

# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

2021

A WORLD WHERE  
**EVERYONE  
BELONGS**

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

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

ABN 86 619 970 188





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Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches. Act for Peace is also a member of the Church Agency Network in Australia, and a member of 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 an open and accountable way. Act for Peace takes its duty of care seriously and aims at all times to provide the safest possible environment for vulnerable people, especially children. We welcome feedback, both on this report and in relation to our operations and conduct. Please direct any feedback or complaint to the Officer responsible for human resources, via [complaints@actforpeace.org.au](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 acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of country throughout Australia and recognise 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.*

Front cover: Faith\* is a Somali refugee living with her family in Addis Ababa having fled conflict in her homeland. She is one of many urban refugees who receive support from our local partner, DICAC, including medical assistance, financial support, supplementary food and psychosocial support.

Pamodi\* and her husband fled to India during the Sri Lankan civil war. With support from our local partner, OfERR, they were able to return to their land in Sri Lanka and begin to produce enough food to eat, as well as a surplus to sell to earn an income.



# FROM THE CHAIR AND CEO

It is with much pleasure that together, as new Chair of Act for Peace and CEO, we present the Annual Report for the year ended June 2021.

During this last year, the world has continued to ride the waves of tumult that the coronavirus pandemic unleashed, reminding us acutely that while we are all on the same sea, we are not all in the same boat.

Some people and some parts of the world have more resources than others to face these challenges. We have witnessed the impact of the pandemic intersecting with escalating conflict and climate change to create increasing pressure for many of the communities we care deeply about, especially in Ethiopia, Zimbabwe, Palestine, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

We have been inspired by the ingenuity of our partners around the world, as they have faced the challenges of the pandemic whilst continuing work in their communities to bring safety and dignity to those already affected by conflict and disaster. The stories highlighted in this report are just some of the examples of leadership, determination and change that our partners have made possible this year.

We are grateful for the financial support we received from institutional donors, including the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Home Affairs and others, which meant we could provide ongoing and extra resourcing to partners at this time.

The response of supporters to the 2020/21 Ration Challenge fundraising events and Christmas Bowl appeal was very heartening. Contributions exceeded our expectations and left us in a better financial position than we had anticipated. Through the generosity of our supporters and donors, and the dedication of staff, we were able to support our partners through this difficult period and finish the year with a surplus that can be invested in future programs.



Ginie Udy, Chair



Janet Cousens, CEO

After much consulting, listening and discerning, we have committed to a new Strategic Framework for FY22-26. Our strategy draws on our rich heritage of working with ecumenical bodies and other actors, harnesses our strengths as an agency and enables us to complement the expertise and experience of our partners. Importantly, the strategy responds to one of the greatest crises of our times – forced displacement due to conflict and disaster, including climate change. Our priority will be those who have to flee their home.

## OUR NEW VISION

A world where everyone belongs.

## OUR NEW PURPOSE

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

Our Board and staff are engaged and mobilised by our new strategy which will require some change over the coming year. In addition, we have also sought a new director with lived experience of forced displacement to join us at the Board table.

What won't be changing are our core beliefs that all people are created equal and should be treated this way, and that people most affected by crises must be recognised as leaders in responding. In addition, partnership remains integral to our strategy, based on our foundational Christian belief, and strong evidence from social science, that lasting peace can only be secured when people work together.

We finish the year grateful for the dedication and resilience of our staff, Board members and partners, all of whom have embraced the opportunities and challenge of working digitally from remote and home-based workplaces.

And we would not exist at all were it not for the compelling nature of our origins in Rev Frank Byatt's first Christmas Bowl in 1947, the subsequent incorporation into the National Council of Churches in Australia and the steadfast commitment of our supporters, church goers and non-church goers alike, ever since: your financial giving, campaigning, prayer and encouragement keep us going.

The changes we've made in the last year rely on this legacy, propelling us into a future we are looking forward to with humility and courage.

*Ginie Udy*

Ginie Udy (Chair)

*Janet Cousens*

Janet Cousens (CEO)



# OUR IMPACT



## LEBANON:

Providing emergency support to help those recovering from the devastating blast in Beirut.

## WEST BANK:

Non-violent protective presence for communities living under occupation.

## GAZA:

Healthcare for women and children and vocational training for young people.

## ZIMBABWE:

Supporting farmers to be more resilient to climate change through conservation farming, responding to food insecurity with urgently needed food rations, and supporting peace building initiatives through national dialogues.

## AFGHANISTAN:

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

## JORDAN:

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

## ETHIOPIA:

Emergency healthcare for critically ill or injured refugees, as well as counselling and vocational training.

## KENYA:

Helping urban refugees in Nairobi with food, case work, and other support.

## PAKISTAN:

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

## INDIA:

Healthcare, livelihood and empowerment programs for Sri Lankan refugees.

## SRI LANKA:

Livelihood programs and support services to help newly returned refugees reintegrate.

## BANGLADESH:

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

This year, you helped fund more than 35 projects in 20 countries/regions, improving the lives of more than 286,000 people. Together, we are helping to create a world where everyone belongs. Thank you.

## MYANMAR:

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

## THAILAND:

Support for encamped Karenni refugees.

## ASIA:

Advocating for refugee rights.

## THE PHILIPPINES:

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

## VANUATU:

Support for communities to prepare for, respond to and recover from the impacts of natural disasters.

## INDONESIA:

Disaster preparedness and risk reduction activities to help communities stay safe during disasters.

## TONGA:

Improving safety and inclusion for people living with disability in disaster risk management. Emergency response to support communities affected by Tropical Cyclone Harold.

## AUSTRALIA:

Advocacy and campaigning to help #EndCOVIDForAll.



# OUR WORK WITH PARTNERS



**THIS YEAR, TOGETHER, WE DELIVERED MORE THAN 35 PROJECTS IN 20 COUNTRIES/REGIONS, IMPROVING THE LIVES OF MORE THAN 286,000 PEOPLE.**

We continued to support conflict and disaster affected people in their role as leaders. We worked in solidarity with our long-term local partners and leveraged the strengths and reach of the global network of local ecumenical agencies of which we are a part. We were joined by thousands of churches and tens of thousands of other members of the public in Australia who share our values. And we worked collaboratively as a member of local, regional and global networks and alliances, including the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network, the ACT Alliance, the Australian Council for International Development, the Australian Church Agency Network, Micah Australia and the Emergency Action Alliance, to combine resources, share expertise and achieve greater impact.

## THANK YOU TO ALL OUR PARTNERS

- ACT Alliance
- Christian Aid
- Christian Care
- Church World Service Indonesia
- Community World Service Asia
- Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (Jordan)
- Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees Near East Council of Churches Gaza
- Ethiopian Orthodox Church - Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission
- Middle East Council of Churches - Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees - International Christian Committee
- Myanmar Council of Churches
- National Council of Churches in the Philippines
- Organisation for Elangai Refugees' Rehabilitation, Ceylon
- Organisation for Eelam Refugees' Rehabilitation, India
- RefugePoint
- The Border Consortium
- The Charitable Foundation / RefugePoint (Auspice Fund)
- Tonga National Council of Churches
- Vanuatu Christian Council
- World Council of Churches
- Zimbabwe Council of Churches

# PREPARING FOR HOME: INDIA AND SRI LANKA

After fleeing their homeland when the brutal Sri Lankan civil war erupted in 1983, about 58,000 Sri Lankan refugees now live in 107 refugee camps in the state of Tamil Nadu in India. Families in these camps were particularly vulnerable to the devastating second wave of COVID-19 in India because overcrowded conditions made social distancing impossible.

As a trusted provider of medical support in the camps, our partner on the ground, the Organisation for Eelam Refugees' Rehabilitation (OfERR) was able to provide refugee families with vital food supplies, medicine, medical equipment, and protective clothing; helping them feel safe and supported without having to travel to overburdened hospitals and pandemic-stricken cities.

Sri Lankans who escaped their country on crowded boats often left with no belongings, including documents like birth certificates. These families, and those who were born in India, face complicated administrative processes to attain critical identity documents and it isn't always easy to access support to overcome these barriers from inside the camps.

*"When we didn't know what to do and how to cross our hurdles, OfERR pulled me up by my hand. Because of that help, me, my wife and our four children are well settled." Daniyel\**

While there was an increase in interest from refugees to return to Sri Lanka during COVID-19, the pandemic added further uncertainty about when this would be possible.

OfERR continued to help refugees to prepare to return home and to get the documents they need to prove their identity, reclaim their land, and access essential government services like hospitals and schools. And they continued to support those already returned to Sri Lanka with access to land, building materials, livelihoods support and assistance accessing government services.

For many of these families, especially during this pandemic, the support was life-changing; giving them both a sense of control over their lives and the power to eventually return home.



Chalani\* and her family returned home to Sri Lanka two years ago, after living as refugees for almost 30 years. Today they live on their own family land where they rear goats and have a vegetable garden.



# HOPE IN EXILE: ETHIOPIA

Our local partner the Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (DICAC) is dedicated to serving the most marginalised refugees in Ethiopia's capital city of Addis Ababa.

DICAC works with refugees who are rebuilding their lives after being uprooted from their homes, as they face the daily challenges of living with chronic medical conditions, disabilities, or emotional trauma. As refugees are able to access crucial medical care and life-changing psychological support through DICAC, they can start to take control over decisions that affect their lives, including earning a livelihood with DICAC's support.

*"I pray that my children, maybe they will get a chance to change things for the better."* Esther\*

In November 2020, conflict broke out in Ethiopia's Tigray region. Thousands of people lost their lives and families caught in the crossfire were forced

to flee their homes in search of safety. Exhausted and traumatised, many who escaped sought refuge in Addis Ababa. DICAC was on the ground, ready and able to help meet their urgent needs.

The COVID-19 crisis created even more hardship last year but through your generous support of our Parcels of Hope crowdfunder, DICAC was able to provide refugees with the locally-sourced basic items needed to be safe and to preserve a sense of dignity - soap, sanitary pads, face masks, hand sanitiser and clean water.

These vital items not only helped girls and women manage their periods in dignity and privacy and protect themselves from the pandemic; they also offered much needed emotional support by showing there are people on the other side of the world who care.

Your kindness helped DICAC to stand with these refugees as they took their first step on a path towards reclaiming control of their lives, reconnecting with society, and finding a safe place to belong.

Esther\* and her family fled to Ethiopia after conflict broke out in their home country. Today they live in Addis Ababa, where Esther receives medical support and essentials from DICAC for her daughter who is very ill.



Martha Tadesse/Act for Peace



A training course run by Act for Peace's local partner in Jordan, DSPR, to help refugee women start their own businesses to provide additional income for their families.

# SHAPING THE FUTURE: JORDAN

This year marked the 10th anniversary of the Syrian conflict, which has forced more than 12 million people from their homes. Even though it no longer makes our front pages, many families are still affected by this devastating humanitarian crisis.

They are people like Heba\* who escaped the war in Syria eight years ago by fleeing to Jordan, where she still lives with her husband and their four children.

Life is hard in Jordan for refugee families like Heba's. The vast majority live in cities and towns instead of camps, so they must find a way to pay for things like rent and transportation. Only a limited number have work permits, so most still rely on humanitarian assistance to meet their most basic needs.

*"I hope for a better life, for a better future than this."* Heba

Families like Heba's are doing their best to move forward, despite enormous challenges

and the huge trauma of all they've lost. This year, the impact of coronavirus lockdowns, loss of livelihoods, price increases and ongoing disruption to aid brought about by the pandemic only made it more difficult for them.

Our partner on the ground in Jordan, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) has worked with Palestinian refugees since 1949, so they understand the suffering that people go through when they're forced to flee their homes and rebuild their lives.

Through your generous gifts, they made sure that refugees like Heba and her family were able to access the food, health care, and support they needed - like livelihood training to help women set up small businesses and restore hope and security for their children.

A steady income from businesses like these gives Syrian refugees, who have endured so much for so long, independence, the chance to live with safety and dignity, and to shape their family's future.



# LIFE-SAVING SUPPLIES AND SKILLS: ZIMBABWE

Pushed to the limit by drought, lower than normal household incomes, and runaway inflation that put basic items beyond the reach of many, families in Zimbabwe were already fighting to survive before the pandemic. COVID-19 then forced local markets to shut and disrupted the delivery of food aid people relied on, leaving millions of food insecure people struggling to provide for their families and putting them at risk of displacement.

With the help of government safety nets like JobKeeper, most families in Australia were able to weather the first phase of the pandemic and lockdown. In Zimbabwe, struggling families didn't have a government safety net, but thanks to supporters like you some were able to regularly access food and other essentials.

Our local partner, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, distributed your monthly gifts as food vouchers to some of the families made most vulnerable by the outbreak; allowing them to buy essentials like rice, cooking oil, beans, flour, sugar and salt from food trucks close to their home.

At the same time, the long-standing Conservation Farming program – delivered by our second local partner, Christian Care, helped to save lives.

Over the past 10 years the program has helped hundreds of farmers to successfully grow food in Zimbabwe's increasingly unpredictable climate and become self-sufficient. Women like Nyevero, who is a mother of three and a trained Conservation Farmer.

With the skills she learned in the program, Nyevero had grown crops during the drought and established a successful fish farm and vegetable garden. She was able to use some of her earnings from surplus food she grew to buy supplies for her family before the lockdown began. These supplies were lifesaving.

*“I used to be taught. I feel very happy because now I teach so many people about Conservation Farming.” Nyevero*

The skills of Nyevero and other Conservation Farmers like her will enable Zimbabwean families to stand on their own two feet long into the future.

As part of her Conservation Farming training, Nyevero learned small livestock production to help increase her family's income earning opportunities.



Joel Pratley/Act for Peace



Audience members watch the Kau He Lau drama group. Through these shows remote communities in Tonga, who are regularly exposed to disasters, have learnt how to save lives by being prepared for a disaster and ensuring those with a disability and the elderly are cared for and included.

## PREPARING FOR DISASTERS: TONGA

Last year, as Tonga continued to rebuild from the effects of Cyclone Harold and struggled with the impact of international border closures caused by the pandemic, our local partner ensured communities could better support people living with disability in future disasters.

The Tonga National Council of Churches (TNCC) works with government and local civil society organisations, including churches, to support thousands of people across 27 remote communities that have been made highly vulnerable by frequent disasters. This includes people with a disability who face barriers to their participation in disaster risk management training and activities.

*“Getting to meet my fellow participants and being able to talk and share knowledge amongst us has given me greater joy. It also gave me the sense of belonging to our community and we will be working together to make sure that no one is left behind.” Fosipi*

TNCC also raises awareness and advocates for increased disability inclusion in community activities and plans, and with church leaders. Last year, performances by the Kau He Lau drama group helped spread positive messages

about and change attitudes towards people living with disability. They helped communities think about how they can better include people living with disability in both planning for and responding to a disaster, by including them in planning groups and activities, and by confirming how best to help them evacuate and where to, for example.

The performances provided a personal dimension to these sensitive issues, helping participants think and talk about them more easily. Dramatic techniques helped them to explore issues, try out new ideas, behaviors and skills. As their name ‘Kau He Lau’ signifies, the group’s goal is to make sure ‘no one is left behind’.

*“In this training I was blessed to be reminded of our responsibilities as Church Leaders to look after those who are most vulnerable [...] We have an important role to know them by name, what their needs are and where they live but most importantly to reach out to them and include them in all the church activities/ programs. [...] To include them by caring, supporting and above all, love them and not just by saying it, but by actually showing it through our actions.” Rev. Taufu Manu*



# OUR POLICY AND ADVOCACY WORK



Last year we continued to work to influence those in power, to change the policies causing injustice and inequality, and to ensure governments take due responsibility to care for and protect people uprooted by conflict and disaster.

Together with our supporters, we amplified the voices of refugees in Ethiopia, calling on the Ethiopian Government to continue its long-standing commitment to protecting Eritrean refugees sheltering there.

Together with churches, organisations and individuals across Australia, we called on our Government to help end COVID for all and help create a new normal that leaves no one behind.

And we continued to deliver on our pledge to the 2019 Global Refugee Forum to support refugees to lead initiatives that ensure their safety, dignity and rights, and a safe and permanent future.

Act for Peace CEO, Janet Cousens, was one of 40 Christian women leaders who joined together in Canberra in June to advocate for Australia to increase its efforts to end COVID in the world's poorest nations.

Micah Australia



Julia Loersch/Act for Peace

Thanks to your support of the #EndCOVIDForAll campaign, Vanuatu, the world's most disaster-prone country, is receiving funding from the Australian government to help them respond to the devastating impacts of the pandemic.

## ENDING COVID FOR ALL

For nations with weaker health systems and no social safety nets, the impact of the coronavirus will continue to be catastrophic for years to come.

That's why Act for Peace was part of the #EndCOVIDForAll campaign, launched in July 2020 by a coalition of churches and humanitarian agencies to raise a powerful voice for those worst hit by the crisis: people already suffering the effects of conflict and disaster and uprooted from their homes.

Through this campaign, which was led by Micah Australia and ACFID, supporters like you joined aid organisations, businesses, health organisations, churches from a variety of denominations, and high-profile Australians to lobby the Australian Government to help create a new normal that leaves no one behind.

Australians showed we care about supporting our global neighbours through this crisis.

More than 25,000 people and 200 organisations signed the pledge to stand in solidarity with them. Some also posted images to social media wearing facemasks, held events and wrote letters in their communities.

These combined actions helped call on the Australian Government to protect those most vulnerable to COVID-19 and its impacts in low-income countries, strengthen health systems, protect essential aid programs, and help kick-start economic recovery in the region to secure a bright future for all.

Our voices were heard. In the 2020 Federal Budget, the Australian Government announced boosted support to our global neighbours and help to gain more equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.

Together, we stood in solidarity with ill-equipped nations to ensure that we all have the best chance to #EndCOVIDForAll.



# STANDING WITH FAMILIES FLEEING CONFLICT

Home to more than 800,000 refugees from neighbouring countries, Ethiopia has a proud history of providing asylum to people fleeing conflict and persecution. Yet as fighting and shooting escalated in Tigray this year, disturbing reports emerged. Refugees who had found their way to relative safety in Addis Ababa were at risk of being returned back to the conflict zone against their will.

To protect families fleeing the fighting and insecurity in Tigray, caring Australians stood with refugees in Ethiopia by signing our petition to call on the Ethiopian Government to continue its long-standing commitment to protecting Eritrean refugees sheltering in Ethiopia.

Almost 500 people asked the Ethiopian Government to allow Eritrean refugees to stay in Addis Ababa, rather than being returned to Tigray, and also to authorise UNHCR and other NGOs to provide assistance to refugees in Addis Ababa.

In mid-2021, the Ethiopian Government changed their policy and gave permission for the refugees displaced from Tigray region to Addis Ababa to be able to stay in the city instead of being forcibly returned to Tigray.

The conflict in Ethiopia is complicated and ongoing, with no easy solutions in sight and our partner in Addis Ababa continues to support urban refugees in the capital to reclaim control of their lives, reconnect with society, and find a safe place to belong (see p.10).



Ben Littlejohn/Act for Peace

Our local partner in Ethiopia provides support to refugees living with chronic conditions, who are unable to access vital health services in rural camps. They assist with medical expenses, emergency transport, dietary supplements, temporary shelter, and vocational training.



Ben Littlejohn/Act for Peace

As well as petitioning the Ethiopian government, our supporters helped give survivors from Tigray access to sanitary pads, face masks, soap and hand sanitiser; meaning girls and women could manage their periods, protect themselves from the pandemic, and wash their clothes.



Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace

Children at Jamtoli Rohingya refugee camp in Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh. The camp is home to over 50,000 Rohingya refugees who fled from Myanmar.

## LEADING THE WAY

Each year, governments, UN organisations and NGOs make decisions for, and about, displaced people – who needs what, how programs are implemented and what solutions are provided. Too often they do so without including or consulting those affected.

The meaningful participation of refugees in decisions that affect their lives results in more empowering and effective outcomes for all. This year we have taken several steps to deliver on our pledge to the 2019 Global Refugee Forum to co-create enabling environments for this to happen.

To understand how to secure meaningful participation we have engaged a reference group represented by the Asia Pacific Network of Refugees, the Global Refugee-led Network, the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network, and Act Alliance. We have also engaged a team of researchers; three with lived experience of displacement and three internationally recognized experts with access to wide networks of refugee-led organizations and other stakeholders. This peer-mentorship research group focuses on wide consultation, analysis of meaningful participation, and the dissemination of research outputs.

As a result, we have been able to support collaborative networking and effective partnerships. We have established a research agenda that that covers guidelines for research that is co-produced with refugees and other displaced people and is working to:

- amplify refugee voices by publishing statements from refugees at the inaugural Global Refugee Forum
- map and better understand the contributions and constraints of refugee-led initiatives in Asia and the Pacific
- support partner refugee-led initiatives to increase the impact of their research and advocacy.

The past year was dominated by COVID-19 and associated state border closures and travel restrictions. Even before the pandemic, states were already emboldened in their imposition of restrictive policies that have made it even harder to ensure the safety and well-being of people who have been forcibly displaced and reduced options for new solutions. In response, we adapted our approach by consulting closely with those experiencing the impact of these changes on the ground and giving priority to refugee leadership and participation – an approach that is setting an example globally.

Advocacy remains critical to secure better protection for forcibly displaced persons in law, policy, and practice; and to defend against further negative changes. We continue to aim to set a standard and push the agenda forward for the entire sector.



# OUR SUPPORTERS

Thousands of individuals and churches have contributed to our campaigns and appeals this year. You have shared stories, raised awareness, spoken out against injustice, and given generously to support communities affected by conflict and disaster around the world.

Together with local leaders and our long-term partners we are all united in our commitment to creating a more just and peaceful world.

This work would not be possible without you.

Thank you for working with us to reduce displacement and create safety, dignity and belonging for uprooted people.



**77,787**

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



**\$7,685,441**

given in donations and bequests for communities around the world



**88,740**

generous gifts



Students from Lewisham Christian Brothers school took part in the Ration Challenge, joining thousands of caring Australians who raised money to support Syrian refugees in Jordan, and other uprooted people around the world, and to send them a powerful message that they are not alone or forgotten.

# THE CHRISTMAS BOWL

The coronavirus pandemic made last Christmas different for many of us. Yet, Christians across Australia still remembered communities affected by conflict and disaster when more than 1,200 churches spanning 15 denominations came together to share God's love through the Christmas Bowl.

Whether churches chose to organise a socially distanced gathering or opted for remote participation, there were online resources available to ensure that together we could continue to help those in need, even in uncertain times.

And as the world experienced its first Christmas during the pandemic, the legacy of Rev. Frank Byatt, the founder of the Christmas Bowl, was never more important.

Rev. Byatt believed we have a responsibility to share what we have with others who need it.

He saw it as a fundamental part of living out Jesus' call to love our neighbours as ourselves.

That's why, in 1949 he called his congregation to put a Bowl of Remembrance on the dinner table and "make a generous gift so that you can share your good dinner with hungry children in other lands."

That first Christmas Bowl appeal raised £1,808 to support war ravaged refugees in Europe. No small sum for a congregation at the time.

More than 70 years on, Australian households and churches across denominations continued to follow Frank's example in 2020. Responding as a community of caring Christians, your gifts helped to provide food, medical care and vital support to families during COVID-19 in Jordan, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe, and Afghanistan.



Blessing of the Christmas Bowls ceremony at St James Church in Sydney before the pandemic. Even though COVID-19 meant many churches were unable to meet in person in 2020, more than 1,200 congregations across Australia shared God's love through the Christmas Bowl.



# THE RATION CHALLENGE

Despite the impact of COVID-19 here in Australia, thousands of caring people and their sponsors stood in solidarity with Syrians living in Jordan, and other uprooted people around the world, by taking part in the Ration Challenge.

As a result of the onset of the pandemic, not only were Syrian refugees living in fear of contracting the virus; lockdowns, job losses, and aid cuts meant many were facing devastating hunger too.

Lilia\* fled the war in Syria in 2014 with her husband and three boys. During Jordan's lockdown, her husband struggled to find work and their debt mounted. When their daughter was born prematurely, they had to borrow money so she could go on a life-saving incubator.

*"When we don't have money, we borrow to bring milk for our infant child. It is so hard to live like that."* Lilia

Lilia's story is just one of many that shows how the lives of refugees around the world were made even harder by the virus and by the economic impact of lockdowns.

That's why the Ration Challenge community came together, once again, to show refugees



Ben Littlejohn/Act for Peace

like Lilia that there are people in this world who care about them.

By eating the exact same food rations that Syrian refugees in Jordan receive – a small amount of rice, beans, lentils, fish, oil and flour for an entire week – together we raised millions of dollars to supply food to hungry families, hygiene kits to women and girls, medical care to sick and injured people, and psychosocial support to people experiencing extreme hardship.

With the Ration Challenge in 2020 delayed by the pandemic, there were two challenges in the last financial year. In partnership with Concern UK and CWS USA, the Ration Challenge around the world raised more than \$8.5 million – enough to feed 28,309 refugees for a year. In Australia, a total of 12,965 participants, and 61,842 friends and family who sponsored them, raised \$3,512,178.

Refugees like Lilia and her family were able to access food, health care, and other vital support after enduring so much for so long.

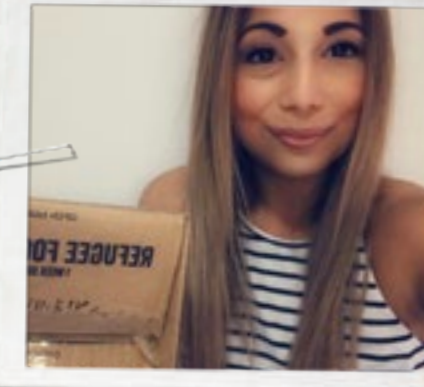


Arthur Tainturier/Act for Peace

## IN THIS TOGETHER

Ration Challenge participants not only raised money. They sent a powerful message to refugees that they are not alone and that we really are in this together. They also shared their experience with others, highlighting our common humanity and helping to create a more compassionate society.

"After hearing about all the struggles that refugees were facing and the negative twist certain media was putting to these stories, I wanted to do the Ration Challenge so I could stand by refugees, learn about their lives and share this information with the people I knew. By doing the Ration Challenge I got to experience one week of what families go through; deciding what to eat, what to save, while raising money for a great cause." – Kate



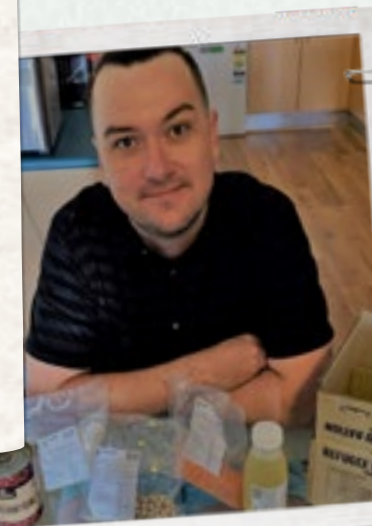
"When I first started my Ration Challenge journey I was concerned about how it would be perceived, people's opinions and the level of support I would be given. I have always been deeply passionate about the rights of people especially refugees but this challenge has allowed me to become more confident and vocal about creating change. The challenge may be over but my journey for change isn't and I thank the Ration Challenge for further inspiring and encouraging me move forward with this in the future." – Jessica



"COVID-19 and its impacts had hit everyone so hard in so many different ways, so I couldn't even begin to imagine how it had affected refugees. I think that even though there are people who have struggled in Australia we forget how lucky we are and really take for granted things like food and health care. When shelves were emptying during the peak it really made me realise just how privileged we are. So raising money for people who don't have this luxury felt like not only the right thing to do but a necessity to show that I do care." – Sydney



"I learned to appreciate what I have a bit more. We take everything for granted, we take the privilege that we have for granted. We don't go without much in Australia and we forget how good we have it sometimes, so just to have a bit of a taste of how other people are living is eye-opening... you can never fully understand the circumstances that other people are having to deal with but just to get a bit of an insight into the experience is something!" – Clinton



"This pandemic has made me realise how lucky I am to have been born in my position. It's made me consider in depth about the difference one person can make. I want to use my advantages in this lucky life I was given, to pay it forward and be reminded that I am surrounded by luxuries. It is in my opinion our ethical responsibility to share what we have with those who need it most." – Eden





# INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

Act for Peace receives vital financial support from a range of institutional donors, helping us to work together to reduce displacement and create safety, dignity and belonging for uprooted people.

Each year the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides registered agencies, including Act for Peace, with a 'matched grant' under the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). This grant leverages the gifts provided by our generous supporters and represents strong linkages between the Australian government, our supporters and the work of our partners overseas. Through this grant, and our supporters' gifts, in 2020/21, we were able to strengthen outcomes for communities in Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Gaza, Pakistan, India, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vanuatu.

Once again, in 2020/21 Act for Peace hosted the secretariat of the Vanuatu Church Partnerships Program, a collaboration of Australian church-based agencies and Vanuatu churches working together to

strengthen the capacity of the church in Vanuatu to respond to humanitarian and development needs. We acknowledge financial contributions from the Anglican Board of Mission, ADRA Australia, and Global Mission Partners.

The Australian Department of Home Affairs continued to fund our program with partner OfERR, supporting return and reintegration initiatives for Tamil refugees considering or preparing to return to Sri Lanka after the war.

Through our collaboration with CAN DO we accessed funds from the Australian Humanitarian Partnership to strengthen our support for communities affected by disaster this year.

We also acknowledge the support of USAID in our work with the Tonga National Council of Churches as we continue to work together to increase the inclusion of people with disabilities in planning and responding to natural disasters and build the resilience of communities in Tonga.

## OUR INSTITUTIONAL DONORS

- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Australian NGO Cooperation Program
- Department of Home Affairs
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade - Australian Humanitarian Partnership via CANDO
- NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade via Tearfund NZ
- ADRA Australia
- Anglican Board of Mission
- Global Mission Partners
- USAID - The Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
- Canada - Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Development
- The Charitable Foundation

Through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) and supporters' gifts, more girls in rural areas of Pakistan are able to attend school and female teachers have increased opportunities for training and personal development, improving the quality of education.





# LEARNING FROM OUR WORK

We are continually learning from what we do; regularly monitoring and evaluating all of our projects to measure progress, track efficacy, be transparent, and demonstrate results. This allows us to be accountable to our supporters, partners and the communities we serve, as well as ensure our work is making a positive impact on the lives of vulnerable people.

In addition to our ongoing monitoring, five of our projects were evaluated by external assessors this financial year:

## THIS YEAR'S EVALUATIONS

- Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation and The Border Consortium: "I'm Prepared"
- Church World Services Indonesia: Disaster Resilience through Enhanced Adaptive Measures
- Community World Service Asia: Enhancing the Quality of Girls' Education in Afghanistan
- Community World Service Asia: Early Childhood Care and Education in Pakistan
- National Council of Churches in the Philippines: Building Disaster Resilient Communities in the Philippines amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic

In Pakistan, our partner is working to improve the quality of educational opportunities available for girls in rural areas.

Community World Service Asia/Act for Peace

This year, Act for Peace reviewed the work we do with our partner in Indonesia, where families are helped to adapt to climate change, prepare for future disasters and stay safe.



# EMPOWERING WOMEN RETURNING HOME

Too often refugees – and refugee women in particular – are excluded from key decision-making processes when returning and reintegrating into their home country, reducing their power by undermining their roles as leaders in their local communities.

The “I’m Prepared” program, which came to a successful completion in March 2021, pioneered a refugee-led approach to tackling this inequality; focusing on building knowledge, enhancing preparedness to return home and supporting women’s livelihoods.

The program was funded by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s Gender Action Platform and delivered by our local partners, the Organisation for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR) in India, and The Border Consortium in Thailand.

Tamil refugees who fled the civil war in Sri Lanka have lived in refugee camps in Tamil Nadu, India, for up to three decades and are now returning to North-East Sri Lanka. After more than thirty years of conflict, indigenous Karenni refugees from Kayah state in Myanmar continue to live in refugee camps inside Thailand.

Through the program, women refugees learned about the importance of child and women’s safety and how to access services or support. They learned about the steps they need to take before returning home, were trained in how to identify the strengths and vulnerabilities of members of their own community and gained vital support through women’s livelihoods programs.

*“One of my neighbours told me about OfERR. They asked me what I planned to do. I said I wanted to start a shop. I would have gone to a loan shark. Through OfERR, I got to start my own business.” Dasini\**

## KEY EVALUATION FINDINGS INCLUDE:

- 19,264 refugees in India and 7,021 in Thailand are better equipped to make informed decisions about staying or returning through access to up-to-date, relevant information
- 8,229 women in Sri Lanka and 435 in Myanmar have increased access to government livelihood assistance and documentation services for themselves and their families
- In Sri Lanka, 75% of refugees reported that they enjoy greater safety, justice and dignity with reduced protection risks
- 75% of refugees surveyed in both Sri Lanka and Myanmar self-report greater economic independence and empowerment

The evaluation of the program found that the women refugees who participated reported greater safety, justice and dignity and greater economic independence and empowerment, as a result.

The “I’m Prepared” program made it possible for thousands of women refugees to achieve their full social, economic and political rights, by empowering them to be more active when deciding where to live, now and in the future.



Women refugees like Dasini\*, seen here in her shop, have been empowered to achieve their full social, economic and political rights through the “I’m Prepared” program.

Richard Wainwright/Act for Peace



Faizah\* and other women in her community are learning to make organic fertiliser and pesticides to help them grow their own food.

Megie Anggita/CWS

# COMMUNITIES ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Still in recovery from the 2018 earthquake which struck Indonesia, faced with frequent flash floods, slow-onset droughts, and COVID-19, farmers in five villages of the remote Tana Toraja District have learnt how to adapt to these challenges through the DREAM program.

DREAM stands for Disaster Resilience through Enhanced Adaptive Measures. The program has been run by our local partner Church World Services Indonesia since 2017 and is supported by the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

DREAM has raised awareness and delivered training for the local communities on adapting livelihoods to climate change challenges.

Before the program, 80% of those surveyed stated that their villages did not have a plan for when disaster strikes – now all villages have a plan. The communities have also taken part in a disaster simulation to practice implementing these plans and created traditional bamboo gongs (katto) as early warning system tools.

During the last year DREAM has facilitated activities with 4 local communities to establish and run 25 farmers’ groups with over 600 members and 15 women’s saving groups with over 300 members.

Through her group Faizah\* learnt how to make organic fertiliser and pesticides to feed

and nurture the crops in her yard. Using food scraps from her kitchen she created a self-sufficient organic system that didn’t cost her family a thing. She now teaches others in her community to do the same.

*“I aspire to share my spirit and to motivate other women in Bulubete Village also, to think creatively and innovatively in the midst of existing conditions, so they can help their husband or themselves to meet their family’s daily needs.” Faizah*

In addition to learning how to adapt their own farming practices and livelihoods to be more sustainable, the farmers’ and women’s saving groups actively participated in village development planning meetings; ensuring their village allocated funds for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction measures - and integrated these issues into village planning.

This year’s external evaluation found that the DREAM program has increased both community knowledge about climate change and preparedness for future disasters. Community members, including people living with disability, are better prepared and feel safer as a result.



# DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

In accordance with a resolution of the Directors, the Directors report on the accounts and operations of the Company for the year ended 30 June 2021.

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

- Virginia Udy
- Leigh Ellen Cleave
- John Charles Gilmore
- Alison Preston
- Elizabeth Mary Stone
- Marcus Richard Manfred Sandmann
- Jamieson Davies
- Paul Jeffrey Nichols

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

There were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Company during the financial period.

## INFORMATION ON DIRECTORS -

### VIRGINIA UDY

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

### LEIGH ELLEN CLEAVE

**Director (Deputy Chair of the Board)**  
BMus, Grad Dip Teaching, MBA, CFRE, FF/A  
Fundraising and Marketing Consultant

### JOHN CHARLES GILMORE

**Director** BTheol, MTheol, DipMin  
Executive Officer, Australian Churches of Christ Global  
Mission Partners

### ALISON PRESTON

**Director** BA Journalism  
International Development Professional

### ELIZABETH MARY STONE

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

### MARCUS RICHARD MANFRED SANDMANN

**Director** BBus, MA/CD  
Senior Marketing Professional

### JAMIESON DAVIES

**Director** BA,MA  
Executive Director, Australian Lutheran World Service

### PAUL JEFFREY NICHOLS

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

## DIRECTORS' MEETINGS -

Virginia Udy	6/6	Elizabeth Mary Stone	6/6
Leigh Ellen Cleave	6/6	Marcus R M Sandmann	6/6
John Charles Gilmore	6/6	Jamieson Davies	5/6
Alison Preston	5/6	Paul Jeffrey Nichols	5/6

The entity is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a not-for-profit, community-based, voluntary public company limited by guarantee. If the entity is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the entity. At 30 June 2021 the collective liability of members was \$10 (2020: \$10).

Dated this 14th day of October, 2021.

# STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

REVENUE	Notes	12 months to 30 Jun 2021 \$	12 months to 30 Jun 2020 \$
Donations and gifts			
Monetary		7,101,972	4,162,315
Non-monetary		0	52,718
Bequests and Legacies		583,469	55,118
Grants			
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade		2,096,643	2,243,945
Other Australian		2,361,763	1,544,725
Other Overseas		614,900	38,128
Investment Income (Loss)		907,632	(6,635)
Commercial Activities Income		0	0
Other Income		1,939,149	732,676
Revenue for International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs		0	0
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>15,605,528</b>	<b>8,822,990</b>

## EXPENDITURE

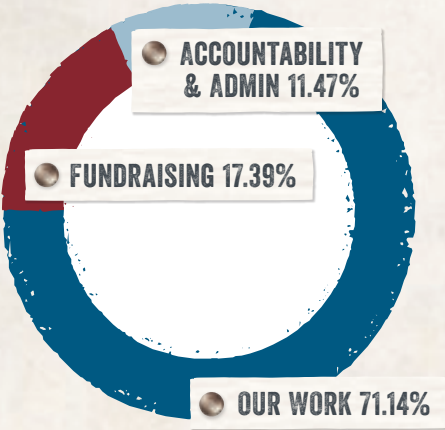
### International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure

International programs			
Funds to International Programs	11	5,685,341	5,187,024
Program Support Costs		1,062,902	1,222,030
		6,748,243	6,409,054
Community Education		1,528,199	1,001,821
Fundraising Costs			
Public		1,978,020	1,428,463
Government, multilateral And private		44,704	51,289
		2,022,724	1,479,752
Accountability and Administration		1,333,730	1,377,551
Non-Monetary Expenditure		0	52,718
<b>Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure</b>		<b>11,632,896</b>	<b>10,320,896</b>
International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs Expenditure		0	0
Domestic Projects Expenditure		0	3,013
Commercial Activities Expenditure		0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>11,632,896</b>	<b>10,323,909</b>
<b>EXCESS/(SHORTFALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>3,972,632</b>	<b>(1,500,919)</b>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)</b>		<b>3,972,632</b>	<b>(1,500,919)</b>

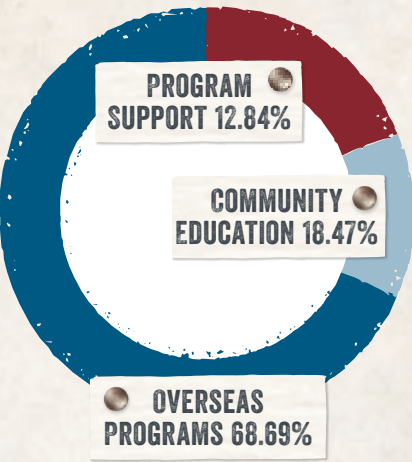
During the financial year, Act for Peace had no transactions in the Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs Category.

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

## TOTAL EXPENDITURE



## EXPENDITURE ON PROGAMS





## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

ASSETS	Notes	30 June 2020	30 June 2020
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	1,296,062	2,023,256
Trade and Other Receivables	3	1,833,337	595,432
Other Assets	4	25,290	95,509
Total Current Assets		3,154,689	2,714,197
<b>Non Current Assets</b>			
Other Financial Assets	5	8,460,277	4,573,555
Property, Plant and Equipment	6	3,291,936	3,511,024
Total Non Current Assets		11,752,213	8,084,579
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>14,906,902</b>	<b>10,798,776</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade And Other Payables	7	270,011	861,695
Contract liabilities	8	1,537,131	833,341
Provisions	9	468,097	458,912
Total Current Liabilities		2,275,239	2,153,948
<b>Non Current Liabilities</b>			
Provisions	9	170,809	156,606
Total Non Current Liabilities		170,809	156,606
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>2,446,048</b>	<b>2,310,554</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>12,460,854</b>	<b>8,488,222</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Reserves	10	10,638,967	7,588,370
Retained Earnings		1,821,887	899,853
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>12,460,854</b>	<b>8,488,222</b>

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 ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Total
Balance at 30 June 2019	2,480,932	7,508,210	9,989,141
Excess(Shortfall) of Revenue over expenses	(1,500,919)	0	(1,500,919)
Balance at 30 June 2020	899,853	7,588,370	8,488,222
Excess(Shortfall) of Revenue over expenses	3,972,632	0	3,972,632
Amount transferred to (from) reserves	(3,050,598)	3,050,598	0
Balance at 30 June 2021	1,821,887	10,638,967	12,460,854

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

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2021

	12 months to 30 Jun 2021	12 months to 30 Jun 2020	12 months to 30 Jun 2021	12 months to 30 Jun 2020
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>				
Cash receipts from customers	13,892,609	9,630,344		
Cash paid to supplier and employees	(11,665,733)	(9,754,570)		
Cash generated from operations	2,226,876	(124,226)		
Interest paid	0	0		
Income taxes paid	0	0		
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	<b>2,226,876</b>	<b>(124,226)</b>		
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>				
Purchase of property and equipment	25,021	(225,412)		
Decrease (Increase) in in vestments / investment income	(2,979,090)	1,527,910		
Dividends received				
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>	<b>(2,954,069)</b>	<b>1,302,498</b>		
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>				
Proceeds from long-term borrowings			0	0
Dividends paid			0	0
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>			<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net increase(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>			<b>(727,193)</b>	<b>1,178,272</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period</b>			<b>2,023,256</b>	<b>844,984</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of period</b>			<b>1,296,062</b>	<b>2,023,256</b>

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

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2021

### NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB), the ACFID Code of Conduct and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act). The company is a not-forprofit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards. For further information on the Code please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance available at [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au).

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

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

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the directors on 14th October 2021.

#### (a) Revenue recognition

The company recognises revenue as follows:

##### Revenue from contracts

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



## **Grants and donations**

### Contributed assets

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

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

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

### Operating grants and donations

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

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

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

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

Revenue is recognised for there items as follows:

### **Investment income**

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

### **Other income**

Other revenue is recognised when the right to receive the revenue has been established. During the year the company received certain Government COVID-19 subsidies amounting to \$291,650 which have been included in other income in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

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

## **(b) Property, plant and equipment**

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

### **Land and buildings**

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

### **Plant and equipment**

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

### **Depreciation**

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

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

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

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

## **(c) Income tax**

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

## **(d) Value of Volunteers**

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

In relation to volunteers used directly for the support of international projects, this amounted to \$0 in 2021 (2020: \$52,718).

## **(e) Leases**

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

The company has adopted AASB 16: Leases retrospectively with the cumulative effect of initially applying the standard recognised at 1 July 2019. In accordance with AASB 16 the comparatives for the 2019 period have not been restated.

There were no adjustments required on the application of this standard.

## **(f) Financial instruments**

### **Investments and other financial assets**

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

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

### **Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss**

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

### **Impairment of financial assets**

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

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

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

## **(g) Impairment of assets**

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

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

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

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



(h) Cash and cash equivalents

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

(i) Employee benefits

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

(j) Trade and other receivables

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

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

(k) Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is notrecoverable from the Australian Tax Office (ATO).

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

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

(l) Trade and other payables

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

(m) Provisions

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

(n) Comparative figures

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

(o) Critical accounting estimates and judgements

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

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

(p) New and Amended Accounting Policies

The company has considered all new and amended accounting standards effective from 1 July, 2020 which have been disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

NOTES	30 June 2021	30 June 2020
<strong>2. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</strong>		
Cash on hand	3,763	3,763
Cash in bank	1,216,467	1,943,661
Term Deposits	75,832	75,832
	<strong>1,296,062</strong>	<strong>2,023,256</strong>
<strong>3. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES</strong>		
Other Debtors	59,875	218,378
GST Paid	40,168	24,989
Prepayments	44,789	172,638
Trade receivables	1,688,505	179,428
	<strong>1,833,337</strong>	<strong>595,432</strong>
<strong>4. OTHER ASSETS</strong>		
Receivable from NCCA Ltd	25,290	95,509
	<strong>25,290</strong>	<strong>95,509</strong>
<strong>5. OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS</strong>		
Investments with Australian Ethical	4,925,102	4,268,382
Investments with JBWere	3,535,175	305,173
	<strong>8,460,277</strong>	<strong>4,573,555</strong>
<strong>6. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</strong>		
Level 7 Kent St (Sydney) at valuation *	1,405,396	1,405,396
Level 6 West Tower (Melbourne) at cost	1,310,399	1,310,399
Bldg Improv, Computer & Office Furnitures cost	1,602,120	1,644,512
Accumulated Depreciation	(1,025,979)	(849,283)
	<strong>576,141</strong>	<strong>795,229</strong>
<strong>Total Property, Plant &amp; Equipment</strong>	<strong>3,291,936</strong>	<strong>3,511,024</strong>
* The company owns 51.1% of the property.		
<strong>7. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES</strong>		
Trade Creditors	157,046	404,830
Accruals on Project Funds	66,307	411,282
Payroll Liabilities	46,365	43,976
GST Collected	293	1,607
	<strong>270,011</strong>	<strong>861,695</strong>
<strong>8. CONTRACT LIABILITIES</strong>		
Institutional Income in Advance	1,537,131	833,341
	<strong>1,537,131</strong>	<strong>833,341</strong>
<strong>9. EMPLOYEE ENTITLEMENTS</strong>		
Provision for Annual Leave	468,097	458,912
	<strong>468,097</strong>	<strong>458,912</strong>
Provision for Long Service Leave	170,809	156,606
	<strong>170,809</strong>	<strong>156,606</strong>
<strong>10. RESERVES</strong>		
Refugee Reserves	1,901,467	1,831,856
Property Reserves	1,890,377	1,821,172
Bequests Reserves	1,849,357	1,219,546
Program Reserves	2,281,971	0
Level 7 Kent St (Sydney)	1,405,396	1,405,396
Level 6 West Tower(Melbourne)	1,310,399	1,310,399
	<strong>10,638,967</strong>	<strong>7,588,369</strong>
The above funds form part of total retained earnings which are designated to specific reserves.		

NOTES	30 June 2021	30 June 2020
<strong>11. PROGRAMS</strong>		
Africa	568,861	611,000
Asia	2,513,864	2,805,618
Pacific	1,132,953	778,181
Middle East	432,082	366,214
Managed Funds - Overseas	87,686	215,206
Emergencies	949,895	410,805
	<strong>5,685,341</strong>	<strong>5,187,024</strong>
<strong>12. KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION</strong>		
Any person or persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the entity, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or non-executive) of that entity, is considered key management personnel (KMP).		
The total of remuneration paid to KMP of the company during the year is as follows.	<strong>668,592</strong>	<strong>705,871</strong>
<strong>13. CONTINGENCIES</strong>		
Contingent liabilities	-	-
<strong>14. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS</strong>		
Grant from Global Mission Partners whose Executive Officer (John Gilmore) is the Chairman ofthe Board ofAfP Ltd	15,000	20,000
Grant from Australian Lutheran World Service whose Executive Director (Jamieson Davies) is a Director of AfP Ltd	5,000	-
Business Service Fees charge to NCCA Ltd	30,568	39,699
Office Rental paid to NCCA Ltd	30,297	37,270
The value of related party transactions in the year amounted to.	<strong>80,865</strong>	<strong>96,969</strong>

15. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING DATE

The impact of the Coronavirus (COVI D-19) pandemic is ongoing and while it has been financially positive for the company up to 30 June 2021, it is not practicable to estimate the potential impact, positive or negative, after the reporting date. The situation is rapidly developing and is dependent on measures imposed by the Australian Government and other countries, such as maintaining social distancing requirements, quarantine, travel restrictions and any economic stimulus that may be provided. No other matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2021 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the company's operations, the results of those operations, or the company's state of affairs in future financial years.

16. FUNDRAISING APPEALS

Below is additional information furnished under the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and the Office Cha rites Fundraising Authority Conditions;		
<strong>a) Details of aggregate gross income from fundraising</strong>		
Gross proceeds from fundraising appeals	7,685,441	4,270,151
Total costs of fundraising appeals	3,506,219	2,430,284
Net surplus from fundraising appeals	<strong>4,179,222</strong>	<strong>1,839,867</strong>
Net margin from fundraising appeals	<strong>54.4%</strong>	<strong>43.1%</strong>
<strong>b) Application of funds for charitable purpose</strong>		
During the year the company used the net surplus of funds for supporting emergency response, sustainable development and advocacy programs in over 16 countries to increase safety, justice and dignity for conflict and disaster affected communities, and supporting the operations of the company.		



## DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

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

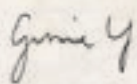
- a) The financial statements and notes as set out on pages 2 to 14 are in accordance with the Act for Peace Ltd constitution, ACFID Code of Conduct and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act); and
  - i. Comply with relevant Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements applicable to the entity; and
  - ii. Give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the company;
- b) In the Commission's opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that Act for Peace Ltd will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

We also report that:

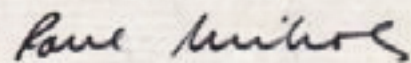
- c) The financial statements show a true and fair view of the financial results of fund raising appeals for the year ended 30 June 2021 as required by the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991*;
- d) The accounting and associated records of Act for Peace Ltd have been kept in accordance with the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* and the Regulations for the year ended 30 June 2021;
- e) Money received as a result of fund raising appeals conducted during the year have been properly accounted for and applied in accordance with the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* and the Regulation; and

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors and is signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

For and on behalf of the Board



VIRGINIA UDY (Chair, Board of Directors)



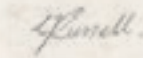
PAUL NICHOLS (Treasurer)

Dated this 14th day of October, 2021.

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

As lead auditor of Act for Peace Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2021, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

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



Leah Russell  
Director

BDO Audit Pty Ltd

Sydney

14 October 2021

## 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 2021, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial report, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible entities' declaration.

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

- (i) Giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

### REPORT ON THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NSW CHARITABLE FUNDRAISING ACT 1991

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report as required by the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991. Our procedures included obtaining an understanding of the internal control structure for fundraising appeal activities and examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting compliance with the accounting and associated record keeping requirements for fundraising appeal activities pursuant to the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the NSW Charitable Fundraising Regulations 2015.

Because of the inherent limitations of any assurance engagement, it is possible that fraud, error or noncompliance may occur and not be detected. An audit is not designed to detect all instances of noncompliance with the requirements described in the abovementioned Acts and Regulations as an audit is not performed continuously throughout the period and the audit procedures performed in respect of compliance with these requirements are undertaken on a test basis. The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

#### Opinion

In our opinion:

- a) the financial report of The Foundation has been properly drawn up and associated records have been properly kept during the financial year ended 30 June 2021,
- b) the money received as a result of fundraising appeals conducted by Act of Peace during the financial year ended 30 June 2021 has been properly accounted for and applied, in all material respects, in accordance with the above mentioned Acts and Regulations.



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

Those charged with governance 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. 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 - Reduced Disclosure Requirements 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 intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance 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 Russell*  
Leah Russell  
Director

Sydney, 19 October 2021

ACT FOR PEACE BOARD

Directors of the Act for Peace Board are appointed by the Member, the National Council of Churches in Australia. At the end of the 2020-2021 year, Act for Peace’s Directors were as follows:

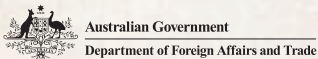
<b>Virginia Udy</b> <small>BED, MA (HONS), MBA, GAICD</small> Chair of the Board	<b>Elizabeth Stone</b> <small>BA, MINTS, AGIA</small> Director
<b>Leigh Cleave</b> <small>BMUS, GRAD DIP TEACHING, MBA, CFRE, FF/A</small> Director (Deputy Chair of the Board)	<b>Marcus Sandmann</b> <small>BBUS, MA/CD</small> Director
<b>John Gilmore</b> <small>BTHEOL, MTHEOL, DIPMIN</small> Director	<b>Jamieson Davies</b> <small>BA, MA</small> Director
<b>Alison Preston</b> <small>BA JOURNALISM</small> Director	<b>Paul Nichols</b> <small>BA, BSW, MBA</small> Director (Treasurer)

MEMBER CHURCHES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN AUSTRALIA

- 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 & affiliated Regions
- Coptic Orthodox Church, Diocese of Melbourne & affiliated Regions
- Greek Orthodox Church
- Indian Orthodox Church
- Lutheran Church of Australia
- Mar Thoma Church
- Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
- Roman Catholic Church
- Romanian Orthodox Church
- The Salvation Army
- Syrian Orthodox Church
- Uniting Church in Australia



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WEB. [www.actforpeace.org.au](http://www.actforpeace.org.au)  
ABN. 86 619 970 188



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).





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

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