



Thank YOU!

Thank you to **EVERYONE** who supported our work around the world in any way in 2018.




Particular thanks to our **DONORS** and **FUNDING PARTNERS**, who enable our members to help people transform their lives.

Above all, our heartfelt thanks to all of our **MEMBERS** and **SUPPORTERS**. You are the heart and soul (as well as the hands and feet) of the movement.



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LOCAL ACTION, GLOBAL IMPACT

WHO WE ARE

Mothers' Union is a global, women-led movement of 4 million members. We work as volunteers in our communities, putting our faith into action by supporting individuals and communities to transform their lives. We have been doing this since 1876. In 2018, we collectively supported almost 1 million people in 84 countries, giving them the skills and knowledge to transform their lives in a sustainable way.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IS OUR ROYAL PATRON.

Our members around the world, from Argentina to Zimbabwe, drive our work and share the same values. We are firmly committed to volunteering, mutual respect, collaboration and inclusivity, working with vulnerable and marginalised people of all faiths and none.

Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

HOW WE WORK

Our members are anchored in their local communities – a rich diversity of cultures. They all share the common purpose of serving Christ by using their own time and resources to help people around them transform their lives.

In addition, centrally raised funds from members and donors enable training and support for larger-scale projects around the world, benefitting over 100,000 people each year. In some countries, a small number of professional community development coordinators support our members' work.

'Mothers' Union work is carried out by members, each in their unique way. That's pretty incredible. It's fuelled by people passionate about their faith.'

Mothers' Union member Victoria



'Wherever I go, I see the work of Mothers' Union. You are among the most embedded, effective and widespread groups I know. Your women-led movement is one of the Anglican Communion's greatest gifts to the worldwide Church and your members are a powerful force of hope. If any group of individuals is able to transform lives and bring people closer to God, it is the dedicated members of Mothers' Union.'

The Most Revd And Right Hon Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby

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INTRODUCTION



WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL REVIEW, WHICH OUTLINES OUR LOCAL ACTION AND GLOBAL IMPACT IN 2018.

2018 was a successful year. We made very good progress against our objectives, and our members made a positive difference to almost 1 million people's lives worldwide.

It was also a year of change and reflection. We gained approval for a new constitution that is fit for the future. Our board for 2019-2021, elected under the new constitution, is the most diverse in our history, comprising people of eight different nationalities from different geographical regions. The board also includes our first male board member and our first Worldwide President from outside Britain and Ireland.

We continued a series of conversations that have inspired our members and strengthened our understanding of our mission around the world (see below). We will continue this approach of listening to real community needs before taking action in the future.

Throughout these changes, our movement continued to serve local communities, having a greater global impact than ever before. This is faith in action.

Sheran Harper
Worldwide President

Bev Jullien
CEO

SETTING OUR FUTURE DIRECTION

'MULOA has made me feel really excited for Mothers' Union's future' Mothers' Union member

Mothers' Union Listens, Observes and Acts (MULOA) will inform our future strategy by clarifying our principles and priorities.

This process is rooted in listening to our members. Since March 2017, more than 200,000 members on six continents have been involved in workshops to understand their communities' needs. The process will end in June 2019.

Learning from MULOA has already re-energised and transformed the way we work. It has revitalised existing groups – such as in Peru – and created new ones, including in Liberia and American Samoa.



NURTURING FAMILIES

Our members' work is driven by local needs and relationships – family and community are at the heart of everything we do. We believe that healthy relationships are the cornerstone for building resilient communities.

Since 2004 we have run practical parenting programmes globally. In 2018, we launched new schemes in Argentina, Peru and with indigenous Cree people in Canada. This work is already transforming negative mindsets and improving family stability.

We work with prisoners' families, helping them to stay together during the toughest times and reduce reoffending. This support includes literacy training and parenting education. In the UK, we run family support days and crèches in prison visitor centres. In Northern Ireland, we provide books so prisoners and their young relatives can share positive experiences.



Families bond through shared experience. We create safe spaces where families who are going through stressful times can relax and rebuild relationships. This includes our Away From It All holidays provided by UK dioceses.

LAYLA* AND ZAHRA'S* STORY, UK

Layla and her 17-year-old daughter Zahra claimed asylum in the UK. At home in Iran, they were persecuted for being Christians. Layla had been imprisoned and her life was threatened.

Here, Layla and Zahra have the freedom to practise their faith but life is difficult. Layla's husband Ali is still in Iran, in a volatile situation. Economic sanctions mean that he cannot support his family practically or financially. He hopes to join them soon but they miss him terribly.

In 2018, Layla and Zahra joined our Away From It All pilgrimage to Holy Island, arranged by the Diocese of Newcastle. They really enjoyed the relaxing trip, strengthening their bond and building networks to support them through this difficult time.

*Names and image changed to protect their identities



Our local action aims to **empower** people to **support** themselves to achieve lasting, **positive** change.

COMMUNITY ACTION

The approach, known as asset based community development (ABCD), involves using a community's existing skills, tools and resources to change things for the better rather than asking for external help. As well as being cost-effective and locally relevant, this approach ensures that community members retain their dignity and a sense of empowerment.

Our particular form of ABCD is called Metamorphosis because it uses participatory activities, such as acting out Bible stories, to help people change their mindsets and behaviours. In turn, this helps them to identify resources they did not know they had.

This approach can achieve remarkable results in cost-effective ways. For example, in Uganda – where the process is called Eagle – entire communities have come together to form savings schemes, cooperatives and lobby governmental organisations for the support they need. One community is producing enough physalis fruit to export to Europe where everyone involved makes a living they never thought possible.

In the Diocese of Ely, toddler, Sunday school and youth groups have all grown as a result of our Metamorphosis approach. In addition, community links are strengthening and support for lonely and elderly people has expanded. By listening to the community, our members identified a feeling of isolation among men so they organised a men's breakfast meeting.



WENDY'S STORY, ETHIOPIA

Our member Wendy, a bishop's wife, trains Mothers' Union representatives in several villages in basic childcare as part of a health and education programme. This knowledge has been shared with local groups and communities across Ethiopia.

This training aims to change harmful local traditions, such as the deadly practice of not giving babies water if they have diarrhoea. Because of this training, one person told us their village had gone from burying 500 infants to none at all in less than a year.

Wendy's husband believes that working with Mothers' Union is the best way to get anything done in the Church.

'What matters is that we bring lasting change. We want to have a lasting impact.' Mothers' Union member

'I got a 50,000 franc (£44) loan. During the rainy season my house fell down. I used some of the funds to rebuild it and the group helped me. I also bought a pig. I repaid the loan in full. I'm now able to take care of my grandchildren and am respected by others.' Immaculee, a saving group member in Rwanda



FIGHTING POVERTY

Our members work in local communities across the globe to help people lift themselves out of poverty. Since 2000 we have provided literacy and financial education to more than 190,000 people, in such challenging countries as South Sudan.

As an organisation, we also partner with specialist charities to help communities establish locally run saving and credit groups. These small groups save together and grant loans to members, helping people collectively build up funds to establish small businesses, increase their income and repay the group. These groups also enable members to support vulnerable neighbours and strengthen local infrastructures.

Since 2015 we have rolled out this approach across Rwanda, creating around 1,000 community-managed groups. The groups use Bible studies to increase members' sense of self-reliance. When surveyed, 88% of members reported starting a new business or income generating activity as a result of their group.



JOYCE'S STORY, TANZANIA

Our three-year programme in Tanzania, supported by the Anglican Communion Fund, has already established 162 saving and loan groups. In turn, 3,032 group members are transforming their lives and supporting other local people.

Joyce is a member of a group in the Diocese of Tanga. She has saved 165,000 Tanzanian shillings (£55) and borrowed 500,000 Tanzanian shillings (£165) to start a small-scale poultry and maize growing business.

So far, Joyce has harvested 2,900kg of maize. She kept some for her family and sold the rest. She also regularly sells eggs in the market. This income has enabled her to pay her children's school fees, broadening their future prospects.

*Figures correct as of October 2018.



EMERGENCY RELIEF

Our members provide local support to some of the world's most vulnerable people at times of crisis, such as natural disasters. They quickly provide support and essential items, often in collaboration with the Church and other agencies.

As our members are embedded in the local community, we increasingly use their local knowledge, networks and experience to work on disaster preparedness to reduce the impact of future crises.

In 2018 we ran a workshop in Madagascar that led to the Diocese of Mahajanga planting vetiver and trees to protect communities against cyclones. This fast growing plant helps to prevent soil erosion, reducing the risk of landslides and crop failure. It can be also used for roofing and handicrafts, enhancing local housing and incomes, increasing resilience against future crises.

LYNN'S STORY, MYANMAR

In September 2018, we supported people affected by recurring floods in Myanmar.

'It's the worst it's ever been. It is a desperate situation,' said Lynn, our Community Development Coordinator in Hpa-an, one of the worst affected areas. Around 100,000 people were forced to flee their homes for safety.

We worked with local youths to deliver food and water to people who were flooded out of their homes or stranded by flood waters. The only way to reach them was by boat. 'Boats are very expensive to buy so one of our [Mothers' Union] branches made a boat from bamboo,' explained Lynn, outlining our members' dedication and creativity. After the flooding eased, our members helped communities to recover and rebuild.



SOCIAL JUSTICE



In 2018, members from Ghana, Zambia, Canada and the UK participated in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, which focused on rural women.

TACKLING GENDER ISSUES

As a women-led movement, we focus on gender issues through practical community action and local, national and global advocacy. Our members work tirelessly to address specific gender issues in their communities.

In Bo, Sierra Leone, our members are working the Diocesan Women's Desk helping parents, communities and young people to tackle gender-based violence, specifically female genital mutilation. They educate local people about the dangers of this practice, encourage change and empower women and girls to assert their rights and choices.

'Our members work tirelessly to address specific gender issues in their communities.'

ACHIEVING MORE TOGETHER

We often work in partnership with others to increase our impact. In 2018, members from Ghana, Zambia, Canada and the UK participated in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, which focused on rural women. Delegates used evidence from more than 200 members from seven countries on the key challenges rural women face, notably limited education and a lack of 'voice' to advocate for change due to gender discrimination. This knowledge will inform our own work as well as UN activities.

We participated in the international campaign 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, holding events in seven countries. In Florida, our members gave a presentation on human trafficking to educate people on ways to help their local community.

In Northern Zambia we are working with St Veronica's Guild, the Men's Anglican Fellowship and community members to campaign against gender-based violence as part of the One Voice initiative.

SARAH* AND LUCY'S* STORY, KENYA

In Kenya, our members are challenging child marriage, which is still common in some communities.

Local member Sarah works to protect girls as young as 11 from child marriage. Through her networks, Sarah learns of planned child marriages. She talks with families to try to prevent these weddings, or alternatively moves at-risk girls to safety.

Lucy* was married off at 14. Her biggest dream was to complete her education, which is frowned upon after marriage. She managed to complete her education and theological training, becoming the first married woman to do so locally. But this came at huge personal cost. She faced local ridicule and her husband beat and raped her. She left her husband when he threatened to kill her.

Thanks to support from Sarah and Lucy, young women have avoided child marriage, found the courage to attend school after marriage or leave their abusive husbands.

*Names changed to protect their identities



LOCAL ACTION, GLOBAL IMPACT



2018

In 2018, **4 MILLION MEMBERS** in **84 countries** across **6 continents** supported over **940,000 people** worldwide.

OUR 2018 ACTIVITIES COMPRISED:



16,000 PEOPLE



Since 2014, we have helped over 16,000 people to become literate, helping them to build a brighter future

32,500 PEOPLE



Since 2014, we have enabled over 32,500 people to join community saving and loan groups to support local enterprise and financial security

200,000 MEMBERS



Since 2017, over 200,000 members have helped to shape our future focus by taking part in MULOA workshops



INCOME & EXPENDITURE

Our Board approved a deficit budget for 2018, taking into account the short-term costs of organisational change projects that are designed to reap long-term rewards. These include MULO (see page 4), which cost more than £280,000 during the year, a new website and an updated Constitution. We expect to see tangible financial benefits from these investments from 2020.

Given our investments in transformational projects, we are extremely pleased with our operational financial performance in 2018. We generated a small surplus, compared with a £697,000 (planned) deficit in 2017. However, the market value of our investments resulted in us recording an overall deficit of £140,000 in 2018.

This positive outcome is a result of the astonishing generosity and commitment of our members. Our income from donations and events was £326,000 greater than in 2017. A significant portion of this was generated by legacy and in-memoriam giving, exceeding expectations.

Our programmes remain highly cost-effective. Our Support and Governance costs compare very favourably with other global organisations. Our fundraising costs were only 15% of the total voluntary income we generated, measuring well against industry benchmarks.

We expect the financial climate to remain challenging but are confident that our strategy and the dedication of our global membership will help us to rise to this challenge.

'This positive outcome is a result of the astonishing generosity and commitment of our members.'

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2018

INCOME:

SUBSCRIPTIONS	£773,971	27%	
DONATIONS & EVENTS	£1,524,896	53%	
GRANTS	£162,173	5.6%	
INVESTMENTS AND RENTAL	£197,353	7%	
SALE OF RESOURCES	£2,915	0.4%	
TRADING OUTCOME	£198,168	7%	

TOTAL: £2,859,476

EXPENDITURE:

PROGRAM WORK	£1,149,426	41%	
FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP	£331,425	12%	
CAMPAIGNING	£360,813	13%	
EMERGENCY RELIEF	£23,256	1%	
MEMBERSHIP	£542,922	20%	
GOVERNANCE	£113,211	4%	
FUNDRAISING	£236,359	9%	

TOTAL: £2,757,412

Outcome from operations: £102,064

A full copy of the Annual Accounts can be obtained online at www.mothersunion.org or by contacting us at the address on the reverse.