

Annual report 2024



Cover image: In the Maban refugee camps in South Sudan, Act Church of Sweden is dedicated to provide children and young people with disabilities the opportunity to attend school. By reaching out to those often hidden away due to stigma and bias, more individuals can enroll and gain access to various resources that promote participation, empowerment, and future opportunities. Educators at these schools have received specialised training to tailor their activities for students with diverse disabilities. Photo: Magdalena Vogt

Printer: Ljungbergs tryckeri

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Mobilising for our worldwide community

The global aid sector is experiencing significant changes. The US is drastically reducing its contributions and has shut down the USAID. As the largest donor of aid worldwide, the implications are staggering. This decision follows budget reductions enacted by 20 of the 27 EU member states in 2024. Also Sweden has revised its aid strategy. Compounding this situation is the volatile geopolitical situation, which may result in further aid cuts to accommodate increasing defense expenditures. These trends raise serious concerns for democracy and human rights.

Act Church of Sweden is, in many ways, better equipped to deal with these challenges than many other aid organisations, as 75 percent of its activities are funded by its own funding, while only 25 percent comes from Sida, the EU, and other institutional donors. However, this also means we must intensify our fundraising efforts to sustain vital support for our partner churches and partners worldwide. The engagement of parishes and dioceses will be crucial for Church of Sweden's ability to remain responsible and committed to the world as part of a global community.

Despite the the chaotic world around us, Act Church of Sweden can reflect

back on a successful 2024. We celebrated 150 years of international engagement within the Church of Sweden, and in October, we brought together over 800 dedicated individuals from parishes nationwide for the Make a Difference conference. Throughout these days, we engaged with inspiring talks from our partners, contemplated global issues collectively, and held a joint service at Uppsala Cathedral.

2024 marked five years since we launched Act Church of Sweden as the new name for the international work of Church of Sweden. During these years, fundraising has taken off, a positive trend that stands out among other fundraising aid organisations in Sweden. It is the fruit of joint collaboration in Church of Sweden and a strong commitment from many people in our parishes and dioceses.

At a time when many other organisations are struggling with fundraising, it is gratifying that, in 2024, we achieved our highest fundraising result of the entire 2000s. This accomplishment better equips us to face the challenges ahead.

Our partners inspire hope globally. They involve hundreds of thousands in local initiatives that promote gender equality, human rights, climate justice, peace, and the strengthening of local democracy.

This work can be challenging, as the dangers faced by human rights and environmental defenders are increasing globally. The importance of our collaboration and its foundational values have never been more evident. As the aid sector faces turmoil, we can rely on our extensive network of partner churches and organisations which was established long

before government assistance emerged. Our work is deeply grounded in enduring, trusting relationships that are built on shared values and faith. This foundation makes us resilient. Together, we create meaningful change.



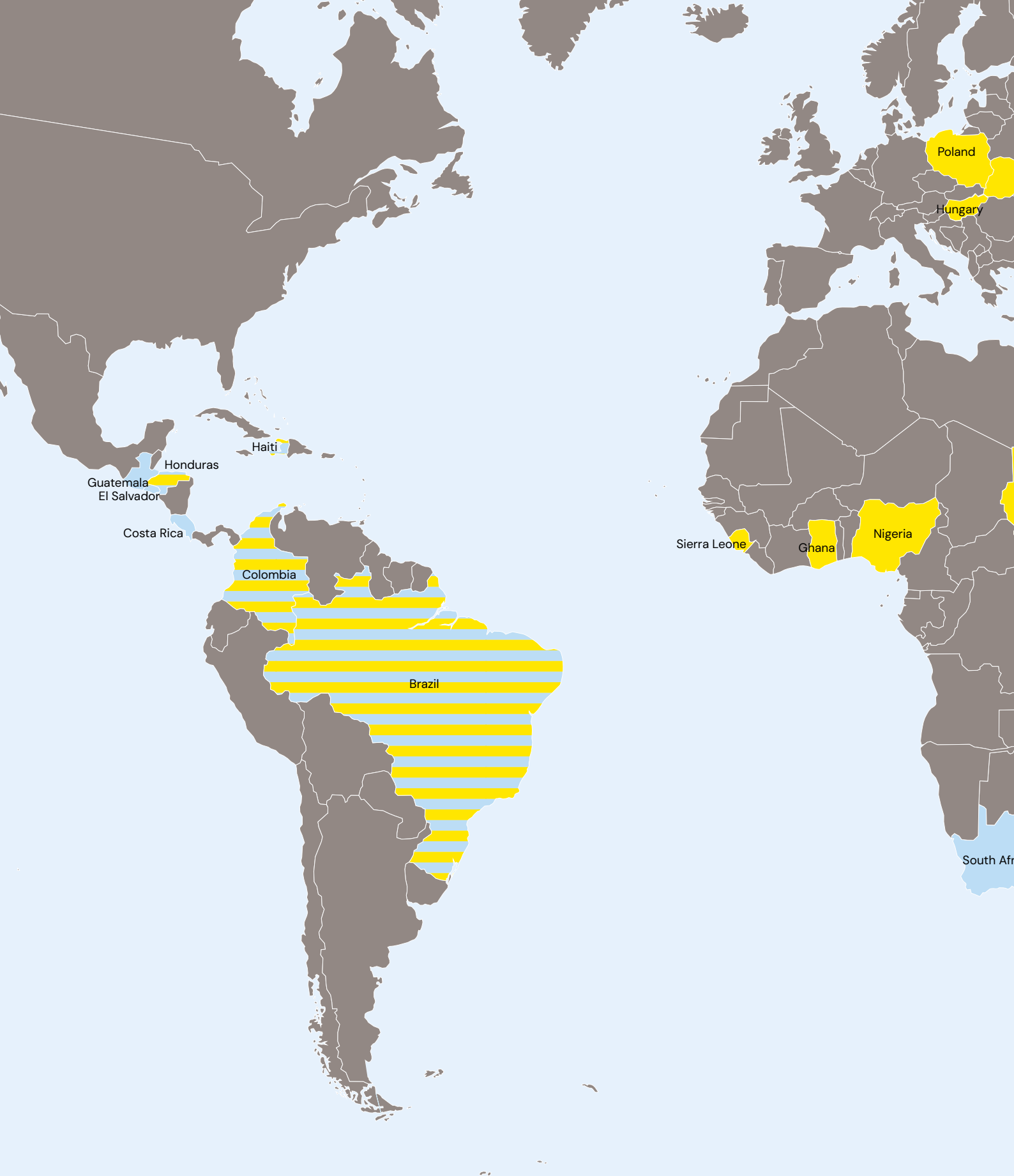
A stylized blue ink signature of Erik Lysén.

Erik Lysén
Director Act Church of Sweden

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Together we make a difference.

During 2024, Act Church of Sweden has implemented around 200 actions in 38 countries.

- Disaster response in 31 countries.
- Long-term development work in 28 countries.



Ukraine

Cyprus
Lebanon
Israel
Palestine

Syria

Iraq

Jordan

Egypt

Afghanistan

Pakistan

Bangladesh

Myanmar
(Burma)

India

The Philippines

Sudan

South Sudan

Ethiopia

Somalia

Uganda

Kenya

Tanzania

Malawi

Zimbabwe

Eswatini
(Swaziland)

Indonesia

For every person's right to a dignified life

ABOUT US

Act Church of Sweden works with disaster response, long-term development, and global advocacy. Together with churches and partner organisations worldwide, we fight against poverty, oppression and injustice. Act stands for acting and transforming faith into action, while always focusing on people's equal dignity and rights.

Act Church of Sweden has a 150-year history with origins in Church of Sweden Mission and Church of Sweden Aid. Our international work with mission and diaconia is largely dependent on the commitment in our congregations, which is an expression of our belonging in a worldwide fellowship.

Upholding human dignity is central to our Christian faith. All people have the same value and rights and should have the power and opportunity to change their lives and communities. Our work is grounded in our identity as a church and our faith in a God who walks with those who are silenced, living under threats or in a vulnerable situation. Part of our mission is to take action against power structures that hinder individuals from living full lives, regardless of whether these structures exist in society, the church, or in development cooperation.

Act Church of Sweden's work is based on theology while being conducted in line with established norms in international aid. Our work is gender-integrated and human rights-based, meaning that gender is always a crucial starting point, and human rights must be actively upheld. Therefore, we focus on participation, non-discrimination, empowerment, and accountability. We work in accordance with the humanitarian principles and are guided by the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda.

Our governing values

Faith as a driving force

Faith provides us, our sister churches, and partners around the world with inspiration, courage and strength. Together we stand up for people who are silenced or living under threat or in poverty, as well as for that which promotes life and gives hope for the future.

The integrity of the creation

In God's Creation all life is interdependent. As humans we are responsible for the stewardship of the Creation. The Creation, and the long-term survival of humanity, is being threatened by the current impact of humans on our planet. Act Church of Sweden wants to work for sustainable development, with nobody left behind and people taking responsibility for their lifestyle and impact on nature, the climate, and the environment.

Human rights

Every person has the right to a life of dignity and human rights, as expressed in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights conventions. Each individual, without distinction, is entitled to all rights. Discrimination is unacceptable and no one should be excluded.

Empowerment and participation

We believe in people's inherent ability and power to take action. Participation is fundamental to the ability of all individuals to play a key role in their own development and in that of society. This is why we work for the empowerment and meaningful participation of vulnerable groups and individuals.

Democratic space and organisation

When people join forces and organise, they are better able to further their interest and call for their rights – with one voice. One focus for activities we support is therefore to increase the level of organisation and to strengthen civil society organisations.

Accountability

In order to protect, respect and realise human rights, states and other actors, including religious actors, need to be held politically, normative and legally accountable for their actions. People's ability to demand accountability forms an essential part of human rights-based efforts and a democratic society.

Ecumenical approach

Part of the identity of Act Church of Sweden is ecumenical and inter-religious cooperation with other churches and faith-based organisations. Together, we share faith, mission, and experiences, bringing different skills and resources to the work on humanity's great challenges; peace, justice and the integrity of the creation. The ecumenical approach guides all our programmes.



We believe in the power of working together locally, regionally and globally. We are part of a worldwide community, and our identity as a church is a part of our strength.

Local actors are a strength

Act Church of Sweden is driven by the conviction that development is lasting and sustainable when it is owned by the people affected by it, who live in and understand the local context. That is why we cooperate with local churches, other faith communities, and organisations worldwide. Our theory of change focuses on how faith-based actors can contribute to people living in just, sustainable, and democratic societies. Our methods are firmly grounded in both human rights and our theological interpretation. This allows us to work holistically to strengthen the long-term capacity of individuals and communities to manage change and continue to develop.

We work to shift power and resources to local actors—those whose lives are impacted by economic, legal, religious, and political systems, locally and globally. True long-term change and a just world can only emerge when people have the power to transform their lives and communities.

Being a religious actor is a strength in contexts where religion and religious leaders have power and influence over people's values and societal norms. Local actors are also present before, during, and after a crisis or disaster, enabling us to respond quickly and sustainably in humanitarian situations.

Global networks

Act Church of Sweden, as part of Church of Sweden, is a member of the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation. We are also a member of the ACT alliance, which stands for Action by Churches Together. This provides us with good opportunities to influence the churches' common theological reflection and serve as a powerful voice in the UN system and other important forums addressing peace, human rights, and climate issues.

The Lutheran World Federation operates on behalf of the United Nations in various refugee camps worldwide, while the ACT Alliance consists of churches and church-related organisations in over 130 countries. These partnerships allow us to respond swiftly to disasters and cooperate effectively on long-term development.

HOW WE ARE GOVERNED

Act Church of Sweden is an integral part of Church of Sweden, and the international department coordinates its work at the national level. The Church Synod and the Church Board are the highest decision-making bodies. The Church Board also appoints an International Council to coordinate and develop the international work. The Council consists of 13 members. A global reference group, comprising

representatives from our partners and networks, supports the Council's work. The international department employs approximately 120 staff members who work on issues such as development work, church cooperation, advocacy, engagement and fundraising. A number of them are regional representatives and local employees around the world.

Change and impact in five focal areas

HOW WE WORK

The work of Act Church of Sweden is based on five focal areas: Disaster response, Livelihoods and climate justice, Gender equality and health, Peace and democracy, and Faith and learning.

Together with our partners, we contributed to 225 projects worldwide in 2024, all aimed at saving and transforming lives.



Disaster response

War, famine and natural disasters shatter the lives of millions of people every day, and behind every number is a human being. One who has the right to safety, support and a dignified life.

Thanks to our cooperation with local partners around the world, we can quickly mobilise when a disaster hits. Also, our identity as a church gives us a unique opportunity to reach out and start rebuilding what has been destroyed, together with actors from different religions.

To rebuild communities and boost resilience to deal with future crises, it is essential that the people affected are the ones making decisions on how to make best use of the support.



Livelihoods and climate justice

We protect the creation and defend the right of all people to live in dignity. Basic security, gender equality and climate justice are essential for a sustainable world.

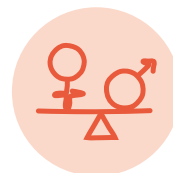
Together with local churches and partners, we work to improve people's opportunities to make a living. At the same time, we call on those in power to realise the right to social security and climate justice globally. When people can provide for themselves through their work, their self-confidence and hope for the future grow. The aim is to ensure that people living in vulnerability, poverty, and climate emergencies have access to fair and sustainable livelihoods.



Gender equality and health

We work to enable all people, regardless of sex, sexual orientation or gender identity, to live a life of dignity. Sexual violence, forced marriage, and female genital mutilation are examples of abuses that affect structurally vulnerable groups. Many are also denied education and healthcare. Every individual has the right to decide over their own life and body.

Act Church of Sweden works with religious representatives and partners around the world who stand up for gender equality and everyone's right to health and security. Religious actors and representatives often have power and influence over what is right and wrong in a society, giving us with unique opportunities and a particular responsibility to contribute to positive change.



Peace and democracy

We work with local actors around the world to strengthen human rights, build trust and peace. Violence and human rights restrictions are a major problem globally. People are prevented from making their voices heard, through direct physical violence and by means of unjust structures. In many places, people's rights are being restricted due to their sex, ethnicity, religion, or on other grounds.



Every person is loved by God and holds the same value and rights. This is why we work to defend people's rights, for example, by providing training to prevent domestic violence or by protecting human rights defenders who are under threat.

Faith and learning

In many countries, religious leaders exert great influence on people's lives and daily routines. Faith and spiritual beliefs can be used to guide, liberate, and provide comfort; unfortunately also to oppress, stigmatise, and legitimize violence. In today's polarised world, it is essential to reclaim faith as a source of life, care, and community.



A crucial aspect of this work is the theological education and formation of religious leaders. We aim to support theology that promotes inclusion, justice, and respect for human rights. In particular, we encourage theological education and reflection that seeks to enhance the influence and leadership of women. The Faith and Learning focus area also work on freedom of religion and belief, as well as interfaith cooperation to combat oppression and advocate for human rights.



Photo: Magnus Aronson/Ikon

Agera volunteers act locally for global justice through active advocacy, information dissemination, lifestyle initiatives, and fundraising. Agera (Swedish for to act) volunteers represent a collaboration between Act Church of Sweden and Church of Sweden Youth.

Objectives and working methods

The overall objective of Act Church of Sweden is "People living in just, sustainable and democratic communities, backed by global solidarity and based on human rights" Our contribution takes the form of four strategic approaches:

Mobilisation

We build upon the commitment and agency of individuals for global solidarity and mobilise resources to address fundamental issues of human equality and rights, the integrity of the creation, international justice, and peace.

Capacity development

By engaging in dialogue and mutual learning with partners and rights holders, we contribute to processes in which people, organisations and societies as a whole release, strengthen, create and maintain capacity over time.

Collaboration

As a church, we are part of a worldwide fellowship. We work with churches and organisations all over the world. By contributing to platforms for exchange and dialogue, we promote cooperation and coordination locally, regionally, and globally.

Advocacy

We help achieve change by conducting qualitative, long-term policy dialogue and opinion forming to influence political decision-making processes, attitudes and social norms locally, regionally, and globally.



In Gaza, our local ACT Alliance partner has been active in the field long before the war began. In 2024, around 200,000 individuals received humanitarian support through our local partner.

Life saving and long-term support

2024 was characterised by ongoing and prolonged crises in many regions of the world. Act Church of Sweden has, together with partners, tirelessly supported those severely affected in locations such as Gaza, Sudan, and Ukraine.

The wars in Gaza and Sudan, which both began in 2023, continued and escalated in intensity throughout 2024. Act Church of Sweden, therefore, increased its humanitarian support in both regions to reach more affected people.

In Gaza, the devastation has been immense, and humanitarian access has been limited. Yet, around 200,000 people, which constitutes approximately 10 percent of Gaza's population, have been reached by actions implemented by our partner, the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR). This has included medical support, cash assistance, and the distribution of food and hygiene kits, as well as psychosocial support to children.

Due to the war in Sudan, Act Church of Sweden's support until the end of 2024 focused on people who fled to Sudan's neighbouring countries. Thanks to this support, our partners can implement various actions. For example, together with our donors, we have assisted 16,212 families who fled to Egypt in accessing cash assistance to meet their specific needs.

Girls and young women from 763 households that fled to Ethiopia now have access to sanitation and hygiene kits. Meanwhile, 9,039 children who crossed into South Sudan have received psychosocial support, and 1,597 students have been supplied with educational materials.

Since late 2024, Act Church of Sweden has supported initiatives in Sudan, providing internally displaced persons (IDPs) and communities hosting refugees with access to essential cash, empowering them to meet their immediate needs independently.

The destruction of key social infrastructure and the poor conditions in IDP camps have created significant risks and new needs. Together with our partners, we have been working long-term to alleviate suffering and enhance conditions. For example, we are constructing water supply systems and waste management facilities. As violence against women and girls is prevalent in the ongoing conflict in Sudan,

we are also supporting initiatives to protect these groups. This includes establishing safe spaces and organising group activities to strengthen women's social networks and improve their long-term livelihoods.

In 2024, new crises also emerged. The war between Israel and Hamas spread to southern Lebanon. During the autumn, violence intensified, and fighting between Israel and Hezbollah severely impacted the civilian population in various parts of the country. At the end of the year, Act Church of Sweden, through its partners, initiated more extensive humanitarian efforts to address the growing needs in the country.

So far, in cooperation with the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) and DanChurchAid (DCA), we have distributed 1,324 hygiene kits to individuals severely affected by the conflict. Additionally, we have helped provide daily school lunches in 16 schools, ensuring that displaced children in the country receive a proper meal every day.

– In 2024, Act Church of Sweden worked in disaster response across 31 countries. As part of the ACT Alliance and in partnership with local organisations, we can quickly mobilise support in response to disaster situations. We are present before, during, and after humanitarian crises. Our identity as a church gives us a unique opportunity to unite and coordinate with representatives from different religions. Saving lives

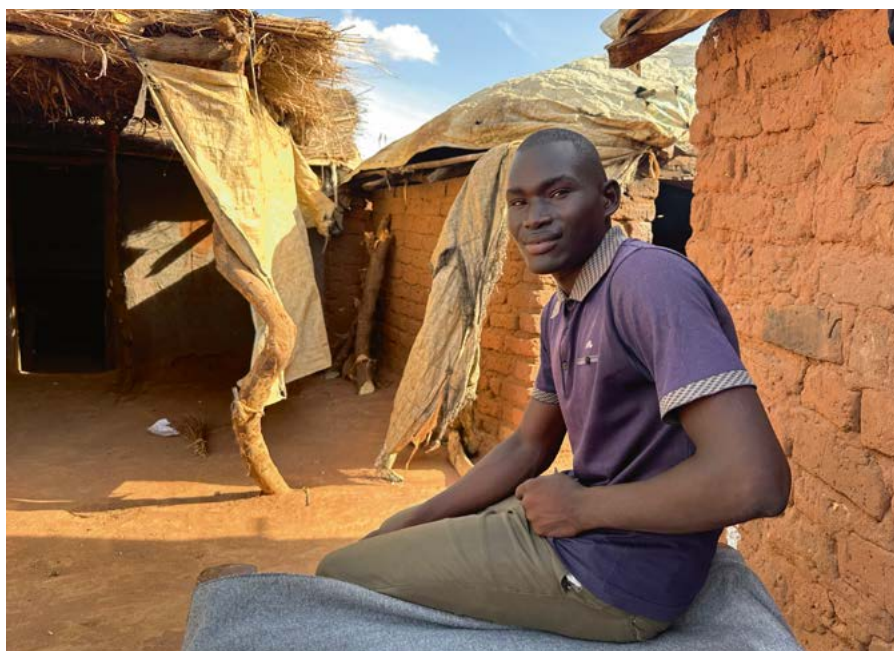


Photo: Alexander Obom/Icon

Refugees should not be denied access to education. A significant part of the response to individuals displaced from Sudan to South Sudan focuses on providing children and young people with access to education.

and alleviating the suffering of those most affected is our absolute priority, affirms Coleen Heemskerk, who works as Humanitarian Director at Act Church of Sweden.

Act Church of Sweden is consistently guided by the humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality, independence, and humanity in its disaster response. This means that it is the needs of people that determine who receives support, regardless of their origin, religion, gender, social class, political opinion or nationality.

We also employ a psychosocial approach, which means that, in addition to addressing physical needs such as food, clean water and shelter, we also focus on social and psychological needs. Actions can include activities for both children and adults, such as music, art, and sports, as well as creating conditions for meaningful conversations. Psychosocial support is not about traditional therapy; instead, it provides people with the opportunity to rebuild their social networks, support others, and share their experiences. This has been shown to promote recovery.

Here are some examples of disaster responses:

- Humanitarian support for people who fled to Syria due to the war in Lebanon.
- Emergency response, shelter, education, and psychosocial support for war-affected individuals in Ukraine and neighbouring countries through local churches.
- Addressing urgent support needs in Ukraine.
- Assistance for Afghan refugee children and youth in Pakistan.
- Initiatives to prevent and combat child labor in Somalia.
- Projects for refugees in the border areas between Kenya and Somalia.
- Efforts to support those affected by floods in Kenya and Tanzania.
- Projects aimed at assisting children living with disabilities in refugee camps in Kenya, Somalia, and South Sudan, focusing on education, adapted schooling, and assistive devices.
- Efforts emphasising protection, resilience, water and sanitation in conflict-affected regions of Colombia.
- Efforts to ensure access to clean water for women and girls in conflict-affected regions of Colombia through local water collection points, training, and protective measures against conflict-related risks.



40 disaster responses
supported in 2024.

Locally led actions make a difference in Ukraine

The war in Ukraine continues to affect a hard-pressed population. In 2024, Act Church of Sweden continued to provide expertise in psychosocial support to strengthen the work of local partners. Among other initiatives, local staff have received training on how various tools, methods, and principles can enhance social cohesion even in times of crisis—knowledge that school staff, volunteers, and others have been able to access as well. We have also worked to ensure that psychosocial dimensions are incorporated into all the activities that we support. This includes, for example, providing safe and secure places for children to stay while their parents wait in line for food and other supplies. Additionally, we have supported the distribution of food, hygiene kits, and school supplies, as well as the restoration of protective shelters in schools.

Act Church of Sweden also supports community-led actions in Ukraine alongside our partner organisations Christian Aid and Alliance for Public Health. The aim is that those



Photo: Josephn Casteryd/ikon

Through locally led actions, such as Act Church of Sweden's projects in Ukraine, people have gained access to safe spaces that provide rehabilitation, psychosocial support, and various activities, including training and competence development.

affected by the war are enabled to design actions according to their needs. The starting point is that those directly affected by the crisis are those who understand what is most needed and have the ability

and willingness to lead efforts to meet those needs.

Until 2024, a total of 160 different local initiatives were funded, 68 of which were related to various shelter activities, including access to protective shelters. 32 of the initiatives focused on winter preparations, including the provision of warm clothing and blankets, as well as the purchase of stoves and generators. Other initiatives ensured access to essential services, including health care, water, sanitation, and other necessities, as well as education, food security, and livelihood opportunities. In total, 131,013 people benefited from various forms of assistance.

In 2024, Act Church of Sweden's humanitarian response in Ukraine continued through the Lutheran World Federation. Support includes the distribution of food and hygiene kits, access to school supplies, cash support, rehabilitation of water systems and the reconstruction of destroyed apartments and residential buildings.



Photo: Josephn Casteryd/ikon

Act Church of Sweden supports hundreds of micro-projects in Ukraine, where small local organisations and community groups have united to organise self-help efforts for the affected population.

Supporting individuals affected by climate change in Zimbabwe

A new disaster struck Zimbabwe in 2024, as the worst drought in a century hit the country at a time when it was already facing enormous economic challenges, including inflation and widespread poverty. The consequences have included increased malnutrition among children and the death of large numbers of livestock. Children have had to drop out of school as parents have needed to prioritise food over paying school fees.

Act Church of Sweden has been able to contribute to the distribution of 3,600 food rations through local partner organisations, the Lutheran Development Service and the Zimbabwe Christian Council.

In addition, 2 346 people have received seed for planting.

Many of those affected, who are currently receiving support from Act Church of Sweden, have also been forced to flee previously due to Cyclone Idai, which struck the country in 2019.

When climate-related disasters strike consecutively, people struggle to escape their vulnerable situation and risk being forced to flee. The support from Act Church of Sweden helps ensure emergency and long-term access to food and climate-adapted livelihoods for affected individuals.



Photo: Zimbabwe Council of Churches

Act Church of Sweden is assisting individuals impacted by the drought in Zimbabwe, supplying them with food and seeds.

Photo: MECO



Through our local partners in Lebanon, we ensure that displaced individuals have access to food, hygiene kits, basic necessities, and psychosocial support.

ACT Alliance Rapid Response Fund

Through the ACT Alliance Rapid Response Fund, Act Church of Sweden can support local disaster responses worldwide. Through the fund, we assisted twelve actions across ten countries in 2024, including the Philippines, Indonesia, El Salvador, Honduras, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone.

The actions have responded to various disasters, including droughts, floods, volcanic eruptions, and typhoons. Support often involves distributing food and cash; however, ensuring access to psychosocial support is also a priority and a key strength of local organisations.

Many of the local organisations supported by the Rapid Response Fund are national Christian Councils, which are made up of churches from various countries. For instance, in 2024, this was the case in Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and the Philippines.

Climate justice and sustainable livelihoods for all

Act Church of Sweden is working to ensure fair and sustainable livelihoods for people living in vulnerability, poverty, and climate emergencies. We influence those in power and support projects around the world in agriculture, entrepreneurship and vocational training.

Photo: Fady Nady/Arzu, Egypt



The Khalil family has been significantly affected by the climate change in the Nile Delta, but they have managed to adapt their small-scale farming, making them less vulnerable.

Together with local churches and partners, we aim to enhance people's opportunities for self-sufficiency. Act Church of Sweden's priority areas for sustainable livelihoods include sustainable production and consumption, responsible business, and climate justice.

In Egypt, the Coptic Orthodox Church, with the support of Act Church of Sweden, is running a project to provide people with knowledge on how to adapt and survive during times of climate change and extreme weather. Egypt is one of the countries most

affected by water scarcity, which has had significant negative consequences for agriculture. The project targets small-scale and rural farmers who lack the capacity to invest in or adapt their agricultural practices to climate change and who are often overlooked by other forms of support.

– Our partner CoC-Bless primarily operates in remote areas of Egypt, where many individuals lack awareness of the climate challenges we face and have never learned about modern, more efficient farming techniques. A varied agriculture is a path to escape poverty, states Jacob Hyving, programme officer at Act Church of Sweden.

In 2024, 1,155 farmers in the project began using environmentally friendly farming techniques, including biological pest control and the reuse of agricultural waste. 1,075 farmers improved their productivity and increased their income.

The Khalil family in northern Egypt faced severe drought, but with project support, they transitioned to diverse crops. This shift has reduced farming vulnerability, providing the family with greater financial security and food access year-round.

Here are some examples of livelihood and climate justice actions:

- Sustainable livelihoods and food security projects in Zimbabwe.
- Climate-smart agriculture and self-employment savings groups in Tanzania.
- Pilot projects for innovative training and loans to improve farmers' livelihoods in Kenya and Uganda.
- Efforts in the Philippines to strengthen community resilience to natural disasters.
- Support for policy institutes in South Africa focusing on debt relief, influencing African governments and institutions to adopt accountable and transparent public debt management policies and practices, promoting sustainable development and poverty eradication.
- Support for programmes aimed at promoting sustainable and equitable Palestinian social development through education, environmental awareness, and cooperation, providing hope in challenging times.
- Projects to strengthen local partnerships and provide microloans to meet the urgent needs of vulnerable communities facing humanitarian crises in Haiti.
- Support for projects that improve the economic situation and living conditions of women and Indigenous people in rural Honduras by gathering and sharing experiences from alternative financing initiatives.



39 livelihood and climate justice actions
have been supported in 2024

Climate justice and finance in focus

Act Church of Sweden participated in the global ecumenical movement at the COP29 climate summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, in November 2024. We had two representatives on-site, as well as young people participating digitally from Sweden.

The major negotiating issue at the summit was the level of support from wealthy emitters to the world's poorest and most climate-vulnerable countries. Margareta Koltai, policy advisor for climate justice at Act Church of Sweden, expresses her disappointment with the outcome of the negotiations.

– The decision on climate finance falls far short of what poor countries need to confront climate change; however, if we had not been present, the outcome would have been worse. Our mission is to remind the world's leaders of their responsibility to support those living in climate emergencies.

The advocacy work for COP29 was a joint effort within the whole of



Photo: Gabriel Liljenström

Gabriel Liljenström and Margareta Koltai represented Act Church of Sweden at COP29 in Baku. Meeting with decision-makers and partner organisations to share and spread knowledge, as well as hope, is more critical than ever.

Church of Sweden, and the message of climate justice impacted the media before, during, and after the climate summit.

– As a faith-based actor, our role is significant, and we provide a voice

that resonates with both civil society and political leaders. We must persist in advocating for climate justice and fostering dialogue and solidarity with those most at risk, Gabriel Liljenström, public education officer at Act Church of Sweden says.

Investing in the capacity of women in Ethiopia

Ethiopia faces persistent challenges due to climate change. To support food security, Act Church of Sweden supports, among other things, sustainable reforestation, crop diversification,

and construction of irrigation canals to safeguard the nation's fertile soils.

In the Amhara region, Act Church of Sweden is working with local partners on a project focused on gender equality, sustainability and livelihoods. Strengthening women's capacity through self-help groups plays an important part, as women learn essential skills such as farming techniques, economics, democracy, and leadership. This enhances the economic situation of women and their families and elevates the status of women throughout society.

– The group has completely transformed my life and lifestyle. Before I had the opportunity to join the project, I had nothing. No vegetables,

no knowledge of how to lead a group, and I did not even know how to run a household, says Alganesh, who is the treasurer of one of the groups.

For example, in 2024, 720 women in the Amhara region received training in climate adaptive agriculture, with 116 women undergoing practical training. Additionally, 100 women were supported in organising themselves into self-help groups, while 300 women participated in a five-day training on women's rights as well as sheep and goat farming.

By enhancing women's livelihoods and empowering them, the project has improved living standards and strengthened households through economic security.



Photo: Magnus Aronson/Ikon

Thanks to the project, Alganesh and her family in the Amhara region have experienced increased harvests in recent years.



Willyson Mkhandi Mwangu of the Christian Council of Tanzania is working with Act Church of Sweden to end gender-based violence and female genital mutilation in Tanzania.

Fighting for the rights of girls and women

Act Church of Sweden fights to empower people and ensure that everyone, regardless of gender, can live a dignified life. Many women and girls are victims of abuse and injustice, often due to harmful norms and unfair structures in society.

In many parts of the world, religious leaders and groups have significant influence and power over individuals' lives. Therefore, to bring about change, it is crucial for religious leaders to reject discriminatory and unjust norms and values while actively promoting inclusion and gender equality.

In Tanzania, Act Church of Sweden works with the Christian Council of Tanzania to address gender-based violence and the prevalence of female genital mutilation. To break this harmful tradition and create sustainable change, the Christian Council is partnering with the Lutheran Church

at all levels of society. This involves educating parents, young people, decision-makers, and religious leaders. Since advocacy is driven throughout all parts of society and by the people themselves, change is both effective and long-lasting. In 2024, seven schools participated in programs against gender-based violence and female genital mutilation, impacting over 10,500 students. More than 28,000 people were trained in violence prevention, and over 12,000 participated in various workshops throughout the year.

Although religion significantly impacts women's and girls' rights, it is uncommon for gender equality advocates to collaborate with religious actors for change. Therefore, we can help foster broader cooperation. For example, in February 2024, Act Church of Sweden participated in a global conference on sexual and reproductive health and rights in Bangkok, Thailand, alongside other academic and civil society actors, including women's rights organisations. The purpose of participating was to enhance collaboration among various actors focusing on women's sexual and reproductive rights and to highlight the contributions of religious actors in this area.

During the year, Act Church of Sweden also published a report on religion and development, which was launched at a seminar in the Swedish Parliament. The report aims to enhance understanding of the role of religion in development issues.

Here are some examples of actions on gender equality and health:

- Support and training on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), including HIV, for adolescents and young adults in Zimbabwe.
- Mentor mother projects in South Africa, Eswatini, Egypt, and Ethiopia, where mentor mothers work with pregnant women and families in marginalised areas, providing information and support on child healthcare, nutrition, and more.
- A Pan-African project that aims to empower women and youth through advocacy for gender equality, protection of widows' rights, and increased awareness of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).
- Projects focused on reducing gender-based violence and forced marriages in Tanzania.
- Support for local churches and children's rights organisations in the Philippines advocating for children's rights and protection from online sexual exploitation.
- Projects to enhance the lives of girls and women in Pakistan, concentrating on addressing gender-based violence and forced marriage while also engaging men and boys in promoting gender equality and coordinating civil society on these issues.
- Actions to strengthen women's rights in East Africa by empowering faith-based change actors and establishing networks for solidarity and gender equality.



34 actions
in the fields of gender
equality and health
were supported in 2024.

The Archbishop visited gender equality projects in Guatemala

In April 2024, Archbishop Martin Modéus visited several of Act Church of Sweden's activities in Guatemala, including a project aimed at preventing violence and supporting vulnerable girls and women. These activities provide psychological and legal assistance for women and girls who have experienced domestic violence, have difficulties in providing for themselves or wish to leave their partners.

Over 50,000 cases of violence against women and girls are reported every year in the country, and the number of unreported cases is high. More than half of the country's girls drop out of school before completing secondary education, leaving many

socially and economically dependent on the men in their lives.

Act Church of Sweden works together with over 25 different partner organisations in Guatemala and, in 2024, supported actions to increase gender equality, sustainable livelihoods, peace and democracy, and humanitarian work. In many areas of the country, the state is absent, and people live in challenging conditions. Here, the church plays a vital role through its social actions, giving hope and support to the most vulnerable.

– I saw how the work of Act Church of Sweden contributes concretely to giving people a dignified life. I feel



Photo: Mikael Stenborg

In Guatemala, the Archbishop officiated a Mass at an educational center run by a Lutheran sister church. In this facility, adolescent girls from disadvantaged backgrounds receive education and support aimed at improving their quality of life.

proud of what we as a church do," says Archbishop Martin Modéus.

The Archbishop's visit highlights the importance of international cooperation and the church's role in promoting human rights and social justice.

Gender equality and education give girls a future

Nearly one in four girls in India is married off as a child. However, progress is being made. Through the work of organisations, like Act Church of Sweden's partner running extensive gender equality projects in eastern India's slums, the number of girls that are married off is decreasing. Act Church of Sweden supports projects for and with girls

and women in Kolkata, Cuttack, and Bhubaneswar.

Millions of people live in slums across India, where unsafe living conditions, unemployment, and food shortages are part of everyday life. Girls and women are especially vulnerable in these environments. Here, Act Church of Sweden works with

the Christian organisation Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT) to support and educate girls and women about their rights, helping them become self-sufficient and unite to grow stronger together. An important part of this work is ensuring that girls attend school instead of being married off.

– We are raising awareness among teenage girls and parents. We try to educate them about the negative effects they will face in life if child marriage occurs," says Polly Mondal, who coordinates gender equality work in the project.

The project provides educational support to girls from families in disadvantaged areas, including scholarships and free textbooks. It specifically focuses on decreasing dropout rates among girls in rural areas. This work is crucial as education creates the prerequisites to fully take part in society as adults, not least in working life. For example, in 2024, 2,981 girls benefited from educational support through the project, enabling them to continue their education and thus improve their future prospects.



Photo: Christy Jennifer/Ikon

Act Church of Sweden supports the Lutheran World Service India Trust (LWSIT), which works on gender equality and livelihood projects in the slums of Kolkata, India.

A voice for peace

2024 went down in history as one of the darkest years when it comes to war and conflicts worldwide. As a church, we bear a special responsibility to tirelessly work for peace and maintain hope. Alongside partners across the globe, we continue to stand up and advocate for peaceful and democratic societies.

Photo: PCHR



Much of Gaza lies in ruins, and the needs are immense. The picture shows what a co-worker from an Act of Sweden partner organisation encountered upon returning home after the Israeli military struck the area.

This year, the conflict in Gaza escalated into unprecedented brutality and humanitarian crises. Reports from both our Palestinian and Israeli partner organisations tell of an incredibly difficult situation. But despite concerns about the future, Act Church of Sweden's partner

organisations and many local forces in Israel and Palestine continue to work towards positive change.

Our partner, the Rossing Center for Education and Dialogue, has long worked to facilitate dialogue and exchange between Israeli and

Palestinian school students in Israel. Despite the ongoing war, in 2024, they continued to facilitate meetings between Muslim, Christian, and Jewish school students. Daring to meet fosters the conditions for living together in an open, tolerant, and multicultural society. During the year, the Rossing Center partially restructured its activities and distributed supplies to affected Palestinian families in East Jerusalem who were indirect victims of the war in Gaza.

Another partner, Dar al-Kalima University, provided psychosocial support to thousands of children and young people. The university has unique expertise in art therapy and, thanks to volunteers from the university, 3,600 children in Gaza were able to use art as a means to process their traumas from the war.

In Sweden, opinion-forming and political advocacy remained urgent throughout the year due to the extensive abuses and documented violations of international law experienced by the civilian population in Israel and Palestine. Around ten partner visits were organised to put pressure on decision-makers in Sweden and the EU.

Here are some examples of peace and democracy actions:

- Peace work in Egypt through strengthening young and women religious leaders as well as civil society actors in conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and advocacy.
- Regional advocacy project focused on human rights and refugee rights in South Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Kenya.
- Project aimed to promote improve interfaith relations in an urban slum in India, with a specific focus on gender equality and interreligious cooperation.
- Project aimed at countering violent extremism in Pakistan, focusing particularly on youth.
- Project to strengthen young women's participation and self-protection, raise awareness about gender-based violence and facilitate dialogues between government and civil society organisations in northern Honduras.
- Projects aimed at increasing women's participation in the drafting and implementation of legislation and policies that affect their rights in Colombia, with a particular focus on young women's political participation and their involvement in peacebuilding efforts.
- Projects aimed at strengthening civil society organisations in Guatemala, promoting women's empowerment, and advocating for the protection of human and environmental rights in rural areas.
- Life-saving medical care for cancer patients and primary care through mobile clinics in Gaza.



**64 peace and
democracy actions**
supported in 2024

Peaceful coexistence in Uganda

South Sudan ranks among the world's most violent nations, forcing millions to abandon their homes. Over one million South Sudanese have sought refuge in Uganda, where Act Church of Sweden supports a project aimed at fostering peaceful coexistence between South Sudanese refugees and the local community.

When resources are limited and livelihoods scarce, conflict is prevalent. However, promoting cooperation and positive exchange encourages individuals to coexist peacefully. The project offers affordable loans and vocational training to help individuals become self-sufficient. In 2024, the project engaged 3,931 participants.

One of the project's primary objectives is to increase the participation of women and youth in peace work. Some activities implemented during the year were vocational training for young people, peer support and mediation led by women's groups,



Photo: Miriam Magdalen Alun/Ikon

Football fosters cooperation and peaceful coexistence among people. Peace Pillar Football Club in northern Uganda demonstrates team spirit, energy, and passion for the game.

and a peace conference where both women and young people from Uganda and South Sudan were represented.

In September 2024, a peace tournament was organised at the Palorinya refugee settlement in northern

Uganda, featuring 40 football clubs. This event involved players from both the local community and the refugee settlement, engaging approximately 1,000 participants. This demonstrates how young people can actively participate in peace initiatives.

Fight for human rights in Colombia

Colombia faces a highly complex situation. Although the 2016 peace agreement between the government and the FARC guerrilla has led to some progress, civilians continue to endure violence and forced displacement in regions controlled by other armed groups and criminal groups.

Many of these areas are rich in natural resources and lack a state presence, leaving residents vulnerable

to exploitation and violence. Many small farmers, Afro-Colombians, and indigenous people have been forcibly displaced multiple times.

Act Church of Sweden supports partners working to follow up on local communities affected by conflict. Through presence, accompaniment and mediation with armed groups and local authorities, our partners have contributed to the safety of the civilian population and provided support for displaced people who wish to return home. The aim is to build a lasting and just peace.

One of the people supported by the project is Angy. Three years ago, she was forced to leave her home as violence in her village escalated. Along with her family and other villagers, she moved into a school hall in the town of Buenaventura. However, a lack of electricity and running water, overcrowding, and the challenge of finding work in the city led them to return

to their village despite the ongoing violence.

– Our local partner has become an important support to Angy and the village population through regular visits and dialogue with armed actors in the area. The inhabitants of the village have been able to resume some farming and fishing, says Eva Ekelund, Regional Director of Act Church of Sweden.

Another project that Act Church of Sweden supports together with Diakonia in Colombia is the annual award ceremony for brave human rights defenders. The award highlights their situation and legitimises their work. Part of the prize includes a visit to Sweden to draw the attention of Swedish decision-makers to the circumstances in Colombia. In May 2024, the 2023 laureate visited Sweden and met, among others, the State Secretary for International Development Cooperation.



Photo: Verdiana Garcia/Ikon Ikon

Angy from Colombia is one of many people who have been forced to give up their homes due to land claims made by armed groups. Today, she has returned to her home village and states that peace must be built from the bottom up.

Religious leaders as agents of change

Religious leaders have a significant impact on their communities and play an essential role in how issues such as the body, gender roles, and sexuality are addressed. Therefore, Act Church of Sweden supports theological education that provides the language, tools, and interpretations needed to counteract injustice, inequality, gender-based violence, and discrimination related to gender and gender identity. Through this support, religious leaders can be empowered in their role as positive role models and contribute to change in their communities.

In October 2024, Act Church of Sweden organised an evaluation conference in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The conference brought together former students and teachers from four African universities supported by Act Church of Sweden: Stellenbosch University and the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, Tumaini University Makumira in Tanzania, and the Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology in Ethiopia.

They gathered to evaluate the results of ten years working with master's programs focused on gender, theology, and health. A central question was: "Can theological education empower leaders in faith-based contexts to serve as change agents for gender equality, human rights, and democracy?"

Throughout the years, hundreds of students have completed their master's degrees. Follow-up studies show that they are now working within churches and communities, actively



In autumn 2024, it was time to evaluate the outcomes of a decade of work on master's programs in gender, theology, and health at four African universities supported by Act Church of Sweden.

contributing to change societies and institutions from within. Participants have confirmed that the education has helped them understand and deal with issues around gender, religion, and health. They have acquired improved language skills and tools to address topics such as gender, development, gender-based violence

and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

Former students expressed how the program has empowered them and how they have been able to concretely apply their skills to create safer communities, particularly for the most vulnerable individuals.

Here are some examples of initiatives in faith and learning:

- Theological training for future priests and pastors in Zimbabwe.
- Financial contributions to an African church conference.
- Refurbishing libraries at theological institutions in Tanzania.
- Pastoral training in northern Tanzania.
- Scholarships for theological education in Tanzania.
- Theological training for future priests with an emphasis on human rights in the Independent Church of the Philippines (IFI).
- Projects aimed at enhancing the ecumenical and interfaith work of churches in Pakistan.
- Strengthening the connection between religious freedom and gender equality in areas especially vulnerable to violence and hatred that polarises religious groups in India.
- Support to theological education in gender, health, and theology, and providing scholarships for theological education in South Africa.
- Ecumenical cooperation to strengthen women's roles in peacebuilding and reconciliation in Colombia.
- Theological training for prospective priests and pastors in the Middle East.



30 faith and learning actions
supported in 2024

Young in the worldwide church

In 2024, the 'Young in the Worldwide Church' exchange finally started up again being on hold for a few years following the Covid pandemic. In May, twelve participants gathered in Rättvik for joint training before embarking on a journey to experience daily life, and share faith and life in another part of the world.

The aim of the exchange is to provide young people from various backgrounds with an opportunity to meet and share experiences, reflecting on life, faith, and the church's mission in the world. Every year, 12 to 16 participants from Sweden travel to partner churches in the Philippines and Tanzania, while an equal number of participants from the partner churches visit Sweden and the Church of Sweden.

In the autumn, twelve youth traveled from Sweden – eight to the Lutheran Church in Tanzania, and four to the Independent Filipino Church (IFI). All participants shared common interests in religion, diverse cultures, and global issues, as well as a desire for new perspectives and experiences.



The Young in the Worldwide Church programme is carried out in partnership with Stifts-gården in Rättvik, offering training in Sweden, along with a three-month placement in either Tanzania or the Philippines. The picture shows the Swedish participants from 2024.

In the spring of 2025, Sweden will host international participants. The exchange between the churches is a central part of the programme, allowing both the Church of Sweden and the sending churches to take part of the participant's reflections and experiences.

The international participants from Tanzania and the Philippines will follow the same preparatory training as their Swedish counterparts and will have the chance to share their experiences in their home churches following the exchange.



Workshop with Act Church of Sweden in the Philippines 2024. From left to right in the picture are Larry J. Herrera, principal of St. Paul's Theological Seminary, along with Laarni Salaguinto and Jennifer Jamias, both teachers at ACTS.

Training future priests in the Philippines

In the Philippines, Act Church of Sweden supports the Aglipay Central Theological Seminary (ACTS), a part of the Independent Filipino Church (IFI). The IFI originated from the trade union movement and strives for equal rights for everyone. ACTS is responsible for training future clergy, emphasising the Church's mission and the active role of the Christian faith in prophetic diakonia. Through their education, church leaders acquire the necessary tools to stay relevant and engaged in society.

With this support, ACTS can, among other things, offer a field training program that allows students to work in parishes and schools, as well as in hospitals and other institutions. This

initiative strengthens civil society and promotes democratic values. Additionally, the seminary offers financial aid to women pursuing the priesthood and who actively work for the rights of LGBTQI+ individuals, women, and children. For the academic year 2023–2024, ACTS reached a record enrollment of 89 students.

The partnership between ACTS and Act Church of Sweden focuses on mutual capacity-sharing and a shared commitment to ensure well educated individuals within the church. The increasing number of students shows that the local church prioritises and values theological education highly.



Together for a better world

The parishes form the foundation of Act Church of Sweden's international work, and local church engagement is the driving force behind our work. Every year, numerous fundraising activities are launched across the Church of Sweden's parishes to support the fight against poverty, oppression, and injustice. Together, we raised a total of SEK 246 million in 2024. It was a record-breaking year!

Thanks to the tremendous engagement in parishes and among private donors in 2024, we have collectively achieved an exceptional fundraising result. This serves as a testament to the many individuals who wish to work together for a better world through Act Church of Sweden. As a church, we stand united with our fellow human beings in a global community.

– We live in a changing world, and the work for human rights is more important than ever. I feel such joy when I see how parishes and individuals express this shared responsibility. In 2024, we achieved our highest fundraising total to date. By focusing on popular education, opinion formation, and fundraising, we foster conditions for resilient communities and a peaceful world. I take pride in being part of a church that takes a stand for people's right to a dignified life. Thank you to everyone involved in this important cause, says Tinde Carlbrand, Head of Fundraising and Engagement at Act Church of Sweden.

In total, just over 68,100 new donors were registered during the year. An initiative to increase the number of monthly donors resulted in an increase of SEK 7.4 million, bringing the total to SEK 37.9 million from monthly giving throughout the year. The Christmas campaign broke records with over SEK 52 million collected. Ahead of Christmas 2024, a campaign was also conducted aimed at Swedish companies, encouraging them to contribute to efforts in Ukraine through winter packages, which received a positive response.

Throughout the year, a total of SEK 31 million was raised, earmarked for disaster response.

Another important source of income is grants from parishes and dioceses. Annual grants are crucial for providing long-term support to sister churches and partner organisations in vulnerable regions of the world. In 2024, a total of SEK 23 million in grants was received, showing an increase from 2023. Parish grants increased by SEK 3.2 million, and diocesan grants rose by SEK 2.4 million. Furthermore, during the year, SEK 55.9 million came from wills, representing an increase of SEK 32.7 million from 2023.

Across Sweden, there is a strong commitment to Act Church of Sweden. In 2024, there were 3,000 registered representatives, along with many more employees and volunteers, who created activities to highlight the work of the organisation. Creativity has been high, with concerts, candlelight vigils, waffle cafés, porridge lunches, and church services with collections being just a few examples of this commitment.

Act Church of Sweden staff also participated in over 70 local events to share knowledge about the international work.

The Agera volunteers, a collaboration for young people between Act Church of Sweden and Church of Sweden Youth, participated in several important events, including the Gothenburg Book Fair and the Almedalen Political Week in Visby.



SEK 246 million

in funding raised in 2024.

Control of our fundraising activities

Act Church of Sweden

- has a '90-account' (registered fundraising account) and is regulated by the Swedish Fundraising Control. The '90-account' provides donors with a clear guarantee that they are donating to a serious and responsible organisation.
- is a member of Giva Sverige (the Swedish Fundraising Association), which works for secure donations, quality assurance, training, skills development and advocacy focusing on ethical, transparent, and professional governance of non-profit organisations.
- offers the Tryggt Givande (Secure Donations) certification, which is issued to organisations that comply with Giva Sverige's quality code, certifying that the organisation stands for quality, professionalism and conducts fundraising in a secure, ethical and transparent manner.

**tryggt
givande**
givasverige

90 SVENSK
KONTROLL
INSAMLINGS
KONTROLL

Photo: Fredrik Bengtsson/Ikon



Fundraising record for the Christmas campaign – Spread light in the darkness

The 2024 Christmas campaign highlighted the importance of spreading light during dark times. As a church we must always strive for peace and never lose hope for a healed world. A quarter of the world's population lives in conflict-affected areas, and Act Church of Sweden's projects focus on some of the world's most vulnerable regions. The Christmas campaign achieved a new fundraising record, reaching just over SEK 54 million, thanks to the remarkable dedication of parishes and private donors.

One element of the campaign was to demonstrate for peace by lighting candles. Parishes across the country organised candlelight vigils and ceremonies in various ways. Additionally, over 6,000 digital candles were lit during the campaign.

SEK 54 million in 2024

(SEK 42.1 million in 2023)

Världens Barn – Making childhood possible

Världen Barn (Children of the World) is Radiohjälpen's (Radio Aid) largest fundraising campaign carried out by Swedish Television and Swedish Radio P4 in collaboration with 13 Swedish organisations, including Act Church of Sweden. The campaign takes place year-round and culminates in a grand finale in September.

The record-breaking fundraising for Världen barn in 2023 gave Act Church of Sweden the opportunity to apply for additional funds to strengthen our projects in 2024. Among other things, we have expanded the project for children with disabilities in the refugee camps in Dadaab, Kenya, to also include refugee camps in South Sudan and Ethiopia. The fundraising has also contributed to improving the physical and mental health of Afghan children and youth living as refugees in Pakistan.

Lenten campaign – Share equally and save lives

The theme for the Lenten campaign 2024 was "Share Equally and Save Lives," focusing on the right to food for everyone. The fundraising results totalled SEK 36.9 million, and we attracted over 15,000 new donors during the campaign period. SEK 17 million was raised through parishes, and SEK 19 million was donated by individuals.

Bread sales, lotteries, concerts, and candle sales are just a few examples of the innovative activities organised in parishes across Sweden. These contributions empower Act Church of Sweden to persist in fighting for every person's right to a dignified life.

Photo: Volf/Ikon



SEK 36.9 million in 2024

(36.7 million in 2023)



150 years of international engagement

In 2024, Act Church of Sweden celebrated 150 years of international engagement, beginning with the founding of Church of Sweden Mission (CSM) in 1874. The year became a joint celebration across parishes and dioceses from north to south. Mission days were organised in the dioceses, photo exhibitions were displayed throughout the country, cakes were baked, and in-depth seminars took place in both Umeå and Ängelholm. Additionally, an anniversary book entitled 'Our Mission: Hope!' was produced. The highlight of the anniversary year occurred when over 800 committed individuals from across the country gathered in Uppsala at the Göra Skillnad 2024 event to engage in inspiring seminars, listen to international guests, and learn more about the organisation. Göra Skillnad concluded with a church service in Uppsala Cathedral.



– The Jubilee Year gave us the opportunity to anchor ourselves in our identity as a church. With 150 years of experience in international engagement behind us, we now aim to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. This embodies what our mission is all about—our mission: hope, stated by project leaders Frida Falk and Nicklas Fahlgren.



Photo: Magnus Aronson/Ikon



Photo: Josefín Castenryd/Ikon



Photo: Magnus Aronson/Ikon

Regular monitoring and goal-oriented work

Act Church of Sweden has goal-driven programmes and a designated function for handling complaints. All work is carried out together with our partners, and we comply with Swedish requirements from the organisations Giva Sverige and Swedish Fundraising Control.

Act Church of Sweden works in line with the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), an international quality standard for humanitarian and development work, focusing on quality and continuous improvement. To ensure that our activities are carried out efficiently and responsibly, various monitoring activities occur throughout the year. These include goal-oriented programmes with regular performance monitoring, a complaint management system, a code of conduct for staff and elected officials, and guidelines on anti-corruption and child safeguarding, among others.

In order to follow and measure the development of our activities, we continuously collect and compile data. One method we take as inspiration for this work is Outcome Harvesting. This method enables us to compare various progress indicators, analysing and understanding both our performance and results in relation to our long-term objectives. At the same time, we identify areas where we need to develop and improve.

We have robust internal control systems and undergo regular external audits that encompass both financial and operational aspects. To ensure accountability and quality, we maintain close dialogue with our partners. The focus is on developing effective accountability mechanisms and to ensure transparency and rigorous scrutiny of our own and our partners' activities.

In 2024, we conducted a review to enhance our efforts in accountability and quality, ensuring that our governing documents are integrated throughout our work. As part

of this, we have begun developing a user-friendly tool to ensure quality and accountability in planning, monitoring, evaluation, and learning. We have also established targets for our quality commitments, providing clear benchmarks for reporting and evaluating our progress in fulfilling them.

The purpose of Act Church of Sweden's complaints function is to receive and handle complaints relating to activities carried out by the Act Church of Sweden itself or together with partners. In 2024, a total of 16 new complaints were received by the complaints function, the same number as in 2023. Of the 16 complaints received in 2024, six cases fell outside the function's area of responsibility, and the complainants were, in most cases, referred to other areas of work within the Church of Sweden. The remaining ten are all related to the work of some of our international partners.

Our commitments to quality and accountability are

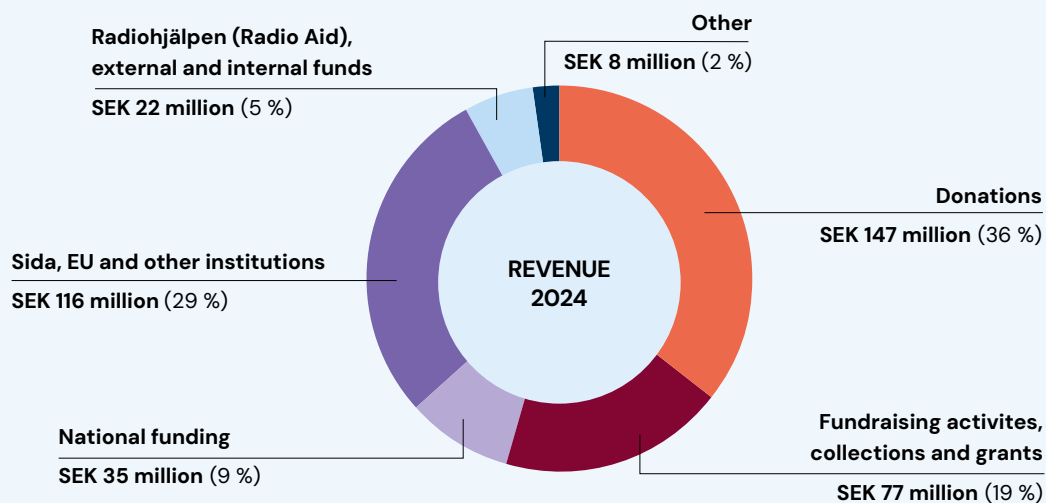
- Working with a human rights-based approach
- Working in a gender-integrated way
- Working towards ecological sustainability
- Working in partnership and reciprocity
- Working in an open, transparent and participatory manner
- Providing effective, results-based, relevant and conflict-sensitive support
- Dealing with complaints
- Being a learning organisation
- Providing support and skills development for staff
- Complying with the Church of Sweden's Code of Conduct and applicable Swedish requirement from the organisation Giva Sweden and the Swedish Fundraising Control, as well as the principle of public access to official records.

How the money was used

Act Church of Sweden's total revenue in 2024 was SEK 406 million. The largest revenue item was gifts in the form of funds raised from private individuals, parishes and dioceses. Operational costs amounted to SEK 453 million, with the majority of the expenditure allocated to church cooperation and long-term development cooperation. Funds raised in previous years were also used to cover operating costs during the year.

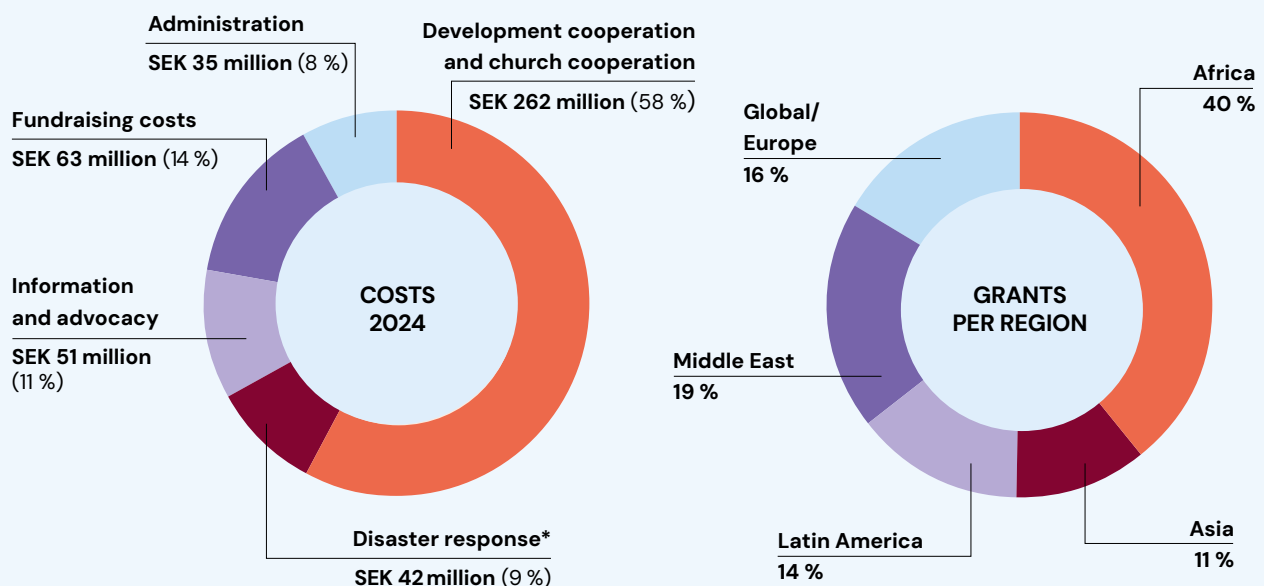
Where the money came from

Funds raised constituted the largest revenue item, followed by grants from Sida, the European Union (EU) and other institutional donors. National funding from the Church Synod and the Church Council also contributed to the work.



Costs

Most of our funds were used for long-term development cooperation and church cooperation, including support for protracted humanitarian crises. A significant part of our support also went to disaster response and advocacy work in Sweden and globally.



* Refers to Rapid Response

External donors

