

TALKING ACTION

Together we empower women and change the world.

Your generosity is providing hope and dignity to women and their families living through dire conditions in Gaza.

It's been a huge effort, but with your help we've provided over 464,000 people with crucial relief so far.

You've helped feed and shelter families, deliver hygiene kits to women and keep medical services running – including for pregnant women, new mothers and infants.

We are incredibly grateful for your unwavering support.

Shurooq, a mother displaced in Gaza.
© Wattan Media Network /ActionAid



A Palestinian youth group joins farmers to help with olive harvesting. © ActionAid

Women stronger together in Gaza

Shurooq, a 31-year-old mother, has been living in an overcrowded shelter since October 2023, after fleeing her home in northern Gaza. When Shurooq thinks back to first arriving at the shelter, she can only recall the state of shock she was in:

"There was screaming, and I did not know how to act... I don't remember now how I slept or where I slept. Or was I awake, or asleep, or crying?"

A resilient community of women also displaced in the shelter quickly became a lifeline for Shurooq, stepping in when everyday tasks like preparing meals and washing clothes seemed impossible.

"Women support each other. These were new things to me. I did not know how to light a fire, nor how to cook on fire. I did not know how to knead or bake. There was an aunt who would come and teach me: put the yeast like this, put the dough here, do this."

Shurooq also found mental health support and learned new skills to cope with her trauma through the Palestinian Women's Union, a women's group supported by ActionAid.

We cannot thank you enough for supporting women and their families to cope with severe trauma and hardship and find strength within one other.

Standing in solidarity with women in Lebanon

Malak, 29, walks through rubble in the city of Baalbek. Her sister's home is next door and was also damaged by Israel's bombardment.
© Dalia Khamissy / ActionAid

Thank you for being there to support women and their families in Lebanon as they were forced to flee their homes.

Among them was 22-year-old Marwa, who fled with her family after a bomb struck near their home.

"We thought we'd leave for two days and come back. We thought everything would calm down in two days. And we would be able to go back home. Little did we know that two days would become 66 days away from home.

"When we [returned and] opened the door, the blackness we saw, the smell of gunpowder... it was a sad scene honestly. To leave your house where you lived a normal life, and come back to a scene of destruction, glass, everything on the floor."

You've helped ActionAid and our partners get essential supplies to those whose lives have been turned upside down by war – especially women and girls, whose needs are often neglected in times of conflict.



Family displaced in Beirut © Alexandra Henry / ActionAid

We recently heard from Michelle Mansour, ActionAid's Humanitarian and Resilience Program Manager in Lebanon, about how grief, displacement and uncertainty have left many women in Lebanon struggling. *"Women literally left their homes with nothing—no money, no clothes."*

With your support, ActionAid and our partners are providing mental health support and wellbeing sessions in Beqaa and Beirut to help women build emotional resilience.

"We have to support the community members emotionally, as well [as] making them feel safe and secure in a way... and listening to individual needs."



WITTT Tanna. © ActionAid Vanuatu

A MILESTONE FOR WOMEN IN VANUATU

You helped Women I Tok Tok Tugeta take a bold step forward.

In November, hundreds of women paraded through the streets of Vanuatu's capital, Port Vila, in celebration of the launch of the *Women I Tok Tok Tugeta* federation.

The women's network took the incredible step of evolving into a formal self-governing national network, dedicated to supporting women's leadership and role in preparing for and responding to climate disasters.

Women I Tok Tok Tugeta – which translates to 'Women Talk Together' – is a locally-led women's collective, established by ActionAid Australia following Cyclone Pam in 2015.

The network brings women together from rural and coastal communities across five islands to meet regularly. Together, women learn about their rights, and develop practical strategies for responding to climate disasters like cyclones in their communities. The network also drives inclusive response and supports women with disabilities to lead.

It's incredible that supporters like you have kept this network running and made its evolution possible. Congratulations to ActionAid Vanuatu and the 9,000 ni-Vanuatu women who make up *Women I Tok Tok Tugeta* for their incredible work!

Thank you for empowering women and changing the world.



WITTT Sunshine parade through Port Vila. © ActionAid Vanuatu



WOMEN LEADING CLIMATE ACTION!

Thank you for helping make the voices of Pacific women loud and clear at COP29.

The UN Climate Conference – COP29 – may be over, but our work for climate justice continues. ActionAid was on the ground, amplifying the voices of women and their communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

Thank you to all who took action, calling on world leaders including Australia's to deliver climate finance that meets the needs of people in the Pacific.

We took messages from Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, PNG and Vanuatu on a huge banner that demanded urgent climate action. We hosted events where Pacific and First Nations women leaders championed their stories of driving climate solutions and showed us another path forward. And we used the media to hold big polluters to account.

The conference was meant to unlock the finance needed for the transition away from fossil fuels, and for countries facing the worst climate impacts. Instead, high polluting countries pushed through a deal that fell far too short of the US\$ 1 trillion needed each year

for low-income countries to recover from relentless disasters like floods and cyclones.

While there is still a lot of work to do, one positive result of our continued pressure leading up to COP29 was Australia's commitment to provide \$50 million towards a new Loss and Damage fund.

This will support low-income countries to recover from climate emergencies as they have done the least to cause the climate crisis but are bearing the brunt of its impact.

Thank you again for your support. Together, we will continue to stand up for the women on the frontlines of the climate crisis.



ActionAid Vanuatu's Flora Vano at the conference.
© Jess Midwinter / ActionAid

You've empowered women at the heart of Vanuatu's recovery

Communities in Vanuatu are still working together to heal and recover after a 7.3 magnitude earthquake devastated its capital, Port Vila, in December.

Thanks to the fast action and generosity of ActionAid supporters like you, 3000 people affected by the disaster have received emergency relief so far.

The local women's network, *Women I Tok Tok Tugeta*, mobilised in the aftermath of the quake to deliver food parcels, water and dignity kits to those hardest hit.

Many of you would have supported this network in the past, to train women leaders in disaster response and to prepare relief packs for emergencies just like this.

One woman from our response team in charge of delivering water, rice, fresh vegetables and tinned fish to households told us that many lit up with smiles and felt comforted by the support.

Every food parcel, every dignity kit, every smile, is only possibly because of people like you in the ActionAid community – thank you!



There's still a long way to go as families recover and get their livelihoods back on track.

Please donate today to support our response and help women facing crises like this.





CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF IMPACT WITH YOU!

For 15 years now, ActionAid Australia has been at the forefront of empowering women to change the world.

Together, we've challenged inequality and fought for a fairer world. None of this would be possible without you – our incredible donors and supporters. Thank you.

We recognise many of you have been supporting for over 40 years, even back when we were known as Austcare. Your generosity and commitment have been the heart of this journey. Thank you for being part of this transformative movement and continuing to create a brighter future for women around the world and their communities. When women lead, the entire community benefits.

What's coming up?

RUN FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS WITH CITY2SURF THIS YEAR!

Every step you take will help empower women and change the world.

Contact us to sign up with Team ActionAid – and if you raise \$500, we'll cover your City2Surf registration fee.

**CITY2
SURF**

TICKETS ON SALE!

Claire Hooper is back to host our annual comedy extravaganza – don't miss out on this dazzling line-up of fierce, funny and fabulous women.

Join us on **14 May in Sydney** and **24 May in Brisbane**.

Get your tickets at actionaid.org.au/frocking



Thank you, your support continues to change the world!

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