



**actalliance**

annual report 2016

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# ACT Alliance

## NUMBERS AND VALUES

working in over  
**125**  
countries

working together for  
**SUSTAINABLE  
CHANGE** we are rooted in the  
**COMMUNITIES**  
we serve

# actalliance

51,000 staff, 167,000 volunteers **working to the highest international standards and codes**



**US\$1.6<sub>bn</sub>**  
global combined  
expenditure in 2016

**Every day, ACT Alliance is on the frontlines:**

- addressing systemic poverty
- supporting survivors of disasters, wars and conflicts
- training rural communities in sustainable agricultural techniques
- helping people adapt to environmental change,
- and influencing governments and other key decision makers to safeguard citizens' human rights.

## FIGHTING POVERTY AND INJUSTICE

**Above:** Bishnu Kumari Banjara holds a goat in Dhawa, a village in the Gorkha District of Nepal. Following the 2015 earthquake that ravaged Nepal, she received several baby goats from the ACT Alliance, as a way to earn a livelihood and restart the village economy. Helping people in this and other largely Dalit villages has been a priority for ACT Alliance agencies. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT





# WHY ACT?

## Action by Churches Together

ACT Alliance is the largest Protestant/Orthodox alliance in the world that engages in humanitarian, sustainable development and advocacy work, with over 140 members present and working in 125 countries around the world.

The ACT Alliance's humanitarian, development and advocacy work succeeds because of our unique nature as a global network of churches and faith-based organisations. Our members are present in communities long before an emergency occurs, and will be in those same communities long after the emergency is resolved.

This presence on the ground allows ACT members to know right from the start what is happening, what the needs are, and which people in the community are in the greatest need. It also means that ACT members are accountable to the people of the communities because ACT members are part of the communities.

We have a focus on reducing the risk of disasters, working with communities so that they become more resilient, with a greater capacity to respond quickly and to reach the most vulnerable people. Adaptation programs help to lessen the impact of increasingly common climate-related problems by providing innovative methods of farming, accessing water, and building livelihoods.

As a global network, ACT works with international bodies like the UN, the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS), The Sphere Project and others to ensure that aid is delivered well, where needed, in a timely fashion, and that the highest standards are adhered to in all its work. ACT is present and active in global processes including the Sustainable Development Goals, World Humanitarian Summit, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meetings.

In joining ACT, all members agree to adhere to ACT's policies and standards, including the Red Cross Code of Conduct.

Our work at the local, national, regional and global levels allows ACT to raise up the voices of the most vulnerable. ACT's members work in local communities, in local civil society and social movements, and deliver sustainable development programmes and humanitarian responses, accompanying communities in working for full life and dignity for all.

We prioritise need in all our programmes, ensuring that no one is discriminated against based on gender, faith, ethnicity, orientation, or other factors. ACT has a zero-tolerance policy for preferential treatment and proselytization.

Together, we strive for a world where all may live with dignity, justice, peace and full respect for human rights and the environment.

**Image:** A man nails on tin roofing provided by the ACT Alliance as he puts the finishing touches on a transitional shelter in the Tamang village of Goljung, in the Rasuwa District of Nepal near the country's border with Tibet.

PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT



# Message from the GENERAL SECRETARY

Image: John Nduna  
ACT/SEAN HAWKEY

Humanitarian headlines have been dominated by the Middle East, particularly the wars in Syria and Iraq, along well as the resulting crisis of refugees, with hundreds of thousands of people making the treacherous crossing of the Mediterranean in search of safety, and this has deserved a lot of our attention this year. In the Middle East and elsewhere, we are mindful that most of the suffering and hardship remains in refugees' countries of origin, and we are duty bound to continue support there.

While the tragedies of the Middle East lead the humanitarian headlines, ACT has been responding to grave crises across Africa, Asia and Latin America, resulting from conflicts, earthquakes, and increasingly from climate-related disasters.

Working on day-to-day emergencies in the short-term, it would be easy to forget the longer-term considerations,

but the ACT vision is strategic and long-term. In 2016 we have improved our humanitarian mechanism, incorporating the Core Humanitarian Standards, making our Rapid Reponse Fund more agile, and we have continued our work on disaster prevention and mitigation, on Disaster Risk Reduction, emergency preparedness, and in helping shape international thinking and policy on development. As I prepare to hand over the reins as General Secretary, I feel particularly proud at our decided and steady progress in planning and advocacy that will have big pay-offs in the future.

As action on climate change becomes more urgent, we redouble our efforts, not only responding to the humanitarian crises that result from extreme weather events, floods and droughts, but strategically advocating on our concerns in political arenas, where the necessary



Image: Medical teams worked across the West African countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone to bring the Ebola crisis under control, all of them risking their own health and lives. ACT supported the work in the region with the construction of an isolation unit in Liberia.

PHOTO: SEAN HAWKEY/ACT





decisions have to be taken, to curb greenhouse gas emissions and transform our energy systems and consumption patterns.

Of the dozens of appeals that you can read about in this report, I will highlight just one personal memory from this year, that affected me emotionally and is so representative of the value of ACT's responses in the most difficult of situations. I recently accompanied ACT staff, member organisations and partners to Sierra Leone and Liberia in West Africa, to review our work on the Ebola crisis there which came to a close in 2016.

What was clear is that the role of faith leaders in health crises is vital. In the midst of fear, superstition and misinformation, getting clear messages through on how to prevent Ebola transmission, how to safely bury the dead, was crucial. People across the region turned to their faith leaders for guidance.

ACT built an isolation centre in Liberia, a landmark in the fight against Ebola, that provided treatment and testing. Of the many testimonies we heard, I remember the story of a courageous nurse Amina Sakumu who worked at an ACT-funded treatment centre and, like many early on in the crisis, still didn't understand that the Ebola virus could be passed by simple contact with infected patients. She was assisting a sick man who came with his wife in critical condition, and attended them without taking all the necessary protective measures. After seven days, she began exhibiting symptoms herself and when she was checked for the virus she was found to be infected. Amina survived after getting good treatment, though she still has some health problems, she feels lucky to be alive.

The last census of ACT showed we had 25,000 members of staff and volunteers working through the alliance, and throughout the alliance we have people like Amina Sakumu, ready to take risks and make sacrifices, working selflessly towards a world free of injustice, inequality and poverty. I thank all of you.

**John Nduna**  
**General Secretary**  
ACT Alliance

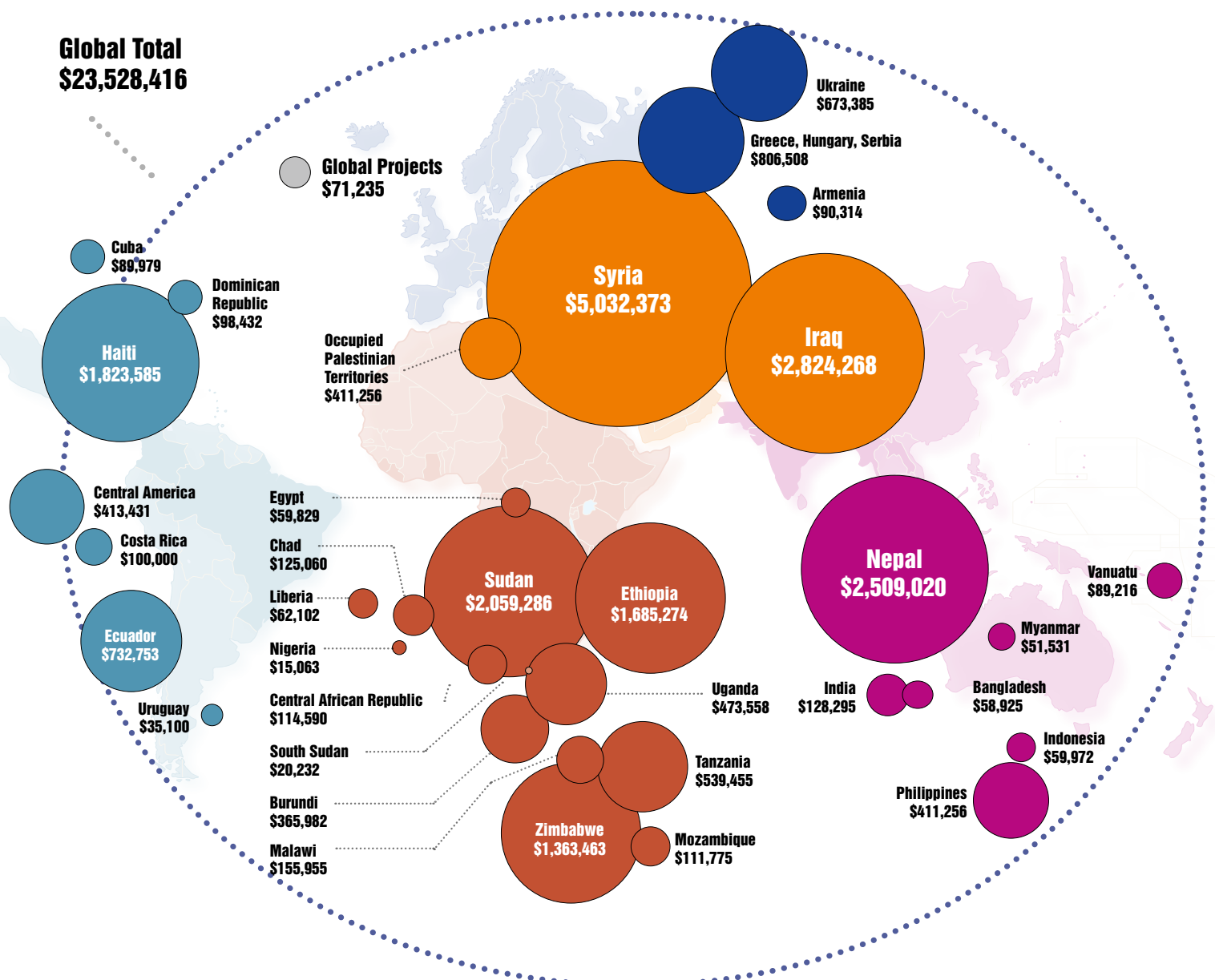
**Image:** Nurse Amina Sakumu, Ebola survivor and worker at an ACT-supported isolation centre in Liberia

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED/ACT

# ACT appeals for \$23 million were raised in 2016

## Where were they spent?

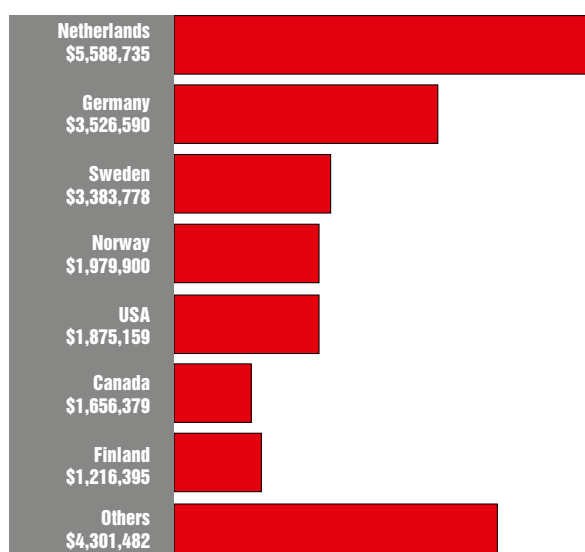
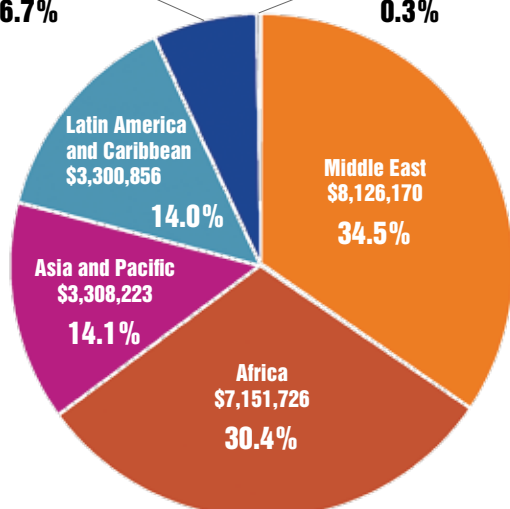
**Global Total**  
**\$23,528,416**



## Money spent on emergencies by region Where did the funds come from?

**Europe** \$1,570,208  
**6.7%**

**Global** \$71,235  
**0.3%**





# Emergencies in **AFRICA**

Total spent on emergencies in  
Africa in 2016

## \$7,151,726



Sudan	\$2,059,286
Ethiopia	\$1,685,274
Zimbabwe	\$1,363,463
Tanzania	\$539,455
Uganda	\$473,668
Burundi	\$365,982
Malawi	\$155,955
Chad	\$125,060
Central African Republic	\$114,590
Mozambique	\$111,775
South Sudan	\$20,232
Nigeria	\$15,063
Liberia	\$62,102
Egypt	\$49,821
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7,151.726</b>

Image at top: Collecting water in Ethiopia.  
PHOTO: JOHANNES ODE/ACT



# Dreaming of rain

The vision for ACT Alliance, in all emergencies, is to enable an effective ecumenical response that saves lives and promotes human dignity. In Africa, the complex interweaving of natural disasters and human-caused disasters is particularly complicated. For example, drought - which in some cases can be caused by human actions - can lead to conflict over scarce resources of water and productive land. In turn, conflict can take workers off the land leading to neglected land and famine.

In 2016, several African countries were affected by El Niño, a climate cycle in the Pacific Ocean with a global impact on weather patterns. According to the UN, the current cycle is one of the three most extreme since 1950. Among other things, it is responsible for severe periods of drought and failed harvests in Ethiopia, and water shortages in Namibia, Malawi and Mozambique, affecting millions of people.

But El Niño is not an unexpected phenomenon and ACT has been using its many years of experience and strong track record of building community resilience to work with vulnerable communities on disaster risk reduction. Faith-based organisations are in a strong position, being rooted in local communities, to provide training as well as to ensure that aid is appropriate and used effectively.

In Ethiopia, for example, indigenous knowledge and practices are documented, shared and combined with modern technology to strengthen and promote decentralised early warning and response systems. First responders are nearly always local communities, of which faith-based organisations are an important and integral part. They have knowledge about what works best and are able to engage and mobilise communities, even though financial resources to support them may be scant.

Memuna Abdulle carrying containers of the water the people of Bedeno in East Hararghe have to drink. Her daughters assist.

PHOTO: HÅVARD BJELLAND/NCA







**“People and livestock are on the brink of starvation. If it does not rain, the situation will be catastrophic.”**

—ACT member

▲ A man walks by a dead cow in Dong Boma, a Dinka village in South Sudan's Jonglei State. Most villagers recently returned home after being displaced by rebel soldiers in December, 2013, and they face serious challenges in rebuilding their village while simultaneously coping with a drought which has devastated their herds. The ACT Alliance, is helping villagers restart their lives with support for housing, livelihood, and food security. South Sudan. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT

## Continuing conflict in South Sudan

Tragically, conflict continued in many parts of Africa. In South Sudan, chronic conflict is exacerbated by drought and food insecurity. There are high levels of humanitarian need and a protracted displacement of vulnerable people. People fled in huge numbers, either displaced within South Sudan – over 1.65

million - or to the neighbouring countries of Kenya, Sudan, Uganda and Ethiopia – more than 630,000. Sustainable long-term development is now virtually at a standstill, leaving 4.6 million South Sudanese, mainly women and children, in need of urgent life-saving humanitarian assistance and

protection. ACT members responded to the needs of thousands of affected South Sudanese in their own and in neighbouring countries.

In Adjumani, Uganda, the refugee hosting settlements filled to capacity. The ACT Uganda Forum responded to the crisis through its members.

New sites to host refugees were sought and existing sites expanded. ACT members continue to provide for the refugees' main needs: shelter, warmth, sanitation and hygiene facilities and, in the longer term, education, conflict resolution and social protection for vulnerable children.





▲ Stephen Deng works on his roof in Poktap, a town in South Sudan's Jonglei State where conflict, drought and inflation have caused severe food insecurity. The ACT Alliance, is helping families in the area tackle food problems, including with the provision of cash for the purchase of fishing line and hooks. South Sudan. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT

## Dealing with infectious disease in a refugee camp

Many refugees from the conflict in South Sudan arrived in Uganda and live in refugee camps, where inevitably conditions are crowded and unsanitary. When a boy arrived in one of the camps with cholera, despite the staff's best efforts to isolate the boy and his sister, the disease quickly spread to 32 others. ACT members and others intervened and the refugee camp was provided with cholera kits and medical staff. Cholera kits provide everything required to set up a structure where patients can be cared for, as well as the drugs and equipment necessary to treat them. Water, hygiene and sanitation programmes were ramped up to help avoid any further spread of the disease and loss of life in the camp.

## Seeds for change

More than ten million people in Ethiopia need food assistance as the country faces the worst drought in 30 years. The situation is critical for millions of farmers who have reached the end of their energy and resources. Crops have failed and they are in a perilous situation. An ACT member helped farmers develop resilience by providing them with seeds and teaching them irrigation techniques. So far the programme has helped more than 4,600 people to cope with the current emergency.



◀ Nidier Atak cooks wild leaves in Rumading, a village in South Sudan's Lol State where more than 5,000 people, displaced by drought and conflict, remain in limbo. The ACT Alliance, began drilling a well in the informal settlement and distributed sorghum, beans and cooking oil to the most vulnerable families. It is carrying out the emergency assistance in coordination with government officials and the local Catholic parish. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT



## Rape as a weapon of war

According to a report by Amnesty International, rape and sexual abuse are not just a by-product of war but are used as a cruel military strategy to exert power, humiliate and subjugate women.

One day a young woman from South Sudan arrived at a refugee centre in northern Uganda. Having walked for days and days she was weak and exhausted. She had been raped when fleeing South Sudan, was three months pregnant and had no family to support her. She had witnessed her mother being shot by soldiers. Unfortunately, she is just one of thousands of women with similar stories.

ACT members are working with young women such as her. They receive food, clothing and counselling. "She was broken and had almost given up on life," recalls her case worker. "It is hard to see someone like that. But they lean on me, and I cannot let them see how much their stories and this situation affect me."

The young woman is now continuing her education and wants to be a nurse one day, saving people's lives, especially war victims.

Momina Reshid in Kersa, East Hararghe, lost her child because of malnourishment and lack of healthy water.

PHOTO: HÅVARD BJELLAND/NCA

## Ethiopia drought

Tilahun, a 53-year-old cow herder in the Amhara region of Ethiopia, was at risk of losing his two newborn calves, his only source of income. The cows in his small herd had stopped giving milk due to a lack of water and feed. The future was becoming more uncertain each day. "We've had drought before" he said. "But we would move our animals to graze in the nearby Afar region, or they came to us when they had drought. This year both regions are affected and the drought is affecting people and animals, which makes it difficult."

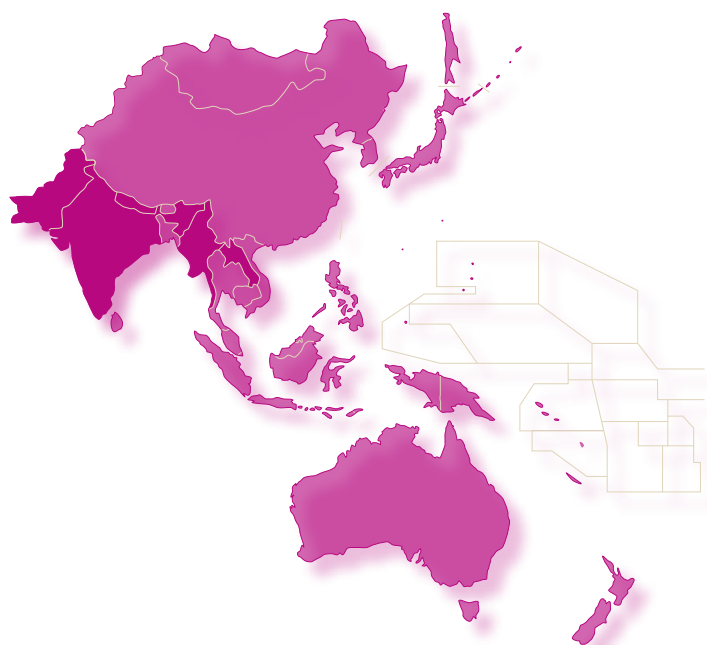
An ACT Alliance member, working with church partner organisations, installed five large capacity water tanks in the area, providing essential water for livestock, land and people alike, helping Tilahun and his cattle to get through the drought.



▲ Women collect water at a water scheme built by ACT Alliance, in Bedeno, East Hararghe. PHOTO HÅVARD BJELLAND/KIRKENS NODHJELP



# Emergencies in **ASIA AND PACIFIC**



**Total spent on emergencies in  
Asia and Pacific in 2016**

## \$3,308,223

Nepal	\$2,509,020
Philippines	\$411,256
India	\$128,295
Vanuatu	\$89,216
Indonesia	\$59,972
Bangladesh	\$58,925
Myanmar	\$51,539
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,308,223</b>

## Preparing for disasters

Nowhere in the world is as vulnerable to climate and environment-related disasters as the Asia and Pacific region. Emergency Preparedness Response Plans (EPRPs) are therefore fundamental to ACT Alliance's work with the 14 national and regional forums of ACT members in this region.

"I feel like I have been transformed. I have better skills and better tools. But what is most important, I know that my houses will keep their inhabitants safe if another earthquake occurs."

—Tashi Tamang, builder

**Image at top:** A woman stacks blocks that she and other villagers in Sanogoan, Nepal, will use to build their new homes.

**Image at right:** Newly trained masons and carpenters receive their toolboxes at the end of an ACT Alliance-sponsored course in Dhawa, a village in the Gorkha District of Nepal. PHOTOS: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT





## Getting girls back to school

For many remote villages in Nepal it took a long time for aid to reach communities after the earthquake. Once immediate needs were met longer term needs had to be addressed. An ACT member worked in such villages to provide livelihood support and to improve the quality of the water supply. The intention was to benefit girls who were spending a long time collecting water from distant taps and were missing out on their schooling. They were also anxious about returning to school in case they were needed at home and were fearful that the school building may collapse again. The project provided psychosocial counselling in order to allay their fears.

▲ Children sing a song in class at a primary school in the Gorkha District of Nepal. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT

## Towards an AIDS-free generation

Working in partnership, several ACT member organisations embarked on an ambitious programme to get more people tested for HIV in the Philippines. In 2015, only 8 per cent of the key affected population (namely men who have sex with men) had been tested. As part of the campaign 'preventionnotcondemnation,' key religious leaders took the bold step of publicly having the HIV test to encourage others to take the test as well.

▼ Bhagwati Tamang, an experienced mason in Jogimara, a village in the Dhading District of Nepal, has helped the ACT Alliance train other carpenters and masons in the community so they'll be ready to help construct permanent housing once the Nepali government begins to disburse funds. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT



## Working with others to build capacity

In 2016, ACT Alliance, in cooperation with European Universities and with the support of the EU Aid Volunteers Initiative, started a capacity building programme. The work is part of the 2014-2020 European Commission's Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) initiative called EU Aid Volunteers, bringing together organisations from different countries and strengthening the local capacity of disaster-affected communities. In Asia the project includes Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar and Nepal.



▲ Women and children dance during the gathering of an emotional support group in Makaising, a village in the Gorkha District of Nepal. ACT Alliance psycho-social workers have helped villagers recover from the quake both physically and emotionally.

PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT



# Sudden onset disasters

The year 2016 was one of the worst years on record for typhoons in the South Pacific and the continuing aftermath of the Nepal earthquake of 2015.

In the past 40 years the destructive power of typhoons – which includes hurricanes, cyclones and tropical storms – that wreak havoc across the region, have intensified by 50 per cent, due to the warmest ocean temperatures on record<sup>1</sup>. This intensity, and the frequency of typhoons, is predicted to continue

<sup>1</sup> Nature Geoscience Sept. 2016

to increase as a result of climate change. Two all-time-record storms happened in 2016: tropical cyclone Winston in the South Pacific, which with wind speeds of 180 mph tied for the strongest southern hemisphere storm on record, and tropical cyclone Fantala in the South Indian Ocean with 175 mph winds.

These storms cause devastating loss of life and property and have major social and economic impacts on communities. Emergency preparedness and response planning is an integral element

of strengthening effective responses. When disasters strike, ACT's immediate imperative is to save lives and to support those who are affected. Experience shows that the better ACT members and forums are prepared for a possible disruption of normal life, the faster and more effective a response becomes.

ACT members have used these principles in responding to the many disasters in this region, particularly following the Nepal earthquake in 2015. At the beginning of 2016 ACT Nepal Forum members

decided to continue a range of projects to help the recovery and reconstruction following the earthquake. These projects included the provision of shelter, sanitation, education and psychosocial support.

▲ A 10-year-old boy enjoys the warmth of his bed in a temporary shelter in the Rasuwa District of Nepal near the country's border with Tibet. In the aftermath of the April 2015 earthquake that ravaged Nepal, ACT Alliance helped people in his village with a variety of services, including blankets, shelter and livelihood assistance. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT



► A woman heats water for tea over a fire in her family's temporary shelter in the village of Gatlang, in the Rasuwa District of Nepal near the country's border with Tibet.

PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT

## Learning from experience

In 2016 the ACT Philippines Forum came together for very rich and productive discussions on the lessons to be gained from the response to typhoon Haiyan, which, in turn, informed the setting of their priorities for 2017. The forum also piloted a Core Humanitarian Standards Orientation entitled 'Strengthening FBOs' Humanitarian Response through Quality and Accountability Standards', targeting those engaged in humanitarian work in the Philippines.





### **Building local capacity in Nepal**

A full year after the devastating earthquake in Nepal, thousands of Nepalis were still living in temporary shelter and there was still much to do to restore vital infrastructure, such as health services and roads. A joint project by an ACT member with Islamic Relief Worldwide trained local carpenters and masons in constructing quake-proof buildings, rather than bringing in 'outside' people. This not only contributed to the reconstruction of the country but also brought new skills and resilience to the community, which should help mitigate against the worst effects of future earthquakes.

### **Rising sea levels in India**

Rising sea levels have been posing a threat to many coastal villages along the Indian coastline. Resinga village in Odisha lies on the banks of the River Dhanua. The village experiences annual flooding, which impacts livestock and therefore livelihoods. Every year around 225 acres of arable land are submerged by saline water, seriously affecting food security. Men are forced to migrate to nearby towns in search of work. To provide an alternative income, an ACT member provided training in mushroom cultivation for both women and men thereby enabling men to stay with their families and for families to expand their sources of income.



# Emergencies in LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Total spent on emergencies in  
Latin America and Caribbean in 2016

## \$3,300,856

Haiti	\$1,823,585
Ecuador	\$732,753
Central America	\$413,431
Dominican Republic	\$98,432
Cuba	\$89,979
Uruguay	\$35,100
Costa Rica	\$100,000
Colombia	\$7,576
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,300,856</b>

**Photo above:** Hijo de Jesus García Hernández removes a tick from a small man's cow, in Los Horcones, Langue, Valle, Honduras.

PHOTO: SEAN HAWKEY/ACT

■ Heavy rains in northwest Haiti, caused flooding and isolated communities by cutting of roads and communication.

PHOTO: MARGOT DEGREEF/CWS





▲ In San Luis, Somoto, Nicaragua, the community meets for Farm School days with staff from the Lutheran Church in Nicaragua. PHOTO: SEAN HAWKEY/ACT

## Working together on climate change

Central America suffers from the long-term effects of climate change –with increasing extreme weather, droughts and food insecurity - and from instability, with an ongoing wave of political assassinations, the growth of organised crime and massive migration. The region responds to the resulting humanitarian crises, but also with a longer-term approach, reaching out with initiatives for coalitions and political alliances that can help get to the root of the problems.

The ACT Forums of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua established a joint coordination initiative to work on climate change, development and food security. This regional coordination, called the ACT Implementer Network, has begun coordination with governments, civil society and local partners. The Network began working with Central American governments, advocating for ACT's demands to be included in government positions for COP22. Two ACT members attended COP22 as official delegates of the Government of El Salvador.

With participation of the Implementer Network, the ACT Forum in El Salvador, the Government of El Salvador and the National Agricultural Bank,

a partnership was created with an MoU, and with a massive event bringing together 2,000 people from grassroots organizations to talk about drought, climate adaptation and finance. Representatives from international insurance companies and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean took part in the discussions, both key actors in tackling and adapting to climate change. During the ACT drought appeal for the region, the National Agricultural Bank and the Government also supported the participants of the ACT project. Such close cooperation strengthens ACT's leverage and impact.

The Interreligious Alliance for Development was launched by ACT, Caritas, World Vision, the Lutheran World Federation,

CLAI, the Episcopal Conference, CREAS and Religions for Peace. This alliance is working with the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness and with the World Bank on the 2030 agenda coordinating with agencies like UNFPA and UNDP. This puts Faith Based Organisations (FBO) at the forefront of policy debate, shaping global development discourse, participating in the High-Level Meetings on Development. ACT, CLAI, LWF and WCC organised a consultation looking at joint advocacy positions and demands. Using one of ACT's founding documents 'Our Understanding of Development' as a basis, a concrete proposal, linking up FBO contributions to the 2030 Agenda, emerged from the consultation.





▲ Angel David Carrasco Rivera, farmer from San Luis, Somoto

PHOTO: SEAN HAWKEY/ACT

▼ Two women from a community group grow vegetables in San Luis, Somoto, Nicaragua.

PHOTO: SEAN HAWKEY/ACT



▼ The persistent drought in northern Nicaragua has seen crops fail year after year, but not only harvests are lost, seeds are also lost. In a community project supported by ACT Alliance, a seed bank has been established to safeguard local varieties of beans and maize.

PHOTO: SEAN HAWKEY/ACT



▲ In La Flor, near Somotillo, water scarcity because of the persistent drought continues to cause major difficulties for people living there. A deep well has been drilled and a solar-powered pump unit set up to pump water from around 45m depth. This water provides neighbours with water for drinking and washing.

PHOTO: SEAN HAWKEY/ACT

## Response to Food Crisis in Central America

The drought caused by El Niño is one of the most severe in the history of Central America, surpassing in size and impact the situation faced in 2014. More than four million people in the dry corridor were affected, of which more than half were in immediate need of food assistance, health care, nutritional support, and recovery of livelihoods.

These low-income households are dependent on rainfall as they farm without irrigation, they have limited access to basic health services, education and face difficulties accessing minimal dietary standards.

Despite mitigation measures put into place in the affected countries, the drought has caused widespread food insecurity. The ongoing impact of El Niño and the possibility of a subsequent drought brought upon by La Niña may continue to have an impact, especially on food insecurity and health, for as up to three years.

ACT Alliance supported 2,872 families in four countries of Central America with food security and WASH (Water Sanitation and Hygiene) with a coordinated regional response involving four forums and 20 implementing members with the leadership of the LWF program in Central America.





## Hurricane Matthew: ACT Responds in Haiti, Dominican Republic and Cuba

In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew swept through Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Cuba with winds of up to 230 km/h. The hurricane moved slowly and left 600mm of rain in places, causing widespread flooding, landslides and extensive damage.

In Haiti 546 people were killed and the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OCHA, reported that 1.4 million people required humanitarian assistance.

Across the three Caribbean countries damage was reported to bridges, roads, hospitals, schools, churches and housing, as well as infrastructure for water and sanitation. Agricultural land and standing crops were badly damaged causing food

insecurity and urgent humanitarian need. Because of the destructive force of the hurricane people were traumatised.

ACT forum members provided assistance with local partners focusing on the provision of food, shelter, water, sanitation & hygiene kits, non-food items such as soap and sanitary pads, mattresses and mosquito nets. Medical assistance and psychosocial support was provided. Storage facilities and equipment were put at the disposition of ACT partners to support the affected population.

ACT members provided training for emergency preparedness as well. It is always shown in emergencies that preparedness makes a big difference. Cuba evacuated people from the high-risk areas and had no deaths or casualties, the Dominican Republic also ran a massive evacuation and kept the deaths to just four, Haiti had far less disaster preparedness and suffered a large death toll.

▲ Wells and toilets were destroyed by hurricane Matthew and the water became polluted. There is a great danger that diseases such as cholera can break out. PHOTO: THOMAS LOHNES/DKH

## Ecuador Earthquake Response

A 7.8 magnitude earthquake hit Northern Ecuador on 16 April 2016. Access to affected areas was limited due to damages to infrastructure and the Government declared a State of Emergency in six provinces: Esmeraldas, Manabí, Santa Elena, Guayas, Santo Domingo and Los Ríos.

Authorities reported 663 dead, 6274 injured, and around half a million people directly affected including nearly 30,000 people moved to temporary shelters.

ACT Alliance mobilised a

specialist team from Central America, and supported 2,000 families in Muisne, Province of Esmeraldas with Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH), Community-Based Psychosocial Support, and Non-Food Items. A strong coordination and learning approach was set up in order to work together with the government and to strengthen the Churches' capacities in the humanitarian field. Psychosocial support was also provided by Colombian and Chilean teams, as a LAC region response.



▲ Salomón Castillo stands near her damaged house in Muisne Island, Esmeraldas, Ecuador, where ACT provided assistance to many of the worst-affected families. PHOTO: ROSA MARIA MATAMOROS/ACT




▲ ACT's Latin American forums were supported by ACT organisations worldwide in condemning the assassination of Berta Cáceres, an emblematic figure and one of more than 100 indigenous and environmentalist leaders killed in Honduras recently. PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED/ACT

## Advocating for justice

During the year important position and advocacy statements were made in the region: on the Sepur Zarco case in Guatemala, the first criminal trial on sexual violence during Guatemala's armed conflict; calling for respect of the democratic process as Brazil plunged into political turmoil; supporting the peace process between the FARC guerrillas and the Government of Colombia as a 52-year conflict gradually came to a close.

And, the Latin American forums were supported by ACT organisations worldwide in condemning the assassination of Berta Cáceres, an emblematic figure and one of more than 100 indigenous and environmentalist leaders killed in Honduras since the coup in 2009. The need for protection of Civil Society actors and human rights defenders was underlined by the regional forums and the ACT General Secretary.

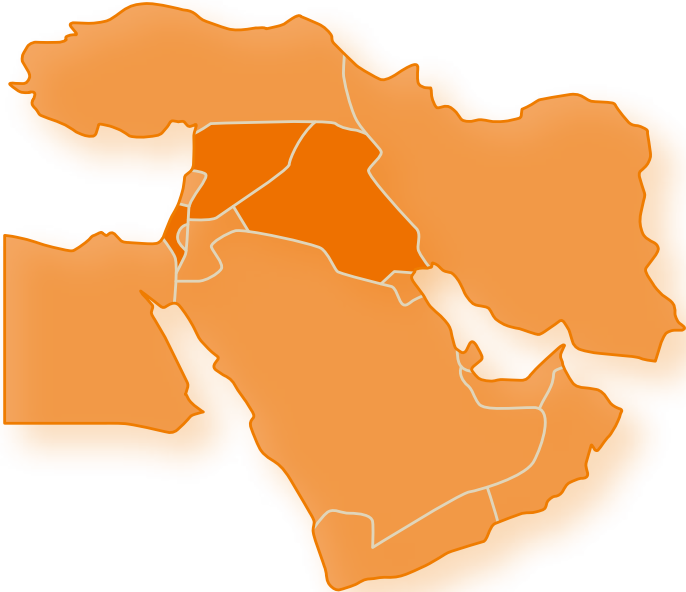




# Emergencies in THE MIDDLE EAST

Total spent on emergencies in the  
Middle East in 2016

## \$8,126,170



Syrian Arab Republic	\$5,032,373
Iraq	\$2,824,268
Occupied Palestinian Territories	\$269,529
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,126,170</b>

## A backdrop of conflict

Ongoing conflict continued to provide the bleak backdrop to the situation in the Middle East. Inevitably civilians were caught up in these conflicts resulting in tens of thousands of deaths, injuries and a massive refugee movement as people sought safety and sanctuary.

“Children and young people are hopeless and live in isolation. They are in an extremely vulnerable position. Under such circumstances, education offers a feeling of stability. It gives you confidence and offers a chance for a radically different future.”

—ACT member

**Image above:** Many children are refugees living in the Zaatari refugee camp near Mafraq, Jordan.

**Image at right:** Children participate in math class in a school in a settlement of Syrian refugees in the Akkar district of northern Lebanon. PHOTOS: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT





## Syria

At the beginning of 2016, ACT Alliance joined with over 120 other humanitarian organisations and United Nations agencies in a joint appeal urging the world to raise their voices and call for an end to the Syria crisis and to the suffering endured by millions of citizens. The appeal outlined a series of immediate, practical steps that could improve humanitarian access and delivery of aid.

The severity of the humanitarian disaster in Syria, resulting from the six-year conflict, continued in 2016. More than 250,000 lives have been lost and millions of people have been forced from their homes. The warring parties compounded the problems by refusing humanitarian agencies access to civilians in need.

Internal displacements of population persist and the number of refugees has passed the 5-million mark as fighting continues in the country. The conflict continues unabated in all parts of Syria, where civilians are subject to on-going attacks, and public infrastructures remain constantly bombed. The situation has been worsening in places like Rural Damascus, Idlib, Daraa, Aleppo, Homs and Raqqqa. Intense fighting is exacerbating needs (protection, food, safe drinking water, non-food items, shelter, and emergency medical treatments) and displacements, with difficulty of access and capacity to respond in a timely and effective manner posing major challenges to the humanitarian workers.

Up to 4.5 million people in Syria live in hard-to-reach areas, including 400,000 in besieged locations without life-saving aid. A further 7.6 million Syrians are internally displaced and the United Nations estimated that \$3.2bn was needed to provide water and food for 13.5 million people struggling to survive within Syria.

ACT members in the region coordinate the humanitarian response through ACT Jordan/Syria/Lebanon (JSL) Forum. Members carried out their own detailed needs assessments and response in various sectors, which included food security, non-food items, psychosocial support, persons with disabilities, education/civic education, shelter, home repairs, WASH, life-skills, livelihoods, vocational training, social stability, protection, and health/nutrition.

One ACT member began a programme to support people who are blind, deaf, or have other disabilities in Jordan. Over 1000 people were provided glasses, hearing aids, walkers, surgery and more to improve the lives of those who visit the programme. It has been so successful that other NGOs have begun referring to it as a case study, and it has expanded into a new province in 2016. The program is soon to be operating inside the second largest Syrian refugee camp in Jordan.



▲ A refugee family outside their tent in the Zaatari refugee camp near Mafraq, Jordan. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT





War-weary children in Rafah Gaza, participate in a psychosocial program run by the ACT Alliance. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT

## Occupied Palestinian territories

The political, economic and social context in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) remained harsh during 2016. Poverty, psychosocial problems and food shortages are still dominating the overall picture of the situation in Gaza. The ongoing siege imposed on the Gaza Strip since June 2006 is still negatively affecting the provision of health services. The Health situation in the Gaza Strip is repeatedly described as a chronic

emergency and a protracted human dignity crisis.

Tensions remained high with over 18,000 houses completely demolished in the Gaza Strip during the Israeli war on the Strip in 2014, with thousands of houses demolished in the West Bank displacing Palestinian families and affecting their livelihoods. An estimated 2.3 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

In November, the United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Activities, Robert Piper, condemned the Israeli authorities' continued obstruction of humanitarian assistance, stating that 'targeting the most vulnerable of the vulnerable and preventing them from receiving aid – especially as winter sets in – is unacceptable and runs counter to Israel's obligations as an occupying power'.

ACT members continue to respond to the needs of Palestinians, providing health care for women and children, psychosocial support, cash relief, job-creation, education, agriculture programmes, and vocational training for young people. Over 19,000 people received health care, and more than 200 students attended one of the four vocational schools run by ACT members.

## Support for children

According to the United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the number of Syrian children in need of immediate humanitarian assistance was as high as six million. An estimated 2.1 to 2.4 million children and young people were not able to attend school. In response to this situation an ACT member launched a project to provide basic education for over two thousand children in Syria, most of them girls.

One of the most significant consequences of war, mainly in the Gaza Strip, is the impact on the mental health of civilians. ACT Alliance has developed guiding principles to assist in providing community-based psychosocial support work.

◀ Middle East Dream Project. PHOTO: IOCC/GOPD-DERD



“When I see pictures of my friends. I feel bad, and when I talk to them I want to go back. They all live in bad conditions, but I should be there. My friends tell me of shooting and bombings. I feel guilty and I wonder why I am here and they must endure all of that.”

—Layla, 11, Syrian refugee



### Coping with trauma

ACT Alliance is running a programme in the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan working with children and young people, aged 7 to 18, to help them cope with the violence they have experienced by developing communication skills, stress management, conflict resolution and peace.

♦ Summer school, rural Damascus  
PHOTO: ACT/IOCC/GOPA-DERD



### A safe place in Iraq

In various camps in northern Iraq an ACT Alliance member has set up women-friendly areas. These are often no more than a container or two but they provide women, who traditionally do not speak in public in these communities, a forum and protected space to meet. Women share skills such as knitting, sewing and hairdressing. For the women, it is an opportunity to escape camp life and enjoy a more relaxing environment. Before the centres were set up, the women were stuck in their tents with nowhere to go. For many of the women, having the opportunity to meet new people, share skills and discuss their lives has alleviated depression and stress. PHOTO: GEORGE DALI APO

### Iraq

The humanitarian crisis in Iraq is one of the largest and most complex in the world, impacting on nearly one-third of the population. Here, as in Syria, the level of need is staggering. In 2016 the situation became increasingly unstable due to the growth and activity of the Islamic State. Families were willing take enormous risks to escape, sometimes with grave consequences, while others are trapped inside Fullujah, an ISIS stronghold.

In response to the massive movement of people, ACT members provided food security, non-food items, early recovery & livelihood restoration, unconditional cash assistance, protection – gender based violence & psychosocial support, community cohesion, livelihoods – vocational training & small business start-up grants, tents and water, sanitation and hygiene facilities for refugee camps. However, these quickly became overcrowded and sites for new camps had to be sought.



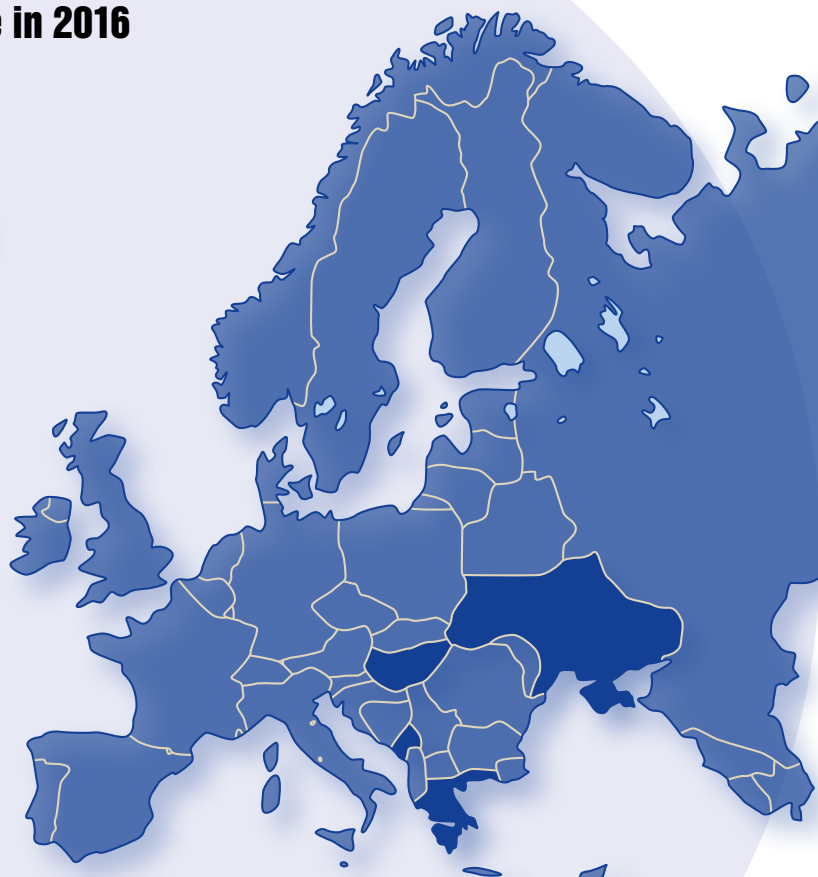


# Emergencies in EUROPE

## Total spent on emergencies in Europe in 2016

# \$1,570,208

Greece	\$896,509
Ukraine	\$673,385
Armenia	\$90,314
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,570,208</b>



## The Fallout of War

People fleeing violence are part of the fallout of conflicts. There is a global displacement crisis with 65m displaced people in the world, 86% of them remain in developing countries, but Europe has received millions of people who have escaped violence in their

own countries. Their journeys are hazardous, around 5,000 people died trying to reach Europe in 2016, and the lucky ones often find a reception that is unwelcoming and difficult. Even within Europe, over 1.6 million people are displaced within the Ukraine by ongoing violence there. ACT's response is to support displaced people through these crises.

Some refugees are able to bring some financial resources with them to help establish them in a new place, but the majority

leave home with very little and as new arrivals are particularly vulnerable, often destitute.

Emotionally, many carry traumatic experiences that are impossible to shrug off. Many have experienced months and years of deprivations, intimidations and terror, and have witnessed events that have left innocent people dead.

Refugees have to deal with the difficulties of integrating to a new

place, with a new language, often with no gainful employment, and often with some hostility against refugees.

ACT forums aim to help with all the basic needs of refugees, a sense of welcome, and psychosocial support.

Three appeals in 2016 supported refugees and internally displaced people across Europe.



## Response to the Refugee Crisis in Armenia

Since the eruption of the Syrian conflict in 2011, over 5 million people have been displaced outside Syria. 20,000 Syrian refugees came to Armenia. The vast majority of them are of Armenian descent from Aleppo. Other minorities such as the Yezidis and the Assyrians have also found refuge in Armenia. Furthermore, there are also approximately 1,000 refugees from Northern-Iraq in Armenia, mainly Kurds.

Currently, there are approximately 10,000 Syrian refugees registered as vulnerable and in need of humanitarian assistance in Armenia. The lack of the government's ability to adequately address the needs of refugees in Armenia calls for local and international organizations to provide subsidiary support.

Refugees struggle for adequate housing, livelihoods and face major barriers to integration.

The ACT Armenia forum has been addressing the most pressing needs in livelihoods. Also, because refugees are struggling with the traumas from the war in Syria, as well as the difficulties of coming to a new country, ACT is providing psychosocial support.

## IDPs and Refugees in Ukraine and Russia

The humanitarian situation in Eastern Ukraine deteriorated in 2016. Fighting which began in April 2014 between militia groups and armed forces under the government in Kiev continued in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions of Ukraine. As a result of these hostilities hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees continue to flee to the neighbouring regions of Ukraine and Russia.

By July 2016, there had been registrations of 1.8m Internally Displaced Persons in Ukraine and over 1m refugees in Russia from the conflict. More than three million people were in need of some form of humanitarian assistance.

ACT members provided food and hygiene kits to elderly and large families, psychosocial support, and help in re-constructing houses damaged or destroyed by the conflict.



**Photo at top:** Refugees walk through the Hungarian town of Hegyeshalom on their way to a border crossing with Austria. Hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants flowed through Hungary on their way to western Europe from Syria, Iraq and other countries. The ACT Alliance has provided critical support for refugee and migrant families here and in other places along their journey. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT

**Two photos above:** Refugee Camp Idomeni (Greece) on the Greek-Macedonian frontier—people live here for months, and are provided by UNHCR, volunteers and non-governmental organizations. PHOTO: THOMAS LOHNES/DIAKONIE KATASTROPHENHILFE





# Greece, Serbia, Hungary Refugees/ Migrants Humanitarian Response

Refugees and migrants arrive in Europe from countries of armed conflict, deep poverty, or social unrest, including Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and some African countries.

ACT forums and members continued to provide humanitarian support to refugees and migrants in Greece, Serbia, and Hungary to contribute to the alleviation of their suffering by addressing the most pressing needs such as food security, water, sanitation and hygiene, health, psychosocial support, shelter, non-food items, education and protection.

Many refugees and migrants arriving in Europe come through the Balkan countries of Greece and the former Yugoslav Republics of Macedonia and Serbia, but the countries along that route began to close their borders to refugees and in March the EU and Turkey made

a deal to attempt to curtail smugglers' and others' methods of transporting refugees from Turkey into other European nations. Turkey hosts more than 3 million refugees-- more than any other country. Closed borders and the threat of deportation led to some changes in the routes that were being taken, but not to a reduction in numbers.

Although government authorities scaled up their capacities, they were unable to respond to all the needs. Serbia, Hungary and Greece now have very significant populations of vulnerable people – many who will not be able to continue their journey into Europe. Refugees who crossed the Aegean Sea to Greece are not able to officially travel on to other Balkan countries. Some are choosing to make the journey illegally, perhaps using smugglers, which puts them at considerable personal risk.

More than 20,100 refugees and migrants have been preregistered and are accommodated in Greece in formal and informal refugee sites. Those who are currently in Greece have found that the legal systems to ensure they are registered and have access to information have been slow to function adequately and preference has been given to Syrian nationals.

In Hungary, officials estimate that approximately 1,500 people entered illegally since a new regulation called “depth border controls” was introduced by Hungarian authorities along the Serbian and Croatian state border on 4 July.

In addition to the humanitarian response to meet the physical, social and emotional needs of refugees, ACT members engage in humanitarian advocacy, calling for better conditions and support for refugees in Europe.





Refugees and migrants line up for food after dark in the city park on the Greek island of Chios. The park is full of tents sheltering refugees who crossed the Aegean Sea in small boats from Turkey. They were registered and provided with food and shelter with support from ACT Alliance. Many of them then move to the city park where they await a ferry to take them to Athens and then on toward western Europe. Hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants have passed through Greece. The ACT Alliance has provided critical support for refugee and migrant families here and in other places along the journey. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT



# ACT Alliance advocating for CLIMATE JUSTICE

Our mission as a church-based network is to advocate for the rights of the world's most vulnerable people with whom we work every day, and many of whom are already facing the challenges of climate change.

## Advocating for climate justice

Climate change was set out as ACT Alliance's key issue for its global advocacy work at the first ACT general assembly held in Arusha, Tanzania in 2010. This focus was reaffirmed in the new strategic framework 2015-2018. ACT continues to support, contribute to discussions and advocate for action at all levels.

Through advocacy ACT seeks to influence decision makers, policies, structures, systems to bring about a just, peaceful and sustainable world. ACT leverages the knowledge, experience and member relationships, and the power communities, to advocate for just laws, policies and practices at all levels.

ACT plays a significant leadership role in the climate change advocacy and has developed key competencies with the UNFCCC and partnerships with key governments and civil society. ACT Alliance played a significant role in the mobilisation and advocacy that contributed to the delivery of the Paris Agreement and has continued this work in 2016.

► Maryan Alvarez of ACT member ILFE in the Tecomapa River, in La Pavana, Somotillo, Nicaragua. One of many rivers in the area of northern Nicaragua that haven't had a flow of water in them for years because of prolonged climate-related drought. PHOTO: SEAN HAWKEY/ACT





# Getting ready for climate change in the Pacific Islands

Climate change presents serious challenges and threats for people all over the world, but particularly the poorest and, even more immediately and critically, those living in low-lying coastal areas and Small Island Development States (SIDS). While potentially suffering the most they are the people who are least to blame for what is happening to them, having historically very low emission levels. Framing climate change in terms of social justice and humanitarianism leads us all to a moral imperative to act with and on behalf of the most vulnerable people, and the SIDS are one of the most vulnerable.

In September 2016 in partnership with the Pacific Conference of Churches ACT hosted a workshop in Fiji to bring together church leaders responsible for climate change advocacy and adaptation, to exchange and share lessons learned, build capacity and discuss the potential for future co-operation to better protect the most climate-vulnerable people in the Pacific region.

Although climate change is multi-faceted it has two main prongs that ACT members work



▲ A family in Ambrym Moru Village, Vanuatu, after Cyclone Pam hit the area.  
PHOTO: JULIA LOERSCH/ACT FOR PEACE

on. The first is the humanitarian emergency response. This is the world's most disaster-prone region with 47 per cent of the world's disasters. Many of them - cyclones, flooding and droughts - are climate-related. The other prong is to strengthen advocacy work both to reduce the factors

that are contributing to climate change and to ensure that there is adequate provision for those who will be affected by climate change.

ACT members discussed the challenges of working with limited technical capacity and limited funding and looked at opportunities for coordination at all levels. Strengths identified included the facts that churches in the Pacific are deeply rooted with local communities and have a long history of accompaniment, are trusted and have the potential to provide effective humanitarian assistance to most vulnerable communities.

The Tokatoka Declaration was adopted by the participants of the workshop and was used for advocacy work in the run up and during the COP22 in Marrakech. Key principles of the declaration were 'to network and magnify our voices through existing local, national, regional and global platforms' and 'to hold governments, donors and agencies accountable to commitments made'. It can be read at <http://actalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/TOKATOKA-Declaration-final.pdf>.

**"Climate change is a moral and a justice issue."**

**The Most Rev Thabo Makgoba, Archbishop of Cape Town,  
ACT Global Climate Ambassador**

**Top of p. 28:** In the aftermath of Typhoon Hagupit/Ruby emergency food relief is being prepared for the remote community of in the Philippines.  
PHOTO: M.M. MORSI/DCA



“Who can stop climate change? We can. We have a responsibility to do so that began when God commanded the earliest human inhabitants of the Garden of Eden to ‘till it and keep it’. To keep it; not to abuse it, not to destroy it.”

The Most Rev. Desmond Tutu

## Youth engaging in advocacy

Advocacy is an obvious activity for young people, involving as it does actions that are designed to create long-term and sustainable improvements for the future – their future. Working closely



▲ International Ecumenical Encounter for Peace in Colombia, the event’s goal was the construction of an inter-church agenda to strengthen faith participation and advocacy in the dialogue process currently taking place in Colombia.

PHOTO: ANNA VOGT/JUSTAPAZ

with ecumenical partners, an ACT member sent a delegation of young leaders to the Marrakech conference. Caroline Ditebogo Lebea, a 19-year old youth leader and youth delegate representing an ACT member said:

“So far the COP 22 experience has been for me a very challenging, sometimes confusing, yet such an insightful experience. We all

feel a bit more informed about climate change issues, specifically in Africa, and are eager to learn more about the difference we can make at the grassroots level, since youth also represent the overwhelming majority of the African population that is vulnerable to climate change.”

▼ In San Luis, Somoto, Nicaragua, the community meets for Farm School days with staff from ACT Alliance. PHOTO: SEAN HAWKEY/ACT



► ACT Alliance took part in a march at COP22 in Marakkech.

PHOTO: VALTER MUNIZ/ACT

### Putting your money where your mouth is

An ACT member in the UK has focused a campaign with its Church and public supporters discouraging investments in fossil fuel companies and encouraging renewable energy companies. The biggest banks are the ones that most people rely on to look after their money, but they are not using that money to look after the earth. The extraction and burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas all produce carbon pollution, which threaten the lives of everyone. Money is the key and banks could be part of the solution.





## Marrakech – a Paris ‘reality check’?

In November 2016, the annual UN Climate Change Conference - known as COP22 - took place in Marrakech, Morocco, the aim of which was to tie up some of the loose ends from the Paris Conference and set out an action plan for the way forward. ACT members and other faith-based organisations engaged with civil society groups in lobbying negotiators, running side events, sharing their on-the-ground experiences and contributing to discussions. There is a strong hope that the ambitious agreements from Paris will be turned into real meaningful actions.

During the conference the news came through that Donald Trump had won the US presidential election and the big question of the day was whether he would pull the US out of the Paris Agreement or not.

“We look to our governments to scale up public finances and deliver an agreement to enable the poorest to adapt to climate change and to develop in a low-carbon sustainable way.”

**The Rev Nicholas Holtam, Bishop of Salisbury,  
the Church of England’s lead bishop on the environment**

## ACT Advisory group on climate change

This group was set up to steer the Alliance towards the climate change objectives defined in the ACT strategic plan. The group supports ACT members and forums to advocate particularly for community resilience in developing countries, low-carbon development and the full implementation of the Paris Agreement. Advocacy is important at all levels from empowering local communities to influencing local policy and influencing effectively international policy-making processes.





# World Humanitarian Summit

The World Humanitarian Summit took place over two days in May 2016 with 9,000 participants from around the world. It marked a shift in how the international community prevents human suffering by preparing for, and responding to crises. ACT Alliance made a significant contribution in the run up to the summit and took an active part in the summit.

## Putting people at the centre

ACT's vision is for a humanitarian system with a bottom-up approach, where resilient communities define their own needs and where local actors, including those at risk themselves, lead disaster preparedness and the response to emergencies. We have identified a need for renewed action and investment in humanity if we are to move from delivering aid to ending need. As part of its work to support the WHS process ACT has committed to significantly increasing the proportion of humanitarian funding that goes directly to local and national members and their partners for humanitarian response and emergency preparedness by 2018.

**Image above:** A woman holds a sign during a march celebrating International Women's Day in Dhawa, a village in the Gorkha District of Nepal.

PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT



▲ A young girl stands in the ruins of her home after Hurricane Matthew in Haiti.

PHOTO: THOMAS LOHNES/DKH





▲ Emergency relief distribution by ACT Alliance in Haiti PHOTO: THOMAS LOHNES/DKH

# A course for change

At the summit, world leaders were called on to stand behind their responsibilities to the world's people by committing to taking forward the UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Humanity, which charts a course for change. The five core responsibilities of this agenda, which formed the focus of the summit, are to:

1. prevent and end conflict
2. respect rules of war
3. leave no one behind
4. work differently to end need
5. invest in humanity

In response to these core responsibilities ACT made the following commitments:

- **Develop solutions with and for people:** Use our influence with our constituencies, civil society and government leaders to promote stability and long-term community reconciliation, strengthen cohesion and address grievances.
- **Meet people's essential needs:** We will reinforce and highlight through our membership the integral role of faith-based responders in rapid and unimpeded access to communities in need, by exhibiting full respect for the humanitarian principles. We will do this by engaging local and national members in information sharing, awareness raising and capacity building on the practical application of the guiding principles and ensuring complete and contextualised integration of the humanitarian principles into all ACT Alliance humanitarian responses.
- **Speak out on violations:** In an expression of global solidarity with poor and marginalised people, we will amplify the voices that promote human rights and international humanitarian law and speak out against social and structural injustice.

- **Put people at the centre, build community resilience:** We will increase the proportion of our humanitarian investment that goes to cash transfer programming. Before in-kind inputs, we will ask ourselves whether cash would work in this context. We will share learning across the ACT Alliance network on best practice in cash approaches, and increase capacity building on cash for local and national members. By May 2018, we will revise and reform the ACT Alliance humanitarian response mechanisms in line with the direction set out in the UN Secretary's Agenda for Humanity.
- **Invest in local capacities:** By May 2018, we will significantly increase the proportion of ACT Alliance members' humanitarian funding that goes directly to local and national members and their partners for humanitarian response and emergency preparedness. We will seek to transparently report on this amount as ACT Alliance and encourage individual members to do the same. ACT Alliance members commit to supporting initiatives that provide easier and better access to resources for local and national members, particularly where they are first and frontline responders.
- **Invest according to risk:** We will increase the proportion of our humanitarian investment that goes to community preparedness, prevention and resilience, with a target that over ten per cent of ACT Alliance programming should be invested in emergency preparedness and risk reduction. We will use the extraordinary reach and trust of our network to raise disaster risk reduction awareness at grassroots level, including in hard-to-reach locations, by influencing local leadership and educating community members.
- **Improve cost-efficiency and transparency:** ACT Alliance commits to streamline and harmonize reporting requirements for members, in line with the expected outcomes of the Grand Bargain.



► The biggest concrete outcome of the WHS was the Grand Bargain. This was launched at the World Humanitarian Summit and is a package of reforms that was agreed by more than 30 of the biggest donors and aid providers. It aims to make emergency aid finance more efficient and effective, and to get more means into the hands of those who need it. The Grand Bargain includes changes in the working practices of donors and aid organisations that would deliver an extra billion dollars over five years for people in need of humanitarian aid. Here are the ten big Grand Bargain commitments:

1. Transparency - in line with the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)
2. National and local responders – raise the percentage of emergency funding that goes directly to local and national operators from 0.4 per cent to 25 per cent by 2020
3. Cash – no firm targets for this but calls for further research to 'better understand its risks and benefits'
4. Reduce duplication and management costs
5. Needs assessment – this is an attempt to address the issue of who gets to define the scale of the problem
6. A 'participation revolution' – donors to agree that programmes can change as a result of community feedback and aid agencies to show how they incorporate it into their programmes
7. Multi-year planning and funding -
8. Earmarking – an attempt to reduce the wastefulness and micro-management that can result from earmarking funds to specific projects
9. Harmonise reporting – reducing the volume of reports and jointly decide on common terminology, identifying core requirements and developing a common report structure
10. Enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors – the need to work collaboratively across institutional boundaries on the basis of comparative advantage.

## Further observations from the summit in brief

- The faith special event showed increasing recognition of the role of faith-based actors
- The Charter for Change was promoted. This will bring at least \$500k of funding to NGOs
- Several states called for humanitarian aid to remain distinct from development aid
- Proposals to strengthen monitoring, reporting and understand of international humanitarian law
- Calls for gender equality, empowerment and the ending of gender-based violence
- A new approach was identified as needed to address the needs of internally displaced people and refugees
- Launch of the Chart for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action and a Compact for Young People on Humanitarian Action

## Closing the gap

A particularly significant event at the summit was the launch of NEAR (The Network for Empowered Aid Response). This is a network of local and national NGOs from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America who have come together to promote a more equitable and dignified humanitarian and development system.

## Next steps ...

There were many positive outcomes from the World Humanitarian Summit. The challenge now is that decisions made and commitments given are galvanised into meaningful change and positive action.

As part of the commitments resulting from the World Humanitarian Summit, ACT has pledged to make a significant increase in the proportion of its humanitarian funding that goes to local and national members.

PHOTO FROM NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE  
BY PAUL JEFFREY/ACT





“It is time to create a paradigm shift within the humanitarian system, and our expectation is that this first summit [the WHS] should be a significant milestone toward real change in the sector, in which local and national organisations are more empowered to respond to their community’s needs”

John Nduna, ACT Alliance General Secretary





ACT Alliance is able to strengthen its understanding by listening to the voices and experiences of communities who are affected, and this informs its policy direction and advocacy strategy.

Advocacy work is designed to influence decision makers, laws and regulations, structures and practices to address the root causes of injustice and to stop abuses of human rights currently taking place and to influence businesses to prevent future abuses.

ACT forums and communities of practice are the eyes and ears of the alliance. Through the forums and CoP members share real-life cases where multinational corporations have violated human rights. Members are able to learn from each other and strengthen their responses to these violations.

PHOTO: PHOTO: PAULINO MENEZES



# ACT Alliance advocating for BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ACT Alliance puts an important emphasis on advocacy work, particularly in protecting the human rights of those affected by the impact of actions taken by businesses.

## Resisting the destruction of indigenous land and a way of life: Do not forget us

The indigenous Guarani-Kaiowá of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil – about 30,000 people – have lived in poverty and without access to their ancestral lands since the spread of soy and sugarcane monocultures began in the 1970s. In November 2007, the Federal Public Ministry and the National Foundation for the Support of the Indigenous Peoples, signed an agreement committing the government to identify and demarcate 36 territories of the Guarani-Kaiowá in Mato Grosso by 2009. However, this did not happen.

Hundreds of people continued to be evicted from their ancestral homes to make way for soya plantations and cattle raising. The evictions frequently involved violence. In June 2016 a community member was murdered and another six were



▲ Members of the Xakriabá nation demanding demarcation of indigenous lands in Brazil. ACT members held a campaign boycotting beef and soy beans from land indigenous people had been evicted from to make room for the plantations and ranches. PHOTO: PAULINO MENEZES

shot, including a 12-year old child. Residents reported seeing men in trucks, tractors and on motorcycles shooting from all sides. In July three people were shot – a 32-year old man and two

teenagers aged 15 and 17. It is estimated that 390 indigenous people have been murdered in the past 12 years.

While the world watched the Olympic Games, elsewhere in

Brazil, a coordinated ecumenical campaign by ACT members publicised and raised the visibility of these violations – they held a demonstration in front of the Legislative Assembly of the State of Mato Grosso do Sul demanding an immediate end to the killings - and started a campaign for the boycott of beef and soy beans from these areas.

The campaign denounced the crimes, which have been committed by rural caucus members – large agricultural concerns. Despite the guarantee of the rights of indigenous peoples being enshrined in the Brazilian constitution of 1988, the state has taken little action. The ecumenical mission has committed itself to continuing to fight for the rights of the indigenous people to help them retain their land and their way of life.

“There is increasing evidence that some private sector entities, particularly the extractive industries and multi-national corporations, have violated numerous human rights of people and communities in their business ventures. Therefore, it is critically important that the UN guiding principles on human rights are implemented at all levels to enable companies to be accountable. The UN guiding principles on business and human rights play an important role in contributing to an increased focus on human rights in relation to businesses.”

Sarah Kambarami, ACT Alliance Head of Programmes, opening speech at public meeting as part of UN Business and Human Rights Forum, Geneva November 2015





# ACT Alliance advocating towards the SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The sustainable development goals (SDGs) are a universal set of goals to transform our world, to be achieved by 2030. Driven by the United Nations the SDGs follow and expand on the millennium development goals (MDGs).



◀ Q'eqchi girls playing football in Concepción Actelá, Alta Verapaz. ACT Alliance works in the village on food security and other projects that include the promotion of gender equality.

PHOTO: SEAN HAWKEY/WORLD RENEW

“Be a global citizen. Act with passion and compassion. Help us make this world safer and more sustainable today and for the generations that will follow us. That is our moral responsibility.”

UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon

## Action, action, action

ACT Alliance has been actively engaged in the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which replaced the Millennium Development Goals. ACT offers a faith perspective to the implementation of the SDGs.

Faith-based organisations (FBOs) play a vital role in implementing and achieving the SDGs, being characterised, as they are, by long-term cooperation with local people and by lasting relationships with local communities based on trust.

ACT recognises the SDGs as an advocacy mandate and is exploring its role as a faith-based alliance in their implementation. Together we are working for an ambitious post-2015 sustainable development agenda that has the potential to end extreme poverty and address inequality. We will continue to call for the fulfilment of existing commitments, including human rights agreements and legally binding treaties, while recognising the power of the SDGs to inspire and drive action.

NGOs and CSOs often deliver and implement development projects on behalf of the state. In this case NGOs and CSOs must hold governments to account for their political, moral and legal

commitments. This can be done through the initiation of public campaigns, mass rallies and events that specifically keep the focus on those who are typically left behind in the development process.

Another important aspect of the SDGs is advocating for their inclusion in national constitutions and/or legal systems. This could, for example, take the form of compiling a constitutional draft of SDG implementation and an SDG implementation toolkit for different areas, and should ensure that all stakeholders in the SDGs, at the national level, have space to contribute to reviews on successes or challenges.

The time has passed for debates about development concepts. It is time for action. All countries must realise their commitment and no one should be left behind in the implementation of the SDGs.

### ‘No One Left Behind’

An ACT member in Indonesia is harnessing the enthusiasm created by the Sustainable Development Goals under the slogan ‘No One Left Behind’. At the local level, best practises are documented and at the national level, victims of social injustice are being mobilised to have a direct dialogue with those who influence and make policy, offering alternative approaches based on successes. The SDGs are being used as a fundamental leverage tool that can be used to demand action and delivery on the promise already made by UN member states.

**Image at top:** Kawkab Bardan, a refugee from Syria, at a graduation ceremony for her and 24 other women who successfully completed a Start Your Business course sponsored by the ACT Alliance in Jordan. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT





## Positioning ACT Alliance in RELIGION AND DEVELOPMENT AGENDAS

In the last ten years there has been a new interest in the role of religion and development and humanitarian response by national governments and international institutions in line with the United Nations and the World Bank.



▲ Puneshwari Shrestha leads Hindu religious practice in the Newar community, which was hard hit by the April 2015 earthquake that ravaged Nepal. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT

## Religion – a power for transformation

Globally, religious affiliation continues to grow. Religion continues to shape the lives of people, communities and society in fundamental ways. Religious leaders at the community, national and global level have significant influence that can be used in progressive and transformative ways. The churches and faith-based organisations who are the members of ACT Alliance are part of that growth, and part of the fundamental structure

of communities in over 100 countries around the world.

In 2015, ACT formed a Community of Practice on Religion and Development. This CoP was a strong voice advocating for ACT to engage in the international dialogues on religion and development. In 2016, an ACT member seconded a staff person to ACT to support the Secretariat in this work.

Working with the World Council of Churches, a paper on Ecumenical Diakonia was

drafted. This paper lays out the ecumenical family's history, theology and approach to development. This paper helps churches and church-based agencies alike to understand how and why the Church engages in development and humanitarian work, and will help them to work together more effectively in responding to humanitarian and development challenges.

ACT, the WCC and LWF convened a Religion and

Development Strategy Consultation in September to discuss all three bodies' engagement in the religion and development conversations. In particular, there was a focus on the opportunities and obligations for FBOs in Agenda 2030; the Sustainable Development Goals and the follow up of the World Humanitarian Summit. The consultation also examined the potential to leverage donor-FBO partnerships.

**Image at top:** A family photographs the cross marking the grave of a loved one on November 8, 2014, at a mass grave site in Tacloban, a city in the Philippines that was ravaged by Typhoon Haiyan one year earlier. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT





## The role of religion in Agenda 2030

▲ Youth in a barrio of La Cruz de Las Flores, Jocoton, Guatemala, a Maya Chort zone.

PHOTO: SEAN HAWKEY/ACT

### The International Partnership on Religion and Development (PaRD)

In December 2016, ACT became a partner in PaRD, joining 33 other partner organizations (most of them religious) and 16 bilateral donors and multilateral agencies including USAID, UNWomen and The Global Fund. PaRD brings together donors, civil society organizations (primarily faith-based) and multilateral agencies to harness the positive impact of religion in sustainable development and humanitarian assistance.

PaRD's work is focused on three areas with one cross-cutting issue working throughout. These are: peace and security and religion, gender equality and empowerment and health, including sexual reproductive and health rights, maternal and child health and ending child marriage. The cross-cutting issue through all of PaRD's work is human dignity and human rights.

In addition to working on these various issues through PaRD, ACT is involved in discussions on how CSOs have a voice in the governance of PaRD as a body.

The Sustainable Development Goals represent an ambitious global agenda to eradicate extreme poverty. It will take new ideas, resources and expertise to achieve this agenda. ACT is part of three central initiatives that are bringing donors and faith-based organisations together to continue this work.

### The Moral Imperative

ACT is one of 100 faith-based organisations that have joined with the World Bank in the Moral and Spiritual Imperative to End Extreme Poverty. The Moral Imperative taps into the shared convictions and beliefs that unify the world's major religions and links the role of faith-based organisations in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

ACT serves on the Steering Committee of the Moral Imperative and is involved in one of the three working groups (Evidence, Advocacy and Collaboration). In 2016, the Moral Imperative members agreed to focus on country-level initiatives. Its advocacy at the country level will focus on land and water rights, and on ending violence against children.

### Joint Learning Initiative

ACT's General Secretary, John Nduna, sat on the Board of the Joint Learning Initiative in 2016, helping to steer this NGO that documents evidence of faith-based organisations' role in humanitarian response and sustainable development. The JLI gathers information, helps to shape it in ways that policy makers and practitioners will be able to best use it, and communicates it to those groups.

A major focus for the JLI, as well as ACT, was the World Humanitarian Summit held in Istanbul in May, 2016. Faith-based organisations were active at the Summit in advocacy and side events, and many of them signed on to the Charter for Change, including ACT and several of its members.

A Global Forum on Religion and Localized Response is being organized to follow up on the recommendations from the World Humanitarian Summit.



# ACT Alliance advocating for DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS







# Advocating for Development Effectiveness

The CPDE (Civil Society Organisations Partnership for Development Effectiveness) is a partnership bringing together government, bilateral and multilateral organisations, civil society and representatives from the private sector, and includes a wide range of stakeholders from civil society, all of whom are committed to:

- Promoting development effectiveness
- strengthening developing

countries' institutions

- increasing transparency and predictability of development cooperation
- enhancing gender equality
- supporting greater involvement of civil society, parliaments and the private sector in development efforts

ACT Alliance has served as co-chair of the CPDE since its inception in 2011. This

platform allows all sectors and regions to engage in a dialogue on effective development planning, founded in the Istanbul Principles (September 2010), and the Busan Agreements (December 2011). ACT Alliance has raised the voices of CPDE members with a wide-array of faith groups to commit to accountable and impactful, transformational sustainable development.

The Istanbul Principles for Civil Society Organisation Development Effectiveness are a set of mutually shared values guiding the development work of civil society organisations worldwide. These principles are an integral part of the International Framework for Civil Society Organisations' Development Effectiveness and a distinct globally acknowledged reference of effective development work.





Women march together in celebration of International Women's Day on March 8, 2016, in Dhawa, a village in the Gorkha District of Nepal. In the wake of the 2015 earthquake that ravaged the region, ACT Alliance has provided a variety of support for villagers here, including support for efforts by women to better organize. The banner reads, "106th International Women's Day" and "Implement the Constitution and Guarantee Women's Rights."

PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT

## The Istanbul Principles

- Respect and promote human rights and social justice
- Embody gender equity and equity while promoting womens' and girls' rights
- Focus on people's empowerment, democratic ownership and participation
- Promote environmental sustainability
- Practice transparency and accountability
- Pursue equitable partnerships and solidarity
- Create and share knowledge and commit to mutual learning
- Commit to realising positive sustainable change

Through the CPDE structures, ACT Alliance has been among the first networks to highlight the global reality facing civil society with growing trends to shrink space for and restrict the role of ordinary citizens in decision-making processes. Repressive regimes, both democratic and authoritarian, are increasingly stifling the vital work carried out by thousands of local development organisations. In more and more countries, community organisations and their employees now work under threat of censorship, intimidation, arbitrary detainment or are arrested, or even tortured and murdered.

## The Bangkok conference

In 2016, ACT Alliance hosted the first Asia and The Pacific CPDE conference in Bangkok where policy and practice experts, faith leaders, and both regional and national FBOs from over 10 countries in the region met and collaborated with each other to discuss their commitments to the Istanbul Principles.

A training of trainers workshop was held where FBO staff, faith leaders and policy and practice experts came together to discuss their commitments to the Istanbul Principles and to gain knowledge of the CPDE, Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) aid and the development effectiveness agenda.





# FORUMS

## Bringing members together

ACT Alliance forums are national and regional groupings which bring members together to plan, advocate, and engage in humanitarian and development work collectively. Forums also provide a link to National Councils of Churches and Regional Ecumenical Organisations, grounding ACT members even more strongly in the communities they serve. ACT forums are the place where its members come together to implement emergency appeals.

### ACT Alliance currently has 59 Forums across the world:

#### AFRICA

ACT Angola Forum  
ACT Burkina Faso Forum  
ACT Burundi Forum  
ACT DRC Forum  
ACT Ethiopia Forum  
ACT Ghana Forum  
ACT Kenya Forum  
ACT Liberia Forum  
ACT Madagascar Forum  
ACT Malawi Forum  
ACT Mali Forum  
ACT Mozambique Forum  
ACT Nigeria Forum  
ACT Sierra Leone Forum  
ACT Somalia Forum  
ACT South Sudan Forum  
ACT Southern Africa Regional Forum  
ACT Tanzania Forum  
ACT Uganda Forum  
ACT West Africa Regional Forum  
ACT Zambia Forum  
ACT Zimbabwe Forum

#### EUROPE

ACT Armenia Forum  
ACT Europe Forum

#### LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

ACT Argentina Forum  
ACT Bolivia Forum  
ACT Brazil Forum  
ACT Caribbean Forum  
ACT Central America Forum  
ACT Chile Forum  
ACT Colombia Forum  
ACT Costa Rica Forum  
ACT Cuba Forum  
ACT Dominican Republic Forum  
ACT El Salvador Forum  
ACT Guatemala Forum  
ACT Haiti Forum  
ACT Honduras Forum  
ACT Nicaragua Forum  
ACT Peru Forum  
ACT South America Forum

#### ASIA

ACT Asia-Pacific Forum  
ACT Bangladesh Forum  
ACT Cambodia Forum  
ACT Central Asia Forum  
ACT India Forum  
ACT Indonesia Forum  
ACT Myanmar Forum  
ACT Nepal Forum  
ACT Pacific Forum (PANZ)  
ACT Pakistan Forum  
ACT Philippines Forum  
ACT Sri Lanka Forum  
ACT Thailand Forum  
ACT Vietnam Forum

#### MIDDLE EAST

ACT Iraq Forum  
ACT Jordan Syria Lebanon Forum  
ACT Palestine Forum

#### NORTH AMERICA

ACT North America Forum



The ACT Nepal Forum participated in a CHS Audit. PHOTO: SARAH KAMBARAMI/ACT



The ACT Asia-Pacific Forum during their meeting in Bangkok. PHOTO: JAMES MUNPA/ACT



ACT Southern Africa Regional Forum meeting on climate change and food security. PHOTO: SARAH KAMBARAMI/ACT

**Image above:** Zaynab Mohammad with her baby Raama (9 months) in Fafan zone, Somali region, The village Gerbile was severely hit by drought.

PHOTO: HÅVARD BJELLAND/KIRKENS NODHJELP



# Forums bringing members together

**ACT Angola Forum members** worked together on joint advocacy initiatives at provincial and national levels, seeking to uphold the rights of rural communities and holding the government accountable.

**ACT South Sudan Forum members** worked together by pooling individual resources and back donor funding to support the Action Plan for Peace (APP), an advocacy initiative of the South Sudan Council of Churches, together with Caritas.

**ACT Columbia Forum** conducted advocacy on human rights issues and supporting the work of the Peace Network.

**ACT Guatemala Forum** worked together on advocacy for human rights, joining with other organisations at a national level.

**ACT North America Forum** co-sponsored an event with the Faith Based Initiative during the 2016 World Bank Spring Meetings at the civil society policy forum, emphasising the role of faith communities in addressing development and humanitarian challenges.

**ACT Palestine Forum** developed an advocacy protocol and advocacy concept paper to support the work around 50 years of occupation, which is being marked in 2017.

**ACT Burundi Forum** members worked together to develop an emergency preparedness and response plan, enhancing their ability to respond quickly in the face of a disaster.

**ACT Ethiopia Forum** members have been implementing an appeal in response to the drought and food insecurity crisis, brought on by the impact of El Nino.

**ACT Tanzania Forum** members benefitted from sharing information on emergencies needing joint action and through exchanging individual member experience and expertise, strengthening each other's capacity through shared learning.

**ACT Zambia Forum** conducted trainings for Faith Based Organisations on Emergency Preparedness and Response Planning.



**ACT Bangladesh Forum** organised an emergency response for flood victims and also conducted refresher trainings on Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction.

**ACT Indonesia Forum** launched and implemented the Rapid Response Fund request to enable immediate and lifesaving support to communities affected by the earthquake in Pidie Jaya District.

**ACT Nepal Forum** continued to work together in responding to the Nepal Earthquake, including conducting joint capacity building activities, joint monitoring and evaluation and joint advocacy initiatives.

**ACT Philippines Forum** participated in the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016. This included organising discussions with other Faith-Based Organisations in the lead up to the summit, participating in the CSO forums and government meetings and a representative attending the WHS itself in May 2016. ACT Alliance commitments to the WHS were shared in various forums both pre- and post-summit.

**ACT Armenia Forum** issued an appeal in 2016 in response to the Syrian refugee crisis in Armenia.

**ACT Haiti Forum** organised a joint needs assessment following Hurricane Matthew in October 2016, using the information collected both for the ACT Appeal and other project proposals.

**ACT Malawi Forum** followed the global climate justice campaign in 2015 with a national project in 2016 called "Tree cover Malawi project". A nation-wide tree planting was organized, with all ACT members participating in the districts where they work, highlighting the fact that environmental destruction and climate change are seen as key contributors to poverty.

**ACT Uganda Forum** worked together on a joint climate change advocacy project that focused on increasing climate financing for climate resilience, adapting to climate change and choosing a low carbon development path, supporting faith leaders as agents of change.

**ACT Honduras Forum** conducted radio and television spots about the work of ACT members in the region, including on the issue of climate change and risk management.

**ACT Nicaragua Forum** conducted studies on the impact of climate change on the rural communities in specific municipalities. This strengthened their ability to conduct advocacy with the local governments on this issue.

**ACT Liberia Forum** undertook joint advocacy training and found that they benefitted from the collaboration with other ACT members and the joint learning, as well as sharing of resources and experiences.

**ACT Zimbabwe Forum** strengthened their ability to work together effectively through joint fundraising, collectively funding a coordinator position, developing a country strategy in line with the ACT global strategy and establishing three national Communities of Practice focusing on strategic advocacy priorities.

**ACT Cambodia Forum** conducted exchange visits amongst their members to enhance the synergy of working together and to learn from each other's best practices.

**ACT PANZ Forum** worked together to initiate a project to support the alliance in the implementation of the new Child Safeguarding policy. This included seeking funding for some webinars and face to face trainings in each region and supporting the proposal to develop a Community of Practice.

**ACT Jordan, Syria, Lebanon Forum** undertook a number of joint capacity building activities in 2016 as part of the Syria response to strengthen their capacity to respond and advocate for people affected by armed conflict.

**Image above:** A girl displaced by fighting took refuge with her family in a Baptist church in the eastern Congo city of Goma. A quarter of a million people have been newly displaced by fighting in the eastern Congo, where some 5.4 million have died since 1998 from war-related violence, hunger and disease.

PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT





# Quality and Accountability

ACT is committed to being accountable to the communities it serves, its members, its donors, and to the broader public. ACT's Quality and Accountability Framework details the standards all ACT structures (governance, Secretariat, and members) can be held accountable to all stakeholders, especially those we serve. In 2016, a number of initiatives were undertaken across the alliance to strengthen our collective quality and accountability in the work we undertake together.

## Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS)



ACT Alliance played an important role in contributing to the development of The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS). CHS sets out nine commitments that organisations and individuals involved in humanitarian response can use to improve the quality and effectiveness of the assistance they provide. It also facilitates greater accountability to communities and people affected by crisis: knowing what humanitarian organisations have committed to will enable them to hold those organisations to account. As a core standard, the CHS describes the essential elements of principled, accountable and high-quality humanitarian action.

In 2016 ACT conducted both a self-assessment against the CHS and also a voluntary audit of the Secretariat against the Core Humanitarian Standard. The Secretariat's processes and policies were audited, and a CHS auditor visited Nepal to understand better the impact of ACT's commitment to the CHS in practice, from the perspective of ACT members and affected

communities, in the context of ACT's response to the 2015 Nepal earthquakes.

The auditor's report showed a clear commitment to quality and accountability within the ACT Alliance, highlighting ACT's focus on resilience and recovery and that ACT members' presence when a crisis happens helps to ensure efficiency and the effectiveness of aid delivery. ACT meets or exceeds the standards of CHS in 76 of 84 areas. Even in the areas where ACT will work to improve, ACT's policies and procedures meet the minimum standard for certification. The learnings taken from this audit process will help inform the improvement plan for 2017, helping ACT responses to be even more accountable and of higher quality moving forward.

Additionally, an ACT member held a four-day training of trainers based on CHS to strengthen organisations' and individuals' understanding and commitment to the CHS and many other ACT members engaged in training initiatives to build capacity on CHS across the membership.

**Image at top:** At a community spigot in Makaising, a village in the Gorkha District of Nepal where ACT Alliance has rehabilitated the community's damaged water system in the wake of a devastating earthquake. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT





# Communities of Practice

▲ Villagers in Nepal share their experience of ACT's work after the 2015 earthquakes with a CHS auditor.  
PHOTO: SARAH KAMBARAMI/ACT

## Sharing best practices

ACT Communities of Practice (CoPs) bring specialists together from around the world to focus on topics of common interest and concern to alliance members. CoPs provide two key opportunities to join in and share learning across the alliance. First, members of the CoPs have the opportunity to learn from each other through their conversations and work together on the topic of the CoP. This learning enhances the members' own work in the church or agency for which they work. CoPs also share their expertise with the wider alliance. Communities of Practice produce reports, case studies, position papers and other materials that help ACT members to benefit from the collective expertise of the communities.

## Highlights

### Psychosocial

The Psychosocial CoP works to strengthen the alliance's capacity for psychosocial support. It aims to raise awareness of the relevance and importance of psychosocial considerations in all humanitarian interventions and to build capacity among ACT members in community-based psychosocial support.

In 2016 the CoP held their annual meeting in Sweden and discussed the continuation of setting up of regional Psychosocial CoPs in order to reach more ACT members made preparations and networked for a new group in the Middle East CoP working groups:

- raised awareness on staff care with the ACT Alliance,
- collected best practices and
- looked at links between community-based psychosocial support in humanitarian and development work

The group also contributed to ACT's work on developing a tool for humanitarian principles.

### Human rights in development

This 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.

Its work in 2016 included:

- running a regional workshop in Uganda to explore possibilities of involving civil society organisations in the work of faith-based organisations.
- workshops on rights in development in Zimbabwe and
- a contribution to the work of the UN Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous people.

### Safety and security

The Safety and Security COP serves the safety and security needs of the ACT Alliance, such as the safety and security of people deployed to programmes. The group develops tools and resources to support members, provides advice and support during periods of emergencies and has delivered training to over 5,000 staff and partners. The CoP monitors the hot spots of the world, sharing knowledge with the alliance to provide proper safety and security.

In 2016 the CoP

- continued with this vital work.
- developed the 'Security to Go' tool for the European Interagency Security Forum, which represents more than sixty of the major global aid organisations. This tool has been downloaded more times from the EISF website than any other resource in the organisation's history.







## Raising up Child Safeguarding

actalliance

ACT's Governing Board approved the Child Safeguarding Policy in 2015. This year, ACT began incorporating child safeguarding more fully into its work. The ACT Code of Conduct (CoC) was revised to incorporate child safeguarding throughout. The CoC is a key mechanism because it is required that all people operating in the name of ACT—from Secretariat staff to journalists visiting an ACT project—sign it and abide by it. Enshrining measures to protect children throughout the Code helps to ensure that ACT is keeping child safeguarding in mind in all its work. Social media guidelines prepared in 2016 are helping ACT members and Secretariat staff to be aware of the potential ramifications of posting photos, videos, and other information on the myriad social media sites that are such an integral part of communications in the modern world.

ACT members have taken the lead in raising awareness of the Child Safeguarding Policy, and are creating tools to help all ACT members to develop their own policies by 2017.

## Sphere Engagement

The Sphere Project is a voluntary initiative that brings a wide range of humanitarian agencies together to improve the quality of humanitarian assistance and the accountability of humanitarian actors to their constituents, donors and affected populations. In September, the Sphere Project constituted itself as a Swiss Association, bringing greater sustainability and a stronger platform for achieving its vision of convening a network of practitioners and standard-setting bodies to apply, promote and encourage voluntary adherence to humanitarian standards and principles.

ACT Alliance is a founding member of the new Sphere association, and the ACT representative was elected to be Vice President of the Executive Board. In 2016, the significant process of revising the Sphere Handbook was launched. Two ACT members are acting as lead authors for different chapters of the revision—one on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and the other on the Core Humanitarian Standard, including a revision of the CHS guidelines and indicators.

An increasing number of ACT members are also supporting the work of Sphere around the world by becoming Sphere Focal Points, helping to support other humanitarian actors to improve the quality and accountability of their work through offering trainings on Sphere standards.

## Improvement through Applied Learning

The ACT Alliance constantly seeks to improve in quality by learning from its experiences and from the expertise of its members. ACT seeks to provide opportunities for members to share and learn together.

### Iterative learning

An iterative learning process is one where a cycle of activity, evaluation, learning, and modification of the activity is undertaken over and over. In 2016, ACT introduced a new iterative learning process by launching its first Global Strategy Monitoring Report. The report compiles information from the annual member survey and reports by ACT forums, advisory groups and communities of practice. This year's report will form a baseline against which ACT can measure itself in future years as it continues to grow and learn from its experiences.

### Connecting learners around the world

As a global network, ACT works hard to connect members with each other to share and learn. In 2016, ACT made two new platforms available to members to improve opportunities to learn together and from each other. ACT joined the Learning Lab, an online platform which allows webinars, courses, videos, resources and more to be gathered and shared. Several courses, webinars and other learning opportunities were created and shared in 2016, and plans are underway to expand the use of the Learning Lab by creating the ACT Advocacy Academy in 2017 to provide a rich range of learning opportunities on a wide range of advocacy issues. ACT also began to use Adobe Connect, an online conferencing tool to allow presentations, meetings, and other such gatherings easily and effectively.

◀ Women gather to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, 2016, in Dhawa, a village in the Gorkha District of Nepal. In the wake of the 2015 earthquake that ravaged the region, the ACT Alliance, has provided a variety of support for villagers here, including support for efforts by women to better organize.

PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT



“To make the Paris commitments happen, urgent action is needed. The human rights of people are fundamental, and must be protected. When countries increase their efforts to combat climate change, they should never forget people and communities who are affected.”

—Dinesh Vyas, co-chair of the  
Advisory Group on Climate Advocacy



**Image:** Extracting drinking water from  
silted river in Zimbabwe

PHOTO: INSTITUTE FOR RURAL TECHNOLOGIES





# Audited accounts

## Balance sheet for the year ended 31 December 2016

	Appendix /Notes	2016 USD	2016 CHF	2015 USD	2015 CHF
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>Current assets</b>					
Cash at bank		1,518,559	1,547,107	2,679,865	2,659,766
Short term deposits		2,000,168	2,037,771	2,000,112	1,985,111
Income receivable net		123,433	125,754	326,140	323,694
Staff advances		46,977	47,860	44,675	44,340
Other debtors		125,117	127,469	91,679	90,992
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>3,814,254</b>	<b>3,885,961</b>	<b>5,142,471</b>	<b>5,103,903</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND OWN FUNDS</b>					
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Accrued expenses		105,154	107,131	240,808	239,002
Accounts payable		73,102	74,477	333,421	330,920
Funds received in advance (Unspent earmarked contribution)		151,025	153,864	23,150	22,976
		<b>329,281</b>	<b>335,472</b>	<b>356,571</b>	<b>353,896</b>
<b>Funds in trust</b>					
Appeals funds	Appendix III	1,417,262	1,443,906	2,657,234	2,637,305
Appeal Evaluation Fund		26,802	27,305	26,802	26,601
<b>TOTAL FUNDS IN TRUST</b>		<b>1,444,064</b>	<b>1,471,211</b>	<b>2,684,036</b>	<b>2,663,906</b>
<b>Own funds</b>					
<b>General reserve</b>					
	Appendix II / Note 4				
<b>A. Restricted Reserve</b>		1,216,451	1,239,321	1,213,656	1,204,554
<b>B. Designated Unrestricted Reserve (Assembly 2018) from 2015</b>		150,000	152,820	150,000	148,875
<b>B. Designated Unrestricted Reserve (Assembly 2018) from 2016</b>		72,000	73,354		
<b>C. Unrestricted Reserve at beginning of year</b>		738,208	752,086	352,050	349,410
Result of operations for the year		(135,750)	(133,711)	386,158	371,485
Currency translation adjustment			(4,593)	–	11,781
<b>Unrestricted Reserve at end of year</b>		<b>824,458</b>	<b>839,956</b>	<b>888,208</b>	<b>881,552</b>
<b>Total general reserve</b>		<b>2,040,909</b>	<b>2,079,278</b>	<b>2,101,864</b>	<b>2,086,101</b>
<b>Total own funds</b>		<b>2,040,909</b>	<b>2,079,278</b>	<b>2,101,864</b>	<b>2,086,101</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND OWN FUNDS</b>		<b>3,814,254</b>	<b>3,885,961</b>	<b>5,142,471</b>	<b>5,103,903</b>

**Image above:** A woman talks on her mobile phone in Dhawa, a village in the Gorkha District of Nepal.

PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT



**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016**

		<b>2016</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>Appendix /Notes</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>CHF</b>	<b>USD</b>	<b>CHF</b>
<b>INCOME</b>					
<b>Fees</b>					
Membership fees	Appendix VI	145,583	143,395	148,177	142,546
Income based fees	Appendix VI	1,852,547	1,824,703	2,035,870	1,958,507
International coordination fees	Appendix VI	732,055	721,053	1,147,075	1,103,486
<b>Total fees</b>		<b>2,730,185</b>	<b>2,689,151</b>	<b>3,331,122</b>	<b>3,204,539</b>
<b>Voluntary Contributions</b>					
Voluntary contributions unearmarked	Appendix VII	552,447	544,144	390,064	375,242
Voluntary contributions earmarked to aims	Appendix VII	693,271	682,852	1,162,2243	1,118,078
Support to Faith Based CPDE	Appendix VII	43,675	43,019	61,812	59,463
<b>Total Voluntary Contributions</b>		<b>1,289,393</b>	<b>1,270,014</b>	<b>1,614,119</b>	<b>1,602,013</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>4,019,578</b>	<b>3,959,165</b>	<b>4,945,241</b>	<b>4,757,322</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>					
Staff costs	Appendix V.2	2,869,060	2,825,938	3,024,329	2,909,404
Office costs	Appendix V.2	532,756	524,749	509,489	490,128
AIM 1 Human Dignity	Appendix V.1	21,663	21,338	29,357	28,241
AIM 2 Community Resilience	Appendix V.1	92,733	91,340	94,623	91,028
AIM 3 Environmental Sustainability	Appendix V.1	69,526	68,481	147,826	142,209
AIM 4 Robust Alliance	Appendix V.1	355,336	349,995	308,760	297,027
Provision for doubtful debts and write off	Note 4	86,917	85,611	221,951	213,517
Support to Faith Based CPDE		43,675	43,019	221,951	213,517
Other expenses MENA & COS		34,195	33,681	–	–
		<b>4,105,861</b>	<b>4,044,152</b>	<b>4,411,568</b>	<b>4,243,928</b>
Interest received		(2,795)	(2,753)	(23,562)	(3,426)
Other income		(57,482)	(56,618)	–	–
Exchange (Gain)/Loss Core budget		34,949	34,424	(2,485)	(2,391)
		(25,328)	(24,947)	(6,047)	(5,817)
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>4,080,533</b>	<b>4,019,205</b>	<b>4,405,521</b>	<b>4,238,111</b>
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR BEFORE ALLOCATIONS</b>		<b>(60,955)</b>	<b>(60,040)</b>	<b>539,720</b>	<b>519,211</b>
Interest capitalized to restricted reserve	Appendix II	(2,795)	(2,753)	(3,562)	(3,426)
Exchange (Gain) / Loss transferred to restricted Reserve	Appendix II	–	–	–	–
Allocation (to) / from 2014/2018 Assembly provision		(72,000)	(70,918)	(150,000)	(144,300)
<b>SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR AFTER ALLOCATIONS</b>		<b>(135,750)</b>	<b>(133,711)</b>	<b>386,158</b>	<b>371,485</b>





▲ ACT Alliance distributes food, water, shelter and other necessities after disasters.

PHOTO: JULIA LOERSCH/ACT FOR PEACE



Indigenous Brazilians demanded the demarcation of indigenous lands at the Terra Livre Camp in Brasília.

PHOTO: PAULINO MENEZES





# ACT Alliance 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 (NCKK)

**Kenya** Anglican Development Services Kenya (ADK)

**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** 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)

**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)

**Zimbabwe** Methodist Development and Relief Agency (MeDRA)

**Zimbabwe** Ecumenical Church Leaders' Forum (ECLF)

## 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 (UELCI)

**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 (LWSIT)

**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)

**Pakistan** Community World Service Asia

**Philippines** National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP)

**Sri Lanka** National Christian Council of Sri Lanka (NCCSL)

**Taiwan** Presbyterian Church of Taiwan (PCT)

**Image above:** A young woman in the school of Las Flores, Barrio El Centro, Jocotan, Guatemala. This area of the country is heavily affected by climate change. The rain of the last seven years has been very little and irregular, if it falls the water falls when it no longer helps the plants. It has not been possible to achieve a good harvest in several years and every planting just loses the seed. PHOTO: SEAN HAWKEY/ACT



## EUROPE

**Armenia** Armenia Inter-Church Charitable Round Table Foundation (ARTF)

**Austria** Diakonie

**Belgium** Solidarité Protestante (SP)

**Czech Republic** Diaconia of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB)

**Denmark** DanChurchAid (DCA)

**Finland** Finn Church Aid (FCA)

**Germany** Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH)

**Germany** Bread for the World – Protestant Development Service (BfW)

**Hungary** Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA)

**Iceland** Icelandic Church Aid (ICA)

**Norway** Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)

**Romania** Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romani (AIDRom)

**Russia** Russian Orthodox Church – Department for External Church Relations (ROC)

**Serbia** Philanthropy – The Chartable Fund of the Serbian Orthodox Church

**Serbia** Ecumenical Humainitarian Organization (EHO)

**Sweden** Church of Sweden, International Mission and Diaconia (CoS)

**Sweden** Diaconia 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)

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

**Argentina** Centro Regional Ecueménico de Asesoría y Servicio (CREAS)

**Argentina** Fundacion Hora de Obrar (FHdO)

**Brazil** Coordenadoria Ecueménica 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 Metodista en Bolivia (IEMB)

**Chile** Centro Ecueménico Diego de Medellin (CEDM)

**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)

**Ecuador** Consejo Latinoamericano de Iglesias (CLAI)

**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 Ecueménico Cristiano de Guatemala (CECG)

**Guatemala** Centro Evangélico de Estudios pastorales en Centro América (Cedepca)

**Haiti** Service Chrétien d'Haiti (SCH)

**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)

**Peru** Diaconia Peru

## MIDDLE EAST

**Egypt** BLESS

**Jordan** The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL)

**Lebanon** Middle East Council of Churches

**OpT** Middle East Council of Churches (MECC-DSPR)

**OpT** The East Jerusalem YMCA

## NORTH AMERICA

**Canada** United Church of Canada: Justice, Global and Ecumenical Relations Unit (UCC)

**Canada** Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWSD)

**Canada** Primates World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)

**Canada** World Renew/ex Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (WR)

**Canada** Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)

**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)

## PACIFIC

**New Zealand** Christian World Service (CWS)

**Australia** Act for Peace

**Australia** Australian Lutheran World Service (ALWS)

**Australia** Anglican Overseas Aid – Australia

**Australia** UnitingWorld: Relief and Development Unit

**Australia** Churches of Christ Overseas Aid (COCOA)

## GLOBAL

**Canada** World Association for Christian Communication (WACC)

**Switzerland** The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

**Switzerland** ECLOF International

**Switzerland** World YWCA

**USA** Baptist World Aid (USA)

**UK** The Salvation Army

## OBSERVERS

**Australia** Anglican Board of Mission (ABM)

**Europe (Belgium)** Conference of European Churches (CEC)

**Finland** Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM)

**Global (Germany)** Mission EineWelt

**Global (Germany)** Vereinte Evangelische Mission (United Evangelical Mission)

**Global (Switzerland)** World Student Christian Federation (WSCF)

**Global (UK)** Anglican Alliance



# ACT Alliance STRUCTURES

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- Meets every four years
- Representatives from each ACT Alliance member

## GOVERNING BOARD

### MEMBERSHIP AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### ADVISORY GROUPS

### ACT ALLIANCE SECRETARIAT

#### Regional offices

### NATIONAL AND REGIONAL FORUMS

### COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE (CoP)

#### Advocacy

**Chairs:** Thorsten Göbel and Joycia Thorat  
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#### Climate group

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 Central America  
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 Chile  
 Colombia  
 Costa Rica  
 Cuba  
 Dominican Republic  
 DRC  
 El Salvador  
 Ethiopia  
 Europe  
 Ghana  
 Guatemala  
 Haiti  
 Honduras  
 India  
 Indonesia  
 Iraq  
 Jordan, Syria and Lebanon  
 Kenya  
 Liberia  
 Madagascar  
 Malawi  
 Mali  
 Mozambique  
 Myanmar  
 Nepal  
 Nicaragua  
 Nigeria  
 North America  
 Pacific (PANZ)  
 Pakistan  
 Palestine  
 Peru  
 Philippines  
 Sierra Leone  
 Somalia  
 South America  
 South Sudan  
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 Tanzania  
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 Uganda  
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 Zambia  
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#### Disability inclusive development CoP

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### ACT ALLIANCE EU Independent organisation





## GOVERNING BOARD

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Church World Service, CWS, US

**Maria Immonen**  
Lutheran World Federation,  
Switzerland

**Isabel Apawo Phiri**  
World Council of Churches,  
Switzerland

**Sibongile Baker**  
Lutheran Development Service,  
Zimbabwe

**Susie Ibutu**  
National Council of Churches  
of Kenya

**Leonard Tegwende Kinda**  
Association des Eglises  
Evangéliques du Burkina Faso

**Arshinta Soemarsono**  
YAKKUM, Indonesia

**Victor Hsu**  
Presbyterian Church in Taiwan

**Karen Nazaryan**  
Armenian Catholicosate  
of Etchmiadzin, Armenia

**Wim Hart**  
ICCO Cooperation,  
The Netherlands

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**Wim Hart**  
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Council of Evangelical  
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**Birgitte Qvist-Sorensen**  
DanChurchAid, Denmark

**Paul Valentin**  
Christian Aid, UK and Ireland

**Dámaris Albuquerque Espinoza**  
Council of Evangelical  
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**Elina Ceballos Villalón**  
Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba

**Angelique Van Zeeland**  
Fundação Luterana de Diaconia,  
Brazil

**Ramzi Ibrahim Zananiri**  
Department on Service to  
Palestine Refugees/  
The Middle East Council  
of Churches

**Ida Kaastra Mutoigo**  
World Renew, US

**Rob Floyd**  
Uniting Church in Australia,  
Uniting World Relief and  
Development Unit

**Carl Stecker**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of  
America, US. Until end 2015

## MEMBERSHIP AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

**Chair**  
**Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel**  
Bread for the World – Protestant  
Development Service, Germany

**Joyanta Adhikari**  
Christian Commission for  
Development in Bangladesh

**Melton Luhanga**  
Churches Action in Relief and  
Development, Malawi

**Humberto Shikiya**  
Central Regional Ecumenical  
Advisory and Service, Argentina

**Elsa Tesfay**  
The Primate's World Relief and  
Development Fund, Canada

**Above, from left to right:**  
Elina Ceballos Villalón, Wim Hart,  
Angelique Van Zeeland, Maria  
Immonen,  
Dámaris Albuquerque Espinoza,  
Karen Nazaryan, Sushant Agarwal,  
Paul Valentin, Donna Derr, John Nduna  
(ACT Alliance General Secretary),  
Susie Ibutu, Carl Stecker,  
Arshinta Soemarsono, Rob Floyd,  
Sibongile Baker, Leonard Tegwende  
Kinda,  
Victor Hsu, Isabel Apawo Phiri

**Not present in image:**  
Birgitte Qvist-Sorensen,  
Ramzi Ibrahim Zananiri,  
Ida Kaastra Mutoigo









**actalliance**

annual report 2016

▲ Raytu, Buta Wagere, Sawena,  
Bole and Boset demonstrate their  
work, collecting water in Ethiopia.

PHOTO: JOHANNES ODÉ/ACT