

# Annual Report 2009

## Helping war-torn communities



survive

rebuild



**act** for peace

reduce poverty    protect refugees  
prevent conflicts    empower communities

Act for Peace is the international aid agency of  
the National Council of Churches in Australia

# About Act for Peace

**A**ct for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. We act for peace by empowering war-torn communities to reduce poverty, protect refugees and prevent further conflict.

**Our project partners are currently assisting more than one million people in many of the world's most war-torn areas, such as in Sudan, Somalia, Burma, The Middle East and Sri Lanka.**

For example, in the past year our project partners in Sudan have worked to empower communities to:

- protect and assist around 350,000 internally displaced people in Darfur;
- reduce poverty by building and running health clinics, schools and water programs;
- resolve conflicts in the Sudanese States of Kurdufan and Central Equatoria by coordinating successful peace processes.

In the past year our project partners in and on the border of Burma have worked to empower communities to:

- protect and assist over 135,000 Burmese refugees in camps and 100,000 displaced people in the eastern Burmese mountains (where the UN and others are unable to reach);
- conduct human rights training in Burma to help vulnerable groups maintain their rights.

We are also a member of the global ACT (Action by Churches Together) Alliance which works in more than 150 countries worldwide enabling us to respond immediately to emergency situations as they occur.

## Act for Peace and the Global Peace Index

Act for Peace uses the Global Peace Index as one of the benchmarks for helping to assess countries in greatest need. The Global Peace Index ranks the nations of the world by their peacefulness and identifies some of the drivers of that peace. Countries most at peace are ranked first. In 2009, 144 countries were ranked in order of most peaceful to least, in which Australia ranked 19<sup>th</sup> and New Zealand ranked first.

Of the countries in which we worked in 2009, nine are ranked in the ten least peaceful countries list according to the 2009 Global Peace Index (GPI):

Country	2009 GPI ranking	Country	2009 GPI ranking
Iraq	144	Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)	139
Afghanistan	143	Chad	138
Somalia	142	Pakistan	137
Israel	141	Zimbabwe	134 <sup>1</sup>
Sudan	140		

We also continued to work with project partners in six other highly conflict-affected countries: Ethiopia, Burma, Sri Lanka, Philippines (Mindanao), Indonesia (West Papua) and East Timor.

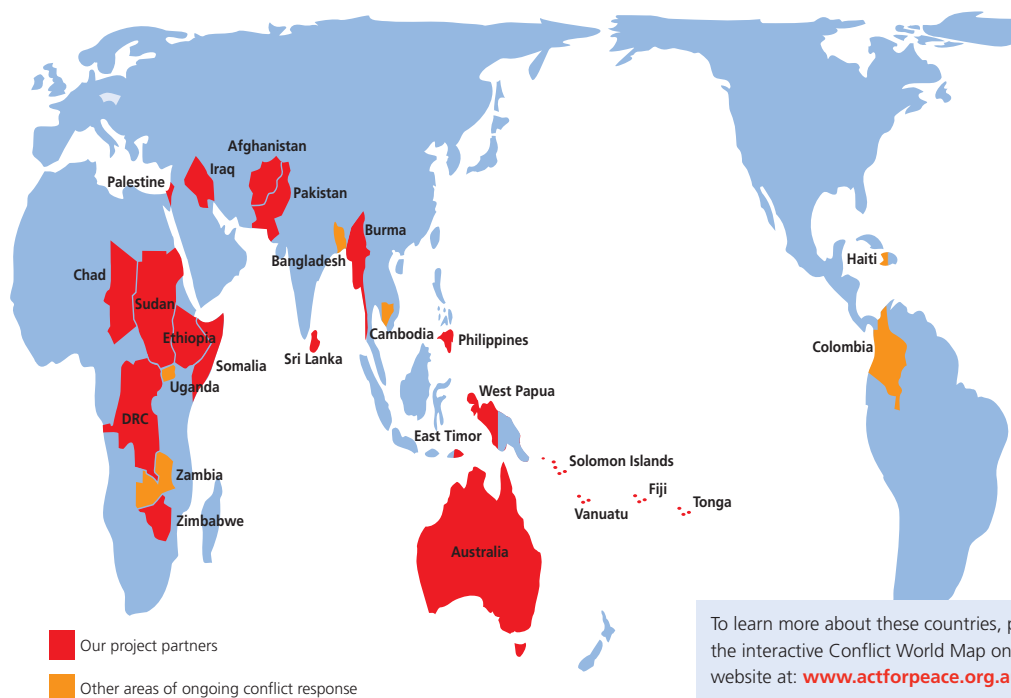
The other aspects of our work are with Indigenous and refugee partners in Australia and with partners in the Pacific. For instance, this year we will assist over 14,000 people in almost 300 Pacific villages which are most vulnerable to worsening cyclones and storm surges as a result of climate change.

We have worked with project partners in many of these countries for over 20 years.

Central to our approach and that of our ACT project partners are:

- Participation of people in their own development
- Developing capacity
- Promoting peace and reconciliation
- Non-discrimination
- Gender equality
- Cultural and spiritual sensitivity
- Protecting human rights
- Advocacy to address the root causes of poverty and conflict
- Effective communication
- Environmental sustainability

## Conflict World Map



To learn more about these countries, please visit the interactive Conflict World Map on our website at: [www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au)

1. We do not work in the 9th lowest-ranked country, Russia. Zimbabwe is ranked with Georgia at 134, with no country ranking 135. (<http://www.visionofhumanity.org/gpi/results/rankings/2009/>)

# From the Chairperson & Executive Director

**A**round 750,000 people die each year as a result of armed conflict. There are currently around 35 million people who have been displaced by conflict. This is unacceptable.

We are doing what we can to change this by helping war-torn communities break the cycle of poverty and conflict.

With assistance, these very resilient people are the ones who can most successfully resolve the conflicts which threaten to destroy their communities. We have seen this over and over again through involvement in many successful peace processes, where outsiders have failed in their own attempts.

The United Nations agencies and some other international non-government organisations (NGOs) provide humanitarian assistance where they can, though they are often unable to reach the areas where our local partners can reach. For example, the Burmese military will not allow assistance from the UN, NGOs or other international groups to the hundreds of thousands of people hiding from persecution in the mountains of eastern Burma. Our local partners provide this assistance at great risk to themselves.

In many of the conflict-affected countries around the world, especially in Africa and the Pacific, churches are often the only groups that have a presence in the most remote and vulnerable places. We would like to give special thanks to our amazing overseas partners, many of whom work in very dangerous and difficult situations. Their courage and hard work is inspirational for all of us. Please read about their extraordinary work and achievements in this report and visit our new website for more information at:

**[www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au)**

Our project partners could not have achieved what they did in the past year without the generous assistance of those who fund them. Our thanks go to our Act for Peace Partners, who give regularly; to our Christmas Bowl supporters, who continue to give year after year; and to supporters who respond to our emergency appeals and with gifts throughout the year.

Since we began in 1948, our supporters have given over \$200m to help protect refugees, reduce poverty, prevent conflict and manage disasters. In 2009, thanks to their generosity and contributions from AusAID, we were able to spend \$5.6 million on refugee, poverty, conflict and disaster programs.

Please join us again in 2010 to act for peace!

**The Reverend Elenie Poulos**



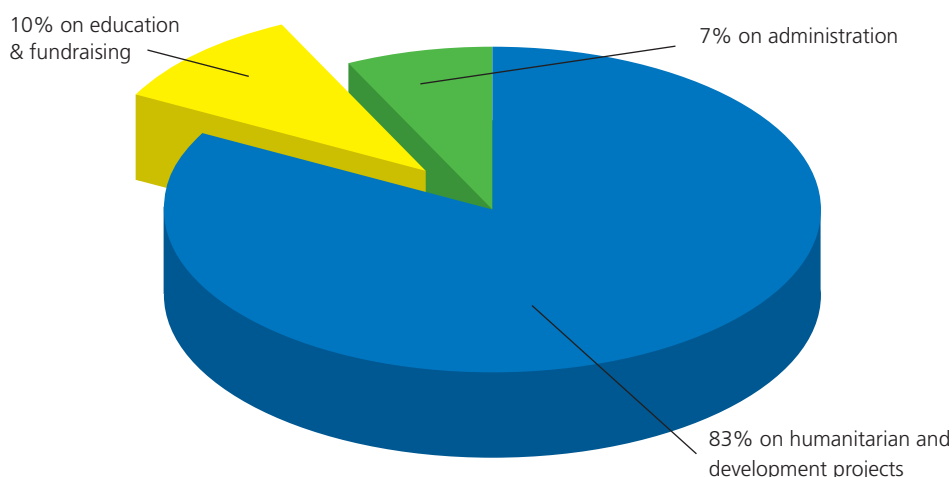
**CWS Commission Chairperson**

**Alistair Gee**



**Executive Director**

**In the 2008-09 financial year, Act for Peace spent:**



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# Sudan

- Ranked 140 out of 144 countries on Global Peace Index<sup>2</sup>
- 4.8 million internally displaced people<sup>3</sup>
- 21% of people are undernourished<sup>4</sup>

Act for Peace has been working with partners in Sudan since 1991 to help lay the foundations for peace in this war-torn country.

One Act for Peace project partner, the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC), carries out people-to-people peace processes within areas of protracted conflict. Through strengthening the role of women and youth in conflict management, communities have achieved peaceful outcomes between warring tribes. The program has to date involved over 20,000 people and will soon also include an expanded disarmament program.

*"Agreements have been made between the fighting parties... They find common things to create such as where men from different tribes are running cooperative shops. They are sustaining a peaceful living. In many Payams (towns), women from different churches and tribes are coming together in sewing projects or running restaurants. These are the activities we leave behind in the communities which have been affected by conflict."* – Helen Peter Gemma, SCC Project Peace & Justice in Western Juba County



Key results from our partners in Sudan include:

- More than 250 teachers trained in the principles of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, civic and voter rights;
- 150 Peace educators have been given human rights training;
- Over 500 trained students are now holding key positions in the Government, NGOs and Churches in Sudan;
- Over 500 schools have benefited from educational materials.

## Darfur

Act for Peace also assists partners in the region of Darfur, including the SCC, who provide protection and assistance for people living in camps displaced by the conflict. Every year, approximately 350,000 people experience an improved quality of life due to the services supported by our project partners.

### Through this program, in the past year:

- 252,000 consultations have been carried out in primary health clinics.
- 60,000 community members have been involved in nutrition education, hygiene promotion and other preventative healthcare sessions.
- 280,000 people have received access to water and improved sanitation quality.
- 100 new water points have been established, combined with the rehabilitation of 160 hand pumps, giving communities clean and safe water for drinking and cooking.
- Women, Sheiks and government officials were trained on human rights and children's rights, and women were also trained in peace building.
- More than 20 schools have been built or restored and 8,000 school children received their first school materials.
- 15,000 persons have received seeds and tools for farming and farmers have received training in improved farming techniques, seed banking and pesticide treatment.

The 2008 Christmas Bowl image (below) showed girls with school supplies running to a temporary school in a displacement camp in Darfur. In June 2009, their permanent school building for 1256 students was completed, made possible in part from the generous gifts to the 2008 Christmas Bowl.

**\$40** can provide trauma counseling for victims of conflict.

**\$64** can allow a survivor of the Sudanese conflict to learn valuable skills through a Peace Building and Conflict Transformation workshop.

**\$128** can provide refuge resettlement kits containing food, medicine, clothing and school supplies for refugees in Darfur.



2. All Global Peace Index references are to 2009 rankings which can be viewed at <http://www.visionofhumanity.org/gpi/results/rankings.php>

3. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) 2009

4. U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) 2008

# Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

- Ranked 139 out of 144 countries on Global Peace Index
- 5.4 million deaths since 1998 from war-related violence, hunger and disease<sup>5</sup>

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the site of one of the world's worst ongoing humanitarian crises. Millions of people suffer from a lethal combination of disease and hunger fuelled by ongoing conflict and displacement. Tens of thousands of women and girls have been raped. Tensions from the Rwandan genocide led to a second war in the DRC that continued for almost a decade as various dictators tried to claim power over the country. Democratic elections were finally held again in 2006, though the civil war continued to rage as ethnic tensions and armed militias fuelled the conflict.

Act for Peace is working with project partners in the DRC to bring some stability to the lives of the Congolese people. This includes support through nutrition programs that provide food to people in need and teach parents how to ensure that their children are receiving proper nutrition. Our project partners are also providing seeds, tools and educational programs in order to supplement agriculture in the region and work toward increasing food stability in the long term.

The Kivu conflict, a major source of violence and human rights abuses in the DRC, officially ended in early 2009 with the capture of the rebel leader, Laurent Nkunda. This conflict has accounted for 2.7 million deaths in the country since 2004. These deaths are due to famine and disease because innocent civilians are caught between opposing militias. Almost half of these deaths are children under the age of five. New conflicts and fighting erupted almost immediately after the arrest of Nkunda, and Act for Peace project partners are working to help those affected.

## Bageni's story

*Bageni Katembereza was forced to flee from her home village, due to the ongoing fighting in the DRC. She and her six children walked down the dirt roads of Eastern Congo searching for safety, not knowing where they were headed, only sensing they had to get away. Once they were out of the danger zone, Bageni found Siyawna Mulingeza waiting for her, opening her humble home to a perfect stranger. "They were just wandering on the road, and had no place to sleep. So we invited them into our home," said Siyawna, though she has barely enough resources to take care of her own family.*

*In the eastern DRC around 70% of those left homeless by war are taken in by other families. The hosts, like the guests, have little food and resources, and it is the hospitality of the poor that welcomes the poor. Our partners in the area have set up programs to aid those who have taken in refugees. We provide additional supplies, food and training programs to people like Bageni and Siyawna, so that they can help one another survive this conflict.*

**\$20** can provide clothing, a blanket, mosquito netting, soap and dishes for a displaced family.

**\$50** can provide 50 children with a five-piece clothing kit.

**\$80** can provide grain and vegetable seeds to farmers, so that they can produce nutritional food for their families.





# Zimbabwe

- Ranked 134 out of 144 countries on the Global Peace Index
- Average life expectancy 43 years<sup>6</sup>
- 39% of the population are undernourished<sup>7</sup>
- 83% of people live on less than \$2 a day<sup>8</sup>

Robert Mugabe's regime has resulted in immense poverty throughout Zimbabwe. Farming was the backbone of Zimbabwe's economy, but agriculture has been crippled by the combined effects of controversial government land reforms, drought, corruption and HIV/AIDS.

In 2008, Zimbabwe's inflation rate reached a record high 231,000,000%, with the price of goods doubling every few days. The government was forced to print one trillion dollar banknotes to keep up with inflation and in April 2009, the country simply stopped printing money altogether.

In the current dire situation of food shortage, hyperinflation, over 90% unemployment and the devastating cholera epidemic, Act for Peace's project partner Christian Care (CC), has focused on enhancing food and nutrition security, improving hygiene and building the capacity of communities to become self-sufficient. Their projects include:

- rural development
- disaster relief
- dam construction and irrigation
- water and sanitation
- livestock restocking
- HIV/AIDS prevention
- advocacy on behalf of the disadvantaged.

After being taught methods of Conservation Farming by CC, local community leader Mr. Nhongo said, "for the past ten years, I have never realised such a good crop." His community previously practised traditional farming techniques, which do not adapt well to the changing climate. The food security programs increase household nutrition greatly by producing fresher crops throughout the year, making the community as a whole become healthier. The practices are simple, easy to adopt and accessible to even the most resource-poor family.

Conventional farming depletes the soil of nutrients, forcing farmers to seek new farmland at the expense of the remaining forests, which in turn causes declining water sources and more droughts. Conservation farming breaks that cycle.

CC has also built toilets, developed clean water supplies, distributed plastic buckets, chloride of lime, soap and blankets, carried out Training of Trainers workshops in hygiene promotion and supplied necessary hygiene kits.

**\$100** can provide vital training for four Zimbabwean farmers in methods of sustainable agriculture so they can produce bigger and better crops.

**\$300** can give a person peace-building training so that they can become a leader in their community and promote peaceful relations.

**\$350** can provide seeds, equipment and supplies so farmers can begin cultivating the land using these techniques.



*"We are delighted to share with you that the Churches in Zimbabwe have not gone to sleep, but are seriously working in partnership with various players in the humanitarian sector to bring the much needed relief to Zimbabweans."*  
– Rev. Forbes Matonga, Christian Care National Director

# Ethiopia

- **Ranked 128 out of 144 countries in the Global Peace Index**
- **39% of the population lives in extreme poverty on less than US\$1.25 per day<sup>9</sup>**
- **38% of children under 5 are underweight<sup>10</sup>**

**A**ct for Peace's partner in Ethiopia, Ethiopian Orthodox Church's (EOC) Development and Inter-church Aid Commission (DICAC), is working to help rural communities end the cycle of extreme poverty. We have helped create programs that focus on environmental rehabilitation, improved agriculture, women's empowerment, access to clean water, sanitation and health education.

Our partners have helped train people to dig wells and latrines, providing individuals with skills that will enable them to generate an income for their families and stabilise their communities. This same training program also provided 8,000 people with access to clean water. This is extremely significant, since only 11% of the rural population in Ethiopia has access to an adequate water source. In fact, this program has increased access to water in the areas we work from 3.8% to 70%, reaching more than 58,000 Ethiopians.

The project has also distributed almost one million seedlings in order to prevent desertification and strengthen soil nutrition. By empowering communities through community planning, establishing committees, public gatherings and encouraging communities to manage their own projects, we are allowing people to regain control of their situation and work toward a more promising future.

## Bezualet's Story

*"Selam (Hello). My name is Bezualet Liku. I am 18 years old and live in the Amhara region of Ethiopia with my parents, three brothers and one sister. Before we built the hand-dug well with the support and training of DICAC, I had to collect water for my entire family from an unprotected well. In our community, we carry water using large clay pots roped to our backs, which weigh more than 12 kilograms when full. The previous well was much further away and I would have to spend much time carrying water back to my family.*

*When we used to drink from the old well, my siblings and I would get sick with stomach aches, diarrhoea and other water borne diseases. I would miss school and couldn't help my family at home with chores.*

*Everyone in the community takes turns cleaning the area around the well. When it is my turn, I clean out the mud and scoop excess water away from the well to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. A few years ago, malaria severely spread throughout our community.*

*Amasegenalhu (Thank you), Act for Peace, for helping to better our community. Because of the new well, I am healthy, have more time and can now attend school!" - Bezualet*

DICAC has also made great strides in eradicating harmful traditional practices (HTPs) such as female genital mutilation and early child marriage in this region through developing Women's Associations, educating the community and training the clergy to speak out against HTPs to their congregations.

*"There are many stories of families and whole communities greatly improving their quality of life. It makes my job very rewarding. Thank you for supporting us."*

– Haftu Woldu, Director of EOC-DICAC.

**\$15** can provide tools, seeds and agricultural education for one Ethiopian farmer.

**\$225** can establish a vegetable nursery which will help train Ethiopian farmers in sustainable farming methods and help provide seedlings to around 600 families.

**\$1250** can supply a pump for one hand-dug water well in Ethiopia.



Bezualet Liku gathers water for her family from the community's new hand-dug well.

9. UNDP Human Development Report 2009

10. UNDP Human Development Report 2009





A'isha, displaced by the war in Darfur, Sudan, makes a bowl as part of a conflict trauma counselling program for women and girls in the refugee camp.

# Chad

- Ranked 138 out of 144 countries in Global Peace Index
- Over 300,000 refugees from neighbouring countries<sup>11</sup>
- 4 doctors per 100,000 people<sup>12</sup>
- 62% live on less than US\$1.25 per day<sup>13</sup>

**A**ct for Peace works with project partners in Chad by building the capacity of communities and offsetting some of the causes of poverty in the region. Through this program, we help establish community leadership committees and increase the capacity of community leaders in order to create a support structure which gives communities stability.

Our project partners are also increasing awareness about hygiene and supplying women and teenage girls with hygiene kits. Part of this education campaign includes information about gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS. This program will expand to include education, agriculture and other income activities. It will increase training and provision of fuel-efficient stoves, and provide better quality water supplies. These activities will help people meet their daily needs of fuel, water and food, allowing more time for education and income generation.

Our project partners have already seen success in trauma therapy programs. These programs help those who have witnessed extreme violence to overcome that trauma, so that they can rebuild their lives.

## Abaker's story

Mohammad Abaker, a 45 year old merchant, understands the value of this treatment firsthand. When his village was attacked by a Janjaweed militia, Abaker refused to give them his horse. They hit him repeatedly with an iron pipe and shot him in the face with a Kalishnikov rifle, blinding him in one eye. Abaker was tied up, stabbed and left to die. Eventually Abaker was found and hospitalised. He received trauma counselling through our program. During his recovery, Abaker saw one of the men who shot him and found himself wishing that the man were dead. The humanitarian worker counseling him said: "This is not the solution. Killing the man will not bring your eye back. If you kill this man, it will be another problem for you." Counselling has helped Abaker understand that responding to violence with vengeance and aggression has been the unsuccessful solution between warring militias for decades and that it will not solve the problems facing Chad. The work being done by these counsellors is crucial to the effort to overcome the violence and conflict facing the country and to ensure the long term success of its people.

**\$50** can help to provide agricultural development training for farmers in order to increase food security.

**\$100** can provide women and children with psychotherapeutic activities and materials to increase social awareness and healing for trauma.

11. UNHCR 2008

12. UNDP Human Development Report 2007/2008

13. UNDP Human Development Report, 2009



# Somalia

- **Ranked 142 out of 144 countries in Global Peace Index**
- **1.3 million internally displaced people<sup>14</sup>**
- **3.2 million people in need of humanitarian aid<sup>15</sup>**
- **Only 29% of the population have access to safe water<sup>16</sup>**

Currently in Somalia, around 1.3 million people have been forced to flee their homes as a result of the fighting between the Transitional Government Forces and Islamic militias. There are few resources within communities to ensure these people are adequately cared for, as the remainder of the country is already experiencing intense poverty.

The lack of services available to Somalis is a direct result of the civil war, which makes trade difficult and leaves markets bare of the food necessary to feed the population. Years of anarchy followed the fall of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991. Somalis have not had a central government to provide them with basic infrastructure and services such as roads, schools and legal protection, making it incredibly difficult for the people to meet their daily needs.

In addition to the internal conflict, there have also been a number of natural disasters, livestock disease outbreaks and droughts that have increased the instability of the region. If farmers cannot produce the necessary food, the already marginalised population will be faced with starvation and no money to spend on non-food items. Estimates in the region suggest that around 3 million people are in need of food aid within Somalia, but there is little humanitarian assistance or outside food entering into the region due to the intensity of the conflict.

More than one in ten Somalis have been forced out of their homes by conflict as Islamist insurgents who ruled the country briefly in 2006 battle against the government. Years of anarchy, combined with frequent drought and rampant inflation, have turned Somalia into the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Act for Peace is working with partners to offset this humanitarian crisis and offer hope to many Somalis through:

- rehabilitating water sources and developing better water infrastructure in areas of greatest need.
- educating people on hygiene and sanitation to prevent the spread of disease.
- training people in environmental awareness, which will help communities overcome poor agricultural output due to drought and locust infestations.
- increasing the disaster management capacity of local authorities and training communities in techniques to manage natural disasters and acute conflict within the region.
- providing psychosocial support to help people overcome the trauma of the war in Somalia.

**\$50** can provide 10 households with water purifiers to ensure that families have safe drinking water.



14. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre 2009

15. Reuters 2009

16. UNDP Human Development Report 2009

## Palestine/Israel

- **Ranked 141 out of 144 countries on Global Peace Index**
- **5 million Palestinian refugees<sup>17</sup>**
- **61 years since the conflict began**

**A**ct for Peace is working with the Middle East Council of Churches' Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) and other partners to assist communities in the Gaza Strip to overcome the destruction caused by the recent conflict and provide for the ongoing need of refugees.

With assistance from Act for Peace, DSPR:

- provides essential health, education and community development opportunities for over 80,000 refugees; and
- advocates for the rights of Palestinian refugees and displaced people, and for a just resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict at domestic, national and international levels.

During the recent 22 day war, four health clinics operated by our partners in Gaza were hit by Israeli missiles. One of them was DSPR's own clinic. Constantine Dabbagh, the Executive Director of DSPR, was shocked by the extent of the destruction. "There was a heap of rubble, and some papers from files blowing about in the wind, and that was all. Nothing survived. After 40 years of service to the community, all that could be found in the rubble were a few smashed machines."

Medicine supplies, water purification equipment, food, computers, extensive files and equipment were all lost in the attack. The medicines and machines are greatly needed in the region, as the Israeli blockade has prevented important supplies from reaching Gaza since June 2007. The clinic offered pre and post natal care along with general practitioner services. A program had just been launched to visit 15,000 homes in the region and check every child between the ages of 6 months and 3 years for malnutrition. Women and children suffer most because of this destruction, as they have nowhere to go for vital healthcare until the clinic is rebuilt.

We are also keen to assist Australians taking part in the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program for Palestine & Israel (EAPPI). This is a very successful

program which has trained hundreds of people from around the world to monitor check-points and areas of tension. The program is strongly supported by our local partners and the local communities. Please let us know if you are interested applying for this program.

### Simmer's story

*Simmer and his family are refugees who rely on DSPR support. Simmer used to journey to Israel to work as a farmer, but has been unable to travel because of the conflict and cannot find work in Gaza. He is married with three mentally handicapped children that he cannot provide for because there are no jobs available. He does, however, receive invaluable support in terms of healthcare and food from the clinics, which allows his children to get the nutrition and medical support they need to survive.*

**\$15** can provide a supply of milk for a malnourished child or can provide one dose of life-saving medicine.

**\$80** can provide a woman with a hygiene kit and a visit from a healthcare worker after she delivers a baby.

**\$160** can provide nutritious food for a family of four people for one month.



Steve Weaver/CWS-ACT Intl



# Pakistan

- Ranked 137 out of 144 countries on Global Peace Index
- 3 million displaced people<sup>18</sup>



Pakistan's regions of Baluchistan, the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and North West Frontier Province (NWFP) that border Afghanistan are plagued by violence between militants and government security forces. Close to half of the citizens in these regions of violence have been forced to flee with almost no provisions. They are currently staying with others or in camps, and the resources and housing needs of these people are immense.

With the onset of the monsoon, diseases including malaria and cholera increased. Without proper medical attention and sufficient supplies, many internally displaced people could suffer severe health problems or even face death.

Months of the Pakistan military's offensive against the Taliban militants has left a trail of heavy infrastructure damage, human losses and a severe economic crisis in the war-affected region. Act for Peace's project partners are implementing a comprehensive initiative focusing on education, food security, health and protection for the displaced people.

Our partners on the ground have been providing relief since May 2009 to meet the needs of those who are in makeshift camps. The situation remains violent and unpredictable. We are calling on all sides to seek a peaceful resolution, to avoid the unnecessary harm to civilians and to allow humanitarian workers safe access to help people affected by the conflict wherever they are.

**\$22** can provide a fold out bed.

**\$188** can provide 3 months of nutritious food for a displaced family during this crisis.

**\$236** can provide weatherproof, temporary shelter for families arriving in internal displacement camps.

18. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre 2009

# Afghanistan

- Ranked 143 out of 144 countries on the Global Peace Index
- Millions have fled during the conflict

Afghanistan is struggling to recover from more than a quarter of a century of conflict, with violence still raging in parts of the country. It is one of the most heavily mined nations in the world. The country's infant mortality rates are among the highest in the world and around half the population, or close to 15 million people, are living below the poverty line.

During the past year, Act for Peace's project partners worked towards overcoming the impact of the drought and food shortages in Afghanistan. This work includes providing Afghans with opportunities for income generation and farmers with increased access to irrigation for their crops and livestock. Not only will this increase income, but it will also increase food security for thousands more through larger crop yields.

In addition, health and hygiene training was provided to women who are heads of households in order to increase the health of their families. Emergency relief was also provided to families most affected by the drought and conflict in the form of food aid, shelter and supplies.

**\$50** can increase farmers agricultural production through the supply of improved wheat seed.

**\$100** can provide a vulnerable family of five with one month's food.



## Malik and Bassri's story

Malik, Bassri and their four children have been provided a house through this program. The family was previously living in a hillside cave, without sufficient income to provide both a home and food. "Now we don't have those worries," said the mother, Bassri, excited that the home has four rooms, an exterior water pump and a latrine. With a sturdy roof over their heads and clean water and sanitation facilities, Bassri and Malik can now focus on increasing their income, rather than constantly worrying about the health and safety of their children.

# Iraq

- Ranked 144 out of 144 countries on the Global Peace Index
- 2.8 million internally displaced people<sup>19</sup>
- 2.3 million refugees in neighbouring countries<sup>20</sup>

The Iraqi people have been devastated by the war and the ongoing conflict in Iraq. One of the major problems is the lack of security that exists as the country shifts from the old regime to a new government, making it very difficult for Iraqis to go about their daily lives in safety.

The country also faces immense pressure from the 2.5 million internally displaced people within the country. These people lost their livelihoods in the conflict and are now trying to rebuild, but there is already massive strain on local communities and resources making it difficult for these people to find new places to settle. With the continuing deterioration of health and social infrastructure for displaced persons, this problem has become even more serious.

Act for Peace has been working with the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) and the ACT alliance to improve the lives of displaced Iraqis. This work includes:

- providing vocational skills training courses for young adults of different faiths. These courses allow the participants to gain skills that will help them become self-reliant, provide for their families and create stronger communities.
- providing health education to women that are currently living in extreme, high-risk situations, to improve sanitation and prevent disease.

## Aifa's story

Aifa Sami Kroumi, a 25 year old student, is registered in MECC's Business Administration and Small Business Ventures Course. There are six people in her family. Aifa recalls, "We were living in Baghdad when my brother Aifan was kidnapped and beaten, receiving blows to his head with pistols, but he was able to escape. Then, after two months had passed, my brother Simon and my father were kidnapped, and the kidnappers killed my father. We still do not know what happened to Simon. Because of that, we left Iraq, for the protection of my sisters and my brother, Aifan. Life is very difficult in Syria because we do not have anyone to look out for us.

"The MECC course has given me the chance to get away from the difficult circumstances of everyday life, as I feel responsible to look out for my sisters. I'm very keen to participate in the English course, as well as the course in Women's Hairdressing. Our family has no desire to return to Iraq because of the bad memories."

According to the World Council of Churches, despite only 4% of Iraq's population being Christian prior to 2003, they now constitute 30% of Iraq's refugees.

**\$50** can provide health and HIV awareness programs for Iraqi women and children.

**\$100** can provide a family with an essential hygiene and health kit.

**\$250** can provide vocational skills training for Iraqi refugees.



19. UNDP Human Development Report 2009

20. UNDP Human Development Report 2009



# Burma

- Ranked 126 out of 144 countries on the Global Peace Index
- At least 470,000 internally displaced in eastern Burma<sup>21</sup>
- 135,000 Burmese refugees in camps on the Thai-Burma border<sup>22</sup>
- 5 million people undernourished<sup>23</sup>

Since 1962 the country has been under the control of an oppressive military dictatorship. In 1990, when democratic elections favoured the opposition party, the military rulers refused to give up power. Ever since, the government has been clamping down on the rights of the Burmese people. The vast majority of Burma's population live on just over \$3 a day. There is an extremely high infant mortality rate in Burma and a high instance of easily avoidable and curable diseases.

Act for Peace has been working with partners in Burma and Thailand to reduce poverty and protect refugees as well as provide relief and support to the internally displaced persons. We are a member of the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) which is the principal supplier of food, shelter and many non-food items to over 135,000 refugees from Burma.

"I really want to go home, not to another country. While I wait, I'm content to serve my people in this camp," says Tham Lin Refugee Camp Committee Secretary. TBBC's goal is to provide not only humanitarian aid, but also to support the long-term self-reliance of the refugees through community agricultural programs and weaving projects.

Over the past few years, Australia has resettled the second-largest number of refugees from these camps – nearly 2,000 people each year. Act for Peace is dedicated to providing assistance to Burmese people in need, whether they are in hiding in Burma, in refugee camps along the border or have recently arrived in Australia.

In response to the devastation wrought by Cyclone Nargis in 2008, Act for Peace's project partners provided hundreds of thousands of people with life-saving assistance. Thanks to our generous supporters and the combined efforts of Australian churches and individuals, we were able to send more than \$500,000 to the people of Burma.

In the past year, our project partners in the Cyclone Nargis response work achieved the following:

- 123,026 displaced households received emergency food (6,151 tonnes of rice), plus emergency cash assistance;
- 230,000 people were provided with temporary shelter (46,284 tarpaulins);
- 49,000 individuals gained access to clean water (through the installation of 4,249 water baskets with water purifiers);
- 55,775 farm households received farming inputs for their monsoon season paddy – including 488,284 baskets of paddy seeds distributed; and
- 6 schools were built or repaired.

**\$20** can provide a Burmese refugee with one month's rice.

**\$375** can provide a Burmese refugee with one year's worth of nutritious food.



21. UNHCR 2009

22. Reuters 2009

23. World Food Programme 2007

# The Philippines

- Ranked 114 out of 144 countries on the Global Peace Index
- 700,000 uprooted in 2008 fighting<sup>24</sup>
- 22% of people live on less than US\$1.25 a day<sup>25</sup>

The Philippine government's conflict with Muslim separatists on the southern island of Mindanao and a second conflict with Communist insurgents have left 160,000 dead and rendered up to 2 million homeless. More than a third of the population live in poverty.

The Lumads, the second largest group of Indigenous people in the Southern Philippines, face injustice daily. There have been more than 260,000 recorded human rights abuses in the Philippines since 2001, and the Lumads are experiencing incomprehensible suffering. Act for Peace's project partner, the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), is working to retain the hope and dignity of the Indigenous people and their livelihood.

Act for Peace is working with the NCCP to offset these problems through a number of programs. The first program promotes understanding between religious groups, including Muslims, Christians and Indigenous people, so that they can find common ground on the path to peace and justice. This will in turn lead to more constructive dialogue between warring groups, so that conflicts surrounding issues such as land rights can be resolved through mutual understanding. Until these conflicts are ended, Act for Peace and the NCCP will provide support to victims of human rights violations and internal displacement, ensuring that the necessary resources reach the people in need.

We are also working to promote the rights of individuals and communities, so that they can find alternatives to conflict. There has already been a great deal of success in this area, as communities have found ways to support programs that educate citizens in literacy, agricultural techniques and farm tool production. Inter-community aid has allowed citizens to help one another toward empowerment. Our partnership has worked to provide internally displaced persons with the medicine, clothing, and supplies they need to be successful. Local churches are encouraged to provide temporary refuge and counselling in order to provide victims with a stable platform from which to rebuild their lives.

*"The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) drove us off our land. I got involved with the regional formation of Indigenous groups and started speaking out in radio interviews to tell the story of this harassment and destruction by the AFP. Because of the threat to my life by the military, I was forced to leave my wife and five children and moved to Manila. Despite my difficult experiences, I will continue this work until Philippines society recognises and respects the Indigenous people in their communities. Thank you for your support through the NCCP."*  
– Himpad, a Lumad leader.

**\$60** can provide 20 hygiene kits for the suffering Lumad people of the Philippines.

**\$75** can provide a literacy course for an indigenous person in the Philippines so that they can retain their political, economic and land rights.



24. Reuters 2009

25. UNDP Human Development Report 2009



# Sri Lanka

- Ranked 125 out of 144 countries on the Global Peace Index
- 250,000 internally displaced people held in camps for most of 2009<sup>26</sup>

Sri Lanka experienced a civil war for over 25 years between the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Both sides were responsible for severe violations of human rights. Civilians, not just combatants, suffered terribly during the war. The civil war officially ended in 2009, though around 250,000 Sri Lankans have been held in internal displacement camps by the Sri Lankan army.

Act for Peace is working with project partners in the region, both in Sri Lanka and in Tamil Nadu, the south-eastern Indian state near Sri Lanka. The partners work to ensure that both internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees in Tamil Nadu have the support and skills to rebuild their lives and Sri Lanka. We are also working to ensure that IDP and refugee camps have the resources necessary to operate.

Our project partner, the National Council of Churches in Sri Lanka (NCCSL) is working to assist IDPs in the northern camps. NCCSL also undertakes relief and rehabilitation work to assist other people impacted by the war and natural disasters. It is also responsible for peace, reconciliation and inter-religious co-operation work including the establishment of Peace Nurseries for children from Sinhala, Tamil and Moslem backgrounds in the tea estates.

Work includes local level human rights, legal rights, assistance to victims of violence, helping asylum seekers, HIV/AIDS education, communication via TV, radio and publications and ecumenical work with women's and youth groups.

Our partner in Tamil Nadu, the Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR), aids Sri Lankan refugees by providing services to hospitalised patients, preventative care and training for refugee health workers. By providing these refugees with materials and knowledge about health, sanitation and community social issues, we are able to prevent camp epidemics and support people's health so they can better prepare for the future.

OfERR also prepares the refugees for return to Sri Lanka. They aim to counter the depression caused by the impact of the conflict by continuing to raise self-esteem through improvements in literacy and vocational skills. OfERR provides an impressive range of in-depth and intensive courses designed to develop refugees' abilities to cope and to gain life skills and increase their ability to earn a living for themselves and their families.

**\$50** can provide five blankets and five mosquito nets for families arriving in displaced persons camps.

**\$100** can put a female refugee through a women's empowerment course.



## Sunthari's story

*Sunthari, a young wife and mother, has been displaced 19 times due to fighting in Sri Lanka. She has taken refuge in a camp with her husband and 18 month-old daughter because they have nowhere else to go. She is grateful that her family is alive and safe from the violence.*

*Before coming to the camp, Sunthari was trapped with a number of others in a small village under the control of the LTTE. The area was surrounded with barbed wire and thick, sand walls. They were initially provided with meals, but as time passed they began to get less and less food. Her daughter was screaming with hunger, and there was nothing she could do. Her husband attempted to escape with them nine times. On the ninth time he was caught and severely beaten.*

*Eventually, a group of men managed to break through one of the sand walls. As her husband carried their daughter, Sunthari's family escaped the bullets of the LTTE. While escaping, both of Sunthari's feet were injured in an explosion, but she was forced to continue running. As they crossed a river that was up to her neck, the family was rescued by the Sri Lankan army and placed in a refugee camp where Act for Peace's partners are providing food, shelter, hygiene services and education. When asked about the future of her family, Sunthari responded, "Now, we are here waiting for a peaceful day to restart our lives."*

# East Timor

- **Ranked 162 out of 182 countries on the Human Development Index**
- **30,000 internally displaced people<sup>27</sup>**
- **46% of children under 5 underweight<sup>28</sup>**

Our project partner FUSONA (the development arm of the Protestant Church of East Timor) has been working on community projects since 1983. The fighting for independence caused FUSONA to commence an emergency program to help people returning from the mountains and the west.

Some examples of FUSONA's work with communities include small business loans for:

- kiosks and sewing groups;
- agriculture and animal husbandry groups;
- a water rehabilitation group; and
- providing a health clinic with a mobile service.

FUSONA has survived many challenges during the nation's occupation, conflict and transition to independence. This transition has been marred by the frequent outbreaks of violence. The current rebuilding phase allows FUSONA to resume their development work after several years of distributing emergency supplies to internally displaced people.

The villages also have difficulty sourcing water and families must walk one to two kilometres a day to obtain water for cooking and household use. In the past, the Indonesian Government provided only two tanks per village. FUSONA is planning to rehabilitate water sources that were damaged due to fighting.

Young people in one village have expressed interest in developing a fruit and flower garden around the local church, as a positive and productive activity to be involved in. They possess skills and labour but need the tools.

This year FUSONA implemented a horticultural activity in Emera District. Agricultural and clean water projects are being developed in other areas as well. Agostinho, the leader of the farmers groups in the Baucau area said, "The farmers are happy with the support they receive from FUSONA (tools, hiring a tractor, training and crop protection) because they are able to produce more. We have harvested about 8% more from the field this year."

**\$100** can provide start-up chickens for a group of five families. After two years the offspring are given to new groups.

**\$150** can provide a week's supply of medicines for a mobile health clinic.



27. UNDP Human Development Report 2009

28. UNDP Human Development Report 2009



# The Pacific

**A**ct for Peace has developed a Disaster Risk Reduction project which is now employing 30 staff in Fiji, Tonga, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. One of the goals of this program is to develop action plans for extreme weather events in order to minimise destruction and loss of life, while simultaneously teaching villagers how to plan for and find solutions to the issues that they face. By increasing leadership in all sectors of society, including women and youth, communities will be able to deal with structural, economic and social barriers to development and help one another toward success.

Since each village is uniquely different with different challenges, the project will focus on one village at a time to address individual issues. Field Project Officers will spend up to 10 days in each village during the life of the project (four years).

6,240 individuals will be given this training and 468 villages will benefit from this project. 3,000 school children will also be provided with educational materials and given training so they can become future advocates for preparing for and responding to disasters. The training is vital due to intensifying climate patterns in the Pacific Islands.

## Solomon Islands

Act for Peace's project partner, The Solomon Islands Christian Association (SICA) aims to promote Christian values and to work towards a just, compassionate, prosperous and equitable society that improves the quality of life for all Solomon Islanders. SICA's projects include:

- Humanitarian disaster preparedness;
- Education and health development relief work and assistance;
- Women and youth development;
- Ethical leadership and good governance;
- Social justice and welfare service;
- Institutional development and literacy courses; and
- Strengthening communities and capacity building.

Act for Peace is also working with SICA to help solve the problems generated by violence and natural disasters. To accomplish this, we are working to educate and train communities to prepare for and deal with natural and man-made disasters.

## Vanuatu

Act for Peace's project partner in Vanuatu, the Vanuatu Christian Council (VCC) plays an effective role in improving governance and service delivery at national and local levels.

The program has four major areas of assistance:

- Strengthening governance, management and operations of the VCC;
- Strengthening of individual churches in Vanuatu;
- Resourcing and support for the churches in Vanuatu to expand and improve development initiatives; and
- Collaborative implementation by churches of common activities.



## Fiji

The 2006 military takeover of Fiji, the fourth coup in 20 years, has left its citizens facing an uncertain future.

Act for Peace's project partner, the Ecumenical Centre for Research, Education and Advocacy is working to empower the people of Fiji and give them a stronger voice in their communities. By allowing communities to take a more active role in reducing racial tensions, education, settlement, and other issues, Fijians are able to work toward a higher quality of life that is not likely to be provided by their government.

**\$50** can allow a Fijian youth to attend a peace-building workshop.

**\$200** can skill each member of a ten-person village committee with Disaster Preparedness training.



# Australia



## We have been working with partners in Australia on:

- 'Healing Trails', run by State Ecumenical Councils, which link refugees to church communities to help them in rebuilding their lives. They also generate support for resettled refugees and asylum seekers, some still without work rights or adequate income. The work includes community-building events such as visits by refugees to regional centres, provision of travel loans to reunite families, support for programs providing literacy and other skills and financial help. Host families, volunteers and supporters develop networks of contacts and friendships with the new-comers, helping to create a healthy, multicultural society in Australia.
- Support for Indigenous people through the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission (NATSIEC), who are faced with recovery from injustice, poverty and cultural damage due to dispossession. Act for Peace will continue to help advance the objectives of NATSIEC's work, notably its 'Make Indigenous Poverty History' advocacy and educational campaign.

Thank you for your support of our key advocacy initiatives over the past year. With your support we:

- Convinced the Australian Government to introduce our alternative 'complementary protection' model, which will help shorten detention and processing times and secure protection visas for those in need who do not easily fit into the narrow definition of a refugee.
- Campaigned through Make Poverty History, Micah Challenge and Jubilee Australia for increases in Australia's overseas aid and for debt reform to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

*When refugees told their stories at the ecumenical gathering, "Adults wept quietly, children sat silent and wide-eyed. The impact of life's cruelty cut deep into our comfortable lives."* – The Reverend Gail Pritchard, Victoria.

# Global & Regional

## Global & Regional Partners

### Global

Act for Peace works closely with the ACT Alliance and the World Council of Churches (WCC). We continue to support and fund the work of the WCC on conflict and peace around the world. These global and regional programs support the work of our partners in war-torn countries.

We currently chair the ACT Alliance working groups on protection and accountability. Our work on protection in the past year has included training and consulting ACT Alliance members on strengthening protection in emergencies and conflicts, as well as ensuring that the voices of the world's displaced are heard in the halls of international power. In recent years we have led the NGO engagement with the governments of UNHCR's executive committee.

### Africa

Our partner since 1991, the All African Conference of Churches (AACC), plays an important role engaging with the African Union and advocating to other regional and global institutions, such as the World Bank and the IMF.

Our main work with the AACC relates to its coordination of high-level peace missions when conflicts flare. The AACC has recently deployed its negotiators (which include Archbishop Desmond Tutu and a number of former Presidents of African states) to help address the situations in DRC, Zimbabwe, Madagascar and Sudan. The coming two years sees many elections in war-torn African countries which could spark further violence and the AACC is working with National Councils of Churches in these countries to reduce the risk of violence and monitoring the elections.

### Asia

Our partner since 1987, the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA), has also been heavily involved in peace and security work. Over recent years it has been providing training in peace building and conflict transformation. CCA also works on HIV-AIDS, gender equality, sustainable development and the protection of the rights of migrant workers in the region.

### Pacific

Our partner since 1987, the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC), is a very important and well-respected institution in the Pacific. The PCC coordinates the work of its member churches in relation to matters affecting all Pacific countries, such as climate change, trade and emergency management. The Pacific is the most vulnerable region to climate change and many communities are already affected by rising sea-levels and worsening cyclones. The PCC is working to raise awareness in the Pacific of the need to address these problems and develop a plan between Pacific Islands for managing the inevitable forced migration as more land becomes uninhabitable.



# 2009 Financials

## Income Statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2009.

	Notes	12 months to 30 June 2009 \$	12 months to 30 June 2008 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Donations and Gifts – monetary & non-monetary		3,504,766	3,828,111
Legacies and Bequests		120,380	26,625
Grants			
AusAID		2,057,944	2,069,008
Other Australian		-	-
Other Overseas		-	-
Investment Income		166,100	112,852
Other Income	4	1,056,563	1,120,666
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6,905,753</b>	<b>7,157,262</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>			
Overseas Projects			
Funds to overseas projects	5	4,677,450	4,321,039
Other project costs		422,868	367,853
		<b>5,100,318</b>	<b>4,688,892</b>
<b>Fundraising Costs</b>			
Public		482,832	504,998
Govt. and Multilaterals		17,512	20,146
		<b>500,344</b>	<b>525,144</b>
Domestic Projects		493,546	504,697
Community Education		213,891	279,945
Administration		487,756	472,552
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6,795,855</b>	<b>6,471,230</b>
Surplus / (deficit) for the year		109,898	686,032
Funds available for future use at start of year		2,493,388	1,807,356
<b>Funds available for future use at 30 June</b>		<b>2,603,286</b>	<b>2,493,388</b>

*The Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the Notes to and Forming the Accounts.*

## Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2009

	Notes	30 June 2009 \$	30 June 2008 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
Current Assets			
Cash	6	19,246	37,786
Inter – NCCA accounts	2	3,783,837	3,572,868
Debtors		30,463	-
Non Current Assets			
Beneficial interest in property, plant and equipment		1,949,453	1,808,569
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>5,782,999</b>	<b>5,419,223</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other Payables		100,571	9,219
Provisions – employee entitlements	3	47,179	58,969
Non Current Liabilities			
Provisions – employee entitlements	3	13,259	11,476
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>161,009</b>	<b>79,664</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>5,621,990</b>	<b>5,339,559</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Property and Capital Reserve		2,564,963	2,415,234
CWS RDP Reserves		453,741	430,937
Funds available for future use		2,603,286	2,493,388
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>5,621,990</b>	<b>5,339,559</b>

*The Balance Sheet should be read in conjunction with the Notes to and Forming the Accounts.*

## Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ending 30 June 2009

	Ret. Earnings	Reserves	Total
Balance at 1 July 2008	2,493,388	2,846,171	5,339,559
Excess of revenue over expenses	109,898	-	109,898
Amount transferred to (from) reserves	-	172,533	172,533
Balance at 30 June 2009	<u>2,603,286</u>	<u>3,018,704</u>	<u>5,621,990</u>

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2009

### 1. Statement of Accounting Policies

#### Financial Reporting Framework

This financial report is a special purpose financial report which has been prepared for use by the Council's Executive and the member churches. The Executive have determined that the National Council of Churches Act for Peace is not a reporting entity and hence this report has been prepared in accordance with the following applicable Accounting Standards and other

mandatory professional reporting requirements.

AASB1031: Materiality

AASB110: Events after Balance Sheet Date

No other applicable Accounting Standards or other mandatory professional reporting requirements have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis (except as provided for in the statement below on income) in accordance with the historical cost convention. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

The financial report is prepared in a format which satisfy the requirements of the NCCA Constitution and the ACFID Code of Conduct.



### Significant Accounting Policies

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

The following significant accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation and presentation of the financial report:

#### (a) Recognition of Income

The timing of the recognition of donations, grants, fundraising, legacies and bequests depends when control of these monies is obtained, usually receipt of the monies.

#### (b) Investment Income

Investment interest is recognised in the statement of income statement when received.

#### (c) Donations and Fundraising

In common with many charitable organisations, it is not practicable for the NCCA to establish accounting controls over all sources of donations and fundraising income prior to it being recorded in the accounting records.

#### (d) Value of Volunteers

The value of services provided by volunteers is not included in revenue or expenses because of the practical difficulties involved. In relation to volunteers used directly for the support of international projects this amounted to \$nil in 2009 (2008:\$nil).

#### (e) Accounts Payable

Accruals and other creditors are recognised when the Council becomes obliged to make future payments resulting from the purchase of goods and services.

#### (f) Acquisition of Assets

Assets acquired are recorded at the cost of acquisition, being

the purchase consideration determined as at the date of acquisition plus costs incidental to the acquisition.

#### (g) Employee Benefits

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave when it is probable that settlement will be required and they are capable of being measured reliably.

#### (h) Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST). The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of the statement of balance sheet.

#### (i) Recoverable amount of non-current assets

Non-current assets are written down to recoverable amount where the carrying value of any non-current asset exceeds recoverable amount.

#### (j) Revaluation of non-current assets

Equity in property is measured on the fair value basis. Fair value is determined on the basis of an independent valuation prepared by external valuation experts based on capitalisation of net income.

#### (k) Channelled funds

Funds channelled through Act for Peace on behalf of other Australian individuals or entities are classified as managed funds. These funds are earmarked for specific purposes and the value of these transactions is shown in note 6.

#### (l) Financial year

The financial year for NCCA Act for Peace starts 1 July and ends 30 June.

#### (m) Comparative amounts

Some comparative information has been reclassified to ensure comparability with the current reporting period.

## 2. Inter – NCCA accountss

Internal account with NCCA

Investments with NCCA Ltd – project funds

Investments with NCCA Ltd – legacies and bequests

Investments with NCCA Ltd – RDP reserves

Investments with NCCA Ltd – capital proceeds reserves

## 3. Employee Entitlements

Provision for Annual Leave

Provision for Long Service Leave

	30 June 2009 \$	30 June 2008 \$
Internal account with NCCA	(46,796)	-
Investments with NCCA Ltd – project funds	2,761,382	2,535,266
Investments with NCCA Ltd – legacies and bequests	45,783	43,445
Investments with NCCA Ltd – RDP reserves	407,958	387,492
Investments with NCCA Ltd – capital proceeds reserves	615,510	606,665
	<u>3,783,837</u>	<u>3,572,868</u>
Provision for Annual Leave	47,179	48,600
Provision for Long Service Leave	13,259	21,845
	<u>60,438</u>	<u>70,445</u>

	30 June 2009 \$	30 June 2008 \$
<b>4. Other Income</b>		
Channelled Funds	1,039,340	891,837
Utilisation of Reserves	-	139,000
Other	17,223	89,814
	<u>1,056,563</u>	<u>1,120,651</u>

#### 5. Funds to Overseas Projects by Region

Africa	739,334	992,605
Asia	2,061,302	1,813,245
Europe	-	25,039
Middle East	648,807	891,760
Pacific	1,066,095	406,715
World Council of Churches Programs	161,912	191,675
	<u>4,677,450</u>	<u>4,321,039</u>

#### 6. Table of Cash Movements for Designated Purposes

Cash	19,246	37,786
Investments with NCCA Ltd	<u>3,830,633</u>	<u>3,572,868</u>
	<u>3,849,879</u>	<u>3,610,654</u>

	<i>Cash available 1 July 08</i>	<i>Cash raised during the year</i>	<i>Cash disbursed during the year</i>	<i>Accrual accounting adjustments</i>	<i>Cash available 30 June 09</i>
Thailand - TBBC	95,069	1,092,789	(999,742)	-	188,116
Tsunami	14,923	11,460	-	-	26,383
Pacific - CIDRR	573,884	509,370	(884,500)	-	198,754
Burma Cyclone	144,815	189,124	(332,455)	-	1,484
Other purposes	2,781,963	5,103,010	(4,545,985)	96,154	3,435,142
	<u>3,610,654</u>	<u>6,905,753</u>	<u>(6,762,682)</u>	<u>96,154</u>	<u>3,849,879</u>

#### 7. Events occurring after the balance date

In January 2010, the business of Strathfield Home for the Aged was transferred to the Fraternity of the Holy Cross. The cash reserves and proceeds on the licence sale were injected into the Act for Peace operations and will be reflected in the balance sheet as at 30 June 2010.


#### CWS Commission Members' declaration

In the opinion of the CWS Commission:

- (a) the financial statements and notes are in accordance with the NCCA Constitution and the ACFID code of conduct including:
- (i) giving a fair view of the financial position of Act for Peace as at 30 June 2009 and of its performance, as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows, for the year ended on that date; and
  - (ii) complying with relevant Australian Accounting Standards stated in note 1; and
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that Act for Peace will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Dated at Sydney this     day of March 2010.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Commission:



Executive Director – Alistair Gee



Chairperson – Elenie Poulos





## Independent auditors' report to the members of Act for Peace

### Report on the financial report

We have audited the financial report of Act For Peace for the financial year ended 30 June 2009, consisting of the statement of Balance sheet as at 30 June 2009, the income statement and, statement of changes in equity for the year ended on that date, summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the Commission members' declaration.

#### *Commission members' responsibility for the financial report*

The Entity's commission members are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the NCCA Constitution and the ACFID code of conduct. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

#### *Auditor's responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We performed the procedures to assess whether in all material respects the financial report presents fairly a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Entity's financial position, and of its performance.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### *Basis for qualified auditor's opinion*

Cash donations, gifts and channelled funds are a significant source of revenue for Act for Peace. Act for Peace has determined that it is impracticable to establish controls over the collection of cash donations, gifts and channelled funds prior to entry into its financial records.

Accordingly, as the evidence available to us regarding revenue from this source was limited, our audit procedures with respect to cash donations, gifts and channelled funds had to be restricted to the amounts recorded in the financial records. We therefore are unable to express an opinion whether the cash donations, gifts and channelled funds which Act for Peace has recorded is complete.

### Qualified auditor's opinion

In our opinion, except for the effects on the financial report of such adjustments, if any, as might have been required had the limitation on our audit procedures referred to in the qualification paragraph not existed; the financial report of Act for Peace is in accordance with:

a) the NCCA Constitution and ACFID code of conduct, including:

- i) giving a fair view of the Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2009 and of its performance for the ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with applicable Australian Accounting Standards set out in note 1 to the financial report.

Madeleine Mattera  
Partner, KPMG  
Sydney, 26 March 2010

# Commission profiles

**M**embers of the Christian World Service (CWS) Commission, the governing body of Act for Peace, are appointed by the National Council of Churches in Australia during its Forum. The next Forum is scheduled for July 2010. During 2008 – 2009, the CWS Commission met on three occasions. The 2009 Act for Peace Annual General Meeting was held on 1 October 2009.

**The Reverend Elenie Poulos** CWSC Chairperson, from March 2009, (Uniting Church in Australia) MA, BTh, CWSC Standing Committee, Member NCCA Social Justice Network, Member Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (World Council of Churches), National Director Uniting Justice Australia.

**Bishop Philip Huggins** CWSC Deputy Chair (Anglican Church of Australia) CWSC Standing Committee, Chair Brotherhood of St Laurence, Chair of Anglican General Synod Ecumenical Relations Commission, Bishop of the Northern and Western Region, Melbourne.

**The Reverend John Gilmore** Chairman to March 2009, (Churches of Christ) BTheol, MTheol, DipMin, Executive Director the Australian Churches of Christ Global Mission Partners, CWSC Standing Committee and member of NCCA Finance Committee.

**Lieutenant Colonel Ray Wilson** CWSC Standing Committee, (The Salvation Army) Territorial Property Consultant, member Queensland Churches Together Executive.

**Archbishop Aghan Baliozian** OAM (Armenian Apostolic Church) MA, Primate of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of Australia and New Zealand and Member of the Executive of the NSW Ecumenical Council.

**Father Michael Delaney** (Roman Catholic Church) Parish Priest, Naval Reserve Chaplain, member of the Tasmanian Council of Churches, member of the National Board of Converge International.

**The Reverend Gregor Henderson** (Uniting Church in Australia) BA, BD, Immediate Past President of the Uniting Church in Australia, Minister, Wesley Uniting Church Canberra, member of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches.

**Simon Michail** (Coptic Orthodox Church) Financial Manager of the Coptic Orthodox Church Diocese of Sydney & Affiliated Regions, Member of the General Advisory Board COC, Secretary of the Finance Department COC, NCCA Finance Committee.

**Father James Minchin** (Anglican Church of Australia) BA (Hons), MA (Hons), ThL (Hons), Vicar, Christ Church St Kilda, President of Friends of Sabeel.

**Jackie Perkins** (The Religious Society of Friends, NSW) Executive Administrator, Quaker Service Australia, NCCA Finance Committee.

**Peter Schirmer** (Lutheran Church of Australia) BA (Hons), MDS, Executive Secretary, Australian Lutheran World Service.

**The Reverend Tara Curlewis**, ex-officio, General Secretary of the NCCA.

**Alistair Gee** BA, LLB, MAICD, ex-officio, Executive Director of Act for Peace.

## State Ecumenical Councils

In 2008-2009, Act for Peace worked with:

- Council of Churches of Western Australia
- New South Wales Ecumenical Council
- Northern Territory Council of Churches
- Queensland Churches Together
- South Australian Council of Churches
- Tasmanian Council of Churches
- Victorian Council of Churches

**act for peace**

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**actalliance**

Act for Peace is a member of the global Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance which works in more than 150 countries worldwide enabling us to respond immediately to emergency situations as they occur.



Act for Peace is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. The Code requires members to meet high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management. More information about the ACFID Code of Conduct can be obtained from Act for Peace and from ACFID at: Website: [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au) • Email: [acfid@acfid.asn.au](mailto:acfid@acfid.asn.au) Tel: +61 2 6285 1816 • Fax: +61 2 6285 1720

*Printed copies of this Annual Report and the 31 December 2008 and 2009 (in due course) full Financial Statements are available on request.*