

# STORIES *of* IMPACT

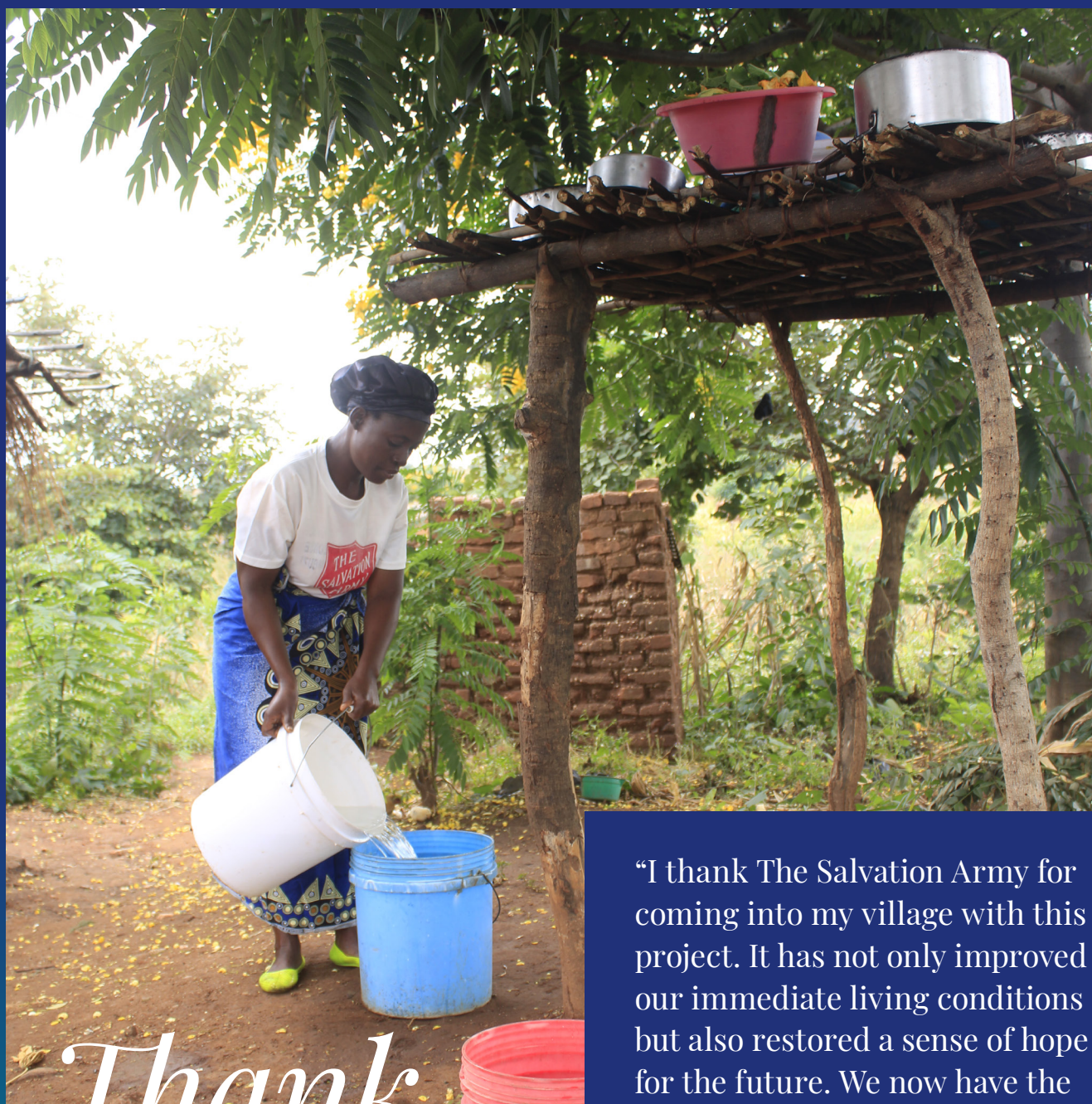
The difference you're making



International  
Development  
AUSTRALIA

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025



*Thank  
you!*

“I thank The Salvation Army for coming into my village with this project. It has not only improved our immediate living conditions but also restored a sense of hope for the future. We now have the tools to build a more secure, sustainable life.”

— Ellen, Malawi





## ADAPTABILITY, EMPATHY AND CONNECTION ACROSS CULTURES

My first year as Head of Department for SAID has been a whirlwind of learning, listening, travelling and marvelling at the amazing work being undertaken by the International Development Team.

**Amazing work, due almost entirely to you, our supporters and donors.**

During this year I have had the privilege of visiting Papua New Guinea, Rwanda and Kenya, where I spent most of my time in a state of amazement at how much is achieved with so little. These visits highlighted for me the importance of adaptability, empathy, and building relationships across cultures. A key lesson was to learn how to understand the nuances of local contexts and how we as the SAID team can prioritize sustainability and equitable approaches to development. One size does not fit all, and what will work in busy Nairobi will not work in provincial Papua New Guinea.

These lessons were very helpful when we came to develop our Annual Plan, as it helped me to see and understand what was important for our partner territories. Consequently, the Annual Plan's primary focus had to be on their needs first and secondly how we as a team could support them. This year we are focussing on the following:

- Child Participation and Empowerment
- Climate and Environmental Capabilities
- Lived Experience participation

It has been my absolute privilege to lead the SAID team, a very dedicated and committed staff who work with passion and enthusiasm to ensure The Salvation Army in Australia does its very best for our partner territories. It is my hope that as you read this newsletter you too will be inspired by the work we do and want to participate.

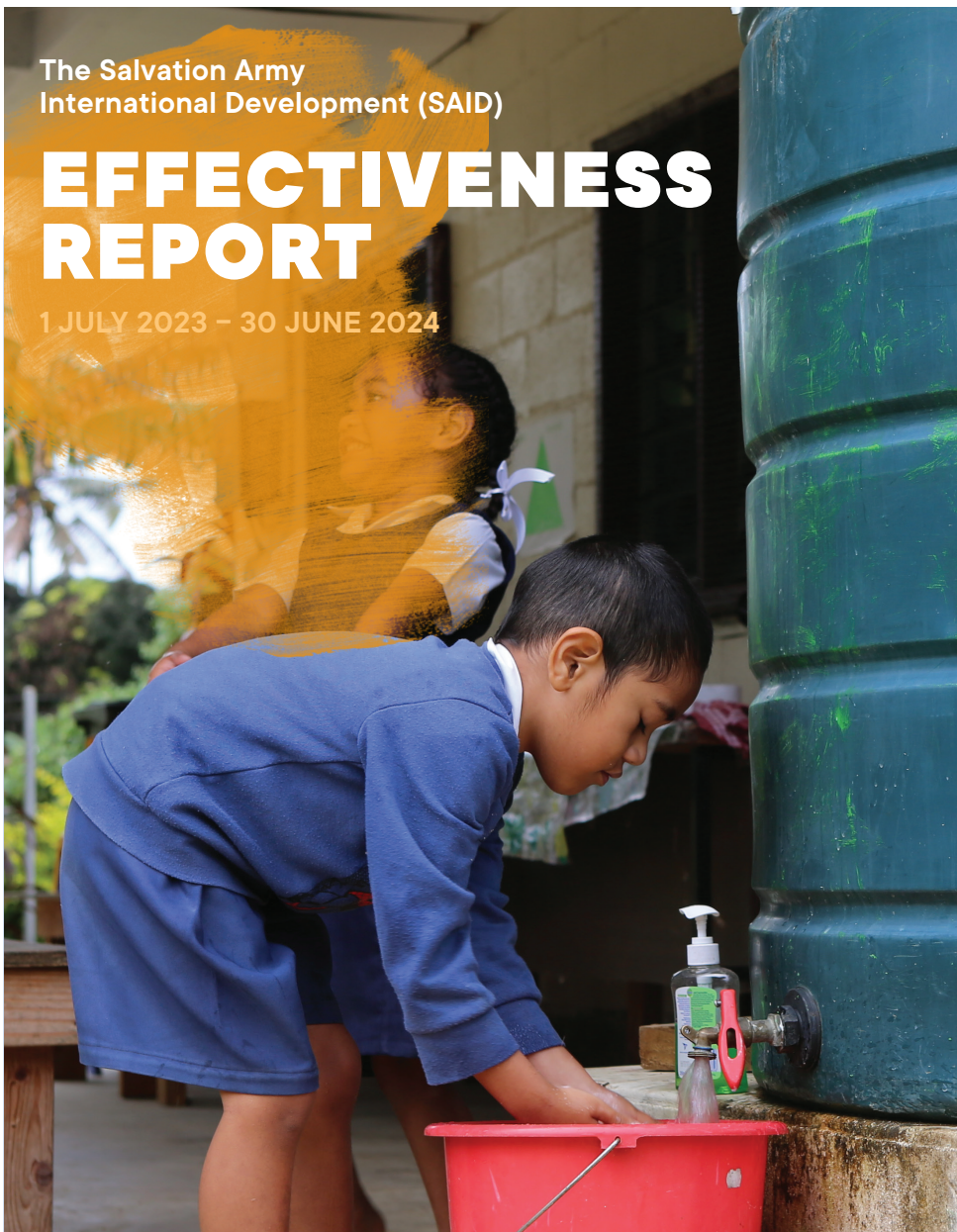
### Major Jenny Begent

Head of Salvation Army  
International Development

The Salvation Army  
International Development (SAID)

# EFFECTIVENESS REPORT

1 JULY 2023 – 30 JUNE 2024



## Exciting News!

We are delighted to share the SAID FY24 Effectiveness Report with our wider Salvation Army Australia community! This report highlights the impactful work done by The Salvation Army International Development (SAID) and our dedicated international partner Territories over the past year.

This report is a testament to the positive, meaningful, and sustainable impact we are making in communities around the world. We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate and support communities and individuals in achieving their goals.

**A special thank you to everyone who contributed to SAID's work through the Self Denial Appeal. Your generosity has played a crucial role in making these achievements possible.**

Both the [full-length report](#) and a [summary version](#) are linked for your review.



## Hope takes root: Ket's story of survival, strength and new beginnings in Malawi

**Imagine if putting food on the table was not just hard — it was a daily uncertainty. If no matter how hard you worked, your children still went to bed hungry. That was the reality for 37-year-old Ket, a mother of four living in Malawi's Salima District.**

Before The Salvation Army's WASH, Food Security and Resilience project arrived in her village, life was a relentless struggle. With no stable income, Ket and her husband relied on piece work — labouring in other people's homes and fields — just to afford a small amount of food each day.

"Before the project came into my area, it was difficult for us to find cash to meet household needs for day-to-day life," Ket says. "Life was very hard ... and survival was hand-to-mouth every day.

"What we were getting from those piece works was not enough to sustain the family," she explains.

Without financial resources or practical skills, it was impossible to improve their situation. Even buying vegetable seeds for a backyard garden was out of reach, despite Ket's keen interest in starting one.

Having to be out of the home for so much of the day also put a strain on family relationships Ket explains.

When the WASH project arrived in her village, Ket was among those selected for training on resilience-building activities, including backyard gardening and participation in a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA).

**"The training opened up my mind and gave me the needed knowledge and skills that I am using now to support my family," Ket says.**

With vegetable seeds provided by the project, she started her backyard garden — growing vegetables both for food and sale. The income she now earns has allowed her to make purchases she never dreamed possible, including school fees, groceries and even a chicken.

"This is my first season to do this business, and I have not made much money to meet my expectation, but there is hope that I will make more money in the future," Ket says. "I am happy that what I am getting from selling vegetables is more than what I was getting from piece work."

More than the financial benefit, with your support, the project has restored balance and hope at home for Ket and her family.

"My backyard garden has helped me to spare time to take care of my home and my family, and this has helped to strengthen the relationships in my family because I spend much of my time at home as compared with the past," she shares.

Ket has also joined a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) — a community savings group where members pool their money and can take out small loans when needed. These groups offer financial security and opportunities that were previously unavailable.

Looking ahead, Ket plans to expand her garden, purchase more seed for the 2025 farming season, and buy livestock to support her business.

She dreams of one day opening a shop and having a bigger farm to further support her family's income.

**"The project has helped to improve the wellbeing of my family," Ket says. "I am now living a better life compared to before the project."**

Today, Ket is able to feed her children, support their education, and plan for the future. **"I thank The Salvation Army for coming with this project in my area," she says.**





## Your generosity is growing God's kingdom in the Solomon Islands

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

**Matthew 28:19–20 NIV**

Thanks to your support, this command is being lived out — village by village.



**making  
it happen**

2023 - 2024

**What began as a vision to house local officers and serve the community has grown into a project supporting two corps and future officer training.**

For the past seven years, Majors Robert and Vanessa Evans have served as district officers for The Salvation Army in Honiara, capital of the Solomon Islands. With The Salvation Army only established there 13 years ago, the Evanses have played a key role in laying strong spiritual and practical foundations — especially in their vision to raise up Indigenous leaders to pastor village churches.

In 2023, The Salvation Army's Making it Happen campaign set out to raise funds to build and furnish a home for local officers and their families — a place that would also serve as a missional hub for the surrounding village.

“Our three mission priorities are to raise up Indigenous leaders, structure financial sustainability and expand mission,” Robert explains. “The mission is expanding all by itself. It is hard to keep up with that. Because [of] word of mouth, we have gone from 70 soldiers to 310 soldiers, two churches to 13 churches...”

**Thanks to your generosity, that original goal was not only met but exceeded beyond all expectations, with the campaign raising over \$200,000 AUD — more than 1 million Solomon Islands Dollars.**

With the funds raised, the team can now do even more:

- Build officer quarters for a village community on one of the outer islands
- Purchase a second property for officers' quarters in the capital, Honiara
- Free up current officers to attend The Salvation Army Officers Training College in Papua New Guinea, knowing new officers will have a place to stay.

(Both officer homes are expected to be secured and construction completed by the end of 2025.)

“The overwhelming generosity... has been phenomenal,” Vanessa says.







**making  
it happen**  
2025-2026

## New project for 2025-2026

**By Jenny Begent, Head of The  
Salvation Army International  
Development (SAID)**

**My first visit as Head of SAID  
was to Papua New Guinea —  
an experience I will not forget.**

What stays with me is the state of our women's refuge at Elia Beach. Having worked in social services, I know what modern refuges look like. But not in PNG. Women were crammed into small rooms, sleeping on mats side by side, their children close by.

Though the refuge is modest, the staff are doing incredible work educating and equipping women for independence, employment and supporting their children.

The refuge is one of only four in Port Moresby, and the need is growing.



Family and domestic violence is rising and deeply affects women and children.

According to the PNG National Statistical Office<sup>1</sup>:

- 56% of women aged 15 to 49 have experienced physical violence since age 15
- 28% have experienced sexual violence
- 18% of women who have been pregnant have experienced violence during pregnancy

This violence holds women back from fully joining society and the economy. Fear stops them reaching their potential. That is why our 2025 Making it Happen project is so critical.

Your support may help to renovate the existing facility, provide extra accommodation, furniture and life skills support – all essential for women to stand on their own feet – and your evangelical giving may encourage officers and staff and help train them in how to effectively respond to women escaping domestic violence.

I commend this powerful work to you and pray you will support us to make a real difference for the women of PNG.

Will you please make a difference today – visit:

[salvationarmy.org.au/making-it-happen](https://salvationarmy.org.au/making-it-happen)

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nso.gov.pg/census-surveys/demographic-and-health-survey/>





### From abuse to love — Ben's story

“We all deserve love. Not because of how we look, but because we are human.”

#### — Ben

With a warm smile and quiet confidence, 17-year-old Ben now speaks out for young people with albinism or disabilities in Eastern Uganda. He dreams of becoming a skin doctor so that others who look like him can feel seen, understood and cared for. But that dream was born from deep pain.

Growing up in a small rural village, Ben faced harsh discrimination from the very beginning. Born with

albinism, he was misunderstood — even feared — by neighbours and extended family members who saw his condition as a curse. Children mocked him, teachers didn't always understand his needs and he was often left out of games and classroom activities.

At school, his sun-sensitive skin made outdoor time difficult, and his limited eyesight meant reading the blackboard was a challenge. Without proper support, Ben often found himself isolated — not because of his condition, but because the world around him hadn't yet learned how to welcome difference.

By the age of 13, the emotional toll became too heavy. “I told my parents I didn't see a future for myself,” he says. He had also heard chilling stories of people with albinism being hunted for ritual sacrifice in a neighbouring country.

But his parents — strong and determined — refused to let him

fade into the background. His father reached out to the Children of the Rural Community (CORC) project, which supports young people with disabilities and promotes inclusion and dignity.

Through CORC, Ben joined a child rights club. For the first time, he met others with shared experiences — children who knew what it felt like to be excluded or misunderstood, but who were learning to thrive. The group offered counselling, taught children about their rights and gave them the confidence to speak up. With a mentor to support him and advocate on his behalf, Ben's school experience began to change.

Then came poetry.

**Encouraged by CORC's social workers, Ben began writing about his journey — the pain, the hope and the healing. Performing his poems at community events gave him a voice, and something beautiful began to happen. His words challenged assumptions and changed hearts.**

Today, Ben is more than a survivor.

He now speaks at community gatherings, encouraging young people with albinism or disabilities to believe in their worth. His former bullies are now his friends. The village that once judged him now celebrates him. And in a proud moment, Ben was appointed as the national student representative for learners with disabilities and albinism by the Uganda National Students Association.

“We all deserve love. Not because of how we look, but because we are human,” Ben says.

Ben's story is a powerful reminder of what can happen when young people are included, empowered — and heard. **Thank you for your support and care. It is genuinely transforming lives, families and communities.**



**IN FY2023-2024, IN THE SALVATION ARMY  
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:**



**74,065**

**people impacted**  
by SAID projects



**44,160**

**women & girls**  
= 60% of participants



**79%**

**of children**  
experienced decreased  
vulnerability



**61%**

**of farmers**  
benefitted by  
increased yield



**21,000+**

**people**  
helped by improved  
water source



**6501**

**persons**  
with disabilities reached



**94%**

**people reached**  
live in Africa Zone  
(Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda,  
Tanzania, Uganda)

**UPDATE**



## Hope and a Future Update!

Thanks to your generous support, over \$200,000 was raised through the 2023 Christmas Day Offering Appeal, empowering emerging young leaders from Papua New Guinea (PNG) to develop leadership skills through a unique international experience. In July 2025, a new cohort of young adults completed their training and ran the Brisbane Marathon. They've achieved more than they ever imagined, overcoming hardship, gaining confidence in their studies, growing spiritually and building hope for the future.

## Your generosity will transform lives!

**Do you want to make a  
real and lasting difference  
in some of the most  
vulnerable and marginalised  
communities in the world?**

The Salvation Army International Development (SAID) fosters the growth of healthier and safer communities. Your support benefits children, individuals and families by working alongside entire communities to achieve sustainable livelihoods and agricultural practices, food security, clean water and hygiene facilities, quality education and compassionate pastoral care.

### ONLINE

[Click here to donate](https://salvationarmy.org.au/SAID) or visit  
[salvationarmy.org.au/SAID](https://salvationarmy.org.au/SAID)

### CREDIT CARD

Call 1300 727 252

### DIRECT DEBIT

**BSB:** 083-004  
**Account:** 37 080 3038  
**Account Name:**  
TSA Self Denial Overseas Aid

**NB:** Please email  
[overseasaid@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:overseasaid@salvationarmy.org.au)  
to let us know of your donation so  
that it can be attributed to you.

### CHEQUE

**Made payable to:**  
The Salvation Army (VIC) Property  
Trust Self Denial Overseas Aid  
**Post to:**  
The Salvation Army  
Locked Bag 3010,  
Nunawading VIC 3131



**International  
Development**  
AUSTRALIA

### The Salvation Army

Locked Bag 3010,  
NUNAWADING VIC 3131

1300 727 252

[overseasaid@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:overseasaid@salvationarmy.org.au)  
[salvationarmy.org.au/SAID](https://salvationarmy.org.au/SAID)

ABN: 52 609 689 893