





Introduction

PiCCA is proud to present this report of its activities in 2022.

We are particularly delighted to report on the rolling out of an exciting new initiative in Bougainville that included the trialling of a social enterprise importing and on-selling rocket stoves. Underpinned by a broader program of skills and capacity development, the project sought to improve lives and livelihoods in the community and to provide pathways to potential income streams for our partners and other participants.

Just as this project was gearing up, our hygiene projects, initiated in 2021, were concluding successfully in Vietnam. These projects saw the building of hygienic wash stations and the delivery of extensive hygiene training across 20 school communities in Huong Tra and Phu Vang.

These seemingly very different projects in Bougainville and Vietnam were developed under the same PiCCA ethos of working collaboratively with trusted local partners, identifying local priority needs and supporting locally developed and locally managed projects to address those needs.

Together with the support of our wonderful members and generous donors, we continued in 2022 just as we have done in every year since we started out 8 years ago, delivering small but effectively targeted projects that make positive differences in people's lives.

We are so grateful to our members, donors, partners and supporters who make our work possible. And most of all we are grateful to the people in the communities where we work. We learn and grow together.





Our Projects: Stretim Sindaun, Bougainville

At our 2022 Annual General Meeting, PiCCA members voted to support a new project in partnership with the Hako Women's Collective (HWC) in Bougainville. The project was called Stretim Sindaun, a phrase from the Haku language which refers to shaping and creating better lives for the community. In practical terms, it describes a range of activities that have been married together to improve livelihoods, income streams, and women's and family safety and empowerment with the community in the northern part of Buka Island.

The project was in two interlinked parts. The first part was a small-scale trial, importing and marketing rocket stoves (*pictured top right onsite at HWC*) to explore the viability of HWC running a broader social enterprise based on this activity. The aim is over time to generate income to sustain HWC's vital (and mostly unfunded) community services including, inter alia, its domestic violence respite and prevention work, its community training programs and its peace and reconciliation activities.

The second part of the project was designed to capitalise on the rocket stove link to provide community access to training programs in their use. This was delivered as part of a broader program of skills development focussing on activities that people can do in their homes to improve their lives and livelihoods. These included such activities as the use of drum ovens in addition to the rocket stoves, the manufacture of clothing using locally sourced sewing machines and training in basic concepts in home design, construction and repair (*as pictured bottom right*). All the training included a strong emphasis on aspects of safety, as well as hands on use of equipment, and skills for those who wished to explore opportunities for income generation from these activities.





Our Projects: Stretim Sindaun, Bougainville

As for the rocket stoves themselves, the first shipment was sourced, purchased and imported from China via Lae and all sold to eager customers across Haku almost immediately.



What is a rocket stove?

A rocket stove is an efficient clean-cooking stove which uses small sized pieces of wood (or other combustible fuel source). The fuel is burned at the bottom of the stove, and the heat generated passes through an insulated vertical chimney with almost complete combustion occurring before the flames reach the cooking pot. The whooshing sound generated in the combustion process gives the stove its name.

It consumes far less fuel compared to traditional wood stoves and dramatically less than open fireplace cooking. It produces very little smoke and waste and saves time in food preparation.

Benefits compared to traditional methods of cooking include:

- improved outcomes in health with dramatically reduced levels of smoke inhalation;
- less damage to forest and mangrove environments with less demand on scarce timber resources;
- considerable time saving for women in particular, still the ones predominantly engaged in timber getting and home cooking;
- more free time for the women: opens up opportunities to participate in training, skills development, income generation activities and self-development outside the home.

A rocket stove can thus be much more than a kitchen utility. It can be a steppingstone to empowerment and equality for women.



Our Projects: Stretim Sindaun, Bougainville

The supporting training was so enthusiastically embraced that the original 5-day training program was delivered to an overflowing house, and had to be repeated in the following week to cater for the excess demand.

PiCCA Chair Steve Maguire and PiCCA Member Tony Blake went to Bougainville in early November 2022. They provided valuable and gratefully received input into the training program in the best use of rocket stoves, and assisted HWC in planning aspects of the business development model for the social enterprise that is a potential longer-term outcome of the project.

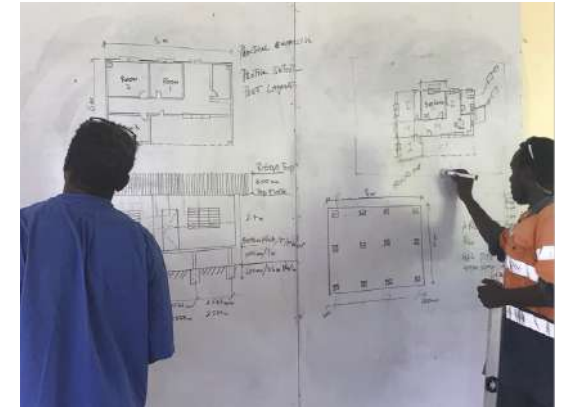




Our Projects: Stretim Sindaun, Bougainville

As the learning from the first stage of the rocket stove import and sale is assessed, there have already been a number of valuable outcomes from the project including:

- The first shipment of rocket stoves was successfully imported, and all stock sold across the community.
- The benefits of the rocket stove are being enjoyed in houses across the Haku region. A survey of stove users is planned for 2023 to collect data on the use and usefulness of the stoves.
- A drum oven (pictured middle row right) and three rocket stoves have been installed in the hauskuk (outdoor kitchen) of the HWC community centre. The cooking instruments are in daily use supporting the training, information, service linking and community planning activities that are held in the centre.
- The training in sewing and clothes manufacture has led to a weekly sewing circle held at HWC enabling people to use the sewing machines and receive training and guidance.
- The training in design and construction has contributed valuable information, skills and safety awareness in a community where, in the absence of tradespeople as we know them here, the vast majority of building is done by the people themselves.
- Incidentally but valuably, participants in the building design and construction workshops used their skills to design and build a new village Service Station in Hanpan (two photos bottom row).





Our Projects: Operational Capacity Building, Bougainville



Throughout 2021, PiCCA worked in consultation with the women of the HWC, to develop a series of practical operational guidelines directly based on their day-to-day activities and practices in finance, management and service delivery.

In 2022, these guidelines formed the foundation of a year-long program of training aimed at developing the skills and confidence of the HWC volunteers in running the vital programs and services they deliver to the community. PiCCA provided funding to assist the women cover the costs of travel from Haku into Buka Town. When they got into the town, they connected via Zoom with PiCCA Treasurer Stephanie Boldeman who designed and delivered the training.



Generally applicable across the broad spectrum of HWC's programs and services, the skills and knowledge covered were also envisaged as contributing further PiCCA support to the Stretim Sindaun project.

A special note of thanks to the International Foundation for Electoral Systems for providing the women with access to internet and meeting room facilities without which the training would not have been able to proceed.



Our Projects: Hygiene Projects, Vietnam



Over the last half of 2021 and the first half of 2022, PiCCA worked with partner [Hearts for Hue](#) to install new 8-tap hand-wash stations and to deliver a program of hygiene, sanitation, and disease prevention.

The training was delivered to teachers and students in 20 schools in the Huong Tra and Phu Vang areas around Hue. Designed partially as an intervention to limit the impact of Covid, the project also aimed to address longer term issues of relatively high levels of absenteeism and hospitalisation of school-aged children due to mostly preventable disease and illness connected to poor hygiene and sanitation.

The work is now completed, with some 8,000 people in the school communities directly benefiting from the project. Final acquittal reports were received from Hearts for Hue in August 2022.

Importantly though, the outcomes did not stop with the end of our involvement. The Department of Education and school authorities in both areas lauded the projects for their success in addressing both Covid and the broader health and sanitation issues that pre-existed the pandemic. These authorities have committed to maintaining the wash station infrastructure and to continue rolling out the training for the benefit of future school cohorts for at least 5 years to come.



Our Projects: Hygiene Projects, Vietnam

Deep gratitude to Hearts for Hue, the Hue University of Medicine and Nursing, the Department of Education and the school communities involved.

And very special thanks go to The Phillips Foundation whose contribution enabled the project to be rolled out in the Phu Vang region.

For a visual summary, Hearts for Hue filmed two videos covering the project activities in Huong Tra and Phu Vang. The videos can be viewed the Hearts for Hue YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/@heartsforhue>.





Our Story Telling: No Mountain Too High

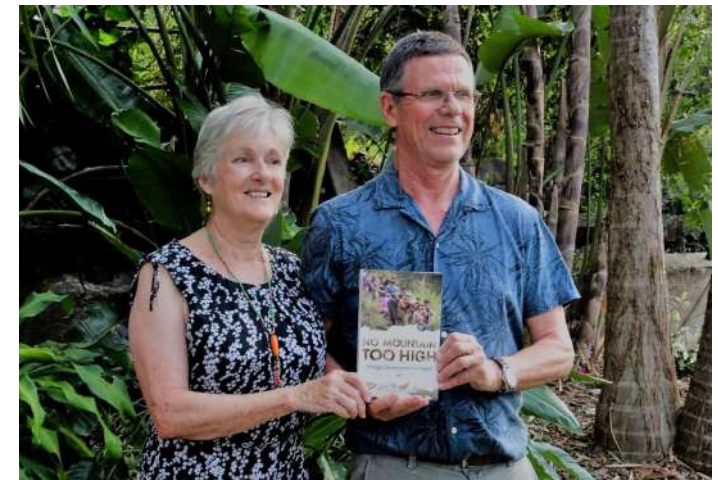
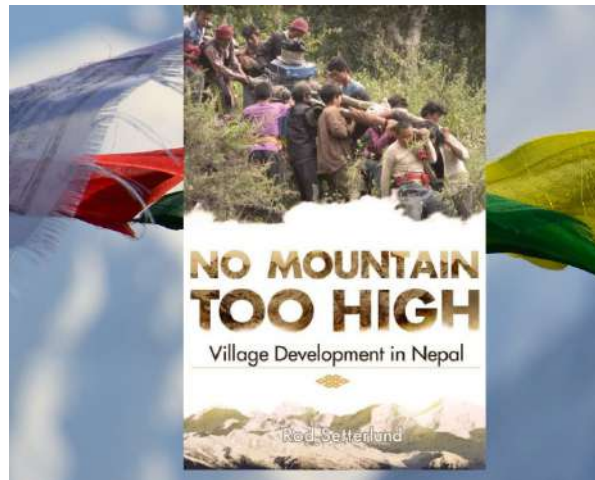
No Mountain Too High was the title of a PiCCA Dialogue gathering in October 2022. It is also the title of the new and enthralling book written by President of the Nepal Australia Friendship Association and PiCCA foundation member Mr Rod Setterlund OAM.

Set over a 20-year period in the hilly region northwest of Kathmandu, the book tells the very personal story of the Tamang people living in the remote village of Tawal. It is first and foremost their story in a development partnership that helped them triumph over a long history of political neglect and social discrimination, a 10-year civil war and the devastating 2015 earthquake.

It is also Rod and his wife Deborah's personal story as volunteers with the Nepal Australia Friendship Association: the highs and lows, successes and challenges in adopting a community and market-system approach to the development partnership.

As part of our PiCCA dialogue series, Rob and Deborah engaged with PiCCA members in an inspirational and free flowing conversation about the book, Nepal, development and the lessons we can learn from the communities where we are privileged to work.

For more on the book <https://www.setterlundnepalbooks.com>





Our Story Telling: Interview with Marilyn Havini AM

Since 2017, PiCCA has been privileged to partner with the amazing women of the Hako Women's Collective. Together we have helped deliver substantial projects that have enhanced food security, family livelihoods, community building and women's safety, participation and empowerment in the region of Haku on Buka Island in Bougainville. We are continuing to work with them in 2022 and beyond.

PiCCA members gathered in Brisbane in April 2022 to watch and discuss a video interview with Marilyn Havini AM who amongst her many extraordinary contributions is a founding member and long-term mentor to the HWC. In the video, Marilyn tells the story of her personal journey to Bougainville, and the growth of the HWC from a collective dream of the women of Haku to the important community resource and service provider it is today. She describes the ongoing challenges facing Haku but shares with us how the women of the HWC are rising to overcome all obstacles to help build better futures for the community.



The video was made at the end of 2021 with invaluable technical assistance from Claire Brazil of Paramount Videos.

For those who haven't seen it, it can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBZjTgUiWc>



Our Story Telling: Presentation to U3A and PiCCA AGM

Presentation to U3A

A big thanks to The University of the Third Age (U3A), especially to PiCCA member Mary Denver who organised for a PiCCA presentation to be delivered to 30 keenly interested participants as part of their regular information and event series.

Board member Warren McMillan delivered the presentation via Zoom, canvassing the origins of PiCCA, its many projects delivered over the years, and its core commitments of working in partnership with local communities, of ensuring 100% of donations received are expended in community directly on project work, and of working as a “giving circle” whose members help decide and fund our project activity.

PiCCA Annual General Meeting

PiCCA members gathered in Highgate Hill, Brisbane on Sunday 22 May 2022 for our Annual General Meeting. The AGM is the primary vehicle by which PiCCA accounts to its members, submitting the Annual Report and independently audited accounts for the previous calendar year and deciding on which projects to undertake into the future. The business done, the AGM is also a warm gathering of friends and colleagues, a chance to network and discuss ideas in support of our shared passion and commitment to better lives, livelihoods and opportunities for disadvantaged communities around the world. At the 2022 gathering, we discussed amongst many things the implications of the ongoing Covid pandemic and of warfares large and small that ravage various parts of the globe. Matters beyond our control and influence, we determined that PiCCA will continue to do what it is has always done: pool our skills and resources and work with trusted partners overseas to make positive differences where we are able.





Our Story Telling: Social Media

Facebook posts	23
Blog updates	12
Newsletters	3
Members messages	14
Facebook followers	681

FACEBOOK



Visit us On Facebook
 Share our stories
 Spread the word

NEWS



'maste...gude...sawubona...P'
 ...rters!

PiCCA's latest newsletter features updates on all of our projects, members' stories and more!



Our Back Office

Web Presence

We are very grateful to Mario Bono who continues to provide us with his expert guidance and support in maintaining the architecture and integrity of our web and social media presence. Mario also undertakes the regular maintenance chores and backups of all our data without which our system would probably not function at all.

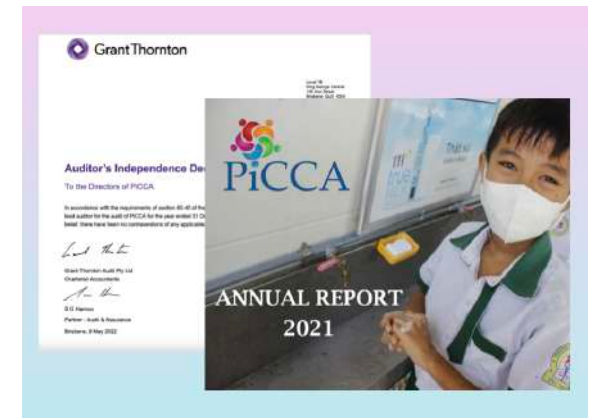


Policy Reviews

PiCCA's board undertakes annual reviews of the policies that guide our actions and decision-making in a range of areas including project selection processes and criteria, financial management, and our responsibilities in areas such as child protection and countering human trafficking. The primary purpose of the reviews is to ensure that the policies are in keeping with best contemporary guidance and practice and that PiCCA's actions are similarly well considered and implemented. A time consuming but important task to ensure our ongoing good governance. The reviews in 2022 have been completed and we look forward to doing it all again in 2023.

Reporting to external bodies

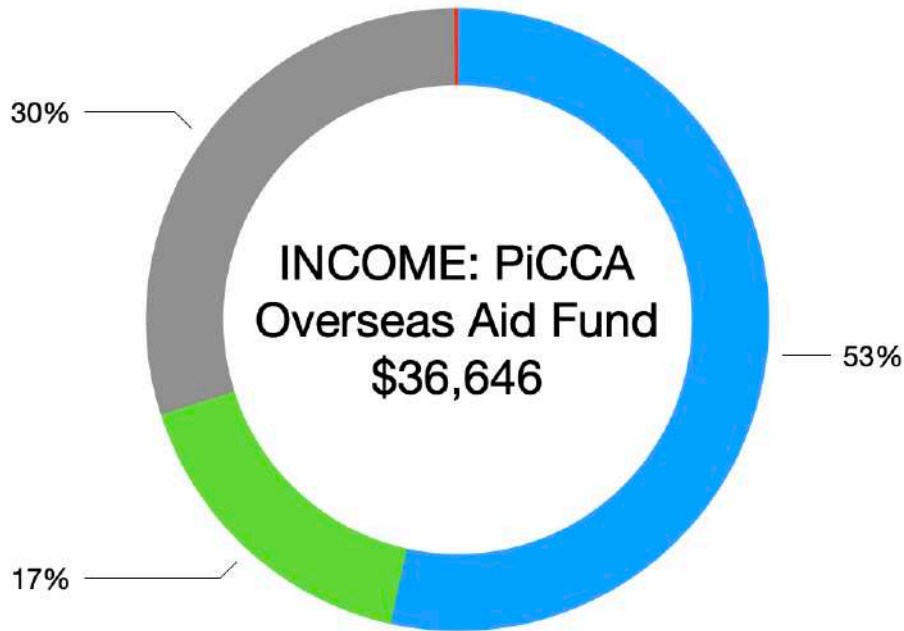
Each year, PiCCA submits reports to both the Queensland Office of Fair Trading and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. As every year, 2022 reports were duly submitted as per our responsibilities to these governing bodies.





Our Finances: 2022 Income

- Member donation
- Director donation
- Non-member donation
- Fundraising
- Bank interest



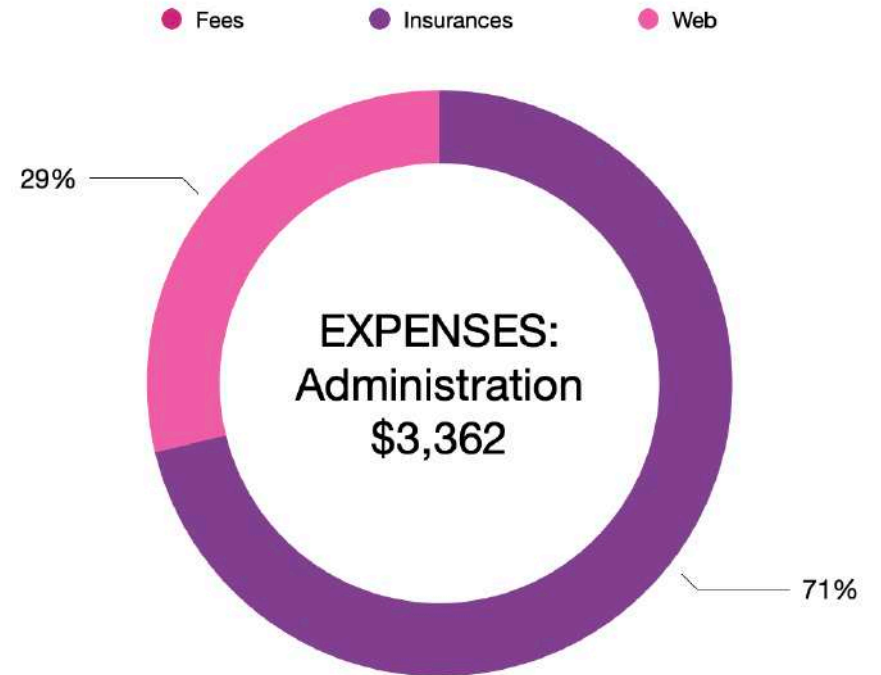
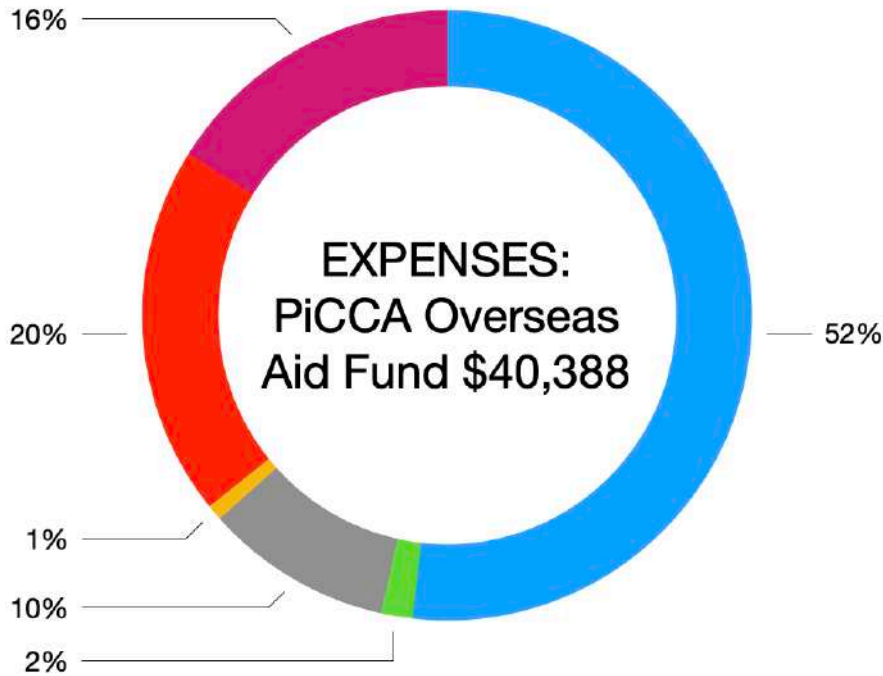
PiCCA is eternally grateful to Simon Hancox of Grant Thornton for probono audit services. The figures and graphs presented here are based on a cash accounting summary for the year.

PiCCA's financial year is 1 January to 31 December.



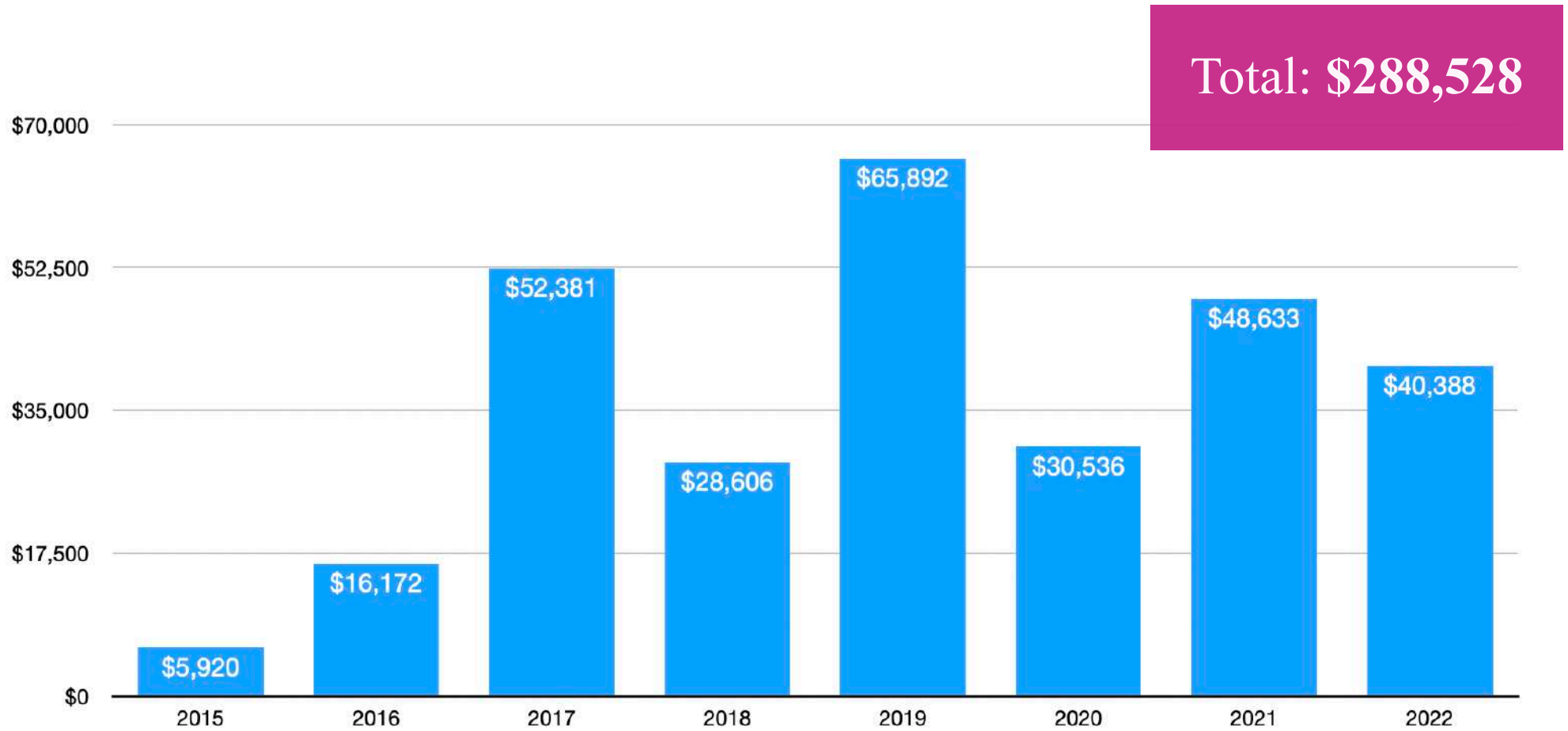
Our Finances: 2022 Expenses

- HWC Stretim Sindaun
- HWC Safe House infrastructure
- HWC Operations Capacity Building
- HWC Safe House operations
- HWC Luman Hipakoko infrastructure
- H4H School Hygiene (PHILLIPS)





Our Finances: Project Expenditure Since 2015





Our Gratitude



PiCCA is blessed to be supported by good friends and partners and has the absolute joy of working alongside inspirational people on grass roots community projects overseas. Our gratitude goes to all those who enable us to do the work we love and who give us the opportunity to learn so much as we go. Thank you so much especially to:

- Our members, 29 generous, supportive and caring people who are the reason PiCCA is able to do its work;
- Our project partners in 2022: Hearts for Hue and the Hako Women's Collective;
- Our Australian Funding Partner for the School Hygiene project in Phu Vang, The Phillips Foundation;
- Our project assessment panels;
- The International Foundation for Electoral Systems in Bougainville;
- Anonymous Donors and supporters;
- Wizard Web Master Mario Bono;
- Movie editor, Claire Brazil of Paramount Videos;
- University of the Third Age;
- Simon Hancox of Grant Thornton, pro bono, and good humoured, independent auditor of our accounts;
- And the people of Huong Tra and Phu Vang in Vietnam and the people of Haku in Bougainville.



About PiCCA

Partners in International Collaborative Community Aid Ltd is an Australian not-for-profit. We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country and their ongoing connections to land, sea and community in Australia. Our small group of members (currently 29) is passionate about improving education, health, livelihood and food security for people in developing countries.

We find local organisations in developing countries with wide support and a clear purpose, then work with them by contributing funding and in-kind resources for a specific project. Mostly our projects are one-off but are housed within a broader community plan.

PiCCA is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and is registered to fund-raise through the Queensland Office of Fair Trading.

The PiCCA Overseas Aid Fund is a Deductible Gift Recipient, meaning all donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. 100% of the funds donated go to projects. No donations go to support PiCCA's administration expenses which are covered in part by the membership fee, and in bigger part by Directors in both cash and in kind.

Donations, new members and general enquiries are very welcome.

PiCCA is overseen by a Board elected by its members: Stephanie Boldeman, Steve Maguire, Tiziana Miceli, Warren McMillan and Terry Parker. The Board operates collectively to the best of its capacity to ensure that PiCCA continues to deliver on its vision, on its promise to its members and on its commitment to the communities it serves.

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