continues to challenge us. Although the MWIA Disability Inclusion Policy

has been integrated into our project management framework, insufficient capacity amongst project stakeholders, including our own team, presents a significant obstacle to effectively integrating it into project design and implementation.

Creating a truly inclusive and diverse workplace requires ongoing investment and engagement from all levels of an organisation. Though we are small, we remain committed to inclusion, and it was during 2023 that we discovered much can be achieved, even with limited resourcing.

Throughout the year, all staff participated in training focused on safeguarding, gender and inclusion, with disability inclusion training planned for 2024. Our staff actively engaged in inclusion-oriented communities and practices with the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), enhancing their comprehension of workplace and field-related issues.

Inclusion at a governance level ensures that decision-making reflects the diverse perspectives, experiences and needs of all stakeholders. With that in mind, the MWIA Board pledged to incorporate local voices into its decision-making structure, effective 2024.

In early 2023, MWIA relocated to a new office space specifically designed with accessibility as a top priority. The relocation underscores MWIA's commitment to inclusivity and ensures that individuals of all abilities can participate in our work.

At MWIA, we view inclusion as an integral component of our workplace and our work. Prioritising inclusivity in our development initiatives and our team allows us to harness the full potential of diverse perspectives and contribute to building a more resilient world.

FINANCIALS

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE & POSITION

This financial year, Mary Ward International Australia reported a consolidated surplus of \$0.64 million, compared to \$0.79 million for the previous year.

This helped solidify MWIA's healthy financial position, with positive net assets at the year's end of \$4.58 million. This included:

- A Specific Purpose Reserve of \$1.49 million comprising donations and grants received for future specific activities or programs;
- A Committed Funds Reserve of \$0.36 million comprising funds set aside to deliver committed future contracts or multi-year project agreements;
- An Operating Reserve of \$0.7 million to maintain MWIA's ability to trade solvent in the event of the sudden loss of a major source of funding; and
- A corpus of \$0.96 million provided by the Loreto Sisters/Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary and MWIA founders on establishment of MWIA as a capital base to be invested to generate income for projects.

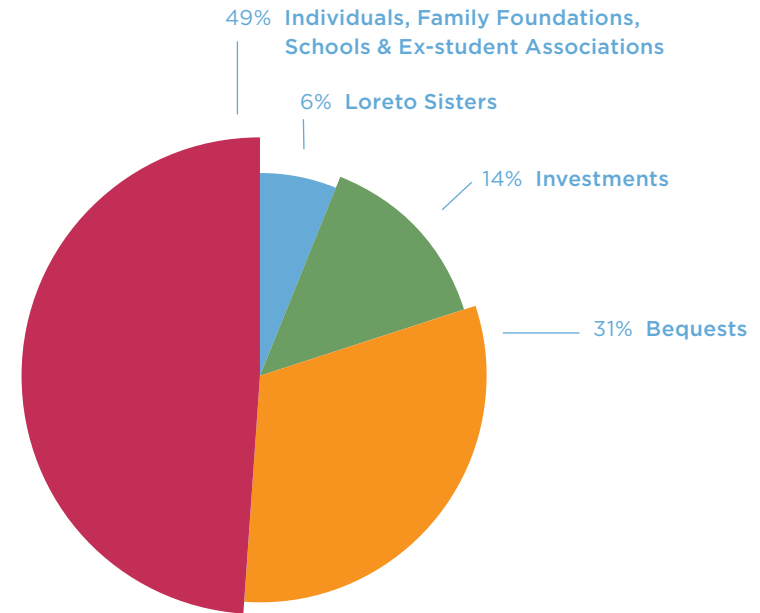
2023 INCOME

Our consolidated income for 2023 was \$2.02 million, compared to \$2.85 million the prior year.

Donations from individuals, family foundations, schools and related parent and ex-student associations contributed the most to our income in 2023, contributing \$0.97 million, followed by bequests of \$0.62 million. No funds were received from overseas foundations in 2023.

The Loreto Sisters/Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (the Province) contributed \$0.12 million. The Loreto Province also provided in-kind support in the form of rent, utilities and other services.

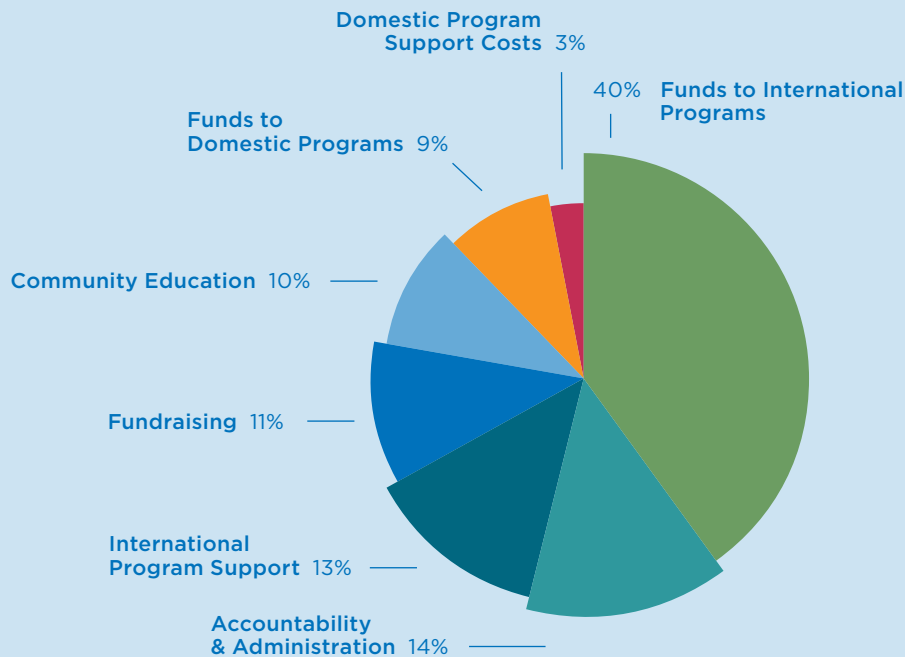
Investment income provided \$0.12 million, in addition to an investment gain of \$0.15 million.



2023 EXPENDITURE

In 2023, we contributed \$0.55 million to the Loreto Sisters' work with women and communities overseas to support transformative change for women and their communities. We also provided \$0.12 million to partners in Australia.

Expenses incurred in 2023 comprised \$0.23 million to support international and domestic programs, \$0.29 million to promote MWIA and its supported programs in schools and across the broader community as well as raise funds, and \$0.2 million to meet governance, compliance, and regulatory requirements.



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 2023. The comparatives are for the period 1 January to 31 December 2022. The consolidated special purpose financial report of Mary Ward International Australia Limited was approved by the Board on 25 May 2024.

This Summary Financial Report is derived from the audited financial report of Mary Ward International Australia Limited for the year ended 31 December 2023. 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, Mary Ward International Australia

3 June 2023

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 YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

REVENUE		
	2023	2022
Donations and gifts - monetary	\$653,578	\$550,793
Grants - Australian	\$320,841	\$889,737
Grants - Overseas		\$54,490
Investment income	\$123,857	\$120,159
Gain on investments	\$148,996	-
Loreto Province contribution	\$122,000	\$122,000
Bequests	\$622,515	\$1,115,574
Other	\$28,509	\$2,091
Total Revenue	\$2,020,296	\$2,854,844

EXPENDITURE		
	2023	2022
International aid and development programs		
Funds to international programs	\$552,522	\$1,124,500
Program support costs	\$184,112	\$170,020
Community education	\$134,460	\$132,291
Fundraising costs - public	\$153,129	\$166,449
Accountability and administration	\$196,812	\$161,841
Total international aid and development programs expenditure	\$1,221,035	\$1,755,101
Domestic programs expenditure		
Domestic programs distributions	\$115,940	\$50,000
Domestic programs support costs	\$45,456	\$42,373
Loss from investments	-	\$212,018
Total Expenditure	\$1,382,431	\$2,059,492
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$637,865	\$795,352
Other comprehensive income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	\$637,865	\$795,352

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

ASSETS		
	2023	2022
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,005,141	\$2,247,610
Other receivables	\$14,884	\$8,640
Financial assets	\$2,694,072	\$1,754,943
Total current assets	\$4,714,097	\$4,011,193
Non-Current Assets		
Computer & IT Equipment	\$2,956	\$6,675
Total non-current assets	\$2,956	\$6,675
Total Assets	\$4,717,053	\$4,017,868

LIABILITIES		
	2023	2022
Current Liabilities		
Other payables	\$137,846	\$106,893
Total Current Liabilities	\$137,846	\$106,893
Total Liabilities	\$137,846	\$106,893

NET ASSETS	\$4,579,207	\$3,941,342
-------------------	--------------------	--------------------

EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	\$4,579,207	\$3,941,342

TOTAL EQUITY	\$4,579,207	\$3,941,342
---------------------	--------------------	--------------------

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Accumulated Surplus	Total
Balance as at 31 December 2021	\$3,145,990	\$3,145,990
Surplus for the period	\$795,352	\$795,352
Balance as at 31 December 2022	\$3,941,342	\$3,941,342
Surplus for the period	\$637,865	\$637,865
Balance as at 31 December 2023	\$4,579,207	\$4,579,207

Basis of Preparation

The summary financial statements are derived from the audited financial report of Mary Ward International Ltd for the year ended 31 December 2023 (the "Audited Financial Report"). The accounting policies relating to recognition and measurement applied in the preparation of a summary financial statements are the same as those adopted in the preparation of the Audited Financial Report. The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards applied in the preparation of the Audited Financial Report.

MWIA AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023



Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
ABN 74 490 121 060

Level 37, 8 Parramatta Square
10 Darcy Street
Parramatta NSW 2150
Australia

Tel: +61 (0) 2 9840 7000
www.deloitte.com.au

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 summary consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, the summary consolidated income statement and the summary consolidated statement of changes in equity 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 year ended 31 December 2023 (the "Audited Financial Report").

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the Audited Financial Report, on the basis described on in the basis of preparation note.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards applied in the preparation of the Audited Financial Report. 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 27 May 2024.

Other Information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises commentary and graphs of the financial performance, 2023 income and 2023 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 on the basis described on in the basis of preparation note.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.
Member of Deloitte Asia Pacific Limited and the Deloitte organisation.



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*.

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU

P. G. Manghani

Pawan Manghani
Partner
Chartered Accountants
Melbourne, 6 June 2024

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
Board Chair

Board member since 2019
Board Chair since January 2020
MWIA Governance Committee member



Nicole Gibson
Deputy Chair

Board member since 2017
MWIA Governance Committee member



Rebecca Walker
Board Member

Board member since 2018
MWIA Governance Committee Chair from August 2023



Sr Libby Rogerson ibvm
Board Member

Board member since 2017
MWIA Governance Committee member



Kelly Morrison
Board Member

Board member since 2018
MWIA Finance and Audit Committee Chair



Mary Cook
Board Member

Board member since 2019
MWIA Finance and Audit Committee member



Chris Dureau
Board Member

Board member since 2019
MWIA Finance and Audit Committee member



David Ballhausen
Board Member

Board member since 2021,
resigned November 2023
MWIA Finance and Audit Committee member



Emma Lawler,
Board Member

Board member since February 2022, resigned August 2023
MWIA Governance Committee Chair to August 2023

THANK YOU



www.mwia.org.au



[@mary_ward_international_australia](https://www.instagram.com/mary_ward_international_australia)



[Mary Ward International Australia](https://www.facebook.com/MaryWardInternationalAustralia)



[Mary Ward International Australia](https://www.linkedin.com/company/MaryWardInternationalAustralia)