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Realising Rights for Women and Children

ActionAid Ireland Strategy 2017- 2021

Our Three Big Goals

Realise Rights for Women and Children



To work with grassroots community groups, movements and partners to realise rights for women and rights for children.

01

02

Mobilise Resources

To mobilise funds and supporters in Ireland in support of ActionAid's social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication goals.



Transparent and Accountable



To ensure ActionAid Ireland is sustainable, accountable and meets the highest standards.

03

Who We Are

ActionAid's goal is to achieve social justice, gender equality and to eradicate poverty by working with people living in poverty and exclusion. From Ireland, our work is focused primarily in six countries: Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda in Africa and Nepal, Cambodia and Vietnam in Asia.

Women and children are at the heart of our work. We know from experience that empowering women and helping them overcome the obstacles holding them back, brings transformative changes - not only for the women themselves, but for the next generations as well. Simply put, women

will do everything in their power to make life better for their children, and for their families.

This strategy, *Realising Rights for Women and Children* means supporting women, empowering them to take control of their lives. It's women led. Women decide their priorities and ActionAid supports them - with education and training, literacy, numeracy, leadership skills. Essentially, we raise awareness of their rights, support women on how to achieve those rights and access services such as education and health care. We aim to help women tackle the issues that hold women and children back.

Photo (front): 14 year-old Abigail, from West Pokot, Kenya, ran away from home at 13 when her parents wanted her to undergo FGM. She found safety at an ActionAid-funded safe house. Credit: Kate Holt/ActionAid

Photo (centre): Janet, 13, from Kenya also escaped FGM. She was sheltered by a member of the ActionAid supported women's network and has started school for the first time. Credit: Kate Holt/ActionAid

Photo (back): Sokny, a sponsored child from Pursat, Cambodia (most left) washes her hands with friends before a drawing activity. Credit: ActionAid



Making real change

Our work addressing violence against women has made a real impact.

One positive example of this comes from Kongelai, West Pokot, Kenya. Female genital mutilation (FGM) has been reduced by 27% over the past five years of our Irish Aid funded programme.

When girls have the opportunity to stay in school and advance their education they are likely to earn more money than if they left school early. They are less likely to undergo early marriage and give birth at a young age. Because of this, their children will have a better shot in life and stay in education

longer. This work has a powerful effect on women, their own children, their families and future generations.

This is possible thanks to support of generous people in Ireland, sponsoring children and donating to ActionAid Ireland, and thanks to support from Irish Aid and the EU.

Promoting Women's and Children's Rights has been central to ActionAid Ireland's work for decades and we will grow and develop the programme 2017 to 2021. Together we will reach even more women and children and change their lives for the better.

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 organisations, activists, social movements and supporters.

Our Values

- Mutual respect
- Equity and justice
- Integrity
- Courage of conviction
- Independence
- Humility
- Solidarity with people living in poverty and exclusion

