



2021

ANNUAL REPORT

our guiding principles

For 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 partner-

ship 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**



contents

message from Lyla and Jemma	2
where we work	4
meet our community partners	6
snapshot of 2020/21	12

our impact

communities leading through crisis	14
unlocking the power of women and girls	16
safeguarding education in challenging times	22
the right to health	29
climate Justice and food security	32

our organisation

our strategy	36
challenges and lessons learned: a spotlight on exits	38
indigo in the community	40
meet our team	42
special thanks to volunteers and sponsors	44
treasurer's report	46
auditor's report	50



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.

FRONT COVER: DURING EXTENDED SCHOOL CLOSURES IN INDIA, OUR PARTNERS MAHALIR SAKTHI AND PEAB WERE AT THE FRONTLINE OF KEEPING STUDENTS, AND THROUGH OUTREACH THEIR FAMILIES, ENGAGED IN LEARNING.

IMAGE OPPOSITE: DURING LOCKDOWN IN INDONESIA, OUR LOCAL PARTNERS' COOPERATIVE FOOD GARDENS (LIKE TUNEO GARDEN ON ROTE ISLAND, PICTURED) PROVED INVALUABLE, PROVIDING FOOD AND, WHEN MARKETS REOPENED, AN INCOME FOR WOMEN GARDENERS.

message from Lyla & Jemma



Lyla Rogan
Chair



Jemma Bailey
Executive Director

We are excited to share indigo foundation's 2020/21 Annual Report. Globally, the pandemic has persisted against the collective hopes and efforts of people and governments around the world. During this time indigo has remained committed to our community partners, standing alongside them in their determination to keep their communities safe and as they continued to finetune and adjust their priorities and activities in response to changing needs.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the relationships of trust and respect we have built over the years – with partners and supporters – have made this a successful year for indigo and our community partners, and they have allowed for mutual learning and honest appraisal of our achievements and setbacks.

In this Annual Report we acknowledge and celebrate the tremendous resilience and impact our local partners have demonstrated in the past year – nurturing women leaders, safeguarding outcomes in education and health and defending human rights. As new strains of Covid took hold, threatening years of progress in education, livelihoods and women's rights, our grassroots partners continued to face the ongoing challenges of poverty, discrimination, natural disasters and political unrest - constants in most of the communities we support. Being very much grounded in the communities they serve, our partners stood ready, with the knowledge, networks and experience to respond to emerging needs, while keeping an eye on their long term development goals.

2021 has been a year of consolidation, transition and renewal. We affirmed new Commitment Agreements with community partners in India and Indonesia. We worked with Club Rafiki in Rwanda to review program achievements, learnings and capacity needs to help us plan indigo's support into the future. We provided additional funds to help the Hako Women's Collective in Bougainville and our partners in Indonesia respond in the aftermath of conflict and natural disasters.

And after 18 years of working with partners in Afghanistan to improve education outcomes and get more girls into classrooms, we supported our partners as they prepared for the rapid takeover of the country by the Taliban. The long-

term relationships built with local Shuras meant we were well-positioned to respond to safety and security needs of people we have worked closely with and pivot our support to meet the looming humanitarian crisis in our partner communities.

2021 also saw indigo managing phased exits from three long term partnerships – with Lua Lemba in Rote, Indonesia, with a network of local organisations in Budaka, Uganda and with the Otjiwarongo Development Program Fund in Namibia. We are using this experience to further shape our practice – making responsible transitions and exits a part of the cycle of long-term respectful partnerships.

The renewal theme for this year is illustrated by emerging partnerships in Kiribati and Timor-Leste, and, in Australia, with Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia. These energising developments will bring new learning and relationships to indigo in the years ahead.

indigo foundation ended the year with a small surplus and we are very grateful to our supporters and funders for making this result possible. As in 2020, our gala dinner events were not feasible due to Covid. Despite this, indigo was successful in growing our supporter base, trialling new methods of fundraising and continuing our effective financial stewardship of the resources available to us. We are proud of and humbled by the strong and loyal support we receive from friends of indigo, volunteers and partner foundations. As always, the funds we receive go a long way in the hands of our community partners and we give sincere thanks to all our donors and supporters.

We offer special thanks to the local liaison officers and community leaders in our partner communities and our volunteer Partnership Coordinators in Australia. They are the main vehicles through which trust and respect are built and together they can be credited with the success of our community development and partnership approach.

And we thank our valued and talented staff and board for always going above and beyond what is expected in managing and governing indigo's programs, operations and finances.

As we look to 2022, we pay tribute to the courage and tenacity of our local partners. We remain optimistic about the impact they enable and unleash. And we invite our many volunteers and supporters to stay with us in this shared journey at a time in the world where practical action in communities has never been more important.

Jemma and Lyla

In 2020/21 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. And in Kabul, we supported women to access university education and build their leadership skills.

SOUTH SUDAN

Wedweil Community Development Foundation

Covid-19 forced a suspension of programs but we're committed to resume work to improve education outcomes by training teachers and investing in school infrastructure.

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.

UGANDA

Kakule HIV/AIDS and Grievous Families Association, Gaalimagi HIV/AIDS and Orphans Association, Trinity Child Care Ministry, Iki-Iki Aids Initiative, Nasenyi Community Action

We supported the education, human rights and wellbeing of children and young people impacted by HIV – many orphaned and from child-headed households.

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.

TIMOR-LESTE

Juventude ba Dezenvolvimentu Násional

We connected with a new partner and committed to support work to confront sexual harassment and make public spaces and public transport safe and inclusive for young women.

KIRIBATI

Nanikaai Village Council

We connected with a new partner and committed to support women and girls to build leadership skills and challenge gender norms through more equal participation in sport.

INDONESIA

Lua Lemba Education and Community Development Foundation, PEKKA NTT, Nefo Ko'u Farmers' Cooperative

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.

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 piloting a new collaboration with Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia to support a network of local refugee mentor groups. And 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



PEAB's after school tuition classes are run by a dedicated and passionate network of tutors, like Selverani*, pictured here at a pre-pandemic PEAB sports gala day.

Mahalir Sakthi, India (2012 - current)

Based in the slums of Madurai in Tamil Nadu, Mahalir Sakthi ('women power' in Tamil) is a women-led organisation and centre that works to empower women, children and young people from Dalit, Adivasi and other marginalised groups. Mahalir Sakthi is governed by a council and led by sisters Guna and Grace. indigo foundation has supported Mahalir Sakthi's education, health, vocational-training and youth leadership programs for many years. 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.

Program for Education and Awareness Building (PEAB), 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, which provide tutoring, exam coaching and other activities to students from primary levels to year 10.



A female student takes centre stage at a high school ceremony in Ghazni Province in late 2020, marking the opening of a new school building supported by indigo and our community partner.

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.

Our long-standing partnerships in South Sudan and Afghanistan are only possible for indigo foundation because they are managed in collaboration with diaspora and refugee communities in Australia and are driven by the community – in Australia and in country. Our Australian-based team members leading these partnerships, Ali Reza Yunespour and Santino Yuot, are former refugees and now leaders in their communities in Australia. These relationships bring a high level of local knowledge and trust that allows us to manage security concerns and work directly with the community in high-risk environments.

Social Awareness Society for Youths (2012 - current)

The Social Awareness Society for Youths was founded by a group of Dalit activists in 1983. It is a human rights organisation focused on Dalit Rights and empowerment and runs programs focused on access to justice, child rights, social inclusion and women's leadership. We partner with Social Awareness Society for Youths to auspice and support our partnerships with Mahalir Sakthi and PEAB.

Club Rafiki, Rwanda (2012 - current)

Club Rafiki is a growing 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.



PEKKA NTT hold regular open meetings for all women heads of household who are collective members where finances, decisions and new initiatives are shared and discussed. Here, Ina Boleng speaks to a community meeting.

PEKKA NTT, Indonesia (2017 - current)

Translating from Bahasa Indonesia as 'Empowerment for Women-Headed Households', Pemberdayaan Perempuan Kepala Keluarga (PEKKA) is a women-led and run organisation that supports and empowers women heads of household in over 20 provinces. We 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.

Nefo Ko'u Farmers' Cooperative, Indonesia (2016 - current)

The Nefo Ko'u Farmers' Cooperative is an emerging collective of 24 families based in Apren Village in the high mountains of Amarasi in West Timor. We have partnered with Nefo Ko'u to support education bursaries, food gardens and development of an open-air reading room to improve literacy and education outcomes for children and young people in Apren.

Wedweil Community Development Fund, South Sudan (2013 - current)

The Wedweil Community Development Fund is a small and fledgling volunteer-run group, with a focus on improving education opportunities for children in the extremely poor, food-insecure and remote communities of Aweil and Lol States. Their work has included improving infrastructure at the Wedweil school and training teachers. We have also started working with a collective of women in Wedweil to support the establishment of a cooperative garden. Our partner was forced to suspend activities this year due to the pandemic but we hope to resume support for activities in the coming year.

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

The Hako Women's Collective represents and supports women and families in the Haku 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 which 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.



The Hako Women's Collective come together around a central vision "In the spirit of love and true sisterhood, we the women of Hako Collective are called to build a safe, secure and just environment within our families and communities and create an integrated sustainable development that will establish a better future for our children and children's children."

Meet Delphin Kenneth, elected in June as the new President of Hako Women's Collective. Delphin is 43 years old and she was one of nine children born in the Lontis region of Haku, Bougainville. After attending several different primary schools, Delphin returned to Lontis in 1989 at the start of the Bougainville crisis. She remembers that "By April [of 1989] I had to flee the school with other students and leave all my belongings behind when the conflict brought our school under attack". She returned to study until she was in year 10 and "then returned to the village as the Bougainville conflict affected any further safe opportunity to study." Eventually, through much hard work and determination, Delphin studied office skills and bookkeeping in Port Moresby and was recruited as an office manager in Buka where she worked for 12 years. During this time she also married and had six children and later became a single parent. She has been a long-term volunteer with the Bougainville Red Cross and is passionate about education and inclusion of people with disabilities.

Delphin herself has experienced trauma and struggled to look after her children as a single parent. She was supported by the Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation and knows the importance of having a safe and supportive organisation to turn to.

In response to what personally motivates Delphin, she says "I was impressed with the Hako Safe House and all the wonderful work they were doing in caring for my Lontis relatives who were clients. Having experience getting help at the Nazareth Centre Safe House in the past, I knew the work was important. Through my Early Childhood teaching I also knew of the HWC Library and so this was my chance to join. ... I feel this is not a mistake as my personal desire is to help women and their families ... I feel this is the next step in my life in serving and helping others. I am motivated by personal experience ... My own struggles for education through the conflict years and then learning how to overcome difficulties as an adult have been possible with rehabilitation and justice programs. I continue to rebuild my family with help from the services provided by NGO and civil society organisations. We can bring positive change to women and whole families."

community partners in transition

Lua Lemba Education and Community Development Fund, Indonesia (2000 - 2022)

Lua Lemba stands tall as our longest community partnership. They are a volunteer-based local organisation, working to increase opportunities for children and women on Rote island in Eastern Indonesia. The community's priorities have changed over the years in response to community needs and have included improving education access and quality from early childhood to university, as well as sexual and reproductive health programs, food gardens and establishing an annual cultural festival.

Women's Empowerment Centre, Afghanistan (2011 - 2021)

indigo foundation provided seed funding in 2011 to establish the Women's Empowerment Centre (WEC) at Gawharshad University in Kabul. The Women's Empowerment Centre runs programs, including a scholarship program, that enable financially and educationally disadvantaged Afghan women to access a quality education in law, political science or economics and to participate actively in academic and public life. Our funding of this partnership wound down during 2020/21, however we have continued to support leaders at WEC during the dramatic political change as the Taliban took power in August 2021.

Budaka coalition of community organisations, Uganda (2009 - 2021)

For over 10 years indigo foundation partnered with five community-based organisations in the remote Mount Elgon region, working to strengthen the capacity of families and communities to care for over 2000 children and young people impacted by HIV. Support ranged from school materials, training and capacity building. Our partners were: Gaalimagi HIV/AIDS Group, Iki Iki AIDS Community Initiative, Kakule HIV/AIDS and Grieved Families Association, NACOMAS and Trinity Child Care Ministry.

We want to acknowledge the tremendous service of our Uganda Liaison Officer, Joy Katooko, who has worked with us over the life of this partnership. Joy has shown great dedication and commitment to both indigo foundation and the Budaka communities and has been instrumental in keeping momentum going, even during the hardest of times. Some final reflections from Joy: *"I am glad and grateful to indigo foundation for the dedicated service. This ten-year journey has not left me and the [local organisations] the same. I am a great social worker because indigo foundation gave me a chance to serve the Budaka people. Over the years, many [orphans and vulnerable children] have attended school and progressed, others have graduated. A huge thank you to every hand and heart that donated to the Budaka – Uganda project."*

Otjiwarongo Development Program Fund, Namibia (2014 - 2021)

Otjiwarongo Development Program Fund (ODPF) is a volunteer-run, grassroots organisation based in the informal settlements of Orwetoveni, outside Otjiwarongo in Namibia's central highlands. They formed in 2015 to partner with indigo to address increasing social vulnerability of young people. Their dream was to build a youth centre. While this goal is not yet accomplished, with indigo's support, ODPF implemented a small program to seed-fund and support other local groups working on food security, empowerment of women, income generation and youth-focused sporting activities.

our developing partnerships

In 2020/21 the groundwork was done to develop two new community partnerships - with **Nanikaai Village Association in Kirabati** and with **Juventude Ba Dezenvolvimentu Nasional (JDN), Young People for National Development in Dili, Timor Leste**. Both of these partnerships were launched in the second half of 2021.

The Nanikaai Village Association Committee is a local village association on Tarawa Island that will drive the Everybody Wins initiative which involves equal access to sport and recreation facilities for women and girls. indigo foundation and Nanikaai Village are exploring a partnership to develop the medium of sport for women as a means to increase participation, confidence and leadership skills, and challenge harmful gender stereotypes in the community.

Established in 2014, JDN is 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.

indigo also started work to develop a new collaboration with **Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia (CRSA)**. In 2020 we signed on to their civil society pledge to support a new scheme for community sponsorship of refugees in Australia, similar to the model in Canada. And we have agreed to pilot a program to auspice local refugee mentoring groups in 2022.

Meet JDN's youth advocates in Timor-Leste who work in the coming year to challenge sexual harassment and make public spaces and public transport safe and inclusive



17 community partners were supported across 8 countries

964 students across five schools in Afghanistan had access to improved school infrastructure, including clean water, new desks and chairs and separate male and female toilets

3178 young people had access to HIV testing through Club Rafiki's sexual health clinic in Rwanda

70 women plus their dependents benefited from PEKKA's cooperative food gardens in Indonesia, generating income, building women's leadership and providing essential food at the height of lock-down

220 students from years 4 – 12 had access to vital education support through a network of 20 after-school tuition centres in Tamil Nadu, India

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

20 female teachers across 17 primary and secondary schools in Afghanistan were supported with supplementary salaries

55 women and children were accommodated at one time in Hako's Safe House in Bougainville at the height of a local community conflict

2200 students impacted by HIV in Uganda were given school materials, including text books and pens to help them manage home learning during a time of prolonged school closures

6084 hours were contributed by passionate and skilled volunteers in Australia

A SNAPSHOT OF IMPACT IN 2020/21



communities leading through crisis

The global pandemic has exposed and deepened the fault lines of inequality around the world. As the pandemic continued into its second year, our community partners remained on the frontline – adapting and responding to the impacts on health, education, livelihoods and the rights of women and girls, and ensuring people in their communities remained supported through the crisis.

In the communities we work in, crowded housing and a lack of clean water made social distancing and effective hygiene difficult. Families reliant on work in the informal sector lost their livelihoods with extended lockdowns and students missed out on vital face to face schooling. Women and girls bore the brunt as lockdowns made it harder to access work and health care, and harder to seek protection from escalating gender-based violence. Despite these challenges, we saw the strength and resilience of our community partners, as they led efforts to emerge from the pandemic and create powerful long-term change.

The pandemic required our partners to adapt their programs to respond to compelling and urgent needs, and in many cases indigo was the only international organisation that our local partner was connected to, meaning our support also had to adapt. We knew that our partners are highly trusted in their communities, putting them in a unique position to identify needs and provide reliable public health information and support. Over this period, we applied a set of principles to ensure our community partners had the flexibility to reprioritise and adapt their activities to meet the challenges of the pandemic:

- We will support our partners to determine the changes that they need to make on the understanding that these decisions are based on sound knowledge of local context and community needs.
- We are open to our partners implementing new activities in response to the impacts of Covid, providing activities align with our guiding principles and, where possible, build community resilience and put our partners in a strong position to resume long-term programs when the context allows.
- We will prioritise supporting partner initiatives that promote women's participation and leadership, improve safety and protection and ensure better health, social and economic outcomes for women and girls.
- We will be flexible in the application of partner funding, whilst maintaining good stewardship of the resources entrusted to us by our supporters.
- We will work to connect our partners with other organisations and programs providing emergency relief.

Each of our partners took a different approach to navigating the pandemic, depending on the capacities, strengths and needs in their communities – combating misinformation about Covid, hosting testing and vaccination hubs

and going door to door to provide essential supplies to hundreds of families, including food, soap, masks and sanitary pads to the most vulnerable women and children. For example, PEAB and Mahalir Sakthi in Tamil Nadu assisted over 600 people with essential food supplies consisting of rice, dhal, biscuits, cooking oil, soaps and face masks. Similarly, Club Rafiki went door to door to deliver essentials, including food and sanitary pads, to vulnerable young people and their families.

Our community partners also kept students engaged in learning during protracted school closures and stepped up their work to safeguard the rights and safety of women and girls.

Read on in our impact reports to see how they did it.

With in-person schooling suspended for much of the past 18 months, our partners have been at the forefront of keeping students engaged in learning. In Uganda, our community partners delivered school materials door to door so over 2000 children had basic resources such as pens and books to continue learning at home. In India, PEAB kept students from their after-school tuition centres engaged through WhatsApp and phone calls and Club Rafiki in Rwanda shifted programs online and to social media and forged new ways to connect with young people in their homes. Hako's library in Bougainville proved to be a valuable resource for children, and in Indonesia Lua Lemba organised an intensive training for 13 early childhood teachers in how to prepare materials for remote learning.

Club Rafiki in Rwanda hosted a Covid testing and vaccination clinic, set up a community hands washing station, did outreach with young people on Covid prevention and stepped up their sexual and reproductive health program to meet growing needs.



unlocking the power of women and girls

We are committed to women's rights and unlocking the inherent power and impact of women leaders, in all their diversities. We actively seek to partner with women-led organisations and work together with all of our community partners to ensure women and girls are central agents of change in development activities. Our partners recognise the value of equal participation by women and girls and are active in nurturing emerging women leaders in their communities. A highlight of 2020/21 was starting to build relationships with new partners in Timor-Leste and Kiribati who both have a focus on the rights, safety and inclusion of women and girls. We also committed to strengthening our processes for monitoring improvements in gender equity so that we can build a strong picture of the progress and impact of our commitment to women and girls.

expanding the *Meri Seif Haus*, Bougainville

The Hako Women's Collective is a key agent of change for women and girls leading community development, advocacy and education in the areas of family violence, food security and environmental protection for their community in Bougainville. Family violence is a complex and long standing issue in Bougainville, exacerbated by post-war trauma and social issues including drug and alcohol use. In 2020/21, Hako secured funding to build a new stand-alone two room Safe House (the *Meri Seif Haus*), offering accommodation, counselling and referrals to legal services. This expanded Hako's capacity to serve women and children escaping violence beyond the existing single room in Hako's Resource Centre. The new Safe House opened in November 2020 and has been in demand ever since, going from accommodating on average 1 – 3 clients per week to having clients in residence every day.

Where it is needed, indigo is open to funding core operating costs rather than having funding tied to specific activities. This gives our local partner the trust and autonomy they need to lead change in their communities. In our early discussions with Hako in 2019, Hako reported it was difficult to find ongoing funding to run and maintain the Safe House. As a result, we committed to provide core costs for Hako's Resource Centre and Safe House, including for building maintenance and stipends for the largely volunteer-based team who staff the Safe House 24/7. The team also offer daily two hour support sessions on rotating topics including literacy, positive parenting, family planning and backyard farming.

Alongside counselling and support for clients, Hako also offers mediation and access to law and justice services. A snapshot of law and justice cases handled by the Hako Women's

Collective from January – April 2021 shows that in that period: 27 mediations occurred involving Hako, clients and families; the Hako Village Court sat 85 times, 30 summons were issued, 8 settlement orders and 4 preventative orders were issued and 19 cases were referred to other agencies including District and National Country courts. Hako also reports that “several families responded well to counselling, group dialogue and community integration and they are back together, with the men on protection orders for continued monitoring of safety in their families.” Once a woman has sought shelter at the Safe House, it is a requirement that the perpetrator also participate in counselling prior to the woman returning to the home.

A community conflict stretches Hako's resources

In June 2020, a violent community conflict in a neighbouring village led to a significant influx of clients to Hako's Safe House. 175 people were displaced and the Safe House

accommodated up to 55 people over a number of months. This influx placed a strain on Hako's infrastructure and capacity to, in Hako's words, “counsel, comfort, clothe and feed the clients in our safekeeping”. Hako had to make a number of temporary repairs, including repairing the Safe House Hauskuk (bush kitchen and catering area) and building outdoor fireboxes to allow for cooking within the security fenced area. indigo supported Hako with additional funding for repairs and to meet essential needs for families unable to return home. The children staying at the Safe House used Hako's library on a daily basis to make up for missed schooling. Hako also organised art therapy sessions for those experiencing trauma, and reading circles for younger children. While this crisis put pressure on Hako's Safe House and Resource Centre, it also highlighted the important role that Hako holds within the local district - providing safety, encouraging positive parenting and facilitating justice for women and their children.



Hako's Safe House provides a sanctuary for women and children escaping violence – offering emergency shelter, counselling and referral to law and justice and health services. The capacity of the Safe House doubled this year and it is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Anna works with clients at the Safe House and submits quarterly reports to the Village Court headquarters in Buka.

“I joined Hako because I am a peacebuilder. I also work as a magistrate and try to resolve land disputes and domestic violence cases. I issue protection orders and counsel young people to live better lives. I am also a mother to seven children. In the past I have worked in mediation and I was part of the peace negotiations after the crisis representing the women's voices. These skills are still important in the community and I would like to run more community trainings for

Anna is Hako's legal representative, a local magistrate and integral to the Safe House program in Bougainville

building economic independence & women rights, India

Mahalir Sakthi works to strengthen the economic independence and working conditions of women from Dalit, Adivasi and other marginalised backgrounds living in overcrowded slum areas in Madurai. Discrimination and hereditary relegation to low social and economic status means many parents and children from these communities struggle to finish high school. From a very young age, women have limited choices beyond insecure work that is often dangerous or degrading and comes with poor pay and conditions. Mahalir Sakthi seek to build women's economic independence in three key ways – investing in emerging women leaders, running vocational education classes and coordinating a Domestic Workers Union.

Mahalir Sakthi has long offered classes in tailoring and typing for women and young people from the local slum areas in Madurai. Strict pandemic measures in Tamil Nadu throughout the year forced Mahalir Sakthi to suspend these classes during lockdowns. Mahalir Sakthi resumed classes between lockdown periods, with reduced class sizes to allow for social distancing, and also opened access to the centre so that participants could use the sewing machines at times that were convenient to them. Prior to the pandemic, over 80 people regularly attended Mahalir Sakthi's tailoring and typing classes. In 2020/21, this dropped to 33 people (18 in tailoring training and 15 in typing training). The second half of 2021 saw enrolments starting to increase again.

Despite the reduced numbers, Mahalir Sakthi reported good results. Of the

33 participants, 18 women secured work in the tailoring and ready-made garment sector and 4 in the administrative sector. Mahalir Sakthi supported a further 58 adults to obtain jobs, including 15 women supported through their Domestic Workers Union who obtained positions as domestic workers with certified employers. Mahalir Sakthi also launched a new training program in July 2021 on IT and computer skills which benefited ten students in the first pilot group, with classes held three times a week.

a spotlight on PEAB

Our community partners have seen the disproportionate impact the pandemic has had on girls and young women. PEAB in Tamil Nadu, working with Dalit communities in a network of rural villages around Madhurantakam, knew first hand that during the pandemic the girls they supported were at greater risk of dropping out of school and at higher risk of gender-based violence at home and in the community.

In response, PEAB organised a series of participatory workshops in the first half of 2021 with female students and their mothers, on topics including leadership, human rights and gender-based violence. For example, in March 2021 PEAB held a series of workshops focussed on a woman's right to safety and how to seek support from services and the justice system, firstly with five female tutors and 30 female year 10 students, and later bringing together 45 mothers of students. Later, in August, PEAB brought 16 year 10 students together for a two-day self-defence camp.



In March 2021, Advocate Thilagavathi, from the Chennai High Court, met with 45 mothers of Dalit students involved with the PEAB's Village Education Centres in Madhurantakum, Tamil Nadu. They discussed women's right to safety and bodily autonomy and how to access support and justice through protection laws for women, children and Dalit communities.

Investing in emerging women leaders - meet Mahalakshmi, Mahalir Sakthi student and tutor



I am Mahalakshmi and I am 18 years old. I live with my parents and my brother who is in year 9. I live in Vaikal Karai slum area and I come from Hindu Dalit family. With the help of Mahalir Sakthi, I finished year 12 this year. My ambition and desire is to study a Bachelor of Education to be a teacher but my family situation does not make it easy to study this degree. I will need help from Mahalir Sakthi to find a good course.

My mom worked nearly 15 years in a packing unit, there she did packing of bleaching powder, acids and cleaning materials. This affected my mom's lungs badly and made her extremely sick. My father has two wives and is not around much. My Mom faces domestic violence from him and his alcohol abuse has affected our whole family.

I was a student at Mahalir Sakthi for 10 years and I was able to improve my studies. They are the reason I reached this level. Aunty Grace [Mahalir Sakthi's Co-Director] visited my home and was able to understand the situation of my family. To help me, she gave me the opportunity to serve as a tutor to younger students, this helps me in my studies and to meet my study expenses. I received stationery and study materials from Mahalir Sakthi too. I have served as facilitator [in the after-school tuition groups] for the past three years. I have learnt many things in the young person's meetings and presently am learning computer.

During Covid time last year and this year also, we all suffered so much. We received help from Mahalir Sakthi. They provided rice, dhal, soaps, masala items, masks and little cash also at our hardest times. I thank the Mahalir Sakthi team and the friends, who helped me and my family during Covid crisis time.

Our Girls goes from strength to strength, Rwanda

"During this period of COVID-19, letting our children come to the club to attend the session like this is very appreciable, because children they need to be together with others and where we haven't worry for any abuse, as you know this period children can be violated anytime even sexual violence that is why are appreciating Club Rafiki and its partners for everything you do for our children."
- Mariam, mother to a young girl participating in Club Rafiki's programs

Club Rafiki continued to run their successful 'Our Girls' program throughout 2020/21. This is a multi-pronged approach to grow participation and leadership of girls and young women across all Club Rafiki's activities. It links girls and young women with mentors, creates safe spaces where girls can discuss issues that impact them, and provides education and awareness sessions on sexual and reproductive health. In the first six months of the year 1,124 girls participated in the Our Girls program.

Recognising the particular vulnerability of girls and young women during the global pandemic, Club Rafiki focused on ensuring continued access to their sexual and reproductive health clinic. Across the year, at least 300 girls and young women, including teenage mothers, accessed small-group information sessions on sexual and reproductive health, including contraception and family planning, and gender-based violence. They also received sanitary pads, soaps and condoms and information on gender-based violence.

Club Rafiki understands well the connections between gender, economic security and sexual and reproductive health. When adapting and responding to Covid lockdowns, Club Rafiki reached out to teenagers connected to the Club with the aim of understanding their needs and fears while schools were closed. They organised home visits to the most vulnerable young people such as young mothers and young people in insecure or unsafe housing and in rural areas to open a dialogue with them and their carers. This process then informed how Club Rafiki targeted and adapted their programs to keep teenage girls and boys engaged and to meet their needs – shifting programs online, providing dance classes and tutorials through social media and investing more resources in sexual and reproductive health.

"Jeanine is a girl from rural area called Kianyinya, when we visited her, she was busy preparing food for her family, she shared with us her life during this hard period. Her parents are jobless, it means this time show them the heaviest life, getting food and wood for cooking, it's not easy. As a teen girl her life is exposed, she is at home without something to do even to meet her friends in Urban Dance club is impossible, the sugar daddies tried to contact her for making sexual violence, however, she proposed more girls empowerment programs for supporting them to get economic power for supporting their families and maximize they needs".

investing in women leaders, Afghanistan

The Women's Empowerment Centre (WEC) at the Gawharshad University in Kabul aims to build gender justice and support young women who demonstrate leadership skills but lack financial capacity to pursue a higher education. We provided seed funding to establish WEC in 2011 and the Centre has grown and thrived since then, attracting major overseas funders, supporting many emerging young women leaders and being an effective voice for women's rights. In the Afghan spring semester in 2020/21, we supported five scholarships for young women, selected by WEC from a pool of 50 applicants. Recipients were chosen based on highest socio-economic needs and academic scores. Masuma* and Sharifa* are two of the five scholarship recipients from 2020/21. WEC shares their stories:

"Masuma is the mother of one child. She has a strong passion and motivation to achieve a higher education however there is no support from her husband and his family. She wants to be an educated mother so that she can raise a child that will be able to contribute effectively to the future of Afghan society."

"In Sharifa's family there is her mother, two brothers and grandmother. She lost her father when she was a small child. Her brothers are peddlers and have low incomes. Sharifa's family lives in a rental house and the low income of her brothers do not cover all their life expenditures. Sharifa studies law and she was an active and intelligent student in her class."

The scholars this year, in this program and throughout Afghanistan, have had to manage in an uncertain environment due to Covid and political conflict. The pandemic meant that the the 2020 academic year was delayed and, once started, there were lockdowns and online lessons. Many students were unable to continue their education due to limited internet connection. Despite the challenges, scholarship students remained committed and achieved strong results by July 2021. The Women's Empowerment Centre has tentatively reopened following the fall of the Afghan government in August 2021.



Frishta Matin: 'I believe education is the only way'

Since 2011, the WEC has provided hundreds of scholarships for young Afghan women to access higher education. One of these students, Frishta Matin, shared her story with indigo foundation for our 20th anniversary book.

My name is Frishta Matin, and I was born in Ghazni Province in 1992. I have two bachelor's degrees, from Gawharshad University in law, and the American University of Afghanistan in political science and public administration. I also did

my minor in gender studies: I am passionate about women's rights with a keen interest in education and gender ...

I got a scholarship from the WEC in 2012 when I was struggling with my tuition fees. My father was the only one encouraging me to study and become an independent woman, but it was difficult for him to financially support me. I applied for both a scholarship and volunteer work and I got selected for both. For the first year I had a 50% scholarship, the next year a full scholarship. After a year I became a permanent, salaried staff member at Gawharshad University.

After graduating from law, I got another scholarship to the American University of Afghanistan. It was difficult to work and study at the same time, but I have a life partner who has the same attitude towards my studies as my father. In 2018, I started my Master of Public Law at Islamic Azad University Afghanistan.

I believe education is the only way girls can change their lives. Being an educated girl and a financially independent woman helped me find a good life partner and a different life than other Afghan girls. I paid for half of my marriage ceremony and I asked my in-laws to let me decide on my behalf. Many women aren't given the right to divorce, to get an education, to have a job and to have property rights. I owe my life to Gawharshad University and American University of Afghanistan."

safeguarding education in challenging times

Globally, the pandemic has caused a massive disruption to education. School closures have impacted nearly 1.6 billion students, threatening to reverse decades of gains in education outcomes and bringing an additional set of challenges for historically marginalised communities. In many countries, classroom lessons were broadcast over television, internet and radio. In the communities we support, the vast majority of students live in crowded dwellings with poor access to electricity, no computers or access to the internet. The students are often the first generation in their families to attend school past primary level. Economic pressures on families meant many children, especially girls, were at risk of having to turn to work in the informal sector to make up for lost family income.

This year has tested the resilience and creativity of our community partners. With in-person schooling suspended for much of the past 18 months, they have been at the forefront of keeping students engaged in learning and families committed to education.

improving school facilities across five schools and new support for female teachers, Afghanistan

2021 saw our partner, the Jirghai and Behsud Shura, resume their work to build schools and improve school infrastructure. In 2020, apart from works to supply clean water to one school, the planned school building works were suspended due to the pandemic and concerns about transporting materials and people. We are pleased to report that in 2021 our partners resumed building works. In total, across 2020/21 our partners supported 964 students (including 370 girls) across five schools with improved school infrastructure, including desks and chairs and a new well to supply clean water.

In June 2021 we launched a new program providing supplementary salaries for 20 female teachers working across 15 schools in Ghazni province.

Female teachers are vital to increasing the enrolment and retention of girls in schools – they are important role models and their presence shifts the culture in schools and helps families feel more comfortable about keeping their girls in school, particularly in later high school years.

With the Taliban taking control of Afghanistan in August 2021, our partners temporarily suspended the remaining school works. Our first priority has been the safety and security of our team, our community partners, and the schools and families we work with. In the latter half of 2021, we have worked carefully to support the immediate humanitarian needs of teachers and families from a network of villages we have worked with since 2003.

From our Afghan Partnership Coordinator Ali Reza Yunespour

I am writing this report ... with mixed feelings of sadness and joy that characterise our working relations with our partner schools in Ghazni, Maidan Wardak and Bamyan Provinces of Afghanistan. This year's education activities give me – and our indigo team and our partner communities – joy and happiness amidst uncertain security, political and economic challenges in Afghanistan.

The fall of Kabul to the Taliban in August 2021, a growing humanitarian crisis, drought and the pandemic has brought new challenges for all levels of education, especially girls' education, in Afghanistan. But there are increasing voices of hope within and outside the country that are calling on the interim government to commit to a political solution, access to education for all and equal participation of girls and women in public life. These voices, and similar advocacy, must be supported and cherished to ensure political stability, economic development, and gender equity.

Many parents and teachers from Borjegai, Jirghai and Behsud communities have told me in recent months that they have done so much for their schools in the past two decades and the physical survival of their schools is a constant reminder of their collective efforts for education and (re) kindling hope in these communities. It is a true reminder of how an entire school community – community elders, parents, school principals, teachers, and students – gave their time and wealth to educate their children in the midst of worsening security and economic challenges.

While the immediate future is unpredictable and insecure, indigo foundation continues to monitor and assess what practical support we can offer our partner communities and we stand in solidarity with those who face immediate risk. I sincerely thank all our committed supporters and volunteers for your ongoing help, specially your heartfelt and kind support during the events of 2021. As an Afghan-Australian, it was one of the most difficult times for me and my family. But you all stood with us and helped us to support our partner communities and schools during one of the darkest periods of their history. I am grateful for your support.

This year we started supporting supplemental salaries for 20 female teachers across a network of schools, including this school in Ghazni Province



bursaries and teacher training keep students on path to a better future, Indonesia



Lua Lemba and PEKKA NTT supported over 100 students from primary school to university with bursaries

The bursary program for students run by PEKKA NTT and Lua Lemba in Indonesia has proved vital in this past year, funding school supplies and resources for students to study from home as needed. On Adonara and Lembata Islands in Indonesia, PEKKA NTT targets their bursaries exclusively at girls and young women from women-headed households recognising these are the most vulnerable group of students.

This year PEKKA NTT awarded 61 bursaries from primary to high school and two university bursaries to young women who were at risk of dropping out and had committed to volunteer to assist in rebuilding following Tropical Cyclone Seroja in April 2021. PEKKA NTT also awarded a further 30 bursaries in the form of school supplies in the first half of 2021 to primary and high school girls impacted by Cyclone Seroja from Adonara Island. Lua Lemba provided 27 bursaries for students studying at university and 14 bursaries across a network of primary and junior high schools on Rote Island. The number of bursaries was slightly reduced from last year as in some cases the Indonesian governments offered

limited financial support for students.

Compounding the difficulties of the pandemic, students in Eastern Indonesia also suffered disruption to their lives and education due to landslides and destruction caused by Cyclone Seroja which hit in April, 2021. Many female-headed households involved in PEKKA NTT's community development programs continue to live in displaced person's camps and three schools are still closed due to the landslides. indigo supported PEKKA NTT to construct two outdoor 'reading rooms' in the camps as a place for children to learn and play. Here, volunteer tutors from PEKKA NTT facilitate regular learning groups for 31 children in the camps.

The challenge of school closures and shifting to online learning has been felt by teachers across the world, with unique challenges for early childhood educators learning how to support the very young with remote learning. On Rote Island, Lua Lemba has had a long-term program to strengthen the quality of early childhood education through teacher training and stipends for student teachers, knowing that strong early childhood education is essential for young children to overcome disadvantage. To help meet the challenges of the pandemic, Lua Lemba organised an intensive two-day training on how to prepare home teaching materials and support remote learning. 14 early childhood teachers attended from a network of kindergartens across West Rote Island.



Club Rafiki's library and English Corner Workshops were vital resources during extended school closures

community library and English Corner Workshops 'very helpful to my studies', Rwanda

"Even in this COVID-19 outbreak, I attend exchange with my peers at club through English corner sessions, intensely, I access library for reading and it is very helpful to my studies." Rosie 17 years*

Club Rafiki continued to be an important centre for services, activities and advocacy for young people in Kigali. Extended lockdowns had a significant impact on Club Rafiki's face to face programs, with the number of visits by young people reducing from 280,000 in 2019/20 to 89,268 in 2020/21, but the staff and volunteers of Club Rafiki worked hard to shift programs online, maximise the use of social media and make home visits to engage young people and their families.

The importance of Club Rafiki's community library and English Corner Workshop program became clear, as a means to bring young people together, to strengthen literacy and to support students' digital literacy during school closures. Over the year, 2,631 young people actively used the community library and 1,082 young people participated in weekly English Corner Workshops, which focus on English language learning through creative story telling – both reading stories and encouraging participants to write their own.

This year, students of the English corner workshop wrote and produced a small booklet 'COVID-19 outbreak' that drew together stories written by young people about their experience of the pandemic. Students then organised the sharing and distribution of this book to their peers, parents, the broader community and government institutions, including public libraries and government officials.

"We are very happy to receive this great work from children themselves, it is a tangible example for their better future, teenagers like them are trying such activities it is amazing. As Ministry of Youth we are requesting all community libraries in Rwanda to take this booklet in their libraries and use it for encouraging/inspiring the peers of those young authors from Club Rafiki"

Director of Kigali Public Library

220 students supported through after-school tuition centres, India

During prolonged school closures in Tamil Nadu, the free tuition and coaching of students provided by Mahalir Sakthi and PEAB became a primary route to keep students engaged in learning. The Government of Tamil Nadu made arrangements to telecast educational programs for the school students however follow up by PEAB tutors was vital as there is very little educational support for these children in the home. In the past year, Mahalir Sakthi (working in the slums of Madurai) and PEAB (in rural villages around Madhurantakam), supported 220 students from years 4 – 12 across a network of 20 after-school tuition groups, 'village education centres' and year 10 coaching centres. These educational opportunities are a lifeline for many students in rising out of poverty and discrimination.

During the year, Covid and government enforced stay-at-home rules forced our local partners to adapt their tuition model to run online. The number of students enrolled in the classes reduced at the height of the lockdowns (for example, dropping from 150 to 105 students in PEAB's village education centres) but through creative adaptation our partners supported a high proportion of their pupils and enrolments are now growing again. During lockdown, through surveys with students, PEAB tutors learnt that

the majority of students did not have access to the internet or computers so tutors relied heavily on WhatsApp to stay in contact and share study resources. Tutors also reached out individually to students and their families through home visits and phone calls.

As restrictions eased, our partners resumed face to face classes, with strict enforcement of social distancing and masks. In the first half of 2021, tutors had an additional focus on identifying at-risk students and offering one-on-one intensive tuition support, as well as additional classes to help students catch up in key subject areas. For example, in January PEAB convened a series of intensive sessions: 80 students attended a maths intensive held in two separate groups over two days, and 85 students attended an English intensive held in two separate groups over four days focusing on grammar and writing. PEAB also put a special focus on STEM subjects, including training for tutors on practical experiments and special science quizzes for the year 10 cohort. Science tutor Mr Dhanasekaran organised special 'science week' activities attended by 80 students where tutors shared what they learned in their science professional development about practical experiments to engage students.

In March 2021, PEAB brought together 95 students to mark International Women's Day by honouring the contribution of Savitri Bhai Phule, the first female Indian teacher in Colonial India. She started the first school for girls and other children from marginalised communities. On the day, tutors and students discussed the teachings and life history of Savitri Bhai Phule and male tutors were asked to reflect on the contribution and leadership of women in contemporary Indian society. These celebrations reflect PEAB's engagement in the India-wide movement for Dalit human rights and their work to provide a strong foundation for understanding and advocating for human rights and gender equity.

To prepare for this support, PEAB invested in training and capacity-building for their tutors, bringing in experts to run workshops for the 11 tutors and two PEAB coordinators, including: child-centric maths teaching; practical science experiments; child-centric and creative methods in English; and book readings on human rights and education theory.

a spotlight on Mahalir Sakthi

In Madurai, Mahalir Sakthi managed 11 after-school tuition centres where students received additional coaching sessions in English and General Knowledge and took part in Mahalir Sakthi's library program. Highlights of the education program this year include the following:

- 18 students (12 girls, 6 boys) successfully completed year 10 and 13 students (8 girls, 5 boys) successfully completed year 12. The government cancelled exams and deemed that all students passed.
- 41 students (26 girls, 15 boys) gained entry to tertiary institutions and 19 were admitted to colleges. 2 students received admission to university under a government free education scheme.
- 32 students were supported to apply for scholarships for minorities, plus Mahalir Sakthi helped raise funds locally for school fees and uniforms

Mahalir Sakthi see the importance of young leaders knowing their human rights as well as their English grammar, and so in addition to the after-school tuition groups, they also held a series of six participatory meetings over the year for approximately 100 young people to nurture emerging young leaders. The workshops combined educational sessions and guest speakers with social activities and covered topics such as basic health, leadership, human rights and exam preparation.

2000 students supported through school supplies in Uganda

In Uganda, our five local partners worked together during the second half of 2020 to distribute vital school supplies, including pencils, pens and exercise books to students whose families have been impacted by HIV/AIDS. Our dedicated grassroots partners worked with a group of teachers to go door to door, ensuring 2,200 students in the

Budaka District received a set of basic school essentials including books and pens which were necessary to continue with remote learning. This was part of the final tranche of support for our local partners in Uganda as we are now exiting after over a decade of working together.

literacy program and library 'in constant daily use', Bougainville

The Hako Women's Collective in Bougainville run a community library and literacy program. Hako reports that the library has been "in constant daily use." It is open throughout the week on a drop-in basis for members of the public to visit and borrow books. This year, Hako have also hosted visits from local schools and offered targeted support with student homework and assignments. One challenge identified by Hako to address in the coming year is acquiring more books that align with the PNG education curriculum.

One of the most popular events at Hako is the weekly reading circle, which grew in popularity during school lockdowns and school holidays. The Lead Librarian, Marina Levi, has built a strong community of parents and children who visit over a two-hour period every Saturday morning. A highlight of the past year was an essay competition, which was open to all students in the Hako constituency, with prizes to the value of PGK 500 presented at the Hako AGM in June 2021.



Club Rafiki's Jobs Desk gains momentum, Rwanda

At the start of 2020, Club Rafiki approached indigo for increased funding to invest in a 'Jobs Desk' to improve the support they give to young people looking for employment. This program ran throughout 2020/21, providing career guidance, a jobs advertisement board, access to computers and printers and support with online applications, CV writing and interview practice. Across the year, 3,239 people benefitted from the jobs desk (34% female) and 133 young people received training on entrepreneurship and job creation.

"I used to go to do writing exams and reach some interview step but I was not able to get a job due to lack of some knowledge of technical world. But the day I joined this group of study I realised that this is what I needed to reach my goals because now I am confident to say that the next exams I will do I will be the one who will get the job because I testified my fellow who had the same issue and they already have a job. Thanks Club Rafiki for this and for what you continue to do for the youth."

- Emmanuel

right to health

What do sexual health and Covid have in common? Both topics need a high level of trust in order to debunk myths and promote safe health practices effectively. The longstanding trust between our local partners and their community members meant they were able to help make sure people in their communities had the information they needed about both sexual health and Covid.

More than ever, in the face of the global pandemic, our community partners mobilised this year to provide vital health care, improve health outcomes and advocate for the right to health, particularly for women and children. Community members were impacted by Covid itself, as well as the flow on impacts from lost livelihoods and an inability to access health services, sexual health information and testing due to lockdowns and overstretched health systems.

covid information, testing and vaccination clinics

Many of our community partners reported that they had to work to counter misinformation in their communities about how Covid is transmitted and treated, and the importance of vaccinations. Mahalir Sakthi's Director Guna Vincent reported that there was significant misinformation about Covid in the network of Madurai slums they operate in. To counter this, our community partners were in a unique position, having earned the trust of

their communities, to share public health information about sanitation, mask-wearing, social distancing and the importance of vaccination. They used a variety of methods from door-to-door visits, information forums, posters, social media and outreach campaigns. In Rwanda, Club Rafiki connected with local government authorities to construct a public hand washing station and host a Covid vaccination clinic and testing facility at their Centre.

120 women access GPs through health clinics, India

India was one of the hardest hit countries by the global pandemic. Our community partners in Tamil Nadu were actively engaged in responding to Covid – they worked in coalition with other local organisations to set up community hand-washing stations and combated inaccurate information about the risks and transmission of Covid. Mahalir Sakthi's trusted long-

term role in facilitating access to health information and services was vital.

Over this year Mahalir Sakthi organised four health lectures, each attracting 80 women who received information and discussed issues such as sanitation and hygiene, sexual and reproductive health, mental health and myth-busting about Covid. Due

our impact



As well as Mahalir Sakthi's GP health clinics, they held lectures for women and young people that included a focus on sanitation and Covid prevention

to restrictions on face to face events, Mahalir Sakthi had to scale back their full program of public health lectures but in lieu of that, the team at Mahalir Sakthi's met with women in smaller groups and went door to door to distribute masks and soap and engage with women about their health concerns.

During the year, Mahalir Sakthi also organised four full-day free medical

camps, providing essential health services by way of access to GPs, nurses and family planning specialists. Approximately 120 women and children attended each medical camp. Through these clinics and ongoing face to face work Mahalir Sakthi was able to facilitate access to government and private hospitals for 92 people and vaccinate 82 children.

sexual health counselling and testing for 3,000 young people, Rwanda

Club Rafiki's longstanding sexual and reproductive health clinic is a vital service in the Nyarugenge District of Kigali, providing information, testing and counselling on family planning, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. Funding from indigo helps support a number of part-time positions at the clinic, as well as their outreach program. This year, Club Rafiki reported increased demand for its service.

In 2020/21, the sexual health clinic provided counselling and testing to 3,178 young people (49% girls or young women). The number of HIV-positive cases showed a proportional decline – 43 cases down from 60 in

the previous year but the number of positive pregnancy tests increased, with 3 out of every 10 women being positive. In the face of the pandemic, Club Rafiki got creative with their methods – at the height of lockdowns, they shared sexual and reproductive health information via social media, opened a phone line and distributed over 35,000 condoms, including handing out condoms from their front gate when the centre was closed for regular activities. As one young person said "In Kigali during Lockdown, I got an occasion to go to market and I passed to Club Rafiki to see if I could get some information related to health services. After

"As you know, it is not easy to ask any question about Sexual and Reproductive Health to our parents, even teachers, that is why I appreciate this space for my peers for discussing on these topic" Nadia, 17 years old*

conversing with guards, they gave me some information, and they asked me if they could give me some condoms, actually, it was what I needed at that time."

Club Rafiki's Urban Dance School is one of the Club's most popular activities and a great vehicle for sexual and reproductive health education. The Dance School attracts young people to learn hip hop through free classes offered at the Club's main centre as well as in two satellite centres in rural areas adjacent to Kigali. Not only do the dance classes improve the health and confidence of young people, but the Club has trained a cohort of dancers as peer-to-peer educators on sexual and reproductive health and drug use. These peer educators then provide

an information session at the end of the dance classes and through larger public events in the community. Pre-pandemic, these events attracted thousands of people and, once gathered, the peer educators offer information, counselling and testing. During lockdown, they adapted to Covid conditions by switching from large public events to smaller gatherings and outreach activities to ensure social distancing. This change meant there was a notable drop in the numbers reached by the sexual and reproductive health outreach program - from 32,900 people in 2019/20 to 1,750 people in 2020/21. Club Rafiki are now starting to ramp up their outreach programs again.

Club Rafiki launched a new initiative this year, collaborating with the Nyarugenge District Police and local youth services on events to engage and inform young people. During these sessions, Club Rafiki shared information about sexual health, the dangers of drug use and measures to prevent Covid through dialogues with authorities, educational sketches and songs organised by young people.

Club Rafiki resumed its sexual and reproductive health outreach programs with a series of open sessions, featuring dance, education sketches and songs



climate justice and food security

Livelihoods, household food stocks and human rights are under threat from extreme climate events and worsening dry seasons, rising seas, more intense cyclone seasons and frequent flooding. One of the biggest disruptions from these events is displacement and forced migration, experienced first-hand this year by some of the communities we work with. In response, our community partners are mobilising to find local solutions – establishing a network of cooperative food gardens, rebuilding after extreme weather events and nurturing a generation of young leaders committed to climate justice and a healthy environment for all.



"People observe changes in the climate. Lately when we grow food in our gardens when it is too hot and sunny the food dies. We see climate change in the changes in the dry and wet season. We talk with people about this and people are worried because they live on garden food, they don't work for money, but grow food for the families and might get some excess to sell at the market. Changes in climate will affect our crops"

- Judy and Bridgette from the Environmental Education Advocacy Team at Hako Women's Collective, Bougainville

a thriving network of women-run food cooperatives, Indonesia

Our community partners in Indonesia represent, support and advocate for thousands of people across Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT), a region highlighted by the United Nations as being at extremely high risk of drought and food insecurity compared to other regions in Indonesia. Over recent years, we have supported our local partners to build a network of cooperative food gardens and offer trainings on agriculture, compost

making and organic gardening.

Cooperative gardens established by Lua Lemba and the Nefo Ko'u Farmers Cooperative are now fully established and self-sustaining. Without further support from indigo, they provide food for members of the collectives and their dependents, and income through the sale of excess produce.

This year we worked primarily with PEKKA NTT to support and grow



Ina Dete working with women heads of household in PEKKA NTT's cotton garden

their network of women-run cooperative gardens. For the women heads of household, the gardens are a hub of activity that yield results beyond food production, concurrently building women's leadership and economic independence. 70 women heads of household and their dependents work in and benefit from the cooperative gardens. This year, the standout crops included sorghum, peanuts, corn, watermelon, cucumber and cotton. Money earned from selling produce was used to purchase seeds for the following year, as well as food, soap, matches, cooking oil and other essentials. These networks of cooperative gardens coordinated by our community partners played an important role in food security during Covid lockdowns, ensuring that families continued to have access to food and nutrition when lockdowns prevented movement and markets were closed.

In 2020/21, PEKKA NTT invested in expanding their network of cooperative gardens. They purchased capital equipment, including a rotavator and a coffee and coconut milling machine, to extend their

growing season, improve their yield and reduce the burden of manual labour on women. Women educators and gardeners at PEKKA NTT continued to develop their focus on organic composting. They ran training in the community on composting and how to make organic fertilizer. Nine women are leading an organic composting project which sells compost every two weeks from the PEKKA centre, with proceeds reinvested into PEKKA's operations.

Sadly, in April 2021 Cyclone Seroja caused significant destruction and loss. The gardens, rotavator, milling machine and irrigation system suffered major damage as a result of landslides and all of the organic fertiliser that had been prepared for the coming year was washed away. Many women on Lembata Island had to move into displaced persons camps and PEKKA NTT worked to create three new smaller gardens within the camps, which are worked by and benefit 65 women and children. Over time, PEKKA plans to repair the gardens that were damaged in the floods.

This year PEKKA NTT has focused on a couple of key crops to raise income for PEKKA's operations and the women involved. They harvested 176kg of cotton which was processed and sold at the market and started a project led by nine women of making organic compost which they sell every fortnight at the PEKKA markets.

responding to extreme weather events

The prevalence of extreme weather events this year was a stark reminder that the climate crisis is upon us. Our community partners in South Sudan experienced the third successive year of devastating flooding, leading to delayed and disrupted harvests for our partner's women-run garden that indigo supported in 2020. The International Federation of the Red Cross reported that Asia and the Pacific experienced relentless climate-related disasters in 2021 that impacted more than 57 million people. Where these crises and extreme weather events arise, we are committed to work flexibly with our partners to understand their changing priorities and offer flexible support for immediate needs where our partner steps into that space.

On 4 April 2021, Tropical Cyclone Seroja hit Indonesia and Timor-Leste. It was a devastating event for our local partners in Eastern. Torrential rains triggered flash floods and landslides washed out roads and bridges and destroyed infrastructure. Many houses

in the communities we support were damaged, as was PEKKA NTT's community centre on Lembata Island and the cooperative gardens. During the pandemic period and the evacuation due to the cyclone, PEKKA women and the wider community took refuge in the garden.

The impacts of the cyclone are still being felt months later as the communities rebuild. Over this period we provided small amounts of emergency funding for PEKKA NTT and Lua Lemba. Lua Lemba used some of the additional funds on Rote Island to respond to needs of the most vulnerable and impacted community members, including emergency food supplies of rice and sugar and building materials to support community members to repair and rebuild damaged buildings. PEKKA NTT used the additional funds to purchase good quality tents to run activities out of, to repair houses and to build three temporary houses to accommodate five vulnerable families who lost their homes in the flood.

Ina Dete from PEKKA explains the impact of the flood:

"Flash floods occurred in Adonara and Lembata and the Pekka Lembata centre was buried by rocks and sand. Likewise, the houses of residents and PEKKA women. Women in the PEKKA NTT community suffered from financial loss and property damages. They also experienced economy stagnancy during the pandemic. Women are unable to hold communal activities due to restrictions in movement between Adonara Island and Lembata Island. Students cannot study in school because the schools are damaged. There is limited clean water and food supply for flood victims and women in shelter".



Lua Lemba on Rote Island used emergency funding following Cyclone Seroja for emergency food supplies of rice and sugar and building materials to support community members to repair and rebuild damaged buildings

'Better environment, better climate' – Building young environmental leaders

Club Rafiki in Rwanda and PEKKA NTT in Indonesia recognise the importance and power of environmental awareness in young people and are working to nurture future leaders with a strong commitment to environmental stewardship. In Indonesia, PEKKA NTT adjusted their bursary program such that student bursary recipients also receive a tree to plant 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. PEKKA NTT also worked hard to include children in the cooperative gardens program and, following the cyclone, they created two dedicated environmental and learning spaces for children to learn about farming and making compost.

Club Rafiki has integrated environmental awareness and advocacy into their 'Our Girls' program. One example is Stephanie*, a 14 year old girl from Kigali. With the support of Club Rafiki and the Our Girls program Stephanie initiated a community project called 'Better environment, better climate' to encourage her friends to gather and plant at least 200 fruit seeds per year in their yards at home or in school premises.

In the years ahead, indigo anticipates more of our local partners engaged with education and youth leadership will embrace a focus on climate justice and preparation for and recovery from natural disasters in their communities. For its part indigo sees support of these initiatives as an important expression of our organisational commitment to local and global climate justice.

indigo foundation strategy 2017 - 2022

Our work overseas and in Australia is guided by a five-year strategy which sets out the outcomes we work for with our partners, goals and strategies and focus areas that inform our decisions on community partnerships.

This strategy set an ambitious agenda to increase our impact in and across communities while remaining a proudly nimble and creative organisation. We have sought to:

- expand the impact of our work in communities
- develop and improve support for and management of community partnerships based on a strong impact evidence base
- further develop indigo as a sustainable, effective and visible development organisation in Australia and the region.

The strategy was reviewed in 2019 and each year an operational plan prioritises action and resource allocation. We continued to make good progress against our goals despite the need for refocusing and adjustment in response to the global pandemic. Covid-19 failed to take us off track and we are particularly proud of the way our partners responded to the crises in their communities helped by indigo's longstanding commitment to supporting community priorities and the flexibility we were able to offer our local partners.

In several areas we have more work to do to realise the ambitions in the strategy, particularly in relation to improving the way we share impact and learnings, further growing our income to better support partners, linking our partners for learning and strengthening advocacy work.

indigo foundation will develop a new five-year strategy during 2022 – drawing on learning from past years and consultation with our current partners, volunteers, key supporters, staff and board members.

our strategic focus areas

empowering women and girls

Gender equity and empowerment of women and girls is an explicit goal across all our partnerships. When safety, wellbeing and participation of women and girls are improved there is a multiplier effect on development outcomes.

connecting with refugee communities

We work with diaspora communities in Australia to achieve justice for refugees and, where opportunities arise, to support development partnerships in high risk and conflict affected communities.

supporting advocacy for systemic change

We support our community partners to advocate for change in the power structures that cause and reinforce poverty and marginalisation of their communities.

Linking our partners for learning, particularly in the Asia Pacific

We facilitate connections -
geographically and thematically
- between our partner communities
as a foundation for networking and
peer-to-peer learning.

the outcomes we work for

- » Communities leading their own development with confidence and resilience
- » Improvements in individual and community wellbeing reflecting community needs and priorities
- » Broader social change resulting from community action and advocacy.

progress on the strategy



ACCREDITATION

We reviewed our policies and procedures against the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct and were accepted as members of ACFID.



WOMEN AND GIRLS

We have expanded our investment in partnerships focused on women and girls, including growing our partnership with Club Rafiki in Rwanda, launching new partnerships focused on gender justice in Indonesia and Bougainville and developing new partnerships in Kiribati and in Timor-Leste. We are undertaking a gender audit across our programs and operations.



PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

We undertook two internal reviews – of our Board Development Committee and of Program Management – and implemented recommendations to strengthen our program cycle and impact.



ASYLUM SEEKER AND DISPORA COMMUNITIES

We expanded our programs in Afghanistan and South Sudan led in Australia by leaders in diaspora communities and are developing a new partnership to support the refugee resettlement process in Australia.



MONITORING AND EVALUATION

We reviewed our monitoring and evaluation guidelines, held training for Partnership Coordinators and have strengthened the way we gather and share stories of impact.



ACCOUNTABILITY

We have introduced and strengthened our complaints policy, as well as new policies and procedures on whistleblowing, conflict of interest and counter-terrorism.



SUSTAINABILITY

We have continued to grow our income base across a diversity of sources (donations, community fundraising, events, foundations and grants). We have invested in a dedicated part-time fundraising role to improve sustainability.



PEOPLE AND CULTURE

We transitioned core paid roles from independent consultants to staff and introduced a new Volunteers Agreement. We have maintained a low turnover of staff and volunteers.

challenges and lessons learned: spotlight on exits

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.

One issue that has loomed large recently is how to plan and enact respectful and responsible exits from partnerships. Sustainability is one of our four guiding principles, and exits are a part of our thinking from the start of a partnership, however the nature of our model – the fact that we are committed to long-term relationships and being flexible in supporting a variety of activities that change over time with community needs – can make the decision on when to exit less clear.

Over the past two years, we have made, or are in the process of undertaking, exits from local partnerships with the Budaka coalition of community partners in Uganda, the Otjiwarongo Development Program Fund in Namibia and with our longest standing partner, Lua Lemba Community Development Fund in Rote, Indonesia. In the case of our community partnerships in Uganda and Indonesia, our partnerships have spanned 11 and 21 years respectively and the focus of the work over that time has changed alongside community needs – from improving education outcomes, to food security, to sexual and reproductive health, to strengthening culture.

In working with our partners to map out how to exit well, we have realised that while we have strong and clear processes for assessing new partnerships, we have less guidance for when and how to work with our partners toward an exit from long term partnerships.

We are now building on the learnings of the past two years to develop principles to guide our thinking and practice on respectful and responsible exits, including:

- Discussions on exits and what an exit looks like should be transparently communicated, participatory and grounded in respect. The planning for and decision to exit can be destabilising for our partners. We have learned that frequent and honest communication at the time of negotiating an exit can allay fears and generate positive responses. A healthy exit requires that indigo foundation is attuned to the needs of our partner and that, as much as possible, the process is led by our partners.
- We need to recognise that exits are a process not an event and be sure to allocate reasonable and proportional resources to the exit for both partner and indigo. Based on our learnings, and depending on the partnership, we should allocate a reasonable amount of time for phased exits. In Uganda and Indonesia, this meant an 18-24 month timeline. When we exited from our partnership with OCCO in Cambodia, this meant a commitment to continue paying bursaries for current students until they finished their diploma.
- Transitions should be an explicit part of mutual discussion from the beginning of a relationship. We already do this to some extent but we could more systematically build prompts into our regular processes. We should continue to have critical

discussions with our community partners about the relative sustainability of various activities, for example, bursaries have less potential to be sustainable than others.

- A well-planned and phased exit gives the partnership time to move from resource-heavy activities to resource-light activities. Exits are a period of transition during which indigo works with partners to identify a likely smaller set of transition activities, considering a balance between internal organisational support and community activities.
- We should aim for the exit to have the least detrimental effect on our local partner and the community. This may mean thinking through activities to ensure that as far as possible expertise and momentum for change in the community is not lost with an exit, and where possible be a moment to seize new opportunities.

UGANDA: A CASE STUDY

In Uganda, since 2010, we have partnered with a network of community organisations, each dedicated to supporting children and young people impacted by HIV. In 2019, during a field trip to Uganda, we worked together with our partners on the plan for a phased exit, including discussions with our local partners and community members about what they would like to achieve in the remaining 18 – 24 months. Ultimately this meant winding down newer food security activities and returning the program focus largely to direct support for students and families to stay in school. In the final year of the partnership, funds were dispersed to our community partners to strengthen and sustain their internal operations. In keeping with a community-led approach, the partners determined how these funds would be utilised. For most of the partners, this involved purchasing equipment which can be rented out to community members to bring in some income. Iki Iki AIDS Initiative, NACOMAS and Gaalimagi HIV/AIDS and Orphans Association, for example, each purchased tents and chairs that can be rented out for events in their communities to raise income. Kakule HIV/AIDS and Grieved Families Association took a different path and directed their funds towards purchasing six sewing machines and two bicycles, again with the intention of making these available for rent and community training.

In keeping with our sustainability principle, in early April 2021, our Budaka partners participated in a course on organisational and program management for community organisations. The intensive course was designed to strengthen capacity in leading and developing their organisations, covering topics such as networking, forming partnerships and management roles and responsibilities. The second part of the course covered all aspects of program management, including proposal design, baseline studies, program implementation and monitoring and evaluation approaches and techniques. After so many years of supporting young people to complete their education, our partners told us they appreciated the opportunity to increase their knowledge and skills in ways that will expand the capacity of their organisations. Several commented they believed they had stronger skills to develop project proposals to meet donor requirements, as well as being able to pass on those skills to others. One of our partners shared:

"In a very special way, we thank indigo foundation Australia for sponsoring this training as a sustainability measure. It has been a long journey since we partnered, thank you so very much for walking a thousand miles just to better the lives of orphans and vulnerable children in Budaka District – Uganda. We shall forever be grateful!"

indigo foundation in the community

As a small organisation, we place a high value on building honest and meaningful relationships with our community of supporters in Australia. Despite Covid-19 restrictions limiting our ability to hold face-to-face events, our passionate and creative volunteers and supporters have come up with a range of ways to engage, build connections and raise funds for our community partnerships.

The launch of 'Flavours of Indigo'

We launched 'Flavours of indigo' at the end of 2020 - with a vision of bringing together supporters and friends in small groups to share a meal, share some stories and connect with our community partnerships. Our partners in India, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Bougainville and Rwanda shared recipes and cooking tutorials for traditional meals. In 2020, supporters organised a number of events across Canberra, Sydney and Wollongong. And Flavours of Indigo has now become an annual indigo celebration of food and friendship, inviting our supporters to host picnics, lunches and dinners of varying sizes.

Recycling venture a win-win

Just over two years ago at a Canberra 'friends of indigo' event, long term indigo supporter Ian Robinson shared his idea to recycle plastics, bottles and cans and donate the proceeds to indigo foundation. Since then, Ian has been quietly collecting, recycling and donating the proceeds. And he is building a community of people around him who are enthusiastically supporting this initiative. Ian's recycling venture is a win-win – great for the environment and a fantastic way to raise funds for indigo.

Rise to heights for human rights

Inspired by the annual 'sea to summit' bike ride organised by the good people at the Billberry Blue Stocking fund, this year we launched 'rise to heights for human rights' – a community fundraising website (<https://rise-to-heights-for-human-rights.raisely.com/>) that makes it easy to set goals, join teams and get fit and active whilst raising money. It could be taking part in an organised run or swim – or any challenge that suits you. This year, the Canberra-based 'indigo indefatigables' took on two major rides – one to Mt Kosciuszko and a 5 (+ 1) Peaks Challenge in Canberra. Together they raised almost \$8,500! This in turn inspired the Tuesday Trampers walking group to turn their regular walks into a crack fundraising unit. We thank everyone who took on their own challenges this year to raise funds for indigo.

The Burgmann College – indigo foundation Equality Prize

This year, the Billberry Blue Stocking Fund initiated and sponsored a prize at Burgmann College at the Australian National University in indigo foundation's name. The Burgmann College – indigo foundation Equality Prize will be awarded annually to a Burgmann College student or alumni member who studied at the Australian National University and has made a significant contribution to reducing inequality, as decided by a panel of The Hon Dr Meredith Burgmann AM, The Hon Justice Richard Refshauge FAAL and Ali Reza Yunespour. This builds on indigo foundation's longstanding commitment to action-research and working with universities.

A night of food and music in Canberra

In April 2021 we organised night of music and friendship at the Saffron Restaurant and Mezze House in Canberra. Over delicious food, we shared news from our community partnerships in



Rise to heights for human rights: Inspired by the 'indigo indefatigable' bicycle riders who take on Mt Kosciuszko every year, Heather Chapman and her Tuesday Trampers walking group started their own fundraising efforts and raised well beyond their target. Heather writes "...after hearing what Robin Brown was doing with his bike rides, I thought I could do something with my Tuesday Trampers walking group. So, after discussing the idea with a few of the regular walkers, we decided that each of us would donate \$2 for each walk we do together and that we would do fundraising over three months. It was suggested that dogs would contribute \$1 for each walk they do." and

Rwanda, Bougainville and our developing partnership with Nanikaai Village Council in Kiribati. It was a fantastic chance to reconnect face to face with our supporters whose spirits were lifted by music from our very own band "Mood Indigo" (Joe Thwaites, Ben Loudon, Anna Brown and Robin Brown).

The inaugural indigo foundation e-quiz

Long term friends of indigo Robert Mitchell and David James creatively developed an e-quiz to test the smarts of our supporters and raise funds for our community partners. The quiz invites people to answer 68 trivia questions in 20 minutes. The person with the most questions right in the shortest time gets the prize. This event was held for the first time in August 2021.

Caring in the workplace and the school yard

We'd like to thank and acknowledge University of Wollongong Cares and the Macquarie Group Foundation for engaging their employees in supporting indigo foundation through their payroll giving. We also send thanks to Principal Michael Lee, staff and students at St Mary MacKillop College Canberra. Not only do the students from St Mary MacKillop regularly volunteer at our annual Canberra dinner, this year students nominated indigo as one of their chosen charities.

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 humanitarian and development sectors both 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, 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 over 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. 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.

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.



Our indigo team came together in 2020 to celebrate our 20th anniversary.

PATRON

Libby Lloyd AM. 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/ Foundation 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

Christina Northey, Development Coordinator (to July 2021)

Nuran Higgins (from December 2021)

Jackie Evans, Fundraising Manager

Alice Martin, Financial Administrator

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

Isabelle Raphael, graphic design

Vaidehi Shah, Publications Officer

Jodie Matire, Managing Editor,
20th anniversary book

ADVISORS AND BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Susan Engel

Jude Finch

Pam Hartergink

Zoe Mander-Jones

Rob Mitchell

Murray Proctor

Saba Vasefi

Anna Whelan

PARTNERSHIP COORDINATORS

Pat Duggan (to September 2020)

Susan Engel

Jacqui Fidler

Deb Raphael

Alice Roughley

Ali Reza Yunespour

Santino Yuot

Lyndene Wan

IN-COUNTRY LIAISON AND SUPPORT OFFICERS

Joyce Katooko

Marilyn Havini

Semmalar Selvi

Monica Tjehiua

deepest thanks to our volunteers

In Australia, indigo foundation is proud to be substantially volunteer-based. For over 20 years, volunteers have been at the heart and 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 following:

Our team of hard-working and highly skilled Partnership Coordinators, Advisors and In-country Liaison Officers for your professionalism and skills and for always keeping our guiding principles at the heart of our work.

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.

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 thoughtful advice.

Sanushka Mudaliar, Susan Engel and Ann Porcino for writing insightful think pieces for our publications.

The highly skilled and creative individuals who so generously offer their graphic design, writing and marketing talents, either pro bono or at much-reduced rates – **Laura Backhouse, Colleen Fernandez, Nicole Hamilton, Natalie Lowrey, Gabrielle Quirk and Isabelle Raphael**.

Jodie Matire, the Managing Editor extraordinaire of 'The power of community-led development: 20 years of indigo foundation'. Jodie has spent countless hours leading the editing and production of our book. We thank her for her attention to detail, literary flair, tenacity and patience. Deepest thanks also go to the many people who gave interviews, wrote and fact-checked chapters, and rummaged through boxes to find old photos.

Our dynamic and determined Canberra fundraising team, including **Heather Chapman, Di Van Meegan, Christina Richards, Alice Roughley, Robin Brown and Lyla Rogan** for their determination and creativity, including organising a special dinner event in April.

The 'indigo indefatigables', for getting on their bicycles and support vehicles and taking on cycling

challenges to raise funds for indigo – **Robin Brown, Jarrah Chapman, Philip Henty, Matt Kelso, Ben Loudon, Ian Robinson and Lew Rushbrook**.

Heather Chapman and the Tuesday Trampers, for 'walking the talk' and turning your weekly walks into a chance to raise awareness and funds for our community partners.

Fyfe Strachan for leading the way with Flavours of Indigo – preparing spotify playlists, designing recipe cards, compiling trivia questions and reaching out to friends and loved ones.

Deb Michels, who with the help of **Sue Cunningham, Ann Porcino and Penny Ryan** organised a highly successful raffle as part of Flavours of indigo.

Our incredible Sydney-based fundraising teams including **Supipi Jayawardena, Libby Lloyd, Ingrid Radford, Deborah Raphael and Fyfe Strachan**, who have continued to come up with creative ideas and energy despite the challenges of Covid-19.

Ian Robinson who initiated and coordinates a recycling project in Canberra to raise funds for indigo.

Our exceptional MCs-in-waiting, **Virginia Haussegger AM and Alex Sloan AM**, both of whom were ready and rearing to go for our Canberra dinner had pandemic restrictions not intervened.

The tech-minded trivia buffs **Rob Mitchell and David James** for organising the inaugural indigo foundation e-quiz.

Principal Michael Lee, staff and students at St Mary MacKillop College Canberra. Not only do the students from St Mary MacKillop regularly attend and assist at our annual Canberra dinner, but this year they nominated indigo as one of their chosen charities.

And finally, we also thank our voluntary board who go way beyond their governance responsibilities to ensure indigo achieves its goals.

Partnership Coordinators, volunteers and Board members contributed more than 6,000 volunteer hours in 2019/20.

To our **Patron Libby Lloyd AM** – thank you for your incredible commitment and passion for indigo foundation and our partner communities. You bring ideas, smarts, creativity, eternal optimism and commitment to tasks big and small. You help build and nurture our community in Australia. Your contribution is invaluable.

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, access to networks to graphic design. We extend special thanks to the:



Planet Wheeler Foundation



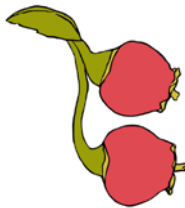
Rotary Club of Ryde, Rotary Club of Macquarie Park and the Rotary Satellite E-Club of Ryde



Australian Communities Foundation
and the Clare Murphy Fund



University of Wollongong Cares



Bilberry Blue Stocking Fund



The Funding Network



DLA Piper



Navitas Education Trust



Macquarie Group Foundation



Ashurst



BURGMANN COLLEGE
Affiliated with The Australian National University

Burgmann College, affiliated with the
Australian National University



MacKillop
St Mary MacKillop College Canberra

St Mary MacKillop College Canberra

Mary Alice Foundation

Perpetual Foundation
- Hardcastle Family Endowment

treasurer's report

RON SWITZER - TREASURER | Year ended 30 June 2021

KEY FINANCIAL DATA	
Income	\$395,000
Expenditure	\$389,000
Surplus	\$6,000
Net assets	\$229,000
Estimated volunteer time (not recorded as income)	\$364,000
Estimated volunteer time (hours)	\$6,084
Total 'income' including volunteer time	\$759,000
Administration costs as a % of recorded income	36%
Administration costs as a % of recorded income plus volunteer time	19%

income – where we receive our funding

Income for the year, net of fundraising costs, was \$382,000 (2020 - \$355,000). Donations and grants received, and total fundraising activities totalled \$353,000 including donations from individuals and foundations for our current partnerships. We are pleased and grateful for the ongoing support of our donors and supporters during these challenging two years.

Both our income and expenditure, and therefore our administration costs, in 2021 were significantly impacted by the Covid-19 global pandemic. Our key fundraising activities, the Sydney and Canberra gala dinners, were again cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions resulting in net income from fundraising remaining low at \$5,000, (\$5,000 in 2020). A significant amount of funding remains in Deferred Revenue, rather than income, because project partners, particularly in Afghanistan, were forced to postpone some of their activities in the second half of 2020 due to the pandemic, resulting in lower community development support expenditure and in turn, reduced revenue recognition.

In accordance with 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 \$159,000 from \$214,000 in 2020, largely due to project spending in Indonesia and Afghanistan. indigo foundation received Australian Government Covid-19 subsidies totalling \$42,000.

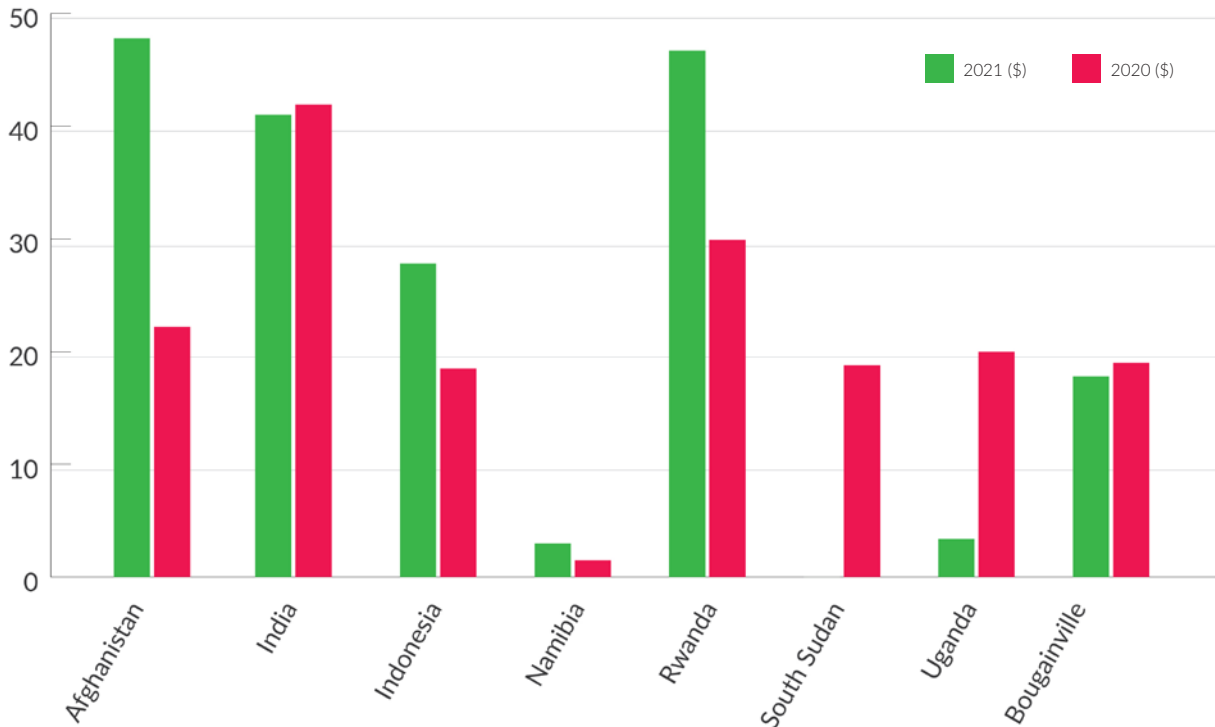
expenditure – where we utilise our resources

Operational support for projects, whilst strong, was curtailed as some of our community partners had to reduce or postpone activities during the height of the lockdown. Overall, \$187,000 (2020 - \$173,000) was allocated directly to development programs excluding the costs of the Development Coordinator. Despite the Covid uncertainties, we are hopeful that expenditure on direct community support will increase in the coming financial year. Direct community support by country is shown in the accompanying graph.

surplus

We made a net surplus for the year of \$6,000 (2020 - \$15,000). 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.

expenditure by country



general support expenditure

Country costs include technical support and relationship building and monitoring and evaluation visits by volunteer Partnership Coordinators to certain projects and excludes the Development Coordinator (53% FTE).

Management and administration costs continue to be tightly controlled and have remained relatively consistent during the year. This year we invested in a new part-time fundraising role to strengthen our sustainability. As noted above, due to the extraordinary circumstances of the Covid-19 impact, revenue was consistent with 2020 because several of our community partners deferred activities, increasing the ratio to 36% (2020 - 30%) of total income. We have three-part time management and administration personnel: Executive Director (53% FTE), Finance and Administration Officer (13% FTE) and Fundraising Specialist 32% FTE).

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 \$364,000. Incorporating the value of volunteer contributions, total administration costs, as a percentage of total revenue, is approximately 19%.

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 \$134,000 (2020 - \$175,000).

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 sufficiently strong 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.

We have received donations for specific projects which are deferred until such time as those funds are expended in accordance with the relevant commitment agreement. The amount deferred in respect of these projects as at 30 June 2021 is \$159,000. In accordance with our accounting policies, revenue for those projects will be recognised and matched against committed project costs progressively over the life of the project.

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. During 2021, whilst fundraising activities were largely cancelled, considerable support was received in the production of the indigo 20th anniversary book.

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.

Background notes on volunteer value

- *Estimated volunteer hours include time 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.*

The audited financial statements in full for the year ended 30 June 2020 are on our website.

balance sheet

AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

ABN: 81 765 707 413

CURRENT ASSETS	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
cash and cash equivalents	410,770	448,540
trade and other receivables		9,000
inventory	2,444	4,228
other assets	1,867	1,602
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	415,082	463,370
TOTAL ASSETS	415,082	463,370

CURRENT LIABILITIES	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
trade and other payables	14,638	16,455
employee provisions	12,780	9,324
deferred revenue	158,589	214,438
TOTAL LIABILITIES	186,007	240,217
NET ASSETS	229,075	223,153

MEMBER FUNDS	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
retained surplus	223,154	201,661
current year surplus/deficit	5,921	15,492
TOTAL MEMBER FUNDS	229,075	223,154

income and expenditure statement

AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

ABN: 81 765 707 413

INCOME	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
donations and grants received	347,944	315,104
fundraising activities	5,338	4,915
Covid-19 government subsidy	41,500	37,000
Other	233	1,009
TOTAL INCOME	395,015	358,027

EXPENDITURE	2021 (\$)	2020 (\$)
International aid and development		
Direct community development support	187,499	171,877
Development Coordination, accountability and admin costs	62,555	59,994
Fundraising	-	
general administration Fundraising Coordination and expenses	39,892	5,411
Other		
postage, stationery and printing	9,723	4,726
Admin expenses	3,171	18,641
Human resources	82,015	77,586
Insurance	4,239	4,300
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	389,094	342,535
current year surplus/(deficit)	5,921	15,492

auditor's report

opinion

We have audited the financial report of Indigo Foundation Incorporated, being a special purpose financial report, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the income and expenditure statement, the statements of changes in equity and the cashflow 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* and *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2021 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 Association 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

1. 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*, *Associations Incorporation Act* and the ACFID Code of Conduct. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

2. The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on economic activity globally, combined with the uncertainties it has created locally has created operational challenges for the Association. At the date of signing this financial report, the committee have considered the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Association's financial position and have determined that no material adjustments are required to be disclosed in the financial report for the year ended 30th June 2021;

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

responsibilities of the committee for the financial report

The committee of the Association is responsible for the preparation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *ACNC Act*, the ACFID Code of Conduct and the needs of the members. The Committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The committee is responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

auditor's responsibilities for the audit of 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.

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.

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*.

Dated this 25th day of October 2021.

McCARTHY SALKELD CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

McCarty Salkeld
 FCA
Jane Perry FCA
Director



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 General Manager Jemma Bailey at jemma.bailey@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** 

Image opposite: During lockdown, Club Rafiki worked with smaller groups to do outreach on sexual and reproductive health, Rwanda

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



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