

Global Development at UQ

2023-24 Update



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Message from Professor Deborah Terry AC Vice-Chancellor and President



At The University of Queensland (UQ), we have an enduring mission: “to deliver for the public good through excellence in education, research and engagement with our communities and partners – locally, nationally, and globally”.

This mission statement – to *deliver for the public good* – is a very neat summary of the shared purpose that unifies our broad range of programs, as well as the good intentions of the people who come to work at UQ.

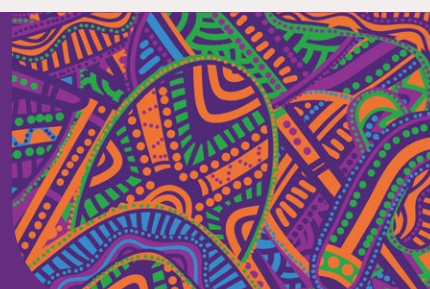
Importantly, we don’t just seek to have a positive impact, here, in our home state of Queensland, but also across Australia, and around the world. This far-reaching impact is particularly evident in the University’s long-standing and deep commitment to global development.

Over the past year alone, UQ’s International Development unit has skillfully managed a portfolio of over 30 development projects, with a combined value exceeding \$24 million – a testament to the collaborative efforts of our experts, academics, researchers, professional staff, and students.

In 2021, I had the privilege of launching UQ’s first ever Global Development Impact Plan. This initiative, born from extensive university-wide consultations, has since become a pivotal element of UQ’s overarching strategy. Indeed, in the University’s most recent Strategic Plan we amplified our commitment to global development by setting a goal of becoming the nation’s leading university for development impact in the Indo-Pacific by 2032.

As we pursue that goal, we will continue to marshal the full breadth of UQ’s expertise and networks to help enrich communities around the world and make a meaningful contribution to sustainable development.

The University of Queensland acknowledges the Traditional Owners and their custodianship of the lands on which we meet. We pay our respects to their Ancestors and their descendants, who continue cultural and spiritual connections to Country. We recognise their valuable contributions to Australian and global society.



Message from the Global Development Reference Group

UQ's Global Development Impact Plan (the Impact Plan) sets out a vision for delivering global development leadership for a better world. Its mission is to positively impact societies globally through the real-world application of development expertise across program delivery, innovation, policy and advisory services.

The success of the Impact Plan requires a whole-of-UQ approach. Recognising that our International Development Unit is among the top in the Indo-Pacific, we understand that global development impact is dependent on contributions from engaged stakeholders across the University. This includes research, capacity-building programs, and the application of knowledge through fieldwork to drive global development initiatives.

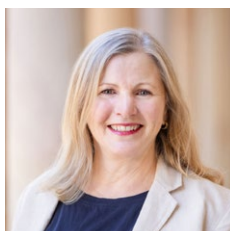
A key aspect of the Impact Plan is to leverage UQ's extensive capability for the development sector, encouraging more academic and student involvement. We encourage those not involved with the Global Development (GD) Hub to join, contribute to development projects, and enhance UQ's reputation as a leader in global development by showcasing your work through the GD Hub.

The Global Development Reference Group, composed of senior leaders from across UQ, plays a crucial role in supporting the implementation of the Impact Plan. Their responsibilities include identifying opportunities to lead and support initiatives across UQ's faculties and institutes, providing advice on prospective stakeholders, monitoring trends and policy updates related to global development, supporting best practice monitoring and evaluation of implementation progress, acting as senior champions for this agenda, and facilitating work that contributes to development impacts while enhancing UQ's reputation and profile.

Through these efforts, UQ will build and sustain engagement in key countries and be recognised by Australian and international governments, donors, and partners as a leading university for development expertise and impact.



Mr Brett Lovegrove
Pro-Vice-Chancellor
(Global Partnerships) and
Reference Group Chair



Ms Dallas Dowsett
Head, International Development,
Global Partnerships



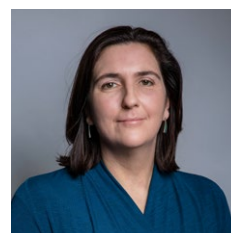
Professor Andrew Griffiths
Executive Dean, Faculty of Business,
Economics and Law



Mr Ian Kemish AM
Adjunct Associate Research
Professor, History and Chair,
Global ChangeMaker Board



Professor Matthew Morell
Director, Queensland Alliance for
Agriculture and Food Innovation



Professor Avril Robertson
Associate Dean (Research) and Deputy
Executive Dean, Faculty of Science



Professor Virginia Slaughter
Dean, Graduate School



Professor Rick Valenta,
Director, Sustainable Minerals
Institute



Professor Heather Zwicker,
Executive Dean, Faculty of Humanities,
Arts and Social Sciences

Global Development at UQ

2023 in review¹



37

global development projects in progress or completed*



\$24m+

contract value of successfully won development bids



840+

participants impacted by UQID programs*



15 of 17

Sustainable Development Goals addressed by projects



48

tenders submitted with a 44% bid success rate



13

clients and 9 funding partners

**Including ongoing long-term projects in 2023*



International Development Unit

UQ's International Development Unit (UQID) is a leading university development group working across the Indo-Pacific. Leveraging the University's academic and research strengths and global partnerships, projects are designed and delivered to address a diverse range of development challenges.

The impact of this work helps build the capacity of people and their organisations, supports sustainable development outcomes and progresses the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Focus areas include agriculture, climate change, environmental management, law and justice, leadership development, governance, gender equality, food security, economic development, public policy, energy transition, mining, resource management, health, education.

Projects include long-term development activities, customised short-term training and professional development programs, and the provision of consultancy, advisory, and technical assistance services.

Contact

E: international.development@uq.edu.au

T: +61 7 3346 9568

W: global-partnerships.uq.edu.au/international-development

¹Data includes information made available to the GD Hub and does not provide a comprehensive snapshot of the breadth and depth of development impact across UQ.

Global Development Hub (GD Hub)

Following the implementation of the Impact Plan and work done by the GD Hub, UQ formally recognises global development in its strategic plan: Toward 2032 UQ Strategic Plan 2022-2025 at uq.edu.au/about/strategic-plan

The GD Hub acts as a virtual connection point for both internal and external stakeholders seeking to learn more about UQ's development contributions to people and communities globally.

The Impact Plan and the GD Hub work towards achieving UQ's Strategic Plan through addressing the plan's goals, with a strong emphasis on:

1

Leads as a premier provider of high-quality postgraduate and lifelong learning opportunities.

2

Leverages the breadth and depth of its research capabilities and vibrant precincts to address the world's most pressing challenges.

3

Has an extensive global reach in education and research with a strong commitment to capacity building in the Indo-Pacific.

2023 at a glance

460+ GD Hub members

120+ UQ staff engaged in UQID projects

93% increase in GD Hub members since 2021

129K impressions on social media²



²Based on posts to the Global Development at UQ social media accounts on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter.



Our people – showcasing UQ global development expertise

The impressive wealth of UQ capabilities in the global development arena spans diverse disciplines, schools, faculties and institutes. UQ is well-placed to contribute to economic, social, and environmental progress based on our world-leading expertise in these fields, combined with geographic knowledge of, proximity to, and extensive networks across the Indo-Pacific. We have expertise at our fingertips, and it's imperative we nurture and mobilise our academics, researchers and professional staff to realise our potential and achieve global impact.

Food Security and Agribusiness



Professor Yasmina Sultanbawa

Director of the Centre for Nutrition and Food Sciences, Queensland Alliance for Agriculture and Food Innovation (QAAFI)

Professor Sultanbawa specialises in food and nutrition security, particularly focusing on micronutrient deficiency, lack of diet diversity, and nutritional losses in the food supply chain. She leads the Uniquely Australian Foods initiative, collaborating with Indigenous communities and enterprises to bring native foods like Kakadu plums, wattle seed, bunya nut, and saltbush to the global culinary stage.

"Being involved in UQ's global development network gives you an opportunity to translate your research into outcomes that have impact."

What is most rewarding is seeing how these programs boost participants' growth and their enterprises through the creation of jobs as well as the economic prosperity transferred to their communities.

Empowering women is especially rewarding as when you empower women, you see their families prosper. Their children can attend schools and they can buy nutritious foods.

By getting involved in UQID projects, I have also grown my global partner network.

The funding I have received for engaging in this work has allowed for my Higher Degree Research students to further their research goals and to top up scholarships."

Hear more from our UQ experts in global development at youtube.com/@uqglobaldevelopmenthub9494



Associate Professor Ammar Abdul Aziz

Director of Higher Degree Research and Discipline Lead (Agribusiness), School of Agriculture and Food Sustainability

Dr Abdul Aziz has nearly a decade of industry experience as an agropreneur in Malaysia and has been extensively involved in research and development collaboration with the Malaysian Ministry of Agriculture and the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute. His primary research interest lies in identifying and developing sustainable agribusiness models in developing countries, particularly focusing on smallholder production systems.

"This first-hand experience coupled with my passion for teaching and capacity building, made the transition into this field a natural fit for me."

Working in international development really hinges on teamwork. You've got to surround yourself with not just like-minded people, but also deeply committed people who are equally passionate to make a real difference in the lives of others. Working together with the UQID team is fantastic in this respect.

Learning from the participants, and hearing at the end of the course how much they've learned and experienced is incredibly fulfilling. . It's a consistent outcome of every course: we start as strangers and by the end, we've formed a close-knit community.

Possibly the most gratifying aspect for me is the realisation that, at the end of each course, you've genuinely made a difference. Knowing that you've had a real, visible impact on the lives and careers of these individuals. That, to me, is unmatched and a testament to the value and importance of this work."



Mr Faizan Ur Rehman Siddiqui, a participant for the Australia Awards South Asia & Mongolia Short Course 'Promoting Value Chain Improvements, Market Integration and Trade in Agribusiness (Pakistan).

"I would really encourage everybody to be part of any such courses in the future, because I think the university team really goes out of the way to make you feel at home."

I would like to thank The University of Queensland for welcoming us in a very, very, in a positive way, fostering our linkages with the experts, and really taking out the best out of us. Thank you very much."

What does it mean to have completed this program?

"Complete change my dynamics in terms of my company and the local context, new connections, new skills, we applied practical context which we gained from experts."

Within 5 months, resulted in \$250K of savings for post exchange, built partnerships, signed MOUs with leading food companies in Pakistan – due to this program."

Gender, Equity, Diversity and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)

"Placing gender equality at the centre of development creates opportunities for people to thrive, making our countries stronger, more secure and more inclusive." Australia's International Development Policy, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade dfat.gov.au/publications/development/australias-international-development-policy on Page 14.

GEDSI is a key component of the Australian International Development Policy Agenda. UQ stands at the forefront of this field, with a diverse range of expertise spanning disciplines such as sociology and economics. The University's proficiency in managing the complexities of GEDSI challenges empowers it to drive transformative initiatives that address systemic disparities and elevate underrepresented groups, thereby advancing Australia's commitment to fostering inclusive global development.



Dr Prue Brown

Academic, School of Political Science & International Studies

Dr Brown has over 30 years of professional experience as an economic statistician at the Australian National University, a senior public servant and now

as an academic in public policy. Her research interest is in overcoming institutional barriers to tackling complex problems and addressing inequality. She has been Course Designer and Leader for various UQ delivered Australia Awards programs around Gender and GEDSI Mainstreaming (Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar), led a GESI Policy Review and Advisory project in Papua New Guinea (PNG), and has developed activities in PNG as a course leader and facilitator for courses for middle managers and executives to improve their core capabilities, underpinned by the PNG GESI policy (2016 – 2019).



Dr Nicole George

Associate Professor, School of Political Science & International Studies

Dr George is an Associate Professor at UQ, recognised for her expertise in Pacific Islands' politics, governance, and gender-focused donor engagement. Since the early 2000s, her research has centred on

gendered politics, security, and post-conflict transition in the Pacific Islands region, particularly in Fiji, New Caledonia, Bougainville, and Solomon Islands. Dr George has led significant research projects, collaborated with women's organisations, and contributed to policy forums and online editorial sites. In 2022, she participated in the Commonwealth Observer Group (COG) for the Papua New Guinea General Election, gaining deep insights into the socio-political, policy, economic, and security aspects of electoral processes. Her expertise in gender analysis enabled her to focus on gender, participation, and inclusion in all facets of the electoral process, acting as the lead author of the Participation and Inclusion chapter of the COG report.



Dr Terrance Fitzsimmons

Associate Professor, School of Business

Dr Fitzsimmons is an Associate Professor in Leadership with UQ Business School. He is the Managing Director of the Australian Gender Equality Council (AGEC), a body whose members currently comprise 24 peak national bodies representing over 400,000 women across industry sectors in Australia. He also sits on the advisory board of Women and Leadership Australia. Dr Fitzsimmons has worked with many of Australia's largest firms on their diversity programs and speaks regularly in Australia and overseas in the area of gender equality and inclusion.



Education Training and Capacity Building



**Associate Professor
Shiralee Poed**

School of Education

Dr Poed is an accomplished educator specialising in delivering tailored professional learning courses to education departments. With a

focus on educational advancement, she has developed and implemented training initiatives such as Response to Intervention courses for the Victorian Department of Education and Melbourne Archdiocese Catholic Schools, and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support programs with the Catholic Schools Diocese of Cairns. She has also spearheaded Positive Behaviour for Learning programs for schools and systems across Australia and internationally and created online training modules addressing topics including Inclusive Classrooms. Most recently, Dr Poed delivered professional learning to guidance counsellors in Delhi, working with IDP India.



**Associate Professor
Jodie Miller**

**Deputy Head of School & Associate
Professor, School of Education**

Dr Miller is an Associate Professor in mathematics education, in the School of Education at UQ, where she is currently the Deputy Head of School. Her research focuses on improving the educational outcomes of

students most at risk of marginalisation in school, particularly in the fields of Mathematics, STEM, and Indigenous education. Internationally recognised for her research in early algebraic thinking and evidenced based strategies to support engagement in mathematics in primary school settings, she leads research projects with a focus on classroom and mathematical practices, teacher professional development, culturally responsive teaching, and examining student understanding. This research has been conducted in countries including Australia, New Zealand, and Germany. Dr Miller's recent research collaborations focus on examining excellence in Indigenous education. This work is co-led with Dr Marnee Shay, where the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are brought to the forefront to re-imagine the notion of excellence in Indigenous education.



Australia Awards Indonesia Short Course 'Teacher Professional Education: University and Government Collaboration'

This course aimed to enhance Indonesia's teacher education by introducing essential pedagogical methods for effective foundational skill instruction and implementing Indonesia's new 'student-centred' curriculum, a key component of Indonesia's post-pandemic educational improvement. Led by Associate Professors Shiralee Poed and Jodie Miller, the course featured many academics from the UQ School of Education, diverse guest speakers, school visits, and mentorship opportunities enriching participants' experience and creating opportunities for the cross-fertilisation of ideas, solutions, and practices.

"I am very grateful to be involved in this course. The course really highlights the topic area of differentiated learning and inclusive education, which is closely related to each other." - Participant, Teacher Professional Education Short Course.

Through the sharing of knowledge and expertise by the course experts and the participant's hardwork in developing their Return to Work Plans, the Short Course achieved significant outcomes, such as the first Indonesian educator to implement positive behaviour support in school, and the design of a comprehensive syllabus and monitoring tools to provide valuable insights that will support students who need to 'catch up' in literacy.

"A great combination of topics that are relevant to all participants for implementation improvement in Indonesia. The school visit is very valuable for us to experience real classroom practices in Australia. Bringing the Master's and PhD students into the course is a great idea, being away from home, and meeting people from the same country feels like home." - Participant, Teacher Professional Education Short Course.

Dr Poed shared her reflection on this short course, stating *"While it was an honour to co-lead this short course, our School of Education is so much richer for having the opportunity to learn from our Indonesian colleagues. We thank them for their generosity and collegiality, and we are still enjoying our ongoing conversations with many of the participants."*

Our partners – global networks and capabilities

UQ has established strategic partnerships with organisations across the Indo-Pacific region, many of which focus on the environment, health, education, and international development. UQID leverages the University's expertise to deliver impactful development programs through the delivery of fellowships, short courses programs, events and networking opportunities, and advisory services to foster global connections and community advancement.

Embarking on a collaborative journey to rescue coral refuge reefs

Coral reefs globally face a crisis from climate change and local impacts, threatening millions of people reliant on these coastal resources. Despite a dire climate outlook, hope persists through resilient 'climate refuge reefs', which are less affected by climate change stress and could help regenerate reefs in a stable climate future.

The Global Environment Facility funded Coral Reef Rescue: Resilient Coral Reefs, Resilient Communities Project (GEF CRR) has embarked on its epic journey to safeguard globally significant climate refuge coral reefs in six countries Fiji, Indonesia, Madagascar, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Tanzania.

The multi-stakeholder GEF CRR project contributes to the broader Coral Reef Rescue Initiative (CRRRI) coralreefrescueinitiative.org. The project's core components are:

1. Promote global to local knowledge and capacity strengthening for climate refuge reef conservation
2. Establish inclusive governance and planning processes addressing local threats to coral refuge reefs
3. Aid in aligning co-financing and investment mobilization for coral reef conservation
4. Facilitate communication and awareness of climate refuge reefs to ensure their survival.

The GEF CRR project is implemented through the World Wildlife Fund and executed by UQ in partnerships with National Government Ministries and national executing partners.

Initial achievements include the launch of the project's first e-learning course 'Challenges and Solutions for Coral Reef Conservation and Management', edx.org.

This course enables global learners to enhance their understanding and contribute insights on coral reef stewardship.

Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, a renowned climate change scholar and his team at UQ School of the Environment led the development of this course.

"Coastal communities that steward these reefs are integral to their survival, which is directly tied to the resilience and sustainable development of these coastal communities." Professor Hoegh-Gulberg said. *"By empowering community members with the right skills and knowledge, positive impacts can be made to protect these vital ecosystems."*

This course has attracted over 500 learners from 80 countries. One learner from Palawan in the Philippines stated:

"Working for a local resort management, I am eager to equip my team of divers as well as community representatives [with] the knowledge to manage the reef area of a particular island in Coron, Palawan. This simple step will be the first and certainly will not be the last as we move forward to progress in the management of these reefs. Knowing the basics of coral reefs will supplement the knowledge base already with these people."

As part of the e-learning course launch, UQ has also opened the Resilient Coastal Communities Fund science.uq.edu.au/resilient-coastal-community-fund, to support stakeholders from project countries to complete the course and gain a verified certificate of achievement.

The UQ team, in collaboration with in-country partners, is developing curricula for future courses. To enhance accessibility, they will be offered in various languages based on the GEF CRR project countries.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a multilateral family of funds dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution, and supporting land and ocean health. Its financing enables countries to address complex challenges and work towards international environmental goals. The partnership includes 186 member governments as well as civil society, Indigenous Peoples, women, and youth, with a focus on integration and inclusivity. Over the past 3 decades, the GEF has provided nearly \$25 billion in financing and mobilised another \$138 billion for country-driven priority projects.



Australia Awards Indonesia, The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

Showcasing UQ's engagement with Australia Awards Indonesia (AAI) as a key partner for development programs.

In 2023, UQID secured 5 AAI Short Course programs for delivery by UQ:

1. Teacher Professional Education – University and Government Collaboration
2. Grains Value Chain Leadership
3. Effective Biosecurity Practices for Humans and Animals
4. Digital Transformation – Policy and Practice
5. Standards and Halal Certification.

Including 2 further AAI Short Course programs (awarded in 2022 for delivery in 2023) in Digital Technologies in the Healthcare Sector and Gender Mainstreaming in the Public Sector.



In 2023, Australia and Indonesia celebrated 70 years of Australia Awards Scholarships to Indonesia. Coinciding with achievement, UQ also reached the milestones of welcoming our 700th Indonesian Australia Awards Short Course participant and the 580th Australia Awards postgraduate scholar from Indonesia. In celebration, the Australia Awards Global Alumni Network in Indonesia and UQ co-hosted the 'Digital Transformation in Indonesia's Development Agenda' panel event for more than 150 participants. As 2024 marks the 75th anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Australia and Indonesia, UQ looks forward to continued collaboration with one of our closest neighbours.

UQ leads the Hy-Gain for smallholders project

Over 200 million people in sub-Saharan Africa are impoverished and undernourished. Most are smallholder farmers living in rural environments and relying on agriculture as their major source of food and income.

Low yields of key crops for food, fodder, and fuel result from substandard seeds, infertile soils, drought, and diseases. Boosting crop production reliably can secure food availability and increase smallholder profits through surplus sales.

The UQ-led response is funded in part by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

The Hy-Gain project has involved 6 international partners including a multinational seed company. It is led by UQ Professor Anna Koltunow whose expertise in plant reproduction research is central to the project's goal of improving food security and smallholder income in the region.

"Hy-Gain aims to empower smallholder farmers to save and sow high-yielding sorghum and cowpea hybrid seed. We call it self-reproducing hybrid seed, as hybrid seed normally needs to be made by a cross each time. Genetically Modified and Gene editing approaches are being used." Professor Koltunow said.

The team has successfully produced self-reproducing hybrid sorghum where hybrid seed can be saved and sown from observations in glasshouse trials. In 2022 and 2023, the UQ team tested the stability of a seed induction component in sorghum at UQ Gatton's confined fields under netting in a range of hybrids.

After a successful research meeting with the international team in Brisbane in 2023, the Hy-Gain team is working to improve levels of seed set in self-reproducing hybrid sorghum and has confined field trials planned in Gatton in 2024 and 2025.

By examining the stability of the trait in the field and exploring a number of approaches to develop self-reproducing hybrid cowpea the team will continue to work towards increased productivity and improved livelihoods for smallholder farmers and their communities in sub-Saharan Africa.

Emory University and The Task Force for Global Health

Regional Coalition for Operational Research on Neglected Tropical Diseases (COR-NTD) meeting for the Pacific Islands.

In 2023, UQ signed a tripartite agreement with The Task Force for Global Health (TFGH) and Emory University with the goal of strengthening research collaboration, knowledge exchange, and advocacy for global health, with a special focus on the Asia-Pacific.

As a result of this agreement, UQ and COR-NTD (a program of the TFGH) joined with the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine to co-host the inaugural Regional COR-NTD Meeting for the Pacific Islands in Sydney, cor-ntd.org/pacificislands. More than 120 participants attended from 21 countries, including 15 Pacific Island countries and territories. Attendees included representatives from Ministries of Health, WHO Regional and Country offices, global health donors (The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID), and researchers.

"The COR-NTD meeting provided an excellent opportunity for meaningful interactions with the key partners in the region to prioritise research needs and action areas to control and eliminate NTDs in the Pacific. The meeting was a great success from many different perspectives." said Dr Kazim Sanikullah, WHO Western Pacific Regional Office.

As a direct result of the meeting, multiple global donors have provided new funds to support operational research on NTD programs in the Pacific Islands, including a UQ-led project for lymphatic filariasis elimination in Tonga. The meeting provided an opportunity for countries to voice their challenges at an international forum and work with WHO and partners to identify solutions. One example is a new avenue for Papua New Guinea to access donated medications for mass drug administration programs to eliminate NTDs.

UQ will again partner with COR-NTD and the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine to convene an expanded meeting in September 2024 in Brisbane. UQ is honoured to work with global partners to support ongoing engagement between countries, WHO, donors and researchers to accelerate the elimination of NTDs in the Pacific region.

Our impact – empowering sustainable change

“As one of the leading university development groups in the Indo-Pacific region, we will continue to provide development expertise and program management leadership to build the capacity of people and organisations around the world to achieve their development goals.”
The Global Development Impact Plan (2021-25)

DELVE Exchange

The DELVE Exchange initiative is dedicated to supporting artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) communities. With an estimated 42 million individuals worldwide employed in ASM, this project recognises the vital role these communities play in global economies and livelihoods. Funded by the World Bank's Extractives Global Programmatic Support multi-donor trust fund, the Delve Exchange is a knowledge exchange network for artisanal and small-scale miners and quarry workers by artisanal and small-scale miners and quarry workers.

Established in 2021 as a platform to enable networking and exchange during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Delve Exchange currently has over 1,500 members from 71 countries. Members are encouraged to actively solve problems by a deep level of exchange and engagement across 7 WhatsApp groups and more than 140 regional monthly forums. The Delve Exchange is led by 6 regional Knowledge Exchange Coordinators (KECs) (Africa (French, English and Swahili speaking), Latin America, South Central Asia, and Southeast Asia Pacific), and each is a member of an ASM representative association, the majority also with experience as miners.

Delve Exchange's point of difference with other initiatives in the sector is our deliberate and purposive pro-miner empowerment bias; we champion and give voice to miners to tell their own story in their own words. With basic instruction, a story telling framework and mentoring, miners now record events at their sites in the form of practice stories (describing a mining related practice), challenge stories (elaborating a problem/challenge) and exchange stories (describing how they have learned from others across the network). These are posted in WhatsApp groups as text, voice messages or video; in English, French, Spanish and Swahili with accommodation for local languages. These opportunities have created a stimulus for sharing and soliciting advice from other miners and have built miners' confidence to lead discussions in monthly and global forums.

In 2024 further funding was received to expand the reach of Delve Exchange with a particular emphasis on poor and marginalised actors. An online ASM Academy is being co-created with photos and stories from the miners themselves. The Academy material will be used to catalyse change and promote transformation on ASM mine sites.

This work will be done in collaboration with regional university partners in Peru, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, and India.



Participant testimonial

“There is no better place for an artisanal and small-scale miner to be.

This is for us by us, a highway for empowering artisanal and small-scale miners and quarry workers to drive the agenda on issues that affect us.”

- Blessing Hungwe
Small Scale Miner and
Knowledge Exchange
Coordinator Delve
Exchange.

The Australia-Vietnam Mekong Delta Sustainable Rice Value Chain Project

This UQ project is the first of its kind, a public-private partnership between Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and SunRice Group for the 'Planning and establishing of a sustainable smallholder rice chain in the Mekong Delta'.

With over 50 team members collaborating across 5 organisations and institutes from Australia and Vietnam, the project aims to address pressing issues such as declining returns to farmers, environmental degradation, and limited market access for smallholder farmers.

In 2023, notable milestones were achieved including:

1. Successfully engaged with smallholder farmers from 6 farmer groups/cooperatives across the project's 3 target provinces to deliver fresh paddy direct to the mill.
2. Introduction of cutting-edge technologies to further revolutionise rice production, sustainability and quality; such as the deployment of PaddyVision®, a computer vision-based tool for rapid quality assessment, promising enhanced accuracy and efficiency.
3. A systems thinking approach encompassing capacity building, technological innovation, and stakeholder engagement that promises a sustainable and thriving rice industry in the Mekong Delta.

At the close of 2023, the project is on track to empower farmers, strengthen value chains, and ensure a resilient future for rice production in the region.

Capacity building for farmer couples on household's economic management

A Research for Development (R4D) project in the Mekong Delta seeks to improve the sustainability of farmers' rice production, its quality, as well as farmer livelihoods. Led by Associate Professor in Agronomy Jaquie Mitchell this project aims to establish a highly productive, sustainable, traceable, quality-assured value chain for rice farmers in the Mekong Delta, Vietnam, benefiting small holder rice-farming households and meeting the market requirements of SunRice's established global customers.

The training received overwhelmingly positive feedback, with over 90 per cent of attendees highly satisfied with its content and structure, particularly praising the effective communication methods used during the sessions. Participants suggested expanding the training to include family care, reproductive health, and rural women's livelihoods, believing these topics would advance the project's goal of enhancing the well-being and prosperity of rice farming families.

To further enrich the lives and involvement of female farmers in the project, the UQ-led team is liaising with the local agricultural extension system and SunRice to explore appropriate livelihood models for female farming groups (women's union). Once identified, these models will undergo testing and assessment, and will then be introduced to female farmer groups, echoing the project team's persistent efforts to empower women in rural communities.



Vietnamese Partner Insights

"For the training activities, local agricultural extension workers/DARDs want to expand this activity, particularly training on women's health care, because this topic is very useful to local women extension workers, and women farmers. Normally, they (participants) are very rare to get access to Doctor or health consulting services (it is very expensive and out of their hands). Besides, In case they access doctors or women's health care consulting services, it is simply one aspect of health, with no correlation between health and agricultural production or rice cultivation.

While our project has integrated the relationship between women's health care in rural areas with rice farming and agricultural production, this is a big difference for women farmers, agricultural extension officers to be interested in the training activity of our project.

Doctors or health care consulting services often apply an administrative approach, which limits the participation and satisfaction of female farmers and female agricultural extension officers, making them lack confidence to present or discuss their health problems to the Doctors, and this results in poor treatment later on.

While our project invited experienced doctors and health consultants who used to be participated in development projects, they adopted a participatory approach (the CTU team present clearly to them about the trainees, objectives of training, methods to run the training), which made female farmers being very confident when communicating / discussing with trainers / Doctors, and this ensures more effective treatment for them later on."

The year ahead

Expanding our capabilities

- Leverage UQ partnerships and networks to increase capacity to secure and deliver and expanded portfolio of development projects. development lead.
- Foster the UQ Global Development Community of Practice providing knowledge sharing, training, and mentoring activities.
- Utilise the 'One-UQ' approach to bring multi-disciplinary teams together in development projects and to coordinate engagement with development funders and stakeholders.

Growing our networks

- Deliver Global Development at UQ Roadshows to build awareness of UQ's development activity and successes.
- Foster and build the networks of UQ experts working in the development sector through research, teaching and commercial projects.
- Expand connections with external development sector stakeholders through the GD Hub.

Enhancing our profile

- Promote development impact stories from projects, participants and alumni.
- Advance the reputation of UQ's expertise and networks contributing to global development projects and impact.
- Showcase UQ's comprehensive research and teaching expertise and its application to global development challenges.



The pathway to global development



Connect

- Join the GD Hub by registering online at ems.gs/3lle0hkcYkd
- Share your global development work with the GD Hub so we can showcase the impact you have created to UQ's community and partners. Complete the online form at global-partnerships.uq.edu.au/staff/global-development-hub
- Follow UQ's Global Development social media accounts to stay up-to-date with upcoming events, opportunities, and global development news.

Engage

- Attend global development events and communities of practice at global-partnerships.uq.edu.au/event/5717/global-development
- Share your expertise and global development experience with UQID to be engaged in further tender opportunities by emailing international.development@uq.edu.au.

Partner

- Partner with the UQID on bids for project tenders and developing future proposals for global development opportunities.
- Build relationships with funders and government partners through the GD Hub to apply your research and to create continued impact through networks and ongoing engagement.

Follow Global Development at UQ



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Acknowledgement

Global Partnerships wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to all UQ faculties, schools, institutes and divisions and to the network of partners from government, industry and academia who contribute to UQ's global development projects and support the achievement of global development impact in the countries in which we work.

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