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ActionAid USA
2010 Annual Report



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to share with you this report on the work of ActionAid USA during 2010. Despite a challenging economy, we were delighted to add over 1200 regular donors to our network last year, and to launch a series of new projects around the world. In this report you will read about some of our highlights from 2010, as well as some featured programs that illustrate our approach to development.

ActionAid USA has two primary objectives: to raise money for cutting-edge development projects managed by our colleagues in Asia, Africa and Latin America; and to educate decision-makers and the American public about global poverty and the programs and policies by which we can end it. Our organizational priorities include:

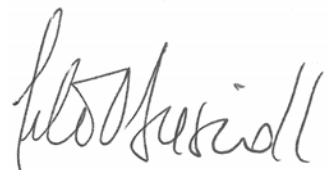
- **Advancing Women's Rights:** Despite continued discrimination in many parts of the world, ActionAid believes that women are a powerful force for change. ActionAid builds and strengthens women's rights organizations, promotes women's literacy and economic empowerment, and works to end sexual violence.
- **Ending Global Hunger:** Of the one billion people who are hungry, three-fifths are small farmers, one-fifth are landless agricultural laborers, and most are women who produce about half of the world's supply of food. ActionAid invests in the potential of small farmers through sustainable agricultural programs, and calls for improved foreign assistance for agriculture, including investment in women smallholder farmers and a shift from in-kind food aid to local and regional purchase.
- **Promoting Equitable Development Policies:** ActionAid works with communities and social movements in poor countries to hold their governments accountable for the impacts of their economic policies. ActionAid also advocates for transparency and accountability with bilateral donors and multilateral lenders to developing countries.

2010 marked the end of ActionAid USA's most recent five-year strategic plan. As 2011 unfolds we are reviewing our results over that period and developing a new strategy for 2012-17. During this transition, I will be stepping aside as Executive Director of ActionAid USA to allow for the appointment of a new leader who can finalize and implement the next strategic plan.

I will leave almost five years to the day after assuming the role of Executive Director in early May 2006. At that point, ActionAid USA was still a well-kept secret, with seven dedicated staff members who were focused primarily on specialized research and advocacy to influence the policies of multilateral trade and development organizations. Over time we increased ActionAid USA's operating budget from \$1.3 million in 2005 to \$6.3 million in 2010. We grew our staff to twelve by the end of last year. And we expanded our policy agenda to engage directly with the US government, enlisting tens of thousands of US citizens in support of policies to promote the rights of poor and excluded people in developing countries.

I am grateful for all the support you have given to ActionAid during my tenure as Executive Director, and remain confident that with your help, the organization will continue to flourish and grow into the future. In the meantime it is my pleasure to celebrate with you our accomplishments over the past year. You are a vital part of our success, and your contributions show that we truly can end poverty by working together.

Sincerely,



Peter O'Driscoll



Jesica (left), 17, lost both her parents to HIV/AIDS when she was young. She received counselling, support and vocational training with ActionAid's partner, MAWEDA. Photo: Claudia Janke/ActionAid

ACTIONAID'S VISION AND MISSION

VISION: A world without poverty in which every person can exercise his or her right to a life of dignity.

MISSION: To work with poor and marginalized people to eradicate poverty by overcoming the injustice and inequality that cause it.

CONTENT

Message from Executive Director	Mission and Vision 1	2010 Program Highlights 2
Liberia: Women's Agriculture Program 3	Updates on Haiti 4–5	Food Security for Small Farmers 6
Child Sponsorship in Bangladesh 7	2011 and Beyond 8	Financial Information 9–11
Working with You 12	Board and Staff 13	

2010 Program Highlights

Haiti Earthquake – ActionAid successfully advocated for \$1.15 billion in US supplemental appropriations for Haiti. Meanwhile, after addressing some of our Haitian partners' immediate needs, we committed to a three-year rehabilitation plan, insisting that civil society groups and the 80% of Haiti's population who live on less than \$2 a day get a seat at the table when reconstruction plans are made. ActionAid USA raised approximately \$500,000 for Haiti relief and reconstruction efforts.

Pakistan Floods – ActionAid was the first to reach 2010 flood victims in Kot Addu, Pakistan with rescue and relief support. We set up numerous relief camps and provided food, medical care and washing facilities to over 220,000 people with immediate relief and longer term support. ActionAid established a two-year emergency response and rehabilitation program to support those affected in rebuilding their lives in the long term. ActionAid USA raised over \$50,000 for this relief effort.

Climate Change – For the past four years, ActionAid has pushed for two core measures to confront the impacts of climate change – the creation of a new international mechanism to help developing countries adapt to climate change, and the generation of billions of dollars to capitalize that mechanism. We celebrated the launch of the new Green Climate Fund (GCF) at the December 2010 Cancun Climate Conference. ActionAid USA was among the first organizations to push for this mechanism.

Food Security – ActionAid served on the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program's steering committee, and helped negotiate more than a dozen policies to increase the program's transparency and enhance participation by civil society organizations.

Women's Rights – ActionAid raised funds for programs to prevent violence against women and the spread of HIV&AIDS, launched a report at the United Nations on confronting these pandemics, invested in women's agricultural production in Africa, and promoted women's leadership and empowerment in communities in Bangladesh, Burundi, Cambodia and Haiti.

Equitable Development Policies – ActionAid USA focused our efforts on supporting renewed US and World Bank commitments to agricultural investment in poor countries, through programs that track national budgets to make sure public funds are being spent productively. We also promoted policies that allow developing countries to raise more domestic taxes to break their dependence on foreign aid.

Public Education – In September 2010 more than 40,000 ActionAid supporters signed a petition to President Obama, calling on him to keep his promise to fight global hunger. We delivered your signatures to the Obama Administration during the Millennium Development Summit in New York.



"Bicycles for Girls' Education" in Ghana. Josephine Suglo, Agustina Gabue, Cynthia Yiriyella and Pascalina Tinga show off the bicycles they ride to school. Photo: Nana Kofi Acquah/ActionAid



Zenia Rueben is a member of a Women's Land Rights (WOLAR) Reflect Circle in Mwanza, Malawi. Photo: ActionAid

Liberia

Improving Women's Livelihoods through Agriculture



Mercy Welengani watering her vegetable garden. Photo: ActionAid

ActionAid's commitment to supporting women smallholder farmers around the world is well-illustrated through a project in Liberia that our U.S. supporters have helped to fund. This Economic Livelihood Project works to reduce the poverty and vulnerability of rural farmers, especially women and youth, through the revitalization of agricultural production.

ActionAid is addressing the issues of food insecurity, limited productivity and low incomes by introducing cash crop farming and food processing, in order to offer profitable and sustainable economic livelihoods for vulnerable populations. The work has improved food production capacity for 200 war-affected families and enhanced cultivation techniques as well as the processing, storage and marketing of produce.

Keys to success include involving community members in their own needs assessment, training communities on the linkages between food security and the welfare of women and children, and selecting beneficiaries based on the number of female vulnerable farmers and the availability of farm land.



Haiti

Emergency Response

On January 12th, 2010, an earthquake of magnitude 7.3 on the Richter scale rocked Haiti. Over 200,000 lives were lost and another 300,000 people were injured, while over a million people have been forced to live in temporary shelter sites after losing their homes to the quake.

Within days of the devastating earthquake, ActionAid USA began working closely with our colleagues in Haiti on disaster response as well as advocacy to promote civil society participation in reconstruction processes.

Shortly after the quake, ActionAid distributed food packages, hygiene and kitchen kits to nearly 55,000 people. We also provided tarpaulin sheeting to over 11,000 families living in camps, and 3,000 school kits to displaced children. And because the earthquake provoked a massive migration from Port-au-Prince to rural areas, ActionAid supported our partners in distributing seeds to a total of 1,100 internally displaced farmers, host families, and members of community-based organizations. We enabled nearly 3,500 community members to participate in ActionAid cash-for-work projects, and provided 6 grinding mills to 2,400 people to process their corn crops for sale at the local market. And to help children and families cope with the devastating impact of the quake, ActionAid provided psychosocial support to over 27,000 people.

ActionAid's response to the cholera crisis included both distribution of hygiene kits to prevent cholera and training for local organizations on hygiene and sanitation. Our partners are carrying messaging campaigns directly to camps for displaced people and other communities where ActionAid has a presence.





Haiti

Long-Term Solutions & Advocacy

Since the quake struck, ActionAid has stressed that our response would roll out over three years. In 2010 we spent about 40% of funds we received, and the balance will be focused on addressing the needs of our earthquake-affected partners in Port-au-Prince, and in rural communities where those displaced from the capital are settling. This longer-term response focuses on:

- **Food security and rural support** – through new partnerships with local groups to implement agricultural development programs in rural areas where displaced people are resettling.
- **Shelter** – working with local partners and communities to identify land for the construction of transitional housing, and training communities to advocate for their land rights.
- **Disaster risk reduction (DRR)** – through trainings, community meetings and focus groups to teach people the importance of disaster risk reduction, and to equip Haitian partner organizations with the necessary skills to reduce their vulnerability to disaster.
- **Education** – through support to school construction processes to enable children affected by the earthquake to continue their education.

To ensure that development strategies for Haiti are based on the needs of the people, communities must increase their capacity to influence policies and decisions regarding the reconstruction process. To support this agenda in Washington, ActionAid worked in a coalition to successfully advocate for \$1.15 billion in US supplemental appropriations for Haiti, brought Haitian partners to testify before the US Congress, and helped advocate for a more inclusive, transparent and sustainable reconstruction process.



Guatemala & Brazil

Confronting the Threats: Food Security for Small Farmers

Mother and her child in San Carlos Alzatate, an ActionAid sponsored community in Guatemala.
Photo: ActionAid



As commodity prices rose to new heights in 2010, threatening another global food crisis, experts agreed that a major driver of price increases is the growing demand for biofuels. For four years ActionAid has been tracking how expanding biofuels production in Africa and Latin America is displacing small producers and exacerbating food insecurity. US project funding is supporting efforts in Brazil to track the impacts of expanding production, strengthen civil society networks, and press the government to reduce its production targets and honor its sustainability commitments. We are also demonstrating the impacts of sugar cultivation for ethanol on food production and food prices, including evidence of the dislocation of food crops.

Meanwhile, ActionAid is conducting research on Guatemalan biofuels production, strengthening the advocacy capacity of indigenous farmer and women's groups to protect their land rights, and building Guatemalan engagement in international demands for more sustainable production protocols. This work is closely coordinated with analysis, networking and advocacy in the United States on Renewable Fuel Standards, tariffs, regulatory mechanisms for greenhouse gas emissions, and other levers to reduce biofuel production goals that exacerbate the international food, land and climate crises. Success in this approach will lead to the development of global protocols and standards on biofuels production, supported by national governments and adhered to by companies, that would subject biofuels targets to sustainability criteria regarding their impacts on food prices, land use and greenhouse gas emissions.

In our effort to reduce US biofuels production targets to levels that rebalance food and energy concerns, ActionAid USA helped limit the ethanol subsidy renewal to one year instead of five. We wrote a bipartisan Senate letter and an accompanying coalition letter with almost 60 diverse signers, asking to eliminate the ethanol subsidy. ActionAid USA crafted new resources describing how biofuels can increase hunger and exposing myths about industrial biofuels and their impact on poor and excluded people. In December we published an opinion piece on the ethanol subsidy in a series of small and medium news markets.

Bangladesh

Child Sponsorship: An Amazing Way to Make a Difference



2010 was the first full year in which ActionAid recruited child sponsors in the United States to directly support community development projects in Bangladesh, Burundi, Cambodia and Haiti. Child sponsorship is a wonderful way to bring hope and change to a child living in poverty. For less than \$1 a day, sponsors provide entire communities with improved education, access to safe clean water, nourishing food and the opportunities they need to change their future. ActionAid knows that the most effective way to help a child is to help her community, so contributions are used to fund projects that will enable the child, her family and the whole community to overcome the problems they face. We work closely with people at a local level to prioritize their needs to bring about lasting change.

One example of this approach is in Daulatpur, in the Kushtia Province of western Bangladesh. ActionAid supporters in the US are funding comprehensive community development projects run by a local partner organization that has been helping children and empowering women in the region for more than 20 years. The first project funded by US sponsorship was a childcare center opened in 2010 that serves children from across the community. But our financial support also enables ActionAid to work with education authorities in Bangladesh to extend service in the local school beyond the current six months per year.

Development research around the world consistently shows that children's health, education and nutrition outcomes always improve when their mothers have access to literacy and economic opportunity. ActionAid and our partners are sponsoring women's groups called "Reflect Circles" which combine basic literacy and health training with the chance to collaborate on small-scale economic initiatives, food security projects and micro-loans. These Reflect Circles are powerful seeds for a better economic future in communities like Daulatpur.

Outlook

2011 and Beyond

ActionAid USA is part of the global ActionAid federation committed to finding sustainable solutions to end poverty and injustice. With more than 40 national members and country programs worldwide, ActionAid focuses the majority of its resources on working with millions of the poorest and most excluded women, men and children – taking sides with them and making long-term commitments to advance their human rights.

Our global federation is at an exciting moment in the global struggle for a more just and sustainable world: We are in the process of finalizing our new global strategy for 2012-2017!

Our current global strategy covering 2006-2011, Rights to End Poverty, set a strong direction and helped us progress toward achieving our mission. However, change is still needed as the planet and with it the context of poverty and injustice is changing rapidly. Inequality, both within and across countries has increased in the past 20 years and - as global trend analysis and research tell us – day-to-day challenges in life will get even more volatile for the billions of people who live with the profound injustice of poverty.

It is with this in mind that we are building on our learning and achievements over the past 40 years. The new International Strategy seeks to deepen ActionAid's impact in a fast-changing world and will strike a balance of consolidation with innovation as we pursue alternatives for a poverty-free planet.

As ActionAid USA is serious in the courage of our conviction that ActionAid must focus on having the greatest impact possible on the lives of the poorest and most excluded women, men, youth and children around the world, we will be aligning our current strategy to the changing world. We will start this process in the second half of 2011 and will keep you posted on how we are doing.

To find out more about the global ActionAid federation and to keep up with what we are doing in ActionAid USA, please visit www.actionaid.org and www.actionaidusa.org.



(L-R) Fernanda Naiane Leal Amaral, Jeandria Simary Freire Lopes and Michael Costa Castelo are participants of ActionAid UK Youth Engagement Team 'Bollocks to Inequality' project in Brazil.
Photo: Eduardo Martino /Documentogra phy/ActionAid

Financial Information

(January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010)

In 2010, ActionAid USA addressed the challenging fundraising environment by making strategic choices about how to invest our resources. We took action early in the fiscal year to reduce expenses and focus on program activity. Thus far, we have weathered the financial and economic downturn well, while remaining committed to the people and communities we serve.

ActionAid USA has earned a fourth consecutive 4-star rating for our ability to efficiently manage our finances. Only 9% of the charities that Charity Navigator rated have received at least four consecutive 4-star evaluations.

Those trapped by poverty and injustice are disproportionately affected by difficult financial conditions. We are aware that in these times our best financial management still leaves the needs of many unmet. Year after year, we are motivated to be both the best possible stewards of our donors' funds and true to our mission to work with the poor to end poverty and injustices that cause it.

Isaac M. Mintz

Isaac M. Mintz
Chief Financial Officer



“ActionAid USA consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way, and outperforms most other charities in America. This “exceptional” designation from Charity Navigator differentiates ActionAid USA from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust”

Charity Navigator - January 2011



Statement of Activities

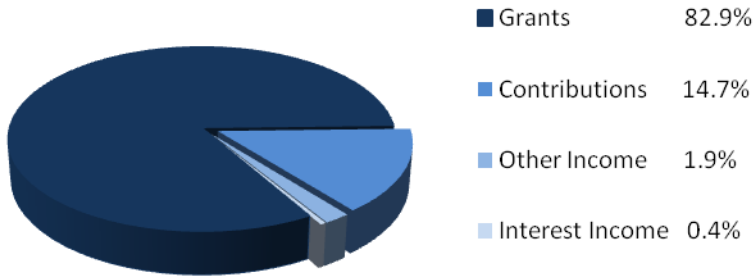
(Ending on FY 2010 and 2009)

	2010	2009
REVENUE AND SUPPORT		
Grants	\$2,864,549	\$4,253,537
Contributions	506,914	536,033
Interest Income	15,088	13,612
Other Income	67,236	13,874
Total revenue and support	\$3,453,787	\$4,817,056
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Program Services		
Women's Rights and HIV/AIDS	2,344,857	3,391,772
Policy Reform	1,016,695	3,088,974
Food and Hunger	855,0296	150,452
Media	56,706	-----
Total Program Services	4,273,287	6,631,198
Supporting Services		
General and Administrative	560,640	537,990
Fundraising	1,513,688	761,002
Total Supporting Services	2,074,328	1,298,992
Total expenses	\$6,347,615	\$7,930,190
Change in Net Assets		
Change related to unrestricted funds	(9,814)	(63,950)
Change related to temporarily restricted funds	(2,884,014)	(3,049,184)
Total change in net assets	(2,893,828)	(3,113,134)
Net assets at the beginning of the year	5,342,550	8,455,684
Net assets at the end of the year	\$2,448,722	\$5,342,550

Statement of Financial Position

	2010	2009
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$2,852,385	\$2,023,389
Investments	-----	1,219,159
Accounts receivable	42,404	5,884
Grants receivable	663,408	3,595,978
Prepaid expenses	1,942	15,089
Property and equipment, net	16,498	49,795
Security deposit	10,371	10,371
Total assets	\$3,587,008	\$6,919,665
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	136,383	91,621
Affiliate payable	958,323	1,429,491
Accrued vacation	16,356	11,635
Deferred rent and leasehold incentive liability	24,573	41,717
Deposits held in escrow	2,651	2,651
Total liabilities	1,138,286	1,577,115
Net Assets		
Unrestricted		
Undesignated	1,273,522	1,333,336
Board designated	350,000	300,000
Total unrestricted	1,623,522	1,633,336
Temporarily restricted	825,200	3,709,214
Total net assets	2,448,722	5,342,550
Total liabilities and net assets	\$3,587,008	\$6,919,665

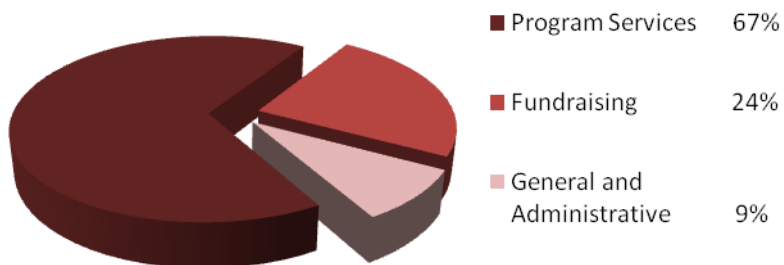
Sources of Funds



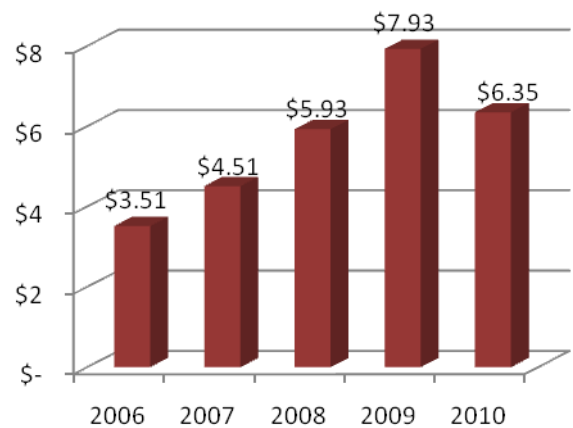
Revenue Growth (in million US\$)



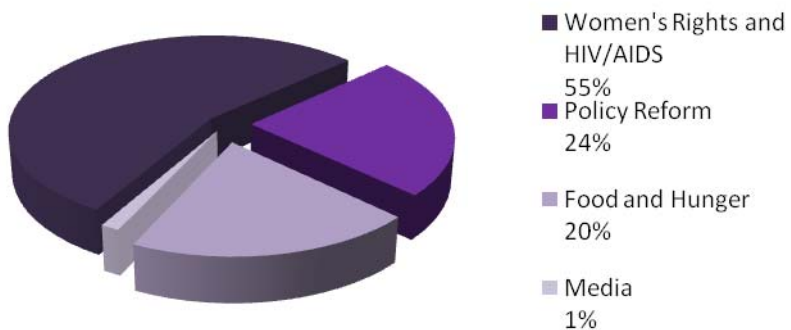
Uses of Funds



Annual Expenses (in million US\$)



Program Services



Working with you

Every step we take toward eliminating poverty around the world is achieved with your generous support. We offer our deepest gratitude to institutional donors and the thousands of individual donors who have shown their compassion through monetary and in-kind gifts.



Mary Abraham, a sponsored child, mixes shea butter in Tamale, Northern Ghana. Photo: Jane Hahn/Panos Pictures/ActionAid

Abt Associates Inc.
America's Charities
Bedford Bay Clothing CO., LLC
The Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation
The Boston Foundation
Burness Communications, Inc.
CFC Berkshire County Pittsfield MA
CFC Los Angeles Area
CFC North Puget Sound Everett Washington
CFC Philadelphia Area
CFC Richmond
CFC Southern Nevada
CFC United Way of Tampa Bay
CFC West Point, Orange, Rockland, Sullivan
CFC Wiregrass Area, Dothan Alabama
Connect US Fund
Emerson Reid & Co. Inc.
The Ford Foundation
Foundation Beyond Belief
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Giving Express
Global Giving Foundation
Global Impact
Good Search
Groundspring
The Home Depot Foundation
Important Gifts, Inc.

Intuit Foundation
JustGive
The Lone Pine Foundation
The Moriah Fund
Network for Good
New York District US Army Corps of Engineers
Psyche Systems Corporation
RAFFA, P.C.
Rockefeller Brothers Fund
The San Francisco Foundation
Scherer Associates
Schwab Charitable Fund
Seattle Foundation
Seattle International Foundation
Shepherd Foundation
Spinal Cord Injury Nurses of the Seattle VA
Puget Sound Health Care System
T-DOC Company, LLC
The Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut
Transportation Research Board
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
The Volunteer Center of Southwestern Fairfield County
Wallace Genetic Foundation
Wallace Global Fund
Wellpoint Associate Giving Campaign
Wolfort Family Foundation

Board of Directors

(Served in 2010)

Jeff Whisenant, Executive Vice President, Lutheran World Relief
Andy Mott, Director, Community Learning Project
Eleanor Cicerchi, Director of the Signature Campaign, The Newark Museum
Luis Guardia, Vice President, International Center for Research on Women
Leslie Allen, Independent Consultant
Cristina Lopez, President, National Hispana Leadership Institute
Michael Rooney, Partner, IDM
Kumiki Gibson, Lawyer & Consultant
Ramesh Singh, Chief Executive, ActionAid International
Jilly Stephens, Executive Director, City Harvest
Ellen Teller, Director for Government Affairs, Food Research & Action Center
Melissa Wyers, President, Breakthrough Strategies
Jean N. Kamau, Country Director, ActionAid Kenya



Emma Thompson, Academy Award winner and ActionAid Ambassador, met young pupils at Weamawou school near Gbarma town, Gbarma district, Gbarpolu county, Liberia. Photo: Anastasia Taylor Lind/ActionAid

Staff

(As of 12/31/2010)

Peter O'Driscoll, Executive Director
Isaac M. Mintz, Chief Financial Officer
Randi Hogan, Chief Development Officer
Neil Watkins, Director of Policy and Campaigns
Brenna Kupferman, Senior Foundations Advisor
Ilana Solomon, Policy Analyst
Donna Hines, Assistant to Chief Financial Officer
Kate Y. Peng, Donor Relations Coordinator
Elise Young, Senior Policy Analyst
Caroline Hamric, Contracts and Grants Manager
Brittany Payne, Face to Face Canvassing Manager
Marie Brill, Senior Policy Analyst

Cover Image

One of the participants in a women's agricultural project in Zannah village, Monserrado county, Liberia. Photo: Anastasia Taylor Lind/ActionAid

Page 6-7

Haiti earthquake response. Photo: Charles Eckert/ActionAid

Page 11 (from left to right)

Zenia Rueben is a member of Women Land Rights REFLECT Circle in Malawi. Photo: ActionAid

Teresinha Leite da Silva is a small farmer in Brazil. Photo: Helder Tavares/ActionAid

Kariah Sherrif (L), Mary Koroma (Second on left), Zainab Sesay (Second on right) & Millicent Kamara (R) in the kindergarten at Kola Tree Community School, Sierra Leone. Photo: Caroline Thomas/ActionAid



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