Scripture Union

God's Big Story transforming young lives

www.scriptureunion.global

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

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

STANDING TOGETHER – SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

Dear friends and supporters of Scripture Union...

This past year was anything but ordinary. Across our global family, national movements navigated the storms of war, economic uncertainty, and increasing opposition. Yet through it all, one thing remained constant; the commitment of our leaders to serve children and young people with courage, faith, and creativity.

In the face of adversity, the ministry didn't slow down – it adapted, evolved, and in many places, grew stronger. Whether in quiet village churches or crowded city schools, we witnessed young hearts encountering Jesus, many for the first time. Behind these stories stands a global network of leaders who have refused to give up. Their perseverance continues to inspire us.

The SU International team has stood shoulder-to-shoulder with these leaders, offering tailored training, strategic guidance, and in key moments, much-needed financial support. Together, we've helped national teams not only sustain their work but find new ways to thrive.

A special highlight for the whole global SU community was the Global Gathering. About 350 leaders from around the world, including 40 young ambassadors, came together for a time of learning, praying, worshipping and listening to God. We have many reports from leaders who have experienced God´s encouragement and healing through the main talks, Bible engagement and deep personal encounters with their peers. The feedback from the Global Gathering is also shaping the new strategic plan for SUI as we respond to the challenges and needs the global community shared.

None of this would be possible without our generous friends and partners. Your support has not only funded programs – it has lit sparks of hope in places where it's most needed. To each of you who gave, prayed, and encouraged: thank you. You are part of every story of transformation!

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.

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...

WE ARE ACTIVELY:

SUPPORTING MINISTRY

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

"This experience was a cherished privilege that exceeded my expectations and profoundly impacted my understanding of Christian life and ministry worldwide."

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

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

"It's helped me to find out the way of working in our country, although we have different contexts, it has helped us think about plans for the future and new ministries."

NURTURING PARTNERSHIPS

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

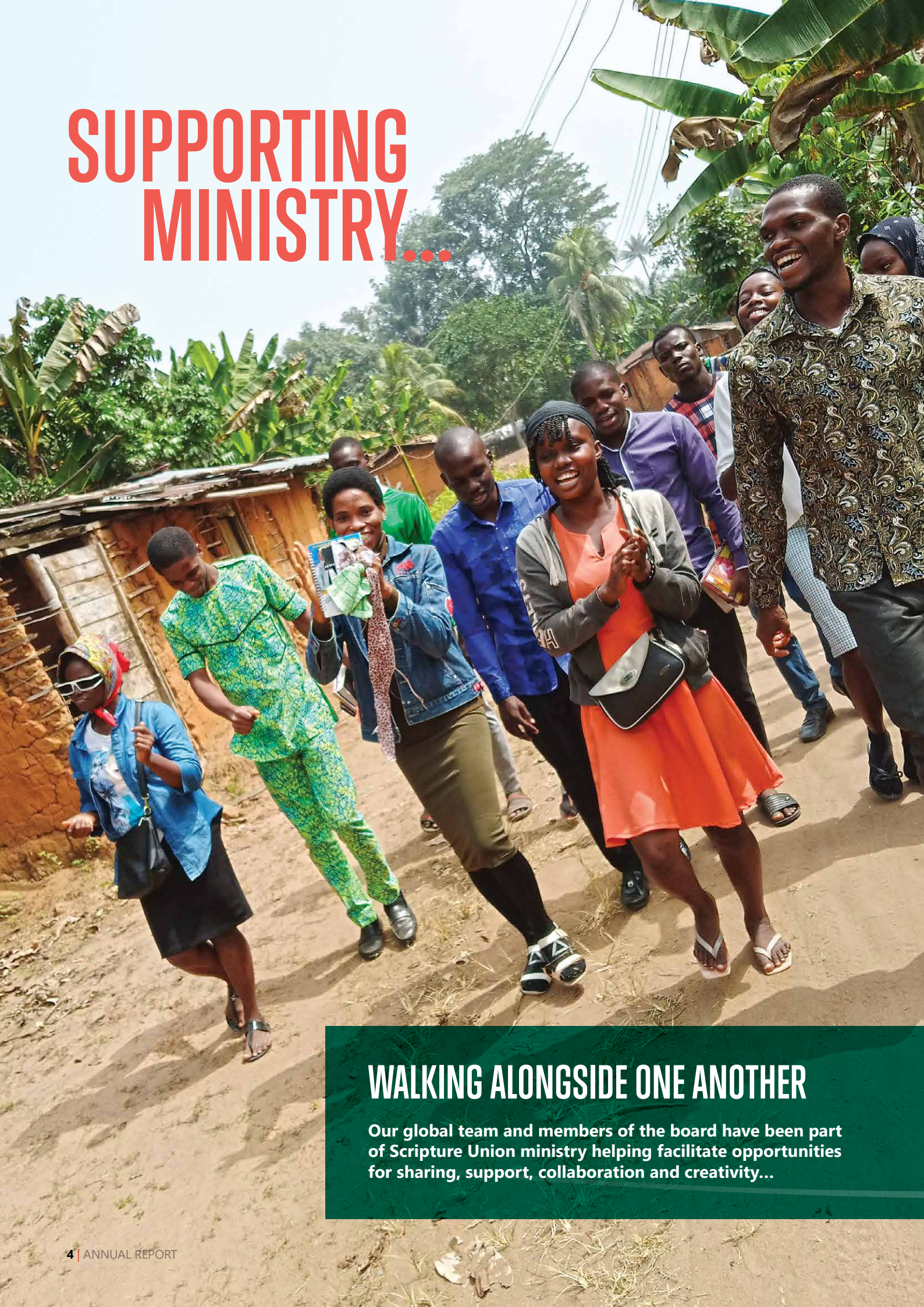
"To explore a collective goal of children not just being safe in their communities, but living well, thriving and flourishing, deepens our sense of responsibility and offers us a different world to look forward to."

SECURING SUSTAINABILITY

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

"We are seeing these young people building real income streams and solving problems rather than waiting for government help."

SUPPORTING MINISTRY...



WALKING ALONGSIDE ONE ANOTHER

Our global team and members of the board have been part of Scripture Union ministry helping facilitate opportunities for sharing, support, collaboration and creativity...

Daniel Muthuraj, India.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER ACROSS THE GENERATIONS

Nurturing and supporting young leaders is an essential part of SUI ministry and following on from our Young Ambassador program, several of these young people moved onto a mentor scheme with members of the Global team and the Global Board. The aim of the scheme was to benefit both the mentee and the mentor, through mutual support and engagement.

Board member, Andrew Mckenzie, was linked up with Elijah Eyeruroma, from Nigeria. He said: *"I sat at the Global Gathering and was struck by the bright future that Scripture Union has with such Godly women and men from all over the world coming through as the future. To be able to share a small part of the journey with one of them has been so encouraging. Elijah from Nigeria, has taught me so much.*

"We have journeyed together and prayed for each other and, between catch ups, been in touch on our journeys. I have always been uplifted and encouraged and enjoyed smiling after seeing Elijah's face. I'm grateful to him for sharing with me and teaching me about his world."

Elijah, took part in the Global Gathering in 2024, along with some 40 Young Ambassadors, he said: *"This experience was a cherished privilege that exceeded my expectations and profoundly impacted my understanding of Christian life and ministry worldwide. As a first-time international traveller, I learned, relearned, and unlearned valuable lessons that have shaped my perspective."*

"The mentorship scheme launched in the first quarter of 2024 was a timely answer to the question on many Young Ambassadors' hearts: 'What's next?' For me, this initiative has been a game-changer. My mentor, Andrew, has been an incredible source of guidance, support, and wisdom. His mentorship has been invaluable, especially during my National Service in northern Nigeria, where I faced significant challenges as a Christian in a hostile environment, travelling over 70km to church on Sundays."

SUI Field Development Director, Tony Nzanza, linked up with Young Ambassador, Daniel Muthuraj from India. He said: *"It was a great privilege for me to mentor someone like Daniel. I got to know him and his joys and struggles in his work as a fieldworker in India. During the first session, we identified areas that he was willing to grow in and I guided him through the process. I will be the first one to say that my life was greatly enriched by my interaction with Daniel as we both shared our lives and challenges with each other."*

Daniel Muthuraj, a member of SU India, said, *"The mentor program has been a great blessing to me and my ministry. I'm especially thankful for my mentor, Tony. Though we meet only once or twice a month, he has been a great support. His experiences with Scripture Union inspire me, and his guidance motivates me to serve God sincerely. I've learned so much from him, and the encouragement I receive continues to shape my ministry with children."*

Daniel Muthuraj, India.

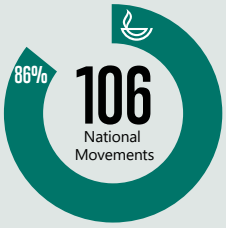
Elijah Eyeruroma, Nigeria.

CHILD PROTECTION PROGRESS IN 2024

Vital Child Protection training has continued to be rolled out by the SUI team, supporting SU staff across the world. Some of the achievements included:

Out of **106 identified national movements**:

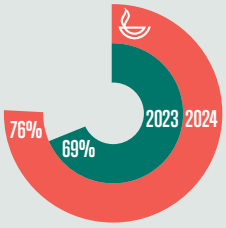
- 90% were trained in child protection



- 86% developed child protection policies

- 96% have contextualized, board-approved policies

- 72% have safeguarding coordinators



- 69% ran training days in 2023, increasing to 76% in 2024

There is now a new focus on community-level implementation through "communities of practice".

BIBLE ENGAGEMENT PROGRESS

- Emphasis on modelling good Bible engagement within community groups
- Creating a booklet for Field Team Directors (FTDs) with examples of healthy Bible engagement
- Incorporating Bible engagement into Global Week of Prayer sessions

SUI BIBLE GUIDES ON 'YOU VERSION'

Downloads were very high for the new *Our Father* Bible reading guide from the 2024 Global Week of Prayer between 1 Nov 2024 and 31 March 2025.

- We achieved 13,900 subscriptions with an average rating of 4.5
- This was mainly in English, but included more than 900 subscriptions in French, German, Spanish and Russian

This annual prayer guide was very well accepted and brought us new contacts of people interested in the work of the global SU community.

13,900
SUBSCRIPTIONS

"I'm excited to implement these strategies and watch our ministry reaching new heights by using locally created programs and resources."

NEW INTERACTIVE RESOURCE FOR MINISTRY

Members of SUI's ministry team have supported the development of a new printed resource with digital elements. Developed by a group of Scripture Union teams working together, 'Timelanders' aims to take children on an interactive journey through the Bible.

'Timelanders' has been designed to help children (8-11 year olds) discover God, explore their questions, and lead them to finding life and faith.

Supported by Scripture Union International (SUI), this exciting new tool, currently in its pilot phase, takes children on an adventure through the Bible over the course of three years.

Ministry Specialist for SUI, Becky Swamickan said: *"Through 'Timelanders', children are introduced to historical people, places and situations where God demonstrated his love for the world. There are also opportunities for leaders, parents and teachers to walk alongside the child on this journey."*

RESOURCES FOR FAITH: EMPOWERING LEADERS IN PERU

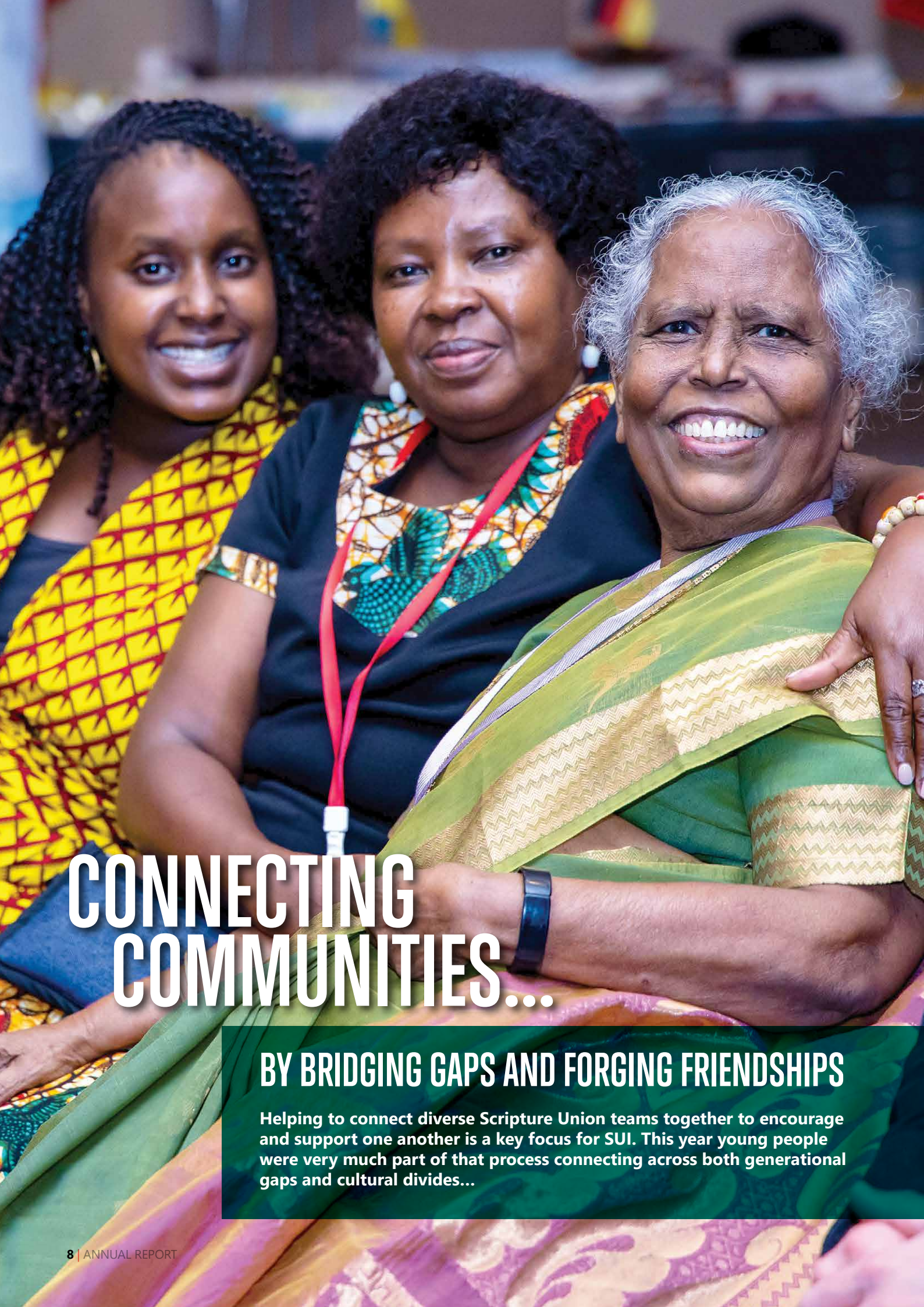
A dynamic Workshop led by SUI staff, drew together Scripture Union leaders in Lima, Peru, to equip them with the tools to strengthen their ministries with children, young people and families.

The training event, 'Recursos para la Fe: Desarrollando Programas y Materiales' (Resources for Faith: Developing Programs and Resources) provided a platform for ministry leaders and volunteers to hone their skills as they worked together to create and prepare new resources.

The program, led by SUI's Children's Ministry Consultant, Terry Williams, focused on both strategic planning and biblical principles. Participants explored the best ways to identify community needs and design programs and resources with impact, which were also aligned with scriptural foundations.

Twenty-six attendees from nine countries in Latin America and Caribbean shared experiences and worked together on solutions to common challenges. Byron Velasquez from SU Guatemala said, *"This workshop provided valuable tools and a renewed sense of purpose. I'm excited to implement these strategies and watch our ministry reaching new heights by using locally created programs and resources."*

SUI Field Development Director for Latin America, Davi Kruklis, said: *"The workshop culminated in a spirit of unity and action. Everyone who took part left with concrete plans and the knowledge that together they can achieve more."*



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES...

BY BRIDGING GAPS AND FORGING FRIENDSHIPS

Helping to connect diverse Scripture Union teams together to encourage and support one another is a key focus for SUI. This year young people were very much part of that process connecting across both generational gaps and cultural divides...

'BRIDGING THE GAP' GATHERING LEAVES A LEGACY FOR TEAMS

Scripture Union staff from more than 100 different countries took part in worship, prayer, discussions and sharing during the SU Global Gathering in Malaysia.

The packed week, which included Bible engagement, input from three keynote speakers, workshops and discussions was a pivotal time for many.

"It's helped me to find out the way of working in our country, although we have different contexts, it has helped think us about plans for the future and new ministries."

"The thing we are taking back is the theme itself, 'Bridging the Gap'. In our sports ministry we want to get into the shoes of those who are marginalised and try to feel how they feel, rather than seeing them through the lenses of a majority."

International Director for Scripture Union International, Monika Kuschmierz said: *"This was a precious time for sharing both joys and difficulties and in helping us look at the challenges we face together. We were all blessed by having the young ambassadors with us and I am excited about all that will come from the new connections, sharing of ideas and joined-up thinking."*

GROWING YOUNG LEADERS IN THE PACIFIC

Emerging Leaders were the focus for a special event in Fiji in December, which turned out to be a transformative experience for a group of 100 young people from around the Pacific Islands.

This special happening, supported by Field Development Director, Lim Teck Boon and hosted by Scripture Union Fiji, drew in young people from Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, New Zealand and the USA, along with the newly formed Scripture Union Samoa.

Experienced leaders and young people came together to share insights and experiences about how they are living as disciples of Jesus in many different contexts.

One of the delegates said: *"The atmosphere is buzzing with faith, fellowship, and leadership growth. We are excited and expectant for what God is doing in the islands!"*

The conference aim was to strengthen relationships and enable networking for young leaders as well as to offer leadership training, through daily Bible studies, outreach, workshops and plenary sessions.

MUSIC LESSONS BRING NEW LIFE AND HOPE

A project based in one of our restricted countries which reaches out to students and young people through music is going from strength to strength, thanks to support from around the world.

In a country where the government is very hostile to the gospel and public evangelism is prohibited, a ministry through teaching music has become very effective in bridging the friendship gap and reaching people with the gospel.

One of the team said: *"We began by buying one guitar and started to teach five young people and that has helped us build good relationships, which have ultimately given us the opportunity to tell them about Jesus. Every so often, we invite the parents to watch their children."*

Thanks to fundraising through the support of SUI and generous donors, the project is now thriving and more secure, since the team were able to raise the funds to buy an office space to use for the sessions.

Many young people have explained how their lives have been transformed through this ministry.

SECURING SUSTAINABILITY...

ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In 2024 new strides in helping movements generate income were taken by young people who, inspired by what they read in the Bible, set up new and successful businesses supported by SUI trainers and sustain teams.

PUTTING BIBLICAL TRUTHS INTO PRACTICE

Scripture Union International has supported a ground-breaking project that began in response to teenage disillusionment in Burundi and is now expanding internationally with remarkable results.

SUI's Young Entrepreneur Program helps young people gain Biblical inspiration to start their own businesses. These entrepreneurs, in turn, support Scripture Union by training and mentoring others in their communities.

SUI's Sustain Coordinator, Glenn Coombs, said: *"The project began after a conversation with a young man at a Scripture Union Bible study in Burundi. He said he was quitting school because his family had sold everything to educate his older siblings, who were now jobless despite having degrees. He couldn't see the point in continuing with education."*

This shocking but common situation – especially in Africa, where nearly a third of 15 to 35-year-olds are unemployed – led SU Director Etienne Munezero to offer hope by sharing what the Bible says about work and creativity.

One entrepreneur, Claude, said: *"Because of the teachings Scripture Union gave to me, Scripture Union has been a parent to me. Before, I couldn't work, I neglected the job, but now I'm a hard worker because I employ about 100 employees."*

In 2023, Etienne sought additional support. In response, SUI helped develop resources and formally launched the Young Entrepreneur Program with its first cohort in November 2024, following a pilot phase in Burundi.

A key feature is the SURGE groups (Scripture Union Releasing Godly Entrepreneurs), where participants join small groups for Bible study, business support, and commit to give back a share of their profits to the local community.

The goal is to train 500 young people over two years, forming SURGE groups to start businesses and engage in weekly Bible study.

As the program grows, SUI is expanding it to other African countries and aims to scale and adapt it for other areas in the world, as a key part of the new SUI strategic plan.

Nancy Kahuthia, SUI Project Management Trainer, explained: *"This program is all about holistic ministry which is a core value of SU."*

SUI aims to train 250 more individuals next year and is seeking to raise £30,000 to support this goal.

NEW PROJECTS FOCUS ON SUSTAINABILITY

SUI's Project Management Team have been equipping SU National Movements in Project Management through training events which aim to help teams operate professionally and prioritize effectively to gain support.

They were able to assess some 35 project proposals over the year and have seen 27 projects being implemented, with the support of partners and donors.

Many national movement's projects adopted sustainability as a key strategy.

One example is in South Africa, where children with Special Needs have been the focus. The SU team has appointed a deaf staff member, Phumi, who has been leading Bible engagement sessions in schools using sign language. National Director of SU South Africa, Mariska de Beer, said: *"Our deaf staff worker, Phumi is now going to three Deaf schools on a weekly basis, where he does life skills classes but also School Christian Groups. He is getting invitations to go to other schools."*

NURTURING PARTNERSHIPS...

KEEPING THE BIBLE AS OUR FOCUS

Working together alongside other agencies with a focus on sharing the Bible helps inspire new initiatives, while SUI has also been able to share experience and expertise to support others working with children and young people...

A GLOBAL NETWORK: HELPING CHILDREN THRIVE

Scripture Union International has been one of a few organisations invited to help start up the Global Child Protection Alliance over the past year.

International Safeguarding Lead for SUI, Becky Swamickan, said the partnership harnessed SUI's experience in developing and rolling out training and implementation of Child Protection and Safeguarding training across the SU Global Family, working with almost 100 countries.

SUI was able to contribute particularly over aspects of diversity and operating in multicultural contexts, helping develop the new network's priorities to shape understanding and practice.

Becky said: *"Being part of a global network gives us the ability to have a wider influence and also learn from more established agencies whose sole focus is Child Protection and Safeguarding. To explore a collective goal of children not just being safe in their communities, but living well, thriving and flourishing, deepens our sense of responsibility and offers us a different world to look forward to."*

UNITED IN PURPOSE: AROUND THE BIBLE

Since its founding in 1990, the Forum of Bible Agencies International has brought together more than 40 international Bible translation and Bible engagement agencies under one powerful vision: to maximize the worldwide access and impact of God's Word.

Through deep inter-agency relationships, shared wisdom, and a spirit of cooperation, the Forum advances the mission of making Scripture available, accessible, and impactful for all people. Whether through translation, engagement, advocacy, or innovation, every effort is driven by a common goal – to see lives transformed by the Word of God.

The Forum doesn't just connect organisations – it multiplies effectiveness, eliminates duplication, and fosters professional excellence. It is a space where best practices emerge, trends are explored, and God's truth is carried into new corners of the world.

Currently our International Director, Monika Kuschmierz, is chairing the Forum which at the 2024 meeting discussed "Scripture Needs in Latin America". The 2025 theme was looking at "Scripture Needs in Asia-Pacific".

When God's people work together, something powerful happens. The Forum enables partners to develop trust relationships that then become a ministry reality on the ground. One outcome, for example, is a project that SU Tanzania together with Talking Bibles and American Bible Society is delivering: they are training local teachers to run Bible classes in schools while providing audio and printed Bibles for these schools. Together we are stronger!

2025: CHARTING THE ROAD AHEAD

March 2024 marked a turning point. At the Global Gathering, leaders from across the world came together – not just to reflect, but to reimagine. Their voices have helped shape the early stages of our next global strategy, which will carry us into and beyond 2025.

This year is all about listening – listening to the local teams on the ground, to the needs of children and young people, and to the Spirit's leading. The strategy we have crafted is rooted in prayer, serious conversations and real-world insight, and it is designed to strengthen what matters most: effective ministry, authentic community, long-term sustainability, and deeper partnerships.

One of our signature programs will be a discipleship program for young entrepreneurs in countries with limited job opportunities for young people, helping them to explore God´s word in community and develop their own creative approaches to work. We are especially committed to walking with our more vulnerable movements. In 2025 and beyond, we will focus on helping them build local fundraising capacity, strengthen their project planning skills, and connect to new sources of support.

New partnerships with churches and mission organisations are on the horizon. We believe that collaboration will be the engine for breakthrough in regions where resources are scarce, but passion is abundant. Meanwhile, we're sharpening our own tools and systems so that SU International can be an even more effective ally to those on the front lines.

At the centre of it all remains our calling: to help children and young people discover Jesus, grow in faith, and live out His love in a world longing for healing.

Monika Kuschmierz
International Director

FINANCE REPORT

We are pleased to report that we have recorded a clean report from our auditors for yet another year. We wish to extend our special thanks and gratitude to all our national movements, partner organizations and Scripture Union friends around the world for their generosity and continued support towards the global work of Scripture Union. We are grateful to the Lord for the accomplishments in the past year.

Our income for the period under review rose to £1,365,027 (2023: £1,141,461), the increase primarily attributable to funds raised for the Global Assembly – held in Malaysia in March – and for various SUI projects in support of national movements. During the period we also recorded an increase in our charitable expenditures to £1,423,927 (2023: £1,178,067), the main contributor being the subsidies provided by SUI to ensure the widest possible participation of national movements at the Global Assembly. We are grateful to the LORD for His faithfulness in raising friends and organisations who have given generously to SUI, support that also ensured our many activities and programs could be undertaken and our key strategic objectives achieved.

May I convey a big thank you on behalf of the Scripture Union International Board to the SU national movements, our partner organizations across the globe, and our friends across nations.

The LORD bless and keep you all. May He make all grace abound toward you.
2 Corinthians 9:8

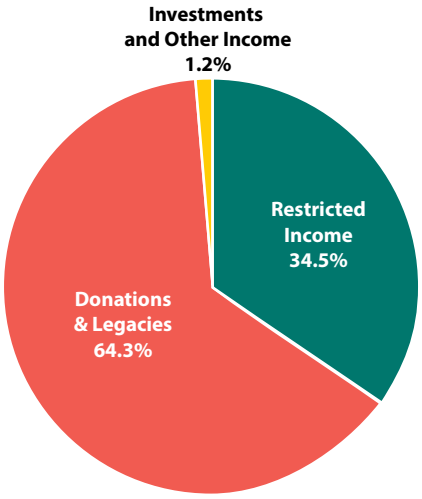
In faithful service,

Dr Margaret Siwale
Scripture Union International
Honorary Treasurer

FINANCE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024	%	2023	%
Income				
Restricted income	470,952	34.5%	408,033	35.7%
Donations & legacies	877,593	64.3%	720,059	63.1%
Investments and other income	16,482	1.2%	13,369	1.2%
	1,365,027	**100%**	**1,141,461**	**100%**
Expenditure				
Ministry	317,117	22.3%	284,301	24.1%
Community	274,909	19.3%	220,468	18.7%
Sustainability	439,096	30.8%	334,621	28.4%
Partnership	170,000	11.9%	127,000	10.8%
Governance	222,805	15.6%	211,677	18.0%
	1,423,927	**100%**	**1,178,067**	**100%**

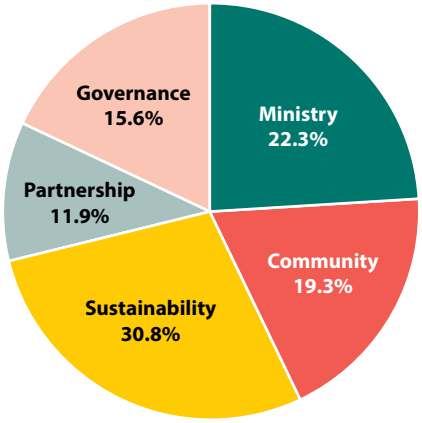
BALANCE SHEET	2024	2023
Current Assets		
Debtors	257,332	147,036
Cash at bank and in hand	1,270,304	1,440,263
	1,527,636	**1,587,299**
Current liabilities	(42,525)	(23,543)
Total Net Assets	**1,485,111**	**1,563,756**
Income Funds		
Restricted Funds	819,164	862,132
Designated Funds	264,345	258,975
Unrestricted Funds	401,602	442,648
Total Funds	**1,485,111**	**1,563,755**



2024 INCOME

- Restricted Income (470,952)
- Donations & Legacies (877,593)
- Investments and Other Income (16,482)

TOTAL 1,365,027



2024 EXPENDITURE

- Ministry (317,117)
- Community (274,909)
- Sustainability (439,096)
- Partnership (170,000)
- Governance (222,805)

TOTAL 1,423,927

OUR FINANCIAL YEAR

Our financial performance in 2024 was heavily influenced by the additional fundraising and expenditure required for the Global Gathering, held in Kuala Lumpur in March. Our total income for the year from all sources was £1,365,027, but after adjusting for this event – with adjustments required to both years – our income showed a modest gain over 2023 with the increase primarily in our restricted income; and similarly, our aggregated charitable expenditure of £1,423,927 – after adjusting for the impact of the Gathering in both periods – increased slightly over 2023 levels, again mainly from our restricted activities.

WHERE OUR INCOME CAME FROM

The Organisation continues to depend primarily upon the contributions provided by Scripture Union Movements around the world together with generous provision from the many trusts, foundations and individual benefactors who share our mission and support our charitable objectives. During 2024 the proportion of income received that was provided for unrestricted use declined from 2023 levels, with the proportion of income restricted by the donor to specific, nominated purposes correspondingly increasing. This is consistent with wider trends in global giving.

WHERE YOUR MONEY WAS SPENT

The pattern of our charitable expenditure for the period likewise reflects the shift in donor focus towards restricted or nominated activities. The increase in our restricted income during the period was matched by a significant increase in outgoings from our restricted funds, producing a deficit on restricted activities of £42,969. This maintains the trend of recent years and reflects the Board's ongoing commitment to ensuring that charitable reserves are steadily and fully distributed. The allocation of overall expenditure to the Organisation's four strategic objectives remained broadly similar to 2023; the modest shift in emphasis towards sustainability and partnership initiatives is attributable primarily to financial and practical support provided to National Movements for projects complementing our core mission of bible outreach with continued improvements in local resilience.

Excluding the subsidy required for the General Assembly we closed the period with a modest surplus on our unrestricted activities; including this subsidy and "book" losses incurred on holdings of foreign currencies, there was an operating deficit of £35,677. The overall deficit for the period including the outflow on our restricted activities was £78,646 – an increase over the deficit recorded for 2023 largely attributable to the subsidy required for the General Assembly.

2024 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

www.scriptureunion.global

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.