

A photograph of three women sitting on the ground in a rural setting. The woman in the foreground is wearing a pink and green sari with a white border and is gesturing with her right hand. The woman in the middle is wearing a purple and red sari. The woman on the right is wearing a red and green sari. They are all looking towards the left. In the background, there is a blue barrel and some wooden structures.

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ANNUAL REPORT
2017 AUSTRALIA



Community leader Sabita Rani with a women-led emergency response group in Kalpara, Southern Bangladesh. Photo by Turjoy Chowdhury/ActionAid.



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Who we are

Vision

A just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity, freedom from poverty and all forms of oppression.

Purpose

To achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication by working with people living in poverty and exclusion and together with people's movements and grassroots activists.

ActionAid Australia advances its vision and purpose by empowering women to claim their rights and campaign against injustices. Women make up 70% of those living in poverty and are also the most effective leaders, cultivating inclusive and sustainable change in their communities.

Values

Mutual Respect, requiring us to recognise the innate worth of all people and the value of diversity.

Equity and Justice, requiring us to ensure the realisation of our vision for everyone, irrespective of gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, race, ethnicity, caste, class, age, HIV status, disability, location and religion.

Integrity, requiring us to be honest, transparent and accountable at all levels for the effectiveness of our actions and our use of resources and open in our judgements and communications with others.

Solidarity with people living in poverty and exclusion will be the only bias in our commitment to the fight against poverty, injustice, and gender inequality.

Courage of Conviction, requiring us to be creative and radical, bold and innovative - without fear of failure - in pursuit of making the greatest possible impact on the causes of poverty, injustice, and gender inequality.

Independence from any religious or party-political affiliation.

Humility, recognising that we are part of a wider alliance against poverty and injustice.



Women in Kilifi County, Kenya, carrying food bags out to groups for distribution, Photo by Alice Oldenburg/ActionAid.

Executive Director & President's message



**Michelle
Higelin**

Executive Director.
ActionAid Australia.



**Megs
Alston**

Acting Board President,
ActionAid Australia.

2017 saw unprecedented crises around the globe. These included one of the worst famines in Africa's history, the mass exodus of the Rohingya people from Myanmar to neighbouring Bangladesh, and devastating floods in South Asia that destroyed homes and livelihoods belonging to millions of people.

In response, ActionAid Australia made a bold and ambitious commitment to scale up resources to support women leading crisis response through the Arise Fund, which we launched in August. **Arise is revolutionising humanitarian response by putting the protection of women's rights at the forefront**, and resourcing local women's efforts to better prepare for and respond to emergencies. It recognises that while crises deepen poverty and exacerbate existing inequalities, they also present unique moments for societal transformation that can be harnessed to advance women's rights in the longer term. Over the next year we will be inviting you to join us in achieving this vision by becoming part of the Arise movement.

2017 also marked the launch of ActionAid Australia's new strategy, **Women's Leadership for Global Justice**, which puts the voices of the women we work with at the heart of our agenda. Over the next five years, we will be working to advance economic and climate justice for women, and their rights in emergencies. ActionAid Australia will continue to empower women to claim their human rights, drive sustainable alternatives and challenge oppression. Alongside these efforts in 45 countries around the world, we will be campaigning in Australia to address government policies and corporate practices that undermine women's rights.

As we lead ActionAid Australia in this next phase of our journey in our new roles as Executive Director and acting Board Chair, we would like to acknowledge Archie Law and John Dowd for their significant contributions to the evolution of the organisation over the past decade. Building on this strong foundation, and joined by an incredible team of staff and volunteers, we are committed to living our values, embracing uncertainty with



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courage, and daring to take risks. This includes driving a transformative feminist agenda for change – we cannot achieve our purpose unless we are willing to tackle the deep structures of patriarchy and harmful gender norms that continue to limit women's full potential.

We hope you will continue with us on this exciting journey as we work to advance women's rights and end poverty and injustice around the world.

Michelle Hlgellin,
Executive Director,
ActionAid Australia.

Megs Alston
Acting Board President,
ActionAid Australia.

Our feminist values

In our strategy, **Women's Leadership for Global Justice**, we committed ourselves to using a feminist approach in our work, and to being guided by feminist values in all that we do. We recognise that patriarchy, poverty and injustice are inextricably linked, and that it is only by working from a feminist perspective that we will achieve our purpose.

A critical part of using this approach is recognising that, "the personal is political". This means starting with ourselves, and making sure we practice what we preach within our own organisation. Feminist values require us to recognise the unequal power relations that exist between people due to multiple factors, such as gender, race, ability, sexual orientation, class, age and background.

We must acknowledge intersecting inequalities, and take these into account in our work. It means identifying and actively deconstructing power structures that lie beneath surface and continue to drive inequalities. It means continuing to create safe spaces for staff and for the women we work with around the world. It also means working to ensure more inclusive decision making practice.



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In 2017, we took great strides forward on this journey. We sought the guidance of feminist leaders around the world, and worked collectively as an organisation to define our feminist values.

We reviewed each of our policies using a feminist lens, ensuring that they work for all women – those working for us and with us – and begin to address structural drivers of patriarchy. We committed ourselves to holding each other accountable for upholding feminist values, and to regularly checking in as an organisation on our progress towards driving a feminist agenda.





Our Human Rights Based Approach

ActionAid works from a Human Rights Based Approach to challenge the oppression and exclusion that people experience in their everyday lives and to redress the power imbalances that deny people their human rights. There are four key elements to this approach to our work with women around the world.

Empowerment – we support women to become conscious of their rights and to build the power they have within themselves. **Solidarity** – we work with women to build partnerships and alliances with others to strengthen their collective power and we **campaign** against patriarchal, unjust systems at every level, promoting credible community-driven **alternatives**.

Our strategic priorities

In 2017, we continued to focus our work around 3 strategic priorities: climate justice for women, economic justice for women, and women's rights in emergencies. These priorities recognise that the intersecting injustices of climate change, unjust economic policies, and humanitarian crises all undermine women's human rights and entrench poverty. Addressing these issues together is central to achieving our purpose.

We are fighting for a world in which women living in poverty and exclusion are resilient in the face of climate change and increasing humanitarian crises, where economic resources are distributed more equitably, women have access to justice, and are leading the alternatives and solutions that ensure the protection of women's rights.



Climate justice for Women

We are working to advance climate justice for women by supporting women most affected by climate change to build resilience and adapt to climate change, while driving policies and advocating for just systems that mitigate and reduce its impacts.



Economic justice for Women

We are fighting to achieve economic justice for women living in poverty and exclusion by working in solidarity to secure just economic policies and a more equitable redistribution of resources.



Women's rights in Emergencies

Our goal is to secure and protect women's rights in emergencies by promoting the leadership and collective efforts of women most affected in humanitarian crises and conflict.



Mary Jack, Provincial Manager at ActionAid Vanuatu at a Women I Tok Tok Tugeta forum in Vanuatu, focused on supporting women to prepare for and lead during emergencies and beyond. Photo by Solaye Snider/ActionAid.

Where we work

Afghanistan

We're supporting women to farm using sustainable, climate-resilient methods, and come together in collectives to access their rights, and empower themselves and each other.

Palestine

We're supporting women to campaign for their economic rights and opportunities, ensuring they have access to sustainable livelihoods.

Haiti

We're supporting women to lead the response and recovery efforts following Hurricane Matthew.

Pakistan

We're supporting women farmers in Pakistan to build sustainable livelihoods and access safe spaces where they can meet, learn and take action to claim their rights.

Uganda

We're working to protect the rights of women mine workers, and are supporting women farmers to campaign for their rights and access protection centres.

Kenya

We're supporting women to identify their own solutions to climate change and take action to respond to its impacts.

Nepal

We're supporting women to lead the ongoing recovery from the 2015 Nepal earthquakes, ensuring the protection of women's rights and psycho-social support for those continuing to experience trauma.

Bangladesh

We're supporting women to lead initiatives that increase the resilience of vulnerable communities to the risk of future disasters.

Myanmar

We're supporting community leaders to implement positive social change in their communities, and are connecting women clothing producers to global markets through an innovative social enterprise.

Cambodia

We're supporting women to create and campaign for safe urban environments. We're also supporting communities to become more resilient to future disasters and campaign for their land rights.

The Philippines

We're supporting women to build the resilience of their communities to climate change and increasing emergencies, and to mobilise around protection of women's rights.

Vanuatu

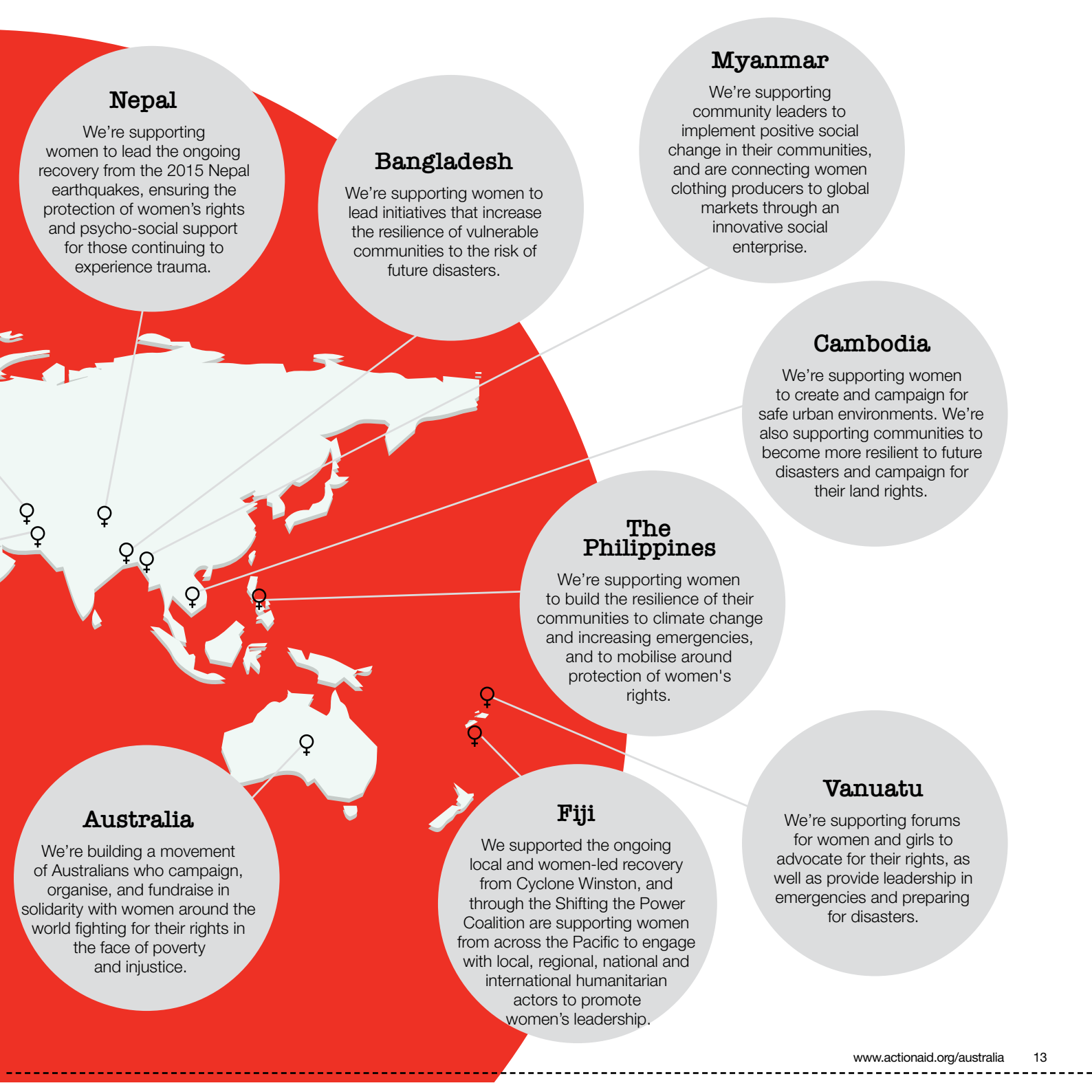
We're supporting forums for women and girls to advocate for their rights, as well as provide leadership in emergencies and preparing for disasters.

Fiji

We supported the ongoing local and women-led recovery from Cyclone Winston, and through the Shifting the Power Coalition are supporting women from across the Pacific to engage with local, regional, national and international humanitarian actors to promote women's leadership.

Australia

We're building a movement of Australians who campaign, organise, and fundraise in solidarity with women around the world fighting for their rights in the face of poverty and injustice.



Women we work with

ActionAid Australia's work towards a just, equitable and sustainable world is powered by the women we work with – around the world, and in Australia. The women we work with lead women's collectives focused on achieving change. They drive campaigns for justice in their communities and around the world. They mobilise and contribute the financial resources that are critical to ensuring that together, we can achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication.



Women standing their ground or speaking out for their rights is unheard of. All my life I believed that it cannot happen but now I have learnt that women can speak out, they have rights, they are not inferior and they can very much stand up for their rights.

Irshad Bibi, member of a livelihood security program for smallholder farmers in Pakistan, supported by ActionAid.



Women have power. We can talk together, and stand firm. We can work together, talk together about our needs, our rights.

Joyce Daniel, President of the Women I Tok Tok Tugeta women's forum in Vanuatu, supported by ActionAid.



ActionAid Australia's core principles and vision align well with our own commitment to supporting women's empowerment and the inclusion of women and girls around the world.

Robyn Nixon, Manager of Sustainability at the Intrepid Group and Board Member at The Intrepid Foundation - a partner of ActionAid Australia





Women all over the world, we need each other, we need to be in solidarity. Let's join together and fight this.

Francina Nkosi, feminist activist fighting for climate justice in Limpopo, South Africa alongside ActionAid.



In light of recent political events around the world, there has never been a more important time to be involved with a group doing such important work.

Courtney May, Community Leader in Melbourne, Australia.



I am the head of a woman only household. Now I can earn an income and I can take care of my parents.

Moe Moe, a woman producer with MBoutik in Myanmar, a social enterprise supported by ActionAid in partnership with the Fabric Social



As a working mother of 5 children I know what it takes to run a family in this very privileged country. Yet so many other women on this planet do the same with so little. This was just my small part in this very big picture.

Karen Bishton, Strong Women Challenger (& top fundraiser) in Australia



Building people power

ActionAid Australia's work is in partnership with a community of donors, online campaigners, volunteers, and the ActionAid Federation. In 2017 we built this people power significantly with more people than ever joining the ActionAid Australia community and taking action to challenge injustice, poverty and inequality around the world.

We launched our first-ever community organising program to build our people power and work to

transform the structures built in Australia that result in poverty, inequality and injustice for the women we work with around the world. To do this, we recruited leaders from across the country to drive action on our campaigns, engage communities on priority issues, and build solidarity with women everywhere. **Our activist network grew to 37 Community Leaders and 12 local ActionAid groups.** We mobilised our people power at key moments to have an important impact on ActionAid campaigns.

51

We held 51 events nationwide

64

We trained 64 people in campaigning and community organising

32

ActionAid activists dropped in on their MP or Senator



123

We built our mobilising capacity and 123 people took offline action during 16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women

2,998

people donate on a regular basis to ActionAid Australia's work

236

We trained 236 people in our Human Rights Based Approach and our current campaigns

8

ActionAid activists held constituent meetings with their MPs

We had 561 people take action offline

561

10,763

individuals, families, organisations and groups contributed financially to ActionAid Australia's work



Activists gather before marching across the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge on World Humanitarian Day. Photo by Lee Yearsley/ActionAid.



Climate justice for women



Francina Nkosi, feminist activist from Limpopo, South Africa, stands with ActionAid staff and supporters during a protest outside the Africa Down Under mining conference in Perth. Photo by Scott Vincent.

We stopped Efic from funding a proposed Australian-run coal mine in South Africa that would undermine women's rights.

In 2017, ActionAid Australia campaigned in solidarity with women in South Africa who were fighting a proposed Australian-run coal mine

near Lephalale, South Africa. When we found out that Australia's Export Credit Agency, Efic, was considering funding the mine, **7,276 ActionAid activists took action to stop it.**

ActionAid supporters raised \$4,100 in a crowdfunder to help raise the voices of the women and community members affected by the mine in Lephalale. **In Australia we delivered**

a national petition with over 12,000 signatures, ran events in communities to raise awareness of the issue, sent solidarity messages to the community in South Africa, and made formal complaints to Efic's Board to keep the pressure up. In June 2017 we won the campaign, with Efic revealing in Senate Estimates that it was no longer considering funding the project.



As women we decided to come here together, because together we can achieve more.

Francina Nkosi, feminist activist from Limpopo, South Africa





We ensured women's rights were included in the conversation about Australian mining in Africa

In solidarity with women in mining affected communities in Africa, we launched a report called "Fuelling Injustice," which exposed the true extent of Australia's mining interests in Africa.

We supported local community leader Francina Nkosi to travel to Australia to raise awareness of the issues facing women in mining affected communities in South Africa, and to share the impact of

Australian mines on the rights of South African women. We built powerful solidarity between our movements by joining Francina to rally outside the Africa Down Under mining conference in Perth, and by hosting community speaking events to ensure Francina's message was heard by activists around Australia.

Francina was featured in national newspapers in Australia for the first time ever – her calls for justice heard across the country. Together, we shifted that conversation about Australian mining in Africa to be about women's rights.

ActionAid supporters raised

\$4,100

in a crowdfunder to help raise the voices of the women and community members affected by the mine in Lephalale.

Local women leaders from Vanuatu had their voices heard on the international stage

In August, ActionAid Australia and partners held the first National Dialogue on Women's Leadership



Women leaders make a call to action during a meeting of the Women I Tok Tok Tugeta forum on Tanna island, Vanuatu. Photo by Holly Miller/ActionAid.



Vanuatu has been heavily impacted by climate change that has led to the recurrence of natural disasters. Women's leadership in governance and the broader development is still minimal and there is need to support the leadership and agency in all fronts from communities to the national level.



in Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Response and Risk Reduction, and Disaster Induced Displacement in Vanuatu, the most disaster-prone country on earth. **25 local women from the Women I Tok Tok Tugeta women's forum were supported to attend the Dialogue** and have their voices and experiences heard directly by key humanitarian and development actors.

An outcomes document was produced summarising key

demands from the women of Vanuatu - which included a strong call for support for women's leadership to address climate change and manage the risk of recurring disasters. This document was taken to the 23rd Conference of Parties by the Department of Women's Affairs in Vanuatu to influence the global conference on climate action.

Community women from Kenya, Cambodia and Vanuatu came together in Cambodia to launch the Gender Action Platform program in each of their countries focused on achieving climate justice for grassroots communities.

Through this program, **ActionAid Australia is working with 14,000 women in Cambodia, Kenya, and Vanuatu** to support their leadership in responding to climate change and related crises.

The voices of young women were heard at an international climate change conference

The voices of 4 young women were heard at the 1st Youth Conference on Climate Change in Bangladesh, promoting young women's increased engagement in addressing the impacts of climate change. Being supported to attend this event helped the youth build their capacity for ongoing work on climate change issues, and allowed them to engage with high-profile policy makers and key government officials around climate change.

ActionAid
Australia
will work with

14,000

women in Cambodia,
Kenya, Pakistan and
Vanuatu.



Women's rights in emergencies



Women and girls like Layla (pictured here) stepped up to lead the drought response in Somaliland. Photo by Ahmed Mohamed Mohamed/ActionAid.

We launched the Arise Fund

Launched by ActionAid Australia on World Humanitarian Day 2017, Arise is the first global fund directly supporting women-led emergency preparedness and response with a long term,

transformative agenda. By releasing funding within 48 hours of a crisis, Arise is resourcing women to lead in emergencies, conflict resolution and peace-building efforts - and is paving the way for greater gender equality well beyond the crisis.

In 2017, the Arise Fund resourced a women-led response to crises in Nepal, Haiti and Somaliland, and supported preparedness efforts in Vanuatu and Nepal.

arise



I want to send a very clear message that women from communities like mine want to be part of decision-making in disaster response. We need support, we need resources, we want training, but most of all we want to participate and be involved in decision-making. It is not sufficient to just consult us, we want space at the table.



Mary Jack, Provincial Manager and local Ni-Vanuatu woman, ActionAid Vanuatu.



We provided rapid support to women leading humanitarian response to severe flooding in Nepal

Following the heaviest rainfall in Nepal in over 60 years, Arise released funding within 48 hours to support women's leadership in the response to a crisis which had displaced over half a million people.

- 200 women leaders were supported to engage in local Disaster Relief Committees and influence the response
- 4 women-friendly safe spaces were created in Morang and Parsa districts so women could access psychosocial support, and be assisted to prevent and respond to gender based violence which typically increases during emergencies. These spaces prioritised women's hygiene needs and supported them to access other humanitarian assistance

ActionAid
worked with
45
women's
organisations in
the Philippines

Women were supported to lead the humanitarian response to drought in Somaliland

In response to the devastating drought in the Horn of Africa, ActionAid's Arise Fund supported women to lead the humanitarian response in Somaliland, where 1.5 million people were in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

- Women were supported to identify and prioritise the community's urgent needs and ensure essential resources were distributed fairly
- Women's coalitions were supported to mobilise to address underlying causes of vulnerability and drive solutions to protect their livelihoods and rights in the crisis
- Food supplies, water and dignity kits were distributed to 450 households
- Women in the community participated in protection training to ensure their rights were respected in the emergency

We continued to support the ongoing recovery from Hurricane Matthew

Hurricane Matthew devastated parts of Haiti when it hit in October 2016. In addition to rapid response funding released to support women to lead in the immediate response, the Arise fund continued to support the ongoing emergency response in 2017.

- ActionAid worked with local women's organisations to identify cases of violence against women and assist survivors of violence to access support
- We facilitated protection training for over 500 women
- We engaged women in assessments to identify their ongoing needs and established 4 women-friendly spaces in affected areas
- More than 25,000 people in Haiti were reached through this initial support



Local women's organisations in the Philippines advocated for women's leadership

ActionAid Australia supported a local network of 35 women's organisations in the Philippines to engage with local and regional officials and advocate for improved policies and practices around women's leadership in building the resilience of their communities to disasters.

Women humanitarianists from 13 countries skilled up to protect women's rights in emergencies

With support from the Arise Fund, ActionAid Australia and ActionAid's International Humanitarian and Resilience Team (IHART) brought together women humanitarianists from 13 countries for a training in ActionAid's approach to women-led, community based protection and women's rights in emergencies.

Workshop participants are now able to train other staff and partners in how best to work with women to analyse threats to their rights, develop plans to prevent and respond to these threats, and advocate for broader policy changes that ensure women's rights are protected. The training helped expand the capacity of staff across the ActionAid Federation to implement and train others in this approach to protecting women's rights in emergencies.



Marriage certificates, citizenship certificate of all our family members got washed away by flood. We were not confident enough to go to officials and talk to them. But now, being a member of Women Friendly Space has helped us build up our communication skills and our confidence has boost up. We will soon be applying for the legal documents.

Neelam Rishidev (Member, Women Friendly Space)





Economic justice for women



Women in Uganda are being supported to claim their land rights.
Photo by ActionAid.

Women in Northern Uganda have been empowered to claim their land rights

Women in Northern Uganda are now more aware of their land rights and have been supported to receive their

land back when it has been unlawfully taken from them. 759 women and 1092 men were supported through legal clinics, and 126 land cases were identified for action. 35 cases of violence against women, related to land conflicts, were successfully addressed.

Thousands of women in Afghanistan are meeting together to raise their voices and claim their rights

1940 women in Afghanistan have been coming together in 97 'Reflect Circles' across 6 districts to strengthen



Since my husband died, I have lived in the fear of land grabbing which of late is very rampant in our area with the majority of victims being women, says

Akumu Terezia, Amuru District Uganda





their leadership, learn about, and claim their rights. The Reflect Circles have become critical spaces for women to meet, speak about their issues, develop strategies to overcome them, and access a wide range of learning opportunities and resources.

Women farmers in Pakistan were recognised as farmers and empowered leaders

Since being a part of ActionAid's livelihood security program, women in the Southern Punjab area of Pakistan have reported finally receiving recognition as farmers

and leaders by their communities, men and the Government. Women are now able to participate more in household decision-making, and feel that their unpaid work and contribution to their families' livelihoods are being recognised.

Women farmers in Pakistan increased their income and access to resources by enhancing their livelihoods

In Pakistan, ActionAid supported 400 smallholder women farmers to increase their chicken and egg production. Women were provided chickens directly and participated

in training around chicken management. The women can now use the additional poultry and eggs to feed their families and keep their communities growing strong.

Women in Pakistan are taking action together in safe spaces

100 women in Pakistan have been meeting regularly in safe spaces supported by ActionAid to discuss the challenges they face as women, learn how to speak up for their rights and build essential skills that help them claim their rights to economic justice. Before the safe spaces were installed, women did not have places they could go to meet collectively and men impeded



Women farmers like Rehana in Pakistan are being recognised as farmers and leaders since participating in ActionAid's livelihood security program. Photo by ActionAid.



I particularly like the safe space which is like a safe haven for me – it re-energizes and enables me to at least speak about my troubles which uplifts my spirit. An hour or two spent in the safe space is usually the highlight of my day. I have learnt so much about my rights – what I am entitled to and how I can access them.

Kurshid Bibi, member of an ActionAid livelihood security program in Pakistan.



208

people in Afghanistan, including 64 women and 20 people with disabilities, have been supported to establish their own businesses to generate a sustainable income.

their social mobility. Now, men in the community will allow the women to meet in these spaces – and women are using them to take action together on the issues that are affecting them.

Women in Afghanistan are building their economic independence

208 people in Afghanistan, including 64 women and 20 people with disabilities, have been supported to establish their own businesses to generate a sustainable income. 1,239 women have been trained in financial literacy and are now able to have greater control in managing their family's finances and securing economic justice for women.

Women in Palestine are claiming their economic rights

Local women in Palestine are working together to improve their economic status in three vulnerable communities in the Hebron Governorate. Women's rights organisations and other coalitions have been supported to build strong networks to work with women in Palestine. Women have also received training around women's rights and sexual and reproductive health. 85 Palestinian women were trained in new employment opportunities to help them establish a new means of making a living.

We launched a national campaign for tax justice for women everywhere

In July 2017 we launched a national campaign for tax justice for women, calling on the Australian Government to introduce a public register of beneficial ownership. This mechanism would reveal the

secretive shell companies and trusts that facilitate tax avoidance in low income countries.

2,866 ActionAid Activists took part in this campaign. We briefed every MP in the country on this essential issue, generated national media coverage, supported 32 constituents to drop in on their politicians and had 9 constituents meet with their MPs.

During the campaign, we saw the ALP and the Greens come out with a position in support of a public register of beneficial ownership, and had 5 politicians sign a pledge to take action for tax justice for women. The campaign is ongoing, as we continue to keep up the pressure on our Government to come out with a public announcement in support of the policy.

Growing our resources

through the Strong Women Challenge

In November 2017 we launched an innovative peer-to-peer fundraising event: the Strong Women Challenge.

To support women fighting for their rights around the world, Australians joined a 21 day strength building challenge to raise funds in solidarity with women in

communities whose strength and heavy lifting ensures the safety and wellbeing of those around them.

Participants completed a daily physical challenge and the occasional inner-strength one, while documenting their progress online through photos and videos they shared with the Strong Women Community. Strong Women Challengers asked their friends and family to sponsor them to complete the challenge.



#SWC2017 was my opportunity to share with my friends and family my thoughts on how we can all get behind women's rights and help to make a change for those facing poverty and injustice throughout the world. It was amazing fun, and I was able to reach my own personal challenges of getting stronger AND beating my fundraising target!

Helen Essex



I took part in the strong women's challenge because I want to help support, encourage and empower other women! The challenge was tough but knowing that the women who ActionAid help support face far greater challenges made me persevere every day and right to the end.

Kate Doherty



"There are millions of women out there who have been left with no voice as they fall victim to their situations. If busting my [figurative] balls for a few minutes could potentially mean that the lives of some equally deserving humans could be positively impacted, then bring it on!".

Shefali Sharma



I signed up for the Strong Women Challenge last year because I could achieve two great things at once. I could work on my own health and fitness with a great program to keep me on track and motivated, and at the same time I was able to raise some funds for women I've never met who are stronger and tougher than I will ever be in spite of the poverty they contend with. It is a great cause to support and I was really keen to be able to be a part of that.

Katie Cox

Raising women's voices



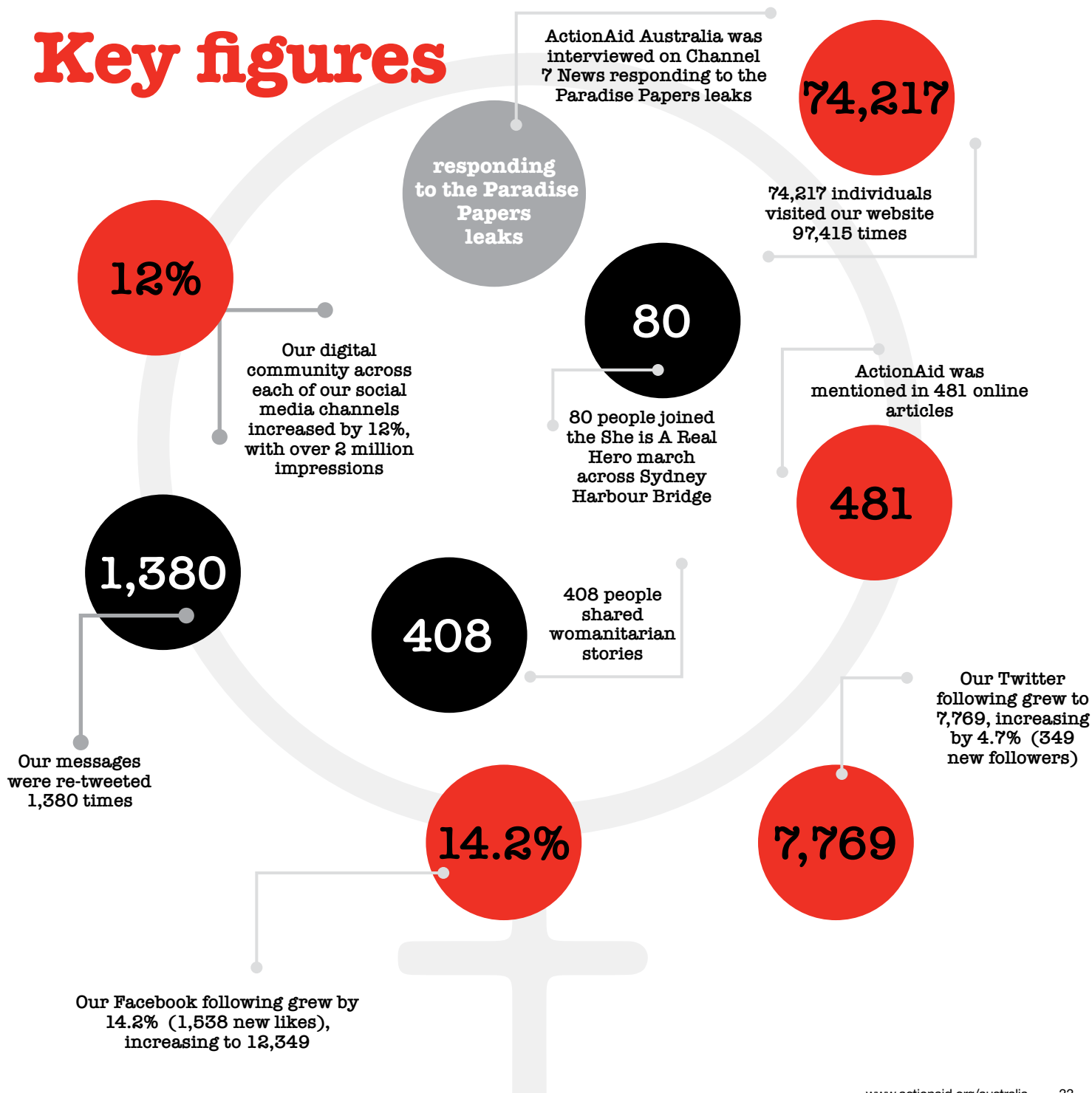
I am constantly thinking through disaster scenarios in my head: where we will run to the next time a disaster hits, and how I would reduce the risk of the disaster to myself, my family and my neighbors. I always try to help those who are poor, who don't have food and have great need.

Sabita Rani, Emergency Response Leader,
Bangladesh.



ActionAid activists march across Sydney Harbour Bridge to acknowledge and celebrate women humanitarians on World Humanitarian Day. Photo by Lee Yearsley/ActionAid.
Report 2017

Key figures



We celebrated the real heroes on World Humanitarian Day:

Despite being the most affected, women in communities are the first to respond to an emergency - taking immediate action to protect those around them during a crisis. Yet each year on World Humanitarian Day, the focus is too often on fly-in and fly-out humanitarians and these women don't receive the recognition they deserve.

So this year we wanted to celebrate the real heroes - women humanitarians whose work too often goes unrecognised. In the lead up to World Humanitarian Day,

ActionAid supporters helped raise the voices of women by sharing stories of 'womanitarians' on social media and honouring their critical role in saving lives and protecting their communities during an emergency.

Then on 19th August, ActionAid activists marched across the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge in honour of the women humanitarians whose contribution to emergency response and preparedness is rarely acknowledged.

Frocking Hilarious:

Frocking Hilarious had its fifth birthday in 2015, and was attended by close to 2000 people in Sydney

and in Melbourne. Once again, all-female line ups of Australia's most hilarious comedians took to the stage in both cities. Performers included ActionAid Ambassador Claire Hooper, Denise Scott, Cal Wilson, Fiona O'Loughlin, Nikki Britton, Anne Edmonds and Celia Pacquola. For the first time ever, Frocking Hilarious was held at Sydney Town Hall.

Around the world:

The Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction

In May 2017, 2 local women from the Shifting the Power Coalition were supported to have their voices



Katie Burch and Denise Scott perform during ActionAid's bi-annual Frocking Hilarious comedy gala. Photo ActionAid.



Local women leaders had their voices heard at the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in Mexico, May 2017. Photo by Stacey Sawchuk/ ActionAid.

heard at the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction in Mexico.

Mary Jack, a community woman leader from Vanuatu, travelled to Mexico to make a powerful call for greater involvement of women in decision making around disaster preparedness and response.

Lily Begum, a woman leader from Bangladesh, spoke at the event about how women in Bangladesh have become leaders in disaster risk reduction.

3 local women attended the Triennial Conference of Pacific Women

Through the Shifting the Power Coalition - a network of organisations in the Pacific working together to strengthen women's leadership in emergencies - 3 local women were supported to attend the 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and 6th Meeting of Ministers for Women in Fiji.

Through this participation, local women leaders were able to form relationships with key government officials and learn about ways to seek support on a national and regional level. They now have important relationships established with decision makers and have been able to pressure the government to recognise gender in their emergency response and Disaster Risk Reduction work.

ActionAid Australia Annual Assembly

ActionAid staff and supporters came together at ActionAid Australia's first-ever Assembly to help drive forward ActionAid's ambitious new strategy. Photo by Liz Hadjia/ActionAid.





The inaugural ActionAid Australia Annual Assembly took place for the first time on 27 May 2017, to engage our supporters in shaping the implementation of our strategy, and to link ActionAid's network's in Australia with the women and communities we support overseas. The Assembly was created as a space for engagement, awareness-raising, education and consultation

The 45 participants in the Assembly included representatives from ActionAid Australia's constituency: Board members and staff, members, financial supporters, our growing activist community, and other strategic partner organisations and networks.

ActionAid Australia's ambitious new 2017-2022 strategy, "Women's Leadership for Global Justice," was launched at the Assembly, providing an opportunity for supporters to influence future priorities, build awareness of the issues facing women living in poverty and exclusion, and engage more deeply with the organization.

Our Board



Jeremy Hobbs
BA, B.SocWk

Board President
Incoming

Director of Development Essentials. Former Executive Director and founding Board member of Oxfam International. Former Executive Director of Oxfam Australia. Former Chair of INGO Accountability Charter. Former Board member International Civil Society Centre.
Director from 15 August 2014.



Megs Alston
LLB (Melb)
Dip ED (Melb)

Acting Board
President

Member Advisory Committee, Friends of Suai, City of Port Philip, Melbourne. Former Consultant Member St Vincent's Health Regional Advisory Council Melbourne. Former Program Quality Advisor, Save the Children Australia. Former Business Development Consultant, RMIT International Projects. Former Program Director, Australian Volunteers International.
Director from 16 June 2011
Appointed Vice-President 16 May 2012.



The Hon
John Dowd AO QC
LLB (USyd)

Board President
Outgoing

Deputy President NSW Mental Health Tribunal. President International Commission of Jurists Australia. Former Chancellor Southern Cross University. Former NSW Attorney General. Former Supreme Court Judge.
Director from 28 April 2008 Appointed President 1 July 2009 Conclusion of term on 27 May 2017.



Nicci Dent
MFIA, HND BTEC in
Art and Design Diploma

Board
Director

CEO, Heart Research Australia. Former Head of Fundraising Mission Australia. Formerly National Fundraising Director The Heart Foundation. Formerly Director of Fundraising MSF. Various Fundraising roles with Amnesty International and the Wilderness Society.
Director from 30 January 2014.

ActionAid Australia's Board is responsible for the governance of the organisation, setting our strategic direction, monitoring our performance against it, overseeing risk management, and ensuring that we are accountable to our supporters and the women and communities with whom we work.



Susan Brennan SC
BA/LLB (Hons),
Barrister at Law

Board
Director

Vice President, World YWCA and
Former President, World YWCA
Director from 24 February 2011



Carole Brownlee
B.Comm
FCPA

Board
Director

Chief Operating Officer Roadshow Films
Group Former senior Finance Executive,
Village Roadshow Group Finance
Director Roadshow Films
Director from 16 December 2014



James Goth B.Ec (USyd)
LLB (USyd) MBA (Insead)

Board
Director

Chief Strategy Officer at Woolworths
Limited. Former Partner, Boston
Consulting Group.
Director from 30 January 2014



Alistair Stephenson
Juris Doctor (USyd)
BA (USyd)

Board
Director

Strategist, M&C Saatchi & Re
Chairperson, Youngbloods NSW
Telephone Counsellor, QLife.
Director from 27 September 2017

Michelle Higelin was appointed to the position of Company Secretary on 12 August 2017.

Finances

During 2017, ActionAid Australia's operating revenue decreased by 49% to \$6.7 million. The decrease in operating revenue was mainly due to a return to normal levels of bequest income compared to the unusually large amount received in 2016.

Public funds raised totalled \$3.5 million and comprised 52% of operating revenue for the year, compared to 75% in the previous year. Public funds included donations and gifts received from the Australian public as well as non-monetary income such as volunteer or pro bono services. In 2017 ActionAid Australia also received funds from donors who left gifts in their wills, totalling \$282,463.

Grant income contributed to 44% of operating revenue at \$3 million. Of this, \$2.7 million came from DFAT and \$0.3 million from other Australian and overseas

sources. Interest income received was \$0.2m and other income was \$83,208 (due mainly to additional fund raising activities, such as Frocking Hilarious events).

Our total program expenditure was 68% of expenditure for 2017, an increase from 63% in 2016. Of this, overseas projects received \$4.5 million (48%), \$0.9m (9%) funded project management costs in Australia and \$1m (11%) funded campaigns and community education in Australia. Program expenditure includes ActionAid Australia's programs overseas as well as the costs of public campaigning in Australia.

Fundraising accounted for 17% of total expenditure, a 5% decrease from 2016. Accountability and administration costs remained static from 2016 and are 13% of total expenditure.

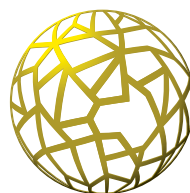
The full financial report for the year ended 31 December 2017 is available on request or on the ActionAid Australia website at www.actionaid.org/australia.

The Summary Financial Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct. ActionAid Australia is committed to full adherence to this Code.

For further information on the Code please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Guidance Document available at www.acfid.asn.au.

In order to lodge a complaint against ActionAid Australia please email complaints.au@actionaid.org. Where a breach of the ACFID Code of Conduct is

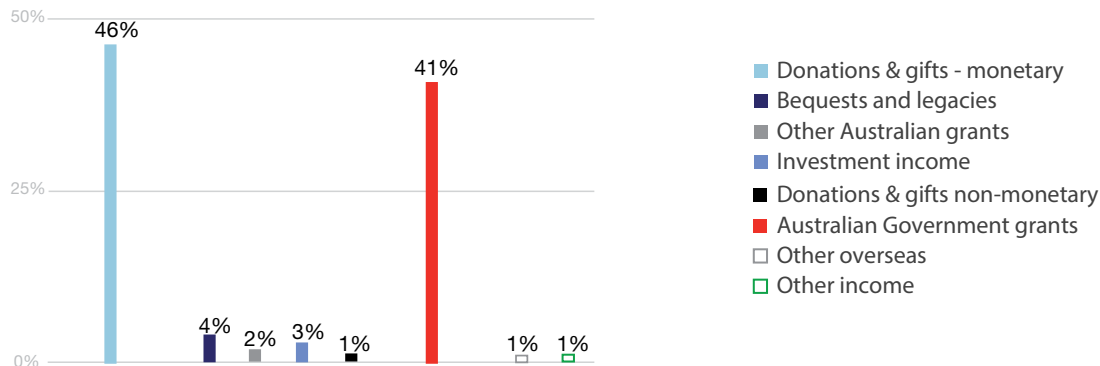
considered to have occurred please see the ACFID website <http://www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints> for contact details.



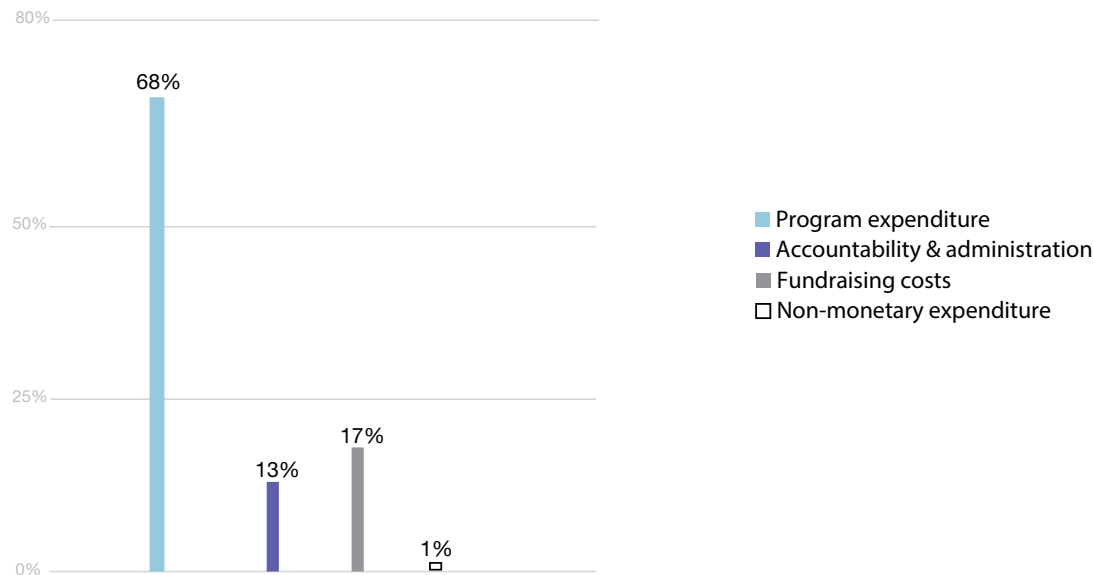
ACFID
MEMBER

ActionAid Australia is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice. As a signatory we are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, conducting our work with transparency, accountability and integrity.

Income



Expenditure



Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

For the year ended 31 December 2017

	Year ended 31 December 2017 Restricted \$	Year ended 31 December 2017 Unrestricted \$	Year ended 31 December 2017 Total \$	Year ended 31 December 2016 Total \$
REVENUE				
OPERATING REVENUE				
Donations and gifts				
- Monetary	730,043	2,405,846	3,135,889	3,392,420
- Non-monetary	-	81,310	81,310	101,708
Bequests and legacies	-	282,463	282,463	6,359,296
Grants				
- DFAT ¹	2,743,363	-	2,743,363	2,993,408
- Other Australian	153,839	-	153,839	638
- Other overseas	70,666	-	70,666	80,174
Investment income	3,204	194,788	197,992	174,249
Other income	-	83,208	83,208	53,454
TOTAL REVENUE	3,701,115	3,047,615	6,748,730	13,155,347
EXPENDITURE				
International programs:				
- Funds to programmes	3,636,363	859,733	4,496,096	3,683,181
- Program support costs	499,555	383,162	882,717	1,327,461
Community education	3,778	1,007,665	1,011,443	700,433
Fundraising costs:				
- Public	404,725	1,219,440	1,624,165	2,030,838
Accountability and administration		1,240,569	1,240,569	1,187,665
Non-monetary expenditure	-	81,310	81,310	101,708
Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure	4,544,421	4,791,879	9,336,300	9,031,286
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	4,544,421	4,791,879	9,336,300	9,031,286
- Operating excess/(shortfall) over expenditure	(843,306)	(1,744,264)	(2,587,570)	4,124,061
- Capital excess/(shortfall) over expenditure	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXCESS/(SHORTFALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE	(843,306)	(1,744,264)	(2,587,570)	4,124,061
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/(LOSS)	(843,306)	(1,744,264)	(2,587,570)	4,124,061

1. DFAT Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 31 December 2017

	Retained earnings \$	Restricted funds reserves \$	Unrestricted funds reserves \$	Total undistributed funds \$
Opening balance at 1 January 2016	737,666	3,968,012	50,000	4,755,678
Surplus for the year	4,124,061	-	-	4,124,061
Total comprehensive income	4,124,061	-	-	4,124,061
Transfers to/(from) reserves:	136,840	(136,840)	-	-
Total Closing Balance at 31 December 2016	4,998,567	3,831,172	50,000	8,879,739
	Retained earnings \$	Restricted funds reserves \$	Unrestricted funds reserves \$	Total undistributed funds \$
Opening balance at 1 January 2017	4,998,567	3,831,172	50,000	8,879,739
Prior year adjustment	(28,624)	28,624	-	-
Deficit for the year	(2,587,570)	-	-	(2,587,570)
Total comprehensive income	(2,587,570)	-	-	(2,587,570)
Transfers to/(from) reserves:	843,306	(843,306)	-	-
Total Closing Balance at 31 December 2017	3,225,679	3,016,490	50,000	6,292,169

For the year ended 31 December 2017 ActionAid Australia's retained earnings decreased by \$1.78m, its restricted funds reserve decreased by \$0.8m over the year and we ended 2017 with a total reserve of \$6.3m. Retained earnings include a large bequest received in 2016 which will be utilised over a number of years. ActionAid Australia does not utilise all funds immediately so that it can ensure that the funds are best used for long-term, sustainable outcomes.

Statement of financial position

For the year ended 31 December 2017

	31 December 2017 \$	31 December 2016 \$
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	9,798,589	10,744,896
Trade and other receivables	317,117	61,193
Total current assets	10,115,706	10,806,089
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	59,997	104,918
Total non-current assets	59,997	104,918
Total assets	10,175,703	10,911,007
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	839,677	562,456
Provisions - employee benefits	213,181	206,939
Other - deferred revenue	2,782,960	1,190,344
Total current liabilities	3,835,818	1,959,739
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions - employee benefits	47,716	71,529
Non-current liabilities	47,716	71,529
Total liabilities	3,883,534	2,031,268
Net assets	6,292,169	8,879,739
EQUITY		
Restricted funds capital reserve	2,623,977	3,018,577
Restricted funds other reserves	392,513	812,595
Unrestricted funds reserves	50,000	50,000
Retained earnings	3,225,679	4,998,567
Total equity	6,292,169	8,879,739

As at 31 December 2017 of ActionAid Australia's total assets of \$10.2m, \$9.8m was held as cash, with around 76% of this amount being held in short-term term deposits at banks. The organisation's largest liability, at \$2.8m, is deferred revenue. Deferred revenue is grant funds received in advance that are yet to be used for overseas projects and the management support costs of those projects.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2017

	Year ended 31 December 2017 \$	Year ended 31 December 2016 \$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Cash receipts from appeals, donations & fundraising activities	3,418,352	9,751,716
Cash receipts from DFAT grants	4,520,461	2,335,232
Cash receipts from other grants	454,704	62,493
Proceeds from other activities	(185,169)	58,404
Interest received	197,992	165,249
Cash payments to suppliers and employees	(2,975,678)	(3,209,169)
Cash payments for project expenditure	(6,390,256)	(5,711,075)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(959,594)	3,452,850
Cash flows from investing activities		
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets	15,727	-
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(2,440)	(41,838)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	13,287	(41,838)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	(946,307)	3,411,012
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	10,744,896	7,333,884
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	9,798,589	10,744,896

The cash position of ActionAid Australia during 2017 decreased by \$0.9 million; this is mainly due to increased disbursements of funds to projects during the year.

Table of cash movements for designated purposes

For the year ended 31 December 2017

Projects for which funds raised during the reporting period were more than 10% of the total operating revenue income of \$6.7m.

	Cash available at 1 January 2017	Cash raised during the period	Cash disbursed during the period	Cash available at 31 December 2017
Project/Purpose				
Afghanistan Resilient Agriculture and Livelihoods Initiative for Socio Economic Empowerment (REALISE)	1,077,575	1,825,394	1,708,109	1,194,860
Gender Responsive Alternatives on Climate Change - The Australian NGO Gender Action Platform (GAP)		1,500,000	125,905	1,374,095
Total for other non-designated purposes	9,667,321	5,096,673	7,534,360	7,229,634
Total	10,744,896	8,422,067	9,368,374	9,798,589

Director's declaration

In the opinion of the directors of ActionAid Australia:

- (a) the financial statements and notes set out on pages 7 to 30 are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 including;
 - (i) giving a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2017, and of its performance, for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulations 2013; and
 - (iii) complying with the ACFID Code of Conduct for non-governmental development organisations; and
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Dated at Sydney this 2nd day of June 2018

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.



Megs Alston
Vice President



James Goth
Director

Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statement Report to the Members of ActionAid Australia

Opinion

The accompanying Summary Financial Statement prepared by ActionAid Australia (the company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2017, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of cash flows and the statement of changes in equity for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial report of ActionAid Australia for the year ended 31 December 2017. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on that financial report in our report dated 2nd June 2018.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report, in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosures Requirements, *the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, and the *ACFID Code of Conduct* and for compliance with the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991*.

Summary Financial Statements

The Summary Financial Statement Report does not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards for a general purpose financial report. Reading the Summary Financial Statement Report, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report of ActionAid Australia.

Directors' Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

The Directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the Summary Financial Statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosures Requirements, *the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the *ACFID Code of Conduct and for compliance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991*.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Summary Financial Statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

Hill Rogers Assurance Partners



Brett Hanger
 Partner

Dated at Sydney, this 2nd day of June 2018

Assurance Partners

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Joyce Daniel, President of the Women I Tok Tok Tugeta forum on Tanna Island in Vanuatu, leads a discussion with other leaders in the forum. The forums support women to prepare for and lead during emergencies and beyond. Photo by Solaye Snider/ActionAid.



Our supporters

ActionAid Australia's work would not be possible without our thousands of supporters around Australia. We want to thank each and every one of our donors for their contributions to our work with women around the world and the impact they have supported us to make in 2017. We'd also like to acknowledge our major donors who continue to place their trust in us.

Institutional Donors:

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

Individuals:

Nan Brown

Debby and Keith Badger

Mary G Bush

James A Darling AM

Mulnot Foundation Ltd

Peter and Deborah O'Keefe

Greg Shalit and Miriam Faine

Hilary Wallace

Organisations:

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Douglas and Philip Young Charitable Trust

The English Family Foundation

JLDJS Foundation

Ian McNair Charitable Foundation Limited

The Intrepid Foundation

Minter Ellison



ActionAid staff and supporters finish their World Humanitarian Day march on the steps of the Sydney Opera House. Photo by Lee Yearsley/ActionAid.

Philandron Foundation

Planet Wheeler Foundation

Sparke Helmore Lawyers

The Sky Foundation

Ambassadors

Judith Lucy

Tracey Spicer

Claire Hooper

Murray Cook







ActionAid activists march across Sydney Harbour Bridge to acknowledge and celebrate women humanitarians on World Humanitarian Day. Photo by Lee Yearsley/ActionAid.

Front cover image: Community leader Sabita Rani leading a women-led emergency response group in Kalpara, Southern Bangladesh. Photo by Turjoy Chowdhury/ActionAid.

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