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# SPAN

## Soroptimist Programme Action News

**Welcome** to the September 2022 edition of the Programme Action News

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**FROM OUR PROGRAMME CONVENOR**



Welcome to Spring, although tropical members won't appreciate the change of seasons as much as others. Our current 129 clubs will soon be joined by chartering Club Gold City Tavua (Fiji) and Melaka (Malaysia). This newsletter is **dedicated to the future** – of our children, our communities, and our planet. During the past month, many UN resolutions give us a compass showing how to accelerate a desirable future for all. This is perfect timing for our Day of the Girl Child campaign. That future is our collective report card.

Please join us for a webinar **8 October 11am AEST on Girls not Brides** to celebrate 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Day of the Girl Child Register [HERE](#) for stories (Princess Mable of Orange and others), videos and discussions on how some countries changed their behaviours and outcomes (even with the help of diverse religious leaders). What Girls Say showcases young voices.

Additionally, special attention is drawn to the new declaration for **Human Right to a Clean Environment** through UNEP. Story with hotlinks inside is [HERE](#). The International Court of Justice (ICJ) expresses an opinion on the **Rights of the Child in Climate Justice** especially for the Asia Pacific and child refugees. UNICEF summary animated video is [HERE](#). Protecting children displaced by climate change prompted UNICEF, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and UN Universities to release principles to protect children as they cross international borders because of climate change. The UN's 9 principles are: (1) A rights-based approach (2) Best interests of the child (3) Accountability (4) Awareness and participation in decision-making (5) Family unity (6) Protection, safety and security (7) Access to education, healthcare and social services (8) Non-discrimination (9) Nationality. "**Migrant children are particularly vulnerable** when moving in the context of climate change, yet their needs and aspirations are still overlooked in policy debates," says IOM Director General António Vitorino. UN in the Rights of the Child Bill of 1989 is a "legally binding international agreement setting out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of every child, regardless of their race, religion or abilities."

In the recent International Panel on Climate Change report, **(I= PxAxT)** impact equals population rates, accelerated growth (consumption) and technology. These were the elephants in the room. Because half the world's pregnancies are still unintended, Child Brides and reproductive rights were of high concern. Countries that changed family planning were Tunisia, Thailand, Chile, Bangladesh and China. They compared favourably against their neighbours who did not change - their impacts multiplied.

**What can we do at home?** We can do things about giving girls tools - sex education, coercive control, child brides, teenage pregnancy, baby dumping, modern slavery, and things Soroptimists are already delivering. We can educate and empower girls, give them **confidence to make choices** for themselves in relationships, employment and entrepreneurship, and in their own communities enabling strength in others. [HERE](#).

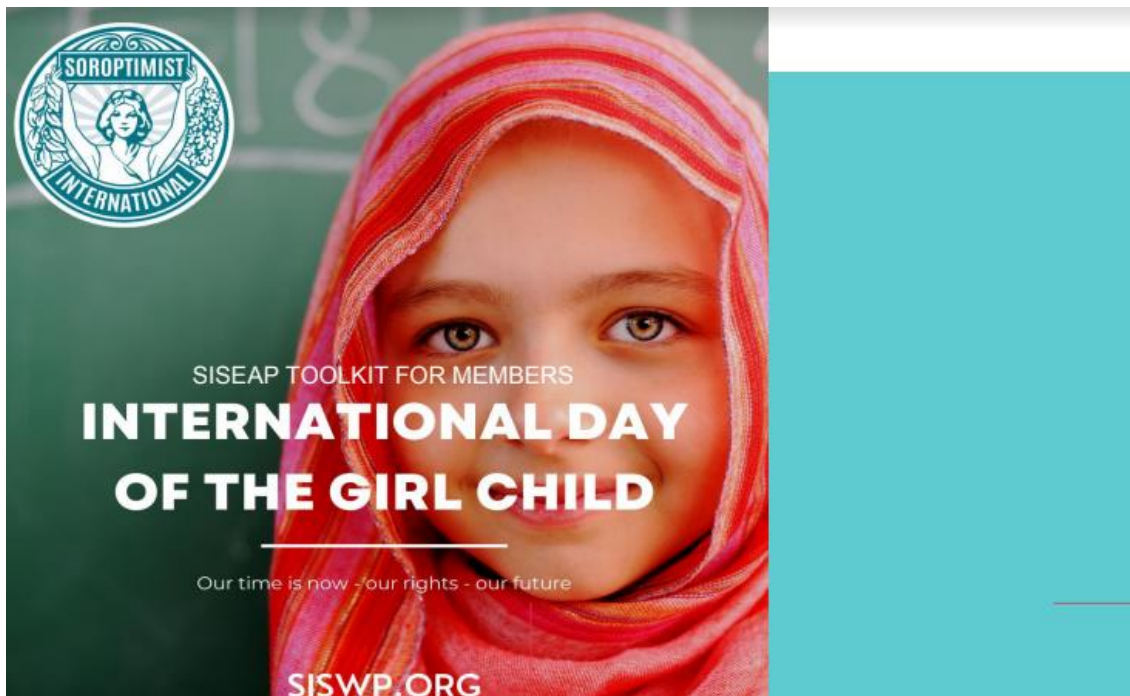
We apologise for database technical problems that we are addressing to make life easier for you. We appreciate your patience. Thank you to all the Clubs who are

converting their **Facebook posts into formal reports** in our database. Please use the database for your own purposes when you meet partners, politicians, and present to others. Printed reports (maybe last years) make us look professional and we don't have to remember statistics. Last year every \$7 made a difference to a female, a family and a future.

**Dr Donnell Davis,**  
**Programme Convenor 2022-2024**  
[swpprogramme2020@siswp.org](mailto:swpprogramme2020@siswp.org)

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**Are you ready to celebrate International Day of the Girl Child?**



### **International Day of The Girl Child**

To promote 'International Day of the Girl Child', the Programme Team will be hosting a webinar on **Saturday 8 October (12noon to 2 pm AEDT)**. Link to the Webinar can be found [HERE](#).

The Programme and Communications Teams have also developed a Toolkit which can be found [HERE](#).

SISEAP will run a Facebook campaign on the **11th of October**.

# FEDERATION PROJECT

Announcing that Brilliant Futures Fund round 3 grants are now open.



**Round 3 Now Open. Nominate Now!**

Read more about previous Brilliant Futures Fund Project grant winners [HERE](#).

Do you have a project but are short of funds to implement the project? Announcing that the Brilliant Futures Fund Round 3 is now open. The grant will provide up to \$10,000 to one or more clubs to implement their project. Find out more information

You can view the guidelines and application form [HERE](#).

# SISEAP DISASTER APPEAL

## **SISEAP Disaster Appeal**

Thank you everyone who have donated energy, expertise and money to support others, Danger, disease and disaster are the definition of Harm. SIE statement We stand up for women in war zones can be found [HERE](#). Our Soroptimist Pledge includes our commitment to helping others. Projects to help women in disasters include our own climate refugees, Pakistan, Myanmar, Israel, **Ukraine are SDG 16.3**



SISEAP special humanitarian appeal to support European Soroptimists in their humanitarian response to aid women and girls impacted by the ongoing Ukraine crisis.

Soroptimists from SISEAP have contributed generously to this special appeal.

**This month SISEAP sent to SI Europe \$5128.00.**

**Total amount to date of \$15,540.00 donated.**

Nelson's' Blooming Project showcases giving that keeps growing. We acknowledge the generous donation by **SI Nelson (NZ) of \$20,000** sent separately to SIE. Read their report [HERE](#).

You can continue to make your donation to the SISEAP Special Appeal - Ukraine Humanitarian Crisis below. Alternatively, you can make a donation directly to SIE's Disaster Recovery Fund [HERE](#) or you can make donations directly to projects in the SIE Region [HERE](#).

Soroptimist International of Europe has sent their many thanks in advance for your support, solidarity and donations.

[DONATE NOW](#)

**SI PRESIDENT APPEAL**



# OPENING DOORS TO A BRIGHT FUTURE

SI PRESIDENT'S  
APPEAL 2021 - 2023

## SI President's Appeal - Opening Doors to a Bright Future

### Cambodia

The first project for this appeal is in Cambodia, one of our member nations. Soroptimist International is partnering with the Cambodian Community Dream Organization (CCDO). Located in Siam Reap, the project sought to educate disadvantaged and marginalised girls aged 10 to 15 years of age from their local communities.

Read the latest update on the project [HERE](#)

### Rose Academies Uganda

The SI President's Appeal Team is delighted to bring news of the second SI President's Appeal project, now taking place in the **Soroti District of Eastern Uganda**. Within the Soroptimist International Africa Federation, this project will be working together with our partner Rose Academies. Read the latest update on this project [HERE](#).

Soroptimists are encouraged to support this appeal and donations can be made on the website or by sending money to headquarters and making sure, by email, that they know of your Club's contribution. More information can be found [HERE](#).



Women in Cambodia receiving training.



Women and girls in Uganda receiving training.

# ADVOCACY WORK

## Women & The Right To Water - Challenges, Inequalities



**World Water Week 2022 - 23 August to 1 September.**

This year the 2022 theme- **Seeing the Unseen: The Value of Water**, helps us view water in new and fascinating ways. We focus on the value of water, from many different perspectives. Expect interesting discussions on topics like pricing of water, indigenous knowledge, human rights, and much more.

We also draw attention to the unseen water in aquifers and the soil. If you are interested the recorded sessions can be viewed [HERE](#). This implements the new Human Rights for a Clean Environment.

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CSW NGO seminar is [HERE](#). 50th anniversary preparation Comprehensive Sexuality Education in the Digital Age: Experiences from the ground 10pm AEST (New York 8am).

### **Some advocacy topics to research and consider:**

Follow the Money, Watch the politics and power, Consider Globalization, Land and Property rights, Challenge patriarchal control, beneficiaries from modern slavery, Polarization of the poor, Water and Human Rights.



**What are priorities in your country?**

**What are Clubs doing in advocacy?**

Advocating on behalf of women is a core Soroptimist function.

The Programme team would be pleased to hear what your Club is doing?

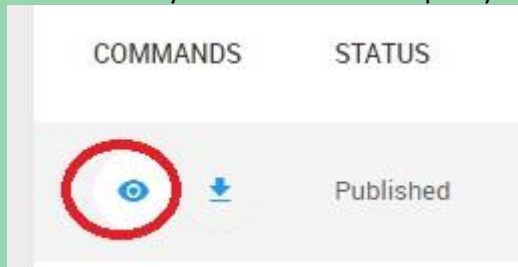
## PROGRAMME REPORTING DATABASE

**TIP!** Did you know that if you have a yearly project which you have previously reported on? You can use the RE\_USE function. The RE\_USE function allows you to locate the project from a previous year, view the project and use the RE\_USE button at the top right hand side to do a SAVE AS type of function to update the report with the latest information. Cheat Sheet is [HERE](#). **Save time! Report more!**

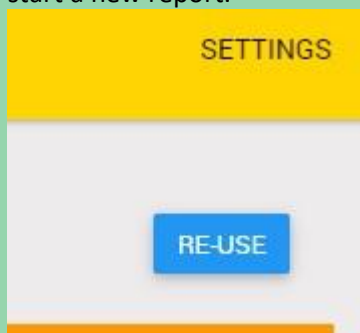
Go to the [www.reports-siswp.org](http://www.reports-siswp.org) url, log in with your Clubs unique log in details.

Go to Reports

Click on the eye icon to view the report you wish to reuse



Up on the top right hand side click on the Re-Use button to perform the Save As and start a new report.



## Having problems with the Programme Database?

If you have any issues logging in to the SISEAP Programme Database, please contact Dr Donnell Davis, Programme Director [swpprogramme2020@siswp.org](mailto:swpprogramme2020@siswp.org).

## UN SDG WORK

*Educate, Empower, Enable*

This month on the 8th of September we celebrated the International Day of Literacy. **SDG4** Education is a major component of the majority of our projects. Soroptimists across South East Asia Pacific contribute significantly to scholarships which Educate, Empower and Enable woman and girls. Available scholarship can be found [HERE](#).

A Soroptimist International blog **EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** authored by Evelyne Para, SI UN Representative at UNESCO, Paris. "Our current way of life is unsustainable, we are depleting the resources of the planet, and if we continue to live as today, we will need the resources of three Earths by 2050! For many years, human behaviours and activities have been deteriorating terrestrial and marine ecosystems leading to climate change. Read the full report [HERE](#).

Did you know you can implement big changes right in your own backyard? **SDG11** is all about **sustainable communities**. Each of the targets in pictures helps us think about impacts we have locally. [HERE](#).

**SDG13 climate update** from IPCC and the UN union of Science (September 2022) is [HERE](#).



## FROM OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENTS



**Thailand's Power X Initiative to address the country's Natural Resource and Environmental Problems.**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) Power X campaign for 2022 focuses on 7 key plans and policies:

1. Systematically allocating residential land to communities in the national reserve forest areas.
2. Conserve, restore and manage water resources in 97 locations.
3. Implement the optimisation of water distribution.
4. Produce and develop groundwater sources across the country.

5. Support funds to promote a network of volunteers protecting natural resources in villages across the country.
6. Promote Green Digital Library application to provide accessible information and knowledge on the environment and natural resources
7. Develop an application to calculate greenhouse gas (GHC) emissions for individual daily activities.

These initiatives have been put into place in order to also raise awareness for the public of the country's and worlds current state in regards to the environment and natural resources. It is aimed to help individuals realise the amount of GHC we all individually emit and to help promote a change in our behaviour towards the conservation of our environment.

As quoted by the MNRE Minister, "These projects are the intention of the ministry to yield happiness for all Thai brothers and sisters. The ministry is committed to conserving the nation's natural resources to pass on to the next generation and serve as a stable economic foundation for sustainable national development in the future"

Project X is one of the many initiatives that has been put into place for the year 2022 and its great to see the commitment being shown to our environment.

***Christiane Kitchakarn***

***National President of Thailand 2022-2024***

## UN DAYS

### September

16 Sep - [International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer](#)

18 Sep - [International Equal Pay Day](#)

21 Sep - [International Day of Peace](#)

26 Sep - [International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons](#)

28 Sep - [International Day for Universal Access to Information](#)

29 Sep - [International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction](#)

1 October [International Day of Older Persons](#) (A/RES/45/106)

2 October [International Day of Non-Violence](#) (A/RES/61/271)

3 October (first Monday of October) [World Habitat Day](#) (A/RES/40/202 A)

5 October [World Teachers' Day](#) [UNESCO] (27 C/INF.7)

- 8 October (second Saturday of October) [World Migratory Bird Day](#) [UNEP]
- 10 October [World Mental Health Day](#) [WHO]
- 11 October [International Day of the Girl Child](#) (A/RES/66/170)
- 13 October [International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (A/RES/64/200)
- 15 October [International Day of Rural Women](#) (A/RES/62/136)
- 16 October [World Food Day](#) [FAO] (A/RES/35/70)
- 17 October [International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#) (A/RES/47/196)
- 24 October [United Nations Day](#) (A/RES/168 (II); A/RES/2782 (XXVII))
- 24 October [World Development Information Day](#) (A/RES/3038 (XXVII))
- 27 October [World Day for Audiovisual Heritage](#) (UNESCO 33/C/Resolution 53)
- 31 October [World Cities Day](#) (A/RES/68/239)

## AROUND THE FEDERATION



Previously the Soroptimist Club of Cootamundra but now “reborn” as Soroptimist International South West Slopes were invited to participate in the Apron Project, for Women's Community Shelters in NSW. They represented: 43 lives lost to **domestic and family violence** in 2021 and 27 lives lost to August 2022 marked with red ribbon. ~ 1 single pair representing Olga Edwards. The full story is [HERE](#).

Three **bursary winners** share their impact from Moreton North Club on Video, which can be watched [HERE](#).

International Women's Day speaker **Adele Rice AM** speaks about her Milpera Refugee High School established several decade ago. [HERE](#). She shares stories of how lives improved and continue to give back to the community as a result of education. Adele was a panellist on the Centenary Celebrations for South Queensland Region and the panel discussion will be shared when available.

**Anne Allen**

**Programme Coordinator for Zone 1**

[swpprogrammezone12020@siswp.org](mailto:swpprogrammezone12020@siswp.org)

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## New Zealand Soroptimists online

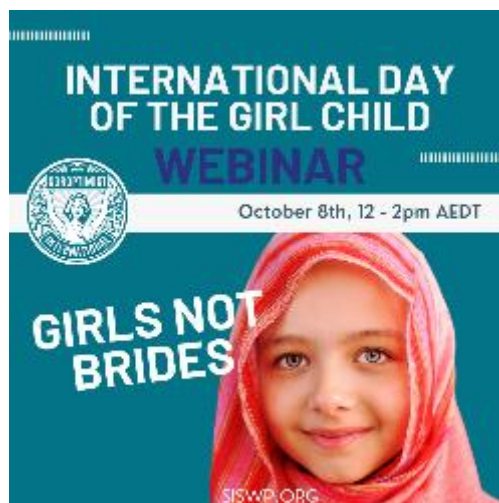
SI Westland, South Island New Zealand is launching a branch/committee called "NZ Soroptimists online" as a first step towards developing a New Zealand virtual club. A series of 3 webinars have been organised. The first webinar focused on "Supporting Ukraine Refugees". Soroptimists from the South East Asia Pacific have generously donated to SI European clubs to enable them to continue their ongoing humanitarian work. This webinar showcases the work undertaken by Romanian Soroptimists to support Ukraine refugees. Please take the time to view this webinar [HERE](#).



## Upcoming Webinars

The webinars which may interest Soroptimists and interested potential members are:

**15 September 10pm AEST - CSW67 NGO Prep ( NY 8am) Comprehensive Sexuality Education in the Digital Age: Experiences from the ground.** Register [HERE](#).



8 October Online 11am AEST: What Girls Say - [Girls not Brides](#) (International Day of the Girl Child) Register [HERE](#).

21 September " [The Big C down there](#)" Ovarian Cancer is the NZ national project so we will have an Ovarian Cancer specialist, the national project will be promoted and Kath Mazzella will present on Gyn cancer. Link to register for the webinar [HERE](#).

18 October: Friendship Link stories

15 November - 16 Days of Activism (25 November to 10 December) - Orange the World - Violence Against Women. (toolkits to come)

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## SI Bangsar - Teenage Survival Kit

Si Bangsar were the successful winners of the first **Brilliant Futures fund**, their project Teenage Survival Kit had been impacted by the pandemic. The Club reports, after many months of virtual activities, the first face to face workshop was on 13 July 2022 at Sekolah Menengah Puteri Titiwangsa (a girls school).

A workshop on Teen Health for 145 Form 4 (14 years) girls was facilitated by SICB members Dr Inthirani, Pheng and Sim. There were slides presentation, videos sharing and group activities during the 4 hours program. In future, we hope to be able to have more face to face workshops.



## DID YOU KNOW?

When Soroptimist ask "**What can I do locally?**" Sustainable communities targets (**SDG 11**) are very empowering to help prioritise our efforts to make greatest impact at home. We have been benchmarking practices around the world for 22 years (in my UN Habitat work). There are many ways we can make our own communities more resilient environmentally, socially, culturally and spiritually. The result of living in such regenerative communities is long-term

economic wellbeing. Soroptimists have been delivering these things for a century, now we need to be recognised for those efforts. Keep up the great work Soroptimists in every country.

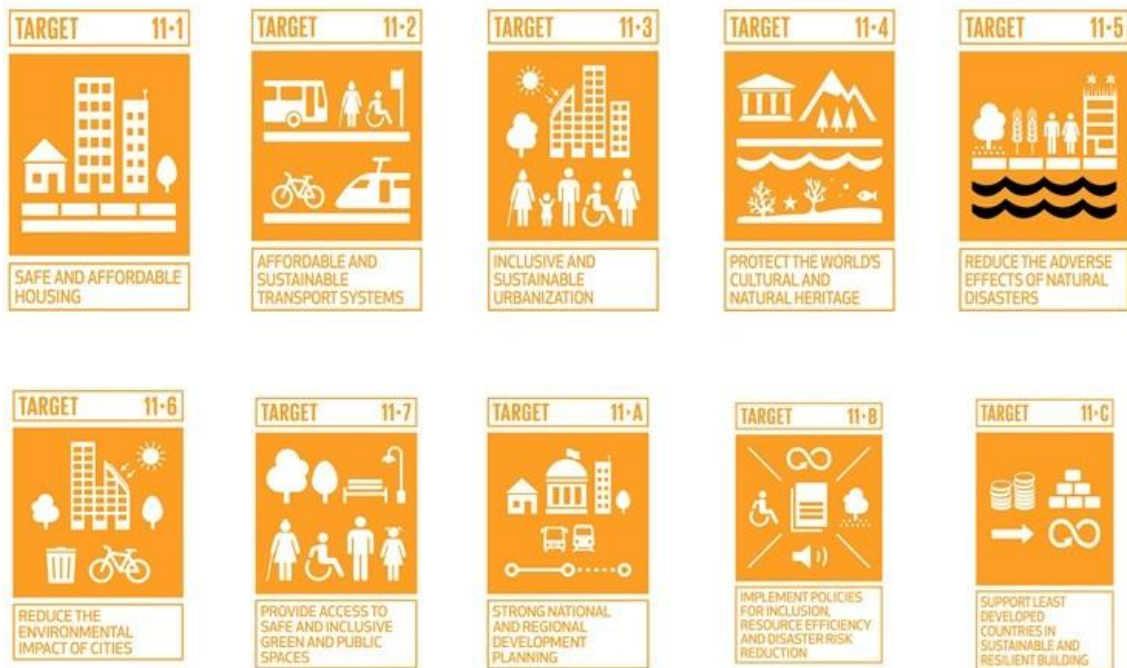


Figure 11.1. Key targets for SDG 11

A reminder to send in your work as soon as you have completed it. The Programme team love hearing and promoting Club's advocacy and project work. It also helps provide ideas to other Clubs in the Federation.

## Downloading and printing eSPAN

If you would like to download copies of eSPAN to print, go to the [SISEAP website](#) and log in using your member login. Go to the **'Members Area'** in yellow at the top left of screen. Or if you are already logged in, [click this link](#). Here you can access all previous copies of archived eSPAN Newsletters.

Copy for the October 2022 eSPAN edition is required by Wednesday 31 September 2022. Please email your submissions to [swpprogramme2020@siswp.org](mailto:swpprogramme2020@siswp.org). Thank you.



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