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Annual Report

ActionAid Australia

July – December 2009

CEO's message

**IT HAS BEEN A BUSY FEW MONTHS SINCE WE
TRANSITIONED FROM AUSTCARE TO ACTIONAID AND ALSO
A CHALLENGING PERIOD FOR THE WORLD AS A WHOLE.**



The world has been through a particularly rough period in the last few months: there was the failure of world leaders to negotiate a binding agreement on climate change in Copenhagen, the spectacular burst of the Dubai bubble adding to the existing troubles of the global economy, the enormous suffering from a potential famine in Eastern Africa and then the unprecedented human catastrophe that occurred more recently as a result of the Haiti earthquake.

The earthquake in Haiti in mid-January has led to a massive loss of life, the displacement of millions and has set human development back generations. ActionAid has been actively working with Haitians to ensure that poor people have

the right to food, water and shelter maintained during the immediate aftermath of the emergency. We worked with community committees in camps to ensure that people who are poor were engaged with all decisions made in the camps and they were able to claim their human rights. This approach ensured

that women were protected from the continued threat of sexual and gender based violence, particularly rape.

ActionAid is committed to working with people who are poor to enable them to have their human rights fulfilled, protected and respected. During the six months of this reporting period we completed a field manual for integrating community-based protection across humanitarian programs, titled *Safety with Dignity*. This is an extensive piece of work which provides a series of human rights-based tools to enable people at risk from disaster and conflict to reduce their vulnerability to violence. *Safety with Dignity* makes a valuable contribution to increasing our organisational accountability towards rights holders. We believe that downward accountability to those with whom we work is central to our legitimacy and the views of rights holders are indeed the basis of our programming and campaigning work.

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As part of Austcare's transition to ActionAid Australia the organisation has changed its financial reporting period to calendar years, commencing 1 January 2010. This report covers the transitional period from July to December 2009.

Contents

2. CEO's message
4. From the President
5. Mission & vision
Board of Directors, Donor list.
6. Where we work
8. Reducing disaster risk: Nepal
10. Rebuilding livelihoods:
occupied Palestinian territories
12. Strengthening rural communities:
Cambodia
14. Helping refugees connect: Jordan
16. Campaigning for change
18. Growing our support base
20. Financial commentary



One of ActionAid's major successes in 2009 was the launch of our campaigns team. Pictured: an ActionAid volunteer gathers signatures in Sydney for a petition on World Food Day (16 October 2009).

One of our major successes in 2009 was establishing our campaigns team. The team hit the ground running with our participation in the global ActionAid *HungerFREE* campaign - in particular, the international launch of our report *Who's Really Fighting Hunger*, on World Food Day. This report received extensive media coverage and accolades from academia and peers alike.

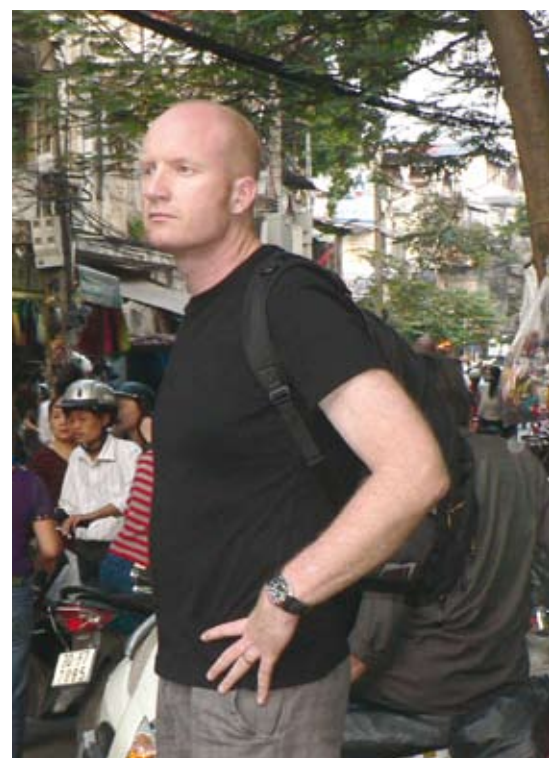
We are also focused on growing our financial support in Australia to help us deliver more long-term development work around the world. This involves investing in face-to-face fundraising to recruit regular givers as child sponsors and ActionAid Activists. I'm pleased to report that in the six months to December 2009 we managed to almost double our number of regular givers as a result of our increased investment. Best of all, our enlarged supporter base will

provide a sustainable funding basis for our long-term development work and campaigning.

Our achievements over this period were the result of the hard work of the people, communities, supporters and partners we work with. In particular I would like to thank our loyal supporters in Australia for your continuous support during the year and for your generous and enthusiastic response to our Haiti Emergency Appeal. I also wish to thank our President, The Hon John Dowd AO QC, his fellow directors and the staff and volunteers at ActionAid Australia, whose passion for fighting poverty and fighting for justice continues to inspire me.

In solidarity,

Archie Law
CEO
ActionAid Australia



Archie Law, CEO of ActionAid Australia, on a field trip to Vietnam, November 2009.

President's report

THE SECOND HALF OF 2009 WAS A PERIOD OF TRANSITION FOR ACTIONAID AUSTRALIA, WITH GROWTH IN OUR AREAS OF WORK, SOURCES OF FUNDING AND CAMPAIGNING ACTIVITIES.



The Hon
John Dowd AO QC

I want to commend our Chief Executive Officer Archie Law and his team for the magnificent way in which they have handled the transition from Austcare to ActionAid Australia. Importantly, the organisation has maintained its strong Australian foundation, but is now part of a worldwide network, taking sides with poor people to end poverty and injustice together.

This network proved extremely valuable in the recent and ongoing crisis in Haiti, where we were able to channel our relief efforts through the existing ActionAid Haiti team. So far, ActionAid Australia has contributed over \$580,000 towards relief and longer-term development work in the country.

There is an evolving focus on community based protection in our international program that is now being outreached throughout ActionAid and other non-governmental organisations.

We have increased our focus from human security and women's rights to the right to food and the right to education as demonstrated by our commitment to ActionAid's global *HungerFREE* campaign and our leadership role in bringing the Global Campaign for Education's

1GOAL: Education For All initiative to Australia. These campaigns have drawn on the strength of ActionAid's technical and thematic capacity to bring a new voice to the international development community in Australia.

We have also renewed our commitment to growing a large and sustainable public support base in Australia. This involves increasing our investment in public fundraising to build our new Child Sponsorship and Activist regular giving programs. These programs will help us increase the funding for our overseas projects in the coming years, enabling more people living in poverty to claim their rights.

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Financially, we recorded a surplus for the six months of \$170,567, with over \$2.4 million in total used for projects working towards ending poverty in Africa, the Middle East and the Asia Pacific region.

I want to acknowledge the work of the ActionAid Protection Chapter and the financial support and gifts-in-kind that these four legal firms have provided. I also want to thank our many dedicated volunteers for their valuable contribution to the work of ActionAid in Australia.

The board thanks Barbara Young AO, who retired from the board in October 2009, for her valuable contribution to Austcare and ActionAid and we look forward to working with our newest board member Sonia Zavesky. Sonia brings considerable media experience to ActionAid that will help us take our mission to our existing supporters and the broader community.

I also acknowledge the contribution of The Honourable Dr Meredith Burgmann who concluded her appointment as Ambassador for Women upon her election as President of the Australian Council for International Development.

We welcome The Honourable Susan Ryan AO as our Ambassador for Women, whose experience and network will enhance our fight for women's rights around the world.

Finally, I'd like to thank our wonderful donors for their continued support. I look forward to a successful 2010.

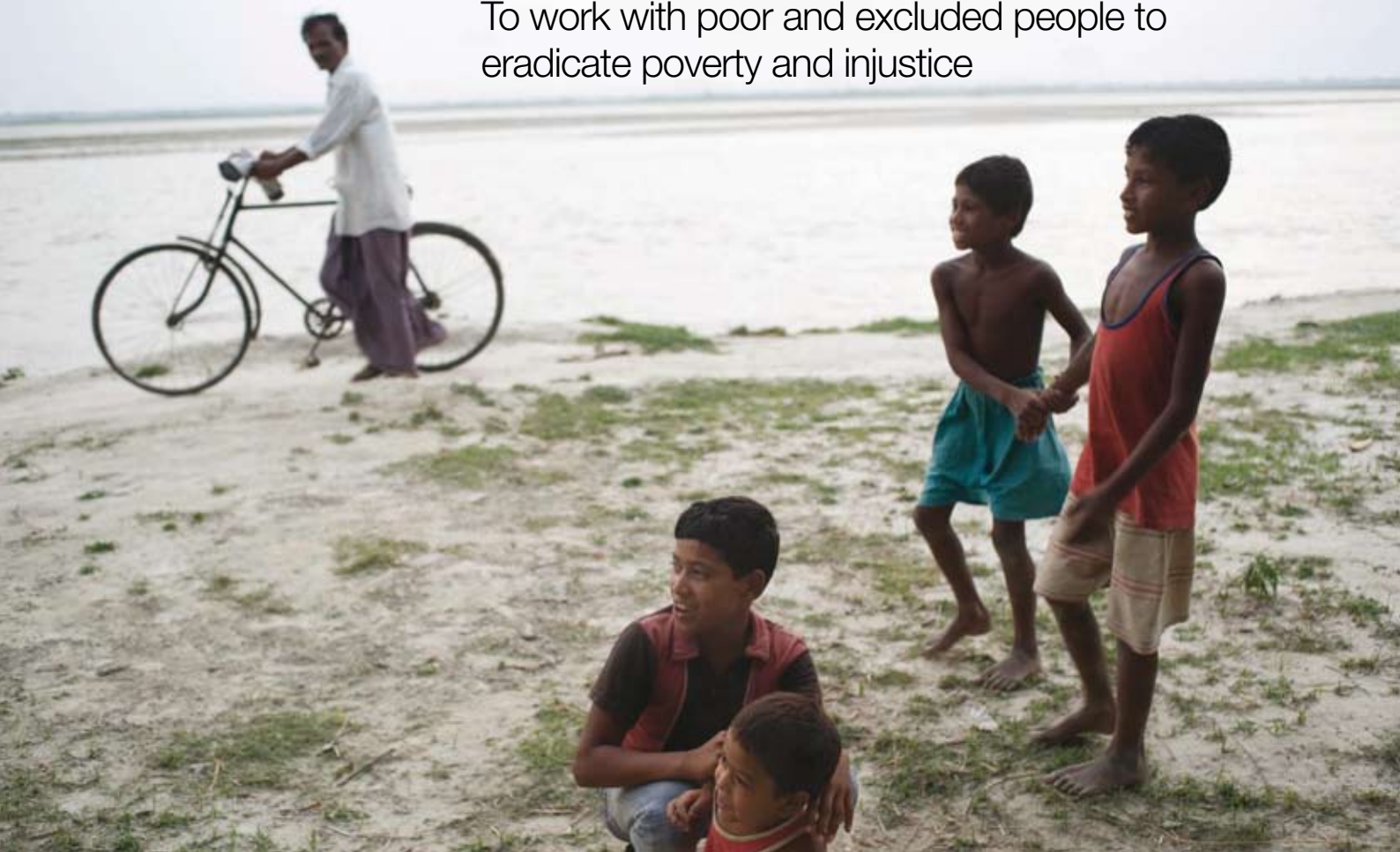
**The Honourable
John Dowd AO QC
President
ActionAid Australia**

VISION

A world without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys the right to a life with dignity

MISSION

To work with poor and excluded people to eradicate poverty and injustice



Major Donors and Partners

Government Donors

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID)
Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC)
Wollongong Council

Trusts and Foundations

Robert Christie Foundation
The Charitable Foundation

Community Fundraisers

Mr Michael Harriden
Mr Arie Van Klinken
FINCARE
Ride for Water

International Donors

ActionAid International
Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)
International Organisation for Migration (IOM)

United States Department of State
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

United Nations Agencies / Partners

United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)
Protection Capacity Standby Project (ProCap)

Board of Directors

The Hon John Dowd AO QC
Chancellor Southern Cross University
Director from 28 April 2008
President from 1 July 2009

Bill Armstrong AO
Former CEO, Australian
Volunteers International
Director from 26 February 2003
Vice-President from 1 July 2009

Archie Law was appointed Company Secretary from 1 July 2009

Pamela Greet
Director Commercial Analysis and
Infrastructure, Sport and
Recreation Services, Department of
Communities, Queensland
Director from 19 November 1998

Tuong Quang Luu AO
Former Head of SBS Radio
Director from 8 February 2007

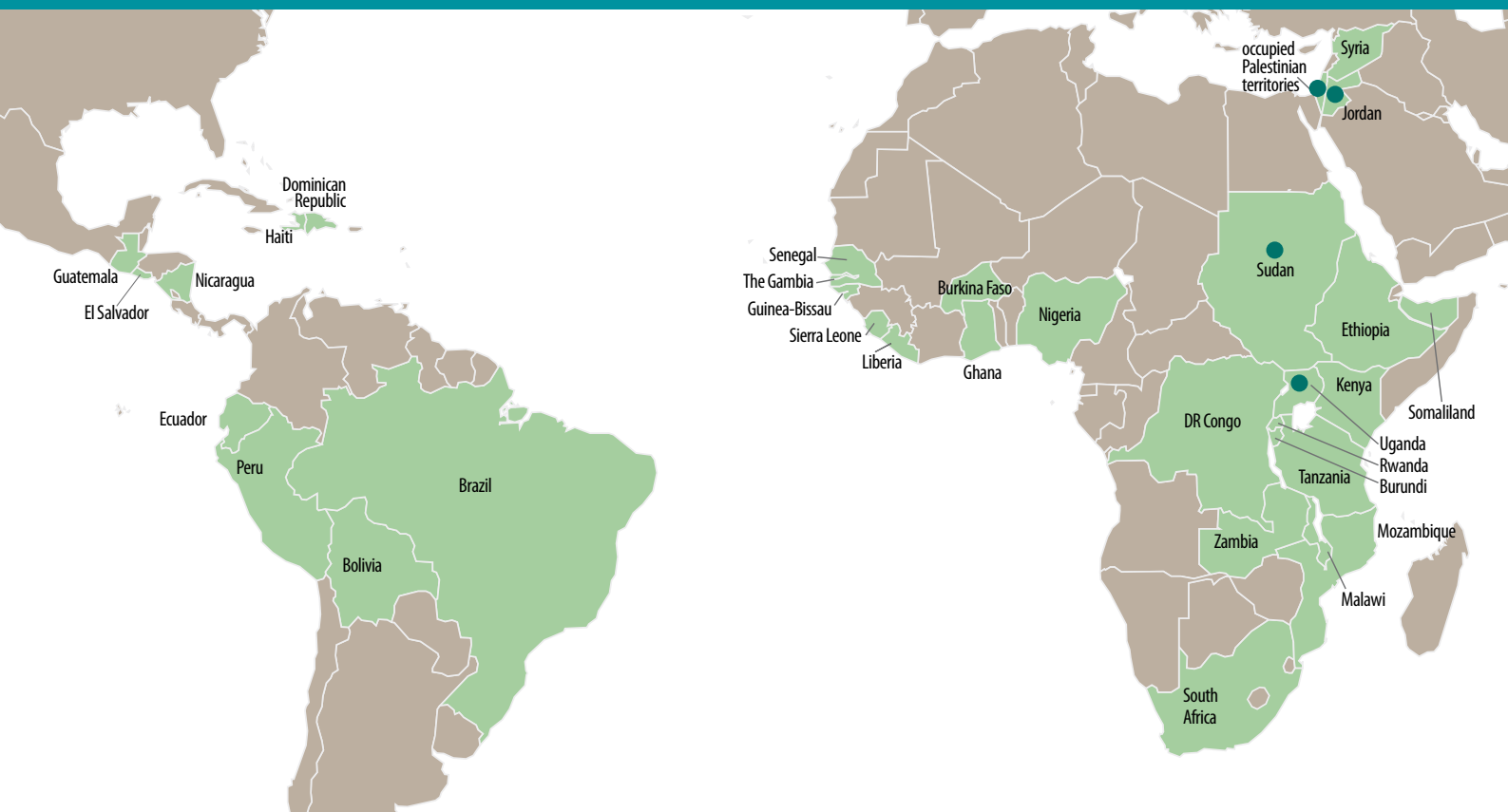
Kevin Bailey CFP FFFA
Principal and Private Client
Adviser, Shadforth Financial Group
Director from 24 July 2007

Dr Sekai Shand
Former Director of Policy and
Communications at
World Vision Australia
Director from 3 June 2009

Sonia Zavesky
Media and Crisis Communication
Trainer and Consultant
Director from 4 November 2009

Barbara Young AO
Former Chair, Refugee Council of
Australia
Director from 30 May 1986
Chairperson from 16 September 1993
Resigned on 22 October 2009

Where we work



ACTIONAID AUSTRALIA INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS SUMMARY OF PROJECTS: 1 JULY – 31 DECEMBER 2009

Australia

Publication of *Safety with Dignity*, a field manual for integrating community-based protection across humanitarian programs.

Development of a paper for the Humanitarian Practice Network on Community-Based protection for submission to the Overseas Development Institute.

Bangladesh

Supported skills training and conflict resolution activities within the camps of Cox's Bazar inhabited by Rohingya refugees from Myanmar and the surrounding host communities.

Deployed Community Services Officer working with UNHCR to profile urban refugee populations in Dhaka.

Burma/Myanmar

Rehabilitation in Myanmar following Cyclone Nargis including rebuilding the livelihoods of affected communities.

Provided training in business skills, financial management and community based disaster risk reduction plans.

Cambodia

Integrated landmine and development program and land rights awareness in Banteay Meanchey Province.

Support for vulnerable groups, through the provision of water, agricultural training and inputs, and skills trainings.

Established land advisory groups to provide support and consultation to communities on land issues such as land law and property rights.

School renovation and water and Sanitation activities in Otdar Meanchey and Banteay Meanchey Provinces.

Capacity building for disabled people in Korng Pisei as part of new Child Sponsorship program.

Indonesia

Strengthened civil society through small grants funding, women's programs, agricultural training, and increased access to social services.

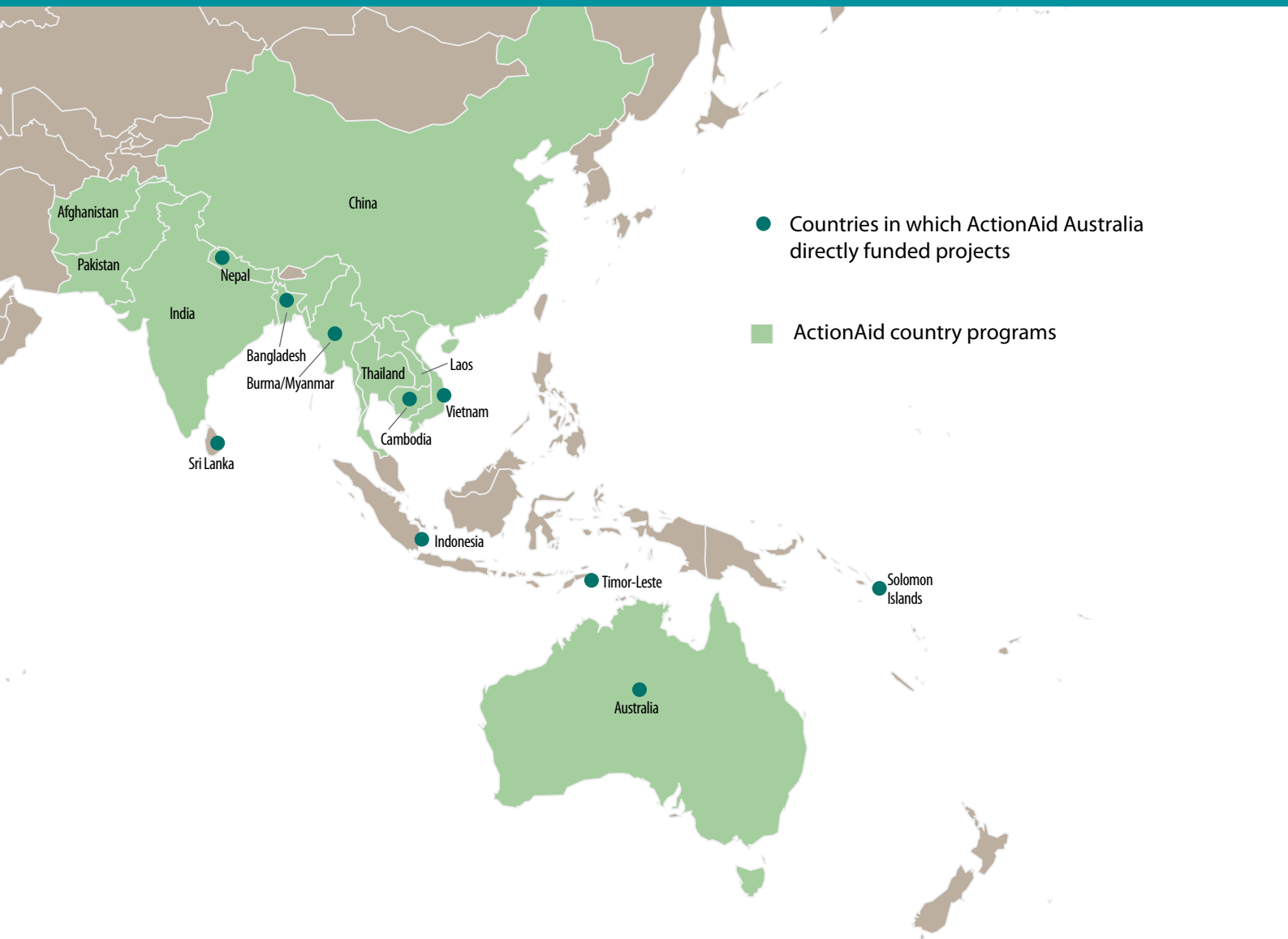
Improving education services through training of teachers; provision of educational materials; increased access to water and sanitation services and improving school infrastructure in Kupang.

Deployment of a Protection Officer to work with ActionAid International and UNFPA on protection issues facing women, the elderly and persons with disabilities following the Padang earthquake.

Jordan

Assisting Iraqi refugees and their host communities by creating enhanced community cohesion and empowering vulnerable communities to implement self-help actions.

Development of safe spaces that facilitate information exchange and create linkages among and between refugee and host communities.



Nepal

Building disaster resilient communities by strengthening the capacities of the community and local institutions and protecting rights of people vulnerable to disasters.

Occupied Palestinian territories West Bank

Strengthened livelihoods and community resilience with communities in Arroub Refugee Camp and Shouykh Al-Arroub Village.

Established neighbourhood corners in the West Bank to reduce the vulnerability of Palestinians by improving livelihoods and service access.

Global Protection Advisor based in Ramallah to enhance the protection understanding and programming within the ActionAid network, while extrapolating key lessons for inclusion into the field protection manual.

Gaza

Building on emergency response activities, restoring and enhancing the livelihoods of 250 vulnerable women and their families in Gaza through the provision of grants and capacity building for women in business management and technical training.

Solomon Islands

Building the capacity of local partner organisations to integrate protection into disaster risk reduction programs.

Sudan

One Field Protection Officer deployed with UNHCR and one Humanitarian Affairs Officer working with UNOCHA to contribute to a coordinated response to ongoing protection needs in Darfur.

Sri Lanka

Two Field Protection Officers deployed with UNHCR to contribute to monitoring, reporting and responding to the protection needs of IDP communities.

One Child Protection Officer working with UNICEF to coordinate the emergency child protection response in Vavuniya.

Timor-Leste

Research to analyse causes and impacts of armed violence and to influence policy development and future programming to prevent violence.

Community-based disaster risk management, including risk vulnerability assessments and mitigation activities.

Uganda

ActionAid Australia established a child sponsorship program in Kapchorwa district, eastern Uganda.

Reducing disaster risk: Nepal

IN TWO DISTRICTS IN NEPAL, ACTIONAID IS WORKING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO MAKE THEM MORE RESILIENT BY HELPING THEM BETTER PREPARE FOR DISASTERS THROUGH AWARENESS RAISING AND COMMUNITY-LEVEL PLANNING.

Nepalese people are no strangers to natural disasters. Their lives are all too often punctuated by droughts, floods, earthquakes and landslides.

The districts of Banke and Sunsari are particularly disaster prone. Not only do they lie in earthquake zones, but are faced with annual flooding that displaces residents on a regular basis.

In the most recent floods of 2008, over 220,000 people had to leave their homes. In the past, these areas have had no emergency plans to cope with these disasters or measures in place to reduce the impact of the flooding.

ActionAid is now working in these districts to implement a disaster risk reduction program in partnership with three local Nepalese organisations: the Underprivileged Children's Association, the Bheri Environmental Excellence Group and Co-Action Network. This project is funded by the Disaster Preparedness European Commission Humanitarian Office (DIPECHO) and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

The program works at the grassroots level to mobilise and educate communities about disaster management – using ActionAid's *Reflect* approach. *Reflect* brings

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groups of community members together to discuss social issues impacting their lives and develop strategies to overcome difficulties and claim their rights.

An important feature is that women are included in the formation of these groups and are encouraged to have an active voice. These participants are then tasked with spreading the knowledge they gain from the groups to their families and neighbours. In Banke and Sunsari districts, these groups have so far involved over

700 participants – more than half of whom are women.

In Sunsari and Banke districts, Disaster Management Committees were established and are meeting regularly. Made up of local members and closely linked to the *Reflect* groups, they develop community-based disaster management plans for their community so that they are prepared when disasters hit. From July to December 2009, 10 new Disaster Management Committees were formed.





Anita Sada, from Kansamadan in Nepal, has transformed herself from a mother struggling to provide for her family, to a leader of people and a vocal advocate for her community.

Anita Sada comes from a very poor lower-caste family and is a mother to seven children. She has taken an active role in the Kansamadan Disaster Management Committee.

Part of Anita's role is to share her experience and knowledge with her neighbours and friends to educate them on the impact of disasters and ways for people to reduce their vulnerability.

The training includes search and rescue, fire fighting, first aid and

masonry, so residents can build more disaster resistant houses.

"The DIPECHO [and AusAID] project has taught us about the importance of education, sanitation, environment and income generation," said Anita. "It has helped us to be organised and strengthened our capacity for disaster preparedness."

Through this project, Anita has emerged as an inspirational figure who has transformed herself from a woman struggling to provide for her

family to a leader of people and a vocal advocate for her community.

Even the Nepalese government is changing its attitude to disaster risk reduction as a result of the program. Representatives of government have attended a number of workshops and meetings organised by community members, which locals say has led to an increase in understanding by the government of the challenges the people face and commitment to work together on disaster risk reduction programs. ■

Rebuilding livelihoods: occupied Palestinian territories

ACTIONAID IS CONTINUING ITS WOMEN FOCUSED EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND EARLY RECOVERY PROJECTS IN GAZA FOLLOWING THE 23 DAY WAR BETWEEN ISRAEL AND HAMAS IN JANUARY 2009.

ActionAid Australia's ongoing project in Gaza aims to improve the lives of women and children in communities of the central and northern Gaza strip. The projects are addressing issues of women's rights, and lost livelihoods.

ActionAid Australia has been working with the communities to help find creative solutions to the psychological and social challenges faced by communities living under occupation.

To help children traumatised by the war, ActionAid conducted a number of activities to help normalise their lives and provide child-friendly avenues for expressing themselves – including creative writing, traditional dance and drama activities.

ActionAid funded a project with Sharek Youth Forum to produce a series of documentaries to give young people the opportunity to tell their stories and share experiences about the daily problems they face living in Gaza. Three short documentary films were produced that were screened in November 2009 in Gaza, with more than 20 non-governmental organisations and community based organisations present.

Microfinance is an important element of ActionAid's response in Gaza. Our partnership with local Palestinian organisation the Palestinian



ActionAid provided child-friendly spaces for expression to help children traumatised by war, including drawing, creative writing and drama activities.

Businesswomen's Association (ASALA) continues to provide loans to women so they can begin to rebuild their businesses destroyed during the war.

Within Jabalaya camp, ASALA has conducted training sessions in running a small business, selling goods and book keeping, to engage with women and teach them valuable skills to grow their small enterprises.

ActionAid's partnership with Creative Women's Forum provides livelihood support to women with experience

in sewing and embroidery. Fabrics, threads and needles are distributed so that women can earn an income from producing clothing, pillows and other household items.

Another livelihood support program in Central Gaza has seen over 250 families start chicken farming businesses from their homes.

Sumaia Rayan is a 42-year-old mother of seven. She lives with her husband and children in the northern area of Gaza; a village called Beit Lahia.



Wafa Abu Rashid received a \$600 grant from ActionAid's partner ASALA to help her rebuild her beauty salon business destroyed during the war between Israel and Hamas in January 2009.

Prior to the conflict in January 2009, Sumaia had built up her own successful chicken farming business with the assistance of a loan from ActionAid's local partner ASALA.

On 7 January 2009, Sumaia's farm was bombed by the Israeli Air Force. This resulted in a loss of her chickens and damage to her farm. ASALA was quick to move in and assess the damage.

With money raised by the UK Disasters Emergency Committee and an ActionAid emergency appeal, ASALA provided Sumaia with a grant of over \$1,000.

Seven months after receiving the grant, Sumaia says the number of her egg-laying hens has doubled and the additional income is helping provide food, clothing and an education for her seven children.

"This was a blessing," says Sumaia. "I was busy trying to survive, to take care of my children and pick up the pieces after the horrible war. ActionAid and ASALA helped me re-establish my project. I now have 2,000 egg-laying hens and am earning over \$400 each month from selling eggs. This would not have been possible without ActionAid and ASALA."

Sumaia is also grateful for the ongoing support provided by ActionAid and ASALA. "I felt that they really care and want to help.

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And even now, they check on me and make sure my project is running well. I would really like to thank them for helping me get my project back. It is good for me and my family – especially my children.”

Wafa Abu Rashid is also grateful for the support of ActionAid and ASALA following the January 2009 conflict. The 26-year-old is the only income earner for her family of five.

Back in 2008, Wafa received a \$600 grant from ASALA to open a beauty salon. The money was used to buy cosmetics, hair supplies,

blow dryers, curling irons, and other beauty supplies. Wafa's salon was a success, with a steady stream of clientele.

Her shop was damaged, however, during the conflict when her neighbour's workshop was bombed by the Israeli planes.

"It was impossible to clean up or fix," recalls Wafa. "Most of my supplies were completely ruined and beyond repair. I stood in the midst of the destruction and realised that my dreams were also shattered by the explosion."

ASALA and ActionAid visited Wafa following the war and agreed to grant her just over \$600 to help her rebuild her business. Wafa decided to use the money to purchase a blow-dryer, styling chair and replenish her supply of cosmetics. However, the Israeli blockade of Gaza meant sourcing the supplies was almost impossible for her to do alone. ActionAid and ASALA also assisted Wafa in locating, purchasing and delivering the supplies.

"The situation here is very difficult. It's hard to get things in. ActionAid and ASALA have been amazing. I feel that they really care about my project and want to help me in any way possible to make sure that my project is a success." ■

Strengthening rural communities: Cambodia

CONTINUING TO BUILD ON COMMUNITY SUCCESS, ACTIONAID'S WORK IN THE REMOTE AREA OF KOUK ROMIET AND SVAY CHEK COMMUNES IS HELPING FARMERS AND THEIR FAMILIES CREATE AND BUILD SUSTAINABLE FARMING LIVELIHOODS.

Cambodia is still recovering from decades of war and conflict in which millions of landmines were indiscriminately scattered throughout forests and agricultural land.

Since 2006, ActionAid Australia has been working in 16 remote villages in Kouk Romiet and Svay Chek communes, which are among the worst mine contaminated areas of Cambodia. This work has been made possible through the support of the Australian Government's overseas aid program AusAID.

The focus of ActionAid's community development projects is now on increasing incomes through better farming techniques, training farmers in important business skills, such as selling and negotiating prices for their produce, and the benefits of rain tanks, water storage and management knowledge so that the productivity of farmers continues to rise.

These skills will help these communities start to build their own small businesses and farming co-operatives – initiatives that mean more food for themselves and their children as well as additional income.

ActionAid has also helped the villages establish committees to represent them at the local, commune and district levels. The groups also provide women and the disabled with an opportunity to have



Children play alongside drying cassava cultivated with the support of ActionAid.

more of a voice in the decisions that affect their lives – particularly around issues of land rights. Those who participate in the village committees are recognised as playing a pivotal role in community life.

Pum Keng is 36 years old and a mother of two. A landmine accident in 1992 left her with only one leg.

Pum has one hectare of land (previously cleared by the Cambodian Mine Action Centre) through the support of this project. Although the land is not good enough to grow rice, ActionAid has helped her cultivate cassava. Pum produces around 25 tonnes of cassava per year, which she can sell at the market for \$100 per tonne.

Her village also runs a 'piggy bank' scheme, where a mature female pig is provided to the family for breeding. When a litter is born, half the piglets are put back into the community 'piggy bank' and the other half can be sold for profit by the family.

Apart from her entrepreneurial ability, Pum is also a member of the village committee. As part of her role in the committee, Pum will soon visit Siem Reap to attend a women's rights forum.

"I am very excited to be going to Siem Reap," said Pum, "It will be an opportunity for me to share my stories and what I have learnt about farming." ■

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Landmine victim and mother of two, Pum Keng, supports her children by cultivating cassava and breeding pigs as part of an ActionAid Australia funded program. She is also an active member of the village committee.

Helping refugees connect: Jordan

WORKING IN THE POOREST AREAS OF AMMAN, JORDAN, ACTIONAID AUSTRALIA IS PROVIDING IRAQI REFUGEES, PALESTINIANS AND VULNERABLE JORDANIAN COMMUNITIES WITH PLACES TO MEET, BUILD NETWORKS AND FIND COMMON SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS THEY FACE.

The war in Iraq in 2003 saw hundreds of thousands of Iraqis flee their country and enter neighbouring Jordan, waiting for political stability to be reinstated back home.

Seven years on, over 375,000 Iraqi refugees have arrived in Jordan's capital Amman, with most unwilling to return home until the security situation in Iraq improves.

The large influx of Iraqis has strained Amman's existing infrastructure, economy and community services.

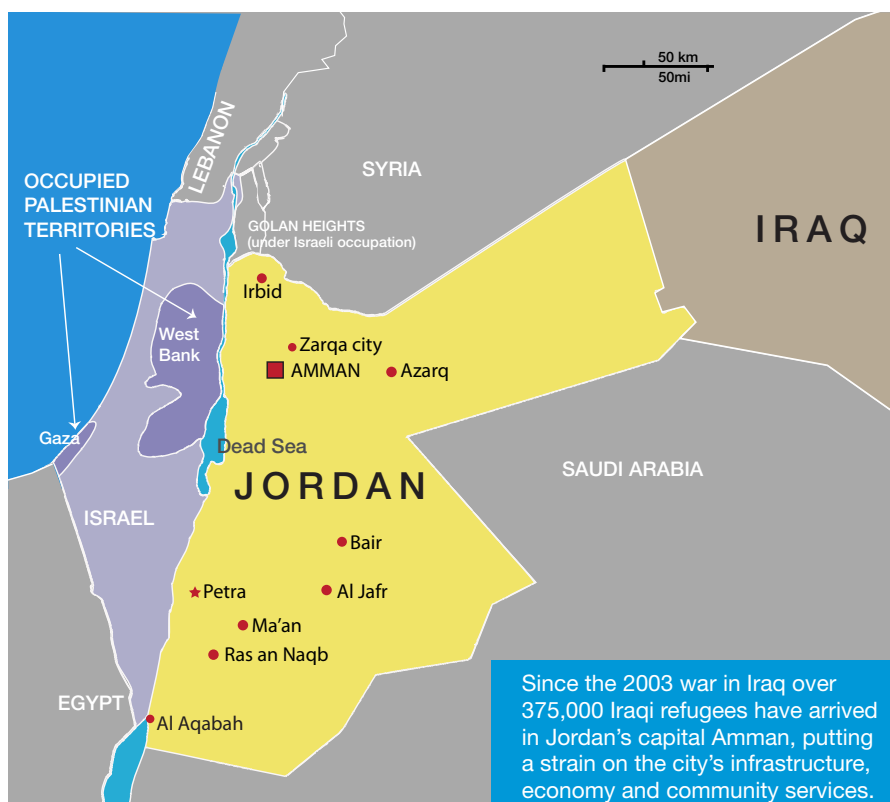
ActionAid Australia is working in two areas of Amman; East Amman and Zarqa which are recognised as some of the poorest areas of Jordan and home to a large number of Iraqi refugees, Palestinians and vulnerable Jordanian communities. The program is supported by Australia's Department of Immigration and Citizenship. Partnering with The Queen Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development (ZENID) and local community-based organisation Khawla Bint Al Azwar, and the Community Development Centre, ActionAid is working to help those facing high levels of poverty, unemployment and crime.

With savings dwindling, no way to make a living or access to recreational activities, many people and children are left with nothing to do. ActionAid Australia's work in Jordan is focused on helping

Iraqi refugees, Palestinian and poor Jordanians build community spaces so they have a place to meet, share information and implement community activities – especially for youth and women. These are places where people can feel secure and are able to voice their concerns, issues and work together to resolve them. Having communal meeting rooms as well as learning and recreational environments, gives women and youth a place to go

where they can build leadership skills and feel empowered to improve their lives.

Khawla Bint Al Azwar and the Community Development Centre have been extremely active in the past few months, opening an internet café and library in December. These community spaces now offer women computer training sessions and the library has new furniture, books and art supplies for everyone to use.





Monthly child-rights workshop held by Khawla Bint Al Azwar in the library funded by the project.

CDC has begun preparation for office training where participants will learn English, computer, financial and management skills so locals now have a place to come and learn, communicate online and read.

In December, Khawla Bint Al Azwar organised its first recreational trip in an effort to provide children and families with some time out from the hardships of daily life. The trip to Prince Hamza Park in Zarqa and then to Amman Jubeiha fair was a highlight for the 100 strong group. During this time the first in a series of monthly women's workshop took place. This gave women a forum to discuss and exchange views on womens' rights and issues. The workshop was well received by the participants and helped build trust and facilitate the flow of their own experiences in a positive environment.

ActionAid ran a protection training workshop in November with members of the community and local partner groups that allowed

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participants to gain valuable new skills in identifying and addressing vulnerabilities and threats that refugee communities commonly face.

To improve the services provided to the refugees, ActionAid is working closely with local Community Based

Organisations (CBOs) to help them cooperate and coordinate better with international non-governmental organisations.

This coordinated effort will help the local groups assess and respond to basic psychosocial and economic needs in their communities.

Khawla and CDC are now working together to improve the quality and flow of information for both Palestinians and Iraqi refugees. Now refugees have a better understanding about their resettlement issues, local integration and assistance packages available to them.

Both Khawla and CDC have installed notice boards at their centres to advertise upcoming activities, training courses, workshops, social events and broader information. This simple improvement has led to more community engagement and involvement in the programs. ■

Campaigning for change

ACTIONAID LAUNCHED ITS FIRST EVER CAMPAIGNS TEAM IN AUSTRALIA AT THE END OF 2009. OUR EVENTS DREW SIGNIFICANT MEDIA INTEREST AND HELPED ATTRACT NEW SUPPORTERS TO THE ORGANISATION.

Campaigning is an integral part of ActionAid's work fighting poverty around the world. In addition to implementing community development projects, ActionAid campaigns at the local, national and international levels to change policies and practices that prevent poor people from claiming their human rights.

As part of our transition from Austcare to ActionAid, we established our first ever dedicated campaigns team headed by former Greenpeace International Campaign Director Lena Aahlby.

Our campaigning debut was the launch of the international *1GOAL: Education for All* campaign in Australia on 6 October 2009, in partnership with a number of other Australian organisations, including ChildFund and the Asian South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education.



Comedy duo Merrick and Rosso helped launch ActionAid's HungerFREE petition, calling on the Australian government to improve its record on fighting world hunger.



Young players from local soccer team the Granville Waratahs showed off their skills to Socceroo Vince Grella and Matilda Sarah Walsh

ahead of a media conference featuring, among others, Ben Buckley from the Football Federation of Australia, Archie Law of ActionAid and the Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for Youth and Sport.

1GOAL is FIFA's official campaign for the Soccer World Cup, which is due to kick off in South Africa in June. The campaign calls for basic

education for all the world's children, with all boys and girls completing primary schooling and with girls having the opportunity for education at all levels by 2015.

The campaign aims to collect as many signatures as possible in support of universal primary education, with Australians asked to sign up at the join1goal.org.au website.



ActionAid Australia helped launch the *1GOAL: Education for All* campaign in Australia in October 2009 with the help of Socceroo Vince Grella, Matilda Sarah Walsh and budding soccer stars from the Granville Waratahs.

Our second major campaigning event was the launch of ActionAid's *Who's Really Fighting Hunger?* report on World Food Day, 16 October 2009. The report highlighted the lack of action from governments around the world on ending hunger - ranking Australia 17 out of 22 rich countries for our efforts to combat the crisis.

The report judged developed countries on aid to agriculture, aid to social protection, action on climate change and support for sustainable agriculture. Australia ranked poorly in all four categories, but was dragged down in particular by its low aid ratio and weak action on climate change.

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To illustrate the devastating human toll of hunger, ActionAid set up an empty classroom at Sydney's Circular Quay to depict the classroom of children who die every three minutes from hunger.

Passersby were asked to sign a petition calling on Kevin Rudd to fulfill Australia's commitment to the Millennium Development Goal on hunger by making sure that Australia's terrible ranking is improved for 2010. ■

Sign up to the *1GOAL* campaign at: join1goal.org.au

Growing our support base

ONE OF ACTIONAID AUSTRALIA'S PRIORITIES IS TO INCREASE OUR PRIVATE SUPPORTER-BASE TO HELP US DELIVER LONG-TERM RIGHTS-BASED DEVELOPMENT WORK AROUND THE WORLD.

Most of ActionAid Australia's current donors have supported the organisation for years, first as Austcare and now as ActionAid. We are committed to building upon this loyal support base by growing our private funding to deliver more projects on the ground as well as campaign for change at the national and international levels.

To help us grow our supporter-base, ActionAid Australia launched two exciting fundraising programs in

the second half of 2009 aimed at attracting new long-term supporters to the organisation.

ActionAid Activist

On 1 June 2009, we launched the new ActionAid Activist child-rights focused regular giving program, replacing Austcare's former Global Action Partners program. By Christmas, we had successfully signed up over 1,000 new supporters, with the numbers growing every day.

Activist funds help support ActionAid's rights-based programs around the world, including fighting for child rights. The regular funds donated through Activist, helps ActionAid challenge the unfair policies that keep children and their families locked into poverty.

In the past, major achievements led by ActionAid's support have transformed the lives of millions of people living in developing countries. After debt cancellation and aid



Friends Ross (left) and Ros (right) attending a school for orphans and vulnerable children supported by ActionAid child sponsors.



ActionAid Activists help support ActionAid's rights-based work around the world, including in Charbhariya, India, where Anjali (pictured with her goats) enjoys a midday-meal at school thanks to lobbying by organisations including ActionAid.

“We believe we are offering people in Australia a chance to make their own unique link with the developing world through child sponsorship.”

having to leave to tend fields or care for younger siblings.

In return for a monthly donation of \$42, each sponsor receives a photo of their sponsored child along with regular messages from the child and updates on the projects ActionAid is implementing in their community. Sponsorship is a great way to learn about life in a developing country and a way to see how your donations are making a real difference.

How sponsorship changes lives

For years, the children in the village of Om Rum Check in north-west Cambodia lacked access to a decent education. At first there was no school. Then, when one was built, the teacher allocated to that school simply failed to show up most of the time or sent untrained substitutes in their place.

With the help of ActionAid and a local partner, the villagers joined together to ensure their children received the education that was their right. The villagers lobbied progressively higher authorities until the local government agreed to step in and ensure a full time trained teacher was made available.

This was made possible through the sponsorship of local children by supporters of ActionAid. ■

increases, for example, Tanzania was able to abolish primary school fees, boosting school enrolment rates to an unprecedented 95 percent of children.

Child Sponsorship

In December 2009 we launched our Child Sponsorship program with the help of face-to-face campaigners in Victoria. In the coming months this will be extended to other states around Australia.

Initially, ActionAid Child Sponsors will be supporting children and their communities in two targeted development areas in rural Cambodia and Uganda. We hope to expand our Child Sponsorship program to other

countries as additional sponsors come on board.

How does ActionAid Child Sponsorship work?

Child sponsorship is a wonderful way to bring hope to a child living in poverty. For just over a dollar a day, sponsorship can change the future for a child and their community by providing access to education, safe water, nourishing food and the opportunity to rise above poverty.

ActionAid works with communities to access their basic human rights, so lasting change can be made. If basic human rights are met it's more likely a child can remain in school and further their education, instead of

Financial commentary

ACTIONAID AUSTRALIA'S STRATEGY IN THE SHORT-TERM IS TO INVEST IN ITS FUTURE STABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS BY DIVERSIFYING ITS INCOME SOURCES, ENABLING A SIGNIFICANT LONG-TERM CONTRIBUTION TO ACTIONAID PROJECTS OVERSEAS.

To fully align itself with the rest of the ActionAid network, ActionAid Australia has changed to a January to December financial year commencing 1 January 2010. The financial information included in this report covers a six month transitional period from July to December 2009, though the comparative information for the previous financial year is for the twelve month period from July 2008 to June 2009.

ActionAid Australia recorded a surplus for the six months of \$170,567, with total revenue of \$4,252,724 and total expenditure of \$4,082,157. Public funds raised by ActionAid Australia totalled \$1,050,422, and AusAID and other

grant income totalled \$2,705,931.

During the six months, ActionAid Australia provided \$2,438,065 to projects working towards ending poverty in Africa, the Middle East and the Asia Pacific region. \$266,431 was spent in Australia on supporting these international projects, and ActionAid's expenditure on Australian community education initiatives, such as campaigns, was \$182,856.

The bulk of ActionAid Australia's income has historically come from government grants. Although this is expected to continue, the organisation is seeking to diversify its income to ensure the long-term sustainability and independence of

its anti-poverty work.

ActionAid Australia is therefore investing in building its public income in the form of monthly donations from long-term individual donors. The costs of this strategy are primarily up-front, increasing fundraising expenditure in the short-term, but providing significant increases in public income over the longer term.

Fundraising costs for the six months were \$900,312 – over a third of which (\$334,027) were paid for by ActionAid International to help build long-term public funding. Administration costs remained low at \$221,220.

Independent audit report to the members of ActionAid Australia



Scope and opinion – We have audited the accompanying summarised financial report of ActionAid Australia for the six months ended 31 December 2009 comprising the summary statement of financial position as at 31 December 2009, the summary statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity, table of cash movements for designated purposes and cash flow statement for the six months then ended which was derived from the financial report of ActionAid Australia for the six months ended 31 December 2009. We expressed an unmodified auditor's opinion on that financial report in our auditor's report dated 25 March 2010.

The responsibility of directors for the summarised financial report – The directors are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the summarised financial report in accordance with the requirements set out in the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct.

Auditor's responsibility – Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summarised financial report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements.

Auditor's opinion – In our opinion, the information reported in the summarised financial report is consistent, in all material respects, with financial report from which it was derived. For a better understanding of the scope of our audit, this auditor's report should be read in conjunction with our audit report on the financial report.

KPMG

Sydney

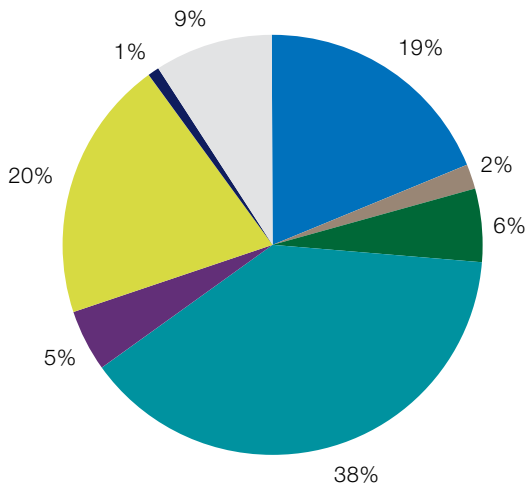
25 March 2010

Neil Cameron Smith
Partner

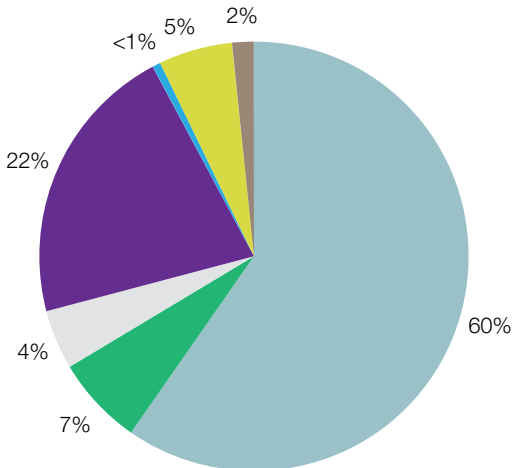
Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the six months ended 31 December 2009

July – December 2009 Revenue



July – December 2009 Expenditure



	Six months ended 31 December 2009 \$	Year ended 30 June 2009 \$
REVENUE		
<i>Donations and gifts</i>		
- Monetary	807,099	1,855,424
- Non-monetary	73,273	45,569
Bequests and legacies	243,323	373,336
<i>Grants</i>		
- AusAID	1,639,082	3,358,398
- Other Australian	197,996	1,114,675
- Other overseas	868,853	2,075,537
Investment income	28,132	132,721
Other income	394,966	211,984
International political or religious proselytisation program revenue	-	-
Total revenue	4,252,724	9,167,644

EXPENDITURE		
International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		
<i>International programs</i>		
- Funds to international programs	2,438,065	5,764,096
- Program support costs	266,431	557,441
Community education	182,856	494,807
<i>Fundraising costs</i>		
- Public	879,961	849,859
- Government, multilateral & private	20,351	38,126
Accountability and administration	221,220	606,081
Non-monetary expenditure	73,273	45,569
Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure	4,082,157	8,355,979
International political or religious proselytisation program expenditure	-	-
Domestic programs expenditure	-	-
Total expenditure	4,082,157	8,355,979
Excess of revenue over expenditure	170,567	811,665
Other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income	170,567	811,665

The full financial report for the six months ending 31 December 2009 is available on request and on the ActionAid Australia website at www.actionaid.org.au.

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

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the six months ended 31 December 2009

	Retained earnings \$	Restricted funds reserves \$	Unrestricted funds reserves \$	Total undistributed funds \$
Opening balance at 1 July 2008	537,074	720,008	50,000	1,307,082
Excess of revenue over expenditure	811,665	-	-	811,665
Total comprehensive income	811,665	-	-	811,665
Other amounts transferred to/(from) reserves	281,040	(281,040)	-	-
Closing balance at 30 June 2009	1,629,779	438,968	50,000	2,118,747

	Retained earnings \$	Restricted funds reserves \$	Unrestricted funds reserves \$	Total undistributed funds \$
Opening balance at 1 July 2009	1,629,779	438,968	50,000	2,118,747
Excess of revenue over expenditure	170,567	-	-	170,567
Total comprehensive income	170,567	-	-	170,567
Other amounts transferred to/(from) reserves	90,633	(90,633)	-	-
Closing balance at 31 December 2009	1,890,979	348,335	50,000	2,289,314

During the six months ended 31 December 2009, ActionAid Australia had no transactions in the following categories specified in the ACFID Code of Conduct: adjustments or changes in equity due to adoptions of new accounting standards, changes in equity from changes in asset fair value transactions, or other.

Statement of Cash Flows

For the six months ended 31 December 2009

	Six months ended 31 December 2009 \$	Year ended 30 June 2009 \$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Cash receipts from appeals, donations & fundraising activities	1,050,422	2,228,760
Cash receipts from AusAID grants	1,155,241	3,866,185
Cash receipts from other grants	2,113,454	2,953,222
Proceeds from other activities	394,965	211,984
Interest received	28,132	132,721
Cash payments to suppliers and employees	(1,665,728)	(1,944,417)
Cash payments for project expenditure	(2,887,352)	(6,816,344)
Net cash provided by operating activities	189,134	632,111
Cash flows from investing activities		
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets	11,685	36,115
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(8,218)	(38,618)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	3,467	(2,503)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	192,601	629,608
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 July	4,924,696	4,295,088
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	5,117,297	4,924,696

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2009

	31 December 2009	30 June 2009
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	5,117,297	4,924,696
Trade and other receivables	88,811	164,699
Total current assets	5,206,108	5,089,395
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	635,793	645,253
Total non-current assets	635,793	645,253
Total assets	5,841,901	5,734,648
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	150,503	533,221
Provisions - employee benefits	66,738	76,328
<i>Other</i>		
- Deferred revenue	3,326,465	2,997,524
Total current liabilities	3,543,706	3,607,073
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions - employee benefits	8,881	8,828
Total non-current liabilities	8,881	8,828
Total liabilities	3,552,587	3,615,901
Net assets	2,289,314	2,118,747
EQUITY		
Restricted funds reserves	348,335	438,968
Unrestricted funds reserves	50,000	50,000
Retained earnings	1,890,979	1,629,779
Total equity	2,289,314	2,118,747

At 31 December 2009, ActionAid Australia had no balances in the following categories specified in the ACFID Code of Conduct: inventories, assets held for sale, other financial assets, non-current trade and other receivables, investment property, intangibles, other non-current assets, borrowings, current tax liabilities, other financial liabilities or other non-current liabilities.

Table of cash movements for designated purposes

Projects for which funds raised during the reporting period were more than 10% of the total income of \$4,252,724. Tsunami funds are also shown in accordance with the Tsunami Reporting Amendment 2005 to the ACFID Code of Conduct. Of the cash available at year end for all other purposes of \$3,454,115, an amount of \$1,955,316 is committed to funding a specific project or to be used for a designated purpose.

Project/purpose	Cash available at 1 July 2009	Cash raised during the period	Cash disbursed during the period	Cash available at 31 December 2009
	\$	\$	\$	\$
AMENCA 2 program, oPt*	1,311,822	3,564	522,820	792,566
Building Civil Society, Jordan	-	822,165	105,865	716,300
Protection program, Sudan	371,084	-	216,768	154,316
Tsunami response	24,125	-	24,125	-
Total for other non-designated purposes	3,217,665	3,928,169	3,691,719	3,454,115
Total	4,924,696	4,753,898	4,561,297	5,117,297

*Australia-Middle East NGO Cooperation Agreement (Neighbourhood Corners in the Southern West Bank), Occupied Palestinian Territories

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Code of Conduct

ActionAid Australia is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct. More information on the Code is available at www.acfid.asn.au.

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Front cover Jorina, age 12, Kurigram district, Bangladesh CREDITS: Tom Pietrasik/ActionAid **Back cover** Mage Maonga, 34, harvesting rice, Phalombe district, Malawi CREDITS: Sven Torfinn/Panos Pictures/ActionAid

