

POWER IN PEOPLE

Annual Report 2015-16



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ActionAid Association Annual Report 2015-16

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Message from Executive Director

As we place this report in your hands we would like to acknowledge with gratitude the solidarity support we have received over the years and especially in 2015-16. Our supporters include 47,192 individuals who backed us through regular giving under the child sponsorship programme, many corporate entities who extended help through grants and also their employees came forward with both individual contributions and volunteering in community-based work, sometimes in the most trying of circumstances, and also project support from various institutional partners.

In the pages that follow we present to you a summary of our engagements with vulnerable communities that were executed with more than 250 partner and allied organisations. In 2015-16 we were able to support 84 long-term projects across 20 states in India, 132 short-term projects across the country.

Fostered with the help of our supporters, our work remains focused on building capacities of the most marginalised with complete ownership of community-based organisations on their issues and their strategies. The direction of change is set by the communities through processes of participation, consultation and leadership being built within the communities. This helps to ensure that change processes are sustained.

Our work in rural areas is centred on building alternatives in the form of climate resistant sustainable farming (CRSA) to meet the challenges of the on-going agrarian crisis. Efforts at bringing women farmers in the forefront and building collectives for farming and non-farm based livelihood enhancement also were a major focus.

We continued our engagement with establishing rights for workers, and especially informal workers and helped set up a secretariat for coordinating the efforts of various civil society organisations, activists and unions working under the umbrella of the 'Working People's Charter' (WPC). This is an attempt to consolidate the demands of decent wages, social security and decent working conditions for informal workers from different sectors, including home-based workers.

We see common resources, in both rural and urban contexts, as the key to the wellbeing of people and environment and have supported communities asserting rights over forests, pasture land and water commons. As an active member of the campaign for right to water in Bengaluru, we were able to effect the reclamation of more than Rs 18,000 crore worth of commons. A special legislative committee has been set up to look into the issue of encroachment of lakes and other common property resources across the state.

As women from marginalized communities increasingly take leadership in all our work across the country we have also addressed the question of violence against women. We have scaled up our engagement with various state governments on the setting up of One Stop Crisis Centres (OSCC) to address issues of violence against women. Along with Gauravi, the OSCC set up with the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, we also worked with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for setting up Asha Jyoti Kendras in 11 districts. Both these initiatives are being scaled up by the respective governments. Our allied organisation, the Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan (BMMA) continued its mission of asserting citizenship rights for Muslims, especially Muslim women through various activities and a campaign to codify the Muslim Personal Law. BMMA did a study on the regressive divorce practice of triple talaq and also challenged efforts to ban women from entering a Sufi shrine in Mumbai.

In all our project areas we strive to protect children's right to childhood. We advocated against the proposed amendment to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (CLPRA), 1986 that allows employment of children less than 14 years of age in family enterprises. We conducted a study and a campaign against child marriages where community leaders have pledged to put an end to it. We continue to link children suffering from malnutrition to with nutrition centres ensure the functioning of Anganwadis and empowered communities to take ownership of schools to ensure quality.

To draw attention to issues of the global south and in a context where BRICS emerges as a significant player in the international arena, we held a series of meeting to see how the BRICS formation could be leveraged to ask for policies favouring people of the Global South.

The last year we have dealt both with floods and drought and their effect on the poorest. While working on recovery and rehabilitation from the devastating floods in Tamil Nadu, we also had to respond to acute distress caused by water scarcity in several parts of the country in the summer. Our research created evidence for the government to intervene and also encouraged communities to come together to seek solutions.

As we move ahead we have further understood the need to be more communicative of our work, our partners, our allies, our supporters and the communities we work with and the issues we are engaged with. We request you to read the pages that follow and share with us your thoughts and suggestions. We are happy to carry on these conversations with you.

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 since 1972.

The Association has been working to ensure that the poorest and marginalized have access to the fruits of development and legal and Constitutional rights to food and livelihood, shelter, education, healthcare, dignity and a voice in decisions. It partners with several voluntary organizations, 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 organizational 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 struggle 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 struggles to eradicate poverty, patriarchy and injustice.

Overall Goal

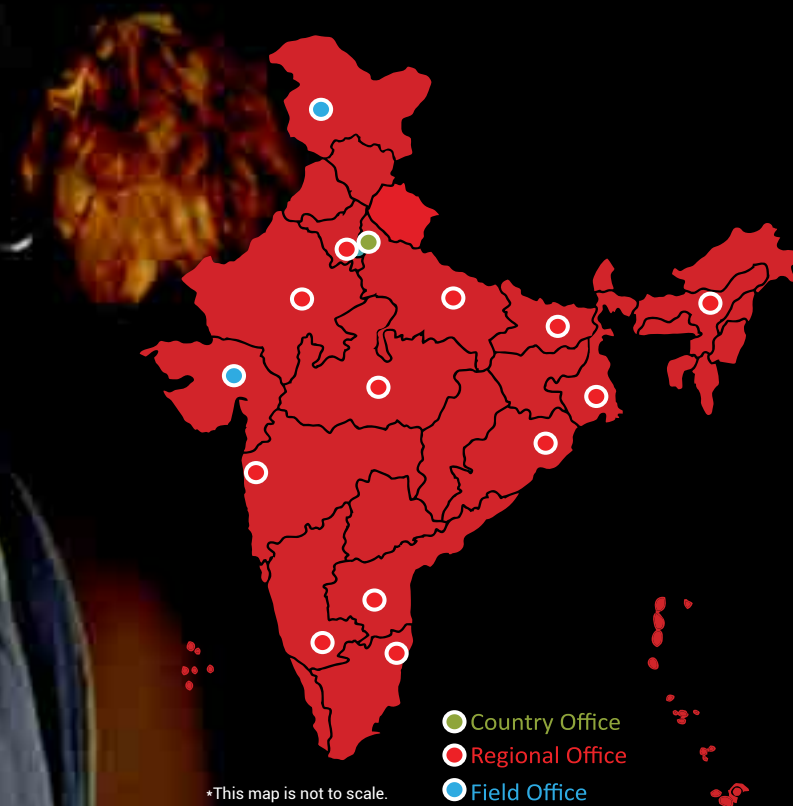
A just social order brought about by the dispossessed claiming their right to dignity and identity through enhanced democratic participation and structural transformation.

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 rights-based alternatives and campaigns that address the structural causes and consequences of poverty.

Our Reach

Our interventions in 2015-16 were made possible by 252 alliance organizations who are our grassroots partners in delivering our promises of change. Twenty-two per cent of these organizations are headed by women and 16 per cent of them are headed by members from Dalit, Tribal, Minority and Most Backward communities.

ActionAid India's interventions are spread across 25 states and one union territory. Our work in 317 districts (including 134 most backward districts in India) has helped improve the lives of more than 1,32,000 families from the most deprived communities such as Dalits, Tribals, Muslims and fisher folk.



Our Partners

Andhra Pradesh

Long Term Partners

- » Agriculture and Social Development Society – West Godavari, East Godavari, Coimbatore and Khammam districts
- » Association for the Rural Development – SPSR Nellore district
- » Mahila Action – Visakhapatnam district
- » Nisarga – Chittoor district

Short Term Partners

- » Adoni Area Rural Development Initiatives Programme
- » Agriculture and Social Development Society
- » Ashray/Home Away From Home – Vishakhapatnam, Vizianagram, Anantapur and Chittoor districts
- » Association for Rural and Urban Needy – East Godavari and Anantapur districts
- » Centre for Sustainable Agriculture – Anantapur, Chittoor, Kadapa and Vizianagram districts
- » District Fishermen's Youth Welfare Association
- » Human And Natural Resources Development Society
- » Association for Rural Development
- » Fishermen's Youth Welfare Association
- » Mahila Action

Assam

Long Term Partners

- » North East Affected Area Development Society – Tinsukia district
- » Peoples Action for Development, Lakhimpur – Lakhimpur district

- » Society for Social Transformation and Environment Protection – Morigaon and Kamrup Metropolitan districts

Short Term Partners

- » Lotus Progressive Centre, Nalbari district
- » People's Action for Development
- » Promotion, and Advancement of Justice, Harmony and Human Rights of Adivasi – Sonitpur district
- » Society for Social Transformation and Environment Protection

Bihar

Long Term Partners

- » Centre for All Round Development – Samastipur district
- » Nav Samaj Kalyan Pratisthan Kendra – Nalanda district
- » Nav Chetna Vikas Kendra – Nawada district
- » Prayas Gramin Vikas Samiti – Patna, Vaishali and Champaran districts

Short Term Partners

- » Association for Promotion of Creative Learning
- » Bihar Gramin Vikas Parishad – Araria, Supaul, Purnea and Khagaria districts
- » Centre for All Round Development
- » Equity Foundation
- » Koshish – Araria, Purnea, Kisanganj, Saharsa, West Champaran, East Champaran, Begusarai, Gaya, Nalanda, Nawada, Samastipur, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Sitamarhi, Siwan and Patna districts
- » NIDAN

- » Pragati Gramin Vikas Samiti
- » Samajik Shodh Evam Vikas Kendra

Delhi

Long Term Partners

- » Aarth Astha – South district
- » Action India – West, North, East, South and North West districts
- » Pardarshita – North East district

Short Term Partners

- » Aarth Astha
- » Action India
- » Astha
- » Empowerment For Rehabilitation, Academic & Health – South East district
- » Pardarshita

Gujarat

Long Term Partners

- » Aman Biradari Trust – Sabar Kantha, Anand and Ahmedabad districts
- » Cohesion Foundation – Navsari district
- » Janvikas – Ahmedabad, Anand, Baroda, Kheda, Mehsana, Sabar Kantha, Aravalli and Panchmahal districts

Short Term Partners

- » Area Networking and Development Initiatives
- » Navsarjan Trust – Mehsana and Ahmedabad districts
- » Utthan

Haryana

Long Term Partners

- » Centre for Alternative Dalit Media – Sonipat and Kaithal districts

Short Term Partners

- » Centre for Alternative Dalit Media – Sonipat and Kaithal districts

Himachal Pradesh

Long Term Partners

- » People's Action for People in Need – Sirmour district
- » Rural Technology and Development Centre/ Voluntary Action Group – Kangra and Mandi districts

Short Term Partners

- » Society for Rural Development and Action

Jharkhand

Long Term Partners

- » Sinduartola Gramoday Vikas Vidyalaya – Khunti district

Short Term Partners

- » Ambedkar Social Institute – Giridih district
- » Samvad – Deoghar district
- » Sinduartola Gramoday Vikas Vidyalaya
- » Vikas Sahyog Kendra – Daltonganj district

Karnataka

Long Term Partners

- » Akruithi, Bangalore – Shimoga and Davangere districts

- » Association for Social Alternatives and Rural Development – Ramanagara district

- » Bangalore Oniyavara Seva Coota – Bengaluru, Jagruti, Belgaum and Raichur districts

- » Janasahayog – Bengaluru, Tumkur, Hospet, Gadag, Raichur, Gulbarga, Hubli, Davangere, Yadgiri and Chitradurga districts

- » Karnataka Adivasigala Nyayakagi Andolana – Kodagu, Hassan, Shimoga, Mysore, Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts

- » Sustainable Women's Action for Rights and Justice/ Sahayog and Samarasa – Bijapur, Bidar, Chamrajnagar, Kolar, Chickballapur, Bellary, and Ramnagar districts

Short Term Partners

- » Capuchin Krishik Seva Kendra
- » Chintana Foundation – Chikmagalur district
- » Narendra Foundation – Chitradurga and Tumkur districts
- » Prerana
- » Rural Literacy & Health Programme
- » Sahayog – Gulbarga, Belgaum and Gundlupet districts
- » Society for Informal Education and Development Studies

Madhya Pradesh

Long Term Partners

- » Achieving the Adivasi Millenium – Alirajpur district
- » Dalit Adhikar Abhiyan – Hoshangabad, Harda and Betul districts
- » Nayay va Aman Pahal/Rahatgarh – Sagar district
- » Parivartan Abhiyan – Betul district
- » Poshan Abhiyan – Panna, Satna and Rewa districts

- » Madhya Pradesh Apda Nivaran Manch – Tikamgarh, Chhaturpur and Sagar districts

- » Mahakoshal Sajha Janpahal – Jabalpur, Seoni and Mandla districts

Short Term Partners

- » Centre for Integrated Development
- » Institute of Social Research and Development
- » Jan Sahas Social Development Society – Dewas, Chattarpur and Nimach districts
- » Srijan Samaj Vikas Samiti – Mandla district
- » Synergy Sansthan – Harda and Khandwa districts
- » Vasudha Vikas Sansthan

Maharashtra

Long Term Partners

- » Apeksha Homeo Society – Amravati district
- » Ashna Trust – Nasik, Sholapur, Pune and Usmanabad districts
- » Committee Right to Housing – Nashik district
- » Disha Kendra – Raigad district
- » Lokpanchayat – Ahmednagar district
- » Paryay – Osmanabad district
- » Social Action For Literacy And Health – Mumbai, Thane, Raigad, Pune, Nashik and Aurangabad districts

Short Term Partners

- » Ashna Trust
- » Centre for Study of Society and Secularism
- » Dr. Ambedkar Sheti Vikas Va Sansodhan Sanstha – Solapur district
- » Jan Vikas Samajik Sanstha

- » Kalapandhari Magasvargiya & Adivasi Gramin Vikas Sanstha
- » Majlis Manch
- » Manuski – Pune, Beed, and Ahmednagar districts
- » Parivartan – Ratnagiri district
- » Paryay
- » Prerana – Gadchiroli district
- » Social Action For Literacy & Health
- » Social Institute Programmes Rural Area – Nanded district
- » Vikas Sahyog Pratishthan – Mumbai suburb

Manipur

Long Term Partners

- » Rural Education and Action for Change, Manipur – Chandel district
- » People's Resource Development Association – Bishenpur district

Short Term Partners

- » Volunteers for Village Development
- » Women Action for Development
- » Rural Education and Action for Change – Manipur

Mizoram

Long Term Partners

- » Centre for Peace and Development – Mamit district

Nagaland

Short Term Partnersw

- » Sisterhood Network – Dimapur district

Odisha

Long Term Partners

- » Adivasi Ekta Sashaktikaran Sammanway – Koraput district
- » Antaranga Kandhamal – Kandhamal district
- » Centre for Integrated Rural & Tribal Development – Sundergarh district
- » Dalit Adhikar Sangathan – Jagatsinghpur, Ganjam and Puri districts
- » Jivan Vikas – Sundergarh district
- » Samuhik Marudi Pratikar Udyam Padampur – Bargarh district

Short Term Partners

- » Centre for Children and Women's Development – Rayagada district
- » Jagruti
- » NIRMAN – an Initiative for Sustainable Development
- » Patang – Sambalpur and Balangir districts
- » Social Awareness Institute – Nuapada district
- » Socio Economic Health Agriculture Development Association – Jharsuguda district
- » Tiriranga Yubak Sangha

Punjab

Short Term Projects

- » Rural Human Development Centre – Mansa district

Rajasthan

Long Term Partners

- » Jai Bheem Vikas Shikshan Sansthan – Jodhpur district

- » Prayatna Samiti – Udaipur, Dungarpur, Banswada and Sirohi districts

Short Term Partners

- » Antakshari Foundation
- » Centre for Unfolding Learning Potentials
- » Shree Jan Jeevan Kalyan Sansthan – Jaipur, Pratapgarh, Hanumangarh, Bhilwada, Jodhpur, Bharatpur, Baran and Ahmedabad districts
- » Vikalp Sansthan – Udaipur district
- » Vishakha

Tamil Nadu

Long Term Partners

- » Arunodhaya Centre for Street and Working Children – Chennai, Tiruvallur and Kanchipuram districts
- » Nilam Trust – Madurai, Viruthunagar and Tirunelveli districts
- » Social Need Education and Human Awareness – Nagapattinam and Karaikal districts
- » Women's Integrated National Development Trust – Trichy, Sivagangai, Ramnad and Pudukottai districts
- » Centre for Workers' Management – Chennai, Kanchipuram and Thiruvallur districts

Short Term Partners

- » Arunodhaya Centre for Street and Working Children
- » Centre for Community Services – Tuticorin district
- » Development of Humane Action Foundation
- » Integrated Rural Development Society
- » Legal Aid to Women Trust – Thiruvallur district
- » Minnal Chithamur Dalit Pengal Marumalarchi Sangam
- » Nilam Trust

- » Pasumai Trust
- » Society for Rights of All Women with Disability
- » Social Need Education and Human Awareness
- » Society for Rural Education and Development
- » Thozhamai
- » Women's Integrated National Development Trust

Telengana

Long Term Partners

- » Aashray/Caring Citizens Collective – Medak district
- » Gramya and Pilupu – Nalgonda district
- » Shaheen Women Resource & Welfare Association – Hyderabad

Short Term Partners

- » Aashray/Home Away From Home – Hyderabad and Nalgonda districts
- » Association for Rural and Urban Needy – Hyderabad, Rangareddy Nalgonda, Medak and Mahbubnagar districts
- » Centre For Dalit Studies – Hyderabad
- » Centre for Sustainable Agriculture – Adilabad, Karimnagar, Khammam, Mahbubnagar, Medak, Nalgonda, Nizamabad, Rangareddy and Warangal districts
- » Conservation of Nature through Rural Awakening – Mahabubnagar district
- » Montfort Social Institute – Nalgonda and Suryapet districts
- » Shaheen Resource Centre
- » Shramika Vikasa Kendram – Mahabubnagar district
- » Social Education and Welfare Activities Association – Khammam district

Uttar Pradesh

Long Term Partners

- » Aim – Lakhimpur Khiri district
- » Mushar Seva Sansthan – Maharajganj district
- » Samarth Foundation – Hamirpur district
- » Vidya Dham Samiti – Banda district
- » Vigyan Foundation – Lucknow
- » Sai Jyoti Gramodyog Samaj Seva Samiti, Lalitpur – Lalitpur district

Short Term Partners

- » Ankur Yuva Chetna Shivr
- » Arunodaya Sansthan
- » Asian Institute of Management
- » Association for Rural Planning and Action
- » Astitva Samajik Sansthan, Shamli district
- » Developmental Association for Human Advancement
- » Diya Welfare Society
- » Gramonnati Sansthan
- » Gramya Sansthan Chandauli
- » Hitaishi Samaj Sewa Sanstha, Agra district
- » Jan Kalyan Gramodyog Seva Ashram
- » Kumaon Seva Samiti
- » Musahar Seva Sansthan
- » Nav Bhartiya Nari Vikas Samiti
- » Parmarth Samaj Sevi Sansthan
- » Pragati Bharat
- » Rural Organisation For Social Advancement
- » Sai Jyoti
- » Samarth Foundation
- » Samvad Samajik Sansthan

- » Shikhar Prishiksan sansthan
- » Shramik Samaj Shiksha Sansthan
- » Vatsalya, Lucknow and Baghpat district
- » Vigyan Foundation

Uttarakhand

Long Term Partners

- » Prayas and Mahila Kalyan Sansthan – Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar districts

Short Term Partners

- » Association for Rural Planning and Action – Pithoragarh district

West Bengal

Long Term Partners

- » Sristy For Human Society & Society For People's Awareness – North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Howrah and Kolkata districts
- » Digambarpur Angikar – South 24 Pargana district
- » Gitaldaha Bikash Samity – Coochbehar district
- » Society for Direct Initiative for Social and Health Action – Purba Medinipur, South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, Howrah and Hooghly districts
- » Godhulibazar North East Society for Empowerment of People – Alipurduar district
- » Surul Centre for Services in Rural Area – Birbhum district

Short Term Partners

- » Bagmari Mother and Child Development Mission – South & North 24 Paragana districts
- » Development Research Communication and Services Centre – Alipurduar, Coochbehar,

Murshidabad, Birbhum, Bankura, Purulia, Paschim Medinipur, Purba Medinipur, Nadia, Uttar 24 Pargana, Dakshin 24 Pargana and Howrah districts

- » Digambarpur Angikar
- » Godhulibazar North East Society for Empowerment of People
- » People's Participation – North 24 Parganas district
- » Suchetana – West and East Medinipur districts
- » Surul Centre for Services in Rural Area
- » The Calcutta Samaritans.

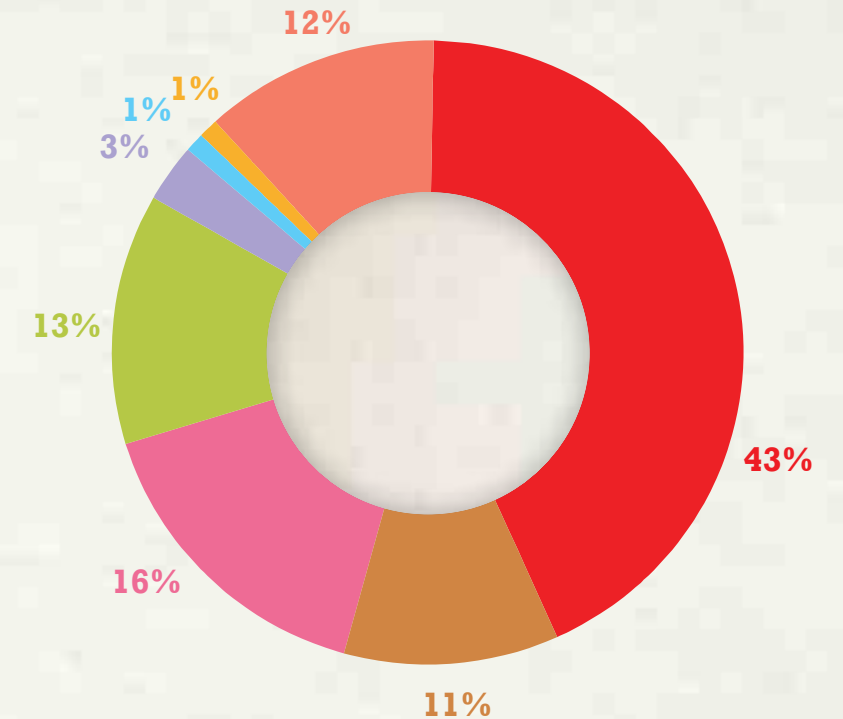
Our Regional Offices and Hubs

- » 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 Activist Hub
Child Rights Focus (CRF)
- » Democratization Knowledge Activist Hub
- » Land and Livelihoods Knowledge Activist Hub
- » Natural Resources Knowledge Activist Hub
- » Peace and Justice Knowledge Activist Hub
Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ)
- » South-South Solidarity Knowledge Activist Hub
South Solidarity Initiative (SSI)
- » Urban Poverty Knowledge Activist Hub
Citizens Rights Collective (CiRiC)

Programme Focus Outlay

STRATEGIC PRIORITY-WISE ALLOCATION

- **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1**
People's control over resources like land, water, forests, minerals, commons and livelihoods.
- **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2**
Radical democratization of society, economy and the polity at all levels.
- **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3**
Assertion of women and girls' rights as human rights.
- **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4**
Children are recognized as political and equal citizens.
- **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5**
A just, secular, violence free and peaceful society and state.
- **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6**
Solidarity with struggles and progressive actions beyond local and national boundaries.
- **EMERGENCY**
Humanitarian response to natural and human-made disasters.
- **Multiple Strategic Priorities**



Our Supporters

- » 47,192 individual donors
- » Australian Aid
- » Axa Business Services Private Limited
- » Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI)
- » Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- » Colgate Palmolive (I) Ltd.
- » Comstar Automotive Technologies Pvt Ltd
- » Delhi Public School (DPS)
- » Environment Support Group [ESG]
- » European Commission [EC]
- » Franklin Templeton International Services (India) Private Limited [FTISIL]
- » Government of Andhra Pradesh
- » Human Dignity Foundation [HDF]
- » Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department of the European Commission (ECHO)
- » Jet Airways
- » La-Caixa
- » Legacy Grant from the Estate of Devi Charan Chatterjee and Rajylaxmi Chatterjee
- » Microsoft India Pvt Ltd
- » NTT DATA Global Delivery Services
- » Ogilvy & SOHO
- » PNB Metlife
- » Population Foundation of India (PFI)
- » Siemens Limited
- » TATA Motors
- » Telenor
- » UNICEF
- » United Nations Population Fund [UNFPA]
- » Wipro Care

List of Abbreviations

AAA	: ActionAid Association	DRR	: Disaster Risk Reduction
AA	: ActionAid	FLLRC	: Forum for Securing Land and Livelihood Rights of the Coastal Community
AAI	: ActionAid India		
AIIB	: Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank	ICDS	: Integrated Child Development Scheme
		IFI	: International Financial Institution
AIMEC	: All India Media Educators Conference	INGO	: International Non-governmental Organization
AIPSN	: All India People's Science Network	IPDP	: Indigenous People's Development Plan
ARD	: Association for Rural Development		
ASDS	: Agriculture and Social Development Society	IPE	: Institute of Public Enterprise
ASHA	: Accredited Social Health Activist	ISID	: Institute for Studies in Industrial Development
BAG	: Birbhum Adivasi Gaunta	ISLE	: Indian Society for Labour Economics
BBBP	: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao		
BMMA	: Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan	LRP	: Local Rights Programme
CBO	: Community-Based Organization	LRRC	: Land Right Resource Centre
CCP	: Community Contingency Plan	MAKAM	: Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch
CiRiC	: Citizens' Rights Collective	MGNREGA	: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
CLPRA	: Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act	MPSSM	: Mahatma Phule Samaj Seva Mandal
		NACDOR	: National Confederation of Dalit Organizations
CPD	: Centre for Peace and Development	NADLR	: The National Alliance of Dalit Land Rights
CRSA	: Climate Resistant Sustainable Agriculture	NCDHR	: National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights
CSO	: Civil Society Organization		
CSRA	: Centre for Services in Rural Area	NFDLRM	: National Federation of Dalit Land Rights Movement
DCPCR	: Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights		
DNT	: De-notified Tribe		

NFF	: National Fish-workers Forum	SMC	: School Management Committee
NHRC	: National Human Rights Commission	SRHR	: Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
NT	: Nomadic Tribe	SSI	: South Solidarity Initiative
NTDNT	: Nomadic Tribes and De-notified Tribes	ST	: Scheduled Tribe
OSCC	: One Stop Crisis Centre	TSP	: Tribal the Sub-Plan
OSPCPR	: Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights	UAS	: Urban Action School
OTFDs	: Other Traditional Forest Dwellers	UNCRC	: United Nations Child Rights Convention
PCPNDT Act	: Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique Act	UNFPA	: United Nations Population Fund
PDS	: Public Distribution Scheme	UNICEF	: United Nations International Children's Fund
PESA	: Panchayat Extension to Schedule Areas Act	VAW	: Violence Against Women
POSCO	: Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act	WBSCPCR	: West Bengal State Commission for Protection of Child Rights
PPP	: Public-Private-Partnership	WGWLO	: Working Group for Women and Land Ownership
PRI	: Panchayati Raj Institution	WPC	: Working People's Charter
PVoC	: People's Vision of the City	WTO	: World Trade Organization
PVTGs	: Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups	YUW	: Young Urban Women
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		



A young boy with dark skin and curly hair stands in a lush, green forest. He is shirtless and wearing dark shorts, with his arms crossed. The forest is dense with various trees and undergrowth, creating a vibrant green background. The lighting is natural, filtering through the canopy.

Strategic Priority

1

**Promoting
People's Control
Over Natural
Resources and
Livelihoods**



Our efforts at helping people access and claims over land and natural resources to ensure a life of dignity and self-sufficiency continued in 2015-16 by facilitating access and claims to individual, joint and collective land rights for excluded communities. This included vulnerable groups within these communities such as single women, Tribals and Dalits in order to promote land ownership among them over homestead land, agricultural land and forest land.

The year was marked with initiatives to create sustainable livelihood models for communities and efforts were made to facilitate knowledge sharing between various organizations in the states that ActionAid India (AAI) works in.

In urban areas AA started work on water and also on releasing commons from the grasp of vested interests. The focus was on shelter, housing and right to dignified work for the urban poor in many urban local rights programmes (LRPs). We also embarked on an ambitious project on skill building of the urban poor; this emerged in the form of a Working People's Charter and the People's Vision of the City.

Engaging with the Government and Facilitating Access To Land

In 2015-16, 300 Dalit women living in 19 villages in the operational area of our partner Nisarga, which

IMPACT IN NUMBERS



40,640

Applications filed for land ownerships across all operational areas



10,117

Land titles received



6,623

Land titles received in the name of women



20,550

Women intensively trained on accessing land rights, forest rights and other natural resources



8,232

Farmers trained on sustainable agricultural practices



2,220

Farmers in the network practicing sustainable agricultural farming methods



1,587

Acres of land developed through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and brought into cultivation



374

Fisher women linked with local markets



7,991

Individual claims filed under the Right of First Refusal (RoFR)

is implementing LRP in Chittoor district, Andhra Pradesh, could access 520 acres of land. This land had been illegally occupied by landlords for three decades. After getting possession, the women are keen to cultivate food crops. Sai Jyoti, our ally implementing LRP in Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh, could help Dalit women collectives access four pattas including ponds and start a fisheries project. One hundred and twenty-four Yanadi Tribal women became rightful owners of 274 acres of forest land through community mobilization by the Association for Rural Development (ARD) in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh.

In Assam more than 6,250 families submitted claim applications to the land revenue department for land titles and settlement of land disputes. In Guwahati 254 families received land title documents during the year. In Bhubaneswar, Odisha, 672 households including 356 women headed ones got pattas over homestead land and 1,039 households (including 1,001 women-headed ones) received titles over agricultural land. Initiatives were also taken to ensure possession of the allocated land.

A special campaign, Dakhal Dahani was conducted by the Government of Bihar with active support from AA allies Prayas and the Dalit Network to ensure actual control and ownership of land by Dalit landless families. Through this initiative joint ownership of women and men was ensured.

The Land Right Resource Centre (LRRC) initiative in Madhya Pradesh ensured that around 3,465 community members accessed land rights (homestead, forest, agriculture and land under the Bhopal Declaration); 50 per cent was in the names of women (jointly or in a woman's name alone).

Bhoomi Haq Yatra, a campaign on land rights was organized in districts Lakhimpur and Maharajganj in Uttar Pradesh by community based organizations Musahar Manch, Mushar Seva Sansthan and Rozi Roti Sangathan. The campaign covered 45 villages and identified 780 landless families, out of which 169 families did not possess land despite having pattas and 289 families were without homestead land. The district magistrate ordered the authorities to respond to the issues raised by the communities and submit a report to his office keeping the organizations informed.

At the end of the campaign, a public hearing was organized in which more than 400 villagers participated. It was chaired by the district magistrate of Lakhimpur. The SDM of block Mitauli and a few other government officials also attended the hearing; 238 applications were filed by landless families demanding 5 acres of agricultural land. In addition, 82 families who had received legal pattas from the government demanded support for possession of the land.

National Level Interventions

During the year, national level platforms like the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR), the National Federation of Dalit Land Rights Movements (NFDLRM) and the National Confederation of Dalit Organizations (NACDOR) which have been leading the Dalit rights agenda for long, took up work on land rights as a priority and on scale. AA along with many civil society organizations (CSOs) joined these efforts.

IMPACT IN NUMBERS



3,225

Individual Forest Rights Act (FRA) claims recognized by the government



3,458

Community claims filed under RoFR



197

Acres of land recognized under community forest rights



578

Informal workers' collectives formed



206

Exclusively Women Informal workers' collectives formed



27,987

Informal workers organized in collectives



5,322

Informal workers registered in welfare boards



2,303

Informal women workers registered in welfare boards



12,850

Informal workers who got access to social security schemes

The National Alliance of Dalit Land Rights (NADLR) emerged out of this process and it has taken up land claims campaigns in many states.

With other like-minded organizations AA facilitated discussions on proposed amendments to the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2001 and shared suggestions and recommendations with the Government of India. After repeated representations and pressure from various organizations and political parties, the government withdrew the proposed amendments to the act.

In Bhubaneswar, 4,459 landless people including 614 women applied for homestead land. In addition, 951 household including 47 women-headed ones submitted applications for agricultural land.

A state-level workshop was organized to highlight issues related to habitat rights. Sixty-two community leaders from Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in 10 districts in Odisha were mobilized for this. This effort created a platform for Tribal leaders to share their thoughts on PVTGs' issues and concerns with the authorities

Advocacy for securing land rights for marginalized communities and for the Revenue Code Bill 2015-16 in Uttar Pradesh

The Government of Uttar Pradesh constituted a committee headed by Additional Advocate General Raj Bahadur Yadav to review the Revenue Code Bill of Uttar Pradesh, 2006. AA and other local organizations met the chairman and members of the committee and made recommendations to secure land rights for Dalits, minorities and women. Many of the recommendations were

accepted by the committee and included in the draft bill.

Women and Land

AA and its partner organizations contributed to various policy-level discussions and processes related to women's land rights. As a result women are getting joint homestead, agriculture and forest land pattas from the government.

In 2015-16, 40,640 joint land pattas were filed in the names of both men and women; 6,623 land pattas were received in the names of women only. Though the follow up for possession of land is still on, AA also advocated for pattas in women's names.

National Level Interventions

Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch (MAKAM): AA and its LRP partners were actively engaged in making the national level platform for women farmers, MAKAM, more vibrant from the local to national level.

AA's allied organizations, including Gramya, Anandi and the Working Group for Women and Land Ownership (WGWLO) played a crucial role in making MAKAM effective. Possibilities of bringing in a new law to support women farmers' rights were also thought of.

This is at the initial stages and discussions are going on. The law will try to incorporate demands related to farming, forest rights and rights of pastoralists

IMPACT IN NUMBERS



6,388

Informal women workers who got access to social security schemes



2,708

Informal workers (in the 18-35 years age group) received skill building training



2,182

Informal women workers (in the 18-35 years age group) received skill building training



950

Bonded labourers rescued and rehabilitated



185

Homeless shelters made functional

and fisher folk. The National Commission for Women has also shown an interest in this issue.

Advocacy for changes in national agriculture policy also continued to recognize women as farmers. MAKAM is facilitated by ActionAid's (AA's) partners along with other civil society organizations to strengthen this process to enable women across social groups to get ownership to livelihood resources and access to government support and services.

AA's Odisha Regional Office came up with a paper which looks into the theoretical and policy

aspects of women's land rights. Brief field work was facilitated to do a situation analysis of the status of single women including their experiences of violence and violation of their rights, their participation in decision making bodies (state institutions or community led institutions) and their claims over means of production to identify different categories under which single women can be defined.

The findings of the field study were shared with other civil society organizations, academia, activists, the State Women's Commission, legal experts and the Government of Odisha. This helped develop an

appropriate and relevant definition of single women in the context of land rights and advocating for its inclusion in government policies and programmes.

AA is actively using the Odisha experience as a template and pursuing the same approach in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

In the state's Ganjam district 204 women received land pattas in their names. Intensive campaigns on land rights and on the process for accessing these were facilitated in remote areas. Interface meetings were organized at the local and state levels for reclaiming land for the most marginalized. Land mapping was facilitated with the help of resource persons and GPS machines with greater involvement of community members. Community members were informed about the availability of land in their villages so that they could follow up their claims with local officials.

The process for identifying land and entering into a dialogue with officials and the gram sabha proved to be an empowering process for community members, especially women members. Through its partners, AA ensured that the landless applied (both individual and community) for homestead, agriculture and forest land under state-level schemes.

Women's Collectives

AA and its partners were instrumental in organizing 1,540 new women's collectives for various purposes. Some women's collectives were formed for claiming rights over land and natural resources. Others were formed for economic entitlements for diversified livelihoods while some more were engaged in attaining food security through better crop yields following sustainable agriculture, value addition, processing, creating value chains and helping members get better prices for their produce.

Women in Fisheries

Forty women's collectives in Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal are involved in fisheries. A process of social conscientization was adopted to organize women's collectives so that they could understand their marginalization and the discrimination against them. Regular meetings and training were facilitated to keep them informed about their rights so that they can access their rights and entitlements.

In Tamil Nadu, where AA engages with the fisher women community, the Forum for Securing Land and Livelihood Rights of the Coastal Community (FLLRC) network along with various partners developed a state policy on fishing with a focus on women. This has been presented to the state-level Planning Commission.

Promoting Sustainable Livelihoods

Sustainable Agriculture

In 2015-16, AA continued its efforts for regular capacity building on entitlements related to agriculture (soil tests, subsidized seeds, vermi compost pits) and training on organic practices in its operational villages. Women farmers were encouraged and motivated to come for training. We also facilitated refresher courses and farmer-to-farmer

interaction in 2015-16 to motivate farmers to practice Climate Resistant Sustainable Agriculture (CRSA). In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana 237 farmers practiced sustainable agriculture on 332 acres of land; AA's partners distributed 4,599 kg of traditional seeds to 511 farmers in 21 villages for the kharif season and 5,000 litres of jeevamrutam (indigenous fertilizers) was prepared for cultivation in the next season.

In Nalgonda district, Telangana, Gugulothu Kamamma received the 'Best Farmer Award-2015-16' from the state government. Motivated by the training and handholding support given by AA's partner Pilupu she adopted the rice intensification (SRI) method and had got good yields for the past three years.

In addition to capacity and knowledge building, AA also continued to work with farmers to form associations/collectives/groups with an objective of uniting them to register cooperatives to



avail of schemes jointly and assert the rightful identities of women farmers. AA's partners held regular kisan melas to promote sustainable agriculture, organic fertilizers and pesticides, use of traditional seeds, promoting fisheries and aquaculture, strengthening Kisan Sansadhan kendras and reducing farmers' dependency on the market. The melas were spearheaded by senior farmers. In Bihar, 181 farmers (77 women farmers) from 22 villages in six panchayats organized a mela.

Collective and Organic Farming

With the objective of increasing nutritional intake among women and children a special campaign was conducted in 23 villages in Sundargarh district in Odisha. Interested women were identified and oriented to the idea of collective farming. The women identified common land and took that on lease to start group farming; 23 groups of women formed their collectives. They have planned on what type of corn crops and vegetables they will grow and how they will share labour and agricultural produce. They have been trained on various methods of organic farming.

It has been recorded that there is an increase in both the quantum of production and productivity per acre of land through organic farming. There is also an increase in the consumption of organically produced corn and vegetables by collectives' members. In some collectives the women have got financial benefits after selling their surplus vegetables. In Andhra Pradesh 673 Dalit women farming on 1,750 acres of land in 21 villages produced millets and lentils through sus-

tainable agriculture practices in the LRP area led by our ally Nisarga. One hundred acres of land has been converted to organic farming by 100 farmers (24 women and 76 men) in 10 villages in the LRP areas led by our ally Agriculture and Social Development Society (ASDS).

National and Global Interventions

In 2015-16, AA partnered with 48 NGOs, social movements and platforms on the agrarian crisis and moving towards alternatives like CRSA. Our contribution was valued by many platforms of smallholder farmers. We continued our efforts at bringing women farmers' contributions to all our programmes and processes and also bringing in technical organizations to train and support smaller organizations in promoting CRSA.

A Comparative Assessment of South and East Asia Public Provisioning for Smallholder Farmers and Food Security was jointly done with ActionAid Vietnam and Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. In India, the study was conducted among 275 families in 29 villages in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Jharkhand. Policy briefs for each of the countries for advocacy work and a detailed report for the countries have been completed.

Addressing Farmers' Suicides

Several AA allied organizations including Apeksha, Kisan Mitra and community-based organization

(CBO) Ekal Mahila Kisan Sangathan secured an increase in the amount of monthly pensions for widows of farmers who had committed suicides to Rs 1,000 and a formal GR has been issued for this. The chief ministers have assured priority to farm widows in government recruitments.

AA and its partners proactively raised the issue of farmers' suicides. A 2-day state-level brain storming policy workshop, the Krushak Manas Manthan, was organized in Sambalpur, Odisha for leaders of the Western Odisha Farmers Coordination Committee, Sambalpur and the Krushak Vikas Manch, Padampur. The workshop was attended by more than 75 farmers from 14 districts.

The participants were of the view that both farm activities and farmers were being affected because of wrong agricultural policies. From 1995 to 2014, more than 3,08,826 farmers had committed suicide due to crop failures.

In Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, 95 farmer suicide families got an ex-gratia payment of Rs 1,50,000 each (under GO 421) and 39 students from farmer suicide families got support from other sources.

In Lucknow farmers' suicides were discussed at the local and state levels by organizing press conferences, meeting government officials, holding public meetings and media advocacy. As a result, the government was compelled to accept suicides and deaths due to crop failures in the state and announce compensation of Rs 7,00,000 to each family with a deceased farmer. Insurance coverage for crop failure was also raised in a meeting with government officials, in the media and in public for crop failure was also raised in a meeting with government officials, in the media and in public meetings. As a result, the government issued instructions to



all banks and insurance companies to make payments to affected farmers' families at the earliest. AA did regular follow ups with insurance companies and the state government. As a result, Rs 398.15 crore was distributed to 6.36 lakh farmers across Uttar Pradesh.

Survey and Compensation for Crop Loss in Bundelkhand, Uttar Pradesh

As per government estimates, farmers lost the entire crop on 89.4 lakh hectares of land, amounting to around Rs 41.73 lakh due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms in Uttar Pradesh in early 2016. AA and its partners raised the issue of irregularities in the survey conducted and the compensation provided to the affected families by the local administration. As a result, another survey was commissioned and compensation was provided as per the norms decided by the government in many places, especially in LRP areas in Bundelkhand. So far, 70 per cent families in the LRP areas in Bundelkhand have received compensation for crop failure while the remaining families are in the process of receiving it.



Promoting Access to Natural Resources and Commons

Rights Over Forests

Forest dwelling indigenous communities' federation Aranya Moola Budakattugala Okkuta, is campaigning for the effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act in Karnataka. In spite of its successful work in accessing forest rights, the campaign could not hold the administration responsible for getting access to land in the Nagarhole National Forest area.

The Tattakere women's group, which is an active part of the federation, decided to occupy the Nagarhole forest to put pressure on the local administration. The additional chief secretary in the forest, ecology and environment department and the District Magistrate visited the area and ordered a survey of the forest after which two acres each were provided to 75 Tribal families in 2015-16. Motivated by their success, members of other Tribal communities in neighbouring areas have started occupying the Nagarhole forests beginning a small movement in the area. Under the Tribal sub-plan, people's plans from three hamlets were submitted to the Indigenous People's Development Plan (IPDP) and Rs 1.5 crore has been sanctioned for these approved plans.

Various training programmes and workshops

were facilitated at the village and block levels in Karnataka, to understand the community's right over land and natural resources; 20,550 women members weretrained intensively on land rights and natural resources across all long term projects and other short-term projects. One of the most important factors discussed during the training was changing climatic conditions and their effects. Based on the community's concerns, a study was facilitated by the Natural Resource Knowledge Activist Hub on climate change which was published in the document 'Community Concerns on Climate Change.' The document reflects the community's views on climate change and its impact on them.

Women's groups and collectives in the state were also instrumental in spreading information about land and natural resources in adjacent villages. They were also organized to protect and access commons like ponds, grazing land (pastures), forests and other water bodies. Village development plans were made by active participation of women for protecting and accessing village commons.

Approval for community claims over forest land was obtained through continuous efforts by Apeksha and Melghat Janhit Sangathan for forest rights in Maharashtra. In village Hiramambai, the community's claim of 197.7 hectares was sanctioned.

In 2015-16, AA's partner organizations in Bargarh, Ganjam, Kandhamal, Koraput, Nuapada, Rayagada, Sambalpur and Sundargarh districts in Odisha facilitated 6,868 Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Traditional Forest Dweller (OTFD) households in claiming individual rights under the Forest Rights Act of which 409 were women headed households; 3,150 individual claims also got recognized of which 212 were by women.



A number of capacity building programmes for forest rights committee members were organized to facilitate the claims.

Conversion of forest habitations to a revenue village: A database of forest habitations within the project area in Odisha was developed and shared with the officer on special duty of the ST development department in charge of the Forest Rights Act. The department has agreed to have a joint meeting for developing a common plan of action to initiate the process of converting forest habitations into a revenue village as per FRA's provisions.

Preserving Water Commons

Reclaiming lakes by community members in the LRP operational areas through interventions by a people's campaign for right to water led to a progressive judgment by the Karnataka High Court to remove encroachments on 85 acres of Sarakki Lake in South Bangalore. One-third of the lake was encroached upon by builders for commercial purposes. AA is an active member of the campaign for right to water. Sustained follow up by the campaign led to the first of its kind clearance of common property resources all across Bangalore. Within a month, more than Rs 18,000 crore worth of commons was reclaimed. A special legislative committee has been set up to look into the issue of encroachment of lakes and other common property resources across the state.

Re-municipalization of Water Services in Mysore

Mysore was the first city in the country to privatize

the entire city's water services. The privatization led to a sudden drop in the quality of water and sanitation services, rapid hike in tariffs and wide scale deprivation of water rights for the poor. After sustained work over seven years for right to water in Karnataka the campaign was able to exert enough critical mass and the Mysore City Corporation decided to cancel the privatization agreement and ensure the re-municipalization of water and sanitation in the city.

Working People's Charter Process

AA played a crucial role in setting up a secretariat for coordinating the efforts of various CSOs, activists and unions working on developing the 'Working People's Charter' (WPC). WPC is an attempt at the national level to consolidate the demands of informal workers from different segments including home-based workers to decent wages, social security and decent working conditions. AA has also built a labour solidarity forum thus creating a unique group of academia, researchers, lawyers, trade unions, media personnel and groups and individuals practicing workers' rights to strengthen wider solidarity.

The forum supported the struggle of informal sector workers through knowledge creation, legal activism, publishing stories and actively participating in the on-going struggle. A delegation from AA along with a labour solidarity group met the cabinet minister for labour and employment and submitted recommendations on a draft labour code developed by the government and also submitted the WPC's de-

mands to the minister, officials in the labour department and Parliamentarians from different political parties.

The charter has been successful in contributing and building a campaign focussing on the thematic area of domestic workers and universal social security for workers in the informal sector. The efforts of the charter group have rejuvenated existing struggles and initiated a national campaign, the Right to Social Security Campaign, which demands minimum universal social security and a national policy for domestic workers.

Citizens' Rights Collective (CiRiC), an entity initiated by AA's Urban Poverty Knowledge Activist Hub, undertook a study to set the evidentiary foundation for a programme on changes in the labour law, an initiative aimed at mapping a way forward for strengthening labour protection. The study analyses the evolving labour protection environment in India with regard to legislative reforms, workers' needs and demands of the social movement. The research methodology was designed through a participative procedure which consisted of various consultations with different media personnel, trade unions and lawyers. Our work on the issue provided us with an opportunity to organize a panel discussion at the 57th Indian Society for Labour Economics (ISLE) meeting in Srinagar.

At the ground level, the charter process was strengthened through 13 central and local level workers' charter meetings in eight major cities. Almost all the central level trade unions joined the meetings and demanded the implementation of the Social Security Act.

For instance, the Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand Regional Office and Vigyan Foundation has been leading a campaign on issues of workers in the unorganized sector for the past few years through



the Asangathit Kaamgar Adhikar Manch and its partner/support organizations, community groups and individuals. It organized a workers' rights campaign in 2015-16.

Framing a National Policy for Domestic Workers and Demanding Social Security for All

AAI supported a demand for budget provisions for social security programmes in the 2016 Union Budget. The 'Right to Social Security Campaign' emerged from a series of consultations organized by the WPC secretariat and the Rashtriya Hamal Panchayat, of which ActionAid is a part along with several networks and organizations.

While working on women's issues in the informal sector, unpaid work emerged as a strong issue. One of the key learnings for ActionAid India in 2015-16 was understanding women's unpaid labour in a country in the context of forced, caste based and bonded labour. The process of recognizing women's and girls' work in a larger discourse is encouraging and AA was recognized as one of the key stakeholders in this.

In 2015-16, AA planned and executed modules for vocational training for people in the informal economy in 15 states.



People's Vision of the City

People's Vision of the City (PVoC) is a campaign initiated by ActionAid along with programmatic support from CiRiC, that involves consensus building around a holistic vision of the city by constructing a multi-level dialogue among the broadest cross-section of citizens. This brings out different perspectives — social, economic and environmental — and the often conflicting imaginations of different sections of citizens.

The campaign was initiated as a pilot programme in Bhubaneswar and Bolpur towns. City-level campaign teams were formed in these two cities and regular meetings with various stakeholders such as representatives from various occupational groups, senior citizens' forums, transgender communities, the banking sector and private builders were held.

There is general consensus building in the two cities that sustainable and equitable city plans need to be built through majority participation. The campaign teams in the cities are planning the next steps for formulating draft plans and an advocacy strategy..

Work on the rights of the urban poor found a strong connect between local, national and international levels in 2015-16. The focus during the year was on shelter, housing and right to dignified work for the urban poor in many urban LRP areas. This emerged in the form of the Working People's Charter and the People's Vision of the City which is being implemented in seven cities as an alternative visioning process. AA India was invited to be part of the UN Habitat III processes and is a lead partner of the World Urban Campaign.

Urban Action School

Urban Action School (UAS) was started in 2015-16 to bring together academia, bureaucracy and activists to understand the urban discourse. UAS conducted a 3-week long advanced course for urban policy practitioners along with a seminar on sustainable cities and a short course on undertaking a baseline survey to understand the current labour scenario and the labourers' need for skill development.

The flagship course was organized by CiRiC in collaboration with the Institute of Public Enterprise (IPE) and the South Institute for Public Policy and Action (SIPPA) at the IPE campus in Osmania University, Hyderabad and Telangana. The course had 32 participants from diverse backgrounds such as lawyers, journalists, activists, urban planners and designers, researchers, individuals working with development sector NGOs and government officials.

International and national experts (in person or on skype) formed the resource panel for the course. The theme of the course was 'Urbanization and Informal Sector related to alternative models of development, Public Finance, on Public Services such as Health, Education along with Housing; Gender and Feminism, Caste, Class, and Social Justice.'

The methodology adopted included classroom lectures in person as well as via skype, group discussions, field visits to relevant areas in Hyderabad and visits to shelters for the homeless.





Strategic Priority

2

**Democratization
of Society,
Economics
and Polity at
All Levels**

We continued our efforts to strengthen the communities that we work with and building their consciousness around participatory governance and democracy. The process of bottom-up planning in the form of village development plans continued to establish the power of people's planning and decision making. We conducted leadership training for young women and men to build their knowledge on issues of social exclusion, rights and entitlements. The idea was to promote people's alliances for asserting their democratic space towards a just society and economy.

We continued our training programmes with community leaders and members of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) from marginalized communities. We also supported campaigns on diverse issues leading to thousands of people being able to access their rights.

Village Development Plans

With the objective of giving them intensive training on various political and social issues AA and its partner organizations were involved in strengthening community groups and their participation in village assemblies and local governance structures through community leadership and building capacities of PRI members.

The process of forming village development plans was facilitated in 334 villages in six states. Efforts

were made to sensitize and capacitate local government officials to support community planning processes for preparing village development plans.

Community mobilization and rights' awareness were initiated to improve implementation of schemes like public distribution, mid-day meals, the Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and MGNREGA in project areas which resulted in a larger number of people accessing these schemes.

National Level Interventions

ActionAid encouraged community monitoring of the implementation of various schemes at the grass-roots level with the help of leaders of community-based organizations. Information resource centres were set up in 96 panchayats across states that provide information on schemes and entitlements to the communities and support increasing access to them.

We facilitated social audits and public hearings in 52 panchayats to improve their services and to make them accountable for the delivery of these public services. Community groups analysed the budgets in various villages. AA's representative from the Land and Livelihoods Hub who is a member of the state resource group for the pilot social audit in Jharkhand was made the state observer to oversee the social audit and provide handholding support to the team. Five gram panchayats were covered in this pilot social audit.

Village development plans were developed in 140 villages in the state which were all approved by the local authorities.

IMPACT IN NUMBERS



40,640

Villages where micro-level planning was facilitated



1,603

Micro-level plans approved by gram sabhas



112

Social audits facilitated in local institutions



757

People's watch groups supported to monitor services offered by the government



8,232

PRI members trained on aspects of governance

ActionAid supported the West Bengal Audit Society in identifying local partners for social audit processes and helped them in designing the tools for carrying out social audits in the state. Our partners are now members of district level social audit committees. We also facilitated community led social audits in five places in West Bengal.

The Tribal alliance Birbhum Adivasi Gaunta (BAG) and the women's alliance Gaga Dal in Birbhum,

West Bengal set examples of asserting their democratic space and realizing people's participation in local governance.

In the villages in the LRP operational area implemented by the Surul Centre for Services in Rural Area (CSRA), BAG facilitated preparations for village plans before the gram sansad planning schedule and submitted plans in 95 gram sansads.



Working with Nomadic Tribes and De-notified Tribes

A march for the rights of Nomadic Tribes and De-notified Tribes (NTDNT) to the district collector's office in Amravati in Maharashtra was organized by the Adivasi Pardhi Samaj Samiti. Approximately 2,000 people from Amravati district participated in the march. As a result, 120 households were sanctioned houses. Through a similar rally of about 2,500 people raising their demands for housing, livelihood and education during the assembly session in Nagpur, the district collector of Amravati passed an order to provide benefits under the housing scheme to Pardhi pockets in the district.

AA's work with De-notified Tribes (DNT) and Nomadic Tribes (NT) started with a meeting of activists, academicians and community members in Ajmer, Rajasthan. The meeting was held in collaboration with AA's Democratization Knowledge Activist Hub to delineate an agenda for taking up issues faced by DNTs and communities settled in rural and urban areas in the state. State minister for the department of women and child development was present in the meeting.

Community Leadership Development

We continued our focus on building community leadership for young women and men on issues of democratization and developing perspectives on Constitutional rights and values and orienting them on various pro-poor legislations and public welfare schemes and entitlements.

Two leadership programmes on Dalit issues were organized in the state. Our efforts at building an ideology are not limited to leadership schools but we also hold regular study circles on various contemporary issues. These range from local issues of displacement and investment summits to conflict in Gaza and many others. Some of them have also resulted in public action.

ActionAid initiated a community leadership development programme on a pilot basis in Rajasthan to institutionalize its efforts of strengthening community leadership at the grassroots level. In 2015-16, 70 youth belonging to six regions were trained on diverse issues including inequalities, marginalization and in the socioeconomic and political context. This pilot programme was organized jointly with the Loktantrashala/School for Democracy in Bhim town in Rajsamand district, Rajasthan.

A 3-phase community leadership programme focusing on Dalit rights and identity, resource governance and labour issues was taken up in the state. Ninety-five community leaders participated in the programme.



The North East

In the North East, allied organizations implementing the six LRPs operational in the region, trained more than 615 village leaders from 226 villages on laws pertaining to land and other natural resources. They also organized awareness programmes which reached more than 10,000 persons in the project villages.

Facilitating the Panchayat Extension to Schedule Areas (PESA) Act

Continuing its efforts, AA focused on capacity building of elected panchayat members and community

leaders for effective implementation of the PESA and the holding of regular gram sabhas.

In Andhra Pradesh, 1,123 Yanadi development community meetings were organized in 102 villages in Nellore district on issues of land, MGNREGA, the public distribution scheme (PDS), housing, education and child marriages. Efforts were also made to organize Yanadi Tribes and demand their inclusion in Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), which will help them access Tribal sub-plans, special grants, loans and other entitlements including land.

Twenty-four villages declared themselves as being governed by PESA, with 101 gram panchayats holding regular gram sabhas in Gajapati, Kandhamal, Koraput, Rayagada and Sundargarh districts in Odisha. This resulted in better implementation of employment guarantee and social security schemes in these areas. In some cases, these efforts were taken a step further and moved to micro-planning at the village level.

Democratization of Governance Practices

In the North East, AA works for the democratization of both customary and modern institutions in their structures and processes. In Chandel district in Manipur, five women became members of village level traditional governance bodies in villages falling within the area covered by our LRPs;

one woman became a member of the Kuki Inpi, the apex body of the Kuki community. In Mizoram, AA's work through its ally Centre for Peace and Development (CPD) contributed in realizing the 2014 amendment to the Lushai Hills District (Village Councils) Act that provides for 33 per cent reservation for women in village councils. In 2016 in villages in Mamit district in Mizoram where the CPD is operational, 54 women contested elections to the village council, of which 20 were elected.

In this region most of AA's partner organizations have become members of government committees and are now able to voice the concerns of the poor and influence the decisions of the district-level decision making bodies.

Women's Participation in Governance

Swashan Abhiyan helped in increasing women's participation in panchayats in the state; it helped 1,545 members of marginalized communities including 642 women in winning panchayat elections. At the village level, the number of elected representatives is 1,142 of which 479 are women. Likewise, 95 of the 214 sarpanches elected are women.

AA tried to make the gram sabhas effective and regular with increased participation of women. Exclusive meetings of women were organized a day before the gram sabha meeting and their issues presented in the gram sabha. The gram panchayats also passed a resolution on how to

use 10 to 15 per cent funds of the gram panchayat on women's issues as per the new norms.

In Sadiya district in Assam, the block development officer entrusted AA's partner North East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS) to prepare

an 'Intensive Participatory Planning Exercise-II' of villages in Sadiya block under the panchayat and rural development department, Assam. The organization was also instrumental in preparing the Sadiya sub-divisional disaster management plan.





Challenging Untouchability

Our campaigns in Madhya Pradesh led to 85 villages becoming free from untouchability practices. Ninety schools were also declared discrimination-free.

AA's partner in Madhya Pradesh, the Ambedkar Social Justice Centre, which does advocacy for the excluded, primarily the Dalit community, started a helpline and a crisis centre to act on atrocities against Dalits. It received over 120 cases and is closely supporting 19 of them; of these three have got compensation, five FIRs have been filed and seven have been supported by state/national commissions.

Dalit Swabhiman Yatra: Bundelkhand is notorious for the continued feudal stranglehold of the economy, politics and governance by a few upper castes families. It has not been easy for AA and its partners to mobilize the marginalized communities to challenge this hold. But in the course of time people have started raising their voice and challenging the feudal and patriarchal system from within. To continue and sustain this spirit and also to encourage it, the 'Swabhiman Yatra' campaign was started in 90 villages in three districts in Bundelkhand. In a week-long yatra, community leaders travelled to villages and mobilized marginalized communities — 3,762 Dalit and 1,655 Tribal youth registered during the march beating drums and raising slogans of justice. The yatra culminated in a public meeting where people pledged to make their village caste free and ensure dignity for all.

Access to Employment and Social Protection

A campaign was organized in 51 Tribal habitations in the state to raise awareness about the state government's order which mandates 150 days of work in drought prone areas. Delays in payments under MGNREGA have been a serious issue in these areas. Under the same campaign, a mass petition was filed with the government which resulted in more than Rs 38 lakh being released by the government. Similar initiatives led to the release of Rs 1.28 lakh in other places in Andhra Pradesh. Thousands of acres of uncultivable land were transformed into cultivable land under MGNREGA. Distress migration among Adivasis and Dalits in the district in which Nisarga works was completely arrested due to better implementation of MGNREGA. The Schedule Caste (SC) Corporation in Anantpur district provided Rs 4 lakh for supporting livelihoods of Dalit families.

Accessing Disability Funds

Continuing our efforts at the effective utilization of the 3 per cent disability budget, we supported a community leader in her follow-up with the district administration in Tumkur, Karnataka.

Through our efforts we were also able to ensure that the government re-allocated Rs 2.76 crore for 2015-16 out of the total unspent money during the previous two years for the welfare of persons with disabilities. Rs 3.77 crore was unspent during 2013-15 by Tumkur zilla panchayat and the city municipality.

Many applications by persons with disabilities on income generation, aids and appliances, surgeries and educational support were received by concerned district officials and the amounts are to be sanctioned before the close of the financial year. About 2,500 persons with disabilities are likely to benefit from this. Additionally, Rs 1.18 crore from nine town municipalities and MLA funds was used for the benefit of persons with disabilities.

Helping Build Infrastructure in Villages

Through consistent efforts and engagement with the administration in Madhya Pradesh, 651 institutions and schemes including PDS, schools, anganwadi centres and health centres were made functional.

Thanks to gram sabhas and increased women's participation, two bore wells were fixed in Maharashtra. Sixty-seven people benefited from the Gharkul scheme and now have good houses to live in. Additionally, one community hall and five roads were also built.



The Paudi Bhuyan Samaj, a community formation working with our partner Jivan Vikas, mobilized Rs 12 lakh for constructing a school building in Ekpadi village in Odisha. Around 230 families linked with the 'Mo Badi' project under the Paudi Bhuiyan Development Authority were supported to develop kitchen gardens. Our attempts in the state also led to about 25 solar based water pumps being established in 25 villages to meet the drinking water needs of 600 families; 164 households were provided with water supply facilities in the state.

Demanding implementation of the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and the Tribal Sub-Plan

A sub-plan involves allocation of a certain percentage of the state budget exclusively for Dalits and Tribals for their overall development as per the percentage of their population. In six states (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Karnataka) AA partners analysed sub-plan allocations by the state and disseminated fact sheets to build and mobilize civil society support for giving legal status to the sub-plans.

Andhra Pradesh and Telangana already have legislations in place for this under which money has been allocated but their implementation at the grassroots level was not satisfactory. Around 100 activists were oriented on the objectives, programmes, schemes, plans, budget allocations, strategies and activities in the act and also about gaps and challenges in its implementation. A state-level meeting was organized with media representatives in Hyderabad to highlight various gaps in implementation and issues of violations of the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal the Sub-Plan (SCSP/TSP) Act.





Strategic Priority

3

Assertion of Women's and Girls' Rights as Human Rights

In 2015-16, ActionAid India continued to deepen its engagement with women from marginalized communities. It undertook several initiatives for promoting women's collectives that provide economic, social and political independence to women. Our efforts at building awareness about sexual and reproductive health issues among adolescents and young women continued, while we also initiated steps to include men and boys in all our interventions to further women's rights.

The year saw AA moving into advocacy for laws on issues of single women and girl children. We also moved towards a better understanding of women's access to decent work, particularly a better understanding of unpaid work. We continued to scale up our engagement with various state governments on the setting up of one stop crisis centres (OSCCs) to address issues of violence against women (VAW).

Strengthening women's alliances, establishing identities of women as workers and farmers and collectivizing women through economic activities were some of highlights of our work during the year.

There was support, facilitation and promotion of different campaigns like violence against women, One Billion Rising, single women, women's land rights and declining sex ratios under the umbrella of Beti Zindabad.



Addressing Violence Against Women

AA advocated for OSCCs with four state governments in Uttar Pradesh (called Asha Jyoti Kendras), Uttarakhand, Bihar and West Bengal.

In Bihar, a single OSCC was started with local government support so that a template of a local crisis centre – the Mahila Salah Evam Suraksha Kendra established in Wajitpur Saidat panchayat in Biddupur block in Vaishali district – across all panchayats rather than one per district could be demonstrated.

Our flagship OSCC in Bhopal, Gaurvai, which has been operational since 2014 continued to be accessed by women from across the state; 2,475 cases were registered and 9,917 persons called the helpline out of which 111 cases were referred by our CBO partners; 2,990 women were provided counselling and 40 women were provided psychiatric help.

In the 12 cases that Gaurvai handled, the judgments were in favour of women survivors. In all 1,298 women were provided legal aid. Short term shelter support was provided to 33 women survivors and long term/permanent shelter support was provided to 13 women survivors. Eighty-five women survivors were linked to various NGOs for livelihood support and 257 women survivors were linked with the government's women empowerment schemes.

IMPACT IN NUMBERS



3,763

Men and boys sensitized on women's issues



1,338

Girls trained on sexual health rights



1,478

Women and girls rescued from trafficking



28,924

Survivors of violence counselled at resource centres supported by ActionAid



1,499

Women provided skills training (craft, weaving, zardosi work, driving)

Twenty-one women survivors are continuing their education after encouragement and another 47 are learning various vocational skills.

In 2015-16, two OSCCs were started in Uttar Pradesh while the rest became functional on International Women's Day in 2016.

The Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand Regional Office in Lucknow built the capacities of around 300 government personnel who deal with cases of violence against women like police, health, ICDS and WCD officials through a series of training. AA was part of finalizing the standard operating procedures in running the OSCCs.

In Uttar Pradesh, 126 cases of violence against women were registered with the newly started OSCCs, the Asha Jyoti Kendras; 2,400 women were provided counselling, 592 women survivors were provided continuous counselling and 40 women were provided psychiatric help. Further, 163 cases were registered with the police of which 59 cases reached the proceedings stage in fast track courts.

AA advocated for the operationalization of four OSCCs in four districts in collaboration with other CSOs in Uttarakhand.



Pro-Women Policy Action

In Telangana and Andhra Pradesh AA developed a draft of the Girl Child Policy and submitted it to bureaucrats and elected representatives for consideration.

Many AA partners' recommendations were considered and included in the Mahila Swasakthikaran (Women's Empowerment) Policy by the state government.

The state government adopted some of the recommendations submitted by AA and its partners for the Women's Empowerment Policy, released recently.

Working With Single Women

AA realizes that women are constantly marginalized and the state of single women is even worse. Therefore, it feels that the government's policy for women must be specific and inclusive of single women and women must be ensured their rights. For this the government must come out with specific policies for single women which can be used for ensuring their rights. This was also reiterated by activists, researchers and policy analysts in a national workshop on 'Developing Policies for Ensuring Rights of

Single Women' organized by AA in Bhubaneswar. The workshop was attended by civil society organizations, government representatives and single women.

In Gujarat we identified 600 single women across nine districts who did not have houses. The district magistrates started taking action by verifying and prioritizing these women for benefits under housing. Single women also challenged their being excluded from attending marriages and wearing colourful clothes.

In Maharashtra, the Ekal Mahila Kisan Sangathan is working as a pressure group to resolve the issues of farm widows and single women from the village to the national level. The Ekal Mahila Kisan Sangathan is a political platform that mobilizes women's rights and politicizes issues of single women. A resolution on gender equality and zero tolerance for violence against women was adopted in 15 gram panchayats on 15 August 2015.

An Ekal Mahila Adhikar Parishad (Conclave on rights of single women) was organized by Stree Gavki in collaboration with Disha Kendra, Maharashtra on the death anniversary of eminent rights' activist and social worker Mahatma Jyotiba Phule. More than 1,500 women from Karjat block came together to present their issues related to health, rations, employment, pensions and domestic violence at the sabha graha in Karjat city. Karjat block's MLA, Suresh Laad, attended the conclave. The demands that were submitted to him include increasing pensions under the Sanjay Gandhi Niradhar Yojana from Rs 600 to Rs 2,500 per month, free education for children of single women and access to various entitlements. Similarly, 1,458 single women organized

themselves in Nellore, Chittoor and Nalgonda districts in Telangana.

In Ganjam district in Odisha, 29 single women's collectives were promoted. The members of the collectives met once a month and discussed various issues and concerns. This also created a space for single women to share their personal experiences and get support from other members. Besides, women members engaged with the tehsil administration to secure land rights for single women by facilitating physical possession of land and promoting further linkages with social security schemes. With 209 homestead land titles being given to single women in Chikiti tehsil in 2015, ActionAid in close collaboration with the Ganjam district administration has been able to facilitate homestead land titles to 2,388 single women of which 2,250 women have got housing support from the government.

Workshop on Witch Hunting in Odisha

A two-day national level workshop on witch hunting was organized with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) at Bhubaneswar. The objective of the workshop was highlighting the severity of issues related to witch branding. This was done through sharing case studies, identifying vulnerable districts, analysing the sources and their manifestation and discussing the various provision cited in the Odisha Prevention of Witch Hunting Act. The primary expectation was to engage with the government for developing appropriate schemes based on the provisions of the act. A book contain-

ing an analysis of the situation with recommendations and 24 case studies covering different parts of Odisha was released.

Engagement with Women Related Laws

In Bihar many of AA and its partners' recommendations were considered and included by the government in its Mahila Swasakthikaran policy. The Girl Child Policy was also pursued with the relevant ministry in Uttar Pradesh. An important outcome was that the government is referring to the policy for framing schemes meant for women and girls. In Uttarakhand the government adopted some of our recommendations given in the Women Empowerment Policy section of AA's draft Girl Child Policy.

In Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, AA developed a draft Girl Child Policy and submitted it to bureaucrats and elected representatives.



Women Farmers' Rights over Land and Natural Resources

A national-level process on collectivizing women farmers to demand their dues and to advocate for necessary policy changes was initiated by women's rights groups in the name of Mahila Kisan Adhikar Manch (MAKAAM). ActionAid, along with partners, joined the process to strengthen it so as to enable women across different social groups to get ownership over livelihood resources and access to government support and services.

As a part of the network, Gramya initiated a study in four villages, four blocks and four districts in Telangana to understand the status of women's landholdings. This built on our earlier work on strengthening Dalit women's access to land rights. Gramya also initiated discussions with the Swaminathan Foundation to introduce a pro-women farmers' national legislation. An initial meeting with the National Commission for Women chairperson was also held. Our partner organization Pilupu, conducted a survey in 14 villages and identified 102 tenant farmers and applied for loan eligibility cards for 80 farmers, out of whom 60 have received the cards.

Women's Collectivization

Collective farming in some of the LRP areas gave an example of the benefits that communities can get by shifting power and deconstructing myths. An important learning from the collective process of farming is that poorer and landless women too can get benefits through it. It was also observed that vegetable producers kept aside a certain portion for their own consumption and sold the surplus to get additional income. It was observed that nutrition and income status improved among members of the collectives.

Strengthening Fishers' Collectives

During the year, a decision to take forward leadership schools was implemented. Thirty-five women from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Odisha participated in the first of the 3-phase training programme for seven days. The participants were grassroots activists and strong leaders of their communities.



ActionAid supported the Forum for Securing Land and Livelihood Rights of the Coastal Community (FLLRC).

The forum's partners have been working on a comprehensive fishing policy for Tamil Nadu. Fishing communities (coast and inland), scientists, academicians, politicians and civil society forums working on the rights of the coastal communities were involved at various levels after which a draft policy paper was drawn up.

The draft policy was presented to the State Planning Commission of Tamil Nadu. As a result the commission directed the fisheries department to fine-tune the policy and its development programmes in consultation with FLLRC and agreed to a stakeholders meeting for further discussions.

Study on Post-industrialization and its Impact on Women

The report of a study was released on the socio, economic and political status of women in post-industrial interventions in 15 villages in district Jharsuguda in Odisha. The study highlights increasing violence against women and decreasing space for income generation including shrinking access to forest and land resources. A follow up intervention plan has been developed for the study area.

Sensitizing Media on Eliminating Gender Discrimination

The All India Media Educators Conference (AIMEC) was organized in Jaipur in 2015. With continued involvement of the conference's organizers' the ActionAid Rajasthan and Gujarat Regional Office in Jaipur created various opportunities for talking about breaking the stereotypical images of women portrayed by the media. In the plenary supported by ActionAid it was emphasized that issues related to women and their images as portrayed by the media need to undergo a positive change and must move beyond commodification. The media portraying a sexualized image of women also needed to change. The media should be used to bring a positive change in society's perception of women.

Protest Against Opening of Liquor Outlets in Karnataka

ActionAid's partner SWARAJ has been engaged with the Karnataka State Women's Commission, the women and child welfare department and the excise department to take necessary action to ban the sale of liquor in the state. Despite statements by the excise minister and the Chief Minister against opening liquor shops, the government announced the opening 349 new liquor outlets across the state. SWARAJ and other women's groups raised serious objections against this and wrote to all MLAs, discussed the issue with the District Collector and sent a fax to the Chief Minister and the excise minister.

Members from the opposition parties too raised their voices against this move in the assembly session. SWARAJ resisted the opening of liquor outlets and raised objections through a letter and also individually interacted with 25 MLAs. The MLAs assured SWARAJ that they would not support the state in such a move. With support from other women's organizations SWARAJ is also planning to launch a campaign on banning the sale of liquor.

Public Hearing on Sex Workers' Issues

With support from ActionAid's partner Janasahayog, a public hearing was organized by Sadana Mahila Sangha, a sex workers' collective in Bangalore along with Swati Mahila Sangha and Jyothi Mahila Sangha. The aims of the public hearing were sharing their issues with the public and highlighting their issues among notable persons and the judiciary and raise their voices against the harassment of sex workers. Among those who attended the public hearing were the state Women's Commission's chairperson, the head of a recent committee set up to look into the status of sex workers in Karnataka and a senior advocate who recommended that children of sex workers be given 'backward class' status.

Five women shared their testimonies and recent instances of human rights violations against them. Senior media person Manjunath Adde asked the Women's Commission to take steps to sensitize police personnel who are brutal with women. He also said that he would prepare a report of the public hearing, which could then be used as a document to appeal to higher authorities.



Initiating a Dialogue on Child Marriages

ActionAid's partnership with the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) led to the initiating of a dialogue on the issue of child marriages which culminated in a state level consultation to analyse secondary data corroborated with findings from four regional consultations and the findings of the working group's meetings. UNICEF is expected to publish both the documents. The consultation was attended by members of child welfare committees, district child protection officers, civil society representatives, international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), media persons, film producers and PRI representatives.

AA continued its efforts in West Bengal to make operational villages' child marriage free. Women vigilance groups were formed in areas prone to trafficking linked to child marriages.

Public Hearing on Women's Rights in District Maharajganj, Uttar Pradesh

ActionAid and the Musahar Seva Sansthan organized a public hearing on women's rights' issues and exclusion of the Musahar community in government schemes. This event was the first of its kind organized by the Musahar community to raise issues before state and district government functionaries. Members and chairperson of the State Women's Commission, Uttar Pradesh, chaired the public hearing.

Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

In its work with young urban women (YUW) across three cities — Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Chennai, AA took up training of about 3,000 girls on sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR). This activity-based participatory training helped bust many myths and misconceptions about SRHR. All young women expressed an interest in learning more about sexual and reproductive health issues which they otherwise rarely talked about openly. This opened the platform for YUW to actively seek information on what is normal, when to seek help and also get their doubts/myths cleared, especially around menstruation. The mid-term review of this initiative revealed that about 23 per cent of the women were confident discussing sexual and reproductive health issues with their partners and family members, while 64 per cent preferred to talk about it with their friends.

The mid-term review also revealed that 83 per cent of the young women recognized and acknowledged the need for information on SRHR and related services and 67 per cent of the women and girls were now accessing services (information, counselling) from resource centres/health centres

In an innovative approach for expressing their thoughts on supposedly taboo topics of sexual and

reproductive health rights (SRHR), 30 young women were trained on 'grassroots comics' reflecting their issues as single page graphic posters which are being published and used for advocacy. After their training, all the young and adolescent girls took an oath not to get married till they were over 18 years of age.

A national advocacy workshop on 'Who Cares?' was organized for a better understanding of women's contribution to paid, unpaid and care work and on how to recognize, reduce and redistribute this work. Work was done at the grassroots level to sensitize community members on the unpaid care work done by women.

Gender Stereotyping in Textbooks

A research study was carried out on 'gender discrimination and gender stereotyping in government textbooks.' It revealed that more than 79 per cent of the pictures used in textbooks depicted gender stereotypes which reinforced patriarchal values and attitudes in young children. A campaign initiated in Karnataka for revising textbooks and removing the gender discriminated portions and also including gender studies as a subject was successful in getting its demands met.

Beti Zindabad

The Beti Zindabad campaign continued in 2015-16 with stronger grounded action and better mainstreaming of girls and women's rights in each of our LRP and project areas. Several actions across the country took place simultaneously in a planned and coordinated fashion at community and state levels.

In all the 83 LRP areas and also in three metro cities, young women, adolescent girls and young men were mobilized into groups. They were all oriented and sensitized on various patriarchal issues. In 2015-16, the specific focus was on women's unpaid work and their contribution to GDP. Dialogues were initiated at the community level for recognizing and redistributing care work. These groups counselled thousands of parents and prevented more than 800 child marriages.

Special women gram sabhas were demanded in several project villages and many were successful in organizing them to discuss and address issues of violence against women, child marriages, the declining girl child ratio, domestic violence, girl child trafficking and branding women as witches.

AA India continued addressing the issue of sex selective abortions by monitoring scanning centres and also the implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Technique (PCPNDT) Act. Many AA partners and staff members are part of inspection committees set up by the government to inspect scanning centres.

In Gujarat a 16-day campaign was held in Laldarwaja, Ahmedabad on the occasion of the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women. More than 200 women from four districts —

Sabarkantha, Patan, Kutch and Ahmedabad – participated in the programme. Various other programmes including conventions, street plays, cultural events and games were also organized in various districts.

Challenging patriarchal institutions that legitimize discrimination and elimination of girl children, the Bale campaign hosted by ActionAid's partner Swaraj focused on the effective implementation of the PCPNDT Act, 1994. The campaign resulted in the formation of a state supervisory board for PCPNDT in Karnataka. Swaraj is now working to make the board more representative by including civil society members. The campaign was also successful in forming district level supervisory boards in three districts.

Engaging With the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' Campaign

The Odisha Regional Office in Bhubaneswar engaged with Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) programme along with the Nayagarh district administration. Interventions were made in schools and villages in the district to increase understanding about the adverse sex ratio. Anganwadi worker and Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) were orientated to monitor pregnancies. Regular collaboration and coordination with the district administration helped in creating linkages between women and different government schemes for them. PRIs were involved in most of the villages. They were informed about the Beti Zindabad and BBBP campaigns. Initiatives were taken to make PRIs responsible for violence against women which results in adverse sex ratios.

Programmes under the Beti Zindabad campaign were organized in Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram. The campaign reached more than

3 lakh people in operational areas and beyond. The campaign was organized during the Children's Book Festival in Guwahati, Rass festival in Nalbari, the Hornbill festival in Kohima and the 12th Adivasi Mahasabha in Kokrajhar. The campaign was promoted through radio and TV talk shows.

In Uttar Pradesh, a sports event was organized in Bareilly with adolescent girls from Kishori groups from eight villages.

Awareness meetings were organized with adolescent girls in upper primary schools in eight villages in Bareilly district, Uttar Pradesh. Discussions were held on gender discrimination, work distribution among boys and girls in families, child marriages, right to education for girls and their participation in decision-making.

Campaign on Gender Sensitization Among the Police

ActionAid partnered with Uttar Pradesh Police in Mahila Samman Prakosht, an initiative of UP Police for awareness generation and sensitization of youth, police and the general population on violence against women and girls and to provide support to survivors of violence in the state. As part of the campaign, sensitization programmes and self-defence workshops were organized for adolescent girls living in the slum areas in Lucknow and in AA's project areas. Sensitization programmes for police officers were organized at the zonal level so that they can respond positively in addressing violence against women and girls.

Self-defense Training for Adolescent Girls Living in Slums

Around 70 girls from the slum area in Jankipuram, Lucknow in the age group of 10-20 years learnt



taekwondo. The training sessions spread across five months were conducted by ActionAid's partner Vigyan Foundation as a part of the Beti Zindabad campaign to empower girls and make them aware of their rights. Sessions on gender equality, patriarchy, adolescent health, laws and acts related to women and girls too were organized.

Mahila Sammelan

Under the Beti Zindabad campaign a 'Mahila Sammelan' was held in district Hamirpur, Uttar Pradesh by AA's partner Samarth Foundation. More than 700 women from 35 villages participated in the event and presented their issues and problems.

Awareness Drive

In West Bengal an awareness drive covered 10 districts and involved the local administration, media, CSO members, men, women and girls from the community. It focused on early marriages, trafficking and violence against women and girls.





Strategic Priority

4

**Children are
Recognized
as Equal and
Political Citizens**

AA worked on realizing education, nutrition, health, participation and protection rights of the most marginalized children as they are among our key constituencies. We engaged in a discourse on key issues affecting the rights of children by engaging in a series of initiatives including influencing key policies such as those on child labour, gave inputs to externally commissioned research and conducted studies. We held policy workshops on education social audits and consultations with various civil society actors, academics, researchers, government bodies and ministries. We continued to focus on empowering community groups and school management committees for making schools functional and accessible to children from marginalized communities.

Children's groups were strengthened to ensure their right to participation and protection.

Macro-level Policy and Advocacy Interventions

Advocacy on Amendment to Child Labour Bill

ActionAid continued its advocacy efforts on the proposed amendment to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (CLPRA), 1986 that allows employment of children under 14 years of age in family enterprises, including agriculture and home-based work and forest gathering. The advocacy was

undertaken jointly with the Campaign Against Child Labour; it met various Members of Parliament from across the political spectrum during the first half of the Budget session.

A round table on a child labour prohibition legislation was organized in which a number of civil society groups, Parliamentarians, trade unionists, child rights activists and child leaders participated a day before the World Day Against Child Labour day. They collectively urged the government to remove the provision legitimizing children working in family enterprises during out-of-school hours and during vacations. This is to be included in the proposed amendment to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act (CLPRA) approved by the Cabinet. Seventy-eight persons from various civil society groups took part in the consultation; four Members of Parliament from different parties, including a former minister of labour were also part of the consultation.

Civil society groups pointed out that child labour should be banned up to 18 years of age as per the United Nations Child Rights Convention's (UNCRC) definition of a child which is also followed in the National Policy on Children and the Juvenile Justice Act among others. They were of the view that proposals to legally approve child labour in family enterprises would lead to the dilution of the objective of the child labour legislation to ban child labour up to even 14 years of age and would make it difficult to align it with the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. They also pointed out that the proposed amendment will reinforce the caste system, legitimize the economic exploitation of children and rob them of their childhood and their rights.

AA has been following up on the issue with Parliamentarians to oppose the move when it comes for discussion in the Lok Sabha.

IMPACT IN NUMBERS



11,362

Children enrolled in schools



1,222

Schools monitored for basic amenities and quality of education



535

Children suffering from malnutrition who were later linked to nutritional rehabilitation centres and ICDS



801

ICDS and anganwadi centres monitored for quality of service



886

Children's groups formed by grassroots organizations



631

Children rescued from child labour and reconnected to schools

A Review Report on the Child Marriage Situation in India

A Review Report on the Child Marriage Situation was brought out in collaboration with the Centre for

Regional Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

The main objective of this exercise was to assess the progress made, prospects and future challenges in the elimination of child marriages in India. The Child Rights Hub is in the process of publishing the review research along with real life stories.

ActionAid invited to the National Human Rights Commission's Core Group on Mental Health

AA was invited by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to join its core group on mental health. NHRC's initiatives in the area of mental healthcare were discussed and the group deliberated on the course of action required for a petition filed by NHRC in the Supreme Court on mental healthcare in the country; the group also came up with recommendations.

National Stocktaking Convention on RTE's Implementation

The RTE Forum organized a national stocktaking convention on the Right to Education's (RTE's) implementation. ActionAid was one of the organizing committee members, which supported the process to set the agenda as well organization of the stocktaking convention. It also facilitated the participation of partner organizations in the convention. ActionAid contributed to the stocktaking report and argued that while a majority of the children are still catered to by government run schools there is an increasing spread of private schools at a fast pace which is perpetuating already existing inequalities in society. It also highlighted the subtle role played by various state governments in enhancing privatization of education through school closures, mergers and introducing the public-private-partnership (PPP) mode.

The national stocktaking report on RTE's implementation was released by the Vice President of India

Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari. He raised some critical issues and explained the way forward for making RTE a reality. The convention concluded with members of the forum resolving to work jointly to advocate for higher allocation for elementary education, to protect the RTE Act from getting diluted and preventing the privatization of education.

Right to Education on the Ground

AA has been working on issues in implementing the RTE Act in more than 700 schools in its operational areas. Capacity building programmes for school monitoring committees were conducted across LRPs so that they can effectively monitor the schools' functioning, focussing on children's access to schools, quality learning and education, adequate number of teachers and their regularity, safe and secure infrastructure and transparency.

Regular meetings and capacity building programmes were organized with children's group to strengthen their understanding on child rights focussing on the right to development, protection and participation. The children's groups conducted meetings and relinked those children who had dropped out with schools. They also raised issues of quality learning, infrastructure and punishing children, which were then raised by community groups with the school administration. Due to the intervention of children's and community groups the infrastructure in schools has improved, including construction of new school buildings, school boundaries, kitchen sheds and provision of water and sanitation facilities in several villages. The community groups formed in our LRP areas monitored more than 800 schools, facilitated enrolment of children and dropouts and addressed discrimination, quality learning, lack of teachers and infrastructure in schools.

A national convention of members of school management committees (SMCs) was organized by the National RTE Forum. ActionAid supported the process both in developing the concept and the design of the workshop and by partly providing financial support along with other development agencies through the Child Rights Knowledge Activist Hub. In coordination with regional offices the Child Rights Hub also facilitated the participation of SMC members belonging to operational areas of AA's partners in Assam, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Telangana. At the convention consensus evolved among the participating SMC members on working towards the formation of a national federation of SMCs. A common charter of demands was also prepared and presented.

State Level Initiatives

Solidarity With the Shiksha ka Sawal Campaign

ActionAid supported the Suchna Evam Rozgar Adhikar Abhiyan (Movement for Right to Information and Employment) to work on a campaign on education, Shiksha Ka Saval (Raising the issue of education). It mobilized children and parents in every government school across Rajasthan to file RTI applications. The campaign was conducted in association with the local newspaper Rajasthan Patrika, which highlighted the movement through





regular media coverage. The Shiksha ka Saval campaign developed into a state-wide movement for right to education. In several places the state administration responded to gaps in the provision of school education which were brought out by the campaign.

Collaboration with DCPCR

AAI, in association with the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights (DCPCR), came out with a document, 'Missing Children: A Compendium,' a compilation of Delhi Police's various instructions/orders/guidelines/standard operating procedures, advisories on the subject issued by the ministry of home affairs and also by other organizations including NHRC on the issue of missing children. This is the first such document on the issue.

Rescuing Bonded Children

Thanks to AA's efforts, 40 children were rescued from bondage in Madhya Pradesh. For the first time the state recognized the existence of child bonded labour. Release certificates were provided to the children for rehab entitlements.

Issue of Schools Closing

Strong Advocacy Efforts Resulted in Checking the Closure of Government Schools

A petition was filed in the office of the Odisha State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (OSPCPR) challenging the government's decision of closing

IMPACT IN NUMBERS



91

Children who received health referral support



1,399

Children enrolled in schools with AA's support



623

Girls enrolled in schools with AA's support



121

SMCs having regular meetings



107

ICDS centres that became functional



14

Schools made discrimination free



6

Multi-Lingual Education (MLE) schools



107

Children joining MLE schools

down 165 primary schools having less than five children. Responding to the petition the chairperson, OSCPCR asked for a compliance report from the school and the mass education department. The department submitted its report and the OSCPCR office shared it with AA which is in the process of submitting a counter petition on the basis of this compliance report.

Apart from this, members of Paudi Bhuyan Samaj took up denial of admissions to Paudi Bhuyan children with OSCPCR and ensured admissions to 15 girls in residential schools.

In Andhra Pradesh, 70 government schools facing closure were saved by increasing enrolment of children and getting 74 teachers appointed. Parents were persuaded in the area in which Nisarga works to bring back their children from private to government schools as they were feeling the burden of paying school fees and in ASDS an interface was conducted with the help of the media to ensure that 74 teachers joined 41 schools – this resulted in stopping 70 schools from being closed.

State-level Capacity Building on Malnutrition

A state-level capacity building programme was conducted with 50 identified leaders on malnutrition in Bhopal. The objective of the programme was enhancing leaders' understanding of child malnutrition.

Lobbying With the State to Introduce Eggs in ICDS and the Mid-day Meal Schemes

AA's partners organized advocacy events in Bangalore to lobby for introducing eggs in the ICDS and mid-day meal (MDM) schemes to deal with rising malnourishment among children in the state. A mass gathering of children, teachers and parents demanded that the Government of Karnataka supply 'an egg a day' to all children covered under anganwadis and to school children under the MDM scheme.

Subsequently a memorandum was submitted to the minister for food and civil supplies.

Highlights of Micro-level Interventions

Tribal Communities Gave Up Practice of Child Marriage

Through a process of engagement, Tribal communities in Odisha – Gadaba and Kondha in Koraput, Juanga in Keonjhar and Paudi Bhunya in Sundargarh – gave up their traditional community practices of marrying their daughters and sons below the

age of 18 and 21 years respectively. A state-level interface among the Tribal communities was held in Bhubaneswar to celebrate and highlight the decision.

Promoting Tribal Culture Through Mother Tongue Based Education

Six Tribal language schools are functioning for Kuie and Soura languages in Rayagada and Gajapati districts in Odisha for enhancing Tribal cultural history and folk traditions. In each school there are 30-40 children, youth and adults practising their own script, language, history and folk traditions.

Apart from this the traditional Tribal histories of Kandha, Paraja and Gadava were collected from villagers in a participatory process; these will be published soon by AA's partner organization in Koraput.

Children's Participation in Governance

With the support of ActionAid Karnataka Regional Office, Maarga, a Bengaluru based civil society organisation conducted a ward-level Children's Sabha in Adugodi ward (ward no. 147) in Bengaluru, Karnataka. This was done with the collaboration of eight schools and three other civil society organizations – 200 participants, including those enrolled in the Parikrama Centre for learning, Greenland Public School, Sunshine Primary and High School, Koramangala Government Kannada and Tamil Primary School, Urdu Government School, MARP Lane Government

School, Adarsha Makkala Mantappa Centre and the Centre for Social Action took part.

The sabha gave children an opportunity to express their views and exercise their right to be heard. Two representatives (a girl and a boy) from each of the eight schools spoke about significant issues and proposed the resolutions to be voted on. The resolutions that were passed by the children were submitted to the corporator.

'Expressions of Denial' – A Children's Art Exhibition Depicting Impact of Evictions

'Expressions of Denial,' an exhibition showing children's experiences with deprivation had 150 paintings by children of evicted and under the threat of eviction families from Vinobha Nagar, Gulbarga slum, Ullalupa Nagar and Pailayout in Bengaluru, Karnataka. It was an innovative way of depicting deprivations through art. In particular, the paintings highlighted children's struggles.

Each piece was created by children from extremely exploitative backgrounds and gave a glimpse of what a child's real world was. The work was an effort of child rights' artist Anantha.

A study was done on Children's Voices about the Community Child Protection Mechanism. It was endorsed by the minister for women and child development, Government of West Bengal and acknowledged by the chairperson, West Bengal State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (WBSCPCR).



An effort was made to build linkages between the state government, academic institutions, activists and likeminded platforms. WBSGPCR gave ActionAid the responsibility of being a nodal agency for rolling out child protection committees and the child inspector process in two districts of West Bengal.

Ensuring the Right to Participation

School cabinets were formed and monitored in 27 schools in Gaisilate, Paikmal and Padampur blocks in Bargarh district. Qualitative changes were seen in teaching, MDMs and the school environment due to the efforts of the children.

Seven hundred children asked the sarpanch for additional infrastructure and equipment in their respective schools in Sundargarh district in Odisha. They put their hand prints on a banner to bring this to the notice of the local authorities.

One hundred and two participants including children, parents and SMC members took part in a public hearing on RTE organized at Lahunipada and discussed their issues.

Engagement With Schools

AA engaged with government schools to make them functional across the operational areas of its LRPs. Enrolment campaigns were organized to bring back out of school children. Meetings were conducted with community members, teachers and SMC and panchayat members during the enrolment campaign to sensitize them and for involving all the stakeholders in making education accessible to children.

Capacity Building of School Management Committee Members

SMC members were trained on child rights and their roles and responsibilities under RTE in managing schools across the operational areas of our LRPs. The training helped SMC members engage on children's issues, on how to improve the quality of learning and preparing school development plans (SDPs). The SMC of the government school in village Gawandi, Karjat block, Raigad district, Maharashtra took the initiative to form a child rights committee. This has started keeping a check on regular attendance of teachers. The SMC in Mulgaon is following up on the construction of a school in the village.

Seasonal Hostels Started on the Demand of SMCs in Maharashtra

Subsequent to the SMCs demanding seasonal hostels for migrant children, 30 seasonal hostels were opened in Ashti block, Beed district. In Kasewadi village in Beed district, the opening of a seasonal hostel stopped 65 children of sugarcane cutters from migrating. The government allocated Rs 3,12,000 for their education for four months. Due to the advocacy efforts of AA's partners the Mahatma Phule Samaj Seva Mandal (MPSSM) and Sarth with the block administration, a state transport bus was started for girl students of two villages in Beed district, Maharashtra.

Efforts Towards the Creation of Children's Agencies for Bringing Change

Almost every project village of Sai Jyoti our partner in Lalitpur district, Uttar Pradesh, has a creative club where all the children from the village in the 6 to 11 years age group (Classes 1 to 5) are enrolled as members to take part in activities for learning and their overall development. Volunteers of Sai Jyoti facilitate these club meetings once a week and at a place where parents can see what their children are doing. A sequence of activities has been drafted for the club keeping in mind the children's needs for education and enhancing their skills so that they can be participative and also for boosting their overall confidence.

Campaigns

Campaign for Right To Education in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

- » The RTE Act was used as a tool to negotiate with the mandal and district administrations to provide separate toilets for boys and girls in school premises. During the year, 112 toilets were constructed.
- » Parents' committees were strengthened in 68 schools to monitor schools' functioning (teachers' timings), MDM and anganwadi centres. During the year, malpractices in provision of mid-day meals in 15 schools were exposed and rectified.

- » 100 per cent children in 100 villages of the project area started going to schools and anganwadi centres.
- » A survey was conducted on government schools' hostel facilities – sanitation, water, bedding, food, electricity and so on. Gaps in seven hostels were highlighted and followed up with the administration.
- » Children were engaged with environmental issues by forming green clubs in 30 villages and collection of wild seeds and sowing in common land during the rains.
- » Emergency support to the most needy children was extended.
- » The government was stopped from taking a decision to close 28 primary schools. The programme also succeeded in negotiating necessary transport facilities for 12 schools.
- » Parents' committees were formed in every village to monitor schools' functioning, MDM and drinking water facilities.

Campaign for the Upgradation of Government Schools in Karnataka

Samna Shikshanakkagi Nagarikara Vedike organized district-wide campaigns in Ramanagar and Mysore in Karnataka for the upgradation of government schools. Leaders from the farmers' and Dalit movements, progressive civil society groups, women's movements, intellectuals and academicians participated in jathas with around 380 members from different villages who were mobilized in seven Hobli level headquarters. They distributed pamphlets and formed a human chain in the market area. The local MLA wrote a letter to the education minister in their support.



A young girl with dark hair, wearing a green and black patterned dress, is crouching on a sandy beach. She is drawing a large, five-pointed star in the sand with her fingers. The background shows the ocean waves and a clear sky. The image is overlaid with a red banner at the top and a red box on the right containing text.

Strategic Priority

5

**A Just, Secular,
Violence Free
and Peaceful
Society and
State**

Macro-level Interventions

National Consultation on Diversity, Pluralism and Equality

A national consultation was organized in Bangalore to review, reflect and explore ways for upholding diversity, pluralism and equality for all citizens irrespective of religion, caste and gender. It was an enriching, passionate and thought provoking interaction between activists, academics, writers and concerned citizens. The group tried to take stock of and arrive at a shared perspective on the threat to Constitutional values of pluralism, justice and democracy. The participants expressed serious concerns about attacks on the freedom and liberty of citizens and rising intolerance. The activists presented accounts of growing polarization and violations of rights of citizens, particularly minorities.

Upholding the Rights of Muslim Women

The BMMA continued its mission of asserting citizenship rights for Muslims, especially Muslim women through various activities and a campaign to codify the Muslim Personal Law; endorsements for this are being sought through a signature campaign involving community members and elected representatives. Efforts are also underway to rope

in MPs and various commissions to support the demand for reforms. Two reports were also published during the year:

- » Seeking Justice Within Family, A National Study on Muslim Women's Views on Reforms in Muslim Personal Law, and
- » No More Talaq Talaq Talaq, Muslim Women Call for a Ban on an unIslamic Practice.

Women activists continued to work on upholding Quranic and citizenship rights of women. BMMA's different state chapters organized programmes concerning women on International Women's Day around themes such as violence, personal laws, diversity, security and communalism.

BMMA did a study on the regressive divorce practice of triple talaq which received wide publicity. The group also challenged efforts to ban women from entering a Sufi shrine in Mumbai.

State-level Initiatives

Convention on Issues and Challenges of Minorities

A state-level convention was organized by the Jan Adhikar Manch in Ahmedabad to focus on issues faced by minorities, especially Muslims in Gujarat and charting out advocacy plans for budgetary allocations for minorities. More than 100 people

participated in the convention which also deliberated on the increasing polarization, intolerance and hatred between different religious communities.

The convention emphasized the need for advocacy with regard to budgetary allocations and expenditure on programmes for minorities.

State-level consultation on the socioeconomic conditions of Muslim communities

A state-level consultation was organized by ActionAid in Lucknow on the 'Socioeconomic Conditions of Muslim Communities, Challenges and the Way Forward' on Minorities Rights Day, 18 December 2015. Civil society organizations, experts, activists and media representatives deliberated on the issue. The recommendations made by the workshop were submitted to the government.

Consultation on Peace and Harmony in Lucknow

A consultation was organized on 'Communal Peace, Harmony and Democracy' in Lucknow. People from various faiths including religious leaders participated in the consultation and emphasized on the need for peace and communal harmony.

Developing Peace Volunteers

Various workshops and conventions on Constitutional values, secularism, equality, dignity, diversity and pluralism were organized across LRPs. Peace volunteers reached out to the youth in their areas through the cultural media and film screenings.



Engagement with Internally Displaced People

AA and its local partners in Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat have been working with internally displaced communities focusing on their rehabilitation and peace building. In 2015-16 their interventions furthered these people's access to civic amenities, housing and rehab related entitlements.





Strategic Priority

6

**Solidarity with
Struggles and
Progressive
Actions
Beyond Local
and National
Boundaries**

In 2015-16, the South Solidarity Initiative (SSI), an entity hosted by the AA's South-South Solidarity Knowledge Activist Hub played an active role in advancing the idea of South-South solidarity by working with a range of actors both within and outside India. AA initiated important meetings, published two reports that were widely circulated, wrote several articles, helped draft several statements and press releases and played a key role in building awareness around challenges on the trade front, especially the revival of the World Trade Organization's (WTO) negotiations. As in previous years, we maintained our presence on social media with regular updates on our website, Facebook page and Twitter handle.

Supporting the Fisher-folk Initiative and the Right To Food Campaign

Members of the National Fish-workers Forum (NFF) travelled to Delhi to raise concerns about the Meenakumari Commission's report that increased the number of large foreign trawlers that could fish in Indian waters. SSI helped NFF in drafting a press releases and a memorandum to the agriculture minister on issues of concern to the fishing community. The communications team also did video interviews with senior NFF members. The Hub took part in the Right to Food Campaign's events in

Delhi on implementing the National Food Security Act. It was also a part of a strategy meeting to look at the implications of WTO's food security negotiations.

SSI was one of the co-organizers of the WTO Panel in the South Asia Right to Food Conference organized in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The conference brought together researchers, activists and policymakers from across South Asian countries to deliberate on challenges facing the agriculture sector in the region. As a part of its involvement with networks such as People's SAARC, SSI attended a meeting organized on SAARC's response to the Nepal earthquake.

SSI released a short film on 'Alternatives in Agriculture, Energy and Rural Non-farms' that was co-produced by the All India People's Science Network (AIPSN) and the Centre of Science and Technology for Rural Development.

Engaging in Health Issues

ActionAid co-organized a panel discussion on the launch of Global Health Watch, an alternative world health report from the People's Health Movement.

Organizing South-South Dialogue

SSI organized three talks as part of the South-South dialogue series. The first was an interaction with Professor Vivek Chibber of New York University, USA on the global economic crisis and the response of the Left. The second was on current trends in Indian foreign policy by Professor Vijay Prashad of Trinity College, USA which was co-organized with the

Centre for Policy Analysis. The third in the series was a discussion on the state of air quality in Indian cities and policy changes by Dr Sarath Guttikunda of IIT Mumbai and the Director of Urban Emissions.

Workshops

SSI was invited as a resource group for a 3-day workshop in Kohima, Nagaland on Understanding Developmental Challenges in the North East. SSI was actively involved in evolving the structure of the meeting and also chaired two sessions on WTO, FTA and investment issues and on the implications of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) and the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). Researchers and members of various NGOs from all the North Eastern states took part in the workshop.

SSI was one of the lead organizers of a 3-day national conference on 'WTO, FTAs and Investment Treaties – implications for development policy space' organized at the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID). More than 80 representatives from trade unions, farmers' groups, social movements and civil society networks participated in the conference. SSI contributed a paper on the impacts of service liberalization and privatization. All conference papers and a declaration are in the process of being finalized and will soon be published as a book.

SSI co-organized a national level seminar on 'New Development from the South-for people for profit.' Over 50 participants attended the 2-day seminar in New Delhi to understand the implications of the BRICS NDB and AIIB and the role, funding and impact of international financial institutions (IFIs) in India. Participants included community activists, academics, researchers, students, NGO workers and representatives of political parties from Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi, Manipur and Assam.

SSI organized a South-South Dialogue with South African researcher Camalita Naicker on the 2012 Marikana massacre and its impacts on South African politics.

Release of a Report on the Asian Floor Wage

SSI and the Asia Floor Wage Alliance launched their report – 'Towards an Asia Floor Wage – a global south labour initiative for garment workers' – in a day-long seminar. The first panel addressed the issue 'Make in India, Industrialization and Global Value Chains,' the second concentrated on 'Asia Floor Wage and International Trade,' and the third was an intensive dialogue between labour unions, student groups, women's associations and media representatives on forging a social alliance for garment workers in the National Capital Region (NCR) of Delhi. The report can be downloaded from the SSI website (<http://www.southsolidarity.org/report-towards-an-asia-floor-wage/>).



Emergency Response



Learning a lesson from last year where we faced five disasters in a row AA decided to augment its internal capacity and that of its partners across the country. A week-long workshop brought out ActionAid's learning on the subject and resulted in a compendium of guidelines, do's and don'ts's and preparedness plans.

ActionAid was invited by the Government of Bihar to provide support in designing its Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) policy and building a roadmap for it.

Heavy rainfall that started on 24 June 2015 in Saurashtra and South Gujarat resulted in severe damage to life and property. Amreli and Bhavnagar districts in Saurashtra were the worst-affected. Due to lack of information and preparedness, the losses were high. As per government sources, 70 people died in the floods. AA along with its local partner conducted rapid needs assessment of the worst affected areas in Amreli district and identified the worst affected families particularly from Dalit, Valmiki, Devipujak and Bharwad communities. Tarpaulins were provided for temporary shelters to 200 families in six villages in Amreli district. They were also provided rations and hygiene kits. The affected families will also be assisted in receiving relief entitlements from the state.

In West Bengal relief interventions were carried out in districts affected by heavy rains, floods and water logging (Birbhum, South and North 24 Pargana, East Medinapur and Hooghly) and in nine urban slum pockets. Community kitchens and health camps were supported in urban slum pockets, where 562 families were also supported with tarpaulins.

Accessing Entitlements and Schemes

Telangana, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh suffered due to heat waves. AA reached out to 1,157 families in these states; 21 village level disaster management committees were also formed (65 women and 61 men were part of these committees). Further, 21 grain banks were set up. A grain bank purchase committee was also set up and 492 individuals have so far applied for jobs under the government's rural employment guarantee scheme.

In 2015-16 emergency response and relief was extended to nine states (Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Assam, West Bengal, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Odisha). On the basis of the type of emergency, support was extended to the most vulnerable and marginalized communities. The communities were given food, dry rations, non-food products, shelter support, medicine support and care products in both flood affected and heat wave affected areas.

Emergency Response in Tamil Nadu

ActionAid along with its partners was engaged in relief interventions in flood affected areas in various districts in Tamil Nadu. In Cuddalore, Thiruvallur and Tuticorin our teams reached out to fishing communities, daily wage workers from Dalit communities,

salt pan workers and members of the much marginalized Irula Tribal community, all of whom AA has been working with for several years. In Chennai, we engaged with the urban poor, comprising of the homeless, slum inhabitants, daily wage labourers and others. We also engaged with the government in supporting its reach to the marginalized communities in our project areas. We received support from corporate partners in Chennai and we hope to build long term relationships with them for preparedness.

Preparing Better for Disasters and emergencies

In our emergency interventions we found that the women played an active and decisive role in disaster response – before, during and after. Through our local-level interventions we sensitized the government to ensure involvement of women in all steps of disaster response.

Osmanabad, Jalana, Solapur and Beed districts in Maharashtra have been facing a drought situation for the last couple of years. Given that this has impacted the farmers badly, AA's Maharashtra Regional Office in Mumbai along with AA's partners initiated drought mitigation efforts like agriculture restoration, groundwater recharge, strengthening existing water sources, continuous contour trenching, training on dry land farming techniques, fodder creation, horticulture and strengthening community drinking water sources through recharging of existing structures and developing dove models.

In cyclone prone areas in Odisha women played a lead role in developing community contingency



plans (CCPs) which were approved in the palli and gram sabhas. These plans were led by women and they identified ways to prevent and respond to disaster with a focus on reducing the impact of a disaster on vulnerable groups such as women, children, people with disabilities (PWDs), Dalits, Tribals and single women. The district administration accepted the CCPs as disaster preparedness plans of the concerned villages and assured that it would provide support for capacity building of the task forces. Based on this, the Odisha Regional Office in Bhubaneswar developed a tool kit for women led CCPs and is planning to institutionalize it in disaster prone areas within the LPRs' operational areas; this has been shared with government departments for implementation.

Along with ensuring awareness building on DRRs, efforts were also made to ensure that the community had information on how to access entitlements and for addressing VAW. Women leaders interacted with the administration, PRIs and opinion makers on various issues. Community members including women were trained on search and rescue operations. The state relief commissioner released subsidies for fisher folks for purchasing boats as a part of the compensation package after the disaster. In Odisha, 352 families were linked to a housing scheme and they will construct their houses with a DRR component. Among them 192 are women.

Training of trainers for staff members and partners on disaster response was also held during the year. This included connecting with government agencies and working in close coordination with them. With the Astitva and Afkar Foundation we were able

to link 1,800 affected families to the public distribution system and pension schemes in Uttar Pradesh.

Advocacy with State Governments

In Assam, Manipur, Kashmir and Andhra Pradesh the disaster affected communities demanded due entitlements from state governments. Through advocacy they have received entitlements and infrastructural support.

We worked with 290 women leaders from Dalit and Tribal communities and 30 elected women representatives in PRIs. In all we worked with 2,680 women with the objective of reducing the impact of disasters on women and other vulnerable groups by building women's leadership so as to respond to any future disaster with better preparedness and resilience. The area of work was spread in 63 villages across three blocks in Ganjam district in Odisha.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh issued an order for the rehabilitation of river-displaced families in Lakhimpur district. This was after continuous efforts at the local level by our ally Aim which is implementing the LRP initiative in the area and state-level advocacy by ActionAid Lucknow on the rehabilitation of internally displaced families in the district. The government allocated Rs 1,15,548,129 for purchasing homestead land and compensation for crop loss to 3,300 internally displaced families in the district. AA's Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand Regional Office in Lucknow is monitoring the implementation of the order at the field level.



Out local partners and other civil society organizations in Uttar Pradesh came together and demanded that seven districts in the Bundelkhand region be declared drought-hit. Under the banner of the 'People's Advocacy Forum' they held a press conference to apprise the media about the conditions of the farmers who had lost their crops again. NGOs jointly conducted a rapid assessment in all districts of Bundelkhand known for drought and farmer suicides. The findings have been presented to the government and we are advocating for immediate relief measures.

A mapping of disaster prone zones within the operational areas of LRPs was done in 2015-16. We hope to institutionalize women-led crisis counseling assistance and training programmes (CCP) in disaster prone LRP areas. Besides the drought mitigation efforts mentioned earlier, to combat the drought situation, AA also initiated an eco-friendly water impounding structure created in a stream whose water carrying capacity had reduced in most of the places by deepening and widening it. Revival of streams by deepening and widening will also make construction of water harvesting structures feasible. It will also help overcome problems of water logging during heavy rainfall.



A group of women, mostly from South Asia, are gathered around a large sheet of paper laid out on the floor. They are dressed in vibrant, traditional saris in shades of yellow, green, blue, and purple. The women are focused on the paper, which appears to be a financial ledger or a community record, with several hands pointing to specific entries. The setting is outdoors, with a brick wall visible in the background. The overall atmosphere is one of collaborative work and community engagement.

Financials

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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 2016 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, The responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and 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 procedure to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, 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 include 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.

Independent Auditor's Report (Contd...)

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 principle generally accepted in India:

- (i) In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Society as at 31 March 2016: and
- (ii) In the case of the Statement of Income and Expenditure, excess of income over expenditure of the Society for the year ended on this date.

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

Place: Gurgaon
Date: 13 October 2016

Sandeep Batra
Partner
(Membership No.: 093320)

ActionAid Association

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2016
(Unless stated otherwise all amounts are in Indian Rupees)

	Schedule	As at 31 st March 2016			As at 31 st March 2015		
		FC	NFC	Total	FC	NFC	Total
Funds Employed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unrestricted funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
General Funds	2	(9,488,312)	(6,055,214)	(15,543,526)	(61,232,869)	212,648	(61,020,221)
Restricted Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Specific projects funds	3	22,914,987	16,454,766	39,369,753	96,693,881	7,053,181	103,747,062
Total		13,426,675	10,399,552	23,826,227	35,461,012	7,265,829	42,726,841
					-	-	-
Application of Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fixed assets	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross block	-	12,806,267	263,596	13,069,863	8,320,010	263,596	8,583,606
Less: Accumulated depreciation	-	6,140,341	202,671	6,343,012	2,846,766	191,837	3,038,603
Net block		6,665,926	60,925	6,726,851	5,473,244	71,759	5,545,003
Current assets, loans and advances	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cash and bank balances	-	21,246,459	11,202,040	32,448,499	32,619,751	7,262,477	39,882,228
Loans and advances	-	26,562,585	352,997	26,915,582	17,755,396	320,528	18,075,924
Net balances	-	47,809,044	11,555,037	59,364,081	50,375,147	7,583,005	57,958,152
Less: Current liabilities and provisions	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Current liabilities and provisions	-	41,048,295	1,216,410	42,264,705	20,387,379	388,935	20,776,314
Net current assets		6,760,749	10,338,627	17,099,376	29,987,768	7,194,070	37,181,838
Total	-	13,426,675	10,399,552	23,826,227	35,461,012	7,265,829	42,726,841

Significant accounting policies and notes to the accounts Schedule 11. 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: Gurgaon. Date: 13 October 2016

For and on behalf of **ActionAid Association**

Sandeep Chachra
Secretary
Place: New Delhi
Date: 13 October 2016

ActionAid Association

Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2016
(Unless stated otherwise all amounts are in Indian Rupees)

	Schedule	For the year ended at 31 March 2016			For the year ended at 31 March 2015		
		FC	NFC	Total	FC	NFC	Total
Income							
Grants received from ActionAid International and its affiliates		595,451,971	-	595,451,971	555,760,845	-	555,760,845
General donation		2,924,180	2,388,349	5,312,529	206,012	3,011,064	3,217,076
Grant received (from sponsorship)		-	8,872,001	8,872,001	-	8,939,901	8,939,901
Amount transferred from restricted funds to the extent of expenditure incurred							
- Restricted funds		224,485,213	9,480,498	233,965,711	216,791,286	22,291,820	239,083,106
- Sponsorship fund		-	20,701,337	20,701,337	-	23,070,950	23,070,950
Other income							
- Interest income		2,608,050	412,432	3,020,482	2,896,016	541,897	3,437,913
- Miscellaneous income		42,003	20,968	62,971	13,228	-	13,228
Total Income		825,511,417	41,875,585	867,387,002	775,667,386	57,855,632	833,523,019
Expenditure							
Grants disbursed							
- Restricted funds		112,947,715	6,178,779	119,126,494	157,394,319	13,981,500	171,375,819
- Sponsorship fund		-	20,701,337	20,701,337		23,070,950	23,070,950
- Others		280,244,870	17,241,391	297,486,261	328,443,752	22,001,897	350,445,649
Internal programme Expenses		-	-	-	-	-	-
- Restricted funds		77,403,565	3,301,719	80,705,284	59,396,967	8,310,320	67,707,287
- Others		36,288,660	108,184	36,396,844	43,929,284	479,225	45,057,952
Fundraising expenses	8	34,133,934	-	34,133,934	2,298,327	-	2,298,327
Depreciation	5	3,334,550	10,835	3,345,385	2,389,161	13,006	2,402,167
Employee benefits expenses	9	152,982,682	6,312	152,988,994	162,753,296	42,233	162,795,529
Administrative and other expenses	10	79,091,408	594,890	79,686,298	87,881,866	623,630	88,505,496
		776,427,384	48,143,447	824,570,831	844,486,972	68,522,761	913,009,733
Excess of income over expenditure transferred to general fund		49,084,033	(6,267,862)	42,816,171	(68,819,586)	(10,667,129)	(79,486,715)

Significant accounting policies and notes to the accounts Schedule 11. 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: Gurgaon. Date: 13 October 2016

For and on behalf of **ActionAid Association**

Sandeep Chachra
Secretary
Place: New Delhi
Date: 13 October 2016

ActionAid Association

Schedules to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016 (Unless stated otherwise all amounts are in Indian Rupees)

	As at 31 March 2016			As at 31 March 2015		
	FC	NFC	Total	FC	NFC	Total
SCHEDULE 1: CAPITAL RESERVE						
Opening balance	-	-	-	101,000	77,836	178,836
Less: Transfer to general fund	-	-	-	101,000	77,836	178,836
SCHEDULE 2: GENERAL FUND						
Opening balance	(61,232,869)	212,648	(61,020,221)	7,485,717	10,801,941	18,287,658
Add: Transferred from restricted fund	2,660,524	-	2,660,524	101,000	77,836	178,836
Add: Transferred from statement of income and expenditure	49,084,033	(6,267,862)	42,816,171	(68,819,586)	(10,667,129)	(79,486,715)
	(9,488,312)	(6,055,214)	(15,543,526)	(61,232,869)	212,648	(61,020,221)
SCHEDULE 3: RESTICTED FUNDS – SPECIFIC PROJECTS FUND						
<i>a) From various donors except mentioned in b) below</i>						
Opening balance	70,896,748	7,053,181	77,949,926	46,454,390	3,329,942	49,784,332
Add: Funds received during the year	44,479,541	18,882,083	63,361,624	72,438,214	26,015,059	98,453,273
	115,376,289	25,935,264	141,311,553	118,892,604	29,345,001	148,237,605
Less: Grants disbursed during the year	49937,031	6,178,779	56,115,810	34,539,744	13,981,500	48,521,244
Less: Expenditure on project	42,524,271	3,301,719	45,825,990	13,456,112	8,310,320	21,766,432
Total (a)	22,914,987	16,454,766	39,369,753	70,896,748	7,053,181	77,949,929
<i>b) From ActionAid International and its affiliates</i>						
Opening balance	25,797,133	-	25,797,133	27,142,525	-	27,142,525
Add: Funds received during the year	100,138,436	-	100,138,436	167,450,038	-	167,450,038
Less: Transferred general fund	2,660,524	-	2,660,524	-	-	-
	123,275,045	-	123,275,045	194,592,563	-	194,592,563
Less: fundraising expenses	34,133,934	-	34,133,934	-	-	-
Less: Grants disbursed during the year	63,010,684	-	63,010,684	122,854,575	-	122,854,575
Less: Expenditure on project	34,879,294	-	34,879,294	45,940,855	-	45,940,855
	(8,748,867)	-	(8,748,867)	25,797,133	-	25,797,133
Add: Fund receivable to the extent of excess expenditure	8,748,867	-	8,748,867	-	-	-
Total (b)	-	-	-	25,797,133	-	25,797,133
Total (a) + (b)	22,914,987	16,454,766	39,369,753	96,693,881	7,053,181	103,747,062

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

	As at 31 March 2016			As at 31 March 2015		
	FC	NFC	Total	FC	NFC	Total
SCHEDULE 4: SPONSORSHIP FUND						
Opening balance	-	-	-	-	2,211,181	2,211,181
Add: Funds received from the year	-	29,573,338	29,573,338	-	29,799,670	29,799,670
Less: Transferred to Statement of Income and Expenditure	-	8,872,001	8,872,001	-	8,939,901	8,939,901
	-	20,701,337	20,701,337	-	23,070,950	23,070,950
Less: Grants disbursed during the year	-	20,701,337	20,701,337	-	23,070,950	23,070,950
	-	-	-	-	-	-

ActionAid Association

Schedules to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016
(Unless stated otherwise all amounts are in Indian Rupees)

SCHEDULE 5: FIXED ASSETS

Non Foreign Contribution (NFC)

Particulars	Gross block				Accumulated depreciation			Net block		
	As at 1 April 2015	Additions during the year	Deletions/ adjustments during the year	As at 31 March 2016	As at 1 April 2015	For the year	On deletion / adjustments	As at 31 March 2016	As at 31 March 2016	As at 31 March 2015
Tangible assets										
Computer	89,609	-	-	89,609	89,284	195	-	89,479	130	325
Office equipment	149,500	-	-	149,500	96,106	8,009	-	104,115	45,385	53,394
Vehicle	21,000	-	-	21,000	4,489	2,477	-	6,966	14,034	16,511
Furniture and fixtures	3,487	-	-	3,487	1,958	153	-	2,111	1,376	1,529
Current year	263,596	-	-	263,596	191,837	10,834	-	202,671	60,925	71,759
Previous year	263,596	-	-	263,596	178,831	13,006	-	191,837	71,759	-

Foreign Contribution (FC)

Particulars	Gross block				Accumulated depreciation			Net block		
	As at 1 April 2015	Additions during the year	Deletions/ adjustments during the year	As at 31 March 2016	As at 1 April 2015	For the year	On deletion / adjustments	As at 31 March 2016	As at 31 March 2016	As at 31 March 2015
Tangible assets										
Computer	4,477,155	2,989,073	56,910	7,409,318	2,184,416	2,683,110	40,975	4,826,551	2,582,767	2,292,739
Office equipment	1,326,360	1,432,866	-	2,759,226	164,521	350,249	-	514,770	2,244,456	1,161,839
Vehicle	2,223,594	56,688	-	2,280,282	471,714	271,285	-	742,999	1,537,283	1,751,880
Furniture and fixtures	292,901	64,540	-	357,441	26,115	29,906	-	56,021	301,420	266,786
Current 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
Previous year	3,245,837	5,074,173	-	8,320,010	457,605	2,389,161	-	2,846,766	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 2015	Additions during the year	Deletions/ adjustments during the year	As at 31 March 2016	As at 1 April 2015	For the year	On deletion / adjustments	As at 31 March 2016	As at 31 March 2016	As at 31 March 2015
Tangible assets										
Computer	4,566,764	2,989,073	56,910	7,498,927	2,273,700	2,683,305	40,975	4,916,030	2,582,897	2,293,064
Office equipment	1,475,860	1,432,866	-	2,908,726	260,627	358,258	-	618,885	2,289,841	1,215,233
Vehicle	2,244,594	56,688	-	2,301,282	476,203	273,762	-	749,965	1,551,317	1,768,391
Furniture and fixtures	296,388	64,540	-	360,928	28,073	30,058	-	58,132	302,796	268,315
Current 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
Previous year	3,509,433	5,074,173	-	8,583,606	636,436	2,402,168	-	3,038,604	5,545,003	-

ActionAid Association

Schedules to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016
(Unless stated otherwise all amounts are in Indian Rupees)

	As at 31 March 2016			As at 31 March 2015		
	FC	NFC	Total	FC	NFC	Total
SCHEDULE 6: CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS AND ADVANCES						
Cash and bank balances						
Cash in hand	369,601	271	369,872	293,052	2,627	295,679
Balances with scheduled banks						
-in current accounts	20,876,858	11,201,769	32,078,627	31,022,724	7,259,850	38,282,574
Funds in transit	-	-	-	1,303,975	-	1,303,975
	21,246,459	11,202,040	32,448,499	32,619,751	7,262,477	39,882,228
Loans and advances (Unsecured, considered goods)						
Avances recoverable in cash or in kind or for value to be received	4,553,571	252,022	4,805,593	3,786,767	84,332	3,871,099
Advances to employees	1,765,493	475	1,765,968	1,974,435	130,196	2,104,631
Advance income tax	28,758	-	28,758	307,976	6,000	313,976
Grant receivable	8,748,867	-	8,748,867	-	-	-
Balance in gratuity fund (net of provision for gratuity of Rs.34,423,391 (previous year Rs.39,811,542)	5,814,101	-	5,814,101	6,044,473	-	6,044,473
Security deposits	5,651,795	100,500	5,752,295	5,641,745	100,000	5,741,745
	26,562,585	352,997	26,915,582	17,755,396	320,528	18,075,924
SCHEDULE 7: CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS						
Sundry creditors	17,194,184	678,240	17,872,424	12,879,499	346,339	13,225,838
Other liabilities	4,548,207	36,205	4,584,412	3,354,500	9,420	3,363,920
Employee related payable	14,891,531	501,965	15,393,496	306,360	33,176	339,536
Provision for compensated absences	4,414,373	-	4,414,373	3,847,020	-	3,847,020
	41,048,295	1,216,410	42,264,705	20,387,379	388,935	20,776,314

ActionAid Association

Schedules to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2016
(Unless stated otherwise all amounts are in Indian Rupees)

	For the year ended on 31 March 2016			For the year ended on 31 March 2015		
	FC	NFC	Total	FC	NFC	Total
SCHEDULE 8: FUNDRAISING EXPERIENCE						
Awareness and dissemination	21,628,575	-	21,628,575	631,380	-	631,380
Communication expenses	364,850	-	364,850	56,610	-	56,610
Legal and professional charges	8,537,634	-	8,537,634	266,349	-	266,349
Meeting and seminar expenses	150,392	-	150,392	18,063	-	18,063
Power and fuel	62,583	-	62,583	14,364	-	14,364
Printing and stationary	193,810	-	193,810	116,228	-	116,228
Rates & taxes	820	-	820	-	-	-
Rent	761,800	-	761,800	247,536	-	247,536
Repairs and maintenance expenses	523,931	-	523,931	200,080	-	200,080
Staff recruitment expenses	2,488	-	2,488	14,000	-	14,000
Travelling and conveyance	1,790,305	-	1,790,305	718,591	-	718,591
Miscellaneous expenses	116,746	-	116,746	15,126	-	15,126
	34,133,934	-	34,133,934	2,298,327	-	2,298,327
SCHEDULE 9: EMPLOYEE BENEFIT EXPENSE						
Salaries and wages	131,437,932	(4,140)	131,433,792	141,866,474	37,673	141,904,147
Contribution to provident fund	9,586,986	10,452	9,597,438	9,668,345	4,560	9,672,905
Contribution to other fund	3,614,986	-	3,614,986	7,081,123	-	7,081,123
Staff welfare expenses	8,342,778	-	8,342,778	4,137,354	-	4,137,354
	152,982,682	6,312	152,988,994	162,753,296	42,233	162,795,529
SCHEDULE 10: ADMINISTRATIVE AND OTHER EXPENSES						
Auditor's remuneration	1,776,427	-	1,776,427	1,148,675	-	1,148,675
Awareness and dissemination	3,559,163	-	3,559,163	-	-	-
Communication expenses	9,593,428	-	9,593,428	7,779,254	-	7,779,254
Documentation and research charges	708,822	-	708,822	575,330	-	575,330
Power and fuel	3,672,910	-	3,672,910	4,752,759	-	4,752,759
Printing and stationary	908,492	-	908,492	1,526,930	-	1,526,930
Legal and Professional charges	9,246,391	-	9,246,391	13,488,277	166,293	13,654,570
Rates and taxes	31,627	-	31,627	44,796	10,176	54,972
Rent	15,577,597	-	15,577,597	14,790,132	14,000	14,804,132
Repairs and maintenance expenses	7,632,043	-	7,632,043	10,063,775	1,335	10,065,110
Staff recruitment expenses	1,180,087	-	1,180,087	646,027	-	646,027
Training and workshops	2,682,101	133,844	2,815,945	4,815,525	-	4,815,525
Travelling and conveyance	21,922,616	-	21,922,616	27,034,038	-	27,034,038
Miscellaneous expenses	599,704	461,046	1,060,750	1,216,348	431,826	1,648,174
	79,091,408	594,890	79,686,298	87,881,866	623,630	88,505,496

SCHEDULE 11: 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 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 the social nature with registration no.231661299, vide letter no. II/21022/83(0070)/2011-FCRA.II-dated 29th December 2011. The registration of the Society has been renewed for a period of five years with effect from 29th 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, political and cultural dispossession and feminization of dispossession.

Significant accounting policies

1. 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.

2. 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 result could differ from these estimates. Any changes in estimates are adjusted prospectively.

3. Fund Accounting

Restricted fund 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.

4. Revenue recognition

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

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

5. 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.

6. Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at the cost of acquisition including incidental costs related 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 equipment	15
Vehicles	15
Furnitre 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 management in each financial year.

7. 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 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.

8. 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 resource 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 resource. 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 recognized 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.

9. Leases

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

10. Employee Benefit

Benefits such as salaries, etc,. are recognised 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 recognised as an employee benefit expenses in the Statements of Income and Expenditure in the year when employee renders the related service. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an assets 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 values 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 immediately 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 immediately in the Statement of Income and Expenditure.

11. Expenditure

Monitoring expenses: 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-government 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.

Fund raising expenses: Unit 31 March 2015, the society has been incurring and reporting the fund raising cost in Schedule 10 'Administration and Other Expenses'. These have been reported separately in Schedule 8 'Fundraising expenses' in the current financial year i.e. 2015-16.

12. Employee Benefit Obligations:

Provident fund: An amount of Rs. 9, 597,438 (previous year Rs. 9,672,905) 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 personnel expenses 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 allow 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 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 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 2016	As at 31 March 2015
Discount rate*	8%	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	IALM (1994-96)
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.

(13) Hither to, the Society was recognizing the retirement liability relating to gratuity every regular and contractual employees (with fixed term of three years and above) and who has completed three years of service. During the year, the society has amended its policy and it has stated recognizing the liability of contractual staff hired for less than three years on continuous basis. Consequent to this change, additional provision of Rs.8,55,643 has been created with corresponding effect on the amount of gratuity fund.

14. Lease

The Society has taken office premises under operating lease arrangements. The lease rent charged to Statement of Income and Expenditure is Rs.16,339,397 (Previous year Rs.15,051,668).

15. Expenditure in foreign currency:

Particulars	For the year ended 31 March 2016	For the year ended 31 March 2015
Travelling and conveyance	264,660	343,907

16. 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 reationship with whom transactions have taken place during the year:

Name of the Party	Nature of transaction	For the year ended 31 March 2016	For the year ended 31 March 2015
ActionAid International, United Kingdom	Receipt of funds	683,590,407	572,027,129
ActionAid – India Branch	Receipt of funds	120,000,000	146,000,000
ActionAid – Karnataka Project	Grant disbursement	-	11,96,286

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

Name of the Party	Nature of transaction	For the year ended 31 March 2016	For the year ended 31 March 2015
ActionAid International, United Kingdom	Grant receivable	8,748,866	-
ActionAid International, United Kingdom	Other receivable	177,755	-

17. 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.

18. The Society is classified as Small and Medium Sized Enterprise (SME) of level-III entity for the purpose 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.

19. 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 enterprise 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.

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

As per report attached.

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

Sandeep Batra
Partner
Membership No. 093320
Place: Gurgaon
Date: 13 October 2016

For and on behalf of **ActionAid Association**

Sandeep Chachra
Secretary
Place: New Delhi
Date: 13 October 2016



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

act:onaid

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