



# **act:onaid**

## **Annual Report 2020**



## Colophon

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# Global solidarity

Dear friend,

with this annual report we wish to share, with you, our achievements during the past year thanks to the help of our supporters and the commitment of all those who are part of ActionAid. 2020 has been a challenging year for everyone: even now it is not easy to look back and fully grasp the complexity of what we have faced and are still experiencing.

However, 2020 has certainly also been a year of great solidarity, a feeling of global sharing has brought us closer in discovering a new way of living together, also based on fear, worry and hopes. It was also the year in which many Swiss nationals mobilised with great generosity to support those who have been hit hardest by the effects of the pandemic. We at ActionAid also felt closer as a Federation: we immediately collaborated with each other to intervene where there was the greatest need, aware of the fact that in crisis situations like this it is often the most fragile that pay the highest price.

In 2020 our presence was confirmed in 45 countries around the world. In addition to having adapted the ongoing projects to the new health conditions imposed by the pandemic, our intervention also involved the distribution of food and health devices, the creation of safe spaces where women and girls could be welcomed and the effort to raise awareness among local populations towards preventive measures aimed at avoiding infection. We achieved all this by focusing on developing local responses, adapted to different situations and by promoting conscious and inclusive leadership that values the role of women and girls.

In Switzerland, we launched a campaign to address the consequences of the Coronavirus in the poorest countries and we renewed our commitment to raising awareness of women's rights among the Swiss population through the Fight For Women formula. In addition, the collaborations initiated with various foundations and with the Swiss national institutions intensified and we are committed to promoting contacts with the entrepreneurial entities in the territory, which we believe can be important agents of the change we wish to achieve.

Our commitment and that of our supporters is more visible than ever, through concrete and sustainable interventions. I would like to express my special thanks to all the supporters who this year decided, despite the difficulties, to support us and help to carry out our projects in favour of women and girls, young people and the poorest communities. It is in fact above all thanks to them that in the next pages

we will be able to show you the great results that we achieved in this very special year, which for many has also been arduous and difficult.



*Giulio Gianetti*  
Giulio Gianetti



# Chapter 1

## About us

### Our commitment to the world

We were established in 1972 because an English businessman called Cecil Jackson Cole wished to see 88 children in India and Kenya go to school. Now we are a Federation present in 45 member countries including Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. In addition, we support various activities in line with the mission of ActionAid in Switzerland and in 4 other countries thanks to the support of the Federation and/or another member country. Our headquarters is located in Johannesburg, South Africa, and we have organisational bases in Bangkok, London, Nairobi, Rio de Janeiro and Brussels.

We aspire to a just, equitable and sustainable world, in which every person can enjoy the right to a dignified life free from poverty and all forms of oppression. To this end, we mobilize, organise and work for and with communities living in conditions of poverty and exclusion, with organisations, women's movements, networks and solidarity groups to understand, address and overcome the structural and systemic causes of poverty and injustice. We put women and their leadership at the heart of our work. We support them in asserting their rights and in challenging all forms of violence.

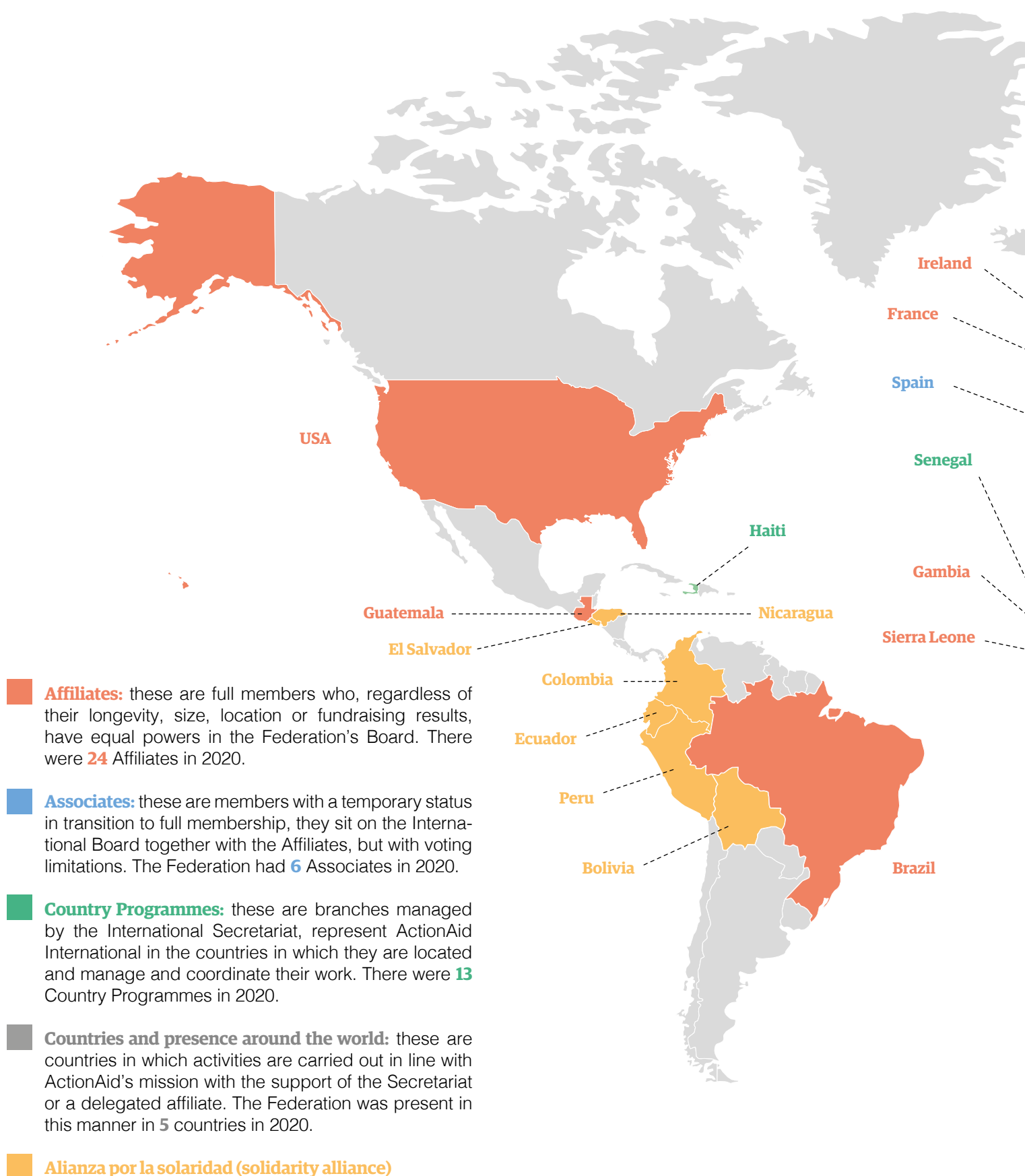
We believe that change is really possible for communities, in particular for women, living in conditions of poverty and exclusion. Our action, inspired by respect for human rights, supports communities fighting inequality and the patriarchal system that, invisibly, oppresses and discriminates against women and girls around the world.

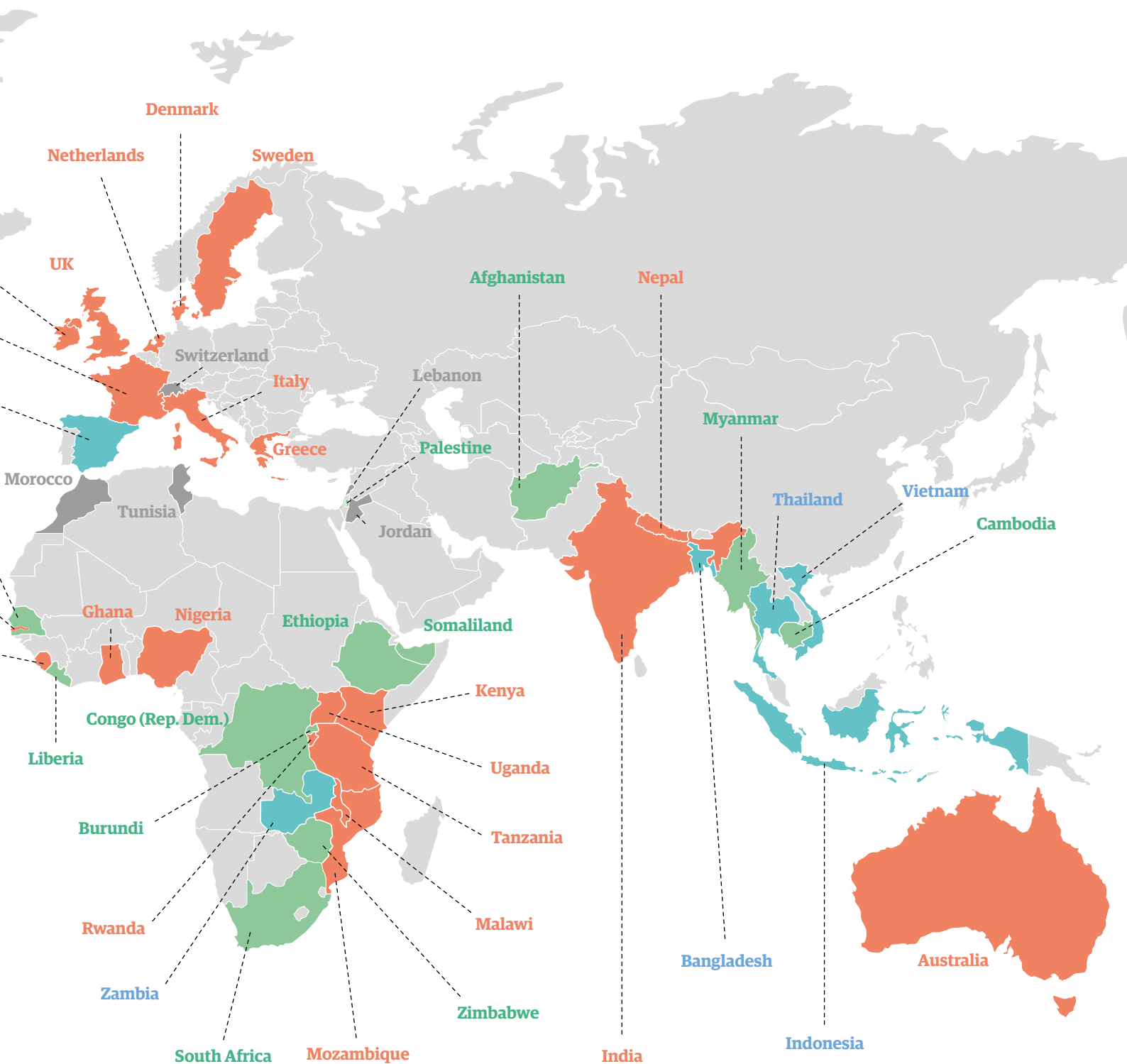
We focus on the roots of the problem: our commitment to the world is aimed at combating the structural causes of violence against women, promoting economic justice, civic participation and greater responsibility on behalf of countries to provide quality and gender-conscious public services. We also work to ensure climate justice and support women's response to emergencies.

We intervene in emergency situations thanks to the presence of our local partners, as we did recently in the case of the Coronavirus pandemic but we also focus on prevention and on the preparation of communities to independently face emergencies.

### Global presence

The ActionAid International Federation divides the countries in which we are present into three categories, based on the level of affiliation, and accompanies each country on its path of membership; there are also special presences that have not yet undertaken the membership path within the Federation or that are interventions managed directly by a country that is already a member of the Federation. The ultimate goal is to have all full members (affiliates), able to contribute equally and fully to the Federation's programmatic, strategic and financial policies.

Chart 1 - **ActionAid in the world**



## Chart 2 - Our numbers in Africa



Number of contributors



Partner Count

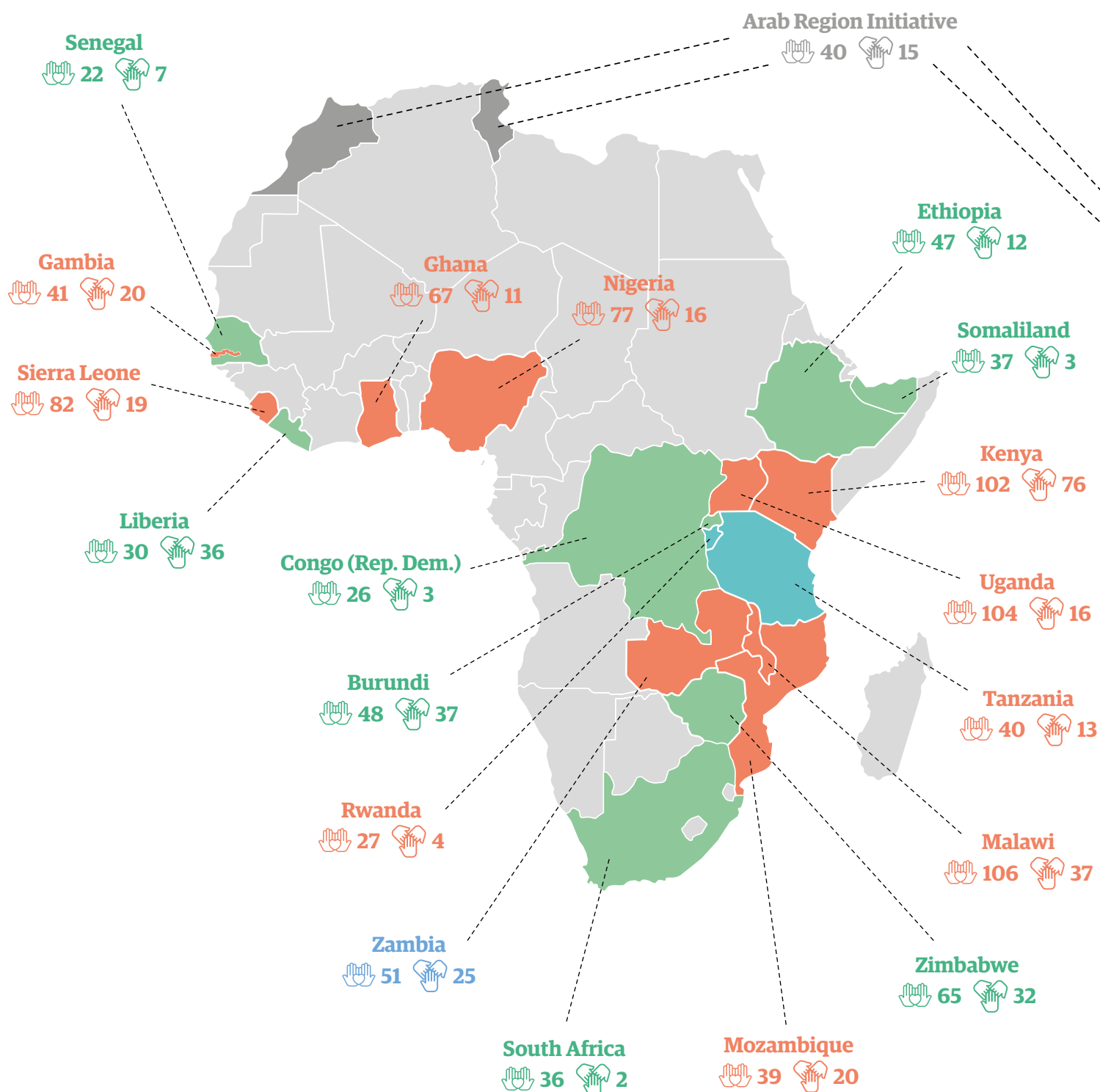


Chart 3 - **Our numbers in Asia, Oceania and Middle East**

Number of contributors



Partner Count

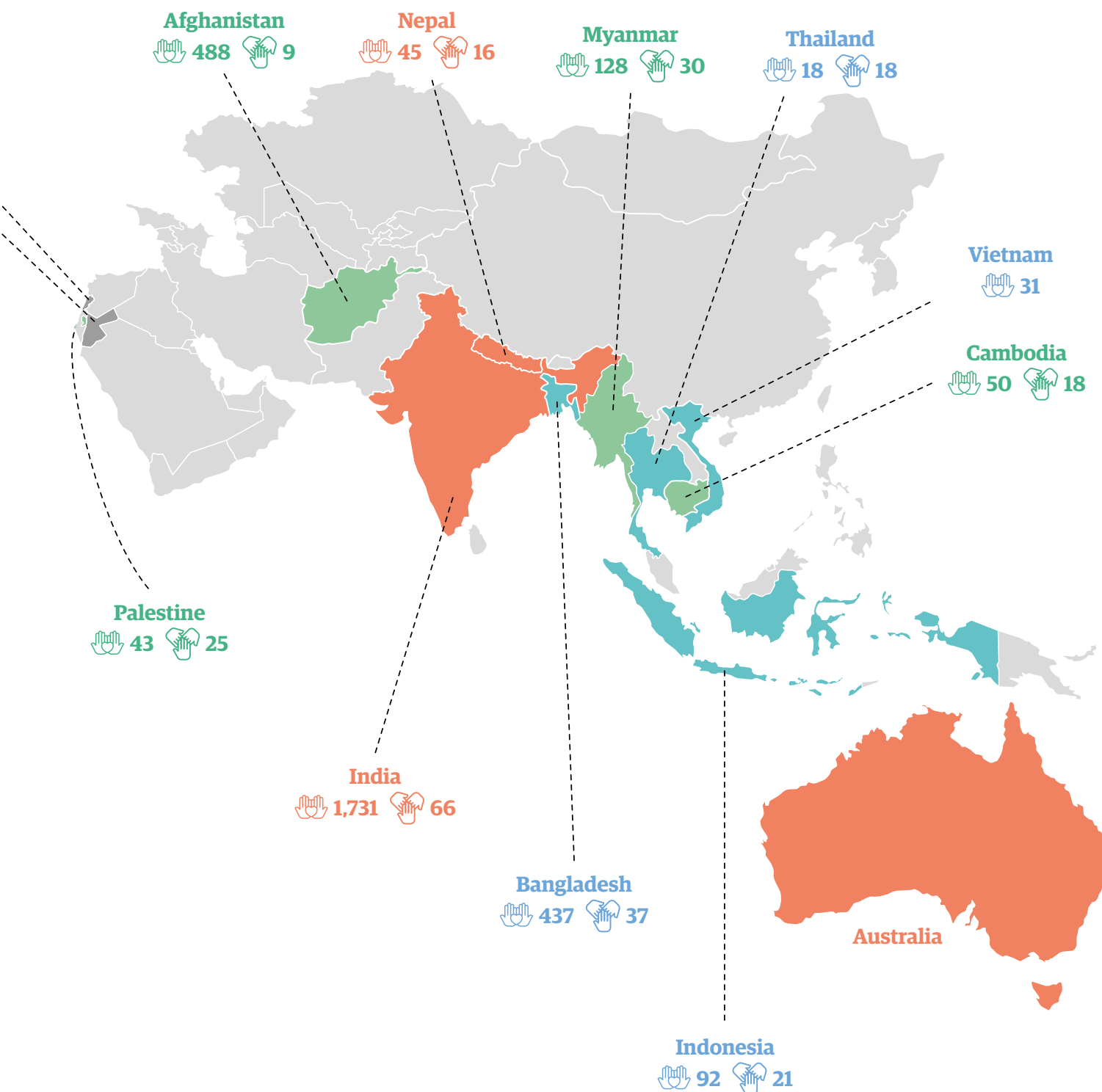


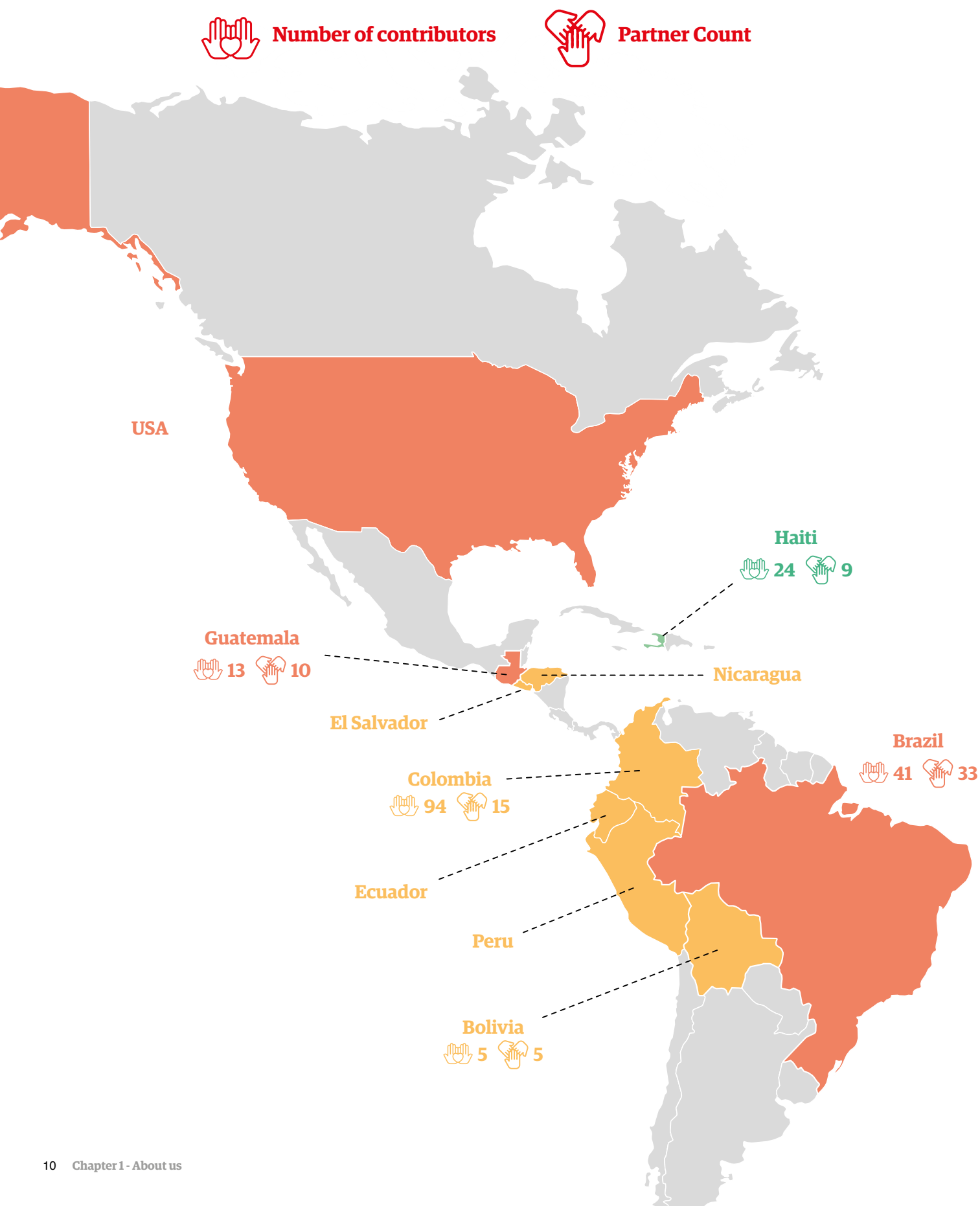
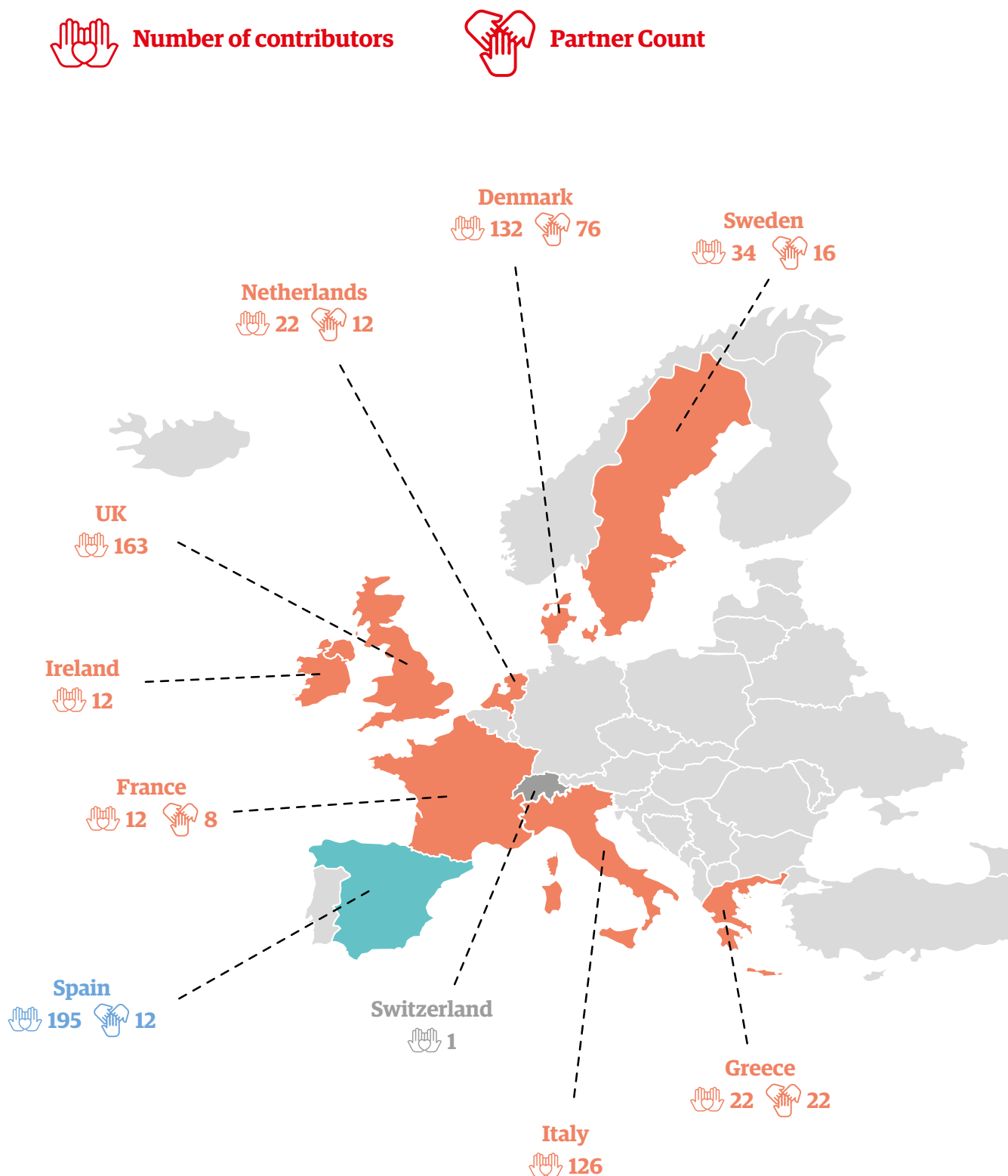
Chart 4 - **Our numbers in Center and South America**

Chart 5 - **Our numbers in Europe**

## Our presence in Switzerland

We started operating in Switzerland on 18 February 2013. We started in the Canton of Ticino, where the first awareness campaigns on the issues of poverty and social exclusion were carried out to bring the population closer to the Federation's objectives. Since 2014, we have also mobilised people and resources in the canton of Zurich and the other German-speaking cantons. In 2016, thanks to the enthusiasm and strong support received in the area, we conducted educational activities in elementary, lower and upper secondary schools in the Canton of Ticino on the importance of the right to food in the world, on the fight against food waste and on the need to support rights for gender equality.

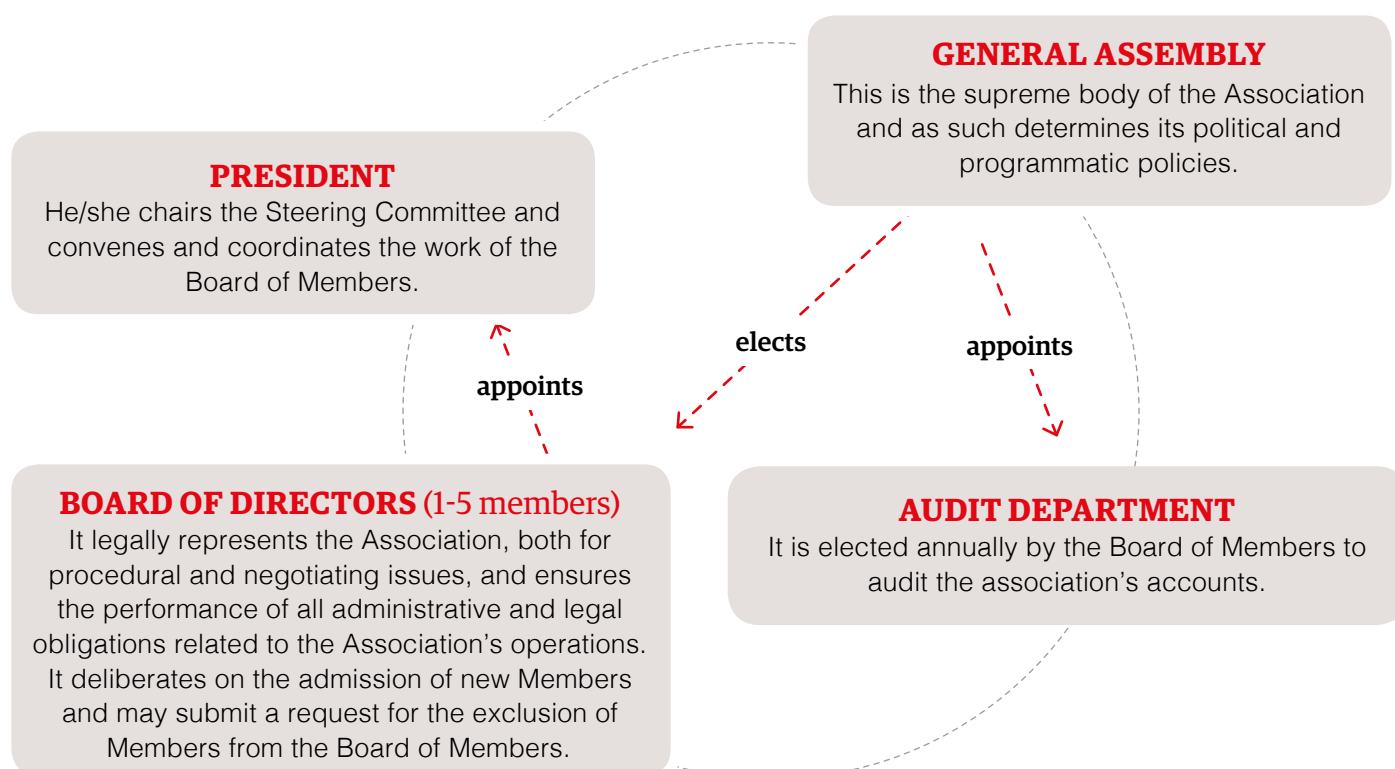
Since 2017, our commitment to women's rights has become a horizontal issue in all our interventions. In recent years we have been involved in raising awareness among Swiss civil society about women's rights around the world and in carrying out women's empowerment projects. The aim of our projects is to help ensure greater gender equity through the recognition, protection and promotion of the rights of all women.

A strong effort has been made in the development of a local network committed to pursuing change in society together with us. In order to finance our programmes around the world, in 2020 we intensified the development of relations with foundations and potential major donors, but also with institutional partners, in particular with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Finally, in the last year we approached Swiss companies interested in supporting our work around the world.

The presence of ActionAid in Switzerland is supported, in particular, by ActionAid Italia<sup>1</sup>, delegated to deal with the management of the brand and in general the support for the development of new countries within the Federation.

<sup>1</sup> ActionAid Italia is recognised as an NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation under Legislative Decree. 125/14 and as an NPO (non-profit organisation) pursuant to Legislative Decree. 460/97. The Association has also completed the statutory passages provided for by Legislative Decree no. 117/2017, the so-called Third Sector Code, in order to mature the full compliance with the qualification of Third Sector Body and proceed with the registration to the RUNTS at the end of the transitional period.

## How we are organised



Organ	Function
<b>General Assembly</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» It is the supreme body of the Association and as such determines its political and programmatic policies.</li> <li>» It elects the members of the Steering Committee and appoints the Auditor.</li> <li>» It identifies the guidelines and objectives of a general nature deemed necessary to achieve the institutional purposes and deliberates on the proposals for amending the articles of association.</li> <li>» It meets at least twice a year (and each time a reasoned request is made) to approve the forecast and final balance sheets. It also approves the Auditor's report.</li> <li>» It deliberates on liability actions against the members of the Steering Committee and in regard to the exclusion of Members.</li> <li>» The Board of Members is convened with the presence of at least half plus one of the Members and deliberates with a majority of the votes of those present. Each member has one vote.</li> </ul>
<b>President</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» He/she is appointed by the Steering Committee from among its members for a term of three years and is always eligible to be re-elected.</li> <li>» He/she chairs the Steering Committee and convenes and coordinates the work of the Board of Members.</li> </ul>
<b>Board of Directors (1-5 members)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» It has the legal representation of the Association, both for procedural and negotiating issues, and ensures the performance of all administrative and legal obligations related to the Association's operations.</li> <li>» It may, where appropriate, remit representation to the President or to other members.</li> <li>» It deliberates on the admission of new Members and may submit a request for the exclusion of Members from the Board of Members.</li> <li>» It must consist of a minimum of one to a maximum of five members, who remain in office for 3 years and are always eligible for re-election.</li> <li>» In accordance with the articles of association, the Steering Committee meets at least once every 6 months upon convocation of the President or a majority of its Members.</li> </ul>
<b>Audit Office</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» It is elected annually by the Board of Members to audit the association's accounts.</li> <li>» At least once a year it carries out an audit on the accounts.</li> <li>» Since 2016, the auditing firm Siron SA has been appointed to audit the financial statements to ensure that it issues an opinion on compliance in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER 21 accounting standards.</li> </ul>

## Vision, mission and principles



### OUR VISION

A just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person has the right to a dignified life, free from poverty and oppression.



### OUR MISSION

to achieve social justice and equality, to combat poverty by working *for* and *with* people living in conditions of marginalization and exclusion, as well as with organisations, social movements and supporters.

We mobilise people and communities and make them protagonists of change and we act to ensure that countries and institutions recognise human rights, ensure their full respect and combat discrimination. We aim to promote the leadership of women and young people, who are often left on the side-lines: the denial of their rights is in fact a serious injustice and is one of the main causes of poverty in the world. To this end, we encourage the creation of collective action and solidarity networks that contribute to achieving social justice for citizens, supporters, staff and volunteers.

We are rooted in the communities with which we work and act transparently towards people living in conditions of poverty and exclusion.



The following are **VALUES** that inspire and guide us in our ambitious battles

- » **Mutual respect:** we believe in the equal dignity of all men and women and the value of diversity;
- » **Equality and justice:** we want to accomplish our mission for all and everyone, beyond sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnicity, social class, health status and religion;
- » **Integrity:** we are an honest, transparent and accountable\* organisation at all levels to ensure the effectiveness of our actions and the efficient and transparent use of our resources;
- » **Solidarity:** we recognise solidarity as an essential pillar in the fight against poverty, injustice and gender inequality;
- » **Courage:** we proceed with courage in carrying out our convictions and, at the same time, we act creatively. We are bold and innovative in tackling the causes of poverty, injustice and gender inequality;
- » **Independence:** we intend to remain independent from political, religious or other affiliations;
- » **Humility:** we are a willing interlocutor, aware that we are part of a larger alliance of forces with the common goal of defeating poverty

\* Accountability means "being accountable" for one's conduct towards all stakeholders that revolve around ActionAid.



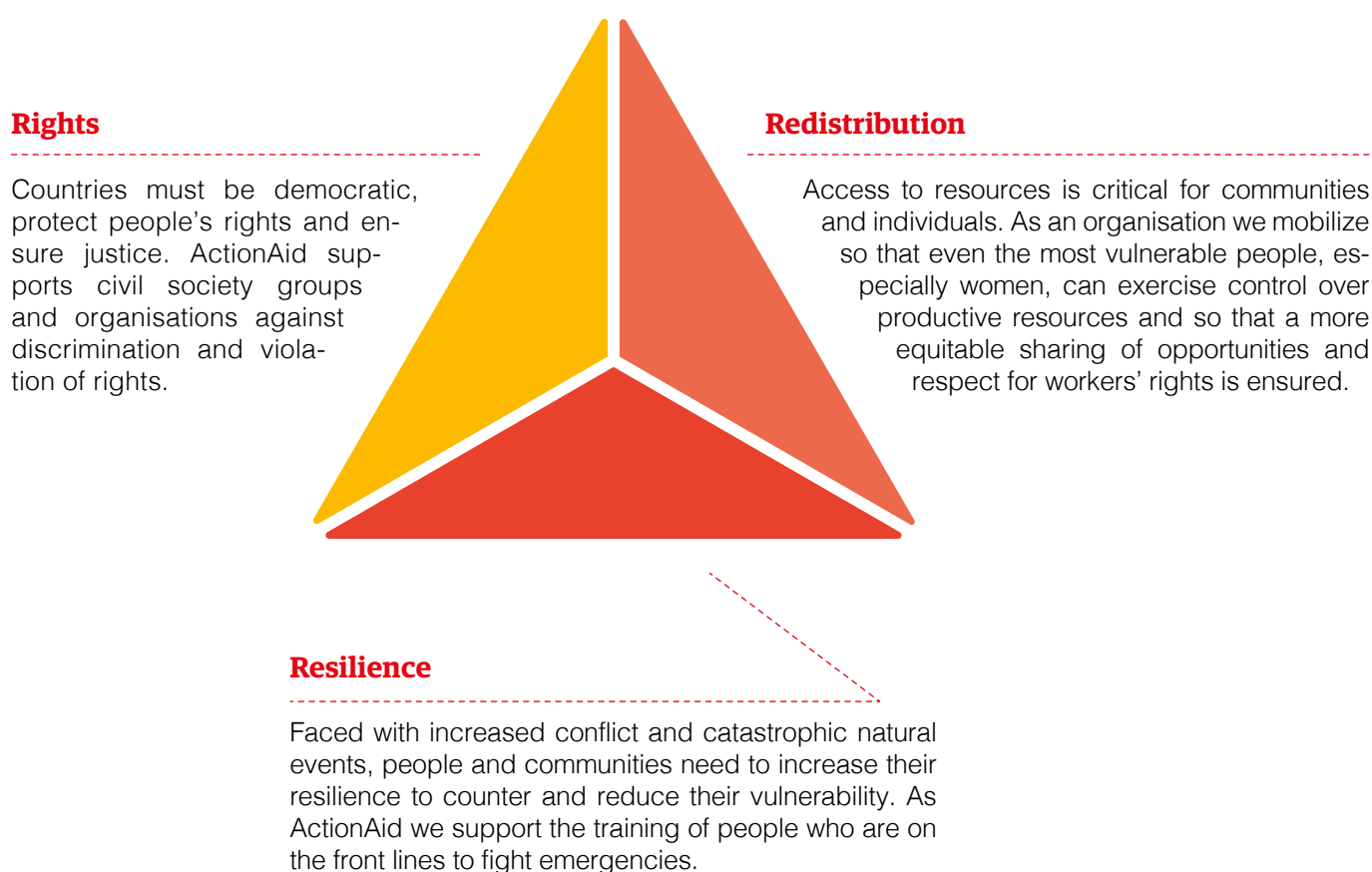
## Chapter 2

# The change pursued by ActionAid

### The 2018-2028 strategy: *Action for Global Justice*

*Action For Global Justice* is the newest innovation in ActionAid's international strategy. The strategy has a ten-year duration (2018-2028) and sets out our global commitment to social justice, the fight against poverty and the promotion of gender equality. We work alongside the most vulnerable and marginalized communities to champion change, and we implement participatory actions alongside organisations, activists, volunteers, social movements and supporters.

Our strategy rests on three pillars:



These pillars are closely interconnected and mutually supported: **rights** cannot be respected without the **redistribution** of power and will continue to be threatened if the **resilience** of communities and people is not strengthened.

## ActionAid's achievements in the world

Thanks to the contribution of **more than 5,000 people**, more than half of whom are women, our commitment in 2020 has resulted in **four policy priorities**:



### Priority 1

**Tackling the structural causes of violence against women**



### Priority 2

**Ensure civic participation and transparency in the redistribution of resource**



### Priority 3

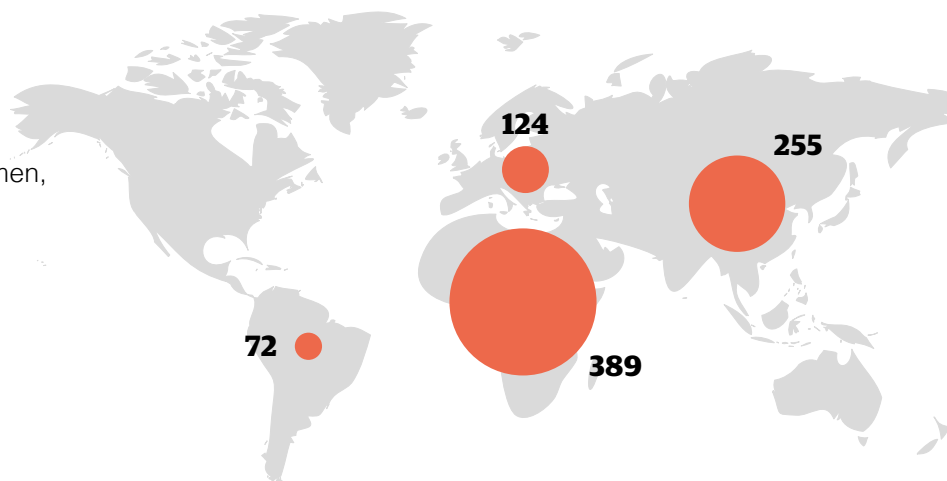
**Protecting livelihoods and climate justice**



### Priority 4

**Promoting women's response and prevention to emergencies**

In 2020 we collaborated with **283 local leaders**, more than half of whom were women, and we worked with the support of almost **850 partners**.



## The Coronavirus emergency intervention

We intervened to deal with the Coronavirus emergency in **41 Countries\***, reaching more than **25 million people**. Our immediate action focused on **three strategic priorities**:

\* ActionAid intervened in Peru through its partner Alianza Bolivia.

### Priority 1

**Prevention and containment of Covid-19**

### Priority 2

**Protection of women and girls**

### Priority 3

**Respond to immediate needs**

such as lack of food, homes and financial income

We also asked local authorities to ensure that the measures applied to respond to the pandemic were fair, that interventions reach the communities most in need and that responses are led by female **leaders** from local communities.

The intervention in the Coronavirus emergency reflected our distinctive humanitarian approach based on **inclusive and female leadership**, based on four principles: support for women and local leaders; transfer of power to communities to foster local responses; ensuring accountability to affected populations; and sustainable and resilient planning. Particular attention has been paid to prioritizing local actions led by women in the research and analysis fields, in the elaboration of responses and in decision-making processes.

## Policy priorities

The programme priorities pursued by our organisation are reflected in the projects we carry out all over the world, thanks to the contribution of our Swiss supporters and other countries.

All the countries of the Federation contribute to the pursuit of the priorities set at international level.



# 01

## Tackling the structural causes of **violence against women and girls** and ensuring economic justice for them

Violence against women throughout the world is a complex phenomenon that is difficult to eradicate. ActionAid works daily with young women's movements to combat the structural causes of gender violence, aware of the fact that at the base there is an unfair access to power and resources, norms that are socially constructed based on patriarchal models and economic structures that exploit the paid and unpaid work of women.

With a growing focus on women's empowerment as an "engine of growth", we seek to focus the debate on building an economic system that supports women in conditions of poverty and exclusion, and that ensures and strengthens their rights. A key part of this work includes the call for greater corporate responsibility in compliance with human rights standards, and the protection of women in informal and precarious work. Only by increasing access to and control over productive resources and social and economic rights for women, while challenging patriarchal institutions that systematically deny such rights, will we significantly reduce the risk of gender-based violence in all its manifestations.

For example, in Kenya, in Mukuru, in an informal settlement on the outskirts of Nairobi with an estimated population of over 600,000 people, most of the residents are workers who could not carry out their occupations during the lockdown, thus remaining without a source of secure income for themselves and their families.

In Mukuru we have been working with vulnerable women for several years but last year, given the state of emergency, this commitment proved even more necessary. In addition to the various activities that we have been carried out for quite some time, we set up an SMS service for reporting gender-based violence and other activities to support women so that they are able to defend their economic rights.

We have supported women like Selina, 30, a single mother who relies on informal jobs to support herself and her children aged 10 and 13. Before the pandemic, Selina carried out domestic work such as washing clothes and/or cleaning the homes of people living in the residential area of the city. Due to the prolonged lockdown, Selina could not work and could not even look for employment in the same area because the security guards forbade access to everyone. Even her neighbours were wary because, being forced every day to venture out to earn a living, they were afraid of getting infected. Last April, in addition to awareness programmes, we also launched a cash-transfer programme for women in the Mukuru community like Selina, to allow them to respond to basic needs such as feeding their children.

## SELINA's testimony



Selina, 30 years old, Kenya



*"I used to go to the estates [middle-class residences] and find casual jobs, but now we're driven away, especially by security guards. They say that because of this pandemic people should be careful."*

*Before I woke up, I went to wash clothes for three people, sometimes I even got a job to clean their house or fetch water.*

*Currently, everyone fears for themselves. We, who go outside in search of casual work, are discriminated against by our neighbours and the people of Mukuru. They say that by going out we can come back infected with the virus.*

*Thanks to ActionAid I received 6,000 Ksh. (about 51 CHF). First, I paid the rent then I bought food, water and soap".*



### A COMMITMENT TO WOMEN: FIGHT FOR WOMEN

ActionAid Switzerland is particularly committed to combating the structural causes of violence against women, especially through awareness-raising activities on the rights of women and girls in territories.

With the *Fight for Women* support formula, ActionAid supporters reach out to women around the world to support them in combating all forms of violence and discrimination. Our commitment is also realised through awareness raising, fundraising, carrying out specific projects and advocacy for a world where women are fully in a situation that they can enjoy their rights.

## 02



## Ensuring civic participation and accountability in the redistribution of quality public resources and services for women

We work with people living in poverty, organisations, social movements and activist groups to increase civic participation in public decision-making. We carry out advocacy activities to improve the participation of women, young people and groups excluded from the decision-making and governance processes that affect them. We promote accountability related to the provision of quality public services aimed at women, such as public education. We call for these services to be funded through progressive tax systems and we are committed to the implementation of fairer national and global tax rules. We also work to have more democratic and accountable countries. We promote redistributive policies that facilitate a fairer sharing of power and resources.

For example, in many countries of the world the right to education is not ensured because of the scarcity of public services that prevent equal access to all. In Burundi, despite the sharp increase in the number of public schools between 2005 and 2019, there are some areas where there are still few schools and that are too far away for children. Reducing the distance that children have to walk to school can help increase access to education and reduce early school leaving. Overcrowding in classrooms is also a problem that undermines the quality of education, as well as the inadequacy of spaces that are mostly insecure and unusable.

In order to solve these and other problems which hinder access to education for all, we in Burundi are restructuring school infrastructure in poor condition. A recent example is the school in Kimana, in the province of Rutana, which attracted many pupils after its restoration. According to the school's principal, Odette Nimpagaritse, before the school was secured, parents were not motivated to send their children there for fear that it would collapse due to the incessant rains. And he told us: *"The nearest school from here is about 5 km away, many parents felt that their 7-year-olds were too young to attend a school so far from home. And also since the rains destroyed it 3 times, the students abandoned it. Last year we had 150 students. This year, thanks to ActionAid, we started with new classrooms and new latrines. We now have 278 students"*.

### Akimana Anithaa's testimony



Akimana, 5th grade student, Burundi



*"It is true that the construction of new classrooms has increased the rate of school attendance. Before our former classrooms had no windows and when it rained it was very cold. But now we sit in two or three on a bench and we also have school supplies".*

## 03



## Protecting livelihoods and climate justice

Climate change has a strong impact on the livelihoods of people living in poverty and exclusion, particularly women. We believe that rich countries are also responsible for the current crisis and have a duty to help the affected countries to achieve climate justice, supporting communities to adapt to the changes.

We work to ensure that communities develop resilient forms of livelihoods in rural and urban areas of the world. We promote agroecology as a type of sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture. In fact, we believe that it is an effective means to strengthen food systems and the ability of small farmers to adapt to extreme changes. We believe in a fairer redistribution of land and other productive resources. We emphasise greater access and control by women, indigenous peoples, young people and other excluded groups while challenging the hoarding of resources.

Bangladesh is one of the countries that is most affected by climate change. In this country we work with women to train community leaders to be able to prevent natural disasters and respond to emergencies.

### Nurjahan's testimony



*"The village where I live is surrounded by the Baleshwar River on one side and the village's houses on the other. Therefore, we are more vulnerable to any natural disaster. But this time we began to prepare in time, as soon as we received danger signal number 4. Luckily, we were organised: our women's team, the men's team, men's youth team and the women's youth team were already working together on risk prevention plans. 100 people carried out awareness work together in the village of Ruhita and in the villages of Padma, Chengra and Koralia. After receiving the official news of the arrival of the cyclone, I contacted all the Party Presidents via mobile phone and shared with them various information about the cyclone. I asked them to take all villagers to safe places, including the various cyclone safety centres, and to protect livestock and other community assets. I personally went to some houses in the Char areas and tried to get them to leave them. Immediately afterwards I took them to the nearby Centre.*

*The water level of the river began to rise on the morning of 19 May 2020.*

*In a situation such as the Covid-19 pandemic it was even more difficult for the villagers because they also had to maintain social distancing. We strengthened communication to make them all more aware. I told them to wear masks inside the Protection Centres and informed them about the importance of always washing their hands. In*



**Nurjahan is a community leader in Bangladesh**

*the Centres there were mainly the elderly, women and children, while most of the men remained to look after the livestock and protect the property of their families. River water began to flow into the villages on the evening of 20 May 2020. The same day at 10 p.m. the villages were submerged by water.*

*We were very afraid of the storm. Due to Covid-19 we couldn't even sit close together. We had to maintain physical distancing. The storm calmed down in the night and the flood water began to flow out. Everyone returned to their homes at dawn.*

*The next morning I and other members of the men's and women's team went to the home of the community dwellers to check the extent of the damage. We made a list of needs that we shared with the emergency representatives and in a short time, thanks to ActionAid Bangladesh, we received dry food (chira and sugar) and other goods for the affected families".*

## 04



## Promoting a transformation for women in emergency preparedness, response and prevention

ActionAid is committed to developing a single humanitarian response system based on respect for human rights. The idea is that this system strengthens the ability of women to prepare for and respond to humanitarian emergencies, territorial occupations and conflicts, and that it works so that their power is managed locally and with greater accountability, to then be used in the affected communities.

The rights of women and other groups made vulnerable by disasters, protection from violence, exploitation and abuse in times of crisis will be strengthened through community protection mechanisms and will be enhanced by greater accountability by humanitarian players.

We develop the resilience of rural and urban communities to climate change, disasters and conflict through transformative actions, from local to global level, led by women living in poverty and exclusion. The active engagement of young people will be a priority to prevent the worst effects of emergencies.

ActionAid will continue to lead actions of responsibility towards communities affected by disasters and conflicts, as well as the transfer of power to local organisations and movements at all levels. This year the whole world has been affected by the Sars-Cov 2 global pandemic, so we had to adapt all our activities on the ground to support local communities in facing this emergency.

Brazil was one of the most affected countries, the third in the world and the first in South America. As of 31 December 2020, it had reported about 7,676,000 cases. One of the interventions we carried out in the country was the *Marè says No to coronavirus* that began in March 2020 focused on the population of the 16 Marè favelas.

Marè is an area in Rio de Janeiro where numerous favelas (slums) are concentrated. About 140 thousand people live there, distributed in 16 communities in an area of just over 4 km<sup>2</sup>.

This campaign was aimed at supporting the Marè communities in the humanitarian crisis caused by the Coronavirus by providing them with goods and economic resources, as well as awareness-raising and information activities. They were given baskets with groceries, hygiene kits and cleaning items, credit cards with a value sufficient for buying basic necessities. 300 daily meals were distributed to the homeless and personal protective equipment was collected for health workers working in facilities in the area. A daily online service was provided to answer questions about health problems, violations and doubts about rights, the disinfection of the neighbourhood's streets and the distribution of alcohol gel and fabric masks were started. Communication services were launched to help residents prevent the disease. Local labour was hired to carry out the *Marè says No to coronavirus* campaign. In particular, women were involved to support them in the creation of family income to achieve economic independence.

Thanks to these activities more than 17 thousand families received food baskets, personal hygiene and cleaning kits; about 54 thousand people benefited directly from meals; more than 32 thousand tons of items (food, meals and cleaning and hygiene products) and 54 thousand bottles of alcohol gel were distributed; 280 thousand fabric masks were manufactured; 129 new jobs were created in 16 favelas in Marè,

## Livia's testimony



*"My name is Livia da Silva Custódio, I am 38 years old. I have six children, Thaiane (19 years old), Thaís (18 years old), Rhadja (12 years old), Rhut (11 years old), Rhebeca Maria (7 years old) and Pedro (3 years old). My husband and I are unemployed and our family income is R \$ 300.00 plus R \$ 600.00 from the current emergency aid.*

*Coronavirus increased the existing difficulties, mainly those related to the possibility of buying food as it once was. Unemployment rates have increased and, as a result, the income of Marè's families has decreased. Many people have fallen ill with Coronavirus and many have died. This is very sad! Children could not go to school and became more vulnerable to violence in the community, as well as not having access to education since some do not have internet at home.*

*We have exhausted our basic resources to live our lives well. At the beginning of the pandemic my husband lost his job. From the beginning our biggest concern was that we didn't have enough food to support our children. In addition, I was so afraid that my children would get sick with Coronavirus. Me, my husband and my 7-year-old daughter Rhebeca, got infected.*

*I was the first to have symptoms, and I was sick for 20 days. But, fortunately, none of us needed hospitalisation. My husband and daughter had mild symptoms. Now we are fine. I know that social isolation, using masks, the general cleaning of the house and personal cleanliness are important to prevent the disease, especially the cleaning of hands, the use of soap and water or alcohol gel. We received all this from the campaign Marè says NO to coronavirus and I am very grateful to it. The Organisation was fantastic! We, the residents of Marè, could not believe it when food and cleaning products (hygiene kits) began to arrive in our homes. No specific people were chosen to receive the things they were giving, everyone who needed support received it.*

*I speak not only for myself, but on behalf of our entire community. The Marè campaign says NO to coronavirus was what avoided me worrying about food for my family. My daughters participated in the proposed activities through the Maria Clara Machado Children's Library. Teachers send teaching materials on the Internet for children to study but this is not the same as studying at school. Not only that but few students have mobile phones and internet access.*

*I miss seeing my daughters go to school, see my husband go to work and provide for the family, be able to visit my mother and hug her. I hope that all this will pass soon and that we can return to our previous way of living".*



**Livia, 38 years old, Brazil**

## Engagement **with and for young people** at international level

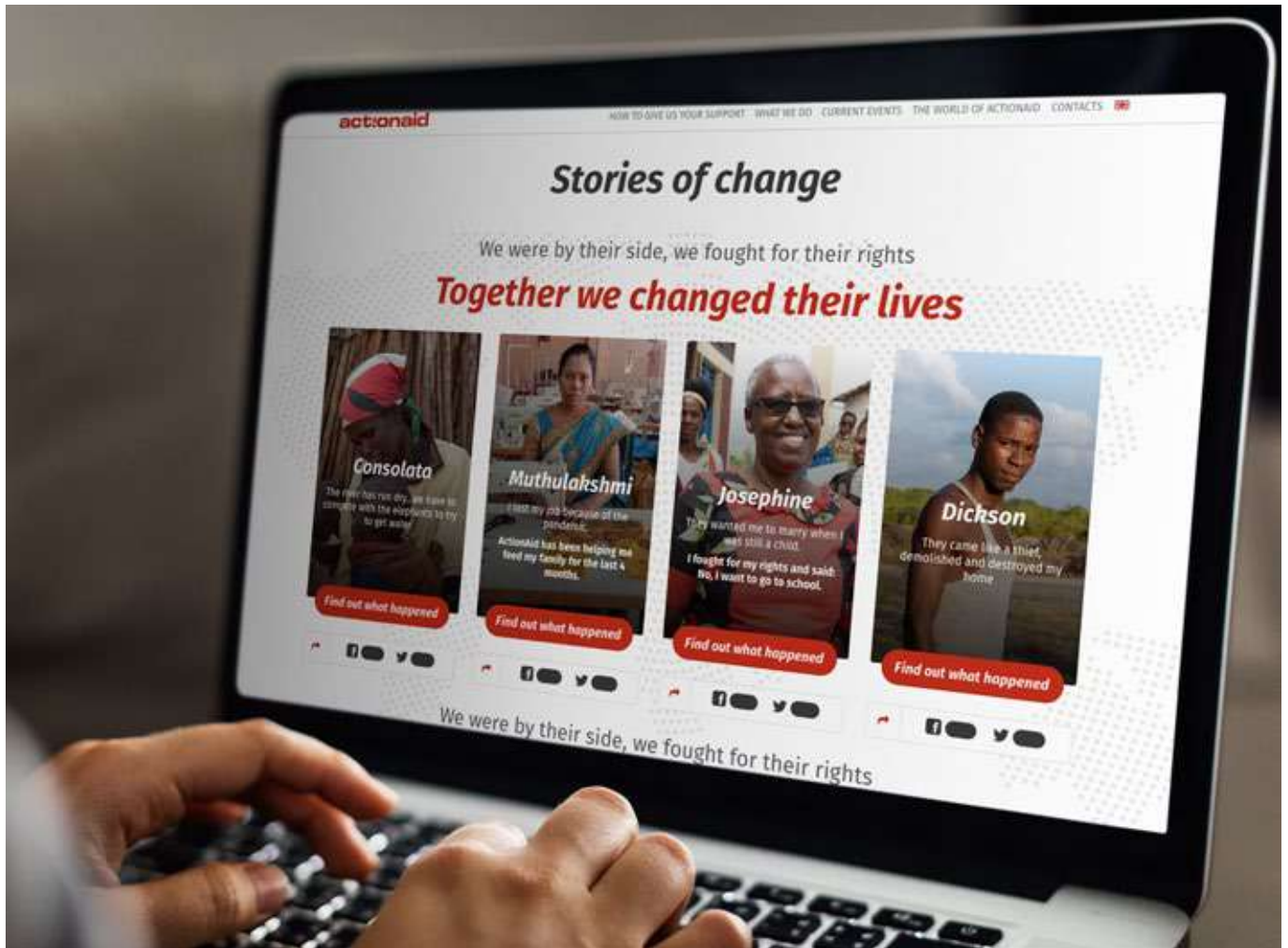
The world's generation of young people has limited opportunities, high unemployment rates and little political space that does not favour their involvement.

For our programmes we have chosen to give priority to young women and young people. We are convinced that they are the engine of change for a fairer, more sustainable and more democratic world. We are at the side of all those movements, youth networks, organisations and individuals that promote social, political and economic progress in the world and we favour moments of *capacity building* and change initiatives brought forward by young people.

To achieve this, we created the global *Activista* movement of young activists on the ground in support of ActionAid and its partners, mobilizing in defence of the most vulnerable communities in most of the countries in which we are present.

Every year in the ActionAid family in the world new groups of activists are established that wish to engage. For example, in 2020 a new group of young activists was established in Nyanga, Zimbabwe. The activities of *Activista Nyanga* have focused mainly on the fight against Covid-19. In fact, they have supported the application of the new law that provided for the mandatory use of masks. The young *Activists* also conducted research on the standards of masks provided by the WHO and decided to manufacture them. They found a professional tailor and tailor's shop, started a fundraiser and then distributed them for free to Nyanga residents. The Ministry of National Health approved their masks that met the required safety standards. In mid-June 2020, about 500 masks were made. The goal is to guarantee the right to health for all.





## Communication

We believe in communication as a tool for inclusive change open to all, which performs the essential task of informing, raising awareness, mobilizing, dialoguing and communicating our results in a transparent manner.

On our website [www.actionaid.ch](http://www.actionaid.ch), you can consult different content about our organisation to learn more about our areas of intervention and go into more detail on the composition of our governing bodies, as well as to see the use we make of the collected resources. There is also information on specific projects and how to support our work. In addition, we regularly publish current affairs news and stories of change from the communities in which we intervene.

We are also active on different social networks; for several years now you can find updates on our activities and testimonials from beneficiaries on our Facebook page, while on YouTube the information experience is enhanced by audio-visual content. In 2020, in support of the discussions initiated with Swiss foundations and business realities, we also inaugurated the official ActionAid Switzerland page on LinkedIn, where we offer current content and information on our programmes.

## Chapter 3

# The resources of ActionAid Switzerland

In 2020, ActionAid Switzerland raised funds through the *Fight for Women* campaign which is associated with a financial support formula that takes its name from the campaign. These resources were mainly obtained through direct discussions, development of the supporter base and involvement of the Swiss business sector.

The funds raised go to support the programmes and projects in all the countries in which ActionAid operates, with a particular focus on initiatives to combat violence against women and young girls.

## The funds raised in 2020

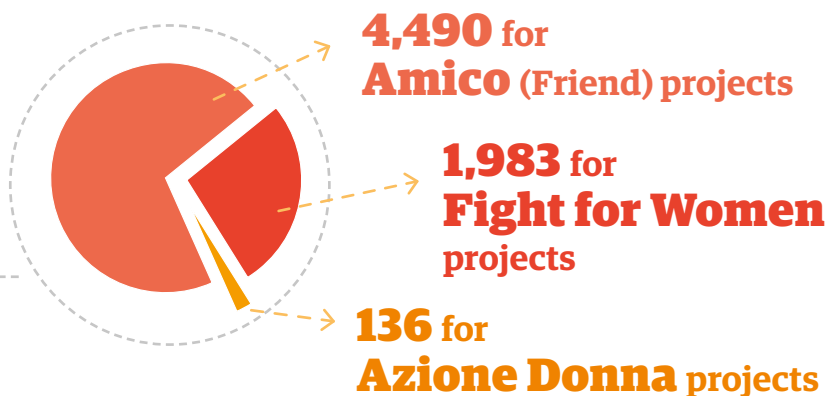
In 2020, ActionAid Switzerland realised total revenues of 1.177 CHF/000 mainly from donations from individual supporters.

As of 31 December 2020, ActionAid Switzerland counts on the support of 6,609 regular donations of which:

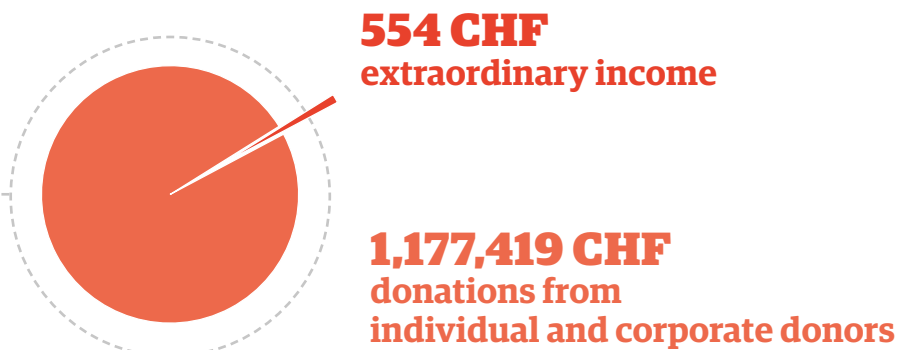
- » 68% of donors have chosen to donate using the *ActionAid Friend* formula that supports the entire mission of the organisation in all the countries in which the Federation operates;
- » 30% of donors through the *Fight for Women* formula, in support of projects to combat violence against women;
- » the remaining 2% opted for a larger annual donation through *Women's Action* in support of projects aimed at women in four specific countries (Brazil, Cambodia, Kenya and India).

Chart 6 - **Supporters**



(data as of 31.12.2020)

**6.609 regular  
income donations**Chart 7 - **Total Income**

(data as of 31.12.2020)

**1,177,973 CHF**Chart 8 - **Supporters by age group**

(data as of 31.12.2020)

	under 19	19-25	26-35	36-45	over 45
	0.49%	11.62%	10.57%	4.98%	15.20%
	0.74%	12.49%	10.70%	7.28%	25.94%

## The use of resources

In 2020, ActionAid Switzerland allocated 100% of the acquired resources, both from individual donors and from partner and company subsidiaries, as well as for the implementation of institutional activities as follows:

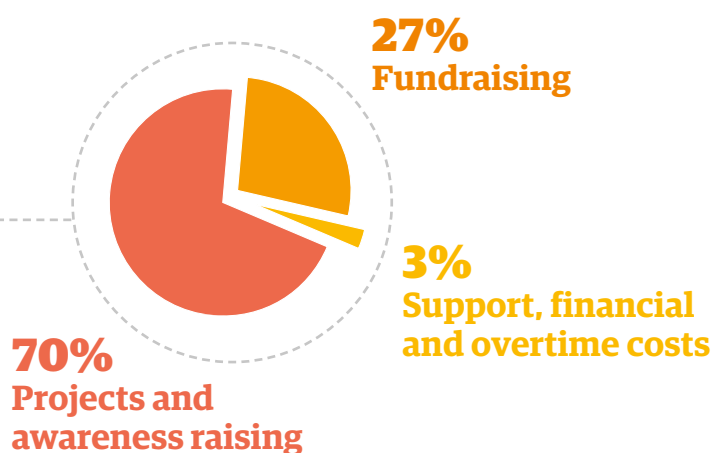
- » **Projects and awareness raising:** 70% of the annual budget has been allocated to the programmes of the International Federation of ActionAid in the world. The percentage also includes the quota tied to projects in support of women in Brazil, Cambodia, Kenya and India, in addition to awareness-raising, communication and positioning activities in Switzerland aimed at creating awareness on the themes of ActionAid's programme on the national territory and expanding the network of the Association's partners.
- » **Fundraising:** these costs are the expenses incurred to increase and maintain the number of individual supporters of the Association, mainly through the direct dialogue expenses;
- » **Support, financial and extraordinary costs:** support costs (40 CHF/000) refer to the expenses necessary for the operation of the Association, including administrative consultancy for accounting, audit, IT assistance, charges and taxes. The financial and extraordinary costs consist in bank charges for the receipt of automatic debits on current accounts and credit cards for 3 CHF/000.

The financial statements close with a **profit for the year of CHF 43,987** (corresponding to 4% of the resources raised), this profit will be reinvested to finance the Association's activities.

### Chart 9 - Use of resources

(data as of 31.12.2020)

**Total costs incurred**  
**1.133.985 CHF**



## Chart 10 - **Balance sheet**

(data as of 31.12.2020, in CHF)

## Statement of assets and liabilities

	2020	2019
<b>ASSETS</b>	<b>886,549</b>	<b>976,238</b>
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>810</b>	<b>1,188</b>
Electronic office machines	1,892	1,892
Depreciation of machinery	-1,083	-704
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2,129</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>CASH</b>	<b>883,610</b>	<b>975,050</b>
Post finance account	387,659	431,450
Banca Stato account	492,438	541,421
Paypal account	3,513	2,178
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>842,561</b>	<b>934,117</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>97,506</b>	<b>98,449</b>
<b>NET WORTH</b>	<b>181,276</b>	<b>139,154</b>
Membership fees	100	100
Profit for the year previous financial years	181,176	139,054
<b>FUNDS INTENDED FOR PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS</b>	<b>563,779</b>	<b>696,514</b>
Fund for fixed donations projects	43,779	52,090
Fund for free donations projects	520,000	644,424
<b>OPERATING PROFIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<b>43,987</b>	<b>42,121</b>

## Profit and loss account

	2020	2019
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>1,177,973</b>	<b>1,281,460</b>
Donations from private parties	1,177,419	1,279,582
Contributions from ActionAid Italia	0	0
<b>Financial and extraordinary income</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>1,878</b>
<b>COSTS</b>	<b>570,206</b>	<b>542,825</b>
<b>Costs for High Value fundraising activities</b>	<b>128,996</b>	<b>83,562</b>
<b>Costs for promotion, awareness raising and fundraising</b>	<b>399,324</b>	<b>383,134</b>
<b>Administration costs</b>	<b>39,628</b>	<b>73,609</b>
<b>Financial and extraordinary costs</b>	<b>2,258</b>	<b>2,520</b>
<b>INTERMEDIATE FINANCIAL YEAR PROFIT</b>	<b>607,767</b>	<b>738,635</b>
<b>Allocation for projects and programmes</b>	<b>563,779</b>	<b>696,514</b>
Allocation for fixed donations projects	43,779	52,090
Allocation for free donations projects	520,000	644,424
<b>PROFIT IN THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<b>43,987</b>	<b>42,121</b>





# Conclusions

Much will be said in future years about the year 2020, whose consequences we are still facing. As ActionAid we were hit by a pandemic that we did not expect but to which we responded promptly and simultaneously in several countries. At the same time, we have not forgotten the importance of staying close to the most fragile communities through the programmes already underway. We have committed ourselves to redesigning them to ensure the safety of our staff and the beneficiaries of our projects.

2020 was the year in which we also realised our fragility and the importance of staying close even when we are forced to physically move away. A great many Swiss citizens have mobilised to support those who have been most affected. Our commitment on the ground alongside the communities has been able to continue thanks to the trust of more than 6,550 Swiss donors, who despite the great difficulties they have faced in their daily lives have decided to continue to support us. A gesture of great generosity for which we are very grateful: thanks to the support we have had during such an unexpected year, we can look with hope at a very uncertain future.

In 2021 we continue to strive so that all people, of all ages, can access clean water, soap, disinfectant and accurate information to protect themselves from infection. We are present on the territory with our local colleagues and thanks to decades of experience we study resilient and suitable emergency responses to situations. Women are and will remain at the centre of our commitment, as leaders and as beneficiaries: we are aware of the fact that in the most critical situations it is precisely girls and women who are forgotten and we want this paradigm to change as soon as possible. We are also committed to ensuring the right to study for many boys and girls, a right which has been greatly restricted but which remains one of the most important tools for freeing themselves from the vicious circle of poverty and building their own future.

In Switzerland, we will forge ever stronger ties with institutions, foundations, large donors and companies that believe, like us, that change towards a fairer world is possible. We will also continue to raise awareness among the Swiss population on the issue of women's and girls' rights: we are convinced that real change is not possible if people cannot claim their right to a life free from poverty, discrimination and violence.

Even in the current context of global emergency, we reaffirm our aspiration to achieve sustainable and inclusive change, which ensures the recognition of the rights of every person and a fair redistribution of resources, an essential element to ensure the security and resilience of the many communities we work with.

The coming years will be affected by the growth of social and economic inequality, which will be added to situations already previously marked by poverty and discrimination. Despite this, thanks to the trust of our many supporters and the commitment that has always accompanied our work, we will work with professionalism and passion alongside more and more people so that in the future everyone can live in a fairer world.

# **act:onaid**

## **Annual Report 2020**



**ActionAid Switzerland**

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