

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL
SOUTH EAST ASIA PACIFIC
NATIONAL PRESIDENTS
ANNUAL REPORTS 2026



**SOROPTIMISTS
EMPOWER CHANGE**

Soroptimist International South East Asia Pacific

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SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SOUTH EAST ASIA PACIFIC

Report

SI AUSTRALIA Annual Report

Authored by Terry Maunsell

National President 2024-2026

Report Date 28 March 2026

Briefly describe the following:

- Number of clubs 58 clubs
Number of members (as at 31 January 2026) 951
- Any major changes (new clubs, clubs closing, notable growth/decline and reasons)
No new clubs were charted over the period .

Three clubs closed during 2025 SI Brighton , SI Port Macquarie and SI Murray Bridge
SI Sydney (the oldest club in the Federation) is closing 2026 as is SI Helena and SI South Brisbane

Key highlights of the year for Sorooptimists in your country

Visit by 12 Australian Sorooptimists to Mongolia to celebrate the 25th Charter Anniversary of SI Ulaanbataar and 20th Charter Anniversary of SI Darkhan. Also present on the trip were SI President Siew Yong , SI President Elect Renata Trottman and SISEAP President Joanne Yeoh . The trip also included 10 Malaysian ,1 Indonesian and 1 Swiss Sorooptimist Sisters. A wonderful experience for all the “Sisters” enabling us to visit projects of the Mongolian clubs and also exchange ideas / experiences .

Led and participated in campaigns on domestic and family violence, particularly coercive control awareness. Most clubs and regions marked the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence with local initiatives

Any recent development / issue affecting women and girls in your country

Australia reached its highest-ever global ranking (13th) for gender equality
Women still earn significantly less than men (around \$28,000 annually).
Family and domestic violence remains one of the most serious national issues.
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women face significantly higher rates of violence
Women reached nearly 50% of federal parliament after the 2025 Australian Federal election. But overall women remain underrepresented in leadership



Digital environments and media culture remain a concern for girls' safety and wellbeing.

2. Outcomes for Women and Girls

For each area below, please tick what applies and add 1 to 3 short examples(2–4 sentences each).

2.1 Education & Skills

Projects/advocacy in this area

There were 50 projects/ advocacy in this area with more than \$80,00 donated /scholarships and over 5000 service hours . Approximately 5900 women and girls were assisted.

Most clubs offered scholarships/ donations /awards for primary, secondary and tertiary students. However, assisted. some of these activities: of these Perth supported women resident at Boronia Pre-Release Centre for Women (Boronia) and their children, through a project to deliver a range of programs to enhance their opportunities while in prison and enhance their skills on release.

SI Burnie assisted a Year 11 student, one of sixteen school students across Australia to participate in a 4-week trip to Europe as part of the United Nations Youth Australia Young Diplomats Tour. The Young Diplomats Tour is an educational program focused on teaching Australian high school students about the evolution of democracy and diplomacy and their relevance to the modern day. SI Region NSW and ACT assisted a year 12 student for regional NSW to attend CERN-Solvay Student Camp in Geneva, Switzerland. As the only Australian chosen for one of 30 spots from 2500 applicants from 120 countries..

2.2 Health & Wellbeing

Projects/advocacy in this area

There were 49 projects in this area and 4 instances of advocacy reported. An estimated 10,000 women and girls were assisted by these activities and donations and scholarships totalled more than \$410,000. An estimate of over 9000 service hours was expended.

A majority of clubs donated money or goods for care or food packs for vulnerable women and their families while a number of education forum were held on a variety of medical issues.

Examples of the work done in this area:

Eight Western Australian Soroptimist Clubs united to provide the funding to support all expenses of one room in a Cancer Support Centre in Timor Leste. This project demonstrated a collegiate effort between clubs in one state of Australia to support a neighbouring developing country.

SI Geelong funded a Refugee/ Migrant Women swimming programme to address the disproportionate number of migrant/refugee drownings occurring in Australian oceans and waterways. Although only 6 completed the program, they were all very keen and achieved various levels of competency. Lack of suitable costumes may have been an inhibiting factor and it is hoped to access culturally appropriate garments for future programmes.

2.3 Economic Empowerment

Projects/advocacy in this area

There were 20 projects and 14 instances of advocacy reported in this area assisting over 2000 women and girls. Over \$120,000 was donated with an estimate of 4000 hours



Examples of the work done in this area :

SI Toowoomba worked with two local organisations to provide funding for Refugee women to learn to drive . This would enable the women to transport themselves and their families to shop, to attend language classes, to get children to school, etc. Seventeen women completed the program and were not only able to learn driving skills and obtain their driver's licence but also increased their self-esteem and confidence levels.

SI Australia and a number of clubs joined the campaign led by Single Mother Families Australia in an advocacy campaign to the Australian Government to separate Child Support from Family Tax Benefits to protect low-income families from financial manipulation and to design a scheme that prevents financial abusers from evading responsibilities. After investigation, the Commonwealth Ombudsman identified widespread issues with parents manipulating the system, leading to recommendations for better enforcement.

However, the most amazing effort in this area was the donation by many Soroptimist Clubs , Regions and Individual members in Australia of more than \$AUD15,500 to SI Darkhan in Mongolia which will allow the purchase of 7 Gers to house vulnerable women and families .

2.4 Safety & Freedom from Violence

Projects/advocacy in this area

There were 21 projects and 37 advocacy reports in this area with a total of nearly 9000 women and girls being assisted and 6500 service hours. Donations were estimated to be nearly \$37000.

Most clubs made donation of money or goods to Women's Shelters often supplying essential items for women and their children, leaving the shelter to enable a stressless transition.

Most clubs held events, participated in walks or conducted social media campaigns during the 16 days of Activism

SI Townsville Breakwater continued their Safe Night Project working with the Townsville Women's Centre to provide emergency accommodation to women and children who were victims of domestic violence.

SI Mackay and community volunteers crocheted orange-coloured materials, to display at the Botanic Gardens for this year's awareness of digital violence. They also convinced the Mackay Council to LIGHT UP the council building to raise awareness during the period.

This area was the most significant area of advocacy with many clubs engaging with parliamentarians at all levels of government in response to the findings of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Sexual Exploitation of Children in Australia.

SI Brisbane made a submission to the Inquiry into Queensland Community Protection and Public Child Sex Offender Register (Daniel's Law) Bill 2025



2.5 Environment, Climate, Water & Sanitation

There were 14 instances of projects and advocacy reported in this area with an estimated 2000 women and girls assisted and over 2000 service hours in this area. Donations were made to relief funds for earthquakes and floods. A noticeable change has been the number of clubs involved in sustainability activities such as clothes swap or garage sale event as well as recycling of plastics and other recyclable items. These provide not only a fundraising opportunity but also are helping to reduce landfill.

SI Logan held “an afternoon of fun, fashion and learning about sustainable practices.”. At this event a guest speaker spoke on sustainable practices particularly relating to the fashion industry and plastics while preloved clothing and accessories were sold.

3. Partnerships & Advocacy

3.1 Which key partners did Soroptimists work with? (e.g. government, NGOs, UN agencies, community groups)

Soroptimist worked with a variety of organisations including UN Agencies, local government, National Council of Women, Single Mother Families Australia and other community groups such as Zonta and Rotary . This an area we should probably explore more and partner with other Women’s Groups rather than working in silos.

3.2 Name 1 to 3 advocacy actions or campaigns and any visible results (policy change, visibility, commitments, joint statements, etc.).

- SI Brisbane made a submission to the Australian Senate Inquiry into the Quality and Safety of Australia’s Early Childhood Education and Care. The final report released on 31 March adopted several of their core recommendations to protect children and support the workforce.
- SI Australia Advocacy Committee submitted a nine-point call to action to the Federal Government in response to the [UN Special Rapporteur’s report](#) on the sale and sexual exploitation of children. The *National Office for Child Safety, Attorney-General’s Department* commended our efforts in advocating for children’s rights and safety and outlined the status of its *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021- 2030* and *Safe and Supported: the National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children 2021-2031*
- Following the Bondi Terrorist Attack, the National President cosigned a letter with the National Presidents of BPW (Business and Professional Women Australia), NCWA (National Council for Women Australia), and Zonta Australia to the Federal Parliamentarians urging them to work together in unity for the sake of all Australians ,stressing it was not a time for divisive and political commentary but rather one to focus on promoting understanding, empathy and community

4. Soroptimist Strength & Sustainability

4.1 What worked well this year for:



- Growing or retaining members

- Members actively invited friends, colleagues, and contacts, attended community events such as local markets, awareness days
- Used social media etc to talk about real outcomes of their activities e.g scholarships, support programs, any advocacy wins. Remember people join causes not committees
- Have projects that align with current issues eg domestic violence, women's health

- Involving younger women/next-generation leaders

Offered flexibility such as online meetings to allow attendance at meetings

Providing training / mentoring to encourage members to take on leadership roles.

- Strengthening governance and finance

Many clubs and regions revised their constitution and by-laws or operational manuals

4.2 What is your biggest concern for Soroptimist in your country right now?

- Attracting, retaining, and developing enough members, especially younger and mid-career women, to keep Soroptimist strong and relevant in Australia.
- Preventing "volunteer burnout" of long standing and aging members

0. **Looking Ahead - Priorities for Next Year**

Top 3 priorities for clubs and members next

5.1 Recruitment and retention of members because without members, clubs cannot continue project work for women and girls.

5.2 Staying or becoming publicly visible in what is a crowded charity and advocacy space

5.3 Clear advocacy and hopefully impact on issues, such as women's health, violence against women, housing insecurity, and economic inequality.

6. What support do you most need from SISEAP?

- Training programmes which will build skills and encourage people to take on committee roles , leadership roles thereby ensuring succession planning and increase the organisation's resilience.
- Communication is important e.g. Members need to know how their fees are utilised.





SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SOUTH EAST ASIA PACIFIC

Report

SI FIJI Annual Report

Authored by: Dr Senata Tinaiseru

Region President 2024-2026

Report Date 22 April 2026

1. Snapshot of Soroptimism in Your Country (max 500 words)

Briefly describe the following: and

- 1.1 Number of clubs - 8
Number of members (as at 31 January 2026) - 83
- 1.2 Any major changes (new clubs, clubs closing, notable growth/decline and reasons)
 - Two clubs namely, Tavua Goldtown club and Sugar city Club closed down in 2025 due to financial hardships, couldn't afford capitation fees and movement of members around Fiji (work stations) and migrating out of Fiji.
- 1.3 Key highlights of the year for Soroptimists in your country
 - Being invited to participate in the development of National Guidelines for Shelter Homes in Fiji. Soroptimist Fiji was also present at the launching of these Guidelines.
 - Lautoka Club participated in the public speaking competition with one of their speakers and was recognised and acknowledged at Federation Level, it was a good exposure for this child who participated.
 - Projects undertaken by all 8 Clubs had significant impact on the community, like The Sigatoka Club organising with other NGOs, the distribution of medical Equipment to Clinics and the Sigatoka Hospital. The Ba Club rebuilding a Village Dispensary after it was taken down by a Tropical Cyclone. Mothers and babies will once again be seen near to home after this project is completed
- 1.4 Any recent development / issue affecting women and girls in your country
 -

2. Outcomes for Women and Girls

For each area below, **please tick what applies** and add **1 to 3 short examples**(2–4 sentences each).



2.1 Education & Skills

Projects/advocacy in this area

- Public Speaking Competition by Lautoka Club on International Womens Day
 - Ba Womens Forum Training Center – Training of women in Computing, art and craft design, cooking and baking.

2.2 Health & Wellbeing

Projects/advocacy in this area – Pinktober Fashion Show by Nadi Jetset Club, to raise funds for Cancer patients and raise awareness on the same platform.

-

2.3 Economic Empowerment

Projects/advocacy in this area – Ba Womens Forum Training Center - Training of women in Computing, art and craft design, cooking and baking.

2.4 Safety & Freedom from Violence

Projects/advocacy in this area

- Bus Shelter Project by Sigatoka Club, where they painted awareness messages and toll free numbers for victims and the public to have easy access
 - Night March in the town by Ba Soroptimists with Ba Womens Crisis Center and other Women groups – to end Domestic Violence and Rape.

2.5 Environment, Climate, Water & Sanitation

Projects/advocacy in this area

- Annual mangrove planting by Suva Club
- Planting of vegetables around the Old Peoples Home by Suva Club

3. Partnerships & Advocacy (max 300 words)

3.1 Which **key partners** did Soroptimists work with? (e.g. government, NGOs, UN agencies, community groups)

- The Fiji Womens Crisis Center, The Fiji Police Force, Ba Womens Forum, Sai Group, Ministry for Women, Ministry for Agriculture, Ministry for Health and allied Services

3.2 Name **1 to 3 advocacy actions** or campaigns and any visible results (policy change, visibility, commitments, joint statements, etc.).

Advocacy action – joined effort with the Fiji Police force and Fiji Womens Crisis Center – a Night March with women groups advocating on Ending Domestic Violence and Rape for all women and Girls

4. Soroptimist Strength & Sustainability (max 200 words)

4.1 What **worked well** this year for:

- Growing or retaining members – Social gatherings, brought in prospective members, and joined projects and activities with Government bodies.



- Involving **younger women/next-generation leaders – sports related activities brought in younger members**

- Strengthening governance and finance – Attending training sessions such as Thriving Futures Programme and having Federation delegates over boosts the spirit of local clubs.

4.2 What is your **biggest concern** for Soroptimism in your country right now?

Retaining members – we

5. **Looking Ahead - Priorities for Next Year (bullet points, max 100 words)**

Top **3 priorities** for clubs and members next year:

- Campaign and recruiting more younger members – they are digital savy and will be a great help in assisting the older members who are not so digital savy,in IT related works, getting on the website etc
- Marketing Soroptimists on Social media – so the world may know of what is actually going on within clubs and thus be motivated to share in the activities or join the club
- Retaining members – by keeping the meetings exciting and make sure all the age groups within the clubs are noticed and celebrated .

6. **What support do you most need from SISEAP?**

- More training sessions on roles and responsibilities down to club level
- Financial assistance for travelling delegates .



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SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SOUTH EAST ASIA PACIFIC

Report

SI MONGOLIA Annual Report

Authored by: Khongorzul.T

National President 2024-2026

Report Date 12 March 2026

1. Snapshot of Soroptimist in Your Country (max 500 words)

Briefly describe the following:

1.2 Any major changes (new clubs, clubs closing, notable growth/decline and reasons)

SI Mongolia has 4 clubs and a total membership of 108

No new clubs were established and no clubs were closed during the period. Information on membership changes

No	Club Name	Members						
		2025.06.01	Removed in 2025	2025.09.01	New Members (as of 31 Dec 2025)	New Members (as of 31 Jan 2026)	Total Members (as of 31 Jan 2026)	Membership Change in 2025 (%)
1	SI Ulaanbaatar	26	0	26	10	13	39	50.0
2	SI Darkhan	23	0	23	0	1	24	4.3
3	SI Erdenet	24	1	23	4	4	27	12.5
4	SI Amgalan	15	5	10	0	8	18	20.0
	Total	88	6	82	14	26	108	21.7

Reasons for the increase in membership:

- During the 25th anniversary of SI Ulaanbaatar Club and the 20th anniversary of SI Darkhan Club held in August 2025, the clubs actively promoted their activities to the public. At the same time, members became more engaged and invited their friends and acquaintances to participate and join.
- As part of the M2M Membership Campaign organized by the association, clubs worked with a clear goal of increasing their membership by at least 10%.

Although the total number of members increased, 6 members left. The reasons include:

- At the time they first joined, the organization's goals, activities, and the potential contributions and benefits for both members and society were not clearly introduced.
- While they were members, there was insufficient effort to involve and engage them actively in the club's activities.



1.3 Key highlights of the year for Sorooptimists in your country

- The **25th anniversary of SI Ulaanbaatar Club** was celebrated with the participation of 74 representatives from 14 clubs across 6 countries, including Australia, Switzerland, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Mongolia.
- The **20th anniversary of SI Darkhan Club** was held with representatives from 21 clubs representing 5 countries in attendance.
- As part of the **M2M campaign** to increase membership, two online meetings were organized to introduce the organization's activities to new and prospective members, with a total of 48 participants from 4 clubs.
- Within the **Speech Contest organized by the Association**, a national competition on the same topic was held in Mongolia. The winning speaker, S. Yargui-Ujin, a grade 11 student, achieved 3rd place at the Association level.

1.4 Any recent development / issue affecting women and girls in your country

Development:

- Civil society organizations advocating for women's rights are actively and effectively carrying out their activities. Movements, campaigns, and trainings aimed at promoting gender equality and increasing the social participation of girls and women are being organized according to the planned schedule.
- The increasing number of trainings targeted at women and girls helps provide sensitive support during adolescence. This contributes to developing skilled future professionals, entrepreneurs, mentors, political leaders, and advocates for women's rights, thereby creating opportunities for positive social change.

Challenges:

- Women with higher education generally have greater opportunities for employment, social standing, and financial independence. However, girls and women with lower education levels face the opposite situation. Consequently, financial dependence increases their risk of domestic violence and stress. Therefore, it is essential to focus on empowering educated and independent girls and women.
- Girls and women continue to experience online violence, while peer bullying and exclusion remain prevalent among schoolchildren.
- Although a legal framework exists for activities targeting girls and women, the scope of support remains insufficient. Many non-governmental organizations are working on these issues, but their reach is limited. This is related to the limited financial capacity, education, funding, and skills of both government institutions and NGOs.

2. Outcomes for Women and Girls

For each area below, **please tick what applies** and add **1 to 3 short examples**(2–4 sentences each).



2.1 Education & Skills

Projects/advocacy in this area

Examples of outcomes (who benefited, how many, what changed):

Project:

SI Erdenet Club: “AgAa EgEe” Project

This project aims to help vulnerable adolescent children care for one another, support each other, make friends, develop leadership skills, and learn life skills. A total of 84 students from 4 secondary schools, 10 teachers, and social workers are participating.

Results: During the presentation of their outcome report, it was observed that children’s abilities to express their opinions freely, work in teams, and present their ideas publicly have improved. For example, Student B from Grade 8 of School No. 7 was previously reluctant to attend school and was reserved and shy in peer interactions. After participating in the training, they became more open and improved their ability to express their views, as noted by the school social worker in their report.

Capacity Building Trainings, Meetings, and Events for Soroptimist Members:

- Six meetings, trainings, and gatherings were organized by the Association, attended by the National President and club officials.
- Four online training sessions and meetings were held for members of four clubs, with a total of 132 attendees (counting multiple participations).
- In collaboration with Director Dolgormaa, a training session for club officers and members was held with 22 participants.
- An organizational introduction meeting for new members and interested individuals from four clubs was conducted with 26 participants.
- An AI training session led by a professional trainer included 84 participants.
- Training on database information management was conducted by Association database supervisors Anne Allen, Robin Cain, and Rhonda McCormack, with 16 participants.
- 12 people attended the Association’s forum for new presidents and officers.

Results: The skills and engagement of club officers and members improved significantly, with a total of 144 participants attending five training sessions.

SI Ulaanbaatar Club:

For club members, three training sessions were organized:

- “Effective Goal Setting”
- “Style and Image Training”
- “Using Artificial Intelligence for Official Purposes”

A total of 28 people participated.

Results: These trainings enhanced members’ leadership, planning skills, and knowledge of modern technologies.

**Public Trainings and Activities:****SI Erdenet Club:**

- “AgAa EgEe” life skills training reached 140 children from 4 schools.
Results: Participants gained knowledge on self-protection and risk prevention, improved communication and teamwork skills, and increased self-confidence.

SI Darkhan Club:

- Organized a “Mongolian Traditional Culture” speech contest with participation from 34 Grade 5 students.
Results: Students studied Mongolian traditions and culture, developed public speaking skills, and learned to express their ideas effectively.

SI Amgalan Club:

- Conducted “Organizational Culture and the 5 Exemplary Leadership Habits” training for 61 secondary school teachers.
- Conducted “Leadership in Teaching” training for the same group of 61 teachers.

Results: Professional knowledge and skills of teachers improved significantly.

A total of 324 people participated across seven training sessions.

2.2 Health & Wellbeing

Projects/advocacy in this area. Examples of outcomes:

Projects:**SI Darkhan Club:**

- Implemented the project “Mongolian Shagai Naagai,” a traditional Mongolian game adapted for children with autism.
Results: The activities have positively contributed to physical rehabilitation for 21 children with autism.
- Organized biannual vitamin supplementation campaigns during flu seasons, reaching 65 participants.
Results: The campaigns have positively impacted the children’s immune systems.

Trainings:**SI Ulaanbaatar Club:**

- Conducted a “No apologies ” training for students, with 40 twelfth-grade students participating.
Results: Students gained knowledge about healthy lifestyles and reproductive health education.

SI Amgalan Club:



- Organized a nutrition training attended by 109 children.
Results: Children learned to make healthy food choices and developed habits that support family health.
- Conducted oral hygiene training with 108 participants.
Results: Among the participants, 39 underwent dental check-ups, received free professional advice, and gained access to a 10% discount on dental services.

In total, 5 projects and activities were organized, with 343 people participating.

2.3 Economic Empowerment

Projects/advocacy in this area. Examples of outcomes:

Projects:

SI Darkhan Club:

- Implemented the “Ger” (Traditional Mongolian Yurt) project, donating Mongolian gers to two mothers.
Results: Two children with disabilities now have warm and secure living conditions.
- Carried out the “Vegetable Gardening” project, providing 12 types of seeds to 9 women along with training and methodological guidance.
Results: Participants harvested abundant crops, meeting their own food needs, as well as processing and selling surplus produce, thereby increasing their income.

Training:

SI Erdenet Club:

- In collaboration with a specialist from the provincial branch of Mongol Bank, conducted a training for 32 children on savings and cryptocurrency knowledge.
Results: Children gained understanding of saving habits, proper money management, and financial responsibility.

In total, 3 projects and activities were implemented, with 43 participants.

2.4 Safety & Freedom from Violence

Projects/advocacy in this area. Examples of outcomes:

Projects:

SI Ulaanbaatar Club:

- Organized three donation events providing clothing, food, and household items to survivors receiving services at the National Center Against Violence. The total value of donations amounted to 1,800 SGD.

Trainings and Meetings:

SI Ulaanbaatar Club:

- Held their regular December meeting under the theme “**Let’s Stop Cyber Violence Against Girls and Women.**” Odonchimeg, a lawyer from the National Center Against Violence,



presented information on activities aimed at preventing and responding to gender-based violence in Mongolia.

SI Darkhan Club:

- Printed and distributed anti-violence posters among club members, placing them in school classrooms and hallways.

SI Erdenet Club:

- Shared anti-violence posters and advice on the club's page and the Shuudr Oгии Center's social media, encouraging members to share these messages publicly.

SI Amgalan Club:

- Provided information to 78 students in grades 7 and 8 on preventing peer bullying and violence.
- Delivered sessions to 38 ninth-grade students on stopping gender-based discrimination and exclusion in school environments, conducted by a professional psychologist.

Results: Students gained knowledge about gender equality and mutual respect.

In total, three training sessions and activities were organized, with 126 students participating in classroom trainings and social media awareness campaigns.

2.5 Environment, Climate, Water & Sanitation

Projects/advocacy in this area. Examples of outcomes:

SI Amgalan Club:

- Implemented the **"Experiential Learning Trip"** project, which included the following activities:
- Planted 30 new spruce trees and cared for trees planted in the previous year.
- Learned about traditional Mongolian ger (yurt) living practices, including how to independently light a fire and prepare fuel.
- Created vlogs documenting the project activities.

Total project expenditure: 1,600,000 MNT.

SI Darkhan Club:

- Maintained and protected shrubs and fruit trees along the Kharaa River in Darkhan-Uul Province, cleaned the environment, and planted and fenced additional trees and shrubs.

Results: Children gained knowledge on environmental protection and experienced hands-on participation. Planted 30 new trees and safeguarded existing trees and shrubs at risk of damage.

3. Partnerships & Advocacy (max 300 words)

3.1 **Which key partners did Soroptimists work with?** (e.g. government, NGOs, UN agencies, community groups)

- Orkhon Province Governor's Office



- Peace Corps Volunteers (USA)
- Darkhan-Uul Province Governor's Office
- National Center Against Violence

3.2 Name 1 to 3 advocacy actions or campaigns and any visible results (policy change, visibility, commitments, joint statements, etc.).

SI Darkhan Club:

- Within the “**Ger**” and “**Vegetable Gardening**” projects, the club selected households based on applications from single mothers submitted to the **Darkhan-Uul Province Governor's Office**. As a result, two households received Mongolian gers, and nine households received vegetable seeds.

SI Erdenet Club:

- Received 3,000,000 MNT funding from the **Orkhon Province Governor's Office**, which was used to cover the salary of trainers at the **Shuudr Girls Center**, as well as training halls, classrooms, and learning materials. This funding has enabled the center to operate effectively.
- Collaborated with **Peace Corps volunteers (USA)** to organize training sessions and activities for the **AgAa EgEe** project, ensuring its continuous and effective implementation.

SI Ulaanbaatar Club:

- A lawyer from the **National Center Against Violence**, Odonchimeg, provided practical information on programs addressing gender-based violence in Mongolia, enhancing members' knowledge and understanding.

In total, the clubs collaborated with four organizations, receiving both policy and financial support for their activities.

4. Soroptimist Strength & Sustainability (max 200 words)

4.1 What **worked well** this year for:

Growing or retaining members

- Through the **M2M campaign organized by the Association**, clubs focused on increasing and retaining their membership, achieving growth rates of **4.3% to 50%** across all clubs.
- To strengthen the skills of members and improve inter-club communication, **four successful training sessions** were conducted, with a total of **132 participants**, including new and prospective members.

Involving younger women/next-generation leaders

- Based on previous experience, it has been recognized that **ensuring new members fully understand the organization's goals and activities**, and assessing their genuine interest



in volunteering before induction, is a crucial step for maintaining stable club membership and fostering a positive public perception. Of the 26 newly added members, 9 (or 34%) are women under the age of 50.

- Additionally, **strengthening the capacity of existing members** has been emphasized, as it enhances the organization's credibility and value in society and ensures that ongoing projects are implemented effectively.
- Twelve former and new officers participated in the **Association's Forum for New Presidents and Officers**, where they successfully learned from the experiences and best practices of others and obtained valuable information to support their roles.

Strengthening governance and finance

- Making sure members participate equally in activities and share responsibilities fairly will help them in the future if they take leadership positions.
- After officials change, we try to improve cooperation and continuity, and focus on teaching and guiding the new people well.

4.2 What is your biggest concern for Soroptimism in your country right now?

- Limited policy and financial support from government and non-governmental organizations.
- Uneven participation among club members.
- Insufficient English language skills and experience in generating financial resources among overall club members.

5. Looking Ahead - Priorities for Next Year (bullet points, max 100 words)

Top **3 priorities** for clubs and members next year:

5.1 Implement a program to improve the English language skills of club members and organize domestic capacity-building trainings.

5.2 Enhance the activity of clubs' own pages and groups, and expand ways and methods to share with others.

5.3

- Four clubs join forces to implement a nationwide joint project.
- Improve the coordination and continuity between new and former officials.

6. What support do you most need from SISEAP?



To take policy measures to introduce and promote the activities and reputation of Soroptimist International to the government of the respective country, international donor organizations, and NGOs.



Agenda Item No: Click or tap here to enter text.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SOUTH EAST ASIA PACIFIC

Report

SI NEW ZEALAND Annual Report

Authored by: Melanie Plaisted

National President 2024-2026

Report Date 5 April 2026

1. Snapshot of Soroptimist in Your Country (max 500 words)

Briefly describe the following:

1.1 Number of clubs and members

As at 31 December 2025 SIANZ had 18 financial clubs and 314 members. As at 1 March 2026 there are still 18 clubs, 17 are financial (see comment in 1.2 regarding the non-financial club). 2026 membership renewals are for 287 members, which includes 4 dual members.

There have been 6 new members in 2026 since the annual membership returns were filed.

From 1 January to current there have been 13 members via the Member-to-Member campaign.

1.2 Any major changes (new clubs, clubs closing, notable growth/decline and reasons)

One club (SI Rangatahi Wellington) is currently non-financial. We are working with the Federation membership team to retain the club charter with a change in membership, location and probable name change.

1.3 Key highlights of the year for Soroptimists in your country

The hard work and collaboration achieved by the national project team in having all clubs in SIANZ involved in sharing their club ideas by having a club ambassador appointed from each club who report and meet with the national project leaders regularly.

The national project has provided an excellent base for highlighting clubs within their communities. Activities have assisted clubs in increasing membership.

The efforts of all the clubs in SIANZ which have contributed to national project goals being exceeded.

The national executive completed a submission to the People's Select Committee on Pay Equity. Following the written submission SIANZ was then invited to give an oral submission to the committee.

1.4 Any recent development / issue affecting women and girls in your country



During 2025 there have been two major issues within Aotearoa New Zealand. The first continues from the previous year where government funding has been cut to many NGOs who provide support for women and girls, domestic violence, counselling and education support. Many NGOs have had to restructure or cease as a result of the funding cuts or reallocations.

The second issue was the legislative change to the Pay Equity legislation. This change in legislation was processed through Parliament under urgency which meant that there was no public consultation. The changes made disproportionately affect women as they constitute the larger proportion of the various employment groups who had lodged cases under the previous legislation and subsequently don't meet the new criteria.

2. Outcomes for Women and Girls

2.1 Education & Skills

During 2025 five clubs donated \$27,645AUD in scholarships and grants. The education sector ranged primary through to tertiary.

Feedback received by SI Nelson from the scholarships they distributed reported: the recipients were humbled when they received their scholarships. They sent letters thanking us & explaining the difference the scholarship would make for them, often including what they would use the money for.

SI North Canterbury provided a scholarship to Karanga Mai for a book scholarship. The club wishes to encourage the girls with their studies and promote a love of books which will then be handed down to their children. This was evident at the prize giving ceremony as the girls receiving the prize were excelling in their English studies. One of the students who was leaving gave the final address and spoke about her love of language, reading and her goal to hand this on to her child.

2.2 Health & Wellbeing

During 2025 fourteen clubs made donations relating to the Healthcare objective.

SI Waitara donated \$1,600AUD to Taranaki Midwives to enable the purchase a teaching mannequin. SI Christchurch donated \$4,328AUD to Youth Hub Christchurch. The Hub will focus on young people who have had a difficult start and will assist young people to transition from state care, fulfilling the goals of the Child and Youth Wellbeing strategy and improving mental health outcomes. Their donation has assisted the Youth Hub to complete this process.

SI Gore met a need as many residents of the 4 Rest homes in Gore receive no gifts on Christmas Day due to having no family members. These residents are all past active members of our community who donated their time and effort the betterment of our community. The effect of a lonely Christmas day has an impact on their mental health but also their general health and wellbeing. Many also do not have sufficient resources to purchase basic necessities.

We arrange Christmas gifts for these residents so they will ensure they feel valued and again part of the community- their efforts and sacrifices in the past have no been forgotten. The home managers advise if specific items are needed and how many Christmas boxes are needed- 32 were needed for Christmas 2025.



Our national project continues to engage clubs and the variety of projects and activities undertaken by clubs has been absolutely amazing.

The 'Heal' in the SIANZ National Project campaign title "Heal the Teal" is an acronym, standing for: Help - the women in our Community with Ovarian Cancer / Educate - on early symptoms/ Advocate - for more resources/ Look - for early diagnosis.

During the year the convenors of the SIANZ National Project designed a tea towel in the teal colour of the National Project's logo. The tea towel promotes the SIANZ Heal the Teal project, explains the acronym HEAL, and outlines the early symptoms of ovarian cancer.

Tea towels are of a high quality and were sourced and printed by a reputable printer.

Tea towels were offered to SIANZ clubs to sell to their members, friends and community.

An initial print run of 100 tea towels was ordered. Sales were immediately successful, prompting a second order of 200, followed by a further 200, resulting in a total of 500 tea towels printed and purchased. As at 29 December 2025, only 20 tea towels remained available for sale. The first 100 tea towels were sold by the SI Westland Club alone. Support for the project quickly grew, with 15 of the 18 SIANZ clubs purchasing, promoting, and selling the tea towels. Sales were largely driven by word of mouth, reaching friends, family, ovarian cancer survivors and their whānau. The tea towels have also proven popular as gifts among members. Strategic gifting further extended the project's reach. Tea towels were presented to prominent individuals, including Donnell Davies, SISEAP Federation Programme Convenor; Pauline Blomfield, founder of K9MD and one of our three key collaborative partners; speakers and presenters at our national annual meeting; and Soroptimist sisters in Australia and the United States. Recipients were encouraged to share images and information on social media, increasing awareness of ovarian cancer symptoms and the Heal the Teal project. In addition, several local businesses offered to sell the tea towels on behalf of Soroptimists, further supporting both sales and awareness by displaying them in their workplaces. The funds raised from the sale of the tea towels will be utilised to support the implementation of the project and resources.

Two examples of club support that raised awareness and funds for the national project partners via International Women's Day events were SI Nelson and SI Wellington. SI Nelson donated \$6,440AUD to the Ovarian Cancer Foundation NZ following their quiz night. SI Wellington hosted an evening with speakers along with a live auction and raffle prizes. This enabled a donation of \$8,000AUD to be made to the Ovarian Cancer Foundation NZ.

2.3 Economic Empowerment

During 2025 six clubs made donations relating to economic empowerment.

SI Nelson donated \$920AUD towards the social work service provision at the Nelson Women's Centre, to assist them to re-establish support services for local women following closure due to a lack of ongoing funding. Refer to comment at 1.4

SIANZ completed advocacy in this area in relation to the cancellation of many pay equity claims due to a change in legislation – refer 1.4.

One way we did this was by supporting the International Women's Caucus (IWC) in adding their name as a signatory to the letter being sent from the IWC because the cancellation of 33 active pay equity claims represents a significant setback for women's economic rights in Aotearoa New Zealand. As an organisation committed to advancing the status of women and girls, we viewed the Government's actions as not only undermining decades of progress but also silencing the voices of



those most affected. Our advocacy in this matter focuses on upholding transparency, fairness, and democratic participation in legislative processes that affect women's livelihoods. Pay equity is central to our mission of improving the economic security and wellbeing of women. When policies change without consultation, in ways that disproportionately affect women in undervalued, female-dominated sectors, it is vital that organisations like ours speak out. By adding our voice to this letter, SIANZ is standing with the many women, families, and communities who will feel the immediate and long-term consequences of reduced income, stalled career progression, and deepening financial insecurity. Our goal is to ensure that women's lived experiences inform policy decisions, and that Government recognises the essential contribution of work performed by wāhine in care, education, health, social service, and community roles.

2.4 Safety & Freedom from Violence

Seven clubs completed projects connected to the objective Elimination of Violence.

SI New Plymouth and SI Waitara joined together to create token bags. Women leaving domestic violence situations quite often do not think of their own personal needs and by providing a token bag with enough toiletries to cover at least a month provides a little respite for these women. A club member was approached in the supermarket while buying items by lady who had received one of the bags to say thank you.

Four clubs made donations relating to the objective Elimination of Violence. Two clubs donated nights to the Women's Refuge New Zealand Safe Night fundraising campaign. Contact Energy would match every night donated during the month of August, resulting in a total of 10,000 Safe Nights for women and children escaping domestic violence across Aotearoa.

SI Waimea had an advocacy action approved under this objective. Shoe boards were displayed which represented the number of women and girls killed by domestic violence in 2024. The appalling statistics for domestic violence in that year were 20 women and 5 children killed by domestic violence. There was a lot of public interest in our display which included banners and pamphlets as well as explanation for the shoe boards. At least 50 people showed genuine interest in our stall.

2.5 Environment, Climate, Water & Sanitation

Several clubs have been involved during the year as part of the partnership with the Chip Packet Project New Zealand in collecting, washing and fusing chip packets to make survival blankets which can then be distributed back in to communities for those who live rough, live in substandard conditions or have been affected by environmental disasters. There are two main reasons for the project: 1. An Environmental Reason – It takes 80yrs or more for foil packaging to decompose in landfill and 2. A Matter of Social Care – there are over 100,000 people in New Zealand who will need a thermal survival blanket to have a warm nights sleep in winter.

SI North Shore designed and delivered a free, community-based sewing course with a strong sustainability focus. Fast fashion contributes significantly to textile waste in New Zealand with an estimated 180,000 tonnes of clothing ending up in landfills annually, driven by cheap, low-quality garments designed to be quickly replaced. Clothing is discarded at an alarming rate, much of it ending up in landfill. Many individuals lack the basic skills to repair, alter or upcycle garments, especially women on low incomes or those experiencing social isolation. There is also a general lack of awareness about the social and environmental costs of fast fashion, and limited access to empowering community-based skill-building opportunities.



3. Partnerships & Advocacy (max 300 words)

3.1 Which **key partners** did Soroptimists work with? (e.g. government, NGOs, UN agencies, community groups)

We have maintained our connection with other NGOs with a strong presence at the three International Women's Caucus (IWC) meetings held each year. This is an opportunity to share what SIANZ is doing in Aotearoa New Zealand with other women's organisations who work among the community as we do.

As part of our national project, we continue to work closely with the Ovarian Cancer Foundation of New Zealand and the K9 Medical Detection Charitable Trust both to provide assistance for further highlight the work of each organisation, provide funds to assist the organisations achieve their goals and to work with them in advocating for improvements for women.

We also work with the Chip Packet Project New Zealand providing chip packets (both fused and unfused) to be completed and then distributed to those in need.

3.2 Name **1 to 3 advocacy actions** or campaigns and any visible results (policy change, visibility, commitments, joint statements, etc.).

As mentioned SIANZ was a signatory to a letter sent from the IWC to the government raising concerns regarding the cancellation of pay equity claims.

We also followed up this with a submission to the People's Select Committee on Pay Equity – refer 1.4.

While a policy change has not been forthcoming the committee was formed by former female MPs across the political divide, coming together and working together for a common purpose.

4. Soroptimist Strength & Sustainability (max 200 words)

4.1 What **worked well** this year for:

- Growing or retaining members

Much of this can be attributed to the hard work of the clubs in supporting the national project and this focus providing a base to share with the public at a wide range of events and fundraisers.

- Involving **younger women/next-generation leaders**

This is an area of slow growth in Aotearoa New Zealand. The existing high school connections are strong and those that have clubs are growing. Part of the next step would be taking the leaders from the high school groups and bringing Soroptimism with them as they move to a tertiary environment. This is being investigated and particularly in relation to the comments at 1.2. It has been identified that it is easier to have a strong connection with a high school if there is an interest in Soroptimism from the staff and particularly female leaders in the school.

- Strengthening governance and finance

Our national association has strong governance and finance committees. These committees report



well and regularly to the executive, SIANZ annual and general meetings and provide assistance to clubs when required.

Any clubs in SIANZ that are registered as Incorporated Societies are having to renew their incorporation status due to a change in legislation. The governance committee reviewed and edited the club constitution document so that it is available for all clubs (but particularly those needing to lodge theirs to update their incorporation status) to adopt easily by completing the necessary and particular to their club. Advice given to clubs on an 'as needed' basis.

4.2 What is your **biggest concern** for Soroptimism in your country right now?

Like many other regions in our Federation retention of members along with membership growth is our biggest concern. This is balancing learning from new members with learning for those who have experience for us to draw on.

Without a strong membership base, we cannot undertake the many excellent projects and activities that we do.

Cost of living and balancing this with membership and club activity costs is another concern.

5. **Looking Ahead - Priorities for Next Year (bullet points, max 100 words)**

Top **3 priorities** for clubs and members next year:

5.1

Strengthen and grow membership in SIANZ particularly providing support and opportunities to clubs with low membership. Equally work with clubs to grow the number of younger members in club.

5.2

Further promote and increase visibility of SIANZ via our partnerships with organisations connected with the national project - ovarian cancer awareness.

Also, utilise our partnership with CPPNZ to highlight homelessness, poverty and connected issues in Aotearoa New Zealand. Continue promoting the project and supplying 'ingredients' to make thermal blankets to provide warmth for those living in substandard housing, on the streets or in emergency situations.

5.3

Increase our involvement in advocacy for issues within Aotearoa New Zealand. Whether this be in conjunction with other New Zealand NGOs or organisational partnerships.

6. **What support do you most need from SISEAP?**

Not so much a direct need of support but a recognition from the Federation convenors and directors of our national association and when having requests for information or assistance to utilise the people that hold the convenor roles within the organisation whilst keeping the national president notified.



If support is required, the applicable convenor will make contact with their Federation counterpart to discuss the issue at hand and determine any assistance required.



Agenda Item No: Click or tap here to enter text.

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL SOUTH EAST ASIA PACIFIC

Report

SI PAPUA NEW GUINEA Annual Report

Authored by: Belinda Sinen

National President 2024-2026

Report Date 15 March 2026

1. Snapshot of Soroptimist in Your Country (max 500 words)

Briefly describe the following:

1.1 Number of clubs and members

There were only 2 SI clubs registered in Papua New Guinea (“PNG”) in 2025 out of the 4 SI Clubs. Details of these 2 clubs and their members are as follows

NO.	NAME OF SI CLUB	STATUS	NO. MEMBERS
•	SI PORT MORESBY	Active	19
•	SI RAMU	Active	5
	TOTAL		24

Towards the end of 2025, 1 member from SI Port Moresby exited the group following her transfer out of Port Moresby for employment. Formal documentation is yet to be finalised in relation to the member’s exit from the group.

1.2 Any major changes (new clubs, clubs closing, notable growth/decline and reasons)

• **CLOSURE OF CLUBS** Out of the 4 SI clubs in PNG, 2 clubs had their charter revoked in 2025, details of these clubs are as follows

NO.	NAME OF SI CLUB	STATUS
1.	SI Wewak	Closed (Charter Revoked)
2.	SI Lae	Closed (Charter Revoked)



In relation to these 2 clubs, we are working with the SISEAP Federation to assist these clubs restore their charter in 2026 as there is still keen interest amongst the members to continue the good work of their clubs.

Some of the main factors affecting our SI PNG clubs and its ability to maintain its clubs include the following:

- High cost of capitation fees when converted from AUD to our PGK currency;
- Lack of reliable mode of communication- we note that most of the communication from the SISEAP Federation to the clubs is through email, however, WhatsApp seems to be a more reliable mode of communication.

- **NEW PROSPECTIVE CLUB IN MAPRIK (EAST SEPIK PROVINCE)**

Despite the closure of these 2 clubs in PNG, we are pleased to advise that there is a prospective club in Marik, East Sepik Province which is currently working on its charter to be granted in 2026. The women from this club are currently attached with the SIMNI Club (online).

- **APPOINTMENT OF NEW EXECUTIVES AND MORE INTERACTION BETWEEN SI CLUBS WITHIN PNG**
Led by SI Port Moresby, a short conference of clubs was conducted during the last quarter of 2025 with the aim of appointing new executives for SI National President and President Elect.

Given that only 2 clubs were registered for 2025, it was unanimously agreed that SI Port Moresby would take the National President's position given its large membership base and SI Ramu would nominate a representative for the National President Elect. As there were only 2 nominations for those positions and both nominations were unopposed, the following executives were appointed:

- i. National President - Belinda Sinen (SI Port Moresby)
- ii. National President Elect- Philomina Kiktam (SI Ramu)

Following the election of the above executives, the Soroptimist International of Papua New Guinea WhatsApp group was reactivated. The membership of the SI PNG WhatsApp group comprises of executive committee members from each of the clubs throughout PNG, both current and closed, to keep all our members informed on any news from the SISEAP Federation as well as keep each other informed on activities being conducted in our respective clubs.

The SI PNG WhatsApp Group has been the most reliable mode of communication in terms of disseminating information from the SISEAP Federation and also in keeping contact with clubs and obtaining information with responses mostly instantaneous or forthcoming within days.

1.3 Key highlights of the year for Soroptimists in your country

Although 2 SI PNG clubs were registered in 2025, SI Ramu conducted its AGM and appointed its interim executives at the end of 2025 and hence were not able to conduct any activities during the year. The only club to actively conduct its programs for 2025 was the SI Port Moresby Club and as such the report for SI PNG is derived from the report from SI Port Moresby and its activities for 2025.



Some of the highlights for the year for Soroptimists in PNG include the following:

- Increase in projects and programs for 2025 compared to previous years
- Appointment of new executives and country representatives with more interaction between sister clubs in PNG through the Soroptimist International of Papua New Guinea WhatsApp group; and
- New Prospective Club in Maprik
-

1.4 Any recent development / issue affecting women and girls in your country

- Main Issues Affecting Women and Girls in PNG

1. Gender Based Violence

Gender Based Violence (GBV) emanating from gender inequality continues to be a critical issue affecting women and girls across PNG. According to recent statistics by UNFPA, sixty-four (64) percent of women in PNG report experience of GBV and report repeated violence at home, highlighting the gaps in prevention, support, and protection for vulnerable women and girls.

According to UNFPA, GBV is not just a statistic-it is a lived reality that affects thousands of families every day.

2. Sorcery Accusation Related Violence and/or Killing

Sorcery accusation related violence has in recent years increased, particularly affecting older women who are subjected to extreme violence as a result of accusations of sorcery.

3. Limited access to basic education and health services

Limited access to basic health services and educational opportunities continue to affect women and girls resulting more girls dropping out of school and forced into early marriage. Limited education means limited job opportunities and financial dependence thus increasing the risk of GBV.

- Barriers

Barriers which make it difficult to address the above issues include the following:

1. Cultural Barriers

Most traditional societies in PNG are predominantly patriarchal and promote male dominance making it difficult to advance or progress solutions to issues affecting women and girls, particularly in terms of educational opportunities.

Traditional belief in sorcery is rife in remote parts of PNG, particularly in the highlands Region, leading to an increase in older women being targeted for sorcery related accusation.

2. Lack of Enforcement and Prosecution

Whilst there are legal pathways and referral systems available, the lack of enforcement and prosecution being taken against perpetrators of domestic violence often result in women returning to abusive relationships due to financial hardships.

Prosecution of SARV cases often take a long time to prosecute and over time evidence go missing or witnesses are unavailable to testify in court.

3. Underreporting and Fear

Most victims of GBV often do not report the matter to police out of fear of further threats and violence or financial deprivation



For SARV cases, police face difficulties in arresting perpetrators especially in rural areas due to the lack of resources and assistance from the community who are reluctant to come forward due to fear of reprisal.

- Recent Developments

1. NATIONAL GBV STRATEGY 2026–2035

On 12 March, 2026 the Government of Papua New Guinea, through the Department for Community Development and Religion (DfCDR), officially launched the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence 2026–2035. The National GBV Strategy sets out a clear 10-year roadmap to address gender-based violence through prevention, survivor-centred services, improved access to justice, perpetrator rehabilitation, and strengthened data and accountability systems across all provinces.

Developed through extensive nationwide consultations and informed by survivor voices, community feedback, and stakeholder engagement, the Strategy reflects a coordinated whole-of-government approach to ending gender-based violence.

This stance taken by the current government of PNG signals a renewed national commitment to protect women and girls and deliver real, measurable change over the next decade.

The National GBV Strategy is available via link below:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n40SIldoVeYDhFvpTxVOzGpjtGYOsd31/view>

2. AMENDMENTS TO PNG CRIMINAL CODE ACT

Efforts by the government in criminalising this practice resulted in the enactment of the PNG Criminal Code (Amendment) Act 2022, in March 2022, which criminalises the practice of “glassman” and “glassmeri” (fortune tellers or seers) whose accusations lead to sorcery related violence.

This amendment to the legislation strengthens the legal framework to combat this growing issue and particularly targets those who hold claim to be seers and are able to identify alleged sorcerers and can lead to up to 10 years imprisonment or a fine of up to K10,000.00 and lifetime imprisonment if the accusation involves minors or the elderly.

3. INCREASE IN PROSECUTION OF SARV CASES

Partnerships between the Australia-PNG Law and Justice Sector has improved training of police officers in the highlands which has led to improved training and case management resulting in an increase in prosecution of SARV cases.

According to report by NGO, Tribal Foundation, as of December 2025, a total of 14 successful prosecutions and 132 arrests have been made in 32 active sorcery violence incidents cases undertaken by NGO, Tribal Foundation. (Source- Post Courier Feature- 15 December, 2025 online Edition).



2. Outcomes for Women and Girls

For each area below, please tick what applies and add 1 to 3 short examples(2–4 sentences each).

2.1 Education & Skills Projects/advocacy in this area: Financial Literacy Training

Examples of outcomes (who benefited, how many, what changed): **174 (3 males) Trained and 97 Bank accounts opened**

The flagship achievement of 2025 was the successful delivery of Financial Literacy Training by SI Port Moresby Club to 174 participants (includes 3 males). The Financial Literacy Training is tailored for the informal sector providing essential financial literacy for entrepreneurial success. Topics covered include budgeting, savings, income and expense tracking, cashflow, and record keeping., The financial literacy program was delivered across multiple groups, including the following:

- Prison inmates and staff at the Bomana Prison;
- Settlement mothers from WeCare Foundation at Morata Settlement;
- Women and girls from Salvation Army at Koki;
- Wives and daughters from the different PNG Defence Force Barracks in and around Port Moresby;
- Women from Gereka Urban Settlement; and
- Young women and girls from Rearea Village (traditional landowners of Port Moresby City).

In addition, a total of 97 bank accounts were also opened for participants with account opening fees and supporting identification letters provided by SI Port Moresby.

2.2 Health & Wellbeing

Projects/advocacy in this area: **Maternal Health Program- Donation of Birthing Kits**

Examples of outcomes: **75 Birthing Kits donated (To date, a total donation of over 400 Birthing Kits have been donated to 6 health Centres in 4 provinces across PNG)**

Through the SI Port Moresby Maternal Health Program, the last of 75 birthing kits were sourced and donated to Child Fund Port Moresby in 2025 to support its Volunteer Health Workers who assist mothers in rural areas with safe and healthy deliveries for their babies.

Since the inception of the maternal health program in 2021, over 400 birthing kits have been donated to 6 health centres in 4 provinces marking one of its largest health programs to date benefiting more than 400 mothers and babies. Positive testimonials have been given by program partners as well as direct recipient mothers.

2.3 Economic Empowerment Projects/advocacy in this area: Financial Literacy Training

Examples of outcomes: **Financial Literacy Training for 174 participants (3 males) and 97 bank accounts opened**

Under its flagship Program, SI Port Moresby provided training for 174 participants (3 males) and the opening of 97 bank accounts.



From the success of the FLT program, SI Port Moresby has approved the follow up training on “Business Development Skills Training” for participants from the Financial Literacy Training who are engaged in Small to Medium Enterprises and who have successfully opened bank accounts with regular savings being deposited.

The Funding for this program was made possible through the SISEAP Federation’s Brilliant Futures Grant and the training was conducted by Women’s Micro Bank. A formal report will be submitted to the SISEAP Federation following the completion of the Business Development Skills Training which is scheduled to take place in April, 2026.

2.4 Safety & Freedom from Violence

Projects/advocacy in this area **Webinar on Gender Based Violence**

Examples of outcomes: An online webinar program on Gender Based Violence was prepared in 2025 by member of SI Port Moresby Club, with the intention of conducting the training for its members as well as members from sister clubs throughout PNG, however, due to the lack of funding and timing constraints, the webinar was cancelled. SI Port Moresby is cautiously optimistic and aims to conduct the training in 2026 during the 16 days of activism.

2.5 Environment, Climate, Water & Sanitation Projects/advocacy in this area:

Environmental Sustainability- School Beautification Program

Examples of outcomes: **Donated Over 160 Recycled Tyre Pot Plant and Art Installations to 4 Schools in Port Moresby benefiting approximately 2,000 school students + 40 trees for planting**

Through the environmental sustainability program, SI Port Moresby was able to transform the school grounds of 4 local schools into vibrant inspiring places of learning for students and staff through the donation of 160 painted tyre pot plants and 13 art installations. The result was the enhancing of the school's pride and spirit and the uplifting the learning environment for students and teachers. (You may add links to key reports or websites if available.)

Copies of reports and photographs for the above projects can be obtained from the SI Port Moresby Annual Report for 2025.

3. Partnerships & Advocacy (max 300 words)

3.1 Which key partners did Soroptimists work with? (e.g. government, NGOs, UN agencies, community groups) The success of clubs in SI PNG in 2025 in the implementation of its programs and projects in 2025 was made possible through strategic collaborations with various organisations including the following:

- Women’s Micro Bank: Facilitated the financial literacy training and opening of bank accounts.
- Rotary Club of Port Moresby: Donated Birthing Kits for Maternal Health Program and sponsored 40 trees and seedlings for the environmental sustainability program.
- Child Fund PNG;
- National Broadcasting Commission (NBC): Acted as our media partner, providing a platform to broadcast our mission and project outcomes to a wider national audience during their morning breakfast show on Tribe FM with SI Port Moresby;



- School Administrations + teachers and students.
- Large Tyre Manufacturing Company; and
- Volunteers and Friends of Soroptimist International members.

3.2 Name 1 to 3 advocacy actions or campaigns and any visible results (policy change, visibility, commitments, joint statements, etc.).

• **Environmental Sustainability Campaign** – through the environmental sustainability program, an advocacy campaign was conducted by SI Port Moresby Club members to recipient schools and their students that focused on "Rethinking Waste" and integrated well with the school's beautification plans. The program and initiative challenged students and teachers to view "rubbish" as a resource and rethink ways to recycle, reuse and retain. The visible result was a shift in school policy, with 2 recipient schools now incorporating recycling and environmental sustainability programs directly into their teaching curriculum and academic assessment.

• **Financial Literacy and Importance of Budgeting and Saving**- Following every Financial Literacy Training, SI Port Moresby Club Members conduct advocacy awareness by reinforcing the importance of budgeting and for participants to cultivate the culture of saving. The result has been the opening of 97 bank accounts following the training and an expression of interest from participants engaged in Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) activities for Business Development Skills training leading to approval by the executive committee for SI Port Moresby for a follow up training in 2026.

4. Soroptimist Strength & Sustainability (max 200 words)

4.1 What worked well this year for:

- Growing or retaining members One of the main factors critical in growing and retaining members in 2025 was the identifying of local key projects and programs that were relevant to local clubs and keeping members engaged in these programs and projects throughout the year.

- Involving younger women/next-generation leaders

One of the successes for SI PNG has been the appointment of young females under 40 at the national representative level as well as at the local club level. For instance, over 50% of SI Port Moresby Club executives in 2025 comprised of young women under the age of 40 from the working class and tertiary level, bridging the gap between experience and new energy.

Such an approach ensures not only the succession of a club but also represents the next generation of women in soroptimist international to bring the organisation forward. - Strengthening governance and finance

A review of SI PNG Clubs and their internal framework is needed for most clubs in PNG in the following areas:

- **Organisational Structure**- Clear identification of organisation structure and sub committees for each club;
- **Transparency and Ethics**- Policies that provide for disclosure of conflict of interest and disclosure to ensure transparency;



•**Compliance:** Registration of entities with our local Investment Promotion Authority t- registration of entities will ensure clubs are operating within a legal framework and enables them to apply for bank accounts and charitable status with our tax office;

•**Opening of bank accounts-** bank accounts with at least 2-3 signatories to manage funds provided by donors and the Federation for projects and programs remains a critical aspect in strengthening good governance and transparency in the management of funds by most clubs;

It has been generally noted that SI PNG Clubs which have had the most success in its programs and projects in 2025 have maintained their registration status with Investment Promotion Authority, kept regular books of accounts, filed their tax returns with our tax office and generally had their accounts audited by an independent auditor. Such steps taken by a club ensures transparency and confidence by its members, donors, and supporters.

4.2 What is your biggest concern for Soroptimism in your country right now?

The biggest concern for SI PNG is the decline in membership numbers and closure of 2 of our clubs, SI Wewak and SI Lae, in 2025 as well as the lack of support and visibility by the SISEAP Federation to our member clubs in PNG. Although it is understood that there has been a general decline in membership numbers throughout most member countries, SI PNG continues to suffer in the decline in membership numbers and the revocation of charter status for 2 of our member club is concerning. We are currently working with an SISEAP Federation Director to restore the charter of these 2 clubs in 2026.

5. Looking Ahead - Priorities for Next Year (bullet points, max 100 words)

Top 3 priorities for clubs and members next year:

5.1 Maintain current active clubs, restore charter status of SI Wewak and SI Ramu and complete Charter of Prospective SI Maprik Club before the end of 2026

5.2 Increase Membership numbers in all SI clubs in PNG through targeted membership campaign and more interaction between sister clubs throughout the country

5.3 Strengthening Good Governance and Transparency in local clubs through the establishment of internal framework to assist clubs attain proper registration and opening of bank accounts

6. What support do you most need from SISEAP?

More interaction and support from SISEAP Federation is needed in terms of its visibility in PNG and providing assistance, support and guidance to our local clubs on administrative matters.

Apart from the above, I understand that some of the reasons for the revocation of charter for 2 of our clubs in SI Wewak and SI Lae was due to:

1. Non-Payment of capitation fees;

Payment of Capitation fees, especially when converted from AUD to our local PGK currency is quite high and takes time for our members to pay especially those in outer provinces



where the demography of members vary between professional, semi-professional and grassroots. Further, the process of remitting funds overseas may not be accessible and can be difficult for members living in outer provinces.

2. Lack of response to SISEAP Federation correspondence Due to the lack of connectivity and power outages in our country, some clubs may not be able to respond in a timely manner to correspondences and an alternative mode of communication should be considered for use by the SISEAP Federation to inform clubs of important correspondence such as WhatsApp or telephone call to the members from their numbers provided on the membership forms. For context, take for example SI Wewak, unlike our SI Port Moresby Club which is located in the nation's capital city, SI Wewak operates in one of our outer provinces and has regular power blackouts almost every day. The result is that Government offices and business houses often cease operations during power blackouts if they do not have back up generators and resume operations whenever electricity is restored . This is a regular occurrence almost every day and to compound the issue, certain areas in Wewak do not have network connectivity and as such members may not have had the opportunity to see correspondence from the Federation or be able to respond in a timely manner to correspondence by the Federation. As such, considering an alternative mode of communication as well may assist to prevent such occurrence in the future.