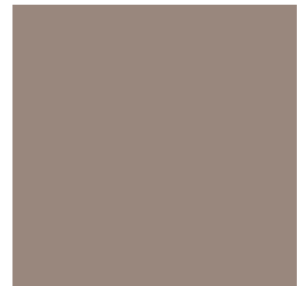




Annual Report



2014-15



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Executive Director's Message

The Annual Report of ActionAid India, 2014-15, has tried to condense the year long work with more than 252 partners, several individuals and teams across the country, serving the mandate of our country strategy paper, PEOPLE FIRST in these forty odd pages. Like every year we attempt to bring to you the highlights, the hard earned advances, and some individual stories to give you a flavour of the upsurge in leadership in the communities we work with, and their determination to make a further and greater difference to the lives of many.

Through this report, we try to share with you the celebration of the grit and determination of the hundreds of communities we work with, and hope to bring to you their contemporary analysis and wisdom. On our part, we make sure that these inspiring stories are brought onto the pathways of knowledge development through the networks, alliances and groups that we link up with, in order to chart an uneven but a steady path to build an empathetic, informed and involved citizenry.

“Feminists”, it is said, “are those who believe that women’s rights are human rights too”. By that count, ActionAid India’s aspiration to become a feminist organisation has taken several steps forward this year. Building on the cross cutting issue of women’s rights within Dalits, Adivasis and Muslims, it has striven to create special spaces for leadership of women on land and resource rights, sustainable agriculture, homestead land, conflict resolution, and ensuring entitlements. You will read in the pages the mix of grounded action combined with vigorous and continuous efforts to bring people together on platforms – local, regional, national and even international, as it is part of our mandate to share knowledge beyond boundaries.

One important sector in which we have made a special effort last year and will continue to do so is to systematically address the question of informal labour and the whole spectrum of migration, landless labour, bondage and other vulnerabilities. This understanding has helped us in avoiding compartmentalisation, as it is the very same person who may be a “small farmer” one day, and an “urban migrant worker” the other. Addressing vulnerability at one end, therefore has to be in consonance with the other part of their lives as well. The solutions are not easy, but we learn continuously. One of the most important things we have learnt is that most of the time what we need to do is to bring people together, create conditions, where they can take their mind off the hard struggle for daily lives and create opportunities for reflection and sharing. But this is not enough, once the course of action is decided we have to be there to follow up closely, find allies who share similar aims and create opportunities for joint and regular actions. We have created time tested models of planning and monitoring such processes, strong enough to create strong accountability, yet flexible enough to respond to changing situation on the ground and newer possibilities of change.

Do read on for more details, and we sincerely hope these pages will inspire newer ideas and thoughts in you, and as always we would be happy to hear them.

In solidarity,

Sandeep Chachra

Executive Director

ActionAid India

Who We Are

ActionAid India is part of a global federation and a full affiliate of ActionAid International that has presence in over 40 countries of Asia, Africa, Americas, Europe and Asia Pacific with its headquarters in Johannesburg, South Africa. Since 1972, the poor and the excluded have been at the centre of our discourse and actions in India. In 2006, we were registered as an Indian organisation called **ActionAid Association**. We are governed by an independent General Assembly and a Governing Board.

Our Values

We reiterate our values and stress on 'praxis' in our work, in our effort to deepen our commitment to transform our organisational culture. Solidarity, camaraderie and sisterhood with the poor, the powerless and excluded women, girls, boys and men will be at the core of our struggle against poverty and injustice.

- **'Personal is political'**: without contradiction in the practice in private and public sphere.
- **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 opportunity to every person, irrespective of caste, class, race, age, gender, sexual orientation, colour, class, ethnicity, disability, location, and religion.
- **Humility and modesty** in our conduct and behaviour.
- **Transparency and accountability**.
- **Independence and neutrality** from any religious or party-political affiliation

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

To work in solidarity with the poor and participate in their struggle 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 people living in poverty and supported by solidarity, credible rights-based alternatives and campaigns that address the structural causes and consequences of poverty.

List of Abbreviations

AAA	ActionAid Association
BRGF	Backward Region Grant Fund
AAI	ActionAid India
AP	Andhra Pradesh
RTI	Right To Information
LRP	Local Rights Programme
FRA	Forest Rights Act
ILO	International Labour Organisation
GHMC	Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation
CSP	Country Strategy Paper
PRI	Panchayat Raj Institutions
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
OBR	One Billion Rising
ASSOCHAM	The Associated Chambers of Commerce of India
DPEP	District Primary Education Programme
KKEI	Khiltee Kaliyan Education Initiative
HRO	Hyderabad Regional Office
NFDB	National Fisheries Development Board
MPEDA	Marine Products Export Development Authority

Our Reach

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

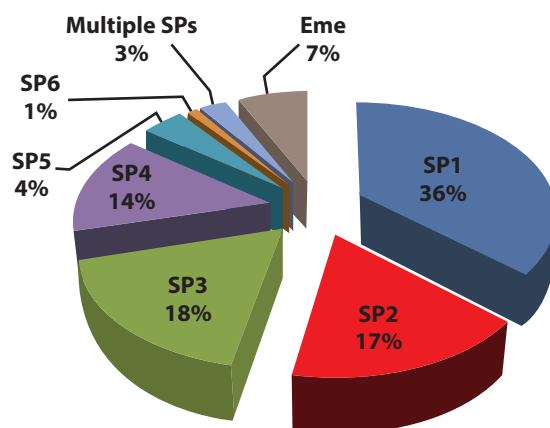
All our interventions in 2014 were made possible by 252 alliance organisations, who are our grassroots partners in delivering our promises of change. 22% of these organisations are headed by women and 16% of them are headed by members from Dalit, Tribal, Minority and Most Backward Communities.



Programme Focus Outlay

The total budget allocation for programmes in 2014 was 70.76 crores.

Strategic priorities wise allocation



SP1: Peoples' control over resources like land, water, forest, minerals, commons and livelihoods

SP2: Radical democratisation of the society, economy and polity at all levels

SP3: Assertion of women and girls' rights as human rights

SP4: Children are recognised as political and equal citizens

SP5: A just, secular, violence free and peaceful society and state

SP6: Solidarity with struggles and progressive actions beyond local and national boundaries

Eme: Humanitarian response to natural and human-made disasters

Promoting People's Control Over Natural Resources and Livelihood

Our efforts to facilitate people's access and claim over land and natural resources, in order to ensure a life of dignity and self-sufficiency, continued in the year 2014 as well.

The focus was on facilitating access and claim to individual, joint and collective land rights for the excluded communities, including vulnerable groups within the communities such as single women. Of note were also our associations with Government departments and officials in promoting land ownership of single women.

The year also saw several attempts to create sustainable livelihood models for communities and efforts were made to facilitate knowledge sharing on this front, between various organisations from the several states that we work in. This included creating long-term rehabilitation and income generation models for labourers rescued from situations of bondage. Promotion and practise of sustainable forms of agriculture were initiated by farmer's groups led by women.

On the urban front, the year 2014 saw some major advances in bringing together several formations working to further the rights of informal sector workers. Interventions aimed at making labour *addas* functional and equally accessible to women which was also among the highlights of 2014.

Impact in Numbers

Total number of applications filed for land ownerships across all operational areas	2,00,000
Total number of land titles received	50,100
Total number of land titles received in the name of women	12,000
Total number of farmers trained in 2014	9,000
Total number of farmers in our network practising sustainable forms of farming	4,457 men 3,000 women
Total number of ponds restored across all operational areas	166
Total number of fisher women helped in successfully linking with local markets	1,000

A Facilitating Access to Land

In 2014, 1,579 tribal and Dalit families of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana could access more than 2,000 acres of land. 1,402 of the total land titles issued are in the name of women, while 73 are in the name of men and 104 of the titles are held jointly.



This was made possible by several strategic interventions led by our grassroots alliances and regional offices, which included:

- (i) Collating information about land ownership and its use, through the provisions under Right to Information (RTI) Act.
- (ii) Informing the marginalised communities on several aspects of land ownerships and closely advocating with the government officials to facilitate the process.
- (iii) Efforts were also made to spread awareness about Government programmes such as 'Janmabhoomi'.

All of these were made possible by the persistent efforts of our grassroots partners, namely ARD, NISARGA, SNIRD, HANDS, ARTS and four independent social workers from the 6 districts of Andhra Pradesh.

The Success in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh

420 Dalit families get access to 480 Acres of land in 25 villages, from 4 Blocks of Chittoor district.

Strategies Adopted

1. Training on aspects of Land Rights and Land Use and implementation strategies:

Three-day long training on various aspects of land rights, land use and implementation strategies was conducted for Dalits and Adivasi youth from each of the operational blocks in the district. 50% of participants were women. The participants were also equipped on the use of RTI as a tool to procure information for these districts.



2. Creating awareness among the landless communities about their constitutional rights:

Pamphlets that explain the several aspects of land rights were developed in local language and the participants of the workshop played a crucial role in informing the landless communities about these aspects.

3. Engaging various Government departments and machineries:

Efforts were also made to reach out to Block Revenue Officers and District Collectors requesting their support. A series of consultations were organised between the people and the government to push forth the process of land ownership. The Government programmes such as *Revenue Sadassulu* (people's courts at village level) and *Janmabhoomi* (yet another programme to resolve people's issues at village level) were among the several modes of such interactions and consultations. Efforts were also made to reach out to Committees at the Block level that monitored SC/ST Atrocities and bringing to their attention all such incidents, caused by arguments over land ownership.



The Impact

Land titles were issued in the name of women, which gave them independence, identity and recognition as farmers. Seed banks set up over several years of work on the ground, were utilised to provide them with inputs required to start cultivation. Soil fertility and irrigation of the land allotted to these women were improved by accessing provisions under the NREGS scheme and Indira Jala Prabha (IJP) scheme. These interventions have also transformed the life of several sharecroppers who are now land owners. Young groups, who participated in the training programmes are also now playing a crucial role in spreading the messages further in nearby areas.



B Engaging the Government Departments and Land Task Force

In another significant effort to advance women's right to land, ActionAid India's Regional Office in Bihar organised **a day-long workshop with government officials** and members of **the land reform task force of the State**. The workshop, based on our experiences from the ground, was aimed at developing a curriculum for training of government officials on land rights, with emphasis on the rights of single women. It is encouraging to see that Land and Revenue department in the State of Bihar has already put this into operation and are inviting applications on this front.

C Promoting the Right to Land, Coast and Sustainable Livelihoods

a. Fostering rural women's access and ownership to land and collectives

A two-day conference on women and land rights was organised by ActionAid India, Centre for Informal Sector and Labour Studies (JNU) and Agrarian South Network on May 14-15, 2014. The conference brought together various movement leaders and academics from India and Southern Africa in an effort to **learn from experiences and draw strategies to support and advance the agenda of land rights for women**. Activists, academics and other members of the civil society took an active part in the conference that also saw women leaders from the communities that we work with share their experiences with the audience.

Grassroots leaders like T. Munemma, a Yanadi tribal woman leading a campaign for land rights to her community members, were also part of the conference. Munemma shared her experiences of reclaiming land ownership from powerful individuals in her village.

"I filed RTIs and learnt that 321 acres of land meant for families of Yanadi tribes were in the control of upper caste people in our area. I approached the District Collector and managed to get the land in the hands of 22 Yanadi families. 42 such families are still waiting to get hold of their land"

Kalyani Minz, an Oraon tribal farmer from Sundargarh district of Odisha and part of a long-standing struggle to gain access to community forest land under the Forest Rights Act also spoke at the conference. She informed the audience about **Oliva Women Farmers' Collective, of which she is a member that the ecological and economical viability of traditional methods of farming**. Today, the co-operative has become a crucial source of livelihood for the families in the area. "It provides for our diet and nutritional needs and also earns us a handsome income", said Kalyani.

b. Ensuring access to productive resources for marginalised women farmers: Experience sharing and planning workshop

In December 2014, a two-day workshop in Secunderabad, Telangana brought together farmer groups of women and led by women, together to deliberate on organisational building, climate resilient sustainable forms of agriculture. Among the several issues discussed at the workshop, questions of cheaper inputs, easier access to credit and suitable technologies to reduce farm drudgery were most notable. Members also discussed questions around women's participation in local governance structures, apart from the need to create knowledge exchange programmes to promote traditional and sustainable forms of agriculture.

c. Strengthening women fisher folk collectives in coastal Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal

In the states of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, two of ActionAid India's grassroots partners namely DFYWA and Digambarpur Angikar have set up fisherwomen collectives, with the aim of ensuring decent income, greater levels of equality and acceptance at work and home and thereby ensuring a dignified life to several hundred women. The women's collective in Andhra Pradesh (AP) linked



up with the National Fisher folk federation and received training on inland fisheries. The training programme was supported by Central Inland Fisheries Institution. Experts from the Institute demonstrated practical tips to identify disease-infected fishes, water and soil testing and more. In West Bengal, the collectives we support are also providing training around land fishing, aqua culture, ornamental fishing and small scale fishing. They are also developing market-linkages to sell the catch effectively.

In 2014, what provided immense boost to the efforts of these collectives was a decision by the Vizag district authority to allot 1.5 acres of land for a fish-drying unit. NFDB sanctioned Rs. 2,31,000 for racks that are used to dry fish and a vehicle at 40% subsidised cost to women. Eight women members received a loan amount of Rs. 1,00,000 each through the fisheries department.

MPEDA sanctioned Rs. 2,00,000 for another fish drying unit.

The fisher women of Thimmapuram and Pudimadaka village in Andhra Pradesh were provided vans to transport fish. The van, worth Rs. 15.85 Lakhs was provided at 90% subsidy by NFDB.

Twenty fisher women received ice-boxes from Fisheries Department.

d. Desi Chasi Sammelan in Odisha: Celebrating indigenous agricultural and cultural practices

With support from ActionAid India, western Odisha's Krushak Sangathan and other farmers' groups working to further indigenous farming methods, organised a gathering of indigenous farmers. More than 300 indigenous farmers from the districts of Western, Northern and Southern Odisha shared their personal experiences on traditional farming system. Farmers and seed-preservers from across the state participated in the meeting to discuss issues of ecological farming, promoting indigenous seeds and organic farming. An exhibition of



indigenous seeds, agricultural instruments and traditional practices was also held, as part of the event.

e. Promoting alternative practice in agriculture

With support from IFSN (International Food Security Network) a study on alternative practice in agriculture namely the non-pesticide management in farming was conducted in the state of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The study focused on the ecological approach promoted by Centre for Sustainable Agriculture (CSA), a grassroots partner in the state. A Farmer Producers' Co-operative named Sahaj Aharan, formed and nurtured by CSA, was one of the main subjects of exploration. The study revealed various aspects of alternative practice and its positive impacts. It also indicated certain policy measures to promote alternate practice and make FPOs (Farmer Producer Organisations) financially viable and sustainable. The findings of the study and the insights presented would be passed onto the farmers groups that the local office is working with.

Do Sustainable. Live Sustainable. Sona Bai leads the pack!

Sonabai is a farmer from Madhya Pradesh. "We are rarely acknowledged as one. It's always the men who are imagined and credited as farmers.", she points out the irony that 60% of India's agricultural workforce, the women, are faced with every day.

As it is the case in most rural households, Sonabai's family also heavily depend on the meagre income generated from agricultural labour. It barely provided for the family she says, the input costs were too high.

She credits a training programme organised by ActionAid India and its local partner for her shift to sustainable forms of farming. "The training taught me new skills which have already made a big difference. I have learned to make my own manure and organic fertiliser, which has decreased my input cost. It means my family have enough food grains to last a year. "

Sonabai brims with pride when says, "Men in my family now consult me while selling the produce."

We are proud too. Sona bai is one among nearly 3,000 women ActionAid India and its local partners have managed to reinstate into traditional forms of farming.



A farmer's club in Nalgonda District of Andhra Pradesh is proving 'sustainable is viable'

Among the several issues plaguing the Indian agricultural scene today, lack of awareness about government schemes and newer technologies is a factor that is holding most farmers back from overcoming the crisis. Lack of access to institutional credit mechanisms also result in heavy dependency on local money lenders.

In this context, PILUPU, our grassroots partner has formed farmer clubs with the objectives of bringing collective action, financial self-sufficiency and adoption of new technology along with traditional methods.

Jana Lalitha (28) from Kurmagudem village, is a farmer who is part of Dharani farmers' club gives an account of how knowledge exchange programmes and collective actions at her club has actually made her efforts sustainable, in her 1.5 acre land that she owns:

"I had taken Rs. 4,000 as loan for cultivating red gram, incurred costs of Rs. 1,400 towards ploughing, spent close to Rs. 1,500 on labour and Rs. 1,100 towards manure. I used my own seed. Yield was 4 quintals and I earned Rs. 3,400 per quintal. Overall I earned more than what I spent. It certainly boost my confidence in investing more in organic manure and organic pesticides".

f. 'Sahariya Mahotsav' in Bundelkhand region of North India

'Sahariya' is one of the most excluded, poorest tribal communities in India, plagued by issues of food insecurity, malnutrition and landlessness. As part of strengthening their cultural identity and creating sustainable forms of livelihood for the community, *Sahariya Jan Adhikar Manch* (CBO) and *Sai Jyoti*, grassroots organisations supported by ActionAid India, held the first ever Sahariya Sanskriti Mahotsav in the region, in September, 2014. Nearly 700 members of the community participated in the event.

D Interventions on Labour Rights, Safe Migration, Housing for Urban Poor

a. Efforts to end bonded labour and rehabilitation of rescued labourers

Over the year, 239 labourers were rescued from situations of bondage from brick kilns and factories in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. However, our interventions to end this practise of bonded labour occur at three levels (i) to rescue people trapped in bondage situations (ii) to rehabilitate them at their home state and village with support from the government (iii) create mechanisms to generate local sustainable livelihoods to reduce migration and to also create mechanisms to ensure safe migration when labourers have to travel in search for jobs. In this specific case, the rehabilitation of the rescued labourers were long due, until *Jan Jagran Dadan Sangha*, a platform created by rescued bonded labourers and supported by ActionAid India, brought this to the notice of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). It resulted in a camp sitting of the NHRC, in November 2014, which brought the labourers in direct dialogue with the Commissioner to State Authorities, who was responsible for their rehabilitation. Shri S.C. Sinha, honourable member of NHRC chaired the meeting. It resulted in the Commissioner directing Panchayati Raj department to release the rehabilitation package to the rescued labourers within a short deadline of one week. Similar struggles are happening in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka. In 2014 we were able to rescue more than 600 bonded labourers and rehabilitated 400 labourers.

b. Rehabilitation support to 40 labourers rescued from bondage situations in Saudi Arabia

40 labourers from India working under bondage conditions in Saudi Arabia were released after consistent efforts of a Member of Parliament, from Bihar. The labourers belonged to Bihar, Rajasthan, Jharkhand UP and Andhra Pradesh. ActionAid India and its local partners had initiated efforts to ensure proper rehabilitation of these rescued workers, particularly those from Bihar. A joint effort by parliamentarians and organisations resulted in the labourers receiving Rs. 10,000 in compensation to address their immediate loss, from the State government of Bihar and another assurance of Rs. 50,000 and promise of employment.

c. National convention on homelessness and urban poverty

National Forum for Housing Rights (NFHR). Supreme Court Commissioners' Office, ActionAid India, Jawaharlal Nehru University and Housing and Land Rights Network (HLRN) jointly organised a two-day long national convention in June 2014 to collectively take stock of the advances towards securing spaces and rights of homeless persons, city-makers and urban workers, and the major challenges faced by them. As an outcome of the meeting, a national level committee and several state level committees have been constituted to follow up on the concerns raised at the convention around the issue of homelessness and shelter rights.

d. Promoting the rights of domestic workers

On December 9, 2014, domestic workers from seven districts of West Bengal organised their first convention, focusing on recognition of their work and pushing for the establishment of a welfare board in Kolkata. The convention was organised under the banner of Paschim Bango Griho Paricharika Samity (State Alliance of the Domestic Workers), supported by ActionAid India and consortium partners – SRISTY and SPAN. Presently, the alliance has approximately **3,000 domestic workers** as members. The domestic workers presented their charter of demands and communiqué to the Chairperson of the State Women's Commission, Ms. Sunanda Mukherjee and other associated representatives of the State Labour Department. Domestic workers emphasised on ILO's sets of minimum standards for domestic workers and clearly declared their demands for certain basic rights such as a weekly-off for at least 24 hours, a minimum wage on par with country's laws as well as a minimum age bar before entry into the profession.

Recognition from Government

ActionAid India has been invited by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (MHUPA), Government of India (through office order dated December 3, 2014), as a member of the Committee for Institutionalisation of Community Participation and Research on Incremental Housing set up by MHUPA.

ActionAid India has been nominated by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India (through letter dated December 5, 2014), on the Governing Council of the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), Noida. We were invited by the Ministry of MSME to be part of the consultative group set up towards developing ideas on labour employment and rozgar melas.

e. Sheharnama: Film Festival – that brought together the untold tales of cities

ActionAid India and its partners are promoting films and documentaries as a mode of awareness and identification with the city. Our cities are most uniquely represented through

films, and 'Sheharnama' a documentary festival created and supported by ActionAid India is an effort to bring together films that look at the unseen corners and unmarked maps of the city and its identity. The first edition of *Sheharnama* was held in Mumbai early 2014 (January 30-February 1), followed by a second edition at Kolkata from December 17 to December 19.

35 films on cities, youth and urban culture were screened and were well received by the audience comprising students, NGOs, our partners and film-lovers from across the city. This festival was co-hosted by Films Division and curated by the famous documentary film-makers, Surabhi Sharma and Abhijit Mukul Kishore.

f. Labour Colloquium @ Metropoli, Hyderabad

ActionAid India's team from Hyderabad Regional office organised a one-day Colloquium on Informal Labour immediately prior to Metropolis 2014' on the theme of "Unorganised Labour and Social Protection: A Programme for Inclusive Cities – 'Cities for All'". The colloquium was held on September 23rd 2014, which was attended by Labour Minister of Telangana, commissioner of labour, and other dignitaries from different cities.

g. Formulation of the Working People's Charter- Mumbai

ActionAid India and Citizen Rights Collective (CiRiC) were part of a labour network called the Working People's Charter – which met in Mumbai to discuss issues of (i) decent wages/social security, (ii) decent working conditions, and (iii) demands of the self-employment.

Construction workers in Lucknow get a helpline number

Sunil Kumar works as a mason and has been living in Lucknow city for the last 15 years with his family members. His is a big family of ten. Sunil earns Rs. 300–400 daily as a skilled labourer, however barely manages to find work for 15 days in a month.

He was among a wide group of construction workers who participated in the *Mazdoor Haqdari Yatra* (A parade for the right of workers) that was organised by Vigyan Foundation, one of ActionAid India's grassroots partner in Lucknow.

The parade covered 8 cities in Uttar Pradesh and culminated in a state level workshop at Lucknow. At the event, a memorandum of demands was submitted to the State Labour Minister asking for (i) a 24 X 7 toll free helpline number for the construction workers, which could provide counselling support to workers in distress, (ii) availability of basic facilities like drinking water, shade and toilet at the labour posts (iii) minimum wages of the construction workers to be raised to Rs. 400 per day (iv) recognising domestic workers and granting them labour status (v) opening permanent shelter homes for the homeless in the city.

The government took serious note of the demands presented and assured action. The toll free number became operational immediately.

h. Promoting the rights of migrant labour and bondage

Asangathit Kaamgar Adhikar Manch, Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with ActionAid organised an inter-state convention on migrant labour and bondage in Lucknow on December 24, 2014. Around 3000 people from across 20 districts and cities of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar participated in the convention. Mushtaq Ahmed from Azamgarh, Bindu Singh from Chandoli, Shatrughan from Gaya and Sanjay from Lucknow city shared the study findings on the situation of migrant labourers in brick-kilns and construction sites in the cities. Sh. Shahid Manzoor, Cabinet Minister, Labour, Uttar Pradesh; Sh. Bidyanand Bikal, Chairperson, SC/ST Commission, Bihar;

Ram Singh Rana, MLC, Director Labour; Sh. P.M. Nair, former DGP, NDRF, Government of India and Chair Professor, TISS and many other working with mass organisations of labour were also present. A charter of demands was submitted to the Labour Minister. He assured to fulfil all the demands in a stipulated time-frame.

Safe space and secured livelihood for street vendors in Guwahati

Estimates point to over 40,000 street vendors doing business in the city of Guwahati. As is the case in several other cities across India, vendors in Guwahati are under constant threat of eviction by municipal authorities. With help from local organisations supported by ActionAid India, over 15,000 street vendors have formed a worker's collective and are also linked to the National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI). Some vendors sit in the market daily and some come twice in a week and sell their product in the market. These vendors and hawkers have continuously been dispossessed or threatened by Municipal authorities. Continuous struggles, awareness camps, advocacy with government helped in forming three collectives with 15,000 members and were linked with NASVI (National Association of Street Vendors of India is a national federation of street vendor organisations). Trainings were provided on vendors' right to have basic amenities like vending space, toilet and urinals in the market places and entitlements like pension, voter card etc. The groups have joined in the demand to implement the Street Vendors Act, 2014, and are playing an active role in the town vending committee. Similar struggles are continuing in Lucknow, Kolkata and Visakhapatnam cities for the rights of vendors.

Cooch Behar's women make significant strides – opening bank accounts and ensuring 75 days of work

Pramila Bahini, a women's group facilitated by our LRP partner GBS, that we support in Cooch Behar district of West Bengal has been intensively campaigning for proper implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in more than 30 villages in the area. Some of the key demands have been to open the bank accounts in the name of women, and to provide equal and timely wages and regular work. Now after long struggle, more than **80% of the women in the areas Pramila Bahini work in, have a bank account in their name and in 27 villages, the implementation of MGNREGA has become more effective by providing 75 days of work.**

Skill Building training on Carpentry in Mizoram

Lalawmzuala, 25 years is from Dampui Village, in Mizoram.

He was one among a group of young people, who attended a month long training on Carpentry, in April, 2014.

Lalawmzuala was always interested in carpentry, he says. The training enhanced his skills further and gave him ideas to set up his own business venture. He gleams with pride when he claims that he is a much sought after carpenter in his neighbourhood.



“I make beds, TV stands, construction frames, windows, ventilation etc. I get calls as far as from Aizwal [the state capital]”, he says.

E Interventions to Promote People’s Access to Natural Resources, Commons

a. Accessing community rights over forest, Himachal Pradesh

Delhi regional office of ActionAid India that manages our interventions in the State of Himachal Pradesh, with support from grassroots organisations like PAPN and Himalaya Niti Abhiyan (HNA), have successfully constituted 404 Forest Rights Committees (FRCs) in the 5 districts of Kangra, Kullu, Sirmour, Bilaspur and Chamba. These committees are now focusing on filing community claims. With help from HNA, FRCs in 96 villages have filled up and submitted their claim forms. The templates for community claims developed by PAPN and HNA found great appreciation among the government departments and have been duly adopted.

b. National public hearing on the implementation of Forest Rights Act (2006)

Natural Resources Hub, a knowledge initiative of ActionAid India to look at the issues of people’s access over natural resources, facilitated a National Public hearing on Implementation of Forest Rights Act (2006) at the Constitution Club in 2014. The public hearing provided a platform for several groups to present the lacunae in the implementation of the Forest Rights Act, 2006 and also point at the overall deficit in institutional support. The groups also raised the need to address the deficit in knowledge and awareness about the Act.

In a related development, SMPUP a network of civil society organisations supported by ActionAid India in Bargah district of Odisha, met up with Shri. Pradip Purohit MLA from the Padampur constituency and pushed for the speedy resolution of community claims. The legislator extended his support to the group by raising the question in the assembly, thus bringing it to the attention of the Minister for Scheduled Tribes in the state. The minister, in response, assured a speedy disposal of the pending claims.

c. South Asia water commons – policy work on trans-boundary water bodies

Natural Resources Knowledge Activist Hub is part of a Study on the status of Trans-boundary Water Commons. It is a joint undertaking of ActionAid offices in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan and is meant to further policy related advocacy efforts at the South Asia-level. The study aims to analyse issues and concerns related to trans-boundary water commons, river water-sharing treaties, dams and barrages built on trans-boundary Rivers.

d. Saving urban lakes

With the rapid urbanisation in Bangalore and land availability becoming scarce, lakes were becoming an easy target. ActionAid stood in solidarity with the groups that were trying to reclaim and rejuvenate the lakes as part of the urban commons, important to the survival of a city. Alternate Law Forum provided the legal inputs to the campaigners who were allying under the banner of PCRW-K. Efforts have been made to create and bring on board departments in the government machinery, on the question of saving the lakes. Campaigners are also pushing for the endorsement of the Lake Development Authority Bill that could strengthen the efforts to save the lakes. Two landmark judgements in favour of Sarakki and Chunchagatta lakes have provided the much needed to boost to people of the city who want to save the city’s lakes.

Democratisation of Society, Economy and Polity at All Levels



In 2014, we continued with our efforts to strengthen the communities we work with, build their consciousness around participatory governance and democracy. We conducted leadership trainings for young women and men on issues of social exclusion, rights and entitlements. We realise that it is important to expand socially innovative strategies for inclusion and that this is possible when participatory process is open to all. It is important that the participants possess decision making power. It is important, therefore, to build bottom-up empowerment strategies by ensuring participation of most excluded and marginalised. 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.

This year, 698 village development plans were formulated by the community across our operational areas. We continued our trainings programmes with more than 5531 PRI members from marginalised communities. Various training programmes were conducted with the government officials in order to ensure their responsiveness towards the community.

Impact in Numbers

Number of young men and women who received training on various laws, policies and aspects of human rights	19,000
Total number of villages where micro-level planning were facilitated	600
Total number of micro-level plans approved by Gram Sabhas	160

Impact in Numbers	
Total number of social audits facilitated at local institutions	172
Total number of people's watch groups supported to monitor services offered by the government	250
Total number of mid-day meal cooks from Dalit communities who were appointed after continuous advocacy by our partners in MP, Bihar, Rajasthan, Telangana, UP	132
Total number of PRI members trained on aspects of governance	5,531
Number of women among the trained set of PRI members	1,080

A Improving Access to Public Services and Local Administration

a. Increased awareness and participation in local administration – a case in point from Northern States

With support from European Commission, ActionAid India has been working in 234 villages from 6 economically backward districts of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh as part of our efforts to fight poverty and marginalisation.

A base line survey was conducted to establish the current status on access of the poorest and most excluded groups to public services especially education, health, livelihoods and food security and to establish the level of awareness and knowledge and the extent to which public services are used, barriers to access and persons eligible for various public services. Various participatory tools like social mapping, economic well being ranking, community score card etc., were used. The survey pointed out the need to enhance the responsiveness of the systems and thus 99 Pachayat level information centres were established. It is noted that after the establishment of such centres, community members are pro-actively seeking information about their rights and entitlements and their participation in local governance has increased. 18 Training programmes were facilitated by our grassroots partners on central government and state government schemes and on PM's 15 point programme. Trainings were organised in batches covering 180 CBO leaders in these 6 backward districts. 180 local government and panchayat officials and community leaders were trained on participatory planning and other important schemes and entitlements.

b. Tribals in Kodagu district of Karnataka recognise improved health services, after public pressure

Prema Jenukuruba belongs to a tribal community living in the Devarakadu cluster of Kodagu district, Karnataka.

She recounts the state of public health centre in her area before an attempt was made by local organisations to improve it. Prema is one of the leaders of this movement.

"The *taluk* hospital doctor and nurses charged us each and every service but never treated us properly. At the district hospital we had to pay 250 in the name of hospital development charges. Quite often, medicines were not issued for reasons of no stock."

The tribals living in Kodagu district lacked Primary Health Centre (PHC) services both at the taluk and district level.

It was in this context that our grassroots partner initiated a study that covered 8 primary health centers, 2 taluk health centres and the district hospital – to take a stock of the quality



and accessibility of its services to people. Services of the tribal mobile health units were also assessed. In line with the complaints of the tribals in the area, the findings of the study exposed non-availability of most basic services, hostile behaviour from the staff, inadequate manpower among many other issues.

With support from a local radio station, the findings of the study found voice amongst the general public and this led to discussions with District Health officers. With the support of the State's vibrant social movements on issues of health, a memorandum was submitted to Chief Minister and Health Minister through the District collector.

The District collector and District health officer discussed paid a visit to the entire health centres to take a firsthand stock of the situation. It improved the services, though much more needs to be done, says Prema. "Some basic infrastructure problems, scarcity of medicines, hygiene problems is resolved. The staffs are behaving better while treating us."

B Research, Building National and International Alliances and Community Leadership

a. Study report on PESA implementation in Odisha presented to Governor, Odisha and other officials

Jagarana, a grassroots partner for ActionAid India in Odisha, carried out a study on the status of implementation of Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA Act) in four districts of the state namely; Mayurbhanj, Kandhamal, Koraput and Rayagada. The study captured issues and challenges in the implementation of PESA, and made recommendations for improving the same in the state. ActionAid team met with Governor, Odisha; Secretary, Panchayati Raj Ministry, Government of Odisha; and Chairperson, SC/ST Development

Committee, Odisha State Assembly, and presented the findings and recommendations of the study. The team also met with Secretary, Panchayati Raj Ministry, Government of India and also the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India.

b. International Seminar on Democracy, Socialism – 21st Century perspectives

In March, ActionAid India, Telengana Intellectuals Forum, Centre for Dalit Studies and different parties with support from various organisations, including the Indian Council of Social Science Research, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, together hosted a conference on the Ideas of Democracy Socialism in evolving context of the 21st Century. This conference brought together participation from 23 countries and some 500 representatives from across the Global South including political activists, academicians, intellectuals, movement, party leaders and researchers gathered in the Indian city of Hyderabad to discuss issues around the crisis of contemporary capitalism, arrested forms of democracy and the possibilities for transition to a new socialism of the 21st century.

The key messages from the conference included: the need to re-think and re-imagine and re-invent socialism that puts human development, democracy and protagonist politics at the centre. Speakers from Latin American countries and Vietnam spoke about the inspiring transition to socialism in countries such as Venezuela, Bolivia and Ecuador and the experiments with participatory democracy. Speakers from West Asia, North Africa and Arab world shared the developments of peoples resistance in their countries, and outlined possibilities in the theatres of conflict. Speakers also stressed that the new 21st century socialism also needs to address the global ecological crisis of climate change and put into practice such concepts such as 'Rights of Mother Earth' and Buen Vivir (Living Well), Dignity and Village Republics.

The conference played a historical role in bringing together a broad range of progressive groups from across the country and from the Global South to inspire a possible progressive trajectory for the new state of Telengana.

c. Building community leadership

In our continued efforts to engage with the communities in building their capacities on their understanding of governance, structures and democratic institutions, we organised leadership schools that imparted leadership training to community leaders from the socially excluded communities and categories such as *Dalit*, *Adivasi*, Minorities, Urban Poor, Women and Children.

Community leadership schools in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Odisha trained nearly 500 young people from deprived communities in 2014.

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



In 2014, as we continued our campaign to assert women's rights as human rights, our interventions took a strategic turn in advocating for proactive steps by various State Governments to address the growing instances of violence against women. One of the highlights of our interventions has been a far greater push for One Stop Crisis Centres to be opened up in the states we are operating; following on the successful collaboration with the Madhya Pradesh Government, this year, where we provide technical assistance to Gauravi centre for women survivors of violence. As reported under the Strategic Priority One, earlier in this document, the year 2014 also witnessed several initiatives promoting women's collectives that provide economic, social and political independence to women. Questions around women's work, wages, gender division of labour and unpaid work found greater presence in our strategic thinking and interventions throughout the year. Efforts to build awareness about Sexual Health 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.

Impact in Numbers

Number of women who are part of collectives and support groups	3,000
Number of child marriages prevented in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Uttarakhand	384
Number of men and boys sensitised on women's issues	1,000

Impact in Numbers

Number of girls trained on Sexual Health Rights	11,000
Number of women and girls rescued from trafficking	211
Number of women helpline services started by grassroots partners	15
Number of survivors of violence counselled at resource centres supported by ActionAid	700
Number of women provided skills training (craft, weaving, zardosi work, driving)	9,000

A One Stop Crisis Centres in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh

After relentless campaigning by women's rights groups, activists and civil society networks, of which ActionAid India has also been part of, the Madhya Pradesh government, opened its first *One Stop Crisis Centre (OSCC)* on June 16, 2014 to address the cases of violence against women.

ActionAid India is providing technical assistance in setting up and running this centre.

The centre is named *Gauravi* and is in line with recommendations made by the Justice Usha Mehra Commission. Within a few weeks of its launch, 184 calls were received and 157 cases have been given counselling support. Among these, 92 cases have got legal support from the centre.



For establishing OSCCs in UP, ActionAid has been engaging with WCD of UP. In a meeting in December 2014, the Principal Secretary of WCD and officials of health, education, police, WCD, UNICEF and CEHAT were also present. For setting up these OSSCs (Asha Jyoti Kendra) in 11 cities, ActionAid A has been chosen as the knowledge partner. It is expected that these centres will start running from 2015.

ActionAid organised a consultative process on December 5-6, 2014 in New Delhi to cull out best practises on *One Stop Crisis Centres (OSCC)* and to explore the roles that civil society and the state need to play.

B Land Titles to Single Women in Ganjam, Odisha. Similar Efforts in AP, Telangana and Gujarat

Along with the Ganjam district administration ActionAid had been able to distribute land pattas to 2,176 single women in Ganjam district. All 2,176 cases have been shared with the concerned Block Development Officers (BDOs) for linking with social protection schemes. After Phailin cyclone, 129 single women have been allocated Rs. 3 lakhs (Rs. 25 lakhs already released) for house construction and Rs. 10,000 for latrines. We would continue advocating for release of homestead land pattas along with other social protection/housing schemes. In continuation with Ganjam land rights, we are also in the process of formulating a policy for single women in the state of Odisha.

Similarly work with single women is being done in Hyderabad and Gujarat. Hyderabad regional office identified 7,666 single women in 6 Districts and 250 village level single women forums have been formed. A state level consultation was organised by the region where 26 organisations participated. And this has opened up an opportunity to work with around 60,000 single women. In Gujarat too, a convention of single women was organised, where women leaders came together to pledge their commitment to fight against violence women face. They also addressed themselves as “farmer”, thus recognising and claiming their identity of being farmers.

C Anti-Trafficking Initiatives in Jharkhand

Patna regional office initiated helpline and capacity building of PRI members in three districts for prevention of trafficking. This programme was conducted in collaboration with Jharkhand Police. A helpline number 999 was launched by ActionAid. In short duration of four months (September 014 to December 014) 1,000 calls were received from the parents and survivors. Out of these 75 calls came from the parents of missing children. Cases of all the 75 missing children were registered with the Police in form of FIR. Out of the 75 children reported missing, 42 have been rescued by the police so far. To stem this, 123 PRI members, Police and Welfare Officials were given training on Child Protection and Prevention Trafficking in the tribal areas. The PRI members were oriented on Laws against trafficking and child abuse.

D Leadership Training for Young Girls in Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad

To improve the life choices of Young Urban Women (YUW) 1,500 young urban women between 15-25 years were mobilised into 50 groups across Mumbai, Chennai and Hyderabad cities. 10 training programmes on leadership skills, sexual reproductive health rights and on various livelihood options along with skill based trainings. A three-day long workshop was organised in June 2014 on ‘Unpaid Care Work’ at Mumbai for the project staff and few key members of YUW groups. The workshop space was also used for developing advocacy links with wider AA community by inviting some of the key stakeholders in the workshop. One toolkit on unpaid care work for project staff and community level trainers was prepared. Series of city level training programmes were organised for young men and women to understand the amount of unpaid care women do, which helped in reducing the care load as most of the men

realised and started sharing the care work in their respective households. A research study was conducted in collaboration with Council for Social Development to Study on the status of unorganised women workers in the project areas and to understand the unpaid care work carried out by YUW in households and at workplaces, access to schemes and entitlements meant for YUW. The project partners collaborated various local entrepreneurs, various corporates (under CSR) and were able to place 200 young women for various skill trainings and 100 young women as paid interns.

E One Billion Rising, 2014

ActionAid also actively participated in the OBR campaign in 2014 across the regions. The Delhi regional office led the coordination for OBR Delhi events. More than 50 civil society organisations came together for the global campaign. As part of the coordination, support was provided in planning, linking and networking all groups together. Various community based initiatives were planned by Delhi partners and friends of Beti Zindabad campaign in Delhi. On 14th Feb, at Central Park in New Delhi a cultural programme was organised.



F 'Women's Parliament' – An Innovative Policy Initiative, to Place Issues Concerning Women and Possible Way Forward in Addressing them

80 grassroots women activists from across India brought life to a 'Women's Parliament' – a simulated event on the lines of original parliamentary proceedings – organised by ActionAid as part of its Beti Zindabad! campaign on December 4, 2014 in New Delhi. The event presented an alternative vision of political participation where women's voices are heard and given their due importance. This assumes relevance given the fact that women today account for just 11% of the 543 members in the all-important Lok Sabha (Lower House of the Parliament). The proceedings were structured to mirror the actual Parliament, which incidentally was in session then, complete with a government, opposition and Speaker. The issues tabled at the simulated event and the resolutions passed by the participants were presented to a small group of parliamentarians who attended the event in solidarity.

G South Asia Women's Conference, Mumbai

ActionAid Mumbai regional office supported the conference which discussed the making of women, sex gender relationship which we would now like to broaden to include and examination of South Asian Masculinity from Buddhist, Islamic and Hindu social constructions. A live networking and active communication between various networks, groups, organisations and individuals was formed after the conference to take forward the current paradigm of South Asian masculinity and revisit the historical interpretations.

H Beti Zindabad! – A Campaign for Gender Equality

Campaigners of 'Beti Zindabad!' across India continued their efforts to reach out to a vast section of the population to spread messages of gender equality and social justice. One of the highlights of the year was when the Government of India recognised ActionAid as one of the knowledge partners on the issue of girls' empowerment, in complete recognition to the efforts put in by campaigners since 2012.

a. Cinemas across India join the campaign to spread the message of equality and solidarity

Around 700 cinemas across Mumbai (Goregaon, Juhu, Lower Parel, Andheri), Bilaspur, Ahmedabad, Indore, Kolkata (Avani Kolkata), Allahabad, Lucknow (Saharaganj, Alambagh), Guwahati and Kanpur came onboard to screen a short animation film produced for 'Beti Zindabad!' campaign, for the next two years, thanks to the efforts of our Mumbai team.

b. Hon'ble President of India says "Beti Zindabad"

On March 7, 2014 – the eve of International Women's Day – a team of 'Beti Zindabad!' campaigners led by actor and activist, Shabana Azmi, met the Honourable President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, to deliver 17,287 petitions that were signed by people from several states across the country. The petitions were collected from 16 states as part of the



campaigners' ongoing demand to strengthen the implementation of *Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 (PCPNDT Act, 1994)* and to punish the violators of the law.

c. Engaging in National Campaign, 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'

ActionAid was among the several organisations invited by the Government of India at the launch of 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', a national campaign to educate and empower girls in India. ActionAid participated in the two-day national consultation on the issue of girls' right to life and development with dignity. The consultation discussed several strategies of improving the declining sex-ratio and also motivated the various stakeholders to put in the needful efforts.

d. Contributing to the Girl Child Policy in Uttar Pradesh

ActionAid along with Saajhi Duniya had drafted a framework for the policy for Girl Child in Uttar Pradesh. This was done mainly in view of the declining child sex-ratio in Uttar Pradesh. In order to take forward the demand for adoption of the Girl Child Policy in Uttar Pradesh, Saajhi Duniya, ActionAid and SAKAR organised a state-level conclave on Girl Child Policy in Lucknow on October 9. Devendra Nath Verma (IAS), Director, Women and Child Welfare, Uttar Pradesh and representatives from various NGOs, civil society, universities and media participated in the conclave. At the conclave, Mr. Verma, recognising the gravity of recommendations in the draft, assured that the state government would definitely consider them with all seriousness.

e. Alliance building on women's rights, New Delhi

A series of action-workshops and strategy sessions were organised on the issues of women's role in governance, economic alternatives for women, sex-selection, gender based discrimination, improving girls' access to healthcare and education, tackling child marriage, early pregnancy, domestic violence, trafficking, rape and sexual assault – and all forms of violence that women are subjected to in a life time. ActionAid India brought together activists, progressive women's rights groups and academics from around the country, to listen to their advice, share our efforts so far, so as to arrive at a common strategy and action plan towards tackling gender-based violence and promoting safe spaces. It brought synergy into our existing work on the ground and at various levels and channelising this energy into a common ambition.

As part of the recognition of the work done by ActionAid India in implementation of PCPNDT, one of our campaigners has been chosen as a member of the committee at national level called the National Inspection and Monitoring Committee, constituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

f. Campaign on gender sensitisation of police

ActionAid partnered with Uttar Pradesh Police (Mahila Samman Prakosht) for awareness generation and sensitisation of youth, police and general population on the issue of violence against women and girls, and to provide support to survivors of violence in Uttar Pradesh. As part of the campaign, sensitisation programmes and self-defence workshops have been organised in various colleges and universities of Lucknow and our project areas. Sensitisation programmes for police officers are being organised at zonal level so that they can respond positively to address the issue of violence against women and girls. As part of the campaign, a series of our standees on various Acts/laws on violence against women and girls have been installed in shopping malls, universities, colleges and the public places of Lucknow city and

11 other districts. Our animation/documentary films on violence against women and girls and gender discrimination was screened at all cinema halls of Uttar Pradesh.

g. Regional consultations organised on issue of child marriage

ActionAid with support of UNICEF organised regional consultations at 4 different locations in Odisha covering all 30 districts of the state on the issue of early marriage. The broad objective was to bring out regional experiences, to share case studies that would enable deeper analysis of the situation and to understand the local norms and practices reinforcing early marriage.

Jonaki weaves her dreams

“I escaped a violent marriage and took my two young children with me to stay with my parents,” shares Jonaki Sonowal, who is 26. “My elder brother and his family are also living with them.

I didn’t want to be a burden to my parents or my brother, but I didn’t have a skill or way of earning my own income. So I am very thankful to NEADS [ActionAid India’s grassroots partner] for their timely support. I joined their weaving centre, where I have learned to weave and make traditional clothes, which I can sell.

Weaving on a handloom is one of the biggest economic activities after agriculture in Assam state.

Jonaki is one of 50 women using the centre to develop their skills in traditional weaving and design. NEADS, also provides training on business skills and helps build links with local markets.



Old city’s new generation resist early marriage attempts!

Suhasini (17) and Sumalata (16) are sisters. “We pick rags for a living, from 4 AM to 12 noon”, says Suhasini. Their mother earns a living by ironing clothes. She works mostly during the second half of the day, says Sumalata.

“Our mother wanted to marry both of us off, this year – against our wishes”, says Suhasini. The legal marriage age for girls in India is 18. Despite campaigns and efforts by the civil society, it is estimated that 20 million girls in India are married off early, every year.



Shaheen, a grassroots partner in old city of Hyderabad has been fighting this menace and creating awareness about the ill-effects of child marriage for several years. “We knew about *Shaheen*’s work and approached Archana (a social worker) for help.” *Shaheen* conducts regular meetings and dialogues with families and communities in the area that they work in and impart awareness about physical, developmental, psychological, and social and health related implications that early marriage can inflict on girls. Regular meetings and sessions on Sexual and Reproductive Health rights, life choices are provided to adolescent girls.

“The girls informed their mother that come what may, they wouldn’t agree to the marriage.”, says Archana.

“I joined a vocational training course that *Shaheen* runs. It will help me get a job and these pressures won’t come our way”, says a determined Suhasini. *Shaheen* is also helping Sumalata join back school and complete her matriculation. “They have inspired more girls to resist such attempts. I am aware of atleast three girls in the area, following the same path and with determination”, adds Archana.

Young girls of Murshidabad are leading a social movement for change

Runa Laila is 19, and from Fatepur village in Murshidabad, West Bengal. Her mother, Sahanara Bibi rolls beedi to earn a living and her father Mohammad Hussain runs a petty shop.

To get Runa to school in itself was difficult. People here are reluctant to send their girls to school. In that context, Runa, who is doing her undergraduation, is a clear winner. Both her sisters are also going to school. “My younger brother just cleared his senior secondary”, says a gleeful Runa.

ASHA, a grassroots organisation that ActionAid supports has been working in Murshidabad with families of beedi workers for several years. One of the important legs of work is to persuade families to send their children, more so their girls, to school and college.

“*Didi* does a good job of telling parents to educate their children”, Runa says, referring to a field worker with ASHA. “She tells us about health, hygiene and the importance of education. Boys also attend”, she adds.

“We meet twice a month at the centre [Adolescent Resource Center at Giasmore] and discuss our problems and find solutions. We plan for joint actions to encourage girls and boys continue school and campaign actively against early marriage. Since last 6 months I am teaching in a Coaching Center for children near Madna village. This is a dream coming true for me as my parents were not willing to send me to work outside the home. Again *Didi* convinced my parents”.

Runa is one among the 90 adolescents being trained at the 6 resource centres run by ASHA, on building skills, leadership qualities and also in terms of campaigning against the menace of child marriage.

Children are Recognised as Equal and Political Citizens



Children from deprived, dispossessed communities and their development on the front of education, nutrition and access to a protected environment, remain at the centre of every initiative that ActionAid supports in India. At a macro level, as part of our attempts to improve the overall situation of education in India, we conducted a nation-wide study on the status of Right to Education Act, covering 1,100 schools. The findings of the study and recommendations were shared with a wider constituency of civil society and government for future course of action. Similar initiatives were also held to address and improve the conditions of street children. At the same time, on the ground, our teams continued to monitor over 1,500 schools for proper functioning, enrolled nearly 30,000 children back to school and facilitated scholarships to over 7,000 children.

Total number of children enrolled in schools	30,000
% of girls among the children enrolled to schools	40%
Number of children from marginalised communities who received scholarships	7,176
% of children from minority communities who received scholarship	35%
Number of schools monitored for basic amenities and quality of education	1,500

Number of schools where our efforts have ensured regular mid-day meal	1,329
Number of children suffering from malnutrition and later on linked to Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres and ICDS	1,706
Number of ICDS and Anganwadi centres monitored for quality of service	340
Number of children's groups formed by our grassroots organisations	900
Number of children rescued from child labour and reconnected to schools	1,467

A Macro Level Policy and Advocacy Interventions

a. Consultations on issues of street children

As part of ActionAid's efforts to take the issues of street children forward on the lines of recommendations of the Mumbai Street Children Census Study done in 2013, Child Rights Focus, a knowledge initiative of ActionAid India, organised various consultations across the country. Issues around children on the streets were discussed in depth. The workshop brought together civil society groups and activists and form advocacy groups in each of these cities on the issues of street children. Some of the state government officials showed interest in taking up the issues further.

b. National convention on children's advocacy

Child Rights Focus, a knowledge initiative of ActionAid, on the occasion of children's day, organised a national convention on children's advocacy with participation of about 300 children from 14 of the 25 states and the operational areas we work in. The convention showcased the success stories of children-led advocacy on several fronts, such as education, child protection, gender justice, and health and nutrition. Children presented their stories on getting new schools sanctioned or existing ones upgraded, bringing out-of-school children back to school, acting against child marriage, getting toilets constructed by the government, intervening against alcoholism as well as taking up other community issues affecting children. The Children's vision document was shared with the NCPCR (National Commission for Protection of Child Rights) and also the Secretary, WCD (Women and Child Development).

B Highlights of Micro-Level Interventions

a. Multi Lingual Education Centres for tribal children

To improve the performance of the tribal children in schools, 3 tribal MLE (multi lingual education) language schools for Kuiee, Gadaba and Soura tribal community were started in Rayagada district and Koraput district in Odisha. In each of these centres, around 50 children, youth and adults are learning their own tribal language and practicing their language along with tribal folk arts. These centres are helping the tribal community in popularising their tribal language, social, cultural and political literature and arts and in retaining the uniqueness of their knowledge systems. Jagarana, a grassroots partner of ActionAid India, has developed primers in Kuiee, Gadaba and Soura languages with the help of community. Advocacy with DPEP is going on for addressing the discrepancies in MLE curriculums and on including these primers in primary schools and some MLE processes have been adopted by Government, oral and written literatures are not correctly identified for each tribal community. DPEP has agreed to take help from Jagarana's tribal experts to change the MLE curriculums.

b. Promoting Rights in schools

To improve the quality of education in schools and to promote higher education among dalit, adivasi and Muslim children Child Rights Focus, with help from respective regional offices of ActionAid India and its partners are focusing on 480 schools across 8 states i.e. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Delhi, Assam, West Bengal and Telangana apart from our long term project areas, with support from Devi Charan Chatterjee and Raylaxmi Chatterjee Legacy fund.

Scholarship support is also planned to promote higher education for children. State level selection committees were formed with well known activists, academicians etc., for scrutinising the applications under scholarship support which mainly covers non refundable fees, expenses for books, food, hostel etc. Guidelines for selection, management of scholarship programme, roles and responsibilities of selection committee were also developed in consultation with various stakeholders with an emphasis of minimum 50% scholarships to girl children.

8 career guidance workshops were also organised for children who completed Class 10 to understand and choose different higher education streams. 50 children were provided scholarships to pursue college education. 16 training programmes were organised for SMC (school management committee) members, panchayat representatives and community leaders on ways of strengthening school governance, achieving discrimination free schools with improved quality of education.

c. Making Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres functional

ActionAid is working with Kumaon Sewa Samiti (KSS) in Rudrapur to make Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs) functional and to ensure their utility to children suffering from severe malnourishment. Under this intervention, 40 severely acute malnourished children have been linked up to the NRC till February. They have undergone observation and treatment to recuperate from their condition.

Nutritional Rehabilitation Centres have been set up by state authorities as part of ICDS and have been mandated to provide nutritional and medical support and advance care to the severely malnourished children. The task, however, involved a lot of initial turmoil and rigorous liaisoning with the concerned departments in order to ensure that the NRC is not only functional but is active and providing quality care to severely acute malnourished children.

Mewat is sending their girls to school. Shiksha Panchayat plays a crucial role.

Sanjeeda Bano is 15 and lives with her parents in Thanagora village in Rajasthan.

“My father is a farmer and mother takes care of the home and brothers. I study in 9th standard in Government Secondary School, Brisangpur, two kilometres away from my village. But due to their old fashioned traditions some community leaders objected to girls going out of the village for higher education. They pressurised my parents to take me out of the school which made me very sad.”, she recounts.

Hearing about this, leaders of Mewat Shiksha Panchayat (community group formed by ActionAid and *Khiltee Kaliya Educational Initiative (KKEI)* to monitor education) of Thanagora village and community leaders from nearby villages organised a meeting in Thanagora to convince the community leaders there to withdraw their objections and allow the girls to study, as well as provide them with a safe and secure environment. It was because of the trainings and perspective building of Mewat Shiksha Panchayat leaders by ActionAid and KKEI

that they were motivated to take up this issue and convince the people. This has removed the hurdles for Sanjeeda and opened the path for other girls, too, to go for further education. Sanjeeda has become a role model for other girls!

“Shiksha Panchayat has changed the thinking of people on girls’ education and, thanks to them, I am continuing my schooling”, says Sanjeeda. “I am also active in our children’s group. Our group convinced the parents of Manisha and Pinky (other girls in my village), who dropped out in 8th standard to rejoin again.”

ActionAid and KKEI conducted 5 workshops for Mewat Shiksha Panchayat, developing the understanding of 273 members on girls’ education, rights and entitlements, etc. The Shiksha Panchayat report, a good practice documentation by the child rights hub on Action Aid’s partner organisation, AMIED’s work in Alwar district of Rajasthan was released on November. Shiksha Panchayats of Alwar are example of making schools functional with community pressure through these Panchayats which represented various sections of the society, the Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) and School Management Committee (SMC) members, women’s groups and other local stakeholders. The report was released by Sh. M.L. Mehta, former chief secretary of Rajasthan.



Children successful in bringing social transformation (no untouchability practice) in village

13-year-old Manjula (extreme right) studying in 7th standard says she is aware of the discrimination against backward communities and will fight against it with confidence and courage. She lives in Theremballi village of Chamrajnagar district, Karnataka. Her parents are agriculture labourers. In rural villages, it is very common to notice that upper caste people do not allow backward communities to collect drinking water from the taps in their streets. SWARAJ and ActionAid organised training for children on the social analysis and on how the caste system creates inferiority and superiority among people, including children.

The discrimination issue was discussed and an analysis on how the rights of people belonging to backward communities are violated was made. In addition to this, child rights, constitutional rights and laws related to discrimination at public places were also discussed. After orientation, the children were allowed to analyze the prevailing situations and to share their experiences in one of the children collectives meeting. They shared their achievements and the impact that they were able to make to bring a social transformation in the village.

Manjula continues “I am a member of the Children Collective started by SWARAJ-



ActionAid. Our school borewell was not functioning and so friends and I decided to collect drinking water from the borewell on the street. Few people stopped us and said not to go to that street as high caste people lived there. They also threatened to beat us with a stick. We responded by saying that the borewell belongs to all in the village as it is made available by the government. We said if they beat us, we would file a complaint with the local panchayat (village council) and the police, for which they would face legal implications. After this confrontation, we regularly collect water from that borewell regularly and nobody stops us.”

‘Poshan Abhiyan’ ensures a functioning mid-day meal facility in Rewa

Chedi Lal Kori (55) of Kureli village in Rewa district, narrates how Poshan Abhiyan and ActionAid taught him the importance of collective action, and how this helped improve the mid day meals in the village school. He narrates, “We have a common government primary school and child development centre in our village where 60 children study. But apart from studies no mid day meal was being served to these children for the last two years, although the government policy says they should get proper meals.”

Mid day meal is a welfare scheme of the government in which a women’s self help group of the village is provided resources to prepare and serve hot cooked food to all children studying in government schools every day. “But the group selected in our village,” continues Chedi Lal, “was under control of a local feudal landlord who had political patronage. He was misappropriating all the funds and cheating the people. Poshan Abhiyan mobilised the community and the teachers to complain to the District Education authority. But this did not have much influence.

Then, Poshan Abhiyan gave us the idea of lodging a complaint with the State Education Authority through the designated toll free telephone service number. I called the authorities myself and then registered my complaint. I was quite surprised to find that there was immediate follow up, and an investigative team came to inspect the school by the next month. We all, along with the teacher and the students, testified to the facts. Soon after that, the authorities changed the SHG which was not doing the work and gave the task of preparing the mid day meal to the group of tribal women in our village. We succeeded!”

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



In 2014, our continued efforts to uphold citizenship rights of excluded communities, communal harmony and peace in society found its voice amongst the poor. Several peace groups were formed in the areas that we operate in, who in turn also monitored the implementation of PM's 15 point programme. As part of our efforts to reach out to women in their assertion of human rights, work on codification of Muslim Personal Law was one among the many highlights.

Impact in Numbers

Number of peace committees formed in our operational areas	1061
Number of students from minority communities who received scholarships	12,000

A Advocacy to Improve Socio Economic Status of Indian Muslims

Centre for Peace Studies (CPS), a knowledge initiative of ActionAid India, on July 4, 2014 launched 'Broken Promises – A study on the socio-economic status of Indian Muslims: Seven years post Sachar'. The study attempts to trace change, if any, in the situation of Indian Muslims in the past seven years. It is based on a detailed interview schedule directly administered to 8082 respondents from the Muslim community in 15 states. RTIs and interviews with eminent persons across these states were also important tools of this study. The study also documents cases of individuals across states, who have been left out in spite of being most marginalised and deserving.

B Efforts to Advance Rights of Muslim Women

The draft of the proposed bill for codification of Muslim Personal Law was released by Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan (BMMA) in Mumbai followed by its release in other states. This has generated a huge debate on the rights of Muslim women in Quran and also how a Uniform Civil Code is not the answer.

C Alliance Building among Muslim Women

The Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan (BMMA) was formed in January, 2007. It is a democratic organisation of Muslim women, led by Muslim women who strive for the citizenship rights of the whole community and particularly Muslim women. The Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan works for all the rights and duties emanating from the Constitution of India as well as the Holy Quran. In its eighth year, the Bharatiya Muslim Mahila Andolan's membership has crossed 42,000 members across 15 states.

At the 7th annual convention of BMMA, held in Chennai this year, Muslim women from different parts of India assembled along with our supporters and co-travellers who are activists, lawyers, academics, citizens from different walks of life.

D Scholarships for Muslim Children

"We always wanted our children to secure education as we realise education is a tool for better future. In spite of our poor economic condition, we wanted our children to get education." says Mubinaben, a 28 years old woman from Akbarpur area, Khambat block, Anand district.

Mubinaben's daughter Afrin, 7 years, studying in Class 2, received an amount of Rs. 1,000 as scholarship. "We are happy to use the amount to buy school bag and to pay for tuitions classes of Afrin".

The pre-metric scholarship is a scheme of Central Government meant for students studying in schools upto 10th standard. Jan Vikas a grassroots partner of ActionAid India, conducted awareness programmes in community so that children can avail benefit of scholarship. Localised centres were initiated in Khambat, Himmatnagar, Mehsana, where team members and community youths assisted parents and students to fill up scholarship forms, support them in opening bank accounts.

As a result, 5500 children have benefitted from this scheme amounting to Rs. 55,00,000. The scholarship has motivated parents to encourage their children's education. With support from Jan Vikas more than 12,000 students of Muslim community submitted applications for pre-metric scholarship in 2014 academic year, which they will receive in current year.

A silk reeling unit at Ilayankudi, Tamil Nadu, gives women economic independence

The financial situations of Muslim minorities are highly vulnerable because they lack access to basic rights. The community men often migrate abroad in search of jobs. Women at home are not allowed to go outside to work. This situation prevails in majority of the Muslim community households in the 60 villages of Ilayankudi Panchayat where Wind Trust, our grassroots partner operates.

"Eighteen of us women have broken these barriers. Wind Trust and Slum Level Federation (SLF) Ilayankudi, helped us in setting up the Silk Reeling Unit." says Saboor Beevi (45), a widow from Ilayankudi taluk. She has 2 daughters and a son. One daughter is married and two children are studying. She earns a sum of Rs. 3,000 pm.

"We were provided with initial financial support. They encouraged and motivated members for this initiation by pushing forward the Federation members to speak with the District Collector and Magalir Thittam (women schemes). Around 15 of our members were trained by the Central Silk board to learn the complete process of silk reeling." says Razia Begum, Secretary of Silk Reeling unit.

"With support from the District Collector, a grant of Rs.13.04 lakhs was released by the Government to set up a Silk Reeling Unit. We, an 18-member team, produce 200 kg silk a month. One kilo silk is sold at Rs. 2,900. Reeling, winding, cooking the cocoons, wastage separation, marketing and administration are the various process in the Silk Reeling unit. We are happy to employ more vulnerable women. This industry has given us not only economic stability but also identity," says Saboor.

Solidarity with Struggles and Progressive Actions Beyond Local and National Boundaries



The year 2014, major advances in creating linkages with the civil society and academia of the Global South, with help from a dedicated knowledge initiative 'South Solidarity Initiative', set up by ActionAid India. Several global think tanks and progressive groups met and interacted over several times over the year, in presenting viable alternatives created by people's movements around the world around the questions of public services, energy, trade, agriculture and more.

A Trade, Rural Reconstruction and Agrarian Issues

ActionAid India's South Solidarity Initiative (SSI), Programme for Women's Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (PWESCR) and UN Women organised a dialogue with feminist economist, Radhika Balakrishnan on 'Rethinking Economic Policy: The Radical Potential of Human Rights' on October 27, 2014. She shed light on issues such as trade, rural reconstruction, feminist understanding of agrarian issues etc.

B Workshops on Implication of FTAS and Bilateral Investments in South Asia @ The PSAARC Summit in Kathmandu

South Solidarity Initiative (SSI)-ActionAid participated in the People's SAARC (PSAARC) in Kathmandu which was held from November 22 to November 24, 2014. The SSI along with Focus on the Global South, Third World Network, LDC Watch, Equity BD and South Asian Alliance for Poverty Eradication co-organised two workshops – one on 'WTO and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs): Implications for Agriculture and Food Security in South' and another on 'Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) in South Asia: Investor Protection Clauses and its Impacts on Policy Space.' The SSI and the Centre for Peace Studies co-organised a third workshop on 'Women and Conflict in South Asia: Challenges and Struggles.' The SSI also co-organised a performance by the music band, 'Aisi Taisi Democracy' along with GCAP and Save the Children. Additionally, SSI members attended a number of other workshops which were held at the PSAARC. Our focus was on building solidarity and networking building with social movements and civil society organisations in South Asia. We also focused on food security issues that other groups in South Asia are aware of the WTO challenge and work in solidarity with Indian groups to put further pressure on developing countries.

C South–South People's Solidarity Meetings and Sovereign Projects of the Global South

ActionAid India, together with ActionAid Vietnam, Vietnam Peace and Development Foundation (VPDF), Government of Vietnam and Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung co-organised a two-day meeting on August 13-14 in Hanoi, Vietnam with academics and movements from ten countries of Asia, Middle East, Africa, Americas and Europe to develop key proposals on the alternative economic projects for countries of the South.

D Internal Capacity Building on Issues of Global South

As part of building organisational understanding and expertise on people's movements and progressive institutions of the Global South, an orientation workshop was held in Chennai from October 29th to 31st. The workshop anchored by South Solidarity Initiative and with support from Land and Livelihood Hub, Organisational Effectiveness Unit and Communications Unit of ActionAid India was held with an objective of providing an internationalist people-centric perspective on issues of land and agriculture to the staff of ActionAid.

E Workshop on Alternative Technologies and Organisational Forms for Social Transformation

Land and Livelihoods hub (L&L hub) and other partners contributed at the 4-day workshop on 'Alternative Technologies and Organisational Forms for Social Transformation' organised by South Solidarity Initiative (SSI) in collaboration with Centre of Science and Technology for Rural Development (COSTFORD), All India Peoples Science Network (AIPSN) and Delhi Science Forum from October 13 to October 16 in Thrissur, Kerala.



Humanitarian Response to Human–Made and Natural Disasters

The year 2014, tested the resilience of several thousand deprived communities when devastating floods, super cyclones and human-made conflicts pushed people into precarious situations across the Eastern, North-Eastern and Northern parts of India. Most of these affected areas and the population were already reeling under similar occurrences that had thrown their lives out of gear in the preceding years. Some of the pockets like coastal Odisha, parts of North-East that are faced with annual recurrence of natural disasters were also put to test in the year.

ActionAid India's emergency response team responded with immediate relief and longer term recovery mechanisms in 14 districts of 7 states of India, as listed below. We were able to incorporate disaster preparedness plans in our long term initiatives. Major focus was on building leadership capacity of community women on disaster preparedness and relief operations.

A Responding to Kashmir Floods

ActionAid India's strategy while responding to the crisis in the Kashmir valley involved multi-phase intervention – with an immediate response to provide ration, blankets and health-care to people in the first phase, and expanding the intervention to livelihoods, shelters, education support, child recreational spaces and psycho-social care in the subsequent phases. In the first phase of our response that completed on October 5, 2014, we had provided 1,211 families with dry ration, 790 families with blankets and 3,553 families with medical care. In the second phase of response, we have been supporting drinking water restoration work in Baramulla district, and also supporting in health and medical facilities in Srinagar along with the state hospitals. Also, we have been engaging in cash for work, and livelihood restoration in the flood-affected districts.



B Relief Distribution to Violence affected Adivasi Community in Assam

In the aftermath of an attack on Adivasi communities living in different rural locations under the Kokrajhar and Sonitpur districts of Assam, we initiated relief efforts to distribute food and blankets in a few of the rehabilitation camps. Our team on the ground also engaged traditional tribal leaders and facilitated a peace march.

C Responding to Cyclone Hudhud in Andhra Pradesh

In the aftermath of massive devastation inflicted by Cyclone Hudhud along coastal Andhra Pradesh, our project partners in the district, DFYWA, FYWA, GSS and Mahila Action, extended relief support to the affected families. In the span of last 3 weeks, they could reach out to more than 5,000 men, women and children in 24 villages and 11 slums. The affected people were supported with immediate cooked food and first aid and provided dry ration, clothing, education kits, and livelihood support. Along with this, NGO partners and community leaders collaborated with the government in relief work, enumeration and also advocated for rehabilitation plans.

D Responding to Floods in Meghalaya and Assam

Floods in the district of Garo Hills in Meghalaya resulted in loss of many lives and property in Garo Hills and the periphery of Assam in Kamrup (rural) and Goalpara districts. The torrential rains accompanied with strong winds lashed Garo Hills at night and the winds gained strength with features similar to that of cyclone storm. A total of 1,601 families were provided immediate relief in the form of blankets, bed sheets and household kits and kitchen utensils such as saucepan, water pot, bucket, mug and plates, Livestock support (piglets, poultry), farm support (machete, hoe and axe), input and infrastructural support (providing seeds like potato, paddy and land tilling and irrigation) provided by ActionAid India and its local partners reached 7,700 people in the region.

E Continued Recovery and Rehabilitation Work in Areas Affcted by Cyclone Phalin of 2013

A year after Super Cyclone Phailin ravaged coastal districts of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, ActionAid India's recovery work in the area continued. After the initial response to the situation ActionAid led a consortium of 4 other organisations (ADRA, ChristianAid, Oxfam and Plan) to



work with the cyclone and floods affected people in 14 Development Blocks of 4 districts i.e. Ganjam, Balasore, Mayurbhanj and Puri districts of Odisha targeting households of 30,195 and 1,81,170 persons. The consortium ensured 75% of the beneficiaries are SC/ST and land less OBCs in the target villages. 400 community members were part of skill building training programmes on masons and carpentry on cyclone and flood resilient structures. 750 women were part of leadership programme focusing on disaster preparedness and relief measures.

In all the disaster response projects we have ensured the following:

- **Women's Leadership:** At least 50% of the members in village committees are women. The village committees represent the issues of the people in the villages that are still recovering from the trauma of the riots.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** The village committees in all our operational areas would publicly display the details and contents of all relief packages and resources made available by Government and NGOs. Social audits were also regularly conducted.
- Training of partners and community on mechanisms and methods to access government issued entitlements.
- Building long term recovery and change plans, beyond the initial relief phase.
- Regular coordination with other actors including partners, funding agencies, Government Bodies and Civil Society Alliances.

Our Supporters

- 56,572 Individual sponsors
- European Commission
- European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO)
- Fundacion La Caixa
- Corti Foundation
- Human Dignity Foundation (HDF)
- ActionAid UK
- ActionAid International (International Food Security Network)
- SIEMENS
- Wipro Cares
- Legacy Funding from Devi Charan Chatterjee and Raylaxmi Chatterjee
- Rosa Luxemburg Foundation
- Genpact
- Google
- Freedom Funds
- Tata Relief Committee
- UNICEF
- DPRF
- Tata Motors
- PNB Metlife
- PFI
- Australian Aid
- Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) [DFATD, Canada]
- NTT DATA Global Delivery Services Ltd
- DPS Society
- Share and Care

Financials

Action Aid Association

**Statutory audit for the
year ended 31 March 2015**

B S R & Company

Chartered Accountants

Building No.10, 8th Floor, Tower-B
DLF Cyber City, Phase - II
Gurgaon - 122 002 (India)

Telephone: + 91 124 2358 610
Fax: + 91 124 2358 613

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 2015 and the Statement of Income and Expenditure for the year then ended and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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

Auditor's Responsibility

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

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

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



Opinion

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

- (i) in the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Society as at 31 March 2015; 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 that date.

Place: Gurgaon
Date: 29-Sep-15

For B S R & Company
Chartered Accountants
ICAI Firm Registration No.: 128032W



Sandeep Batra
Partner
Membership No.: 093320

ActionAid Association

Balance Sheet

(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

Schedule	As at 31 March 2015	As at 31 March 2014	Total	FC	NFC	Total
	FC	NFC				
Funds employed						
Unrestricted funds						
-Capital reserve	-	-	-	101,000	77,836	178,836
-General fund	(61,232,869)	212,648	(61,020,221)	7,485,717	10,801,941	18,287,658
Restricted funds						
-Sponsorship Fund	-	-	-	-	2,211,181	2,211,181
- Specific projects fund	96,693,881	7,053,181	103,747,062	73,596,915	3,329,942	76,926,857
	35,461,012	7,265,829	42,726,841	81,183,632	16,420,900	97,604,532
Application of fund						
Fixed assets						
Gross block	8,320,010	263,596	8,583,606	3,245,837	263,596	3,509,433
Less: Accumulated depreciation	2,846,766	191,837	3,038,603	457,605	178,831	636,436
Net block	5,473,244	71,759	5,545,003	2,788,232	84,765	2,872,997
Current assets, loans and advances						
Cash and bank balances	32,619,751	7,262,477	39,882,228	68,076,506	15,386,017	83,462,523
Loans and advances	17,755,396	320,528	18,075,924	20,852,770	1,004,321	21,857,091
	50,375,147	7,583,005	57,958,152	88,929,276	16,390,338	105,319,614
Less: Current liabilities						
Current liabilities and provisions	20,387,379	388,935	20,776,314	10,533,876	54,203	10,588,079
Net current assets	29,987,768	7,194,070	37,181,838	78,395,400	16,336,135	94,731,535
	35,461,012	7,265,829	42,726,841	81,183,632	16,420,900	97,604,532
Significant accounting policies and notes to the accounts						
10						

The accompanying schedules form an integral part of the financial statements

As per our report of even date attached

For BSR & Company
Chartered Accountants
ICAI Firm Registration No.: 128032W

Sandeep Chachra
Partner

Membership No.: 093320

Place: Gurgaon

Date: 29-Sep-2015

For and on behalf of ActionAid Association

Sandeep Chachra
Secretary

Place: New Delhi

Date: 29-Sep-2015



ActionAid Association
Statement of Income and Expenditure
 (All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

Schedule	Year ended 31 March 2015		Year ended 31 March 2014	
	FC	NFC	FC	NFC
Total	Total		Total	
Income				
Grants received from AA International and its affiliates				
General donation	555,760,845		125,175,932	125,175,932
Grants received (from sponsorship fund)	206,012	3,011,064	12,383	794,660
Annual transferred from restricted funds to the extent of expenditure incurred	-	8,939,901	-	-
- Restricted funds	216,791,286	22,291,820	77,152,731	21,183,656
- sponsorship fund	-	23,070,950	-	35,023,484
Other income	2,896,016	541,897	1,661,259	2,165,027
- Interest income	13,228	13,228	3,936	3,936
- Miscellaneous income	-	-	-	-
(A)	775,667,386	57,855,632	204,006,241	61,705,568
Expenditure				
Grants disbursed				
- Restricted funds	157,394,319	13,981,500	64,276,455	20,424,753
- Sponsorship funds	-	23,070,950	-	34,598,284
- Others	328,443,752	22,001,897	70,281,093	70,281,093
Internal programme expenses				
- Restricted funds	59,396,967	8,310,320	12,876,276	4,758,903
- Others	44,578,727	479,225	3,644,883	521,768
Depreciation	2,389,161	13,006	2,402,167	456,676
Personnel Expenses	162,753,296	42,233	27,850,310	27,850,310
Administrative and other expenses	89,530,750	621,630	19,862,148	3,195,073
(B)	844,486,972	68,423,761	199,233,770	63,712,852
(A) - (B)	(68,819,586)	(10,568,129)	4,772,471	(2,007,284)

Excess of expenditure over income transferred to general fund

Significant accounting policies

The accompanying notes form an integral part of the financial statements.

As per our report of even date attached

For BSR & Company
 Chartered Accountants
 16A, Farm Registration No. 128032W

[Signature]
 Sandeep Batra
 Partner
 Membership No. 093120

Place Gurgaon
 Date: 29-Sep-2015

For and on behalf of ActionAid Association

[Signature]
 Sandeep Chakra
 Secretary

Place New Delhi
 Date: 29-Sep-2015



Action Aid Association



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ActionAid Association
Schedules to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015
 (All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

	As at 31 March 2015			As at 31 March 2014		
	FC	NFC	Total	FC	NFC	Total
Schedule 4: Restricted fund - Specific projects fund						
a) From various donors except mentioned in (b) below						
Opening balance						
Add:						
- Funds received during the year	46,454,390	3,329,942	49,784,332	31,535,689	212,280	31,747,969
Less:						
- Grants disbursed during the year	72,438,214	26,015,059	98,453,273	32,014,427	28,301,318	60,315,745
- Expenditure on project	118,892,604	29,345,001	148,237,605	63,550,116	28,513,598	92,063,714
	34,539,744	13,981,500	48,521,244	14,043,746	20,424,753	34,468,499
	13,456,112	8,310,320	21,766,432	3,051,980	4,758,903	7,810,883
	70,896,748	7,053,181	77,949,929	46,454,390	3,329,942	49,784,332
(a)						
b) Restricted fund (ActionAid International & its affiliates)						
Opening balance	27,142,525	-	27,142,525	-	-	-
Add:						
- Funds received during the year	167,450,038	-	167,450,038	87,199,530	-	87,199,530
Less:						
- Grants disbursed during the year	194,592,563	-	194,592,563	87,199,530	-	87,199,530
- Expenditure on project	122,854,575	-	122,854,575	50,232,709	-	50,232,709
	45,940,855	-	45,940,855	9,824,296	-	9,824,296
	25,797,133	-	25,797,133	27,142,525	-	27,142,525
(b)						
Grand Total	96,693,881	7,053,181	103,747,062	73,596,915	3,329,942	76,926,857

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B S & Company
 Chartered Accountants
 GURGAON

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New Delhi
 110016
 ActionAid Association
 110016

ActionAid Association
Schedules to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015
(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 2014	Additions during the year	Deletions/ adjustments during the year	As at 31 March 2015	As at 1 April 2014	For the year	On deletion/ adjustments	As at 31 March 2015
Tangible assets								
Computers	89,609	-	-	89,609	88,797	487	-	89,284
Office equipment	149,500	-	-	149,500	86,671	9,435	-	96,106
Vehicles	21,000	-	-	21,000	1,575	2,914	-	4,489
Furniture and fixtures	3,487	-	-	3,487	1,788	170	-	1,958
Current year	263,596	-	-	263,596	178,831	13,006	-	191,837
Previous year	242,596	21,000	-	263,596	164,760	14,071	-	178,831
								84,765

FOREIGN CONTRIBUTION (FC)

Particulars	Gross block			Accumulated depreciation			Net block	
	As at 1 April 2014	Additions during the year	Deletions/ adjustments during the year	As at 31 March 2015	As at 1 April 2014	For the year	On deletion/ adjustments	As at 31 March 2015
Tangible assets								
Computers	847,521	3,629,634	-	4,477,155	275,256	1,909,160	-	2,184,416
Office equipment	230,866	1,095,494	-	1,326,360	19,790	144,731	-	164,521
Vehicles	2,167,450	56,144	-	2,223,594	162,559	309,155	-	471,714
Furniture and fixtures	-	292,901	-	292,901	-	26,115	-	266,786
Current year	3,245,837	5,074,173	-	8,320,010	457,605	2,389,161	-	2,846,766
Previous year	50,000	3,195,837	-	3,245,837	15,000	442,605	-	457,605
								5,473,244
								2,788,232

TOTAL

Particulars	Gross block			Accumulated depreciation			Net block	
	As at 1 April 2014	Additions during the year	Deletions/ adjustments during the year	As at 31 March 2015	As at 1 April 2014	For the year	On deletion/ adjustments	As at 31 March 2015
Tangible assets								
Computers	937,130	3,629,634	-	4,566,764	364,053	1,909,648	-	2,273,701
Office equipment	380,366	1,095,494	-	1,475,860	106,461	154,166	-	260,627
Vehicles	2,188,450	56,144	-	2,244,594	164,134	312,069	-	476,203
Furniture and fixtures	3,487	292,901	-	296,388	1,788	26,285	-	28,073
Current year	3,509,433	5,074,173	-	8,583,606	636,436	2,402,168	-	3,038,604
Previous year	292,596	3,216,837	-	3,509,433	179,760	456,676	-	636,436
								5,545,002
								2,872,997



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ActionAid Association
Schedules to the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2015
(All amounts are in Indian Rupees)

	As at 31 March 2015		As at 31 March 2014	
	FC	NFC	FC	NFC
Schedule 6: Current assets, loans and advances				
Cash and bank balances				
Cash in hand	293,052	2,627	295,679	271
Balances with scheduled banks			259,533	
• in saving accounts	31,022,724	7,259,850	67,816,973	15,385,746
Funds in transit	1,303,975	1,303,975	-	-
	<u>32,619,751</u>	<u>7,262,477</u>	<u>68,076,506</u>	<u>15,386,017</u>
				<u>83,462,523</u>

Loans and advances <i>(Unsecured, considered good)</i>				
Advances recoverable in cash or in kind or for value to be received	3,786,767	84,332	3,871,099	852,027
Advance income tax	307,976	6,000	273,218	6,000
Advances to employees	1,974,435	130,196	1,971,174	46,294
Security deposits	5,641,745	100,000	3,269,650	100,000
Balance in gratuity fund (net of provision for gratuity of Rs. 39,811,542 (previous year Rs. 33,219,349))	6,044,473	-	12,173,264	-
	<u>17,755,396</u>	<u>320,528</u>	<u>20,852,770</u>	<u>1,004,321</u>
				<u>21,857,091</u>

Schedule 7: Current liabilities and provisions				
Sundry creditors	12,879,499	346,339	13,225,838	39,034
Other liabilities	3,354,500	9,420	3,363,920	7,193
Employee Related payables	306,360	33,176	1,514,018	7,976
Provisions for compensated absences	3,847,020	-	3,296,137	-
	<u>20,387,379</u>	<u>388,935</u>	<u>20,776,314</u>	<u>54,203</u>
				<u>10,588,079</u>

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ActionAid Association

For the year ended 31 March 2014

Salaries and wages
Contribution to provident fund
Contribution for other funds
Staff welfare expenses

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ActionAid Association
Schedules forming parts of the financial statements
(All amount are in rupees)

Schedule 10: Significant accounting policies and notes to the accounts

1. Background

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

The Society has been granted an exemption under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, vide letter no. DIT(E)/12A/2008-09/A-2513/119 dated 25th April 2008. The Society has also obtained exemption under section 80G(5)(vi) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 vide Order No. DIT(E) 2011-12/A-2513/5744 dated 29th March 2012 for the period from 1 April 2012 to till it is rescinded.

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.

2. Significant accounting policies

(a) Basis of preparation of financial statements

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

(b) Use of estimates

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

(c) Fund accounting

Restricted 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 expenditure incurred.

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



ActionAid Association
Schedules forming parts of the financial statements
(All amount are in rupees)

(d) 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.

(e) Fixed assets

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

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

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

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

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

(f) 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 recognised whenever the carrying amount of an asset or its cash generating unit exceeds its recoverable amount and is recognised in the Profit and Loss Account. An impairment loss is reversed if there has been a change in the estimates used to determine the recoverable amount. An impairment loss is reversed only to the extent that the asset's carrying amount does not exceed the carrying amount that would have been determined net of depreciation or amortisation, if no impairment loss had been recognised.

(g) Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets

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



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ActionAid Association
Schedules forming parts of the financial statements
(All amount are in rupees)

(h) Leases

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

(i) Employee Benefit

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

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

Defined benefit plans:

Gratuity plan

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

(j) Revenue recognition

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

Interest income on Savings Bank accounts is accounted on cash basis and interest income on Fixed Deposits is accounted on accrual basis.



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ActionAid Association
Schedules forming parts of the financial statements
(All amount are in rupees)

(k) Expenditure

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

3. 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 overdues outstanding to micro and small enterprises as defined under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006. Further, the Society has not received any claim for interest from any supplier under the said Act.

4. Employee Benefit Obligations:

Provident fund: An amount of Rs. 9,672,905 (Previous year Rs. 2,305,615) 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 AAA operates a gratuity plan wherein every regular and contractual employees (with fixed term of three years and above) and who has completed three years of service, is eligible for gratuity as per the group gratuity scheme of the Life Insurance Corporation. The plan allows one month's basic salary per year of service (after a minimum of three years service) to be paid. In addition, in case of death in service, the legal heir / heiress or the nominee of the staff as the case may be, is eligible to receive gratuity for the balance potential service up to the normal retirement age.

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 2015	As at 31 March 2014
Discount rate*	8%	9.12%
Expected rate of salary increase*	7%	7%
Demographic assumptions		
Retirement age	58 Years	58 Years
Mortality table	IALM (1994-96) duly modified	IALM (1994-96) duly modified
Withdrawal rates (%):		
Age		
Upto 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 upon the market yield available on the Government bonds at the accounting date with a term that matches that of the liabilities and the salary growth rate takes account of inflation, seniority, promotion and other relevant factors on long term basis.



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ActionAid Association
Schedules forming parts of the financial statements
(All amount are in rupees)

Other long term benefits: An amount of Rs. 763,449 (previous year Rs.234,251) pertaining to compensated absences is recognised as an expense and included in 'Employee benefits expense' in Note 9.

5. Leases

The Society has taken office premises under operating lease arrangements. The lease rent charged to Statement of Income and Expenditure is Rs. 15,051,668 (Previous year Rs. 3,874,243).

6. Expenditure in foreign currency:

Particulars	For the year ended 31 March 2015	For the year ended 31 March 2014
Travelling	343,907	89,766

7. Related Parties

(a) Related party where transactions have taken place:

Name of the Party	Relationship
Action Aid - India Branch	Enterprise under the common control
Action Aid India- Karnataka Project	Enterprise under the common control
ActionAid India Society	Enterprise under the common control

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

Name of the Party	Nature of transaction	For the year ended 31 March 2015	For the year ended 31 March 2014
Action Aid International, United Kingdom	Receipt of funds	572,027,129	212,522,961
Action Aid - India Branch	Receipt of funds	146,000,000	0
	Sale of Assets	0	-
	Transfer of provision for gratuity	-	265,437
	Transfer of provision for compensated absences	-	3,130,486
Action Aid- Karnataka Project	Grant disbursement	11,96,286	3,15,000



ActionAid Association
Schedules forming parts of the financial statements
(All amount are in rupees)

8. The Society is classified as Small and Medium Sized Enterprise (SME) of Level – III entity for the purposes of applicability of Accounting Standards as defined by the Council of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Accordingly, the Society has complied with the Accounting Standards as applicable to a Small and Medium Sized Enterprise.
9. Previous year's figures have been regrouped / reclassified, wherever necessary, to confirm to current year's classification.

As per our report attached

For B S R & Company
Chartered Accountants
ICAI Firm Registration No.: 128032W



Sandeep Batra
Partner
Membership No.: 093320

Place: Gurgaon
Date: 29-Sep-2015

For and on behalf of ActionAid Association



Sandeep Chachra
Secretary

Place: New Delhi
Date: 29-Sep-2015



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