

**act!onaid**

# ActionAid Introduction

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## ActionAid approach

- ActionAid is....
- EAPN and ActionAid common agenda based on solidarity, justice, giving voice to the poor and excluded
- Our agenda is a global one (Freetown to Dublin)
- Connections need to be made
- Economic literacy, participatory budgets and challenging democratic deficit to discuss today...
- But many other possible linkages

## Some challenges

- **Age of austerity, progressive agenda under pressure**
- **New institutions, lack of leadership**
- **Green economy fixated Europe**
- **Perception of fallen geopolitical status = more aggressive resource policy, resource curse**
- **Rhetoric on rights and values a mask**
- **Falling aid, few leaders to reform it (e.g. Busan)**
- **Policy coherence for development agenda lacking political support**
- **Time for greater people-based pressure!**

## **AAI new strategy**

- **5 main objectives**
  - **Land rights, agriculture, food rights**
  - **Influence of people over governments and corporates**
  - **Quality public education**
  - **Resilience to conflicts and disasters**
  - **Women's rights**
- **Approach still grounded in human rights, challenging and changing power relations**
- **Programme = solidarity, empowerment, campaigns**
- **New focus on generating alternatives**



## A glance at AA work in Europe

- **What does doing programme work in Europe mean for AAI?**
  - No direct service delivery
  - Working through our partners
  - AA Italy example 'Wake up Italy'
  - Relevance as a means of mobilising people (land rights/food/women/governance/development finance)
  - ELBAG one concrete area with great potential for creating those linkages

## **Closing messages**

- 1. Poverty is global and linked, solutions also linked**
- 2. Don't reinvent the wheel: alternatives there and can be shared**
- 3. Economic literacy key to challenging democratic deficit globally**