



# Scripture Union

God's Big Story transforming young lives

[www.scriptureunion.global](http://www.scriptureunion.global)

**IMPACTING GENERATIONS  
OF YOUNG PEOPLE  
WITH THE WORD OF GOD**

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

**ENGAGING WITH GOD'S WORD  
SHARING IN MISSION  
BUILDING FRIENDSHIPS  
PRAYING FOR EACH OTHER**

ANNUAL REPORT 2023





## DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF SCRIPTURE UNION...

**The past year has been a difficult one for many of our national movements. War situations, ever-rising inflation rates, or increasing persecution were just some of the challenges our leaders had to deal with. But it is amazing to see that this did not stop them. They kept on serving children and young people around the world, and we know that millions of young lives have been transformed by the Holy Spirit.**

Our global SU International team has worked hard to support the local leaders through various trainings and, in some cases, fundraising efforts.

At the end of 2023, an initial three-year training project on Child Protection and Safeguarding came to an end. All national movements who deliver programs for children and young people have received training from SUI or have used training tools offered by other agencies. From 2024 onwards, regular online training will be offered for new leading staff members. Training tools for training local volunteers are available, and a learning community is about to be established.

The global Bible Engagement initiative was taken into the next project phase. Two writers' workshops were facilitated by Scripture Union International, one in Uganda for East African countries, the other in Sri Lanka for Asian countries. The workshops brought together skilled writers from various SU movements to develop new and engaging Bible-based resources that respond to current issues and needs in the respective countries. During each week, participants started writing culturally relevant resources that were finalized in collaborative online workshops, before being tested in practice with children or young people, and finally they were showcased at SUI's so-called "Market Square" events. These regular online meetings are open to all staff members from around the world and offer information on the newest resources that are available for local adaptation and translation.

We would never have been able to deliver this and many other programs without the caring support of our friends and donors. To all of you who have contributed sacrificially, we say THANK YOU for your friendship and love.



**Monika Kuschmierz**  
*International Director*



**Christian Hellwig**  
*International Chair*

### AIMS

Working with the churches, Scripture Union aims to:

- 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.

## WE ARE ACTIVELY:

# SHARING GOD'S BIG STORY

Scripture Union International has been supporting and encouraging ministry with Scripture Union national movements as they reach out to children, young people, and families in new and creative ways...



## SUPPORTING MINISTRY

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

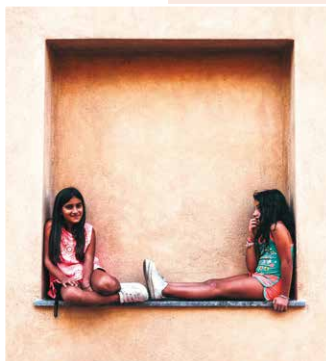
*"I valued getting to know other movements and realising that we share problems but also much hope for impacting this and future generations with the Word of God and holistic living."*



## CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

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

*"We were thankful to God for having used the difficult time of the pandemic to open our eyes to new ways of using technology to get together and sharpen each other as iron sharpens iron."*



## NURTURING PARTNERSHIPS

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

*"It is important that we connect with the Lausanne Movement as we have the opportunity to both learn and contribute. Our core strength, as a movement that engages the Bible largely with children and young people, has the potential to be a credible voice in this space."*



## SECURING SUSTAINABILITY

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

*"I thank SUI for providing this opportunity to not only experienced people but also new and young people who are interested to learn and grow."*





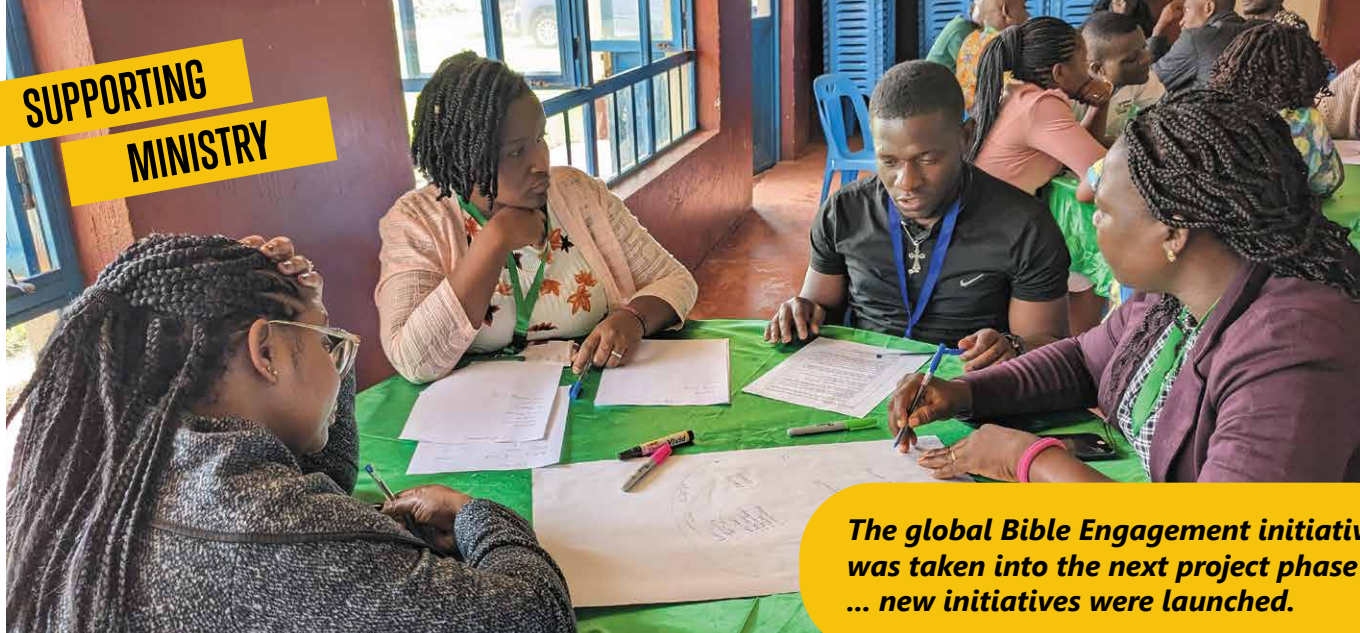
**SUPPORTING  
MINISTRY...**

**... WITH INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY**

Our global team actively supported Scripture Union ministry helping facilitate opportunities for collaboration and creativity around Bible Engagement.



## SUPPORTING MINISTRY



**The global Bible Engagement initiative was taken into the next project phase ... new initiatives were launched.**

## DEVELOPING RESOURCES FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

One of the key goals coming out of Bible Engagement Consultation 2022 was to gather regional people from local settings to produce innovative and transformational Bible Engagement resources that are locally focussed and contextualised.

In response to this, two Resource Development Workshops were facilitated by Scripture Union International in 2023, one in Uganda for East African countries, the other in Sri Lanka for Asian countries.

Before the workshops participants organised research in their local context, listening to children and leaders, and finding out what resources were available. Each workshop brought together skilled

writers from various SU movements to develop new and engaging Bible-based resources that respond to current issues and needs in the respective countries. During each week, participants started planning and creating culturally relevant resources that were finalized in collaborative online workshops, before being tested in practice with children or young people, and finally they were show-cased at SU's new 'Market Square' events.

Twelve new resources were developed, some of them engaging children and young people digitally.

Following the workshop, one of the Community Groups decided to develop a new Bible guide for children. Global Team members

facilitated the development of the curriculum, supported the writers and helped with the editing process. The new Bible guide will include some Augmented Reality (AR) elements, bringing the Bible stories to life. Set up as an open-source license agreement, the texts, graphics and AR films will be available for under-resourced national movements for local use and translation as required.

One of the participants on the Africa workshop said: *"I valued getting to know other movements and realising that we share problems but also much hope for impacting this and future generations with the Word of God and holistic living."*

## SHARING RESOURCES TOGETHER

A further development from the Bible Engagement Consultation was the 'Market Square'. This new online event was designed to be a space for SU movements to showcase and highlight their Bible Engagement resource for others to discover, ask questions and receive.

Becky said: *"We have hosted nearly half a dozen Market Squares, with anywhere between 20-80 participants. This has included the presentation of resources created at our Resource Development Workshops and has proven to be an excellent place to test out ideas and gain feedback from around the SU Global Family. Looking ahead we aim to broaden our advertising and visibility, to increase participation in this valuable piece of Bible Engagement work going into the future."*

These regular online meetings are open to all staff members from around the world and offer information on the newest resources that are available for local adaptation and translation.

Scripture Union International

Find out about Bible engagement resources available in the SU Global Family

### Market Square 1

5 resources  
5 presenters  
2 opportunities to dig deeper

**... all in 60 min**

Download resources for free!

14th Feb 2023 @ 9 00AM London

[www.scriptureunion.global](https://www.scriptureunion.global)

[Register now!](#)



**SUPPORTING  
MINISTRY**

## OPENING EYES AND SERVING THE CHILD TOGETHER

Following SU's three-year program of Child Protection and Safeguarding training for national movements and boards, SU trainers have seen a shift in awareness among those participating.

Becky Swamickan said: *"Running the initial training this year, it felt different. The participants on Zoom were not wide-eyed nor did they look a bit dazed. They knew what Child Protection was."*

Having focussed on training the various SU movements in SU's Child Protection Policy – understanding and implementation – since 2019, there has been a significant shift. Becky explained: *"We have now gone from resistance and a general sense of apprehension about the training, to a joyful commitment to be part of the process, practice and promise. This has come out of acknowledging the need for SU globally to be known as an organisation that serves the child – where the child's honour, dignity and care are foremost. Of course, the priority of Child Protection and Safeguarding will always remain on top of our agenda, as we continue this journey that we have well and truly begun."*

Responses among those taking part have also been very positive, as the team has helped to open people's eyes about how children can be kept safe. For some this has challenged their culturally accepted practices about how to discipline children and young people.

One participant said: *"For me, I learnt that it's possible to correct someone without physical contact. It was very hard at the beginning, especially when some of the children were aware of the fact that it's forbidden to discipline someone physically during SU activities, and were behaving as they wanted, without respecting the rules. They were hitting me sometimes and spat upon me, but God helped me to be faithful to my commitment about Child Protection Policy."*

Another commented: *"The children are very glad and are enjoying their time during Scripture Union activities, without violence. I'm truly happy with that."*

## 'ONE STOP SHOP': BIBLE RESOURCES

A hub of Bible Engagement resources was set up to host the many new resources emerging from the Resource Development Workshops, along with other recently created materials.

Ministry Development specialist, Becky Swamickan, explained: *"The aim of this hub is to provide a place for good quality, local resources produced by SU movements which are downloadable, translatable and easily shared by movements. An SU movement can submit their resources for inclusion on the hub by using a Google form. These resources are then freely available to download, adapt and translate into local languages. The Bible Engagement Hub is located on the SU Global Extranet. It currently contains 19 quality resources in 5 languages. The hub will continue to be populated with resources created at the Resource Development workshops in 2023 and 2024."*

***"The children are very glad and are enjoying their time during Scripture Union activities, without violence. And most of the times, they are expecting more activities, so that they will come and enjoy themselves. I'm truly happy with that."***

**September 17 and 18th @ 7 00AM  
LONDON**



**LEVEL TWO CHILD PROTECTION AND  
SAFEGUARDING TRAINING**



# CONNECTING

# COMMUNITIES...

## ... A WORLD-WIDE COMMUNITY

All around the globe Scripture Union teams have opportunities to connect with each other through Scripture Union Community Groups, events, and through other networks. In 2023 for the first time SUI brought together a group of 50 young leaders for a special program which helped bridge the gap between different countries and cultures...





***"This is a really new thing to do in the urban area. I raised \$350 in total from the hiking and from other individuals supporting me and I also had to buy my passport which was \$100."***

## HILLTOP EXPERIENCES IN FUNDRAISING

The Young Ambassador program, launched in 2023, aimed to bring around 50 young people together for a year's program, which would culminate in taking part in the Scripture Union Global Assembly in Malaysia in 2024.

As a group, they committed to raising funds for their travel costs collectively, so that Young Ambassadors from less well-off countries would be able to come to the Global Gathering.

For many of the group this was a huge challenge. Elie Uwiringiyimana, was one of the young ambassadors. He explains how he approached the fundraising task in Rwanda and what he learned during the start of the program.

It was Jesus as the Light of the World that spoke to 16-year-old Elie and set him in a new direction while he was at school.

*"I met Jesus in senior school during my second term," he said. "Although I used to attend the church, I was not really a Christian."* After being

invited to numerous Bible studies led by Scripture Union in his school, Elie was asked to lead one. He found the verses in John Chapter 9 the most powerful and said his life was transformed from that moment.

Having studied business administration and finance, Elie embarked on an internship with Scripture Union Rwanda, helping with their work in schools and running camps. He is now on the staff of SU Rwanda and applied to the Young Ambassador program to learn from others and to find out more about their resources, as well as connecting and worshipping with people from other countries and cultures.

Elie said he was looking forward to learning more about fundraising by being on the international program and how they could do it better.

*"It was the first time I had done personal fundraising,"* he said. He approached people in SU and in his local church for support. He also started hiking around the urban

area of Kigali, to cut the cost of travelling far into the country. *"We started with only two of us, a friend joined me, and after that we invited other people and in another month we had 10 people joining us. We started hiking each month for about five or six kilometres and we are still doing it now!"*

He said, *"This is a really new thing to do in the urban area, people usually go to the mountains. I raised \$350 in total from the hiking and from other individuals supporting me. I also had to buy my passport which was \$100."*

Elie explained why the hiking worked well, *"The first benefit is that it is called a prayer walk. We play gospel music during the hike and we pray for each other. We connect with other people and make friends. It is also healthy to be hiking!"*

Elie said the thing he had been looking forward to most in the run up to the conference in Malaysia, was meeting face to face at last, with the many people he had only met online.





**CONNECTING  
COMMUNITIES**

## ENJOYING THE “BEAUTY OF TOGETHERNESS”

Sharing and collaboration is a key part of Scripture Union Community Groups. In Latin America they came together in 2023 for a hybrid meeting, with 18 people present in Honduras and another 33 participating virtually from other countries across Latin America.

With a focus on family ministry, Field Development Director, Davi Krukli explained, “We explored the legacy we all got from the pandemic,

*in the sense that we could enjoy the beauty of togetherness with those from Central America, but we didn't exclude the dear people from South America who wouldn't be able to travel all the way, and we were able to offer them the chance to participate in the meeting in an intense way.”*

They were able to interact with those in the room and ask questions of the speakers. Some of the

speakers were present, with others joining virtually.

*“The experience was very good and this was the opinion of both groups; the ones attending physically and the ones who were online. We were thankful to God for having used the difficult time of the pandemic to open our eyes to new ways of using technology to get together and sharpen each other as iron sharpens iron.”*

## BROADENING PERSPECTIVES THROUGH EXCHANGES



*“The purpose of the visit was to introduce me into my position and help me in broadening our movement's perspectives.”*

A mentoring and exchange program with new national directors is one of the ways that SUI is helping to encourage and support Scripture Union leaders.

This ongoing program has included a visit by the National Director of SU Zambia, Womba Miyanza, who travelled to Kenya for an orientation facilitated by the then director of SU Kenya, Nancy Kahuthia.

This induction was co funded by SUI and SU Kenya. Womba said: *“The purpose of the visit was to introduce me into my position and help me in broadening our movement's perspectives. It was also to observe how SU Kenya run their movement.”*

Before her arrival Womba had joined in some meetings online with SU Kenya. She was part of in-depth discussions with the SU Kenya board, chair and management on program work, including scope, philosophy and practices. She was also able to hear about partnerships and affiliations, organisational structure and policies, recruitment, roles and processes, human resources including personnel and volunteers, resource mobilization and SUK income generation projects.

Womba and Nancy spent precious time in fellowship, learning from each other and praying together. Womba said: *“We are grateful to SUI for organising this valuable program.”*



# SECURING

# SUSTAINABILITY

## ... DISCOVERING NEW SKILLS TOGETHER

In 2023 a new training approach supporting Scripture Union movements helped them take big steps towards sustainability with the appointment of a dedicated Project Management Trainer...





***"I thank SUI for providing this opportunity to not only experienced people but also new and young people who are interested to learn and grow."***

## NEW SKILLS AND NEW POSSIBILITIES

Sustainability is key to seeing Scripture Union movements thrive and grow as they deliver life changing ministry to children and young people.

Part of helping movements become more sustainable has involved the SUI Sustain team walking alongside SU leaders as they develop projects, which in turn can become self-sustaining, alongside start-up support from donors. During 2023 a new member of the SUI team, Project Management Trainer, Nancy Kahuthia, began offering training to SU movements as they attempted to develop their ministry and apply for funding.

Project Management training sessions were run in response to some 29 project proposals from Scripture Union movements which SUI received during the year from across all regions of the world.

The first Project Management training in Kenya was attended by representatives from nine movements from two SU Community Groups and the training was delivered by five SUI staff and two

volunteers, with a combination of face to face and online input.

The training began with looking at what the Bible has to say. Nancy said: *"It was refreshing to discover the many projects referred to and principles of project management in the Bible."*

Participants benefitted from joining in workshops, prayer and discussions, while also building friendships. The training helped with a range of essential project management topics from proposal writing, donor requirements and tech problems to mission drift, the SUI strategic framework and principles and approaches.

Ezekiel Baraza, from Scripture Union Kenya, said: *"Upon training, we embarked on a number of projects. Our iReach Project, that started off with a survey on spiritual nurture needs for children with disabilities, has been eye opening and has opened doors of engagement with key churches under the National Council of Churches of Kenya as well as creating connections with new partners, such as, the Door Ministry*

*and SLIC ministry in Kenya. We are grateful for the knowledge and skills passed on to us."*

Elie Uwiringiyimana, from Scripture Union Rwanda, said: *"I thank SUI for providing this opportunity to not only experienced people but also new and young people who are interested to learn and grow. We look forward to continue using the new ideas and consolidating the existing ones for the sustainability of SUR. By now we are supporting 75 vulnerable children and they are learning some practical working skills like sewing, crochet, tailoring, soap making, etc."*

Johanes Kasabila, from Scripture Union Tanzania, said: *"The Project Management training was very helpful for me and my national movement since it brought about a change of mindset; we can now mobilize resources within the community and we are able to prepare a project proposal. We are able to conduct monitoring which involves tracking the activities within the schedule to ensure progress. Thank you SUI for this training."*



# NURTURING PARTNERSHIPS

## ... MAKING CONNECTIONS

We value our trusted partnerships with like-minded agencies which enable us to explore new cooperation opportunities for the benefit of national movements...





## JOINING IN INTERGENERATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration is always a key element for Scripture Union International, and working in partnership with others reflects our core values and working principles. So our partnership with the Lausanne Movement has been something to celebrate.

Ministry Development Coordinator, Becky Swamickan, had the honour to be invited to join the Lausanne Generations Conversation (LGC23) event in 2023. This unique gathering of global leaders from different generations (ages 20-70+), geographies, and missional interests

aimed to strengthen the vision of intergenerational relationships and partnerships.

Becky explained: *"The highlight for me was to be in a space where eight generations were brought together intentionally – studying God's word, sharing in mission, building friendships and praying for each other."*

During LGC23, participants engaged in intergenerational conversations that aimed to model and lead to intergenerational connection within global, regional, and issue-

focused networks. The gathering provided insight into intentional intergenerational connecting, convening, communities, and collaboration for global mission for the coming decades.

*"It is important that we connect with the Lausanne Movement as we have the opportunity to both learn and contribute,"* Becky said. *"Our core strength as a movement that engages the Bible largely with children and young people, has the potential to be a credible voice in this space."*

## SCRIPTURE UNION INTERNATIONAL'S **OUTLOOK** FOR 2024

**At the Global Gathering in March 2024, the Global Team and Board listened to the National Councils represented there and used their input to start developing a strategy for the years from 2025 onwards.**

Therefore, 2024 will be an important year for the creation of a new plan, listening to the global community, children and young people, and key stakeholders. We want to come up with a new plan for the international work of SU that supports ministry effectiveness, community, improved sustainability, and partnership collaboration.

Also, we will work with vulnerable movements on developing fundraising strategies for local fundraising.

A key focus will be the project methodology training in order to enable national movements to find suitable external support. We will also focus more on how to include Creation Care at all levels of our work.

We are planning to strengthen our partnership with churches and other mission agencies in order to enable vulnerable movements to benefit from global connections. And of course, SUI will enhance its own tools in order to deliver better services to the national movements. The ultimate goal of our work is that children and young people get to know Jesus, grow in Christian maturity, and become servants to a world in need.

**Monika Kuschmierz**, International Director



# FINANCE REPORT

We want to register our heartfelt gratitude to all our Partner Organisations and the friends of Scripture Union around the world for their generosity in giving towards the work of the Scripture Union.

We again wish to share how the LORD has faithfully helped us through the past year. We recorded an increase in our income from £969,192 (2022) to £1,141,461 (2023) – a significant rise over 2022, mainly due to a substantial addition to restricted funding by our donors. Consequently, we recorded a modest increase in our expenditure from £1,072,951 (2022) to £1,178,067 (2023). All we can say is to God be ALL the glory for the great things He has done.

May I convey our big THANK YOU on behalf of the SUI Board and SU movements to all our partner organisations and the friends of Scripture Union across the nations. The LORD bless and keep you all.

*The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26*

In faithful service,



**Dr Margaret Siwale**  
Scripture Union International  
Honorary Treasurer



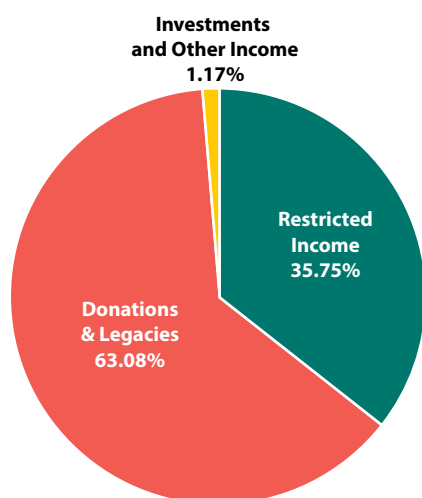
## FINANCE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	2023	%	2022	%
<b>Income</b>				
Restricted income	408,033	36%	275,347	28%
Donations & legacies	720,059	63%	690,694	71%
Investments and other income	13,369	1%	3,151	0%
	<b>1,141,461</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>969,192</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Ministry	284,301	24%	264,712	25%
Community	220,468	19%	208,515	19%
Sustainability	334,621	28%	325,456	30%
Partnership	127,000	11%	113,809	11%
Governance	211,677	18%	160,459	15%
	<b>1,178,067</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,072,951</b>	<b>100%</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

	2023	2022
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	147,036	159,507
Cash at bank and in hand	1,440,263	1,548,328
	<b>1,587,299</b>	<b>1,707,835</b>
Current liabilities		(76,860)
Net Assets	1,587,299	1,630,975
<b>Income Funds</b>		
Restricted Funds	862,132	899,996
Designated Funds	258,975	248,783
Unrestricted Funds	442,648	482,196
	<b>1,563,755</b>	<b>1,630,975</b>

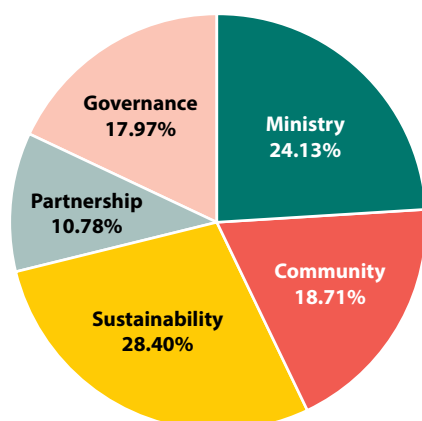




## 2023 INCOME

- Restricted Income (408,033)
- Donations & Legacies (720,059)
- Investments and Other Income (13,369)

**TOTAL 1,141,461**



## 2023 EXPENDITURE

- Ministry (284,301)
- Community (220,468)
- Sustainability (334,621)
- Partnership (127,000)
- Governance (211,677)

**TOTAL 1,178,067**

## WHERE OUR INCOME COMES FROM

Our overall income in 2023 was £1,141,461 - a significant increase over 2022, marked by a substantial increase in funding restricted by the donors either for individual SU national movements, or for specific projects and initiatives. Unrestricted income also rose, led by increased utilisation of funding received in prior years to support the "Strategic Needs" project, an ongoing and wide-ranging initiative designed to facilitate a transition towards greater resilience and sustainable income generation across the SU movement worldwide. As was the case in 2022 SUI field and support staff remained heavily engaged supporting this programme throughout the current period, and this will continue in 2024.

Of the income received that was restricted to clearly specified ministry purposes, the most significant contribution in 2023 was an increase in the support from trusts and foundations for several programmes addressing a variety of ongoing outreach projects – including the Bible Engagement Initiative, initiated in 2022 – and donations intended to support regions in crisis. Funding was also raised from various trusts, foundations and individual donors in support of multiple projects submitted to SUI by national movements worldwide.

## WHERE YOUR MONEY WAS SPENT

Our total charitable expenditure in 2023 was £1,178,067, a modest increase over 2022. The allocation of total expenditure to SUI's four strategic objectives remained broadly similar to 2022, with a slight increase in spending on governance activities as a greater focus on this area developed through our interactions with national movements. In addition, significant funding was distributed to national movements in support of local projects, addressing a variety of needs from mission and outreach to local infrastructure.

We closed the year with a modest surplus. As was the case in the previous year, approximately 70% of cash and reserves maintained at year-end were for nominated purposes and not available to fund SUI's own direct operational costs. Following the pattern established over recent years, SUI continues to prioritise efficiency and effectiveness across the services it provides to national movements, with tight management and budgetary control across all financial and administrative costs an ongoing priority.







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.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



**Scripture Union**  
God's Big Story transforming young lives

**Scripture Union International**  
Lytchett House, 13 Freeland Park  
Wareham Road, Poole  
Dorset, BH16 6FA  
United Kingdom  
[info@scriptureunion.global](mailto:info@scriptureunion.global)

[www.scriptureunion.global](http://www.scriptureunion.global)