

Fun fundraising ideas

- > **Up your street?** Invite your neighbours in for tea, coffee, cake – charge on the door.
- > **Sponsored sleepover...** hang out with friends, stay up late, have a midnight feast.
- > **Home front...** hold a sponsored spring clean, wash the dishes, the dog, the car...
- > **Street cred...** take to the streets and do a sponsored tour of your neighbourhood.
- > **House and garden...** trim your neighbour's hedge or lawn, buff their windows – for a fee...
- > **Go online!** Set up a page on our fundraising website www.myactionaid.org.uk where you can collect donations, share ideas and upload photos.



Photo:istock

Real lives: Ayesha's story



Former street-child Ayesha Akhtar, aged 12, has found a new life at the ActionAid-supported home in Dhaka.
Photo: G.M.B. Akash/Panos/ActionAid

Ayesha is 12, but she has faced more challenges in her young life than most people ever do. After her father died, her mother forced her into a job as a domestic worker. "I was abused physically and mentally at my place of work. Then I left my job and started to live on the street near New Market in Dhaka city," recalls Ayesha. "When I lived on the street again I was abused physically and sexually." But when Ayesha found her way to the shelter, she says she found a new life.

"I get counselling and awareness sessions at the home, and training on sewing and cutting. I also go to a primary school, and besides my study I am involved in part-time work as a sewing technician in Dhaka city. Now I want to be the owner of a tailoring shop and help children like me."

Priority Projects

actionaid

Bangladesh: helping vulnerable girls off the streets

Fact: more than 250,000 children live on the streets in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and more than half of these are girls.

Aim: to improve the lives of 5,000 girls living on the streets by running a drop-in centre, providing medical treatment, recreation, education and vocational training, and beds for 30 of the most vulnerable girls.



Beauty Akhtar, aged 12, attending lessons at the ActionAid-supported Happy Home.

Photo: G.M.B. Akash/Panos/ActionAid

The risks for street children in Dhaka

For street children in Bangladesh, getting food, clean water and shelter is a daily struggle. Forced into begging, cleaning gutters, or falling prey to sexual exploitation, many of these children have nowhere they can feel safe. Many of the children have run away from extreme poverty and some have escaped abusive homes, only to end up working for a pittance, sleeping rough and struggling to earn enough to have one meal a day. By the time they reach adulthood, many are malnourished and ill as a result of exposure to diseases such as diarrhoea, hepatitis and typhoid. They have little hope for their future.

Dhaka factfile



- > The population of Dhaka has risen from 7 to 12 million in the past 10 years.
- > Women and girls living on the street are vulnerable to exploitation by street gangs, pimps, police and traffickers.
- > Only 45% of girls make it to secondary education.
- > 37% of people live below the poverty line.
- > ActionAid has been working with local partner, Assistance for Slum Dwellers, since 2000 and has already established five drop-in centres in Dhaka to help young people build the skills and confidence needed to change their lives.

Real lives: Rabeya's story

Twelve-year-old Rabeya's life took a turn for the worse after her father died, leaving her mother to struggle on a low salary as a domestic worker. "With little income she was unable to bear the expenses of my brother and two sisters," explains Rabeya. "Then I started to work as a waste picker at the street. When I used to work at the street, I was abused physically and mentally."

To escape her precarious and vulnerable life she came to live at one of the homes in Dhaka.

"I have been here for one and a half years, and have received training in handicrafts. I go to school and want to be a school teacher in future, and teach deprived children like me."



Rabeya Akhter, aged 12, (left) and Rabeya Banu, aged 14, (right).

Photo: G.M.B. Akash/Panos/ActionAid

How you can help

The project

This project will provide safe overnight accommodation for 30 girls who would otherwise be living on the streets. Through daytime support services, we will help 5,000 girls by giving them access to a basic education, free healthcare, counselling and other activities such as painting, singing and drawing, to help them recover from the trauma of living on the streets. In the long-term, the centre will provide the girls with vocational training to help them earn a living, and teach them how to manage and save money. With support from the centre, the girls can rebuild their lives.

What this Priority Project will do:

- > Provide 30 homeless girls with a safe and permanent place to stay.
- > Reduce the incidence of water-related illnesses by providing safe drinking water and sanitation.
- > Provide immediate medical treatment for the girls as soon as they become ill.
- > Teach the girls to read and write.
- > Help the girls gain confidence and self-esteem.
- > Run vocational training to help the girls earn a living and look after themselves.



Shathi Akhter, aged 13, lives in a Happy Home because her chronically ill father cannot afford to look after her.

Photo: G.M.B. Akash/Panos/ActionAid

What your money can buy

£50

could provide bedding for a happy home

£360

could provide basic health and medicine for 30 girls who stay at the home

£480

could help 30 girls gain access to employment and housing

£3,300

could pay the rent for the shelter for one year

£4,600

could provide food for all of the children using the centre for a year



Moni Akhter attends block printing classes at the home and wants to be a master tailor.

Photo: G.M.B. Akash/Panos/ActionAid