

TALKING ACTION

Together we empower women and change the world.

THANK YOU – you contributed an amazing \$314,604 (to date) to our June appeal!

We're so grateful for your commitment to supporting women and providing them with the tools they need to rebuild their futures from the ground up.

Together we're empowering women to raise their voice, know their rights and challenge injustices in their community.



Ni-Vanuatu women breaking new ground

Thanks to your generosity, the women of the 'Women I Tok Tok Tugeta' (WITTT) Network in Vanuatu have established the first new Economic Hub in East Efate. 'Mama's Poultry Farm' launched in August; owned and run by local women, the new Economic Hub will become the cornerstone of women's economic livelihoods in East Efate.

The whole community, Chief and local government officials gathered to celebrate the achievements of the 'Women I Tok Tok Tugeta' network, and within minutes of opening the first batch of eggs was sold out!

"It takes a whole village to believe in us as women so that we can bring this vision to life. We dreamt it and envisioned it, but you all made it happen" said Flora Vano, Country Manager of ActionAid Vanuatu.

Housing 514 chickens, the project will support women's economic empowerment in communities across Efate province. Thanks to your support, the Hub will provide women with stability by providing access to sufficient food and an income for their families.

"It is amazing to see the fruition of ActionAid's work in Vanuatu and how much it has grown over these last few years, particularly the new element of supporting women's economic empowerment" said Executive Director of ActionAid Australia, Michelle Higelin.



Eggs from the poultry farm Economic Hub



Update from Ukraine

It's been more than six months since Russian armed forces entered Ukraine on the 24th February 2022. In that time, millions of Ukrainian families have been forced to flee their homes, leaving behind loved ones, livelihoods and almost everything they own.

Over 13 million people have been displaced by the ongoing war, and the vast majority of refugees are made up of women and children. Having already fled from violence in their hometowns, displaced women were confronted with new risks as they sought refuge.

Thankfully, your generous support reached over 100,000 women refugees who fled Ukraine,



6.4 million
refugees from
Ukraine recorded
across Europe

6.6 million
displaced people
in Ukraine

protecting them from human trafficking, exploitation and gender-based violence. ActionAid has been working with 22 local partners in Poland, Hungary, Romania and Moldova to provide emergency relief, dignity kits, trauma counselling and safe spaces for vulnerable women displaced by the war.



Carol Angir ActionAid
Australia's Deputy
Head of Programs:
Humanitarian Manager

In June, Carol Angir was deployed to Romania and Moldova as part of ActionAid's emergency response team and had the opportunity to work together with humanitarian organisations and women's rights organisations about their protection strategies and crisis responses.

Carol also offered her support to Ukrainian women refugees, hearing heart-breaking firsthand accounts about their journeys and their concerns around safety, security and dignity.

"When people talk about resolving conflict, they talk about arms, they talk about military, they talk about power and they talk about money. The women's agenda gets brought very late to the table. We have the capability to link those women and organisations to the right structures and raise funding to support them – and that's exactly what we did."

We cannot thank you enough for supporting this emergency response, and for helping the women who were forced to leave their homes behind in search of safety.

Horn of Africa
Displaced
Persons Camp



ActionAid
safe space
established
last year



Horn of Africa crisis continues

The Horn of Africa is facing its worst drought in forty years, and out of it, a major hunger crisis has unfolded.

Consecutive failed rainy seasons have led to withering crops and dying livestock – leaving families with little to no source of income. Most of the countries previously relied on imports from Ukraine – now that imports are blocked, prices have risen by up to 400%

We heard from Hibo (ActionAid Women's Rights Officer): "One of our communities receives a lot of internal displacement from other regions. Although this village is short of resources...they give one month of food to the communities who migrate there. Even if after that one month, both communities will face difficulty, they want to make sure that those people are not dying in front of them."

With the incredible support of people like you, ActionAid has already been addressing the ongoing drought in Somaliland over the past three years. The women-led crisis response has focused on the promotion of women's rights and the protection of women against gender-based violence and exploitation.

In Somaliland, ActionAid manages a network consisting of 85 women's coalitions, 25 safe spaces, and 30 self-help groups. In these spaces, women hold meetings, raise awareness and monitor the situations of other vulnerable women in the community.

Thank you for helping make these steps forward a reality. Right now, we are scaling-up our response to the crisis. As the situation becomes more severe, there is an urgent need for solidarity with those vulnerable in the Horn of Africa.

World Womanitarian Day!

Celebrating the women who lead their communities through crises

Whenever and wherever there is a crisis, people will come together to help each other. Crucially, the first to do so are others affected, then emergency services – then wonderful individuals like you who support from afar – as this year's World Humanitarian Day's theme emphasises – "it truly takes a village".

This World Humanitarian Day at ActionAid, we celebrated the collective efforts of women around the world in responding to humanitarian crises.

Thanks to your support we've:



Trained more than 30,000 women to prepare for disasters and protect their rights in emergencies.



Supported localised women-led humanitarian responses in Tonga, the Horn of Africa and Ukraine.



Launched the first World Humanitarian Day Womanitarian awards in Vanuatu to celebrate the local women who have led their communities through consecutive crises this year.

It truly does take a village, and it is thanks to you that women are empowered and can lead in times of crisis.

A lifetime of commitment – and beyond



Maxine Shephard,
ActionAid supporter
extraordinaire!

We are proud to introduce Maxine Shephard, a long-term Regular Donor to ActionAid Australia and her fascinating story.

In 1957 I travelled with a group of Girl Guides to the UK to attend a World Camp in Windsor Great Park. This started a life interest in travel which I hope to resume soon with a return trip to the UK & Europe. I have been interested in the world and its people since I was a small girl. My father was an amateur radio operator of some renown and the 'QSL cards' he received from other 'hams' brought me stamps from around the world and sparked my interest in many different countries from a young age.

I started my working life as a lab assistant in Adelaide at the institution now known as SA Pathology. I later worked in my home town for the SA Education Department for 28 years. My role included administrative work and providing classroom support for children with learning difficulties. As a young woman I hosted awareness raising groups about the work of Austcare and the programs they provided in various parts of the world. This led to participation in fundraising door-knocks around my neighbourhood and an ongoing interest in other cultures and societies.

Colonial history in so many countries records the exploitation of their inhabitants and resources, denying them their customs and traditional lifestyle and consigning them to a life of poverty and of subsistence existence.

I love ActionAid because they relate to the people they support. They help them to determine what

they need for themselves. This was particularly noticeable in the recent Vanuatu appeal where the women have been encouraged and inspired to find many and varied solutions to improve their lives and to provide an income for the future of their families.

ActionAid teaches women in particular, how to advocate for themselves, how to support one another in gaining an education for their children, in expecting decent healthcare and political fairness in their dealings with authorities within their cultural structure. ActionAid teaches women and girls how to do that without being heavy-handed and by respecting their traditional values.

My particular interests are in India, where I worked in a hospital for 6 months and where I still have friends; and Africa, where my friends there have now immigrated to Australia. I hate to see people exploited anywhere and I am a strong advocate for social justice. I have family connections to disability and so I am particularly interested in how people with disabilities are treated in other countries.

I was asked why I give to ActionAid – my answer was "Why not?" Sometimes in Australia we take so much for granted and don't see ourselves as privileged, when compared to other parts of the world. But, of course we are, and it's why I continue to support ActionAid.

I have now been supporting ActionAid/Austcare for 31 years and after I have provided for my family, I know that the most significant gift I make can be one that I leave in my will. Please consider doing the same so that ActionAid can continue its unique work.

As Maxine says, a Gift in your Will is the single most effective way to support an organisation like ActionAid Australia. Please indicate on the enclosed survey if you would like more information. Thank you.

Many people express an interest in doing so but never get around to it. ActionAid has recently partnered with 'Safewill'; a secure and cost-effective way to ensure that all of your wishes are honoured. Every Safewill will is vetted by specialist lawyers and removes the doubt of do-it-yourself will kits. A Gift in your Will can empower women and change the world.

Please visit www.safewill.com/actionaid for further details.

“Let’s step it up!”

Together we’re ending violence against women

In Indonesia, violence against women has long been considered a deeply private matter, and consequently women struggle to access justice. With your generous support, ActionAid is working with local women on the ground to change this.

We’ve trained 76 women in Banten province on how to support those escaping violence, and as a result, women like Mimin have become strong and tireless advocates for women impacted by gender-based violence.

“Since there has been education on how to help survivors of violence against women and children, cases of violence are decreasing because there are clear procedures to protect the survivors and take action against the perpetrators.” explained Mimin.

Thank you for empowering women like Mimin to become driving forces for change in their community!

This October across Australia, people will be taking part in ActionAid’s Strong Women Challenge and stepping up to support survivors of domestic violence and raising funds to end violence against women in countries like Uganda, Bangladesh, and Vanuatu.

Will you challenge yourself this October?

Commit to doing 137 step ups every day for a week and raise funds to end violence against women.



137 women die as a result of gender-based violence EVERY day. To learn more and signup, scan the QR code or visit strongwomenchallenge.org



Impacting women’s rights around the world

Across the globe your support has helped us to:



UGANDA

Support women to secure full ownership of their land. We’ve trained 80 paralegals and 450 Reflect Action Group members on women’s land rights, and 30 women peace ambassadors on land governance and land justice.



PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND BOUGAINVILLE

Empower women in Papua New Guinea and Bougainville to use the power of technology to fight COVID-19 misinformation. We’ve reached more than 1.2 million people in PNG and Bougainville with SMS on COVID-19 prevention and human rights messages.



PHILIPPINES

Provide over 2000 women in 15 provinces with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and hygiene kits, and train 19 rural women leaders on the impacts of multiple emergencies like COVID-19 and typhoons.

Nothing ever changed without action

While we prefer not to include an appeal with our newsletters, we have received feedback from many who would still like to make a gift at this time. We appreciate your generosity so please accept our newsletter as a thank you but for those of you who would like to give, we have included a gift form for your use. Thank you.

THANK YOU
Your support continues
to change the world!



Our Ambassador
Comedian Claire Hooper
in Vanuatu last month