annual report 2017

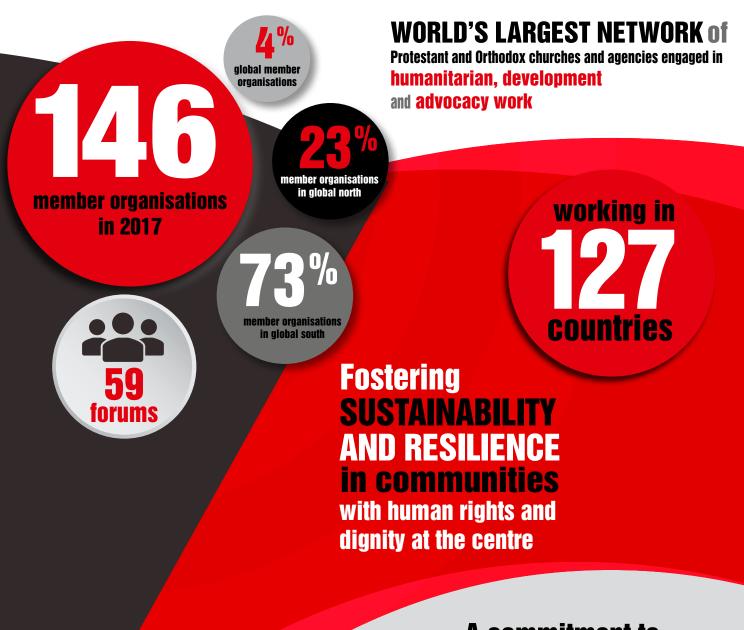
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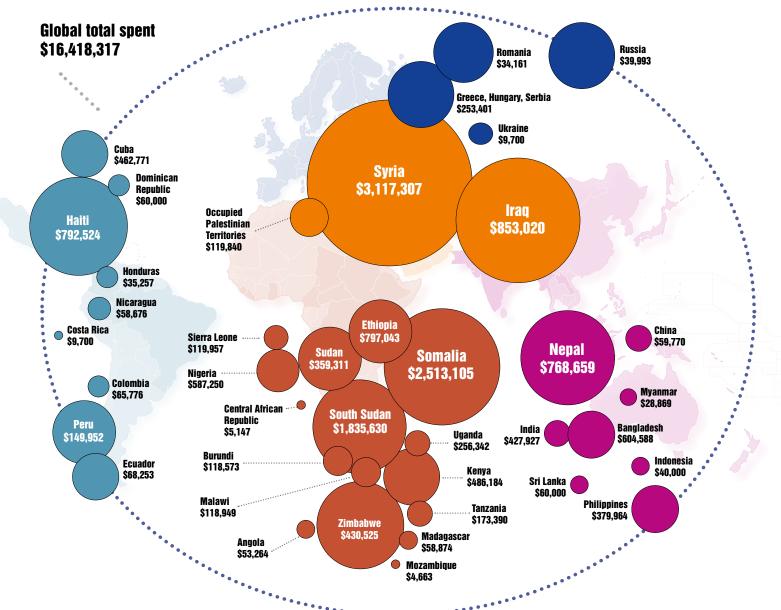
Cover image: A Rohingya woman in a refugee camp near Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, carries a bag of rice she received from the Bangladesh government. More than 600,000 Rohingya have fled government-sanctioned violence in Myanmar for safety in Bangladesh. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT

A global coalition of 146 churches and faith-based organisations

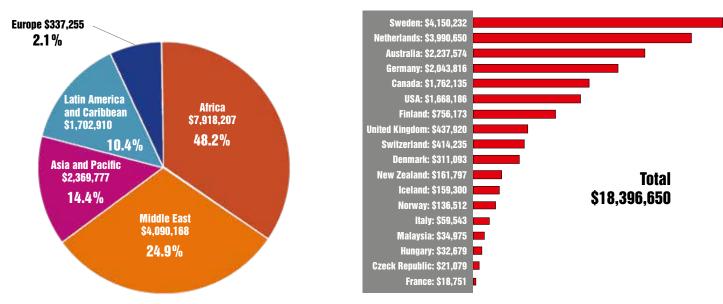




ACT raised \$18,396,650 for humanitarian response in 2017 Where were they spent?



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





Message from the GENERAL SECRETARY

Image: Rudelmar Bueno de Faria PHOTO: SIMON CHAMBERS/ACT

2017 was a transitional year, with outgoing General Secretary, John Nduna, ending his service in May, and me taking up my position as General Secretary in June.

For some of the programme areas, 2017 was also a time of considerable transition. This was particularly true with regard to the revision of the humanitarian mechanism, the building of new partnerships for the alliance, the rapidly changing communications landscape, and the transition to a much stronger profile of the alliance on gender justice. But also the revision of the Global Strategy and the preparations of the upcoming Assembly initiated processes of change that will lead the alliance into a new phase.

Successful continuity and further building on the foundations laid in previous years have complemented these transitions, particularly in the programmatic areas of climate justice, migration and displacement, and private sector accountability.

The alliance has made significant progress throughout 2017 in all the programme areas. Highlights include the widening and deepening engagement on climate justice and disaster risk reduction, and the growing profile of the alliance on these issue areas globally; the alliance's presence and increasing recognition and role in the emerging Global Compact on Refugees and Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration; the development of joint emergency preparedness and response plans, and the rollout of the new humanitarian mechanism; the successful CHS certification of the Secretariat; the strong recognition as a credible faith voice, inter alia in the religion and development debate, on gender justice, and on the localisation of humanitarian aid, and therefore as a desirable partner for numerous UN agencies; increased media recognition of ACT, the successful work of ACT governance, and the preparatory work towards the 2018 Assembly; and the Advocacy Academy—to name but a few.

2017 provided significant building blocks for the revision of the global strategy to be approved by the General Assembly in October 2018. The results achieved have laid the foundation of my initial vision for the alliance focusing on relevance, coherence and efficiency, through strong and active forums, engaged members and strategic external partnerships.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment.

Yours sincerely,

Rudelmar Bueno de Faria ACT Alliance General Secretary

Image: Women in a maize field where ACT members have initiated smallholder empowerment programs in Tanzania to support community members in the maize value chain process, for more sustainable livelihoods. PHOTO: ALPHA KAPOLA



Image: A mother and her children in northwestern Haiti. Their village was ravaged by Hurricane Matthew, and an ACT Member has helped the community to rebuild its economy with fishing materials, a solar-powered refrigerator for storing their catch, and other assistance. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFERY/ACT

Humanitarian HIGHLIGHTS

2017 marked the year of transition between the old ACT Humanitarian Response Mechanism and the revised Humanitarian Mechanism.

The revised Humanitarian Mechanism aims to enable a more effective alliance-wide response in times of crisis. The revisions include:

- Replacing "Preliminary Appeals" with "Concept Notes".
- A push for joint Appeal programming among ACT Forums.
- Forum-led decision-making and directing contributions as unallocated funds where possible.
- Using the Core Humanitarian Standard as ACT's framework for quality and accountability.





ACT is responding to its commitment to the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS)

Of ACT members who responded to a 2017 survey, 55% of respondents declared that more than 60% of their total humanitarian response expenditure went directly to local or national partners. This exceeds the Grand Bargain commitment, which calls for 25% of global humanitarian funding to local and national responders by 2020.

Humanitarian advocacy

ACT's humanitarian advocacy engaged with various networks including:



International Council of Voluntary Agencies

JOINT LEARNING INITIATIVE on Faith & Local Communities



▲ Somalia has experienced four consecutive seasons of poor rainfall. The situation is made worse by the ongoing conflict there. The drought is so severe that livestock are dying from a lack of water. ACT members are distributing food and water in the area. PHOTO: HÅVARD BJELLAND/NCA

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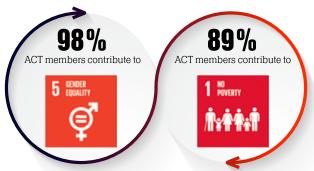


Development Highlights

Contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals

Agenda 2030 including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have given ACT Alliance a renewed mandate to contribute to a world where "no one is left behind".

The ACT Secretariat is mapping the work of the alliance to better align its work with the SDG framework.



Of ACT members who responded to a 2017 survey, 98% are contributing to SDG 5—Gender Equality and 89% are contributing to SDG 1—No Poverty.

ACT continues to call for the fulfilment of the existing SDGs, particularly the underpinning principles including working for the most vulnerable, for sustainability and universal responsibility to deliver the goals.



Image: Christians march in a public procession on Easter Sunday in South Sudan's Jonglei State. Churches in South Sudan have played a critical role in trying to mediate the conflict in the nation. ACT members are supporting peace and reconciliation initiatives PHOTO: PAUL JEFEFERV/ACT

Religion and Development

The value and legitimacy of faith-based actors in development continue to be recognised by global development actors. In 2017, a special issue of the Ecumenical Review Journal was published with a focus on "Religion and Development" and was supported by ACT's Religion and Development Community of Practice (CoP). There is an interest and need to understand the nexus between religion and development better. With a unique niche within the 'religion and development' agenda, ACT remains a crucial voice in this work.

Capacity building on religion and development

In 2017 the Religion and Development CoP began to develop an online learning module to highlight the value of ACT members in the religion and development discussions. The module aims to strengthen the capacity of the Alliance to contribute to discussions on the topic.

Faith-based coalition on sustainable development

The Asia Pacific Faith-Based Coalition on Sustainable Development is a regional learning and action-oriented coalition of organisations of different faiths that are committed to sustainable development. Historically, faith-based groups have played a significant role in the delivery of humanitarian and development services to communities. FBOs have often been the first responders in a humanitarian crisis. The Coalition, which includes ACT members intends to raise the voice of faith communities and to effectively engage in the Asia-Pacific regional development discourse feeding into global processes, including the SDGs.

 $\mbox{Image at top:}$ A Coptic Orthodox priest in the Egyptian village of Sakra PHOTO: PAUL JEFFERY/ACT



Advocacy Highlights

ACT Alliance's advocacy for justice contributed to important global frameworks including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Climate Agreement, the 'Grand Bargain' of the World Humanitarian Summit, and the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. ACT prioritised human rightsbased and faith-based advocacy, focusing on the role of faith constituencies in influencing policy and practice. ACT's profile as an advocacy alliance has grown significantly and is recognised by emerging initiatives and partnerships for advocacy on crucial issues affecting the development and humanitarian sectors.



The ACT Advocacy Academy was initiated as a blended capacity building initiative that included on-demand lectures, online webinars, coaching and the mentorship of participants. It is coordinated through ACT's Advisory Group on Advocacy (AGA). The academy aims to strengthen the ability of ACT members, churches and partners around the world to engage in successful advocacy, lobby, campaign and media initiatives at national, regional and global levels.

The 2017 modules included the thematic priority issues of the alliance such as climate change, gender, human rights, and the SDGs.



ACT continued to engage with the global Fight Inequality Alliance and supported the participation of members, forums and church partners in Africa, Europe and Asia. ACT joined the global week of action of the Fight Inequality Alliance and advocated for economic equality during the World Economic Forum in Davos, sharing the experiences of ACT members and communities dealing with inequalities at the community and national level.



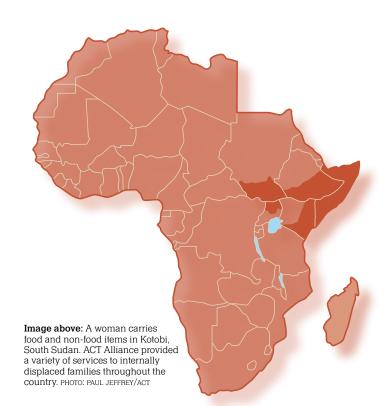
Private Sector Accountability

ACT joined other civil society organisations and ecumenical actors to support the implementation of the UN guiding principles for business and human rights. Members of ACT and representatives from forums participated in the 2017 UN Business and Human Rights Forum hosted by the UN Human Rights Council. During this forum, ACT, together with members and partners, hosted a special seminar to explore ways in which churches and faith actors could contribute to holding businesses and the private sector accountable to communities.

Image at top: A woman farmer in a village in northern Cambodia PHOTO: PAUL JEFFERY/ACT



Africa



Mobilising faith leaders in the Horn of Africa

In 2017, the Horn of Africa faced drought and unrest, severely affecting most of Somalia, Southeastern Ethiopia, South Sudan, Northeastern and Coastal Kenya, and Northern Uganda.

ACT Alliance mobilised faith leaders in the region to respond to the drought which affected approximately 20 million people. ACT joined governments, the UN, and others, calling for an increase of resources to scale-up interventions to avert suffering and the loss of life in the region.

A 'Call to Action' from ACT and faith leaders on the underlying causes of drought, conflict and climate change advocated for greater support to humanitarian appeals. The mobilisation of faith leaders has cemented ACT's ecumenical cooperation and has strengthened the role of churches and faith-based organisations to respond to the crisis in the region. ACT Alliance also provided food, water and cash-based interventions in four of the most affected countries in the region.

"There is a culture of sharing and togetherness in such times [drought]... Even when the entire community is at risk, farmers doing relatively better either donate or loan grain to the most vulnerable people in their community."

—Hilina Abebe, Norwegian Church Aid

► After working together on a community garden, women sing and dance as they walk home above a dyke they constructed to control flooding around a Dinka village in South Sudan's Jonglei State. ACT Alliance is helping villagers restart their lives by providing housing, livelihood, and food security. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT



Regional forums for a common agenda

ACT's Southern Africa Regional Forum (SARF) consisting of Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Angola, South Africa and Madagascar explored ways to better position themselves to more effectively respond to humanitarian, development and advocacy needs in the region.

SARF committed to realign their regional plans with the Sustainable Development Goals and to engage youth more strategically in management and activities. The forum decided to coordinate their advocacy efforts around the extractive industry, climate justice and migration.



Extractive industry





Migration

 Thousands of demonstrators take to the streets of Zimbabwe.
PHOTO: CECIL BO DZWOWA

Civil society leadership

Formerly known as the breadbasket of Africa, Zimbabwe, and its people have withstood deteriorating social, economic and political conditions under the rule of former President Mugabe since its independence in 1980. Military intervention and the sudden resignation of the former President had the potential to ignite conflict across the country.

The ACT Zimbabwe Forum joined efforts with a network of local civil society organisations (CSOs) to contribute to a peaceful government transition. Together they established a National Envisioning Platform and invited stakeholders to participate in an inclusive dialogue towards, 'A future [Zimbabwe] we want'.

A National People's Convention brought together ACT's Zimbabwe Forum, labour unions, churches and CSOs. Together, they identified priority issues and recommendations for the consideration of Zimbabwe's current President. President Mnangagwa's State of the Nation Address incorporated many of the priorities that were identified and recommended by civil society.

ACT's Zimbabwe Forum was instrumental in facilitating the mobilisation of Zimbabwean CSOs. The forum will continue to work with CSOs to monitor the delivery of the priorities by the government.



Asia and the Pacific

Regional partnership with the UN

ACT's Asia and Pacific office and UNICEF's East Asia and the Pacific regional office have entered into a partnership on a common belief that all children have a right to survive, thrive and fulfil their potential. This partnership will encourage the collaboration of faith leaders and communities in a joint effort to ensure that children's rights are achieved globally.

▲ A woman hugs her grandson in a village in Nepal where ACT members have provided a variety of support to local villagers in the wake of the devastating 2015 earthquake. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFERY/ACT

> "The rights of children need to be upheld in all aspects of our work. A partnership with UNICEF will make it possible for ACT members to be an even stronger voice at the national, regional and global levels, championing the rights of children in all that we do."

> —Anoop Sukumaran, ACT's Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific



In-country sheiter



Food security

Non-food items

to respond to emergencies and to mobilise and coordinate member efforts rapidly.

ACT's Bangladesh and Myanmar Forums responded to the Rohingya crisis. Some of the programs and services provided by the forums included in-country shelter, non-food items, food security, psycho-social support, early recovery, livelihoods and unconditional cash programs.



Psycho-social support







cash programs

Image at top: A man carries supplies to assist communities affected by the Marawi crisis in the Philippines. ACT Members provided support during the crisis. PHOTO: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN THE PHILIPPINES (NCCP)

Image above: A Rohingya man waits to complete registration in a refugee camp near Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, where members of ACT Alliance provide humanitarian support for the refugees. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFERY/ACT

ACT Forums respond

to the Rohingya crisis

On August 25 2017, conflict broke out in

the state of Rakhine in Myanmar which

led to a massive influx of Rohingva

people into Bangladesh. At the time,

ACT's Bangladesh Forum was already

responding to flooding that was caused

Rohingya people fleeing violence while

reflective of the potential of ACT Forums

by heavy monsoon rains. The Forum's

ability to respond to the needs of the

responding to a natural disaster is



Safeguarding children

ACT's Child Safeguarding Policy aims to minimise the risk of harm to children who come into contact with the work and activities associated with ACT Alliance. With the support of the ACT Secretariat in Bangkok, trainings were conducted to support members and forums to rollout their Child Safeguarding Policy. The policy aims to uphold the following principles:

- All children have equal rights to protection from harm.
- Everybody has a responsibility to support the protection of children.
- Organisations have a duty of care to children with whom they work, are in contact with, or who are affected

by their work and operations. If organisations work with partners they have a responsibility to help partners meet the minimum requirements on protection.

All actions on child protection are taken in the best interests of the child, which are paramount.

▲ People wade through a flooded rice field in a refugee camp near Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, where members of the ACT Alliance provide humanitarian support to Rohingya refugees.



Latin America and the Caribbean



New regional gender Community of Practice(CoP)

The new Latin America and the Caribbean Gender CoP is identifying joint solutions to shared challenges around the prevention of gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health and rights and food security. The CoP developed an interactive online map that identifies the work of ACT Members in the region that are promoting equal access to rights for women and girls and putting an end to gender-based violence.







Sexual and reproductive health rights



Food security

Forum partnerships with the UN

ACT Forums are strengthening their relationships with the United Nations. The ACT Argentina Forum and the UN Development Program's Argentina office have signed a memorandum of understanding highlighting the contribution of faith-based organisations in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ACT Argentina Forum will work with other FBOs to encourage South-South cooperation to contribute to the SDGs.

Image at left: Two Indigenous boys run through the forest near their home in Argentina. The Wichi, traditional hunters and gatherers, have struggled for decades to recover land that has been stolen from them by cattle raisers and agricultural plantations. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT

Image at top: Farmers in a Nicaraguan community meet for Farm School days, a project supported by ACT as part of a response to the prolonged drought and many failed harvests. PHOTO: SEAN HAWKEY

ACT Cuba Forum responds to Hurricane Irma

Hurricane Irma made landfall in Cuba as a category 5 storm, lashing the country for 72 hours, causing flooding in the north coast. As waves swept inland, freshwater sources were contaminated, and crops, homes, health centres, schools and roads were damaged or destroyed. Ten people lost their lives and



more than 2,000,000 people fled to shelters, churches, and the homes of relatives and neighbours. The damage suffered by Cuba was the worst experienced in one hundred years.

The ACT Cuba Forum coordinated with community and church leaders, and local and national governments to respond to the humanitarian need.

ACT's Cuba Forum targeted ten municipalities in six provinces in a USD \$1,395,795 million appeal and brought water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), food, shelter, livelihood recovery, and psycho-social support to 9,330 households, reaching 46,650 Cubans.

The ACT Appeal acheivements:



350 Families assisted to repair the roofs of their homes



1,500 Families provided with household supplies



2,000 Households received food



5,000 Households got hygiene kits and awareness raising on good hygiene practices



2,250 Households had access to

clean water through community water systems



267

Households

were supported

in restoring their

livelihoods



9,330 Households received psycho-social support

Image: Hurricane Irma's impacts on Havana, Cuba PHOTO: ERICK COLL



The Middle East and North Africa

The Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) continues to face multiple complex emergency situations with growing humanitarian needs. Despite the challenging conditions, ACT members remain committed to providing well-coordinated assistance to vulnerable communities.



PALESTINE Marking 50 years of Occupation

The ACT Palestine Forum (APF) worked closely with ACT members and partners to mark the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Israeli Occupation. Over the year, the APF has enhanced cooperation with ACT's ecumenical networks and churches. Efforts for collective advocacy have facilitated a unified voice, strengthening the forum's contribution to the discourse on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The forum also contributed to ACT's case study on the Protection of Space for Civil Society and Human Rights Defenders.



Image at top: A girl during an activity at a youth empowerment centre in Gaza. ACT Alliance members are supporting health care, vocational training, rehabilitation of housing and water systems, psycho-social care, and other humanitarian actions throughout the Palestinian territory. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFERY/ACT

▲ A handful of villages in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are experimenting with a different approach to protection and resilience for their communities. Women, men and youth in the villages decide on what they see as the main challenges and threats and then receive direct control over cash grants to act on their own. PHOTO: EAST JERUSALEM YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION



EGYPT Messages of Solidarity

The ACT Alliance Secretariat has condemned the various targeted attacks on people of faith in Egypt throughout the year. ACT issued letters of solidarity with members in Egypt in response to the incidences. ACT continues to bring members together and encourages them to find the strength to continue to serve the most vulnerable people, despite the adversities that they face in their work.

A DROP OF WATER, A FLOOD OF HOPE

The human cost of war can be immeasurable, but hope can grow even amidst hardship.

Aziz (name has been changed) is 53 years old and the father of three teenage girls. He used to work as an accountant in a steel-melting facility in Aleppo. He earned good money there and eventually opened two snack shops on the side; he was a model of success in his family. But the conflict in Syria changed everything.

Both Aziz's shops and the facility where he worked were destroyed during fighting in Aleppo. Aziz struggled with severe depression in the weeks and months that followed. "I found a job, but it was exhausting and never profitable, so I left." He found hope again, however, through a project organised by an ACT Alliance member in Syria."When I heard about [the ACT member's] cash-for-work program, I registered my name. When ... staff called me for the interview, I was so excited, as I heard about how they help people in need. Now I am part of the 'Water Drop' initiative that distributes water to poor families in different areas in Aleppo."

Aziz is just one of the workers participating in the cash-forwork water-distribution project. He's now earning an income and serving others in need in the area. "Work with [the ACT Alliance] brought me to life again. It helped me to secure my family's needs for a while. Not only this, but I was also able to help many people," Aziz concluded. The opportunity to serve others while providing for his family has offered him hope for the future. "Work with [the ACT Alliance] brought me to life again. It helped me to secure my family's needs for a while. Not only this, but I was also able to help many people."

—Aziz, 53-year-old father of three teenage girls

[▲] Tattered Syrian flag, damaged by gunfire. PHOTO: ART PRODUCTION/SHUTTERSTOCK

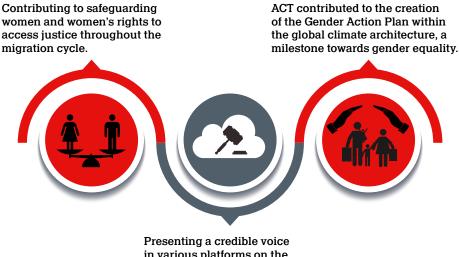


▲ Woman who has benefited from a smallholder empowerment program of an ACT Member in Tanzania. PHOTO: IMANI SELEMANI

Gender Justice, <mark>Climate Change,</mark> Migration and Displacement

ACT's commitment to gender justice, climate justice and protection in the context of migration and displacement is a natural extension of the alliance's ongoing efforts to protect human rights, denounce injustices, serve the needs of people affected by crises and to uphold the integrity of the Creation.

ACT's key thematic areas are interconnected



Presenting a credible voice in various platforms on the connections between climate change and people on the move.



ACT Alliance believes in an end to gender inequality and injustice, gender-based discrimination and violence, and in addressing unequal power relationships. 2017 was an important and transitional year for gender work across the alliance. ACT members and forums have raised ACT's profile on the national, regional and global level towards being a leading faith inspired voice for gender justice.



Lobbying at UN Commissions: ACT members through the Global Gender Justice Community of Practice are promoting a progressive faith voice on gender justice in an increasingly conservative space. ACT's key global advocacy platforms in 2017 were:

- 61st Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW61)
- 51st Session of the Commission on Population and Development (CDP51)

Revised Gender Justice Policy

ACT updated its existing Gender Policy to ensure that by 2020 all of the work of the alliance is committed to gender equality. The policy requires all members to adopt or revise their gender policies within the next three years. The policy aims to ensure:

- Gender balance in participation, decision-making, representation and staffing.
- Gender equality through gender mainstreaming in all strategic areas including programme design.
- Adopt a board-approved gender justice policy.
- Training and capacity development is provided for all staff.
- Communities, partners and others are informed of the policy.
- Strategies that guard against human rights violations perpetrated on the grounds of people's gender identity.
- Protection from gender-based violence.
- Access to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

▲ Students from a school in Guatemala City learn to play the recorder. High levels of suffering due to violence has declared the area a 'red zone'. ACT members and partners are working in the community on school projects that promote a culture of peace and human rights. PHOTO: SEAN HAWKEY



ACT leverages the experiences and perspectives of members to advocate for the rights of the world's most climate vulnerable people.

A community of climate justice advocates

In light of the Paris Agreement and its target of limiting warming to 1.5°C, ACT launched its Global Climate Action Project to strengthen the in-country capacity of members to engage in national and global climate advocacy.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

PARIS2015

COP21-CMP11



- 82 people from 33 countries were trained. This included ACT members, forums, staff and partners.
- The project connected the climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development frameworks.

Climate justice and solidarity with the climate vulnerable

ACT supported an ecumenical delegation of climate justice advocates and campaigners that influenced the 23rd Conference of the Parties. Through side events, media work and high-level meetings with governments, ACT continued to raise the voice of churches and communities for ambitious climate action and policies.

ACT launched a 'Call to Action' on "Global resilience, sustainability and solidarity with climate vulnerable people," reaffirming ACT's commitment to contribute to a resilient and sustainable life for this generation and generations to come. ACT's work on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) aims to encourage members to include community resilience, climate adaptation, and sustainable development in their work. ACT's work on DRR included:

- An agreement with the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction to collaborate on the creation of a Latin America and Caribbean civil society platform for grassroots participation in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR.
- Engaging with the Global Platform for DRR to ensure the inclusion of faith voices in the implementation phase.

Image at top: ACT members join with civil society from around the world advocating for climate justice at the United Nations climate change negotiations. PHOTO: VALTER HUGO MUNIZ/ACT ▲ In July 2017, ACT Alliance implemented its largest humanitarian action so far in Iraq at the locations Bashiqa-Bahzani, Bartella and Oaraqosh where former residents started to return. PHOTO: ACT ALLIANCE

3

MIGRATION

AND

DISPLACEMENT

التدخين مماوع

ACT members are working on various components of migration and displacement including providing direct humanitarian support and engaging in global advocacy on the rights of migrants.

Global advocacy

ACT Alliance has been deeply involved in the consultations on the Global Compact on Refugees, and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. ACT's Migration and Development CoP led on various thematic discussions, incorporating the experiences and feedback of members and forums into ACT's submissions and civil society statements in both global Compacts.

SOCCER

At the global level, ACT members and ecumenical partners coordinated to highlight the added value of faith-based organisations in the Global Compacts.

ERCHURCH AID

actalliance

ACT, together with a partner, chaired the Ecumenical Working Group on Migration which has been instrumental in coordinating public statements and for campaigning for the rights of migrants Ecumenical engagement



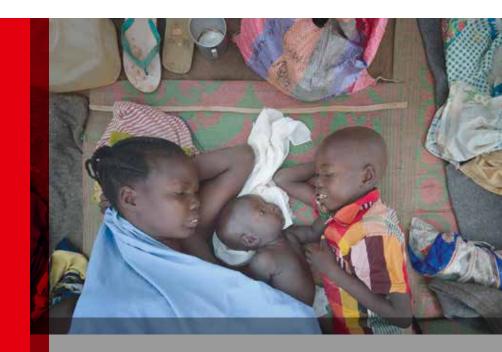


Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) Certification

ACT is a founding member of the CHS Alliance. The CHS is a voluntary standard which describes the essential elements of principled, accountable and high-quality humanitarian action. In 2015, ACT's Executive Committee approved CHS as a mandatory international standard in ACT's Quality and Accountability Framework.

ACT has integrated key CHS elements into its Humanitarian Policy and Mechanism. The move for certification was supported by ACT's advisory groups on Humanitarian Policy and Practice, and Quality and Accountability.

An independent verification audit by the Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative (HQAI), against the CHS highlighted ACT's commitment to guality and accountability. The effective coordination of ACT members during a humanitarian response and the focus on resilience and recovery contributed to ACT's HQAI certification in 2017.



"Quality and Accountability are a fundamental part of our vision, and we would like our members to focus on these principles. We see the HQAI certification as an excellent tool to achieve this objective and expect to have close cooperation with HQAI in promoting this agenda of transparency."

> –Rudelmar Bueno de Faria, **General Secretary of ACT Alliance**





ACT's Child Safeguarding Policy and Guidance Document is an initiative to strengthen ACT's accountability as an Alliance. The new Child Safeguarding CoP shows a commitment to accountability, to children and their communities. The CoP will work to ensure that the Child Safeguarding Code of Conduct and its reporting mechanism are implemented for the protection of the dignity of children.

Image above: Boys carry water from a community water spigot in a Haitian community. ACT has worked extensively in the community since it was devastated in 2016 by Hurricane Matthew.

Image at right: A mother and her children wake up in a camp for more than 5,000 internally displaced persons in a compound in South Sudan, supported with supplies by ACT Alliance. Most of the families were displaced by violence, when widespread armed conflict engulfed the area. PHOTOS: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT

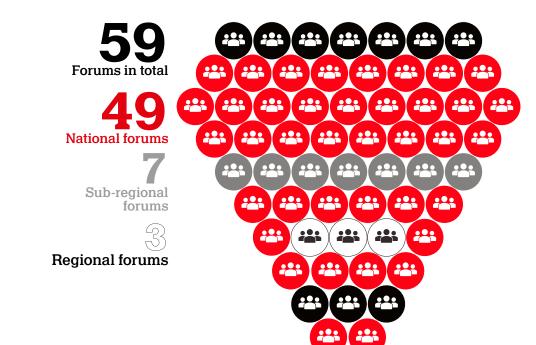


FORUMS Bringing Members Together

ACT Forums are shared platforms made up of ACT members and observers that are engaged in a particular country or region. Forums are central to the life of the alliance. They facilitate the coordination of members, their efforts and resources around common advocacy, development and humanitarian issues.

Good Forums Award

Strong forums are crucial for a strong ACT Alliance. The Forums Good Practice Guide and the Good Forums Award was launched in 2017. The initiative aims to strengthen the Alliance through the sharing of knowledge, expertise and experiences of ACT Forums around the world. The collection of good practices will help to celebrate, motivate and encourage forums to work together effectively.



SPOTLIGHT ON FORUMS

The Guatemala Forum

has engaged in advocacy for human rights. The forum raised their prophetic voice calling for action from the government in light of the injustices faced by human rights defenders and indigenous people in the country.

The Philippines Forum invited ACT members, ecumenical partners and other FBOs to participate in their forum strategy session in an effort to strengthen the platform for FBOs to engage in humanitarian work.

Image at top: Tika Maya Pulami and her neighbors carry water to their homes in Salang, a village in the Dhading District of Nepal where ACT Alliance has provided a variety of support to local villagers in the wake of a devastating 2015 earthquake. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT



Advisory Groups

ACT advisory groups are a network of experts within the alliance. They work on issues that are in line with and support the implementation of the Alliance's strategic plan and the global humanitarian, development and advocacy work of members.



Humanitarian Policy and Practice (HPPG) Chairs: Michael Mosselmans and Takeshi Komino/ Jacqueline Koster



Development Policy and Practice (DPPG) Chairs: Junior Sibanda and Eva Ekelund



Advocacy (AGA) Chairs: Thorsten Göbel and Joycia Thorat



Communications, Media and Brand (CMB) Chair: Palwashay Arbab



Quality and Accountability (QAG) Chairs: Anugrah Abraham / Coleen Heemskerk and Dieneke De Groot



Fundraising (AGF) Chair: Karen Janjua



Complaints Handling (CHAG) Chair: Marvin Parvez



Climate Change Chairs: Martin Vogel and Dinesh Vyas

Image above: Workers carry pipe as they drill a well in a village in South Sudan where more than 5,000 people were displaced by drought and conflict. ACT also distributed sorghum, beans and cooking oil to the most vulnerable families in this informal settlement.



Advocacy

This advisory group provides advocacy advice to the Secretariat, governing bodies and other structures of the alliance. The group has been instrumental in coordinating ACT's Advocacy Academy, getting the ACT advocacy strategy document approved and contributing to ACT's global advocacy strategy. The advisory group also provided support to ACT's climate change work, the work of the private sector group and the CoP on Migration and Development.

Humanitarian Policy and Practice

This advisory group takes responsibility for the content of humanitarian advocacy. The group helped to increase the understanding of the role of faith actors in various platforms including the localisation agenda. They supported the process of ACT's Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) Certification and the revision of the ACT Humanitarian policy. They also sanctioned the creation of the ACT Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan (ERPP) working group and strengthened awareness on the Humanitarian Mechanism in various regions.





Communities of Practice

Communities of Practice (CoPs) bring together ACT members on topics of common interest and concern of the alliance. They are avenues for gaining knowledge, sharing best practices and developing competencies related to an area of work. CoPs are open to all ACT members interested in working together on specific issues.

Disaster Risk Reduction. Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Development **Psycho-social** Support **Disability Inclusive** Development Safety and Security Gender Equality and Justice Human Rights in Development **Migration and** Development **Religion and** Development Youth Participation

Child Safeguarding Spotlight on CoPs

Youth Participation CoP

The Youth Participation CoP has worked to ensure that ACT youth have access to the spaces, resources, participation and leadership opportunities to exercise their rights and to have their voices and experiences reflected within ACT's governance and programs. The CoP aims to build a network of youth with the skills to engage in various political processes. ACT youth representatives are now engaging in the work of the ACT Advisory Group on Climate Change and the Gender Equality and Justice CoP.

Psycho-social CoP

The Psycho-social CoP aims to strengthen the capacity for recovery and resilience of communities after a traumatic event, adding a mental and social dimension to traditional humanitarian aid. In 2017, two additional Psycho-social CoPs were established (MENA and Southern Asia) to provide support to ACT members and partners. The CoP hosted various community-based psycho-social support workshops, for example, the MENA CoP hosted a training on human rights, gender and psycho-social support.

Safety and Security CoP

The Safety and Security CoP launched its Gender Security Guidelines. The guidelines help members to understand and to develop safety strategies for all genders working on behalf of ACT members. Since developing their online module, over 800 ACT member staff have taken ACT's security induction course. This CoP continues to service the safety and security needs of the alliance, monitoring any potential safety and security risks and hosting capacity building opportunities for ACT members around the world.

Image at top: A farmer stands on her land in Haiti where ACT Alliance has helped residents rebuild their lives after the village was devastated by Hurricane Matthew. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFERY/ACT



Audited Accounts

Balance sheet for the year ended 31 December 2017

		2017	2017	2016	2016
	Appendix /Notes	USD	CHF	USD	CHF
ASSETS					
Current assets		0 700 007	0 200 02 4		
Cash at bank		2,789,867	2,738,254	1,518,559	1,547,107
Short term deposits		2,000,560	1,963,549	2,000,168	2,037,771
Income receivable net		209,110	205,242	123,433	125,754
Staff advances		54,268	53,264	46,977	47,860
Other debtors		94,985	93,228	125,117	127,469
TOTAL ASSETS		5,148,790	5,053,537	3,814,254	3,885,961
LIABILITIES AND OWN F	UNDS				
Current liabilities					
Accrued expenses		188,358	184,874	105,154	107,131
Accounts payable		339,601	333,319	73,102	74,477
Funds received in advance ((Unspent earmarked contribution)	65,599	64,385	151,025	153,864
		593,558	582,578	329,281	335,472
Funds in trust					
Appeals funds	Appendix IV	2,845,568	2,792,926	1,417,262	1,443,906
Appeal Evaluation Fund	FF	_	_	26,802	27,305
TOTAL FUNDS IN TRUST		2,845,568	2,792,926	1,444,064	1,471,211
Own funds		· ·			
General reserve	Appendix III / Note 4				
A. Restricted Reserve		936.083	918.766	1.216.451	1.239.321
B. Unrestricted Reserve		602,458	591,312	738,208	752,086
C. Designated Reserve for	r assembly	268,216	263,254	222,000	226,174
Result of operations for the y	<i>r</i> ear	(97,093)	(95,590)	(135,750)	(133,711)
Currency translation adjustn		(,)	291	((4,593)
Unrestricted Reserve at e	end of year	773,581	759,267	824,458	839,956
Total general reserve		1,709,664	1,678,033	2,040,909	2,079,278
Total own funds		1,709,664	1,678,033	2,040,909	2,079,278
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND	OWN FUNDS	5,148,790	5,053,537	3,814,254	3,885,961
		-, -, -, -	,	,- ,	,,

Image above: Communities in Bangladesh were severely affected by floods in 2017. ACT members are working with the affected communities. PHOTO: RAISA CHOWDHURY/ICCO COOPERATION

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Appendix /Notes	2017 USD	2017 CHF	2016 USD	2016 CHF
INCOME				••••••••••	
Fees					
Membership fees	Appendix VI	134,688	132,600	145,583	143,395
Income based fees	Appendix VI	1,817,740	1,789,565	1,852,547	1,824,703
International coordination fees	Appendix VI	635,108	625,264	732,055	721,053
Total fees		2,587,536	2,547,429	2,730,185	2,689,151
Voluntary Contributions					
Voluntary contributions unearmarked	Appendix VII	812,373	799,781	552,447	544,144
Voluntary contributions earmarked to Programs	Appendix VII	822,114	809,371	693,271	682,851
Coordination Funds	Appendix VII	81,999	80,728	-	-
Support to Faith Based CPDE	Appendix VII	15,372	15,134	43,675	43,019
Total Voluntary Contributions		1,731,858	1,705,014	1,289,393	1,270,014
TOTAL INCOME		4,319,394	4,252,443	4,019,578	3,959,165
EXPENSES					
Staff costs	Appendix V.2	3,019,716	2,972,911	2.869.060	2,825,938
Office costs	Appendix V.2	617,747	608,172	532,756	524,749
Program 1	Appendix V.1	158,956	156,492	21,663	21,338
Program 2	Appendix V.1	11,323	11,148	92,733	91,340
Program 3	Appendix V.1	107,727	106,058	69,526	68,481
Program 4	Appendix V.1	5,712	5,623	355,336	349,995
Program 5	Appendix V.1	2,106	2,074	_	_
Program 6	Appendix V.1	126,226	124,269	_	-
Program 7	Appendix V.1	196,237	193,195	_	_
Program 8	Appendix V.1	60,180	59,247	_	_
Program 9	Appendix V.1	23,992	23,620	_	-
Provision for doubtful debts and write off	Note 4	18,145	17,864	86,917	85,611
Support to Faith Based CPDE	11010 1	15,372	15,134	43,675	43,019
Other expenses MENA & COS			-	34,195	33,681
		4,363,439	4,295,807	4,105,861	4,044,152
Interest received		(8,467)	(8,336)	(2,795)	(2,753)
Other income		_	_	(57,482)	(56,618)
Exchange (Gain)/Loss Core budget		(26,952)	-26,534	34,949	34,424
		(35,419)	(34,870)	(25,328)	(24,947)
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		4,328,020	4,260,937	4,080,533	4,019,205
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR BEFOR	RE ALLOCATIONS	(8,626)	(8,494)	(60,955)	(60,040)
Interest capitalized to restricted reserve	Appendix II	(8,467)	(8,336)	(2,795)	(2,753)
Exchange (Gain) / Loss transferred to restricted Rese	rve Appendix II	-	-	_	_
Allocation (to) / from 2014/2018 Assembly provision		-	-	(72,000)	(70,918)
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR AFTER	RALLOCATIONS	(17,093)	(16,830)	(135,750)	(133,711)



ACT Alliance Governing Board 2017

Officers

Moderator Sushant Agarwal Church's Auxiliary for Social Action

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Vice Moderator Donna Derr Community World Service Until May 2017

Dámaris Albuquerque Espinoza, Council of Evangelical Churches board member replaced Donna Derr in May 2017

Treasurer Wim Hart ICCO Cooperation

Members

Permanent seats Isabel Apawo Phiri World Council of Churches

Maria Immonen Lutheran World Federation

Africa

Bornface Mafwela United Church of Zambia

Susie Ibutu National Council of Churches of Kenya

Leonard Tegwende Kinda Dignus Burkina Faso

Asia Arshinta Soemarsono YAKKUM

Victor Hsu Presbyterian Church in Taiwan

Europe

(Eastern) **Karen Nazaryan** Armenian Catholicosate of Etchmiadzin

(Western) **Birgitte Qvist-Sørensen** DanChurchAid

Paul Valentin Christian Aid

Meso America, South America & the Caribbean

Elina Ceballos Villalón Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba

Angelique Van Zeeland Fundação Luterana de Diaconia

Middle East

Ramzi Zananiri Department on Service to Palestine Refugees

North America

Ida Kaastra-Mutoigo World Renew Canada

Laurie Ann Kraus Presbyterian Disaster Assistance as of December 2017

Pacific Nations, Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand Robert Bradley Mitchell

Anglican Overseas Aid as of December 2017

Rob Floyd Uniting World Relief 2014-June 2017

Membership and Nominations Committee

- 1. Cornelia Füllkrug-Weitzel (Moderator), BfdW, Europe
- 2. **Melton Luhanga** CARD , Africa
- 3. **Joyanta Adhikari** CCDB, Asia
- 4. **Humberto Shikiya** CREAS, Latin America
- 5. **Elsa Tesfay** PWRDF, North America

Executive Committee

Sushant Agarwal Moderator, Church's Auxiliary for Social Action

Donna Derr Former Vice-Moderator, Community World Service

Dámaris Albuquerque Espinoza Vice-Moderator, Council of Evangelical Churches, Nicaragua

Wim Hart Treasurer, ICCO Cooperation

Maria Immonen Lutheran World Federation

Ida Kaastra Mutoigo World Renew Canada *as of December 2017*

Leonard Tegwende Kinda Dignus Burkina Faso

Paul Valentin Christian Aid

Image above: A South Sudanese refugee living in Uganda received the materials needed to build a latrine for his family. In refugee settlements, community latrines are established but they are often temporary and can be destroyed by heavy rains. ACT members are providing support for improved access to shelters and latrines for improved hygiene, access and security. PHOTO: CLWB/E. PAULLEY

Leonard Dignus Bu **Paul Vale**



ACT Alliance MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS

AFRICA

Angola Angolan Council of Christian Churches (ACCC/CICA)

Angola Igreja Evangélica Reformada de Angola (IERA)

Burkina Faso Dignus Burkina Faso

Burundi National Council of Churches of Burundi (CNEB)

Burundi The Province of the Anglican Church of Burundi (EEB)

Burundi Diaconia Burundi

Cameroon Eglise Fraternelle Luthérienne du Cameroun (EFLC)

Congo Evangelical Lutheran Church in Congo (ELCCo)

DRC Ecumenical Office for Development Support (BOAD)

DRC Centre Oecuménique pour la Promotion du Monde Rural (COPROMOR)

DRC Eglise du Christ au Congo Bureau National (ECC)

Ethiopia Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY)

Ethiopia Ethiopian Orthodox Church – Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission (EOC-DICAC)

Ghana Presbyterian Church in Ghana (PCG)

Kenya National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCK)

Kenya Anglican 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 CCAPEvangelical Lutheran Development Service (ELDS)

Malawi Blantyre Synod Health and Development Commission (BSHDC)

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 (RACOBAO)

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 student in an advanced dressmaking class in the Vocational Training Center in Gaza City, Gaza. The center is sponsored by ACT Alliance. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY

EUROPE

Austria Diakonie

Belgium Solidarité Protestante (SP)

Denmark DanChurchAid (DCA)

Finland Finn Church Aid (FCA)

Germany Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH)

Germany Bread for the World (BfdW)

Iceland Icelandic Church Aid (ICA)

Norway Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)

Sweden Church of Sweden, International Mission and Diakonia (CoS)

Sweden Diakonia Sweden

Switzerland Bread for All (BFA)

Switzerland Swiss Interchurch Aid (HEKS)

The Netherlands Inter-Church Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO Cooperation)

The Netherlands Kerk in Actie

UK and Ireland Christian Aid (CA)

EASTERN EUROPE

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

Czech Republic Diaconia of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethrene (ECCB)

Hungary Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA)

Romania Ecumenical Association of Churches in Romania (AIDRom)

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

Serbia Philanthropy – The Charitable Fund of the Serbian Orthodox Church

Serbia Ecumenical Humainitarian Organization (EHO)

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Argentina Centro Regional Ecuménico de Asesoría y Servicio (CREAS)

Argentina Fundación Hora de Obrar (FHdO)

Brazil Coordenadoria Ecumênica 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 Ecuménico Diego de Medellin (CEDM)

Chile Educación Popular en Salud (EPES)

Colombia Presbyterian Church of Colombia (IPC)

Costa Rica Iglesia Luterana Costarricense (ILCO)

Cuba Cuban Council of Churches (CIC)

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 Ecuménico Cristiano de Guatemala (CECG)

Guatemala Centro Evangélico de Estudios pastorales en Centro América (CEDEPCA)

Haiti Service Chrétien d'Haïti (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 Teológicas y Sociales (CIEETS)

Nicaragua Council of Evangelical Churches (CEPAD)

Nicaragua Iglesia Luterana de Nicaragua (ILN)

Peru Diaconia Peru

MIDDLE EAST

Egypt Bishopric of Public, Ecumenical

and Social Services of the Coptic Orthodox Church (BLESS/COC)

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 & Development (PWSD)

Canada Primates World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF)

Canada World Renew

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 Lutheran World Relief (LWR)

PACIFIC

New Zealand Christian World Service (CWS-NZ)

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)

Australia Anglican in Development (ABM-AID)

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

Europe (Belgium) Conference of European Churches (CEC)

Global (Switzerland) World Student Christian Federation (WSCF)

Global (UK) Anglican Alliance

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annual report 2017

▲ A woman walks among cattle in a village in South Sudan. Most of the families in the village face serious challenges in rebuilding while also coping with a drought that has devastated the cattle herds that provide a foundation for their economy and culture. ACT Alliance is helping the villagers with support for housing, livelihood, and food security. PHOTO: PAUL JEFFREY/ACT