



Media release

For immediate release

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Global Aid Alliance Launched in Australia

Australian aid and development agencies today announced the launch of one of the world's largest international relief and development alliances.

The new ACT Alliance will deliver AUD \$1.6 billion in aid each year to combat poverty, injustice, and human rights abuses, and also provide support in the wake of emergencies.

ACT Alliance is made up of 100 organisations from across the globe working in 125 countries with people of all faiths for positive and sustainable change. ACT Alliance members work to provide emergency food aid, shelter, water and sanitation facilities, and community-based development programs in some of the world's poorest countries.

The alliance brings together ACT International, which has been working in emergency relief since 1995, and ACT Development, a grouping of agencies formed in 2007 to work on long-term development.

ACT Alliance General Secretary John Nduna said: "The membership of the ACT Alliance is wide, in every part of the world. Almost everywhere we have churches, we have ACT.

"We are big and we make an impact on the lives of the poorest in societies around the world."

The alliance was announced in Australia by its Australian members: Act for Peace, the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia; *AngliCORD*, an overseas relief and development agency of the Anglican Church of Australia; and Australian Lutheran World Service, the overseas aid agency of the Lutheran Church of Australia.

Alistair Gee, Executive Director of Act for Peace, said: "This unique alliance will allow us as Australian aid agencies to make a more focused and efficient response to emergencies when they occur. This launch heralds a new era of collaboration, partnership and dedicated action in support of the world's most marginalised and poor people."

AngliCORD CEO Misha Coleman said: "Through this alliance we will respond to emergencies more quickly, at lower cost, and in a more coordinated way than ever before. As Australian agencies we are proud to be at the heart of one of the world's largest aid alliances."

Australian Lutheran World Service Executive Secretary, Peter Schirmer, added: "The ACT Alliance represents a commitment by churches and church-based agencies to 'get their act together' in responding to disasters and fighting against the scourge of global poverty. The Australian and NZ ACT partners will play an active role in the alliance, as well as being able to benefit from their participation in it."

Supported by its Australian members, ACT Alliance has been at the forefront of life-restoring work in Haiti since the massive earthquake hit Port-au-Prince on 12 January this year.

On that day, nine ACT organisations were operating in Haiti and were able to swing into relief efforts immediately. Act for Peace, *AngliCORD* and Australian Lutheran World Service have all provided financial support for the work of their ACT partners in Haiti.

Act for Peace, *AngliCORD* and Australian Lutheran World Service already support vital life-saving and life changing work in numerous countries around the world and with the creation of the ACT Alliance, can achieve even more by working with other ACT members.

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Editor's notes

Key facts about ACT Alliance

- The alliance is composed of more than 100 organisations working in long-term development and humanitarian assistance.
- There are 30,000 people working for the alliance member organisations.
- The alliance was legally formed on 1 January 2010, by the unification of ACT International and ACT Development.

Members

- Members are related to the World Council of Churches and Lutheran World Federation. All have established capacity and experience in development and emergency work.
- ACT and its members are signatories to the Code of Conduct in Disaster Relief and uphold the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, known as the Sphere standards.

Act for Peace

- Act for Peace empowers war-torn communities to protect refugees, reduce poverty, prevent conflicts and manage disasters.
- Our project partners are currently assisting over one million people in 15 of the world's worst conflict areas, including Sudan, Horn of Africa, Zimbabwe, the Middle East, Burma and Sri Lanka.
- We also work with partners in the Pacific and with Indigenous and refugee communities in Australia.
- In 1949, we started our best known appeal, the Christmas Bowl, which has collected over \$100 million.

AngliCORD

- Inspired by the Gospel of Christ, *AngliCORD*'s vision is for a peaceful, just and sustainable world for all.
- *AngliCORD* works with Anglican and like-minded agencies to create and strengthen local partnerships in developing countries to overcome poverty, injustice and disaster.
- Our dedicated partners address HIV and AIDS, health and literacy, community development, peace and reconciliation, climate change, water and sanitation, children's support and emergency relief in Africa, the Pacific, Asia and the Middle East.
- *AngliCORD*'s aim is not to provide charity but rather to help people become self-reliant.
- During the 2008-09 financial year *AngliCORD* sent more than \$1.08 million overseas in support of the vital development work being implemented by our partners.

Australian Lutheran World Service

- ALWS supports long-term sustainable development programs in Cambodia, Nepal, Indonesia, PNG, Burundi, Mozambique, Sudan and Kenya.
- This year, ALWS celebrates 60 years of caring for people around the world
- In 2009, ALWS assisted over 250,000 people through their emergency relief and community-based development programs.
- ALWS is also involved in community education and aims to inform supporters about global development issues so that they are better able to respond.
- ALWS also assists refugees in Australia with their resettlement by providing loans for airfares, small businesses and other necessities.