

The Salvation Army
International Development
Australia (SAID)

Effectiveness Report Summary 2025

1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025



Introduction

This summary report highlights the impact and key achievements of projects implemented by SAID partners during the 2024-25 financial year. It brings together evidence of progress reports drawing on monitoring data, financial records, and qualitative stories of change collected between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025.

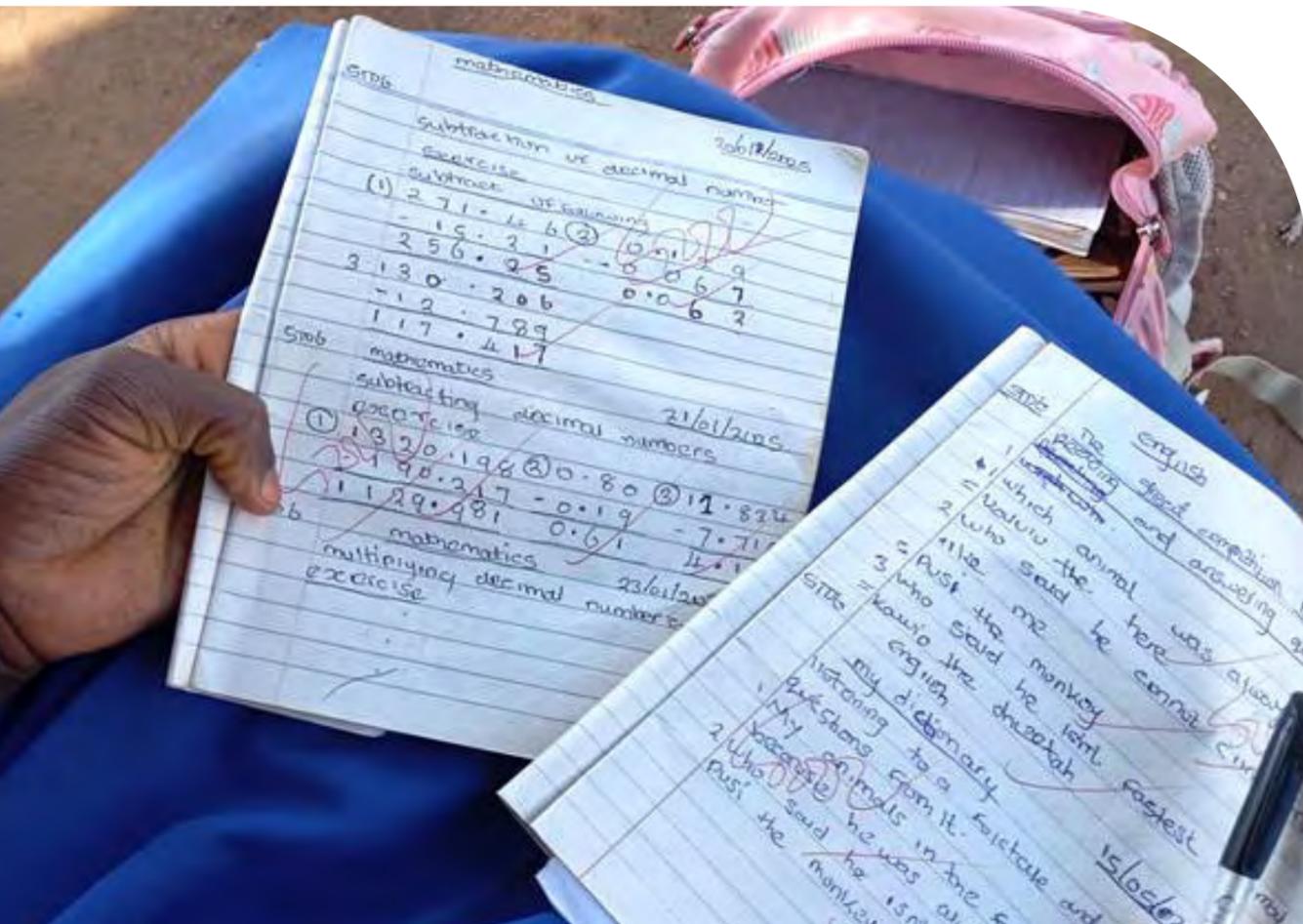
The report is intended for stakeholders and the public as a stand-alone account of what was achieved through SAID supported partnerships during the year. It is based on the SAID Effectiveness Report 2024-25*, which provides detailed methodology, indicator definitions, and disaggregated analysis, and should be consulted where further technical detail is required.

During the reporting period, SAID's role was to provide funding, technical support and facilitate learning for implementing partners. Projects were designed and implemented by partners in their respective contexts. The results presented here reflect the leadership, commitment, and capability of partners and communities, supported by SAID's contribution.

The 2024-2025 year represents the first year of reporting under SAID's revised Theory of Change (2025-2030), which focuses on two intermediate outcomes:

1. **A strong civil society that responds to community aspirations; and**
2. **Improved wellbeing for all people and communities.**

*) <https://www.salvationarmy.org.au/international-development/about/annual-reports-and-publications/>



Portfolio overview and achievements

In 2024-2025, SAID partners implemented 38 projects across Africa, South Asia, and the South Pacific and East Asia, working in nine countries through 10 implementing partners. These included 24 Community Development projects and 14 Mission Support projects. Total program expenditure amounted to US\$3.01 million (approximately AU\$4.58 million), representing a substantial investment in community-led development.

Across SAID-supported community development projects, partners reported reaching 70,742 people directly. Women and girls comprised 61 per cent of participants, men and boys 39 per cent, and children 28 per cent. People with disabilities represented 8 per cent of participants, reflecting sustained attention to inclusive programming. The majority of participants (91 per cent) were reached through projects implemented in the Africa Zone, where partners continued to deliver large-scale, community-wide interventions.

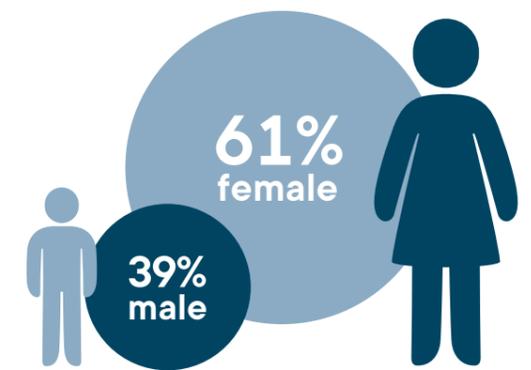
This was SAID's third year of effectiveness reporting, enabling emerging trends to be observed across the portfolio. While total participant numbers declined slightly compared with previous years, partners reported that this reflects changes in project cycles and geographic focus rather than reduced engagement. Over the three-year period, participation by women and girls increased steadily, and disability inclusion improved markedly from FY23 and stabilised in FY25.



38 projects across Africa (91%), South Asia and the South Pacific and East Asia (9%)



70,742 people reached by SAID-supported projects



5% increase in the number of child participants with disabilities supported in FY25



Substantial investment in community-led development



with approx. AU\$4.58 million in program expenditure

Intermediate Outcome 1: A strong civil society that responds to community aspirations

Partners demonstrated strong and consistent progress in strengthening civil society during 2024-25. All 10 implementing partners engaged in advocacy activities aimed at influencing government and other stakeholders, and nine partners reported tangible results from these efforts. Outcomes included policy and bylaw changes, improved service delivery, and greater recognition of community priorities in local development planning.

At the community level, partners reported that 1,218 local civil society groups were strengthened through SAID supported projects. These included Village Savings and Loan Associations, women's organisations, child rights clubs, faith-based groups, and organisations of persons with disabilities.

Through governance strengthening, technical assistance, partnership facilitation and targeted resourcing, projects supported communities to organise, advocate and engage more effectively with duty bearers.

These achievements reflect growing partner capacity to support advocacy that is locally grounded and systems oriented. In several contexts, advocacy extended beyond immediate project objectives, contributing to broader structural change. Partners also noted that sustaining advocacy structures beyond project timelines remains an ongoing challenge, highlighting an important area for continued learning.

4,202 farmers
were trained in sustainable
farming practices



1,930 farmers
reported yield
increases

**42% average
yield increases**
over the past 12 months



260 communities
reached
with initiatives to
reduce climate-
induced shocks
and stresses



Intermediate Outcome 2: Improved wellbeing for all people and communities

Evidence reported by partners shows clear and meaningful improvements in wellbeing for people and communities participating in SAID supported projects, consistent with a holistic understanding of wellbeing.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) projects enabled 8,898 people to gain access to and use improved and safe water through boreholes and water storage systems. Partners reported associated improvements in health outcomes, reduced time spent collecting water, and increased community engagement in water management.

Livelihoods and financial resilience were strengthened through Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) implemented by partners. Eight projects reported supporting 249 VSLA groups with 6,342 members, of whom 73 per cent were women and 8 per cent were people with disabilities. Over a 12-month period, these groups collectively saved AU\$471,552, averaging AU\$74 per member. Partners reported that these savings supported small business development, household stability, and the ability to manage economic shocks.

Food security and agricultural productivity also improved through partner implemented agriculture projects. During the year, 4,202 farmers were trained in sustainable agriculture practices, 2,903 reported adopting recommended techniques, and 1,930 reported yield increases. Among projects reporting percentage change, average yield increases were 42 per cent, indicating substantial productivity gains despite climatic variability.

Climate resilience initiatives reached 16,695 people across 260 communities, supporting reduced vulnerability to climate-induced shocks through climate-smart agriculture, water management, environmental conservation and disaster preparedness. Partners reported that women and girls comprised nearly 60 per cent of participants reached.

Child rights outcomes were also significant. In Indonesia, one partner-implemented project supported 41 children and young people to transition out of institutional care into family-based or independent living arrangements. Across multiple projects, partners reported improvements in children's emotional wellbeing, safety, social inclusion, and access to education.

Inclusion and intersectionality

Partners made notable progress in inclusive programming during 2024-25. Women and girls remained strongly represented among participants, and partners reported improvements in women's participation in decision-making, with women holding just over 50 per cent of leadership positions in reporting projects.

Participation by people with disabilities remained stable at 8 per cent, following significant increases compared with FY23. Gender equity within disability inclusion improved further, with women and girls comprising approximately two thirds of participants with disabilities. At the same time, partners reported a decline in representation of people with disabilities in leadership roles, highlighting the need to strengthen inclusive leadership pathways alongside participation.

Children's wellbeing and participation featured prominently in qualitative evidence, while partners and SAID-identified opportunities to strengthen child appropriate and ethical approaches to capturing children's perspectives more consistently.

Financial overview

Of total program expenditure, 93 per cent supported Community Development projects implemented by partners. WASH-related projects accounted for the largest share of funding (29 per cent), reflecting infrastructure requirements and population-level reach. Social justice and child rights projects represented a smaller proportion of participants but a higher proportion of funding, reflecting their intensive and systemic focus. The remaining 7 per cent of expenditure supported Mission Support projects.

Overall, expenditure patterns demonstrate a balanced portfolio, combining high-reach interventions with targeted investments aimed at long-term, transformational change.

Learning and reflections

Alongside these achievements, the first year of reporting under SAID's revised Theory of Change generated valuable learning. Partners and SAID staff identified opportunities to simplify indicators, strengthen outcome-level measurement, and streamline reporting processes to improve consistency and reduce reporting burden.



Qualitative wellbeing stories reported by partners provided rich insight into changes in dignity, confidence and social connection. At the same time, the predominance of positive narratives highlights the importance of developing tools that also capture challenges and unintended outcomes. Advocacy emerged as a particularly effective pathway for systemic change, while climate change reinforced the need to embed resilience across all project designs.

Taken together, these reflections help explain not only what was achieved during the year, but why these results matter and how future impact can be strengthened.

Conclusion

The 2024-25 effectiveness evidence demonstrates that SAID-supported partners and communities achieved meaningful and measurable results across diverse contexts. Partner-implemented projects reached large numbers of people, strengthened local civil society and supported tangible improvements in wellbeing, including access to water, livelihoods, food security, climate resilience and child protection.

These achievements reflect the strength of partnerships, the leadership of communities, and the growing capacity of implementing partners to influence systems as well as deliver services. They also underscore the value of SAID's role in providing resources, technical support and learning processes that enable partners to deliver high quality, inclusive and locally-led development.

Overall, the findings affirm that investments in partnerships, advocacy and community-driven approaches are contributing to positive and sustained change for the people and communities reached through SAID supported projects.

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Summary 2025**

*This Effectiveness Report is
also available on our website,
at [salvationarmy.org.au/
international-development/about/
annual-reports-and-publications](https://salvationarmy.org.au/international-development/about/annual-reports-and-publications).*



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