



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20





FROM THE TEAM

Hi Friends,

Life feels both fast and slow at the moment and writing this report in the midst of a global pandemic is surreal.

But, we have good stories to tell you about how your generosity is making a difference in the lives of the Girls we support. And, as always we continue to learn from our Fiji community about what resilience looks like and how to just keep going.

At the start of 2019 we put a call out to our Australian supporters saying we had come to the point in our journey where we needed to wind down or take a Girl & her world to the next level. While the team in Fiji continued to do the work in community, our (volunteer) Sydney team were finding it hard to keep up with all that's required to remain a registered charity along with reporting and fundraising efforts here.

We were thrilled to hear from some wonderful women saying they wanted to connect and over time we welcomed Barbara, Colleen, Seema and Felicity to the team. Between them they bring many years of experience in management and governance, fundraising, data management, mentoring and creativity.

We've also had other talented friends come in and out with admin, organisational effectiveness and social media skills and we're super grateful for everyone's contribution!

So, slowly but with renewed enthusiasm, we're taking things to the next level. Thank you for sticking with us and investing in Girls' education. It's a joy to hear the ways this work is meaningful to you and why it resonates with your stories.

Warmly,

JANE KENNEDY

FOR TEAM A GIRL & HER WORLD

GIRLS BACK TO UNI

We have supported four girls in 2019 and 2020 to get to University.

A few years ago as our first cohort of Girls started to finish high school and think about their future, we started to see the very real gaps in Girls being able to get to Uni and stay there. Much like we saw in 2011, with barriers to Girls getting to school and staying there, Uni was now going to be the next hurdle.

Since 2011, the Fijian Government has taken responsibility for school fees, bus fares (within a certain kilometre radius to school), many schools now have wifi access and students are provided with textbooks. This is a Government's responsibility and we are encouraged to see stability in these areas.

Barriers to school now include covering travel fares where Girls live a long way out, uniforms, stationery, or access to sanitary pads and other menstrual health items such as soap. These are not provided by schools.

We found the Uni barriers include the upfront enrolment fee, travel to and from Uni or needing accommodation around Uni. Laptops, books, stationery and daily living costs have all been prohibitive for our Girls, even when a scholarship has been provided to cover fees.

We have supported four Girls in 2019 and 2020 to get to Uni and stay there. They are studying business/commerce, hospitality, medicine and police work; and they managed to stay up to date even with the restrictions around COVID-19. They understand the power of education to change their lives!



AT A GLANCE

Who do we support?

One of the many families we work with is a family of four Girls ranging from year 2 to year 10. They are being raised by their mother and were referred to us by Social Welfare this year. Their mother was running a small livestock business to support her daughters, but her goats were stolen and they were not able to live solely on what she was getting from the government. Every day she walks her four daughters nearly 5kms up a steep hill to the main road to catch the school bus. Their house is not secured and doesn't have an adequate kitchen or bathroom or beds to sleep on.



With families like these, we assist with getting the Girls whatever they need to stay in school and help overcome any immediate barriers. We then look at ways we can work with them and their families. This includes strategies to rebuild their small businesses and ensuring they are better supported by their community. The gratitude from these families is immense. They know how important it is for their children to be educated.



HIGHLIGHTS

During 2019 - 2020 we helped girls set up their own small business, along with assisting parents with small scale income generating projects

We were pleased to hear that one of the Girls we assisted through school and then on to vocational study a few years ago, has now set up her own bakery business. She is running the business from home after getting work experience at a local hotel. Urmila worked with her to get a work permit so she can operate formally from home and already has a number of regular customers.

In 2019 we supported 67 Girls to get back to school and 3 Girls to University.

In 2020 we supported 74 Girls to get back to school and 3 Girls to University.



Fiji Fashion Week - Supporting Girls is in fashion

We were thrilled to be the charity supported by the 2019 Fiji Fashion Week!

Urmila and one of the Girls we have supported attended the charity lunch event in Suva where the group raised more than \$800.

Our Australian team in turn, attended the Bula Ball at Darling Harbour in Sydney. This was to help them raise funds for the Fijian fashion students they support by providing access to industry training.



INCOME GENERATING

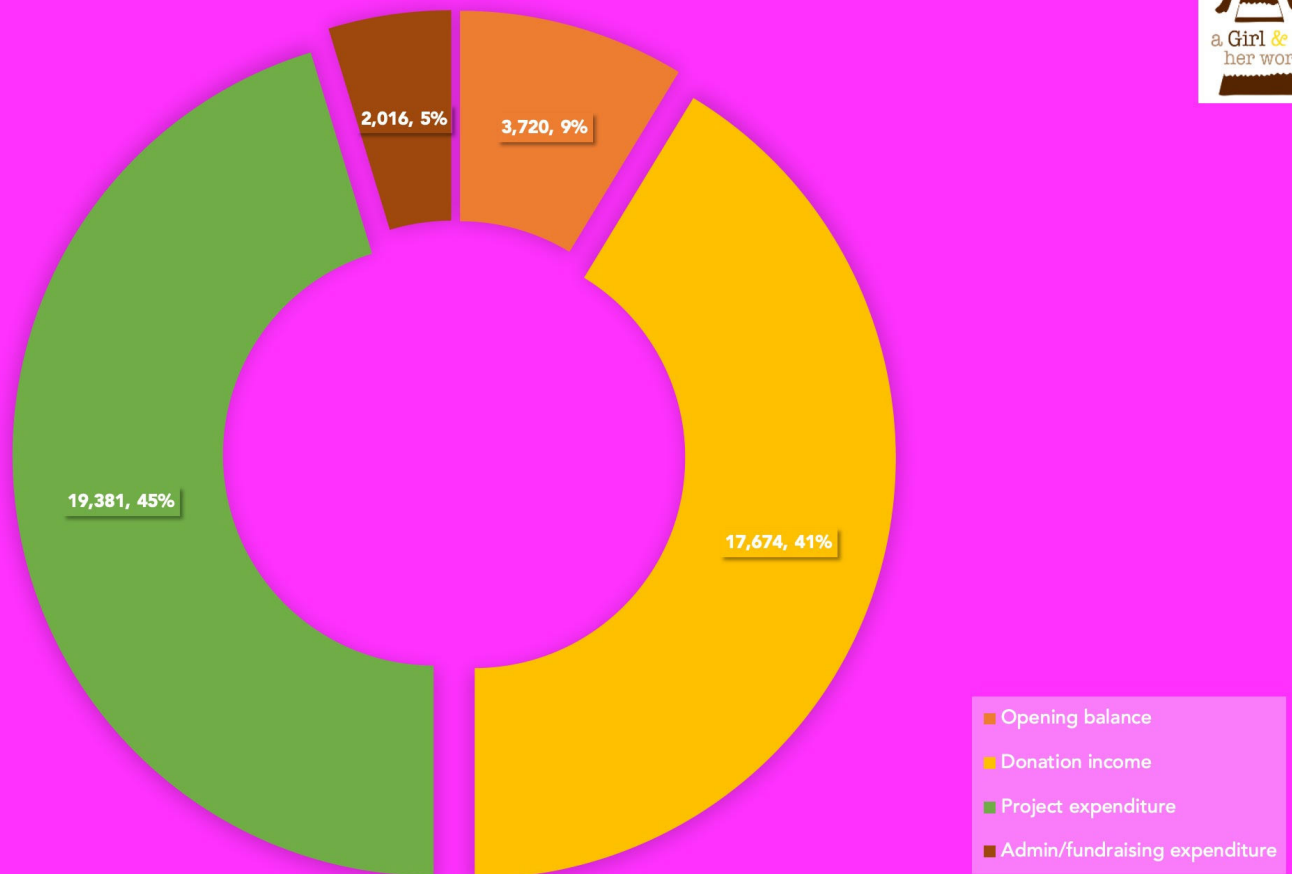
We have been involved in some small-scale income generating projects with parents over the last few years. We have trained small businesses with practical skills such as soap making and creating fabric sanitary pads. In a rural area taking products to market can be challenging and many of the families we work with have limited access to computers and internet.

We are looking into ways we can apply for grants to strengthen this side of our program and increase people's self sufficiency with dignity. We think the best way to do this is to partner with local income generating groups and women's organisations and we are looking at ways we can do this in the coming year.



FINANCES

2019/20 Incomings & Outgoings Summary



Cyclone Harold during COVID-19 lockdown

It's hard to believe that this sunset photo was taken the evening that Tropical Cyclone Harold tore through Fiji in April. Our coordinator Urmila and her neighbours lost their fruit and vegetable gardens and many of their other plants. Many of the families of the Girls we support lost homes and all their belongings. We provided emergency assistance to 5 families most in need which included essential food and daily items and seeds to help them replant. Urmila has also replanted her lentil bushes and veggie plants and they are starting to grow again.



During the anxiety of COVID19 lockdown, our community also had to manage the impact of a category 5 cyclone. Thankfully after everything they went through just a few years ago after TC Winston, they were better prepared and able to shelter early.

Urmila is also a member of the local Fiji Red Cross Society and has volunteered for years helping people prepare for disasters. She joined their team going from house to house making sure people had enough soup and knew how to thoroughly wash their hands for 20 seconds as COVID19 was spreading.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Our great friends the German International School Sydney every year sell products made by the Girls we support or their mums and organise events such as fun runs and stalls. In the last twelve months they have raised more than \$1500!



They travel every year to visit our community but weren't able to so this year due to travel restrictions. We are grateful for the ways they are thinking creatively about supporting us in the midst of so much change.

We are always open to creative ideas and encourage other supporters to reach out to us and get involved however they can.

The German International School uses GoFundraise as a tool to help them raise funds for events. You can too! We're registered with GoFundraise and it's easy to set up and hold an event, even a virtual one, a walk around a park, a read-a-thon, or whatever you like. We value everyone's contribution.

Thanks also for buying our cakes each Christmas, they raise significant funds to get Girls back to school each year.

