

# ACTION ON POVERTY

*Building livelihoods, transforming lives*



## Mission:

To promote economic empowerment and social change by helping the most vulnerable and disadvantaged achieve sustainable livelihoods and by addressing the barriers that limit their participation.

**Action on Poverty** is a specialised and independent UK based NGO, established in 1984.

With over 30 years' experience, Action on Poverty (previously known as APT Action on Poverty) is focussed on providing economic solutions to address hunger, injustice and barriers to safe and lasting work for marginalised groups in Sub Saharan Africa and South Asia.

We work with partner organisations to help marginalised people access mainstream markets and sustainable livelihoods. We enable them to address their basic rights and the root causes of their poverty, and catalyse wider change.

## Key Features:

- 1. Our target beneficiaries: poor and vulnerable people who are particularly marginalised, excluded** through their disability, gender, age, HIV/AIDS status, conflict, ethnicity or environment.
- 2. Our area of activity and expertise: Helping people to access markets and livelihoods is our core function.**

We assist these target groups to participate in mainstream markets, enabling them to access incomes and to create and/or develop sustainable livelihoods.

We also tackle the reasons for their vulnerability and exclusion, building on the self-reliance and dignity secured through economic solutions to tackle stigma, discrimination and abuse of rights.

We believe the synergy between these has great value.

- 3. Our partnerships with local organisations, fostering their independent development.**

We exchange expertise and strengthen capacity according to need and aspiration.

*Tackling access to markets and livelihoods enables people to meet their basic needs. Yet even when attention is given to making markets more accessible to poor people in general, wealth differentials occur and the most vulnerable in society are the ones excluded. The reasons for their exclusion are complex and inextricably linked with many aspects of their lives, and require tackling in depth to ensure their basic rights are met and their long term vulnerability is reduced.*



## Key Strengths:

- **Leaving no-one behind:** Specific approaches to accessing, mobilising and supporting those who are hardest to reach
- **Helping people and organisations move on from conflict or crisis**
- **Helping people access markets and livelihoods and secure decent work.** Such as stepping up from subsistence farming to being able to respond to changes and opportunities in the market.
- **Partner Capacity Building**
- **Identifying Sustainable Solutions** is integrated into all our work.

## Technical Assistance (TA):

Action on Poverty provides TA to in-country partners as their needs change and develop. We can work in collaboration with others to source other expertise or directly in the following areas:

- **Empowering Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups to access livelihoods**
  - Proven approaches to breaking down social and economic barriers faced by marginalised groups.
  - Proven approaches with groups such as those affected by HIV/AIDS, with disabilities, in fragile environments, impoverished women, and youths to access and sustain livelihoods.
  - Development and integration of RBA (Rights Based Approaches) and SLA (Sustainable Livelihoods Approaches) into market led enterprise development and value chain analysis.
  - Using livelihoods and associated self-esteem, confidence and independence to tackle stigma.

- **Market Led Enterprise Development**

Action on Poverty can provide wider guidance for market led enterprise development in the project design and during implementation, as well as specific Trainer of Trainer Courses direct to staff, and as they begin to implement their learning such as:

- Market Assessment and training needs
- Value Chain approaches
- Business counselling techniques
- Curriculum development and planning with Vocational Training Centres (VTCs)

- **Partner Capacity Building**

- Project Management e.g. planning support, problem solving, accounting
- Institutional Development e.g. financial systems development, governance
- Monitoring and Evaluation e.g. systems development, experience of peer reviews
- Project Development and Institutional Fund-raising e.g. sourcing, specific requirements

Separate information on partner capacity building is available on request.

## Global Partners:

### Track Record:

- Action on Poverty has enjoyed long support from the Department for International Development (DFID), the European Union, Comic Relief, the Big Lottery (BIG) and a range of charitable trusts.
- We have provided technical assistance to projects funded by donors such as the World Bank, United Nations Fund for Global Equality.
- Our staff have provided consultancies to a wide range of organisations.

### Recognition:

In Tanzania, the UN Gender Monitoring team found the Women's project that Action on Poverty is supporting with KWIECO, is one of the best of their 19 projects across Africa. They greatly valued our approach and input to the local partner organisation.

Selection of Projects supported during last 5 years:	Funder & Date
<b>Camel Milk in Kenya (Garissa County): a Key Resource for Vulnerable People; with SITE Enterprise Promotion.</b> Addressing value chain inefficiencies, livelihoods & increasing incomes of >7000 (including traders - mostly female, camel owners, herders).	Comic Relief 2015 – 2018 £600,704
<b>Livelihoods for Young People Sierra Leone; with CARD.</b> To train vulnerable young people with artisans to sustain their own enterprise or secure employment and improve life skills, personal empowerment.	BIG 2015 – 2018 £498,183
<b>Empowering Communities in Sierra Leone, with MAPCO.</b> Improving livelihoods and rights awareness of vulnerable families and young people through sustainable CBOs.	BIG 2014 – 2018 £499,940
<b>Food and Livelihoods for People Living with HIV/AIDS Kenya with REEP</b> Improving food and livelihoods security of 7,000 PLWHA and 13,000 OVC in Western Kenya, increasing confidence and reducing stigma.	DFID / BIG 2013 – 2016 £920,863
<b>Reaching Disabled People in Sri Lanka, with CBTD</b> Reducing discrimination and poverty among 2,200 disabled women and men in post-conflict eastern Sri Lanka.	BIG 2012-2016 £472,754
<b>Women's Economic Empowerment for Justice, Tanzania; TA to KWIECO (Kilimanjaro Women's Information Exchange Company)</b> Empowering women to tackle inequality and their severe levels of poverty.	UN Women's Fund for Gender Equality 2013 – 2016 US\$450,000
<b>Women and girl domestic workers: rights and better livelihoods in Uganda, with Platform for Labour Action (PLA)</b> Promoted gender equality and non-discrimination against over 7000 domestic workers, reducing abuse and increasing protection of their rights.	Comic Relief 2012 – 2015 £374,997
<b>HIV/AIDS and livelihoods: Integrated Community Livelihood Support for 6,960 Vulnerable Rural Families in Amuria District, Uganda.</b> Enabled 6,960 vulnerable smallholder families, particularly those affected by HIV/AIDS to reduce the chronic poverty within their communities.	DFID, AHF, HI 2012 – 2015 £680,874
<b>Skills Development and Employment Support to Urban Youth Sierra Leone, TA to Help Salone.</b> Reducing poverty through training for employment and income generation of young people in urban centres.	World Bank 2012 – 2014 US\$2,470,084
<b>Life after War: Children and Young People in Sri Lanka; with Business Creations.</b> Community based approach to assisting parents/carers and young people to access safe sustainable livelihoods and markets, vulnerable children and youths less vulnerable to abuse and exploitation and improved health of all.	Comic Relief 2013-2015 £604,024
<b>Rights and Livelihoods of Soapstone Workers in Kenya; with SITE Enterprise Promotion.</b> Empowered 12,000 workers to advocate for and realise, safe working conditions with an improved and more secure livelihood.	DFID 2010 – 2013 £482,488
<b>Livelihoods for Young People in Pader District, Uganda; with VEDCO, HI-U</b> Vulnerable young people in post conflict, environmentally fragile rural areas and displaced to urban areas secured sustainable livelihoods and incomes.	Comic Relief 2010 – 2014 £615,189
<b>Vocational Skills Training for Enterprise Capacity, Kenya, TA to SITE</b> Strengthened capacities of 6 village polytechnics in Eastern Province to provide quality market-driven skills training to disadvantaged school leavers and micro/small businesses.	EC 2010 – 2013 Euros 574,187