



2024  
*Impact Report*

Partnering together

## Lives and communities transformed through encounter with Jesus Christ

Central to our work is a conviction that the most effective way to make Jesus known is to work alongside and strengthen the leadership of local believers.

This partnership is easy to imagine, but can be difficult to put in practice. It requires humility, perseverance, forgiveness on both sides, and a long-term commitment which demonstrates the lordship of Christ across all aspects of our lives.

As people meet Jesus, their lives are forever changed. In Mark 5, Jesus releases a man from demon possession and brings about his spiritual, mental, physical and relational restoration—propelling him into mission in his own community.

We work among some of the most marginalised peoples of Asia and the Arab world—frequently in places where people have the least opportunity to meet a follower of Jesus.

In these pages, we endeavour to illustrate the fruit of your investment in our Partners and give a glimpse of how these critical partnerships with local believers are impacting marginalised communities in which we live and work. Can I also take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude for your prayers, care and financial support. Thank you for your partnership in this work.

**Karl Weach**  
Interim National Director

## About Interserve

Interserve teams live and work alongside the peoples of Asia and the Arab world, in their home countries and in Australia. Motivated by the love of Christ, serving in partnership with the global church and using the skills, passions and abilities that God gave us, we seek to see lives and communities transformed through encounter with Jesus Christ.

We are doctors, teachers, baristas, accountants, carpenters, musicians, entrepreneurs, pastors, community development workers and more; using our skills to serve and train others.

We believe that local Christians who put their faith into action can make the greatest change in their communities. So wherever possible, we partner with them in existing businesses, community organisations or social enterprises, to tackle the challenges they face, regardless of race, gender or faith.

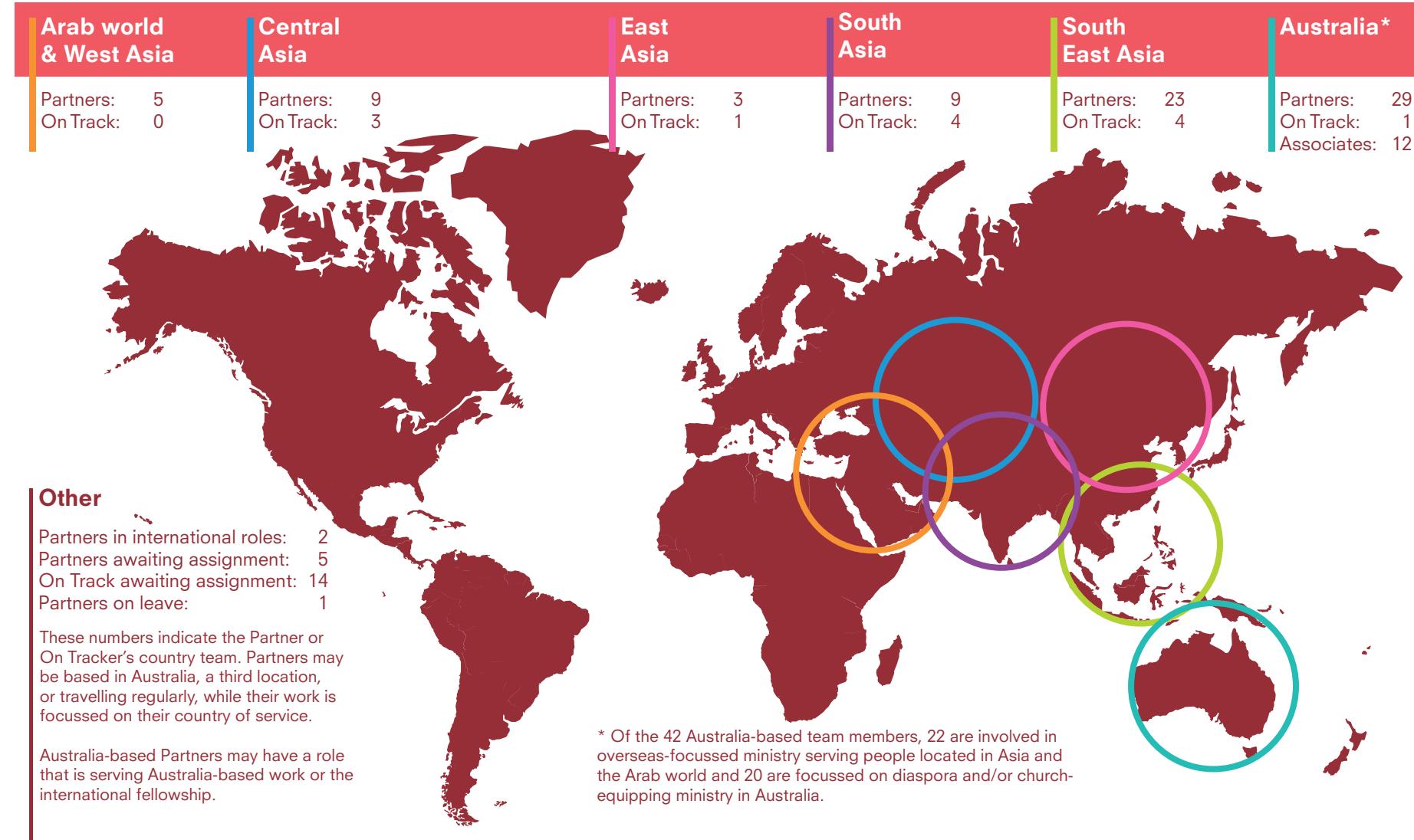
Our work is wholistic and integrated. We hold together different dimensions, such as word and action, personal life and professional skills as well as our unique contribution to local faith communities. Each of us combines these dimensions in different ways as is culturally appropriate and relevant.

Together, we cultivate tangible Love that transforms lives and communities, to make Jesus Christ known among the peoples of Asia and the Arab world.

**“ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ”**

John 3:16

## Where does Interserve work?



# Stories that sound like home

## Picture this:

You're sitting cross-legged on the cool tiled floor of a small family home with tropical foliage out the window. The scent of incense lingers in the air. The conversations flow easily—about family, about work, about village life—but not about Jesus. Not here. In a place where most people follow the majority faith, to speak about Jesus would be like introducing a foreign language to the room.

That was Putu's\* world. But when Putu encountered Jesus, everything changed. Slowly, over months of questions, online searches and quiet prayers, faith in Christ reshaped his heart—and left him longing for his family to know the same peace.

At first, the conversations barely began before they were shut down. His words, like his new faith, didn't seem to fit. But he kept praying, and he kept hoping. And then came an opportunity: Putu recorded his testimony in his own language, a video created in partnership with Mark\* and his wife Louise\*—Interserve Partners, and the founders of a media ministry designed for exactly this purpose.

Mark and Louise had seen the gap firsthand: while Christian testimonies flood

the internet in English, there's often little or no content available in the languages of unreached people groups across South East Asia. And in places where following Jesus can seem foreign—even impossible—hearing someone from your own background tell their story changes everything.

That vision is what drives Mark and Louise's work. Their media ministry exists to amplify the voices of local believers so that their stories can reach both neighbours and nations. They produce authentic, engaging testimony videos in heart languages—content that is both public and personal. It's media designed to break barriers and open conversations. But it's not just about producing polished videos, it's about partnership.

Mark and Louise walk alongside local believers at every stage: from the first conversation to scripting, filming, translating, and sharing the final story. Along the way, they're building a growing network of South East Asian believers who are developing their own media skills: learning to tell stories that might otherwise never be heard. Some of the people whose testimonies were once filmed are now



“  
It was about finding a way to tell his story to his family, in a language and format that would speak to their hearts.  
”

behind the camera themselves, helping others do the same.

And it doesn't stop there. Mark and Louise are also passionate about bringing others along for the journey. Young Christians from Australia are invited to join them on trips, to see, learn, and serve—often gaining their first real taste of cross-cultural mission, while being mentored in both faith and storytelling.

For Putu, the partnership wasn't just about producing a video. It was about finding a way to tell his story to his family, in a language and format that would speak to their hearts. When the right moment came, he shared the video. His family didn't turn away—they leaned in. Questions began to flow, and conversations that had once seemed impossible began to quietly take shape.

For Mark and Louise, this is the heartbeat of their ministry—creating spaces where people can hear stories that reflect their questions, their culture, and their language. Because when it comes to the good news of Jesus, everyone deserves to hear a story that feels like it could be their own.

And for Putu's family? The conversations are still happening. The prayers haven't stopped. And the stories are still being shared.

\*All names have been changed.



# Lighting the way

## for babies in Central Asia

In many parts of Central Asia, the joy that accompanies the birth of a child quickly turns to heartbreak. A baby born with jaundice, left untreated, can face a lifetime of irreversible disability. Here, the condition is often misunderstood, and mothers are frequently blamed, even abandoned, for bringing shame on their family. It's a heavy weight to carry—one that Colin and Mary\* couldn't ignore.

For this Australian couple, moving to Central Asia wasn't a spur-of-the-moment decision. After decades of medical practice—Colin as a senior medical consultant, Mary in family medicine and counselling—the desire to serve overseas had always been quietly present. When their youngest child left for university, the timing finally felt right to take the next step. A visit to Central Asia confirmed it: this was where

their skills and experience could be used for the Kingdom.

What they found when they arrived was a health system struggling under the weight of missing knowledge. In particular, Colin noticed an unusually high number of children diagnosed with dyskinetic cerebral palsy—a condition linked to severe jaundice in newborns. In Australia, this is rare, but in this part of the world it was heartbreakingly common.

Colin began gathering data, ultimately reviewing more than 500 cases. His research uncovered a clear pattern: a third of the children affected had a history of untreated jaundice shortly after birth. The underlying causes pointed to gaps in training and resources—from a lack of working phototherapy equipment to the

discontinued practice of giving Anti-D injections to Rhesus-negative mothers, a vital step in preventing dangerous blood group incompatibilities.

Armed with data and a deep sense of conviction, Colin presented his findings to national medical forums. Slowly but surely, minds began to change. Over the last two years, he and Mary have trained close to 1,000 doctors and nurses in how to manage newborn jaundice effectively, preventing future cases of disability before they even begin.

In 2024, the Ministry of Health asked Colin to write the country's national jaundice management guidelines, and in January 2025, those guidelines were formally adopted for use in teaching both doctors and nurses across the country. Early signs already show a drop in new cases of disability, and local doctors are reporting fewer children arriving at clinics with this once-common condition.

Of course, even the best guidelines are only as useful as the tools available. Faced

**“ I get the overwhelming sense that God's grace is at work. ”**

with a lack of reliable phototherapy units, Colin and Mary began building their own—simple but effective devices that have been

enthusiastically embraced by local hospitals. One maternity hospital, delivering over 10,000 babies a year, recently took 80 units, signing paperwork to take full responsibility for their use. Another hospital director described the lights as a turning point for his team's ability to care for newborns.

But the work hasn't just improved medical care—it's also softened hearts. The owner of the shop where Colin buys light parts once showed him a photo of his own baby, who'd received free phototherapy thanks to the local hospital's new lights. That moment turned a business connection into a deeply personal one, and a grateful supplier now insists on giving generous discounts.

For Colin and Mary, all of this is evidence of God's grace at work: not just opening doors, but equipping them with the desire and strength to walk through them. As Titus 2:11-14 reminds them, grace doesn't just teach us to do good, it makes us eager to do so. "I get the overwhelming sense that God's grace is at work," Colin shares.

There are still challenges ahead: funding and establishing a small factory to produce these phototherapy lights locally, and expanding training into two large regions yet to be reached. But the hope is clear. This work is changing lives, shifting attitudes, and rewriting a nation's future—one newborn at a time.

\*All names have been changed.





# From the war-torn Middle East to the suburbs of Sydney

Not many of us could relate to the experience of refugees arriving in Australia, having left everything behind in a hurry. But for Sophie and her husband Brent\*, Interserve Partners in Sydney, it's a reality they know all too well.

"When we were in the Middle East we needed to relocate from one country that became too unstable to another country," Sophie explains. "So when we had to relocate from the Middle East back to Australia, we saw it as that: another relocation."

Sophie's experiences over the 13 years she spent in the Middle East have prepared her for discipleship and training in her current context. Upon their return to Sydney, Sophie and Brent naturally became involved in sharing their lives with asylum seekers.

Having faced the trauma of leaving their own home in haste, Sophie and Brent felt a unique connection to the new arrivals. "We could relate to them," Sophie shares. "We had left our house contents, pets and

friends behind not knowing if they would survive the impacts of war. We could relate to what it was like trying to understand Australian society, as Australia (and ourselves!) had changed in the time we'd been overseas."

Sophie and Brent recognised an opportunity to use their experiences in the Middle East to help newcomers navigate Australian society. Sophie explains: "We started taking them to second hand shops, showing them how to use Google Maps, public transport apps and helping them find the cheapest food."

Reaching out cross-culturally in Sydney brings fresh opportunities for Sophie and Brent: "The level of Arabic and English we share with people here makes it easier to connect," Sophie observes. Their understanding of Islamic cultures has also equipped them for deeper conversations about the Christian faith. "Plus, there's less fear of security threats so we can more easily share the good news of Jesus."

One of the highlights of their ministry has been their work with Zeinab\*, a Persian believer they've been discipling online. Despite being isolated in her faith and living with the fear of online surveillance, Zeinab has made incredible strides in her walk with Jesus. "She has been sharing some of her faith journey with other family members," Sophie shares. "Despite the internet security issues and shut downs, she knows how to gain spiritual input, worships online, and finished reading the New Testament last year."

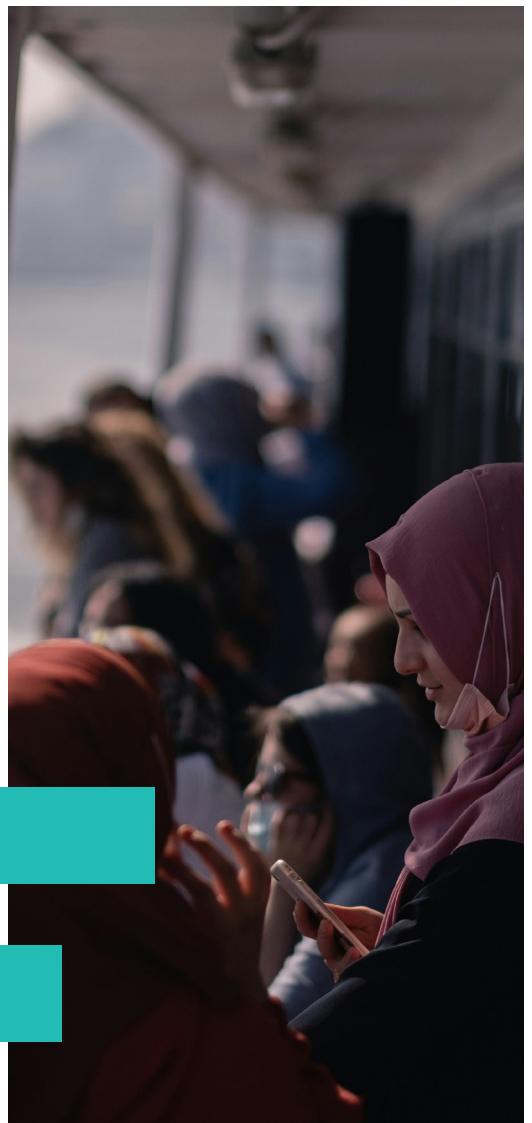
Their work has also included mentoring and training for Australian Christians in cross-cultural engagement, especially when it comes to connecting with Muslims. One of the biggest misconceptions they address in their ministry is the perceived difficulty of reaching people from the Muslim world. "There's a belief that it's difficult and hard, but we have found it's often easier to talk to people from a Muslim background about spiritual things than secular people," Sophie shares.

In the past year, Sophie had the privilege of teaching Spiritual Arabic to a group of full-time ministry workers focused on connecting with Arabs in their community. "Seeing them sing songs, pray and share basic Christian truths in Arabic was so encouraging for them and for me," she says.

Looking ahead, Sophie and Brent anticipate more challenges, particularly as they continue to support believers experiencing persecution. They are also working to bridge the gap between Arabs and non-Arabs, facilitating greater understanding and cooperation in ministry together. As the couple continues to navigate their cross-cultural ministry in Sydney, they remain committed to using their unique experiences to serve others—a beautiful reminder that God is at work through every situation.

\*All names have been changed.

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# Local leadership, lasting impact in South East Asia

After nearly two decades in South East Asia, Silas and Jenna\* have recently returned to Australia, but their impact continues through the ongoing work of South East Asian Christians they partnered with.

From the beginning, their heart was never to build something dependent on them, but to walk alongside local believers, helping them step into leadership and shape change from within their communities. Two homegrown grassroots ministries are powerful examples of what long-term, humble partnership can look like in action.

In 2006, Silas was working at a community drug rehab program in South East Asia when he and his colleague Bryan saw a glaring gap in support. While the young men in the program were making significant strides in their recovery, once they left the rehab, they often lacked the resources to continue their education. With families unable to cover the cost of school fees, these young men were at risk of dropping out and returning to destructive habits.

Out of this need, a business was born. Its mission was simple but life-changing:

to provide these young men with stable jobs, income to cover their school fees, mentorship, and work experience. Silas, with his youthwork and business background, and Bryan, passionate about justice and skilled in screen printing, created a social enterprise that not only printed justice messages on t-shirts, but also provided hope and opportunity for youth at risk.

For more than 16 years, every participant has had the opportunity to hear the gospel and live out a Christian life in their community. Silas recalls a moment that deeply moved him: before leaving South East Asia, he preached at a local church where many of the past and current young men were involved. "I was in tears to see so many of them leading the service: running the band, welcoming people, doing readings and prayers. 90% of the service was run by them."

Another project grew from a clear and urgent need. Parents and community workers approached Silas and his local co-worker, Samnang, asking for help as they watched the devastation of drug and alcohol addiction take hold in their

communities. Many felt helpless, unable to access appropriate support or rehab services for their children.

After much prayer and discernment, a new network became the community link, providing access to rehabilitation, education, and support services. It wasn't just about offering help—it was about creating a sustainable local network where people could be empowered to address these issues themselves.

One of the most powerful stories from this network is that of Tevy, who struggled with addiction and caused harm to his family and community. After a series of interventions, the network was able to help Tevy receive treatment and find hope through faith. "After detoxing and a year at a Christian rehab farm, Tevy got baptised," Silas recalls. "He was on fire for God and telling everyone what God had done for him. Upon release, he served in the church and eventually reconciled with his wife and children."

Silas and Jenna have always believed in the power of local leadership. "We were in the country to empower locals, rather than create our own empires," Silas says. "Part of good localisation involves waiting for the right leaders, timing and training to come together for it to be the right time to let it go."

Samnang had taken the reins of the t-shirt business during Silas's final home assignment, and after a year of mentoring and coaching, Silas fully entrusted the leadership to Samnang. "After many years of mentoring it was time to hand it to Samnang and allow it to adopt an even more local flavour."

While challenges remain, including funding and the ongoing pressures of working in a high-risk context, Silas and Jenna trust that God's work will continue, sustained by the commitment and faith of local believers who are now leading the charge.

\*All names have been changed.





# It takes a village

Imagine being 12 years old, standing in an airport with your suitcase in one hand and your passport in the other. You've just said goodbye to friends who feel like family, to a school that's familiar to you, to languages you only just started mastering. Now you're back 'home'... but it doesn't smell or sound or feel like home at all.

This is part of the experience Third Culture Kids (TCKs) carry into their return back to Australia. And this is where Kath Williams meets them.

As Interserve's TCK Advocate, Kath spends her days supporting children and teens growing up across cultures as they prepare to leave, live overseas, and eventually return. She helps them unpack what they're feeling when the ground shifts beneath them, when they no longer feel like they

## Supporting Third Culture Kids through every transition

belong 'here' or 'there,' or even know what 'home' really means anymore.

They go through a lot, Kath explains. "They are managing the grief of saying goodbye to the people, places, and comforts they cherish, adapting to a new cultural environment... coping with homesickness, building relationships within a new community, and navigating their identity in this unfamiliar context adds to the complexity of their transition."

Kath is committed to helping ease these transitions for the children of Interserve Partners. But she also knows this work was never meant to be done alone. From the beginning, Kath's heart has been for collaboration. "I always felt this role was never solely intended for Interserve. I felt a strong calling to help other agencies ensure

their TCKs could thrive," she shares. That desire led her into deep partnerships across the mission community, helping build a stronger, more united approach to caring for kids navigating complex cross-cultural lives.

Now, through Missions Interlink, she coordinates training programs, debriefs families, leads retreats, hosts webinars, and creates tailored resources—often working alongside other organisations to do so. One of those partnerships is Interwoven, co-developed with a colleague from another mission agency. Together, they've created retreat materials, graduate planners, and debriefing tools now used across multiple countries. Their vision? A standardised debriefing curriculum for every age and stage.

At live-in transition and re-entry retreats, Kath leads programs that give kids space to process, play, and begin to heal.

"I complained about going to the re-entry retreat," one 16-year-old boy admitted. "I'd been here in Australia nearly three years. But in the end, I liked the retreat, the leaders, and other kids because I made new friends who could relate to me... it has actually made Australia feel more like home to me."

Parents notice the impact, too. "You managed to turn my boys from reluctant to 'This is great!' in a matter of hours," one mum wrote. "And our daughter loved it." Another reflected, "It was great to have Kath come and do the activities with us as a family because it was all of us learning and talking together... our 11-year-old said, 'It's hard to talk about this stuff, but good. I feel lighter now.'"

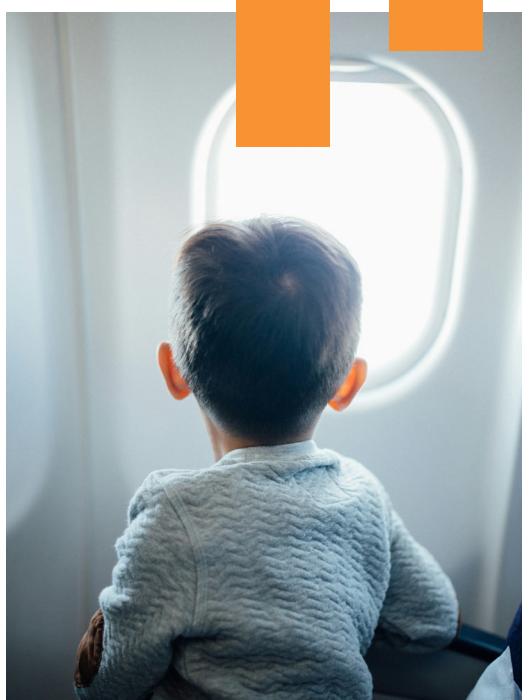
Sometimes, the fruit runs even deeper. One family shared how their nine-year-old wrestled quietly with a decision made during the kids' program at Transition Training: to

give his life to Jesus. "He talked it through with his dad, then made the decision all by himself in his room. We're so thankful for the care and love shown to our kids—and grateful to God for the way he draws them to himself."

Kath has seen God provide again and again—volunteers arriving at just the right moment, children reaching out long after programs end, and unexpected doors opening with other agencies. "There are so many things I would love to put in place," she says. "The biggest challenge ahead is time and funding. But I am passionate about seeing this area grow, and my heart is entirely committed to helping TCKs and their families."

And thanks to growing partnerships across the mission landscape, she's not doing it alone. Because when it comes to supporting Third Culture Kids—emotionally, spiritually, and practically—it takes a village. And Kath is helping to build one.

\*Some identifying details of children have been changed.



# The school on the hill



In a small hillside town in South Asia, there's a school that's quietly doing something remarkable. While it only serves around 40 students, its ripple effect is reaching far wider—thanks to a deep commitment to partnership.

Woven into this story is Lucas\*, the principal. In a school this size, his role is anything but traditional. He's not only the head of the school but also one of just two full-time classroom teachers. He leads the development of the school as a whole, but also teaches lessons, meets with parents, coordinates timetables, and gets to know the kids. But his greatest investment isn't in the buildings or even the students—it's in his local staff.

Lucas believes that education is never a solo project. From the start of his tenure, he's had a vision of equipping and empowering his local colleagues so they can take ownership of the school's future and eventually lead in their own communities.

Take Nisha\*, for example. When she joined the school as a teacher's aide, partway through studying to be a primary teacher, she felt overwhelmed by the expectations of the classroom. Making mistakes felt risky. Leading a class felt out of reach. But Lucas saw her potential. Over time, he's created space for her to grow: meeting weekly to set goals, reflect, encourage, and build confidence. Now, Nisha has grown immensely in her capacity to be an effective teacher. In a country where teachers often enter the classroom with little to no



formal training, Nisha's development is a powerful example of what can happen when someone is invested in.

This kind of partnership isn't just good for individuals. It's essential for the future of the school. This school is the only one outside the capital offering an international curriculum in English. That's a lifeline for expat families who want their children to thrive academically without needing to move to the capital or leave the country altogether. But with expat teachers often serving for short terms, long-term stability will increasingly rely on local educators who are trained and confident.

Lucas is working hard to make that a reality. The school's model is slowly shifting—from expat teachers with local assistants, to classrooms shared more equally, where responsibility is handed over intentionally and supportively. It's a picture of partnership at every level.

The students themselves reflect this diversity. Some are from expat families working in health, development, or ministry roles. Others are local. All of them benefit from being part of a school that

models collaboration across cultures and languages, grounded in the gospel. In classrooms and assemblies, students learn not just maths or reading, but what it means to live with faith, humility, and grace.

There are still plenty of challenges. Staff turnover is high, and with one expat teacher soon retiring and more experienced teachers needed, Lucas and his team are stretched thin. But even here, partnership is making a way. Recently, three part-time expat teachers have joined the team, not as lead teachers, but as crucial support. They're modelling best practice, giving the main teachers time to breathe, and helping develop the local staff's confidence and capacity.

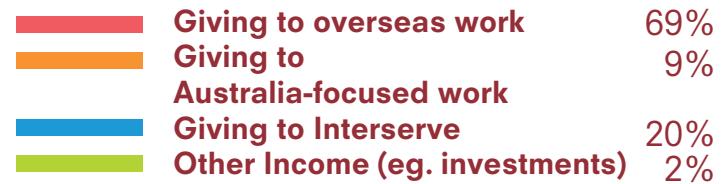
In Lucas's two years as principal, change has happened in the school on the hill—some of it rapidly. But the intentionality behind it is anything but hasty. Lucas isn't interested in building something temporary. He's building something that can last. It isn't just a school—it's the kind of legacy that only partnership can create: one that equips, empowers, and endures for generations to come.

\*All names have been changed.

# Stewarding your support

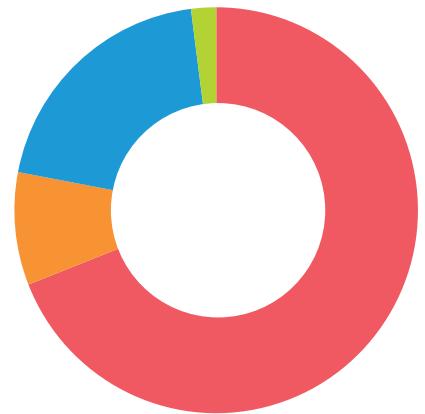
## Income and expenditure in 2024

\*All figures taken from our 2024 accounts.



### Income

Income includes donations toward team support, ministry funds, projects, bequests and gifts.

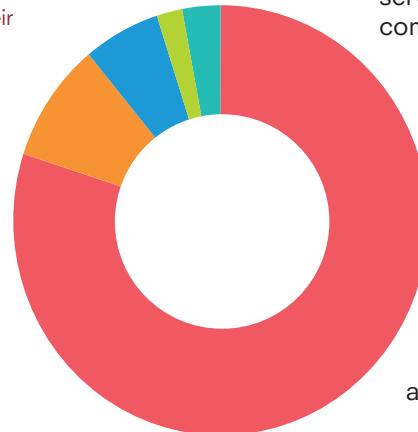


### Expenditure

Staff salaries are allocated proportionate to their work hours focused on overseas work, Australia-focused work, fundraising and mobilising.

Operational expenses do not include any salary costs.

For further explanation of our overseas-focused work and our Australia-focused work, see infographic on Page 2.



We are deeply grateful for God's provision through the generosity of people like you. Your support crucially enables Interserve Partners to walk alongside local Christians, serving some of the most marginalised communities of Asia and the Arab world.

God calls us to be excellent stewards, and we wanted to take this opportunity to share a snapshot of our 2024 accounts. We take seriously our responsibility to wisely use the resources entrusted to us. Our accounts are audited annually by an independent auditor, and our annual reports including financial statements are available upon request. If you have any questions, please get in touch.

Thank you for giving Interserve the opportunity to steward your gift. Your prayers, care and financial support is another thread woven into the tapestry of partnerships shared in this Impact Report. You are making a tangible difference.



Be part of  
the change.

Australian individuals and churches are the vital link to mobilising, sending and sustaining Interserve Partners putting faith into action among the peoples of Asia and the Arab world.

**Every life changed is the result of a team of people giving, going and supporting in different ways. We'd love you to be a part of this work.**

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through  
giving.



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God  
loves  
the  
world



Interserve