



Abundant Water
Annual Report
2021–2022



**Abundant
Water**

"Practical solutions for the common good"

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Introduction

Who we are

Abundant Water is an Australian Canberra-based NGO founded in 2009 which aims to deliver health and hygiene benefits to poor communities by using the power of social business to design and develop sustainable and scalable clean drinking water and greenhouse gas reduction projects.

Our purpose

Abundant Water is driven by our purpose to find practical solutions for the common good. We seek solutions that are effective, accessible, available, suitable, scalable and sustainable and collaborate with local partners to implement these solutions together.



Abundant Water filter.

Our mission

According to the World Health Organisation, 844 million people globally lack a basic drinking water service and 1.8 billion people use a contaminated water service. Abundant Water works to empower individuals and communities to secure their own sustainable access to safe water.

Working in remote and rural areas, we train local potters and vendors to launch scalable water filter micro-businesses as part of our social business model, ensuring their communities have a supply of clean water into the future. We envision a global network of sustainable social businesses, not only providing clean water to remote communities, but also improving their adaptation and resilience to climate change.

Our values

- **Responsibility** - We are accountable and take complete ownership for our actions.
- **Empowerment** - We believe in providing communities with the tools and knowledge they need to create their own livelihoods.
- **Learning and Reflective Action** - Monitoring and evaluation is central to Abundant Water's values. By continually evaluating our work and considering our mistakes, we are constantly improving our methods and our business model.
- **Collaboration** - We find, contact and work with local partners to build communities.
- **Integrity** - Our work is reflected in our life and our life is reflected in our work.



Vendor training in Timor Leste, February 2022.

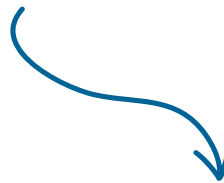
Our social business model

Abundant Water's innovative social business model ensures that we enable locals to create their own long-term change by selling and maintaining water filters.



Identify areas

Abundant Water works with local partners to identify villages where there is a need for water filters and an appetite for change, and finds individuals with a natural entrepreneurial spirit.



With our partners, we train these individuals to become water filter 'vendors' or sales people. We develop their business acumen and management skills so they can run their own water filter micro-businesses, selling filters to their local communities who are in need of safe water.



Train vendors



Vendors sell in their community areas

Vendors buy Abundant Water filters at cost price and go out to sell them in their villages using their local connections and knowledge. For every sale they make, the vendor takes home a commission, earning themselves an income to support their family, and of course invest in buying more filters to keep their business growing. These vendors become a point of contact in their community for filter maintenance, repair and replacements, ensuring that our water filter solution is sustainable long-term, providing lasting benefits to families and communities.

Where we work

Abundant Water's main focus is in Laos, where we employ a large team who deliver, test and develop clean water programs; and in Timor-Leste where our program has concluded a successful pilot establishing distribution networks in Dili, Liquica and Atauro Island. We are proud to share that we have also begun work in The Philippines this year, beginning with Bohol.



Laos



Timor Leste



Philippines



Vendor training, February 2021 in Laos.

In all of these countries, we work with local people and organisations to understand their context and needs, and also to nurture a sense of collective wisdom. This cultural awareness enables us to deliver effective and long-term training programs, and to partner with local organisations and build their own capacity. We design solutions that are user-centric and action-oriented, welcoming all ideas and prototyping to ensure that our answers to complex problems address human needs.

Our Board



Stuart Forsyth - *Chair*

Stuart was instrumental in founding Abundant Water in 2008 and is dedicated to developing a culture of innovation and enterprise. He trained in Zen Buddhism and Eastern medicine, works in Health Care and Conceptual Art, and has extensive experience in community organisations.

Sunny Forsyth - *CEO*

Sunny founded Abundant Water in 2008. In the years since he has been on the ground in project countries such as Laos and Nepal, refining filter systems and growing the social businesses. He is continually inspired by the human spirit's capacity for practical creativity and to link across the world in order to overcome global obstacles.



Rohan Rajaram - *Treasurer*

Rohan has a wealth of experience within Financial Services ranging from boutique practices to multinational corporates and government agencies. He graduated from the Australian National University in 2013 with a Bachelor of Actuarial Studies. He believes in Abundant Water's social business model as a sustainable way to empower communities in providing clean drinking water.

Graeme White - *Director of Volunteering*

Graeme is a senior executive in the NSW Government and has a strong background in delivering significant reforms in natural resource management. Graeme has a strong drive to make the place better both in terms of human experience and the natural world. Volunteering for Abundant Water is a great outlet to pursue these goals.





Sienna Curnow - *Director of Communications*

Sienna is a Communications Graduate with the Department of Social Services. She has a background in digital communications, project management and loves all things creative. Sienna is passionate about human connection, the environment, and sustainable development. She is new to Abundant Water and is inspired by the strong mission and values it holds.

Michael Goodyer - *Director of Business Partnerships*

Michael served as an army officer for over 30 years in a variety of diverse locations overseas. He is currently an advisor on environmental compliance in the military and government sector. Michael has seen how difficult it can be for communities to have access to safe, clean drinking water and is committed to the Abundant Water approach of capacity building and empowering local people.



Mitchell Dunn - *Director of Governance*

Mitchell is an experienced public sector manager, with expertise in compliance, policy and strategy. He hopes this background can help maintain strong governance standards at Abundant Water, which allows it to perform great public good. Mitchell is an admitted lawyer in the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Tanya Dixit - *Secretary*

Tanya is an engineer by profession. She believes in the power of technology to change the world, especially now that the growth is exponential. For Tanya, growth means building services and products that impact the world. It's including everyone in the technological revolution. It means finally being able to realise the true potential of being a human.



From the Chair

In presenting my annual report I wish to firstly thank you for your support and curiosity in Abundant Water and our program. Our mission is realised only by the dedication and efforts of too many people to count but whatever your part in the Abundant Water story it is gratefully acknowledged and appreciated. Thank you.



Well, don't we live in interesting times? After more than two years of pandemic lockdowns and restrictions we long for some normalcy, however, there is no hiding from the fact that wherever we live there are unique challenges. We work in developing countries that are at the coalface of climate change impacts and economic upheaval and this is providing questions that are requiring new approaches and perspectives from Abundant Water.

Nevertheless, our determination remains steadfast.



School children with water bottles in Manatuto district, Timor-Leste.

Lao PDR is experiencing galloping inflation and a radical change in the development landscape that will require Abundant Water to reconsider and reconfigure our program there. Our staff have been affected by over 2 years of lockdowns and so we will have to reconsider what the future for them and our program looks like. Timor Leste has similarly experienced lockdowns and difficulties, however, the development landscape there is conducive for organisations such as ours.

Our program has recently undergone a major program review and we are looking for this to guide its next iteration. Our fledgling program in the Philippines on Bohol Island is developing capacity and we anticipate piloting a program in the near future.

In spite of, or perhaps because of these challenges, Abundant Water has developed a unique skill set within the International Development sector that is opening up potential partnerships whereby we bring our experience and expertise in distribution network development and management to new projects. This is leading us to embrace and share new and digital technologies with our partners and beneficiaries. So although we may live in interesting times, we are seeing great opportunities in these challenges.

In closing, I want to acknowledge the work that is done by our staff in all three countries. Unless we have taken on such an assignment it's difficult to imagine the complexity of their work. It is certainly not 9 to 5. Also, to all our members of the Board and volunteers, your work and dedication has been enormous; our accomplishments are yours and the opportunities for us all to embrace. From the bottom of my heart I thank you and wish you every success for the year ahead.

Stuart



Emily Glazebrook with a vendor in Timor Leste.

From the CEO

Welcome to another annual report.

Whether you are hearing this around the board table, reading this as part of our team, or seeing this as a supporter or donor, my message is simple: thank you!



For your time, your energy, your passion, and your resources; thank you! It is an overused phrase at the moment and yet it still rings true. These are strange times that we are traversing collectively. Here in Abundant Water, we have been met with a great deal of challenge navigating a post-lockdown-world.

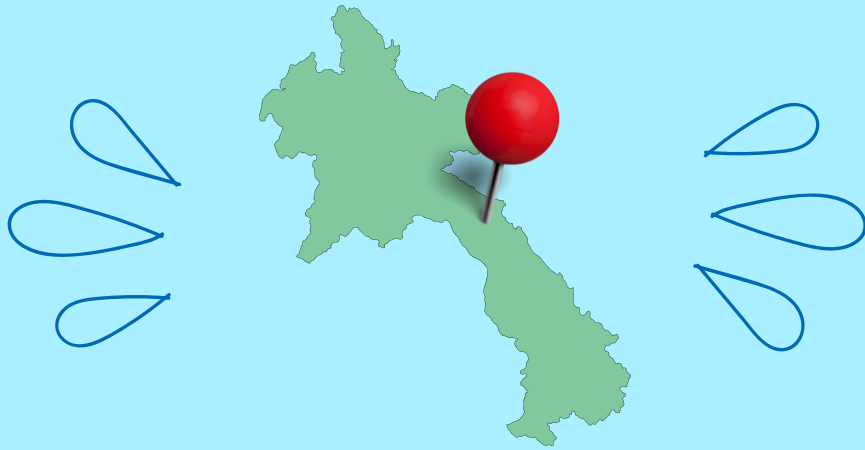
And yet, our programs and impact have grown to include three countries (Laos, Timor-Leste, and the Philippines) and over 150,000 beneficiaries. In preparing for this report, I was reminded that in Laos alone there are over 500 schools where rural students drink clean water from one of our water filters. You have been pivotal to making this happen, so thank you!

As you may know I recently conducted a review of our Timor program and while there is always room for improvement, the overriding message was that our program is doing great work. A post-trip debrief and processing of lessons learnt has yielded a great deal of opportunity for our organisation. New programs, new technology, and new partnerships. It seems that after toiling away for 13 years our team has learned a great deal about working with a market-based approach in an emerging market. Our partners and beneficiaries are seeing the benefit of this knowledge and we look forward to sharing this more broadly over the coming year.

Thanks for joining us on this journey so far. It will be another interesting and meaningful year ahead and I am looking forward to it personally. I hope you will choose to join us for another fulfilling year.

Thanks again,

Sunny



2021-2022 IMPACT IN LAOS

559

filters distributed



357

households fitted

2,150

total beneficiaries



120

schools fitted

8,150

people with access
to clean drinking water



934

filters produced



2021-2022 IMPACT IN TIMOR LESTE



2,973

filters distributed

25,982

people with access
to clean drinking water



49

vendors trained

14

schools provided
with free filters



5

health care centres
provided with free filters

Our Staff

Laos



Juliette Richard - Country Director

Juliette Richard has been volunteering with Abundant Water since 2019, joining the team as program manager in 2020. She has completed a Master's Degree program in project development for basic services in developing countries, and wanted to focus on sustainable projects.

Noukham - Master Potter

Noukham has been with Abundant Water since the beginning in 2008. She is a founding member and our kiln master, and the years of pottery expertise she brings are invaluable. Noukham is proud of the work she does training women to make water filters.



Thai - Potter

Thai has been with Abundant Water since 2013. She is rarely without a smile that brings serenity to the workplace and binds the Abundant Water family together. Importantly, Thai helps train new potters and assists in the monitoring and evaluation of our projects.

Vanxai - Potter

Vanxai, Thai's brother, has been working with AW since November 2018. Vanxai's co-workers love his warm smile and friendly mood, which add to AW's positive work atmosphere. Vanxai is married and has two children, and after work, he likes to garden in the evening to grow vegetables for his family.





Keo - Potter

Keo is in her second stint working with AW. She previously worked with AW in 2013 before leaving to pursue her studies. After finishing her schooling, Keo rejoined our team in 2018 and is very happy to be back with AW again and to see how AW has progressed over the years. Keo is proud to help the poorest people in rural Laos by improving the quality of their drinking water.

Khamkeo - Potter & Translator

Khamkeo started working with Abundant Water in February of 2018. Khamkeo takes great pride in his work for AW and has expressed a keen interest in working with AW long into the future. His ability to speak English, Lao and Hmong means he also plays a crucial role in translating documents and bridging linguistic divides in field work and day-to-day operations.



Timor Leste

Emily Glazebrook - Program Supervisor

Emily joined the Abundant Water team in Timor-Leste in September 2021, having recently completed a European Master's degree in Human Rights and Democratisation. Looking to build upon her previous experience in the international development field, the opportunity to work with Abundant Water, with its focus on participation and empowerment, presented itself as a natural and exciting next step.



Marcos Gusmao - Program Manager

Marcos, who is from Baucau, completed his studies at the National University of Timor-Leste in 2011, having majored in Agronomy. Before joining Abundant Water in December 2020, Marcos worked in several agencies including the UN- FAO, GIZ, NCBA and PLAN VIVO. Marcos is motivated to work for Abundant Water because he is aware of how much the project helps people in rural areas in being able to consume clean water, and also because it has allowed him to develop his English and business skills.



Juan Boik - Project Officer

I have been volunteering part-time with Abundant Water since July 2019, in monitoring and evaluation, which I have really enjoyed and learnt a lot from. My background is in engineering, which I studied at Dili Institute of Technology and I have since worked at World Vision and Oxfam Timor Leste in data collection, data entry and data analysis. I am very excited to join the team as a permanent member of staff!



Marcos training new vendors in Timor Leste, May 2022.

From the Field

Laos

In the past year, Abundant Water in Laos has slowly been recovering from the impact of COVID 19 on activities, thus finalising fieldwork that had been postponed due to the pandemic restrictions.



This year was the end of our project with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Savannakhet Province, where our Laos team equipped the remaining 30 schools of the project with water filters in February, and trained school teachers as well as district officers to use and maintain our filter sets. This last round of installations was the end of our three year project with CRS, in which 348 schools received Abundant Water filter sets, benefiting over 15,000 students and teachers in seven districts.



Vendors being trained in Savannakhet, Laos, January 2022.

During the field-trip to the southern part of Laos, Abundant Water also organised a 'refresh training' for the vendors trained in the first five districts of the CRS-AW project. This training enabled the vendors to share their experiences from the past two years, and develop a peer-to-

peer dynamic. This training also led to a small ceremony in which Abundant Water and CRS donated a filter set for the health centres of each district, in order to give a safe and easy access to clean drinking water to the community members visiting the health facilities.

Abundant Water visited the Northern Province of Pongsali in March 2022, in order to meet our vendors and the beneficiaries as well as introduce to future partners the work Abundant Water has been doing in the Vendor Network development. Our Lao branch is developing a stronger vendor network, linking vendors from different Provinces to enable them to learn from one another.

Abundant Water Laos still has a strong partnership with the Lao Red Cross, through the installation and replacement of water filters in schools in two districts in Luang Prabang Province. Most recently, Lao Red Cross increased the reach of the water filters in these districts by installing filter sets in Health Centers, thus enabling a wider range of the community to benefit from the filters.

Timor Leste

The past year has been both an exciting and a busy one for Abundant Water Timor-Leste, with the diminishing restrictions surrounding the pandemic and the emergence of Timor-Leste's 'new normal'.

We have been able to reach one of our long-term goals: vendors operating in all 14 districts in Timor-Leste. A collaboration with a local NGO, Community Based Rehabilitation, meant we were able to train 12 vendors in Oecusse, a Timorese enclave, which was the only district we were yet to reach.



In early 2022 we started a project in partnership with the Australian National University and Engineers Without Borders, funded through DFAT, focused on improving the water security and health outcomes for 8,000-9,000 individuals in Timor-Leste, by using the distribution of Abundant Water filters to ensure quality potable water at the point of consumption.

So far we have distributed filters to an initial 4 schools and trained 18 vendors across two districts, who are now actively selling filters and providing WASH education for their surrounding communities. This is already proving to be a very notable project and partnership, and the ongoing collaboration with Engineers Without Borders has proven to be so successful that we moved into a shared office space at the start of August.

We have started running regular vendor meetings, where we invite all of our existing vendors from across the entire country to Dili, enabling us to discuss any upcoming changes within the program, but more importantly it provides the space for our vendors to discuss what is working well, as well as any challenges they are facing and for a group discussion to take place around how best to resolve them. It has proven to be a great way for the local Abundant Water team to stay engaged in what is happening in the field and also for the vendors to learn from both the local team as well as from one another. It is an initiative we intend to keep for the long run!

Alongside our first vendor meetings, we have also held a number of vendor trainings, training 49 new vendors in total. Over the year we have distributed 2,973 filters, reached 25,982 beneficiaries, and installed free filters in 14 schools and 5 health clinics.

All of this has only been possible due to the tireless effort of our local team, who have repeatedly shown their dedication and commitment to the cause throughout the vendor trainings, meetings and the ongoing support they provide each and every vendor. They provide our vendors with the support they need to run their own micro-businesses selling filters and earning an invaluable source of income for them and their families and providing access to clean water for their surrounding communities.

In the upcoming year, with our move into a larger office space, we are excited to continue expanding both the team and the capacity of the program. This year we have carried out a number of social media marketing trials on Facebook, and we look forward to continuing to build upon this to fully utilise the benefits that the combination of social media and social business can provide.

Board member profile

Mitchell Dunn - *Director of Governance*

I joined the Board of Abundant Water as an Assistant in the Governance team in November 2021 and became Director of Governance in March 2022.



I was attracted to Abundant Water because it is an organisation that makes a positive impact on the global community. I wanted an outlet to use my experience in law and policy to help people. With one out of every 10 people on the planet lacking basic access to drinking water, the work of Abundant Water practically saves lives and improves livelihoods. I am also proud of the routes of the organisation. We are a Canberra based organisation with a real presence and connection to the region. As a born and raised Canberran myself, I am proud to be able to contribute to such an organisation.

While most people's eyes glaze over when you utter the word 'governance', I am passionate about ensuring high standards of governance at Abundant Water. To me, 'governance' just means ensuring the organisation has the processes in place to ensure it runs well. It is vital we are compliant with our legal requirements, manage risk and have policies in place to ensure everyone knows their roles and responsibilities. I think about governance as the foundation stones of the organisation. With a sound structure there is a safe environment for people to innovate and try new things. Good governance enables our passionate and dedicated team to make the world a better place.

Since joining the organisation, I have been truly impressed by the team we have in Canberra. There are so many talented people who donate their time to help others. But, the real heroes are our teams in the field. Those in Laos, Timor Leste and the Philippines who work with the challenges of local conditions and the responsibility of delivering our mission in practice. I hope that I can continue to put in place the foundations that enable them to build on their successes year-on-year.

Our Finances

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2022

Current assets	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Cash on hand	\$1,431	\$7,935	\$10,708	\$810	\$3,611
Cash at Beyond Bank	\$77,693	\$50,132	\$67,252	\$57,167	\$6,224
Cash at Laos Bank	\$5,503	\$6,911	\$5,504	\$1,492	\$26,617
Cash at Timor Bank	\$17,155	\$38,556	\$13,605	\$2,556	\$0
Cash at RAWCS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,391	\$1,782
Total assets	\$101,782	\$103,533	\$97,069	\$74,417	\$38,234



Top: Filters being distributed in Tasi Tolu in Timor Leste, June 2021.

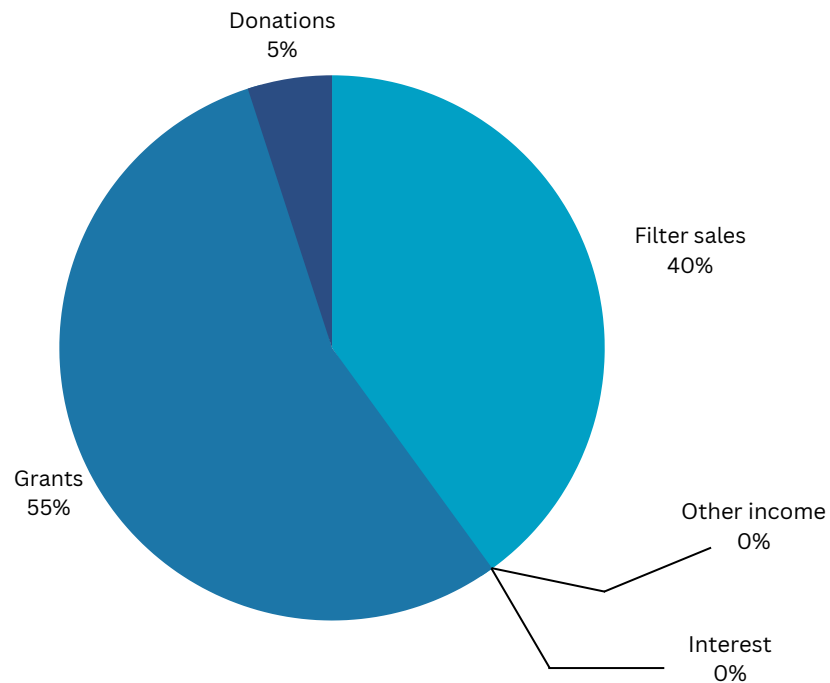
Bottom left: Emily Glazebrook presenting water filters to the Education Minister.

Bottom right: Children filling their jerry cans with water to filter in Timor Leste.

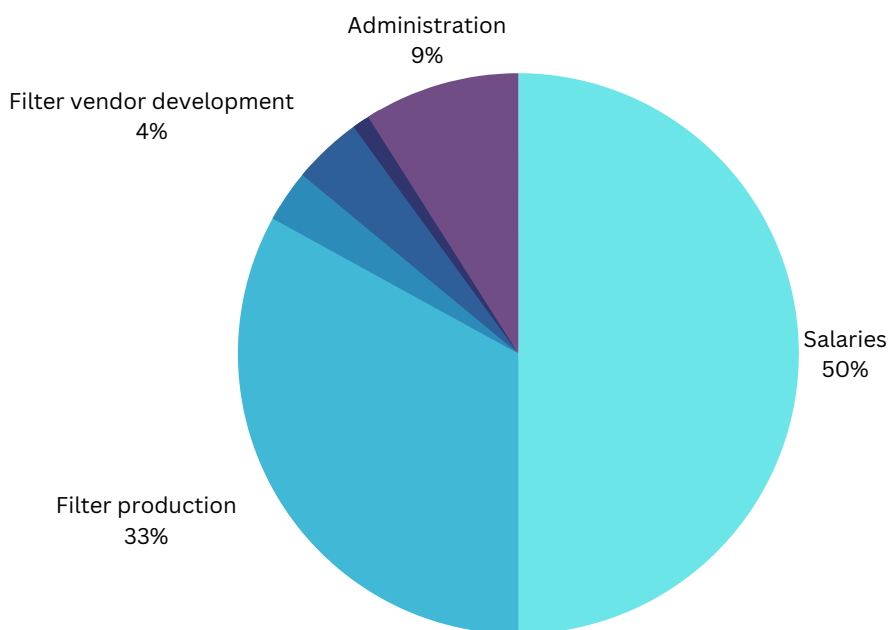
Statement of Comprehensive Income as at 30 June 2022

Income	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Grants	\$119,120	\$71,481	\$91,366	\$108,652	\$25,986
Donations	\$10,541	\$26,946	\$60,866	\$20,717	\$29,220
Filter sales	\$85,569	\$115,724	\$69,791	\$46,205	\$17,243
JobKeeper Income	\$0	\$27,900	\$6,000	-	\$0
Other Income	\$380	\$6,285	\$1,530	\$2,818	\$7,844
Interest	\$162	\$203	\$492	\$504	\$259
Total income	\$215,773	\$248,538	\$230,045	\$178,895	\$80,553
Expenses	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Operational expenses - Philippines	\$4,343	-	-	-	-
Operational expenses - Laos	\$63,796	\$101,842	\$110,759	\$102,877	\$77,457
Operational expenses - Timor-Leste	\$147,905	\$139,693	\$95,295	\$38,912	-
Promotional expenses	\$155	\$190	\$186	\$451	\$2,148
Insurance	\$248	\$248	\$242	\$232	\$232
Bank Fees	\$8	\$24	\$31	\$44	\$135
Other expenses	\$1,069	\$78	\$880	\$197	\$295
Total expenses	\$217,524	\$242,074	\$207,393	\$142,713	\$80,266
Net income	-\$1,751	\$6,464	\$22,652	\$36,182	\$286
Opening cash balance	\$103,533	\$97,069	\$74,417	\$38,234	\$37,948
Closing cash balance	\$101,782	\$103,533	\$97,069	\$74,417	\$38,234

Abundant Water's Income sources



Abundant Water's Operational Expenses



Our Partners

Abundant Water works with an array of local partners in Laos and Timor-Leste to implement our social business model and bring safe drinking water to rural families.

Timor-Leste



Fokupers

FOKUPERS was established in 1997 to address gender based violence and human rights violations against women and children, particularly those committed at the time of the Indonesian occupation of Timor Leste. Fokupers works with Abundant Water to help facilitate community workshops and build vendor networks in Timor Leste.



Australian National University

The Australian National University is a public research university located in Canberra and is repeatedly ranked within the top three universities in Australia.



Engineers Without Borders (EWB)

Through partnership and collaboration Engineers Without Borders focuses on developing skills, knowledge and appropriate engineering solutions in diverse contexts around the world.



US Embassy in Timor-Leste

The US Embassy in Timor-Leste has an Ambassador's Small Grant Fund, which supports NGOs that are working to promote the improved delivery of public and social services that aid target communities, including: vulnerable groups, women and children, youths, and communities living in remote areas.



Community Based Rehabilitation Timor-Leste

Community Based Rehabilitation advocates for health, rehabilitation, education and other services for people with disabilities.



Rotary Club of Hall

Rotary Club of Hall has been a main contributor to developing our pilot project in Timor-Leste. Its ongoing support has been crucial in ensuring the success of our program so far.

Laos



Community Development and Environment Agency (CDEA)

Founded in 2004 CDEA assists underprivileged communities in Lao PDR by working directly with people at the grassroots level to effectively utilize the environmental resources, to improve living standards and increase income generation.



Swiss Red Cross

Founded in 1866, the Swiss Red Cross is a humanitarian organisation working to support the most vulnerable populations around the world through health services, disaster relief and migrant support services.



Association for Community Development and Training (ACTD)

Established in 2012 ACTD promotes water, hygiene and sanitation, and livelihood skill improvement.



Caritas Luxembourg in Laos

Caritas Luxembourg has been operating in Lao PDR since 2010 and seeks to provide assistance to improve people's living conditions, the environment and the future of our children.



Association for the Preservation of the Environment and Development of the Community (APEDC)

APEDC was established in 2015 and works to coordinate natural resource management and promote community participation in improving living conditions in Xieng Khouang province.



Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

Education has been the primary focus of CRS' commitment to development in Laos, where it has worked since 1994. CRS provides assistance in four main programming areas: school meals, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene promotion, literacy, and inclusive education.



Green Community Alliance

Green Community Alliance is an organisation aimed at cultivating awareness of environmental conservation to maintain food security, quality of life and sustainable living for ethnic minorities in remote areas of Laos, depends on its natural resources.

Our Supporters



Rotary International

The Rotary Clubs of Hall, Canberra East and Jerrabomberra have been pivotal to Abundant Water's pilot projects and continued growth since 2008. Rotary has enabled the organisation to bring clean water to new destinations in Timor-Leste and the Philippines in recent years, demonstrating their commitment to enact lasting change to better our world.



Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

Since Abundant Water's inception, DFAT has been a major supporter in both Laos and Timor-Leste over 3 major projects, bringing clean water to tens of thousands of people. The department's purpose is to help make Australia stronger, safer and more prosperous by promoting and protecting our interests internationally and contributing to global stability and economic growth.



The Australian National University

The ANU has been a major supporter of Abundant Water since our humble beginnings in 2008 through both financial and in-kind support. The university also provides students the opportunity to gain invaluable and practical in-field experience to contribute to their theses research.



One Of A Kind Apartments

One of a Kind Apartments offer unique, Eco-Chic, sustainable accommodation in Canberra, Australia unlike any other. They are a proud partner of Abundant Water.



Yew Tree Investments

Yew Tree Investment Trust is a progressive and established investment vehicle. It is a founding shareholder in a number of private, publicly unlisted and publicly ASX listed entities.

With a moral philosophy of environmental, social governance at its core, it works with teams of start-ups across a range of industries including, but not limited to, the resource sector, environmental services, clean energy and information technology.

Yew tree has a demonstrated track record in start-up, turnaround and rapid growth situations with a proven aptitude to identify and capitalise on unique opportunities.



Water Tight

Water Tight is Canberra's reliable plumbing, drainage and gas fitting service. Founded in 2010, Water Tight works on both residential and small commercial fitouts, with customer service, honesty and integrity being a focus in every aspect of their plumbing business. They continue to be a great supporter of Abundant Water.



Children with water in Laos, February 2021.



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