



SAFETY, JUSTICE, DIGNITY.

ACT FOR PEACE
ANNUAL REPORT

2017

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

Farmers in Zimbabwe dig individual pits for each corn plant, which they water by hand. Since learning new techniques through the Conservation Farming program, farmers who were suffering as a result of drought are now able to grow enough food to feed their families, even when the rains fail.

Cover: Thanks to you, girls living in Sindh province in rural Pakistan were given the chance of a brighter future through improved access to quality education.

Cover: Richard Weinwright/Act for Peace

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OUR VISION A peaceful world where all people share a safe, just and dignified life.	OUR PURPOSE We empower passionate people to work together to achieve safety, justice and dignity in communities threatened by conflict and disaster.	OUR GOAL Increase our impact in achieving safety, justice and dignity in communities threatened by conflict and disaster.
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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHAIRPERSON

Over the past year, the number of people fleeing their homes to escape conflict and disaster exceeded 65 million, the highest recorded number in modern history.

The catastrophic food crisis across East Africa, a result of intense drought and conflict, left millions of children and families on the brink of starvation. Cyclones continued to bring destruction to vulnerable Pacific nations.

Amidst what some saw as an overwhelming picture of global crisis, Act for Peace, working with local partners, continued to bring safety, justice and dignity to communities across Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific.

The inspiration for our work continued to come both from our faith, which urges us to seek justice for the vulnerable, and from the diverse people we work with – individuals who champion changes required in their own communities to reduce the impact of conflict and disaster, supporters who encourage, lobby and raise funds, and donors and NGOs with whom we collaborate.

Act for Peace's protection focus continued to guide our work – honouring the leadership of the individual and drawing on local skills and strengths to inform solutions to the complex problems those threatened by conflict and disaster face. Remaining community based, we assisted our partners, who are representatives of their local communities, to design and implement the programs that are most likely to lead to inclusive, lasting positive change.

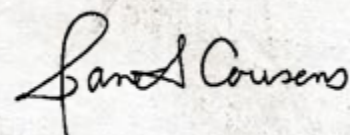
We also continued to be a voice, particularly for refugee communities who don't currently have access, at national and regional forums that influence the policies of government and the humanitarian system; advocating for safer and more respectful treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, both here in Australia and in the Asia Pacific Region.

Within this framework, your generous support meant emergency food and water supplies reached people in the most drought stricken areas of Somalia and South Sudan; Syrian refugee children in Jordan had access to education workshops and their families received food; girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan had access to education; and women and children in Palestine, Pakistan and in refugee camps in India had access to life saving medical services. Regional protection frameworks were also strengthened for refugees.

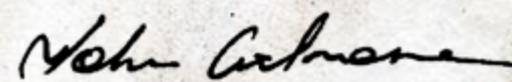
While natural disasters are inevitable, devastation is not. Our commitment to building resilience to disaster continued and in the last year we assisted communities to prepare for disasters in Vanuatu, Tonga, Zimbabwe, the Philippines and Indonesia - reducing the likelihood that lives will be lost when disaster hits, and strengthening people's long-term resilience to climate change shocks.

We go into this next financial year with a strong sense of purpose. And by partnering with passionate people like you around the world, together we are creating real change.

We thank you, supporters, partners, volunteers and staff for being part of this, and for your dedication to building a world in which more people can live in safety, with justice and dignity.



Janet Cousens
Executive Director



John Gilmore
Chair of Act for Peace Commission



Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace

THANK YOU!



to our **74,400**
supporters



you gave **100,400**
gifts totalling
\$8.2 MILLION



every **\$1 SPENT** on
fundraising returned
\$3.5 for programs

FEEDBACK

Act for Peace is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. We are committed to providing high-quality humanitarian, development and advocacy programmes and to work in an open and accountable way. Act for Peace takes its duty of care seriously and aims at all times to provide the safest possible environment for children. If for any reason you would like to lodge a complaint about our work, you may do so by contacting the Director responsible for human resources, via complaints@ncca.org.au or +61 2 8259 0800. Please see our complaints policy on the Act for Peace website for more information.

For supporter enquiries please call 1800 025 101.

An Ecumenical Accompanier patrols the South Hebron Hills in the West Bank. Your gifts helped to ensure a protective presence for vulnerable communities living under occupation in Palestine.

ABOUT ACT FOR PEACE

Today, there are more refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people worldwide than at any time since World War II. That's more than 65 million people forced to flee their homes to escape conflict and disaster.

It's a terrible injustice. And one that we can, and must, overcome.

We believe that when people all over the world work together, big changes are really possible. That's why we've made it our mission to act in partnership with other passionate people, like you, across the globe to achieve safety, justice and dignity in communities threatened by conflict and natural disaster. We don't think there is any task more important.

For over 68 years, your support has provided food, shelter, education, healthcare and training to help the world's most vulnerable prepare for, cope with and recover from conflict and disaster..

Together we're tackling the root causes of injustice and are building a brighter future for everyone. Thank you for joining us.

HOW WE WORK

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

When an emergency occurs, we respond fast to give people what they need most to survive. We're in for the long-haul too, supporting communities in protracted crises until they're able to get back on their feet. We also work with communities at risk to prepare in advance, which saves lives when disaster strikes.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Lasting change takes time. Your support enables sustainable development projects that help communities to tackle their own problems - whether that's giving girls a brighter future through education, helping farmers grow enough to eat or supporting refugees to return home safely after a conflict has ended.

ADVOCACY & CAMPAIGNS

Together, we'll mobilise governments and decision-makers to tackle the root causes of poverty and injustice, not just treat the symptoms. When we come together to speak with one voice, it sends a clear message that people in power can't ignore.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

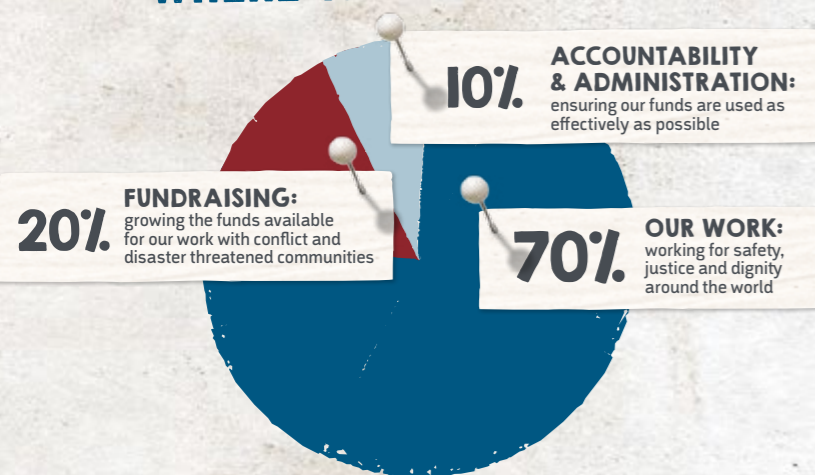
We believe local people are best placed to identify the problems faced by their communities and create solutions that work. So we partner with local organisations on the ground to achieve change. We're also part of the ACT Alliance, a global network of 140 organisations across 100 countries working together to share knowledge and resources, speak with a louder voice, and ultimately, achieve more impact.

CONFRONTING INJUSTICE AROUND THE WORLD

In 2016-17, your gifts helped achieve safety, justice and dignity for more than **500,000** people through **39** programs in over **20** countries across the globe.

Thank you!

WHERE THE MONEY GOES:



Our programs and advocacy work

70% of our funds were spent on our programs, advocacy and community education work. This includes:

- + 47.7% International programs
- + 10.8% Program support costs
- + 9.7% Community education
- + 1.9% Domestic programs

Our financial statements are prepared in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct (www.acfid.asn.au).

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

74,400 generous supporters gave over 100,400 gifts and raised a total of \$8.2 million. Thank you!

Thank you to our institutional donors: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australia), Department of Immigration and Border Protection (Australia), United States Agency for International Development / Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USA), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (Italy), United Nation Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (USA), Anglican Board of Mission (Australia), Church of Sweden (Sweden), Global Mission Partners (Australia), Uniting World (Australia), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (Australia), STEER Incorporated (Australia).

Act for Peace works for safety, justice and dignity for all people and does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, colour, gender, sexual orientation or national origin.

AFRICA:

Anti-human trafficking awareness raising, as well as promotion and protection of children's rights.

ETHIOPIA:

Emergency health care for critically ill or injured refugees, as well as ongoing support for vulnerable women through counselling and vocational training.

ZIMBABWE:

Helping farmers grow enough food for their families even when the rains fail, as well as peace building initiatives to help prevent violence.

GAZA:

Healthcare services for vulnerable families, in particular women and children. Vocational training courses to help young people earn a living.

WEST BANK:

Providing a protective presence to vulnerable communities and supporting nonviolent action for peace.

IRAQ:

Emergency relief for families fleeing violence and persecution, including urgently needed food, shelter and blankets.

JORDAN:

Vital humanitarian assistance to Syrian and Iraqi refugees, including food rations, medicine, education and psychosocial support.

EAST AFRICA:

Emergency food rations, clean water, hygiene kits and supplementary feeding for communities in South Sudan and Somalia affected by drought and conflict.

AFGHANISTAN:

Giving girls a brighter future through improved access to quality education.

PAKISTAN:

Preventative and curative health care for rural families, especially mothers and children. Empowering girls to know their rights and improving access to quality education.

INDIA:

Essential healthcare for Sri Lankan refugees, as well as support to empower people to return safely to Sri Lanka.

SRI LANKA:

Protection, livelihoods advice and other support to help newly returned refugees through the difficult reintegration process.

THAILAND:

Food, shelter and livelihoods training for Burmese refugees living in camps on the Thai-Myanmar border.

INDONESIA:

Disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities helping school students, teachers and the wider community stay safe during disasters.

MYANMAR:

Capacity building and training programs for communities to help prevent human rights violations.

PHILIPPINES:

Disaster risk reduction and preparedness. Action and advocacy to support vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, including indigenous people, to access their human rights. Emergency relief for communities affected by Cyclone Haima.

PACIFIC ISLANDS:

Climate change adaptation and resilience programs in Tonga and Vanuatu. Preparing communities to stay safe and access food and water during and after cyclones.

AUSTRALIA:

Advocacy and campaigning for refugee rights, as well as support for refugees recently arrived in Australia.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

In 2016-17, tens of millions of people were forced from their homes, risking everything to escape conflict and disaster. You responded quickly and with generosity, helping to provide life-saving support to people in urgent need, including those fleeing the war in Syria and climate change-induced disasters, as well as communities suffering as a result of more protracted armed conflicts and forced displacement..

Through the ACT Alliance, we have partners on the ground in over 100 countries, enabling us to respond rapidly to emergencies wherever they occur.

Your incredible response to the to the food crisis in East Africa provided life-saving food rations and clean water to people on the brink of starvation. You also supported humanitarian response efforts in Jordan and Iraq, ensuring families forced to flee from violence received the food, medicine and support they need to survive.

When Tropical Cyclone Haima hit the Philippines in October 2016, you helped to ensure vulnerable communities devastated by the storm were able to access to safe drinking water. You also supported farming families to receive vegetable seeds and farm tools, so they could replant their crops and recover from the damage.

In Ethiopia, critically ill and injured refugees were able to access emergency medical care, as well as supplementary food and temporary safe shelter, when they needed it most. In camps along the Thai-Burma border, refugees were provided with food rations and shelter; and in India, Sri Lankan refugees received vital healthcare and the nutritional support they needed to stay healthy and safe.

A Somali mother fills her jerry can at a water distribution in Garowe in northeastern Somalia. Hunger and drought was widespread, but thanks to your kind gifts, families here received the support they needed to survive.





SURVIVING THE FOOD CRISIS

In 2017, we wrote to you twice about the tragedy unfolding across East Africa. You took action quickly to support mothers, fathers and children surviving there against all odds.

You generously gave over \$1 million to the emergency appeal. Thanks to your rapid response our local partners were able to reach the most vulnerable families with life-saving food and water.

In South Sudan, ongoing drought and conflict have driven close to 4 million people from their homes in search of food and water. In nearby Somalia, the situation was also critical.

Across the region, thousands of families received emergency relief supplies and medical care while they took refuge in camps set-up for internally displaced people.

Your gifts meant doctors and nurses could treat children for malnutrition and conditions brought on by hunger. Parents were overcome with relief as life returned to their children.

After days and weeks without food, families were given urgently needed food vouchers, which they exchanged for maize flour, beans, oil and sugar. In some of the most desolate areas, where severe drought had destroyed crops, you helped to drill boreholes and repair existing hand-pumps. By giving people access to clean, safe drinking water, you saved lives and helped restore people's dignity.



Havard Bjelland/Norwegian Church Aid

In drought-stricken Somalia, your gifts helped transport trucks of water to some of the driest areas. Here, families fill up jerry cans, which they were given along with soap and washing powder.

Across South Sudan and Somalia, displacement, poor hygiene and a lack of clean water meant that deadly diseases, including cholera, were spreading rapidly. You helped rain local people to promote good hygiene practices within their communities. This, along with access to clean water, helped to stop people dying from preventable diseases.

Thanks to the outpouring of compassion shown by Act for Peace supporters, and the quick response of the international community, famine conditions have abated. The situation is still critical, but not hopeless. Thank you.



Havard Bjelland/Norwegian Church Aid

At a health clinic in Garowe, Somalia, a doctor uses a special measuring tape to identify children in need of treatment. Your gifts ensured severely malnourished babies received a nutrient-rich feeding supplement, saving many lives.



Havard Bjelland/Norwegian Church Aid

A young Somali woman holds life-saving rations, provided with your support, in Garowe, Somalia. Your gifts helped to put emergency food supplies (including rice, beans and porridge) into the hands of families trapped in some of the most drought-stricken areas.

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

NUTRITION



You helped save the lives of 3,600 severely malnourished children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers by providing calorie-rich supplements like peanut paste, super cereals and other vitamin-packed formulas.

WATER AND SANITATION



Your gifts helped more than 16,600 thirsty children and adults to access clean, safe drinking water in some of the driest areas by providing water vouchers and building and restoring wells. You also supported the construction of 25 emergency latrines, which improved sanitation and hygiene conditions at a camp for internally displaced people, and helped to distribute sanitary kits for 400 women and girls.

FOOD RATIONS



You've provided more than 17,600 people in the most dire need essentials like rice, beans, porridge, oil, sugar and salt. These life-saving emergency food supplies supported families to get through the hardest months while they braved the drought together.

LIVELIHOODS



You helped rebuild people's livelihoods by providing farming families, who have had to abandon their land, with fast-growing seeds and the tools they'll need to start farming again when the drought eases.

SYRIAN CRISIS

SUPPORTING PEOPLE BROKEN BY WAR

Six years of conflict in Syria has created one of the worst humanitarian crises of our generation.

Over 11 million people - more than half the country's population - have been forced to flee their homes to escape violence. Many families are now living in neighbouring countries, where they are struggling to survive.

Since 2013, you've helped to support Syrian families in Jordan with food, medicine, clothing and access to education and counselling. Most importantly, you helped them to find the physical and emotional strength they need to cope with the horrors they have suffered, and the hardships of life as a refugee.



YOUR IMPACT ON THE GROUND



EMERGENCY RATIONS

Emergency food rations for 8,500 people going hungry



BLANKETS AND CLOTHING

665 blankets and clothing parcels for infants and children, to ensure families stay warm during winter



EDUCATION WORKSHOPS

Educational workshops and school kits for 1,620 children, so they don't get left behind



HEALTHCARE SERVICES

Essential healthcare services, including medical referrals and vaccinations, for more than 580 people, to keep them healthy and safe

A volunteer holds a refugee baby at a free medical day near Amman. As well as healthcare, your gifts helped to provide parents with infant hygiene parcels containing soap, nappies and tooth brushes, to keep their children healthy.



Your gifts provided emergency food rations to families in need, distributed here at a refugee camp just outside of Amman, Jordan.



"I feel very supported and I have great thanks for people in Australia for providing food rations for my family. Most of all, I thank them for caring about us." Fatima, a Syrian refugee, holds her family's rice rations in an urban camp outside of Amman.



One in ten people in Jordan is a Syrian refugee. Many live in urban camps on the edge of the city. Thanks to you, many received the support they desperately needed.

An old soccer ball.

A few glass marbles.

A colourful jacket that's now too small.

These objects might seem mundane, but for Syrian refugee children, they spark joy and bring back memories of home. They are precious possessions for children like Omar, who is caught between two worlds: one of play, laughter and childhood innocence, the other of hunger, fear and emotional trauma.

"We used to have a very calm and beautiful life in Syria. Now it's the opposite. We suffered a lot during the war, having to move from one place to another to escape the shooting and bombing," says Omar. "We lost our luggage, and at one point, I thought we were going to lose each other."

It's distressing to know that young children like Omar have seen things most of us can't even imagine. Even worse, they are now facing another challenge—growing up in a refugee camp. In the six years since the conflict began, more than 5.1 million people have left Syria to escape the brutal fighting. Many have fled to nearby Jordan, where resources are stretched thin.

Local schools simply don't have room to accept more students, and Syrian refugee children are at risk of being left behind. But thanks to courageous people all across Australia standing up for refugees, children like Omar are being given the chance of a normal childhood.

Thanks to your generous gifts, Syrian children attended educational workshops, accessed safe places to play and connect with other children, and learned essential reading and writing skills necessary for a better future.

In the workshops, children were encouraged to stand up and tell their story to their classmates, building confidence, self-esteem, and providing an emotional outlet.

"I discovered that I am patient and also that I care about other people's feelings. I discovered a lot of things that I didn't know about myself before," said Omar.

Since fleeing the crisis in Syria, Omar has shown his strength and resilience. And despite what he's suffered, he hasn't lost his compassion and kindness for others.

"When I grow up, I want to be a doctor so I can help poor people who can't afford medical care," he says.

In addition to helping Syria's kids get an education, you also helped deliver urgently-needed food rations, meaning families like Omar's didn't go to bed hungry. After everything that they have gone through, your support showed refugee families that they are not alone.

"I want to thank the people in Australia because they do care about the Syrian people's feelings. You are supporting us and I hope that one day I can come and visit and see your beautiful country," said Omar.

Thank you for showing refugees that we care!

"Sometimes my mum is very brave, and sometimes she is afraid, but after all, she is very caring and loving," says Omar.



PREPARING FOR DISASTER

SAVING LIVES NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

When disasters occur, a fast response saves lives. But being well-prepared before disasters strike is often just as important.

Climate change represents a massive global injustice: those who have contributed the least to climate change - the world's poorest and most vulnerable people - are the ones suffering most from its effects.

Pacific Island communities are among the most vulnerable to natural disasters in the world. And as the impacts of climate change increase, higher temperatures, rising seas and more frequent and ferocious weather events will affect millions of men, women and children.

Over the last year, you helped to address this injustice by empowering local people in high risk areas to prepare for and reduce the impact of disasters, meaning fewer lives lost and a faster recovery for those affected.

In Vanuatu, Tonga and the Philippines, you supported disaster training sessions and emergency simulation drills, and helped to teach people how to pack emergency survival kits and keep their families safe. In Indonesia, school children received training to help them identify the early warning signs of a disaster, and what to do if one happens.

STRONGER TOGETHER

In 2016, Act for Peace joined the Church Agencies Network Disaster Operations (CAN DO) consortium. It's a consortium of eight Australian humanitarian agencies working together to help communities prepare for and respond to disasters, especially in the Pacific.

This will continue work we have been doing since 2008, when Act for Peace began to play a vital role in disaster preparedness and relief in the Pacific. Building on the strength of our existing networks, the CANDO partnership will increase the impact and effectiveness of our relief efforts in some of the most remote and vulnerable communities across the region.



Julia Loersch/Act for Peace

Thanks to your quick response, Act for Peace, together with our local partner, was the first to reach families in Vanuatu with emergency aid after Cyclone Pam devastated the island in 2015.

Since then, you have supported communities in Vanuatu to receive first aid training and equipped them with disaster kits containing items which will prove essential in the next emergency, such as tracking maps, ropes and torches.



With your help, communities in the Philippines received the tools and training they needed to build resilience to cyclones. Community members reinforced buildings to prepare against future damage.

NCCP/Act for Peace

BUILDING UP COMMUNITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Humbert Lancanan, a local councillor on Salvacion Island in the Philippines, tells us how your support has helped his community.

"Dear Friends, I live in a small town on Salvacion Island in the eastern Philippines. Due to our location, we have experienced many typhoons. For years, locals would say to each other 'we'll be fine, we are used to it, we can manage and survive.' But we had never experienced a 'super typhoon' to understand the damage it could do. So when Typhoon Haiyan hit, and despite government warnings, people didn't properly prepare with shelter for their families and protection for their homes.

58 people on Salvacion Island were killed during Typhoon Haiyan. In the aftermath, people were in shock, they wandered around crying silently. They didn't know what to do or where to find food. Everything was destroyed. After two days without any help, relief finally came through food and clean water.

Act for Peace's partner came to my community to explain the disaster risk management program. After seeing the devastation from Haiyan and seeing my friends and family suffer so much, I realised that I have a big obligation to my community - I wanted to learn how I could make a difference.

The training we received taught us the importance of being alert and working with our family and neighbours to be prepared with early warning systems for tidal waves and tsunamis. We learned to share information between us on specific disaster impacts and what to do to minimise their effects.

If I could speak to other communities, I would tell them to protect their villages, learn from the training and adapt to new measures that will help them to become resilient and survive."



ACT/Christian Aid

"I was really scared, because corrugated iron was flying round in the air and the trees were falling down." In 2013, your gifts supported families like Wendy's recover after Typhoon Haiyan destroyed homes, claiming the lives of more than 6,000.

Since then, you've been helping vulnerable communities to develop emergency response plans, to help save lives when future disasters strike.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Over the past year, your support enabled sustainable development projects that helped people threatened by conflict, displacement or disaster to tackle their own problems. Through livelihood and vocational training, health, hygiene, psychosocial and educational support programs you stood in solidarity with passionate people across the globe as they worked to bring safety, justice and dignity to their own communities.

In Ethiopia, you enabled refugees to attend training courses, in subjects like computer skills and food preparation, giving them the opportunity to build self-esteem and strengthen their financial independence.

In war-torn Afghanistan, and rural regions of southern Pakistan, you gave young girls a brighter future by improving their access to quality education, and helped them to better understand their rights.

On the Thai-Myanmar border, you provided Burmese refugees with the knowledge and tools needed to start their own kitchen gardens. Families living in the camps can now supplement their rations with nutrient-rich fruits and vegetables, until it is safe to return home.

Thank you!



HEALTHCARE

Your support helped to improve the health status of more than 146,000 people living in poverty in India, Gaza and Pakistan.



LIVELIHOODS

You helped to equip over 7,560 people across Zimbabwe, Gaza and Ethiopia with the skills they need to earn a livelihood.



EDUCATION

More than 4,700 girls living in rural Pakistan and Afghanistan now have the chance to achieve a better life through improved access to education.

PLANTING THE SEEDS OF HOPE

When Act for Peace first visited Beauty, it hadn't rained in months. The soil on her small plot was dusty and dry. She said she would lie awake at night worrying about how she would manage to feed her children. But thanks to your incredible support, you have given Beauty hope again.

A hardworking Zimbabwean farmer, Beauty relies on the land to grow food for her children and to earn a living. But last season was one of the worst for farmers in almost a decade, and Beauty's crops had failed for the third year in a row.

Beauty had heard about Act for Peace's Conservation Farming program and seen the incredible results other farmers in the area had been able to achieve – doubling the yield on their plots and becoming self-sufficient. She was desperate to become part of it. However, due to a shortage of funds, Act for Peace was not able to enrol any new farmers.

Without that help, life got harder for Beauty. The situation got so desperate that in November she was forced to leave her farm and go to the nearest main town to look for work. In Zimbabwe, work is very hard to find.

But your generous gifts enabled a place to become available for Beauty, and she returned to her farm and joined the Conservation Farming program in December 2016.

"She was very, very happy!" said Newton, a field coordinator with Act for Peace's partner in Zimbabwe, Christian Care.

Newton, a Field Officer with Christian Care, Act for Peace's partner in Zimbabwe, welcomes Beauty into the Conservation Farming program. A life-changing moment for Beauty and her family!



When Act for Peace first met Beauty, the terrible drought had destroyed her fields and she was unable to grow enough food using conventional farming methods.

Conservation Farming has been designed for the cycle of drought that Zimbabwe is currently experiencing. Through the program, Beauty will learn how to fence her plot and how to cover the ground with mulch made from old stalks of corn to keep the water from evaporating. She will also be taught to dig individual pits with raised edges for each plant, to help make the most of the little rain that falls.

These simple but revolutionary techniques – plus the right seeds and equipment provided with your gifts – will help Beauty transform her once barren land into a stable source of food and income, even when the rains fail.

The effects of climate change are being felt extremely hard by farmers in Zimbabwe. Thankfully, your kind support has helped Beauty to begin a new chapter in her life, so she can ensure a healthy and sustainable future for her family.



Oxwell Madara/Act for Peace



Thanks to you, Beauty will be able to grow enough food to feed her family, as well as earn extra income to pay school fees for her children.

over 68 years of the Christmas Bowl



United by Love

During Christmas 2016, tens of thousands of kind and compassionate people came together as churches, communities and individuals to support the Christmas Bowl appeal.

Together, these generous supporters raised an incredible \$2.3 million to support farmers like Beauty in Zimbabwe suffering from severe hunger, as well as other people in great need around the world.

For over 68 years, the Christmas Bowl has united thousands of Australians who believe that when we act together, we can make a lasting difference to the lives of people threatened by conflict and disaster.

What began in 1949, as an act of giving to support refugees fleeing WWII, has grown into the longest running ecumenical appeal in Australia and key part of the history of Christian compassion.



Western Heights Uniting Church came together on Christmas Eve for their annual carol service. Supporters gave generously and raised vital funds for the Christmas Bowl.

For the past 68 years, your support has made a lasting difference to communities affected by conflict and disaster around the world.

Thank you for bringing hope and healing to the world.

THE LONG JOURNEY HOME FOR TAMIL REFUGEES

Recently, the spotlight has been on refugees and migrants arriving in Europe or Australia. However, most of the world's refugees are actually hosted by less developed countries. Many are confined to camps, not knowing when, if ever, they'll be able to return home.

Tens of thousands of Tamil refugees who escaped fighting when civil war erupted in Sri Lanka in 1983 are living in poverty in India. Despite the help they receive from the Indian government and the little income they earn as daily labourers, many feel their lives were stolen, and have lost hope.

Most refugees long to go home, but have real concerns about what the future holds once there. A lack of reliable and easily accessible information means most don't know if they still have land or a house to go back to, whether they are able to send their children to school, or if it's even safe to return.

With your support, Act for Peace's local partner, the Organisation for Eelam Refugee Rehabilitation (OfERR), provided refugees in India with the information and knowledge needed to help facilitate their safe return to Sri Lanka.

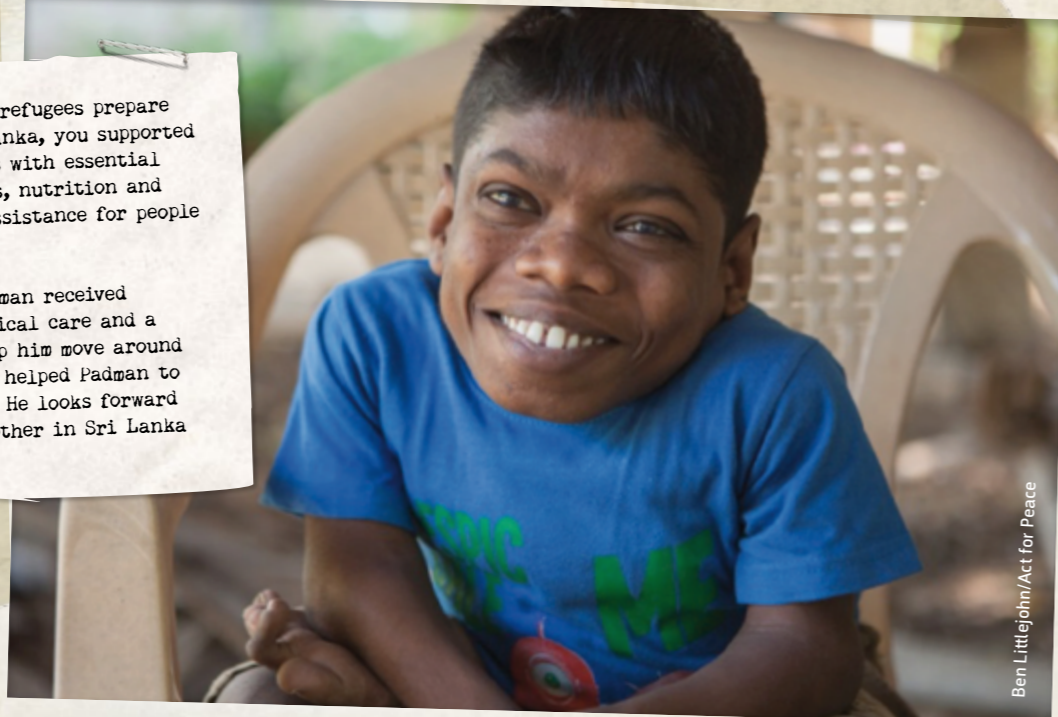
Refugees were also equipped with essential livelihood skills that will empower them through the challenges of the repatriation process.

You also supported refugees who have returned to Sri Lanka by raising awareness at the community-level of the difficulties refugees face upon return and helped them through the difficult reintegration process. Through the formation of community meetings called 'Welcome Groups', refugees gained the knowledge and support they needed to access essential services.

With your support, people were able to obtain birth certificates and the civil documents they needed to enrol their children in school, and register for government assistance and housing grants, so they can begin to rebuild their lives and their nation.

As well as helping refugees prepare to return to Sri Lanka, you supported people in the camps with essential healthcare services, nutrition and provided special assistance for people with disabilities.

Thanks to you, Padman received physiotherapy, medical care and a wheelchair, to help him move around the camp. You also helped Padman to obtain a passport. He looks forward to joining his brother in Sri Lanka soon.



Ben Littlejohn/Act for Peace

For ten years, Jarnathan and his family lived in India as refugees. With your support, they gained the confidence needed to persevere with the difficult resettlement process. Jarnathan now earns a living in Sri Lanka, and his children are enrolled in school. They look forward to a brighter future, thanks to you.

"My name is Janarthan and I am 36 years old. I grew up in Sri Lanka and during the civil war I faced army round ups and forcible recruitment by militant groups. To protect us, I fled my homeland with my wife and two small children in 2006. We became refugees in India.

For ten years we lived in a refugee camp run by the Indian Government, where refugees are also supported by Act for Peace's partner, the Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR). We had our third child in the camp and thanks to your kindness, we received medical care and education for our children.

In the last year, your support meant we were able to prepare and return safely to our home in Sri Lanka. OfERR equipped us for resettlement and helped my family with the correct travel documents, which would have been difficult to obtain by ourselves.

Back in our village in Sri Lanka, we received an emotional welcome from my parents and sisters after so many years apart, though we were deeply saddened when we saw our half demolished house. So I made contact with the local Welcome Group that was formed by OfERR to assist returning refugees restart their lives.

The group, made up of both locals in the community and other returning refugees, encouraged me not to be upset but to get on with clearing the land and repairing the house. They assisted me to register with the local government so we could start receiving resettlement assistance and helped us to obtain a birth certificate for my son, who was born in India.

I am so glad we have returned and are restarting our lives after living for 10 years as refugees. Now I am busy growing rice on my family's acre of land and doing labour jobs to support my family. Thank you again for your support in helping my family return home."

Janarthan

Names have been changed to protect people's identities.



Thanks to your gifts, Jarnathan was supported to register for government assistance for returned refugees. After receiving a grant through the housing scheme, Jarnathan was able to start rebuilding his destroyed home.

OfERR/Act for Peace

HOLDING ONTO HOPE IN GAZA

"It's really hard," admits Alyaa. "There is no electricity, no water, no financial opportunities for our family to be able to afford a house, and no materials to build."

Alyaa is a mother working hard to hold her family together as they face the pressures of life in the Gaza Strip. Home to two million Palestinians, Gaza is described as "the world's largest open-air prison."

Since March 2017, families in Gaza, already suffering under a decade-long military blockade by Israel and Egypt, have been living with as little as three to four hours of power a day. The United Nations has warned that if trends continue, Gaza will become unliveable by 2020.

At around 360 square kilometres - roughly half the area of Canberra - Gaza ranks as one of the most densely populated regions in the world. The blockade, which prevents many basic supplies like building materials and medicine from getting in, is strangling Gaza's economy.

Cut-off from access to jobs, medicine, nourishing food, and often, water and electricity, families like Alyaa's struggle to get by behind the walls.



Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace
Ben Littlejohn/Act for Peace

Thanks to you, Asem received the iron supplements and fortified milk needed to treat his anaemia and grow up healthy.

A MOTHER'S COURAGE

Alyaa and her family had to flee their home when bombs destroyed their neighbour's house in 2014, during the third violent outbreak in Gaza in fewer than ten years. The ongoing stress is taking a toll on everyone.

"My kids are really nervous; they've developed depression," shares Alyaa. "They began wetting the bed at night."

Emotional trauma from the ongoing violence is common among both children and adults. In Gaza, there is an urgent need for counselling and psychological support for many families.

Some children in Gaza don't get enough food or the chance to eat the kind of nutritious foods they need to stay healthy. After the war, Alyaa's children faced mounting medical complications caused by malnutrition.

With government hospitals overstretched and in short supply of essential medicines, Alyaa began to wonder how, and if, she and her husband could meet their family's basic needs.

Ben Littlejohn/Act for Peace



Suhair checks Asem's height during a home visit. Stunted growth is one effect of childhood malnutrition.

A TURNING POINT

Thanks to your support, Alyaa now has a glimmer of hope. A home visit from Suhair, a midwife who works for Act for Peace's local partner in Gaza, provided medical tests for Alyaa's children. She gave Alyaa a diagnosis for her young son, Asem.

The shy four-year-old, who had been suffering from frequent stomach aches, was diagnosed with a condition common among Gaza's malnourished children—anaemia and stunted growth.

Left untreated, Asem's condition could impact on his cognitive development, making it challenging to learn and concentrate in school. In Gaza, education is one of the few opportunities children have to build a better future for themselves.

Alyaa felt relieved to have answers and the promise of support through the clinic, which will treat Asem and monitor his health to ensure he continues to grow and develop fully.

Names have been changed to protect people's identities

"My child keeps on asking me each day, when are you going to take me to the clinic again? I want the doctor to check my height and my weight because I want to grow up and be a normal kid," says Alyaa.

Thanks to you, Asem received the iron supplements and fortified milk he needed for that to be possible.

FAITH AMID THE RUBBLE

Despite the daily struggle to meet her family's needs, Alyaa is a hopeful woman who is determined to seek out reasons to be grateful.

"Living in Gaza is really hard, but we thank God for what we have," she says.

Seeing the kindness of people she has never met helping her family in their time of need brings her great hope.

And as for little Asem? He is feeling better, and is hopeful for a more peaceful future too. *"He wants to become a police officer when he grows up,"* says Alyaa with a smile.



Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace

With your support, midwives conduct home visits to screen children for malnutrition. Damaged by bullets and bombs, the buildings here bear witness to the physical and mental scars caused by this ongoing conflict.

TACKLING POVERTY AND INJUSTICE AT ITS ROOT

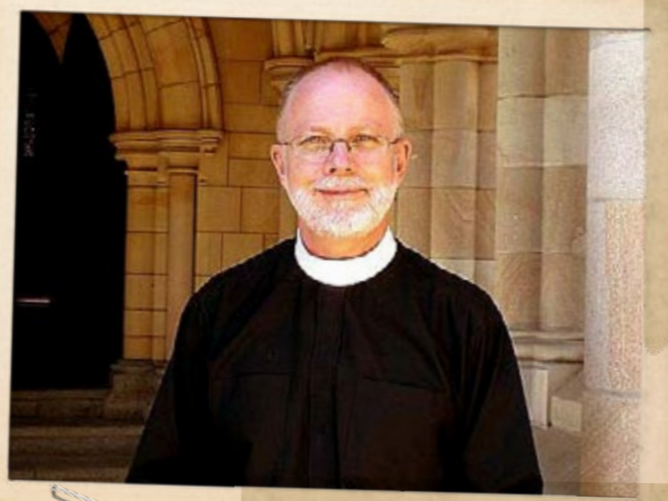
Everyone should be able to speak up for their rights, and speak out against injustice. From returned refugees in Sri Lanka to women facing gender inequality in Zimbabwe, your gifts helped to empower vulnerable groups around the world to claim their right to be heard.

With your support, we continued to persuade governments and decision makers to live up to their responsibility to protect the world's most vulnerable people – especially refugees – and to create the conditions needed for just and peaceful societies.

AUSTRALIAN CHURCHES REFUGEE TASKFORCE

Last year, the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce (ACRT), housed and funded by Act for Peace, worked with people and churches across Australia to appeal to the Government to show compassion and close down offshore detention camps.

At a time when policies relating to asylum seekers and refugees are increasingly harsh and the public debate lacks compassion and kindness, the ACRT worked with churches to promote a vision of compassion and hospitality and advocated for more just and humane policies for people fleeing violence and persecution.



The Australian Refugee Churches Taskforce called on the Government at Easter to act with compassion toward those seeking asylum in Australia. In a public statement, Taskforce Chair, the Very Rev'd Dr Peter Catt said, "We must act to create safety and security for those who have languished in offshore detention for too long."

REDUCING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN ZIMBABWE

In Zimbabwe, due to traditional attitudes towards gender roles, women often struggle to get the same opportunities as men to engage in public decision-making, leadership and education.

Through Act for Peace's local partner, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, you helped increase women's leadership in the church. By supporting women to occupy important leadership positions within their communities, you helped to empower them to speak out against gender-based violence and address gender inequality.



In 2015, women in Zimbabwe took to the streets to protest during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, a global campaign that happens each year during November during.



After more than 30 years of conflict, thousands of Karenni refugees are still living in refugee camps in Thailand. Your support is helping to advance the rights of refugees across the Asia Pacific region, including in Thailand, ensuring all people in need have equal access to assistance and protection.

REGIONAL REFUGEE PROTECTION

The world is witnessing the largest crisis of forced displacement since World War II. Triggered in large part by the Syria refugee crisis, in September 2016, 193 countries committed to addressing the large-scale displacement and movement of people across the globe through the unanimous adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. A key focus of the declaration is an increase in global responsibility sharing for refugees.

Such commitments are extremely important for the Asia region, where refugees and asylum seekers are still afforded very few protections in either law or practice. In this context, Act for Peace proactively supported the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network (APRRN), of which Act for Peace is a founding member. APRRN is a civil society network dedicated to the advancement of refugee rights in Asia, comprised of over 300 members.

With your help, Act for Peace worked with APRRN to undertake high-level strategic advocacy, both globally and regionally, in an effort to ensure that

real life benefits are felt by affected populations across Asia and that the insights and priorities of people with lived refugee experience are heard wherever key decisions are being made.

In May 2016, you supported Act for Peace to lead a roundtable discussion to consider positive practices, opportunities for strategic advocacy and key messages relating to regional refugee issues, such as livelihoods, voluntary return and alternatives to detention. Participants from 15 countries, including members from UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration, participated in the discussion, which informed the development of two formal submissions regarding the application of the Global Compact on Refugees in Asia.

You also helped Act for Peace to continue to support APRRN in surveying its members regarding positive practices, following the publication of APRRN's positive practices report in 2015, which Act for Peace funded and conceived.

RAISING AWARENESS OF REFUGEE ISSUES

Education is a vital part of our work, and last year we significantly increased awareness for Syrian refugees in Jordan, and other refugees around the world, through the Act for Peace Ration Challenge.

The Ration Challenge, held each year during Refugee Week in June, asks participants to step into the shoes of a refugee by eating the same rations that a Syrian refugee living in a camp in Jordan eats for one week. The 2017 campaign was a transformative educational experience for the 14,000 people who signed-up to take part, and the hundreds of thousands with whom they shared their experience.

The campaign had over 23 million media hits through radio, television and print and online media coverage.

Journalists themselves, such as Ben Harvey from Triple J Breakfast, took the Ration Challenge and shared their experience publically with their audience.

Act for Peace's social media content also drove awareness of the issues facing refugees through video campaigns, which achieved a combined reach of over 2 million people and had just under 25,000 likes, comments and shares.

BRINGING REFUGEE ISSUES INTO THE CLASSROOM

Oakhill College were first on the Ration Challenge Team Leader Board, made up of 16 students, six staff and one parent.

The team reached out to their local community, who generously supported their challenge, and in total they raised an incredible \$17,304.

The feeling of solidarity through the sharing of recipes and food was a highlight for many participants, who found the Ration Challenge to be an eye-opening experience.

For them, it was an opportunity to publicly take a stand against the treatment of refugees, raise awareness, start conversations, challenge stereotypes and show that generosity and love can combat the hate that is in the world.

While Oakhill have completed their Ration Challenge, Ky Stewart says the team "are not done giving back. Those refugees we helped still need us and we need everyone to get on board and help in whatever way they can in whatever form they want to, whoever needs help".



Top of the Ration Challenge leader board, the Oakhill College team said the experience made them realise that "We have so much to give to those in need that we can easily sacrifice to help the lives of others"

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Four years ago, Act for Peace staff members Ben Littlejohn and Karen McGrath visited a Burmese refugee camp on the Thai-Burma border. Cramped together in tiny bamboo shelters, people were going hungry because there wasn't enough money to give rations to everyone.

Angry and ashamed by what they saw, they knew that if people back home could understand what refugees there were going through, they would want to do more to help. But how?

In 2014, they decided to try living on rations for a week and get sponsored to do it. Joined by 100 pioneering people, they put themselves in the shoes of refugees for seven days, raising awareness and \$60,000 - enough to feed 277 refugees for a year. The Ration Challenge was born!

"From humble beginnings, we never could have imagined just what this growing community would achieve for refugees around the world," said Karen.

In the three years since then, more than 25,000 people across Australia have signed up to survive on rations during Refugee Week in June. Together these incredible people and their generous sponsors have raised almost \$6 million.

And importantly, by coming together and taking action, the Ration Challenge community is showing refugees we're with them, not against them.

WHY WE TOOK THE CHALLENGE...

"To know that the money we raised through our generous sponsors is **actively making a difference** in the lives of others is almost overwhelming. But what I am most proud of is the fact that **we started a conversation** and helped those around us gain a **greater awareness of the plight of refugees.**"

"What a humbling experience! Taking part in the Ration Challenge was a chance to be part of something bigger than myself. I felt that I could finally **be part of a community taking action** against an injustice that I often feel helpless about and **show refugees we're with them, not against them.**"



After seeing the meagre rations that Burmese refugees in Thailand were forced to survive on, Ben and Karen were certain that people back home would want to help.



For Syrian refugees like Joury, receiving food rations is more than just having enough to feed her family, it's knowing that there are people in Australia who care.



Jess Xavier/Act for Peace

BEARING WITNESS KEEPING WATCH

As Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip entered its 50th year, Palestinian people continued to face daily harassment, demolition orders on their homes and restrictions on moving around. Jane, a volunteer from Sydney, gives an eyewitness account of how she helped to keep communities safe on a three month placement with our Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI).

"During my time in the West Bank as an Ecumenical Accompanier, I saw some difficult things, but I also witnessed a new hope for the future. I am so grateful for your support which allowed me to be there, and I want to share some of my experiences with you.

On a winter afternoon on the hillsides south of Hebron, a cheerful and determined band of about a dozen West Bank residents – men, women and children – walked from their village to their agricultural allotment to plant a tree. A group of accompaniers, myself included, followed closely behind. When we reached the field, a few people tied banners of peace to the fencing while others began to dig a hole for the tree.

Standing a short distance off was a group of Israeli settlers from a nearby outpost close to a housing settlement. It is important to note that housing settlements and outposts in the occupied Palestinian territories are illegal under international law. When the settlers saw our group, they called the Israeli army to the scene to intervene.

Six army jeeps, a police car and the civil administration vehicle arrived soon after in response to the settlers' complaint of tree planting. The army reviewed the scene and did the only thing they could legally do – they declared the area a closed military zone.



Palestinians and Israelis bent down together to plant 1,000 trees at the opening of the Um Al Kher community centre, a reminder that not all Israelis support the occupation.

Soldiers briefly detained one Israeli man who was with us and sent the rest of us back home to the village.

Shortly after we returned home, a group of about thirty settlers came and stood on the porches of the resident's houses. This retaliation from these settlers was very gentle, I think because so many international accompaniers were there, including those of us from EAPPI. Eventually the army encouraged the settlers to leave and return to their nearby homes. This is daily life in the West Bank.

Name has been changed to protect identity

Jane spent three months living alongside families in the West Bank, taking part in their daily activities and providing a protective presence. In the South Hebron Hills, families feel safer when Ecumenical Accompaniers patrol the area.



Some weeks later, during my final day "in the field" I was at a much happier event – the opening of the new Community Centre in Hebron.

There had previously been a community centre on the land but it was demolished by the army. The event was attended by community members and Jewish friends. That day, as Palestinians and Jews bent down together to plant 1,000 trees it was a reminder that not all Israelis or Jewish people support the occupation in the West Bank, rather that there are many people on both sides of the 'Green Line' who look forward to a just peace for Israel and Palestine.

Now I am home in Sydney. I know things are pretty grim in the West Bank, but I have hope. While people continue to peacefully protest, resist, and rebuild – with the support of accompanying international volunteers – I believe things can change. As our stories of joint action against injustice, persistent gentle resistance and rebuilding reach more people, it will make it difficult for the Israeli government and its supporters to pretend that these things aren't happening."

Jane volunteered in the West Bank through the EAPPI, a global program supported in Australia by Act for Peace. The program is based on an internationally recognised model called Accompaniment: overseas volunteers embedded within communities monitor and report human rights abuses, and their very presence helps deter violence and harassment.

Since returning home, Jane has shared stories of her time in the West Bank with others through talks and articles, helping raise awareness of the realities of occupation.



At a nonviolent action for peace, Ecumenical Accompaniers joined local Israeli and Palestinian organisations campaigning against injustice.

LEARNING FROM OUR WORK

Our aim is to increase our impact in achieving safety, justice and dignity in communities threatened by conflict and disaster. To do this, we continuously strive to learn from what we do, adapt and improve our programs and implement best practice throughout all areas of our work.

To ensure we are delivering programs that are effective, transparent and sustainable, we regularly monitor and evaluate our work to assess the impact it is having on the lives of women, men and children. This is an essential part of fulfilling our commitment to our supporters, partners, funding bodies and the communities we serve.

LEARNING AND EFFECTIVENESS FRAMEWORK

Act for Peace has developed a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework (MELF) to help us measure the impact of our work in the communities we serve. We are currently in the process of establishing a MELF database that will collate this information and help us to more easily analyse and learn from the data.

The MELF is part of a wider Act for Peace Effectiveness Framework which also looks at our internal policies, procedures and systems that enable us to support our projects and to achieve impact with communities.

In 2017, Act for Peace was re-accredited by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), responsible for managing the Australian Government's aid program. As part of the accreditation process, Act for Peace's systems, policies and processes were rigorously reviewed by the Australian Government to ensure they met or exceeded strict standards set by the Government.

We are continuing improve the way that we use, learn from and report from these tools and we look forward to sharing more of this with you in the future.



SRI LANKAN REFUGEE RETURN AND REINTEGRATION

Your gifts helped to support Sri Lankan refugees to return home after 26 years of civil war. An evaluation of the program showed that including the host community in the program design, such as through the formation of Welcome Groups, was one of the most important and innovative elements that contributed to its success. Read more about how Welcome Groups supported families to reintegrate on p23.

The reasons why refugees choose to return home, remain in the camps or stay permanently in host countries are complicated and fluid.

As a result, there is no one size fits all approach. The program will continue to embrace the diversity of the refugee context and the emerging challenges and opportunities that impact on people's decision whether or not to return to Sri Lanka.



INDIA REFUGEE HEALTH PROGRAM

The Health Program has been providing health support to Sri Lankans in refugee camps in Tamil Nadu, India since 1989. The program is implemented in coordination with the Return and Reintegration Program.

Since learning that beneficiaries were overwhelmingly women, we made special attempts to also include groups who were not participating or benefitting from the program. As a result of these efforts, the participation of boys, girls and men has increased. Within the camps there has been a noticeable decline in levels of substance addiction and an increase in rehabilitation rates. However, relapse to alcohol addiction is still widespread, and suicide rates are still high.

The Health Program has several components that cover the population of 107 camps. These include protection training, health awareness raising sessions, medical camps and first aid training. Health workers also conduct home visits to all households.

An evaluation showed that the universal home visits, as well as the mass diffusion of knowledge across the entire camp population, has had a direct positive impact on the health status and health seeking behaviour of people in the camps and is one of the major reasons for the program's success.

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2017

REVENUE

	Note	12 months to 30 Jun 2017 \$	12 months to 30 Jun 2016 \$
Donations and gifts			
Monetary		7,913,119	6,869,937
Non-monetary		0	47,035
Bequests and Legacies		276,317	365,045
Grants			
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade		1,818,631	1,984,349
Other Australian		901,058	809,673
Other overseas		884,712	1,344,168
Investment income		161,041	179,911
Commercial Activities Income		0	0
Other income		317,072	3,193,436
Revenue for International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs		0	0
TOTAL REVENUE		12,271,950	14,793,554

EXPENDITURE

International Aid and
Development Programs Expenditure

International programs			
Funds to international programs	9	5,325,530	8,453,444
Program support costs		1,209,054	1,124,956
		6,534,584	9,578,400
Community education		1,083,285	941,137
Fundraising costs			
Public		2,161,348	1,778,570
Government, multilateral and private		58,159	51,627
		2,219,507	1,830,197
Accountability and Administration		1,099,067	924,307
Non-Monetary Expenditure		0	47,035
Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		10,936,443	13,321,076
International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs Expenditure		0	0
Domestic Projects Expenditure		216,524	484,038
Commercial Activities Expenditure		0	0
Other Expenditure		0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		11,152,967	13,805,114
EXCESS/(SHORTFALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE		1,118,983	988,440

In the 12 months to 30 June 2017 (FY16-17), Act for Peace raised \$12.3m and expended \$11.2m. Our expenditure was made up of \$6.5m on international programs, \$216k on domestic programs and \$1.08m on community education. The remainder was expended on accountability and administration (\$1.1m: 10%) and fundraising (\$2.2m: 20%). Supporter fundraising generated \$8.2m and \$3.6m was received in grants.

The support we received over this past year had an enormous impact on the ground: providing food, shelter, education, healthcare and training to help the world's most vulnerable people prepare for, cope with and recover from conflict and disaster. We are very grateful to all our supporters and institutional donors, without whom this work would simply not have been possible.

The Financial Statement in this Annual Report shows that Act for Peace is in a sound financial position, with balanced revenues and expenditure and a healthy net asset base. This strength will enable us to manage any shocks from the changes in the Australian economy and to provide additional assistance for unprecedented crises.

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

The Statement of 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 2017

		30 June 2017	30 Jun 2016
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		14,350	11,725
Trade and other receivables	2	758,073	369,142
Inventories		0	0
Assets held for sale		0	0
Other financial assets	3	6,929,036	9,390,314
Total Current Assets		7,701,459	9,771,181
Non Current Assets			
Trade and other receivables		0	0
Other financial assets		0	0
Property, plant and equipment	4	2,295,448	2,295,448
Investment property		0	0
Intangibles		0	0
Other non-current assets		0	0
Total Non Current Assets		2,295,448	2,295,448
TOTAL ASSETS		9,996,907	12,066,629
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5	737,765	3,855,519
Borrowings		0	0
Current tax liabilities		0	0
Other financial liabilities		0	0
Provisions	6	262,709	302,218
Other		121,728	58,516
Total Current Liabilities		1,122,202	4,216,252
Non Current Liabilities			
Borrowings		0	0
Other Financial Liabilities		0	0
Provisions	6	74,625	106,981
Other		0	0
Total Non Current Liabilities		74,625	106,981
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,196,827	4,323,234
NET ASSETS		8,800,080	7,743,395
EQUITY			
Reserves	7	5,324,852	5,330,896
Retained Earnings	8	3,475,228	2,412,499
TOTAL EQUITY		8,800,080	7,743,395

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the Notes to and forming parts of the accounts.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2017

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Others	Total
Balance at 30 June 2015	1,332,143	5,479,696	0	6,811,839
Adjustments or changes in equity due to	0	0	0	0
Items of other comprehensive income	0	0	0	0
Excess(Shortfall) of Revenue over expenses	988,440	0	0	988,440
Managed Funds	(56,884)	0	0	(56,884)
Amount transferred to (from) reserves	148,800	(148,800)	0	0
Balance at 30 June 2016	2,412,499	5,330,896	-	7,743,395
Adjustments or changes in equity due to	0	0	0	0
Items of other comprehensive income	0	0	0	0
Excess(Shortfall) of Revenue over expenses	1,118,983	0	0	1,118,983
Managed Funds	(63,212)	0	0	(63,212)
Amount transferred to (from) reserves	6,958	(6,044)	0	914
Balance as at 30 June 2017	3,475,228	5,324,852	-	8,800,080

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2017

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 applicable Australian Accounting Standards relevant to not-for-profit entities.

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

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.

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.

In relation to volunteers used directly for the support of international projects, this amounted to \$nil in 2017 (2016 \$nil).

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.

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.

NOTES

	30 June 2017	30 June 2016
2. Trade and Other Receivables		
Advances	9,269	9,390
GST Paid	56,151	30,440
Trade receivables	692,653	329,312
	<u>758,073</u>	<u>369,142</u>
3. Other Financial Assets		
Investments with NCCA Ltd	3,399,883	5,855,117
- Project Funds		
Investments with NCCA Ltd	2,810,572	2,836,438
- Refugee Reserves		
Investments with NCCA Ltd	718,581	698,759
- Property Reserves		
	<u>6,929,036</u>	<u>9,390,314</u>
4. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Level 7 Kent St (Sydney)	945,448	945,448
Level 4 Causeway House (Melbourne)	1,350,000	1,350,000
	<u>2,295,448</u>	<u>2,295,448</u>
5. Trade and Other Payables		
Trade Creditors	369,597	90,007
Accruals on Project Funds	363,991	2,841,841
Income in Advance	0	923,671
GST Collected	4,177	0
	<u>737,765</u>	<u>3,855,519</u>

	30 June 2017	30 June 2016
6. Employee Entitlements		
Provision for Annual Leave	262,709	302,218
	<u>262,709</u>	<u>302,218</u>
Provision for Long Service Leave	74,625	106,981
	<u>74,625</u>	<u>106,981</u>
7. Reserves		
Refugee Reserves	2,310,823	2,336,689
Property Reserves	718,581	698,759
Level 7 Kent St (Sydney)	945,448	945,448
Level 4 Causeway House (Melbourne)	1,350,000	1,350,000
Melbourne Maintenance Reserve	0	0
	<u>5,324,852</u>	<u>5,330,896</u>
8. Retained Earnings		
Retained Earnings - Bequests	989,900	713,582
Retained Earnings	2,485,328	1,698,917
	<u>3,475,228</u>	<u>2,412,499</u>
9. Programs		
Africa	511,543	448,719
Asia	2,028,922	2,072,004
Pacific	1,118,315	1,049,090
Middle East	332,622	408,868
Global Programs	149,336	88,187
Managed Funds - Overseas	226,150	3,095,174
Emergencies	958,643	1,291,402
	<u>5,325,530</u>	<u>8,453,444</u>

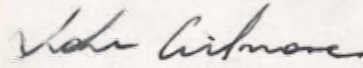
Declaration

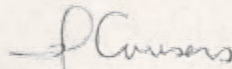
The Commission governing Act for Peace declare that:

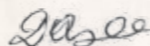
- The financial statements and notes as set out on pages 2 to 7 are in accordance with the NCCA constitution, ACFID Code of Conduct and the Australian Charities and Not-forprofits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act); and
 - Comply with relevant Australian Accounting standards to the extent in note 1; and
 - Give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2017 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 and is signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Dated this 14th day of September, 2017.


JOHN GILMORE (Chairman, Board of Directors)


JANET COUSENS (Executive Director)


DEIRDREANNE ASHE (Treasurer)

AUDITOR'S REPORT 2017

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of National Council of Churches - Act for Peace, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and statement of changes in equity for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Commission Members' declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of National Council of Churches - Act for Peace has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 30 June, 2017 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use

We draw attention to Note 1(3) to the financial report which describes the revenue recognition policy of Natinal 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.

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the Australian Charities and Not-for profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Commission Members for the Financial Report

The Commission Members of the entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the needs of the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Commission Members' responsibility also includes such internal control as the Commission Members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Commission Members are responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Commission Members either intend to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to audit 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.

Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Commission Members.

Conclude on the appropriateness of the Commission Members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Commission Members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

SYDNEY,
14 September 2017

Thomas Davis & Co.
THOMAS DAVIS & CO.

J.G. Ryan

J.G. RYAN PARTNER
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ACT FOR PEACE COMMISSIONERS 2017

Members of the Act for Peace Commission, the governing body of Act for Peace, are appointed by the National Council of Churches in Australia during its forum. As at the end of the 2016-2017 year, the Commission members were as follows:

- **The Reverend John Gilmore**, Commission Chair, Churches of Christ, BTheol, MTheol, DipMin
- **Elizabeth Stone**, Catholic Church, BA, MIntS, AGIA
- **Alison Preston**, Anglican Church of Australia
- **Chey Mattner**, Lutheran Church of Australia, BA (Hons), GradDipEd, M Intl Dev
- **Sister Elizabeth Delaney**, ex-officio, General Secretary of the NCCA
- **Heather Saville**, Religious Society of Friends, BA

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

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



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ACFID
MEMBER



Australian Government
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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. 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/content/complaints Email: acfid@acfid.asn.au Ph: +61 2 6285 1816

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Ben Littlejohn/Act for Peace

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