

Breaking Barriers



In 2017, ActionAid received funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) to implement *Breaking Barriers* a 4-year project which aims to ensure that *all children especially girls and marginalised children, have access to free, quality, publicly-funded, inclusive public education.* The project is being rolled out in Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria and Tanzania.

Of the 63 million primary school age children currently out of school across the world, 34 million, or more than one-half, live in sub-Saharan Africa. Despite recent progress, gender disparities persist, and across the region 23% of all girls are out of school, compared to 19% of boys. In addition, children with disability are far more likely to be out of school than their non-disabled peers. Without education, these children face countless barriers to a brighter future.

The project therefore aims to tackle some of the main barriers that prevent children (particularly girls and children living with disability) in the 4 target countries from enjoying their right to education. These include: discrimination, gender-based violence, inadequate financing for public education and the proliferation of private schools.

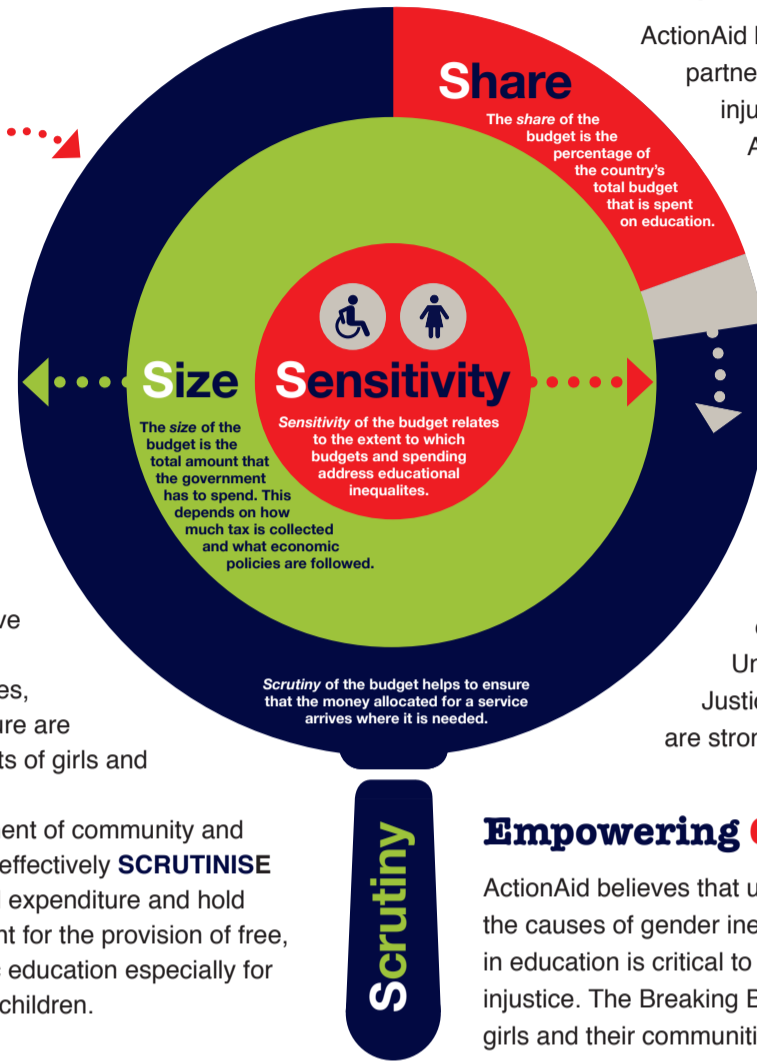
The project's objectives are structured around ActionAid's **4S framework** for education financing, emphasising the need to ensure that:

1. Governments take actions to increase the **SIZE** of national budgets by raising fair tax.
2. Governments take actions to increase the **SHARE** of funds allocated to and spent on free, quality, inclusive public education.
3. Public education policies, systems and expenditure are **SENSITIVE** to the rights of girls and marginalised children
4. A strong active movement of community and civil society structures effectively **SCRUTINISE** education budgets and expenditure and hold governments to account for the provision of free, quality, inclusive public education especially for girls and marginalised children.

Through a combination of community level interventions, research and advocacy at local,

national and international level, ActionAid and its partners in Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria and Tanzania will be working together to achieve concrete changes in the realisation of children's right to education.

Working Together



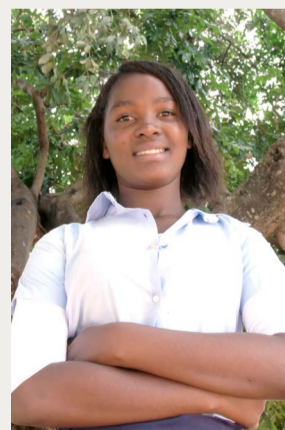
ActionAid believes that strong, strategic partnerships can help people fight injustice and claim their rights. Across all the 4 countries, and at global level the *Breaking Barriers* project is being implemented in collaboration with a wide range of education stakeholders from community level upwards. These include children's clubs, mother groups, school management committees, community-based organisations, Teachers' Unions, Education and Tax Justice Coalitions. Together we are stronger.

Empowering Girls

ActionAid believes that understanding and tackling the causes of gender inequality, including inequality in education is critical to addressing poverty and injustice. The *Breaking Barriers* initiative works with girls and their communities to identify the changes they want to see and to empower them to claim their rights to education.

Zainabu and Sauma

Zainabu and Sauma attend one of the few inclusive public schools in Tanzania that is able to support children with hearing impairment to learn alongside others. When the Minister of Education came to their school Zainabu and Sauma told her they desperately needed more boarding facilities, so they did not have to make the long journey to and from school each day. The Minister took action and the facilities have now been built. [Link to video](#)



Suzilde

Suzilde's school lacked classrooms, forcing children to learn outside, under trees. Suzilde mobilised her classmates and they asked the local government to build some temporary classrooms. Suzilde and her friends are now pushing for improvements to school sanitation. [Link to videos: English / Portuguese](#)



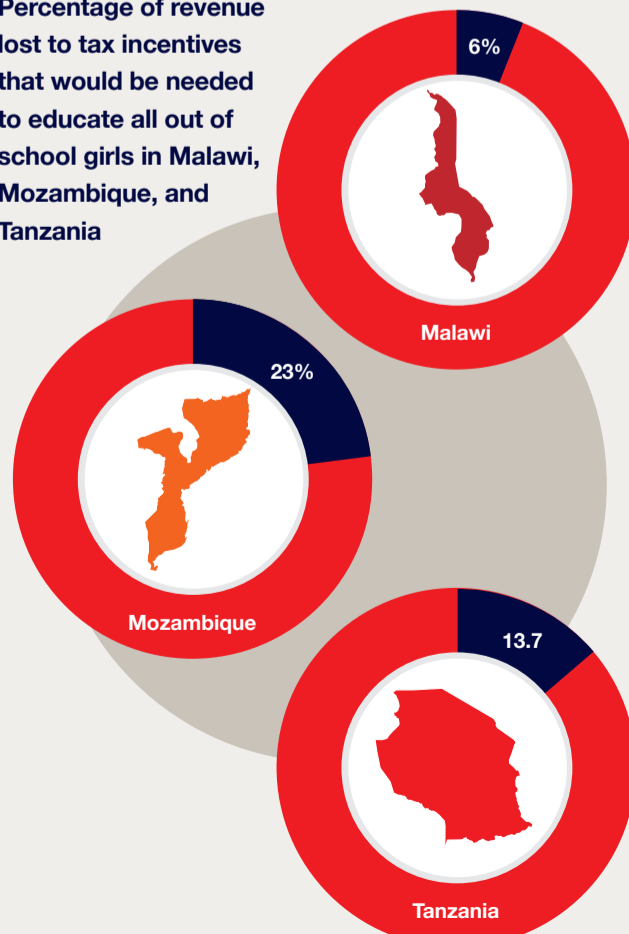
Emily

In Malawi, poverty forces thousands of young girls to drop out of school to get married. Emily leads a Mother Group that has been instrumental in getting dozens of girls back in school, so they can continue their learning and choose their futures. [Link to video](#)

Make Tax Work for Girls' Education

To ensure all girls can go to school and receive a good quality education, governments in developing countries need to increase their spending on education. One key way to raise extra resources is to increase tax revenues, by reducing or eliminating tax incentives especially to corporations. Recent research by ActionAid shows how each year, this 'tax expenditure' causes governments lose huge amounts of potential revenues that could be spent on improving education, especially for girls.

Percentage of revenue lost to tax incentives that would be needed to educate all out of school girls in Malawi, Mozambique, and Tanzania



Want to take action? Join the Movement!

Please Share on social media with the hashtags:

- #KeepYourPromises
- #taxpaysfor
- #FundEducation
- #EducationNow
- #taxjustice
- #FundTheFuture

Here are some message ideas:

- Our leaders promised EVERY GIRL a good education. Here's how they can **#FundTheFuture = #taxjustice**
- Governments must keep their promises and citizens must hold them to account to ensure SDG4 is met. **#KeepYourPromises**
- Tax funds teachers & schools, but governments lose out due to unfair tax rules, tax dodging, & tax havens. We need **#taxjustice** for **#EducationNow**
- They say there is no money, we say big companies need to pay their fair share of tax to fund education. **#education #taxjustice #KeepYourPromises**
- Domestic financing is a long term sustainable way to raise more fund to fund free, quality, inclusive education for all. **#KeepYourPromises**

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To find out more about the project, write to: asmara.figure@actionaid.org