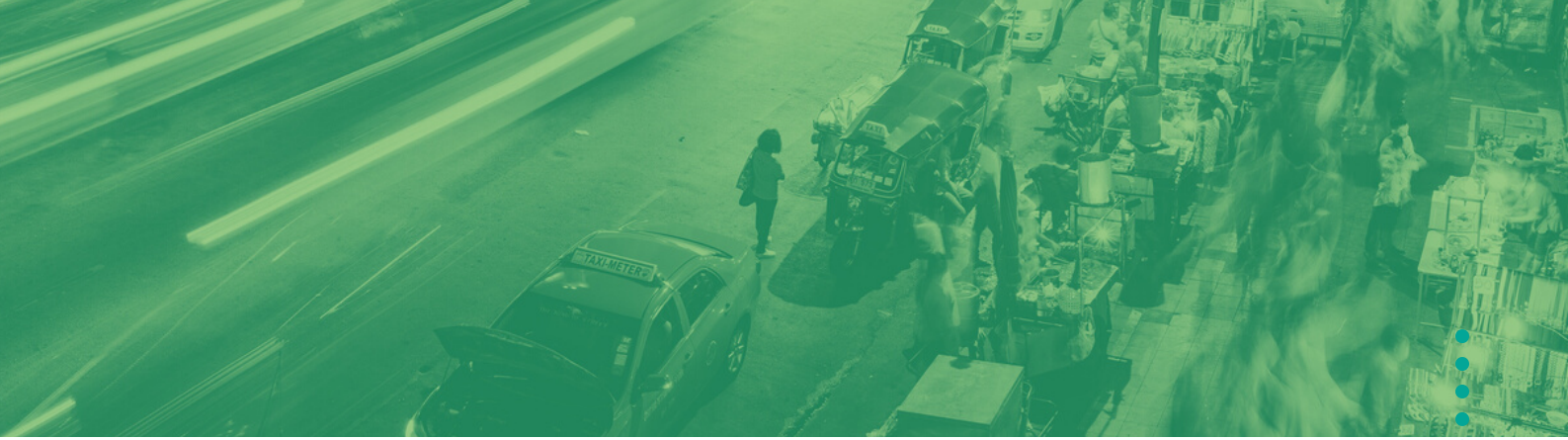


ACCI RELIEF



Annual Report

2022



Cover image source: Vision Rescue. Used with permission.

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Who We Are

ACCI RELIEF IS THE AID AND DEVELOPMENT ARM OF
THE AUSTRALIAN CHRISTIAN CHURCHES MOVEMENT.

Vision

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

Mission

Our mission is to see whole life transformation in individuals, families and communities by empowering our people to love well and developing holistic and sustainable solutions to combat injustice, reverse the effects of human poverty and to engage communities as active participants in their own development.

We Believe

- All people regardless of race, gender or social status have intrinsic value and inherent dignity.
- The root cause of poverty is injustice and social exclusion.
- Those living in poverty are rights holders not objects of charity.
- The process of development should be empowering and should amplify the voice of the marginalised.
- The church has a crucial role to play in defending the rights of the marginalised.

Director's Report

John Hunt

As the world has left behind the worst of the Covid pandemic, it has been a time for rebuilding and re-strengthening for our partners and their programs. We have seen a marked increase in beneficiaries being impacted as restrictions have been lifted and previously halted activities have been re-established.



In 2022, we were able to have a direct impact on the lives of 184,011 individuals, including 142,020 children and 41,991 adults through the work of our partners in 12 different countries.

A key emphasis of our mission is to champion the rights of children through child-focused development.

A key emphasis of our mission is to champion the rights of children through child-focused development. As we are channeling our efforts and attention towards this end, we will be able to provide greater coaching and support for our partners in the work of upholding children's rights, and our impact can be more significant.

It has been so encouraging to see the work of lives being transformed continuing despite ongoing setbacks in 2022. Our partners have found creative ways to carry on their vital work and have been flexible enough to meet pressing needs of food insecurity when normal programming was limited.

It is also encouraging to see how you continue to partner with us to support this important work. Many thousands of lives have been changed because you did not "grow weary in doing good". (Gal 6:9) Thank you for your invaluable support and we look forward to seeing more individuals, families and communities uplifted and empowered to shape better futures for themselves in the coming year.

CEO's Report

Catherine Thambiratnam



2022 was a year of rebuilding at ACCIR. Coming towards the end of the restrictions around the pandemic and re-establishing projects and partners around the world, we were focused on the next season as a team.

We spent a considerable amount of time developing a clear focus for our work and launched our child focused development program, which seeks to include our Kinected program within a broader focus on children. This new focus will allow us to measure the progress that we are making towards a better world for the next generation, ensuring that we are seeing impact across the next season. Using the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child as a framework, our child focused development program will seek to uphold the rights of children to education, protection and wellbeing, all underpinned by their right to grow up in a family.

Alongside this new strategic programming focus, we also strengthened our systems, both through reviewing policy and procedures but also through developing training and resources. We will be continuing this strengthening through 2023 as we further develop our technical support, particularly in the area of case management.

As you will see in the stories that are weaved throughout this report, our greatest achievement remains serving people. The stories included here are just a tiny snapshot of the individuals and families who are realising their potential, finding hope and seeing a future for their communities. We hope you are inspired by their resilience and their strength.

We are excited about the future of ACCIR. We work with dedicated and professional partners around the world and our team is passionate about supporting them to have the greatest impact possible in the vulnerable communities that we serve. Thank you to all those who have supported us in 2022!



Our Global Reach

ACCIR is proud to have a positive impact all over the world.

184,011

People directly impacted by ACCIR partner projects

142,020

Children impacted by programs

41,991

Adults impacted by programs

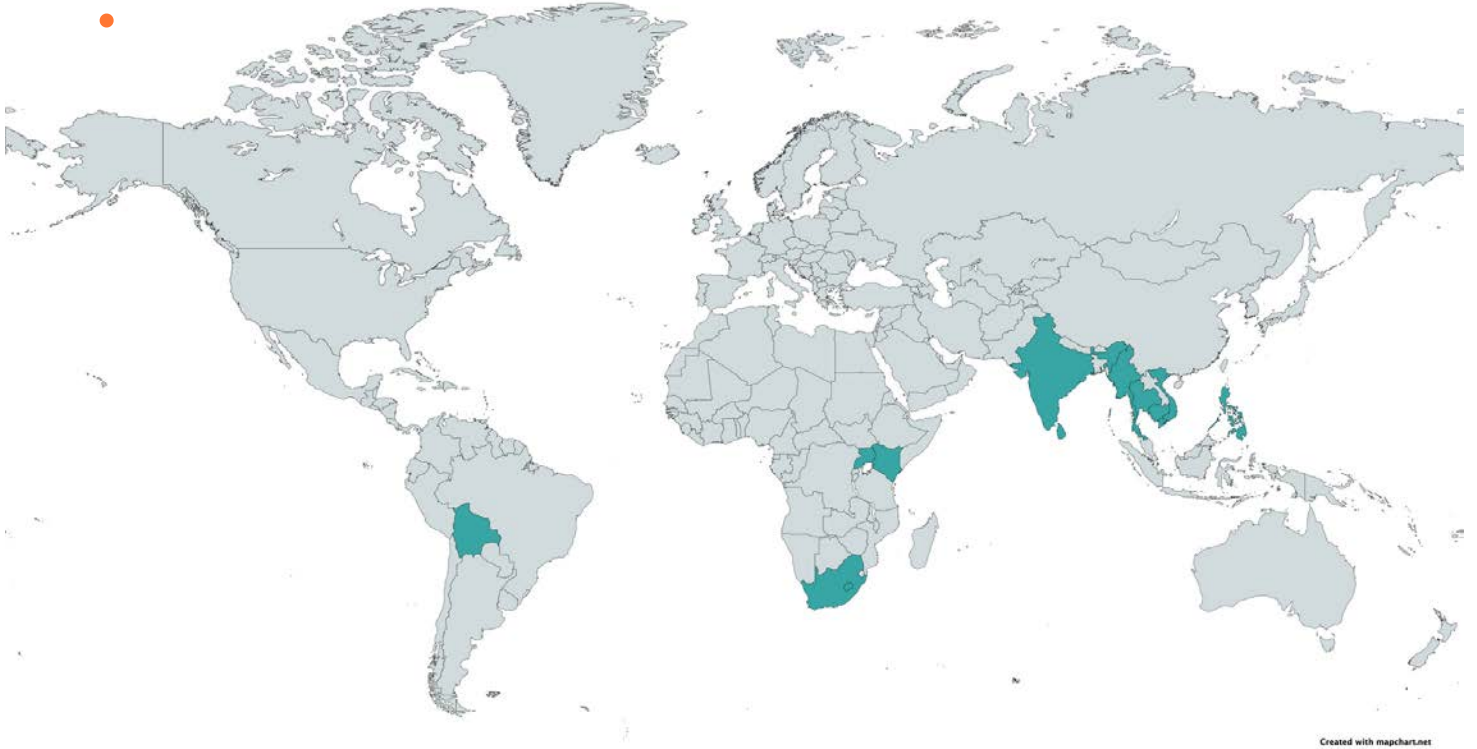
25

Partner Organisations

12

Countries impacted

Our Global Reach



Our Partners

The A21 Campaign

AOG World Relief Vietnam

Child in Family Focus

Children's Fortress Africa

Children in Families

EFICOR

HelpKids

Hillsong Africa Foundation

Kinnected Myanmar

Kivuli

Mother's Heart Organisation

Sepheo

Operation Uganda

Strengthening Families and Children

Vision Rescue

4Africa

Bethel in Habarana

Better Mental Health Vietnam

Cambodia Australia Development

Frontline

Free To Be Kids Charitable Trust

Futuros Bolivia

The River Centre

Serve Cambodia

Strong Village

Village Life Cambodia (closed 2022)



Image source: Vision Rescue. Used with permission.

Child Focused Development

Upholding Children's Rights

We value every child's right to protection, education and wellbeing, which is underpinned by their right to be raised in a family. Our goal is to see these key areas of child rights upheld through equipping partners to outwork child focused development at individual, family, community and system levels.

Children are disproportionately affected by poverty, and they experience it differently to adults. Children represent half of the world's 1.3 billion people living in poverty and nearly one in five children live in extreme poverty compared to one in ten adults.¹

“Children experiencing marginalisation – including children with disabilities and girls – are particularly vulnerable to poor outcomes in childhood. This early disadvantage compounds existing marginalisation and widens the inequity experienced by marginalised groups into adulthood.”²

Recognising that children do not exist in isolation, child focused development seeks to engage at the individual, family, community and system level. This approach recognises the responsibility of duty bearers and pursues long-term sustainable impact across generations, seeking to break cycles of poverty and disadvantage.

There is a directed focus of the development sector to focus on children in their broader framework, with ACFID calling for a focus on children due to the increasing overrepresentation of children within refugee populations, as well as in countries experiencing high rates of poverty.

Child Focused Development

Continued

Children have also been significantly impacted by the pandemic both in education, wellbeing, increased risk of violence and child marriage. These factors will have long term impacts on the next generation unless a focus is placed on children now for their future wellbeing.

ACCIR's strategic outcome framework and programming approach is shaped around four main groups of rights drawn from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC):



Children access their right to education



Children are protected



Children's wellbeing is supported and improved



Children access their right to grow up in a family

ACCIR's portfolio is comprised of projects that together achieve these child focused development objectives. ACCIR's broader system-level efforts through advocacy, development of resources and tools, and research are also aligned under this framework.



Right to Education

Children access education

Image source: Vision Rescue. Used with permission.

3,750

children accessing education because of ACCIR partner projects

105

teachers received training

727

children accessing tutoring or bridging programs to support them to stay in school

41

families accessing support to send their child with a disability to school

118

schools supported to provide education, benefitting 119 559 children

92

children with a disability accessing education because of ACCIR partner projects

Children access education



All children have a right to education. It is an investment that is a key to ending poverty; the determinant for better health outcomes and the means by which children will be able to influence their own futures and that of their societies. Nelson Mandela made the famous statement, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”³

However, there are several potential barriers to children accessing education. These are context-specific, but can include gender, political and economic instability, disabilities, digital inequality and belonging to an ethnic minority. If children are going to have their best chance of accessing quality education, there must be a holistic approach targeting all spheres of influence in a child’s life.

ACCIR partner’s programs work with individuals, families, communities and government agencies to promote equal access to education for children. This is outworked differently depending on the context and includes early childhood learning centres; online workshops; after-school programs; vocational training for adolescents; government school programs and support for children with disabilities and their families, so they can overcome barriers to learning.



Image source: Sepheo. Used with permission.

STORY ●●●●●● VISION RESCUE, INDIA

Six years ago, Savita's* parents moved their family to Mumbai. Aware that exploitation was common there, they were afraid for their young children to be out on the streets, or to walk to the school outside their local community. Savita's father was told about the free education on offer at Vision Rescue's Beacon Learning Centre. He was hesitant at first, but when he learned that the Centre was located within their local community, he agreed to enrol Savita's older brother Ayush*. This then paved the way for Savita's education, as her father knew she would be safe with Vision Rescue. Savita was enrolled in the Beacon Learning Centre, where she loves learning and is currently in Senior Kindergarten.

When the nationwide COVID-19 lockdown was announced, Savita's father couldn't go to work anymore. Along with unemployment came the fear of hunger. Vision Rescue was able to support Savita's family with groceries each month, for around two years during the worst period of the pandemic. During the lockdown Savita was able to continue with her education from home because of Vision Rescue's shift to online learning.

Vision Rescue's mission is not only to engage children in education but also to sustain them in education, by empowering their families and communities. They have seen that it is necessary to remove the various barriers that prevent children's ongoing access to education. Savita's father completed a skills development course with a partner NGO and Savita's mother joined a Vision Rescue vocational training course, to increase their opportunities for earning income. When Savita's mother fell sick during the pandemic, Vision Rescue's Community Counsellor and Medical Team were able to assist with guidance and access to medical care. The family was supported to access two government schemes that are in place to support low-income families, providing accident insurance and enabling them to open a bank account for savings for their daughter's education.



Image source: Vision Rescue. Used with permission.

Vision Rescue's model reflects their awareness of the levels of engagement that are needed for holistic transformation, with the rights of the child at the centre. They offer quality pre-primary education; create pathways to formal schooling; provide case management for vulnerable families; mobilise community members to be agents of change and support the local government school system. They are working at child, family, community and system levels, as connectors of people, partners and opportunities. Great change is being seen within some of the most marginalised communities in Mumbai.

*Names changed for confidentiality

STORY ●●●●● OPERATION UGANDA

For 17 years, Operation Uganda has been reaching some of the most vulnerable children in Kampala with a passionate mission to increase access to education. They run a scholarship program which enrolls vulnerable and orphaned children in schools and supports their families in order to sustain their access to learning.

The vibrant, smiling group pictured here were some of the original scholarship students from the program, who returned in 2022 to celebrate and give testimony to the transformational power of education in their lives. Here we see nurses, laboratory technicians, salesmen, landscape designers, pastors and more; all with a desire to bring positive change in their nation.



Image source: Operation Uganda. Used with permission.



Right to Protection

Children are protected

Image source: Vision Rescue. Used with permission.

167,287

people reached through child rights awareness campaigns

2,402

youth participating in specific youth focused projects

1,802

children accessing training on protection, including child rights, online safety and protective behaviours

738

community members accessed training on child protection and safeguarding

4,144

people reached through gender equality and empowerment awareness activities

1,131

families accessing training on a child's right to protection and safeguarding

Children are protected



All children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence, exploitation and abuse. Children are especially vulnerable because they are still developing, which means they need increased levels of protection. Often children suffer violence and exploitation at the hands of those they trust and in places where they should be safe.

ACCIR addresses children's right to protection in all their partner's programs and at every level of engagement. This includes training on safeguarding and child protection for both children and caregivers, as well as specific programs targeting the most vulnerable children, such as orphans; street connected children and children with disabilities. ACCIR partners with community stakeholders and government organisations to support policies and procedures that ensure the protection of children.

One aspect of the right to protection is teaching children that they have rights and how to keep themselves safe. ACCIR partners do this throughout their programs both formally and informally. "Above all, protecting children means protecting their physical, mental and psychosocial needs to safeguard their futures."⁴ (UNICEF)

FOCUS ON SAFEGUARDING

In 2022, ACCIR had a specific focus on child safeguarding. This organisation-wide emphasis included reviewing the child safeguarding policy and creating new online training for stakeholders. It also involved the creation of policy development resources for our partners.

With the world gravitating towards online learning and interaction during the Covid pandemic, there arose significant dangers associated with the safety of children in the digital space. Children everywhere were suddenly spending unprecedented amounts of time online, often in unsupervised contexts. AOG World Relief Vietnam recognised an urgent need to address child protection in this area.

They started facilitating workshops teaching children about online safety and sexual abuse prevention. The emphasis was on empowering children and equipping them to be aware of potential dangers and to know how to safeguard themselves. Workshops were also held for teachers and caregivers to promote awareness of child protection issues and to equip them to be advocates for the children in their care.



Image source: AOG World Relief. Used with permission.

These workshops are facilitated in partnership with local government agencies, who select beneficiaries to attend the workshops, and who now provide passionate staff members to be workshop facilitators themselves. Children who are influential in their schools are chosen to participate in day-long workshops, with a range of activities being utilised to train them around child safeguarding. The children are then encouraged to go back into their schools and pass on what they have learned to the other students. Empowering children in this way encourages their ownership of the message and increases the reach of child protection education. In 2022, AOG World Relief were able to run workshops with 1,204 children and 1,000 adults.

Alongside the advocacy workshops, they have developed a state-funded 'Child Help Hotline'. This incredible resource is available for children and concerned adults to access help and support when children are in danger.

SOCIAL WORK SUPERVISION EVALUATION

Supervision within the context of social services has shown evidence of improving worker retention and performance, ultimately resulting in higher quality services and support for children and families. Given the complex nature of the work undertaken by ACCIR's partners in the areas of child protection, reintegration, and family strengthening, the provision of supervision has been identified as a critical need. However, in countries with a fledgling social workforce, supervision systems may either be in the early stages of development or non-existent.

In October 2021, ACCIR launched a 3-month pilot supervision framework with the aim of providing overseas partner organisations with clinical social work supervision support, via remote sessions with an accredited mental health social worker consultant. Based on positive feedback captured from supervisees as part of the pilot evaluation, ACCIR made the decision to provide supervision sessions as an ongoing support service to select partner organisations. Monthly sessions continued with the organisations involved in the pilot, and in mid-2022, the service was expanded to include two new supervisees.



Image source: Children in Families. Used with permission.

As outlined in ACCIR's new strategic plan, child-focused development underpins all programming and therefore we hold a responsibility to ensure that we are providing our partners with the necessary support to safeguard their beneficiaries. Appointing a social work consultant to provide clinical supervision and advise on case management also serves to incorporate the lessons learnt from our review of one of our partner's social work practice. Through this additional element of overseeing high-risk cases, ACCIR has put a preventative strategy in place to ensure that high-risk cases are handled with care and children are protected from harm.



CHILDREN'S FORTRESS AFRICA, KENYA

Children's Fortress Africa (CFA) works to protect and care for street connected children in Nairobi. Their aim is to facilitate rehabilitation and resocialisation of street connected children and where possible, the reintegration of these children back into their families. CFA works closely with the Nairobi City County Government (NCCG) and specifically four of their shelters which house former street connected children. They support the children in these shelters with case management, health care, capacity building and facilitating access to education and vocational training to promote independent living. They also help to strengthen the child protection systems present in the shelters.

CFA aims to support and strengthen families of former street connected children, to promote their care and protection. In 2022, they witnessed a marked increase in the acceptance of reintegration. The NCCG Children's Services established a new role for an 'alternative care officer' at one of the shelters, which was evidence of the positive change happening for these children and the movement towards family reunification.



Image source: Children's Fortress Africa. Used with permission.



Right to Wellbeing

Children's wellbeing is supported

Photo taken by ACCIR staff in Myanmar. Used with permission.

53,006

people reached with health awareness programs

27,709

people accessing health care

3,965

people had increased access to improved water supply

3,253

people had increased access to improved sanitation facilities

1,098

women received prenatal or postnatal support

9,942

people received emergency food relief

Children's wellbeing is supported



ACCIR is committed to improving the wellbeing of children, with the understanding that all children have the right to live full and healthy lives; to access adequate health care and nutrition and to experience living conditions suitable to support all aspects of their growth and development.

Our partners' programs address child wellbeing through several avenues, including antenatal care; food relief; vocational training for parents; health promotion; medical and dental assistance; improved access to safe water and sanitation; connection with government welfare services and many others.

While all child rights are interlinked and necessary for a child to flourish, child survival is an obvious priority. In 2020, around 5 million children under 5 died. Most of these deaths were from preventable or treatable causes. Almost half of deaths in this age group are associated with malnutrition.⁵ The need for programs to address child wellbeing, in terms of health care and food security, is crucial. “Based on evidence that the foundations for lifelong health, productivity and wellbeing are laid in childhood, the health sector has an important role to ensure that children not only survive but thrive.”⁶ (WHO)



Image source: Children in Families. Used with permission.



Dara* was 21 years old and living on her own, having lost both of her parents and being separated from her siblings. As she neared the end of her pregnancy, she was experiencing constant hunger and battling loneliness, anger and depression. This was when Dara first connected with Mother's Heart and just a few days later she gave birth prematurely. Both Dara and her baby boy, Samnang*, were malnourished and underweight, but with critical treatment and excellent care, they recovered well.

Dara received from Mother's Heart a baby basket, monthly food package and a modest allowance for her other needs. Her Case Worker managed to locate her aunt and siblings and began working towards the family's reconciliation. Over time, all three of her siblings reached out to her. Dara's aunt took them in and for the first time, they were all together in one place. The impact of this family support on Dara's increasingly optimistic attitude and outlook was evident.

Dara received a small loan to start a convenience store. She has a natural talent for business, and with the help of her younger brother, she has been growing her business. Their aunt has also given the siblings a small piece of land on which to build their homes. When Dara is busy, her sister takes care of her son and helps around the house. Dara's income from the store is growing, and with her sister's support, she is also considering taking on part-time work at night. Dara smiles and laughs often now; there is no trace of the anger and loneliness that defined her just one year ago. She says she can face any problems now that she has her family to support her.



Image source: Mother's Heart Organisation. Used with permission.

Mother's Heart are the first and only crisis pregnancy service in Cambodia. Their vision is that no woman would face a crisis pregnancy alone. Through their program, women receive general health checks, antenatal care and postnatal care. Mother's Heart Social Workers also provide counselling sessions and work with client's families to seek restoration of relationships where possible, to ensure sustainable support is available into the future. Mother's Heart also operates a Day Care in Phnom Penh to enable clients to pursue employment and support their family. They recognise that a child's wellbeing depends on the presence of a supportive family and community, as well as connecting into the broader health and welfare system. Many other women like Dara have an opportunity, against all odds, to shape a positive future for themselves and their children because of this holistic work.

*Names changed for confidentiality

STORY ●●●●●●●● EFICOR, INDIA

When Raj* was 10 months old, he was so malnourished that he could barely stay awake or sit up by himself. His father, Vijay*, knew little about nutrition, but was concerned that his little boy appeared ill. He attended one of EFICOR's health awareness programs and decided to take Raj for treatment at the Nutrition Rehabilitation Centre (NRC). He was kept there for 16 days, being given an energy-rich food supplement 3 times a day, and Vijay was counselled on how to take care of Raj nutritional needs. He has since started putting on weight and is now a healthy and happy 12-month-old boy.

On top of its normal activities, EFICOR's Unnati Maternal and Child Health Project is committed to improving communities' access to government health and nutrition services and facilities. With limited employment opportunity and crippling poverty, families like Vijay's depend on government initiatives to maintain the health of their families. EFICOR plays a vital role in providing a link between vulnerable communities and available government benefits.

*names changed for confidentiality



Image source: EFICOR. Used with permission.



The Right to Grow Up in a Family

Children grow up in a family

Image source: Children in Families. Used with permission.

3,386

families supported with parenting skills or family strengthening support

2,719

children supported through case management

327

families accessing active family preservation support

58

children and young people reunified into family of origin from residential care

70

case workers accessing social work supervision

7

residential care institutions supported to transition

Children grow up in a family



We believe that the family is the best place for the holistic development and care of a child, and we are committed to protecting each child's right to be nurtured and raised in a loving family. Growing up in the safety and security of a family also helps to reinforce all of the other rights that children have. No rights exist in isolation, and each are better supported and addressed within the protection and nurture of a family setting.

The right to grow up in a family is upheld through our partners' work in prevention and family strengthening as well as through our Kinected program.



Image source: EFICOR. Used with permission.

KINNECTED: KEEPING CHILDREN IN FAMILIES

Kinected represents our proactive approach to scaling down the use of residential care and assisting children within the context of their families, within the broader context of our child-focused development framework.

Our partners' work involves family strengthening and programs across the continuum of care and we continue to pursue care reform in some of the most challenging contexts in the world. We provide technical support for partner capacity building and contribute to the global care reform agenda through active participation in key global networks, donor engagement, research, and development of practitioner resources.

STORY ●●●●●●●● SEPHEO, LESOTHO

Growing up as part of a family sometimes looks different. After Mpho* lost both his parents as a young boy, he moved between temporary homes with various adults. When Sepheo team members met him, he was living outside in an animal enclosure, after running away from an abusive home with a non-relative.

Mpho became the first child to be enrolled in Sepheo's community-based care program in 2016. With no existing foster care system in Lesotho, Sepheo designed this program to cater for children who didn't have a suitable family member to live with. The aim was to allow the child to remain part of their local community with the support of a volunteer mentor, who would provide for their psychological and social needs. Sepheo then supported the child with sufficient clothing, nutrition and education.



Having an attachment to a suitable adult in a community-based care setting had a stabilising effect on Mpho and he began to feel the safety and security needed to heal from his traumatic experiences. He started to make progress academically and socially at the Sepheo school, and contact was established with some of Mpho's extended family, who were based in other parts of Lesotho and South Africa.

When Mpho graduated from school, Sepheo continued to support him while he started to establish an income from contract work alongside older men in the community. Mpho is now 20 years old and has successfully transitioned from financial assistance. He lives independently next door to his volunteer caregiver, with whom he has maintained a close connection. This kind of community-based care is an alternative family solution, allowing the child to maintain community connections, which sustain them as they transition into adulthood and independence.

*Names changed for confidentiality

Image source: Sepheo. Used with permission.

STORY ●●●●●●●● KIVULI, KENYA

The Kivuli Project in Kenya believes that children belong in families. It is committed to reconnecting vulnerable children to family members or facilitating their connection into new families. Kivuli is also actively involved in supporting families and building their capacity to sustainably look after children in need.

Michael and David* are brothers who have been in the Kivuli program for three years. After losing both parents, they were placed in the care of a foster parent, Mary*. Unfortunately, Mary became unable to care for the boys. The Kivuli team rallied community members, including the local chief and the boy's teachers, who were invested in the boy's protection and care, and investigated sustainable care solutions for them. Kivuli social workers managed to trace Michael and David's sister, Esther,* who had been fostered by a couple in the community. Although they had tried to foster the boys in the past, they had been unable to have all three children because of space limitations in their home, so Kivuli supported the construction of extra living space in their home to facilitate the reunification of the siblings under Samuel and Jane's* care.

Being part of a loving foster family, as well as being reunited with their sister, has brought a sense of belonging to the boys and has strengthened their sense of identity. They are also now thriving in school since experiencing the support and security that come from growing up in a nurturing family environment.



Photo taken by ACCIR staff in Kenya. Used with permission.

Even while the formal foster care system in Kenya is in its early stages and not yet well supported, Samuel and Jane have taken on the responsibility of caring for vulnerable children in their community and have been foster parents to over 50 children in the last 10 years. Like most of the caregivers in the project, Samuel and Jane are farmers, and have struggled to produce enough to sustain their family because of the harsh effects of climate change. The Kivuli food support program strengthens families by providing food relief, ensuring that the children receive the nutrition they need to flourish.

Samuel and Jane are also supported in their care for these children by their teachers and sports coaches, who have played an important role in helping to meet their psychosocial needs. This is a wonderful example of how families are strengthened when they exist within a broader context of community.

* Names changed for confidentiality

INSIGHTS INTO THE WORLD OF PRIVATISED FAITH-BASED RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES IN MYANMAR

ACCI partnered with Kinnected Myanmar, Better Care Network (BCN), and Australian Volunteers International (AVI) Child Safeguarding Hub, to produce Insights into the World of Privatized Faith-based Residential Care Facilities in Myanmar.

Estimates from 2019 suggested up to 600,000 children were living in Residential Care Facilities (RCFs) across Myanmar, with the vast majority thought to be living in privately run unregistered RCFs, many of which were faith-based. Concerns have long since been raised regarding the situation of children in RCFs and the safety and standards of care provided to children within them.

The study was aimed at gaining insights into the operations of privately run, Christian faith-based RCFs in Myanmar. Specifically, the study sought to better understand the operational mechanisms of these RCFs, including:

- the characteristics of the directors and donors,
- the means and reasons for referral and admission of children into care, and
- how these dynamics affect the willingness of RCF directors and donors to engage in transition and the reintegration of children.

The outcomes of this analysis provide important insights to inform ongoing awareness raising, advocacy efforts, approaches to providing technical support and deinstitutionalization, and care reform strategies in Myanmar. These insights could be used to shape care reform policy and inform strategies regarding the transition of these privatized faith-based RCFs.

We are grateful for the support of AVI Child Safeguarding Hub, an initiative of the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and we acknowledge the efforts of those without whom this research would not have been possible, including Fiona Williams, Yin Yin Thatun, Rebecca Nhep, May Saung Oo, Hannah Won, Manan Naw Jar, Yamin Thuzar, and the Kinnected Myanmar team.

Photo taken by ACCIR staff in Myanmar. Used with permission.



KINNECTED MYANMAR

In Myanmar, the majority of children placed into residential care have parents, but families have been separated due to poverty and lack of access to education. Kinnected Myanmar works with orphanages to reconnect children with their families, reintegrating them through comprehensive social work processes that focus on ensuring they are safe and sustainably supported. Responding to the root causes of institutionalisation, part of Kinnected Myanmar's work has involved contributing to the installation of Bio-Sand Filtration for purifying drinking water, the building of a school and toilets, and education about hygiene and healthcare.

In 2022, the Kinnected Myanmar team reached 486 people with awareness messages around a child's right to family. They engaged with 5 residential care institutions and managed a case load of 89 children, either in residential care or being monitored back with family.

This is specialised and difficult work, particularly in light of the current context in Myanmar. We're proud to partner with the Kinnected Myanmar team as they work towards their mission to scale back the use of institutional care and reintegrate children currently in care back into families, and to foster collaboration to redirect efforts and resources towards services that address root causes of child and family vulnerability at the community level.



Photo taken by ACCIR staff in Myanmar. Used with permission.

Commitment to Ongoing Improvement

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND LEARNING



Image source: Children in Families. Used with permission.

Effective planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning is critical to ensuring our programs and activities are working towards our vision; are having the desired impact; preventing harm and capturing and applying lessons learned. ACCIR's project management cycle is guided by principles of meaningful participation and inclusion, mutual and healthy partnership, intentional learning, and transparency and accountability.

In 2022 we focused on updating our systems to enable efficient and effective work across the project management cycle. This included:

- updated templates with improved partner guidance
- streamlined team task management
- improved reporting system

POLICY REVIEW

Part of ACCIR's commitment to continuous improvement as an organisation is the regular review of policies. In 2022, several policies were reviewed in order to promote progress in good practice, safeguarding and governance within our programs and administration. These include reviews of the following policies:

- Development Policy
- Child Safeguarding Policy
- Complaints Handling Policy
- Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Abuse and Harassment Policy
- Finance Policy
- Financial Wrongdoing Policy
- People Policy
- Whistleblower Policy



Photo taken by ACCIR staff in Kenya. Used with permission.

Cross-Cutting Priorities

We cannot achieve transformed communities and nations unless there is an increase in the equal distribution of opportunities, resources and power in order to promote social justice and poverty eradication. The priority themes of disability inclusion, gender equality and environmental sustainability are considered and promoted throughout the project management cycle with every Partner, including in project proposals, reporting, monitoring and coaching, and project renewal.

In 2022 we reviewed our systems with the goal of increasing Partner understanding of these cross-cutting priority areas and supporting them to reflect on and actively pursue strategies in these areas.

We included a disability inclusion focus in our annual code of conduct course and began the development of training material for all ACCI stakeholders across the three topics of disability inclusion, gender equality and environmental sustainability. We are also developing practical tools for partners including a disability inclusion analysis checklist, environmental impact screening tool and gender analysis tool.



Image source: Vision Rescue. Used with permission.



Board Members

As of December 2022

DR. ALLAN DAVIS
CHAIRPERSON

BA, BA (Bib, Theo), MA, PhD,
Ordained Pastor.

JOHN HUNT
DIRECTOR

Vice President,
National Executive

KRISTY MILLS
MEMBER

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

KATRINA YASSI
MEMBER

LLB, BA, GradDip (Theology)
Ordained Pastor, Faith Christian
Church Campus Pastor

CECILIA JACOBS
MEMBER

PhD and MA (International
Relations),
BA (Hons) (International
Affairs and Politics).

AARON LOVELL
MEMBER

MA (National Security Policy)
BA (Hons) (International
Studies)

Memberships & Accountability Standards



AUSTRALIAN
COUNCIL
FOR
INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ACFID)

ACCI Relief is an ACFID member and complies with ACFID's Code of Conduct, requiring high standards of governance, management and accountability.



Australian
Charities and
Not-for-profits
Commission

AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES & NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMISSION (ACNC)

ACCIR is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and committed to transparency and accountability.



church
agencies
network

CHURCH AGENCIES NETWORK (CAN)

ACCIR is a member of the Church Agency Network, a group of Australian church-based overseas aid and development agencies committed to empowering people and providing avenues for them to overcome injustice and poverty.



micah

MICAH

ACCIR is a member of Micah Australia, empowering Australian Christians to advocate on the most urgent global issues facing our world today – extreme poverty, rising conflict and climate change.

Feedback

Listening and responding to feedback, concerns and complaints is integral to ACCIR's commitment to achieving high standards and ensuring accountability to all of our stakeholders.

Feedback or complaints can be submitted to the Director at complaints@acci.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.

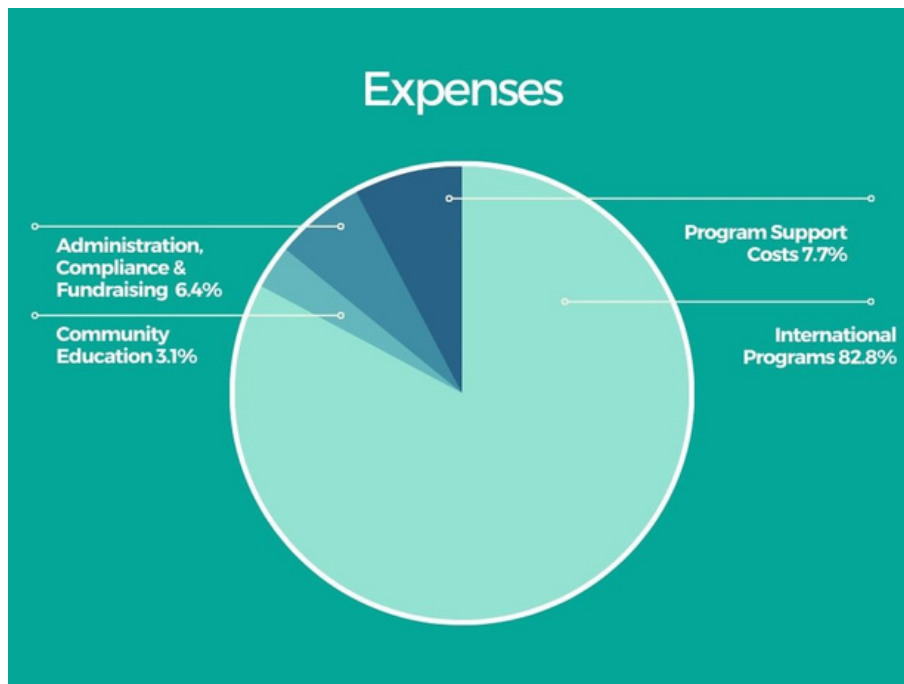
For more information, refer to the [ACCI Complaints Handling Policy](#).



Financial Report

For year ending 31 December 2022

Total Expenses: \$3.9 Million



Where Funds Were Spent in 2022:

International Programs:

Funds invested into aid and development programs run by our strategic partners in the field.

Program Support Costs:

Expenses (including development qualified program staff salaries) incurred through overseeing the aid and development program: engaging in monitoring and evaluation; continually improving program quality and ensuring the effective use of funds.

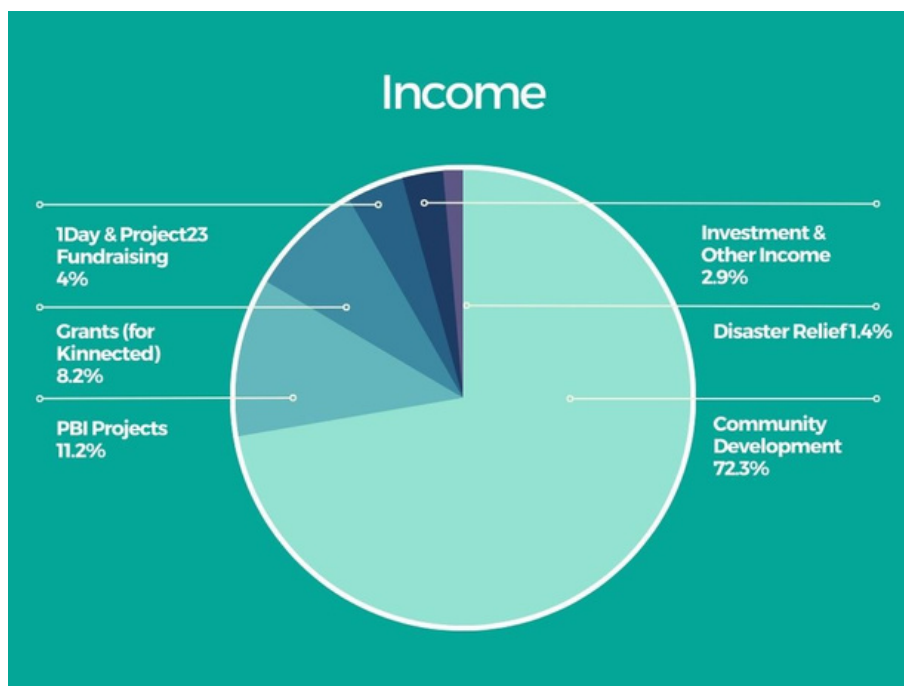
Administration, Compliance & Fundraising:

Expenses supporting the executive, finance, administration, HR, IT and customer service functions of our organisation.

Community Education:

Expenses related to advocacy, donor education and the development and distribution of educational resources.

Total Income: \$3.69 Million



Summary:

ACCIR Relief received \$3.69 M in revenue in 2022. This represents an overall 4.9% decrease from 2021, arising from declines in funding for Development Projects and COVID Recovery (Disaster Response) initiatives compared to the previous year. ACCIR Relief incurred \$3.90 M in expenditure in 2022. This is a 4.8% increase from 2021 and relates to strategic Capacity Building investments across ACCIR Relief and our project partners. The breakdown of expenses remains consistent with previous years: 93% disbursed towards International Programs, Community Education and Program Support Costs; 7% applied towards Administration, Compliance and Fundraising.



References

1, 2 ACFID Election Policy Brief – Breaking the Intergenerational cycle of poverty,

https://acfid.asn.au/acfid_resource/breaking-the-intergenerational-cycle-of-poverty-accessible/

3 Nelson Mandela quoted in The Borgen Project

<https://borgenproject.org/nelson-mandela-quotes-about-education/>

4 Child Protection, UNICEF

<https://www.unicef.org/child-protection>

5 Child Mortality, 2022, World Health Organisation

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/levels-and-trends-in-child-under-5-mortality-in-2020>

6 Rethinking the child health agenda, World Health Organisation

<https://www.who.int/activities/rethinking-the-child-health-agenda>

Contact

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ACCI RELIEF

Thank You For Your Partnership

Thank you to all our partners and supporters.

To find out more about ACCI Relief visit accir.org.au

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