

**act:onaid**

# Annual Report Australia 2019





ActionAid Australia supporters demanding action to address climate change as part of the Global Climate Strikes during September  
Photo: ActionAid.



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# About ActionAid



## Who we are

ActionAid is a global women's rights organisation supporting women living in poverty and exclusion to stand up against injustice and claim their rights. We put the lived experience and leadership of women at the heart of everything we do.



## Vision

A just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity and 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, in partnership with people's movements and grassroots activists.

# Executive Director & Chair's message

In 2019 we celebrated 10 years of ActionAid in Australia. Building on a legacy that began in 1967 as Austcare, the past decade has seen ActionAid Australia support more than one million women to claim their rights and campaign against the injustice they face. During this time, we have fostered ActionAid's work in countries like Palestine and Vanuatu where global solidarity has never been more important and we have pioneered new models of collaboration in the Pacific to support women's leadership in response to disasters and climate change. Globally, we have embarked on an ambitious effort to mobilise support for women on the frontlines of crisis through the Arise Fund.

We have also stepped up efforts to campaign against the structural drivers of poverty and injustice. This has included campaigning for Australia to reduce carbon emissions and tracking the footprint of Australian mining companies globally. It has also focused on preventing the exploitation of women's

labour in global supply chains by transforming trade for women, as well as campaigning for improved mechanisms for addressing the human rights impacts of Australian companies. We continue to grow our activist community, which is driving creative and impactful campaigns from the ground up.

With extreme poverty growing in Africa and less than 10 years to avert catastrophic climate change, and now a global health pandemic on our doorstep, our work to advance women's rights and end poverty and injustice has never been more important. We thank you for your continued support of these efforts.



Michelle Higelin  
Executive Director,  
ActionAid Australia.



Jeremy Hobbs  
Board President,  
ActionAid Australia.



In September ActionAid Australia participated in the Global Climate Strikes, 80,000 people took part in a protest at The Domain in Sydney. Photo: ActionAid.



# Highlights

## 10 years of ActionAid Australia



Building on our 42 year legacy as Austcare, we joined the ActionAid federation, a global leader in rights based approaches supporting people living in poverty to drive change from the ground up.



We highlighted women's important role in ending hunger with national campaigns and by working with women farmers in Kenya and Uganda to improve agricultural practices and food security.



We launched our ground-breaking transitional justice work to support women survivors of violence in Uganda, Kenya and Democratic Republic of Congo to define justice from their own perspectives.



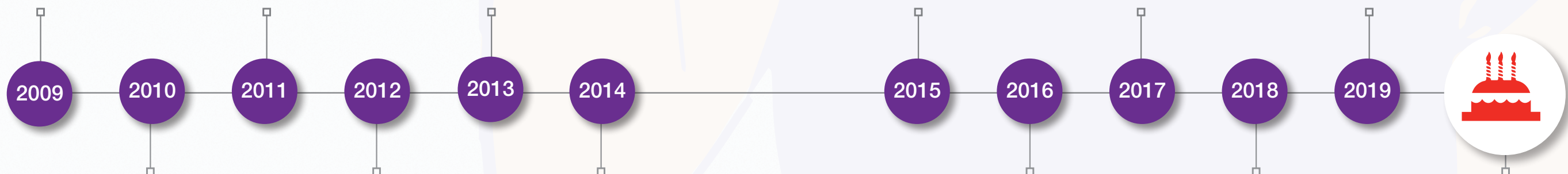
We launched a global campaign to make cities safer for women and responded to major emergencies in Vanuatu and Nepal supporting safe spaces for women, resourcing women's leadership and strengthening their long-term resilience to disasters.



We secured a major win stopping Australian funding of a proposed Australian-run coal mine in South Africa that would undermine women's rights, and we launched the Shifting the Power Coalition in the Pacific supporting women's leadership in humanitarian action.



We drove gender responsive alternatives to climate change by supporting 8000 women in Vanuatu, Kenya and Cambodia to influence climate change policy from the local to the global and launched the Transform Trade for Women campaign in Australia.



2009

We stood in solidarity with Palestinian women supporting 14 local organisations to advance women's rights through public education on inheritance rights and grants for women to establish small businesses.

2010

2011

2012

We supported women to seek economic justice through land ownership by supporting 300 internally displaced women in Uganda to win collective title over a plot of land and lobbying the Australian government to address land rights violations in Cambodia.

2013

We worked to increase women's resilience by strengthening the livelihoods of vulnerable households in Afghanistan and the launch of the South Asia Women's Resilience Index (WRI) to assess women's involvement in disaster risk reduction and recovery.

2014

2015

We supported women to mobilise around their rights working with women farmers across Africa to climb Mount Kilimanjaro to demand their land rights and with 4000 women in Vanuatu to form the Women I Tok Tok Tugetha (WITTT) movement to promote women's rights in emergencies.

2016

2017

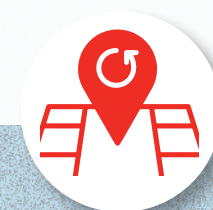
We elevated women's leadership in humanitarian action by supporting the first National Womenitarian Summit in the Philippines, a women-led humanitarian response to the Rohingya refugee crisis and the launch of Women's Weather Watch in Vanuatu, a women-led early warning innovation.

2018

2019



**We celebrated 10 years as ActionAid Australia, and ActionAid's global impact on the lives of 25 million people in 45 countries.**





# Where we work

ActionAid works in more than 45 countries globally. This is a snapshot of our work in countries where ActionAid Australia directly supports partners.

## Palestine

We supported 85 women in Hebron Old City to advance women's leadership and influence in Palestine. Four women's groups have been established, providing a space for women's empowerment, including strengthening understanding of their economic and social rights. Women say they feel more alive, valued, courageous and connected to a wider network.

## Afghanistan

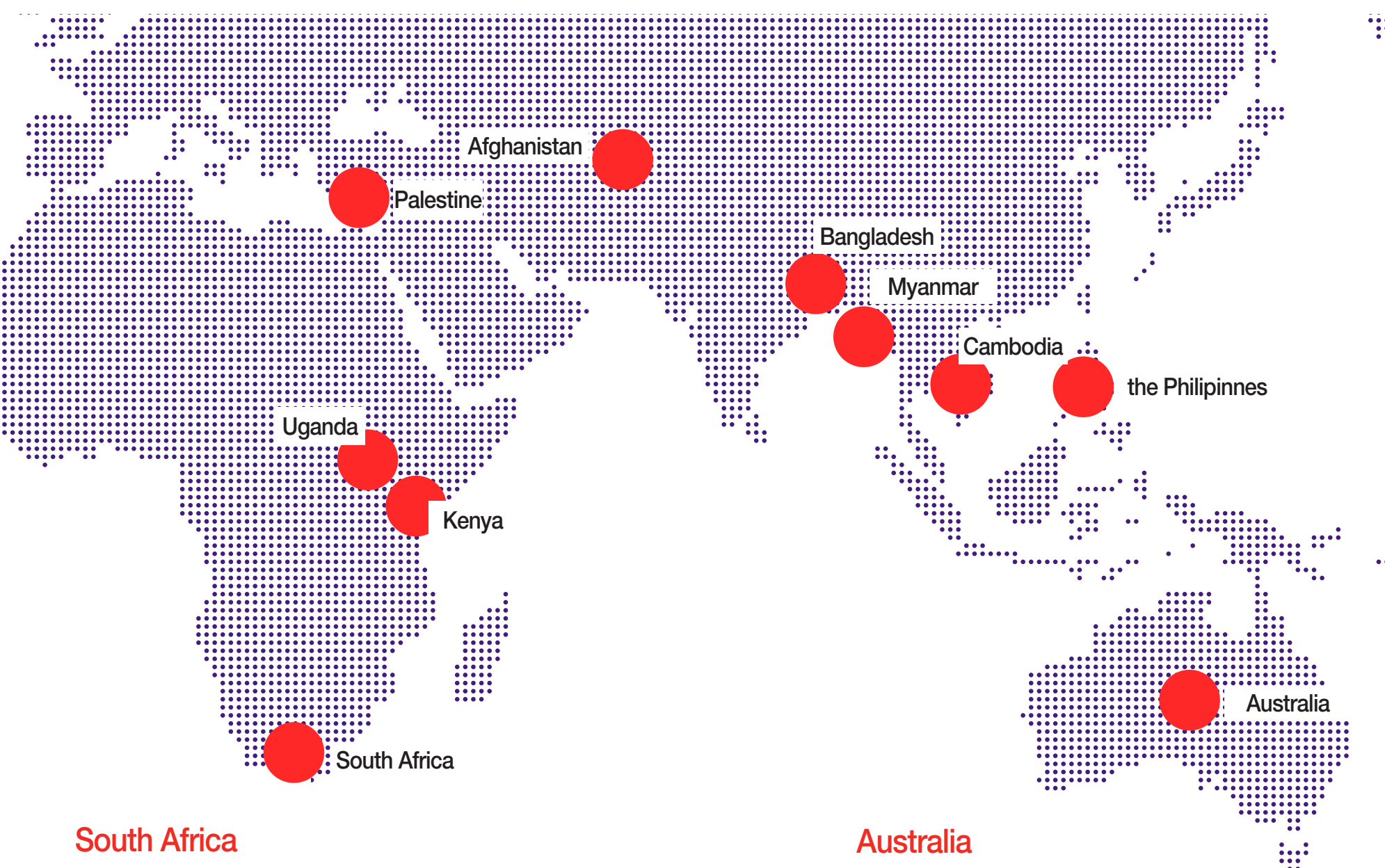
We supported 7,313 women to establish small businesses and access markets, building their rights awareness, financial literacy and business and marketing skills. Women and their families now have increased income with 680 women trained in backyard gardening, and 160 people in tailoring. Women have improved their social standing and gained increased freedom and independence.

## Uganda

We supported women to increase their awareness and understanding of their rights and worked with women who have been denied ownership of land to collectively speak up and negotiate with local authorities to secure land rights as well as greater protection from policy and law. We worked with women artisanal miners to ensure their sustainable practices are recognised and supported.

## Kenya

We worked with women to improve their food security and build resilience to drought and other impacts of climate change. 25 women leaders increased their understanding of climate-resilient sustainable agriculture techniques and are now replicating learning in their communities. We supported women in mining affected communities to collectively organise and claim their rights.



## South Africa

We worked with women leaders from mining affected communities where mining is restricting access to their land, impacting on health and safety, and undermining access to decision making and resources. We supported women to influence government and mining companies on policies, laws and strategies to protect their rights.

## Bangladesh

We supported women at risk of violence to access safe spaces in the Cox's Bazaar refugee camp and supported women-led groups to monitor reports of violence, working with local authorities to ensure increased protection of women living in the camps. We supported women refugees to earn a living with childcare support for 10,000 children and tailoring training for women.

## Myanmar

We supported 180 young women and men from 60 villages to strengthen their community leadership by building their knowledge, skills and confidence to advocate for change. They worked with 121 women's and community organisations and local authorities to address critical challenges in their communities. Young people are now driving change by supporting their communities to identify their needs and formulating their own solutions.

## Cambodia

We supported women to lead their communities to prepare for and respond to climate change and related disasters, as well as advocating for response strategies that promote gender equality. 25 women took collective action to influence national and international policy, and 3,503 women have increased knowledge on how to better prepare and respond.

## The Philippines

We supported the first ever National Womenitarian Summit, bringing together 150 women from across the country. This resulted in a declaration calling for action from government and NGOs to support women's leadership in humanitarian action, climate change adaptation and locally led resilience at the national and international level, to acknowledge Indigenous practices and promote more gender-responsive climate action.

## Vanuatu

We promoted local women's leadership in Vanuatu, working with some 4,200 members of the Women I Tok Tok Tugeta forums to lead protection and resilience work on disaster risk reduction, livelihood alternatives and climate change adaptation. We supported the establishment of Women Wetem Weta, a Pacific-led innovation that puts climate and emergency information and technology in the hands of local women to keep their communities safe.

## Australia

Our network of activists campaigned to hold the Australian government and corporations accountable for protecting women's rights to economic and climate justice. This included 16 activists meeting with MPs in Canberra and mobilising as part of the largest ever Global Climate Strike. We also launched our campaign to #TransformTradeForWomen.

## The Pacific

We worked with 13 women-led civil society organisations through the Shifting the Power Coalition to promote women's leadership and disability inclusion in crisis response. Coalition members influenced regional and national policies on disaster response and strengthened their ability to lead inclusive emergency and disaster responses that protect the rights of diverse women.



# Climate justice for women

We believe in a world in which women living in poverty are more resilient to climate change, have a voice in policymaking and have access to justice. This includes supporting women from affected communities to adapt to climate change and increase their access to resources and decision-making at all levels. We also campaign for the Australian Government to mitigate climate change by reducing carbon emissions and replacing economic and energy systems that cause environmental destruction and inequality with just feminist alternatives.

**132 women in 17 locations across the three countries were involved in developing climate change resilience and disaster preparedness plans**

Photo: Mary Kuket, heads up our local partner, Tangelbei Women's Network



“

I am now respected more as a woman. People are acknowledging what I have done in the community. In my house, I can be a decision maker in my family. They give me space to decide.

Stella Ruto, Baringo Women Small Holder Farmer Association, Kenya

## Women taking collective climate action

Over the past two years, we have supported 7,926 women across Vanuatu, Kenya and Cambodia to take collective climate action and to represent their communities at local, national and international levels. Nine women attended the United Nations Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Geneva to advocate for more gender-responsive solutions to climate change and disasters at the

global level. In partnership with Monash University, ActionAid also launched a comprehensive policy framework to guide gender responsive solutions to climate change and disasters.

At the national level, women leaders have developed Women's Charters of Demands in consultation with their communities. These Charters are being used to influence government and shift social norms, leading to initiatives like

four new water-management projects in Cambodia involving 775 households. Women leaders in Cambodia and Vanuatu gave input into national reviews of climate change policies while in Kenya, the Baringo county government established a climate change committee due to women's advocacy efforts.



ActionAid participated in the Global platform for disaster risk reduction held in Geneva in May 2019. Photo: ActionAid.



“ The biggest change in our lives is our improved economic and social positions within the households and society, and the way these two factors has helped us to be recognised and accepted as an important part of our societies. The work produced by women is recognised and appreciated by our male family members and people in the society. Women in this area have made extraordinary progress.

Masooma, Deputy Director of the Panjab Honey Production and Beekeeping Association.

## Building resilience in Afghanistan

Afghanistan is one of the most difficult places in the world to be a woman. Women's groups in two provinces are supporting women to earn an income and build their resilience to climate change. The groups support women with training in alternative livelihoods and running a small business. One such group is the Panjab Honey Production

and Beekeeping Association. Through the support of ActionAid, 150 women have received training on beekeeping and are setting up businesses to earn an income.

These groups have become a lifeline for women, providing a way to feed their families as climate change makes reliance on farming for income more

difficult. Restrictive social norms are changing as a result. As women build their economic independence, they are earning more respect and freedom in their families and communities, paving the way for more women and their daughters to follow in their footsteps.



A participant in the Panjab Honey Production and Beekeeping Association displays her products, which help build women's economic independence. Photo: ActionAid.



A portrait of South African activist Millicent Shungube. Women by Women. Photo: Miora Rajaonary.

“ Ever since the mine came in there's been a lot of changes. People no longer have space for farming. They're taking our water. Illnesses have increased in a way that small children are suffering from asthma, sinus problems and eye irritation because of the dust that they cause. We no longer stay in an environment that is stable.

Millicent Nomfundo Shungube, one of the women concerned by the operations of Australian company South32 in South Africa

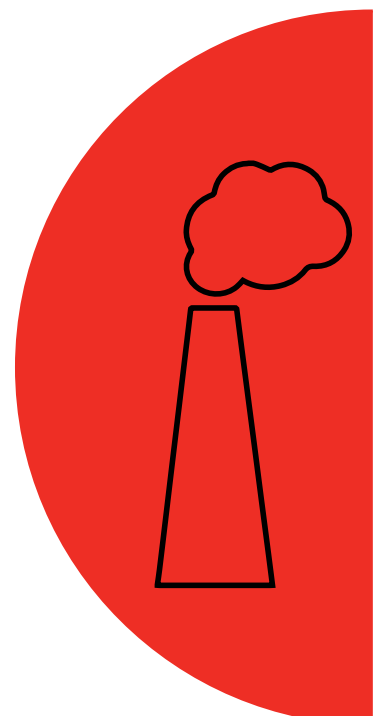
## Campaign to stop undermining women's rights

We campaigned in solidarity with women from mining-affected communities in South Africa, calling for the Australian Government to stop funding fossil fuel projects overseas and hold our mining companies accountable for respecting women's rights everywhere they operate.

We completed our second year of tracking the number of coal, oil and gas projects by Australian companies in low income countries and mapping their carbon potential and impact on women's rights. Our groundbreaking research revealed that the potential carbon emissions of Australian extractive companies' operational projects in low income countries is increasing,

highlighting the importance of sustained campaigning to expose this harmful growth.

Mining has disproportionate impacts on women, both for those living in communities directly affected by fossil fuel mining operations and also for women living in poverty who have fewer resources to adapt to the impacts of climate change. We launched our report in the lead up to COP25 and held a roundtable discussion about the findings of the data attended by a cross section of partners and donors.





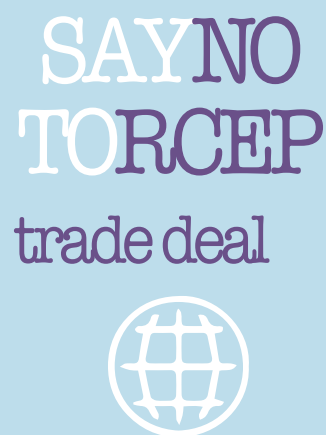
# Economic justice for women

Women worldwide have the right to decent work and control over productive resources whilst also having their enormous contributions to unpaid work valued and recognised.

We're working in solidarity with women living in poverty and exclusion for just economic policies, equitable redistribution of resources and for corporations to pay their fair share of tax, especially in low-income countries.

18,571 signed the petition to call on the Australian Government to stop the Regional Comprehensive Economic Agreement and to only support trade deals that protect women's rights

## Campaign to transform trade for women



In June 2019, 600 negotiators gathered in Melbourne to discuss the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade deal which threatens to undermine the rights of women workers in low-income countries. With Thuy Nguyen Phuong from ActionAid Vietnam by our side, and a six-metre banner of messages hand-written by activists around the country, we made sure negotiators from all 16 member

countries heard women's concerns. And we successfully put women's rights on the agenda.

Alongside ActionAid Vietnam and 11 other partner organisations, we joined our voices together at a women and trade roundtable to call on the government to protect women's rights over corporations. 18,571 supporters signed our petition to the government,

and 16 activists met with 11 MPs in Canberra, to stop a deal that would disproportionately harm women in low-income countries. While the deal has stalled, a number of MPs have agreed to block the deal when it comes to Parliament and others have joined the call for greater transparency of trade negotiations.

In solidarity against the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade deal which threatens to undermine the rights of women. Photo: ActionAid.



Thuy Nguyen Phuong from ActionAid Vietnam joined voices against the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade deal which harms women in low income countries. Photo: ActionAid.





“ This change is a great revolution in Taita-Taveta, it has changed my life and way of living. I am able to provide for my family.

Female elected treasurer, Upendo Disability Mining Group.

## Winning back land rights in Kenya

Women in Taita-Taveta County, Kenya were being systematically excluded from decision making and the financial benefits of mining on their lands. We supported women to fight for economic justice in the face of mining operations that are far from gender neutral.

We trained 227 women and 134 men in human rights, including their land rights, which increased women's confidence to lead and negotiate with mining companies. Women have been able to change gender-biased cultural practices and beliefs about land ownership that prevented them from inheriting land.

As a result of this project, community women have taken up leadership positions to campaign for change at local, county and national levels, building solidarity and supporting other women to claim their rights.

Women's groups are now monitoring the activities of mining companies and taking collective action on issues that concern their lives and livelihoods. For example, when dust kicked up by mining trucks regularly caused health problems in one community, women successfully lobbied the mining company to frequently spray the road with water to prevent dust.



## Increasing economic and social freedoms in Palestine

We worked with Palestinian women to overcome traditional barriers to improve their status and transform their lives through economic empowerment and sustainable livelihoods. In 2019, we supported 85 women to strengthen their leadership in the community with training in communication, advocacy, campaigning, media, and leadership.

Women's groups in Hebron City supported by ActionAid raised awareness of their rights and mobilised for an end to discriminatory practices that keep them from realising their full potential. As women have become more informed of their rights and developed confidence in communicating and negotiating with local authorities, they have collectively worked to improve their status in the face of practices such as polygamy, early marriage, and lack of education and opportunities for paid employment.

“ My participation in the group helped me to know my rights and obligations, because of that I now have the courage to speak out and claim my rights.

Reflections from women's group participant supported by ActionAid.



Members of a Reflect Circle in Hebron City. Photo: ActionAid.



# Women's rights in emergencies

Women's needs on the frontlines of conflict and disaster are too often overlooked, jeopardising their rights and security and further adding to their burden of care work in crisis. When women are supported to lead humanitarian responses, they are not only effective and galvanising leaders – ensuring everyone in their community is protected – they also create new spaces for women to lead, taking important steps towards gender equality and social justice. In this way, emergencies can become opportunities for change.

“

Some women want to take leadership, but men overpower them. The men tell you, 'You can't do it,' and sometimes they even stop us from going to the meetings... We can overcome this if we mobilise women, if we learn, and we can have more trainings. This helps us become confident – the more you talk, the more you become a leader.

Esther Kume, community leader from Tanna

## Vanuatu's National Convening on Women's Leadership in Humanitarian Action

In July 2019, 70 Ni-Vanuatu women leaders joined us at Vanuatu's first ever National Women's Convening, co-hosted with ActionAid Vanuatu and Women I Tok Tok Tugeta (WITTT) to explore how women's leadership can improve humanitarian action in times of crisis. The Convening was an open space for direct dialogue with government authorities with

responsibility for disaster management, climate change and gender equality in the country, a rare opportunity for community women in Vanuatu who seldom get a say in local, let alone national government affairs.

Women used the opportunity to share their experiences in times of crises and put forward proposals to the

government about how women could be better supported to prepare for and lead responses to emergencies. Proposals included evacuation centres that cater to the needs of women, children and people with disabilities; livelihood alternatives; improved communication systems and increased education on climate change.

The Convening led to the birth of WITTT Sunshine, a forum which unites women with disabilities to lead humanitarian action.







Women should be leaders because they have the right to lead. We are aware of our rights, and we also have talents and skills that men do not have.

Natividad Rosales

## First Womenitarian Summit in the Philippines

The Philippines experiences around 20 typhoons a year yet women rarely have opportunities to lead the response and are often left out of decision making. So, in April 2019, through ActionAid's Arise Fund, we supported women from across the Philippines to come to Manila for the first ever Womenitarian Summit! Over 150 women from diverse backgrounds assembled to meet government and international humanitarian agencies to bring attention to the needs of women, and highlight

the fundamental role they play in rebuilding communities in the aftermath of a disaster.

Activists like Natividad Rosales spoke about changes in policies with Filipino candidates that would help to empower women. The women worked together to draft a declaration to hand to NGOs and government representatives addressing climate action, the need to respect the environment, gender-based violence and inclusive approaches to humanitarian response.



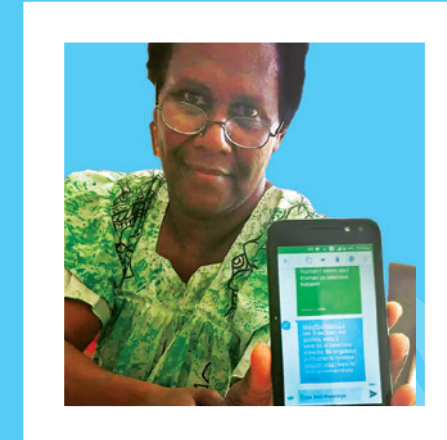
Women representing diverse backgrounds spoke at the Womenitarian Summit Photos: ActionAid.



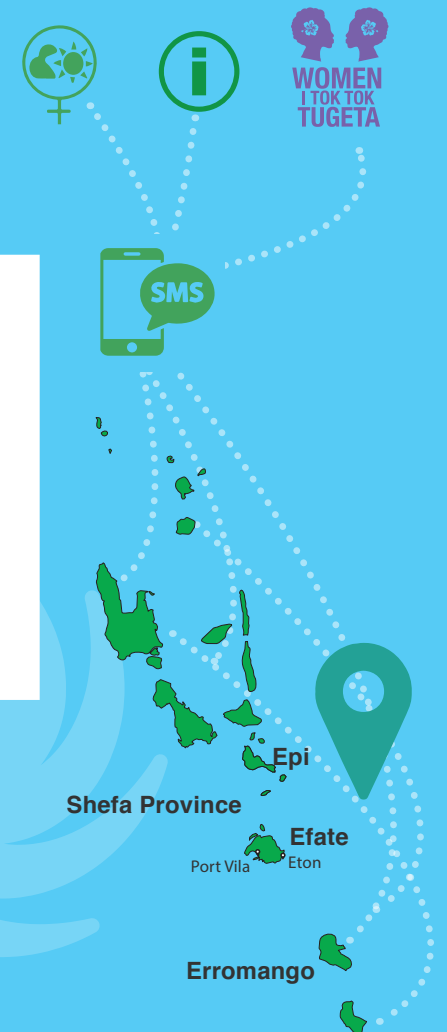
## Women's Weather Watch in Vanuatu

In Vanuatu, an innovative communication system has put information and technology in the hands of women leaders to communicate early warning and disaster preparedness messages. We officially launched Women Wetem Weta (Women's Weather Watch) in early 2019 through ActionAid's Arise Fund, and alongside ActionAid Vanuatu and Women I Tok Tok Tugeta.

The system uses bulk SMS to share clear messages in the local language to support women's agency in times of crises and assist women in remote communities to access information that will affect their health and livelihoods. Earthquakes and cyclones are not its only use. In September 2019, in partnership with Digicel Vanuatu, women sent out alerts to mobilise women ahead of the global climate strike, reaching a network of more than 77,000 people.



Community mobiliser, Leiwia Poki shows a WWW text message. Photo: ActionAid.



## Arise Fund - enabling transformative change

Supporting women on the frontlines of crisis has never been more pressing. In 2019, we witnessed devastating cyclones, famine and floods. We established the Arise Fund to support women to prepare their communities for disasters and to lead in times of crisis. The Arise Leadership Circle encompasses women leaders across business, media and philanthropy who share the same vision of transformational change for women across the world. So far we have raised over \$2.9 million, which has directly supported the leadership of 22,716 women in 15 countries. Together these inspiring women have impacted 174,731 lives affected by crisis.



**So far we have raised over \$2.9 million, which has directly supported the leadership of 22,716 women in 15 countries.**



# People power

## Building our activist network

We trained 100 activists in cities all over the countries to lead campaigning efforts for women's economic and climate justice in their communities. This included how to build and manage groups, feminist leadership, and engagement with their representatives. 16 activists used their new skills to arrange meetings with their MPs and Senators to promote the 'Transform

Trade for Women' campaign. With this support, activists have now built strong relationships with about 20 MPs and Senators.

Activists have been mobilising in their communities to raise awareness about campaigns and build a growing activist community committed to global justice. Events have included clothes swaps, banner making for the climate strikes,

and activism over dinner events, often in collaboration with other women's groups.

Our growing activist community is also part of ActionAid's annual Assembly engaging with board, staff, partners and donors to inform our strategic directions and priorities.



Through leading a group of activists in my local community, I've been a part of a people-powered movement that is standing up for women's rights all over the world. This movement that we're central to, as activists, is scaling up every day to drive ActionAid's campaigns forward.

D'Arcy Horam, local activist with our ActionAid Australia Inner West group

Activists and staff travelled to Parliament House Canberra to campaign against the RCEP trade deal. Photo: ActionAid.





# Thank you for 10 years of support

We are so grateful to have more than 34,000 active supporters who take campaign actions, volunteer their time and skills, attend events, and financially support our work with women around the world. In 2019, we celebrated 10 years of ActionAid in Australia with a Thank You Day – calling donors, writing thank you cards and creating a video message to send to our supporters.





# Raising our profile

Frocking Hilarious had its biggest year yet with three events in Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane. More than 2000 people joined us for a night of laughter with some of the brightest stars of comedy. Our hosts – ActionAid Ambassador Claire Hooper, Nikki Britton and Kirsty Webeck – kept the laughs rolling while keeping the purpose of the night – raising funds to support women’s rights – firmly in sight. In Melbourne we introduced a new innovation, a text-to-donate system that doubled donations.



ActionAid volunteers at the Brisbane Frocking Hilarious event. Photo: ActionAid.



Judith Lucy and journalist Tory Shepherd. Photo: ActionAid.

Throughout the year we hosted supporter events in cities around the country to promote our work with women around the world. Our ambassador, Judith Lucy joined us for ‘In Conversation’ events to highlight women’s leadership in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew in Haiti. And with the support of our corporate partners Hall & Wilcox, Deloitte Private, and King & Wood Mallesons we held events in Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney to raise the profile of the Arise Fund and to celebrate women humanitarians on World Humanitarian Day.



Judith Lucy



Annie Louey



Mary Coustas



Claire Hooper



Katrine Hildyard MP, Judith Lucy, Michelle Higelin, Tory Shepherd and Arise Leadership Circle member Natasha Stott Despoja AO. Photo: ActionAid.



# Growing our resources

**Our supporters raised more than \$3 million in 2019 to support ActionAid's work around the world**



More than 900 people registered for our third Strong Women Challenge to build their physical and inner strength while raising money to support women fighting for their rights around the world.

With a slick new website, the revamped 21-day challenge was led

by ambassadors Ali Cavill, Tara Simich, Amelia Phillips and Kimberley Chan and was featured in Marie Claire. Thanks to Intrepid and Village Roadshow for providing incentives for participants.

We also launched a new peer-to-peer fundraising initiative, Trek for Her Rights.

10 women signed up for the trip of a lifetime to Nepal to meet community women leaders and be inspired by their passion for women's rights and stories of resilience and leadership.





# Our supporters

The important work highlighted in this report would not be possible without the continued loyalty of our most generous supporters, activists and volunteers around the country.

We sincerely thank each and every one for their important contribution to our work, collectively supporting women to challenge injustice and inequality and to claim their rights.

We would especially like to acknowledge the following members of the ActionAid family for their ongoing and significant commitment to our work:

## Individuals

- Debby and Keith Badger
- Paul W Bartlett
- Nan Brown
- Evie Bruce
- Mary G Bush
- Jenny Donald
- James Goth
- Susan Maple-Brown
- Anne Miller
- Rosemary Rajola
- Greg Shalit and Miriam Faine
- Kristina Stefanova
- Hilary Wallace

## Organisations

- Ashurst
- The Beeren Foundation
- Billeroy Farms Pty Ltd
- Colin Biggers & Paisley
- S&J Cook Family Foundation
- Deloitte Private
- Dick and Pip Smith Foundation
- Douglas & Philip Young Charitable Trust
- DLA Piper
- Hall & Wilcox
- The Intrepid Foundation
- JLDJS Foundation
- King & Wood Mallesons

- Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
- The Madden Sainsbury Foundation
- Minter Ellison
- The Norman Family
- The Planet Wheeler Foundation
- Sparke Helmore Lawyers

## Institutions

- The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)

## Ambassadors

- Claire Hooper
- Judith Lucy
- Tracey Spicer

## Strong Women Challenge Ambassadors

- Ali Cavill
- Tara Simich
- Amelia Phillips
- Kimberley Chan

## Arise Leadership Circle

- Kristina Stefanova (Chair)
- Carole Brownlee
- Evie Bruce
- Shivani Gopal
- Sarah Morton-Ramwell
- Robyn Nixon
- Angela Priestley
- Natasha Stott Despoja AO



ActionAid Australia activists in Western Sydney organised a clothes swap at Bankstown Arts Centre, NSW to share the importance of sustainability in the fashion industry. This event was part of our #TransformTradeForWomen campaign to stop the Australian Government from signing the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Photo: E Yahya/ActionAid.



# Our Board

### Executive Director

Michelle Higelin  
BA Comms, MIR

Executive Director, ActionAid Australia. Over 20 years' experience working to advance women's rights in Australia and internationally. Former Deputy General Secretary of the World YWCA, and CEO, YWCA Australia.

*Executive Director since 1 August 2017.*

### Board President

Jeremy Hobbs  
BA, B.SocWk

Director of Development Essentials. Former roles include: Executive Director and founding board member of Oxfam International; Executive Director of Oxfam Australia; Chair of INGO Accountability Charter; Board member of the International Civil Society Centre.

*Director since 15 August 2014. Appointed President 2 June 2018.*

### Board Vice-President

Megs Alston  
LLB (Melb) Dip ED (Melb)

Member Advisory Committee, Friends of Suai, City of Port Phillip. Former roles include: Consultant, St Vincent's Health Regional Advisory Council; Program Quality Advisor, Save the Children Australia; Business Development Consultant, RMIT International Projects; Program Director, Australian Volunteers International.

*Director since 16 June 2011. Appointed Vice-President 16 May 2012.*

### Board Director

Susan Brennan  
SCBA/LLB (Hons), Barrister at Law

Barrister specialising in town planning and environmental law. Former President and Vice President, World YWCA.

*Director since 24 February 2011.*

### Board Treasurer

Carole Brownlee  
B.CommFCPA

Chief Operating Officer, Roadshow Films Group. Former Senior Finance Executive, Village Roadshow Group and Finance Director Roadshow Films.

*Director since 16 December 2014. Appointed Treasurer 16 December 2014.*

### Board Director

Nicci Dent  
MFIA, HND BTEC in Art and Design Diploma

CEO, Heart Research Australia. Former roles include: Head of Fundraising, Mission Australia; National Fundraising Director, the Heart Foundation; Director of Fundraising, MSF. Various fundraising roles with Amnesty International and the Wilderness Society.

*Director since 30 January 2014.*

### Board Director

Manzoor Hasan  
BSc (Econ), Dip Law, Barrister at Law

Executive Director of the Centre for Peace and Justice of BRAC University. Former roles include: Executive Director, BRAC Institute of Governance & Development; Deputy Executive Director, BRAC; founding Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh; Chair, United Nations Convention Against Corruption Coalition.

*Ex-officio Director 7 December 2019.*

### Board Director

Belinda Morrissey  
B Ec (Adel) GradCert Philanthropy & Social Investment, GradDipAppFin.

Chief Executive Officer, English Family Foundation. Former roles include: Grantmaking and Evaluation Manager, Australian Philanthropic Services; Director Philanthropic Development and Executive Officer, Sydney Community Foundation; General Manager, goodcompany Foundation; Manager - Corporate Social Responsibility, ING Australia.

*Director since 29 November 2018.*

### Board Director

Claire Van Heyningen  
M Mgt&BusAdmin (UTS)

Managing Director for Mirum and Partner at Wunderman Thompson. Former roles include: Consultant for 1440, We are Social, Red Planet; Group Head and Group Head of Digital, M&C Saatchi Group Australia; Digital Client Service Director, One Green Bean; Head of Digital, Production Director and Senior Executive Producer, Host; Executive Producer, Holler.

*Director since 13 November 2018.*



ActionAid Australia Board members Photo:ActionAid.



# Finances

During 2019, ActionAid Australia's operating revenue decreased by 25% to \$5.3 million. The decrease was due to lower donations and grants income received in 2019 compared to 2018, offset by higher bequest income compared with the previous year.

Public funds raised totalled \$3 million and comprised 59% of operating revenue for the year, compared to 48% in the previous year. Public funds included donations and gifts received from the Australian public as well as non-monetary income such as volunteer and pro bono services. In 2019 ActionAid Australia also received funds

from donors who left gifts in their wills, totalling \$941,494.

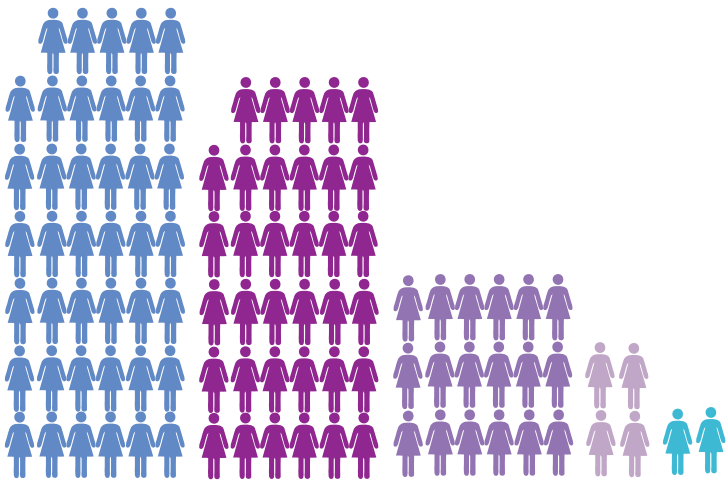
Grant income contributed to 38% of operating revenue at \$2 million. Of this, \$1.9 million came from DFAT and \$0.1 million from other Australian and overseas sources. Interest income received was \$98,578 and other income was \$87,888.

ActionAid Australia's total expenditure for 2019 decreased by 13% to \$7 million. Our total program expenditure was 62% of the total expenditure. Of this, overseas program expenditure was \$3.5m (50%) and campaigning

in Australia was \$0.9m (12%). While ActionAid had an operating deficit, this was a planned deficit covered by a large bequest received in 2016, which has been directed to expand programming and campaigns.

Fundraising accounted for 20% of the total expenditure, a 4% increase from 2018. This increase has been supported by an Investment Fund designed to grow income over the long term for ActionAid's overseas programming. Accountability and administration costs represented 17% of total expenditure.

## INCOME



- 41% Donations & gifts - monetary
- 35% DFAT grants
- 18% Bequests and legacies
- 4% Investment & other income
- 2% Other grants

## EXPENDITURE



- 62% Program and campaign expenditure
- 20% Fundraising costs
- 17% Accountability & administration
- 1% Non-monetary expenditure

## Statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income

For the year ended 31 December 2019

|   | Year ended<br>31 December 2019<br>Restricted<br>\$ | Year ended<br>31 December 2019<br>Unrestricted<br>\$ | Year ended<br>31 December 2019<br>Total<br>\$ | Year ended<br>31 December 2018<br>Total<br>\$ |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| <strong>REVENUE</strong>  |  |  |   |   |
| <strong>OPERATING REVENUE</strong>  |  |  |   |   |
| Donations and gifts   |  |  |   |   |
| - Monetary  | 341,665  | 1,743,439  | 2,085,104                                     | 2,895,509                                     |
| - Non-monetary  | -  | 68,312   | 68,312  | 33,774  |
| Bequests and legacies   | -  | 941,494  | 941,494                                       | 467,037                                       |
| Grants  |  |  |   |   |
| - DFAT <sup>1</sup>   | 1,868,608  | -  | 1,868,608                                     | 3,115,883                                     |
| - Other Australian  | 111,000  | -  | 111,000                                       | 259,000                                       |
| - Other overseas  | 21,000   | -  | 21,000  | 28,940  |
| Investment income   | -  | 98,578   | 98,578  | 146,481                                       |
| Other income  | 3,654  | 84,234   | 87,888  | 67,906  |
| <strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong>  | <strong>2,345,927</strong>                         | <strong>2,936,057</strong>                           | <strong>5,281,984</strong>                    | <strong>7,014,531</strong>                    |
| <strong>EXPENDITURE</strong>  |  |  |   |   |
| International programs:   |  |  |   |   |
| - Funds to programmes   | 2,428,413  | 174,366  | 2,602,779                                     | 3,573,156                                     |
| - Program support costs   | 289,583  | 607,368  | 896,951                                       | 1,063,228                                     |
| Community education   | -  | 889,739  | 889,739                                       | 895,614                                       |
| Fundraising costs:  |  |  |   |   |
| - Public  | 194,348  | 1,217,159  | 1,411,507                                     | 1,297,243                                     |
| Accountability and administration   | -  | 1,178,896  | 1,178,896                                     | 1,136,133                                     |
| Non-monetary expenditure  | -  | 68,312   | 68,312  | 33,774  |
| <strong>Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure</strong> | <strong>2,912,345</strong>                         | <strong>4,135,840</strong>                           | <strong>7,048,184</strong>                    | <strong>7,999,148</strong>                    |
| <strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</strong>  | <strong>2,912,345</strong>                         | <strong>4,135,840</strong>                           | <strong>7,048,184</strong>                    | <strong>7,999,148</strong>                    |
| - Operating excess/(shortfall) over expenditure                               | (566,417)  | (1,199,783)  | (1,766,200)                                   | (984,617)                                     |
| <strong>TOTAL EXCESS/(SHORTFALL) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURE</strong>         | <strong>(566,417)</strong>                         | <strong>(1,199,783)</strong>                         | <strong>(1,766,200)</strong>                  | <strong>(984,617)</strong>                    |
| <strong>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME/(LOSS)</strong>                            | <strong>(566,417)</strong>                         | <strong>(1,199,783)</strong>                         | <strong>(1,766,200)</strong>                  | <strong>(984,617)</strong>                    |

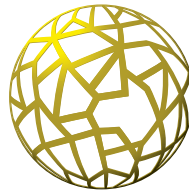
1. DFAT Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The full financial report for the year ended 31 December 2019 is available on request via the ActionAid Australia website at [www.actionaid.org.au](http://www.actionaid.org.au).

This 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 a signatory of the Code and in full compliance.

For further information on the Code please visit [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au).

Any complaints against ActionAid Australia can be emailed to [complaints.au@actionaid.org](mailto: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.



## Statement of financial position

For the year ended 31 December 2019

|                                      | 31 December 2019<br>\$ | 31 December 2018<br>\$ |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                        |                        |                        |
| <b>Current assets</b>                |                        |                        |
| Cash and cash equivalents            | 6,526,555              | 7,682,322              |
| Trade and other assets               | 252,585                | 85,525                 |
| <b>Total current assets</b>          | <b>6,779,140</b>       | <b>7,767,847</b>       |
| <b>Non-current assets</b>            |                        |                        |
| Property, plant and equipment        | 13,218                 | 32,570                 |
| <b>Total non-current assets</b>      | <b>13,218</b>          | <b>32,570</b>          |
| <b>Total assets</b>                  | <b>6,792,358</b>       | <b>7,800,417</b>       |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                   |                        |                        |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>           |                        |                        |
| Trade and other payables             | 1,072,983              | 889,960                |
| Provisions - employee benefits       | 201,068                | 208,701                |
| Other - deferred revenue             | 1,918,548              | 1,332,983              |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>     | <b>3,192,599</b>       | <b>2,431,644</b>       |
| <b>Non-current liabilities</b>       |                        |                        |
| Provisions - employee benefits       | 58,406                 | 61,220                 |
| <b>Total non-current liabilities</b> | <b>58,406</b>          | <b>61,220</b>          |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>             | <b>3,251,005</b>       | <b>2,492,865</b>       |
| <b>Net assets</b>                    | <b>3,541,353</b>       | <b>5,307,552</b>       |
| <b>EQUITY</b>                        |                        |                        |
| Restricted funds capital reserve     | 2,272,829              | 2,467,177              |
| Restricted funds other reserves      | 426,641                | 798,710                |
| Unrestricted funds reserves          | 50,000                 | 50,000                 |
| Retained earnings                    | 791,883                | 1,991,665              |
| <b>Total equity</b>                  | <b>3,541,353</b>       | <b>5,307,552</b>       |

As at 31 December 2019 of ActionAid Australia's total assets of \$6.8m, \$6.5m was held as cash, with around 81% of this amount being held in short-term term deposits at banks. The organisation's largest liability, at \$1.9m, 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 these projects.

## Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 31 December 2019

|  | Retained earnings<br>\$ | Restricted funds reserves<br>\$ | Unrestricted funds reserves<br>\$ | Total undistributed funds<br>\$ |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Opening balance at 1 January 2018</b>         | 3,225,679               | 3,016,490                       | 50,000                            | 6,292,169                       |
| Deficit for the year                             | (984,617)               | -                               | -                                 | (984,617)                       |
| <b>Total comprehensive income</b>                | <b>(984,617)</b>        | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>                          | <b>(984,617)</b>                |
| Transfers to/(from) reserves:                    | (249,397)               | 249,397                         | -                                 | -                               |
| <b>Total Closing Balance at 31 December 2018</b> | <b>1,991,665</b>        | <b>3,265,887</b>                | <b>50,000</b>                     | <b>5,307,552</b>                |

|  | Retained earnings<br>\$ | Restricted funds reserves<br>\$ | Unrestricted funds reserves<br>\$ | Total undistributed funds<br>\$ |
|--|-------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Opening balance at 1 January 2019</b>         | 1,991,665               | 3,265,887                       | 50,000                            | 5,307,552                       |
| Deficit for the year                             | (1,766,200)             | -                               | -                                 | (1,766,200)                     |
| <b>Total comprehensive income</b>                | <b>(1,766,200)</b>      | <b>-</b>                        | <b>-</b>                          | <b>(1,766,200)</b>              |
| Transfers to/(from) reserves:                    | 566,417                 | (566,417)                       | -                                 | -                               |
| <b>Total Closing Balance at 31 December 2019</b> | <b>791,883</b>          | <b>2,699,470</b>                | <b>50,000</b>                     | <b>3,541,353</b>                |
| <b>Restricted funds reserve comprised of:</b>    |                         |                                 |                                   |                                 |
| - Capital Reserve                                |                         | 2,272,829                       |                                   |                                 |
| - Other Restricted Reserves                      |                         | 426,641                         |                                   |                                 |

For the year ended 31 December 2019 ActionAid Australia's retained earnings decreased by \$1.2m, its restricted funds reserve decreased by \$0.57m over the year and we ended 2019 with a total reserve of \$3.5m. Retained earnings include a large bequest received in 2016 which will be utilised by the end of 2020 which has been earmarked for support to programming and campaigns. ActionAid Australia spends funds prudently to ensure they are best used for long-term, sustainable outcomes.

## Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 31 December 2019

|  | Year ended<br>31 December 2019<br>\$ | Year ended<br>31 December 2018<br>\$ |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>                    |                                      |                                      |
| Cash receipts from appeals, donations & fundraising activities | 3,026,598                            | 3,362,546                            |
| Cash receipts from DFAT grants                                 | 2,972,402                            | 1,694,997                            |
| Cash receipts from other grants                                | -                                    | 412,940                              |
| Proceeds from other activities                                 | 53,307                               | 337,795                              |
| Interest received  | 98,578                               | 146,481                              |
| Cash payments to suppliers and employees                       | (2,633,827)                          | (2,526,835)                          |
| Cash payments for project expenditure                          | (4,664,725)                          | (5,531,997)                          |
| <b>Net cash (used in) operating activities</b>                 | <b>(1,147,667)</b>                   | <b>(2,104,073)</b>                   |
| <b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>                    |                                      |                                      |
| Payments for property, plant and equipment                     | (8,100)                              | (12,193)                             |
| <b>Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities</b>     | <b>(8,100)</b>                       | <b>(12,193)</b>                      |
| <b>Net (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>             | <b>(1,155,767)</b>                   | <b>(2,116,266)</b>                   |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year</b>          | <b>7,682,322</b>                     | <b>9,798,589</b>                     |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>                | <b>6,526,555</b>                     | <b>7,682,322</b>                     |

At 31 December 2019, ActionAid Australia had no cash flows from financing activities.

The cash position of ActionAid Australia during 2019 decreased by \$1.2 million; this is mainly due to increased cash receipts from DFAT during the year offset against reduced disbursements of funds to projects during the year.



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

### Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2019, 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 2019.

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on that financial report in our report dated 16 May 2020.

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



### Vishal Modi

ASIC Registered Company Auditor no.: 486119

Dated at Sydney, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 2020

### Assurance Partners

Hill Rogers Assurance Partners | ABN 56 435 338 966  
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Front cover; Nomnqa is a member of the Women from Mining-Affected Communities United in Action (WAMUA) group, through which she has received training in gender equality and women's rights. Photo: Miora Rajaonary.

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