About ActionAid

Why we need you...

We need a dynamic and diverse Board of trustees that enables the organisation to stick to its mission and values, generate ideas, develop strategy and maintain oversight. To help us do that we have created two new trustee positions to ensure that the perspectives and experiences of younger people are reflected in the Board’s work.

ActionAid works in 45 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. We listen to, learn from and work in partnership with 15 million of the world's poorest and excluded people. We work together to identify the root causes of the poverty that has such a devastating effect on their lives and develop solutions that will bring about lasting change.

What is a Board of trustees and why is it important?

Our Board has to keep a constant eye on the balance between a good understanding of impact, serious accountability to our supporters for the use of their money, and listening to people living in poverty. Our primary accountability is to people living in poverty – we listen carefully and work with them closely to understand what their requirements are and how they can best take control of their own lives.

Trustees are charged with ensuring a focus on ActionAid UK’s mission, setting strategic direction, checking our progress against strategy, and ensuring that the organisation is financially sound and compliant with all relevant laws and regulations. The Board delegates the day-to-day operations to the senior leadership team. The Board meets formally four times a year and also has an overnight board retreat. There may be occasions where an exceptional meeting is required. There is regular contact between the Chair and other trustees between meetings.

There are currently five formal committees of the Board:
- Performance, Finance and Audit Committee
- ActionAid International Relationships Committee
- Governance and Board Development Committee
- Remuneration Committee
- Public Engagement Committee

Being a trustee on the board is a formal, legal responsibility and not a decision that should be taken lightly. The Trustees discuss issues and make decisions by mutual agreement, and together they have a moral and legal obligation to make decisions in the interests of the charity and spend its money wisely. Before you apply, make sure that you’re clear on what your responsibilities will be by reading the Charity Commission’s guidance on being a trustee - click here for more information.

What do we do?

We respond immediately to women and children’s most urgent and pressing needs. We provide shelter, food, water or give them the support they need to protect themselves from imminent threats of violence or exploitation.
To find out more, watch this video...

Our history

Click here to watch this video and find out more...

Our history

In 2003 we made a decision that changed everything...

In 2003 we became the first UK international development organisation to change from being a UK governed organisation to being a globally led and governed Federation, and moved our base from London to the global South. A new federation was formed, with an International Secretariat in Johannesburg and greater power was given to each country office, with many of them transitioning to becoming self-governing. This means that decisions about how development money should be spent are made by the communities we are seeking to support.

How do we work?
Action Aid UK is part of a global federation working in solidarity with poor communities to find lasting ways to end poverty and injustice. We work in 46 countries in over 400 programme areas. We don't impose solutions, but work with communities over many years
to strengthen their own efforts to throw off poverty and work for better lives for them and their families. Our work is rooted in our human rights-based approach, which involves empowering people to take action to change the policies and practices that deny them their rights and perpetuate poverty.

**Who do we work with?**
Women and children in some of the poorest communities around the world, supported by those willing to stand in solidarity, and through alternatives and campaigns rooted in human rights.

**Where do we work?**
In rural and urban communities across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

**When do we do it?**
Our work within the poorest communities in the world takes place every day, all year round. We also respond to emergencies arising from natural disasters or conflict.

**How are we funded?**
Our most important support comes from individuals who either sponsor a child from one of the communities that we work with, or who sign up as regular givers. We also receive grants from the UK government, the EU/EC, and from sources such as the Big Lottery, the Disasters Emergency Committee, and individual major donors.

**How do we do it?**
We make women in the community the focus of our time and resources. Unlocking their knowledge and skills and enabling them to understand and claim their rights has proven to have a greater impact on creating lasting change. We spend time listening so we can fully understand the threats and challenges women and their children face, so we can respond with solutions that fit their particular needs and circumstances.

We encourage and support women and children to be involved in both the development and delivery of solutions, building and strengthening their capacity to be more self-reliant. And we stay and support the women and children we work with for as long as it takes; to ensure real change not only happens, but that it will last.

**For more info on the impact of our work have a look at our annual report:**

**What we stand for...**
- **Mutual respect**, requiring us to recognise the innate worth of all people and the value of diversity
- **Equity and justice**, requiring us to work to ensure equal opportunity to everyone, irrespective of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, HIV status, class, ethnicity, disability, location and religion.
- **Honesty and transparency**, being accountable at all levels for the effectiveness of our actions and open in our judgments and communications with others.
- **Solidarity with the poor**, powerless and excluded will be the only basis in our commitment to the fight against poverty.
• **Courage of conviction**, requiring us to be creative and radical, bold and innovative – without fear of failure – in pursuit of making the greatest possible impact on the causes of poverty.

• **Independence** from any religious or party-political affiliation.

• **Humility** in our presentation and behaviour, recognising that we are part of a wider alliance against poverty.

For even more important facts and figures check out these links…

• For further information on ActionAid UK please visit - [http://www.actionaid.org.uk/](http://www.actionaid.org.uk/)

• To view ActionAid’s UK strategy for the period please visit: [http://www.actionaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/aaук_strategy_-_action_for_change.pdf](http://www.actionaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/aaук_strategy_-_action_for_change.pdf)

• To view ActionAid’s international strategy please visit: [http://www.actionaid.org/publications/peoples-action-end-poverty](http://www.actionaid.org/publications/peoples-action-end-poverty)

• To find out more about the Board please visit: [http://www.actionaid.org.uk/about-us/trustees](http://www.actionaid.org.uk/about-us/trustees)