

More Action. Less Aid.

ActionAid USA is a member of the ActionAid International federation. This three year strategy is a step towards realizing our vision of a just, equitable and sustainable world.

ActionAid USA Country Strategy 2018-2020

ActionAid USA works together with problem solvers who are tackling systemic challenges of poverty and injustice locally and globally. We raise resources in support of ActionAid programs around the world and through campaigning and solidarity actions, we connect local people with decision makers here in the U.S. and on the global stage so they can challenge the government policies and power imbalances that deny them full access to their rights.

Using a feminist lens, we closely assess the causes and consequences of the inequality in power relations between men, women and other oppressed genders, and advocate for the transformation of all social relations that oppress, exploit or marginalize any groups of people.

Our Vision

A just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity, freedom from poverty and all forms of oppression.

Our Mission

To achieve social justice, gender equality, and poverty eradication by working with people living in poverty and exclusion, their communities, people's organizations, activists, social movements and supporters.

Our Core Values

- ▶ **Mutual Respect**, requiring us to recognize the innate worth of all people and the value of diversity;
- ▶ **Equity and Justice**, requiring us to ensure the realization of our vision for everyone, irrespective of gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, race, ethnicity, caste, class, age, HIV status, disability, location and religion;
- ▶ **Integrity**, requiring us to be honest, transparent and accountable at all levels for the effectiveness of our actions and our use of resources, and open in our judgements and communications with others;
- ▶ **Solidarity with People Living in Poverty and Exclusion** will be the only bias in our commitment to the fight against poverty, injustice, and gender inequality;
- ▶ **Courage of Conviction**, requiring us to be creative and radical, bold and innovative – without fear of failure – in pursuit of making the greatest possible impact on the causes of poverty, injustice, and gender inequality;
- ▶ **Independence** from any religious or party-political affiliation;
- ▶ **Humility**, recognizing that we are part of a wider alliance against poverty and injustice.

ActionAid USA's Added Value

We are advocates, campaigners, communicators, resource mobilizers, and policy specialists.

We are part of a **democratic federation**. We put the experience of people on the front lines of poverty and injustice at the center of our work, and use it to inform everything we do.

We are **deeply rooted** in local communities, with people living in poverty playing a leading role in how our organization is run. This makes us best placed to identify where resources will have the biggest impact, and means we can **mobilize supporters and coalitions** to challenge U.S. and global policies that deny them their rights.

We are **courageous and outspoken**. We do not accept U.S. government money and are not affiliated to any political or religious groups.

We **elevate important issues** that are affecting poor and excluded people to the local, national and international stage. We bring people and groups together to demand change and **raise the resources** needed to support the ActionAid International federation's work around the world.

We elevate and share **alternatives and solutions** being generated by people around the world, and we play an important role in connecting these communities to each other and to decision-makers around the world.



Our Theory of Change

We believe people facing poverty and injustice hold the key to solving these problems, as they face them every day. ActionAid USA partners with them to provide support where and when they need it, so they can claim their rights and end poverty. Unlike most international development organizations, ActionAid is deeply rooted in the communities it works with. We take action alongside people at all levels, connecting communities across countries and continents to hold decision makers to account and build just, equitable and sustainable alternatives to the systems and structures behind poverty and injustice.

Program Framework

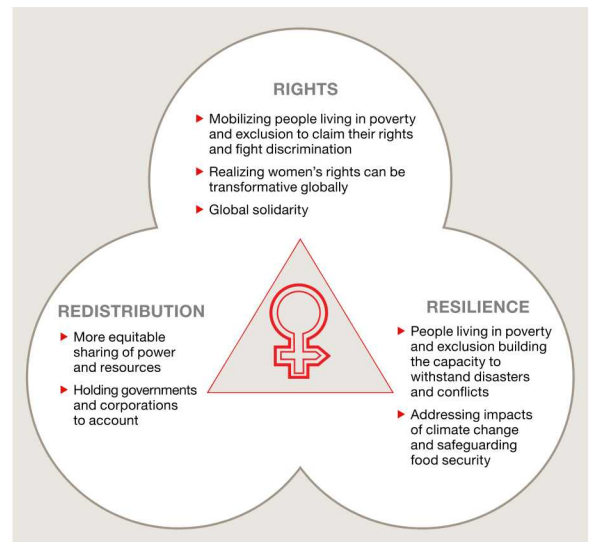
We believe that we have an opportunity to address the deeper, entrenched systems of injustice that fuel poverty and inequality. We are keen to use the disruption of the current political environment to advance our vision. We know that the task in hand will take all of us, including people of wealth and power.

ActionAid USA's program framework sets out how we intend to achieve our mission to achieve social justice, gender equality, and poverty eradication.

It focuses on three areas – Rights, Redistribution and Resilience – that are common to all members of the ActionAid International federation. These three areas are interconnected and mutually reinforcing in that one will only be achieved if gains are made in other areas. Rights cannot be fulfilled without redistribution of power and resources; and they continue to be undermined without building the resilience of people living in poverty and exclusion, and social movements.

In order to achieve the program objectives in this strategy, we will continue to build and strengthen our funding model, and use our unique position in an important media market to draw attention to the key areas of our program work, raising our brand awareness with core audiences.

We recognize that the political and social situation in the United States is changing rapidly. This requires us to be alert and prepared to shift our areas of focus in order to deliver the changes we wish to see.



2018-2020 Objectives

Promoting Sustainable Agriculture and a Strong U.S. Food Rights Movement



BERNARDETE GROWS EGGPLANT ON HER FARM IN PERNAMBUCO, BRAZIL

CREDIT: ACTIONAID

Globally, we produce enough food to feed every person on the planet. Yet nearly 800 million people go to bed hungry every night. Countries around the world have committed to ending global hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. The pathway towards achieving this is still under construction, but the globally recognized goal can be a tool to advance food rights.

The expansion of industrialized production of livestock and crops, the dismantling of public support for local agriculture, and the increased corporate control of our natural resources are all making it more difficult for local food producers to make a decent living and feed the planet. Industrial agriculture is also a major driver of migration, as local communities are pushed off their land to make way for large farms, forcing them to move further away from their homes to make a living and put food on the table.

Global investment in small-scale, locally-owned agriculture is far below where it needs to be. Local farmers produce up to 70% of the world's food. Women, who do the overwhelming majority of the work on many of the world's local farms, are still denied access and control over their land and the tools and technologies they need to make their farms a success.

In the next three years, ActionAid USA is committed to:

- ▶ Improving policies and increasing budget support for climate resilient sustainable agriculture by engaging with donors in global spaces on food security and nutrition.
 - By 2020, at least two donors commit a total of \$60 million or more to the public sector window of the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP).
 - There will be better policy coherence between the projects financed by the GAFSP and the policy initiatives forwarded at the United Nations' Committee on World Food Security (CFS).
- ▶ Strengthening the U.S. Food Rights Movement to promote locally led sustainable farming initiatives at the national and international levels.
 - By 2020, at least five U.S. food justice and anti-hunger organizations are playing an active role in the global food security debate, by engaging in the civil society organizing spaces for the GAFSP and the CFS, and pressing for the U.S. to acknowledge and promote the right to food.
- ▶ Promoting rural women's rights, the right to food, agroecology and land rights as the core elements of a successful strategy to meet global commitments to end hunger.
 - By 2020, the GAFSP and the CFS include rural women's rights, the right to food, agroecology and land rights in their policies and programs.

ActionAid USA will also work towards:

- ▶ Developing a program of work that clearly shows the connections between the expansion of large-scale industrial agriculture and migration trends.
 - By 2020, we aspire to build a strong narrative connecting the expansion of large-scale industrial agriculture with migration by the people most affected – small-scale food producers and workers.

Supporting Local Communities to Adapt to Climate Change and Challenging False Solutions



A FAMILY CROSSES A SWOLLEN RIVER IN BANGLADESH
CREDIT: MAHMUD/MAP/ACTIONAID

The UN estimates climate change will drive 122 million more people into poverty by 2030 and exacerbate existing poverty. More extreme weather events are on the rise and the world's poorest communities are hit hardest. The resilience of these communities must be urgently improved or millions of lives and livelihoods will be lost.

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) has resources to finance projects that support communities to adapt to climate change impacts. But in order to be effective and sustainable, the money must be used for projects that are developed by the people they intend to serve.

As the world's largest historical emitter of greenhouse gases and one of its wealthiest countries, the United States has a unique responsibility for ambitious climate action. But instead of taking significant steps to reduce emissions and

coming forward with the money needed to support developing countries to adapt to the impacts of climate change, the current U.S. administration is moving forward with plans to withdraw from the Paris climate change agreement.

The promotion of negative emissions technologies like Bio-Energy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) is of particular concern. These technologies are false solutions to climate change as they are unproven at scale and are being used by countries like the United States to avoid making the necessary cuts in carbon emissions.

In the next three years, ActionAid USA is committed to:

- ▶ Ensuring finance flows in support of adaptation efforts in developing countries – the GCF is channeling public money towards sound adaptation programming for the world's most vulnerable people.
 - By 2020, the GCF is funding at least 5 adaptation projects that were developed in consultation with people on the front lines of climate change that will legitimately and sustainably benefit the world's most vulnerable people.
- ▶ Raising awareness with climate justice allies and NGOs so that all groups express strong opposition to false solutions to climate change, which undermine resilience rather than improving it.
 - By 2020, relevant climate justice campaigns, policy positions, and sign-on letters contain strong demands that BECCS and other false solutions be excluded from national climate plans and international climate change agreements.

ActionAid USA will also work towards:

- ▶ Having the importance of decentralized renewable energy access as both a mitigation and a resilience/adaptation measure recognized and supported by donors and governments.
 - By 2020, ActionAid is facilitating communities in 1-2 developing countries to map out their renewable energy needs and their role as communities in ownership of the energy, paving the way for implementation of decentralized renewable energy provision
 - The importance of community control and decentralization is highly visible in public policy linked to energy access.
- ▶ Strengthening and raising the ambition of a domestic climate justice movement that places the U.S. and climate justice challenge in the global context.
 - By 2020, the domestic climate justice movement is making specific demands of policy makers for increased U.S. ambition on both mitigation and adaptation finance.



Increasing International Support for Women's Land Rights and Reforming U.S. Biofuels Policies

More than a third of the world's people rely on farming for their food and income. Land is part of the social and cultural identity of marginalized communities around the world, and their livelihoods remain dependent on access to land and water. But many wealthy donor nations and international institutions see land tenure systems as a means to advance the market, rather than prioritize communal and indigenous land rights.

U.S. government policies, particularly the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) that promotes the use of biofuels, are already contributing to a global rise in land grabbing. Women farmers, who produce much of the world's food, are often pushed aside as large-scale industrial farming increases and land ownership becomes increasingly concentrated in fewer and fewer hands.

In the United States, as much as 140 million acres of farmland is expected to change hands in the next five years as many farmers retire. Much of this land will be grabbed up by investors, taking opportunities away from marginalized rural communities to produce sustainable food using climate resilient methods and expanding the industrial model of agriculture for biofuels and flex crops, which contributes to climate change and threatens bio-diversity.

In the next three years, ActionAid USA is committed to:

- ▶ Increasing international support for strengthening women's land rights through promoting indigenous and community land rights in global policy debates on agriculture and land tenure administration.
 - By 2020, the World Bank or another major land governance donor implements at least one project prioritizing community land rights as a mechanism to advance women's rights to land in Guatemala.
- ▶ Reforming the RFS, stopping the expansion of food-based biofuels and land grabs for biofuels plantations.
 - By the end of 2018, the RFS has been reformed to stop U.S. incentives for the expansion of food-based biofuels.
 - By 2020, ActionAid USA has helped build consensus among climate, environmental, farm and agriculture groups that food-based biofuels are not a solution to any of the problems they are facing and facilitates consensus around a progressive vision for agriculture.
- ▶ Stopping the accumulation of farmland by American investment funds that is leading to the expansion of industrial farming in the U.S. and overseas.
 - By 2020, at least one investment fund will have fully disclosed information about their farmland holdings.
 - By 2020, policies are in place to limit farmland investment for industrial agriculture.



MEMBERS OF THE RAINBOW
ACTIVIST ALLIANCE AT
JOHANNESBURG PRIDE
CREDIT: ACTIONAID

Launching an Innovative Pilot Program Defending the Rights of Women and Girls in the United States

Given the erosion of social safety nets and the role of government, there is an urgent need to put more resources and support behind local organizations defending the rights of women and girls and LGBTQ people in communities on the front lines of poverty and exclusion. The structural causes of poverty and exclusion are global in nature and efforts to realize change at local and national levels can be strengthened when we link young American women being denied access to their full range of rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, with young women across the world facing similar challenges.

In the next three years, ActionAid USA will launch an innovative pilot program here in the U.S. that will work towards:

- ▶ Collaborating with partners in one U.S. city to connect young Black and Latinx women and girls and trans kids to assess the underlying causes and consequences of inequality and injustice and become effective problem solvers in their communities.
- By the end of 2020, this pilot program aims to connect young women and girls in the U.S. with local problem solvers facing similar challenges in up to three other countries, with participants having mapped out their visions for change in their families and communities.

ActionAid USA, 1220 L Street, NW, Suite 725, Washington, DC, 20005, +1 (202) 835-1240
www.actionaidusa.org

ActionAid is on a mission to end poverty and injustice by investing in local problem solvers.