

Strength in a changing world





ACT/CWS

Contents

- 1 ACT in numbers**
ACT Alliance at a glance.
- 2 Introduction by General Secretary John Nduna**
- 3 12 months in the life of ACT Alliance**
ACT highlights from around the world in 2012.
- 6 ACT in major emergencies**
ACT raised nearly US\$34.8m in appeal funding during 2012, supplying short- and long-term disaster relief to thousands of people affected by life-threatening events in Syria, the Sahel, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Senegal.
- 9 Prevention is better than cure**
In countries such as India, ACT members are working with communities to build their resilience and reduce their vulnerability to hazardous events such as floods.
- 10 Falling short at Rio+20**
When negotiators from 190 countries gathered at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio, ACT was there pushing for measures to reduce poverty, promote clean energy and tackle climate change. Although the summit failed to deliver, ACT continues to advocate for a just path towards a more sustainable world.
- 11 Mining for change**
How ACT members in southern Africa are dealing with the twin problems of human exploitation and environmental degradation in the extractive industries.
- 12 Repairing fragile emotions after disaster**
A psychosocial support project run by an ACT member in Cuba is using a creative approach to help communities deal with the hidden emotional impact of humanitarian catastrophes.
- 13 Supporting indigenous people under threat**
Why a long-running conflict in Colombia has sparked a peaceful intervention from ACT members seeking to protect local leaders from death and persecution.
- 14 Rights and responsibilities**
ACT is championing a rights-based approach to development and is taking steps to ensure that governments fulfil their duty to respect citizens' basic needs. Plus, an inspiring rights-based success story from India.
- 15 Bridging the development-relief divide**
Migrant Egyptian workers forced to return home after the Arab Spring uprising are finding renewed hope, thanks to an ACT project that is offering them work as part of wider efforts to use short-term humanitarian programmes to meet longer-term development goals.
- 16 Finance report**
A snapshot of ACT funding over the year.
- 18 ACT Alliance's world map**
ACT's global reach and membership mapped out in one striking image.
- 21 Governance**
Governing Board, Executive Committee, Advisory Groups, Communities of Practice.

Cover Women and children walk through the Za'atari Refugee Camp, located near Mafraq, in Jordan. Opened in July 2012, the camp holds upwards of 20,000 refugees from the civil war inside Syria. ACT members have been active in the camp, providing essential items and services.

Photo: ACT/Paul Jeffrey

This page A relief worker displays the red beans that were part of the food distribution in Mwingi, Kenya, where ACT carried out drought-relief programmes.

25,000

staff and volunteers

140

countries

22%
**global
north**

US\$1.5^{bn}
expenditure

The 139 church-related organisations that make up **ACT Alliance** work together for sustainable change in the lives of people affected by poverty and injustice, through coordinated humanitarian, development and advocacy work. ACT works in solidarity with communities, regardless of religion, politics, gender, race or nationality and in keeping with the highest international codes and standards.

139

members

76%
**global
south**

2%
**global
organisations**

John Nduna at the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan, where ACT members have been helping people displaced by the crisis in Syria.

ACT/ Paul Jeffrey

The humanitarian and development landscape is changing quickly. In an age of cuts to overseas aid budgets, financial crises and the rise of emerging economies, growing inequalities brought about by these changes further threaten the lives of millions.

The new environment has prompted frank and open discussion within the alliance on the challenges ahead. We need to move away from the belief that economic growth will resolve social malaise and benefit all. Unjust and unbalanced economies need to be altered to foster resilience and sustainability.

It is within this context that ACT Alliance held two major regional consultations with members this year and started the process of reviewing its strategic direction, which will attempt to address these challenges while maintaining a framework of sustainable development and emergency response.

In this changed landscape, ACT sees opportunity. Greater links between southern countries will generate more room for cooperation and new relationships from southern arenas for ACT, while ACT's voice with the poor, especially against structures that perpetuate poverty, will only grow louder.

The physical proximity of our secretariat office to the United Nations (UN) offices in Geneva became even more pronounced in 2012 when ACT achieved consultative status to the Economic and Social Council of the UN.

Accreditation allows us access to the UN and its agencies.

Further to our ambition to use UN processes to push for change, we joined the Ecumenical UN Office in New York. Better access to the General Assembly, the Security Council and member states allows us to amplify the voices of the local communities we have highlighted for attention, such as in South Sudan and Colombia.

Regardless of the political and economic environment, the alliance will continue to be committed to its mandate of serving organisations firmly embedded in local communities. While some global organisations speak of fostering relations with local organisations in the global south as a new business model, this approach is, for us, our *modus operandi* – and will long continue to be.

On the emergencies front, ACT appeals generated nearly US\$34.8m of support for emergencies worldwide in 2012. We supported longstanding emergencies, such as those in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Darfur, as well as those that made the headlines daily, such as the civil war in Syria and its resulting refugee crisis.

Late this year, ACT took part in an extensive audit for accreditation by the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) for certification of the ACT secretariat.

Finally, ACT exists because of support from organisations like yours. To those organisations, both member and external, who have sustained the growth of ACT Alliance, I thank you. Success lies with your continued enthusiasm and financial and moral support. ■



John Nduna
General Secretary
ACT Alliance

A woman carrying a baby balances two sacks of maize on her head at the food distribution centre in Goma, North Kivu Province, in the eastern DRC.

Photo: LWF DRC/Fred Otieno

12 months in the life of ACT Alliance

The year 2012 was marked by emergency relief and saw ACT members funding appeals totalling nearly US\$34.8m. The greatest financial support went to Somali refugees and Somalia's internally displaced people hit by drought, the joint ACT Alliance-Caritas Internationalis programme in Darfur, emergency response in South Sudan, and assistance for Syrians caught up in conflict. As well as life-saving responses, ACT members ran significant development programmes in every sector: efforts that not only drew people out of poverty, but also sought to uphold their right to a dignified way of life. Meanwhile, ACT's advocacy team continued to petition governments and global bodies to bring about lasting change.



January to March



ACT/LWF/Thomas Ekelund

ACT members in Mozambique start the year with life-saving activities for survivors of floods caused by a tropical storm and a cyclone. Further north, drought-relief work continues in Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Ethiopia, while members in the Sahel respond to the food crisis gripping the region. Uprising in Syria sees ACT providing humanitarian assistance inside the country and also to refugees in the region: ACT launches an appeal that will go on to generate US\$9.8m. Appeals are also issued for Malian refugees, displaced people returning to Chad, Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia, communities affected by drought in Mauritania and Senegal, and survivors of conflict in Jonglei, South Sudan, as well as in Darfur. ACT launches Clapping with Both Hands, a global report on good practice in gender work. In Colombia, ACT helps to instigate a programme to protect community leaders at risk of being killed. The dire humanitarian situation in northern Mali is the subject of ACT statements and letters to governments. ACT continues working in the UN-led process on the post-2015 development framework to follow the Millennium Development Goals, issuing discussion papers to the UN High-Level Panel. ACT Nepal advocates for a disaster management bill. During a visit to Kenya, General Secretary John Nduna meets senior politicians. In Sudan, he talks to government, African Union and UN representatives about the country's political future. ■

Zeinabou Méré Bowboutoumi serves tea while talking about the shop she ran in Mali before rebels attacked her village and she was forced to flee with her family. She sought refuge at Camp Mbere in south-east Mauritania, which is managed by an ACT member. Zeinabou says her Arabic heritage made it impossible for her and the family to stay in Mali.

April to June



ACT/Caritas/NCA/Mohamed Nureidin Abdallah

Burkina Faso members issue a US\$1.8m appeal for food assistance for 58,000 people, particularly child refugees. ACT Tanzania appeals for drought relief for northern Tanzania. In South Sudan, members launch an appeal for the Jonglei, Upper Nile, Warrap and Eastern Equatoria regions. ACT continues a long-standing programme in Sudan's Darfur region. Refugees fleeing fighting between rebel and government forces in the DRC are given life-saving water, sanitation and hygiene services by ACT Uganda and ACT DRC, who issue a statement stressing the need for civilian protection. ACT supports the plight of Angolan returnees displaced in the 30-year civil war. Appeals are launched for people affected by conflict in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and by floods in China. Peruvian members respond to flash mud floods that hit three small cities. ACT helps to facilitate a high-level Christian-Muslim delegation to Nigeria's conflict areas. ACT takes a seat in the planning process of the CSO (civil society organisation) Partnership for Development Effectiveness, designed to improve the impact of CSOs. In Honduras, ACT petitions for land rights. A strong ACT delegation at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil – known as Rio+20 – demands profound change in current global economic and political structures. An ACT report on low-carbon development is released. General Secretary John Nduna visits the Fukushima earthquake and tsunami disaster region in Japan, gaining an insight into the serious problems residents face. ■

A woman listens to an awareness-raising session on sexually-transmitted infections, behaviour change, safe motherhood and child health at the Hamedia camp for internally displaced people in Central Darfur, run by an ACT member.

“ACT’s voice with the poor, especially against structures that perpetuate poverty, will only grow louder”

John Nduna, General Secretary ACT Alliance

July to September



ACT/Paul Jeffrey

ACT in China responds to floods in the south and offers relief to earthquake-affected people. ACT issues appeals in India for survivors of floods and ethnic conflict in Assam state, together with a US\$1.44m appeal for people fleeing conflict against militants in two regions of Pakistan. Recovery and rehabilitation support is given to those affected by Pakistan's 2011 floods. Disasters continue to hit the Philippines: a cyclonic storm causes flooding and water-logging in Manila, triggering the launch of a US\$592,000 appeal. In Cameroon, ACT distributes shelter, food and school materials to 75,000 people affected by floods that destroy crops and livestock. A US\$6.46m appeal in South Sudan offers water, sanitation and hygiene measures, psychosocial support, emergency education and early recovery to over 131,000 people in eight states. ACT Colombia supports civilian and indigenous populations caught up in armed conflict in Northern Cauca. ACT scales up support to people affected by the conflict in Syria, adding shelter, camp management and education support to existing programmes. Working closely with the UN International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction, ACT participates in discussions to determine a new global framework on disaster risk reduction. Follow-up with the UN's climate change body increases significantly: ACT is admitted to the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. ■

October to December



ACT/Paul Jeffrey

ACT is well represented at the UN climate change talks, COP18, in Doha, lobbying delegates to approve climate finance, adaptation and low-carbon development. ACT Moderator the Rev Dr Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel and General Secretary John Nduna visit Syrian refugees living in host communities in Jordan, observing ACT support at the main refugee camp of Za'atari. Six new emergency relief appeals are issued in this period, the largest being a US\$7.1m appeal for humanitarian support for Somali refugees, internally displaced people and drought-affected households in Somalia. Tanzanian members issue an appeal for drought relief in the north of the country, providing immediate assistance by supplying food to 10,000 households and drought-resistant seeds to 2,500 farming households. Members in the DRC appeal for US\$2.57m to meet the needs of 68,000 people displaced by renewed fighting in the east of the country. Tropical Storm Isaac and Hurricane Sandy prompt appeals for Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Cuba. In Asia, Typhoon Bopha batters the Philippines. Eight days of cross-border violence between Hamas and Israel lead to an appeal for health support, food security, shelter and emergency financial assistance. ACT members take part in UN consultations on the post-2015 development framework. ACT joins the Ecumenical UN Office in New York to influence the UN's policy-making forums, including the post-2015 development framework process. ■

A worker pounds a peg into the ground as he and other workers erect new tents in the Za'atari Refugee Camp, near Mafraq in Jordan. The camp holds over 20,000 refugees from Syria's civil war, with numbers expected to rise dramatically in the coming months. ACT members have been supplying essential items and services in the camp.

In the wake of Typhoon Bopha's passage through the southern Philippines island of Mindanao, Armando Guniyon climbs through the rubble of his flood-damaged home in Cagayan de Oro. ACT members provided emergency support in the aftermath of the typhoon.

ACT IN MAJOR EMERGENCIES

ACT Alliance was at forefront of every major emergency of 2012, supplying the essentials of daily life and preparing people for life beyond disaster. We raised nearly US\$34.8m in appeal funding during the course of the year. Here, we highlight some of the major moments.



Syria

The Syrian conflict began in 2011 when the Syrian army opened fire on protestors at large-scale demonstrations against President Bashar al-Assad. Months of military sieges followed and the conflict quickly grew into the civil war that has now taken over 80,000 lives.

By the end of 2012, the conflict had forced 600,000 people to leave Syria as refugees, according to the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Hundreds of thousands fled to Lebanon, Jordan, Turkey and Iraq, and

smaller numbers to Armenia and other neighbouring countries. Additionally, an estimated 4 million people are internally displaced in Syria, making it second only to Colombia for its displaced population.


The ACT appeal for people affected by the Syrian conflict was issued in 2012, with a total target of almost US\$10m.

ACT's relief operations span the region. In Syria, ACT is working with internally displaced people. In neighbouring Jordan and Lebanon, ACT is working with refugees, including a large programme in the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan,

and also with communities that have received significant numbers of refugees, such as Amman.

George Antoun, regional representative of an ACT member working in Syria, says the work is having a life-saving impact and is important in many other ways. "When you leave your house with nothing but the clothes on your back, it is a tremendous thing to get a helping hand," Antoun explained.

This appeal has provided a wide

Continued overleaf 



Zahida Al-Mohammed, a refugee from Syria, does her laundry in front of her family's makeshift shelter in the village of Jeb Jennine, in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

Photo: ACT/Paul Jeffrey

range of services, including shelter, food, education, water and sanitation, and health and psychosocial support. For refugees living in host communities, the appeal has also provided help with rent, which is something that many people are desperate for.

Food crisis in the Sahel

Successive crop failures due to prolonged drought caused a food crisis in the Sahel region of Africa, putting 19 million people at risk of food insecurity and malnutrition. The conflict in Mali has exacerbated the emergency, as massive displacements of vulnerable populations across Mali and into other countries in the region have put extra stress on already tired resources and a situation of chronic poverty. This has caused greater numbers of people to depend on humanitarian interventions for survival.

Since crops failed in 2011, food stocks had dropped and people had already sold their animals to pay for basic grains, and consequently reserves and resilience were very low. Food shortages dramatically increased the price of basic grains, often by 200%, and people no longer had any money to pay for them.

ACT responded with two appeals: one in Burkina Faso for people affected by the drought, and one in Mauritania and Senegal, for people affected by the drought as well as for Malian refugees.

ACT appeal in Burkina Faso

According to a report from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, 2.8 million people in Burkina Faso were facing food insecurity and malnutrition in 2012. The influx of 65,000 Malian refugees into the country put extra strain on resources. In some areas where ACT works, all families had sold their livestock and expensive belongings, and had adopted other coping strategies: these included reducing the number and quality of meals they ate and giving their daughters for marriage to wealthy families in the hope of receiving support in return.

All members of the Burkina Faso ACT forum had begun emergency work with their own funds, and an ACT appeal was launched to improve the living conditions of child refugees in Burkina Faso by increasing their daily food intake and providing psychosocial support. A total of 58,000 people were directly targeted using a variety of emergency responses, including food distribution, nutrition kits for children and the sale of food at subsidised prices.

ACT appeal in Mauritania and Senegal

Following a military coup in Mali in March 2012, separatist Tuareg movement and Islamic rebels captured all of the northern Malian regions of Tombouctou, Gao and Kidal.

Large numbers of civilians fled to the southern regions and to the capital, Bamako, as well as across the borders into neighbouring countries already affected by the ongoing Sahel food crisis.

Most organisations working on relief and development, including ACT members, had to abandon their operations in northern Mali, at least temporarily.

ACT launched an appeal for Malian refugees in Mauritania, and for drought-affected Mauritians and northern Senegalese people. The US\$2.4m appeal target was nearly entirely funded and was used to meet urgent nutritional needs, provide access to safe water and build households' resilience against future droughts. The target population was over 110,000 people, 75,000 of whom are in the ACT-run refugee camp at Mbere in south-east Mauritania; the others are in host communities in Mauritania and northern Senegal.

Kasongo Mutshaila, country representative for an ACT member in Mauritania, says that the number of feeding centres was increased and high-protein biscuits were made widely available. One area of high impact has been in local food production, which has improved in quantity and quality this year, and there are indications that this change is sustainable. ■

Dignity in the face of despair

When Khawlah fled her home in Syria with a two-week-old son in her arms and his three siblings gathered around her, she was instructed to pack only what the family needed in order to survive. Any precious space in the car carrying them to safety was needed to fit them all in.

Khawlah put only their most basic necessities into a small bag. Her husband handed her all the money they had, for the journey fare, and said goodbye to his family. She and the children made it to Lebanon safely, but are now penniless and without any possessions.

Thousands of young Syrian mothers share Khawlah's plight: women who fled the conflict in Syria either pregnant or with newborns, carrying little, if any, money or personal belongings. Most of the women also have other young children and almost all of them left without their husbands.

An ACT member distributed 'dignity kits' to 2,000 Syrian women refugees in Lebanon. Each kit contains feminine hygiene products and personal care items such as bath towels and new undergarments.

"This kit is going to be extremely helpful to me, I truly need it," Khawlah said. "People don't know that in some circumstances, any help is a great one." The dignity kit distribution is part of a larger effort by ACT to support Syrian refugee mothers with infants, a response that includes emergency nutrition.

By the end of 2012, Syria's conflict had

forced 600,000 people like Khawlah and her children to leave everything behind and flee to neighbouring countries. As thousands more refugee women and children arrive each day in Jordan's Za'atari Camp and Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, ACT is working hard to keep up with the growing demand for urgent relief items. ■



A woman cooks bread over a stove in the Za'atari refugee camp, located near Mafraq, Jordan.

ACT/Paul Jeffrey

Prevention is better than cure

According to the United Nations, only 4% of the estimated US\$10bn given in annual humanitarian assistance is spent on prevention, yet every dollar spent on risk reduction saves between US\$5 and US\$10 in economic losses from disasters.

"Prevention really is better than cure," says Isaiah Toroitich, ACT climate change policy and advocacy officer. "Put simply, disaster risk reduction (DRR) aims to reduce people's vulnerability to disaster, as well as deal with the hazards that trigger disasters in any ways that are possible."

"Catastrophes are increasing in frequency," Toroitich adds. "Reported droughts, floods, windstorms and earthquakes have tripled in the last 30 years and the number of people affected by them has increased at an even higher rate."

When vulnerable communities are poorly prepared, hazardous events such as floods turn into disasters. Likewise, the severity of disasters is reduced according to the level of preparedness. However, a lot of urban and rural development is prone to disaster. Poor land management practices such as deforestation, excessive building in areas susceptible to flooding or landslides, inadequate earthquake-resistant buildings, lack of building codes or a failure to adhere to codes all contribute significantly to loss of life.

Consequently, further increases in vulnerability need to be prevented and existing risks must be reduced. Poorer societies are of particular concern, since vulnerability and poverty are closely related, and poorer people have less resilience to disasters than those in rich communities.

Hyogo Framework for Action

DRR is a priority for development. It is at the heart of the Hyogo Framework for Action: this UN agreement states that DRR should be integrated into all areas of development and humanitarian work.

ACT's first strategic aim is sustainable development through empowerment, which includes prioritising risk management. ACT members have been encouraged to adopt a DRR approach in all their work: one that cuts across development, emergency response, early recovery, reconstruction, and back to development. This approach is now being widely adopted.

In India, for example, ACT members are working with communities in Assam to reduce risks to flooding and are working on flood area reclamation. In Bangladesh, ACT is increasing the resilience of flood-prone communities through housing interventions; this involves raising the floor level with plinths to allow some part of life to continue during flooding, and reinforcing bond beams and roofing structures to withstand strong winds. In Vietnam, vulnerable children in flood-prone areas are being taught to swim, as youngsters often drown in floods. In Indonesia, early warning systems have been established in communities, allowing villages to respond quickly to approaching storms and get people out of harm's way.

The development of a post-2015 framework for DRR is being led by the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, UNISDR. ■



A boy rides his bicycle along a flooded street in Biñan Laguna, in the Philippines. This community has seen increased flooding from the Laguna de Bay in recent years. ACT is helping local residents find ways to reduce their vulnerability to this type of disaster.

Photo: ACT/Paul Jeffrey

Falling short at Rio+20

Negotiators from 190 countries met for the Rio+20 Summit in June 2012 in a bid to find common ground on global environmental, economic and social policy.

Throngs of representatives of non-governmental organisations, including ACT Alliance, descended on Rio to push for measures to reduce poverty and promote clean energy.

Two decades earlier, the UN 'Earth Summit' had made bold commitments on climate change and poverty eradication. In the 20 years following, greenhouse gas emissions increased by nearly 50% and the global population rose by 1.6 billion. One in six people on the planet were deemed malnourished.

Running parallel to the official discussions at the 2012 summit, over 100 civil society organisations from around the world ran a political forum debating the causes of the global environmental crisis, the potential solutions and the ways in which social movements can work together more effectively.

According to Marcelo Schneider, coordinator of the ecumenical and interreligious coalition for the Rio+20 People's Summit, it was clear from the beginning that expectations from the official conference were low.

However, these low expectations made the People's Summit all the more vital, intense and inspiring, he said. "It was a very good opportunity for discussions

and exchanges between organisations with similar concerns and aims, and it was a chance to show that civil society is strong and well-organised," Schneider commented.

An advocacy team from ACT concentrated its efforts on lobbying summit participants on the key issues in the alliance's agenda and working closely with other global faith-based groups.

ACT in Brazil helped to organise the People's Summit and created the ecumenical and interreligious coalition, Religions for Rights, which promoted over 80 activities: these addressed themes such as food security, climate change and indigenous people groups.

Religions for Rights bridged the gap between the conference and the People's Summit. Issues being discussed in the formal arena were replied to in the civil society meeting.

"It was inspirational," said Schneider. "We opened up important discussions with people from all around the world in an atmosphere of building solidarity and an effective global movement."

Disappointing outcome

After over a year of negotiations leading

up to Rio+20, and a 10-day conference involving 45,000 people, the formal conference outcome was disappointing for all who had hoped for concrete progress towards sustainability.

Development and environmental organisations lamented a final result that lacked the detail, ambition and urgency needed to deal with the global environmental crisis, the growing world population and poverty.

While the conference launched a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals, it left room for much more work to be done.

ACT climate change policy and advocacy officer Isaiah Toroitich, who was part of the advocacy team, summed up the frustration at the summit. "The outcome document did not point the world in the right direction," he said. "They needed to go beyond noting, and affirming and acknowledging, to actually deciding and making some real commitment and actions that will save the world."

To this end, ACT has renewed efforts to advocate for new economic models that transform unjust systems and create sustainability for the people and for the planet. ■



Left and right: people of all ages take part in a rally in Rio, during the summit.

Participants at the Alternative Mining Indaba in Cape Town

Photo: ACT/Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA

Mining for change

In the countries that make up the Southern Africa Development Community, 10% of gross domestic product comes from mining.

Yet, most of the mining profits flow out of the region to foreign mining companies. Workers endure dangerous conditions, are exploited and even murdered, and damage to the environment is routine. In response, ACT Alliance members in southern Africa are working to resolve the problems of human exploitation and environmental degradation in the extractive industries.

"The region has diamonds, gold, platinum, copper, and there are new discoveries of oil and gas," said Moreblessings Chidaushe, regional programme advisor on economic justice for one ACT member working in southern Africa.

"Those resources should be used for development in the countries where they are extracted. The resources belong to the people there, but at the moment, foreign corporations get more benefit from the mineral resources than the real owners, the people in southern Africa."

In the face of environmental impact studies that underestimate the pollution to water, air and land, mining continues apace without adequate agreement from local citizens: there is often either a lack of consent or poorly-informed consent for mining projects. These communities find few opportunities to discuss the impact with either governments or mining companies.

Hearing marginalised voices

ACT members set up the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) in order to open up public discussion on the negative impacts of mining and to include the voices of marginalised mining

communities. An 'indaba' is a traditional African arena for meeting and talking about important community problems.

At the AMI, participants from across the world share testimonies, research and exchange ideas. This initiative seeks to counter the official Mining Indaba, an annual showcase of mining companies held in Cape Town exclusively for governments and mining corporations.

To increase their advocacy work at the national level, ACT members hosted AMIs in Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa. The events have provided badly-affected communities the opportunity to influence governments at the highest level. After the 2012 AMI in Mozambique, the country's Prime Minister, Aires Ali, called ACT in to discuss a change to national policy.

In August 2012, ACT played a crucial role in the negotiations that ended the high-profile dispute at the Lonmin platinum mine in Marikana, South Africa. During a strike at the mine, South African security forces shot more than 100 striking miners, 40 of whom died. This incident underlined the intensity of conflict around mining in the region.

Following the event, South African President Jacob Zuma praised the negotiations by ACT members and partners.

This advocacy work is bearing fruit. "There have been some achievements in this process, advocating for miners' rights, promoting the proper payment of tax to host nations, working on environmental impacts and the effect of mining on local communities," said Chidaushe. "But the need for advocacy is ongoing and long-term." ■

Repairing fragile **emotions** after disaster

When disaster strikes, the repercussions stretch far beyond just the physical realm.

The hidden consequences of humanitarian disasters can have a deep and lasting impact on people and communities, often overshadowing the material loss and damage more commonly associated with emergencies.

Ana Margarita Mayor, coordinator of the emergency and humanitarian aid programme for one ACT member in Cuba, says the profound emotional impacts of catastrophes are less visible than the material impacts, although everyone is emotionally affected by traumatic events in some way.

"Some people remain in an anxious state of high alert," says Mayor. "With each tremor or gust of wind their memories of the disaster are reactivated: they suffer distressing flashbacks. Some feel helpless, hopeless or disoriented. These emotions are intense and are sometimes just overwhelming."

People recover and heal with the support of family, neighbours, friends and faith, ethnic or cultural groups. However, healing also comes in the form of programmes that integrate social and psychological support, and it can include spiritual support.

Psychosocial support is seen as a tool for working with the population. It is longer-term than other elements of humanitarian response, with teams trained to continue the work within communities.

In 2008, for example, Cuba was hit by three hurricanes: Gustav, Ike and Paloma, with devastating effect. ACT in Cuba began training a network of teams to provide psychosocial support to communities affected by the catastrophes. Nearly 50 people received training and would go on to train others in the most at-risk hurricane regions.

When the highly destructive Hurricane Sandy made landfall in October 2012, the teams were ready. Going by horseback and foot into the most severely impacted areas of Holguín and Santiago de Cuba, they found communities in shock. People had lost friends and family, houses, furniture and possessions.

As well as working on the material aspects of recovery, ACT members diagnosed the emotional and spiritual needs of the affected populations. As a result, special support was requested during the response and a psychosocial team from Central American ACT members was brought in.

The psychosocial activities were varied, largely focusing on groups; however, in cases where individuals needed professional attention, this was provided or arranged.

Survivors, particularly those in remote parts of Cuba, have very little opportunity to replace lost possessions after a disaster, says Carlos Rauda, ACT senior programme officer for Latin America/Caribbean. Psychosocial work finds creative ways of helping communities overcome their loss, which is often aggravated by the lack of local markets.

Isolation and fear can reduce trust and cooperation, diminishing social cohesion and preventing the community from functioning effectively after a disaster, which can make it difficult to bring people together in its aftermath.

This makes it all the more important for those affected to spend time together in group activities, comments Mayor. It strengthens the unity of the group, re-establishes trust, facilitates collective grieving and offers the chance for people to express their feelings.

Group activities have been shown to reduce stress, anxiety and depression. "Psychosocial work is designed to be fun," Mayor says.

"We use play, music and dance, exercises, games and sport. A lot of it might seem too simple to be important, but the effects of psychosocial care are dramatic." ■

Group activities, such as sport and games, help to strengthen the unity of affected communities.



Despite hopeful peace negotiations between the Colombian government and FARC guerrillas, the area of Northern Cauca has been experiencing fierce fighting at huge cost to civilians.

Supporting indigenous people under threat

Soldiers of the Colombian Army near an indigenous reserve in Cauca, Colombia.

Photo: ACT/DKH

Colombia's indigenous Nasa people have been among the worst affected by fierce fighting in the Northern Cauca area, with combat in and around their communities becoming routine. Interests in mining, commercial agriculture and ranching, as well as the use of the area as a corridor for drug smuggling, complicate the situation.

It is in this arena that ACT members have been carrying out vital work to support efforts to protect local leaders from death and persecution.

Between 2000 and 2011, a total of 1,500 Nasa were victims of the armed conflict, suffering threats, assassinations and kidnappings, according to a representative of the Association of Indigenous Councils in the Northern Cauca. In the last three years, 15 leaders have been assassinated. At the time of writing, 72 were experiencing persecution and receiving death threats.

The Nasa communities have tried to survive while combat takes place inside their villages. "The army says we collaborate with guerrillas, the guerrillas say we collaborate with the army," explained one Nasa leader. "All of them use our houses, hospitals and schools, and that's what causes civilian deaths and injuries."

Exhausted by the violence and abuse, the Nasa Association of Indigenous

Councils decided to take it upon themselves to remove all armed groups from the region, in an entirely peaceful manner.

A large group of Nasa people, bearing only their ceremonial batons, managed to get guerrilla units to retreat from the area; they also evicted army soldiers from a military base. However the confrontation left many indigenous people wounded. Local leaders were already being persecuted, but threats and assassinations subsequently increased dramatically.

In 2012, ACT Colombia moved quickly to protect Nasa communities and their threatened leaders. ACT members built emergency shelters for civilians fleeing fighting and offered psychosocial support to people traumatised by violence. They also took steps to protect 20 leaders who had received death threats, getting them out of harm's way.

One leader who received assistance from ACT said the project raised people's spirits: "The psychosocial work has helped us and our families. We have been able to get out at critical times. We can't leave here [permanently]. This is our territory."

The programme offered the hope that peace-building efforts could be replicated across the country. "This community has the strength to promote

this peace process locally," commented Carlos Rauda, ACT senior programme officer for Latin America/Caribbean. "Others will see it and be encouraged in their efforts." ■

Colombia at a glance

Conflict has displaced 4.9 to 5.5 million Colombians, a figure second only to that of Sudan.

An additional 113,000 people are registered as refugees.

The conflict has claimed 250,000 to 450,000 lives.

According to the Colombian government, some 7 million hectares of land have been stolen during the conflict: an area larger than that of Switzerland.

The Northern Cauca is home to 116,000 indigenous Nasa, most of whom live in one of 19 reserves for indigenous people.



Christian Aid/Simon Williams

Campaigners call for land rights during the 27-day Jan Satyagraha march to Delhi, which had nearly 60,000 participants.

Rights and responsibilities

ACT Alliance is committed to ensuring that all our humanitarian and development work contributes to realising the human rights of the people we aim to assist.

A rights-based approach to programming empowers people to claim their rights and seek good stewardship of public resources. It creates a responsibility, on the part of governments, to ensure that the basic needs and human dignity of their citizens are respected. It is both a powerful and practical tool: all people are entitled to adequate food, water, education and other essentials in order to live productive lives.

Adopted by many ACT members, the rights-based approach works with institutions to increase their ability and willingness to fulfil people's rights: for instance, through advocacy with governments and encouraging people to argue for their rights themselves.

However, Carol Rask, senior advisor on rights and active citizenship for one European ACT member, warns that the approach carries certain risks. "In a number of countries, those who critique government actions face restrictions and danger: legal and administrative barriers, harassment, stigmatisation to de-legitimise their demands, and even grave risks to their security," she says. "We need to find ways of supporting our members and partners who face these risks."

Using a rights-based approach is not just about openly challenging governments, Rask points out. It is also about engaging in constructive dialogue with governments on their obligations to

ensure that the poorest men and women receive their rightful share of national development processes and resources.

One ACT member in India has helped people to secure the right to food and ensure entitlements to pensions, midday meal schemes and ration cards for public food distribution. It has also contributed to negotiations and development of a food bill, making food entitlements legally enforceable. This work was carried out with both the rights-holders and those who have a duty to provide those rights.

A very visible manifestation of this support for the human rights-based approach came in October 2012, when ACT members supported a 560km, 27-day march for land rights in India. The march – called Jan Satyagraha, which means 'insistence on truth' – was based on Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent tradition. It was organised by Ekta Parishad and supported by Mahatma Gandhi Seva Ashram, an organisation sponsored by two ACT members.

"The aim of the march," says Deepak Singh, regional programme officer for livelihood and food security for one ACT member working in India, "was to secure a national land reform act and access to land and livelihood resources for poor and marginalised communities – as well as the implementation of the 1996 Panchayats Act, so that tribal populations can have a say in how the land and natural resources in their areas are

used. With thousands of land disputes pending in civil courts, the marchers also demanded fast-track courts."

Some 60,000 people, many displaced from their land, took part in the march to Delhi. Before they arrived at their destination, the Government's Minister for Rural Development announced that it had accepted the demands of the people. "That's a rights-based success story," said Singh.

ACT members have worked for years to promote legal rights to land that marginalised groups like dalits have cultivated for years, as well as rights over government land that is available for agriculture. They have worked to implement the Forest Rights Act that allows community rights over forests, including collection, processing and marketing of forest produce.

Dr Julia Duchrov, chair of the ACT Community of Practice on human rights and development, adds: "One big question is how can governments fulfil all the rights that people have? There are so many people and rights, and so few resources [that] it can't be done. So it is a question of whose rights the government satisfies: it is about avoiding discrimination.

"For example, an infrastructure programme in Johannesburg providing water: does it favour the wealthy areas and discriminate against the townships? The rights-based approach provides tools to measure governments' discrimination and to hold them to account." ■

Bridging the development-relief divide

In the NGO world, the lines between development and humanitarian work are being increasingly blurred. While most ACT Alliance members concentrate on development issues and focus on humanitarian activities as needs arise, their work continues to bridge the gap between relief and development.

Short-term humanitarian programmes often contribute to longer-term development goals. One ACT member active in Niger, for example, used food-for-work programmes to respond to drought and food shortages, providing food to people working on soil conservation and rain collection programmes. As a result, these people will be less vulnerable to drought in the longer-term.

Another ACT member – long involved in community development – came to the assistance of migrant workers in the months and years after the Arab Spring uprising.

When civil war came to Libya, tens of thousands of migrant Egyptian workers in the country were caught up in the crossfire. Most fled Libya to return home, but in doing so had to relinquish their salaries. The consequent loss of remittances from migrant workers meant increased hardship in already poor Egyptian communities.

The aforementioned ACT member came to the rescue of several affected Egyptian villages with a cash-for-work programme. It has been offering returned migrants work rebuilding the homes of the poorest people and cleaning streets.

The project helped to spruce up the village, said Fadiya Foed Gerges, a resident of the village of Kafr Darwish, about 100km south of Cairo on the shores of the Nile. “We got rid of the rubbish and cleaned the streets. We added streetlights for the first time. And some people who had homes with mud walls now have cement block walls.”

“The project brought everyone together, young and old, Muslim and Christian. Everyone worked together with the same spirit,” added Gerges.

By late 2010, when political unrest began to sweep through the region, more than 300 men from the village had been working in Libya. They were mainly younger men carrying out agricultural jobs such as harvesting grapes, or employed in construction work in the cities.

Villagers who had sought employment in Egypt’s capital, Cairo, had a similar experience. More than 250 men from Kafr Darwish village worked in Cairo before the protests against President Mubarak led to violence and sent Egypt’s economy into a tailspin.

Many of the construction projects at which villagers worked were suspended. Even with the election of Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi in 2012, political turmoil has continued and the promised economic recovery remains elusive. With tax revenues still depressed, the country’s ability to provide basic services – let alone any kind of social net for the poor – continues to be seriously impaired. Following the military coup of July 2013 that saw the President ousted, the future of Egypt is still uncertain.

The need to solve an immediate problem while instilling long-term development in villages like Kafr Darwish remains strong. ■



Fadiya Foed Gerges (centre) serves tea to Hana Henin (left) and Adil Gabriel, who participated in an economic relief project run by an ACT member in the Egyptian village of Kafr Darwish. The project benefitted individuals and families adversely affected by the Libyan revolution and other events in the Arab Spring, which caused many Egyptians working abroad to lose their employment and return to their home villages.

ACT/Paul Jeffrey

Finance report

ACT secretariat core budget (excludes emergency appeals, for which US\$34.77m was raised in 2012)

For the year ended 31 December, 2012 (US\$)

INCOME

Fees

Membership fees	135,000
Income-based fees	2,156,322
International coordination fees	818,132
Total fees	3,109,454

Voluntary contributions

Voluntary contributions un-earmarked	454,397
Voluntary contributions earmarked to aims	858,031
Total voluntary contributions	1,312,428

Interest received	36,046
Other income	31,212
TOTAL INCOME	4,489,140

EXPENSES

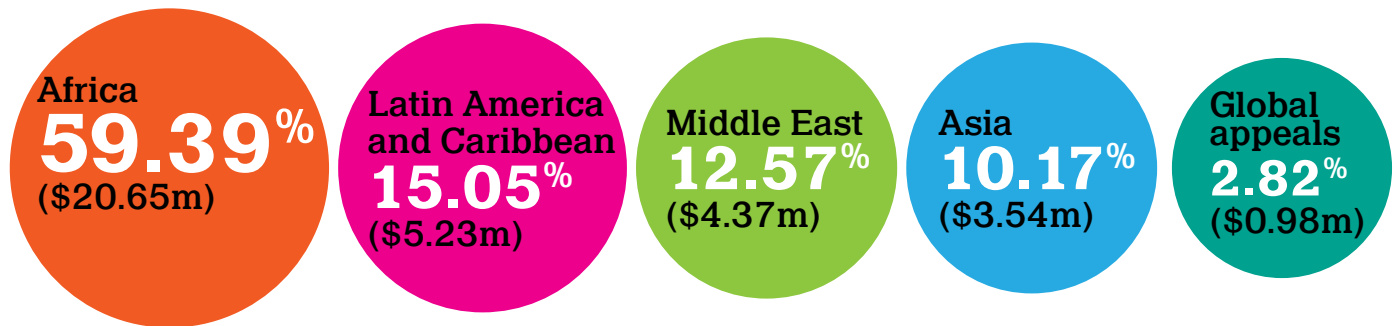
Staff costs	3,102,760
Office costs	383,715
Meetings	202,509
Communications	85,611
Project-related costs	451,981
Provision for doubtful debts	179,513
Exchange (gain)/loss core budget	(5,843)
Exchange (gain)/loss general reserve	10,558
Total expenses	4,410,804

SURPLUS

Surplus/(deficit) before allocations	78,335
Interest capitalised to restricted reserve	(36,046)
Exchange loss transferred to restricted reserve	10,558
Allocation to 2014 Assembly provision	(117,500)
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(64,653)

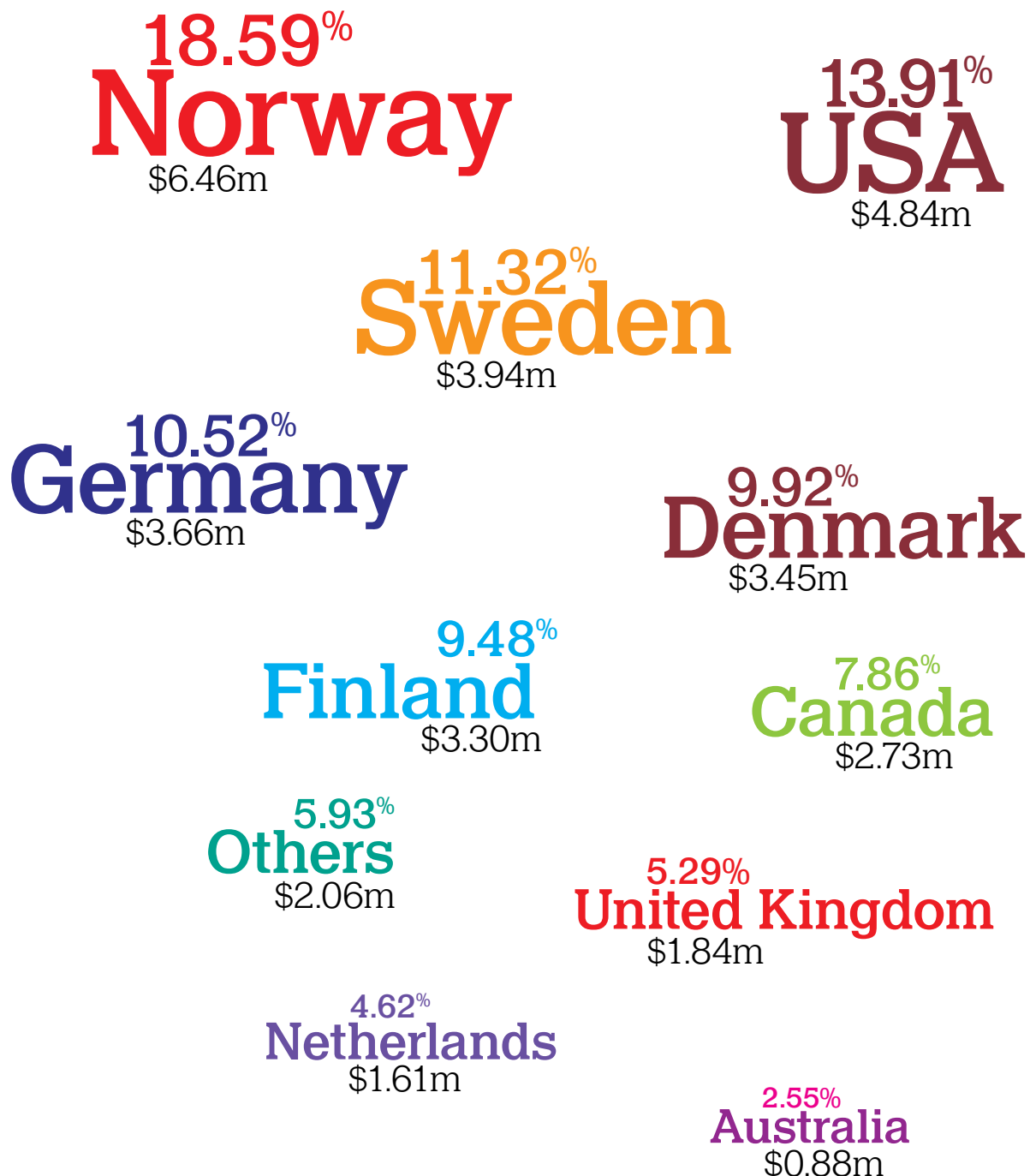
Appeal funds of US\$34.77 were raised in 2012. Where were they spent?

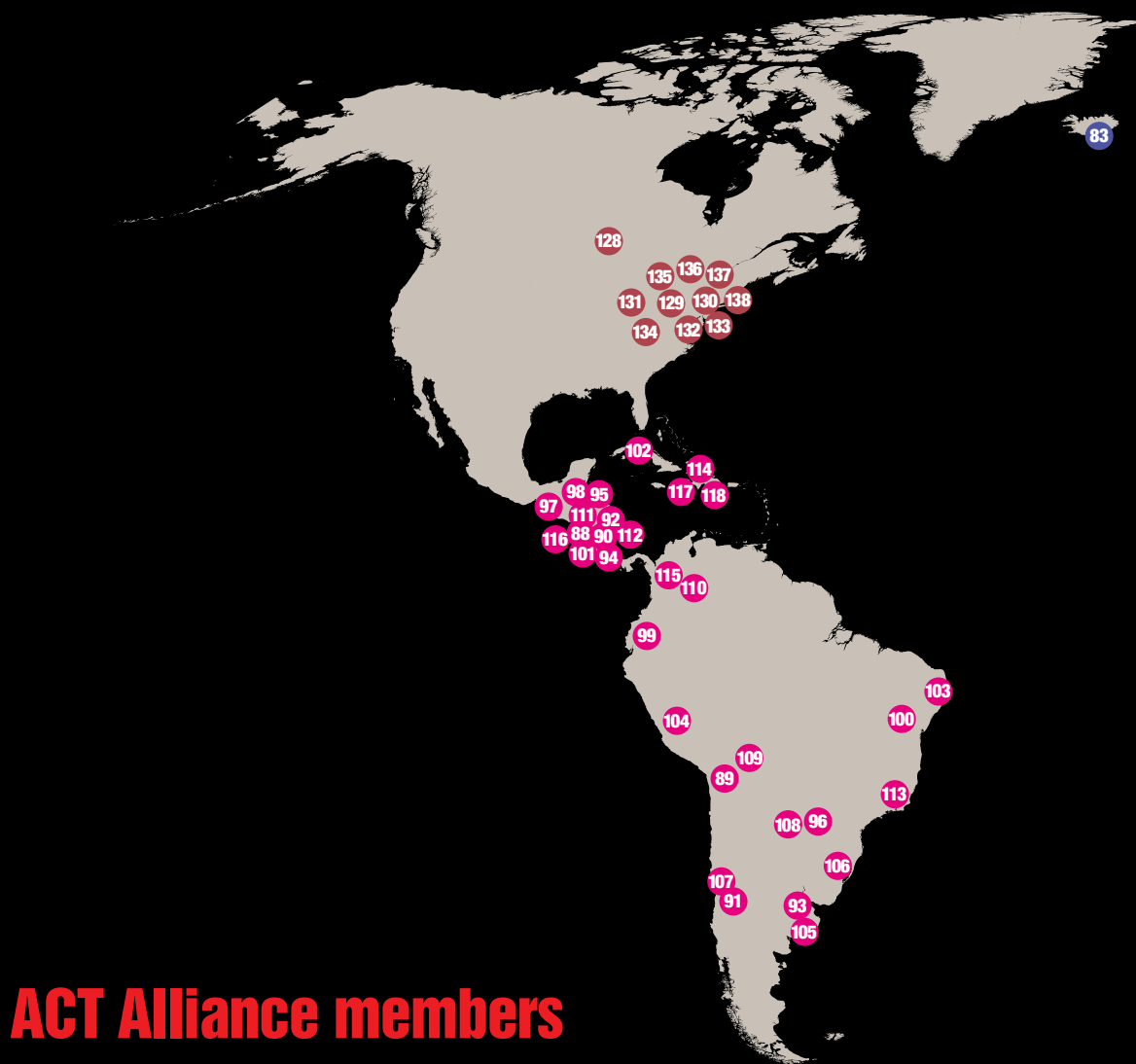
in US dollars



Where did they come from?

in US dollars





ACT Alliance members

Africa

- 1 All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)
- 2 Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK)
- 3 Angolan Council of Christian Churches (CICA)
- 4 Association of Reformed Evangelical Churches of Burkina Faso (AEERB)
- 5 Centre Oecuménique pour la Promotion du Monde Rural (COPROMOR)
- 6 Christian Care (CC)
- 7 Christian Council of Lesotho (CC)
- 8 Christian Council of Mozambique (CCM)
- 9 Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN)
- 10 Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT)
- 11 Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM)
- 12 Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD)
- 13 Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Blantyre Synod Health and Development Commission (CCAP)
- 14 Church of Uganda (CoU)
- 15 Comité Ecuménico para o Desenvolvimento Social (CEDES)
- 16 Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL)
- 17 Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ)
- 18 Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA (EJN)
- 19 Ecumenical Office for Development Support (BOAD)
- 20 Eglise de Jésus-Christ à Madagascar – Dépt pour le Développement (FJKM)
- 21 Eglise du Christ au Congo Bureau National (ECC)
- 22 Eglise Fraternelle Luthérienne du Cameroun (EFLC)
- 23 Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY)
- 24 Ethiopian Orthodox Church Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC)

- 25 Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA)
- 26 Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT)
- 27 Evangelical Lutheran Church of Congo (ELCCo)
- 28 Evangelical Lutheran Development Service (ELDS)
- 29 Igreja Evangélica Reformada de Angola (IERA)
- 30 Lutheran Church in Liberia (LCL)
- 31 Lutheran Development Service, Liberia (LDS-Liberia)
- 32 Lutheran Development Service, Swaziland (LDS-Swaziland)
- 33 Lutheran Development Service, Zimbabwe (LDS-Zimbabwe)
- 34 Malagasy Lutheran Church (MLC)
- 35 National Council of Churches in Burundi (CNEB)
- 36 National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK)
- 37 Presbyterian Church in Ghana (PCG)
- 38 Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency (PRDA)
- 39 Rural Action Based Organisation (RACOBao)
- 40 Sudan Council of Churches (SCC)
- 41 Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service (TCRS)
- 42 The Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi (EEB)
- 43 Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC)
- 44 United Church of Zambia (UCZ)
- 45 Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC)

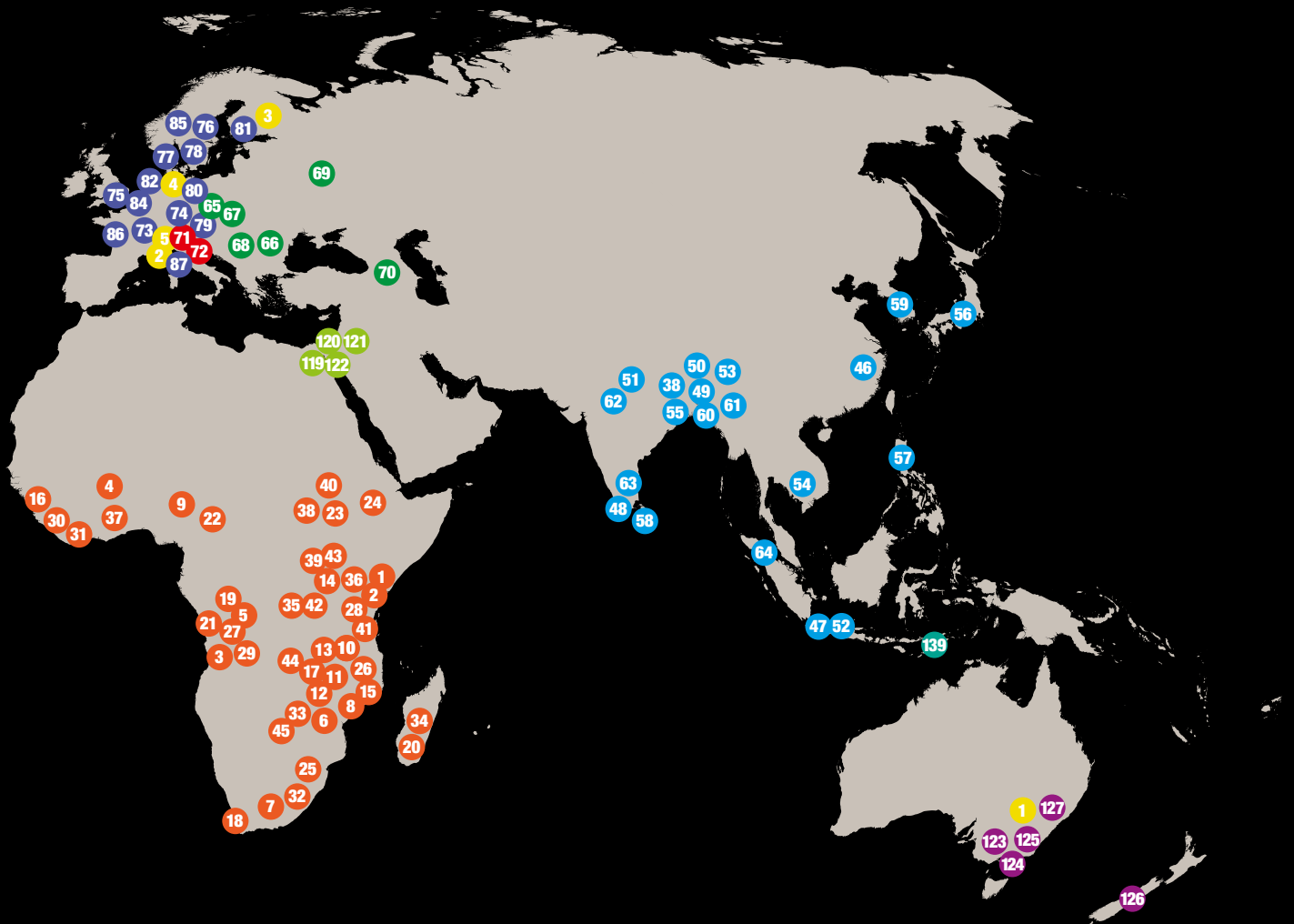
Asia

- 46 Amity Foundation (AF)
- 47 Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Community Development Studies (CDRMCDs)
- 48 Christian Agency for Rural Development (CARD)

- 49 Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB)
- 50 Church of Bangladesh Social Development Program (CBSDP)
- 51 Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA)
- 52 Indonesian Christian Association for Health Services (ICAHS/PELKESI)
- 53 KOINONIA
- 54 Life With Dignity (LWD)
- 55 Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT)
- 56 National Christian Council in Japan (NCCJ)
- 57 National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP)
- 58 National Council of Churches of Sri Lanka (NCCSL)
- 59 Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK)
- 60 Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS)
- 61 Social Health and Education Development (SHED)
- 62 Synodical Board of Social Services, Church of North India (SBSS-CNI)
- 63 United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India (UELCI)
- 64 YAKKUM (including YEU)

Eastern Europe

- 65 Diakonie ECCB/Center of Humanitarian and Development Aid (DECCB/CHDA)
- 66 Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania (AIDRom)
- 67 Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA)
- 68 Philanthropy – The Charitable Fund of the Serbian Orthodox Church
- 69 Russian Orthodox Church – Department for External Church Relations (ROC)
- 70 WCC Armenia Inter-Church Charitable Round Table Foundation (ART)



Global

- 71 ECLOF International
- 72 The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

Europe

- 73 Bread for All (BFA)
- 74 Bread for the World – Protestant Development Service (BfdW)
- 75 Christian Aid
- 76 Church of Sweden, International Mission and Diaconia (CoS)
- 77 DanChurchAid (DCA)
- 78 Diaconia Sweden
- 79 Diaconie
- 80 Diaconie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH)
- 81 Finn Church Aid
- 82 Inter-Church Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO)
- 83 Icelandic Church Aid (ICA)
- 84 Kerk in Actie (KIA)
- 85 Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
- 86 Solidarité Protestante (SP)
- 87 Swiss Interchurch Aid (HEKS)

Latin America and Caribbean

- 88 Accion Medica Cristiana
- 89 Asociación Boliviana Uniendo Manos por la Vida (Red Umavida)
- 90 Association for Social Development of the Moravian Church (ADSIM)
- 91 Centro Ecueménico Diego de Medellín
- 92 Centro Intereclesial de Estudios Teológicos y Sociales (CIEETS)
- 93 Centro Regional Ecueménico de Asesoría Servicio (CREAS)
- 94 Christian Commission for Development (CCD)
- 95 Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM)
- 96 Comité de Iglesias Para Ayudas de Emergencia (CIPAE)
- 97 Conferencia de Iglesias Evangélicas de Guatemala (CIEDEG)

- 98 Consejo Ecueménico Cristiano de Guatemala (CECG)
- 99 Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias (CLAI)
- 100 Coordenadoria Ecueménica de Serviço (CESE)
- 101 Council of Evangelical Churches (CEPAD)
- 102 Cuban Council of Churches (CCC)
- 103 Diaconia (Brazil)
- 104 DIACONIA (Peru)
- 105 Federación Argentina de Iglesias Evangélicas (FAIE)
- 106 Fundação Luterana de Diaconia (FLD)
- 107 Fundación de Ayuda Social de Las Iglesias Cristianas (FASIC)
- 108 Iglesia Evangélica del Rio de la Plata (IERP)
- 109 Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Boliviana (IELB)
- 110 Iglesia Evangélica Luterana de Colombia (IELCO)
- 111 Iglesia Luterana Costarricense (ILCO)
- 112 Iglesia Luterana de Nicaragua (ILN)
- 113 KOINONIA
- 114 Mission Sociale des Eglises Haitiennes (MISSEH)
- 115 Presbyterian Church of Colombia (IPC)
- 116 Salvadorian Lutheran Synod (SLS)
- 117 Service Chrétien d'Haiti (SCH)
- 118 Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas (SSID)

Middle East

- 119 Bishopric of Public, Ecuemical and Social Services of the Coptic Orthodox Church (BLESS/COC)
- 120 East Jerusalem YMCA
- 121 Middle East Council of Churches – DSPR (MECC-DSPR)
- 122 The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL)

Australasia

- 123 Act for Peace
- 124 Anglican Overseas Aid – Australia (formerly Anglicord)
- 125 Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS)
- 126 Christian World Service (CWS)
- 127 UnitingWorld: Relief and Development Unit

North America

- 128 Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)
- 129 World Renew (formerly Christian Reformed World Relief Committee)
- 130 Church World Service (CWS)
- 131 Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA)
- 132 International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)
- 133 Lutheran World Relief (LWR)
- 134 Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)
- 135 Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWSd)
- 136 The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)
- 137 United Church of Canada: Justice, Global and Ecuemical Relations Unit (UCC)
- 138 United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

Pacific

- 139 Fundasaun Sosial Naroman (FUSONA)

Approved Observers

- 1 Anglican Board of Mission (ABM)
- 2 Conference of European Churches (CEC)
- 3 Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM)
- 4 Vereinte Evangelische Mission (United Evangelical Mission) (VEM)
- 5 World Student Christian Federation (WSCF)



Somali children displaced from their country by drought and conflict walk through their temporary home in north-eastern Kenya, where ACT members continued their drought-relief work during 2012.

Photo: ACT/Paul Jeffrey

Governance

Governing Board 2012

Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel (Moderator)
Francisco de Assis da Silva (Vice-Moderator)
Sushant Agrawal
Arshinta
Monijinir Byapari
Victoria Cortez
Donna Derr
Eberhard Hitzler
Susie Ibutu
Zacharie Masimango Katanda
Rose Kumwenda-Ngoma

Suzanne Matala
Dragan Makojevic
Lorenzo Mota King
Peter Schirmer
Henrik Stubkjaer
Elsa Tesfay
Dean Triantafilou
Paul Valentin
Liv Hukset Wang
Hielke Wolters
Qiu Zhonghui

Executive Committee 2012

Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel (Moderator)
Francisco de Assis da Silva (Vice-Moderator)
Sibongile Baker
Rudelmar Bueno de Faria
Monijinir Byapari
Donna Derr
Wim Hart
Susie Ibutu
Maria Lundberg
Karen Nazaryan
Humberto Shikiya
Paul Valentin
Hielke Wolters

ACT's strength comes from scores of coordinated groups of alliance members, working at national and regional level and across the spectrum of professional abilities. In addition to national and regional ACT Forums, we have Advisory Groups and Communities of Practice.

ACT Advisory Groups

Advocacy
Capacity Development
Climate Advocacy
Communication, Media, Branding
Complaints Handling
Development Policy and Practice
Humanitarian Policy and Practice
Quality and Accountability

Communities of Practice

Disability Inclusive Development
DRR, Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Development
Gender Equality and Justice
Human Rights – Enabling Environment
Impact Orientation
Protection
Psychosocial Support
Safety and Security

ACT is a member of



International
Council of
Voluntary
Agencies



ACT Alliance secretariat
150 Route de Ferney
P.O. Box 2100
1211 Geneva 2
Switzerland

www.actalliance.org
 [@ACTAlliance](https://twitter.com/ACTAlliance)
 [ACTAlliance](https://www.facebook.com/ACTAlliance)

Thanks to communicators and programme staff of ACT who shared information, text and photographs for this report, and to Christian Aid for editorial, design and production support.

