

TALKING ACTION

Together we empower women and change the world.

We are so grateful to supporters like you, who have contributed an incredible \$139,754 to our Christmas appeal.

Thank you for your commitment to supporting women on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

Together, we are creating a more sustainable and equitable world where all women can thrive.



Women are hungry for change

How your generosity is making a difference in women's lives.

This Christmas, the ActionAid community stood alongside women like Varou (pictured, middle), an ActionAid Women's Champion who is tackling the impacts of climate change in her community in Cambodia. Thanks to your generous support, Varou is now educating the next generation of farmers about new livelihoods that are less likely to be impacted by climate change. Around Cambodia, ActionAid Women Champions are working to set up early warning systems and plant mangroves to form a protective barrier to protect themselves from flooding.

You've also supported women like Chepnarewo in Kenya to get improved access to water. Now, Chepnarewo will not have to relocate her family and leave all she has behind – like so many of her neighbours. By contributing to our Christmas Appeal, you've supported 63 Village Savings and Loan Associations in Kenya, which are now working with local women to build resilient livelihoods and practice climate-resilient agricultural techniques.

The generosity you showed at Christmas has enabled these transformational programs to continue.

Such programs are central to ActionAid's focus on resilience and prevention. It also means that the women who lead them are heard in their community and addresses the root causes of inequality.

Thank you - you are changing the world!



Varou (middle) planting mangroves

It's a huge win!

Your voice was heard at COP27

We won! After decades of tireless advocacy from developing nations, civil society and environmental advocates at the annual global climate change conference (COP27), it was finally agreed to establish a funding facility for climate-induced 'Loss and Damage'. This ground-breaking fund will support women and communities to rebuild and recover after climate disasters.

Flora Vano, ActionAid Vanuatu Country Manager, attended COP27 where she amplified the voices and demands of Ni-Vanuatu women, who are some of the worst affected by climate change. In

Vanuatu, communities are experiencing multiple climate disasters a month and it is women who are disproportionately impacted.

Flora joined ActionAid staff from across the world in advocating for the establishment of a Loss and Damage Finance Fund and the phasing out of fossil fuels.

"The people of Vanuatu have been raising the issue of climate-induced loss and damage for decades, and to finally see rich nations deliver is a testament to the tireless advocacy of Pacific women and their communities. We must now turn our attention towards ensuring that Pacific women and girls, who are the most impacted by climate disasters, can access much-needed funds when a disaster strikes."



– Flora Vano
Country Manager
ActionAid Vanuatu



This massive win has been made possible with the ongoing commitment of ActionAid supporters like you.

Your support helped more women with disabilities have their voices heard

All around the world, women with disability face significantly higher rates of poverty and danger than others. They experience intersecting stigma and exclusion due to both their gender and their disability.

In countries experiencing economic downturn, violence and conflict, women with disability are facing crisis levels of danger and exclusion. Denied their right to support, they often lack even basic mobility aids like crutches or wheelchairs, leaving them exposed to attack because they can't escape.

Women with disability have told us that being unable to move around or take part in community activities means they struggle to make enough money even to feed themselves or their children.

Women with disability want to look after their families and provide for their children just like any other parent. However, they are frequently excluded from economic opportunities and left with no choice but to rely on others for support. It's not only physically difficult, but also humiliating for such strong and proud women to have to ask family members or neighbours to look after them.

In times of crisis and conflict, women with disability also face more danger because they lack the mobility to escape. In a violent attack on her village, Jane from Kenya – who uses crutches to get around – was unable to follow her family to safety, and left to survive alone until they were able to return for her.

Despite her terrifying ordeal, Jane was able to regain her dignity and independence with the help of ActionAid supporters like you, who provided her with training as a market gardener. As well as financial empowerment, Jane says her ActionAid training has given her the priceless ability to live in dignity and independence:

"I can now make money from selling my organic vegetables. The one special thing I learned is that a person with disability like me can be independent too, and earn a living without waiting upon my relatives and friends."

Everywhere we work, ActionAid is listening to the needs of women with disability and making sure that their voices are heard – both in getting the practical support they are entitled to, and in taking part in decision making in their communities.

None of this vital work would be possible without ActionAid supporters like you. So thank you! If you would like to support work in this crucial area, please scan the QR code here:

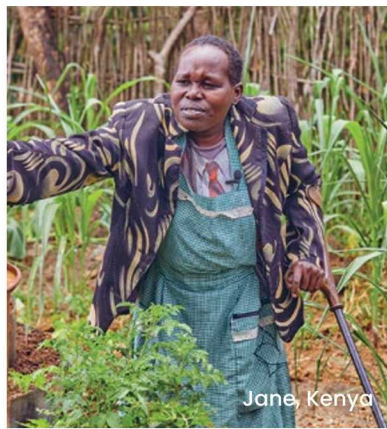




Participants
of WITT
Sunshine,
Vanuatu



Nellie, Vanuatu

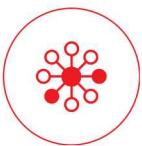


Jane, Kenya

Here are just a few examples of ActionAid projects that put women with disability in charge of their own lives:



In **Bangladesh**, women with disability (some of whom were injured in the collapse of the Rana Plaza clothing factory in 2013) come together in ActionAid 'workers cafes' to support one another and learn the skills they need to look for employment;



In **Vanuatu**, over 400 women with disability, supported by ActionAid, have formed their own organisation to advocate for their rights. They meet in a safe and accessible space to discuss their needs and build their leadership skills;



In **Uganda**, women with disability have been trained by ActionAid in their legal rights, including the right to own land, the right to government support, and the right to justice after experiencing violence.

Your impact in action

Thanks to your ongoing support, last year ActionAid worked alongside women and girls in 15 countries to lead in times of crisis, build their economic resilience and respond to the climate crisis.



THE PACIFIC

You supported 189 women from six Pacific Island Nations through the Shifting the Power Coalition to participate in trainings on preparing for and responding to natural disasters, including cyclones, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions.



CAMBODIA

You established two Women Champions Networks in Pursat and Kampot Province. Women Champions in the network are now advocating for the rights of women and girls to be included in community natural disaster response planning.



INDONESIA

You strengthened the capacity of 199 Women like Ade 'Focal Points' to respond to disaster, provide domestic violence support and build their economic independence. These women use their new knowledge to benefit their whole communities.



Displaced persons accommodation

Thank you for standing with the people of Ukraine

A year after Russia invaded Ukraine, displacing millions of Ukrainian families from their homes, women and children continue to face unique threats to their safety and wellbeing.

Atria Mier, a senior emergency manager and specialist on women’s issues, who worked in Moldova, Romania and Ukraine last year said:

“The fact that most asylum seekers are women and children also means a high risk of sexual exploitation and abuse. Survivors will need all kinds of support, starting with community-based psychosocial support, legal aid, health

services, shelter and cash transfers or livelihood opportunities.”

Thanks to your generous support, ActionAid has worked with more than 40 partners **to provide support to over 1,000,000 displaced people in Poland, Romania, Moldova, and Ukraine.** The response is providing immediate humanitarian relief, including cash grants and food packages; helping prevent gender-based violence and trafficking; providing trauma counselling support; and strengthening the leadership of women and young people in crisis.

Today, your support is helping us provide vital access to gender-based violence support and protection services for women and girls displaced by this ongoing crisis.

Your gifts in action:

Poland

In Poland, ActionAid is working with 17 partners to support Ukrainian refugees and meet their everyday needs. Thanks to your contributions, we’ve worked with Polish Humanitarian Action (PHA) to establish a large-scale humanitarian assistance program, providing financial support to female-headed households and single women so they can meet the needs of their families.



Romania

In Romania, ActionAid works with 11 partners who are supporting women, children and other marginalised groups to prevent trafficking, exploitation and gender-based violence. With your support, we’ve been able to work with a local women-led organisation, eLiberare, to reach more than 100,000 people vulnerable to exploitation and trafficking.

You’ve also helped us to:



Support 600 women to access gender-based violence



Support 78,121 women to access protection services



Reach 103,956 people with essential supplies including food assistance



Provide 10,595 people with cash support so they can meet the needs of their families

A first-hand experience in Vanuatu: Ambassador Spotlight

ActionAid Vanuatu was established in 2015 after Cyclone Pam devastated communities across the Pacific Island nation and local women's voices were notably absent from the crisis response.

In the last seven years, ActionAid has established the Women I Tok Tok Tugeta (WITTT), a Ni-Vanuatu women-run network that supports local women to prepare for and respond to disasters. In August, Claire Hooper, Comedian and ActionAid Ambassador for 10 years, visited Vanuatu with the ActionAid Australia is a passionate and dedicated supporter of ActionAid's work.

I was nervous ahead of the trip to Vanuatu. I felt like an imposter and planned to just keep out of the way and quietly observe. Until now I'd just supported ActionAid in 'easy' ways. I'd host a comedy fundraiser here, drop into an online event there. I've even boldly claimed the title of Ambassador. But any deeper contribution has just seemed too hard, given I'm juggling a fulltime job and a young family.

From the minute I met the women of the Women I Tok Tok Tugeta Network it was clear there would be no 'quietly observing'. Every gathering began with dancing and singing and participation was

pretty much compulsory. I don't even dance at weddings, but there I was, clapping along.

I met delegates from many of the islands and heard how much they'd achieved in just seven years. The network reaches over 5000 women across 7 islands supporting women-led responses to natural disasters and COVID-19. The network also supports women's economic livelihoods and has established 10 Economic Hubs across 7 islands.

I also visited the opening of 'Mama's Poultry Farm' in East Efate – a new economic hub owned and run by the women. The whole community gathered to celebrate and I got to dig a hole for a coconut palm, which was the sum total of my contribution all week.

I wish I had room here for all the stories I heard. Sad and funny, enraging and inspiring. But here are some names. Flora, Helen, Rosalie and Lizzie. Janet and Esther. Mowkra. Dora. And so many more. And many of them also juggling a fulltime job and a young family. Just like me! Except they didn't let that stop them from adding a little more to their plate – just a spot of fighting for gender equality and economic justice, if you don't mind.

After a decade of donating to ActionAid and helping with fundraising events, I couldn't have felt more proud to see how much that money achieves in the right hands.



THANK YOU

Your support continues to change the world!