



act:onaid

ActionAid
International
Annual Report
2013



Contents

ActionAid at a glance	1
Welcome letter International Board Chair and Chief Executive	2
Priority areas of work	4
Income and expenditure	14
Learning lessons, looking ahead	16

Sofia has worked with ActionAid for ten years. In 2013 she stood against men in the Kenyan general elections. She campaigns for the millions of women who have their rights violated on a daily basis

PHOTO: Jakob Dall/ActionAid

ActionAid at a glance

Welcome to our Annual Review 2013 which gives a snapshot of a year of growth and some big achievements. This year saw:

>27 million people
reached by ActionAid's work

8,035 partners
work with ActionAid across the globe, including alliances, networks, community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, movements and cooperatives

1.3 million people
worldwide support the work of ActionAid

92%
growth in the number of ActionAid campaigners

70%
growth in non-financial supporters

50%+ social media followers
including a 57% increase via Twitter and a 58% increase via Facebook

The following pages give a flavour of how this work went.

Welcome

This year saw significant wins for marginalised people and communities who successfully pushed for public policies to promote their rights and reduce poverty and inequality.

ActionAid’s way of working believes that an end to poverty and injustice can be achieved through purposeful individual and collective action, led by people living in poverty, supported by solidarity and campaigning that addresses the structural causes of poverty.

This happened across the five areas of work we prioritise:

1. Education for all and a voice for young people

See page 4



2. Agriculture and rights to natural resources

See page 6



3. Holding government and business to account

See page 8



4. Ensuring security and rights in emergencies

See page 10



5. Securing women’s and girls’ rights

See page 12



Our partnership way of working with communities made our contribution both relevant and effective. Highlights include:

almost **100,000**

women reporting greater control over the natural resources to which they have rights as a result of work by ActionAid and its partners

nearly **300,000**

people reporting increased food security as a result of our work on climate-resilient agricultural practices

>**730,000**

youth being mobilised by ActionAid to reduce poverty

1.7 million people

receiving humanitarian assistance from ActionAid in ways that promote rights

almost **190,000**

women and girls mobilised to challenge cultural, traditional and religious norms restricting their rights, and to reject harmful traditional practices, including early marriage and female genital mutilation

our tax campaign

successfully increasing awareness of unjust tax systems and continued to expose how poor countries are left worse off due to loopholes in the regulatory environment

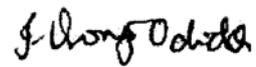
The restrictions on our work by repressive regimes and attempts to intimidate campaigners in some locations, and the alarming rise in women's rights violations, both challenged and highlighted the need for our human rights based approach.

This is our commitment to root all we do in the basic belief that to end poverty, people's economic, social and human rights must be respected, especially women's rights. We celebrate some examples of this throughout this report.

The following pages give a flavour of how this work went, and how the financial support and solidarity so generously given by our dedicated supporters made a difference. **For this we give our heartfelt thanks to all.**



Adriano Campolina
Chief Executive



Irene Ovonji-Odida
Chair of the Board

Priority areas of work

1. Education for all and a voice for young people

This year ActionAid helped almost 234,000 girls and 233,500 boys complete their primary education through initiatives aimed at making the right to education one that is universally respected.

Across Africa, Asia and central America, 27 district reports were drawn up by almost 88,000 parents and 8,500 teachers in 2,100 schools and used to track performance and support local action on the right to quality public education for all children.

One district report in Cambodia compiled data from 72 primary schools in 15 provinces. On the basis of its findings, school improvement plans were developed in 24 primary schools, and ActionAid and partners lobbied for an increase in teachers' salaries.

Mobilising young people for change

In 2013 the federation encouraged over 730,000 young people to take action to reduce poverty. This was partly the result of new work to reach more diverse youth groups – such as young men and women from slum communities in Liberia, and young lesbian women in South Africa – and partly due to the growth of ActionAid's youth campaign network, *Activista*, in Liberia and Malawi.

Activista continued to act as a vibrant platform, with coordinators and members engaging in youth leadership initiatives as well as in actions on issues such as violence against women, tax justice and safe cities.

As a result of ActionAid's push, young people in Myanmar and Liberia called for the development of National Youth Policies that incorporate and reflect youth concerns, while young men and women from slum communities in Liberia got involved with waste enterprises to create jobs and income and environmental sustainability for communities.

Building the next generation of leaders for good governance

In Malawi, ActionAid partners trained 63 youth parliamentarians in advocacy and public speaking which contributed to their participation in the September 2013 sitting of the Youth Parliament. As a result of various youth initiatives in solidarity

with other youth networks, the National Youth Policy was launched in August 2013 and Malawi's president committed to strengthening youth skills and employment. In Liberia, young people created an Accountability Forum to hold to account those responsible for the provision of basic services.

ActionAid Ghana's Young Female Parliament (YFP) – made up of students, youth in agriculture and young women's clubs – met and planned advocacy activities with local officials and authorities, and accessed government poverty-alleviation initiatives such as the youth in agriculture programme. Two YFP members were appointed to district assemblies and engaged with the Ghana Education Service to review the school leadership structure and permit female students to become leadership candidates.

731,418 youth

are estimated to have been mobilised by the federation in 2013

2,100 schools

across Africa, Asia and central America used district reports to track performance and support local action on the right to quality public education for all children



ActionAid way of working:
Promoting rights in schools (PRS)

PRS offers a set of practical tools that can be used as a basis for mobilisation, advocacy and campaigning aimed at actively engaging parents, children, teachers, unions and communities in collectively monitoring and improving the quality of public education.

Kabiru, 4, sits in class at a primary school sponsored by ActionAid, Freetown, Sierra Leone

PHOTO: Greg Funnell/ActionAid

2. Agriculture and rights to natural resources

During 2013, almost 100,000 women reported that their access to – and control over – the natural resources on which they depend had improved as a result of ActionAid-supported work to ensure poor communities' food security and livelihoods.

In addition, nearly 300,000 people reported a better and more reliable food supply as a result of our work on climate-resilient sustainable agriculture.

Promoting climate-resilient sustainable agriculture (CRSA)

In 2013, ActionAid's country programmes reported over 190,000 women now being aware of their rights to land and natural resources, and almost 45,000 women experiencing increased support from local leaders and male family members in claiming their land and resource rights. This was achieved through our push towards climate-resilient sustainable agriculture, which involves improved farming techniques, as well as farmers (particularly women) being able to successfully claim their rights to land and natural resources and being able to recognise and report violations of them. It also supports women's role as farmers by strengthening their position in society in general – including by promoting their participation in community decision-making, drafting land policy and registering land in women's names.

ActionAid Brazil and its partners collected 56,000 signatures that helped stop a parliamentary bill aimed at releasing 'terminator seeds' that could have undermined CRSA practices and food security in Brazil. Brazilian civil society organisations, including ActionAid Brazil, helped get approval for the Agroecology Plan and Organic Production – an initiative to establish environmentally friendly agriculture as a mainstream practice.

Meanwhile, ActionAid Ghana's holistic approach to promoting sustainable agriculture through training women farmers, supporting the formation of women farmers' groups and helping ensure that district agricultural advisors provide extension services to them almost doubled the number of women now practicing CRSA – an increase to 6,000 from 3,500 in 2012.

Strengthening the right to food

Community and family **food security** was strengthened by ActionAid's work on better farming practices through training and improved access to inputs (including seeds, tools, advice on cultivating), diversified livelihoods (including livestock production) and improving links with government agricultural

advisors. Agriculture ministries and donors were also lobbied to increase their support for sustainable agriculture, and to terminate policies that contribute to hunger – such as EU targets demanding biofuels in Europe.

A number of countries saw powerful national legislation passed on the right to food thanks to the contributions of ActionAid and our partners, including India's landmark Food Security Act 2013. When fully implemented the act will increase food security for 780 million people – 65% of India's total population of 1.2 billion.

ActionAid's work on promoting 'alternative' ways to farm saw ActionAid Nepal's 'collective farming practices model' link smallholder farmers with government institutions to help raise farmers' income. And it worked – farmers in Rasuwa District alone generated US\$27,000 through collective herb farming.

Campaigning at national level

ActionAid Netherlands continued its effective campaigning against biofuels through research and advocacy, launching its *Fuel to the Fire* report and collaborating with a food rights network in Sierra Leone to highlight the impact of biofuel cultivation. Meanwhile, ActionAid USA, Uganda, Nigeria, Rwanda, Kenya and France all successfully lobbied their national governments for increased budgetary commitments to support smallholder farmers.

6,000

women now practicing CRSA – an increase of 58% from 3,500 in 2012

65%

of India's total population of 1.2 billion will have increased food security when India's landmark Food Security Act 2013 is fully implemented



ActionAid way of working: participatory approaches

One of the main ways ActionAid empowers people is by working with excluded communities to help them influence decisions that affect their lives. We do this by helping them reflect on and identify the main issues that impact them, and take action to address them.

These empowerment processes are crucial for building effective mobilisation and action, supporting grassroots organisations and strengthening social movements that represent excluded groups and their causes.

Mrs. Huon lives in Cambodia. She was selected as a model farmer in her village. Through ActionAid projects she had learned how to farm sustainably and has increased her harvest. She is now able to save money for her children's schooling.

PHOTO: Savann Oeurn/ActionAid

3. Holding government and business to account

This year ActionAid worked with partners and communities to make 2,900 local governments more accountable, and to influence them to improve their delivery of services. We also helped train local government officials to respond to constituents' needs.

We strengthened community voices, especially those of women and young people, by running training sessions on planning and accountability, enabling local people to play their part in local decision-making on public services.

Amplifying people's voices

As a result of this work, over 46,000 people received improved water supplies, health services and transport in Montepuez province, Mozambique. Similarly, ActionAid Nepal used accountability tools to increase community access to social security benefits. As a result, benefits and have now been paid to over 16,000 people living in poverty.

So effective was ActionAid Myanmar's method for enabling communities to draw up their own village development plans – called The Village Book – that it was selected by national government to be rolled-out in all townships across the country. Another successful example was the work of ActionAid Zambia as a member of the Decentralisation Alliance Network, which influenced the Zambian government to adopt a policy allowing much greater input from local communities in the planning and implementation of development projects.

ActionAid's goal to make accountability a legal requirement was achieved in many places, for example in reformed decentralisation laws in Uganda, changes to public procurement law in Sierra Leone and the enactment of a citizen charter in Nepal. This work included successes in building networks and alliances, youth mobilisation, women's leadership development, and training and capacity development for elected people's representatives at ward, village and township levels. This resulted in, for example, women and Dalits engaging in planning processes in Nepal; higher budget allocations for health and education facilities in Mozambique; improved sanitation in cities in Zimbabwe; improved quality of public services in Vietnam and the realisation of better wages and improved benefits for local public workers in India.

Lobbying for fairer tax rules

Through parliamentary advocacy and lobbying, and coalition campaigning, ActionAid UK helped significantly increase the focus on the role of developing countries in the formation of fairer international tax rules – the creation of which will allow poor countries to access more of the tax due to them for

spending on services such as education and health. UK government commitments to create space for developing countries in global negotiations on tax rules – and escalate these discussions from the G8 to the G20 – are set to impact on international changes to tax transparency and tax justice.

In 2013, several countries won tax justice reforms. While ActionAid in northern countries addressed the issue through calls to reform global tax rules, ActionAid in southern countries addressed tax justice issues from the sharp end – in other words, their nations' depleted domestic coffers.

This resulted in reforms to national tax systems in Uganda, Zambia, Mozambique and Bangladesh. Seven countries successfully collected evidence on unfair tax practices, such as incentives for foreign investors and revenue losses due to legal tax loopholes. For example, ActionAid Malawi reported MK100 billion in losses (£400 million) due to tax incentives between 2008 and 2012, while ActionAid Bangladesh took steps to map their national tax system and existing fiscal policies.

Advancing social welfare

ActionAid focused on establishing or improving social welfare policies in 10 countries. For example, ActionAid Brazil intensively engaged with the monitoring of national cash transfer programmes, while ActionAid Vietnam collected evidence on the performance of social protection programmes for migrant workers. Elsewhere, partners in Nepal successfully facilitated the establishment of new social security benefits for the poor, and through coalition work ActionAid India addressed issues related to universal old age pensions, a social security charter for informal workers and housing security for urban slum dwellers.

2,900 local governments were made more accountable by the work ActionAid undertook with partners and communities

46,000 people received improved water supplies, health services and transport in Montepuez province, Mozambique



ActionAid way of working: tools to win rights and services

ActionAid trained communities around the world to use a variety of methods and tools to improve local government and secure their rights. These tools included public expenditure tracking surveys and social audits to trace whether allocated budgets had been spent appropriately, and community score cards and citizen report cards to get a sense of whether local people believed resources had been allocated properly, and to give them a chance to air their views with local budget holders.

Female garment workers in Bangladesh march down the street holding placards and chanting slogans which call for action and respect of the labour laws. They have attended sessions at an ActionAid supported Rights Café.

PHOTO: Nicola Bailey/ActionAid

4. Ensuring security and rights in emergencies

This year 1.7 million people received humanitarian assistance from ActionAid. We placed people's rights at the heart of our response – a unique commitment that ensures emergency support is delivered as fairly and appropriately as possible.

During the year we responded to 28 new and ongoing disasters in 19 countries, from Afghanistan to Ethiopia, Haiti to India and Lebanon to Vietnam. Our two major responses were to the Syria crisis and the Philippines' typhoon Haiyan.

Strengthening the role of women in emergencies

A key part of these responses was to address the immediate needs of the most vulnerable people, especially women and children, and wherever possible promote women's role and leadership within the disaster-affected community. This is because women and children suffer most in emergencies, and need the most support.

ActionAid Bangladesh introduced a 'women-led emergency response' model, training selected women to lead needs assessments, negotiate recovery activities, procure necessary materials and monitor overall implementation of emergency responses. As a result of their work on women's empowerment, ActionAid Bangladesh won the prestigious Lighthouse Award, which was given in recognition of women's leadership and women-centred initiatives with respect to climate change and extreme weather conditions.

And in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Vietnam, Nigeria, The Gambia, Lesotho, Myanmar, Guatemala and Kenya, 236 women's institutions were supported to enhance women's access to (and influence over) the resources needed to build resilience. In Pakistan, women members of volunteer community emergency response organisations were trained in disaster risk reduction, early warning, first aid and rescue, making them focal members of early warning systems in their respective villages. ActionAid also supported women to adopt alternative livelihood practices that are more resilient to disaster and climate change.

Promoting preparedness and accountability during disasters

Training in disaster preparedness – including developing plans for when disaster strikes – was newly supported in 13 ActionAid countries this year, and preparedness plans in Liberia, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Haiti were finalised. A new 'Accountability in Emergencies' project also began in July 2013 as part of our commitment to ensure our emergency responses are accountable to disaster-affected communities.

Denmark, Haiti, Kenya, Myanmar and Pakistan began working together in 2013 to develop expertise, build capacity, demonstrate how accountability can be operationalised in emergencies and share ActionAid approaches and experience externally. This group is taking on a leadership role for the wider ActionAid Federation, promoting accountability in emergencies and becoming a resource for other countries.

In 2013, countries including Pakistan, Nigeria, Lesotho, Guatemala and Somaliland boosted the risk-reduction skills and knowledge of 12,000 community leaders – over 55% of whom were women. Afghanistan Disaster Risk Reduction Committees are now equipped and working with the government to reduce vulnerability by establishing early warning systems, erosion protection, flood gauge stations and strengthening river banks. In Bangladesh, 21 women's groups in Dacop Upazila assessed local vulnerability to disaster and negotiated with community leaders to develop and implement community resilience plans.

55%
of the community leaders trained by ActionAid in risk-reduction skills were women

12,000 community leaders' risk-reduction skills and knowledge were boosted in countries including Pakistan, Nigeria, Lesotho, Guatemala and Somaliland



ActionAid way of working:
advancing women's rights in emergencies

We place women (and other particularly vulnerable groups) at the heart of all our work.

We promote women's leadership during all phases of emergency response, recovery and resilience building.

We also bring women and women's institutions together so they become part of the process of designing, planning and implementing emergency responses.

Malik, is a youth activist in Pakistan, who took a keen interest in emergency preparedness training. Here he assists community members to prepare for flood emergencies.

"I have made announcements on the megaphone to update villagers on the latest flood situation. I have learned how to provide first aid and how to clean water for drinking. I will also make sure that children, people with disabilities and elderly people are to be assisted first in case of emergency."

PHOTO: ActionAid

5. Securing women's and girls' rights

In 2013 ActionAid supported over 187,000 women and girls (including over 35,000 female youth) to challenge cultural, traditional and religious norms that restrict their rights, and say no to all harmful traditional practices (HTPs), including early marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM).

Eradicating harmful practices and violence against women and girls

From Ghana to Nepal, Tanzania to Pakistan, and Somaliland to Ethiopia, ActionAid kickstarted the formation of school clubs and community committees to monitor and challenge harmful practices.

And to ensure government action on incidents of violence against women (VAW), ActionAid worked in communities and with institutions to ensure support for survivors of violence. This involved mobilising community-based women's groups to devise action plans to address VAW, while increasing awareness of (as well as advocating for) legal rights and support services for women. As a result, new legislation was enacted, new laws and policies formulated, and mechanisms set up to respond to VAW. These ranged from a specialised desk in police stations dedicated to addressing violence and crimes against women, one-stop centres for gender-based violence, to hotlines and medical and legal services for survivors of violence.

ActionAid Somaliland and partners took action with school youth clubs, girls' forums, teachers, traditional elders, religious leaders and school parent associations to eradicate FGM.

Securing women's economic rights

During 2013, ActionAid mobilised more than 35,000 women in income-generating activities, and almost 60,000 women reached by ActionAid's work reported having greater confidence in themselves – and a bigger say in decision-making at home.

In 2013 ActionAid Brazil supported the launch of the National Agro-ecology Policy – a significant achievement by Brazilian social movements fighting for family agriculture against a backdrop of expanding agribusiness. ActionAid-supported women's movements contributed directly to the policy, and one of its key recommendations is to expand women's participation in organic and agro-ecological farming.

Our groundbreaking work on women's economic alternatives continued not only to help generate income for women, but also to challenge the economic subordination of women and their work, which lies at the heart of gender inequality. Some

countries mobilised women to lobby their government on job opportunities and social security, as well as dedicated government jobs for women. Advocacy, research and coalitions also pressured governments to recognise, reduce and redistribute women's unpaid care work.

Challenging unpaid care work

In February 2013, our downloadable report *Making care visible* revealed how unpaid care work in Nigeria, Nepal, Uganda and Kenya means women lose out on education, job opportunities, political participation and leisure activities. Several national coalition-building workshops were held in these countries to introduce the links between women's unpaid care work, economic justice and human rights, and advocacy and capacity-building initiatives were held with government ministries. ActionAid partners actively lobbied the African Union to invest more in women smallholder farmers and provide more public services to recognise, reduce and redistribute their unpaid care work. These demands for change at the regional level were then taken back to Ghana and Rwanda to urge national government action.

Making cities safer for women

In 2013 ActionAid published *Women in cities*, a report on the urban violence and insecurity that limit women's social and actual mobility in cities, and their participation in society in general. With a focus on Brazil, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Liberia and Nepal, the report recommended action for change, including challenging social norms and building government commitment and public awareness to tackle the problem.

Supporting women to take the lead

ActionAid Ethiopia provided support to women's leadership and engagement in savings and credit collectives through Reflect (ActionAid's adult literacy and learning approach), which enabled the women to lead their own groups and set their own priorities. As a result, the women stated they were better able to negotiate power within their households and communities. Previously only men would take decisions on household assets, such as the sale of sheep and goats, but now women participate in both the decision to sell as well as how to use the income generated.

In Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, Somaliland, Myanmar and Nepal, women supported by ActionAid took up leadership positions and made their demands heard by community leaders and government officials. Some demands were linked to their work as farmers or unpaid care workers, but also included demands to address gender-based violence or lack of public services. In Bangladesh, women's groups were involved in four major advocacy initiatives around gender responsive local government budgets, access to social protection schemes, fair and decent wages and women's access to government-owned land.

ActionAid way of working:
building long-term relationships

ActionAid builds long-term partnerships with community-based organisations and social movements to share learning and strengthen the capacity of local groups to build a formidable movement for change.

Sanhya, 31 is grateful that her husband helps her with cooking, looking after the children and fetching firewood and water. In her community in Nepal it is traditional for women to take responsibility for all the unpaid care work. Sanhya attends ActionAid REFLECT circles.

PHOTO: NayanTara Gurung Kakshapati/ActionAid



Income and expenditure

This year we made significant progress on our organisational objectives. These underpin the work we do on the five priority areas of work highlighted in this report, as well as strengthen the way we are governed, managed and remain accountable, and the way we raise our profile, income and influence.

Achievements included a substantial increase in the number of ActionAid supporters worldwide, and in the reach of our online presence; an increase in our total income; and progress on growing the membership of the ActionAid Federation.

Key statistics

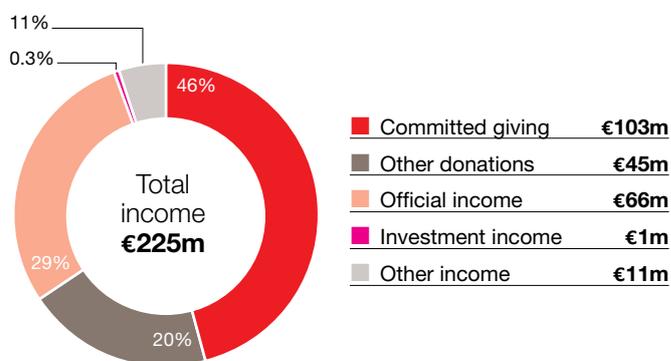
€225 million

ActionAid International's total income, an increase of 3% on 2012

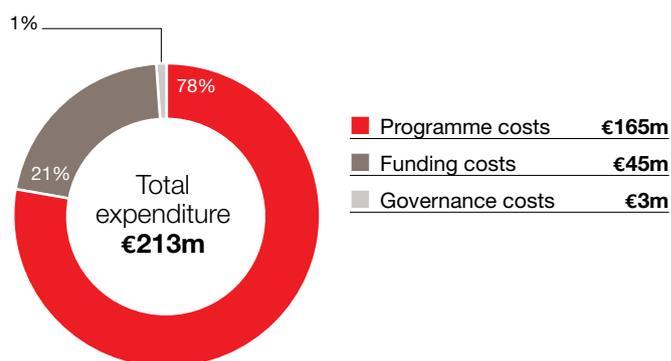
389,400

supporters making regular donations, an increase of 2% on 2012

2013 Income (millions)



2013 Expenditure (millions)



Learning lessons, looking ahead

ActionAid is committed to making sure we learn from our successes and failures, and to sharing and applying that learning for the benefit of future work.

This year some of our key learning points are:

- **involving young people works:** we will strengthen the role of our Activista youth campaigning network.
- **changing the rules that keep people in poverty is often achieved by partnerships and alliances:** we will build more of these.
- **improving public services requires a lot of research:** we will invest more in the collection and monitoring of data and in awareness raising in communities about economics, budgets and accountability.
- **our Promoting Rights in Schools work has been a success:** we will roll it out to more countries and encourage the participation of young people in this process too.
- **we need to link our emergency response more to long-term development work:** this requires investing more in disaster preparedness, response and resilience.
- **women's economic and social power is enhanced by collective action:** we will provide women with continuous training and capacity building to work in cooperation.

Arifa, has been a member of the ActionAid women's group in West Bengal since 2009. Arifa and the group talk about topics they are passionate about, such as the shortage of clean water, poor roads, and the lack of electricity and education in the community. Arifa has not always been able to talk so freely about the issues she wants to. Her husband acted violently towards her when she first came home from meetings. After her husband and in-laws attended some meetings they realised that the ActionAid group benefits not only women but the entire community.

PHOTO: Nicola Bailey/ActionAid

Thank you to
all our supporters
during 2013



Sudeep, 7, is an ActionAid sponsored child. He studies in class 3 at his school in Nepal.

PHOTO: ActionAid

www.actionaid.org

ActionAid International

4th floor, West wing, 158 Jan Smuts Ave, Rosebank,
2196, Johannesburg, South Africa

Postal Address

Postnet Suite 248, Private Bag X31, Saxonwold 2132
Johannesburg, South Africa

T +27 11 731 4500+27 11 731 4500

F +27 11 880 8082

E mail.jhb@actionaid.org

W www.actionaid.org

ActionAid International is incorporated in The Hague, The Netherlands.

Registration number: 27264198

ActionAid International is incorporated in South Africa under section 21A
of the Companies Act 1973. Registration number: 2004/007117/10

Further information

If you would like more detailed analysis of our 2013 performance and progress against our five-year plan, *People's Action to End Poverty*, the following documents are available:

Our full *Annual report*

www.actionaid.org/publications/actionaid-2013-annual-report

Our *Financial report*

<http://www.actionaid.org/sites/files/actionaid/aai20financials20final.pdf>

Our *Digital review*

www.actionaid.org/storiesofchange
