

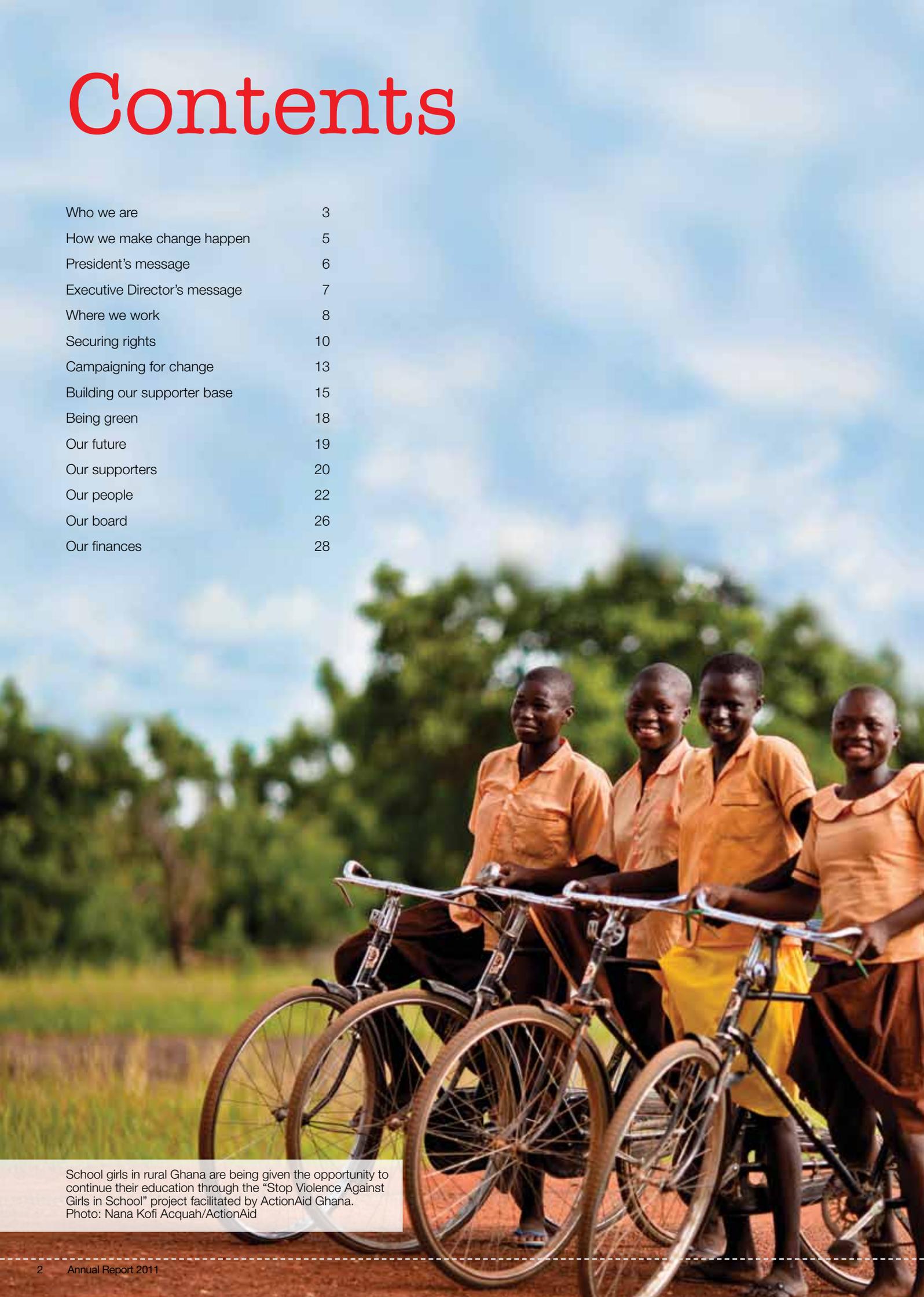
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ActionAid Australia Annual Report 2011



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A photograph of four young school girls in rural Ghana, standing in a line on a dirt path. They are all wearing orange school uniforms. The girl on the far right is wearing a yellow bag. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. They are standing next to their bicycles, which are parked in a row. The background shows a lush green landscape with trees and a blue sky with some clouds.

School girls in rural Ghana are being given the opportunity to continue their education through the "Stop Violence Against Girls in School" project facilitated by ActionAid Ghana. Photo: Nana Kofi Acquah/ActionAid

# Who we are

The world doesn't need another charity. The world needs change. That's why at ActionAid Australia we don't just hand out aid. We work with people in poor countries to give them the power and resources to change their own lives - for good.

## 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.

## Values

### Mutual respect

requiring us to recognise each person's innate worth and the value of diversity.

### Equity and justice

requiring us to work to ensure equal opportunity for every person, irrespective of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, HIV status, colour, class, ethnicity, disability, location and religion.

### Honesty and transparency

requiring us to be accountable at all levels to ensure the effectiveness of our actions and openness in our communications with others.

### Solidarity with the poor

powerless and excluded will be the only bias in our commitment to the fight against poverty.

### Courage of conviction

requiring us to be creative and radical, bold and innovative in pursuit of making the greatest possible impact on the root causes of poverty, without fear of failure.

### Independence

from any religious or political affiliation.

### Humility

in our presentation and behaviour, recognising that we are part of a broader alliance, all fighting against poverty.



Prior to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) ActionAid Australia planted hundreds of paper figures (representing women and men smallholder farmers) on the lawns of parliament house, to remind politicians of the vital role smallholder farmers play in food security. Photo: ActionAid

# Who we are

## What we do

ActionAid works with the poorest and most vulnerable people at the local, national and international level to fight for and gain their rights to food, shelter, work, healthcare and a voice in the decisions that affect their lives.

We also campaign and lobby governments in rich countries like Australia, as well as influential institutions such as the World Bank, World Trade Organisation and the International Monetary Fund – to change the policies and practices that exacerbate poverty.

Working with more than 2,000 partners worldwide, ActionAid's fight against poverty has reached over 19 million people around the world.

## Where we work

ActionAid Australia is part of the ActionAid International federation comprised of affiliates, associates and country programs in more than 40 countries across Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.

## How we are funded

ActionAid Australia is an independent organisation funded through voluntary donations. Our main funding sources include appeals to the Australian public, regular giving programs including child sponsorship, the Australian Government's aid program and ActionAid International.

## Our history

Founded in 1972, ActionAid has been fighting poverty worldwide for more than 40 years.

Our programs in the 1970s focused on providing children with an education. In the decades that followed we shifted our focus to tackling the root cause of poverty, not just the symptoms.

In 2003, we established a new head office in South Africa, and began the process of making all our country programs equal partners, with an equal say on how we operate.

ActionAid Australia was established on 1 June 2009 when Austcare, a well-respected Australian organisation established in 1967, joined the ActionAid International federation as an affiliate.

# How we make change happen

We believe an end to poverty and injustice can be achieved through purposeful individual and collective action, led by people living in poverty and supported by credible rights-based alternatives and campaigns that focus on the structural causes and consequences of poverty.

Poverty arises not just because people lack income. Poverty occurs because people lack power. People are discriminated against, treated less equally, denied opportunities to participate in decision making processes that affect their lives and denied control over the resources essential to their well-being.

This happens at the individual, household, community, and institutional level, when people use oppression and exclusion to gain control over resources and build wealth and influence over others. It is essential to address these power imbalances and the domination of people by their fellow human beings if we are to conquer poverty and injustice for good.

ActionAid Australia uses a Human Rights Based Approach to challenge the domination and subordination that people experience in their everyday lives, and to redress the power imbalances within and between communities who are denied their human rights. A human rights lens transforms passive 'beneficiaries' into legitimate 'rights holders' who have rights and entitlements.

Just as poverty is embedded in the denial of rights, we believe the eradication of poverty is grounded in respecting, protecting and fulfilling people's human rights. Our work,



therefore, seeks to enable rights holders to understand, reflect on and act with others to change their lives and position in society. Equally, it involves challenging and building the capacity of duty bearers, such as governments and corporations, to deliver on their human rights obligations.

Our approach includes three connected methodologies: empowerment, solidarity and campaigning.

**Empowerment** involves working with rights holders to become aware of their rights, to be conscious of the systems and structures that oppress them and deny them their rights, and help them identify and take proactive steps to challenge the conditions of their powerlessness. This awakening or the realisation of the power within, creates fundamental and lasting change in people.

Building **solidarity** involves supporting and sustaining movements for change that are led by rights holders. It is about creating bonds among and between rights holders and other groups in society who become allies in the struggle for rights. It is about creating power with others to produce a collective and stronger voice to demand change.

**Campaigning** creates and harnesses people's power around a simple and powerful demand to achieve a measurable political or social change. It aims to change policy and practice, open political space and build public opinion. Campaigning in Australia is necessary because decisions made here often violate the rights of people who are poor and excluded in other countries. Campaigning aims to give people power over state and non-state actors that violate or deny them their rights.

ActionAid Australia works with, and through, ActionAid's country programs to empower rights holders to claim their rights and change their lives. We also support domestic and global movements for change by mobilising Australians to support social justice campaigns born from the struggles of poor and excluded people and provide financial and technical support to other ActionAid country programs.



## Than Than's Story

Than Than is an ActionAid Change Maker in Myanmar, and is working with her community to change lives. One of the big problems her village faces is the lack of road access to the village. This means access to basic necessities can be challenging, especially during the rainy season when it can be almost impossible to get through.

Since being trained by ActionAid Myanmar, Than Than has guided the development of a community action plan, which involves building links with local government and negotiating for their support. With Than Than's support the community approached the government about the road to their village. After much negotiation, they had a big win when the government promised to provide the machinery and fuel to repair the road, with the community providing the labour. Change is happening!

# President's message

In 2011, ActionAid Australia weathered the storm of multiple global events and built on its foundation to stand in solidarity with poor and excluded people.

2011 was dominated by a series of world events that pierced our consciousness - the food crisis in the Horn of Africa, the Eurozone financial crisis and the violence throughout the Middle East in response to the events of the Arab Spring to name a few.

In spite of this uncertain global environment we have continued to benefit from the generous support of the Australian public. This support has been demonstrated in a number of ways from the signatures collected during our Last Famine campaign that focused on East Africa to the generous financial contributions we have received for our work. Our total revenue for the year was a pleasing \$9.8 million, which shows a growing commitment from the Australian public and the Australian government.

During the year our Board was further developed by the addition of Megs Alston and Gordon Weiss. Megs has 25 years experience in overseas development with some 15 years senior management experience in

Australian NGOs in the field of program management. Gordon has a background in communications and political analysis with 20 years' experience, primarily with the United Nations, in Central Asia, Eastern Europe, the Balkans, Africa, and South Asia. We welcome them to the team and look forward to their contributions on the Board.

This year I had an opportunity to visit ActionAid country programs in Cambodia and Ethiopia, which was a humbling and inspiring experience. ActionAid Cambodia is operating a highly successful program that is working with vulnerable Cambodians as they lift themselves out of poverty. Cambodia is still rebuilding after the carnage of the Pol Pot regime and it was exciting to see and hear the stories of change.

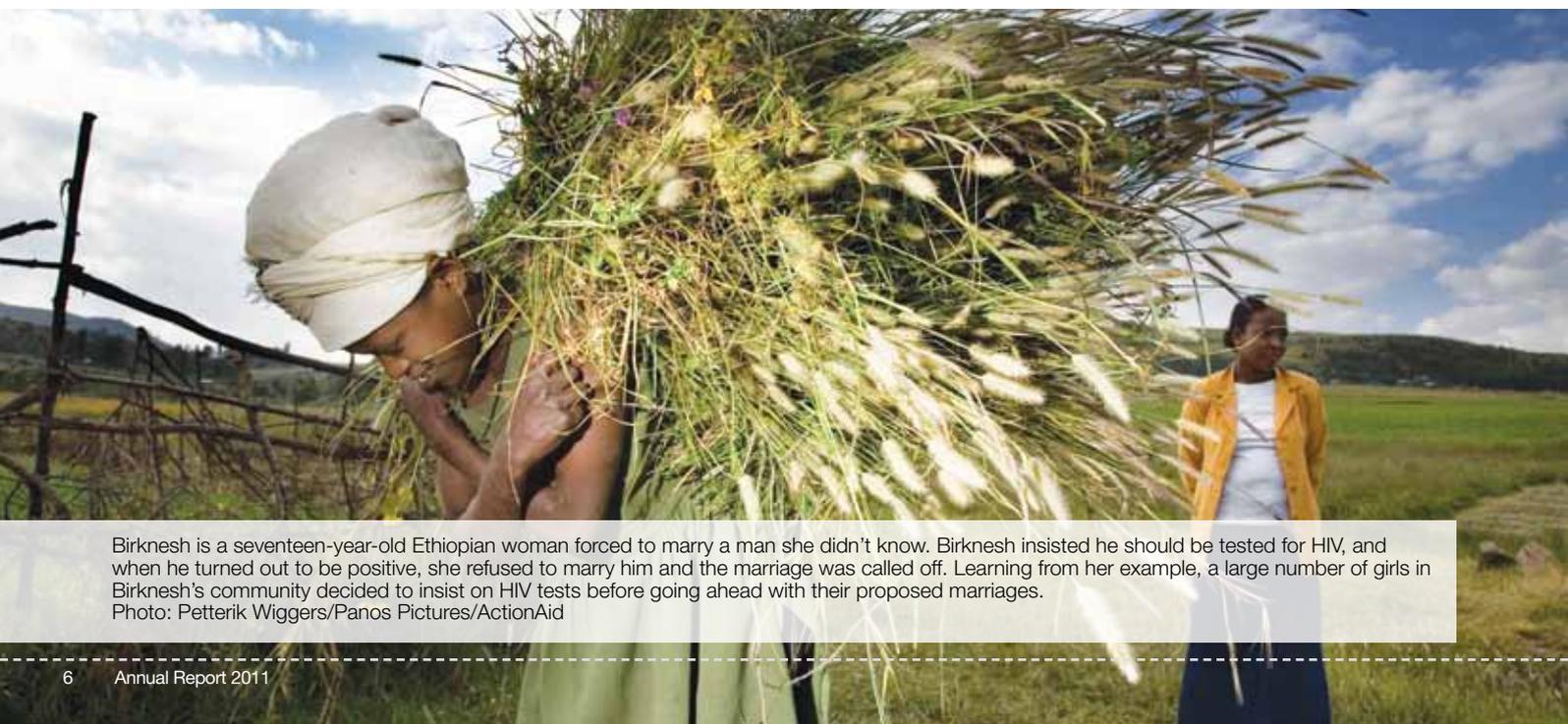
I also had the privilege of being part of an ActionAid International team that reviewed the work of ActionAid Ethiopia. Ethiopia is facing many challenges, and it was encouraging to see the

impact ActionAid is having through our agricultural and education programs. Additionally, ActionAid Ethiopia is working with communities and the Ethiopian government to address and change harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation.

We are very proud of being part of an international federation that is working to address the root causes of poverty, not just the effects. Thank you for joining us on this journey - we truly appreciate your commitment to supporting the struggle of the world's poor and excluded people.



**The Hon John Dowd AO QC**  
President



Birknesh is a seventeen-year-old Ethiopian woman forced to marry a man she didn't know. Birknesh insisted he should be tested for HIV, and when he turned out to be positive, she refused to marry him and the marriage was called off. Learning from her example, a large number of girls in Birknesh's community decided to insist on HIV tests before going ahead with their proposed marriages. Photo: Petterik Wiggers/Panos Pictures/ActionAid

# Executive Director's message

In 2011, ActionAid Australia consolidated its position in the ActionAid International federation and continued our work to secure rights for poor and excluded people, and campaigned for change in Australia.

The year 2011 was a one of transition and consolidation for us as we completed the change from Austcare to ActionAid Australia.

The transition was finalised with the development of our new strategy *Changing the Rules 2012-2017*.

In May 2011 we held a strategy conference where all Board and staff members were joined by the Country Directors from ActionAid Italy, ActionAid Myanmar and ActionAid Zimbabwe to help shape the future work of ActionAid Australia. During the conference a number of focus areas emerged, including improving women's access to land and other productive resources, preventing and responding to violence against women during conflict and disasters, and engaging with the Australian community to build support for poor and excluded people fighting for justice. These themes feature in our strategy, and will guide our work over the next six years.

*Changing the Rules* was approved by our members in October 2011 after nearly 12 months of consultations with the ActionAid International federation, our Board, staff, peers in Australia and, most importantly, many of our supporters.

During the year we also finalised our preparation for the review of our accreditation with the Australian Government's Agency for International Development (AusAID). We undertook a rigorous process that included a systematic analysis of our policies and procedures. This enables us to work more effectively and achieve transformational change in the lives of the poor and excluded as well as our supporters.

The disaster in East Africa was the defining moment of 2011. The triple whammy of climate change, poor governance and insufficient support for smallholder farmers, particularly women,

led to the massive crisis that devastated so many lives in the region.

During the year I visited a number of communities in northern Kenya who stunned me with their resilience to overwhelming hardship and inspired me with the triumph of the human spirit. We are proud that in 2011 we supported thousands of people to recover from disasters in countries such as Kenya, but also campaigned to get the Australian government to take a longer term view of the food crisis.

Thank you to all of our supporters for your ongoing support through 2011. We are excited about the opportunity to change the rules and inspired by your support as we embark on this journey with you!

**Archie Law**  
Executive Director



Archie Law with a group of ActionAid Myanmar Change Makers in Mandalay state, Myanmar.  
Photo: ActionAid

# What we achieved

## Highlights

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\$9.8 million total revenue

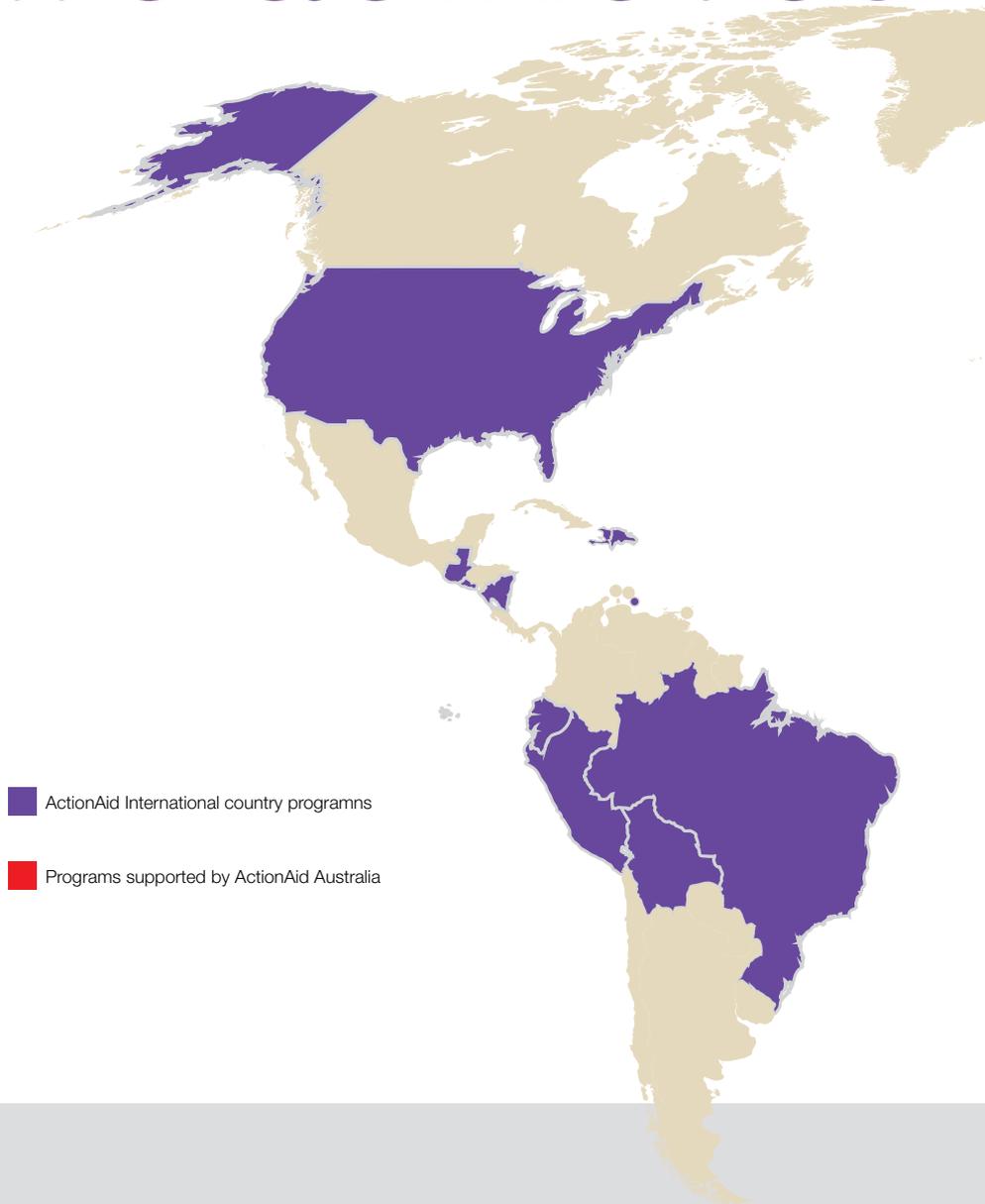
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\$435,000 raised for East Africa appeal

-----  
1,239 messages sent to the Prime Minister as part of our Last Famine and Fertile Ground campaigns

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6,700 hours donated by volunteers

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7,900 people now have improved access to safe drinking water

-----  
100 letters from small holder Ugandan farmers representing their communities hand delivered to the Prime Minister on the eve of a major food security announcement



## Where we work

### Bangladesh

Program budget: \$40,000

Projects: 1

Areas of work: scholarships, business training, gender violence and youth leadership

### Cambodia

Program budget: \$552,729

Projects: 4

Areas of work: livelihoods for mine-affected families, women's rights, violence against women, land rights, healthcare, education, human rights awareness, disaster relief and recovery

### Ethiopia

Program budget: \$31,000

Projects: 1

Areas of work: livelihood training and support

### Indonesia

Program budget: \$7.18 million

Projects: 2

Areas of work: livelihoods, education, water and sanitation, agricultural training and rural economic development, disaster risk reduction

### Myanmar

Program budget: \$56,000

Projects: 1

Areas of work: education and leadership training

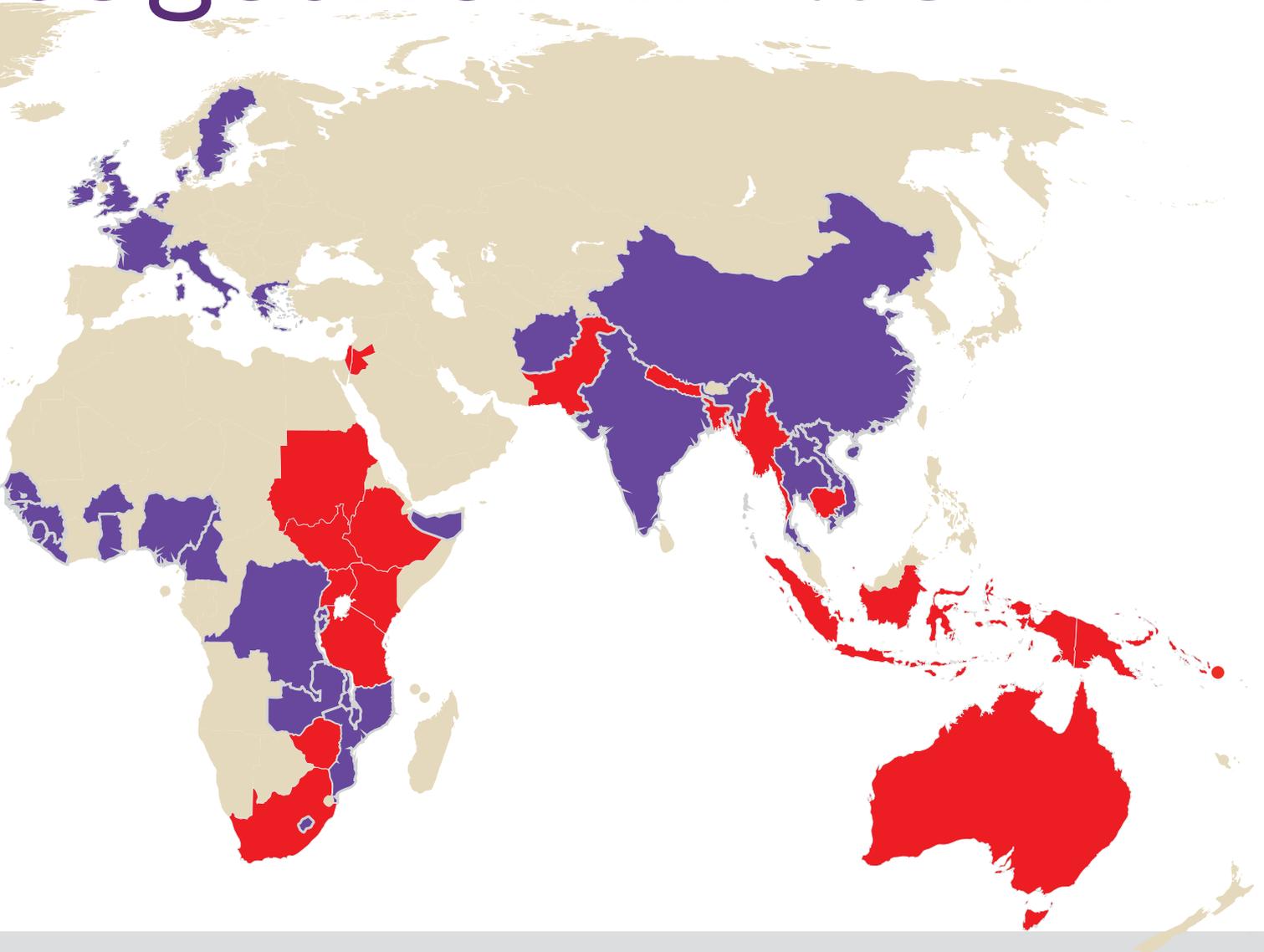
### Nepal

Program budget: \$30,000

Projects: 1

Areas of work: education and leadership training

# together in 2011



## **Pakistan**

Program budget: \$1.6 million

Projects: 5

Areas of work: economic literacy and budget accountability, food security and livelihoods, women's rights, disaster preparedness, relief and recovery

## **occupied Palestinian territories**

Program budget: \$8.4 million

Projects: 5

Areas of work: livelihoods, small grants, women's empowerment, skills training, capacity building, protection

## **Solomon Islands and PNG**

Program budget: \$135,000

Projects: 1

Areas of work: research project on climate change and women's rights

## **South Africa**

Program budget: \$5,000

Projects: 1

Areas of work: HIV/orphans and vulnerable children

## **Tanzania**

Program budget: \$5,000

Projects: 1

Areas of work: water and sanitation

## **Uganda and Kenya**

Program budget: \$7.1 million

Projects: 2

Areas of work: women's rights, climate resilient sustainable agriculture, livelihoods

## **Zimbabwe**

Program budget: \$80,000

Projects: 1

Areas of work: water and sanitation

\* Program budget figures refer to the total multi-year budgets of each project and do not signify funds dispersed in 2011 only.

# Securing rights

In 2011, ActionAid Australia leveraged its human rights based approach to support innovative poverty eradication and social justice programs across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

2011 saw a major shift in how ActionAid Australia conceived and supported programs. We moved to a human rights based approach to poverty eradication and social justice. We supported work aimed at empowering individuals and communities to understand and claim their rights to food, water, land and other productive resources in both emergency and daily life settings. We also worked to hold governments accountable for the impact their policies and programs, or lack thereof, have on the lives of people living in poverty.

In Africa, as part of the AusAID funded African Australian Community Engagement Scheme (AACES) we began implementing an ambitious five-year program with ActionAid Kenya and ActionAid Uganda that aims to increase food availability through increased production and diversified income streams, while building the capacity of 4,500 smallholder farmers to engage with and demand from government their right to adequate food, water and land. A key component is to improve the conditions and social

positions of 3,375 female smallholder farmers. This year the project has started the process of improving women's agricultural practice and their capacity to influence decisions related to food and economics at household and community level. Smaller projects with ActionAid Zimbabwe and ActionAid Tanzania focused on better access to and control over water for communities, particularly women and children. Key achievements over the past year include:

- 997 women and 400 men in Kenya and Uganda received agricultural inputs including livestock, seeds and ploughs
- 2,578 women and 990 men in Kenya and Uganda were organised into farmer groups to share production and collectively demand for a greater voice and benefit from the local and national system for food production
- 1,522 women and 830 men in Kenya and Uganda received training on their food related rights and corresponding obligations of government

- 7,900 people now have improved access to safe drinking water

In Asia, we continued to work with ActionAid Pakistan to enhance the well-being of women and children affected by the floods in Pakistan. A series of projects ensured that women and children not only received material inputs to help them recover from the floods, but training also helped communities plan for and respond to disaster and conflict and ensure the rights of women and girls were protected in such difficult circumstances. In Indonesia, ActionAid Australia worked to help nine farming co-operatives gain from and add value to cocoa production. Securing the right to free, compulsory, quality public education for all and working to promote the rights of people with disabilities was central to our work with ActionAid Cambodia.

At a glance, in Asia we helped achieve:

- Improved food security for 5,200 households in Pakistan



Regina is a member of the Simatwa farmers group in Kenya. On her small plot of land Regina grows kale, spinach, managu, cow peas, tomatoes and onions. ActionAid Kenya has been working with the group to increase knowledge and skills in sustainable farming practices. Photo: Frederic Courbet/Panos Pictures/ActionAid



Young Kenyan farmers have taken on rabbit breeding to earn additional income.  
Photo: ActionAid

## The sky's the limit!

Unsurprisingly, many Kenyan farmers are wary of encouraging their children to follow in their footsteps. Having recently endured another heartbreaking drought, farming is not an attractive occupation, and yet for many there are limited viable choices.

For a small group of students from Mbeere district, agriculture and farming is something they are very passionate about. As part of the AusAID funded AACES program, ActionAid Kenya is working with these students who have formed a young farmers' club, and have been using their skills and talents to improve their school grounds by learning different and sustainable farming techniques they can pass onto their parents, and maybe one day use to cultivate their own farms.

The group has been growing crops around the school. One of their last crops of mung bean (locally known as green gram) was sold, and part of that went to pay for the member's exam fees. They are now preparing another field for growing more green grams and soya bean.

The group has recently taken on rabbit breeding to help earn additional income. "We are the best young farmers' club in the district" says their young chairman, Richard Mulinge, and indeed they have won a prize for being the best club in the district.

The whole school is undeniably proud of the club and the grade three class prepared a song and dance routine that says, convincingly, the "sky is the limit for our club".

- Improved livelihoods and access to education and health services among 10,056 community members in Cambodia
- 4,500 farmers trained in production and value addition of cocoa
- 180 farming groups developed to share technologies, production and marketing processes.

This year also saw an expansion of ActionAid's work in the occupied Palestinian territories. With AusAID funding and our local partners, Asala and ICP, we continued to provide micro-finance loans to 136 Palestinian women to initiate new livelihood or business opportunities, which have increased average income by USD152 (AUD145) per month. The project extended capacity building activities for 14 community-based organisations to respond to and advocate on behalf of 4,071 community members. Women's participation and representation within community based organisations has also been increased, assisting with the long

term strengthening of women's influence within Palestinian society. This work was complemented by new efforts to work directly with extremely vulnerable groups within the west bank. The project works with excluded groups to reflect on, define and organise for social, economic and political change.

This year we also expanded our knowledge base through research aimed at understanding the impact of climate change on women's rights in the Pacific. This research was conducted in Papua New Guinea (PNG) and Solomon Islands in partnership with the Bismarck Ramu Group (BRG) and the Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT). The research found that drought, landslides, flooding, variation in rainfall and temperature, coastal erosion and rising sea levels were the main climate-related hazards affecting people in the study communities, with women being the most vulnerable to the negative impact of climate change. The research indicated the knowledge and capacity of communities to understand, predict and

respond to such hazards was limited as was government financial, programmatic and policy response. The report calls for greater attention to gender preparation and response to climate change, improved capacity of communities to assess and adapt to climate change and increased financing for local adaptation initiatives.

In 2011, we also took time for internal reflection and learning. We applied the human rights based approach to our programs and procedures to ensure we appraise, monitor and evaluate our projects and partnerships through a human rights lens. We developed a monitoring and evaluation framework and management information system for capturing the changes we help create and extracting lessons learned from the work we do. These foundations will help us document and communicate our stories of change and help hold us accountable to those people and groups least able to enjoy their human rights.



Members of the women's business group tell their story. Photo: ActionAid

## Tamarind and sweet potato chips

When you drive down the main road, which is little more than a track, of a small rural village in Cambodia you don't expect to be greeted with a feast of snacks. Yet that is exactly what Sally Henderson from ActionAid Australia discovered when she recently visited an ActionAid Australia supported child sponsorship program in Cambodia.

Sally met with a group of women who are taking charge and with the help of Action Aid Cambodia's local partner KDDF, making life changing decisions for themselves and their families.

A group of five women, all from surrounding villages, have formed a women's business group. They are all widowed, left with dependent children and were only just able to farm enough paddy to live on let alone make an income from.

The women approached our local partner for a loan and then, with training in food processing, set up a small business processing and packing food to sell. From the income they make, they save a small amount so they can gradually pay back the loan. They also each contribute 2,000 riel per month (approximately AU50 cents) into an 'emergency fund', which allows women with no savings to access money if they need it urgently, primarily for hospital costs for their children.

The group currently sells their produce in their villages, and they dream of being able to sell their produce at the local market, which is 10km away. Life is slowly changing for these women; with the training they receive and the income they earn, they are able to build a better future for themselves and their children.



Suheila with one of her daughters tending her sheep. Photo: ActionAid

## Suheila's Story

Suheila Al Rjoub and her husband live in Palestine with their eight children. Life is difficult for them, Suheila's husband is ill and unable to work and she feels the pressure of having to provide for her family with very little income. Suheila also lives in constant fear for her children's future as she herself missed out on finishing her education. This fear coupled with the continuous threat of military attacks and violence, meant Suheila saw very little hope for the future.

Recently things started to change for Suheila and her family when Suheila approached Asala, ActionAid Australia's partner in Palestine, for a small loan to start up a sheep rearing business. Her first loan was for US\$3,000 (AU\$2,800), which enabled her to buy some land from her brother and sheep, and start her business. Through the various trainings provided by Asala, Suheila learnt sustainable farming techniques and has been able to gradually build her business. With the income generated Suheila was able to pay off her first loan and she has now taken out a second loan to continue to grow her business.

Suheila is now able to confidently provide for her family, cover the costs of her business and pay for her children's school needs. She no longer fears for her children's future, she can give them the educational opportunities she missed out on and finds her confidence is growing, giving her the ability to assist other members in her community.

# Campaigning for change

In 2011, ActionAid Australia mobilised Australians to seek justice for smallholder women farmers in Africa through the Fertile Ground and Last Famine campaigns.

Women farmers in low and middle income countries not only suffer the most from hunger, but are also a key part of the solution to hunger. For example, women grow 80% of the food in Africa, yet they own only 1% of the land. Closing this 'gender gap' in agriculture could reduce the number of hungry people in the world by 12-17%, reducing the number of hungry people by at least 100 million, according to the United Nations.

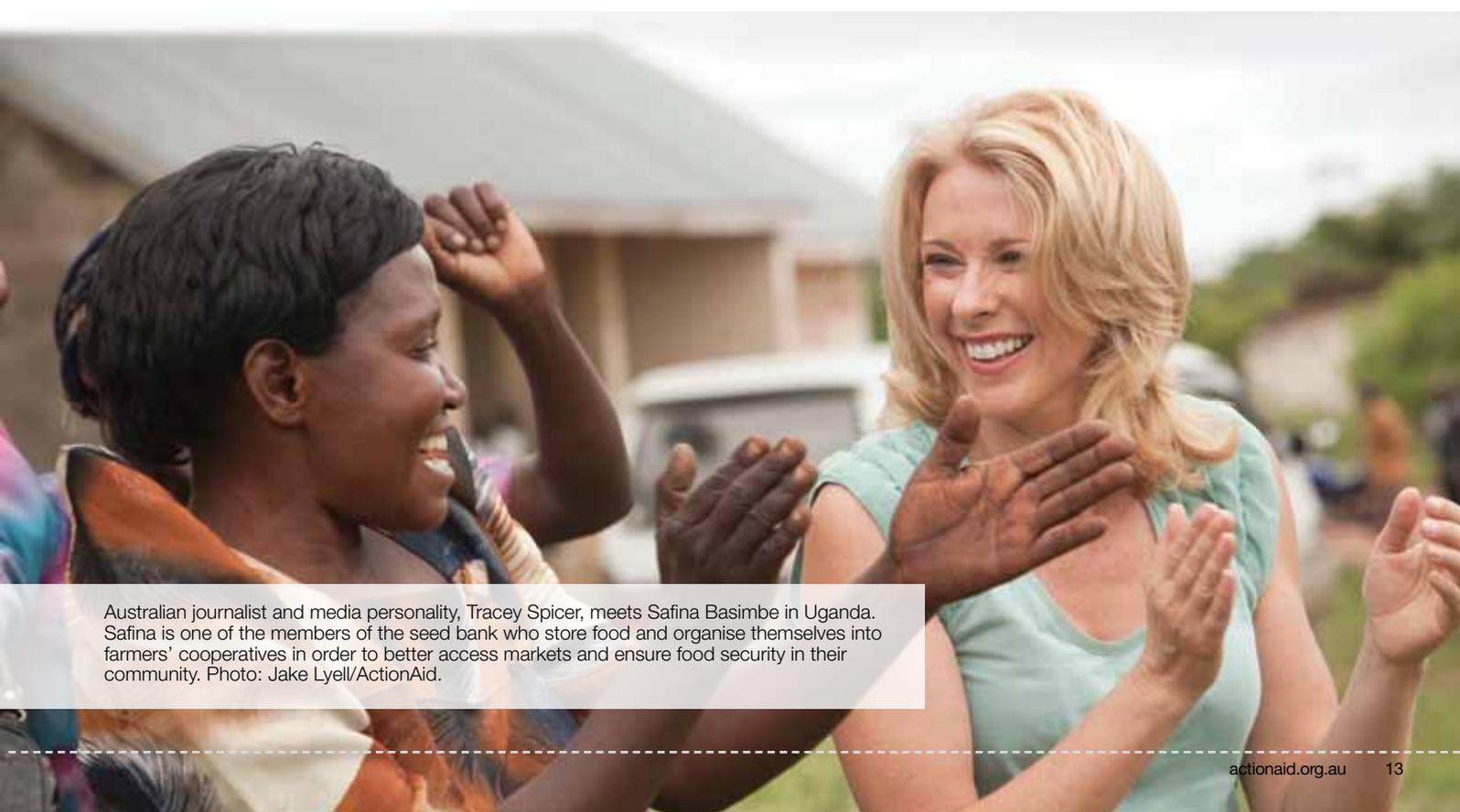
ActionAid's campaigns during 2011 highlighted the role women farmers have to play in ending hunger and protecting vulnerable communities against global food crises. Our activities enabled Australians concerned about issues of

food security to lobby the Australian government to increase the portion of aid that goes to supporting women farmers to grow their own food today, so they don't need to rely on handouts tomorrow.

The Fertile Ground campaign focused on the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Perth in October 2011, with the famine in Somalia pushing food security to the top of the agenda. As a result of the famine attracting press attention, we launched a campaign called The Last Famine, in which our supporters signed a petition asking Julia Gillard to make Somalia the last famine in history by supporting smallholder women farmers.

But we did more than just present a petition from Australians – we collected letters from Ugandan women farmers to Prime Minister Gillard, which were delivered in person by Florence Apuri of ActionAid Uganda. Florence met the Prime Minister personally and asked her 'woman to woman' to commit more money to helping the cause of women farmers.

As part of our Fertile Ground campaign, we held the Hunger Busting Bloggers competition (funded by AusAID's African Australian Community Engagement Scheme), in which we recruited two women farmers from Australia to blog about the issues facing their counterparts in Africa.



Australian journalist and media personality, Tracey Spicer, meets Safina Basimbe in Uganda. Safina is one of the members of the seed bank who store food and organise themselves into farmers' cooperatives in order to better access markets and ensure food security in their community. Photo: Jake Lyell/ActionAid.

The selected Hunger Busting Bloggers, Tina McPherson and Hannah Moloney, travelled to Uganda and Tanzania to learn first-hand from farmers themselves about the challenges they face in their day to day lives as women, mothers and farmers. These included problems of reduced rainfall, falling soil fertility, lack of access to water or seeds, and land grabbing by large companies without compensation.

Also as part of the Fertile Ground campaign, media personality Tracey Spicer visited Uganda and reported back on the situation on the ground, highlighting ActionAid Uganda's human rights work and calling for more action from the Australian government to address the root causes of poverty and hunger.

The campaign was a huge success - we met with all key players in government;

Foreign Minister Kevin Rudd spoke publicly about the importance of women's role in food security, and the Australian government's aid program (AusAID), agreed with us about the importance of women farmers, and revised its policy with an improved focus on women. Our campaign also generated strong media coverage, spreading the word about this important issue to many more people.

## Meet Tina McPherson

I'm Tina McPherson, and, together with my husband Bruce, I farm strawberries and passionfruit in the region between Bundaberg and the Coral Coast in Queensland.

Late last year I won ActionAid Australia's Hunger Busting Blogger competition and went to Uganda and Tanzania to see first-hand the challenges faced by women farmers there. I blogged about my experiences on the ActionAid Australia website and have been inspired to continue to blog about the issues faced by woman farmers around the world since my return.

I was also fortunate enough to host Ocola Apio Polly, a woman farmer from Uganda, on my farm in Bundaberg. In return I was hosted by Polly in her homestead near Katakwi in Eastern Uganda. Despite the disparities between Polly's life and my own I found a lot of parallels. "We're both farmers, both mothers and our chief focus is to bring up our children as well-educated young men and women," said Polly.

With the women being the backbone of the agricultural system in Eastern Africa and, for that matter, in most of the developing world, I believe without women in Australia supporting their battle for their rights, the plight of these women and their families won't improve. Women like Polly produce 80% of the food in Africa and they need our help in fighting for the basic rights to own land, to access credit and benefit from government services. I do that by raising awareness of the issues through my blogging and speaking activities and am proud to call myself an ActionAid Australia campaigner!



Ocola Apio Polly (centre) looks at millet yield with her visitors, Australian small-scale farmers Tina McPherson (right) and Hannah Moloney (left), at her home in Odom Village, Katakwi District, a drought-prone region in Eastern Uganda. Photo: ActionAid

# Building our supporter base

Donating to ActionAid is not a passive gesture of “charity”. It is a deeply political action, one that says you stand in solidarity with people living in poverty.

This year the Australian public donated more than \$3.3 million through our various fundraising initiatives, which is supporting life changing activities in poverty stricken countries around the world.

## The Other You

In July 2011, ActionAid Australia launched The Other You – a revitalised regular giving program that connects Australian supporters with overseas ActionAid staff who are working in the field. Our activists are passionate people who believe every child deserves an education, that women deserve the same rights as men, that no one should

have to go hungry and that everyone has the right to control their own lives.

This regular giving program also harnesses the power of social media by linking Australian supporters with our activists on Facebook. Supporters have the opportunity to receive live updates, videos and photos about the tangible changes the activists are making each day.

By the end of 2011, there were more than 3,100 Australians supporting ActionAid’s activists around the world.

## Child sponsorship in Uganda and Cambodia

The child sponsorship program continues to grow and there are now more than 800 children in Cambodia and 830 children in Uganda being sponsored by ActionAid supporters in Australia. ActionAid Australia’s child sponsorship enables children, their families and the community to benefit from our rights-based programs. These programs are designed to create long term changes to the underlying causes of poverty, not simply deal with the short term effects.

Our sponsorship program is set to expand in 2012 to include communities in Bangladesh and Afghanistan.



Harriet (middle) an ActionAid activist speaks at a rally marking International Women’s Day in Mubende, Uganda. She stands in solidarity with two women that had been abducted by the Lords Resistance Army rebel group. Photo: Jake Lyell/ActionAid

## Community fundraising

Each year, ActionAid supporters run, walk, cycle and think of lots of creative ways to raise money for our rights based work around the world.

A highlight this year was the 'first-hand experience' trip, where a group of women cycled 400km in Cambodia to raise money for ActionAid Australia.

## East Africa emergency

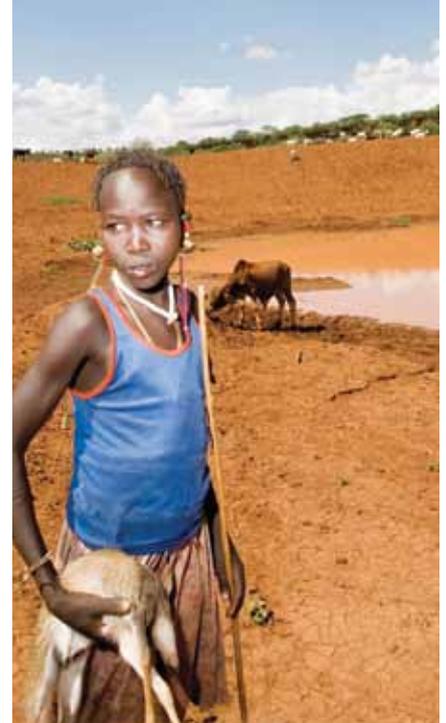
The slow building East Africa crisis in 2011 impacted 12 million people in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Djibouti.

ActionAid Australia's emergency appeal raised more than \$435,000 of much needed funds for programs in Kenya – where ActionAid Kenya has been working for 40 years. Over five million people were hit hard by the drought, requiring urgent humanitarian assistance. The worst affected communities were the arid and semi-arid lands of Isiolo, Lagdera, Garbatulla and Merti districts.

Due to long term commitments in these communities, ActionAid Kenya was able to respond quickly, providing school meals for children to ensure they stayed in school, and distribute food and water supplies for families. Funded by ActionAid partners around the world, this work reached more than 250,000 people in Kenya.

The work will continue with a three-year longterm recovery plan focusing on ActionAid Kenya, building community resilience to drought. This includes developing sustainable water sources and helping people diversify their livelihoods so they are less dependent on livestock or crops. It will also focus on keeping children in schools and improving access to health services.

During times of disaster, women and girls living in patriarchal societies become even more vulnerable to gender based violence. A key component of the recovery plan, funded by ActionAid Australia's emergency appeal, is to provide protection for women and girls and build community awareness campaigns around violence against women, to ensure women have the right to seek justice and a life of dignity.



Twelve year old Chemeghtogh carries a dead dik dik she has hunted. The food crisis in Kenya has meant she is expected to look after a herd of goats and hunt to support her family. Photo: Des Willie/ActionAid

## A first-hand experience

In March 2011, five intrepid ActionAid Australia supporters took on a 400km cycle challenge from Siem Reap to Phnom Penh and the opportunity to spend three days building a pre-school in the province of Kampong Speu. Each participant had to fundraise more than \$3,000 to take part on the trip – and each took on the fundraising challenge in a multitude of ways from hosting cocktail parties, trivia nights, promoting their challenge in the local press, to creating their own online pages and promoting the challenges through their social media networks.

After briefing meetings with ActionAid Cambodia staff and their local partner KDDF, the team had a real insight into the rights-based program being implemented in the communities. From women's livelihood programs to education, KDDF focuses their work on the most vulnerable - disabled people, women and children. The days were spent bricklaying, rendering walls and mixing cement, as well as getting the chance to spend time with the many children and locals who came to watch the team work.

*"My overall experience was fantastic. Nothing compares to the sense of personal achievement in completing a physical challenge as well as helping improve the quality of life of another person."* Kristy Marshall.



2011 first-hand experience participants - Susanna McArdle, Kristy Marshall, Rebecca Fox, Camilla Done, and Jessie Jo Blythe. Photo: Maeva Freeman/ActionAid



Sopheak and her mother, Som Hon, at home with their mosquito net. Photo: Harry Freeland/ActionAid

## Sopheak's Story

Like so many children in Cambodia, Sopheak was born into a world of disadvantage. Despite their best efforts, her parents struggle to make ends meet and they have lost four children, most probably due to dengue fever. Life is a struggle for survival and Sopheak's mother fears for her only daughter's life.

When ActionAid Cambodia's partner, ADIFE<sup>1</sup>, began a sponsorship program in Sopheak's village things started to change for her and her family. Her mother attended a training program on dengue fever where she learnt about the symptoms of the illness and most importantly, how to prevent it. The family was also given a mosquito net, which they were told to use at night.

Sopheak's mother now makes sure pot holes around her house are filled in, dry leaves and coconut shells are removed from the area and that her daughter wears long sleeves at night, particularly during the rainy season.

*"The training was very good because it will help us protect our children from this disease. Prevention is better because the treatments don't always work and are very expensive for us. I hope there will not be any more cases of dengue fever in the community now that we know how to better protect our children."* – Som Hon (Sopheak's mother).

## Women for Influence

ActionAid Australia's Women for Influence group is a strong network of women who have a common passion to bring about transformative change for women in developing countries. In its first year of active participation, the group fundraised over \$55,000 for the 'Female Paralegal Training Program' in Afghanistan. The first major fundraising initiative was a successful dinner with 200 guests, held at Parliament House in Sydney. Each member of Women for Influence invited friends and colleagues to come together to learn about the paralegal program and also stand in solidarity with the people in Afghanistan, fighting against violence and the persecution of women. The project began in December 2011, and the group looks set to reach its target of \$100,000 in 2012.

## Major Gifts

ActionAid Australia's Major Gifts program has grown from strength to strength since its inception in April 2010. By creating long term and deep relationships with individuals, trusts and foundations, as well as corporates, the program more than doubled its target of \$200,000 for 2011. With the Board of Directors and the Executive Director actively involved in developing the program, ActionAid Australia is set to continue its success.

With the wonderful support of Planet Wheeler Foundation, ActionAid Myanmar is educating youth leaders, Change Makers, to bring communities together to address their issues and build a brighter and more sustainable future for themselves. The Letcombe Trust and another donor supported a project to improve livelihoods of people through modern beekeeping

technologies and methods in Ethiopia. There was continued support by The Charitable Foundation to improve access to safe and clean drinking water in Makoni, Zimbabwe, significantly reducing the rates of water borne disease in this area.

## Wills and Bequests

During 2011, several loyal supporters remembered ActionAid Australia by donating to us in their Will. Their gift is a lasting memorial for a cause they felt strongly about during their lifetime and will continue to support ActionAid's work into the future. Bequests received during 2011 totalled \$168,347 and ensure future generations around the world have access to the rights these wonderful supporters believed in.

If you are a family member or friend of a loved one who supported us in this special way, we sincerely thank you.

1. While ActionAid Australia does not fund any projects undertaken by ADIFE, this story is a wonderful example of how sponsorship funds are used by our partner ActionAid Cambodia who we work with on a number of other projects.

# Being green

It might not be easy being green but at ActionAid Australia we are committed to reducing our carbon footprint and helping Australians minimise their environmental impact on poor and excluded communities.

ActionAid Australia is firmly committed to becoming a greener organisation and operating in an environmentally sustainable way across all facets of the organisation. We work with partners, rights holders and the Australian public to reduce and where possible, mitigate the environmental impact of our work.

We understand that climate change and natural resource limits mean people living in poverty are experiencing more intense shocks and more hunger, and are facing up to new violations of their rights. We believe ActionAid Australia has a role to play in empowering, standing in solidarity with, and building the resilience of poor and excluded communities affected by climate change and food insecurity.

All projects supported by ActionAid Australia are screened for their environmental impact and checked for

compliance with AusAID standards. Projects that have significant environmental impacts will not be supported by ActionAid Australia. We seek suppliers who share our environmental values and approach to becoming environmentally sustainable, and we do not accept funds from industry sectors that have been identified as environmentally harmful.

We are determined to be good global citizens and make informed choices that will minimise our own environmental impact and carbon footprint as an organisation. ActionAid Australia's Green Team, comprised of staff representatives from all functions of the organisation, has put into place an Environmental Action Plan that manages and measures progress towards reducing our carbon footprint and environmental impact.

In 2011 the Green Team was awarded the Green Action Award by the global ActionAid federation in recognition of its efforts.

Environmentally-conscious practices in use daily in the ActionAid Australia office include a worm farm for food scraps, fair trade products in our kitchens, recycled paper and a recycling program for IT equipment, mobile phones, batteries and chargers, light bulbs and printer cartridges. We plan to hold our own monthly Green Awards to incentivise teams to stay focused on more environmentally conscious innovations.



People in Zimbabwe supporting and celebrating the 'Trans African Climate Caravan of Hope', a travelling campaign telling the African story around climate change, culminating in Durban for the United Nations Climate Change conference. The campaign was a coordinated effort between ActionAid's African country programs. Photo: Takaitei Bote/ActionAid

# Our future

ActionAid Australia is committed to working with poor and excluded people to eradicate poverty and injustice. We will engage where we should and confront where we must to work towards a world without poverty and injustice.

Over the past two years during the transition from Austcare to ActionAid Australia, we have focused on defining our own unique identity and setting the scene for our future work.

We have committed ourselves to the primary objective of helping people stand up, claim their human rights and actively challenge the development model based on an unjust global economic and political system. Over the next six years, from 2012 through to 2017, our strategy *Changing the Rules*, will guide our work around three core mission objectives:

**1. Enable poor and excluded people, particularly women, to secure access to, and control over, the productive resources and decision making processes essential to improving their livelihoods.**

The world's natural resources are increasingly privatised and, as a result, the poorest and most excluded people are being expelled from their land and are unable to provide sustainable livelihoods. This is becoming

increasingly widespread as the world adjusts to the realities of climate change, which is placing increased pressures on the demand for agricultural land.

ActionAid Australia will build on our program and campaigning work with women smallholder farmers and accelerate our support for them to secure access to the resources they need for sustainable small-scale farming.

**2. Protect women's rights by preventing and responding to gender-based violence against women during disasters and conflicts.**

Disasters and violent conflicts increase violence against women, create new vulnerabilities and threaten safety and security. For example, sexual violence is used as a method of warfare, increased rates of domestic violence in refugee camps.

One of the strengths ActionAid Australia brings to the ActionAid International federation is our experience in protection work during disasters and conflict. We now have an opportunity to build on this work focusing on violence against

women as one critical protection issue that is relevant in all emergencies.

**3. Tap into positive values that encourage Australians to challenge the status quo and critically evaluate how their lives and choices affect people living in poverty.**

If Australia is to play a constructive role in creating equal access to the world's limited resources, we need to tap into and give voice to the strong, positive, universal values that we hold, equipping people with the confidence to challenge the status quo and achieve the changes we need to see in the world.

We will mobilise large numbers of people and build a power base that grows over time to shift values and ensure hard fought battles are defended in the future. We will mobilise our fellow Australians around a broad array of issues that have deep appeal to them.

We are excited about the challenges we face in the coming years and are looking forward to you joining us as we change the rules together.



Zimbabwe Rural Women attended the United Nations Climate Change conference in November 2011. Here they sing a song around the need for negotiators to sign or have a second commitment of the KYOTO protocol.  
Photo: Jake Lyell/Shoot the Earth/ActionAid

# Our supporters

In 2011 our supporters helped us raise more than \$3 million through appeals, major gifts, community fundraising and much more; and worked with us to bring change to government policy for a fairer go for smallholder women farmers in Africa.

None of the work we do would be possible without your voice and financial support – thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment to see a world free from poverty and injustice.

Major donors, partners and ambassadors providing significant financial or in-kind support are crucial to the success of ActionAid Australia's work. To those who supported us in

2011, we say “thank you” and we look forward to a continued partnership in 2012 and beyond.

## Meet Ric and Jo Easton

Alignment with their own values and ethics was an important consideration for Ric and Jo Easton to support ActionAid Australia.

Ric and Jo decided to first support us in 1998 when they were inspired by the work Austcare was doing in Cambodia around land mine clearance. When Austcare became ActionAid Australia in June 2009, the couple continued their tremendous generosity to help make a difference in the world.

The Easton's run a family-based business specialising in the wholesale of biodynamic and organic food and products from their farm in Tasmania. The business was established in 1992 as a response to them being unable to source locally grown organic produce, and Bio-Distributors was born.

Through the business and personally, the couple support over 30 charities which they feel are aligned with their own values and share their philosophies on sustainable agriculture and ethical considerations, like protecting animal rights and the principles of fair trade. Seventy five percent of the profits from their business are invested back into the charities they love, including ActionAid Australia.

Ric and Jo have supported a number of different areas of ActionAid's work through annual donations made in response to our appeals.

“ActionAid is a wonderful organisation that deserves our support – and our money can do nothing useful sitting in the bank,” Ric says. “Our hope is for the world to become a fairer place where everyone has an equal chance and where people consider others, including animals and the planet, much more than they do now.”

## Meet Shae Spry

Melbourne based Shae Spry is passionate about changing the world. She's been working and volunteering for non-profits since she was 14. In October 2011, Shae volunteered as ActionAid Australia's citizen journalist at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Perth.

The meeting, attended by several African leaders, took place at the height of the famine and food crisis gripping East Africa.

Shae travelled to Perth and teamed up with ActionAid Uganda activist Florence Auma to make sure world leaders didn't ignore the needs and priorities of women smallholder farmers – who produce the majority of food in developing countries.

“Being the CHOGM blogger was an invaluable opportunity for me. I learnt more about how to raise the profile of important issues in the context of an international meeting, and had the chance to spend time with seasoned campaigners. Our persistence, boldness and charismatic spokesperson, Florence, led to significant attention from Prime Minister Julia Gillard and the Western Australian media.”

Florence and Shae at CHOGM. Photo: ActionAid



Ric and Jo Easton.





When Ocola Apio Polly (smallholder farmer from Uganda) visited Australia, she was hosted by Anna De Barr at her farm in Orange. Anna and Polly took advantage of the opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss different farming methods.  
Photo: Dean Sewell/ActionAid

## Major donors

### Institutional donors

AusAID  
Danida  
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation  
UNDP

### Trusts and Foundations

Australian Executor Trustees  
Eureka Benevolent Foundation  
Letcombe Trust  
Planet Wheeler Foundation  
Protrust  
Tasmanian Perpetual Trustees  
The Charitable Foundation

### Individual major gifts

Alan and Hilary Wallace  
Beryl Schairer  
Billeroy Farms Pty Ltd  
Douglas Kelly  
John Heathers  
Manish and Hema Patel  
Martin and Maria Ryan (and family)  
Peter and Deborah O'Keefe  
Terrence Wollaston

### Corporates

Deutsche Bank Australia  
DLA Piper (Australia)  
Oxley Timber Company

## Pro bono

DLA Piper  
Minter Ellison  
Sparke Helmore  
Williamson Legal

## ActionAid Australia's Women for Influence

Dr Nina Burridge  
Judge Helen Murrell  
Kerrie Murphy  
Louise Robert-Smith  
Martine Letts  
Pamela Greet  
Siobhan Hobbs  
The Hon Susan Ryan  
Tracey Spicer

## Ambassadors

Many prominent Australians are long-time supporters of ActionAid Australia and represent us as Ambassadors. Our ambassadors play an important role in promoting the organisation, our mission, vision and values to the wider community.

### Patron in Chief

Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

### Ambassador for Protection:

The Hon John Dowd AO QC

### Ambassadors for Mine Action:

Ian Mansfield AM  
John Rodsted

### Ambassador for People with a Disability:

Michael Milton OAM

### Ambassador for Cambodia:

Lt Gen (Ret) John Sanderson AC

### Ambassador for Education:

Louise Robert-Smith

## Legacies

We gratefully acknowledge the kind and thoughtful gifts received from those who have supported ActionAid Australia through their Will during 2011. These extraordinary contributions will help make a difference in the lives of the poor and excluded for many years to come.

Alan R Murray  
Beryl A Smith  
Brenda E Jensen  
Eileen C Langford  
Eileen M Lees  
Eira M Reed  
Emily M Towns  
Ernest C Rutt  
George B Stewart  
Jack H Sharrad  
Kathleen F Moore  
Kenneth H Waters  
Kenneth Leech  
L M Fraser  
Leonard A Dobbs  
Mary J Pearce  
Raymond W Richards  
Reverend C Kay  
Valerie E Kelly

# Our people

ActionAid Australia is a group of passionate, dedicated and committed staff and volunteers who in 2011 helped us get closer to seeing a world without poverty and injustice.

If the heart of ActionAid's work lies in the field, the extent and complexity of the change we are pursuing requires support and engagement from around the world, including the Australian government and the Australian people.

At ActionAid Australia, we have therefore created a team that aims to give the best support to the country programmes, both in terms of financial and technical support, where and when required and engaging the Australian community into the pursuit of change for a better world.

This team is made up of employees and volunteers who all share the same passion for making a difference and seeing a world without poverty and injustice. We hold creativity, compassion and commitment at the forefront of our work.

## Our leadership team

Our organisation is led by a group of experienced and committed professionals who together have over 86 years work experience in the fields of development, communication, fundraising and finance.

### Archie Law Executive Director

Archie has been at the helm of ActionAid Australia for more than five years. Prior to joining ActionAid, Archie worked for the United Nations Development Program in South Africa and the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York. He also spent four years heading up the Mine Advisory Group's (MAG) 500-person Cambodia Program after an illustrious career as the drummer for the band Huxton Creepers.

*"The best thing about ActionAid is our commitment to enabling the world's poor and excluded people to stand up, claim their rights and end injustice".*

### Dr Catherine Esposito Head of Programs

Catherine brings to our team 14 years of operational experience. She has been working on an array of different topics from HIV/AIDS or maternal and child health to food and fuel distribution programs. She has worked in a number of different contexts from war torn Iraq to food crises in Angola. A Doctor in the field of health and human rights, she also brings to the team a high level of creative thinking and a methodological approach to our way of working, ensuring we are accountable for every aspect of our work with the country programs.

*"I am inspired by our commitment to equality and justice for those least able to enjoy their human rights entitlements."*



ActionAid Australia staff and volunteers.  
Photo: ActionAid



Students at a primary school in Mubende, Uganda.  
Photo: Georgie Scott/ActionAid

## **Frédérique Blanc** **Executive Projects Manager**

Frederique joined ActionAid Australia in 2006 after seven years working as an Event Manager in Europe, Asia and Africa. She has worked for development organisations in Europe, and five years in the Australian higher education sector. Frederique is the glue to our team. Her steadiness and sense of diplomacy ensure smooth communication at each level of the organisation, including our Board of Directors.

*"ActionAid's work is a constant source of inspiration and humility. I feel proud to be connected to so many international colleagues who all work towards the same mission in an innovative way!"*

## **Mark Chenery** **Head of Community Engagement**

Mark began his career working in an advertising agency before becoming a journalist, working for AdNews Magazine. He joined ActionAid Australia in 2008 as Communications Manager and has recently taken on the role of Head of Community Engagement where he is using his skills to engage with the Australian public and government bodies to change hearts and minds on what it means to be poor and oppressed, and galvanise them in to action.

*"I believe there's power in people to end poverty. That includes the power of Australians to stand in solidarity with people who are poor and excluded to support them to claim their rights."*

## **Morgane Daumarie** **Head of Human Resources**

Morgane joined ActionAid Australia in October 2011 and brings 11 years of Human Resources management experience. She has worked in both the corporate and humanitarian sectors, in 13 different countries around the globe. She uses her understanding of field operations and people to help our team grow, learn and share.

*"It is an amazing feeling to be able to wake up every day to not only do a job I am passionate about, but also to be part of a greater community of people who join forces to make a difference for themselves and others."*

## **Palash Roy** **Head of Finance and Administration**

With an MBA from Jadavpur University in India and a Master of Business in Finance from UTS in Australia, Palash brings to ActionAid Australia the best of both worlds he has had a chance to work in. His 15 years' experience in Finance, strong sense of compliance and flexible nature are key to the success of our work in Australia.

*"One of the best things about working in ActionAid is our accountability to the poor and excluded people across the globe, with whom we work together to bring the changes in the world."*

## **Maeva Freeman** **Head of Fundraising**

With over 10 years' experience in marketing and communications, Maeva joined the ActionAid Australia team in April 2010. This experience, coupled with her desire to see change in the world has contributed to a creative and strategic approach to our fundraising. She is driven by the opportunity to connect as many people as she can to the amazing work of ActionAid around the world and to tell the stories of positive change happening at the community level.

*"What motivates me? Working with such a passionate team in Sydney and knowing that our fundraising, campaigning and programming work is really making a long term impact to ending the causes of poverty."*



## Louise Johnson, ActionAid Australia Partnerships Manager

Louise is ActionAid Australia's Partnerships Manager working with many of our wonderful supporters around Australia who want to see a change in the world by supporting specific life-changing projects. Louise has an undergraduate degree in English and French and comes from a corporate background within private banking and relationship management.

"One of the best things about working for ActionAid is the ability to work with incredible people, both supporters and rights holders, all over the world who are doing amazing things to make the world a better place."

"Prior to my role at ActionAid, I worked in the corporate sector in London. Moving to the not-for-profit sector now means the work I do on a day-to-day basis has an impact on people's lives. Moving to Australia has offered me the chance to work for an organisation working with people to unleash their own power and make the world a better place for all."

## Our Volunteers

Over the course of 2011, 76 volunteers and interns have helped further ActionAid Australia's mission. They have supported us in areas as diverse as fundraising, donation processing, copywriting, social media, administration, research, building maintenance and staff counselling. Their enthusiasm, reliability and commitment have been limitless. Apart from the volume of work they perform for the organisation, volunteers help us achieve things that otherwise wouldn't be possible.

One volunteer single-handedly migrated all our data from our old website to the current one, and another, after helping a research project manager with literature research, accompanied her to Papua New Guinea to conduct research with local communities at her own expense.

In 2011, volunteers donated more than 6,700 hours of their time, which is a commercial equivalent of \$185,689. In keeping with our strong focus on women, the majority of our volunteers were female (57).

ActionAid Australia has thorough policies to guide the recruitment and management of volunteers and complies with established good practice in the recruitment, training, supervision and re-imburement of volunteers. ActionAid Australia volunteers are never engaged to replace a paid-staff position, and volunteers and interns are sourced in a strategic manner. ActionAid Australia encourages applications from volunteers from diverse backgrounds and age groups.

They provide that vital link with the wider Australian community and a different perspective that only people outside the organisation can bring to us.

## Kate Seewald ActionAid Australia Intern

As she was undertaking a Masters of Human Rights at the University of Sydney, Kate was keen to gain experience in an organisation focused on a human rights based approach to development. Kate was particularly drawn to ActionAid's emphasis on women and girls as key agents of change. Kate volunteered her time for seven months working on the Women's Rights and Climate Change (Pacific) Research Project.

"The aim of the project was to highlight the inequalities faced by women and girls in Melanesia, and the impact of climate change on them. I was fortunate to be able to travel with the Research Project Manager to Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, to assist with data collection. It was incredibly inspiring to meet with and talk to community members about the issues affecting them, and also interview government departments and development agencies such as AusAID and UNDP.

"My internship experience, both within the Sydney office and in Port Moresby, has provided me with invaluable, 'hands-on' experience within the development sector. It has further strengthened my resolve to work for the rights of people and communities dealing with challenges caused by a lack of access to fundamental rights and basic resources. The fact that I was able to do this in a friendly and welcoming environment, with an extraordinary team of experienced development practitioners was a bonus."



## Marty O'Neill ActionAid Australia Volunteer

Marty has been a dedicated volunteer at ActionAid Australia for the past four years. He started volunteering because he wanted to contribute to an organisation that was seeking to make a difference. Marty helps the team with maintaining our volunteer records and timesheets and assisting with preparations for ActionAid Australia Board meetings. He is also the self-appointed "kitchen watcher", dedicated to the cleanliness and unclutteredness of the office kitchen area!

In 2011, Marty worked on a pilot study on the carbon foot-print each of the ActionAid country affiliates was making. He spent several weeks analysing the data of all our paper use, and going through all the domestic & international travel documentation to determine ActionAid Australia's carbon foot-print.

"Collating the paper usage and travel information was the most time consuming and, as it turned out, these two areas were the main proportion of the carbon foot-print for Australia - international travel being the largest contributor by far. I was thrilled and surprised to win the Green Action Award for this project!"

"Through volunteering with ActionAid Australia, I've gained an insight into the massive extent of suffering experienced by people living in poorer countries, and an appreciation of the dedication and commitment of those who work in the development sector."

Photo: ActionAid



# Our board

ActionAid Australia's Board is responsible for the governance of the organisation, setting our strategic direction, monitoring our performance against it, managing risk, and ensuring we are accountable to our supporters and the poor and excluded people with whom we work.

The Board is made up of five to nine Directors, who are elected and appointed by members from the membership base.

The Board meets at least six times per year and conducts an annual review of its performance. Service on the Board is voluntary, although related expenses are paid for. Once appointed, Directors are provided with a thorough induction program by the Leadership Team and are encouraged to seize immersion opportunities in the countries where we work.

The Board is responsible for:

- appointing the Executive Director, and regularly reviewing his/her performance
- setting overall long-term strategy and supporting management's recommendations on policy and strategic directions
- guarding ActionAid Australia's values
- ensuring ActionAid Australia's activities are within the law and reflect non-profit organisation good practice
- overseeing risk management
- ensuring complete accountability to rights holders, donors and other stakeholders
- enhancing ActionAid Australia's public image
- ensuring ActionAid Australia plays an influential and exemplary role as an affiliate of ActionAid International.

## Governance

ActionAid Australia is committed to demonstrating and achieving the highest standards of good governance. We are a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct for non-government organisations. The code defines standards of governance, management and financial control with which development organisations should comply.

We are also a full member of the ActionAid International Federation. The federation is made up of a number of self-governing Affiliates and Associates which are Members united by a central structure and by shared values, vision and mission. ActionAid Australia is an ActionAid affiliate and as such, plays an active role at the annual International Assembly where the International Board is elected and strategy and policy are discussed.

## Governance Committees

The ActionAid Australia Board has established committees to assist the governance of the organisation. These committees undertake specific projects and activities, as well as propose recommendations to the Board for approval. All committees report directly to the Board.

The **Governance and Board Development Committee** is responsible for regularly reviewing and improving the Board's governance, reviewing the Executive Director's performance and identifying potential new Board members.

The **Finance and Fundraising Committee** is responsible for budgeting, financial reporting and financial risk management. It ensures organisational compliance with all legal requirements.

The **Audit and Risk Management Committee** oversees risk management, the internal and external audit of the organisation and monitors ActionAid Australia's compliance with statutory requirements (including ActionAid Australia policies, the ACFID Code of Conduct and AusAID accreditation).

## Our Directors



**The Hon John Dowd AO QC  
LLB (Syd)**

**President**

John is a former NSW Attorney-General and Leader of the House, Consul-General for the Cook Islands to Australia and a NSW Supreme Court judge.



**Bill Armstrong AO  
GradDip Community Education**

**Vice President; Chair of Governance  
and Board Committee**

Bill is a former CEO of Australian Volunteers International and former President of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID).



**Megs Alston  
LLB (Melbourne) Dip Ed (Melb)**

**Audit and Risk Management  
Committee**

Megs is an International Development Consultant and has extensive experience in the sector, working for Save the Children and Australian Volunteers International.



**Susan Brennan  
BA/LLB (Hons)**

**Governance and Board Development  
Committee**

Susan is the representative to ActionAid International Assembly. She is a barrister and is the immediate past President of the World YWCA, having dedicated much of her life to womens' rights.



**Nicola Davies  
LLB (Hons), BSc (ANU)**

**Chair of Finance and Fundraising  
Committee**

Nicola has held positions at the ACT Conservation Council, Australian Conservation Foundation, ACT Environmental Defenders Office and Greenpeace.



**Tuong Quang Luu AO  
BA/LLB (Saigon) LLB (ANU)**

**Chair of Audit and Risk Management  
Committee**

Quang is a former head of SBS Radio, a senior executive of the Australian Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and Australian Achiever of the Year.



**James Pyne  
B.E. Hons (Syd) M.B.A. (Insead)**

**Audit and Risk Management  
Committee**

James has spent almost two decades as a strategy consultant and in various senior management positions in Australia, the UK and Asia.



**Gordon Weiss  
MA (Int. Rels., Security)**

**Finance and Fundraising  
Committee**

Gordon is a journalist and author with extensive experience in the international aid sector, 12 years of those spent working for the UN.



**Sonia Zavesky  
Graduate A.F.T.R.S.**

**Governance and Board Development  
Committee**

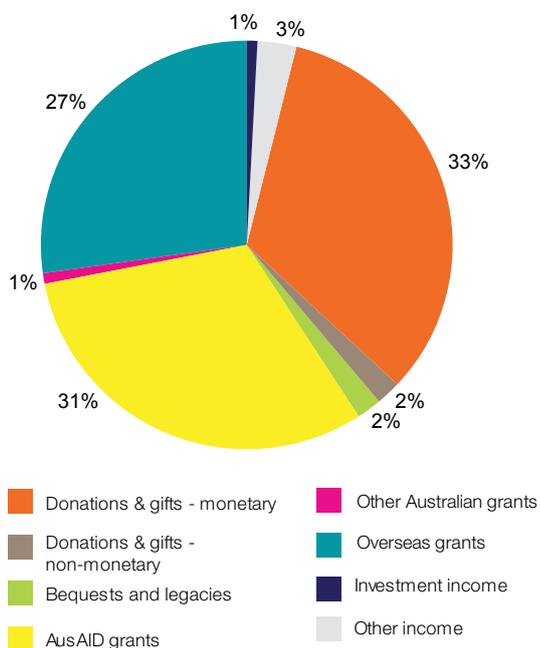
Sonia is a former ABC Radio journalist and Chief of Staff, and was head of communications at Greenpeace International. She now runs a media and communications training company.

Board changes: In 2011, Megs Alston and Gordon Weiss joined the Board, while Kevin Bailey and Sekai Shand resigned.

# Our finances

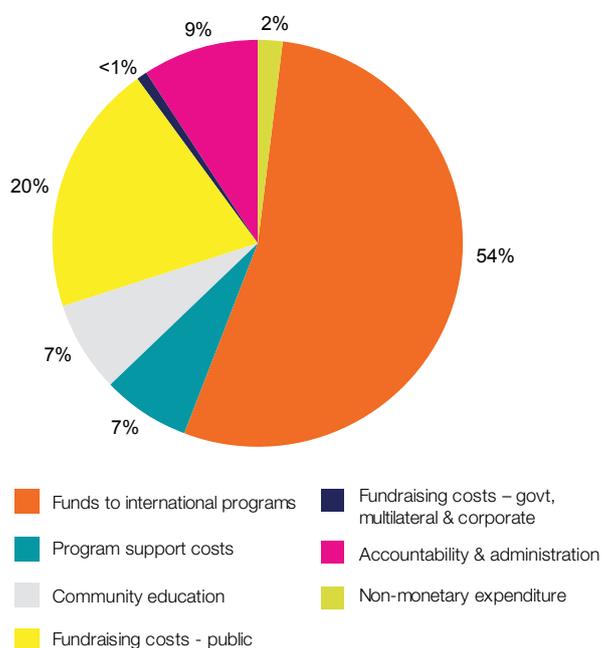
## Money in

During 2011, ActionAid Australia made significant progress on its strategy of diversifying its income sources. Public funds raised by ActionAid Australia totalled \$3.6 million and comprised 38% of income for the year, compared to 41% in the previous year. This 2011 income amount included bequest income of \$168,347 (\$1.1 million was in year 2010). Grant income comprised 59% of total income at \$5.7 million. Of this, \$3.0 million came from AusAID and \$2.7 million from other Australian and overseas sources. Due to increasing interest rates and higher cash balances, interest income was \$116,460. ActionAid International contributed \$214,364 (shown in other income) towards ActionAid Australia's investment in public fundraising and protection.



## Money out

Our total program expenditure was 68% of expenditure for 2011, a slight decrease from the 72% of expenditure recorded in 2010. Of the 2011 program expenditure of \$7.2 million, overseas projects received \$5.7 million, \$780,691 funded the project management costs in Australia that supported the overseas projects, as well as it funded the Pacific Research Project, implemented from Australia, and \$694,033 funded campaigns and community education in Australia. Fundraising expenditure remained relatively high at 22% of total expenditure, and this focused on public donations, which helps ActionAid Australia diversify its income sources. Accountability and administration costs remained at the same level as 2011.



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](http://www.acfid.asn.au).

The full financial report for the year ended 31 December 2011 is available on request or on the ActionAid Australia website at [www.actionaid.org.au](http://www.actionaid.org.au).



# Auditor's Statement

## Report of the independent auditor on the summary financial statements to the members of Actionaid Australia

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprises the summary statement of financial position as at 31 December 2011, the summary statement of comprehensive income, summary statement of changes in equity and summary statement of cash flows for the year then ended and the directors' declaration, are derived from the audited financial report of ActionAid Australia for the year ended 31 December 2011. We expressed an unmodified auditor's opinion on that financial report in our report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2012.

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Australian Accounting Standards for a general purpose financial report. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report of ActionAid Australia.

### *Directors' responsibility for the summary financial statements*

The directors are responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial report on the basis 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 summary financial statements derived from the audited financial report of ActionAid based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

### *Auditor's opinion*

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial report of ActionAid for the year ended 31 December 2011 are consistent, in all material respects, with the 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

Cameron Roan  
Partner  
Sydney

23 April 2012

KPMG, an Australian partnership and a member firm of the KPMG network of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Cooperative ("KPMG International"), a Swiss entity.

# Statement of comprehensive income

For the year ended 31 December 2011

## Revenue

Donations and gifts include money received from the Australian public, as well as non-monetary income, such as volunteer or pro bono services. Bequests and legacies are funds that donors have left to ActionAid Australia in their Wills. Funds are also received in the form of grants, which are contractual donations from Australian and overseas government or institutional donors, such as the Australian government's official overseas aid agency (AusAID). Investment income is interest income, and other income includes funds received from ActionAid International and membership subscriptions.

## Expenditure

ActionAid Australia's expenditure on programs includes our long-term development, emergency response and advocacy activities overseas, as well as the costs of improving program quality and effectiveness. In addition, our program expenditure includes the costs of public campaigning in Australia. Fundraising costs are the costs incurred in our efforts to build a funding base to support our program work. Accountability and administration costs are the costs of ensuring our organisation is managed effectively and complies with all relevant regulatory requirements, and includes costs such as office maintenance costs, administrative staff costs, IT running costs and audit fees. Non-monetary expenditure simply offsets the amount of volunteer and pro bono services to eliminate any effect on the overall income result.

	Year ended 31 December 2011 \$	Year ended 31 December 2010 \$
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Donations and gifts		
- Monetary	3,276,946	3,256,168
- Non-monetary	219,413	206,582
Bequests and legacies	168,347	1,177,792
Grants		
- AusAID	3,078,247	3,561,953
- Other Australian	56,709	894,041
- Other overseas	2,645,703	1,765,339
Investment income	116,460	120,050
Other income	247,841	386,674
International political or religious adherence promotion program revenue	-	-
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>9,809,666</b>	<b>11,368,599</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure</b>		
International programs		
- Funds to international programs	5,763,832	6,176,845
- Program support costs	780,691	594,033
Community education	694,033	777,897
Fundraising costs		
- Public	2,179,117	1,650,872
- Government, multilateral & private	69,110	61,847
Accountability and administration	961,185	967,955
Non-monetary expenditure	219,413	206,582
<b>Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure</b>	<b>10,667,381</b>	<b>10,436,031</b>
International political or religious adherence promotion program expenditure	-	-
Domestic programs expenditure	-	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>10,667,381</b>	<b>10,436,031</b>
<b>Excess of expenditure over revenue</b>	<b>(857,715)</b>	<b>932,568</b>
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income / (loss)</b>	<b>(857,715)</b>	<b>932,568</b>

## Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 31 December 2011

	Retained earnings \$	Restricted funds reserves \$	Unrestricted funds reserves \$	Total undistributed funds \$
<b>Opening balance at 1 January 2010</b>	1,890,979	348,335	50,000	2,289,314
Excess of revenue over expenditure	932,568	-	-	932,568
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	932,568	-	-	932,568
Other amounts transferred to/ (from) reserves	(501,514)	501,514	-	-
<b>Closing balance at 31 December 2010</b>	2,322,033	849,849	50,000	3,221,882

	Retained earnings \$	Restricted funds reserves \$	Unrestricted funds reserves \$	Total undistributed funds \$
<b>Opening balance at 1 January 2011</b>	2,322,033	849,849	50,000	3,221,882
Excess of expenditure over revenue	(857,715)	-	-	(857,715)
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	(857,715)	-	-	(857,715)
Other amounts transferred to/ (from) reserves	(123,513)	123,513	-	-
<b>Closing balance at 31 December 2011</b>	1,340,805	973,362	50,000	2,364,167

The reserves of ActionAid Australia have decreased by \$857,715 over the year and we ended 2011 with total reserves of \$2,364,167. Of this amount \$481,010 was spent on Pakistan Flood Emergency projects as planned. The remaining movement to reserves of \$376,705 was for specific purposes such as funding the investment in ActionAid Australia's fundraising activities and funds that were raised for a particular purpose, such as \$476,138 raised through the public appeal for the emergency in East Africa that has not been spent yet. The plans for spending the emergency funds were already in place by the end of 2011 and ActionAid Australia does not distribute all funds immediately so that it can ensure the funds are best used for long-term, sustainable outcomes.

During the year ended 31 December 2011, ActionAid Australia had no transactions in the following categories specified in the ACFID Code of Conduct: adjustments or changes in equity or items of other comprehensive income.

## Statement of financial position

As at 31 December 2011

Of ActionAid Australia's total assets of \$9 million, \$8 million was held as cash, with around half of this amount being held in high-interest term deposits at banks. The organisation's largest liability, at \$6.1 million, is deferred revenue. Deferred revenue is grant funds received in advance that are yet to be used for overseas projects and the management support costs of those projects.

	31 December 2011 \$	31 December 2010 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	8,070,732	7,114,491
Trade and other receivables	227,604	233,227
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>8,298,336</b>	<b>7,347,718</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	609,438	628,659
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>609,438</b>	<b>628,659</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>8,907,774</b>	<b>7,976,377</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	292,950	821,176
Provisions - employee benefits	110,448	100,169
<i>Other</i>		
- Deferred revenue	6,113,254	3,818,262
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>6,516,652</b>	<b>4,739,607</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Provisions - employee benefits	26,955	14,888
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>26,955</b>	<b>14,888</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>6,543,607</b>	<b>4,754,495</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>2,364,167</b>	<b>3,221,882</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Restricted funds reserves	973,362	849,849
Unrestricted funds reserves	50,000	50,000
Retained earnings	1,340,805	2,322,033
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>2,364,167</b>	<b>3,221,882</b>

At 31 December 2011, 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.

## Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 31 December 2011

	Year ended 31 December 2011 \$	Year ended 31 December 2010 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Cash receipts from appeals, donations & fundraising activities	3,445,293	4,433,960
Cash receipts from AusAID grants	2,936,997	4,688,102
Cash receipts from other grants	5,417,807	2,499,791
Proceeds from other activities	247,300	386,674
Interest received	116,460	120,050
Cash payments to suppliers and employees	(3,954,837)	2,347,238
Cash payments for project expenditure	(7,238,557)	(7,548,775)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>970,463</b>	<b>2,232,564</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Proceeds from sale of non-current assets	21,000	-
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(35,222)	(35,370)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(14,222)</b>	<b>(35,370)</b>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>956,241</b>	<b>2,197,194</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period</b>	<b>7,114,491</b>	<b>4,917,297</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December</b>	<b>8,070,732</b>	<b>7,114,491</b>

ActionAid Australia increased its cash position during 2011 by \$1 million; this is mainly due to institutional donors continuing to donate funds in advance of our expenditure.

## 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 \$9,809,666.

Project/purpose	Cash available at 1 January 2011 \$	Cash raised during the period \$	Cash disbursed during the period \$	Cash available at 31 December 2011 \$
AMENCA 2 program, oPt*	1,593,575	1,366,604	1,329,794	1,630,385
Aceh cocoa farmers, Indonesia	827,746	4,254,114	2,346,701	2,735,159
Total for other non-designated purposes	4,693,170	6,564,139	7,552,121	3,705,188
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,114,491</b>	<b>12,184,857</b>	<b>11,228,616</b>	<b>8,070,732</b>

\*Australia-Middle East NGO Cooperation Agreement (Neighbourhood Corners in the Southern West Bank), occupied Palestinian territories

Of the cash available at balance date for all other purposes of \$3,705,188, an amount of \$2,721,072 is committed to funding a specific project or to be used for a designated purpose.

## ActionAid Australia Director's Declaration

In the opinion of the directors of ActionAid Australia:

- (a) the financial statements and notes set out on pages 7 to 28 are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 including;
- (i) giving a true and fair view of the financial position of the Company as at 31 December 2011, and of its performance, for the financial year ended on that date; and
  - (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and Corporations Regulations 2001 ; and
  - (iii) complying with the ACFID Code of Conduct for non-governmental development organisations; and
- (b) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Dated at Sydney this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April 2012

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors:



The Hon. John Dowd AO QC  
President



James Pyne  
Director

ActionAid Australia holds full accreditation status with AusAID, the agency responsible for managing the Australia Government's official overseas aid program.

ActionAid Australia is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), and is a compliant signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. A copy of the Code of Conduct can be obtained from [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au). If you believe ActionAid Australia has breached the code, you can lodge a complaint with ACFID, either on their website or by writing to the Code of Conduct Management Team, Private Bag 3, Deakin ACT 2600.

If you wish to lodge a complaint with ActionAid Australia, please write to the Head of Community Engagement, Locked Bag 5515, Camperdown NSW 1450 or via email to [complaints.au@actionaid.org](mailto:complaints.au@actionaid.org). The complaints handling policy is available on our website [www.actionaid.org.au](http://www.actionaid.org.au).

Cover: International Women's Day 2012 celebrations in North Western Kenya. ActionAid Kenya has been working with women in this area to strengthen their voice on violence affecting them and their children.  
Photo: Søren Bjerregaard/ActionAid.



**Australian Government**  
**AusAID**



**Auditor: KPMG**

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