

TALKING ACTION

Together we empower women and change the world.

We're so grateful for your commitment to placing women's needs and voices at the centre of crisis response.

Together we're reducing the risk of violence against women in emergencies and ensuring communities are better prepared for the future.

Thank you for empowering women on the frontlines of injustice.



Women are leading the crisis response in Tonga

On 15 January, a volcano off the coast of Tonga erupted – sending an ash cloud 18km into the sky and tsunami waves that devastated the nation's largest island, Tongatapu.

Thanks to our supporters, ActionAid has been working in Tonga since 2016 training local women like Vanessa from our partner organisation, the Talitha Project to become first responders in an emergency. When the disaster struck, local women provided water, masks, and clothing to vulnerable families fleeing for safety. Now they're providing psychosocial counselling to those recovering from trauma and loss.

"I am not easily scared, I am a strong woman, a leader but what happened that day really tested our level of resilience" said Vanessa Heleta, Executive Director of the Talitha Project.

Because of your support, Vanessa was able to get her daughter, 9-year-old niece and elderly neighbours to safety.

"We are thankful to be alive, but there is a long way to recover" she added.

Thank you for your support which allows us to build women's capacity to lead in emergencies and keep their communities safe during a crisis and long into the future.



Devastation following eruption of Hunga Tonga Hunga Ha'apai volcano.



250,000
people displaced

80%
are women
and children

Our donors have supported so many displaced Afghan families – thank you.

An update from Afghanistan

Last August, a devastating humanitarian crisis unfolded on the streets of Afghanistan. As tensions escalated across the country, thousands of families were forced to flee their homes and arrived in overcrowded cities with nothing more than the clothes on their back.

We know that when a disaster strikes, women and children are the worst affected and in Afghanistan they accounted for approximately 80 percent of the 250,000 people displaced between May and August.

Thanks to incredible supporters like you, ActionAid has been working in Afghanistan for over twenty years to combat the ongoing impacts of conflict, food insecurity, drought, and now COVID-19. That's why, when the Afghan people needed us most last year, we were ready to respond.

It is thanks to your support that our local partners are delivering humanitarian relief in five provinces, including Herat, Kabul, Nangarhar, Ghor and Balkh. We've reached 70,000 displaced people with emergency grants for food and essential items.

We can't thank you enough for your immediate action last year and for supporting our Afghanistan response.



70,000
people and
counting reached
with emergency
cash grants and
hygiene kits



ActionAid is
working in
5 provinces



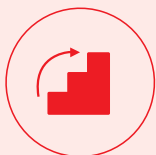
2021 OUR STRONGEST YEAR YET

In November, our community stepped up in solidarity with strong women around the world to help end gender-based violence.

Thank you to everyone who raised funds to support protection shelters in countries like Uganda and Bangladesh, where violence against women has increased since the outbreak of COVID-19.



941
challengers



137
step-ups



\$85,663
raised



Strong women challengers stepping up last year!

Don't miss your chance to get involved later this year!

“With 137 women killed every day by a partner or family member, I want to ensure that I contribute my time and fundraising efforts to create awareness of this horrifying statistic. ActionAid Australia is one of my favourite charities and doing the Strong Women Challenge enabled me to get in extra steps and to contribute to change.”

– Katherine, a Strong Women Challenge top fundraiser



More power to her elbow

Meet life-long supporter Cathy Miller who shares why she is so committed to ActionAid's work.

I have been supporting ActionAid with a monthly gift for twenty-two years. It has been a pleasure to do so and I'd like to explain why.

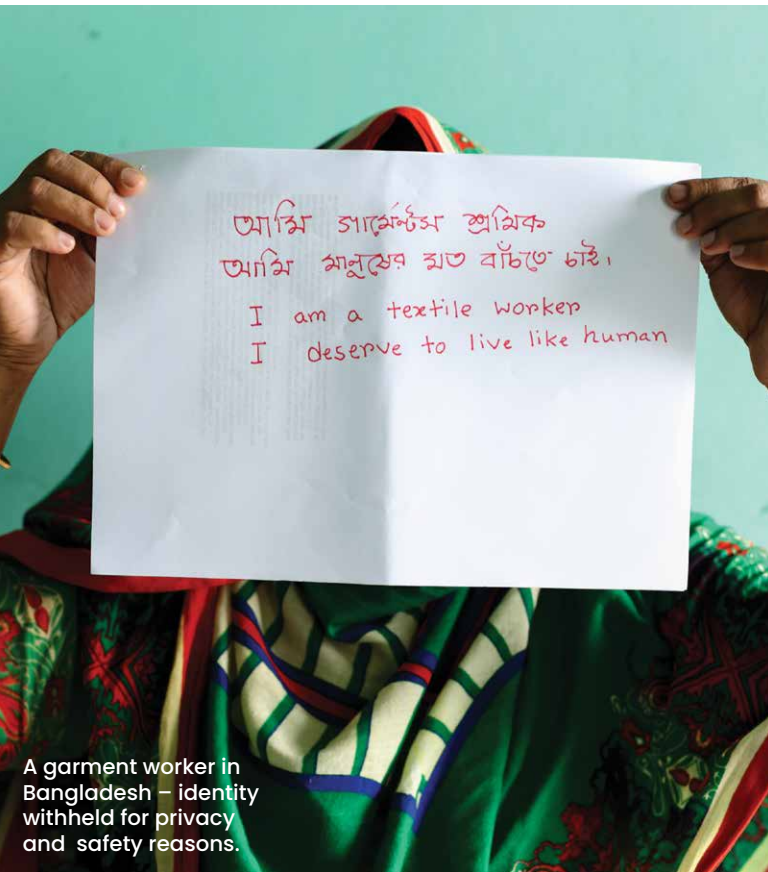
I have felt part of a community. A community of giving here in Australia – but also part of the community in areas where ActionAid works.

Through updates and newsletters, I have seen my regular gift impact individuals, villages and whole regions through the broad range of work which I have funded. Giving monthly was sustainable over my whole working life and has had real impact on so many.

ActionAid's focus on women's empowerment has enabled me to be part of real-world change. The fact that I have given on a regular basis will see growth in women's rights for decades to come.

I have recently retired and sadly will no longer be able to give in this way. A lifetime of support will not end however – I have included a gift to ActionAid in my Will. I wish ActionAid 'more power to their elbow' and encourage those who want to see real change to make a regular gift which will assist in so many ways.

If you would like to make a monthly gift or leave a gift in your Will please call David Taylor (Regular Giving and Bequests Manager) on (02) 9565 9111 or email david.taylor@actionaid.org



A garment worker in Bangladesh – identity withheld for privacy and safety reasons.

She Wears the Cost

Last year you got behind our 'She Wears the Cost' campaign to demand better wages, working conditions and protection from violence against women garment workers in Bangladesh and Cambodia.

With your help we're campaigning alongside workers like Channa, who lost her job when COVID-19 hit the Cambodian fashion industry. Despite producing for profitable brands like Nike, Channa and her colleagues are still fighting for the wages they are owed.

Since the launch of our campaign, 10,000 people have joined the call to demand that Nike pays up! A huge thank you to all our supporters for standing in solidarity with garment workers!

Last year the International Accord was developed to improve working conditions across the garment industry. Thanks to your efforts, Australian brands including the Just Group, CottonOn and Country Road have recently signed onto the Accord.

This is big news! Thanks to you, more Australian brands have committed to protecting the health and safety of their factory workers!

Your ongoing support is crucial as we continue to engage Australian brands Best & Less and The Iconic, so that they too will uphold the rights of the women who make their clothes.

COVID-19 report

Last year your support helped us to:



INDIA

Reach 1,116,656 people with COVID-19 relief including accurate health information, psychosocial support, oxygen concentrators and food and hygiene kits.



VANUATU

Train 41 women leaders and provide the technology to send 77,000 SMS messages with COVID-19 health information. From February 2021, women leaders sent 2 to 3 bulk SMS texts every month reaching over 42% of the entire population of Vanuatu.



BANGLADESH

Create nine women's safe spaces providing psychosocial support and training in stitching and sewing. We supported 3,700 Rohingya women to sew masks for their families and to sell for an income. 10,000 hygiene kits were also distributed to promote women's health and dignity.

Thank you for supporting women and their communities through the pandemic.

Celebrating the women building a better tomorrow

At ActionAid, we celebrate women's achievements every day, but on 8 March we joined the rest of the world in recognising International Women's Day!

This year's theme was 'Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow'. We spoke to an inspiring young leader, Lucille, to hear how she's advancing gender equality and climate justice through her work in the Pacific Young Women and Climate Change Project (PYWCC).

Q: How did you come to be involved in the project?

A: *Growing up in a rural community [in Fiji], I experienced the continual and visible impacts of climate change with sea levels rising and erosion of our coastal villages. This motivated me to become a climate change activist. But my key inspirations are my late grandmother and mother, who were prominent women leaders in their districts. I want to continue the work that they started.*

Q: Could you tell us a bit about the goals of the PYWCC project in Fiji?

A: *The Pacific Young Women and Climate Change Project is a feminist humanitarian network working together to support women-led responses to health and climate change crises.*

Q: What are the benefits you've seen from mobilising women's leadership on climate change issues in your community?

A: *One of the significant benefits is gender empowerment. Engaging with diverse young women who can mobilise together broadens our views, perspectives and approaches to climate change. The PYWCC workshops have revealed our resilience when it comes to managing crises and disasters. We can help our communities in preparedness and response because of the learning spaces that have been provided by [ActionAid partner] Shifting the Power Coalition.*

Q: Can you share any inspiration from your mother or grandmother around advocating for women's rights?

A: *To keep sharing your issues, to keep speaking about it, to never stop even if it is the same thing that you are talking about. You keep talking about it, even if it takes years. Keep talking about it because it will create change. It may be slowly, but surely.*

The Pacific Young Women and Climate Change is funded by ActionAid Australia and DFAT and co-ordinated by our local partners; the Shifting the Power Coalition.



Together we're helping to break the cycle of violence

After witnessing a surge in family violence during the pandemic, we asked wonderful donors like you to support the women breaking the cycle of violence in their communities. Your generosity couldn't have come at a better time.

The impact you've had:

- More women escaping violence can access safety, skills training and psychosocial support at ActionAid's protection shelters.
- Women leaders can attend vital training sessions where they can learn to understand and defend their rights.
- Most importantly, women leaders around the world can come together to build a safer future for the next generation to thrive.



Thank you for supporting Florence and her adopted family.



\$132,000

Last Christmas you helped raise over \$130,000 to support women breaking the cycle of violence

THANK YOU

Your support continues to change the world!

