

# act!onaid

NGO in Support to CBOs  
for Hunger and Poverty  
Reduction Programmes



# Who we are !

## ActionAid

- International Non-governmental organization registered in The Hague, the Netherlands and with headquarters in Johannesburg, South Africa. It works in over forty-two countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. In Africa, we works in twenty countries.

## **Vision**

- A world without poverty and injustice in which every person enjoys their right to a life of dignity

## **Mission**

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

# Values

ActionAid lives by the following values:

- **Mutual respect**
  - requiring us to recognise the innate worth of all people and the value of diversity
- **Equality and justice**
  - requiring us to work to ensure equal opportunity to everyone irrespective of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, HIV status, colour, class, ethnicity, disability, location and religion
- **Honesty and transparency**
  - being accountable to 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 commitments to the fight against poverty.
- **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 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

# What we do

- Our strategic focus is policy changes at nationally and internationally level in order to benefit the poor and marginalized in society.
  - Women's right
  - Right to education
  - Right to just and democratic governance
  - Right to food
  - Right to human security in the face of conflict and emergencies
  - Right to a life of dignity in the face of HIV/AIDS

# How we do it

- Our work is to ensure that the rights of poor and excluded people who constitute our primary stakeholders are respected, protected, promoted, and fulfilled by the state and other powerful institutions.
- We do not work alone; we work in partnerships and alliances with poor and excluded people, social movements and other civil society organizations. In order to effect change we engage duty bearers whose policies and practices make people poor.
- Our engagement with partners is both local and global because we believe that the causes of poverty and injustice are affected by both local and international influence.
- We work mostly with Community Based Organisations (CBOs) who are familiar with the local conditions, customs and politics

# Work with CBOs

- We work with and through like-minded agencies worldwide; undertake research into international policies that affect undeveloped countries that eventually affect the poor.
- Strengthening the capacity of the poor and excluded to organise themselves to claim rights, to participate in decision-making processes and influence public policy.
- support civil society organisations and social movements working to achieve accountable government, democratic international institutions and effective regulation of transnational corporations.
- support and promote the monitoring of state delivery of social and economic rights, by budget tracking through networks and groups.

# Cont...

- supports and builds strong civil society networks to secure rights e.g. right to food, to education, basic social services
- organising of training programmes and exposure visits to promote good governance, accountability and to play an active/supportive role in advocacy related issues
- Advocacy and Campaigns for; Farmers rights, the reversal of unfair trade rules and practices imposed by the WTO and seek to embed pro-poor development at the centre of the multilateral trading system.
- campaign for policies and practices that promote food security for people and food sovereignty for the nation.

# Why we work the way we do

- We strongly believe that the people themselves must take control over their destiny if they should break the chains of poverty. They are the primary agents of change. Poverty and injustice can be eradicated only when the poor and excluded are able to take charge of their lives and act to claim their rights
  - *“over the years, we have learnt that policies and programmes which rest primarily on a perception of need and powerlessness reinforce the powerlessness of the recipients who are seen as being given justice rather than as receiving their rights”.*
- Our work is to create powerful, self-reliant individuals who can help others.
  - *“The ability of the poor and marginalised to break the veils of oppressive fear and injustice is the key to any process of socio-political and economic empowerment. Change in the lives of the marginalised people happens when they are able to assert their rights and make creative interventions against the unjust and unequal power relationships in the society”.*



# Support to SLAAH

- Capacity building
- Small grants to women farmers
- Policy dialogue forums
- Research in state delivery and impact of in trade policies
- Case studies and poverty tour to collect peoples testimonies
- Joint celebration of key international dates and events (WFD and WPD)

**THE END!!**

Thank You