

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

A WORLD
WHERE
EVERYONE BELONGS

2023

ACT FOR PEACE

CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE **actalliance**

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

ABN 86 619 970 188

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Act for Peace is the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. Act for Peace is also a member of the Church Agency Network, the Emergency Action Alliance, Micah Australia and the ACT Alliance, a coalition of churches and faith-based organisations working together in more than 120 countries.

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 programs while working in a transparent and accountable way. Act for Peace takes its duty of care seriously and always aims to provide the safest possible environment for vulnerable people. We welcome feedback, both on this report and in relation to our operations and conduct. Please direct any feedback or complaint to the officer responsible for human resources, via complaints@actforpeace.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.

Act for Peace acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters, and culture. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend that respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**Names throughout this report have been changed for safety reasons.*

Our partner Church World Service Indonesia supports the Dream-1 Project (Disaster Resilience through Enhanced Adaptive Measures), which has helped Eko and his family adapt farming practices to strengthen community resilience against the impacts of climate change.

FRONT COVER: After many years of drought, and more regular and intense weather events there has been an increase in climate-driven displacement in Zimbabwe. Janet, pictured here with one of her three children, is one of the many people facing challenges following Cyclone Idai, which struck her community in 2019. Janet and her family lost their home when the cyclone hit and had to leave the area. But our partner Zimbabwe Council of Churches is working with her to support her and her children to recover from injuries caused by the cyclone, while helping them adapt to changes in living circumstances.

At the heart of our work is a powerful conviction: to create a just and peaceful society, we have to work together. It's not only the right thing to do, it's the only thing that will work.

Founded by the Australian churches in 1948, Act for Peace is a diverse collection of people, united by the belief that all people are created equal, and we should love our neighbours as ourselves.

Yet, right now, we live in a world of 'us' and 'them'. It means that every day, more of us are forced from our homes by conflict and disaster.

Together, we're working to reduce displacement and create safety, dignity and belonging for uprooted people.

We're doing this by backing displaced people through local partnerships and initiatives, building unity and transforming the system.

Act for Peace's partner Christian Care is training communities in new approaches to farming to ensure those in the Bikita district in Zimbabwe – like Amelia pictured here – are not displaced due to climate change, meaning fewer people are forced to flee their homes. Christian Care is working with community members to adapt to changing weather patterns and ensure there are sustainable natural resources to last for generations to come.

OUR VISION

A world where everyone belongs.

OUR PURPOSE

To create, together, a world where people uprooted by conflict and disaster have a safe place to belong.

“Christian Care taught us that you grow small grains in the ground and that you can rear chickens with the small grains you were given. When they are plenty, you can sell them and send children to school, buy food to eat and purchase clothes to wear. We were taught to act and not remain seated.”

– Amelia



OUR BELIEFS



WORKING TOGETHER:

“For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

(ROMANS 12:4-5, NIV)

We respect the God-given dignity of all people, celebrate diversity, understand that we are part of a larger whole. We believe we must treat each other with grace and share what we have, because a unified society is essential for sustainable peace.



PEACE WITH JUSTICE:

“True peace is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice.” (MARTIN LUTHER KING JR)

“Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” (EPHESIANS 4:1-3, NIV)

Our Christian model of peace is of people enjoying right relationships with God, each other, and our planet. We are called to live in peace with people of all traditions, sharing the gift of peace with those who are distressed, breaking down barriers that create fear, oppression and division – bringing renewal by fostering justice, equity and love for all.



THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF PEOPLE AND PLANET:

“Anyone who tends a fig tree will eat its fruit.” (PROVERBS 27:18A, NRSV)

We believe that peace on earth requires peace with the earth – we are committed to nurturing our earth just as it nurtures us. We recognise the grave threats faced by our planet, and the consequences for all people, and commit to act with respect and care as we adopt regenerative lifestyles and work to achieve ecological justice.

OUR VALUES

HUMILITY

We recognise that it’s not all about us. We see others as equal to ourselves, value what we each bring to the table, seek first to listen, and learn, and to understand the limits of our own experience and perspectives.

COURAGE

We will be brave in the face of challenges, dare to be different when necessary, and use our voice to speak truth to power (for change in the world). We persist when the going gets tough.

CREATIVITY

We seek different perspectives and original thinking, model alternative policy and solutions, develop innovative programs, and share our learning to ensure we continue to provide value to our stakeholders in an environment that is constantly changing.

INTEGRITY

We live out our beliefs and values, are accountable, steward our resources mindfully and aim for high quality practice in all we do.

With your support, Act for Peace's partner The Border Consortium (TBC) are working to ensure everyone within the two northernmost refugee camps on the Thailand/Myanmar border receive the support and services they need to live safely in exile.

“Our beliefs are foundational to our identity. They articulate our understanding of peace, and our role in creating the world we want to see. Together, with others, we believe in a world where all are created equal and should be treated this way, and to achieve this belief we must work together, seek justice and care for our planet.”

Janet Cousens,
CEO, Act for Peace

ACT FOR PEACE FY2022–23 SNAPSHOT

Together, we're creating a world where people uprooted by conflict and disaster have a safe place to belong.



We backed
19
partners



in **18** countries
across Asia,
Africa, Pacific and
the Middle East



to deliver
32
projects



directly helping more than
294,466**
people affected by
displacement.

TOTAL INTERNATIONAL PROJECT FUNDING:
\$7,831,720

**TOTAL DIRECT
PROJECT
PARTICIPANTS:** **294,466****

BREAKDOWN OF DIRECT PROJECT PARTICIPANTS*:

**35,545
GIRLS**

**29,271
BOYS**

**113,575
WOMEN**

**116,024
MEN**

OF THESE,
6,380
ARE PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITY

** The total direct project participants includes 51 people who identify as third gender.

*Excluding emergency response projects where information was not available.

OUR GOALS AND CHANGE STRATEGIES

In FY23 – in collaboration with our partners and supporters – we continued to work together to fulfill our purpose of helping to create a world where people uprooted by conflict and disaster have a safe place to belong.

Building on the implementation of the strategic framework that we introduced in FY22 (outlined below), we applied our change strategies, made progress towards our goals, and strived to move closer to our ultimate vision of a world where everyone has a safe place to belong.

More detailed updates on our work in these areas can be found on pages 16-23 (progress towards our goals) and on pages 24-29 (progress towards our change strategies).

WHAT WE'RE WORKING TOWARDS: OUR GOALS

Our strategic framework from FY22-FY26 consists of three goals that we are working towards:

- 1 Safety in exile.** Ensuring that people live in safety, with dignity, while displaced.
- 2 A place to belong.** Helping uprooted people find a permanent place to belong.
- 3 Reduced displacement.** Working towards a future where fewer people are forced to flee their homes.

HOW WE'RE MAKING IT HAPPEN: OUR CHANGE STRATEGIES

To enable our goals to be progressed, our Strategic Framework has deliberately chosen three change strategies:

- 1 Backing displaced people.** Working in solidarity with local partners.
- 2 Building unity.** Reducing division and creating a more compassionate society.
- 3 Transforming the system.** Advocating for a radically different response to the displacement crisis.

**TOWARDS OUR
VISION OF A WORLD
WHERE EVERYONE
HAS A SAFE PLACE
TO BELONG**

FROM THE CHAIR AND CEO

Backing Local Leadership That Makes the Real Difference

In a year where statistics indicate that our world is more troubled than ever, Act for Peace has continued to champion the leadership of people affected by forced displacement as we seek to see their communities thrive.

Behind the conflicts and disasters, we now face an unprecedented global displacement crisis. By June 2023, 110 million people had been displaced by conflict and violence (30 million in 2023 alone), with another 24 million displaced by climate-fuelled disasters.

Our purpose – to create, together, a world where people forcibly displaced by conflict and disaster have a safe place to belong – has never been more relevant. This last year proved that our values – courage, humility, creativity and integrity – provide a solid foundation for action.

FY23 is the first full year of implementation for our new Strategic Framework. We worked with long-term local partners in 18 countries who continued to inspire us with their leadership as they courageously ‘turned up’ each day to care for their communities, to identify creative ways to address protracted problems, and to do everything they can to rebuild their nations. This report brings you some of their stories; stories that bring hope and demonstrate that together we are making a significant difference in the lives of people affected by forced displacement.

In FY23 we increased our attention to our three change strategies – to backing displaced people, building unity and transforming the system. Act for Peace led on major action-research initiatives to strengthen and resource refugee participation and leadership in transforming the international system through a partnership with the Asia-Pacific Network of Refugees and the University of New South Wales’ Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law.

By engaging a talented team of researchers who themselves are refugees, we produced ‘Draft Guidelines for Co-Produced Research with Displaced People’, which is now co-owned by Oxford University, the LERRN network and others who have elected to use the guidelines to help promote ethical ‘co-produced’ research. This is a major step towards elevating refugee voices and engagement in the displacement research that informs program and policy development and funding priorities.

This work happens in partnership with our supporters, and we thank you for your ongoing dedication to joining us in finding a safe place for people who have been uprooted from their homes to belong. We also acknowledge our engagement with governments and other NGOs, who provide financial resources, engage in policy reform, and therefore equip us to scale results.

The strength of our work was recognised this year by the Australian Government’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade who confirmed that Act for Peace would be recredited for the next five years. And our Partnership survey confirmed that all partners agree that our partnership contributes to them achieving their strategic or organisational goals.



In FY23 Act for Peace ended the year in deficit due to a significant decline in public giving towards our Ration Challenge event, and an increasing cost of operations. Whilst we are grateful to be able to draw on reserves to cover this deficit, our Board and Management have initiated a review of operations to ensure sustainability into the future, with the results of this review to be implemented in FY24.

In this year we welcomed Sam Richards to our Board, Sam contributes through his lived experience of forced displacement and his significant financial and business expertise. The Board received resignations from non-executive Directors Elizabeth Stone and Marcus Sandmann and thanked them for their significant contribution to the Agency over the past years.

Sadly, we will be farewelling our CEO, Janet Cousens who will be moving on after 15 years of service both as head of our international partnership and policy work, and then as our CEO. Janet’s strong commitment to the promotion of respectful local leadership, and to remaining solution-focused in the face of adversity has been demonstrated in the incredibly positive outcomes achieved through her leadership. We are grateful that Janet has built a skilled and strong leadership team within Act for Peace and are confident the team will continue to carry the Agency forward as we seek our next CEO.

The work of Act for Peace is more vital and necessary than ever. Thank you for joining with us as we pursue our vision to create a world where everyone belongs, recognising the inspiring, skilled leadership of those most affected by the displacement crisis and playing our part to build a global community that finds solutions for one of the greatest crises of our times.

Ginie Udy

Ginie Udy (Chair)

Janet Cousens

Janet Cousens (CEO)

WHERE WE WORKED

GLOBAL:

Getting global law firms to donate free pro-bono legal support for displaced people suffering human rights abuses and getting states to develop better systems for recognising and protecting refugees.

Mobilising international support for refugee-led organisations – who are often invisible, underfunded and face serious restrictions when trying to help other refugees – by conducting research across four countries to document the impact they have in protecting refugees from human rights abuses, and providing education, livelihoods and other services.

GAZA:

Healthcare for displaced and conflict-affected women and children and vocational training for young people. Providing psychosocial support to trauma impacted children.

ZIMBABWE:

Working with farmers to be more resilient to climate change through conservation farming and diversified livelihood activities. Responding to food insecurity with urgently needed food and strengthened protection mechanisms.

UKRAINE:

Providing immediate lifesaving support and restoration of basic services for people who've been forcibly displaced or otherwise affected by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and refugees who've fled to Hungary.

WEST BANK:

Non-violent protective presence to vulnerable Palestinian communities living under Israeli military occupation.

ETHIOPIA:

A multi-sectoral humanitarian response including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), food and nutrition, livelihood, multipurpose cash, mental health psychosocial support and community-based psychosocial support. Emergency healthcare for critically ill or injured refugees and people who have been internally displaced, as well as counselling and vocational training.

AFGHANISTAN:

Providing urgent food, shelter, health supplies and cash assistance for families displaced by the ongoing crisis. Giving girls a brighter future through improved access to quality education.

JORDAN:

Providing urgently-needed support for Syrian refugees including food rations, healthcare, education, livelihoods and counselling.

Pilot program (Forsa) for 50 families in Gaza refugee camp to help extremely poor refugee families 'graduate' out of poverty, with market-led livelihoods, protection and household mentoring.

KENYA:

Helping marginalised urban refugees in Nairobi from Somalia, Ethiopia and other countries with food.

PAKISTAN:

Preventative and curative healthcare for rural families, especially mothers and children. Improving access to quality education.

INDIA:

Awareness on health and healthcare for Sri Lankan refugees. Helping refugees return home after decades of conflict by providing support to obtain civil documents and Sri Lankan citizenship, livelihoods, and empowerment programs for refugees preparing to return, and those who are undecided. Engagement with governments and embassies.

SYRIA AND TÜRKİYE:

Delivering urgent aid and support to families uprooted by the earthquakes that struck central Türkiye and northern Syria in February 2023.

SRI LANKA:

Supporting refugees returning from India by providing support obtaining civil documents and citizenship, temporary shelters and toilets, livelihoods support, linking returnees with government services, support services to help newly returned refugees reintegrate, social cohesion activities for diverse groups, and advocacy with government to ensure adequate assistance and protection for returnees.

MYANMAR:

Capacity building and training for community leaders to help prevent human rights abuses and provide justice for those who've suffered human rights abuses.

THAILAND:

Supporting elected refugee camp leaders and refugee camp management in the refugee camps on the Thailand/Myanmar border to directly govern their own affairs, manage programs in the camps, and advise external NGOs and UN agencies what they require.

BANGLADESH:

Providing lifesaving assistance including access to sanitation facilities, COVID-19 preventative hygiene kits and medical care to Rohingya refugees and host communities.

INDONESIA:

Disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities to help communities adapt to climate change, stay safe during, and recover from, disasters. Supporting local communities, including marginalised people, through the health, psychosocial and economic impacts of the pandemic.

AUSTRALIA:

Raising public and government awareness of the need to address the escalating global displacement crisis, and campaigns and advocacy with the Australian government to rebuild Australia's aid and development program, contribute our fair share to crises overseas, build a safer world for all, and ensure solutions for displaced people.

ASIA:

Advocacy with ASEAN and states in the region for better protection and solutions for refugees and internally displaced people, including advocacy and advice to states on how to develop stronger laws, policies and systems to protect refugees, monitoring abuses against Rohingya refugees from Myanmar and mobilising government responses to rescue Rohingya boats and provide protection.

VANUATU:

Support for communities to prepare, respond and recover from the impacts of natural disasters such as the twin cyclone that hit Vanuatu in March 2023.

THE PHILIPPINES:

Disaster risk reduction and preparedness. Action and advocacy to support communities, including indigenous and displaced people, to access their human rights.

PACIFIC:

Support to the Pacific Church Partnership Advisory Network (PCPAN).

TONGA:

Improving safety and inclusion for people with disability in Disaster Risk Management. Emergency response to support communities affected by the Hunga tsunami and volcano eruption.

This year, you helped us back 19 local partners in 18 countries to deliver 32 projects, improving the lives of more than 294,466 people. Together, we're helping to create a world where everyone belongs. Thank you.

OUR PARTNERS

We believe that when we work together, incredible change is

possible. In FY23 – in 18 countries around the world – we were able to create meaningful change in the lives of more than 294,466 people. But none of that would be possible without our partners, some of whom are pictured here. We acknowledge the incredible support, knowledge and expertise that those we work with around the world bring to this collaboration and extend our thanks to them for all their support and leadership through the 2022–2023 period.

PARTNERS WE COLLABORATED WITH TO ACHIEVE OUR GOALS:

GOAL 1: SAFETY IN EXILE

- Christian Aid, Bangladesh
- Church World Service, Indonesia
- Community World Service, Asia
- Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (Jordan)
- Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees Near East Council of Churches, Gaza
- Ethiopian Orthodox Church – Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission
- Hungarian Inter-church Aid
- RefugePoint, Kenya
- Tonga National Council of Churches
- Zimbabwe Council of Churches
- Organisation for Eelam Refugees' Rehabilitation, India
- Vanuatu Christian Council

GOAL 2: A PLACE TO BELONG

- Organisation for Eelam Refugees' Rehabilitation, India
- Organisation for Elangai Refugees' Rehabilitation, Ceylon
- The Border Consortium, Thailand/Myanmar border
- Myanmar Council of Churches
- National Council of Churches in the Philippines

GOAL 3: REDUCED DISPLACEMENT

- National Council of Churches in the Philippines
- Tonga National Council of Churches
- Vanuatu Christian Council
- Christian Care, Zimbabwe
- Community World Service, Asia
- Church World Service, Indonesia
- World Council of Churches
- National Council of Churches in Australia



GOAL 1: SAFETY IN EXILE

PEOPLE LIVE IN SAFETY, WITH DIGNITY, WHILE DISPLACED.

Global forced displacement has more than doubled in the last decade with the number of people who have been forced from their homes reaching 110 million by June 2023. This figure refers to those who have been forcibly displaced due to conflict or violence. On average an additional 24 million people are displaced each year due to disaster. This year saw a scale up in our emergency response efforts to help our local partners deliver urgent support to families uprooted by emerging humanitarian crises in Syria, Ukraine, Vanuatu and the Horn of Africa.

Additionally, we continued to support ongoing projects in Ethiopia, The Philippines, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Jordan, Gaza, Bangladesh, India, Tonga, the Thailand/Myanmar border and Indonesia, helping uprooted communities to live in safety – and with dignity – while displaced. Together with our local partners, we were there to deliver urgent support to families uprooted by these crises, helping them to find safety in exile.

REBUILDING COMMUNITIES IN SYRIA IN THE WAKE OF A DOUBLE CRISIS

In February of this year, the world watched in horror as two massive earthquakes struck central Türkiye and northern Syria. The disaster, which claimed thousands of lives and caused widespread destruction, required a swift and comprehensive humanitarian response.

Act for Peace worked with ACT Alliance members on the ground to rebuild lives where the need was greatest. For many people in northern Syria already displaced by the civil war and struggling to survive through economic collapse, the scale of the disaster was unimaginable. With thousands killed and many more left homeless, the widespread damage caused against a backdrop of tremendous unrest was dubbed a double crisis.



ACT Alliance members on the ground responded rapidly to support Syrians impacted by the devastating earthquakes that struck Syria and Türkiye in February 2023.

Updates estimated that more than 350,000 people were displaced. In Syria, over 5,900 people were killed and 11,200 injured. More than 2,260 buildings were destroyed, and a further 32,000 sustained significant damage. Extensive damage to local roads and bridges affected the population's ability to access essential water and sanitation and continued to prevent many people from accessing critical services and employment throughout 2022. With the healthcare system at breaking point, many were not able to receive the level of healthcare they needed. There was also an urgent need for additional resources to make sure that women and children are protected from gender-based violence and other safety risks. The impact on infrastructure was devastating.

In the wake of this crisis, Act for Peace supporters responded with love to provide urgent relief to those facing unimaginable suffering. Act for Peace is a member of The Emergency Action Alliance (EAA) – a collection of 15 Australian-based aid organisations – who come together to fundraise during major humanitarian disasters. Our emergency appeal raised more than \$550,000 towards the overall \$2.3 million raised by the EAA combined – helping our partners on the ground provide direct support to rebuild lives and communities.

This generosity allowed our partners through the ACT Alliance to distribute urgently needed meals, food kits, hygiene and dignity kits, as well as medical supplies to hospitals and shelters, and to organise rapid mental health and psychosocial support.

ACT Alliance member Hungarian Interchurch Aid responded to the immediate needs of people in Türkiye, providing temporary housing in makeshift encampments.

THIS GOAL AIMS TO ENSURE DISPLACED PEOPLE:

- Access critical physical and emotional support.
- Have control over their lives, leading activities that ensure their safety, dignity and rights.
- Advocate for change and help fix systems that cause violence, exclusion or abuse.



Tamas Keleman/HIA

SUPPORTING PEOPLE AFFECTED BY THE TWIN CYCLONES IN VANUATU

In the first week of March 2023, a rare double cyclone event occurred in Vanuatu. On 1 March category 4 Cyclone Judy hit, battering several islands of Vanuatu including the capital, Port Vila, cutting power and forcing some residents to evacuate. Then a few days later, a second Cyclone Kevin devastated Port Vila, on the island of Efate and hit the southern islands of Tafea Province on Saturday morning.

Days after the twin cyclones, Vanuatu's Prime Minister Ishmael Kalsakau declared a six-month State of Emergency for the whole of Vanuatu with the entire country declared a disaster zone.

Initial reports from Vanuatu's National Disaster Management Office indicated about 80 per cent of the country's population was affected, including 125,500 children. There were more than 3,300 displaced persons housed in evacuation centres and private homes around Port Vila and Efate Island.

Rapid community assessments started on Tuesday 7 March in affected provinces. Act for Peace in country staff was able to support Vanuatu Christian Care (VCC) with initial emergency coordination and communication including with VCC member churches. An Act for Peace emergency appeal was launched to raise funds to support our partner VCC. Act for Peace supporters generously gave more than \$25,000 to help support VCC's response.



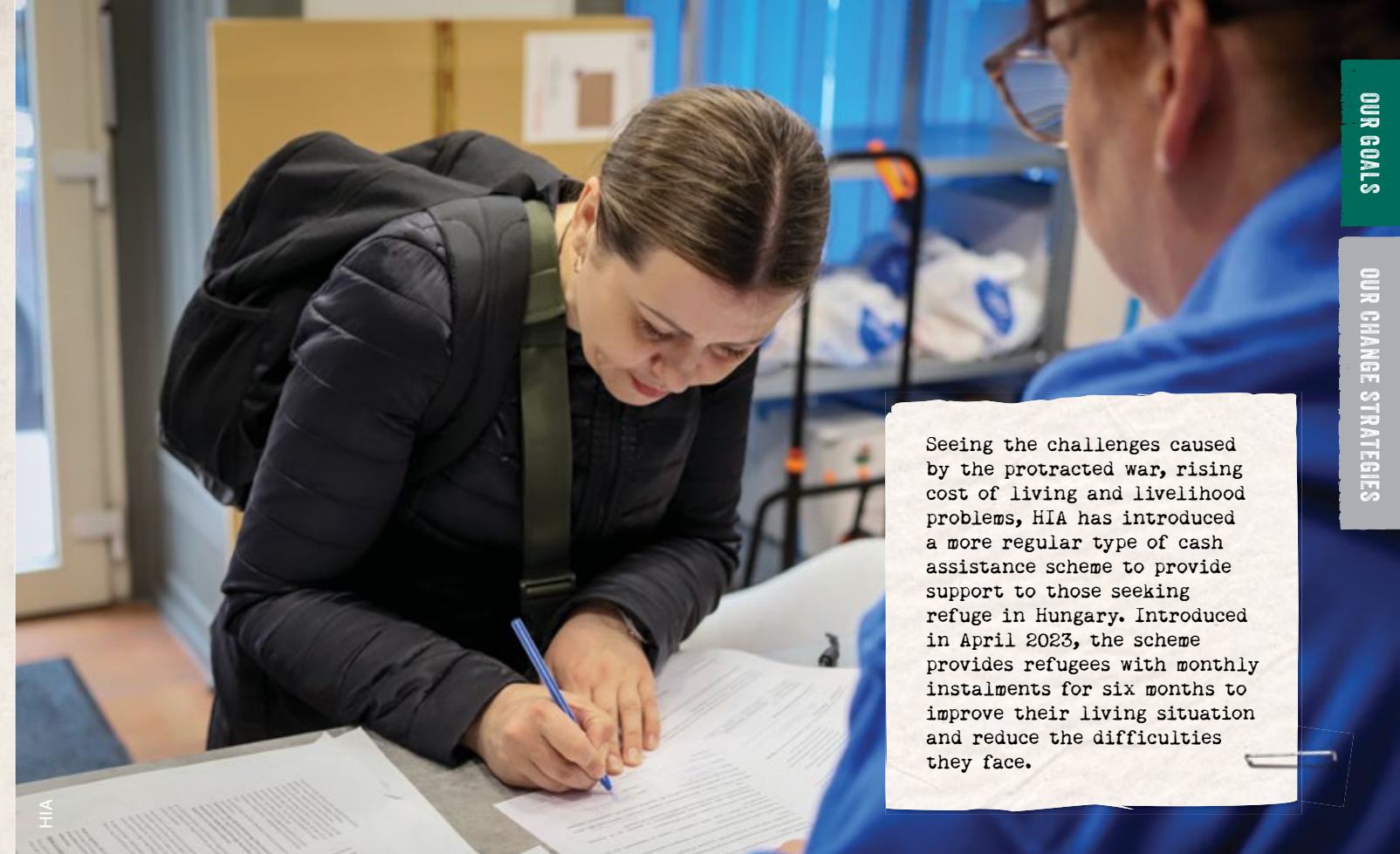
Andrew and Anna's family were displaced from their home by Cyclone Judy. Anna's mother, Andrew and Anna sit under a makeshift tarpaulin shelter in the place where their homes once stood.

OUR LOCAL PARTNER VCC HELPED:

- ✓ Distribute food to four church-managed evacuation facilities, and the Food Security Agriculture Cluster delivered 4kg of fish to displaced families at the VCC Evacuation Centre.
- ✓ Partner with World Vision Vanuatu to distribute shelter kits, hygiene kits and jerry cans to 12 households housed at the VCC Evacuation Centres.
- ✓ Carry out an assessment of the evacuees/displaced persons' homes to help meet individuals' needs and has provided rapid repair roofing kits for 11 displaced families whose homes were destroyed.
- ✓ Respond in an ongoing manner to support input regarding food security and livelihoods, gender and protection and sanitation to affected communities in North Efate.



One of VCC's Evacuation Centres housing families who were forced to leave their homes because of the disaster.



Seeing the challenges caused by the protracted war, rising cost of living and livelihood problems, HIA has introduced a more regular type of cash assistance scheme to provide support to those seeking refuge in Hungary. Introduced in April 2023, the scheme provides refugees with monthly instalments for six months to improve their living situation and reduce the difficulties they face.

STANDING WITH UKRAINIANS THROUGH ONE YEAR OF WAR

In February 2023, we stood witness to the one-year milestone of the war in Ukraine. The horrors of war that we had seen forced on Ukrainians over the year prior fuelled a collective response effort.

Together with supporters, and through our ACT Alliance partner Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA), we contributed to the response effort co-ordinated through the ACT Alliance network – a global coalition of grassroots aid organisations working together across more than 120 countries.

In the first year of the conflict, HIA delivered and distributed over 1,600 metric tons of humanitarian aid in Ukraine, often in hard-to-reach areas. Across Ukraine and Hungary, their programs have assisted 242,361 people since the war started.

Due to Russia's constant attacks on energy infrastructure, limiting the availability of heating and electricity, HIA implemented winterisation programs to help Ukrainians survive the cold. This included renovating community shelters, hosting displaced people in Pervomaiskyi, and providing bomb shelter kits, cast-iron stoves and

wooden pellets that could be used for heating in the villages around Balakliya and Izyum.

HIA also prioritised the distribution of electric generators, which helped Ukrainian NGOs to continue their humanitarian work amid frequent blackouts and power cuts.

To help those deprived by the war, HIA provided much-needed assistance with cash transfers for individuals. In the organisation's effort to empower large masses of people at once, multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) allowed for more people-centred relief, granting beneficiaries freedom of choice, and returning a degree of dignity into their lives.

For some families, this assistance has helped them establish a new life and regrow the roots the war has so cruelly cut away.

“Our village was destroyed. It was bombing every day. I fear, what about my family? I’m afraid for my husband. When at night there was bombing, I did not know where to go. We had a fear that our building will be destroyed. In this refugee shelter I feel peaceful.”

– Natalia

GOAL 2: A PLACE TO BELONG

UPROOTED PEOPLE FIND A PERMANENT PLACE TO BELONG.

For most people forced to flee their home due to conflict and disaster, the preferred solution is to return home. However, due to the protracted nature of many conflicts and disaster scenarios this is not possible in the short term and many people remain displaced for decades.

This year we continued to support our dedicated partners helping to build safe and permanent futures for displaced communities. These partners are leading initiatives to ensure the meaningful participation of refugees in their own decisions, strengthening individual self-esteem and preparing them for a future where they experience safety and dignity.

SUPPORTING REFUGEES IN SRI LANKA WITH HEALTHCARE AND EDUCATION

Forced to flee the Sri Lankan civil war, around 58,000 refugees live in camps across India, some were born there. While many hope to return to Sri Lanka one day, for others, India has become their home.

There are many barriers for refugees living in these camps, and significant issues in receiving adequate healthcare. With Act for Peace's support and the help of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), our local partner sends health workers into the camps to conduct home visits, where they check blood pressure and diabetics and provide medicine to those who need it.

For refugee children, significant barriers exist in receiving an education – and all the life-long skills, friends and memories that come with it. Close to half of all refugee children (48 per cent) remain out of school. To put these figures in perspective, a recent report showed only 9 per cent of Australians aged 25-35 didn't finish secondary school.



Srinidhi* (69 years) and Mahira* (80 years) are sisters who live in Thumbalahalli refugee camp. Both are widows who lost their husbands in India. These women are both recipients of our local partner, OfERR's, ANCP-funded Health Project. Pictured here alongside Srinidhi and Mahira is Act for Peace's Florina Xavier, who lives in India and works with OfERR.

Working with and supporting the refugee community in India and Sri Lanka for many years, our local partner, OfERR Ceylon, has created support services to help returnee refugees overcome barriers to education. These services include helping returnee families enrol their children in school, providing catch-up classes, language classes and items like school bags to make the transition easier for young people.



Our local partner in Sri Lanka is supporting sisters, Mandari* and Amaya*, to adapt to school and life in Sri Lanka after spending most of their childhood as refugees in India.

OUR LOCAL PARTNER IN SRI LANKA HELPED:

- ✓ 159 children enrolled in school
- ✓ 35 language classes provided
- ✓ 69 catch-up classes initiated
- ✓ 159 school bags provided for children to help facilitate the transition to school

"The employment status in Gaza is difficult, and not similar to any part of the world. The unemployment rate is the highest ever." – Amal*

Amal* is in his first year of vocational training run by our local partner, the Near East Council of Churches (NECC).



Mentored by his teacher, Siham* is learning important skills and knowledge in refrigeration and air-conditioning, with the goal of one day finding employment.

HELPING YOUTHS ACCESS JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN GAZA

After years of occupation, siege and recurrent wars, many people living in Gaza struggle to access education and employment. To help at-risk youths increase their chances of getting a job, our local partner, the Near East Council of Churches (NECC), offers vocational training courses in areas such as refrigeration and air-conditioning.

With many families in Gaza living below the poverty line, most can't afford tertiary education. Aware of the challenges the local community is facing, NECC targets their vocational training program towards at-risk youths to help them turn their lives around.

We all deserve the opportunity to educate ourselves, the freedom to start a career, and the peace of mind to provide enough for our loved ones.

Thankfully, NECC is supporting individuals like Amal and Siham to access these opportunities.

THIS GOAL AIMS TO ENSURE:

- Uprooted people lead initiatives that help build a safe, permanent future.
- Countries fairly share responsibility for supporting survivors of displacement.

OUR LOCAL PARTNER IN GAZA HELPED:

- ✓ 272 at-risk youths begin studying vocational training courses
- ✓ 176 at-risk youths successfully graduate from their vocational training courses

GOAL 3: REDUCED DISPLACEMENT

REDUCE THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE THEIR HOMES.

We believe people should not be forced to leave their homes in the first place, so an essential part of our work is to understand the intersecting factors driving displacement and take action to reduce the pressures that compel people to leave their homes.

This year we continued to back our local partners who are supporting communities to adapt to increasingly inhospitable environments and escalating disasters.

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE PRESSURES IN ZIMBABWE

The impacts of climate change in Zimbabwe continued to threaten its people and ecosystems in the FY23 period. However, our local partner Christian Care, worked with communities in the Masvingo Province to help them adapt to their environment and cope better with an uncertain future.

Zimbabwe is widely recognised as one of the most climate-vulnerable regions in the world. The increasing frequency of droughts, storms, floods and other climate-induced threats in Zimbabwe has made life particularly difficult for rural communities, whose livelihoods are heavily dependent on agriculture.

Climate change has been accelerating the issue of food insecurity in the country, as the prices of goods skyrocket and basic commodities such as maize meal become inaccessible to many. Food insecurity combined with erratic water supply has left families and children increasingly vulnerable to disease, such as cholera and malaria, and malnutrition.

Climate-induced forced displacement has become one of the most obvious ecological challenges in Zimbabwe, leading to societal breakdown in the Masvingo Province. Poor and marginalised people – vulnerable to food and income insecurity – are being driven from their homes with greater frequency and in greater numbers.



Fiona* and her family have received small livestock training from our local partner, Christian Care, so they can better cope with the impacts of climate change.

Our local partner, Christian Care, has implemented a Climate Resilient Conservation Farming project in the Masvingo Province which aims to enhance community resilience and adaptability to threats posed by climate-induced displacement through improved access to sustainable livelihoods, increased food and water security, and improved ability to address protection threats.

Christian Care focuses especially on helping more vulnerable people in the community, including people with disability, who are most at risk as well as providing access to sustainable livelihoods, such as small livestock farming.

OUR LOCAL PARTNER IN ZIMBABWE HELPED:

- ✓ 1,340 women and men participate in trainings and activities so they can reduce household food insecurity and increase income.
- ✓ 900 first year farmers become trained in conservation farming.
- ✓ Provide support and training in beekeeping for 40 new Apiculture farmers.
- ✓ Increase access to groundwater for 520 households through the conservation of three wetlands.
- ✓ Provide 240 people with disabilities with small livestock, training and support to practice livelihoods.

THIS GOAL AIMS TO ENSURE:

- Communities lead initiatives to reduce the impact of disasters and other displacement drivers.
- Governments and the public take strong action to reduce conflict and climate-driven displacement.

Act for Peace gratefully acknowledges its community of supporters, The Charitable Foundation (TCF), as well as the support of the Australian government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) throughout the 2022–2023 financial year period. This support has meant Christian Care was able to work with families in Zimbabwe to help strengthen their resilience to the impacts of climate change and have a safe place to belong for years to come.

FUTURE-PROOFING COMMUNITIES AGAINST NATURAL DISASTERS IN INDONESIA

Indonesia is one of the most disaster-prone countries on Earth, and now climate change is having an even greater impact on communities.

Together with our partner, Church World Service (CWS) in Indonesia, we worked with local farmers to help them future-proof their homes and livelihoods against inevitable disasters.

For farming families reliant on agriculture as their primary source of food and income, unpredictable and extreme weather events, like flash flooding, can decimate crops and businesses.

In the last two decades, Indonesia has witnessed the devastating impact of climate change on Indonesia's Central Sulawesi farming communities – whose homes and livelihoods are at greatest risk.

Natural disasters not only destroy land, livelihoods and businesses but cause widespread displacement.

Throughout the FY23 period, Act for Peace worked in partnership with CWS in Indonesia to continue the Disaster Resilience through Enhanced Adaptive Measures (DREAM) project to support rural central Sulawesi communities to prepare for disaster.



Indarwati, Senior Project Officer with our local partner in Indonesia, CWS, assists local farmers in flood-affected areas to plant and harvest peanuts.

Rita has learnt how to make tempeh so that she can support herself and her family with this business. These skills have not only provided an income in the face of uncertainty, but they have enabled her to be part of a community of women learning how to thrive. Disaster risk reduction training has meant Rita and her community can have the tools to cope when disaster strikes.



The project educated communities about resilient farming practices and empowered women to create future-proof businesses, such as making tempeh. Local project teams also worked alongside communities to design disaster preparedness and emergency response plans, with a focus on disability inclusion.

In addition, our partner CWS in Indonesia continued to work with communities in Disaster Risk Reduction, ensuring that communities are better equipped to manage the impacts of disaster in the future.

OUR LOCAL PARTNER IN INDONESIA HELPED:

- ✓ 1,808 people including 25 people with disabilities to build resilience to the impacts of disasters and climate change.

CHANGE STRATEGY 1: BACKING DISPLACED PEOPLE WORK IN SOLIDARITY WITH LOCAL PARTNERS

We believe that the agency and contribution of uprooted people must be central in all efforts to address the injustice of forced displacement. More importantly, we recognise that for people who are forcibly displaced, being able to regain some measure of control over their lives is essential both for the restoration of their dignity, and as a matter of justice.

Accordingly, this year we continued to prioritise relationships based on mutuality, increasing resourcing for initiatives led by people experiencing displacement that specifically increase their ability to influence change at the local, regional or global level.

FORSA CONTINUES TO SUPPORT LIVELIHOODS IN JORDAN

Millions of families continue to be displaced due to the Syrian conflict, which while no longer making headline news, remains one of the most devastating humanitarian crises of our time.

In response, Act for Peace worked with The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) in 2020 to conduct several assessments with key stakeholders – government, private, and the Syrian and Palestinian refugee communities – and identified that a lack of livelihoods was a key factor underpinning the extreme poverty and protection risks experienced by refugees in Jordan.

Our recommended solution – the “Forsa” project (meaning ‘opportunity’) – kicked off in June 2022. This pilot project utilises the ‘Graduation out of Poverty Approach’, an evidence-based model pioneered in local communities in Bangladesh and increasingly utilised in displacement contexts.

In the first six months of being active, the pilot targeted 50 households – half Syrian, half Palestinian. The program has already seen incredible results, with many of the participants able to regularly save money. Many have reported an increase in job retention and access to healthcare and education for their children.



Sada* talks with Abrar, Forsa Livelihood Mentor. Sada – a Palestinian refugee – arrived in Jordan at the age of three. She attends the Forsa workshops where she learns new skills and practical guidance in life skills. Sada is learning about how to reduce stress, her legal rights and time management. She is committed to her savings group, with the goal to purchase a fully automated washing machine, which will save her time.

“We know our partners have great capacity and our job is to facilitate and to step back where necessary, and that culture is very strong at Act for Peace.”

– Brian Barbour, Senior Refugee Protection Advisor, Act for Peace

AFTER ONE YEAR OF THE PILOT:

- ✓ 98 per cent of participants were considered food secure, having at least two nutritious meals a day consistently.
- ✓ 72 per cent of households were generating an income from productive activity such as operating a small business or wage employment.
- ✓ Households reported a 77 per cent increase in the amount of savings, and an 85 per cent decrease in the amount of debt.
- ✓ 94 per cent of households were able to send all their children of school-going age to school.
- ✓ 92 per cent of households now accept women engaging in work opportunities outside of their homes because of training on gender issues.
- ✓ 100 per cent of households reported to have increased social capital and cohesion with those from other nationalities in their community.



THIS CHANGE STRATEGY INVOLVES:

- Building partnerships that mobilise the knowledge, determination, and skills of displaced people to create change.
- Resourcing locally-led initiatives that reduce displacement and create safety, dignity and belonging for uprooted people.

Refugee Outreach Volunteers from our local partner in Ethiopia, EOC-DICAC, participate in Community-Based Protection Training provided by Act for Peace. This training aims to put community members front and centre in addressing their own protection.

TACKLING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN ETHIOPIA

Focusing specifically on survivors of gender-based violence, refugees at risk of gender-based violence, as well as people living with a disability, Refugee Outreach Volunteers (ROVs) from our partner organisation the Ethiopian Orthodox Church's Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC) work in the community of Addis Ababa to support and lift up the voices of those affected.

With first-hand experience of the challenges they're facing, ROVs support refugees in their communities to access their services and rights, such as medical, psychosocial and livelihood support.

Backing displaced people is an integral part of our strategy to work towards equitable and effective solutions to the displacement crisis.

Supporting EOC-DICAC's team of ROVs is just one way that Act for Peace has backed the participation and leadership of displaced people in developing and delivering their own solutions.

This work is only possible thanks to Act for Peace supporters and the help of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation (ANCP).



The Forsa pilot project started in late June 2022 and targeted 50 households. Household mentors visit core households to help families determine their needs and how they can be best supported. This starts with helping to support their basic needs, like food and healthcare, then progressing over time to relevant training, and then eventually onto employment.

CHANGE STRATEGY 2: BUILDING UNITY

REDUCE DIVISION AND CREATE A MORE COMPASSIONATE SOCIETY.

Right now, we're living in a world of 'us' versus 'them'. This deepening division of society enables decreases in international aid budgets, inadequate sharing of responsibility for the refugee crisis, climate inaction, and in many cases, is fuelling the conflict itself. But we believe the tide can change. This year, we continued to create and contribute to opportunities for multiple actors in society to come together to share what they have with a common focus on ending displacement.

CAMPAIGNING FOR CHANGE ALONGSIDE AUSTRALIAN LEADERS

Our CEO, Janet Cousins, attended the Micah Australia Women Leaders Delegation 2022 in Canberra in September. She was one of 36 female leaders from the Church and Aid and Development sector meeting with politicians to discuss Australia's response to the Global Hunger Crisis.

This work involved urging our government to fund an emergency \$150 million Famine Prevention Package to save lives in countries hit hardest by the Global Food Crisis like the Horn of Africa, Syria, Yemen and Afghanistan.

As of May 2023, the campaign was successful in ensuring the federal government committed to



Act for Peace CEO Janet Cousins with Greens Senator David Shoebridge - an Act for Peace supporter whose family does the Ration Challenge each year - alongside Sue Irwin, a Senior Pastor at The Grainery Church, and Kirsty Neilson from C3 Church.

contributing \$29 million dollars to combat the impacts of famine and conflict in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East. \$15 million of that promised to increase humanitarian, displacement and protection needs of those affected by drought in areas in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia. \$4 million was promised to provide food and nutrition support to those vulnerable to food scarcity in Yemen. And, \$10 million was promised for food and financial assistance to refugees and vulnerable people in Lebanon and Jordan.

This was in addition to the existing \$40 million that had already been allocated to famine relief in the 2022-2023 budget.



36 female leaders gather in Canberra - including Act for Peace CEO Janet Cousins - to urge the government to provide funding in countries hit by the global food crisis.

Alexandra Orme

THIS CHANGE STRATEGY INVOLVES:

- Tackling the underlying drivers of inequality and displacement by reducing polarisation and building empathy in society.
- Creating opportunities for people to positively influence those around them, so they act and vote in support of displaced people.

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH THE RATION CHALLENGE

During Refugee Week in June 2023, thousands of people took part in the Ration Challenge, eating rations and raising money to support refugees and people who have been forcibly displaced. 2,412 people signed up to take part this year from countries all around the world including England, America and New Zealand, going on to raise more than \$445,000.

For one week, participants ate the same rations as a Syrian refugee living in a camp in Jordan. The rations included a one-week supply of the same food - in almost exactly the same quantities - as those our local partner The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) Jordan distributes to Syrian refugees in urban refugee camps in Jordan.

The money raised has helped refugees face the day-to-day impacts of becoming displaced. It has also supported other conflict and disaster-affected communities through Act for Peace's emergency response, long-term development, and advocacy projects around the world.

And, by sharing the experience of the Ration Challenge with the people around them, participants helped create more empathy and compassion amongst their communities, networks, friends and family, ultimately leading to more action to support those uprooted by conflict and disaster.

Participants of the 2023 Ration Challenge sharing images of themselves, their rations, and the posters they received as part of the Ration Challenge experience.



Elyse is a teacher, and mother of four children living in Wollongong who took the Ration Challenge in 2023. Elyse teaches English as an additional language, working with former refugees and migrants.

"I think my takeaway is to not underestimate the power and the influence that we can have in just wherever we are in our small sphere.

We do get so caught up in our own lives and our first-world problems and we forget in our day-to-day lives what other people are going through." - Elyse Stephens



CHANGE STRATEGY 3: TRANSFORMING THE SYSTEM

ADVOCATE FOR A RADICALLY DIFFERENT RESPONSE TO THE DISPLACEMENT CRISIS.

Today, more people are forcibly displaced than ever recorded and the pressures on the systems, structures and arrangements developed to prevent, respond to and find solutions for displaced people are immense. This year, we worked collaboratively with our partners and coalitions to influence governments and global organisations to strengthen the protection of people affected by displacement. The global Refugee Legal Pledge provides a good example. Rather than just ask the public for more aid to meet the needs of refugees, we played an instrumental role in mobilising free legal advice – worth over \$30 million per year – from global law firms to help protect refugees from abuses that might otherwise require more aid.

STANDING TOGETHER FOR COLLECTIVE INFLUENCE

Against a backdrop of skyrocketing global hunger, mass displacement and climate-fuelled disasters – all exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, Australia's latest Federal Budget aid commitment hit a historic low. Act for Peace continued to invest in long-term humanitarian assistance to improve the livelihoods of the communities at greatest risk.

There were some positive developments within the budget outline. A \$30 million funding boost to rebuild the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)'s international diplomatic and development capabilities, and a healthy increase in support for Southeast Asia, with a doubling of funds for Myanmar, which were warmly welcomed in the 2022–2023 financial year.

Throughout this year, we also advocated strongly for greater action on the global

THIS CHANGE STRATEGY INVOLVES:

- Learning from displaced people, forming broad networks, and standing together for collective influence.
- Influencing regional, national, and global authorities to share responsibility, resources, and power equitably, and act on climate and conflicts.

displacement crisis to be included in the Australian government's five-year International Development Policy. Recommendations included providing aid to displaced people, but also a focus on addressing the root causes of displacement and finding permanent solutions for displaced people, many of whom have been forced to live in urban slums and refugee camps for decades.

With allies such as the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), the Asia-Pacific Network of Refugees and committed supporters like you, we have continued to fight for a radically different and long-term response to the global displacement crisis.

This financial year saw us form broad networks and stand alongside our partners on the ground, and communities themselves, for collective influence. We steadfastly advocated for a commitment to aid funding growth from the Australian Government to reflect the growing human need, instability, and changing regional geostrategic environment more accurately.

GUIDELINES FOR CO- PRODUCED RESEARCH WITH REFUGEES

Throughout FY23 we undertook research aimed at recognising and mobilising support for the vast and undervalued role that refugee-

Research we undertook this year culminated in the creation of Guidelines for Co-produced Research with Refugees and Other People with Lived Experience of Displacement.



Shami Boyall/Act for Peace

Over 200,000 people have been displaced since Myanmar's military deposed the elected government in Feb 2021, and 80,000 refugees live in camps in Thailand. With our local partner The Border Consortium (TBC), Act for Peace facilitated an intensive workshop for local organisations from Myanmar and the camps on how to organise at the community level to prevent rising violence and human rights abuses.

led organisations play in protecting their own communities from violence, exploitation, human rights abuses and restrictions they face in doing their work. This year, in the lead-up to the Global Refugee Forum, where states, donors, UN agencies and others will converge to decide priorities for the next four years, we pressed hard for refugee organisations to get the backing they deserve.

To further back displaced people, we worked with Asia-Pacific Network of Refugees and NSW University's Kaldor Refugee Law Centre to ensure refugees can play a much stronger role in refugee research. Not just participating but leading or co-leading research so their views, insights and understanding can better inform future programs to protect and find solutions for refugees. The Guidelines for Co-Produced Research with Displaced People were developed by a refugee research team and research bodies – from Oxford University to Australia's Refugee Council – have now moved to adopt and use the guidelines, which are also translated into French, Arabic and Spanish.

The Act for Peace team has lobbied for greater visibility for what is outlined within the research reports, with future events planned for FY24 including the UNHCR Regional Consultations, the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network Regional Consultations on Refugee Rights and the Australian Council for International Development Conference.

ACT FOR PEACE DELIVERS ON MEANINGFUL REFUGEE PARTICIPATION

Dr Tristan Harley is a teaching fellow at the UNSW Sydney and a consultant with Act for Peace, working closely with our team to help us better understand and amplify the leadership of refugees in responses to forced displacement. Dr Harley published his PhD on meaningful participation for refugees this year, which outlines what meaningful participation means for refugees and people who have been forcibly displaced.

His thesis, Beyond Storytelling: Refugee Participation in Decision-Making Processes, provides an in-depth study of the international law and policy framework governing the participation of refugees in decision-making processes. The thesis looks at the current legal duties of states to consult with or include refugees in decisions that directly affect them and it considers how and to what extent refugees have been able to participate in different decision-making areas in practice. Lastly, the thesis looks at potential reform options.

This thesis has contributed to the ongoing conversation taking place around the world as to how the international law and policy framework relating to refugees can be best designed to ensure meaningful refugee participation. In addition, it has also provided an evidence base for states, international organisations, civil society organisations and refugee-led organisations that will support them in approaching this important task.

OUR SUPPORTERS

Change is made up of many actions, big and small. This year, our supporters provided endless motivation and inspiration to continue our work together.

Whether you acted by fundraising, giving, or campaigning with us, you helped to create a more just and peaceful world. Our work together would not be possible without you. Thank you for standing in solidarity with refugees and other people who have been displaced around the world.

This year, a large community of supporters came together to raise funds through events such as the Ration Challenge and our first ever Trek for Refugees, give generously through our Act for Peace partners programs or donate through our emergency appeals. In addition, thousands of Christians came together to generously share God's love through the Christmas Bowl.

Together, we're creating a world where people uprooted by conflict and disaster have a safe place to belong.



20,900
supporters, churches,
organisations and schools
took action through
Act for Peace this year



\$5,707,588
given in donations
and bequests
for communities
around the world



38,529
generous gifts



Act for Peace staff coming together to thank those who took the Ration Challenge in 2023. Altogether, 2,412 people signed up to take part and 12,829 donations were made to fundraisers.



Ben Littlejohn/Act for Peace

Our partner RefugePoint in Kenya distributing food packages to refugees in Nairobi. RefugePoint supports refugees with food distribution, rent assistance, skills training, counseling and medical care.

More than 1,000 churches, spanning 14 denominations across Australia came together once again to share God's love through the Christmas Bowl.

THE CHRISTMAS BOWL

In December 2022, thousands of Australian Christians joined together in practical action with refugee and displaced communities around the world who have been forced from their homes by conflict and disaster.

The impacts of the climate crisis, rising inflation and the ongoing war in Ukraine all contributed to growing food scarcity for many communities already uprooted by conflict and disaster. The global food crisis threatened to push millions to the brink of famine – leaving families in urgent need of food, care and lifesaving support.

In the 2022–2023 period, the Christmas Bowl not only expressed our unity in Christ, but provided a powerful way for Australian Christians to share hope through practical Christian action, led by our committed local partners working in the toughest conditions around the world.

Thanks to the generosity of the Christmas Bowl community, our local partner Refugepoint was

able to provide urban refugee families living in Kenya with food supplies and lifesaving support.

Thank you to all those who took part in the Christmas Bowl in 2022. With your committed support, the inspirational dedication of our local partners and the resilience of displaced people, we will help refugees to create a brighter future for themselves and create a world, together, where people uprooted by conflict and disaster have a safe place to belong.



Andy Corkill/Act for Peace

Rev Richard Telfer at Rosefield Uniting Church, South Australia.

Through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), Act for Peace can strengthen outcomes for communities such as those in Zimbabwe where preparedness and resilience are essential outcomes in the face of climate change.



INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

Tobin Jones/Act for Peace

Act for Peace receives vital financial support from a range of institutional donors, helping us to work together to reduce displacement and create a world where people uprooted by conflict and disaster have a safe place to belong.

Each year the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides registered agencies, including Act for Peace, with a 'matched grant' under the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). This grant leverages the gifts provided by our generous supporters and represents strong linkages between the Australian government, our supporters and the work of our partners overseas. Through this grant and our supporters' gifts, in FY23 we were able to strengthen outcomes for communities in Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Gaza, Pakistan, India, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vanuatu.

We acknowledge financial contributions from the Charitable Foundation and Transform Aid International. We gratefully acknowledge

the contribution of the Global Mission Partners (GMP) in their contributions to the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and The Charitable Foundation (TCF) funded programs with Christian Care (CC). The Australian Department of Home Affairs continued to fund our program with our partner OfERR, supporting return and reintegration initiatives for Tamil refugees considering or preparing to return to Sri Lanka after the war.

Through our collaboration with CAN DO we accessed funds from the Australian Humanitarian Partnership to strengthen our support for communities affected by disaster this year. We also acknowledge the support of USAID in our work with the Tonga National Council of Churches as we continue to work together to increase the inclusion of people with disabilities in planning and responding to natural disasters and build the resilience of communities in Tonga.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Australian NGO Cooperation Program
- Department of Home Affairs
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Australian Humanitarian Partnership via CANDO
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade – Australian Humanitarian Partnership via EAA
- NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade via Tearfund NZ
- USAID – Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
- The Charitable Foundation
- Transform Aid International
- Global Mission Partners
- Jan de Voogd Peace Fund
- Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, France

LEARNING FROM OUR WORK

We regularly monitor and evaluate our projects to measure progress, track efficacy, be transparent and demonstrate results. This allows us to be accountable to our supporters, partners and the communities we serve, as well as ensure our work is making a positive impact on the lives of those affected by displacement.

THIS YEAR'S PROJECT EVALUATIONS

In addition to ongoing monitoring, we evaluated four projects this year:

1 Church World Service, Indonesia: Disaster Resilience through Enhanced Adaptive Management (DREAM)

A total of 35 farmer groups, women's savings and loan groups, disaster risk reduction groups, and village government groups were supported through the DREAM-2 Project to develop climate change mitigation and adaptation plans. An endline evaluation found that the program has enhanced community capacity, motivation, and ability to address climate change and disaster risks.

2 Church World Service, Indonesia: COVID-19 Surge Response, Pulih Bersama

Working together with CAN DO Consortia partners in Indonesia, an end-of-program evaluation found that people in target communities, especially the elderly, persons with comorbidities, pregnant women, people with disabilities and other marginalised groups improved their knowledge, attitudes and practices to better manage COVID-19.

Church World Service in Indonesia supports the DREAM-2 Project (Disaster Resilience through Enhanced Adaptive Measures). This project aims to strengthen community resilience to the impacts of climate change. Pictured here is the savings and learnings group where participants come together to meet, learn about finances and develop skills such as cooking.



In August 2022, Act for Peace travelled to Tonga to evaluate the emergency response implemented by our local partner, the Tonga National Council of Churches (TNCC). Fololoni and her daughter, Eweni*, received cash support from our local partner TNCC after the volcanic eruption and tsunami in January 2021.

"The cash we received from TNCC really meant I could buy things especially for my daughter. Thank you for including my daughter in the cash distribution program. I can't thank you enough for thinking of us and please send my regards to everyone who is part of making this happen."

– Fololoni

3 CAN DO Rohingya response in Bangladesh:

CAN DO is one of the six Australian agencies comprising the AHP consortium, which collaborates with local Bangladeshi partners through the EKOTA consortium to provide WASH and protection interventions to the Rohingya community in refugee camps in Cox's Bazar. This evaluation assessed the project's overall efficacy in the provision of these basic needs and found that the project enabled access to safe and reliable water for daily needs. The training provided was effective and participants were applying the knowledge to their daily activities. Livelihoods interventions had empowered both the Rohingya community and host community, and the inclusion of women, adolescents and people with disabilities had significantly influenced positive satisfaction levels.

4 Tongan National Council of Churches: Disaster Resilience

The Inclusive Disaster Resilience in Tonga Project was evaluated for effectiveness, impact and sustainability in supporting vulnerable Tongan communities – including people with disabilities. The report highlighted the positive impact on a total of 8,476 individuals, comprising 4,365 men and 4,111 women, spread across 27 communities within the Ha'apai, Vava'u and Tongatapu island groups. Evaluation findings said that the project effectively lessened the repercussions of natural disasters on remote Tongan communities, including those with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. This was achieved by implementing various focused strategies at both the national and community levels, encompassing behaviour-change initiatives, educational and capacity-building efforts, infrastructure enhancements, advocacy campaigns and the integration of disability considerations into mainstream activities, which has increased disaster resilience and created a stronger protective environment.

See all our program evaluations at actforpeace.org.au/evaluations



Tracey Robinson/Act for Peace

In November 2022, staff from our local partner the Tonga National Council of Churches visited Sydney. Act for Peace International Program Coordinator, Tracey Robinson explains that "It was such a positive experience for TNCC to share the fantastic work they have been doing in disability inclusive disaster risk management. To see them present with such pride and passion to fellow church leaders from Pacific islands was a highlight for me and is an example of the strong bond Act for Peace has with its Pacific Partners."

- Tracey Robinson, Act for Peace

ACTING ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND LEARNINGS FROM THE INCLUSIVE DISASTER RESILIENCE IN TONGA PROJECT REPORT:

- **Incorporate creative elements into project design to influence attitudinal change around disability inclusion:** Act for Peace is working with TNCC to strengthen the use of drama and storytelling to challenge negative attitudes and address barriers preventing inclusion of those with disabilities in emergency and response planning.
- **Continue to build on the role of women in disaster preparedness and response:** Our partner completed a community reflection activity that enabled women in target communities to feed into the design of the second phase of the project, resulting in the introduction of minimum participation rates of women and girls and new targeted livelihood activities that will better prepare and protect women and other vulnerable members of the community before, during and after disasters.

PARTNER SURVEY 2022

Act for Peace aims to bridge cultural, political, and geographical divides, backing displaced people to reclaim control over their lives and meeting urgent needs. Act for Peace has decades of experience in working with local partners to implement projects and advocate for change that promotes the agency and protection of people displaced by conflict and disaster at local, national, regional and global levels.

To learn from our partners, between April and May 2023 we ran an online Partnership Satisfaction Survey and received responses from 16 of our partner organisations. Each response remained anonymous, and responses were overall positive, outlining that partners appreciate the partnership model and Act for Peace's contributions.

One partner reported, "Act for Peace has not dictated to us but has supported us in responding to the needs we identified and the communities we serve", while another said, "One of the areas where we are all proud in our partnership with AfP is the power balance. It is like working in the same organization".

Responses indicated that aspects of the partnership that have worked well include capacity building, communication, technical support, general support, cooperation and networking for funding opportunities.

Constructive feedback came in the form of offering suggestions for improvements around budget limitations and funding and for ways to speed up implementation by reducing delays to financial procedures and transfers.

Regarding a role for Act for Peace in the partnership over the next five years, most partner feedback relates to boosting or maintaining funding (including joint fundraising), then capacity and technical support and joint advocacy.



Agung Pranoto/Act for Peace

Zain lives with his wife, Eka and their son in the Sigi District, Central Sulawesi. Zain's family farms coconuts and corn. Zain lives with a disability, which makes facing disasters even more challenging. But through the DREAM project, Zain said he feels more ready and knows which locations to go to during an evacuation. The disaster simulations were a helpful learning process and Zain spoke about the importance of wheelchairs and stretchers for those who may need assistance during a disaster.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

In FY23 Act for Peace continued to view the stewardship of our finances as a core resource in the achievement of our purpose. The organisation had a second year of deficit, which was funded from an extraordinary surplus the preceding year. The increasing cost of fundraising, along with significant changes in the operating context, has required the Board to consider how to achieve financial sustainability in the medium and longer term. During the year there was only a slight decrease of 1.5 per cent in the value of funds provided to our partners compared to FY22 despite a net loss; in a year of variable fundraising returns this result was achieved through an increase in funds from institutional grants, careful management of organisational expenditure and the use of reserves. During FY23 the ongoing trend of an increasing amount of funds raised being earmarked for specific projects and programs was confirmed; whilst positive for specific projects this trend presents pressure on our capacity to allocate funds as required across our program portfolio and for operational costs. In response our Board made the very strategic decision to continue to fund partners whilst embarking on a project to potentially identify new business opportunities and looking at new operating models.

We remain very grateful for the continued engagement of our supporters and institutional donors who partner with us to ensure that the ever-increasing number of people affected by forced displacement have a safe place to belong.

INCOME:

Overall total public fundraising income was down 13 per cent compared to FY22. Whilst we had strong support from public for emergency responses in Syria and Türkiye raising \$1.37 million, other public income was below FY22, with the most notable reduction being for our annual Ration Challenge. Our analysis concludes that the reduction in public income relating to the Ration Challenge – which was only run in Australia this year – is largely down to the number of individuals signing up and taking part in the challenge, emphasising the declining lifecycle of this initiative. In FY23 we saw some growth in our annual Christmas Bowl appeal, with more than 1,066 churches across Australia taking part this year.



Act for Peace is a recipient of the annual Australian NGO Co-operation Program (ANCP) grant from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and received a grant from DFAT for Pacific Church Partnership Advisory Network (PCPAN). There was an increase of funding from DFAT in FY23 of 5 per cent, to \$2.38 million. This reflected an increased ANCP grant from DFAT in FY23. Our other Australian grant income in FY23 represented the grants from the Australian Department of Home Affairs and Australian Humanitarian Partnership Program via Church Agency Network Disaster Operation. Our grants from Australian and overseas institutional donors including USAID and TearFund New Zealand increased in total by 13 per cent to \$4.31 million, including emergency response grants.

Act for Peace recognised a gain in other comprehensive income from investment due to the improved performance of the equity markets.

EXPENSES:

Increased grant income enabled us to increase slightly the total of funding for overseas projects and program support costs and programs by 0.6 per cent, compared to FY22 to \$9.43 million.

Act for Peace managed the internal costs tightly to work within the planned budget despite the decrease in revenue and maintained support to our partners by maintaining funding to overseas projects and programs.

Sonia Mar

Sonia Mar – Head of Finance

PROJECT FUNDING BY CONTINENT:

MIDDLE EAST

Country	Partners	Projects	Development and Humanitarian Assistance (\$)
Jordan	1	2	467,632.00
Palestine	1	2	297,854.51
Syria and Türkiye	1	1	525,063.21

ASIA

Country	Partners	Projects	Development and Humanitarian Assistance (\$)
Afghanistan	1	2	121,151.72
Pakistan	1	1	362,080.00
India	1	2	453,528.62
Sri Lanka	1	1	600,039.60
Indonesia	1	2	428,682.00
Myanmar	1	1	7,301.64
Philippines	1	1	181,200.00
Thailand	1	1	162,531.32
Bangladesh	1	1	771,914.17

PACIFIC

Country	Partners	Projects	Development and Humanitarian Assistance (\$)
Tonga	1	2	516,293.09
Vanuatu	1	5	470,772.53
Pacific Regional	2	2	585,408.62

AFRICA

Country	Partners	Projects	Development and Humanitarian Assistance (\$)
Ethiopia	1	1	601,203.80
Kenya	1	1	153,120.00
Zimbabwe	2	2	642,417.00

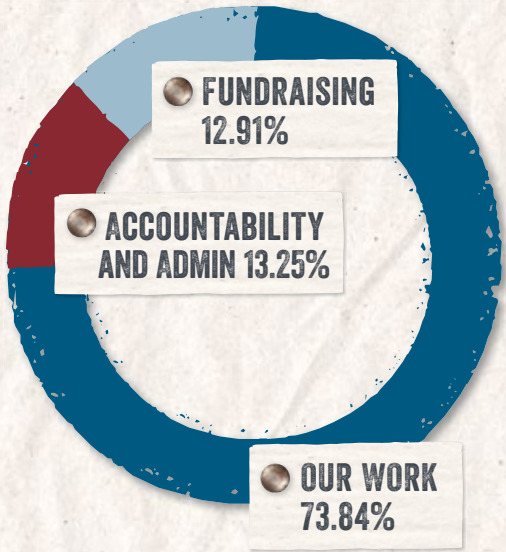
EUROPE

Country	Partners	Projects	Development and Humanitarian Assistance (\$)
Ukraine	1	1	271,489.30

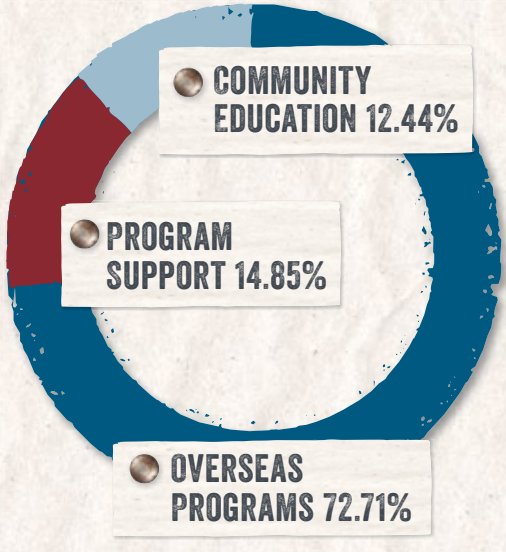
GLOBAL

Country	Partners	Projects	Development and Humanitarian Assistance (\$)
Global	Multiple	1	212,036.87

TOTAL EXPENDITURE



EXPENDITURE ON PROGAMS



DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

In accordance with a resolution of the Directors, the Directors report on the accounts and operations of the Company for the year ended 30 June 2023.

The names of Directors in office during the period and at the date of this report are:

- Virginia Udy
- Leigh Ellen Cleave
- Samuel Uthayan Vetharaniyam Richards (joined on 15 November 2022)
- Alison Preston
- Elizabeth Mary Stone (resigned on 27 February 2023)
- Marcus Richard Manfred Sandmann (resigned on 8 May 2023)
- Jamieson Davies
- Paul Jeffrey Nichols
- Oliver Slewa

Act for Peace Limited is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia Ltd. The principal activity of the company during the period was community fundraising, advocacy and fundraising from government/other institutions, and distribution and implementation of funding overseas. There has been no significant change in the nature of this activity during the period and this activity will continue in future financial years. There were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Company during the financial period.

INFORMATION ON DIRECTORS:

VIRGINIA UDY

Chair of the Board BEd, MA (Hons), MBA, GAICD
Director in the children/family services and community sectors

LEIGH ELLEN CLEAVE

Director (Deputy Chair of the Board)
BMus, Grad Dip Teaching, MBA, CFRE, FFIA
Fundraising and Marketing Consultant

SAMUEL UTHAYAN VETHARANIYAM RICHARDS

Director B Bus/Comm
Managing Director, Brightlight Impact Advisory

ALISON PRESTON

Director BA Journalism
International Development Professional

ELIZABETH MARY STONE

Director BA, Mints, AGIA
General Secretary, National Council Churches of Australia Ltd

MARCUS RICHARD MANFRED SANDMANN

Director B Bus, MAICD
Director, AUSCAM Freedom Project.

JAMIESON DAVIES

Director BA, MA
Country Director, Catholic Relief Services

PAUL JEFFREY NICHOLS

Director (Treasurer) BA, BSW, MBA
International Development Consultant

OLIVER SLEWA

Director LLB
Solicitor/Migration Agent, Legal Aid Commission
of NSW Ambassador, Refugee Council of Australia

DIRECTORS' MEETINGS:

Virginia Udy	7/7	Alison Preston	7/7	Marcus R M Sandmann	3/4
Leigh Ellen Cleave	7/7	Oliver Slewa	6/7	Jamieson Davies	6/7
Sam Richards	3/5	Elizabeth Mary Stone	3/3	Paul Jeffrey Nichols	7/7

The entity is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a not-for-profit, community-based, voluntary public company limited by guarantee. If the entity is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the entity. At 30 June 2023 the collective liability of members was \$10 (2022: \$10).

Dated this 17th day of October, 2023.

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

REVENUE	Notes	12 months to 30 Jun 2023 (\$)	12 months to 30 Jun 2022 (\$)
Donations and gifts			
Monetary		5,566,642	6,248,317
Non-monetary		174,260	–
Bequests and legacies		56,576	451,576
Grants			
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade		2,377,168	2,262,832
Other Australian		3,385,000	3,172,978
Other overseas		929,589	634,633
Commercial activities income		–	–
Investment income (loss)		973,170	(671,649)
Other income		48,106	347,917
Revenue for international political or religious adherence promotion programs		–	–
TOTAL REVENUE		13,510,512	12,446,603

EXPENDITURE

International aid and development programs expenditure			
International programs			
Funds to international programs	12	7,831,720	7,950,899
Program support costs		1,589,986	1,420,080
		9,421,706	9,370,979
Community education		1,340,202	1,373,414
Fundraising costs			
Public		1,801,217	1,773,805
Government, multilateral and private		66,670	59,553
		1,867,887	1,833,357
Accountability and administration		1,772,698	1,646,874
Non-monetary expenditure		174,260	–
Total international aid and development programs expenditure		14,576,754	14,224,623
International political or religious adherence promotion programs expenditure		–	–
Domestic projects expenditure		–	–
Commercial activities expenditure		–	–
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		14,576,754	14,224,623
EXCESS/(SHORTFALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE		(1,066,243)	(1,778,021)
Other comprehensive income			
Property valuation		–	983,944
Total other comprehensive income (loss)		–	983,944
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)		(1,066,243)	(794,077)

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 part of the accounts.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 30 JUNE 2023

ASSETS

	Notes	12 months to 30 Jun 2023 (\$)	12 months to 30 Jun 2022 (\$)
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	1,063,272	2,832,486
Trade and other receivables	3	761,016	1,215,932
Other financial assets – (payable to) receivable from NCCA	4	31,482	4,463
Held for sale	5	1,400,000	–
Total current assets		3,255,770	4,052,882
Non current assets			
Other financial assets	6	8,695,894	7,758,713
Property, plant and equipment	7	2,562,621	4,101,006
Total non current assets		11,258,515	11,859,720
TOTAL ASSETS		14,514,285	15,912,601

LIABILITIES

Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	8	1,356,263	1,606,354
Contract liabilities	9	1,652,628	1,770,683
Provisions	10	651,786	619,215
Total current liabilities		3,660,678	3,996,252
Non current liabilities			
Provisions	10	253,073	249,571
Total non current liabilities		253,073	249,571
TOTAL LIABILITIES		3,913,750	4,245,823
NET ASSETS		10,600,535	11,666,777

EQUITY

Reserves	11	9,554,948	10,630,172
Retained earnings		1,045,587	1,036,605
TOTAL EQUITY		10,600,535	11,666,777

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2023

	Retained Earnings (\$)	Reserves (\$)	Others (\$)	Total (\$)
Balance at 30 June 2020	899,853	7,588,370	–	8,488,222
Adjustments or changes in equity due to items of other comprehensive income				
Excess (shortfall) of revenue over expenses	3,972,632	–	–	3,972,632
Amount transferred to (from) reserves	(3,050,598)	3,050,598	–	–
Balance at 30 June 2021	1,821,887	10,638,967	–	12,460,854
Adjustments or changes in equity due to items of other comprehensive income				
Excess (shortfall) of revenue over expenses	(1,778,021)	–	–	(1,778,021)
Asset revaluation	–	983,944	–	983,944
Amount transferred to (from) reserves	992,739	(992,739)	–	–
Balance at 30 June 2022	1,036,605	10,630,172	–	11,666,777
Adjustments or changes in equity due to items of other comprehensive income				
Excess (shortfall) of revenue over expenses	(1,066,243)	–	–	(1,066,243)
Amount transferred to (from) reserves	1,075,225	(1,075,225)	–	–
Balance at 30 June 2023	1,045,587	9,554,948	–	10,600,535

The Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the Notes to and forming part of the accounts.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2023

	12 months to 30 Jun 2023 (\$)	12 months to 30 Jun 2022 (\$)
Cash flows from operating activities		
Cash receipts from customers	13,379,567	13,701,477
Cash paid to supplier and employees	(14,185,707)	(12,826,780)
Net cash from operating activities	(806,140)	874,697
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of property and equipment	(25,893)	(39,837)
Decrease (Increase) in investments / investment income	(937,181)	701,564
Net cash from investing activities	(963,074)	661,727
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net cash from financing activities	–	–
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(1,769,214)	1,536,424
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	2,832,486	1,296,062
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	1,063,272	2,832,486

The Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the Notes to and forming part of the accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2023

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB'), the ACFID Code of Conduct and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and associated regulations and the Corporations Act 2001, as appropriate for not-for-profit oriented entities. For further information on the Code please refer to the ACFID website at www.acfid.asn.au.

The financial statements, except for cash flow information have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the directors on 17 October 2023.

(a) Revenue recognition

The company recognises revenue as follows:

Revenue from contracts

Revenue is recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the company is expected to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services. For each contract, the company: identifies the contract; identifies the performance obligations in the contract; determines the transaction price which takes into account estimates of variable consideration and the time value of money; allocates the transaction price to the separate performance obligations on the basis of the relative stand-alone selling price of each distinct good or service to be delivered; and recognises revenue when or as each performance obligation is satisfied in a manner that depicts the transfer to the customer of the goods or services promised.

Grants and donations

Contributed assets

If the company receives assets from the government and other parties for nil or nominal consideration in order to further its objectives, these assets would be recognised in accordance with the recognition requirement of other applicable standards (AASB 9, AASB 16, AASB 116 and AASB 138).

On initial recognition of an asset, the company recognises related amounts (being contribution from owners, lease liabilities, financial instruments, revenue, or contract liabilities arising from a contract with a customer).

The company recognises the income immediately in profit and loss the difference between the initial carrying amount and the asset and the related amount.

Operating grants and donations

When the company receives operating grant revenue or donations, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficient specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15. When both these conditions are satisfied the company identifies each performance obligation relating to the grant, recognises a contract liability for these obligations and recognises revenue as it satisfies its performance obligations.

Where the contract is not enforceable or does not have sufficiently specific performance obligations the company either recognises the asset received in accordance with the requirements of other applicable accounting standards, recognises related amounts or recognises income immediately in profit and loss as the difference between the initial carrying amount of the asset and the related amount.

If a contract liability is recognised as a related amount above, the company recognises income in profit and loss when or as it satisfies its obligations under the contract.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Amounts disclosed as revenue are net of taxes paid. Revenue is recognised for the items as follows:

Investment income

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend and distribution income is recognised when the right to receive the distribution has been established. Investment income or loss is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

Other income

Other revenue is recognised when the right to receive the revenue has been established.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

(b) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value as indicated, less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Land and buildings

Freehold land and buildings are measured on the fair value basis. Fair value is determined on the basis of an independent valuation prepared by external valuers on a periodic basis based on capitalisation of net income.

Plant and equipment

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the asset's employment and subsequent disposal. The expected cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

Depreciation

Depreciation on assets is calculated to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives.

Residual values and useful lives of the assets are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

The carrying amount of an asset is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if its carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. These are included in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

(c) Income tax

No provision for income tax has been made as the company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income tax Assessment Act 1997.

(d) Value of volunteers

The value of services provided by volunteers is not brought to account in revenue or expenses because of the practical difficulties involved in recording and valuing those services.

In relation to volunteers used directly for the support of international projects, this amounted to \$0 in 2023 (2022: \$0).

(e) Leases

Leases are recognised under Accounting Standard AASB 16: Leases. Applicable leases whether finance or operating in nature are to be recognised on the statement of financial position as liabilities with corresponding right-of-use assets. These leases are measured at their net present values and include future lease payments under an option where that option is reasonably expected to be taken up. The leases are amortised on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease. For operating leases that do not need to meet the requirements under this standard being leases that are less than 12 months or of minor values, and where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, these are recognised as expenses over the term of the lease.

(f) Financial instruments

Investments and other financial assets

Investments and other financial assets are initially measured at fair value. Transaction costs are included as part of the initial measurement, except for financial assets at fair value through profit or loss. Such assets are subsequently measured at either amortised cost or fair value depending on their classification. Classification is determined based on both the business model within which such assets are held and the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial asset unless an accounting mismatch is being avoided.

Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows have expired or have been transferred and the company has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership. When there is no reasonable expectation of recovering part or all of a financial asset, its carrying value is written off.

Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

Financial assets not measured at amortised cost or at fair value through other comprehensive income are classified as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss. Typically, such financial assets will be either: (i) held for trading, where they are acquired for the purpose of selling in the short-term with an intention of making a profit, or a derivative; or (ii) designated as such upon initial recognition where permitted. Fair value movements are recognised in profit or loss.

Impairment of financial assets

The company recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses on financial assets which are either measured at amortised cost. The measurement of the loss allowance depends upon the company's assessment at the end of each reporting period as to whether the financial instrument's credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition, based on reasonable and supportable information that is available, without undue cost or effort to obtain.

Where there has not been a significant increase in exposure to credit risk since initial recognition, a 12-month expected credit loss allowance is estimated. This represents a portion of the asset's lifetime expected credit losses that is attributable to a default event that is possible within the next 12 months. Where a financial asset has become credit impaired or where it is determined that credit risk has increased significantly, the loss allowance is based on the asset's lifetime expected credit losses. The amount of expected credit loss recognised is measured on the basis of the probability weighted present value of anticipated cash shortfalls over the life of the instrument discounted at the original effective interest rate.

The loss allowance reduces the asset's carrying value with a corresponding expense through profit or loss.

(g) Impairment of assets

At the end of each reporting period, the entity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in profit or loss.

Where the future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent upon the asset's ability to generate net cash flows and when the entity would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, value in use is determined as the depreciated replacement cost of an asset.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of a class of asset, the entity estimates the recoverable amount of the cash generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Where an impairment loss on a revalued asset is identified, this is debited against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

(h) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short-term borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

(i) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees up to the end of the reporting date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within 12 months have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may not satisfy vesting requirements.

(j) Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables and other debtors are recognised at fair value less provision for impairment. Trade receivables are due for settlement based on normal terms of credit from the date of invoice.

Collectability of trade receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts which are known to be uncollectible are written off. A provision for doubtful receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables. The amount of the provision is the difference between the carrying amount of the asset and the total of estimated future cash flows. The amount of the provision is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

(k) Non-current assets or disposal groups classified as held for sale

Non-current assets are classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than continued use. They are measured at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs of disposal.

For non-current assets to be classified as held for sale, they must be available for immediate sale in their present condition and their sale must be highly probable.

Non-current assets classified as held for sale are presented separately on the face of the statement of the financial position in current assets. The liabilities of disposal groups classified as held for sale are presented separately on the face of statement of financial position in current liabilities.

(l) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses, and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on the cash flow statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

(m) Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables represent liabilities for goods and services received by the company during the reporting period that remain unpaid at the end of the reporting period. The balance is recognised as a current liability with amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

(n) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

(o) Comparative figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation of the current financial year.

(p) Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The directors evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and internally within the company.

The judgements and assumptions include assessing the recoverable amount of assets, useful lives of those assets, performance obligations of contracts and employee provision estimates.

(q) new and amended accounting policies

The company has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

NOTES	30 Jun 2023 (\$)	30 June 2022 (\$)
2 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash on hand	3,763	3,763
Cash in bank	983,677	2,752,891
Term deposits	75,832	75,832
TOTAL	1,063,272	2,832,486
3 TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
Advances	101,765	90,023
GST paid	30,089	27,992
Prepayments	123,350	430,734
Trade receivables	505,813	667,183
TOTAL	761,016	1,215,932
4 OTHER ASSETS		
Receivable from NCCA Ltd	31,482	4,463
TOTAL	31,482	4,463
5 HELD FOR SALE		
Level 6 West Tower (Melbourne)	1,400,000	-
TOTAL	1,400,000	-
6 OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS		
Investments with Australian Ethical	5,173,207	4,571,252
Investments with JBWere	3,522,687	3,187,461
TOTAL	8,695,894	7,758,713
6 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
Level 7 Kent St (Sydney)*	2,299,739	2,299,739
Level 6 West Tower (Melbourne)	-	1,400,000
Bldg improv, computer and office furnitures cost	1,655,359	1,629,466
Accumulated depreciation	(1,392,477)	(1,228,198)
*The company owns 51.1% of the property.	262,882	401,268
	2,562,621	4,101,006

	Level 7 Kent St (Sydney)	Level 6 West Tower (Melbourne)	Bldg Improv, computer and office furnitures	Total
Opening Balance, 1 Jul 2022	2,299,739	1,400,000	401,268	4,101,006
Additions	-	-	25,893	25,893
Write-off/ disposals	-	-	(3,222)	(3,222)
Transfer to held for sale	-	(1,400,000)	-	(1,400,000)
Depreciation	-	-	(161,057)	(161,057)
Closing balance, 30 Jun 2023	2,299,739	-	262,882	2,562,621

NOTES	30 Jun 2023 (\$)	30 June 2022 (\$)
8 TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
Trade creditors	1,145,064	1,068,921
Accruals on project funds	52,580	482,032
Payroll liabilities	158,619	54,987
GST collected	-	415
TOTAL	1,356,263	1,606,354
9 CONTRACT LIABILITIES		
Institutional income in advance	1,652,628	1,770,683
TOTAL	1,652,628	1,770,683
10 EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS		
Provision for annual leave	651,786	619,215
	651,786	619,215
Provision for long service leave	253,073	249,571
	253,073	249,571
11 RESERVES		
Refugee reserves	1,901,467	1,901,467
Property reserves	1,826,232	1,890,377
Bequests	2,127,510	2,300,933
Program reserves	-	837,656
Level 7 Kent St (Sydney)	2,299,739	2,299,739
Level 6 West Tower (Melbourne)	1,400,000	1,400,000
TOTAL	9,554,948	10,630,172

NOTES	30 Jun 2023 (\$)	30 June 2022 (\$)
12 FUNDS TO INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS BY REGION		
Africa	979,134	739,223
Asia	3,067,277	3,346,636
Pacific	1,572,474	989,989
Middle East	765,487	810,027
Global	212,037	-
Emergencies**	1,235,311	2,065,024
TOTAL	7,831,720	7,950,899
**Emergency response funds include multiple regions.		

13 KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION
Any person or persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or non-executive) of that entity, is considered Key Management Personnel (KMP).
The total of remuneration paid to KMP of the company during the year is as follows.

14 REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS
During the financial year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by BDO Audit Pty Ltd, the auditor of the company:
Audit services – BDO Audit Pty Ltd Audit of the financial statements

15 CONTINGENCIES
The company had no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2022.

16 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS
Grant from Global Mission Partners whose Executive Officer (John Gilmore) was a Director of AfP Ltd up to 28 Oct 2021

Grant from Australian Lutheran World Service – a Director of AfP Ltd (Jamieson Davies) was the Executive Director of Australian Lutheran World Service up to 1 Feb 2022

Grant to NCCA Ltd for Pacific Church Partnership Advisory Network (PCPAN) Support

Membership fee paid to Refugee Council of Australia whose Ambassador (Oliver Slewa) is a Director of AfP Ltd

Business Service Fees charge to NCCA Ltd

Office Rental paid to NCCA Ltd

Investment with Australian Ethical Investment Ltd – a director of AfP Ltd (Sam Richards joined the Board on 15 Nov 2022) is the CEO of one of their shareholders (Brightlight Impact Advisor)

The value of related party transactions in the year amounted to

17 EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING DATE
In order to reduce further budget deficits and improve ongoing financial sustainability of the organisation, Act for Peace is undertaking an organisational restructure during October 2023, with redundancies likely to occur.

18 FUNDRAISING APPEALS
Below is additional information furnished under the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and the Office Charities Fundraising Authority Conditions;

Application of funds for charitable purpose
During the year the company used the net surplus of funds for supporting emergency response, sustainable development and advocacy programs in over 16 countries to increase safety, justice and dignity for conflict and disaster affected communities and supporting the operations of the company.

19 REGISTERED OFFICE AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS
Act for Peace Ltd is a not-for-profit unlisted public company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Its registered office and principal place of business is: Level 7, 379 Kent Street Sydney NSW 2000.

20 TRADERS
The company had not used traders during financial years ending 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2022.

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

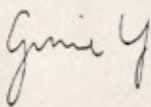
In accordance with a resolution of the Directors, the Directors of Act for Peace Ltd declare that:

- the attached financial statements and notes comply with the Corporations Act 2001, the Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and associated regulations, the Corporations Regulations 2001 and other mandatory professional reporting requirements;
- the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

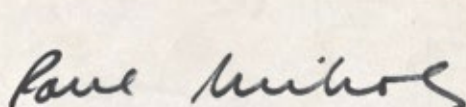
We also report that:

- the financial statements show a true and fair view of the financial results of fundraising appeals for the year ended 30 June 2023 as required by the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991;
- the accounting and associated records of Act for Peace Ltd have been kept in accordance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the Regulations for the year ended 30 June 2023;
- money received as a result of fundraising appeals conducted during the year have been properly accounted for and applied in accordance with the Chartable Fundraising Act 1991 and the Regulation; and
- this declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors and is signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022.

For and on behalf of the Board



VIRGINIA UDY (Chair, Board of Directors)



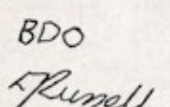
PAUL NICHOLS (Treasurer)

Dated this 17th day of October, 2023.

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BY LEAH RUSSELL TO THE DIRECTORS OF ACT FOR PEACE LTD

As lead auditor of Act for Peace Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2023, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Leah Russell
Director
BDO Audit Pty Ltd
Sydney
17 October 2023

REPORT ON THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

OPINION

We have audited the financial report of Act for Peace Ltd (the registered entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial report, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible entities' declaration.

In our opinion the accompanying financial report of Act for Peace Ltd, is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- i. Giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance or the year then ended; and
- ii. Complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*.

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 registered entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards) (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.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES FOR THE FINANCIAL REPORT

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for overseeing the registered entity's financial reporting process.

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 our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the 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.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website (<http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>) at: http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BDO Audit Pty Ltd

BDO
Leah Russell

Leah Russell
Director
Sydney, 17 October 2023



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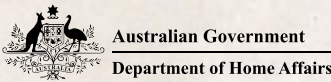


Act for Peace is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. The code is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. It aims to improve international development outcomes and increase stakeholder trust by improving 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



Act for Peace gratefully acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).






Act for Peace gratefully acknowledges funding from the Australian Government Department of Home Affairs for our Sri Lanka project.



Due to the impact of climate change, resource poor farmers and marginalized people in Zimbabwe are having to move from their homes as they are struck by droughts, storms, floods and other climate-induced threats. Christian Care's project 'Building sustainable livelihoods and climate resilience to mitigate displacement in Zimbabwe' aims to enhance community adaptability and resilience to these threats posed by climate-driven displacement. Lucia received training from Christian Care on conservation farming methods and guidance on how to rear chickens and is now able to sell eggs to make an income, which enables her children to attend school.

Produced by Act for Peace, Locked Bag Q199, QUEEN VICTORIA BUILDING, NSW 1230

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