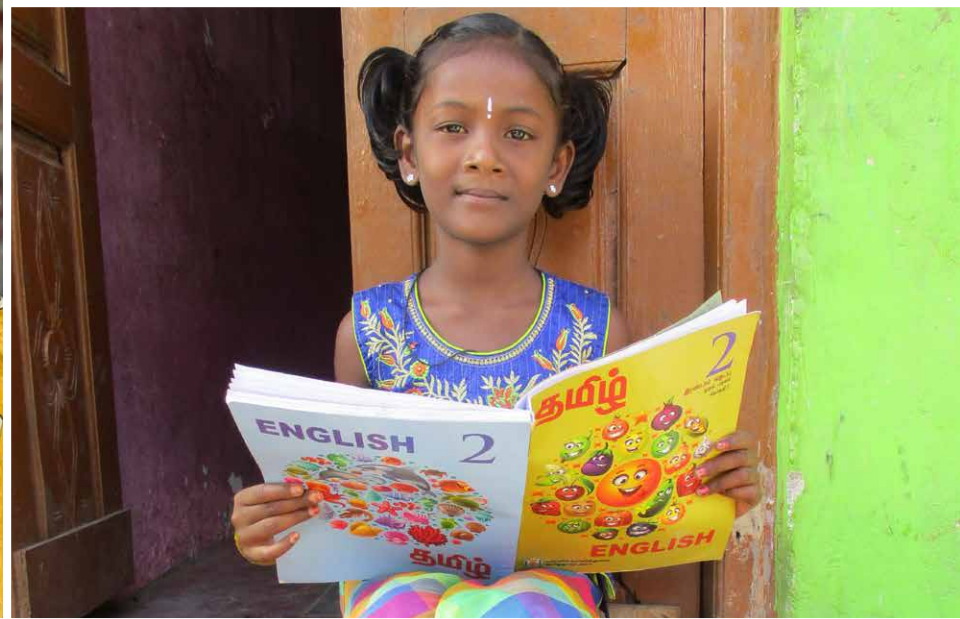




act:onaid

Annual Report 2021



Colophon

Coordination: Federica Affinita

Editing: Giuseppina Lupi

Graphic and Layout: Marco Binelli

Photos: Umesh Nepali, Faheba Monir, Natalia Jidovanu, ActionAid, Sarah Waiswa/ActionAid, Fletcher Simwaka, CCS/ActionAid

The Association ActionAid Switzerland is a non-profit entity which operates in the field of international solidarity and of development cooperation. Supporters can benefit from fiscal exemption according to the current legislation. The Association is subscribed to the Register of Commerce of the Canton of Ticino with the number: CH-501.6.014.943-5.

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Global solidarity

Dear friends,

With this annual report we wish to share with you what we have been able to achieve during the past year thanks to our supporters and the commitment of all those who are part of ActionAid. The Annual Report that we present stems from the need to retrace the commitment and efforts deployed over a period of time in which the Organisation has continuously had to combine flexibility and adaptive capabilities with its long-term strategy.

2021 has been a challenging year for everyone: even in the present day it is not easy to look back and fully grasp the complexity of what we have faced due to the Covid-19 pandemic. 2020 seemed to be the year that had most exposed us to the challenge of change, because of the pandemic. However, it was during 2021 that ActionAid, with the persistence of the pandemic emergency and in the ways agreed by the community of its members, supporters and partners, took stock of its approach to a world that was changing before our eyes, in largely unexpected forms.

It was also the year in which many Swiss people mobilised with great generosity to support those who have been hit hardest by the effects of the pandemic. We at ActionAid also got closer as a Federation; in fact, we immediately collaborated to intervene where it was most needed, aware of the fact that in crisis situations like this it is often the most fragile who pay the highest price.

In 2021 our presence was confirmed in 45 countries around the world. In addition to adapting the ongoing projects to the new health conditions imposed by the pandemic, our intervention involved the distribution of food and health devices, the creation of safe spaces to welcome women and girls and the awareness of the local population on preventive measures to avoid contagion. We have achieved all this by focusing on developing local responses adapted to different situations, promoting women's leadership, on an inclusive and aware basis.

In **Switzerland**, efforts continued to consolidate ActionAid's presence and build partnerships with foundations and major donors who helped us develop projects in Jordan, Nepal and Kenya. At the same time, we continued to expand and develop the support base through campaigns in support of the poorest countries and renewed our commitment to raising awareness among the Swiss population, focusing on the issues of violence against women and gender inequality through the Fight For Women campaign.

In this difficult year ActionAid has acquired a further awareness of its *raison d'être* at local, national and international level. Our Company Report presents the summary of a broad and complex work, in which the fight against social exclusion and poverty, the protection of rights, the redistribution of resources and opportunities, as well as the need to work for a more resilient civil society, from a social and political point of view, are and will continue to be the cornerstones of the commitment we have made for the coming years until 2028.



Finally, I would like to extend special thanks to all our supporters, without whose help we would not have been able to carry out our projects for women and girls, young people and communities in need. It is especially thanks to their help that we have managed, in this year so arduous for many, to obtain the results that will be presented in the pages below.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Giulio Gianetti". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Giulio Gianetti



Chapter 1

About us

Our commitment to the world

ActionAid International was founded in 1972 by a British businessman named Cecil Jackson Cole to allow 88 children in India and Kenya to go to school. Today we are an International Federation of Independent Organisations working in 45 countries around the world. The International Secretariat is located in Johannesburg, South Africa; there are regional offices in Bangkok, London, Nairobi, Rio de Janeiro and Brussels. For almost 50 years we have been supporting people, communities, groups and movements, which are often part of the Organisation itself, engaged in the fight against inequality, poverty and social exclusion.

In Switzerland and in 4 other countries we support various activities in line with ActionAid's mission, thanks to the support of the Federation and/or another member country.

We aspire to a just, equitable and sustainable world, in which every person can enjoy the right to a life of dignity free from poverty and all forms of oppression. To this end, we mobilize, organise and work for and with communities living in poverty and exclusion, with organisations, women's movements, networks and solidarity groups to understand, address and overcome the structural and systemic causes of poverty and injustice. We put women and their leadership at the heart of our work. We support them in asserting their rights and in challenging all forms of violence.

We believe that change is really possible for communities, especially women, who live in poverty and exclusion. Our action, inspired by respect for human rights, supports communities that fight inequalities and the patriarchal system, which invisibly oppresses and discriminates against women and girls around the world.

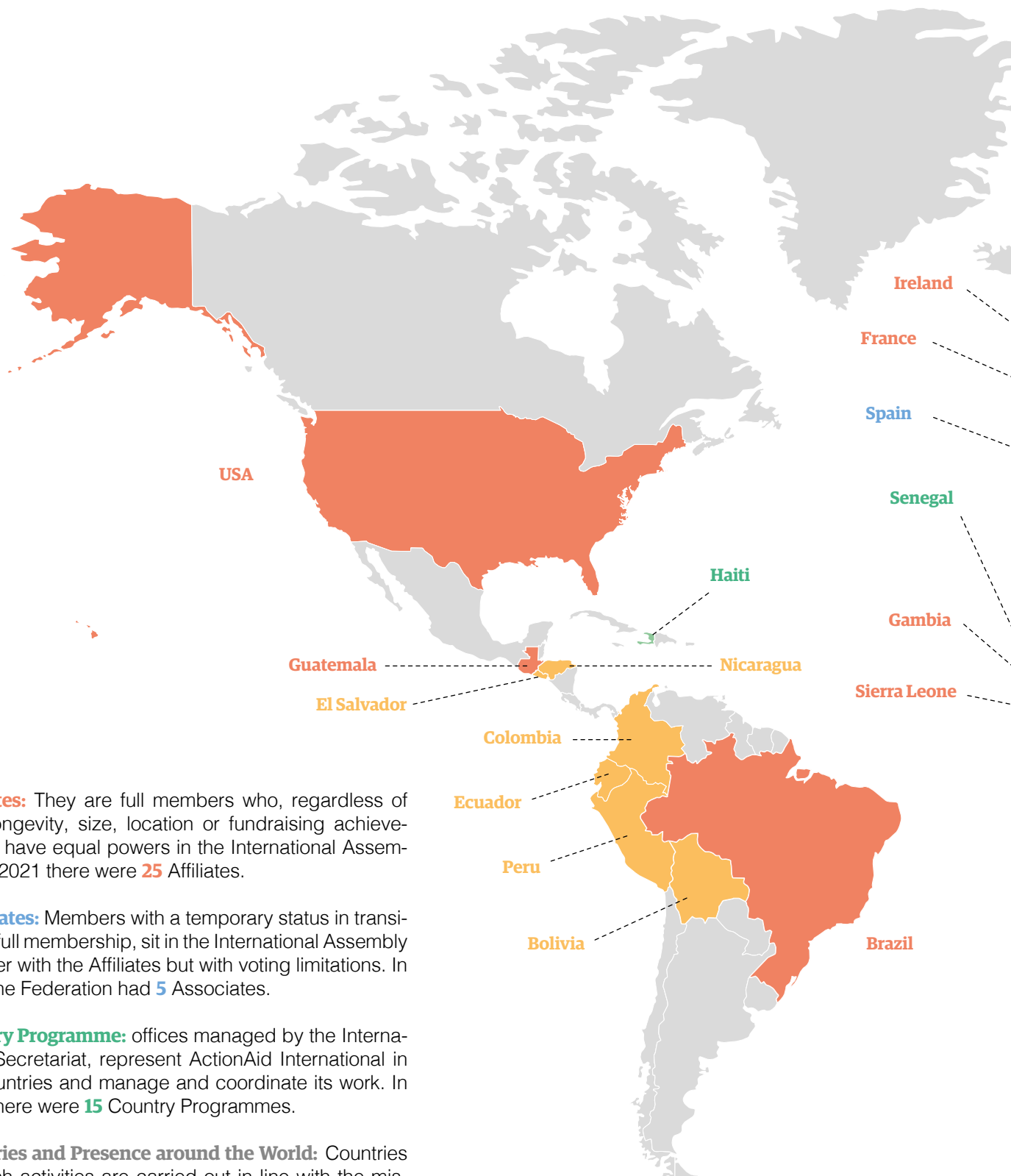
We focus on the roots of the problem: our commitment in the world is aimed at combating the structural causes of violence against women, promoting economic justice, civic participation and greater responsibility of States in ensuring quality public services and attention to gender needs. We also work to ensure climate justice and support women's response to emergencies.

We are also present in emergency contexts thanks to our local partners, with whom we work on prevention and the preparation of communities to face critical situations independently.

Where we are in the world

The International Federation of ActionAid divides the countries in which we are present into three categories, based on the level of affiliation, and accompanies each country in its accession process; as well as the member countries there are added special presences that have not yet undertaken the membership process within the Federation or that represent interventions managed directly by a country that is already a member of the Federation. The ultimate goal is to have all full members (affiliates), able to contribute equally and fully to the programmatic, strategic and financial lines of the Federation.

Chart 1 - ActionAid in the world



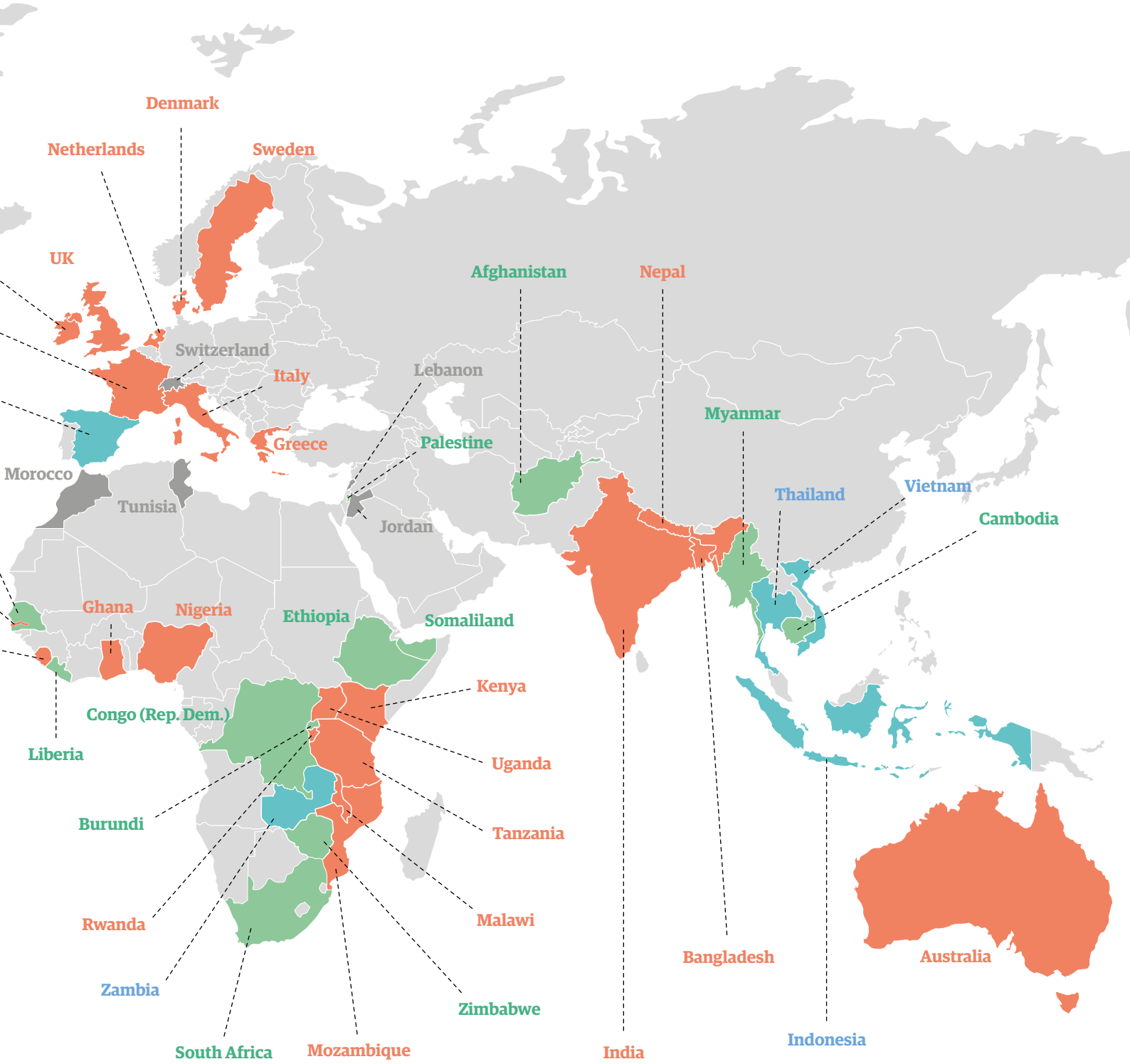
Affiliates: They are full members who, regardless of their longevity, size, location or fundraising achievements, have equal powers in the International Assembly. In 2021 there were **25** Affiliates.

Associates: Members with a temporary status in transition to full membership, sit in the International Assembly together with the Affiliates but with voting limitations. In 2021 the Federation had **5** Associates.

Country Programme: offices managed by the International Secretariat, represent ActionAid International in the countries and manage and coordinate its work. In 2021 there were **15** Country Programmes.

Countries and Presence around the World: Countries in which activities are carried out in line with the mission of ActionAid with the support of the Secretariat or a delegated affiliate. In 2021 there were **5** presences in the world.

Alianza por la Solidaridad



Our presence in Switzerland

We started our presence in Switzerland on 18 February 2013, in the Canton of Ticino, where the first awareness campaigns on the issues of poverty and social exclusion were carried out to bring the population closer to the Federation’s objectives. Since 2014, we have also been mobilising people and resources in the canton of Zurich and other German-speaking cantons. In 2016, thanks to the enthusiasm and strong support received in the area, we conducted educational activities in elementary, middle and high schools in the Canton of Ticino on the importance of the right to food in the world, on the fight against food waste and the need to support rights for gender equality.

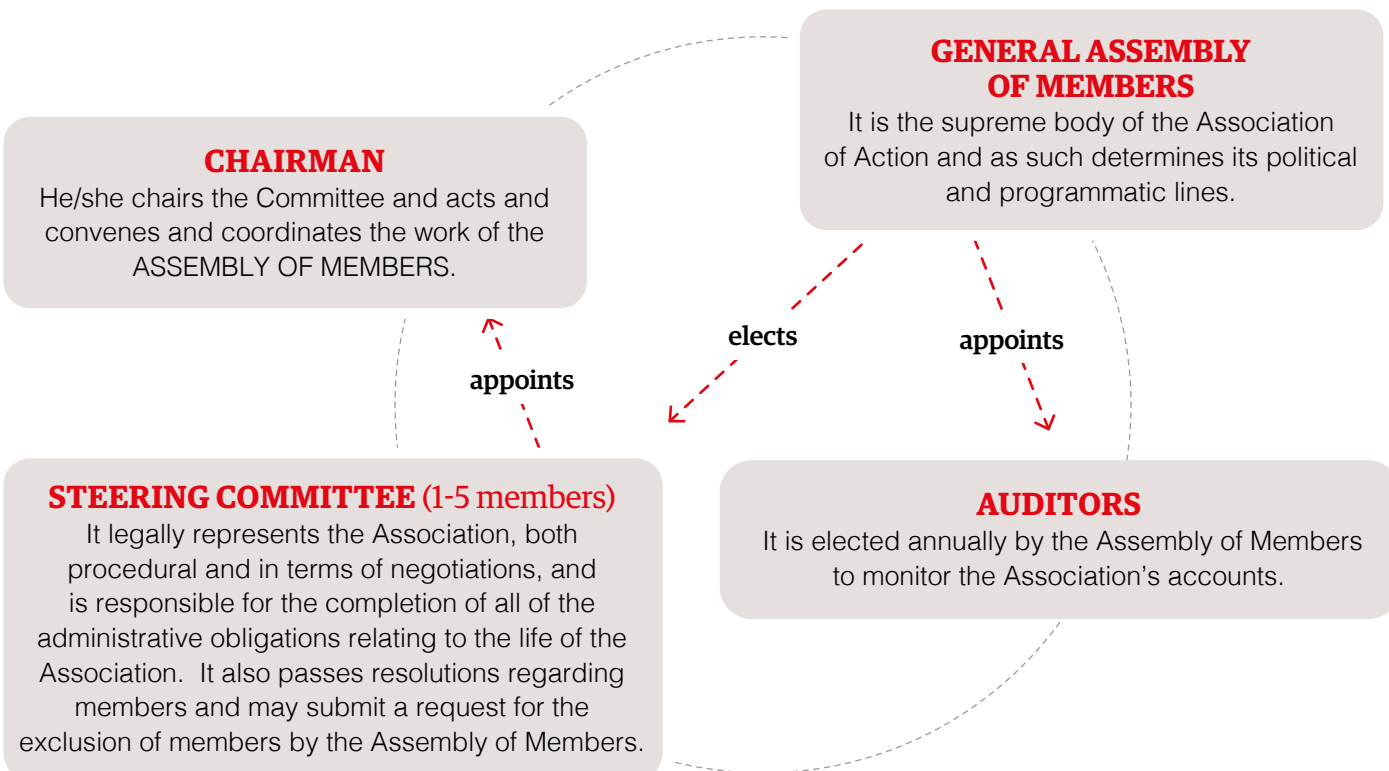
Since 2017, our commitment to women’s rights has become a cross-cutting theme in all our interventions. In recent years, we have been active in raising awareness among Swiss civil society about women’s rights around the world and in implementing women’s empowerment projects. The aim of our projects is to contribute to ensuring greater gender equity through the recognition, protection and promotion of the rights of all women.

A great effort has been made in building a network on the territory, committed to pursuing change in society together with us.

ActionAid’s presence in Switzerland is supported in particular by ActionAid Italia, which is responsible for managing the brand and generally supporting the development of new countries within the Federation.¹

1 ActionAid Italia is recognised as an NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation pursuant to Legislative Decree 125/14 and as a non-profit organisation (non-profit organisation of social utility) pursuant to Legislative Decree 460/97. The Association has also completed the statutory steps provided for by Legislative Decree no. 117/2017, the so-called Third Sector Code, in order to accrue full compliance with the qualification of Third Sector Body and proceed with registration with the RUNTS after the transitional period.

Our organisation



Organ	Function
General Assembly of Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » This is the supreme body of the Association and as such determines its political and programmatic lines. » It elects the members of the Steering Committee and appoints the Auditors. » It identifies the guidelines and objectives of a general nature deemed necessary to achieve the Association's purposes and deliberates on the proposals to amend the Association's Articles of Association. » It meets at least twice a year (and whenever a reasoned request is made) to approve the final budget. It also approves the Auditors' report. » It resolves on liability actions against the members of the Steering Committee and regarding the exclusion of Members. » The Assembly of Members is convened with the presence of at least half plus one of the members and deliberates with the majority of the votes of those present. Each member shall have one vote.
Chairman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » He/she is appointed by the Steering Committee, among its members, for a period of three years and may always be re-elected. » He/she chairs the Steering Committee and convenes and coordinates the work of the Assembly of Members.
Steering Committee (1-5 members)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » It has the legal representation of the Association, both procedural and negotiable, and ensures the performance of all administrative and legal obligations relating to the life of the Association. » It may, if necessary, remit the representation to the Chairman or to other members. » It resolves on the admission of new Members and may submit a request for the exclusion of Members from the Assembly of Members. » It must be composed of a minimum of one to a maximum of five members, who remain in office for 3 years and may always be re-elected. » According to the articles of association, the Steering Committee meets at least once every 6 months upon convocation of the Chairman or the majority of its members.
Auditors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Auditors are elected annually by the Assembly of Members to control the Association's accounts. » They carry out an audit of the accounts at least once a year. » Since 2016, the audit of the financial statements has been entrusted to the auditing firm Siron SA to ensure the issuance of an opinion of compliance with Swiss GAAP FER 21.

Vision, mission and values



THE VISION

a just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person has the right to a dignified life, free from poverty and oppression.



THE MISSION

to achieve social justice and equality, fight poverty by working for and with people living in marginality and exclusion, as well as with organisations, social movements and supporters.

We mobilize people and communities, making them protagonists of change and act so that States and institutions recognise human rights, ensure full respect and fight against discrimination. We aim to promote the leadership of women and young people, often left on the margins: the denial of their rights is in fact a grave injustice and is among the main causes of poverty in the world. To this end, we encourage the creation of networks of collective action and solidarity that contribute to the achievement of social justice for citizens, supporters, staff and volunteers.

We are rooted in the communities we work in and act transparently towards people living in poverty and exclusion.



The following are the **VALUES** that inspire and guide our ambitious battles:

- » **Mutual respect:** we believe in the equal dignity of all men and women and in the value of diversity.
- » **Equality and justice:** we want to achieve our mission for all, beyond sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnicity, social class, health status or religion.
- » **Honesty and transparency:** we want to be clear and transparent in our actions and communications.
- » **Efficiency:** we are committed to managing the organisation as efficiently as possible to maximise the resources used in pursuing victory over poverty and social inequalities.
- » **Integrity:** we are an honest, transparent and accountable organisation* at all levels, in order to ensure the effectiveness of our actions and the efficient and transparent use of our resources.
- » **Solidarity:** We recognise solidarity as an essential pillar in the fight against poverty, injustice and gender inequalities.
- » **Courage:** Let us proceed boldly in advancing our convictions and at the same time act creatively. We are bold and innovative in tackling the causes of poverty, injustice and gender inequality.
- » **Independence:** We intend to remain independent of political, religious or other affiliations.
- » **Pursuit of excellence:** we want to make sure that the work is always carried out precisely, effectively and with very high-quality standards, so as to be a reference point for other players in organised civil society.
- » **Consistency:** We are committed to making decisions considering the direct and indirect consequences of those who are excluded and marginalized.
- » **Humility:** we are an interlocutor ready to listen, aware of being part of a greater alliance of forces with the common goal of defeating poverty.

* Accountability means "to render account" of its conduct towards all stakeholders that revolve around ActionAid.



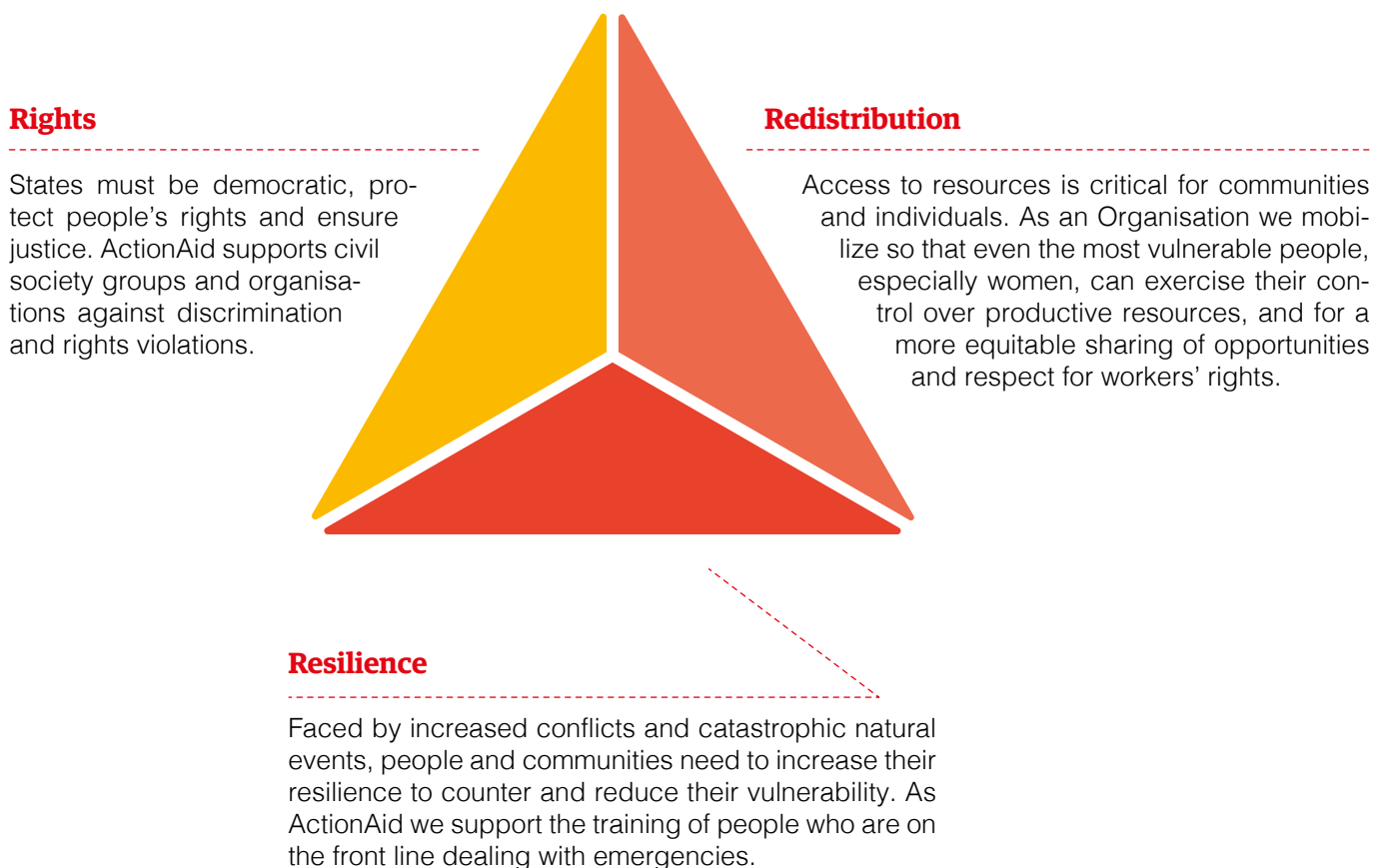
Chapter 2

The change pursued by ActionAid

The 2018-2028 strategy: *Action for Global Justice*

Action For Global Justice is the latest innovation in ActionAid's international strategy. The strategy has a ten-year duration (2018-2028) and sets out our global commitment to social justice, fighting poverty and promoting gender equality. We work alongside the most vulnerable and marginalized communities to become protagonists of change, and we implement participatory actions alongside organisations, activists, volunteers, social movements and supporters.

Our strategy is based on three pillars:



These pillars are closely interconnected and mutually supportive: **rights** cannot be met without the **redistribution** of power and will continue to be threatened unless the **resilience** of communities and people is strengthened.



The results of ActionAid in the world

Thanks to the contribution of **more than 6,000 people**, more than half of whom are women, our commitment in 2021 is reflected in **four programmatic priorities**:



Priority 1
Tackle the structural causes of violence against women



Priority 2
Ensure civic participation and transparency in the redistribution of resources

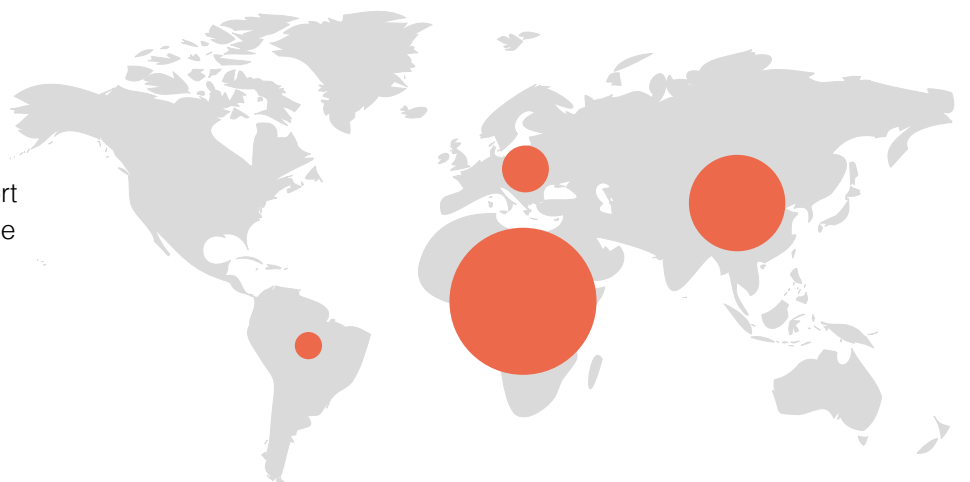


Priority 3
Protect livelihoods and climate justice



Priority 4
Promote women's emergency response and prevention

In 2021 we worked with the support of almost **702 local partners**, more than half of whom were women.



Policy priorities

The programmatic priorities pursued by the organisation are reflected in the projects we carry out around the world, thanks to the contribution of our supporters from Switzerland and other countries.

All the countries of the Federation contribute to the pursuit of the priorities set at international level.

01



Tackling the structural causes of **violence** against women and girls and ensuring economic justice

Violence against women, all over the world, is a complex phenomenon that is difficult to eradicate. Every day ActionAid works with young women's movements to combat the structural causes of gender-based violence, aware of the fact that, at the base, there is unequal access to power and resources, norms built socially on patriarchal models and economic models that exploit women's paid and unpaid work.

With an increasing focus on women's economic empowerment as an "engine of growth", we seek to focus the debate on building an economic system that works for women living in poverty and exclusion and that ensures and strengthens their rights. A key part of this work includes calling for greater corporate responsibility for respecting human rights standards and protecting women in informal and precarious work. Only by increasing women's access to and control over productive resources and social and economic rights, while challenging patriarchal institutions that systematically deny these rights, will we significantly reduce the risk of gender-based violence in all its forms.

For example, in Ethiopia, 71% of women have experienced violence in their lifetime. Since we arrived in the country in 1989, our programmes have focused on women's empowerment with the establishment of women's groups that could ensure listening, awareness and support in communities.

Among our first actions in Ethiopia was the foundation of the RAC, Reflection Action Circle; these were groups of women in situations of poverty who came together to analyse the reasons for their situation. In fact, we know that the first step on the road to women's empowerment is to bring awareness, especially in women, about their rights.

Women are taught the principles of saving and credit, and through RACs they receive funds to start small, income-generating businesses.

In addition, many women who experience violence often suffer from the lack of a safe place to go. This is the reason the Women Watch Groups were established, within which women follow a 10-day course to learn how to manage situations they may encounter. The Women Watch Groups also organise interventions in schools, to educate children and communities about gender-based violence. Since their establishment they have helped more than 165 women save their lives.

Over the past year we met Elfu, who shared with us the story of how her life changed thanks to this initiative.

Elfu is a 30-year-old woman who lived in the village of Ambelta Godeti. She was married with 5 children. The only income they had come from the family farm. When her husband decided to take a second wife, Elfu was left alone with her 5 children, without a means of livelihood and without a home. To survive she started selling sugar cane, living with her children on muddy streets.

Through Women Watch Groups, we helped Elfu find a long-term solution for her family's livelihood and achieve full economic independence.

Elfu now makes a living from her plot of land. Especially with the advent of Covid-19, which has made it dangerous to carry out work in contact with the public, in the last year she has dedicated herself more to agricultural activities and the sale of firewood.

Today Elfu is able to pay the expenses for her house in Beke, for her children, including school fees, books and uniforms.

a

ELFU's testimony



Elfu, 30 years old, Ethiopia

"While we were in this situation," Elfu recalls, "I heard about the existence of groups of women in the village who were supporting women and fighting to enforce our rights. I contacted them telling my story. The next day I met Aberu, the leader of the group. She came to see me and saw that we were living in the mud and the rain. She told me it was a situation she could never tolerate."

Aberu accompanied them directly to the district, gave Elfu and her children a little support and a temporary home. From here, the procedures for the process began, and Elfu, in the meantime, began to sell sugar cane, bananas and oranges at the markets. The first profits that came in were completely dedicated to the survival of her family.

"After the trial, I got a piece of my land and maintenance for my children. I moved to the city and now my life is different."

"I want to thank Aberu and Women Watch Group, because they gave me the chance to get up and regain my dignity as a woman and mother."



A COMMITMENT TO WOMEN: FIGHT FOR WOMEN

ActionAid Switzerland is particularly committed to combating the structural causes of violence against women, especially through awareness-raising activities on women's and girls' rights, which have been implemented in the area for several years.

With the *Fight for Women* support formula, ActionAid supporters extend a helping hand to women around the world to support them in combating all forms of violence and discrimination. Our commitment is also realised through awareness, fundraising, the implementation of specific projects and advocacy for a world in which women are in a full condition to enjoy their rights.

02



Ensure civic participation and accountability in the redistribution of resources and quality public services for women

We work with people living in poverty, organisations, social movements and activist groups to increase civic participation in public decision-making. We do advocacy activities to improve the participation of women, young people and groups excluded from decision-making and governance processes that affect them. We promote accountability linked to the provision of quality public services aimed at women, such as public education. We call for these services to be financed through progressive tax systems and for the implementation of fairer national and global tax rules. We are also working to have more democratic and accountable States. We promote redistributive policies that facilitate a more equitable sharing of power and resources.

For example, in many countries around the world the right to education is not guaranteed due to the scarcity of public services that prevent equal access for all.

This right is further challenged as a result of the still widespread practice of forced marriages that forces many girls in the world to have to sacrifice their education.

An estimated 33,000 girls are forced to marry ahead of time every day. Often this phenomenon compromises the physical and psychological development of children who remain isolated from society, are forced to leave school and face pregnancies at high risk of mortality.

The COVID 19 pandemic has further increased this risk. In Malawi, for example, schools were closed in 2020 for over 6 months and many young students were forced to marry, resulting in pregnancies that put their lives and those of their children at risk.

The Government of Malawi noted an increase in child marriages compared to the past: there were 702 cases in 2019 compared to 2,763 recorded during the same period in 2020 while schools were closed. The group of mothers in Lukulu realised the serious consequences caused by the closure of the school and felt it was important to monitor the commitments of the girls within the community. With

the support of the village chiefs they were responsible for visiting all the families with young girls. After several interviews, the girls were involved in collective meetings and encouraged to focus on school activities during the lockdown.

In 2021, thanks to all our local colleagues and the precious support of our donors, we intervened to stop many child marriages, through parental awareness programmes and the formation of local intervention groups.

Judith Gondwe's testimonial



"We members of the group of mothers in Lukulu agreed to monitor the free time of our girls. We assigned shifts and tasks to each other to visit all parents and girls, monitoring their behaviour at a community and family level.

We are proud because we managed to save 9 girls from early marriage and dropping out of school. In particular, a 12-year-old girl named Colice had been given in marriage. As soon as we heard about the incident we spoke with her parents, explained how hard her life would be without education and what dangers she would encounter.

Colice immediately understood that marriage could wait and even her parents, after some reticence, were convinced. When the school was reopened, the girl returned to class. We will continue to support and encourage her.

We are grateful to ActionAid for giving us the tools to refine and improve our skills, for teaching us awareness and self-esteem, self-confidence and in our role of responsibility in monitoring our girls to improve their education.

We will not stop being close to them, so that they never have to accept early marriages and pregnancies."



03



Protecting livelihoods and climate justice

Climate change has a major impact on the livelihoods of people living in poverty and exclusion, especially women. We believe that rich countries are also responsible for the current crisis and have a duty to engage with affected countries to achieve climate justice, supporting communities to adapt to climate change.

We work to equip communities with resilient livelihoods in rural and urban areas around the world. We promote agroecology as a sustainable and climate-resilient type of agriculture: we believe it is an effective means of strengthening food systems and the ability of smallholder farmers to adapt to extreme changes. We believe in a more equitable redistribution of land and other productive resources, with an emphasis on greater access and control by women, indigenous peoples, youth and other excluded groups, while challenging resource hoarding.

We have been talking about a number of countries. In Kenya, for example, extreme drought and increasingly frequent floods put the survival of entire families at risk; pastoral communities were forced to abandon livestock farming due to the continuous death of livestock. We intervened in Isiolo, in northern Kenya, where we developed an intervention strategy that aims to improve the food and nutritional security of 10 communities of shepherds and agro-shepherds, through the strengthening of production models. The goal is to train 7,800 agro-pastoralists on sustainable agriculture techniques and to improve the management of natural resources for 15,900 farmers. In addition, we want to facilitate collaboration between 10 communities of farmers and pastoralists and local government authorities on sustainable rural development issues.

04



Promoting transformation for women in emergency preparedness, response and prevention

ActionAid is committed to building a single humanitarian response system based on respect for human rights. The idea is that this system strengthens women's capacity to prepare for and respond to humanitarian emergencies, territorial occupations and conflicts, and that it works to ensure that their power is managed at a local level and with greater accountability to be then addressed to the affected communities.

The rights of women and other groups, made vulnerable by disasters, and protection from violence, exploitation and abuse in times of crisis will be strengthened through community protection mechanisms and will be enhanced by greater accountability on the part of humanitarian players.

We build the resilience of rural and urban communities to climate change, disasters and conflict through transformative actions, from the local to the global level, led by women living in poverty and exclusion. The active engagement of young people will be a priority to prevent the worst effects of emergencies.

ActionAid will continue to drive responsibility for communities affected by disasters and conflicts, as well as the transfer of power to local organisations and movements at all levels. In the last two years the whole world has been affected by the global Sars-Cov 2 pandemic, so we had to adapt all our activities on the ground to support local communities in dealing with this emergency.



Engagement **with and for young people** at international level

In the world, the younger generation has limited opportunities, high unemployment rates and a reduced political space that is not conducive to their involvement.

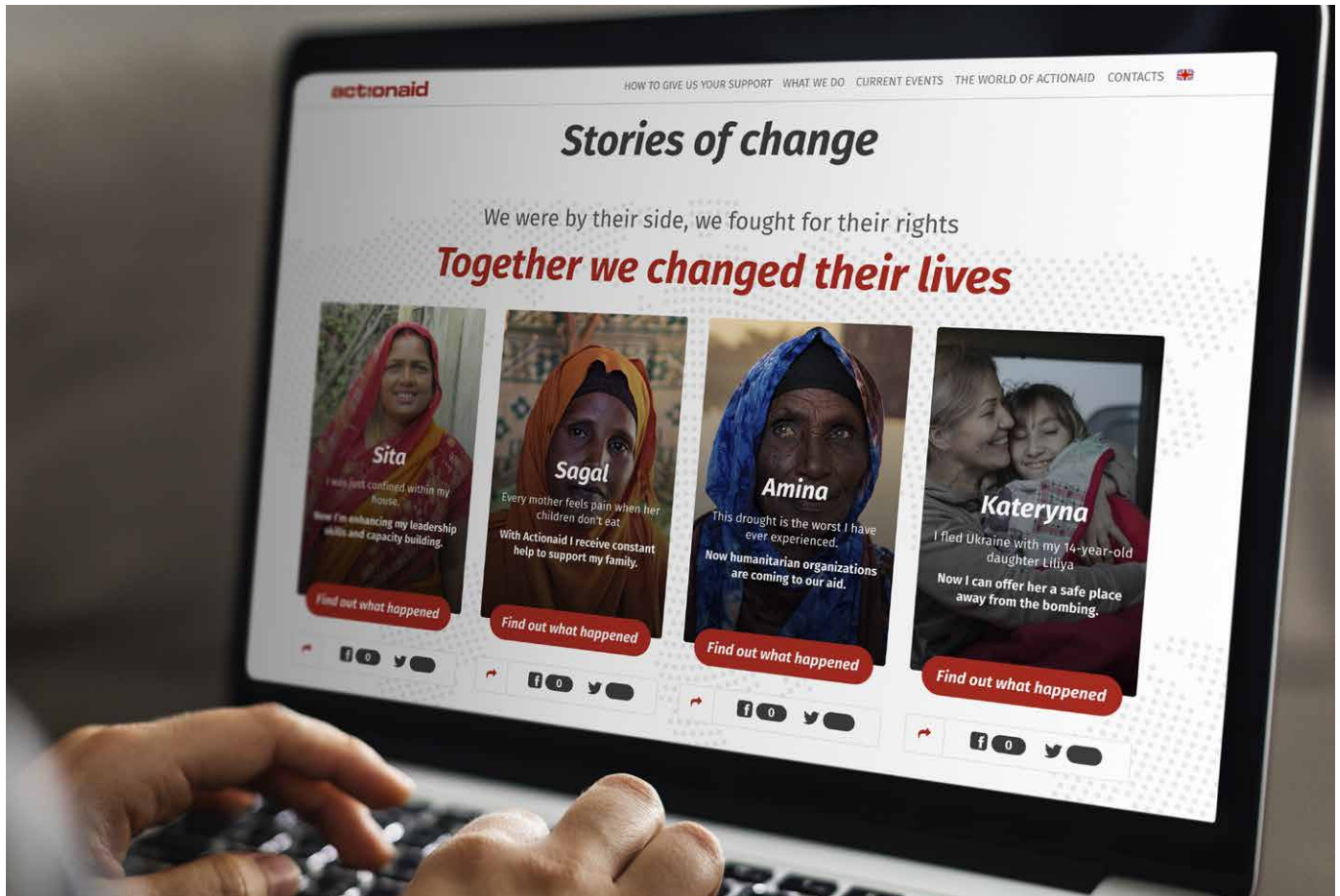
In our programmes we have chosen to give priority to young people. We are convinced that they are the engine of change for a fairer, more sustainable and more democratic world. We are at the side of all those movements, youth networks, organisations and individuals that promote social, political and economic progress in the world and we favour moments of capacity building and change initiatives promoted by young people.

To achieve this, we have created the global movement Activist formed by young activists that works on the ground in support of ActionAid and its partners, and that mobilizes in defence of the most vulnerable communities in most of the countries where we are present.

Every year in the international family of ActionAid new groups of activists are established who want to get involved. In Burundi, for example, in 2021 the Safe Cities campaign was organised in different parts of the country, which aims to reduce the vulnerability of young women and girls in cities and allow them to participate in the economic opportunities offered by the territories, thus implementing gender sensitivity. This project was implemented by groups of young activists with a view to education and awareness among peers.

In Cambodia, on the other hand, starting from the end of 2020, ActionAid organises training for young people, aimed at participating in and promoting a public service responsive to the gender approach. The aim is to build a favourable environment, especially for young women and involve them, through innovative technological platforms, in political dialogue with key decision-makers and service providers at local and national level.





Communication

We believe in communication as a tool for inclusive change open to all, which carries out the essential task of informing, raising awareness, mobilizing, dialoguing and communicating our results in a transparent manner.

On our website www.actionaid.ch you can consult different content about our Organisation, learn more about our areas of intervention and go into more detail in regard to the composition of our governing bodies, as well as the use we make of the resources we collect. There is also information on specific projects and how to support our interventions. In addition, we regularly publish current news and stories of change that we collect from the communities in which we operate.

We are also active on various social networks: in recent years on our Facebook page, you can find updates on our activities and testimonials of beneficiaries, while on YouTube the information experience is enhanced by audio-visual content. In 2021, in support of the dialogue started with Swiss foundations and businesses, we also finalised the official page of ActionAid Switzerland on LinkedIn, where we offer current content and information on our programmes.

Also, in relation to communication, 2021 was a year lived in balance between adaptation to the new external context, continuous change, and the involvement of the various audiences on the issues that are central for the organisation. During the year we talked about the urgencies, the contexts but also the great resilience of communities in Switzerland and around the world, continuing to propose to the various interlocutors (media, audiences that are more and less close to us, political decision-makers) challenging narratives even on issues that in some cases were not among the priorities on the public, political and media agenda.

Chapter 3

Resources of ActionAid Switzerland

In 2021, *Fight for Women* was once again confirmed as the campaign through which ActionAid Switzerland raised funds through regular donations. The resources were collected through the acquisition of new supporters, through direct dialogue activities, with the development of the historical support base, thanks to the collaboration with the Swiss business and institutional sector.

The funds raised go to support programmes and projects in all the countries in which ActionAid operates, with a particular focus on initiatives to combat violence against women, young girls and little girls.

Chart 2 - Supporters

(data as of 31/12/2021)

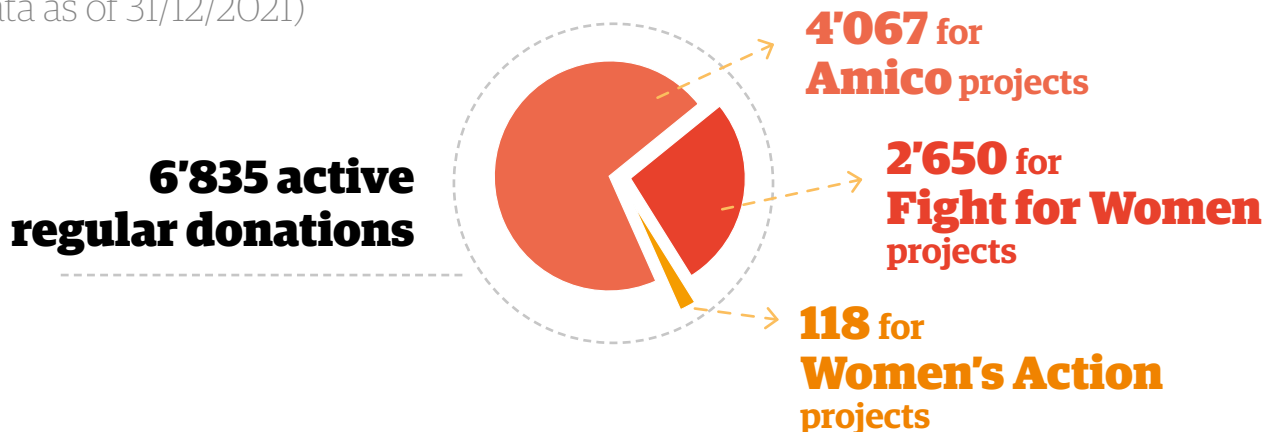


Chart 3 - Total Income

(data as of 31/12/2021)

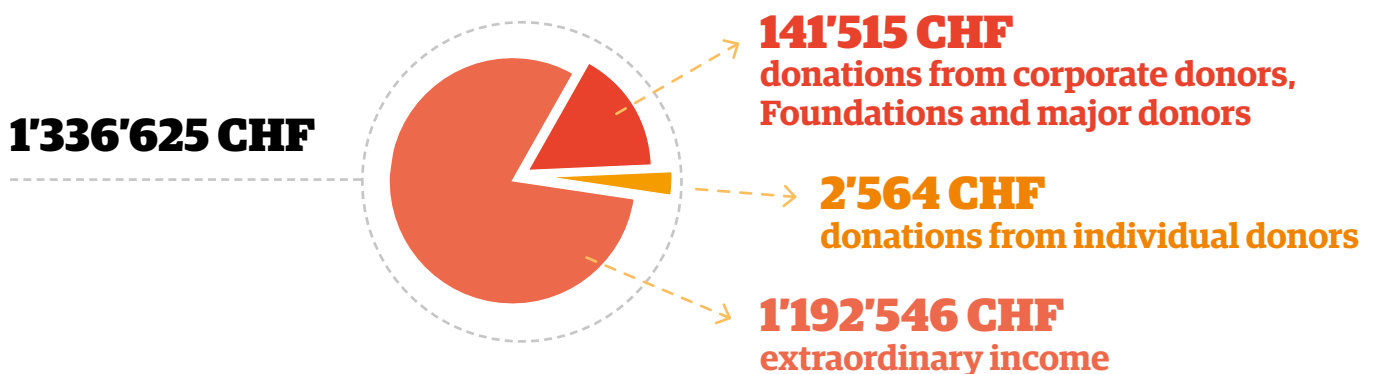




Chart 4 - Supporters by gender and age group

(data as of 31/12/2021)

		age range	German Switzerland	Italian Switzerland
	59%	18-24	8%	1%
		25-59	19%	16%
		60-99	6%	10%
	41%	18-24	6%	1%
		25-59	15%	11%
		60-99	2%	5%

Funds raised in 2021

Individual Supporters

In 2021, ActionAid Switzerland generated total income of CHF 1,336/000, of which CHF 1,193 from donations from individual supporters.

As of 31 December 2021, ActionAid Switzerland could count on the support of 6,835 regular donations:

- » 60% of donors have chosen to donate with the *ActionAid Friend* formula, which supports the entire mission of the Organisation in all the countries of the Federation;
- » 38% of donors through the *Fight for Women* formula in support of projects to combat violence against women;
- » and the remaining 2% opted for an annual donation more conspicuous through Women's Action in support of projects aimed at women in four specific countries (Brazil, Cambodia, Kenya and India).

Major donors

In 2021 we recorded significant results in the field of fundraising. We are committed to consolidating the presence of ActionAid and building partnerships with Foundations and large donors who have helped us implement projects in Jordan and Kenya for a raised income of CHF 142/000.



Major donor-supported projects in 2021

Development of software in Jordan that protects women and girls who experience sexual harassment and violence



Both women and girls in refugee and host communities suffer a lot of sexual harassment and violence: women are isolated and frightened and do not know how to file a complaint, seek psychosocial counselling or legal support.

ActionAid wanted to implement a project that would make these opportunities accessible to victims of violence, women and girls at risk. These services were made available through a chat-bot, which is software designed to simulate conversations with human beings. Through this device, women can receive help and explanations regarding their psycho-social and health situations, legal assistance and access the services they need in a safe and secure manner.

ActionAid believes in user-driven design: this approach has not led to the development of a specific application but a simple chat-bot on Facebook that most women know and use in their daily lives.

Many services had already been provided by government and non-governmental agencies, but they are often out of reach. Instead of replicating the services that were already there, we encouraged them to join the chat-bot. We have chosen not to use our brand but to develop a neutral one, to facilitate their entry on the platform. In this way we increased the use of existing services, redoubling our efforts in areas where there were shortages, such as psycho-social support.

The result achieved allows women to have access to a wider and growing range of support.

The project was made possible thanks to the support of the Karl Kahane Flood Foundation, starting in 2021.

School improvements and creation of a dormitory to encourage girls' education in Kishushe, Kenya

For the girls of Kishushe the possibility of attending school is not obvious. They have domestic and childcare responsibilities, they have to collect water and work on farms. They face the risk of domestic violence, female mutilation, sexual harassment, marriage and early pregnancy. In addition, to reach school, many have to travel long distances and face additional risks.

ActionAid has been present in this county for many years and works with the community to reverse this trend, raising awareness of the importance of girls' rights and education. After nine months of lockdown, schools were reopened, but many boys and girls had not returned to the classroom.

Through ActionAid, a door-to-door "back to school" trip was organised and almost 100 boys and girls returned to study.

With the help of the Fondation Philanthropique Famille Sandoz and the Gertrude Hirzel Foundation, ActionAid was able to raise awareness of the importance of girls' education and build a dormitory to allow them to stay overnight, thus reducing the risk of dropping out of school.



A meeting of parents in Paranga on the importance of girls' education and their protection for accelerated and sustainable change.

THANKS

We would like to thank all our generous individual donors and Founders who, with their support, have helped to finance our projects around the world.

Special thanks to:

Karl Kahane Foundation, Gertrude Hirzel Foundation, Sustainable Future Foundation, Fondation Philanthropique Famille Sandoz, Jamsetij Tata Foundation, Pro Victims

The use of resources

In 2021, ActionAid Switzerland allocated 100% of the resources acquired from both individual donors and organisations, large donors and companies, to carry out its activities as follows:

- » **Projects and awareness-raising:** 74% of the annual budget was allocated to the programmes of the International Federation of ActionAid in the world, also including the quota tied for projects in support of women in Brazil, Cambodia, Kenya and India, in addition to awareness-raising, communication and positioning activities in Switzerland aimed at creating awareness on the issues of the ActionAid programme on the national territory and expanding the network of partners of the Association. This share also includes funds raised by major donors and transferred to Kenya and Jordan to develop the above-mentioned projects;
- » **Fundraising:** these costs are representative of the expenses incurred to increase and maintain the number of individual supporters of the Association, mainly through direct dialogue costs;
- » **Support, financial and extraordinary costs:** the support expenses (43 CHF/000) refer to the expenses necessary for the operation of the Association, including administrative advice for bookkeeping, auditing, IT assistance, taxes and fees. Financial and extraordinary costs consist of bank charges for the collection of automatic debits on current accounts and credit cards and exchange differences recorded in financial transactions with other countries for CHF 14/000.

The financial statements closed with a **profit for the year of CHF 2,362**, which will be reinvested to finance the Association's institutional activity.

Chart 5 - Use of Resources

(data as of 31/12/2021)

Total costs incurred
1'334'263 CHF

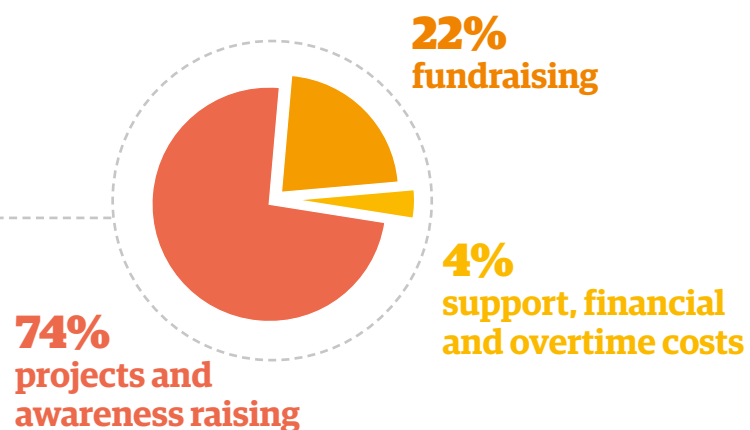


Chart 6

Financial statements

(data as of 31/12/2021), in CHF)

Balance Sheet

	2021	2020
ASSETS	921'592	886'549
FIXED ASSETS	431	810
Electronic office machines	1'892	1'892
Machinery depreciation	-1'461	-1'083
CURRENT ASSETS	1'860	2'129
Other receivables	505	0
Deferred income	1'355	2'129
CASH	919'301	883'610
Post-finance account	550'307	387'659
Banca Stato Account	365'252	492'438
Paypal Account	3'742	3'513
LIABILITIES	919'230	842'561
PAYABLES	264'501	97'506
Payables vs suppliers	249'715	79'634
Payables vs Treasury	3'763	13'373
Accruals payable	11'022	4'499
NET WORTH	225'263	181'276
Associative fees	100	100
Profit (loss) for the year previous years	225'163	181'176
FUNDS ALLOCATED TO PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS	429'466	563'779
Fund for projects restricted quota	64'466	43'779
Project fund free quota	365'000	520'000
OPERATING PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	2'362	43'987

Income Statement

	2021	2020
REVENUE	1'336'625	1'177'973
Donations from individuals	1'192'546	1'177'419
Donations received High Value fundraising	141'515	0
Financial and extraordinary income	2'564	554
COSTS	811'456	570'206
Costs for High Value fundraising activities	136'096	128'996
Promotion, awareness and fundraising costs	618'868	399'324
Administrative costs	42'781	39'628
Financial and extraordinary costs	13'712	2'258
INTERIM PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	525'169	607'767
Award for projects and programmes	522'807	563'779
Allocation for projects restricted quota	157'807	43'779
Allocation for projects free contribution	365'000	520'000
PROFIT (LOSS) FOR THE YEAR	2'362	43'987



Conclusions

As in previous years, This year in ActionAid we concentrated our efforts on providing a timely, consistent and coordinated response in different countries. At the same time, we have not forgotten the importance of remaining close to the most fragile communities through the programmes that have already been started, which we have committed to redesign in order to ensure the safety of our staff and the beneficiaries of our projects.

2021 was the year in which our fragilities and uncertainties emerged again. This circumstance highlighted the importance of staying together even when we were forced to physically distance. Many Swiss citizens have mobilized to support those most affected. Our commitment on the ground alongside the communities has been able to continue thanks to the trust of more than 6, 700 Swiss donors who, despite the great difficulties faced in their daily lives, decided to continue to support us. A gesture of great generosity for which we express great gratitude: thanks to the support received during this year we can look with hope to a very uncertain future.

We will continue to strive to ensure that all people, of all ages, can access clean water, soap, disinfectant and accurate information to protect themselves from contagion. We are present on the territory with our local colleagues and thanks to our decades of experience we study resilient and context-appropriate emergency responses.

Even in the current global emergency landscape, we reaffirm our aspiration to achieve sustainable and inclusive change, which ensures the recognition of rights to all individuals and a fair redistribution of resources, an essential element to ensure the safety and resilience of the many communities with which we work.

We will continue to intensify the work started in 2021, forging new and stronger and ongoing ties with Swiss institutions, foundations, major donors, and companies who believe, like us, that change for a fairer world is possible.

In 2022, women are and shall remain the focus of our response, as leaders and beneficiaries: we are aware of the fact that, in the most critical situations, it is precisely girls and women who are forgotten, and we want this paradigm to change as soon as possible. We will also commit ourselves to ensuring the right to education for many boys and girls, a right that has suffered great restrictions, but which remains one of the most important tools for emancipating oneself from the vicious circle of poverty and building one's own future.

The coming years will be marked by the growth of social and economic inequalities, which will be added to realities already previously marked by poverty and discrimination. Despite this, thanks to the trust of our many supporters and the commitment that has always accompanied our work, we will work with professionalism and passion alongside more and more people so that tomorrow we can all live in a fairer world.

act:onaid

Annual Report 2021

ActionAid Switzerland

c/o Altiqa SA
Via Nassa 21
6900 Lugano

Tel. +41.91/922.65.42

Registration number
CH-501.6.014.943-5

e-mail
sostenitori.ch@actionaid.org
foerderer.ch@actionaid.org

web
www.actionaid.ch

facebook and LinkedIn
ActionAid Switzerland

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