



**act:onaid**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**AUSTRALIA 2024**



Front cover: Shurooq, a 31-year-old mother from Gaza, received support from ActionAid's partner – the Palestinian Women's Union – helping her family survive the catastrophic conditions. © Wattan Media Network/ActionAid

This page: Following counselling and support provided by ActionAid, Rose from Bukwo district in Uganda was able to claim her land rights following the death of her husband, and support her family. © Frank Byaruhanga/ActionAid

## First Nations commitment

ActionAid Australia acknowledges the Gadigal People of the Eora Nation upon whose land our office is based. We pay our respects to Elders past and present on all countries where we live and work, and extend our respect to First Nations people we work with. We recognise that sovereignty was never ceded.

ActionAid commits to the Uluru Statement of the Heart in full, and campaigned to support a First Nations Voice to Parliament enshrined in the Australian Constitution in 2024. While the referendum was disappointing, we will continue to stand in solidarity with First Nations communities to advance justice and self-determination.

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# WHO WE ARE

ActionAid is a global women's rights organisation working to end poverty and injustice with partners in 75 countries around the world.



Irene is a farmer in Nakuru County, Kenya who has undertaken training to learn more about her rights as a worker and as a woman, to empower both herself and her community. © Rehema Baya / ActionAid

# OUR VISION

ActionAid is striving to create a just, sustainable, and equitable world where all women thrive.

Our feminist, human rights-based approach empowers women on the frontlines of injustice to drive change in their communities, while campaigning to address the structural causes of poverty and injustice.

Addressing the growing impacts of climate change on gender equality is at the core of our agenda by scaling up women-led and indigenous climate solutions, building partnerships and evidence for greater impact and campaigning for more ambitious climate action from the Australian government and business.

# OUR PRINCIPLES

ActionAid's theory of change is underpinned by the principles of self-determination and systems change.

## Self-determination

We support women on the frontlines of injustice to claim their rights, shape their own agendas, and mobilise around the issues that matter to them and their communities.

## Systems Change

By campaigning in solidarity with women from marginalised communities, we work to transform unjust systems at the local, regional and global level.

# A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR

## 2024 was an historic year for ActionAid Australia.

A decade ago, we supported the birth of ActionAid Vanuatu and established the *Women I Tok Tok Tugeta (WITTT)* network in Vanuatu. It was created to support women to learn about and mobilise around their rights and to drive locally led responses to climate change and disasters in a country that faces widespread gender inequality and increasing disaster risk. After sustained investment and support, we are so proud that WITTT became its own independent federation in 2024 and now brings together a movement of 9,000 women on five islands with tremendous impact.

Ten years of investment shows us that when women are equipped with resources, training and opportunities, it leads to gender transformative change. The women-led early warning platform in Vanuatu has been shown to bring economic benefits to the community and has also shifted women's role in households and the community, improved safety and inclusion, and triggered generational change for girls and young women. Evaluations of our work in Palestine and Bangladesh tell a similar story of impact about progress on women's rights.

2024 also saw ActionAid Australia launch an ambitious new strategy, Women's Leadership for Climate Justice.

As average global temperatures begin to surpass the 1.5-degree threshold that will begin to trigger catastrophic climate change, we must scale up women's leadership in supporting their communities to adapt and prepare for what's to come – and we are continuing to deepen this work with our partners in Kenya, Indonesia, the Philippines and the Pacific.

We know, however, that the scale of climate impacts means that no one organisation can drive change alone, so our new strategy aims to build partnerships for greater impact, like our early warning collaboration with Digicel Pacific and renewable energy partnership with PowerWells highlighted in this report.

We will also keep a sustained focus on our own backyard and campaigning for Australia to lift its climate leadership as one of the world's leading countries driving global warming. Our future depends upon it.

Thank you to all of our supporters, activists and partners around the country who are working with us to build a powerful movement to drive global justice for women and urgent climate action. Together we are unstoppable!



**Michelle Higelin**  
Executive Director

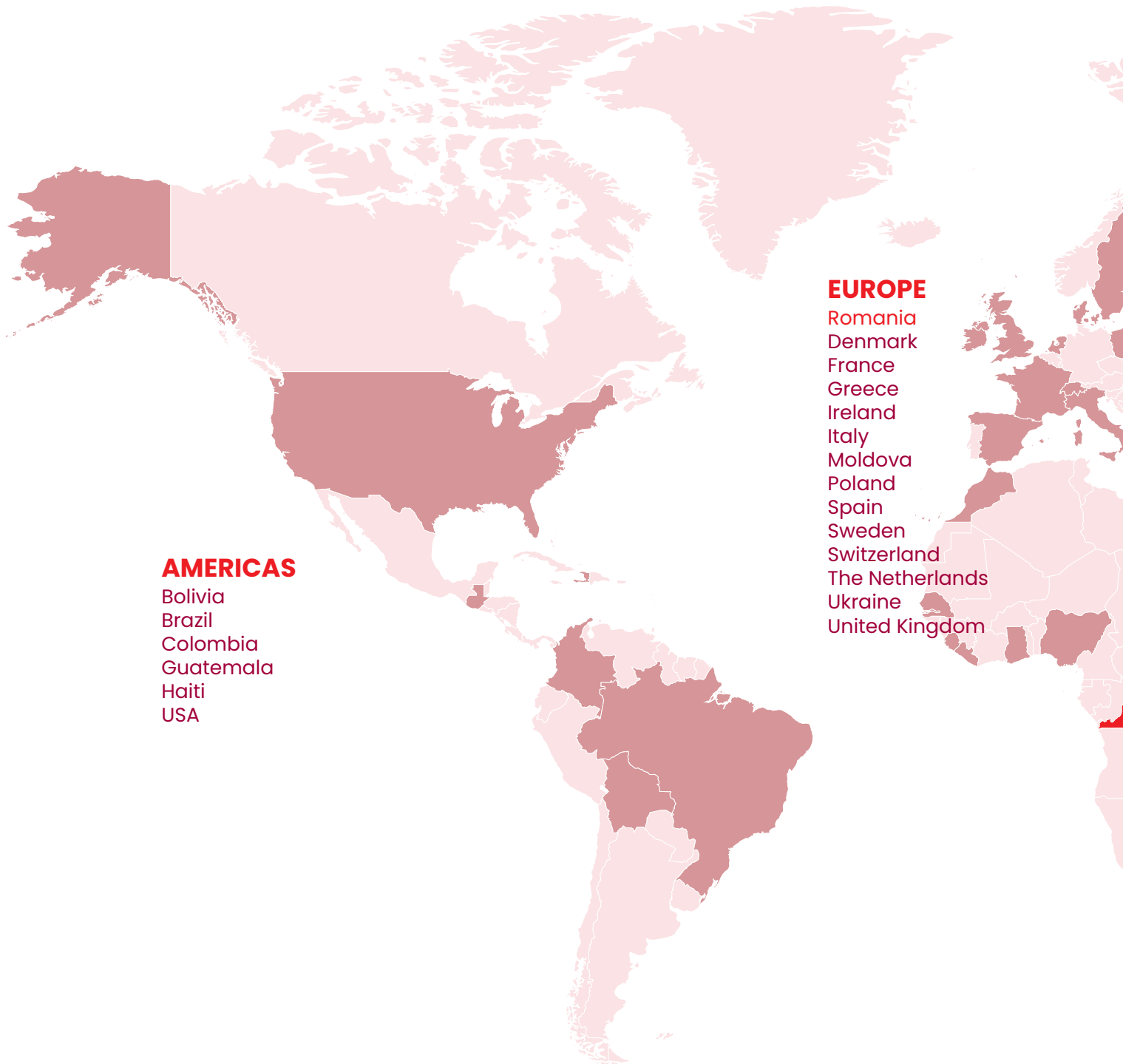


**Belinda Morrissey**  
Board Chair



ActionAid is empowering women to lead peacebuilding in the Great Lakes region in Africa as part of the African Women Voices for Peace program. © ActionAid Uganda

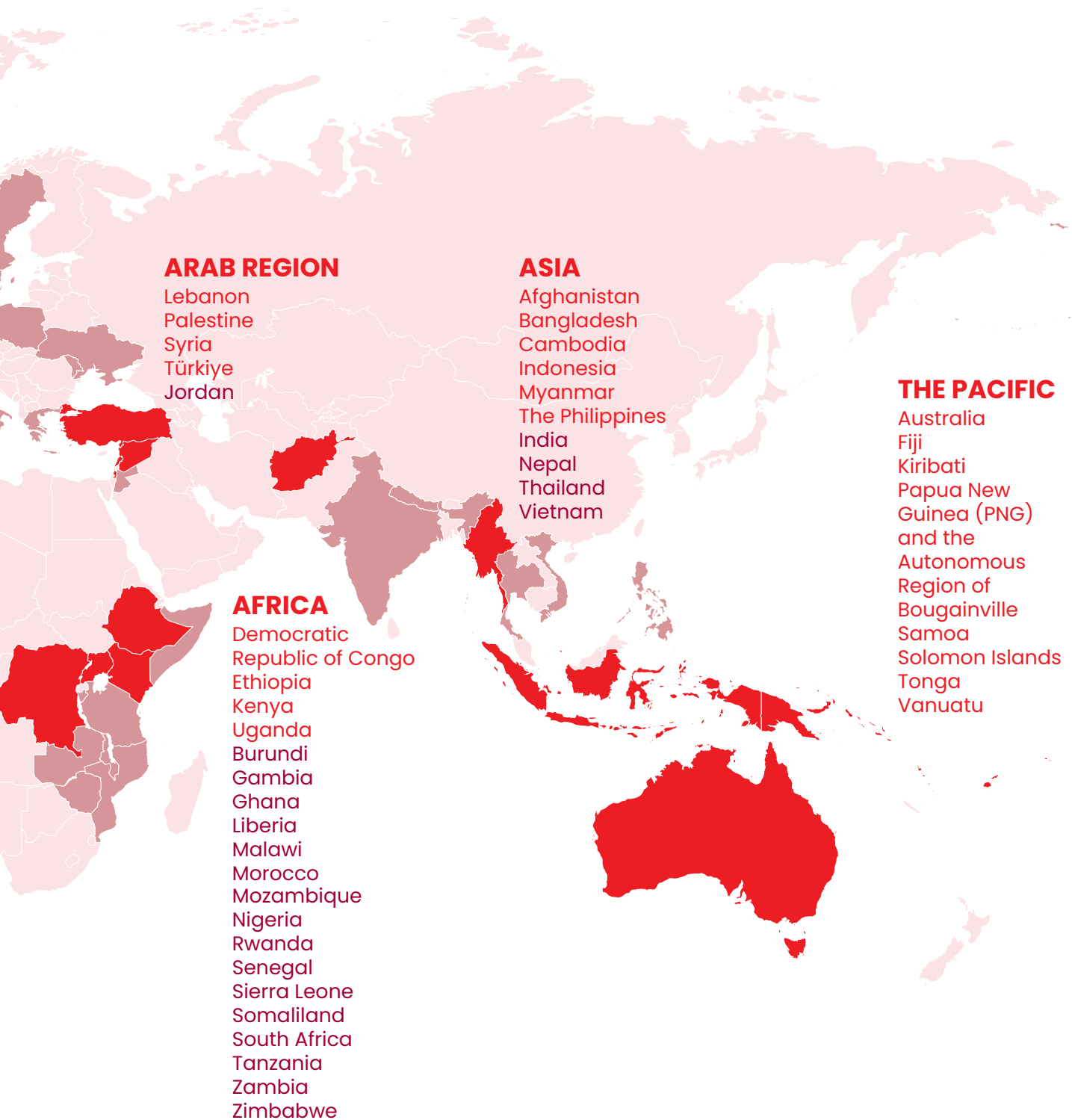
# WHERE WE WORK



## KEY

- ActionAid Australia supported projects
- ActionAid's global presence

## ActionAid works with partners in 75 countries around the world.



**Through the direct support of Australian donors, we support women to drive locally led action in 24 countries.**

# OUR GLOBAL IMPACT IN 2024



Palestinian refugee Malak stands amongst rubble in front of the building where her sister lives and that was damaged by Israeli bombardment in the city of Baalbek, Lebanon.

© Dalia Khamissy/ActionAid

## ActionAid Australia's Impact



**20,629 women and girls** were reached through DFAT's Australian NGO Cooperation Program, with more than 240,000 indirectly benefitting from this work.



**21 advocacy meetings** with MPs and government were held to influence decision-making on climate finance, gender equality and Australia's development policy.



**75,445 women** were reached through ActionAid Australia's humanitarian response across the Pacific and the Philippines.



**35 partners in 14 countries** supported women to build resilience to intersecting economic, climate and health crises of our time.



**Over 37,000 Australians** took action to demand a fairer, more equitable world.



**7,300 donors** gave \$8.25 million to empower women to change the world.



**1,640,000 people** were reached with life-saving information through Pacific women-led early warning systems.

## ActionAid's Global Impact

ActionAid Australia is a proud member of the ActionAid federation, which works to advance gender equality and create a world free from poverty and exclusion.



**4,709,394 people** were provided with lifesaving assistance through ActionAid's global emergency responses.



**3,114 partners** were supported to drive locally led development and humanitarian response.



**1,069 women-led organisations** worked with ActionAid to advance women's rights around the world.



**75 countries** Globally, ActionAid works with partners in 75 countries.

# Scaling up women-led and indigenous solutions to climate change and crises

Our work ensures women are more resilient to climate change and disasters, with more women in leadership roles, and increased access to resources and technology.



Evelyn (right) is a member of the Women I Tok Tok Tugeta Sunshine network, established by ActionAid, which trains women with disabilities to prepare for and respond to climate disasters and emergencies. © ActionAid Vanuatu



**"There was absolutely nothing to eat because of climate change!**

**ActionAid has really helped me, together with my six children.**

**We gained a lot of knowledge in agroecology that we currently adopted here."**

– Elizabeth Lokipunar, Baringo County, Kenya

## Kenya

In Kenya, women and girls are bearing the brunt of the climate crisis with increasingly erratic rainfall and persistent drought impacting their rights, livelihoods and safety.

Through our Gender Responsive Alternatives to Climate Change program, women are participating in community decision making and building climate-resilient livelihoods.

### Highlights in 2024:

- **5 women elected** to climate change planning committees for the first time, and now actively engaging in local decision making on climate change adaptation and funding.
- **300 women trained** in pasture management and two pasture management and preservation community groups set up. These farming groups are helping communities better manage pasturelands for livestock and crops, reducing the impact of climate change on livelihoods.
- **Women with disabilities accessed training** and assistive devices including 20 wheelchairs and 30 walking sticks. Additionally, 30 goats were provided to women with disabilities to boost economic inclusion and nutrition.

## Philippines

The Philippines is one of the most at-risk countries for climate and humanitarian disasters. For women, particularly those in rural areas, gender inequality and limited resources make quick recovery after disasters challenging.

Through the National Rural Women's Coalition (PKKK), ActionAid supports the Women in Emergencies Network (WENet) to strengthen women's leadership in humanitarian emergencies.

### Highlights in 2024:

- **140 people from 25 organisations** trained in how gender equality, disability and social inclusion are impacted in climate emergencies to drive more inclusive humanitarian action.
- **30 rural women** from five organisations completed transformative leadership training on challenging gender norms and advancing women's rights in crisis.
- **23 young women** from 12 youth organisations completed feminist leadership training and created six youth-led climate action plans to support their communities to adapt to climate change.
- **Food packs, hygiene kits and livelihood supplies**, organised by a women-led response, were distributed to 660 households affected by Typhoon Carina.

## Vanuatu

Climate change and disaster preparedness is vital in Vanuatu where every year people face an average of 20 tropical storms, eight earthquakes and frequent volcanic activity. ActionAid supports the *Women I Tok Tok*

*Tugeta (WITTT)* federation, a locally led women's network across five islands of Vanuatu that is advancing women's rights and leadership in response to climate change and disasters.

### Highlights in 2024:

- **WITTT's Epau chicken farm was restored** after cyclone damage, providing sustainability and economic benefits. The farm now has 245 chickens and egg production has increased from 30 eggs per day to 120, increasing income and nutrition.
- WITTT Sunshine (the organisation's disability chapter) **grew from 500 members to more than 1,000** women with disabilities working across five islands. The group focuses on the unique needs and priorities of women with disabilities, supporting members to lead with the abilities they have. ActionAid and WITTT Sunshine led a first ever national summit to promote inclusive locally led development.
- **WITTT supported economic hubs** have enabled women to earn money to support their family's food security, with a flow-on impact being reduced violence and tensions in households.
- **250 women** combined their indigenous knowledge with climate science to drive nature-based solutions to climate change in Tanna and Erromango islands in Vanuatu.

## Indonesia

ActionAid Australia continued to work with Yappika-ActionAid Indonesia in Banten and Central Sulawesi provinces, which have been affected by major disasters over recent years.

Women are using their existing skills, knowledge and networks to develop initiatives to enhance their safety and support during crises.

### Highlights in 2024:

- **In Banten, ActionAid's Women and Child Friendly Protection Model was adopted by the government**, ensuring women and vulnerable groups are consulted on their protection needs during crises.
- **Two community paralegals** were made available for gender-based violence survivors to access free legal support.
- **210 residents in two villages** strengthened their understanding of gender inequality, patriarchy and women's rights as part of shifting community attitudes around women.
- **Women community representatives** were supported to engage in advocacy with the district government around women's rights in emergencies.



Emeline recently joined the Women I Tok Tok Tugeta network in Malo, Vanuatu where she has attended training to help prepare and respond to disasters. © ActionAid Vanuatu

## Pacific Region

Since 2016, ActionAid has partnered with women's rights organisations in the Pacific through the Shifting the Power Coalition (StPC).

The Coalition, which includes 12 partners from Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Bougainville, aims to elevate and support diverse Pacific women leaders, particularly young women and women with disabilities, to lead humanitarian and climate action.

In 2024, the StPC's Young Women's Network successfully supported projects focusing on

climate adaptation and resilience, building on their indigenous knowledge.

Pacific women-led early warning and information systems were scaled up in three countries, and women from six countries were supported to influence policy through global and regional advocacy events including the UN Climate Summit (COP29) and the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.



Members of Shifting the Power Coalition gather for the Annual Partners Meeting. © Shifting the Power Coalition/ActionAid

## Highlights in 2024:

- In **Bougainville**, the Bougainville Women's Federation held disaster risk reduction and climate change awareness workshops on two islands for 52 young women, with a broader impact on over 250 community members.

Workshop activities included mangrove planting, coral rehabilitation and sustainable ecosystem management campaigns. Advocacy efforts saw community by-laws enforced to protect mangroves and coral reefs.

- In the **Solomon Islands**, 30 young women participated in a two-day learning workshop on food security and climate-resilient agriculture.

The workshop culminated in women building raised garden beds in flood-prone Lilisiana, and more than 100 community members are now benefitting from the garden beds.

- In **Fiji**, nine young women leaders participated in a two-day intergenerational Talanoa Circle discussing climate justice, disaster preparedness and inclusive leadership, facilitated by Fiji partners, Transcend Oceania and the Fiji Disabled People's Federation.

The women built their capacity to lead disaster response efforts in their communities, which will directly impact over 50 community members.

Young women also developed recommendations to influence the Fijian government in the lead up to the National Budget.

- In **Papua New Guinea**, Hauskuk Initiative was supported to host a workshop on the impacts of climate change on women's rights in Madang Province. Twenty young women participated in the workshop with Madang Provincial

government stakeholders and climate change experts in the province to discuss community engagement strategies, disaster response approaches, and how to leverage indigenous knowledge-based solutions to build gender inclusive climate resilience.

The workshop aimed to empower young women as active agents of change in advocating for climate justice in their communities.

Hauskuk Initiative's young women's network continues to advocate and influence Madang Province's climate change policies to ensure they are gender responsive and inclusive.

- In **Tonga**, the Talitha Project worked with adolescent girls in Vaini and Patangata communities to build their economic resilience to the climate crisis.

Thirty girls and their families received greenhouse supplies, gardening tools and fishing equipment to support sustainable income generation.

The project also provided ongoing agricultural support and training, fostering young women's leadership in climate resilience efforts.

# WOMEN-LED EMERGENCY RESPONSE

## Vanuatu Earthquake

Three destructive cyclones in 2023 and a powerful earthquake in December 2024 have pushed the people of Vanuatu into an almost perpetual state of crisis response and recovery.

ActionAid Australia's emergency appeal enabled a women-led response effort focused on assisting people with disabilities, widows and single mothers. Women with disabilities were at the forefront of this response, leading with the abilities they have.

**Following the earthquake, ActionAid's women-led response reached 3,835 people with humanitarian relief:**

- **3,835** food assistance
- **356** dignity kits
- **272** people with disabilities supported with targeted relief
- **50** women trained to respond to their protection needs



ActionAid's emergency response to the earthquake that struck Port Vila had a strong focus on supporting women with disabilities. © ActionAid Vanuatu

## Crisis in Gaza

Women in Gaza continued to face dangerous and catastrophic conditions throughout 2024.

ActionAid supported women's organisations to lead response efforts and ensure essential supplies and humanitarian relief reach those most in need. Since the war began, we have reached over half a million people.

**In 2024, ActionAid and partners reached 379,072 people in Gaza:**

- **222,363** food assistance
- **15,928** non-food relief
- **47,458** water and sanitation
- **2,264** shelter support
- **8,559** protection
- **7,000** cash assistance
- **70,000** health / medical assistance



Fatma is a Project Officer with ActionAid, working to support women and girls who have been displaced in Gaza. © Wattan Media Network/ActionAid

## Crisis in Lebanon

ActionAid Australia launched an appeal in September to support women and their families in Lebanon. More than a million people were forced to flee their homes due to Israeli airstrikes.

ActionAid's emergency response effort reached 1,967 people with essential supplies and assistance, including hygiene kits, bedding, food baskets and psychosocial support.

# WOMEN-LED EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS IN THE PACIFIC

Supported by ActionAid and the Shifting the Power Coalition, women leaders in Vanuatu, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and Bougainville are integrating traditional knowledge into early warning systems to alert their communities to impending disasters.

These systems are also working to address the challenges women face during disasters, such as exclusion from decision making, unpaid work, gender-based violence and food insecurity.

Through sharing real-time information including relief and recovery actions and coordinating with governments, women are building resilience to climate change.

A research partnership with the University of Technology Sydney is evaluating the impacts

of these models, and prior research has already demonstrated the economic and gender transformative benefits of women-led early warning in Vanuatu.

- In **Vanuatu**, ActionAid Vanuatu's Women Wetem Weta reaches more than 40% of the population using bulk SMS and a phone tree network to prepare for disasters, providing targeted community preparedness information in the local language Bislama.
- In **Tonga**, Talitha Project are training 35 young people in Lapaha in gender responsive and inclusive disaster management, as part of their Tonga Women's Information Network for Disasters early warning system.



Members of Shifting the Power Coalition join a workshop to collaborate with women from other countries on disaster preparedness. © Shifting the Power Coalition/ActionAid



The Women I Tok Tok Tugeta federation is launched in Port Vila, Vanuatu. © ActionAid Australia

## Women I Tok Tok Tugeta Launch Federation in Vanuatu

Established by ActionAid in 2015, the *Women I Tok Tok Tugeta* (WITTT) federation is a locally led network of over 9,000 women across Vanuatu's islands of Tanna, Erromango, Efate, Malo and Malekula.

Through regular meetings, women learn about their rights and develop practical strategies to lead responses to climate change and disasters in their communities.

In November, WITTT women travelled to Port Vila to celebrate the official launch of the WITTT federation with Vanuatu's First Lady Rima Vurobaravu, Vanuatu's Special Envoy on Climate Change Ralph Regenvanu, Australian High Commissioner H.E. Max Willis, British High Commissioner H.E. Nicolette Brent and ActionAid International Secretary-General Arthur Larok.

Dressed in traditional clothing, the women sang, danced and marched through the streets to celebrate their achievements. WITTT has changed the lives of thousands of diverse women across Vanuatu, empowering them through leadership and community mobilisation.

**"When I first met these women, no one dared to make a comment. Now, you can't stop them. In Vanuatu we've never had women in the Council of Chiefs, where all the decisions are made.**

**Now in Erromango, a woman leader is part of the Council. Women were not being respected before, but now they have gained respect from elders and community leaders."**

– Flora Vano, Country Manager, ActionAid Vanuatu



Ni-Vanuatu women from Tanna celebrating at the launch of the Women I Tok Tok Tugeta federation launch in Port Vila, Vanuatu. © ActionAid Australia

# Mobilising ambitious partnership and evidence to catalyse system-wide impact

Through collaboration with values-aligned partners, we are accelerating change for women on the frontlines of the climate crisis.



Members of the Women I Tok Tok Tugeta network in Lawital, Tanna island in Vanuatu, learning how to install and maintain off-grid solar systems in their homes and the community. © ActionAid Vanuatu

## Arise Fund

The Arise Fund was established to prepare women before disaster strikes, by supporting disaster preparedness, conflict resolution training and community-based protection programs.

In times of crisis, the Arise Fund also provides rapid response funding to ensure women, and their organisations, are resourced when it matters most.

Since 2017, the Arise Fund has raised \$12.9 million. More than 38,200 women

have been trained in preparing for and leading in times of crisis, with more than 4.12 million people benefitting.

For every \$1 contributed by donors to the Arise Fund, the Australian Government matches it with \$4 through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

In 2024, the Arise Fund supported women's leadership in responding to climate change and crises including Gaza, Vanuatu, Kenya, Indonesia and the Philippines.



Members of *Women I Tok Tok Tugeta* distribute food packages after twin Severe Tropical Cyclones Judy and Kevin. © ActionAid

## MECCA M-POWER

ActionAid Australia's three-year partnership with MECCA M-POWER is supporting women's leadership in responding to climate change and disasters through the Arise Fund.

In addition to flexible funding, the partnership provides valuable leadership training and

networking opportunities. ActionAid is grateful to the MECCA M-POWER team for promoting our emergency appeals, supporting our Frocking Hilarious comedy galas and for the generous employee donations we receive through workplace giving.



ActionAid trained community counsellors in Northern Uganda to offer psychosocial support to their peers. © ActionAid

## Empowering African Women to Lead Peacebuilding

The African Women Voices for Peace platform, supported by the **Judith Neilson Foundation** and **Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)**, is a multi-country initiative led by ActionAid in conflict-affected areas of the Great Lakes region.

The program strengthens women's leadership and participation in peacebuilding and security processes by creating national and regional platforms that foster collective action and equip women with tools to be leaders and hold their communities accountable.

The program addresses the immediate needs of women impacted by conflict in Kenya and Uganda — particularly survivors

of gender-based violence — through access to protection services, healthcare, mental health and trauma care services and livelihood training. It has also supported women to lead conflict resolution in their communities.

**"I used to feel hopeless, carrying the weight of my past alone.**

**Now, I see that together we can heal.**

**I feel empowered to help others, just as I have been helped."**

– Aisha (not her real name), a participant in Northern Uganda



## Ni-Vanuatu Women Lighting the Way

In Vanuatu, up to 80% of the rural population lives without electricity. Ni-Vanuatu women have long called for access to the electrical grid – for cooking, for their children to do their homework, and for street lighting to improve safety.

Through a partnership between ActionAid Australia, the **Australian Government, PowerWells** and the ***Women I Tok Tok Tugeta* (WITTT)** network, an innovative rent-to-own program in the small village of Lawital in Tanna is providing affordable solar units to households, with all funds going directly back into the community.

Women from the community have been trained in installation and maintenance

of solar systems and so far, have installed solar power in 60 households. By the project's end in 2025, all 115 households in Lawital will run on solar power. Already communities are reporting four to five hours of additional lighting every day that is increasing economic activity and safety in the community.

The partnership is powering homes with clean energy – and improving women's health and safety, promoting digital inclusion and establishing a sustainable and scalable model.

This project is part of the Australian Government's Pacific Climate Infrastructure Financing Partnership initiative.

**"This project will be a great benefit in my community. It is a first ever project that is implemented here in north Tanna.**

**It solves everything, it makes our lives easier, and our children will be very happy.**

**This is a real need you have solved here, thank you tumas!"**

– Sandra Joshua, *Woman I Tok Tok Tugeta* Taskforce Leader, Tanna, Vanuatu



## Building Evidence of our Impact

Independent evaluations of ActionAid's programs have provided evidence of the transformational impact of our work with women.

In **Hebron, Palestine**, ActionAid's Valiance-Basala Project was found to have laid a solid foundation for long-term gender equality and resilience, enabling women to not only survive but to lead, influence and reshape their communities – despite occupation and conflict. This was enabled by supporting rights awareness, community organising and business development.

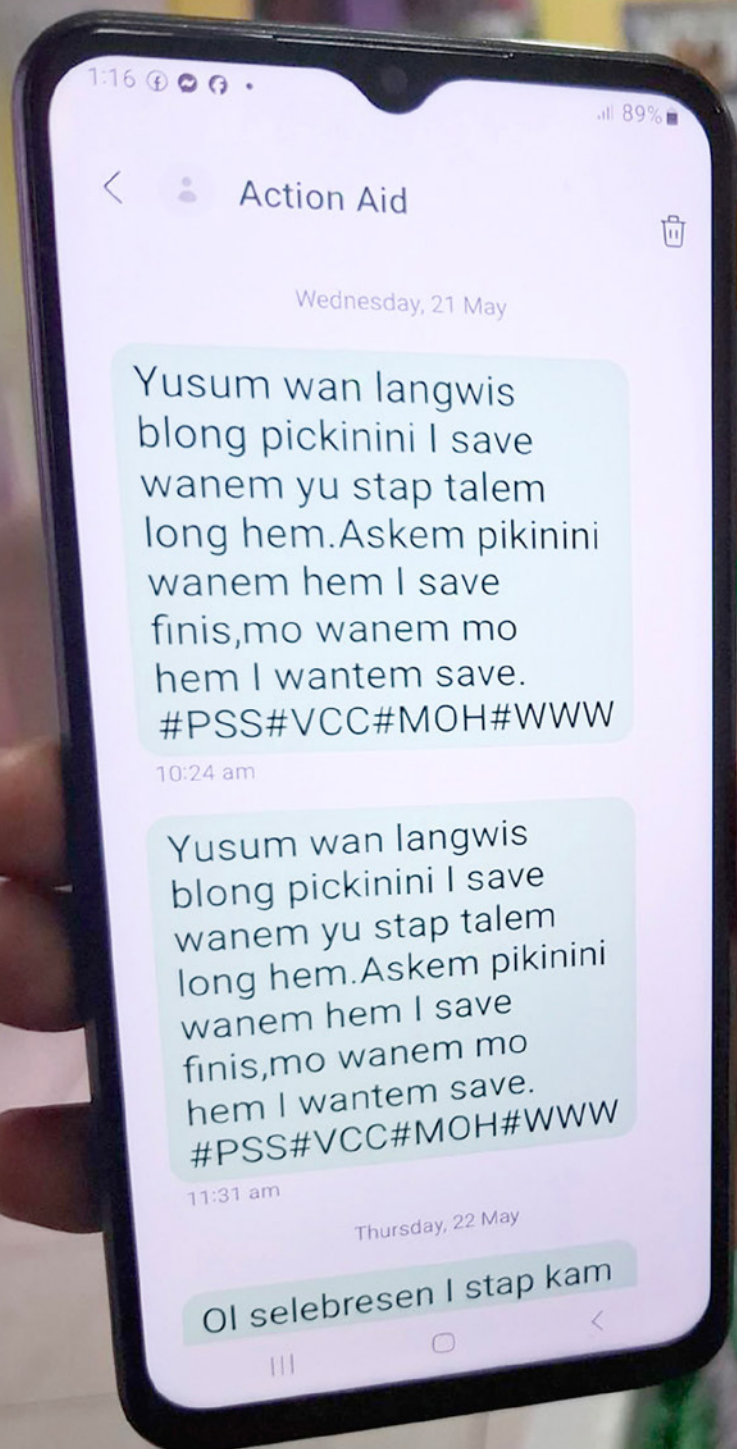
In **Bangladesh**, ActionAid's Decent Work Project was found to have significantly improved the livelihoods, rights awareness, and workplace conditions for garment workers across Dhaka, Tongi, and Savar.

It also demonstrated that worker-led movements and collaboration with factory management can drive sustainable change and gender equity in one of the country's most vital industries.

Full evaluations are available on the ActionAid Australia website at [www.actionaid.org.au](http://www.actionaid.org.au).

Mousumi is a garment worker in Bangladesh, and a survivor of the Rana Plaza disaster, whose life has greatly improved since receiving training, counselling and financial support from ActionAid since the incident. © ActionAid





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11:31 am

Thursday, 22 May

Oi selebresen I stap kam

## Research Shows Value of Women Wetem Weta

As a member of ActionAid's *Women Wetem Weta* (WWW) network, Catherine Kalomut has learnt vital skills to help her community during a crisis. When a powerful earthquake struck Port Vila in December 2024, Catherine was instrumental in her community's response. Drawing on skills she had learnt through WWW and as part of a phone tree network of more than 3,000 women, Catherine quickly contacted her community to urge them to move to safety. In the earthquake's aftermath, Catherine physically carried critical messages to her village when communications were down. She also provided dignity kits to the vulnerable, kept mothers fed and informed and helped coordinate food relief. Her leadership ensured her village was able to act swiftly to minimise impacts of the disaster.

A 2024 research report by the Australian Pacific Climate Partnership, *The Economics of Acting Early*, produced in partnership with ActionAid, the Institute for Sustainable Futures at University of Technology Sydney and other Pacific partners, examined the economic benefits of early disaster responses. The report, which featured WWW as a case study, found that early warning systems like WWW significantly improve community resilience. The report estimated that for every \$1 invested in WWW, there is a \$4.40

return, demonstrating the effectiveness of empowering women leaders like Catherine to deliver early warnings and drive responses.

Alongside the economic benefits, WWW was also shown to have driven gender transformative change, shifting the role of women in households and the community, improving women's safety and inclusion, and triggering generational change among girls and young women.



Catherine Kalomut is a member of Women Wetem Weta in East Efate, Vanuatu. © ActionAid

## Putting a Spotlight on Government Climate Plans

In October, ActionAid Australia launched a new report – *Transforming Disaster Response: Women-led Climate Solutions in Asia and the Pacific*. The Asia and Pacific regions are among the most disaster-prone areas in the world, and women are hardest hit by increasingly extreme climate events.

The report was launched at the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk

Reduction in the Philippines. It revealed that women continue to be overlooked in government climate change plans and excluded from response efforts when climate disasters strike across the regions.

The report provided recommendations to governments for strengthening gender-responsive climate and disaster policies and financing.

# **Advancing feminist systems change on women's rights and climate justice**

We're growing a movement of Australians who are driving change in Australian government policy and corporate practice to deliver global justice for women and ambitious climate action.



ActionAid Australia activists Nat Diane and Genevieve Lowry joined the ActionAid Assembly. © ActionAid

## She Wears the Cost

ActionAid's three-year campaign calling for improved labour rights and wages for women garment workers in Bangladesh and Cambodia successfully concluded in 2024.

The campaign demanded retailers The Iconic, Best&Less and Mosaic Brands (owner of stores such as Katies, Rivers and Millers) sign the International Accord for Health and Safety in the Textile and Garment Industry, a global agreement proven to save workers' lives.

Supporter advocacy and media exposure led to Mosaic Brands and The Iconic signing the Accord in 2022 and 2023 respectively.

In 2024, we continued to pressure Best&Less through a digital and media campaign launched on the anniversary of the Rana Plaza factory collapse that killed 1,138 workers.

In August, alongside Oxfam and Ekō, we delivered a petition signed by 96,000 people to the Best&Less headquarters in Sydney.

While ActionAid's campaigning focus has shifted to women's climate justice, reflecting our new strategy, we continue to support women garment workers through our international programs.



ActionAid joined partners to deliver 96,000 petition signatures to the Best&Less headquarters in Sydney. © ActionAid Australia



ActionAid staff and supporters took part in an action to highlight ANZ's financing of fossil fuel projects. © Market Forces/ActionAid

## The Future is Feminist and Fossil Free

With our supporters, activist network and partners, we campaigned for Australian and global banks to stop funding fossil fuel projects and re-direct finance towards women-led climate solutions.

In July we called on Australia's big four banks – ANZ, Westpac, NAB and Commonwealth Bank – to stop financing fossil fuels companies. We also joined ActionAid's global campaign targeting Citibank, Barclays and HSBC, all of which invest billions in companies that are causing the climate crisis.

In December, we released a report, *Financing Climate Destruction: How Australian Banks*

*are Eroding Women's Rights*, to highlight the impact of fossil fuel financing on women. The report called out Australia's big four banks for investing millions of dollars into Santos and Woodside, two of Australia's biggest fossil fuel polluters.

With the aim of holding ANZ accountable as Australia's number one fossil fuel funder, ActionAid Australia and Market Forces engaged in ANZ's Annual General Meeting to question the company's impact on women's rights through continued fossil fuel investment.



## Climate Finance & COP29

In a crucial year for climate finance globally, ActionAid Australia co-authored a report, *Seizing the Moment: A New Climate Finance Goal that Delivers for the Pacific*.

Endorsed by 50 other organisations, the report urged the Australian Government to support a new global climate finance goal to meet the needs of vulnerable Pacific countries and advance climate action. The report also called for Australia to deliver its fair share of climate finance and loss and damage funding.

In November, prior to and during the UN Climate Change Conference, COP29, ActionAid Australia and supporters pressured

Chris Bowen, Minister for Climate Change and Energy, to lift Australia's climate finance, with 1,100 people sending letters.

We also jointly organised an open letter signed by 25 other organisations calling for the Australian Government to contribute to the Global Loss and Damage Fund, which resulted in a \$50 million initial pledge.

ActionAid Australia with Pacific and First Nations partners joined COP29 to push for more ambitious climate finance and highlight the gendered impacts of the climate crisis. We also launched our renewable energy project in Vanuatu with Minister Bowen at the event.



## Campaigning in Solidarity with Gaza

Throughout the year, supporters joined us to campaign for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and respect for international law. More than 13,000 actions were taken including signing petitions and writing to local MPs to demand action. This support, coupled with advocacy from ActionAid and partner organisations, led to small, positive steps from the Australian Government in increasing its pressure on the Israeli Government to abide by international law and allow the provision of humanitarian relief to civilians in Gaza.

ActionAid also joined other organisations in signing a letter calling for the Australian Government to continue its support and funding for UNRWA, which it has done, in response to the Israeli Knesset ban on the humanitarian agency.

In October, 200 supporters attended our webinar with Australian journalist Antoinette Lattouf to learn more about the impact of the conflict on women in Gaza and Lebanon, as well as how to take action.



ActionAid Australia staff, supporters, activists and members gather for the annual ActionAid Assembly. © ActionAid

## Collaborating for Climate Justice

In October, ActionAid Australia held its annual ActionAid Assembly, which brought together ActionAid activists, donors, partners, staff and board members, along with a range of local and international speakers working on the frontlines of crises around the world.

The event provided an important opportunity to learn about the priorities and issues facing the women we work with and to provide input on what we can do to achieve our vision of a just, sustainable and equitable world for all.

Following the assembly, a training workshop was held for ActionAid Australia's activists from Sydney and Melbourne, including a networking lunch with five fellows from Kiribati and Tuvalu, hosted by the Edmund Rice Centre.

Learning from women who are leading climate action around the world has helped us galvanise thousands of Australians to take action on climate justice, and put pressure on our government step up its efforts.

# THANK YOU!

In 2024, we raised \$8.25 million from 7,300 Australian supporters including members of the public, business partnerships and institutions.

**These contributions are empowering women around the world to lead change in their communities.**



# YOUR SUPPORT HAS NEVER BEEN MORE IMPACTFUL

## Individuals

Anne Miller  
Belinda Morrissey & Ian Parsons  
Greg Shalit & Miriam Faine  
Drs Alan & Hilary Wallace  
Herschell Family  
Jaan Enden  
J A Donald Family  
Kate & Paul Saunders  
Kristina Stefanova & James Schultz  
Lorna Heather Holsinger  
Margaret Mary Finnegan  
Mary G. Bush  
Nicola Blackburn  
Susan Maple-Brown  
Susan Varga  
Vicki Olsson

## Foundations

Australian Ethical Foundation  
Australian Palestinian Partnerships  
in Education and Health  
Catherine Gray Trust  
Community Impact Foundation  
Doepke Foundation  
Graeme Wood Foundation  
Judith Neilson Foundation  
LVP Foundation  
Mulnot Foundation  
Norman Family Foundation  
Oranges & Sardines Foundation  
Pacific Development and Conservation Trust  
Roberts Pike Foundation  
S&J Cook Family Foundation  
Stephen Stewart Fund, a sub-fund within  
Australian Communities Foundation  
The Capital Region Community Foundation  
(GreaterGood)  
The Joffe Family Foundation  
The Skrzynski Foundation

## Organisations

ChitChat Design  
Colin Biggers & Paisley  
Groundswell Giving  
Hall & Wilcox  
MECCA M-POWER  
WWF

## Institutions

Australian Civil Military Centre  
Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
Global Fund for Women  
Home Planet Fund  
Palladium  
UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office  
United Nations Women's Peace & Humanitarian Fund

## Ambassadors

Claire Hooper  
Judith Lucy  
Tracey Spicer AM  
Natasha Stott-Despoja AO

## Arise Leadership Circle

Kristina Stefanova (Chair)  
Angela Priestley, Women's Agenda  
Anna Demant  
Arielle Gamble, Groundswell  
Asha Kayla, Woolworths  
Janette O'Neill  
Jo Norman, Norman Family Foundation  
Lauren Hicks, QBE Foundation  
Nicola Blackburn, Philanthropy Advisor  
Sarah Morton-Ramwell, Ashurst  
Tashi Wheeler

## Gifts in Wills

We are grateful to the supporters who have left a Gift in their Will to ActionAid. We are committed to bringing your legacy to life and feel deep privilege that you chose ActionAid.

# OUR GOVERNANCE

## OUR BOARD

**Belinda Morrissey**

Board Chair

**Nicole D'Souza**

Vice Chair

**Frank Burke**

Board Director & Treasurer

**Georgina King**

Board Director

**Jan Cossar**

Board Director

**Jananie Janarthana**

Board Director

**Kristina Stefanova**

Board Director

**Scot Ennis**

Board Director

**Trent Wallace**

First Nations Advisor

**Fahmeeda Wahab**

International  
Board Representative  
(dec. Oct 2024)

## OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

**Michelle Higelin**

Executive Director

**Kat Tu**

Head of Policy & Campaigns

**Sally Henderson**

Head of Programs

**Bharti Desai**

Chief Operating Officer

**Maeva Freeman**

Head of Fundraising



The ActionAid Australia team gathers for an all staff planning day. © ActionAid



# OUR FINANCES

## OUR FINANCES

During 2024, ActionAid Australia's operating revenue saw a marginal decrease to \$8.4 million. There was a small decline in Institutional revenue, and a higher decline of bequest and legacies.

Public funds raised totalled \$2.85 million and comprised 34% of operating revenue for the year, compared to 32% in the previous year. Public funds include donations and gifts received from the Australian public as well as non-monetary income such as volunteer and pro bono services. In 2024 ActionAid Australia received funds from donors who left gifts in their wills, totalling \$80,379.

Grant income from DFAT and other donors contributed to 62% of operating revenue at \$5.4 million. Interest income received was \$269,000 with other income of \$53,000.

ActionAid Australia's total expenditure for 2024 was on par to 2023 expenditure of \$8.9 million. Our total International program expenditure was 70% of the total expenditure. Of these, funds to International programs and support costs were \$5.6 million and campaigning in Australia was \$0.6 million.

Fundraising accounted for 21% of the total expenditure. ActionAid Australia continues to invest in fundraising activities that will lead to income growth in future years. Accountability and administration costs represented 6% of total expenditure.

The full financial report for the year ended 31 December 2024 is available on request via the ActionAid Australia website at [www.actionaid.org.au](http://www.actionaid.org.au).

The Summary Financial Report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct. ActionAid Australia is committed to full adherence to this Code.

For further information on the Code please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Guidance Document available at [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au).

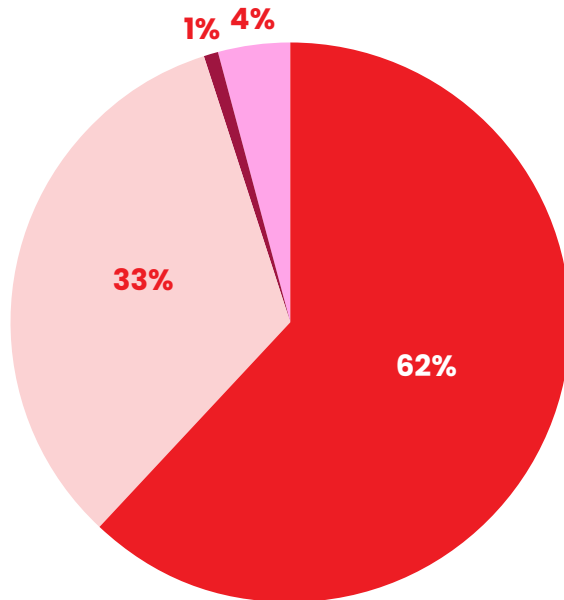
In order to lodge a complaint against ActionAid Australia please email [complaints.au@actionaid.org](mailto:complaints.au@actionaid.org).

Where a breach of the ACFID Code of Conduct is considered to have occurred please see the ACFID website [www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints](http://www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints) for contact details.



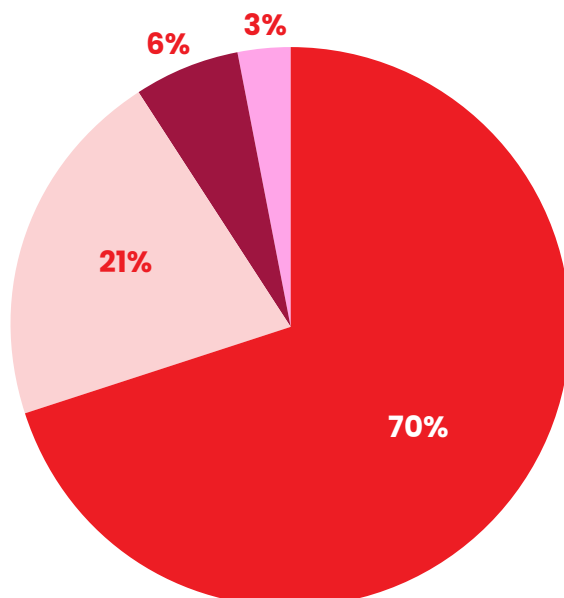
ACFID  
MEMBER

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE



## Income

- DFAT and other grants 62%
- Donations and gifts 33%
- Bequests and legacies 1%
- Investment and other income 4%



## Expenditure

- Program expenditure 70%
- Fundraising costs 21%
- Accountability & administration 6%
- Non-monetary expenditure 3%

# STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Year ended 31 December 2024			Year ended 31 December 2023
REVENUE	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total	Total
<b>Operating Revenue</b>				
Donations and gifts				
• Monetary	\$261,599	\$2,205,320	\$2,466,919	\$2,400,856
• Non-monetary	–	\$308,485	\$308,485	\$140,698
Bequests and legacies	–	\$80,379	\$80,379	\$193,595
Grants				
• DFAT and other	\$5,189,075	–	\$5,189,075	\$5,457,412
Investment income	–	\$269,632	\$269,632	\$273,254
Other income	\$6,940	\$45,660	\$52,600	\$34,035
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$5,457,614</b>	<b>\$2,909,476</b>	<b>\$8,367,090</b>	<b>\$8,499,850</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
International programs:				
• Funds to programmes	\$4,526,461	\$111,096	\$4,637,557	\$4,412,635
• Program support costs	\$925,931	\$46,442	\$972,373	\$1,242,737
Community education	\$16,701	\$583,882	\$600,583	\$884,568
Fundraising costs:				
• Public	\$303,337	\$1,537,934	\$1,841,271	\$1,811,974
Accountability and administration	–	\$530,296	\$530,296	\$469,641
Non-monetary expenditure	–	\$308,485	\$308,485	\$140,698
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>\$5,772,430</b>	<b>\$3,118,135</b>	<b>\$8,890,565</b>	<b>\$8,962,253</b>
• Operating excess/(shortfall) over expenditure	\$(314,816)	\$(208,659)	\$(523,475)	\$(462,403)
<b>Total Excess/(Shortfall) of Revenue Over Expenditure</b>	<b>\$(314,816)</b>	<b>\$(208,659)</b>	<b>\$(523,475)</b>	<b>\$(462,403)</b>
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	–	–	–	–
<b>Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$(314,816)</b>	<b>\$(208,659)</b>	<b>\$(523,475)</b>	<b>\$(462,403)</b>

During the year ended 31 December 2024, ActionAid Australia had no transactions in the following categories specified in the ACFID Code of Conduct: International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs Revenue or Expenditure.

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

for the year ended 31 December 2024

2023	Retained earnings	Restricted funds reserves	Unrestricted funds reserves	Total undistributed funds
<b>Opening balance at 1 January 2023</b>	\$1,409,997	\$1,511,921	\$50,000	\$2,971,918
Deficit for the year	\$(462,403)	-	-	\$(462,403)
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss)</b>	\$(462,403)	-	-	\$(462,403)
Transfers to/(from) reserves:	\$241,447	\$(241,447)	-	-
<b>Total Closing Balance at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>\$1,189,041</b>	<b>\$1,270,474</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$2,509,515</b>

2024	Retained earnings	Restricted funds reserves	Unrestricted funds reserves	Total undistributed funds
<b>Opening balance at 1 January 2024</b>	\$1,189,041	\$1,270,474	\$50,000	\$2,509,515
Deficit for the year	\$(523,475)	-	-	\$(523,475)
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	-	-	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income/(loss)</b>	\$(523,475)	-	-	\$(523,475)
Transfers to/(from) reserves:	\$314,816	\$(314,816)	-	-
<b>Total Closing Balance at 31 December 2024</b>	<b>\$980,382</b>	<b>\$955,658</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>\$1,986,040</b>

During the year ended 31 December 2024, ActionAid Australia had no transactions in the following categories specified in the ACFID Code of Conduct: adjustments or changes in equity due to adoptions of new accounting standards, items of other comprehensive income.

For the year ended 31 December 2024 ActionAid Australia's retained earnings decreased by \$0.2m, its restricted funds reserve decreased by \$0.3m over the year, leading to a total decline of reserves to \$2m. ActionAid Australia does not utilise all funds immediately to ensure that funds are best used for long-term, sustainable outcomes

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	31 December 2024	31 December 2023
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$6,697,355	\$6,980,833
Trade and other assets	\$547,588	\$475,010
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>\$7,244,943</b>	<b>\$7,455,843</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>		
Right-of-use assets	\$211,494	\$321,838
Property, plant and equipment	\$516	\$1,441
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>\$212,010</b>	<b>\$323,279</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$7,456,953</b>	<b>\$7,779,122</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	\$705,380	\$924,140
Lease Liability	\$111,054	\$98,309
Provisions – employee benefits	\$377,889	\$310,430
Other – deferred revenue	\$4,126,966	\$3,678,501
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>\$5,321,289</b>	<b>\$5,011,380</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>		
Lease Liability	\$113,853	\$224,906
Provisions – employee benefits	\$35,771	\$33,321
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>\$149,624</b>	<b>\$258,227</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$5,470,913</b>	<b>\$5,269,607</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>\$1,986,040</b>	<b>\$2,509,515</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Restricted funds reserve	\$955,657	\$1,270,474
Unrestricted funds reserves	\$50,000	\$50,000
Retained earnings	\$980,383	\$1,189,041
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>\$1,986,040</b>	<b>\$2,509,515</b>

At 31 December 2024 ActionAid Australia had no balances in the following categories specified in the ACFID Code of Conduct: inventories, assets held for sale, other financial assets, non-current trade and other receivables, investment property, intangibles, other non-current asset, current tax liabilities, other financial liabilities, borrowings or other non-current liabilities.

As at 31 December 2024 ActionAid Australia's assets totalled \$7.4m, \$6.7m held as cash, with around 52% of this amount being held in short-term term deposits at banks. The organisation's largest liability, at \$4.1m, is deferred revenue. Deferred revenue is grant funds received in advance to be used for overseas projects and management support costs of those projects.

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

for the year ended 31 December 2024

	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Cash receipts from appeals, donations & fundraising activities	\$2,547,298	\$2,594,451
Cash receipts from DFAT and other grants	\$6,106,457	\$6,067,330
Proceeds from other activities and government subsidies	\$52,600	\$34,035
Interest received	\$269,632	\$273,254
Interest paid	\$(22,066)	\$(3,232)
Cash payments to suppliers and employees	\$(2,928,579)	\$(2,844,349)
Cash payments for project expenditure	\$(6,210,512)	\$(6,482,082)
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities</b>	<b>\$(185,170)</b>	<b>\$(360,593)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	-	\$(66,631)
<b>Net cash (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$(66,631)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Repayment of lease liabilities	\$(98,308)	\$(99,537)
<b>Net cash (used in) / financing activities</b>	<b>\$(98,308)</b>	<b>\$(99,537)</b>
<b>Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>\$(283,478)</b>	<b>\$(526,761)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year</b>	<b>\$6,980,833</b>	<b>\$7,507,594</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>	<b>\$6,697,355</b>	<b>\$6,980,833</b>

The cash position of ActionAid Australia during 2024 decreased by \$0.3million; this was mainly due to the utilisation of Institutional funding for project delivery as well as donor acquisition costs. The cash receipts from fundraising revenue and Institutional were on par to 2023 receipts.

# AUDITOR'S REPORT



Nexia Sydney Audit Pty Ltd  
Level 22, 2 Market Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
PO Box Q776  
QVB NSW 1230  
E: [info@nexiasydney.com.au](mailto:info@nexiasydney.com.au)  
P: +61 2 9251 4600  
F: +61 2 9251 7138

[nexia.com.au](http://nexia.com.au)

## Report of the Independent Auditor on the Summary Financial Statements to the Members of ActionAid Australia

### Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of cash flows and the statement of changes in equity for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial report of ActionAid Australia (the company) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report, in accordance with the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct.

### Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report and the auditor's report thereon.

### The Audited Financial Report and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial report in our report dated 14 June 2025.

### Directors' Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements

The Directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the Summary Financial Statements in accordance with the ACFID Code of Conduct.

### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

### Nexia Sydney Audit Pty Ltd

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Vishal Modi'.

**Vishal Modi**

**Director**

ASIC Registered Company Auditor no.: 486119

Dated at Sydney, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June 2025

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ActionAid staff and board members, along with Vanuatu Special Envoy on Climate Change Ralph Regenvanu, sign a banner calling for climate finance, at the Woman I Tok Tok Tugeta federation launch. © ActionAid

**act:onaid**

**ActionAid Australia**

Level 15, 115 Pitt Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Phone: (02) 9565 9111

Donations: 1300 66 66 72

Email: [info.au@actionaid.org](mailto:info.au@actionaid.org)

ABN: 87 001 251 930



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