



Arise Fund Impact report

arise

Women leading
crisis response.

“ I’ve witnessed the work of many good and on the ground organisations first hand, through my roles as a senator, diplomat and civilian. ActionAid always impressed me as one of the best in the world. Genuinely changing and saving lives. ”

Natasha Stott Despoja AO
Arise Leadership Circle Member

Since
2017

 **15**
Countries we’ve worked in

 **174,731**
Women and girls Impacted

 **22,716**
Women and girls trained to prepare for and lead crisis response

 **\$2.9 million**
Funds raised

Australian Aid 

Gender Responsive Alternatives to Climate Change, Women leading peace, security and justice and the Shifting the Power Coalition projects are supported by the Australian Government and the Arise Fund.

Making change. Not waiting for it.

Supporting women on the frontlines of crisis has never been more pressing. Over the past year we’ve witnessed devastating famine, floods and fires, and now with a global pandemic spreading rapidly worldwide, women’s leadership is one of our greatest resources in the response. ActionAid established the Arise Fund to scale up women’s leadership, fundamentally shifting power by ensuring that women most affected are supported to prepare for and respond to crises. With your support we are getting closer to our goal of reaching one million women – so far we have raised over \$2.9 million, which has directly supported the leadership of 22,716 women in 15 countries. Together these inspiring women have impacted 174,731 lives affected by crisis – and we’re only getting started. We hope you will join us as we drive forward a humanitarian revolution.

Michelle Higelin, Executive Director, ActionAid Australia



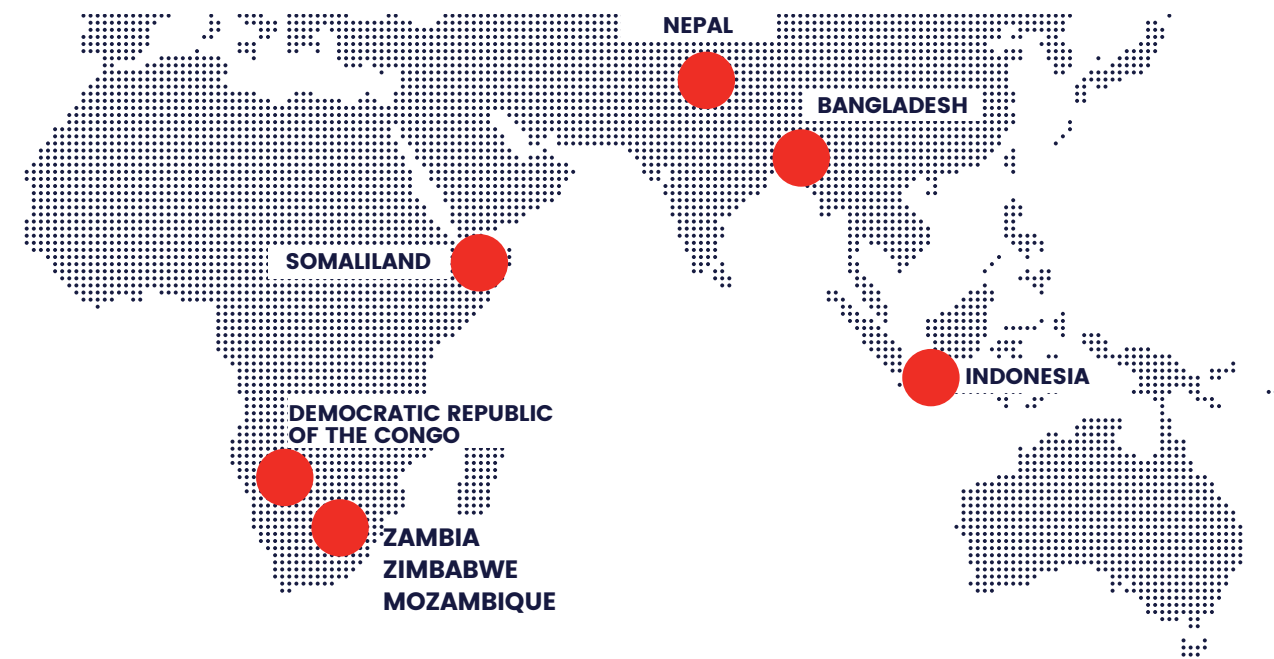
In July 2019, I had the privilege to sit with the women as part of Vanuatu’s first ever National Women’s Convening: Women’s Leadership in Humanitarian Action. After a 20 year career in international development, climate change policy, and philanthropy, for me the convening was a first as well. I had never seen an initiative that so effectively intersected so many critical issues – human rights, women’s leadership, climate resilience, disaster response. From Haiti and Kenya, to Nepal and Cambodia, the transformational impact of the Arise Fund, despite its newness, is already evident. I’m proud to support this work that is changing lives.

Kristina Stefanova – Arise Leadership Circle Chair



Rapid Response

When a crisis hits, we support women to lead the response so they can ensure the survival and safety of their communities and seize the opportunity for fundamental change.



- **2016** **HAITI**
Hurricane Matthew
- 2017** **SOMALILAND**
Drought
- 2017** **NEPAL**
Flooding and landslides
- 2018** **BANGLADESH**
Rohingya Refugee Crisis
- 2018** **INDONESIA**
Sulawesi Earthquake /Tsunami
- 2019** **DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO**
Kasai Conflict
- 2019** **ZAMBIA**
Southern Africa Food Crisis
- **2019** **ZIMBABWE & MOZAMBIQUE**
Cyclone Idai.



HAITI 2016 HURRICANE MATHEW

When Hurricane Matthew hit in October 2016, the Arise Fund resourced women to rapidly mobilise and lead the response. This was a significant shift in a country where women have previously been ignored or exploited by humanitarian actors. We supported:

- the establishment of 4 safe spaces for women in affected areas with private counselling for survivors of violence and safe access to water and toilets.
- delivery of hygiene kits to 16,970 people to stop the spread of waterborne diseases like cholera.
- cash grants to 1000 women to launch small businesses such as selling food or producing sanitary products to rebuild their livelihoods.
- reconstruction of a damaged cassava mill to restore work for 300 people.



SOMALILAND 2017 FOOD CRISIS

In 2017, with drought devastating the Horn of Africa, we supported women in this autonomous region of Somalia to lead in providing urgent relief, including:

- distributions of food and clean water to 2250 people. The community reported that putting women in charge of distribution created greater trust, and ensured vital items got through to the people who needed them most.
- distributions of dignity kits to 750 women, promoting the mobility and safety of women with appropriate clothes, torches and sanitary supplies.
- establishing safe spaces for women and facilitating protection training with women in the community which led to a significant reduction in rape and domestic violence cases.



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO 2018 KASAI CONFLICT

In the face of a fresh outbreak of conflict in the Kasai region that saw 1.3 million people displaced, ActionAid supported women to stay safe from violence. This involved:

- supporting 50 displaced women to identify key safety concerns and develop a plan to address these.
- establishing 5 women's groups to build a network of women who can support each other to both prepare for and respond to violence.
- resourcing each group with \$1050 USD to create a revolving credit fund for the women to invest in new ways of earning income such as selling and baking bread and cakes or making soap – a livelihood is critical for women to protect themselves from violence.



BANGLADESH 2018 ROHINGYA CRISIS

Amidst escalating attacks in 2017 on Rohingya people in Myanmar that caused close to 700,000 people to cross the border into Bangladesh, women faced unimaginable physical and sexual violence. ActionAid created space for women to come together to recover from trauma and identify their priorities for community recovery. Women identified safety and sanitation as key areas which led to:

- installing 8 tube wells and 15 toilet and shower blocks to provide clean water and hygiene for 4050 people.
- installing 155 solar streetlights – vital for women's safety at night.
- providing alternative fuels to 3900 families so they don't need to burn toxic wood to cook.
- training volunteers to provide day care to over 14,500 children, giving them a sense of normalcy and safety amidst the crisis, and enabling women to engage in camp management



Case study

Joyce Daniel Vanuatu

"When the cyclone start to hit us on 3 o'clock early morning, I have to run with the kids... to find a safe place. Then the wind come and take off our roof," Joyce recalls as she sits inside the shell of her former house in Lamnatu village, Central Tanna, Vanuatu.

When Cyclone Pam hit in 2015, it left widespread devastation in its wake. Women in some villages were excluded from the emergency response and so ActionAid established the Women I Tok Tok Tugeta forums across Vanuatu. The forums enable women to identify their own needs, and lead action plans to address the issues they face while also building connection and confidence among the now 4200 members.

"Before we have a group... I was lonely, by myself," Joyce explains, but as her confidence has grown, so has her determination to avoid future catastrophes. Joyce became President of the Tanna forum in 2017, and since then she has worked to ensure women are supported to lead the implementation of the disaster preparedness plans they have developed.

"We talk together that women have power... When we group together we can encourage us," Joyce declares.



Case study

Lilibeth Padaya the Philippines

When women are empowered to lead, emergencies can be catalysts for positive social change. This idea is embodied by Lilibeth, whose community of Basey, on Samar island in the Philippines, is regularly hit by typhoons. The opportunity to lead during the response to Typhoon Yolanda changed her life.

"Before, I just stayed at home, I didn't go outside... just like the usual 'expectations' for women," she recalls. "But thanks to Typhoon Yolanda, women were 'activated' and we felt the urge to do something... We were recognised that we can also lead and be part of the planning process in our barangay [local government area]... It was like I got a new life. I became a member of a women's association... I thought change must start from me."

ActionAid has supported the Palaypay Women's Association with training in women's rights and protection, and building their knowledge of how to prepare for disasters. Now as Vice President, Lilibeth is leading.

"If there's an upcoming typhoon here in our community, our women's association is the first one to patrol around... informing the community."

Preparedness

Through training in emergency preparedness, conflict resolution and community-based protection, Arise is preparing women to be ready for a crisis.

Women on the frontlines of climate change

Together, the Australian Aid Program and Arise are supporting a three-year investment in Cambodia, Kenya and Vanuatu to support women's leadership in responding to climate change and related disasters.

Cambodia

Climate related disasters are increasingly affecting Cambodia and it's vital to ensure that people are prepared. However, structural barriers often lock women out of decision-making arenas. This project supported women to learn how to prepare for and respond to the risks of climate change and take collective action to influence decision makers.

- 25 women were trained to lead their communities in disaster preparedness and response.
- These women leaders trained a further 6,152 in activities like food and water storage and planting drought-resistant crops.
- Perceptions about women are changing with local authorities reporting more women participating in public forums and fewer women reporting cases of domestic violence.
- Through the collective action of women leaders and other allies, the Cambodia National Committee for Disaster Management committed to developing Minimum Standards for Gender in Emergency Response in 2019/2020.

Kenya

Climate change in Kenya is causing a cycle of droughts and floods, destroying agricultural systems, forcing women and their families into deeper poverty and hunger. Through this work, women built their resilience to these crises and their ability to influence policy decisions that affect them.

- 101 women were trained to lead their communities in building resilience to disasters with strategies such as breeding drought-resistant chickens and planting kitchen gardens.
- These leaders worked with their communities to identify risks and develop response plans.
- With more food and income as a result of these responses, there has been a reduction in conflict over resources.
- Women influenced the county government to establish a committee to spearhead climate responses and appoint one of the women leaders.
- 100 girls were supported to escape early and forced marriages and female genital mutilation which increase in times of crisis,

Vanuatu

With rising sea levels and two category five cyclones in the last five years, Vanuatu is truly on the frontline of climate change. ActionAid has supported women to lead in preparing for and responding to the impacts of these disasters as well to influence the country's climate policies.

- 1110 women were trained as taskforce leaders on disaster preparedness and resilience, and in turn, trained 3000 women in their communities.
- These women are now using strategies such as altering crop planting to suit drought and flood predictions and identifying safety points to prepare for future disasters.
- Taskforce leaders established Women's Weather Watch, an SMS communication system that allows local women to get updates on dangerous weather and report their needs in a crisis.
- These women have also been trained in advocacy and are seeing gains from engaging local leaders. In one village, a chief agreed to install water tanks to increase water security.

Shifting the Power Coalition

The Pacific

In the Pacific, where rates of women's participation in decision making are the lowest in the world, humanitarian responses have been male dominated and have undermined women's rights and priorities. With support from Arise, ActionAid worked with women's organisations in the region to establish the Shifting the Power Coalition to support women to lead emergency response and take power into their own hands.

- This coalition is the first of its kind and uplifts diverse women's voices, particularly women who are young or living with disability who struggle to be heard.
- 23 women leaders from 6 countries, including 10 young women and 2 with disability have been trained to support women's leadership and disability inclusion in humanitarian action.
- Coalition members have influenced disaster planning and policies in the region, ensuring they are gender responsive and are now part of regional mechanisms for responding to disasters.
- The coalition also supports members with small emergency grants that have enabled women to respond to deadly measles outbreak in Samoa and a recent cyclone in Fiji.

Women leading peace, security and justice

Kenya & Uganda

We know that during crises, whether caused by climate or conflict, rates of violence and abuse of women rise significantly. In communities that face enduring conflict, women face violence on an ongoing basis which is why through Arise, ActionAid is resourcing women to keep themselves and their communities safe. Women's leadership in crisis has resulted in the following initiatives that respond to their protection needs:

- In Kenya, 632 women have identified their safety concerns, such as long distances to fetch water, and established plans to address them.
- This led to the establishment of the Kishushe Women's Protection Centre providing 500 women in the area with a safe haven for counselling and temporary shelter.
- In northern Uganda, where communities are recovering from conflict, women led a campaign for an alcohol control law that is now in place and reducing violence.
- Mobile legal aids clinics were also established for 582 women which have enabled 43 women to regain their land rights among other outcomes.



Partnership

About ActionAid

ActionAid represents a global movement of people fighting for women's rights, social justice and an end to poverty. Acknowledging that women are disproportionately affected by disasters but rarely included in leadership, 10 years ago ActionAid pioneered the first women-led emergency response initiative and has been using this approach in local communities around the globe ever since. The Arise Fund was established in 2017 to scale up this work and support women on the frontlines of crisis response.

About the Arise Fund

Arise turns traditional crisis response on its head by putting women at the heart of the response. Our goal is twofold. Through support in emergency preparedness, conflict resolution training, and community-based protection programs, we are preparing women before disaster strikes. In times of crisis, we provide rapid response funding to ensure women and their organisations are resourced to lead when they need it most.

Arise Leadership Circle

The Arise Leadership Circle is a group of incredible women leaders who are committed to transformational change for women across the world.

Angela Priestley

Founding Editor,
Women's Agenda

Carole Brownlee

Chief Operating Officer,
Roadshow Group of Companies

Evie Bruce

Managing Partner,
King & Wood Mallesons

Kristina Stefanova (Chair)

Co-Founder, Bundaleer
Sustainable Investments

Natasha Stott Despoja AO

Founding Chairperson,
Our Watch

Robyn Nixon

General Manager,
Intrepid Foundation

Sally Garis

Consultant,
Social Ventures Australia

Sarah Morton-Ramwell

Partner and Global Head
of Pro Bono and Corporate
Responsibility, Ashurst

Shivani Gopal

Founder and CEO,
The Remarkable Woman

Tiffany Leece

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