



act:onaid

Annual Report 2018



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Colophon

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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.

Lots of little steps

Dear friend,

another year full of changes has been and gone. This report is an unmissable annual event in which we try to describe these changes and the many activities of ActionAid Switzerland in 2018 in just a few pages.

Also this year, thanks to our supporters, ActionAid has been able to fight its battles and promote its values with its head held high in more than 45 countries around the world. Together, we have helped millions of people living in poverty to change their lives: in Kenya we have improved access to education for almost 63 thousand people and access to water for more than 38 thousand. In Brazil, together with our local partners, we have fought a battle against a bill called “Scuola senza festa” [“School without parties”] which aims to prohibit all forms of sex education and the promotion of human rights in schools, especially the rights of the LGBT community. In Bangladesh, thanks to the support of ActionAid, 27 families received the certificate of ownership of their land. In this regard, Jainal, a female member of one of the families, gave us a touching account: “Leaving a piece of land that my children can call “their” land is the greatest goal I’ve ever achieved in my 75 years on this planet”.

These and other results described in this annual report are a beacon of hope at a time when life is becoming increasingly harsh for those who have been pushed to the edge of our increasingly unequal societies.

The vision of a just, fair and sustainable world, in which every person enjoys the right to a dignified life and freedom from poverty and oppression is our guiding light. Indeed, ActionAid takes sides with the weakest on a daily basis and without fear, continuously carrying out work to raise awareness among the population on issues dear to the organisation. In Switzerland, this work on awareness and direct dialogue is carried out in many cities and in 2018, in particular, it focussed on the issue of the rights of women and girls: through the *Fight for Women* project, which attracted great interest and participation, ActionAid counters violence against women in all its forms in all the countries where it is present.

In the year just ended, ActionAid Switzerland also worked hard to increase its recognisability and authority, further entrenching its presence in the country, not only aimed at individual donors, but also by affirming its position with the Swiss institutions.



These are just some of the many small steps that ActionAid has taken this year to fight poverty and exclusion. There are many obstacles that we will be called to face, but with your continued support and the incredible courage and determination of the people and movements we work with, we are confident that we will be able to achieve increasingly important victories in the coming years.

Giulio Gianetti

Chapter 1

About ActionAid

A brief history of the international organisation

ActionAid was founded in 1972 by an English businessman named Cecil Jackson Cole to allow 88 children in India and Kenya to go to school.

ActionAid has grown since that day and nowadays is an international federation with a democratic governance structure that hands autonomy and responsibility in the decision-making processes to its members operating in the various countries.

Operating in over 45 countries spread over 5 continents, ActionAid works to combat poverty and social injustice and does so with over 5,347 networks, coalitions, organisations and community groups.

The ActionAid International Federation is governed by two main bodies: the General Assembly which includes all affiliated members and those in the process of affiliation - also known as associates - and the Board of Directors, made up of 11 individuals elected by the General Assembly, which supervises the work of the International Secretariat. The latter coordinates, facilitates and supports the activities of the federation.

ActionAid Switzerland

ActionAid began working in Switzerland on 18 February 2013. From the outset, efforts were concentrated above all in Canton of Ticino, where the first awareness campaigns on the issues of poverty and social exclusion were launched to try and inform the population of the work being carried out by ActionAid throughout the world. Since 2014, the organisation has also mobilised both 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, ActionAid strengthened its commitment by introducing educational activities involving the use of educational kits in elementary, lower and upper secondary schools in Canton of Ticino. Workshops and participatory methodologies were employed to inform and raise awareness among students on issues that are important to ActionAid and which may also affect Switzerland. Thanks to the collaboration of teachers and parents, ActionAid has succeeded in bringing into classrooms complex topics such as the importance of the right to food in the world, the fight against food waste and the need to increase gender equality.

Since 2017, the association has concentrated on raising awareness on women's rights, with particular focus on the issue of violence, in all its forms. ActionAid is committed to ensuring greater gender equity and ensuring that women can make their voices heard to gain recognition, protection and the promotion of their rights.

In 2018, ActionAid focussed its efforts on building networks and creating partnerships with foundations and large donors in order to position and establish itself in order to finance its programmes in other countries around the world.

The presence of ActionAid in Switzerland is supported in particular by ActionAid Italy, which has been delegated to manage the brand and support the development of new countries within the federation in general.

Vision, mission and principles

Vision: a just, fair and sustainable world in which everyone can enjoy a dignified life, free from poverty and oppression.

Mission: to achieve social justice, equality and eradicate poverty by working for and with people living in conditions of marginality and exclusion, as well as with organisations, social movements and supporters.

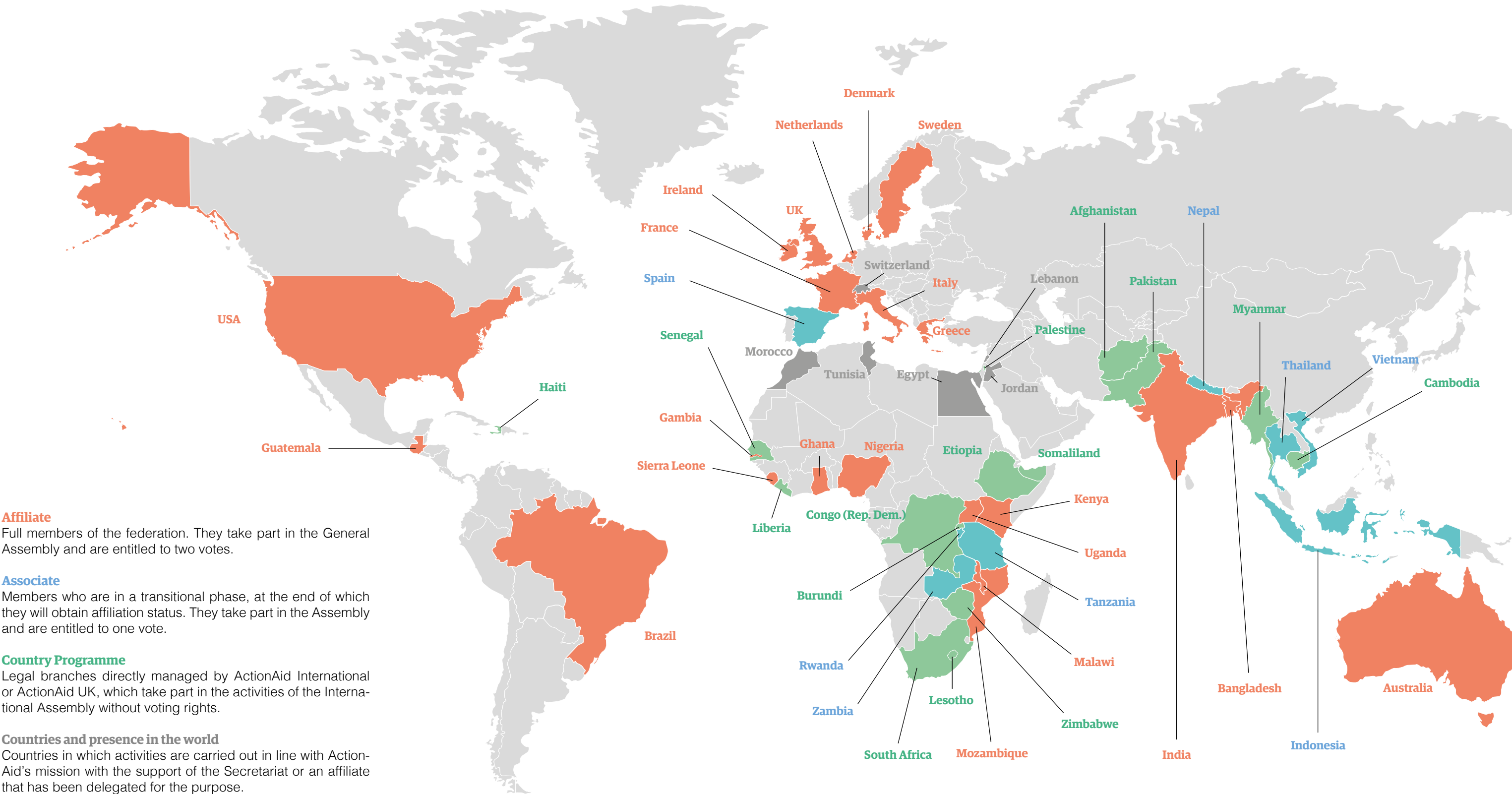
The aim of ActionAid Switzerland is to mobilise people and communities, giving them frontline roles in the changes that they themselves consider necessary for states and institutions to recognise human rights without discrimination and guarantee that they are observed. The objective is to promote leadership among women and young people because the denial of their rights is a grave injustice and one of the main causes of poverty in the world. To this end, the organisation creates platforms for collective action and solidarity, allowing people around the world to unite and contribute in the fight against social justice in various ways - as citizens, supporters, staff and volunteers.

ActionAid is entrenched in the communities with which it works and acts with transparency towards people living in conditions of poverty and exclusion.

The basic values of the association in achieving these goals are:

- » **Mutual respect:** ActionAid Switzerland believes in the equal dignity of all men and women and in the value of diversity;
- » **Equity and justice:** ActionAid Switzerland aims to ensure that its vision is realised for everyone, irrespective of sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnicity, social class, health status or religion;
- » **Integrity:** ActionAid Switzerland aims to be honest, transparent and accountable at all levels, in order to guarantee the effectiveness of its actions and the efficient and transparent use of its resources;
- » **Solidarity:** ActionAid Switzerland recognises solidarity as an essential pillar in the fight against poverty, injustice and gender inequality;
- » **Courage:** ActionAid Switzerland considers it important to proceed with courage in its convictions and, at the same time, be creative, radical, bold and innovative in pursuing the greatest possible impact on the causes of poverty, injustice and gender inequality;
- » **Independence:** ActionAid Switzerland aims to remain independent of political, religious or other affiliations;
- » **Humility:** ActionAid Switzerland is an interlocutor that is ready to listen and is aware of being part of a greater alliance of forces that fight together to defeat poverty.

Chart 1 - **ActionAid in the world**



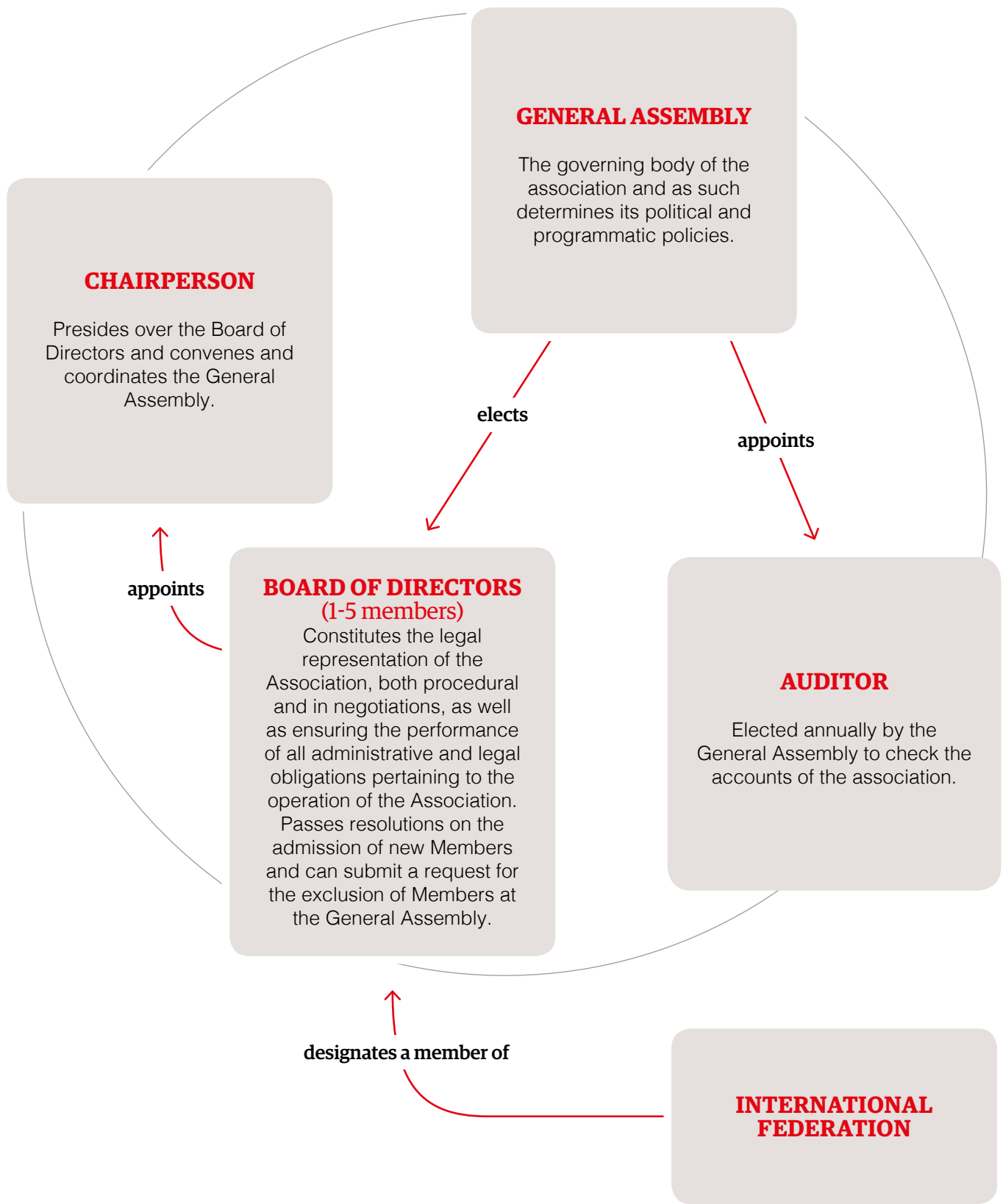
Affiliate
Full members of the federation. They take part in the General Assembly and are entitled to two votes.

Associate
Members who are in a transitional phase, at the end of which they will obtain affiliation status. They take part in the Assembly and are entitled to one vote.

Country Programme
Legal branches directly managed by ActionAid International or ActionAid UK, which take part in the activities of the International Assembly without voting rights.

Countries and presence in the world
Countries in which activities are carried out in line with ActionAid's mission with the support of the Secretariat or an affiliate that has been delegated for the purpose.

ActionAid Switzerland's governance structure



Body	Function
General Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» The governing body of the association and as such determines its political and programmatic policies.» Elects the Chairperson, the members of the Board of Directors and appoints the Auditor.» Identifies the general guidelines and objectives deemed necessary to achieve the statutory purposes and passes resolutions on proposed amendments to the association's Statute.» Meets at least once a year (and each time a motivated request is submitted) to approve the final and preliminary financial statements. Furthermore, it approves the Auditor's report.» Passes resolutions on liability actions against components of the Board of Directors and concerning the exclusion of Members.» The General Assembly is convened in the presence of at least half plus one of the Members and passes resolutions with the majority of the votes of those present. Each member has the right to one vote.
Chairperson	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Appointed by the Board of Directors, from its members, for a term of office of 3 years, which can be extended.» Presides over the Board of Directors and convenes and coordinates the General Assembly.
Board of Directors (1-5 members)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Constitutes the legal representation of the Association, both procedural and in negotiations, as well as ensuring the performance of all administrative and legal obligations pertaining to the operation of the Association.» It may, if necessary, remit representation to the Chairperson or other members.» Passes resolutions on the admission of new Members and can submit a request for the exclusion of Members at the General Assembly.» Shall consist of a minimum of one to a maximum of five members, who remain in office for 3 years and can be re-appointed.» As stated in ActionAid International's "Governance Manual", the Board of Directors includes a representative of the international federation.» By statute, the Board of Directors meets at least once every 6 months and is convened by the Chairperson or by a majority of its members.
Auditor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">» Elected annually by the General Assembly to check the accounts of the association.» Checks the accounts at least once a year.» Since 2016, the audit of the financial statements has been entrusted to an auditing company called Siron SA to guarantee the provision of an assessment on compliance with the Swiss GAAP FER 21 accounting standards.

Chapter 2

Change pursued by ActionAid

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

Since its founding, ActionAid has innovated and evolved its approach in order to better address the structural causes of poverty and injustice. Strategy 2028: Action For Global Justice is the latest evolution of ActionAid's international strategy. It is based on the lessons learned and the experience gained with the previous People's Action to End Poverty strategy and is the result of a participatory process involving the staff of ActionAid, experts, partners and people with whom the organisation works throughout the world.

In its new ten-year strategy (2018-2028), the organisation aims to strengthen social justice, eradicate poverty and promote gender equality on a global level, working with the more vulnerable and marginalised communities and with organisations, activists, social movements and supporters. To achieve these objectives, ActionAid will work to redistribute power and resources, strengthen the resilience of communities and social movements and defend the rights of people living in situations of exclusion.

These objectives will be achieved through a long-term agenda based on three pillars:

- » **Rights:** States must be democratic, protect people's rights and guarantee justice. In order for these essential elements to be guaranteed, it is important for the most vulnerable people to be able to take action and give voice to their needs. ActionAid aims to support civil society groups and organisations in dealing with negative cultural and social norms and practices that foster discrimination and the violation of rights.
- » **Redistribution:** the earth's resources are sufficient to guarantee a dignified life for all, but need to be redistributed equally. ActionAid operates to ensure that even the most vulnerable people, especially women, can increase their control over productive resources and to ensure a fairer sharing of opportunities, as well as respect for workers' rights. ActionAid is committed to strengthening regulations on economic activities and increasing focus towards a more equitable redistribution of resources. It acts by applying pressure on governments for the implementation of progressive tax systems and so that efforts are made on the pre-distribution of resources that precedes the taxation of income; it works towards women having the right to financial compensation for care work and a reduction of the burden on their shoulders, as well as the redistribution of financial resources in favour of the public services available to the less well-off.
- » **Resilience:** faced with increasing conflicts and catastrophic natural events, people and communities need to increase their resilience to counteract, react and decrease their vulnerability. This must take place both in urban contexts (involving situations of rapid and often deregulated urbanisation) and in rural areas (where the impact of climate change is becoming increasingly important). ActionAid believes that people must be supported to counter emergency situations, for example by training those who are on the frontline responding to them.

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

ActionAid's results throughout the world

Overall, **in 2018** ActionAid around the world reached **5,711,394 persons**, of which **3,152,966** were **women** and **2,558,428 men** thanks to **local, national and international programmatic activities**.



The following are the programmatic priorities pursued by the organisation and some cases considered indicative more than others to describe the activities that ActionAid carries out around the world¹.

Programmatic priorities

The organisation has four programmatic priorities and they derive from the priorities of the international federation:

01



Addressing the structural causes of violence against women and girls and ensure economic justice for women

ActionAid works with movements of young women and feminist organisations to address the structural causes of gender-based violence, as well as the correlations between patriarchy, unequal access to power and resources, socially defined norms and a bankrupt economic model that devalues and exploits the paid and unpaid work of women.

With greater attention to women's economic empowerment as drivers of growth, ActionAid strives to increase the transparency and *accountability* of companies and to raise human rights standards and protection for women in informal and precarious situations of work.

¹ In order to draft the 2018 Report, the Foundation asked each country to highlight a significant programme/ project in terms of the impact achieved or expected and the realisation indicators of the main activities implemented.

Country Box NEPAL



ActionAid Nepal is one of the most participatory members of the federation in social movements that fight for women's rights, so that the issue may become central to the national political agenda.

One of the activities on which ActionAid Nepal has been deeply committed in 2018 is to eradicate traditional practices that contribute to making women vulnerable and submissive: for example, *chaupadi*, which considers women and girls to be impure during their menstrual period, often even after childbirth, and forces them to stay away from home, to live in unsafe places, such as huts or cow stables. This traditional practice leads women to isolation and exposes them to different forms of violence.

To help overcome this practice, since 2009 ActionAid Nepal has been working in the central-western region of the country, where *chaupadi* is more widespread, involving groups of women and local organisations. The campaign includes training, awareness-raising, mobilisation, lobbying and *advocacy* activities and is aimed at influencing various stakeholders, including: heads of families, religious leaders and anyone considered an obstacle to change.

In addition, it is working to reduce the absenteeism of girls from school during the menstrual period and organises training courses on personal hygiene and on the preparation of homemade sanitary towels.

As a result of these efforts, this year numerous women and traditional leaders have become aware of the consequences of this practice and have begun to speak in public, raising awareness and involving a growing number of communities in the effort.



02



Ensuring increasing **civic participation** and greater **accountability of the State** for the redistribution of resources and the provision of public services that take into account the **aspect of gender**

ActionAid aims to increase civic participation in political decisions that seriously impact life in the city, such as the provision of public services.

The organisation therefore calls for more investment by the State by means of a progressive taxation system, transparency in the provision of services and, at the same time, particular attention to the aspect of gender, especially with respect to public education.



2

Country Box
PALESTINE



ActionAid in the Occupied Palestinian Territories began operating in 2007, alongside the population and in particular women and young people in the Hebron area.

In 2018, thanks to the creation of Women's Groups and Youth Groups, who meet and discuss their problems or those of their communities, ActionAid Palestine has achieved interesting results, as Asma and Salamah explain.

Asma lives in the village of Hatta, is a member of one of the Women's Groups facilitated by ActionAid which uses the Reflect² methodology and is committed to strengthening awareness among women and their mobilisation.

Asma explains the successes achieved in her community thanks to the work performed by the group of women; with these words, she recalls the first advocacy activity involving the Minister of Health:

"We all went together to the Ministry of Health. We asked for an improvement to the management of waste in our village. The officials listened attentively, I thought the meeting was useful and we achieved a good result. That meeting gave us the courage to continue our efforts. This project has totally changed our lives. Before, women did not get involved in the daily problems of the community, but thanks to participating in the Women's Group, we became more aware of our rights and duties and now we discuss important issues together. Our freedom of movement has also changed. Before, women never left the village without a man to accompany them, now we can move around autonomously".

Salamah, 27, on the other hand, is a very active participant of the Youth Group created in Abda and Immriesh:

"I am proud of my group and proud of the people in my community who have given us financial and moral support, despite their initial scepticism. I would like to thank ActionAid for its support and for helping us increase our skills and make contact with the people who can help us. I am sure that we will continue to work hard to increase the spirit of belonging and cooperation within our community".

The Youth group has played a valuable role in supporting school activities in project communities using volunteers and donations, using and disseminating more innovative educational methods and providing students with the opportunity to try extra-curricular activities.

2 Reflect is a structured participatory learning process that facilitates the critical analysis of people and their environments and the development of political solutions for fair and sustainable development.



03



Strengthening the use of resilient means of subsistence and ensuring climate justice

ActionAid strives for a more equitable redistribution of land and other production resources, with an emphasis on access and control of resources by women, indigenous peoples, young people and other minorities that are usually excluded from the redistribution processes.

In this context, sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture is a way to strengthen food systems and the ability of small farmers to adapt to climate change.

Country Box HAITI



For ActionAid Haiti, 2018 was a year that marked a great success in the field of redistribution of land and comes after 8 long years of mobilisation and lobbying work.

It all started in 2011, the year after the earthquake, in which more than 400 farmers' families (3,500 people) were left without land in the north of the island due to a post-earthquake reconstruction and development project: the Caracol Industrial Park.

After a long effort consisting of campaigning, lobbying and advocacy by the Caracol farmers' collective, with the support of ActionAid and other international organisations, on 8 December 2018 an important agreement was reached with the national government and the Inter-American bank (the project's lending bank).

"Finally, we have managed to write a page in the history of Haiti. This is the first time that Haitian farmers have stood up and been listened to", said Milostene Castin, a Coordinator of the partner AREDE.

The agreement provides for farmers to receive a combination of plots of land, job opportunities, training courses and support for micro-enterprises led by women.

"After our land was taken from us, we women were put into a difficult position. We no longer had the economic revenues from the agricultural production trade that we used to selling. We saw no future for us. With the agreement we have signed, we now hope that our lives can change", added Seliana Marcelus, one of the farmer women.

3 Cfr www.accountabilitycounsel.org

04



Guiding initiatives for the preparation, response and **prevention of emergencies** led by **women** and capable of transforming society

ActionAid focuses its work on promoting responses and prevention activities in situations of emergency, conflict and employment led by women.

ActionAid aims to strengthen the resilience of urban and rural communities to climate change, disasters and conflicts through transformative actions ranging from local to global level, led by women living in situations of poverty and exclusion.

Country Box DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO



Since 2016, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the province of Kasai is the scene of a bloody conflict due to a quarrel between a traditional local leader and the Kinshasa government. Even now, there situation is one of strong tensions that threatens to plunge the country into a new war.

This is the context in which ActionAid DRC operates, in collaboration with other local organisations and partners, to strengthen the communities affected by the conflict. In particular, the emergency response project that ActionAid worked on in 2018 served to provide protection for children living in the cities of Mwene-Ditu, in the territories of Kamiji, Lomami, Lusambo and Sankuru and the city of Mbujimayi in the eastern province of Kasai.

In 2018, thanks to this project, 2,300 unaccompanied minors received support. Most of them were enrolled in schools and 174 children were reunited with their families. In addition, support was provided to women from communities located in the east of Kasai and in the Sankuru provinces, affected by a recent cholera epidemic.

Lastly, ActionAid DRC worked with 10,000 women to build and implement a risk prevention plan to deal with environmental disasters and/or internal conflicts.

Chapter 3

ActionAid Switzerland's resources

In 2018, ActionAid Switzerland raised funds through a financial support formula called *Fight for Women*. The resources were mainly raised through direct dialogue activities.

The funds support projects to combat violence against women in all the countries in which ActionAid operates.

Funds raised in 2018

In 2018, ActionAid Switzerland generated total revenues of 1,618 CHF/000, of which 1,212 CHF/000 related to donations from individual supporters, 406 CHF/000 related to a contribution made by ActionAid Italy to support the financial consolidation effort of ActionAid Switzerland.

ActionAid Italy is tasked by ActionAid International to support the development of new countries in order to strengthen the federation's ability to exercise political influence, mobilise people and resources globally. For these reasons and based on a bilateral agreement sharing values and objectives, ActionAid Italy has provided its own funds to ActionAid Switzerland and made its specialised staff available to carry out activities to raise awareness and mobilise people and resources.

As of 31 December 2018, ActionAid Switzerland has the support of 8,164 regular donations of individuals, of which: 74.6% of donors chose to donate using the *Amico di ActionAid* [Friend of ActionAid] formula that supports the entire mission of the organisation in all the countries of the federation; 22.7% of donors chose to donate using the *Fight for Women* formula that supports projects to combat violence against women in all the countries in which the federation operates; while the remaining 2.5% opts for a larger annual donation through *Azione Donna* [Action for Women].

Chart 2 - **Funds raised in 2018**

(data as of 31/12/2018)

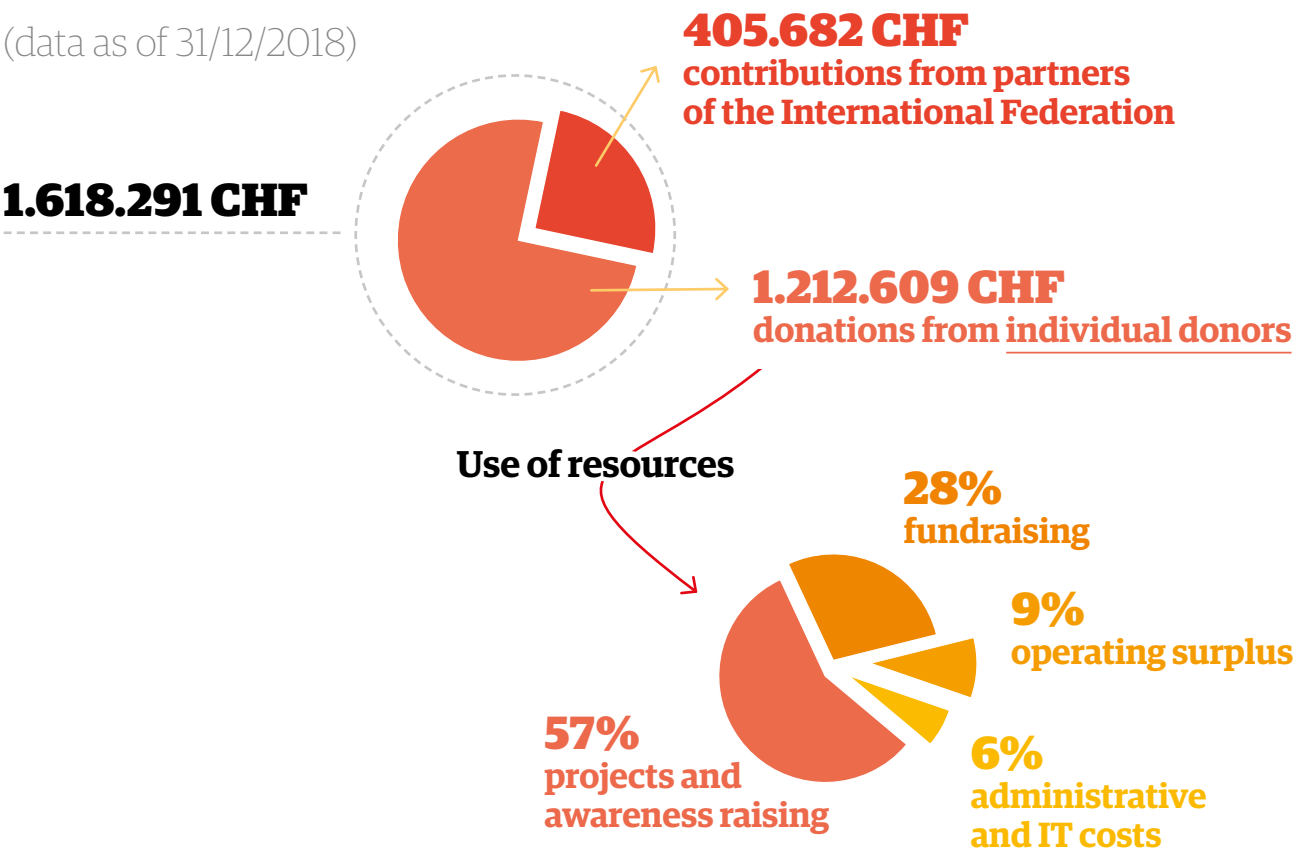


Chart 3 - **Supporters**

(data as of 31/12/2018)

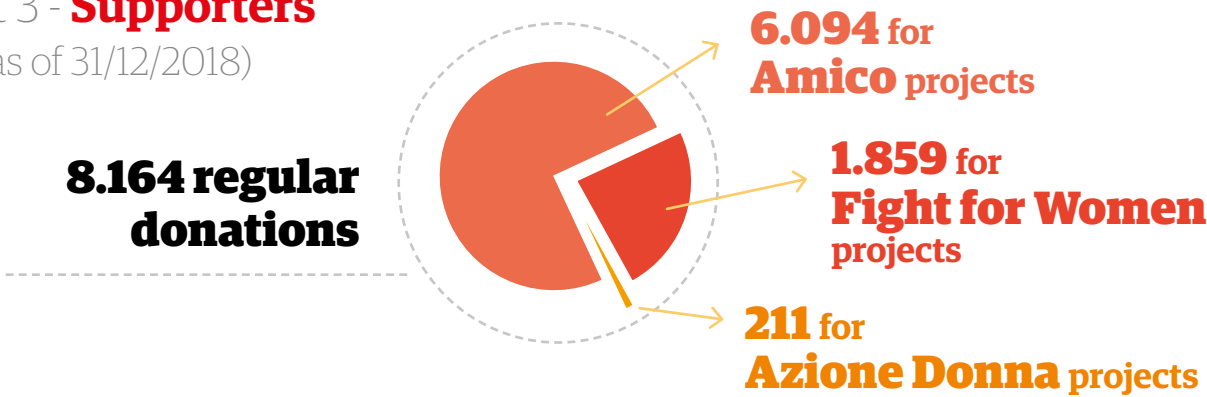




Chart 4 - **Supporters by age range**

(data as of 31/12/2018)

	under 19	19-25	26-35	36-45	over 45
	0,80%	13,21%	9,33%	4,87%	14,31%
	1,21%	14,69%	9,51%	7,32%	24,76%

Use of resources

In 2018, ActionAid Switzerland allocated 100% of the resources acquired - from both individual donors and partner associations - to the implementation of institutional activities as described below.

Mission costs amount to 1,373 CHF/000 and include costs incurred for:

- » **high value partnership and fundraising activities:** in 2018, the association has launched a programme to involve institutions and large donors to support project activities in the areas in which the International Federation of ActionAid operates. During the year, 5 project proposals were presented to foundations with a thematic focus on health, education and peace-building; despite not having been approved, an interesting network of potential institutional donors was created. In order to cope with this activity, it was necessary to hire employees;
- » **awareness-raising, promotion and fund raising activities:** they are representative of the communication activities carried out to disseminate the values of social justice and promotion of human rights and the expenses incurred to increase the number of supporters of the association through direct dialogue expenses;
- » **distribution among international projects** to support the mission of the international federation of ActionAid around the world and also include the fixed quota for projects in support of women in Brazil, Cambodia, Kenya and India.

Below is the detail on the distribution of mission costs.

MISSION COSTS	Total	Awareness-raising, promotion and projects	Fund raising
Costs for High Value fundraising activities	101,225	101,225	100%
Costs for promotion, awareness-raising and fund raising	892,121	446,061	50%
Allocation by project	379,998	379,998	100%
TOTAL	1,373,345	927,284	446,061

Support expenses (102 CHF/000) refer to the expenses required for the associate to operate, including administrative consultancy for accounting, auditing, IT assistance, taxes and fees.

Financial and extraordinary costs consist of bank charges for the collection of automatic debits on current accounts and by credit cards amounting to 3 CHF/000.

Chart 5 - **Annual accounts**
(data as of 31/12/2018, in CHF)

Balance sheet

	2018	2017
RECEIVABLES	656.483	808.269
CASH	646.510	808.269
OPERATING ASSETS	8.406	0
FIXED ASSETS	1.567	0
PAYABLES	517.428	808.269
DEBTS	137.430	399.531
FUNDS FOR PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS	379.998	408.738
Fund for fixed quota projects	67.276	77.716
Fund for free quota projects	312.722	331.022
OPERATING RESULTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR	139.054	0

Income statement

	2018	2017
INCOME	1.618.294	1.478.904
Donations from private individuals	1.212.609	1.103.631
Contributions from ActionAid Italy	405.682	371.000
Financial and extraordinary income	3	4.273
COSTS	1.099.243	1.070.166
High Value fundraising activity costs	101.225	0
Promotional, awareness raising and collection costs	892.121	1.021.961
Administrative costs	102.529	39.079
Financial and extraordinary costs	3.367	9.126
INTERMEDIATE RESULTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR	519.052	408.738
Allocation by project	379.998	408.738
Allocation by fixed quota projects	67.276	77.716
Allocation by free contribution projects	312.722	331.022
OPERATING RESULTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR	139.054	0

Conclusions

ActionAid Switzerland is committed to fighting poverty, inequality and social exclusion on a daily basis, with the aim of creating the basis for a dignified life to support the most disadvantaged. This global commitment, aimed at allowing individuals to participate fully in public life, is made possible by the efforts of over 8,000 Swiss supporters, convinced that change can be achieved when will and competence go hand in hand.

The presence of ActionAid in Switzerland has grown significantly in recent years. In 2019, the intention is to continue the awareness-raising activity throughout the country, with particular regard to the situation of women: all around the world, ActionAid fights violence against them and is committed to making them the masters of their own destiny and drivers of change. The intention is also to further entrench the organisation in Switzerland, in particular through the creation of partnerships with foundations, companies and large donors for the implementation of projects in countries in which the international federation operates.

In many parts of the world, the rights that are taken as a given in Switzerland and in Europe, are seen as the result of innovative and secular conquests and are capable of generating a significant improvement in the living conditions and the development of the area. ActionAid's intention is to contribute to these radical changes, offering opportunities to the weaker and the weakest, who are often forgotten.

In a particularly uncertain socio-political context such as the current one, ActionAid reaffirms its dedication to fighting social injustices and global inequalities. This commitment is renewed daily in over 45 countries in which ActionAid is present, thanks to the continued trust and support of numerous supporters.

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