



# Annual Report 2021 - 2022



## From The Team

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Hi Friends,

I remember writing this summary for our 2020-21 annual report last year in lockdown, which feels like a long time ago, so much has changed.

Fiji continued to feel the impact of COVID this year, through high unemployment as the tourist industry collapsed and, through the impact on education and Girls' access to learning. We did what we could to support the community to adapt. Your support meant we could provide data for remote learning over mobile phones and borrowed devices and our Coordinator Urmila dropped off worksheets to villages where designated people picked them up to distribute, so Girls could continue learning. Teachers went above and beyond.

*None of the Girls' we support dropped out of school which we think is a huge win!*

Our BIG news this year is that we now have tax deductibility!! This has been a lot of work and while we have always been a registered Australian charity, registration with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission, the ACNC, means you can now claim your donations as a tax deduction.

We are hoping to be able to attract more corporate giving as a result of this new status. If we can double our income, we can engage another Fiji-based team member to support Urmila and assist us with program reporting.

We've continued valued partnerships this year.

William Angliss made our Christmas cakes in their teaching kitchens in November and we sold nearly 200! We are so grateful for the generous support from their team!



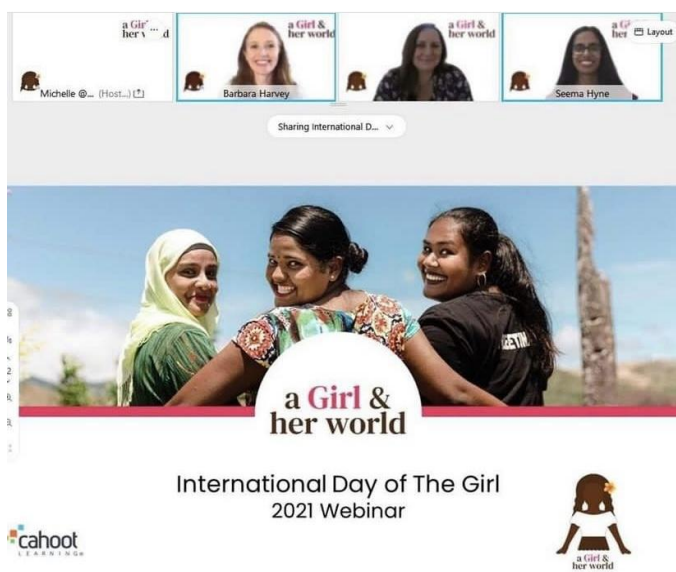


**Photo:** Christmas cake baking with the team at William Angliss Institute.

The University of Western Sydney supported us with interns who created social media posts and blogs, and with plans towards solidarity and learning visits that we are excited to progress in the new year.

Our friends at the German International School Sydney continued to generously fundraise for us as their key charity despite not being able to take a group of students to Fiji for their annual immersion trip. Others have given faithfully to our \$5 Friday fundraising campaign, some a little, others a lot – it all counts and makes a real difference.

On October 11th – *International Day of the Girl*, we partnered with Cahoot Learning who hosted our team for a great lunchtime webinar where we told our story and heard from our Fiji team and the Girls.



**Photo:** *International Day of the Girl* webinar, hosted by Cahoot



We also took part in the Day of the Girl hashtag [#thislittlegirlisme](#) to highlight our origin stories and the impact of Girls' education.



[girlandherworld](#) This is Seema at 11. She loved to roller skate, build sandcastles at the beach, swim in the pool and bake cookies.

She came from a family where a lot of emphasis was placed on education – her mum had told her once that you can be stripped of all your worldly belongings, but no one can strip away your education.

That message really stuck and is the reason why a Girl and her world and it's purpose really touched Seema's heart.

Little did she know back then that she would have the privilege of being part of a grass roots organisation that is working so hard to give Girls in rural Fiji an opportunity to go to school so they can live their dreams!

[#thislittlegirlisme](#)

We supported 10 families to recover from significant flooding in January that cut them off from power, water and food supply.

Girls had a staggered start back to school due to ongoing COVID restrictions in January and many continued to study remotely until April.

67 Girls went back to school during this time and 2 additional Girls were supported to continue or start University. Both the first in their families to do so.

We continued to support the 4 Uni Girls from 2021.



As always, our Fiji Co-Ordinator Urmila Prasad has outdone herself with pastoral care and support for the Girls, with her family and local team she has gone above and beyond in really difficult circumstances.

And lastly, we are so thankful for an engaged community of people who support us to make a difference to Girls' education in rural Fiji, including local school staff and the Ministry of Social Welfare in Fiji. In such uncertain times, it has been a gift.

Warmly,

Jane Kennedy

Co-Founder, (for team a Girl & her world)

[www.agirlandherworld.org](http://www.agirlandherworld.org)



# 2021-22 Year in Brief

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This year we focused on keeping all the Girls at school and Uni, including ensuring they all had access to vaccines and COVID education and awareness.

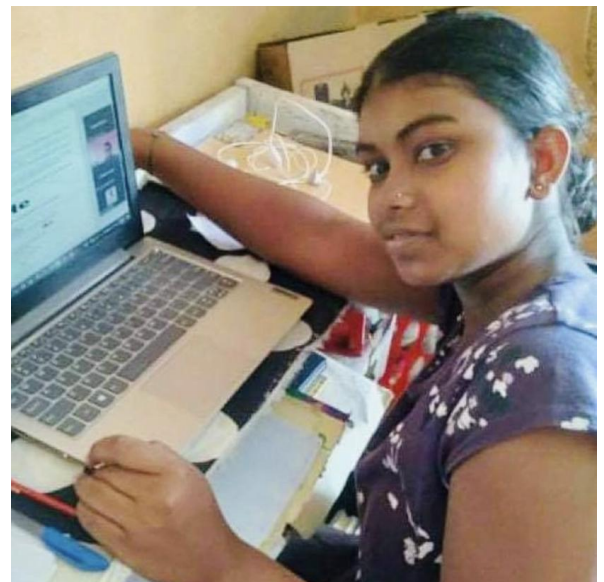


We have worked with the Girls we support as they continued to adapt to the changed environment, slowly easing back into face-to-face learning and navigating their families' unemployment.

Urmila noted the increased cost of living and parents going without food to be able to feed their families as poverty outcomes have been exacerbated by COVID. We are adapting to this as well, with increased program costs.

## **This year we supported:**

- 56 Girls back to school and 4 Girls at Uni at the start of 2021.
- 67 Girls back to school and 2 Girls at Uni at the start of 2022.
- 10 families with emergency food relief and other needs after a significant flooding event in January.
- 16 girls with data for their phones and devices so they could better access online learning.
- Urmila worked closely with the Ministry of Health to make sure Girls and their families were able to access vaccines and understood the importance of handwashing and wearing masks at school.



The school Girls were able to purchase:

- Uniforms
- Shoes
- Books
- Bags
- Ad hoc expenses like sanitary pads, printing and internet costs for assignments and travel passes when they live too far away from school to be able to travel for free.



The Uni Girls were able to pay for:

- Enrolment fees, a \$75 fee can be the difference between attending Uni or not, sometimes even on a full scholarship, these small costs are the barriers.
- Ad hoc expenses, travel and accommodation costs and with data.

Our \$5 Friday Fundraising Campaign supported:

- The provision of data for remote learning.
- Emergency support (groceries, kerosene gas for cooking, seeds to plant vegetables, paying some water and electricity bills).
- Girls who needed extra support to stay in school (bus passes, uniforms, books, toiletries).



Our team members Kym and Yolanda visited Urmila and her family and spent some time catching up on all their news. It was so wonderful to meet again face to face after 2 years of being unable to visit.

**Photo:** Kym, Urmilla and Yolanda in Ra Provence.



## A message from Urmila Prasad, Fiji Program Coordinator



*Despite the long break over COVID lockdowns, our Girls worked very hard to make it to the next level. And we worked hard to support them.*

*We helped three Girls to stay in school whose parents were struggling and weren't able to provide things like birth certificates for enrollment. Another Girl needed to repeat year 10 and we helped her get through under difficult circumstances.*

*Things like groceries and bus passes, data costs, rent and University fees became even more important and the Girls' parents were very grateful to receive the support. They said how fortunate they felt to be able to see their daughters doing well in their studies and even during such hard times, were confident of their success.*

*We are all feeling tired and continue to experience floods and increases in the cost of living, but we didn't see any Girls drop out during COVID and our senior Girls' all graduated. We are very happy about that.*

*Vinaka vakalevu to everyone who has supported a Girl & her world this year, it has been challenging for many families, and your support has made a big difference."*

*Urmilla Prasad, Fiji Program Coordinator*

## International Women's Day

### International Women's Day

Changing Climates: Equality today  
for a sustainable tomorrow



a Girl &  
her world



On International Women's Day in March we highlighted the story of two wonderful women, our own Coordonator Urmila and one of the Girls we supported who is now a teacher, Gurpreet.

Urmila has worked tirelessly for 10 years to support hundreds of Girls to stay in school in her rural area and we are so grateful for her service. She is the heart and soul of our organisation.

Gurpreet studied by kerosine lamp to make sure she stayed ahead in school and got good grades.

We then went on to support her to become a teacher, a job she now loves. She took this selfie with Urmila, 'Aunty, let me do it'. Gurpreet was offered a new teaching role in a remote area this year and we also supported her to pack up her things and move there by boat.

We were reminded that often barriers exist for Girls and women throughout their lifespan and we want to ensure they can thrive at every stage.

## Fundraising initiatives

Our usual fundraising initiatives continued this year. We have our monthly \$5 Friday Friday campaign which encourages our community to provide small, regular donations throughout the year, and we sold Christmas Cakes and handmade wooden toys via our website and in person.

The Christmas Cake sales have continued to grow year-on-year and our partnership with William Angliss Institute has allowed us to bake in bulk with the support of the fantastic student chefs.

The handmade wooden toys are created by Andrew, one of our generous supporters.



## Partnerships

We have developed strong partnerships with four key organisations this year, and we hope to build on this from 2022 onwards now that we are registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC).



Our partners have provided physical space, baking expertise, academic advice, student internships, online webinars and fundraising support. We are so grateful for these relationships and hope they will continue for many years to come.

### Our key partners are:

- William Angliss Institute
- Western Sydney University
- German International School
- Cahoot Learning





# Finances

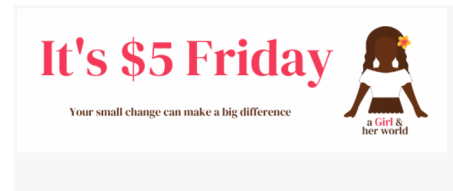
Our Australian team is made up of volunteers with a range of professional skills. Costs incurred in Australia are minimal and include fundraising and web-based expenses, charity registration and governance.

Our generous team members often use their own funds on these things too, to keep the costs to the organisation low.

Our Fiji Coordinator Urmila Prasad is paid a monthly per diem and a Girl & her world covers the costs of her communication and travel to be able to serve the Girls and their families.

Other Fiji volunteers are paid daily per diems to assist Urmila at busy times such as during back-to-school season or after emergencies.

Project costs include uniforms, books and bags, data and costs associated with homework and assessments, travel passes, enrolment fees, emergency relief packages, sanitary pads and other ad-hoc expenses that help overcome barriers to Girls' education in a rural setting.



Donate now

Dear Friends,  
It's \$5 Friday and this month we are focusing on our [10-year anniversary fundraising event!](#)  
Your donations and support go such a long way and make a real difference in helping more Girls stay in school.  
If you, or any of your contacts, would like to contribute to our fundraising event silent auction, please reach out! We are currently sourcing products,

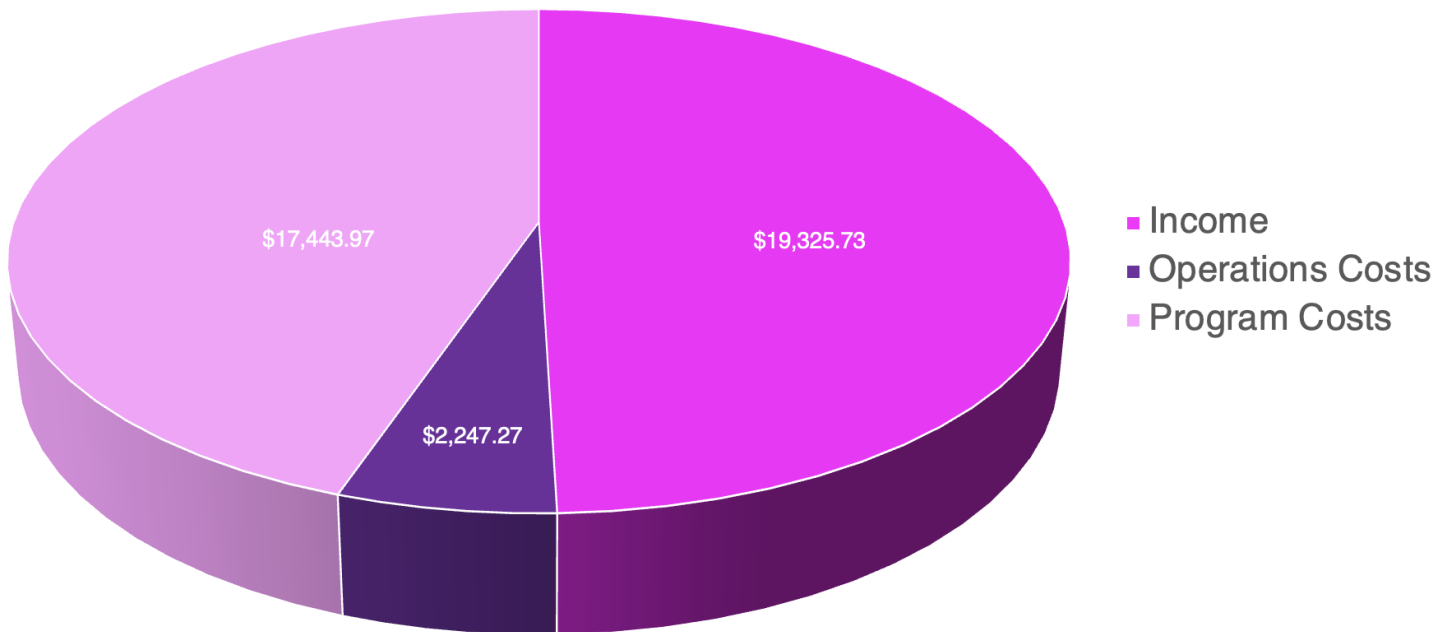
## Christmas Cake Sales (Financial Year-by-Year)

2017-2018 FY	\$800
2018-2019 FY	\$2,393
2019 -2020 FY	\$3,053
2020-2021 FY	\$6,096
2021 - 2022 FY	\$6,501

## Total income and expenses in 2022

<b>Income</b> - donations/cakes sales/ toy sales	\$19,325.73
<b>Expenses</b> - program costs and operations	\$19,691.24

FY2021/22



**Total program costs for 2021 - 22 = \$17,443.97**

# How To Get Involved

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We are always open to creative ideas for support and encourage our community to reach out to us.

We have several new partners, as well as existing support networks such as the German International School who use GoFundraise as a tool to help them raise funds via events – and others can do this too!

We are registered with GoFundraise and it's easy to log in and set up an event, even a virtual one like a walk around a park, a read-a-thon or whatever you like. We value everyone's contribution.

We will continue to run our \$5 Friday fundraising campaign, every donation makes a difference.

Thank you also for buying our cakes and toys at Christmas, they raise significant funds to get Girls back to school each year.

