

TALKING ACTION

Together we empower women and change the world.

Incredible supporters like you have gone above and beyond, just as vital programs for women have come under threat from devastating global aid cuts.

Thanks to your generous response during this critical time, more women escaping violence will receive urgent medical care, learn new skills to be financially independent, and access vital mental health support.

Thank you for being there for women facing violence and conflict in Uganda and around the world.

You've empowered women to not just survive — but thrive.



Lucy, sharing her story.



Nuela, 21, participates in workshops for women.
© Esther Mbabazi / ActionAid

You've given Lucy a reason to smile again

For countless women in Uganda, home is far from being the safe place it should be.

For years, Lucy endured violence at home with no safe way out. Not with five children depending on her.

But everything changed the day Lucy's friend introduced her to an ActionAid women's shelter in Amuru.

Lucy found not only safety, but critical support that helped her rebuild her life. Lucy tells us it was here that she found a reason to smile again.

ActionAid worked with local police, and her husband was eventually arrested and incarcerated. Lucy finally had the chance to heal.

Lucy is a survivor of violence thanks to her incredible courage and the unknown bounds of a mother's determination for her children. Your support gave her the safe space to do it.

"I don't want to remember those bad times, but I am so grateful to ActionAid for working with the police to help me. I am a free woman at last."

When danger closed in, Ashtami stepped up



You've helped empower Ashtami with life-saving knowledge.

When Cyclone Remal hit Bangladesh, Ashtami didn't hesitate. She raised the alarm, guided people with disabilities and the elderly to shelters, and ensured women were safe and supported. She even distributed thousands of food packages.

Thanks to the training she received through ActionAid's Women-Led Emergency

Response program, Ashtami is now a trusted leader in her village and a powerful voice for women's rights.

"It felt good being able to stand by people before and after the disaster. The villagers come to consult me about various issues."

Because of you, women like Ashtami aren't just surviving disaster — they're leading their communities through it.

Thank you for making this possible.

Rebuilding after disaster in Myanmar

When a powerful earthquake struck Myanmar in March, it claimed around 4,000 lives and left communities reeling. Homes were destroyed, forcing families into the streets. But your generosity brought urgent care in the aftermath and hope as people rebuild their lives.

You've helped us work with local partners to deliver emergency relief and build strong, lasting shelters for families living in tents. Made from bamboo and designed to withstand earthquakes and floods, these structures are better suited to the heat and preferred by local communities.

Our partners have also created safe spaces for women — many now sole providers — to find peer support, attend workshops and access mental health care.

Because of you, over 14,000 people have been supported, and families are finally rebuilding in the face of incredible loss.



"We came here to help encourage the children — to bring them some joy and help them find strength."

Despite everything, there's this spirit of resilience. This attitude of we'll keep going, we will survive this."

— Mi Mi Tun, a youth volunteer leading child wellbeing activities

How your support is making a difference

Almost 500,000 people have received emergency relief so far with your support.

Thank you for being a source of hope for families in Gaza.



253,000 people have been provided food parcels and hot meals



28,200 received essential items like soap, sanitary pads, clothing and blankets



51,650 reached with shelter supplies, water tanks and shower blocks



15,000 women and children accessed mental health care and wellbeing activities



Ghaida and Nisreen by the clay ovens.
© Wattan Media Network

Women's daily acts of strength in Gaza

Meet Ghaida and Nisreen.

They are two dedicated volunteers with WEFAQ Association, a women-led organisation and ActionAid partner supporting families displaced in Gaza.

Under tarpaulin structures and using clay ovens, volunteers prepare and bake bread for families in the camp.

People like you have made this vital work possible during the hardest times for families in Gaza, helping Ghaida and Nisreen to keep going with the limited local resources still available.

At the start of the year, when Israeli authorities began blocking all aid from entering into Gaza, the volunteers were baking bread for around 700 families.

Now, they only make whatever they can amid soaring flour and fuel prices.

"There is great suffering just to reach a loaf of bread," says Nisreen. Ghaida reminds us the clay ovens are only a temporary solution:

"We should return to our lives. We need houses and we need gas and bakeries to be able to return to work. This will secure us more than bread alone."

Delivering aid remains challenging, but we're working with our local partners to source essentials like vegetables, clothing, and sanitary pads from wholesalers in Gaza. We continue to call for an end to the humanitarian blockade.



Winnie beyond her comfort zone

Winnie recalls the earthquake that struck Vanuatu last December – so powerful she couldn't even stay standing.

Her only way out was to crawl. That's when she saw her colleague Ellen had been thrown from her wheelchair.

Already, the scale of the disaster was clear.

Winnie became a driving force in the community's recovery. As a member of the WITTT Sunshine network, Winnie knows that during a crisis, reaching people with disabilities quickly and getting them what they need can be lifesaving. She helped lead the action, making sure women received dignity kits, families found shelter and clean water was restored.

For Winnie, the earthquake response wasn't just about distributing food and supplies, it was about empowerment. She had been quietly watching the work of WITTT Sunshine from the sidelines before. But now, she is a key player.



Winnie is a proud member of WITTT Sunshine, the disability arm of Vanuatu's Women I Tok Tok Tugeta network – which translates to 'Women Talk Together'

A Frocking Hilarious time together

Almost \$40,000 was raised through two unforgettable nights of comedy in Sydney and Brisbane!

Hosted by Claire Hooper and Mel Buttle, Frocking Hilarious proved laughter can be a powerful force for change.



Claire Hooper opening the show in style.

Fierce, funny & fabulous

Frocking Hilarious is our annual gala that brings an all-women line up to the stage while raising funds to support women around the world.

This year we were packed with 16 phenomenal comedians who didn't miss a beat.

Thank you to our partners Sydney Comedy Festival, Brisbane Comedy Festival and to everyone who came along, laughed loud, and gave generously.

We can't wait to see you next year.

Climb with a Comedian

Sydney Comedy Festival teamed up with Sydney BridgeClimb for a fundraiser with a twist — a hilarious take on the iconic Harbour Bridge experience. Five comedians joined guests on the climb, serving up banter with the panoramic views.

With every ticket supporting ActionAid, the event **raised an incredible \$7,000!** Thank you to everyone who joined the fun.



Headliners Geraldine Hickey and Celia Pacquola backstage in Sydney.



Marney McQueen, Celine from Titanic the Musical, one of five comedians who joined in.
© Sydney Comedy Festival



Let's power Anam's run for change!

When a recent email invited supporters to run the City2Surf for women in Gaza, Dr Anam Bilgrami acted instantly.

"I jumped at the opportunity. I love doing the City2Surf and was desperate to find a way to support Gaza. I'm heartbroken by the genocide and devastated by the Australian Government's lack of strong action. I just want to help in any way I can."

Anam is a Senior Research Fellow in Economics and Health Policy at Macquarie University and reached her fundraising target of \$1,500 in less than 24 hours.

She has attended protests and been vocal on social media about Gaza, despite potential backlash from speaking up.

Since signing up, she's received an outpouring of support.

"I've been lucky to have a strong community

around me — friends, family, uni mates, and people on LinkedIn have all chipped in. I'll keep pushing to raise more."

She also shared their appreciation for ActionAid's advocacy.

"I really admire ActionAid's voice on Gaza. Your petitions, letters, and calls for a ceasefire mean a lot."

Anam was also very pleased to find out recently that the Australian Government has issued some sanctions due to advocacy efforts.

Her story is a powerful reminder: we all have a role to play, and even small steps — like running — can help spark change.

Support Anam's run for Gaza and help provide life-saving aid where it's needed most — visit actionaid.org.au/anam or scan this QR code here.



Thank you — your support empowers women and changes the world!

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