



Connecting children, young people and families with God through His Word across 120 countries worldwide

2021 Annual Report

www.scriptureunion.global



DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF SCRIPTURE UNION...

This has been the second year in a row that was deeply affected by the pandemic.

Local lockdowns and restrictions on face-to-face ministry have been a strong drawback for many of our National Movements. Some countries, like Uganda have only just reopened their schools. For two years children have not been able to go to school, not been able to meet real people, not been able to attend Bible clubs or church activities. Virtual programs have been successful and a great help but can never replace the 'real thing' of meeting other people in person.

Daily it becomes more and more clear that the closures caused by the pandemic-induced responses are having a huge negative impact on the health, education and wellbeing of children and young people all around the world.

Our national teams and the SUI Global Team have used the lockdown time to develop new materials and training programs. 'It is okay not to be okay' is a new program that SU Kenya has produced that we are hoping to roll out in other countries as well. It is about emotional wellbeing based on biblical values, and helps children understand themselves, their emotions, and their spiritual needs. You can read more about this exciting tool on page 4.

Because we believe that each individual is created in God's image, we understand children need a safe environment that will allow them to explore faith and grow in Christian maturity. Therefore, one key activity in 2021 was the training of national movements in the area of safeguarding and child protection. More of this on page 8.

Even though we have all been through a difficult year, we can look back with deep thankfulness. God has given us strength, resources, ideas, courage, and supportive friends to help develop new programs amid the uncertainty and restrictions.

We have reached millions of children with the Good News of Jesus. And we will keep on doing what God has called us to do: sharing God's Big Story with the next generation.



Monika Kuschmierz International Director



Christian Hellwig International Chair

AIMS

Working with the churches, Scripture Union aims to:

- Scripture Union God's Big Story transforming young lives
- make God's Good News known to children, young people and families, and
- encourage people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer,

so that they may come to find personal faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, grow in Christian maturity and become both committed church members and servants to a world in need.

SHARING God's Big Story

Scripture Union International supported and encouraged Scripture Union national movements in reaching out to children, young people, and families in new ways, as they operated in a changed world, where communities were still attempting to cope with the effects of a pandemic.

We are actively:



SUPPORTING MINISTRY

Helping national Scripture Union movements to develop and make their ministries more effective.

"...teachers and learners needed to know that they are not alone. We wanted them to know that we identify with them in their challenges, and we are willing to journey with them during and after this pandemic."



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

Connecting national Scripture Union movements as members of a supportive, interdependent global community.

"The training on child protection helped me a lot and had a positive impact on my life and ministry. The explanation and the presentation of the healing process helped me. I thank God, who continues to heal me."



NURTURING PARTNERSHIPS

Fostering partnerships and connections and acting as a trusted partner with international Christian agencies and churches.

"The training has been very well received and is really helping some of the teams grow in confidence in fundraising and communicating with donors."



SECURING SUSTAINABILITY

Helping national Scripture Union movements to achieve sustainability and unlocking resources for further development.

"The Scripture Union Zimbabwe family appreciates the SUI gesture of love and concern as demonstrated in its support towards its sustainability plan."

SUPPORTING MINISTRY



HELPING CHILDREN FACING TRAUMA AND GRIEF

"After going through lessons on grief and loss, stress, trauma, isolation, loneliness, and stigma, I recovered from the mental challenges I was going through, even though I am not yet fully recovered." Kenya A huge rise in children and young people struggling with their mental health has been one of the aftereffects of the pandemic. The Scripture Union International (SUI) ministry team has been sharing fresh resources for children and families, along with promoting good practice and ground-breaking work among some of our movements.

SU Kenya has been helping children and young people affected by trauma due to the pandemic.

National Director of SU Kenya, Nancy Kahuthia, said, "During 2021 we were able to minister to more than 4,300 children and almost 800 adults who attended the courses. The program includes children and young people working with peer educators who help them explore the stages of grief and what may be the causes and triggers for mental unwellness." One of the children from Nyoro Primary School shared his story about how the program had helped him following the death of his father.

"My name is Albert. I am in Class 7 in Nyoro Primary School. I lost my dad and aunt to Covid-19. This made our family to be isolated by the community. At school, other children did not want to come near me. I was lonely and felt rejected. The children kept away from me because most of them came from my village, so they knew what had happened in my family. But after going through lessons on grief and loss, stress, trauma, isolation, loneliness, and stigma, I recovered from the mental challenges I was going through, even though I am not yet fully recovered. In 2022 I will be doing my final exams for primary education and I'm positive that I will perform well."

"WE ARE WITH YOU"

In South Africa, a new schools' programme was set up in 2021 to support teachers and learners suffering due to the effects of the pandemic.

Celest Bossr, a schools' worker with SU Western Cape, said the Sinawe programme started during the pandemic in response to the way children and young people were being affected. She said a tremendous strain had been placed on school staff, learners, and parents.

> "The impact on the children is that it has helped them to know that they are being seen and they are being heard." South Africa

Celest said, "Sinawe means, 'we are with you'. We chose this name because we knew that teachers and learners needed to know that they are not alone. We wanted them to know that we identify with them in their challenges, and we are willing to journey with them during and after this pandemic."

She explained, "We knew that kids would struggle with the new reality of going back to schools, our desire was to be with young people in the places they live, study and play."

The new schools-based programme offers a relevant and relational way to provide social, emotional, and spiritual support to school communities. Sinawe schools' workers are based at different schools for two to four days a week. They look at the wholistic development of learners and teachers.

Teacher at Silverlea Primary School, Janine Cornelius, said: "The value of the Sinawe program for the teachers is relieving and lessening the stress... The impact on the children is that it has helped them to know that they are being seen and they are being heard. They have been given the space to share how they feel in a



safe environment, and they have bult a relationship of trust with the Sinawe workers. Some of the children come from situations where they feel unsafe and may not be able to trust some of the adults they relate to. But here at school they know there is someone that they can call upon."



SUPPORTING MINISTRY





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BRINGING HOPE THROUGH PRAYER

Prayer continued to be a vital lifeline connecting all the **Scripture Union movements** and helping them support one another, even when they could not meet face to face. **Scripture Union International** led its annual week of prayer in November 2021, with a focus on hope.

Entitled 'Prisoners of Hope', more than 500 participants joined SUI's week-long online program, downloading the resources, taking part in the global prayer events online, and in some countries, they were able to gather in person to pray.

The 2021 Scripture Union Global Week of Prayer was based on the theme 'Prisoners of Hope' which focussed on passages from the book of Zechariah.

One of the SUI organising team, Becky Swamickan said, "Throughout the week, people from SU movements around the world used the Prayer Guide both as an aid to pray and as a way of helping staff, volunteers, and supporters to focus on hope, in a year when hope was needed more than ever before!"

The week included online events. prayer rooms and a 24-hourprayer session. During the sessions people were able to share their stories, lead others in prayer and join to pray for Scripture Union teams across the world.

Mari Vahermagi from SU Estonia, wrote:

"I want to express my deep gratitude and thanks to the person who put together this year's prayer quide. The scriptures, other texts, invitations – the whole setting of it was fantastic, the best ever, I think. It was focusing on Scripture Union, but it was also so easy to include other partners, churches and local situations. Those Bible texts spoke volumes to our present situations – both globally and locally. And most of it was based on promises - the future God has promised and is bringing to us. It was such a blessing from God's word combined with prayer ... so many fine details and paths to delve deeper in to. I personally found numerous 'pearls of wisdom' and while giving radio interviews about Scripture Union's Global Week of Prayer - others right there mentioned the richness of those messages and their application."



DIGITAL BIBLE GAME-APP LAUNCHED IN SPANISH

The huge increase in online activity for children paved the way for *Guardians of Ancora* to take off in new countries.

"There is nothing else like the moment when a new language version goes live, and you know that thousands of children will be able to discover the stories of Jesus, in their heart language!"

In 2021 the Spanish version of the online Bible game was launched. Spanish-speaking children and young people can now play the interactive digital game-app, *Guardians of Ancora*, in their own language. The app, designed for six to 11-year-olds, offers a place where Bible stories come alive. Created by SU England and Wales, the game is enabling millions of children worldwide to discover Jesus and engage with the Bible.

SU England & Wales, Ancora Mission Leader, Maggie Barfield, said that despite having to navigate the extra challenges of a global pandemic, the developers, Davi Kruklis, from SUI, and the project manager in Bolivia, Julio Cesar Aliaga and his team, did not give up but kept on going.

She said, "It has been an absolute pleasure to work with Davi Kruklis and Julio Cesar Aliaga to create Guardianes de Ancora. My part in this involves endless spreadsheets, video calls and hours and hours of checking. But there is nothing else like the moment when a new language version goes live, and you know that thousands of children will be able to discover the stories of Jesus, in their heart language!" **STATISTICS FOR** WEEK OF PRAYER **PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES** TOOK PART IN DAILY PRAYER SESSIONS LED BY TEAMS FROM ACROSS THE WORLD INCLUDING SCOTLAND, UGANDA, GUATEMALA, AUSTRALIA, AND MAURITIUS. PARTICIPANTS FROM **JOINED IN THE 24-HOUR PRAYER** SESSION, LED BY DIFFERENT NATIONAL MOVEMENTS. PARTICIPANTS JOINED IN THE OPENING PRAYER EVENT FROM **36** COUNTRIES

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE



8 ANNUAL REPORT 2021 Ensuring the safety of, caring for and protecting children and young people is at the heart of Scripture Union. Our Child Protection Policy reflects SU's Working Principles, which state that 'We aim to express God's Good News to children ... Not only in words but by building caring relationships with them' and ... 'we have a special responsibility for children ... who are ... exploited'.

In mid 2019, Scripture Union International began rolling out a program of Child Protection and Safeguarding Training through the community groups. This program was further strengthened and structured in 2021 when SU leaders were trained to take the training back "The training on child protection helped me a lot and had a positive impact on my life and ministry." Benin

to their own countries to be passed on to staff and volunteers.

Close to 200 participants from 80 national movements participated in the first two levels of child protection training, which was run in four different languages. The aim of the training was to help movements understand the importance of safeguarding within the SU context, and by training them about SUI's child protection policy. A new member training module has also been developed for use within national movements. This is geared towards drawing attention to the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, making staff and volunteers aware of the importance of care and protection of children within SU, and ensuring that safety is key for people who lead programs.

Follow-on training was also run in many community groups with further training planned across the Francophone and Latin American groups. National movements are now equipped to roll out this training for their own staff and volunteers. The SUI team has also trained nearly 50 Child Protection Advocates who will support the SUI Field Development Directors and local movements which have limited staff or other constraints. The advocates will act as 'Child Protection Champions' within their SU community groups and will come alongside movements in need of support.





57 June 2010 Child Protection Advocates, including 12 national directors

52 FRENCH-SPEAKING PARTICIPANTS FROM **12** COUNTRIES

4U SPANISH-SPEAKING PARTICIPANTS FROM **8** COUNTRIES **Z3** RUSSIAN-SPEAKING PARTICIPANTS FROM

MOVEMENTS

141 ENGLISH-SPEAKING PARTICIPANTS FROM 37 COUNTRIES



Safeguarding Co-ordinator for SUI, Becky Swamickan said, "National movements are beginning to think about how they can share the importance of child protection within their local contexts. For example, SU in Eswatini and Slovakia have said they would serve their local churches and schools and build awareness of child protection."

The final level of training will be held in 2022, by which time the trained national movements will have started implementing the policy, and have had opportunities to share best practice and build on what they have already learned.

In SU Benin the SUI Child Protection training had a huge impact on one of the staff. They wrote "The training on child protection had a positive impact on my life and ministry. The session on abuse and violence and their manifestation made me cry because it brought me back to my childhood and the abuse I had faced in the family where I grew up... The explanation and the presentation of the healing process helped me. I thank God, who continues to heal me, and who has transformed me into His effective vessel for the healing of other people."



BIBLE ENGAGEMENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The first step towards our three-year program to focus on Bible Engagement began in 2021 with the results from a Bible Engagement survey.

The aim of the survey was to take the pulse of perceptions, practices, and programs of Bible Engagement within Scripture Union. It was also hoped the findings would provide a baseline for planning for the future and help preparations for SUI's Bible Engagement Consultation in 2022.

The survey was sent to all the national movements, who are represented by 13 community groups. There were 239 individual respondents to the survey, from 12 community groups spanning 56 countries, and representing a broad range of nationalities, paid staff, board members and volunteers.

Findings from the survey showed that almost 70 per cent of movements had adapted their Bible Engagement approaches during the pandemic lockdowns and had moved online.

The evaluation of the survey highlighted the challenges facing Scripture Union in maintaining its unique and creative cutting edge in Bible Engagement. It also "The digital space was identified as a particular area of growth and challenge, with Scripture Union's core audience being 'online natives'."

recommended that long term discipleship and strength of relationships, which contribute to Scripture Union's standing and reputation, ought to be evaluated for effectiveness.

SUI International Director, Monika Kuschmierz said, "The digital space was identified in the survey as a particular area of growth and challenge, with Scripture Union's core audience being online natives. This development will impact on traditional methods of publishing materials and challenge Scripture Union's understanding of relational ministry."

A series of round table discussions, which included SU members from a range of countries, were also launched as a follow-on from the survey.

Outcomes from the Bible Engagement Consultation are due to be published in mid 2022.

UNLOCKING RESOURCES FOR GROWTH

Significant milestones have been achieved during 2021 in SUI's program to help national movements achieve sustainability and unlock resources for the further development of their ministries.

SUI's Sustain Partnership consultant, Glenn Coombs, said a new online project submission tool was enabling movements to submit a local project for evaluation, so that resources could be channelled into new initiatives.

He said, "We now have a dedicated 'Projects' area on our website to make it easy for people to see how they can support some of the exciting initiatives in different parts of the world. We are keen for the best of these opportunities to be connected to the resources required, in order to see the extension of God's kingdom in these countries."

Some of the current projects show how Scripture Union teams are thinking differently about income generation and developing new missional opportunities to reach children and young people with the good news about Jesus.

There are a range of projects including agricultural programs in Africa and anti-violence training programs in Latin America.



"We are keen to see the best of these opportunities connected to the resources required to see a greater impact in the local context for the extension of God's kingdom."

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WATER FOR NEW LIFE IN ZIMBABWE

A self-sustaining campsite project for SU Zimbabwe has the potential to enable the team to reach thousands of children and young people in Zimbabwe's schools.

Their aim is to run Scripture Union clubs in the country's 8,000 primary and secondary schools, funded in part by an agricultural project on one of its campsites.

The project, at Sanganayi Creek campsite farm, is also planning to help train young people and women in food production as a way of building sustainable communities. The 'Foundation for Farming' training, which is being adopted by SU Zimbabwe, uses a farming method which promotes environmental conservation and optimal food production. It provides a wide range of training and helps farmers plan ahead and find ways to nurture

their crops, even a lack of rainfall.

National Director for SU Zimbabwe, Samuel Kalizi, said the agricultural project is on course and with support from SUI, along with a number of other generous donors, they have installed pipework to irrigate the land and begin to grow butternut pumpkins and cucumbers. Although there were hold ups due to Covid-19, SU Zimbabwe is confident the next phase of irrigation will move ahead with the installation of a water pump. The additional funds from the sale of crops will enable the SU work in schools to be expanded and the aim is to begin training people at the farm in the coming months.

Samuel said: "The SU Zimbabwe family appreciates the SUI gesture of love and concern as demonstrated in its support towards its sustainability plan."



HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE BREAK FREE FROM VIOLENCE

SU El Salvador launched its project to help young people break free from violence and gang pressure in 2021.

Supported by SUI and a number of donors, they were able to begin developing their partnership with churches and training leaders to run workshops with young people.

The project, called 'Brave and Free – for you and me', aims to help support young people and families whose lives are blighted by dangerous gangs and organised crime. El Salvador has one of the highest murder and crime rates in the world. It also has more than 60,000 gang members across most of its towns and cities.

Operating in the Nicaragua community of San Salvador, SU El Salvador aims to give girls, boys, adolescents, and their families the practical tools to face the challenges of a violent society. Working in partnership with local churches, schools, and community leaders, the project targets vulnerable groups engaged in violent acts or those at risk of becoming victims of violence. "The implementation of the Brave and Free program, has been an opportunity for learning and applying knowledge with a multidisciplinary approach for our local movement."

In 2021 they were able to present the project to other local churches and continue their partnership and training with churches already linked with them.

A new program coordinator was appointed, along with two parttime facilitators, and 18 people took part in the program training over four days in December, including nursery and school teachers, volunteers, community leaders and church assistants.

Project Coordinator, Remy Ocon, said: "The implementation of the Brave and Free program, has been an opportunity for learning and applying knowledge with a multidisciplinary approach for our local movement. However, it has also meant facing a series of challenges, including delays due to the pandemic restrictions."

Another project, called 'Values for Life' will roll out workshops in the community during 2022 and the aim is to generate a space for individual and group creative expression, with opportunities for children and young people to create murals, music and drama, and join in practical workshops and activities. The sessions will help young people to develop values based on the word of God.

It is hoped these projects will become a model for further programs in other communities across the country.



TWO ARE BETTER THAN ONE

Lack of funding is one of the key elements that can hold back ministry for many Scripture Union movements. Working together to learn how to communicate their needs and to source income has been transforming some of the African Scripture Union teams...



COACHING COURSE BRINGS NEW TEAM CONFIDENCE

SUI Field Development Directors for Africa, Tony Nzanzah and Emmanuel Todjo, have been supporting Scripture Union national movements in developing their work with children and young people.

Introducing and encouraging them to access a virtual coaching program for faith-based charities, has been transformational for some teams.

The specialised Flagship training, which has been rolled out throughout a number of SU community groups, helps offer proven strategies and practices to assist in fundraising through courses, webinars, coaching, resources and links to an online community.

Tony said, "The training has been very well received and is really helping some of the teams grow in confidence in fundraising and communicating with donors." He said some 30 participants, representing 10 different Scripture Union national movements, took part and were inspired by the new tools and "This training, organised by Scripture Union International in partnership with Flagship, was a real opportunity for capacity building and a great motivator for our team."

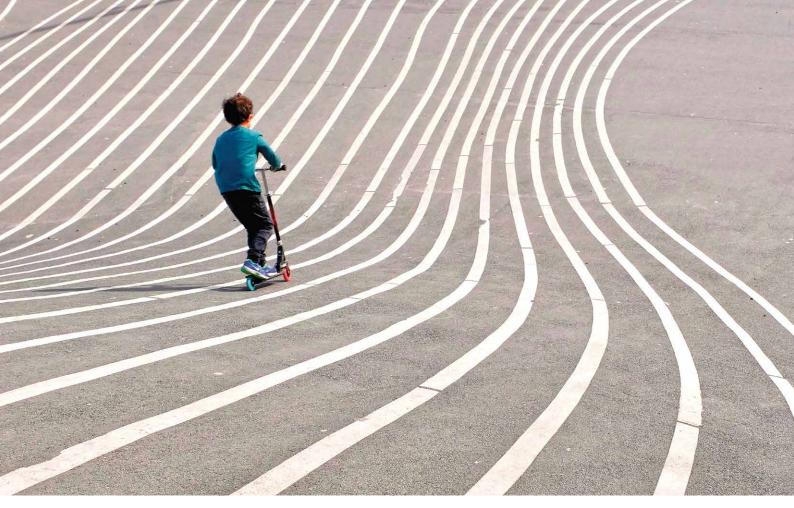
strategies that were passed on through the sessions.

Emmanuel added that, "Many participants said they felt more confident with their newly acquired skills to take their ministry to the next level, and the feedback from what they have gained has been a great encouragement." National Director for SU Benin, Kiki Assogba, said: "This training, organised by SUI in partnership with Flagship, was a real opportunity for capacity building and a great motivator for our team. So many useful things were revealed and contributed so that our movement can now be increasingly successful in its fundraising plans."

Regional Coordinator, for SU Cameroon, Joachim Tiya Djofofe, said:

"This course has removed many barriers in my thoughts and given strategies for resource mobilisation to our movement. It created the desire to continue on a practical level."





SCRIPTURE UNION INTERNATIONAL'S OUTLOOK FOR 2022

In 2022 Scripture Union International will bring together about 100 participants from around the world to meet for a global Bible Engagement Consultation.

Working groups will look at Bible engagement in the public space, in the digital arena, in churches, in families, and with at risk children. The final goal will be to create new resources that will be relevant and culturally appropriate to help children encounter Jesus and develop a deep relationship with Him. Another goal of SUI is to invest in our national leaders and to help them grow and develop their skills. We are creating jobshadowing opportunities so that leaders can learn from their peers within a ministry context.

We are working with young leaders to help them explore their individual capacity and calling and to give them the opportunity to speak into the global community. And we are preparing a training tool for Scripture Union Boards so that they can grow in their ability to serve their National Movements. In addition to that, further training on child protection and capacity building will be delivered.

We are trusting God to use this training to expand and strengthen the local ministries of Scripture Union globally.



Monika Kuschmierz International Director







FINANCE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2021

Despite the persistent challenges attributable to the ongoing global pandemic, I am very pleased to report that we were able to close 2021 with a modest surplus, and we continue to make progress towards our key strategic objectives in ministry, community, sustainability, and partnership.

We reflect on this past year with gratitude to our National Movements and supporters across the world. This has without doubt been another difficult period but, thanks to their commitment and generosity, we did not experience a significant drop in our income and were able to maintain our commitment to developing our programmes, processes, and people to better share God's Word across the world. We were still unable to meet in person, but were able to take advantage of technology to host many of our events online and we have been greatly encouraged by the numbers participating. There will be more such events in the coming year as we continue to reach out to children, young people, and their families.

COVID-19 will no doubt continue to impact how we work through the year ahead, but we are greatly encouraged by the way that the organisation, with God's grace, has been able to respond to the many challenges we have faced. We remain confident that we can and will continue to serve the National Movements, both in their ministry and in the development of a strong, resilient, and sustainable movement worldwide.

In faithful service,



Dr Margaret Siwale Scripture Union International Honorary Treasurer

FINANCE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021

	2021	%	2020	%
Income				
Restricted income for movements	339,065	37%	773,164	52%
Donations and legacies	588,207	63%	654,754	44%
Restricted income for ministry activities	-	0%	65,826	4%
Charitable activities	-	0%	515	0%
Investments and other income	69	0%	411	0%
	927,341	100%	1,494,670	100%
Expenditure				
Ministry	195,579	24%	255,135	25%
Community	149,156	19%	189,766	19%
Sustainability	261,831	33%	323,409	32%
Partnership	55,917	7%	77,238	8%
Governance	136,696	17%	169,041	17%
	799,179	100%	1,014,589	100%

BALANCE SHEET	2021	2020
Current Assets		
Debtors	131,681	130,632
Cash at bank and in hand	1,675,074	1,596,525
	1,806,755	1,727,157
Current liabilities	(79,961)	(74,532)
Net Assets	1,726,794	1,652,625
Income Funds		
Restricted Funds	998,462	927,305
Designated Funds	244,608	245,738
Unrestricted Funds	483,724	479,582
	1.726.794	1.652.625







2021 INCOME

- Restricted Income for Movements (339,065)
- Donations and Legacies (588,207)
- Restricted Income for Ministry Activities (–)
- Charitable Activities (–)
- Investments and Other Income (69)



2021 EXPENDITURE

- Ministry (195,579)
- Community (149,156)
- Sustainability (261,831)
- Partnership (55,917)
- Governance (136,696)

WHERE OUR INCOME COMES FROM

Our overall income in 2021 was £927,341, a decline from the exceptional income of 2020 which had included receipts from property sales in the former Africa region.

SUI continues to depend primarily upon two sources of income. Donations and legacies from National Movements that were restricted to clearly specified ministry purposes contributed only 37% of total income, which was a significant reduction from the equivalent income received in 2020; this reduction allowed the contribution of unrestricted donations and legacies from both National Movements and international donors to increase to 63% of the total.

The income received that was restricted for specific purposes includes funding secured for two key strategic priorities. The first of these is the Child Protection & Safeguarding Initiative, designed to ensure that every National Movement has appropriate training in this critical area. This programme is now being rolled out across the world. The second is the Bible Engagement Initiative, which will establish a forum for global theological discussions around the question of Bible engagement, and offer practical help and support to Movements developing new resources to reach the children and young people of today.

WHERE YOUR MONEY WAS SPENT

Our total charitable expenditure in 2021 was £799,179, a significant reduction from 2020. The allocation of costs to our four strategic objectives remained broadly similar to 2020, with only a slight proportional increase in spending on sustainability which reflected support provided to Movements striving to improve governance and build operational resilience. Meanwhile total spending for SUI's own expenses was 10% lower than 2020, with the ongoing pandemic continuing to restrict the scope for travel and face-to-face engagement.

We closed the year with a modest surplus. As was the case in 2020, 70% of the funds held at year-end were for nominated purposes and therefore not available to fund operational costs. We introduced significant enhancements to our budgeting processes and controls during the year and continue to focus on the tight management of administrative and support costs.

Scripture Union seeks to make God's Good News known through a variety of ministries around the world relying on the Holy Spirit and following the call of Jesus to make disciples.





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