

TAKE ACTION

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Women Won't Wait in Uganda

Standing up to Violence, Abuse and HIV & AIDS

In March, women, girls, and men rallied in the streets of Uganda, celebrating the 100th year of International Women's Day and the ongoing movement to advance women's rights worldwide. ActionAid Uganda has affirmed its commitment to women's rights by joining the global Women Won't Wait (WWW) campaign.

The campaign was launched in 2007 to demand effective policies and raise awareness about the intersection of gender-based violence and HIV & AIDS. This campaign has reached out to law makers, educators, health care workers, law enforcers, and communities around the world to show that women have a right to a life free of abuse and HIV & AIDS.

In Uganda, ActionAid has opened three psychological and legal counseling centers in 12 communities, leading to a dramatic rise in reported cases of abuse, from 56 per month in 2008 to 90 per month in 2010. More women are reporting cases of abuse now that they have found an avenue where they can speak out against their offenders.



Left to right: Arao Susan, Betty Nakitende, Nazziwa Annette, and Esther Adero march together in a rally commemorating International Women's Day in Mubende, Uganda. Photo: Jake Lyell/Shoot the Earth/ActionAid

The WWW campaign in Uganda has successfully built a national coalition, featured on 19 radio talk shows. 103 people have already benefited from paralegal skills trainings, while over 1,000 women and men have joined community awareness-building initiatives. ActionAid will continue to educate larger communities about the effects of abuse, and to deliver justice for women affected by gender-based violence and HIV & AIDS.

For more information on violence against women and HIV & AIDS, please visit [HERE](#).

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Immacula Jeanty, 42, was excited when she received a bed net and a water purification kit. Photo: ActionAid

Reaching out to Haitians still living in Camps

ActionAid Haiti, our partner COZPAM, and the Program for Health and Information have jointly launched a project in March to distribute insecticide-treated bed nets and water purification kits to Haitians displaced by the January 2010 earthquake.

More than 12,500 people living in poor sanitary conditions in camps in Mariani and Philippeaux will receive the kits. This project has already benefited 1,900 families. ActionAid and COZPAM are also working with camp families to address land and housing rights, so that vulnerable people can access safer, long-term housing.

In Haiti, March to May is the rainy season. People living in Philippeaux will be able to use the bed nets to prevent malaria and water-borne diseases that especially threaten children.

Among those who received the kits was Gregory Brunache. ActionAid and COZPAM had provided him and

an elderly relative with a tent in Philippeaux after the earthquake of January 2010.

"I am always happy when ActionAid and COZPAM come to visit me. The bed net and the water purification tablets are a miracle" said Gregory with a big smile.



Gregory also received a wheelchair from ActionAid in April 2010. Photo: ActionAid

Advocacy for Haiti

Over 70 Haitian grassroots organizations, Diaspora members and international development agencies rallied on Capitol Hill on March 30th, and spoke up for a more just and inclusive reconstruction process in Haiti. On the same day, hundreds of Americans made phone calls to their members of Congress to show their support. Marie Charles Juste-Luce, a women's leader in one of the 1,400 internally-displaced camps in Port-au-Prince, came to speak to the US government and had this to say about the opportunity: "This week I was able to speak my mind, and the US Congress heard me. I know that when I go back to Haiti, how I'm going to be able to speak to the others, to let them know that there are people thinking of them. Now, we have to follow-up so that we can achieve real results."

To read more about Haiti Advocacy Week, please visit [HERE](#) or <https://actionaidusa.wordpress.com/>



Rep. Eliot Engel meeting with ActionAid partner, Marie Charles Juste-Luce (right of Rep. Engel), as well as other AA partners, staffers and coalition members. Photo: AJWS

Check out www.actionaidusa.org for ways to get involved in our campaigning on these issues.



Lacherie Cyimpaye, 8, (pictured left) whose health has improved since the feeding program was introduced at her school in Rwanda. Photo: ActionAid

Don't Cut Hunger Programs in a Food Crisis

During recent budget discussions in Washington, DC, ActionAid pressed the US government to protect food security funding. This includes programs that provide food for 18 million of the world's poorest people and support 14 million small-holder farmers to grow their own food. ActionAid sent a clear message to the US Congress: Don't cut funding to fight global hunger in the midst of a global food crisis.

We reached out to members of Congress, engaged the media, and asked for your help. ActionAid organized more than 25 advocacy meetings with key legislators on Capitol Hill, and our supporters generated more than 10,000 petition signatures which we delivered to Congressional leaders.

While the final budget compromise will require sacrifices across vulnerable sectors, we are glad that these international hunger programs were spared the deepest cuts.



Due to the rising food prices around the globe, the agricultural sector in the developing world is finally receiving more attention. Photo: Sven Torfinn/Panos Pictures/ActionAid

In 2008, a global food crisis pushed 100 million more people into poverty. Since that time, food prices first stabilized, then began to rise again. Between June and December of 2010, 44 million people fell below the extreme poverty line.

The communities that ActionAid works with around the world are vulnerable to another food crisis. They are already eating fewer meals, cutting health or education expenditures, going into debt, or working longer hours. Volatile food prices threaten global economic

recovery and fuel political instability.

There are many factors that contribute to the food price crisis. But a few key U.S. policy changes could help mitigate price spikes in the short run, and prevent future crises: invest in smallholder farmers and in climate change adaptation; change U.S. biofuel policy which has fueled price volatility; establish emergency and strategic food reserves; and rein in excessive speculation in commodity futures markets, which has exacerbated the problem.

ActionAid on Climate Change: Act NOW!

Severe floods, droughts, and natural disasters are affecting poor people across the world, particularly in developing countries. To respond to the climate challenge, ActionAid gives communities the tools to understand climate change, analyze their vulnerability and develop their own solutions. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about ActionAid's approach to climate adaptation.

ActionAid promotes new funding for climate change through institutions which will truly benefit poor people. Our advocacy helped establish a new Green Climate Fund in December 2010. Since poor countries had little to do with creating the climate crisis, we don't think they should get stuck with the \$100 billion per year bill to clean up the mess!

BRING HOPE TO A CHILD



ActionAid Rwanda sponsorship officer, Christelle Karekezi, with a group of girls from a secondary school in Bagamoyo, Tanzania. Photo: ActionAid

Recently, staff from ActionAid offices across the globe came together to observe the work at primary and secondary schools in the community of Bagamoyo in Tanzania. The group received a warm welcome, then heard reports from school administrators, teachers and students about the successful construction of the school in the village as well as dormitories for students who live far away. Through support from ActionAid and our child sponsorship program, boys and girls in particular are less prone to the risks of traveling to school alone and more likely to attend school regularly.

US supporters interested in sponsorship can also make an impact on a child and the community in which that child lives. ActionAid USA has partnered with communities in Burundi, Bangladesh, Cambodia and Haiti to ensure that more children attend school, more women are empowered to stand up for their rights, and that poor people have opportunities for a sustainable livelihood.

Sponsorship of a child can benefit an entire community living in poverty, but it can be even more rewarding for supporters like you.

Take it from US child sponsor, Patrick Maigler: "I have tremendous faith in Robelto, Renette, Gregory and other children who are given a chance and who have the perspective to understand the value of that opportunity. For me personally, it feels good to give; I feel like a more complete human when I take actions demonstrating that I care about people who I will likely never meet in person and who will likely never give anything back to me directly. I also like having Robelto, Renette, & Gregory's pictures up in my cube at work to remind me that the problems at work are not real problems and that I am extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to give to them."



Kimberly Syllabe is 10 years old. She is a 6th grade student in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Photo: ActionAid

ActionAid is Highly Rated by



For the fourth consecutive year, ActionAid International USA has earned a 4-star rating for sound fiscal management by Charity Navigator, the leading charity evaluator in the United States. ActionAid's "exceptional" ranking indicates the organization exceeds industry standards and outperforms most similar charities. Read more [HERE](#).