

THEMAG

AIDE ET ACTION

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Special Report

WOMEN'S EDUCATION: **OUR PRIORITY**



Changing the world through Education

SNAPSHOT



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At the end of November 2021, Aide et Action and Solidarité Laïque decided to create the “Education Alliance”. The two associations share many common values and have been working together for several years. They wish to build a network of French organizations, that operate internationally in the field of education, to promote the implementation of joint development projects (in the fields of education, health, integration, environment, culture...) that meet the long-term needs of the world’s most vulnerable populations. 🌱

“The Alliance will be able to grow by incorporating new associations, under French law, which share the same values.”

Charles-Emmanuel BALLANGER,
International Director General of Aide et Action
and Alain CANONNE,
General Delegate of Solidarité Laïque

For more information please visit:
<https://france.aide-et-action.org/actualites/alliance-education>



Education changes the world, especially for women



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Aide et Action has been implementing development projects for over 40 years. Our conviction is all-encompassing : changing the world through education. This conviction gives a meaning, a direction other than that of conflicts and barbarism; it brings a different meaning, that of progress, knowledge, scientific discoveries and reason. Education provides women and men with the ability to write their own history, to avoid social predispositions, to follow a path other than the one imposed before their birth by family, society, religion or sex. And it is all these women that

are unfairly deprived of education, that we wish to accompany today: those who for thousands of years have been subjected to the yoke of patriarchal societies, those who, despite decades of mobilisation, continue to live in seclusion, ignorance and servitude, those who were among the first victims of the pandemic, even more liable to job losses, abuse and violence. More than half of the human race is now living without one or more of their fundamental rights because they were born women. We cannot tolerate this. This is why today for the first time in its history, Aide et Action is launching a movement for women’s education, so that each of them can finally access the pathway that will enable them to become citizens of rights on an individual basis; masters of their own bodies and destiny; active members of society, and more importantly, of a different, fairer and more sustainable world, which they will help to build. We will guide them, with your support. Thank you for them.

Enjoy your reading!

With solidarity

Charles-Emmanuel Ballanger
CEO of Aide et Action

Summary

PAGE 4

News



COVID-19: ONE DISASTER HIDES ANOTHER

PAGE 7

Special Report



WOMEN’S EDUCATION, OUR PRIORITY

PAGE 18

Take Action with us



LET’S SUPPORT WOMEN’S EDUCATION NOW

PAGE 21

Witness report

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A SACRIFICED GENERATION?

COVID-19: ONE DISASTER HIDES ANOTHER

Beyond the human, social and financial consequences that weigh on our daily lives, the COVID-19 crisis is more insidious and reveals silent catastrophes that are ravaging the world of today and tomorrow.

The pandemic and the lockdown measures condemned children and adults to confinement for over 21 months. Such long-term social restrictions cannot be without consequences. More than 500 million¹ children will probably never be able to catch up on the many learning losses, leaving more than 24 million children at risk of dropping out of school early².

FRAGILE MENTAL HEALTH

1 in 7 children was directly affected by lockdown measures. For the youngest children, the crisis caused stress, and deprived them of reference points and contacts that are essential to their development. For adolescents, worries about the pandemic, the risks of contamination, the loss of jobs and income that could affect their families, have generated anger and anxiety. According to UNICEF, 1 in 5 young people aged 15 to 24 said they often felt depressed or had no desire to do anything as a result of the pandemic.³

What you need to know

Before the pandemic, more than 50% of 10-year-olds in low- and middle-income countries could not read a story. This estimate is now close to 70% due to school closures. (UNESCO)

- 1 - Save The Children, Save Our Education, 2020
- 2 - Unesco 2020
- 3 - The State of the World's Children 2021 - In my mind: Promoting, protecting and caring for children's mental health, UNICEF 2021
- 4 - World Vision, COVID-19 Aftershocks : Access denied, 2020

A CATALYST OF VIOLENCE

Adults, too, have been under great stress, which has led to an increase in violence in almost every country in the world. In France, calls to the national helpline for children at risk (SNATED) increased by 89% in April 2020 compared to 2019. Millions of young girls, forced to remain in their communities for months on end, have also been exposed to the worst abuses: more than 4 million girls in sub-Saharan Africa have been forcibly married and the number of early marriages, 12 million per year before the pandemic, is expected to soar in the coming⁴ years.

IT ALL STARTS WITH EDUCATION

How can today's children, deprived of basic educational skills, with weakened mental health and exposed to months of the worst violence, become tomorrow's adults that are capable of building a more just and sustainable world? And today we are only seeing the tip of the iceberg towards which the world is heading and on which it will inevitably stumble. Other crises will pop up, perhaps ones that are more serious. At Aide et Action, we believe that school is a place of peace and resilience for all young people, where they can rebuild their lives. We therefore call on governments to reopen schools quickly in a healthy environment, to develop remedial and tutoring systems to enable children to catch up, and to ensure that teachers receive adequate training and support. Only if everyone has access to quality education today can we build a better world tomorrow. 🌱

TESTIMONIALS

“SCHOOL CLOSURES HAVE HAD A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF CHILDREN”

Yom Som Oun, 42, a teacher at Toul Torteng Nursery School in Cambodia, talks about her involvement during the lockdown and the impact it has had and will have on her pupils.



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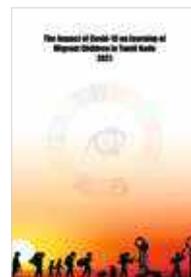
“In the village of Toul Torteng, the lockdown lasted almost seven months. I knew that the children were looking forward to going back to school but authorities imposed a total closure of the schools. So, I decided to go to their homes alone. Despite home schooling, school closures had a huge impact on the children’s development and progress, they were deprived of contact with friends, and some were quarantined for months, with little or no food, alongside anxious parents and no work. Home schooling was a real challenge. The children are more used to playing at home and found it hard to understand that they had to work. Their parents could not help them, they are not educated themselves and some came home late, sometimes even after the children had gone to bed. Children were not even aware of hygiene rules, at school at least we had soap and water to teach them to wash their hands, here I had nothing to teach them basic hygiene rules.”

PUBLICATION

COVID-19: DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE ONES

India has nearly 100,000 migrant children, who follow their parents in search of jobs in the major urban centres. The families live in shanty towns close to the workplaces and the children are rarely enrolled in school. Development organisations such as Aide et Action set up reception centres to take care of these children, but the COVID-19 pandemic led to the immediate closure of these places, leaving these already vulnerable children to face disastrous living conditions.

“COVID-19: its impact on migrant children in Tamil Nadu” is a study conducted by Aide et Action and its partners between January and October 2021. Out of 466 children interviewed, 272, including 160 girls, had no access to education during lockdown. Children remained in slums, locked in rooms of a few square metres, 5 or 10 to a room, in extreme heat of up to 45 degrees. They had no access to clean water, sanitation or even simple soap. The crisis has particularly affected their mental health: 215 children reported spending their day wandering around the slums. 15% of the children said they had been confronted with early marriages, a quarter had been forced to work and 16% said they had been physically and mentally abused. Today, most of these children are still traumatised by this lockdown period and feel profoundly unwell.



“Impact of the COVID-19 on the Learning of Migrant Children in Tamil Nadu” is available in English on our website.

COVID-19

WOMEN AS AGENTS OF CHANGE FOR EDUCATION



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Facing COVID-19, 500 women, mostly illiterate, have saved more than 3000 vulnerable children from dropping out of school in the framework of an Aide et Action project.

In the two districts of Alirajpur and Jhabua in the state of Madhya Pradesh in India, education for children is not a priority. School enrolment remains extremely low, especially for girls. To better understand the importance of education, Aide et Action's teams have called upon community members who are known as "vectors of change". They are mostly women," explains Ravi Pratap, International Program Director. "Faced with numerous droughts, the men have left to seek employment in the cities, leaving women to manage the villages. We are accompanying them in this new mission, giving them self-confidence and thus making them more autonomous within Indian society.

TO AVOID DROPOUTS AND EARLY SCHOOL LEAVING

"These women are generally illiterate but they know how to manage a family, take care of children and are very involved in their community," adds Pravin Bhoje, Aide et Action's Regional Manager for South Asia. Once selected, they receive training. Their mission is to create a link between children, parents and teachers. But with the COVID-19 pandemic, their mission took on a different dimension. "During

the first lockdown, all schools in the village closed. I was afraid that many children would drop out of school. So, I went door-to-door to convince parents to recreate a learning centre," explains Jangudi Bai, a 'change agent'.

What you need to know

As a result of this Aide et Action project, the Madhya Pradesh state authorities have institutionalized the presence of mothers' committees in the school management committees for better child development

EMPOWERING WOMEN

Like Jangudi, nearly 500 women have ensured this educational continuity in 300 centres and with more than 3000 children. This feat was achieved with their own motivation and educational material prepared by Aide et Action teams. Since the end of lockdown, these vectors of change continue their mission in nearly 125 learning centres located in 90 villages. 🌱

A win-win situation

The pedagogical material, created by Aide et Action teams to facilitate the learning sessions of the "vectors of change", is now used in all the early childhood centres created by the government and contributes to the strengthening of language and numeracy skills of thousands of young children.



WOMEN'S EDUCATION: OUR PRIORITY

Women are born free and equal according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Yet women remain one of the most discriminated populations in the world. Many of them have no other option but to remain silent, resigned and subservient. Confronted with such human tragedies, Aide et Action is launching, for the first time in its history, a movement entirely dedicated to women's education, "Education for Women Now", so that none of them will ever again be deprived of their rights, their power of action, nor their freedom.

© Isabelle Merny/Aide et Action

Women's education, our priority

Women, the most discriminated population in the world

Despite decades of mobilization, women still suffer from discrimination and gender inequality. Confronted with such a situation, Aide et Action is launching "Education for Women Now", a new movement to accompany 3 million women and girls on their way to education.

They represent more than half of the human race. And yet they are among the most vulnerable populations in the world today, especially in the least developed countries. They are women. At any age, their right to life, identity, food, care and employment is violated. And they are systematically among the first victims of crises, whatever their nature. The COVID-19 pandemic was no exception. Because of their precarious work in the sectors most affected by the pandemic - trade, leisure, tourism, agriculture, etc. - or in the informal economy, they were among the first to find themselves without resources. In addition to the economic problems, there were also problems related to lockdown and social distancing measures. Women were kept at home and had to take on more domestic tasks and accept constant childcare. They became isolated and lost access to basic necessities such as food and care. The lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services increased the risk of unwanted pregnancies and maternal mortality. Finally, with no external recourse, they lost all psycho-social support and found themselves trapped in abusive and violent situations at home. All the

data collected since the beginning of the pandemic shows the threats that COVID-19 poses to years of progress towards rights and economic justice for women and girls. If nothing is done now to specifically support women and girls through this crisis, it is likely that existing inequalities will worsen.

AIDE ET ACTION: OUR VISION, OUR MOVEMENT

For more than 40 years, our mission has been to accompany the most vulnerable populations. In the current context, it was our duty to strengthen our action to better accompany women and girls on their way to education. Not only to provide them with the knowledge and skills they have been deprived of, but also to move forward, together, on the road to equality, freedom and active citizenship. Because the effective materialization of the right to education brings multiple benefits and is the only guarantee of human dignity. In a low-income country, a young girl who goes to college will be less likely to be married before she is 18 and to have children at an early age. And this is just one of the many freedoms gained through education. The other gains are



EDUCATION FOR WOMEN NOW

BY AIDE ET ACTION

many and will empower them to become effective citizens of rights and agents of change for themselves and future generations.

EDUCATION FOR WOMEN NOW!

Accompanying 3 million women and girls on their way to education. Achieving such an outcome is, of course, a long-term task, which includes all sectors and requires significant funding. "Education for Women Now is the embodiment of this fight for a world that is free of gender inequality. We will begin this struggle at the very doorstep of school and education in its broadest sense, because it is there that we can deconstruct, step by step, gender stereotypes that have been embedded in the collective imagination since childhood. This deconstruction cannot be done without the participation of all - men, children, public authorities, religious leaders... - and, of course, the main ones concerned: women. - By guaranteeing their fundamental rights from childhood; - By fighting against gender inequalities in adolescence; - By promoting their social and economic emancipation in adulthood; We will enable the women of today and tomorrow to reclaim their thoughts, their images and to claim for themselves, at all ages of life, the totality of their rights (education, health, protection, food, access to employment...)"

435 million

women live below the poverty threshold in the world. (UN Women)

515 million

women are illiterate (UNESCO 2019).

130 million

girls are deprived of education (UNESCO 2020)

1 in 5 women

aged 20-24 were married before they turned 18. (United Nations).

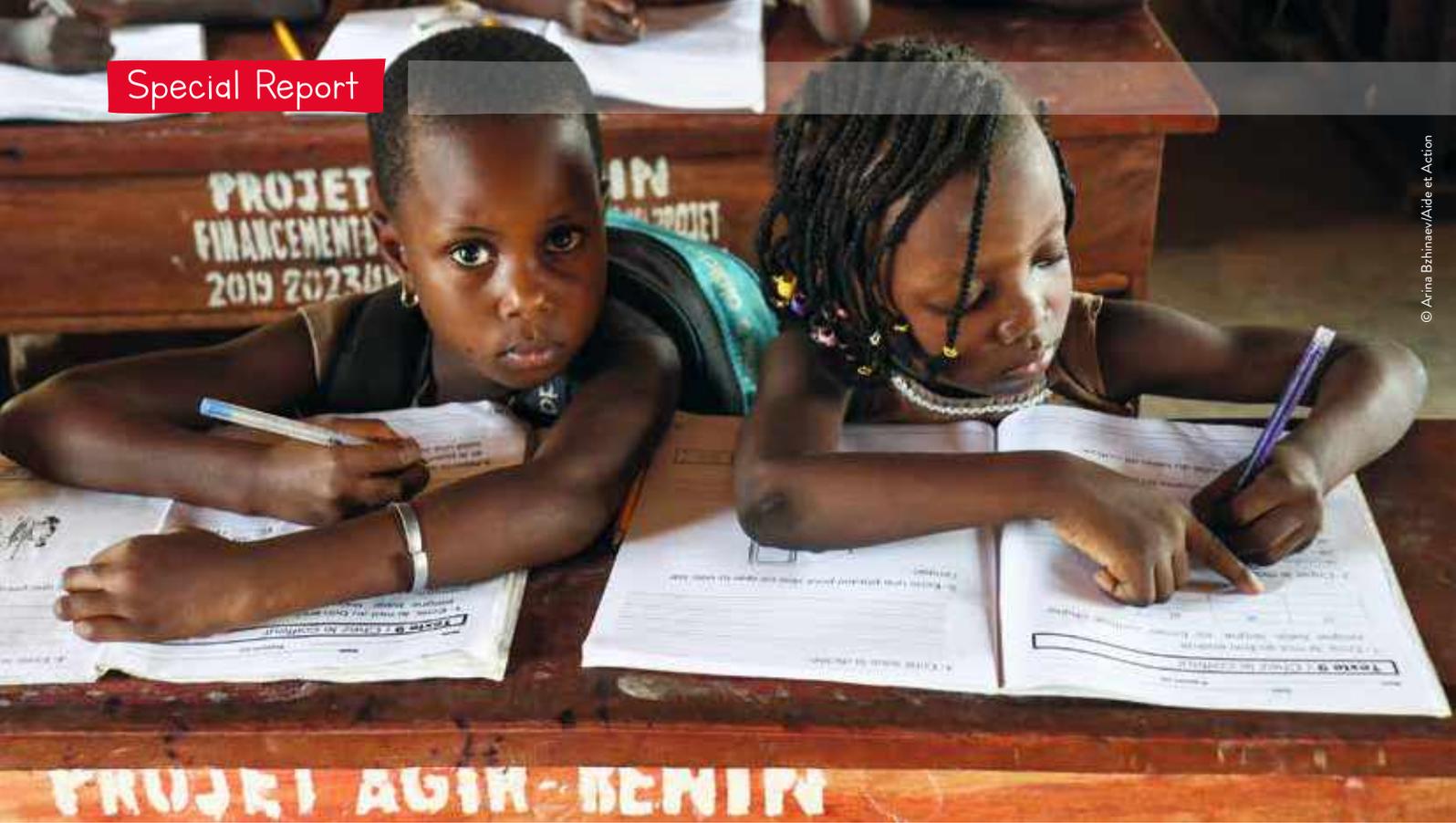
200 million

women and girls between the ages of 15 and 49 have undergone female genital mutilation (United Nations).

72%

Women and girls represent of all victims of human trafficking in the world (UNODC).





Women's education, our priority

Ensuring girls' access to human rights

Ensuring access to quality education for all girls has always been a priority for Aide et Action. However, in order to achieve this right, it is imperative to remove the many obstacles that still deprive more than 130 million girls of their right to education.

“My oldest daughter had to stop school, she was good but we didn't have enough money. She works in a hair extension factory to help us make ends meet,” says Khiev Bunnaret from Koh Kchorng village in Cambodia. “I always wanted my children to go to school,” adds Bun, another fisherman and father of two. “But it costs too much. My son works after school to earn enough money to pay his school fees. Without support, it is likely that his other child, his daughter, will also be withdrawn from school in a few months. In a context of extreme poverty, the poorest families generally favour boys.

The economic crisis caused by COVID-19 is already weighing heavily on the future of millions of young girls, since it is estimated that 11 million of them (UNESCO) may never return to school. This is why Aide et Action's projects focus on guaranteeing all fundamental rights of girls as a priority.

POVERTY, A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO SCHOOLING

In most of the countries where Aide et Action intervenes, school fees are a burden for families. Sometimes, it is even a sacrifice that they cannot afford for their daughters. Aide et Action is therefore setting up scholarships

for them. *“I am the only one who can work to support my family, my father is unemployed and my elder sister is disabled. Before the pandemic, I used to work as a dishwasher in a restaurant every night and I had too little time for studies”*, explains Kana, 11, who is now benefiting from the “Keeping girls in school” project in Laos. *“Thanks to Aide et Action, I was able to buy all my school materials and my family receives money for food.*

AGAINST THE RISK OF DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL

In Benin, within the framework of the “Act” project, Aide et Action is working - within 170 schools - to improve the learning environment of more than 17,000 girls: the most vulnerable ones are individually monitored at school and at home, they are offered accelerated school curricula as well as support courses, and all children attend awareness sessions on gender-based violence. In the schools it supports, Aide et Action also ensures that girls can express their opinions on issues that concern them. *“I have been elected in the school government of my school, which allows me to express myself and participate in school life. An excellence club has also been created to support the most vulnerable girls,”* explains Victoire, a student at Tokoli Primary School in the commune of Tori-Bossito. All children are informed of their rights and events (conferences, radio programmes, public readings) are organised on children’s rights, especially for girls. Within schools, ‘brigades’ are created to identify and fight against girls’ absenteeism. Finally, teachers are trained in gender equality and non-discriminatory teaching methods. 

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“Mobilizing for girls’ education means ensuring that millions of girls can define, not endure, their future. It means standing up for a fundamental right. It also means working for the most effective tool for the development of our societies.” 

Ms Audrey Azoulay
Director-General of UNESCO

Ensuring quality education, even in crisis situations

In situations of political, economic or health crisis, girls are 2.5 times more likely than boys to be withdrawn from school. This is particularly the case in Burkina Faso, where primary school enrolment indicators have dropped between 2017 and 2020, due to the security crisis the country is going through. With the “SCOLFILLE” project, Aide et Action and its partner, L’Occitane Foundation, aim at strengthening primary education for more than 2,000 girls in the Ziro and Sissili provinces. Our support covers annual fees and school supplies as well as feeding the children in

schools. In addition, we improve the families’ incomes through micro-credit schemes and help them to develop other economic activities. *“My father is too old to work and my mother does domestic work. I have three brothers and four sisters. None of them go to school. Thanks to the SCOLFILLE project, school fees and my school supplies are paid for. I am very happy and relieved. I know that I have to work hard, I want to succeed and become a teacher”*, explains Alimata in 5th grade, in the province of Ziro, Burkina Faso.



Women's education, our priority

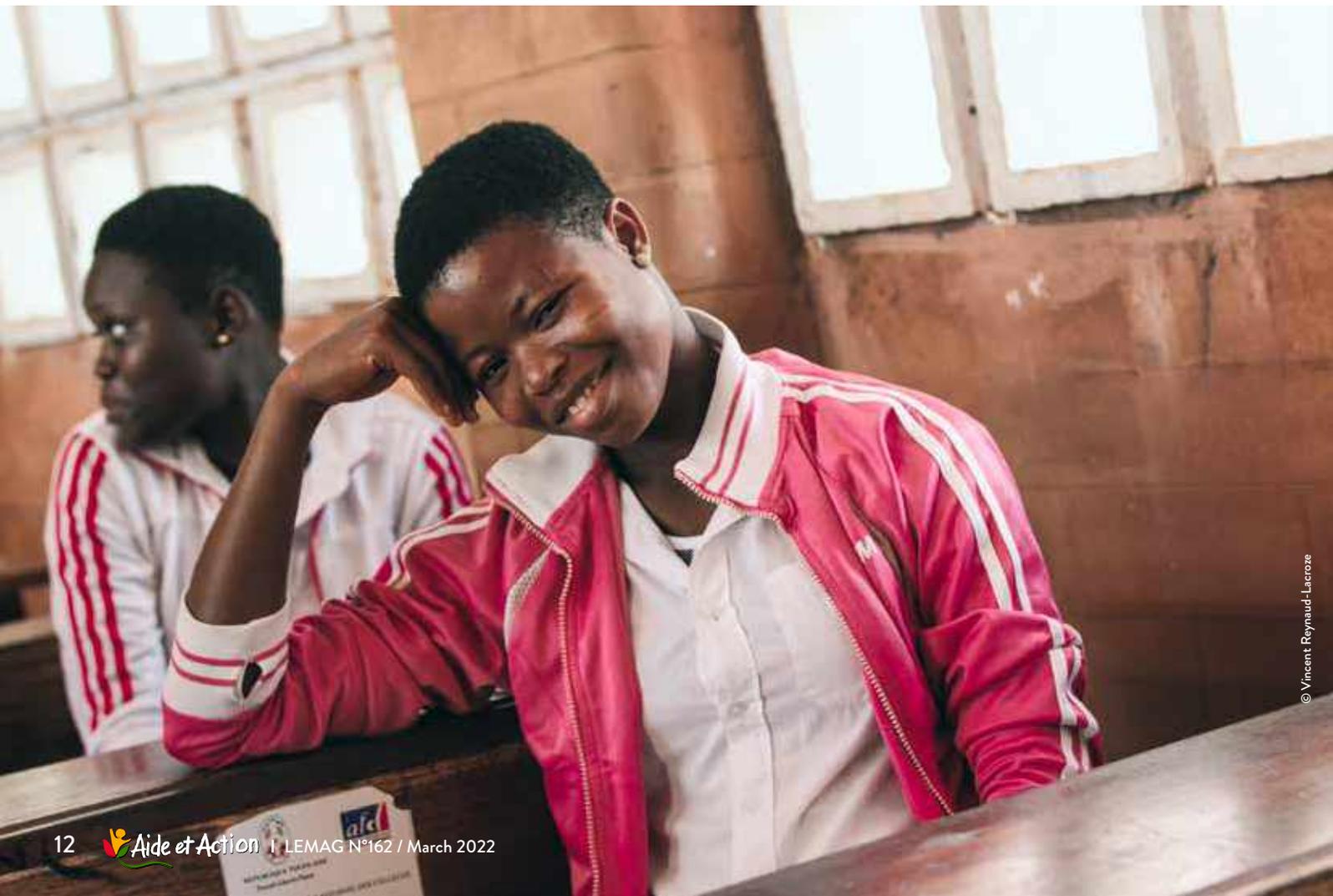
Tackling gender inequality in adolescence

Adolescence remains a particularly difficult time for millions of young girls. Through its programs, Aide et Action protects them and give them a full awareness of their rights and the duty to defend them.

While primary school enrolment and completion rates have improved significantly over the past few decades, girls are still falling behind at the secondary level. And for good reason: schools and colleges have rarely been designed to accommodate them. "Half of the schools in

Cambodia have no access to running water and a third have no adapted toilets. Without separate toilets for girls and boys, girls who menstruate are forced to skip school at least five days a month. This increases absenteeism and encourages school dropout," explains teacher Srey Oun. Worldwide, 4 out of 10 schools do not have separate

latrines for girls and boys. During each of its interventions, Aide et Action builds gender specific toilets and organizes the distribution or production of sanitary napkins. "In the framework of the "Act" program (see pages 10-11), carried out in Benin, I was in charge of taking a census of young menstruating girls to





© Naade Plante

ensure their attendance. Discussing the topic helped reduce absences. But it also allowed me to notice the strange attitude of a pupil. I had a long discussion with her and I understood that she was going through a drama: she had been regularly abused by her stepfather since the fourth grade,” explains Ertosie Boko, a teacher at Dagléta school.

LEARNING TO SAY NO TO VIOLENCE

In many parts of the world, solving these purely material problems does not address the traditions embedded in patriarchal societies and the desire to control girls’ bodies and minds. In adolescence, their movements are suddenly monitored to prevent any risk of rape or early pregnancy. In this context, going to school is like taking a risk, which many families prefer to avoid by taking the girls out of school. Many others will experience violence and deprivation on a daily basis. How can these young girls, deprived of so many rights, become women that are

capable of social and economic integration into society? Through its programmes, Aide et Action instills in young girls full awareness of their rights and the duty to defend them. Our association works to change their lives as teenagers, the lives of the women they will become and, in the longer term, the lives of the children they will have. 🍀

What you need to know

12 million girls are forcibly married each year. 18.5 million between the ages of 12 and 19 become mothers and 120 million suffer sexual violence. (UNESCO 2019)

Aide et Action is committed to fighting early marriage

India has succeeded over the last decade in reducing the number of early marriages. However, it is still increasing in some states such as Odisha. The COVID-19 pandemic, which has increased household poverty - the main cause of early marriages - has further aggravated the situation: according to recent data, 1 in 5 girls is now married before her 18th birthday in the region. Confronted with such a situation, Aide et Action’s teams have organized awareness sessions to talk about the harmful effects of early marriages and train young girls to seek appropriate help and condemn the organizers

of these marriages. This is a difficult task, as it still often requires denouncing one’s own family. 162 demonstrations were organised in more than 250 villages during which almost 3,000 adolescent girls denounced this practice by carrying placards and slogans to defend their rights. Meetings were also held with parents, authorities and religious leaders to reaffirm the illegality of early marriage. Work was carried out to identify young girls at risk and informers were trained in the communities to warn our teams before early marriages were organised. More than 13 marriages were prevented last December alone.



Women's education, our priority

Promoting the emancipation and socio-economic integration of women

Social and economic empowerment gives women the means to act and take part in tomorrow's society. Since 2005, Aide et Action has been developing a global vocational training programme that provides women with skills and know-how, confidence and the desire to take action.

“It is very important that women work, that they have their own money, that they are free and that they don't need their husbands to live,” insists Vannet, one of only two school principals in the entire province of Kep in Cambodia. The key to progress in terms of women's rights lies in our ability to share decisions, have open discussions and encourage women to pursue careers outside the home.

OUR GOAL: EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

At Aide et Action, we are convinced that women's economic empowerment is essential: it empowers women, especially the most vulnerable ones, to take action and take part in tomorrow's society. It provides equitable access to markets, productive resources and decent work, it allows them to retain control over their time and bodies, to develop their ideas and aspirations, and it ensures their active participation in economic decision-making at all levels from the household to international institutions. Beyond the economy, women's empowerment enables them to fulfill their rights and move gender equality forward.

PSYCHOLOGICAL, LEGAL AND SOCIAL BARRIERS

Facilitating women's access to the labour market is however not an obvious path. Women are less likely than men to participate in the labour market (63% of women against 94% of men). Because of their experiences, they lack self-confidence and create psychological or physical barriers that limit their aspirations. In addition to this, there are material constraints: with their families and domestic tasks to look after, they have little time to devote to training or setting up a business. The second obstacle is the lack of education; women often do not have the basic skills to work on computers or use the Internet, for example.

OUR ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME

In order to overcome all these constraints, Aide et Action has been developing a global training programme for women entrepreneurs since 2005. This programme provides women with skills and know-how in just a few months and offers them personal support to give them confidence and the desire to take action. It also works on community acceptance of the development of women's work. In the long term, it helps to transform cultural gender traditions and to reverse the existing distribution of power. It is being implemented in most of our countries of intervention, including India, Burkina Faso and Laos. Thousands of young women have already benefited from it: three of them, who were deprived of basic education, tell Aide et Action about the importance of vocational training and its impact on their daily lives. Social and economic empowerment gives women the means to take action and take part in the society of tomorrow. Since 2005, Aide et Action has been developing a global vocational training programme that provides women with skills and know-how, confidence and the desire to act. 



Powerful women

If women were equally involved in the economy, their activities could produce an additional \$28 trillion, or 26% of global GDP. According to the World Bank, achieving gender equality in employment would offset the loss of \$160 trillion in global wealth



PERSARALIN DOHLING, INDIA

"I studied until the end of primary school and then I worked the land all my life. Thanks to Aide et Action's programme, I learned different techniques to improve my production and make chips, fruit juices, preserves... Today, I sell them in shops and in the neighboring villages. I have even recruited and trained young people who were previously unemployed. I have also trained other community members in mushroom growing and piglet breeding. I continue to train whenever I can in marketing, business..."

© Aide et Action

ADABNA ZIO, BURKINA FASO

"My family did not have much money, I never went to school and never learned to read. I grew up with my aunt and uncle and to help them a little, I learned to weave. Thanks to the FORSELF project, I learned to read and write. And then, thanks to the network and the funding provided by the project, my business grew. I recruited and trained three of my cousins and built a shed to house the looms, so we can work even when it rains."

© Dramane Sessouma/Aide et Action



YONGKHAM, LAOS

"I am the second in a family of 6 children, I stopped school to reduce my family's expenses and to ensure that my younger brothers and sisters could go to school. Thanks to Aide et Action, I have followed many trainings to develop my skills, to know how a business is born, what my village needs, and I have also learnt to be more assertive and have more leadership skills. I decided to open a grocery shop because there was none in my village."

© Christine Redmond/Aide et Action



BURKINA FASO Training to be autonomous

7 out of 10 women in Burkina Faso are illiterate. They therefore have few opportunities to earn a living and have a job. The FORSELF programme enables 400 illiterate women in Ouagadougou, who are already running low-

income activities, to receive training in leadership, entrepreneurship, business creation support and guidance on accessing financial services.

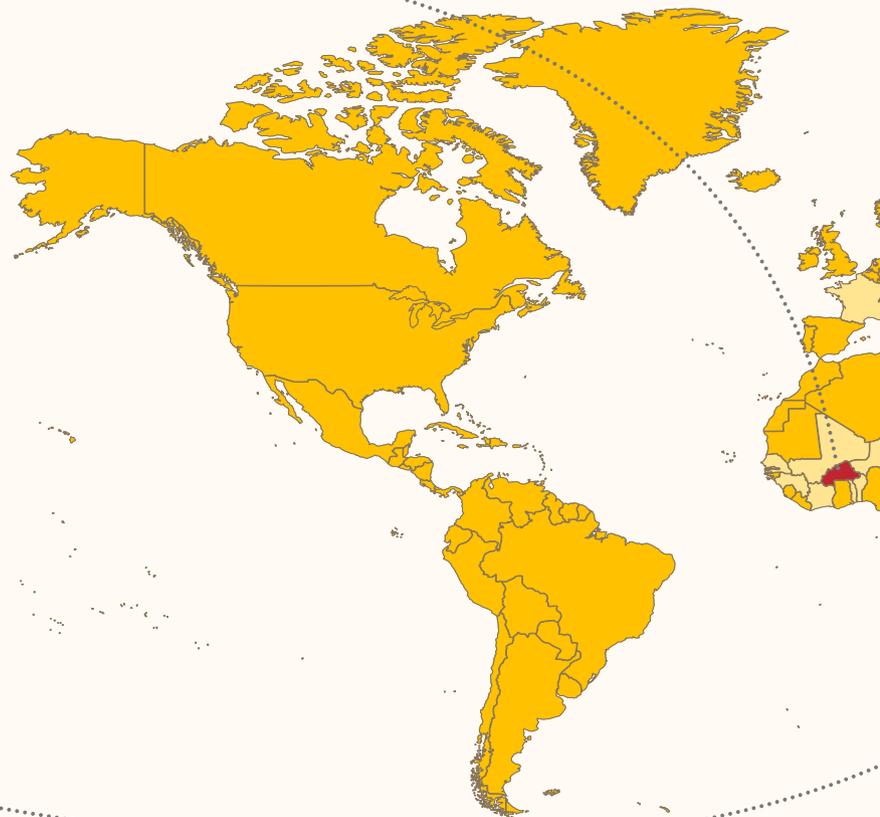
Good to know On December 21, 2021, Aide et Action, with the support of the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), officially launched phase 2 of the project, which will train another 30 women in the capital Ouagadougou.



© Dramane Sessouma/Aide et Action



© Aide et Action



MADAGASCAR Psychosocial support

1/3 of Malagasy girls aged 15 to 19 have at least one child. They are stigmatized and rejected by society and they find themselves destitute. Aide et Action is conducting a socio-professional training project for 900 of them. For 3 years, these girls will receive psychosocial support to

regain their self-confidence, their awareness will be raised regarding gender-based violence, and they will follow a socio-professional training.

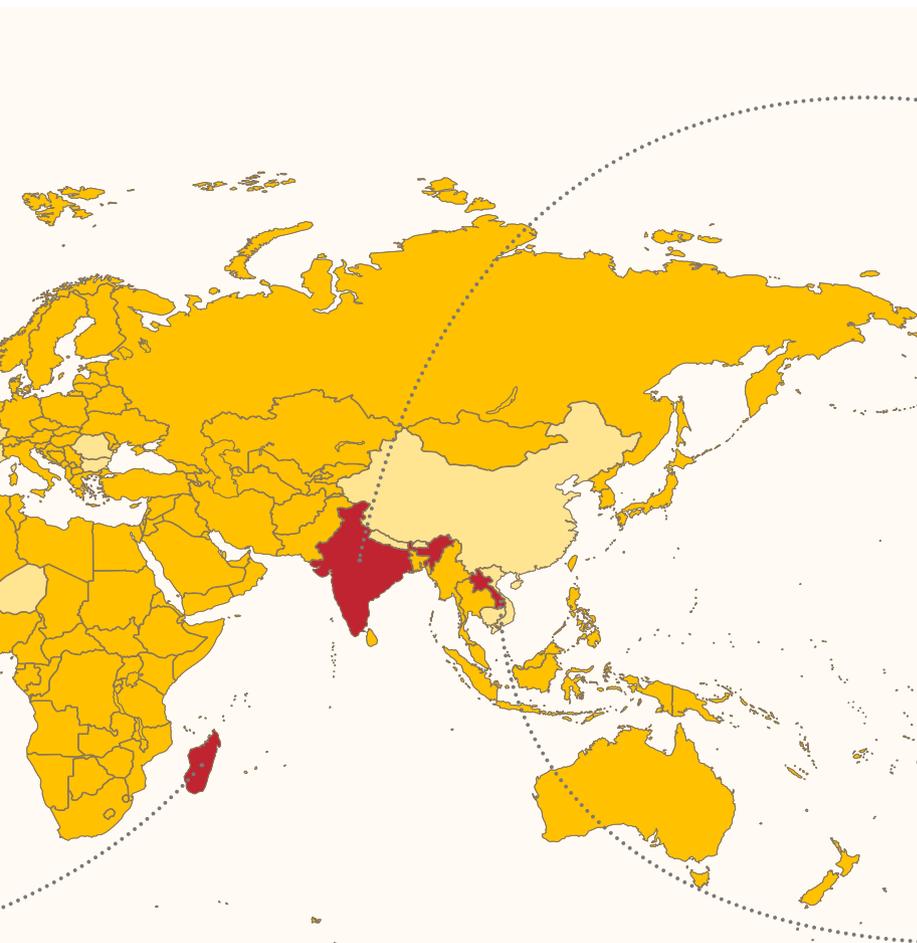
Good to know A first training was offered to 300 young women in October 2021. The activities, which focused on the development of "life skills", helped these young single mothers to improve their self-image and boost their self-esteem.

INDIA Support courses

The Enlight project has been conducted by Aide et Action since 2015 in 9 Indian cities. Its objective is to remove the obstacles encountered by young girls on their way to education. It particularly concerns 1,600 “vulnerable”

girls, children of prostitutes, working girls, girls suffering from serious diseases such as HIV-AIDS, and girls with disabilities.

Good to know Namely last year, despite COVID-19 restrictions, the 97 girls who sat for their 5th grade exams scored between 40% and 90%, while 31 girls who sat for their 5th grade exams scored between 55% and 91%.



© Sandrine Assouline/Aide et Action



© Christine Redmond/Aide et Action

LAOS Women on the road to entrepreneurship

In Laos, 21% of women have no education (compared to 10% of men). In rural communities, marriage is often seen as the only future option for young girls. In order to change this mentality, Aide et Action is implementing

the “Women Entrepreneurs” programme, which offers multiple training courses to acquire skills, self-confidence and help them create their own businesses.

Good to know 22 women have already been trained during a pilot phase of the project in 2020. A total of 860 women aged between 15 and 35 will be accompanied and trained over the next 4 years.

Let's support women's education now



As we have seen in the dossier of this Magazine, ensuring women's access to quality education is an absolute necessity to guarantee their fundamental rights and enable them to be autonomous and emancipated citizens. This is why Aide et Action is launching «Education for Women Now», a global movement for women's education, on the occasion of March 8, 2022.

At the beginning of the 21st century, and after decades of mobilisation, women are those who suffer most from poverty, famine, unemployment and violence. They are now one of the most discriminated populations in the world and among the first to be affected in crisis and emergency situations. The COVID-19 pandemic was no exception. At the worst point in the crisis, in March 2020, school closures in almost every country deprived more than 767,000 girls of education (UNESCO estimate). During the months of lockdown that followed, they rarely had access to distance learning because of their limited digital resources. Today, it is estimated that between 11 and 20 million girls (UNESCO and Malala Funds estimates) may never return to school due to increased poverty as a result of the pandemic.



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A GLOBAL MOVEMENT FOR WOMEN

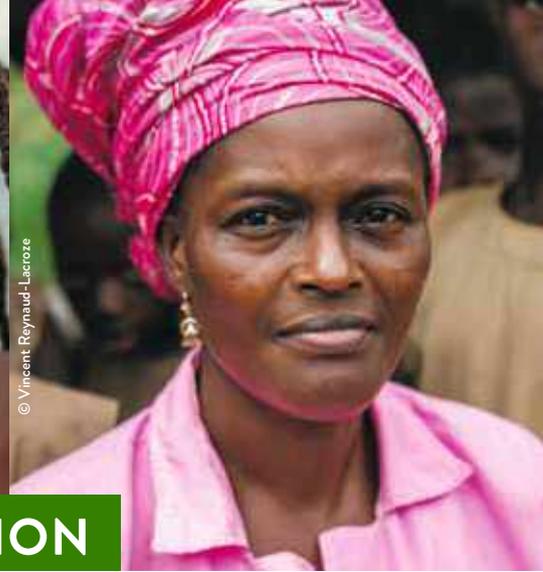
Faced with such a threat, Aide et Action, whose core mission is to support the most vulnerable populations, could not remain inactive. This is why, on this symbolic date of March 8, 2022, The International Day of Women's Rights, we are launching an unprecedented solidarity movement to support women's education in the world. With your support, we will carry out ten of our development programmes to

ensure that 3 million women have access to quality education by 2025. This will guarantee their fundamental rights, their emancipation and their economic and social integration into society. To achieve this simple but ambitious goal, we need your help. Help us stop inequalities that condemn millions of women to silence and poverty and support Education For Women Now! 🌱



Make a donation on <https://soutenir.aide-etaction.org/educationfor-women-now>





ACT WITH US FOR WOMEN'S EDUCATION

Building a fairer world will not happen without quality education for all!
Let's take action together to give tomorrow's women better opportunities for the future!

WITH A DONATION OF



you make it possible, for example, to **organise awareness programmes on safety and security** of women and girls in India.

WITH A DONATION OF



you make it possible, for example, **an annual scholarship** to a young girl in Laos so that she can continue her education instead of having to work.

WITH A DONATION OF



you make it possible, for example, **the purchase of a school kit** for two girls in Guinea.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MOBILISATION!

Last December, we alerted you to the threats that the economic, social, political and ecological crises pose to education and the future of entire generations. More than 1,500 donors got together to help us build strong and resilient education systems. We would like to sincerely thank you today. The 265,000 euros raised will allow us to better support vulnerable adults and children to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Aide et Action
Display the world through education

40
YEARS OF EDUCATION AND EDUCATION

LET CRISES NO LONGER SHAPE HIS FUTURE !

The severity of current crises is threatening the most vulnerable children, as well as the efforts we have been making for the past 40 years to give them access to quality education.

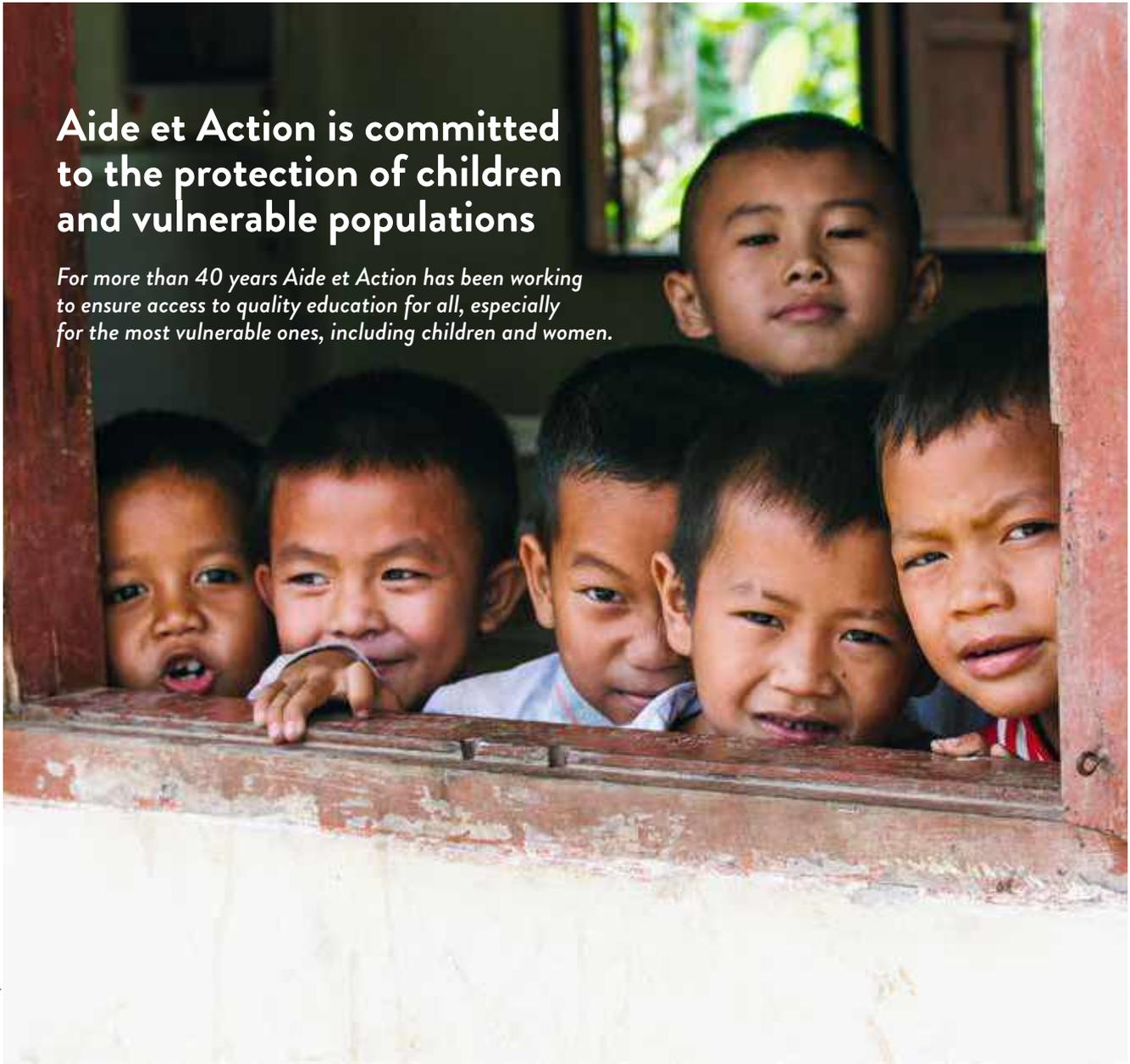
I DONATE

#EducationInDanger

Discover the video

Aide et Action is committed to the protection of children and vulnerable populations

For more than 40 years Aide et Action has been working to ensure access to quality education for all, especially for the most vulnerable ones, including children and women.



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In our direct and indirect actions, we make sure that we respect the rights of each and everyone of them, and guarantee security and protection to those we support. In order to put our commitments in a formal framework, in 2021 we adopted a charter that enables us to

protect children, but also vulnerable adults, community members and our partners against any form of violence, harm, physical or mental abuse, ill-treatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse. Within the framework of this charter, Aide et Action has put in place effective parameters to prevent exploitation

and abuse in our working relationships or in the framework of our partnerships. Additional procedures have also been adopted in the context of sponsorship, to ensure that there is no possibility of abuse or exploitation of children that are participating in this programme. 🍌

Arina BZHINAEV

“I was shocked by the fate of girls but more importantly by their determination to change things.”

Meeting with Arina BZHINAEV, Aide et Action’s International Philanthropy Officer, on her return from her first field trip to Benin and Togo.

“I have been working for Aide et Action for more than two years, but because of the pandemic, I was only able to go to Benin and Togo last December. I remember the beautiful faces of the children, women and men who welcomed me wherever I went. But behind these countless smiles, I discovered that terrible human dramas were often at play.

BEHIND THE SMILES ARE HUMAN DRAMAS

Poverty is everywhere and affects everyone. I saw entire schools in one room, covered with a thatched roof. Dozens of children of all levels were crammed in front of a teacher without any study materials. With a twinkle in their eyes, without even thinking of complaining, children explained to me that “*here, having a pen or a notebook is a luxury*”. As is access to water, washbasins and sanitary facilities. Because many schools do not have them. And yet the children are so happy to be at school, which is synonymous with escape. Yet what can they learn without equipment, toilets or a school canteen? The ones who suffer the most are girls. The first time they have their period, they don’t know what’s going on. They have to go to the teacher, often a man, tell him everything and ask for a piece of cloth that they tie around their hips to hide their stained clothes. Without

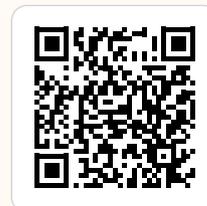


© Arina Bzhinaev

a latrine, they have no choice but to stay locked up in their homes. I never thought that such humiliation was still possible. I was moved by the plight of these girls, of course, but more importantly by their determination to change things. This only increased my motivation. I have understood the importance of our action, but I am now also aware that we must go further: to ensure that every girl, whatever her age, has access to quality education. I feel a duty to get more involved: on 3 April, I have therefore decided to run the Paris Marathon for Education For Women Now. It will be my first time, a sporting and mental challenge,

but I am motivated! 42km to run is not much compared to the difficulties faced by women in this world and yet it is enough to make everyone I meet aware of the need to take action now for the education of girls and women”.

To support Arina, flash the QR code over here :



EDUCATION
FOR **WOMEN**
NOW BY AIDE ET ACTION

Together, let's empower girls and women to learn, to stand up for their rights and to be the actors of their lives to build a sustainable and peaceful world.

**JOIN
THE MOVEMENT
TODAY**

To give them the power to take action tomorrow!



Make a donation at:

<https://soutenir.aide-et-action.org/educationfor-women-now/>