



ACT FOR PEACE

CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE **actalliance**

The international aid agency of the National Council
of Churches in Australia

ABN 64 493 941 795

THE POWER OF PASSIONATE PEOPLE

Working together to achieve safety, justice and dignity
in communities threatened by conflict and disaster

ANNUAL REPORT 2014





CONTENTS

04	CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER IN 2014
05	STATEMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHAIRPERSON
08	WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE SAFETY, JUSTICE AND DIGNITY AROUND THE WORLD <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE• LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT• ADVOCACY
20	THE POWER OF PASSIONATE PEOPLE
24	OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE
26	2014 FINANCIAL REPORT
30	AUDITOR'S REPORT
31	YOUR COMMISSIONERS
31	PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER IN 2014

Thanks to passionate people like you in Australia and around the world we were able to work together towards achieving safety, justice and dignity for over a million people affected by conflict and disaster during the past year.

This work builds on more than 65 years' experience of working in vulnerable communities around the globe.

As the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) we work ecumenically across religious and cultural boundaries. We bring together individuals, communities and churches from 19 denominations in Australia with local partners across the globe (many of whom are Councils of Churches themselves) to create sustainable change for those who that need it most.

Together we raised over \$10 million this past year, which delivered life-changing peace building programs, protection policy initiatives, advocacy work and local partner capacity building.

Your support funded Act for Peace programs in Syria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, the Philippines, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Gaza, the Pacific Islands and elsewhere. And, through Act for Peace, you were also part of world's most diverse grassroots network of social justice organisations, the ACT Alliance, saving lives and building long-term change in 130 countries.

In 2014 you helped:

- Support Syrian refugees like Arnal (Page 8) and families like Marilyn's (Pg.10 and 11) affected by Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.
- Work with local organisations to strengthen their capacity to take action and provide vital training for the communities most at risk from natural disaster in the Pacific Islands.
- Enable a Christian leadership convoy to sit beside the UN in peace-keeping talks for South Sudan, and work with over 140 refugee focussed organisations to promote the protection of refugees in the Asia-Pacific.
- Ensure the ratification of the UN International Arms Trade Treaty. The treaty is the result of years of campaigning and will help to reduce armed violence around the world.

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE
DONE IN THE PAST YEAR TO
HELP BUILD A SAFE, JUST AND
DIGNIFIED FUTURE FOR ALL.**



Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace

Your support helps critically sick refugees in Ethiopia.



Chairperson, Act for Peace Commission- Elizabeth Stone

STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Act for Peace has been around for more than 65 years. Much has been achieved in that time, but there is so much more to do. Today, more people are forcibly displaced than at any time since World

War II, and since Act for Peace began its work. Every day, 32,000 people have to abandon their homes to seek protection and the number of people newly displaced has tripled since 2010. This has largely been driven by worsening conflict in several Middle Eastern countries.

The suffering of communities targeted by this violence is beyond what many of us can comprehend. As recently stated by the Council of Bishops of Middle Eastern Churches in Australia *'we feel the pain that our people, our brothers and all innocent people are going through in the East. The human dictionary has failed to explain their displacement, murder, expulsion and persecution'*. It is vital that we work closely with these affected communities to create the conditions for peace and be ready to respond when violence occurs. This effort often involves working with them on humanitarian assistance, long-term development, and peace and protection advocacy programs.

In the Middle East we have continued to assist communities targeted by violence in Iraq, Syria, Palestine, Afghanistan and Pakistan. In recent years we have also assisted communities in Somalia and Libya. We are aiming to do much more in the future.

Together with our supporters and other donors we have:

- Raised millions of dollars for the lifesaving work of our ecumenical partners across the Middle East
- Advocated for governments to provide their fair share of humanitarian and refugee assistance and to support practical civilian protection initiatives
- Launched campaigns such as 'We Are Human' to raise awareness of the issue, and we have
- Provided further opportunities for our member churches and the Australian community to get involved.

Together there is more we can do and more we must do for peace. That is our task. As Oscar A. Romero said *"Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all. Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity. It is right and it is duty."*



Executive Director, Act for Peace- Alistair Gee

STATEMENT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Right now, most of the world's poorest people live in the small group of conflict-affected and fragile states which are the focus of Act for Peace's work.

A decade ago only 20% of the world's poorest lived in these fragile states. In

10 years' time this is predicted to be 80%. People living through conflict are being left behind as peaceful states work their way out of poverty, and this means that acting for peace and addressing humanitarian need is more important than ever. The international community

is falling well short of meeting such need. The 2014 Humanitarian Assistance Report ranks Australia as 18th out of 20 rich countries for humanitarian generosity and there are calls from experts that Australia double its humanitarian assistance.

At Act for Peace, we are keen to increase our assistance as much as is possible. Our goal over the next six years is to double our impact in achieving safety, justice and dignity in communities threatened by conflict and disaster. Whether we are a supporter, staff member, local partner or someone living in a conflict-affected community, we all have a vital role to play if we are to achieve this goal. And it is our shared passion for justice that will make it a reality.

YOUR GLOBAL NETWORK

THE POWER OF PASSIONATE PEOPLE

You are part of a global network of passionate people standing alongside communities affected by conflict and disaster. Together we are building a safe, just and dignified world.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST GRASSROOTS SOCIAL JUSTICE NETWORK

Through Act for Peace you are a part of a coalition of more than 140 organisations across 130 countries, called the ACT Alliance. Together we are working to create positive and sustainable change in the lives of people affected by poverty, injustice and humanitarian crises.



AFGHANISTAN:

Giving girls an education

PAKISTAN:

Healthcare for mothers and children

MYANMAR:

Safeguarding human rights

PHILIPPINES:

Protecting human rights

INDIA & SRI LANKA:

Helping refugees return home

THAI/BURMA BORDER:

Food for Burmese refugees

ETHIOPIA:

Healthcare for refugees

KENYA:

Promoting peace and reconciliation

PACIFIC ISLANDS:

Preparing for natural disasters

AUSTRALIA:

A fair deal for indigenous people and protecting refugees

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

When an emergency occurs, we work together to respond fast.

Conflicts and natural disasters rob people of their homes, livelihoods, loved ones, and often leave people in desperate situations with nothing but the clothes on their backs. It's essential we respond rapidly to save lives.

Through the ACT Alliance we have partners on the ground in 130 countries, enabling us to respond immediately to emergencies wherever they occur. Your support, together with that of others around the world, helps give people what they need most to survive, whether it's food, shelter, medical care or essential household items.

In 2014 we provided humanitarian assistance to people affected by the world's biggest emergencies: the conflict

in Syria and Typhoon Haiyan. We worked together with our local partner, the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, to give emergency aid to affected communities when the typhoon, one of the strongest storms ever recorded, struck. We also continued to supply emergency relief packs to displaced Syrian refugees, both in camps and urban areas.

We also continued to provide humanitarian assistance in more protracted crises, including food and other assistance to people who have fled the conflict in Burma/Myanmar, life-saving medical treatment for refugees living in Ethiopia, and medical care and other support for Sri Lankan refugees in India.

STRENGTH AMONG ADVERSITY

Act for Peace works to achieve positive and sustainable change through three mutually reinforcing categories of programming: humanitarian (short-term), development (long-term) and advocacy (to influence policy so that it leads to strengthened systems and sustainable change).

We believe that all three parts of our work are essential, and all three must be employed to ensure we reach the most vulnerable, achieve the maximum possible impact from our resources and ensure that the change we bring about is sustainable.



REDUCING SUFFERING IN SYRIA



ACT Alliance

Pictured: Young mother Arnal dreaded the arrival of winter at the Zaatari refugee camp in North Jordan.

Through Act for Peace and our partners on the ground, you helped to ease the suffering of Syrian people as they continue to struggle through one of the world's most violent civil wars. The conflict has now extended into its fourth year. More than 2.5 million people have fled Syria, and 9 million more have been displaced within the country.

Act for Peace supporters gave over \$200,000 to our Syria Crisis Appeal. Our local partners on the ground have decades of experience working in the region, which enabled them to use these life-saving funds to reach vulnerable families and address their most urgent needs.

Through the ACT Alliance you are supporting many of the 2.5 million people who have fled Syria.

YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION



FOOD RATION PACK

You provided packs containing rice, wheat, sugar, beans, lentils, salt and tea. These were distributed to the most at-risk refugees as they fled conflict and gave them immediate relief.

\$90



HYGIENE RELIEF PACK

You supplied packs containing essential hygiene items such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toilet paper, tissues, laundry powder and disinfectant.

\$30



CLOTHING RELIEF PACK

You provided clothing for families in need of underwear, socks, shirts and pants.

\$175

HELPING FAMILIES RECOVER AND REBUILD

When Typhoon Haiyan stormed across the Philippines, it tore families and communities apart. Your support provided immediate, life-saving assistance, and is now helping people rebuild their lives.

Typhoon Haiyan slammed into Eastern Samar in the early hours of 8 November 2013, with winds up to 300km per hour. It destroyed homes, schools and vital infrastructure; claimed the lives of more than 6,000 people; and left more than two million people in need of urgent assistance.

Last year you gave more than \$120,000 to our urgent Philippines appeal. Thanks to your generous response, we were able to move quickly – providing life-saving food, shelter and essential items to thousands of the most vulnerable families. With your support our local ACT Alliance partner, the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), has already helped more than 188,000 people.



YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION



LIFE-SAVING ESSENTIALS In the days and weeks after the disaster – you provided 20,000 food packs, 5,500 hygiene kits, 1,000 family shelters, 5,000 kitchen kits and 5,000 bedding sets.



WATER AND SANITATION FACILITIES Water and sanitation facilities help prevent the spread of disease. 88 wells, 88 water pumps, and 1,050 latrines, were installed supporting 27,000 people.



REBUILDING LIVELIHOODS You provided cash support for land clearance, enabled families to resume farming and fishing by supplying seeds and restoring damaged boats, and supported women to set up small businesses. We plan to reach 20,000 people in this way.



PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT 10,000 people were helped to come to terms with the disaster and to cope with the loss of loved ones.



COMMUNITY RESILIENCE Training centres were established to share knowledge and build skills on disaster risk reduction.



“GOD WAS LOOKING OVER US”

“We never expected this type of storm – the intensity was crazy. In all the years I’ve been here I’ve never seen anything like this.” Marilyn Monton was heavily pregnant when Typhoon Haiyan hit, destroying her home and damaging the fishing boats the family relied on to make a living. Thankfully, no one was hurt and Marilyn’s baby son, Renel Jr, was born safely two weeks later. “God was looking over us,” she smiles. “After the typhoon we were just thankful we were alive and had something to eat.”



All images: Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

**In for the long-haul. We know there are no quick-fixes.
Long-term, sustainable change takes time.**

As well as responding quickly to emergencies, we work on long-term development projects that help conflict and disaster affected communities tackle their own problems, so they can build a future that is safe, just and dignified.

In 2014 we did this through development programs that helped girls in Afghanistan have a brighter future by getting access to education; supported farmers in Zimbabwe to better feed their families by growing

drought-resistant crops; kept children safe in South Sudan by raising awareness of the dangers of landmines; and empowered refugees from Burma and Sri Lanka with the skills they need to support themselves when it is safe to return home.

We also worked with communities to rebuild after the immediate danger had passed, and put survival plans in place to reduce the impact of any future disasters.

STANDING UP TO INJUSTICE AND OPPRESSION



For nearly 40 years, Mahn Tome Sein has been unwavering in his fight for human rights for all. He sees a future Myanmar free from conflict and poverty.

Mahn Tome Sein believes in justice. He has been a human rights advocate since 1976 and every day stands up for those who have been denied their basic rights.

Mahn works to stop some of Myanmar's most serious human rights violations, including human trafficking, forced labour and the use of child soldiers. It's difficult and often dangerous work, but Mahn is undeterred, driven by a determination to build a better future for his community and his country.

"I will continue to work for human rights in Myanmar. If someone's rights have been abused or exploited then I will stand up for that person."

Despite recent political changes in Myanmar (also known as Burma), human rights abuses are still committed every day. Rather than

disheartening Mahn, the atrocities suffered by his people have inspired him to take action in his community. He became a Community Organiser in Kan Su Village in the Irrawaddy Delta region and has worked with the Act for Peace partner there, the Myanmar Council of Churches, since 1976.

"The thing that made me want to be a Community Organiser is the change I see in my country. There was injustice and oppression and abuse taking place in most areas so I want to stand up for the weak."

Members of Mahn's community come to him for help with human rights abuses. He provides ongoing support relevant to their specific case, including legal referral, psychosocial support, counselling, and advice on healthcare.

Mahn has helped many child soldiers gain release papers from the army, reuniting them with their families after years of horror. Mahn explained that many families know their children have been conscripted, but do not know what they can do to get them back.

In 2012 the government of Myanmar recognised that the recruitment of child soldiers is illegal, signing a joint action plan with the UN in June 2012 to end the use of underage recruits. This change of policy has enabled Mahn, and other Community Organisers, to get child soldiers released – if they can prove the child was underage when they were taken into the army.

The simple task of proving a child's age can be very difficult in Myanmar. Children often don't have birth certificates. They may not even attend school, and the army tends to deny any recruitment of children.

Mahn and Community Organisers often work for months, sometimes years, to get these children released. They will contact the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and write to lawyers and other NGOs until they

can prove a child was underage when they were taken into the army.

Since 2012 the army has released over 270 underage recruits, but an estimated 5,000 child soldiers are still believed to be serving in the Burmese Army and other armed groups. That's why Mahn is determined to keep going.

"I will never give up. I must fight for justice in my community... I will continue to work for human rights in Myanmar."

Mahn's work is only possible thanks to your generous gifts. Together, you are rescuing child soldiers, giving hope to survivors of abuse, and building a safer future for the people of Myanmar. Thank you.

In March we asked you to support the Act for Peace child soldiers appeal, to help rescue more children like Khin, who was reunited with his family by Community Organiser, May Lyan, after being conscripted into the Burmese army as a child.

The support was truly inspiring, and the appeal raised more than \$110,000. Thanks to your generosity we will be able to help many more people in Myanmar to stand up for their rights. Thank you.



James Thomson/Act for Peace

Your support gives young Sri Lankan refugees hope for the future

ADVOCACY

To create lasting peace, we tackle the root causes of conflict and injustice, not just treat the symptoms.

A unified voice for change can push governments and decision-makers to live up to their responsibilities to protect the world's most vulnerable people and create the conditions for just and peaceful societies. When we all come together and speak with one voice, it sends a clear message that people in power can't ignore.

Last year our supporters advocated for peace building initiatives, conflict resolution, refugee and IDP protection and armed violence reduction both in Australia and

internationally. Their voice and support meant local partners could initiate peace-building, disarmament programs and landmine action.

You supported and strengthened refugee protection in our region, which is a critical part of Act for Peace's work. This includes working with governments and regional organisations to provide better protection and long-term solutions.

KEEPING PEOPLE SAFE

In India and Sri Lanka you supported refugee protection and advocacy initiatives aimed at keeping refugees safe and giving them hope for the future.

We are unwavering in our work to protect refugees and displaced people around the world. One of the most effective tools for keeping people safe is, surprisingly, a small piece of paper – a birth certificate.

"In crisis situations, birth certificates are critical. Imagine being a refugee who can't return home because you can't prove who you are or that your children are actually yours. Imagine being denied access to medical care, a hospital, or a school or not being able to turn to the police or the courts." – James Thomson, AfP Staff

Having an identity document not only proves what rights you have within a country, but also what obligations the government has to protect your rights. In crisis situations, particularly when people are displaced by conflict or disasters, an identity document has a major effect on your ability to protect yourself and your family from violence, exploitation and abuse.

We worked towards ensuring people were able to get basic identity documents and promoted the importance of birth certificates and campaigned for the protection of stateless people.

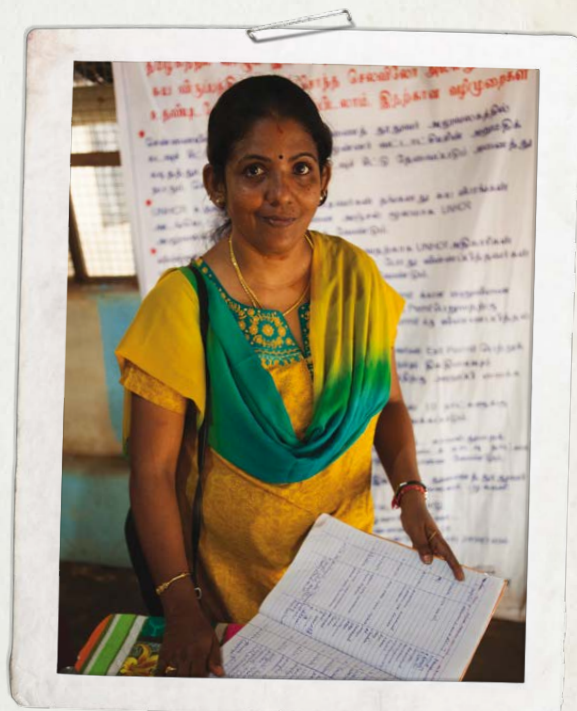
Together with local partners around the world, we train grassroots aid organisations in how and why to provide identity documents to people in the communities they serve. This vital work helps to keep people safe in emergency situations.

We're not alone in this mission. There are thousands of staff and volunteers in the ACT Alliance network working hard to protect vulnerable people. In refugee camps in India, for

example, Act for Peace staff work closely with the team from our local partner organisation to help Sri Lankan refugees obtain birth, death and marriage certificates. This gives them the opportunity to return home, reclaim their land, take their children and spouses with them and access legal employment and rights on return.

"A birth certificate is so much more than just a legal document. It gives a child the chance to go to school, a mother access to life-saving health care, a refugee the ability to return home and families the chance of a fresh start after the suffering caused by conflict or disaster." – James Thomson, AfP Staff

Thanks to your support, and because of one small piece of paper, a new generation of children are going to school, accessing life-saving healthcare and exercising their legal rights.



OfERR India staff work together with Act for Peace to provide extremely important paper work for refugees.

COMPASSION FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Last year, Act for Peace brought Australian Churches together to establish the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce (ACRT).

The Taskforce was established to promote a shared Christian vision of compassion and hospitality for asylum seekers and refugees. The churches and their agencies work together to advocate for just and humane policies.

Drawing on core Christian values and traditions, the Taskforce is committed to offering a strong Christian moral voice into what has become a heated and hostile public debate fuelled by divisive political rhetoric and constantly changing policies.

Alaghun travelled to Australia in a leaky boat similar to this one.



AUSTRALIA'S GUANTANAMO

Part of the Taskforce's work was an initiative called "Australia's Guantanamo." The goal of this project is to ensure the release of 44 men, women and children (who have already been classified as refugees) from closed detention into a community detention facility while they await the outcome of their protection visa. Alaghun (not his real name) is one of them.

24 year old Alaghun, who is in his fifth year at Sydney's Villawood Detention Centre, is originally from Sri Lanka. At the time of his 18th birthday, he lived in a Tamil refugee camp in Southern India with his family. While there, he was separated from his family due to a family illness. He worked with camp authorities to try and locate his family. He eventually found out they had left the camp and had made it back home safely – so he, too, returned home.

The local militia noticed Alaghun's homecoming. They were wary of young men returning from Southern India and so soldiers paid the family a visit and asked to see all their identification papers. As Alaghun had only just come back from the refugee camps in India he had no identification documents (See page 16 to learn more about how important identification documents are to refugees). It was decided by a military commander that Alaghun would not return to his family but would be sent back to Southern India, to the refugee camps. The commander warned him that if he tried to come home again, he would be killed by the military or 'disappear as easily as a street dog.' And so Alaghun was transported to Southern India and has not been seen his family since.

All alone with no family or friends - and no hope of returning home – Alaghun sought to leave and find a better life. That was more than five years ago and he has been in detention since he first sought asylum in Australia.

Through public advocacy, research reports and media work the Taskforce has been working to influence decision makers to change the policies keeping Alaghun, and the 43 others like him, in closed detention.



Alaghun's illustration of his experience.

THE POWER OF PASSIONATE PEOPLE

THE POWER OF PASSIONATE PEOPLE

We believe we all have a role to play in creating a better world. Last year, thousands of people passionate about global justice took action through Act for Peace by campaigning, fundraising, donating and volunteering.

BOWLED OVER

In 2013 the Christmas Bowl appeal went from strength to strength, bringing together around 100,000 people from 2,000 churches and 19 denominations across Australia to assist people in some of the world's most conflict-affected countries.

Thanks to your generosity, we raised an incredible \$2.3 million, which is helping girls in Afghanistan get the education they deserve, and supporting life-saving projects around the world. Here's just a snapshot of some of the fantastic Christmas Bowl events you organised nationwide.



Global Sanctuary Photography



Rob Cleary



Global Sanctuary Photography

TAKING TO THE STREETS IN ADELAIDE. Across Adelaide and the surrounding regions, more than 150 volunteers took to the streets, collecting more than \$6,000 in donations from the public. "It was wonderful to see so many fantastic volunteers out in force," said Virginia Macaspac, Act for Peace Development Officer in South Australia.

CAROLS IN COFFS. Congregations from the Anglican, Catholic, Lutheran and Uniting Churches came together for Christmas carols and festivities in Coffs Harbour, NSW, and raised \$1,500. "I am very proud of the Coffs Coast for rallying behind the Christmas Bowl," said Rev. Jan McLeod, of St Nicholas Anglican Church, Sawtell.

CHRISTMAS CREATIVITY IN WILLUNGA. More than 450 people came to the Willunga Uniting Church for its annual Christmas Tree Festival raising more than \$3,750 for the appeal. "The Tree Festival is a great way to support the Christmas Bowl, engage with the community and share the Christmas spirit," said organiser Jenny Esots.

THE POWER OF PASSIONATE PEOPLE

EATING LIKE A REFUGEE

During Refugee Week in June, 100 brave supporters helped us pilot the first ever Act for Peace Ration Challenge, raising an amazing \$62,000.

Act for Peace supporters just like you, took on the challenge to eat exactly the same rations as a Burmese refugee living in a camp on the Thai-Burma border. Just a small amount of rice, split peas, fortified flour, salt, oil, fish paste and water. That's it. No meat, veg, coffee, or alcohol!

"This challenge appealed to me to 'walk in another's shoes' or eat like a refugee on rations. It was a compassionate and Christian way to help others in need. Novel too." – Peter Hartley, who raised \$1,710.

"The challenge has certainly been just that. [It] will stay with me a long time. Eating rice with very little to no flavour in it for a week was tough, although I did enjoy drinking hot water! How fortunate we are



Enjoying a meal together during the Act for Peace Ration Challenge

to live comfortably and never have to worry about not having enough to eat" – Jenny Monger, who raised \$2,275.

We were blown away by the creativity and dedication of every single person who made the Ration Challenge their own. Thanks to generous sponsorship from friends and family, they raised a fantastic \$62,000 to support refugees from Burma, who are now living in a refugee camp without the means to support themselves. This money will help make sure they get the rations they need to survive and provide tools and training to help them become more self-sufficient.

To see more great photos of the first ever Ration Challenge or to be the first to hear about how to participate in next year's Ration Challenge visit www.actforpeace.org.au/rationchallenge

GIFTS THAT KEEP GIVING

Last year approximately 3,400 'Gifts for Peace' were purchased. Through their generous gifts supporters not only put a smile on the face of a friend, family member or colleague, you were also supporting our long-term projects around the world.

Supporters bought school supplies for girls in Afghanistan, provided health care for pregnant women in Pakistan, cleared hundreds of square



Supporting rural health care in Pakistan

metres of land from the risk of landmines and gave business owners a kick start. These gifts supported Act for Peace programs all around the globe.



Ben Littlejohn/Act for Peace

Providing the tools and seeds needed so Burmese refugees can support themselves through farming

ACT FOR PEACE PARTNERS

Act for Peace Partners have made a commitment to take action each month through regular gifts. Their support was vital to the success of our ongoing work around the globe. Their generous monthly gifts totalling over \$500,000 allowed our project partners to confidently launch aid developments, hire specialist staff, order equipment and supplies and effectively deliver much-needed assistance to communities affected by conflict and violence.

Their support was vital and we thank them for their ongoing passion and dedication to realising a safe, just and dignified future for all!



Keeping communities safe in Vanuatu

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Ben Littlejohn/Act for Peace

Providing nutritious meals for
nursery school children

LAST YEAR YOU HELPED RAISE OVER \$10 MILLION FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, DEVELOPMENT AND ADVOCACY PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORTED COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD, THANK YOU.

We're proud of the impact we made together in 2014. But we know there is so much more that needs to be done to achieve safety, justice and dignity for people affected by conflict and disaster. That's why we have bold plans for next year, which you can help turn into reality. Together we are looking to the future to have a bigger collective impact and see an even greater change around the world.

In the Philippines, we will move from urgent emergency response to the next step of helping families rebuild their lives. We will continue to provide vital support to the people of Syria. Meanwhile, in South Sudan, we will invest in local, grassroots projects to help prevent more violence and suffering.

Afghanistan is another country in our thoughts and plans this coming year. Put simply, thanks to your gifts we will be educating thousands more girls in 2015. We will work with local communities to tackle prejudice,

train teachers and equip schools so that a generation of girls has the opportunity to transform their country for the better.

We're also excited about new projects in Tonga and Vanuatu – the two countries in the world that are most at risk from natural disasters. Over the past six years our disaster preparedness program has worked with communities to plan and prepare for catastrophic events such as cyclones or floods. Those plans helped save many lives when Tropical Cyclone Ian hit Tonga in January 2013. With your support, we will continue to expand this work, and help strengthen these communities so they are better able to withstand the shocks they experience every year.

In the year ahead, we will also press our political leaders to do more to support people caught up in the horrific aftermath of wars and disasters. Together, we'll ask our government to spend more on overseas aid and projects that promote peace and reconciliation. And we'll call on



Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace

Protecting communities from
the threat of natural disaster

Australia to treat refugees with the respect and dignity they deserve, through fairer policies and targeted aid for refugee communities.

Work on our new strategic plan has begun. To develop the plan, we are consulting with a broad cross-section of staff, supporters, members and volunteers, as well as our Board, partners and staff from around the world. The new plan will guide our work for the next five years.

The new Act for Peace strategic plan will be launched in March 2015 and we are excited about the added momentum the plan will create.

We want to thank you for everything you're doing for the people we work with around the world. These are people whose lives have been torn apart by conflict and natural disasters, but who are determined to stand up and rebuild for a better future. You're standing by them every step of the way. Thank you.

MORE EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

In research we undertook, you told us it was time to update our style and communicate more clearly what we are all about. You also wanted us to look more contemporary and hard-hitting, and to be more outspoken about injustice – and that's just what we're doing.

You helped us be more effective and encourage more people to become Act for Peace supporters by updating how we communicate our work. This is important, because the more people taking action, the bigger the difference we will make together.

We'd like to thank all of you who gave us your feedback and helped to shape our new approach. We have updated our logo, website and we're being clearer about how people in Australia can work with others around the world to empower local communities and create change.



Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace



Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace

Top: Teaching communities disaster
preparedness in Tonga

Bottom: Mahn Tome Sein- Community
Organiser, Myanmar

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2014

	Note	12 months to 30 Jun 2014 \$	12 months to 30 Jun 2013 \$
REVENUE			
Donations and gifts			
Monetary		4,152,465	3,649,825
Non-monetary		0	0
Bequests and Legacies		270,519	382,441
Grants			
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade		2,956,760	5,242,805
Other Australian		0	463,116
Other overseas		522,769	0
Investment income		346,228	131,789
Other income		2,385,768	2,280,128
Revenue for International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs		0	0
TOTAL REVENUE		10,634,509	12,150,104
EXPENDITURE			
International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure			
International programs			
Funds to international programs	8	6,970,949	8,539,840
Program support costs		1,080,578	1,009,943
		<u>8,051,527</u>	<u>9,549,783</u>
Community education		573,663	353,878
Fundraising costs			
Public		1,183,410	913,370
Government, multilateral and private		45,024	42,081
		<u>1,228,434</u>	<u>955,452</u>
Accountability and Administration		796,293	612,197
Non-Monetary Expenditure		0	0
Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		<u>10,649,917</u>	<u>11,471,310</u>
International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs Expenditure		0	0
Domestic Projects Expenditure		345,118	376,117
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>10,995,035</u>	<u>11,847,427</u>
Excess/(shortfall) of revenue over expenditure		<u>(360,526)</u>	<u>302,678</u>

In the past year, the 12 months to 30 June 2014, we were able to expend nearly \$11m acting for peace, of which \$8m was spent directly on international programs and program support and an additional nearly \$1m on domestic projects and community education. The reduction in government grants in the past year was partially offset by an increase in our community fundraising. In the year to 30 June 2013 we had around \$300,000 of delayed expenditure which explains the surplus of that amount in that year and the deficit in the past year.

During the financial year, Act for Peace had no transactions in the Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs category.

The Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the Notes to and forming parts of the accounts.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2014

		30 Jun 2014	30 Jun 2013
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		16,241	17,050
Trade and other receivables	2	48,426	66,903
Inventories		0	0
Assets held for sale		0	0
Other financial assets	3	7,066,600	8,228,501
Total Current Assets		7,131,267	8,312,454
Non Current Assets			
Trade and other receivables		0	0
Other financial assets		0	0
Property, plant and equipment	4	2,219,895	2,219,895
Investment property		0	0
Intangibles		0	0
Other non-current assets		0	0
Total Non Current Assets		2,219,895	2,219,895
TOTAL ASSETS		9,351,162	10,532,349
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5	2,349,059	2,863,579
Borrowings		0	0
Current tax liabilities		0	0
Other financial liabilities		0	0
Provisions	6	192,666	155,429
Other		47,253	169,882
Total Current Liabilities		2,588,978	3,188,891
Non Current Liabilities			
Borrowings		0	0
Other Financial Liabilities		0	0
Provisions	6	58,133	59,637
Other		0	0
Total Non Current Liabilities		58,133	59,637
TOTAL LIABILITIES		2,647,111	3,248,528
NET ASSETS		6,704,051	7,283,821
EQUITY			
Reserves	7	5,381,738	5,723,611
Retained Earnings		1,322,313	1,560,210
TOTAL EQUITY		6,704,051	7,283,821

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2014

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Others	Total
Balance at 30 June 2012	932,462	5,849,993	0	6,782,455
Adjustments or changes in equity due to	0	0	0	0
Items of other comprehensive income	0	0	0	0
Excess of Revenue over expenses	302,678	0	0	302,678
Managed Funds	325,070	0	0	325,070
Amount transferred to (from) reserves	0	(126,382)	0	(126,382)
Balance at 30 June 2013	1,560,210	5,723,611	0	7,283,821
Adjustments or changes in equity due to	0	0	0	0
Items of other comprehensive income	0	0	0	0
Excess of Revenue over expenses	(360,526)	0	0	(360,526)
Managed Funds	122,629	0	0	122,629
Amount transferred to (from) reserves	0	(341,873)	0	(341,873)
Balance at 30 June 2014	1,322,313	5,381,738	0	6,704,051

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2014

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2014 –

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 member churches. The Executive has 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 the Reporting Period

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 historical cost convention. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

The Summary Financial Reports have been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) and the NCCA Constitution. For further information on the Code please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance available at www.acfid.asn.au

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 :

1. Recognition of Income

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

2. Investment Income

Investment interest is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income when received.

3. Donations and Fundraising

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

4. Value of Volunteers

The value of services provided by volunteers is not included in revenue or expenses because of the practical difficulties involved.

5. Accounts Payable

Accruals and other creditors are recognised when the Council becomes obligated to make future payments resulting from the purchase of goods and services. Accruals have also been made in the accounts in the case of unspent budgeted project funds.

6. 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.

7. 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.

7. 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.

8. Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amounts 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 financial position.

9. 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 the recoverable amount.

10. Revaluation of non-current assets

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

11. Managed 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.

12. Financial Year

The Financial Year for the NCCA/Act for Peace starts 1st July and ends 30th June.

13. Comparative amounts

Some comparative information has been re-classified to ensure comparability with the current reporting period.

	30 Jun 2014	30 Jun 2013
2 Trade and Other Receivables		
Advances	1,149	23,642
GST Paid	9,815	13,261
Prepayments	0	30,000
Trade receivables	37,462	0
	48,426	66,903
3 Other Financial Assets		
Investments with NCCA Ltd - Project Funds	3,405,009	4,225,036
Investments with NCCA Ltd - Legacies and Bequests	29,721	29,721
Investments with NCCA Ltd - RDP Reserves	480,325	502,648
Investments with NCCA Ltd - Strathfield Home for the Aged	2,440,869	2,668,935
Investments with NCCA Ltd - Level 6 Proceeds	665,726	753,961
Melbourne Property Maintenance	44,950	48,200
	7,066,600	8,228,501
4 Property, Plant and Equipment		
Level 7 Kent St (Sydney)	919,895	919,895
Level 4 Causeway House (Melbourne)	1,300,000	1,300,000
	2,219,895	2,219,895
5 Trade and Other Payables		
Trade Creditors	49,922	84,266
Accruals on Unspent Budgetted Project Funds	2,081,037	1,760,715
Income in Advance	218,100	963,414
Activity Fund - Strathfield	0	2,354
Fire Upgrading Fund - Strathfield	0	8,983
GST Collected	0	43,847
	2,349,059	2,863,579
6 Employee Entitlements		
Provision for Annual Leave	192,666	155,429
	192,666	155,429
Provision for Long Service Leave	58,133	59,637
	58,133	59,637
7 Reserves		
Investments with NCCA Ltd - Legacies and bequests	29,721	29,721
Investments with NCCA Ltd - RDP Reserves	480,325	502,648
Investments with NCCA Ltd - Capital Proceeds Reserves - Level 6	665,726	753,961
Investments with NCCA Ltd - Strathfield Sale Proceeds	1,941,121	2,169,187
Level 7 Kent St	919,895	919,895
Melbourne Property	1,300,000	1,300,000
Melbourne Maintenance Reserve	44,950	48,200
	5,381,738	5,723,611
8 Programs		
Africa	797,500	809,358
Asia	1,376,618	3,675,584
Pacific	1,627,384	1,082,757
Middle East	542,711	557,477
Global Programs	291,394	188,915
Managed Funds - Overseas	2,335,342	2,225,750
	6,970,949	8,539,840
9 Table of Cash Movements for Designated Purposes		
Cash	16,241	17,050
Investment with NCCA Ltd	7,066,600	8,228,501
	7,082,841	8,245,551


	Cash available at beginning of the financial year	Cash raised during financial year	Cash disbursed during financial year	Cash available at end of financial year
Thailand TBBC	109,733	41,338	31,851	119,219
PCIDRR	88,186	0	88,186	0
PCORR	1,113,475	66,019	806,052	373,442
ANCP	0	2,372,717	2,304,484	68,233
Total for other non-designated purposes	6,934,157	7,085,726	7,497,935	6,521,947
TOTAL	8,245,551	9,565,800	10,728,509	7,082,841

The Commission governing Act for Peace declare that:

- The financial statements and notes as set out on pages 2 to 8 are in accordance with the NCCA constitution and Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act), and:
 - Comply with relevant Australian Accounting standards as applicable; and
 - Give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2014 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the association;
- In the Commission's opinion 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.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Act for Peace NCCA Commission.

Dated this 2nd day of October, 2014.


Ms Sienke Martin, Acting Chairperson


Ms Elizabeth Stone, Associate Interim General Secretary

AUDITOR'S REPORT 2014

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of National Council of Churches - Act for Peace, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2014, statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, 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 of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and has determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report are appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the NCCA Constitution, ACFID Code of Conduct and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act), and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Commission Members' responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining such internal controls as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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. Those 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 judgment, 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 of the financial report that gives a true and fair view 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 Executive, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

In our opinion, the financial report of National Council of Churches - Act for Peace is in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, ACFID Code of Conduct and the NCCA Constitution, including:

- i) giving a true and fair view of the Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2014 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- ii) complying with applicable Australian Accounting Standards set out in Note 1 to the financial report, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Emphasis of Matter

We draw attention to Note 1(3) to the financial report which describes the revenue recognition policy of National Council of Churches - Act for Peace including the limitations that exist in relation to recording of cash receipts from Donations and Fundraising. Revenue from this source represents a significant proportion of revenue of National Council of Churches - Act for Peace. Our opinion is unmodified in respect of this matter.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Commission Members' financial reporting obligations and to satisfy the requirements of the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



THOMAS DAVIS & CO.



J.G. RYAN PARTNER

Chartered Accountants

SYDNEY, 2 October, 2014

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ACT FOR PEACE COMMISSIONERS 2014

Members of the Act for Peace NCCA Commission, the governing body of Act for Peace, are appointed by the National Council of Churches in Australia during its forum. The 2014 Act for Peace General Meeting was held on 29 October 2014. As at the end of the 2013-2014 year, the commission members were as follows:

- Elizabeth Stone, Chair, Catholic Church, BA (ANU), MIntS (Syd)
- Sienieke (G.H.A.) Martin, Deputy Chair, Religious Society of Friends
- The Reverend John Gilmore, Commission Treasurer, Churches of Christ, BTheol, MTheol, DipMin
- Bishop Philip Huggins, Standing Committee member, Anglican Church of Australia
- The Reverend Elenie Poulos, Uniting Church in Australia, MA, BTh.
- Lieutenant Colonel Ray Wilson, The Salvation Army
- Alison Preston, Anglican Church of Australia
- Patricia Ryan, Catholic Church, MA (Religion) ACU, B.Ed Studies
- Dr William Bactor, Coptic Orthodox Church of Australia, PhD
- Rev'd Fr Constantine Varipatis, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia
- Carmen Lazar OAM, Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East
- Chey Mattner, Lutheran Church of Australia, BA (Hons), GradDipEd
- Captain Dr Kathy Crombie, Salvation Army, Ed.D (UTS), MA (Theology)
- Juliana Nkrumah AM, Uniting Church in Australia
- Rev'd Tara Curlewis, Ex-officio on Standing Committee, ex-officio, General Secretary of the NCCA
- Alistair Gee, Executive Director, BA, LLB, MAICD, ex-officio, Executive Director of Act for Peace

Act for Peace congratulates Carmen Lazar OAM, member of the Act for Peace NCCA Commission, on being awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia on Australia Day, 2014, for her contribution to the Assyrian community.

Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia.
Member churches include:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Anglican Church of Australia | • Lutheran Church of Australia |
| • Antiochian Orthodox Church | • Mar Thoma Church |
| • Armenian Apostolic Church | • Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) |
| • Assyrian Church of the East | • Roman Catholic Church |
| • Chinese Methodist Church in Australia | • Romanian Orthodox Church Romanian Patriarchate Australian Churches |
| • Churches of Christ in Australia | • The Salvation Army |
| • Congregational Federation of Australia | • Serbian Orthodox Church |
| • Coptic Orthodox Church Diocese of Sydney and affiliated Regions and Diocese of Melbourne | • Syrian Orthodox Church |
| • Greek Orthodox Church | • Uniting Church in Australia |
| • Indian Orthodox Church | |



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Act for Peace is a member of the global ACT Alliance which works in more than 140 countries worldwide enabling us to respond immediately to emergency situations as they happen.

Act for Peace is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. The code is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. It aims to improve international development outcomes and increase stakeholder trust by improving the transparency and accountability of signatory organisations. Act for Peace is committed to full adherence to this Code. Complaints about Act for Peace may be lodged by contacting the NCCA Director responsible for human resources, on complaints@ncca.org.au or + 612 8259 0800. Please visit the Policies section of Act for Peace's website for more information. The ACFID Code of Conduct offers a mechanism to address concerns relating to signatories' conduct. Complaints against a signatory agency may be initiated by any member of the public and lodged with the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee. More information about the ACFID Code of Conduct can be obtained from Act for Peace and from ACFID at: WEBSITE. www.acfid.asn.au EMAIL. acfid@acfid.asn.au PHONE. +61 2 6285 1816



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