

TALKING ACTION

Together we empower women and change the world.

This festive season, ActionAid supporters stepped up to support women on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

You donated over \$94,000 from our appeal to support women living through disasters like floods, droughts and cyclones.

Together, we are helping women not just survive, but thrive as strong leaders in emergencies.



You're standing beside women leaders in climate emergencies

In Kenya, women like Abigail are no strangers to drought caused by climate change.

Without rain the crops are burnt to a crisp by the sun, and life becomes almost unbearable.

By joining an ActionAid Village Savings and Loan Association, Abigail (pictured below) has learnt cutting-edge climate-resilient farming methods. Thanks to supporters like you, she now has a thriving kitchen garden and is so proud of what she has built for herself and her family in the face of an unprecedented climate disaster.

In Vanuatu, women are exposed to increasingly frequent cyclones and emergencies caused by climate change. To make things worse, they are often left out of decision making and are excluded in times of crisis.

But things are changing. Your generous support has enabled women in Vanuatu to build resilience to climate change through the powerful network called 'Women Talk Together'. This women's network empowers women to adapt to the impacts of climate change, share information, build their collective power and independence.

Dalila, a member, says, "ActionAid has trained us to be resilient and stand up for ourselves, and to do something on our own. I want to see a transformation in every woman in Tanna."

Thank you – you are changing the world!



Abigail at her home in Tangelbei, Baringo County

Women in Ukraine, two years on

“Many people say that women are weak. I don’t agree that we are weak; I think we are very strong. But it is women who need support – pensioners, children ... I think that during the war they get less attention than others.”

– Natalia, ActionAid volunteer, Ukraine

It’s been two years since Russian forces invaded Ukraine. Life changed forever for millions of women as they were forced to flee their homes. Today, as the war shows no signs of ending, women and girls who have been displaced by the conflict still need our help to uphold their leadership, dignity and rights.

The Ukraine conflict: overview



18M

people in need:

the most common needs are food, water, hygiene items, cooking facilities and materials to repair infrastructure.



5.8M

refugees:

the majority of the displaced people who have fled to neighbouring countries are women and girls.



3.4M

need health assistance:

the World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed over 1,000 attacks on healthcare facilities.

Your support has made a difference.

ActionAid supporters have helped provide these essential services since the start of the war:



Over 42,384 people delivered urgent food in the crisis.



Over 326,599 people trained to protect themselves and their families during this crisis.



Over 2,032 people in need provided mental health and trauma support.



Provide legal counselling and medical services for survivors of gender-based-violence.



If you would like to further support our work in emergencies globally, please scan this QR code here.



Women helping their communities rise from the rubble

The Türkiye–Syria earthquake one year on

It's been a year since destructive earthquakes struck Syria and Türkiye, destroying homes and lives – killing over 50,000 people.

The communities affected have shown so much resilience in the face of this devastation, with women and young people leading the rebuilding efforts.

Thanks to supporters like you, who were quick to respond to this emergency and the incredible work of our friends at the Emergency Action Alliance, we provided humanitarian aid to over 197,211 people.

After over 12 years of conflict, Syria remains one of the world's largest humanitarian crises.

The earthquakes further compounded an already dire crisis. Escalating the urgent need for shelter for displaced people, medical care, food, clean water and sanitation, and protection for women and girls exposed to gender-based violence.

Jumana 11, has been given mental health support, comfort and advice around staying safe in the aftermath of the earthquake. Since the earthquake, Jumana has been unable to attend school. One day, Jumana wishes to become a doctor to help the children who were trapped under the rubble caused by the earthquake.



Your generous gift helped our local partners:



Mobilise youth volunteers

to pull survivors from the rubble, reaching 6,330 people.



Provide urgent medical care to more than 27,933 displaced people.



Distribute clean water, hygiene kits and build washing facilities to over 37,667 people.



Ensure women and girls had access to private washing facilities in 15 temporary camps, to reduce their risk of harassment or assault.



Set-up Mobile Mental Health units which were a lifeline to hundreds of traumatised children living in remote areas.



Offer counselling and legal aid to survivors of gender-based violence.



If you would like to further support our work in emergencies globally, please scan this QR code here.

Thank you from the women of Vanuatu



By Flora Vano, Country Manager, ActionAid Vanuatu

My name is Flora Vano. I'm a Ni-Vanuatu woman, climate activist and Country Manager at ActionAid Vanuatu. I spend my days working to build the power of women in Vanuatu, who are bearing the brunt of climate breakdown.

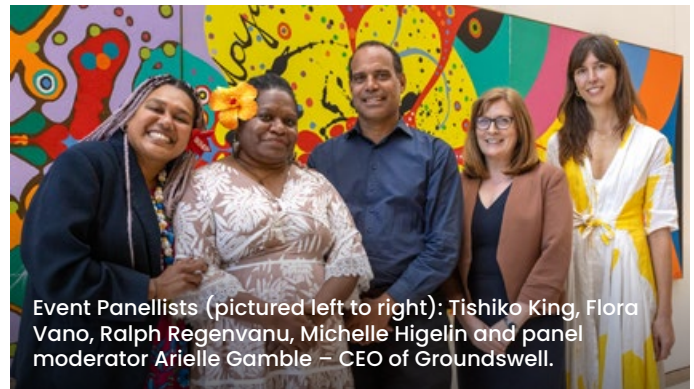
Vanuatu experienced three cyclones last year, which damaged our crops and displaced a lot of families. Our homes, food sources, safety and traditional ways of life are in the firing line.

There can be no more investment in new fossil fuels if our communities are to have a future. To stay below 1.5 degrees, we need a phase out not a phase down of fossil fuels. It is not just a goal of the Paris Agreement but a lifeline for our Pacific Island nations.

When I travelled from Vanuatu to Dubai at the end of last year to attend the UN Climate Conference, I took with me thousands of signatures from ActionAid Australia supporters alongside the voices of our network of women here in the Pacific. You demanded climate justice both for Vanuatu and for women like us across the world whose lives are also at risk.

And we did it! Because of your support, and the hard work of so many people around the region, we were successful in pushing Australia to pledge an end to fossil fuel expansion.

By working together to increase climate ambition, action, and solidarity we will create a safer world for everyone. Thank you so much.



Event Panellists (pictured left to right): Tishiko King, Flora Vano, Ralph Regenvanu, Michelle Higelin and panel moderator Arielle Gamble – CEO of Groundswell.

Vanuatu Climate Minister in Sydney

On his way to COP28, ActionAid Australia hosted the Honourable Ralph Regenvanu, Vanuatu's Minister for Climate Change to deliver a keynote on Climate Leadership and the Pacific at an event in Sydney.

The event was co-hosted by ActionAid and Groundswell and supported by The Art Gallery of NSW, Philanthropy Australia and NEXUS as momentum starts to build towards Australia hosting COP31.

"We need to see much more commitment to taking money away from the fossil fuel sector and putting it into adaptation. We are not seeing enough courage from governments in the fossil fuel producing countries," said Minister Regenvanu.

Flora Vano, Country Manager of ActionAid Vanuatu, also joined Tishiko King, Campaigner of Our Islands Our Home and ActionAid Australia Executive Director Michelle Higelin on a panel for the event. They called upon Australians to say no to the expansion of fossil fuels and yes to supporting women in frontline communities to address the impacts of climate breakdown.



Flora delivered thousands of your signatures to demand climate justice at COP28.



Your impact around the world

You enabled women globally to lead their communities through emergencies, build their economic independence and come together to support each other.



THE PHILIPPINES

This year, we supported the second Womentarian Summit, bringing 84 women around the country and government together to discuss how to support and empower women leaders in times of disaster.



AFGHANISTAN

Thank you to those who supported our Afghanistan appeal. This is one of the most challenging contexts globally for women and girls, who are also facing a humanitarian crisis with one third of the population currently facing hunger.



INDONESIA

Women were empowered to act as focal points in their village for disaster preparedness, gender-based violence case management and livelihood activities.

Your voice heard at COP28

ActionAid supporters helped bring about two important wins at the United Nations climate conference, COP28:

People around the country joined Flora Vano from Vanuatu in calling for wealthy countries to end their support for fossil fuel expansion, the leading cause of global warming. Pressure from thousands of passionate people like you saw Australia sign the Glasgow Statement – a global commitment to stop public funding of fossil fuel projects overseas and increase support for clean energy.

“Australia, as our big sister in the Pacific, must listen when we say there can be no more investment in fossil fuels if Pacific communities like mine are to survive.”

– Flora Vano, ActionAid Vanuatu

Years of campaigning from Pacific countries and others around the world, including many ActionAid supporters and partners, paid off as COP established the Loss and Damage Fund. Communities everywhere are losing livelihoods and land due to the climate crisis, and this fund will help in their efforts to rebuild their lives and environment.

These wins are real steps towards justice for women and girls living with the impacts of climate change. Neither would have been possible without the advocacy and campaigning of so many ActionAid supporters and our partners around the world. Thank you for your part in making history!

Dignity for women in Gaza

Your support continues to help women affected by the devastating crisis in Gaza.

ActionAid supporters like you have already donated over \$60,000 to help the thousands of people displaced in the conflict, and working with partners, over 70,000 Australians have signed our petition calling on Foreign Minister Penny Wong to support an immediate ceasefire.

The situation in Gaza remains dire, with women and children making up 70% of those killed. Food, water, fuel, and electricity are rapidly running out. The entire population is facing crisis due to the lack of food and water. Women are giving birth in unsterile conditions and without pain relief. Newborn babies cannot access medical care and without clean water, their mothers cannot produce enough milk to feed them.

Displaced women in Gaza are so desperate they are using pieces of the tents they rely on for shelter from the cold and rain as a substitute for period products. Women are showing incredible resilience and finding ways to manage their needs as best they can, but they shouldn't have to: it is a fundamental right for women to be able to manage their periods safely and with dignity.

Our partners in Gaza are supporting women and girls amid extremely challenging and dangerous conditions with your support.

Thank you so much for your support as we continue our efforts to assist women and their families in Gaza living through this massive humanitarian catastrophe. Donate here.



"Your gifts brought much needed joy to children in Gaza who have lost everything. ActionAid partners are providing support for displaced children."

You have:



Helped reach over 80,000 people with humanitarian relief in Gaza.



Provided 15,590 people with urgent food.



Distributed 13,700 hygiene kits in January - which include tissues, toilet paper, soap, sanitary pads and wet wipes.



Constructed 60 toilets and shower blocks in Rafah to provide women and girls with a safe private space to attend to their hygiene needs.



Provided 500 blankets for displaced families along with additional clothing.

Save the date: Frocking Hilarious is coming back in 2024



ActionAid's annual comedy event, Frocking Hilarious is returning for its 11th year! Prepare for a dazzling line-up of fierce, funny and fabulous women performing in support of women's rights. All proceeds from ticket sales will support ActionAid's work championing women's rights in over 70 countries across the world.

Join us at Sydney's Factory Theatre on Wednesday 8 May and at the Brisbane Powerhouse Saturday 11 May.

If you would like to buy a ticket to the event, please scan the QR code here.



Thank you, your support continues to change the world!

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