



Us in focus

Looking back on 2014 and forward to 2015

Us. The new name for USPG

Us.
every person
every community
a full life

Working hand in hand with the world church

Report by Canon Chris Chivers, Chair of Us Trustees

Our aim – as a global mission agency – is to encourage a sharing of insights and gifts throughout the world church.

We do not need to stand alone. If our focus is on partnership, community and inter-dependence then we will see humans flourish and glimpse the fullness of life that Jesus proclaims.

But this is challenging work.

Last year, at the invitation of our church partners, Us started a project looking at what it means to live our faith in multi-cultural and multi-faith societies. This research will result in a set of resources that can be shared by our partners to help meet the many challenges of inter religious living.

In Pakistan, I met a Muslim family whose youngest child accidentally dropped a copy of the Holy Qu'ran on his way home from the local mosque. Through this action, his mother was deemed to have defamed the name of the Prophet, and she's now on death row. It's the church that is seeking her release.

In Kenya, I heard the harrowing stories of children who fled civil war in Somalia. But there is now hope for these children because they are receiving an education provided by the local church.

In a hostel in Dubai, I prayed with migrant workers that they would be able to return to India to be with the children they had not seen for 18 months. The church is offering pastoral care and enabling the workers to make video calls to their children.

This is what Us does – reaching out with friendship and love through the church across the globe.

We invite churches in Britain and Ireland to catch this vision of a world church that is actively sharing God's love, even when to do so can be challenging or dangerous.

Thank you for standing with Us and the world church.

Cover: Clinic run by the Anglican Sisters of St Mary, Tanzania (Us/Leah Gordon).

Putting the gospel into action

The work of Us and our church partners during 2014 and into 2015 has been wide-ranging, which is a direct reflection of the diverse nature of the gospel.

We can summarise this work into five key areas:

Protecting health

Throughout our 300-year history, we have had a focus on health and well-being in the broadest sense – health for body, mind and spirit.

We support hospitals and clinics, community-led health initiatives, and training for health workers.

We are supporting the work of people like Dr Christopher Amulya Baroi, at Christian Mission Hospital, in Rajshahi, Bangladesh. Dr Christopher told Us: 'It is good for Christians to be involved in the healing ministry. It is a chance to show the love of Jesus Christ, who came into the world not to be served but to serve.'

Securing livelihoods

Our partners are helping communities to gain financial security through income generation projects, agricultural development and training in vocational skills.

This means helping communities through both small- and large-scale initiatives, from poultry farms and sewing classes to the provision of loans that release the potential of church land and property.

In Tsvingwe, Zimbabwe, Mr Never Mutetiwa attended a church-run workshop that encouraged people to identify their skills and

resources, then devise their own development projects. Never reported: 'My family had only three beds of vegetables, which was not enough to feed us, so we had to buy extra. But, after attending the workshop, I realised I could start a gardening project, and I planted a large variety of vegetables. Within three weeks, the land next to my house – which had been idle for years – was looking green. We no longer need to buy vegetables from market. In fact, we sell the surplus and can afford to buy fish and beef.'

Promoting justice

Through our church partnerships we are giving a voice to excluded, marginalised and deprived communities. Currently we are working with our partners to win justice for women, vulnerable workers, and the victims of human trafficking and persecution.

Us partner Dr Packiam Samuel, of the Henry Martyn Institute in India, comments: 'There is no need for poverty. Poverty is man-made, and it is in our hands to destroy it. Relief for the poor should not be seen as an act of love or charity, but as an act of justice.'

Exchanging knowledge

We all have something to learn and something to share. We are better when we listen to each other. This is why we encourage training and learning across and within churches, communities and cultures.

We support new thinking about mission, peace and reconciliation among faith communities, and training to equip church leaders.

Wonder Nyawo, an ordinand at the Us-supported Bishop Gaul College in Zimbabwe, is making financial sacrifices to train for the ministry. He told Us: 'Being at college brings challenges, but



Geeta Sharma teaches sewing in Krawalnagar, India.

the blessings are substantial. We are being equipped, aided and developed spiritually. Please pray that we would be humble and have listening hearts so we can become effective ministers.'

Responding to crises

Disasters and emergencies – whether natural or man-made – are rarely out of the news, and even seem to be on the increase. That is why we are working with our church partners to help communities

respond in times of disaster, while also preparing to meet future emergencies.

In 2014, we helped the church reach out to Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Christians facing persecution in Iraq, communities devastated by Ebola in West Africa, and Palestinians hit by a 50-day war with Israeli.

Make a donation and find out more about our global work at www.weareUs.org.uk/worldwide

Thank you for your support

We are thankful to our many supporters and churches for their prayers, time and continuing generosity, without which we would be unable to support our brothers and sisters within the world church.

We are particularly grateful for the financial support received from members and patrons of The Bray Circle (our new supporters' circle), including: Canon Linda Ali, Sir Tony Baldry, Prof John Hartley, Dr Martin Heath, Dr Elizabeth Hills, Mrs Elizabeth Holden, Mr Jack Ind, Mrs Ann Nicholl, the Revd Richard Stevens, Mr Nigel Wildish, Mr Douglas Yates, Dr Kerry Yong, and Patrons who wished to remain anonymous.

We are grateful for all those who remember our work through legacy gifts and we continue to pray for them.

Summary of income and expenditure for 2014

How we raised the resources

The 2014 results of our financial performance showed that donations fell 6% compared to 17% in 2013. This is a testimony to our efforts to engage more meaningfully with our supporters, and we anticipate that we will see this downward trend in donations reversed in 2015.

Income from legacies fell 52% from last year's figures. Trustees are aware of the unpredictable nature of legacies and therefore budgeted for a conservative figure of £500k against which £454k was raised.

Total income for 2014 was £3.36m compared to £3.75m received in 2013. Even though we had 9% more investment income than the previous year, the gains were off-set by fluctuation in legacy income resulting in a 10% fall in total income. In 2014, 53% (2013: 43%) of income came from investment. The increase was due to a deliberate strategy to move all funds on deposit to high rewarding investments. The percentage of total income from donations was 32% (2013: 31%) and from legacies 14% (2013: 25%).

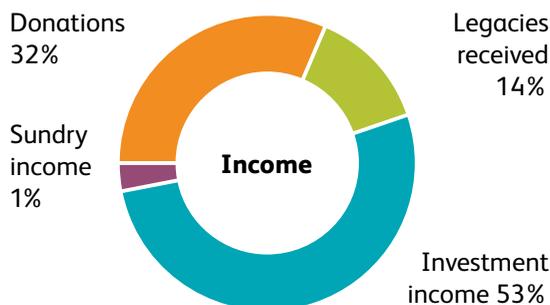
How we spent the resources

Total expenditure decreased by 11%, from £4.3m in 2013 to £3.8m in 2014. However, the 2013 figure included a one-off expenditure of £545k relating to the distribution of funds from closed trusts. Like-for-like expenditure on programmes increased from £2.89m in 2013 to £2.97m in 2014; this constituted 78% (2013: 78%) of total expenditure.

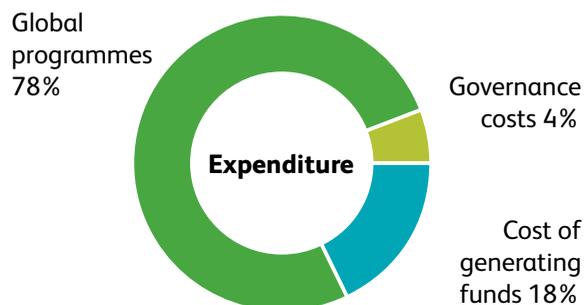
The costs of generating funds represents 18% (£692k) (2013: £676k) of resources spent. Out of this, £107k (2013: £93k) was expenditure relating to the rebranding of USPG to become Us. Further work on refreshing the brand will be carried out in 2015.

Our governance costs, which include the costs of organising the annual conference, council meetings, Trustees' meetings and legal fees, were £173k (2013: £167k). This represents 4% (2013: 4%) of resources spent. The 2013 figure included one-off legal fees relating to work on the new name, supplemental charter and trusts consolidation work with the Charity Commission.

	2014	2013
	£'000	£'000
Income		
Donations	1,083	1,150
Legacies received	454	947
Investment income	1,788	1,622
Sundry income	39	33
Total Income	3,364	3,752



	2014	2013
	£'000	£'000
Expenditure		
Cost of generating funds	692	676
Global programmes	2,959	2,895
Governance costs	173	167
Total Expenditure	3,824	3,738



This summary has been extracted from the full audited accounts, which can be seen on our website.