Action on Poverty (AOP) is the trusted partner for changemakers who want to create a better world. With over 50 years of experience in international development combined with grassroots networks globally, we help everyone take action on poverty.

We are experts in connecting people, sharing resources, and maximising impact. From tackling mosquito-borne disease in Vietnam, to helping farmers learn climate-smart farming techniques in Malawi – our approach to partnership brings local and global communities together to create safer, healthier, and more prosperous futures.

AOP is fully accredited with the Australian Government and is a signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct, which upholds the highest standards in the sector.

ABOUT US

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COVER PHOTO:
The brocade group is one of the Community-based Tourism service groups supported by Irish Aid and Australian Aid in Da Bac, Vietnam. The group keeps this traditional art form alive by training young women in how to dye and stitch brocade garments, and sharing brocade with visitors.

LEFT:
Luis from Mozambique has increased his income by growing and selling sweet potatoes. The profits bought this motorcycle and pay for his children’s education.

THIS PHOTO:
Student assembly at a high school in Zimbabwe supported by the Gomo Foundation.
What a year! We started the year with a plan to enable more changemakers to take action on poverty through a revitalised partnership program. We managed to build 30 partnerships and welcomed three new members to our Sydney team and three new members to our Vietnam team. We farewelled our beloved Mrs P and Christine Pollard, former CEO and Finance Director, who had such an extraordinary contribution to AOP. Thank you Mrs P – we miss you.

This year, we also said good-bye to Peter Ong (Program Manager), Trinh Thi Hue (General Manager), Char Dy (Program Officer), and Soong Poh Yong (Human Resources & Operations Manager) in Vietnam. We welcomed Thich Tho (Human Resources & Operations Manager) for the team in January and Austin Ahn (Program Manager) in March 2020.

This year has been unprecedented on so many levels. Yet despite some very serious challenges, our people and partners have persevered, sometimes despite personal tragedy. In order to continue to support our communities around the world, I would like to thank you for your tireless efforts. It is indeed a privilege to be part of such a courageous network of selfless people.

Thank you for your wonderful contributions to Action on Poverty. AOP is a part of such a courageous network of selfless people. Thank you for your tireless efforts. It is indeed a privilege to be part of such a courageous network of selfless people.
Our Global Impact

This year we helped over 370,000 people access life-changing opportunities across Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.

- **202,838** people reached // Asia
- **164,907** people reached // Africa
- **2,821** people reached // Pacific

**People Reached**

- **ASIA**
  - 202,838
- **AFRICA**
  - 164,907
- **PACIFIC**
  - 2,821

**People Accessing 300 Water Points**

- **MALAWI**
  - 59,100

**People Reached Through Clubfoot Awareness-Raising Campaigns**

- **BANGLADESH**
  - 610

**People with Increased Awareness of Gender Equality**

- **VIETNAM**
  - 9,264

**People Participating in a Regional Potato Project**

- **AFRICA**
  - 9,264

**Farmers Improving Productivity and Incomes**

- **ZIMBABWE**
  - 6,970

**Women Joining Savings-and-Loans Associations**

- **CAMBODIA**
  - 660

**Patients per Day Treated at an Out-Patient Clinic**

- **TANZANIA**
  - 100

This year we helped over 370,000 people access life-changing opportunities across Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.

Women in Vat village, Son La, Vietnam where AOP in Vietnam is implementing the Gender Responsive Opportunities for Women (GROW) in Community-based Tourism Project.
OUR VISION
FOR ALL PEOPLE TO TRANSCEND THE INJUSTICE, INDIGNITY, AND INEQUALITY OF ENTRANCED POVERTY

OUR MISSION
TO EMPOWER CHANGEMAKERS TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY

OUR VALUES
AS WE WORK TOWARDS ACHIEVING OUR MISSION, WE COMMIT TO THE FOLLOWING CORE VALUES:

◆ Upholding the dignity and human rights of every individual
◆ Dealing truthfully, honestly, and transparently at all times
◆ Supporting communities to help themselves
◆ Undertaking activities that address the needs and interests identified by the people with whom we are working

◆ Being accountable to all our development partners
◆ Operating with a spirit of collaboration in achieving common objectives
◆ Maximising the impact of donor contributions
◆ Respecting the environment
◆ Providing challenging, supportive, and safe work environments where people can improve their skills and knowledge

OUR SUPPORTERS

INSTITUTIONAL DONORS
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Irish Aid
Monash University

TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS
Andrew McNaughtan Foundation
Charitable Aid Foundation
The Charitable Foundation
English Family Foundation
Glencoe Foundation
Lang Foundation
Macquarie Group Foundation
MiracleFeet
The Nelumbo Trust Fund
UK Foundation

CORPORATES AND COMMUNITY
Community Engagement Summit Series
NDY Charitable Trust
SMEC Foundation
Royal Hobart Hospital
Sparro
St Peter’s Girls’ School

PRO BONO SUPPORT
Maddocks
Simpatico
Sparro

OUR PARTNERS

Cambodian Women’s Crisis Center (CWWC)
Community Research and Development Services (CORDS)
Community Technology Development Organisation (CTDO)
Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT)
Face to Face (FF)
Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSP)
Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific Kiribati (FSPK)
Glimmes Foundation
Gonio Foundation
HAMI Health
Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF)
Psychosocial Recovery and Development in East Timor (PRADET)
Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT)
Timor Aid
United Purpose
Vita
Walks for Life (WFL)
World Mosquito Program (WMP)

OUR TEAM
BOARD
John Kell (Chair)
Edward Bartolo
Malak Agnew
David A Beet
Merrilyn Clancy
Tim Loult
Angeline Law
Debra Wolff
Alice Xu

SENIOR EXECUTIVE
Bryony Howe
CEO
Mehal Shah
CFO
Cherrie Murphy
International Programs Director
Carme Cerdan
Head of Partnerships
Ta Van Tuan
Asia Regional Director

Sara has increased her income by selling bread and satay sticks by the roadside in Timor-Leste.
OUR STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

1. PROGRAMS
Support local organisations to undertake innovative and quality programs which build inclusive, sustainable communities that are better able to tackle poverty and injustice.

MILESTONES
• Reached over 370,000 people in 13 countries
• Worked with in-country NGO partners to pivot programs towards COVID-19 response
• Evaluated food security and livelihood program in Malawi

2. PARTNERSHIPS
Forge partnerships that add value to our work and contribute to addressing poverty.

MILESTONES
• Conducted capacity assessments with three in-country NGO partners and created development plans to strengthen these organisations
• Reviewed Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies with 13 in-country NGO partners

3. ENGAGEMENT
Inspire Australians to take action on reducing poverty through informed conversations about what their individual roles could be to address this complex challenge.

MILESTONES
• Secured new corporate partnership with the SMEC Foundation
• Engaged donors in supporting COVID-19 adaptation projects
• Pivoted to remote volunteering and internships

4. SUSTAINABILITY
Progressively strengthen Action on Poverty as an organisation so we can continue to deliver effective development programs and achieve our strategic goals.

MILESTONES
• Developed new strategic direction and KPIs
• Moved to shared office space in North Sydney
• Streamlined a cloud-based finance system to bring Australian and Vietnamese operations onto the same platform

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
We’re committed to doing our part to achieve the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals and create a better world for all by 2030.
HEALTH

OVERVIEW
Many of the communities we work with are unable to afford health care, and have poor access to clean water and nutritious foods. COVID-19 has further exposed these gross inequalities. Our programs therefore address public health threats, connect communities to health services, train medical professionals, and address gaps in hygiene and nutrition, helping to break the cycle of ill health and disadvantage for good. This year, our work also focused on responding to COVID-19, including increasing community awareness and preparedness.

HIGHLIGHTS
In Vietnam, AOP continued its partnership with the World Mosquito Program on addressing dengue – the most critical mosquito-borne disease in the world, with two million people infected each week. AOP also completed the renovation of a 364m² laboratory, creating a regional hub for mosquito research.

The Walk for Life (WFL) program treated 2,500 children at 33 clinics in Bangladesh, with 87 per cent of patients completing the first year of their treatment – a new record. WFL clinics introduced a new fee-for-service model, with patients who can afford to pay subsidising fees for those who can’t. In Myanmar, WFL treated 205 children and introduced a mobile app to facilitate patient follow-up.

In Timor-Leste, we worked with Psychosocial Recovery and Development in East Timor (PRADET) to help people living with mental illness or trauma access health care and counselling. We also targeted inmates in two prisons with rehabilitation activities.

Meanwhile, in Africa and the Pacific, we focused on helping vulnerable households grow nutrient-dense foods to reduce malnutrition, stunting, and hunger.

AOP also completed the renovation of a 364m² laboratory, creating a regional hub for mosquito research.
In June 2020, 37 households on Tavea, Yaqaga, and Galoa Islands in Fiji received hygiene kits to protect themselves from COVID-19. The kits included sanitary products, hand-washing supplies, and household cleaning supplies. Our friends at Partners for Community Development Fiji (PCDF) also worked with the Ministry of Health to conduct COVID-19, leptospirosis, dengue, and typhoid awareness training, while water engineers repaired and upgraded water points on Yaqaga Island.

This project is supported by Australian Aid through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

When Aadin* was born with both his feet twisted inward, his parents had never heard of clubfoot. They didn't know if the condition could be treated, and as fishermen, worried about paying expensive doctor's bills. Fortunately, a baby doctor at Aadin's parents' clinic helped them find Walk for Life (WFL). In 2015, Aadin attended his closest WFL clinic in Bhola District and began treatment that day. Physiotherapists used the Ponseti method – a non-surgical technique that involves gentle manipulation of the feet to bring them into the correct alignment. Five years later, Aadin has completed his treatment and can now walk and run. His parents are thrilled to see their son playing with other children.

*Name changed

This project is supported by the Glencoe Foundation and by Australian Aid through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

COVID-19 RESPONSE

When COVID-19 began disrupting projects in early 2020, AOP's partners pivoted quickly to refocus their work. Activities included awareness-raising among target communities, distributing hygiene supplies, and providing food packages for households whose incomes were affected by lockdowns.

For example, in the Solomon Islands, village demonstration workers led by experienced health-care professionals conducted awareness training, such as hand-washing and social distancing, in their communities. In Vietnam, we equipped tourism operators with digital thermometers to ensure the safety of staff and guests. In Kiribati, we installed hand-washing basins at all schools and educated children on hygiene.

FOCUS ON FIJI

In June 2020, 27 households on Tavea, Yappia, and Gaba Islands in Fiji received hygiene kits to protect themselves from COVID-19. The kits included sanitary products, hand-washing supplies, and household cleaning supplies. Our friends at Partners for Community Development Fiji (PCDF) also worked with the Ministry of Health to conduct COVID-19, leptospirosis, dengue, and typhoid awareness training, while water engineers repaired and upgraded water points on many islands.

This project is supported by Australian Aid through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).
OVERVIEW
Our work focuses on helping communities develop skills and access resources to pursue their own development goals. We help communities forge strong relationships with their government representatives; support training in skills such as advocacy, leadership, and management; encourage community cohesion that includes women, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and youth; and help local, community-based organizations continue growing so they can better serve their communities’ needs. Our overall goal is to empower people to lead long-term change from the grassroots level.

HIGHLIGHTS
Through training and networking, village-based groups improved their ability to identify and address their own development needs. In the Solomon Islands, Village Advocacy Committees (VACs) implemented their own action plans. Priorities included offering training in savings, establishing savings groups, and supporting three new businesses: a vegetable farm, poultry farm, and fuel depot. Similarly, in Timor-Leste, community groups created 13 action plans and conducted training to help local people up-skill in vital areas such as food cultivation. Groups networked with local authorities to discuss local needs and develop stronger linkages between people and their government.

In Vietnam, where Community-based Tourism (CBT) is a fast-growing livelihood model, especially for marginalized women, AOP reviewed its tourism and gender policies in Son La province. AOP also held dialogue sessions with communities and their local governments to discuss development activities in Son La, Ha Tinh, and Hoa Binh provinces.

In Tanzania, AOP worked with Community Research and Development Services (CORDS) to help Maasai communities find ways to sustain their traditional pastoral livelihoods. Local leaders created Village Action Plans to address climate change and address increased competition for land use.

PHOTOS, LEFT TO RIGHT: Maasai communities created Village Action Plans to address water insecurity and other development challenges. Village representatives attend community development training in the Solomon Islands.
**FOOD, WATER, & CLIMATE**

**OVERVIEW**

The climate crisis is increasing the incidence and severity of drought, flood, and other extreme climatic events with a devastating impact on rural communities that derive their living from the land. Many households lack access to water both for household consumption and agriculture, exacerbating hunger and malnutrition. Others are at high risk of contracting serious water-borne diseases from unprotected sources such as streams. COVID-19 has only exposed the need for improved access to water and hygiene infrastructure in communities. Therefore, our work focused on training communities in water hygiene and COVID-19 preparedness, installing water systems, introducing farmers to climate-resilient crops that feed families, and educating households about nutrition.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

With COVID-19 shutting down markets and disrupting global supply chains, many marginalised communities are experiencing food shortages. Working with our local partners, we provided packages consisting of staples such as cooking oil, rice, maize, and soap to some of the most vulnerable households in Africa and Asia.

- In Zimbabwe, which is currently experiencing drought and economic crisis, we worked with Community Technology Development Organisation (CTDO) to distribute food rations to almost 3,000 students and 6,000 households. We continued our work with farmers, building a new weir dam and cattle trough that serves four villages, and conducting agriculture and finance training. As a result, households increased their crop yields, improved their dietary diversity, and began accessing real-time market info to help sell excess crops. We also installed a new solar-powered water system that serves 106 households and 1,000 students.

- Our regional potato project in Ethiopia, Malawi, and Mozambique focused on improving access to high-quality potato seed, training farmers’ associations in how to produce their own seed locally, and connecting farmers to markets. This project has had tremendous success in meeting farmers’ needs. In Mozambique, for example, farmers reduced the hungry season by up to two months, increased crop yields by 200 per cent, and earned up to $250 more per year.

- In Tanzania, we continued our research with Maasai communities on environmental management of their traditional grazing lands and built three dams used by 6,800 people. In Malawi, we continued working with the Face-to-Face Project and helped 15,000 people establish nutritious kitchen gardens. In Vietnam, we conducted a study on climate-adaptive livelihoods in Soc Trang Province and shared the findings at a two-day workshop with local government and community groups. Working with the Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific Kiribati (FSPK), we installed hand-washing basins at 11 primary schools and introduced increased hygiene education to schools in response to COVID-19. As part of our regional food and water security project, over 300 households in Kiribati and Timor-Leste increased their vegetable production and began raising pigs, goats, and chickens for household consumption. Kiribati communities worked with staff to establish three new marketplaces to sell surplus produce and earn extra cash. For the first time, families began rearing their own chickens to boost nutrition and dietary diversity.

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This community in Zimbabwe has achieved its dream of a clean and safe water system, thanks to the assistance of ACTION ON POVERTY. The project has been supported by Australian Aid through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

The community has also elected a water committee, comprised of 60 per cent female and 40 per cent male counterparts, “said Joyce’s principal. “The energy is now directed to school and the community. The community has also minimised the risk of disease transmission. Taps are now within 500 metres of all households. This has reduced trekking distances for women, while teachers and students can spend more time in the classroom. The community has also improved its health outcomes. The processing of sweet potato has been very useful to me, “ she said. “I learned how to make mandazi (donuts) and chips. I liked this – I came home and made new things straight away for my kids.”

When water is scarce, people also tend to use as little water as possible to wash their hands, putting the community at risk of diarrheal diseases as well as putting children in particular at high risk of contracting water-borne diseases.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 restrictions meant we were unable to visit the field as planned in 2020. However, in November 2019 we conducted an evaluation of the Diversify Project in Malawi, which is helping over 3,000 smallholder farmers establish three agricultural value chains – Orange-Fleshed Sweet Potato and Pigeon Pea – in three districts of Malawi. In early 2020, we also conducted a meta-evaluation of a major agricultural project in Malawi, Tanzania and Ethiopia that supports farmers to grow potato as both a nutritious household food source and cash crop.

The evaluations found that the projects are helping households increase their income and reduce hunger months. Women in particular made significant progress, with many now holding leadership positions in their farmers’ clubs and associations. To read summaries for these evaluations, please visit actiononpoverty.org/evaluations.

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LIVELIHOODS & ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

OVERVIEW

Once communities are food- and water-secure, we work with them to develop long-term livelihoods. We support vocational training, help people start small businesses, establish local savings groups, and connect farmers and cooperatives to markets to boost incomes. Our work targets women, as they contribute the most to their nations’ growing economies. Unfortunately, COVID-19 imposed many restrictions on business and travel that drastically affected many families’ ability to earn even the most basic income. We therefore offered additional material support, including food and hygiene packages, to support struggling families through hardship.

HIGHLIGHTS

In Vietnam, AOP became one of only three NGOs approved to offer microfinance services after securing endorsement from the State Bank. The AOP Program for Microfinance (APM) offered financial services to 363 new clients this year and is serving over 3,000 people in total. Microfinance underpins much of our work in livelihood development. For example, our award-winning Community-based Tourism (CBT) model enables families to take out small loans so they can start new tourism businesses, such as homestays, that are increasing incomes and benefiting over 6,000 people. We also continued working with fish farmers on increasing their technical skills and connecting with markets. AOP presented both the CBT and fish farming models at the International Conference on Foreign NGO Cooperation as best practices in poverty reduction and private sector partnership.

In Cambodia, AOP helped 730 people (90 per cent women) learn about the value of savings, form 24 savings groups, and take out loans to start micro-enterprises. Business models include growing and selling cashew nuts, selling furniture, and raising chickens. This project also targeted vulnerable girls for vocational training and supported girls to find work or start a small business in hairdressing, beauty, and sewing.

In Timor-Leste, we helped 41 survivors of sexual- and gender-based violence access training and ongoing support so they can start a small business, such as a kiosk or food stall. With Psychosocial Recovery and Development in Timor-Leste (PRADET), we offered refresher training in small business for 54 existing clients. In Kiribati, 28 community groups began selling vegetables at newly established marketplaces, increasing household income.

In Ethiopia, Malawi, and Mozambique, we worked with smallholder farmers, government, researchers, and the private sector to create local, sustainable potato industries. By qualifying, forming business associations, and partnering with private companies, farmers created value chains that extend from seed generation right through to commercial sale. In Zimbabwe we helped cattle farmers increase their incomes by offering training in financial literacy and livestock management, focusing on improved breeding through artificial insemination.

HIGHLIGHTS

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**DUY VIETNAM**

Duy, a 34-year-old fish farmer from a small village in Vietnam’s mountainous north-west region, has turned his small plot of land into a thriving fish farm. Duy had to give up his dream of higher education to support his family, although he wanted to study to earn a living. The income from growing crops on his small plot of land barely covered the basics.

In 2015, Duy joined the Cat Ba Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and took out a micro-loan to start a low-volume trout and fish farming business. The bank helped Duy with the start-up costs, such as purchasing fish cages, while AOP (Australian NGO Cooperation Program) provided him with technical assistance and advice.

This year, Duy earned $12,300 from fish farming and he wants to expand both businesses. The Chairman of Cat Ba Village Savings and Loans Association awarded Duy a certificate acknowledging his achievements in livelihood development – a tremendous honour.

With the added income, Duy has been able to purchase fish cages, while AOP has supported him with training in the technical aspects of each business model. This has allowed him to take advantage of new market opportunities and increase his income together. Since its launch, the cooperative has entered contracts with three companies, and the Da Bac fish brand is now established.

**YESHIWORK ETHIOPIA**

Yeshiwork is from Aftara in northern Ethiopia. She is a mother of four and also supports her husband and children as a local labourer for many years. Yeshiwork struggled to grow enough food for her family and never had extra crops to sell for cash. Lack of quality potato seed and poor disease management were some of the key factors limiting Yeshiwork from reaching her potential as a farmer. After joining our potato project, Yeshiwork trained to become a seed producer and joined a cooperative that provides high-quality seed to local farmers. She also learned how to properly manage pests and diseases so she could maximise her yields.

The training given by the agronomist opened my eyes, “I am a member of the Guasa Potato Seed Multiplication Cooperative. I actively participate and share my experience of using the improved potato seed on my private farm, which has changed my entire life. “

**PHAN CAMBODIA**

Phan and her husband left their home in Kampong Thom, Cambodia, to earn a living in the city. Phan found a job as a factory worker in Phnom Penh, while her husband joined the army, but soon both lost the high incomes they had enjoyed in the army and earned with their other businesses. They struggled to cover their daily expenses.

After Phan heard about her best friends, she couldn’t be more excited. She had heard about the army, and they took out a loan to cover the medical bills. Forced out of the city, they returned to their hometown and began looking for other opportunities to earn a living.

Phan began living with her husband to manage the house and raise their children, but she couldn’t produce enough. She had to take extra work as a day labourer in nearby towns to earn enough to cover the family’s needs.

Fortunately, Phan heard about a savings group supported by our local partner, the Cambodian Women’s Credit Center (CWCC), and took out a micro-loan to start a mushroom business. She was able to produce enough for the family. Phan later invested part of her earnings in a mushroom business and joined a cooperative that provides high-quality seed to local farmers. She also learned how to properly manage pests and diseases so she could maximise her yields.

When Phan fell ill and was forced to undergo surgery, she could no longer work. Her husband had to leave the army to care for her and they took out a loan to cover the medical bills. Forced out of the city, they returned to their hometown and began looking for other opportunities to earn a living.

Phan began working with her husband to manage the house and raise their children, but she couldn’t produce enough. She had to take extra work as a day labourer in nearby towns to earn enough to cover the family’s needs. Phan then heard about a savings group supported by our local partner, the Cambodian Women’s Credit Center (CWCC), and took out a micro-loan to start a mushroom business. She was able to produce enough for the family. Phan later invested part of her earnings in a mushroom business and joined a cooperative that provides high-quality seed to local farmers. She also learned how to properly manage pests and diseases so she could maximise her yields.
AOP partners with the World Mosquito Program (WMP), a not-for-profit initiative working to protect communities around the world from mosquito-borne diseases. The WMP uses safe and natural bacteria called Wolbachia to reduce the threat of dengue, Zika, and chikungunya outbreaks.

With support from AOP, the WMP has established its Asia hub in Ho Chi Minh City – one of two of the WMP’s regional hubs. The WMP’s Asia hub supports projects in Vietnam and Asia, and contributes to core global operations. This is the latest iteration of a decades-long partnership between AOP and Australian researchers on eliminating dengue – the most critical mosquito-borne disease in the world, with two million people infected each week.

The WMP is currently celebrating a historic moment, with its three-year trial in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, demonstrating a 77 per cent reduction in dengue incidence. These results provide compelling, gold standard evidence for the efficacy of the WMP’s Wolbachia method in controlling dengue.

Since 2018, AOP has assisted the WMP with a range of services, including government liaison, human resourcing, procurement, logistics, and financial management. In 2020, AOP has committed additional funding to the WMP to build public awareness, understanding, and acceptance of its Wolbachia method, laying the groundwork for the technology to be handed over to health authorities in the near future.

“AOP helped us get the WMP intervention into Vietnam three years sooner than what would otherwise have been possible,” said Scott O’Neill, WMP Director.

“We’ve been very fortunate to be able to work with AOP. They have been like an older brother showing us how to contribute positively to Vietnam. We are very fortunate that our program around the world is enjoying great success. We are extremely grateful for the help and assistance that AOP has been able to show us.”

ERADICATING DENGUE WITH THE WORLD MOSQUITO PROGRAM

Photos, left to right:
Chau Thi To Trinh, WMP Community Engagement Officer, visits a community member in Nha Trang, Vietnam. WMP staff at their Asia Regional hub in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
## INSPRING AUSTRALIANS

ADF relies on generous Australians who use their unique skills and resources to take action on poverty. This year we were fortunate to receive support from passionate fundraisers, volunteers, and companies that lent their services pro bono.

One of those inspiring Australians is Troy Kippen. Troy came to Action on Poverty in Vietnam as part of the Australian Volunteer Program in 2019. After more than a decade working in newsrooms throughout Australia, he decided that he needed a change. Troy lived and worked in Hanoi, focusing on promoting our Community-based Tourism projects and sharing stories of change with the public. Although Troy was forced to leave Vietnam early because of the pandemic, COVID-19 only reinforced his commitment to social change after seeing first-hand how the pandemic is impacting vulnerable communities in Vietnam. Troy generously continued volunteering for AOP remotely while he pursues his Masters of Communication (Social Change) at the University of Queensland.

“Troy is one of the most inspiring volunteers we have had the pleasure of working with,” said Troy. “Even as a visitor and getting only a peek through a very small window to its people’s way of life is something that leaves a lifelong feeling of wonder and appreciation.”

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donations and gifts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Monetary</td>
<td>$1,107,655</td>
<td>$1,269,142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Non-monetary</td>
<td>$226,412</td>
<td>$7,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</td>
<td>$2,247,986</td>
<td>$2,647,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Other Australian</td>
<td>$8,950,869</td>
<td>$5,314,147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>$12,930,892</td>
<td>$8,497,629</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commercial activities income</td>
<td>$15,246</td>
<td>$16,092</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>$52,316</td>
<td>$19,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>$52,316</td>
<td>$19,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL REVENUE</strong></td>
<td>$12,854,604</td>
<td>$9,898,085</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### EXPENDITURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International aid and development programs expenditure</td>
<td>$10,940,072</td>
<td>$8,577,321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program support costs</td>
<td>$84,605</td>
<td>$47,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td>$12,509,365</td>
<td>$9,451,024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/(Deficit)</td>
<td>$322,843</td>
<td>$366,321</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### NOTE 1: ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

This financial report is derived from the company’s annual statutory report for the year ended 30 June 2020 which is available on our website at www.actiononpoverty.org.

### NOTE 2: REPORTING STANDARDS

The following financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code, please refer to the ACFID website at www.acfid.asn.au.

### NOTE 3: INSPIRING STANDARDS

The following financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code, please refer to the ACFID website at www.acfid.asn.au.
ACTION ON POVERTY /// ANNUAL REPORT 2020

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ASSETS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$3,168,749</td>
<td>$2,802,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other receivables</td>
<td>$220,112</td>
<td>$205,423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td>$3,388,861</td>
<td>$3,008,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-current assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other financial assets</td>
<td>$115,494</td>
<td>$98,305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, plant, and equipment</td>
<td>$203,881</td>
<td>$17,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total non-current assets</strong></td>
<td>$319,375</td>
<td>$116,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$3,708,236</td>
<td>$3,124,522</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current liabilities</td>
<td>$2,252,585</td>
<td>$1,981,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other payables</td>
<td>$251,096</td>
<td>$202,191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax liabilities</td>
<td>$7,276</td>
<td>$174,343</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provisions</td>
<td>$192,515</td>
<td>$125,150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other financial liabilities</td>
<td>$216,410</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unspent project funds</td>
<td>$1,585,288</td>
<td>$1,479,774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$2,252,585</td>
<td>$1,991,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-current liabilities</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$10,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$10,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>$2,252,585</td>
<td>$1,991,714</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NET ASSETS</strong></td>
<td>$1,455,651</td>
<td>$1,132,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EQUITY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserves</td>
<td>$1,600</td>
<td>$1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retained earnings</td>
<td>$1,454,051</td>
<td>$1,131,208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EQUITY</strong></td>
<td>$1,455,651</td>
<td>$1,132,808</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted funds</td>
<td>$796,487</td>
<td>$796,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-incorporation reserve</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$796,487</td>
<td>$796,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of revenue over expenses</td>
<td>$366,321</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance at 30 June 2018</strong></td>
<td>$1,162,808</td>
<td>$796,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of revenue over expenses</td>
<td>$322,843</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance at 30 June 2019</strong></td>
<td>$1,485,651</td>
<td>$1,162,808</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of revenue over expenses</td>
<td>$366,321</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance at 30 June 2020</strong></td>
<td>$1,851,972</td>
<td>$1,485,651</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHERE OUR SUPPORT COMES FROM

- Donations and gifts
- Monetary and non-monetary contributions from the Australian public, trusts, and foundations
- Gifts: The Australian Government’s overseas aid program
- Other Australian grants: Grants from all Australian institutions other than DOSAT
- Overseas grants: All grants received from non-Australian institutions
- Investment income: Income from interest and other income earned on investment assets
- Other income: Fundraising events, sponsorships, foreign exchange gains

WHERE THE MONEY GOES

- Funds to international programs: Funds remitted overseas to aid and development projects
- International projects: Program support costs: Direct costs of project management in Australia including salaries of program staff, design, evaluation, and monitoring
- Community education: Costs related to informing and educating the Australian public of, and inviting their active involvement in, global justice, development, and humanitarian issues
- Fundraising - Public: All costs related to the purposes of raising funds from the public, including salary costs of fundraising staff, and production and mailing of fundraising materials
- Fundraising - Government, multilateral, and private sector: Personnel and related costs in the preparation of funding submissions and reporting against grants
- Accountability and administration: Allocates the overall operational capacity of AOP, such as audit fees, personnel, IT, business and administration costs, insurance premiums, and membership to peak bodies
- Commercial activities expenditure: Expenditure incurred on activities where there is an exchange of value with an intention to generate a surplus to contribute to the organisation’s aims.

DONATIONS

- DFAT grants
- Donations and gifts
- Other Australian grants
- Overseas grants
- Investment, commercial activities, and other incomes

where our support comes from

- Donations and gifts: Monetary and non-monetary contributions from the Australian public, trusts, and foundations
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- Commercial activities expenditure: Expenditure incurred on activities where there is an exchange of value with an intention to generate a surplus to contribute to the organisation’s aims.
Action on Poverty (AOP) achieved a net surplus of $32,619 for the 2019-20 financial year (FY20). This was achieved through a 30 per cent increase in revenue ($11,349,784) offset by an increase of 31 per cent in expenditure ($11,349,784).

Revenue
The growth in revenue was predominantly driven by an increase of 58 per cent in AOP’s other Australian Grants (FY20 $11,349,784). AOP’s partnership for ongoing funding with support from Australian Grants (FY20 $8,950,869). AOP’s total expenditure in FY20 (FY19: 3 per cent). This was primarily driven by investment in AOP’s core services to allow it to continue its growth with necessary operating risk. Fundraising and communications expenditure accounted for 2 per cent of total expenditure in FY20 ($648,035).

Reserves
AOP’s unrestricted reserves increased by $6 per cent in FY20 to $1,454,051. This growth in reserves will allow AOP to withstand the volatility of future fundraising cycles. AOP’s unrestricted reserves increased by 29 per cent in FY20 to $2,247,986 in FY20. AOP received this represents 89 per cent of AOP’s $50,000 from Australian Tax Office for FY20 as amounting to $2,247,986 in FY20. AOP received a $2,247,986 in FY20. This was achieved through 30 per cent increase in revenue in FY20 to $1,454,051. This growth in reserves will allow AOP to withstand the volatility of future fundraising cycles. AOP’s unrestricted reserves increased by 29 per cent in FY20 to $2,247,986 in FY20. AOP received this represents 89 per cent of AOP’s overall financial performance in FY20 has laid a strong foundation for it to embark on new strategic priorities for FY21 and beyond.

In our opinion, the financial report as a whole is free from material error and the information is consistent with the financial report. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material error. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance or any statement as to the information. The other information comprises the information included in the registered Annual Report 2020 for the year ended 30 June 2020, and the auditor’s report thereon. Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance or any statement as to the information. The other information comprises the information included in the registered Annual Report 2020 for the year ended 30 June 2020, and the auditor’s report thereon.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.
Like all Australian charities and not-for-profits, Action on Poverty (AOP) operates in a highly regulated environment, and complies with a range of laws, regulations, licences, and codes of conduct to demonstrate accountability to the community and our stakeholders.

**Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)**

DFAT is responsible for managing the Australian Government’s official overseas aid program. AOP is a fully accredited and trusted recipient of funds from DFAT. The DFAT accreditation process is thorough, robust, and undertaken every five years. It involves a detailed assessment of AOP systems, operations, management capacity, governance, and linkages with the Australian community against a set of agreed criteria.

**Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)**

ACFID is the peak body for aid and development NGOs, and its Code of Conduct upholds the highest standards in the sector. AOP is a member of ACFID and a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct. As such, we are committed to working with transparency, accountability, and integrity. For further information on the Code, please visit www.acfid.asn.au.

**Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)**

The ACNC is the independent national regulator of charities. AOP is registered with the ACNC and complies with financial and organisational reporting obligations and governance standards. Please refer to www.acnc.gov.au for details of these obligations and standards.

**Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC)**

The Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) is the independent national regulator of charities. AOP is registered with the ACNC and complies with financial and organisational reporting obligations and governance standards. Please refer to www.acnc.gov.au for details of these obligations and standards.

**Fundraising**

In accordance with state fundraising laws, fundraising licences are required by many of Australia’s states to raise funds within their borders. AOP is licensed to fundraise in all states and territories, and complies with the requirements associated with these licences, including annual reporting to particular states.
Victory gardens provide a wide variety of produce for family meals in Malawi.