



Action
on poverty

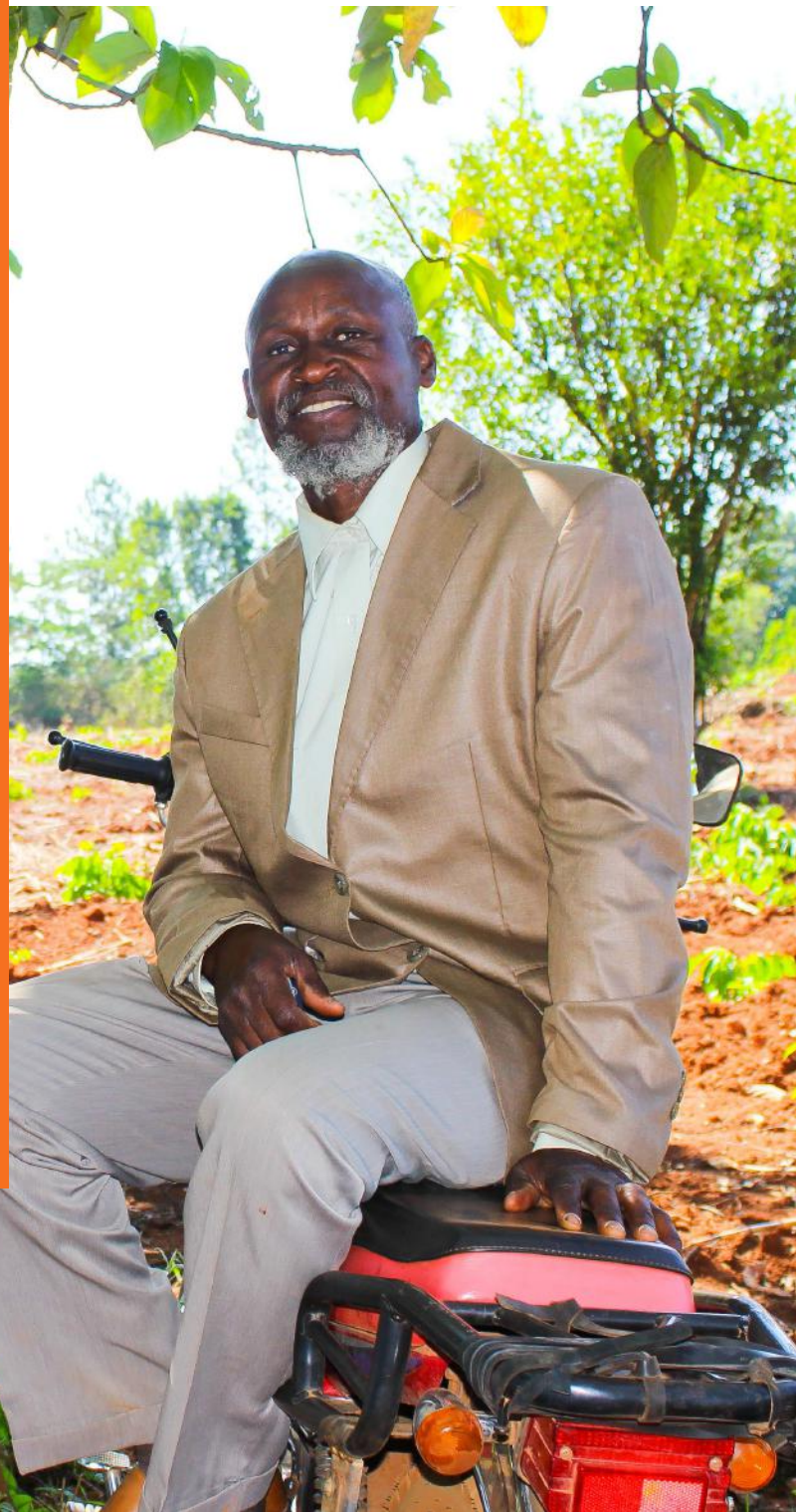
ANNUAL
REPORT
2019/20



**EMPOWERING
CHANGEMAKERS**

CONTENTS

About us	3
Report from the Chair	4
Report from the CEO	5
Our global impact	6
Our vision, mission, and values	8
Our supporters, partners, and team	9
Our strategic framework	11
Health	12
Social accountability and governance	16
Food, water, and climate	18
Livelihoods and economic empowerment	22
WMP and AOP	27
Inspiring Australians	28
Financial statements	29
Compliance and regulation	35



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.



ABOUT US

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.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

CHAIR /// JOHN KELL



What a year it has been! The first seven or eight months witnessed the steady progress of our refreshed strategic focus on partnerships. In November 2019, our team in Vietnam received the Friendship Order from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam – the highest honour for foreign groups and individuals working in that country. Our heartfelt thanks to all the local communities, partners, staff, volunteers, and others who have contributed to our work in poverty reduction and sustainable development over the last 30 years in Vietnam.

And then, like the rest of the world, we were hit by COVID-19. With lockdowns and border closures, COVID-19 has had a dramatic impact on the way AOP operates as it has almost eliminated our ability to interact with our in-country partners in person. At the same time, it has provided us with the opportunity to embrace new ways of doing business. I am very pleased to say that we have done that very well and have been able to minimise the disruptive impact of COVID-19 very effectively.

I would like to thank our partners for their patience in working with us during these difficult times. I would also like to thank our supporters for continuing to support us. Most importantly, I would like to thank AOP's management and staff for the way in which they have responded to these unprecedented (I had to say it at least once) times while continuing to deliver on our refreshed strategic direction. Under the circumstances, it has been an outstanding year.

There have been some significant changes in personnel during the last 12 months. Christine Pollard, former CEO and Finance Director, left us at the end of September 2019. Christine made an enormous contribution to AOP. AOP would not be where we are now without her contribution.

Christine's replacement, Meghal Shah, joined us as CFO in early September and Carrie Cochrane joined us as Head of Partnerships in October.

There have also been some important changes at the board. Angeline Low's term expired at the end of 2019 and David Brett resigned in early 2020. Angeline and David were long-serving members of the board who helped to steer AOP through difficult times and paved the way for the success AOP is now enjoying. During this time there has also been an addition to the board. Dr Marilyn Clancy joined us in early 2020.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow directors for their commitment and dedication during this challenging year.

REPORT FROM THE CEO

CEO /// BRAYDEN HOWIE



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 farewelled our beloved Mrs P and welcomed new members to our team. We watched in horror as fires devastated lands, properties, and lives around us. And we've been dismayed by the impact of COVID-19 on the communities and partners we serve.

Yet the generosity of our supporters and the resilience and perseverance of our partners have been truly astonishing. This year we were able to raise over \$12.5 million in donation and grant income, which has been successfully deployed through our network of local partners and our own national teams, themselves stretched by the impacts of the pandemic. We have achieved record levels of impact.

So thank you! To each of our supporters, partners, and staff, you've once again raised the bar of generosity and perseverance, and reached more people than ever as a result.

I'd particularly like to thank Mrs P for her contributions to Action on Poverty over nearly 10 years. Mrs P took on the role of Finance Director during a challenging period, before becoming CEO in 2017. Mrs P was universally loved within AOP – quite a feat for a Finance Director and CEO! It was hard to say farewell. But she left the organisation in a healthy state and she has served as a trusted

and selfless guide to many, myself included. From all of us at AOP, thank you Mrs P – we miss you.

This year, we also said good-bye to Pham Quang Hung (Senior Program Officer), Tran Thi Hoa (Logistics Officer), Le Duy Dong (Program Officer), and Dang Phuong Chi (Human Resources & Operations Assistant) in Vietnam. Thank you for your wonderful contributions to our work.

Yet with farewells come new beginnings. We welcomed three new members to our Sydney team and two to our Vietnam team. Meghal Shah joined us as CFO in September and Carrie Cochrane joined us in a new role as Head of Partnerships in October 2019. Our Sydney finance team grew further in January 2020 when Anna Phan joined the team as Finance Manager. In Vietnam, we welcomed Trinh Thu Thuy (Human Resources & Operations Manager) to the team in January and Justin Alick (Asia Program Manager) in March 2020.

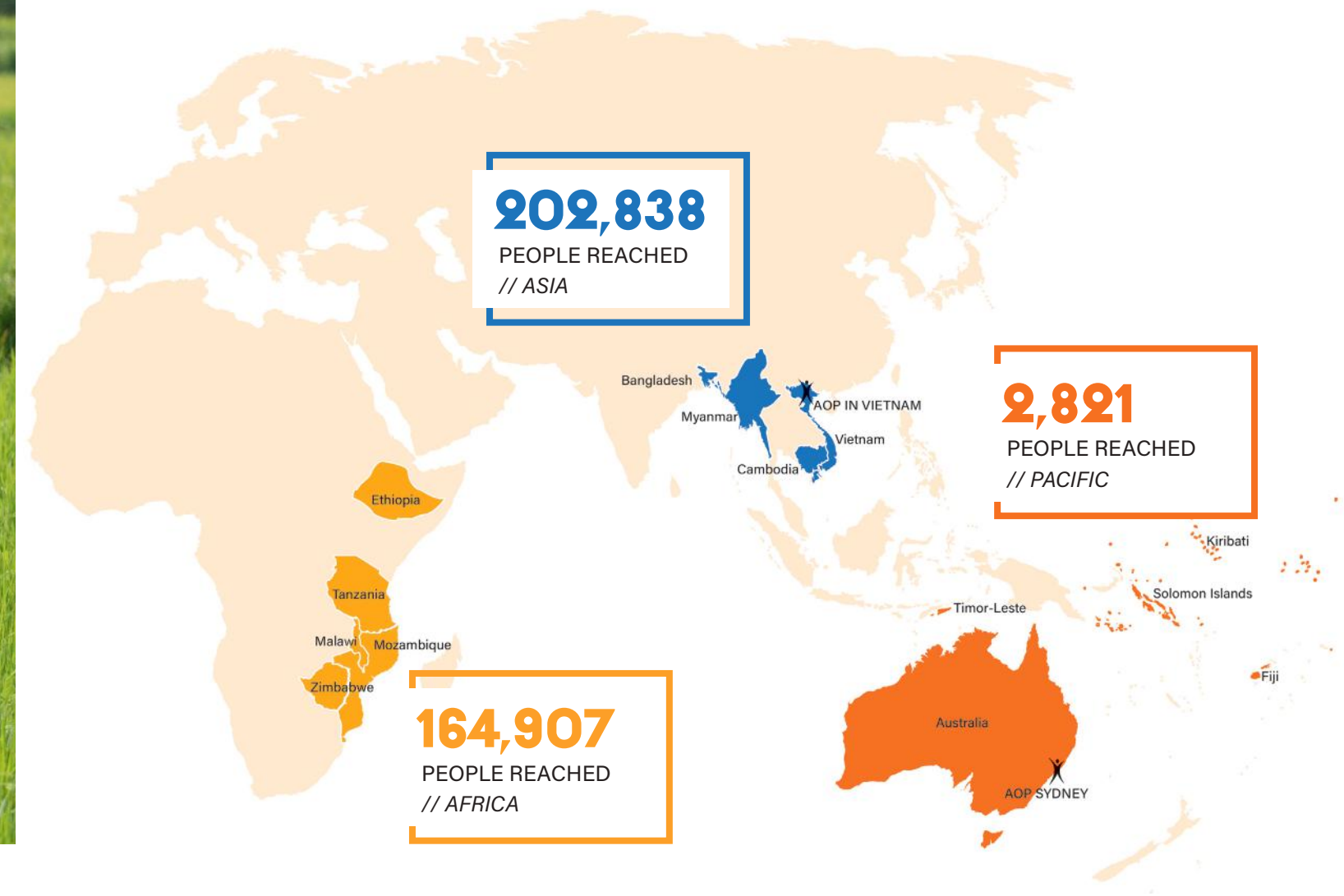
This year has been unprecedented on so many levels. Yet despite some very serious challenges, our people and partners have persevered, sometimes despite personal tragedy, in order to continue to support our communities around the world. To each of you, thank you for your tireless efforts. It is indeed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

OUR GLOBAL IMPACT



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.

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



59,100

PEOPLE ACCESSING 300 WATER POINTS // MALAWI

90,000

PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH CLUBFOOT AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGNS // BANGLADESH

610

PEOPLE WITH INCREASED AWARENESS OF GENDER EQUALITY IN SON LA // VIETNAM

9,264

PEOPLE PARTICIPATING IN A REGIONAL POTATO PROJECT // AFRICA

6,970

FARMERS IMPROVING PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOMES // ZIMBABWE

660

WOMEN JOINING SAVINGS-AND-LOANS ASSOCIATIONS // CAMBODIA

100

PATIENTS PER DAY TREATED AT AN OUT-PATIENT CLINIC // TANZANIA

OUR VISION

FOR ALL PEOPLE TO TRANSCEND THE INJUSTICE,
INDIGNITY, AND INEQUALITY OF ENTRENCHED POVERTY

OUR MISSION

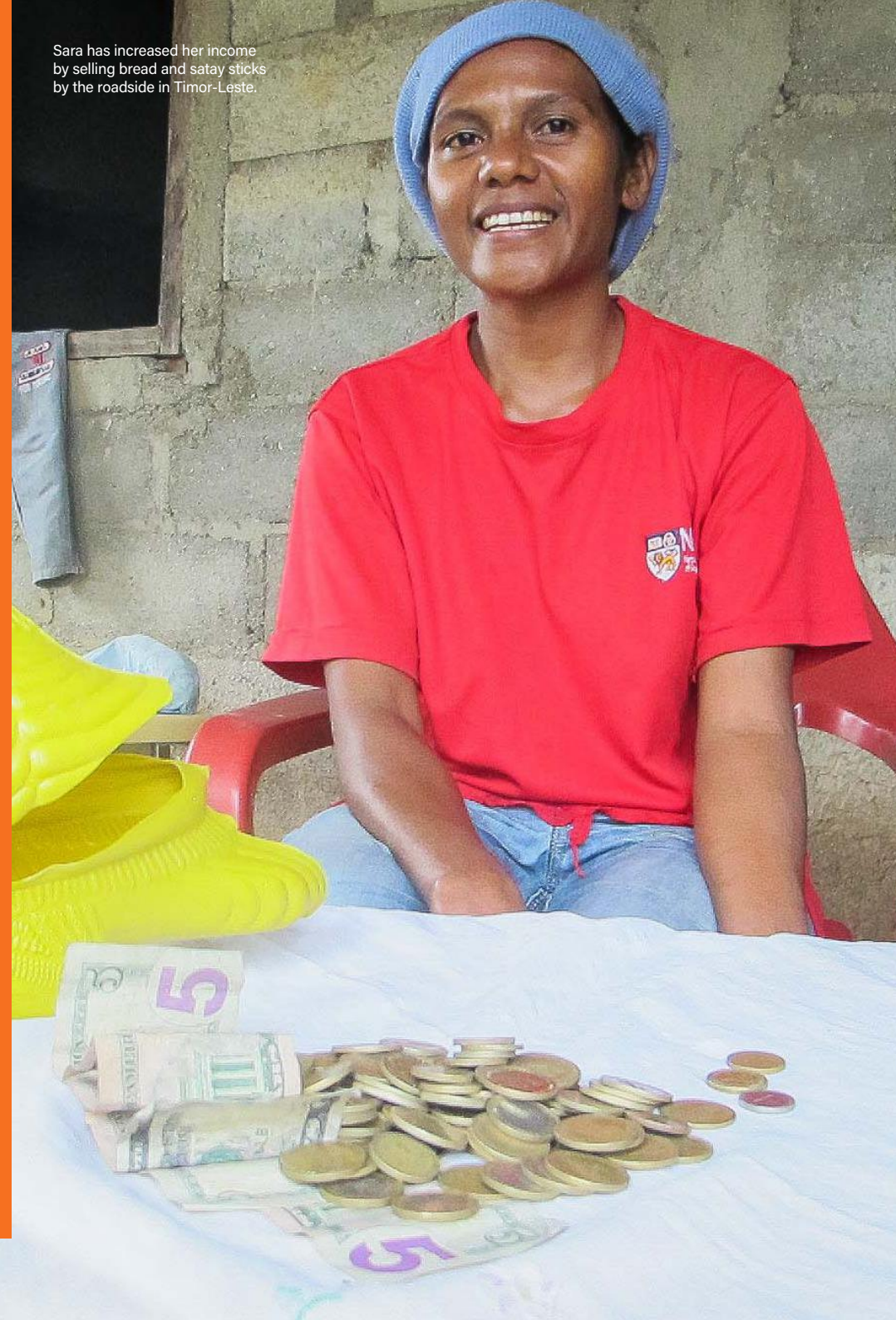
TO EMPOWER CHANGEMAKERS TO BREAK THE CYCLE
OF POVERTY

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

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



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
Seaco
St John's Op Shop - Tamworth
St Peter's Girls' School

PRO BONO SUPPORT

Maddocks
Simpatico
Sparro

OUR PARTNERS

Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (CWCC)
Community Research and Development Services (CORDS)
Community Technology Development Organisation (CTDO)
Comprehensive Community Based Rehabilitation in Tanzania (CCBRT)
Face to Face (F2F)
Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI)
Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific Kiribati (FSPK)
Glencoe Foundation
Gomo Foundation
HIAM 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
Walk for Life (WFL)
World Mosquito Program (WMP)

OUR TEAM

BOARD

John Kell (Chair)
Edward Bartolo
Mukul Agrawal
David A Brett
Merrilyn Clancy
Tim Lovitt
Angeline Low
Denis Wolff
Alice Xu

SENIOR EXECUTIVE

Brayden Howie
CEO
Meghal Shah
CFO
Christine Murphy
International Programs Director
Carrie Cochrane
Head of Partnerships
Ta Van Tuan
Asia Regional Director



Community representatives attend water and sanitation training in Fiji.

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 reducing extreme 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
- Implemented a cloud-based finance system to bring Australian and Vietnamese operations onto the same platform



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

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 280m² 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

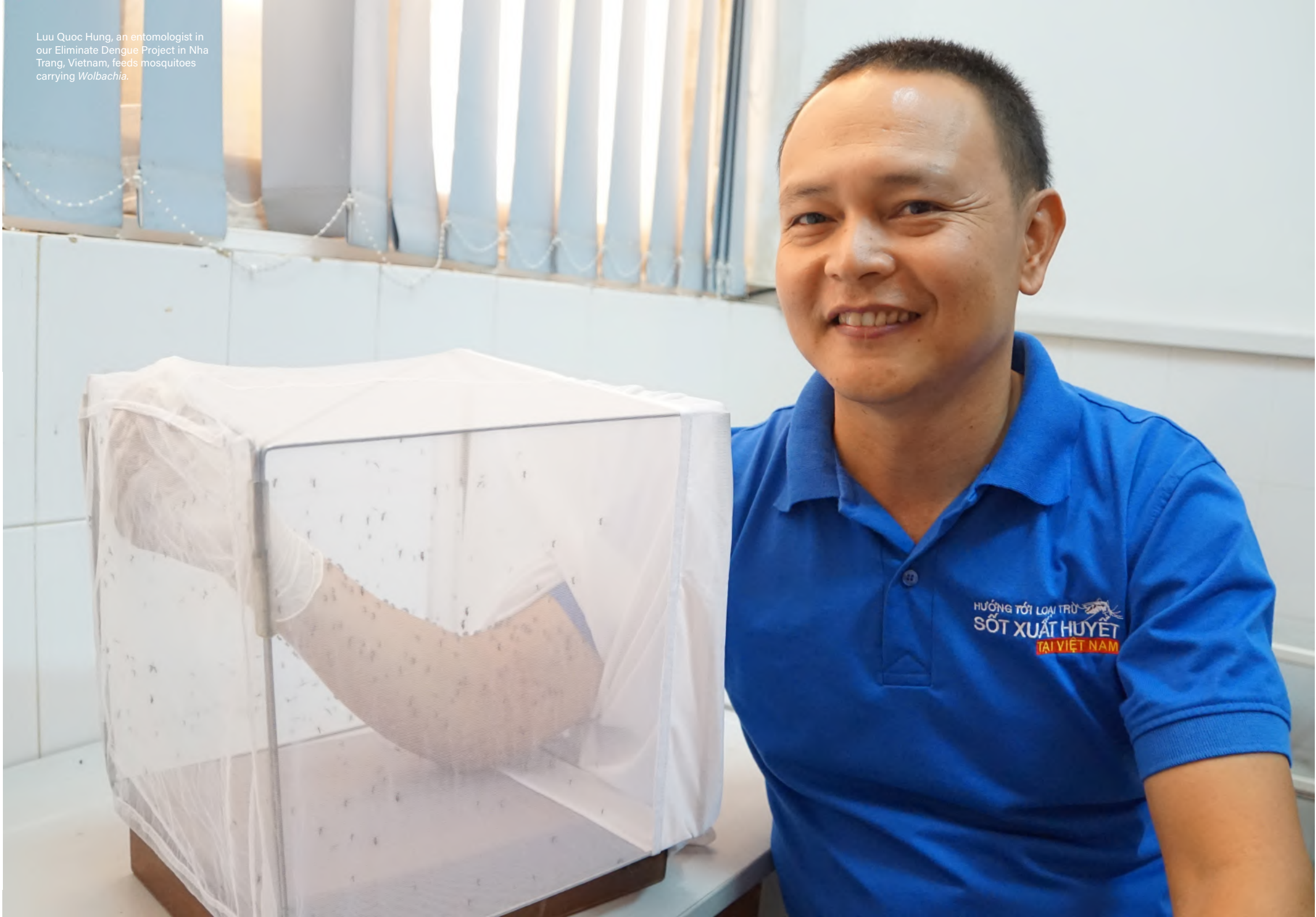
cent of patients completing the first year of their treatment – a new record. WFL clinics introduced a new fee-for-service model, with patients who can afford to pay subsidizing fees for those who can't. In Myanmar, WFL treated 253 children and introduced a mobile app to facilitate patient follow-up.

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.



Luu Quoc Hung, an entomologist in our Eliminate Dengue Project in Nha Trang, Vietnam, feeds mosquitoes carrying *Wolbachia*.



3,100

REUSABLE MASKS DISTRIBUTED TO 5 SCHOOLS // ZIMBABWE

57,000

FAMILIES REACHED THROUGH CLUBFOOT AWARENESS-RAISING CAMPAIGNS // BANGLADESH & MYANMAR

2,000

PEOPLE RECEIVED FACE MASKS, SOAP, AND DISINFECTANT // ETHIOPIA

2,500

CHILDREN RECEIVED CLUBFOOT TREATMENT THROUGH 33 CLINICS // BANGLADESH

500

MASKS AND 60 HYGIENE KITS PROVIDED TO HEALTH WORKERS // MOZAMBIQUE

2,632

COMMUNITY INFLUENCERS EDUCATED ON COVID-19 // MALAWI

355

PEOPLE RECEIVED FOOD AND HYGIENE PACKAGES // TIMOR-LESTE

22

HAND-WASHING BASINS INSTALLED AT 11 SCHOOLS // KIRIBATI

AADIN BANGLADESH

Clubfoot affects around 4,000 babies each year in Bangladesh. Left untreated, clubfoot causes pain, limits children's educational opportunities, and leads to life-long disadvantage.

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 family member let Aadin's parents know about 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 example and became role models for good hygiene practices, 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 11 schools and educated children on hygiene.



FOCUS ON FIJI

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).

SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNANCE

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 organisations continue growing so they can best 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 marginalised 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 Actions Plans to respond to 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.



219

PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN DIALOGUE
WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT // VIETNAM

67

PEOPLE TRAINED IN VILLAGE ACTION
PLANNING, ADVOCACY, AND SAVINGS
//SOLOMON ISLANDS

9

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLANS
CREATED // KIRIBATI & FIJI

4

COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS CREATED
//TIMOR-LESTE

3

COMMUNITY ACTION PLANS DEVELOPED
WITH MAASAI LEADERS // TANZANIA



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



1,000 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 6,000 people. In Malawi, we continued working with the Face-to-Face Project and helped 15,000 people establish

PHOTOS, LEFT TO RIGHT:
In Mozambique, almost 700 farmers (60 per cent women) are increasing potato productivity, reducing hunger, and growing incomes. Baltazar has a fish farm and vegetable garden in Timor-Leste.

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. In Kiribati communities worked with island councils 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. Meanwhile, in Fiji, communities formed water committees, developed water security plans, and identified water infrastructure in need of repair.



99%

OF FARMERS REPORTED INCREASED ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY SEED // BALAKA, MALAWI

6,000

PEOPLE ACCESSED WATER AT 3 NEW DAMS // TANZANIA

15,000

FAMILIES ESTABLISHED KITCHEN GARDENS // MALAWI

2,781

STUDENTS RECEIVED EMERGENCY FOOD RATIONS // ZIMBABWE

282

HOUSEHOLDS ESTABLISHED KITCHEN GARDENS AND INCREASED LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION // KIRIBATI

223

MEMBERS OF 14 COMMUNITY GROUPS INTRODUCED TO CONCEPT OF CLIMATE-ADAPTED LIVELIHOODS // VIETNAM

60

HOUSEHOLDS FORMED 4 NEW FARMERS' GROUP GARDENS // TIMOR-LESTE

28

COMMUNITIES EDUCATED ABOUT THE LINK BETWEEN DIET AND HEALTH // KIRIBATI

11

COMMUNITIES ESTABLISHED LOCAL WATER COMMITTEES // KIRIBATI & FIJI

MUTOKO ZIMBABWE

This community in Zimbabwe has achieved its dream of a clean and safe water source with the installation of a solar-powered water system.

The community in Mutoko, which includes four villages, 106 households, local businesses, and over 1,000 students, used to rely on a borehole that frequently broke down. Villagers were often forced to drink from streams and shallow wells, putting children in particular at high risk of contracting water-borne diseases.

Climate change has had a devastating impact in Mutoko, with water sources drying up earlier than usual in recent years. Women and girls were walking over two hours a day to fetch clean water for their families, while teachers and students spent valuable time out of lessons queuing for water.

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 COVID-19.

AOP worked with Community Technology Development Organisation (CTDO) and the District Development Fund to establish the new solar-powered water system, which has a 10,000-litre tank supplying four villages and two schools.

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 minimised the risk of disease transmission.

"Before the intervention, walking long distances uphill with a 20-litre bucket on our heads left us physically exhausted and emotionally spent," said Joyce, 12, who is Head Girl of her primary school.

"The project significantly changed the life of local people, especially girls, as they do a lot of household chores, including fetching water, as compared to their male counterparts," said Joyce's principal. "The energy is now directed to school lessons and other livelihood activities."

The community has also elected a water committee, comprised of 60 per cent women, to manage day-to-day operation of the system and look after maintenance and repairs when needed.

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



AIESHA MALAWI

Aiesha is a single mother from Chiradzulu in Malawi, where over 40 per cent of children under five suffer from chronic malnutrition and stunted growth.

After her husband left, Aiesha became the head of her household and sole carer for her five kids. She struggled to grow enough food for everyone, and the family was hungry for three months of every year. Often the family only had one or two meals per day.

When Aiesha's village chief told her about an opportunity to learn how to grow orange-fleshed sweet potatoes (OFSP), she was eager to try. OFSP is an important source of beta-carotene and Vitamin A, which are vital for improving children's nutrition, boosting immunity, and maintaining healthy vision.

Aiesha learned seed production, crop management, storage, and how to cook different potato recipes. She received 100 bundles of OFSP vines to kick-start her crop, as well as ongoing advice and support through field visits.

"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."

Aiesha now has more food for her children – they have three meals almost every day. She also earns extra income by selling 50 per cent of each crop at market.

"People like sweet potato more than the white ones," said Aiesha. "It is more profitable. With the extra income, I buy fertiliser for my vegetable gardens, hire labour to help me in the fields, and also pay school fees for the children."

Since this project began in Chiradzulu, stunting among children under five has fallen by 22 per cent. There is also near-universal understanding among the community of the nutritional value of sweet potato.

"Before, I had many financial problems. It was hard to feed everyone," said Aiesha. "Now I have more food in the house. I want to be food-secure all year round. I am nearly there and I am happy!"

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



EVALUATION

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 two 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 regional agriculture project in Malawi, Mozambique, 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.



MARITA

"I have benefited a lot as a result of the project. In the first year, I bought four bags of fertiliser from the sale of sweet potato, which I used for maize production. In the second year, we used some of the money from sales to start constructing our house. It is now half-way done. This year, we bought a piece of land with sales from potato and maize. Sweet potato is part of the diet of my household. My children love the different meals from sweet potato. My dream is to educate my children to university. I will continue to grow sweet potato for as long as it takes for the children to complete their education. I also want to develop myself, have adequate food, and a nice place to sleep."

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 fertiliser, 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,



PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: Nina opened bank accounts for her children and is saving money for their education with her kiosk in Dili, Timor-Leste. Staff, consultants, and partners attend AOP's Program for Microfinance Training Workshop in Hanoi, Vietnam. Mr Tsoka is increasing his income by raising and fattening cattle in Zimbabwe.

and the private sector to create local, equitable potato industries. By upskilling, 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.



3,000

PEOPLE ACCESSED MICROFINANCE SERVICES // VIETNAM

730

PEOPLE (90% WOMEN) JOINED 24 SAVINGS GROUPS // CAMBODIA

36

TRAINING SESSIONS ON FINANCIAL LITERACY AND FARMING-AS-A-BUSINESS // ZIMBABWE

41

SURVIVORS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE STARTED SMALL BUSINESSES // TIMOR-LESTE

1,302

FARMERS PARTICIPATED IN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT TRAINING // VIETNAM

160

FARMERS TRAINED IN LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT AND IMPROVEMENT // ZIMBABWE

657

PEOPLE (57% WOMEN) INCREASED THEIR INCOME THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED TOURISM PROJECTS // VIETNAM

DUY VIETNAM

Duy and his family live in a remote village in Da Bac in Vietnam's mountainous north-west region. Duy had to give up his dream of higher education to support his family. Although he worked hard to make a living, the income from growing corn on his small plot of land barely covered the basics.

In 2017, Duy joined his local Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and took out a micro-loan to start a bee-keeping business and fish farming business. The loans helped Duy with the start-up costs, such as purchasing fish cages, while AOP linked him with training in the technical aspects of each business model.

This year, Duy earned \$13,000 from bee-keeping and fish farming and wants to expand both businesses. The Chairman of Da Bac District People's Committee awarded Duy a certificate acknowledging his achievements in livelihood development – a tremendous honour.

With his ambition and work ethic, Duy has fast become a role model for other farmers who want to replicate his success.

"We built our life starting from scratch. We always want to work hard and do our best."

Duy and five of his neighbours formed a fishing collective, working on 24 large fish cages on Hoa Binh Lake. They sell their fish at local markets and distribute the profits amongst themselves, keeping some aside to manage and expand the business.

"Our fish production now is 18 tonnes and we won't stop at that," Duy said.

The collective has also joined the Da River Fisheries Association (DRFA), which consists of 536 fish farmers working together to take advantage of new market opportunities and increase their income together. Since its launch, the Association has entered contracts with three companies and the Da Bac fish brand is establishing a strong reputation.

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



PHAN CAMBODIA

Phan and her husband left their hometown in Kampong Thom, Cambodia, to earn a living in the city. Phan found a job as a factory worker in Phnom Penh and her husband joined the army, but even with their two incomes, they struggled to cover their everyday expenses.

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 grow mushrooms, however, she lacked training and wasn't able to produce enough. She had to take extra work as a day labourer on nearby farms to earn enough to repay her debts.

Fortunately, Phan heard about a savings group supported by our local partner, the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (CWCC), and began attending meetings.

The savings groups teach women financial literacy and encourage them to set money aside each month. With these savings, the groups offer micro-loans with low interest to help their members start small businesses, either individually or in groups, and increase their incomes long-term.

After saving diligently, Phan was able to take out a loan for a mushroom business. She worked with CWCC to develop a business plan and receive extra agriculture training.

Now, Phan's mushrooms are growing so well that she has quit her job as a day labourer to spend more time on her own business.

"Initially, mushroom-growing could not provide much income because we lacked the techniques and materials," said Phan. "Thanks to the savings group, my family can earn good income and repay my debt."

Phan is now harvesting 20 to 30 kilos of mushrooms per week, earning \$4 per kilo. Her dream is to buy land so she can build her own house, and to help other women in her community follow her lead and start businesses of their own.

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



YESHIWORK ETHIOPIA

Yeshiwork is from Amhara in northern Ethiopia. She is a mother of four and also supports her husband, who is in ill health. A potato farmer 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," she said. "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."

With her new skills and resources, Yeshiwork has been able to increase her potato yields, provide her family with nutritious meals, and earn extra money through the cooperative and at market. She has now built a larger house and is sending her children to a good school. She has also started raising cattle in her yard, further diversifying her income. Yeshiwork is now a role model for others in her community and her neighbours say she has given hope to many other female farmers.

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



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

ERADICATING DENGUE WITH THE WORLD MOSQUITO PROGRAM

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.”





INSPIRING AUSTRALIANS

AOP 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 these 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.

“There are not many places on earth as beautiful, and culturally diverse as Vietnam,” 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

	2020	2019
REVENUE		
Donations and gifts		
- Monetary	\$1,107,655	\$1,269,142
- Non-monetary	\$226,412	\$7,960
Grants		
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	\$2,247,986	\$2,647,150
- Other Australian	\$8,950,869	\$5,314,147
- Other Overseas	\$252,928	\$543,823
Commercial activities income	\$1,192	\$80,739
Investment income	\$15,246	\$16,092
Other income	\$52,316	\$19,032
TOTAL REVENUE	\$12,854,604	\$9,898,085

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.

	2020	2019
EXPENDITURE		
International aid and development programs expenditure		
International programs		
- Funds to international programs	\$10,940,072	\$8,577,321
- Program support costs	\$648,035	\$479,113
Fundraising costs		
- Public	\$120,801	\$101,927
- Government, multilateral and private	\$103,456	\$15,844
Accountability and administration	\$470,589	\$268,859
Non-monetary expenditure	\$226,412	\$7,960
Total international aid and development programs expenditure	\$12,509,365	\$9,451,024
Commercial activities expenditure	\$1,193	\$80,740
Finance costs	\$21,203	\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	\$12,531,761	\$9,531,764
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$322,843	\$366,321
Other comprehensive income	\$0	\$0
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	\$322,843	\$366,321

DEFINITIONS

WHERE OUR SUPPORT COMES FROM

Donations and gifts: Monetary and non-monetary contributions from the Australian public, trusts, and foundations

DFAT grants: The Australian Government's overseas aid program

Other Australian grants: Grants from all Australian institutions other than DFAT

Other overseas grants: All grants sourced 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, project design, monitoring, and evaluation

Community education: Costs related to informing and educating the Australian public of, and inviting their active involvement in, global justice, development, and humanitarian issues

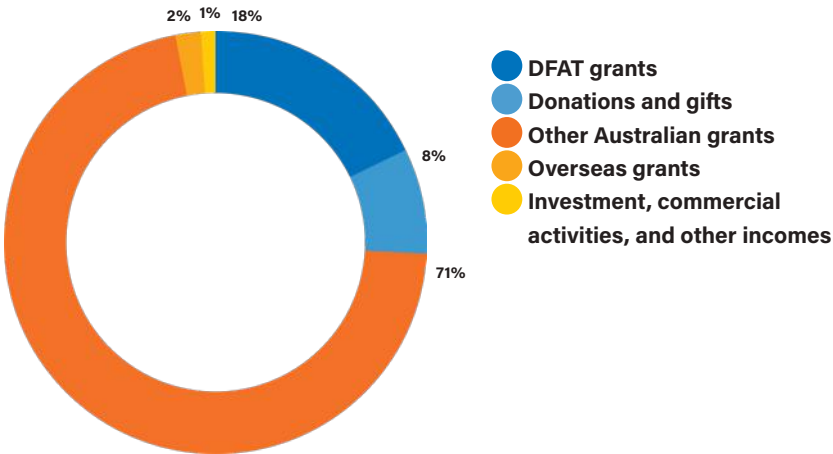
Fundraising – public: All costs related to the purposes of raising funds from the public including salary costs of fundraising staff, and production and mailing of fundraising materials

Fundraising – government, multilateral, and private sector: Personnel and related costs in the preparation of funding submissions and reporting against grants

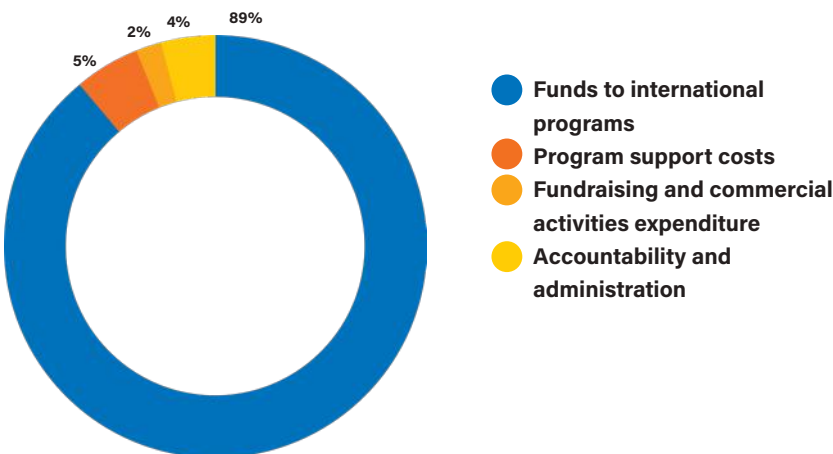
Accountability and administration: Related to the overall operational capacity of AOP, such as audit fees, personnel, IT, finance and administration costs, insurance premiums, and membership to peak bodies

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.

REVENUE



EXPENDITURE



NOTE 3: HOW PIE CHARTS ARE DERIVED
Pie chart category revenue and expenses percentages are derived from AOP's Income Statement categories (excluding donations in-kind). AOP's Income Statement follows the ACFID format with financial definitions for each category.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

	2020	2019
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$3,168,749	\$2,802,950
Trade and other receivables	\$220,112	\$205,423
Total current assets	\$3,388,861	\$3,008,373
Non-current assets		
Other financial assets	\$115,494	\$98,305
Property, plant, and equipment	\$203,881	\$17,844
Total non-current assets	\$319,375	\$116,149
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,708,236	\$3,124,522

	2020	2019
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	\$251,096	\$202,191
Tax liabilities	\$7,276	\$174,343
Provisions	\$192,515	\$125,150
Other financial liabilities	\$216,410	\$0
Unspent project funds	\$1,585,288	\$1,479,774
Total current liabilities	\$2,252,585	\$1,981,458
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions	\$0	\$10,256
Total non-current liabilities	\$0	\$10,256
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$2,252,585	\$1,991,714
NET ASSETS	\$1,455,651	\$1,132,808
EQUITY		
Reserves	\$1,600	\$1,600
Retained earnings	\$1,454,051	\$1,131,208
TOTAL EQUITY	\$1,455,651	\$1,132,808

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

	Unrestricted funds	Pre-incorporation reserve	Total
Balance at 30 June 2018	\$764,887	\$1,600	\$766,487
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$366,321	\$0	\$366,321
Balance at 30 June 2019	\$1,131,208	\$1,600	\$1,132,808
Excess of revenue over expenses	\$322,843	\$0	\$322,843
Balance at 30 June 2020	\$1,454,051	\$1,600	\$1,455,651

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT

CFO /// MEGHAL SHAH

Action on Poverty (AOP) achieved a net surplus of \$322,843 for the 2019-20 financial year (FY20). This was achieved through 30 per cent increase in revenue (FY20 \$12,854,604) offset by an increase of 31 per cent in expenditure (FY20 \$12,531,761).

Revenue

The growth in revenue was predominantly driven by an increase of 68 per cent in AOP's other Australian Grants (FY20 \$8,950,869). AOP's relationship with DFAT remains an essential partnership for ongoing funding with support from the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) amounting to \$2,247,986 in FY20. AOP received \$50,000 from Australian Tax Office for FY20 as part of its Cash flow boost scheme for small and medium enterprises to cushion the negative financial impacts of COVID-19 pandemic.

Expenditure

During FY20, AOP applied funds of \$10,940,072 to deliver programs across Africa, Asia and the Pacific. This represents 89 per cent of AOP's



expenditure. Program support costs accounted for 5 per cent of total expenditure in FY20 of \$648,035. Accountability and administration expense increased to 4 per cent of total expenditure in FY20 (FY19: 3 per cent). This was primarily driven by investment in AOP's core systems to allow it to continue its growth whilst minimising operational risk. Fundraising and commercial activities expenditure accounted for 2 per cent of total expenditure in FY20 of \$225,450.

Reserves

AOP's unrestricted reserves increased by 29 per cent in FY20 to \$1,454,051. This growth in reserves will allow AOP to withstand the volatility and funding uncertainty brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall, AOP's financial performance in FY20 has laid a strong foundation for it to embark on achieving its strategic plan for FY21 and beyond.

AUDITOR'S REPORT



ACTION ON POVERTY LIMITED
ABN: 42 002 568 005
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTION ON POVERTY LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Action on Poverty Limited (the registered entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the registered entity is in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (the ACNC Act), including:

- giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the ACNC Act, the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the registered entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2020, but does not include the financial report and our 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 conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

ACTION ON POVERTY LIMITED
ABN: 42 002 568 005
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTION ON POVERTY LIMITED

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entity to express an opinion on the financial report. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the entity audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Action on Poverty Limited is in accordance with Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Report on the requirements of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the NSW Charitable Fundraising Regulations 2015

We have audited the financial report as required by Section 24(2) of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991. Our procedures included obtaining and understanding of the internal control structure for fundraising appeal activities and examination, on a test basis of evidence supporting compliance with the accounting and associated record keeping requirements for fundraising appeal activities pursuant to the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the NSW Charitable Fundraising Regulations 2015.

Because of the inherent limitations of any assurance engagement, it is possible that fraud, error or non compliance may occur and not be detected. An audit is not designed to detect all instances of non compliance with the requirements described in the above mentioned Act(s) and Regulations as an audit is not performed continuously throughout the period and the audit procedures performed in respect of compliance with these requirements are undertaken on a test basis. The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Action on Poverty Limited has been properly drawn up and associated records have been properly kept during the financial year ended 30 June 2020, in all material respects, in accordance with:

- sections 20(1), 22(1-2), 24(1-3) of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Act 1991;
- sections 10(6) and 11 of the NSW Charitable Fundraising Regulations 2015

ACTION ON POVERTY LIMITED
ABN: 42 002 568 005
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTION ON POVERTY LIMITED

Report on the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct Summary Financial Report (the Report)

We have audited the Report of the Company, which comprises the statement of financial position as on 30 June 2020 and the income statement, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity for the year ended on the date and the directors declaration. The directors of the Company are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Report in accordance with section C.2.2 of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Report based on our audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards.

Opinion

In our opinion, The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct Summary Financial Report of The Action on Poverty Limited for the year ended 30 June 2020 complies with section C.2.2 of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct.

Auditor's name and signature: Owen Houston

Name of firm: Houston & Co Pty Limited

Address: Suite 4, 113 Willoughby Road
Crows Nest, NSW, 2065

Dated this 30th October 2020

COMPLIANCE AND REGULATION

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.



The Australian Taxation Office (ATO)

The ATO has given AOP Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status as an Overseas Aid Fund, granted AOP exemption from Income Tax, and provided concessions for Fringe Benefits Tax and GST.

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.

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 licenced to fundraise in all states and territories, and complies with the requirements associated with these licences, including annual reporting to particular states.



Mrs Nhieu supports her family with a homestay business in Da Bac, Vietnam.



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 actiononpoverty.org

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Action on Poverty Limited trading as
Action on Poverty



FSC 2006
GECA 20-2004-
Printers and Printed
Material



Victory gardens provide
a wide variety of produce
for family meals in Malawi.