

ActionAid International

# 2018 GLOBAL ANNUAL REPORT



# CONTENTS

This is a dynamic PDF. Click on the tabs to go direct to that section

<b>Welcome from the Board Chair and the Secretary General</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ActionAid at work</b>	<b>5</b>
Who we are and what we do	5
Our understanding of how change happens and the contribution we can make	5
Where we work and members	6
<b>ActionAid at-a-glance</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>The 2018 global context</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>From across the Federation: a snapshot of our impact</b>	<b>11</b>
<i>Programme priority 1: Addressing the structural causes of violence against women and girls, and securing economic justice</i>	11
<i>Programme priority 2: Ensure increased civic participation and state accountability for the redistribution of resources and delivery of quality, gender-responsive public services.</i>	13
<i>Programme priority 3: Resilient livelihoods and climate justice</i>	15
<i>Programme priority 4: Drive transformative women-led emergency preparedness, response and prevention</i>	17
Global campaign	18
Working with and for young people	19
<b>From across the Federation: how we strengthened rights and challenged injustice</b>	<b>21</b>
Advancing women's needs and rights	21
Advancing young people's needs and rights	22
Safeguarding children's needs and rights	23
Shifting power	23
Working with social movements and people's organisations	24
Learning and generating alternatives	25
Learning lessons	26

<b>Towards unity, learning, diversity and innovation: our journey as an organisation</b>	<b>29</b>
<i>Organisational shift 1: Agile, networked and unified Federation responding to change</i>	29
<i>Organisational shift 2: To build a culture of learning and quality M&amp;E that generates knowledge, evidence-based alternatives and communicates impact</i>	32
<i>Organisational shift 3: To collectively prioritise securing resources from diverse sources aligned to our vision and values to meet strategic funding needs and build a culture of fundraising innovation</i>	33
<i>Organisational shift 4: To embrace a culture of innovation and actively undertake digital transformations that revolutionise our ways of work throughout the Federation</i>	35
<b>Our governance</b>	<b>36</b>
<b>Finance and funding summary</b>	<b>38</b>
Income	38
Expenditure	39
<b>Looking ahead</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>From across the Federation: stories of impact and change</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Financial accounts</b>	<b>81</b>
Introduction and treasurer's note	82
Auditor's report	85
Aggregated statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 31 December 2018	87
Aggregated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2018	88
Aggregated statement of changes in funds for the year ended 31 December 2018	89
Aggregated cashflow statement for the year ended 31 December 2018	90
Notes to the financial statements as at 31 December 2018	91

# WELCOME FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL

## **This year saw substantial challenges and opportunities for civil society in general, and ActionAid in particular.**

As part of the social justice movement, we are encouraged by and celebrate how people facing myriad social injustices have been able to resist, and continue their struggles for rights. Young people are mobilizing around the world for stronger climate change commitments and action, and are leading the charge against dictatorships in protest movements across the world. Women's movements are strengthening their resistance to patriarchy and misogyny and are courageously speaking truth to power. Social movements, displaced people and their allies continue to demand their rights across the globe and are recording important victories.

Despite these inspiring stories, women in many countries are being pushed deeper into poverty by deep cuts in public services, while shouldering a corresponding rise in their unpaid care burden and the continued trend towards insecure, underpaid work and the denial of labour rights. The drastic acceleration of climate change and environmental collapse is severely affecting people living in poverty, with ripple effects felt everywhere – from farmers' struggles to make a living, to the heightened scale and frequency of natural disasters, to largescale migration. Corporate greed, especially in mining and agribusinesses, is further undermining people's access to and control over natural resources, while the democratic space for civic action is being undermined by authoritarianism and persecution of social movement leaders and human rights defenders. The rise of the far right is accompanied by increasing xenophobia, homophobia, racism and misogyny.

In this context, ActionAid advanced its action for global justice in 2018, with a very strong focus on shifting

power from below, working with social movements, adopting feminist lenses and building up rights, redistribution and resilience. Our strategic approach is the most appropriate for the challenging context faced by our Federation and the communities and movements with which we work.

Our humanitarian approach, focusing on promoting women's rights and women's leadership, strengthening local organisations, and advancing accountability in emergencies defined several responses we undertook in 2018. We also made concrete steps towards ensuring that feminist values are applied to the strategies that guide our four programmatic areas. We developed, under each of our platforms, joint engagement, research and learning plans, and our collective achievements on each programmatic area are summarised in this annual report.

In all countries we saw the global strategy take shape. Increased work with social movements is happening in all regions, and the idea of 'rooted campaigning', through which we mobilise people living in poverty and injustice to organise themselves and campaign for their rights, is now deepening, as illustrated throughout this report.

In 2018 ActionAid also increased its mutual accountability, efficiency and transparency. Great progress was made on furthering our policies to prevent sexual harassment, exploitation, abuse of power and other forms of safeguarding. The Federation also developed an assurance plan, increasing our ability to comply with policies and hold each other to account. Stronger management and support of countries at risk was put in place, while our commitment to feminist leadership was furthered with the development of practical tools and increased training.

The 2018 General Assembly took the bold step of agreeing to review our country operating models and all countries made the initial self-assessments, which will provide the basis for more changes in the years to come. This ongoing exercise will allow more agile models of presence across the Federation, ensuring an optimum allocation of resources to deliver our strategy.

The Federation was strengthened in 2018 with the association of Alianza por la Solidaridad, enabling the Federation to learn from and engage with Spanish civil society, strengthen our ability to influence the European Union and strengthen our programmes across the world, particularly in Latin America.

As we have heard at previous Assemblies, financial sustainability is a constant challenge throughout the Federation. Over the past year the Global Secretariat has achieved its first objective of returning to a position of positive reserves, and it aims to increase reserves beyond policy minimum levels over the coming years. We also saw great strides made by many parts of ActionAid in increasing efficiency, managing risk and producing realistic plans that address their financial challenges, all supported by the accelerated roll-out of the Global Finance System. We know that financial concerns are ongoing for many members and the Secretariat itself, and so we will continue to encourage our Director and Finance communities to share best practice and innovations to strengthen our position.


The Federation continues to suffer from higher fundraising costs in the traditional markets for fundraising in Northern countries and lower income performance. However, we saw progress on our strategies to mitigate such risk, such as diversifying our fundraising operations with new investments in Spain and Thailand, and continuing investments in Brazil, India, Indonesia and South Africa. The global fundraising strategy developed in support of Strategy 2028 predicted stagnating income in the early years of the strategy period, as we build up local fundraising capacity in the Global South and modernise our systems and approaches. ActionAid International met expected income targets in 2018 and made substantial progress on fundraising-related change projects such as the Contract Management System, a new website platform, and Child Sponsorship modernisation. However, a major challenge facing all members of the Federation is the switch to a higher gear of growth in order to secure our financial future.

It is in the spirit of accountability and learning that we invite you to read this report and enjoy some of ActionAid International's achievements and lessons learned during 2018 across the 46 countries in which we work. It gives a broad overview of how we collectively advanced our mission and the commitments in our global strategy, and shares some of what we learned from our work – thereby demonstrating how we are adapting to fast-changing contexts. With this report we also seek to show how we apply the resources with which we are entrusted to support our causes, as summarised in the financial and audit statements in the latter pages.


As well as sharing the proud moments and lessons learned from our programme work this year, this report is an invitation to our General Assembly, our supporters, donors and the people with whom we work to reflect on how the trends that push and keep people living in poverty are related (and in particular how they affect women and young people). It is also an invitation to engage and connect with us, so we can join forces to expand our reach and renew a wave of solidarity across the world.

*Thank you for helping make 2018 an insightful and vibrant year.*



  
**Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda**  
 Chair, ActionAid International Board



  
**Adriano Campolina**  
 Secretary General, ActionAid International



Florence [right] is the Executive Director of the Tusitukirewamu Women's Network in Kampala, Uganda, an ActionAid partner working with women who have experienced violence and abuse. PHOTO: KARIN SCHERMBRUCKER/ACTIONAID

# ACTIONAID AT WORK

## Who we are and what we do

ActionAid is a global Federation working for a world free from poverty and injustice. We want to see a just, fair and sustainable world in which everybody enjoys the right to a life of dignity and freedom from poverty and oppression. To make this a reality we work to achieve social justice and gender equality, and to eradicate poverty.

Our strategy is to build international momentum for social, economic and environmental justice. In practice this means working closely with people living in poverty and exclusion, civil society organisations, social movements and our supporters. Together, we deliver grassroots programmes, provide emergency assistance in humanitarian crises, and campaign on issues including women's economic rights, tax justice and climate justice.

## Our understanding of how change happens and the contribution we can make

Our dedicated staff and partners support women and young people to understand their rights and change their own lives. We target the structural causes and consequences of poverty and injustice, and connect this work at community level with broader efforts and struggles nationally and internationally to make the greatest contribution towards a just, equitable and sustainable world. ActionAid works to shift and redistribute power and resources, thereby strengthening the resilience of communities and movements, and fulfilling the rights of people living in poverty and exclusion.

Our work falls into four broad areas: **women, politics and economics, land and climate**, and **emergencies**. We have a particular focus on women's rights – a thread that runs through all our work.



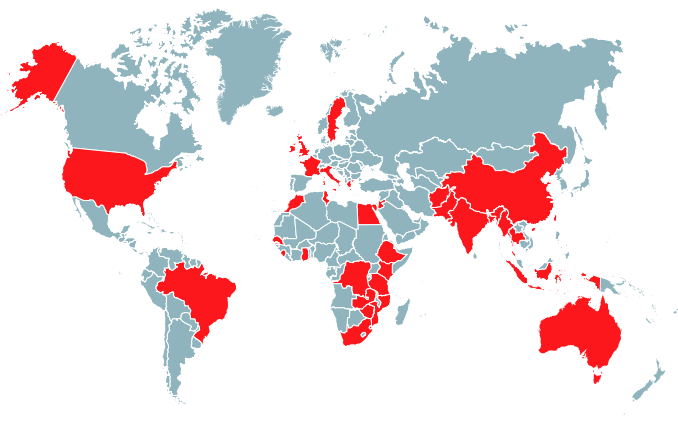
## Where we work and members

ActionAid was founded as a charity in 1972. In the 1990s we adopted a human rights-based approach to development. In 2003, we established the ActionAid International Federation. Our head office is in Johannesburg, South Africa, with regional offices in Bangkok, Rio de Janeiro and in Brussels.

The Federation has three types of membership. **Country Programmes** are branches managed by the Global Secretariat that facilitate the representation, management and coordination of ActionAid International's work in those countries. There are currently 13 Country Programmes.

**Associate membership** is normally a temporary status for organisations in transition towards full Affiliate membership. It is intended that, in time, all Associates become Affiliates. Associates may be: a) former ActionAid Country Programmes; b) new organisations created by ActionAid as Country Programmes that are expected to swiftly become Associates; c) existing organisations outside ActionAid that are considering merging with ActionAid. There are currently eight countries who are Associates, and whatever their longevity, size, location or scale of income generation, have equal powers in the Assembly.

Associates progress through a defined and supported membership development path to become **Affiliate members**. Affiliates – whatever their longevity, size, location or scale of income generation – have equal powers in the Assembly. There are currently 22 Affiliates.



## Member countries

### 13 Country Programmes

Afghanistan, Burundi, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Liberia, Myanmar, Palestine (OPT), Senegal, Somaliland South Africa, Zimbabwe, (Pakistan Country programme was closed this year)<sup>1</sup>

### 8 Associates

Indonesia, Nepal, Rwanda, Spain, Tanzania, Thailand, Vietnam, Zambia

### 22 Affiliates

Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Denmark, The Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, France, India, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Netherlands, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Uganda, UK, USA

### Others

- Arab Regional Initiative – Regional Office
- Brussels – (EU) Office
- ActionAid International Global Secretariat Hubs in London, Nairobi, Johannesburg and Bangkok
- Presence – Philippines and Vanuatu



Cossy, the chair of Makerere Women's Development Association, which supports mainly HIV-positive women through medical treatment and empowers them through livelihood training in Kampala, Uganda. PHOTO: KARIN SCHERMBRUCKER/ACTIONAID

1. After 28 years of working in Pakistan, and following a very protracted process, in October 2018 we were informed about the decision of the Pakistani Ministry of Interior to force 18 international NGOs, including ActionAid, to wind down operations and close by 30 November 2018.

# ACTIONAID AT-A-GLANCE

We are over 4000<sup>2</sup> 'ActionAiders' working across 46 countries in 348 projects, implemented together with 1,955 partners. We have 269 Local Rights Programmes.<sup>3</sup> This year we responded to 22 emergencies and reached 592,820 people. Overall we benefited 5,915,648 people<sup>4</sup> of which approximately 1,435,021 were children. This was made possible by the €210 million of income raised.



2. Compromising core staff, interns, consultants and volunteers.

3. An LRP is ActionAid's Local Rights Programme – a programme of work in a particular region.

4. These numbers refer only to people directly reached by ActionAid's programme work in communities. It does not include people reached by campaigns, advocacy, lobbying, or other forms of external engagement.



Young people at the National Day of Action in Abuja, Nigeria, calling on the President to pass the 'Not too young to run' bill (#NTYTR).  
PHOTO: IBRAHIM FAROUK/ACTIONAID

# THE 2018 GLOBAL CONTEXT

In the 10 years since the global recession, the wealth of the world's billionaires has increased by US\$900 billion (US\$2.5 billion a day) and just 26 of the world's wealthiest people now own the same as the 3.8 billion people who make up the poorest half of humanity. There has been a massive transfer of public to private wealth in almost all countries, and the result is a massive concentration of wealth in corporations – of the 100 richest economic entities, 69 are corporations.

Unprecedented inequality is a direct result of governments failing to resource redistributive public policies and being constrained by unjust tax systems and tax evasion, illicit financial flows, unfair debt burdens, and deregulation of transnational companies. Illicit financial flows out of Africa, estimated at US\$80–100 billion per annum (or approximately double the official development assistance Africa receives) have become a matter of major concern. Simultaneously, public debt and its servicing are a particular problem, especially for Africa, undermining governments' ability to allocate resources to meet their human rights commitments. Sub-Saharan Africa

is confronting a pronounced rise in public debt. At the end of 2017, average public debt in the region was 57% of its GDP, an increase of 20 percentage points in just five years, reaching a crisis point in countries like Ghana, Mozambique, and Zambia. Simultaneously, people's movements, progressive economists and activist organisations in the global north and south are warning against the resurgence of international financial institutions (IFIs) such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, and their hold over macro-economic and social policy making space not just through loan conditionalities but policy advice to almost all countries, especially in the global south.

These mutually reinforcing factors have an impact on all our work – be it holding ground against the erosion of women's rights and the rights of LGBTQIA+ people, climate justice, publicly financed and delivered universal services, civic and democratic space, and an adequate response to crises and building resilience.

Large mergers of seed and agrochemical monopolies, and restrictive intellectual property regimes imposed



through free trade agreements, are adversely impacting biodiversity, farmers' livelihoods, and causing species extinction. IFIs such as the World Bank continue to use policy frameworks such as the Enabling the Business of Agriculture (EBA) to sanction the growth of agribusiness and the concentration of land in the hands of a few. This continues to pose a huge challenge to securing land rights of women and other marginalised groups.

This year was the fourth warmest year on record since 1880. From Cape Town to California to Kerala, climate disasters caused by rising global temperatures ravaged economies, killed thousands and displaced millions. In October 2018, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned that the world has only 12 years to prevent climate catastrophe by keeping global warming to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels by the end of this century. Despite dire warnings, rich countries weakened the rules to implement the Paris Agreement on climate change instead of honouring their commitment to provide US\$100 billion every year by 2020 and then revise it upwards in 2025. While continuing with their extractive use of natural resources and labour in the global South, they continued offering false solutions such as genetically modified crops and geo-engineering in order to help their companies profit from such climate action.

We continued to witness many governments (in the North and South) suppressing dissenting voices within civil society by enacting a range of restrictions on freedom of assembly, expression and association; harassing and demonising human rights defenders; and criminalising dissent through expansive anti-terrorism laws. Increasingly, the ability of civil society organisations (CSOs) to register, operate and/or access funds is declining.

Today's 3.5 billion-strong generation of young people under the age of 25 is the largest the world has ever seen, and accounts for approximately 50% of the world's population. With the rise of digitisation, gig economies, automation and artificial intelligence, together with rampant privatisation, eroded social protection and imminent climate catastrophe, young people's prospects, especially in the world of work, are grim. Globally young people are three times more likely to be unemployed, while over 350 million youths are not engaged in education or employment— of which 77% are women. The majority of those young people

employed work in the informal economy, while 17% of working youth live below the extreme poverty line.

Although we are increasingly seeing right wing mobilisation of young people, we are also seeing a resurgence of progressive young movements. It is worth noting that many of the current global resistance movements are being led and sustained by young women and young people – from the pro-choice movements in Poland, Ireland, Chile, Argentina and South Korea, to climate justice movements worldwide, #BlackLivesMatter in the United States and #FeesMustFall in South Africa. This is why we are deliberate in prioritising support for young feminist activism from local to global. Movements such as #climateschoolstrikes and Extinction Rebellion are bringing the attention of public and policy makers to urgently tackle climate change. ActionAid is in solidarity with these movements and will work to demand that rich countries increase their climate action targets, fundamentally transform their economies and provide finance to climate-affected and displaced communities in the global South. In global climate talks, we promoted youth engagement and mobilisation in Katowice (Poland) – as young people will bear the brunt of the impacts but have no say in policy making. We also used the fact that the summit was held in Europe to highlight the need for Europe to take leadership and contribute its fair share, and for much bigger efforts on the part of wealthy individuals, companies and countries.

This year saw the continued growth of vibrant and committed global and national movements against sexual and gender-based violence, including #MeToo, Time's Up, #YoTambien, #BalanceTonPorc, and #quellavoltache among others. There was also a rise in resistance against the targeted murders of women activists such as Afro-Brazilian politician and LGBTQIA+ activist Marielle Franco, and Ukrainian activist Kataryna Gandzyuk. In Kenya, the #MyDressMyChoice movement continued to protest street harassment and public violence against women while the end of 2018 saw increased attention to an alarming rate of femicide targeting young (mostly university student) women. In Senegal, the #Nopiwouma (I will not shut up) and #Doyna (That's Enough) campaigns against gender-based violence continued to thrive. The prominence of these movements, particularly on social media, brought much-needed attention to the global crisis of targeted

violence against women and LGBTQIA+ people. These movements continued to be met by a persistent right-wing, racist, xenophobic, misogynist and homophobic backlash. And the rise of right-wing conservative governments, even more worryingly, meant serious rollbacks in the fulfillment of women's rights and rights of LGBTQIA+ people. This includes the advocacy for exclusion of specific language on sexual health, reproductive rights, abortion and family diversity from international agreements.

Feminist movements and women's rights organisations increasingly led resistance to sustained neoliberal macroeconomic policies pushed by IFIs and others that maximise corporate greed, continue to work against the rights of women, exploit their paid and unpaid labour, and accelerate the care crisis. To respond to

this, we worked to build coalitions with feminist and social movements and unions in preparation to launch our campaign on women's labour. This campaign is different from any other ActionAid campaign in the past, because its primary aim is to connect and support feminist movements and organisations around a common agenda: obtaining the adoption of the first-ever international convention banning gender-based violence at work; and getting governments to commit to recognising – and redistributing – unpaid care work.

Our work this year helped put the needs of marginalised and excluded people on national and international agendas. The context in which we did this made progress hard won, but this report gives a summary of how our concentrated efforts brought about change and justice.



Clementine with her husband Jean, sharing the household chores, where ActionAid Rwanda is sensitising communities on unpaid care work.  
PHOTO: JEAN BIZIMANA/ACTIONAID





Rani, 26, a domestic violence survivor who now works at the ActionAid-supported Gauravi centre – the first centre of its kind in India, providing temporary shelter and medical, legal, and psychosocial counselling services for women survivors. PHOTO: SMITA SHARMA/ACTIONAID

# FROM ACROSS THE FEDERATION: A SNAPSHOT OF OUR IMPACT



**Programme priority 1:** Addressing the structural causes of violence against women and girls, and securing economic justice

**This year we unified and mobilised women and young girls to address the endemic levels of violence perpetrated against them, and worked with feminist and social movements, networks and partner organisations to engage in policy and advocacy to eradicate such violence. We also intensified our focus on the recognition, reduction and redistribution of unpaid care work to redress power inequalities, and to ensure related laws, policies and procedures were enforced.**

ActionAid's efforts to challenge traditional social and gender norms aim to help families and communities recognise and reduce the care roles performed by

women, especially young women. Many of these efforts have focused on ensuring that public services and spaces are designed to meet women's needs. This year, in Bangladesh, women campaigned for women-friendly market spaces, and day-care centres for the children of rural women entrepreneurs. Through community mobilisation, women also demanded that urban planners include women's perspectives in the planning of public services, such as public transport, as well as guaranteeing funds for measures to reduce violence against women and girls in public spaces.

In Liberia, ActionAid worked with the Ministry of Labour to launch a national 'Mothers at work' initiative aimed

at strengthening awareness, information and support for maternity leave for women – an important step to recognise the care work and the importance of social security mechanisms for women. Also in Liberia, the Domestic Violence Bill, which includes an ActionAid-supported clause banning female genital mutilation (FGM) and other harmful traditional practices – became law this year. Similarly, Myanmar’s Protection and Prevention of Violence against Women (PoVAW) Bill was influenced by ActionAid Myanmar, who worked closely with the Myanmar Police Force, General Administration Department and the Department of Social Welfare to raise awareness on the protection of women and girls.

In Afghanistan, ActionAid became an official state partner in promoting and implementing national strategies to ensure citizens’ (especially women and other excluded groups) participation in decision making on local services and infrastructure at community, district and regional level. A total of 3,224 women and men were mobilised and organised into community development councils, while 4,535 women actively participated in rights-related debates, income-generating activities, and in initiatives to sensitise their communities on child rights, health issues and social norms affecting them.

In Cambodia, our Safe Cities project helped the demands of sex workers to be acknowledged by local police. Complaints related to violence raised by the sex workers and requests for local police to act against perpetrators instead of ignoring them – or criminalising the sex workers themselves – were heard, leading the Ministry of Women’s Affairs to refer to sex worker’s rights as human rights.

Guided by ActionAid’s new women’s rights framework, ActionAid Malawi helped shift the debate on women’s rights by including marginalised groups such as LGBTQIA+ people and sex workers. And to deepen the country’s commitments to labour justice, ActionAid Malawi strengthened partnerships with labour movements and launched the unprecedented #Ndiulula (I Won’t Be Silent) campaign, aimed at breaking the silence surrounding violence against women and girls (VAWG) and strengthening response mechanisms on VAWG in the workplace. Important national institutions, such as the Ministry of Gender, Children, Disability and Social Welfare took part in the campaign, which has mobilised strong solidarity actions

in support of the International Labour Organization (ILO) convention.

Mobilisation by young people and feminist movements for ending harmful traditional practices gained traction in some countries and met resistance in others. ActionAid Nepal this year campaigned for legislation to end the ancient ‘chapaudi’ tradition, which excludes women from the home while they are menstruating, confining them to animal sheds, denying them access to adequate water and food and exposing them to risks of sexual abuse and attacks by wild animals. The campaign included a video highlighting stories from eight women who had endured the practice, and a series of testimonies submitted to governmental authorities attesting to the ill-effects of chaupadi as a practice. This resulted in the practice being criminalised by law and officially recognised as a social problem in local policies (see full story on page 64).

ActionAid’s Arab Regional Initiative this year worked to strengthen women’s rights at the grassroots through establishing four feminist schools. These schools encourage women and girls to mobilise and build solidarity with communities, young men, women’s groups and organisations in order to challenge discriminatory attitudes, practices and policies. By the end of the first year, the students who attended the feminist schools reported changed perceptions on inequalities affecting women in their community as it was the first time these issues were discussed.

Multi-country projects, for example the *Young Urban Women* project mobilising urban youth in India, South Africa and Ghana, and ActionAid UK’s *Not This Girl* appeal for survivors of sexual violence in Kenya, kept women’s rights in the public eye. Meanwhile key moments such as International Women’s Day and 16 Days of Activism were marked by campaigns and large events in countries to strengthen the demand for transformation in women’s lives and an end to gender-based violence in the workplace.

ActionAid Brazil celebrated the achievements of women through the Women of the World festival, of which ActionAid and partners were among the key organisers and contributors. As part of these celebrations, in South Africa 182 young women attended meetings with policy



makers, including their local Members of Parliament, members of the judiciary, and community leaders to demand their rights to safety in their communities and schools. The young women demanded that the police take a firmer stand against perpetrators. In Myanmar, ActionAid organised 16 days of activism, youth-led forums, and training to raise awareness of gender-based violence. The training included adolescent social media awareness, and tools on how to hold their government accountable at all levels.

Internationally we worked closely with the UN's Independent Expert on Foreign Debt and Human Rights, and our submissions featured prominently in his report on the global impact of austerity on women's rights. We also helped coordinate the 'Women's Rights Beyond the Business Case' briefing that forms part of the collection of resources used by Feminists for a Binding Treaty, a collective of women's rights and feminist organisations pushing for a UN instrument on transnational corporations and human rights.



## Programme priority 2: Ensuring increased civic participation and state accountability for the redistribution of resources and delivery of quality, gender responsive public services

**This year ActionAid strengthened citizens' engagement with their own countries' progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),<sup>5</sup> as well as with electoral processes, and in challenging the regressive laws and policies undermining civic and democratic space worldwide. We also contributed to civil society efforts in spotlighting the impact of rich countries' policies on developing countries, including unfair tax treaties and overly generous tax incentives for foreign business.**

As part of a coalition of domestic and international civil society organisations and the *Leave No One Behind* initiative, ActionAid Vietnam advocated for civic participation in the SDG process, providing evidence on Vietnam's progress towards the SDGs and calling for the country's development strategies to put the needs of marginalised groups first. And in Greece, the Global Campaign for Education mobilised more than 35,000 students around the SDGs – 5,000 students sent self-made magazines on the SDGs which were exhibited across Greece and will be displayed in the Greek Parliament. In its report, *We know more than you think*

*we do – Raising voices of marginalised communities on the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals*, ActionAid Denmark amplified the voices of marginalised communities on the implementation of SDGs 5, 8 and 16<sup>6</sup>. Report findings were presented at the SDG High-Level Panel in New York, and at the SDG youth summit in Ghana.

ActionAid Liberia engaged the government in resisting the privatisation of the country's public education system and investing in public education. It supported the new government's first National Education Summit in which extensive discussions were held around public finance for education. In Indonesia, ActionAid and partners, through advocacy actions, succeeded in increasing budget allocation in two districts to approximately IDR 30.4 billion (aprox. €1.9 million). This allowed for the construction of 1,326 classrooms benefiting 50,397 children.

In The Gambia, ActionAid supported Reflect circles<sup>7</sup> to deepen communities' engagement and analysis on the fulfilment, protection and promotion of rights using

5. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 for the year 2030.
6. SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; and SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
7. Reflection-Action is ActionAid's participatory methodology and is the foundation for our work with communities. Within a Reflection-Action process, we are able to support people living in poverty to analyse their situation, identify rights violations and work together and in solidarity with others to bring about change.

a community scorecard, while in Massinga district, Mozambique, a similar community scorecard exercise resulted in the building of facilities to benefit around 1,750 pregnant women.

Meanwhile, progress on the provision of public services saw ActionAid Nepal organise regional forums and produce information, education and communications materials to help local and provincial lawmakers better influence legislation on gender responsive public services and taxation. ActionAid Nepal's mass awareness and advocacy on the Promoting Rights in Schools framework (among pupils, parents and school authorities) and the formation of watch groups and networks for school monitoring resulted in local stakeholders' commitment to ensure free and quality education in public schools.

This year our work on gender responsive public services saw ActionAid Thailand partner with 70 schools across the country to improve the quality of educational services through a shift to an 'active learning approach'. This new learning approach improved the space for creative thinking and thereby improved the attention of approximately 4,550 students, reducing the rate of violence in school settings and increasing acceptance of diversity (gender, race, religious affiliations).

ActionAid Nigeria worked to support CSOs, young people, women, and people with disabilities to make governance processes more inclusive. ActionAid provided technical, organisational and financial support for the successful passing of the 'NotTooYoungToRun' bill – a law reducing the age at which a person can run for public office and opening up the space for young people to participate in decision making.

There were also gains in relation to tax justice. ActionAid Burundi showed through its advocacy work how more funds for education could be found by eliminating tax evasion, tax avoidance, harmful incentives and money laundering, as well as more transparent use of mining revenues. And in Malawi, ActionAid used its study on tax incentives (and their negative impact on revenue collection) in advocacy meetings with MPs from the Budget and Finance, Education, and Social Welfare committees. ActionAid Malawi also conducted awareness campaigns on tax

justice and illicit financial flows, targeting 1,000 women and 1,000 youth. Educational materials were produced and distributed, and a women farmers' coalition, community-based and civil society organisations, journalists, Activistas and the National Tax Justice Platform were trained on the issue.

A 'mock tax tribunal' staged by ActionAid Bangladesh was well attended in November, bringing together experts on all aspects of domestic taxation as well as the impacts of international tax policy. The experience centred on mobilising a Citizen's Tax Tribunal (with jury, testimonies, experts, friends of the court etc), which critiqued the impact of corporate tax avoidance and of VAT on workers, students, slum-dwellers and city-dwellers. This provided an alternative vision of tax that was well covered in the media and shared in a widely circulated booklet which was used for advocacy. And in Denmark, ActionAid and Oxfam Ibis secured a declaration by the Trade Minister that the government would support public country-by-country reporting on the activities of all Danish corporations working abroad.

Also on tax justice, the Global Secretariat coordinated the publication of a series of eight briefing papers on progressive taxation with the aim of increasing countries' capacity to raise revenue in a way that ensures wealthy people and corporations (both domestic and foreign) pay their fair share. The Global Secretariat also conducted a survey to assess how closing civic space has impacted on ActionAid and its partners. The findings of at least 12 countries affected were captured in a report, *Attacks on civic and democratic space: Strategies and lessons from ActionAid's response*. As a result, internally we strengthened our own risk analysis and developed contingency plans, redoubling our commitment to stand in solidarity with those facing these threats by putting in place stronger mechanisms to better support partners, movements, human rights defenders and our own staff.

In Ghana, ActionAid advocated for the passing of a Right to Information bill, while the Arab Region linked young people with municipalities to help them open up democratic space using new laws and policies on decentralisation. We also helped young people in the region to engage with local development plans, and to demand the provision of youth and gender responsive public services.



In Missirah, Senegal, ActionAid training on economic literacy empowered women farmers to meet local authorities and request more gender-sensitive local budgets, and to protest the lack of public services, especially clean water. As a result, local authorities began finally to repair water pipes and install cisterns to make drinking water available. And in Somaliland,

ActionAid's work on women's political representation resulted in the Somaliland cabinet committing to allocate 18% of the coming parliamentary seats to women. In addition, religious scholars in Somaliland called for a ban on the practice of female genital mutilation – helping reduce its incidence in the country.



### Programme priority 3: Resilient livelihoods and climate justice

**This year ActionAid strengthened relationships with partners and movements such as Via Campesina, Africa Food Sovereignty Alliance, the Institute of Agriculture and Trade Policy, and Demand Climate Justice. ActionAid also continued to support the rural women's movement in Africa, and the wider agroecology, land rights and climate justice movements – often bridging these different worlds and linking up local struggles with global processes.**

The push for agroecology as an alternative to the current agriculture model was strengthened in 2018. In April we successfully coordinated a six-member delegation, including a woman smallholder farmer from Ghana, to attend the Second International Agroecology Symposium of the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN-FAO) in Rome. Our approach to agroecology and gender-sensitive access to markets received positive feedback from UN-FAO. At local level this year we saw increased numbers of farmers adopting climate resilient sustainable agriculture (CRSA) in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Rwanda, Senegal and Uganda.

In Ghana over 10,000 women farmers adopted CRSA as a result of knowledge and capacities gained through the support of ActionAid Ghana. Working in collaboration with coalitions, networks and other CSOs, ActionAid Ghana also contributed to policy developments such as the Ghana Climate Change Adaptation Policy. Along the same lines, in Senegal, the integration of agroecology into the new National Agriculture Policy was celebrated and almost 6,500 people – including almost 4,200 women – were trained on CRSA and had

their awareness on national agriculture policies raised. ActionAid became increasingly more visible as the key expert on climate finance, adaptation, loss and damage. With our allies we advocated for fair rules to implement the Paris Agreement and highlighted the plight of climate migrants, demanding that the UN system do more to protect them. The platform also responded to the International Panel on Climate Change's report on global warming and emphasised the need to protect ecosystems through the promotion of agroecology and smallholder farmers' rights to land. We co-authored an influential report with the Climate Land Ambition and Rights Alliance (CLARA) which looked at ways to achieve the 1.5 degree cap on emissions. The platform initiated a project on climate-induced migration in partnership with Climate Action Network (CAN) South Asia. In 2018, more countries, including Ghana, Malawi, Nepal and Zimbabwe, engaged on National Adaptation Plans – the strategies that countries develop and implement to respond to national climate change adaptation needs as part of their international commitments to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Our work on the Voluntary Guidelines on Land Tenure, Forestry and Fisheries (VGGTs) gained ground, with strong global and local connections, especially in Cambodia, Kenya, Nepal and The Gambia. In line with the Kilimanjaro charter of demands on policies and laws for women's land rights and Senegal's constitutional provision for women's land rights, ActionAid Senegal supported 1,880 women to gain greater access to land and other natural resources, improving their livelihoods and food security. And in Zimbabwe, smallholder farmers reported greatly increased access to agricultural extension services

through ActionAid-supported field days, SMS messages, information kiosks, and social media platforms (e.g. WhatsApp groups). In Thailand, ActionAid empowered 1,272 women and 1,859 men to fight for their land rights, along with five social movement groups working on land rights.

Led by ActionAid USA, we challenged the current agricultural-industrial model, calling for a reform of the biofuel mandates that are driving biofuel-related land grabs. In Zambia we worked with the Africa Extractive Working Group, pushing for policy change in natural resource governance and human rights. ActionAid Malawi influenced national policy changes to the Mines and Minerals Act and the development of the Right to Food Bill by working with a wide range of CSOs involved with these issues.

Our Public Financing for Agriculture (PFA) project collaborated with the Promoting Opportunities for Women's Empowerment and Rights (POWER) and Young Urban Women projects to ensure that the voices of smallholder women farmers and other women and girls were heard by the African Union (AU). We worked through the Gender is my Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) platform during the AU heads of state summits, where we advocated for increased investment in agriculture and smallholder women farmers, gender responsive public services and unpaid care work. The collaboration with POWER also made it easier to bring to the table issues around unpaid care work, which otherwise remain undiscussed.

As part of this, in Tanzania ActionAid worked with smallholder Women Farmers' Platform members and other stakeholders to advocate for an amendment to the local government Financial Act, demanding that 10% of district budgets be used for zero-interest loans to women, youth, and people with disabilities. To influence decision makers, a meeting with parliamentary committees on agriculture, tourism and natural resources from both the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) and the national Parliament was organised to reflect on state compliance with the

Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods. As a result, the district council of Singida disbursed a total of Tsh 145 million (approx. 56,000 euros) and Chamwino district disbursed Tsh 16 million (approx. €6,000) as a result of these advocacy efforts.

Through the Partnership for Social Accountability Alliance project in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia we supported the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Parliamentary Forum to pass a motion urging the 16 SADC member states to implement the AU's Malabo Declaration, emphasising the need to improve investment to ensure small holder farmers benefit from agricultural services. At the district and national levels, the project also continued to strengthen social accountability systems for agriculture across the four target countries. In Tanzania, engagements by community representatives from Kilosa and Mbozi districts with the parliamentary committee on agriculture prompted intense debate in parliament during budget hearings and changes to the 2018/19 budget. In Malawi's Nsanje district, local councilors used the findings of community scorecards to uncover mismanagement of district development funds, triggering an external audit that was publicised by investigative journalists. In Mongu district, Zambia, following community engagement with local authorities, small holder farmers have now been provided with an agricultural advisor and a market day has been declared.

Our advocacy work with the coconut breakers movement in Brazil led to the enactment of the National Council of Traditional People and Communities, while in India, the Karmikara Munnade collective of women garment workers in Bengaluru, Mysore, Ramanagar, Mandya and Shivamogga collectively fought the state government's threatened withdrawal of the minimum-wage revision notification. Women leaders met the district collector who accepted their demands, and passed an order permitting benefits for all those in possession of an unorganised labour registration card.



## Programme priority 4: Drive transformative women-led emergency preparedness, response and prevention

**This year we demonstrated our humanitarian signature by focusing on women's leadership in emergencies, being accountable to affected communities, and shifting power to build resilience. The signature proved effective in all the emergencies we responded to, among them the Indonesia earthquake and tsunami, the Rohingya refugee crisis, the East Africa food crisis, conflict and cholera outbreaks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the ongoing war and resultant crisis of Syrian refugees in Jordan and Lebanon, and conflict in Palestine.**

In line with our focus on shifting power and localisation, this year we made sure that local voices were heard at global humanitarian and resilience platforms – a commitment that helped bring about a more gender-inclusive global humanitarian response and brought women much closer to the heart of decision making. Our new *Guidance note for participation of local women responders in global humanitarian spaces* set out recommendations for effective participation of local women responders, as well as recommendations and tips for organisers and sponsors of such spaces. In 2018 we increased our partnerships with women's and women-led organisations, directed as much

funding as possible to local partners, and supported them to take part in the coordination mechanisms they are usually unable to access. This year half of the national and local organisations that partnered with ActionAid in humanitarian responses were women's organisations, and 77% of ActionAid's response funding went as directly as possible to local organisations.

Countries have implemented over 60 projects on disaster risk and reduction. In Vietnam we established women-led disaster risk reduction groups and trained them in planning, budget analysis, as well as communications and advocacy. The women leaders of these groups regularly represented their communities in local disaster risk response planning and budgeting, livelihood development and communications with local authorities to request support for disaster preparedness and response for the community.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo ActionAid worked with unaccompanied children and refugees and implemented women-led protection risk planning. This work included our cash-based intervention, which used mobile devices as the most effective way of disbursing cash to affected people and families due to its convenience, confidentiality and transparency.

In Sierra Leone we built the capacity of district disaster management groups on women-led preparedness and response, and in Zambia we established women's committees in the refugee response and supported women's participation in coordination meetings. In Zimbabwe we facilitated the establishment of disaster risk reduction committees led by women, which now have 50% women's representation.

Early warning system training was provided by ActionAid for 235 communities in Afghanistan to strengthen the capacity of community-based disaster management committees, while in Gaza we established community-based, women-led protection committees that analyse protection risks for women and develop protection plans. And through the Danida-funded programme, 'Strengthened Rights and Resilience in Protracted Crises and Disasters', ActionAid led the wider sector in



ActionAid worked with local women who led the sorting and distribution of donated clothes following the powerful 7.5 earthquake that struck Central Sulawesi in September, causing a tsunami and destroying many homes. PHOTO: ANDRI TAMBUNAN/ACTIONAID



developing a resilience approach tailored to protracted crises. This year we implemented activities in Palestine, Jordan and Lebanon to explore how our Resilience Framework can be adapted to such crisis contexts.

We were also one of the winners of The **Humanitarian Grand Challenge** which recognised our innovative work in Jordan where we will be using mobile technology to combat violence against women refugees, providing vital and up-to-date information and awareness on rights, local services, women's safe spaces, and access to sensitive and confidential sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) referral services. It will have the functionality to report SGBV incidents and to map risk areas in urban areas. This pilot project will work in partnership with a national mobile network operator and local women's protection action groups and will refine the SGBV treatment model in Jordan.

During 2018 we increased our influence in specific humanitarian spaces at a national and global level to increase the voice and representation of women and young people and their organisations, specifically on gender-based violence (GBV) and protection – as part of this we engaged in the Global Protection Cluster and led on GBV advocacy. We also made good progress in the creation of a new Feminist Humanitarian Network – a global network of women leaders committed to a transformed humanitarian system that promotes a feminist humanitarian agenda.

In November 2018, working with a group of women's networks, youth alliances and local partners operating in protracted crises, we revised the Strategic Humanitarian Assessment & Participatory Empowerment (SHAPE) framework to incorporate protection, safeguarding and women's leadership. At the end of the year we began revising our approach to needs assessment to ensure it is gendered, intersectional and participatory. We have taken care in all of these initiatives to integrate ActionAid's Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse (SHEA) and safeguarding approaches.

More broadly, ActionAid joined and signed the Grand Bargain<sup>8</sup> in February 2018, and participated in the localisation work area and the Friends of Gender Group. ActionAid developed a policy paper, *Not what she bargained for? Gender and the Grand Bargain* that influenced the discourse at the Grand Bargain Annual Meeting in June on the role of women responders in emergencies. The policy paper helped to build consensus among signatories on the need to ensure greater focus on gender in the Grand Bargain workstreams as they move forward. Additionally, ActionAid's leading role in pushing for a more inclusive global humanitarian platform is also reflected in the recent election of ActionAid Kenya's Executive Director, Makena Mwobobia, to the Board of the Core Humanitarian Standards Alliance.



## Global campaign

**This year we brought together global unions, women's rights and feminist organisations, and CSOs to lay the foundations for ActionAid's global campaign on Women's Labour, Decent Work and Public Services. The campaign will be launched in May 2019. Bringing together these potential allies helped to strengthen the debate on women's labour across the ActionAid Federation.**

The preparatory work for this coalition-led campaign enabled countries to start a dialogue with communities

and women's groups to raise awareness, increase their level of engagement and to gather evidence. In Ghana, for instance, both ActionAid and partners worked together to increase the recognition of the burden of unpaid care work, and to seek redistribution and reduction of this burden.

In France, the campaign *From Invisibility to Equality* was used as a starting point for a long-term strategy

8. The Grand Bargain is an agreement among more than 30 of the biggest donors and aid providers, which aims to put more resources into the hands of people in need. It commits donors and aid organizations to providing 25 per cent of global humanitarian funding to local and national responders by 2020.

aimed at increasing awareness of the unjust working conditions faced by domestic workers employed by French companies overseas. Building a solid coalition between domestic workers' unions and organisations, as well as major trade unions and international NGOs (such as ActionAid France and CARE) so that they could develop common messages for public campaigning and advocacy was a vital step, especially in the face of limited resources, restricted organising capabilities and lack of coordination between organisations that represent domestic workers and/or support their efforts. This campaign, which had a defined time limit, served as a foundation for negotiations with political authorities to ensure the ratification of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 189 on Decent Work for Domestic Workers. Social media also played a major role in the effectiveness of France's campaign around domestic workers and its lasting effects. From March 8 to November 24, 2018, seven videos were produced and broadcast, featuring testimonies from domestic workers, a researcher's analysis and a call to action. These videos generated 228,732 views on social networks and 3,470 comments.

Our programme work on women's rights, public services and civic participation, resilient livelihoods and climate justice and the Youth Working Group were instrumental in shaping this campaign, as well as in the production of evidence for the advocacy work during its implementation process. At the same time, the campaign is a key tactic to support shifting power across our programme priorities as it aims to:

- make gender responsive public services a recognised way to reduce the unjust burden of unpaid care work on women;
- expose how international financial institutions' policies on tax, debt and austerity are undermining investment in gender responsive public services and thus impacting unjustly on women;
- expose the World Bank's support for privatisation and public-private partnerships as an ideological option that undermines women's rights;
- build a powerful movement to challenge the IMF and World Bank in these areas, which starts to shift their policies and practices by 2021.

The fact that our campaign is coalition-led has allowed us to become a more reliable and trusted actor in the discussions related to women's labour, enabling us to bring community representatives, women and young people together.

In addition to the global campaign, across the countries and the programme priorities ActionAid continues to campaign on different fronts as a powerful tactic to promote and influence changes. At least 23,684 stakeholders have been engaged in empowerment, advocacy and campaign actions. Additionally, countries reported approximately 550 advocacy initiatives with ActionAid involvement and at least 179 instances of change resulting from our campaigns. For instance, Irish Aid's new policy *A Better World* contains firm commitments to gender equality in line with ActionAid Ireland's submissions.



## Working with and for young people

**During 2018 ActionAid made strides in working with and for young people to initiate and advance action for global justice. As part of the Federation's commitment to prioritising youth, most countries placed young people's issues at the heart of their programme work, and continued supporting Activista, local youth movements and building alliances with youth-led networks to drive ActionAid's mission.**

ActionAid Kenya supported citizen's forums for young people's and women's political education and mobilisation to demand the delivery of gender and youth responsive public services. And by connecting with labour movements, domestic workers, sex workers and cross-border traders, ActionAid Malawi mobilised 2,000 young women to fight workplace sexual violence, and to demand decent work and public services that address their needs.

ActionAid Ghana supported a youth-led mushroom farm collective to improve livelihood opportunities for rural youth and raised awareness on women's rights and decent work among 5,000 Activista and Young Urban Women Movement members. This year saw increased awareness and interest on the part of young people – especially women – in participating in civic and leadership spaces. A movement of young people led by Activista Ghana and the Global Platform Programme continued to demand good governance and accountability, and to secure the support of religious leaders for redistribution of unpaid care work and the banning of cultural practices like child marriage and witchcraft accusations.

ActionAid South Africa supported Activista to host camps for young people to raise awareness about gender-based violence at work, and the Decent Work Agenda, while Activista networks from Bangladesh, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Thailand and The Gambia held collective actions, protests, workshops and webinars that helped drive change and social justice in communities.

As part of its commitment to empowering young people as leaders and decision makers, and to ensure that their perspectives and participation inform ActionAid's interventions, ActionAid supported the convening of the Youth Working Group (YWG) – a collective of young people, primarily women from the Global South (Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Denmark, India, Kenya, Liberia, Palestine, Philippines, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe). The aim of the group is to develop and drive a progressive feminist youth and political agenda within and beyond the Federation, and to give strategic direction to International Platforms,<sup>9</sup> ActionAid leadership and youth focal points in countries to ensure our work addresses the systemic causes of multiple intersecting crises facing young people.

Working with the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), ActionAid's Global Campaign team and ActionAid's Women's Rights Platform, and the YWG developed a youth-centered advocacy pamphlet on young workers' rights and the binding convention

to end gender-based violence at work, which was shared among youth focal points and women's rights coordinators across the Federation for popular education and advocacy. During 16 Days of Activism, ActionAid India, Nigeria and South Africa disseminated the information among youth networks and mobilised young people and Activistas to lobby their governments to vote in favour of a binding convention in 2019.

As part of our commitment to work with social movements, in 2018 we collaborated closely with young feminist allies, which has been critical in developing not only a youth agenda, but more importantly a youth-led, progressive, political and intersectional project to advance across and beyond the Federation.

Other examples of ActionAid's work with and for young people include supporting the G20 Feminist Economic School and the No to G20 Feminist Forum in Argentina. This brought together social movements, feminists and youth from the global south to share alternatives and build solidarity to resist austerity, oppressive trade agreements and the rolling-back of people's rights and social protection. ActionAid Brazil's work with many networks of young people, such as the Youth Forum of Pernambuco and Youth of the Brazilian Savannah Cerrado – which aims to mobilise young people around feminist economics, their rights to land, work, education and a life free from all forms of violence – also demonstrated ActionAid's willingness to support and be challenged by progressive youth movements.

In 2018, the Federation supported many initiatives that demonstrate the power and importance of connecting local, regional and international struggles among and between young people, youth and social movements and feminist allies across the globe. These included the People's Global Conference alongside the IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings; the Youth Summit in Ghana; the Activista Conference in Zimbabwe; ActionAid Denmark's support for various youth councils to influence local politics; ActionAid Tanzania's support to a youth-led organisation to monitor expenditure of public funds and ActionAid Italy's convening of young refugees, asylum seekers, and students to demand access to education, labour rights and housing.

9. International Platforms are spaces where countries can come together to share and integrate their plans, make decisions on policy research, advocacy and campaign initiatives, and share learnings and experience.





In parts of western Nepal, women and girls like Ishu, 14, have traditionally been banished to a hut every month during their periods – a practice outlawed this year with ActionAid support. PHOTO: POULOMI BASU/ACTIONAID

# FROM ACROSS THE FEDERATION: HOW WE STRENGTHENED RIGHTS AND CHALLENGED INJUSTICE

**In every country, women and girls have fewer opportunities than men and boys. Women and girls are likely to be poorer, more vulnerable to violence and other risks, and more likely to be excluded from economic, political and social opportunities, just because they are female. This year, across the Federation, ActionAid worked to combat such inequality, and the poverty that exacerbates it.**

## **Advancing women's needs and rights**

Poverty is not only about a lack of income, but a lack of choices and lack of power. To promote lasting change, this year we supported women-led projects, whereby women could best invest their efforts and increase their control over resources and inputs. In Burundi we helped to create a network of women-led smallholder farmers

– an important step towards empowering them to undertake land protection planning, agro-forestry and soil conservation practices. And in Afghanistan we worked to include women in financial institutions such as banks, access to which has traditionally been reserved for male family members or community organisations. Enabling women in remote areas to have bank accounts for the first time meant they were finally seen as individuals with economic independence and power.

Meanwhile, in Ghana, efforts were made to involve men directly in the redistribution of unpaid care work at home and in the community, enabling women to have more time to engage in economic activities. In addition to this change in men's behaviour, our advocacy work with local and national government paid off: the recognition of women's unpaid workload resulted in the provision of social public services that reduce this load. In this way, the project in Ghana helped shift the invisible cultural norms that see women's place as in and around the home, and that limit their capacity to get out and about and build relations beyond the family unit. Strategies such as these, used in the context of Ghana, reveal ActionAid's increased capacity to address the subtle, less clearly visible forms of power that reinforce women's social exclusion, such as cultural and religious norms or traditions.

Through these experiences we learned that, in order to target the underlying, root causes of gender inequality and violence, we need to adopt an approach that permits open discussion of women's functions, workload and the influence of social norms. As women become more aware of their social condition and consequently, more empowered to take on strategic positions that were formerly occupied by men on a local level, we witness changes in the perceptions and behaviours of individuals, which ends up leading to shifts in power dynamics within the household and at the community level. Such clear signs of change show us that we are on the right track. As we continue to ensure that people (men and women) understand the importance of the redistribution of power and resources, at a local level, we will continue to strengthen the resilience of communities and movements.

We realise there is more that can be done and that we need to amplify our work on redistribution of care

work at the household level, to demand that the state plays its role through providing public services such as early childhood education, care for people living with disabilities and the elderly and universal health-care services. The first step would be to guarantee full access to these public services for all segments of the population, especially women, which can be financed by tactics such as progressive taxation. By promoting budget accountability, government priorities can be shifted in such a way that they truly meet people's needs. For example, in Kenya, communities influenced the annual budgeting and planning processes in eight counties, resulting in increased access to gender responsive services for over 124,00 people. One of the counties had an increase in budgetary allocation to the health sector from 35% in the 2017/2018 budget to 39% in the 2018/2019 budget.

## Advancing young people's needs and rights

Young people were prioritised across the Federation's programmes and projects in 2018, with progress made in amplifying their voices – the first step towards including youth demands and needs in our main programme priority areas. Youth participation was strongly fostered in Denmark, Jordan, Nigeria, Tanzania, and The Gambia, showing us new ways to go about mobilising people, strengthening community-based organising and advancing advocacy efforts. In projects carried out in Tanzania and Denmark, an investment was made in spaces that affirm youth as leaders, such as Youth Councils, which not only help train young people in democratic tools, active citizenship and opinion making, but also prepare them for making authorities accountable and able to institute effective interventions in public policy making. The recently passed 'Not too young to run (NTYTR)' bill in Nigeria was a successful example of space being opened up for youth in electoral and governance processes.

With their new and fresh ideas, youth have also served as an inspiration, showing us new ways to do activism, as in the case of Jordan, where young people have made use of creative tools, such as video, digital storytelling, theatre and social media platforms in campaign activities. In The Gambia, young people used resources such as social media to express their

opinions and challenge government on all fronts, showing how effective such forms of expression can be in community outreach sensitisations and caravans. It is evident that the use of such powerful tools and tactics have helped marginalised social groups, such as youth, to raise their voices in public debates, providing them an opportunity to deliver their messages to the wider public and be heard by decision makers.

## Safeguarding children's needs and rights

Over the past year, within many programmatic areas we have witnessed strategies and actions that have had positive impacts not only on women and young people, but also on children. For instance, our women's rights programme – focused on women's economic empowerment and on reducing unpaid care work and violence against women and girls – also benefited children's well-being and development. In The Gambia, the provision of milling machines to communities has contributed to reducing the workload for girls, thereby allowing them to have more free time to pursue their studies. In Bangladesh, an increase in child immunisation coverage has helped to drastically reduce the school dropout rate, in comparison with previous years. This is a result of our work to improve public services.

In Cambodia, at least 8,466 people (4,321 women and girls), many of whom are children, improved their nutrition through balanced meals because of improved rice and vegetable production, as well as the increase in the availability of fish.

When planning humanitarian responses to climate crises, the interests and needs of children have been increasingly brought to the fore, given that the youngest generation living in poverty is likely to bear the brunt of environmental disasters. In Bangladesh, children were organised to lead a child-centred disaster risk reduction initiative, aimed at mitigating risks of disaster within their community. And in Nepal, 40 schools were supported to develop a disaster management plan and trainings were provided on disaster risk reduction for teachers and students.

Schools have been important strategic spaces for mobilising and empowering children, as well as fostering

new skills and knowledge in relation to health, hygiene and forms of leadership. Within school clubs, student councils and girls' camps, children have been able to raise issues affecting their education in the presence of school administrators, gain understanding of reporting mechanisms for violated rights and take part in specific ActionAid-organised campaigns. One school in Tanzania benefited from an ActionAid-supported water-harvesting system following demands by students that school administrators address the problem of water shortages in the school. In Cambodia, due to ActionAid's work, 69 schools adopted a curriculum that helped children learn climate change adaptation skills.

An important initiative taken up by many countries is support for the creation of early childhood development centres, aimed at safeguarding fundamental rights of children. ActionAid Malawi is supporting early childhood development in nine primary schools, reaching a total of 3,628 children (2,116 girls; 1,512 boys). In 2018, 100 (60 female, 40 male) caregivers and 40 (20 male; 20 female) management committee members from 10 early childhood development centres were trained in a range of teaching methods so as to enhance the quality of education and care. In Rwanda, efforts were made to establish more early childhood development initiatives in rural areas, so as to ensure equal access to early childhood education.

## Shifting power

A benchmark of ActionAid's international strategy is its capacity to shift diverse manifestations of power in such a way that structural transformations take place locally, regionally and nationally. When it came to visibly shifting signs of institutionalised power, this year the Netherlands made enormous progress in incorporating human rights safeguards into legislation focused on a just and equitable energy transition. ActionAid Netherlands' lobbying efforts not only contributed towards putting the issue of renewable energy supply chains on the agendas of industry, parliament, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate, but also stimulated greater transparency in the guidelines set down for creating renewable and sustainable energy sources.



And in South Africa, community-based ‘social audits’ this year prompted changes in the way mining policy and legislation is formed. These innovative social audits involved public consultations in communities affected directly by mining, resulting in a new mining legislative framework that recognises communities as key stakeholders who should participate in all areas of mining governance. And in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, strategies aimed at shifting power focused on giving more attention to a social group invisible in political policy making and community-based structures: internally displaced persons classified as ‘unaccompanied children’ (including members of child militias who are exposed to multiple risks).

## Shifting power

ActionAid worked to address the intersecting inequalities in sexual orientation, gender identity, location, caste, ethnicity, class, disability, age and race that exacerbate poverty and exclusion. The interventions were devised with both urban and rural poor, and specifically women and young people, to support the voice and agency of the most excluded groups such as the Bambute people in Democratic Republic of the Congo, sex workers, LGBTQIA+, refugees and migrants. The focus was on strengthening the negotiation, communication, lobbying, leadership and engagement skills of people’s organisations and social movements.

During 2018, various countries undertook efforts to shift ‘invisible power’, which often manifests itself in cultural norms. For instance, in Rwanda, simple yet effective measures such as the construction of girls’ rooms and the dissemination of information about menstruation and sexual health and reproductive rights by school matrons led to the breaking of taboos around hygiene, the promotion of ‘gender friendly’ school environments and the reduction of school absenteeism by girls. Along similar lines, we condemned the negative effects of the ‘chaupadi’ tradition in Nepal, influencing and laying the foundation to change local and national policies, through bills and legal codes such as the Local Government Operation Act and the Criminal Code Bill. And in Senegal we addressed the social norms that encourage early marriage and contribute to girls’ high dropout rates through training members of school management committees in ActionAid’s Promoting Rights in Schools framework and encouraging trainees to share their knowledge.

## Working with social movements and people’s organisations

Over the past year, country reports revealed that ActionAid’s links with a diverse range of movements had grown to 1,871, many of which have been grouped into networks and coalitions that act at local, national and international levels.

**1,871**

Networks and coalitions supported by ActionAid

**2,745**

Initiatives undertaken by ActionAid’s partners with ActionAid’s active participation

**5,840**

Networks, coalitions, organisations and community groups with increased capacities

This has undoubtedly increased their ability to connect different struggles and forge a political platform that encompasses a wide range of themes across different territories. For instance, ActionAid Australia organised a campaign exposing the links between the effects of the coal mining industry's operations, and diverse forms of gender-based violence, in solidarity with the Greater Phola Ogies Women's Forum in Mpumalanga, South Africa. This action was especially effective because ActionAid Australia went beyond national borders in the construction of its campaign. It honed in on the social audit of an Australian-run coal mine in South Africa, using it as an example to denounce its multiple negative impacts on poor communities, and in particular on women, such as increased HIV infection rates, food insecurity and unpaid work.

During 2018, ActionAid used a wide range of strategies and tactics to organise groups and communities to gain visibility at local, regional and national levels, and to intervene directly in public policy making. One tactic commonly used is that of Reflect circles, which are especially useful for collective reflection on – and identification of – the signs and causes of social injustice, as well as bringing people together for strategising and campaigning. In Nepal, Reflect circles were a valued method for mobilising young people in tax justice campaigns and sensitising them on the right to information as a basic human right.

Other methodological approaches also proved especially effective in community organising, such as the Female Extension Volunteers programme undertaken in Ghana, through which women farmers gained access to farmer-to-farmer support, increasing their knowledge on how to improve the sustainability and productiveness of their agricultural practices. In Reflect circles and capacity-building training in Nepal and Ghana, information collected from 'time diaries' was extremely important for raising awareness of women's unpaid care work, and for mobilising stakeholders to reduce and redistribute this burden within families and communities.

## Learning and generating alternatives



Many countries also made use of tactics associated with 'social learning', through investing in solid research, documentation and information dissemination.

Countries reported that 387 knowledge products were produced, shared and used for learning during 2018.

A considerable number of stakeholders – over 7,700 – reported satisfaction with the way such products were used – a clear sign of the potential they have for increasing the visibility of ActionAid's work and highlighting the scale of its impact.

In the Netherlands, ActionAid conducted a research project that culminated in the *Human rights in wind turbines supply chains* report, which received much media attention and was followed up by lobbying work – a combined effort that led to two motions being adopted in parliament, calling for transparency in renewable energy supply chains. And in Guatemala, solid research conducted by ActionAid on the expansion of palm oil plantations was crucial in generating cross-sector debate and political advocacy for measures such as the formulation of a binding UN treaty to make multinational corporations accountable for human rights abuses committed overseas.



## Learning lessons

One of the lessons learned from our programmes in 46 countries this year is the importance of adopting a bottom-up approach focused on the empowerment of people's grassroots movements in such a way that they can become fully engaged in civic, political and governance processes. Harnessing collective power from below through long-term, consistent work in communities that links social justice efforts and struggles is one of the most effective facets of ActionAid's strategy. The experiences that have proven to be most successful tend to combine diverse strategies, such as capacity building, people-led mobilisation, lobbying and advocacy with social learning, sound research and information dissemination.

In addition to being diverse, strategies that connect local, regional, national and international levels in such a way that local and global contexts converge can foster significant and long-lasting impacts. Many countries have difficulty connecting these different levels – in the stories of change gathered for 2018 there seems to be a stronger connection between local and national levels than national and international levels. The challenge presented to a diverse, multi-faceted international Federation such as ActionAid involves how to ensure connections at all levels so as to maximise the impact of its actions and facilitate 'scaling up', from the bottom up. A key question to address is: how can ActionAid be rooted and immersed in local dynamics, while also transforming power and policies at regional and international levels?

## Empowerment

This year ActionAid worked and engaged with numerous beneficiaries and stakeholders, including parents, children, farmers, women, young people, widows, boys' and girls' forums and women's forums. It also helped organise groups such as human rights watch groups concerned with migrant welfare, and groups of people living with HIV/AIDS. We also engaged with decision makers such as local and traditional leaders, chiefs, courts, federal and local government, public office holders, community councils and public authorities. Finally, we worked alongside social movements, networks, and coalitions, and built alliances with academia.

ActionAid this year ensured people's representation and support to beneficiaries in different joint action committees and forums set up to influence policy formulation and implementation. We also focused on developing an interface of communities with duty bearers so as to hold duty bearers accountable for their responsibilities and solidifying their commitments through collective campaigns and campaign actions.

ActionAid has supported advocacy for advancing individual and collective empowerment of the people most affected so that they can know, claim and defend their rights over the long term.

Another challenge is how to ensure that capacity building and advocacy are founded on a strong power analysis – one of ActionAid's trademarks as an international Federation. How do we address power in a systemic way, by analysing and getting to the roots of its cross-cutting manifestations – especially in an ever-changing world order where neoliberalism, patriarchy and religious fundamentalisms are constantly merging and inventing new ways to oppress women and other socially marginalised groups?



Challenging visible power is something at which ActionAid has – over time – become very adept. This is not surprising given that the essence of our human rights-based approach (HRBA) is holding the primary duty bearer, i.e. the state, accountable. Hidden and invisible forms of power, such as corporate power or fundamentalism, are intangible and do not present an easily identifiable ‘enemy’, which makes them difficult to tackle. While ActionAid has recently enhanced its HRBA by foregrounding power analysis, stronger understandings of power are still to be internalised by many of our staff and partners at all levels, and many countries still have difficulty in recognising the ways in which their strategies and actions have contributed towards shifts in power.

One of ActionAid’s most innovative strategies is its humanitarian signature – a methodology for building humanitarian responses that address gender issues, control over funds, and accountability of humanitarian actors towards people affected by disasters. It is designed to empower people – especially young people and women – and community-based organisations to respond in their distinct ways to life-changing catastrophes and disasters, rather than imposing a standard or supposedly universal approach. This year we can testify to the rise in women-led humanitarian responses in a wide range of countries.

However, we have also learned that to promote lasting change there is need to shift the control of humanitarian resources. To this end, ActionAid is challenging key actors in the global humanitarian system to give way to the global south leadership. Therefore, it is key for ActionAid to have mechanisms in place that can capture the benefits of this shift in power towards women-led humanitarian responses and the accompanying processes at global level. Our approach to shifting and redistributing power and resources should inform other actors of the risks and opportunities associated with involving new humanitarian actors.

During 2018 there have been visible signs of progress in the construction of solidly built alliances with diverse social movements, especially in the context of campaigns, which represents a key strategy for ActionAid. A challenge within the current context, in the face of forces that have progressively contributed

towards shrinking political and civic space, is the construction of new methods for analysing power dynamics, such as risk mapping and scenario mapping. These methods, used in conjunction with other social actors, such as peoples’ movements, will enhance proactive planning and responses to possible attacks.

One of the most important lessons from 2018 was the importance of investing in high-level reporting, research and investigation, as well as creating diverse knowledge-management products, many of which rely on audio-visual social media. Knowledge management products, ranging from booklets to videos, are tools that serve multiple purposes. First, they have aided strategies for community organising and development, helping community members gain new perspectives on key issues through popular education efforts, such as capacity building and Reflect circles. Beyond increasing awareness of ActionAid’s strategies among stakeholders and wider audiences, they also have continually aided negotiations with decision makers. During the past year, many countries have used social management instruments and products as a basis for intervening directly in existing policies implemented by multilateral development institutions, such as the IMF and World Bank, as well as contributing towards the construction of solid new public policies in different thematic areas.

When dealing with issues that directly challenge institutionalised powers, such as resistance to large-scale development projects and the violation of human rights by large enterprises, we have seen that tactics such as rigorous reporting and coverage by the media tend to raise the awareness of a wide range of social actors – policy makers, governmental authorities and companies. They also contribute to structural changes in legislation, social policies and legal procedures. Countries such as the Netherlands believe that linking their research work on the negative impacts of mining to what might be viewed as a ‘hot topic’ such as energy transition, unquestionably allowed them to reach a broader audience, composed of politicians, policy makers and social media.

In 2018, we witnessed the importance of collecting evidence and case studies in order to drive real change, as they are fundamental to fostering learning within the Federation. Undeniably, case studies have represented important forms of exchanging information,

documenting key lessons, celebrating successes and evaluating setbacks. Aligned with the three programme pillars – Rights, Resilience and Redistribution – such case studies can provide the backbone of an increasingly dynamic monitoring system (see Organisational Shift 2) and fuel Actionaiders’ analytical skills, as they seek collectively to understand the different ways in which the institution can effectively shift power dynamics on local, regional, national and global levels.

ActionAid continued to grapple with the challenge of enhancing its monitoring system, which, over the past year, has been further developed and more closely integrated with its learning processes. There is an internal challenge to create flexible monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) mechanisms that are capable of documenting the impacts of innovative approaches used in the different programmatic areas, as well as tracking the subtle shifts in power that result from strategic actions carried out on all levels (from local to global).

Beyond question, methods aimed at documentation, research and monitoring of concrete evidence of changes that have occurred over time have continued to transform ActionAid into an organisation deeply devoted to learning. In light of its mission as a ‘learning’ organisation, through such innovative mechanisms,

ActionAid will continually increase not only the quality of its interventions in local communities around the globe, but also the efficiency of its networking and public policy making across national borders for years to come.

While our core work is to hold the state accountable as the primary duty bearer, we recognise that there are hidden and invisible forms of power operating inside decision-making spaces that require attention. For instance, the work around natural resources and climate change is dominated by so-called experts. We need to shift that power, recognising the communities as the real experts and that it is their voices and experiences (traditional knowledge) that should determine how to protect their eco-systems.

Similarly, most of the processes related to the management of natural resources and climate are closed – for example, Green Climate Fund processes and National Adaptation Plans. These processes are dominated by government agencies and the UNDP, with no or little space for the voices of local communities. ActionAid and other NGOs are invited to many government consultative processes, while communities are not. To shift the power, we need to understand how and why these spaces get closed and how we can bring the communities that are affected into them.



ActionAid Thailand partnered with 70 schools to improve the quality of educational services through prioritising mindfulness and creativity – an approach that improves students’ attention and reduces violence in school settings. PHOTO: KESWALI YENSUDJAI/ACTIONAID

# TOWARDS UNITY, LEARNING, DIVERSITY AND INNOVATION: OUR JOURNEY AS AN ORGANISATION

ActionAid International has four objectives that guide the internal shifts required to deliver our Global Strategy, *Action for Global Justice*. Realising these objectives is essential to make the most of our collective power to drive change and strengthen our accountability to people living in poverty and exclusion. This is how we collectively advanced these priorities in 2018.



**Organisational shift 1:** Agile, networked and unified Federation responding to change

## Country strategy development and alignment

Following the adoption of our new strategy in December 2017, ActionAid Country Programmes, Associates and Affiliates developed **country strategies** in consultation with wider national stakeholders which were fully aligned with our unifying Global Strategy.

## Fit-for-purpose operating models

In 2018, most ActionAid entities started to implement internal change processes (which are also part of the alignment process) to ensure they have **fit-for-purpose organisational structures** that are effective for the delivery of their new strategies. Significant strides were made in the **Country Model Review (CMR)** process,



with the completion of pilots in various regions that enabled the fine-tuning of the self-assessment tool by countries and which will inform the next steps for establishing the organisation's footprint. This important organisational change process will continue in 2019 and will contribute to developing various operating models for ActionAid entities so that the Federation remains financially sustainable, efficient, and effective in responding to change.

As part of this internal change process, ActionAid Country Programmes, Associates, and Affiliates continued to assume international responsibilities for the Federation on behalf of the Global Secretariat through delegations. In 2018, the International Board approved three new delegations: Alianza por la Solidaridad (ActionAid in Spain) and ActionAid Italy will lead the work on migration in the Mediterranean and the Sahel; ActionAid Bangladesh will lead the Resilience Programme and Policy; and the Expression of Interest received from ActionAid Italy and Alianza por la Solidaridad to carry out market scoping and the development of a business case for fundraising in Spain.

## Collective programming and campaigning

**International Platforms** remained effective as collective spaces where countries prioritise and deliver programmes, and as a key mechanism to demonstrate the dual role (national and international) that ActionAid entities play in the Federation (each ActionAid entity is engaged in at least one International Platform and all four International Platforms are championed by countries). Similarly, in harnessing the collective power of young people, the Youth Working Group, together with young feminists and youth activists from across the globe, developed a progressive and intersectional feminist youth agenda that promotes youth participation, leadership and mobilisation. ActionAid's new Global Campaign, which will be launched in May 2019, also became an excellent platform for demonstrating a networked Federation, connecting our rooted programmes with global issues. In addition to external allies from trade unions, feminist movements and young women's movements, ActionAid countries significantly contributed to developing the campaign strategy. Country teams contributed to shaping the

campaign design and direction through the Campaign Assembly, comprising members from ActionAid countries across the globe.

## Strengthening compliance for mutual accountability

As part of enhancing mutual accountability within the ActionAid Federation, all ActionAid entities participated in a self-assessment exercise in the form of a **Declaration of Assurance** that ensures compliance with ActionAid International's core policies. The assurance reporting identified the following three policies as being mostly complied with: Policy on Purchase of Property and Policy on Borrowing; Whistleblowing Policy; and Cross Border Fundraising and Supporter Management Policy. The following four policies were seen as being least complied with: Resource Allocation Framework; Framework Engagement with the Corporate Sector; Child Protection Policy (which was noted straight away as a top priority for urgent action and improved assurance); and, Membership Regulation. Building on the findings of the assurance reporting, actions were formulated to address policy non-compliance and to further strengthen mutual accountability across the Federation.

## Safeguarding

**Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse (SHEA) and other safeguarding concerns (including child abuse and abuse of adults at-risk).** In 2018, the international aid sector was shaken by allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse of power perpetrated by humanitarian and development staff. We know that this is not a new challenge for the sector but the revelations that arose in 2018, coming alongside global movements such as #metoo, marked a critical moment for the sector to re-commit itself to make genuine and long-lasting change. We are outraged and saddened by revelations of sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse in our sector and we cannot be complacent. ActionAid is committed to challenging injustice and creating a working environment free from harm, building on our feminist approach to support survivors and hold those responsible to account. As part of our commitment to being transparent and encouraging others to hold

us to account, we shared our global statistics on sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse and other safeguarding concerns. In 2018, across the ActionAid Federation, 25 complaints were raised relating to SHEA and safeguarding:

- **14** complaints of sexual harassment;
- **9** complaints relating to child abuse/exploitation;
- **2** complaints of sexual exploitation and abuse of rights holders and communities in which we work.

In line with statistics across the sector, there was a significant increase in reporting levels from 2017 to 2018. We are encouraged by this as we believe it suggests that staff and others, particularly women, feel enabled to raise concerns and come forward. We do not believe this means that more inappropriate behaviours are taking place. We recognise that this is a hugely underreported area globally and that the numbers we are seeing may be the ‘tip of the iceberg’. We know that there are numerous barriers to reporting and we are committed to creating a work culture in which everyone feels able to report concerns with confidence that they will be addressed robustly and in line with our values.

In 2018 we undertook the following to advance safeguarding commitments:

- A Global SHEA and Safeguarding Lead was appointed, and the team’s size and capacity is increasing. The Global SHEA and Safeguarding Lead reports to the Secretary General.
- ActionAid has brought SHEA and Safeguarding into its governance structures: the Global SHEA and Safeguarding Lead reports into the Human Resources and Organisational Development Board Committee and has a separate reporting line to a named SHEA and Safeguarding Lead on the ActionAid International Board.
- A SHEA and Safeguarding Reference Group was formed, consisting of staff from across the Federation, who work with the Global SHEA and Safeguarding Lead to provide strategic direction on ActionAid’s SHEA and Safeguarding approach, and focus on strengthening ActionAid’s work culture.
- Policies have been developed and updated: the updated Child Protection Policy, the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Policy,

and the ActionAid International Code of Conduct were approved by the General Assembly. This work will continue in 2019 to ensure that our policies are in line with best practice.

- A SHEA and Safeguarding Focal Point network was developed across the Federation so that all ActionAid offices have a staff member dedicating 25% of his/her time to roll out SHEA and Safeguarding principles into all areas of work.
- The Global SHEA and Safeguarding Team began to strengthen ActionAid’s investigative capacity, carrying out trainings, and this work will continue in 2019.

Looking forward, ActionAid is committed to taking a complaint/survivor<sup>10</sup>-centred and intersectional feminist approach to SHEA and Safeguarding, recognising the different ways in which people can experience harm. We will continue to develop this approach in 2019, working with diverse groups to ensure that our approach is based on the experience, expertise, and needs of complaints/survivors.

## Strengthening membership development and organisational governance

ActionAid Federation members continued to strengthen their national governance structures through governance reviews and capacity development initiatives targeted at their boards and assemblies. Many members made efforts to make their governance bodies more inclusive and accountable by strengthening representation from various communities and movements with whom ActionAid works. For example, ActionAid Vietnam included community representatives from remote regions and ethnic minority groups in their national board. Similarly, ActionAid Sierra Leone ensured representation of young people in their governance structure. In some countries such as Cambodia, Ethiopia and South Africa, where currently there are no national boards, efforts were made to form and enhance Advisory Boards/ Councils to strengthen accountability and legitimacy. In 2018, the ActionAid Federation welcomed Alianza por la Solidaridad of Spain as its newest Associate Member. Alianza’s association is expected to enhance ActionAid’s influence through its various partnerships in Latin America, Africa and the Middle East.

10. The term survivor refers to anyone who has experienced some form of harm, we use it to empower individuals as the term ‘victim’ can be viewed as disempowering. Individuals can choose what terminology they feel most comfortable with.



**Organisational shift 2:** To build a culture of learning and quality M&E that generates knowledge, evidence-based alternatives and communicates impact

## Measuring change, learning and generating knowledge

### Global Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL)

#### Framework for Action for Global Justice (2018-2028):

As part of the roll out of the MEL approach and strategy, the new global monitoring framework was finalised after in-depth consultations. The framework establishes some overarching measures that will be used to document and report the global scale and reach of the Federation. It also suggests MEL tools and processes to generate useful learning about what works, for whom, and under what conditions.

**Supporting International Platforms:** Informed by our learning based on evidence and empirical research, and with the active engagement of countries, each of the four International Platforms fine-tuned the Global meta-theory of change according to each area of work. This process resulted in the development of the programme frameworks which include nested theories of change<sup>11</sup> that are being rolled out in member countries through a series of face-to-face meetings, webinars, working group meetings, emails and one-to-one support.

#### Facilitating communities of practitioners and functional networks:

The Evaluation and Accountability Global Leaders (EAGLES) and the Learning and Knowledge functional network continued to evolve and strengthen with members from key global secretariat functions and countries in the Federation. A series of learning events took place over 2018 and new ways of facilitating members' engagement were used, such as an online internal social network (Yammer space), in addition to the regular communication through emails, blogs, a newsletter and dedicated regular meetings.

**Value for Money Framework:** Our work on Value for Money (VFM) was organised through the development of Value for Money framework and guideline. The framework is built on the experimentation, testing and learning gleaned from country assessments and from ActionAid's approach to monitoring, evaluation and

## Knowledge products: examples

- Programme reports, assessments, and evaluations in Australia, Cambodia, Brazil, Denmark (through outcome harvesting methodology), Greece, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Uganda.
- Partnership reviews in Kenya.
- Short impact videos and photo stories in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, Kenya, the UK and the USA.
- Participatory review and reflection exercises in Arab Regional Initiative, Ghana, Greece and Nigeria.
- Documenting stories of change: 10 in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Thailand.
- Research projects, reports and case studies in Mozambique, Somaliland, Senegal (Promoting rights in schools), Bangladesh, Cambodia, Greece, Vanuatu (research with two partners on gender responsive frameworks).

learning. The final pack includes a Value for Money framework, a position paper and an assessment guide.

#### Investing in our people, technical capacities and systems to deliver quality MEL at all levels:

Investment in people and learning and accountability processes and systems emerged as a big focus of work in 2018 given the transition to the new MEL approach. Countries made significant efforts to better prepare themselves to respond to the emerging needs.

11. When considering the theory of change for a complex, multifaceted, long-term intervention, there is often a need for a series of such nested theories of change or theories of reach, i.e., separate theories of change to capture how the interventions are expected to work at different levels or stages of the process.



Significant advances include:

- *Management Information Systems and Database:* To improve the quality and use of data and information and to improve planning and reporting. Burundi, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia, and Zimbabwe are examples of countries that invested in the development or advancement of the Management Information Systems and Database.
- *Baseline studies:* As many countries developed new strategies and programme frameworks, new baseline studies were developed (Malawi and Vietnam) to understand the starting point of implementation of the strategic cycle that informs the targets.
- *Evidence generation:* In 2018 the Federation produced over 387 different products to generate and share knowledge, as well as provide sound evidence of results from our work.
- *Capacity building:* To adapt to the new programme frameworks, countries invested in the capacity building of staff and partners on the topics listed below during 2018:

## Capacity building in 2018

- Programme design with focus on women and girls' rights or on needs of the most marginalised (including humanitarian programming) in Australia, Ghana, Myanmar and the UK.

- Monitoring Evaluation and Learning in Brazil, Greece, Guatemala, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, UK.
- Improving facilitation initiatives such as coaching, mentoring, trainings, discussions, active participation and exposure visits in Australia, Malawi, Tanzania.
- Development of programming tools such as the toolkit for the defence of natural resources in Senegal.
- Training for staff and partners on our HRBA, results-based management, monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management, research design, outcome harvesting, campaigning, communicating impact, and fundraising in Cambodia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Haiti, India, Myanmar, Somaliland.
- Through peer-to-peer learning, several MEL colleagues in different ActionAid countries had their capacity built, for example in Denmark.
- The first stages of building a quality system and manual that will lead to an ISO-certificate in 2019 describing the processes of how we monitor, learn and evaluate programmes (for example in the Netherlands).
- Creation of community of practice for disaster preparedness with IHART and Nepal (Australia).
- ActionAid USA piloted the use of Virtual Reality in fundraising in order to 'take' donors/ prospective donors to places where ActionAid is delivering humanitarian response or other programming in 2018.



**Organisational Shift 3:** To collectively prioritise securing resources from diverse sources aligned to our vision and values to meet strategic funding needs and build a culture of fundraising innovation

Countries are working hard at the Global Strategy/s goal of diversifying income. Local fundraising has become imperative due to declining income from child sponsorship as well as an increasing trend for donors to fund Global South organisations directly rather than through Northern counterparts. Many countries

report dedicated efforts to raise more income locally from restricted sources (Institutional and Philanthropy and Partnerships). Institutional and Philanthropy and Partnerships' income now constitutes over 60% of Ghana's total income, with Sierra Leone at 62%, Zimbabwe at 70%, Myanmar at 74%, and DRC at 80%.

Several countries say they have now made fundraising a part of job descriptions and key performance indicators (KPIs) for non-fundraising staff. Whilst overall there is a slight decline in income from restricted sources for Global South countries, this is mostly due to lower Global Fund income in Malawi, and masks growth in many individual countries such as Zambia, Mozambique, Haiti, and Bangladesh among others. Working in consortium and partnerships, donor engagement, effective proposal development, and greater visibility of ActionAid's brand and work through effective communications are all increasingly important for winning larger contracts. Zimbabwe, Zambia, Bangladesh, and Kenya exemplify this. Zimbabwe and Zambia have won strategic funding directly from donors, and Kenya has successfully built consortia for larger bids. Meanwhile, ActionAid Bangladesh's interactive digital platform content reached more than 20 million people, which also helped to attract donors.

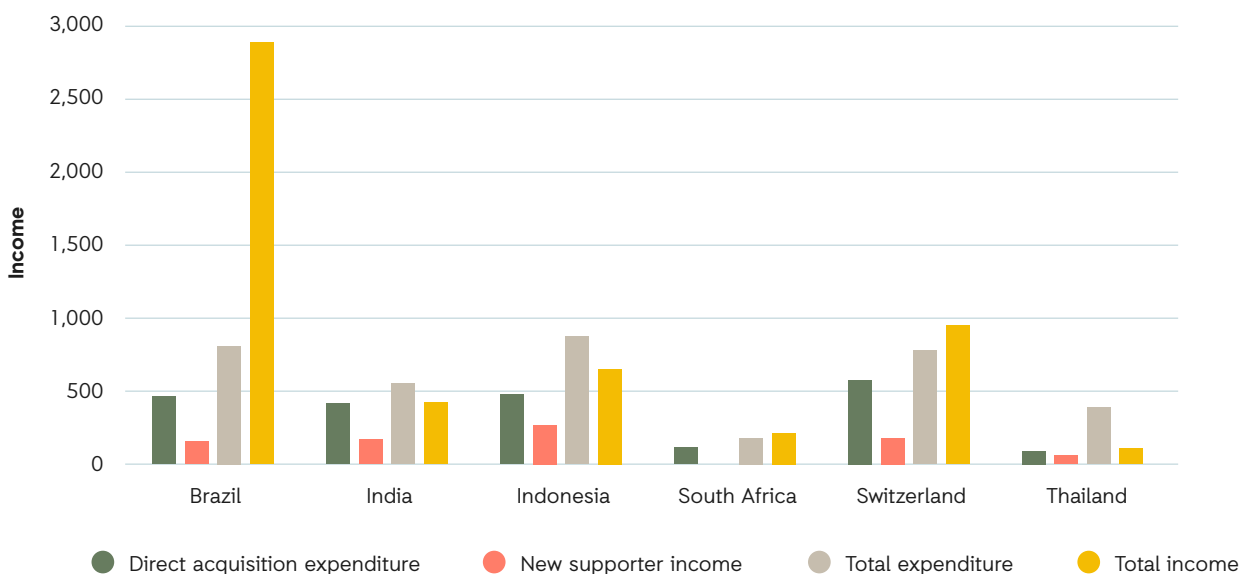
Gearing up to meet donor compliance standards is a challenge facing many countries. The interconnectedness of the Federation and the institutional donor environment mean that problems in one country can have unexpected negative impacts in another very quickly. The positive news is that the Contract Management System, which aims to support better grant management, was developed in five pilot countries in 2018 (Bangladesh, Kenya, Malawi, Myanmar, and the UK) and is expected to launch in early 2019.

Increased learning, collaboration and developing new ways of working within ActionAid to pursue donor funding is becoming crucial to ensure synergies and greater influence. Examples include ActionAid Kenya working with four other ActionAid countries – Somaliland, Tanzania and Uganda – to develop a regional fundraising strategy and hub; and ActionAid Myanmar is focussing on developing an innovative fundraising and programmatic strategy. Both initiatives were supported through catalytic grants from an internal Flexible Fund, introduced in 2018, which also provided seed funding for a number of other sustainable local fundraising initiatives.

Recovering costs in donor-funded projects is crucial for financial sustainability. The decline in unrestricted income has driven home the importance and demand for the cost-recovery training and guidance initiative led by the Global Secretariat. Cost-recovery is now firmly on the ActionAid agenda and five countries have received training and are embedding the practices (Arab Regional Initiative, Haiti, Myanmar, Sierra Leone and the UK) with many more signed up for the training in 2019.

**New fundraising markets investment:** Across the board, ActionAid's fundraising investment countries met 80% of their targets in 2018 against 80% spend.

### Individual giving investment country performance 2018



Some of the most outstanding achievements with our investment countries have been:

- The turnaround of ActionAid Thailand's fundraising programme in 2018 to achieve 148% of full year targets. ActionAid UK started investing in Thailand at the start of the year and providing intense technical support.
- ActionAid South Africa has introduced a new, unrestricted regular giving proposition to help diversify its income and recruited 900 new donors in the last quarter of 2018. This year they achieved 94% of their full year target.
- ActionAid India saw a 32% increase in individual

giving income compared to 2017 and doubled its corporate income between 2017 and 2018.

- Although not represented above, ActionAid USA achieved 86% of its full year target, helping to raise much-needed funds for the Rohingya emergency response.

Some of the challenges experienced by the investment markets included political and economic uncertainty (Brazil) alongside a more competitive space for securing fundraising suppliers (Brazil, Indonesia, South Africa). However, with ongoing year-on-year income growth across the sector in these countries, these investment countries will continue to prosper in future years.



#### **Organisational Shift 4:** To embrace a culture of innovation and actively undertake digital transformations that revolutionise our ways of work throughout the Federation

ActionAid has prioritised investment in promoting a culture of experimentation and innovation, which identifies, tests, and scales up new ideas, including new business models, to make us more efficient, effective, and agile at all levels and in all aspects of our work. There are varying degrees of progress across the Federation that can be attributed to different factors, including a lack of common understanding of what digital transformation means within the Federation. While some members have focused on investing in the technology infrastructure required to build a strong base from which to digitally transform, very few have so far managed to work on using it to respond to the external environment – a part of digital transformation that holds immense value for ActionAid.

In 2018, investment in and adoption of Microsoft Office 365 as a business and collaboration tool was high across the organisation. The use of some of the tools in the package will increase efficiency and has the potential to also contribute to strategic shift 1 (a unified and networked Federation). The upgrade to the new Global Finance System was reflected positively in most country reports, putting us on track to full-scale implementation.

Although there appears to be an effort from some members to embrace digital and technology in programmes, there is not yet a systematic way to

support and document these at a global level. We can learn more from what countries are doing and possibly re-use some of the tools/ideas that already exist in other parts of the Federation. An example is the fact that we have multiple Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning systems in different countries. While the contexts differ, there are some fundamental basics that could be adopted by specific sets of members (e.g implementing countries) and customised to meet local requirements. In the current environment all systems are being designed and built from scratch. Another challenge faced by some staff members is the introduction of multiple systems and tools. More investment needs to be put into training and orienting all staff if we are to maximise the benefits of digital transformation.

It is exciting to see that ActionAid is constantly reflecting and transforming itself, and this will help us achieve our strategy. However, there is a need to set up structures and mechanisms that allow for true digital transformation. To do so, a Digital Strategy is being developed and through a consultative process will provide a framework for how the organisation should embrace digital transformation. It will seek to address the gaps, challenges and learnings and support an ActionAid that is forward thinking and pays attention to both the internal and external environments in order to optimise and maximise results for the people we are working to serve.





Abigail demonstrating to the community how to fill in a time diary to support ActionAid's campaigning on unpaid care work in Ghana. PHOTO: SHELDON MOULTRIE/ACTIONAID

# OUR GOVERNANCE

This year was significant in that we moved from transition to fully fledged implementation of *Strategy 2028: Action for Global Justice*.

**10th General Assembly meeting held in June 2018 in Athens, Greece:** This year the ActionAid Federation decided on the crucial building blocks for organisational change to achieve our strategy at its Assembly in June 2018. These changes are described in the organisational shifts section. The Assembly also discussed the changing external context and the need to change the Federation to adapt and respond effectively.

Alianza por la Solidaridad was welcomed to the ActionAid International family. Participants reflected on the importance of Alianza's association, in terms of ensuring our growth, presence and impact (as well as our influence in Spain), in addition to the added value of the various partnerships and work of Alianza in Latin America, Africa and Palestine.

The Assembly decided not to carry the motion on our Resource Allocation Framework as members had substantial questions such as the impact new contributions can have on countries, the targets set for

programming versus operational costs, and sequencing the changes needed with the development of long-term financial strategies.

In the wake of the sexual exploitation and sexual harassment scandals that made headlines in 2018, the ActionAid International Board – informed by our organisational zero-tolerance policy and feminist leadership principles – felt that the issue went beyond sexual harassment and was in fact one of systemic abuse of power. The General Assembly discussed how the Federation can advance its policies and actions on safeguarding, and on ensuring zero tolerance to sexual harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse of power, and approved the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Policy and the ActionAid International Code of Conduct.

**Networked governance: ActionAid International representatives and interaction between the ActionAid International Board and National Board chairs:**

As we mature as a Federation we are deepening our commitment to dual citizenship.<sup>12</sup> An important element

12. ActionAid members are independent, but as part of the ActionAid Federation they are also mutually accountable to one another, and cede some of their power to the international level for the greater good of the Federation. As such they are 'dual citizens'.

of it is to encourage greater board-to-board collaboration and learning through the appointments of international representatives. The ActionAid International Board agreed to increase communication and interaction with all members by ensuring it has dialogue in between assemblies, and being purposeful in listening to members and ensuring that all voices in the Federation are heard. The Board agreed to continue the practice of regularly holding joint sessions with the National Boards of members that host International Board meetings.

**Elections:** The Assembly approved the renewal of the term of Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda as Chair of the Board for an additional term of three years. Elections to the International Board took place, guided by our Board retirement schedule.

#### Elections for ActionAid International Board

Stepping down	Taking up the role
Chiara Somajni (vice chair)	Ingrid Roestenburg Morgan
Trine Pertou Mach	Poguri Chennaiah
Vijay Shunglu	David Kios
Roberto Kishinami	-

#### Elections for Assembly Committees

Assembly Organising Committee	Elections Committee
Jacqueline Mutuku (Assembly convener)	Ousman Cham (Convener)
Mary Pendo	Noris Chirwa
Chipiliro Kansilanga	-

ActionAid International expressed deepest gratitude to **Chiara Somajni (vice chair), Trine Pertou Mach, Vijay Shunglu, Roberto Kishinami** who have each been extraordinary members, giving generously their time and expertise to our mission. The ActionAid International Board also made changes to the structure and composition of its committees to strengthen performance, effectiveness, regional representation, as well as support to the Board.

**Vice Chair appointment:** Andrew Purkis was elected by the Board as Vice Chair in accordance with the ActionAid International Constitution, which stipulates that the Vice Chair of the Board is elected by the Board.

**Performance management of the Secretary General:** Led by the Chair with support from the Vice Chair, the Board also completed the annual performance review of the Secretary General and agreed on priorities for the following year, while identifying key performance areas of achievement and those areas in which the Board and the organisation should support the Secretary General.

**Holding the Board to account:** In addition to the Annual Report, the Assembly welcomed the Chair's report to Assembly. As part of our aim to ensure accountability and transparency, the report outlined progress made by the Board in fulfilling its oversight functions, including guiding, supporting and providing perspectives on the work of the Global Secretariat, Federation members and Country Programmes; periodic review of analysis of risks and challenges facing the organisation; and ensuring adequate risk mitigation strategies and actions are in place to meet internal and external accountability requirements.

**Mutual accountability – demonstrating compliance:** The Board reflected on the joint commitment of the Federation to strengthen assurance and mutual accountability, building on the approval of the assurance policy and the General Assembly discussion after countries' self-assurance exercise results were presented. The Board approved the proposed assurance plan subject to amendments, which together with programme quality standards and tools will substantially strengthen our assurance and compliance across the Federation.

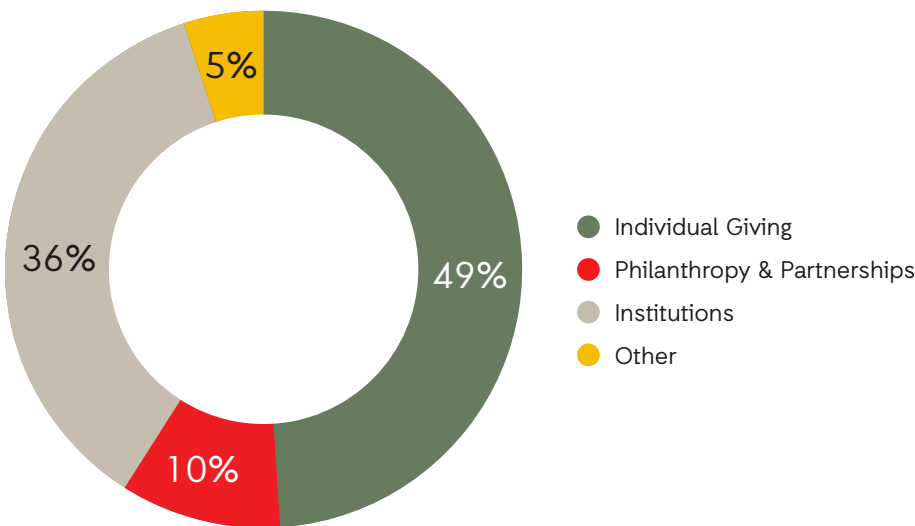
**2018 retreat and evaluation – Board review and reflection:** The Board had an in-depth retreat, focusing on deepening the collective knowledge of ActionAid International's history (with an emphasis on our rights-based approach and Internationalisation), understanding the external and internal context, reflection on ActionAid International's key organisational shifts, and adequacy in responding to context and identification of some areas for collective leadership. These areas will inform the focus of the International Board and offer insights into trends in the Federation's development.

# FINANCE AND FUNDING SUMMARY

## Income

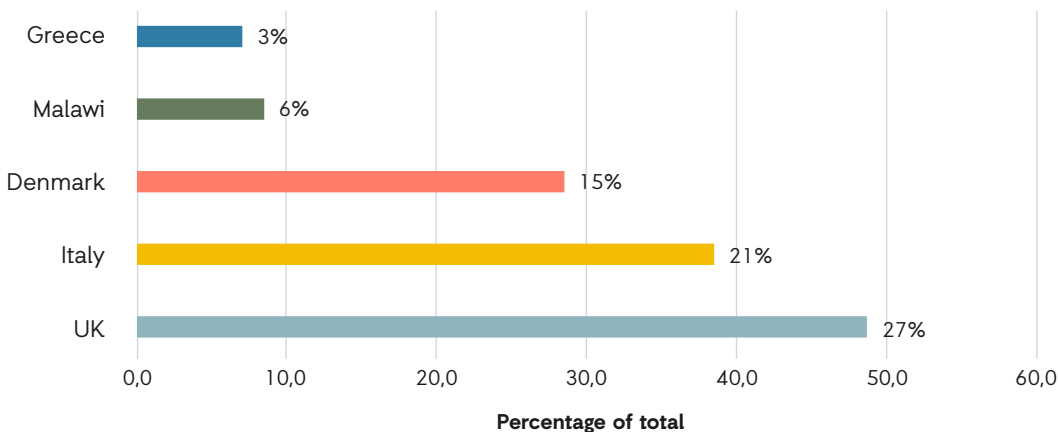
ActionAid's total income in 2018 was €210 million (2017: €229 million). The mix of income shows decreases of 8% from Individual Giving; 26% from Philanthropy & Partnerships and 3% from Institutional donors. Total unrestricted income fell 3% to €71 million.

### ActionAid income split by major category



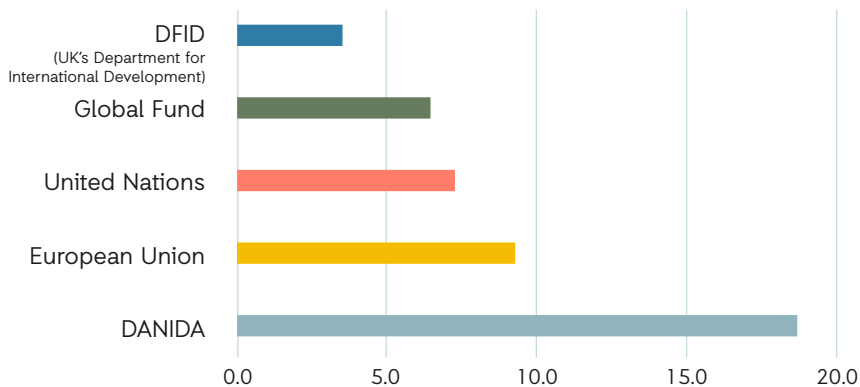
Over 70% of the Federation's total external income is generated by the five countries set out in the following figures. Malawi and Denmark's income is overwhelmingly from Institutional sources; whereas whereas Greece, Italy and the UK are each a mix of income types that is weighted towards Individual Giving.

### Largest country incomes (€ millions and % of total)



DANIDA (Danish International Development Agency) was our largest institutional donor in 2018, contributing approximately €18 million. The great majority of funding from the Global Fund was to Malawi.

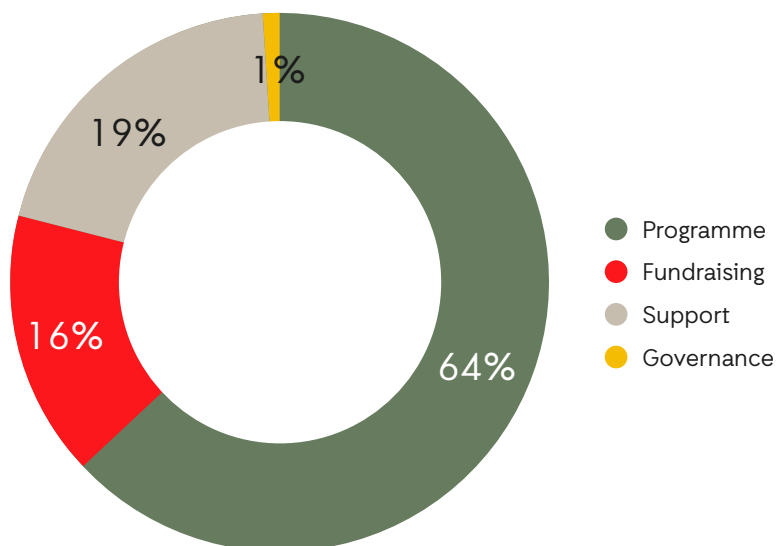
### Largest donors (€ millions)



### Expenditure

ActionAid's total expenditure in 2018 was €211 million (2017: €231 million). The drop in expenditure matches the fall in income. The split of costs is as follows:

#### ActionAid expenditure split by major category



The global targets for these categories are as follows (income and expenditure are virtually identical for 2018):

Programmes > 65% of total income

Fundraising < 22% of total income

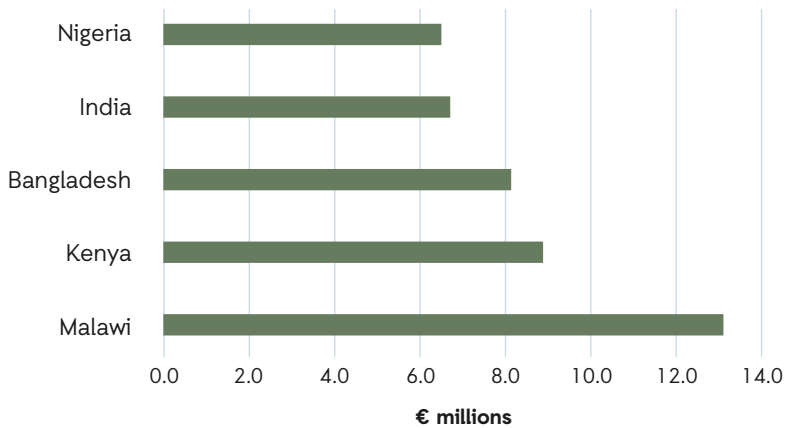
Support < 15% of total expenditure

Governance < 2% of total expenditure



The countries implementing programmes with the largest expenditures are as follows:

### Largest country expenditure (€ millions and %, and % of total)



### Reserves – € millions

Overall the reserves position remains strong, and there are strong cash balances across the Federation:

	2018	2017
Restricted	42.4	46.1
Unrestricted	36.5	30.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>78.9</b>	<b>76.1</b>

Restricted reserves are those that must be spent in strict accordance with the wishes of the respective donors; whereas unrestricted reserves may be spent at the discretion of Actionaid.

# LOOKING AHEAD

This year was one in which the Federation took important steps towards aligning with and delivering on its Global Strategy 2028. Programmatically there is good evidence that countries are beginning to take an holistic approach to shifting power in its visible, invisible and hidden dimensions. Examples from across the Federation show that our focus on women and young people is deepening, and that we have taken important strides to rebuild and strengthen networks and alliances with movements and people's struggles across the world. Similar progress has been demonstrated by our organisational shifts, where several country strategies are now aligned to the Global Strategy.

However, as the 2018 reporting cycle was new for many across the Federation, there were evidently some limitations and lessons that will be considered for future reports.

- We can do better in terms of aligning other processes such as the Assurance Reporting, the report on Minimum Standards of Change Results for Children and the International Platforms' Annual Learning Reviews (a key collective reflection moment). These processes generate important information for the Annual Report, and we aim to reduce the overall reporting load.
- Some countries are still adjusting to the new programme frameworks (based on a power analysis) and the Global meta-theory of change. Respecting the diversity in country contexts, some countries struggled to demonstrate the connections between our work at local, national and global levels. There were missed opportunities for us to take advantage of our "rootedness" in local communities in such a way that it influences public policy making and engagement.

- We shall take advantage of the planning process to ensure that the key aspects of our work that must be reported on and monitored are embedded at the outset.

2019 promises to be very exciting as we see the important foundational work undertaken in 2018 begin to bear fruit. Within the organisation, all countries will go through self-assessments as part of the review of country models – a commitment in the Global Strategy 2028. Important steps have been taken to diversify our funding streams and several systems projects across the Federation will be completed and launched.

Externally the launch and delivery of the global campaign, with a strong global alliance of feminist, young people's movements and trade unions rooted in countries, will be a Federation priority. It will enable us to build alliances at national and international levels with women's rights organisations, social movements and labour unions, and to successfully launch and implement campaign plans for 2019. It will also support trade unions at the national level to campaign for governments to adopt the ILO Convention.

The Programmes and Global Engagement team will mobilise the Federation around some key external opportunities such as the UN Commission on the Status of Women Meeting, the ILO Convention in June, the Grand Bargain Conference, the High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development Goals and others. It will be around these that the Global Strategy will mobilise countries, as well as work with social movements and young people's movements, which will include support to movement building.



# FROM ACROSS THE FEDERATION: STORIES OF IMPACT AND CHANGE



This year in Burundi we trained and supported 1,700 women smallholder farmers across 15 farming cooperatives in climate resilient sustainable agriculture. PHOTO: JEAN BIZIMANA/ACTIONAID





## Literacy and financial inclusion drive women's empowerment

### Afghanistan

**In Afghanistan, the erosion of rights and rising economic marginalisation pushes many women into a vicious cycle of intergenerational poverty, making them susceptible to violence inside and outside the home. ActionAid and its partners therefore focus on preventing gender-based violence through women's economic empowerment, and strengthening women's voices in social, cultural and political arenas. Among the biggest problems faced by women in remote rural areas are illiteracy and lack of vocational and entrepreneurial skills and access to credit, markets and information.**

In an attempt to bring about a true power shift, ActionAid Afghanistan tackles these issues as one. This year we organised a nine-month long, government-approved literacy and numeracy course for Reflect Circle members in Herat and Bamyan provinces. Graduates of the course subsequently received vocational training in skills such as sewing, embroidery, and food processing.

ActionAid Afghanistan found that without financial resources, the trained women would not be able to start up their own businesses, so it connected them to financial institutions. For the first time in the remotest areas of Afghanistan, women had bank accounts in their name. The inclusion of women in financial institutions such as banks was a significant achievement in what is a tightly patriarchal society. In one go this shifted power to the women, making hitherto economically disfranchised women visible stakeholders in banking institutions. The result of this was enhanced respect for them in households and communities, not to mention the empowerment that the women themselves felt.

The money helped women establish small-scale, home-based and profitable occupations, and encouraged them to feel confident enough to voice their thoughts and opinions and assertively enter business negotiations. Correspondingly, men's attitudes also changed, and women started to collaborate more with their male relatives. While women produce merchandise, men help them take the produce to market. Although access to the market is still difficult for women, there is hope that slowly and incrementally this will change.



## What makes a safe city for an adolescent girl in Jordan?

### Arab Region

**In Jordan this year, 18 adolescent girls conducted interviews with 75 of their peers as part of GRL Power – the first project of its kind in the country to allow young girls to take the lead in researching what matters to them, and to provide them with the space and platform to speak for themselves. The research also provided a new lens for Action Aid's 'Safe Cities for Women' project and supported its effort to increase safety in public spaces in Jordan.**

Girl interviewees felt more comfortable and confident sharing their experiences and ideas with their peers rather than with adult researchers, which provided more nuanced data. Further, girl-led research contributed to developing a sense of solidarity among the girls.

The research revealed how control is exercised over girls' lives and bodies, starting from society's control of streets and in schools, to parental control and internalised self-censorship. The 18 girl



researchers worked in three teams of two, in which each researcher alternated between the roles of interviewer and note taker. At the end of each research day the girls had debriefing sessions with their mentors, at which they discussed their findings and noted any common themes or notable results. However, with experience, they gained more confidence and by the last day were able to conduct the interviews independently.

The girls noted that this experience built their capacity in the field of research and taught them how to conduct interviews. The girls reflected on the improvement they noticed in themselves on their performance as researchers from the first day to the last day. Additionally the girls noted that the experience had boosted their self-confidence and expanded their knowledge of the issues facing adolescent girls in Jordan. Following the interviews the girl researchers shared their findings and led a webinar for NGOs and practitioners in order to share their learnings and research findings.



Australia

## Standing in solidarity with women in mining-affected communities

**In 2018 ActionAid Australia campaigned in solidarity with ActionAid South Africa and the Greater Phola Ogies Women's Forum in Mpumalanga, South Africa, who were conducting a social audit of an Australian-run coal mine in their community. Australia now has more mining companies operating in Africa than any other nation.**

The coal mining industry in South Africa has major negative impacts for communities, particularly for women, including increased HIV infection rates, gender-based violence, food insecurity and unpaid work. This has been particularly problematic in Mpumalanga, where Australian companies own several operating and proposed coal mines.

In South Africa, in order to be eligible for a mining right, mining companies are required to submit a Social Labour Plan, developed in consultation with affected communities and containing commitments to the Department of Mineral Resources in respect of human resources and local economic development, such as employment and services. These plans rarely meet the needs of communities – especially the needs of marginalised women – and so there is a significant need to help women in affected communities to hold companies accountable to their commitments under South African law. There is also a great need to support these women to movement-build with other mining-affected communities, and also to act in solidarity with them in the companies' country of incorporation.

Following a public campaign in Australia in solidarity with the Greater Phola Ogies Women's Forum during their social audit, commitments were secured from the Australian company, South32, to improve its practices and relationships within the community.

The social audit itself, run by ActionAid South Africa, empowered women and the broader Phola community with the knowledge and skills to understand South32's commitments and obligations under South African law, and built collective power as the women's group surveyed and consulted with the broader community to build a picture of the mine's impacts.

A critical part of this achievement was building global solidarity, with members of the community in Australia engaged to take action. Australian community members crowdfunded for the social audit and for a representative from the forum to visit Australia, signed a petition targeting South32, wrote messages to the women's group in South Africa, attended events in Australia, and targeted South32 with protest actions in the lead up to their AGM.



## Rights and redistributive justice for resilience building

Bangladesh

**Land provides shelter and livelihoods for people and is a precondition for survival. However, land is very limited in Bangladesh, and inequality means those in power own the majority of land while the poorest are mostly landless. Despite the government's 1987 Khas Land Management and Settlement Policy (which can allocate fallow land to landless people), more than 4.5 million people in Bangladesh remain landless.**

In 2017, a total of 38 families from Omarpur village in Sunamagoni district came together and formed a land rights group with the help of the Voluntary Association for Rural Development (VARD), a long-term partner of ActionAid Bangladesh. The group analysed their problem and identified ways to address it through a Reflect group. As part of this, the community gathered information on how to officially access Khas lands and the different rules and regulations in the policies relating to it, and did a 'power mapping' exercise to identify who to target. The group was given advocacy training and other technical support.

Accessing Khas land takes a long time, but knowing this, the land rights group periodically visited the land office in small groups, continually lobbying and reminding, and pressuring the administration to take action. Some of the people in power demanded payments to expedite the process, but as the community was aware of their rights, including information on progress of the work at the government level, they refused to pay the bribes. Finally, in 2018 the 27 families received land in the name of both women and men in the household. The remaining 11 families' applications are still in progress but they are expecting to have land allocated to them in 2019.

Jainal, who legally received her Khas land this year, had been living on the land for over 50 years without entitlement – despite paying land taxes. "Leaving behind a piece of land that my children can call their own is the biggest achievement of my 75 years of journey," she says.



## Women of the World Festival – connecting women's experiences in times of repression

Brazil

**This year ActionAid Brazil was invited by partner organisation Redes da Maré to collaborate in organising the three-day Women of the World Festival (WoW) in the port area of Rio de Janeiro – the first Latin American WoW festival, which transformed the region into a large open space for the sharing of knowledge and experiences from women around the world.**

The event took place in November, soon after the Brazilian elections that brought to power a president and a state governor with strong views against human, women's, and minority rights. Over

three days, roughly 30,000 people joined the celebration of women's lives and diversity, challenging the wave of fundamentalism and conservatism growing in the country.



ActionAid Brazil at the International festival Women of the World. PHOTO: PAULA GIOLITO/ACTIONAID

In preparation for WoW, ActionAid Brazil mobilised residents and institutions of the port zone, screening films and holding debates and workshops in a local public school to involve youth in the main themes of the festival – discussing the role of women in society, celebrating their achievements, and creating a space for listening and welcoming. Another activity involved dance classes, makeup, hair styling and musical performances for local residents with the aim of valuing the women of the region and mobilising them to participate in the festival.

ActionAid Brazil supported a key theme of the festival – activism of young women. A public call was issued to invite women's collectives and movements interested in self-organising their activities, opening the way for a great diversity of groups and themes from various parts of Rio to join.

Our stall at the festival was shared with the young women's collective Feminicidade, which engaged many visitors in silk printings about women's rights, safe cities, and fair division of domestic work. The effort generated new 800 potential supporters interested in women's rights that could be added to our supporter base.



Burundi

## Women lead the way on climate resilient farming

**Women farmers in Burundi work long hours, often battling unpredictable weather and degraded soil to grow enough food for their families. They spend more time collecting firewood and water than other family members, suffer emotionally and physically when crops fail, and face domestic violence if food runs short. Lack of land rights puts them at further disadvantage – but if women farmers are bearing the brunt of climate change, they are also on the frontline of tackling it.**

Investing in women farmers is a powerful way to make whole communities more resilient to climate change. This year we trained and supported 1,700 women smallholder farmers across 15 farming cooperatives in climate resilient sustainable agriculture (CRSA), including helping them grow 900,000 trees to protect their farmland from soil erosion and improve soil fertility. We also provided them with livestock to improve their access to manure – helping make plants strong, reducing the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides that cause soil degradation, and improving soil fertility and food production.

We also provided seeds and seedlings and the necessary inputs to grow them, and trained the women in tilling the land, planting early and planting a diverse range of drought-resistant crops. We also trained women in terracing for highland communities, making levees around farms to reduce the effects of floods, using water-harvesting techniques for small-scale irrigation, and planting trees around the farms.

Madame Speciose, 49, is a mother of four who struggles to grow enough food for her family. She told us: “We can no longer keep doing what we have always done – the weather is changing and to survive we must change too. Thanks to ActionAid, we are now developing agroforestry systems, which means we’ve learned the importance of protecting the trees and planting more to help improve our farming environment. So far, with ActionAid’s support, we have planted 70,000 trees to protect our farmland from soil erosion and increase the soil fertility.”

And it’s not just in communities that the women are influencing change. This year ActionAid helped them create a network to raise issues such as land protection planning, agroforestry and soil conservation with local authorities to ensure they put necessary measures in place to deal with climate change effects and set adaptation measures.

Madame Speciose says the plants and trees are helping families feed their goats at home, saving valuable time searching for pasture: “This is a long-term solution – we want to protect our farmland for our children,” she says. “Huge thanks from all the farmers in helping us deal with climate change.”





## Mobile crab bank improves community livelihood

Koh Kjong Community Fishery was established in 2012 with 312 fisherfolk families as community members. The community fed their families by catching fish using conventional fishing tools in a community fishing ground. But in 2016, illegal fishing activities increased significantly, destroying almost all the marine resources.



Sann Cheub, a 40-year-old community fishery member. PHOTO: ACTIONAID

The community fishery decided to preserve the crab population by establishing a crab bank that allowed community members to keep pregnant crabs in a cage, releasing them after they had spawned. However, because of a lack of collaboration, the community fishery failed.

By the end of 2017, Partner for Development in Action, in collaboration with the Koh Kjong fishery community and provincial Koh Kong fishery administration, initiated a mobile crab bank to preserve pregnant crabs and let them safely spawn in the ocean. The initiative aimed to encourage all community fishery members to stop eating and buying pregnant crab, and to get the fisherfolk to release any pregnant crabs back in to the ocean if they were caught. The community fishery committee raised awareness of the mobile crab bank among 187 community members and the community started spreading awareness to other community members.



## 2,300 unaccompanied children access multi-sectoral service

**This year ActionAid Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), in collaboration with UNICEF, helped 2,300 children affected by conflict to access an holistic set of support services, including reintegration back into their communities.**

Around 2,100,000 people were affected in the latest conflict in DRC, of whom 576,000 were vulnerable children in need of psychological and social support. ActionAid DRC's initiative enabled 2,300 unaccompanied children – including some who had been caught up in militias – to access psychological help tailored specifically to their needs in child friendly spaces. This was achieved with the help of community groups such as parents' associations, community networks for child protection, and local authorities who traditionally had not catered for this particularly vulnerable group of internally displaced people.

Interim care was provided for the children while host families willing to take care of them in the longer term were identified, along with family reunification for unaccompanied children, ensuring that children remained in a protective environment at all times. The children were all enrolled into schools in their localities, and 174 unaccompanied children were supported to find their families.

Benoit Lumba, an unaccompanied child aged 12, said: "Some people voluntarily offered to take care of some of us without knowing where we come from." ActionAid collaborated with the head of education in Miabi, Kasai Oriental Province, to provide play kits for unaccompanied children, and organised catch-up lessons to make up for lost time.

ActionAid and UNICEF learned that people affected by conflict should not be seen as one homogenous group as their experiences are different, and so any response to their needs must be developed with them in order to make it successful.

"I was not ready to let go of the pregnant crabs because I could get money from selling them," recalls Sann Cheub, a 40-year-old community fishery member. "So, I sold them to one customer. That customer bought the crabs, but he released the pregnant crab right in front of me and the other community members, and said that one pregnant crab could feed my family for a whole year. Since then, I always release the pregnant crab that I catch back into the sea. I continue raising this awareness with other community members, and they all do the same as me for sustainable harvesting of marine resources in the community fishing ground."

This year the mobile crab bank started to produce results, with community fishery members reporting increases in their catch from 40% to 60% on last year. "I could not believe that the amount of blue swimmer crab increased significantly by the end of 2018," adds Sann. "I could generate an average income from selling crabs of 300,000 to 400,000 Riels in one day. I could afford to own a motobike and new fishing nets. Now I have enough money for my children's education and also buying food for the family."



## Youth Councils give voice to socially marginalised young people

Young people in socially marginalised parts of our cities are often not included in democratic decision making, even in matters that directly concern them, so ActionAid Denmark’s Local Democracy Project is helping young people organise and take action, enabling them to make decisions and take responsibility for their own lives and communities.

As part of the project, young people have been trained in active citizenship and opinion making. According to staff at local youth clubs where youth meet, young people’s empowerment has increased significantly, organising themselves into Youth Councils that seek to influence on behalf of youth issues. Now local decision makers are increasingly taking them into account, with the Municipality of Copenhagen expressing an interest in establishing Youth Councils in more youth clubs and developing a guide for youth club staff on how to do this.

One key moment in 2018 was when 16-year-old Nadeen Aiche from Nørrebro in Copenhagen participated in a public debate with the Mayor of Copenhagen and told him from personal experience how it feels to be discriminated against. She says: “Gaining a voice may seem like a very long tunnel that not everyone passes. But everyone can – they just need a little push.”

When the government presented a new initiative called the ‘Ghetto plan’ – permitting the forceful relocation of people living in socially marginalised residential areas and even the demolition of houses in these areas – a group of young people from five different areas formed an alternative plan and presented it in national media as a way of calling on politicians and raising awareness among their peers.



Debate at the Youth Council. PHOTO: ACTIONAID DENMARK



During the project period, many of the young people from the target group became strong local actors and are now taking part in the project as ActionAid Denmark volunteers. We now have a growing group of new volunteers who are strongly committed to improving everyday life in their neighbourhoods, creating local Youth Councils and youth communities. Their knowledge of the local context is also key for continuously developing engagement in the socially marginalised residential areas, and with some of the most marginalised young people in Denmark.



## Women's Watch Groups combat gender-based violence

Ethiopia

**ActionAid Ethiopia works in Ilfeta, where gender-based violence and polygamy are common. Women are also exposed to female genital mutilation (FGM), early marriage, and abduction, and many women are left unsupported in caring for children if their husbands leave them and remarry. Sending children to school is not an option for such women, and as a result many children remain uneducated or end up as child labourers.**

In response to the structural causes of violence against women and girls, ActionAid Ethiopia has been intensively working on women's social empowerment to enable them to protect themselves. This year in Ilfeta, 17 ward-level Women's Watch Groups (WWGs) were established, each comprising five women who collectively represented 36,000 women. They set up a forum in a temporary office donated by the local authority, and received training, furniture and equipment from ActionAid.



Elfu, 29, [right] is a survivor of domestic violence. With ActionAid's help she is now supporting herself and her children.  
PHOTO: ALEMENESH TADESSE/ACTIONAID



Training has strengthened until-now non-functioning girls' clubs in 24 schools, enabling them to work on freeing the school environment from violence. In addition, 24 new boys' clubs have been established to support the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) in school. Community influencers such as elders, religious leaders, court and justice office staff, and police were also trained on paralegal issues to help them fight GBV.

Through the influence of Women's Watch group members, local police have assigned responsible police officers for each ward. A total of 160 cases were reported to WWGs at ward level, of which 136 (85%) were resolved by the WWGs in collaboration with the wider community.

Elfu Mekonen is a mother of five and a domestic violence survivor. When her husband married another woman she was left to care for her children alone. When her dilapidated home collapsed, the family suddenly become homeless and Elfu had to find work selling sugar cane to help her children survive. When she told WWG members in her village about her situation they referred her case to district-level WWG leaders. The leader of the group, Aberu, took immediate action. "I directly brought Elfu and all her children to the district town. They needed emergency support, so before starting the legal process, I and my group members mobilised cash from all members and supported her with 1,180 Birr. With this cash she rented house in the town ... and started small trading in fruits in different markets."

Elfu takes up the story: "After this the WWG supported me to request my right legally. [My husband] was summoned to court and the court forced him to give me 800 Birr for urgent use until the legal process was completed. Finally, the court decided for me to get my share of livestock, land, the family sugarcane plantation and annual cash support of 13,000 Birr for my children. Now I am living a happy life since I and my children are living in the rented house and have food to eat. My children go to school."



## Making the struggle of domestic workers visible

France

**In 2018, ActionAid France's key objective was to make visible the violations of women's rights at work and their struggles for justice. The campaign 'From Invisibility to Equality' was the 'red thread' of a colourful year, dedicated to domestic workers in France and in other countries.**

ActionAid France focused its energy on creating spaces for domestic workers and their unions or organisations to mobilise and speak out, and to develop common messages for public campaigning and advocacy. This culminated on June 16, International Day of Domestic Workers, with a call for the French government to raise public awareness, and a symbolic piece of performance art (a 'court of consciences') in which two lawyers 'clashed', putting arguments for and against the regulation of domestic work, using the testimony of domestic workers in France.

An online petition was launched the same day and collected 6,440 signatures. A meeting was held with Senator Laurence Rossignol, former Minister for Families, Children and Women's Rights, with whom we discussed France's ratification of ILO Convention 189.



ActionAid France submits its petition asking the Ministry of Labour in Guatemala to support the ratification of ILO Convention 189, to protect domestic workers' rights.. PHOTO: ANAIS TARACENA/ACTIONAID

In March, ActionAid France internationalised this campaign by teaming up with the Guatemalan trade union Sitradomsa, founded in 2011 by domestic workers, to obtain decent working conditions and Guatemalan ratification of ILO Convention 189. From March 8 to November 24, 2018 we produced and broadcast seven videos featuring testimonies from domestic workers, research analysis and a call to action. These videos generated 228,732 views on social networks and 3,470 comments.

Following this exchange, we launched an Urgent Appeal on April 10, which collected more than 16,000 signatures. This call was an opportunity to successfully launch our new online petitions platform. In September we supported the organisation of the 5th Inter-American Meeting of Domestic Workers, which brought together 90 representatives of trade unions, NGOs, the ILO and the government. We organised an on-site press trip, which resulted in the publication of an eight-page feature in an activist magazine in France, a radio report on a public channel, and a TV report.

The 16,396 e-mails received by the Ministry of Labour of Guatemala and the official delivery of signatures to the union prompted the ministry to react and contact the union to draft 'internal regulations' specifying the conditions for the application of Convention No. 189. The Congress vote has yet to be obtained, which will require further advocacy and awareness-raising.



## The Gambia

### Youth lead the way

**As 22 years of dictatorship ended, this year there was growing public interest in the idea of youth leadership and participation in governance – not least because 65% of The Gambia’s population are young and are the country’s future.**

Many people, particularly youths, took to print, electronic and social media to express their opinions and challenge the government on all fronts. This was strengthened by the country’s Activista network and other partners’ mass advocacy work, and a series of community outreach awareness-raising sessions, caravans, and mass media programmes across the country focusing on youth leadership and participation, good governance, accountability and democracy.

More than 16,600 people – mainly young women and men, students, local authority staff, and women leaders – gained basic understanding of governance and accountability principles, alongside the benefits of youth leadership and good governance. The actions encouraged dialogue and consensus building, and energised young people to actively participate in the constitutional review process that was underway. The events also encouraged young people to vote and take part in local government.

Abdoulie Krubally, Youth Councilor on Banjul City Council said: “My engagement with Activista has really built my capacity as a youth advocate. I have attended various training exercises with the network and volunteered as the chairperson of the network at Banjul Chapter for years. The training I attended ... also contributed to my understanding of democracy and youth political participation. I got the inspiration to represent young people at council level from Activista.

This is evidence of the clear shift of visible power from the state (and the invisible power of donors and traditional authorities) gradually taking place for the benefit of youth and women.



## Ghana

### Unpaid care work: rural men start to share the load

**In many cultures across the world, unpaid care work has long been regarded as the sole responsibility of women, robbing them of the time and energy they need to take part in economic, social and political life. The unpaid care work burden is particularly heavy in places such as rural Ghana, where access to basic needs such as drinking water, sanitation and fuel for cooking is poor, and women spend most time fetching them.**

During 2018 ActionAid and its community-based partner organisations worked to increase recognition of the burden of unpaid care work and to redistribute and reduce it through community engagement and work to change attitudes – especially men’s. This initiative empowered women to value their time (using time diaries), undertook advocacy with national and local government to help get unpaid care work recognised, and improved the provision of social amenities such as child care centres, boreholes, rain-harvesting facilities and household sanitation facilities to help reduce the burden.

In 2018, several religious and traditional leaders declared their support for the initiative and encouraged others to follow suit. The participation of men such as Yendorg Yenzei in sharing the

care work, and the provision of boreholes and child care centres by district assemblies, helped free the women to increase their agricultural activity and diversify their agribusiness. As a result, women are spending more than 20% less of their time on child care and fetching water and fuel wood compared to 2015, and have started processing rice and pepper, making soap and rearing small livestock. Yendorg, 39, explains: "I used to see all the household chores done by my wife as the responsibility of the women of the house, and did not see any reason why I should also engage in it – and my wife never complained about it [either]."

"When ActionAid came to my community, my wife was part of the women's group and they invited me and other community men to their meeting. I was reluctant the first time, but I decided to participate when I saw other men participating. At the meeting we completed time diaries for men and women and realised that our wives were suffering too much doing care work and less time doing economic work that can support the family. From that day my eyes opened and I realised that if I help my wife to finish the house chores quickly, it will free time for her to engage in buying and selling to support herself and the family."



## Finding support at the Epikentro Community Centre

Greece

**Hundreds of people visit Greece's Epikentro community centre every day for support, and Irene is one of them. She and her family have been severely affected by the economic crisis in Greece, which led to Irene and her husband losing their jobs.**

Irene came to see the centre's employment counselors for help finding work. With their assistance she prepared a CV, and also took advantage of the professional psychological support they offered her, as she was feeling hopeless and tearful every day. Professionals at Epikentro helped her feel safe to open up.

In addition to the individual counselling sessions, Irene started attending computer lessons provided by Epikentro, as well as the 'Women Empowerment' experiential workshop. She learned to believe in herself and feel confident, and was inspired to encourage other women facing similar problems to look for support and stay strong.

Through the ActionAid Hellas-supported Epikentro centre, Irene has improved her life. She now has a job and communication between her family members has improved. And despite Greece's highly patriarchal society, Irene now feels confident enough to be the sole breadwinner for her family.

Irene is one of more than 2,000 people who have been highly affected by the financial crisis and face various kinds of social and economic exclusion, and who have been supported by Epikentro's free counselling and educational programmes. Of the 249 people who have visited centre's employment consultants, 114 have managed to find a job and 632 have received support from its psychosocial service.

Irene told us: "I decided to visit Epikentro in order to find a job, and now that I found one, I'm very happy. I am working for a cleaning company. [When I first met] Epikentro's psychologist I was crying all the time. In our first session I couldn't stop crying, but now I don't cry anymore, I smile."





# Guatemala

## Guatemalan palm oil and hidden power

**During a challenging year for human rights defenders in Guatemala, ActionAid continued to support communities to defend their rights to access natural resources and to decent labour conditions which have been systematically disrespected by palm oil companies. The most notable achievement was influencing transnational companies to cut ties with national palm oil companies violating these rights.**

ActionAid partnered with affected communities and civil society organisations in Guatemala, and the international organisations Friends of the Earth, Rainforest Action Network and Oxfam, to file complaints against the Petén Reforestation Company S.A. (REPSA), a Guatemalan enterprise dedicated to growing and processing palm oil in the department of Petén. In recent years REPSA was accused of causing ecocide in the La Pasión River that impacted communities relying on the river for water and livelihoods. REPSA was also accused of allowing labour conditions and practices that violate human rights.

In reaction to these complaints, three transnational companies, Cargill, Nestlé and Wilmar, stopped buying palm oil from REPSA. The company was compelled to include Improvement Plans in their practices before being reconsidered as a business partner. However, the measures REPSA ultimately adopted were not enough. Both ActionAid Guatemala staff and their local partners continue to receive complaints from the communities and workers they support.

In this context, in alliance with CONGCOOP (Coordinator for NGOs and Cooperatives) who has been working with the Network of Communities Affected by Palm Oil and the Institute of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment of the Rafael Landívar University (IARNA/URL), ActionAid Guatemala started a project financed by the European Union called "Towards a territorial governance on palm oil industries areas". To this end, IARNA/URL will be conducting research on change of use of the soil and change of quality and flow of water in the lowlands of the north (the area affected by the palm oil industry); ActionAid Guatemala is developing the methodology and materials to train community monitors; and CONGCOOP is strengthening the organisational capacity of the Network of Communities Affected by Palm Oil and will support community monitors.

Also in support of affected communities, ActionAid Guatemala has engaged with the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) – the certification mechanism for palm oil companies. ActionAid Guatemala has monitored the certification process of different palm oil companies in Guatemala, denouncing the violations of human rights and publicising the accusation of tax evasion that the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) and the Public Ministry brought against REPSA.



# Haiti

## Haitian farmers win landmark battle for livelihood rights

**In 2011 nearly 3,500 people were displaced from land in northern Haiti to make way for the Caracol Industrial Park – a post-earthquake development project. The park was funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IBD) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). In 2015 ActionAid research showed that at least a quarter of the USA's aid to Haiti was used to finance the park, but that less than 10% of houses it promised for people most affected by the earthquake were actually built. With just five days' notice, local families living near the**

**development saw their crops flattened and replaced by miles of concrete, fueling financial and food insecurity and pushing children – particularly girls – to drop out of school.**

With the support of ActionAid Haiti, Italy and the USA, the Accountability Council, and AREDE, a Haitian organisation working to protect the environment and fight land grabs, the farmers formed the Kolektif Peyizan Viktim Tè Chabè. This collective received rights-based advocacy and negotiation training, enabling them to analyse legal documents, public policies, etc, and in January 2017 the collective filed a complaint with the IDB's accountability office.



Leaders of Haiti's Kolektif, who negotiated the agreement to regain access to their land and livelihoods. PHOTO: ACCOUNTABILITY COUNSEL/ACTIONAID

In December this year the farmers (who defended their rights and negotiated the case against IDB experts and the Haitian government) reached an historic negotiated agreement with the Haitian government and the IDB, providing a combination of land, employment opportunities, agricultural equipment and training, and support for women-focused micro-enterprise. "Finally, we have written a page in the history of Haiti," said Milostene Castin, Coordinator of AREDE. "This is the first time that Haitian farmers have stood up and been listened to."

"After our land was taken from us, we women have been in a difficult situation. We've had no income from crops we used to sell," said Seliana Marcelus, one of the farmers and lead negotiators. "We didn't see any future. With the agreement we signed, we hope our lives will be changed."

## Providing security for domestic workers

Poverty and her husband's suicide due to indebtedness and caste discrimination pushed Manjit from Mansa, Punjab, into domestic work at the house of a local landlord. She spends four hours daily cleaning his house, washing dishes and clothes, and tending to animals for a meagre Rs. 200 a month. While domestic work is a readily available livelihood option for millions of women, there is an absence of comprehensive, uniformly applicable legislation that promises fair terms of employment and decent work conditions for them.



Tapashi Moira of PBGPS registers domestic workers. PHOTO: SWAPNA TRIPATHY/ACTIONAID

ActionAid India this year engaged on the issue of domestic work in 10 Indian states, forming collectives through which domestic workers can assert their rights. The primary group targeted by this initiative are women domestic workers, whose leadership skills we helped to build, enabling them to negotiate for better wages or alternate livelihood options and a life of dignity.

In West Bengal, Paschim Bango Griho Paricharika Samity (PBGPS) this year became the state's first domestic workers' trade union, with ActionAid and its partner organisations' support. With a membership of around 6,000 women from six districts, the group recently started a 'Fair Employers' initiative, under which the women sent 2,000 employers a note of appreciation for ensuring decent wages and working conditions for them.

Also with ActionAid and its partners' support in 2018, the Gruhakarmikula Union in Telangana and the Domestic Workers Federation in Andhra Pradesh were registered, and we initiated a Private Member's Bill and a petition advocating for legislation to protect domestic workers. Following our advocacy efforts, the Telangana government increased the minimum wage for domestic workers to Rs. 7,123 per month for eight hours of work per day.

While women have been able to significantly transform their lives through asserting their agency, challenges remain. As a result we are organising women workers across trades in several states for further strengthening of their voice.





Indonesia

## Fighting stunting through education

**Rihana works at the Maternal and Child Health Centre in Puger Wetan Village, Jember, Indonesia – a place where rates of stunting are high because of chronic malnutrition. While women like Rihana are on the frontline of preventing stunting in Indonesia, they are often also under-informed about the condition, and marginalised in village decision making that is dominated by men and others who are more highly educated.**

Since 2018 the Puger Wetan Village Maternal Health and Stunting Removal Information Centre – part of YAPPIKA, ActionAid’s Healthy Children Programme – has been organising meetings for women to help them understand, acknowledge and claim their rights, and inform them on health and nutrition. Many discussions are held in the Information Centre on topics such as mother and child health, stunting, processing nutritious food, and using empty land to make communal and family gardens. Village meetings are also held in the Information Centre to talk about local development plans. These meetings have significantly changed Rihana’s life.

Healthy children groups started implementing knowledge from the discussions, and Rihana and other women invited the Chief of Village Officials to attend multi-stakeholder meetings to discuss village commitments on preventing stunting. This initiative led village officials to involve various women’s groups in increasing the quality of mother and child healthcare and reducing the incidence stunting in their villages.

The struggle by YAPPIKA-ActionAid and the 100 women involved in the healthy children groups and as village midwives has revealed the patriarchal culture of the village and has shifted power to the women. The growth of their knowledge and the chance to implement it, including having direct dialogue with policy makers, has strengthened the women both as individuals and as groups in leading development in their village.



Ireland

## Using behaviour change to challenge harmful practices

**Phase two of ActionAid Ireland’s Women’s Rights Programme, funded by Irish Aid, began in 2017 in Nepal, Kenya and Ethiopia. The five-year programme, in partnership with University College London Centre for Behaviour Change, adopted the use of the Behaviour Change approach.**

The Behaviour Change approach provides a structured way to break down, analyse and understand our behaviour, the reasons why we behave in a certain way, and goes on to advise on how to tackle harmful behaviours so that we can change for the better. This has deepened the focus of the programme with attention on women and girls, as well as boys, men, customary and cultural leaders, among others, to reduce violence against women and girls and enhance economic security for women.

As a result, in 2018, ActionAid Ireland’s Women’s Rights Programme was nominated for the Dochás Innovation Award, under the category of “organisations that are taking new, creative, forward-thinking approaches”, and came in second place.

Additionally, in October, ActionAid Ireland hosted a Behaviour Change seminar in Dublin, where our Behaviour Change Champions from Ethiopia, Kenya and Nepal discussed the successes and challenges/opportunities with the approach so far. Overall, the Country feedback in 2018 indicates that progress has been made towards the realisation of the programme’s core objectives.





## This must be the place

**This year ActionAid Italy implemented *This must be the place* – an initiative to increase intercultural dialogue between young Italians and young asylum seekers and refugees in Naples. The project encouraged the creation of social and friendship networks among peers from different backgrounds to pre-empt obstacles to integration and full participation in social life, and to help asylum seekers and refugees exercise their rights to education, adequate urban housing and work – all conditions essential for active and democratic participation in the life of a host country.**

The project comprised a Reflect Circle 20 of young people aged between 23 and 27 from different backgrounds (university students, asylum seekers and refugees) who worked together to identify and prioritise common needs and planning actions related to education, housing and social relationships.

It also involved the creation of a ‘Schools and Universities Network for Integration’, research on barriers to housing, and possible solutions. Khalel, 27, from Syria says: “I was happy before the war broke out in Syria. I lived with my family and friends. But then the war changed everything and changed my life. No way out, no freedom. But I stayed to finish my dental studies and as soon as I graduated in 2016, I decided to leave because I could not continue like that.

“[...]Thanks to this experience I now know many people and I have also learned to know places of Naples. Another important thing is to understand the traditions of Italians and respect their freedom, and by doing this I want to experiment with them on how to live and relate to each other.”

Among Khalel’s new friends is Benedetta, one of the 15 Italian university students who smilingly calls him one of his best friends. “I study Political Science and International Relations at the Orientale in Naples. What prompted me to join was the desire to go deeper into things rather than the reality presented to us.”



## Improving gender responsive public services

**Strengthening citizen-led efforts to ensure that public services cater for the needs of marginalised women and youth (‘gender responsive public services’) is key to realising the rights of these groups, as they are often overlooked by government when deciding priorities.**

This year ActionAid Kenya helped to create community-led plans and citizens’ forums to enable women’s and young people’s voices to be heard. Communities were helped to understand their rights, and to develop plans to realise these rights by ensuring budgets were allocated. Women and youth were supported to advocate that these plans should be the sole basis upon which local budget priorities were set. In addition, ActionAid Kenya linked together citizens’ forums across eight counties with other national civil society groups to strengthen such participation.

As a result all counties were made accountable for providing gender-responsive public services. Almost 39,000 women and 24,000 men saw improved access to education, while approximately 23,500 women and over 15,000 men reported improved access to water. And by the end of the year the number of people with improved access to health services stood at almost 15,500 women and over 8,500 men. Water projects such as the stalled Sogorosa water project became

operational and started serving more than 1,750 households (with an estimated population of over 10,500 people), while the Kapecha water project was also implemented and began serving a total population of 13,100 people in 1,637 households – both thanks to pressure from the Kilifi County Citizens' Forum, a community group supported to identify their needs and formulate a plan by ActionAid Kenya. This citizens' participation initiative has been so popular that a number of county governments are now seeking training on the model in order to apply it in the wider county planning context.



## Liberia

# Holding government to account on women's rights

**Gbarpolu County is one of the most marginalised parts of Liberia, with high levels of poverty, poor physical infrastructure, weak government and institutions, and cultural attitudes and norms that discriminate against women and girls. Sexual and gender-based violence, including rape, sexual exploitation and domestic violence are widespread, and although the county is rich in mineral resources, unemployment is very high. For young women in Gbarpolu, access to land, education and economic opportunities are hard to come by.**

This year ActionAid Liberia continued supporting the National Rural Women Structure in Gbarpolu County, strengthening women's rights by providing them with the tools, resources and funding to engage with local authorities on issues such as female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices, and girls' education. It also supported women's advocacy campaigns at county and national level, and facilitated access to national, regional and international platforms. ActionAid Liberia also worked with the National Rural Women Structure to support their leadership in conducting Ebola response and prevention work, and post-Ebola recovery. As part of this, women received information and training and on land rights – an issue about which women had little information or knowledge.

Marie Clark, a 28-year-old single mother and active member of National Rural Women Structure, was selected by her peers to represent Liberia as one of 32 African nations at the inaugural Kilimanjaro Initiative in Tanzania in October 2016. Representing Liberia increased Marie's confidence as a young woman and was also symbolic in challenging the cultural norms around young women's representation, leadership, and grasp of critical national issues such as land, which is not only a source of economic security but also a major source of social status. Upon her return, she began engaging in the National Rural Women Structure campaign in Gbarpolu that advocates for women's access to land. This also represented a big shift, as young women's access to land rights in many communities is mainly linked to marriage and/or private ownership, as customary practices do not promote women's right to own land.

In 2018 the government also passed a historic land rights act recognising community ownership and providing protections for women's access to and control of land. Now more than ever, the fight for women's access to land is critical, and the work of Marie, the National Rural Women Structure and other women will be crucial in holding communities and local authorities to account for implementing the law.



Malawi

## Mobilising young women to fight workplace sexual violence

**Moureen Phiri, aged 23, lives with HIV and is a survivor of sexual violence at work. She now addresses sexual abuse in the workplace and offers support to other women.**

Moureen had been a volunteer at an organisation supporting people living with HIV and AIDS. Impressed by her determination and commitment, the staff encouraged her to become a focal person – mobilising girls and young women living with HIV to access antiretroviral therapy (ART). She loved the work but her happiness in the role was short lived. After two months her male supervisor began to make sexual advances to her. “He would forcibly hug me, touch my private parts, and kiss me against my wish and consent. I no longer found the working environment conducive,” she says.

Moureen left a few weeks later – a sad but not uncommon story for many young women who are subject to sexual violence at work. According to a Malawi government report, one in five women between the ages of 18 and 24 had experienced at least one incident of sexual violence before they turned 18. She joined other women in starting a digital campaign to mobilise girls and young women across the country to report incidents of violence in the workplace under the hashtags #ndilulura and #lwontbesilent.

Moureen says: “The campaign is a platform both to report and to hold [perpetrators] accountable under the Gender Equality Act and other laws to which Malawi is a signatory.” The campaign will help to link survivors of sexual violence to a coordinated set of high-quality, multi-sectoral services for all women and girls who have experienced gender-based violence, including medical treatment, social and psychological support, and access to justice.

Supported by ActionAid Malawi, the campaign is expected to reach many young women trapped in sexual violence at work, supporting them with training in understanding sexual violence and the laws against it, and disseminating over 3,000 fliers with targeted information.

The campaign has since been adopted by the Ministry of Gender, Disability, Children and Social Welfare. Various women-focused organisations such as the Gender Coordinating Network, the Malawi Congress of Trade Unions, the Victim Support Unit of the Malawi Police, Young Women Living with HIV, and Youth Activista have since joined forces with ActionAid Malawi to empower young women at risk of sexual violence. To date, almost 2,000 young women, mostly those in tertiary institutions, domestic work, sex work, and young women traders have been reached by the campaign.



## Mozambique

### Social audit tracks government’s economic plans

When construction of Inago Primary School in Alto Molocue, Mozambique, came to a halt after just six months in 2016 – with only a third of the building complete – no explanation was given to the community and for two years local children were left studying in very poor conditions. So in June this year, a social audit by the ActionAid-supported Alto Molocue District Platform assessed the local government’s progress against its Economic and Social Plan – included in the audit were not only local school facilities but also healthcare and clean water infrastructure.

The District Platform pressured the government to explain the situation with the school and asked the district government to share all relevant documents, including the 2017 and 2018 annual plans and balance sheets, to check whether the funds had been properly allocated. They also consulted community members, the school council, students, teachers, community leaders and the secretariat of the locality for more detailed information.

As a result the District Platform, in partnership with ActionAid Mozambique, produced and submitted a report to the central, provincial and district governments and the media, calling for the completion of the school, payment of local labourers (women and men) who had not yet been paid for their work on the school, and stronger government oversight of the work.

Six months after the social audit, the government forced the company to complete the construction work on the school, including five classrooms, two toilets, one administrative block, and ramps to make the school more inclusive. It also forced it to pay all local labourers for their work. This campaign benefitted more than 1,200 primary pupils (750 girls and 450 boys). The District Platform – which also successfully pushed for four water sources and a health unit to be improved – is still monitoring the government to ensure that the company and government officials involved are held to account in order to avoid future similar situations.



## Myanmar

### Citizens Charter Book enables accountable public services

In Myanmar, accessing government services isn’t easy. But after decades of military dictatorship, ActionAid Myanmar is helping citizens to engage with local authorities and demand more accountability and better public services. It is helping to do this through its Fellowship Programme, which equips young people with skills, knowledge and confidence to lead participatory, community-led discussion and planning process in the villages where they live. Fellows act as the bridge between their communities and government officers by developing ‘village books’ that map the villages and the different services available.

The Citizens Charter Book is the Fellows’ first attempt to provide a larger number of people with the information needed to access government services at Township level (these are the third-level administrative divisions of Myanmar) to help government officials do their work. The Citizens Charter process is led by citizens, in collaboration with the Township Administration Department and another 23 government authorities in Ayeyarwaddy region. Public services, all listed in the Citizen



Charter Book, map the services to which citizens are entitled, such as education and health, among others. In addition, the Citizen Charter provides information on how and where these services can be accessed in Pyapone Township.

This year the Citizens Charter improved the system for obtaining Identity cards, which are often needed for services such as voter registration, digital banking, and mobile money – a powerful example of the benefits of the Citizen Charter Book. In most parts of Myanmar, ID cards are considered a daunting aspect of life – just to replace a lost ID card, a person must travel miles to the nearest Immigration Department, often only to be refused because of improper documentation.

Recognising the need, Fellows stepped in to help, using the Citizens Charter Book. Following implementation of the Citizens Charter Book initiative in Pyapone, this situation dramatically improved. Waiting times to receive an ID card were reduced from 2–3 weeks to less than a week, and 1,600 villagers received new ID cards within a four-day period with the support of volunteers. These citizens now enjoy greater freedom of movement, the ability to purchase property and other fundamental civic rights.

The Citizen Charter Book is a valuable tool that promotes local government transparency and accountability to effectively deliver public services. Citizens have developed a greater understanding of how their taxes are spent, what services they are entitled to, and at what standard. Thanks to the learning process of making a Citizens Charter Book in Pyapone, other local areas are starting to develop their own. For example, the Meiktila District recently launched a Charter in hard copy and as an android app. The General Administration Department is also considering implementing this initiative nationally to help guide citizens through the process of accessing government services.



## Practice of chaupadi comes to an end

**Chaupadi is a Nepalese tradition whereby girls and women are seen as ‘impure’ during menstruation and immediately after childbirth, and are segregated from home in small, unsafe huts or cow sheds (called chaugoth). This harmful practice not only deprives them of nutritious food, personal hygiene and safety, and their rights to dignity, freedom and education, it also exposes them to rape, violence, animal attacks and death.**

We and our partners have this year been rigorously engaged with local government to encourage them to prioritise the issue. Declaration and memorandum letters were prepared and submitted to government stakeholders, as well as research reports and booklets for mass awareness raising.

ActionAid Nepal and partner organisations have been working to eliminate chaupadi since 2009, helping communities mobilise women’s groups and community watchdog groups, include lessons on reproductive health in schools, form adolescent groups to fight chaupadi, and stage street theatre events and media campaigns. We also offer leadership development and human rights training to generate community activism, sensitise traditional healers on the harms caused by chaupadi, and help to organise their groups to speak out against the practice. Most chaugoth are now destroyed.

As a result of our efforts, an encouraging number of women and traditional healers have publicly spoken out against chaupadi, helping to end superstitious beliefs, social norms and traditions.



Rajkumari, 23, a police constable in Doti district, Nepal, works with ActionAid to combat the practice of chaupadi.  
PHOTO: POULOMI BASU/ACTIONAID

Women started consuming milk and planting crops (both forbidden under chaupadi) to prove that the belief is an illogical superstition. In addition, a coordination committee of traditional healers has also been formed to raise awareness among individuals, families and communities about the harms of the practice.

Continuous local-level advocacy has helped create 'chaupadi free wards' in most of the areas, and inclusion of chaupadi as a social ill has been incorporated in local policies, including the Local Government Operation Act 2017. In the same year, the Criminal Code Bill passed by parliament entitled chaupadi as a crime. The new law sentences three-month jail or Rs. 3,000 fine (or both) against those still practicing chaupadi.

Also this year, in schools, advocacy for the provision of gender-friendly toilets and a focal person to discuss menstruation-related complications was undertaken, highlighting the need for provision of a separate rest room for menstruating girls, and sanitary pads. This campaign was successful in most public schools, helping to ensure menstrual hygiene, as well as minimising girls' absenteeism.

And in order to check school absenteeism of girls during their periods, adolescent girls were trained on menstrual hygiene and preparing homemade sanitary pads. The pads turned out to be cost effective and also helped to reduce absenteeism.



## Netherlands

# Call for a ‘just’ shift to renewable energy is heeded

Wind and solar energy are seen as the future and as such are encouraged by the Dutch government. While ActionAid is supportive of this energy shift, it is also advocating a ‘just energy transition’ – one that is good for the environment and good for people worldwide. To address the importance of a just energy transition, ActionAid Netherlands compiled the *Human rights in wind turbines supply chains* research, highlighting the importance of taking human rights risks into account in the energy transition.

Statistics show that the shift to renewable energy will increase demand for certain minerals, for example copper. Specifically, the research looked at wind turbines – which are going to increase in number in the coming decades – and concluded that many of the minerals used in their manufacture can be linked to human rights abuses elsewhere in the world.

The report received much media attention, resulting in the topic being covered in newspapers, on television and in specialist clean-energy media. Our lobbying efforts successfully put the issue on the agendas of industry, parliament, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate. Having the latter discuss the issue was quite an achievement as initially they denied having any responsibility to discuss human rights impacts in relation to the energy transition, and were not open to dialogue.

As a result, the renewable energy industry started discussing how to address risks in their mineral supply chains. Most notably, two motions were adopted in parliament, calling on the government to stimulate transparency in renewable energy supply chains and to investigate how human rights safeguards can be included in tenders for wind turbines and solar parks. And, inspired by the launch of the report, actions were put in place to develop a (voluntary) sector agreement for the wind energy sector. Both ActionAid and Dutch research group SOMO have been invited to take part in talks about this agreement.



## Nigeria

# Building peace through community action

**This year ActionAid Nigeria worked to address poverty and illiteracy – known drivers of violent extremism in communities in Nigeria, particularly in Kogi State – and contributed to improving the economic and social situation of women (and thereby of children and young people too). This was done not only by prioritising the needs of women, but also by working with men to secure their support as community advocates for the protection of women’s rights to economic empowerment and improved livelihoods.**

“Before, women held no leadership positions here and didn’t contribute to discussions on community development, but that has changed,” says Rebecca Samuel, 67, chairperson of the ActionAid-supported Okpapata Women Maize Milling Multipurpose Cooperative. “We [used to] travel nine miles on motorbike to the nearest mill processing machine, on a [rough] road, and this exposed us to all sorts of ills, including rape and robbery. But that is a thing of the past since ActionAid built a cassava milling factory for us in our community.”



Rebecca Samuel, 67, at the Okpapata Women Maize Milling Multipurpose Cooperative. PHOTO: LOLA AYANDA/ACTIONAID

The main target group for the intervention was 18–35-year-olds and women in communities that had enough influence to mobilise other women and youths for peace building. The intervention prioritised women and girls because they were identified as the most vulnerable people during violent conflicts. Once identified, these influencers were encouraged to form cooperative groups, and were supported with tools such as cassava processing equipment and grants. Project participants were trained, educated and empowered to engage with political leaders about community needs, and this resulted in improved livelihoods (more than 8,300 women were lifted above the poverty line), reduced threats of rape, kidnapping and robbery, and reductions in the costs of processing food crops.

In addition to this work to strengthen women’s mobilisation, youth fiesta programmes were run, alongside conferences and research initiatives. Through these interventions the project reached almost 13,000 youths (4,230 females and 8,705 males) and nearly 9,000 women, imparting the skills necessary to build nine cottage industries (including cassava processing, rice milling and maize grinding) that have lifted over 5,000 youths and women out of poverty.

“[The] training by ActionAid had the most impact on youths in my community,” says Godwin Alhassan, 35, an ActionAid Nigeria male champion in Ofuloko community. “It helped us identify behaviour in the community that can trigger violence, and educated us on how to nip violence in the bud before it escalates,” he adds.





## Palestine

### The Troublemaker

**Hanan, aged 26, lives in Jala in the West Bank, and is a member of the village’s Reflect women’s group. She always been active in her community, so when Hanan began attending ActionAid-supported women’s Reflect group meetings, her previous activism helped her get elected as group facilitator. She is now a focal point for the community, and if the community wants to voice a concern or suggest a development for their town, they go to her first to approach the relevant parties.**

With ActionAid’s support, this year Hanan has become the first young person from Jala ever to get elected as a council representative and is one of only six female council members. Since then, she has thrived in her role, ensuring that the priorities her women’s group identified for Jala are continually raised in the municipality and through the youth council. She proudly states that the mayor calls her “the troublemaker”, adding: “If I see a problem that needs to be addressed, I don’t stay quiet!”

Before the project began, Hanan had opened a kindergarten in her village to fill a gap in early childhood education services. Despite her hard work and investment, it lacked a number of infrastructural and equipment requirements in order to be licensed with the education ministry.

But with logistical support and solidarity from the women’s group and the ActionAid coordinator, Hanan was able to meet all the requirements and submit all necessary documents to various governing bodies. This process was strenuous, but she was determined to have her business both provide a needed service for her community and meet quality standards. The livelihood support from ActionAid, as well its links with the Chamber of Commerce, were integral to the success of her small business.

Although Hanan has faced resistance from her parents and some of her seven brothers and sisters to her activism, she has noticed increased acceptance and hopes that her younger sisters can see her as an example and continue to push against the socio-cultural norms that restrict women’s lives. Hanan’s ambition, she says boldly with a laugh, is to become the mayor of the neighbouring town that includes Jala in its city limits. She is also an example of how participation in the Reflect Circle can have a knock-on effect beyond the scope of the women’s group.



## Rwanda

### Girls’ rooms help share sexual and reproductive health information

**Sexual and reproductive health (SRH) is a taboo subject in Rwanda, forcing girls and boys to acquire knowledge mainly from their peers. This risks incorrect information being passed on, and young people to fall prey to consequences such as unwanted pregnancy or sexually transmitted diseases.**

In addition, fear and shame can prevent girls coming to school during their period, meaning they could miss two to three days of education every month. In 2018, ActionAid Rwanda, with the support of the People’s Postcode Lottery, supported 31 schools in providing ‘girls’ rooms’, enabling girls to enjoy their right to education. The rooms contain a bed, a bathroom, and a small living room with a table and chairs to facilitate education on sexual and reproductive health issues.



Henriette, 15 [right] is now able to attend school regularly in Rwanda thanks to the availability of a 'safe room' where girls like her can find comfort and security during their period. PHOTO: MICHEL NDAYAMBJE/ACTIONAID

Over 6,200 girls now have easy access to a girls' room, contributing to reduced absenteeism. The same number of girls also has a trusted source of information on SRH via 62 matrons in the 31 schools. The matrons can educate young girls either one-to-one or in small, all-girl groups. Girls using the rooms now know how to use sanitary pads during their periods, whereas before they would (unhygienically) use and re-use small pieces of cloth. This knowledge is also spreading to the girls' mothers.

The girls' rooms have also altered attitudes among school administrators by showing them that it is their duty to support girls (especially those in discomfort) during their period at school. Schools now budget for sanitary materials whereas before they could send girls home if such a need arose.

Girls' power within school has also increased, firstly because they feel secure in being at school during their period and in accepting that it is a normal – and not shameful – part of everyday life, and second because they no longer miss classes, which makes them more confident of their performance. Another shift in power is demonstrated by the fact that boys' attitudes towards girls' menstruation is changing positively – girls no longer have to hide or face being bullied, and this has contributed to girls feeling safe to study.

Senegal

## Asserting the right to education over marriage

**Only 27% of girls complete secondary school in rural Senegal, as often-poor schooling and negative cultural norms encourage parents to remove their daughters from school and allow them to marry.**

ActionAid Senegal devoted 40% of its annual programme budget to educational initiatives this year, including community awareness and training on ActionAid's Promoting Rights in Schools (PRS) initiative, which, among other things, fights the negative gender norms that prevent girls enrolling and staying in school. ActionAid Senegal also trained school management committees and children's clubs to improve understanding of their educational rights and helped communities to assess the status of the 10 PRS rights in their schools.

An estimated 4,590 people in 510 School Management Committees were trained to use PRS (including more than 1,100 women), benefitting a population of 55,000 students. We collaborated with the three main unions that support PRS implementation and helped communities access national and international political documents, ranging from national laws (starting with the constitution), to Senegal's international commitments on education. We linked our actions on the PRS with Economic Literacy and Budget Accountability for Governance initiative (ELBAG) and 4S (Share, Size, Scrutiny and Sensitivity of public funds for public services) training as a prelude to community engagement in budget monitoring at the local level.

Seventeen-year-old Asmao's successful fight to remain in school is proof that – with the right training – students, parents and guardians can change the status quo. Asmao was doing well in school, but at the end of the school year in 2017 her father told her she would have to stop studying as he had arranged for her to get married, and that her fate was sealed. Asmao refused to comply and sought refuge with her sister and brother-in-law. The couple decided to help her, mediating with Asmao's parents to cancel the marriage, and participating in community awareness raising around PRS.

ActionAid and SCOFI (a girls' education association) gained an agreement that Asmao would not drop out of school and the marriage would not be consummated until she was 18. SCOFI also took charge of school fees for Asmao – which overcame the resistance of her father and potential husband. Asmao's story is a clear manifestation of the invisible power in communities that still greatly influences the daily lives of girls in rural areas. ActionAid Senegal is working with the women lawyers' association and SCOFI, as well as the Girl Not Bride National Coalition, to advocate for a review of Senegalese law that currently limits girls' aspirations for a future other than marriage and caring for the family.



Sierra Leone

## Improving lives through bridge-building

**ActionAid Sierra Leone has for many years been building the capacity of communities to demand their social and communal rights. A strong example of this work happened this year in Bendu Wharf, when community members performed a simple ranking exercise to prioritise their need for a bridge. In Bendu Wharf, getting to school was always a great challenge – children were often late and wet when they arrived at school because they had to cross a river. Women also struggled to reach health facilities and markets in communities beyond the river, and when the water was high during the rains, children could not attend school and the community was almost cut off.**

Under its own steam, and drawing on its own capacity to organise, the community came together, bringing their demand for a new bridge to the attention of the local Ward Development Committee, members of parliament, and ActionAid Sierra Leone. They mobilised themselves, offered local materials and labour, and asked ActionAid to support the construction of the bridge.

In response ActionAid provided 22 million Leones for construction of the bridge, and through an open procurement process hired an engineer, and provided the construction materials necessary for the project. Since completion the bridge has enabled children to access their school with less risk, and women to access health facilities, reducing maternal mortality and enhancing their livelihood through quick access to market.



Ellen crosses the new bridge built with ActionAid's support. PHOTO: JONATHAN BUNDU/ACTIONAID



## Gaining knowledge is more beneficial than receiving money

Somaliland

**Helping women gain greater control over material, intellectual or financial resources in places where lack of such assets hinders women's development and independence is critical. Microcredit is one strategy that has shown positive results in relation to women's livelihoods. This year ActionAid Somaliland has redistributed \$21,4000 to 680 new clients – each receiving \$314, with which they can either establish a new business or expand an existing business.**

Nimco Essa Geele is 48 and a widowed mother of two. She is also a member of a women's coalition in her village that benefits from an ActionAid Somaliland revolving loan fund, and capacity building for the women, including training in claiming their rights and participating in village leadership and decision making.

As part of the coalition, Nimco has attended life-changing business management training, including on microcredit, which enabled her to think independently and creatively on how she could develop her livelihood. "I couldn't sleep," Nimco recalls. "The thoughts kept recurring in my head until I finally got a brilliant business idea which is selling eggs." As she was on the waiting list for the revolving loan, she decided to start her business with \$4 in her hand. Her entrepreneurial initiative was successful and inspired other members in the coalition.

"Eggs are available in my village and its environs, but my worry was capital investment, as I had only \$4. At the end, I decided to start with what I had. Early next morning, I went to the village market to buy 27 eggs with the \$4 and sent them with a truck driver who ferries between our village and Hargeisa city. In the afternoon, he gave me 54,000 sh – equivalent to US\$8 – which revamped my desire to trade in eggs."

By October 2018 Nimco had constructed a room for storing the eggs and also expanded her business to selling vegetables (onions, potatoes, carrots, garlic and spices) and spaghetti. Her small business is growing day by day.





## Monitoring mining companies' social responsibility

In 2012 ActionAid South Africa supported the formation of two important groups – Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA) and Women Affected by Mining United in Action (WAMUA) – and since then has worked with these movements to push for realisation of rights for communities affected by mining activities.



A mine located in a community in which ActionAid empowered residents to understand and demand their land rights. PHOTO: AYANDA/ACTIONAID

This year our focus was on undertaking social audits of mining companies' compliance with their legal obligations. Assisting MACUA and WAMUA to undertake social audits in 10 communities across the country (and for a range of different minerals mined) has empowered communities to engage the industry from an informed position. This process has also helped the movement generate meaningful consultations, as communities' disgruntlement was potentially deterring investors.

As a result, this year the government has started including communities in policy and legislation formulation, and the movement's 'Nothing About Us Without Us' slogan was repeated by President Cyril Ramaphosa during his State of the Nation address. Mining companies are now beginning to consult communities – including inviting MACUA and WAMUA – in the nationwide Mining Charter consultations.

The social audit process and the formulation and adoption of the People's Mining Charter has empowered communities to determine their own destinies: social audits in Mpumalanga, for example, were a woman-only led process – the first time such an approach has been adopted in Africa, if not the world.

The social audit process has also been a catalyst in providing local solutions to local problems. The evidence gathered has helped communities to engage and enforce their inclusion in decision-making process at community level. It has also transformed communities from being an actively sidelined stakeholder to a key player at the decision-making table.



## Making public the fight against female genital mutilation

Sweden

**In 2018 ActionAid Sweden expanded its national work to end female genital mutilation (FGM) in Sweden. Through various activities we raised the question at both local and national level – linking local communities and decision makers, and amplifying the voices of those affected to make sure they were heard in national political processes.**

At a local level we worked with both networks and professionals who meet women at risk of genital mutilation or who have been genitally mutilated, and had meetings with Somali networks, associations, and families to discuss possible collaborations on preventive work. Many of the people we met say that they had not heard anyone talk about FGM in Sweden earlier and that they appreciated our addressing the issue.

At national level we worked to ensure that decision makers prioritised the issue. For example, we campaigned for a national action plan against FGM that was officially adopted by the Swedish government in 2018. In the development of the plan, we emphasised the importance of listening to and learning from those directly concerned. Also, in the winter of 2018, representatives from the Swedish Gender Equality Agency travelled to ActionAid Somaliland to learn from their work. At community level, Swedish women originally from one of the countries where FGM is performed took the lead during workshops, meetings, and informal discussion groups to question and challenge the structural causes of all forms of gender-based violence (GBV).

On a campaigning and advocacy level, our engagement with grassroots local actors challenged people in power to take a strong stance against GBV and allocate resources to combat harmful traditions such as FGM. The involvement of survivors of FGM during our activities had an impact and led to a sustained policy outcome to fight FGM in Sweden.

On a regional and global level, the involvement of colleagues from ActionAid in various African countries shifted the traditional north-to-south relationship through inviting them to inspire and teach us about the best method to engage local communities in the fight against gender-based violence, with focus on FGM.



Tanzania

## Young people take action on education and youth services

All governments are obliged to provide public services to taxpayers, and in turn, taxpayers are responsible for ensuring that those taxes are used effectively and to their benefit. Until recently, communities in Unguja North, Zanzibar – in particular youth – did little to hold local government accountable for public funds, partly due to lack of youth platforms that could unite young people’s collective voice.

To change this situation, ActionAid mobilised young people to form their own youth organisation, JUVIEKA, which has evolved to advocate for human rights and public accountability, especially in education. This year ActionAid supported JUVIEKA in organising training on social accountability monitoring, helping to form groups to monitor publicly financed work.

Motivated by these grassroots achievements, this year JUVIEKA members set about monitoring local leaders’ accountability, organising a series of face-to-face meetings with district government officials and village authorities to demand greater government funding for youth programmes and help to create a district youth council. As a result, the government allocated 10 million Tanzania shillings (US\$4,347) for youth councils to mobilise youth and to advocate for youth issues, laws, policies and programmes related to young people.



Thailand

## Villagers win rights to forest resources

For the past four years, inhabitants of Huai Nam Hin village in Nan Province have been fighting for their rights to remain on their land despite it being declared by the government as a special forest reservation. In 2015, 298 villagers were arrested after accusations that they had invaded the forest plots, which resulted in 48 people being sued for the alleged offence. However, the villagers had been living in the area for many years prior to the land being declared a reserved forest.

In May 2018, the Northern Farmers’ Federation – a member of the People’s network movement for a just society (P-Move) – joined a demonstration in Bangkok to demand that the government resolve the dispute. P-Move succeeded in getting the Deputy of the Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry to agree to finding a solution, and in May this year he visited Huai Nam Hin to provide guidelines to ensure villagers could still benefit from the forest, including allowing 20% of the land to be used as community forest, 70% of the land to be used by villagers for livelihoods, and 10% of the land to be used for settlement.

In their fight for justice, ActionAid Thailand and our partners empowered villagers in several ways, including by providing information on issues of basic rights and related law, and legal support. Building the P-Move network at the national level also helped to influence the policy. We then provided tools such as community journalist training, providing space to learn with other networks at regional and national levels. The battle of 48 families is set to help a further 250 families to continue their livelihoods in the area.

## Peaceful direct action brings change

**Persistent conflicts resulting from competing demands for land originally inhabited by the community of Appa in Uganda (and government failure to protect the community's rights) have seen 20 deaths, hundreds injuries and many households burned down or violently displaced over many decades. ActionAid Uganda and key community leaders and other partners have been supporting the community with legal advice, and training on effective leadership, organising, and non-violent activism.**

In July this year, ActionAid and other civil society organisations helped support 234 Apaa residents during a 36-day occupation of the UN Human rights compound in Gulu to demand their rights to the land. Solidarity and support were shown by other groups including local government leaders, MPs, cultural and religious leaders, market vendors, Activistas, civil society organisations, the women's movement, and individual activists, artists and children. These groups visited regularly, contributing food and non-food items, provided health services and legal and medical support, and held press conferences and other media engagements in support of the human rights defenders.

The peaceful occupation and local support generated much publicity about the conflict and helped build a stronger, informed and united movement for land rights. A visit by the President two months later led to the establishment of a diverse and representative committee tasked with finding an amicable and mutual solution to the conflict. The matter was registered with the Land Commission of Inquiry for a more strategic and accountable investigation by the state, and it is anticipated that the Apaa community will be fully settled in the future.



Some of the thousands of people displaced in Apaa village, northern Uganda. In June 2018 they occupied the UN offices to demand intervention. PHOTO: ACTIONAID





## Not this Girl campaign success

**In 2018, ActionAid's *Not This Girl* public appeal got underway in partnership with UK Aid Match – a funding mechanism offered by the UK government's Department for International Development (DfID) to UK-based civil society organisations to run programmes in developing countries that help change the lives of the world's poorest and most vulnerable. For every £1 that individuals in the UK donate to an organisation's UK Aid Match public appeal, the government also contributes £1.**

The appeal was developed in collaboration with ActionAid Kenya and focused on stories of survivors of sexual violence in different areas of rural Kenya and Nairobi, and how, with the support of ActionAid, the local women's groups and networks work tirelessly to respond. The match funding from the government is currently funding a three-year project in three locations in Kenya.

*Not This Girl* was an integrated, cross-organisational appeal, involving teams from fundraising, communications, digital and programmes. Our pro bono communication partners the Metro Online news outlet, Festival Republic, and the People's Postcode Lottery were active in publishing stories around the campaign throughout the appeal – the Metro alone published a total of 12 pieces about *Not This Girl*, featuring various stories from Kenya.

Overall the campaign was a success, raising £1.1 million and exceeding its original target by 35%. It resonated with our existing warm and high-value audiences who donated very generously, strongly incentivised by the 'double your donation' message. The campaign also led to increased non-financial engagement from some of our community supporters. For example, a couple who, instead of wedding gifts, asked for donations to ActionAid became even more engaged in our work as the groom's family was from Kenya. Their involvement in the campaign led to an increased interest in ActionAid's general work and wishing to fundraise for us again in the future.



## The message on biofuels and industrial agriculture gets out

**In 2016 and 2017, ActionAid USA's work against biofuels evolved into a campaign against industrial agriculture more broadly. As part of this campaign we worked with the National Family Farm Coalition (a member of La Via Campesina) and others to produce a report on the impact of biofuel mandates and industrial agriculture on farmers in Iowa, a heavily agricultural US state. This helped to amplify the voices of small US farmers that are rarely heard in agricultural policy discussions because of the overwhelming power of the agribusiness lobby.**

We also produced short videos on the subject that were widely distributed in many states and well received by farmers, and by activists in the food movement. Through the videos, livestock and grain framers from Iowa talk about the environmental and economic harm that large-scale industrial agriculture caused in their communities, including soil erosion and nutrient loss, decreasing jobs, water pollution, and the loss of family farms. There were multiple requests from community organisations to screen the films at events, including at the annual meeting of 400 cooperative farmers in Mississippi.



Industrial farming practices have left rising numbers of family farms such as Gary Hoskey's struggling to get by. PHOTO: MARK PETRUNIAK/ACTIONAID

We officially launched the report at an event at the National Press Club designed to bring farmers and environmentalists together, since biofuel mandates neither work for the environment nor address the root cause of issues that farmers face. At that event, we screened both our short videos from Iowa, as well as the documentary *BURNED: Are Trees the New Coal?*, and held a panel that included a female farmer from Iowa. This event allowed us to demonstrate to environmentalists that farmers can be allies in the fight against industrial agriculture and biofuel mandates, but that their real economic challenges must be addressed as part of any solution. It also highlighted the similarities between the biofuels industry and the woody biomass industry: both are pitched by corporations as economic and climate solutions to struggling communities, but ultimately are deeply extractive industries that do harm to both the environment and the host communities.

These initiatives have helped to lay the framework for an ongoing campaign that shifts power in favour of farmers, and have created a number of openings that can now be used to take forward a broad critique of biofuels and industrial agriculture, and a push for a more just food system in the USA.



## Village disaster risk reduction team puts women in charge

Tran Thi Be Tu lives with her husband and five children in Truong Tho hamlet, Soc Trang province. Her family's livelihood depends on agriculture, but hazards such as salinisation, heavy rains and storms have damaged her rice fields and fruit trees, while droughts have reduced the quantities of stored water needed for cultivation in the dry season. This change in the climate makes life difficult for Tu, her relatives, and other villagers. They have never been prepared or equipped cope with natural disasters or to mitigate their impacts.



Tran Thi Be Tu has been trained by ActionAid on disaster risk reduction, including the use of mobile phone technology as an early alert system to protect homes and livelihoods. PHOTO: TRAN KHAC TUNG/ACTIONAID

In March 2017, Tu and other villagers joined ActionAid Vietnam and its partners to build disaster resilient communities Vietnam. As part of this they helped establish a disaster risk reduction (DRR) team, learning various methods and techniques to protect their families and their assets from being affected by natural disasters, including using smartphone technology receive early disaster warnings.

Instead of using river water for her fruit trees, Tu started using the water from the well in her own gardens, significantly reducing the effects of salinisation on the trees. Tu and her DRR team members started to attend to early alerts of storms on the PFG application and public radio, and to reinforce their homes in good time if a storm was predicted. The group also agreed to avoid fertilising paddy and fruit trees before a storm was set to strike, and to inform all neighbours so that they too could be prepared.

Every day Tu meets others at the noodle shop she runs in her hamlet, using the opportunity to communicate with them about climate change, how to prepare and respond to natural hazards, and how to get early disaster alerts, etc. More and more people come to her noodle shop to learn to protect their own family, crops and assets, and she has been voted Head of the Women's Union at Truong Tho hamlet 2018–2022.

"I am very proud to be a member of the DRR group of Truong Tho because I acquire useful knowledge about disaster and climate change," says Tu. "Not only am I able to protect my own family, I can also help people in my hamlet and from other villages how to adapt to climate change."

As community representatives, Tu and the DRR team are now often consulted by local institutions when making and implementing the locality's annual DRR and socio-economic development plans and allocating budgets. And perhaps most importantly, the authorities are now listening to and consulting with women and communities when it comes to DRR – improving the space for women to engage and make their voices heard and making the initiative sustainable in the long term.



Zambia

## People power leads to road network upgrade

**Most people in Mpulungu, northern Zambia, depend on agriculture and endure huge challenges such as drought, lack of irrigation, basic farming skills, poor soil, pests and cattle disease. These small-scale farmers also face challenges such as low and unstable prices and difficulties in transporting their produce to market. In addition, inadequate road networks contribute to poor and late delivery of public social services such as health and education.**

ActionAid Zambia has been implementing activities around governance, focusing on civic participation and state accountability by conducting training on lobbying and advocacy for community members in Vyamba Ward. This year community members made several submissions through their ward development committees and formal requests to their MPs for an upgrade to poor local road networks. Their submissions were successful, resulting in almost 12,000 people directly benefiting from the road.

Daisy Namuchenje, a mother of six children from Vyamba Ward, said: "Here in Vyamba we only had one day a week when mini-buses used to commute between Vyamba and Mpulungu town. It used to take five days or a week to transport 100 bags of maize to the market, because we used oxcarts that can carry only very few bags. Right now, it takes less than a day to transport 100 bags of maize to market, and costs to transport our agricultural products such as beans, maize, cotton, groundnuts and many others from home to market are less compared to before the road was upgraded. We also make more profits."





Zimbabwe

## Citizens get green light to monitor MPs' performance

**This year ActionAid Zimbabwe, in partnership with the MS-Training Centre Development Cooperation, ActionAid Denmark and the European Commission Pan African Programme, brought together a range of political parties, MPs and local government authorities to adopt a performance management system to monitor them against their electoral promises and party manifestos. The monitoring application will allow citizens to track the performance of their MPs, councilors and political parties.**

During the year, ActionAid Zimbabwe identified key players with the capacity to influence policy and legal reforms. These included MPs who are members of Parliament Portfolio Committees (PPCs), secretary generals of major political parties, chief executive officers for local government and civil society organisations. The political parties were Zimbabwe African National Patriotic Front (ZANU PF), Movement for Democratic Change Alliance (MDCA) and United Movement for Democratic Change (UMDC).

Twenty-one delegates attended a week-long electoral accountability training workshop, including the secretary generals from the different political parties – a huge achievement in what is a polarised political landscape. The performance management application will be managed by the Parliament of Zimbabwe (as parliaments are permanent institutions with capacity to track such national programmes) which will generate reports to send to respective political parties, local authorities and other key institutions such as ministries.

ActionAid will work closely with PPCs who will supervise their MPs, local government chief executives will oversee councilors, and political parties' key decision-making bodies will manage their parties based on their electoral promises and manifestos. Issues to be focused on are education, health, water, agriculture and all local government public service delivery issues, including gender responsive public services.

From 2018 onwards the programme will follow the five-year electoral cycle of Zimbabwe. Communities will tell their MPs, councilors and political parties if they have been successful or not in fulfilling their promises, thereby promoting transparency and accountability in electoral systems, as well as improved service delivery.



# FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS



Jahangir Howlader and Nayantara Begum outside their house. Since the 1990s, parts of their farmland have been washed away by rising sea levels, leaving them no choice but to adapt their home to cope with frequent floods.

PHOTO: NATASHA MULDER/ACTIONAID



# INTRODUCTION AND TREASURER'S NOTE

**The financial report and accounts for the period ended 31 December 2018 bring together the activities and financial position of all the entities that work under the name ActionAid International. Financial statements encompass ActionAid International (Global Secretariat and Country Programmes managed by ActionAid International), Affiliate and Associate Members, as described in the Financial and Accounting Policies.**

During March 2018 the Audit and Risk Committee became the Risk and Internal Audit Committee (RIAC); and the Finance and Funding Committee became the Finance, Fundraising and External Audit Committee (FFEA). In joint sessions, these committees have responsibility for monitoring and challenging, where necessary, the integrity of our annual report and financial accounts, establishing and overseeing the Federation's relationship with the external auditors, including the monitoring of its independence and expertise, the terms of reference of its engagement and fees, assessing the effectiveness of the audit process, agreeing the scope of the external auditors annual audit plan and reviewing the output. EY were re-appointed as external auditors to audit the aggregation performed by management to compile the aggregated non-statutory financial statements for the year 2018.

The joint Committees considered, amongst other matters, a number of significant issues in relation to the financial reporting of the Federation, including taxation, country specific risks, the level of our reserves, and the aggregation process. There has been considerable discussion over the reporting responsibilities of the Global Secretariat and the Country Programmes it oversees so that combined accounts for these entities will be raised for the first time for 2018, separate to the Federation aggregated accounts.

**Internal control:** The ActionAid International Board, accountable to the ActionAid International Assembly, has overall responsibility for the system of internal control in the Global Secretariat and Country

Programmes, and through the internal audit function monitors the control environments of ActionAid International's Members. The system provides reasonable but not absolute assurance that ActionAid International operates efficiently and effectively, safeguards its assets, maintains proper records and complies with relevant laws and regulations. The national Boards have the primary function of oversight and monitoring performance at national level. The members of the ActionAid International Board oversee a comprehensive accountability system. This includes rolling three-year plans, approved annually by Members' Boards and on an aggregated basis by members of the ActionAid International Board. The ActionAid International Board compares actual results with plans and forecasts and non-financial performance data.

Other controls include delegation of authority and segregation of duties. The ActionAid International internal audit function regularly reviews internal controls across ActionAid International and submits reports to the RIAC (formerly the Audit and Risk Committee). The ActionAid International Board has accepted responsibility for the preparation of these aggregated non-statutory financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2018, which are intended to give a true and fair view of the state-of-affairs of ActionAid International at that date and of its deficit (after exchange rate losses) for the period then ended.

In preparing these aggregated non-statutory financial statements, members of the Board have:

- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Stated whether appropriate accounting standards have been followed subject to any material departures being disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepared the financial statements on the going concern basis as they believe that ActionAid International will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

Members of the Board are responsible for ensuring that adequate accounting records are kept for ActionAid International and for monitoring the standard of record keeping of Members and Country Programmes, so that they can disclose, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of ActionAid International and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with International Financial Reporting Standards and ActionAid International's accounting policies. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of ActionAid International and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities. They are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the financial and other information included on the organisation's website.

## Strategy 2028

Our finance and funding strategy is an integral part of the Global Strategy 2028 and is therefore led by our identity, theory of change and programme framework. Our approach to resourcing responds to ActionAid International's current critical financial position of declining net unrestricted income and draws on key lessons learnt from the previous Global Strategy that ended in 2018.

The following key issues will become strategic priorities for the 2028 finance and funding strategy: a clearer identity and programme framework for stronger positioning for fundraisers; a growth strategy that is focused on maximising return on investment; a meaningful culture of adaptation and innovation particularly in the use of technology and the Global Financial System; and an overhaul of our resource allocation framework.

Growth is not expected to be linear. We will invest and expect growth in new and emerging markets to be accelerated in the second half of the strategy period. We will strive to maintain existing support from established markets throughout.

We are committed to maintaining the same balance of voluntary fundraising and institutional funding, and within voluntary fundraising we will strive to grow regular giving income faster, recognising the need for more unrestricted income to deliver the Global Strategy 2028.

Our strategy must also be responsive to the external environment. We can't predict the level of disruption and impact on our ability to raise funds and implement programmes over the next 10 years but we know that politically and economically changes are happening faster than ever.

## Financial losses including disallowances

The total recorded losses through disallowances and other means in 2018 were £274,799 – an increase of 18% compared with 2017's figure of £225,300. Fraud and irregularity related losses were £34,134, showing a slight downward trend of 10%. Other losses, mostly disallowances, that were not fraud related were £240,665 – a 22% increase in 2018 over the 2017 figure of £187,524. The increased fraud awareness created by internal audit may have been responsible for the continued decrease in losses incurred from fraud and irregularities.

## Outlook for 2019

ActionAid continues to operate in a challenging political and economic environment globally, and one in which raising flexible resources has never been more difficult. In 2019 and beyond we will continue to mitigate this, as we have stated in our strategy, by diversifying our income streams and by increasing the number of income-generating countries within our Federation, and increasing our investment in emerging fundraising markets. We will also continue to promote innovation and digital transformation throughout the organisation and remain agile enough to respond to trends in each of our markets, and globally.

## Reserves policy and performance

ActionAid holds reserves to allow our work to continue during periods when income may fluctuate. We do this to show our long-term commitment to our beneficiaries. We divide our funds into:

- Restricted reserves: funds which are earmarked for particular purposes, e.g. an appeal to help victims of disasters, but have not yet been spent.



- Unrestricted reserves: general funds which can be used for any expenditure. Some of these funds are invested in largely short-term instruments with banks and other institutions, with some held in longer term investments. Our policy is to hold between two and four months of reserves based on planned operating expenditure in the following year.

Reserves are defined here as:

- Funds from supporters, typically committed givers, excluding property, plant and equipment. Balances which result from grants of partnership income, for example from official donors, are not included within this definition of 'reserves'.
- And unrestricted funds held by Affiliate and Associate Members and ActionAid International.

The unrestricted liquid funds and treasury reserves of €29 million at the end of 2018 (2017: €22 million) represent 5.3 months of unrestricted expenditure (2017: 3.9 months).



**Priscilla Sichone Mpundu**

*Treasurer of ActionAid International*

# Independent Auditor's Report on the Aggregated Non-Statutory Financial Statements

## To the Members of ActionAid International (the Federation)

### Opinion

We have audited the aggregation performed by management to compile the aggregated non-statutory financial statements of ActionAid International set out on pages 87 to 107, which comprise the aggregated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2018, and the aggregated statement of comprehensive income and aggregated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and the notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

In our opinion, the aggregation performed by management to compile the aggregated non-statutory financial statements of ActionAid International for the year ended 31 December 2018 has been prepared, in all material aspects, in accordance with the basis of aggregation and preparation described in note 1 to the aggregated financial statements.

We have not audited the individual financial reporting packages of any of the aggregated affiliates/associates, country programmes and the International Secretariat and therefore we do not express an opinion on the individual financial reporting packages, but rather on the aggregation of these financial reporting packages. Our opinion therefore does not extend to the underlying amounts used in the aggregation or the aggregated amounts themselves and only extends to the method of aggregation applied.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Aggregation of the Aggregated Non-Statutory Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the sections 290 and 291 of the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors' Code of Professional Conduct for Registered Auditors (Revised January 2018), parts 1 and 3 of the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors' Code of Professional Conduct for Registered Auditors (Revised November 2018) (together the IRBA Codes) and other independence requirements applicable to performing audits of Federation. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities, as applicable, in accordance with the IRBA Codes and in accordance with other ethical requirements applicable to performing audits in South Africa. The IRBA Codes are consistent with the corresponding sections of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) respectively. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Aggregation and Preparation and Restriction on Distribution and Use

We draw attention to Note 1 to the aggregated non-statutory financial statements, which describe the basis of aggregation and preparation. The aggregated non-statutory financial statements are prepared for the Federation's Members, as a body, solely for the purpose to publish aggregated non-statutory financial statements in accordance with the terms of our engagement. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### Other Information

The members of the board are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the document titled "ActionAid International 2018 Global Annual Report", which includes the Treasurer's Report. The other information does not include the aggregated non-statutory financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinion on the aggregation of the aggregated non-statutory financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

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

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

### **Board Members' Responsibility for the Aggregated Non-statutory Financial Statements**

Members of the Board of ActionAid International are responsible for the preparation of these aggregated non-statutory financial statements in accordance with the basis of aggregation and preparation described in note 1 to the aggregated non-statutory financial statements, for determining that the basis of preparation and method of aggregation is acceptable in the circumstances and for such internal control as the members of the board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of aggregated non-statutory financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The members of the board are responsible for overseeing the Federation's financial reporting process.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Aggregation of the Aggregated Non-Statutory Financial Statements**

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

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the aggregated non statutory financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Federation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting

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

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

*Ernst & Young Inc.*

#### **Ernst & Young Inc.**

Director – Kavinesh Manicum  
Registered Auditor  
Chartered Accountant (SA)

08 August 2019

# Aggregated Statement of comprehensive Income for the year ended 31 December 2018

	Note	Restricted €'000	Unrestricted €'000	Total 2018 €'000	Total 2017 €'000
<b>INCOME</b>					
Individual Giving	2a	43,331	60,465	103,796	113,066
Philanthropy & Partnerships	2b	14,605	5,837	20,442	27,607
Institutional	2c	73,174	2,392	75,566	78,001
		131,110	68,694	199,804	218,674
Other income	2d	8,406	2,256	10,662	11,037
<b>Total income</b>		<b>139,516</b>	<b>70,950</b>	<b>210,466</b>	<b>229,711</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Fundraising	3	7,529	31,579	39,108	42,698
Programme	4	136,906	31,034	167,940	185,206
Governance	5	1,416	2,806	4,222	3,544
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>145,851</b>	<b>65,419</b>	<b>211,270</b>	<b>231,448</b>
<b>Net surplus/(deficit)</b>		<b>(6,335)</b>	<b>5,531</b>	<b>(804)</b>	<b>(1,737)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>					
Realised foreign exchange losses					(190)
Unrealised exchange losses and other movements	15	2,615	999	3,614	(6,842)
<b>Total comprehensive income/(expense)</b>		<b>(3,720)</b>	<b>6,530</b>	<b>2,810</b>	<b>(8,769)</b>

Notes 1 to 18 form part of these accounts. There are no recognised gains and losses other than those shown above. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.



# Aggregated Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2018

	Note	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Non-current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	9	9,933	10,242
Investments	11	7,286	7,322
<b>Total Non-current Assets</b>		<b>17,219</b>	<b>17,564</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Receivables	12	19,095	17,768
<i>Cash and cash equivalents</i>			
Short term bank deposits		938	999
Cash at bank		87,177	84,729
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>107,210</b>	<b>103,496</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Payables	13	(39,370)	(38,787)
Current portion of loan payable		(187)	(187)
<b>Total Current</b>		<b>(39,557)</b>	<b>(38,974)</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>67,653</b>	<b>64,522</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Non-current portion Loan payable	13	(5,956)	(5,980)
<b>Total Net Assets</b>		<b>78,916</b>	<b>76,106</b>
<b>Funds</b>			
	14,15		
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
Liquid funds and treasury reserves		39,989	43,692
Property, plant and equipment reserve		2,432	2,449
		<b>42,421</b>	<b>46,141</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
Liquid funds and treasury reserves		28,994	22,172
Property, plant and equipment reserve		7,501	7,793
		<b>36,495</b>	<b>29,965</b>
<b>Total Funds</b>		<b>78,916</b>	<b>76,106</b>

# Aggregated Statement of Changes in Funds for the Year Ended 31 December 2018

<b>2018</b>	<b>Funds €'000</b>	<b>Foreign Currency Translation Reserve €'000</b>	<b>Total €'000</b>
Total funds brought forward at 1 January	<b>83,640</b>	<b>(7,534)</b>	<b>76,106</b>
Net deficit	<b>(804)</b>	-	<b>(804)</b>
Total Funds as at 31 December	<b>82,836</b>	<b>(7,534)</b>	<b>75,302</b>
Other Comprehensive Income	-	<b>3,614</b>	<b>3,614</b>
<b>Total Funds as at 31 December</b>	<b>82,836</b>	<b>(3,920)</b>	<b>78,916</b>

<b>2017</b>	<b>Funds €'000</b>	<b>Foreign Currency Translation Reserve €'000</b>	<b>Total €'000</b>
Total funds brought forward at 1 January	<b>85,567</b>	<b>(692)</b>	<b>84,875</b>
Net deficit	(1,737)	-	(1,737)
Other Comprehensive Income	(190)	(6,842)	(7,032)
<b>Total Funds as at 31 December</b>	<b>83,640</b>	<b>(7,534)</b>	<b>76,106</b>

# Aggregated Cashflow Statement for the Year ended 31 December 2018

	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
<b>Cash flow from operating activities</b>		
Net deficit	(804)	(2,004)
Depreciation net of exchange difference	990	1,156
Investment income	(179)	(1,196)
Increase in receivables	(1,326)	(4,820)
Increase in payables	583	2,424
<b>Net cash outflow from operating activities</b>	<b>(736)</b>	<b>(4,440)</b>
<b>Cash from investing activities</b>		
Investment income	179	1,196
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(2,022)	(1,188)
Purchase of investments	(5,826)	(153)
Proceeds from the sale of investments	5,911	5,069
Net cash (outflow)/ inflow from investing activities	(1,758)	4,924
Impact of exchange rates on cash and cash equivalents	4,881	3,509
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>2,387</b>	<b>3,993</b>
<b>2018</b>	<b>Cash €'000</b>	<b>Cash €'000</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	85,728	81,735
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	2,387	3,993
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December</b>	<b>88,115</b>	<b>85,728</b>

# Notes to the Financial Statements as at 31 December 2018

## 1. Accounting Policies

### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared from financial information supplied to ActionAid International by each constituent entity in a common agreed format (Financial Reporting Package). For a breakdown of these entities, please refer to note 15 of the financial statements. Balances due at the year-end date and transactions arising during the year between the constituent entities are eliminated as part of the aggregation process.

The underlying information has been prepared using an entity specific accounting framework derived from International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union as the Board members have decided that these standards are the most appropriate to ActionAid International's stakeholders. The financial statements have been prepared voluntarily, under the historical cost accounting rules modified for the revaluation of investments, to give a better picture of the international Federation. Certain additional disclosures, including the analysis of income, expenditure and closing reserves by fund category, and the separation of liquid reserves and funds invested in property, plant and equipment, have been made in line with internationally accepted accounting practices for not-for-profit organisations. The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous financial year. At the date of issue of these financial statements the following standards and interpretations, which have not been applied in these financial statements, were in issue but not yet effective. Time is given to implement new IFRS and we are currently taking all necessary steps to implement the following standards in good time. The Board members anticipate that the adoption of these standards and interpretations in future periods will have no material impact on the financial statements of ActionAid International.

### Effective in future periods

IFRS 16 Leases	1 Jan 2019
IFRS 10 and IAS 28 Saleor Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture – Amenments to IFRS 10 and IAS 28	1 Jan 2019

### Basis of aggregation

On aggregation, income and expenditure denominated in currencies other than Euros are translated into Euros at an average rate for the year; assets and liabilities are translated using the rate of exchange ruling at the statement of financial position date. Gains and losses on translation from functional to presentational currency are not recognised in arriving at the surplus or deficit for the year; instead they are taken directly to reserves and tracked as a separate component within other comprehensive income.

### Fund accounting

All funds raised by ActionAid International are used in the furtherance of its objects, including the net profits from trading activities. Restricted funds are a significant proportion of the funds and are raised on the basis of an agreement or understanding with the donors that their use will be restricted to certain specified projects, activities or areas of operation. These restricted funds are accounted for separately.



The remainder of the funds raised, including any element of a restricted donation agreed by the donor to be available for use on administrative or other matters, is unrestricted and may be used for any of ActionAid International's general purposes. Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Board members for specific future periods. ActionAid International also identifies separately those funds invested in property, plant and equipment, representing the book value of the property, plant and equipment that have been purchased for use by ActionAid International out of restricted and unrestricted funds. Presentation of these funds separately enables ActionAid International to better assess the liquid resources available to support future expenditure.

### Committed giving

ActionAid International's income consists principally of donations from supporters of a fixed amount usually paid monthly. The majority of supporters are linked directly to a particular Country Programme, or specifically to a child in that country. Supporters receive periodic communications detailing how their donations have been used in accordance with their wishes. Affiliate and Associate Members of ActionAid International aim to make their income more flexible by encouraging supporters to transfer from child sponsorship to less restricted forms of giving over time.

The accounting for child sponsorship and other committed giving income is in each case in accordance with the information provided to supporters. The majority of the income is allocated according to the primary focus or purpose of the donation. A percentage, usually 20%, is treated as unrestricted funds, as is tax recovered from local revenue authorities. There are also arrangements for a small proportion of these donations to be used for broader charitable work and to support the generation of income within the Country Programmes.

### Accounting for income

Income is shown gross, before any deduction of associated costs.

Income is accounted for when receivable. It is deemed to be receivable either when actually received, when there is a contract for its receipt and the relevant entity considers that any outstanding conditions under the contract have been met, or when the entity has become entitled to a future payment and its amount can be ascertained with reasonable certainty. Funds received in one accounting period that are specifically restricted to work to be carried out in subsequent accounting periods are not accounted for as income but are treated as deferred income.

Donations in kind are credited to income at an estimate of the gross value of the gift, which will usually be a market price valuation.

Interest earned from the temporary investment of funds restricted to emergency work is credited to emergency funds. Interest and investment income earned on committed giving monies held in reserve are credited to unrestricted funds in accordance with the information provided to supporters. Interest earned on other restricted fund balances is also credited to unrestricted funds to recognise the fact that in many cases the costs of a project are incurred before the relevant restricted income is received.

### Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and all costs include irrecoverable taxes.

**Fundraising:** The costs of generating funds represent expenditure incurred on raising funds from committed giving supporters, other members of the public, companies, trusts, official bodies and other donors. They include the costs of maintaining child sponsorship and other supporter links and of reporting to supporters and other donors on the projects to which they contribute. They also include investment management costs.

**Programme activities:** The long-term development and emergency relief and rehabilitation work in Country Programmes, and the policy influencing and campaigning work carried out there and internationally, are managed either by ActionAid International staff in the country concerned or in collaboration with independent organisations, usually locally registered, which are partly or wholly funded by ActionAid International. Grants made to such other organisations are separately identified in the notes.

**Governance:** The costs included in this category include the costs of Board meetings and other governance processes for each entity, and the costs of legal, internal and external audit.

Fundraising, programme and governance costs are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income inclusive of their share of support costs. Support costs represent expenditure incurred on management and the provision of the facilities and services that enable the fundraising and programme activities and governance processes to be carried out efficiently and effectively.

The allocation method of support cost to fundraising, programme and governance is stated in Note 6.

### Property, plant and equipment and depreciation

Property, plant and equipment costing more than the equivalent of £5,000, are capitalised at cost. Depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis and taken to the statement of comprehensive income over the life of the asset. Depreciation is calculated for the following categories of property, plant and equipment as follows:

	In Europe/US	Outside Europe/US
Freehold buildings	25 years	10 years
Office equipment – computers	3 years	3 years
Office equipment – other	5 years	3 years

Depreciation on motor vehicles held in Europe is calculated at 25% on the reducing balance method. Depreciation on motor vehicles held elsewhere is calculated at 33.3% on the straight line method. No depreciation is charged on freehold land.

Within ActionAid International's restricted and unrestricted funds, separate reserves are identified which represent the net book value of its property, plant and equipment. This enables ActionAid International to better assess the liquid resources available to support future expenditure.

### Investments

Investments are classified according to the purpose for which they were acquired. ActionAid International designated its investments as "fair value through profit and loss" on IFRS adoption and will continue to do so. Under this method of accounting, investments are recorded at fair value in the statement of financial position and all changes in value are recognised in the profit and loss statement. This designation has been made in accordance with paragraph 9 (b) (ii) of IAS 39 on the basis that the investments are held with a view to generating a total return over an extended period and that management measures this total return based upon total changes in fair value, in line with ActionAid International's established investment policies. As proceeds from disposals are generally reinvested, the distinction between changes in value crystallised by sale and those arising through adjustment to fair value is not considered meaningful. As all equities and bonds are main index stocks and traded on active, regulated exchanges, fair values are determined directly by reference to published current bid prices.

### Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents as stated in the statement of cash flows include ActionAid International's cash balances and short-term deposits. Short-term bank deposits are funds not instantly accessible at the reporting date, where the deposits mature within three months of the reporting date.

## Pensions

ActionAid International operates a variety of pension and other post-employment benefits, and other post-employment benefit schemes, the costs of which are charged in the statement of comprehensive income as they accrue. None of these schemes is a defined benefit scheme.

## Foreign currencies

Items included in the accounting records of the entities comprising ActionAid International are measured using 'the functional currency', which is the currency of the primary economic environment in which each aggregated entity operates. The aggregated financial statements of ActionAid International are presented in Euros. This is 'the presentational currency' as it benefits the majority of stakeholders. Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the rate of exchange ruling at the date of the transaction. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

On aggregation, income and expenditure denominated in currencies other than Euros are translated into Euros at an average rate for the year; assets and liabilities are translated using the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Gains and losses on translation from functional to presentational currency are not recognised in arriving at the surplus or deficit for the year; instead they are taken directly to reserves and tracked as a separate component within other comprehensive income.

## Critical accounting estimates and judgements

Preparation of financial statements inherently involves a degree of estimation and the exercise of judgement. Estimates and judgements made are based upon past experience, expectations of future events and are believed reasonable under the circumstances. The nature of ActionAid International's activities is such that there are no significant matters of estimation or judgement which are thought likely to give rise to actual results materially different from those included in the financial statements. The following accounting treatment is subject to a significant degree of judgement.

## Introduction of new Members into the aggregated financial statements

As described in the basis of aggregation, because of the specific nature of the relationship between Members, the Board members have adopted this policy that best reflects the substance of the evolution of ActionAid International.

## Contingent liabilities

ActionAid International receives funding from Members for various activities which are subject to donor audits. Although such audits may result in disallowance of certain expenditures, which would be absorbed by ActionAid International, in management's opinion the ultimate outcome of such audits would not have a significant effect on the financial position, changes in net assets, or cash flows of ActionAid International.

## Completeness of submissions from Members into the aggregated financial statements

As described in the basis of aggregation, the financial statements have been prepared from financial information supplied to ActionAid International by each Member in a common agreed format. Given the nature of some of the countries in which ActionAid International operates, final audited financial information may not be available in time for the aggregation timetable, in which case the latest best available information is included.

2a. Individual Giving	Restricted €'000	Unrestricted €'000	Total 2018 €'000	2017 €'000
ActionAid International Secretariat (Ayuda)	2,730	-	2,730	6,604
Australia	176	1,700	1,876	1,870
Brazil	1,633	1,607	3,240	4,090
Denmark	9	2,044	2,053	2,418
France	40	489	529	526
Greece	3,672	2,654	6,326	6,443
India	458	-	458	450
Indonesia	8	726	734	382
Ireland	902	763	1,665	1,962
Italy	18,727	21,553	40,280	41,797
Nigeria	18	8	26	24
South Africa	185	79	264	288
Sweden	1,598	1,616	3,214	4,044
Thailand	-	516	516	181
Netherlands	23	817	840	925
Vietnam	12	-	12	14
UK	13,109	25,807	38,916	40,843
USA	31	86	117	205
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>43,331</b>	<b>60,465</b>	<b>103,796</b>	<b>113,066</b>

2b. Philanthropy & Partnerships	Restricted €'000	Unrestricted €'000	Total 2018 €'000	2017 €'000
Major Donors	5,040	1,502	6,542	4,425
Corporate Partnerships	2,675	321	2,996	850
Trusts and Foundations	4,514	3,745	8,259	17,928
Other Philanthropy & Partnerships	2,376	269	2,645	4,404
<b>Total Philanthropy &amp; Partnerships</b>	<b>14,605</b>	<b>5,837</b>	<b>20,442</b>	<b>27,607</b>



<b>2c. Institutional income</b>	<b>Restricted €'000</b>	<b>Unrestricted €'000</b>	<b>Total 2018 €'000</b>	<b>2017 €'000</b>
European Union	11,484	15	<b>11,499</b>	8,735
Global Fund	7,288	-	<b>7,288</b>	13,803
Government of Australia	2,165	-	<b>2,165</b>	3,005
Government of Denmark	17,569	1,121	<b>18,690</b>	16,102
Government of Ireland	897	45	<b>942</b>	750
Government of Italy	2,232	30	<b>2,262</b>	925
Government of Norway	1,972	-	<b>1,972</b>	1,285
Government of Sweden	2,142	-	<b>2,142</b>	3,779
Government of The Netherlands	4,851	591	<b>5,442</b>	2,215
Government of United Kingdom	6,498	-	<b>6,498</b>	5,762
United Nations - World Food Programme	2,804	-	<b>2,804</b>	3,861
All other governments	2016	35	<b>2,051</b>	5,013
All other United Nations agencies	6,313	100	<b>6,413</b>	5,868
Other contributions from official bodies	4,185	438	<b>4,623</b>	3,742
Start Fund	758	17	<b>775</b>	3,156
<b>Total Institutional income</b>	<b>73,174</b>	<b>2,392</b>	<b>75,566</b>	<b>78,001</b>

<b>2d. Other income</b>	<b>Restricted €'000</b>	<b>Unrestricted €'000</b>	<b>Total 2018 €'000</b>	<b>2017 €'000</b>
Charitable Trading	<b>7,769</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>9,115</b>	<b>7,786</b>
Bank interest	<b>148</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>297</b>
Investment income	-	<b>179</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>1,166</b>
Gains/(losses) on foreign exchange	<b>(5)</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>(191)</b>
Other	<b>494</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>911</b>	<b>1,979</b>
<b>Total other income</b>	<b>8,406</b>	<b>2,256</b>	<b>10,662</b>	<b>11,037</b>

<b>3. Fundraising costs</b>	<b>Restricted €'000</b>	<b>Unrestricted €'000</b>	<b>Total 2018 €'000</b>	<b>2017 €'000</b>
Individual giving, Philanthropy & Partnerships costs	<b>5,498</b>	<b>21,538</b>	<b>27,036</b>	<b>27,799</b>
Cost of other donations	<b>318</b>	<b>2,047</b>	<b>2,365</b>	<b>3,011</b>
Cost of raising contributions from official bodies	<b>518</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>4,922</b>
Cost of raising voluntary and official income	<b>6,334</b>	<b>24,184</b>	<b>30,518</b>	<b>35,732</b>
Costs of fundraising trading				
Investment management costs	<b>1,195</b>	<b>1,376</b>	<b>2,571</b>	<b>1,148</b>
	<b>7,529</b>	<b>25,560</b>	<b>33,089</b>	<b>36,880</b>
Support costs allocated to Fundraising (Note 6)	-	<b>6,019</b>	<b>6,019</b>	<b>5,819</b>
<b>Total Fundraising costs</b>	<b>7,529</b>	<b>31,579</b>	<b>39,108</b>	<b>42,698</b>

4. Programme costs by Country Affiliates & Associates	Grants €'000	Direct programme €'000	Total 2018 €'000	Total 2017 €'000
Australia	0	1,258	1,258	1,447
Bangladesh	7,113	562	7,675	5,239
Brazil	1,020	817	1,837	2,204
Denmark	0	18,099	18,099	17,621
France	37	489	526	851
Ghana	1,207	1,810	3,017	2,918
Greece	0	1,628	1,628	1,080
Guatemala	1,210	150	1,360	1,239
India	3,967	817	4,784	5,713
Indonesia	0	645	645	170
Ireland	0	197	197	222
Italy	1,526	4,705	6,231	5,321
Kenya	855	6,639	7,494	8,989
Malawi	4,170	7,702	11,872	16,727
Mozambique	1,096	1,406	2,502	2,899
Nepal	2,277	851	3,128	5,113
Netherlands	0	888	888	780
Nigeria	2,121	3,485	5,606	3,832
Rwanda	1,429	901	2,330	1,817
Sierra Leone	349	1,839	2,188	1,939
Sweden	0	484	484	459
Tanzania	413	1,589	2,002	1,881
Thailand	154	223	377	256
The Gambia	1,018	476	1,494	2,764
Uganda	365	2,950	3,315	3,142
UK	546	3,380	3,926	4,006
USA	0	961	961	1,149
Vietnam	1,002	586	1,588	1,884
Zambia	928	1,011	1,939	2,019
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>32,803</b>	<b>66,548</b>	<b>99,351</b>	<b>103,681</b>
<b>Country Programmes</b>				
ARI/Jordan	200	799	999	0
Afghanistan	2,515	898	3,413	4,009
Burundi	422	792	1,214	1,214
Cambodia	1,012	806	1,818	1,762
DRC	486	2,419	2,905	1,092
Ethiopia	338	2,711	3,049	3,743
Haiti & DR	779	192	971	1,884
Lesotho	18	201	219	1,945
Liberia	279	1,114	1,393	2,254
Myanmar	1,058	1,801	2,859	4,096
Pakistan	0	1,051	1,051	2,203
Palestine	588	1,008	1,596	1,189
Senegal	678	516	1,194	835
Somaliland	429	1,261	1,690	2,539
South Africa	230	1,050	1,280	1,169
Zimbabwe	824	2,110	2,934	3,778
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>9,856</b>	<b>18,729</b>	<b>28,585</b>	<b>33,712</b>
<b>Other</b>				
ActionAid International Secretariat	3,391	3,868	7,259	18,654
<b>All countries (before Support costs allocation)</b>	<b>46,050</b>	<b>89,145</b>	<b>135,195</b>	<b>156,047</b>
	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Total 2018</b>	<b>Total 2017</b>
Programme Expenditure	125,658	9,537	135,195	156,047
Support costs allocated to Programme (Note 6)	11,248	21,497	32,745	29,160
<b>Total Programme costs</b>	<b>136,906</b>	<b>31,034</b>	<b>167,940</b>	<b>185,206</b>

5. Governance costs	Restricted €'000	Unrestricted €'000	Total 2018 €'000	Total 2017 €'000
Internal audit	399	311	710	735
External audit	381	518	899	716
Legal	281	207	488	181
Costs of governing bodies	355	623	978	1,374
	<b>1,416</b>	<b>1,659</b>	<b>3,075</b>	<b>3,006</b>
Support costs allocated to Governance (Note 6)	-	1,147	1,147	538
<b>Total Governance costs</b>	<b>1,416</b>	<b>2,806</b>	<b>4,222</b>	<b>3,544</b>

## 6. Support costs

Support costs represent expenditure incurred on management and the provision of the facilities and services that enable the fundraising, programme and governance activities to be carried out efficiently. The costs of that work are apportioned to those three expenditure headings on the basis of headcount.

	Restricted €'000	Unrestricted €'000	Total 2018 €'000	Total 2017 €'000
Local management	1,783	5,088	6,871	3,206
Communications	268	1,429	1,697	1,697
Finance	2,229	4,930	7,159	8,296
Human resources	1,153	4,167	5,320	5,447
Impact assessment support	79	694	773	2,834
Information technology	778	4,972	5,750	4,122
Office administration	3,798	4,439	8,237	8,835
Organisational development	1,160	2,944	4,104	1,081
Property	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Support costs</b>	<b>11,248</b>	<b>28,663</b>	<b>39,911</b>	<b>35,518</b>
Allocated to Fundraising	-	6,019	6,019	5,819
Allocated to Programme	11,248	21,497	32,745	29,161
Allocated to Governance	-	1,147	1,147	538
<b>Total Support costs</b>	<b>11,248</b>	<b>28,663</b>	<b>39,911</b>	<b>35,518</b>

7. Employees	2018	2017
<b>The average number of employees throughout the year was:</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Number</b>
Programme	1,503	1,409
Support	849	979
Fundraising	431	486
Governance	71	45
	<b>2,854</b>	<b>2,919</b>

<b>Total remuneration of employees was:</b>	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
Salaries, wages and other benefits	58,398	56,803
Payroll taxes	3,872	5,552
Pension contributions	3,360	2,973
	<b>65,630</b>	<b>65,328</b>

<b>The emoluments of the International Directors, the senior executive management team, comprise the following:</b>	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
Salaries	600	977
Pension contributions	69	88
Other benefits (housing, school fees, relocation payments)	73	28
Tax paid on behalf of employees	-	42
	<b>742</b>	<b>1,135</b>

The Chief Executive of the ActionAid International Secretariat received the following remuneration in 2018 €185,397 (2017: €181,135)

In the course of normal employment arrangements, payments of expenses are made on behalf of Directors which are then reimbursable. At 31 December 2018 amounts outstanding from International Directors amounted to Nil (2017: €3,360).

## 8. Trustees remuneration

No remuneration or other payments have been made to the Board or Committee Members of ActionAid International for their services as Board or Committee members or for other services provided to the organisation in 2018 : €nil (2017: €nil). Directly incurred expenses reimbursed in 2018 amounted to €52,271 for travel and accommodation relating to Board and Committee meetings (2017: €55,724).



9. Property, plant and equipment	Freehold property €'000	Office equipment €'000	Motor vehicles €'000	Total €'000
<b>2018</b>				
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 January 2017	9,423	8,063	8,379	25,865
Additions	68	731	1,223	2,022
Disposals	(297)	(1,305)	(2,646)	(4,248)
<b>At 31 December 2018</b>	<b>9,194</b>	<b>7,489</b>	<b>6,956</b>	<b>23,639</b>
<b>Accumulated Depreciation</b>				
At 1 January 2017	1,494	6,870	7,258	15,622
Charge for a year	343	501	146	990
Disposals	(195)	(1,151)	(1,560)	(2,906)
<b>At 31 December 2018</b>	<b>1,642</b>	<b>6,220</b>	<b>5,844</b>	<b>13,706</b>
<b>Net book value</b>				
<b>At 31 December 2018</b>	<b>7,552</b>	<b>1,269</b>	<b>1,112</b>	<b>9,933</b>
<b>2017</b>				
<b>Cost</b>				
At 1 January 2017	9,749	8,375	11,169	29,293
Foreign exchange differences	(206)	(410)	(434)	(1,050)
Additions	17	568	603	1,187
Disposals	(137)	(470)	(2,959)	(3,566)
<b>At 31 December 2017</b>	<b>9,423</b>	<b>8,062</b>	<b>8,379</b>	<b>25,864</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>				
At 1 January 2017	1,205	7,016	10,051	18,272
Foreign exchange differences	(11)	(164)	(249)	(424)
Charge for year	302	426	428	1,156
Disposals	(2)	(408)	(2,971)	(3,382)
<b>At 31 December 2018</b>	<b>1,494</b>	<b>6,870</b>	<b>7,258</b>	<b>15,622</b>
<b>Net book value</b>				
<b>At 31 December 2018</b>	<b>7,929</b>	<b>1,192</b>	<b>1,121</b>	<b>10,242</b>

Currency risk is defined as the risk that movements in foreign exchange rates adversely affect the value of the Company's foreign currency positions. The latter is exposed with respect to foreign currency arising from trading in foreign currency and acceptances. In order to ensure adequacy of its foreign exchange requirements, foreign currency cash flow forecasts are prepared regularly, expenses monitored and actions taken accordingly.

10a. Concentration of liquid assets and liabilities by currency	Euro €'000	GBP €'000	US Dollars €'000	Others €'000	DKK €'000	Total €'000
<b>At December 31, 2018</b>						
Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	29,776	24,926	7,861	16,071	9,481	88,115
Receivables	1,721	12,860	2,107	537	1,870	19,095
Investments	110	7,109	-	-	67	7,286
	<b>31,607</b>	<b>44,895</b>	<b>9,968</b>	<b>16,608</b>	<b>11,418</b>	<b>114,496</b>
Liabilities						
Payables and accruals	8,746	19,068	155	1,969	9,432	39,370
Other liabilities	-	132	-	-	6,011	6,143
	<b>8,746</b>	<b>19,200</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>1,969</b>	<b>15,443</b>	<b>45,513</b>

<b>At December 31, 2017</b>						
Assets						
Cash and cash equivalents	24,030	33,457	10,259	8,520	9,463	85,729
Receivables	2,046	10,763	2,113	851	1,996	17,768
Investments	-	7,322	-	-	-	7,322
	<b>26,076</b>	<b>51,542</b>	<b>12,372</b>	<b>9,370</b>	<b>11,458</b>	<b>110,819</b>
Liabilities						
Payables and accruals	7,548	17,805	252	3,329	9,854	38,788
Other liabilities	-	-	-	-	6,168	6,168
	<b>7,548</b>	<b>17,805</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>3,329</b>	<b>16,022</b>	<b>44,956</b>

10b. Financial Assets and Liabilities	Payable less than 3 months €'000	Payable within 3-12 months €'000	1 to 5 years €'000	> 5 years €'000	Total €'000
<b>Year ended 31 Dec 2018</b>					
Loan Payable	47	140	748	5,208	6,143
Trade payables and accruals	32,190	-	-	-	32,190
Amounts due to employees	5,420	-	-	-	5,420
Taxation and social security	1,760	-	-	-	1,760
	<b>39,417</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>748</b>	<b>5,208</b>	<b>45,513</b>
<b>Year ended 31 Dec 2017</b>					
Loan Payable	26	161	756	5,224	6,167
Trade payables and accruals	31,821	-	-	-	31,821
Amounts due to employees	-	5,300	-	-	5,300
Taxation and social security	1,668	-	-	-	1,668
	<b>16,939</b>	<b>5,461</b>	<b>756</b>	<b>5,224</b>	<b>44,956</b>

11. Investments	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
<b>a) At market value</b>		
Market value at 1 January	7,322	11,370
Foreign exchange differences	(169)	257
Additions	5,826	153
Disposals	(5,911)	(5,069)
Net cash movement	259	-
Investment management costs	(41)	-
Net investment (loss)/gain	-	267
Market value at 31 December	7,286	6,978
Cash held for investment	-	334
<b>Market value at 31 December 2018</b>	<b>7,286</b>	<b>7,322</b>
<b>b) The market value represented by</b>		
	2018 €'000	2017 €'000
Equities	-	5,721
Bonds	4,384	1,104
Total before cash	4,384	6,825
Cash	2,902	497
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,286</b>	<b>7,322</b>

Amounts due from employees represent floats, allowances and loans to employees. These amounts generally do not bear interest and they are generally payable in 30 days.

12. Receivables	Restricted €'000	Unrestricted €'000	Total 2018 €'000	2017 €'000
Amounts due from official bodies	-	-	-	5,358
Other receivables and prepayments	14,664	2,012	16,676	9,890
Tax recoverable	164	1,243	1,407	1,746
Amounts due from employees	943	69	1,012	774
<b>Market value at 31 December</b>	<b>15,771</b>	<b>3,324</b>	<b>19,095</b>	<b>17,768</b>

None of the above receivables are past due and therefore no allowance for doubtful receivables was required.

Amounts due from official bodies refer to amounts due from donors in accordance with the terms specified by the donors in the donor agreements.

13. Payables	Restricted €'000	Unrestricted €'000	Total 2018 €'000	Total 2017 €'000
<b>Amounts falling due within one year:</b>				
Loan Payable*	-	187	187	187
Trade payables and accruals	8,175	8,455	16,630	15,245
Amounts due to employees**	2,979	2,441	5,420	5,300
Taxation and social security	483	1,277	1,760	1,668
Deferred income	14,653	907	15,560	16,574
<b>Total Payables</b>	<b>26,290</b>	<b>13,267</b>	<b>39,557</b>	<b>38,974</b>

**Amounts falling due more than one year\***

<b>Loan Payable*</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>5,677</b>	<b>5,956</b>	<b>5,980</b>
----------------------	------------	--------------	--------------	--------------

\* Loan payable represents a loan that was acquired for purchase of property. The loan is repayable over five years with interest of 4.25% per annum.

\*\* Amounts due to employees include accruals of gratuities and other long term employee benefits.



14. Analysis of fund balances	Restricted		Unrestricted		Total €'000
	Liquid funds and treasury reserves €'000	Property, plant and equipment reserve €'000	Liquid funds and treasury reserves €'000	Property, plant and equipment reserve €'000	
<b>At 1 January 2018</b>	<b>43,692</b>	<b>2,449</b>	<b>22,172</b>	<b>7,793</b>	<b>76,106</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	(3,703)	(17)	6,822	(292)	<b>2,810</b>
<b>At 31 December 2018</b>	<b>39,989</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>28,994</b>	<b>7,501</b>	<b>78,916</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>					
Property, plant and equipment	-	2,432	-	7,501	9,933
Investments	7,109	-	177	-	7,286
Current assets (excl Investments)	59,449	-	47,761	-	107,210
Liabilities	(26,569)	-	(18,944)	-	(45,513)
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,989</b>	<b>2,432</b>	<b>28,994</b>	<b>7,501</b>	<b>78,916</b>

	Restricted		Unrestricted		Total €'000
	Liquid funds and treasury reserves €'000	Property, plant and equipment reserve €'000	Liquid funds and treasury reserves €'000	Property, plant and equipment reserve €'000	
<b>At 1 January 2017</b>	51,573	2,739	22,280	8,282	84,874
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	(7,881)	(290)	(108)	(489)	(8,768)
<b>At 31 December 2017</b>	<b>43,692</b>	<b>2,449</b>	<b>22,172</b>	<b>7,793</b>	76,106
<b>Represented by:</b>					
Property, plant and equipment	-	2,449	-	7,793	10,242
Investments	3,806	-	3,516	-	7,322
Current assets (excl Investments)	66,666	-	36,830	-	103,496
Liabilities	(26,780)	-	(18,174)	-	(44,954)
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,692</b>	<b>2,449</b>	<b>22,217</b>	<b>7,793</b>	<b>76,106</b>

<b>15. Movement in Funds and Reserves</b>	<b>At 1 January 2018 €'000</b>	<b>Income €'000</b>	<b>Expenditure €'000</b>	<b>Internal income/ expenditures €'000</b>	<b>Transfers €'000</b>	<b>Exchange and other movements €'000</b>	<b>At 31 December 2018 €'000</b>
<b>Affiliates and Associates</b>							
Australia	4,104	4,551	-2,797	-2,376	-	-172	3,310
Bangladesh	859	7,706	-8,096	-304	-	-1	164
Brazil	713	5,364	-4,583	-661	-	-10	823
Denmark	2,488	32,493	-23,547	-9,029	-	43	2,448
France	206	999	-925	-91	-	-25	164
Ghana	2,187	3,948	-3,763	-314	-	-21	2,037
Greece	1,447	7,009	-3,647	-3,407	-	-18	1,384
Guatemala	1,175	1,772	-1,669	-134	-	-11	1,133
India	947	8,493	-6,657	-559	-	-45	2,179
Indonesia	45	1,772	-1,435	-	-	-31	351
Ireland	896	2,573	-967	-1,658	-	-16	828
Italy	7,144	44,835	-19,336	-25,945	-	0	6,698
Kenya	1,800	9,225	-8,820	-607	-	327	1,925
Malawi	2,256	12,176	-12,929	3	-	167	1,673
Mozambique	1,011	3,289	-3,152	-169	-	-14	965
Nepal	1,991	3,108	-3,521	-257	-	-13	1,308
Netherlands	667	3,359	-1,955	-1,404	-	13	680
Nigeria	1,837	6,509	-6,451	-203	-	-16	1,676
Rwanda	648	2,700	-2,704	-24	-	-10	610
Sierra Leone	932	3,349	-2,818	-86	-	492	1,869
Sweden	517	3,928	-2,029	-1,866	-	288	838
Tanzania	458	2,748	-2,501	169	-	-344	530
Thailand	914	757	-1,002	-	-	-440	229
The Gambia	913	2,688	-1,818	-262	-	65	1,586
Uganda	2,484	5,089	-4,212	-77	-	-263	3,021
UK	13,810	56,091	-19,526	-33,221	-	-310	16,844
USA	2,594	1,767	-1,710	-426	-	207	2,432
Vietnam	637	2,117	-1,858	-162	-	-8	726
Zambia	1,142	2,407	-2,333	-35	-	-230	951
	<b>56,822</b>	<b>242,822</b>	<b>-156,761</b>	<b>-83,105</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-396</b>	<b>59,382</b>
<b>Country Programmes</b>							
Afghanistan	1,783	3,998	-3,867	-74	-	-7	1,833
ARI/Jordan	-	1,326	-1,487	112	-	250	201
Burundi	607	1,605	-1,499	37	-	-11	739
Cambodia	2,010	1,971	-2,037	-93	-	-21	1,830
China	0	-	-	-	-	0	-
DRC	287	3,284	-3,222	-114	-	78	313
Ethiopia	2,509	4,120	-3,543	-275	-	-33	2,778
Haiti & DR	706	1,328	-1,365	74	-	-8	735
Lesotho	-250	661	-418	-21	-	-2	-30
Liberia	1,210	1,201	-1,988	90	-	-93	420
Myanmar	1,633	3,405	-3,431	-84	-	-19	1504
Pakistan	1,107	1,308	-1,474	-208	-	-8	725
Palestine	554	2,284	-2,012	-102	-	-9	715
Senegal	645	1,413	-1,420	10	-	161	809
Somaliland	796	1,692	-1,988	186	-	-152	534
South Africa	651	1,690	-2,018	289	-	-136	476
Zimbabwe	512	3,827	-3,289	-88	-	11	973
	<b>14,760</b>	<b>35,113</b>	<b>-35,058</b>	<b>-261</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>14,555</b>
ActionAid International Secretariat	4,524	8,692	-19,451	9,388	-	-209	2,944
Aggregation Adjustments	0	-76,161	0	73,978	-	4,218	2,035
	<b>4,524</b>	<b>-67,469</b>	<b>-19,451</b>	<b>83,366</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,009</b>	<b>4,979</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>76,106</b>	<b>210,466</b>	<b>-211,270</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,614</b>	<b>78,916</b>

Country programme funds represent funds raised for or allocated to individual Country programmes and/or projects within those countries. The gains on investment and foreign exchange includes net unrealized foreign gains and losses which occur when our reserves are translated into Euros. Please refer to note 18 for new Federation member not included in the aggregated results above.

	At 1 January 2017 €'000	Income €'000	Expenditure €'000	Internal income/ expenditures €'000	Transfers €'000	Exchange and other movements €'000	At December 2017 €'000
Australia	6,194	4,503	(3,388)	(2,892)	-	(313)	4,104
Bangladesh	680	6,426	(5,943)	(291)	-	(13)	859
Brazil	823	6,321	(5,657)	(730)	-	(44)	713
Denmark	5,173	27,327	(22,396)	(4,653)	-	(2,963)	2,488
France	142	674	(1,280)	-	-	670	206
Ghana	1,621	4,784	(3,817)	(282)	-	(119)	2,187
Greece	1,435	6,814	(3,112)	(3,707)	-	17	1,447
Guatemala	1,093	1,776	(1,567)	(63)	-	(64)	1,175
India	1,429	8,562	(8,380)	(507)	-	(157)	947
Indonesia	114	1,423	(1,478)	29	-	(43)	45
Ireland	596	2,880	(825)	(1,754)	-	-	897
Italy	6,224	45,832	(17,301)	(27,611)	-	-	7,144
Kenya	2,044	10,886	(10,560)	(454)	-	(116)	1,800
Malawi	2,715	18,294	(18,279)	(398)	-	(76)	2,256
Mozambique	1,106	3,707	(3,575)	(58)	-	(169)	1,011
Nepal	1,777	6,026	(5,527)	(219)	-	(66)	1,991
Netherlands	519	3,540	(1,753)	(1,620)	-	(19)	667
Nigeria	1,425	5,266	(4,620)	(37)	-	(197)	1,837
Rwanda	626	2,274	(2,190)	(29)	-	(33)	648
Sierra Leone	1,029	2,953	(2,471)	(118)	-	(461)	932
Sweden	70	4,656	(1,822)	(1,954)	-	(433)	517
Tanzania	635	2,383	(2,414)	(66)	-	(80)	458
Thailand	431	260	(548)	341	-	430	914
The Gambia	1,583	2,877	(3,212)	(288)	-	(47)	913
Uganda	2,496	4,476	(4,022)	(320)	-	(146)	2,484
UK	21,304	62,688	(21,359)	(47,699)	-	(1,124)	13,810
USA	2,754	7,192	(1,960)	(4,843)	-	(549)	2,594
Vietnam	393	2,730	(2,406)	(243)	-	163	637
Zambia	1,286	2,343	(2,389)	(26)	-	(73)	1,141
	<b>67,717</b>	<b>259,873</b>	<b>(164,251)</b>	<b>(100,492)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(6,025)</b>	<b>56,822</b>
<b>Country Programmes</b>							
Afghanistan	2,263	4,213	(4,493)	(51)	-	(149)	1,783
Burundi	424	1,638	(1,461)	30	-	(24)	607
Cambodia	1,513	2,706	(2,091)	(100)	-	(90)	2,010
China	444	-	-	-	-	(444)	-
DRC	38	1,615	(1,391)	108	-	(83)	287
Ethiopia	2,145	5,053	(4,320)	(181)	-	(188)	2,509
Haiti & DR	1,555	1,423	(2,326)	133	-	(79)	706
Lesotho	1,510	685	(2,232)	(50)	-	(163)	(250)
Liberia	667	2,798	(2,370)	157	-	(42)	1,210
Myanmar	2,299	4,391	(4,840)	(92)	-	(125)	1,633
Pakistan	658	3,164	(2,759)	(115)	-	159	1,107
Palestine	646	1,766	(1,766)	(54)	-	(38)	554
Senegal	523	1,365	(1,079)	21	-	(185)	645
Somaliland	1,274	2,146	(2,883)	183	-	76	796
South Africa	(59)	1,869	(1,836)	355	-	322	651
Zimbabwe	468	4,450	(4,384)	(107)	-	85	512
	<b>16,368</b>	<b>39,282</b>	<b>(40,159)</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(968)</b>	<b>14,760</b>
ActionAid International Secretariat	789	5,761	(27,038)	24,877	-	135	4,524
Aggregation Adjustments	-	(75,394)	-	75,378	-	16	-
	<b>789</b>	<b>(69,633)</b>	<b>(27,038)</b>	<b>100,255</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>4,524</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>84,874</b>	<b>229,522</b>	<b>(231,448)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(6,842)</b>	<b>76,106</b>

## 16. International Secretariat Costs

The following table reflects the costs of the International Secretariat reflecting Programme, Support, Governance and Fundraising that are included in the Aggregated results.

	<b>Restricted €'000</b>	<b>Unrestricted €'000</b>	<b>Total 2018 €'000</b>	<b>Total 2017 €'000</b>
Programme	<b>7,259</b>	<b>2,841</b>	<b>10,100</b>	<b>18,654</b>
Support	-	<b>7,314</b>	<b>7,314</b>	<b>6,528</b>
Governance	-	<b>701</b>	<b>701</b>	<b>422</b>
Fundraising	-	<b>1,338</b>	<b>1,338</b>	<b>1,434</b>
	<b>7,259</b>	<b>12,194</b>	<b>19,453</b>	<b>27,038</b>

The key roles of the International Secretariat, as per the ActionAid International constitution include, among others:

- Managing the development and implementation of and compliance with the Federation's mission, strategies and policies
- Providing support to Members and Country Programs for strengthening core capacity
- Managing international or multi country programs;
- Managing international advocacy, research, policy development, public education and campaigning;
- Managing the finances of the Association under responsibility of the Treasurer
- Ensuring accountability, learning, planning, performance and impact monitoring, review and assessment system are established and operate in line with mission, values and strategy
- Providing support to the International Board and Assembly

## 17. Related party transactions

The Board Members are not aware of any related party transactions which require disclosure under IAS 24 other than disclosures related to transactions with Board and Committee Members and senior management, which are set out in notes 6 and 7 to the financial statements.

## 18. New Federation members

At the June 2018 General Assembly, Alianza por la Solidaridad (Alianza) from Spain was admitted to the Actionaid Federation as an Associate member. For the six months July to December 2018, Alianza have approximated both their income and project costs to be €4,1 million. These amounts have not been included in the Aggregated Statement of Comprehensive Income and the Statement of Financial Position for the year ended 31 December 2018 as Alianza were unable to meet the reporting timetable. There is a commitment that Alianza's results will be fully aggregated in the 2019 Federation financial statements.

The table below summarises the Alianza results not include in the aggregation:

	<b>Restricted €'000</b>	<b>Restricted €'000</b>	<b>Restricted €'000</b>
Total income	<b>3,479</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>4,071</b>
Expenditure	<b>(3,479)</b>	<b>(590)</b>	<b>(4,069)</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
Reserves Opening balance	-	366	366
Movement in Reserves	-	2	2
<b>Closing Balance 31 December 2018</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>368</b>



International Registration number: 27264198

Website: [www.actionaid.org](http://www.actionaid.org)

Telephone: +27 11 731 4500

Fax: +27 11 880 8082

Email: [mailjhb@actionaid.org](mailto:mailjhb@actionaid.org)

ActionAid International Secretariat,  
Postnet Suite 248, Private Bag X31, Saxonwold 2132,  
Johannesburg, South Africa.

June 2019

COVER PHOTO: In Kilifi, we are set to construct a resource and training centre to support girls who have dropped out of school because of early marriage and pregnancy. PHOTO: SHELDON MOULTRIE/ACTIONAID