

Stronger together: **working for a climate-stable future**





Contents

- 1 ACT in numbers**
- 2 Introduction by General Secretary John Nduna**
- 3 ACT over a year**
- 6 ACT in emergencies**
- 6 ACT in Africa**
 - Drought in Namibia and Angola
 - The displaced in the Central African Republic
 - Cyclone in Madagascar
 - Climate change and conflict in Mali
 - DRC refugees in Uganda
- 10 ACT in the Middle East**
 - Ongoing humanitarian crisis in Syria
- 11 ACT in Eastern Europe**
 - Syrian refugees in Armenia
 - Flash floods in Romania
 - Flood victims in Russia

- 12 ACT in Asia**
 - Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines
 - Floods in Cambodia
 - India: floods and landslides
 - India: Cyclone Phailin
- 15 ACT in the Caribbean**
 - Ongoing recovery in Haiti
- 16 ACT working together for development**
 - Gender equality and justice
 - Disability-inclusive development
 - Psychosocial support
 - Rights in development
 - Safety and security
 - Protection
 - Project impact
 - DRR and adaptation to climate change

- 20 ACT in development and advocacy**
 - Middle East: EU action
 - Indonesia: fighting for resilience
 - Guatemala: upholding the rights of indigenous women
 - Kenya: campaigning for peace
 - Climate justice is an ACT priority
 - ACT's voice in post-2015 development
 - Bad business: taking a stand
 - Initiating inter-religious dialogue
- 24 ACT Alliance members**
- 26 ACT accounting for change**
- 28 Finance report**
- 29 Governance**

Cover: Children run through the street in Timbuktu. The city, in northern Mali, was seized by Islamist fighters in 2012 and then liberated by French and Malian soldiers in early 2013. ACT Alliance is helping displaced families return to Timbuktu.
Photo: ACT/Paul Jeffrey

This page: Fish from a polluted stream in Rodriguez, Philippines. Families were relocated here from other areas of Manila and the nearby countryside to make way for urban renewal projects. With help from ACT members, communities have taken part in a process of disaster risk reduction, including identifying and mapping high-risk zones and evacuation routes in their area.
Photo: ACT/Paul Jeffrey

25,000
staff and volunteers

Rooted
in the communities
we serve

140
countries

Working together for sustainable change

76%
global
south

22%
global
north

2%
global
organisations

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

Fighting
poverty
and injustice

144
members

Achieving success through
coordinated humanitarian,
development and advocacy work



ACT General Secretary John Nduna talks with Mercy Estosane and a translator in Bacubac, Philippines. The province of Samar was badly affected by Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013.
Photo: ACT/Paul Jeffrey

The number of people living in extreme poverty – earning less than US\$1.25 a day – has halved in the past two decades. Yet the violent and fragile nature of so many of these lives remains. ACT Alliance is committed to continuing to champion humanitarian and development issues.

The year 2013 ended with three extreme emergencies – in Syria, the Philippines and the Central African Republic. All of them were designated the highest level of humanitarian crisis by the United Nations. These represent the types of protracted, weather-related and civil emergencies to which the world has sadly become more accustomed. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) says that in 2013, some 15.6 million people were classed as internally displaced and 10 million were living as refugees. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) says that by 2015, half of the world's population living on less than US\$1.25 a day will be in fragile states.

One issue that will demand more of our time as an alliance, with increasing urgency, is climate change. Many stories in this report cover catastrophes caused by extreme weather. And our work in advocating for new climate ambition is as important as the relief work our members carry out across the globe.

As we strive towards accountability as an alliance – to donors, beneficiaries, members, partners and colleagues – we are proud that the ACT Secretariat was this year certified with the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership's 2010 HAP Standard in Accountability and Quality Management. As the first secretariat of a global alliance to be certified by HAP, we have set a benchmark for future alliances. We will continue to push for greater accountability in the sector: the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) is in the process of creating a certification system, and core humanitarian standards for humanitarian agencies are also being written – two processes in which ACT and our members have played active roles.

Our membership grew again this year. We have a total of 144 members as we move into the final phase of our current strategic plan. We are developing a new strategy to take us from 2015 to 2018 – one that will more effectively combine our strengths in development,

humanitarian and advocacy work.

The core value of our alliance continues to lie squarely in the work of our members and partners, who every day seek to tackle poverty and respond to emergencies caused by wars and natural disasters. Thank you for your support – political, financial, in-kind and seconded – and for your unfailing commitment to a world free of injustice, inequality and poverty.

John Nduna
General Secretary
ACT Alliance



At the Hamadia camp for displaced people in Darfur, Sudan, students learn Arabic, English, mathematics and more. Tens of thousands of camp residents have access to clean water, healthcare, free medicine, schools, and other services thanks to projects supported by ACT Alliance and Caritas Internationalis.
Photo: ACT Caritas/Laura Shea

ACT over a year

ACT members raised US\$34.8m for our emergency appeals in 2013, with the largest amounts directed to the most critical humanitarian disasters: US\$8m for relief following the typhoon in the Philippines; US\$7.2m for lifesaving materials for Syrians displaced both within the country and in neighbouring states; and US\$7.1m for the Sudanese people of Darfur living in camps. In total, 29 emergency appeals were issued.

This year we outlined the targets we'd like to see set when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) come to an end in 2015; and as new climate agreements are being shaped, we have begun paving the way for our most ambitious climate campaign yet.

Alongside all of this, our members' work has continued to tackle the long-term, life-saving and resilience-building efforts that help communities recover from conflict, improve their livelihoods and run effective education, health and sanitation programmes.



“ACT Alliance is committed to continuing to champion humanitarian and development issues”

John Nduna, General Secretary

January to March



A child sleeps in the sand in Timbuktu, Mali. ACT Alliance is helping families who fled during the period of Islamist control in 2012-13 to return to the north of Mali and restart their lives.

ACT/Paul Jeffrey

April to June



Relief materials in transit to support hundreds of thousands of people whose homes are destroyed by earthquakes in Sichuan and Gansu provinces, China.

ACT/Amity Foundation

July to September



Sanaa is a Palestinian Syrian refugee. She and her family fled Yarmouk refugee camp in Damascus, in February 2013, to go to Lebanon. At first they slept on the streets. Now they live in a small, cold, dark apartment.

ACT/Natalie Naccache

October to December



Arakhakuda village, Orissa, India, a few days after Cyclone Phailin hit. The damage to buildings and housing left a million people homeless. Many destitute families face having to rebuild from scratch.

ACT/CASA

ACT members start the year continuing humanitarian relief operations in Syria, where fighting has at this stage killed 70,000 people. Several ACT members assist affected populations through an ACT appeal both inside Syria and in Lebanon and Jordan. At the UN Syria funding conference, ACT calls for increased aid and predicts that Syrian refugee numbers will exceed UN estimates. • In post-conflict Mali, members set out to strengthen the resilience of communities by supporting income-generating activities, helping to improve their livelihood skills and supporting reconciliation efforts. • ACT responds to floods in Malawi, Mozambique and Madagascar (the latter in response to cyclone Haruna), reaching out to 1,200 affected families. • An appeal is issued for people in Sri Lanka affected by flooding. • Global advocacy work gains momentum with ACT stating its ideals for the process to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015, and making a submission to the UN on conflict and fragility. • ACT takes part in the Commission on the Status of Women, in New York. • International Women’s Day and World Water Day statements relate to the post-MDG agenda, with the World Water Day statement addressing climate-induced desertification as a cause of conflict. • ACT seeks accreditation to three UN Human Rights Council committees. ■

Moves advance to integrate APRODEV, the advocacy body of ecumenical European development organisations, into ACT Alliance. • Concern about gross human rights violations in garment factories, following the Rana Plaza collapse in Bangladesh, leads ACT to make a submission to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) about business enterprises and human rights. • Representing faith organisations, ACT takes part in the second Civil Society Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) coordination meeting. • Some 20 representatives of faith-based organisations attend an ACT-hosted consultation that pledges to advance the involvement of faith organisations in the CPDE. • China’s Sichuan province is jolted by an earthquake, destroying nearly 200,000 homes. ACT issues a US\$1.8m appeal. • Uttarakhand, India, experiences a series of floods and landslides, affecting tens of thousands of religious pilgrims as well as locals. A US\$1.4m appeal is launched. • An appeal is issued to support the 140,000 people who have survived the inter-communal conflict in Rakhine state, Myanmar, and are living in camps. • At the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, ACT initiates a discussion with the UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to ensure community leaders, grassroots leaders and practitioners take part in the platform. • An ACT delegation visits the US government, politicians and ACT members in Washington and New York to discuss areas of collaboration on climate justice. ■

The appeal for Syria totals US\$6.4m by this stage of the conflict. • Another earthquake shakes China, this time in Gansu province, and ACT responds with an appeal. • ACT issues an appeal for Andhra Pradesh, India, following heavy floods. Elsewhere in India, Maharashtra state faces extreme food insecurity caused by drought • An appeal issued for rural Angolan families aims to alleviate suffering caused by drought and restore livelihoods • In neighbouring Namibia, ACT members relieve food shortages caused by drought. • ACT members monitor elections in Zimbabwe. • The ACT/ Caritas programme in Darfur, western Sudan, continues with a focus on supporting Sudanese partners. • Refugees fleeing fighting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo receive ACT relief when crossing to Uganda. • Following agreement with the UN, all ACT appeals will be reflected in the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) financial tracking system. • ACT meets the chair of the Least Developed Countries climate change bloc, and lobbies delegates at climate change talks in Bonn. ACT hosts a high-level discussion on climate change equity, bringing together key governments, academics and experts in an effort to generate trust among governments. • ACT takes part in the UN General Assembly session on the MDGs. • ACT gives input to key UN-level events, including the annual UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) consultation, the post-MDG agenda, and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) annual meeting • ACT also promotes articles on climate change, World Environment Day and land-reform agreements in Colombia. ■

ACT is one of a handful of organisations invited to address the UN’s Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing during its civil society organisation (CSO) session. • Civil society leaders from 30 countries meet in Blantyre, Malawi, for an ACT conference on restrictions to CSOs. • Appeals issued in this period include those for the Central African Republic, the Darfur programme, Cyclone Phailin in India and Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. • ACT takes part in the COP19 UN climate talks. • Following an intensive process, ACT becomes the first secretariat to receive HAP certification. • The ACT Capacity Development Initiative evaluation reaches its peak with the creation of a new strategic direction. • ACT has a significant presence at the World Council of Churches Assembly, participating in workshops, ecumenical conversations, and with an exhibit and themed talks. • The Rapid Support Team is mobilised to support relief efforts in the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan. • At the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, members highlight exploitative extractive industries through a submission to the UN working group and a side event that attracts a full house. • ACT ends the year having made 29 emergency appeals, raising US\$34.8m and granting 14 rapid response payments. ■

ACT in emergencies

ACT IN AFRICA Drought in Namibia and Angola



In 2013, a national drought emergency was declared in Namibia, with roughly 37 per cent of the population considered at high risk.

In the Okarukoro area of north-eastern Namibia, for example, there has been no rain for three years. Okarukoro is normally arid and the Himba people living there have, for generations, been relying on livestock – breeding and selling, and living off dairy produce. But, after these years of drought, the cattle have died. Only a few small goats remain.

The prolonged drought means that people in the area now eat only one meal a day; children are suffering, and cases of malnutrition and starvation are increasing.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stated in its fourth assessment report: "By 2020, some

countries' yields from rain-fed agriculture could be reduced by up to 50 per cent. Agricultural production, including access to food, is projected to be severely compromised in many African countries. This would further adversely affect food security and exacerbate malnutrition."

Sadly, Namibia is not the only country facing the challenges of severe drought. In Angola in 2013, 1.8 million people were estimated to be suffering severe food insecurity.

IPCC climate scientists map both countries as likely to suffer increasingly from heatwaves, disease-carrying vectors, drought and agricultural problems.

The ACT response to this situation was based on assessments made with communities and local government representatives. In Angola, ACT members distributed food rations in hard-hit communities. In Namibia, unconditional cash grants were distributed, allowing those affected to make their own choices about what best met their dietary needs.

Cash grants are known to give households fast access to the items they most need. They were given on a per capita basis through a cash card to every caregiver. The response is being closely monitored to document impact. The benefits of cash grants include low administration and logistics costs.

In both countries, ACT members worked to train the affected communities on emergency preparedness and disaster risk reduction. And in Namibia, ACT trained community leaders on rights-based approaches and advocacy strategies for work with local governments. ■

Communities in southern Angola face severe drought and food insecurity. Rural communities are being helped with emergency food rations and through the introduction of new seeds, education and farming techniques. Photo: LWF/Nzakimuena Daniel

NAMIBIA Food production severely hit by drought

Appeal target: US\$682,515
Amount raised: US\$570,243

ANGOLA Assistance to drought-affected rural families in Huila and Cunene provinces

Appeal target: US\$740,799
Amount raised: US\$517,224

The displaced in the Central African Republic

Violence in the Central African Republic since March 2013 has left millions of people in need of emergency assistance and remains a major hindrance to relief efforts. We have long advocated for security and humanitarian access, and are supporting refugees who are spilling into the neighbouring countries of Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Central African Republic is one of the poorest countries in the world, ranked 180th out of 187 countries listed in the UN Human Development Index. Therefore competition for resources and opportunities is fierce. Issues of land rights and poverty underpin the conflict, which erupted when the Séléka – a coalition of largely Muslim rebel groups – overthrew the government. In response, Christian militias – the Anti-Balaka – formed to retaliate. Both sides are accused of gross human rights violations and massacres. There has been a complete breakdown of law and order, and the UN and France warned that the country was "at risk of spiralling into genocide".

The UN estimates that fighting has forced 935,000 people from their homes. Almost half of the country's population – nearly 2.2 million people – are seeking humanitarian assistance and their numbers continue to grow. Armed attacks and killings continue unabated, with violence and counter-violence now deeply rooted.

Nearly 700,000 people are displaced inside the Central African Republic and 250,000 have fled to neighbouring countries. Large areas of farmland are no longer being cultivated due to the displacement, and famine is developing as the food security situation grows critical. The crisis will probably ruin more than one agricultural season, and many families have already lost their food reserves, not to mention their tools, seeds, livestock and revenue, as a result of looting and the prolonged emergency.

Basic social services, such as schooling and medical care, are almost non-existent and it is increasingly challenging for people to make ends meet. Sexual abuse has been widely reported and children have been recruited by militias as soldiers.

Since the violence erupted, the African Union has sent in 4,000 troops, and France 1,600, as a peacekeeping force. But despite an ongoing peace process and the creation of a transitional government, the security situation remains highly unstable.

We have struggled to get relief into the Central African Republic. ACT members have therefore provided assistance to the waves of refugees who arrived in Chad in 2013, 20,000 of those from the Central African Republic. Working with the UN and Chadian authorities, and with host communities, ACT members have provided emergency interventions on nutrition and carried out community-based psychosocial support and activities to address the extreme trauma many have suffered.

Members are also working to improve livelihoods through agricultural support and income-generating activities. ■

Tens of thousands of refugees arrive in Chad, escaping violence in the Central African Republic. As well as essential aid, many are in need of psychological support. Photo: ACT/Paul Jeffrey

Assisting communities displaced in the Central African Republic

Appeal target: US\$5,673,206
Amount raised: US\$1,171,806



Cyclone in Madagascar

Cyclone Haruna hit south-west Madagascar in mid-February 2013, while many people on the east coast were still recovering from Cyclone Felleng, which had struck on 30 January. Haruna killed 75 people and injured many more. It caused widespread damage to housing, power lines, schools and other infrastructure.

Our members took part in the nationally coordinated emergency response. Many people were evacuated to safety from some of the worst-affected areas before Haruna hit, and we helped provide rescue support and immediate life-saving humanitarian assistance to those who were affected.

Our response reached out to 1,200 families. We sourced food for distribution from 900km away in the capital Antananarivo (supplies having been washed away elsewhere). We distributed rice and vegetables, non-food items such as soap, medicines, water-treatment kits, tents, candles, clothes and blankets, amid significant challenges in some areas where roads had been washed away.

Due to damaged sanitation systems and high floodwaters, cases of malaria, dysentery and diarrhoea began to rise. The flood created good conditions for locusts to breed, which led to locust swarms that affected half of the country's farmland – causing crop destruction, food shortages and high food prices over many months.

Japhet Asukile, convenor of the ACT Forum in Madagascar, highlighted the role of climate change in the increasing weather disasters. He said: "Climate change is affecting us. There are

more cyclones now, which is what climate change scientists have predicted. It is happening now. To say it is having a negative impact is an understatement. We have to be aware of this trend and plan our work around increased risks from climate change." ■



Response to tropical Cyclone Haruna
Rapid Response Fund: US\$64,414

People affected by the cyclone wait for distribution of food and non-food items in the city of Toliara, Madagascar.
Photo: ACT/Jeff Asukile

Climate change and conflict in Mali

Existing chronic food insecurity in Mali was compounded by three years of low rainfall, reducing the availability of food and increasing food prices beyond the reach of the poor. Mali is on the frontline of climate-related emergencies today. The UN Human Development Index ranks the country at 182 out of 187 countries.

In 2013, environmental challenges were aggravated by armed conflict, as rebels and militant Islamists took over the north of the country and imposed a brutal form of Sharia law. French troops, the African Union and UN peacekeeping forces took back control of the territory, but only after months of violence.

Mali appeal
Appeal target: US\$300,000 Amount raised: US\$94,640

The dual destabilising effects of extreme weather and conflict resulted in many people having to leave their homes in search of food and safety. In their search for survival they created new competition for, and conflict over, already scarce resources. During 2013, the number of internally displaced people rose to more than 350,000, and the number of Malian refugees moving into Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso and Algeria rose to more than 180,000.

Our members came together to help the displaced people in camps in the south of Mali, those in and around the capital Bamako, and the people who were slowly returning to the north as the violence subsided. We supported people with food, education, health, essential non-food items such as blankets, hygiene kits and mosquito nets, water and sanitation and psychosocial work.

Philippe Bassinga, an ACT member manager for the Sahel crisis, described how ACT had helped people returning to the country: "Returning refugees and displaced persons can access food. It's on the market," he said. "But they don't have money to buy what's on the market. So we've had to combine our response to the conflict with our response to food insecurity in the Sahel. That means helping people better manage their assets, such as food and livestock, but also providing cash through direct transfer programmes and cash-for-work opportunities." ■

A woman and her child wash dishes in the Niger River at Segou, Mali.
Photo: ACT/Paul Jeffrey



DRC refugees in Uganda

The presence of uncontrolled armed groups in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has led to severe insecurity and displacement of people. The terror these groups have unleashed has included sexual violence, killings, arbitrary executions and other gross human rights violations. Tens of thousands of refugees have fled to Uganda to escape the violence. Many fled to the Rwamwanja refugee settlement in western Uganda, which is being run by an ACT member.

In the first three months of 2013, the number of Congolese refugees at Rwamwanja rose from 20,000 to more than 50,000, putting huge pressure on the site. By the end of 2013, the settlement housed 54,000.

During the year, our member took over most of the responsibilities of the camp, including water and sanitation, livelihoods, environment and community services (such as security and protection), and looking after the elderly and unaccompanied minors. Our member also works in the Bubukwanga transit centre, which funnels new arrivals to the camp. However, with the settlement spread over 104km² and 26 villages, it has been difficult to reach everyone with services and food.

Refugees are facing many serious problems, including limited access to basic services and sexual- and gender-based violence. At the settlement there is an urgent need for more legal and social support, and for more health workers, to respond to those cases that are reported.

Available data shows that 85 per cent of the people at Rwamwanja are under 18, and the ACT appeal is particularly addressing the vulnerability of young people to abuse.

The South Sudan crisis also added to the numbers of refugees arriving in Uganda. Emergency food rations have been diverted from Rwamwanja, leaving the Congolese there on half rations. ACT's work on livelihoods – enabling farmers to produce food on the site – has become vital.

Assistance to refugees arriving in Uganda from the DRC
Appeal target: US\$650,087
Amount raised: US\$661,735

At the end of the year, Jesse Kamstra, country representative for our member operating the Rwamwanja camp, said: "Thankfully the situation in the DRC is calming down. While most people are still afraid to return, as the last groups of rebels are still being disbanded, some people are returning home. But with the recent influx of 74,000 South Sudanese refugees, agencies are diverting resources away from Rwamwanja. This means that investment in livelihoods, for people to provide for themselves, is important to reduce the suffering of the people there."

The refugees are uncertain about what the future holds. They are dealing with unfavourable dwellings, rudimentary hygiene and sanitation, and limited food, clothing and medical care. While ACT's appeal cannot change all of that at once, our work helps to save lives and provide essential care for the most vulnerable among them. ■



A delivery of 2,000 cups, 2,000 plates and seven tons of soap reaches refugees in Uganda.
Photo: ACT/DCA/LWF/Mai Gad



ACT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Ongoing humanitarian crisis in Syria

Layal is a Palestinian Syrian refugee. She and her family fled to Lebanon after a bomb fell on their home. They now live in an electricity storeroom. "Look at us," she says. "I am embarrassed for you to come in."

Photo: ACT/Natalie Naccache

The civil war in Syria has been raging for three years, causing a severe humanitarian crisis. According to the UN, more than 4 million people have been displaced within the country and more than 2 million refugees have found their way to Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and countries further afield. The death toll rose by 20,000 in just the three months from June to September 2013.

ACT Alliance members have been providing humanitarian support from the onset of the crisis. An ACT appeal in 2013 raised US\$7.2m, and with it five of our members (working on health, food and essential non-food items, shelter, education and psychosocial work) came together as the ACT Jordan/Syria/Lebanon Forum to coordinate the humanitarian response. They have been assisting conflict-affected families inside Syria, as well as refugees and host communities in Lebanon and Jordan. Around 500,000 people in Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey were beneficiaries of the 12-month appeal, and ACT continues to respond with humanitarian assistance.

The magnitude and complexity of the crisis, and the scale of the ACT humanitarian response, required an external evaluation of the appeal, which was carried out in late 2013. The evaluation commended the work members have done to provide an essential lifeline to the people affected by the conflict.

ACT continued to work in the Za'atari refugee camp, just south of the Syrian border in Jordan, where the population expanded from 60,000 in January to 120,000 in July. Our members helped prepare refugees for the winter through rehabilitation of dwellings and heating, and the distribution of winter clothes. Syrians had arrived unprepared for the harsh 2013 winter, which brought historic snowfall, reportedly the heaviest for 140 years. Other programmes have included education, livelihoods, public health and shelter.

Syria appeal

ACT appeal target: US\$19,954,916

Amount raised: US\$7,247,135

Because so many refugees have emerged from deeply traumatic experiences and face conditions that tend to lead to conflict, our members have also put in place community-based psychosocial support, peace-building and conflict-mitigation programmes.

2013 saw many calls from foreign governments for military intervention. We called for a peaceful solution, urging all parties to adhere to international humanitarian law, protect civilians and to negotiate an end to the conflict. ■

ACT IN EASTERN EUROPE

Syrian refugees in Armenia

Assistance to the Syrian refugees in Armenia

Appeal target: US\$195,774

Amount raised: US\$96,096

More than 11,000 Syrian refugees have arrived in Armenia. Most are ethnic Armenians whose families originally fled the 1915-16 Armenian genocide in which more than 1 million Armenians were killed. One-third of the existing Armenian population already live in poverty and 18 per cent are unemployed.

It is a situation that does not bode well for the refugees – almost none are able to find employment and consequently they quickly use up the resources they bring.

Following a very successful Rapid Response Fund programme in 2012, an appeal in 2013 raised US\$96,096 and was disbursed to an ACT member. The goal of the response was to assist 942 Syrian refugee families in Armenia.

Most of the refugees arrived with little and hoped to return home soon. However, as the conflict has intensified and prolonged, this has not been possible and they have been

forced to rely on assistance. With many refugees living with extended family in the capital Yerevan, in often cramped, overcrowded conditions, the situation is challenging for their hosts too.

Our member used a reliable direct transfer system to get food and basic essentials to the refugees through the use of plastic charge cards from a supermarket chain. The cards can be used by cardholders to buy the items they most need, but do not allow the purchase of alcohol and cigarettes. ■

Flash floods in Romania

Emergency relief for flash floods in Romania

Rapid Response Fund: US\$49,917

Torrential rains swept eastern Romania in mid-September, wreaking devastation in towns and rural areas of the Moldova province. Thousands of villagers fled as floodwaters rose and spread. Housing, bridges, roads and

other infrastructure were destroyed. Farmers lost standing crops, farm buildings and livestock, and many had their soil washed away, incurring debts for the agriculturally dependent population in the region.

ACT dispersed US\$49,917 from its Rapid Response Fund to assist with the emergency relief work carried out in the immediate aftermath of the floods. This meant our member in the country was able to respond quickly and effectively, distributing food

parcels containing rations for a month to 400 families, as well as hygiene kits and clean drinking water.

Many families had lost winter clothes in the floods. As the cold weather closed in, our member provided those worst affected with 700 packs of winter clothing. ■

Flood victims in Russia

Emergency assistance to flood victims in the Amur region

Rapid Response Fund: US\$40,000

In August 2013, around the Amur River in the far east of Russia, water levels rose by more than 7.5m, causing severe flooding in 190 villages. Twenty-four thousand people were evacuated and 9,500 houses were damaged. In total, 98,000 people were affected by

water damage to their homes and farmlands.

One of our members in the region took an active role in the emergency work, providing victims with shelter, food, bedding and medicine. As well as delivering direct assistance, we appealed to government authorities across the region to help those affected by the flooding.

The use of our Rapid Response Fund included the provision of clean drinking water in an area where there were grave concerns about water-borne disease, because of the

inundation of sewerage systems and damage to drinking-water systems. Hygiene kits were provided, tailored to the needs of men, women and children. And basic medical care was given to injured people. ACT was able to assist 1,200 people through the project, many of whom had been forced to evacuate leaving all of their belongings behind. ■

ACT IN ASIA

Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines

Typhoon Haiyan, considered the world's deadliest typhoon and one of the most powerful to ever make landfall, tore through the Philippines on the morning of 8 November 2013 with winds of up to 275km an hour. ACT established a coordination centre in Manila, and initiated a massive combined response that has topped US\$10m.

Haiyan cut a devastating path across nine provinces, leaving behind millions of tons of debris. More than 16 million people were affected and 4 million displaced. More than half a million houses were destroyed and another 590,000 houses were badly damaged. And the typhoon's ferocity left schools, clinics and businesses unable to operate.

At least 6,245 people were killed by the typhoon, 28,000 were injured and 1,000 people were still missing at the end of 2013.

The United Nations humanitarian coordinator launched a Flash Appeal. ACT registered nine projects, all of which were approved and included in the appeal.

The preparedness of the ACT Forum in the Philippines, and its commitment to effective and immediate response, enabled prompt action. To assist the humanitarian effort, a three-person team was deployed to the Philippines from the ACT Rapid Support Team roster. An ACT Coordination Centre was set up on the premises of an ACT member in Manila.

Humanitarian coordinators worked with members already on the ground to start immediate evaluations in the hardest-hit areas of Tacloban and Leyte. A psychosocial expert began group work with local communities, developing materials in local languages.

The Rapid Support Team was complemented by a professional communicator from the ACT secretariat, who documented the devastation and helped develop the communication resources needed for the fundraising campaigns of ACT members across the world.

Recovery is long-term and will depend on restoring the livelihoods of the 5.9 million people estimated to have lost them. Both crops and produce, and the ability to produce them, were wiped out. At village level, some 30,000 fishermen lost their boats and nets, causing hardship for the coastal communities, who were some of the hardest hit. Rebuilding their

livelihoods depends on building new boats, which is a relatively quick process. Many other recovery processes will take longer.

Millions of coconut trees were blown down. It takes five to seven years for new coconut trees to bear fruit, so the many families and communities that rely on coconut farming as a substantial part of their livelihoods now need alternative incomes for up to seven years. It is expected that farmers of crops such as rice and sugar, which can be harvested more quickly, will recover faster. However, the infrastructure to process these crops has also been damaged and in some cases destroyed.

Estimates for the total cost of reconstruction exceed US\$5bn, and the complexity of the reconstruction is said to be unparalleled.

From the onset of the typhoon, our members in the Philippines gave life-saving support – food and shelter, and water and sanitation – to the most vulnerable and resource-poor people and began planning effective interventions for restoring livelihoods.

Psychosocial support was also recognised as crucial for the recovery of communities, and our members have worked on providing it in some of the most traumatised areas. ACT is active in 17 provinces and 73 municipalities, reaching 208,600 people and an additional 4,433 households.

As recovery and rebuilding moves along, everyone is aware that risks from extreme weather are increasing. "We know that Haiyan won't be the last typhoon," said Sylwyn Sheen Alba, who is working on the ACT response. "We hadn't finished recovering from Typhoon Bopha when Haiyan hit. We need to understand this is a pattern and prepare ourselves."

A large delegation of ACT organisations took part in the UN climate talks in Warsaw where Yeb Saño, chief climate negotiator for the Philippines, made an impassioned speech directly after the typhoon. Linking extreme climate events such as Haiyan to climate change, he committed to standing with victims of Haiyan, and put pressure on negotiators to "stop the climate madness" by voluntarily fasting. Thousands of people stood in solidarity with Yeb Saño by fasting, including many staff and supporters of ACT Alliance organisations. ■

Response to Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines

Appeal target: US\$16,210,035

Amount raised: US\$10,769,164 (including pledges)



Nicole Adona and her brother Gilbert play in the rubble of what was once their family's home on Jinamoc Island, which was devastated by Typhoon Haiyan.

Photo: ACT/Paul Jeffrey

Floods in Cambodia



Typhoons and unusually heavy rains caused severe flooding in Cambodia for the second year in a row. The Mekong and other major rivers broke their banks, ruining standing crops and washing away people's houses and belongings.

More than 1.7 million people were affected. One hundred and thirty four people lost their lives, 119,000 were displaced and 244,000 hectares of rice crop were submerged. Financial losses were estimated at US\$800m.

The poor were hit hardest. Small-scale subsistence farmers lost their rice harvest – their food supply for the next year. Agricultural day labourers had trouble finding work in the flooded areas. And rice prices rose, causing extra hardship in the poorest households, who were already spending most of their income on food.

The coming together of ACT members in this emergency provided strength in numbers and a coordinated response.

Part of the project involved distributing unconditional cash grants to villagers, equivalent to US\$20 each, as well as detergent, water-purification tablets and plastic water-containers.

ACT focused on early recovery and on advocacy, aimed at ensuring the government fulfilled its responsibility to its people. We also supported communities to adapt and to take part in integrated climate-change planning.

Coordinated response to floods in Cambodia

Appeal target: US\$660,830 Amount raised: US\$331,170

Kristen Rasmussen, field director of an ACT member in Cambodia, related the flooding to climate change: "Cambodians are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as flooding. Eighty per cent of the population relies on subsistence crops in rural areas. The overwhelming majority of farmers – about 70 per cent – can only harvest one rice crop per year, and that leaves them extremely vulnerable."

There is broad recognition that climate-change-related hazards must move up the political agenda, and that lack of finance is a barrier to adapting to climate change.

"There hasn't been nearly enough progress in finance," said Nop Polin, a member of the ACT delegation at the 2013 UN climate negotiations in Warsaw. "The developed countries have already pledged, but no money is forthcoming. What they have promised, they must deliver. It is the poor who have paid, and continue to pay, the cost of climate change." ■

India: floods and landslides

Floods and landslides in north India

Appeal target: US\$1,396,628 Amount raised: US\$528,405

Heavy monsoon rains over the north Indian state of Uttarakhand, in June 2013, caused the biggest disaster in India since the 2004 tsunami. The rains produced devastating floods and

landslides, and the state reported that more than 5,700 people were either killed or missing and presumed dead.

These rains were nearly four times greater than benchmark monsoon rains in the state. And in turn they caused local snowfields and the Chorabari glacier to start to melt, swelling water levels even further.

Death, injuries and damage to infrastructure were compounded by concern about water pollution and the dangers of waterborne diseases.

ACT members in India immediately put in place early recovery programmes that included food distribution, essential items for hygiene, medicines and blankets, temporary shelter and house repairs.

It is suggested that the Uttarakhand floods and landslides could be attributed to faulty development planning in a disaster-prone area, but the downpour is part of a changing pattern towards more frequent and severe weather events. ■

India: Cyclone Phailin

In October, only a few months after the flooding in the north of India, Cyclone Phailin hit the eastern Indian states of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh, leaving 1 million people homeless. The livelihoods of up to 12 million were affected through loss of crops and destroyed or damaged businesses.

ACT members deployed a large and well-prepared response with food, community kitchens, drinkable water and essential



Cyclone Phailin in east India

Appeal target: US\$2,487,251 Amount raised: US\$506,134

Preparedness work means relief centres are in place when the cyclone hits. Photo: ACT/CASA

ACT IN THE CARIBBEAN

Ongoing recovery in Haiti

Food, fishing and a miracle plant – with these, ACT in Haiti is helping survivors of two hurricanes and a tropical storm get back on their economic feet.

In the space of two years, tropical storm Tomas and hurricanes Isaac and Sandy crossed Haiti, a country still in the early stages of recovery from the devastating 2010 earthquake. The storms left large tracts of damaged property and agricultural land. With 54 lives lost, the death toll from Sandy was the greatest of the three disasters, and it damaged or destroyed nearly 28,000 houses.

The work of a local ACT member with the community in Balan, 18km east of the capital, has been to reduce soil erosion and protect residents against the next violent storms.

Work has also focused on agriculture and fish-farming programmes aimed at long-term development, restoring families' purchasing power. To improve agricultural techniques, our member has set up a field school teaching technical skills at demonstration plots, which students replicate on their own land.

Another programme reduces the need for women to fell trees to produce charcoal to sell. Instead, female heads of households receive seeds for growing a market garden – eggplant, tomato, pepper, onion, cabbage and other local vegetables – and agricultural tools such as pickaxes, hoes and machetes. The fruits and vegetables improve the health of families, and excess produce can be sold for cash.

Our member fosters links between government departments, local authorities and communities, encouraging them all to work on environmental problems and so lessen the effect of natural disasters.

non-food items. And following the immediate relief work, efforts turned to early recovery, including provision of shelter and agricultural rehabilitation.

Over the years, our members in the country had placed significant importance on disaster-preparedness work. This included the building of 24 cyclone shelters in Orissa, all of which were fully occupied during the cyclone. While the last big cyclone to hit the region, in 1999, saw 10,000 lives lost, Cyclone Phailin saw a much-reduced death toll of 27. This is testament to the huge impact that disaster-preparedness work – coupled with an unprecedented evacuation of 900,000 people from high-risk areas – can have in saving lives.

In many other ways, however, Phailin was just as damaging as its predecessor. An ACT member humanitarian team reported that at least 230,000 homes had been destroyed. Roughly 300,000 hectares of standing crops were affected, wiping out the harvests of subsistence farmers and causing extreme hardship for large numbers of people.

Cyclones form by taking energy from warm tropical oceans with temperatures over 26.5°C. The recorded temperature in the Bay of Bengal, where Cyclone Phailin developed, was 28-29°C, and monitoring of sea-surface temperature shows an ongoing trend of warming.

While no individual extreme weather event can be attributed to global warming, the frequency of extreme weather events is increasing and the area around the Bay of Bengal is particularly vulnerable, both in India and Bangladesh. ■



Haiti appeal

Appeal target: US\$2,416,27 Amount raised: US\$1,333,051

The director of an ACT member stands with primary school students at a reforestation project in the town of Balan, Haiti. Photo: ACT/St Charles Petit

To this end, they have helped to cultivate 72,000 papaya, cherry and citrus seedlings, which now flourish on beneficiaries' land.

Fish-farming and technical skills have been introduced by our local member to help combat the chronic malnutrition that affects nearly a quarter of children in Balan. And to improve nutrition even further, thousands of *Moringa oleifera* seedlings have been planted. This highly valued plant has an impressive range of medicinal uses and is highly nutritious.

Through its achievements, ACT in Haiti has been able to stimulate the local economy by strengthening the livelihoods of more than 3,000 families from Balan, and has contributed to the rehabilitation of the environment. ■

ACT working together for development

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. This section looks at the purpose of the CoPs and the factors that drive the members in their work.



A woman in Karonga, a town in northern Malawi, where ACT Alliance worked with local residents to recover from a 2009 earthquake. Photo: ACT/Paul Jeffrey

Gender equality and justice



A project officer from one of our ACT members talks with refugees from Syria in the village of Jeb Jennine, Lebanon. Photo: ACT/Paul Jeffrey

The overall objective of this 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 from a gender perspective. This is essential to ensure that programmes reflect the needs and wishes of all people.

In 2013, the CoP promoted its new *Gender-Inclusive, Rights-Based Development* training manual with members, partners and other development practitioners. The manual aims to make it easier to integrate a rights-based perspective with a clear gender-equality focus into

programming. It looks closely at strategies for integrating gender equality and human rights principles and standards.

"I do think that it is very important ACT integrates gender-equality issues into all aspects of its work. I am happy for the opportunity to play a part in ensuring that happens. In addition, I find it inspiring to work together with others also working to promote gender equality, and I do think that as an alliance we can work more efficiently by joining hands and doing things together."

Elsebeth Gravgaard, CoP chair

For more information, contact Elsebeth Gravgaard: eg@dca.dk

Disability-inclusive development

Disability and poverty cause and compound one another. This CoP aims to raise the profile in the alliance of disability, promote understanding of it as a human rights issue and advocate for the rights of people with disabilities. The CoP sees it as its role to gather the experiences of ACT members working in this area, share that knowledge with others, and support members to implement disability-inclusive programmes. Many ACT Alliance members have been working in this area for a long time, but without a connecting thread. The group, which started in November 2012, is made up of people both with and without disabilities.

"From a personal point of view, the idea to advocate for the representation of people with disabilities across the spectrum of the alliance is especially important. It's firmly in line with the principle of 'nothing about us without us'. I represent a rather small ACT Alliance member organisation with a thematic focus on disability and numerous partnerships with disability organisations worldwide. For me, networking and sharing experience internationally is fundamental. With members all over the world, ACT can function as a multilateral knowledge-sharing platform that can help us achieve our vision of a truly inclusive society."

Dagmar Lassmann, CoP member

For more information, contact the CoP chair Lauren Kathage: laurenk@alws.org.au

Psychosocial support

The Psychosocial Support CoP has developed and distributed its community-based psychosocial support concept across the globe. This field of work takes a holistic view of the needs and wellbeing of people. It is an approach that works across cultures, building on local needs and resources. As well as applying to regular programme work, it is essential that the concept is integral to emergency response. As an alliance, we have taken on the task of ensuring it becomes a mainstream concept in humanitarian relief and development work.

In 2013, the CoP did a lot of work teaching people to train others in psychosocial practice. This was a significant development, from raising awareness of the practice to applying the concept. The group held regional training in Cambodia, Bangladesh and southern Africa, and ran an introductory class for masters students at a Tanzanian university. Following advanced training for members in the whole of Latin America, the local ACT forum put its skills to use in the aftermath of an earthquake in El Salvador, providing psychosocial activities to support survivors. The group has seen that this not only helps the wellbeing of affected people but can save lives as well.

"I really believe in this – the work we do is so important. It is enriching to be part of a diverse group: we get together and exchange experiences and ideas about moving forward. The concept recognises that the expertise does not sit somewhere with the developed country members but that people everywhere know best what they need."

Else Berglund, CoP chair

For more information, contact Else Berglund: else.berglund@svenskakyrkan.se

Rights in development

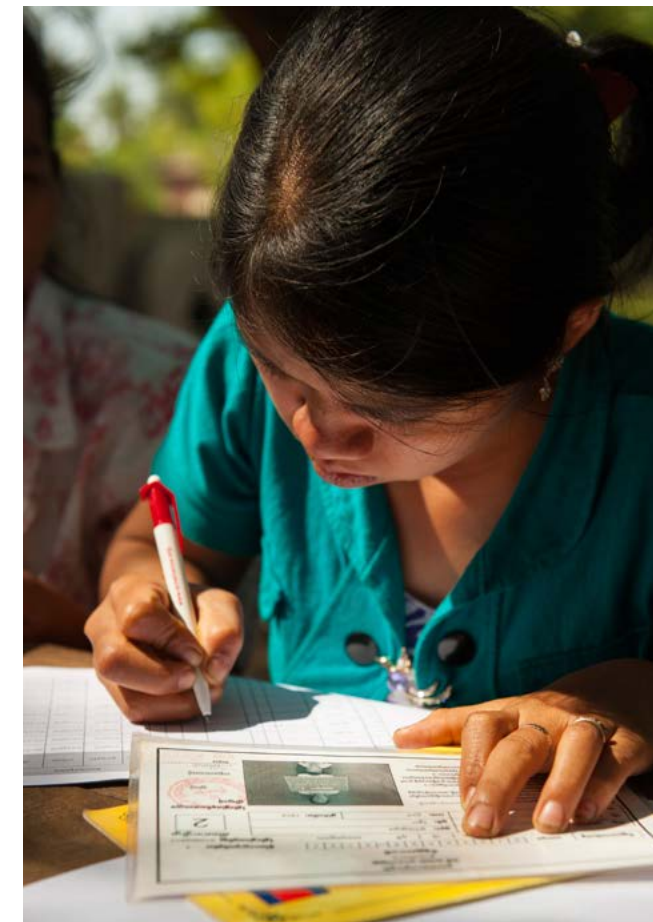
The remit of this CoP is to promote development work across the alliance that has human rights at its core, to advance efforts to counter the shrinking political space available to civil society organisations, and to try to introduce a human rights perspective to global policy development. The CoP raises the key issues of rights-based development work that challenge all members.

Following its 2011 report, *Shrinking Political Space of Civil Society Action*, the group developed a new report in 2013: *Space for Civil Society – how to protect and expand an enabling environment*. This was published in conjunction with Catholic network CIDSE and discussed at a regional conference in Malawi, where around 100 people swapped experiences and strategies to use when facing restrictions. Focusing on Malawi, Rwanda, Colombia and Zimbabwe, the main finding was that civil society organisations continue to face considerable restrictions, particularly if they are critical of government policy and action. To mainstream a rights-based approach in development within ACT, the CoP has developed a course for training trainers in a gender- and rights-based approach. Various training sessions have already taken place.

"The group helps me to bring the work I do at a national level to an international one, therefore making it much more effective. Because the members of the group are very committed to our human rights work, we have achieved a lot in the past years and created many synergies."

Julia Duchrow, CoP chair

For more information, contact Julia Duchrow: julia.duchrow@brot-fuer-die-welt.de



ACT members and local-representatives verify the identities of flood-affected villagers during a grant-distribution event organised by Concern as part of its ECHO-funded, flood-response-and-recovery project in Cambodia. Photo: ACT/Conor Wall

Safety and security



In Colombia, a humanitarian sign on the car window indicates that no weapons are carried in the vehicle.
Photo: ACT/Sean Hawkey

This CoP is made up of safety and security specialists linked to ACT member organisations responsible for the safety and security of people deployed to the programmes. In addition to providing training to their own staff, they often open their doors and advise ACT forums in their response efforts. The CoP tries

to cover every country in which its members work and to have a training opportunity there annually. It monitors the hot spots of the world, focusing on particular regions. The great value of this group is in the knowledge of its members and their drive to provide proper safety and security.

In 2013, the CoP reviewed its safety and security handbook. As well as looking at the principles and guidelines, it made it more practical for member organisations in the global south. The CoP also developed a security-assessment tool for members, to assess both their safety and security measures and those of their partners. And it has developed an ACT safety and security training package. Funding from the EU in 2013 enabled the CoP to facilitate security training in several locations across Latin America, Asia and Africa, reaching hundreds of ACT members.

"It's so good to work with ambitious and enthusiastic security experts. We're a very motivated group of people, who really do give a lot of support to each other. It makes it good working with them and we learn a lot from each other."

Sicko Pijpker, CoP chair

For more information, contact James Davis: james.davis@actalliance.org

Protection

The protection CoP seeks to strengthen the capacity of ACT and our 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 the ACT advisory groups.

In 2013, the CoP organised a global survey with InterAction, an alliance of US-based international organisations, on the role faith actors play in bringing about protection. In June, at the UNHCR NGO annual consultations, it organised and moderated a side event on faith and protection, in conjunction with UNHCR. The CoP also ran a protection workshop with ACT secretariat staff and provided them with protection resources; helped create content for the ACT exhibit at the World Council of Churches assembly; and revised the protection component of the ACT needs-assessment template.

"A number of aspects about this group motivate me: the chance to be inspired by other professionals, to learn from one another, to apply best practice, and also to know that my work goes beyond my organisation and that an entire network may benefit from it. It's also good to know that the group is a reference body for protection-related issues. Each group member brings their own strategic advantage – some work in the field and have first-hand experience of protection, others work in headquarters and are very good at linking up with important decision-makers. ACT can use these advantages strategically to have a greater impact on protection efforts."

Rachel Kyoziira, CoP member

For more information, contact James Thomson, CoP co-chair: jthomson@actforpeace.org.au

Project impact

The impact orientation CoP strives to link fellow project workers who have backgrounds in programmes, monitoring and evaluation, from all over the world and from diverse disciplines. It offers the chance to discuss experiences, reflect together and share knowledge about the advantages of project management and evaluations that focus on impact.

A key premise is that it is essential to identify, measure and take responsibility for the changes that we, as development and emergency aid agencies, make. The CoP aims to make members more aware of the strategic importance of monitoring the impact of programmes. For the sake of accountability, no organisation can afford not to know how to identify, measure and demonstrate the effects of their interventions. Institutions and organisations not able to demonstrate their concern for, and control over, the changes they induce, challenge the trust of their stakeholders and are unlikely to survive.

In 2013, the CoP worked at consolidating the group and ensuring it had geographical and gender diversity. It built up a pool of 'nominees' to be invited to contribute to the community. Also this year, the learning modules and training activities of one of the ACT member organisations were made available for ACT advisory groups and members.

"I enjoy learning from fellow group members and sharing their good practices. These are people who regularly observe, counsel and support projects all over the world."

Pascale Bruno, CoP coordinator

For more information, contact Pascale Bruno: Pascale.Bruno@brot-fuer-die-welt.de

DRR and adaptation to climate change

The role of this CoP is twofold: it promotes disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation projects, and it shares technical expertise and good practice. The group has come up with the annual ACT Climate Award as a way of stimulating exchange within the membership. Members are invited to submit examples of good practice and a winner is chosen by an independent jury. The 2013 ACT Climate Award was presented to Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service, an ACT member from Bangladesh, to honour its outstanding work on DRR and climate change adaption with vulnerable people in various parts of the country. Also this year, the group took part in the UNISDR Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction, and organised a workshop for ACT members on resilience. In addition, it released a new publication, *An Ounce of Prevention*,

which describes ACT's position on DRR and promotes DRR work within the alliance. The CoP aims to make ACT internationally known for its strength and capacity in this area.

"Even international advocacy and networking strategies need to be anchored in concrete, practical local experiences. The group has a clear mandate and vision to focus on project work, good practice and sound technical solutions in order to assist vulnerable people in their struggle to cope with all sorts of disasters and changing climatic conditions."

Peter Rottach, CoP chair

For more information, contact Peter Rottach: p.rottach@t-online.de



A community play in Varieque, Mozambique, explains the importance of family planning and different methods of contraception.
Photo: ACT/PWRDF/Simon Chambers

ACT in development and advocacy

Middle East: EU action

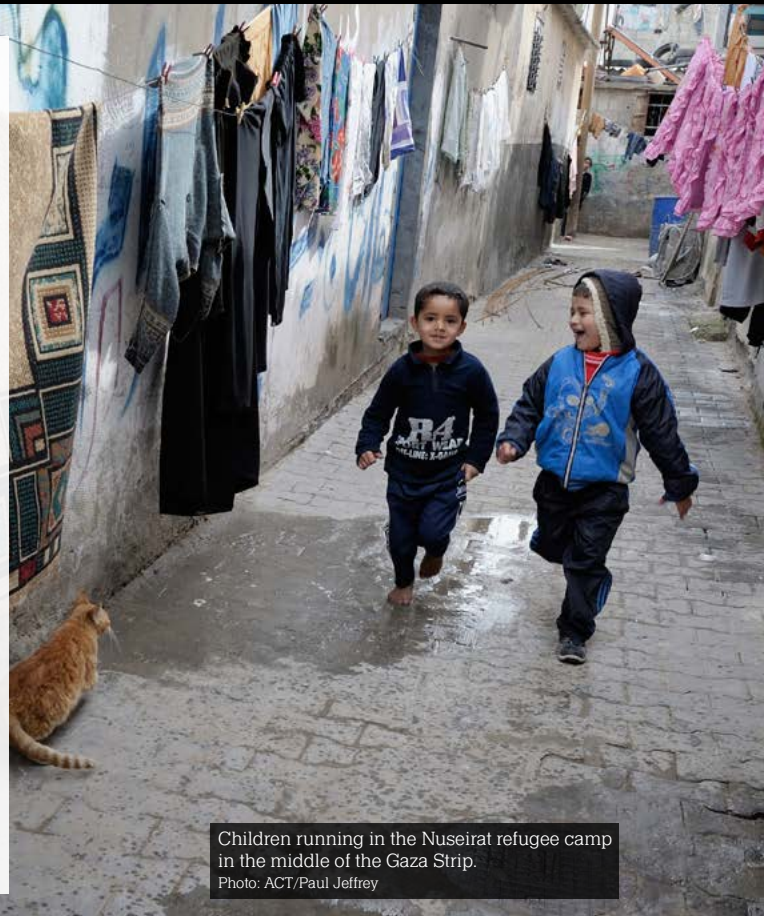
In 2012, the European Union announced that future agreements with Israel must exclude settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt). In 2013, it issued guidelines to exclude settlements' participation in EU programmes.

These steps were welcomed by several ACT members, who have long advocated for the EU not to participate in Israel's violations of international law (through Israel's construction and maintenance of settlements in the oPt).

Israeli settlements take up Palestinian land and water resources and restrict movement: impeding Palestinian access to education, healthcare and employment, as well as restricting the economy – all contributing to poverty.

Shortly before the EU's decision, a report called *Trading Away Peace*, signed by a coalition including ACT members, argued that in its trade relations in particular, the EU was undermining its own position on the illegality of settlements. It revealed that the EU imported about 15 times more from the illegal settlements than from the Palestinians themselves.

Advocacy efforts by some ACT members on settlements have focused on EU institutions and governments, and included partnerships with networks of NGOs such as APRODEV. They continue to advocate for the EU and European governments to move from words to action – asking, among other things, for measures to ensure the correct labelling of settlement products and, further, a ban of imports of settlement products. ■



Children running in the Nuseirat refugee camp in the middle of the Gaza Strip.
Photo: ACT/Paul Jeffrey

Indonesia: fighting for resilience

Climate change, coupled with urbanisation, rapid population growth and environmental degradation, is creating greater risks of disasters. How these are dealt with is largely defined by the frameworks for governmental and local disaster risk reduction (DRR) management and mechanisms.

ACT members in Indonesia have been involved in the consultations on the second Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA2). This will replace the current HFA, ending in 2015, which offers guiding principles and practical means for achieving disaster resilience. Our members came together to press for a framework that will ensure lessons from the current framework have been learnt.

Vulnerabilities are so often complex and depend on local hazards, local

perceptions and capacities. ACT, therefore, has emphasised the importance of giving a voice to grassroots priorities and incorporating these into the new framework.

The global agreements that will guide and govern the HFA2 will be adopted in March 2015. Thinking behind the first framework involved thematic field and stakeholder group discussions. This new phase will identify the principles, targets and indicators, as well as mechanisms for implementation and monitoring.

Based on grassroots and multi-stakeholder consultations, ACT, together with a local and national DRR forum, contributed recommendations on strategy and indicators for the next Hyogo Framework – particularly around

operational issues of community resilience and the role of women. ACT has created a sub-group to work exclusively on its participation in the HFA2. ■



In Indonesia, an ACT member gives disaster preparedness training in case of a future emergency.
Photo: ACT/YEU/Prasetyo Wijaksana



Guatemala: upholding the rights of indigenous women

ACT works with indigenous Guatemalan women, including a group from the highlands of Nebaj, on rights-based issues, food production and nutrition.
Photo: ACT/CWS/Sean Hawkey

Around 40 per cent of the Guatemalan population is indigenous – mainly Mayan. They suffered most of the 200,000 killings in the 1980s civil war.

In 2013, the ACT Guatemala Forum, made up of eight members, commissioned a study about violence against indigenous women, to raise awareness both socially and politically. The study found that indigenous women were the particular target of human rights violations and that they are still institutionally victimised today. Such violence and discrimination,

it reported, is normalised and often invisible. It is not measured – statistics are structured to avoid finding or showing it – and not discussed.

The forum circulated the document among state institutions and civil society groups, and trained indigenous female leaders in how to deal with violence in personal and institutional settings. It also organised a public meeting in which representatives of 125 government departments took part, including the Guatemala Human Rights Commission

and ombudsman, and civil society groups. The meeting considered the findings of the study and discussed the strategic interventions recommended for changing the structural marginalisation of indigenous women.

The study data was collected across the country. It illustrated how indigenous women are more vulnerable to violence, hunger, disease and even death. It also showed a disturbing trend of racism, sexism and violence built into social norms and institutional attitudes. ■

Kenya: campaigning for peace

The 2007 general elections in Kenya erupted in ethnic violence. To prevent a repeat in 2013, the ACT Kenya Forum, made up of 13 members, carried out a campaign for peace.

The campaign was planned as a partnership between youth and faith communities. Focusing on the areas of violence from 2007, the campaign reached 15,000 people. Events, media coverage and a travelling peace caravan encouraged people not only to register as voters but to choose candidates with a vision of development rather than to vote on ethnic lines.

By focusing on issues, the campaign deliberately challenged ethnically polarised narratives of politics and encouraged greater participation of women, both as candidates and voters.

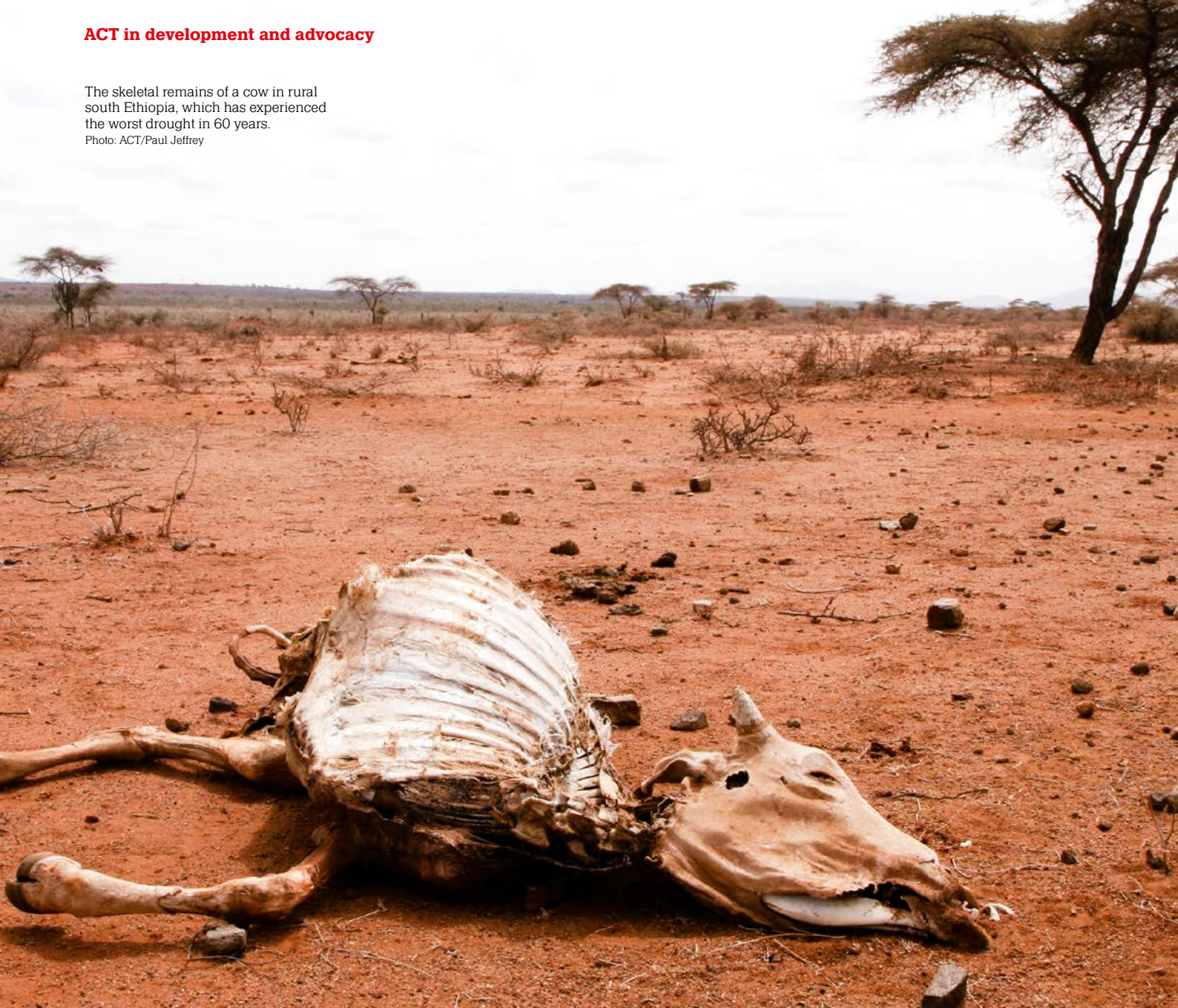
"The campaign encouraged an examination of how young people had been drawn into violence in the past and what the consequences of that approach were," said Benson Ireri, from the advocacy working group of the ACT Kenya

Forum. "People were encouraged to sign a peace charter and become peace ambassadors, and this was signed by religious and political leaders too." ■



The anti-violence campaign leading up to the Kenya elections used the slogan 'Linda Amani', meaning 'Protect Peace'.
Photo: ACT/Benson Ireri, NCA

The skeletal remains of a cow in rural south Ethiopia, which has experienced the worst drought in 60 years.
Photo: ACT/Paul Jeffrey



Climate justice is an ACT priority

Extreme weather was a concern in many parts of the world in 2013. People watched crops fail and livestock perish, endured the terror of typhoons and storm surges, and tried to adapt their way of life to the warming temperatures.

Disasters are stronger and affect broader swathes of the planet than ever before. East Asia bore the brunt of extreme storms. Large regions of Africa suffered drought. And the world witnessed the emergence of unprecedented disasters in the nations of the northern hemisphere.

Responding to weather-related emergencies was a significant area of work for our members. By the end of the year, ACT had raised US\$34.8m in emergency appeals: these included floods in southern

Africa; drought and food insecurity in Angola, Namibia and east Africa; a typhoon in the Philippines; rain and landslides in India; and floods in Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka, Colombia and El Salvador. Our work was driven by practical solutions: debris removal, installing water and sanitation facilities, distributing food parcels and rebuilding homes.

Less visible, but equally relevant, were our efforts to persuade states to create policies that reduce carbon emissions and offer finance to support the poorest people, who are bearing the brunt of climate change.

Over the year, ACT brought four representatives from the global South to

the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva; took delegations to discuss climate justice with key politicians; brought together governments, academics and experts to discuss equity in climate change talks; and lobbied negotiators at the COP19 UN climate talks. ACT insists that climate change should be at the core of new development goals. We mobilised members, ensuring the voices of those most affected by the injustices of climate change could influence future policy and actions.

Until a universal solution is found, our alliance will continue to support the people for whom unrelenting disaster has become a way of life. ■

ACT’s voice in post-2015 development



Twenty-seven drought-stricken localities in north-east Kenya are supplied with water that is transported to them in tankers from the Elwak borehole.
Photo: Christian Aid/Mike Goldwater

The 15-year mandate of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will come to a close at the end of 2015. They are far from complete and ACT is playing its part in efforts to accelerate progress within the remaining time frame, and post-2015.

In September, we hosted an ecumenical coordination meeting in New York during the UN General Assembly Special Session on the MDGs, facilitating over 30 ACT Alliance members and ecumenical partners to discuss and plan for collective actions up to, and beyond, 2015.

Throughout the year, members took part in national and regional consultations, with particular influence in the thematic areas of governance, inequality, and conflict and fragility.

It has also been a priority for us to ensure our members have a voice in the discussions of the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, established at the 2012 Rio+20 conference. Throughout 2013, we were able to contribute to issues related to our priority areas, such as climate change, disaster risk reduction, social protection, peace, sustainable development financing, poverty eradication and addressing global inequalities.

In the course of the year, there was agreement to converge the many parallel UN and other processes taking place around development goals into one coherent framework: the post-2015 agenda. ACT has been significantly involved in this.

Our message in discussions has been to urge governments to apply the lessons learned from the successes and challenges of the MDGs, to the post-2015 sustainable development goals. We see the imperative for a new development agenda to be universal in application, addressing absolute poverty in low-income countries as well as subjective poverty in middle and high-income countries – leaving no one behind. ACT believes that sustainability must be at the heart of all development initiatives in order that poverty can be eradicated in the context of man-made climate change.

Throughout 2013, ACT members also engaged with the meetings of the High Level Panel (HLP) of eminent persons on the post-2015 development agenda in London, Monrovia and Bali. In Bali, we coordinated successful interfaith lobbying by local faith-based organisations, and our priorities were embodied in the HLP’s outcome document. ■

Bad business: taking a stand

Recently accredited to the United Nations Human Rights Council, in 2013 ACT now has a new and powerful stage from which to expose human rights abuses.

At the second UN Business and Human Rights forum in December, we co-hosted a side event attended by around 100 participants from NGOs and the UN, which laid bare the realities of people living in the shadow of extractive industries, such as mining companies in South Africa, the Philippines, Kenya and the occupied Palestinian territories.

One of the speakers invited by ACT, Caroline Seipati Ntaopane of the non-profit, faith-based organisation Bench Marks Foundation in South Africa, spoke of the devastation to people in Witbank, Gauteng province. For several decades, communities there have suffered poor health as a consequence of coal mining: respiratory illnesses from air pollution, skin diseases, cancer and even death.

Together with Franciscans International, Al Haq and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, ACT presented a submission to the forum demanding an international, legally binding instrument to hold corporations accountable, especially in relation to human rights and control of natural resources. The submission said we would continue to highlight the impunity of transnational corporations, counter state complicity in human rights abuses, and build solidarity among victims and human rights defenders.

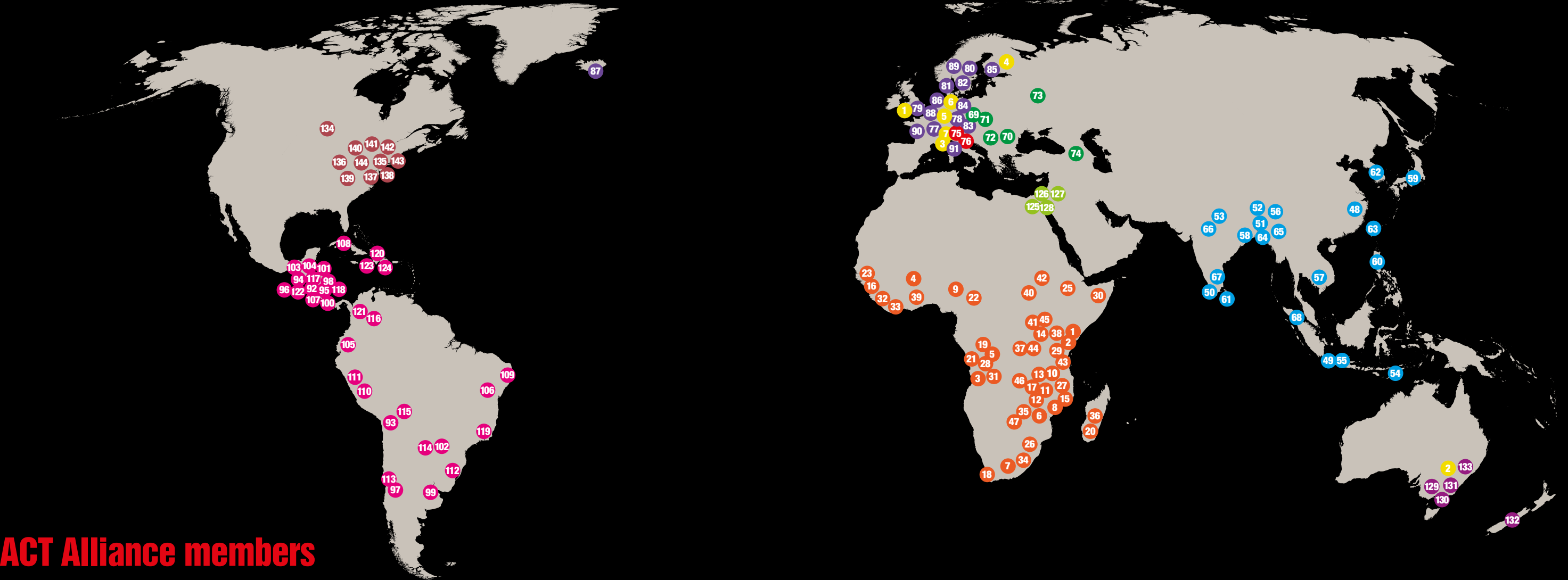
Earlier in the year, the collapse of the Rana Plaza garment factory in Bangladesh, which killed 2,500 workers, prompted outrage that many western firms were failing to ensure their suppliers provided a safe working environment. We responded with a submission to the UN Human Rights Working Group on Rights and Transnational Corporations. It urged governments to pass legislation to hold companies in their home states accountable extra-territorially for labour standards throughout their supply chains. ■

Initiating inter-religious dialogue

The Civil Society Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) has assessed international policies such as the Millennium Development Goals and concluded that they cannot be met with economic growth as the driver of development.

Instead, it promotes political leadership and commitment to sustainable approaches. However, aid budgets are in decline, and in many parts of the world the voices of civil society are being silenced.

To examine these issues, ACT organised the first Global Consultation of the Faith-Based Development Organisations on Participation in the CPDE. The meeting in Geneva, attended by 20 representatives of global faith-based organisations (FBOs), was a space for reflection on how to strengthen joint work and for prioritising actions. It was agreed to promote involvement of FBOs in the national CPDE platforms. Over time, the group hopes to include an increasingly broad spectrum of faiths. ■

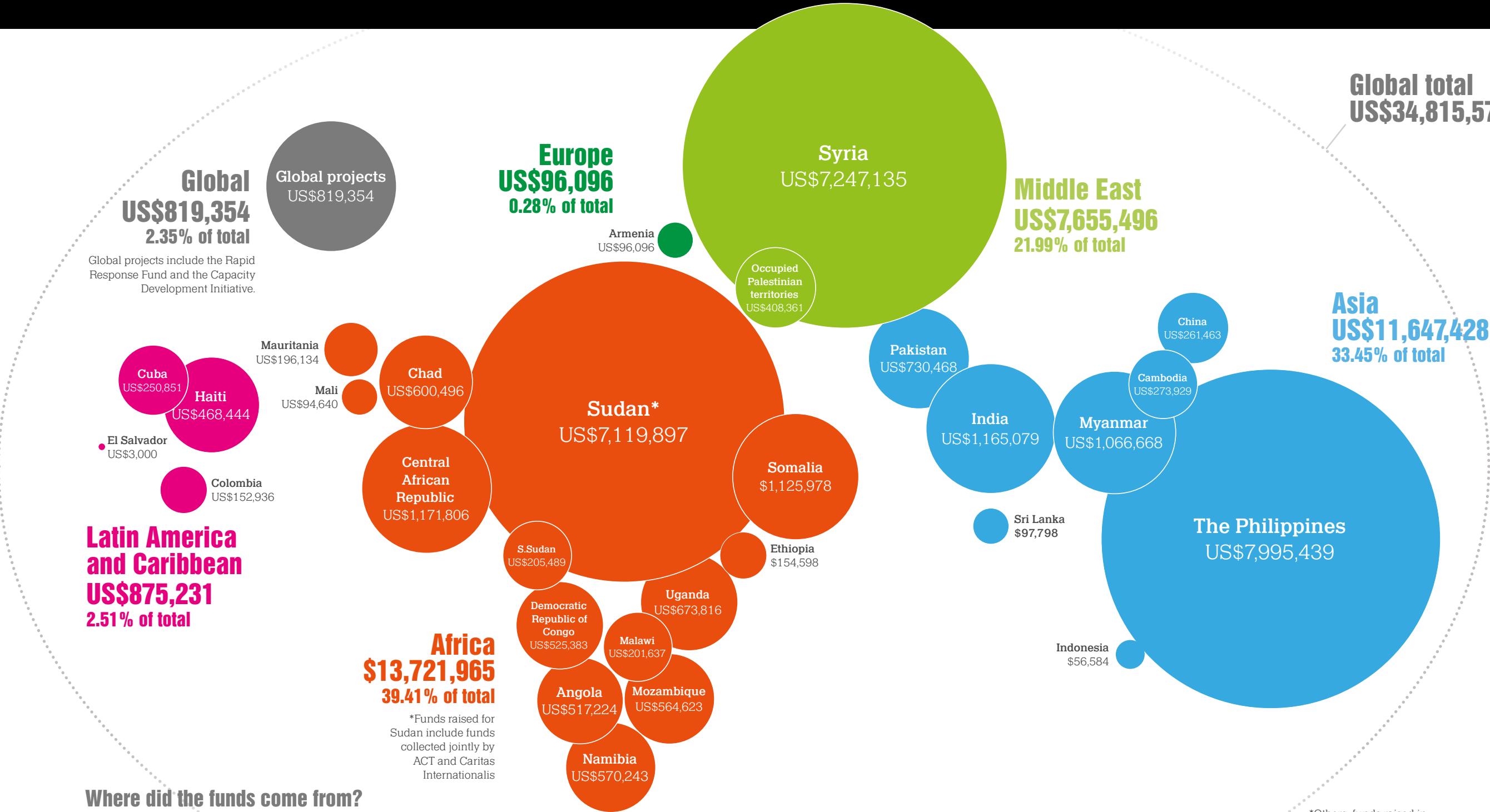


ACT Alliance members

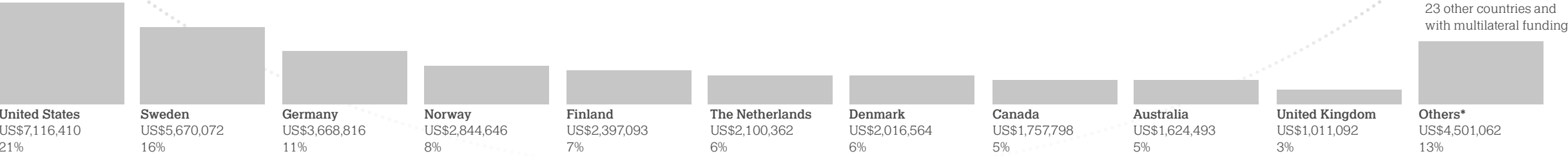
Africa			Europe			Latin America and Caribbean			Australasia			
1	All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)	26	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA)	53	Church's Auxiliary for Social Action (CASA)	77	Bread for All (BFA)	104	Consejo Ecu�mico Cristiano de Guatemala (CECG)	129	Act for Peace	
2	Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK)	27	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT)	54	Fundasaun Sosial Naroman (FUSONA)	78	Brot f�r die Welt – Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst (B�dW)	105	Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias (CLAI)	130	Anglican Overseas Aid – Australia	
3	Angolan Council of Christian Churches (ACCC/CICA)	28	Evangelical Lutheran Church in Congo (ELCCo)	55	Indonesian Christian Association for Health Services (ICAHS/PELKESI)	79	Christian Aid	106	Coordenadoria Ecu�mica de Servi�o (CESE)	131	Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS)	
4	Association of Reformed Evangelical Churches of Burkina Faso (AEERB)	29	Evangelical Lutheran Development Service (ELDS)	56	KOINONIA	80	Church of Sweden, International Mission and Diakonia (CoS)	107	Consejo de Iglesias Evang�licas Pro-Alianza Denominacional (CEPAD)	132	Christian World Service (CWS)	
5	Centre Oecum�nique pour la Promotion du Monde Rural (COPROMOR)	30	Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA)	57	Life With Dignity (LWD)	81	DanChurchAid (DCA)	108	Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba (CIC)	133	UnitingWorld: Relief and Development Unit	
6	Christian Care (CC)	31	Igreja Evang�lica Reformada de Angola (IERA)	58	Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT)	82	Diakonia Sweden	109	Diaconia, Brazil	North America		
7	Christian Council of Lesotho (CC)	32	Lutheran Church in Liberia (LCL)	59	National Christian Council in Japan (NCCJ)	83	Diakonie	110	DIACONIA, Peru	134	Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)	
8	Christian Council of Mozambique (CCM)	33	Lutheran Development Service, Liberia (LDS-Liberia)	60	National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP)	84	Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH)	111	Educaci�n Popular en Salud (EPES)	135	Church World Service (CWS)	
9	Christian Council of Nigeria (CCN)	34	Lutheran Development Service, Swaziland (LDS-Swaziland)	61	National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL)	85	Finn Church Aid	112	Funda��o Luterana de Diakonia (FLD)	136	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)	
10	Christian Council of Tanzania (CCT)	35	Lutheran Development Service, Zimbabwe (LDS-Zimbabwe)	62	Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK)	86	ICCO Cooperation	113	Fundaci�n de Ayuda Social de Las Iglesias Cristianas (FASIC)	137	International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC)	
11	Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM)	36	Malagasy Lutheran Church (MLC)	63	Presbyterian Church of Taiwan (PCT)	87	Icelandic Church Aid (ICA)	114	Iglesia Evang�lica del Rio de la Plata (IERP)	138	Lutheran World Relief (LWR)	
12	Churches Action in Relief and Development (CARD)	37	National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB)	64	Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS)	88	Kerk in Actie	115	Iglesia Evang�lica Luterana Boliviana (IELB)	139	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)	
13	Church of Central Africa Presbyterian Blantyre Synod Health and Development Commission (CCAP)	38	National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK)	65	Social Health and Education Development (SHED)	89	Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)	116	Iglesia Evang�lica Luterana de Colombia (IELCO)	140	Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWSD)	
14	Church of Uganda (CoU)	39	Presbyterian Church in Ghana (PCG)	66	Synodical Board of Social Services, Church of North India (SBSS-CNI)	90	Solidarit� Protestante (SP)	117	Iglesia Luterana Costarricense (ILC)	141	The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)	
15	Comit� Ecu�mico para o Desenvolvimento Social (CEDES)	40	Presbyterian Relief and Development Agency (PRDA)	67	United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India (UEL CI)	91	Swiss Church Aid (HEKS/EPER)	118	Iglesia Luterana de Nicaragua (ILN)	142	United Church of Canada: Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit (UCC)	
16	Council of Churches in Sierra Leone (CCSL)	41	Rural Action Based Organisation (RACOB AO)	68	YAKKUM (including YEU)	92	Acci�n Medica Cristiana	119	KOINONIA	143	United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)	
17	Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ)	42	Sudan Council of Churches (SCC)	Eastern Europe			93	Asociaci�n Boliviana Uniendo Manos por la Vida (Red Umavida)	120	Mission Sociale des Eglises Ha�tiennes (MISSEH)	144	World Renew
18	Economic Justice Network of FOCCISA, southern Africa (EJN)	43	Tanganyika Christian Refugee Service (TCRS)	69	Diaconia of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (DECCB)	94	Asociaci�n Cristiana de Educaci�n y Desarrollo (ALFALIT)	121	Iglesia Presbiteriana de Colombia (IPC)			
19	Ecumenical Office for Development Support (BOAD)	44	The Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi (EEB)	70	Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania (AIDRom)	95	Association for Social Development of the Moravian Church (ADSIM)	122	Salvadorian Lutheran Synod (SLS)			
20	Eglise de J�sus-Christ � Madagascar – D�pt pour le D�veloppement (FJKM)	45	Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC)	71	Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA)	96	Centro Evang�lico de Estudios Pastorales en Centro Am�rica (CEDEPCA)	123	Service Chr�tien d'Ha�ti (SCH)			
21	Eglise du Christ au Congo Bureau National (ECC)	46	United Church of Zambia (UCZ)	72	Philanthropy – The Charitable Fund of the Serbian Orthodox Church	97	Centro Ecu�mico Diego de Medell�n	124	Servicio Social de Iglesias Dominicanas (SSID)			
22	Eglise Fraternelle Luth�rienne du Cameroun (EFLC)	47	Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC)	73	Russian Orthodox Church – Department for External Church Relations (ROC)	98	Centro Intereclesial de Estudios Teol�gicos y Sociales (CIEETS)	Middle East				
23	Eglise Luth�rienne du S�n�gal (ELS)	48	Amity Foundation (AF)	74	Armenia Inter-Church Charitable Round Table Foundation (ARTF)	99	Centro Regional Ecu�mico de Asesor�a Servicio (CREAS)	125	Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical and Social Services of the Coptic Orthodox Church (BLESS/COC)			
24	Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY)	49	Centre for Disaster Risk Management and Community Development Studies (CDRMCD S)				100	Christian Commission for Development (CCD)	126	East Jerusalem YMCA		
25	Ethiopian Orthodox Church – Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC)	50	Christian Agency for Rural Development (CARD)				101	Comisi�n de Acci�n Social Menonita (CASM)	127	Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees of the Middle East Council of Churches (DSPPR-MECC)		
		51	Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB)				102	Comit� de Iglesias Para Ayudas de Emergencia (CIPAE)	128	The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL)		
		52	Church of Bangladesh Social Development Program (CBSDP)				103	Asociaci�n Conferencia de Iglesias Evang�licas de Guatemala (CIEDEG)				

ACT accounting for change

Appeal funds of US\$34.8m were raised in 2013. Where were they spent?



Where did the funds come from?



Finance report

ACT Secretariat core budget (excludes the US\$34.8m raised for emergency appeals)

For the year ended 31 December 2013 (US\$)	2013	2012
INCOME		
Fees		
Membership fees	143,500	135,000
Income-based fees	2,047,894	2,156,322
International coordination fees	686,338	818,132
Total fees	2,877,732	3,109,454
Voluntary contributions		
Voluntary contributions unearmarked	370,585	454,397
Voluntary contributions earmarked to strategic aims	841,656	858,031
Total voluntary contributions	1,212,241	1,312,428
Interest received	11,539	36,046
Other income	19,824	31,211
TOTAL INCOME	4,121,336	4,489,140
EXPENSES		
Staff costs	2,758,996	3,102,760
Office costs	428,332	383,715
Meetings	85,500	202,509
Communications	54,662	85,611
Project-related costs	572,869	451,981
Provisions and write off	201,918	179,513
Exchange (gain)/loss – core budget	(73,860)	(5,843)
Exchange (gain)/loss – general reserve	(338)	10,558
TOTAL EXPENSES	4,028,079	4,410,804
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR BEFORE ALLOCATIONS	93,257	78,335
Interest capitalised to restricted reserve	(11,539)	(36,046)
Exchange (gain)/loss transferred to restricted reserve	(338)	10,558
Allocation to 2014 Assembly provision	(134,802)	(117,500)
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR AFTER ALLOCATIONS	(53,422)	(64,653)

Governance

Governing Board 2013 Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel (Moderator) Francisco de Assis da Silva (Vice-Moderator) Sushant Agrawal Monijinir Byapari Victoria Cortez Donna Derr Eberhard Hitzler Susie Ibutu Rose Kumwenda-Ngoma Dragan Makojevic Zacharie Masimango Katanda	Suzanne Matale Lorenzo Mota King Isabel Phiri Arshinta Soemarsono Henrik Stubkjaer Elsa Tesfay Dean Triantafilou Paul Valentin Liv Hukset Wang Qiu Zhonghui	Executive Committee 2013 Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel (Moderator) Francisco De Assis da Silva (Vice-Moderator) Sibongile Baker Rudelmar Bueno de Faria Monijinir Byapari Donna Derr Wim Hart Susie Ibutu Maria Lundberg Karen Nazaryan Humberto Shikiya Paul Valentin
---	--	---

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

ACT Advisory Groups Advocacy Capacity Development Climate Advocacy Communication, Media 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 – Enabling Environment Impact Orientation Protection Psychosocial Support Safety And Security
---	---

ACT is a member of



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

www.actalliance.org
@ACTAlliance
ACTAlliance

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

Printed on 100% recycled paper.



actalliance

A boy in Estancia, in the Philippines, carries home a bag of food and other supplies. Relief was distributed by ACT members after the village was struck by Typhoon Haiyan.
Photo: ACT/Paul Jeffrey