

# **FULL LIFE AND DIGNITY:** **justice for all in a challenging climate**







In the Philippine city of Tacloban, drivers who had lost their 'pedicabs' in Typhoon Haiyan, in 2013, are given new machines by ACT Alliance. Now they are able to continue working and supporting their families.

ACT/Paul Jeffrey

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Cover: Sudanese women in Darfur.

ACT/Annie Bungeroth



**Rooted**  
in the communities  
we serve

**25,000**

**member staff and volunteers**

**145**  
**members**

**76%**  
global  
south

**22%**  
global  
north

**2%**  
global  
organisations

Working together for sustainable change

**US\$21.4m**  
**raised in appeals**

Following the  
highest international  
codes and standards  
in the communities  
we serve

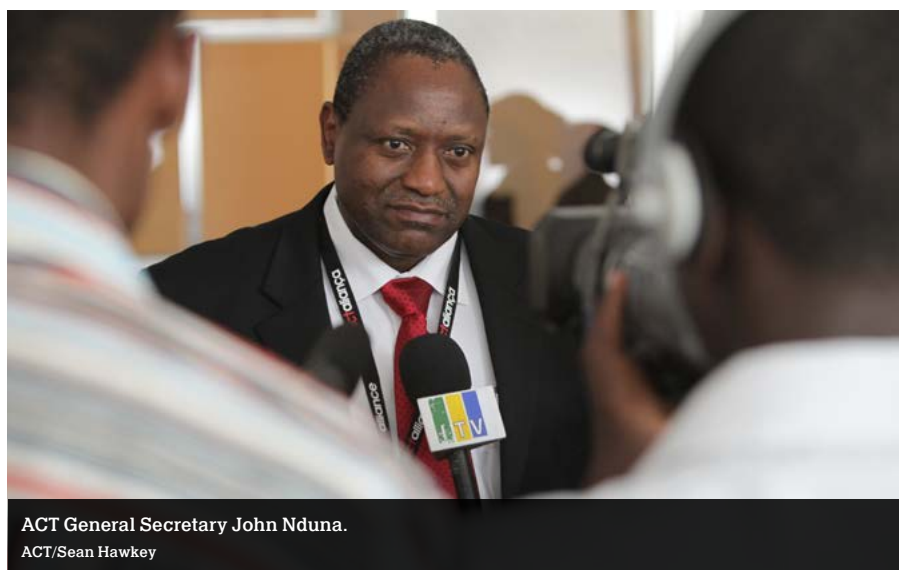
**140**  
**countries**

**Fighting  
poverty  
and injustice**

**Achieving success** through  
coordinated humanitarian,  
development and advocacy work



“In the face of this year’s extreme challenges, the relief, support and advocacy work of ACT Alliance has been more important than ever for some of the most vulnerable communities in the world.”



ACT General Secretary John Nduna.  
ACT/Sean Hawkey

This has been a year marred by severe emergencies resulting from political conflict and the outbreak of disease. The beginning of 2014 saw violence in South Sudan internally displacing an estimated 575,000 people and more than 100,000 fleeing to neighbouring countries. This was followed by military operations on Gaza, which, according to the United Nations (UN), killed more than 1,600 civilians, a third of whom were children.

A further wave of displacement in Iraq was triggered by massacres and human rights abuses by Islamic State. Iraq now has more than 2.4 million internally displaced people (IDPs), one of the largest IDP populations in the world.

A bittersweet reminder of the long-term impact of such crises was evident on my visit to the now 10-year-old ACT-Caritas Darfur programme. This year alone it has seen an increase of 350,000 refugees. Speaking to people living in the camps, it was clear that the work of ACT-Caritas was highly valued by the communities, and this is an example of how the core value of our alliance lies in the work of

our members and their partners on the ground.

In addition to crises driven by conflict, 2014 saw further emergencies create new challenges for members working to provide relief, such as the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. However, it was heart-warming to affirm that within this networked alliance, the flexibility really does exist to enable us to adapt to our changing environment. We have proved we are able to use our strengths as a faith-based movement to provide the support that people and communities need.

This has been an important year for our progress as an alliance. The implementation of the restructuring process for the ACT Alliance secretariat kicked off in June 2014 and will continue until the end of 2015. Our new strategic plan focuses strongly on a member-driven alliance, now 145 members strong. The ACT secretariat restructure and decentralisation will support this strategic direction. We held our second General Assembly in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, in October where

a new governing board for the alliance was elected. Ecumenical relations also took major strides forward in Malawi in September, where representatives from World Council of Churches members, national councils of churches, ACT members, specialised ministries and regional ecumenical organisations came together to strengthen relationships among members of the ecumenical family.

During the year we strengthened our advocacy agenda through finalising the integration of EU advocacy group APRODEV into ACT. Therefore from 1 January 2015, APRODEV is officially the ACT Alliance advocacy office to the EU.

One of the most pressing issues we’ve faced this year has been advocating for climate justice, which has grown ever more urgent as we head towards a decisive moment in 2015 when world leaders will determine the final agreement for action to curb climate change. We have seen the need to be bolder in our messaging and more agile in how we do advocacy, which has culminated in the launch of a first-ever global ACT Alliance campaign – ACT Now for Climate Justice – to mobilise advocates at all levels of society.

I would like to thank all members and partners of ACT Alliance, because it is through your resounding commitment that we have made, and continue to make, strides towards a world free of injustice, inequity and poverty.

**John Nduna**  
General Secretary  
ACT Alliance



# ACT over a year

ACT members raised US\$21.4m for emergency appeals in 2014, with the largest amounts directed to the most critical and protracted emergencies: US\$5.3m for the ongoing ACT-Caritas programme to assist the Sudanese people of Darfur living in camps; US\$3m to assist internally displaced people as conflict raged in South Sudan; and US\$2.8m to provide survival assistance to displaced populations in northern Iraq.

ACT also launched its first ever global campaign, ACT Now for Climate Justice, aiming to mobilise communities across the globe to pressurise political leaders towards an ambitious climate agreement in 2015. We actively engaged in the negotiations on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals, successfully ensuring that the key issues our members are working on remain on the agenda. Alongside this, the work of ACT members continued to tackle the long-term, life-saving and resilience-building efforts that help communities live in sustainable environments, leading full lives with dignity.



A young girl helps women pump water from a water station in the Khamsa Dagaig camp for people displaced by conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan. ACT along with Caritas marked 10 years in 2014 of its joint relief and development programme in Darfur.

ACT/Sandra Cox





## January to March

- ACT members start the year continuing humanitarian relief operations in the Philippines, following the devastating November 2013 typhoon.
- Rapid Response Fund payments are dispersed to provide life-saving assistance to 620 families from 10 communities affected by a volcano eruption in El Salvador. Warm clothes and woollen blankets are also given to 650 of the worst-affected households in hill districts of far west Nepal suffering low temperatures.
- Urgent assistance is given to 600 households who survived severe storms in Burundi.
- As South Sudan erupts into conflict, ACT issues appeals to assist internally displaced people and refugees fleeing to the neighbouring countries of Kenya, Uganda and Ethiopia.
- ACT holds a side event during the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change.
- Alliance members make various interventions at meetings of the Intergovernmental Expert Committee on Sustainable Development Financing in March, and the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. ACT develops a gender and development position for the 58th Commission on the Status of Women meeting, focusing on the post-2015 agenda.
- ACT issues an appeal for Ebola sensitisation and prevention as the outbreak of the disease starts to grow in severity in Sierra Leone.
- Entering the final year of the four-year alliance-wide strategy, ACT undertakes an extensive learning review for the advocacy work of the alliance, including a review of advocacy structures, status of implementation of the ACT strategic framework, and an evaluation of ACT's capacity to undertake advocacy.
- Through advocacy and emergency assistance in the South Sudan crisis, ACT strengthens its visibility on the global stage through coverage on *Radio France International*, and in the *Huffington Post* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Children run along a path in Pisak, South Sudan, where ACT Alliance is helping families produce more nutritious food.

ACT/Paul Jeffrey



## April to June

- ACT issues Rapid Response Fund payments to help survivors of Cyclone Hellen in Madagascar and an earthquake in Nicaragua that measures 6.2 on the seismic moment magnitude scale.
- Having attended the meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) in April to represent the faith-based organisation (FBO) constituency, ACT organises further training for the FBO constituency on the Istanbul principles.
- ACT sees success in its advocacy work as opposing parties in the South Sudan conflict renew commitment to secure humanitarian access so that aid can be provided for the hundreds of thousands of displaced people within the country.
- The alliance backs efforts of its local member to overthrow a Dominican Republic law that is prejudiced against citizens of Haitian descent.
- A city fire that blazed through 10 Chilean hill neighbourhoods results in an ACT appeal to help rehabilitate nearly 2,000 survivors in Valparaíso.
- ACT responds to a series of floods. In Tanzania, more than 4,500 people are left homeless and with no food; in Sri Lanka incessant torrential rains cause severe damage, mainly to the southern part of the country, and in Afghanistan floods and landslides affect over 120,000 people in 16 provinces, killing at least 700 people.
- Alliance members continue to monitor UN climate talks as ministers meet in Bonn to work on developing a legally binding agreement that will keep global warming below 2°C.
- ACT successfully organises lobby events and lobbies governments directly to urge the UN Human Rights Council to adopt a resolution on a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises.
- FBOs band together to call for greater recognition of their role in disasters at the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR.
- An appeal is issued to assist vulnerable households of displaced people in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, due to ongoing fighting between ADF rebels and the Forces Armées de la République Démocratique du Congo (FARDC) in the Kamango region.
- ACT issues its annual report for 2013.

A young girl in Centre Las Cañas, Chile, after a catastrophic fire raced through the hills of Valparaíso, reducing 3,000 houses to ashes and leaving 12,000 people homeless.

ACT/EPES/Hector Reyes





## July to September

- ACT actively engages in the humanitarian sector's debate on inadequate response in complex emergencies, and supports members to provide life-saving assistance as flooding causes widespread damage in Brazil, Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Romania.
- An appeal of US\$1.5m is issued to tackle the Ebola outbreak in Liberia, with ACT providing psychosocial support, food and non-food items, as well as risk benefits for health workers.
- ACT's Community of Practice on Protection advances the protection agenda, giving input into the UN High Commissioner for Refugees' NGO consultation.
- Latin America ACT forums strengthen and revitalise peace and human rights advocacy in Colombia, through dialogue to secure commitment from key actors to learn from the past. At a high-level event in El Salvador, more south-to-south cooperation is encouraged around climate change impact.
- When hundreds of illegal migrant children are deported from the United States back to Honduras, ACT rapidly responds to help reunite the children with their families.
- ACT continues to strengthen a culture of accountability by revising the Quality and Accountability Framework.
- Members come together to launch an ACT forum in the Central African Republic.
- ACT issues appeals for Gaza and Iraq, as conflict in the region deepens in July and August, and engages in humanitarian advocacy to urge for an end to the violence.
- The appeal for the ACT-Caritas Darfur programme is revitalised to deliver vital emergency aid to over 400,000 individuals in east, central and south Darfur.
- Advocacy meetings and events are organised in conjunction with the UN Climate Summit and UN General Assembly in New York, including a high-level climate change equity breakfast dialogue bringing governments of Gambia, Switzerland, Sweden and Bolivia together in a trust-building dialogue session.
- An ACT sub-working group on the post-2015 process contributes to the outcome document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.
- ACT continues to step up its advocacy work, with side events at the UN 26th Human Rights Council sessions both on Ebola and on enabling civil society space.
- ACT begins its process of restructuring.

**ACT Alliance holds a dialogue event in El Salvador with Dr Rigoberta Menchú and Rev Raúl Suárez.**

ACT/Sean Hawkey



## October to December

- Drought in Central America leads ACT to issue appeals for Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, all undergoing food crises. Bolivia is battered by flooding, prompting ACT to issue an appeal to prevent water-borne related diseases and help provide food security.
- In October, ACT holds its second General Assembly, in the Dominican Republic.
- The alliance launches its first global campaign, ACT Now for Climate Justice, and participates in a 15,000-strong civil society march on the streets of Lima.
- ACT focuses on COP20 in Lima, Peru, where the climate change advisory group actively lobbies governments for an ambitious outcome. The climate campaign gathers nearly 1,000 signatures for its global petition.
- ACT members from the Southern Africa Regional Forum (SARF) take part in the UN Business and Human Rights Forum in Geneva. This includes engaging with several governments and the International Labour Organization, and running joint side-events and informal meetings at the Ecumenical Centre.
- Appeals are issued for floods in Pakistan, life-saving relief to Central African Republic refugees fleeing into Cameroon, continued assistance to asylum seekers and refugees in Ethiopia who have fled the violence in South Sudan, an earthquake in China and continued drought and food insecurity in Somalia.
- ACT begins a review of its response to emergencies and participates as a panellist in a side event at the Human Rights Council in September on 'The threat of Islamic State to the Shia Turkmen and Kurdish Faylis of Iraq'.
- ACT convenes ecumenical advocacy coordination at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva, bringing together the major ecumenical agencies and networks to discuss joint advocacy.
- With the WCC, ACT facilitates a consultation, in Malawi, on 'Relationships with the Churches and Specialised Ministries' to strengthen collaboration. ACT also participates in an ecumenical peace conference held in Sigtuna, Sweden.
- The alliance commemorates 10 years since the Indonesia tsunami on 26 December 2004, profiling the work its members have been undertaking over that time to help communities become more resilient to adverse weather events.
- ACT contributes to the development of the Core Humanitarian Standard, launched in December.

**ACT recognises the work of its members in building community resilience in Indonesia over the 10 years since the tsunami.**

ACT/Paul Jeffrey



# JOIN HANDS:

**full life and dignity for all, at the ACT General Assembly**



**A highly successful second ACT General Assembly took place in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, from 21-24 October, with 300 members in attendance and hosted by ACT's Dominican Republic member Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas (SSID).**

The event was opened by Bishop Elvis Samuel Medina, Director of the Liaison Office between the Government and the Christian Community (Oficina de Enlace del Poder Ejecutivo y la Comunidad Cristiana), who warmly welcomed the alliance to the Dominican Republic and drew on the similarities between his country's aspirations and those of ACT in striving to eradicate poverty and injustice.

The assembly represented an opportunity for our member-driven alliance to meet and join hands, and rise to the challenges in the world by walking and acting together. The event featured an exhibition highlighting the alliance's milestones over the previous four years and a variety of interactive sessions enabling participants to network across regions and areas of work. Plenary and breakout sessions looked at the impact of the changes taking place in humanitarian and development work, and administrative issues related to

changes in the ACT statutes, as well as affirmation of the 2015-2018 global alliance strategy.

Breakout sessions included regional meetings, to discuss the implications of the new ACT strategic plan and the secretariat decentralisation proposed for 2015, and to agree candidates for election to the governing board. There were also sessions for assembly committees on the strategic plan, policy and advocacy, learning and statutes, and smaller 'join hands' sessions offering participants an opportunity to share lessons learned and new ideas on various topics.

Key discussions focused on sustainable funding, with options presented for finding a workable mechanism, and on increased south-to-south cooperation. Members expressed a need to define what 'development' should mean in the context of the alliance, and highlighted the need for a change of vision if the alliance is to move towards transformational development. Recognising that the church has a prophetic role to play, there was broad agreement that ACT should help to bridge ideological differences in the church to share this changed vision and find common ground through the work done together.

The assembly affirmed the strategic direction as expressed in the Global

Strategy 2015-2018, with a clear commitment to growing differently, and to seek collaboration to mobilise resources from different sources.

A workshop on statelessness in the Dominican Republic gave an overview of the political context in the country and of the global trends related to statelessness, while looking at the work of churches in responding.

The assembly elected a new governing board to take ACT Alliance through its next four-year strategic term. A clear majority elected Sushant Agrawal of CASA as the new Moderator of the governing board, replacing Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel of Bread for the World. Donna Derr of Church World Service was elected as the new Vice-Moderator of the board, replacing Francisco de Assis da Silva representing KOINONIA, and Wim Hart of ICCO Cooperation was elected as Treasurer of the alliance. The assembly concluded with the alliance preparing to start its new 2015-2018 strategic term – as a member-driven alliance putting communities at the centre of its work, giving people a voice, and strengthening its network both from within and through collaboration with others.

**Participants at the second General Assembly of ACT Alliance being held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.**

ACT/Simon Chambers



# ACT in emergencies



Midwife Toma listens to a baby's heartbeat through her foetal trumpet.  
ACT/Annie Bungeroth

## ACT IN AFRICA Commemorating 10 years in Darfur

2014 marked the 10th anniversary of ACT's programme of work in Darfur in partnership with Caritas. The UN has described Sudan's western Darfur region as one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world, with 300,000 people having been killed and 2.3 million violently displaced. Current estimates say 1.2 million Darfuris live in camps and 3.2 million rely on humanitarian aid. Those displaced are living predominantly in camps in both Darfur and nearby Chad, where access for humanitarian workers is limited, severely reducing the ability to deliver aid.

Since the beginning of the crisis, the ACT-Caritas programme has raised more than US\$120m for health, nutrition, water and sanitation, livelihoods, and emergency preparedness and response.

In Hamedia camp near Zalingei in central Darfur, the ACT-Caritas emergency response unit offers essential household goods, such as plastic mats, blankets, jerry cans, soap, cooking sets and mosquito nets. When people arrive at the camp they are first registered with the World Food Programme, in order to receive monthly food rations.

When a new plot of land becomes available within the camp, people are moved from the reception area and are able to use the permanent services of the camp, many of which are run by ACT-Caritas, including schools, health clinics and nutrition centres, and services for improving economic wellbeing. This year, some 420,000 people benefited from the programme.

### Personal accounts from the camps in Darfur

#### "It was easy to hear their cries"

Saadia Mohammed Adam and her family had to flee their village: "They came in vehicles, on camels and horses from everywhere and shot randomly, everywhere. I don't know exactly how many were killed but I think at least 300. There were some women who they put in a specific place and no-one knows what happened to them. But it was easy to hear their cries. We walked for seven

hours to come here, at night. Most people took shelter at the UNAMID [United Nations-African Union Mission in Darfur] compound. UNAMID said we would be safe but the militia said they would attack the compound, so we decided to flee."

#### The only technology in the room

The stark reality of midwife Toma's working conditions is evident when you walk into her small dark consulting room, at the primary health clinic in Hassa Hissa camp in Zalingei. There are no bleeping baby monitoring machines, only a bed with a tattered screen. Without the help

of equipment, she says, "everything I do is based on years of experience and the training I received."

Midwife Toma's silver foetal trumpet and her skilled hands are the only technology in the room – as she carefully feels for the baby's position and listens to its heartbeat. "This trumpet is magical; it tells me all I need to know. When everything is well, I feel good. This clinic and my simple piece of equipment is vital for women; I can spot complications early on in the pregnancy, as well as teach women about the danger signs to look out for."



# Responding to conflict in South Sudan

Gunfire and shelling, in Juba, on 15 December 2013, signalled the beginning of a conflict that quickly spread to other parts of South Sudan, including Bor, Bentiu and Malakal. The violence was sparked by a power struggle between President Salva Kiir Mayardit and his ex-deputy, Riek Machar, and continued for months into early 2014, generating civilian displacement on a huge scale.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) estimated that 575,500 people were internally displaced and 112,200 civilians fled to neighbouring countries, prompting ACT to provide emergency assistance in Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda (see information opposite). It is thought that more than 450,000 people from South Sudan have sought refuge in those countries.

Various ACT members and partners conducted assessments with other NGOs and UN agencies to map the most affected areas and assess the most urgent needs throughout South Sudan. ACT responded with food, temporary shelters, blankets, mosquito nets and other non-food items such as medicines.

The emergency response prioritised the most vulnerable, including female-headed households, pregnant and poor women, children (particularly girls between 6 and 17 years old) and disabled people. Child protection was a key focus in several areas. ACT also assisted in improving the water supply for refugee camps and provided latrines. Most of those internally displaced had experienced serious trauma, so ACT offered both one-to-one and group psychosocial work.

**A United Nations camp for internally displaced families in Juba, South Sudan, where ACT is providing fresh water, sanitation and refuse collection. The camp holds more than 20,000 people. These include Nuer families, who took refuge there in December 2013 after a political dispute fractured South Sudan along ethnic and tribal lines.**

ACT/Paul Jeffrey





## Kenya

The emergency response in Kenya focused on the Kakuma refugee camp in Turkana County, providing new arrivals with shelter, water, protection and psychosocial support. At a transit centre set up in Nadapal, just north of the Turkana district, ACT members assisted in providing new arrivals with accommodation, hot meals, water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and basic non-food items, such as sleeping mats and soap as they waited to be moved on to the Kakuma refugee camp.

## Ethiopia

Ethiopia witnessed the biggest surge in refugee arrivals, making it the largest refugee-hosting country in Africa with a combined total of 635,950 refugees, according to UNHCR. By October 2014, more than 190,000 refugees from South Sudan had arrived in the country. ACT's response, run by three members, was targeted at Leitchuor refugee camp (with nearly 50,000 being accommodated there), Lule refugee camp, Tierkidi refugee camp and a number of other woredas (districts). The priority needs were water and sanitation, livelihoods, psychosocial support, education and vocational training.

Leitchuor, with little capacity in terms of water, shelter and other basic services, was declared unsuitable to continue housing refugees because of flooding, in August 2014, which caused extensive damage to infrastructure. The poor sanitary conditions posed a major risk to public health. ACT members were working in the camp until it closed in September, when refugees were relocated to higher ground.

## Uganda

More than 123,000 refugees from South Sudan arrived in Uganda in 2014. In response, ACT worked in the clustered settlement sites around Adjumani in northern Uganda to provide improved water, sanitation and hygiene access for 22,500 refugees. Support was also given to 42,000 refugees and 4,000 host community members to help build relationships and provide protection and psychosocial support.

## Central African Republic refugees in Cameroon



Violence associated with the Anti-Balaka insurrection in the Central African Republic (CAR) led to a sharp increase in refugees fleeing to Cameroon in early 2014. Although the fighting is between two religious groups – the Christian Anti-Balaka and the Muslim Séléka rebels – and is often presented as a religious conflict, the violence is underpinned by issues of land rights and poverty.

ACT members have struggled to provide relief for people inside the CAR because of security concerns. Therefore, while access has been restricted, efforts have turned to supporting refugees outside of the country, the largest group currently being in Cameroon. Some 118,000 people arrived in the country in the first six months of the year, bringing the estimated total to 225,000. Over half of them were children, approximately 20 per cent under the age of five, and only three per cent were thought to be elderly.

To accommodate the influx of refugees in 2014, the Government of Cameroon, together with the UNHCR, made seven sites available and designated 308 host villages. Due to the complex nature of the crisis, refugee needs were broad ranging. ACT members carried out situation and needs assessments, finding the most prevalent needs to be enhanced protection, psychosocial support, livelihoods, peace building and social cohesion. Further efforts were also made by ACT members to improve the lives of the refugees, through mobilising resources to provide non-food items including clothing and finance. Church structures were used to host refugees, and infrastructure was renovated to improve bed space capacity and sanitation in hospitals.

**Children attend class in a temporary learning space run by an ACT member at a site for internally displaced people in Bangui, Central African Republic.**

ACT/FCA/Sofia Itamaki



# Ebola prevention in Liberia and Sierra Leone



In January 2014, the Government of Guinea in West Africa declared an outbreak of the Ebola virus. Since then, Ebola spread to the neighbouring countries of Liberia and Sierra Leone, causing an epidemic that at the end of 2014 had caused 24,754 deaths, according to the World Health Organization. There had been 11,794 deaths in Sierra Leone, 9,555 in Liberia and 3,404 in Guinea. Because of a lack of knowledge about the disease, Ebola quickly became a source of stigma and terror. ACT members responding to the epidemic identified two key issues: the need for more healthcare locations and resources, and a need to raise preventative awareness to stop the disease spreading.

As a first step, ACT members constructed an isolation segment in the compound of Liberia's Phebe Hospital and School of Nursing, and made provisional plans to procure medical supplies.

In both Liberia and Sierra Leone, besides the high mortality rate, Ebola patients were often abandoned or rejected not only by healthcare workers fearing infection but by their families and friends due to fear and shame. Added to this, survivors had to deal with deaths of their colleagues, friends and family also in isolation.

Working on the premise that the best way to protect people was to prevent the spread of the disease and remove the social stigma attached to it, ACT members initiated educational projects with 5,830 people in Liberia to increase understanding of measures that can be taken to prevent contamination and spread of the disease. These projects were set up in the Bong and Lofa counties, and the subsequent decline in the number of new cases there was thought to be partly due to these interventions. In addition, multiple meetings and workshops were set up to raise awareness and sensitisation among a further 14,270 people.

In Sierra Leone, sensitisation work was undertaken directly with 9,000 people, and food and non-food assistance was given to 100 families who had suffered deaths or survived infection. More than 400 families were given psychosocial support and 40 orphans given nutrition and health support.

When the Ebola epidemic was at its peak, fear meant that people refrained from leaving their homes to work, resulting in reduced food production and a consequent rise in malnutrition. ACT members helped vulnerable families by providing them with rice and soup, and extended this service to specific hospitals to help reduce the risk of malnutrition among Ebola patients.



# Combating drought and food insecurity in Somalia

Nearly 1 million people in Somalia were reported to be in need of life-saving help in 2014, 300,000 of whom were malnourished children. Exacerbating the food situation, Somalia was also dealing with military offensives and threats from insurgents. The UNHCR estimated that 50,000 people were internally displaced in the first quarter of 2014 alone, with the total figure standing at approximately 1.1 million.

The crisis in Somalia is multi-faceted, with each region struggling with its own issues. ACT members undertook assessments in different areas to prioritise the specific needs of the regions. They found that decreased food security was being caused by conflict and the destruction of valuable resources; the erosion of livestock due to lack of water and unprecedented natural disasters, crop failures because of acute water shortages, and high food prices that made it impossible for people living in extreme poverty to eat properly.

It has been a challenge to assist those in need in Somalia. Attempts to aid people were hindered in areas of conflict, where initiatives were sabotaged. Despite the difficulties, there were real achievements in addressing basic food, water and sanitation needs of displaced people and vulnerable host households. These were thanks to well-organised efforts where ACT assisted drought-affected populations in the southern and central parts of Somalia and the Dadaab refugee camp.



Drought has devastating effects on livestock.

ACT/Paul Jeffrey

## Displacement and return in the DRC

Historical violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) between 1994 and 2003 led to the loss of an estimated 5 million lives. While violence has subsided to a large extent, in 2014 renewed conflict in the country displaced an estimated 150,000 households, many of them crossing the border to Uganda.

But the gradual restoration of security in the Kamango region of the DRC resulted in the spontaneous return of more than 60,000 people to the area, most coming back from Uganda. Strongholds under the control of rebels were taken over by the regular army, and local authorities encouraged the return of displaced people.

The focus of the ACT appeal was North Kivu province of the eastern DRC, including the Kamango refugee camp in the Beni territory, where members worked with 48,000 returned people; and in the Rutshuru territory with 24,000 returned people. The ACT response revolved around food security, nutrition for 3,350 malnourished children, access to clean water, hygiene and sanitation, and psychosocial support.

## Conflict survivors in Kenya

A series of unexpected attacks in Kenya's Lamu County left 5,574 people internally displaced. Terror inflicted by militant groups included arbitrary killings, sexual violence, looting of property and livestock, and other gross human rights violations. Many women told the ACT Kenya Forum their stories of the extreme violence, describing how they had to watch their spouses and children killed in cold blood.

During the period of attacks, people were forced from their homes, unable to carry any food or essential items, which aggravated the resulting shelter, hunger and public health needs. ACT members identified these needs and set up initiatives in Mpeketoni, Lamu County, to support the most vulnerable people. Members worked with a population of 5,000 affected people, providing food and water and essential items such as shelter, clothing and bedding, water treatment tablets, food and water containers, soap and mosquito nets. ACT also promoted peace-building activities and set up psychosocial support and trauma-healing initiatives for the thousands affected by the violence. The alliance was able to provide health services where need outweighed existing capacity.



# ACT IN ASIA

## Floods and landslides in Jammu and Kashmir



A woman in the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, whose house had been destroyed by the flood waters from the Jhelum River.  
CASA

Heavy monsoon rains in September 2014, in the northern Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, led to unprecedented widespread flooding and landslides. The total cost of the damage was estimated at nearly US\$10bn.

Incessant rain caused 277 deaths in Jammu and Kashmir, and a further 280 deaths over the border in Pakistan. Rescue operations were hindered when railway links and at least 60 roads became inaccessible due to the landslides. In addition, 30 bridges were completely washed away, isolating stranded people even further. However, with the help of the Indian Army, the Indian Air Force and the National Disaster Response Force, 234,000 people were rescued.

More than 230 relief camps were set up, and ACT members in India responded immediately, providing early recovery programmes. This included the distribution of dry food rations and milk to more than 29,000 people in need. Blankets, ground sheets, tarpaulins, cooking pots and implements, hygiene kits, water purification tablets and buckets were distributed to 8,900 people. Solar lanterns were given to 12,000 people.

As winter set in, people were exposed to harsh rain, low temperatures and snow. Shelter became an immediate concern, with more than 120,000 houses uninhabitable. ACT Alliance provided 3,300 families with roofing materials of galvanized corrugated iron, in addition to the temporary shelter kits provided earlier.

The early recovery work of the alliance was acknowledged by Sphere India – the largest network of humanitarian agencies in India.

## Restoration after Cyclone Hudhud



Cyclone Hudhud hit India's east coast in mid-October 2014, primarily affecting the state of Andhra Pradesh, most significantly the port city of Visakhapatnam. It also struck the state of Odisha, which experienced heavy rainfall. The deafening winds of 190km/h claimed the lives of 41 people and injured many more. Hudhud caused extensive devastation to housing, electrical infrastructure, standing crops and livestock. It affected 471

villages, and relief for more than 280,000 people had to be provided by the government with the support of the Indian Army, the National Disaster Response Force and various other organisations.

The National Highway and other important thoroughfares were cleared, but with limited resources they were unable to reach out to people in more rural villages. ACT members therefore had a significant presence in these areas, where the communities who depended mainly on farming as their livelihood source saw Hudhud devastate rice, banana, coconut and sugarcane plantations. ACT provided immediate food assistance and worked with the community to establish a food security and livelihood restoration programme.

The districts of Visakhapatnam, Srikakulam and Vizianagaram were plunged into darkness after the electrical system completely collapsed: over 40,000 electricity cables snapped and 7,500 electrical transformers were damaged. ACT therefore worked with communities to implement solar renewable energy sources to bring light to the affected areas.

**Cyclone Hudhud's devastating damage to coconut palms and housing across a vast swathe of India's east coast. The scale of the clean-up work and rebuilding is immense.**

All Hands Volunteers



# Ten years after the tsunami: building a bridge towards resilience in Indonesia



A young girl walks on the beach at Lhok Me, in Indonesia's Aceh province. The girl's mother sells coconuts and soft drinks to tourists on the beach. The 2004 tsunami struck the coastal village when she was just three weeks old. A member of ACT Alliance worked with the village to build new houses in a safer area, as well as help revitalise their income-generating activities, including her mother's small business. The tsunami killed 221,000 people in Aceh province and left more than 500,000 displaced.

ACT/Paul Jeffrey

Disasters of every scale hit hardest in communities that are the least prepared and the poorest. In Kuala Bubon, like other coastal villages across Indonesia's Aceh and Nias islands, most people rely on the sea and farming for their livelihoods. When the Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami hit on 26 December 2004, these communities had little or no emergency response capacity. The effects were devastating.

In Indonesia alone, the tsunami caused an estimated 167,736 deaths, with 37,063 missing persons, and left more than 500,000 people homeless. In Kuala Bubon,

it took the lives of 221 people and swept away the entire village, leaving nothing but traumatised survivors.

The global humanitarian aid mobilised for the disaster was considered the largest ever, in terms of international pledges and donations, and it was the fastest financial response to disaster.

The event 10 years ago became a catalyst for a significant change in perspective on effective disaster response, implemented in the "build back better" approach. This approach is not merely about rebuilding houses and infrastructure, but also about rebuilding

people's lives and dignity. It encourages communities, NGOs and governments to focus on ensuring people's rights in the aftermath of a disaster – restoring livelihoods, providing psychosocial support, and building the capacity of local communities in disaster preparedness.

ACT Alliance members mobilised their resources to respond to the disaster with a total funding of more than US\$50m, reflecting the extent of the global solidarity and giving hope to people across the affected region.



# Recovery from Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines



In the aftermath of the November 2013 typhoon that displaced 4 million people, destroyed 1 million homes, and damaged livelihoods across nine provinces in the central Philippines, ACT members overcame many challenges to reach an estimated 1 million survivors in recovery efforts this year. As the strongest typhoon ever to make landfall, Haiyan left behind tons of debris and millions of fallen coconut trees. Six months later, the ACT response had shifted from emergency aid to recovery, focusing on shelter and livelihoods, education, psychosocial help and disaster preparedness.

The shelter response was particularly challenging due to the government-imposed 40 metre no-build zones, which left millions of people who had lived on the shoreline now homeless and internally displaced. This was further complicated by bureaucracy of land acquisition in safe locations, delaying the start of any construction. Despite the difficulties, ACT provided 100,000 people with new shelters in 2014, either permanent or temporary. Construction of permanent housing was modest, as most families whose houses were destroyed lived on rental land or had only verbal agreements with the land owner. After a virtually ineffective land reform 20 years ago, 90 per cent of the land still remains in the hands of big land owners.

"Landlessness makes people vulnerable," said ACT member Emergency Field Coordinator Joselito Sosmena. "Often people

are not allowed to build other than transitional shelters (made of light materials such as bamboo and palm leaves), and these are not safe when a storm comes."

To support livelihoods, new vegetable gardens have been planted using seeds and tools provided by ACT, and women's groups have started fish processing in many communities. New boats and/or nets, to replace those broken or lost during the typhoon, have been given to 40,000 fishermen, and more than 75,000 farmers, whose crops were destroyed, have been given what they need to replant. However, rehabilitation work in the Philippines will be long term, particularly in terms of livelihoods, as the millions of coconut trees destroyed will take seven to 10 years to grow back and provide people with livelihoods once again.

ACT members have been assisting communities to better assess their risks, vulnerabilities and capacities, and to develop disaster preparedness and response plans. The Philippines is a disaster-prone nation with an average of 20 typhoons per year, around five of which cause serious damage.

**A woman bathes her young son at their home by the sea in Tacloban, the Philippines. The city was hit hard by Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013. ACT Alliance has accompanied survivors in this neighbourhood and other areas, as they rebuild their communities and livelihoods.**

ACT/Paul Jeffrey



# Floods and landslides in Nepal

Heavy monsoon rains hit 17 districts in the mid and western regions of Nepal in August 2014, causing the worst destruction Nepal has seen since flooding in 2008.

More than 12,000 houses were destroyed, another 13,695 partially damaged, and a massive 40,055 flooded. The extreme weather saw cattle, ducks, chicken and fish washed away or buried, and the destruction of crop supplies. The result was mass displacement of people, with 12,276 families made homeless and left with nothing. Waterlogged farmland became useless to farmers, and the remaining yield was much lower than usual.

ACT members provided immediate life-saving assistance and psychosocial support to around 2,000 severely affected and displaced families. Assistance included basic and supplementary food rations, non-food items, emergency shelter and other daily necessities.

Many of the areas affected were left inaccessible because of the rains, with some sections of road washed away or buried by landslides, and electrical supplies and telephone services cut off. According to the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the floods and landslides claimed the lives of 202 people, with 248 still missing at the end of 2014.



ACT members provided lifesaving relief in Nepal, such as these bags of supplies.

ACT/FELM/Hannaleena Pölkki

# Earthquake survivors in China



On 3 August 2014, an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.5 hit Zhaotong City in China's southeastern Yunnan Province. The epicentre of the quake was just 14 miles from the city, which suffered damage and experienced hundreds of aftershocks. China's Ministry of Civil Affairs initiated the highest level of national disaster response, with 617 people reported killed, nearly 90,000 houses having collapsed and 129,000 houses damaged, leaving 65,000 families homeless. Zhaotong City officials reported that, in total, the quake affected almost 1 million people.

ACT Alliance responded with immediate relief supplies and a rapid assessment of needs. After the initial emergency assistance, concern moved to the reconstruction of water systems and earthquake-resistant housing, rebuilding of livestock pens, provision of seeds to help farmers start up their work again, assistance in livelihood recovery and community-based psychosocial support.

ACT has provided community-based psychosocial support in China for the last six years – after the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, the 2010 Yushu earthquake, and the 2013 Yuan earthquake. This work has included recovering a community centre from which to give support, and creating opportunities to mobilise local communities to organise and participate in events, entertainment, education and communication.

**Blankets and other goods are distributed to survivors in rural Yunnan Province, as part of the ACT humanitarian response.**

Amity Foundation/Shu Junsong



# ACT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

## Responding to drought in Central America

Climate change and the “El Niño” phenomenon of unusually warm ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific, saw Central America plagued by drought this year. The lack of water damaged the staple corn and bean crops across the region, reducing harvests by up to 90 per cent in some areas and pushing hundreds of thousands of families into food insecurity.

Central America is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change. According to the 2014 Global Climate Risk Index, the countries of Central America are among the 10 most-affected countries, with Honduras holding the top spot globally. There, the government declared a state of emergency because of scarcity of food in the dry corridor in the southern region of the country, which affected around 400,000 people.

In El Salvador, around 30 per cent of the annual corn harvest was lost in 2014 and 90 per cent of the annual bean crop. According to the World Food Programme, an estimated 100,000 families were affected, with 25,000 people facing critical conditions of food insecurity. In Nicaragua, nearly 75 per cent of the corn crop was lost in the northern areas of Estelí, Madriz and Nueva Segovia, affecting around 100,000 families. The result was that grain prices significantly increased across the region, restricting access to food for those affected families.


Guatemala also declared a state of emergency in 16 of its 22 provinces, as major losses were reported of the region's staple foods, maize and beans, and emaciated cattle died from lack of

food and water. More than 200,000 families who depended on subsistence farming were considered at high risk, and the eastern side of the country was the most affected, with crop losses of 85 per cent, leading to a 200 per cent rise in the price of corn.

The ACT appeal for the region focused on food security, distribution of food kits, the provision of water, and early recovery and livelihood restoration. Thousands of families affected by the crisis were given access to food in the critical period of food shortage, and approximately 1,000 families received improved access to safe water for household use. Two thousand families were provided with the necessary inputs to improve their agricultural production for household consumption.

Salvador Perez, a technician in Nicaragua working with communities in the badly-affected area of San Francisco Libre, said: “The Rio Grande has dried up; imagine that, it's dried up. There are a few remaining puddles of water, and for people nearby they can take their cattle to water there, but there's no food, we're shipping in rice husks for the cows to eat. At the end of this year, the last reserves that farmers have from the late harvest last year will be finished. Scarcity of food has pushed up the food prices so people can't afford to buy much food. We're going to need a lot of humanitarian aid to keep people alive.”

The drought is expected to continue and expand into other regions during 2015.

A photograph of a man with a mustache, wearing a blue button-down shirt, standing in a cornfield. The corn plants are tall and dry, with some leaves showing signs of stress or damage. The man is looking off to the side with a serious expression.

Sebastian Cedillos, an agricultural technician for a partner of an ACT member, inspects a farmer's corn field during the current drought. In broad areas across El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, harvests have been completely destroyed by the drought, causing enormous hardship for many thousands of poor, subsistence farming families.

Sean Hawkey/LWR/ACT



# Child migrants in Honduras



and the migrants routinely suffer very badly. Thousands die. But the risk of the journey still appears less dangerous to people here than the risk of staying, the risks of everyday life here. The violence, particularly violence against women, is the most severe in the world, but it is probably extreme poverty that drives most people.

“ACT members work in the worst of these areas on social programmes to provide support to young people and families, and work with the government on emergency issues, including this crisis of migrants,” he continued. “The real issue, however, isn’t that migrants are being deported, it’s that they feel the need to leave the country and to risk their lives on the journey.”

At the Honduras reception centre for repatriated migrants, ACT provided equipment and furnishings for the refuge’s staff and volunteers to support children. Alliance members then helped track down families and paid for the bus fares of those who could not afford it. The children also received psychological support and a ‘mother’ was assigned to each while the refuge searched for their families.

**In San Pedro Sula, Honduras, two girls comfort each other in a refuge for children that receives repatriated migrant children. Some children find parents or family waiting for them on arrival, others wait for a few days for family to arrive from remote rural areas, others remain in the refuge indefinitely when no family can be found. One of these girls had been kidnapped and sold and her family has not been found.**

Sean Hawkey/LWR/ACT

Some 61,500 illegal child and adolescent migrants, many coming from Honduras and El Salvador, were caught on the southern border of the United States by US migration authorities between October 2013 and July 2014. More than 13,000 of them were subsequently deported to Honduras, where the authorities, unable to cope with the huge number of returnees, declared an emergency. ACT Alliance members on the ground stepped in to support deported migrants and their families during the crisis, trying to track down families, providing full support to

children whose families were untraceable, and working to address the mental scars of the children’s perilous and often exploitative journey. The reasons people migrate are rooted in endemic poverty and violence in the region.

Erika Murillo, in charge of the ACT Alliance Rapid Response Fund in the San Pedro Sula areas of Honduras, said: “The route to the US is extremely hazardous. People put themselves in the hands of ‘coyotes’, traffickers who take people northwards. Many are captured by authorities, or worse, by criminal gangs,

## Floods in Chocó, Colombia

At the end of 2013, floods affected the Chocó region in the west of Colombia. The floods washed away standing crops, damaged and destroyed housing and other buildings, and destroyed food stores. Heavy rains from tropical storms caused damage in five municipalities within the region. According to the Disaster Risk Management Committee of Chocó, more than 2,000 households (12,000 individuals) were affected when the Atrato, Andagueda, Tumutumbudo and Capa rivers overflowed, causing floods in the communities around them.

Those affected were primarily the Afro-Colombian and indigenous communities, which were very isolated, with access only by water, mainly canoe. ACT worked with

communities associated with the Rural Leaders Community Council, COCOMOPOCA, comprising 543 families in 21 affected communities. The appeal helped people take measures to regain their food security, and members helped set up a locally organised emergency preparedness plan. The floods destroyed major parts of the maize, rice, corn, plantain and sugar cane crops, therefore the ACT forum in Colombia provided seeds for the crop recovery. While they put this project into action, the ACT team had to overcome and adapt to situations resulting from the isolation and security risks, working under the recommendations of the Security Operations Centre of the United Nations System.



# ACT IN EUROPE

## Floods in Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina



ACT members focused on immediate life-saving actions to help people impacted by the floods.

ACT/CSW/Philanthropy, Charitable Foundation of the Serbian Orthodox Church/Ivan Dobricic

In May 2014, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina experienced sustained torrential rains, with several months' average rainfall in less than a week resulting in the worst floods in living memory in the region. Dozens were confirmed dead, tens of thousands were evacuated, and thousands of households were completely destroyed. The floods affected more than 1.6 million people – 22 per cent of the population. Numerous power systems, sewage and water treatment systems, road, public infrastructure and schools were partially or completely destroyed.

ACT members worked in hard-hit towns and areas providing food, personal health and hygiene supplies, as well as disinfection equipment, tools, and agricultural assessment and relief.

The aim of ACT's response was to provide life-sustaining assistance and support to the most vulnerable flood-affected populations in Serbia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, helping meet their basic needs and assisting them to re-establish their livelihoods.

## Conflict and displacement in Ukraine

The Crimean crisis and the armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine, which began in April 2014, rapidly led to a humanitarian emergency as militia groups in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of the country demanded independence from Kiev. Kiev's military responded and attempted to regain control of the territories. The number of people fleeing their homes by the end of 2014 topped half a million, directly coinciding with the deterioration in law and order, growing fear of abductions, increased human rights violations and the disruption of state services.

Most internally displaced people (IDPs) were taken in by relatives or found temporary shelter in schools, recreation and

cultural centres.

ACT members worked to help IDPs in seven regions of Ukraine, and from the outset developed a countrywide network of NGOs to provide humanitarian assistance. Together, and with the support of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and trade and private donors, they provided food, water, clothing, medical supplies and psychosocial support – both to IDPs and the affected population in Kiev.

Ongoing hostilities between armed groups and government forces left little hope of the conflict subsiding as the year ended, and it is expected that further humanitarian assistance will be required in 2015.



# ACT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

## Help to survive for displaced people in Iraq



According to the 2014 Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, there were more than 2.4 million internally displaced people (IDPs) in Iraq, making it one of the largest populations of IDPs in the world. There were also 217,000 Syrian refugees in Iraq, mainly in the Kurdish region.

In August, a wave of displacement was triggered by a massacre and other human rights abuses at Sinjar in Iraq's Nineveh province. It was reported that 500 Yazidi men were killed, Yazidi women were sold and 70 Yazidi children died escaping an Islamic State (IS) offensive that captured many towns. The Iraqi government lost control as IS took over large swathes of territory in the north and west of Iraq, including the second largest city, Mosul. In addition, nearly 20,000 refugees entered the Kurdish region of Iraq from Kobani in Syria, escaping from conflict there.

Within Iraq, Yazidis and Kurds in particular were persecuted and fled the

violence. However, large numbers of Christian and Shia Muslims were also driven from their homes in Mosul and surrounding areas. They escaped the conflict to reach the relative safety of Kurdish-controlled areas of the Nineveh plain, east and north of Mosul. Some were accommodated with family and friends but had little capacity for supporting themselves, and were dependent on support from others, including humanitarian organisations.

Several refugee camps were run by the Kurdish regional government with the support of international humanitarian organisations. These shelter the many IDPs without family to depend on. ACT's response focused on the distribution of food and basic requirements such as blankets and mattresses, stoves and cooking utensils, and hygiene items such as soap. In areas experiencing particularly cold winter conditions, the alliance distributed kerosene heaters and fuel.

**Women in the Berseve 1 camp, near the Iraqi Kurdistan city of Zakho, wash clothes in water supplied by two boreholes installed by an ACT member. The boreholes draw water up from 60m before it is purified in a system of reverse osmosis and then pumped to the 12,000 camp residents, who are mostly Yazidi and who fled the IS advance across Iraq in July.**

LWF/Sandra Cox



# Urgent help for Gaza and the West Bank



On 8 July 2014, Israeli forces launched military operations on Gaza that lasted 50 days. The onslaught included frequent aerial bombardments, which according to the UN killed 2,200 people, including more than 1,600 civilians, a third of whom were children. In total, 11,000 Palestinians were injured, 1,000 of whom were permanently disabled. During the conflict, five Israeli civilians and 60 Israeli soldiers were also killed.

Over a quarter of the 1.8 million people living in Gaza have been displaced because of the conflict, and the destruction has left approximately 108,000 people homeless. Tens of thousands of homes have been reduced to rubble, and hospitals and educational establishments damaged or destroyed. Extensive infrastructure damage left many areas without electricity and around 450,000 people without access to clean water, posing a major threat to public health.

ACT members provided support primarily to those who have been identified as vulnerable, such as children, pregnant mothers, the injured and the grieving. Thirteen hundred expectant mothers received antenatal visits from healthcare professionals in the targeted district, and 100 newborn kits were distributed. Alliance members provided 350 hygiene kits

and 27 medical kits to assist injured patients, and psychosocial projects were set up in the most heavily bombed areas of Gaza to try to heal emotional wounds. The blockade and conflict made humanitarian access challenging, however food was distributed where possible to families who had lost their livelihoods, and 11,000 one-litre bottles of mineral water were provided to those without access to clean water. Alliance members also provided 835 children in the Shijia area with vouchers for school equipment, such as stationery.

The Israeli blockade of Gaza, by land, air and sea, has continued since 2007 and severely restricts the entry of goods and food to Gaza. The blockade has been heavily criticised by the UN, as well as humanitarian and human rights organisations. Currently, building materials that are needed to rebuild after the massive destruction caused by the bombardments are heavily restricted.

According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, approximately 1 million of the 1.8 million population were already receiving food aid before the recent escalation of violence. ACT members have been working in Gaza for more than a decade.



# Flash floods devastate Afghanistan

Monsoon rains in the north of Afghanistan caused flash floods in April 2014, with devastating effects on the local population. At least 700 people were killed and more than 120,000 people affected. More than 16,000 people were displaced across the northern regions of the country, with the most devastating single incident occurring on the morning of 2 May when heavy rains triggered landslides that buried the village of Abi Barik in Badakhshan Province, killing many and causing widespread damage to homes and agriculture.

ACT members responded quickly with life-saving food, drinking water, sanitation facilities, tents, tarpaulins, blankets and kitchen utensils, as well as medicine to prevent outbreaks of

waterborne diseases, and protection for displaced people.

Although access to remote areas was made difficult by damaged roads and bridges, ACT managed to deliver relief and conduct awareness-raising sessions on health, hygiene and sanitation. Additionally, flood mitigation materials such as sandbags, shovels, excavators and flood protection walls were provided to help families through the immediate aftermath of the disaster. Irrigation canals stretching 38km were repaired, returning the crop-production capacity of 1,200 families back to pre-flood conditions. Disaster risk reduction awareness sessions also benefited 1,200 people and 16,000 were given education in hygiene and sanitation.

Following the rains, floods, and landslides, humanitarian challenges face thousands of people including Khuma Bibi and her children.

ACT/CWS-PA





# ACT in development and advocacy



ACT members are continuing response efforts in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.  
IOCC



# Working to maintain human dignity as Syria enters its fourth year of crisis

In 2014, the war in Syria entered its fourth year. UNHCR estimates that 6.5 million Syrians are displaced within the country and another 3 million have crossed into neighbouring countries as refugees. From the outset, ACT Alliance members in the region coordinated a humanitarian response, as part of the ACT Jordan/Syria/Lebanon Forum (JSL), and subsequently worked on rehabilitation and development projects with Syrian refugees. It is within protracted emergency situations, such as the ongoing Syria crisis, that humanitarian and development work begin to merge.

The size and complexity of the crisis led to a renewed appeal, between September and December 2015, to which more than 20 ACT supporting members contributed US\$8m. This helped to provide food and shelter, and support health and education projects – benefiting around 500,000 people in Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

In Lebanon, one of the members of the JSL Forum initiated the first education programme for refugees from Syria being denied entry into Lebanese schools. The forum hired refugee Syrian teachers and imported books supporting the Syrian school curriculum. After nine months of study, students travelled back to Damascus to take their exams, escorted by ACT to ensure they were allowed re-entry into Lebanon.

In Jordan, another member of the forum developed and ran a number of services, including courses in life skills (including skills training targeting

15-24 year olds and a 'Start Your Own Business' seminar for Syrian women), mother support groups, psychosocial sessions and medical referrals. They also provided informal literacy, numeracy and English classes, recreational and physical activities, youth centres and children's groups, and helped renovate schools and build new classrooms.

The humanitarian needs resulting from the Syrian crisis are heavily reliant on aid. ACT members have extensive first-hand knowledge of these needs, having provided assistance to more than 2.4 million people affected by the crisis since 2011. In Jordan, Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanian families in host communities have benefited from distributions of food and also non-food items such as gas heaters, blankets and carpets. In addition, ACT provides health and hygiene awareness campaigns, reproductive health services for pregnant and breast-feeding women, economic recovery and livelihoods programmes and WASH and shelter-rehabilitation projects. Specific programmes have also been run for people with disabilities, and there has been a peace-building initiative, jointly planned and implemented with Islamic Relief.

With no end in sight to the crisis, ACT members in the region will continue their work to contribute to regional stability, helping people maintain their dignity and alleviating the consequences of the Syrian humanitarian crisis. A follow-up appeal is expected at the beginning of 2015.





# Indigenous rights and development in South America's Gran Chaco

In an indigenous neighbourhood in Embarcacion, Argentina, a Wichi girl looks through the fence to a giant soy bean plantation. The Wichi in this area, largely traditional hunters and gatherers, have struggled for decades to recover land that has been systematically taken from them for cattle raising and large agricultural plantations.

Paul Jeffrey



In the heart of South America, the Gran Chaco covers almost 1 million square kilometres. It is the biggest dry forest in the world, spanning territories in Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay. The region has some of the most acute levels of poverty in Latin America. Across the three countries in this area, two ACT members are working on a rights-based development programme with indigenous people.

The region, isolated from the large cities, has weak communication systems. Consequently, abuses of indigenous rights and human rights are often unreported, and impunity for these crimes is widespread. Environmental destruction is also largely uncontrolled. The result is that climate conditions in the region are increasingly unpredictable and humanitarian emergencies caused by long periods of drought or extreme flooding are now common.

Twenty-five indigenous groups live in the Gran Chaco, including the Guaraní, Wichi, Qom and Enxet Sur communities – groups who lived for centuries as semi-nomadic hunter-gatherers before losing

their land to non-indigenous farmers and cattle ranchers.

A long-term ACT programme has been supporting indigenous people in the Gran Chaco as they reclaim their ancestral lands, improve their food security and nutrition, and empower indigenous women, young people and organisations working against poverty.

The programme provides legal support and accompaniment to communities in their land claims process, and has seen great success in one of the largest claims in all of South America, involving 15,000 people in 12 communities. In June 2014, Argentina signed a decree handing over a legal land title to those communities, ending a 20-year struggle and beginning a new phase of work, focused on sustainable development projects. Over the past nine years of the programme, indigenous communities have recovered 1,788 square miles of their ancestral land.

ACT members are now working with communities on sustainable development and land management for these re-acquired lands.

The programme begins with participatory mapping in the communities, collecting detailed information about natural resources such as water, what land available for hunting and gathering, and areas of potential tension. Participatory approaches in community-based organisations help prevent conflicts over resources. They ensure that development meets the needs and priorities of the communities and makes good use of local resources and knowledge. Indigenous groups in the Chaco region are achieving improved food security as a direct result of their work with ACT, such as resources for kitchen gardens and honey production to improve nutrition. Support for small handicraft businesses is improving income streams and livelihoods, and particularly empowering women.

The ACT programme also works to protect at-risk human rights defenders, such as community leaders working non-violently for justice and against inequality in the Chaco.



# Migrant rights in Central Asia

Two ACT members and their respective partner organisations have joined forces to focus on rights of migrants and their families in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Russia.

Many of the millions of internal and irregular (unregistered) external migrants in Central Asia are highly vulnerable, as are their relatives left behind in rural and often economically depressed areas. Unregistered migrants, despite being citizens of the Central Asian countries, are refused their right to health or education, and their right to vote and to receive social benefits.

Often with limited education, poor language skills, low levels of knowledge about their legal obligations and rights, migrants regularly experience dire living and working conditions. Many do not have secure housing, they face discrimination and stigmatisation, and are at high risk of being cheated or trafficked by middle-men. Back in their home communities, family structures are often destabilised. Relatives are left with debt, incurred when paying for the move abroad, facing difficulties capitalising family assets registered in the migrant's name, and often with very little information about their migrating relatives' whereabouts and safety.

In Kyrgyzstan, up to 1 million people live as internal migrants. It is estimated that a further 1 million from Kyrgyzstan and 1.5 million from Tajikistan look for work outside their home country – in Russia and Kazakhstan – every year.

The joint ACT initiative grew from work that first began in 2006 when, with the support of one ACT member, 15 local Kyrgyzstani organisations came together to secure access to basic services for about 2 million residents and internal unregistered migrants. At the same time, another ACT member was supporting local organisations representing and caring for migrants, poorer rural populations and the most marginalised people.

By combining their local partnerships, expertise and experience, the two organisations adopted a holistic approach to this regional migration programme, calling the combined work 'Central Asia on the Move'. The aims of the programme are to increase access to basic services for migrants and marginalised rural populations, and to address more effectively the many factors that prevent large population groups from exercising their social and political rights.

Through the joint programme, which now works with 25 local organisations across four countries, ACT champions the rights of internal migrants in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as well as those of the hundreds of thousands of men and women who leave their own countries every year to earn a living in Kazakhstan or Russia.

**Part of the joint ACT work in Central Asia is building active citizenship, through activities like this one in Kyrgyzstan.**

ACT/ Rasmus Degnbol





# Mobile cash for sustainable relief in Zimbabwe

Three quarters of the world's mobile phones are in developing countries, and in some African countries mobile phones are being used to pay for taxis and street food.

Capitalising on this technology, two ACT Alliance members worked together in Zimbabwe to use mobile phones to help vulnerable families affected by drought. By sending a text message to the mobile phones of 400 carefully selected families who had lost their crops and were low on food, ACT was able to provide emergency aid for three months, through electronic money transfers to their mobile phones.

The families received three payments of around US\$75, in January and February 2014, to buy food and other necessities. This reduced transport and administrative costs for the organisations, allowed for fast delivery of aid and injected money into the local economy. On receiving the text message, the

families were able to use the money to buy goods of their choice in shops or markets that accepted mobile money; alternatively, they could cash in the money.

Many families used some of the money to buy chickens or goats, in order to better provide for themselves in the future.

Christer Lænkholm, working with an ACT member in Zimbabwe, said: "The project with mobile transfers of money is the first of its kind that ACT has implemented in Zimbabwe, and even though the technology caused problems to start with, the project is a success."

The transfer of cash was carried out in cooperation with Zimbabwe's largest mobile telecom (with 7 million registered customers). Over 10,000 shops and agents in the country take mobile money or are able to convert mobile money to cash.

Aid was sent through mobile phones to 400 families who were affected by drought in Zimbabwe. It is easy to send and allows the families to use it for their own priorities.

ACT/DCA/Christer Laenkholm





# Advocating in conflict situations



Displaced families living in Bor Town, South Sudan.  
DCA/Anders Paulsen

In a year characterised by conflict, ACT came together with the All Africa Conference of Churches and the World Council of Churches to organise a high level church leaders' solidarity visit to Juba, South Sudan, to assist in brokering peace between warring factions in the country. ACT General Secretary John Nduna, together with faith leaders and leaders of ecumenical organisations, took part in this solidarity visit. They met with key government officials, church leaders and members of the ACT forum in South Sudan to call for cessation of violence, particularly the attacks targeted at unarmed communities, and for increased humanitarian assistance to affected communities.

In addition, ACT led a multi-faith advocacy initiative of more than 10 faith-based organisations, which resulted in a joint statement condemning the violence in Syria and Iraq perpetrated by Islamic State. The initiative received broad media coverage and culminated in a statement orally presented to 47 member states at the UN Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva. In Gaza, following the renewed conflict in the region, ACT members engaged in human rights advocacy to call for an end to the violence, increased humanitarian access and investigation into human rights violations.

## Towards enabling civil society space

Members of the regional ACT South America Forum and Central America and Caribbean Forum this year undertook a joint advocacy initiative to grow civil society space and south-to-south cooperation, with a dialogue event in El Salvador. In attendance were Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchú, El Salvador's Vice Chancellor and Vice Minister of the Environment, as well as ACT members and civil society organisations from the region. The event aimed to influence the government to include civil society consultation in the development of its climate change and development policies and strategies, and resulted in the El Salvador government inviting ACT to play a watchdog role in the implementation of these policies and strategies.

ACT Alliance holds a dialogue event in El Salvador with Dr Rigoberta Menchú and Rev Raúl Suárez.

ACT/Sean Hawkey





# Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): agenda for change or business as usual?

ACT Alliance has been engaged, since 2012, in both the Rio+20 discourse on sustainable development and the post-MDG process. Since then, the process has greatly advanced and ACT has ensured its advocacy approach remains coherent with the ever-changing dynamics of this multilateral process. In 2014, ACT hosted a series of member delegations, attending sessions of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG on SDGs) in New York, to lobby governments to address inequalities, governance, climate change, and conflict and fragility. Currently, all of ACT's priority areas feature in the ongoing post-2015 negotiations, which will culminate in a new development framework to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The promotion of gender equity has also been a key priority for the alliance

and, in 2014, members engaged with the Commission on the Status of Women to promote the inclusion of a gender dimension in global sustainable development policy. ACT, in collaboration with a wide array of civil society actors, is now confident that gender issues will play a dominant role in the new sustainable development goals to be endorsed in September 2015.

Additionally, ACT engaged with the Intergovernmental Expert Committee on Sustainable Development Financing, promoting the primary use of domestic resource mobilisation and official development assistance (ODA) over other funding sources, such as private sector funding, which is seen by some states as a panacea to fund poverty eradication programmes. ACT's fundamental ask around financing development is for states, development banks and the UN

to consider the needs of people living in poverty over the interests of private sector actors, who primarily seek profit maximisation. This financial discussion will continue into 2015, with the third Finance for Development conference taking place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. ACT will continue to promote the best possible outcome of this process, for the benefit of those seeking ways out of poverty and the realisation of their human rights.

Building on the advocacy strategy created by a working group of the ACT Alliance Advisory Group on Advocacy, ACT this year published a series of five position papers on its post-2015 priority topics: Finance for Development, DRR, Climate, Inequalities and Social Protection. These papers will be used in ACT's ongoing advocacy work on the post-2015 negotiations, and in the Finance for Development Conference. They have already been used by a wide array of ACT Alliance members as they engage national governments in the promotion of the best possible outcome of a new global sustainable development framework.

Both the Intergovernmental Expert Committee on Sustainable Development Financing and the OWG on SDGs came to a close in July 2014. A single, coherent set of SDGs was confirmed out of two parallel processes of the post-2015 agenda, thanks in part to ACT's advocacy efforts. Most aptly, the outcome of the OWG on SDGs proposed a framework of 17 goals and 169 targets to replace the MDG's eight goals and 18 targets. All of the ACT priorities have featured within the 17 proposed goals, including stand-alone goals on gender equality, inequality, climate change, and rule of law, as well as targets in areas such as disaster risk reduction, social protection, and anti-corruption. The SDGs were proposed through a United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolution in September 2014, and this proposal is the starting point for the broader intergovernmental negotiations, which begin in January 2015.

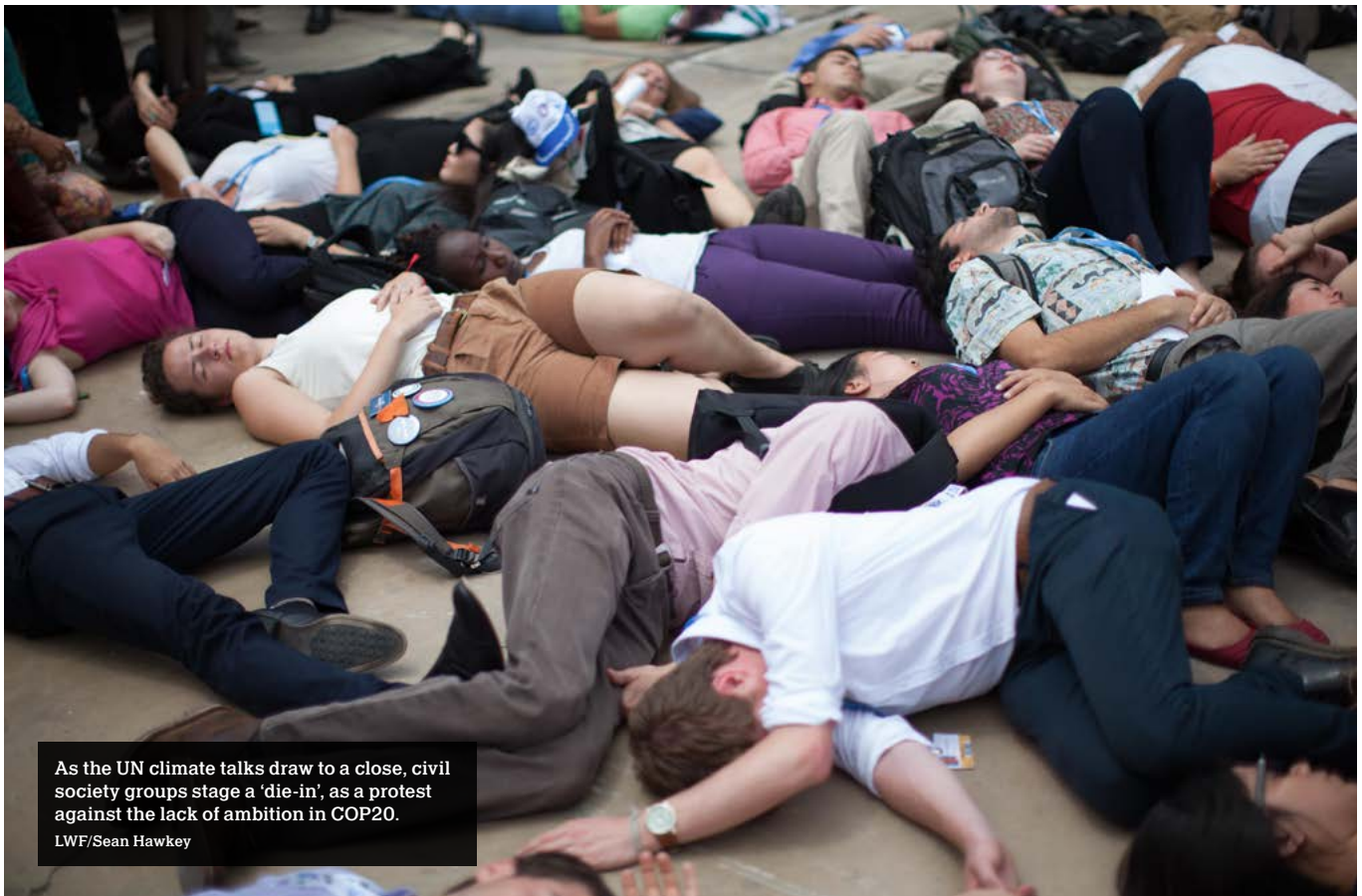
**All of ACT's priorities feature within the 17 proposed sustainable development goals.**

ACT/Simon Chambers





# Acting now for climate justice



As the UN climate talks draw to a close, civil society groups stage a 'die-in', as a protest against the lack of ambition in COP20.

LWF/Sean Hawkey

This has been a busy year for ACT Alliance's work on climate change advocacy. Throughout 2014, ACT monitored and engaged in all the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meetings, conducted several capacity building initiatives for its membership, launched 'ACT Now for Climate Justice' (the first ever global ACT campaign), and further strengthened its cooperation with key governments towards an ambitious climate agreement. With 2015 promising to be a significant year for advancements in climate change globally, ACT Alliance's governing board has extended the mandate of the ACT Advisory Group on Climate Change Advocacy until the end of 2015.

To prepare for the significant climate advocacy work expected in 2014, sessions were held throughout the year, online and in person, to support members with practical and technical knowledge about the negotiations. In May, ACT members from southern and east Africa were trained on international climate politics, and national forums were encouraged to develop country plans for participation in the climate justice campaign. Similarly, the ACT Peru Forum participated in training on international climate politics at the UNFCCC COP20 in Peru, in December. The secretariat also helped train faith and church leaders on climate change.

During the year, the negotiations for developing a climate agreement acceptable to all parties continued, and ACT mobilised members to ensure participation at all meetings, both national and international. At national level, actions included the development of position papers to assist members in their advocacy with governments, and at international level ACT

facilitated trust-building dialogue sessions between countries. In September, ACT together with the governments of Gambia, Sweden, Switzerland and Bolivia, co-hosted a high-level meeting on transformational change at the Ban Ki-moon Climate Summit in New York. Those present included Her Excellency Mary Robinson, Chairperson of the Mary Robinson Climate Justice foundation and the UN Secretary General's Climate Change Special Envoy. Also in attendance was the French President's Special Envoy on Environment and Climate, Nicolas Hulot.

In October, ACT was invited for discussions by the Peruvian Government, as part of their consultation process on how to deliver COP20 in December in Lima. During the Lima COP itself, members held a joint side event with the governments of Gambia and El Salvador to highlight the importance of ensuring that loss and damage of homes and livelihoods remains central in the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

Finally, at the second ACT General Assembly, in October, the 'ACT Now for Climate Justice' campaign was launched. It will run until 2016, and calls on world leaders to commit to a process that will deliver an ambitious climate deal in December 2015. Fuelling mobilisation for the campaign, ACT joined civil society organisations marching for climate justice both in New York, where it was part of a 600,000 strong movement, and in Lima in December.



# ACT Communities of Practice



Skill sharing is a key approach of the alliance. ACT Communities of Practice (CoPs) bring specialists together from across the globe to pool their collective knowledge for the greater good of the alliance. The eight CoPs work on topics of common interest and concern to members of the alliance – harnessing energy and sharing expertise honed in a range of development and emergency situations. Each CoP has been working hard throughout 2014 to further its aims.

Rickson Yesar lays blocks for a new house on Jinamoc Island, which was hard hit in 2013 by Typhoon Haiyan, known locally as Typhoon Yolanda. ACT Alliance has been present since the first moments of the emergency, accompanying the people of Jinamoc to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

ACT/Paul Jeffrey

## DRR and adaptation to climate change

The aim of the DRR, Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Development CoP is to encourage ACT members to build disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into their work. The CoP is a space for the exchange of ideas and experiences. It provides knowledge, expertise and advice, produces background material and represents ACT at international negotiations, conferences and other events.

During 2014, the CoP made preparations for a large delegation to take part in the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, which is part of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.

By sharing good practices through their discussions and through a best practices competition, the CoP has been drawing out examples from across the network that it hopes will be mainstreamed into work across the alliance.

The Global Climate Risk Index 2013 shows that the country most affected by climate change in the last two decades is Honduras, which is experiencing droughts and other extreme weather. In Honduras, adaptation to climate change is not an option but a necessity.

This CoP is working with ACT members in Honduras as they test the effectiveness of technologies and adaptation practices that can be replicated to build resilience

across the country.

"There is still little mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation so far, but we feel that given the importance of the issue, members need guidance and advice. Some members have excellent experiences and knowledge and others don't, so it makes a lot of sense to share and exchange within the alliance."

**Peter Rottach, CoP chair**

For more information,  
contact Vitumbiko Chinoko:  
[vitumbiko.chinoko@actalliance.org](mailto:vitumbiko.chinoko@actalliance.org)



# Psychosocial support



The overall objective of the Psychosocial Support CoP is to strengthen the alliance's capacity for psychosocial support. It aims to give suffering communities resilience and capacity to cope by building cooperation and opening access to the

support they need. In 2014, the CoP worked on spreading the importance of community-based psychosocial support (CBPS) as a vital part of any ACT Alliance humanitarian response, across all sectors. The group is also working to show the

relevance of CBPS to development work.

This year, the CoP has also focused on advocating for the importance of staff care and the psychosocial wellbeing of humanitarian staff, who have often lived through the same emergency situations as the people they aim to help. They hope that these considerations are included in every ACT appeal.

In 2014, a regional psychosocial support CoP was established in Latin America, and plans are underway to establish further regional CoPs during 2015. The value of regional CoPs on these issues is that they can more easily mobilise national ACT forums and members, and strengthen the CBPS capacity.

"The group promotes the integration of CBPS in all humanitarian interventions. If this is achieved, we will get interventions with a holistic view on wellbeing, where not only material and physical needs are addressed, but also social, psychological and spiritual aspects."

**Maria Waade, CoP chair**

For more information, contact Carlos Rauda: [carlos.rauda@actalliance.org](mailto:carlos.rauda@actalliance.org)

**Face painting, performing and outdoor games are all activities used by ACT-member trauma counsellors to help displaced Syrian children express their feelings. These children are among thousands who have benefited from a range of counselling programmes.**

ACT/IOCC/GOPA

## Disability-inclusive development

Disability and poverty cause and compound one another. Disability affects people across the world in all aspects of development and humanitarian work. The Disability-Inclusive Development CoP aims to raise the profile of disability in the ACT Alliance, promote understanding of it as a human rights issue and actively advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. The CoP's role is to gather the experiences of ACT members and others working in this area, to share that knowledge and support members to implement disability-inclusive programmes. While many ACT Alliance members have been working on this issue for a long time, there has previously been no systematic learning across the network. The CoP is made up of people both with and without disabilities.

Over the last year, the CoP has been putting together an

innovative package of resources, which will be available in 2015. It includes tools, checklists and training agendas. It will be accompanied by a guidance note on how best to use the resources.

"We're excited about the work we've been doing in 2014 to put together a kit of resources, bringing together the best materials available and building on the knowledge in the ACT networks, which will provide the tools needed for organisations in the network to become more disability inclusive."

**Lauren Kathage, CoP chair**

For more information, contact Alexandra Segura: [alexandra.segura@actalliance.org](mailto:alexandra.segura@actalliance.org)



# Gender equality and justice

ACT has committed itself to working gender awareness into all of its work. The overall objective of the Gender Equality and Justice CoP is to embed gender equality into ACT's internal structures and into the programme guidelines for ACT members. The CoP supports members in their efforts to create policy and programming that works for gender justice, to ensure that programmes reflect the needs and wishes of all people. In 2014, the CoP took part in the ACT Alliance general assembly, with an exhibit highlighting its gender-inclusiveness, rights-based development training manual. It also prepared advocacy resources to assist members lobbying for gender justice in the post-2015 sustainable development process.

For more information, contact Daniel Pieper: [daniel.pieper@actalliance.org](mailto:daniel.pieper@actalliance.org)

**Members of Evergreen women's business group in Boroli Settlement make soap, vaseline and candles. They learnt how to manage a business group as refugees in Uganda.**

LWF/M. Renaux



## Human rights in development

The Human Rights in Development CoP aims to further the implementation of rights-based development strategies within the alliance and among its partners. Its work involves enabling civil society action, based on international human rights standards.

In 2014, the CoP partnered with Catholic development agency CIDSE to publish "Space for Civil Society – How to Protect and Expand an Enabling Environment" and it produced a policy brief on the results and recommendations of the study. The study was launched in March 2014 at the UN Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva. For the launch, the CoP brought together partners from Zimbabwe and Colombia, and was supported by the Swedish, Czech and Irish Missions in Geneva, as well as the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT). A further launch of the study was then held in Denmark, at a public event co-sponsored by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The publication has been translated into Spanish and promoted through the ACT networks in Latin America.

**ACT co-host a side event at the Human Rights Council on Enabling Space for Civil Society Organisations.**

ACT/Sandra Cox



For more information contact Isaiah Toroitich: [isaiah.toroitich@actalliance.org](mailto:isaiah.toroitich@actalliance.org)



# Migration and development



People board a bus near Nepal's Indian border.  
DCA/Thomas White

The Migration and Development CoP, newly formed in 2014, takes advantage of ACT members' and partners' in-depth knowledge to help develop useful interventions for the protection of migrants' rights. The group's common working issues include migrants' rights, statelessness, migration and livelihoods, migration and climate change, and trafficked persons on the move. It also aims to strengthen and increase the visibility of ecumenical structures related to migration and development.

In 2014, the CoP carried out a survey of ACT members on migration and development issues and took part in the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Stockholm, Sweden.

The CoP also took part in the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit and People's SAARC event in Kathmandu, lobbying on labour rights. Members of the CoP also ran workshops during the World Social Forum on Migration (WSFM), in South Africa in December, and took part in the Methodist Conference in Freudenstadt, Germany, on 'Being Church in Times of International Migration'.

For more information, contact Gorden Simango:  
[gorden.simango@actalliance.org](mailto:gorden.simango@actalliance.org)

## Safety and security

The Safety and Security CoP is made up of the safety and security experts linked to ACT member organisations. These experts are responsible for the safety and security of people deployed to programmes. As well as providing training to their own staff, the CoP advises ACT forums in their response efforts.

In 2014, the group delivered training to ACT members in Honduras, the Philippines, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia. It aims to cover every country in which its members work, and monitors hot spots of the world. The great value of this group is in the knowledge of its members and their motivation to provide proper safety and security. In 2014, the CoP developed a new ACT security website to provide safety-related news, security training dates, and access to tools and resources. It also developed minimum standards guidelines for safety and security, and first-aid training for ACT member field staff.

For more information, contact James Davis:  
[james.davis@actalliance.org](mailto:james.davis@actalliance.org)

## Protection

The Protection CoP seeks to strengthen the capacity of ACT and its members to protect crisis-affected communities and to influence the policy of global actors.

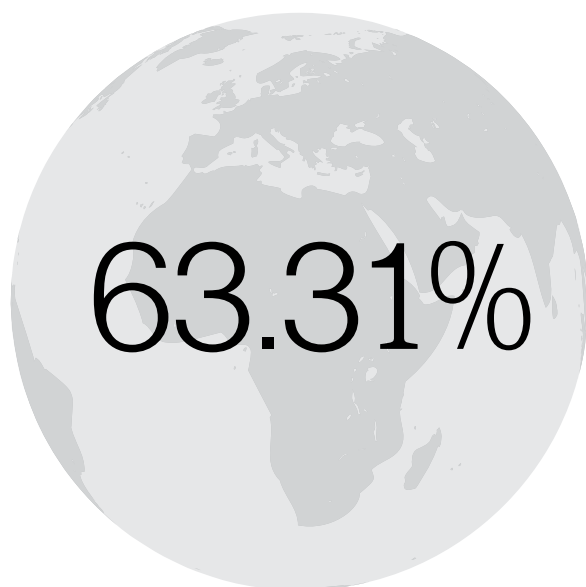
It is a forum to share lessons learned and best practices, to engage in reflection and mutual learning, and to improve protection programming and advocacy. The entire alliance benefits from this expert group when addressing protection challenges. The group offers policy-related advice to members and advisory groups. In 2014, the group undertook advocacy to strengthen community-based protection (CBP) practices and approaches. The CoP helped organise a session on CBP at UNHCR's annual consultations with NGOs, which attracted more than 100 UN, INGO and NGO representatives. Because of its success, a follow-up session will be held in 2015. Also in 2014, the CoP began developing an ACT Alliance Child Protection Policy, which will be approved in 2015.

For more information, contact Alexandra Segura:  
[alexandra.segura@actalliance.org](mailto:alexandra.segura@actalliance.org)



# ACT accounting for change

**APPEAL FUNDS OF US\$21.4M WERE RAISED IN 2014.  
Where were they spent?**



## AFRICA

**US\$13,675,766**

**63.31% of total**

Sudan\* US\$5,319,178

South Sudan US\$3,089,112

Ethiopia US\$1,139,826

Liberia US\$1,008,069

Uganda US\$940,918

Kenya US\$506,297

Democratic Republic of Congo US\$501,230

Somalia US\$492,570

Chad US\$397,816

Sierra Leone US\$169,461

Malawi US\$107,941

Cameroon US\$3,348

\*Funds raised for Sudan include funds collected jointly by ACT and Caritas Internationalis



## MIDDLE EAST

**US\$4,143,347**

**19.18% of total**

Iraq US\$2,826,147

Occupied Palestinian territory US\$1,317,200





## ASIA

**US\$1,260,554**

**5.84% of total**

Pakistan US\$568,918

India US\$308,764

China US\$187,853

Afghanistan US\$101,710

Nepal US\$93,309



## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

**US\$1,121,418**

**5.19% of total**

Central America US\$899,332

Guatemala US\$220,086

Bolivia US\$2,000



## GLOBAL

**US\$1,012,025**

**4.69% of total**

Rapid Response Fund US\$1,012,025



## EUROPE

**US\$396,853**

**1.84% of total**

Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina US\$396,853

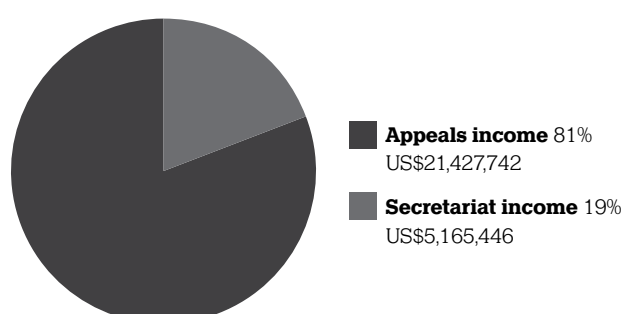


# Audited financial statements

## Balance sheet for the year ended 31 December 2014 (US\$)

	2014	2013
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash at bank	3,681,324	5,549,184
Short term deposits	2,000,108	1,000,324
Income receivable net	621,466	188,637
Staff advances	56,450	46,559
Other debtors and prepayments	107,549	162,962
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>6,466,896</b>	<b>6,947,666</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND OWN FUNDS</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	536,238	630,166
Funds received in advance (Unspent earmarked contribution)	3,776	117,998
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>540,015</b>	<b>748,164</b>
<b>Funds in trust</b>		
Appeals funds	4,337,932	4,261,324
Appeal Evaluation Fund	26,802	26,802
<b>Total funds in trust</b>	<b>4,364,734</b>	<b>4,288,126</b>
<b>Own funds</b>	-	-
<b>General reserve</b>	-	-
<b>A. Restricted reserve</b>	<b>1,210,095</b>	<b>1,296,121</b>
<b>B. Unrestricted Reserve at beginning of year</b>	<b>300,456</b>	<b>218,994</b>
Exchange fluctuation fund transferred to unrestricted reserve	-	134,884
Result of operations for the year	51,597	(53,422)
<b>Unrestricted Reserve at end of year</b>	<b>352,053</b>	<b>300,456</b>
<b>TOTAL GENERAL RESERVE</b>	<b>1,562,148</b>	<b>1,596,577</b>
Provision for the next assembly in 2014	-	314,800
<b>Total own funds</b>	<b>1,562,148</b>	<b>1,911,377</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OWN FUNDS</b>	<b>6,466,896</b>	<b>6,947,666</b>

### Total income 2014



### Secretariat income 2014





**Income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2014 (US\$)**

	2014	2013
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Fees</b>		
Membership fees	148,000	143,500
Income-based fees	2,059,054	2,047,894
International coordination fees	817,854	686,338
<b>Total fees</b>	<b>3,024,908</b>	<b>2,877,732</b>
<b>Voluntary contributions</b>		
Voluntary contributions unearmarked	533,760	370,585
Voluntary contributions earmarked to strategic aims	1,244,260	841,656
Voluntary contributions to 2014 Assembly	49,418	–
<b>Total voluntary contributions</b>	<b>1,827,438</b>	<b>1,212,241</b>
Interest received	23,535	11,539
Other income	122,366	19,824
Other income 2014 Assembly	167,198	–
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>5,165,446</b>	<b>4,121,336</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Staff costs	3,610,750	2,758,996
Office costs	404,130	428,332
Meetings	91,402	85,500
Communications	94,551	54,662
Project-related costs	1,031,287	572,869
Provisions and write off	69,113	201,918
Exchange (gain)/loss – core budget	109,561	(73,860)
Exchange (gain)/loss – general reserve	103,883	(338)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>5,514,677</b>	<b>4,028,079</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR BEFORE ALLOCATIONS</b>	<b>(349,231)</b>	<b>93,257</b>
Interest capitalised to restricted reserve	(23,535)	(11,539)
Exchange (gain)/loss transferred to restricted reserve	109,561	(338)
Allocation to 2014 Assembly provision	314,802	(134,802)
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR AFTER ALLOCATIONS</b>	<b>51,597</b>	<b>(53,422)</b>



# ACT members

## AFRICA

**Angola** Angolan Council of Christian Churches (ACCC/CICA)  
**Angola** Igreja Evangélica Reformada de Angola (IERA)  
**Burkina Faso** Association of Reformed Evangelical Churches of Burkina Faso (AEERB)  
**Burundi** National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB)  
**Burundi** The Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi (EEB)  
**Cameroon** Eglise Fraternelle Luthérienne du Cameroun (EFLC)  
**DRC** Evangelical Lutheran Church in Congo (ELCCO)  
**DRC** Ecumenical Office for Development Support (BOAD)  
**DRC** Centre Oecuménique pour la Promotion du Monde Rural (COPROMOR)  
**DRC** Eglise du Christ au Congo Bureau National (ECC)  
**Ethiopia** Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY)  
**Ethiopia** Ethiopian Orthodox Church – Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC)  
**Ghana** Presbyterian Church in Ghana (PCG)  
**Kenya** National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK)  
**Kenya** Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK)  
**Kenya** All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)  
**Kenya** Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA)  
**Kenya** Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA)  
**Lesotho** Christian Council of Lesotho (CCL)  
**Liberia** Lutheran Church in Liberia (LCL)  
**Liberia** Lutheran Development Service, Liberia (LDS-Liberia)  
**Madagascar** Eglise de Jésus-Christ à Madagascar – Dépt pour le Développement (FJKM)  
**Madagascar** Malagasy Lutheran Church (MLC)  
**Malawi** Evangelical Lutheran Development Service (ELDS)  
**Malawi** CCAP Blantyre Synod Health and Development Commission  
**Malawi** Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM)  
**Malawi** Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD)  
**Malawi** Malawi Council of Churches  
**Mozambique** Comité Ecuménico para o Desenvolvimento Social (CEDES)  
**Mozambique** Christian Council of Mozambique (CCM)  
**Nigeria** Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN)  
**Sierra Leone** Council of Churches in S.L. (CCSL)  
**Senegal** Eglise Luthérienne du Sénégal (ELS)  
**South Africa** Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA, Southern Africa  
**South Africa** Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA)  
**South Sudan** Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency (PRDA)  
**Swaziland** Lutheran Development Service, Swaziland (LDS-Swaziland)  
**Tanzania** Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT)  
**Tanzania** Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service (TCRS)  
**Uganda** Church of Uganda (CoU)  
**Uganda** Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC)  
**Uganda** Rural Action Based Organisation (RACOBABO)  
**Zambia** Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ)  
**Zambia** United Church of Zambia (UCZ)  
**Zimbabwe** Lutheran Development Service in Zimbabwe (LDS-Zimbabwe)  
**Zimbabwe** Christian Care (CC)  
**Zimbabwe** Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC)

## ASIA

**Bangladesh** Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB)  
**Bangladesh** KOINONIA  
**Bangladesh** Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS)  
**Bangladesh** Social Health and Education Development (SHED)  
**Cambodia** Life With Dignity (LWD)  
**China** Amity Foundation (AF)  
**India** Christian Agency for Rural Development (CARD)  
**India** United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India (UELICI)  
**India** Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA)  
**India** Synodical Board of Social Services, Church of North India (SBSS-CNI)  
**India** Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSTI)  
**Indonesia** Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Community Development Studies (CDRMCDs)  
**Indonesia** Indonesian Christian Association for Health Services (ICAHS/PELKESI)  
**Indonesia** YAKKUM (including YEU)  
**Japan** National Christian Council in Japan (NCCJ)  
**Korea** Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK)  
**Philippines** National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP)  
**Sri Lanka** National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL)  
**Taiwan** Presbyterian Church of Taiwan (PCT)

## AUSTRALASIA

**Australia** Act for Peace  
**Australia** Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS)  
**Australia** Anglican Overseas Aid – Australia  
**Australia** UnitingWorld: Relief and Development Unit  
**New Zealand** Christian World Service (CWS)

## EASTERN EUROPE

**Armenia** Armenia Inter-Church Charitable Round Table Foundation (ARTF)  
**Czech Republic** Diaconia of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB)  
**Hungary** Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA)  
**Serbia** Philanthropy – The Charitable Fund of the Serbian Orthodox Church  
**Romania** Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania (AIDRom)  
**Russia** Russian Orthodox Church – Department for External Church Relations (ROC)

## EUROPE

**Austria** Diakonie  
**Belgium** Solidarité Protestante (SP)  
**Denmark** DanChurchAid (DCA)  
**Finland** Finn Church Aid (FCA)  
**Germany** Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH)  
**Germany** Bread for the World – Protestant Development Service (BfWdW)  
**Iceland** Icelandic Church Aid (ICA)  
**Norway** Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)  
**Sweden** Church of Sweden, International Mission and Diakonia (CoS)  
**Sweden** Diakonia Sweden  
**Switzerland** Bread for All (BFA)  
**Switzerland** Swiss Interchurch Aid (HEKS)  
**The Netherlands** ICCO Cooperation  
**The Netherlands** Kerk in Actie  
**UK and Ireland** Christian Aid (CA)

## GLOBAL

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)  
ECLOF International

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

**Argentina** Fundacion Hora de Otrar (FHdO)  
**Brazil** Coordenadoria Ecuménica de Serviço (CESE)  
**Brazil** Diaconia  
**Brazil** Fundação Luterana de Diaconia (FLD)  
**Brazil** KOINONIA  
**Bolivia** Asociación Boliviana Uniendo Manos por la Vida (RED UMAVIDA)  
**Bolivia** Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Boliviana (IELB)  
**Bolivia** Iglesia Evangélica Metodista en Bolivia (IEMB)  
**Chile** Centro Ecuménico Diego de Medellín (CEDM)  
**Chile** Fundación de Ayuda Social de Las Iglesias Cristianas (FASIC)  
**Chile** Educación Popular en Salud (EPES)  
**Colombia** Iglesia Evangélica Luterana de Colombia (IELCO)  
**Colombia** Presbyterian Church of Colombia (IPC)  
**Costa Rica** Iglesia Luterana Costarricense (ILC)  
**Cuba** Council of Churches of Cuba (CCC)  
**Dominican Republic** Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas (SSID)  
**El Salvador** Asociación Cristiana de Educación y Desarrollo (ALFALIT)  
**El Salvador** Salvadorian Lutheran Synod (SLS)  
**Guatemala** Asociación Conferencia de Iglesias Evangélicas de Guatemala (CIEDEG)  
**Guatemala** Consejo Ecuménico Cristiano de Guatemala (CECG)  
**Guatemala** Centro Evangélico de Estudios pastorales en Centro América (Cedepca)  
**Haiti** Service Chrétien d'Haiti (SCH)  
**Haiti** Mission Sociale des Eglises Haïtiennes (MISSEH)  
**Honduras** Comisión de Acción Social Menonita (CASM)  
**Nicaragua** Accion Medica Cristiana (AMC)  
**Nicaragua** Association for Social Development of the Moravian Church (ADSIM)  
**Nicaragua** Centro Intereclesial de Estudios Teológicos y Sociales (CIEETS)  
**Nicaragua** Council of Evangelical Churches (CEPAD)  
**Nicaragua** Iglesia Luterana de Nicaragua (ILN)  
**Paraguay** Comité de Iglesias Para Ayudas de Emergencia (CIPAE)  
**Peru** Diaconia Peru  
**Regional (LA)** Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias (CLAI)  
**Regional (LA)** Centro Regional Ecuménico de Asesoría y Servicio (CREAS)

## MIDDLE EAST

**Egypt** Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical and Social Services of the Coptic Orthodox Church (BLESS/COC)  
**Lebanon** Middle East Council of Churches (MECC)  
**OpT** The East Jerusalem YMCA  
**OpT** The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL)  
**Regional (M.E)** Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees of the Middle East Council of Churches (DSPP-MECC)

## NORTH AMERICA

**Canada** United Church of Canada: Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit (UCC)  
**Canada** Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWSO)  
**Canada** Primates World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)  
**Canada** World Renew (WR)  
**Canada** Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)  
**Canada** World Association for Christian Communication (WACC)  
**USA** Baptist World Aid (USA)  
**USA** Church World Service (CWS)  
**USA** Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA)  
**USA** International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)  
**USA** Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)  
**USA** United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) USA  
**USA** Lutheran World Relief (LWR)

## OBSERVERS

**Australia** Anglican Board of Mission (ABM)  
**Global** Anglican Alliance  
**Global** Mission EineWelt  
**Global** World Student Christian Federation (WSCF)  
**Global** Vereinte Evangelische Mission (United Evangelical Mission)  
**Finland** Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM)  
**Regional (Europe)** Conference of European Churches (CEC)



# Governance

## Governing Board 2014

Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel (Moderator)  
Francisco de Assis da Silva (Vice-Moderator)  
Sushant Agrawal  
Monijinir Byapari  
Victoria Cortez  
Donna Derr  
Rob Floyd  
Veera Hämäläinen  
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Masimango Katanda  
Rose Kumwenda-Ngoma

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John Nduna  
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Henrik Stubkjaer  
Elsa Tesfay  
Dean Triantafilou  
Paul Valentin  
Ramzi Zananiri  
Qiu Zhonghui

## Executive Committee 2014

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  
Isabel Phiri  
Humberto Shikiya  
Paul Valentin

**ACT's strength comes from scores of coordinated groups of alliance members, working at national and regional level and with a range of professional skills. 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 and 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 in Development  
Impact Orientation  
Migration and Development  
Protection  
Psychosocial Support  
Safety and Security

**ACT is a member of**



International  
Council of  
Voluntary  
Agencies



Humanitarian  
Accountability  
Partnership



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A man on Jinamoc Island in the Philippines weaves a fishing net at his home. The island was hit by Typhoon Haiyan at the end of 2013. ACT Alliance has been present since the first moments of the emergency, accompanying the people of Jinamoc to rebuild their lives and livelihoods.

Photo: ACT/Paul Jeffrey