

Empowering Changemakers

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24



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Cover Photo: In Vietnam, a Na Sang villager in her traditional clothes with a Con, a representative symbol of her ethnicity

Right: A family taking part in our Victory Gardens project in Malawi



A photograph of a man and two children in a lush garden. The man, wearing a blue patterned shirt, stands behind the children, his hands resting on their shoulders. The older child, a girl in a black and floral dress, stands next to him. The younger child, a boy in a maroon shirt and shorts, stands in front. They are surrounded by green plants and a thatched fence in the background.

About Us

Action on Poverty (AOP) is the trusted partner for changemakers creating a better world.

We connect philanthropists, corporates, non-profits, and innovators with developing communities and local NGOs across Africa, Asia, and the Pacific to break the poverty cycle.

We believe that everyone has a role to play in creating a more just and equal world. We specialise in building networks, maximising resources, and upskilling communities and organisations so we can achieve more together.

Since 1968, Action on Poverty has been supporting community-led development projects that tackle the root causes of poverty. We are a secular, independent NGO working through partnership on quality, evidence-based programs that create measurable change.

Action on Poverty 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

My term as a director and chair of AOP expires at the end of this year's annual general meeting. I have greatly enjoyed my time as a director and I am very proud of what we have all achieved during the last nine years.

Looking back over the past year, there are many themes that are shared with previous years.

People: We have an amazing team of talented and dedicated people who allow us to empower changemakers to create a better world. AOP has always attracted good people. Starting with the recruitment of our CEO, Brayden Howie, several years ago now, the board acknowledged that we needed to invest in our people and proceeded to do so. This has not changed the impact that AOP has always had but it has given us the scale to be agile and innovative. This has continued in 2024.

Our Sydney and Vietnam offices have always worked well together but it is great to see the two offices working as one AOP.

Partners: Where would we be without our partners? We are fortunate to work with incredible individuals and organisations to improve the communities where we work. We work in many countries across a broad range of programs to promote change. The success of our partnerships allows us to attract new partners and grow.

We are very pleased that after years of partnership between AOP and the World Mosquito Program (WMP) primarily in Vietnam we are now bringing the WMP model to a new location, Dili in Timor-Leste, through the Menzies School of Health Research.

Fundraising: Our financial performance in the last financial year was not as good as the previous year and this is due to a number of factors. For the most part, these factors are beyond our control. The board and management recognise the risk posed by these factors and have developed strategies to manage and mitigate this risk. We have been fortunate in being able to grow an unrestricted reserve that supports these strategies.

Board: We have a diverse board (much more so than when I joined the board) with an excellent range of skills that is very well equipped to set the strategy for AOP and oversee its implementation by management. Board and management have developed a solid and collaborative working relationship. I thank my fellow directors for their commitment and dedication during the year.

Vale John Rock: Unfortunately my predecessor as chair, John Rock, passed away in May. John had started working with AOP as a volunteer and then served as director and chair for many years. His contribution to AOP was enormous and he is sadly missed by all of us.

Thank you again to our supporters – we would not be here without you.

I have loved being a director and chair of AOP for the past nine years. Thank you everyone for making my time at AOP so enjoyable and memorable.

CHAIR JOHN KELL



Report From the CEO

This past year has been a pivotal one for Action on Poverty. We embarked on a transformative journey, launching a new strategic approach that positions AOP to create even greater impact in our mission to combat poverty globally. With a renewed focus on finding and developing innovative, effective solutions to poverty, we aim to not only address immediate needs but to identify new and scalable approaches that have lasting, sustainable impact.

The programs delivered by our incredible partners over the past year have profoundly impacted thousands of lives across 16 countries in Africa, Asia, and the Pacific. From improving food security and supporting sustainable livelihoods to expanding access to healthcare and education, our work reached over 90,000 individuals. In Kiribati and the Solomon Islands, for example, our health and sanitation programs empowered hundreds of community members with essential skills to reduce hygiene related diseases, while in Tanzania, our Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration project has significantly enhanced livelihoods for the Maasai people by fostering sustainable agricultural practices. Each program stands as a testament to our commitment to catalyse change in the communities we serve, under the leadership of our local partners. I hope they inspire you as you read about their impact in this report.

At the forthcoming 2024 AGM we will also bid farewell to John Kell, our remarkable chair, who has been instrumental in guiding AOP through a period of significant change. Under his leadership, AOP has matured in the pursuit of its mission and greatly strengthened its foundation for

future impact. John's resolute commitment and thoughtful guidance have left an indelible mark on the organisation, setting us on a strong course to deepen and broaden our reach in the years to come. I have personally valued his guidance and patience as we navigated both significant challenges and great opportunities. I know I speak for all staff and directors, past and present, in extending our heartfelt gratitude to John for his service to AOP over the past nine years.

We also mourn the loss of John Rock, former chair and long-standing supporter of AOP, who passed away this year. John was a leader of great warmth and character. His contributions helped shape AOP into the organisation it is today, and his legacy of compassion and dedication will continue to inspire us all.

None of this year's achievements would have been possible without the dedication and support of our management team, staff, directors, and generous supporters. I extend my heartfelt thanks to each of you. Together, we have navigated challenges and celebrated successes, reaffirming our shared commitment to empowering communities and creating a more equitable world.

As we look to the future, we are inspired by the possibilities that lie ahead. Our new strategy will lead us to identify, test, and scale solutions that address poverty in meaningful, lasting ways. By staying focused on impact, innovation, and collaboration, AOP will continue to be a catalyst for change, turning bold ideas into tangible

outcomes that uplift communities and create opportunities for all.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are building a future where everyone has the chance to thrive. We continue this vital work with optimism and determination, knowing that a world without poverty is not just a dream—it is the future we are creating together.

CEO BRAYDEN HOWIE



Who We Are

Action on Poverty is an independent, secular, nonprofit international development organisation with over 50 years' experience and well-established grassroots global networks.

Our Vision

All people thriving in a world without poverty.

Our Purpose

To be the catalyst that mobilises and collaborates with changemakers globally to create environments free from poverty in which communities flourish. We partner with changemakers in local communities around the world to convert new or innovative ideas into scalable, evidence-based and cost-effective solutions that address the root causes of poverty. Our support and solutions are tailored to meet community needs and priorities.

AOP Values

We are passionate about serving others and seek to enhance wellbeing, purpose and meaning for everyone we work with. Our work is underpinned by the following core values that guide the ways we achieve and measure success:



Integrity we are open, transparent and accountable to build trust with all



Pursuit of excellence we hold ourselves to the highest standards in all we do



Respect we include, value and respect the people we work and interact with



Innovation we have the courage to explore new ideas and identify ways to be more effective



Collaboration we value working with others to optimise our impact



Community members attend a
WASH session in Solomon Islands



Strategic Goals

1. Sustainable impacts on poverty reduction

AOP initiatives have positive and measurable impacts in communities, reflective of their priorities.

2. Recognised leader in reducing poverty in innovative ways

Key stakeholders recognise AOP's reputation for co-designing scalable community development initiatives.

3. Operational excellence

AOP's operating model reflects best practice financial management, program management and governance frameworks.

Our Approach

Poverty has many root causes and prevents communities from flourishing. Poverty can impede health, education, financial security, access to resources, social equality, healthy environments, justice and fairness. AOP seeks to tackle global poverty by being a catalyst for identifying, testing, scaling, and launching innovative and impactful development initiatives.

AOP facilitates a collaborative environment with a range of changemakers, including first and foremost community representatives and social entrepreneurs, philanthropists, and researchers globally. AOP provides these changemakers with resources, expertise to codesign, implement and operate innovative solutions that eliminate poverty in our partner communities.

AOP is fully accredited with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and our initiatives all contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our Supporters

Institutional Donors

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)
Forest Service U.S. Department of Agriculture (USFS)
High Commission of Canada
Monash University
USAID Pacific American Fund

Trusts and Foundations

Charitable Aid Foundation
The Charitable Foundation
Douglas Scott Foundation
NDY Charitable Trust
Perpetual Limited

Corporates, Businesses, NGOs

Bendele Farms, Beverage Marketing Australia, Climate Risk, Entertainment Book, Mirvac, Nice Coffee, Pakko, Palladium Group, Seaco Global Limited, SMEC Foundation, St John's Op Shop, World Mosquito Program Ltd, WorldShare

Individual Donors

Dr Vance Gledhill
Colin Macfarlane
Ian Melrose

Pro Bono Support

Maddocks
Tokens for Humanity
Vidversity

Our Partners

Overseas Implementing Partners

AOP Solomon Islands
Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (CWCC)
Community Research and Development Services (CORDS)
Community Technology Development Organisation (CTDO)
The Consultative Institute for Socio-Economic Development of Rural and Mountainous Areas (CISDOMA)
Dublin City University
Face to Face (F2F)
Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific Kiribati (FSPK)
HIAM Health
Institute for Ecology and Conservation of Nature (IECN)
Institute of Sustainable Development (ISD)
Institute of Veterinary Research and Development of Central Vietnam (IVRD)
Marine and Environmental Research Institute of Pohnpei (MERIP)
Menzies School of Health Research
National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology (NIHE)
The Ololo Foundation
Our Neighbours Ministry (ONM) Zimbabwe
Pasteur Institute in Ho Chi Minh City
Psychosocial Recovery and Development in East Timor (PRADET)
Puter Indonesia Foundation
Sancred Welfare Foundation
Self Help Africa
Solomon Islands Development Trust (SIDT)
University of Fiji
VietHarvest
Vita Ethiopia

Our Team

Board

John Kell (Chair)
Merrilyn Clancy
Giles Dickenson-Jones
Layusa Isa-Odidi
Rebekah Lam
Tim Lovitt
Claire Mallinson
Alice Xu

Senior Executive

Brayden Howie, Chief Executive Officer
Karen Brogan, Head of Finance and Administration
Praveen Lata, Head of Program Operations
Meghal Shah, Asia Regional Director
Ta Van Tuan, Director, Product Development and Innovation
Truong Quoc Can, Vietnam Country Director

Thank You and Farewell to Departing Staff

Doan Kim Anh, Tran Bich Phuong, Le Thi Thu Huyen, Ngo Duc Trieu, Nguyen Thanh Le, Nguyen Thi Kha Ai, Nguyen Thi Lien Chi, Pham Thanh Van, Carrie Cochrane, Charles Lung'aho, Cameron Marchant

Welcome to New Staff

Nguyen Truong An, Pham Hoang Tung, Bui Thi Thuy Linh, Tran Thi Nhu Y, Le Vu Ngoc Chau, Tran Thi Thu Hien, Nguyen Nam Phuong, Robert Jochelson, Melissa Ljini, Grant Richards, Michiyo Yamada, Derya Yegek

Marketing day for potato farmers in Ethiopia



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.

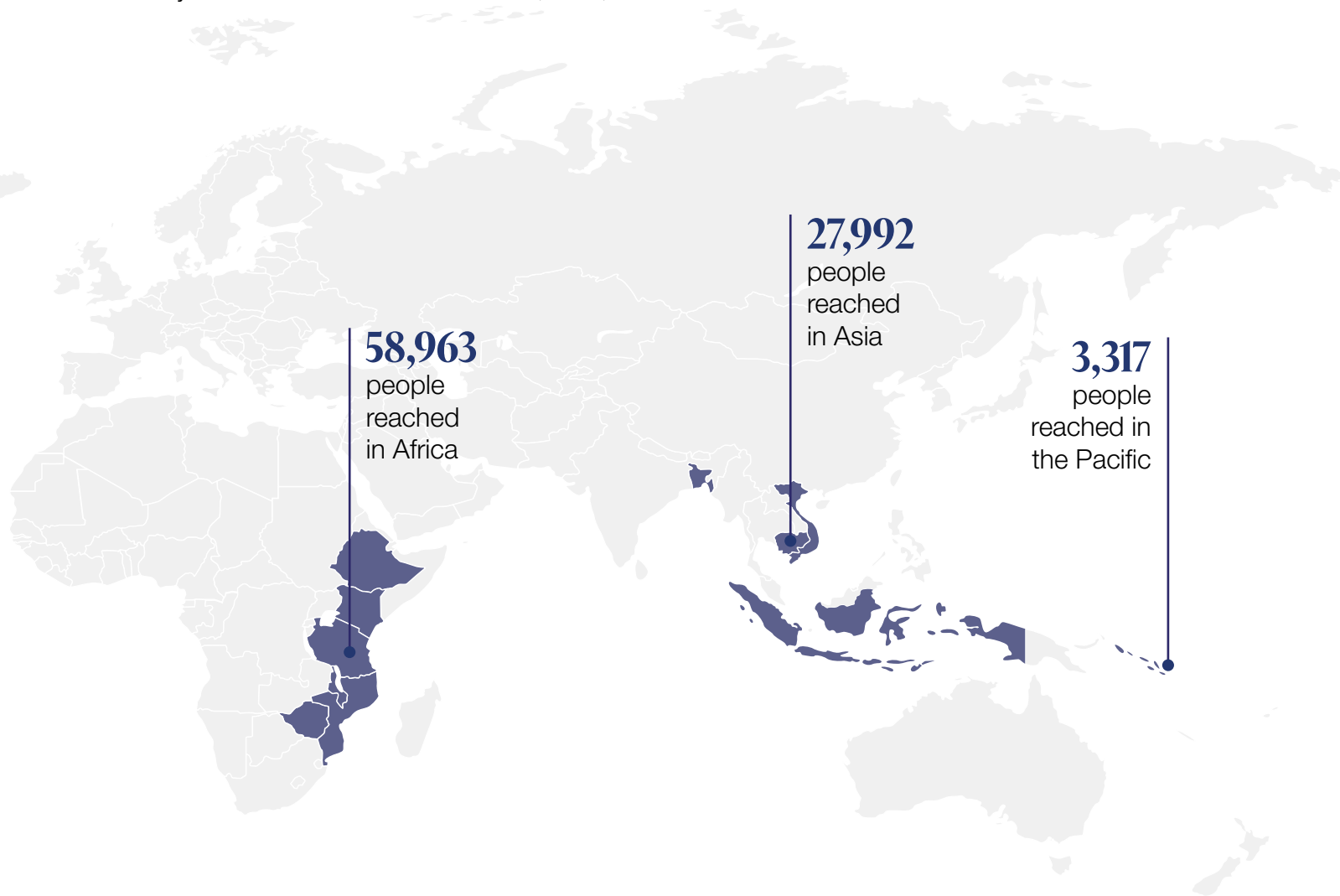




Maasai women in Tanzania gather for a community needs assessment

Our Global Impact

In 2023-24, our programs reached more than **90,000 people** directly in **16 countries** across Africa, Asia, and the Pacific.



12,648

people reached with livelihood support interventions



6,127

people with access to safe water



36,596

people have better access to food



23,980

people with increased access to health services



2,719

people increasing their incomes



1,713

people with increased access to education



Inspiring Changemakers

Trang, a Muong Au Ta woman from Da Bia village in Tien Phong commune, Da Bac district, Hoa Binh province, has been on an inspiring journey – from running her own homestay to now leading Da Bac CBT, a community-based tourism social enterprise.

It all started back in 2014, when AOP introduced a community-based tourism model to her village. It was a new idea, and no one in her community, including Trang, really knew what to expect.

By 2016, Trang was getting involved in different service groups – from guiding and cultural activities to kayaking tours. In 2017, she expanded her role to field coordinator for Da Bac CBT and established her own homestay. The following January, she welcomed her very first guests, kicking off her journey in the tourism industry. Managing her homestay and coordinating events taught her a lot, but as her responsibilities grew, she knew there was so much more to learn. So, Trang dove into training sessions on community-based tourism and traveled around Northwest Vietnam, picking up valuable, real-world knowledge about running a homestay, managing projects, and sharing her culture with visitors in a genuine way.

By September 2019, Trang wrapped up her coordinator role, ready to take on new challenges and grow her skills to make a bigger impact. In October 2020, she joined AOP as an intern, where she gained hands-on experience that helped her better support the communities she worked with. Over the next four years, she grew from field coordinator to community development officer, partnering with local communities to create culturally rich tourism experiences that celebrate the stories and traditions of the Muong people.

Now, as the director of Da Bac CBT, Trang is driven to build sustainable, inclusive tourism models. She's working with travel agencies, investors, and organisations to turn Da Bia and other local villages into vibrant, sustainable, and culturally rich destinations. Her journey is a testament to growth, resilience, and her commitment to lifting up her community through responsible tourism.



Australia and Vietnam: Celebrating a 50-Year Development Partnership

To mark the 50th anniversary of Australia-Vietnam diplomatic relations, Action on Poverty, alongside the Australian Embassy and the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organisations (VUFO), hosted the “Development Achievements of Australian Partner NGOs in Vietnam” exhibition. Held from November 9 to 16, 2023, at the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology in Hanoi, this event highlighted the powerful contributions of Australian NGOs to Vietnam’s growth.

The exhibition showcased the work of 19 Australian NGOs across 11 focus areas, including health, education, economic empowerment, and digital technology. Through photos and personal stories, the display celebrated decades of partnership and the ways these organisations have adapted

to meet Vietnam’s evolving needs. One exhibit shared the journey of Ms. Ban Thi Lan, a Dao Tien ethnic woman and owner of Xuan Lan Homestay in Hoa Binh province. At the opening ceremony, she reflected, “We now earn a stable income from community-based tourism business, thanks to AOP’s support and introduction of the model. My village has become more beautiful and clean, our people jointly preserve our traditional culture.”

Australian Ambassador Andrew Golezdzinowski emphasised the importance of these partnerships, saying, “NGOs are a key partner in Australia’s overseas development assistance globally and in Vietnam. I’m proud to showcase inspiring stories of positive contribution in the photo exhibition

opened today. Australia’s NGO partners bring a deep understanding of local context, close relationships with local authorities and innovative development approaches.” Mr Nguyen Ngoc Hung, Vice President of VUFO, echoed this sentiment, highlighting the ongoing legal support and evolving approaches that strengthen these partnerships.

With an investment of approximately AUD 350.8 million, Australian NGOs have made a positive impact on more than 12.6 million people in Vietnam. This exhibition not only celebrated past achievements but also honoured the ongoing partnership and shared commitment to sustainable development between Australia and Vietnam.

Health and Inclusive Development

Access to affordable healthcare is a fundamental right, yet remains a challenge for low-income communities. Our programs connect these communities with essential services, strengthen healthcare providers' skills, and foster collaboration among public health institutions, governments, researchers, and NGOs. This approach improves healthcare access, including mental health, and protects communities from public health threats like dengue. Additionally, our water, sanitation, and food security initiatives enhance overall health. Through our livelihoods programs, we help families increase incomes, empowering them to afford essential healthcare.

Pacific Health and Sanitation Solutions (PHASS) – Kiribati and Solomon Islands

In response to sanitation challenges, workshops in Kiribati and the Solomon Islands trained 193 and 284 participants, respectively, in water, sanitation, and hygiene. Menstrual hygiene management (MHM) workshops reached 79 boys and 107 girls, promoting greater awareness and healthier practices.

Water Access and Health Security – Kiribati

Also in Kiribati, initiatives to improve fresh water access and promote healthy lifestyles saw 66 participants trained in hygiene and vegetable gardening. A water assessment prepared for future water point installations, and 24 community development plans were reviewed and updated.

Empowering Survivors of Domestic Violence and Trauma – Timor-Leste

In holistic support for domestic violence survivors, 35 women in livelihood training received psychosocial support. Counselling and psychosocial support was provided to 52 inmates, and 49 partner staff members attended self-care training on stress management.

Walk for Life – Bangladesh

The Walk for Life program provided critical treatment for children with clubfoot using the Ponseti method. 29 children were re-enrolled with free treatment. 10 physiotherapists were trained to manage relapses, while 124 parents attended sessions on completing the treatment cycle. Awareness campaigns reached over 50,000 people, with an additional 12,000 educated on clubfoot and treatment options.

Health Facility Renovation – Bangladesh

Renovating health and rehabilitation facilities in Sunamganj, Bangladesh has greatly boosted community healthcare. 51 individuals with disabilities received physiotherapy, 321 patients were accurately diagnosed with repaired X-ray equipment, and dental services reached 600 people. Local lab testing with new equipment benefitted 770 individuals, and newly installed generators ensured consistent service for 250 remote-area patients.

World Mosquito Program (WMP) – Vietnam

Over four years, WMP reduced dengue transmission in southern Vietnam through public engagement and mosquito monitoring. Two community meetings in August 2023 marked the project's completion, with mosquito samples collected in January and July 2024 for long-term monitoring. Findings on dengue and mosquito-borne disease impacts were shared with national and local stakeholders. Lessons learned will inform replication of the project in Timor-Leste.

Pathogen Monitoring – Vietnam

A project in central Vietnam monitored key animal pathogens to assess disease transmission risks, establishing a sampling network via workshops with 104 participants. A total of 1,476 samples were collected, including *Streptococcus suis*, and helminths, with positive samples undergoing further analysis for specific strains and serotypes.

Wildlife Monitoring – Vietnam

In Vietnam's northern Annamite Mountains, the project monitored wildlife and environmental conditions, establishing six line transects and analysing 936 reptile and amphibian samples. Local communities were engaged to raise wildlife conservation awareness, and forest rangers received training in habitat protection techniques.





Mother and daughter at
a hygiene workshop in
Solomon Islands

186

youth trained in menstrual
hygiene management
SOLOMON ISLANDS

50,000

people reached with
clubfoot social media
awareness campaigns
BANGLADESH

1,476

animal pathogen samples
collected and analysed
VIETNAM

49

staff received stress
management training
TIMOR-LESTE

66

participants trained in
personal hygiene and
vegetable gardening
KIRIBATI

Mariano

Timor-Leste

Mariano spent nine years in Gleno Prison. When he first arrived, he couldn't read, write, or sign his name. Through Psychosocial Recovery and Development in East Timor (PRADET) rehabilitation program Mariano learned to read, write, and developed skills in carpentry. Inspired by his new capabilities, he dreamed of creating a carpentry business to support himself and provide opportunities for unemployed youth.

When Mariano was released in 2022, PRADET continued to support him, providing training in business skills and a grant of \$600, shared with two fellow ex-prisoners, to help buy equipment and timber. Starting his business with just one cubic metre of wood, he built his first pieces. Soon, his client base grew, and in just over a year, he had processed eight cubic metres of timber for customised furniture pieces like tables, chairs, altars, and frames.

Today, Mariano's business earns him around \$4,000 each month and he employs four young men. With his earnings he supports his family, sends his four children to school, and reinvests in his workshop. With the financial management skills he learned from PRADET, he handles his own accounting, saves money, and has built a network of clients in other districts through connections with former inmates.

Grateful for PRADET's guidance, Mariano is focused on his next goal: saving enough to buy a larger woodworking bench to make his business more efficient. He has already saved \$1,400 toward the \$3,000 cost.





Oradwa Kiribati



Oradwa, a primary school head teacher, has participated in Water, Hygiene, and Menstrual Health Management (MHM) workshops, organised by Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific Kiribati (FSPK). She noticed poor hygiene leads to illness and frequent school absences, so after the workshops Oradwa integrated WASH into the school's action plan, including sessions on handwashing and toilet use, and establishing a WASH club and health committee to manage facilities.

Now the children start each day by washing their hands and faces and brushing their teeth to music. Oradwa has noticed positive behaviour changes among the children, and while attendance is gradually improving, she acknowledges it's a long process.

Resources are stretched, with only three toilets for 186 students: bucket flush, porcelain bowls, with soap and covered trash cans but they keep the facilities clean, and there is enough water for handwashing and flushing and they have a solar-powered pump.

For menstrual health, the school provides pads for any girl who needs them. Menstruation is in the curriculum for grades 5 and 6, and girls feel supported, facing no teasing or stigma.

In the broader community, awareness about hygiene has grown. More families now practice handwashing before meals and instill these habits in their children, marking an encouraging shift towards healthier routines.

Food and Water Security, and Climate Resilience (FWCR)

Developing communities face the daily impacts of climate change, including prolonged droughts, severe flooding, and other extreme events that exacerbate soil degradation, crop loss, hunger, and malnutrition. AOP's FWCR programs support farming communities across Africa and the Pacific by boosting productivity to improve nutrition and income. We collaborate with smallholder farmers to promote climate-smart agriculture, enhance access to high-yield, nutritious crops and water for agriculture, improve storage capacity, offer food preparation and nutrition education, and increase market access.

Water Access and Health Security – Kiribati

In Kiribati, we trained 66 participants in vegetable gardening and distributed 1,200 seed packets to promote sustainable food practices and improved nutrition.

Strengthening Local Communities in Forest Management – Indonesia

Our initiatives in Indonesia empower communities in forest management, resulting in five fire prevention plans, training for 33 organic cultivators, and planting 800 trees with community involvement. We guided 14 communities on trail management, promoted social forestry in three villages, and established Village Forest Management Institutions. In Central Kalimantan, 272 people from eight communities received training in fire prevention, forest protection, and community business development.

Victory Gardens – Malawi

The Victory Gardens III project aimed to enhance quality of life, nutrition, and resilience for food insecure households. Facilitators worked with communities to establish, monitor, and assess gardens in hundreds of villages. Through the initiative, food security improved as villagers adopted sustainable gardening and cropping practices, benefitting 35,604 individuals.

Matandani Community Irrigation Project – Malawi

Our irrigation project aims to strengthen rural food security and livelihoods for the Matandani Community. The project has drilled a borehole, installed a solar pump, laid irrigation pipes, and prepared one hectare of land for cultivation. Training in organic fertiliser production for 50 participants provides a sustainable foundation for improved crop yields.

Improving Food Security and Economic Empowerment for Smallholder Farmers – Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique

Our initiatives to enhance food security, economic resilience and community empowerment for smallholder farmers have reached multiple communities across three countries. In Malawi, value chain and business development activities improved food security and increased income for 3,848 people. In Mozambique, agribusiness training and value addition efforts supported 360 participants, while in Ethiopia, sustainable seed production and capacity gap assessments benefitted 3,339 individuals.

Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) – Tanzania

The FMNR project in Tanzania addressed declining pastoral and livestock productivity by training Maasai pastoralists in regenerative land management techniques. These efforts supported soil restoration, reduced erosion, improved soil moisture retention and fertility, and rehabilitated local water sources, benefitting 24,128 Maasai pastoralists across seven villages over the life of the project, and leading to notable improvements in biodiversity, pasture yields, livestock health, and household income levels.

Mutoko Weir Dam and Water Reticulation Project – Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe's Mutoko District, a small dam was built along with environmental protection works around the weir, and the installation of livestock drinking troughs to reduce land degradation. A water reticulation system was installed at Gutsaruzhinji Primary School. The community cash-for-work program improved food security for 50 vulnerable community members. 503 households and 288 students are benefitting through improved water access and land management.





Higher value instant red
ginger cultivation in Central
Kalimantan, Indonesia

800

trees planted
INDONESIA

1,200

seed packets distributed
KIRIBATI

503

households with improved
water access
ZIMBABWE

3,339

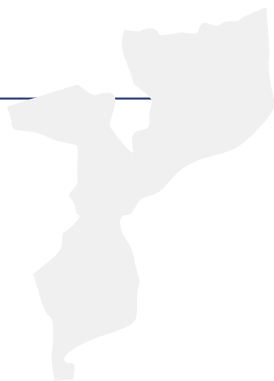
people gained from increased
sustainable seed production
ETHIOPIA

35,604

individuals benefitted from
Victory Gardens
MALAWI

Maria

Mozambique



Smallholder farmer Maria says that in the past she tried to produce sweet potatoes but did not have much faith in their financial potential.

“When I saw my neighbours selling their sweet potatoes and talking about their profits and saw the derivatives (chips and juices) being sold, I started to view sweet potatoes as a commercial crop,” she says.

“I then challenged myself to cultivate sweet potato more consistently, and I am now organising another field. I received support from the project, both for starter vines and technical assistance. My expectations are to harvest more than 3 tonnes, and since rock pulp potatoes are in high demand, I can sell them for around 20 to 30 metical (\$0.5-0.75) per kg.

“This is the third crop introduced by the project to boost our nutrition and income. We started with Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes, and we also have vegetables and ducks.

“This project has changed my way of living, showing me that with knowledge, we can achieve anything and improve our lives. I am very happy, and in fact, we are all very happy – myself, my family, and the community in general. The project is teaching us many things, and we are already saving money effectively. We cannot stop here; our path forward is to continue producing and improving our lives.”





Anton and Farhan Indonesia

74-year-old Anton is a founding member of Puter Foundation's Javan Hawk Eagle Trail (JHET) program. Anton previously earned a living collecting pine sap from the park and made around Rp2 million (\$195) per month. With the JHET program, he has ventured into cultivating red ginger on a 500sqm plot. His first harvest was impressive; with only 15kg of seeds, Anton was able to yield a remarkable 694kg of red ginger, a gain of Rp13,530,000 (\$1,316).

"Initially, there was scepticism. We had never cultivated red ginger in Tapos, and the switch to organic methods only added to the uncertainty," Anton recalled.

However, after ten long months of hard work, his efforts paid off, proving the feasibility of organic red ginger farming in the region.

30-year-old Farhan, also a Ketan Mas Farmer Group member, has thrived. Representative of the younger generation of farmers in the village, Farhan's agricultural skills, developed over years of supporting his parents, led to his own success. Farhan brought fresh perspectives to the fields, which resulted in an impressive harvest of 323kg of red ginger, earning him approximately Rp5,960,000 (\$580).

Throughout the cultivation process, Farhan learned valuable lessons from Anton, who became a mentor. "I never expected such a high yield. Previous harvests averaged around 100kg, but this time I achieved three times that amount," Farhan said gratefully.

Farhan and Anton credit their success to persistence and patience, particularly when adopting meticulous organic farming practices. They aspire to elevate Tapos red ginger to the prominence it deserves in the marketplace. Farhan envisions a future where their organic produce is recognised for its value beyond current market rates and can penetrate more lucrative markets, yielding a just profit for their hard work.

Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Livelihoods

Our programs empower vulnerable individuals to achieve financial independence, with a focus on women's economic empowerment, particularly among marginalised groups, ethnic minorities, rural women, and survivors of domestic violence and trafficking. We enhance vocational skills, improve financial literacy, and aid in establishing small businesses.

Agricultural development, identified by the World Bank as a powerful tool to alleviate poverty, is central to our rural efforts. We support farmers in boosting productivity, improving market access, and strengthening value chains. In urban areas, we facilitate savings-and-loans groups, provide seed funding, and deliver business training.

Addressing Poverty and Food Insecurity Through Small-Scale Family-Based Aquaculture Ventures – Micronesia

Our program in Pohnpei helped families diversify their livelihoods and raised awareness about sustainable fishery management. Eight aquaculture farms now benefit 162 people, and 36 individuals trained in sustainable crafts have new income streams. Over 250 community members have better awareness of fishery conservation, helping preserve marine resources and reducing climate change vulnerability.

Empowering Victims of Domestic Violence and Trauma – Timor-Leste

In Timor-Leste, training in horticulture and business development was provided to survivors of domestic

violence and marginalised individuals. 26 people completed training, while 24 gained the capacity to meet daily needs independently. Additionally, 57 inmates attended literacy classes, preparing them for reintegration. We supported 49 PRADET staff members with training in therapeutic techniques.

Women Action for Safe Rural Migration (WARM) – Cambodia

The WARM project promotes safe migration practices and supports women in developing businesses. 2,574 community members learnt about safe migration practices, while 12 savings groups, totalling 309 members, have stronger digital literacy. 12 women received business grants, and four women were appointed local leaders to drive gender inclusion.

Promoting Rural Opportunities with Digital Technologies and Upscaling Community-Based Tourism (PRODUCT) – Vietnam

The PRODUCT initiative saw over 300 members receive training in digital transactions, and 504 access financial services for the first time. The project also established 11 new Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), with 173 new members. CBT efforts provided 181 villagers with jobs, and nine CBT governance structures received management training.

Upscaling Community-Based Tourism (UpCBT) – Vietnam

UpCBT aims to improve rural resilience through sustainable ecotourism. This year, 757 participants received technical

training for ecotourism, resulting in 43 new products aligned with market needs. Partnerships with 21 CBT stakeholders and new facilities in Na Sang village have enhanced the project's long-term impact for 611 residents.

Maasai Women's Economic Empowerment Project (MWEEP) – Tanzania

The MWEEP project empowered Maasai women by supporting economic inclusion, income diversification and microfinance. Microfinance groups established in four villages now benefit hundreds of women, and three local grain milling enterprises reduce costs and travel times. Our program reached over 4,000 people, including 3,331 women.

Improving Food Productivity and Market Linkages – Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, our project enhanced food security and rural incomes through improved market access, livestock support, access to finance, and solar-powered infrastructure. Solar-powered boreholes reduce time spent on water collection, benefitting 8,235 people, including 4,619 women. We also trained 10 builders in biogas digester construction, reducing reliance on firewood for cooking and creating new business opportunities.





Na Sang village's performance team
practicing their dance, Vietnam

2,574

community members learnt
about safe migration practices
CAMBODIA

757

villagers trained in ecotourism
VIETNAM

3,331

Maasai women accessed
economic empowerment
programs
TANZANIA

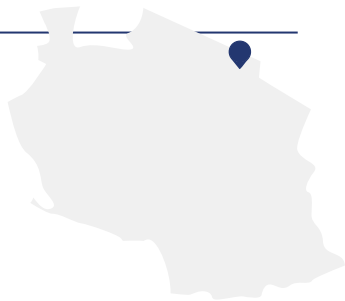
250

educated in fisheries
conservation
MICRONESIA

8,235

people benefitted from
solar-powered boreholes
ZIMBABWE

Sidai Tanzania



“My name is Sidai from Emurua village. I am 42 years old, I have four children, I’m the fourth wife among six wives of my husband and a member of the Namnyak women’s group formed in 2022 with a total of 30 members.”

The group was formed to empower women economically, establish small businesses, and facilitate unity and development among women to eliminate poverty.

Before joining Namnyak, Sidai’s daily life revolved around domestic tasks: fetching water, collecting firewood, caring for her family, and finding pasture for livestock. “I am one of the beneficiaries of a revolving fund (microloan) in our microfinance banks group which comes under the project they are implementing here in Emurua,” she said.

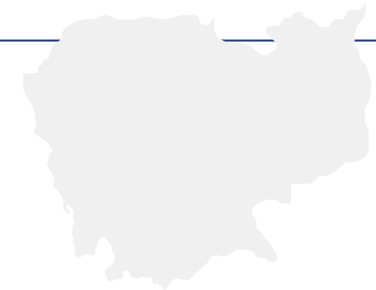
Joining the project brought significant change. “Once I joined the project my life changed totally. My family income changed due to the small business that I was doing. Also, due to the cooperation and love that had been built among us within our group, we decided to support each of us to build houses roofed with iron sheets,” she explained. Sidai was among the first four members to move from a thatched to an iron-roofed house. “I can even now collect rainwater from my house, I’m so happy for the support from my group members and the project too,” she said.

In January 2024, the group began rotating savings to buy iron sheets for four women, with plans to continue helping more. “I am so thankful for this project and to my group members who had supported me to enter the iron sheet roofed house,” Sidai concluded.





Sampors Cambodia



At 54, Sampors, a farmer from Kampong Thom Province, has transformed her life through the support of the Cambodian Women's Crisis Center (CWCC) and funding from AOP. Life has not been easy for her; alongside managing her farm, she cares for her elderly husband and her sister, who suffers from mental illness.

In pursuit of a better income, Sampors took up work as a dishwasher in Kampong Thom Town, earning 500,000 riels (\$125) monthly. But being away from home was challenging, as no one was there to care for her family. Realising this wasn't a sustainable path, she returned to her village, determined to find a solution closer to home.

Sampors began by volunteering with local organisations to promote agricultural practices, from raising poultry to farming, and was recognised for her commitment, becoming a village leader in 2016. Two years later, she joined a CWCC-supported savings group that provided technical guidance and resources. Through training in financial literacy, gender awareness, and safe migration practices, Sampors gained valuable skills, which she applied by educating her community on safe migration and reporting instances of domestic violence.

With a loan from the savings group, Sampors started her own vegetable farm, earning around 400,000 riels (\$100) each harvest. This additional income, along with her regular work, has provided financial stability for her family. Beyond improving her own life, her leadership and advocacy have had a lasting impact on her community, from promoting financial independence to encouraging safe migration.

Sampors is deeply grateful to CWCC, AOP, and the donors whose support has made her journey possible. She hopes for continued assistance to expand these efforts, creating more business opportunities for the women in her community.

Capacity Building

AOP's mission is to empower changemakers by supporting local organisations as strong national development agents. Changemakers achieve sustainable impact when they are organised, well-resourced, and responsible, with formal structures, professional personnel, and accountabilities. We work together with our partners to develop well-governed organisations, skilled personnel, adequate resources, responsible resource management systems, risk management, and build expertise for sustained positive impact.

AOP's Capacity Building program focuses on compliance, good practices, institutional strengthening, skills development, and evidence-based impact through robust monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems. At its core is a comprehensive capacity risk assessment, informing tailored development plans for each partner.

During this period, AOP collaborated to enhance partner capacities across regions, supporting financial management reviews, policy development, gender equality, and disability inclusion training. These activities laid the foundation for inclusive, equitable, and sustainable project implementation.

Highlights

Highlights included regional workshops in Vietnam and Fiji, fostering stronger relationships and a network based on shared values. Technical assistance involved proposal design, accounting software upgrades, project design, and

training delivery. We trained partners on a cloud-based impact assessment platform for M&E, enabling streamlined reporting, harmonised program indicators, and improved progress assessment.

An internal reflection process evaluated the program's success, with 92% of partners finding AOP's initiatives useful or very useful. Positive impacts were seen in financial management, policy compliance, and strategic planning, with substantial improvements in organisational processes.

A notable achievement was integrating disability-inclusive practices, leading to tools that promote accessibility and equity across all AOP programs. In response to climate change, AOP conducted a comparative study on food security in Fiji and Kiribati, highlighting the importance of integrating indigenous knowledge, gender equality, and climate adaptation into food security strategies. Findings will guide future projects addressing climate-related vulnerabilities in the Pacific.

At the same time, AOP supported partners in Kiribati and Solomon Islands focused on climate change and adaptive water management. Training equipped facilitators with skills in sanitation, hygiene, water management, and climate resilience, helping communities adapt to environmental challenges.

AOP also received an Australia Awards Fellowship from DFAT, enabling a staff member from Zimbabwe-based partner CTDO to participate in a leadership course, attend the ACFID annual conference, and visit key field projects. The fellow participated in donor events in Melbourne and Sydney, where they shared stories of rural Zimbabwe and highlighted the transformative impact of Australian support.

Looking Ahead: Future Directions for AOP's Capacity Building program

AOP is committed to expanding its program to meet our partners' growing needs, with initiatives including:

- **Deepening Digital Transformation:** Expanding focus on digital tools for M&E, financial, and project management to help partners adapt to a tech-driven world.
- **Promoting Inclusive Development:** Refining gender equality and disability-inclusive practices, integrating recent disability assessment recommendations across all programs.
- **Innovative Financing and Resource Mobilisation:** Exploring new financing mechanisms and resource mobilisation strategies to help partners access diverse funding streams for long-term sustainability and growth.



A photograph of a group of people at a workshop. In the foreground, a woman in a dark blue polo shirt with an 'Action Poverty' logo and a lanyard stands next to a man in a tan blazer, also with a lanyard. They are both smiling. In the background, another man in a red jacket is seated. The setting is under a thatched roof with wooden pillars. A table in the foreground has glasses of juice and a plate of fruit.

AOP partners and staff get to know each other during the Asia workshop

The Impact of AOP's Support

Partners consistently expressed their appreciation for the support provided by AOP. PRADET credited AOP with improving its professionalism and capacity in areas like financial management and strategic planning:

“The capacity building support from AOP has strengthened our organisation’s ability to manage finances more efficiently and plan strategically for long-term sustainability.”

Similarly, Mr. Taryono Darusman, Chair of the Puter Indonesia Foundation, acknowledged the significant impact of AOP’s assistance on their operations:

“The support provided by AOP has greatly improved our administrative processes, allowing us to focus on our core responsibilities in the field with increased efficiency. We are truly grateful for this valuable partnership.”

Thamie Zimbabwe

In August 2023, Thamsanqa (“Thamie”) Khanye, set out on a path that would enrich her career and impact the lives of those she serves. As program manager at AOP partner, Community Technology Development Organisation (CTDO) in Zimbabwe, Thamie has always been passionate about social inclusion and gender equality. When the opportunity arose to apply for the Australia Awards Fellowship, AOP supported Thamie throughout her fellowship journey, recognising its potential to nurture a local leader, and strengthen CTDO’s capacity and their shared impact in Zimbabwe.

Thamie’s fellowship experience in Australia was transformative. Through the Emerging Leaders Program at UNSW, she gained invaluable leadership skills, including navigating new challenges, empowering her team, and making strategic decisions. She also became an integral part of AOP’s weekly program meetings, immersing herself in the day-to-day operations and strategic planning of an international NGO.

A standout moment was attending the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) National Conference, where Thamie engaged with global leaders on gender equality, climate change, and community resilience, bringing these insights home to tackle Zimbabwe’s unique challenges.

On her return to Zimbabwe, Thamie hit the ground running. She led workshops on social inclusion, safeguarding, and leadership at CTDO, sharing her newfound knowledge. Under her guidance, CTDO updated its strategic and communication policies to align with international standards, especially in disability inclusion. This was more than a policy update, it sparked a fundamental shift in how the organisation approached inclusivity, making a real difference in every aspect of their work.

Thamie also spearheaded the design of several winning proposals including the Community Resilience Against Hunger (CRAH) project to tackle seed, food and nutrition insecurity in rural areas, using the proposal-writing skills she sharpened during her fellowship. This initiative is a testament to the power of the CTDO-AOP partnership and their shared commitment to empowering communities through sustainable development.

Reflecting on her journey, Thamie shares, “I went to Australia to learn, but I came back with a responsibility to lead and uplift others.”





Farmers in Mutoko, Zimbabwe raise chickens as part of CTDO's Food Productivity and Market Linkages Project

Education

Poverty is a major barrier to education, for all children in our target countries, but especially for girls. Low-income families must often choose between sending their children to school, or providing other essentials, such as meals, clothing, or medication. Even if tuition is free, families can struggle to cover the cost of transport, uniforms, books, and exam fees. Girls are more likely than boys to drop out early, with child marriage one of the most common reasons. When children with little or no education become adults, they have limited economic prospects, perpetuating the cycle of poverty.

Highlights

Action on Poverty's work to support children, young people, and adults that received little or no schooling, is delivered through our Africa portfolio. Our target countries are Kenya, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe and in 2023–2024 a total of 1,713 people benefitted from education projects delivered by our partners the Ololo Foundation (Kenya), CORDS (Tanzania), and Our Neighbours Ministry (Zimbabwe), and through a small scholarship program at Emmanuel High School in Zimbabwe.

The support provided by our partners includes school infrastructure development and improvement; access to nutritious meals; provision of school uniforms, textbooks and stationery; student scholarships; teacher capacity building; and workshops and training for adults.

While much of CORDS education work is focussed on supporting girls to stay in school, CORDS also works with Maasai women in Northern Tanzania to ensure they have a brighter, more independent, economic future. Many of these women have never received any kind of formal education and welcome the opportunity to participate in adult education programs delivered by CORDS.

In Kenya, key features of the work of the Ololo Foundation include scholarships to primary school children living in Kibera, the largest informal settlement on the African continent; supporting primary and secondary children who are gifted in the sporting arena to develop their talents; and broadening the exposure of high school students to include arts and crafts, chess, and environmental conservation.



Children at St John's School in the heart of
the Kibera informal settlement in Kenya



Evaluations



A villager demonstrates traditional crafts
to visitors to Na Sang village in Vietnam



Promoting Rural Opportunities with Digital technologies and Upscaling Community-based Tourism (PRODUCT)

The project evaluation found PRODUCT to be highly relevant to the needs of vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities and women, and well-aligned with national and local policies. However, adapting to the changing dynamics of CBT development is necessary to maintain relevance. Coherence was evident, although some interventions, like the pilot for ethnic minority migrants, lacked clear alignment. Effectiveness was strong, with most output indicators achieved, particularly in empowering women economically.

Inclusive business partnerships in CBT and rural products saw moderate success, with some limitations in expanding CBT coverage and business models. Policy influence (conducive policies and programs for CBT) was also moderately satisfactory as an outcome, with significant contributions to policy dialogue, but incomplete studies. Efficiency was bolstered by partnerships with local authorities and NGOs.

The impacts included diversified livelihoods, improved women's leadership, and enhanced community infrastructure. However, CBT and commercial sustainability remained a challenge, with the risk for some villages of over-investment and for others of losing cultural identity or struggling to self-sustain financially. Equity efforts, particularly for vulnerable groups, were positive but required further inclusion of people with disabilities.

Recommendations emphasised tailored interventions, risk mitigation for sustainability, stronger market-oriented models, technical depth, and clearer exit strategies from AOP support. Expanding CBT development to neighbouring countries was also suggested.



Engaging Community in the World Mosquito Program in Vietnam

AOP in Vietnam implemented the ANCP-funded community engagement project in support of the World Mosquito Program (WMP). The project focused on raising public awareness, understanding, and acceptance of the WMP's dengue elimination program in select communities in Thu Dau Mot and My Tho City, supporting a larger efficacy study of the Wolbachia method. The qualitative evaluation of the project includes insights from stakeholders, including public health officials and local residents.

Key findings highlight the effectiveness of diverse communication strategies, such as city-level events, media campaigns, and door-to-door consultations, leading to a community acceptance rate of over 90%. The project successfully engaged local health staff and influencers, ensuring effective message delivery. However, challenges remained in reaching marginalised groups like migrant workers and street vendors, with no clear strategic approach for them.

Recommendations emphasise the importance of local government support, community influencer involvement, and tailored communication strategies. Households with children were more receptive to information, presenting an opportunity for engagement, while adaptive approaches are needed to reach harder-to-access groups like migrants and vendors.

For more detail on the project evaluations please visit:
actiononpoverty.org/our-impact/research-evaluations/

Partnerships in Focus: World Mosquito Program

Action on Poverty: a Catalyst for WMP's Growth

The World Mosquito Program (WMP), a not-for-profit initiative owned by Monash University, works to protect communities globally from mosquito-borne diseases like dengue, Zika, and yellow fever using naturally occurring Wolbachia bacteria to reduce mosquito transmission. WMP collaborates with local communities, governments, and health agencies to implement the self-sustaining Wolbachia method in Asia, Oceania, and the Americas. For the last 20 years, Action on Poverty has been a key partner in developing and scaling WMP's innovative mosquito control approach, from the initial testing and refinement in Nha Trang city, Vietnam to expansion into two provinces in Southern Vietnam and now Timor-Leste.

Testing and Refinement

Since the WMP's early days, AOP has played a key role in supporting pilot projects in Khanh Hoa province, Vietnam. AOP's expertise in community engagement and local knowledge was vital to the successful implementation of these trials, helping WMP gather valuable data that shaped its scalable model.

Scaling Up in the Southern Region of Vietnam and in Timor-Leste

WMP's expansion beyond its pilot location in Nha Trang to Tien Giang, Binh Duong provinces, and Timor-Leste was supported by AOP, with AOP's experience in public health programs and local knowledge helping to adapt WMP's approach to local needs and align with government and community priorities.

During our 20-year partnership, AOP's contributions have included:

- **Community Engagement:** A strong local presence facilitated relationships, ensured the inclusion of disadvantaged groups, and gained community trust.
- **Government Relations:** Expertise in navigating government processes helped secure permits and approvals, ensuring smooth operations.
- **Project Management:** Planning support, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, optimising resources and impact.
- **Capacity Building:** Local stakeholder training, enhancing the sustainability of our mosquito control efforts.



In Vietnam, cyclists promote Wolbachia awareness through a community ride

WMP'S PERSPECTIVE

"We've been working with AOP for many years, originally as the Eliminate Dengue Program, and more recently as the World Mosquito Program, working in Nha Trang, extending to projects in Ho Chi Minh and southern provinces of Vietnam. Our relationship with AOP has been one of trust and appreciation for the ability of them to enable us to become effective in Vietnam very quickly through their relationships and their ability to help steer us with the projects we collaborate on. We look forward to continuing our partnership with AOP and expanding our collaboration."

SCOTT O'NEILL
CEO OF THE WORLD MOSQUITO PROGRAM

Vale John Rock

John Rock was involved with AFAP/AOP from 1999 when he supported work as a volunteer in Africa dealing with the HIV crisis in South Africa and the devastating effect it was having on school children there. His involvement in our work gradually increased, and he became chair of the board a few years later in 2001.

John used his experience and vast professional networks to help grow and shepherd the organisation through some tumultuous times, participating in meetings all over the world and even taking on a management role at one point. John was always there for us, during accreditation audits, governance meetings or merger discussions, through to travelling on dusty roads to be met with singing village women, or local village chiefs.

John visited most AOP projects during the 20 years he was involved with the organisation, no matter how far off the beaten track. He spoke at local events, bravely sharing with strangers his personal experiences, in contexts and at times when stigma and shame for those affected by HIV and AIDS in Africa, was extreme.

I can recall occasions where people would be moved to tears to see a person like John, a white man in a position of authority, being open about his HIV status when it was

almost unheard of to admit to such a thing. I know his leadership helped others to overcome their own fears and gave comfort in the days when there was very little for many.

John's compassion for humanity, and his belief that no one life was worth more or less than any others despite their circumstances, was humbling and his energy to contribute to the mission of our work was unwavering. Over the years he was always challenging others to speak up, do more, and push harder in order to right the injustices of the world. He used whatever platform he could to great effect.

We were all so happy to see John publicly recognised for his achievements and awarded an Order of Australia in 2017, not long after he finished his term on the board with us.

Everyone at AOP was deeply saddened to lose John. There have been tributes to him from all over the world and from the many staff who worked with him. His impact remains with us, and we are all committed to living out his legacy in our service for others.

CHRISTINE MURPHY ACTION ON POVERTY



Jock Harkness, former AOP Board Member, with John Rock

Report From the Head of Finance and Administration

Action on Poverty achieved a net deficit of \$140,138 for the 2023-24 financial year (FY24). To align AOP with its new strategic plan, resources were allocated in FY24 to establish the necessary infrastructure for becoming a recognised leader in reducing poverty in innovative ways.

Income

In FY24, AOP achieved income of \$8,867,328 which represents a 4% decline from FY23. The revenue decline was predominantly driven by a decrease in AOP's other Australian grants to \$1,913,242 (FY23: \$3,219,812) offset by an increase in Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) income and other overseas grants. AOP's relationship with DFAT remains an essential partnership for ongoing funding, with support from the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) amounting to \$3,594,005 in FY24, representing an increase of 12% from FY23.

Expenditure

During FY24, AOP incurred expenditure of \$9,007,466 to deliver programs across Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Funds to international programs including: program support costs, community education, and non monetary expenditure, represents 87% of AOP's expenditure with a total of \$7,906,053. Accountability and administration expenses accounted for 9% of total expenditure. Fundraising expenditure was 4% of total expenditure for FY24 at \$328,710.

Reserves

AOP's unrestricted reserves decreased by 8% in FY24 to \$1,720,714. The decline in reserves reflects the investment in our new strategic plan.

Overall, AOP's financial performance in FY24 indicates AOP's commitment to continue to deliver on its existing programs and investing in the new strategic plan to ensure a strong future for AOP.

HEAD OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION KAREN BROGAN



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

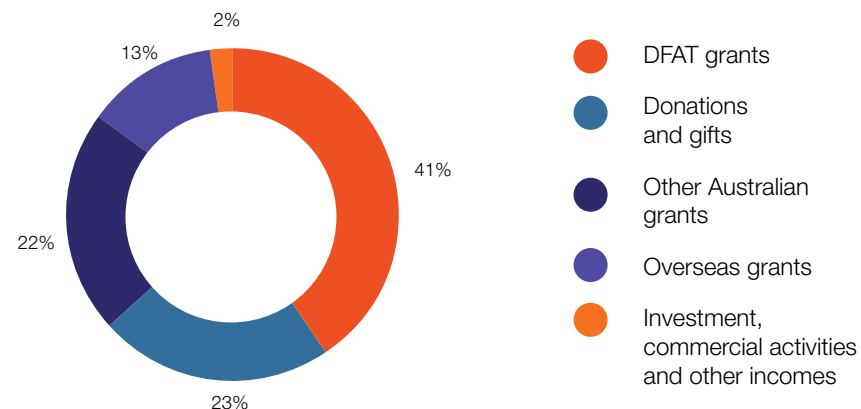
Fundraising – public: All costs related to the purposes of raising funds from the public including salary costs of fundraising staff, and production and mailing of fundraising materials

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

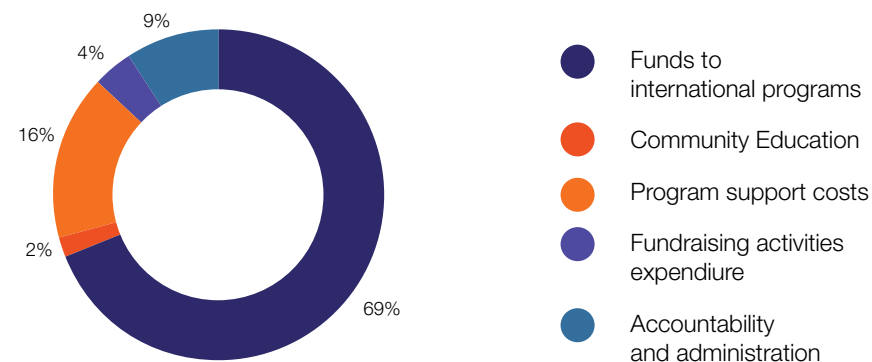
Accountability and administration: Related to the overall operational capacity of AOP, such as audit fees, personnel, IT, finance and administration costs, insurance premiums, and membership to peak bodies

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



HOW PIE CHARTS ARE DERIVED

Pie chart category income and expenses percentages are derived from AOP's Income Statement categories (including donations in-kind). AOP's Income Statement follows the ACFID format with financial definitions for each category.

Financial Statements

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	2024	2023
REVENUE		
Donations and gifts		
- Monetary	\$1,220,367	\$1,196,252
- Non-monetary	\$834,793	\$1,144,687
Grants		
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	\$3,594,005	\$3,191,770
- Other Australian	\$1,913,242	\$3,219,812
- Other overseas	\$1,160,522	\$398,105
Commercial Activities Income	\$2,439	0
Investment income	\$50,112	\$38,793
Other income	\$91,848	\$50,950
TOTAL REVENUE	\$8,867,328	\$9,240,369

NOTE 1: ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

This financial report is derived from the company's annual statutory report for the year ended 30 June 2024 which is available upon request

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 ACFID website www.acfid.asn.au

	2024	2023
EXPENDITURE		
International aid and development programs expenditure		
International programs		
- Funds to international programs	-\$5,469,002	-\$6,323,464
- Program support costs	-\$1,458,724	-\$907,034
Community Education	-\$143,534	-\$93,505
Fundraising costs		
- Public	-\$201,821	-\$55,607
- Government and multilateral and private	-\$126,889	-\$161,930
Accountability and administration	-\$772,703	-\$483,477
Non-monetary expenditure	-\$834,793	-\$1,144,687
Total international aid and development programs expenditure	-\$9,007,466	-\$9,169,704
Finance costs	0	-\$711
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	-\$9,007,466	-\$9,170,415
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	-\$140,138	\$69,954
Other comprehensive income		
- Unrealised gains on investments	\$36,361	\$21,294
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	\$36,361	\$21,294
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	-\$103,777	\$91,248

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,247,582	\$2,037,811
Trade and other receivables	\$251,235	\$149,608
Other assets	\$135,529	\$176,156
Total current assets	\$2,634,346	\$2,363,575
Non-current assets		
Other financial assets	\$642,496	\$610,219
Property, plant and equipment	\$16,751	\$13,682
Total non-current assets	\$659,247	\$623,901
TOTAL ASSETS	\$3,293,593	\$2,987,476
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Trade and other payables	\$166,456	\$288,135
Unspent project funds	\$1,227,060	\$682,110
Provisions	\$123,518	\$141,867
Total current liabilities	\$1,517,035	\$1,112,112
Non-current liabilities		
Provisions	\$21,186	\$16,214
Total non-current liabilities	\$21,186	\$16,214
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$1,538,220	\$1,128,326
NET ASSETS	\$1,755,373	\$1,859,150
EQUITY		
Accumulated funds	\$1,720,714	\$1,860,852
Reserves	\$34,659	- \$1,702
TOTAL EQUITY	\$1,755,373	\$1,859,150

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Accumulated unrestricted funds	Reserves	Total
Balance at 1 July 2023	\$1,860,852	-\$1,702	\$1,859,150
Deficit for the year	-\$140,138	-	-\$140,138
Unrealised gains on investments	-	\$36,361	\$36,361
Balance at 30 June 2024	\$1,720,714	\$34,659	\$1,755,373
Balance at 1 July 2022	\$1,790,898	-\$22,996	\$1,767,902
Surplus for the year	\$69,954	-	\$69,954
Unrealised gains on investments	-	\$21,294	\$21,294
Balance at 30 June 2023	\$1,860,852	-\$1,702	\$1,859,150



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Other Information (cont'd)

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 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 – Simplified Disclosure Requirements and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The directors' responsibility also includes 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, directors are responsible for assessing the Company'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 Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

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 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 the 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:

- 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 Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF ACTION ON POVERTY LIMITED

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Action on Poverty Limited (the Company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, 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 material accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of Action on Poverty Limited, has been prepared in accordance with *Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure Requirements 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 believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Independence

We are independent of the Company in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (including Independence Standard) (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.

Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Company's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 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.

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Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report (cont'd)

- 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 Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report 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 Company 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.

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.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, action taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

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 Regulations Act 1991. Our procedures included obtaining an 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 abovementioned 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 2024, in all material respects, in accordance with:

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



Report on the Australian Council of 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 2024 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 2024 complies with Section C.2.2 of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, action taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

KYM REILLY
PARTNER

24 OCTOBER 2024
SYDNEY, NSW

AOP staff member leads a Menstrual Hygiene Management session in Solomon Islands



Compliance and Regulation

Like all Australian charities and not-for-profits, Action on Poverty operates in a highly regulated environment and complies with a range of laws, regulations, licences, and codes of conduct to uphold accountability with our community and 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 DFAT funds. The DFAT accreditation process is thorough, robust, and undertaken every five years. It involves a detailed assessment of AOP's systems, operations, management capacity, governance, and linkages with the Australian Government against stringent criteria. Find out more at dfat.gov.au.

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 more information on the Code of Conduct, visit acfid.asn.au.

Australian Tax Office (ATO)

The ATO has given AOP Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR 1) status as a developing country relief 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. Refer to acnc.gov.au for more details of these obligations and standards.

Fundraising

Many Australian states and territories require charities to hold fundraising licences 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.





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Action on Poverty Limited trading as
Action on Poverty