



Scripture Union International

God's Big Story transforming young lives



2019
ANNUAL
REPORT

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

www.scriptureunion.global

Dear friends and supporters of Scripture Union...



We have worked in restricted countries as well as those with a long history of Christianity. We have worked with small groups and with huge numbers, depending on each country and context. We have worked with children from a Christian background and those who have not heard about Jesus before.

God has given grace and blessed our work in many ways, and we look back on 2019 with thankfulness and gratitude.

This edition of our Annual Report will tell you some of these stories.

We thank you for your ongoing support and your prayers.



Even though it may feel different in the Global North, Christianity is growing around the world, especially in the Global South. Although this is encouraging, we know there is still much to be done. Too many children are living without the knowledge of a loving God who is longing for a deep relationship with them. And each new generation has to discover afresh what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and how to live out the Gospel in ways that will have a positive impact on society.

This is the long-term vision that drives the National Movements of Scripture Union. They want to

see young people and families become lifelong disciples of Jesus, who will share the Good News with their friends and work together for the good of their communities.

The year 2019 suffered no disruptions from COVID-19 and ongoing ministry was conducted in more than 120 countries across the world. The SUI Global Team worked hard to support the National Movements in their efforts to develop effective ministry, to further their mission in new areas and to become more sustainable as local organisations.



Monika Kuschmierz
International Director



Christian Hellwig
International Chair



Aims



Scripture Union

God's Big Story transforming young lives

Working with the churches, Scripture Union aims to:

- make God's Good News known to children, young people and families, and
- encourage people of all ages to meet God daily through the Bible and prayer,

so that they may come to find personal faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, grow in Christian maturity and become both committed church members and servants to a world in need.

This is how we are working to support and connect Scripture Union movements across 120 countries



supporting ministry



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

"It was a great joy to hear from the National Coordinator that the official papers had come through and SU Ecuador is now an official entity."



connecting communities



We connect national movements to a supportive, interdependent community to strengthen one another in our shared life and mission.

"A national chair and director from a neighbouring Scripture Union Movement decided to connect with key players in the restricted country's underground church and youth structures to help support the ministry of SU."

Around the world with Scripture Union...

nurturing partnerships



We act as a trusted partner with international Christian agencies and churches, fostering partnerships and connections with national movements.

"The SU Kosovo sports ministry worker has been instrumental, along with staff from Scripture Union in Canada, Croatia and Portugal, in exploring new possibilities for sports ministry as well as shaping and strengthening Scripture Union's work across many movements."



Join us on a journey 

securing sustainability



We help the national movements to achieve sustainability, unlocking resources for further development of Scripture Union globally.

"2019 was a milestone for SU Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam which has developed into a vibrant almost self-sustaining ministry over the past six years."





supporting ministry

The ministry of Scripture Union is as diverse as the countries and cultures where our teams serve. We are committed to building relationships and to long term discipleship with a concern for every area of the life of children and young people.



What's been happening in Ecuador?

Young people in Ecuador have been experiencing God in new ways thanks to the work of SU Ecuador. Now they are officially registered with the government, the hope is their ministries will go from strength to strength.

Our Latin America Field Development Director, Davi Kruklis, explains: "I heard about the great opportunities SU Ecuador was having at a Latin American Community Group meeting, but at the same time, the difficulties they were facing as a small National Movement. This was partly because, although they had been operating for many years, they were not legally registered in the country as an organisation. After long conversations, the leaders returned to Ecuador determined to change that situation.

"In 2019 SU Ecuador managed to bring in four board members to register the Unión Bíblica Ecuador as a legal entity. The registration process took a long time, so it was a great joy some months later to hear from Jessica Gallardo (the National Coordinator) that the official papers had come through and that SU Ecuador now finally officially exists."

Davi has been mentoring SU Ecuador's new board members and supporting the movement in its next phase to help them find new ways to grow their school and sports ministry throughout the country.



Let's go to the beach!

Leaders of Scripture Union Ecuador, who had been working with a group of young people in schools, formed a floorball team as a way of reaching the young people through sport. In each practice the team received a short talk around a Biblical theme during the snack breaks, sharing the Bible in a new and vibrant way.

Scripture Union leaders Jessy Gallardo and Amy Carlson explain: "In 2019 we proposed a trip to the beach with the team, as many of them had never been to the ocean. We recognised that it would be a great challenge as we worked among families with economic restrictions, and parental agreement from split homes would be difficult to obtain. Truly wanting to be able to

"With all of these grand experiences etched on their hearts, the most important milestone during this trip was that the majority of the team gave their lives to Christ in a new way."

include everyone, without leaving anyone behind, we trusted God and put this project into his capable hands.

Everyone got to work with various activities to raise funds, coupled with the generosity of overseas sponsors, meant we collected enough money for a thrifty trip to the seaside. We were ecstatic – both the young people and those of us who dreamed of what was in store for them!

Arriving at the beach, their happiness was tangible. The amusement of watching these "grown

up kids" for the first time at the beach was worth all the hard work. They didn't want to get out of the water! Over the course of these three magnificent days, various activities were organised. Prayer and devotions, everyone taking turns cooking and serving meals, night-time walks on the beach, photo shoots, inspirational talks, pool time, bonfires, being together. With all of these grand experiences etched on their hearts, the most important milestone during this trip was that the majority of the team gave their lives to Christ in a new way."



Last year more than **8.5 million** children and young people took part in **Scripture Union activities** across **120 countries** supported by more than **42,000 volunteers.**

More than **18.5 million** creative and Bible resources were produced for distribution.



'Food for life' in Papua New Guinea



**supporting
ministry**

A school feeding programme set up by **Scripture Union Papua New Guinea** has been praised in the local media and by school leaders. The innovative scheme is also aiming to expand thanks to support from SUI Field Development Director for Asia and the Pacific, Lim Teck Boon.

He explained, "After Scripture Union visited the school one morning with breakfast for more than 100 students, the Deputy Chairman of a Primary School Board said, 'They (SU) should come more often, not because of the food, but to share the word of God with the students before they go for classes.'

"SU started feeding the students after seeing a student faint during an SU school prayer meeting because he had not eaten all day. They discovered many of the students from poor families went to school each day without breakfast. Reminded of the story of the five loaves and two fishes, the Scripture Union volunteers took from their own pockets with the little they had, to bless as many as they

could. They called this the SUmatin (Student) Feed Program.

"SU started the 'SUmatin Feed' with one school in 2018 and by 2019 they were feeding students in four schools. This simple act soon caught the attention of the public. A parent posted on Facebook expressing appreciation to SU. School teachers thanked the team saying the students had now become more alert and attentive in class.

"The smile on the kids' faces is the reason why I will always volunteer for SU!"

"One volunteer on the programme said, "The smile on the kids' faces is the reason why I will always volunteer for Scripture Union!"

"With support from Teck Boon, in developing a strategic plan, they hope to expand the programme further to feed 12 schools and to establish SU Student Fellowship Clubs in all schools in Papua New Guinea."



New hope in a restricted country

All around the world some SU teams are forced to operate in secret due to government restrictions on sharing the Christian faith. SUI Field Development Director for English speaking Africa, Tony Nzanzah, explains how members of SU Community Groups are offering support to countries who find their ministry under threat from the authorities.



activities of citizens. As a result of this system, there is no freedom for church leaders to openly share God's word and therefore many evangelical churches operate underground.

"The Scripture Union team was also able to connect with youth fellowships that have been recognised by the underground churches. They work mainly with college and university students, and in future hope to work with primary and high school students also. Scripture Union in this restricted country aims to find other credible youth organisations that they can partner with to roll out some of the Scripture Union programmes around Bible Engagement.

"Now that the door is open with the underground church in this country, we are trusting God for opportunities for engagement and ministry with children and young people."

"Last year we had the privilege of having a member from a restricted country joining our Community Group meeting. During the meeting, a national chair and director from a neighbouring Scripture Union Movement was tasked to connect with key players in the country's underground church and youth structures to help support the ministry of Scripture Union.

"They visited the country in 2019 and met with different groups including leaders of the student fellowships and prominent

"Now that the door is open with the underground church in this country, we are trusting God for opportunities for engagement and ministry."

underground church leaders. As religious activities are restricted in the country, they had to be very careful about how and where they met. They were told the government has representatives in every village who monitor the movement and



**connecting
communities**

Our Field Development Directors (FDDs) help bring together key leaders of Scripture Union movements through Community Groups. These meetings help small and large movements share training, stories, information and support and encourage one another.

Helping churches re-engage with youth

Scripture Union movements in different countries have been supporting one another in the challenge to re-engage children and young people in the church.

Children's Ministry Consultant, Annette Osbourne, who splits her working week between SUI and SU New Zealand, tells their story...

"If you knew for sure that 50% of your church membership would leave in the next 15 years and not go to any other church, what would you do?" This was the question that confronted SU New Zealand in 2013, whilst attending a conference in Australia to consider

the crisis emerging as large numbers of children and young people disengage from church. In response, we were given the go-ahead to take the Australian initiative 'Here2Stay' and adapt it for our own context; 'You're Losing Us' was born.

"'You're Losing Us' was a whole church consultation, allowing everyone including senior leadership, parents, youth and children's leaders to meet together and discern a way forward. We encouraged churches to face the reality head on, as well as provide a framework for change. We have since conducted these consultations all around New Zealand, with a wide

range of churches, sparking lots of great conversations.

"In 2019 we relaunched a new approach to renewing lifelong discipleship called 'THRIVE'.

"SU New Zealand is offering to journey with individual churches over the course of a year, offering practical ideas and training to enable all ages to thrive."





**securing
sustainability**

We help national movements in achieving sustainability, unlocking resources for further development of Scripture Union globally.



Making dreams into a reality in Vietnam

"It began with a team of just nine young people who launched a three-day Vacation Bible School curriculum for children with the passion to: *reach a child, win a soul, a life, and a generation.*" We had no idea that God was using those small steps to expand our ministry to partner and serve the local churches."

Esther Phan

When a new Scripture Union movement is born, it's definitely time for celebration, but how do an enthusiastic group of young people sustain their ministries without relying on outside help?

Field Development Director for Asia and the Pacific, Lim Teck Boon, is an expert in helping Movements make the transition from being 'receivers' to 'givers'. He explains...

"When SU Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) – South Vietnam – was restarted in 2010, the leader, Esther Phan, was operating the ministry with an annual grant from the East-West Asia region. That fund provided some ministry opportunities, but Esther was dreaming for something

much bigger. In 2013 I began walking alongside Esther and her team to help them bring their dreams into reality.

"All we have is a group of willing staff and volunteers, and a great powerful God. And when our resources are small, God shows Himself big."

"2019 was a milestone for SU HCMC, which has now developed into a vibrant almost self-sustaining ministry over the past six years. The team has increased their income stream from a grant of \$4,000 to a combined annual income of \$74,000.

"Instrumental in their development was their passionate and united leadership, led by Esther. The team is constantly seeking to learn and to grow in their ministry. They also had a clear vision and rolled out a range of locally produced creative ministries such as a 52-week Sunday School curriculum, a Vacation Bible Study programme, and an online Children's Bible, attracting many local churches throughout Vietnam.

"SU HCMC runs annual children's and youth camps which are always fully booked with a long waiting list. The team have also developed a wide source of income through selling resources and fundraising. They produce and sell creative teaching aids to accompany the curriculums and all staff and volunteers are trained to be fundraisers."

Esther writes, "Each year across Vietnam, we now have the privilege of training at least 300 teachers, more than 100 churches and 2,500 children using our materials. We run the ministry without owning any equipment... All we have is a group of willing staff and volunteers, and a great powerful God. And when our resources are small, God shows Himself big."



In 2019 our **6** Field Development Directors visited **66** countries and flew **280,675** miles.





**nurturing
partnerships**

We act as a trusted partner with international Christian agencies and churches, fostering partnerships and connections with national movements.



Football and faith in Kosovo

Playing games and joining in with sport is a traditional element of Scripture Union ministry, so it's no surprise that new partnerships are blossoming through sport.

SUI's Children's Ministry Consultant, Terry Williams, explains how he and other Scripture Union staff have been supporting an exciting new sports partnership in Kosovo.

"Kosovo is a landlocked country of 1.8 million people, with Christians as a minority.

Sport has been a key element of Scripture Union in Kosovo from its earliest beginnings when the Movement began there in 2015.

I was excited to see new connections being made with the Global Sports Movement when I visited the country in 2017. A dedicated SU Kosovo sports ministry worker has been instrumental, along with staff from Scripture Union in Canada, Croatia and Portugal, in exploring new possibilities for sports ministry, as well as shaping and strengthening Scripture Union's work across many movements.

A major event in the Scripture Union calendar each year was the Easter Football Tournament Celebrating Resurrection with

"SU Kosovo is seeing the potential of the universal language of SPORT to effectively outwork the aim of Scripture Union in the country."

teams from Kosovo and from some neighbouring countries taking part. Based on the success and popularity of this event, in 2019 a weekly Christian football league was launched after the Easter competition.

In a follow up visit the same year, I was able to train more than 30

sports coaches and captains prior to the launch. While competition had to be suspended in 2020, (the last games were played on the same day the Kosovo Government passed the decision for the whole country to go into lockdown) a group was created on the internet with team captains and sports ministry leaders which allowed for individual daily conversations to take place.

Many children and families have experienced the Good News of hope through KidsGames camps, and there are plans for these to multiply when restrictions are eased. SU Kosovo is seeing the potential of the universal language of SPORT to effectively outwork the aim of Scripture Union in the country.



They helped facilitate **9** Community Group meetings where **91** countries were represented.



Finance Report for the year ended 31 December 2019

Throughout 2019 we were grateful to God for his continued gracious provision of the finances needed to sustain our global ministry.

Through the faithful giving of God's people, SU1 has been able to progress its ministry of supporting and enabling the work of SU teams around the world, as they reach out to millions of children, young people and their families. It is a tremendous encouragement to see how this sacrificial giving has enabled this work, which is having a profound impact on so many young lives in a variety of contexts and cultures.

SU1 is not a wealthy organisation, so we must ensure that all the money we receive is used wisely, efficiently and as economically as possible. We are very conscious of the trust that has been placed in us, so we will always do our best to ensure that we are good stewards. We remain accountable to God and to all our supporters for the way in which we use the resources provided to us.

In 2019 we could not have envisaged the challenges that we would face in 2020 as a result of the global pandemic. But we have a faithful God and, although we are not immune financially from the impact of the virus, up to the time of writing this report we have managed to discharge our obligations both to our staff and the global community we serve.

In faithful service,



David

David B Thompson
BSc (Econ) CMC FIC FCA
Scripture Union International
Honorary Treasurer

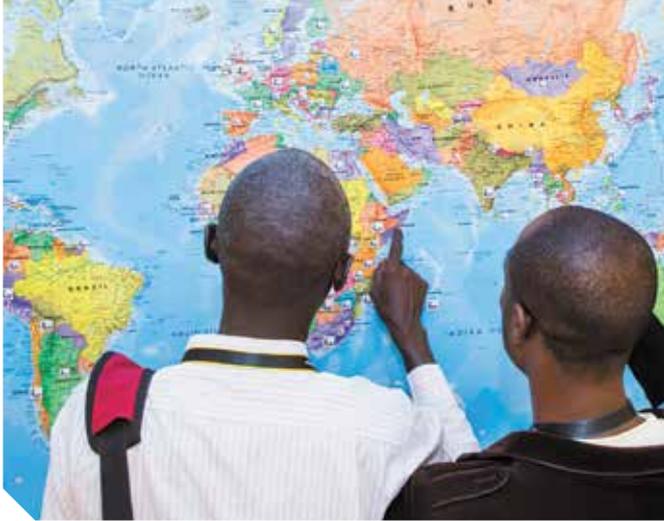
FINANCE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

	£ 2019	%	£ 2018	%
2019 Income				
Restricted Income for Movements	247,200	29%	645,000	44%
Donations and Legacies	527,500	62%	642,900	44%
Restricted Income for Ministry Activities	66,800	8%	69,500	5%
Charitable Activities	7,800	1%	6,400	0%
Investments and Other Income	900	0%	700	0%
Europe Region Income	–	0%	110,000	7%
	850,200	100%	1,474,500	100%
2019 Expenditure				
Grant Funding	223,100	24%	304,500	29%
Field Development	187,900	20%	209,600	20%
Global Strategy Training	392,000	42%	110,000	10%
Other Support Activities	49,300	5%	107,500	10%
Bible, Children and Youth Work	83,300	9%	65,600	6%
General	–	0%	259,000	25%
	935,600	100%	1,056,200	100%

BALANCE SHEET

	£ 2019	£ 2018
Current Assets		
Debtors	182,575	191,602
Cash at Bank and in Hand	976,095	1,128,948
	1,158,670	1,320,550
Current liabilities		
	(19,063)	(65,478)
Net Assets	1,139,607	1,255,072
Income Funds		
Restricted Funds	576,214	699,710
Designated Funds	250,914	253,210
Unrestricted Funds	312,479	302,152
	1,139,607	1,255,072





2019 INCOME

- Restricted Income for Movements (£247,200)
- Donations and Legacies (£527,500)
- Restricted Income for Ministry Activities (£66,800)
- Charitable Activities (£7,800)
- Investments and Other Income (£900)



2019 EXPENDITURE

- Grant Funding (£223,100)
- Field Development (£187,900)
- Global Training Strategy (£392,000)
- Other Support Activities (£49,300)
- Bible, Children and Youth Work (£83,300)



WHERE OUR INCOME COMES FROM

Our total income for 2019 was £850,200.

SUI is heavily reliant upon two main sources of income:

62% (£527,500) of our income is given through donations and legacies from national movements and donors.

29% (£247,200) is received from national movements and is allocated for spending on specific ministry purposes.

These restricted funds are set aside and spent on the projects for which the monies have been designated by the donors. A large portion of this money is given back to national movements through grants to support them in the furtherance of the work of Scripture Union in the countries they serve.

The remaining 9% of income comes from various sources and helps to fund the operational costs of running the global team.

WHERE YOUR MONEY IS SPENT

Our total expenditure for 2019 was £935,600.

24% of expenses was used to provide support grants given directly to national movements. In addition, we helped them by contributing to the costs of community group meetings, training and other ministry expenses.

Field development accounted for 20% of expenditure. We are encouraged by the positive progress that has been made in supporting and strengthening the regions through the work of our Field Development Directors. Collaboration and partnership in this way is a key priority area of our global strategy.

Over half of our expenditure was incurred in the delivery of the SUI global strategy through various initiatives including training of national movement leaders, staff and volunteers. We also invested heavily in preparing and delivering resources and support targeted at Bible Engagement, Children and Youth Work.

Finally, we continued to reduce our administrative costs through a series of improvements, and this will remain a key process throughout 2020.

Scripture Union seeks to make God's Good News known through a variety of ministries around the world relying on the Holy Spirit and following the call of Jesus to make disciples.



Scripture Union

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Scripture Union International
Lytchett House, 13 Freeland Park
Wareham Road, Poole
Dorset, BH16 6FA
United Kingdom

www.scriptureunion.global
info@scriptureunion.global