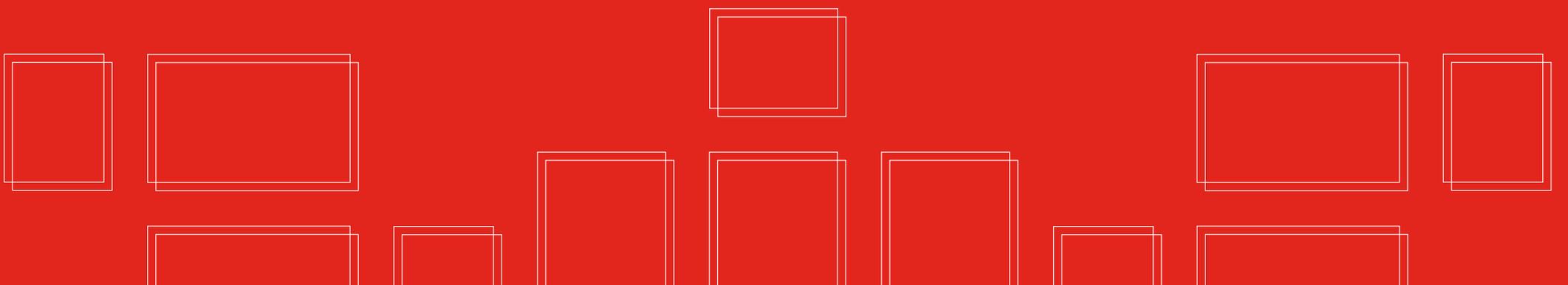


act:onaid



INVESTING IN CHANGE



FREED FROM BONDED LABOUR: SUSHMA'S STORY

Sushma was a bonded labourer (kamaiya) in Nepal. She was forced to wash clothes, dishes and look after the local landowner's cattle and children. She was made to work long hours and often beaten. She said of the landowner,

“His behaviour was very abusive towards me. I used to feel hopeless.”

ActionAid's partner organisation, Radha Krishna Tharu Jana Sewa Kendra, visited Sushma and her husband to explain to them that they could be freed. This awareness helped to change the situation and also helped Sushma and her family get land from the government to build a house where they could feel safe.

“We have five kattha (18,191sq ft.) of land. We now have a proper house to live in.” explains Sushma. “We can do farming. We don't have to go far [away] to India to work, or [work] at landowners' homes. We can work on our own land. We can grow vegetables and sell them in the market. The family can stay in one place, together.”

Now as head of the Freed Kamaiya Women's Awareness Group, Sushma is teaching other women about their rights and the need for education. She believes that, without an education, children will be trapped in poverty and that people without an education are easily cheated.

Sushma also belongs to the Saraswati Women's Saving Group, which teaches members about their civic rights and runs a 'revolving loan' scheme to help women get school supplies for their children.

PHOTO: NAYANTARA GURUNG KAKSHAPATI/ACTIONAID



MESSAGE FROM ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Adriano Campolina

Adriano Campolina
Chief Executive, ActionAid International

For over 40 years, ActionAid has been fighting poverty in Asia. One of our very first programmes started in India in 1972, supporting poor children to get an education.

Our work has evolved over the years, but we remain committed to our goal of ending poverty and injustice. Today ActionAid works in 12 countries across the Asia region.

We focus on supporting the poorest and most disadvantaged people to fight for their rights and build a better life for themselves, their families and their communities. This includes people affected by disasters and conflict; remote or marginalised communities; trafficked women; bonded labourers; small-scale farmers and street children.

My working life began as a farmer in Brazil, and throughout my career I have campaigned for food and land rights in Brazil and internationally. I joined the ActionAid movement over 13 years ago because I passionately believe that ActionAid makes a unique and powerful contribution to the fight against poverty.

ActionAid sees poor people as our partners in development. We work hand in hand with poor communities over many years and use our resources and experience to empower people to find their own solutions.

Working with local communities and our partners, we have been able to improve the lives of millions of people. But there is more we need to do to tackle the complex and urgent challenges facing communities across Asia. And we cannot do this alone.

I believe that now is the time to harness the tremendous resources, dynamism and creativity of Asia to tackle these challenges and develop lasting, credible solutions to change the lives of people living in poverty for the better.

By forging collaborative partnerships, we can leverage our combined commitment and strengths for greater impact. Working together, we can build a formidable movement to accelerate positive change for poor communities and ensure a brighter future for everyone.

I hope you will join us in partnering for sustainable change.





Change

At ActionAid, we believe that people living in poverty can lead the fight to end poverty.

We work with millions of the poorest and most excluded people - particularly women - making long-term commitments to advance their human rights and to transform the world in which their children grow up.

Our expertise lies in listening to what people really want and need.

ActionAid is a unique partnership of people working to access a quality education; to secure their land and food rights; to earn a decent living; and to have a say in decisions that affect them. We provide emergency relief to disaster-affected communities and build strength and adaptability in the face of future emergencies.

By linking our grassroots work in communities with our national and international work, we help to secure fair policies that promote positive, inclusive change, thereby maximising our impact for poor people around the world. In 2013, we reached over 15 million people worldwide.

Our vision is a world without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys the right to a life with dignity.

CHANGE IN ACTION: In India, thanks to the contribution of ActionAid, India's Food Security Act 2013 was passed. The Act is landmark legislation and, when fully implemented, will increase food security for 780 million people.

Partnerships

We can only meet our commitments by working with our partners and supporters. By sharing resources, knowledge and ideas, we can have an exponential effect – locally, nationally and globally.

We work with more than 2,000 local organisations and are involved in over 100 alliances and networks.

Our global successes to date include:

- Supporting over 200,000 people to achieve improved food security;
- Working alongside more than 400,000 people to gain improved access to public services;
- Enabling over 200,000 girls and boys to secure improved education;
- Enabling over 280,000 people to become more resilient in the face of disasters;
- Supporting more than 350,000 women on issues of gender-based violence.

PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION: In Bangladesh, we worked with international engineering firm Ramboll to redesign and build disaster resistant housing. The project was highly commended at the British International Expertise Awards 2014.

In Vietnam, we are partnering with Microsoft to improve disaster preparedness and response in the Mekong Delta. Through mobile technology, 16 vulnerable communities will be better equipped to plan for and respond to disasters.

BY 2017

ActionAid is committed to investing \$470m each year towards its charitable activities and operations worldwide by 2017. Our work in Asia will help us achieve this goal.

The following is what we hope to achieve globally in our five focus areas.

DISASTER RELIEF AND PREPAREDNESS

By 2017: Through approaches that are based on people's needs and rights, we will have built effective risk reduction practices in over 5,000 communities.

QUALITY PUBLIC EDUCATION

By 2017: Using education to improve the quality of, and access to, equal opportunities, we will have ensured that girls and boys equally enjoy public education that respects their rights in over 5,000 communities.

WOMEN AND GIRLS EMPOWERMENT

By 2017: Through supporting women to secure meaningful livelihoods, we will ensure that 5 million women and girls in rural and urban areas overcome poverty.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND LIVELIHOODS

By 2017: We will have helped rural communities to better understand their right to land and natural resources, improving the livelihoods for small-scale farmers and at least 1 million women.

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

By 2017: We will have improved access to clean water, healthcare, education and other essential public services for 5 million people living in poverty.

A NEW SCHOOL INSPIRES HARD WORK

In Ou'Toung village, the majority of the community members are illiterate; most of these are women and girls. In response, ActionAid built a new school to support education, particularly for girls in the community.

Yeart Kosal, age 9, is a student in the community. She hopes that now she and her friends can finish their education. She says that,

“Compared to the old classroom in a small hut, I feel this new classroom is very comfortable and very much better. I will try to work hard on my study because now I have a nice place to learn.”

Nationwide, ActionAid works to ensure that all children are enrolled in school. ActionAid helps community members to come together to hold local authorities responsible for providing education support such as professional well-trained teachers, learning equipment and facility maintenance.

PHOTO: SAVANN OEURM/ACTIONAID



ASIA

Context

Asia is home to more than half of the world's population. There is no doubt that the region's economic transformation has helped to lift millions of people out of poverty. However, economic growth has not brought benefits to everyone. The region remains home to two thirds of the world's poor – almost 900 million people.

Across Asia, communities are faced with persistent poverty and hunger, rising inequality and exclusion, and high vulnerability to climate change, disasters and conflict. The widening gap between rich and poor threatens to undermine the region's progress.

Women continue to face violence and discrimination every day and suffer from some of the world's lowest rates of political representation, employment and property ownership. Enrolment rates in primary education have improved considerably, but too many children, especially girls, are still dropping out of school.

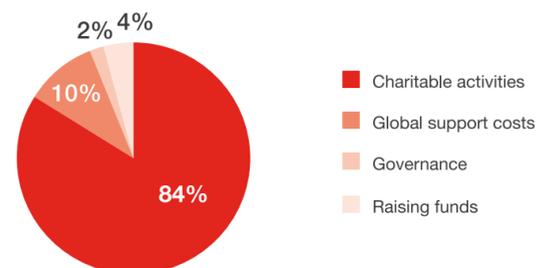
Funding

In Asia, our funding comes from a variety of sources, including child sponsorship, regular giving, grants from governments and other official bodies, companies, trusts and foundations.

We strive to use our funds efficiently. Our value for money approach means that we make decisions that are backed by evidence when planning, monitoring and evaluating our impact. More than 80 cents of every dollar raised goes to support our programmes.

In 2012, over \$57m was spent on our programmes in Asia. Over the next three years, we plan to invest more than \$200m in our programmes across the region.

Expenditure in Asia, 2008-2013



FUNDING IN ACTION: A grant from Google of US\$800,000 allowed us to free more than 3,000 people from modern-day slavery in six states in India. Rehabilitation was provided to 1,500 of the bonded labourers while 300 received legal support.

Impact and Commitment

In 2013, almost 8 million of Asia's poorest and most disadvantaged people have benefitted from our work. By 2017, we are committed to delivering even greater impact. Below are some examples of the change we have achieved in our 12 programme countries in Asia, and our commitments in the coming years.

AFGHANISTAN

Impact

- 620 women elected to community development councils by encouraging women to use their vote and stand as candidates.

Commitment by 2017

- 1,000 women will be trained and promoted as local leaders to implement risk reduction initiatives for natural or man made emergencies.

BANGLADESH

Impact

- Women leaders in Chanpara Slum (Dhaka) called on local MPs for safer water supplies and the installation of proper drainage systems for 45,000 people living in the slum.

Commitment by 2017

- 60 communities will be prepared for climate- and disaster-related shocks, and will receive assistance when a disaster strikes.

CAMBODIA

Impact

- Successful campaigning secured a rise in teachers' salaries and for more teachers to be deployed to rural areas.

Commitment by 2017

- 90% of children aged 6-15 years in the communities where we work will enjoy quality public education.

CHINA

Impact

- 3,000 teachers trained to provide high quality care and psychological counselling support for left-behind children.

Commitment by 2017

- 88,000 people will experience improved livelihoods and increased food security.

INDIA

Impact

- 2,000 homeless children living on railway platforms received food, medical aid, counselling and non-formal education in three states.

Commitment by 2017

- Domestic workers, street vendors and homeless people in the cities that we work in will have secure livelihoods and housing.

MYANMAR

Impact

- 700 young volunteers (aged 20-30 years) trained to lead the development of their community.

Commitment by 2017

- 1,800 young volunteers nationwide will take on leadership roles in the development of their communities.

NEPAL

Impact

- 1,250 people and 129 schools trained on disaster risk reduction planning and emergency response.

Commitment by 2017

- 10,000 adults will have received basic literacy, numeracy and civic education.

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

Impact

- 520 young people and women understand their rights and undertake leadership roles in community development.

Commitment by 2017

- 3,000 people will collectively claim their rights and have dignified livelihoods.

PAKISTAN

Impact

- 5,000 brick-kiln workers in Punjab and Sindh provinces access minimum wages, social protection and alternative employment opportunities.

Commitment by 2017

- 380,000 children, particularly girls, will access their right to free and quality public education.

PHILIPPINES

Impact

- Food packages for 63,344 people, hygiene kits for 66,276 people and psychosocial care for 6,960 people provided to victims of Typhoon Haiyan.

Commitment by 2017

- 10,000 disaster-affected communities have the skills and resources to prepare for and respond to future disasters.

THAILAND

Impact

- 3,500 people from 120 communities in Southern Thailand secured basic healthcare and education services.

Commitment by 2017

- 500 women leaders will have been trained and will actively participate in leadership roles in the family, community and at the political level.

VIETNAM

Impact

- 1 million people in Ha Tinh province reached through our long-term programme, which was successfully handed over to the local authorities and reduced the poverty rate from 51% in 2005 to 20% in 2011.

Commitment by 2017

- 100,000 people experiencing disasters will have been assisted through support for livelihoods recovery.

DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY



We aim to find new solutions to old challenges, which means investing in new ways of extending our reach and scaling up our impact. The following are examples of innovation at the local, national and global levels.

NEW SOLUTIONS LOCALLY: PARALEGAL TRAINING IN AFGHANISTAN

Violence against women is deeply entrenched and widespread in Afghanistan. 87% of Afghan women face some form of violence in their lives. The situation is worsened by a lack of awareness of women's rights, and many have limited access to basic health and legal services after experiencing violence in their homes and in public places.

Working together with **United Nations Women**, we use a rights-based approach to combat violence against women and girls. We raise awareness about the rights of women by training women to serve as paralegals.

In 2008, 30 women paralegals in Balkh province were trained on the rights of women in Islamic Sharia and Afghan Law. Playing a pivotal role in raising awareness and reducing violence against women, this pilot is now a national priority. In 2013, over 200 paralegals were trained across our programmes in Afghanistan.

NEW SOLUTIONS NATIONALLY: USING SMS TECHNOLOGY IN KENYA

In drought-affected Isiolo in Kenya, ActionAid and the **World Food Programme** provides vital food rations to over 80,000 people each month.

To ensure ActionAid responds quicker to the needs on the ground, we use SMS technology – Frontline SMS and Freedom Fone – to transmit information between 250 community members, including warehouse owners and food truck drivers, and our field staff.

In collaboration with **infosaid**, by using basic mobile phones and simple community notice boards, we provide people with vital information on livestock and food prices and food distributions. This boosts household income and enables them to stay informed on local humanitarian activities.

In 2012 our project received the **Technology4Good Innovation Award**. The Judging Panel commented that,

“ActionAid’s work shows that two-way communication [with disaster-affected communities] is much more powerful than more traditional top-down information solutions.”

NEW SOLUTIONS GLOBALLY: OUR UNIQUE APPROACH TO EDUCATION

For over 40 years, ActionAid has been a global leader in the fight to ensure that all children and adults get the education they deserve.

At the core of our success is Reflect: an award-winning and internationally renowned approach to adult learning. Reflect uses available tools, such as drawing diagrams in the sand or using small stones, to teach literacy and numeracy skills. The Reflect model is now used by over 500 organisations in 80 countries worldwide, and has received seven **United Nations** awards.

At least five million women have learned to read and write – and many more millions of lives have been changed – through Reflect. We are committed to achieving quality education for millions of children and adults around the world over the next five years.

INNOVATION IN ACTION: We believe in safe cities. ActionAid is working in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Jordan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand and Vietnam to campaign for making cities safe for women and girls through its Safe Cities Initiative. Safe Cities is founded on the concept of the right to the city; where women and girls can move freely on the streets or workplace, without fear of assault.



MAY THU WIN BECOMES A CHANGEMAKER

In 2008, Myanmar was hit by Cyclone Nargis. High winds and flooding killed nearly 140,000 people and left hundreds of thousands homeless. May Thu Win's village, KyonKan (Zin Baung), on the banks of the Ayeyarwady Delta, was severely affected.

“Our village was destroyed. All but five of the houses collapsed” says May Thu.

Six years on and things have really changed.

**“Before, we didn’t know anything about disasters” May Thu explains.
“I’m [now] part of the early warning task force.”**

The task force is part of the village disaster management committee set up with support from ActionAid and its partner, Action for Social Aid (ASA). Taking an active role in the community is a big change for women like May Thu Win, who is now an ActionAid volunteer. Nationwide, ActionAid supports hundreds more young people like May Thu to take on leadership roles in the development of their own communities.

Last year, May Thu took part in a simulation exercise to identify gaps in the village's emergency response plans. When warnings of a new cyclone – Mahasen – came in May 2013, she had an opportunity to put what she had learnt into practice, helping people evacuate to a safe shelter.

Village leader, Kyaw Lin noted that,

“We need to get more women involved, and we need to revise our [emergency] response plans.”

PHOTO: CHRISTOPHER DAVY/ACTIONAID

SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE GIRLS IN DHAKA

Beauty Akhtar, age 12, has been living at Happy Homes in Dhaka for the past two years. The Happy Homes project provides 150 of the most vulnerable street-girls aged 7-18 years with a stable and safe home. Many of these girls have been victims of physical, mental and sexual abuse.

The aim of Happy Homes is to reintegrate vulnerable girls back into the community and, where possible, reunite them with families.

At Happy Homes, girls receive long-term care and support to live a life free of abuse and exploitation. The project includes healthcare and psychosocial support; access to recreational activities; support to enrol in government schools; and vocational skills training for older girls so they can earn a decent living.

Happy Homes also serves as a drop-in day centre for girls in the neighbourhood. They can come to Happy Homes to use washing facilities, get medical attention, and take part in recreation and education services. Over 13,200 non-resident girls have benefited from Happy Homes over the years.

PHOTO: AKASH PANOS/ACTIONAID



OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

ActionAid aims to build long-term relationships with our partners and supporters to improve our impact for poor and vulnerable communities. We view your support for ActionAid as an investment both in our organisation and the communities we support.

ActionAid strives to bring you closer to our work and for you see the difference that your investment is making. This includes regular impact reports, briefings from our country staff, opportunities to visit our projects on the ground and to be part of a community of like-minded investors. We continually seek to use innovative and effective techniques to bring about sustainable change and we value and encourage the expertise and resources that our partners can share with us.



AN ENDORSEMENT FROM AWARD-WINNING ACTRESS EMMA THOMPSON AMBASSADOR FOR ACTIONAID

“ActionAid is different. They work directly through local staff with communities, listening to their ideas, helping them get projects off the ground and making sure that the communities own these schemes.

On my travels to ActionAid’s projects, I have had the very good fortune to meet some heroic women. I won’t romanticise the struggles of some of the women I’ve met – they are toiling hard and have survived severe traumas. But I have also talked and laughed with them, and have learned a little bit about what it is to fight for a life of dignity. Frankly, working with ActionAid has been one of the most inspiring, thrilling gifts of my life.”

TOGETHER WE HAVE
THE POWER TO
CHANGE THE FUTURE
FOR THE BETTER.
PLEASE JOIN US.

act!onaid

ActionAid International Asia Hub
60/1 Monririn Building
2nd Floor Room B201
Soi Phaholyothin 8
Bangkok 10400
Thailand

Phone: +66 (0) 2615 5130-3
Email: asia.hub@actionaid.org
[Facebook.com/actionaid](https://www.facebook.com/actionaid)
[Twitter.com/actionaid](https://twitter.com/actionaid)
www.actionaid.org