



2023

ANNUAL REPORT

our guiding principles

For over 20 years, indigo foundation has supported grassroots organisations, in some of the most marginalised communities in the world, to pursue their development goals and to promote and defend their human rights. We know from the evidence that community-led development works to transform lives and build more resilient communities and is the foundation for sustainable change.

We support local community partners to empower women and girls, improve education and health outcomes and secure

better livelihoods for families. Our approach to partnership is built on respect, mutual learning and accepting that progress and setbacks are a normal part of community development.

We are a nimble and creative organisation. We have a lean and diverse team with a virtual office and a volunteer base – we work with our partners to make every dollar count. We thank our committed volunteers and supporters in Australia who value our distinctive approach to community partnerships and development.



community ownership

Transformational change is achieved by resourcing and empowering communities to lead and manage their own development.

sustainability

Good investments in community development create changes that are socially, environmentally, culturally and economically sustainable and produce opportunities for future generations.

transparency

Transparency in planning, decision-making and operations builds confidence and trust in relationships and facilitates participation and accountability in organisations and programs.

equity

A commitment to equity means a strong focus on human dignity, social and economic justice, human rights, gender equity, inclusiveness and challenging embedded power relations.

the first thing we offer is respect



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In the spirit of reconciliation and justice, indigo foundation acknowledges and pays respect to the past, present and future Traditional Custodians across this nation and their connections to land, sea and community. We value and honour the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples and acknowledge the historical truth that colonisation has led to the ongoing exclusion of our First Nations people from modern Australia.

message from Lyla



Lyla Rogan
Chair



Jemma and Stav at Canberra dinner

The year 2022-2023 was a significant year of transition for indigo foundation in Australia

I would like to pay tribute to Jemma Bailey who was indigo foundation's Executive Director for over nine years. Holding fast to indigo's principles and approach to community-led development, Jemma has steered indigo through an incredibly important and successful phase of consolidation, learning and growth. She is leaving indigo in great shape so that we can further expand our impact with community partners, grow our valued supporter base and build our networks and influence in Australia.

Throughout her time with indigo, Jemma has been an outstanding leader and an inspiration to everyone she has engaged with—our supporters, volunteers, staff, local partners and others working in the international development and human rights space. We will miss Jemma's intelligence, calmness and leadership and wish her well in the amazing adventures we know lie ahead for her. We are delighted that Jemma is keen to stay involved with indigo in some capacity.

We were very excited to appoint Stav Zotalis to the role in November 2022. Stav brings a wealth of experience in the international development sector having held leadership positions with ActionAid and CARE and having worked for AusAID and the private financial sector in the past.

From the outset we were confident that Stav is the right person to lead the next stage of indigo's development as an innovative, effective and increasingly sustainable international community development organisation.

We are very grateful to Jemma and to Stav for making this transition of leadership smooth, and for the part they played this year in allowing us to look to the future with optimism and confidence.

Lyla

message from Stav

I am grateful for the very warm welcome of the indigo community to my exciting new role. indigo foundation is an incredible organisation that lives its values. What makes indigo so special is its commitment to building the power of small grassroots organisations, to listening to the priorities and plans of local communities and to creating change through long-term partnerships.

After three long years of no travel to indigo partner communities we are thrilled to share with you in this year's Annual Report updates from six of our seven Partnership Coordinators (PCs). Sadly, it is still not safe to travel to Afghanistan. Our volunteer PCs are the heart of our indigo foundation, managing the relationships and communication with local partners, and bringing reports and stories of impact back to our supporters in Australia. They share the ups and downs that are an inevitable part of long term partnerships with vulnerable communities.

We are delighted to introduce you to our new Partnership Coordinators, Heidi Lipson (Timor-Leste), Safrina Thristiawati (Indonesia) and Debbie Littlehales (Kiribati). In this report you'll read about the achievements, the challenges and the learnings of our incredibly resilient partners leading their communities' development.

We all know the enormous global challenges we face—political, social, cultural and environmental. Despite these challenges indigo's grassroots partners continue to draw on their strong community spirit, resilience and local resources to achieve a wide range of individual and community outcomes, as well as progress on changing social norms and systems to address structural inequalities. I am inspired by the courage and determination of our partners.

I am also inspired by indigo foundation's new strategy 2023-2027, led by Lyla, Jemma, and the incredibly talented and committed indigo team comprising the Board, PCs and other advisers and supporters. The strategy sets an ambitious agenda to expand and deepen the impact of indigo's overseas partnerships currently in Afghanistan, Bougainville, India, Indonesia, Rwanda and Timor-Leste, and hopefully start new partnerships over the coming years, of course depending on fundraising.

The loyalty and generosity of our supporters is what makes indigo foundation's work possible. It has been wonderful getting to know our supporters around Australia who make an informed choice to back indigo's approach to development and partnership. I was particularly impressed with how many aid workers and development experts were at the 2022 Canberra annual dinner.

I want to acknowledge how tough Australians and others across our globe are suffering due to cost-of-living pressures and other uncertainty and conflict. While we finished the financial year with a loss (that we have reserves to cover), I have been heartened by your generosity to continue supporting our community partners into 2024 and beyond. Knowing the enormous contribution of indigo's partners in community-led development we are redoubling our efforts to raise funds and support our partners. Thank you for all your support—it makes a huge difference to indigo's mission of transformative and sustainable development.

Stav

where we work

In 2022/23 we partnered with grassroots community organisations around the world to improve outcomes in education and health, empower women and girls, improve livelihoods and defend human rights. We commit to work with communities over the long-term and believe that transformational change happens when communities have control over decision-making and implementation.

AFGHANISTAN

Jirghai & Behsud Shura, Women's Empowerment Centre

In rural Afghanistan, we worked to improve education infrastructure and increase the number of girls attending local schools.



INDIA

Mahalir Sakthi, Program for Education and Awareness Building, Social Awareness for Society and Youth

We supported children and women from Dalit and other marginalised communities to escape the cycle of discrimination, poverty and violence through programs targeting education, vocational training, workplace rights and healthcare.



RWANDA

Club Rafiki

We fund a sexual and reproductive health clinic and support young people through an urban dance school, English language workshops and other initiatives targeting girls and young women.





TIMOR-LESTE

Juventude ba Dezenvolvimentu Násional

We support work to confront sexual harassment and make public spaces and public transport safe and inclusive for young women.

KIRIBATI

Nanikaai Village Council

Our new partner is committed to support women and girls to build leadership skills and challenge gender norms through more equal participation in sport.

INDONESIA

PEKKA NTT

We supported communities in their efforts to build resilience to climate change through a network of cooperative gardens. We also supported bursaries for kids from kindergarten to university and healthcare.

BOUGAINVILLE

Hako Women's Collective

We worked with a women-led collective to support the staffing and operating costs for a thriving resource centre, library and Safe House for women and children fleeing family and sexual violence.

AUSTRALIA

We're building a community of passionate and active people who volunteer, support and donate in solidarity with our community partners around the world.

• meet our community partners •

indigo foundation works with a wide range of grassroots groups, community leaders and locally-based organisations. Some are well established, others are forming. Building the capacities of our partners, irrespective of their organisational stage, is one of the investments we make towards their development efforts being sustainable over time.

We recognise that each of our partner communities is unique—in the way they organise themselves, in the needs and cultural context of their communities, and in the priorities and solutions they action with their communities. Despite both indigo foundation and our partners being relatively small organisations, this approach makes for considerable complexity in how we tailor our support to local partners.

Each community partnership has a volunteer Partnership Coordinator based in Australia who is the key point of contact for our partners. In some partnerships, we also have a local Liaison Officer who provides invaluable support to the partnership team.

our continuing partnerships

Jirghai and Behsud Shura, Afghanistan (2015-current)

The Jirghai and Behsud Shura is a traditional grouping of religious and community leaders, school teachers and principals that support a network of primary and high schools in Jirghai and Behsud districts in Ghazni province. This partnership grew out of our initial schools' partnership with a similar decision-making body in Borjegai district for over a decade from 2003.

Club Rafiki, Rwanda (2012-current)

Club Rafiki is a community-based organisation located in the predominantly Muslim district of Nyamirambo in Kigali. Club Rafiki works to promote all aspects of youth inclusion and development. Their focus includes sexual and reproductive health, education and training, leadership development and employment facilitation. Dance has been a major vehicle for engagement, outreach and education. In a district characterised by poverty and a lack of safe spaces, Club Rafiki is a vital, diverse and welcoming community hub.

Program for Education and Awareness Building (PEAB), Tamil Nadu, India (2006-current)

PEAB is a grassroots education project driven by local Dalit activists and tutors. Located just outside Maduranthakam, a small town about 90 km from Chennai, PEAB supports highly marginalised children, youth and their families through a network of eight Village Education Centres, that provide tutoring, exam coaching and other activities to students from primary levels to year 10.

Mahalir Sakthi, Tamil Nadu, India (2012-current)

Based in the slums of Madurai, Mahalir Sakthi ('women power' in Tamil) is a women-led organisation and community centre that works to empower women, children and young people from Dalit, Adivasi and other marginalised groups. Mahalir Sakthi is governed by a Board of Trustees and led by sisters Guna and Grace. Indigo has supported Mahalir Sakthi's education, health, vocational-training and youth leadership programs. We have also resourced Mahalir Sakthi to develop a Domestic Workers' Union to support women to advocate for better pay, conditions and rights at work.

Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY), Tamil Nadu, India (2012-2023)

SASY was founded by a group of Dalit activists in 1983 and is based just outside Chennai. It is a human rights organisation focused on Dalit rights and empowerment. SASY runs programs focused on access to justice, child rights, social inclusion and women's leadership. We partner with SASY to auspice and provide administrative support to PEAB and Mahalir Sakthi.

During this year SASY was denied registration as an organisation that could receive foreign currency and Indigo needed to identify alternative auspicing organisations until SASY could resolve its future status. With assistance from PEAB and Mahalir Sakthi, Indigo was able to identify interim auspicing partners, from May 2023.

The Human Resource Development Foundation (HRDF), Tamil Nadu, India

(May 2023-current)

The HRDF in Tamil Nadu operates a network of members (local self-government people's movement and civil society organisations) who are working with Dalit communities for their dignity and economic empowerment along with conservation of ecology resources for sustainable development.

PEKKA NTT, Indonesia (2017-current)

Translating from Bahasa Indonesia as 'Empowerment for Women-Headed Households', Pemberdayaan Perempuan Kepala Keluarga (PEKKA) is a women-led organisation that supports and empowers women heads of household in over 20 provinces. They partner with PEKKA NTT, a thriving network of local women's collectives with a base of over 2,600 women spread across the islands of Adonara, Lembata and East Flores in Eastern Indonesia. Women from PEKKA implement programs and undertake advocacy work aimed at empowering women heads of household, including rural widows, divorced women, those whose husbands have left and women caring for relatives. Nationally PEKKA advocates on the issues impacting women-headed households.

Society for Community Organisation (SOCO) , Tamil Nadu, India (May 2023-current)

Society for Community Organisation (SOCO) Trust is a non-governmental, secular organisation established in 1982. It is a pioneer in the field of legal awareness creation and para-legal training for social activists working among women, tribals, landless and bonded labourers, child labourers and unorganised sectors on rights, access to justice and advocacy.

Hako Women's Collective, Bougainville (2019-current)

The Hako Women's Collective represents and supports women and families in the Hako district in Buka. Hako began its work in June 2006 when 650 women and 130 girls came together seeking collective solutions to the problems they faced. From this gathering, a committed and dynamic volunteer-run organisation has developed that aims to improve education, health and food security outcomes, and promote the rights of women and children. Hako has a key focus on supporting women and children impacted by family and sexual violence.

Nanikaai Village Association in Kiribati (2021-2023)

indigo's partnership with the Nanikaai Village Association Committee in Kiribati, a local village association on Tarawa Island, was launched in the second half of 2021. They received funds in support of the *Everybody Wins* initiative that aims to facilitate equal access to sport and recreation facilities for girls and boys. This in turn builds confidence and leadership skills, and challenges harmful gender stereotypes in the community. The initiative was supported by the National Olympic Committee.

Juventude ba Dezenvolvimentu Nasional (JDN) (2021-current)

Established in 2014, JDN , Young People for National Development in Dili, Timor-Leste, is a youth-led and community-based organisation. They engage young people in discussion and action around the issues affecting their lives. One of their key priorities is standing up to sexual harassment and discrimination against women and girls at home and in public spaces. This partnership aligns with indigo foundation's focus on women and girls and gender justice.

impact in numbers 2022/23

8 community partners were supported across 7 countries

107 young people were provided with livelihood training by Hako

100+ young people with disabilities attended Career Expo Juventude ba Dezenvolvimentu Nasional (JDN) organised in Dili

70 farmers completed comprehensive cocoa farming training, contributing to the economic development of the region

17 families were assisted in navigating police and legal cases in Madurai

100 families in Kiribati were provided with volleyball equipment using sport as a tool to challenge gender stereotypes and to build the well being of women and girls

224 students from years 4 - 12 had access to vital education support through a network of after-school tuition centres in Tamil Nadu, India

91 bursaries helped female students access education from primary to university in Eastern Indonesia

43,500 young people were assisted through Club Rafiki's HIV and pregnancy counselling and testing services this year

7,300 hours were contributed by passionate and skilled volunteers in Australia

strategy 2023-2027

introduction

The Board endorsed indigo's new 5 year strategy (2023-2027) in May 2023. The strategy was developed through much consultation with significant stakeholders, including our partnership coordinators, our advisors, our Board and our staff.

And as with everything indigo, the first thing we offer is respect. This strategy sets an ambitious agenda to expand and deepen the impact of our overseas partnerships while remaining a proudly nimble and creative organisation. It will guide the direction of our community development partnerships and inform the way we improve our support of community partners. The strategy recognises the importance of people – our volunteers and staff – to indigo's continuing success. And it sets the path for continuing to grow indigo's supporter base and raise our profile as a model for localised development practice in the sector.

indigo and our community partners have a lot to be proud of. This strategy starts with respect for the learnings and achievements of those who paved the way for what is possible now. And it expresses the optimism and excitement about the future felt by our communities in Australia and overseas.

the outcomes we work for

Our success is measured by the progress community partners achieve in their contexts across three dimensions.

Marginalised communities leading their own development with confidence and resilience

Improvements in individual and community wellbeing reflecting each community's needs

Broader societal and systems change to address structural inequalities and discrimination

Our success is also assessed through the quality of community partnerships and other relationships, the application of our guiding principles and the extent to which we are an ethical, sustainable, accountable and reputable organisation.

We recognise strong development outcomes are underpinned by principles in international frameworks for human rights and international development, including those that relate to education, health, children, refugees, and gender justice.

strategic focus areas

In order to grow our impact and use our limited resources efficiently, indigo foundation will assess potential community partnerships and other commitments through the lens of three strategic focus areas, together with our guiding principles.

Empowering women and girls

Entrenched inequality, and in particular discrimination against women and girls, is a driver of poverty. Programs that promote participation and leadership and improve safety and economic empowerment of women and girls have been shown to have a multiplier effect on change, as we have experienced with most of our community partners. Empowerment of girls and women is an explicit goal across all our programs and a key filter when considering new partnerships.

Working with diaspora and refugee communities

indigo foundation is committed to justice and fair treatment for asylum seekers and refugees. indigo will engage and work with leaders of diaspora communities in supporting local communities in their country of origin. Where opportunities arise, we will consider overseas projects with Australian-based leaders from refugee communities. Partnering with diaspora groups allows us to build trust, access knowledge, manage risk and develop partnerships in highly marginalised communities that would otherwise not receive external assistance.

Enabling systemic change

We will support communities and partner organisations that engage in activities that challenge the power structures and seek to change the systems that oppress them. This may translate to support for organisations whose core purpose is advocacy and to funding partner initiatives that challenge the status quo, build alliances for change and empower groups in the community to stand up for their rights.

introduction

The word “polycrisis”, used by the World Economic Forum’s Global Risks Report 2023, defined the scale of the problems the world has been facing in the time period of this Annual Report. In many countries around the world, we’ve seen cost of living crises, ongoing fallout from the Covid-19 Pandemic, widespread social unrest, mounting climate crisis, democratic dysfunction and geopolitical confrontation. In fact, thirty-three armed conflicts were reported in 2022—a slightly higher figure than the previous year.

Our community partners directly experience the fallout from these global and national realities as they work for development and empowerment in their communities. In Afghanistan there was an ongoing humanitarian and economic catastrophe resulting from the Taliban takeover in August 2021. In India we witnessed ongoing repression of civil society and continued abuse of human rights of Dalit, Adivasi and other minority groups. In Indonesia we saw the fallout from natural disasters made worse by climate change.

indigo foundation partners with grassroots organisations that are working for change in their communities. These communities are both vulnerable and extraordinarily resourceful. Their development activities aim to make a difference in the lives of program participants and community members. They also seek to strengthen community infrastructure and change the systems and cultural norms that cause and reinforce the injustices they face. A strong focus in all our partnerships is working for gender justice and empowerment of women and girls.

At indigo we believe it’s critical that we redouble our efforts to take action to protect the most vulnerable among us globally. The future may be uncertain, but by working together we can build a better future for the next generation. The following sections unpack the impact our local partners are achieving in their communities with small allocations of funding and other support from indigo foundation.



South Australia giving circle

“I support indigo because its guiding principles of community ownership, sustainability, transparency and gender equity are genuinely at the heart of their work. This means that partnerships are community-driven and empowering and improve lives over the long term.”

Anna Ziersch, SA giving circle

“I support indigo because the projects are grounded in trust and relationship. In my experience that’s when we all do our best work, and indigo foundation has shown this time and time again.”

Sarah Kelly, SA giving circle

Afghanistan

Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis worsened in 2022, largely because of the country's economic collapse in the wake of the Taliban takeover. According to the UN estimates, over 70 percent of the country's population needs humanitarian assistance and 90 percent of the population remains food insecure throughout the year. Women and girls were particularly hard hit by the economic crisis for various reasons, including Taliban actions pushing many women out of paid work and blocking female aid workers from being able to do their jobs. The increasing humanitarian crisis was made worse by drought, flash flooding, earthquakes, and other natural disasters, some exacerbated by climate change.

Amidst numerous challenges, our Afghanistan partners have tenaciously pursued their mission of advancing education. This report highlights their remarkable resilience over the past year, and the impacts of formal and informal education in our local partner communities. This year we received the last \$50,000 annual grant from the Wheeler Foundation and thank them for their generosity since 2016.



We acknowledge the tireless work of Ali Reza Yunespour, our voluntary Partnership Coordinator.

Under Ali (and before him his brother Salman), indigo has worked across three provinces, 30 schools and supported over 10,000 students in Afghanistan. It has been an education program, a women's rights program and, in Ali's words "ultimately a peace-building program". Despite the immense challenges of the past two years, with Ali's leadership and guidance, indigo's support has continued—building new local teams and switching to humanitarian support as needed. Ali has worked at every stage of this project from sitting with local community members and the Shūrā as they define their goals, to detailed writing, research and reports, to pounding the pavements looking for funds. The project would not have been possible without Ali's knowledge, connections and commitment. Ali has now been awarded his PhD. He works tirelessly as a leader in the Hazara community and is also a Board Member of Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia.

indigo is proud of our long-term education partnership in Ghazni Province in Afghanistan. The achievements below have only been possible because of deep knowledge and trust built over many years and our links with the Afghan diaspora in Australia. Our Partnership Coordinator Ali Reza Yunespour has played a significant role in the wider Australian humanitarian and development response in Afghanistan—working closely with other international NGOs and ACFID (Australian Council for International Development).

Achievements

Teacher support for primary and secondary schools:

Funds covered the salaries of 71 teachers across 40 schools in Borjegai, Jirghai, and Behsud communities. This support played a vital role in sustaining education for six months during Afghanistan's school year, which runs from late March to November 2022. Our support not only alleviated teacher shortages in these schools but also generated employment for 71 teachers, many of whom support at least five family members. Our long-term partnership with the communities has helped them to recruit qualified local teachers from within their communities.

Winter humanitarian support and education programs:

We supported our partner communities with limited humanitarian assistance during the Afghan winter (December 2022 – March 2023). We provided cash support (AUD 100–250) to 150 families in Kabul, Ghazni, Behsud, and Bamyan including 55 families that were led by single, often widowed, women, to survive the harsh winter.

As the Taliban's ban on secondary education for girls persisted, our local partners relied on their local mosques and some madrasas to provide education for primary and secondary boys and girls during the winter. The communities facilitated winter education in mosques, with local contributions enhancing support for 30 teachers in 20 mosques across Borjegai and Jirghai communities.

Informal mosque and madrasa education has a long history in our partner communities, where these institutions have provided basic religious and cultural education over many generations. Since the Taliban takeover, our support has allowed some of these institutions to step up their efforts and open their doors to female students particularly in secondary levels. They have also expanded

their teaching materials to include school textbooks like maths and science. Our partners' sincere hope is that students will continue with this informal education until political circumstances allow their safe return to formal education in schools and higher education.

Infrastructure improvement: In Afghanistan improvement of school infrastructure and facilities has been an important enabler of positive education outcomes for local communities. In this reporting period our partner communities upgraded a water well in Golbona School in Borjegai and provided water tanks to nine schools in Borjegai and Jirghai schools. These initiatives improved access to safe drinking water for nearly 1,000 students in primary and secondary levels.

School textbooks and learning materials:

Our community partners have provided the required school textbooks for secondary girls in mosques/madrasas, as well as in two schools in Behsud communities that did not receive textbooks the previous year. Despite certain changes at the Ministry level initiated by the Taliban, our partner schools continue to use the same school textbooks that were utilised under the previous Afghan Government.

"After the Taliban's return in 2021, I had little hope for my future and thought of going outside Afghanistan to support myself and my family. But, I have been employed with the help of indigo in Koshkak High School last year and this year. It assisted the school to address teacher shortages and helped me to have an income to support my family. As we're experiencing ongoing droughts in the community, family farms are not sufficient to provide for a family. My additional income has allowed me to support my children and my extended family."

Jawadi, Koshkak High School

"I know mosque education cannot replace school education for me because I won't be able to go to university and my study in mosque won't be recognised in the same way as my school qualifications. But I'm happy to be able to get out of the home and meet my friends. It gives us a space to talk about our future, our education, and learn from each other. Villages like ours still have male dominated culture, but mosque education for girls at my age provides us with a safe space."

Female student, Aged 13

Bougainville



Stretim Sindaun (improving livelihoods) graduation ceremony

Bougainville, an autonomous region within Papua New Guinea, has low literacy rates and some of the highest rates of violence against women globally. In a region deeply scarred by a decade of civil war, the efforts of indigo's partner, Hako Women's Collective (Hako) have played a pivotal role in promoting peaceful reconciliations within families and communities. While entrenched gender norms persist, Hako's steadfast commitment to change is bearing fruit. Despite initial resistance from some husbands, more women have been able to participate in activities. Moreover, the Collective has progressively

engaged men through initiatives such as youth training, parenting programs, and the cocoa farming project.

Over the past year Hako's activities have grown significantly, as has its reputation as a go-to women's organisation in Bougainville. indigo first partnered with Hako four years ago. Since then, the women's efforts have been recognised by agencies such as United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Australian Government, who have provided funding to deliver training in conflict resolution, gender-based violence, sorcery and related violence.

indigo's Partnership Coordinator, Jenny Clement, conducted her first visit to the Hako Women's Collective in Bougainville in December 2022. Jenny discussed the existing agreement and shared the exciting news that a generous Sydney based foundation, the Roberts Pike Foundation, would fund them to continue and expand their work for 3 years. Jenny found the Hako women to be resourceful agents of change in their communities. Dealing with violence against women is tough and risky, and that's what the Hako women do every day. They are challenging the status quo and improving lives and community relations and opportunities every day.

Achievements

Safe House and Counselling Services:

The Hako Safe House, which operated 24/7, continued to offer essential services such as walk-in counselling and overnight accommodation for domestic violence victims. During the year, two new counsellors were trained and mentored, and the addition of six volunteer staff members allowed for more comprehensive support, including food, clothing, and referrals to medical and legal services. Hako also initiated counselling services for male victims and perpetrators of violence, with male counsellors converting an old trading store into an office and counselling room. Despite initial resistance, this service received interest from seven men within its first few months of operation.

Positive Parenting Courses: Hako successfully conducted a series of Positive Parenting courses in Hako District, that ran for six weeks. These courses aimed to equip couples with strategies to enhance harmony within their families. Participants primarily came from families referred by the Safe House.

Rocket Stove Social Enterprise: As part of a trial small social enterprise, Hako imported 48 fuel-efficient rocket stoves that were sold with a slight markup to generate income.

The collective carefully monitored the stoves' usage, with plans to expand this initiative based on community acceptance.

Cocoa Farming Training: Seventy farmers completed comprehensive cocoa farming training, and Hako distributed a second batch of cocoa seedlings, contributing to the increased income of those involved.

Library Expansion: Hako recruited a second volunteer librarian, resulting in extended library hours. This enabled a greater number of children to borrow books, thereby promoting literacy within the community.



Hako - fuel efficient stove - Ms Reli Levin

CASE STUDY: STRETIM SINDAUN PROJECT

In 2022, as a response to the lack of local opportunities for young people, Hako designed its own *Stretim Sindaun* (improving livelihoods) training program to provide youth with skills in sewing, cooking, construction and home design, village planning and life skills. Over a series of courses, trainees learned how to use energy-efficient rocket stoves, drum ovens and sewing machines, and how to design safer buildings with electrical and water fittings.

The series of training workshops was initially designed for 40 participants, but the demand was so great that the women had to offer an additional program, reaching 107 youth in total. After the course, the trainees had one month to practise their new skills and had to present practical examples (such as baked goods or photos of newly constructed toilets and sheds) at their graduation ceremonies. Prizes for 'best of' in several categories were hotly contested.

India

While discrimination and human rights abuses remain high, and many Dalit people and other minority groups continue to live in extremely vulnerable circumstances, we are seeing progress in education and employment for members of these communities.

Our community partners in Tamil Nadu, India—Mahalir Sakthi and PEAB—continued their important work to improve education and employment outcomes in their communities. Both partners offer a range of other programs or activities to build self-esteem and confidence, develop leadership skills and provide pathways out of poverty and discrimination.

Program for Education and Awareness Building (PEAB) runs after school centres that provide facilities and tutors for primary and high school students to continue, and achieve through, their education. PEAB brings students, tutors and community members together in cultural and sporting activities as an extension of the education support they provide.

Mahalir Sakthi operates as a community centre in an overcrowded slum area of Madurai, supporting children, young people and women from Dalit, Adivasi and other marginalised backgrounds, including Muslim community members. The centre offers after-school tuition for children and young people and a range of other programs to improve health, strengthen economic independence and provide pathways to employment.

Partnership Coordinator, Susan Engel visited PEAB and Mahalir Sakthi in December 2022. She saw the Village Education Centres and the After School Tuition classes flourishing, and the exam preparation program bearing fruit with high pass rates. And Susan witnessed first-hand the intergenerational benefits—with past students now teaching and mentoring the next generation.

MAHALIR SAKTHI

Mahalir Sakthi has impacted many lives through its programs in education, employment, skills development, health, legal support, leadership development and by facilitating access to essential government services. Through their unwavering dedication, Mahalir Sakthi has brought about positive transformations and instilled hope in the lives of a significant number of vulnerable residents of the slum communities that they serve.

Achievements

Education: Mahalir Sakthi manages 11 after-school tuition centres where students receive additional coaching sessions in English and general knowledge. A significant achievement was securing school admission for 45 students, with 30 girls and 15 boys gaining the opportunity to continue their education. Additionally, 19 students were admitted to college. Their efforts have also led to five young people who had dropped out of their education rejoining school. They have provided guidance for various examinations, including minority population scholarships and talent exams.

Mahalir Sakthi's commitment to education goes beyond English and general knowledge. They organise youth meetings covering various topics including motivation and personal development. The Mahalir Sakthi Library is well used and has encouraged good reading habits. As part of leadership development, they introduced the "MS pledge"—to instil important values in the youth they serve.

Employment and skills development:

Women in the slum communities, especially Dalit women, have limited choices beyond insecure, often dangerous or degrading employment, with poor pay and conditions.



Mahalir Sakthi female students, Madurai

OUR IMPACT

Through the Domestic Workers' Union and other support, Mahalir Sakthi supports these women to develop skills and obtain dignified work with certified employers.

Mahalir Sakthi provided 32 young women with tailoring skills and 24 students learned basic typing skills. Forty one women and youth secured employment opportunities in fields that matched their interests and qualifications. These job placements included roles in hospitals, stitching in ready-made shops, food preparation, working for NGOs, lab technician positions, nursing jobs, domestic work, and office work. Thirteen women were successfully registered under the Domestic Workers' Union, ensuring access to government benefits.

Employment and skills development:

Mahalir Sakthi organised five health lectures,

each benefiting around 85 women. In addition, they conducted three meetings for youth, focused on health care and protection from diseases, including the crucial topic of Covid-19. Four medical camps were organised, each offering crucial medical services to around 130 women and children. Mahalir Sakthi facilitated the treatment of 48 individuals in government and private hospitals. Forty two children were assisted with polio vaccinations.

Legal and government support: Mahalir Sakthi extended their support of families in relation to legal and governmental matters. They assisted 17 families get support to navigate police and legal cases. They also played a pivotal role in helping 39 families access government benefits—including ration cards, old age pensions, birth and

death certificates, community certificates, income certificates, and benefits for deserted women. Thirty-six women gained registration under the Nala Variam scheme (Tamil Nadu unorganised worker welfare scheme), providing them with access to valuable government programs.

These achievements reflect Mahalir Sakthi's dedication to creating a more equitable society and providing hope to those facing the toughest barriers and challenges. Their motto is 'We were born into an unjust society, and we are determined not to leave it as we have found it'.

PROGRAM FOR EDUCATION AND AWARENESS BUILDING

The Program for Education and Awareness Building (PEAB) is one of indigo's longest community partnerships and the organisation continues to have a positive impact with the children and young people it supports through Village Education Centres (VECs).

This year, a move to a new rented office space has given the students space to sit and study, complete their homework and get support from teachers. The Chennai-based support team visits the VECs to support tutors, ensure they are running classes, check on student progress and assist with activities.

PEAB's team of tutors has seen some important intergenerational benefits resulting from a long-term investment in education. The team comprises a combination of some older experienced people (who were beneficiaries of the program when they were younger) and young people who have been more recently trained as tutors. This combination has provided a new level of energy to the program. Further, while Covid-19 lockdowns were very hard on the community, the PEAB coordination team took the opportunity to provide extra tuition and support to the tutors, including English language training.

PEAB's commitment to education and empowerment has not only improved academic outcomes but also nurtured a sense of community, social awareness, and holistic development among the students it supports. Regular events with the children include sessions on political awareness-raising, children and women's rights, self-defence classes, street theatre training and performance, and much more. Raising awareness on significant days like Republic Day and Women's Day has contributed to the holistic development of students.

Achievements

Education Initiatives: Regular classes were undertaken in all Village Education Centres and the Karunguzhi centre, offering valuable learning opportunities to 224 students. Specialised coaching and training were provided to 10th- and 12th-grade students, resulting in 97% pass rates in government board examinations.

PEAB expanded its reach with the inauguration of a new Village Education Centre in Munithukuppam village. Further, a new mathematics teacher was appointed at the Karunguzhi centre.

Capacity Building: Investing in the team's capacity remained a priority. Staff members participated in an intensive capacity-building program focused on human rights, legal interventions, and educational strategies. Training sessions organised by Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY) emphasised community participation, parent-teacher cooperation, and organisational development.

Winter Camp: A two-day Winter Camp for students provided not only a break from routine but also valuable life skills and awareness programs. Activities included puppet shows, life skill training, art classes, dance, and awareness programs.

Indonesia

Eastern Indonesia is particularly vulnerable to the effects of rising sea levels and extreme weather events such as droughts and is at extremely high risk of food insecurity compared to other regions in Indonesia. The islands face water shortages and experience an annual 'hungry season'. indigo's partner PEKKA (Women Headed Household Empowerment Program) NTT in Eastern Indonesia has built and supports a network of local collectives with an active base of over 2,828 female-headed households.

Women and children from female-headed households in Eastern Indonesia are caught in a cycle of extreme poverty, discrimination, and lack of education. PEKKA NTT has started to empower women individually and collectively to achieve positive change and to challenge typical harmful beliefs found in remote and marginalised communities in Indonesia.

In the past three years, indigo has been supporting PEKKA NTT's work in small-scale food security and education. It has established women-run cooperative organic food gardens and supports girls' education through cultural festivals and bursaries.

indigo's new Bahasa speaking Partnership Coordinator, Safrina Thristiawati, visited PEKKA in Adonara and Lembata in October 2022. She found a resilient and creative organisation run by dynamic and strong women from female headed households. She also found communities dealing with trauma and rebuilding in the aftermath of natural disasters. For the women heads of household, the gardens are a hub of activity that yield results beyond food production—also building women's leadership and economic independence. During her visit Safrina spoke to PEKKA about what they value about the partnership with indigo and how it could be strengthened.

PEKKA NTT'S REFLECTIONS ON ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGO

What do you see as the strength of our partnership with you? The strengths are camaraderie (*kekeluargaan*), consultation (*musyawarah*) and transparency.

What do you value the most about our relationship and work with indigo? Openness (*keterbukaan*) in planning and implementation of programs and trust (*kepercayaan*) given to PEKKA to organise the project.

Are there ways we can improve how we support your work? PEKKA appreciates indigo Partner Coordinators who can communicate in Indonesian language and translate reports, from Indonesian to English and vice versa.

Achievements

Economic empowerment through organic gardens: In 2022, in Adonara and Lembata, PEKKA women continued to grow a broad range of organic produce. Organic gardens provide PEKKA women with healthy food for their families and community, and some are sold/bartered at the local market providing an income for the women's households. Some organic produce, local cotton for example, is a potential commodity to improve local weaving, which helps maintain the local cultural heritage. Women participating in the market garden activities reported increased confidence and respect for their role in the community.

The organic gardens and the PEKKA Mart, where foodstuffs are bartered with other essentials, are promoted to a national level by PEKKA National. PEKKA Mart was showcased in a PEKKA National Congress in October 2022. The local government has taken notice and may promote organic gardens in the future.

Bursaries for young women and girls:

The PEKKA bursaries program continues to support girls and young women across four Lembata subdistricts to attend school and university. The program has enabled 91 girls and young women to continue their education. This includes 55 primary school

students, 25 junior high school students, 10 senior high school students and one university student.

During interviews with bursary recipients, more young women confidently expressed their desire to have tertiary education. As well as positive learning outcomes, bursary recipients reported increased ability to contribute to their communities.

An annual Children's Festival promoting local culture: With the easing of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions, the festival in July 2022 was a two-day celebration in the Nelelamadiken village, Adonara, attended by 137 children. These children came from various areas in Adonara, where each village has a 'culture group' (sanggar budaya).

The PEKKA NTT women had prepared a seedling for each child and on the second day the children planted fruit tree seedlings such as avocado, rambutan, coffee, coconut and mango. Overall, 275 adults were engaged in the festival to support the cultural

celebration and environmental awareness. Recipients of school bursaries and the community in the Nelelamadiken village oversaw watering the seedlings every two days during the dry season.

The PEKKA women report that the local district governments (in both Adonara and Lembata islands) have acknowledged the importance of PEKKA Children's Cultural Festival to preserve and promote local culture.

Environmental awareness: PEKKA NTT recognises the importance and power of environmental awareness in young people and is working to nurture future leaders with a strong commitment to environmental stewardship. As mentioned previously, they gave student bursary recipients a tree to plant and look after as part of an environmental awareness program. And through PEKKA's 'child learning groups' students were engaged in discussions about the harmful impacts of plastic waste and helped to collect rubbish along the beaches.



Safrina Thristiawati indigo foundation's Indonesia Partnership Coordinator with Nela and Ina Dete at organic garden in Adonara, Indonesia

Rwanda

Despite rapid urbanisation, around three quarters of Rwanda's population lives in rural areas. Poverty remains widespread. Many Rwandans continue to be affected by the trauma and loss suffered in the 1994 genocide. The country continues to work hard to recover. Rwanda has a stable government, a good pace of economic growth and ongoing processes of truth-telling and forgiveness to support healing.

Rwanda has a young population with about 45% of all people under 18 years of age. There is a high incidence of unplanned teen pregnancy, HIV and sexually transmitted diseases. Recent studies show that over half of Rwanda's children and youth experience physical, sexual, or emotional violence before age 18.

indigo foundation has partnered with Club Rafiki for 10 years. It is a thriving hub for young people who would otherwise be caught in a cycle of extreme poverty, and who lack safe spaces and activities after school. The Club works to build youth confidence, skills, self-esteem, and opportunities. Club Rafiki reaches many thousands of young people every year in Kigali and in the rural villages of Kaninya and Mageragere.

indigo's Partnership Coordinator, Alice Roughley, found a thriving hub of activity when she visited Club Rafiki in November 2022. From a once-a-week hip hop dance class that was mostly used by boys, the Club has become a humming centre with dance and vocational activities as well as a comprehensive sexual and reproductive health program for boys and girls. Alice observed there has been a big increase in girls participating in the Club's programs.

This year, participation in Club Rafiki's programs continued to grow and external recognition also continues to grow. Club Rafiki has become a widely recognised youth

centre of excellence, working consistently to improve youth health, education and wellbeing.

Achievements

Inspiring, promoting and advancing girls and young women: Participation of girls in Club Rafiki's programs has increased to over 40% and girls now dominate the English program. The story below illustrates the strong impact of Club Rafiki's programs and approach to promoting youth talent.

Shakira, aged 13, joined the Urban Dance School at the age of 8 and became a passionate and disciplined dancer. In 2019 she passed the first round in an international dance competition called 'East Africa's got Talent', in Nairobi. She continued to work very hard in school and received excellent grades. After completing primary school, Shakira was offered a place at a boarding school. There she has started her own dance classes at school and her dance class has many participants. They see Shakira as a role model, not only as a dancer but also as an educated young woman.

Girls in the community are recruiting their friends to come to Club Rafiki as the programs and opportunities for girls expand at the centre. The sewing, tailoring and knitting program establishes girls and young women with skills to set up their own small businesses.

The Club is also celebrating English speaking students who are inspired to continue at school, such as 12-year-old, Irankunda Jessy who had a 100% grade at the end of primary school.

With excellent marks and an award, Jessy received an offer to pursue her study at a very reputable senior school. According to Jessy, the secret behind her success is her

participation in ECW, where she developed and improved her written, reading and spoken English.

A new all-girl basketball team has been established at the Club. The team now has a professional coach who is interested in building girls' athletic skills and self-esteem. They meet regularly to discuss different issues. They have learnt about the negative impacts of unplanned and unwanted pregnancy and sex without consent and how these can affect their future.

Increasingly, Club Rafiki is using media, both national and international to promote gender equality and an end to domestic violence. Most recently, promotion of these messages has been through the newly formed female basketball team.

The Tailoring programme is empowering women and girls. Graduates of the program feel that tailoring and business skills have transformed their lives as they have built skills and potential for economic independence. Club Rafiki has taken on an advocacy role, facilitating the establishment of a small business collective for the girls in their own village. A group of graduates formed a small village cooperative enterprise.

The Youth Empowerment Program:

Increasing numbers of young people are finding employment through this program that offers digital skills training, career guidance, secretariat services, online applications, tips for interviews and creating a CV and application letter.

Healthcare outreach: This year 43,500 young people were assisted through Club Rafiki's HIV and pregnancy counselling and testing services. In addition to the health clinic, the Club trains peers as educators. Adopting this approach, the Club offers an individualised approach to ensure that young people feel comfortable to discuss confidential sexual, reproductive health rights issues, including the menstruation cycle,



Club Rafiki children learning IT skills

prevention of HIV/STDs, personal hygiene, unwanted pregnancy and contraception. A significant breakthrough has been the introduction of oral HIV testing at the Family Friendly Clinic, addressing the concerns of those who fear blood tests.

Attracting partners and national recognition:

Club Rafiki's efforts to attract new partners reflect its excellent reputation and the positive impact of its work. Notably, young people from the Club were invited to attend the National Dialogue Council and address the President directly—a significant moment of recognition. Club Rafiki is recognised by the Rwandan Government as a model for other youth centres.

"As a girl who grew-up in a family of three brothers and one sister, my whole life revolved around boyish activities, and playing basketball gave me an opportunity to expand my skills. Here at Club Rafiki, we train and play with boys—that is a sign that we girls are able to participate in different activities and build self-esteem"

Said Laurete, 16 year old girl from Nyarugenge

Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste is gripped by poverty, unemployment and poor standards of health and education. Women and girls in Timor-Leste are disproportionately affected by poverty, have limited access to essential services and face high levels of gender-based violence. Used to a culture of silence, women and young girls are afraid to come forward to report and discuss their experiences due to fear of retaliation or being judged by their community. It is even rarer to talk about violence that affects persons with disabilities. Twenty years of independence in Timor-Leste hasn't done much to reduce stigma and discriminatory acts towards people with disability, estimated to be 3.2% of the population.

When indigo's Partnership Coordinator, Heidi Lipson, visited JDN (Juventude ba Dezenvolvimentu Násional) in March 2023 she saw first-hand their unwavering commitment to eradicating sexual harassment and advancing gender equality in Timor-Leste. She saw how under the mentorship of JDN staff Project Coordinators, Alianca and Belizia, the Collective has become a robust support system pursuing a safer and more equitable society. Heidi was able to deliver safety training sessions, focusing on the "5Ds" of Active Bystander intervention, equipping activists with practical skills to intervene effectively.

Achievements

Activist Collective initiatives: The Activist Collective is gaining strength with 41 new activists joining over the last year. Through a combination of workshops, seminars, and hands-on initiatives, these young activists not only raised awareness about sexual harassment but also provided substantial emotional support to one another. Through a dedicated Activist WhatsApp group and semi-regular catchups in person, the group

motivates one another to take action to end sexual harassment by sharing ideas for action and offering moral support.

Opportunities for young people with disabilities: In 2022 JDN identified a lot of discrimination against young people with disabilities after having some young people with disabilities participate in sexual harassment workshops.

Recognising the high need, JDN has created training opportunities for young people with disabilities in training centres around Dili. At this training the young people designed their action plans that focused on inclusive education, using respectful terminology, giving young people with disabilities the chance to make decisions, and taking action to address verbal harassment and gender inequality. They organised a Career Expo where 10 training centres shared their training curriculum with over 100 young people with disabilities. They are now organising for young people with disabilities to access training in these centres.

Sexual and reproductive health training: With 74 percent of the population under 35 years of age, and increasing access to cheap smartphones, mobile internet access is growing and transforming the lives of young Timorese. Being a young, tech-savvy organisation, JDN has seen its outreach growing on social media. Every month JDN posts the actions of sexual harassment activists, gender equality influencers and the action taken by young people with disabilities. They now reach more than 10,000 people on their Facebook page. We encourage you to follow them and continue to be inspired.

Outreach through social media: JDN commenced sexual and reproductive health training for young women and men in 2023.



Meeting the Minister

JDN leaders Aliança Fernandes and Belizia Mesquita Dias met with the interim Minister for Transport and Communication, His Excellency Abel Pires da Silva to update him on JDN's advocacy work for a Code of Conduct for public transport drivers. The hope is that the Ministry will adopt and implement the Code soon. There was a discussion on why the Code of Conduct is important in preventing sexual harassment of women and vulnerable people, based on the experiences of many young women. In the discussions and education workshops with microlet drivers, they tell JDN that the Code will give them some authority to stop the harassment they see happening on the microlets.

[Above] Ines a Microlet Driver for JDN. [Inset] JDN leaders Aliança Fernandes and Belizia Mesquita Dias met with the interim Minister for Transport and Communication, His Excellency Abel Pires da Silva.

Young women are learning about respectful relationships and reproductive health. Falling pregnant at a young age and outside of a stable relationship is not uncommon in Timor-Leste. This often affects schooling, employment, ability to earn an income, and independence. JDN incorporated the new training material into their existing workshops on sexual harassment and gender equality, and it is being well received by young people.

Male gender influencers: It has been encouraging to see young men signing up to be gender influencers. For example, on the 28th April 2023, JDN organised a first workshop for 21 young men in Village Dare about gender equality. JDN encouraged all youth participating in the workshop to continue to take action and practise gender equality in their families and communities. Of the 21 young men attending, 18 signed a declaration to be influencers for gender equality.

Implementing the Code of Conduct:

JDN continued the painstaking work on a code of conduct for microlet (minibus) drivers, to make travel safer. JDN is working with the Department of Transport and Communication, and the Secretary of State of Equality and Inclusion, alongside drivers, to implement the code. When implemented, the code will mean that drivers have the responsibility to respond to issues of sexual harassment that happen on their minibus.

Advocacy Campaigns: The Activist Collective further extended its outreach by organising regular meetings between Activists and Influencers. These gatherings provided a platform for discussing pressing issues and devising strategic solutions. Notably, an advocacy campaign addressing the safety of young women in rental houses was initiated. This initiative involved a meticulous approach, including educational outreach efforts and the placement of informational stickers in 39 rental houses.

Kiribati

In 2021 indigo foundation entered a one-year partnership with the Nanikaai Village Committee, in Kiribati, to support the Everybody Wins project. Nanikaai is a small community of approximately 100 families near the main urban centre of South Tarawa. Nanikaai Village Committee (NVC) has been using sport as a tool to challenge gender stereotypes and to build the well-being of women and girls.

In 2023, to assess the project and partnership, indigo's Partnership Coordinator, Debbie Littlehales, had a positive and productive visit to Nanikaai village, together with Marebu Flood, an iKiribati woman, who is the project liaison officer.

Debbie met with community members, and it was clear that the project was valued. The community was grateful for the volleyball equipment. The gender workshops for the wider Nanikaai community and one specifically for men, delivered by the Men's Behaviour Change advocacy group, was undertaken by the Ministry for Women, Youth, Sport and Social Affairs. Under the project, young people in the community received training with the Kiribati National Olympic Committee.

Debbie's visit coincided with a week of workshops, and the community volleyball tournament. Marebu is a passionate volleyball player, and that showed through in the way she inspired the community to get involved. At the tournament she organised guest speakers—the Minister of Employment, the CEO of the Olympic committee and the Mayor. The final tournament brought the community together for a fun day of sport and Marebu provided catering of highly nutritional food for the village after the event.

The assessment concluded that while the project had delivered useful outcomes, there was not momentum for a longer-term

community development partnership at this time. indigo continues to be in touch with the Nanikaai community and is open to a future partnership with them.



Volleyball tournament Nanikaai community, Kiribati

Partnerships exited in 2022–2023

Namibia

As reported last year the partnership with Namibia ended. With the permission of Rotary, the donor, a small amount was sent to Young Africa and the majority of funds was transferred to Club Rafiki in Rwanda.

South Sudan

Unfortunately, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the members of WCDF, indigo's partner in South Sudan, left the village and the organisation is no longer operating. As WCDF is not active, indigo will not continue its partnership.

challenges and lessons learned

Each year we include in our annual report an honest reflection on some of the challenges and missteps we and our community partners have grappled with. As a learning organisation, we are committed to questioning and reflecting with our partners and supporters so we can better understand what is working, strengthen our approach to partnership and community development, and increase our impact.

Community ownership is one of our four guiding principles, and we know it looks different in the various contexts where we work. The belief that we held steadfast to, when indigo started 23 years ago, was that communities and the people within them have the knowledge and wisdom to determine the best solutions for their development. And we reaffirmed that commitment in our new Strategy this year. Community ownership is a key consideration when deciding whether to continue our partnerships, including with South Sudan and Kiribati this year.

indigo has supported the Wedweil Community Development Foundation (WCDF) since 2013 to improve education outcomes by training teachers and investing in school infrastructure. Despite the challenges of supporting community development in South Sudan, there have been good results over the years. However, during the Covid-19 years, community members moved away and WCDF has not been active. In considering a new proposal this year to restart the community partnership it was evident that there wasn't a clear organisation to partner with and little prospect of building community ownership in other ways. It was difficult taking a decision to exit the partnership after so many years. However, without an active local partner, indigo would have had to play a role in building a new community organisation for the purposes of sending support. This does not fit well with indigo's community development approach or our guiding principles.

Classroom, Afghanistan





JDN Activists at the JDN youth festival

It was a similar decision-making process with the Everybody Wins initiative that indigo supported with the Nanikaai village community in Kiribati. While it was clear the project delivered benefits in the form of sporting equipment and local events, there was not momentum in the community for a longer term development partnership at this time. indigo continues to be in touch with the Nanikaai community and is open to a future partnership with them.

Indigo supports local partners to work for change at three levels—individual health and wellbeing, community strengthening, and working for systems and societal change. Without tackling the underlying causes of poverty and exclusion, activities can only remedy the symptoms. For sustainable and irreversible change to occur our local partners need to stand up for protection of rights and structural changes in areas such as education, justice and employment. After more than two decades of supporting community partners in their development and advocacy efforts, we know that achieving transformative change is very difficult.

We have seen our partner communities encounter opposition and backlash—that is the nature of change, and those who benefit from the status quo seek to hold on to power and are reluctant to change. While we

understand this, it continues to be difficult to hear from our brave and determined partners about the resistance and opposition they face. We stand in solidarity with them, and we know they have the knowledge and wisdom to navigate the complex social relations and backlash.

For example, in Dili we understand backlash and resistance is emerging amongst some in the community because of JDN's work with young women and men advocates to address sexual harassment. Recently, JDN stickers on a microlet bus about the rights of women to not be harassed were defaced. Young male gender influencers report that their conversations with friends and actions to promote gender equality are often ridiculed by their male peers.

In Tamil Nadu, India, our community partners have long worked to protect the rights of Dalit people and other minority groups. They are supported by and work with state and national Dalit rights organisations for change to the laws, policies and cultural norms that continue to affect their communities. The work to achieve this systems change takes a long time. For our part, indigo will continue our long term and flexible funding to our partners, and continue listening to and supporting them to achieve their goals.

indigo foundation in the community

indigo foundation achieves the impact it does with our community partners because of the unwavering support and dedication of our supporters and volunteers. Your boundless passion, creativity, and tireless efforts in forging connections and raising funds for our community partners are deeply appreciated. You are actively engaged through our online platforms and eagerly grasp opportunities for in-person interactions whenever feasible. Both individual donors and the foundations we collaborate with displayed remarkable generosity, underlining their steadfast belief in our community partners and our approach to community development. We extend our heartfelt gratitude.

Trivia quiz night in Canberra

On 1 July we kicked off the year with a Trivia Quiz Night in Canberra held at the Canberra Bridge Club in Deakin. This event, spearheaded by Ian Robinson, was a first for indigo in the ACT. A veritable team of Ian, Colin Campbell and Rob Lundie put the questions together and we were delighted to have Bob McMullan as our esteemed quiz master. We thank Heather Chapman for organising delicious food for the tables.

Members of the Bridge Club, most of whom were new to indigo, and valued indigo supporters came together for a hard fought contest to win the donated prizes.

Sparrows of Kabul Concert Tour

In August 2022 we partnered with the wonderful Fred Smith, who hosted a series of concerts in Canberra, Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong to launch his new CD "Sparrows of Kabul" and raise awareness of the plight of Afghanistan under the Taliban regime. Fred, a former Australian diplomat who was stationed in Kabul, shared the profits of his concerts with indigo foundation, Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia and SCARF. The Sydney concert, largely organised by indigo volunteers, was held in the Women's College at Sydney University and we are very grateful for their support. Michelle Faithfull coordinated the Newcastle concert and did an excellent job.

indigo conversations

Spotlight on India - Dr Susan Engel spoke with Guna Vincent, Director of Mahalir Sakthi and Semmalar Selvi, Program Director for PEAB on the 12th of October via Zoom. They discussed the impact of Covid-19 on their communities, how they were able to respond to the pandemic and continue to deliver their programs and their priorities for the future. The recording is available on indigo's YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_MECNYGDno&t=2607s

indigo confidential - a conversation on Afghanistan, held on Monday 17 April, saw Partnership Coordinator Ali Reza Yunespour provide a full and frank update on our community partners, our work in Afghanistan and the highly challenging and fluid context in which we were then operating. This was an invitation only virtual event. No recording was made as the topics discussed were sensitive and safety concerns for people in Afghanistan were paramount.

indigo foundation 20th (+2) Gala Dinner in Canberra

Our Gala Dinner, held on Friday October 28, 2022 at the National Museum of Australia was our best ever dinner in terms of ticket sales and funds raised.

We give enormous thanks to Canberra legends Virginia Haussegger AM and Alex Sloan AM for being our MCs, to Louise



indigo foundation Gala Dinner in Canberra

Harget from Belle Property for her auction magic, to the talented band Gypsy Jazz Project and to the generous indigo friends who donated auction items and wine. The jewel in the crown was a special 'inside the insiders' lunch for six in the Boardroom of the National Press Club with four of Australia's most esteemed and highly awarded political commentators—Malcolm Farr, Karen Middleton, Paul Bongiorno AM, and Mark Kenny which raised over \$9,000.

At our heart, indigo is and remains a volunteer-based organisation. We thank Heather Chapman and Di van Meegen who did so much to make this dinner a success. Ali Reza Yunespour flew in from Melbourne to provide a compelling update on Afghanistan and Alice Roughley and Jenny Clement provided a snapshot of our local partners—Hako Women's Collective in Bougainville and JDN in Timor-Leste.

The Gala dinner was also an opportunity to farewell Jemma Bailey as Executive Director and welcome Stav Zotalis who was stepping into the role and was known to many at the dinner.

Annual Gathering

The indigo annual gathering, held each year in February, brings our team of Partnership Coordinators, board members, advisors, staff and volunteers together. This year's gathering



Leigh Cupitt and Lyla Rogan at the Canberra dinner

was once again hosted by our patron Libby Lloyd at St Basil's in Randwick. The weekend started with simultaneous board and PCs meetings and continued through to Sunday afternoon with the full team. Together we reflected on the resilience and achievements of our local partners, shared experiences, learning and ideas and further shaped the indigo foundation Strategy for 2023-2027.

Great indigo bike ride

We are incredibly grateful to Ian Wallis who started his long ride from Canberra to Singapore in May 2023 to raise funds for indigo's community partners. Members of the indigo indefatigables cycling group accompanied Ian on the first leg of the ride from Canberra to Cowra. We thank Libby and Jason Ewing-Jarvie for organising for Ian to meet with students from an early childhood centre and at Cowra High School. While

not his first unsupported bike ride of these proportions, it was Ian's first fundraiser and we are very grateful he chose indigo. In Dili, Ian met with the activists at our community partner JDN and learnt about their important work in advocacy and education of young women and men. When the ride finished in September 2023, Ian had visited 24 locations in Australia and 52 in Indonesia, but more of that story next year.

Cashing in the recyclables

For the past four years, long term indigo supporter Ian Robinson and partner Chris have been collecting recyclable plastics, bottles and cans from their friends and donating the proceeds to indigo foundation. Ian's recycling venture is a win-win— great for the environment and a fantastic way to raise funds for indigo.



indigo foundation is in awe of Dr Ian Wallis who has cycled 9000 kms from Canberra to Singapore over 129 days raising more than \$21,000 for indigo's partners.

THANK YOU Ian!

[Above] Ian Wallis ready to cycle indigo. [Inset] The indigo foundation team at the 2023 Annual Gathering

meet our team

OUR BOARD

Lyla Rogan, Chair. Lyla has extensive experience in governance, strategy, accountability and impact measurement in the public and non-profit sectors. She has previously been Deputy Director of ACOSS and a university lecturer, and now consults in social policy and international development, in Australia and overseas.

Ron Switzer, Treasurer. Ron is a Chartered Accountant, CPA and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. He has extensive professional experience, including as a former partner in KPMG, as CFO of multinational companies and General Manager CPA Australia (NSW).

Robin Brown, Secretary. Robin is an expert in consumer rights and advocacy. He founded the Foundation for Effective Markets and Governance and worked with Consumers International on the UN Guidelines for Consumer Protection. He has previously worked with AusAID and served on the Code Committee of ACFID, and has been President of the ACT Council of Social Service.

Megan Chisholm. Megan has over 20 years' experience working in more than 25 countries in the humanitarian and development sector and is passionate about gender equality. Most recently she was CARE International's Country Director in Vanuatu and Director Pacific Regional Team. She has led humanitarian response operations in the Middle East, Asia, Pacific and Latin America. She is currently the Regional Operations Manager for Far South Coast NSW with the Australian Red Cross.

Bianca Crocker. (July 2022 to November 2022) Bianca is an experienced fundraiser. She manages her own social purpose business and works with small and emerging charities to build sustainable funding models. She is a tutor for the Fundraising Institute of Australia's education courses. In 2014, she was shortlisted for a Telstra Business Women's Award: Young Business Woman of the Year.

Elena Pak. (November 2022 to June 2023) Elena is the Head of Australia at Development Pathways, a leading global development consultancy specialising in designing and developing social protection systems. Before that, she led fundraising departments at US-based nonprofits, and worked at the Atlantic Council. Educated in the US and Kazakhstan, Elena completed the American Express Leadership Academy and the Aspen Institute Leadership Program.

Leigh Cupitt. Leigh has more than 30 years' experience working in indigenous health and in PNG, building capacity of organisations and staff. She has led high-impact initiatives in Aboriginal health, including developing the first joint Area Health Service - Aboriginal Medical Service Plan in NSW and as a Director in the Federal Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

Alison Martin. Alison has extensive experience in policy, advocacy, media and campaigning, including as Oxfam's Policy and Campaigns Manager in Jerusalem and South Sudan. She was also a Communications Advisor with the European Climate Foundation, and an Advisor to Australian Members of Parliament. Alison is also a published writer of fiction and non-fiction.

Tamana Mirzada. Tamana is an Afghan Australian youth advocate passionate about creating spaces that support newly arrived communities. Tamana has worked with the Afghan Women Educational Centre in Kabul and in Australia with the Lebanese Muslim Association, and the Refugee Council of Australia. In 2019, she was awarded the Refugee Council of Australia and STARTTS Humanitarian Youth Award.

Fyfe Strachan. Fyfe has more than ten years' experience in policy, advocacy and program design with Australian state and federal governments and for NGOs in Australia and overseas, including Oxfam and ActionAid. She has worked in Ghana and Vietnam, and facilitated training workshops in over 10 countries on

advocacy program design, implementation and evaluation. Fyfe is currently the Research Director at Jubilee Australia.

PATRON

Libby Lloyd AO. Libby has a strong presence in the international and development community and was awarded an Order of Australia for her contribution to international relations and refugees. Libby has held senior positions in the Departments of Immigration and Community Services, with the UNHCR and large NGOs. Libby has been a President of UNIFEM Australia, Co-instigator and Board member of the White Ribbon Campaign, and Chair of the National Council to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children. She is the Chair of Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia.

OUR STAFF

Jemma Bailey, Executive Director,
July to November 2022

Stav Zotalis, Executive Director,
November 2022 to June 2023

Nuran Higgins,
July 2022 to February 2023

Jackie Evans, Fundraising Manager
Alice Martin, Financial Administrator

PARTNERSHIP COORDINATORS

Susan Engel
Deb Raphael
Alice Roughley
Ali Reza Yunespour
Santino Yuot
Safrina Thristiawati
Debbie Littlehales
Jenny Clement
Heidi Lipson

ADVISORS AND BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jude Finch
Pam Hartgerink
Zoe Mander-Jones
Rob Mitchell
Murray Proctor
Anna Whelan

IN-COUNTRY LIAISON AND SUPPORT OFFICERS

Marilyn Havini, Bougainville
Semmalar Selvi, India
Ina Dete, Indonesia

OTHER SUPPORT

Natalie Lowrey, publications
Christine Edwards, editing



"I was drawn to the Indigo Foundation from the outset, not only because I would walk across hot coals if Libby Lloyd asked me to and told me it would 'help', but because I fundamentally believe in the value driven principles that are core to this small, smart and outstandingly effective organisation. My several decades in television journalism, in which I've travelled through warzones and witnessed communities and countless individuals in distress, have taught me how small gestures can transform lives when practical support goes hand in hand with true respect and dignity. The effort Indigo puts into building trust and agency in donor recipients is awe inspiring. I believe Indigo is an exemplar when it comes to doing aid and development right! I am enormously proud to support Indigo and thrilled to see it strengthen."

Virginia Haussegger AM, Journalist, Speaker, Facilitator, Adjunct Professor, University of Canberra and 2019 ACT Australian of The Year

special thanks to our volunteers and sponsors

In Australia, indigo foundation is proud to be substantially volunteer-based. For 23 years, volunteers have been at the heart of our organisation. We thank our team of passionate, highly-skilled and diverse volunteers for lending their expertise, integrity and initiative. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the following:

Our Partnership Coordinators and In-Country Liaison Officers. Without their hard work, expertise and dedication, we would not be able to support our community partners in the way we do.

Our Board. We are fortunate to have a strong and stable board working with our staff team and Partnership Coordinators (PCs). Each and every board member contributes to indigo as a volunteer and supporter, beyond their duties in governance.

The members of the Development Committee of the Board. Leigh Cupitt (Convenor), Jude Finch, Pam Hartgerink, and Fyfe Strachan, who are to be commended for their unstinting commitment to our guiding principles, and for their thoughtful advice.

Advisors, event volunteers and past board members and PCs. We call on a large network of experts that help to shape our work in community development and our fundraising efforts. There are too many to name but without them indigo would be less impactful in relation to our goals and community partnerships.

St Basil's Village in Randwick for hosting our annual face-to-face February gathering. The many people and organisations who donated prizes for our auctions and raffles—these thoughtful and generous contributions are a huge boost at our events.

We cannot thank our Patron Libby Lloyd AO enough. Libby's unwavering support, optimism, hard work and ideas ensure that her contribution to indigo's community, both here and overseas, is invaluable.

Thank you, Libby!

Burgmann College for being a partner in the indigo foundation Equality Prize awarded for the first time in 2021, and made possible by the generous support of the Greater Good Foundation's BillBerry Bluestocking Fund. This year there were two winners - Emma Leslie (General Prize) and Margherita Dall'Occo-Vaccaro (Emerging Leader Prize). The prize was presented at the Burgmann Annual Dinner by the previous year's winner, Ms Louisa Yasukawa. Thanks to Robin Brown and Jill McSpedden for sponsoring the Equality Prize.

Partnership Coordinators, Board members, Advisors and other volunteers contributed more than 7000 volunteer hours in 2022–2023.

"We are impressed with the dedication and enthusiasm of those who manage and work for indigo and the grass roots programs which strengthen and build confidence in local communities. We have supported Indigo for 12 years and look forward to continuing our association."

Di and Ken Johnson

many thanks to our organisational partners

We are grateful for the essential and much-valued support that we receive from foundations and trusts, the corporate sector and community organisations. This support ranges from funding to pro bono legal advice, and access to networks to graphic design.

We extend special thanks to the following:



BURGMANN COLLEGE
Affiliated with The Australian National University



Roberts Pike Foundation

Delia Witney

"The partnership and close working relationship that indigo foundation has established with Hako Women's Collective in Bougainville, PNG is the reason the Roberts Pike Foundation supports indigo.

Our family foundation believes in the importance of allowing communities to develop their own solutions to the issues that they face. We love seeing how indigo works alongside this remote community, how indigo supports and guides them, and helps them find a way to provide sanctuary to women and children who are affected by family violence."

Anne Pike, Roberts Pike Foundation

treasurer's report

RON SWITZER - TREASURER | Year ended 30 June 2023

KEY FINANCIAL DATA	
Income	\$516,000
Expenditure	\$583,000
Shortfall	\$67,000
Net assets	\$188,000
Estimated volunteer time (not recorded as income)	\$376,000
Estimated volunteer time (hours)	7,300
Total 'income' including volunteer time	\$892,000
Administration costs as a % of recorded income	24%
Administration costs as a % of recorded income plus volunteer time	14%

Income – where we receive our funding

Income for the year, net of fundraising costs, was \$476,000 (2022 - \$502,000). Donations and grants received totalled \$433,000 (2022- \$383,000) including donations from individuals and foundations for our current partnerships. We are pleased and grateful for the ongoing support of our donors and supporters.

Emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic some of our fundraising activities were resumed resulting in income from fundraising increasing to \$79,000 (2022 - \$41,000). The Canberra dinner was notably successful. Due to the circumstances several events and fundraising initiatives were deferred.

In accordance with Australian accounting standards, indigo foundation defers specified donations only recognising these as income when the funds are disbursed to the relevant project. Deferred Revenue reduced to \$31,000 from \$124,000 in 2023, due to project spending in Afghanistan and repurposing of earlier Namibia donations to our Rwanda partners.

Development Program Expenditure – where we utilise our resources

International aid and development costs amounting to \$326,000 (2022 - \$267,000)

includes technical support and relationship building and monitoring and evaluation visits by volunteer Partnership Coordinators to certain projects. Direct Accountability and Administration costs not included in the above amounted to \$91,000 (2022 - \$83,000).

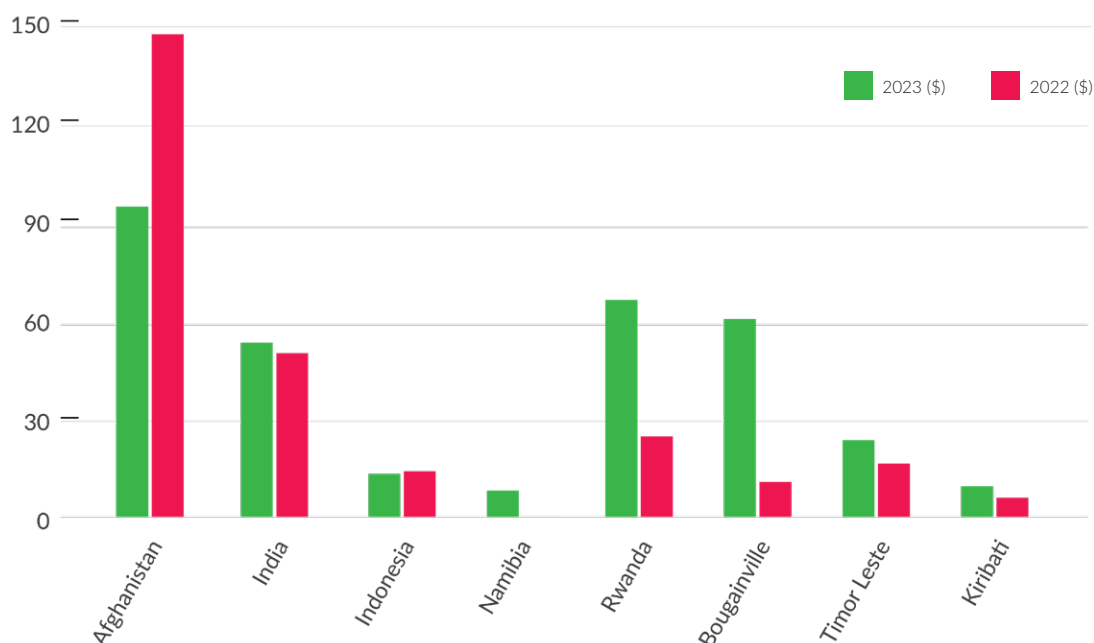
The increased funding was spread across several projects notably Bougainville and Rwanda with repurposed funds from Namibia. Direct community support by country is shown in the accompanying graph. Despite a difficult year particularly in fundraising, we were keen and able to continue to support our programs from our prudential reserves built up in prior years.

Shortfall

indigo foundation incurred a net shortfall for the year of \$67,000 (2022 – surplus \$26,000). This was understandable, if disappointing. Deteriorating economic conditions impacted significantly on our year end donations as well as the postponement of several fundraising activities. Whilst we aim to make a modest prudential surplus, the timing of project support payments that are shown as expenses can be unpredictable and can impact the results from year to year.

indigo provides long term funding (usually 3 years) to our partners and they rely on this

Direct Expenditure on International Aid and Development Programs by Country



flexible, predictable funding. We have reserves to cover the possibility of our fundraising not meeting targets to continue to provide reliable funding every 6 months to our partners.

Vigilance and caution are required as the 2024 financial year progresses due to the current cost of living pressures, inflation, and increased interest rates. We understand our donors are impacted by these factors.

General support expenditure

Management and administration costs continue to be tightly controlled and there have been some personnel changes during the year. The ratio of management and administration costs to total income was 19% of total income. We currently have three-part time management and administration personnel: Executive Director (79% FTE), Finance and Administration Officer (13% FTE) and Fundraising /Communications Specialist (53% FTE). The former Development Coordinator role is currently being undertaken by the Executive Director.

indigo foundation is a volunteer-based organisation and although not recorded as income, we have calculated an estimated value for volunteer contributions. This figure is a conservative \$376,000. Incorporating the value of

volunteer contributions, total administration costs, as a percentage of total revenue, is approximately 14%.

We have entered into Commitment Agreements to support each of our community partners. Whilst these current agreements do not give rise to a liability for accounting purposes, as they can be cancelled at any time, we are fully committed to supporting these projects as intended. The budgeted support payments over the period of these agreements are approximately \$234,000 (2022 - \$119,000).

We have a policy of holding sufficient funds to support all existing partnerships for the next six months and we are confident that we have sufficient reserves to satisfy this. The Board has continued to strategically fund our projects in accordance with their individual plans. Continuing support from our valued donors is, as always, required and much appreciated for the longer term.

Balance Sheet – our prudential reserves

indigo had net assets of \$188,000 after setting aside \$31,000 in deferred revenue (Namibia, Rwanda and Afghanistan). Despite the 2023

shortfall, we are in a fair financial position with cash balances totalling \$230,000, unrestricted \$135,000. We have ongoing discussions regarding adequate prudential reserves.

Valuing volunteers

As a relatively small organisation, we depend significantly on generous contributions of time and expertise of our volunteers. We acknowledge and express our appreciation for the enormous contribution of volunteers to the progress and success of indigo foundation.

We have estimated the 'value' of this contribution to show the significance of these contributions

and to demonstrate a more realistic perspective on the scale of our operations. For detail, please refer to the background notes below.*

Whilst we have estimated the hours contributed and determined the value using published salary information, we recognise that the actual contribution by volunteers is immeasurable as it is freely given, often over and above expectations and in difficult circumstances. Their contribution is invaluable.

The audited financial statements in full for the year ended 30 June 2023 are on our website.

balance sheet

AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

ABN: 81 765 707 413

CURRENT ASSETS	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Cash and cash equivalents	130,062	418,807
Trade and other receivables	300	110
Inventory	2,662	522
Investments	100,000	-
Other assets	8,139	2,289
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	241,163	421,728
TOTAL ASSETS	241,163	421,728

CURRENT LIABILITIES	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Trade and other payables	13,639	18,434
Employee provisions	8,570	24,210
Deferred revenue	30,934	124,326
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	53,143	166,970
TOTAL LIABILITIES	53,143	166,970
	188,020	254,758

MEMBER FUNDS	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Retained surplus	254,758	229,075
Excess/(Shortfall) of Revenue over Expenditure	(66,738)	25,683
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS	188,020	254,758

income and expenditure statement

AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

ABN: 81 765 707 413

REVENUE	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Donations and gifts	377,944	475,492
Grants received	55,000	7,944
Fundraising activities	78,815	41,050
Other income	4,537	220
TOTAL REVENUE	516,296	524,706

EXPENDITURE	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
International Aid and Development Programs		
Funds to International Aid and Development Programs	325,886	266,859
Accountability and Administration costs	90,936	83,312
Fundraising Expenditure	39,742	22,998
Other Expenditure		
Advertising and Marketing	5,600	2,044
Postage, Print and Stationery	5,729	12,423
Administration Expenses	10,416	8,502
Human Resources	97,682	96,525
Insurance	7,043	6,360
TOTAL REVENUE	583,034	499,024
EXCESS/(SHORTFALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE	(66,738)	25,683

* Background notes on volunteer value

- *Estimated volunteer hours include time & expenses contributed by Board Members, Partnership Coordinators and Advisors, members of our Development Committee of the Board, pro bono support and volunteers supporting our communications, events and fundraising.*
- *Volunteer 'value' is based on the salary guidelines issued by the Australian Government – Department of Foreign Affairs "Recognised Development Expenditure".*
- *There are no recognised standards for this measurement, these estimates are considered realistic and conservatively determined.*
- *This unaudited information is provided for information only and is not reflected in the audited financial statements.*

auditor's report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Indigo Foundation Incorporated (the Association), being a special purpose financial report, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30th June 2023, the income and expenditure statement, the statement of changes in equity and the cash flow statement for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by members of the Committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Indigo Foundation Incorporated is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* {ACNC Act}, and the *ACFID Code of Conduct*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*, and the *ACFID Code of Conduct*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report.

We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the basis of fulfilling the Association's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act, the Associations Incorporation Act and the ACFID Code of Conduct. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Our opinion is not modified in respect of the above matter.

Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our

opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Corporation to express an opinion on the financial report. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the Corporation's audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

Independence

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *ACNC Act*, which has been given to the committee of Indigo Foundation Inc, would be in the same terms if given to the Association at the time of this auditor's report.

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 Indigo Foundation Incorporated must meet the following requirements:

- The accounts and associated records must be properly kept in accordance with the Act and the regulations;
- Money received as a result of fundraising appeals conducted during the year must be properly accounted for and applied in accordance with this Act and the regulations; and
- The incorporated association must remain solvent.

In our opinion the committee of Indigo Foundation Incorporated has satisfied their obligations as required under the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* and *Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2008*.

We communicate with the Committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Dated this 2nd day of November 2023

**McCARTHY SALKELD
AUDIT PTY LTD**



Jane Perry FCA JP

governance. Indigo Foundation Inc ABN 81 765 707 413 is an incorporated association under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 (NSW). Our registered address is PO Box 362, Figtree NSW 2525. We are a registered charity under the Australian Charities and Not-For-Profit Commission and we comply with the ACNC's Governance Standards.

charitable status. indigo foundation is endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a charitable organisation (DGR1). As a tax deductible gift recipient, donations over \$2 to the indigo foundation Relief Fund for overseas projects are tax deductible for Australian taxation purposes.

safeguarding against sexual exploitation and abuse. indigo foundation pursues the highest degree of care and protection in our operations in Australia and overseas. Our policies on *Working with Children and Young People* and *Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse* are on our website. All staff and volunteers sign a *Code of Conduct for Working with Children and Young People* and all representatives visiting community partners must have a current Working with Children Clearance. While images from our partnerships have been used throughout this report, these images do not necessarily represent the individual profiled. In this annual report, we use pseudonyms for children's names and, for adults, names have been changed where requested to protect identities.

feedback and complaints. We welcome feedback and complaints. Our complaints policy and procedures are available on our website. To lodge a complaint or leave feedback with indigo foundation, please contact Stav Zotalis, Executive Director, stav.zotalis@indigofoundation.org or chair Lyla Rogan at lyla.rogan@indigofoundation.org.

policies. We are committed to being a transparent organisation and copies of key policies are available on our website, including our Privacy Policy, Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy, Control of Funds and Counter-Terrorism Policy and Conflict of Interest Policy.



ACFID
MEMBER

the first thing we offer is **respect** 

support our work

We only exist as a result of the generosity of a huge range of supporters.

Whether it is by making a small donation every month, volunteering your time or expertise, or by helping us raise funds and awareness about our projects, it is all critical to our objective of improving the lives of those in marginalised communities and building the power of small grassroots organisations.

No matter how big or small your contribution might be, every little bit counts.

On behalf of everyone we work with, thank you for your ongoing support.



DONATE ONLINE

Follow the links on our website
www.indigofoundation.org



DONATE VIA MAIL

Post your contribution to
PO Box 362, Figtree, NSW 2325
Australia



CONTACT US

Email us for more information
info@indigofoundation.org



PO Box 362

Figtree NSW 2525

AUSTRALIA



info@indigofoundation.org



www.indigofoundation.org