



# 2023 Annual Report of Australian Mercy

## Table of Contents

<i>Australian Mercy – Who Are We?</i> .....	3
<i>The Australian Mercy Board of Directors</i> .....	5
<i>Financial Overview</i> .....	6
<i>Managing Director’s Report</i> .....	8
<i>Australian Mercy Projects</i> .....	10
<i>Emergency Appeals</i> .....	27
<i>Organisational Agreements</i> .....	30
<i>Australian Mercy Memberships</i> .....	34
<i>Financials – Profit / Loss Statement</i> .....	35
<i>Financials – Statement of Financial Position</i> .....	36
<i>Financials – Charitable Gift Funds</i> .....	37
<i>Australian Mercy Standards</i> .....	38

## Australian Mercy – Who Are We?



***People who care helping people in need*** is Australian Mercy's capstone statement. Australian Mercy is dedicated to the relief of people suffering hardship and distress both within Australia and overseas.

Australian Mercy projects have many expressions, such as training, emergency relief, provision of medical care, primary health care, child sponsorships, community development, ministry to the homeless, empowering women, economic development, school education and the provision of disability care.

Australian Mercy does not give preference based on nationality, gender, ethnicity, creed, or religion and is willing to cooperate with all governments and other non-government organizations for the common good of those in need.

All Australian Mercy staff give their services and expertise without charge. They maintain their personal support from people who believe in the value of their ministry.

Australian Mercy is funded through donations. Donations to Australian Mercy within Australia are tax deductible. Australian Mercy is a non-governmental, not for profit, charitable company limited by guarantee. We are subject to an annual independent review of our accounts that meets the standards of the Australian Tax Office (ATO) and the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC).





Australian Mercy was birthed out of Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Australia in 1988, set up to care for the poor and the needy both within Australia and overseas. Like YWAM Australia, Australian Mercy is founded on a Christian ethos, which is conveyed through the YWAM Statement of Purpose, Core Beliefs, Foundational Values, Legacy Words

and Covenants as its sincerely held beliefs in good faith and operational practices. Australian Mercy does not oversee or take responsibility for the activities of other YWAM entities, except within the confines of formal agreements which may be in place from time to time. Neither does YWAM Australia oversee or take responsibility for the activities of Australian Mercy. Australian Mercy is independently constituted and governed by a Board elected from the Australian Mercy membership.

Australian Mercy is a non-governmental, not for profit, charitable company limited by guarantee that is a Public Benevolent Institution and an endorsed tax concession charity.

Australian Mercy is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not for profits Commission.

Australian Mercy is funded through donations. Donations to Australian Mercy within Australia are tax deductible. We are subject to an annual independent financial review that meets the standards of the Australian Tax Office (ATO) and the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC).

Australian Mercy's volunteers, including the Managing Director, raise funds external to Australian Mercy and donate their professional services in-kind. All Australian Mercy volunteers, contribute their goodwill and skills with no expectation of remuneration. A limited number of critical roles or services are externally filled, with remuneration when necessary (e.g. independent accountant, Information Technology etc.).

Australian Mercy projects have many expressions, such as emergency relief, medical care, primary health, child sponsorships, community development, empowering women, training, economic development, school education and the provision of disability care.

More about Australian Mercy can be found on our webpage: [Australian Mercy](#).

# A message from leadership

As we follow world events, we can see that our Capstone Statement, “*people who care helping people in need,*” is as essential today as at the launch of Australian Mercy in the 1980s.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend sincere gratitude to all the donors, Project Management Group members, to the front-line project leaders and to the worldwide network of volunteers working tirelessly alongside the project leaders to make our world a better place.

Australian Mercy has had the privilege of Nik Matthews serving on the Board of Australian Mercy for 10+ years. With the retirement of David Skeat in 2021, Nik offered himself as Board Chair for a 12-month period from November 2021 to November 2022 to help us through the transition period. In early 2023 Nik and his wife moved from Victoria to Tasmania. Nik has since taken on a key role for a national church organisation. We thank you Nik for years of service to Australian Mercy.

With this change I, Kent Truehl, have taken on the position of Board Chair in addition to my operational role as Managing Director. It’s a manageable workload at the moment. I decided however, not to fully combine the two roles into one “Executive Chair” role. I am keeping both titles and both roles separate in the hope that one or the other of these roles can be filled by another Board member once again.

This change highlights the opportunity for YOU to consider becoming an Australian Mercy member, if you are not already. Keeping yourself informed in a general manner and participating in a two-hour annual general meeting (AGM) is the only time commitment. Over the months and years, you may volunteer on a task group or committee, or even become a Board member, which in addition to the AGM, meets quarterly. Board Directors can only be drawn from the membership of Australian Mercy. Entry level into Australian Mercy, therefore, is becoming a member. Go here for more about membership: [Australian Mercy Membership](#).

Have a look at the leadership group of Australian Mercy on the following page. A Board Director is responsible to help make major decisions on policy, procedures and the overall strategic direction of Australian Mercy. Each director has much wisdom and years of experience, so I have asked each one to mentor, to share and to train another in their role of Christian leadership in Australian Mercy. There is no limit on the number of Board Directors, so there is room for you!

Blessings,

Kent Truehl

Australian Mercy Board Chair

## The Australian Mercy Board of Directors

	<p><b><u>Dianne Clark</u></b> – Canberra, ACT</p> <p>Dianne is the Operations Director of YWAM Canberra. She has a strong interest in staff development and in reaching out to the poor and needy. Dianne and her husband Kevin have initiated several programs to try to assist those in need both within Canberra and overseas.</p>
	<p><b><u>Kevin Clark (Treasurer)</u></b> – Canberra, ACT</p> <p>Kevin hails from Perth and has been with Youth With A mission since 1984. He has a background in accounting and a keen interest in alternative technologies. He has a <i>Cert IV</i> in Financial Services Accounting (Canberra Institute of Technology 2005) and currently serves as Accounts Manager for Youth With a Mission Canberra and as Treasurer for Australian Mercy. He is married to Dianne, they have 5 children and 11 grandchildren.</p>
	<p><b><u>Chris Harrison</u></b> – Adelaide, SA</p> <p>Chris was formerly director YWAM Darwin, chairman of the Evangelical Alliance in Darwin. He serves as a fire fighter for the South Australian Country Fire Service and as a Justice of the Peace in South Australia. He is married to Gina has 2 children and lives in the Adelaide.</p>
	<p><b><u>Jen Keatch</u></b> – Darwin, NT</p> <p>Jen has been involved in Australian Mercy's work in Darwin since 2003. Jen's background is in teaching and working with children with disabilities. She was previously employed by the Anglican Church as a community worker specializing in delivery of programs for disadvantaged children and families. Jen has studied and worked in Community Development and has a particular interest in Relief &amp; Development projects across SE Asia.</p>
	<p><b><u>Nicholas Matthews (Board Chair)</u></b> – Melbourne, VIC</p> <p>Nik previously worked for YWAM Mercy Ministries International based in Bangkok and spent eight years working for Mercy Ships International in Africa and Europe. Nik and his family hail from England and currently reside in Melbourne. Nik has a Master of Business Administration (University of Sunderland, 2006) and is a Member of the Institute of Community Directors. Nik has authored two books, <i>30,000 Sunrises</i> and <i>Being Flawesome</i>.</p>
	<p><b><u>Bruce Skinner</u></b> – Wollongong, NSW</p> <p>Bruce is the Co-Director of YWAM Wollongong. Having been a Structural Engineer for sixteen years in heavy industry, Bruce draws on his experience in the marketplace, combined with more than twenty years in church leadership. Bruce is married to Kristin and lives in Wollongong.</p>
	<p><b><u>Kris Thomson</u></b> – The Netherlands</p> <p>Kris currently works in IT and has a background in mechanics. He has worked in the volunteer sector since 1985. He also lived and worked in Indonesia doing business and community development activities. Currently residing in The Netherlands, Kris is married to Gerda and is part owner of KJHosting, a web design and hosting company.</p>
	<p><b><u>Kent Truehl (Managing Director)</u></b> – Adelaide, SA</p> <p>Kent has a Bachelor of Christian Ministry and a Master of Urban and Regional Planning. He worked for World Vision Australia as an International Program Officer and for the Government South Australia. Kent was a founding member of the International Community Development Centre of the University of the Nations in 1993 and has trained and lectured on relief and development these last 30 years. Kent and his Josephine serve on the National Leadership Circle of Youth With A Mission Australia. For 12 years they worked in community development in Amazonas, Brazil and co-authored the book, <i>River People</i>.</p>

## Financial Overview

Year	Total Income	Total Donations	Total Expenditure	Retained Income
2021- 22	\$906,405	\$748,811	\$896,280	\$10,125
2022- 23	\$907,262	\$747,238	\$722,766	\$184,496
Variation	+\$857	-\$1,573	-\$173,514	+174,371

## Thank you, thank you, thank you!

It is your sacrificial generosity, loyalty and unwavering commitment to the projects of your heart that has achieved so much in the lives of those less fortunate through Australian Mercy.

Total donations to and through Australian Mercy remained virtually the same (*decreased by a quarter of 1%*) from last year. We achieved an increase in our investment and other income, however, over last year, resulting in a net positive increase over last year by \$857.

We saw some large end of year donations come in just before 30 June, resulting in these donations not being transferred before 1 July, which explains the large, retained income figure. In actual fact, the only income of Australian Mercy as a company is the 5% deduction on all donations that amounted to \$37,922 this year. Administration costs totalled \$26,709 this year.

Australian Mercy's three largest administrative expenses, consistently year after year, are the financial audit, our membership dues to ACFID and Missions Interlink and company insurance. These three corporate costs to Australian Mercy was \$17,414 – 65% of our total expenses for the year. Because of this, the Managing Director under direction from the Board, conducted a thorough review of these three cost centres. Changes have been proposed and savings have been negotiated that the Board has approved. These cost savings will be reflected in next year's financial results, however, as all three of cost centres mentioned were paid after the end of this financial year, in the months of September or October.

Australian Mercy has no salaried employee. Even most projects operate mostly by volunteers. As a pure volunteer organisation, all projects in Australia and overseas are asked to track their volunteer work hours. This year, the total estimated hours is 160,095. If the common salaries in Australia were paid for that same level of work here or overseas, then the total VALUE of VOLUNTEER HOURS would be A\$6,674,083 (**six million, six hundred and seventy-four thousand and eighty-three dollars**).

In other words, Australian Mercy would have to fund raise from donors and other sources the amount of **\$6,674,083** to deliver the services that we currently provide as an all-volunteer organisation. This is true value for money.



## Managing Director's Report



All Directors on the Australian Mercy Board contribute to the area of strategic direction, adding their wisdom and experience into the mix when a major change or decision is required. To put that decision into action operationally is the role of the Managing Director.

A special word of thanks to Directors Chris Harrison, Kevin Clark, and Kris Thomson who meet with me weekly as an executive team and help significantly in the implications and implementation of the required tasks. Major decisions that have been actioned between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023 have been:

1. Creating the Online Project Management Portal (OPMP).
2. Reviewing Australian Mercy's foundational documents.
3. Changing the Australian Mercy corporate and financial structure by eliminating the various "Offices" (branches of the National Office).
4. Reviewing Australian Mercy's three largest ongoing costs, being insurance, membership dues to peak Council bodies and our Audit.

The Online Project Management Portal (OPMP) is the non-public part of the Australian Mercy webpage that is accessed only by Australian Mercy projects for the purposes of project management. Kris Thomson drove this major initiative assisted by International Program Officer Rob Firmino and me. It has been a large undertaking. Creating it resulted in making many decisions, and changes, to our project management process. It also resulted in modifying and updating many documents and procedures. This big job inevitably required us to tackle another big job, which is #2 above: Reviewing Australian Mercy's foundational documents.

Australian Mercy was birthed out of YWAM Australia; therefore, we share the same sincerely held Core Beliefs, Covenants, Foundational Values and Legacy Words. Our project partners, however, choose to work with Australian Mercy. To describe Australian Mercy's values, ethos and practices around caring for the poor and the needy both within Australia and overseas, various and multiple documents have been created since 1988. Much sorting, sifting, reviewing, and fine tuning has been done in this space this year. There is still more to do, but one major outcome has been the production of the Australian Mercy Standards. This is a document that both Australian Mercy and our project partners agree to foster and abide by in pursuit of our project goals. I have attached the Australian Mercy Standards at the end of this report for your review.



I wish to thank Kevin Clark not only for his weekly attendance to Australian Mercy finances, but also for his leadership and work on #3 above, which is, *Changing the Australian Mercy corporate and financial structure by eliminating the various “Offices” (branches of the National Office)*. ASIC, Australia’s corporate regulator, viewed our company structure like a big franchise that had one big National Office and a collection of small subsidiaries of the national company. This structure required us to receive financial reports from all domestic projects and consolidate those into one financial report as if the National Office raised and spent all the money. This did not accurately reflect our structure or lines of authority and it distorted our true financial picture. As a result of this change, all domestic projects now report to Australian Mercy as a project that THEY run and have full authority over – not as a subsidiary office under a national authority spending national office money.

The work of task #4 was to review Australian Mercy’s three largest ongoing costs and this fell primarily to myself. I considered all the types, levels and risks of our insurance coverage, then considered what our options were. I reviewed our memberships with ACFID and Missions Interlink regarding the services they provide and the value for money of those services to Australian Mercy. Then I considered whether we require a financial audit or a financial review after ACNC changed the threshold from under one million to under three million per year in income, thus making Australian Mercy a medium sized charity and changed our obligations.

In closing, I wish to say “Well Done” to Reverse the Curse of Landmines (Cambodian Harvest) and RAHAB. I had the privilege of being around at the very early days of both projects. Reverse the Curse of Landmines emerged out of a dream (literally) in heart of the founder Marion Fromm from Harvest Church in Adelaide. RAHAB emerged out of the heart of the founder Paullette Cairns from YWAM South Australia, also in Adelaide. Both projects have grown and matured tremendously in these 20 years, leaving tangible, eternal legacies in innumerable lives

Both projects left as Australian Mercy project partners at the end of the financial year because they are mature, capable and ongoing organisations with a operable financial base, capable systems and corporate structures, and outstanding leadership beyond the founders. Both are well and truly operating on their own in every respect. In short, they are tremendous success stories that no longer require the services of Australian Mercy.

It has been a privilege for Australian Mercy to journey together with you, side by side for these 20 years. Thank you to all donors, volunteers, supporters, staff, friends etc, etc of Reverse the Curse of Landmines (Cambodian Harvest) and RAHAB. Keep it up! May God continue to multiply and reproduce these works as they go from strength to strength for years and years to come.

Blessings,

Kent Truehl

Australian Mercy Managing Director

## Australian Mercy Projects

Organization / Project	Country of Focus	Focus
1. Australian Burmese Community Development (ABCD) Network	Myanmar	Aid and Development
2. Ark International	Thailand	Protecting Children at risk
3. Buzz Off Malaria Campaign	Burma /Thailand / PNG/ Indonesia	Malaria, Dengue, Zika etc
4. Cambodian Harvest	Cambodia	Social and Economic Development for Landmine Victims
5. Australian Mercy Emergency Relief Campaigns	Various	Disaster Response for Ukraine, Turkey, Syria Earthquake and Vanuatu
6. Equal Access Education	Indonesia	Social Religious Reconciliation
7. Full Life Zambia	Zambia	Imprisoned Women with children and rehabilitation post release
8. Home of the Open Heart	Thailand / Myanmar	HIV / AIDS
9. iCare4U	PNG	Women & Children with HIV
10. Burma IDPs and Refugees	Thailand / Burma	Thai Burma Border Refugees
11. Kids Ark	Timor Leste	Education, Health and Disability
12. Pacific Island Development	Vanuatu	Various
13. Partners Relief and Development	Southeast Asian nations	Refugees and IDPs
14. Partners Relief and Development	Middle Eastern Countries	Refugees and IDPs
15. Project LIFE	Thailand	Various Development Project
16. Redefined Ministries	Democratic Republic of Congo, Africa	Community Development
17. Teouma Christian Academy	Vanuatu, Pacific	Education
18. Vanitashray	India	Women and Children at risk
19. Canberra Pantry	Australia (ACT)	People of necessitous circumstances
20. G'day Farmer	Australia (NSW & QLD)	Australian Farmers in need
21. Perth Community Care	Australia (Perth)	Families in need
22. Rahab Australia	Australia (Various)	Women in sex trade

# AUSTRALIAN MERCY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## 1. Australia Burma Community Development (ABCD) Network

### Humanitarian Relief for Myanmar Project – Milestones accomplished

The humanitarian crisis in Myanmar worsened in the 2023 financial year. Armed conflicts continued to intensify after the Feb 2021 coup and the Myanmar military took further actions to restrict humanitarian aid. According to the UN, an estimated 1,844,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) were reported across the country as of 12 June 2023, including some 1,516,000 people newly displaced since 1 February 2021. One-in-three, or 17.6 million people, are now in humanitarian need, up from 1 million people at the start of 2021.



#### Good News Story

During this year of critical needs, ABCD provided food, clothes and medicines to an estimated 1,000 internally displaced people in Chin, Kachin, Karen, Kayah and Sagaing regions. The recipients of our relief packages are greatly appreciative of items we delivered to them. Winter clothes were received with joy and gratitude. For them, the goods we delivered were essential for their survival.

Finally, ABCD Network hosted 2 public events in Sydney to raise funds and awareness for Myanmar. As time went by and other crises in the world got more attention than Myanmar, we received less donations. To draw the attention back to the Myanmar humanitarian crisis, and to boost the spirit of Myanmar community in Australia, ABCD organized two public Myanmar cultural events in Sydney. With the support of the Myanmar community, the events were

considered successful despite unfavourable weather conditions on the second one. We managed to raise funds and, more importantly, awareness for Myanmar.





## 2. Poverty Alleviation – Vietnam

### Serving Children in Difficult Circumstances Project – Milestones accomplished

We had 48 children in our three community-based homes. All 48 children are doing well physically and academically. Regarding Early-Childhood Education (ECD) we have equipped one pre-school in this first year of the project. Equipping additional pre-schools is planned for later years. And, regarding Child-friendly libraries, one new library (with two satellites) was set up in this time. Additional libraries are planned for later years.

#### Good News Story

It is exciting to note that in one area where we've worked, that a business consulting firm that is a spin-off from YWAM Mercy Vietnam, organized businesses that they work with to support the children who need school supplies. This allowed us to support 429 children with school supplies in August of 2022. This is also an example of sustainable multiplication and community-mindedness that has really encouraged us.

Finally, two girls from the Children's Homes have been accepted to University to study social work because they would like to give back to other children-in-difficult circumstances. We are excited to see them do so well academically and have a heart for serving others.

We have also been providing medical assistance to a family with two disabled children, one of whom has a withered arm. We helped her get IT training and now she can support herself and to give back to her family helping to support her disabled sister.

Webpage: <https://ywammercyvietnam.org/>





### 3. Full Life – Zambia

#### Transformation Namayani Project – Milestones accomplished

The halfway house for women and babies released from prison is completed to stage 1. This house is where women are taught skills, it provides classrooms for community children and abandoned children, and is a safe haven for disabled and abused children. Currently 60 children who were previously marginalised (mother was in prison and father abandoned them) were educated.

The land self-sufficiency goal has also been completed to stage 1 with a goat herd on the land producing livestock for sale. There is also one sow pig that has given birth to piglets. These have been sold with the money used to make menstrual pads for women prisoners. Corn for eating is also being grown on land.

#### Good News Story

The biggest excitement is that we will soon have a car to transfer children from the hospital or prison to our compound for activities. This car will also be able to transport livestock and feed to and from the market. The car will also allow us to meet the needs of children in prison further away who we currently cannot support due to distance.

Finally, there is one teacher employed with other teachers volunteering. The project director's daughter is now working full time as a volunteer nurse, providing immunizations and vaccinations for babies. The director and her daughter are also providing therapy and counselling to molested children and teaching cognitive, social and emotional skills to children with autism or intellectual disabilities. They have made regular outreach visits to prisons providing education around nutrition and hygiene as well as providing some basic needs to the mothers such as nappies. Visits to the prison hospital for helping mothers give birth or helping sick infants is also a regular activity.

Webpage: <https://www.fulllifezambia.com/>



#### 4. Home of the Open HeartThailand – Milestones accomplished

Two of our female young adults (aged 18 & 19) that lived with us since infancy, continued their preparation in maturity goals such as financial management, budgeting, attending seminars on awareness, dangers and risks of human trafficking, and life skills preparation toward the goal of launching into full independence in next 12 months. An achievement to be proud for both girls to have reached.



##### Good News Story

Muay is HIV+ and her husband died of AIDS when her son was a toddler. This left Muay alone with her toddler, no income and no ability to earn. Then her deceased husband's family told her that her husband's home was no longer hers and they sold it from under her. So, she was homeless. We heard of her plight and with some community members and our staff, a simple home was built on land donated by the village chief. We visited her regularly, prayed and encouraged her, as well as paid half of her son's school fees, his school bus fees and helping her with food from time to time. We encouraged her as she started her own plant nursery business which has sustained her home and her son.



This year she found out that her son was diagnosed with macular degeneration (a disorder of the eye causing blindness). This family needed financial assistance for travel and medical costs to see a specialist. Although no treatment had started our team visited and prayed for her son's healing. When she returned to the eye specialist, he was astonished that even though no treatment had started, the boy's eyes were better, and he was able to see normally with 20-20 vision. He requires no further treatment and can see 100%. A miracle!



Finally, we visit our community development projects of health management fortnightly. We provide emotional, physical and psychological support as needed to different HIV+ women and their children living in community.



See: <https://www.homeoftheopenheart.org/>



## 5. Equal Access Education

### Equal Access Education – Milestones accomplished

Equal Access Education is actively involved with Peace & Community initiatives. These include Education Programs of the Associations Asian Partners who hold to similar values, involving Muslim and non-Muslim communities.

Pesantren Leadership Training trained 14. Our team has reassessed our approach with training pioneers then sending them to new frontiers and have realized financially it was limited and had other issues that slowed progress. So, the new approach is to have training cohorts who are trained then sent back to their own communities. This has already allowed 14 to be trained and sent from one training, and there is another group ready to start again. This will multiply pioneers at 10 times the rate of before.



As for the Bridge Building Literature program, a library of 300 books has been purchased, an investment in translation for scriptural texts as part of bridge building partnerships between Muslim and Christian universities.

Flourish ran 10 programs. 124 women began the Flourish program, and 98 women went through until the end and graduated. There were 14 women who were newly certified as trainers and we ran the program in 9 locations, 6 of which were new locations. We ran Flourish in 3 new islands.

We set up 4 hubs with a complete Flourish resource kit to run Flourish on their own. We also ran two Flourish reunions: one in Salatiga with 40 women and the other one in Malang with 13 women.

The **Peace Camps** that started in Indonesia has gone very international this year. We still had one Peace camp in Indonesia with 80 Participants. Internationally, we held Peace camps in:

- Ghana (30 Participants)
- 2 Children's peace camps in Malaysia (120 Participants)
- Peace event in Berlin (80 Participants)
- Peace Starts With Me program run in Afghanistan (100 participants)



### Good News Story

We are happy with how things played out this year. There was great momentum in the months after we returned to Indonesia. We put a lot of effort into putting together the Resource Kits and setting up the 4 locations, so they are equipped to run the program themselves. That was a big achievement as that gave autonomy to these 4 areas and there is a responsible woman in each area to handle and run Flourish as they get groups of women or girls together.

Running Flourish in Lombok, on the other hand was quite a challenge. Anyway, through that experience, we realised that the retired grandmothers were the most enthusiastic and had the most time to really engage with and benefit from the sessions. Perhaps one of those grandmothers could become the Flourish facilitator for that region.





## 6. Burmese IDP and refugees

### Mae La Refugee camp project – Milestones accomplished

This project is about caring for refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDPs) living in Thailand, or close to the Thai Burmese border. The Mae La camp is filling up with more refugees because of the war by the military junta in Myanmar. Camp authorities do not give aid to unregistered refugees and have not done so for some years. The new additions to the camp are putting pressure on the few resources available to all refugees in Mae-la.

#### Good News Story

Each December we fund the biggest event in the camp. The annual Preschool Christmas party. In 22 preschools around the camp, a time of Christmas celebration is held. There are cultural dances and singing. Every child is given a small present and a nutritious Christmas dinner is served which usually consists of chicken rice and vegetables. This event involves more than 2000 preschool children every year and is much anticipated by the families.



Finally, Malaria in the camp in 2022 was low, but in 2023 it has spiked, and more resources will be needed to combat it. Despite increased numbers, we have managed to keep our programs running. This project has continued to help with the nutritional supplements program in Mae-La Camp and continues to support preschools in the camp.



### 7. Buzzoff International Buzzoff Malaria Campaign Project – Milestones Accomplished

The international Buzzoff team has nearly completed its review of the Buzzoff training manual and work on the accompanying videos. It is expected to commence in the coming months. We are looking at doing an animation approach rather than recording real people as this more effective in cross-cultural and multiple language adaptation.

The team in Burma continues to do malaria work in local communities. It has also done COVID training in local communities and provided a limited amount of disaster relief assistance in areas affected by flooding.



#### Good News Story

The Buzzoff team has been outreaching into COVID-affected areas in Yangon. They have provided medicines and food to households affected by COVID. They have also had a program where those with respiratory problems could use an oxygen concentrator. Members of one community sent a delegation to the team leader's house to thank them and asked them to pass on their thanks to Australian Mercy for their support. They also asked if Australian Mercy could increase its support because of the great need in areas around Yangon.

Finally, we are planning to do a monitoring visit to Burma in 2024. COVID stopped any previous visits, and of course, the civil war in Burma has made this

hard even today. However, the Burma Buzzoff team is in regular contact with our Project Management Group (PMG). Despite the internal difficulties because of the war, the team is managing to do effective outreach into small communities. And they have accomplished this with minimum risk to the in-country Buzzoff team members.



For the history of Buzzoff watch this video:  
[https://youtu.be/nWJmz6Yuv\\_A?si=MTM1Vq9CuIUW926](https://youtu.be/nWJmz6Yuv_A?si=MTM1Vq9CuIUW926)

Running Seminars in remote districts, distributing mosquito nets to those struggling to purchase them, creating awareness of the issues of mosquito born illnesses or selling mosquito repellents are some of the ways Buzzoff works.



Webpage: <https://buzzoff.org/>



## 8. Teouma Christian Academy Vanuatu

### Milestones accomplished

One of the biggest challenges in Vanuatu is access to education and its affordability for low-income families. Due to the geographical spread of the population, limited resources, limited government funding, poor road conditions and walking being the main mode of transport, access to schooling is a significant challenge which we set out to meet.

Teouma Christian Academy has been established in response to a request from the local community to operate a local school. We will fill the gap in the Teouma Valley region for educational needs.



130 students enrolled in the 2022 Calendar year but 150 enrolled in the 2023 calendar year. Seven indigenous teachers were employed and engaged in ongoing professional development. And the school lunch program delivered for the entire 2022 calendar year.

At the end of this reporting period a new classroom building project had commenced to provide 2 additional classrooms. And significantly, a new missionary principal was recruited at the end of 2022, and began work in the 2023 school year. This has added improved pastoral and professional care for our indigenous teaching team.

### Good News Story

Teouma Christian Academy began with the simple goal to provide children from our area with better access to school. We quickly grew to our current enrolment of more than 140 students, and demand continues to exceed our classroom space capacity. The students we have are engaged and enthusiastic, and most are achieving well. Our 7 indigenous teachers receive salaries through the fees paid by the students, while fundraising efforts cover all other operating expenses. Based

on standardised national tests, we are delivering very good outcomes, relative to comparable schools on this island.



Finally, the project has progressed according to the original intentions, however, not according to the original timeline. Despite the slow progress on capital projects, we have improved professional development and staff care capabilities.

The quality of our teaching staff continues to improve, and enrolments have risen steadily, which has given rise to serious discussions about beginning to offer Year 7 (secondary school) in the 2024 calendar year.

<https://australianmercy.org/portfolio/teomua-christian-academy-vanuatu/>



## 9. Ark International – Thailand Ark International Milestones accomplished

## AUSTRALIAN MERCY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Post COVID, more children attend our community centre as families noted our commitment to their children. Children that feel seen, believed in, and provided for emotionally in a safe environment.

We continued educational development and advancement for all children attending the tutoring centre, including mentoring for youth. Undergraduate studies continued to be offered to young adults, with 5 university students obtaining scholarships. This is a big deal as many of our kids historically drop out of school in grade 9. Our Soom Soom Project has started assessing needs of young women and young families. We hired 2 new staff and the number of people directly impacted by our project is approximately 300 annually.



### Good News Story

A 16-year-old student named Mon has been attending our program for approximately 8 years. She was abandoned by her parents and taken in by her grandparents. One of them, however, would regularly place curses on her while the other was mentally unstable. It was not an emotionally safe home to grow up in. Sadly, she turned to drugs and men to make her feel loved and valued. Her attendance at school dropped until she started attending our tutoring centre almost daily. It was here that she was introduced to loving and consistent adults the Ark staff members. Mon began to see that her life held value and meaning. Our team spoke affirmations and encouragement daily, creating a place that was both physically and emotionally safe. Within a short time, Mon started to smile and work harder at school. Today, she is a youth leader at our centre and does very well in school and will graduate next year. She holds her head high and has a confidence in her spirit that will light up a room.



Finally, we completed a renovation of our tutoring centre to maximize space and increase learning capacity: we had a donation for a new computer, desks, small kitchenette, curtains, and shelving. This was a big project but the kids in the community helped us over 4 days to clear out, repair, and assist in labelling and cleaning toys. It was beautiful watching their engagement in this and owning this centre as their own.

Webpage: <https://arkintl.org/>



## TRANSFORMING LIVES ONE CHILD AT A TIME

Donate: <https://australianmercy.org/portfolio/ark-international/>



## 10. iCare4U Papua New Guinea

### iCare4U – Milestones accomplished

We have about 20 registered in our Women's Hope Support with at least 10 ladies attending regularly. These 10 have really grown and expressed their thankfulness for the support and are really beginning to open up and share their stories. iCare4U provided short term respite (short-term living and support) for three individual ladies through the referral process (two of these ladies also had children to support). Five Babies have gone through iCare4U's transit/out of home care and into loving families. It is such a joy to see babies placed in families and bonding with them.

The "Beyond the Island" documentary was released and is successfully addressing the isolation and stigma of HIV. YWAM Medical Ships Australia / PNG is working in partnership with us to share the documentary far and wide. We continue to work together in this and in the high schools to bring awareness and prevention and support of HIV especially in Port Moresby.

Papua New Guinea

Home & Respite Community | The Identity Project

### Good News Story

Christmas time was approaching, and we were winding down for the year. Then one afternoon we got a call from a paediatric doctor from Port Moresby General Hospital. She advised us that there was a 7-month-old baby boy that had been abandoned at a doctor's house. Then got a call from the Family Support Centre to see if we could take him into our out of home care. We got the approval from the Director of Child and Family Services and picked up this little guy within the hour. Little 'Chris' joined our extended family over Christmas, and we had him in our care for 6-weeks. Child and Family Services were never able to identify any immediate family members. We worked with Child and Family Services find a new adoptive family for little Chris! He is now happy and thriving in his new home.

Finally, we received a grant from Digicel Foundation to build our first Women's Housing on the iCare4U Property. The building is well

underway. We ran a community carnival and had 100+ youth attend. We had 3 international staff join us and 2 volunteer mission builders have been an amazing help and support.



*iCare4U is a Home and Respite Community in Papua New Guinea which supports and empowers women, children, and the communities they live in.*



**Donate Now:**

<https://australianmercy.org/portfolio/icare4u/>



## 11. Afghan Hope Afghanistan

### Youth Empowerment & Peacebuilding Project – Milestones accomplished

This project meets the needs/issues of a lack of peace education, mental health education, and leadership training for young people in Afghanistan by offering peacemaking and leadership development training, and mental health education.

"Peace Starts With Me" is the program's name, where young people from Afghanistan gather to form new communities of peacemakers.

Afghan Hope ran a "Peace Starts with Me" (PSWM) program with 100 participants, one leadership training program for new facilitators to run PSWM programs (which was 6 women), and we ran one "Flourishing Program" with 30 women.

The opportunities to run programs in schools is still there but the situation on the ground, with the Taliban banning girls from school, has greatly impacted our planning. The six girls we trained through the leadership program have received warnings from the Taliban to stop all programs with women and to stay home.



One of the girls continued despite the warning. As a result, a death warrant from the Taliban was issued for her. Her and her family went into hiding and found a way for her and her sister to escape to Pakistan. They are currently in the process of receiving refugee status and have submitted an application for a visa to Australia.



We have changed our methods of training women to include many safety measures instituted by the team on the ground. We continue training, though the risk is high, because the women continue to beg us for the training. We plan to do more leadership training with men and are planning PSWM trainings with multiple private schools across Kabul who are asking us.



### Donate:

<https://australianmercy.org/portfolio/afghan-hope/>





## 12. Perth Community Development

### Community Development Programme – Milestones accomplished.

We have directly helped 30 families with a total of 105 visits. We managed to help many families and individuals involved in high crisis level situations like domestic violence and child protection issues. We had opportunities to not just practically help them but also managed to build a supportive relationship with them in the process.

We have worked more closely with the relevant community and social workers who are sending in the referrals. We maintain communication with them with regards to the progress of the case. We have streamlined our referral process which helps us to keep a clear record online of the referrals.

### Good News Story

We recently served a lady that was struggling with alcohol addiction and had difficulty keeping her house clean and tidy due to her condition. She also has some mobility issues. We helped to clean up her house upon her discharge from the hospital. Our team members took time to chat with her and encouraged her. That helped lift her spirits. We also helped to encourage her in some practical ways to overcome her addiction. Then we connected with a neighbourhood community service near her so that they know about her situation and are aware of her in the community.

Finally, the Perth Community Development Programme objectives are:

1. To keep families together by providing practical assistance
2. Connecting with social workers to bridge a gap for families.
3. To help families access proper resources for their situation.
4. More volunteers through local church participation and neighbour care.

We achieved the first three well this year but could not achieve objective 4 very well as a lot of our volunteers left to back to their home countries. As a result, we kept our focus on serving the clients and focused our resources on that. Our current volunteers and staff have been using whatever opportunities they have to spread the word in local churches and other forums.



Webpage:

<https://www.ywamperth.org.au/missions/australian-relief-and-mercy-services>





### 13. Kids Ark – East Timor

#### Kids Ark– Milestones accomplished

Our Aim is to help raise a new generation through education and service. In the past year, our Ministry has been busy getting things back on track after the challenges of COVID-19. We've been able to make some great improvements, like building a new entrance at the school and adding water filters for clean drinking water at the school and disability centre.



We're also excited about our new staff members from Brazil who will be providing extra training to our youth group and teachers, bringing fresh ideas and skills.

The disability centre has seen more people attending, so we're starting a sign language class for our staff and volunteers to better connect with those who are hearing impaired.



#### Good News Story

Maria's journey is truly remarkable and inspiring. She joined us right after high school, driven by the urgent need to support her struggling family. Initially, she took on any task, starting with cleaning and meal preparation for the children. Over time, she became an integral part of our team, extending her role to assisting in classrooms and even learning the art of teaching, despite her initial lack of confidence due to a facial scar.

Through dedicated training and unwavering encouragement, Maria gradually blossomed. Today, she not only independently manages her own class but also orchestrates parent meetings with finesse and speaks with newfound confidence. Her growth has been extraordinary, evident in her recent completion of a teaching university course.



Maria's heartfelt expression of gratitude resonates deeply. She acknowledges how our presence in her village empowered her to evolve and bring about positive changes within her community. Her words embody the essence of our mission, and her transformation is a testament to the profound impact that collective efforts can have on individual lives. We stand proud of Maria's journey and remain committed to fostering similar stories of growth and empowerment within our community.

Webpage: <https://www.kidsarktimor.org/>

## 14. G'day Farmer

### G'dayFarmer– Milestones accomplished

G'day Farmer provided assistance to ten properties over a twelve-month period, directly assisting eleven individuals and indirectly thirty-five. This included working on three properties impacted by catastrophic flooding in Central West NSW. and four other properties requiring assistance. G'day Farmer not only assisted farmers' practical needs but in several situations provided emotional support and encouragement.



Activities this year included clearing, restoring and rebuilding damaged fence lines, feeding stock, ordering workshops, installing rainwater tanks, repairing and servicing farm vehicles and machinery and general work such as mowing, trimming and gardening.

One never knows when a critical incident such as bushfires or flooding may occur so when the Central West flooding happened, it afforded us an opportunity to assist outside our general farm situations. Whilst we seek to always help those doing it tough, critical incidents require us to be prepared to respond promptly.

### Good News Story

G'day Farmer helped with the flooding around Lismore and were put in touch with a woman who was a dairy farmer south of Casino. Before we even had a chance to setup our van Mary had us driving tractors to take hay out to stock, feeding calves, and helping in the dairy.

As days went by, Mary began to open up and share her struggles. She and her former husband bought into the dairy farm, but he later died, leaving Mary to manage one hundred and eighty cows including the milking of about ninety cows twice per day.

The dairy was about three hundred metres from her house, across a flooded causeway. Mary would start milking at 4:30am each morning and finish around 9:00am. After that she would feed the calves, take hay to the pregnant cows, feed her dogs and house animals, shovel away mud, then start milking again around 3:00pm! - and, she was 63 years of age, doing all of this on her own!!



Mary was living on one-minute noodles and getting little sleep, so you can only begin to imagine just how grateful she was to have us come alongside and get her 'over the hump' so to speak, so that she could see light at the end of the tunnel and receive hope for her future.

It was an honour to serve such a hardworking, dedicated, battling Aussie farmer!

To donate:

<https://australianmercy.org/portfolio/gdayfarmer/>

## 15. Congo Redefined Ministry



## AUSTRALIAN MERCY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

### Redefined – Milestones accomplished

Redefined Ministries International DRC is a registered organisation in Ituri Province, Mahagi Territory of Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which is working to rebuild lives and communities after the damage caused by war.



We continue to reinvest in projects like tailoring and sewing that generate money in the community because the community uses the services provided. Those trained developed a real sense of self-worth and for some, uncovered creative talent. 38 students completed the program this year. The valuable skills and knowledge learned enables them to gain employment and/or carry out tailoring tasks for their own family and friends. Most of the students are mothers, three of which had to care for young babies whilst enrolled in the studies, all of which made for fun and crazy environment.



### Good News Story

We celebrated 10 years of partnership with Birthing Kits Foundation Australia (BKFA) in 2023.

Redefined was extremely appreciative to receive 5,000 kits during the 2022-2023 financial year. The kits were gratefully received by expectant mothers (see photo below). They assist with a clean & safe birth to thousands of newborn babies. BKFA is a fantastic organisation which Redefined is proud to receive regular support from.



Webpage:

<https://redefinedministriesinternational.com/>

Finally, the Baking project had 18 students complete the program. They learned valuable skills and knowledge that enabled them to gain employment and/or put their skills to good use when preparing meals for their family and friends.

## 16. Vanitashray – Pune, India

### Vanitashray – Milestones accomplished

At Vanitashray Pune India, we believe education is the passport to a child's future. Education is the single most important factor in breaking the cycle of poverty. Vanitashray has introduced a couple of programs for its children. We have successfully transitioned 134 Children into schools, both Government and private. We believe Education is Every Child's Right. In safe and fun environment where Children can Thrive and Learn.



Project Future, through Vanitashray India, will reach out to the care givers of children who have lost one or both parents to Covid-19. In-Person visits will verify the children/families before Project Future works with them. After due screening, the beneficiaries will get Monthly support, Free Training and jobs created for Mothers/ Single women. Coordination and support in enrolment for government benefits will also be provided.

### Vanitashray Building Project Legacy Foundation



The Legacy Foundation building project of Vanitashray NGO Pune will serve many marginalized children from both Urban and Rural areas. To our greatest surprise and excitement, everyone in the process had agreed and supported the decision of buying a property that will cater to the needs of Family Sustainability instead of building an orphanage. The land has been found and purchased already. We are excited to start on our "Legacy Foundation" Building Project, which has ALL Government approvals. This is nothing but an absolute favour of God.

The building project will serve many children, with Early Childhood education, skill development programs and Women Empowerment. We strongly believe God is in this story!!

The VANITASHRAY Christian School Legacy Foundation building project will cost: A\$469,680 for Phase 1 and Phase 2 will cost A\$379,620. The total is A\$849,300.

<https://australianmercy.org/portfolio/vanitashray/>

### Good News Story

Deepa is a 25-year-old woman who separated from her husband 3 years ago. Currently she lives with her 5-year-old daughter in a slum. Her husband was an alcoholic and frequently assaulted her physically. Her in-laws were also not supportive. After battling domestic violence, she decided to get separated from her husband and had no choice but to stay at a friend's house. Deepa does not have a job yet. She does all the household chores of the house she lives in, and in return, she and her daughter get two meals a day. Deepa aspires for her child's better future. While sharing her life's struggle, she said, "I want my daughter to get good education and become independent in her life, so she doesn't face these kind of difficulties in the future. Deepa gets monthly support from Vanitashray.



## Emergency Appeals

### 1. Ukraine Home Building Project

Youth With A Mission Kyiv has a project called “Waves of Hope”, the core purpose of which is to build modular style homes for those affected by the war in the Chernigiv region of Northern Ukraine. This region was impacted during the first few weeks of the war when Russia sought to invade the capital Kyiv. Russia later retreated leaving around 4000 homes destroyed in this region. Chernigiv is generally a poor agricultural area and many of the affected people were elderly and had no resources of their own to rebuild.



In April 2023 an outreach was organised with the objective to help erect the first four houses of a new prototype. This outreach was a joint operation of YWAM Heidebeek, Holland and RescueNet Europe, however, two of 11 team members came from Australia.

The houses built under “Waves of Hope” program are fully funded by donations. The building teams that participate in the project aim to raise 50% of the funds and YWAM Kyiv raises the other half. Each house costs USD9500, approximately A\$14000. The objective of this outreach was to build four houses, bringing the fundraising goal to A\$28.000, which is 50% of the total.

Four families not only received a new home, but they also received hope through this very tangible expression of God's love towards them. Each new owner/owners were donated a Bible and prayed over and YWAM Kyiv will keep following up on them.



## 2. The Turkey Syria Earthquake Relief Project

On 6 February 2023 at 04:17am local time a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern and central Turkey and northern and western Syria. The devastation was colossal and loss of life staggering. The confirmed death toll stood at 59,259: 50,783 in Turkey and 8,476 in Syria.



Australian Mercy launched the **Turkey Syria Earthquake Emergency Appeal** with an offer to match any donations that came in by the deadline. \$5,200 was donated, and as promised, Australian Mercy matched that amount. Australian Mercy sent A\$10,400 to a team of 10 women and 1 man who deployed from Europe to Antakya, Turkey. By March the rescue was over, but the long difficult process of rehabilitation was only just starting. Below is the report from one of the team leaders and the Australian Mercy contact.

*"Our friends on the ground warned that transportation would be difficult to secure so the team hired a van in Adana, which turned out quite a blessing, not only for the deployment team but also for the local church. We were able to transport patients and we used it for distributing all kinds of food items and relief goods that the people from the local church*

*The first few days we spent in Antakya, where we supported a local church with making food packages, setting up a First Aid post, sorting out a storage place with household items and assisted 'Operation Blessing' with medical aid.*

*After that we were asked to help and stay in an IDP – camp in Iskenderun, Turkey where we lived together with the people.*

*When we arrived, we helped with setting up tents which were donated by the Turkish Protestant Church and while staying there we helped with handing out mattresses, blankets etc. to others.*

*When staying in the camp we were able to set up a daily children's program. During the children's program we set up 'tea' table for parents. A true blessing to be able to sit and to connect with mums and grandparents.*

*In the camp we were able to join a doctor's post, where people got advice, care and prayer. The team that started the medical post left a few days before we left and so we could take over and kept on relating with the people that needed care. It's been very encouraging to witness God's touch on people's lives and some people also received instant healing.*

*Outside the camp some of us have been helping the local church with packing aid parcels and distributing them in other camps and villages.*

*Because our team had so many women, it was easy to get in touch with the Turkish women and the 'ladies evening' where we did hand scrub and nail polish, which was well received. A joyous time where many women could relax, share their stories and many wanted to receive prayer. Many people (men and women) told us and confirmed our presence by saying: "it is not what you do for us, but that you came to Turkey, being kind and smiling to us, listening to us and just being with us is such a comfort".*

*Living in the camp gave us the opportunity to share, life and love (for a very short time) with the people. It was great to connect.*

*As a team we have received many blessings from the people we reached out to. We were given food, soap, flowers and kisses. One man made us a flowerpot. He said, "Thank you for coming and being with us, you have given us new hope and just like the flowers, one day we will bloom again."*



## 3. Pasifik Village Development Projects

**Australian Mercy Cyclone Appeal 2023–Vanuatu**



## AUSTRALIAN MERCY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Pasifik Village Development Project was due to begin after the border closures because of COVID caused all activities of the project to be put on hold. Once the borders reopened, it was expected that activities for this project would recommence in early 2023.

Due to increased need in the region, the Project Management Group members met to work on amendments to the goals and outputs of the project proposal to Australian Mercy. Just as the Project Management Group was finishing the revised project proposal, the island nation of Vanuatu was hit by 2 severe tropical cyclones in the space of 3 days, TC Judy (Category 3) on March 1st and TC Kevin (Category 4) on March 3rd 2023.

The first cyclone caused severe damage to housing, community buildings, infrastructure, vegetation and crops. Then, before the community had a chance to recover, the second one hit with greater force and moved slowly, punishing an already damaged community for at least another 8 hours.

As a cyclone relief initiative, Pasifik Village Development Projects (formerly Volunteer Vanuatu) was registered with the Shefa Provincial Government and our staff assisted with the following:

1. Survey and damage analysis of:
  - Pango Village and surrounds.
  - Paama Community Blacksands
  - Epule Rural Training Centre, North Efate
  - Damage analysis of water tanks built in villages around Efate island
2. Delive food & water to Blacksands Paama.
3. Tree and debris clearing in Pango Village and Blacksands Paama
4. Wound care and scabies treatment for the Blacksands Paama community children.
5. Repair and restore Pango Primary School

A total of 30 Volunteers were involved in the activities from March – June 2023 and \$10,000 was donated through Australian Mercy.





## Agency Agreements

Australian Mercy has organisational agreements, or Memorandums of Understanding, with the three organisations listed here. Australian Mercy serves these organisations by receiving and forwarding funds. Our Board of Directors is not responsible to them, or for them, in any way as they have their own governing bodies that do that.

---

### 1. Project L.I.F.E. Foundation – Thailand

Project L.I.F.E. is a registered Thai Foundation, under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of the Royal Thai Government. Donors in Australia gave \$2,831 to Project L.I.F.E. Foundation through Australian Merc.

Project L.I.F.E. Foundation is committed to giving the poor, the forgotten, the broken in Thai society the opportunity to provide the necessities of life for themselves and their families. These include food, clothing, shelter, education and gainful employment.

Project L.I.F.E. has over 100 full time staff in 14 projects spread over 12 provinces. We reach out hands of love to abandoned children, abused young girls, prostitutes, HIV babies, dying mothers, poor rural women, slum women. They're the most vulnerable people, and Project L.I.F.E. has been helping them since 1987 as a registered charity under the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of the Royal Thai Government.



# AUSTRALIAN MERCY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## 2. PARTNERS – Southeast Asia and PARTNERS – Middle East

### Emergency Relief & Sustainable Development Project – Milestones accomplished

Through our General and Rohingya Relief projects 248,611 people were helped with food, including providing 407,642 kg of rice. 2,249 people were provided shelter. Five wells, 54 toilets, clothes and other necessary items were distributed, and five schools were also rebuilt.

### Good News Story

Mg Myint Htun was born in a small village and is 8 years old. He and his mother and four siblings live in Karen State, Myanmar. One day he was knocked off a stump and got hurt. Then his wound got infected. With the help of a teacher from the village he went to the Mae Sot Hospital in Thailand. He had a tracheotomy upon arrival at the emergency unit.

During his hospital stay his mother used up all her money for the medicine and fees. The teacher who sent them to the hospital contacted Partners. The Partners staff met the mother and encouraged her, prayed for her family, and provided some money for the cost of the medicine and helped with the follow-up care.



The mother, Ma Aye Win said, “Thank you very much for your help. Without your help, I could not bear the stress that I faced. I didn’t think I could get my child back, but now he can play and become healthy again.”



Partners Middle East

Extended and complex armed conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Yemen have resulted in a humanitarian crisis almost beyond comprehension that has affected multiple surrounding nations and resulted in the largest displacement of people since World War II. Partners is on the ground responding to the immediate needs of civilians displaced because of war in the region. You can reach these people, delivering life-saving supplies when they need it most, helping rebuild damaged infrastructure and providing trauma care to children deeply affected by the conflict.

At the heart of our work has always been a desire to go to the hard-to-reach places where few organizations are working. While focusing on providing immediate help to children suffering as a result of war and oppression, our vision is also to invest long-term in developing solutions to support these communities. By starting development projects that strengthen families and rebuild infrastructure to meet children's primary needs like healthcare and education, you invest in a future for these children where they have the opportunity to live free, full lives. It's for this reason that we go to these places to show God's love.

### **Iraq – 2,771 Assisted**

Rebuilding schools, providing trauma care to children, actively empowering more young girls and women to restore some of the freedom and dignity taken from them during the ISIS occupation; these are the ways you helped heal a region left deeply scarred by conflict and oppression.

### **Syria - 81,812 Assisted**

From reconstructing schools destroyed by war, to operating a paediatric clinic in one of the world's most desolate refugee camps, your support helped restore critical health and education services for Syrians displaced by conflict. But you didn't stop there, providing food, heating, water and other relief supplies to families who continue to suffer after a decade of civil war.

### **Afghanistan – 12,150 Assisted**

Since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in 2021, the country has endured a deepening humanitarian crisis. Acute malnutrition is spiking across the country, while an earthquake in June brought even more suffering in the country's southeast. You showed up to help in some of the most vulnerable and deeply affected communities, reminding them they aren't alone.



## **3. Australian Christian Legal Society**

A u s t r a l i a n M e r c y

### **Lawyers of Hope Women's rights legal education project Kigali, Rwanda**

In 1999 the Rwandan government enacted its first gendered land rights in Rwanda. The legislation was trying to overcome gender inequality supported by custom regarding matrimonial regimes and inheritance. However, there are still obstacles that prevent women in Rwanda from claiming or fully enjoying their rights over land. These obstacles are mostly related to the lack of awareness of laws providing those rights.

Gender inequality is found in inter-generational inter-vivos land-transfers which were traditionally gifts of land given to male children, but which, through law, should also be accessible to women.

The purpose of Women's rights legal education project is to provide education to Rwandans regarding women's rights about amendments to the law through which women are now entitled to own property given to them through a Will.

Given the influence of faith-based organisation structures on Rwandan Communities, this project will be implemented through Churches. The aim of the project is to educate pastors, local leaders and community members on the new laws, with an aim to advise women to know their rights, for example: register their marriage, register land, etc.

Educating church pastors is a priority so that they may be able to assist and advise women and families who find themselves impoverished due to unjust and unlawful succession practices.

Subject to available resources, our aim is that information kits and education resources, including template wills, may be developed into local dialects, and distributed by local church and community leaders. A team of Australian Lawyers may travel to Rwanda to assist in this training and to train the trainers.

Without effective community awareness on the substance and legal pathways of the Law No 22/99, many widows and children are continuing to be left homeless and destitute after the death of the man of the house.



## Australian Mercy Memberships



Missions Interlink is an Australian network and peak Council for global mission. Australian Mercy has been a dues paying full member for decades.



Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) is the peak Council for Australian not-for-profit aid and development organisations. Although Australian Mercy has been a full member of ACFID, since 2000, membership to ACFID is voluntary, as is adherence to their code of good practice.

ACNC is the Australian Government regulator for charities. Adherence to the ACNC Code of Practice, called Governance Standards, is not voluntary, but mandatory for all charities. Likewise, adherence to the ACNC External Conduct Standards for organisations like Australian Mercy that have projects overseas, is also mandatory. Because the ACNC is the official government regulator, not ACFID , Australian Mercy has fully aligned with ACNC governance standards and external conduct standards.

## Financials

In accordance with the financial reporting requirements set out in section 60 of the Australian Charities and Non Profits Act 2012, Australian Mercy undergoes an independent review of its accounts and finances annually. A full copy of our audit of accounts for the Financial Year 2022-2023 can be viewed on the ACNC website. Attached is a two page extract from this audit: the *Profit / Loss Statement* and the *Statement of Financial Position*.

# AUSTRALIAN MERCY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## Financials – Profit / Loss Statement

Australian Relief and Mercy Services Limited  
ABN 84 008 643 258

### Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Donations and Gifts			
- Monetary		747,238.00	748,810.85
- Non-Monetary		-	-
- Bequest and Legacies Grants		-	-
- Other Australian		-	-
- Other Overseas		-	-
Investment Income - Interest Received		8,116.16	4,946.71
Other Income		113,985.55	116,848.85
Profit on Sale of Assets		-	-
Admin Fees Received		37,921.88	35,798.71
Revenue for International Political or Religious Adherence		-	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>907,261.59</b>	<b>906,405.12</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure			
- International Programs			
- Funds to International Programs		353,489.63	528,411.54
- Program Support Costs		-	-
- Community Education		-	-
- Fundraising Costs			
- Public	<b>3</b>	-	-
- Accountability and Administration	<b>4</b>	26,709.12	37,160.76
- Government, multilateral and private		-	-
- Non-Monetary Expenditure		-	-
<b>Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure</b>		<b>380,198.75</b>	<b>565,572.30</b>
International Political/Religious Adherence Promotion Programs Expenditure		-	-
Domestic Programs Expenditure		342,566.83	330,707.48
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>722,765.58</b>	<b>896,279.78</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		<b>184,496.01</b>	<b>10,125.34</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<b>184,496.01</b>	<b>10,125.34</b>

## Financials – Statement of Financial Position

### Australian Relief and Mercy Services Limited

ABN 84 008 643 258

### Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	225,103.76	48,289.40
Other financial assets	6	1,879.71	4,102.39
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>226,983.47</b>	<b>52,391.79</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	7	5,748.55	5,089.44
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>5,748.55</b>	<b>5,089.44</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>232,732.02</b>	<b>57,481.23</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	8	52.36	9,297.58
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>52.36</b>	<b>9,297.58</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>52.36</b>	<b>9,297.58</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>232,679.66</b>	<b>48,183.65</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained Earning		232,679.66	48,183.65
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>232,679.66</b>	<b>48,183.65</b>



# AUSTRALIAN MERCY 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## Financials – Charitable Gift Funds

There are five charitable gift funds of Australian Mercy as shown in this table. In this financial year, \$6,521.86 was earned through investing the money of these five funds.

Name of Fund	Equity Trustee No	Beneficiary
Australian Mercy Disaster Relief Charitable Gift	CH002155	AM – Disaster relief efforts
Australian Mercy Charitable Gift	CH002309	The Australian Mercy Fund
Australian Mercy International Women's Charitable Gift	CH002310	Donna McDermid Memorial Fund
Australian Mercy 3 Diseases Charitable Gift	CH002440	Malaria, TB and HIV Projects
Australian Mercy Medical & Training Charitable Gift	CH002441	The Vicki Project

These Charitable Gift funds are held and invested by Equity Trustees, who is a reputable superannuation and wealth management company. The Trustee Services department of their Wealth Management & Investments Division has a Charitable Trusts group that specialises in structured philanthropy as a way for a benefactor(s) to contribute to cause areas they are passionate about.

### Donations to these charitable gifts are tax-deductible

To make a direct deposit, email Equity Trustees at ([dcheng@egt.com.au](mailto:dcheng@egt.com.au)) with the amount that you sent into the account below. Include the EFT Reference together with your name and address so that they can send you your Tax-Deductible receipt.

**Account Name:** Equity Trustees Limited

**BSB:** 083 092

**Account Number:** 57 080 8888

**EFT Reference:** CH00XXXX (use Equity Trustee No of fund you desire in Table above)

For bequests or donations by cheque or money order, mail to: **Equity Trustees, 575 Bourke St, Melbourne Vic 3001** and use the same account details above. You may also send your donation to Australian Mercy, outlining your donation preferences using the information above and we'll take care of the rest.

### Australian Mercy Charitable Gift Policy

Australian Mercy's policy is to distribute the income earned through Equity Trustees investments according to the following formula:

- Australian Mercy Administration - 5%
- Re-invest into the Equity Trustees Charitable Gift funds - 20%
- Funds for distribution to the cause of the beneficiary - 75%

# Australian Mercy Standards

## 1) ALL PEOPLES

The Australian Mercy Standard is that all ethnicities and languages are significant and constructive because they enhance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

## 2) INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES and COMMUNITIES

The Australian Mercy Standard is that every individual is unique and socialised into a family where parents, not political structures, have the ultimate say regarding their children until maturity. Australian Mercy's time, money, and effort is prioritised to families and communities.

## 3) SERVANT LEADERSHIP

The Australian Mercy Standard of servant leadership is to lead by example, empowering others to achieve their goals and honour the leadership rights and abilities of men and women, regardless of educational or social status.

## 4) WE ARE CHRISTIAN

The Australian Mercy Standard is to honour God practically and spiritually, respecting and working with all people because, "If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbour as yourself,' you are doing right. But if you show favouritism, you sin..." James 2:8-9

## 5) RELATIONSHIPS AND TEAMWORK

The Australian Mercy Standard of relationships and teamwork includes open communication and mutual support as teamwork and a shared purpose contributes to greater accountability, motivation, and ownership of the vision and tasks.

## 6) INTEGRITY

The Australian Mercy Standard of integrity includes transparency, humility, and acknowledging failure and shortcomings – where words fully align with deeds.

## 7) VOLUNTEERISM

The Australian Mercy Standard of volunteerism is community members contributing to their own sustainable and reproducible solutions, not dependent on outside resources.