

TALKING ACTION

Together we empower women and change the world.

Strong, resourceful, insightful: women are leading their families and communities through some of the biggest crises happening today.

We're so grateful for incredible people like you, who contributed over \$410,000 for women on the frontlines of disasters around the world.

Thank you for creating a world where all women can thrive.



Jane, in Kenya. © Moses Thurania /ActionAid



Rael, mother of ten in Kenya.
© Moses Thurania /ActionAid

You're bringing hope and healing to more women

When Evelyn was forced into an underage marriage, she was only 11 years old.

Years later, Evelyn managed to escape from her violent husband, and thanks to her incredible bravery and determination, was able to turn her life around.

Evelyn joined an ActionAid women's network that supported her to get back on her feet and start earning a living.

"The scars imprinted on my body remind me that there is plenty of life and importance in me. I am grateful that despite not going to school, my children are now in school. I am grateful that I am able to live by myself, stand up for myself and fight for my rights."

In the women's network, Evelyn learned about women's rights and leadership, and later developed her skills in business management. Today, she proudly runs a local hotel which ensures she can provide for herself and her children.

Thank you for helping women like Evelyn form networks to seek justice and claim their rights.

“When I first heard about the women’s network, my thoughts were, will they accept a woman like me?”

– Ellen Tamata



Ellen Tamata © ActionAid

As a teenager, Ellen began to experience pain, swelling and stiffness in her body. She was diagnosed with muscular atrophy, and soon after was confined to a wheelchair.

“For the first five years, I just didn’t have that confidence to stand out. So, it pulled me back and I would always be hiding inside my house. You feel that you’re not part of a society, that people look down on you.

*You have this ability, but they don’t see that ability in you. **They only see the disability in you** – look, there’s a woman with disability.*

When I first heard about the women’s network, my thoughts were, will they accept a woman like me?

I was too frightened to speak. But when I first attended, it was different. I saw women sitting on the mat discussing their issues.

It was simple, it was a friendly space. I knew this would be the network to build up women and girls with disability. Being in that space has transformed me a lot, having confidence in myself and to be the voice of the voiceless.

My sisters with disability are empowered too. We don’t fear anymore to share our voice in spaces that we are not included in – the community, the workplace, even in government.”

Ellen Tamata is the Disability Inclusion Coordinator in the ActionAid-supported network, *Women I Tok Tok Tugeta* (Women Talk Together) and its disability chapter *WITT Sunshine*.



5 Years of Women I Tok Tok Tugeta: Sunshine

When just one woman with disability like Ellen is empowered to speak up for herself, it has a ripple effect for all women with disability.

The network, *Women I Tok Tok Tugeta: Sunshine*, is making sure no woman with disability is left behind.

Nine hundred members in Vanuatu are leading the change, developing cyclone safety plans with accessibility in mind and creating safe spaces for women with disability to speak up.

“Women and girls with disability chose the name ‘Sunshine’ to overcome discrimination. When you’re in the network, one day you will shine – in our homes, in our communities.”

– Ellen Tamata

If you would like to further support our work for women’s rights, please scan this QR code.



Standing with a local hero

Anngie, a dedicated mother of five, works tirelessly in the sugarcane fields of Ilog, the Philippines.

Beyond her demanding job, Anngie is a pillar of strength in her community. As a member of the local Women's Association, she knows how to prepare for climate disasters and how to support women and children in its aftermath.

In October 2022, Severe Tropical Storm Paeng hit Anngie's community.

Despite her overwhelming fear, Anngie drew on her training and knowledge. She evacuated her family and neighbours to safety amid the rising waters.

"Me and my family were very happy that we were one of the recipients of food packs given by ActionAid.

It was a great help. We were able to consume the food for a week and share it with our neighbours." - Anngie

THANK YOU!

With your help, women are resilient to climate change.



"My life was completely transformed. I started selling produce from my farm to buy other household materials."
- Lydia



Anngie, farm labourer and active member of the Women's Association in her community. © PPKK



Images: Members of the Alternatives to Climate Change project. © Moses Thurania / ActionAid

Women in Kenya are developing kitchen gardens, a practical and sustainable solution to the challenge of putting food on the table in the face of droughts and floods.

Women are supporting each other with small loans and skill sharing, becoming more resilient and powerful agents of change.

THE GAZA CRISIS CONTINUES



A mother in Rafah who has been displaced multiple times. © ActionAid Palestine

Your support means so much in the face of widespread devastation in Gaza. Thank you for being a source of hope.

It's nearing one year since the beginning of the crisis, and women are still doing all they can with the little they have – many caring for the elderly, their own children, and abandoned children at once.

Najwa and her children settled in several camps before they were forced to flee from Rafah to Deir al-Balah. *"We were given blankets, so I sewed them together. We sacrificed warmth in order to make the tent. It's a tent and not a tent at the same time... Now our only hope is to return to our homes."*

It's crucial that women's needs are included in the emergency response – including dignity kits and pregnancy care. Your incredible support so far has helped us get urgent assistance and relief items to women and their families.

Al-Awda Hospital is also a partner with ActionAid – it's the only hospital in northern Gaza still providing maternity services and orthopaedic surgery. Doctors and nurses continue to work around the clock to provide care, some sleeping in the hospital overnight to cover staff shortages.

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



How your support is making a difference



195,289 people have received emergency relief – this number is growing as we continue our efforts.



80,911 people have been provided with food supplies and warm meals.



3,750 received hygiene kits as menstrual items are currently unavailable in local stores. 2,000 people received warm clothing in Rafah and Al Nuseirat.



20,000 people in Rafah now have access to toilets and showers. We installed 60 units for women in shelters with poor conditions.



4,150 women and children accessed wellbeing activities and protection support services.



70,000 people received health services, including maternity care.



2,000 displaced households now have shelter supplies.

Supporters like you have taken action and brought relief to many.

Thank you for standing with families in Gaza who have left their homes and entire lives behind.

You're building strength in communities

In May, a group of ActionAid supporters embarked on a memorable trip to Vanuatu.

The trip not only highlighted the challenges faced by communities in Vanuatu but also the incredible resilience and determination of women.

Lauren Hicks, Head of Social Impact at QBE Insurance, shares her reflections on the visit: *"During my trip, I saw true ingenuity and entrepreneurial thinking through the creation of economic hubs – like Mama's Chickens and the Women's Resilience Market, that sell surplus vegetables in the community and ensure food security during times of crisis.*

I heard women talking about nature-based solutions coupled with local traditional knowledge applied to agriculture and response efforts – a wonderful opportunity to learn from their expertise on such complex matters presented with such clarity and simplicity – we have so much to learn."

The group also visited the island of Tanna to meet with the *Women I Tok Tok Tugeta (WITTT)* network, hearing from Ni-Vanuatu women leaders who distributed emergency supplies across islands affected by twin tropical cyclones last year.



Lauren Hicks, Nicola Blackburn, Sam Watson-Wood, Flora Vano and Tashi Wheeler at Mama's Chickens, Eton. © ActionAid

WITTT Tanna member at a community forum. © ActionAid



Women leading the way

In Vanuatu, women are supporting each other to take the lead in the face of the climate crisis and disasters like cyclones.

This is transformational. Not only are their communities better protected, but women are also speaking confidently and taking meaningful steps towards gender equality.



Annie prepares food for her restaurant in Tanna. © ActionAid

Seeds of change

Thriving economic hubs in Vanuatu are boosting women's income and community connections.

Mama's Chickens is a shining example – women are coming together to expand the chicken farm and vegetable gardens, and bringing fresh produce to markets three days a week.

A force for change, like you.

All her life, Maxine has been curious about the world around her.

When Maxine was a little girl, her father, who was a renowned radio operator, gave her stamps from communication cards around the world. This sparked a life-long interest in other countries and cultures.

"I hate to see people exploited anywhere and I am a strong advocate for social justice," says Maxine. "I have family connections to disability and so I am particularly interested in how people with disabilities are treated in other countries.

"ActionAid teaches women in particular how to advocate for themselves, how to support one another in training and education for their children, in expecting decent healthcare and political fairness in the 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."

Maxine has been supporting ActionAid for over 30 years. She has made the incredibly



"I love ActionAid because they relate to the people they support. They help them to determine what they need for themselves." – Maxine

generous decision to leave a gift in her Will, which she says is 'the most significant gift I can make'.

"I feel very fortunate to live in Australia with all the benefits I have access to as a citizen which, at times, I tend to take for granted. I am aware that such benefits are not available for so many women in other countries. I feel privileged therefore, that by making a gift in my Will, I can continue my support of other women into the future through the work of ActionAid."

If you would like to find out more about leaving a gift in your Will, please scan this QR code here.



A Frocking Hilarious night. © Zesty Media

What a Frocking Hilarious night!

ActionAid's comedy extravaganza brought down the house with 12 of the funniest women around.

Sydney and Brisbane rallied together to raise funds for women-led projects globally. For so many women the confidence to lead starts in safe spaces created especially for them. Here they can come together for sharing, learning and for sisterhood. We're so glad you brought belly laughs and full hearts, and we can't wait for next year!

Thank you to our incredible sponsors and everyone who contributed to making the night a success.



Thank you, your support continues to change the world!

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