

MARY WARD INTERNATIONAL

Annual Impact *Report 2025*



Driving Global Change

Mary Ward International 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 global Loreto community, assisting where the need is greatest.

Inspired by Loreto's founder, the Venerable Mary Ward, and guided by her deep love of Jesus, Mary Ward International 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.

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

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Mary Ward International 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: Street MBAs in Kibera, Kenya.

MARY WARD INTERNATIONAL

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

It is with genuine pleasure that I present to you the Annual Report for 2025, once again a testament to the achievements of Mary Ward International. These achievements, through targeted projects, relationship building, deeper understanding of others' needs, and the creation of new connections, have made a real difference in the lives of individuals and communities, both here in Australia and beyond our borders.

I write as Chair of Mary Ward International for the first time. It is a privilege to assume the role of Chair at this time in the organisation's history. The unification of the Loreto and CJ branches of Mary Ward women was historic – it is, in essence, coming full circle, once again considering Mary Ward women, the Congregation of Jesus and the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary as one body. For Mary Ward International, this makes way for growth and development opportunities that fulfil our primary mission – to make a tangible impact in the lives of others, primarily women and children, through health and education initiatives in communities where the need is greatest. We are now, globally, as one mind in this endeavour.

The Board of Mary Ward International has been well served for a number of years by dedicated Board members whose names you will see recorded in this report. Special thanks and recognition are due to retiring Board members Kelly Morrison (also Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee and Chair of the Loreto Ostico Building Project), Breda Linge, and Sr Wendy Hildebrand CJ (now the Province Leader). I sincerely thank those who assumed the position of Acting Chair for a period, namely Sr Wendy Hildebrand CJ, Chris Dureau, and Soulla Nicodimou.

As always, our donors, in many ways those who we cannot do without, are deserving of such gratitude. It takes both faith in our mission and achievements, and a generous heart to become and remain donors to this worthy organisation. Our thanks, and the thanks of all the Sisters, are offered to you.

I commend this report to you. May you read this with interest and joy.

Thank you all for your continued support.



Dr Susan Stevens
Board Chair since February 2026
Mary Ward International

Executive Officer Report

Throughout 2025, Mary Ward International worked alongside partners, staff, and supporters to strengthen the lives of women, children, and communities around the world. It was a year marked by progress, shared purpose, and a deep commitment to building change that lasts.

Mary Ward International distributed more than one million dollars to project partners, supporting initiatives that tackle the root causes of inequity and poverty while strengthening local female leadership. Remarkably, half of all projects were led by women within their own communities, reinforcing our belief that strong women build strong communities.

These investments enabled our partners to continue to expand access to education, livelihoods, and economic opportunity. In Zambia, construction of the Sancta Maria College of Nursing and Midwifery neared completion, with the capacity to deliver quality tertiary education to 300 students each year. In India, the Ethical Enterprise initiative equipped women and girls across villages and tea plantations with skills in entrepreneurship, leadership, tailoring, and seasonal jute production. Many graduates launched small businesses, enhancing financial independence and community resilience.

Alongside project expansion, strengthening local capacity remained an important focus. Staff visits to Timor-Leste and Zambia provided safeguarding and finance training, supporting partners to grow local leadership and self-determination.

Earlier in the year, Mary Ward International participated in a landmark review of the global development network, assessing its vision, effectiveness, and systems, while exploring ways to strengthen coordination and communication. This work helped prepare the organisation for the

opportunities that would arise following the November merger of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Congregation of Jesus, opening a pivotal new chapter for the united congregation.

Throughout the year, Mary Ward International continued to raise awareness and deepen its connection to the Loreto mission. Engagement with Loreto schools remained central to this work, with generous fundraising and active participation providing invaluable support. The dedication of schools and students reflects the unity and strength of the Loreto community in Australia.

The achievements of 2025 show the generosity, commitment, and collaboration of our partners, staff, and supporters. Entering 2026, we are grateful for everyone who joins us on this journey. The progress of this past year has shown that our network is ready to grow, ready to unite, and ready to build a stronger foundation for the generations of women and girls who will follow.



A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'K. Del Beato'.

Kirstin Del Beato
*Executive Officer,
Mary Ward International*

Global Impact *Snapshot 2025*



61,133

people
supported

44

communities
impacted

24

projects
funded

97%

of project
funding aimed at
advancing gender
equity

92%

of projects led
by women

50%

of projects led by
women from local
communities

Educating *Tomorrow's Leaders*

Education, whether formal, non-formal, or vocational, is a vital catalyst for women's progress and gender equality. It empowers women with the knowledge and skills to challenge traditional gender roles and seize new economic opportunities, enabling them to secure meaningful work and build sustainable livelihoods.

Beyond being a pathway to employment, education develops leadership, builds confidence, and instils a sense of agency. When women are equipped with the tools to participate fully in their communities, barriers to equality are dismantled, and lasting change unfolds in their lives and across broader society.

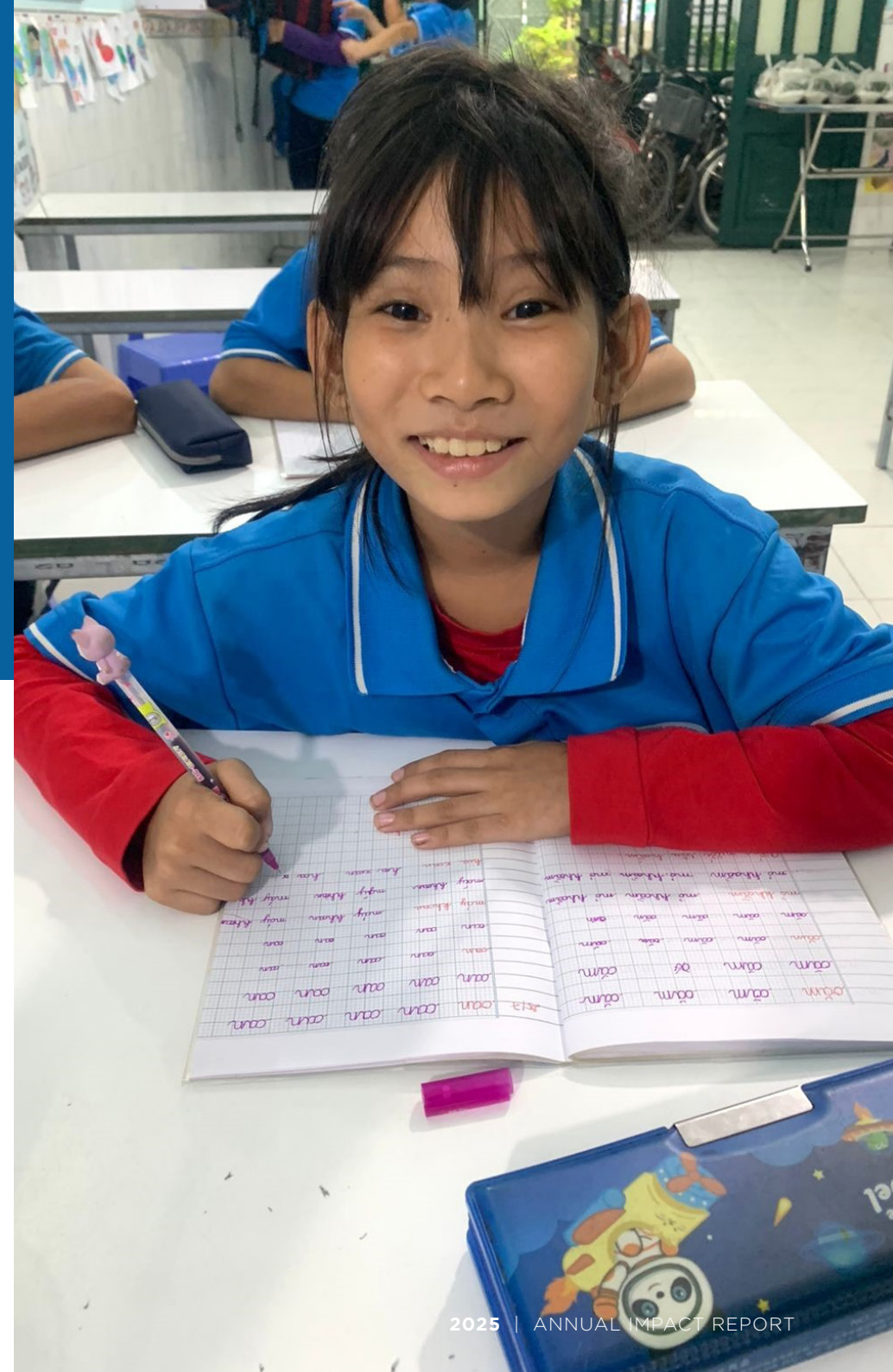
Vinh Loc *Learning Support Program*

HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM

In partnership with Loreto Australia & South East Asia.

The Vinh Loc Learning Support Program opens doors for children, offering opportunities to learn the Vietnamese language, literacy, and numeracy in a safe and welcoming environment. Many families in Vinh Loc migrate from rural provinces and depend on unstable, low-income work. For some, schooling is out of reach due to financial strain and the challenge of gathering the documents needed for enrolment. The program offers children a place where learning becomes possible, where they can build confidence, make friends, and experience the joy of belonging to a classroom community.

This caring approach is life changing for children like Khoa*, aged seven, and his sister Minh*, aged eleven. With their parents imprisoned, they live separately from their other siblings; four now live with grandparents who struggle to make ends meet. Khoa and Minh joined the program in 2024 but stopped attending after three months because no one could take them to school. When the teachers learned of their situation, they arranged for another family to bring the children each day. This simple action allowed both children to return eagerly to class.



Today, they read and write confidently, are among the strongest students in their groups, and play happily with their classmates. Their journey shows how removing even small barriers can ignite hope and open new possibilities for a child's future.

Khoa and Minh's story highlights the importance of tailored support and guided learning, which the program continues to strengthen.

After Teacher Yen left mid-year, two new teaching assistants joined the team. Anh, a qualified English teacher with international experience, has brought fresh energy and expanded the program's language and foundational support, particularly for younger learners.

This year, the program introduced a more focused class structure. Rather than six learning levels across two large groups, children now learn in four smaller groups, following a new afternoon timetable. This change allows teachers to provide more individual attention and tailor lessons to each child's needs. The program also introduced an early-years class for prep-aged children, offering the youngest learners a structured start to school life.

Holiday classes ran throughout the school break, with a significant increase in attendance. Several formal school students joined the sessions to maintain their learning and continue their progress over the holiday period.

By the end of the year, six children transitioned into the formal schooling system. These six and seven-year-olds not only caught up academically but also obtained the identification documents they needed to enrol in local schools, making their move into mainstream classes smooth and successful.

**Names changed for privacy*



BRICKFIELD SCHOOLS

WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre.

In West Bengal, children from migrant families face the harsh realities of brickfield labour. The Brickfield Schools program provides quality education tailored to children's unique needs in open-air classrooms. It helps children stay in school by creating safe, inspiring spaces, delivering learning, and supporting families so children can thrive academically and socially.

The program delivers life-changing outcomes for migrant children and families throughout West Bengal. Despite challenging living conditions, 493 children access safe learning, with over 85% attending regularly and excelling academically. Of these, 107 have transitioned into the government education system. After targeted training and mentoring, teachers have reported greater confidence, professional pride, and improved classroom quality.

Health and wellbeing were improved through 28 health camps, reaching 1,469 people and strengthening connections to government services. Parent engagement shifted attitudes, particularly toward girls' education, while livelihood training boosted confidence and economic resilience. Student-led groups promoted self-advocacy, leadership, and community responsibility.



BUILDING STRONG FOUNDATIONS

RUMBEK, SOUTH SUDAN

In partnership with Loreto Rumbek.

The Building Strong Foundations program has made a meaningful difference to communities in Maker Kuei, Rumbek. Project staff enrolled 150 malnourished children from remote villages in an emergency feeding program, improving nutrition outcomes and child survival rates. Through daily nutritious meals, supplements, medical care, and caregiver education, 93% of participating children made remarkable progress in weight, appetite, and mid-upper arm circumference. A total of 139 children successfully completed the program. Children also received routine vaccinations and treatment for malnutrition-related illnesses, while malaria prevention and care further strengthened overall child health.

Across six villages, 31 health outreaches delivered 18,295 medical consultations for children under five, ensuring free, timely access to care. The program empowered 171 caregivers with daily health education. 74% of caregivers demonstrated improved knowledge and adopted safer practices, including better hygiene, nutrition, and prompt treatment-seeking. Caregiver-led food production gardens further strengthened household food security, providing sustainable, community-led solutions.





AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

RĂDĂUȚI, ROMANIA

In partnership with Centrul Maria Ward, Romania.

In Rădăuți, near the Ukrainian border, many children, especially from Roma families, face poverty, family instability, and educational barriers that threaten their futures. To address the overwhelming risks of dropout and exploitation, this program created a safe, supportive space for 50 vulnerable children, with 40–45 attending every day. Despite challenges of distance, illness, and family pressures, children consistently had access to learning, meals, and care. Daily after-school sessions helped them complete homework, build hygiene routines, and stay engaged in education.

Families welcomed the educational support for their children and the material assistance they received, which eased the household pressures caused by poverty, illiteracy, and poor health. Counselling and practical support for mothers further strengthened family stability and reduced the risk of child-family separation.

By combining educational, nutritional, psychological, and social support, the Centre lays the foundations that help break the cycles of poverty that exclude children from living fulfilling lives.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

LUKULU, ZAMBIA

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Zambia.

At St Columba's Secondary School in Lukulu, a simple school meal is often the main source of nutrition for many students. Some live in township shacks, while others travel from remote villages in surrounding districts that are among Zambia's least developed areas. The School Lunch program fulfils this need, serving daily hot meals that help students stay engaged and focused on their studies, and return to school each day.

The program nourishes 105 students, mostly girls. The lunchtime meal is often their only food for the day. Teachers have reported improved concentration, learning, and afternoon attendance, as students no longer need to leave school to find food or walk long distances home. Attendance records have confirmed these gains.

Students and staff welcomed the stability and sustenance the program provides, reducing child hunger while enhancing learning outcomes.

BABY MILK

LUKULU, ZAMBIA

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Zambia.

The Baby Milk Program delivers essential nutrition to orphaned and at-risk infants, giving them a healthy start during critical stages of early development. Each infant receives a safe, age-appropriate formula and is carefully monitored, while caregivers receive health education and support to build confidence and knowledge of infant feeding.

49 vulnerable infants received life-sustaining formula tailored to their individual health, growth, and family circumstances. Regular follow-ups allowed timely adjustments and safe transitions as infants' conditions stabilised. Caregivers reported improvements in infant strength, feeding routines, and overall health. Ensuring reliable nutrition at this crucial stage contributed to healthier early growth outcomes and strengthened caregiver confidence. These early interventions are a lifeline for infant survival and development.



SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE OF NURSING & MIDWIFERY

LUKULU, ZAMBIA

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Zambia.

Funded by donations from committed supporters and a grant from the Noel and Carmel O'Brien Family Foundation, the new kitchen and dining hall for the Sancta Maria College of Nursing and Midwifery was completed. These upgrades now allow the College to serve nourishing meals to 300 students each day. The kitchen features a 200-litre solar geyser, a spacious walk-in cold room, industrial sinks, integrated handwashing facilities, and staff changing areas with showers and toilets. These features improve hygiene, food storage, and operational efficiency. Previously overcrowded, the dining hall now comfortably accommodates all students and recently allowed the College to efficiently cater for its second graduation ceremony in November 2025.

Despite challenges such as hand-assembling a steel roof structure without cranes and producing over 40,000 hand-moulded blocks from locally sourced materials, construction was completed in under 11 months. The project provided employment for local workers and achieved cost savings through bulk purchasing. Students, staff, and management report major improvements in comfort, safety, and kitchen functionality, making the facilities a lasting asset for the College and the wider community. Many of the blocks were used to construct a permanent security fence around the campus, safeguarding students, 70% of whom are female, and securing this important community resource.

Nursing students continue to complete essential clinical training at hospitals in the region. The College bus, maintained with support from Mary Ward International, ensures daily travel to these placements, enabling all students to access hands-on learning and develop the practical skills needed to meet the region's growing healthcare needs.

In 2025, the College farm was transformed with a solar-powered pump and drip irrigation system, funded by the Rotary Club of Port Phillip for Mary Ward International. Now, water flows directly to vegetable plants whenever the sun shines, ensuring reliable irrigation while allowing gardeners to devote more time to planting, weeding, and preparing nursery beds. During the dry season, the pump draws water from a nearby source, supporting healthy crop growth even in challenging conditions. This project has improved productivity, enhanced sustainability, and fortified food security, demonstrating the tangible benefits of renewable technology.





SISTER ELIZABETH DONNAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

LUKULU, ZAMBIA

In partnership with the Loreto Sisters, Zambia.

Mary Ward International continues to support the Sancta Maria College of Nursing and Midwifery through the Sr Elizabeth Donnan Scholarship Fund, prioritising local young people facing the area's tough living conditions. In 2025, 52 students received bursaries covering tuition, training, travel, and accommodation, removing financial barriers so they could focus on their studies. By reducing training costs and providing continuous support, the program strengthened student retention and completion rates while building a skilled local health workforce.

The Fund honours Australian Loreto Sister Elizabeth Donnan, who passed away in 2025. For more than two decades, she championed education in Western Zambia, helping to establish the College. As bursary manager, she ensured no student was turned away due to financial hardship. The Fund continues her legacy by supporting students to become compassionate nurses and make a lasting difference.

Strong Women *Equal Strong Communities*

Economic empowerment gives women the confidence and agency to make meaningful decisions for themselves, their families and their futures. With financial control, women choose the paths that shape the direction of their lives with greater freedom.

Economic independence enables women to take an active role in shaping their communities, contributing their skills, insights, and leadership as equals. By strengthening women's economic autonomy, we lay the foundation for more inclusive and resilient societies.

Street MBAs *in Kibera*

NAIROBI, KENYA

In partnership with Wanawake kwa Wanawake.

In Kibera, one of Africa's most crowded informal settlements, women face significant barriers to stable income, economic security, and opportunities for growth. The Street MBA project supports women in developing practical business, financial, and vocational skills that strengthen livelihoods, boost confidence, and improve overall wellbeing.

The program supported 72 women across three training streams: building and construction, business, and cookery and housekeeping. These pathways helped the women develop marketable skills, launch small enterprises, and access new forms of employment.

Business training quickly translated into tangible outcomes. Sessions in budgeting, marketing, customer care, savings, and record-keeping gave women the knowledge and confidence to take control of their economic futures. A follow-up survey revealed that 84.2% of participants had started or strengthened a business or accessed employment as a result. Many joined community savings groups, diversified small enterprises, and increased household income, contributing to improved nutrition, hygiene, and family stability.



Vocational training streams also delivered meaningful results. All graduates from the construction training secured jobs, including one who received a permanent position with a furniture maker. Others began industrial placements throughout the year. In the cookery and housekeeping stream, one woman gained employment as a hospital chef while several started food kiosks in their neighbourhoods.

Lia's* story captures the program's deeper impact. At 25, she joined the construction training while struggling to support her baby through casual work and unstable housing. With her first earnings, she secured her own home, a vital step for her independence and her child's safety. Since then, she has continued to grow in the construction field, working on multiple painting projects across Nairobi. Her strong work ethic led to her being appointed as a subcontractor on a major site, where she recruited and supervised a team of 10 workers, becoming the only woman in a leadership role on the project.

Today, Lia is known among local contractors for her reliability, skill, and professionalism, which have enabled her to secure repeat work and build a steady income. She dreams of formalising her subcontracting work into a small company that can train and employ other women, helping them enter a field traditionally closed to them.

The program faced challenges common to training in informal settlements. Many women rely on daily earnings, making regular attendance difficult without financial support, and formal job options remain limited in this marginalised context. Even so, participants applied their new skills at home, improved household wellbeing, and pursued self-employment, demonstrating the resilience and potential that the Street MBA program continues to nurture.

**Name changed for privacy*





ETHICAL ENTERPRISES FOR YOUNG WOMEN

WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre.

The Ethical Enterprises initiative supports vulnerable youth and women in Siliguri's tea garden communities by building entrepreneurial skills, sustainable livelihoods, and financial independence. Through mentorship, enterprise networks, and socially responsible business practices, the program helps reduce reliance on temporary wage labour, encourages ethical business conduct, and contributes to more equitable community development.

In 2025, 68 young people enrolled in the program, of whom 63 successfully completed skills and enterprise training. Mentorship and networks strengthened confidence and readiness, with 42 participants linked to mentors or business contacts. 38 participants safely accessed savings or credit through ethical financial links. Advocacy sessions reached 620 community members, deepening awareness of safe migration, trafficking risks, and informed decision-making.

Women and girls benefited through livelihood groups, entrepreneurship training, and market access for jute and paper bag products. Participants reported increased confidence, reduced migration, and increased financial skills. The program delivered measurable gains in employment, financial literacy, and community awareness, laying a solid foundation for continued growth.

WOMEN'S SUPPORTED ACCOMMODATION

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

In partnership with House of Welcome.

The Women's Supported Accommodation Program provides secure housing and holistic, trauma-informed support for women on temporary visas or seeking asylum, many of whom have experienced domestic violence. Through personal guidance and access to essential services, the women develop the skills, confidence, and financial literacy needed for independent living, while supporting their own wellbeing and self-agency, as well as that of their children.

10 women and two single-parent households received intensive casework, housing assistance, and employment mentoring. Individual case plans covering health, housing, employment, and financial security were reviewed quarterly to meet evolving needs. Stable accommodation enabled participants to build tenancy skills, enhance financial literacy, and plan for independent living. Weekly employment mentoring supported job readiness, education access, and workforce engagement, while staff visits reinforced safe, sustainable living.

The program also provided financial assistance to 85 women and children for essentials, including rent, food, transport, and medications. By integrating housing with person-centred support, the program strengthened confidence, resilience, and long-term independence, delivering measurable outcomes.



OSTICO COMMUNITY PROJECTS

OSTICO, TIMOR-LESTE

In partnership with the Fundação Loreto Timor-Leste.

In 2025, a group of local women launched the Mary Ward Sewing Centre to develop practical skills and create sustainable livelihoods. Funding supported the construction of the centre and purchase of essential materials, including eight sewing machines, tailoring equipment, and furnishings such as tables, chairs, cabinets, and measuring tools. The program supplied quality fabric and purchased Tais Timor from other women's cooperatives, ensuring participants had reliable materials for practising their skills and producing market-ready items.

With these resources, women learned to sew clothes, bags, uniforms, jackets, dresses, and other products, enabling them to earn an income and participate in local markets. Qualified trainers provided consistent instruction throughout the year.

To strengthen their capacity to manage income safely and operate within ethical systems, participants received training in safeguarding and sound financial practices from Mary Ward International project staff.

This support was crucial, as the community previously lacked resources to run the centre. It enabled activities to begin, expanded women's skills, and created pathways to economic independence.



PIRIWA ENTERPRISE HUB

BALGO, AUSTRALIA

In partnership with Enterprise Partnerships WA.

Through fashion and art workshops blending cultural heritage, storytelling, and contemporary design, Mary Ward International supported Piriwa, a remote First Nations women's social enterprise.

Two workshops, led by Indigenous entrepreneur Jaru Girl, raised participants' confidence, shaped their design identity and prepared them for their debut at the Kimberley Aboriginal Fashion and Textile Art (KAFTA) event in Broome. Piriwa, the first desert-based community to showcase its work, reached an audience of 500 people, raising the visibility of remote Indigenous talent and the region's creative potential.

Participants explored the market potential of their creativity, adding artworks or traditional designs to garments and presenting them at the KAFTA market. This demonstrated the capacity for art, culture, and sustainable fashion to generate income and support environmental responsibility.

Although the project's progress was affected by ongoing Sorry Business and social and community challenges, trauma-informed mentoring offered a path to healing and safety. Participants gained new skills, strengthened their confidence, and laid a foundation for economic and cultural opportunities in 2026.



Amplifying *Voices*

Advocacy is a core pillar of our development model and includes equipping women and girls with the tools to assert their rights and influence change. It encompasses rights awareness, self-advocacy, decision-making, and leadership, enabling them to actively shape their futures.

Rights awareness involves understanding legal, social, and human rights, empowering individuals to protect and claim them. Self-advocacy focuses on effectively communicating needs and making informed choices. Decision-making refers to the ability to influence outcomes in both personal and public arenas, while leadership enables women to inspire change and participate in governance. Through advocacy, women and girls navigate systems, speak up for themselves, and contribute to positive social transformation.

Leadership Program *for Survivors of Trafficking & Abuse*

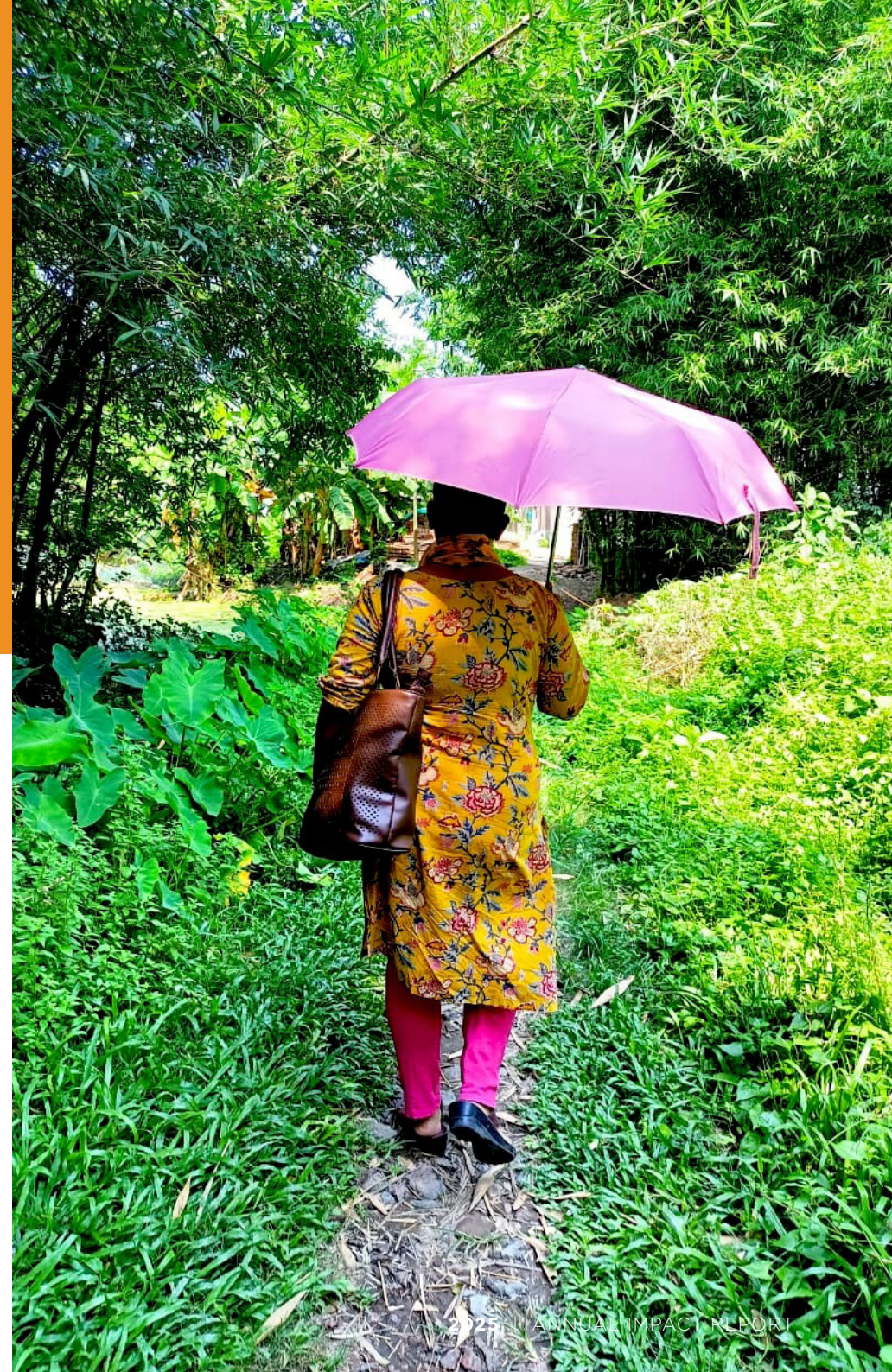
WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre.

Survivors of trafficking, abuse, and domestic violence continue to face stigma, isolation, and limited access to education and livelihoods, leaving them vulnerable to further harm. This program aims to overcome these obstacles by restoring agency. Survivors receive mental health support, legal guidance, advocacy, and practical skills training, enabling them to rebuild confidence and reclaim control over their lives.

The initiative's peer-led model is a distinctive strength. Experienced survivors mentor newer participants, creating trust, belonging, and shared resilience. Many go on to become leaders, driving community awareness and strengthening long-term, survivor-led change.

Isha's* experience reflects this transformation. Married as a young girl, she endured years of severe physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. After returning to her parents' home, she faced intense social stigma, but with her father's support, she filed a report against her husband.



When she joined the program, she struggled emotionally and lacked confidence, but through counselling, legal guidance, and the solidarity of the survivor group, she began to heal. She later secured a divorce and became a leader in the group, mentoring and supporting other women on their recovery.

Economic independence was a crucial milestone for Isha. Equipped with training, seeds, and fertilisers from the program team, she cultivated an organic kitchen garden that now nourishes her household and provides additional income through local sales.

Throughout the year, livelihood support benefited many others: 10 participants received assistance with organic farming, six received goats for income generation, one received a sewing machine for home-based tailoring, and four young women completed a three-month nursing assistant course, with one already employed.

Education and leadership development remained central to the program. Eight girls received targeted support to stay in school, and 15 survivors were trained as leaders, contributing to local campaigns and outreach in high-risk communities. One young participant, Mina*, received a government Bravery Award after saving her neighbour's life. Once withdrawn after surviving abuse, she had rebuilt confidence through counselling and survivor group support. When a younger girl was bitten by a cobra, Mina acted quickly, administering first aid and ensuring she reached the hospital in time: an inspiring example of survivor leadership in action.

While building trust with families and communities remains a constant challenge, regular home visits and counselling have strengthened support systems, allowing survivors to engage more safely and confidently in the program.

**All names changed for privacy*





BRINGING LIGHT TO THE SUNDARBANS

WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre.

This year, around 650 people across the Sundarbans gained stronger support for education, livelihoods, and protection in a region still challenged by limited electricity, scarce clean water, and fragile livelihoods. The project enabled women and girls to strengthen their households and speak up for their rights and needs.

Self-advocacy flourished, with 100 mothers participating in self-help groups and 24 community sessions on rights, child protection, adolescent wellbeing, menstrual health, and girls' education. Six stakeholder meetings further boosted parenting confidence and community accountability.

Education and livelihoods improved. Eight children returned to school after dropping out, eight more successfully completed the documentation required to receive education assistance, and 80 families received chicks and ducklings, supporting nutrition and small income generation.

Access to essential services expanded, with 454 people supported with applications for government schemes and secure legal identities. Energy access also improved, with 50 solar lanterns reaching families without electricity.



CHILD RIGHTS COMMUNITY EDUCATION

LIMA, PERU

In partnership with Mary Ward International Peru.

The children's rights awareness initiative at the Huaycán school strengthened student leadership, rights knowledge, and learning outcomes. 81 students trained as child advocates and participated in 24 psycho-educational workshops, developing self-awareness, emotional regulation, and leadership skills. They led 14 peer sessions and actively contributed to school governance and inter-school activities. The first Girls' Dialogue Circle in Huaycán engaged 42 students from six schools, turning rights knowledge into practical action.

Academic outcomes improved notably, with mathematics problem-solving proficiency increasing by 44% and reading and writing skills by 33%. Playful, cooperative learning approaches contributed to the growth of socio-emotional skills, confidence, and motivation.

18 at-risk students received counselling and specialist referrals. Capacity building was extended to adults, with 37 teachers trained in violence prevention and early response. Families were engaged through positive parenting and safeguarding workshops, helping create safer, more supportive learning environments across the schools.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING & EXPLOITATION WITHIN THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN ALBANIA

TIRANA, ALBANIA

In partnership with Mary Ward Loreto.

This program remains a trusted support for migrants in Albania, providing protection, legal assistance, and integration services, while addressing labour exploitation, trafficking risks, and systemic barriers. Rising demand led to expanded support for 110 beneficiaries, 75% of whom were women, from the Philippines, India, China, Myanmar, and African countries working across Tirana, Saranda, and other key employment hubs.

Community knowledge and awareness were strengthened through three lawyer-led trainings focused on labour law, migrant rights, and residence permit procedures. Incorporating cultural perspectives helped clarify which issues can be legally addressed. Two groups began Albanian language courses with cultural modules, enhancing workplace communication, integration, and social cohesion.

Evidence-based mapping documenting exploitation and trafficking mechanisms enabled advocacy with government institutions, embassies, and international organisations. Formal case follow-up established Albania's first institutional database on migrant abuse, positioning Mary Ward Loreto as the go-to centre for migrant protection, legal advice, and coordinated community support.

COMBATting HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN KANGEMI

NAIROBI, KENYA

In partnership with Loreto Eastern Africa Province.

Human trafficking is a profitable, illegal industry violating human rights and fuelling organised crime. In the informal settlement of Kangemi, poverty, unemployment, and harsh living conditions heighten risk for vulnerable women and children, who often become victims of traffickers' false promises.

The project achieved strong, survivor-centred results by raising awareness, strengthening local protection systems, and directly supporting survivors. Schools and households became more vigilant and proactive, with community members taking the initiative to report and intervene in suspected cases, contributing to a safer environment.

Targeted training for Community Health Volunteers, paralegals, and local administrators developed safeguarding, mental health, and trafficking-response capacity, prompting behaviours such as rejecting exploitative job offers and protecting vulnerable neighbours. Using the 4Rs approach—Rescue, Repatriation, Rehabilitation, Reintegration—the project supported 32 survivors with counselling, education, and livelihood support, including girls returning to school after fleeing early marriage and a single mother repatriated from severe labour exploitation.

Collaboration with police, government, and national networks improved responses, informed national anti-trafficking policy and strengthened the long-term resilience of Kangemi.

BAREFOOT LAWYERS

WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre.

This initiative increases awareness of legal rights among tea plantation workers in Darjeeling, strengthening local support systems for those facing injustice. The project engages workers, children, and community groups in developing local safety mechanisms, improving access to legal protection and expanding understanding of their rights.

A core component is the training of local women as “barefoot lawyers,” inspiring leaders who serve as vital links between the community and the legal system. These women provide frontline legal support, raise awareness, and help others navigate government services and claim entitlements.

During 2025, more than 5,000 people participated in awareness sessions, school programs, and campaigns addressing child protection, gender-based violence, disability rights, and other entitlements. The project facilitated the re-admission of 26 students who had dropped out of school, assisted 361 people with government documents, and enabled intervention in 33 human rights cases, 14 of which were resolved, leaving communities safer, more informed, and more resilient.



COLLECTIVE VOICES

WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Darjeeling Mary Ward Social Centre.

By building skills, local support networks, and developing awareness, the Collective Voices program strengthens women and young people’s self-advocacy and leadership in Darjeeling’s tea estates. The program equips them with the knowledge and confidence required to access essential services, such as healthcare, education, legal support, and employment, so they can participate fully in their communities and make informed decisions.

In 2025, women’s campaigns, legal clinics, and training engaged over 900 participants, increasing confidence, knowledge of their rights, and involvement in community decision-making. Six legal cases were successfully registered. Health and wellbeing interventions, including maternal health visits and eye camps, reached 150 community members, connecting families to essential services and raising awareness of preventive care.

Education and child protection efforts helped three children return to school, reached 515 students with awareness sessions, and strengthened Village Level Child Protection Committees, improving early risk identification and referrals.

LANDING PAD

WEST BENGAL, INDIA

In partnership with the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre

The Landing Pad initiative improves menstrual health and hygiene for women and girls in marginalised communities, reducing stigma, breaking social taboos, and supporting full participation in daily life. In 2025, community engagement, education, and sustainable interventions strengthened knowledge, confidence, and local capacity.

Three community leaders were trained to deliver awareness sessions, increasing local ownership and continuity. Free sanitary pad machines, known as ATMs, were installed at Basirhat, Itinda Panitor, and Motijheel Gram Panchayats, supported by awareness campaigns and feedback mechanisms. Leaders acknowledged the ATMs' vital role in improving access and shifting attitudes toward menstrual health.

A total of 50,540 sanitary pads were produced, with 41,430 distributed to 4,143 beneficiaries, while follow-up visits reinforced proper usage and hygiene practices. Participants reported feeling more confident discussing menstruation and managing their health, demonstrating meaningful progress in awareness, access, and attitudes across these communities.





WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP FUND

KIMBERLEY, AUSTRALIA

In partnership with Enterprise Partnerships WA and Jaru Girl.

Through participation in major national fashion platforms, Bianca Long, founder of Jaru Girl, supported by the Women's Leadership Fund, strengthened her leadership and visibility as a First Nations designer from the remote East Kimberley.

Bianca showcased her Milky Water collection at the Darwin Aboriginal Art Fair, achieving strong sales with pre-orders from 26 customers, and presented it on the Country to Couture runway. This exposure expanded her network, opened new markets, and led to an invitation to Melbourne Fashion Week, where her work appeared on the opening night of the prestigious ganbu marra runway.

Beyond her individual success, Bianca's growing profile supports wider community impact through mentoring and leadership at the Mary Ward International-supported Piriwa Enterprise Hub in Balgo, creating pathways for other women to engage in sustainable creative enterprise and amplifying the cultural strength of Kimberley Indigenous fashion.

Learning *from Our Work*

Embracing *Change*

This year has marked a profound period of change and growth across our development network. In 2025, the Loreto Sisters and the Congregation of Jesus came together as one, uniting two congregations with a shared mission for the first time in history. This merger strengthens our global reach, enables greater collaboration, and opens new opportunities. It invites us to embrace the mystery of change and the paths it may lead.

Far from slowing momentum, this transition has met remarkable openness and energy. Across every region, project partners continue to deliver impactful programs grounded in local needs — in Zambia, India, Kenya, Peru, Vietnam, South Sudan, Timor-Leste, and Australia. Their focus and work remain steadfast: supporting girls' education, strengthening women's livelihoods, and creating opportunities where they have long been limited.

What is especially evident this year is the enthusiasm with which partners are embracing greater unity and collaboration. Sisters and colleagues are moving between offices to strengthen governance and operational practices. Safeguarding training is delivered both centrally and locally, and teams are finding new ways of working together — sharing knowledge, learning from each other, and building a stronger global network. Staff from the Loreto network in Melbourne delivered training on effective

social media use across the global development network, reaching teams in Ireland, Spain, Kenya, India, and Peru, providing practical skills to strengthen local initiatives and connect colleagues worldwide.

Many describe feeling part of something larger: one mission with shared purpose and a collective vision for the future. Inspired by the Sisters' example, we are learning to approach the unknown with curiosity and courage, embracing new ways of working and the mystery inherent in transformation.

Building on this inspiration, we are delighted to welcome new Congregation of Jesus partners into our development family. This includes our first project in Romania, where the Sisters are leading an after-school program bringing care and long-term opportunities to some of the most vulnerable children and families in the region.

This moment offers a once-in-a-generation opportunity: to build a development network that is more coordinated, equitable, and sustainable than ever before. We are guided by Mary Ward's charism, sustained by dedicated partners, and energised by the possibilities of a united congregation. We move forward together, committed to creating lasting change for women and girls across the world.

FINANCIALS

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE & POSITION

This financial year, Mary Ward International reported a consolidated loss of \$0.30 million, compared to a loss of \$0.50 million for the previous year.

Mary Ward International has finished the 2025 financial year with net assets of \$3.78 million. This included:

- A **Specific Purpose Reserve** of \$0.54 million comprising donations and grants received for future specific activities or programs;
- A **Committed Funds Reserve** of \$0.94 million comprising funds set aside to deliver committed future contracts or multi-year project agreements;
- An **Operating Reserve** of \$0.40 million to maintain Mary Ward International's ability to trade solvent in the event of the sudden loss of a major source of funding; and
- A **corpus** of \$1.9 million provided by the Loreto Sisters/Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Mary Ward International founders on establishment of Mary Ward International as a capital base to be invested to generate income for projects.

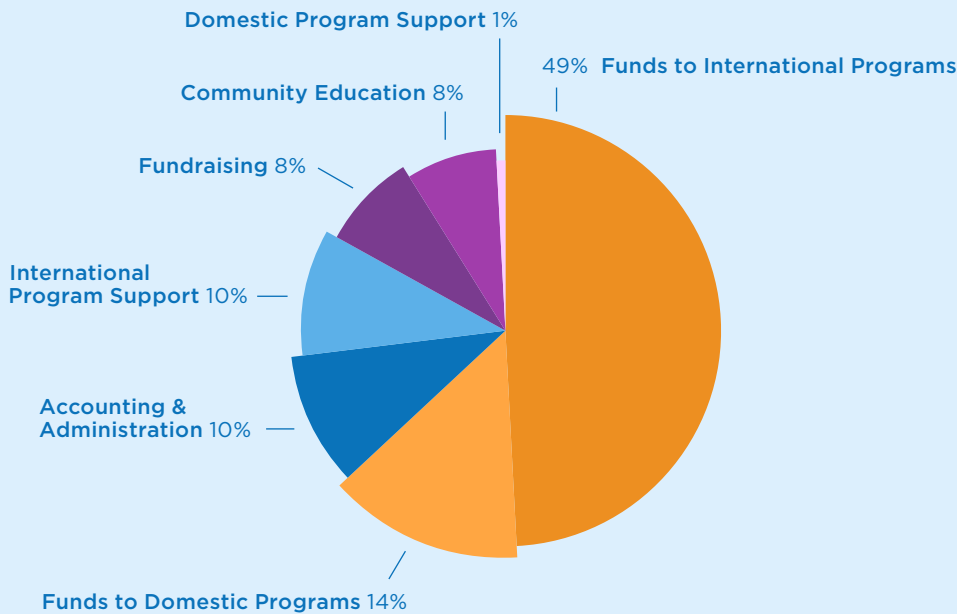
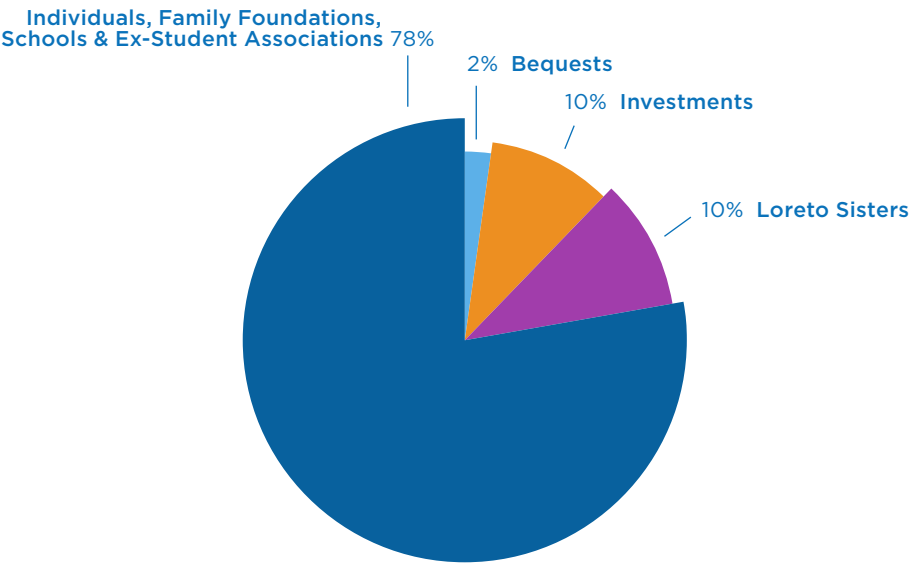
2025 INCOME

Our consolidated income for 2025 was \$1.28 million, compared to \$1.26 million in the prior year.

Donations from individuals, family foundations, schools and related parent and ex-student associations made up our most significant income in 2025, contributing \$1.0 million and bequests of \$0.02 million.

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.

Net Investment income provided \$0.13 million.



2025 EXPENDITURE

Over 2025, we contributed \$0.94 million to the Loreto Sisters’ work with women and communities overseas in support of transformative change for women and their communities. We also provided \$0.23 million to partners in Australia.

Expenses incurred in 2025 comprised: \$0.12 million to support international and domestic programs; \$0.25 million to promote Mary Ward International and its supported programs in schools and across the broader community, as well as raise funds; and \$0.15 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 2025 to 31 December 2025. The comparatives are for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024. The consolidated special purpose financial report of Mary Ward International Australia Limited was approved by the Board on 22 May 2026.

This Summary Financial Report is derived from the audited financial report of Mary Ward International Australia Limited for the year ended 31 December 2025. 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 Mary Ward International Board.



Susan Stevens

Chair, Mary Ward International

22 May 2026

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 2025

REVENUE		
	2025	2024
Donations and gifts - monetary	\$738,968	\$615,302
Grants - Australian	\$265,000	\$195,000
Grants - Overseas	-	-
Investment income	\$137,681	\$167,204
Gain on investments	-	\$160,185
Other	\$150,801	\$125,750
Total Revenue	\$1,292,450	\$1,263,441

EXPENDITURE		
	2025	2024
International aid and development programs		
Funds to international programs	\$786,931	\$831,460
Program support costs	\$155,074	\$274,528
Community education	\$122,710	\$168,259
Fundraising costs - public	\$126,950	\$188,898
Accountability and administration	\$156,733	\$204,147
Total international aid and development programs expenditure	\$1,348,398	\$1,667,292
Domestic programs expenditure		
Domestic programs distributions	\$219,196	\$76,136
Domestic programs support costs	\$18,780	\$17,092
Loss from investments	\$5,738	-
Total Expenditure	\$1,592,112	\$1,760,520
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$299,662)	(\$497,079)
Other comprehensive income	-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(\$299,662)	(\$497,079)

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

ASSETS		
	2025	2024
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,061,425	\$276,793
Other receivables	\$14,850	\$15,294
Financial assets	\$2,815,661	\$3,847,745
Total current assets	\$3,891,936	\$4,139,832
Non-Current Assets		
Computer & IT Equipment	\$3,397	\$2,662
Total non-current assets	\$3,397	\$2,662
Total Assets	\$3,895,333	\$4,142,494

LIABILITIES		
	2025	2024
Current Liabilities		
Other payables	\$21,812	\$60,366
Provisions	\$87,156	-
Total Current Liabilities	\$108,968	\$60,366
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provisions	\$3,899	
Total Non-Current Liabilities	\$3,899	
Total Liabilities	\$112,867	\$60,366

NET ASSETS	\$3,782,466	\$4,082,182
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EQUITY		
Accumulated surplus	\$3,782,466	\$4,082,182
Total Equity	\$3,782,466	\$4,082,182

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Accumulated Surplus	Total
Balance as at 31 December 2023	\$4,579,207	\$4,579,207
(Deficit) for the period	(\$497,079)	(\$497,079)
Balance as at 31 December 2024	\$4,082,128	\$4,082,128
(Deficit) for the period	(\$299,662)	(\$299,662)
Balance as at 31 December 2025	\$3,782,466	\$3,782,466

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 2025 (the "Audited Financial Report").

The accounting policies relating to recognition and measurement applied in the preparation of the 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.

MARY WARD INTERNATIONAL AUDIT REPORT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Independent Auditor's Report on the Summary Financial Statements to the Members of Mary Ward International Australia Limited

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2025, 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 2025 (the "Audited Financial Report").

In my 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 my report on the audited financial report.

The Audited Financial Report and my Report Thereon

I expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial report in my report dated 22 May 2026.

Other Information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises commentary and graphs of the financial performance, 2025 income and 2025 expenditure, but does not include the summary financial statements and my auditor's report thereon.

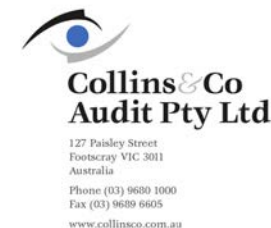
My opinion on the summary financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the summary financial statement, my 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 my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed on the other information that I obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I 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.

TOWARDS A VISION SHARED



Auditor's Responsibility

My 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 my procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ryke', followed by a horizontal line.

Frederik Ryk Ludolf Eksteen CA
ASIC Auditor Registration Number 421448

Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd
127 Paisley Street
FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011

Dated this 22nd day of May 2026

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation
ABN 33 614 161 796

GOVERNANCE

Mary Ward International is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors whose unique skills and experience are united by a shared commitment to creating just and sustainable change with women, children and communities.

Meet the Board



Sr Wendy Hildebrand CJ
Acting Board Chair

Board member since October 2024.
Acting Board Chair since December 2024, concluded May 2025.



Mary Cook
Board Member

Board member since 2019.
Finance & Audit Committee member.



Christopher Dureau
Deputy Chair

Board member since 2019.
Acting Board Chair from May to June 2025.
Finance & Audit Committee member.



Alzira Dos Reis
Board Member

Board member since March 2024.
Governance Committee member.



Soulla Nicodimou
Board Member

Board member since March 2024.
Acting Board Chair since June 2025.
Governance Committee Chair since October 2024.



Felicity Knobel
Board Member

Board member since October 2024.
Finance & Audit Committee member.



Kelly Morrison
Board Member

Board member since 2018, concluded April 2025.
Finance & Audit Committee Chair, concluded April 2025.



Breda Linge
Board Member

Board member since December 2024, concluded December 2025.



Kien Nguyen
Board Member

Board member since May 2025.
Finance & Audit Committee Chair since May 2025.



Genevieve Walker
Board Member

Board member since October 2024.
Governance Committee member.

THANK YOU



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Mary Ward International



Mary Ward International Australia