

# Helping Communities Affected by Conflict

## MIDDLE EAST/CENTRAL ASIA

### Iraq

2010 Global Peace Index ranking of 149 countries: 149

#### Conflict Snapshot

- 2.8 million people internally displaced and 1.8 million refugees.<sup>6</sup>
- One-third of Iraqis are still in need of humanitarian assistance while essential services such as water and electricity are still in ruins.

Internal conflicts, the 1980-88 war with Iran, the 1991 Gulf War and the conflict that began in 2003, have left Iraq as one of the countries worst affected by landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXOs). Landmine contamination and the extensive delivery of munitions, including cluster bombs, resulted in huge numbers of abandoned stockpiles. This led to a significant increase in civilian casualties, frustrated rehabilitation and development efforts and blocked access to land. Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) form a large part of the problem in Iraq. The uncontrolled stockpiles of SALW throughout north Iraq are easily accessible to insurgent groups.

#### Work of Our Partners

Our partner, the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), has operated in Iraq since 1992. Its work significantly reduces the threat to both resident and displaced populations, and has supported rehabilitation and socio-economic development initiatives.

To date, our partner has cleared more than 1.5 million landmines, weapons and items of ammunition and freed up several million square metres of land. This work acts in support of peace building initiatives which aim for long-term stability in Iraq and the region.

Act for Peace has also supported the work by ACT Alliance members to assist:

- Iraqi youth through leadership programs in Babylon, Thi Qar and Basra. Iraqi youth are empowered and enabled to create change in their own lives and in their communities through youth centre activities. Importantly, the program has helped provide Iraqi youth with an alternative to being recruited by the militia and other insurgent groups; and
- in reducing the prevalence of infectious diseases. The hygiene program provides training and ongoing support to health and community professionals by targeting health department and education department staff, youth centres, women's organisations and religious leaders.



can clear 100m<sup>2</sup> of landmines and bombs.



Sean Sutton/MAG

<sup>6</sup> [www.internal-displacement.org/countries/iraq](http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/iraq)



Eskinder Debebe/UN

# Afghanistan

2010 Global Peace Index ranking of 149 countries: 147

## Conflict Snapshot

- 319,000 Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Afghanistan as a result of armed conflict. Additionally, 200,000 people displaced by natural disasters, primarily floods, loss of livelihoods and land disputes.
- 7.4 million Afghans have no food security, and many millions rely on food assistance. One in five children do not reach the age of five.
- 2.8 million Afghans are refugees, mostly in Pakistan and Iran.

Since the late 1970s, Afghanistan has experienced a continuous state of civil war punctuated by foreign occupations from the 1979 Soviet invasion and the October 2001 US-led invasion. As a result of these conflicts, current figures indicate the land contamination of cluster bombs and mines in Afghanistan to be around 650km, making it one of the most heavily mined countries in the world<sup>7</sup>. These remaining landmines and bombs continue to cause a high level of casualties, resulting in 809 people killed or injured in 2007<sup>8</sup>. Contaminated land is by particularly concentrated in central and key food-producing eastern provinces, affecting towns and urban commercial areas as well as villages, farm and grazing land and roads. This continues to pose a formidable challenge to the social and economic reconstruction which is critical to Afghanistan's political stabilisation.

## Work of Our Partners

For three decades, our partner Church World Service Pakistan/ Afghanistan (CWS P/A) has worked for Afghan refugees' health in Pakistan and since 1997 for returnees in Afghanistan. Dedicated to advancing Afghan women's health over the decades, CWS P/A helped to reduce controllable diseases such as tuberculosis, and also brought primary and secondary health services into the community. CWS P/A continues to implement disaster management and capacity building programs with the aim of improving the health and educational status of women and children through preventive, curative and reproductive health care as well as outreach and health education in eastern and southern Afghanistan.

Currently, our partner MAG is helping local demining organisations in Afghanistan remove the threat of landmines and UXOs. Their approach includes trained dogs, manual and mechanical demining and they have successfully cleared a total area of 180 million m<sup>2</sup> in different parts of Afghanistan over the last six years.



can provide three months' food for a displaced Afghan family.

<sup>7</sup> Landmine Monitor Report, International Campaign to Ban Landmines, 2008

<sup>8</sup> Landmine Monitor Report, 2008



# Pakistan

2010 Global Peace Index ranking of 149 countries: 145

## Conflict Snapshot

- 3.5 million people have been uprooted by the conflict between the Pakistan army and Taliban militants.<sup>9</sup>
- 23 per cent of population undernourished.<sup>10</sup>

The Pakistan military's offensive against Taliban militants in the North West Frontier Province (now known as Khyber Pakhtunkwa Province) and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) left a trail of heavy infrastructure damage, human losses and a severe economic crisis. Local communities were kept in a state of fear, their livelihoods, agriculture and businesses damaged, while women were relegated to home, and female education banned.

Following military operations by the Government of Pakistan (GoP) against militants and a failed peace agreement in 2009, the insurgent groups began taking over other Districts of Malakand Division including Swat, Buner, Shangla, and Lower and Upper Dir. The resulting GoP offensive in Swat and Buner Districts resulted in the displacement of over 382,9501 families. According to UN sources, this was the largest and fastest displacement recorded in history. After three months of intensive military operations, the GoP announced in early July 2009 that the population displaced by the fighting could now safely return to their places of origin.

In August 2010, Pakistan experienced the worst flooding in recent history, displacing nearly 20 million people. For more information on Act for Peace's response, see the emergencies section on page 29.

## Work of Our Partners

Act for Peace has supported ACT member Church World Service Pakistan/Afghanistan (CWS-P/A) in responding to the major IDP crisis. CWS-P/A's work has been focused in Swat and Buner Districts, in locations declared safe and cleared of military operations. Pre-defined selection criteria have been followed to ensure that services are directed to the most vulnerable families and priority given to orphans, disabled persons, widows and female-headed households. Specific support has included strengthening food security for 625 vulnerable families through livestock-rearing, bee keeping and animal husbandry. Additional programs have supported the reconstruction and repair of schools, provision of equipment and materials and teacher training initiatives for hundreds of students and teachers.

Finally, CWS-P/A has provided preventive and curative health services and equipped static health services in order to reduce morbidity and mortality rates among the affected population. This component of the program supported over 50,000 individuals.



Ghulam Rasool/CWS/ACT



Ghulam Rasool/CWS/ACT



can provide weatherproof, temporary shelter for one family.

<sup>9</sup> Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2009)

<sup>10</sup> UN Human Development Report (2010)

# Palestine / Israel

2010 Global Peace Index ranking of 149 countries: 144

## Conflict Snapshot

- Over 6.6 million Palestinian refugees with 67 per cent of all Palestinians worldwide being refugees or IDPs.
- In Gaza, 65 per cent of the population live below the poverty line and 80 per cent are aid-dependent.

The health situation in Gaza continues to be impacted by the blockade of Gaza. Shortages of essential medicines and equipment, the denial and delay of serious medical case referrals outside of Gaza and the widespread destruction of medical infrastructure during Operation Cast Lead in 2008/2009 continue to impact upon the health status of the local population.

The dilapidated state of water and sanitation infrastructure, coupled with poor dietary intake caused by increasing levels of poverty, continues to affect the nutritional status of people in Gaza. Significantly, cases of psychological distress and trauma for women, men and children continue to impact upon lives and livelihoods.

## Work of Our Partners

We have worked with the Middle East Council of Churches' Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) for over a decade, supporting critical humanitarian response programs in the Gaza strip, primarily in the field of health.

DSPR's health clinic program delivers primary health care services in poor and under-serviced localities in the Gaza strip. This includes ante-natal and post-natal care, well baby clinics, psychosocial care and mobile health services. Over the last year, the program delivered essential health services to approximately 20,000 families in the Gaza strip, including well-baby clinics and management of new pregnancies.

We have also facilitated the participation of Australians for the first time in the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). EAPPI is a program of the World Council of Churches (WCC), in conjunction with local churches and Palestinian NGOs and communities, to bring internationals to the West Bank to experience life under occupation. The Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs) spend three months providing a protective presence to vulnerable communities, monitoring and reporting human rights abuses and supporting Palestinians and Israelis working for peace. More than 600 EAs from around the world have participated in the program since its inception in 2002.

Act for Peace has also provided strong advocacy support at the national and international levels for the rights of Palestinian refugees.



can provide life saving medicine for a child.



can provide a course of treatment for an anaemic child.



# AFRICA

## Somalia

2010 Global Peace Index ranking of 149 countries: 148

### Conflict Snapshot

- 1.6 million Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in Somalia and 680,000 refugees who have fled Somalia.<sup>11</sup>
- 3.2 million people require humanitarian assistance.<sup>12</sup>

The violence in Somalia and the ensuing humanitarian crisis show no signs of abating. Most IDPs live in temporary settlements. They are frequently subjected to abuse from landowners and authorities and do not have sufficient access to basic supplies and services. The continuous war since 1991 has left the country without social services, schools, social centres, health facilities and other types of infrastructure.

Many people in Somalia have private stockpiles of weapons and ammunition. This presents a high risk of accidents and potential escalation of hostilities. Also, the presence of landmines and cluster bombs still remaining in the ground is a major obstacle to the consolidation of peace and reduction of poverty, as the land must go unused.

### Work of Our Partners

Our partners in Somalia are promoting well-being and the basic right to life with dignity for Somali IDPs and refugees through basic humanitarian services in the Mogadishu area and Dadaab refugee camps. They are currently providing thousands of displaced families in greatest need with:

- relief food and supplies - such as survival kits;
- access to sanitation and hygiene services - such as constructing latrines;
- shelter materials - plastic sheets and tents.

Our disarmament partner in Somalia set up three new Mine Risk Education teams this year, which deliver vital training on the recognition and avoidance of explosive remnants of war. Work also continues on training local Somalis and their police on disposal of explosive ordnance.



MAG



can provide a survival kit for displaced families including blankets and cooking equipment.

<sup>11</sup> [www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/page?page=49e483ad6](http://www.unhcr.org/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/page?page=49e483ad6)

<sup>12</sup> [www.actalliance.org/resources/appeals/SOM101\\_.pdf](http://www.actalliance.org/resources/appeals/SOM101_.pdf)



Milton Grant/UN

# Sudan

2010 Global Peace Index ranking of 149 countries: 146

## Conflict Snapshot

- 4.9 million Internally Displaced People (IDPs).<sup>13</sup>
- Over 8 million people undernourished.<sup>14</sup>

Sudan continues to have the largest internally displaced population in the world. These communities are in many regions across Sudan (including 2.7 million in Darfur, 1.7 million in Greater Khartoum, 400,000 in Southern Sudan, and 60,000 in Southern Kordofan).

## Work of Our Partners in Sudan

We have worked with our partners in Sudan since 1991 to create the foundations for peace. One Act for Peace project partner, the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC), carries out people-to-people peace processes within areas of protracted conflict. The program has, to date, involved over 20,000 people and Act for Peace is now assisting them to expand the program to include more disarmament work. Last year, our disarmament partner destroyed over 130,000 items of ammunition, weapons and bombs in Sudan.

In April 2010, Sudanese voters took to the polls for the first time in 24 years, amidst great concern that it would trigger a return to mass violence. The National Electoral Commission has thanked the SCC for its role in helping to ensure that the election was free from violence. The SCC's election violence prevention work would not have started without the initial funding provided by Act for Peace supporters. Since then, SCC has been working all over Sudan to help prevent a return to civil war following the January 2011 referendum. High-level advocacy on preventing a return to civil war is led by the All Africa Conference of Churches Envoy to Sudan.

Act for Peace is assisting our partners to help prevent a return to civil war and preparing to assist returning refugees who had fled to Uganda, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Kenya.



can provide refugee resettlement kits containing food, medicine, clothing and school supplies for refugees in Darfur.



can train a community leader in Conflict Resolution in Sudan.

## Work of Our Partners in Darfur

Act for Peace supports one of the largest humanitarian programs in Darfur. In 2010, it served approximately 500,000 people, a figure which is expected to increase by around 40,000 in 2011.

This program includes:

- primary health care, nutrition education and hygiene promotion;
- access to water and improved sanitation;
- training for women, community leaders and government officials on peace building, human rights and children's rights;
- psychological counselling for those traumatised by war;
- building and restoring schools; and
- providing seeds, tools and training for farming.



<sup>13</sup> Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, *Internal Displacement: Global Overview of Trends and Developments* in 2009; [www.internal-displacement.org](http://www.internal-displacement.org)

<sup>14</sup> UN Human Development Report (2010)



# Chad

2010 Global Peace Index ranking of 149 countries: 141

## Conflict Snapshot

- 320,000 refugees from Sudan and Central African Republic internally displaced in Chad.
- 4.2 million people undernourished.

The protracted conflict in Darfur and the Central African Republic (CAR) has resulted in thousands of families seeking refuge in neighbouring Chad. To further exacerbate this terrible situation, groups from Darfur continue to make cross-border incursions into eastern Chad leading to massive displacements of Chadians fleeing their villages. The humanitarian situation further deteriorated in 2010 as a result of a regional drought.

## Work of Our Partners

In 2010, Act for Peace worked with our ACT Alliance partners to provide lifesaving and life sustaining assistance to 125,000 people most affected by the ongoing crisis, the majority of whom are women and children.

Our program assisted both displaced families and host communities to reduce the tensions over access to resources that grew as a result of people having to flee areas of conflict. The relief program provided these families with basic shelter and food as well as providing access to social services including health and education and psychosocial assistance. An additional component of the program supported the integration of CAR refugees into host communities to enable families to resume a degree of normalcy in their lives. The current drought has disproportionately affected refugees and IDPs who have, in most cases, settled on barely-arable land that was not being used by host communities.



can help to provide agricultural development training for farmers in order to increase food security.



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



# Democratic Republic of the Congo

2010 Global Peace Index ranking of 149 countries: 140

## Conflict Snapshot

- More than 1.8 million people displaced
- 75 per cent of the population undernourished<sup>15</sup>

The ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is largely due to the natural resource wealth of the country. This so-called "resource curse" continues to result in a humanitarian crisis in the eastern part of the country that remains critical. Rape is horrifically common, as well as extortion, kidnapping, looting, recruitment of children by armed groups and anti-personnel mine explosions.

## Work of Our Partners

In 2010, Act for Peace continued to work with partners to assist more than 20,000 conflict-affected households of displaced people, returnees and malnourished children in an integrated response program that helps people to re-establish their lives with an increased degree of security and dignity. With our partner we are providing those most in need with targeted nutrition assistance, household supplies, agricultural support (seeds, tools, livestock), psychosocial support, school rehabilitation, access to clean potable water and shelter (support to rebuild burnt houses).

Our partner, the All Africa Conference of Churches, is working to address the protection and livelihood needs of women and children affected by sexual and gender-based violence in eastern DRC. Through the local church partner and in collaboration with government and other stakeholders in South Kivu, a program has been developed to provide counseling and rehabilitation to rape victims and to build their capacity to start a new life.



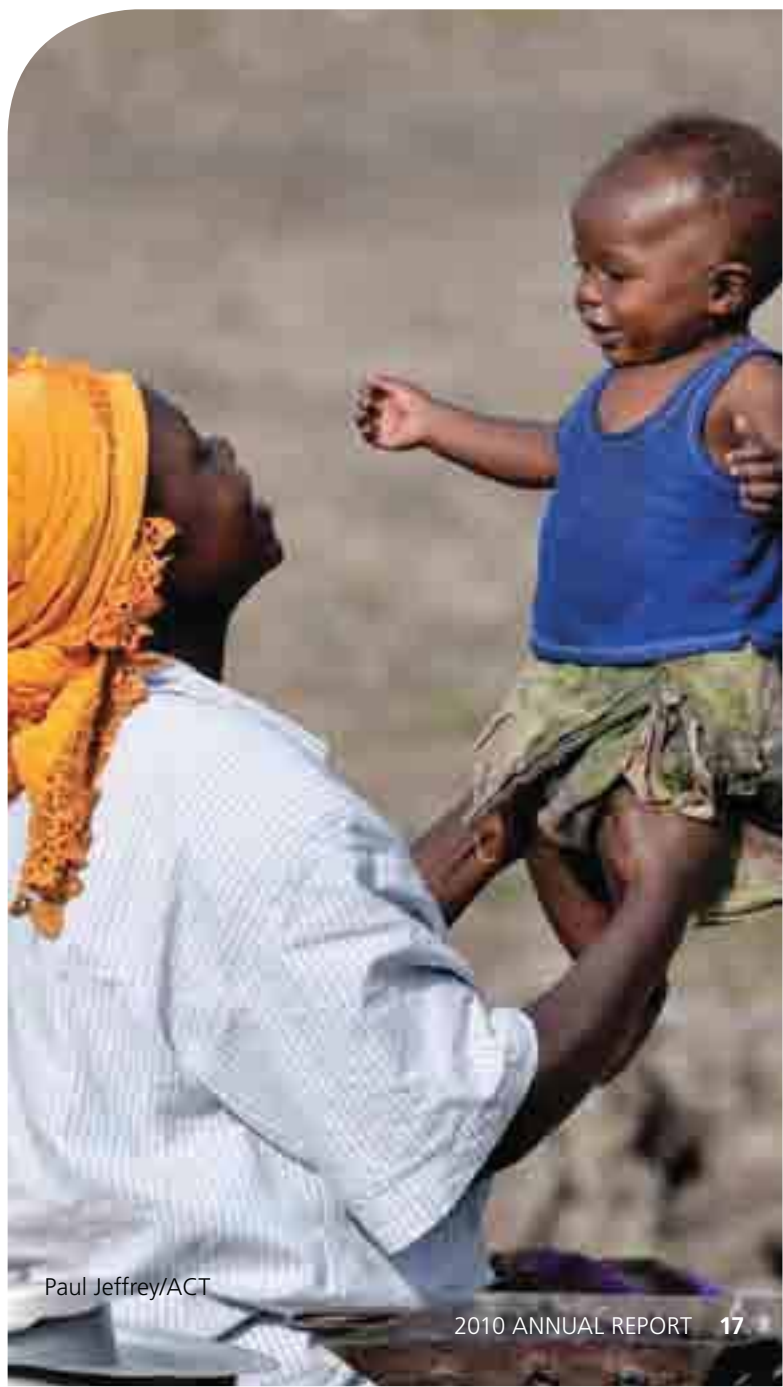
can provide clothing, a blanket, mosquito netting, soap and dishes for a displaced family.



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



Paul Jeffrey/ACT



Paul Jeffrey/ACT

<sup>15</sup> UN Human Development Report (2010)



# Zimbabwe

2010 Global Peace Index ranking of 149 countries: 135

## Conflict Snapshot

- More than 880,000 displaced people.
- 39 per cent of the population undernourished.<sup>16</sup>

Whilst the Global Political Agreement brought some economic stability to Zimbabwe, progress in the development of the new constitution is fragile and flawed. The country has experienced deepening and widening poverty and curtailment of freedom of worship, and health services remain poor. Increasing illiteracy, a high drop-out rate in the education sector and failure of the government to generate new jobs has compounded an unemployment rate of over 90 per cent. Food has not been accessible to the majority of Zimbabweans due to lack of income, and political violence has again been the increase.

## Work of Our Partners

In 2010, Act for Peace worked with partners to:

- reduce poverty related to lack of food in drought prone areas across Zimbabwe;
- promote conservation farming, a self sustainable farming method which enables farmers to produce enough grain to feed their own families, rather than relying on hand outs;
- strengthen local communities through delivery of workshops focused on community leadership and conflict reduction;
- build a strong network of Christian churches who raise their voices on nation-building and the Constitutional Reform and National Healing processes; and
- support the churches in Zimbabwe to develop their role in peace building, reconciliation and forgiveness, caring for children and responding to the needs of those living with HIV/AIDS.



can provide vital training for a Zimbabwean farmer in methods of sustainable agriculture to produce bigger and better crops.



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



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



<sup>16</sup> UN Human Development Report (2010)



# Ethiopia

2010 Global Peace Index ranking of 149 countries: 127

## Conflict Snapshot

- 150,000 refugees in Ethiopia, mostly Somali, Eritrean and Sudanese.
- 85 per cent of Ethiopians live in rural areas, with 10 to 20 per cent each year relying on international food relief to survive. Ethiopia is now the largest recipient of World Bank funds and foreign aid in Africa.

## Work of Our Partners

Act for Peace's partner, the Ethiopian Orthodox Church's Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (DICAC), continues to assist rural communities to help break the cycle of extreme poverty and conflict. DICAC's Integrated Rural Development Projects tackle several cross-cutting issues simultaneously, including:

- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: health education, digging wells and safe waste management. Our partner has improved water sanitation for over 58,000 Ethiopians;
- Income Generation: Animal breeding, vegetable production, sewing and milling;
- Gender and Development: Gender analysis and activities to enhance women's participation in society;
- Food Security: Agricultural skills improvements with subsistence farmers;
- Eradicating Harmful Traditional Practices: Preventing early child marriage, female genital mutilation and spousal abuse through clergy education programs and women's groups.



can provide tools, seeds and agricultural education for one Ethiopian farmer.



can supply a pump for one hand-dug water well.



# ASIA

## Sri Lanka

2010 Global Peace Index ranking of 149 countries: 133

### Conflict Snapshot

- Around 73,000 Sri Lankan refugees remain in 112 camps in Tamil Nadu, India.
- 21 per cent of the population undernourished.<sup>17</sup>

Following the end of the military conflict between the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Sri Lanka faces a huge challenge in resettlement, rehabilitation, large scale infrastructure reconstruction and reconciliation between and within ethnic communities. Over the past year, Act for Peace has shared the concern of the UN, the Australian and other governments over delays by the Sri Lankan government in granting freedom of movement to people confined to overcrowded camps for internally displaced people in northern Sri Lanka.



OfERR

### Work of Our Partners

Act for Peace partner the National Council of Churches in Sri Lanka (NCCSL) has helped people held in camps by ensuring basic necessities are met and by providing psychosocial and educational assistance.

NCCSL also provides relief action in response to regular flooding and landslides. This relief work strengthens the churches' wider peace and reconciliation ministry by demonstrating the churches' commitment to actively assisting people of all ethnic and religious communities throughout Sri Lanka.

Act for Peace also supports the health program of the Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR) with Sri Lankan refugees in Tamil Nadu, India. OfERR provides services to hospitalised patients, maternal and child health education and preventive care, women's self defence, counselling and support, and home and work safety awareness. Training for refugee health workers and camp self-help groups is central to this work.

OfERR also empowers refugees in implementing other programs, including water and sanitation, nutrition, housing, microfinance for tailoring, crop or animal husbandry, and educational support such as computer classes and tuition. Refugees are prepared for return to Sri Lanka through skills training, sharing of country information and securing documentation, such as birth, marriage and citizenship certificates.



**\$95** can provide an entire month of specialist medical assistance to injured and sick women and children.



**\$254** can pay for nutritious, cooked meals for ten displaced families for a week.



Paul Jeffrey/ACT

<sup>17</sup> UN Human Development Report (2010)

# Burma

2010 Global Peace Index ranking of 149 countries: 132

## Conflict Snapshot

- Over 150,000 Burmese take refuge in camps on the Thailand side of the Thailand-Burma border.
- 200,000+ refugees live outside of formal camps in Thailand.
- 500,000 Burmese are displaced in Burma's eastern states.
- Nine out of Burma's 14 states and divisions are contaminated with landmines.

For decades the people of Burma have survived under a repressive and exploitative military regime. Despite the vast beauty and natural wealth of this nation, over 50 per cent of the population live under the poverty line. Only 0.2 per cent of GDP is expended on health<sup>18</sup> and only 0.6 per cent on education<sup>19</sup>.

A great proportion of the population lives at risk of human rights abuses due to lack of social infrastructure, land and resource exploitation and ongoing conflict. Still recovering from the wreckage of Cyclone Nargis, 2010 saw the first election in Burma in 20 years, an election which has been labelled neither free nor fair. The ruling military junta is subject to calls for investigations into crimes against humanity.

## Work of Our Partners

In 2010, Act for Peace worked with project partners to:

- provide food, shelter and protection leave for Burmese refugees fleeing conflict and displacement in Thailand-Burma border camps;
- develop livelihoods programs for Burmese refugees in camps;
- provide capacity building support to refugee committees who govern and run the refugee camps;
- support Burmese ethnic groups providing emergency assistance to people displaced by war in Burma's eastern states;
- support communities to develop skills in community organisation, child protection and peace building; and
- build harmony between Burmese refugees settling in Burma and their local communities.

Throughout the year, Act for Peace helped achieve the following results:

- 140,000 Burmese refugees were provided with food and shelter;
- Around 100,000 internally displaced people in the conflict zone in eastern Burma were provided with emergency assistance; and
- Burmese resettled refugees in Australia participated in our local Healing Trail and Refugee Festival programs.



can provide a new house for a Burmese family in a refugee camp on the Thailand-Burma border.



can provide a family of Burmese refugees with nutritious food for 6 months.

Ei Cha Pae, a Burmese refugee, said, "I arrived in the camp two days ago. We cannot live freely in Burma and always have to run away from the Burmese military. We grew rice. We were arrested to be porters and they took away all our animals – pigs and chickens, they took them for free. Camp is different to what I expected. I enjoy it more. It's a place to be safe and to escape...we have more freedom to live and the children will have a chance to go to school."



<sup>18</sup> <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/MMR.html>

<sup>19</sup> <http://hdrstats.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/MMR.html>



# Philippines

2010 Global Peace Index ranking of 149 countries: 130

## Conflict Snapshot

- Over the past decade, almost 1,200 extrajudicial killings were recorded under the former Arroyo regime's military counter-insurgency operation. Many victims were human rights workers and church leaders.<sup>20</sup>
- Up to 160,000 people are still displaced in the Mindanao region of the Philippines owing to conflict between government forces and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), and ongoing clan violence.<sup>21</sup>

The fallout from conflict between the MILF and the Philippine armed forces in the restive southern region of Mindanao has seen hardship and loss for millions of internally displaced people. Despite the brokering of peace deals and ceasefires over a number of decades, the impact of the conflict has left the many displaced communities in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao reliant on humanitarian aid.



*"These NCCP activities give us hope, and inspire us to know that there are other sectors of the society who are deeply motivated to help us fight for our land... our life." - Ka Nelson (An Aeta Leader)*



can enable a young Indigenous person to attend consultation and training on human rights and civil liberties.



can provide medicines and clothing for displaced Indigenous families in Mindanao.

## Work of Our Partners

Act for Peace continues to work with the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) to promote the rights of individuals and communities so that they can find alternatives to conflict. The NCCP's programs support protection, advocacy and humanitarian-based initiatives for communities across the Philippines.

The NCCP's "Not without my sisters and brothers" program operates through Initiatives for Peace in Mindanao, Central Luzon, Visayas and the Southern Tagalog Region. Act for Peace has supported peace initiatives amongst Indigenous populations and between Christian and Muslim groups and by lobbying public officials on peace and justice initiatives. The NCCP has played a leading role in investigating human rights violations, supporting victims and advocating for the Philippine government to fully uphold its human rights obligations.

In the lead up to and during the Philippine national elections, the NCCP provided grassroots electoral education to communities upholding the voting rights of the people. Act for Peace also continues to support the NCCP in its emergency relief and rehabilitation efforts in response to devastating typhoons that have wreaked havoc across the country over the past year.



NCCP

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.scribd.com/doc/23837013/Karapatan-2009-Human-Rights-Report>

<sup>21</sup> [http://www.internal-displacement.org/idmc/website/countries.nsf/\(httpEnvelopes\)/A01DB3AC980C9A22C125772600312329?OpenDocument](http://www.internal-displacement.org/idmc/website/countries.nsf/(httpEnvelopes)/A01DB3AC980C9A22C125772600312329?OpenDocument)

# Cambodia

2010 Global Peace Index ranking of 149 countries: 111

## Conflict Snapshot

- Approximately 26 million cluster munitions were dropped on eastern Cambodia in the 1960s and 1970s by US forces in bombing campaigns.
- In 2009, UXO-related accidents accounted for over 50 per cent of the casualties in Cambodia,<sup>22</sup> with the vast majority of accidents occurring as a result of deliberate handling of ordnance.<sup>23</sup>

## Work of Our Partners

The presence of all landmines and bombs in Cambodia is a critical barrier to longer term development and the reduction of poverty as it restricts access to land that could otherwise be used for agriculture, schools, resettlement, infrastructure development and access to water. In addition to the heavy landmine contamination in the north-western provinces, Cambodia remains extensively affected by the use of air dropped weapons, particularly cluster munitions, in the north-east of the country.

Our partner is clearing UXOs and cluster munitions from north-eastern Cambodia to reduce the threat to the lives of rural Cambodian communities. Risk Reduction Education is also conducted when required and will reinforce awareness of the Royal Government of Cambodia Law on the Management of Weapons.



MAG

<sup>22</sup> Landmine Monitor Report 2009

<sup>23</sup> According to the Cambodia Mine/UXO Victim Information System (CMVIS)



# Indonesia (West Papua)

2010 Global Peace Index ranking of 149 countries: 67 (Indonesia)

## Conflict Snapshot

- West Papua rates lowest in Indonesia for meeting the Millennium Development Goals.
- Estimated that 10,400 West Papuans are displaced.<sup>24</sup>

Since the flawed 1969 Act of Free Choice, a referendum on autonomy for the Papua region, Papuans have struggled to establish their social and political identity. The continuing presence of the Indonesian Army has quelled separatist ambitions and allowed multinational corporations to exploit the region's abundant natural wealth. Papua's environment is severely threatened by logging, mining and natural gas development, with consequent impacts upon the Indigenous population of Papua including reports of widespread human rights abuses. The transmigration policy, which has seen a flood of Indonesians from other parts of the archipelago settle in the province, has diluted the Papuan population from 97 per cent in 1960 to about 50 per cent in 2000.

Following the granting of East Timorese independence in 1999, the Indonesian government put forward a range of autonomy measures to the Papuan people, including greater authority over local policy and decision making, and a stronger role in managing revenues raised in Papua. Thus far, however, Special Autonomy has not brought about desired outcomes, nor improved the social and economic condition of Indigenous Papuans. Instead, it has bred high levels of corruption and division across ethnic, tribal and socio-economic lines.



can provide for one person to attend a Training of Trainers course on HIV and AIDS awareness and support to affected persons allowing them to train others in their community.



can provide for an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign in a high risk target community.

## Work of Our Partners

Act for Peace partner the Christian NGOs Network in Indonesia (CNNI) is training young community leaders to be trainers in their communities for awareness and prevention of the spread of HIV/AIDS. It is assisting with voluntary pastoral counselling and arranging testing for families whose members are believed to have been exposed to HIV/AIDS.

Further training focuses on teaching basic cash management and bookkeeping skills as well as developing linkages with markets, small businesses and micro-credit opportunities for Indigenous Papuans. The training generally has a focus on industries already familiar to the local population (fishing, kiosk/mini markets and brick making) with the aim of improving basic skills and tapping future support through government skills-funding programs.

*"Figures for HIV/AIDS in Papua have skyrocketed, particularly with native Papuans who have been victimised. We want to stop this disease and protect the next generation. We want to learn more so we can talk more extensively and work together, hand in hand, with many parties to prevent this happening." - Timothy Faa - member of the Youth Fellowship at the Evangelical Christian Church in Makbon.*



<sup>24</sup> West Papua Action Network (2010) <http://wpan.wordpress.com/about-wpan/>

# East Timor

Not listed in the 2010 Global Peace Index

## Conflict Snapshot

- An estimated 150,000 people were displaced by conflict in 2006, however most have now returned to their homes.<sup>25</sup>
- Unemployment is estimated at about 50 per cent and income per head is under \$2 a day.<sup>26</sup>

## Work of Our Partners

Our project partner in East Timor, Fundasaun Sosial Naroman (FUSONA), focuses on vital development work following years of internal conflict after the nation's transition to independence ten years ago. Basic human rights such as food security, health, shelter, education and family income are still major issues to be addressed.

Some examples of FUSONA's work with communities include:

- Small business loans for kiosk sewing groups to create products such as mattresses, school uniforms and clothing;
- Horticulture providing seeds, tools and fertiliser;
- Clean water programs and a water rehabilitation group;
- Animal husbandry with goat, pig and chicken groups;
- Health clinics with mobile services and nutrition education for mothers.



can provide a day's supply of medicine for a mobile health clinic.



can provide agricultural training for a group of 40 farming families in one district.



can establish a sewing group with basic materials.



Lisa Giufre/FUSONA

<sup>25</sup> Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (2010)

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.trust.org/alertnet/country-profiles/east-timor/>



# Regional and Global Peace and Protection Work

As not all conflicts are internal within a country, their resolution requires working at a regional level as well. Act for Peace values its relationships with regional partners. We also advocate at a regional level, for instance with pressure for a regional protection framework in Asia Pacific to protect the rights of asylum seekers.

## The World Council of Churches (WCC)

For the first time the majority of the world's countries have banned nuclear weapons from their national territory. This change happened in 2009 when an All Africa treaty came into force in July. International civil society organisations including the WCC played a catalytic role in this development. Act for Peace also supports the WCC's EAPPI program (see p13).

## The All Africa Conference of Churches

The All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) plays an important role on the continent as one of very few effective regional bodies. One AACC program which Act for Peace is supporting is the Eminent Persons Ecumenical Programme for Peace in Africa (EPEPPA). In this program, AACC uses eminent leaders such as Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former heads of state who have done exemplary work for peace. AACC mobilises such people to speak and negotiate with governments and warring tribes and bring messages of peace. They also argue for governments to give freedom of faith and worship for everyone – to avoid the temptation of having Muslim or Christian states.

The head of the AACC, Rev Andre Karamaga, was in Australia this year to spread the message about working for peace in Africa. His rallying cry was that “solutions must be reached with Africans rather than for Africans.” Rev Karamaga kindly said, “I want to salute the vision of Act for Peace. They have been partnering with the AACC for almost 20 years and this partnership has been one of mutual learning.”

## The Christian Conference of Asia

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) has been working to strengthen its regional and international ecumenical impact. For the past year CCA has focused on the role of religious leaders in conflict transformation and peace building, as well as in responding to natural disasters and climate change.

## The Importance of Protection

When aid agencies respond to natural disasters and conflicts, it is easy to calculate what people do not have and then deliver more food, shelter, medicine or other goods. Disasters, however, undermine the rule of law, overwhelm police, create desperation and result in increased looting, violence and conflict over scarce

goods. Moreover, modern conflicts are now mostly fought within and not between countries. Driven by a proliferation of small arms and fuelled by grievances, competition for political power and control of resources, the conflicts are extremely violent and civilians, far from being spared, have become targets. Repressive regimes persecute anyone who speaks out. Militia groups vie for control of oil, drug production, minerals and water. Women are raped en masse to demoralise those who oppose the regime. Children are brutalised and forced to work as child soldiers, and huge populations are deliberately displaced to weaken communities. For years, these protection challenges were seen as someone else's responsibility.

Act for Peace has been lobbying hard for recognition among governments and aid agencies that we all have a collective responsibility to ensure protection. Actions include:

- asking AusAID and Australian agencies to adopt protection standards;
- formation of the first ever ACT Alliance Protection Working Group;
- advocating in Geneva-based UN forums for strengthened efforts to protect civilians in conflict and disaster zones;
- pressing for more assistance for those living in urban slums and ghettos, as 50 per cent of the world's refugees now live in urban areas; and
- consulting with the Immigration Minister and the Department of Immigration and Citizenship about a broader regional protection strategy, rather than just planning to bottle up refugees in a detention centre in East Timor.

Going beyond providing material help makes all the difference, for example:

- ensuring a woman that has been a victim of sexual violence gets more than just food rations and temporary shelter, by also dealing with unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, helping children born of rape and subject to community stigma and ostracism;
- practical preventative steps, such as providing cooking fuel so women don't get raped collecting firewood outside refugee camps, and well-lit camp latrines to deter abuses; and
- making sure the power of distributing vital food supplies to desperate people does not fall into the wrong hands and get used to deprive or coerce those at risk for sex or other “favours”.

Act for Peace is lobbying to ensure that everything we do when assisting conflict and disaster-affected communities is seen through a “protection lens”, not just here in Australia, but globally.