

**act:onaid**



**Support her journey towards a  
fairer world ....**

## Village Sponsorship with ActionAid

Become a village sponsor with ActionAid, and you will join a powerful movement of people who are bringing about positive change in the lives of communities in developing countries.

Sponsoring a village like a remote rural community in Uganda is so much more than just giving. Your support will transform lives by helping a community not just to survive but to thrive. With your help ActionAid can commit to working with local colleagues and partners in a community in Uganda to improve access to food and water, to develop their schools and to access proper health services. Most importantly you will be supporting everyday livelihoods so in time people and communities can support themselves.

Your sponsorship of this village will change lives now and into the future.

### How does it work?

As a part of our village sponsorship programme you will receive detailed reports direct from the community itself. You will see case studies, reports and photos of the achievements being made as well as a message from a member of the village when you first join the programme.

With our interactive village website you can log on and transplant yourself to the heart of your sponsored community – tour the village itself, meet the inhabitants and see at first hand the challenges faced by the community. See life in the village at

[www.villagesponsorship.org](http://www.villagesponsorship.org)

...and help us improve it!



**Women in rural areas in Northern Uganda can expect a lifetime of hardship. They have an average of seven children to support, including orphans as a result of the war. ActionAid is working in Amuru, Uganda to secure livelihoods for women through training, micro finance & savings groups**

PHOTO CREDIT: Jakob Dall (2013)



**Brenda Akot, 10yrs old, walks 10km to school everyday**

ActionAid is working in Amuru, Uganda, to ensure a better education for girls like Brenda

PHOTO CREDIT: Jakob Dall (2013)

**...and you will change her life forever**

## Meet Beatrice and Jimmi...



Jimmi and Beatrice Okello should have been born into farming – instead they grew up in a displacement camp far away from the land where their families had lived and worked for generations.

Camp life was difficult for Jimmi - living in a makeshift hut in a suffocating and overcrowded camp the months slowly turned into years. There was little or no education available and no training was provided on how to prepare for life once the war ended.

Since 2008 some 200,000 people have left displacement camps and have slowly returned to their communities. When Jimmi finally moved back to his rural village in Amuru, after living most of his life in a camp, he had no experience of farming and had no skills to grow food to support his wife Beatrice and their 18 month old baby Jacky.

His wife Beatrice says: “We do not have anything in the house. Not even pots or plates and cooking is very difficult.”

ActionAid Ireland, working closely with ActionAid Uganda, has been helping families like the Okellos in the District of Amuru to secure a livelihood and get back on their feet. Every person has the right to food yet every day one in eight people go to bed hungry. Your support through the Village Sponsorship Programme will enable families like the Okellos to tackle hunger in their community, providing them with tools and training to farm their land and to secure a future for their family.

## Meet Brenda ..

Brenda Akot, Beatrice and Jimmi Okello's niece, is 10 years old. She is lucky. Although her family is poor and she is a girl, she still goes to school.

In Amuru food can be scarce especially in the dry season. When a family is struggling to put food on the table paying for education is no longer an option. When families in Uganda are forced to save on their children's education, girls are usually the ones to lose out. In the the district of Amuru 65% of girls leave primary school early compared to 45% of boys. The effects can be long-lasting - less than half of the women of the district are able to read.

For now Brenda is one of the lucky ones as her family can still just about afford the monthly school fees of €3.50. "Every morning I get up, I take my school uniform and then I go and fetch water. I wash myself and then go to school. When I get home, I wash all kitchen utensils and then I collect firewood nearby. If I have time, I play with my friends" she says.

It's a 10km long walk to school and even though her school is overcrowded and poorly staffed, Brenda loves making her way there every day. She knows just how important education is.

Through Village Sponsorship your support can help provide not only an education but a future for girls like Brenda.

Learn more about daily life in Brenda, Beatrice and Jimmi's village in Amuru by logging onto our digital village at:

[www.villagesponsorship.org](http://www.villagesponsorship.org)



## Amuru, Uganda

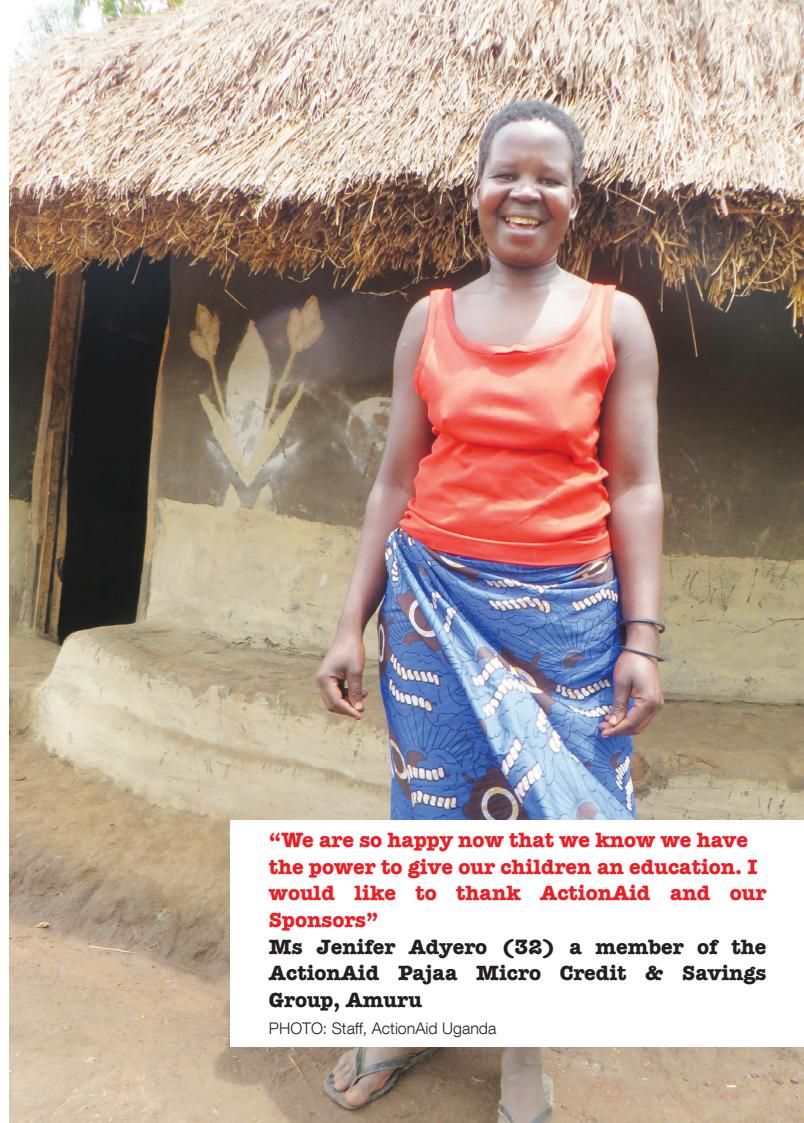
For nearly two decades, Northern Uganda was ravaged by war and conflict leaving the community in extreme poverty, deprived and forgotten. During this time, many families were displaced into refugee camps where they suffered from extreme poverty, malnutrition and diseases. When the war officially ended in 2008, people who had spent close to two decades in these camps were left to try and rebuild their lives.

Most rural households have only one meal a day and as a result, hunger affects school attendance and learning. 38% of children aged 6-12 do not get enrolled in school. A woman has an average of seven children and it is normal that she will also care for children that have been orphaned as a result of the war.



These families struggle to survive on an average household income of less than 2 euros a day.

The situation is bleak but the people are proud and they are determined to turn things around for themselves.



**"We are so happy now that we know we have the power to give our children an education. I would like to thank ActionAid and our Sponsors"**

**Ms Jenifer Adyero (32) a member of the ActionAid Pajaa Micro Credit & Savings Group, Amuru**

PHOTO: Staff, ActionAid Uganda

## Your Support in Action

ActionAid began its work in Amuru in Sept 2009, supporting poor and vulnerable people in their fight for a better life. We work to help people gain their basic rights: to food, water, healthcare and the means to earn a living. Informing people of their rights and helping people achieve these rights is at the very heart of ActionAid's work.



**The “Pajaa Reflect Group”, collectively saved an incredible 11,913,600 Shillings or €3,504 in 2013**

PHOTO CREDIT: Staff, ActionAid Uganda

### Supporting Women in Business- Micro-credit and Savings Groups in Amuru

Six women gather on a mat in a small village in Amru for their bi-weekly meeting. These incredible women are one of 22 ActionAid savings groups successfully operating in the districts of Amuru and Nwoya in Uganda.

The groups have an average female participation rate of 85% and work to generate extra household income through setting up mini-businesses through micro credit and savings schemes. They support small-holder female farmers in local communities.

With the strength gained by coming together, these women have been successful in securing higher prices, in collectively marketing and selling their produce and providing finance to each other through seed banking.

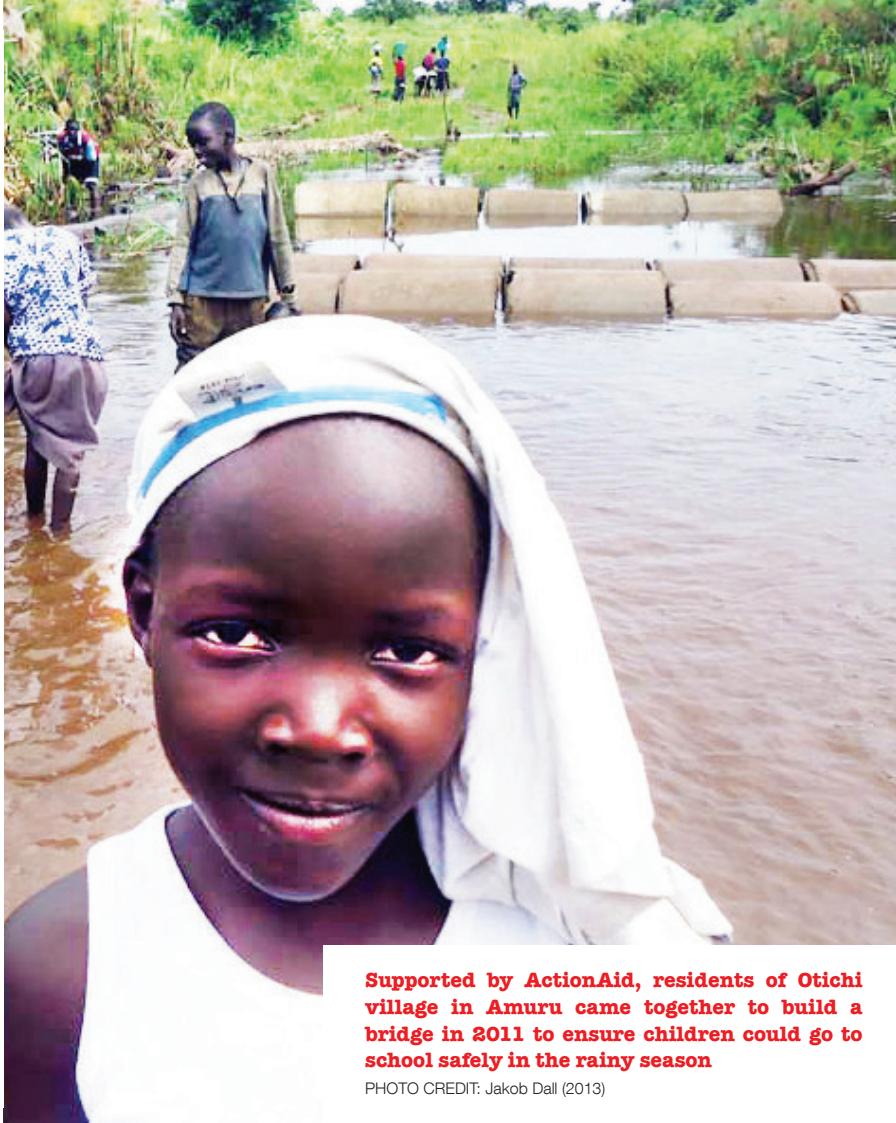
They have been able to reduce the power of middle men who constantly exploit disadvantaged small holder farmers by offering them low prices for agricultural produce especially for groundnuts, sesame and maize.

Through over 30 years of supporting the world's poorest and most marginalised communities we know that for lasting change to occur people need tools, knowledge & confidence to succeed. Sponsoring a village can help deliver that change.

## \* 10 Reasons Your Help Is Needed

- An estimated 68% of the total district population live in abject poverty
- A 2013 report by ActionAid Uganda put youth unemployment at 62%
- In Amuru there is one doctor per 25,000 members of the community
- 98% of farmers still use hand tools to cultivate and clear land
- No woman in Amuru owns land and widows are often driven from their home when their husband dies as they have no ownership rights
- 25% of children enrolled in primary schools are orphans
- 65% of girls and 45% of boys leave school in the 7th grade due to high poverty levels
- The teacher/student ratio is 1:104 as compared to the national average of 1:57
- Just 45% of women and girls over 10 years old in Amuru can read and write a simple sentence in their local language
- Women in Amuru have an average of seven children to support
- 61% of Amuru's population has to walk more than an hour and a half to go for a basic medical check up

**\*Statistics accurate as at September 2014**



**Supported by ActionAid, residents of Otichi village in Amuru came together to build a bridge in 2011 to ensure children could go to school safely in the rainy season**

PHOTO CREDIT: Jakob Dall (2013)

## Our Promise to You

Through our Sponsorship Programmes, ActionAid Ireland has committed to working in Amuru until 2017 and with your support we will ensure:

- People have access to basic services such as education, health, sanitation and water in their community
- Children will have access to quality education and will be supported to go to school
- Community members will have access to medical care in clinics run by trained medical staff and resourced with approved medication
- Women will be protected both in and outside the home
- Communities will be trained and supported in securing improved public services
- Community members will have a direct say in the development of their own communities
- Communities can grow and support themselves into the future

### Success to date

- ActionAid distributed 2,720kgs of bean seeds, 390 hand hoes and 248 female goats to 13 villages in Amuru which has helped 390 households. Not only is this helping to improve agricultural productivity, it is helping to address the wider problems of hunger and malnutrition.
- 2,553 community members were able to access fresh, clean water when two boreholes and two spring wells were constructed in 4 primary schools near camps for internally displaced people.

- 200 pupils can now attend primary school during rainy season as improvements were made to access roads to villages
- ActionAid uses community reflect circles to tackle a wide range of issues, from female literacy and gender discrimination to community forestry and sustainable livelihoods. To date 18 reflect circle groups have been established in the area involving over 630 people.
- ActionAid organised local communities in Amuru to form educational task forces in 18 schools to carry out independent school inspections and to lobby local government for improvements to their education system.



## Where does my money go?

We want you to feel proud of how every cent you give to us is used. With over 30 years' experience of working in developing countries, ActionAid has developed the most effective way of using your gifts to achieve lasting change. Not only do we work with communities on the ground to solve their problems, we also help address the wider issues on a national and international level that cause poverty.

ActionAid is committed to being open transparent and all our financial reports can be found on our website at [www.actionaid.ie](http://www.actionaid.ie). This year we are particularly proud to say that, 87% of our overall annual income went straight to fund our overseas charitable activities.

With village sponsorship you can set the level of your support and tailor your monthly giving amount to suit your needs.

60% of your donation will go directly to support the community where it will deliver essentials such as food, clean water, healthcare and education, but we need to make sure that this support is long lasting.

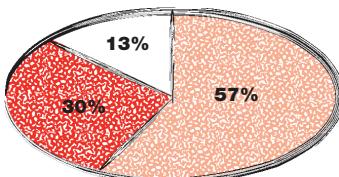
The remaining 40% will allow us to fight the root causes of poverty over the longer term. It will support key advocacy and campaigning work like lobbying governments to improve education and healthcare systems for all. It will help us fight for basic rights for key groups such as women and those with disabilities. It will allow us to respond to emergency situations in communities facing a drought or food shortage and it will allow us to find new sponsors to support our work into the future.



"At ActionAid we aim to meet the highest standards of transparency and accountability. We publish our audited accounts online each year; our 2013 accounts show that 87% of our income went directly to our programme work, while 13% of our income was spent on governance, administration, fundraising, campaigning and other head office expenses."

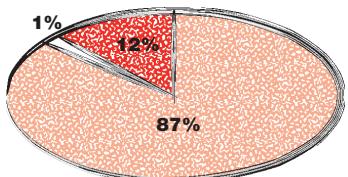
**Olga McDonogh, Chief Executive,  
ActionAid Ireland**

### Income



Child Sponsorship	€1.67M (57%)
Irish Aid	€0.87M (30%)
Other	€0.36M (13%)

### Expenditure



Charitable Activities	€2.57M (87%)
Governance	€0.013M (1%)
Generating Voluntary Income	€0.36M (12%)
Other	

## ActionAid- Power in People

ActionAid Ireland is a development organisation, established in 1983, to support people living in poverty and their fight for a better life. As part of ActionAid International, we are one of the world's most respected development organisations, working with over 19 million people in more than 45 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. ActionAid works in 3,000 of the poorest rural communities around the world, supporting people living in poverty to organise and engage in local democracy. We commit to long-term development projects and always work at a grassroots level to ensure that we are supporting communities to strengthen their own efforts to eradicate poverty. ActionAid focuses on the people that others forget. People in poverty. People who face discrimination. People whose voices are ignored. Through important programmes such as Village Sponsorship and through our campaigning work in Ireland we actively support people fighting for their rights. Simple things like the right to eat, the right to stay on their land, the right to an education and the right to have a say in the decisions that shape their lives.

**By becoming a sponsor you too are joining the active community of Irish people promoting the rights of the most vulnerable.**





PHOTO CREDIT: Jakob Dall (2013)

Log on to our interactive village at: [www.villagesponsorship.org](http://www.villagesponsorship.org)

ActionAid Ireland  
172 Ivy Exchange  
Granby Place  
Parnell Square  
Dublin 1  
Tel: +353 (1) 878 7911  
E-Mail: [info@actionaid.ie](mailto:info@actionaid.ie)  
Website: [www.actionaid.ie](http://www.actionaid.ie)

[find us on](#) [facebook](#) [follow us](#) [twitter](#)

[facebook.com/ActionAidIreland](http://facebook.com/ActionAidIreland)  
[@actionaid\\_ie](http://twitter/@actionaid_ie)

**act:onaid**