

# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2025



Working in solidarity  
with local communities



**ACT FOR PEACE**

The international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. Confronting injustice together through the global ACT Alliance.





# Contents

Our vision and purpose ..... 4

Message from the Chair & CEO ..... 6

Our impact ..... 8

Where we worked ..... 10

Goal: Safety in exile ..... 12

Goal: A place to belong ..... 18

Goal: Reduced displacement ..... 24

Change strategy: Backing displaced people ..... 30

Change strategy: Building unity ..... 32

Change strategy: Transforming the system ..... 36

Learning from our work ..... 40

Our supporters ..... 42

Our funding partners ..... 43

Financial summary ..... 44

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 complaints to the officer responsible via [complaints@actforpeace.org.au](mailto: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.

Tsehay\* is a participant of the Tesfa (Hope) program that uses a ‘Graduation out of Poverty’ approach implemented by Act for Peace local partner organisation Ethiopian Orthodox Church – Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC).

In caring for humankind together  
we’re acting for peace in the world.

ACT FOR PEACE





## 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.

In Pakistan's Umerkot district, girls are more likely to be in school thanks to education programs run by our local partner, Community World Service Asia (CWSA).



## 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 and 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 4:2-3, 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 and 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 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.





# From the Chair & CEO

As we report on the year July 2024 – June 2025, we want to share with you both the progress we have made and the gratitude we feel for the community that makes it possible.

In the last 12 months, the number of people uprooted by conflict and disaster has climbed beyond 120 million – the highest ever recorded.

At Act for Peace, we believe that peace is built at the local level. Our guiding star involves standing with communities, supporting local voices and leadership and helping people reclaim a safe place where they belong.

You, our valued supporters, are making our work possible and we are privileged to have your ongoing support.

## LOCALLY LED ACTION

Our partners develop lasting solutions for displaced people. In countries such as India, Sri Lanka, Jordan, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, the Philippines, Vanuatu, Indonesia and along the Thailand–Myanmar border, local organisations are shaping programs that reflect community priorities.

These programs ranged from refugee return and reintegration, to livelihoods and psychosocial care.

Our role at Act for Peace is to enable the people closest to the challenge to drive the change they want to see by providing resources, capability building and the amplification of voices.

In the last year, together, we have supported 25 programs in 16 countries, reaching 113,959 people.

## BUILDING RESILIENCE

Our partners are responding to emergencies and the pressures that push people to flee their communities and their homes.

In the Asia-Pacific region, communities are preparing for cyclones and floods by strengthening early-warning systems and climate-smart livelihoods. In Southern Africa and the Horn of Africa, churches and community groups are protecting food security and livelihoods through drought-aware planning.

This is resilience in practice. Families had reduced risk, safeguarded what is important to them, and built safety nets that prevent displacement.

## SUPPORTER SOLIDARITY

Seventy-six years ago, a simple bowl set out on a Christmas table sparked a movement of compassion. In 2024, churches across Australia celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bowl. This represented a milestone of shared prayer, generosity and action that continues to change lives today.

We thank every parish, church leader, donor and volunteer for keeping this powerful tradition alive. Your gifts are helping displaced families regain safety, belonging and hope.

## A CHANGING CONTEXT

Our work occurs in volatile contexts such as protracted conflicts, climate shocks, economic pressures, and shrinking civic space. In these most difficult of circumstances, we have witnessed courage and creativity.

We have seen parents organising safe learning for children after their families have been displaced; we have seen people of faith opening their doors for others; and we have seen local responders coordinating assistance in difficult circumstances when crises hit. Our task is to listen deeply, quickly move resources and remain with our partners for the long term.

To enable this, we are strengthening our fundraising strategy to better align long-term needs with sustainable support. We will continue developing major gift and Gifts in Wills programs that match donor intent with locally led outcomes.

The generosity and faithfulness of the Christmas Bowl donors continue to inspire us, and we are committed to supporting and nurturing this important area of support.

We will also carefully steward our reserves, investing them in ways that reflect our faith and increase our impact in a world of increasing need.

## OUR COMMITMENTS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

Together, with your support, we will:

**Hold fast to local leadership.** We will deepen our processes of co-design and decision-making with our partners, measuring success not only by project outcomes but also by stronger community capacity and voice.

**Invest in resilience.** We will expand disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation initiatives in communities most impacted by conflict and climate change.

**Strengthen accountability.** We will keep reporting transparently on where our funds are used and the difference they make.

**Grow supporter community.** We will invite more Australians to join us in this mission and to build on a 75-year legacy of compassion and generosity.

Thank you!

We are the international humanitarian agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia. This heritage brings a responsibility to serve with courage and compassion alongside our ecumenical family.

Thank you to our partners for your trust and leadership. Thank you to our staff and volunteers for your skills and generosity of spirit. And to our supporters: thank you for your ongoing care, generosity and sharing our belief that everyone deserves a safe place to belong.



Leigh Cleave  
Chair of Act for Peace



Archie Law AM  
Interim Chief Executive Officer

## LIST OF DIRECTORS FY25

Thank you to the Act for Peace Board for their contributions this year and working diligently throughout FY25 to provide leadership, strategic guidance and oversight to our work.

The Board is accountable for the performance of Act for Peace and aspires to excellence in governance standards.

We are truly grateful for their contribution.

- Leigh Cleave** Chair of the Board
- Alison Preston** Director (Deputy Chair of the Board)
- Samuel Richards** Director (Treasurer)
- Tim Budge** Director
- Jamieson Davies** Director
- Paul Nichols** Director





# Our impact

## OUR GOALS

What we’re working towards:

- 1 Safety in exile**  
Ensuring people live in safety and with dignity while displaced.
- 2 A place to belong**  
Helping uprooted people find a permanent place to belong.
- 3 Reduced displacement**  
Working to reduce the number of people forced to flee their homes.

## OUR CHANGE STRATEGIES

How we’re making it happen:

- 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.

## FY24-25 SNAPSHOT

Act for Peace worked with and for 113,959 people around the world who were uprooted by conflict and disaster.

We backed 18 local organisations across 16 countries to create lasting change, helping empower people to regain the peace that comes with having a safe place to belong.



**18 LOCAL PARTNERS**



**16 COUNTRIES**



**25 PROGRAMS**



**113,959 PEOPLE\***  
(PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS)

## WHO WE HELPED:

**25,019**  
MEN

**18,841**  
BOYS

**42,608**  
WOMEN

**20,581**  
GIRLS

**4,110**  
PEOPLE WITH  
A DISABILITY

\*Total program participants includes 2,804 individuals whose data was not disaggregated and does not include the Gaza emergency response where data is not yet available.

Bukonzo\* fled war in the Democratic Republic of Congo to seek refuge in Ethiopia. She faced unimaginable abuse and violence while fleeing for her life.

Since joining the Tesfa (Hope) program, implemented by Act for Peace partner Ethiopian Orthodox Church – Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (ECO-DICAC) she has been able to rebuild her life.







# Acting for peace in the world with our local partners

Backed by our supporters, we responded to displacement through programs led by local partners, and by amplifying the voices of people around the world who are affected by conflict and disaster.

In FY25 we backed and worked in solidarity with local partners to build lasting change – designed by the community, for the community – helping people regain and retain the peace of a safe place to call home.



## ASIA PACIFIC

### India

Organisation for Eelam Refugees' Rehabilitation

### Indonesia

Church World Service Indonesia  
Yayasan Cita Wadah Swadaya

### Myanmar

Myanmar Council of Churches

### Pacific

National Council of Churches in Australia  
Pacific Conference of Churches  
Tonga National Council of Churches

### Pakistan

Community World Service Asia

### Sri Lanka

Organisation for Elangai Refugees' Rehabilitation

### The Philippines

National Council of Churches in the Philippines

### Thailand

The Border Consortium

### Timor Leste

Church World Service

### Vanuatu

Vanuatu Christian Council



## AFRICA

### Ethiopia

Ethiopian Orthodox Church – Development and Inter-Church Aid Commissionn

### Zimbabwe

Christian Care Zimbabwe  
Zimbabwe Council of Churches

## MIDDLE EAST

### Gaza

Near East Council of Churches' Department of Services for Palestinian Refugees

### Jordan

Near East Council of Churches' Department of Services for Palestinian Refugees

### Palestine

World Council of Churches



## GLOBAL PARTNERS & PROGRAMS

### ACT Alliance

Asia Pacific Network of Refugees

Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network

Emergency Action Alliance

PCPAN Forum

The Church Agencies Network – Disaster Operations

Walking the Talk





# Goal: Safety in exile

## PEOPLE LIVE IN SAFETY, WITH DIGNITY, WHILE DISPLACED

This goal aims to ensure that displaced people:

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

### Programs

- Afghanistan: Enhancing girls’ education
- Gaza and Middle East: Conflict emergency appeal
- Global: Walking the Talk (WTT) – shifting power, innovation and enhanced agility to displacement
- India: Refugee health
- India and Sri Lanka: Sri Lankan Refugee Return and Reintegration Program (SLRRRP)

- Myanmar: Earthquake emergency appeal
- Pacific: PANZ Forum
- Pacific: Pacific Church Partnership Advisory Network (PCPAN)
- Palestine and Israel: Ecumenical Accompaniment Program (EAPPI)
- Thai-Myanmar border: Lead from Within
- Vanuatu: Earthquake emergency appeal

Every year, the number of people forcibly displaced continues to rise.

At the end of 2024, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) reported that 123.2 million people were forced to flee their homes as a result of persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations or events that seriously disturbed public order. That’s an additional 3.2 million since May 2024, and those numbers don’t account for the millions of people forced into exile due to disasters and climate change.

The past year, we have focused on providing safety in exile for people impacted by the conflict in Gaza and the Middle East, as well as disasters in Myanmar and Vanuatu. Through long term programs and partnerships, we work to ensure people live in safety, with dignity, while displaced.

An aerial image taken on January 27, 2025, shows displaced people on their way home to the north of the Gaza Strip.





# Crisis emergency response

## CONFLICT RESPONSE

Over the past year, our emergency appeal responses have concentrated on the war in Gaza and more broadly on the expanded conflict in the Middle East, providing vital emergency support. An emergency appeal for Gaza was launched in FY24 following the October 7, 2023 attack, with funds raised supporting our local partner, the Near East Council of Churches (NECC), through the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR), in their provision of emergency relief in war-torn Gaza.

As the armed conflict continued, displacing the majority of Gaza's 2.1 million people, claiming tens of thousands of lives and causing widespread starvation, we continued to raise much needed funds to help local organisations respond.

Outside of Gaza, conflicts across the Middle East also resulted in hundreds of thousands of people being forced to flee their homes in search of a safe place to belong. Conflict in Lebanon escalated in September 2024, and displacement soared. The ongoing eruptions in conflict and tenuous ceasefire agreements also created uncertainty for millions of displaced Syrians.

To address the huge needs of these ongoing Middle East conflicts, Act for Peace expanded the emergency crisis response to a Middle East Appeal, with our generous supporters gifting nearly \$400,000. Funds are deployed through the ACT Alliance network of local organisations to provide emergency assistance. Funds were also deployed to provide emergency food to support Palestinian refugees in Jordan.

**"Christian Aid's local partners in Gaza are deeply rooted in their communities and have been the first responders to this humanitarian crisis and continue to provide lifesaving assistance to communities in need."**

**Our partners have shown incredible adaptability and innovation, including through food, water, medical, and shelter support."**

– Katie Roxburgh, Programme Manager, Israel & the occupied Palestinian territory, Christian Aid



Majdi Fathi/Christian Aid

ACT Alliance local partner in Gaza cooking up nutritious meals for displaced people in the Khan Younis area.



Sai Aung Main/AFP

Rescuers search through the rubble of a damaged building looking for survivors in Mandalay, Myanmar.

## DISASTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE

In the last year, Act for Peace also launched two emergency appeals in response to disasters in Myanmar and Vanuatu.

On 28 March, a powerful, magnitude 7.7 earthquake struck Myanmar, sending strong tremors across neighbouring countries, including Thailand, India, Laos, Bangladesh and China.

More than 3,000 people lost their lives, thousands were injured and widespread damage to buildings and infrastructure occurred. Myanmar's government declared a state of emergency across six regions to aid recovery efforts.

Act for Peace launched an emergency appeal in partnership with Emergency Action Alliance (EAA),

working in solidarity with 15 leading alliance-member charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently to maximise the Australian public's response and the distribution of appeal funds.

This emergency appeal raised more than \$70,000.

Act for Peace also launched an emergency appeal in the immediate aftermath of the magnitude 7.3 earthquake that struck Vanuatu on December 17. Widespread damage and significant casualties were caused when the quake hit.

Generous Act for Peace supporters responded, donating more than \$92,000 to support the development of a recovery program implemented by our partner Vanuatu Christian Council.





## ECUMENICAL ACCOMPANIMENT PROGRAM IN PALESTINE & ISRAEL

**Every day, persecution and human rights abuse destroy people's lives and fuel conflict in the Holy Land.**

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) helps confront these injustices to pursue a just peace by providing a protective presence to improve safety for the people who live there.

Over the past year, EAPPI has achieved multiple significant milestones, despite the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, which has impacted deployment timelines.

The EAPPI program facilitated training in April for a group of seven deeply committed participants in preparation for the possibility of deployment.

The training involved sessions on the principles of nonviolence, principled impartiality and the practice of protective accompaniment, international humanitarian law, communication skills and dealing with team dynamics and the fundamentals of fundraising, awareness raising and advocacy.

According to Act for Peace EAPPI National Coordinator, Naomi\*, the training and preparation process is comprehensive.

### 2024/25 program highlights

- Successful deployment and safe return of an Ecumenical Accompanier from September to November 2024.
- Recruitment of a new National Coordinator.
- Recruitment of a volunteer Project Assistant / Intern for three months to support recruitment and training.
- Recruitment and training of seven passionate and capable trainees.

"This ensures participants who choose to deploy can make informed decisions regarding their suitability for the placement," says Naomi.

"There's comprehensive support along the journey and an experienced team on hand to provide intensive and bespoke guidance."

Nina\* participated in the program as an Ecumenical Accompanier (EA) last year and shares how the program influenced her and why it's so desperately needed at this time in history.

"It definitely motivated me even more to advocate for a just society and peace," she says.

**"We need peacemakers, more than ever... as many as possible.  
The world needs more peace-loving people.  
I cannot help but try my best as a peacemaker, however big or small the impact I can make."**

– Nina



EAs offer a protective presence to vulnerable communities and monitor and report human rights abuses.

## REFUGEES LEAD FROM WITHIN CAMPS ON THAI-MYANMAR BORDER

In western Thailand, a sprawling population of 108,000 refugees from Myanmar lives in nine camps along the border.

The Lead from Within program provides refugees with a dignified pathway to build their leadership skills and autonomy over the decisions that impact their lives.

Working in solidarity with The Border Consortium (TBC), Act for Peace supports refugee-led management in the camps. The program provides safety, security and dignity to refugees who have been displaced for generations, raising children who were born in the camps and know no other reality than a life lived in exile.

Camp security staff provide safety and security services and refugees are encouraged to share their concerns with the committee and other community representatives during meetings or via feedback boxes located around the camp.

During the past financial year, the recently elected camp committee completed its orientation and training, which focused on upholding safety and security. Refugees had multiple opportunities to

participate, share their concerns about the camp management process and ensure their perspectives were heard.

The external evaluation concluded that "Camp leaders were actively engaged in making key decisions relevant to the implementation of Lead from Within, facilitated by TBC".

With significant funding cuts impacting TBC's ability to meet the food needs of people living in the camps, TBC continues to advocate for durable solutions.

Act for Peace is working alongside them to transform the system so refugees living in exile have a safe place to belong for the future (refer page 38).

### 2024/25 program highlights

- 247 refugees are employed in leadership roles in two refugee camps.
- 41 people received direct social assistance.
- 39% of leadership roles are held by women. 100% of roles are held by ethnic minority groups, predominantly Karenni, helping to improve equality and protection for vulnerable groups.
- 38 refugee-led activities were held to boost social cohesion.
- 524 refugees received training in leadership, development, governance and/or office management. This also included orientation training for 61 new camp committee staff.
- Over 14 consultations were held on key community issues with local refugee governance groups, including camp committees and local partners.
- 96.2% of refugees in all nine camps reported an improved sense of safety and well-being in a survey of 397 refugees.
- 20 people received mental health and psychosocial support.
- 70 security officers are currently working in camps.

**"I am driven by my determination to serve my community."**

**I want to help them, because, as fellow human beings, they are entitled to basic human rights."**

– Mu Taw



Mu Taw is the vice chairperson for the camp committee. She was elected by the camp members after running as a candidate. Mu Taw's role is to supervise and provide administrative support for people living in the camp.





# Goal: A place to belong

## UPROOTED PEOPLE FIND A PERMANENT PLACE TO BELONG

This goal aims to ensure the following:

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

### Programs

- Ethiopia: Tesfa (Hope), Graduation approach
- Ethiopia: Mignote (Aspiration) – Self-reliance and poverty alleviation of refugees, internally displaced persons and host communities through livelihoods, protection and education
- Pacific: Pacific Church Partnership Advisory Network (PCPAN)
- Global: Walking the Talk (WTT) – shifting power, innovation and enhanced agility to displacement
- India and Sri Lanka: Sri Lankan Refugee Return and Reintegration Program (SLRRRP)
- Jordan: Forsa (Opportunity) for Youth – Pathway out of poverty for refugees in camps in Jordan

Everyone deserves a place where they feel safe and belong. Yet, for those forced to flee their homes because of conflict or disasters, that sense of safety and refuge is often lost. In regions experiencing chronic conflict, drought or climate-induced emergencies, displacement may last for years – even generations.

That's why we focus on supporting community-rooted organisations and collaborating for deep, principled transformation. By investing in local leadership and building strong alliances, we foster solutions that last and strengthen resilience.

We believe locally driven, sustained partnerships are key to restoring stability – helping people reclaim the peace, security and dignity of having a safe place to call home. Empowerment through longstanding collaboration brings real, meaningful recovery.

During the past year, Act for Peace concentrated on initiatives aimed at reintegrating displaced individuals within their own countries and enhancing climate resilience – enabling communities to create, retain, or return to a safe place to belong.



Konjit,\* a mother of four, felt completely alone in the world before she joined the Tesfa (Hope) program, implemented by Act for Peace local partner organisation, Ethiopian Orthodox Church – Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC). Now she has hope and a safe place to belong.





## ENSURING HOME IS A SAFE PLACE TO BELONG

Thousands of ethnic minority Tamils from Sri Lanka fled to safety in India due to the civil conflict. But decades later, many are still living in refugee camps where they face a range of barriers preventing them from returning to their homeland and reintegrating successfully.

The economic crisis in Sri Lanka means many returnees still struggle financially and could be at risk of irregular migration. Misinformation, lack of information, legal documentation and confidence in the return process mean many refugees are apprehensive about returning home.

We partner with Organisation for Eelam Refugees' Rehabilitation (OfERR) in India and Organisation for Elangai Refugees' Rehabilitation (OfERR) – Sri Lanka to support refugees with documentation, shelter and livelihood training to equip them to return home to Sri Lanka. We also work with OfERR in India to improve the health of refugees through disease prevention programs focused on vulnerable groups, including women, girls and people with disabilities.

FY25 saw a significant number of refugees receive support to return home to Sri Lanka, with thousands of civil documents issued, information shared, and re-establishment support provided, so they have a safe place to belong.

### 2024/25 program highlights

#### India:

- 2,220 civil documents and affidavits were issued for refugees in India so they could obtain Sri Lankan citizenship and other essential documents.
- 528 refugees received Preparedness Passports to support them for successful reintegration in Sri Lanka.
- 176 prospective returnees received guidance and certified training on skills and livelihood opportunities in Sri Lanka.

#### Sri Lanka:

- 1,012 vulnerable returned refugees and internally displaced people received essential documents.
- 387 vulnerable returned families received livelihood support to help them earn a stable income.
- 322 vulnerable returned families received tools and practical support to help them earn an income.

**“After we came home, I experienced boundless joy. [OfERR] took care of all our needs and helped us with the documentation for my children.**

**The life we got through OfERR and the people who helped them from Australia – we are very grateful to all of them.”**

– Daniyel\*



Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace

Daniyel (left) with his family back home in Sri Lanka. After spending years in refugee camps in India, Daniyel and his family were supported by OfERR with the documentation to return home as well as livelihood, education and housing support so they have a safe place to belong.

**“I would like to thank the Australian supporters... for helping take me out of poverty and for changing my life.**

**You have changed my life. And may God return what you have done for me to you.”**

– Tsehay\*



Sarah Doyle/Act for Peace

Tsehay\* describes herself as “a changed” woman thanks to the Tesfa program. She was interested in becoming a hair stylist and after the training and mentorship program, the Tesfa team connected her with a local salon where she was trained and then offered employment.

## A SUSTAINABLE PATHWAY OUT OF POVERTY PROVIDES HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Poverty is widespread in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with families struggling to earn sustainable incomes amid widespread displacement.

But the Tesfa (Amharic for hope) program is providing hope for a better future – supporting refugees and host community families to transform their lives for the long term by creating a sustainable pathway out of poverty.

Together, we work with local partner organisation, EOC-DICAC, to empower families to rebuild their lives.

Over two years, participants receive training, support and mentoring to start businesses or access employment so they have a sustainable income.

FY25 saw participants complete vocational training and gain the necessary expertise to transition into business ownership. This achievement marks a critical step toward economic empowerment, fostering independence and stability within the community.

By equipping participants with the skills to start their own businesses, the program not only improves livelihoods for individuals and families but also contributes to the local economy.

### 2024/25 program highlights

- Tesfa focuses on joint programming with key partners, including UNHCR and the Refugee Returnee Service (RRS). Strong collaboration ensures better coordination, efficient resource utilisation and wider impact.
- Four savings and credit groups started saving collectively.
- 11 community members received loans through the savings groups, enabling them to invest in small businesses to improve their family incomes.
- Savings group members are making regular deposits into a social fund to provide emergency financial support to group members in times of need.
- 40 project participants have completed a variety of vocational short-term skills training.
- 14 participants completed training in hairdressing and makeup, while 6 completed training in food preparation.





## YOUNG REFUGEES IN JORDAN FIND A PATHWAY OUT OF POVERTY

Act for Peace has worked alongside long-term partner, Department of Services to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR), in Jordan on a holistic program that provides Syrian and Palestinian refugees with a pathway out of poverty.

After the completion of the 18-month program, we supported DSPR to expand their community impact with the implementation of Forsa for Youth – an iteration focused on providing young people with skills, training and support to expand their career options and have a brighter future.

Forsa (meaning opportunity) for Youth engages young refugees in extreme poverty, supporting them and their families through a sustainable, holistic program that builds their self-reliance and skills to develop reliable sources of income and independence.

Program participants receive home visits, career counselling, life skills, finance and technical and vocational training.

Further support is provided through referrals to support agencies, links to savings and loans groups and assistance to create individual livelihood plans and job matching, along with access to community protection services.

The results are remarkable, with many participants and their families able to budget and save money, and with career support, training and mentoring, they have started new jobs or businesses.

Participants like Salma\* have seen significant progress since joining Forsa. Salma was passionate about photography but didn't have the means to make an income from her hobby. She learned savings skills and financial management.

Salma also enrolled in an advanced photography course online and an information technology course and saved money to buy a tablet to edit her photos.

Thanks to Forsa for Youth, she has turned her passion into a profession.

### 2024/25 program highlights

- 163 people were referred to relevant support services (74% were individuals with disabilities and 67% were females).
- 50 people received one-on-one career counselling sessions.
- 164 people attended awareness sessions on gender equality, child abuse and disability inclusion.
- 104 people (280% of the target) attended community-based protection workshops, helping refugees to identify protection risks and solutions.
- 72 people (from 50 families) were trained in life skills, financial literacy and accessing sustainable livelihoods to help them become self-reliant.
- 50 families were registered with mobile wallet accounts to help them access modern financial tools so they can budget and save.
- 44 families joined savings and loan groups.
- 96% of families have increased their savings (since joining saving and loan groups).
- 60% of families have reduced their debts (since joining saving and loan groups).

**“Through the training and lectures that we took, it increased my self-confidence... it taught me how to manage time, how to deal with pressures, problems and risks, and all of this helped me and taught me how to manage my life and project and reach the local market...”** – Salma\*

Salma\* has turned her passion into a profession thanks to training and support provided by the Forsa for Youth program.





# Goal: Reduced displacement

## REDUCING THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE THEIR HOMES

This goal aims to ensure the following:

- 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.

### Programs

- Zimbabwe: Increasing food security for Zimbabwean subsistence farmers through climate resilient conservation farming
- Zimbabwe: Strengthening protection, resilience and preparedness for displaced people and host communities in Zimbabwe
- Indonesia: Community Led Early Action and Resilience (CLEAR)
- The Philippines: Building disaster resilient communities
- Pakistan: Integrated health and education for displacement affected communities

Below: In Pakistan, our local partner, Community World Service Asia (CWSA), implements education programs, reducing displacement risks for families in disaster-prone communities.

- Global: Walking the Talk (WTT) – shifting power, innovation and enhanced agility to displacement
- Vanuatu: Disaster Ready phase 2
- Timor-Leste: AHP El Nino Preparedness
- Timor-Leste: AHP Disaster Ready II, Anticipatory Action 2024
- Pacific: Pacific Church Partnership Advisory Network (PCPAN)
- Vanuatu: AHP Vanuatu Anticipatory Action Trial 2023-2026

Working side-by-side with people facing displacement is critical to shaping solutions together.

We go beyond providing emergency relief to create lasting change – working together to create better futures. This year we continued to back our local partners in their work alongside communities in the Asia Pacific, helping them adapt to, prepare for and become resilient to droughts and other disasters.

In FY25 we developed a concept note on ‘Community Based Approaches to Climate Displacement’, building on our Climate Displacement Strategy developed the previous year.







## HEALTH AND EDUCATION FOR MIGRATION-PRONE COMMUNITIES IN PAKISTAN

In Umerkot district, women, young children and people with disabilities face significant barriers to accessing health and education services.

In a region severely impacted by disasters and seasonal migration, these vulnerable populations are most at risk.

In 2024/25, local partner, Community World Service Asia (CWSA), responded to these challenges by strengthening health facilities, promoting quality education and building the capacity of local structures to ensure long-term, community-driven service delivery.

Targeting 30 villages where frequent displacement disrupts community life, the program focused on maternal health, disease prevention, primary education and community empowerment.

Increased community awareness of the importance of education for girls has seen a gradual increase in the enrolment of girls in school, while increased health services mean more vulnerable community members are accessing vital health care.

This model has laid the groundwork for long-term improvements in health and education services across the migration-prone region, helping to reduce displacement so families in Umerkot have a safe place to belong in the future.



Sana\* (right) could only dream of going to school before CWSA began working in her village, raising awareness about the importance of education for girls.

### 2024/25 program highlights

- More than 12,000 people accessed health services and received free essential medicines at three new health dispensaries. More than 2,000 women received antenatal and postnatal care.
- 2,000 women accessed family planning services.
- 1,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women received counselling and awareness on maternal and child health.
- 10,000 community members participated in health education sessions and received informative materials on topics including HIV prevention, hygiene and family planning.
- 4,200 people were screened for malnutrition, including 1,500 children under age five and 2,700 pregnant and breastfeeding women.
- 10 new schools provided with learning materials, sports kits, quarterly school supplies and play-based learning activities as well as specialised teacher training and mentoring to improve education quality and student attendance.
- 15 awareness sessions were conducted with Village Management Committees (VMCs) on girls' education, safeguarding, inclusion and child rights to increase school attendance.
- 10 hygiene clubs started in schools to promote safe hygiene practices.

**“Before starting my education, my only focus was on household chores... many girls did not receive an education. After CWSA arrived, there has been great awareness about education in our village...**

**Now, parents' mindset has changed to some extent and girls have started coming to school.”**

– Sana\*

## BUILDING SUSTAINABLE INCOMES AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

In Zimbabwe, many families who rely on farming for their income and food have been forced to move from their homes due to climate displacement with increasing droughts, storms, floods and other climate threats.

Act for Peace worked in solidarity with local partner, Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), to provide access to water, strengthen community protection measures and build resilience to future climate-related disasters.

We also backed Christian Care Zimbabwe to combat the threat of climate displacement. Christian Care worked with farmers to build their resilience to climate threats by improving their crop yields and providing alternative sources of income so they can meet their families' daily needs and plan for the future.

Water and food security have vastly improved as the regenerated wetland has created an environment for the community gardens to flourish. Meanwhile, conservation farming techniques that require less water and fewer seeds to produce better yields are making a huge difference in the farmers' crop outputs.

**“Our soil used to be very poor. But now it's fertile and giving good yield. Weeds have also been reduced drastically.”** – Juliet



Juliet graduated from the conservation farming project and was selected by the community to be the lead farmer. Women like Juliet are leading the way toward climate-resilient farming, food security and empowered communities.

### 2024/25 program highlights

#### Christian Care:

- 2,670 families have improved access to groundwater after wetlands were protected and regenerated.
- 3,335 farmers trained in conservation agriculture with an adoption rate of 99.6%.
- 600 community members attended three farm field days where knowledge was shared and best practices were showcased.
- 48 farmer field school facilitators were trained, helping to share conservation farming knowledge with more community farmers.
- 1,560 farmers supported with small livestock to help improve their income.
- 360 people with disabilities received training and small livestock support to establish and sustain an income.
- Three community nutrition gardens established to improve food and nutrition security.
- 2,304 vulnerable women and men reported significant increases to their incomes through conservation farming, small livestock production and apiculture.

#### Zimbabwe Council of Churches:

- 100 people supported with documentation services to secure essential papers.
- 2,297 internally displaced people and host community members gained improved access to clean, safe water; hygiene facilities and health services.
- A 5000-litre storage tank and solar powered piped water system installed at the Runyararo community health clinic, improving reliable water access for staff and patients.
- 30 savings and loan group members received startup capital and training to improve their livelihoods.





## BUILDING DISASTER-RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippines faces some of the highest disaster risks in the world, experiencing an average of 20 tropical cyclones each year, compounded by the impacts of climate change.

Communities also face displacement from armed conflict, drought and volcanic eruptions, threatening lives, livelihoods and futures.

Our partner, the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP), is equipping vulnerable communities – including women, people with disabilities, farmers, fisherfolk and indigenous groups – with the skills, resources and advocacy support to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters.

The approach recognises that churches and community networks are best placed to identify local risks and lead solutions. Through training, hazard mapping, action planning and community-led preparedness activities, Regional Ecumenical Councils (RECs) and Village Disaster Risk Reduction teams are developing practical, legally recognised disaster plans and early warning systems. The program also supports families to strengthen their income so they can recover faster after a disaster.

In the past year, this work has been vital in responding to displacement caused by armed conflict in Negros Occidental, severe drought linked

to El Niño and the eruption of Mt. Kanlaon. Relief efforts have reached hundreds of affected families with food, water, medical care and psychosocial support, while legal and advocacy efforts have sought accountability for human rights violations in conflict-affected areas.

By supporting communities to lead their own preparedness and recovery, the program helps break cycles of vulnerability, ensuring that when disaster strikes – whether from climate, conflict, or other crises – people are better protected, better informed and better equipped to rebuild their lives.

**“We gained knowledge about evacuation, preparedness, preparation, and early warnings.”**

– Elenita, a community member who attended the training.

### 2024/25 program highlights

- 1,321 people participated in protection, human rights and climate change orientations.
- 121 participants trained during two Disaster & Climate Risk Assessment and Preparedness Plan Workshops.
- Over 380 individuals received food and relief assistance after Typhoon Gaemi, the Mt. Kanlaon eruption and the Manila Bay oil spill.
- Construction of new fish drying and processing facilities will boost income for local community members who rely on fishing.
- 729 community members joined public advocacy training on governance and environmental protection.
- 592 young people engaged in youth assemblies, camps and environmental seminars on climate justice, food security and gender rights.



Community members attended Disaster Risk Reduction training facilitated by NCCP.

## BUILDING FLOOD RESILIENCE IN MAKASSAR

In Indonesia, Act for Peace works with local partner, Yayasan Cita Wadah Swadaya (YCWS) and in-country implementing partner Church World Service (CWS) Indonesia, to help communities prepare for disasters and ensure they can respond and recover effectively.

In the flood-prone urban region of Makassar, the Community Led Early Action & Resilience (CLEAR) program strengthens community resilience to climate impacts through training and technical support, strengthening early warning systems and anticipatory action and supporting people with disaster-resilient livelihoods.

YCWS and CWS Indonesia have established four community-based disaster preparedness committees (known as Kampung Siaga Bencanas – KSBs), training over 150 members to centralise and coordinate disaster management.

In each KSB, leadership is inclusive and locally driven. In Tamangapa, youth are at the forefront with strong support from elders.

Katimbang's KSB is predominantly led by women, while in Pacerakkang, the KSB focuses on engaging new residents who aren't familiar with local flood risks.

The KSB model demonstrates how highly vulnerable, flood-prone neighbourhoods can become active, organised and resilient communities.

With local KSBs leading disaster preparedness, evacuation, aid distribution and recovery efforts, the program is effectively reducing displacement risks, so everyone has a safe place to belong.

**“The village head in Tamangapa asked neighborhood leaders to involve young people in KSB activities.**

**He believes this is not just about disaster response, but also about character building.**

**Even without being instructed, the youth are now able to take initiative during disaster.”**

– Wahyu, Youth representative in Tamangapa KSB.



The KSB played a key role in the local village flood response.

### 2024/25 program highlights

- 758 community members attended 18 climate change information sessions held in schools and communities.
- Four urban villages developed flood hazard maps and Community Climate Risk Adaptation Action Plans.
- 199 local stakeholders helped develop Village Disaster Risk Management Plans and Contingency Plans, providing guidelines for disaster mitigation and response.
- 432 community members involved in hazard mapping and vulnerability assessments were completed with 18 trained disaster committee staff.
- 111 participants joined 5 community discussions conducting feasibility studies on the use of cash and voucher assistance to support people impacted by disasters.
- 96 community members (including 77 women) trained in resilience and livelihood planning – exceeding the original target by 148% due to strong community interest.
- 61 participants trained in business skills, including financial record-keeping and marketing.





# Change strategy: Backing displaced people

## WORK IN SOLIDARITY WITH LOCAL PARTNERS

This change strategy involves the following:

- 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.

Working in solidarity with local partners is central to every aspect of our work. It's core to backing displaced people and ensuring they can create change in their own families and communities.

This change strategy underpins the programs and partnerships we commit to and how these programs are implemented. We continue to focus on backing displaced people by resourcing locally led initiatives that reduce displacement.

From supporting the graduation out of poverty approach in Ethiopia to collaboration on humanitarian partnerships and partner-led workshops, Act for Peace is committed to creating environments that foster shared learning and build solidarity.

### 2024/25 highlights

- Accountability to affected populations: Review of Act for Peace and partner processes conducted and workshop facilitated involving 12 partners who took the lead on different topics, resulting in recommendations for strengthening our practice.
- GEDSI (Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion) Analysis Tool updated so partners can easily adapt and use in their contexts.
- Four partners involved in anticipatory action activities: Vanuatu Christian Council and Church World Service Timor Leste completed preparatory work, the National Council of Churches in the Philippines began preparatory work and Christian Aid Bangladesh shared about their locally led approach to anticipatory action at the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week (RHPW) in Bangkok, December 2024.
- Four participants from three partner organisations were supported to attend the RHPW event in Bangkok, hosted by Act for Peace partner Community World Service Asia (CWSA).
- Continued technical support to two partners in the Graduation Approach (EOC-DICAC Ethiopia and DSPR Jordan).



## WALKING THE TALK

Walking the Talk (WTT) is a global program that involves all Act for Peace partners in activities that challenge power dynamics and recognise the strengths of people affected by displacement.

Over the past year, we facilitated mutual learning sessions (for Act for Peace staff and partners) in accountability to affected populations.

We have also facilitated cross learning between partners and supported multiple partners to

prepare funding proposals where they are the lead organisation.

Act for Pearce has also co-produced research with refugee led networks.

Through WTT, partner organisations have the opportunity to grow and strengthen their networks, access funding and pilot innovative approaches.





# Change strategy: Building unity

## REDUCE DIVISION AND CREATE A MORE COMPASSIONATE SOCIETY

This change strategy involves the following:

- 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.

At a time in history when division and polarisation drive inequality and displacement, Act for Peace remains committed to building unity and working towards a more compassionate society.

Over the past year, we strengthened solidarity among churches across the Pacific region. As a member of the Pacific Church Partnership Advisory Network (PCPAN) and the ACT Alliance Pacific, Australia and New Zealand regional forum (PANZ), Act for Peace brings technical expertise in displacement, protection and disaster preparedness.

We also work in partnership with the National Councils of Churches in Australia (NCCA) and the PANZ to help strengthen networks and improve development outcomes across the region.

This year we continued our commitment to supporting the Safer World for All campaign, a national movement that harnesses the collective voice of individuals and community groups to urge our political leaders to increase Australia's international aid budget, reduce global inequality and invest in climate and humanitarian resilience.

Through the Ration Challenge, we helped to inspire the next generation of changemakers by empowering young people to stand with refugees, raise awareness and influence their communities for positive change.

Through the Ration Challenge, young Australians take practical action to support refugees and communities affected by conflict and disaster.







## RATION CHALLENGE

Young Australians continue to show they are at the heart of creating a more compassionate society, leading their peers and communities in building unity through the Ration Challenge.

Last year, 40 schools and youth groups across Australia took part in the Ration Challenge, raising over \$200,000 to support refugees and communities affected by conflict and disaster.

Most groups took the challenge during Refugee Week in June, with young Australians stepping up to live on the same rations as Syrian and Palestinian refugees in Jordan for three days. In doing so, they showed incredible empathy, courage and commitment.

We congratulate everyone who took part in this nationwide initiative. Thank you to all the students, youth groups, teachers and leaders for standing in solidarity with refugees and for acting for peace in the world.

**“In my experience, students are so aware of the privilege they enjoy living on the beautiful South Coast. And because of this, we are completing the Ration Challenge to stand with those that are in poverty and suffer hardship. Not just to stand with them but also practically help.”**

– Yousif Aziz, teacher, Ulladulla High School



Oakhill College students preparing to take the Ration Challenge.



Act for Peace staff attending a Safer World for All event in Sydney.

## SAFER WORLD FOR ALL

Over the past year, we joined other humanitarian agencies united in our support for the Safer World for All campaign.

Ahead of Australia’s federal election, we supported the campaign calling for an increase in the nation’s foreign aid budget, attending nationwide events and calling on our supporters to join us by contacting their MPs.

## PACIFIC CHURCH NETWORKS AND ALLIANCES

As part of our commitment to building unity in the Pacific, Act for Peace has continued to support and strengthen churches across the Pacific to help improve development outcomes.

In FY25, we achieved this through our involvement in the Pacific Church Partnerships Program (PCPAN) Network and as a member of the ACT Alliance Pacific, Australia and New Zealand (PANZ) regional forum.

PCPAN brings together the Australian government, churches and faith-based aid and development agencies, to improve development in the Pacific region. Over the past year, Act for Peace worked alongside the Pacific Conference of Churches and the National Council of Churches in Australia to strengthen the network and joined multiple meetings of the PCPAN Network. Regular meetings took place, both virtually and in-person, with Act for Peace responsible for providing oversight and monitoring and developing and facilitating the sharing of information and communications that promote and showcase the achievements of the PCPAN and broader Australia-Pacific church-based partnerships.

The PANZ forum is focused on strengthening and equipping Pacific church partners to humanitarian and development needs throughout the region.

The PANZ forum collaborated with the ACT Alliance Secretariat and Vanuatu church partners to hold a Core Humanitarian Standard Training Workshop in Vanuatu to strengthen quality and accountability in Vanuatu church humanitarian action.

### 2024/25 highlights

- The annual PCPAN meeting was held on 21-23 October 2024 in North Sydney. This forum included strategic discussions and planning, to progress the network’s commitment to strengthening development in the Pacific.
- A design consultant conducted consultations in Fiji, PNG, Vanuatu, Samoa and Australia before preparing a comprehensive design document for consideration of the PCPAN in March 2025.
- 24 participants attended the PCPAN Meeting in Fiji from 10-14 March 2025. The primary purpose of this meeting was to familiarise network members with the design document for Phase 2.
- 3 Position Papers were prepared and shared at the March 2025 PCPAN meeting, on “Faith, Development and Foreign Policy”, “First Nations and Pacific Indigenous Protocols of Welcome and seeking to enter land/community”, and “Ocean of Peace and Flourishing for Vulnerable Communities”.
- The PANZ Forum continues to explore opportunities for ongoing capacity strengthening of church partners in the Pacific.



PCPAN Network members at the March 2025 meeting in Nadi, Fiji.





# Change strategy: Transforming the system

## ADVOCATE FOR A RADICALLY DIFFERENT RESPONSE TO THE DISPLACEMENT CRISIS

This change strategy involves the following:

- 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.

Building a safer and more peaceful world takes significant work behind the scenes: lobbying, building relationships and campaigning.

Over the past year, substantial progress has been made towards transforming systems to address the issues that fuel displacement.

Through long-term partnerships and a commitment to advocacy, Act for Peace advocated for the Australian government to provide increased support for displaced people in Myanmar, lobbied to appoint an ambassador for Global Displacement and collaborated on a Draft Declaration on Refugees’ Rights to Participate.



Act for Peace continued to engage in advocacy efforts to support local partner The Border Consortium in their work addressing Myanmar’s displacement crisis.





## LOBBYING FOR DISPLACED PEOPLE IN MYANMAR

Myanmar's democratic forces and armed opposition groups liberated nearly half of their country from the military junta, but the displacement crisis is enormous after decades of civil war.

Act for Peace successfully engaged in advocacy, calling on the Australian government to increase aid for approximately two million people displaced in liberated areas and welcomed the move by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) at the end of 2024 to provide \$2.5 million in aid for Southeast Myanmar.

Our local partner, The Border Consortium (TBC), is working with over 30 local civil society organisations to deliver that aid through locally led responses into the Southeast, where displaced people continue to face airstrikes, shelling and other atrocities. DFAT has also since prioritised providing aid to non-military-controlled areas, which was a key request made by Act for Peace. TBC has been profoundly impacted by the catastrophic global humanitarian funding cuts.

Refugees from Myanmar living in nine camps in Thailand rely on TBC as the main provider of food and shelter and there is a real risk they will be without adequate support.

Act for Peace assisted TBC to advocate for assistance to meet their funding gaps so they can continue to provide food aid for 108,000 refugees. We hosted a delegation from TBC in Canberra to meet with DFAT officials.

TBC led advocacy with the Thai government to allow refugees to work and is stepping up support for small businesses in the camps, as well as agriculture initiatives to help people grow food in small plots.

As a member of the Consortium and a member of TBC's board, Act for Peace supported TBC in their advocacy efforts and assisted the leadership team with contingency planning, re-budgeting and developing a new strategy.



Ben Littlejohn/Act for Peace

TBC needs to secure funding to continue providing food aid for refugees in Thailand.



Ali Haider Sulhani and Janbaz Salehi/Act for Peace

Senior Refugee Protection Advisor, Brian Barbour (fifth from left) and representatives from the working group met in Jakarta to finalise the draft declaration.

## TAKING PARTICIPATION SERIOUSLY

As we marked World Refugee Day on 20 June 2025, Act for Peace jointly released something historic: **An Independent Declaration on the Right of Refugees and Others Experiencing Displacement or Statelessness to Participate in Decisions that Affect Them.**

A group of 20 experts, including 12 refugee leaders and eight academic/legal experts from around the world, came together to develop this draft Declaration. It went out for global consultation,

inviting broad engagement from refugee communities, civil society, governments and other stakeholders to review, share and endorse the Declaration and to use it jointly to promote law and policy reform.

Rather than promoting top-down approaches that focus on convening governments and treaties, this represents a ground-up approach that ensures refugees have a seat at the table and a voice in all decisions that affect their lives.

### 2024/25 highlights

- Four recommendations presented to the Australian government to mitigate the food crisis for Myanmar refugees.
- DFAT pledged \$2.5 million in aid for Southeast Myanmar.
- DFAT prioritised aid in non-military controlled areas in Myanmar.
- The Independent Declaration on the Right of Refugees and Others Experiencing Displacement or Statelessness to Participate in Decisions that Affect Them was released.
- Act for Peace organised a conference panel on refugee rights attended by 33 people at the International Association for the Study of Forced Migration Conference in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in January 2025.
- The Australian Government joined the meaningful participation pledge and has formed an Australian Refugee Advisory Panel.
- Established an official partnership with the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at the University of New South Wales, working primarily on meaningful refugee participation and leadership.
- Ongoing work to support the Thai government and local partners in law and policy development. In June 2024, co-facilitated a workshop with the Royal Thai Government, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Detention Coalition to build capacity on the assistance and protection of human rights for vulnerable migrants.





# Learning from our work

As part of our commitment to accountability and transparency, Act for Peace regularly monitors and evaluates our programs to measure success, track efficacy and demonstrate results.

This ensures we are accountable to our supporters, partners, and the communities we work alongside while also fulfilling our commitment to best practice and improvement, so our work has the greatest impact possible.

## PROGRAM EVALUATION

This year, seven program evaluations were conducted in addition to regular monitoring.

### 1. Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC):

*Strengthening Protection, Resilience and Preparedness Program for Displaced and Host Communities in Zimbabwe*

An external evaluation of the program found that the design aligned with the context and addressed the immediate needs of the communities served.

The program demonstrated strong value for money and multi-stakeholder coordination was robust. The locally led peacebuilding platforms have continued beyond project support, indicating sustainability. Key recommendations were for future programming to adopt a multi-phase, multi-sectoral approach integrating protection, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), livelihoods and disaster risk reduction (DRR) and to enhance long term impact. Act for Peace was encouraged to prioritise the institutional strengthening of its partner, ZCC.

### 2. Community World Service Asia (CWSA), Pakistan:

*Improving Health and Education Services in Migration-Prone Union Councils of Umerkot*

An internal project end evaluation report conducted by CWSA found the program consistently met its



Jorium adopted the conservation farming techniques he learned through Christian Care's program. His harvest increased significantly and now he's become a graduate teacher – sharing what he's learned with other community members.

core objectives: providing preventive and curative healthcare through three fully functional health dispensaries; facilitating access to quality education in safe, child-friendly school environments and empowering communities through leadership development and capacity-building efforts to reduce displacement risks and address social inequalities in migration-prone areas.

A comprehensive mixed-methods evaluation was conducted to assess the three-year program's relevance to community needs and stakeholder alignment. The study examined the effectiveness of interventions in achieving health and education outcomes, the efficiency of resource (human, financial, and material) utilisation for optimal value and timeliness, the impact on project participant well-being and learning and the sustainability of long-term benefits.

Recommendations focused on sustaining core health and education services, strengthening local ownership and reinforcing institutional linkages.

### 3. The Border Consortium (TBC), Thailand:

*The Karenni Refugee Camp Management Project (KCMP) on the Thai-Myanmar Border supported by the Camp Management and Preparedness Program*

An external evaluation of The Karenni Refugee Camp Management program, which includes the Act for Peace and ANCP-funded Lead from Within project, recognised the program as the driver behind the improved camp management structures.

A well-functioning camp management structure was found to underpin all other elements of programming, including understanding the demographics and influx of refugees to camps, improving safety and security, building camp capacity, distributing humanitarian assistance and facilitating planning for the future.

Priority recommendations were to maintain support to camp management, maintain project implementation methodology, strengthen camp security structures, maintain the real value of stipends for all camp committee members and reassess the project's assistance to facilitating alternatives to long term displacement.

### 4. Walking the Talk (WTT), Global:

*Walking the Talk: Shifting Power, Innovation and Enhanced Agility in Displacement*

An evaluation of Act for Peace's global program found Walking the Talk to be a promising and

reflective journey towards power sharing and locally led humanitarian responses.

Achievement of targets was enabled by strong and consistent engagement from six partners. Recommendations included strengthening Act for Peace's partnership approach, articulating and revising the Theory of Change, designing a cohesive monitoring, evaluation and learning system and being specific in Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI).

Other evaluations conducted in FY25:

### 5. Christian Care Zimbabwe:

*Building Sustainable Livelihoods and Climate Resilience to Mitigate Displacement in Zimbabwe*

### 6. National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP):

*Enhancing the Protection of Communities Vulnerable to Displacement Due to Conflict and Climate-induced Disasters*

### 7. Organisation for Eelam Refugees' Rehabilitation in India and Organisation for Elangai Refugees' Rehabilitation – Sri Lanka:

*Refugee Programming in India and Sri Lanka:*

1. Strengthening the Sustainability of Sri Lanka Refugee Return and Reintegration
2. Encamped Sri Lankan refugees have preventive support and health care treatment leading to improved health



The quality of education is improving in communities in Umerkot, thanks to CWSA's program.





# Our supporters

It's an honour to work alongside our generous supporters every year, helping to create a world where people uprooted by conflict and disaster can have a safe place to belong.

In 2024/25, compassionate individuals, churches, schools, and organisations partnered with us in caring for humankind – by supporting emergencies and campaigns, giving regularly as peacemakers, fundraising and advocating for peace in their communities.

Thanks to the generosity of people across Australia, we are investing in local organisations and working together to create lasting change.

**12,249** supporters, churches, organisations and schools took action through Act for Peace this year.

**\$4,861,230** given in donations and bequests to support communities around the world.

**25,137** generous gifts received.



## CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF THE CHRISTMAS BOWL

For 75 years, church communities across Australia have united through the Christmas Bowl to bring hope to families displaced by conflict and disaster.

In 2024, people came together across the nation, taking part in church services and online events to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> celebration, raising funds to provide life-changing support for people in urgent need.

Thousands of compassionate Christians joined in solidarity to raise over \$1.77 million to help people to find safety in exile and to begin to rebuild their lives. We are deeply grateful to every church, individual and community group who made this 75<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bowl a powerful expression of faith, compassion and action.

## A LEGACY OF PEACE THAT LIVES ON

Each year, we are humbled by those who choose to leave a legacy of peace by remembering Act for Peace in their Will.

Through their extraordinary gifts, vital humanitarian programs will continue to help people rebuild their lives and find the peace of a safe place to belong. We honour and celebrate the memory of our cherished supporters. Their legacy of caring for humankind lives on, bringing hope and peace to the world today.

Thank you for your generosity.

Dorothy Short  
Heather Holsinger  
Peter Ogden

# Our funding partners

Act for Peace receives financial support from a range of funding partners, which makes it possible for us to continue working 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 (DFAT) 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. In FY25, the combined impact of the ANCP grant and our supporters’ gifts, resulted in strengthened outcomes for communities in Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Pakistan, India, the Thailand-Myanmar Border, Indonesia, the Philippines and Jordan, as well as for our partners through our global project Walking the Talk.

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of the Global Mission Partners (GMP) to the Australian NGO Cooperation Program in Zimbabwe. This consolidated our strategic partnership with The Charitable Foundation, enabling us to leverage pooled and efficient funding to deliver transformational agriculture and livelihood programs in collaboration with our partner, Christian Care Zimbabwe.

Our collaboration and shared commitment with the Australian Department of Home Affairs delivered locally led solutions and refugee programs with our partner OfERR, supporting return and reintegration initiatives for Tamil refugees considering or preparing to return to Sri Lanka.

Act for Peace recognises the strength of partnership and sharing good practice and learning. Through our collaboration with The Church Agencies Network – Disaster Operations (CAN DO), we delivered vital humanitarian preparedness and response in Vanuatu and Timor Leste, through DFAT’s Australian Humanitarian Partnership.

During the first part of FY25, we received funding from USAID to support our partnership with the Tonga National Council of Churches as we worked together to increase the inclusion of people with disabilities in planning and responding to natural disasters. This funding was cut by the US Government as part of significant global funding cuts in February 2025.

In FY25, the EAPPI program was supported by three faith-based donor organisations, who are committed to peace with justice

## THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

- Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
    - Australian NGO Cooperation Program
    - Australian Humanitarian Partnership
    - Office of the Pacific
  - Australian Government Department of Home Affairs
  - The Charitable Foundation
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID) – Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
  - Global Mission Partners
  - Jan de Voogd Peace Fund
  - Quakers Thanksgiving Fund
  - Pace e Bene Fund
  - France’s Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs





# Financial summary

Act for Peace has continued to prioritise the effective management of its finances as a vital resource for fulfilling its mission. For FY25, an operating surplus of \$446k was achieved, compared to the FY24 deficit of \$523K.

Improvement in the operating result was driven by an increase in grant income and fundraising whilst controlling for costs. This demonstrates the commitment to improving our financial sustainability and managing expenditures in light of a changing operational landscape, as well as the progress made towards achieving Act for Peace’s medium- to long-term strategy.

This follows the FY24 decision to resize and reset the organisation, while continuing to maximise ongoing impact in pursuit of Act for Peace’s charitable purpose and strategy. The most significant cost reduction compared to the prior period relates to the in-Australia costs, which largely consist of salaries.

We continue to work ecumenically with trusted partners to deliver locally led programs. We remain 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 revenue was up 11% compared to FY24.

Public fundraising income was up 6% compared to FY24. This followed the strong support for the March appeal, which was launched in response to the global humanitarian cuts, as well as emergency responses, which includes the Gaza and Myanmar appeals. This was somewhat offset by the reduction in investment income, driven by market factors and returns.

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 the Pacific Church Partnership Advisory Network (PCPAN).

There was an increase in funding from DFAT in FY25 by 11% to \$2.52 million. Our other Australian grant income in FY25 represented the grants from the Australian Department of Home Affairs and the Australian Humanitarian Partnership Program via the Church Agency Network Disaster Operation. Our grants from other Australian and overseas institutional donors increased in total by 27% to \$3.50 million. This included USAID, but this funding was cut as part of global funding cuts, which resulted in the termination of the contract for the program in Tonga.

## EXPENSES

Overall, total expenditure decreased by 1% compared to FY24.

The increase in grant income is reflected in higher funding for overseas projects and program support, which was \$7.01 million and up 10% compared to FY24.

Total fundraising costs decreased further this year, down 9% compared to FY24 to \$1.20 million. This was achieved through ongoing strategic decisions made to focus on core business and the savings achieved across most of the fundraising channels.

For reference, in FY25, every \$1 Act for Peace spent on fundraising, we raised \$4.08 – an increase of 17% compared to FY24 – resulting in more funds for programs to help the communities we serve.

The Accountability and Administration costs achieved a similar decrease of 9% compared to FY24. Act for Peace continues to manage its internal costs tightly to work within the planned budget, looking to achieve operational efficiencies whilst maintaining adequate support for our overseas partners.

## PROGRAM FUNDING BY CONTINENT

AFRICA			
Country	Partner(s)	Project(s)	Amount \$
Ethiopia	1	2	301,553.43
Zimbabwe	2	2	707,970.39
TOTAL			1,009,523.82

PACIFIC			
Country	Partner(s)	Project(s)	Amount \$
Pacific Regional	2	1	328,691.83
Tonga	1	1	369,769.32
Vanuatu	1	3	248,023.57
TOTAL			946,484.72

GLOBAL			
Country	Partner(s)	Project(s)	Amount \$
Global	Multiple	1	233,398.56
TOTAL			233,398.56

MIDDLE EAST			
Country	Partner(s)	Project(s)	Amount \$
Gaza	1	1	243,680.00
Jordan	1	2	206,931.31
TOTAL			450,611.31

ASIA			
Country	Partner(s)	Project(s)	Amount \$
Afghanistan	1	1	95,000.00
India	1	2	844,012.62
Indonesia	1	2	188,950.00
Pakistan	1	1	313,460.00
Philippines	1	1	165,000.69
Sri Lanka	1	1	995,963.76
Thailand	1	1	165,731.29
Timor Leste	1	1	54,815.11
TOTAL			2,822,933.47

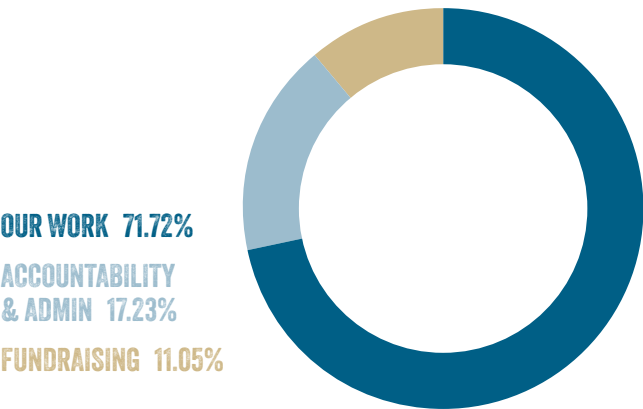
Resources are essential for building strong infrastructure and increasing our effectiveness and impact for people around the world who have been uprooted by conflict and disaster.

In the past financial year, 72% of Act for Peace’s expenditure was used on our programs, advocacy,

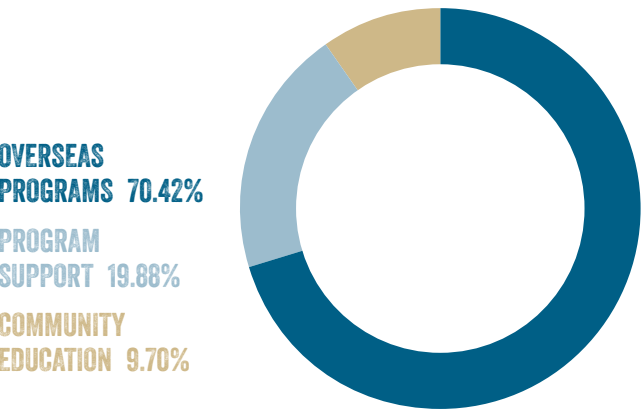
and community education work, an increase of 5% compared to FY24.

Fundraising comprised a further 11% while 17% was spent on accountability and administration to ensure our programs and funds are used as effectively as possible.

## TOTAL EXPENDITURE



## EXPENDITURE ON PROGRAMS







STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2025

REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME	Note	12 months to 30 June 2025 (\$)	12 months to 30 June 2024 (\$)
Grants revenue from contracts			
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade		2,523,268	2,274,124
Other Australian		2,951,705	2,497,594
Other Overseas		548,170	262,661
Donations and Gifts			
Monetary		4,607,068	4,332,458
Non-monetary		-	55,382
Bequests and Legacies		254,162	195,845
Commercial Activities Income		-	-
Investment Income (Loss)		372,177	534,594
Other Income		6,167	19,778
Revenue for International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs		-	-
<b>TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME</b>		<b>11,262,717</b>	<b>10,172,436</b>
EXPENDITURE			
<b>International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure</b>			
International Programs			
Funds to International Programs	12	5,462,952	5,049,139
Program Support Costs		1,542,640	1,298,818
		7,005,592	6,347,957
Community Education		752,497	897,736
Fundraising Costs			
Public		1,130,002	1,257,550
Governments, multilateral and private		65,421	54,170
		1,195,423	1,311,719
Accountability and Administration		1,763,395	1,872,597
Impairment Expense		100,000	210,399
Non-Monetary Expenditure		-	55,382
<b>Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure</b>		<b>10,816,907</b>	<b>10,695,789</b>
International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs Expenditure		-	-
Domestic Projects Expenditure		-	-
Commercial Activities Expenditure		-	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>10,816,907</b>	<b>10,695,789</b>
<b>EXCESS/(SHORTFALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>445,810</b>	<b>(523,353)</b>
<b>Other Comprehensive Income</b>			
Property Valuation		0	31,274
<b>Total Other Comprehensive Income/(Loss)</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>31,274</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)</b>		<b>445,810</b>	<b>(492,079)</b>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 30 JUNE 2025

ASSETS	Note	12 months to 30 June 2025 (\$)	12 months to 30 June 2024 (\$)
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash equivalents	2	2,192,796	2,381,700
Trade and other Receivables	3	407,838	1,953,035
Other Financial Assets – Receivable from NCCA	4	18,167	4,103
Held for Sale	5	-	1,100,000
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>2,618,801</b>	<b>5,438,838</b>
Non Current Assets			
Other Financial Assets	6	5,872,883	5,508,612
Property, Plant and Equipment	7	3,559,269	2,647,757
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>		<b>9,432,152</b>	<b>8,156,369</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>12,050,953</b>	<b>13,595,207</b>
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	8	361,604	473,456
Contract Liabilities	9	494,033	2,478,461
Provisions	10	587,681	534,835
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>1,443,318</b>	<b>3,486,752</b>
Non Current Liabilities			
Provisions	10	53,370	-
<b>Total Non Current Liabilities</b>		<b>53,370</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,496,688</b>	<b>3,486,752</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>10,554,265</b>	<b>10,108,456</b>
EQUITY			
Reserves	11	9,140,720	9,382,711
Retained Earnings		1,413,545	725,745
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>10,554,265</b>	<b>10,108,456</b>

During the financial year, Act for Peace had no transactions in the Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs Category. The Statement of Comprehensive Income and Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the Notes to and forming part of the accounts.

The financial statements have been taken from the Act for Peace audited Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2025.

The full report is available on our website at [actforpeace.org.au](https://actforpeace.org.au).





# Directors' declaration

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

- a) 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;
- b) the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
- c) 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:**

- d) the financial statements show a true and fair view of the financial results of fundraising appeals for the year ended 30 June 2025 as required by the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991*;
- e) 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 2025;
- f) money received as a result of fundraising appeals conducted during the year have been properly accounted for and applied in accordance with the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* and the Regulation; and
- g) 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**

**Leigh Cleave** (Chair, Board of Directors)

**Samuel Richards** (Treasurer)

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025.



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## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Act for Peace Ltd

### 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 2025, 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 material accounting policy information, 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 2025 and of its financial performance for 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.

#### Other information

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the other information. The other information obtained at the date of this auditor's report is information included in the directors report, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

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Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

#### 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](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  
3 November 2025



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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](http://www.acfid.asn.au/content/complaints)  
Email: [acfid@acfid.asn.au](mailto: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.



**Cover image:** Sunia\* (left) learned about the importance of education for girls thanks to community awareness programs run by our local partner Community World Service Asia (CWSA). She never had the chance to go to school herself, but now her daughter Anaya\* (right) is in enrolled and Sunia campaigns for all girls to access education.  
©Aliza Khan/Act for Peace




# ACT FOR PEACE

CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER  
THROUGH THE **actalliance**

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

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