

# Act Church of Sweden

Annual Report 2021

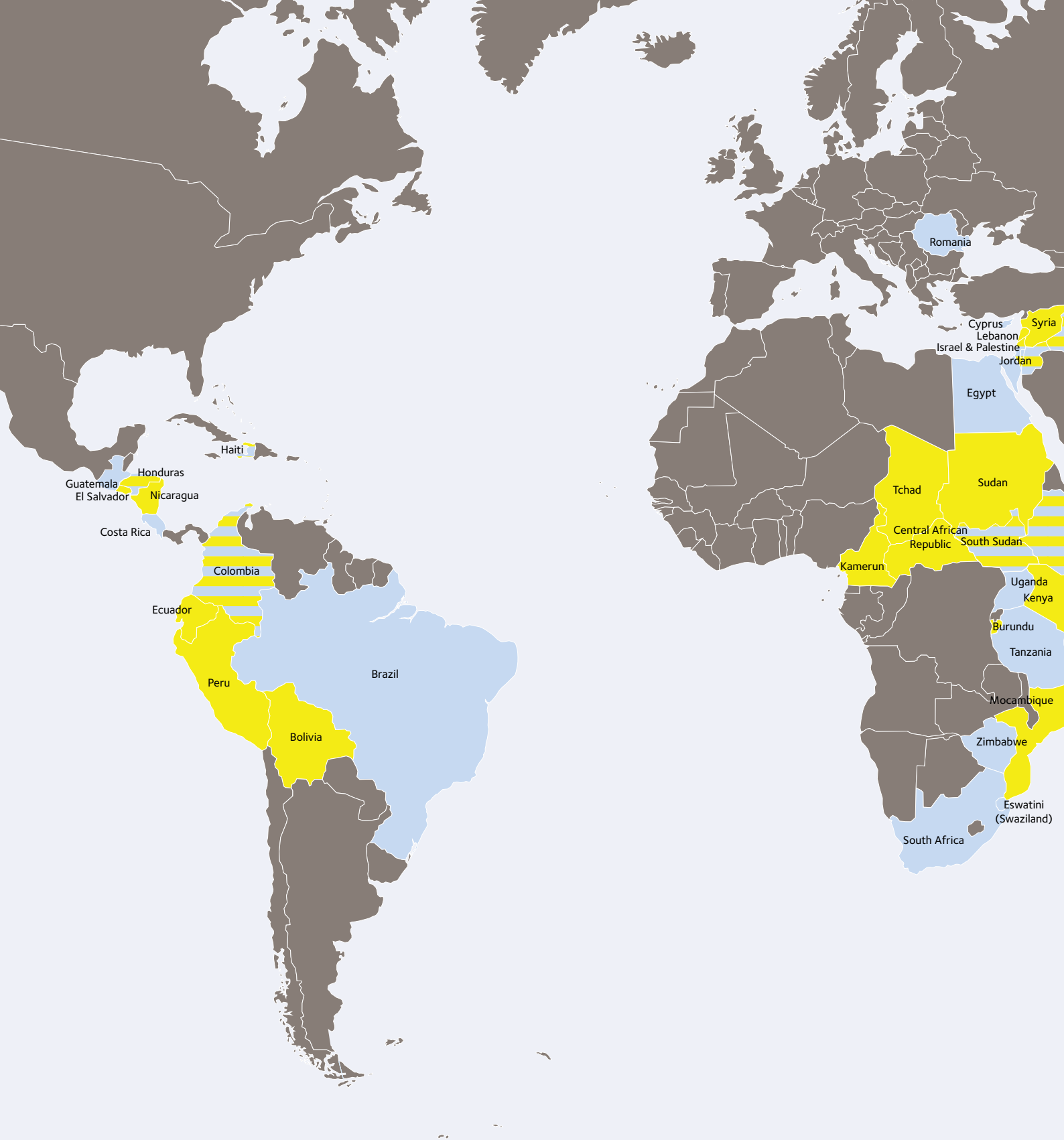


Save lives  
Change lives  
Change the world

[svenskakyrkan.se/act](https://svenskakyrkan.se/act)

**act**  
Church of Sweden





**During 2021, we provided:**

- Humanitarian action in 24 countries\*
- Long-term development cooperation in 24 countries\*

\*Data compiled in November 2021



## FOR EVERYONE'S RIGHT TO A DIGNIFIED LIFE

Act Church of Sweden is the Church of Sweden's international development and aid actor and one of Sweden's largest fundraising organisations. Together with other churches, organisations and thousands of volunteers around the world, Act Church of Sweden works long-term against poverty, oppression and injustice and acts quickly in the event of disasters. Act stands for acting and putting faith into action – always with people's equal value and rights at the center.

# A YEAR OF RECONSTRUCTION AND COMMITMENT

In 2021, we experienced a second year of the pandemic. The report from IPCC made it clear that climate change affects all people, regardless of where we live in the world. Almost all political leaders are aware of climate change, but the courage and willingness to take the leap are still lacking.

During the pandemic, violence against women, children, and HBTQI+ persons has increased sharply – a development that has come to be known as the shadow pandemic. This has meant enormous global setbacks for women's and girls' rights.

Together, we can influence development in the right direction. Together, we contribute to alleviate suffering and to give people the opportunity to rebuild safety and faith in the future. Through humanitarian action, long-term development work and global advocacy work, we fight for everyone's right to a dignified life. We also work together to give leaders and employees in partner churches and ecumenical organisations access to theological reflection and education to both help people grow in their faith and strengthen the churches' contribution to societal development.

Thanks to our long-term development work, we can act quickly once a disaster strikes. In 2021, Act Church of Sweden, together with our local partners, has, among other things, contributed to initiatives in connection with the earthquake in Haiti, secured food supply and worked with psychosocial support for people fleeing the armed conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, offered food packages and counselling to women in South Africa, created safe housing and counselling to girls who are at risk for genital mutilation in Tanzania, provided support for school children in refugee camps and sent medicine and medical personnel to Gaza.

Together with the ACT Alliance, the World Council of Churches and congregations around the world, we also managed to collect 150,000 signatures for the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow. 150,000 voices calling on the political leaders to dare to make the necessary decisions so that tomorrow's children and grandchildren can live in a sustainable world.

Despite the challenges we face, there is hope. Together, we are strong. I see this in

our work, where our partners are present and constantly working for sustainable development and for a just and peaceful society. How it gives people the opportunity to create secure lives for themselves, influence decision-makers to reduce injustices, and strengthen people's human rights.



Photo: Magnus Aronson/Ikon

**Erik Lysén,**  
*International Director,  
Act Church of Sweden*



'Together, we alleviate suffering and give people the opportunity to rebuild safety and faith in the future again'.

Erik Lysén

Photo: Jesper Klemmedsson/Ikon



Photo: Emil Olsenmyr/Ikon



Photo: Josselin Casteryd/Ikon



Photo: Magnus Aronsson/Ikon







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## SAVE LIVES



## CHANGE LIVES



## CHANGE THE WORLD



Photo: Sean Furlonger/Ikon

Photo: Magnus Aronson/Ikon

Photo: Josefín Casteryd/Ikon

We live under the same sky and have the same rights, but the reality looks different. Together, we fight for everyone's right to a dignified life!

## WHO WE ARE

*Act Church of Sweden is a faith-based aid and development actor and an integrated part of the Church of Sweden. Mobilisation in the congregations is a prerequisite for our work and reflects participation in a global movement and a worldwide church that we both influence and are influenced by. The work is mainly financed by funds raised from private donors, congregations and institutional donors.*

Our work is based on theology, but is also carried out on the basis of accepted principles for effective development cooperation and humanitarian work. Some of them are the humanitarian principles, gender-integrated human rights-based approach and the sustainable development goals, which the UN Member States agreed on in the Agenda 2030.

Together with churches, civil society organisations and thousands of volunteers around the world, we work long-term against poverty, oppression and injustice and respond quickly in the event of humanitarian disasters. We are part of a worldwide community, carried by our belief in a God who takes a stand for those who are excluded or who live in poverty. We share faith, life and experiences.

The strong ecumenical identity is expressed, among other things, through membership in the World Council of Churches, WCC; the Lutheran World Federation, LWF; and Action by Churches Together, the ACT Alliance.

It is part of our mission to make visible and act against power structures that prevent people from living a full life, whether the structures are in society, within the Church, or within development aid. It also means holding ourselves accountable for the commitments we make and being the change we want to see in the world.

**actalliance**



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION



**World Council  
of Churches**

### CHANGE THROUGH GLOBAL ACTORS

The Church of Sweden is a member of the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). It provides great opportunities to influence the churches' common theological reflection and to work for peace and human rights as well as with climate and environmental issues. The networks are powerful voices in the UN system and other important global forums. LWF conducts humanitarian work in several different refugee camps around the world.

Act Church of Sweden is also a member of the ACT Alliance, one of the largest global faith-based alliances for humanitarian work, development cooperation and advocacy. The ACT Alliance, which stands for Action by Churches Together, has a local presence in more than 130 countries and can work effectively, both for long-term development and in crisis situations.





Photo: CDSS, Sydsudan, Franceska Mungai, Kristoffer Morén/Kyrkans tidning, Magnus Aronson/Ikon

*Our faith leads us to act for every human being's right to live a dignified life. Together with people all over the world, we work for change and achieve results. Every day.*

## CHANGE THROUGH LOCAL ACTORS

We know that change will be lasting and sustainable if it is owned by the local communities where the change takes place. That is why our work is carried out through and together with local organisations and churches around the world. We work with people who are present before, during and after a crisis or disaster.

Our overall goal is for people to live in a just, sustainable and democratic community, strengthened by global solidarity, based on human rights. In a society that is characterised by a democratic and human rights-based order, there is cooperation and accountability between different actors.

## OUR GOVERNING VALUES

### FAITH AS A DRIVING FORCE

Faith gives us, and many of the individuals, sister churches and organisations we work with, inspiration, courage and strength to take a stand for people who live under threat, are silenced or live in poverty, and for what promotes life and hope for the future.

### EMPOWERMENT AND COMMITMENT

We believe in people's inherent ability and agency. People's own perspectives, living conditions and long-term development come into focus through meaningful participation. We support increased autonomy and participation for groups and individuals who live in vulnerability. This also means that privileged groups and individuals need to share the power they have.

### INTEGRITY OF CREATION

God's creation is constantly renewed, and all life lives in mutual dependence. We want to work for sustainable development where no one is left out and people take responsibility for their lifestyle and impact on nature, climate and the environment.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

In order for human rights to be protected, respected and met, states and other actors, including religious actors, need to be held politically and legally accountable for their actions. People's ability to demand accountability is a necessary part of human rights-based work and a democratic society.

### ECUMENICAL APPROACH

Ecumenical cooperation with other churches is part of our identity. Together we share faith, mission and experience and contribute with different abilities and resources. The ecumenical approach is a guide for all our programmes.

### HUMAN RIGHTS

Based on situations where lives are threatened and people are silenced, we take a stand for what promotes life and hope for the future. To make this visible, both context analysis and intersectional analysis of power are required, which interact with the theological reflection. Every human being is created in the image of God, with the right to a life of dignity and to human rights as expressed in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights conventions. Everyone, without distinction of any kind, is entitled to all human rights. Discrimination is unacceptable and no one should be left out.

### DEMOCRATIC SPACE AND ORGANISATION

When people come together and organise, they have greater opportunities to promote their interests and claim their rights with a common voice. Increased organisation and strengthening of organisations in civil society is therefore always a goal for the work we support.



Photo: Malin Wrigstad/Ikon

# WHAT WE WANT

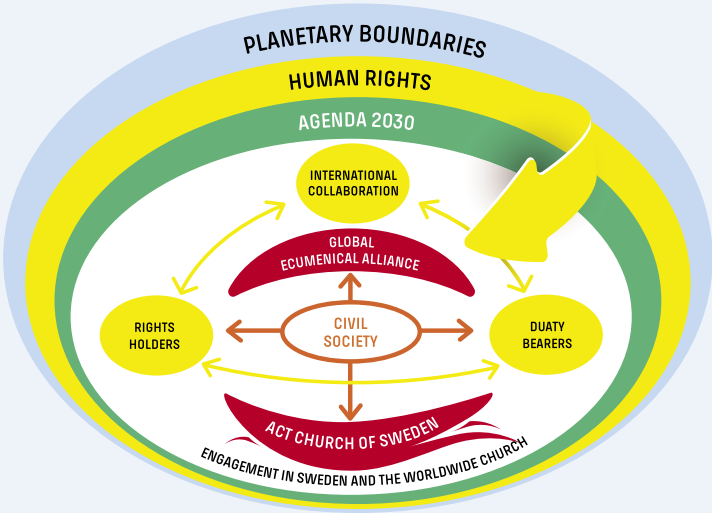
*Our work focuses on the resilience of local communities and the conditions needed to achieve gender-integrated and human rights-based justice, sustainability and democracy.*

## Our contribution to a human rights-based order

The image below lists our prioritised target areas and visualises our contribution to the realisation of the human rights-based order that we want to promote. It emphasises the key role of civil society and the need

for a systemic approach to achieving justice, sustainable and democratic local communities, backed by global solidarity, based on human rights.

- Development within planetary boundaries
- The human right not to be discriminated against on the basis of gender in churches and society is realised.
- People's right to freedom of religion and belief in church and society is realised.
- People's right to bodily and sexual integrity in church and society is realised.
- People's sexual and reproductive health and rights are realised.
- People's right to inclusive participation and security is realised.
- People's right to a sustainable livelihood is realised.
- People's right to life and dignity in humanitarian crises is realised.





# WHAT WE DO

*Our regional and country programmes are developed according to the local context and needs. Rights holders are always in focus. The picture illustrates how our four strategic working methods interact in the programmes.*

## Mobilisation

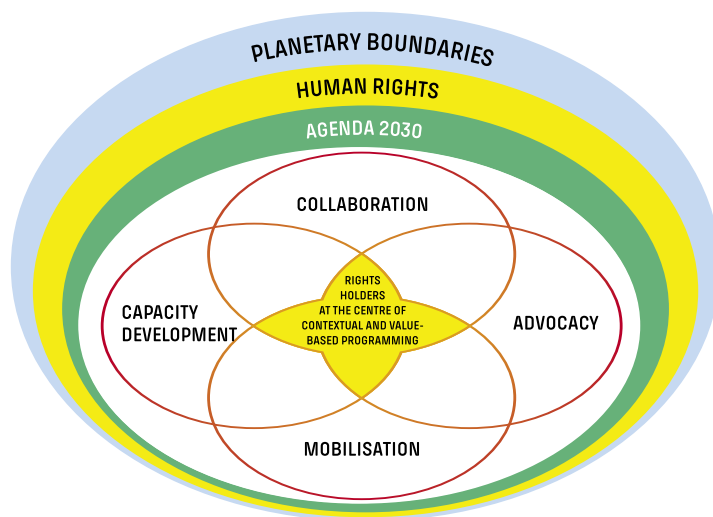
People have engagement and a drive for global solidarity. By mobilising resources and commitment to international development aid of good quality and with rights holders at the centre, we contribute to the development of fair, sustainable and democratic local communities.

## Capacity development

Local actors act for human rights and human dignity in their context. In dialogue and mutual learning, together with partners and rightsholders, we contribute to processes where people, organisations and society as a whole release, strengthen, create, adapt and maintain capacity over time. The work with capacity development includes strengthening local, organisational and thematic capacity as well as theological education and reflection.

## Collaboration

Our ecumenical approach is based on the desire to cooperate and participate in designing the conditions for sustainable development together. By contributing to platforms for exchange and dialogue, we can promote cooperation and coordination locally, regionally and globally.



## Advocacy work

Conditions for the fulfilment of human rights and Agenda 2030 are influenced by the decisions and frameworks of local, regional and global decision-makers. By conducting qualitative and long-term policy dialogue and advocacy to influence political processes, attitudes and social norms, we can contribute to change that promotes goal fulfilment in activities and programmes.



# OUR FIVE FOCUS AREAS

*Act Church of Sweden uses five focus areas to describe our work. In all our communication the core is always the rights holders, duty bearers and civil society's ability to, with the right support, create long-term change in their societies. In total, we work with over 300 projects in about 40 countries.*

1.



Photo: Paul Jeffrey

## 1. LIVELIHOODS AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

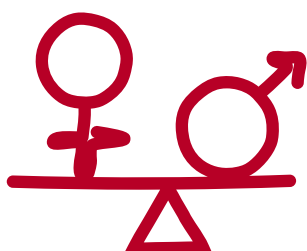
Act Church of Sweden works for just and sustainable livelihood opportunities for people living in vulnerability, poverty and in climate emergencies. This can include training in sustainable agriculture, distribution of more durable crops and starting up savings groups that provide opportunities for investment and own purchases. The work is carried out together with local churches and partners to strengthen people's own ability to support themselves. At the same time, Act Church of Sweden holds those in power accountable for realising the right to social protection and climate justice globally. Act Church of Sweden works to safeguard the Creation and defend everyone's right to a dignified life.

Basic security, gender equality and climate justice are prerequisites for a sustainable world. Self-confidence and faith in the future are created when people can work and manage on their income.



## 2. GENDER EQUALITY AND HEALTH

All people, regardless of gender, sexual orientation or gender identity, should be able to live a life of dignity. Yet millions of women, girls and LGBTQI+ people are exposed to violence and discrimination on the basis of gender. Sexual violence, forced marriage and genital mutilation are examples of abuse that affect structurally vulnerable groups, and many are denied education and health care. Religious representatives in many parts of the world have great influence over norms and customs linked to gender roles, sexuality and family formation. This means unique opportunities to influence and a special responsibility to contribute to positive change. Together with churches and organisations that stand up for gender equality, Act Church of Sweden works for everyone's right to health, security and their own body.



2.



Photo: Josefín Casteryd/Ikon



### 3. PEACE AND DEMOCRACY

A peaceful society presupposes that everyone has the opportunity to participate in democratic processes and that no one is discriminated against. Violence and the curtailment of human rights are major problems throughout the world.

People are prevented from making their voices heard, both through direct physical violence and unjust structures. Everywhere, people's rights are restricted because of their gender, ethnicity, religion or for other reasons. In recent years, the number of countries that can be considered completely democratic has decreased and the pandemic has been used in many places as an excuse to further restrict civil society. God loves every human being and each person has the same value and rights. That is why Act Church of Sweden works to defend human rights. This requires thorough work for peace, support, equality and inclusion. These can be, for example, education to prevent domestic violence, to support people in demanding their rights vis-à-vis the authorities and to protect human rights defenders living under threat.



3.



Photo: Carlos Zaparoli

4.



Photo: Ulrika Lagerlöf/Ikon

### 4. FAITH AND LEARNING

Religion is an important force for change that can have great and positive significance in people's lives. Seeing the connections between theology, diakonia, human rights and sustainable development is important. Act Church of Sweden supports theological education that gives people the opportunity to stand up against oppression and injustice with their faith as a basis. In many contexts, religious actors have the highest confidence of the population and can therefore influence norms and structures within a society. People often listen more to their religious leaders than to politicians and authorities. Theological education which encourages critical thinking, counteracts religious extremism and polarisation, and helps people to deepen their faith, is crucial for the church's employees and volunteers to be able to fulfil their social responsibility.



### 5. HUMANITARIAN ACTIONS

War, famine and natural disasters destroy the lives of millions of people every day. Behind every number there is a human being. A person who has the right to security, support and a dignified life. Act Church of Sweden cooperates with partners around the world who are present both before, during and after the disaster. The humanitarian needs in the world are enormous and have grown during the pandemic. Through local partners, Act Church of Sweden is already in place when disasters occur and can quickly mobilise resources where they are most needed. In order to rebuild society and strengthen the ability to deal with future crises, the people affected must be involved themselves. By contributing with their knowledge and strengths, people can rise stronger after a disaster.



5.



Photo: Magnus Aranson/Ikon

## INCREASED CAPACITY TO CHANGE

*A central part of our strategy is to support civil society organisations to create change in their societies. Together with partners, we strengthen capacity, among other things by enabling exchanges and networking. Here are two examples from 2021.*

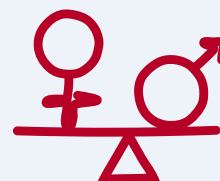
### LIVELIHOOD AND CLIMATE JUSTICE



In 2021, Act Church of Sweden enabled exchanges between two partners in Ethiopia with similar activity. They visited each other's projects and shared knowledge and experiences from working with sustainable agriculture, value chains and cooperatives. The exchange was a breakthrough that strengthens the organisation's local networks, provided conditions for new collaborations, and contributed to learning and increased capacity to achieve sustainable livelihood and climate justice. -This contributes to Agenda 2030, Goals 1 and 2.



### EQUALITY AND HEALTH



Act Church of Sweden works with religious leaders to make a difference. For several years, we have supported our partner churches' participation in important advocacy arenas, which has given them a network and experience to conduct advocacy work in sexual and reproductive health and rights, SRHR. In Tanzania, a partner church, in 2021, took a leading role in coordinating a delegation of 15 interfaith leaders who participated in the discussion on the East African community's bill proposal on SRHR. The religious leaders showed their support for the bill and thus influenced Tanzanian parliamentarians to better meet the SRHR in the country. This contributes to Agenda 2030, Goals 3 and 5.



### TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Peaceful and sustainable societies are built from below and must start from and include the people who live and work there. In our network there are many brave women and men who live and work in different contexts, some in environments where it is associated with great risk to stand up for justice and their fellow human beings. But they all have one thing in common: They stand courageous.









# SAVE LIVES

*Humanitarian needs have continued to increase in 2021. Conflicts, above all, but also climate change, are driving more and more people from their homes. In total, about 80 million people in the world are displaced, and the number of people in need of humanitarian aid has reached over 270 million during the pandemic. Many crises are due to a combination of natural disasters, conflicts and underlying long-term root causes. Thanks to our cooperation within the ACT Alliance and our local presence, through partners, we are often already present when a disaster occurs. It also gives us the opportunity to link our rapid, humanitarian response with our long-term development work, which increases resilience and prevents vulnerability in crises.*

In 2021, Act Church of Sweden implemented humanitarian action in 24 countries. These are some examples of how many have been affected by our humanitarian actions in 2021. Behind every number, there is a human being!

## AFGHANISTAN – 525 FAMILIES

With all the international forces leaving Afghanistan in August 2021, the Taliban regained power in the country. Tough sanctions and limited infrastructure have exacerbated the humanitarian situation, and people have been forced to sell their personal belongings to afford food. Also, many young girls have been forced to marry for the survival of the family. The public sector, which was completely dependent on international support, is now collapsing. As a result of the prevailing humanitarian situation, Act Church of Sweden, in 2021, together with local partners and with support from Radiohjälpen, began an effort aimed at contributing with direct financial support to 525 families, with a special focus on women-led households and people with functional variations. The financial support helps to alleviate the situation of the local households that have been hit hard by the current economic situation. The initiative also supports the health sector to improve access to healthcare.

## IRAQ – 13 390 PEOPLE

After ten years of war in Syria, hundreds of thousands of Syrians have fled to Iraq. For children who are displaced, education is extra important. However, during the pandemic, schools were closed in Iraq. School is both a way out of vulnerability and a break from a stressful and difficult situation. In 2021, Act Church of Sweden continued to ensure that children who are displaced in northern Iraq have the opportunity to continue their education with the help of tablets and digital teaching. It has reduced isolation and mental illness. Extra vulnerable families are followed up on and offered parent groups and assistance in finding support. The psychosocial interventions mean that destructive family patterns are broken and that children who are at risk of child labour, violence or child marriage can be intercepted.

## SOUTH SUDAN – 4 500 PEOPLE

In 2021, a psychosocial approach in South Sudan was integrated and anchored even more concretely through the formation of ten village committees with responsibility for safety, protection and psychosocial support. The purpose of the committees is to reduce stress and stigma in society. Act Church of Sweden conducted training in local and group-based psychosocial support for our local partners, and we continued our financial contribution. The approach with local ownership, skills development and psychosocial focus contributes greatly to increased cohesion, increased resilience and increased peaceful coexistence in societies.



## ETHIOPIA – 35 000 PEOPLE

In Ethiopia, about 16 million people live with food shortages. Climate change, with droughts and floods, is destroying crops and increasingly depleting the soil. The humanitarian situation has worsened as more areas have become inaccessible due to the war in Tigray spreading out. Internal movement of refugees is growing, and the situation for people who are displaced is deteriorating. Only a minimum of humanitarian supplies have been delivered to Tigray since the conflict broke out in November 2020 due to strict surveillance of the only way into Tigray via Afar. In close dialogue and consultation with partners, Act Church of Sweden has directed its humanitarian efforts to those areas where people flee and where our partners can also work without exposing themselves to unreasonable risks. The effort includes food packages, tents, clean water and extra support for children and pregnant women. In 2021, Act Church of Sweden also worked on a peace programme in Amhara. The peace dialogue here seems to have led to the Oromo and Amhara peoples coming together to protect each other from the spreading of the war.



Photo: Samuel Larsson/Kon

## SYRIA – 19 780 PEOPLE

11.6 million Syrians are in need of humanitarian aid. Today, 500,000 internally displaced people live in north-eastern Syria, but a total of 1.4 million people in the area are in need of support. Out of these, 45 per cent are children. Mines and other explosive devices remain in many areas, to which people are forced to flee. Act Church of Sweden successfully trains key security personnel in the various host societies about the risks. Together with our local partners, we work to build social cohesion, create and strengthen bonds between people, increase knowledge and resilience. We work with psychosocial interventions for children and their guardians. An important part is child-friendly spaces where children can play, heal and learn strategies to cope with difficult emotions. We have special training for guardians and discussion groups. In 2021, the work has continued with clearly defined efforts for the people who most recently fled conflict-affected areas and are in places that lack access to infrastructure or community services.

As part of the  
**ACT Alliance,**  
Act Church of Sweden can  
**act quickly**  
and forcefully in crises



Photo: Saw Ah Khée Chel/ Matchless productions

## MYANMAR – 6 147 PEOPLE

During the military coup, several development organisations have been expelled from Myanmar, and the pandemic continues to hit the country hard. Despite strict restrictions, Act Church of Sweden has been able to continue its efforts in 2021, thanks to our local partner and their cooperation with the local community. In Myanmar, Act Church of Sweden works to educate refugee children. The work for the children, which includes preschools, child-friendly spaces, psychosocial support and primary school, takes place in eight refugee camps. In 2021, teachers will continue their distance education, salaries will be paid, and they will work with home-schooling via digital platforms to reach as many children as possible. It is a successful way to prevent children from dropping out of school.



## HOW WE WORK IN DISASTERS

*When various forms of disasters or crises affect people, our first priority is to save lives and alleviate distress. In an acute phase, it is a matter of securing access to food, water and shelter and involving the people affected from the outset. But in a humanitarian crisis, it is not just the physical and material needs that must be met. Psychosocial interventions, a long-term approach and making use of the power of affected individuals and groups are crucial for the interventions to be effective and sustainable.*

### **Holistic support**

People affected by disasters need to feel dignity and hope. Participation is fundamental for people's ability to be key actors in their own and in society's development. For anyone affected by a crisis or disaster, it is crucial to regain control and a sense of normalcy in everyday life.

People who feel that they have lost all control and perhaps also dignity need to be involved and contribute to a better life.

Based on their own capacity and with the right tools, people can rise stronger and become better equipped for the future.

Gender justice and equality are strongly linked to power and opportunity to participate and are fundamental to the fulfilment of human rights. Act Church of Sweden, therefore, integrates a gender and equality perspective and works to bridge gender-discriminatory structures in our and others' work.

The inclusion of and conditions for the active participation of women, young people and other excluded groups are crucial for sustainable development and just peace.

In humanitarian action, we always depart from the humanitarian needs in line with the humanitarian principles. Support is provided according to needs, regardless of people's origin, religion or nationality.

## THE HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES

### **HUMANITY**

Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found.

### **NEUTRALITY**

The humanitarian aid must not favour any side in an armed conflict or other dispute

### **IMPARTIALITY**

The humanitarian aid must be provided solely on the basis of need, without discrimination

### **INDEPENDENCE**

The autonomy of humanitarian objectives from political, economic, military or other objectives.

'The families who live in these houses have said that they are used as safe zones, where neighbours come to seek protection, during earthquakes and hurricanes'.

## A STRONGER HAITI FOR THE FUTURE

*Building for the future pays off. This became clear during the earthquake in Haiti in August 2021. The houses built after Hurricane Matthew in 2016 survived another disaster. They have now survived hurricanes, floods and an earthquake.*

On 14 August 2021, Haiti was once again affected by a disaster. This time there was a strong earthquake that caused major damage to homes and infrastructure. After Hurricane Matthew in 2016, Act Church of Sweden's local partners in Haiti built over 100 houses and repaired over 1,000 houses.

It turned out that all the houses that were built or repaired five years ago survived the earthquake. The families who live in these houses have said that they are used as safe zones, where neighbours come to seek protection, during earthquakes and hurricanes. They trust the stability of the houses.

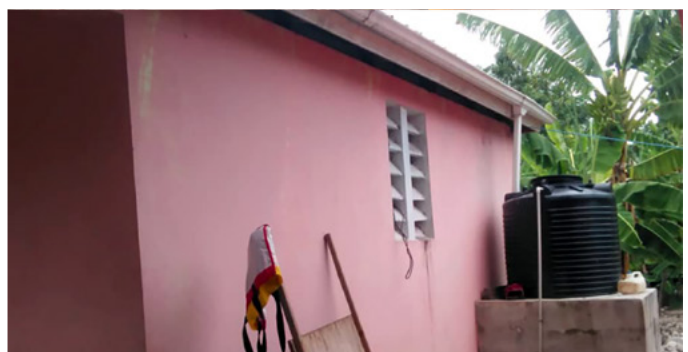


Photo: ACT/LWF, Haiti



## COVAX AND SPECIAL EFFORTS TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC

*The pandemic continued to affect the entire world in 2021. But just as with climate change, not all of the world's population are affected in the same way or equally hard. Those who are the most vulnerable already, living in the absence of secure employment, lacking social safety nets, without access to health care, without safe housing, and living in communities where lockdowns can really lead to starvation and no schooling for children at all, are also those who have had the least access to vaccines. Act Church of Sweden wants to change this.*

While Sweden and Europe are breathing a little easier, restrictions have been lifted, travel is being booked and offices are being opened, billions of people in low- and middle-income countries are still waiting for their first dose of vaccine. By May 2022, approximately 5 billion people, or 67% of the world's population, will have received their first dose. But inequality between continents and within countries is still great. In Africa only 21% had received their first dose at the same point in time. The pandemic is not over, and the displacement effects created by the pandemic mean that health systems and societies are under continued high pressure. Low-income countries are largely dependent on Covax, the global mechanism led by the World Health Organisation, which aims to help those with the greatest need in the world access vaccines.

### Solid advocacy work for fair distribution

In 2021, Act Church of Sweden worked nationally and globally to point out the inequality created around vaccine availability. In Sweden, we spoke out about it, together with a number of organisations,

such as Karolinska Institutet, Médecins Sans Frontières and UNICEF. Among other things, we pushed the government to act at home and in the EU to increase the donation of surplus Covid vaccines to countries with low vaccine coverage. Through ACT EU and the ACT Alliance, we also worked regionally and globally to create opinion and exert influence on vaccine donations from EU countries as well as how countries should act in relation to donations, sharing technology for domestic production and promoting and strengthening health systems. The work of ACT Alliance over the year was solid and has engaged members in Africa and Asia in regional and national political processes, and the Secretary General of the ACT Alliance is also still one of the representatives of civil society within a working group of Covax.

### Lutheran World Federation's Emergency Fund

In 2021, Act Church of Sweden decided to allocate SEK 10 million to the emergency fund where member churches of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) could apply for funding for Covid-19 related

initiatives. The fund was established by LWF in 2020. Many churches have taken great responsibility during the pandemic, and several of them have been in situations where the needs were great before the pandemic.

### ACT-Alliance Rapid Response Fund

As a member of the ACT Alliance, Act Church of Sweden has the opportunity to act quickly through the local partners within the alliance worldwide, and who are present before, during and after a disaster occurs.

In 2021, we were able to contribute SEK 8 million to the ACT Alliance Rapid Response Fund (RRF), earmarked funds for efforts during the pandemic. The funds went, among other things, to humanitarian action for people who became ill, lost their jobs, or were unable to buy food due to the consequences of the pandemic.





Photo: ACT/LWF, Haiti

## LOCAL ACTORS' EFFORTS DURING HUMANITARIAN CRISES

*In the Local to Global Protection (L2GP) initiative, which Act Church of Sweden co-founded and launched just over ten years ago, new methods for locally led efforts in humanitarian disasters and complex crises have been developed, together with local communities and local civil society organisations around the world.*

Our partners in Haiti, the Middle East and Sudan, have tested the so-called "survivor and community led responses

method (sclr) to allow local communities to lead initiatives in humanitarian crises. The results show that the method is fast, efficient, cost-saving and at the same time strengthens local community structures and local organisations' capacity to lead themselves.

Partners in Haiti have worked according to the principles of sclr in 2021. Together with the local communities, they have responded to people's needs in relation to problems with the recurring food shortages, floods, droughts and political instability. Just hours after the earthquake, which hit the southern parts of Haiti in August 2021, Act Church of Sweden's partners had already begun to help people.

Due to the established structure, training and coordination within the sclr framework of our local partners were able to mobilise water and food and ensure that everyone had a safe place to spend the night. This was especially important, as a hurricane struck Haiti in the evening after the earthquake. Our local partners worked together based on their areas of expertise, and quickly managed to share information about needs with local authorities and international donors to get support with what they could not solve themselves. The good results of the method have led to several partners wanting to train and be equipped according to the sclr method if and when a crisis or disaster strikes.

**'Within the ACT Alliance, we are known for our focus on psychosocial support as a natural and integral part of humanitarian efforts, with an emphasis on the group's and the individual's own capacity and ability'.**

## **CAPACITY STRENGTHENING OF THE PSYCHOSOCIAL APPROACH**

*The humanitarian needs of the world have increased dramatically. In addition to direct support for humanitarian efforts in 24 countries, mainly in the regions where we also have long-term support, we have provided support for other disasters through the ACT Alliance Rapid Response Fund. Thanks to our cooperation with local and international partners in the ACT Alliance, our efforts reach many.*

In 2021, we have taken further steps to increase the local organisations' share of and influence over humanitarian funds. Within the ACT Alliance, we are known for our focus on psychosocial support as a natural and integral part of humanitarian efforts, with an emphasis on the group's and the individual's own capacity and ability.

To develop and disseminate the expertise, we within the ACT Alliance have a global, and five regional, practitioner networks for



Photo: Gustaf Hellsing/Ikon

psychosocial support which, after completing training with us, conduct their own courses in local and group-based psychosocial support, psychological first aid and other capacity-building training. It is an important part of raising awareness of participation, ownership, empowerment and the healing power that comes from involving the people affected by a crisis or disaster so that they can rise stronger.

**Else Berglund,**  
*Humanitarian Director,  
Act Church of Sweden*







# CHANGE LIVES

*Sustainable change usually takes a long time to achieve, and development is rarely linear. The global economic crisis in the wake of the pandemic has put increasing strains on societies and individuals. Many years of hard work for human rights and equality have been set back significantly. The world is facing enormous challenges – but also opportunities. Act Church of Sweden works with several important keys to efficient, fair and sustainable development.*

We coordinate our long-term development cooperation through regional and country programmes to create more sustainable, inclusive and peaceful societies and tackle the root causes of injustice and poverty problems. It is a central part of our strategy to support and strengthen local civil society organisations, so that they can contribute to change in their societies.

But important keys to sustainable change also lie in combating the very root causes of injustice. When women are denied the right to be involved in decision-making processes that concern everything from the right to their own bodies to economics and politics, not only are their human rights and God's creation violated. The whole society's opportunity for development deteriorates considerably. Therefore, gender justice is a perspective that permeates all our programmes. It also receives a special focus in those parts of our long-term development cooperation that deal with sexual and reproductive health and rights. Other key factors for long-term and sustainable change are about increasing the resilience of vulnerable people and societies and their own capacity to cope with future disasters and crises. Act Church of Sweden constantly strives to coordinate the long-term work with the humanitarian work.

## Equality and health

In 2021 and in the wake of the pandemic, women's and girls' economic and social vulnerability intensified and violence in close relationships increased. Discriminatory structures exacerbate poverty and hunger, impair health and adversely affect economic growth. Therefore, and because every human being has the right to decide over his or her own life and body, it is particularly important to continue the fight for gender justice and gender equality at all levels.

Women, girls and LGBTQI+ people around the world are exposed to violence and discrimination on the grounds of gender. Sexual

violence, forced marriage and genital mutilation are examples of abuses that affect structurally vulnerable groups and many are denied, for example, education and health care. Religious actors and representatives have power and influence over what is considered right and wrong in a society. In many parts of the world, they also represent important societal functions and social security systems, such as schools, hospitals and courts. For Act Church of Sweden, as a religious actor, this means unique opportunities to influence and a special responsibility to contribute to positive change.

In 2021, Act Church of Sweden has increased the number of efforts to strengthen the rights and opportunities of women, children and LGBTQI+ people.

## Resilience and local ownership

Locally owned initiatives strengthen gender equality and women's opportunities to take positions of power. Efforts that are clearly anchored and capacity-bearing with local partners become more sustainable and resilience to new crises increases. It can also lead to democratic effects.

Therefore, an important part of Act Church of Sweden is to achieve gender-integrated and human rights-based justice, sustainability and democracy, to promote local ownership and methods to increase people's autonomy and participation. In other words, we want to transfer power over the efforts to the people affected by them.

Part of that work is about building the power to be resistant and adaptable, so-called resilience. Act Church of Sweden wants to support people's own initiative and social commitment and thus ensure that communities are better equipped for future crises. We want to reduce the need for our presence. Act Church of Sweden contributes with competence-strengthening educations based on the local communities' different and special conditions.

# SEX EDUCATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA STRENGTHENS YOUNG WOMEN

Violence against women in Central America has increased in 2021. As a result of the pandemic, women have found it more difficult to participate in society and demand their rights. Act Church of Sweden has continued the long-term development work in Central America in 2021 with SRHR and sex education to strengthen young women's power over their own bodies.

Act Church of Sweden's partner in Honduras works with SRHR and sex education. In Honduras, talking about sexual rights is forbidden by law. But by working with teachers, Act Church of Sweden's partners can influence the religious schools and educate the girls who go there. The girls are not used to talking about their bodies and often do not know how children are born.

The courageous work strengthens the power of women over their own bodies.

The pandemic and shutdowns have hit women in Central America hard. Ana Ruth García, who works for the Church of Sweden's local partner in Honduras, says: "The number of cases of sexual violence against women has increased significantly. Many have been trapped in their homes with their perpetrators". Ana works with gender justice by increasing knowledge about SRHR and women's rights. As an ecumenical organisation, it is important that the work takes place through religious expression and with faith as the driving force.

Religious leaders are important in the fight to achieve equality and create safe communities.

## SRHR

Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is about people's physical integrity. It is a cornerstone for achieving good health, well-being and gender justice. It is crucial for the human rights of individuals to be realised.



Photo: Jesper Klemmedson/ Ikon





## LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT WORK IN INDIA

During the pandemic, an already difficult situation for many women in India has worsened. In India, gender-based violence is estimated to have increased by 250 per cent since the outbreak of the pandemic. Through targeted efforts in some very vulnerable housing areas, Act Church of Sweden has continued in 2021 with the longterm development work to combat violence against women in India.

Act Church of Sweden's partners are in place in the states of West Bengal and Orissa in eastern India, both in cities and in rural areas. Among other things, they work in slum areas in three cities in eastern India. Violence against girls and women is a major problem both at home and in the workplace.

Discrimination in the labour market is common, and many women work in very poor conditions. Despite workers' rights already lacking, many of India's local authorities have used Covid-19 as an excuse to increase working hours from 8 to 12 hours a day and abolish the minimum wage legislation, which has affected millions of women. Others have completely lost their jobs due to the restrictions.

Act Church of Sweden's partners run a project with self-help groups for women in Kolkata. The groups stick together and help each other with food, medical care and protect each other in the event of domestic violence and problems in the family. The self-help groups constitute a safety and security for the members of the groups.

The project in Kolkata has also created opportunities for women to apply for and be granted financial support to start their own livelihood. When women get the chance to start their own business, it can be a possible way out of a vulnerable situation.

In collaboration with local organisations, Act Church of Sweden's partners have managed to keep in touch with vulnerable women in Kolkata through mobile phones. They have been able to provide financial assistance, either directly or in collaboration with organisations, such as municipal support groups and the women's own self-help groups. Collaboration with other local organisations has been crucial to see the needs and convey help.

**'Act Church of Sweden has continued with the long-term development work in 2021 to combat violence against women in India'.**



# COORDINATION OF LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT WORK AND HUMANITARIAN ACTIONS

With the global humanitarian crisis, which has also caused major setbacks for sustainable development, where the societies and people that are already the most vulnerable are hardest hit by climate change, the effects of pandemics and conflicts, it is important to integrate a disaster-reducing perspective into our long-term development work that strengthens resilience and reduces vulnerability in crises. The humanitarian work must also be done in a way that does not counteract the development work.

**Nexus – resilience pilot**

The world’s acute and protracted crises highlight and remind us that the

immediate needs can often not be separated from root causes that need to be addressed in the long term. This means that development and humanitarian actors need to increase co-planning and understanding of different priorities in the work in order to create synergies and not counteract each other.

As part of the ACT Alliance and as a faith-based actor with long experience of development, peace and humanitarian work, the links between them are a clear part of Act Church of Sweden’s mandate and organisation. This is reinforced by the fact that Act Church of Sweden often works with the same local partner in both

long-term development work and humanitarian crises.

The collaboration strenghtens the ability of people and local communities to manage, recover from, learn from and minimise the effects of crises. Act Church of Sweden has a special competence to contribute to a holistic approach and to enable coordinated programming through innovative solutions that contribute to long-term development goals and at the same time build people’s adaptability and resilience in the event of a crisis. In 2021, Act Church of Sweden conducted geographically synchronised and coordinated work with long-term and complex crises.



Photo: Saw Ah Khlee Chel / Matchless production

## A CHALLENGING YEAR FOR THE LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT WORK

During 2021, Covid-19 has continued to hit many countries in the world hard, countries with limited access to vaccines and with weak healthcare systems. The pandemic has also affected basic societal structures. In Uganda, schools were closed for more than two years with major consequences for children's right to education, but which also had other types of consequences, such as an extreme increase in teenage pregnancies. Act Church of Sweden's partners have continued to work with information initiatives linked to the pandemic, but also other purely concrete things such as protective equipment for personnel. The pandemic affects many already vulnerable people in unstable states, such as Lebanon, which is a country in severe economic and political crisis, where about 70% of the population is estimated to be in poverty.

In several parts of the world, we see democratic setbacks that have affected our and our partners' work. The democratic space of civil society is increasingly limited by political decisions, laws and administrative regulations. In India, we are seeing new laws against converting religious beliefs, aimed at religious minorities. They increase the negative rhetoric and violence against minorities, and in combination with restrictive legislation on the receipt of foreign grants, they make it increasingly difficult for Christian organisations, among others, to operate.

In South Sudan, sharply increased threats and violence against aid workers have made it more difficult to implement initiatives for Act Church of Sweden, as well as for other organisations. In Zimbabwe, a new law has been prepared which, among other things, will limit organisations' ability to contact foreign missions. We are seeing a deterioration in the rule of law in all the countries of



Photo: Gistaf Helsing/Ikon

Central America, especially in Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador. However, there are some positive trends; in Tanzania, the new president has taken positive steps towards increased freedom of speech and the press.

We also note the continued large and significant consequences of global climate change. In South Sudan, partners have been forced to switch cars to boats after severe floods, and Afghanistan was hit by the worst drought in 27 years, which means that the country now has the highest number of people suffering from food insecurity in the world (22.8 million). More than half of all children under the age of six are at risk of acute malnutrition.

Despite all the challenges, and the endless needs we see in the world right now, our partners in different parts of the world continue to work tirelessly to strengthen democracy and human rights, so that

people in extremely vulnerable situations can have their basic needs met, for people on different sides of a conflict to meet the other in respectful dialogue and to work for girl's and women's right to their own bodies. It is a fantastic job that we are proud to be a part of!

**Karin Axelsson Zaar,**  
*Director of International Programmes,  
Act Church of Sweden*







We want to change the world by influencing those in power locally, regionally and globally to make decisions that respect human dignity and protect human rights.

## CHANGE THE WORLD

*In the advocacy work during 2021, we have continued to prioritise sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender justice, development aid financing and social security systems. During the pandemic, global justice issues were high on the political agenda. The pandemic has shown that structural injustices and inequalities lead to increased poverty and vulnerability. The countries that have well-developed systems for welfare, health care and social security cope better with the pandemic.*

During the pandemic, we also saw the effects of inequality. Sexual and gender-based violence increased, and girls were expelled from school. It shows the importance of integrating gender into all development efforts, and the importance of constantly pursuing the issue of gender justice in all advocacy work. Act Church of Sweden promotes the transfer power to local organisations and to people living in vulnerability and poverty. Organisations in the south make a point that there is a neo-colonial thought in development aid, where donors do not always place people's rights and needs at the center. We want to change that, and we are pursuing that issue within the ACT Alliance.

### **Influence through dialogue**

Act Church of Sweden calls the work of influencing political decisions, attitudes and norms policy dialogue, because we emphasise the importance of dialogue as a method and approach. Policy dialogue is a long-term effort aimed at contributing to a positive change in policy and practice in terms of peace, justice, equality,

security, economic and ecological sustainability, and the realisation of human rights.

The advocacy work is an important part of the work we carry out together with our partner organisations. Act Church of Sweden is a recognised global player in advocacy work to prevent and protect mental health and psychosocial well-being in crisis situations. In Act Church of Sweden's global policy dialogue programme, advocacy work takes place both in Sweden and globally through the ecumenical alliances with a presence in Geneva, New York and Brussels.

Creating opinion is an important part of the work to put pressure on decision-makers to act but also to influence attitudes in the church and in society. The advocacy work takes place in collaboration with alliances and networks and is based on studies, analyses and research. We also work to get those involved in the Church of Sweden, not least young people, to actively participate in opinion formation on the important global justice issues.

# RELIGIOUS ACTORS HAVE POWER AND INFLUENCE

In large parts of the world, religion has power and influence over people's values and actions as well as societies' norms and attitudes. Beliefs and religious beliefs can be used to guide, liberate and comfort, but unfortunately also to oppress, stigmatise and exploit people's vulnerability. That is why we as a church have a special responsibility to fight for equality and gender equality. Act Church of Sweden works together with churches and local actors to identify and strengthen interpretations of faith and traditions that contribute positively to the development of people and societies, and dare to challenge and question those who do not. To always stand up for human dignity is a matter of course in our Christian faith.



Photo: Jesper Klemmedssøn/Ikon

**Demanding accountability** is also an important part of Act Church of Sweden's work and takes place, for example, through policy dialogue at various levels in society. It is part of our mission to make visible and act against power structures that prevent people from living a dignified life where their human rights are respected.

## TOGETHER FOR A STRONGER VOICE

*Today's global challenges can only be solved if we build alliances and networks to challenge unjust structures and persuade those in power to take responsibility. Act Church of Sweden is part of the worldwide church, through our membership and cooperation in the World Council of Churches, the Lutheran World Federation and the ACT Alliance. It gives us strength when we act.*

Act Church of Sweden is part of several large alliances and networks. In international contexts, we work, among others, together with the Lutheran World Federation and within the World Council of Churches and the ACT Alliance. It provides great opportunities to influence the churches' common theological reflection and to work for peace and human rights as well as with climate and environmental issues. The networks are powerful voices in the UN system and other important forums. On behalf of the UN, the LWF is also responsible for several large refugee camps in the world. The ACT Alliance, which stands for Action by Churches Together, has a local presence in more than 130 countries. Through these collaborations, we are stronger in the advocacy work and act faster in the event of disasters, as well as more efficiently in the long-term development cooperation. The ACT Alliance has decided to focus on gender justice in the next few years, something that is also in line with the Church of Sweden's strategy.



Photo: Marcus Beckford

**Peace work and increased radicalism.** In recent years, there has been a worrying development with increased radicalisation and violent extremism. The current religious context therefore needs to be included in peace and conflict analyses. Strengthening people's security, opportunities and autonomy to demand their human rights is an important part of Act Church of Sweden's work for peace. Peace work is rooted in international law, which includes human rights and international humanitarian law, and contributes to strengthening the tolerance and resilience of individuals and societies.



'The climate issue is a global justice issue. Those who contribute the least to climate change are the ones who suffer the most. We can never accept that'.

Photo: Simon Chambers



## OPINION FORMING CLIMATE CAMPAIGN "ACT NOW FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE!"

In the autumn of 2021, Act Church of Sweden, together with the ACT Alliance, ran an opinion-forming climate campaign to draw attention to the fact that the climate crisis is a rights issue, which cannot be resolved without a global perspective. Climate justice is about taking responsibility for a sustainable future within the planetary boundaries, based on a global, fair and equal distribution of resources. Together with churches all over the world, Act Church of Sweden collected signatures for a petition for climate justice.

The petition was then handed over to the decision-makers at the UN climate summit in Glasgow, COP26. Act Church of Sweden was well represented at the climate summit, through, among others, Archbishop Antje Jackelén, climate experts and several youth representatives. Not least the Archbishop's participation received great media attention, and helped to spread Act Church of Sweden's message of hope, action and climate justice.

**Together in our global network,** we rallied more than 150,000 signatures for the petition for climate justice ahead of COP26. The Swedish signature collection contributed 13,500 names.

'When Tanzania got its first female president, the door was opened ajar for a possible change'.



Photo: Kerstin Bergeå

## TANZANIA LIFTS SCHOOL PROHIBITION FOR PREGNANT GIRLS

– A result of advocacy work

*Finally, pregnant girls are allowed to return to school in Tanzania. The Tanzanian government has chosen to lift the ban on pregnant girls not being allowed to finish school. About 55,000 girls are estimated to have left school in the last decade due to this ban. The removal of the ban means that many girls get a second chance to achieve their dreams.*

The ban first came into being in the 1960s but was maintained and communicated, quite strongly, by former President John Magufuli, who died unexpectedly in March 2021. In practice, the law was used in various ways, with everything from mandatory pregnancy tests at school to threats of severe punishment for the boys who made girls pregnant, to girls in several places not being allowed to return to school after pregnancy.

Act Church of Sweden's partner organisations have, for several years, contrary to current politicians, pursued a progressive agenda.

The Lutheran Church and the Christian Council in Tanzania have in recent years appealed to the government to lift the ban.

– When Tanzania got its first female president in March 2021, the door was opened ajar for a possible change, says Clotilda Ndezi, responsible for the Christian Council's advocacy work in Tanzania.

In June 2021, the Christian Council invited the new President Samia Suluhu and asked her to listen to the religious leaders to lift the ban. In November 2021, the good news came that the ban was lifted:

– This is a relief for the young girls, says Linda Mambo who is working on a project to strengthen young girls' and boys' right to sexual rights and health in Karagwe in north-western Tanzania.

Our partners in Tanzania continue to focus on and highlight the importance of sexual and reproductive rights and health, in a climate of reduced space. Together with churches, organisations and thousands of volunteers, Act Church of Sweden continues its advocacy work for more just societies, where girls and women can make their own choices in life.



## EXAMPLES OF ADVOCACY WORK IN SWEDEN 2021

- Through the report From Words to Action – Lessons from Nordic efforts to integrate gender equality in climate finance, Act Church of Sweden emphasised the importance of gender equality in climate initiatives, which is financed by development assistance. The report was produced in collaboration with the Nordic ACT members and was well received when it was presented in the Nordic Pavilion during the climate summit in Glasgow. The report emphasises that more climate finance needs to go to the support and protection of women and girls, as well as that women's and other climate-vulnerable groups' participation in climate negotiations and influence over climate solutions need to be strengthened.
- Through the research and development work Local-2Global Protection, Act Church of Sweden has developed sclr – survivor and community led response. In May 2021, the British humanitarian think tank ODI published a report highlighting sclr as a crucial way to support the humanitarian work of local communities. The report had a major impact on the humanitarian sector.
- Together with some other Swedish civil society organisations, Act Church of Sweden arranged a digital round table meeting on the possibilities of providing assistance to countries where the democratic space is very limited or completely closed – with Zimbabwe as the current example. About ten members of parliament from the Foreign Affairs Committee attended the meeting and heard the messages from both our partner organisations in Zimbabwe and democracy researchers.
- During her final year as Minister of Finance, Magdalena Andersson chaired the International Monetary Fund's IMF Advisory Committee. In 2021, Act Church of Sweden facilitated a digital meeting where Andersson met Act Church of Sweden as well as EURODAD, Oxfam and AFRODAD – some of the actors in global civil society who follow and examine the IMF most closely.
- During the year, Act Church of Sweden participated in a number of meetings at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida and provided views on, among other things, updating the action plan for feminist foreign policy and contributed to the work of developing new Swedish strategies for Iraq, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Africa regionally, Africa SRHR as well as Asia regionally.
- Together with, among others, UN Women and Sweden, Act Church of Sweden arranged a digital side event on family law reform during the Women's Commission in New York. When Foreign Minister Ann Linde gave the opening speech, it was the first time she spoke about family legislation in a global arena.
- Based on roundtable discussions with representatives from partner organisations in several regions, a survey was published of partners' experiences of how gender-related violence increased during the pandemic, and how they have worked to address the problems.
- Act Church of Sweden contributed to CONCORD's spotlight report for Sweden's voluntary reporting on Agenda 2030.
- We conducted advocacy work in relation to the National Audit Office's review of the Foreign Ministry's and Sida's handling of assistance through UN agencies and other multilateral organisations.
- During the year, Act Church of Sweden participated in a series of meetings at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida and provided views on, among other things, updating the action plan for feminist foreign policy and contributed to the work of developing new Swedish strategies for Iraq, Colombia, Guatemala, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Africa regionally, Africa SRHR as well as Asia regionally and Latin America.

# EXAMPLES OF ADVOCACY WORK GLOBALLY 2021

- In June 2021, a proposal for a Global Fund for Social Security was discussed in the UN Human Rights Council. In the debate, Act Church of Sweden presented a statement in support of the proposal, a joint statement from the World Council of Churches, the Lutheran World Federation and the ACT Alliance.
- Act Church of Sweden arranged the international workshop: Redefining power and partnerships: Time to decolonise civil society aid! At the well-attended meeting, many perspectives were raised on the question of how the colonial relations that still characterise parts of development assistance can be changed by transferring power and influence from civil society organisations in Global North to the partner organisations in Global South. The meeting was arranged in collaboration with IM and Diakonia.
- Act Church of Sweden arranged a digital side event on family law at the UN's 76th General Assembly, in collaboration with a number of other organisations. This was an important opportunity to raise the issue of how discriminatory legislation, including religious and traditional family law, and family norms, limit women's and girls' access to economic independence.
- By publishing the report Social registries: a short history of abject failure, Act Church of Sweden contributed to a number of serious shortcomings with so-called social registers being brought to attention for the first time. Social registers are databases of households that are used to assess which households should receive different targeted benefits. When the registers are incorrect, people who are actually entitled to financial support are excluded.
- In 2021, goals and rules will be negotiated for the replenishment of the World Bank's soft loan programme, IDA20. Through dialogue with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs' negotiators and through influence directly on the World Bank, Act Church of Sweden contributed to a few small steps being taken to ensure that IDA20 will support the development of social security in line with international norms for social security for all.
- In November, Act Church of Sweden, as one of the very few faith-based actors, participated in an international dialogue on sexual and reproductive health and rights, SRHR. The dialogue is organised annually by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs and development aid authorities.
- Together with the ACT Alliance and the interfaith LGBTQI+ network GIN-SSO-GIE, Act Church of Sweden organised a series of meetings on faith, gender and sexuality, where diplomats from member countries received capacity support and strategies to discuss religion and LGBTQI+ issues within the UN Human Rights Council, where negotiations are often greatly simplified. Given the global backlash against human rights and gender equality where religion is used as a bat, it is extremely important to stand up for human rights and show that there is no contradiction between religion and human rights, including LGBTQI+ human rights.
- Colombia was hit hard by the pandemic. Increased economic gaps and high youth unemployment triggered major protests in Colombia in the spring of 2021. The protests were met with deadly police violence. Act Church of Sweden initiated a unique letter from a wide range of international Christian organisations urging the government: "Listen to the voices of the people with empathy and without violence" to stop the violence in Colombia, invite dialogue on the causes of the protests, investigate abuses against protesters and implement the peace agreement from 2016". The letter was signed by the World Council of Churches, the ACT Alliance, the Lutheran World Federation and the Catholic Bishops' Conference in Latin America.
- The military coup in Myanmar on 1 February 2021 hit the civilian population and our partners in the country very hard. During the spring, there were very large popular protests, and several of our partners participated. The protests were crushed by brutal force, and the military has committed very serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. Many of our partners managed to change their business and stay in the country. But they were soon forced to remain silent so as not to risk their safety. But Act Church of Sweden could continue to act for peace, democracy and human rights in the media, in dialogue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and politicians and in conversations at the Human Rights Days.



## TO SHARE THROUGH AID

*The pandemic has had devastating consequences for poverty and vulnerability. The UN refugee agency points to a doubling of the number of people in need of emergency assistance due to climate-related disasters by 2050. The world risks not being able to achieve the global goals in Agenda 2030.*

During the pandemic, extreme poverty in the world increased. Even before the pandemic, millions of people were forced to flee due to climate change and conflict. Sharing through aid is not just an act of solidarity and part of our role as a church in the world and for the world. Aid contributes to strengthening institutions, building the conditions for democratic development and for a more peaceful world. Humanitarian aid saves lives and alleviates distress, but it does not deliver the long-term changes that the planet and humans need for their survival and sustainable development. Act Church of Sweden's aid work leads to strengthening people's autonomy and supporting civil society in a world where democratic space is diminishing.

Aid can contribute to improving the investment climate and trade and the institutional conditions through capacity building, investments in infrastructure, anti-corruption work, networking and the construction of, for example, quality control bodies.

This is often necessary for trade and investment to take place and grow.



Photo: Magnus Aronson/Icon

Assistance is needed to build welfare systems in low-income countries, for example, for health care systems, equal education and social security systems. A world marked by injustices, conflicts and people on the run also threatens our development and security. Aid benefits not only developing countries but also us in Sweden and Europe.

**Eva Ekelund,**  
Policy Director,  
Act Church of Sweden

**'Act Church of Sweden's aid work strengthens people's autonomy and supports civil society in a world where democratic space is shrinking'.**





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# FUNDRAISING AND MOBILISATION

– together we make a difference!

*Despite the continued pandemic and restrictions in 2021, local mobilisation in Sweden for Act Church of Sweden increased. The creativity in the Church of Sweden's parishes, together with an increased number of private donors, led to good fundraising results. The year was marked by a national investment in strengthened brand building and a clear capacity and willingness on the part of those involved, which form the basis of our work, to gather strength in times of a crisis.*

During 2021, 158.9 million was fundraised. These gifts are a prerequisite for our partners to be able to conduct their work. The fact that people share their resources is a clear sign of a strong commitment. For many, giving is a concrete way to put their faith into action. For Act Church of Sweden, a strong self-financing and broad popular support also creates opportunities to receive support from major donors. To increase commitment to international issues, the parishes organise sewing associations, fundraisers, study circles and other activities.

Great emphasis is placed on the annual fundraising campaigns: the Christmas campaign and the Lent campaign. In addition to all parishes, Act Church of Sweden has more than 146,000 individual donors who regularly donate.

During 2021, private donations increased, grants from parishes were at the same level while grants from the dioceses doubled. At the same time, collections decreased due to pandemic-related restrictions, while revenues from fundraising activities increased slightly. Many fundraising activities went digital.

**146 000 INDIVIDUAL DONORS DURING\***

\*During 2020, equivalent number was 130 000

## CONTROL OF OUR FUNDRAISING WORK

Act Church of Sweden:

- has a 90-account and is controlled by Svensk insamlingskontroll. The 90-account is a clear guarantee that you as a donor are contributing to a serious and responsible organisation.



- is a member of Giva Sverige (the Swedish Fundraising Association) which is branch organisation for secure donations. The members who have complied with the Quality Code may use the label "Safe Giving".



# SEK 158.9 MILLION

FUNDS COLLECTED 2021



## CHRISTMAS COLLECTION 2021 – “BREAK A TRADITION”

In 2021, the Christmas campaign broke a record when SEK 46.4 million was raised. The Christmas campaign is one of our two major annual fundraising campaigns. The campaign was about the oppression and violence that many girls are subjected to just because they are girls. Harmful traditions such as forced marriage, genital mutilation and other abuses against girls and women must be broken.

# SEK 46.4 MILLION

(SEK 36.5 million 2020)





## LENT CAMPAIGN 2021 – “SHARE EQUAL”

The Lent campaign is the second of our major annual fundraising campaigns. The campaign reminded us that we must share the world's resources equally. A total of 24.4 million was raised for people living in vulnerability as a result of the corona pandemic.

# SEK 24.4 MILLION

(SEK 24.5 million 2020)



## TOGETHER WE ARE A FORCE OF CHANGE



*During 2021, Act Church of Sweden had 2,976 representatives / interested parties, 309 coordinators registered and 80 Agera volunteers in 7 local groups.*

In 2021, several new Agera volunteers were trained, at the end of the year there were 80 registered volunteers in 7 local groups. Several trainings were arranged, one of which could take place in Uppsala with 30 participants. The Agera volunteers were part of the climate campaign, by training as climate ambassadors,

pilgrimages and participating in the Church of Sweden's delegation to Glasgow and COP26. When the pandemic's restrictions allowed, the volunteers visited congregations and dioceses to inform about Act Church of Sweden's work.

### AGERA VOLUNTEERS AT COP26 – ACT NOW FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE!

Agera volunteers took an active part in Act Church of Sweden's opinion-forming climate campaign 2021. They have acted, walked and demonstrated for the climate. Some Agera volunteers traveled by bus and train to Glasgow, Scotland, to attend the COP26 climate summit and raise their voices for climate justice. Here is a picture, together with Archbishop Antje Jackelén





## PILGRIMAGE FOR THE CLIMATE

In July 2021, the pilgrimage to the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, "Pilgrim's Walk for Future", led by Vadstena Pilgrim Centre, began. The purpose of the pilgrimage was to put the climate first on the agenda, the participants took a stand for climate justice and a sustainable life. On site in Glasgow, the pilgrims handed over the signatures from the petition to the decision makers.



Photo: Magnus Aronson/Ikon

Photo: LWF



## TRAINING OF CLIMATE AMBASSADORS

Ahead of the COP26 climate summit, Act Church of Sweden trained 70 climate ambassadors from parishes around Sweden.

The climate ambassadors highlighted stories about the acute climate emergency from Act Church of Sweden's partners, collected signatures for climate justice and lectured on climate justice in parishes around Sweden.

## SALES ON TRADERA TO BENEFIT THE LENT CAMPAIGN

During the Lent campaign in 2021, it was possible for the first time for parishes to sell things via Tradera for the benefit of Act Church of Sweden. Among other things, it was possible to buy Archbishop Antje Jackelén's coffee set, which was sold to help promote a sustainable and fair food supply.



Photo: Gustaf Hellising/Ikon

Act Church of Sweden participates in the national campaign 'Children of the World' to take a stand for all children's rights to health, school and protection. As part of the fund-raising, the marathon runner Håkan Jonsson ran together with more than 1,000 children in cities in Halland and also with Bishop Åke Bonnier in the Skara parish.

With the money from 'Children of the World', Act Church of Sweden runs, among other things, two rehab and resource centres, for children with disabilities who live in refugee camps in Somalia and Ethiopia. Children can come there with their parents for examinations, needs analysis and regular meetings. Today, 600 children are enrolled and receive aid and support for adapted schooling.



Marathon runner Håkan Jonsson



Bishop Åke Bonnier, Skara congregation

During 2021, Act Church of Sweden appeared in the media more than in previous years. Articles and features about our activities are valuable as they are distributed widely and inform about Act Church of Sweden's work for people we would not otherwise reach. The opportunity to auction off items on Tradera during the Lent campaign received a lot of attention in the media across the country, not least the bishops' various auctions. Act Church of Sweden pushed, among other things, the question of the importance of rich countries donating their surplus Covid vaccine to countries with low vaccine coverage. This was done, among other things, through debate articles in Dagens Nyheter and Svenska Dagbladet. Other issues that attracted media attention were our work with the earthquake in Haiti, aid policy and the climate summit in Glasgow, where we participated. Act Church of Sweden's Christmas campaign broke records, and the fundraiser's important message was noticed in the media.

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Utdrag

# "Jag uppfostrar mina söner att bli bra pappor"

Gloria är jurist och jobbar för kvinnors rättigheter i Tanzania. Själv har hon fyra söner – ett viktigt arbete gör hon i sitt eget hem varje dag

**Gloria Mafule** är jurist och bor i Tanzania. Hon arbetar mot kvinnors rättigheter och för genusneutralitet i sin arbetsmiljö. Hon är en av de få kvinnor i Tanzania som arbetar som advokat i sitt eget hem. Hon har fyra söner och hon jobbar för kvinnors rättigheter i Tanzania. Själv har hon fyra söner – ett viktigt arbete gör hon i sitt eget hem varje dag

**Vad vill du att dina söner ska bli när de blir vuxna?**  
Jag vill att de ska bli bra människor, att de ska ha ett gott hjärta och att de ska vara ansvariga. Jag vill att de ska bli bra pappor och att de ska vara bra människor.

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## "Om jag kan förändra en människas liv, blir jag lycklig"

En uppgift – att ingå aktskap. I denna ögonblick är hon helt underordnad minnen. De dagar som säger att en kvinna kan vara en kvinna i Tanzania kan vara en kvinna i Tanzania. Hon vill att de ska bli bra människor, att de ska ha ett gott hjärta och att de ska vara ansvariga. Jag vill att de ska bli bra pappor och att de ska vara bra människor.

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## Fler röster om arbetet för flickors rättigheter

"Männan är en del av problemet"

Larry Madigali är en av de få män i Tanzania som arbetar mot kvinnors rättigheter. Han vill att de ska bli bra människor, att de ska ha ett gott hjärta och att de ska vara ansvariga. Jag vill att de ska bli bra pappor och att de ska vara bra människor.

– Männan är en del av problemet och kan därför vara en del av lösningen, säger Larry Madigali.

## "Jag är stolt att kyrkan visar vägen"

Saeedat Bahara, Palestinan, är en av de få kvinnor i Tanzania som arbetar mot kvinnors rättigheter. Hon vill att de ska bli bra människor, att de ska ha ett gott hjärta och att de ska vara ansvariga. Jag vill att de ska bli bra pappor och att de ska vara bra människor.

## Så långt räcker pengarna du bidrar med

- Kursen på konsolider: 750 kr
- Gruppmat på traditioner och om livet leder till förändring. Det gör min nya röst att leva i en hälsosam och kvinnor att bli bättre. En workshop om konsolider för en person i Centralamerika kostar 750 kr
- Studietid 580 kr
- Att utföra grundkursen och få en examen i Norge studier för jobb, trygghet och självständighet. Ett år skickspendens för en flicka i London kostar 580 kr
- Sydbank till konsolidering 300 kr
- Fickor som riktar konsolidering för flickor och kvinnor i Palestina kostar 150 kr

**Skänk en gåva i juli**

Svenska kyrkans bidrag till 2023  
PG 900123 - 06 900 1233  
Läs mer: [www.svenskakyrkan.se/2023](http://www.svenskakyrkan.se/2023)

## Act Svenska kyrkan jobbar mot förtryck i många länder

- Jobbar med fattigdom, förtryck och orättvis rätts system i världen. Verksamheten bygger framför allt på samarbetet med lokala aktörer
- Arbetar i huvudsak med kvinnor och barn som utsätts för våld i konflikter
- Utslutar från kyrkan och närvara kan behöva

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Kyrkans Röst | 2023 | 69





## SHARE EQUAL-DAY

At the vernal equinox on March 20, when day and night are equal, Act Church of Sweden drew attention to the world's unfair distribution of power and resources. We call it the Share Equal Day. The Share Equal Day serves as a reminder that we are all born under the same sky, with equal value and the same human rights.

## COMMUNICATION IN FOCUS

*In 2021, the pandemic continued to affect our mobilisation and fundraising activities. With a digital focus, and with good results, we carried out the fundraising campaigns during Lent and Christmas. We also had an opinion-forming climate campaign ahead of the UN climate summit COP26 in Glasgow. We conducted several disaster fundraisers in response to the armed attacks in Gaza, the earthquake in Haiti, the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan and the typhoon in the Philippines.*

With SEK 46.4 million in results, the Christmas campaign broke previous records from 2015. In the campaign for climate justice, part of the ACT Alliance's campaign, over 13,500 signatures were collected, which exceeded the goal, and a climate ambassador training with 70 participants of all ages, from the whole country. The campaign also had a good impact in the media. The Tradera initiative with digital auctions during the fundraising campaigns also contributed to increased engagement and good media coverage.

Many fundraising activities were carried out digitally during the year, but not all. At the same time as donations from collections and fundraising activities decreased, private donations increased. Our focus on continuous digital communication with donors and potential donors increased the number of active donors from 98,000 to 104,000, and 50,000 new donors have been added. Parishes and dioceses have also continued to contribute grants. The total donations in 2021 was SEK 158.9 million, SEK 15 million below the target.

During the year, we continued to develop our digital meetings and forums to increase

our commitment to global justice issues. Cross-generational training and meetings with those involved, partners and decision-makers were arranged, which has meant that more people have been able to participate and that we have reached new recipients. Among other things, we organised a successful open digital meeting with the Minister for Development Aid with more than 100 participants.

Digital regional coordinator training and introductory meetings in the dioceses, as well as webinars with participants from partners and stakeholders have also been conducted. The diocesan relationship work has been developed and a diocesan consultation has been started, which is a prerequisite for increasing the involvement in dioceses and parishes. We also see that the digital meetings lower the engagement threshold, for example, the digital introductory trainings have increased the number of Agera volunteers!

In 2021, we also continued the long-term effort to increase awareness of and trust in Act Church of Sweden through continuous communication in various channels, including advertising. The annual survey shows



Photo: Magnus Aronson/Ikon

**Marika Hjelm Siegwald,**  
Director of Fundraising, Mobilisation  
and Market Communication,  
Act church of Sweden

an increase in awareness of the brand, as well as a dramatic increase in those who can imagine talking well about the work. Today, Act Church of Sweden is seen, to an even greater degree, as giving hope and being a compassionate and reliable actor, who fights for human rights. We are still on the right track in our knowledge and trust work!

Our focus going forward is to continue to develop our digital communication and our digital fundraising and engagement activities. We strive for the best mix of digital and physical meetings, both to lower the engagement threshold and to reduce our climate impact.

# QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

*Act Church of Sweden strives for high quality in both the daily work and in our results. It is about addressing the power imbalances that exist. We want to transfer power to local organisations and to people living in vulnerability and poverty. That is why it is especially important that the people affected by our work are at the centre. Our commitments must be clear and known, and it must be easy to complain if Act Church of Sweden does not live up to what we have committed to.*

The people we work for have the right to make their own decisions and participate in the work that affects their lives. They must also have the right to express their views on our working methods if we do not fulfil our commitments. We want to work for continuous improvement. Act Church of Sweden is certified according to the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), which confirms that accountability is reflected in all international work and that continuous improvement work takes place.

The work with quality and accountability takes place in dialogue with our partners, to both develop good mechanisms for accountability and to strengthen the capacity to ensure openness and scrutiny of both ourselves and our partners. This applies to all stages of planning, implementation and monitoring.

We primarily want to contribute to our partners achieving their goals. This is done through a strengthened partnership with mutual accountability for quality and good systems for planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning.



## WE SET GOALS ON DIFFERENT LEVELS:

- **Rights holders**
- **Partner**
- **Duty bearers**
- **Regional and international stakeholders**

## OUR COMMITMENTS FOR QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ARE:

1. a human rights based approach
2. integrating gender equality
3. promoting ecological sustainability
4. equal and mutually accountable partnership
5. transparency and participation
6. efficient, results-based, relevant and appropriate response and to do no harm
7. handling complaints
8. be a learning organisation
9. staff care and competency
10. the ACT Alliance's code of conduct for Members and the current Swedish requirements under the Swedish Fund-raising Council, the Swedish Fundraising Control and the Swedish Public access to information principle.

## HOW DO WE KNOW THAT WE ARE MAKING PROGRESS?

- We have goal-oriented programmes with rights holders at the centre and do regular monitoring of results.
- In the annual reporting process, we compile collected data and measure current developments. We do this with the help of "progress markers" to report achievements, outcomes and results against the overall goals. We are inspired, among other things, by the method "outcome harvesting" (collection of results) to measure behavioural changes and analyse results and development needs.
- We learn from our results and with the help of result matrices and strategic maps, we continuously adjust our journey towards the goals.
- We apply both internal control systems and external auditing through, among other things, audits and evaluations of our own and our partners' work.
- We develop and monitor capacity building plans with partners.
- We have a complaints handling system, policies for, among other things, anti-corruption and a code of conduct.



# COMPLAINTS HANDLING

*Act Church of Sweden is committed to constantly improving the quality of our work and our accountability towards partners, rights holders, donors, volunteers and the general public. All these groups have the right to comment and complain if Act Church of Sweden or its partners do not live up to their commitments.*

In this way, we can get a better follow-up on how the international operations are working and what we need to do, which improves the results of our work. At the same time, it reduces the risk of inefficiency, misuse of power, or illegal use of the resources we manage.

In 2021, our complaints handling system received 22 complaints (compared with 25 the previous year), of which 15 were covered by the system's area of

responsibility. A number of cases have been dealt with by or together with partners, in cases where they have a functioning complaints system.

The pandemic has made it more difficult to catch shortcomings, partly because distance work and lock-downs have affected both our and our partners' contact with rights holders. In 2021, we have therefore developed our follow-up routines so that we can better monitor our activities remotely.

## MEMBER OF GIVA SVERIGE

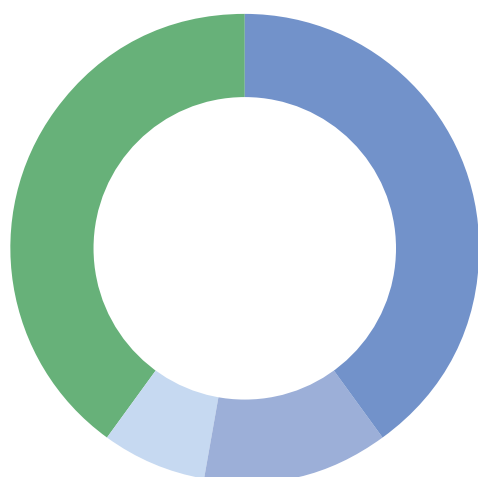
Act Church of Sweden is a member of Giva Sverige, which is the industry organisation for safe giving. Giva Sverige works with quality assurance, education and interest policies, with a focus on ethical, transparent and professional governance of non-profit organisations. The members who have complied with the Quality Code may use the label "Safe giving".

The Safe Giving label means that you as a donor can be confident that your gift to Act Church of Sweden is managed in the best way. That we ask for the gift in a good way, have good order in finances and control and use the money for the purposes for which the gifts are intended and annually report the effect, including the societal benefit of our work. Giva Sweden's Quality Code comprises four parts: ethics, impact reporting, financial reporting and internal control & governance.



## EXAMPLES OF ACTIVITIES 2021

- We have carried out internal and external competence development of staff and partners.
- We have been active in the ACT Alliance and with sister organisations in Europe, where we have worked with competence development and exchange of experience. We have also participated in a panel in a global seminar on quality and accountability and partnership.
- We were elected to the board of the CHS Alliance. Our representative in ACT's Reference Group on Quality and Accountability has been chairman of the group during the year.
- We have developed a complaints function for the MIRP programme in Uganda.
- We have disseminated information about existing e-courses in complaint handling and code of conduct.
- We have strengthened the team for complaint handling by adding resources for capacity building and anti-corruption expertise.
- We have shown that we are constantly improving through an approved recertification, according to the CHS.



The complaints we have dealt with in 2021 have to do with the following:

- Corruption 40 % (cf. 25% 2020; 43% 2019)
- Abuse of power by the management or staff 13% (cf. 50% 2020; 24% 2019)
- Deficiencies in processing at Act Church of Sweden 7% (cf. 0% 2020; 9% 2019)
- Sexual harassment and sexual abuse (SEAH\*) 40% (cf. 25% 2020; 24% 2019)

\*Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment

## LESSONS LEARNED AND SUCCESSES DURING 2021

Despite challenges with the global pandemic, we have succeeded in implementing almost all planned initiatives, and with new digital methods, we have kept in touch with partner organisations. However, the pandemic has made it more difficult and prevented monitoring trips as well as limited the possibility of having staff on site.

The Church board adopted the revised strategic plan, including a new strategic direction for humanitarian work. This has given us the basis for developing the work to deal with the challenges we see in the future. Another important decision is to allow the Church of Sweden to register in other countries; an opportunity for Act Church of Sweden to open regional offices to be present for our partners.

During the year, ACT's general assembly was conducted digitally and discussed issues of location, change of power to organisations in the south, LGBTQI+ people's rights and racism in international humanitarian work and development cooperation. Act Church of Sweden has taken an active role in the ongoing dialogue on shifts in power and participated in a dialogue with Sida on the importance of localisation, shifts in power and the independence of local actors. Strengthened cooperation

within the ACT Alliance has led to gender justice now being integrated into climate work.

We have had a strategic and successful policy dialogue and advocacy work on development policy issues. Act Church of Sweden has been part of the Swedish delegation to the session of the UN Commission on Status of Women, CSW.

Another example is the advocacy work vis-à-vis the World Bank in matters of social protection, a policy process where we were out early and managed to influence the Foreign Ministry's positions. Good and in-depth collaborations have also been carried out with the academy, such as Karolinska Institutet regarding the vaccine issue. We have contributed to the publication of several publications on the sclr method (survivor and community led response) and on the location of humanitarian aid, which have had a major impact in the field.

The pandemic negatively affected the fund-raising result, especially from collections and church activities. Grants from parishes and dioceses, to some extent, compensate for the loss of income and private donations increased, for example via swish. The number of active donors has increased from 98 000 till 104 000.



Photo: Magnus Aronson/Ikon

**Coleen Heemskerk,**  
*International Director of Strategic Planning,  
Act church of Sweden*

**'Act Church of Sweden has taken an active role in the ongoing dialogue on shifts in power and participated in a dialogue with Sida on the importance of localisation, shifts in power and the independence of local actor'.**





**Representatives of the International Council reference group together with parts of the international council and parts of the leadership team.**  
 From left: Fidon Mwombeki, Lars G Linder, Isobel Frye, Andrés Felipe Pacheco, Addisu Alamirew, Erik Lysén, Lars-Ove Ljungberg, Jan-Olov Sundström, Kenneth Mtata, Annika Lindé, Carin Gardbring, Ranjita Borgoary, Anabella Sibrián, Carolina Grelsson, Victoria Jean-Luis, Gloria Mafule, Dahlia Al Mokdad, Faith Lugazia and Eva Ekelund.

## HOW WE ARE GOVERNED

*The Church of Sweden is a national church that is governed by elected church politicians. The Church Board is the Church of Sweden's highest decision-making body when the Church Synod is not convened.*

### The Church Board and the International Council

The Church Board appoints the International Council, which coordinates and develops Act Church of Sweden. The council consists of 16 people (eight regular and eight deputies) of which 4 representatives are elected during the annual Conference of diocese volunteers for international commitment in the Church of Sweden. All members have

full decision-making rights and are thus a unique example of how volunteerism takes place in formal bodies.

### International reference group

The Church Board's International Council has associated with an international reference group. The reference group is composed of representatives from partners to strengthen the analysis of the work environment and anchor long-term goals and strategies.

### Employees

Act Church of Sweden employs circa 110 employees and about ten regional representatives. Our work is coordinated and administered by the Church of Sweden's national level, whose office – the Central Church Office – is located in Uppsala. That is also where the international department and its management team are based.

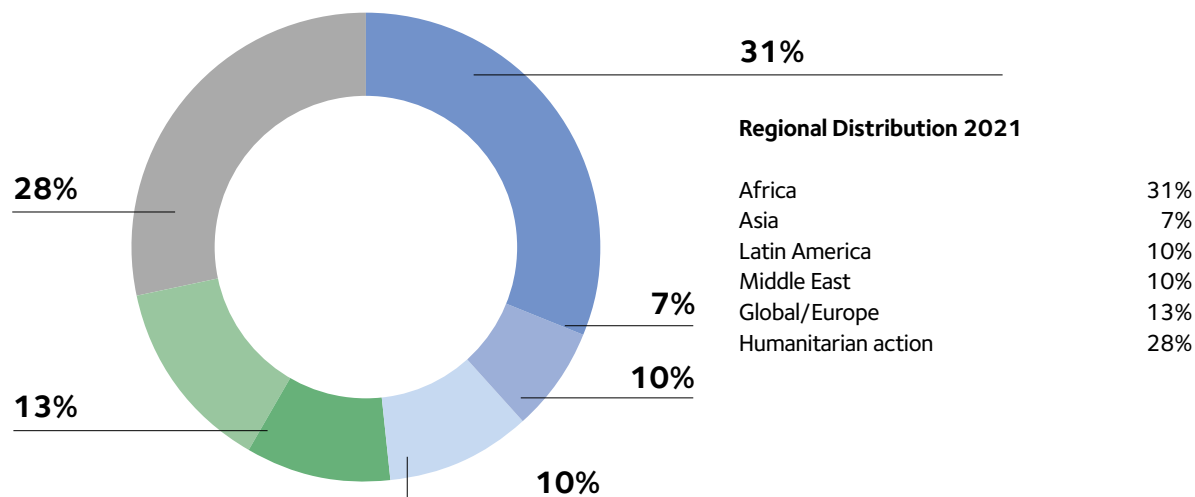
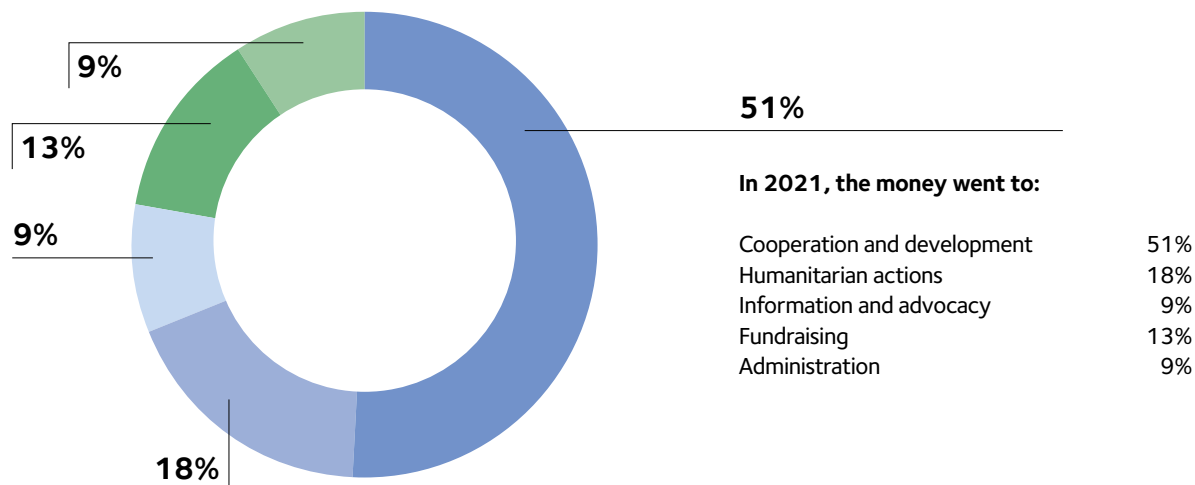


### The International Council for 2018–2022

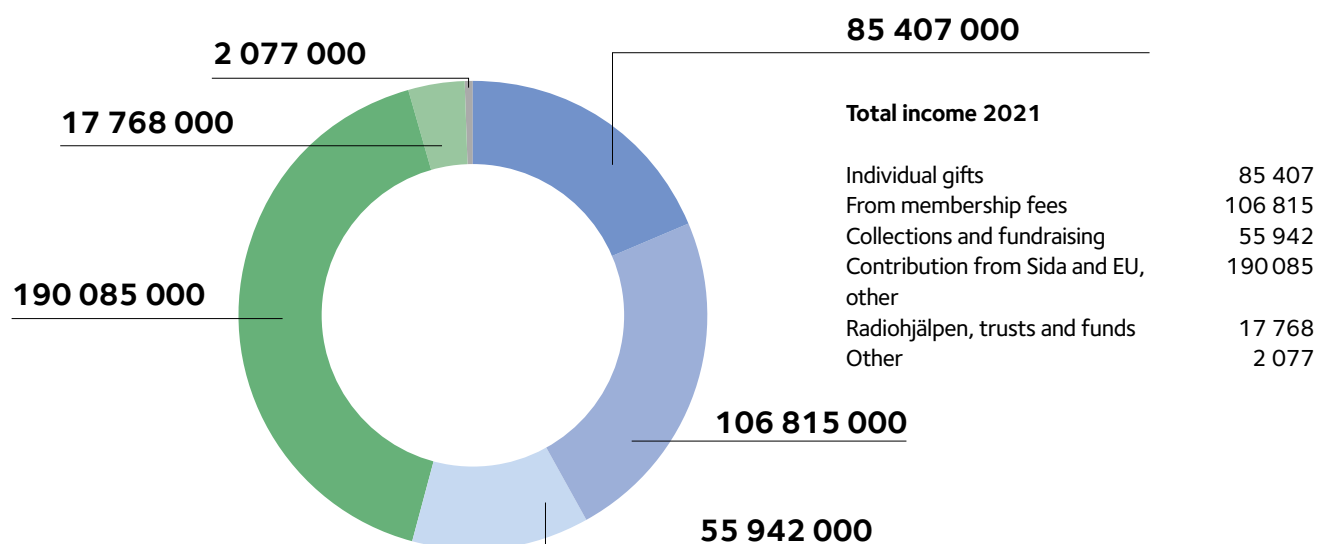
From left: Signe Wolf, Linda Larsson, Madelaine Erlandsson, Anders Åkerlund, Anki Erdmann, Åsa Ingårda, Kerstin Pihl, Lars Risberg, Celina Falk, Åke Bonnier, Mona Eriksson, Lisa Tegby, Agneta Brendt, Lars G Linder, Jan Olov Sundström and Erik Lysén. Karin Johannesson and Veronica Pålsson are missing from the picture.

# FINANCING

Act Church of Sweden's total operating costs for 2021 were MSEK 455,7.



Act Church of Sweden's total income for 2021 was SEK 458 095 000.





## EXTERNAL FINANCERS



Cover photo: Sean Furlonger  
Print: Åtta.45

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Swish 900 1223

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givar-service@svenskakyrkan.se  
010-1819300

[svenskakyrkan.se/act](https://svenskakyrkan.se/act)