



ANNUAL REPORT **2015**

CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER

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

ACT FOR PEACE
CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER
THROUGH THE **actalliance**

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

ABN 64 493 941 795



WHAT A YEAR

With your support, we raised over \$10 million this past year to help people around the world. These are people whose lives have been torn apart by conflict and natural disasters. They are also people with the determination to stand up and rebuild for a better future. You contributed to life-changing programs to help bring about peace. You provided support to our partners around the world. You called for policy change to protect refugees and you advocated for justice. Thank you for all you have done.

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CONFRONTING INJUSTICE TOGETHER IN 2015

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



Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace

Today, there are more refugees, asylum seekers and displaced people worldwide than at any time since World War II. That's nearly 60 million people forced to flee their homes to escape conflict and disaster. These are the world's most vulnerable people; mothers and fathers struggling to feed their children; sons and daughters missing out on an education; people dying for want of basic medical care that we take for granted in Australia; and families who, after losing everything, are not getting the support they deserve to rebuild their lives. It's a terrible injustice. And one that we can, and must, overcome.

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

As the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA) we work ecumenically across religious and cultural boundaries. We bring together individuals, communities and churches from 19

denominations in Australia with local partners across the globe (many of whom are Councils of Churches themselves) to create sustainable change for those who need it most.

Through your support of Act for Peace, you are part of a network of more than 140 organisations across 130 countries – the ACT Alliance, a global grassroots coalition for action. Together we're working to confront injustice and create positive, sustainable change in communities threatened by conflict and natural disaster. By working together we can share knowledge, resources, speak with a louder voice and, ultimately, achieve more impact.

Act for Peace works to achieve positive and sustainable change through three mutually-reinforcing categories of programming: short-term humanitarian aid, long-term development, and advocacy to influence policy so that it leads to strengthened systems and sustainable change. All these elements are essential to ensure we reach the most vulnerable, achieve the maximum possible impact from our resources and bring about lasting change.

We all have a role to play in creating a better world. When you took action through Act for Peace by campaigning, fundraising, donating or volunteering, you be joined thousands of others passionate about global justice. We have continued to expand our action network in order to grow funds and increase the impact your support makes to lives around the world.

Your help meant we were able to fund Act for Peace programs in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India, Myanmar, the Philippines, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Palestine, Thailand, Vanuatu, Tonga, and Australia. You helped by providing support in emergencies in Syria, Nepal and the Pacific Islands.

THE CHAIRPERSON



Chairperson, Act for Peace
Commission- Sieneke Martin

Our Vision is for a peaceful world where all people share a safe, just and dignified life.

These are critical elements of peace and we believe that without safety, justice, and dignity for all everywhere, we shall never have true peace anywhere.

This is why it is so important that for the first time there is now a measurable goal on peaceful and inclusive societies as part of the global goals agreed by world leaders in September 2015. The peace goal expects every society around the world to make significant progress over the next 15 years in reducing armed violence and other factors affecting peace.

Similar goals relating to water, education and health have made an enormous difference to poverty-affected people under the previous global goals which ended in 2015. For instance the water goal has assisted in ensuring 2.3 billion additional people have received access to safe

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Executive Director,
Act for Peace- Alistair Gee

We can't assist in achieving global goals and holding leaders of all countries to account for them if we are not willing to hold ourselves to account on the impact we have in assisting communities threatened by conflict and disaster.

Our new goal, to increase our impact in achieving safety, justice and dignity in these communities has just begun and requires that we track our impact, and increase it significantly each year. We will report in each future annual report and through other means of communication what assessments show our impact to be and how we are endeavouring to make a bigger difference.

Our impact in the past year – and every year – was achieved as a result of passionate people working well together. Amazing people like Than (p10) in conflict and disaster affected communities, like Fatima (p12) working with our partners in these communities, and like Jenny (p16) in Australia doing her bit to support.

STATEMENTS

water. There has long been more talk about peace than these other aspects of poverty, though previously it has not been treated as measurable part of development and so has lacked investment. The world is starting to recognise this needs to change. As other poor countries have developed in recent years, lifting people out of poverty, many conflict-affected countries have been left behind. Conflict not only kills directly, it also forces people from their land so they can't harvest their crops. It destroys businesses, schools and hospitals. It pushes people into vulnerable situations, and it often means that government or other social safety nets are no longer there to support people. Countries affected by severe violence have fallen behind twice as far as stable countries in reducing the effects of poverty. We have reached a point where in order to further reduce global poverty, we need to pursue and achieve peace.

With our supporters we have campaigned for the world to adopt a peace goal for several years and we are committed to doing all we can to ensure that we make the largest contribution we can to achieving it. We hope you will continue on this vital journey with us.

Our range of humanitarian and refugee protection programming, advocacy and partner capacity building initiatives sets us apart. We have played an important role in gaining international recognition of the need to understand and strengthen the protection role of local faith communities, leaders and organisations, and recognise their resilience. We have built a strong track record and recognised expertise in this programming, not just for its focus on community preparedness but also through our efforts to engage governments and strengthen community preparedness to prevent, mitigate and respond to protection risks.

Our assessments to date show that in the past year the five initiatives where our support had the largest impact were: health programs in Pakistan, regional refugee protection throughout Asia Pacific, Sri Lankan refugee programs, disaster preparedness and response in the Pacific and food security in Zimbabwe. As at the time of printing this report, our assessments of our programs in July 2015–June 2016 show that we are on-track for achieving 10-15% more impact than last year. We would dearly love to achieve much more and hope you will join in and help to do so!



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Conflicts and natural disasters rob people of their homes, livelihoods and loved ones. People are often left in desperate situations with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Rapid response is essential to save lives.

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

Devastating events in Vanuatu and Nepal in 2015 moved the world. But through your generosity you brought comfort and hope to the survivors of those terrible disasters. When the cyclone struck Vanuatu, one of the worst ever to hit the island nation, we worked together with our local partner, the Vanuatu Christian Council, to provide aid to affected communities.

Thanks to your support we were able to provide urgently needed food, water, blankets, clothes, medical supplies and shelter victims of the Nepal earthquake through our ACT Alliance partners. Last year, you also continued to provide emergency relief packs to displaced Syrian refugees, both in camps and urban areas.

In more protracted crises, you continued to provide humanitarian assistance. This included food and other assistance to people displaced by the Myanmar (Burma) conflict. Your support also meant we could provide life-saving medical treatment for refugees living in Ethiopia, and medical care and other support for Sri Lankan refugees in India.



The world was moved by the recent devastating events in Vanuatu and Nepal. But through your generosity, you are bringing comfort and hope to the survivors of those terrible disasters. Thank you.



Christian Aid

BRINGING URGENT RELIEF TO NEPAL EARTHQUAKE SURVIVORS

The 7.8 magnitude Nepal earthquake affected more than eight million people across the country when it hit on 12 May 2015. More than 8,000 people were killed, tens of thousands injured and nearly a million homes, schools and other buildings were destroyed. Your generous gifts provided urgently needed food, water, blankets, clothes, medical supplies and shelter.

You responded fast, together with other members of the global ACT Alliance, to provide emergency relief to those worst affected.



Christian Aid

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

Through our ACT Alliance partners you are supporting over 56,000 people in the worst hit areas of Nepal, providing:

WATER



Water filter systems and hygiene kits to help protect communities from diseases like cholera, which can spread rapidly in disaster situations.

HEALTH



Temporary health centres to respond to immediate medical needs in some of the worst-hit districts. Psychosocial support for families to help them come to terms with the disaster and cope with the loss of loved ones.

SHELTER



Emergency or permanent shelter in the worst affected districts for over 50,000 people.

FOOD



Food baskets containing rice, lentils, oil and salt.

EDUCATION



Temporary learning centres constructed to keep classes open and ensure children can continue their education.

PROTECTION



Safe spaces for women and girls in several of the most at-risk areas to protect them from physical and sexual assault child abduction traffic.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE: CYCLONE PAM



HELPING COMMUNITIES RECOVER AND REBUILD IN VANUATU

Cyclone Pam was the worst natural disaster to hit Vanuatu in decades. It left the island nation devastated, destroying over 90 per cent of the crops the people of Vanuatu rely on for food. Together with other members of the ACT Alliance around the world, you gave over \$1 million to the Vanuatu emergency appeal.

Your generosity provided immediate, life-saving relief in the days following the cyclone. It helped the long process of recovery and the rebuilding of livelihoods. And it helped prepare communities for future natural disasters.



Julia Loersch/Act for Peace

YOUR GIFTS IN ACTION

Through our ACT Alliance partners you supported communities in Vanuatu.



EMERGENCY PROVISIONS

Food and water to 14 communities in Tongoa; fresh water and purification tablets to people on Mataso island in the first two weeks after the disaster. 680 tarpaulins, donated by Cotton Growers Australia, to the worst-hit islands. Clothing from Give To Vanuatu distributed by women and youth groups to their communities.



ACCESS TO SAFE WATER

LifeStraws water purification kits to 25 communities and 2,000 personal hygiene kits to help prevent the spread of disease and provide vital access to safe drinking water.



LONG-TERM FOOD SUPPLY

Seeds for 14 islands immediately after the disaster with a further 46kg of seeds in May. Nurseries with gardening tools and training in re-planting on many islands and communities. Community water systems repaired in Tanna and new water harvesting tools and tanks purchased.



Julia Loersch/Act for Peace



Julia Loersch/Act for Peace



All images: Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace



Than is proud of the vegetables he grows in the community garden.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

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

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

In Afghanistan, you helped girls gain access to education. In Zimbabwe you supported farmers to better feed their families by growing drought-resistant crops. In Gaza

your support meant sick children had access to medical treatment. And you helped refugees from Burma and Sri Lanka learn the skills to support themselves when safe to return home.

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

MY STORY



GROWING SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Than fled Burma after years of raids on his village by the Burmese army. Despite his traumatic past, Than was determined to build a safe and prosperous future for his family. Our local partner's innovative farming program helped make this possible.

Than fled his village in Papun District just over 20 years ago after the Burmese army raided the area. "They destroyed my home and the farms in my community. I did not dare to stay in Burma," Than said.

Than has clear memories of the long and tumultuous journey to Mae La refugee camp over 400km away.

"There was no food and water. We [my family] walked day and night time with no meals for a very long way. It was very difficult to get to the border."

Than found safety in Mae La camp but life was extremely difficult. Like other Burmese refugees living in border camps, Than was legally confined to the refugee camp and had no official way of making a living. He was forced to survive on food rations provided by Act for Peace's local partner, The Border Consortium.

Than worried about how he would be able to provide for his wife, young son Aung aged 4, and daughter Naw Pi aged 10 months. He needed to make sure his family had enough to eat. Than risked his safety when he took work outside the camp as a migrant labourer.

"I would sometimes get stopped by police at a checkpoint and be arrested for leaving the camps. They would

demand a bribe and take all my money. I could not bring any home to my family."

Than and his family's life changed when he was given the opportunity to join the Community Agriculture and Nutrition (CAN) farming program, run by The Border Consortium. Through your support, Than and others like him are given the chance to support their families' nutritional needs and earn an income by starting their own farm, close to the camp. Participants of the CAN program are given everything they need to start growing fruits and vegetables including tools, seeds, training and a small plot of land.

"After joining the CAN garden I can work every day and earn money for my family. Because I grow vegetables in CAN I can support my family. I can feed them and sell vegetables at market to earn extra money. I can buy food for my children and fill the kitchen with meat, herbs and eggs."

Before he fled, than had lived in the farming area of Papun. The nutrition project meant he could use his skills to support his family by growing vegetables such as lettuce, long beans, water gourd and eggplants. Than is proud of starting his garden and being able to support his family and give them a good life.

"I have no worries for my life now. There is much less worry for my family for the future since the CAN program. My son likes to play with aeroplanes and cars. When I earn money through CAN I spend money on my children and on my son so he can enjoy these things and be a child with no worries."

Than hopes that one day it will be safe enough to return to Burma. In the meantime, he will continue to provide for his family and work hard on the plot of land given to him with the support of people like you.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Your response to the Christmas Bowl appeal was overwhelming. The appeal raised a phenomenal \$2.4 million. Thank you!

Your support for the Christmas Bowl and other Act for Peace initiatives helped The Border Consortium provide 6,299 households with vegetable seeds, giving more refugees the opportunity to become self-sufficient in the last year. With your help, The Border Consortium also trained 278 farmers in the Farmer Field School program on the health benefits of gardens, soil health, seed saving and planting in small spaces of land. This work has helped the refugee farmers get better results from their gardens.

MY STORY

HEALING THE CHILDREN OF GAZA

A Palestinian mother, Fatima has an unwavering commitment to serve her community in Gaza. With your support, she works as a midwife with Act for Peace's local partner. Fatima works tirelessly to make sure sick children receive the crucial medical treatment they need. The loss Fatima suffered during last year's conflict, and the pain her community experienced daily as a result of the blockade, made her determined to re-build the lives of families in Gaza.

Twelve months ago, Gaza was shattered by the third conflict in six years. Over 2,200 civilians died, most of them women and children. Hospitals were over-run with casualties. The health system simply could not cope. This came on top of Israel's eight-year blockade.

Israel's blockade has taken a terrible toll on the health and wellbeing of the people trapped in Gaza and has paralysed the movement of people, goods and humanitarian aid to and from Gaza. There has been a chronic shortage of health supplies and spare parts. Services have been completely overstretched, with stocks of many essential drugs almost running out. The health clinics you support through Act for Peace's local partner have been more essential than ever.

Your gifts also helped mothers take care of their babies during pregnancy and the fragile first five years of life. As a result of the conflict, Gaza's already high rates of anaemia and malnutrition have become even worse.

Thanks to you, healthcare professionals like Fatima provide a home-visit service that screens children for these conditions, and helps them get the treatment they desperately need. Growing up in Gaza, Fatima knows all too well the hardship people face here – her home, where she lived with her young family, was completely destroyed in the recent conflict.

"At the beginning of the war it was like normal, no electricity and bombing all around us; not easy but we were used to this; we are a strong people. Then the bombing intensified and was closer. We were evacuated at dawn when the house next to us was bombed. When we left thousands of people were just walking, it was chaos and families were split up. When we returned we found our house had been destroyed. We lost all of our belongings, our papers, and our memories."

Tragically, their home wasn't the only thing the war took from Fatima's family.

"My sister was 8 months pregnant and during the strikes she had to give birth to her baby on the floor whilst the bombing surrounded us. We called the ambulance but it couldn't get to us because of the bombing. The baby died as we waited for the fighting to stop."

Despite losing so much, Fatima refuses to focus on her own suffering. Instead, she channels all her energy into a determination to help others. She says the pain that her community experiences daily is the reason she continues to work hard to build a brighter future for families in Gaza.

"I'm praying to God that the situation gets better ... I don't have any expectations that it will ... but I'm hoping it will be better. I will work hard to keep families safe and to educate mothers on how to prevent their children from getting sick in these very difficult times."

Fatima continues to work tirelessly to reach as many families as possible. She makes sure that the most at-risk children are identified, driving over 12 hours each day from house



Fatima is determined to build a brighter future for families in Gaza.



4 year old Najwa has her height measured by Fatima during a house call to screen children for anaemia and malnutrition.



to house through the rubble of Gaza. She refers sick children to the general clinic where they are tested for anaemia and then treated at a specialist anaemia and malnutrition clinic at one of our partner's three health care clinics in Gaza. Her work makes an enormous difference.

"I think we are helping a lot of people. What I love is that it's about the children and their future. It's always nice to meet healthy children and also to help those that are in need"



Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace



Tarek (5) is helped to colour in a picture by his psychologist Budour during a Psychosocial Program in Shijaia clinic in Gaza City.

THANK YOU!

As part of our June Gaza Appeal, we wrote to you about a little boy called Tarek. At only 5 years old, Tarek was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) caused by the horrors he witnessed in the last war. Thanks to your amazing response to the appeal, Tarek progressed well and began drawing happy pictures in his psychosocial support sessions.

Your gifts transformed lives like Tarek's and made Fatima's important healthcare work possible. Thank you for helping to heal the children of Gaza and bringing hope for the future.

ADVOCACY

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

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

Last year you advocated for peace-building initiatives and conflict resolution. You demanded protection for refugees and internally displaced

people. You called for a reduction in armed violence in Australia and internationally. Your voice and your support meant local partners could begin peace-building and disarmament programs.

A critical part of our work, you supported and strengthened refugee protection in our region. And you supported us as we worked with governments and regional organisations to provide better protection and long-term solutions for refugees.

DEMANDING A HUMANITARIAN APPROACH TO REFUGEES

Australia has been shamed in the international community for its inhumane and immoral stance on refugees and asylum seekers.

In response to this, more than 26,000 of you signed an Act for Peace petition telling Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott that "nope nope nope" is unacceptable. A humanitarian approach to refugees is essential. If enough of us continue to take action, together we will show our Government that Australians are a fair and generous people, and that we want our refugee policies to reflect this.



HAVE YOUR SAY...

"I am appalled at the cruelty of our detention system—it makes me ashamed to be Australian."

- Caroline Thompson

"I want Australia to be a kind & generous country, not selfish and cruel."

- Marjorie, Bairnsdale, VIC

JOINING THE GLOBAL CALL TO LIFT THE BLOCKADE OF GAZA

More than 1,400 Act for Peace supporters wrote to Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs, demanding she publically call for Israel to lift the blockade and use all diplomatic efforts to ease the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

The blockade which prevents vital humanitarian aid, medicine and basic supplies, including materials needed for reconstruction, from entering the territory, is a worldwide concern. The blockade is prolonging the humanitarian crisis for Gaza's 1.8 million citizens, contributing to the ongoing cycle of conflict in the region.

The blockade continues to be a worldwide concern and we will continue to work together to call for change until the people of Gaza are able to live safe, just and dignified lives.



"We are looking for peace, a better future for yourself, your kids and family. Better conditions in terms of health, better community, education for the youth. For the children, for the women, for all my people here. We deserve that."

Dr Wafa Kanaan, Act for Peace's partner in Gaza.

YOU MADE HISTORY

You joined campaigners across the world to call for a strong, effective UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) that will reduce conflict. And, on Christmas Eve 2014, you helped make history when the ATT became official international law. This was the culmination of years of pressure from you and campaigners globally.

The historic agreement will save lives. The patience and determination of people like you made it possible.



"Civilians have paid too high a price for the lack of global arms controls. Weak laws have permitted arms and ammunition to be legally transferred into the hands of dictators and warlords. The game is up now - those days are over. Now governments have the chance to change the arms trade for good, and if rigorously implemented, this treaty will save lives."

Alistair Gee, Executive Director, Act for Peace

THE POWER OF PASSIONATE PEOPLE



EMPOWERING SUPPORTERS

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

Together we celebrated 65 years of the Christmas Bowl and raised over \$450,000 for refugees around the world during the Act for Peace Ration Challenge.

We want to thank you for your ongoing support over the years. Thanks to you, and others like you around the world, each year our partners on the ground support around one million refugees and displaced people. And you have helped the ACT Alliance raise more than \$200 million to support communities affected by conflict and disaster.



Global Sanctuary Photography



Karen McGrath/ Act for Peace



Henrike Brussard

ADELAIDE'S VOLUNTEER TRADITION

Over 150 volunteers came together on the streets of Adelaide to raise money for the Christmas Bowl in what has become an Adelaide Act for Peace tradition.

CHRISTMAS TREATS

Jenny made gingerbread treats to sell at her workplace to raise money for the Christmas Bowl. We can each play our small part to make an even bigger impact around the world.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Enthusiastic Act for Peace volunteers collected donations from the public at festive Queen Victoria Markets in Melbourne during Advent.

From little things, big things grow.

On Christmas day in 1949, the Reverend Frank Byatt of Victoria placed an empty bowl on the dinner table. He asked those present to give what they considered to be the cost of the meal. Frank urged his guests to reflect on their good fortunes and encouraged them to do something selfless to bring relief and hope to refugees who had fled the horrors of World War II.

The Christmas Bowl appeal has grown over the past 65 years to become a much-loved tradition for many denominations. For the 2,000 churches

from 19 denominations who now take part each year, the Christmas Bowl is an essential part of our Christmas celebrations. It's how we as Australian Christians come together to share God's gift of love and hope with people around the world who need it most.

For the first time since World War II, the number of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people worldwide has exceeded 50 million. Sadly, the Christmas Bowl appeal is needed as much today as it has ever been, and remains a vital link between those who have enough and those who are less lucky.

This year thanks to your dedication and generosity, we raised an incredible \$2.4 million. This money will help provide children living in camps along the Thai-Burma border enough nutritious food as well as support life-saving projects around the world.

AUSTRALIA STANDS UP FOR REFUGEES

People from all over the country came together last month in an act of solidarity that proved Australians want to do more for refugees.



During Refugee Week in June, 1,600 dedicated Act for Peace supporters signed up for the Act for Peace Ration Challenge. For seven days they ate exactly the same rations as a Burmese refugee living in a camp on the Thai-Burmese border – just a small amount of rice, split peas, flour, salt, fish and oil. That's it. No meat, no coffee, no alcohol.

Thanks to the generosity of friends and family who sponsored them, they raised an incredible \$460,000 to help provide rations, seeds, tools and training to make sure refugees from Burma have enough to eat, and help refugees around the world to build safe, just and dignified lives.

As well as raising vital funds for the world's most vulnerable people, they also shared their powerful experience with family and friends, bringing the refugee struggle closer to home in a way that was impossible to ignore – raising awareness and changing attitudes (including their own).

We've been humbled and inspired at the stories and messages of each and every Ration Challenger

RATION CHALLENGE



who put their money where their mouth is, and took a stand for refugees. Thank you for making a difference.

"I really enjoyed the opportunity to have conversations with people about refugees and asylum seekers. Many people only engage with popular media and only ever see negative portrayals designed to dehumanise and demonise. I felt the ration challenge gave me a really positive platform to engage people and try to gently get them to open their eyes." Kirsty, Seville Grove

"The ration challenge was hard at times but remembering why I was doing this and how much it could help someone, even just one person, was what kept me going." Kirsty McCarthy, Glenelg South

"It was so humbling and eye opening to realise that this is how people survive ... you are aware of these things, but it's not until you are in that situation that it really hits home." Felicity, Hoppers Crossing

AWARD WINNING CAMPAIGN



Together with your support and contribution, the Act for Peace Ration Challenge was awarded the Fundraising Institute of Australia's awards for 'Most effective creative campaign' and 'Winner – Special Events – under \$5 million'. We have also been shortlisted in the top three for the Global Fundraising Awards with the results to be released in October. Without your participation and support we could never have received these awards. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2015

REVENUE

	Note	12 months to 30 Jun 2015 \$	12 months to 30 Jun 2014 \$
Donations and gifts			
Monetary		4,871,261	4,152,465
Non-monetary		138,000	0
Bequests and Legacies		348,537	270,519
Grants			
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade		2,214,228	2,956,760
Other Australian		180,000	0
Other overseas		997,743	522,769
Investment income		173,387	346,228
Other income		2,511,662	2,385,768
Revenue for International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs		0	0
TOTAL REVENUE		11,434,818	10,634,509

EXPENDITURE

International Aid and
Development Programs Expenditure

International programs			
Funds to international programs	8	6,436,848	6,970,949
Program support costs		1,116,681	1,080,578
		7,553,529	8,051,527
Community education		827,993	573,663
Fundraising costs			
Public		1,568,446	1,183,410
Government, multilateral and private		53,424	45,024
		1,621,870	1,228,434
Accountability and Administration		943,170	796,293
Non-Monetary Expenditure		138,000	0
Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		11,084,562	10,649,917
International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs Expenditure		0	0
Domestic Projects Expenditure		303,173	345,118
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		11,387,735	10,995,035
EXCESS/(SHORTFALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE		47,083	(360,526)

In the 12 months to 30 June 2015 (FY14-15), Act for Peace raised \$11.4m and expended \$8.8m (77%) in acting for peace. Our acting for peace expenditure is made up of \$7.6m on international programs, \$138k in non-monetary expenditure (humanitarian supplies for survivors of Cyclone Pam), \$303k on domestic programs and \$828k on community education. The remainder was expended on accountability and administration (\$943k: 8%) and fundraising (\$1.6m: 14%). Direct fundraising generated \$5.4m and \$3.4m was received in grants.

In the 12 months to 30 June 2015 our expenditure in our acting for peace (international programs, domestic programs and community education) was 2% less than in FY 2013-14. This was due, in part, to a number of grants no-longer being available, especially the DFAT Pacific Climate Change and the Vanuatu Church Partnership grants. These were anticipated in our FY14-15. However, we were able to cover the loss of these grants with an increase of additional donations from existing and new supporters. We are very grateful for all support we received last year from all supporters and all institutional grant-makers.

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

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

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

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

		30 June 2014	30 June 2015
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents		10,602	16,241
Trade and other receivables	2	359,103	48,426
Inventories		0	0
Assets held for sale		0	0
Other financial assets	3	7,692,390	7,066,600
Total Current Assets		8,062,095	7,131,267
Non Current Assets			
Trade and other receivables		0	0
Other financial assets		0	0
Property, plant and equipment	4	2,295,448	2,219,895
Investment property		0	0
Intangibles		0	0
Other non-current assets		0	0
Total Non Current Assets		2,295,448	2,219,895
TOTAL ASSETS		10,357,543	9,351,162
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5	3,158,364	2,349,059
Borrowings		0	0
Current tax liabilities		0	0
Other financial liabilities		0	0
Provisions	6	272,869	192,666
Other		1,632	47,253
Total Current Liabilities		3,432,865	2,588,978
Non Current Liabilities			
Borrowings		0	0
Other Financial Liabilities		0	0
Provisions	6	112,839	58,133
Other		0	0
Total Non Current Liabilities		112,839	58,133
TOTAL LIABILITIES		3,545,704	2,647,111
NET ASSETS		6,811,839	6,704,051
EQUITY			
Reserves	7	5,479,696	5,381,738
Retained Earnings		1,332,143	1,322,313
TOTAL EQUITY		6,811,839	6,704,051

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 2015

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Others	Total
Balance at 30 June 2013	1,560,210	5,723,611	0	7,283,821
Adjustments or changes in equity due to	0	0	0	0
Items of other comprehensive income	0	0	0	0
Excess/(Shortfall) of Revenue over expenses	(360,526)	0	0	(360,526)
Managed Funds	122,629	0	0	122,629
Amount transferred to (from) reserves	0	(341,873)	0	(341,873)
Balance at 30 June 2014	1,322,313	5,381,738	0	6,704,051
Adjustments or changes in equity due to	0	0	0	0
Items of other comprehensive income	0	0	0	0
Excess/(Shortfall) of Revenue over expenses	47,083	0	0	47,083
Managed Funds	45,621	0	0	45,621
Property Revaluation	0	75,553	0	75,553
Amount transferred to (from) reserves	(82,874)	22,405	0	(60,469)
Balance, end	1,332,143	5,479,696	-	6,811,839

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial Reporting Framework

This financial report is a special purpose financial report which has been prepared for use by the Council's Executive and member churches. The Executive has determined that the National Council of Churches Act for Peace is not a reporting entity and hence this report has been prepared in accordance with the following applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

AASB1031 : Materiality

AASB110 : Events after the Reporting Period

No other applicable Accounting Standards or other mandatory professional reporting requirements have been applied.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis (except as provided for in the statement below on income) in accordance with historical cost convention. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

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

Significant Accounting Policies

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

The following significant accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation and presentation of the financial report :

1. Recognition of Income

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

2. Investment Income

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

3. Donations and Fundraising

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

4. Value of Volunteers

The value of services provided by volunteers is not included in revenue or expenses because of the practical difficulties involved. In relation to volunteers used directly for the support of international projects, this amounted to \$nil in 2015 (2014 \$nil).

5. Accounts Payable

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

6. Acquisition of Assets

Assets acquired are recorded at the cost of acquisition, being the purchase consideration determined as at the date of acquisition plus costs incidental to the acquisition.

7. Employee Benefits

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave when it is probable that settlement will be required and they are capable of being measured reliably.

8. Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amounts of goods and services tax (GST). The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of the statement of financial position.

9. Recoverable amount of non-current assets

Non-current assets are written down to recoverable amount where the carrying value of any non-current asset exceeds the recoverable amount.

10. Revaluation of non-current assets

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

11. Managed Funds

Funds channelled through Act for Peace on behalf of other Australian individuals or entities are classified as Managed Funds. These funds are earmarked for specific purposes.

12. Financial Year

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

13. Comparative amounts

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

NOTES

	30 June 2015	30 June 2014
2. Trade and Other Receivables		
Advances	5,269	1,149
GST Paid	21,312	9,815
Trade receivables	332,522	37,462
	359,103	48,426
3. Other Financial Assets		
Investments with NCCA Ltd	4,008,393	3,405,009
- Project Funds		
Investments with NCCA Ltd	3,007,832	2,950,915
- Refugee Reserves		
Investments with NCCA Ltd	676,165	665,726
- Property Reserves		
Melbourne Property Maintenance	0	44,950
	7,692,390	7,066,600
4. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Level 7 Kent St (Sydney)	945,448	919,895
Level 4 Causeway House (Melbourne)	1,350,000	1,300,000
	2,295,448	2,219,895
5. Trade and Other Payables		
Trade Creditors	86,315	49,922
Accruals on Project Funds	2,419,264	2,081,037
Income in Advance	652,719	218,100
GST Collected	66	0
	3,158,364	2,349,059
6. Employee Entitlements		
Provision for Annual Leave	272,869	192,666
	272,869	192,666
Provision for Long Service Leave	112,839	58,133
	112,839	58,133

	30 June 2015	30 June 2014
7. Reserves		
Investments with NCCA Ltd	2,508,083	2,451,167
- Refugee Reserves		
Investments with NCCA Ltd	676,165	665,726
- Property Reserves		
Level 7 Kent St (Sydney)	945,448	919,895
Level 4 Causeway House (Melbourne)	1,350,000	1,300,000
Melbourne Maintenance Reserve	0	44,950
	5,479,696	5,381,738
8. Programs		
Africa	804,042	797,500
Asia	1,399,936	1,280,319
Pacific	948,689	1,627,384
Middle East	342,569	342,500
Global Programs	(4,051)	291,394
Managed Funds - Overseas	2,032,297	2,335,342
Emergencies	913,365	296,510
	6,436,848	6,970,949
9. Table of Cash Movements for Designated Purposes		
Cash	10,602	16,241
Investment with NCCA Ltd	7,692,390	7,066,600
	7,702,992	7,082,841

	Cash available at beginning of the financial year	Cash raised during financial year	Cash disbursed during financial year	Cash available at end of financial year
Thailand TBBC	119,219	53,351	30,829	141,741
PCCRR	373,442	4,513	377,955	0
ANCP	68,233	2,561,352	2,451,758	177,827
Tonga CBDRM	104,442	658,797	636,422	126,817
Emergencies - Cyclone Pam	0	1,223,367	625,724	597,643
Emergencies - Nepal Earthquake	0	165,367	130,000	35,367
Emergencies - Philippine Flood	2,948	702	3,650	0
Emergencies - Syria	34,046	17,204	51,109	141
Emergencies - Gaza	0	72,176	72,077	99
Emergencies - Iraq	0	82,578	68,588	13,990
Managed Funds - Egypt	1,900,000	2,224,064	1,900,000	2,224,064
Total for other non-designated purposes	4,480,511	4,357,289	4,452,497	4,385,303
TOTAL	7,082,841	11,420,760	10,800,609	7,702,992

Declaration

The Commission governing Act for Peace declare that:

- The financial statements and notes as set out on pages 2 to 8 are in accordance with the NCCA constitution and Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act), and:
 - Comply with relevant Australian Accounting standards to the extent in note 1; and
 - Give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2015 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the association;
- In the Commission's opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that Act for Peace will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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

Dated this 8th day of October, 2015.

John Gilmore

Rev. John Gilmore – Treasurer

Elizabeth Stone

Ms Elizabeth Stone – Associate General Secretary

AUDITOR'S REPORT 2015

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of National Council of Churches - Act for Peace, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the Commission members' declaration.

Commission Members' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Entity's Commission Members are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and has determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report are appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the NCCA Constitution, ACFID Code of Conduct and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act), and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The Commission Members' responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining such internal controls as it determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Executive, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the ACNC Act.

Opinion

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

- i) giving a true and fair view of the Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2015 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- ii) complying with applicable Australian Accounting Standards set out in Note 1 to the financial report, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Emphasis of Matter

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

Basis of Accounting

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

Thomas Davis & Co.

THOMAS DAVIS & CO.

J.G. Ryan
J.G. RYAN PARTNER

Chartered Accountants

ACT FOR PEACE COMMISSIONERS 2015

Members of the Act for Peace NCCA Commission, the governing body of Act for Peace, are appointed by the National Council of Churches in Australia during its forum. The 2015 Act for Peace General Meeting was held on 8 October 2015. As at the end of the 2014-2015 year, the Commission members were as follows:

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

Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia.

Member churches include:

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

ACT FOR PEACE
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THROUGH THE actalliance



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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. Complaints about Act for Peace may be lodged by contacting the NCCA Director responsible for human resources, on complaints@ncca.org.au or + 612 8259 0800. Please visit the Policies section of Act for Peace's website for more information. The ACFID Code of Conduct offers a mechanism to address concerns relating to signatories' conduct. Complaints against a signatory agency may be initiated by any member of the public and lodged with the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee. More information about the ACFID Code of Conduct can be obtained from Act for Peace and from ACFID at: Website: www.acfid.asn.au Email: acfid@acfid.asn.au Ph: +61 2 6285 1816



Australian Government
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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