

# acting together

Annual Report 2016-17

**act:onaid**





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ActionAid Association Annual Report 2016-17

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# CREDITS

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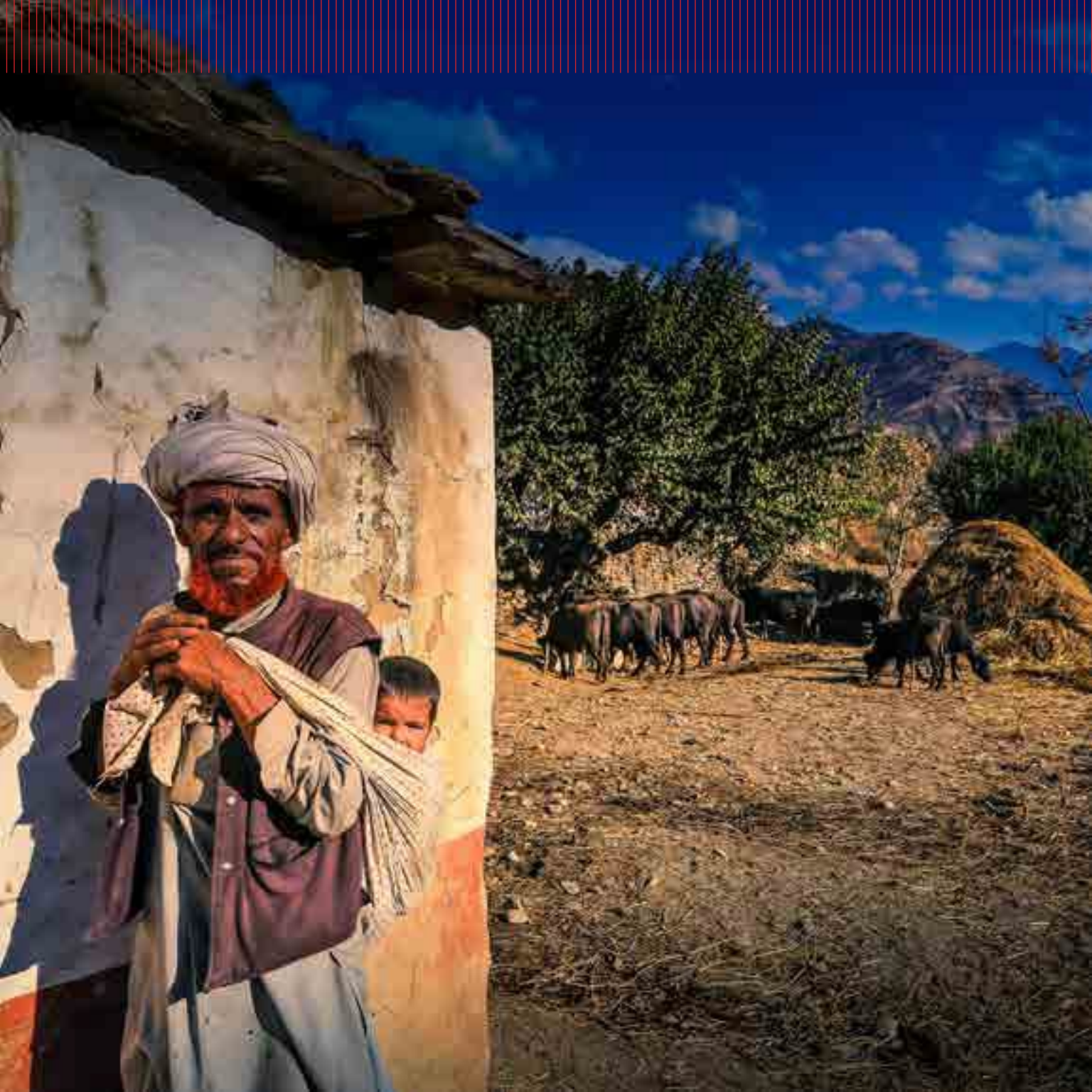
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## Message from Executive Director

The annual report for the year 2016–17 tries to capture the extent of the work undertaken by ActionAid Association India across the length and breadth of the country, and the fruitful journey we have taken with our partners, networks and allies. The year has been varied, rich, rewarding and challenging.

The journey last year began in the aftermath of the devastating floods in Chennai, which saw us standing strong on ground zero by reaching out and connecting to all our partners old and new, and forming strong alliances to reach help to the target groups we have always been strongly associated with. It was also an opportunity to make close partnerships with corporate entities, such as Jet Airways, Tata, Master Card, Cipla and Infosys, to name just a few, and volunteers from all walks of life to support urban poor communities, disabled women, fisher folk and others whose lives were set back several years.

The effect of the unsustainable and ill-planned use of natural resources was doubly underlined last year by the unprecedented drought situation in many states we work in. Acute shortage of water for drinking, irrigation and livestock added thousands to the number of distress migrants. On the heels of this crisis came the spate of floods in the state of Bihar. We presented exhaustive evidence of the acute situation. We felt the best course of action to reach out to the administration and make use of government schemes such as those under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) and the mid-day meal (MDM) programme to alleviate adverse conditions. We also saw remarkable leadership and collective effort by people, as a result of which old wells, channels and streams were rejuvenated.

Our work in crisis situations constantly reminds us that disasters and emergencies hit the weakest most; at the same time it validates our belief that the best preparedness plans are long-term investments in entitlements, livelihoods and participation in governance, not only for the poor and the marginalised but for society and the nation as a whole. The sustainable goals to which we are committed would be best achieved by creating ways of co-ownership and conserving resources.

The year has seen several advances in this regard, the most notable ones being the ones made in consolidation of women farmers' collectives in all the states, the coming together of single women to support each other and the upscaling of our crisis support centres through knowledge partnerships. The first workers' cooperative has been registered by our partners with the intent to take over and manage sick tea gardens where labour force had been left unemployed. In education, we have seen a breakthrough this year by

getting school management committees (SMCs) in government schools to take ownership of the quality of teaching and to join hands in bettering the infrastructure. The breakthrough has come by way of coming together of the turnaround some village schools have seen (a matter of pride for the villages), which has then been emulated. Children have returned to government schools and the private schools being run in the vicinity have closed down.

We have continued to strengthen our understanding of labour issues and our presence among the workers and urban poor. Domestic workers have collectivised, and have instilled an infectious pride in the dignity of domestic labour among all our partners and allies. Construction workers have advanced the agenda of entitlements under welfare boards to all categories of informal work. Street vendors have consolidated their space and their politics.

These initiatives and victories, many of them under the leadership of women, have come about under the aegis of the Working People's Charter (WPC), which offers continuous opportunities to learn and evolve to all the groups and a platform for labour solidarity and engagement, especially in the context of changing, government policies. Under the leadership of the organisation in its capacity as the co-chair of the world urban campaign under the Habitat III Conference, the effort has been to amplify these pushes from below to create sustainable and just alternatives that we are all desperately seeking for urban habitats.

Working with the poorest and most marginalised communities has been constantly rewarding for what we see and learn along the way: the capacity to create collective leadership, the inherent and adaptive skills of conserving and living with nature, the tenacity of disabled people and their cheerfulness, the ingenuity in coping with risks and challenges, and most of all generosity, hope and courage.

In solidarity,



**Sandeep Chachra**

Executive Director

ActionAid Association



# About ActionAid Association

ActionAid Association is an anti-poverty agency that has been working with the poor people to end poverty and injustice in India.

The Association has been working to ensure that the poorest and marginalised have access to the fruits of development and Constitutional rights to food and livelihood, shelter, education, healthcare, dignity and a voice in decisions. It partners with several voluntary organisations, institutions, government ministries and its various commissions at the state and central levels to achieve this. ActionAid Association is working in 25 states and one union territory with more than 250 partners and allied organisations.

## Our Values

In our effort to deepen our commitment to transforming our organisational culture we stress on 'praxis' in our work. Solidarity, camaraderie and sisterhood with the poor, the powerless and excluded women, girls, boys and men are at the core of our work against poverty and injustice.

- » 'Personal is Political': without contradiction in the practice in private and public spheres.
- » Courage of conviction, requiring us to be creative and progressive, bold and innovative without fear of failure.
- » Equality, justice and diversity, requiring us to work to ensure equal opportunities to every person, irrespective of caste, class, race, age,

gender, sexual orientation, colour, ethnicity, disability, location or religion.

- » Humility and modesty in our conduct and behaviour.
- » Transparency and accountability.
- » Independence and neutrality from any religious or party-political affiliations.

## Our Vision

A world without poverty, patriarchy and injustice in which every person enjoys the right to live with dignity.

## Our Mission

To work in solidarity with the poor and participate in their initiatives to eradicate poverty, patriarchy and injustice.

## Overall Goal

A just social order brought about by the dispossessed claiming their right to dignity and identity through enhanced democratic participation and structural transformation.

We strongly believe that an end to poverty and injustice can be achieved through purposeful individual and collective action led by the active agency of the people living in poverty and supported by solidarity, credible alternatives that address the structural causes and consequences of poverty.



## Our Reach

AAI's work is spread across 25 states and one union territory of India. Our interventions in 317 districts (including 134 most backward districts of India) have helped improve the lives of more than 1,32,000 families from the most deprived communities.

All our interventions in 2016-17 were made possible by 252 alliance or- ganisations, who are our grass- roots partners in delivering our promises of change. Of these organisations, 22 per cent are headed by women and 16 per cent by members of Dalit, tribal and minority communities and the Most Backward Classes.



# Our Partners

## Andhra Pradesh & Telangana Region

- » Aashray/Caring Citizens Collective
- » Association for Rural and Urban Needy
- » Association for Rural Development (ARD)
- » Centre For Dalit Studies
- » Centre for Sustainable Agriculture
- » Conservation of Nature through Rural Awakening (CONARE)
- » Gramya and Pilupu
- » Mahila Action
- » Nisarga
- » Shaheen Women's Resource and Welfare Association
- » Shramika Vikasa Kendram
- » Social Educational and Welfare Activities Association

## Bihar & Jharkhand Region

- » Ambedkar Social Institute
- » Bihar Gramin Vikas Parishad
- » Centre for All Round Development
- » Equity Foundation
- » Koshish
- » Nav Bihar Samaj Kalyan Pratisthan Kendra
- » Nav Chetna Vikas Kendra
- » Prayas Gramin Vikas Samiti
- » Samajik Shodh Evam Vikas Kendra
- » Samvad

- » Sinduartola Gramoday Vikas Vidyalaya
- » Vikas Sahyog Kendra

## Karnataka Region

- » ASARE - Rural Women Voluntary Organisation
- » Capuchin Krishik Seva Kendra
- » Chinthana Foundation
- » Foundation for Educational Innovations in Asia
- » Jagruti Janasahayog
- » Narendra Foundation
- » Samagra Grameena Ashrama

## Madhya Pradesh Region

- » Dhas Gramin Vikas Kendra
- » Gramin Vikas Sansthan
- » Jai Bharat Shiksha Kendra
- » Jan Sahas Social Development Society
- » Mahad Samajik Nayay Evam Vikas Samiti
- » Parhit Samaj Sevi Sanstha
- » People's Research Society
- » Pradeepan
- » Samvad
- » Sankalp Samaj Savi Sanstha
- » Srijan
- » Srijan Samaj Vikas Samiti
- » Synergy Sansthan
- » Vasudha Vikas Sansthan



## Maharashtra Region

- » Adivasi Gramin Vikas Sanstha
- » Ashana Trust
- » Centre for Study of Society and Secularism
- » Committee Right to Housing
- » Dr. Ambedkar Sheti Vikas Va Sansodhan Sanstha
- » Jan Vikas Samajik Sanstha
- » Kalapandhari Magasvargiya
- » Lokpanchayat
- » Manuski
- » Parivartan
- » Paryay
- » Prerana
- » Social Action For Literacy & Health

## North East Region

- » Centre for Peace and Development
- » Lotus Progressive Centre
- » People's Action for Development
- » People's Resource Development Association
- » Promotion and Advancement of Justice, Harmony and Human Rights of Adivasi (PAJHRA)
- » Rural Education and Action for Change – Manipur (REACH-M)
- » Sisterhood Network
- » Volunteers for Village Development

## North Region

- » Aarth Astha
- » Action India
- » Astha
- » Centre for Alternative Dalit Media platform (CADAM)

- » Empowerment For Rehabilitation, Academic & Health (EFRAH)
- » Pardarshita
- » People's Action for People in Need
- » Rural Human Development Center
- » Rural Technology and Development Centre
- » Society for Rural Development and Action

## Odisha Region

- » Antaranga Kandhamal initiative - Jagruti, Swati, Banbasi Seva Samiti, Seva Bharati, Kalpavrukha, Amagaon, Samanwita, Pradata, Oasis
- » Centre for Children and Women's Development (CCWD)
- » Centre for Integrated Rural & Tribal Development (CIRTD)
- » Ekta
- » International Noble Work Development & Investigation Association (INDIA)
- » Jagruti
- » Jivan Vikas
- » Patang
- » Social Awareness Institution
- » Socio Economic Health Agriculture Development Association

## Rajasthan & Gujarat Region

- » Cohesion Foundation
- » Jai Bheem Vikas Shikshan Sansthan
- » Janvikas
- » Navsarjan
- » Prayatna Samiti
- » Shree Jan Jeevan Kalyan Sansthan

- » Vikalp Sansthan
- » Vishakha

### Tamil Nadu Region

- » Arunodhaya Centre for Street and Working Children
- » Centre for Community Services
- » Centre for Workers' Management
- » Development of Humane Action Foundation
- » Integrated Rural Development Society
- » Law Trust
- » Legal Aid to Women Trust
- » Minnal Chithamur Dalit Pengal Marumalarchi Sangam
- » Neelam Trust
- » Pasumai Trust
- » Social Need Education and Human Awareness (SNEHA)
- » Society for Rights of All Women With Disabilities (SFRAWD)
- » Society for Rural Education and Development
- » Thozhamai
- » Women's Integrated National Development (WIND) Trust

### Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand Region

- » Aim
- » Ankur Yuva Chetna Shivar
- » Arunodaya Sansthan
- » Association for Rural Planning and Action (ARPAN)
- » Astitva Samajik Sansthan
- » Citizen Consumer and Civic Action Group [CAG]
- » Developmental Association for Human Advancement

- » Diya Welfare Society
- » Gramonnati Sansthan
- » Gramya Sansthan
- » Hitaishi Samaj Sewa Sanstha
- » Jan Kalyan Gramodyog Seva Ashram
- » Musahar Seva Sansthan (MSS)
- » Nav Bhartiya Nari Vikas Samiti
- » Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan
- » Pragati Bharat
- » Prayas and Mahila Kalyan Sansthan
- » Sai Jyoti Gramodyog Samaj Seva Samiti
- » Samarth Foundation
- » Samvad Samajik Sansthan
- » Shikhar Prishiksan Sansthan
- » Shramik Samaj Shiksha Sansthan
- » Vatsalya
- » Vigyan Foundation

### West Bengal Region

- » Bagmari Mother and Child Development Mission
- » Development Research Communication and Services Centre
- » Gitaldaha Bikash Samity (GBS)
- » Godhulibazar North East Society for Empowerment of the People (G-NESEP)
- » People's Participation
- » Society for Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action (DISHA)
- » Sristy For Human Society & Society For People's Awareness
- » Suchetana
- » Surul Centre for Services in Rural Area (CSRA)

# Our Regional Offices and Hubs

- » Bihar and Jharkhand Regional Office
- » Karnataka Regional Office
- » Madhya Pradesh Regional Office
- » Maharashtra Regional Office
- » North East Regional Office  
*(covering the states of Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram)*
- » North India Regional Office  
*(Covering the states of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh)*
- » Odisha Regional Office
- » Rajasthan & Gujarat Regional Office
- » Tamil Nadu Regional Office
- » Telengana & Andhra Pradesh Regional Office
- » Uttar Pradesh & Uttarakhand Regional Office
- » West Bengal Regional Office
- » Child Rights Knowledge Activities Hub  
*Child Rights Focus (CRF)*
- » Democratisation Knowledge Activities Hub
- » Land and Livelihoods Knowledge Activities Hub
- » Natural Resources Knowledge Activities Hub
- » Peace and Justice Knowledge Activities Hub  
*Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ)*
- » South-South Solidarity Knowledge Activities Hub  
*South Solidarity Initiative (SSI)*
- » Urban Poverty Knowledge Activities Hub  
*Citizens Rights Collective (CiRiC)*



# Programme Focus Outlay

## Strategic Priority-wise Allocation

### ■ **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1**

Land and livelihood.

### ■ **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2**

Democratisation of society  
and economy at all levels.

### ■ **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3**

Women and girls' rights

### ■ **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4**

Children are recognised as equal  
citizens.

### ■ **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5**

A just, secular and peaceful  
society

### ■ **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6**

Solidarity with initiatives and  
progressive actions beyond local  
boundaries.

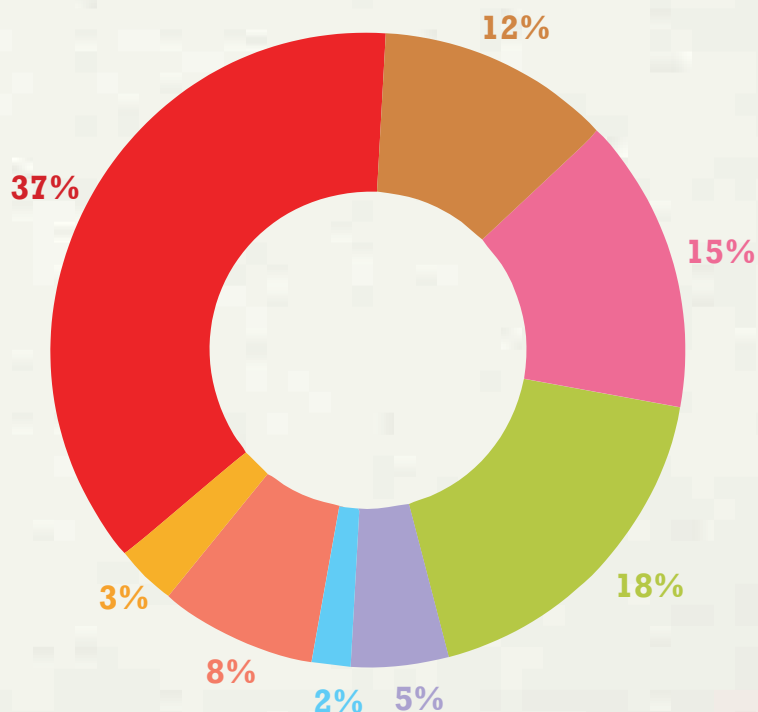
### ■ **EMERGENCY**

Humanitarian response to natural  
and human-made disasters.

### ■ **Multiple Strategic Priorities**

The total budget spent for  
programmes in 2016–17 was  
**Rs 51.98 crore.**

The figure below shows the percentage allocation.



# Our Supporters

- » 44,245 individual donors
- » Adobe Foundation
- » Cactus Communications Pvt. Ltd.
- » Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- » Cipla Foundation
- » Colgate Palmolive (I) Ltd.
- » Concentrix
- » DDB Mudra Max
- » Devi Charan Chatterjee and Rajylaxmi Chatterjee Legacy Project
- » Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund (DPRF)/ActionAid International
- » European Commission
- » Franklin Templeton International Services (India) Private Limited
- » Human Dignity Foundation
- » Hewlett Foundation
- » IFIM Business School
- » Infosys Limited [through Sneham Social Welfare Foundation]
- » Jet Airways
- » MasterCard
- » Ogilvy & SOHO
- » Oracle [under 'Oracle Giving' through Charities Aid Foundation India (CAF India)]
- » Silicon Valley Community Foundation
- » Telenor
- » UNICEF
- » Victory Films

# List of Abbreviations

<b>AAA</b>	: ActionAid Association	<b>DNT</b>	: De-notified Tribe
<b>AA</b>	: ActionAid	<b>DRR</b>	: Disaster Risk Reduction
<b>AAI</b>	: ActionAid India	<b>ICDS</b>	: Integrated Child Development Scheme
<b>AIIB</b>	: Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank	<b>IFI</b>	: International Financial Institution
<b>AIMEC</b>	: All India Media platform EducatorsConference	<b>INGO</b>	: International Non-governmental Organisation
<b>AIPSN</b>	: All India People's Science Network	<b>IPDP</b>	: Indigenous People's Development Plan
<b>ARD</b>	: Association for Rural Development	<b>IPE</b>	: Institute of Public Enterprise
<b>ASDS</b>	: Agriculture and Social Development Society	<b>ISID</b>	: Institute for Studies in Industrial Development
<b>ASHA</b>	: Accredited Social Health Activities	<b>ISLE</b>	: Indian Society for Labour Economics
<b>BAG</b>	: Birbhum Adivasi Gaunta	<b>LRP</b>	: Local Rights Programme
<b>BBBP</b>	: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao	<b>MAKAM</b>	: Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch
<b>BMMA</b>	: Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan	<b>MGNREGA</b>	: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
<b>CBO</b>	: Community-Based Organisation	<b>MPSSM</b>	: Mahatma Phule Samaj Seva Mandal
<b>CCP</b>	: Community Contingency Plan		
<b>CiRiC</b>	: Citizens' Rights Collective		
<b>CLPRA</b>	: Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act		
<b>CPD</b>	: Centre for Peace and Development		
<b>CRSA</b>	: Climate Resistant Sustainable Agriculture		
<b>CSO</b>	: Civil Society Organisation		
<b>CSRA</b>	: Centre for Services in Rural Area		
<b>DCPCR</b>	: Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights		



**NFF** : National Fish-workers Forum

**NHRC** : National Human Rights Commission

**NT** : Nomadic Tribe

**NTDNT** : Nomadic Tribes and De-notified Tribes

**OSCC** : One Stop Crisis Centre

**OSPCRCR** : Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights

**OTFDs** : Other Traditional Forest Dwellers

**PCPNDT Act** : Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique Act

**PDS** : Public Distribution Scheme

**POSCO** : Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act

**PPP** : Public-Private-Partnership

**PRI** : Panchayati Raj Institution

**PVoC** : People's Vision of the City

**PVTGs** : Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups

**PWDs** : People With Disabilities

**RoFR** : Right of First Refusal

**RTE** : Right to Education

**SCSP** : Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan

**SDP** : School Development Plan

**SIPPA** : South Institute for Public Policy and Action

**SMC** : School Management Committee

**SRHR** : Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

**SSI** : South Solidarity Initiative

**ST** : Scheduled Tribe

**TSP** : Tribal the Sub-Plan

**UAS** : Urban Action School

**UNCRC** : United Nations Child Rights Convention

**UNFPA** : United Nations Population Fund

**UNICEF** : United Nations International Children's Fund

**VAW** : Violence Against Women

**WBSCPCR** : West Bengal State Commission for Protection of Child Rights

**WGWLO** : Working Group for Women and Land Ownership

**WPC** : Working People's Charter

**WTO** : World Trade Organisation

**YUW** : Young Urban Women



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Strategic Priority

1

# Land and Livelihoods



# Promoting Access to Land

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ActionAid Association(AAA) has been working on the is-sue of livelihoods (agriculture and allied activities,and non-farm livelihoods) with peasants, fisher folk, pastoralists, tenants, share-croppers, and agricultural and food workers, with special attention to women and rural youth.

## National Convention of Women Farmers

AAI regional office, Bhubaneshwar and the Land and Livelihood Knowledge and Activities Hub (L & L Hub) organised a national convention of womenfarmers in 2016 in Sundargarh, Odisha. Discussions covered ecological farming, single women, tenancy issues, agricultural labourers, marketing and value chains. 100 women farmers from 10 states attended. Their delegates prepared a charter called 'Sundargarh Declaration onWomen Farmers'.

## Collectivisation ofWomen Farmers

AAA, along with partners, joined a national-level process under the banner of MAKAM with the objective of enablingwomen to get ownership of livelihood resourcesand access to government support and services. Our colleagues and about 500 women farmers participated in the national and regional-level meetings of MAKAM.

AAA and its partners were instrumental in organising 1,540 women's collectives. Some key women's collectives were formed for claiming women's ownership over land and natural resources; some focused on economic entitlements and diversified livelihood; and some others were engaged in at-training food security through sustainable and more efficient agriculture and processing, to help members to get better prices for their produce.

## Study on Suicides and Impact on Children

A study of 300 families from Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha and Telangana has been undertaken to assess the impact on children.

## Farmers' IncomeAssurance

As the demand for minimum support price (MSP) for agriculture produce has not been met, AAI has initiated a dialogue with a range of actors to devel- op a framework for national Engaging on income assurance for farmers.

## IMPACT IN NUMBERS:

Type of land	Number of applications made*	Number of pattas received*
Homestead land for women	12,374	4,914
Agricultural land for women	1,792	1,116
Individual homestead land	3,175	1,156
Community kitchen gardens	585	880
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,926</b>	<b>8,066</b>

\* The numbers above include some pending claims from previous years.

## Applications for Land for Women

AAA's partners have been instrumental in filing applications for 12,677 women including joint land pattas, or titles, in the name of wife and husband (see Table)

### Odisha

- » 689 households have got pattas over home- stead land.
- » In Ganjam, AA facilitated 731 single women to get pattas and take physical possession of land. Since 2012, 3,381 single women have re-ceived pattas.

### Uttar Pradesh

- » Lalitpur: 115 families got 155 acres of land and started agriculture.

» The Sahariya community has identified 2,354 acres of vacant gram sabha land.

» Thirty Musahar women have got pattas over two ponds and started a fisheries project.

» Engaging measures were undertaken around the proposed amendment to the Uttar Pradesh Revenue Code, 2006. Public meetings were organised and memorandums submitted.

### North East

In Mizoram, AAI and its partners conducted a study on the New Land Use Policy (NLUP). It was found that the programme has not brought about any positive impact but has been a cause for corruption and that there is a return to the practice of jhum.

Overall in 2016, around 1,800 women members were trained on laws relating to land and natural resources across all our projects.

# Drought

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## National Consultation on Drought

According to reports, in the period under study 33 crore people were affected by drought in over

2,55,000 villages across 255 districts and 10 states. A national consultation was held in New Delhi in 2016 to share different perspectives and experiences on drought preparedness, relief and mitigation and develop our strategies for durable solutions.

The L&L Hub made a written submission on the drought management guidelines to make them more effective and inclusive. They organized a state-level consultation on drought in Ranchi, Jharkhand, about how to increase the community's resilience, provide effective cover for drought-affected families under social protection schemes and strengthen early warning systems.

## Report on Drought

The L&L Hub, in coordination with the regional offices, brought out a national citizens' report on drought called 'Lessons from Desolation'. The report covers villages across seven states. It attempts to understand the situation faced by vulnerable communities in the drought-affected areas, share the findings and record the people-driven alternative for water conservation and drought-resilient farming, as well as to explore lasting solutions to build drought resilience and

track the implementation of the Supreme Court's directions on drought.

## Handling Drought

ActionAid organised three consultations on drought in Uttar Pradesh in June and July 2016. 1,450 drought-affected community members (including 950 Sahariyas) participated and presented their grievances about delayed payments and non-provision of work under the MGNREGA, and problems with the distribution of rations. They also voiced their demand for sources of water for drinking and irrigation.

AA and its partners have been intensively working in 534 villages for the implementation of various government drought-relief schemes and packages, in collaboration with the state government with the support of the district administration. Across Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, hand pumps have been restored or installed, along with other water storage mechanisms. Sahariya families have received ration cards and work under the MGNREGA. Our partners have advocated for drought declaration, compensation for crop loss, provision of water and MGNREGA work.

AA Mumbai regional office carried out an assessment of drought-affected migrant families and setup a relief camp to cater to their needs.

ActionAid and Siemens together initiated drought mitigation programmes in Maharashtra from 2013 to 2016. This has resulted in an increase in crop productivity by 35 per cent and in the area under cultivation by 55 hectares, including the conversion of 50 hectares of wasteland. Farmers are practising micro-irrigation and new crops like ginger and turmeric have increased fodder production and enhanced livestock options. This has drastically reduced the seasonal migration. The programme was successfully evaluated and has now been scaled up to cover 15 villages.

In July 2016, at Bhubaneswar, Odisha, ActionAid in collaboration with LRPs and community-based organisations (CBOs) organised a consultation on the drought situation in the state. The demands that were generated in this meeting were submitted to the agriculture secretary of Odisha government.

A training programme on emergencies was organised in Kolkata in May 2016 with the focus on drought, Social harmony-related violence, urban evictions and so on. There were around 30 participants from the regional offices of ActionAid and project partners. The L & L Hub conducted a one-day session on drought, covering perspectives, pre- and post-drought response, ground-level long-term work and so on.

## Compensation for Crop Loss in Bundelkhand

As per government estimates, farmers in Uttar Pradesh lost crops on 89.4 lakh hectares of land, amounting to around Rs 41.73 lakh, due to unseasonal rains and hailstorm. ActionAid and its partners raised the issue of irregularities in the survey conducted and compensation provided to the affected families by the local administration. As a result, a re-survey was done and compensation was provided in many places, especially in AAI's LRP areas in Bundelkhand. So far, 70 per cent of the families have received compensation for crop failure and rest of the families are in the process of receiving it.

## Sustainable Agricultural Practices

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A separate initiative to promote sustainable food production and livelihood security in a changing climate was initiated. Around 3,000 farmers were trained in climate resilient and sustainable agriculture (CRSA) and 167 farmers' collectives were facilitated for the purpose. Women farmers' collectives were promoted in Gujarat, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. In Odisha, hundreds of farmers, including women, are practising ecological farming and growing millet; many have started kitchen gardens. 1,222 women farmers in Gujarat and 1,080 farmers in Andhra Pradesh were reached through this initiative.



In Gujarat different types of tools were introduced, and a drudgery-reducing tool library has been set up in 29 village-level sangathans.

We have trained farmers in non-pesticide crop management and low external input agro-eco-logical farming practices. Seed banks are being promoted along with millet farming in dryland areas. We have also trained farmers on the adoption of new technology, like the system of rice intensification (SRI) method.

## Celebrating Indigenous Agricultural and Cultural Practices

With support from AAI, farmers' groups in Odisha working to further indigenous farming methods have been organising an annual gathering of indigenous farmers. Farmers and seed preservers discussed issues of ecological and organic farming, and promoting indigenous seeds. An exhibition of indigenous seeds, agricultural instruments and traditional practices was also held.

## Sustainable NorthEast

ActionAid has been supporting the Regional Hub on Natural Resources in NorthEast India. It was decided that henceforth the hub would be called Solidarity for Sustainable NorthEast (SoSNE). More than 60 members from over 30 different organisations have

been enlisted as members of the hub.

The regional hub also facilitated documentation and analyses of strategic documents and agreements among governments, communities, and multilateral and bilateral institutions in projects related to climate change in North East India. The analysis is helpful for those who are affected or are likely to be affected by climate change.

Two state-level consultations on access to natural resources were organised in Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh, as well as a consultation on 'Degradation of the Ecosystem' in Manipur, which was attended by CSO representatives and officials from the Forest Department, including the chief conservator of forests, Manipur. This focused on how the laws have often failed to support communities due to contradictions between laws.

## Celebrating International Day of World Indigenous Peoples

The International Day of World Indigenous Peoples was marked in Nabarangpur district on 9 August 2016 with traditional music and dance, as well as public sharing and discussion, amidst a gathering of more than 700 Adivasis.

Similar celebrations were organised in Rajasthan, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and other states. Participants from tribal communities celebrated with peaceful marches and sent a memorandum to local government officials and the governor on issues of concern to tribal communities.

## Transboundary Water Governance

### Public Consultation on Transboundary Water Governance

A major project of the NR hub involving three countries (Nepal, India and Bangladesh) came to fruition with a public consultation on transboundary water governance. Challenges with respect to treaties, riverbank erosion, alliances between cross-border communities, and the interconnectedness of mountains, forests, commons and water resources were discussed in detail.

### Enhancing Community Engagement

- » A regional workshop on enhancing community engagement in Transboundary Water Governance in South Asia was held in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 24 and 25 October 2016.
- » Community-level meetings were organised in October to inform people about river water sharing, water governance, the operational aspects of treaties/agreements and the role of the

communities.

- » A meet was organized in Malda, West Bengal, to discuss the objectives of the transboundary water project.

## Workshop on Natural Commons

The NR Hub in collaboration with AAI's Jaipur regional office organised a two-day national commons workshop in Jaipur in November 2016. The commons have been an important aspect in every sphere of life - social, economic, cultural and religious. Apart from the arid zone, livestock is an important aspect in the rural economy, completely dependent on pasture commons.

## Reports

### Sand Mining

In 2015, The NR Hub conducted a study on sand mining and its impact on river ecology and people in five states: Karnataka, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. This report, titled 'Stolen Sand', was released in March 2016 in New Delhi. Forty participants, including A. V. Swamy, Rajya Sabha MP and Balabhadra Majhi, Lok Sabha MP from Nabarangpur, Odisha, were present. Community members and researchers shared their views, and the public leaders stated that such reports would help find solutions for the problem in India and provide a basis for protection of rivers.

The Environment Audit Unit of the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) of India has recognised NR Hub's research on sand mining and also invited the Hub to address a training session for their senior auditors on river sand mining and its implications, at the

International Centre for Environmental Audit (ICED), Jaipur.

# Urban Poor and Informal Workers

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## Engaging at the Habitat Level

### AA at Habitat III 2016

AAA actively participated in Habitat III, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, in October 2016, and contributed to the formal deliberations and negotiations prior to the adoption of the New Urban Agenda in Quito, Ecuador. ActionAid India was elected co-chair of the World Urban Campaign (WUC). ActionAid led the process for the inclusion of the Right to City and informal workers' spaces in the New Urban Agenda. For the first time, ActionAid India had the opportunity to address heads of states in the Plenary Meeting.

Post Quito, AAA was invited to be part of the 6th Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development hosted by the Government of India in December 2016 and attended by 40 countries.

## Engaging at National and State Levels

### Working People's Charter

The Working People's Charter (WPC) has emerged as a formidable voice of millions of informal workers at the national level. The WPC has submitted critical inputs on the proposed Labour Code on Industrial Relations Bill, 2015 and the Code on Wages Bill, 2017 to the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Finance. Our associates from the WPC took up supporting roles in the initiatives to defend the provident fund savings of Indian workers. They got successful to access identity cards and social security for sanitation workers and hamals (headloaders). Some WPC members led efforts to rescue bonded labourers in different parts of the country. Our allies were instrumental in the process of framing of the rules of the Unorganized Workers' Social Security Act, 2008 (UWSSA) in Uttar Pradesh. In West Bengal and Delhi, initiatives have intensified for the inclusion of domestic workers in the scheduled employment list.

A two-day national convention in Delhi was organised, in which over 80 people from 18 states discussed the issues of wages, social security and the wider challenges of the working class.

The WPC Secretariat successfully initiated state charter processes in the states of Assam, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. The charter of demands was framed and shared with the

working collectives and the concerned government authorities.

## **Social Security Initiative**

Collectives were formed at the ground level in different states to lead the Right to Social Security initiative for universal social security. Over

250 organisations, including and voluntary organisations, as well as lawyers, academics and individuals from across the country participated. The initiative received huge support across collectives and carried out many strategic consultations with leaders and so on, memoranda were submitted to people's representatives in 13 states, and state-specific initiatives were organised in West Bengal, Odisha, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Delhi and Maharashtra.

A total of 27,700 people (8,332 men and 19,368 women) benefited from various government social security schemes.

## **Engaging for Worker ID Cards**

The WPC Secretariat had a series of meetings with officials from the Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Finance and the PMO on the central government's flagship programme for people working in the unorganised sector — the introduction of the Unrecognised Workers Identification Number (UWIN). A small group is working closely with the ministries to assist the government in rolling out the proposal. The WPC has developed a framework in collaboration with the office of the Directorate General Labour Welfare (DGLW), which is under consideration.

## **Advancing the Agenda of Domestic Workers**

The Workers' Charter Secretariat (WCS) has collaborated with the National Progressive Domestic Workers Federation' (NPDWF) in order to initiate a nationwide dialogue and has organised four state consultations, in Jaipur, Bangalore, Pune and Kolkata. AAI collaborated in each of these places with key allies. The major points that came to the fore were the regulation of employment and working conditions, including working hours; payment of wages; registration facilities for both employers and workers; and social security facilities, including pension, maternity leave, medical care, bonus-es and access to credit.



AA and its partners drafted a note for domestic workers in Uttar Pradesh for recognizing their work and accessing social security entitlements.

## **Domestic Workers**

The Shramik Sahayata Kendra (Centre for Labour Assistance), a forum for NGOs, educational institutions and activities focusing primarily on the issues of domestic workers, has been created by ActionAid allies. This forum organized a public meeting in Kolkata in December 2016 to highlight multiple cases of violation of dignity and wages for domestic workers across Bengal.

Recommendations from the meetings - the regulation of employment conditions, registration of both employers and workers and social security measures for domestic workers - were submitted to the Governor, Chief Minister and Labour Minister of West Bengal.

## **Welfare Schemes for Construction Workers**

ActionAid Delhi regional office and AAI partners had a series of meetings with representatives of the Delhi Dialogue Commission, Department of Labour and Employment, and Delhi Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board (DBOCWWB) for the quick implementation of welfare schemes.

During the ban on construction work in Delhi and the NCR for seven days to bring down the smog levels in the capital in November 2016, ActionAid and its partner NMAA asked for compensation for the construction workers. Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Najib Jung, ordered the Delhi government to get builders and contractors to pay wages to

the affected workers. He said in his notice that workers have nothing to do with the pollution rise; it is the social responsibility of builders and contractors to provide wages with or without work.

317 construction workers (208 men and 109 women) received tools and safety equipment 68 received cycles from the DBOCWWB 1,506 construction workers registered with the DBOCWWB and received labour identity cards.

## **Engaging for Wage Hike**

» As a result of its continued Engaging efforts, ActionAid was included in the Minimum Wage Advisory Committee of the Delhi government. ActionAid recommended a 37 per cent hike in minimum wage rates, which the state government accepted and notified on 3 March 2017. However, the bill needs to get the assent of the President of India before being implemented as a law.

» Following the continued efforts of different groups, the Karnataka government set March 2017 as the deadline for the abolition of the contract system and issued a notification/order to increase the minimum wages of contract-based pourakarmikas from Rs 7,000 to 14,000.

» A mass meeting of the kendu leaf pluckers was organized in March in Bargarh, Odisha. Around 300 pluckers assembled to discuss wages and work facilities. The range officer addressed the gathering and assured timely bush cutting, weekly payment of wages, non-engagement of child labour, insurance coverage for leaf pluckers and so on.

## **Engaging with Migrant Brick-Kiln Workers in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh**

After the attacks by brick kiln owners on activists and AAI group members, the murder of a pregnant worker in Karimnagar brick kiln and the transfer of the 'hand chopping' case from the Supreme Court to Hyderabad High Court Bench, there was a meeting of the Solidarity Committee for Brick Kiln Workers of Telangana state. The Solidarity Committee agreed on the need to form a collective of migrant workers, which had not been allowed before the formation of Telangana state.

## **State-Level Assembly of Informal Workers in Bhubaneswar**

The Anasangathia Sramik Manch with the support of AAI and its partner CCWD, organised a state-level assembly of informal workers in Bhubaneswar to discuss, and find solutions to, issues related to unorganised workers.

## **Supporting Street Vendors in Delhi, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh**

Our Delhi team along with our ally Janpahal and the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India (FSSAI) organised a training camp for street food vendors on food safety and hygiene.

Due to the continued Engaging efforts by our partner alliance the National Hawker Federation (NHF)

and other groups, the Delhi government accepted the suggestion to amend the notification regarding the ban on cooking food by the roadside. The NHF had highlighted the ban's impact upon the lives of lakhs of street vendors. Representations to the labour minister and chief minister of Delhi, the Delhi Dialogue Commission, chief secretary of Delhi government, and secretary of the Urban Development Department of Delhi government have been successful in bringing about changes in the 'rules and schemes' under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014. The proposed amendment will provide more strength to the Town Vending Committee, with 40 per cent representation of elected street vendors' leaders, making them the decision-making and enforcing body. A hawker certificate will now be valid for nine years.

The Delhi regional office and the NHF initiated the Community Solidarity for the Livelihood of Hawkers in New Delhi. About 500 hawkers in Delhi carried a poster asking the local community for its support. The initiative was highlighted on social visual platform through the hashtag #Community-4Hawkers.

In Karnataka, 2,300 street vendors were provided ID cards. The vending community in Tumkur and Mandya successfully negotiated with the district administration to be allowed to vend at a place of their choice.

Our partner Mahila Action in Andhra Pradesh has enabled Mudra loans to 45 street vendors and trained them on legal provisions pertaining to vending zones.

## Promoting Housing for All

Following sustained efforts by AAI allies in Delhi and the Engaging of people living in resettlement colonies, the Delhi government in its budget session in 2016 announced the grant of freehold rights to the residents of resettlement colonies in Delhi on payment of charges between Rs 10,000 and 50,000. The next challenge is to ensure that this gets implemented on the ground.

In Mumbai a feedback of the Revised Draft Development Plan 2034 with reference to housing was undertaken in collaboration with the Committee on Right to Housing (CRH).

In Karnataka a consultation was held wherein representatives of 25 CBOs drafted the note of slum dwellers based on the premise that slums are an outcome of urban inequality. A core team is following up on the demands.

## Raising Public Awareness about the Homeless

Activities were organised across India during the winter to raise public awareness about the homeless. A street play titled 'Kholo Ankhen Dekho Bhi' was conceptualised and performed by AAI volunteers in Delhi. Public meetings were held and homeless shelter visits made in various cities. A survey of 21 shelter homes for women and lactating mothers was conducted in Delhi. The drive was supplemented with a social visual platform campaign using the hashtag #HomelessMatter. The tweetathon attracted a huge response across the country and abroad, reaching 2.08 crore people.

## Engaging on Bonded labour

### National Workshop on Bonded Labour

More than 100 participants deliberated on issues related to bonded labour. The co-organisers included the National Campaign Committee for Eradication of Bonded Labour (NCCEBL) and Human Rights Law Network (HRLN). This led to the formalisation of the NCCEBL, which paved the way for better enforcement of bonded labour laws and prevention acts.

### Bhopal Consultation on Bonded Labour

ActionAid's Citizen Rights Collective (CiRiC) and Bandhua Mukti Morcha organized consultation with civil society on bonded labour in Madhya Pradesh, especially among the Sahariya tribe in Guna.

The challenges of identification, rescue and rehabilitation of bonded labour were discussed and an action plan decided. A state committee was formed for taking forward the agreed agenda.

# Skill Development Programme

5,782 informal workers underwent skill development training.

290 trainees got employment offers. 185 were successfully placed.

1,780 are now self-employed in a range of professions.

CiRiC has been able to provide much-needed skill training to youths from marginalised communities.

In Hyderabad, 700 candidates have enrolled for the programme;

204 of these are scheduled to write their final examination.

40 fisherwomen collectives with more than 6,000 members were supported in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.

More than 2,300 fisherwomen were provided training on improved techniques of food and fish processing, and marketing and business development. Several collectives are creating linkages with government support organisations and national Engaging networks.



## Urban Action School

The Urban Action School (UAS) seeks to improve the environment for decent work in the informal sector, and to address aspects of urbanisation and human settlements, feminism, exclusion, and livelihood. The school brings together government authorities, representatives of industry, CSOs, and academics to participate in the discussions on the informal economy, urbanisation, rural–urban linkages, socio-cultural aspects of the society. During the year two courses were organised: ‘Unbundling Habitat’ and ‘Aspects of Feminist Theory and Practice’.

The UAS facilitated a symposium on ‘Peoples Movements in India Today— Relevance of the Social Forum Process’, with participation from across the country.

## People’s Vision of the City Campaign

ActionAid’s Peoples Vision of the City (PVoC) organized a painting exhibition on ‘Smart City Bhubaneswar’ in Bhubaneswar.

ActionAid India, along with its partners, networks and communities, organized an initiative , #Where2Pee, as part of its larger PVoC initiative on World Toilet Day, to share, discuss and provide alternatives to the sanitation crisis (with a particular focus on women).

AAI carried out a survey of 12 slums and interviewed 375 women on the status, accessibility and need of public toilets across Delhi. A brief paper has been written on the findings.







Strategic Priority

2

# Democratisation of Society, And Economy

In 2016 we continued with our efforts to strengthen and empower the communities we work with by building perspective and consciousness among the youth and women around the issues of marginalisation and exclusion and constitutional values. We conducted capacity-building training programmes, worked towards strengthening bottom-up participatory planning by facilitating village development plans (VDPs) and encouraged the active participation of, and decision-making by, excluded and dispossessed communities in gram sabhas.

We also conducted evidence-based research in order to identify the gaps, strategize and bring relevant issues back to the discourse.

## Building Leadership

We engaged with a total of 2,435 youths and community members across India to build their leadership capacities and understanding of constitution and its values, through leadership schools, democracy dialogues, youth camps and so on. The focus was on democracy, governance, gender and patriarchy, and the impact of neo-liberalism and capitalism.

The L & L Hub organized two leadership development programmes on social and ecological justice: one in Alwar, Rajasthan and another at Motihari, East Champaran, Bihar.

The leadership development programmes were attended by young activists and social workers from nine states. Various aspects of social and ecological justice were discussed. The workshop focused

on nurturing emerging leadership to address injustice and explore alternatives.

## Access to Entitlements

The efforts made by the sangathans or community based organisations (CBO) across projects were instrumental in accessing entitlements. See Table for impact in numbers of our interventions.

## Study on the Status of Implementation of Entitlement Schemes

ActionAid and its partners conducted a study to identify obstacles in the effective delivery of food security, social security (women specific) and housing-related schemes. The study has covered proj-



## IMPACT IN NUMBERS: Access to Entitlements

Nature of Entitlement	Achievement
Access to MGNREGA work	42,323 families
Access to social security schemes	9,492 persons
Access to Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) housing	1,134 families
Access to Below poverty line (BPL) cards	600 families
Information Resource Centres (IRC) secured across five states	96 panchayats have IRCs
	16,737 applications made
	8,605 pensions processed
	5,053 work demand applications made
	4,220 families got work

ect locations in five states—Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. It will be shared soon.

## Community-Based Planning, Monitoring and Accountability

### Village Development Plans

In five districts across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh 234 village development plans (VDPs) were formulated and submitted by the CBOs and 189 plans of these were approved by the gram sabhas. Through the VDPs the CBOs were able to engage with various government programmes and could create a number of a large number of physical assets aiding livelihoods. (see Table, page 44)

## Social Audit and Public Meeting

Social audits and public meeting were facilitated in 48 panchayats to scrutinize the delivery mechanisms under the MGNREGA, PDS, ICDS and social security schemes and make them accountable to the community.

## Strengthening of Community Monitoring Committees

In Kandhamal, Odisha, initiative was taken under the Antaranga LRP to strengthen community groups to monitor 62 ICDS centres. At regular meetings, all the members of the monitoring committees were made aware about the scheme and their role and responsibilities. As a result, there has been a marked improvement in sanitation and cleanliness.

IMPACT IN NUMBERS: Village Development Plans in five districts across four states

Nature of Intervention	Achievement
Village development plans (VDP) formulated and submitted by the community based organisations	234
VDPs approved by the gram sabhas	189
Families that participated in asset creation to develop land and water resources	5,000

## Centenary Year of Champaran Satyagraha

The Satyagraha Se Swaraj Ki Ore initiative was organized in December 2016 to commemorate the centenary year of the Champaran Satyagraha. It covered the 31 villages that Gandhi had visited to record the evidence and plight of the farmers and labourers who were forced to plant indigo in their fields. The team members of the yatra recorded the current agrarian crisis in the area. It was found that the dominant castes still occupied the major land-holdings. The state land reform agenda had barely taken off since Independence. The majority of the ceiling and bhoodan land was not properly distributed. The Bihar minister for industries participated in the convention. A 10-point demand list with emphasis on employment generation through cottage and local industries was put out and follow-up throughout the year was agreed.

## Support for Denotified and Nomadic Tribes

A state-level consultation on the issues and concerns of the Denotified and Nomadic Tribes (DNTs and NTs) was organized on 29 December 2016 in Jaipur. The objective was to raise the voice of the DNT/NT communities before the newly appointed DNT/NT Development Authority.

AAI made a comprehensive presentation on its long-standing work with DNTs and NTs to the National Commission for Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNSNT) and has been asked to actively engage with the commission.

A government order has been passed on the demand for housing and graveyard land for DNTs. Applications for homestead land and one graveyard per village have been filed.

A public meeting was held on the findings of the socio-economic status of 202 registered manual scavengers in Bangalore. The chairman of the NCDNSNT assured forthcoming support and agreed

to take suo moto action against erring officials.

A study was undertaken on untouchability in rural India to revisit and understand the changes that have taken place since AAI's large evidence-based study in 2001–02. The present study has succeeded in shaking prevalent myths. The report of the study will be completed soon.

In Sonapat, Haryana, 36 Atrocity Monitoring Committees were formed and 38 cases of atrocities registered.

In Uttar Pradesh, a state-level consultation on DNTs and NTs was organized by the People's Forum to get inputs for the people's aspirations that was given prior to the democratic process to all the leaders, and the general public.







Strategic Priority

3

# Women's and Girls' Rights

In the reporting period, ActionAid's engagement with women's work intensified. While we worked towards setting up one-stop crisis centres (OSCC) to address the issue of violence against women, we also worked towards the facilitation of collectives so that women have better access to livelihoods and hence to a life of dignity. We also aimed to ensure land ownership in the name of women, especially single women, and advocated the formulation of single women policies. We also worked to address the issue of forced and early marriage. We engaged with draft policies like the ones on women and anti-trafficking.

## Highlighting Women's Unpaid Work

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A field action project to conduct research on, and initiative for, just remuneration for women's unpaid work in the agriculture and construction sectors, supported by UN Women, was initiated in 2016. The project aims to take up the issues of unpaid work and respond through a grounded initiative at the state and national levels next year. The research would form the basis for the same. The research aims to collect data from more than 2,400 households in Thane and Solapur in Maharashtra, Hyderabad in Telangana and Askot in Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand.

## Inputting on Draft National Policy for Women, 2016

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In June 2016, ActionAid India organised a national-level consultation to deliberate on the Draft National Policy for Women, 2016 released by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoW-CD). This was a culmination of consultations at the state level on the same issue. A host of community representative, researchers and academics came together and put forward the view that while the draft speaks about changing the condition of women by empowering them, it is silent on the larger question of their sub-ordinate position in society. It was also pointed out the need to view women as active participants in the development process.

# Issues of Single Women

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## National Consultation on Issues of Single Women

Over the last year, ActionAid has been involved in extensive research on single women's issues, drawing insights also from ground-level work. AAI also partnered with the National Forum for Single Women's Rights (NFSWR) to take up the issues at the national level. A day-long meeting was held in New Delhi to review the Draft National Policy for Women, 2016, regarding the issues of single women. The meeting, which followed a series of regional-level consultations on the same issue, witnessed intense deliberations with section-wise discussions. The primary objective was to come up with concrete recommendations based on out ground experiences of working with women.

The recommendations included:

- » the inclusion of, among others, women under-

trials, women whose husbands/partners were facing life imprisonment, sex workers, women with disabilities, and homeless women and include specific provisions for them.

- » developing a national understanding and systems to take cognizance of women's unpaid work and its contribution to the national economy;
- » developing a conducive climate to enable enhanced public participation of women, especially at the parliamentary level;
- » and developing a white paper on women in the informal/unorganized sector to address the specific issues of these women.

Subsequent to the discussions, the following documents were prepared:

- i. Section-wise suggestions vis-à-vis single women under the various sections of the policy
- ii. Draft of a separate comprehensive section on 'Single Women'
- iii. In case it was not possible to incorporate a separate comprehensive section (item ii), two draft paragraphs (one long and the other one briefer) from which the MoWCD could adopt one.

## Strengthening the Position of Single Women across States

AA realizes that women are being constantly marginalized and that single women are extremely vulnerable on all fronts—social (within the family and outside), economic, public representative and cultural. We

believe that strengthening the position of single women strengthens all women as it makes possible options outside an oppressive home or marriage. Therefore, AA feels that government policies for women must be specific and inclusive of single women.

Through our efforts across the regional offices we continued our engagement with single women into groups for access to livelihoods and social entitlements, and to challenge the social norms that imprison them.

In Uttarakhand, single women shared their stories at a public meeting jointly organized with the State Women's Commission, to highlight issues faced by single women. In Gujarat, 600 homeless single women were identified and are prioritised for housing benefits, and the Ekal Nari Shakti Manch is helping single women demand land, houses and pensions.

At a national meet in Delhi, the focus was budgetary allocation for various schemes. A detailed discussion was held about issues facing separated women.

In the reporting period, more than 650 women accessed financial help under the Sankat Mochan Yojana and the old age pension scheme. Through Vaarsai Abhiyan, 29 single women received land titles, while 43 single women got housing under the IAY. They also obtained work under the MGNREGA.

In Madhya Pradesh, AAI has been able to reach out to more than 19,923 single women. We have been able to ensure that 1,361 single women got bene-

fits under various government schemes, and 259 single women have been ensured access to land.

In Vidarbha, Maharashtra, Ekal Mahila Kishan Sangathans have been set up in 170 villages by Kishan Mitra. Membership totals nearly 1,900 farm widows and single women.

Across the state, funds have been allocated for widows, women have received housing and MGN-REGA work, single women's group leaders have received training, for pensions, free education for children and access to entitlements.

AA's Hyderabad regional office partners have ensured access for single women to assured forms of income by training 180 single women leaders to access government welfare schemes. The administration of Nalgonda district now recognizes single women as a family unit even though there is no such government order.

In Sundargarh, Odisha, a Single Women's Federation was formed with 315 single women, to help them raise their voices for entitlements.

The plight of the tiger widows continues in the Sundarbans of West Bengal. Tiger attacks are frequent during outdoor work. Tiger attacks in restricted areas are not reported due to fear of action. Our partner Disha has obtained compensation for some widows and is gearing up to help more.



# Engaging and Intervention against Witch-Hunting

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Witch-hunting is one of the cruelest forms of violence that is meted out to women. Many single women are branded witches so that they can be dispossessed of their property and livelihoods.

As an organization we have been endeavouring to understand the issue, identify the factors behind it and build evidence of the vulnerabilities and sufferings of women due to witch-branding.

Along with our partners, we have been raising this issue at the Engaging level as well as relentlessly working on it at the ground level, sensitizing the community about the reasons why women are branded witches.

## National-Level Workshop on Witch-Hunting

A two-day national-level workshop on witch-hunting was organized with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) at Bhubaneswar, with a view to highlight the severity of the practice, identify vulnerable districts, analyse the source of the problem, discuss the various provisions under the Odisha Prevention of Witch-Hunting Act, 2013 and engage further with the government. A book containing an analysis of the situation with recommendations and case studies was released during this.

## State-Level Action against Witch-Hunting

A meeting with women branded as witches addressed the urgent need to prohibit witch-branding in Madhya Pradesh. There was successful intervention and rescue in seven cases.

ActionAid's proposal for a state act prohibiting witch-branding has been agreed by the State Women's Commission.

In Odisha, we are working with our project partners on witch-hunting. Building awareness through folk visual platform has helped get the message across to the community.

# Tackling the Problem of Trafficking

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## National Consultation on Draft Bill on Anti-Trafficking

ActionAid organized a civil society consultation in June 2016 in New Delhi on the Draft Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, 2016. The participants agreed on the need for a strong law that would encompass all the existing laws and programmes.

## State-Level Anti-trafficking Consultations

AA's Child Rights and Knowledge Activities Hub and Odisha regional office held a consultation to bring together a range of actors to tackle the problem of trafficking. They aimed to develop a draft action plan to deal with the issues facing rural and tribal communities, from a majority of trafficked women and children are drawn. There was a pre-consultation meeting in Jharkhand, where the situation is critical and tribal girls and women are moved to cities on a huge scale.

The involvement of community leaders and the creation of alternative livelihoods is of utmost importance at the moment to prevent the distress conditions that force women into exploitative situations.

## Working for Implementation of PCPNDT Act

The Department of Family Welfare and ActionAid brought stakeholders together for a dialogue to strengthen the implementation Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act, 1994 (PCPNDT Act) in Delhi in March 2016.

In Uttar Pradesh, our ally Vatsalya launched a signature initiative and organised a meeting with visual platform professionals to raise awareness about the proposed changes.

In Bhopal in December 2016, a consultation was held on the implications of the proposed amendments for the issue of sex selective abortion and female foeticide. The plan of action formulated included meeting with MPs and government officials; data collection under the Right to Information Act, 2005 (RTI Act) and through visual platform; and regular follow-ups for the effective implementation of the PCPNDT Act.

## Addressing Violence against Women

### Setting Up One-Stop Crisis Centres

ActionAid India recognizes the importance of addressing violence against women (VAW) and ensuring that survivors have access to justice. AAI has urged the governments of four states—Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar and West Bengal—to set up one-stop crisis centres for women who have faced violence. ActionAid continues to support Gauravi, the first OSCC for women survivors of violence that it set up in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

Gauravi has been felicitated as an exemplary and unique initiative by the Women's Commission. It functions within the premises of the state-run government hospital in Bhopal and provides coun-

## IMPACT IN NUMBERS: Gauravi – One Stop Crisis Centre

Nature of Intervention	Achievement
Calls received on the helpline	9,917+
Cases registered	2,475+
Women provided counselling	2,990+
Women provided psychiatric help	40+

selling, medical support to women facing violence. See Table for the work done by Gauravi in 2016–17.

The ActionAid team in Bhopal has been invited to be a part of the expert committee of the Department of Women and Child Development of Madhya Pradesh to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Usha Kiran Yojana, launched in 2007 by the Madhya Pradesh government to provide protection and assistance to women affected by domestic violence.

The Uttar Pradesh government has lauded ActionAid's efforts in setting up OSCCs, also called Asha Jyoti Kendras, in 11 districts. Each centre provides a number of services within the same set-up: women police station reporting cell, trauma counselling cell, short stay home, crèche, and training and skill building. AA training programmes have been conducted for the personnel deployed in the kendras. AA has also trained around 300 government personnel, including police, health, ICDS and CCWD officials, to deal with cases of violence against women. AA has been requested to train personnel to manage OSCCs in all 75 districts of the state.

In Uttarakhand, through collaboration with other

CSOs, AA has helped operationalize four OSCCs.

In Bihar, an OSCC named Mahila Salah Evam Suraksha Kendra was established with the support of the local government. It is hoped that this will provide the template for a local crisis centre in every panchayat, for women facing violence in remote areas.

In Chandel district, Manipur, an OSCC facilitated by the All Tribal Women Organization (ATWO) has won recognition by the district administration. The centre has been following cases of violence against women that are under trial in the courts. The chief judicial magistrate visits the centre twice a week.

In Madhya Pradesh, a total of 2,596 registered VAW cases were dealt with, of which 759 were cases of domestic violence.

In Kolkata, our partner organizations and CBOS helped to take up and resolve 340 VAW cases in 2016.

# Ensuring Women's Access to Land and Livelihood

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We realize that access to land and livelihood ensures women a life with dignity and without violence. We have been working to ensure women's access to land, either singly or through joint pat-ta. In many places women have collectively done organic farming.

## Madhya Pradesh

- » We have helped form 734 women's farmer groups.
- » Which have reached out to 12,387 women.
- » Kitchen gardens have been started by 507 families, which will help address malnutrition in women and children.
- » We have supported 330 women who are survivors of violence, disabled, and/or single to secure livelihoods.

At a women farmer's workshop in Gujarat, 45 women engaged in agriculture, animal husbandry, fishery and forest produce collection. The aim was to understand the situation of women farmers in Gujarat; develop a strategy to recognize women as farmers; and develop a state-level forum for women farmers.

## Odisha

In Odisha, state-level meetings, the fourth Desi Chasi Sammelan and the National Women Farmers Convention have focused on the recognition of women farmers, ownership of land in the name of women and the promotion of indigenous and organic methods of cultivation.

## Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, our efforts focused on securing livelihoods for women and ensuring their economic empowerment:

- » 75 girls and young women completed the kar-chop (embroidery) course.
- » 300 girls and young women completed the mehendi designing course.
- » About 445 girls and young women have completed the tailoring course.
- » A total of 55 women attended the vocational course on bangle-making.

The majority of these women have now begun earning on their own.

## West Bengal

In West Bengal, we were engaged in efforts to secure occupational identity for the most marginalized women workers and establish them as farmers.

At a public meeting, 12 domestic workers bravely spoke up. A demand emerged for critical entitlements such as protection from abuse, regulated work hours, contracts, maternity benefits and holidays.

# Empowering Women as Change Agents

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We have helped form women's groups and collectives to ensure they are able to challenge patriarchal culture and its manifestations. We have also run awareness programmes for women about the laws meant for them. Adolescent girls and women have been trained on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

We have engaged with adolescent girls' groups in all our long-term interventions, working at the grass roots level to ensure that we invest in the perspective of girls who will be active change agents wherever they go.

## Feminist Leadership Training

Another axis of our ground-level initiative is to enhance the understanding of women and the youth on feminist perspectives as well as build their leadership capacities.

### **Narivadi Netritva Vicharshala**

Narivadi Netritva Vicharshala, an annual fortnight-long leadership school organized by ActionAid, has been running for the past five years in Madhya Pradesh to orient young, largely from marginalised communities

A feminist leadership school was organized for 35 youths from North and Central India, with the aim of orienting participants on feminist ideology and deepening their understanding.

## **Feminism Training**

A two-day training programme on feminism was organized in Ahmedabad for 32 members from ActionAid partners and young women's organizations, with the objective of building capacity and engaging women in Engaging. The programme activities were designed to provide space for young women to come together and share strategies to craft their own context-specific feminism and become effective advocates for social justice in their communities.

## Engaging with Young Urban Women

Our three-year engagement with young urban women (YUW) in Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad came to an end. The initiative had impacted the lives of 3,195 young women and reached many more indirectly. A total of 264 leaders have emerged from among these young women.

- » Close to 370 women have enrolled in formal workers' groups.
- » Many have bravely reported sexual harassment at their workplaces, which was previously unthinkable.
- » The women who have been part of this project have reported a greater access to income, whether earned by them (45 per cent) or that



of the household (47 per cent), with 57 per cent saying they are now involved in decision-making on spending. 71 per cent thank the project for this. Almost 330 YUW have opened bank accounts in their names.

- » Unpaid work is now being recognized by young women, their families and the government too. About 50 per cent of them have reported a reduction of time spent on care work with the introduction of public facilities and services, and 99 per cent of them reported greater support from their families.
- » Huge improvements have been made in schools and medical centres across the three cities.
- » About 88 per cent of the women have asserted that there has been an increase in their understanding of sexuality and sexual and reproductive health, and viewed the YUW groups as a trusted space for information.
- » 66 child marriages have been stopped/postponed (in Chennai alone). In Hyderabad more than 200 women have been successful in negotiating with their families about their marriage, whether in terms of their age or choosing their own partner.
- » In Mumbai, 10 YUWs have been trained as peer educators on sexual and reproductive health rights. A helpline named 'Hamse Poocho' has also been set up to provide help and guidance on SRHR issues.
- » Following safety audits, toilet facilities have been installed in slums in Mumbai, and workplaces in Chennai.

- » 74 per cent of the endline survey respondents have highlighted their enhanced leadership abilities as their 'most significant change'.
- » Several women have spoken in the visual platform about unpaid work and safety audits, emerging from forced child marriage and issues of unorganized workers.
- » Support and visibility for women's concerns has been obtained through strategic alliances with key actors across sectors and industries.

## Reloading Beti Zindabad

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The Beti Zindabad (BZ) campaign group decided to re-strategize. The three action items for this year were: make a push on girls' enrolment in schools; increase the awareness about the proposed amendments in the PCPNDT Act; and follow up on the gram sabha resolutions to reinvigorate ground action.

## Getting Girls to School

This year, under the BZ campaign, we launched the Girls in Schools drive, with the objective of ensuring the enrolment of girl children in schools and informing their parents of the benefits of education. Other work undertaken under the BZ campaign has included activating statutory bodies under the PCPNDT act and raising awareness through events and community sensitization. Felicitating new mothers of baby daughters, teaching self-defence, with heartening results. For example,

the course of the Mahila Shoshan Mukti Yatra in Madhya Pradesh, 64 cases of domestic violence and sexual harassment were identified. Details of all the cases have been gathered and linked up with the concerned government department for action.





Strategic Priority

4

Children are  
Recognised  
as Equal  
Citizens

# International Engagement for Quality and Free Education

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As part of the initiative to ensure access to education for all children, ActionAid India participated in the International Education Platform meeting held on 4–6 May 2016 in London. The ‘Big Idea’ was the focus on resisting privatisation, transforming society to be just and equitable, and claiming, financed free, quality public education for all.

## Recommendations on the Draft New Education Policy/Implementation of the RTE Act

### **National-Level Engagement and Action**

ActionAid facilitated nationwide discussions and meetings with various stakeholders/partners and submitted its recommendation on the Draft New Education Policy, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MoHRD).

AA contributed a chapter on privatisation of education to the ‘National Stock-Taking Report on RTE Implementation’, which was released in March 2016 by Hamid Ansari, then vice president of India.

ActionAid actively supported the national RTE forum in organising a meet with parliamentarians across parties to discuss and apprise MPs of the status of RTE and the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2016.

## State-Level Engagement and Action

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ActionAid in Odisha facilitated a state-level consultation on inputs to the New Education Policy, which has overemphasised skill-building and vocational training. The experts feel that this is opposed to a more holistic approach to education. Recommendations were submitted to the MHRD.

ActionAid raised the issue of Odisha government’s decision to close down schools due to ‘low attendance’, with the Odisha State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCR). One of our colleagues was appointed as advisor to the Odisha SCPCR to advise on children’s education.

At a consultation in Andhra Pradesh, it was unanimously proposed that civil society members would collectively pursue reports that the government had handed over.

ActionAid collaborated with the West Bengal SCPCR to study the increased risk of trafficking to children in sick tea gardens.



## Children's Assembly in Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha

ActionAid worked to organise children meeting at the Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly) of Uttar Pradesh, where a Children's Assembly was organized. Children spoke about the quality of education and mid-day meals, infrastructure etc.

## Promoting Education in Mewat

Our Delhi regional office successfully resisted the state government's decision to transfer 573 primary teachers of Mewat. As a result, the chief minister announced the upgradation of 50 schools, 19 new primary schools and 10,000 new teachers.

## School Enrolment Initiatives

ActionAid and its allies have conducted various initiatives, such as 'School Chale Hum', to ensure that children, particularly girls, from Dalit, tribal and minority communities attend school.

Approximately 8,000 girls and 12,000 boys from more than 100 villages have been enrolled in primary school.

AAI has also monitored the quality of many schools

and anganwadi centres, formed 886 children's groups and rescued 631 children from child labour.

We were able to enrol 11,362 children in schools across operational areas.

## Girls in School

### Floating School in Manipur

Manipur's Loktak lake, the largest freshwater lake in North East India, has now become home to Loktak Floating Elementary School, the first of its kind, set up by the People's Resource Development Association.

The school can accommodate around 25 students and two teachers from the community.

## Making Schools Compliant to the Right to Education Act

The RTE Act has mandated the formation of School Management Committees (SMCs). AA has been involved in the training and capacity-building of community members and SMCs across the states. The Collective Resource and Action Group on Ed-

ucation (CRAGE) has been formed in New Delhi to take forward this work and ensure the proper implementation of the Right to Education Act.

## Project Muskan

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In 2016 we started Project Muskan in 1,450 schools across Uttar Pradesh to develop community structures focusing on education, establish stakeholder linkages and build accountability mechanisms. In January 2017 a presentation on the project was made by the Basic Education Department of the Uttar Pradesh government to the Central Advisory Board of Education of the MoHRD. A plan to implement the project in 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh has been approved. This is being incorporated in the 2017–18 state government plan. ActionAid and UNICEF will be technical partners for the implementation of the project.

## Upgradation of Schools

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In Karnataka, ActionAid and partners have campaigned for the upgradation of government and Ashram schools and the establishment of a common school system.

## Child marriage

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ActionAid has brought out a report on child marriage trends in India, which assesses the progress achieved, and the prospects and future challenges with regard to the elimination of child marriage in India.

## Raising the Issue of Nutrition for Children

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### Study on Conditions of Children in Tea Gardens of West Bengal

ActionAid conducted and released a study on ‘Conditions of Children in the Tea Gardens of Alipurduar District, West Bengal’ in association with West Bengal State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBSCPCR), which was released in 2016. The study explored the condition of 3,727 children in closed and sick tea gardens, revealing the sorry condition of healthcare facilities and prevalence of malnutrition, gaps in implementation of RTE in schools, and the prevalence of trafficking, migration, child labour and child marriage. It has identified 333 dropouts and 16 trafficked children.

## Nutritional Health Support for Children

Following a survey of malnourishment and the identifying of 3,460 severely malnourished children in Bangalore, 115 new anganwadi centres and 25 nutrition rehabilitation centres were set up. AA also gathered evidence in support of a PIL on malnourishment. The High Court passed 87 recommendations favouring child nourishment.

Support was provided to around 105 parents of both sponsored and non-sponsored children for raising the nutritional level of the entire family by providing traditional seeds like that of papaya and drumstick for backyard cultivation.

Engaging efforts in Karnataka have resulted in the allocation of Rs 2 crore for HIV/AIDS-affected children, under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS).

## Efforts to Abolish Child Labour

The Government of India is presently in the process of amending the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, primarily to align it with the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, which guarantees education for children under 14 years of age. In 2016, together with several other groups, AA engaged with different stakeholders to build discussions on the clauses in the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2012,

which allows children below 14 years age in family enterprises and the entertainment industry. However, the bill was passed in Parliament on 16 July 2016, retaining the clauses that would encourage misuse and employment of children in the name of 'family enterprise'.

## Reaching Out to Children

### Working with Children with Disabilities

In the reporting period, ActionAid and its partners have organised a sporting event and an HIV health education programme for children with disabilities. We have also worked to set up children's councils or bal sabhas at the village and block levels and create a platform for the concerns of parents of children with disabilities.

### Making 'Invisible' Children 'Visible'

32 communities in Rajasthan, who fall within the Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-nomadic groups, do not have any permanent residence and hence no access to entitlements. To highlight the issues of the children of these communities, a workshop for 10- to 16-year-old children was organised in 2016 in Jaipur.

In February 2017, we began a new social visual platform

campaign to raise issues related to children and their rights using the hashtag #ChildhoodMatters.

Through Engaging at district and community levels, an ActionAid partner has succeeded in changing the name of a school in Odisha, which was caste-tagged. The name has been changed from 'Khadal-pada' ('Khadal' refers to a Scheduled Caste in Odisha and 'pada' means 'hamlet') to 'Mahatma Gandhi'.

## Multilingual Education Initiative

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ActionAid supported the preparation of a case study on the Multilingual Education (MLE) initiative in Odisha. Through our initiative, tribal-language schools have been formed in two tribal areas. At the language (Kui and Soura) schools, 40–45 tribal adults, youths and children practice their language and engage in tribal folk arts every day. This movement is spreading to other schools.

## Challenging Gender Stereotypes in School Pedagogy

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Through a state-level initiative ActionAid has persuaded the State Education Committee constituted by the Education Department of Karnataka

to revise the textbooks from Class I to 10 so as to remove gender stereotypes and introduce concepts of gender equality and gender justice in the new textbooks. It is expected that changes will be enforced by 2017.











5

A Just, Secular,  
and Peaceful  
Society

In 2016–17 we furthered our work of upholding peace, justice, harmony and citizenship.

## Initiatives at the National Level

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### Entry to Haji Ali Dargah

In August 2016, after decades of not being allowed to enter the Haji Ali shrine, women won the right to enter the shrine from the country's highest court.

At the ground level, we continued to work with marginalised communities across the various states of India, spreading the message of communal harmony and also addressing the issues faced by these communities.

### Kaarwan Centres across the Country

In seven cities across the country, Karwaan centres have been set up to impart vocational training to women. Two more are functioning in Hyderabad and Mumbai without financial support.

Several public meetings and programmes were conducted to create awareness on gender justice and equality.

## State-Level Efforts

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### Training of women Qazis in Mumbai

At a programme conducted by the BMMA, 30 women qazis were trained in Islamic jurisprudence and on constitutional principles in keeping with the campaign for gender justice in Islam.

### Working for Social harmony in Odisha

Community and block level meetings, festivals and social functions, school events to mark National Days and the use of learning and reading materials have encouraged celebration and education on the need for Social harmony among young people in Odisha.

### Barefoot Counselling Training

The WIND Trust is working to increase the knowledge and skills of women leaders to enhance their capacity to address women's issues. Training programmes were conducted, which variously imparted knowledge of domestic violence, the principles and practice of counselling, problem identification and the steps required to resolve issues.



## Creating Awareness about the New 15-Point Programme

A workshop was organised on 30 December 2016 by Janvikas, the main objectives of which were to:

- » Create awareness of the Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities amongst civil society organisations;
- » Formulate Engaging points for implementation of the programme in the state;
- » Seek membership of civil society organisations in the District-Level Implementation Committee; and
- » Develop an RTI-based information-seeking and sharing system with respect to the various schemes and their budgetary allocations under the programme.

Continued Engaging by Janvikas has led to the formation of a State-Level Implementation Committee (SIC). However, the district-level implementation committee has not been formed, resulting in poor implementation of schemes.









The background is a collage of three images: a person in a black jacket with arms raised in a crowd, a smiling woman with long brown hair, and a person wearing a red and white striped beanie. The collage is partially covered by a red rectangle and a black rectangle.

Strategic Priority

6

Solidarity with  
Initiatives and  
Progressive  
Actions  
Beyond Local  
Boundaries

During the year 2016, ActionAid deepened its collaboration with academic institutions, civil society organisations, think tanks and people's organisation in the South and engaged substantively on reimagining alliances and putting forward progressive alternatives.

## Southern Formations and South–South Cooperation

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The South Solidarity Initiative (SSI), a knowledge activities hub of ActionAid India, continued to engage with South–South forums such as BRICS.

On 18 January 2016, SSI participated in the book release function and panel discussion on BRICS:

After this, the SSI along with Brazil and South Africa participated in the official CSO forum meeting in New Delhi on 3–4 October 2016, which was organised by the Indian government in collaboration with the Forum for Indian

Development Cooperation (FIDC) members. ActionAid participated in the panels on health and malnutrition, sustainable urbanisation and quality of economic growth.

The SSI was also involved in planning and co-organising the People's Forum on BRICS, a coming together of people's organisations from various countries. The People's Forum discussed, among other issues, free trade, and role of BRICS, social justice, food sovereignty and security, natural resources, access to clean energy, the New Development Bank, and the situation of minorities, especially in the present context where the space for pluralist dialogue is substantially shrinking.

## Meeting of People's Forum on BRICS

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Prior to the Goa event, the SSI, along with other members of the People's Forum, organised two panel discussions on 'Foreign Policy Challenges of Brics Countries' and 'Voices for Peace and Justice—People's Perspectives' on 27 September and 5 October, respectively.

The SSI commissioned perspective papers on BRICS to explore the successes and shortcomings of the BRICS Forum thus far and also provide recommendations to realise fully the potential of BRICS to democratise global governance and represent the demands and needs of the peoples of the global South.

# Trade, People's Issues and Alternatives

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India is currently negotiating the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) between the ten member states (Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and Brunei) of the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the six states with which ASEAN has existing free trade agreements (Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea and New Zealand), which could have far-reaching impacts on sectors such as agriculture, livelihoods, and public services.

In March 2016, the Council for Social Development (CSD) in collaboration with SSI organised a national seminar on PPPs in public services, such as water, health, education, housing, sanitation, energy and waste management.

The SSI and Focus on the co-organised a work-

shop on 'Free Trade Agreements and Agriculture' in Hyderabad on 31 July. The deliberations touched upon key issues related to liberalising trade in agriculture without proper consultative mechanisms. Clauses related to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) as well as the Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS), which adversely impact farmers' ability to produce and sell, indigenous seed conservation and even to seek recourse under domestic laws, were also discussed. Participants at the meeting resolved to raise awareness on FTAs and their impact on sectors such as agriculture and fisheries and to demand extensive stakeholders' consultations from policy-makers.

In August, the SSI participated in the Stakeholders' Conference on Collective Entrepreneurship in India organised by the International Cooperative Alliance (Asia-Pacific) in Kozhikode in collaboration with the National Cooperative of India, National Labour Cooperative Federation of India and Uralungal Labour Contract Cooperative Society Limited (ULCCS), one of the biggest cooperative societies in Asia today.

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The SSI also released a publication on the BRICS titled “Reclaiming Relevance: BRICS and the New Multipolarity” which was jointly commissioned by ActionAid India, ActionAid Brasil, and ActionAid South Africa. This publication comes at a time of profound changes in the international system; as American hegemony continues to decline, geopolitics has witnessed the ascendancy of multiple poles of regional power. This has led to greater multilateralism in the form of global agreements such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the negotiation of plurilateral trade deals, as well as the resurgence of several regional forums.

As old alliances are revisited and new alliances formed, BRICS has retained its importance in the multipolar global order. The chapters look at whether it also remains relevant to the continuation of the idea of the South and aim to further the discussion on reimagining and reinvigorating the BRICS forum.











DROUGHT RELIEF INITIATIVE @ BUNDELKHAND  
Supported by

# Emergency Response

Samannati Sansthan Mahoba



We continued to respond to the emergencies that impacted thousands of families in India. We reached out to those affected by floods, earthquakes and drought.

## Emergency Response in Tamil Nadu

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ActionAid and its partners have been engaged in relief interventions in the flood-affected areas of various districts in Tamil Nadu. Our teams on the ground have reached out to the fishing communities, the daily wage workers from Dalit communities, salt pan workers and members of the Irula tribal community, all of whom ActionAid India has been working with for several years. In Chennai city, we are engaged with the urban poor. We received very generous support from corporate partners in Chennai and we hope to build long-term relationships for creating preparedness to the tune of Rs 3.5 crore and to rehabilitate more than 18,000 of the most marginalised people.

## Help during Unprecedented Drought

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ActionAid was involved in doing Engaging to ensure that people can access various schemes and entitlements and other government measures in

the states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha. AA intervened intensively in about 40 villages to provide relief and ensure access to all the measures announced by the states.

The Mumbai Regional office, along with partners, have initiated extensive drought mitigation efforts.

## Cyclone Mitigation Efforts

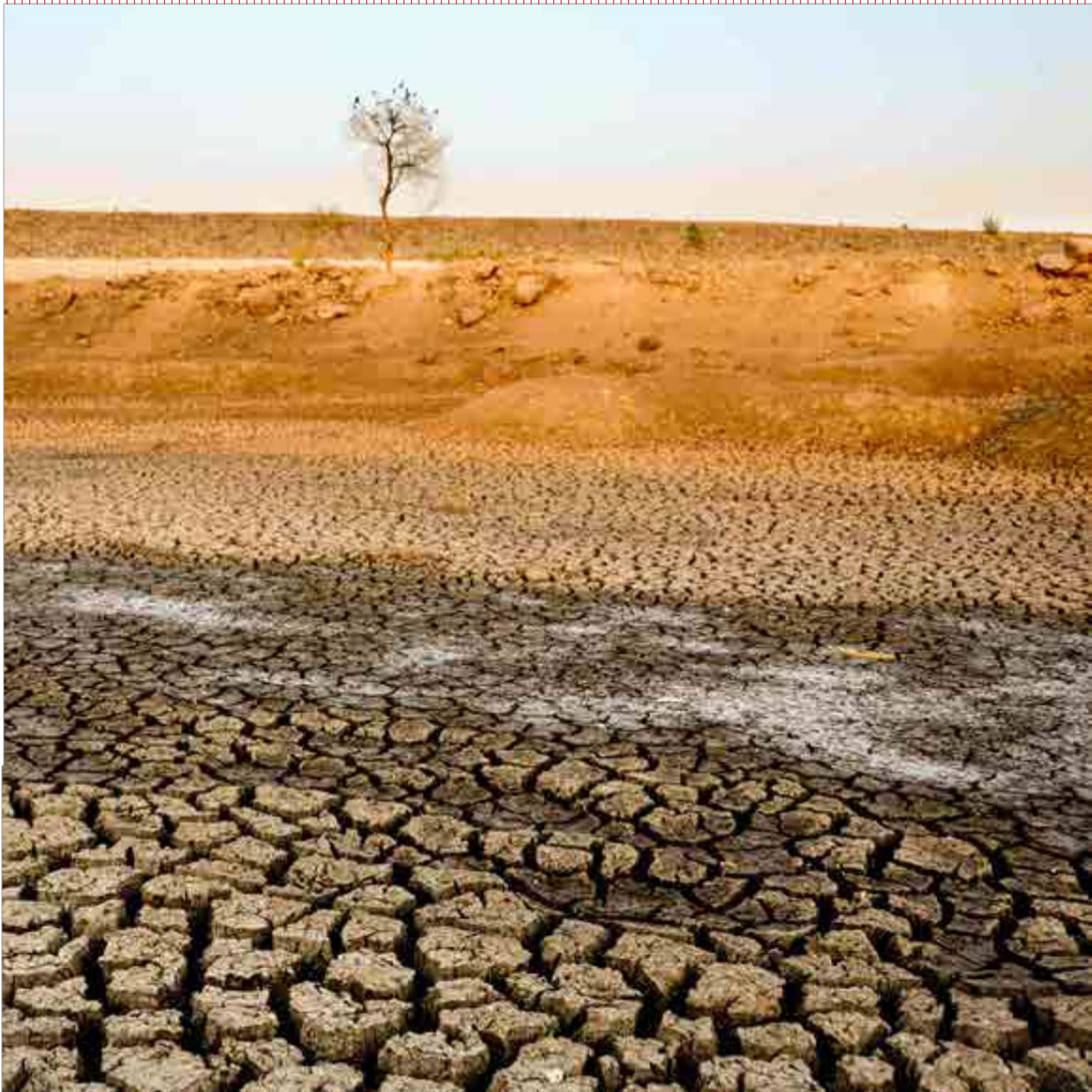
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In the cyclone-prone areas of Odisha, women have played a leading role in developing community contingency plans (CCPs), which have been approved in the palli (hamlet) and gram sabhas. The district administration has accepted the CCPs as disaster-preparedness plans of the concerned villages and assured support for capacity-building of the task forces. Also, 352 families have been covered under a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) housing scheme in Odisha. Of the beneficiaries, 192 are women.

ActionAid was invited by the Bihar government for support in designing the DRR policy of the state.













Financials

## **B S R & Associates LLP**

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Haryana – 122 022

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## **Independent Auditor's Report**

To the Chairperson of **ActionAid Association**

### **Report on Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of ActionAid Association ('the Society') which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2017 and the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance of the Society in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India and the Accounting Standards, to the extent applicable, issued by Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### **Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Society's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### **Opinion**

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the financial statements give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India:

- (i) in the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Society as at 31 March 2017; and
- (ii) in the case of the Statement of Income and Expenditure, excess of expenditure over income of the Society for the year ended on that date.

For **B S R & Associates LLP**  
*Chartered Accountants*  
ICAI Firm Registration No.: 116231W/ W-100024

Place: Gurugram  
Date: 12 October 2017



**Sandeep Batra**  
Partner  
(Membership No.: 093320)

**ActionAid Association**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2017**  
**(All amounts are in Indian Rupees, unless stated otherwise)**

	Schedule	As at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017			As at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2016		
		FC	NFC	Total	FC	NFC	Total
Funds Employed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Funds	1	(29,378,420)	(76,586)	(29,455,006)	(9,488,312)	(6,055,214)	(15,543,526)
Restricted Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Specific projects funds	2	56,098,753	14,606,870	70,705,623	22,914,987	16,454,766	39,369,753
<b>Total</b>		<b>26,720,333</b>	<b>14,530,284</b>	<b>41,250,617</b>	<b>13,426,675</b>	<b>10,399,552</b>	<b>23,826,227</b>
Application of Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fixed assets	4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross block	-	15,770,137	273,901	16,044,038	12,806,267	263,596	13,069,863
Less: Accumulated depreciation	-	9,064,865	212,830	9,277,695	6,140,341	202,671	6,343,012
Net block		6,705,272	61,071	6,766,343	6,665,926	60,925	6,726,851
Current assets, loans and advances	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash and bank balances	-	40,994,805	15,215,082	56,209,887	21,246,459	11,202,040	32,448,499
Loans and advances	-	11,895,247	1,240,412	13,135,659	26,562,585	352,997	26,915,582
	-	52,890,052	16,455,494	69,345,546	47,809,044	11,555,037	59,364,081
Less: Current liabilities and provisions	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Current liabilities and provisions	-	32,874,991	1,986,281	34,861,272	41,048,295	1,216,410	42,264,705
Net current assets		20,015,061	14,469,213	34,484,274	6,760,749	10,338,627	17,099,376
<b>Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>26,720,333</b>	<b>14,530,284</b>	<b>41,250,617</b>	<b>13,426,675</b>	<b>10,399,552</b>	<b>23,826,227</b>

Significant accounting policies and notes to the accounts Schedule 10.

The accompanying schedules form an integral part of the financial statements. As per our report of even date attached

For **B S R & Associates LLP**  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm Registration No. 116231W/W-100024

**Sandeep Batra**  
Partner  
Membership No. 093320  
Place: Gurugram. Date: 12 October 2017

For and on behalf of **ActionAid Association**

**Sandeep Chachra**  
Secretary  
Place: New Delhi  
Date: 12 October 2017



## ActionAid Association

### Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2017

(All amounts are in Indian Rupees, unless stated otherwise)

Schedule	For the year ended 31 March 2017			For the year ended 31 March 2016		
	FC	NFC	Total	FC	NFC	Total
<b>Income</b>						
Grants received from ActionAid International and its affiliates	436,567,162	-	436,567,162	595,451,971	-	595,451,971
General donation	1,478,431	1,729,034	3,207,465	2,924,180	2,388,349	5,312,529
Grant received (from sponsorship fund)	-	10,481,945	10,481,945	-	8,872,001	8,872,001
<b>Amount transferred from restricted funds to the extent of expenditure incurred</b>						
- Restricted funds	202,128,037	43,663,520	245,791,557	224,485,213	9,480,498	233,965,711
- Sponsorship fund	-	24,457,871	24,457,871	-	20,701,337	20,701,337
<b>Other income</b>						
- Interest income	1,728,194	559,079	2,287,273	2,608,050	412,432	3,020,482
- Miscellaneous income	36,420	-	36,420	42,003	20,968	62,971
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>641,938,244</b>	<b>80,891,449</b>	<b>722,829,693</b>	<b>825,511,417</b>	<b>41,875,585</b>	<b>867,387,002</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Grants disbursed						
- Restricted funds	83,085,058	21,433,082	104,518,140	112,947,715	6,178,779	119,126,494
- Sponsorship fund	-	24,457,871	24,457,871	-	20,701,337	20,701,337
- Others	216,143,812	6,119,294	222,263,106	280,244,870	17,241,391	297,486,261
Internal programme Expenses						
- Restricted funds	88,501,186	22,230,438	110,731,624	77,403,565	3,301,719	80,705,284
- Others	25,098,219	58,990	25,157,209	36,288,660	108,184	36,396,844
Fundraising expenses	7 30,541,795	-	30,541,795	34,133,934	-	34,133,934
Depreciation	4 3,066,917	10,159	3,077,076	3,334,550	10,835	3,345,385
Employee benefits expenses	8 135,612,932	1,612	135,614,544	152,982,682	6,312	152,988,994
Administrative and other expenses	9 79,778,433	601,375	80,379,808	79,091,408	594,890	79,686,298
	<b>661,828,352</b>	<b>74,912,821</b>	<b>736,741,173</b>	<b>776,427,384</b>	<b>48,143,447</b>	<b>824,570,831</b>
<b>Excess of income over expenditure transferred to general fund</b>	<b>(19,890,108)</b>	<b>5,978,628</b>	<b>(13,911,480)</b>	<b>49,084,033</b>	<b>(6,267,862)</b>	<b>42,816,171</b>

Significant accounting policies and notes to the accounts Schedule 10. The accompanying schedules form an integral part of the financial statements. As per our report of even date attached

For **B S R & Associates LLP**

Chartered Accountant

Firm Registration No. 116231W/W-100024

**Sandeep Batra**

Partner

Membership No. 093320

Place: Gurugram. Date: 12 October 2017

For and on behalf of **ActionAid Association**

**Sandeep Chachra**

Secretary

Place: New Delhi

Date: 12 October 2017

## ActionAid Association

Schedules to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017

(All amounts are in Indian Rupees, unless stated otherwise)

	As at 31 March 2017			As at 31 March 2016		
	FC	NFC	Total	FC	NFC	Total
<b>SCHEDULE 1: GENERAL FUND</b>						
Opening balance	(9,488,312)	(6,055,214)	(15,543,526)	(61,232,869)	212,648	(61,020,221)
Add: Transferred from restricted fund	-	-	-	2,660,524	-	2,660,524
Add: Transferred from statement of income and expenditure	(19,890,108)	5,978,628	(13,911,480)	49,084,033	(6,267,862)	42,816,171
	<b>(29,378,420)</b>	<b>(76,586)</b>	<b>(29,455,006)</b>	<b>(9,488,312)</b>	<b>(6,055,214)</b>	<b>(15,543,526)</b>
<b>SCHEDULE 2: RESTRICTED FUNDS – SPECIFIC PROJECTS FUND</b>						
<i>a) From various donors except mentioned in b) below</i>						
Opening balance	22,914,987	16,454,767	39,369,754	70,896,748	7,053,182	77,949,930
Add: Funds received during the year	114,764,373	41,815,623	156,579,996	44,479,541	18,882,083	63,361,624
	<b>137,679,360</b>	<b>58,270,390</b>	<b>195,949,750</b>	<b>115,376,289</b>	<b>25,935,265</b>	<b>141,311,554</b>
Less: Grants disbursed during the year	58,507,149	21,433,082	79,940,231	49,937,031	6,178,779	56,115,810
Less: Expenditure on project	65,115,888	22,230,438	87,346,326	42,524,271	3,301,719	45,825,990
<b>Total (a)</b>	<b>14,056,323</b>	<b>14,606,870</b>	<b>28,663,193</b>	<b>22,914,987</b>	<b>16,454,767</b>	<b>39,369,754</b>
<i>b) From ActionAid International and its affiliates</i>						
Opening balance	(8,748,867)	-	(8,748,867)	25,797,133	-	25,797,133
Add: Funds received during the year	129,296,297	-	129,296,297	100,138,436	-	100,138,436
Less: Transferred general fund	-	-	-	2,660,524	-	2,660,524
	<b>120,547,430</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>120,547,430</b>	<b>123,275,045</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>123,275,045</b>
Less: fundraising expenses	30,541,793	-	30,541,793	34,133,934	-	34,133,934
Less: Grants disbursed during the year	24,577,909	-	24,577,909	63,010,684	-	63,010,684
Less: Expenditure on project	23,385,298	-	23,385,298	34,879,294	-	34,879,294
	<b>42,042,430</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42,042,430</b>	<b>(8,748,867)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(8,748,867)</b>
Add: Fund receivable to the extent of excess expenditure	-	-	-	8,748,867	-	8,748,867
<b>Total (b)</b>	<b>42,042,430</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42,042,430</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total (a) + (b)</b>	<b>56,098,753</b>	<b>14,606,870</b>	<b>70,705,623</b>	<b>22,914,987</b>	<b>16,454,767</b>	<b>39,369,754</b>

Schedules to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 (Contd...)

	As at 31 March 2017			As at 31 March 2016		
	FC	NFC	Total	FC	NFC	Total
<b>SCHEDULE 3: SPONSORSHIP FUND</b>						
Opening balance	-	-	-	-	-	-
Add: Funds received from the year	-	34,939,816	34,939,816	-	29,573,338	29,573,338
Less: Transferred to Statement of Income and Expenditure	-	10,481,945	10,481,945	-	8,872,001	8,872,001
	-	24,457,871	24,457,871	-	20,701,337	20,701,337
Less: Grants disbursed during the year	-	24,457,871	24,457,871	-	20,701,337	20,701,337
- Transferred to Statement of Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Admin and Personnel Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-

## ActionAid Association

Schedules to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017  
(All amounts are in Indian Rupees, unless stated otherwise)

### SCHEDULE 4: FIXED ASSETS

#### Non Foreign Contribution (NFC)

Particulars	Gross block			Accumulated depreciation				Net block		
	As at 1 April 2016	Additions during the year	Deletions/ adjustments during the year	As at 31 March 2017	As at 1 April 2016	For the year	On deletion / adjustments	As at 31 March 2017	As at 31 March 2017	As at 31 March 2016
<b>Tangible assets</b>										
Computers	89,609	-	-	89,609	89,479	78	-	89,557	52	130
Office equipment	149,500	-	-	149,500	104,115	6,808	-	110,923	38,577	45,385
Vehicle	21,000	-	-	21,000	6,966	2,105	-	9,071	11,929	14,034
Furniture and fixtures	3,487	10,305	-	13,792	2,111	1,168	-	3,279	10,513	1,376
<b>Current year</b>	<b>263,596</b>	<b>10,305</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>273,901</b>	<b>202,671</b>	<b>10,159</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>212,830</b>	<b>61,071</b>	<b>60,925</b>
Previous year	263,596	-	-	263,596	191,837	10,834	-	202,671	60,925	71,759

#### Foreign Contribution (FC)

Particulars	Gross block			Accumulated depreciation				Net block		
	As at 1 April 2016	Additions during the year	Deletions/ adjustments during the year	As at 31 March 2017	As at 1 April 2016	For the year	On deletion / adjustments	As at 31 March 2017	As at 31 March 2017	As at 31 March 2016
<b>Tangible assets</b>										
Computers	7,409,318	2,200,246	199,800	9,409,764	4,826,551	2,383,582	142,392	7,067,740	2,342,024	2,582,767
Office equipment	2,759,226	807,527	-	3,566,753	514,770	412,792	-	927,562	2,639,191	2,244,456
Vehicle	2,280,282	-	-	2,280,282	742,999	230,592	-	973,592	1,306,690	1,537,283
Furniture and fixtures	357,441	155,897	-	513,338	56,021	39,951	-	95,971	417,367	301,420
<b>Current year</b>	<b>12,806,267</b>	<b>3,163,670</b>	<b>199,800</b>	<b>15,770,137</b>	<b>6,140,341</b>	<b>3,066,917</b>	<b>142,392</b>	<b>9,064,865</b>	<b>6,705,272</b>	<b>6,665,926</b>
Previous year	8,320,010	4,543,167	56,910	12,806,267	2,846,766	3,334,550	40,975	6,140,341	6,665,926	5,473,244

Schedules to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 (Contd...)

*Total Non Foreign Contribution (NFC) and Foreign Contribution (FC)*

Particulars	Gross block			Accumulated depreciation				Net block		
	As at 1 April 2016	Additions during the year	Deletions/ adjustments during the year	As at 31 March 2017	As at 1 April 2016	For the year	On deletion / adjustments	As at 31 March 2017	As at 31 March 2017	As at 31 March 2016
<b>Tangible assets</b>										
Computers	7,498,927	2,200,246	199,800	9,499,373	4,916,030	2,383,660	142,392	7,157,297	2,342,076	2,582,897
Office equipment	2,908,726	807,527	-	3,716,253	618,885	419,600	-	1,038,485	2,677,768	2,289,841
Vehicle	2,301,282	-	-	2,301,282	749,965	232,697	-	982,662	1,318,620	1,551,317
Furniture and fixtures	360,928	166,202	-	527,130	58,132	41,119	-	99,251	427,880	302,796
<b>Current year</b>	<b>13,069,863</b>	<b>3,173,975</b>	<b>199,800</b>	<b>16,044,038</b>	<b>6,343,012</b>	<b>3,077,076</b>	<b>142,392</b>	<b>9,277,695</b>	<b>6,766,344</b>	<b>6,726,851</b>
Previous year	8,583,606	4,543,167	56,910	13,069,863	3,038,603	3,345,384	40,975	6,343,012	6,726,851	5,545,003



## ActionAid Association

### Schedules to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017

(All amounts are in Indian Rupees, unless stated otherwise)

	As at 31 March 2017			As at 31 March 2016		
	FC	NFC	Total	FC	NFC	Total
<b>SCHEDULE 5: CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS AND ADVANCES</b>						
Cash and bank balances						
Cash in hand	330,567	13,121	343,688	369,601	271	369,872
Balances with scheduled banks						
-in saving accounts	40,324,758	14,307,696	54,632,454	20,876,858	11,201,769	32,078,627
-in current accounts	339,480	894,265	1,233,745	-	-	-
	40,994,805	15,215,082	56,209,887	21,246,459	11,202,040	32,448,499
Loans and advances (Unsecured, considered goods)						
Avances recoverable in cash or in kind or for value to be received	4,464,462	1,057,745	5,522,207	4,553,571	252,022	4,805,593
Advances to employees	2,022,621	58,948	2,081,569	1,765,493	475	1,765,968
Advance income tax	3,607	23,219	26,826	28,758	-	28,758
Grant receivable	-	-	-	8,748,867	-	8,748,867
Balance in gratuity fund (net of provision for gratuity of Rs.45,004,604 (previous year Rs.34,423,391))	(254,119)	-	(254,119)	5,814,101	-	5,814,101
Security deposits	5,658,676	100,500	5,759,176	5,651,795	100,500	5,752,295
	11,895,247	1,240,412	13,135,659	26,562,585	352,997	26,915,582
<b>SCHEDULE 6: CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS</b>						
Sundry creditors	11,439,910	1,221,627	12,661,537	17,194,184	678,240	17,872,424
Other liabilities	3,536,046	73,459	3,609,505	4,548,207	36,205	4,584,412
Employee related payable	13,394,660	691,195	14,085,855	14,891,531	501,965	15,393,496
Provision for compensated absences	4,504,375	-	4,504,375	4,414,373	-	4,414,373
	32,874,991	1,986,281	34,861,272	41,048,295	1,216,410	42,264,705

## ActionAid Association

### Schedules to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2017

(All amounts are in Indian Rupees, unless stated otherwise)

	For the year ended 31 March 2017			For the year ended 31 March 2016		
	FC	NFC	Total	FC	NFC	Total
<b>SCHEDULE 7: FUNDRAISING EXPERIENCE</b>						
Awareness and dissemination	8,795,050	-	8,795,050	21,628,575	-	21,628,575
Communication expenses	513,603	-	513,603	364,850	-	364,850
Professional charges	18,246,075	-	18,246,075	8,537,634	-	8,537,634
Meeting and seminar expenses	335,967	-	335,967	150,392	-	150,392
Power and fuel	65,218	-	65,218	62,583	-	62,583
Printing and stationary	106,819	-	106,819	193,810	-	193,810
Rates & taxes	653	-	653	820	-	820
Rent	514,872	-	514,872	761,800	-	761,800
Repairs and maintenance expenses	202,129	-	202,129	523,931	-	523,931
Staff recruitment expenses	44,104	-	44,104	2,488	-	2,488
Travelling and conveyance	1,381,813	-	1,381,813	1,790,305	-	1,790,305
Miscellaneous expenses	335,492	-	335,492	116,746	-	116,746
	30,541,795	-	30,541,795	34,133,934	-	34,133,934
<b>SCHEDULE 8: EMPLOYEE BENEFIT EXPENSE</b>						
Salaries and wages	113,351,611	(106,482)	113,245,129	131,437,932	(4,140)	131,433,792
Contribution to provident fund	8,424,040	107,567	8,531,607	9,586,986	10,452	9,597,438
Contribution to other fund	6,433,990	-	6,433,990	3,614,986	-	3,614,986
Staff welfare expenses	7,403,291	527	7,403,818	8,342,778	-	8,342,778
	135,612,932	1,612	135,614,544	152,982,682	6312	152,988,994
<b>SCHEDULE 9: ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER EXPENSES</b>						
Auditor's remuneration	1,620,925	-	1,620,925	1,776,427	-	1,776,427
Awareness and dissemination	2,771,634	-	2,771,634	3,559,163	-	3,559,163
Communication expenses	8,034,486	-	8,034,486	9,593,428	-	9,593,428
Documentation and research charges	179,200	-	179,200	708,822	-	708,822
Power and fuel	3,114,317	-	3,114,317	3,672,910	-	3,672,910
Printing and stationary	787,795	-	787,795	908,492	-	908,492
Professional charges	21,339,212	(5,581)	21,333,631	9,246,391	-	9,246,391
Rates and taxes	19,903	-	19,903	31,627	-	31,627
Rent	15,277,006	-	15,277,006	15,577,597	-	15,577,597
Repairs and maintenance expenses	9,016,841	-	9,016,841	7,632,043	-	7,632,043
Staff recruitment expenses	721,239	-	721,239	1,180,087	-	1,180,087
Training and workshops	1,406,693	-	1,406,693	2,682,101	133,844	2,815,945
Travelling and conveyance	14,858,318	72,040	14,930,358	21,922,616	-	21,922,616
Miscellaneous expenses	630,864	534,916	1,165,780	599,704	461,046	1,060,750
	79,778,433	601,375	80,379,808	79,091,407	594,890	79,686,297

**ActionAid Association**  
**Schedules Forming Parts of the Financial Statements**  
**(All amounts are in Indian Rupees, unless stated otherwise)**

**Schedule 10: Significant accounting policies and notes to the accounts**

**Background**

ActionAid Association ('AAA' or 'the Society') is registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 vide registration certificate number S-56828 dated 5 October 2006.

The Society has been granted an exemption under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, vide letter no. DIT(E)/12A/2008-09/A-2513/119 dated 25th April 2008. The Society has also obtained exemption under section 80G(5)(vi) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 vide Order No. DIT (E) 2011-12/A-2513/5744 dated 29th March 2012 for the period from 1 April 2012 to till it is rescinded. Further, the Society has been registered under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 for carrying out activities of social nature with registration no.231661299, vide letter no. II/21022/83(0070)/2011-FCRA.II- dated 29 December 2011. The registration of the Society has been renewed for a period of five years with effect from 29 December 2016 vide letter no. 0300051042016 - dated 22 August 2016.

The Society receives funds for charitable purpose in India. The Society aims to deepen our understanding of peoples' ability for progressive expressions and solidarities within the context of widespread social and ecological injustices, economic, public representative and cultural dispossession and feminization of dispossession.

**Significant accounting policies**

**(a). Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The accompanying financial statements are prepared and presented under the historical cost convention, on the accrual basis of accounting, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles ('GAAP') in India, and practices prevailing in India as applied consistently by AAA.

**(b). Use of estimates**

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and reported amounts of income and expenses during the reporting period. Examples of estimates include useful life of fixed assets etc. Actual results could differ from these estimates. Any changes in estimates are adjusted prospectively.

**(c). Fund accounting**

*Restricted funds* are grants received from various funding agencies/ individuals to carry out specific activities. These are held in Society until used for the purpose specified against them. At the end of the agreement, the unutilized restricted fund is returned to the respective donor. In case the unutilized amount is not required to be returned to the respective donor, the same is transferred to Statement of Income and Expenditure in the relevant year in which the project is completed.

Remittances received from donors for specific projects/ activities are disclosed under restricted funds. Disbursements made to other non-governmental organizations and project expenditures out of the restricted funds are netted off from the restricted funds and included in the statement of income and expenditure as 'Amount transferred from restricted funds to the extent of expenditure incurred.

*Unrestricted funds* are contributions received or funds generated by the Society, the use of which is not restricted by the contributors/ donors.

**(d). Revenue recognition**

General donations and grants received for welfare programs carried out by the society are accounted in the Statement of Income and Expenditure on cash basis.

Interest income on Savings Bank accounts is accounted on accrual basis and interest income on fixed deposits is accounted on accrual basis.

**(e). Foreign currency transactions**

Foreign currency transactions are recorded at the exchange rates prevailing on the date of the respective transactions. Realized gain and losses on foreign currency transactions during the year are recognized in the Statement of Income and Expenditure. Monetary foreign currency assets and liabilities remaining unsettled at the Balance Sheet date are translated at year end rates and resultant gains/ losses on foreign currency translation are recognized in the Income and Expenditure account.

**(f) Fixed assets**

Fixed assets are stated at the cost of acquisition including incidental costs related to acquisition and installation, less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, if any. Cost is inclusive of freight, duties, taxes and other directly attributable costs incurred to bring the assets to their working condition for intended use.

Depreciation on fixed assets is provided on written down value method at the following rates:

Assets	Rate (in %) Per annum
Computers	60
Office equipments	15
Vehicles	15
Furniture and fixtures	10

The above rates and methods of depreciation are also in line with the estimated useful lives, as determined by the management.

The appropriateness of depreciation rate and depreciation method is reviewed by the management in each financial year.

**(g). Impairment**

The carrying values of assets are reviewed at each reporting date to determine if there is indication of any impairment. If any indication exists, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated. For assets that are not yet available for use, the recoverable amount is estimated at each reporting date. An impairment loss is recognized whenever the carrying amount of an asset or its cash generating unit exceeds its recoverable amount and is recognized in the Profit and Loss Account. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined net of depreciation or amortization, if no impairment loss had been recognized.

**(h). Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets**

A provision is created when there is a present obligation as a result of a past event that probably requires an outflow of resources and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. A disclosure for a contingent liability is made when there is a possible obligation or a present obligation that may, but probably will not, require an outflow of resources. When there is a possible obligation or a present obligation in respect of which the likelihood of outflow of resources is remote, no provision or disclosure is made. Contingent assets are neither recognised nor disclosed in the financial statements. However, contingent assets are assessed continually and if it is virtually certain that an inflow of economic benefits will arise, the asset and related income are recognised in the period in which the change occurs.

**(i). Leases**

Lease payment under an operating lease is recognized as expenditure in the statement of income and expenditure on a straight line basis over the lease term.

**(j). Employee Benefit**

Benefits such as salaries, etc., are recognized in the statement of income and expenditure in the period in which the employee renders the related service.

**Defined contribution plan:** The AAA's employee provident fund scheme is a defined contribution plan. A defined contribution plan is a post-employment benefit plan under which an entity pays fixed contributions and will have no constructive obligation to pay further amounts. Obligations for contributions to defined contribution plans are recognized as an employee benefit expense in the Statement of Income and Expenditure in the year when the employee renders the related service. Prepaid contributions are recognized as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in future payments is available.

## Defined benefit plans:

### *Gratuity plan*

The AAA's gratuity plan is a defined benefit plan. The present value of gratuity obligation under such defined benefit plan is determined annually based on an actuarial valuation carried out by an independent actuary for the plan using the Projected Unit Credit Method, which recognizes each period of current and past service as giving rise to additional unit of employee benefit entitlement and measures each unit separately to build up the final obligation. The obligation is measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows. The discount rate used for determining the present value of the obligation under defined benefit plans, is based on the market yields on Government securities as at the valuation date having maturity periods approximating to the terms of related obligations. Actuarial gains and losses are recognized in visual platforms in the Statement of Income and Expenditure. Gains or losses on the curtailment or settlement of any defined benefit plan are recognized when the curtailment or settlement occurs.

The Society has taken a policy with the Life Insurance Corporation of India to cover its liability towards gratuity. The difference between the fund balance with the Life Insurance Corporation of India and the gratuity liability of the society, as determined by an independent actuary, is charged/written back to the Statement of Income and Expenditure.

### *Other long term benefits*

Benefits under leave encashment constitute other long-term employee benefits. The liability in respect of leave encashment is provided on the basis of an actuarial valuation done by an independent actuary at the year-end using the Projected Unit Credit Method. Actuarial gains and losses are recognized in media in the Statement of Income and Expenditure.

### *(k). Expenditure*

The Society implements its programmes for strengthening training, research and policy development in the area of eradication of poverty through projects conducted by itself or by other local non-governmental organizations to which it disburses grants. Accordingly, expenditure incurred by the Society during the year to monitor such non-governmental organizations and implement their internal projects is charged to Statement of Income and Expenditure.

## 11. Employee Benefit Obligations:

Provident fund: An amount of Rs. 8,531,607 (Previous year Rs. 9,597,438) has been recognized as an expense in respect of the AAA's contribution for provident fund deposited with the government authorities and has been shown under Employee benefits expense in the Statement of Income and Expenditure.

*Gratuity plan:* The society operates a gratuity plan wherein every regular and contractual employees (with fixed term of three years and above) and who has completed three years of service, is eligible for gratuity as per the group gratuity scheme of the Life Insurance Corporation. The plan allows one month's basic salary per year of service (after a minimum of three years' service) to be paid. In addition, in case of death in service, the legal heir / heirress or the nominee of the staff as the case may be, is eligible to receive gratuity for the balance potential service up to the normal retirement age.

*Other long term benefits:* The society operates a leave encashment plan wherein every employee shall be entitled to encash privilege leave up to maximum of 30 days a year. The salary for calculation of earned leave is last drawn gross salary. Leave can be encashed up to a maximum of 30 days only at the time of resignation or death of the employee while in service.



Principal actuarial assumptions in respect of provision for gratuity and compensated absences at the balance sheet date are as follows:

Economic assumptions	As at 31 March 2017	As at 31 March 2016
Discount rate*	7.31%	8%
Expected rate of salary increase*	7%	7%
Demographic assumptions		
Retirement age	58 Years	58 Years
Mortality table	Standard Indian Assured Lives (2006-08) Ultimate Table	Standard Indian Assured Lives (2006-08) Ultimate Table
Withdrawal rates (%):	—	—
Age	—	—
Up to 30 years	3.00	3.00
31-44 Years	2.00	2.00
Above 44 years	1.00	1.00

\* The discount rate is generally based up on the market yield available on the Government bonds at the accounting date with a term that match that of the liabilities and the salary growth rate takes account of inflation, seniority, promotion and other relevant factors on long term basis.

## 12. Leases

The Society has taken office premises under operating lease arrangements. The lease rent charged to Statement of Income and Expenditure is Rs 15,791,878 (Previous year Rs. 16,339,397).

## 13. Expenditure in foreign currency:

Particulars	For the year ended 31 March 2017	For the year ended 31 March 2016
Travelling and conveyance	108,629	264,660
Professional charges	148,370	-

## 14. Related Parties

(a) Related party and nature of the relationships, where control exists :

Name of the Party	Relationship
ActionAid International, United Kingdom	Affiliate
ActionAid — India Branch	Enterprise under the common control
ActionAid India – Karnataka Project	Enterprise under the common control
ActionAid India Society	Enterprise under the common control

(b) Related party where transactions have taken place:

Name of the Party	Relationship
ActionAid International, United Kingdom	Affiliate
ActionAid — India Branch	Enterprise under the common control

(c) Related party and nature of the relationship with whom transactions have taken place during the year:

Name of the Party	Nature of transaction	For the year ended 31 March 2017	For the year ended 31 March 2016
ActionAid International, United Kingdom	Receipt of funds	421,942,079	683,590,407
ActionAid — India Branch	Receipt of funds	3,500,000	120,000,000

(d) Particulars of balances in respect of related party transactions:

Name of the Party	Nature of transaction	For the year ended 31 March 2017	For the year ended 31 March 2016
ActionAid International, United Kingdom	Grant receivable	-	8,748,866
ActionAid International, United Kingdom	Other receivable	-	177,755

## 15. Income Taxes

Since the society is registered with the Income Tax Authorities U/s.12A and its activities falls under the definition of “charitable purpose” as defined in section 2(15) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 accordingly, has not created any provision for income tax in its books of accounts.

16. The Society is classified as Small and Medium Sized Enterprise (SME) of Level – III entity for the purposes of applicability of Accounting Standards as defined by the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Accordingly, the Society has complied with the Accounting Standards as applicable to a Small and Medium Sized Enterprise.

17. The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises has issued an Office Memorandum dated 26 August 2008 which recommends that the Micro and Small Enterprises should mention in their correspondence with its customers the Entrepreneurs Memorandum Number as allocated after filing of the Memorandum. Based on the information available with the management, there are no overdue outstanding to micro and small enterprises as defined under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006. Further, the Society has not received any claim for interest from any supplier under the said Act.

18. Previous year's figures have been regrouped / reclassified, wherever necessary, to confirm to current year's classification.

For **B S R & Associates LLP**  
Chartered Accountants  
Firm Registration No. 116231W/W-100024

**Sandeep Batra**  
Partner  
Membership No. 093320  
Place: Gurugram  
Date: 12 October 2017



For and on behalf of **ActionAid Association**



**Sandeep Chachra**  
Secretary  
Place: New Delhi  
Date: 12 October 2017



Looking forward, we reaffirm our resolve to stand in solidarity with the most marginalised and vulnerable in their fight against poverty and injustice.

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[www.actionaidindia.org](http://www.actionaidindia.org)

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