

act:onaid



ANNUAL REPORT 2008 SUMMARY

Several thousand women, many of whom travelled for several days from remote regions across the Himalayan country of Nepal, take part in a mass rally in coordination with ActionAid's HungerFREE campaign.



Brian Sokol/ActionAid

Letter and overview from the chief executive officer and chair of the board

2008 was an extraordinary year as food, fuel and financial crises had a devastating impact on poor people across the world. In 21 of the countries where we work, communities came face to face with natural disasters and conflicts.

Against this challenging context, the need for ActionAid's work has never been greater.

Cover image: Leya Chede 47, a beneficiary of an ActionAid project photographed at her turkey rearing house. Leya rears goats and turkeys that she bought from selling groundnuts and maize after joining ActionAid community based farming group.

James Akena/ActionAid

We are pleased to report that we were able to work with communities in more than 40 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America, helping them meet their basic needs and fulfil their human rights. Our responses were both immediate and long-term, as we ensured that the interests of local communities were represented nationally and internationally.

This report represents highlights of our work, notable achievements and lessons learned throughout the year.

There is plenty to celebrate as well as critical reflections for the future. We are particularly proud that our perseverance in demanding women's rights to land, the needs of women farmers and ending violence against women has started to improve women's lives.

Our innovative interventions have not only helped change the laws and regulations that protect people's rights, but also the practices of communities, governments and donors, meaning that change will continue.

Our **HungerFREE campaign** responded to the record rise in the number of hungry people, which reached over one billion in 2009. Together with our partners, ActionAid played a key role in making governments across the world pledge over \$20billion to fight the food crisis. The UN also developed a framework for action which gives priority to investment in small-holder farmers.

We are also proud of the progress we have made internally.

Our new constitution will help ensure that our own governance structures share power as equally as possible and provide the better accountability to people in the countries where we work.

Over the past 12 months the unwavering dedication of our thousands of supporters helped us to raise €141 million. Despite

the economic crisis, our income in Sterling (excluding emergencies) continued to grow, albeit at a slower rate. This demonstrates that despite their own challenges, the individuals and organisations who support us also share our commitment to ending poverty. We say a sincere, thank you to all of you!

“ Together with our partners, ActionAid played a key role in making governments across the world pledge over **\$20billion** to fight the food crisis. ”

It is with sadness that I extend special recognition to Lalit Mehta, a rights activist in Jharkhand, India, who was murdered for his ground breaking work on exposing corruption. His death illustrates that

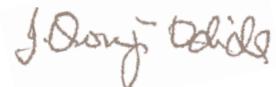
challenging power and claiming rights continues to be met with repression and violence.

We continue to be grateful to our hard working volunteer trustees for their guidance and governance as well as our dedicated staff and partners.

But in a year as tough as 2008, we draw our greatest inspiration from the resilience, innovation and ambition of the communities we work with. It is the unfailing tenacity of people themselves that will help us to bring about the changes needed to end poverty and injustice.



Ramesh Singh
Chief Executive



Irene Ovonji-Odida
Chair of the Board

act!onaid

Our vision – A world without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys their right to **a life with dignity.**

Our mission

To work with poor and excluded people to eradicate poverty and injustice.

Our values

ActionAid International lives by the following values:

- Mutual respect, requiring us to recognise the innate worth of all people and the value of diversity.
- Equity and justice, requiring us to work to ensure equal opportunity to everyone, irrespective of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, HIV status, colour, class and ethnicity, disability, location and religion.
- Honesty and transparency, being accountable at all levels for the effectiveness of our actions and open in our judgements and communications with others.
- Solidarity with the poor, powerless and excluded will be the only bias in our commitment to the fight against poverty and injustice.
- Courage of conviction, requiring us to be creative and radical, bold and innovative, without fear of failure – in pursuit of making the greatest possible impact on the causes of poverty.
- Independence from any religious or party-political affiliation.
- Humility in our presentation and behaviour, recognising that we are part of a wider alliance against poverty and injustice.

Our approach

ActionAid works with poor and excluded people, communities and movements, in partnership with civil society organisations. We do things with people, because we believe poor and excluded people have the right and the ability to shape their own lives.

ActionAid's role includes empowerment, solidarity, and advocacy. Using participatory approaches, we raise awareness and help people analyse the root causes of their problems. We help people establish projects and organisations that can meet their immediate needs and help mobilise them to demand what is due to them from their governments and society.

We link groups of people together to negotiate common demands and speak with a more powerful voice through platforms, movements and networks which bring groups together nationally, regionally and globally.

We carry out policy advocacy with our partners and in our own right and mobilise supporters, partners and allies in campaigns for change. Our work is organised around six themes or objectives, namely women's rights, and rights to education, food, human security, just and democratic government and dignity in the face of HIV and Aids.

Our work is supported through the generous solidarity of individual and institutional donors. We have some 330,000 individual sponsors, mostly in Europe, who give an average of €25 a month. Many of these individuals also join our campaigns.

We have a form of governance and management that is both international and devolved and decentralised. Our international Board and Assembly is diverse, composed of independent and representative members. Our main office is in Johannesburg, but we also have international offices and staff in Rio, Bangkok, London, and Nairobi.

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Kitemba primary school in Madadu sub-county of Mubende, Uganda. Justine Nyirantungane, 15 (second from back of line), Sylvia Nakaliga, 10 (front of line) fetching water. ActionAid is sinking a vital borehole at the primary school, which will benefit children and teachers, as well as the entire community.

Women's Rights

Women and girls are the poorest of the poor because of the extreme forms of discrimination that persist in many parts of today's world. **Our strategy** requires us to place women and girls at the heart of all our work. We also address women's rights directly, for example by seeking to work with women's organisations to transform gender relations.

Spotlight: Women Won't Wait

Women Won't Wait is an international coalition of organisations working on HIV and Aids. The coalition was formed in 2007 to campaign on violence against women and girls. ActionAid acts as the campaign's secretariat, provides funding, and supports national coalitions in 13 countries in **Africa**, **Asia**, and the **Americas**.

The campaign has already won important changes in donor policy and in national policy in **Guatemala**, **Uganda** and **Sierra Leone**. We believe that the campaign's success is down to several factors.

Firstly, the campaign brings together 15 organisations which all have a track record of bringing about change in both women's rights and HIV and Aids. Many members hold positions from which they can exert influence on important players.

Secondly, the campaign has created new evidence by analysing the policies, programmes, and budgets of key donor agencies. The coalition has used this evidence to make concrete recommendations with clear targets.

Thirdly, all members of the coalition are involved in the decision-making. Although ActionAid provides most of the funds, the campaign does not carry ActionAid's name. Instead, the campaign supports and builds on member organisations' work.

Finally, the national coalitions have been strengthened by their links with the international coalition. This has helped the national coalitions get funding. It has also helped them win policy changes.



Coffee farmer Justine Chesage (aged 35) poses with three of her six children outside their house. The bargaining power of small-scale farmers in countries like Uganda is nothing compared to that of the giant coffee roasting companies. ActionAid helps farmers such as Justine to make their voices heard.

organised roundtable debates with teachers and students in the local schools. After seeing the good work done by the programme, both the federal and local governments have allocated funds to support it.

The **Tanzania** ActionAid team worked with the media and three national women's groups in a public awareness campaign on women's rights. The alliance produced over 20 feature articles, which were published in 11 papers, and a weekly radio broadcast.

The work of our country offices in **China** and **Cambodia** has resulted in women managing 45 village projects and the election of eight women leaders to local government. Women are now

In **Guatemala**, women's organisations supported by ActionAid won a new law on violence against women and an equal opportunity plan. The government also agreed to allocate funding for three centres that provide legal advice, counselling, and shelter to women.

In **Sierra Leone**, a national Women Won't Wait coalition is monitoring implementation of three new laws passed in 2007. The coalition is also educating women about these laws so that they can claim their rights.

In **Uganda**, 27 local women's groups supported more than 1,100 survivors of violence to take their cases to the police, public prosecution and health services. Meanwhile three national women's groups used research done by ActionAid in their advocacy for new sexual offences and domestic violence bills. The groups also used donor funding to establish six women's centres that provide medical, counselling and legal support. These centres work closely with the police and district health services.

In **Brazil**, we launched a new programme called 'Girls United against Violence and Aids,' in partnership with Centro das Mulheres do Cabo, a feminist NGO. The programme trains young women to follow up with local government and others on cases reported in the media of violence against girls. The young women have

“ Internationally we have three priorities: **women and land; violence against girls in schools and HIV and Aids and violence against women** ”

publicly standing up for their rights - more than 3,000 women in seven villages organised demonstrations, parades, and social events on 29 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Dieumenè Morange-Locan, 48, from Loncy in Haiti, is the coordinator of POFADEL (Platform of Organisations for the Development of Women of Lascahobas). COSADH, an ActionAid partner, introduced the women of Loncy to husbandry as a way of diversifying their income.



Children from the Beigaozhuang migrant centre studying at the Tao Yuang school in north Beijing, China. The school is a private school for migrant children - it is a business and therefore falls outside government legislation.

Right to Education

ActionAid believes that education is a fundamental human right, the responsibility of the state and a core element of a development policy committed to social justice. **Our strategy** requires us to ensure that all children have free access to quality education. We want to see schools where children's rights, especially those of girls, are respected, injustices are challenged and children's lives can be transformed.

ActionAid developed Reflect in the early 1990s for its work in Uganda, Bangladesh and El Salvador. The approach links adult learning to empowerment, so that poor people can have a stronger voice in decision-making. Reflect is now used by more than 500 organisations across 70 countries.

Spotlight: The Commonwealth Education Fund

In 2002 the UK government allocated €11.5 million to establish the Commonwealth Education Fund (CEF). The aim was to work with national coalitions to make education the top national priority in 16 Commonwealth countries. ActionAid, Oxfam and Save the Children managed the CEF over a six-year period, which ended in 2008.

The campaign contributed to at least 92 significant improvements in policy or practice. For example, in **Sierra Leone**, cost recovery was prohibited, in **Bangladesh** minority language policies were developed and in **Ghana** government spending per child increased.

Education cannot happen without adequate budgets. CEF distributed information on budgets to more than 6 million people and trained more than 430,000 people on education budgets. In ten countries, CEF exposed misuse of education budgets.

CEF also worked to end discrimination. The Fund supported 56 partners in their work to end gender discrimination; 24 organisations who work with street children; 12 organisations working with disabled children and 12 organisations working to make education accessible to indigenous communities and linguistic minorities.

The achievements of the CEF led the Global Campaign for Education to prepare a proposal to continue this work in 50 countries. The Education for All Fast Track Initiative has contributed \$6.5 million towards the new plan.

In **Ghana**, ActionAid supports school management committees and education networks to lobby government for improved services. During 2008 the Kosamba school management committee successfully lobbied for a new Junior High school. In the Greater Accra area, monitoring and lobbying by two of our partners resulted in government paying out the capitation grant on time. The Ghana Education Service has now established a committee to monitor capitation grants to schools.

In **Sierra Leone**, ActionAid provided furniture, teaching materials, libraries, teacher training, uniforms, textbooks, and special awards for best girls' schools, to over 120 primary schools. In previous years, ActionAid had helped to overturn advice from the International Monetary Fund that limited spending on civil servants, including teachers. Building on this victory, in 2008 lobbying by the national Education for All coalition helped to achieve a 23% increase in the government funding to education.

In **Senegal**, ActionAid did research with the Ministry of Education, teachers unions, parent and adult learners. The research revealed that a new policy, the "quota securitaire", allowed new, under-qualified teachers to teach in schools. Thirty teachers unions came together

in a new umbrella organisation, COSYDEP, which presented the findings to the Minister of Education. The Minister then demanded a full review of teacher training and recruitment.

In **India**, ActionAid has worked with local community groups to challenge discrimination in 90 schools that prevented children from low-status groups, such as Dalits, from benefiting from education.

ActionAid China has developed a 'Little Sunshine Teacher' model in a minority ethnic part of the country. In this model, children are teaching their mothers to read and write. One of the results is that women are now less likely to be cheated in the market. They also become more involved in their children's schooling.

In the **Americas**, region ActionAid supports the Latin-American Campaign for Rights to Education (CLADE). CLADE monitors

education policy and practice of governments and international financial institutions and campaigns for improvements. CLADE now includes 55 representatives of 21 national fora, 11

regional networks, three international coalitions and five international NGOs.

In **Vietnam**, ActionAid worked with teachers and education officials to make the curriculum more relevant and practical, then convinced the Ministry of Education to officially adopt the revised curriculum.

In **Nigeria**, ActionAid organised leadership training for five representatives of girls' clubs in 28 communities. The training helped the girls resist pressures to withdraw from school. A few weeks after the training, three girls who were being forced into early marriages successfully took their own parents to court.

“Internationally we have these priorities: **education finance; violence against girls in schools** and adult literacy.”

Edeline Simplicite, 40, whose home in Baint, Haiti, was destroyed in Hurricane Gustav. She now lives with her nine children in a lean-to made from roofing material from her destroyed home.

Right to Human Security

Natural disasters like floods, droughts and earthquakes destroy the lives of more than 300 million people every year. Man-made crises like violent conflict affect many millions more. **Our strategy** requires us to work both before potential crises erupt to reduce the risks and mitigate impacts, and after, to assist recovery and explore the opportunities for change that occur at times of flux.

Spotlight: Accountability in insecure situations

The relationship between humanitarian agencies and affected people is usually very unequal. Relief is often seen as charity, with affected people expected to be grateful and passive recipients.

ActionAid Sri Lanka tried to challenge this view after the Tsunami. It did this by providing the opportunity for communities to participate in all stages of emergency assistance, right from the first assessment through to monitoring and review.

Displaced people were asked to decide who should receive help first. Information on budgets was then displayed on public boards and discussed in public meetings. Public hearings were organised in which community members could report on irregularities. Elected committees monitored the overall process. Women and people from other less powerful groups were included in all these activities.

ActionAid Sri Lanka has worked with more than 10,000 poor people in 159 villages affected by the Tsunami and the ongoing civil conflict. Local people who have participated in these processes are now demanding that other donors and government operate in the same accountable way that ActionAid does.

In **Bangladesh**, ActionAid included land and psychosocial issues when doing its assessment after Cyclone SIDR hit in November 2007. ActionAid found that many families had no land even before the cyclone. It then helped people lobby government to provide permanent shelter and public land with legal titles to those who needed it. ActionAid and its partners then helped affected households to apply for land.

In **Kenya**, when violence erupted following the contested presidential elections, ActionAid provided emergency supplies and cash transfers. We gave a grant to a federation of female lawyers to collect evidence from those people who suffered from abuse and sexual violence during the post-election crisis.

After drought hit the north of the country we also gave food to over 5,000 people and published a gender analysis of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission bill for use by women's groups and women parliamentarians.

In **China**, ActionAid provided basic supplies to 18,000 people in 21 villages hit by winter storms. Assistance included items not provided by other agencies, such as lamp oil and rapeseed oil, a local staple in the diet. After the earthquake, ActionAid assisted 23,500 homeless people in three provinces. Here again, after consulting with local people, ActionAid provided items not supplied by others, such as torches, sanitary napkins, medicines and gloves.

“ Internationally we have three priorities: **emergency response, disaster risk reduction and conflict and prevention** ”



People struggling to cross the river Peredo in south-east Haiti after a recent hurricane washed away the bridge.

Other emergency responses included **Haiti**, where we provided scholarships, cash for work, and relief supplies to families affected by floods and hurricanes; Afghanistan where we supplied food, livestock, blankets, clothes and cash-for-work schemes during the freezing winter; and Myanmar where we assisted 120,000 people

affected by Cyclone Nargis with cash-for-work schemes, livelihood support and psychosocial support training workshops.

In **Ghana**, our work in schools helped to make disaster risk reduction, part of one district's project development plan. In **Nepal**, where there is a similar schools programme, disaster risk reduction is now included in the school curriculum and textbooks. Teachers, parents associations, experts and government worked together to achieve these successes. We also trained women in participatory video making who created a documentary on the impact of climate change to be used for local and national advocacy.

At international level, we established a strategic crisis fund. During 2008, we disbursed a total of €803,000 to 19 countries for emergency response.



ActionAid China staff conduct needs assessment in five villages in Ningqiang and Lveyang following the earthquake in May. The assessment team focus on prioritizing the needs of local communities, conducting participatory vulnerability analyses (PVA), and identifying those in need of social and psychological care.

Fishing scenes, Hann Plage in Dakar, Senegal. Our report SelfISH Europe showed how foreign trawlers are decimating the local fishing industry.

Right to Food

Everyone has the right to be free from hunger, and this right is perhaps the most fundamental of all. Without food, no one can have life or health. **Our strategy** requires us to go beyond alleviating hunger to address its root causes, which we understand to be unequal access to and control over resources such as land. Therefore AAI adopted a Food Sovereignty approach on its programming and policy work on food rights.

Spotlight: Protecting Food Security

Though Cambodian law gives fisherfolk the right to fish and the right to water, in practice many are denied these rights.

In the Mien area, private leaseholders cut off a section of a local dam so that they could catch fish themselves. The 120,000 fisherfolk in the area had to pay €108 per family each year to fish there or give 80% of the fish they caught to the private owners.

ActionAid's partner, SAMAKY, organised community facilitators to visit households door-to-door to discuss the problem. SAMAKY then held community meetings where all agreed that the fixing the dam was the main priority.

Villagers sent a petition to the provincial governor's office three times but nothing happened. When election time came, they realised this was a new opportunity.

On 6 June 2008, more than 400 people joined a mass rally in front of the governor's office – despite being threatened with jail by local police. Five community representatives were allowed to talk to the governor while the media gathered with the protestors outside. The governor agreed that the fisherfolk could fix the dam.

Villagers say they will not watch a few powerful people cut the dam and monopolise the fish and water again.

The **International Food Security Network** now reaches 28 countries. During 2008 the Network provided evidence against genetically-modified

organisms to the European Commission. The Commission used this evidence to overturn the European Food Safety Authority's 'safe to eat' verdict on two kinds of maize and one potato. As a result, agro-chemical companies may no longer sell these varieties in Europe. At national level, the Network has helped change policies, programmes and laws in Angola, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Malawi, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Uganda, and Sao Tome and Principe.

“ Internationally our priorities are: **sustainable agriculture and improved livelihoods; control and access to resources and building networks for the right to food** ”

In **Nepal** ActionAid supported more than 2,500 porters organised through 52 groups, to register their own trade union. In Nawalparasi district, a union of agricultural workers was established. The union has already won better wages and working conditions for some of its 1,575 members.

In **Ghana**, ActionAid and our partner UrbanNET helped poor vegetable farmers to keep the land their chief tried to sell to private interests. Nearly 100 women and men developed a petition, marched and spoke to journalists to publicise their case, which gained the support of the municipal assembly. The assembly has since agreed to include urban farming in the area's planning scheme.

In **Tanzania**, more than 120,000 farmers – an increase of 59% from 2008 – are now organised into ActionAid supported groups. These groups have won victories such as government guarantees on loans made to farmers by private banks.

In **Ethiopia**, ActionAid assisted over 200 women with credit, distributed 960 sheep and goats and helped 2,600 families establish vegetable gardens. Our partner, Women Initiative for Self Employment, registered about 2,250 new members.

In **Uganda**, we supported a community scheme which helped poor families to buy cassava at 57% of the market price. National coalitions worked together with local communities to influence the government's national seed policy.

In **Mozambique**, ActionAid organised an exchange so that farmers could learn from other farmers and share experiences on soil fertilisation, organic crop management, crop rotation, soil cover and other practices.

In **Europe**, ActionAid launched a report called *SelfISH Europe* at the European Parliament in Strasbourg and with the media in Brussels. The report showed how fish stocks would fall dramatically, forcing local companies to close, and the food crisis could worsen if trade laws – know as economic partnership agreements – were signed.

Asia organised a migrant workers solidarity exchange between Cambodia, Thailand, and Vietnam. During this exchange, sweatshop workers described their problems and demands to policy makers and union leaders.



Measuring out the grain for distribution at a grain distribution site in Ankober District in central Ethiopia. This area is badly affected by the current food shortage.

Members of the ActionAid funded Ulusi Youth Group, Usigu, Near Kisumu, Kenya. The group perform a drama on the beach for local fishermen and women who buy the fish. The subject of the play is the issue of 'fish for sex', women offering themselves or younger relatives to fishermen in exchange for them selling their catch to them. It highlights the risk of HIV infection and how it spreads quickly through the community.

Right to Life and Dignity in the face of HIV and Aids

ActionAid has been working on HIV/AIDS since 1987, giving practical support to people living with the disease in 23 countries, as well as campaigning and lobbying rich governments and international institutions to make access to drugs, care and treatment fair and unbiased. **Our strategy** requires us to work with HIV-positive people to develop their skills in living positively and claiming their rights and to put people living with HIV and Aids, especially women and girls, at the centre of our planning and implementation.

A lot of our work in the HIV and Aids theme uses STAR groups. ActionAid and its partners encourage people to form groups and then take them through an awareness-raising process in which they discuss their needs and what they can do collectively to solve their problems.

Spotlight: Communities obtain critical services

In **Uganda**, people call STAR "Enkola eyo", meaning "that approach," because it has helped them get services that were not previously available.

Kireku Youth and Tositukire Wamu STAR groups in Mityana won support from the government's agricultural support programme. Also in Mityana, people living with HIV can now have their CD4 counts done at the local district hospital instead of in Kampala, many kilometres away. In Kalangala district STAR group members persuaded the local government to construct an orphan centre.

Through holding budget conferences, ActionAid and its partners in Uganda have helped convince government to allocate more resources to community-based health units and for free condoms. These activities have also made the government more open to community participation.

“

Internationally our priorities are:
**community action; women's
 universal access to care;
 treatment and support; and
 primary health care**

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In **India**, we have helped over 123,000 HIV-positive people to get assistance. In one area an organised group persuaded the regional government to include widows living with HIV and Aids under the Madhuban Pension Scheme. On a larger scale, eight state governments agreed to make available second-line treatment for those who need it. In Tamil Nadu, the government agreed to issue voter identity cards to transgender people and include them in public distribution schemes.

In **Nepal**, women's groups supported by ActionAid's partners convinced the government to establish 12 counselling centres, provide skills training for women, build a community hall, introduce livelihoods programmes and establish a new health post.

In **Guatemala**, ActionAid's partner, a 70-strong network of HIV-positive women activists, was

given a position on the national multi-sectoral Aids commission. The network then convinced the Global Fund to extend support beyond sex workers and pregnant women and to address issues of violence against women.

In **Africa**, we helped the Council of Anglican Provinces to bring together women leaders from 24 countries to develop a strategy to advance women's rights through the mothers' union networks. As a result, Anglicans in DRC have started HIV and gender education in schools, and are assisting a widow support group with income-generating activities. In **Sierra Leone, Ghana and Cameroon**, mothers' unions are running gender-based violence and HIV prevention programmes. In **Rwanda**, diocesan officers are supporting parent-to-child communication on sexuality and HIV and are providing counselling on gender-based violence.

The **United Kingdom** government's new HIV and Aids strategy includes many of the issues raised through the Invisible Women campaign that ActionAid UK launched in 2007/8. This could have a positive impact in other countries as well because the UK is the second largest bilateral funder of the global Aids response.

ActionAid has helped over 123,000 HIV-positive people get medicines and treatment, resulting in much better primary health care.



A meeting of Afghan men and women in Mazar-e-Sharif. ActionAid started working in Afghanistan in 2002 and, this year, published a report showing how little overseas aid was reaching the most needy.

Right to Just and Democratic Governance

The issues of governance are about the creation of tangible rights to food, employment, water, health, education and services. **Rights to End Poverty** requires us to make local, national and international institutions and governments fully accountable for their actions and responsive to the needs of poor countries and people as this will help to restore just and democratic governance.

Building democratic governance

ActionAid has been part of a government scheme to promote effective local government for over five years. Our work for the National Solidarity Programme has helped over 250 community development councils promote community engagement in local government.

We help CDC members to analyse and monitor government plans and budgets. As a result the communities we work with benefited from 490 development projects, worth over €1.76 million. The money was used to construct roads giving access to markets and health services,

hundreds of wells and water supply networks, 782 solar energy systems and more than 1,200m of walls to protect land and houses against seasonal flooding. Six schools were built and equipped and over 370 women and girls learned literacy and income-earning skills.

Our **Pakistan** office involved more than 2,500 people in developing a people's charter calling for a more participatory and transparent budget process. It was delivered to provincial finance ministries, politicians and the media. ELBAG circles in Pakistan have also won local victories. In one area, farmers whose fields were becoming waterlogged by a World Bank project, protested and got the bank to address the problem. In another area, villagers were able to claim back money that the school management committee had pocketed from a sale of a teak tree on the school compound. Another monitoring group caught a village development secretary taking almost half the profit from sales of teak trees. He has apologised and is facing prosecution.

ActionAid **Tanzania** trained over 900 facilitators in eight districts on community score cards, used to monitor local government expenditure and performance. Special attention was paid to services for people living with HIV and Aids.

“Internationally our priorities are: **citizens' monitoring of governance institutions; economic justice and democratisation; and solidarity between social movements**”

Court this year judged in favour of the Urdu-speaking communities' demand for citizenship. The Election Commission then included the non-Bengalis in the National Voter list and provided them with national identity cards.

ActionAid **Malawi** funded the Salima Governance Network to monitor implementation of cash transfers and to conduct community satisfaction surveys on the government's agriculture subsidy programme.

In **Sri Lanka**, a woman who had attended our women leadership and rights training wrote to the president about the lack of safe water in her village. The president responded positively, but the local authorities did nothing. The woman then mobilised over 60 villagers to protest, and local authority duly allocated 1 million rupees for a water project.

In **Mozambique**, ActionAid and our partners started a movement to make local councils function more democratically and it has already achieved some successes. These include new criteria for the election of members, a set term of 2-4 years per member and an agreed way in which members report back to their constituencies.

In **South Africa**, ActionAid worked with partners to mobilise communities in a campaign against Anglo Platinum. We demanded, against other things, that families affected by new mining operations get access to arable land and clean drinking water.

In **Vietnam** and **China**, we trained university students to work in villages with local people to help them claim their rights. In Vietnam 100 families got access to electricity after one student young people helped them negotiate with government.

In **Bangladesh**, after a long struggle by ActionAid and its partners, the High

ActionAid **Brazil** and the Ford Foundation worked with partners to monitor three major public policies: a slum upgrade programme, the domestic violence law and a programme designed to increase the amount of food the government buys from smallholder farmers.

In the Heliopolis shantytown in Sao Paulo, the mayor planned to relocate 100 families outside of their community and replace hundreds of shacks with mid-rise apartment blocks. ActionAid assisted its local partner to conduct a door-to-door survey that showed that residents preferred to stay in houses. They then used the findings to pressure the mayor to reduce the number of families relocated, replace most of the apartment blocks with houses, increase the size of planned houses, and contract a trusted architect to design the homes.

Communities around the Angloplats PPL Platinum Mine, march to the mines's gate to hand over a memorandum in protest at the mining company's activities.



KABAgangou – down with hunger – is the Haiti HungerFREE campaign. It was launched with a peasants rally on 12th December 2008 in Port au Prince. The rally saw 3000 people coming from all corners of Haiti to march through the city. The campaign is calling for (1) food sovereignty and for a boost to local agricultural production and (2) for the environment to become a priority.

Policy and campaigns: HungerFREE

Internationally our priorities are: citizens' monitoring of governance institutions; economic justice and democratisation; and solidarity between social movements. Our biggest single campaign was HungerFREE, which tackles the food crisis, women's land rights, and corporates.

Strengthening right to food in law

A significant victory in December 2008 was the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) by the UN General Assembly. ActionAid has been lobbying governments, UN missions and members of the Human Rights Council for this since 2007.

The protocol means that for the first time poor people will potentially have access to international justice for human rights abuses linked to hunger, poverty, health care, education or housing.

This comes 42 years after a similar mechanism was adopted for civil and political rights. We

also submitted a shadow report on India developed with 152 partners.

This powerful report made the case for the protocol and was used by the Committee on Economic Social and Cultural Rights to critique the Indian government on its violation of ESCR rights. The process of compiling the report enabled ActionAid and our partners to deepen alliances and our understanding of rights in India.

Women's Land Rights

More than 80,000 women in 15 countries mobilised under the banner of HungerFREE Women to demand their rights to land, livelihoods and food. HungerFREE Women became the public face of the organisation's response to the food crisis – getting the messages of the women from the villages, towns and cities, and taking them to the national and international levels.

A video documentary, launched at the African Union (AU) summit, 'Shackled Continent' helped make the case for women's rights to land with

footage from **Kenya, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe** and **DRC**. HungerFREE women catalysed more work and a deeper understanding of women's land rights in many countries. More momentum was built in **Uganda, Gambia, India** and **Pakistan**, where we were already working on land.

In **India**, for example, 4,900 dalit women received nearly 8000 hectares of land in Andhra Pradesh. New work was initiated in **Nepal, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Vietnam, The Gambia** and **Zimbabwe**. The **DRC** also engaged in campaigns, consultations and mobilisations.

Corporate Accountability

We continued to make gains in our work to hold corporations accountable for undermining the right to food. The UN's Special Representative on Business and Human Rights ended a long investigation by concluding that companies do have a legal duty to respect human rights and that stronger enforcement mechanisms are needed to regulate corporate

behaviour. ActionAid helped to influence his findings by highlighting specific abuses in the extractive industries and in the burgeoning biofuels sectors.

In **South Africa**, we worked with partners to mobilise communities in a campaign against Anglo Platinum. We demanded, amongst other things, that families affected by new mining operations get access to arable land, clean drinking water and their democratic rights. The campaign led to the South African Human Rights Commission doing its own investigation, which confirmed the violations which had been denied by Anglo Platinum.

In **Sweden**, we handed over 7,000 signatures to Volvo Cars demanding that it ensure the platinum it uses is mined without violating human rights. As a result, several vehicle manufacturers in Sweden raised the issue with Anglo Platinum.

On the eve of Nelson Mandela's 90th birthday, over two thousand schoolchildren from Alexandra township in Johannesburg, South Africa, call for freedom from hunger as part of ActionAid's HungerFREE campaign.



Organisational Objectives

In addition to our themes, ActionAid has six internal organisational objectives. We made progress on all of these objectives during 2008.

Strengthening governance and accountability

ActionAid aims to build an organisation in which power is shared as equally as possible between those who have and raise money and those who need it to address poverty and injustice.

One part of this is to make country programmes affiliate members of a new federal structure in all countries where this is legally possible. During 2008, the Board approved a new two-tier governance structure that better suits ActionAid's size. In 2008, ten new associates and two new affiliates joined the existing eight affiliates on the ActionAid International board.

Around the world ActionAid strengthened its accountability to communities.

In **Guatemala**, the ActionAid team has experimented with ways of increasing community participation in ActionAid's own planning and budgeting rather than involving communities only in project planning and review.

The fundraising division emphasised efforts to increase the involvement of sponsored children and their parents in planning and reviewing programmes.

In September 2008, we submitted our first Accountability Report as a signatory of the International NGO Accountability Charter.

After examining our report, the Board commented that they "would like to commend ActionAid for displaying a high level of openness and disclosure in its reporting."

Improving systems and structures

In March 2008 we established a new internal communications unit to enable a more effective flow of information throughout the organisation. We also launched a new intranet and we introduced internet-based communication

between three of our major hubs, which resulted in a significant cut in phone bills. The human resources division introduced the 'policy of the month' campaign, which reached about 40% of staff across the organization.

We carried out a mid-term evaluation of the International Partnership Development unit that raises money from institutional donors. The evaluators recommended some changes to our financial system, improvements to country-level capacity, planning, and budgeting, hiring more senior fundraising staff and the development of more systematic funding plans.

Eleven countries installed new or upgraded monitoring frameworks and systems. We also established a monitoring framework to strengthen child sponsorship.

Developing our people

In 2008, ActionAid employed 2,633 staff members worldwide, a decrease of 2% on the 2,681 in 2007.

All units undertook activities to build the staff capacity. The Human Security theme ran training to improve emergency response in eight countries. Human Resources provided performance management and women's leadership training. Our Impact Assessment unit trained people from offices around the world on our monitoring and evaluation system.

The Shared Learning unit organised a writing methodology workshop for 75 staff in 11 countries.

Strengthening communications and campaigns

Traffic to ActionAid International's site grew by 11% during 2008. Meanwhile several countries improved their country office websites.

ActionAid's **China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia**, and HungerFREE websites took a quantum leap forward and are now vibrant, frequently updated sites.

This meant for example that when floods occurred last August in Bihar they were able to get stories up quickly, which enhanced communication and fundraising efforts through national and international media coverage.

Improved sites in **Kenya, Uganda, Malawi** and **Sierra Leone** were also delivered, although full website roll out in Africa is taking longer than hoped.

Overall media coverage fell in 2008 by 17%, due in part due to a decline in national monitoring that is picked up internationally.

But there were several highs points. Our media coverage around the renewed war in **DRC** was particularly effective. Our live broadcast from DRC was picked up by most major media. We believe this to be a first live broadcast to a major TV channel for an NGO.

ActionAid volunteer, Tom Baker, partakes in ActionAid's First Hand Experiences project to fund and assist in constructing 23 brick homes for the Kamaiya people of Belarapur Village in Kailali District, Nepal on November 7, 2008.

Diversifying and increasing income

Total income fell in 2008 by 2%, however, income excluding emergencies for longer term development and policy and campaigning work rose by 3% and if we adjust for the devaluation of Sterling the growth was 19%.

The primary contributors to this growth were the fact that most of our fundraising programmes grew in 2008: **Ireland** by 36%; **Greece** by 15% and **Italy** by 5%.

During 2008 we added four new fundraising countries - **Australia, The Netherlands, Denmark** and **France** – through our New Countries Strategy. ActionAid **Brazil** and **India** meanwhile made progress in fundraising in the South.

In 2008, we won eight UN contracts worth more than €4.3 million and 12 ECHO contracts with a total value of €5.4m. We achieved a 92% success rate of proposals submitted and won our first ECHO contract in **Africa** (for **Niger**). We added one new contract (for **Burundi**) with EuropeAid.



2008 summarised financial statements

This section comments on the summarised financial statements that follow.

These are drawn from the published Annual Report of ActionAid International, which can be found at www.actionaid.org. It contains the full audited financial statements, together with a more detailed commentary on financial performance. It also gives information on the governance structure of the organisation and the responsibilities of its trustees, whose brief biographies are also included.

We present our accounts in Euros, but operate in Sterling and receive over half our income in Sterling. The Euro strengthened by 32% against the Pound over the course of 2008, distorting the analysis. Our income, expenditure and assets shown here in Euros show a fall against 2007, whereas in Sterling they show a healthy increase.

Aggregated income statement and statement of movement in funds Total income expressed in Euros fell by 2% to €182.9 million. Income for emergency interventions was €12.6 million, compared with 2007's €20.3 million. Our income for longer term development and policy and campaigning work rose by 3%. In Sterling the growth was 19%.

Aggregated balance sheet Our total net assets fell from €64.6 million to €55.1 million, entirely due to the stronger Euro. About two thirds of our funds are subject to donor restrictions and one third unrestricted. The level of unrestricted funds represents a surplus of €4.5 million over the minimum amount we aim to keep in reserve. This gives us some protection against current economic difficulties.

5 year history Our income and expenditure have grown in line with each other until the currency-induced downturn last year. In 2005-07 'other donations' included large grants from the UK Disasters Emergency Committee for our response to the Asia tsunami of December 2004. The surplus allocated to reserves has been lower than the growth in the organisation:

we have less overall reserve protection than we did four years ago.

How our income is raised Over half our total income comes from individual supporters in Europe, who typically contribute monthly donations, either as sponsors of children, or through a less restricted form of giving. The UK government and the EU contributed two thirds of our official income (€23.8 million) through project grants. Official income grew by 24% last year but, at 19% of total income, remains below our broad target of 25%-40%. Other donations includes income from trusts and foundations, our sister organisation in **Spain**, Ayuda en Accion, and major donors.

Where our income is raised ActionAid in the UK and in Italy raised 63% of our income (2007: 71%), while our country programmes raised 16%, primarily through the local offices of official donors. While this was a good increase on 2007's 12%, we expect a greater share of our income to come from this source in the years ahead.

Our fundraising costs The cost of raising our core committed giving income fell slightly last year to 19%, while the costs of 'other donations' rose to 24%. In 2007 we received significantly higher amounts of emergency income which carries very little cost. The costs of raising official income are also relatively low.

Our programme costs There was little shift in the regional split of our programme spend last year. As the spending on our tsunami response in Asia winds down, the amount of spend in other regions increases. The Africa regions also contain most of the newer country programmes where spend will tend to be growing faster than average.

Spend by country Levels of spend in individual countries are affected by the incidence of official donor contracts and emergency interventions.

The fall-off in tsunami response is clear in India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Somaliland. Similarly the start up of spend in Myanmar relates to our response to Cyclone Nargis. The Secretariat's share of total spend fell to a little below 13%, while spend in Europe and the USA grew to over 21% as fundraising continues to become more competitive and expensive.

Programme costs by theme The proportions of our programme expenditure on each of our strategic themes have remained fairly steady, with human security and food rights being the largest. Expenditure on women's rights, however, has continued to increase, both proportionally and in absolute terms, while the share of spend on HIV and AIDs and food rights has been reducing.

Support costs We allocate our expenditure on support functions and activities to fundraising,

programme and governance as shown in the income statement. These cost €35.0 million in 2008, compared with €34.2 million in 2007. In Sterling terms the increase was greater. We are conscious of the need to control these costs.

Current performance Fundraising results so far this year have been satisfactory and in line with plan. Plans were prepared, however, before the severity of the economic recession, exacerbated by the banking crisis, became clear, and so in anticipation of weaker results we have taken pre-emptive action to reduce expenditure budgets in Northern affiliates and the International Secretariat. The reductions in country programme budgets referred to above also anticipate some shortfalls in income from the North. It is comforting, however, to note that for most of our country programmes, Sterling and the Euro have strengthened slightly against their currencies since the beginning of the year.

Auditors' report

In our opinion the summarised financial statements on pages 20 and 21 have been correctly extracted from the full aggregated non-statutory financial statements of ActionAid International for the year ended 31 December 2008, on which we have conducted an audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) and issued an unqualified opinion.

In our opinion the graphical information on pages 23 to 26 is consistent with the underlying data in the full aggregated non-statutory financial statements of ActionAid International for the year ended 31 December 2008.

Buzzacott LLP
Chartered Accountants

Aggregated income statement and statement of movement in funds

Year ended 31 December 2008

	Restricted €'m	Unrestricted €'m	2008 Total €'m	2007 Total €'m
Income				
Voluntary income				
Committed giving	65.5	37.4	102.9	103.7
Other donations	30.2	8.0	38.2	46.4
	95.7	45.4	141.1	150.1
Official income	29.3	5.8	35.1	29.4
	125.0	51.2	176.2	179.5
Investment income	0.1	2.1	2.2	2.7
	125.1	53.3	178.4	182.2
Other income	3.5	1.0	4.5	3.7
Total income	128.6	54.3	182.9	185.9
Expenditure				
Fundraising costs	(6.1)	(31.2)	(37.3)	(36.0)
Programme expenditure	(119.2)	(17.3)	(136.5)	(144.6)
Governance costs	(1.1)	(1.4)	(2.5)	(2.7)
Total expenditure	(126.4)	(49.9)	(176.3)	(183.3)
Net surplus before transfers and investment gains	2.2	4.4	6.6	2.6
Gross transfers between funds	(0.6)	0.6	-	-
Losses on investments	(1.6)	-	(1.6)	(0.3)
Net surplus	0.0	5.0	5.0	2.3
Statement of movement in funds				
Net surplus	0.0	5.0	5.0	2.3
Unrealised foreign exchange losses on translation	(11.0)	(3.5)	(14.5)	(5.6)
Net movement in funds	(11.0)	1.5	(9.5)	(3.3)
Total funds brought forward at 1 January 2008	48.3	16.3	64.6	67.9
Total funds carried forward at 31 December 2008	37.3	17.8	55.1	64.6

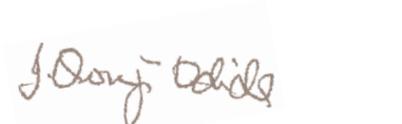
There are no recognised gains and losses other than those shown above. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing operations.

Aggregated balance sheet as at 31 December 2008

	2008 €'m	2007 €'m
Assets		
Non-current assets		
Property, plant and equipment	1.6	1.6
Investments	5.3	8.9
	6.9	10.5
Current assets		
Receivables	9.0	9.5
<i>Cash and cash equivalents</i>		
Short term bank deposits	28.8	31.9
Cash at bank	25.3	26.9
	63.1	68.3
Current liabilities		
Payables	(14.9)	(14.2)
Net current assets	48.2	54.1
Total net assets	55.1	64.6
Funds		
Restricted funds		
Liquid funds and treasury reserves	36.2	47.2
Property, plant and equipment reserve	1.1	1.1
	37.3	48.3
Unrestricted funds		
Liquid funds and treasury reserves	17.3	15.8
Property, plant and equipment reserve	0.5	0.5
	17.8	16.3
Total funds	55.1	64.6

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 26 June 2009

and signed on its behalf by:



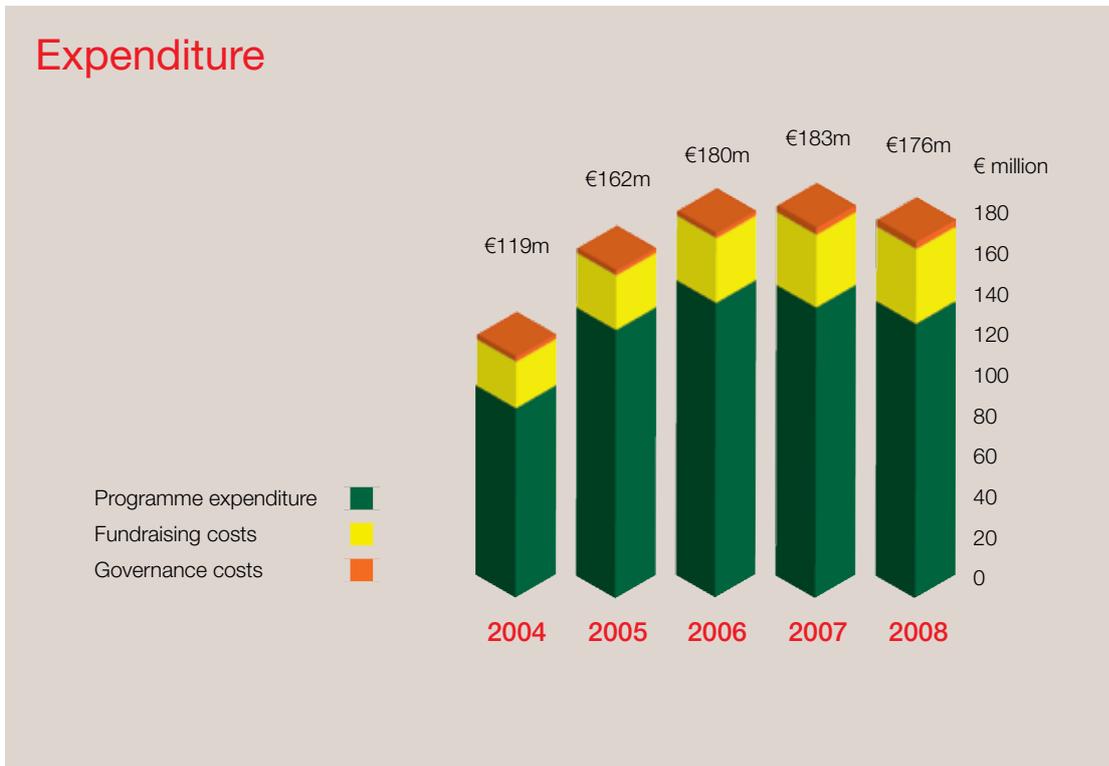
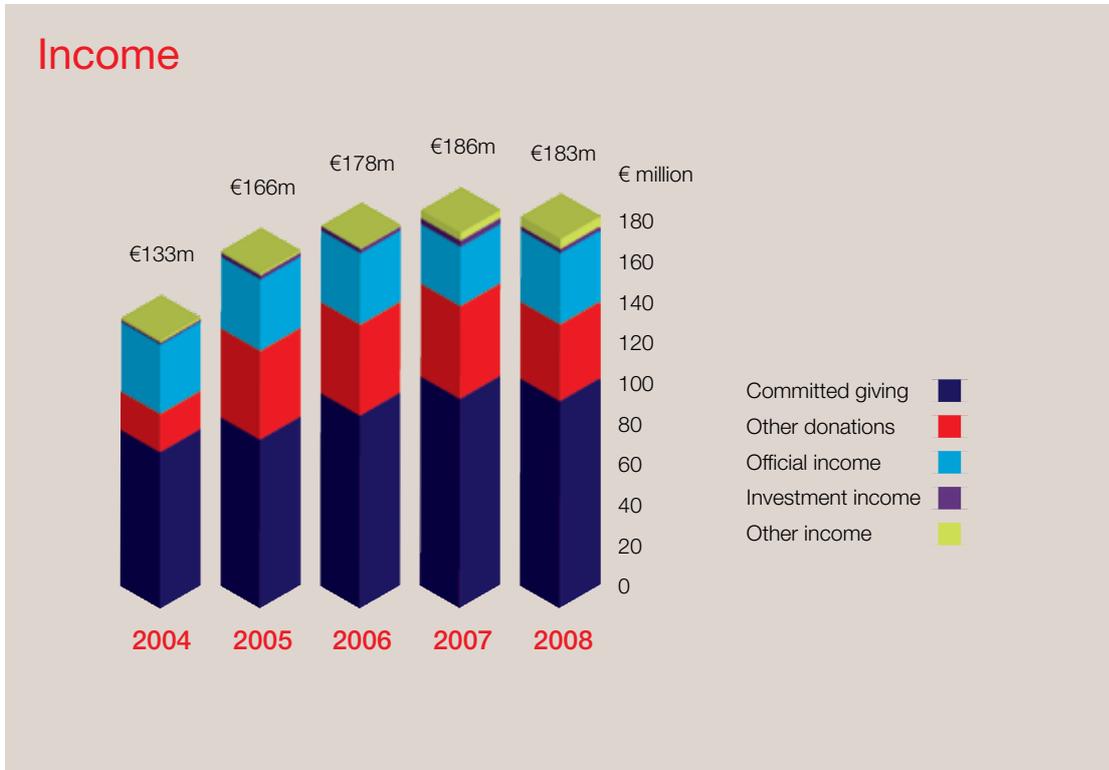
Irene Ovonji-Odida
Chair of the Board of Trustees
ActionAid International



Patrick Dowling
Treasurer of the Board of Trustees
ActionAid International

The summarised financial statements on pages 20 and 21 are extracts only and do not constitute the full aggregated non-statutory financial statements of ActionAid International prepared under International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) as adopted by the European Union. The full financial statements are available on ActionAid International's website.

ActionAid International 5 year history



ActionAid International financial analysis

How our income is raised



ActionAid International financial analysis

Where our income is raised

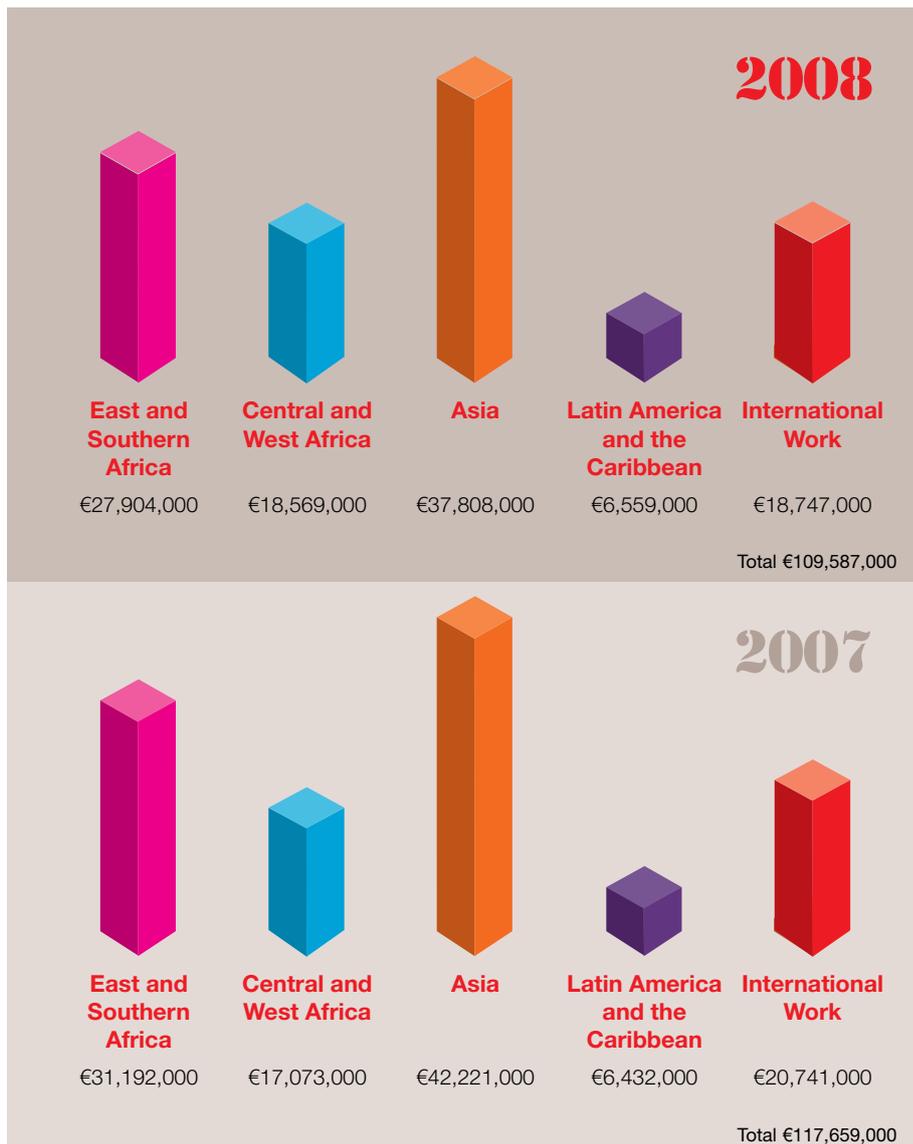


ActionAid International financial analysis

What are our fundraising costs?

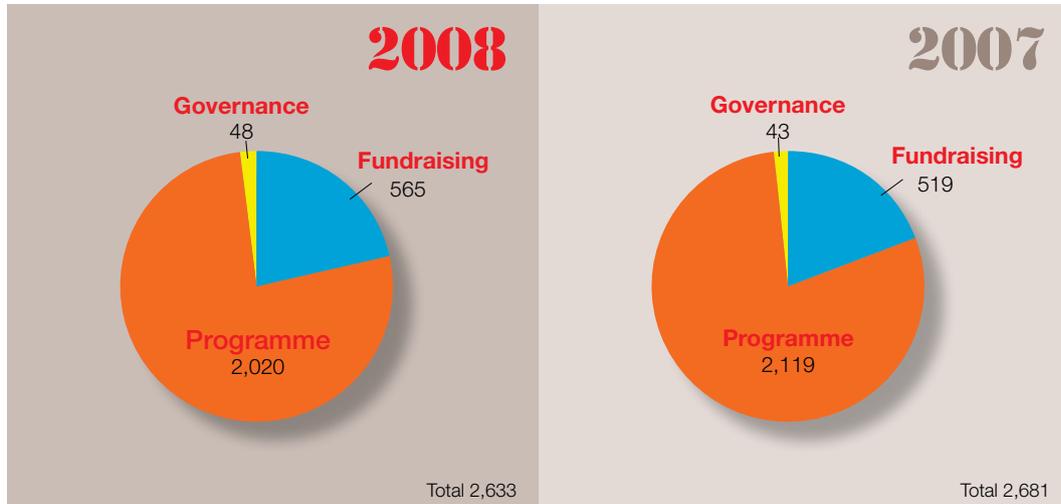


Programme expenditure by region

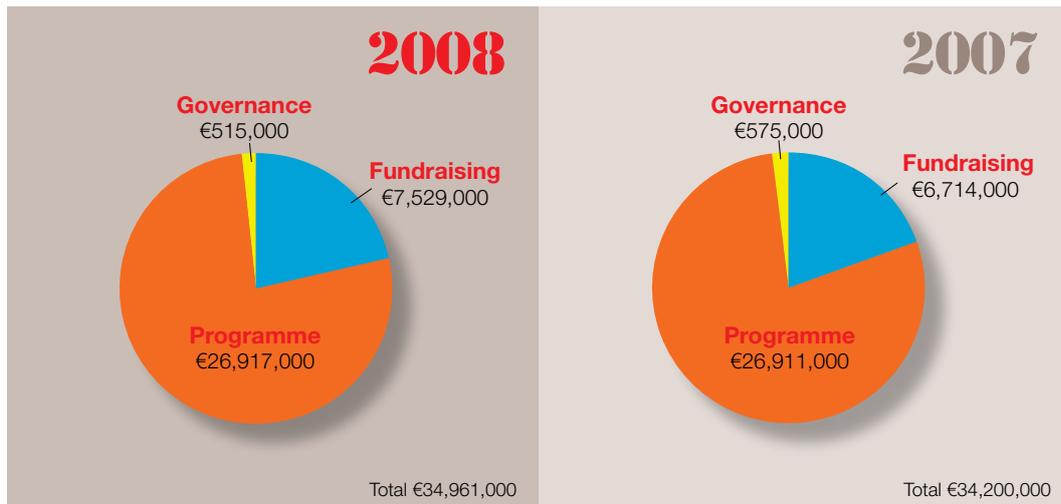


ActionAid International financial analysis

Staff numbers



How our support costs are allocated



	2006 €'000	2007 €'000	2008 €'000
Total expenditure by country			
East and Southern Africa			
Ethiopia	7,376	7,133	4,797
Kenya	15,708	9,901	9,475
Lesotho	419	364	417
Malawi	6,994	5,778	5,858
Mozambique	3,759	4,926	4,563
Somaliland	2,143	1,900	1,234
South Africa	1,009	1,006	1,005
Tanzania	3,032	3,505	3,023
Uganda	5,297	4,145	3,886
Zambia	115	935	1,095
Zimbabwe	1,816	1,399	2,177
	47,668	40,992	37,530
Central and West Africa			
Burundi	1,446	1,165	954
Cameroon	128	323	342
Democratic Republic of Congo	587	857	1,220
The Gambia	3,118	1,689	2,299
Ghana	7,407	6,079	5,439
Liberia	879	671	947
Nigeria	5,876	6,187	6,828
Rwanda	808	1,060	1,299
Senegal	-	1,034	1,113
Sierra Leone	2,646	3,186	3,675
	22,895	22,251	24,116
Asia			
Afghanistan	1,736	1,825	2,621
Bangladesh	4,928	6,325	7,122
Cambodia	1,138	1,460	1,677
China	838	1,121	1,782
India	19,457	18,511	11,445
Myanmar	-	-	1,979
Nepal	3,660	4,825	4,423
Pakistan	5,978	4,704	3,950
Sri Lanka	4,645	4,962	3,197
Thailand	1,053	1,401	718
Vietnam	2,103	2,804	4,781
	45,535	47,938	43,695
Americas			
Ayuda en Accion Country Programmes	1,144	900	732
Brazil	3,580	4,224	4,301
Guatemala	2,027	2,224	2,261
Haiti and the Dominican Republic	1,582	2,018	2,121
USA	821	1,320	1,233
Venezuela	-	218	221
	9,154	10,904	10,869
Europe			
Greece	1,490	1,747	2,123
Ireland	1,094	1,112	1,035
Italy	6,788	8,486	9,918
Sweden	897	1,628	1,640
UK	20,210	23,191	22,506
	30,479	36,164	37,222
AAI Secretariat	24,197	25,042	22,870
	179,928	183,291	176,302

Trustees' biographies

Irene Ovonji-Odida, Ugandan, (Chair) is a human rights lawyer and activist with 21 years' experience in development work with marginalised groups in society such as women, pastoralists and people living with HIV and Aids. She has worked in the public sector in law reform and on public sector ethics for eight years and has been elected a legislator in the East Africa regional parliament for five years. Irene has been involved with ActionAid in Uganda since 2003, becoming national board Chair in 2005. She is the convenor of the International Governance and Board Development Committee and was elected as International Board Chair in June 2009.



Alexandra Mitsotaki, Greek, studied Political Sciences at the Institute of Political Sciences in Paris, and went on to study Development Law before working for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). She is a founder of ActionAid Hellas, established in 1998, and joined the Board of ActionAid International in 2003.

Cândido Grzybowski, Brazilian, is General Director of the Brazilian Institute of Social and Economical Analysis (IBASE), an internationally active non-governmental organisation in Brazil. He was involved in the creation of the Inter-American Agriculture and Democracy Network (RIAD) and the World Social Forum (WSF) in 2000, and civil society organisations' response to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the World Trade Organisation (WTO). He joined the ActionAid UK Board in 2001 and moved to the Board of ActionAid International in 2003.



Karen Brown, British, is an independent adviser on media, education and communications. Formerly working with Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, director Television Corporation plc, Deputy Director of Programmes at Channel 4 and Managing Director of 4 Learning. Karen was until recently a member of the UK's General Teaching Council and non-executive director of The Television Corporation plc. She is an associate partner of Digital Public and Fellow of the Royal Television Society. She currently also works with Kew Garden in London on a part-time basis. She joined the ActionAid UK Board in 2003, became its Chair in 2004 and joined the Board of ActionAid International in the same year.

Matteo Passini, Italian, is Chief Executive Officer of BIT spa which specialises in local financing of cooperative credit and food farming banks. He is also a lecturer in Ethical Finance at the University of Bologna. Matteo obtained an economics degree from University Ca' Foscari, Venice and went on to work for the Banca Commerciale Italiana. He then moved to Banca Etica taking up successive posts in the organisation as General Director, Banca Popolare Etica - Padova, Director - Milan, CEO and then Manager of Alliances and Strategic Partnerships. Since 2000 he has been a Board member of AICCON. Matteo was elected as Chair of the ActionAid Italy Board in January 2007, and joined the Board of ActionAid International in January of the same year.





Dr. Rajesh Tandon, Indian, is an internationally acclaimed leader and practitioner of participatory research and development. He founded the Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA), a voluntary organisation providing support to grass roots initiatives in South Asia and continues to be its Chief Functionary since 1982. His contributions to the enhancement of perspectives and capacities of many voluntary activists and organisations revolve around issues of participatory research, advocating for people centred development, policy reform and networking in India, South-Asia and beyond. He has advocated for a self-reliant, autonomous and competent voluntary sector in India and abroad. He joined the board of ActionAid International in September 2008 as an Independent Trustee.

Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, Zimbabwean, is the General Secretary of the World YWCA, which unites 25 million women and girls in 125 countries. She has over ten years of experience with the United Nations, where she served as Regional Director for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in Eastern Africa. She has also served as a human rights officer with UNICEF as well as national child rights advisor in Liberia and Zimbabwe. Mrs. Gumbonzvanda is active within the women's rights movement and is a member of organizations such as WILDAF, Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association, the World Conference on Religion and Peace and the International Women Leaders on Global Security. She joined the board of ActionAid International in September 2008 as an Independent Trustee.



Sriprapha Petcharamesree, Thai, has been a lecturer on the Human Rights Studies Programme at Mahidol University, Thailand since 1996, teaching Human Rights in Asia and Human Rights in International Relations. She is also a visiting lecturer at the Southeast Asian Studies Programme at Thammasat University. Sriprapha has also worked with the Department of Technical and Economic Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok and with UNICEF in development and humanitarian areas. She has been a member and advisor on public hearings relating to Thailand's draft National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Bill, and sits on various of the commission's committees. She joined the Board of ActionAid International in 2005 as an Independent Trustee.

Patrick Dowling, Irish, (Interim Treasurer) has had a career mainly in banking and finance and been Finance Director of a number of public limited companies. Patrick was formerly Chair of the ActionAid Ireland Board from October 2002 and first joined the International Board in 2003. In December 2006, he resigned as Chair of the Board of ActionAid Ireland, but continued in his capacity as Treasurer on the ActionAid International Board until April 2007. Patrick rejoined the International Board as Interim Treasurer in August 2008.



Affiliates and Associates

ActionAid is committed to building an organisation where power is shared as equally as possible between those who primarily raise money in richer countries and those who spend funds to work to end poverty and injustice in poorer countries.

ActionAid works in 42 countries. In an increasing number of these countries we have autonomous organisations who are members of the international federation.

In 2008 there were 18 member countries of the Association. These included two new affiliates joining the existing six on the ActionAid International board; ActionAid Ghana and Sweden. Also an additional two new associates joined the remaining eight, MS Denmark and ActionAid Sierra Leone. We aim to have at least four new countries becoming associates and three becoming affiliates in 2009.

Affiliates (11)

- UK
- Greece
- Ireland
- Brazil
- Italy
- USA
- Ghana (June 2008 approved)
- Sweden (December 2008 approved)
- Uganda (March 2009 approved)
- Australia (March 2009 approved)
- Kenya (June 2009 approved)

Associates (8)

- India
- Malawi
- Guatemala
- Nigeria
- Sierra Leone
- The Netherlands (NiZA)
- Denmark (MS)
- France (PSO)



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ActionAid is an international anti-poverty agency

working in over 40 countries, taking sides with poor people to end poverty and injustice together.

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