

AcciRELIEF

ANNUAL REPORT

2016



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OUR *organisation*

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OUR *organisation*

ABOUT US

Our vision

ACCI Relief's vision is for a world where the Christian principles of justice and equality are actualised. Where individuals, families and communities are empowered to influence decisions affecting their own lives and to advocate for their rights as human beings, with equal voice and value, under the premise that all life has intrinsic value before God who created life itself.

Our mission

Our mission is to transform communities and nations, One Life at a Time, by developing holistic sustainable solutions to combat injustice and poverty and reinstate the value of life. We aim to promote equal access to the rights and services that protect life and human dignity.

'Holistic transformation of communities; relief of poverty'

Our core activities

The core activities of ACCI Relief are:

Community development projects: We believe in addressing the issues of poverty and injustice and partner with organisations that bring change to entire communities.

Child rights and child-centred development projects: We provide support to vulnerable children through the provision of healthcare, education and family support services.

Disaster relief: We provide support to individuals and communities in the wake of disasters and humanitarian crises, both in Australia and abroad. This encompasses the provision of emergency and recovery assistance to whole communities, as well as services designed to protect children in post-disaster settings.



Photo: Lee Aik Soon

Implementation *(achieving our mission)*

- We use a multifaceted approach to achieve our mission, which includes development projects, advocacy and public awareness campaigns.
- We form strategic partnerships to achieve our mission. The role of our strategic partners is to engage with and empower communities to be active participants in their own development.
- We encourage our strategic partners to partner with other like-minded organisations and governments in order to implement initiatives in accordance with international guidelines and national frameworks.
- We promote the cause of justice and equality within our networks and provide opportunities for churches, donors and volunteers to engage with our mission.
- As we work towards achieving this mission we will act professionally, think strategically and be accountable to our stakeholders, primarily the communities we serve.

Photo: Abigail Keenan

Our beliefs

The Australian Christian Churches Statement of Faith summarises the Biblical foundation of what we believe. Without compromising this clear Biblical foundation, we have articulated additional beliefs that are specific to the development work that our organisation, staff and field workers are involved in.

- We believe in the sanctity of life and the inherent dignity of every human regardless of race, gender, social status, or any other human condition.
- We believe that the intrinsic value of human life is the underlying principle of justice upon which human rights are founded. We believe in challenging all social and cultural structures that perceive life as a commodity that can be bought and sold.
- We believe that the church has a crucial role to play in reconciling the social divides which lead to human rights violations and in doing so, defend the rights of the marginalised members of a given community. To this purpose, we believe in partnering with and building the capacity of local churches, both in Australia and in the nations where we work, to engage in equality and justice.
- We believe that the root cause of poverty is injustice and social exclusion. In order to break poverty, unequal power relationships and systemic obstacles to opportunity need to be identified and challenged so that all people can access opportunity and improve their own lives.

- We believe that those living in poverty are rights holders and not objects of charity. They have legitimate claims to rights and to lead a dignified life.

- We believe that the process of development should be empowering. Programs and initiatives should strive to amplify the voice of the marginalised, who – when empowered – can identify their own vision, goals and needs. The end goal of our partnership with individuals and communities is not the delivery of services but people empowered to have an equal voice and increased capacity.

“The human person is the central subject of development and should be an active participant and beneficiary of the right to development” (Article 2 Declaration on the Right to Development).

- We believe that the measure of our effectiveness can be found in the individuals, families and communities who have been empowered to make choices and act on their choices, and the progressive reconciliation of oppressive power relationships.

ACCI Relief carries out aid and development activities only. Evangelistic programs and activities are administered and funded separately through our sister organisation, ACCI Missions.

JOINT CEO *report*

Thank You Australian Christian Churches

We would like to start this annual report by thanking the Australian Christian Churches (ACC) movement for its continued generosity towards people experiencing poverty and the effects of disasters around the world. With the support of an increasing number of ACC churches, we now have 42 project partners in 23 countries and in the past 12 months alone, were able to directly assist more than 380,200 people, including those affected by emergencies.

Another highlight from last year – also made possible with support from these generous churches – was our Kinnected program, which continues to go from strength to strength in providing viable alternatives to residential care and supporting vulnerable children to stay within their families. A total of 60 residential care centres have now been fully or partly deinstitutionalised, with programs shifting their focus to providing community and family strengthening, family-based care and family preservation.

Development programs

In 2016, our international development programs continued to centre on eight thematic areas:

- Village Life: empowering communities to lead their own development.
- Kinnected: keeping children in families.
- RAISE: because it takes a whole community to raise a child.
- Education: addressing children's right to quality education.
- Health: healthcare everyone can count on.
- Inclusion: a world where everyone can participate.
- Anti-trafficking: supporting the fight against human trafficking.
- Improving livelihoods: increasing opportunity through microfinance and vocational training.

Over the past 12 months, our field workers and partners have worked tirelessly to implement 36 development projects, delivering sustainable benefits to around 52,500 adults and 68,700 children.

Through our disaster and humanitarian response efforts, we provided much-needed support to a further 259,000 people, in five countries. The focus towards the end of 2016 was responding to the protracted humanitarian crisis in Syria. With the generous support of our donors, ACCIR was able to provide emergency food and bedding supplies to families fleeing the war-torn Syrian city of Aleppo.



Photo: Dika Seva

Financial position

2016 was another strong financial year for ACCI, with income received through donations slightly up on the previous year. We were again able to maximise the proportion of funds that went to international programs during the year, to 91 percent (this included the disbursement of funds held in reserve from the previous year for the continuing Nepal disaster response).

With the addition of another full-time development qualified staff member to our projects team, we have been able to continue driving an increase in the quality and effectiveness of our aid and development programs. Our program support costs increased to 2.7 percent of expenses. Accountability and administration costs reduced in real terms and fell to 3.8 percent of expenses, with fundraising costs at 2 percent. You can read our Summary Financial Report for the year ending 31 December 2016 on page xx; a copy of the full General Purpose Financial Report is available on request.

Upholding justice

In May 2016, we hosted a two-day event that looked at our Biblical mandate to uphold justice in the world. We looked at how this can challenge popular notions of ‘charity’ and also what it means for local churches’ engagement with overseas development initiatives. Our key experts and practitioners engaged participants in discussions on critical justice issues such as gender, consumerism and caring for our creation.

We are excited by the opportunities that lie ahead in 2017, although are keenly aware that achieving more is not simply a matter of raising more funds. Upholding justice challenges us all to critically evaluate our methods and approaches to development, ensuring that we are strategically using our resources to tackle root causes and implement long-term solutions; not simply throwing money at the symptoms.

Thank you for your support and partnership, as together we seek to uphold justice for those experiencing the dehumanising impact of poverty.



CHAD Irons,
CEO Operations



REBECCA Nhep,
CEO International Programs



GOVERNANCE

Our Board of Directors

As at 25th of May, 2017

Director

Alun Davies

Dip. Bib. BA Grad. Dip. Couns
ACCI Missions & Relief Director
Australian Christian Churches Vice President
Ordained Pastor

Treasurer

Graeme Kirkwood

Chartered Accountant (CA)
Ordained Pastor

Secretary

Ian Kruithoff

Member of ACC Victorian State Executive
Ordained Pastor

Members

Karyn Ey

Grad Dip Soc Sci
Masters Community Development - Emergency
Management
Ordained Pastor

Ishara Davey

BA (International Relations and International Business),
M (International Studies)
Certificate IV in Contemporary Leadership (Church
Work)

Terri Reid

BA (Psychology, Welfare)
Life Unlimited Church Missions Coordinator, Canberra

Kristy Mills

BA, DipEd, M (International Studies)
Ministry Director, Shirelive Church
Ordained Pastor

ACCOUNTABILITY

Accreditation

ACFID

ACCI Relief is an ACFID member and complies with the ACFID Code of Conduct, which defines minimum standards of governance, management and accountability for non-governmental development organisations.

Adherence to the Code is monitored by an independent Code of Conduct Committee elected from the NGO community. Our adherence to the Code of Conduct demonstrates our commitment to ethical practice and public accountability.

Copies of the Code of Conduct are available from ACFID by visiting www.acfid.asn.au

Humanitarian Relief

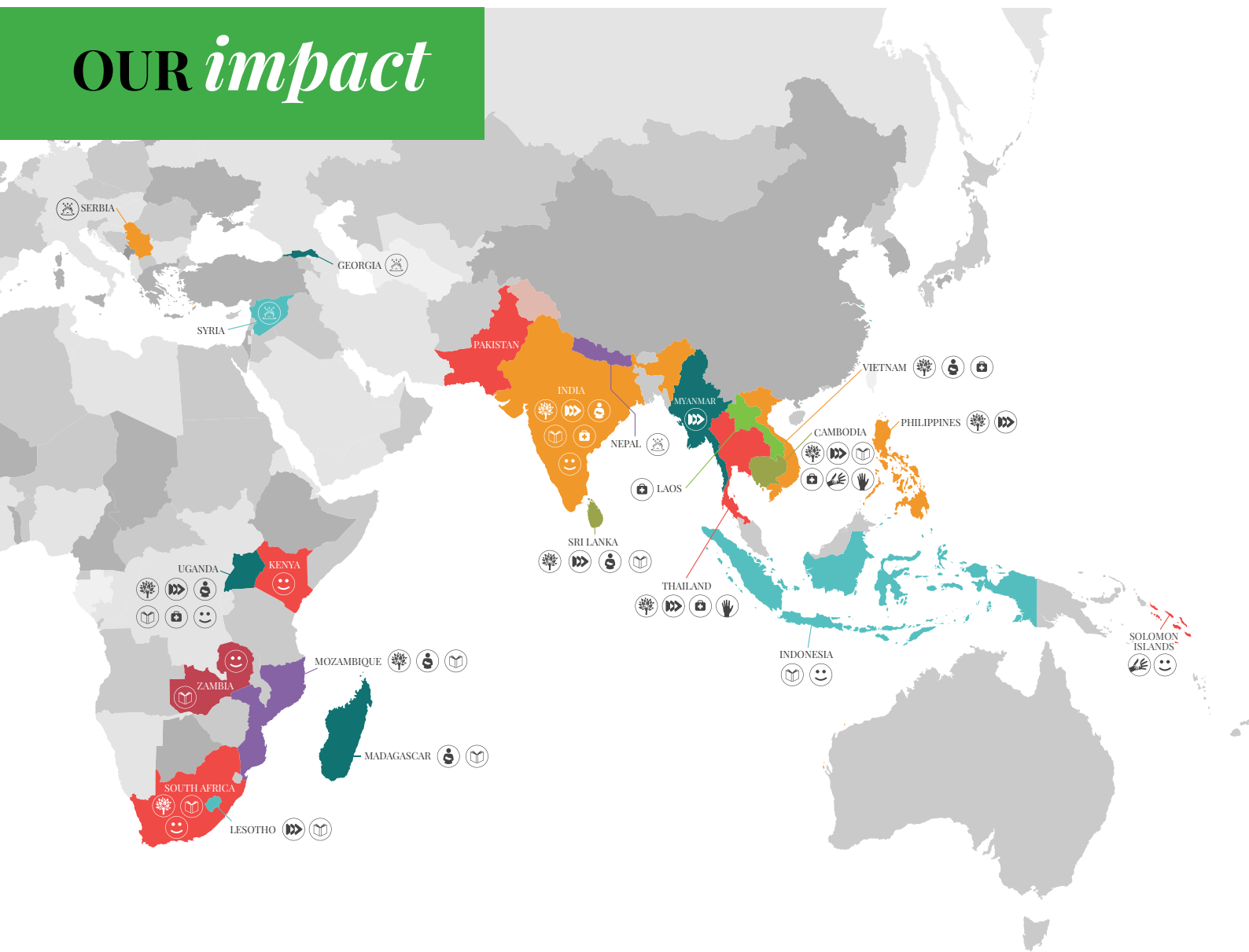
We are also signatories to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Code of Conduct for Disaster Relief. ACCI Relief aims to meet the standards for Disaster Response as set out by the Sphere Humanitarian Charter.

COMPLAINTS/FEEDBACK

If you would like to lodge a complaint regarding the conduct of ACCI Relief or provide us with any feedback, please contact the CEO of Operations at complaints@acci.org.au or the Director at info@accir.org.au

If you have a complaint regarding a breach of the ACFID Code of Conduct, please contact the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee at code@acfid.asn.au or on 02 6285 1816.

OUR *impact*



OUR GLOBAL *reach*

 VILLAGE LIFE

 EDUCATION

 ANTI TRAFFICKING

 KINNECTED

 HEALTH

 IMPROVING LIVELIHOODS

 RAISE

 INCLUSION

 DISASTERS

village life

Empowering communities to lead their own development

- Cambodia • Philippines • Vietnam • India
- Thailand • Sri Lanka • Mozambique

Village Life projects focus on restoring voice and power to the powerless by ensuring local communities own and drive their own development. This process begins with community members identifying strengths, then setting goals and vision, mapping out available resources – including human, material and natural – and then prioritising and planning how they will meet their goals. This approach not only empowers and affirms people’s rights; it gives them the motivation and self-esteem required to be active participants in a life-long journey of change.

2016 highlights

- In Vietnam, 17 communes (representing 119 villages) participated in community-led development workshops and continue working towards achieving their self-determined goals. 2016 has seen significant collaboration between our partner and government departments, contributing towards positive development outcomes for whole communities.

- 2 communities in the Philippines continued working towards their self-determined goal of improving financial security through establishing micro-finance cooperatives in their communities. 223 community members are involved in the cooperatives, allowing them to access low-interest loans, start or expand small businesses, and improve income security.

- In Cambodia, community members in 44 rural villages continued working together to address the issues they have identified in their communities. This has included developing permaculture projects, digging dams to improve access to water, planting fruit trees, attending ongoing health training, building latrines and many other projects relevant to the communities’ unique needs, assets and plans.

- In Thailand, a new Village Life project was established to help communities address their self-determined needs; predominately in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene. At the request of families, 30 toilets have been installed to improve their sanitation and hygiene, contributing towards improved family health.

- Training was provided to people working in 8 countries to help them facilitate community-led development in their local communities. Trainees have begun implementing this approach in Mozambique, while others plan to implement this in the coming year.





Photo: AOGWR

CASE STUDY: *Empowering communities in central Vietnam*

Our AOG WR team partners with more than 119 rural villages in central Vietnam, journeying with them as they work towards a set of goals each has identified as being vital to their own development. Communities might choose to participate in project activities such as livestock and agricultural training, revolving (monetary or animal) loan schemes, water and sanitation training and infrastructure, medical training and equipment, life skills classes, or courses about road safety, disaster relief, financial planning and parenting.

The process of community transformation involves consultation with key government and community leaders who work together to develop a plan for how their community will address its concerns, including how they might leverage existing resources.

Importantly, this process also incorporates the voices of local people who aren't in leadership positions, to ensure their interests are being reflected in decisions made.

Community members – at all levels of society – are also a part of bringing their ideas to reality through either contributing to costs or providing labour for any new resources. This results in communities which feel a greater sense of pride and ownership of any new infrastructure or resources, as well as local people who realise the role they have to play and the value they have within themselves to create lasting change.

In 2016, the work of AOG WR directly benefited almost 39,700 people, including more than 22,000 children.



Keeping children in families

- Uganda • Lesotho • India • Sri Lanka
- Cambodia • Myanmar • Philippines
- Thailand • South Africa

Kinnected exists to champion the rights of children to be raised within a family. We know that over eight million children are currently living in orphanages or other types of residential care, with up to 80 percent of these children not actually orphaned or abandoned but placed there for reasons of poverty. Kinnected projects seek to strengthen families and communities to enable them to care for children, while also providing family-based care alternative care options where necessary.

Kinnected's approach

Kinnected's approach to the crisis of over-institutionalisation is three-fold.

Projects: Kinnected projects focus on developing reintegration and reunification programs for children currently living in residential care, while providing their communities and families with the support they need to be able to care for children again. Where that's not possible, our partners work on family-based alternative care options (such as kinship or foster care), ensuring that institutional care is only short term and very much, a last resort.

Advocacy and donor education: Kinnected's advocacy arm seeks to raise awareness amongst donors, policy makers, not-for-profit organisations and the general public regarding the issues surrounding residential care and child rights. This includes conducting research, developing tools, resources and campaigns, and engaging with key networks to promote good practice and change.

Consultancy and technical support: Kinnected's consultancy program comes alongside organisations running long-term residential care and assists them to undergo deinstitutionalisation. Kinnected staff and consultants work with organisations to develop strategic plans and provide the necessary technical support, training, tools and guidance to ensure organisations are able to transition their programs in a safe and effective manner.



Advocacy and collaboration in practice

ACCIR is proud to have co-founded ReThink Orphanages: Better solutions for children, a cross sector network which works to bring an end to the unnecessary institutionalisation of children, by changing the way Australians engage with this practice in an overseas context.

The goals of ReThink include:

- to make Australians aware of the risks of starting, supporting, visiting or volunteering in a residential care centre overseas;
- to encourage Australians travelling overseas to make ethical and responsible choices and to consider how their visit might impact on children; and
- to support and promote responsible volunteering. Along with the other members of this group, we are active in sharing our experiences, resources and time with those who are also tackling this issue.

2016 highlights

Kinnected has been running for six years, with 35 programs now operating across 11 countries. In 2016, our Kinnected projects – which fall under the following four categories – achieved the following:

1. Family preservation & abandonment prevention projects

- Approximately 375 families in 5 countries were supported through projects aimed at keeping families together. Highlights of this work included:
 - 140 families in Cambodia supported to provide kinship care;
 - crisis pregnancy support services provided to women in Cambodia, which enabled 39 babies born in 2016 to remain with their mothers or be placed in family-based care; and
 - 11 mothers and their children provided with emergency housing in Thailand to ensure they could remain together.
- Through our advocacy and consultancy work, we were also able to redirect people or organisations planning on opening new institutions to instead focus on family and community-based programs.

2. Family-based care projects

- Approximately 103 children were cared for within foster placements, through 7 programs operating in Cambodia, Uganda, South Africa and Thailand.
- In South Africa, 7 children were adopted domestically and 3 children were placed in foster care through a church-based program.

3. Family & community strengthening programs

- Hundreds of families benefited from family strengthening projects, including:
 - vocational training and livestock programs in Uganda;
 - positive parenting courses for parents of at-risk youth in Lesotho; and
 - a new early childhood education centre for migrant families in Thailand.

4. Reintegration & reunification projects

- Approximately 106 children in 8 countries, who were either living on the streets or in residential care, were reintegrated back into families.
- A cumulative total of 60 residential care centres have, or are in the process of transitioning to non-institutional services and are actively outworking family reunification programs. (This includes 23 residential care centres in Myanmar which are receiving support through a reintegration working group that provides training and support to orphanage directors working towards deinstitutionalisation.)

Advocacy And Donor Education Highlights

In the past year, we have celebrated a number of key advocacy wins, including:

- Developing a positional paper in collaboration with other members of the ACFID Child Rights Community of Practice regarding the overuse of residential care in international development, which was adopted by the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) as its official position.
- Briefing Australia's Minister for International Development and Pacific about overseas residential care and orphanage voluntourism, including our recommendations; as well as ongoing conversations with key Australian Senators and Ministers about these issues.
- Presenting to a UN committee at the IDE International Alternative Care Conference in Geneva – an event focused on the implementation of the UN Guidelines for the Alternative care of children.
- Continued leadership involvement in several global networks, including ReThink Orphanages, BVBC, Faith to Action, Hopeland and World Without Orphans.

In 2016, we also published our 'Protecting Children in Short-Term Missions Manual & Toolkit', which provides information and resources for sending and receiving organisations to ensure that the rights of children are upheld during short-term trips overseas.



Photo: Care4Kids

CASE STUDY: *Caring for children in their communities*

ACCI partner Care4Kids is passionate about seeing orphaned and vulnerable children in Uganda given the support and assistance they need to rebuild their lives. While originally founded as an orphanage, in 2013 Care4Kids began the process of transitioning to family-based care, focusing its efforts on reuniting children with their families and running community strengthening and family preservation programs. In November 2016, Care4Kids successfully resettled its last child into family-based care, bringing the total number of resettled children to 67. Children and their families continue to have regular visits from social workers, as well as access to family counselling to allow children to work through any abandonment issues with their guardians.

Care4Kids provides a range of practical support for the families of reintegrated children, to help improve family life; this is also open to other members of the local community who are at risk of family breakdown. In 2016, some of that support included water filters, solar kits (to assist with children's homework), bicycles for transport to school, and opportunities to take part in savings groups, micro-enterprise training, and health and hygiene education.

Last year, building works took place in the former residential care facility to begin the process of transforming it into an education facility. A nursery school – the first stage of this project – became operational in early 2017, with a vocational training centre due to open soon.



Photo: CIF

CASE STUDY: *Helping children grow up in families*

There are tens of thousands of children in Cambodia living in orphanages, yet an alarming 77 percent of these children are not orphans, having been placed in institutions for reasons of poverty. Children in Families (CIF) was established in 2006 in response to this issue; recognising not only the rights of children to be raised in a family but the responsibility for government and service providers to ensure there are adequate family-based services for children who legitimately need alternative care.

CIF's desire is to find Cambodian families for children who cannot live with their biological parents (either temporarily or permanently), through kinship or foster care. Once children have been placed in kinship or foster care arrangements, CIF continues to help their families with the costs of children's education, nutrition, medical care and other support that may be required. In 2016, 138 children and 76 families received support through CIF's kinship program. Each family received at least one visit per month, on average, from CIF staff.

CIF also realises that children with disabilities are at a much greater risk of being sent to live in institutions, as well as being more vulnerable to the potential dangers and negative effects of this type of care. In response, CIF's ABLÉ program supports biological and foster families who are caring for children with disabilities to access the resources they need to continue looking after children at home. ABLÉ staff are trained in therapeutic services so they can help families address challenges in a child's development, and families can also count on access to special education, medical services and specialised equipment and support aids. In 2016, 32 children were part of the ABLÉ program, representing 27 families who were responsible for caring for them.

RAISE

Because it takes a whole community to raise a child

- Mozambique • Sri Lanka • Madagascar
- Uganda • India • Vietnam

We understand that it takes a whole community to raise a child and that by strengthening the capacity and resilience of their families and communities, we create opportunities for all children to thrive. Raise projects are therefore child-focused but community minded; meaning that while children are at the centre of programming, the projects also focus on targeting and addressing the underlying causes of poverty in their families and communities.

Photo: Operation Uganda



2016 highlights

- At the Hope Centre in Mozambique, 140 children received early education, as well as access to healthcare, hygiene information and a daily nutritious meal. The centre also worked with 320 families to support them in caring for their children.
- Through community and learning centres in Madagascar, 456 children were able to access pre-school, primary and secondary education, using a unique tri-lingual self-paced curriculum. In 2016, the parents' association took an active role in the functioning of the centres, helping complete a new road at the entrance to one centre, establishing a fund for maintenance and extracurricular activities, and working together to support vulnerable families within the community.
- At the HOPE schools in Uganda, 890 children accessed quality early and primary education. One exciting achievement in 2016 was the formation of a women's economic empowerment group, involving many of the mothers from the schools. After receiving training, the group developed a mushroom business, created a savings group and set up a fund to assist group members facing challenging times.
- In Sri Lanka, 49 children accessed early education at the HelpKids centre, while 104 primary school-aged children received tutoring support. Children could also attend after-school care while their parents worked. The families of children who attended HelpKids were also invited to take part in family strengthening and community development initiatives.
- In Vietnam, children were supported through a wide range of community-led development initiatives. One such initiative was water safety training, which has become a key government priority due to the high rate of child deaths caused by drowning. In 2016, 573 children received swimming lessons; a new above-ground pool was also installed in a primary school, with one of the teachers trained as a swimming supervisor.
- A new Raise program was established in India to support families and communities to overcome the barriers that prevent children from attending – and staying in – school.



Photo: Help Kids Centre

CASE STUDY: *Helping Sri Lanka's children to thrive*

Based in Colombo, the Help Kids Centre provides two years of preschool education, as well as ongoing tutoring, for children from two slum communities. In 2016, 49 children were enrolled in the centre's preschool program, with 104 benefiting from tutoring while attending local schools.

This support for education not only helps disadvantaged children gain the skills they need to break the cycle of poverty they've grown up in, it also helps keep struggling families together. In Sri Lanka, it's not uncommon for poor families to send their children into residential care to ensure they receive a quality education; the work of Help Kids gives families a better option.

The team also assists families with the regular costs associated with schooling, including school books and shoes. Last year, 90 percent of the children attending Help Kids regularly attended school.

In order to support the wider family unit of children attending the centre, one-one-one counselling is available for parents who need it. Parents can also attend classes about family relationships, managing finances and healthcare, and receive support to access government-run vocational opportunities.

EDUCATION *Addressing children's right to quality education*

- South Africa • Uganda • Madagascar • India • Cambodia • Indonesia
- Sri Lanka • Mozambique • Lesotho • Zambia

A child's access to quality education is intrinsically linked to the options they'll have later in life. Lack of education is a leading cause in the perpetuation of poverty, disadvantage and wealth disparity. Addressing children's right to an education is therefore fundamental to breaking the cycle of poverty in families and communities, and creating hope for the next generation.

2016 highlights

- In Uganda, South Africa and Cambodia, training initiatives helped build the capacity of local schools and teachers, to enable them to provide quality education for their students. In Uganda, 150 teachers were involved in training workshops and 3 schools benefited from infrastructure improvements, which impacted a combined total of 27 schools.
- 810 vulnerable children were supported to access education in Uganda. Mentoring, student wellbeing programs and family strengthening initiatives were also implemented to help keep children in school and ensure whole families were supported.

- 3,639 children in Cambodia and 104 children in Sri Lanka benefited from tutoring – including homework help and English language programs. This extra support not only helps children stay in school but also increases their employment opportunities once they complete their education.

- Early education programs were provided for a total of 239 children across Sri Lanka, Mozambique and Uganda to support their cognitive, social, emotional and physical development, while preparing them for primary education. In India, 9 daycare centres provided quality care for young children while their parents worked.

- In Lesotho, India and Indonesia, informal education programs assisted 841 vulnerable children, who were either living on the streets or from slum communities. This type of education can be an important first step towards reintegrating children into mainstream education.

- In Zambia, a new partnership was developed with a university program, aimed at increasing graduate retention rates within the Ndola region – and Zambia more broadly – to contribute towards the economic development of the region.

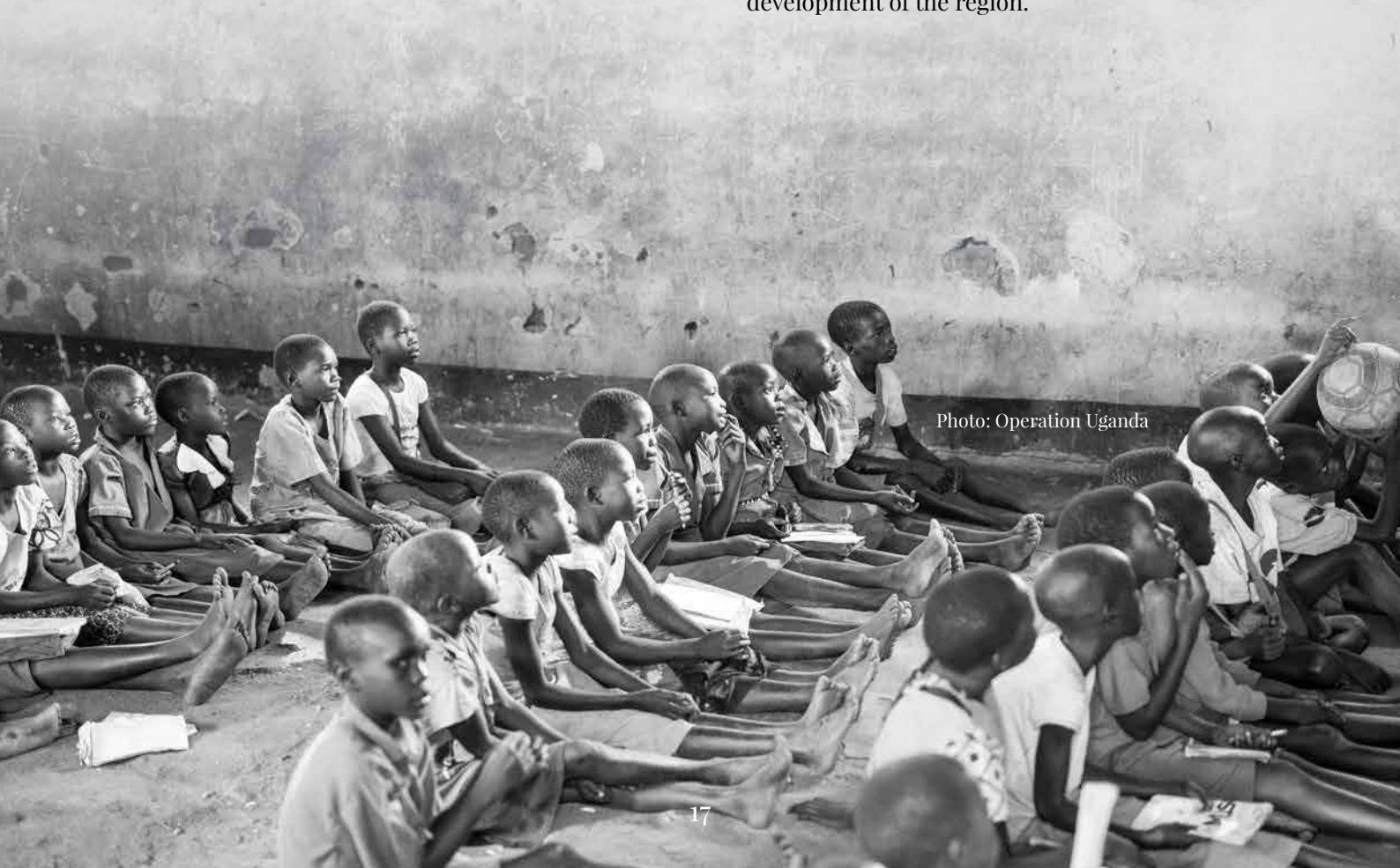


Photo: Operation Uganda



Photo: Vision Rescue

CASE STUDY: *Supporting children's education in India's slums*

In the slums of Mumbai and Kolkata, Vision Rescue is ensuring disadvantaged children have the support and encouragement they need to attend – and stay in – school. Targeting children aged 3-14 in eight communities in Mumbai and three in Kolkata, Vision Rescue helps to break down many of the barriers that are preventing children from receiving an education.

For example, through providing non-formal bridging education – which covers basic literacy and numeracy skills – Vision Rescue is able to encourage and prepare children who've never been to school before.

This program also inevitably sparks children's interest in attending formal schooling. In 2016, 554 children attended Vision Rescue's non-formal education.

Vision Rescue also helps families to address issues which might be affecting their ability to enrol and keep their children in formal schooling, including family members' health, employment status or addiction. As a result, in 2016, Vision Rescue saw 497 children attend formal schooling. Vision Rescue staff also provided regular visits to children to ensure they remained engaged and schooling continued to be a priority for their families.

HEALTH *Healthcare everyone can count on*

• India • Cambodia • Laos • Vietnam • Uganda • Thailand

Every day, many of the world's poorest people are denied, or limited in their access to, basic healthcare. Whether because of poor social services or systems that are overwhelmed, people miss out on the support they need to recover from illness, manage chronic conditions or care for sick children. Ensuring all men, women and children have access to affordable and reliable healthcare is vital to helping them improve their lives.

2016 highlights

- In Laos, ceramic water filters were distributed to approximately 6,924 families (around 41,544 individuals), giving them access to clean drinking water. This partner also sold over 9,500 tonnes of verified carbon credits, based on the project's contribution to environmental sustainability via reducing the amount of wood and charcoal used for boiling water.

- In Cambodia, thousands of people across 34 villages received training on preventing illness, general healthcare, hygiene and the importance of drinking clean water. After training, 1,670 mosquito nets and 352 water filters were distributed to community members who participated in the training.

- 94 women in Cambodia faced with a crisis pregnancy were able to access support. This included pre- and post-natal medical care, infant wellbeing checks and counselling services. Also in Cambodia, a new women's assisted home was opened, where 8 women are now living and thriving.

- In Vietnam, a wide range of initiatives were implemented at the request of local communities, including the installation of 10 water filtration systems, improvements to 4 health clinics, subsidisation of 69 operations, provision of 11 mobility aids, and over 30 training courses covering various health topics.





Photo: Mother's Heart

CASE STUDY: *Supporting women through crisis pregnancy*

When women in Cambodia face crisis pregnancies – which can occur for reasons such as abandonment, rape, incest and trafficking – the blame and responsibility is placed solely on them. Women are often rejected by their family members and wider social networks; leaving them feeling isolated, unable to return home and without financial and emotional support. In many cases, women see abortion or abandonment of their babies as their only options.

Mother's Heart, which was the first crisis pregnancy service established in Cambodia, provides practical as well as emotional support to these women, including counselling, emergency accommodation, general healthcare, antenatal and postnatal care, parenting training, childcare and formula for babies once mothers return to work.

Mother's Heart also assists women to access vocational training and job options, with four women completing a one-year sewing program in 2016 and two graduating from a hospitality course.

Mother's Heart also advocates for family-based care for every child. If a mother can't take care of their child, the organisation helps facilitate kinship or foster care; this is either organised by Mother's Heart or through Kinconnected project partner Children in Families. In 2016, three children were placed in kinship care and three in permanent foster care, with Mother's Heart providing formula to the families of these children.

In 2016, 94 women benefited from the support of Mother's Heart.

INCLUSION *A world where everyone can participate*

• Solomon Islands • Cambodia

There can be many barriers in life for people living with a disability, particularly when they're also experiencing poverty. ACCIR inclusion projects focus on identifying and addressing any forms of exclusion and discrimination that are taking away people's rights and blocking their access to opportunity. In this way, participants are empowered to live full and meaningful lives.

2016 highlights

- In the Solomon Islands, 22 students with disabilities received vocational and life skills training to assist them to either find employment or start their own businesses.

After completing training, students were encouraged to join support networks with other people with disabilities in their communities.

- In Cambodia, ongoing support was provided to 34 children with disabilities and their families – including those in foster and kinship care arrangements. The program – which aims to help children with disabilities remain with their families and communities – provided in-home help and direct therapy services, facilitated referrals for equipment, accompanied children to medical appointments and provided training for family members.



Photo: Bethesda

CASE STUDY: *Training for people with disabilities*

ACCIR project partner Bethesda Disability Training and Support Centre is the only adult disability training facility in the Solomon Islands. Operating from Honiara, it provides opportunities for people with disabilities to learn skills that they can use to find meaningful employment once back home.

For example, in 2016, Bethesda students were taught how to make furniture, dye and sew material to make clothes, weave baskets and grow vegetables. Many of the products they produced were sold to help cover operational costs, as well as to support the developing business skills of Bethesda participants – given that students can also undertake training in business costing and marketing. Last year, Bethesda also continued preparations for a farming area which will not only improve income generation activities but create better opportunities for agricultural training.

In addition to skills training offered at Bethesda, students receive mobility training – where appropriate – as well as literacy and numeracy instruction and information about the rights of those living with a disability. Holistic courses run for either 12 weeks or six months and students are selected from a similar geographical area for each intake so as to create better support networks for when they return home.

Bethesda also equips other members of each student's community with knowledge about responding to disability – including carers, family members and other disability-focused organisations – to ensure students have the support they need to keep on meeting their goals once they leave the centre.

IMPROVING *livelihoods*

Increasing opportunity through microfinance and vocational training

• Uganda • Kenya • Solomon Islands • Indonesia • South Africa • India • Philippines

Access to vocational training and microfinance loans make a world of difference for the people our partners work with. Not only do these programs help meet the needs of people who lack opportunity and education, or require access to low-interest credit; they empower individuals to be the champions of their own success. Inevitably, this also stimulates local economies. This results in stronger and healthier families, and communities which have a foundation from which to thrive.

2016 highlights

• Over 3,235 businesses were started in Kenya and Uganda after participants received business training, access to micro-grants and mentorship. This has impacted approximately 64,000 rural east Africans. In west Uganda, 95 clients received training and micro-loans to help them expand or start small businesses, with the majority of clients increasing their profits.

• In Bali, a vocational training program helped provide the skills and income necessary for women and their children to stop working on the streets. This training allows them to find safe and stable employment and to send their children to school.

• In India, 30 vocational and skills training programs were run in local communities, providing training in areas such as tailoring, beauty therapy, repairs and maintenance, small business planning and adult literacy. In one particular community, the training has allowed women to apply for loans from the local council to start their own small businesses.

• In the Philippines, 223 community members have been part of grassroots community microfinance cooperatives. The cooperatives provide low-interest loans and approximately 95% of loans have been paid back in full. In one community, the cooperative has reduced the rate of street begging by over 70%, improved income and health, allowed parents to send their children to school, and even improved the status of the community with neighbouring areas.



Photo: Bandith Nhep



Photo: Village Enterprise

CASE STUDY: *Supporting sustainable business*

In East Africa, where more than 70 percent of the population lives below \$2 a day, ACCIR project partner Village Enterprise is helping hard-working men and women break the cycle of poverty and create businesses that will sustain them and their families. Through a comprehensive one-year microenterprise development program, currently operating in some of the poorest communities in Kenya and Uganda, Village Enterprise provides would-be business owners with business and financial training, ongoing mentoring and start-up grants.

Once they've been able to start their businesses, graduates of the program are invited to join a local business savings group, so they can save together and also access credit when they need it. Additionally, such groups act as a support for small business owners to share best practice and to sometimes even undertake smaller projects in conjunction with each other.

Village Enterprise's model is sustainable and cost-effective because it is delivered through a network of dedicated business mentors and local leaders who live in the same area as participants of the program. This enables training to be tailored to a local context and for business owners to have ongoing support and guidance. With local knowledge and networks in place, Village Enterprise is also able to target the poorest of the poor, ensuring the program is made available to those who need it most.

In 2016, ACCIR directly supported the launching of 12 small businesses and the training of 37 new business owners; indirectly impacting the lives of 247 people. Broader outcomes of Village Enterprise's work include better nutrition, improved health, increased education of children, higher-quality housing and empowerment of all those involved.

ANTI *trafficking*

Supporting the fight against human trafficking

• Cambodia • Thailand

Tens of millions of people in our world today have been trafficked: exploited for labour, sex, marriage, begging, domestic servitude or as child soldiers. Stripped of their rights, dignity and voice, these men, women and children are trapped in what is the globe's fastest-growing criminal industry. ACCIR's partners work to stop the scourge of human trafficking through prevention, intervention, support, rehabilitation, research and advocacy.

2016 highlights

- In Cambodia, 53 influential community leaders were trained and empowered to prevent trafficking, abuse and exploitation. Six live radio programs were broadcast a total of 150 times, while 24 Q&A radio programs provided

information and discussion around trafficking, sexual abuse, safe migration and forced marriage. A mobile broadcasting program was also launched, reaching 3,674 people.

- In Cambodia, 1,468 staff representing 48 organisations directly benefited from programs and training on anti-trafficking related topics. This training aims to increase collective impact against trafficking and abuse through raising standards of care, promoting best practice and providing organisations with opportunities for collaboration and mentoring.

- In Thailand, existing partnerships were strengthened and new partnerships were formed with key government departments, non-government organisations, detention centres and coalitions to support the safe repatriation of survivors of human trafficking in the Mekong region.





Photo: Chhab Dai

CASE STUDY: *Working to end human trafficking*

ACCIR project partner Chhab Dai was formed in 2005 in response to the overwhelming number of men, women and children being abused, exploited and trafficked in and through Cambodia every year. Recognising that effectively addressing these issues requires a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, Chhab Dai's mission is both to train local people to recognise and prevent exploitation and abuse, and to support other anti-trafficking NGOs.

In 2016, Chhab Dai worked with 55 member organisations, directly assisting or training a total of 1,468 people from 48 organisations. In addition to regular forums throughout the year, staff of member organisations were invited to take part in training specifically tailored to mental health, understanding trauma, an introduction to human trafficking, medical basics, staff care and wellbeing, child participation and child protection. Training to improve financial accountability and sustainability, as well as human resource management, was also offered. Across the year, these organisations were given countless opportunities for networking and collaboration, all of which helps to enhance the standard of care each is able to provide to vulnerable populations.

During 2016, Chhab Dai also worked directly with several communities in the province of Kampong Cham to build their capacity for both prevention and intervention. For example, early in the year, Chhab Dai conducted a three-day training session for 53 community leaders on the topics of human trafficking, sexual abuse, safe migration and child rights. Training allows these leaders to identify and respond to issues that might go unnoticed in their communities, as well as to mobilise others to join them in caring for and protecting vulnerable children. The people of Kampong Cham had opportunities to learn about human trafficking and other issues directly, through radio programs and community loudspeaker segments (which use mobile speaker systems to broadcast information).

Chhab Dai also provides legal and social service support to survivors of trafficking and sexual abuse. This work, which continued in 2016, involves collaboration with local police, human rights agencies and other partners; with the aim of ensuring perpetrators are held responsible and survivors receive appropriate care and protection.

DISASTERS & HUMANITARIAN *crises*

Emergency response and support to rebuild

• Haiti • Iraq • Serbia • Nepal • Georgia

In times of disaster and humanitarian crises, our donors give generously to help us respond to those facing the gravest of needs. Working with partners on the ground, we begin by providing emergency assistance: life-saving items like food, hygiene supplies and shelter. We then move into recovery, working to help affected populations take the steps needed to rebuild and recover. Safeguarding children remains our highest priority in every response.

2016 Haiti hurricane

Hurricane Matthew caused widespread damage across Haiti in October 2016. Through our first response partner, ACCI Relief supported the distribution of emergency supplies including food, clean water, hygiene kits, blankets, tarps, water filters and solar lights to people in affected areas in the southwest of the country.

ACCI Relief also established a partnership with an organisation working to prevent the unnecessary institutionalisation of children in the aftermath of the hurricane. During 2016, vulnerable families were identified by social services; the coming year will see the implementation of family preservation and strengthening activities to help ensure parents can continue providing for their children.

Ongoing Middle East crisis

In 2016, ACCI Relief established a new partnership with Preemptive Love Coalition to support people fleeing conflict in countries in the Middle East. Following the escalation of violence in Aleppo, Syria, the response

provided direct assistance to 5,450 internally displaced people. This included the distribution of 540 food packs and a total of 1,096 sleeping bags, as well as funding for the repairs and winterisation of 26 homes (to be completed in the coming year) which will enable families to return home safely.

ACCI Relief also continued to respond to the Syrian refugee crisis in Europe, through a coordinated inter-agency response, providing emergency physical relief, counselling, migrant assistance and other services to displaced families in transit countries such as Serbia. In Serbia, emergency supplies including food, clothing and blankets were provided to approximately 1,100 children, 2,800 men and 1,100 women.

2015 Nepal earthquake

In 2015, ACCI Relief launched an appeal in response to the earthquake that devastated Nepal in April of that year. In 2016, the ongoing response supported a community anti-trafficking project aimed at preventing exploitation and trafficking of vulnerable children in the post-disaster context. This included operating child friendly spaces, running anti-trafficking sensitisation and awareness-raising programs, and monitoring check-posts and other key areas of local communities to identify children being trafficked. Key achievements for this year included:

- 47,788 families reached through sensitisation activities.
- 65 at-risk children identified at check post interventions and reunited with families.





Photo: Preemptive Love Coalition

CASE STUDY: *Responding to the Middle East refugee crisis*

Recent conflicts in Syria and Iraq have killed hundreds of thousands of people and caused millions to flee to neighbouring countries, creating a largescale refugee crisis throughout Europe. Yet within many of these war-torn countries lies another issue – those left behind. According to the UN, there are around 9.3 million people internally displaced within Iraq and Syria alone, with a total of 24.5 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. As well as losing loved ones and witnessing unspeakable horrors, many of these people have lost their homes, businesses and the ability to provide for their families.

In response, ACCIR began partnering with Preemptive Love Coalition in late 2016, with a goal to provide ongoing relief to those suffering in Iraq and Syria.

During December, we were able to provide emergency food to 540 families in Aleppo, Syria, comprising essential items that could sustain a family for two weeks. A total of 1,096 sleeping bags were also distributed across 548 families. By year's end, we'd directly assisted close to 5,450 people in Aleppo. Similar aid will be provided in Iraq during 2017.

As fighting eases in Syria, we'll be working with local people to rebuild and repair infrastructure, particularly focusing on helping families create a safe and warm room of their house that they can live in during winter. This work will also take place in Iraq as needed, alongside efforts to help people rebuild livelihoods through small business grants, training and mentoring.

SUMMARY OF *projects*

Africa

Country	No. Projects	Project Partners	Development Assistance
Mozambique	1	Elevate Life Mozambique	32,887
Uganda & Kenya	5	COME Uganda // Care4Kids Uganda // Operation Uganda // Victory Micro Enterprise Uganda // Village Enterprise	234,288
South Africa	1	HAF Our Community Projects	76,746
Madagascar	1	Project Madagascar	18,570
Lesotho	1	Sepheo	21,938
Zambia	1	Northrise University Alumni	1,050
AFRICA TOTAL	10		385,479

South Asia

Country	No. Projects	Project Partners	Development Assistance
India	4	Free To Be // Lifehouse Railway Kids // Two Hands International // Vision Rescue	749,859
Sri Lanka	1	HelpKids Sri Lanka	59,690
SOUTH ASIA TOTAL	5		809,549

South East Asia & Pacific

Country	No. Projects	Project Partners	Development Assistance
Cambodia	11	Cambodia Rural Empowerment // Chab Dai Children in Families // Siem Reap Community Transformation // Kampong Thom English & Skills Training // Mother's Heart // Serve Cambodia The Living Water Project // Transform Cambodia New Smile Organisation // Salamom School	3,729,737
Indonesia	1	Bali Life Foundation	11,000
Laos	1	TerraClear	47,195
Myanmar	2	Kinnected Myanmar // Myanmar Reintegration Group	79,322
The Philippines	2	Frontline Foundation // Joyland	21,001
Vietnam	1	AOG World Relief Vietnam	219,429
Thailand	3	Compasio // The River Centre // A21 Thailand	119,956
Solomon Islands	1	Bethesda Disability Training Centre	20,000
SOUTH EAST ASIA & PACIFIC TOTAL	22		4,247,640
DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TOTAL	37		5,442,668
DISASTER & OTHER			389,772
FUNDS TO INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS			5,832,440

OUR *campaigns*

ONE DAY

One day to change the world

The One Day campaign calls on our generous donors to consider giving one day's salary to help create a better world for those living in poverty. In 2016, \$121,932 was raised through One Day, with funds distributed across many projects, including:

Village Life

Country	Project Name	Activity Funded
Cambodia	Cambodian Rural Empowerment	Assisting communities to build latrines and providing training to improve their hygiene and overall health.
Vietnam	AOG WR Lifeskills	Working with communities to help them meet their desired development goals, utilising local assets and resources where possible.
Mozambique	Hope Centre, Train Village Health Workers	Providing training about health, agriculture, animal husbandry and business management to help local people manage their finances and establish micro-businesses.

Kinnected

Country	Project Name	Activity Funded
Thailand	Compasio	Training social workers so they can continue to impact the communities Compasio works in.
Cambodia	Mother's Heart	Assisting women with crisis pregnancies.
Lesotho	Sepheo	Purchasing a 22-seater school bus to transport children to school.
	ReThink Orphanages	Supporting a Kinnected donor education initiative.
Cambodia	Children In Families	Supporting 10 foster or extended families to care for vulnerable children.

Raise

Country	Project Name	Activity Funded
Mozambique	Hope Centre Programs	Providing children with access to education, healthcare and nutritious food.
Sri Lanka	HelpKids	Providing education, training and support to assist families to stay together.

Education

Country	Project Name	Activity Funded
Uganda	Operation Uganda School Renovations	Improving access to education and increasing the capacity of local schools to meet the needs of vulnerable and orphaned children in Uganda.
Cambodia	Salamom School	Building a new school classroom.

Inclusion

Country	Project Name	Activity Funded
Vietnam	AOG WR Disability Care	Working with families to provide custom-made wheelchairs and other therapeutic equipment for children with disabilities.

Anti Trafficking

Country	Project Name	Activity Funded
Cambodia	Chab Dai	Providing training for Chab Dai members and broadcasting community safety information.



Photos: AOGWR



CASE STUDY: *Providing mobility aids for children in Vietnam*

In Vietnam, where our AOG WR project team is based, one of the biggest challenges for parents of children living with a physical disability is mobility. Without the means to purchase wheelchairs or other mobility aids, children are often confined to their homes, with little option for attending school or taking part in other meaningful activities. With children rarely able to leave the house, parents' ability to earn an income is also significantly reduced.

In response to this issue, AOG WR has been providing mobility aids to struggling families for many years. Each aid is tailored to meet the specific need of the child, meaning it could be a walking frame, standing frame or a chair on wheels.

Thanks to One Day funding, AOG WR was able to provide tailored mobility aids to 15 children in 2016.

These aids make a remarkable difference for the children and families who receive them, allowing children to sit or stand for the first time or even learn to walk. It also often improves life in the family home – enabling parents to devote more time to other members of the family or to work in small businesses. More than just improving mobility, these aids restore dignity to children with a disability and provide hope for a much brighter future.

ETHICAL volunteering

Providing our supporters with opportunities to see the work they're helping make possible is important to ACCIR. But even more important than creating memorable experiences for our supporters, is ensuring that these trips have a positive impact on everyone involved – including the people they're visiting.

Ethics from the margins

In all we do, we strive to remind our supporters and donors that living ethically isn't only about assessing what is good and right from our own perspectives; it's also about understanding the weight of our decisions on others, particularly those who might not have the platform to challenge us. This is particularly important when our supporters are choosing to travel to visit or volunteer with the projects they are supporting.

We want our supporters to consider the people whose lives will be affected by their choices while overseas; considering how their visit will impact project beneficiaries both during and after their visit and whether activities will empower or disempower those involved. We seek to remind our supporters that a true ethics framework requires us to make these assessments from the vantage point of the least privileged or powerful party – a principle often referred to as 'ethics from the margins'.

Practical advice and tools for child-safe trips

In collaboration with Better Volunteering Better Care (an initiative of Better Care Network and Save the Children UK), ACCIR has developed a manual to help churches and Christian organisations protect children while on short-term overseas trips.

The manual, which was developed in 2016, makes it clear to these organisations that running a child-safe trip is more than just having team members go through a series of pre-trip child safety checks; it's about every element of the trip being focused on valuing and protecting the rights of children.

Comprising both a manual and a tool kit, this guide helps would-be volunteers realise that as well as prioritising the safety of any children they'll encounter on a trip, they're also responsible for directing the efforts of team members towards things that are going to be beneficial for children in the long term. That means organising for visiting teams to do activities that build the capacity of communities and families, rather than those that take away the role that parents or caregivers have to play.

The manual also provides information regarding the detrimental impact of visiting or volunteering in an orphanage – a practice ACCIR strongly discourages – and offers more positive alternatives for donors and short-term teams.



OUR *finances*

ACC International Relief INC – Summary Financial Report

Summary statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2016

REVENUE	2016	2015
Donations and gifts		
Monetary	6,341,247	6,198,956
Non-Monetary	25,500	25,500
Bequests and legacies		-
Grants		
AusAID		-
Other Australian		-
Other Overseas		-
Investment Income	10,471	8,779
Other Income	2,863	2,248
Revenue for international political or religious programs		-
Total Revenue	6,380,081	6,235,483

EXPENSES	2016	2015
International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		
International programs		
Funds to international programs	5,832,440	5,437,279
Program support costs	169,653	143,615
Community education	-	-
Fundraising costs		
Public	125,877	129,969
Government, multilateral and private		-
Accountability and administration	241,631	295,148
Non-monetary expenditure	25,500	25,500
Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure	6,395,101	6,031,511
International political or religious adherence promotion programs	-	-
Domestic programs expenditure	-	11,307
Total Expenditure	6,395,101	6,042,818
Excess/(Shortfall) of Revenue Over Expenditure	(15,020)	192,665

ACC International Relief INC - Summary Financial Report

Summary statement of financial position as at 31 December 2016

ASSETS	2016	2015
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	275,087	501,652
Trade and other receivables	14,546	13,517
Financial assets	400,000	204,188
Total current assets	689,633	719,357
Non current assets		
Property, plant & equipment	7,439	3,120
Intangibles	-	-
Total non-current assets	7,439	3,120
Total Assets	697,072	722,477

LIABILITIES	2016	2015
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	9,591	17,455
Provisions	28,881	24,550
Total current liabilities	38,472	42,005
Non current liabilities		
Provisions	10,257	17,109
Total non-current liabilities	10,257	17,109
Total Liabilities	48,729	59,114
Net Assets	648,343	663,363
EQUITY		
Reserves	623,355	675,631
Accumulated funds	24,988	(12,268)
Total Equity	648,343	663,363

ACC INTERNATIONAL RELIEF INC - SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

ACC INTERNATIONAL RELIEF INC
SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Accumulated Funds	Reserves	Total
Balance at 1 January 2016	(12,268)	675,631	663,363
Deficit for the year	(15,020)	-	(15,020)
Other amount transferred (to) from reserves	52,276	(52,276)	-
Balance at 31 December 2016	24,988	623,355	648,343

ACC INTERNATIONAL RELIEF INC
TABLE OF CASH MOVEMENTS FOR DESIGNATED PURPOSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Cash available at beginning of	Cash raised during year	Cash disbursed during year	Cash available at end of year
Transform Cambodia	1,638	3,259,285	3,189,927	70,996
Total for other non-designated purposes	500,014	3,106,157	3,402,080	204,091
Total	501,652	6,365,442	6,592,007	275,087

ACC INTERNATIONAL RELIEF INC
COUNCIL MEMBERS' DECLARATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

The Council of ACC International Relief declares that:

i) The summary financial statements and notes as set out on pages 1 to 3, are in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Victoria) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:

- Comply with relevant Australian Accounting Standards; and
- Give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 December 2016 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the association;

ii) In the Council's opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Council.

Name: _____

Position: Director

Name: _____

Position: Secretary

Place: 5/2 Sarton Road, Clayton, Victoria

Dated: 23-3-2017

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO
THE MEMBERS
OF ACC INTERNATIONAL RELIEF INC
ABN: 26 077 365 434**

Audit Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at 31 December 2016, the summary statement of profit and loss and other comprehensive income, and the summary statement of changes in equity are derived from the audited financial report of ACC International Relief Inc for the year ended 31 December 2016.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC). Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial report in our report dated 23 March 2017.

Council's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

The council of the association is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial report.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Saward Dawson

Saward Dawson

Jeffrey Tulk

Partner: Jeffrey Tulk

Date: 23 March 2017

Place: Blackburn, Victoria

For further information regarding the work of ACC
International Relief, please see our website at
www.accir.org.au or contact our office:




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