

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

ACTIONS FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE IN A CHANGING WORLD



BOARD PREFACE

We are delighted to present to you our 2024 Federation Annual Report that highlights some of our collective successes, missed opportunities and lessons for the future. Despite the significant challenges encountered in 2024 - including the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, global economic instability, geopolitical tensions, and the increasing frequency and impact of climate-related disasters, your courage and commitment has enabled us to make meaningful progress in achieving key federal milestones in our connected thematic work and global campaign, Fund our Future.

A challenging world calls for renewed efforts for change. Through ActionAid's Strategic Implementation Framework (SIF3) *Action for Global Justice in a Volatile World*, ActionAid focuses on strengthening work with movements who are the frontlines of change. The federation is united in its shared vision to become a rooted campaigning organisation with a strong popular base, whilst recognising the importance of considering local and national contexts when implementing our collective frameworks.

Our 2025 plans outline strategic interventions to ensure we deliver connected thematic programmes linking local, national and global struggles and shifting power at all levels, underpinning this work with effective systems and supporting through sustainable fundraising. Looking ahead to 2025, we hope to continue to advance our mission and deepen our impact.

Alongside the stories' map, the report shows the breadth and depth of our work, and the potential role that ActionAid can play, working together with partners and allies across the globe.

We would like to thank all our staff, partners and allies who continue to reflect, innovate and drive change alongside us. We are working together in solidarity to shift resources and power to those living in the margins of society and facing oppression. We thank and stand in solidarity especially with activists in the frontlines of crisis and conflict who are working to achieve social justice for all.

We acknowledge and appreciate the important role that governing bodies play around the federation in their voluntary capacities. We thank countries for sharing data, analysis, stories and learnings for this collaboratively generated report. What is captured in the pages that follows is only the tip of the iceberg. There is a huge amount of work going on every day across the federation and across the globe. It is seen and appreciated.

Solidarity,

Hellen Grace Akwii - ActionAid Board Chair

Gino Govender - Vice Chair



Hellen Grace Akwii



Gino Govender

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CONTEXT

Summary

We are living in volatile times, with an accelerating collapse of a largely collaborative world order that many have taken for granted. Aid is in dramatic decline with a [90% cut in USAID funding](#), followed by a [cut in UK aid to fund higher defence spending](#) and with many donors now focused on their own trade and security interests, rather than addressing poverty and justice. A globalised neoliberal world order has shaped economies for at least two generations (since the Structural Adjustment programmes of 1980s), but core elements of that order are being undermined by President Trump's tariff wars. Whilst some of these are developments from the early months of 2025, they were all seeded with Trump's election victory in November 2024 – and they all reinforce that ActionAid's system change agenda is ever more relevant.

The year of multiple elections did little to generate confidence in democracy, with money and misinformation distorting many results and a worrying rise of far-right forces, particularly in Europe. In Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Myanmar and Bangladesh, people took to the streets in mounting numbers to protest austerity and betrayal by political elites. In June, [youth-led peaceful protests demanding tax reforms in Kenya](#) escalated into violent clashes with security forces. The sustained public pressure led to a reversal of the proposed tax changes, and demonstrated the power of on-the-ground mobilisation, as well as the influence of social media. Meanwhile, [young people campaigned against IMF-activated inflation in Nigeria and corruption in Uganda](#). Perhaps most dramatically, in Bangladesh, [protests against job quotas faced severe crackdowns, including extrajudicial killings and arbitrary arrests](#). This turmoil culminated in Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's resignation and subsequent flight from the country.

Throughout 2024, the mounting evidence of war crimes and genocide in Gaza made headlines. Despite international legal action and peaceful protests across the world, Israel was able to continue with impunity. Conflicts in Sudan and DRC were largely ignored by the mainstream media but impacted many millions of innocent civilians. Conflicts in Ethiopia and the breakdown of order in Haiti received even less attention.

The frequency of climate-related disasters continued to accelerate, with severe flooding in Bangladesh, Afghanistan, China and Spain, fires in North and South America, and droughts in South America, southern Africa and southern Europe.

Key international forums, including COP29 in Baku, the Commission on the Status of Women, IMF annual meetings and the G20 Summit, provided platforms for advocacy but fell short of delivering transformative outcomes, particularly in advancing climate finance and economic reform.

Meanwhile, persistent geopolitical tensions, including the intensifying conflict in Ukraine and a new administration in the White House, set in motion far-reaching impacts on democracy, equality, peace and human rights.



PHOTO: FAHAD KAIZER / ACTIONAID

Responding to a Continuously Changing World

Over five million people were impacted by flooding in Bangladesh in 2024. When Rahmina's son became poorly following the rising floodwaters in Noakhali river, she took a boat to the nearest medical centre, conscious that the journey could be dangerous. When disasters and conflict occur, women like Rahmina do more work because of their care responsibilities. ActionAid's response in Noakhali was women-led, and included a dignity and hygiene kit and cash grant so that women were supported appropriately and had autonomy to make their own decisions about spending.

At a national level, ActionAid advocated for women-led humanitarian response. At a regional level, for instance in the Asia Regional People's Assembly, ActionAid, and representatives from Noakhali, advocated for people-led climate solutions while also demanding climate finance. At a global level, ActionAid's participation in COP29 was centred on demanding climate finance.

As Farah Kabir, Country Director of ActionAid Bangladesh explained, "Countries like Bangladesh with negligible emissions and whose people have shown super resilience deserve immediate funds to address the impacts of climate change and frequent disasters."

As part of ActionAid's mobilisations at COP29, ActionAid, with guest speakers from Alliance of Non-Governmental Radical Youth (ANGRY) & Asian Peoples' Movement on Debt and Development (APMDD) organised an event where 'debt collectors' came to COP with a giant 10-metre itemised climate invoice to the rich countries, for the trillions owed in climate finance to those on the frontlines.

PHOTO: JESS MIDWINTER / ACTIONAID



By Region

In the Middle East, ongoing instability continued to affect Lebanon, Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank. Israel's increased military operations in Lebanon and intensified actions in the West Bank resulted in significant casualties and further destabilisation of the region. In Gaza, the humanitarian crisis remained critical throughout 2024, with persistent blockades and military actions exacerbating already dire living conditions. South Africa, which has given unwavering support for the rights of Palestinians, demonstrated how solidarity actions are a powerful response to crisis. Their choice to take Israel to the International Court of Justice for war crimes inspired other countries to follow suit.

Political instability remained a significant concern in Haiti where efforts to curb gang violence struggled to yield meaningful results, compounded by the apathy of the prime minister. In Brazil, a polarised political climate and a fragmented Congress posed challenges to President Lula's agenda. In Colombia, armed conflicts fuelled by dissident groups and criminal networks persisted, endangering communities and human rights defenders. Bolivia's acute economic crisis, driven by fuel shortages and currency instability, disproportionately affects vulnerable populations and is compounded by political tensions between factions aligned with President Arce and former President Morales.

In Asia, humanitarian and political challenges persisted, particularly in Afghanistan, where restrictive governance and security concerns have severely impacted women's rights and INGOs' ability to operate. The ongoing military coup in Myanmar continues to destabilise the region, fuelling youth-led protests and increasing regional instability.

In Africa, contested elections in Mozambique have raised allegations of fraud and human rights violations, while Somaliland's new administration signals potential dialogue with Somalia. Ethiopia continues to grapple with conflict impacting on millions of livelihoods and disrupting transportation, economic activity, and governance.

As a result of political turmoil and climate shocks, over 4.5 million people in Ethiopia remain internally displaced. The country also faced severe food insecurity, malnutrition and disease outbreaks, particularly with the influx of refugees from Sudan into the Amhara region. External policies such as the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) conditionality on floating foreign currency in Ethiopia raised significant concerns and deepened the crisis.

In the Sahel, solidarity between Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali was demonstrated as they established pacts for collaboration on economic and security issues, disengaging from France to reduce its influence in the region. They have exited the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), claiming the entity is not protecting their interests.

On the political front, several major elections had implications beyond their borders. Key elections in Mexico, Venezuela, and Uruguay shaped regional activity in the Americas, though doubts about the transparency and legitimacy of many elections remain. In Africa, important elections in South Africa and Senegal impacted the continent's political landscape. In Asia, elections in India and Indonesia were pivotal for regional geopolitics.

European elections held in June reflected the rise of far-right parties across the continent. The new European Commission's priorities, including advancing the Green Deal and enhancing economic resilience, faced challenges from rising far-right influences and the ongoing Ukraine conflict has heightened regional security concerns.

IMPACT ActionAid in numbers¹

Our global federation exists to harness individual and collective work to achieve social justice and gender equality and eradicate poverty. Central in our drive to achieve our mission in 2024 were 3,048 staff (1,467 women and 1,581 men), and we had presence in 75 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and The Americas, supported by a Global Secretariat of 120 (76 women and 44 men). Of our staff, 42% of our senior leaders are women. We worked with 3,592 partners of which 759 were social movements, 737 were networks/coalitions, 1,069 were women's rights/women led organisations, and 605 were organisations led by young people.

Countries reported reaching 45.2 million people in our campaigns, including 22.2 million women, 19.8 million men and 3.2 million children.

Our overall humanitarian work reached 4.7 million people, including 1.6 million women, 1.4 million men, 1.7 million children.

25
AFFILIATES

Full members, legally registered as national organisations, autonomous and self-governed

Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, UK, USA.

5
ASSOCIATES

Members in transition to Affiliates

Indonesia, Spain, Thailand, Vietnam, Zambia.

15
COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

Programmes with managerial oversight provided by the International Board

Afghanistan, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Liberia, Myanmar, Palestine, Senegal, Somalia, Somaliland, South Africa, Zimbabwe.

30
PRESENCES

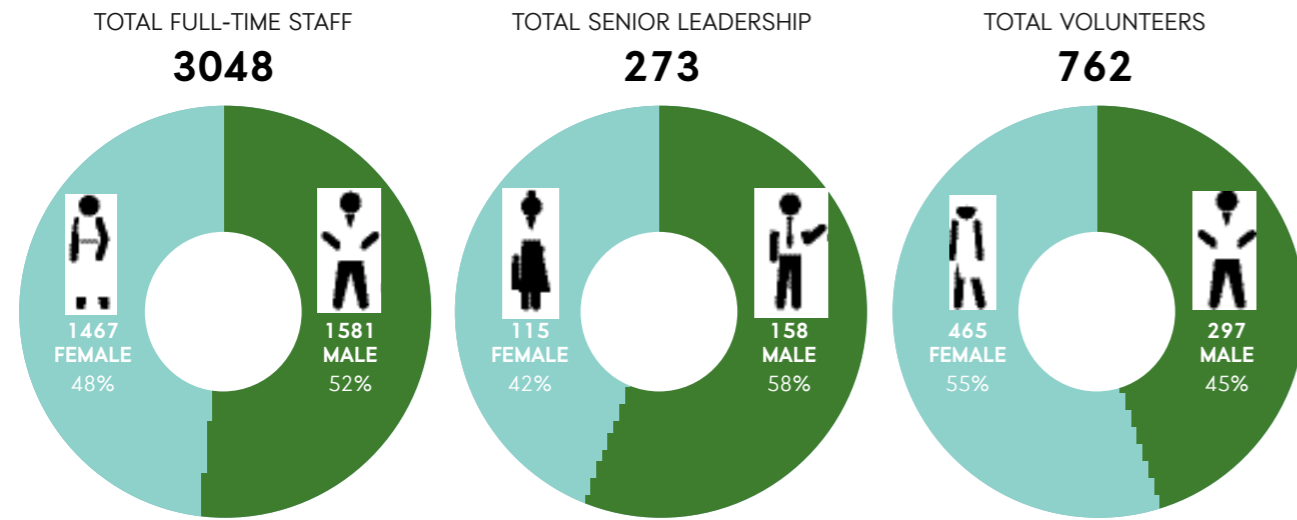
Presence through partners, or through offshoots and satellites of existing country presences with a regional remit

Bolivia, Cyprus, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Samoa, San Marino, Solomon Islands, South Sudan, Sudan, Switzerland, Syria, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Vatican, Yemen.

1. Following the Geographic footprint review in 2023, ActionAid identified several countries and areas with an ActionAid presence which hadn't been formally recognised. In addition to the 25 Affiliates, 5 Associates and 15 Country Programmes which make up the ActionAid Federation we also have presence – through partners, satellites and new members joining – in a further 30 countries. This brings the total of countries we have potential to impact to 75.

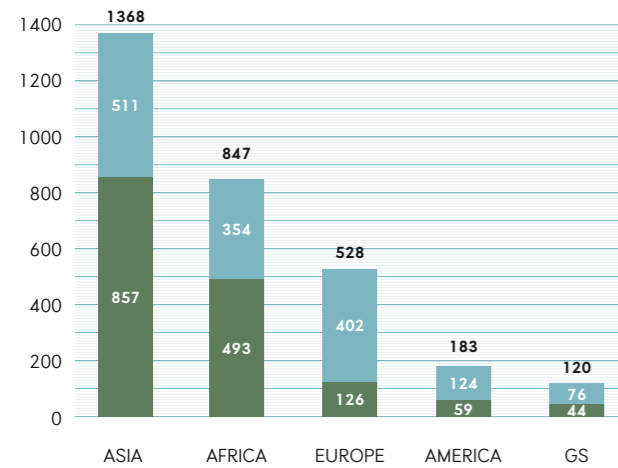
Staff

Federation staff information – all countries and Global Secretariat (GS):

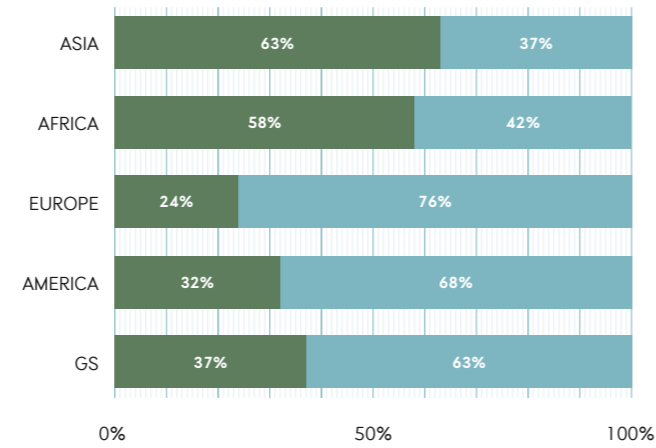


Staff division per region

NUMBER OF MALE AND FEMALE STAFF PER REGION

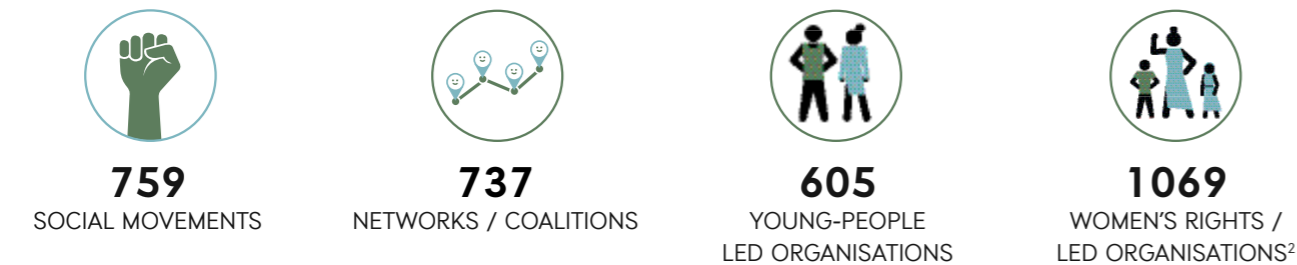


% OF MALE AND FEMALE STAFF PER REGION



● Male staff ● Female staff

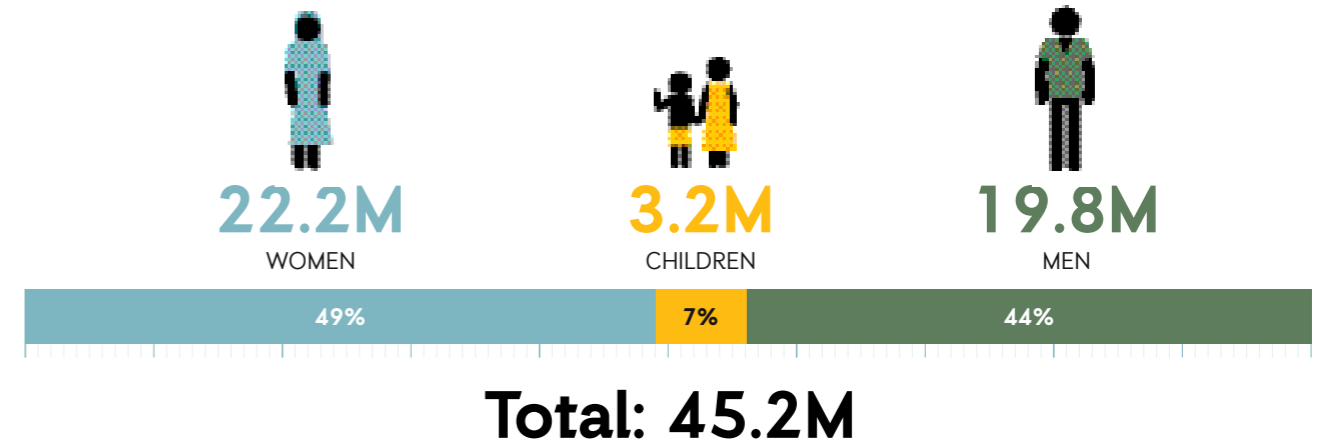
Partners: 3592 – International: 478 – Local: 3114



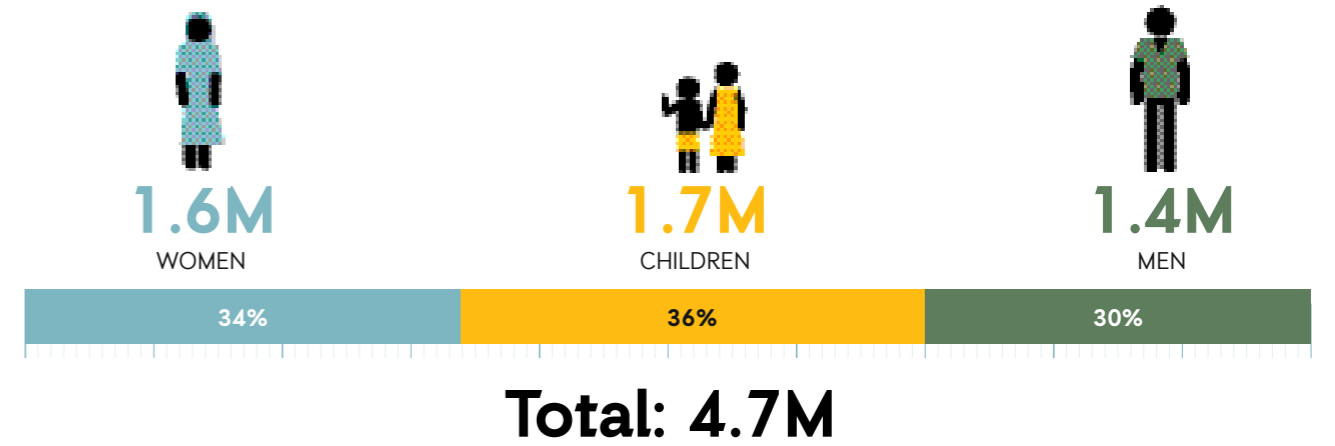
2. The total number of partners includes both international and local organisations. The sub-categories - social movements, networks/coalitions, youth-led groups, and women's rights/led organizations, do not add up to the total, as some partners may fall into multiple categories.

Reach

Reach: by campaigns



Reach: by humanitarian assistance



Reach: children targeted by empowerment activities

1.2M

CROSS-CUTTING INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Convening movements around alternative systems

World Social Forum: 14-18 February 2024, Kathmandu, Nepal.

The World Social Forum (WSF) is a global gathering of civil society organisations and social movements that oppose neoliberal globalisation and capitalist economic policies. ActionAid played an active role in helping re-convene this open platform for discussing and formulating proposals to challenge these systems.

- 20 countries represented ActionAid, showcasing the power of global collaboration in initiatives such as the 'solidarity march' and the 'square of declarations.'
- The ActionAid tent at the main forum was well attended, with events on movement building and climate justice led by ActionAid Association India.
- WSF served as an opportunity to address human rights violations and the persecution of Human Rights Defenders in Myanmar since the military coup. A signature campaign in solidarity with Myanmar gained momentum.

ActionAid's commitment to and presence at the World Social Forum ensures that ActionAid partners, allies, and representatives of people's movements can connect, analyse and build cross-movement solidarity and visibility so we are poised to mobilise.



Aruna Koju from ActionAid Nepal joins a climate action as part of the World Social Forum.

PHOTO: ACTIONAID



This drama performed by Shilpee Theatre during the World Social Forum highlighted the struggles of Nepalese farmers experiencing climate change, and overuse of pesticides which have degraded land fertility and caused health problems. PHOTO: ACTIONAID

Movement Building - Standing United: Freedom from Fear

In July 2024, young people in Uganda led an anti-corruption protest, the #MarchToParliament. Aloikin Praise, pictured below, said "Together, we rise as a united voice against corruption, demanding transparency and justice for all. Our strength lies in our solidarity; we will not be silenced until our demands are met." The march united smaller organisations from across Uganda who had been working on local issues for years, to join in solidarity against the mismanagement of funds and raise the voices of young people. ActionAid established secure digital coordination groups to facilitate the safe communication of organisers.

Digital mobilisation was a key part of the online campaign #UgandaParliamentExhibition which, along with the march, exposed corruption in Parliament. It sparked public outrage and demands for accountability, and united citizens and activists behind a need for systemic reforms. The campaign reached 3.7 million people and was mentioned over 660k times on social media.

The immediate impact of the digital campaign was the arrest, remand, and trial of three ministers for diverting iron sheets intended for Karamoja, Uganda's most impoverished region. Sanctions were also imposed on implicated officials, including the United States sanctioning five current and former Ugandan officials for their alleged involvement in corruption and human rights violations. The mobilisation energised and connected movements across Uganda to take action together. Beyond Uganda, ActionAid supported young activists across the globe. ActionAid offered psychosocial support to young people mobilising in Kenya; organised leadership development to support building sustainable movements in Bangladesh; and offered immediate legal support when activists were arrested in Zimbabwe.

Internally, we recognised the need to shift our own systems and practices to work better with social movements. A series of webinars brought together youth activists and staff to share experiences and insights from mass mobilisations in 2024, cultivating a movement mindset across the Federation, reinforcing goals of amplifying grassroots voices and building collective power.

Aloikin Praise on the #MarchtoParliament.

ActionAid Uganda issued a statement expressing concerned about the intimidation and arrests which followed the anti-corruption protest.

PHOTO: MATTO STORIES



ADVOCACY

EU Elections Campaign:

ActionAid's EU Office, along with members in the region, mobilised voters and shared information on manifestos. ActionAid launched a scorecard, spotlighting the critical issues in the leading parties' manifestos.

BRUSSELS

BONN, SWITZERLAND

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):

In addition to the COP29 negotiations in Baku in November (see below), ActionAid continues to actively engage UN climate policy processes including the technical SB60 negotiations in Bonn, undertaking advocacy on issues including climate finance, agriculture, adaptation, and carbon markets. We also participated in the series of Board meetings of the newly formed Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD), continuing to advocate for the formation of a fund to meet the needs of communities recovering from climate disasters.

ADDIS ABABA

African Union:

ActionAid and the farmer leaders that we work with played an active role in the development of the AU's new Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) policy, Africa's regional commitment on agriculture. Through these efforts, agroecology is becoming increasingly recognised as a climate and agriculture solution that works for farmers.

Asia Round Table on Social Protection:

ActionAid participated in the Asia Round Table on Social Protection in Bangkok, contributing to discussions on transformative social protection, gender-responsive public services, and economic justice. The team shared experiences from conflict contexts and emphasised the importance of a transformative social protection agenda.

Fighting Inequality Alliance (FIA):

The FIA has revitalised its Asia Chapter, and ActionAid Asia Region is one of the Regional Council members, alongside organisations such as Asian People's Movement on Debt and Development, International Trade Union Confederation, Greenpeace, Oxfam, and South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication.

Asia Regional People's Assembly:

On September 11, ActionAid and 22 civil society alliances, organised a virtual Asia Regional Peoples Assembly. This event facilitated dialogue on social and ecological justice and human rights, with a focus on Bangladesh and Myanmar. Additionally, ActionAid moderated a session featuring parliamentarians from Nepal, Pakistan, and the UK to address community concerns. The assembly culminated in the development of a declaration.

MYANMAR

THAILAND

BANGKOK

THE PHILIPPINES

INDONESIA

EAST TIMOR

Supporting Human Rights Defenders:

In partnership with ActionAid's MOVE (social movement support) initiative, ActionAid is building the capacity and solidarity of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) in the Asia-Pacific. In collaboration with the International Centre for Non-Violent Conflict (ICNC), the team launched a blog series titled Voices of Resilience featuring Women Human Rights Defenders from Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Thailand.

ASEAN Advocacy:

ActionAid and external allies amplified voices on social and ecological justice and human rights at the ASEAN Peoples Forum (APF 24) in Timor-Leste. Building on the success of APF 2023 in Indonesia, the focus was climate justice and the shrinking political space, particularly in Myanmar, while highlighting messages from ActionAid's Fund Our Future Climate Justice Campaign

ActionAid 'debt collectors' send a message to negotiators at COP29 negotiations in Baku.

PHOTO: JESS MIDWINTER/ ACTIONAID



COP29 Climate negotiations, 11-22 November

Calling on rich countries to provide climate finance to address the climate crisis

At UN COP29 climate negotiations in Baku, Azerbaijan, ActionAid's strong delegation of staff, partners and youth activists advocated powerfully for climate finance and amplified the voices of frontline communities. Although they expressed deep disappointment with the final agreement, which lacked ambition and relied heavily on loans instead of grants, ActionAid's combined contribution of policy expertise, research, advocacy, media, campaigning and events resulted in a huge presence at this critical global moment. Flora Vano, ActionAid Vanuatu said: "While we are here at COP29 we want to make sure that wealthy nations think of small island states and communities that are facing hardships... We need the funds to help us recover, cope, and build better lives. Without the funds we will keep on suffering." Impacts included:

- Nine youth activists and community leaders were supported to attend COP29 and share their experiences from the front lines of the climate crisis.
- ActionAid was quoted in over 1,450 pieces of print and online news coverage, and interviewed or reported on in hundreds of TV and radio broadcasts, with appearances in *BBC World News*, *Le Monde*, *The Guardian*, and globally syndicated pieces from *AP*, *AFP* and *Reuters*.
- Visually powerful stunt actions such as the 'Giant Climate Invoice' and 'The Climate Debt Collectors' illustrated the need to hold rich countries to account for climate finance, with photos and footage appearing in media around the world.
- Social media engagement was much higher compared to COP28, with a 407% increase in impressions and a 746% rise in video views.



ActionAid's giant climate invoice attracts attention during Climate Finance Day at COP29. ActionAid's Teresa Anderson said, "The fight for finance will need to be central to every negotiation ahead."

PHOTO: JESS MIDWINTER/ ACTIONAID

CLIMATE JUSTICE

ActionAid's work on climate justice continued to build from the ground up. Starting from our programme work on the front lines of the climate crisis, our teams worked to empower communities, particularly women and youth, to analyse climate impacts, develop and implement strategies, and campaign at local, national, regional and international levels for climate solutions that protect their rights and their future. We are proud that our research, policy, campaigns and media work continue to be shaped by communities' needs and perspectives.

Much of our rooted work on climate justice supported farmers to scale up and demand policy support for agroecology as a means to strengthen resilience to climate change impacts. As a result, we saw substantial policy shifts, with several countries including Zimbabwe, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi and Zambia passing or drafting new national agroecology strategies with ActionAid's involvement. ActionAid is recognised as a leader in this area, and together with West African governments and civil society allies played a key role in convening the ECOWAS regional forum '*Financing sustainable food and nutrition through Agroecology and organic farming*' in Nigeria. While we also applauded the new Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Plan (CAADP) policy shift to supporting sustainable agriculture, ActionAid and partners continued to push for international and domestic investment, including through climate finance, to back these commitments.

We continue to advocate for climate justice policies at national level, including holding the rich countries with most responsibility for causing the climate crisis to account.

Our federation-wide 'Fund Our Future' campaign aims to shift finance flows from the causes of the climate crisis to the solutions. The project is creating opportunities for communities, women, young people to mobilise and raise their demands with creativity and vision (see section below).

During June UNFCCC climate negotiations in Bonn, ActionAid released a vital new report '*Finding the Finance: Tax justice and the climate crisis*', demonstrating how progressive taxation can be used to raise trillions of dollars in climate finance each year, and the need for COP29 climate negotiations in November to agree to a new climate finance goal. We also published an analysis of the European Investment Bank (EIB)'s financing of industrial agriculture, undermining its stated climate commitments and the Paris Agreement. In July we released an analysis of public financing of agroecology vs industrial agriculture in Southern Africa. In August, ActionAid Australia also released a [joint report](#) with Pacific allies calling for trillions in climate finance.

Our second Flagship Report *How the Finance Flows: Corporate capture of Public Finance* was released in late September during the Global Week of Climate Action, following pre-launch climate cafes which engaged over 120 journalists across the global south, fostering relationships with the media. This report exposed how extractive industries, such as fossil fuels and industrial agriculture, are draining public funds from Global South governments, receiving \$677 billion annually in subsidies while critical climate solutions remain underfunded.



Women human rights defenders meet together to craft their artwork.

PHOTO: MUSEU DO AMANHÃ

Challenging Environmental Racism – in Brazil

In Brazil, the network Defensoras por Defensoras (Defenders for Defenders) occupied a museum to say: *We are the climate we protect*. The presentation, organised by Observatório do Clima (Climate Observatory) in partnership with ActionAid Brazil, is a visual call for everyone to unite for the regeneration of our planet. It aims to create a deep connection between the women ecological and human rights defenders, who created a living artwork of a tree which incorporates audios of their voices with embroidered leaves and roots, joined by a crochet vine. This unique piece is the centre piece of the travelling exhibition, where each leaf and each root tell a story, echoing the defenders' commitment to protecting nature.

Sarah Marques (co-founder of the Defenders for Defenders network) explained, *"The first step is to strengthen the parts of the tree. Now it is time to plant a forest, which is where the magic happens"*. The women aim to amplify the message of human rights defenders around the world, creating an inclusive and solidarity-building strategic vision and conveying the powerful message: *We are the climate we protect*. The living artwork will be launched in Museu do Amanhã and then travel with a manifesto for change, which the public will be encouraged to sign during a series of events leading to COP30.

To elevate this campaign, ActionAid Brazil connected policy makers with the movement leaders, for example, the Secretariat of Brazilian Ministry of Racial Equality visited one of our intervention territories (Caranguejo Tabaiaras) to discuss the National Policy to Fight Environmental Racism and Promote Climate Justice. Caranguejo Tabaiaras is in Recife, ranked 16th in the global list of the cities most affected by climate change, and at risk of flooding. Since Black and indigenous people live disproportionately in places where housing and infrastructure is poor, they are most at risk of hazards. This is environmental racism; where racial inequality leads to health, environmental, and climate inequalities. Going forward, ActionAid Brazil will convene a joint initiative to combat environmental racism, with movement leaders working alongside ActionAid Association India.

From left: Conceição Silva, Daniele Vieira, Clédisson Junior (Secretariat of Brazilian Ministry of Racial Equality), Ilka Martins and Sarah Marques.

PHOTO: ACTIONAID





Financing the Transition to Agroecology

Between 2016 and 2024, the Partnership on Social Accountability (PSA) Alliance project supported farming communities in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe with training on agroecological practice, as well as understanding and influencing public agricultural policies and budgets.

In this documentary, Exodus Munkuli from Binga District in Zimbabwe explains how she has found innovative ways to support her family with livestock rearing and climate-smart farming, as well as becoming a role model to women in her community.

ActionAid supported community-led social accountability, monitoring and advocacy for farmers in Zambia in 2024. This led to increased local agricultural budgets, deployment of extension workers (experienced farmers, selected and hired by the government to mentor and train local farmers), as well as investment in irrigation schemes and market stands, all to support smallholder farmers in Zambia. In 2024, ActionAid, together with consortium members, analysed whether national budgets in Malawi, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe supported agroecology, using [Financing the Transition](#) to show where investment should be increased. The report has been key in shaping the discourse around agroecology and influence.

Community members of Hufwa Hampande Ward, Monze District, Southern Province, Zambia, pose in front of the newly refurbished agricultural extension officer's house.

PHOTO: WEZI NYALAZI / ACTIONAID



Exodus Munkuli

PHOTO: SAFAIDS

CLIMATE JUSTICE MOBILISATIONS - FUND OUR FUTURE CAMPAIGN

From Bangladesh to Liberia, Washington DC to Zimbabwe, around 40,000 youth, activists and people on the front lines of the climate crisis joined coordinated global protests and climate strikes demanding to #FixTheFinance for climate justice, spotlighting the finance flows that are failing the planet.

As more than a hundred people gathered in Washington DC for demonstrations at the steps of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund, about 40,000 more activists joined vocal protests in more than a dozen climate-hit nations including Bangladesh, The Gambia, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Nepal, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Strikes and stunts in Italy and Germany also joined the calls to #FixTheFinance, while a further 20,000 joined over the following weekend.

The campaign targeted financial institutions, governments and private banks as they continue to finance climate-harming fossil fuels and industrial agriculture, debt policies that deepen vulnerability, while failing to fund climate solutions. Protestors' messages underscored the need to #FixTheFinance flows that are responsible for the climate crisis and failing the most vulnerable communities.



Fahida Sultana is a youth activist from ActionAid Global Platform who joined the mobilisation in Bangladesh. She says:

"As a youth from a climate-vulnerable community in Bangladesh, I stand here today to echo the struggles and aspirations of my people. Our homes are disappearing, our livelihoods are threatened, and our future is at stake. This global climate strike is a powerful reminder that we are not alone in this fight. Today, we are fighting to bring an end to the fossil finance and focusing more on loss and damage financing. We are being hurt by the profit-hungry mentality of the wealthy countries and corporations. Our future cannot be sacrificed for profit for few greedy cartels. We stand united today not just for ourselves, but for the generations that will inherit a planet suffering the scars of neglect. We demand urgent action from world leaders to protect our planet and ensure that those most affected by climate change are heard. Together, we can transform our angers into action and our resilience into change for the humanity."

PHOTO: ACTIONAID

In April global #FixTheFinance mobilisations, in collaboration with allies Oxfam, 350.Org, Christian Aid, Urgewald, Power Shift Africa, Re-Course and the Global Platforms took place in over 20 countries. In Bangladesh, over 2,000 people joined the offline climate strike. In Kenya, over 9,000 people joined the climate strike and an offline stunt outside the World Bank offices. In Nepal, mobilisations involved 10,000 people. ActionAid Italy and France targeted their national banks.

The mobilisations amplified climate justice calls for climate finance and debt cancellation and called on Barclays, Citi and HSBC banks to stop financing climate destruction. Activities with allies also included developing a series of one-page briefings, a webinar attended by hundreds of people, an op-ed, and producing lots of new digital youth-created content as well as powerful videos targeting banks, which received millions of views.

The mobilisations were timed to build pressure on the banks in the weeks before their AGM meetings in May, during which we also organised a Twitter (X) storm with excellent participation, including from young people. As a result, we succeeded in setting up a UK meeting with the key sustainability heads at Barclays, where we pushed them on their funding of fossil fuels and industrial agriculture. Meanwhile, the ActionAid USA team was escalating the “Summer of Heat” campaign targeting Citibank for its fossil fuel financing policies.



Glimpses of #FixTheFinance campaigns from across the world: Senegal, Liberia, Bangladesh, Somaliland, Zimbabwe. PHOTO: ACTIONAID



The Fund Our Future campaign mobilised tens of thousands of activists globally 13-20 September, in collaboration with allies such as Climate Action Network, Fridays for Future, and Global Gas and Oil Network. Demonstrations and mobilisations spanned countries including Ghana, Sierra Leone, Nepal, and Australia, targeting harmful financing of fossil fuels and industrial agriculture under the themes #FixTheFinance, #PayUp4ClimateFinance, and #PayUp4LossAndDamage and attempting to influence COP29 climate negotiations to agree on an ambitious new climate finance goal.



People take part in a 'Summer of Heat' campaign protest. PHOTO: ACTIONAID



ECONOMIC JUSTICE

ActionAid kickstarted the 2024 African Union (AU) year of Education with the launch of the [Transforming Education Financing in Africa](#) report in a pre-summit ahead of the AU Heads of State Summit, and continued to push for action on tax, debt and austerity for sustainable domestic financing of gender responsive education in Africa throughout the year. In recognition of the leading role that ActionAid plays in education financing, we were invited to lead a learning collaboration with 19 National Education Coalitions (NECs) from West, Central, East and Southern Africa on education financing. The learning collaboration used the [Transforming Education Financing Toolkit](#) to build knowledge and skills in education financing to advance advocacy for participating NECs. As part of the Global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence Campaign, ActionAid shared new research from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe that emphasised the links between tax justice and gender justice, with related work in Bangladesh and Uganda. This was following a series of national report launches with stakeholders including government agencies, pushing for progressive tax mobilisation for gender-responsive public investments.

New participatory surveys on the state of public services in health and education started in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi and Nigeria. A total of 320 public service providers (teachers and health workers) and 296 public service users participated in surveys to assess the state of public services and investigate the impact of austerity cuts; analysis of these surveys underpinned advocacy against the IMF.



World Bank Spring Meetings - CSOs climate mobilisation PHOTO: CHRISTAL JAMES / ACTIONAID

The Secretary General called for the abolition of the IMF on its 80th [birthday](#) in a blog. We took our advocacy on debt and the IMF to the African Conference on Debt and Development in Mozambique in late August.

In Nairobi in May, we participated in the UN CSO conference preparing for the Summit of the Future in September. We convened a pre-conference dialogue workshop connecting economic justice and public service movements and ran a successful session on social movements, with MOVE.

There was federation-wide engagement with the IMF and World Bank annual meetings, critiquing their policies. The campaign drew on ActionAid USA's report and video *Adapting Our Financial Architecture in a Crisis-Prone World: A Civil Society Proposal for Special Drawing Rights Reform* and Wangari Kinoti and Lina Moraa's blog in the Bretton Woods Observer on how Kenya's growing youth movement for fiscal justice rejects IMF-mandated austerity. The press releases calling for the abolition of the IMF and World Bank if there's no overhaul ahead of the institutions' annual meetings were widely echoed, for example in this reaction to the IMF's World Economic Outlook (*it is a colonial relic that needs to be overhauled*). The response from the IMF and World Bank failed to address the growing debt crisis and the burden of austerity.

Key research into the IMF, *Gender Justice in Tax and Public Services in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Zambia, and Zimbabwe*, looked at the never-ending debt crises and lack of meaningful investments in public services to deliver the basic rights of their citizens in the five countries which have been taking policy advice from the IMF since their independence.

In June 2024 our [Finding the Finance Report](#) made the case that national and international action for tax justice was pivotal to mobilising climate finance. This report focused on solutions, and acts as a follow up to our well-received 2023 briefing [The Vicious Cycle](#) which documented the links between debt crises and the climate crisis.

A new ActionAid briefing [Dear Ministers of Finance - 'This is how you can transform the financing of Education!'](#) was signed on to by 15 movement allies. It makes the case for education as the soundest long-term investment a country can make, summarising supporting evidence and urging Ministers of Finance to focus on sustainable financing of education through progressive taxes, debt cancellation and ending austerity policies and practices.

The Global Education Meeting 2024 – convened by UNESCO in Fortaleza, Brazil – involved high profile participation by ActionAid on finance issues and anti-racist education. ActionAid participated as a speaker in the panel discussion on domestic resource mobilisation, taxation, global tax justice, and shared a collective letter *'Break the Silence: a call for anti-racism in Education'* initiated by the SETA project, which advances the case for racial justice through educational transformation.

A new policy brief was published on transforming the international financial architecture. [Joining the Dots, ActionAid's brief on Financing for Development](#) laid out key evidence which reinforces collective civil society positions ahead of the fourth Financing for Development Summit in Spain in June / July 2025 – pulling together our system-change analysis on economic justice, climate justice, women's rights and feminist alternatives.

Transforming Education Financing in Africa

ActionAid launched the *Transforming Education Financing in Africa* report with 16 other allies and organisations, which had a significant influence on the African Union's Year of Education. The report demonstrated how sealing loopholes used for tax abuse, ensuring progressive, gender-responsive and climate sensitive taxation, while taking concerted action to address the debt and austerity crisis can unlock the funds needed to educate approximately 25 million children in Africa currently missing out on primary school. The report's recommendations on education financing were captured in the pre-summit *Outcome Document* presented to the AU Heads of State and Government.

The TaxEd Alliance collaborated with the Young Urban Women Movement to host a workshop for young activists on transforming education financing using the report. This strengthened young people's understanding of the structural challenges in the economic system that undermines State capacity to mobilise sufficient resources for education, and what solutions and strategies exist for young people to incorporate in their advocacy for education and education financing.

The report was also used for an ActionAid-led side event on Gender Responsive Financing for Education at the first African Union Pan-African Conference on Girls and Women and at a side event on 'Combating Illicit Financial Flows to Transform Education Financing in Africa' at the 2024 Pan-African Conference on Illicit Financial Flows and Taxation, where colleagues from ActionAid Senegal and Zambia highlighted the challenges and opportunities in addressing IFFs and how the UN Tax Convention can support adequate financing of public services, especially education.

In Mozambique, ActionAid Mozambique and partners presented the report to officials from the Ministry of Education in a discussion on challenges with education financing, the connection between privatisation of education and underinvesting in education, and the solutions needed to transform education financing in Mozambique.

In Kenya, ActionAid co-organised a roundtable discussion on reclaiming public services in Kenya with national and regional civil society organisations, representatives from movements, and officials from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. In Ireland, ActionAid used the report to highlight how European and other countries in the Global North can support efforts towards the systemic transformation of public services in the Global South.

In Zambia, the report was shared with the Taxation Department within the Ministry of Finance and the Planning Department within the Ministry of Education. The research findings were also presented at a pre-budget forum in Lusaka. These efforts built up on ongoing advocacy led by the TaxEd Alliance Zambia and in the proposed 2025 national budget, new initiatives such as a freeze on new tax concessions, advanced income tax, and export duties on extractives were some of the progressive tax reforms that were proposed by the government as alternatives to austerity measures. The government has also demonstrated a continued commitment to improving the quality of education through annual teacher recruitments. The Ministry of Finance also committed to reducing illicit financial flows through the harmonisation of corporate income taxes and a review of double taxation agreements.



Margaret, from Kenya, graduated from an ActionAid catch up centre and now attends vocational training in Marafa. Margaret attended school until class five but had to leave when her parents, both of whom are unemployed, were unable to raise the school fees.

PHOTO: CEHEMA BAYA / AFRICA FILM NETWORK / ACTIONAID

Building People Power, Mobilising a Million

In 2024, ActionAid India supported grassroots efforts by enhancing the capacity of social movement groups and strengthening the ties between civil society organisations (CSOs) and movements. It also connected local struggles with global actions, creating collective pathways to address systemic injustices.

For example, struggles in Maharashtra resulted in significant changes in women's wages. In Hingoli District there was wage discrimination, with female workers earning Rs. 150 and male workers earning Rs. 200 for the same job. HRDs campaigned for equal and dignified wages, presenting their case to the District Magistrate. As a result, the wage rate has been revised, and the new wage for all workers is now Rs. 250.

In Uttarakhand, India, ActionAid's collaboration with the State Women's Commission focused on addressing women's rights. Through community discussions and awareness-raising activities, women called for a dedicated 'Policy for Women' which is now nearing final approval as an official policy document.

Local and national level campaigns mobilised more than 1 million people across 200+ districts of 25 states in India behind the concept of a People's Agenda for Just Futures. Five charter documents were developed, publicised and shared with people's representatives and authorities.

These interventions have demonstrated that collective action can drive meaningful change. Supporting social movement groups, networks, and alliances contributed to positive outcomes, strengthening the capacity, visibility, and effectiveness of movements, leading to a more empowered and resilient network of organisations and human rights defenders united in the pursuit of shared goals.



Women street vendors participate in a union meeting in Vizag, India. Women street vendors are advocating for exclusive vending zones for their safety. Their demands reflect a broader call for inclusive financial policies and better infrastructure to support their livelihoods. PHOTO: KRISHNA KUMARI / ACTIONAID.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND FEMINIST ALTERNATIVES

ActionAid collaborated with the Gender Is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) to develop a position paper on Finance for Education to theme with the AU. ActionAid and its coalitions' position paper on financing education launched in Addis parallel to the AU leaders summit in Feb 2024.

Women's Rights and Feminist Alternatives are centred in the Strategic Implementation Framework with its priorities the end result of a collective reflection. The Women's Rights team met with UN Women Deputy Director (and former ActionAid Board Chair) Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda to discuss common priorities and strategies which helped form a global gathering of the Federation's Women's Rights and Feminist Alternatives Community in June in Nairobi.

Work rooted in local programmes across the federation was complemented by national and regional advocacy. For example, in Nairobi ActionAiders met with the Global Commission on Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, and the British High Commissioner, to encourage them to link modern slavery and human trafficking to women's labour, decent work and structural violence. In July, ActionAid hosted panels at the Annual Conference of the International Association for Feminist Economics in Rome to share our report on [women's economic rights and the gig economy](#).

We continued to engage with key processes linked to the UN Binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights, co-hosting an inter-regional virtual workshop for Latin America and Africa in July. The following month we worked with Feminists for a Binding Treaty to organise a training session on the key articles of the UN Binding Treaty for 10 African States ahead of the next round of formal negotiations in Geneva. The formal negotiations in Geneva were held in December, where, with Feminists for a Binding Treaty and other organisations, we presented a joint opening statement, joint statements on articles 4, 5, 6, 8 and the closing statement.

In August, in collaboration with FEMNET, Youth for Tax Justice Network, and the Young Urban Women movement, we hosted side sessions titled *Pan-African Feminist and Youth Perspectives* and *Alternatives to Africa's Debt Crisis* at the fourth African Conference on Debt and Development (AfCoDD IV) in Mozambique. We were able to influence the discussions and produce The Maputo [Womanifesto](#), a Pan-African feminist call for debt cancellation in Africa. In October, we sent a delegation from our global business and human rights community to the third African Business and Human Rights Forum in Nairobi. We led two plenary sessions: first, a capacity building session on reporting on Articles 21 and 24 of the ACHPR relating to extractive industries, human rights and the environment; and second, a session on implementing the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights, with a particular emphasis on addressing the needs and rights of women affected by the mining sector. As always, our focus throughout the forum was to underscore the gendered human rights and environmental impacts of the activities of corporations in communities and call for corporate accountability including through a UN binding treaty on business and human rights.

In November, we hosted the annual Global Convening of Young Urban Women's movements in Johannesburg, bringing together movements from South Africa, Ghana, Kenya and Malawi. The convening is also a feminist political school, and in 2024 the focus was understanding structural violence. The convening culminated at the historic Constitutional Hill with the launch of a Womanifesto calling for the dismantling of structural violence in favour of feminist wellbeing economies.

We also launched *Standing Up for Dignified Work in the Gig Economy* – a community education and advocacy tool on the gig economy and women's economic justice produced in collaboration with Young Urban Women movements, part of our Valuing Women's Work project. This is a follow-up tool to the *Platforms of Precarity* research on women's rights in the gig economy covering Ghana, South Africa, Kenya, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Brazil and Guatemala.



Lian Maria Machaca volunteers at the Gregoria Apaza Center for the Promotion of Women in El Alto Bolivia. She supports young women to understand their sexual and reproductive rights, and their right to live free of violence. She says, "watching [young women] go from a bad moment...to a much better one. That has been rewarding". Being involved in the work has built her own understanding of the impact of the care burden on women, impacting their access to healthcare and increasing gender-based violence. She says, "there should be more talk about women's health, their rights and self care, because in rural areas women live under patriarchal systems where they have no rights, including access to health care".

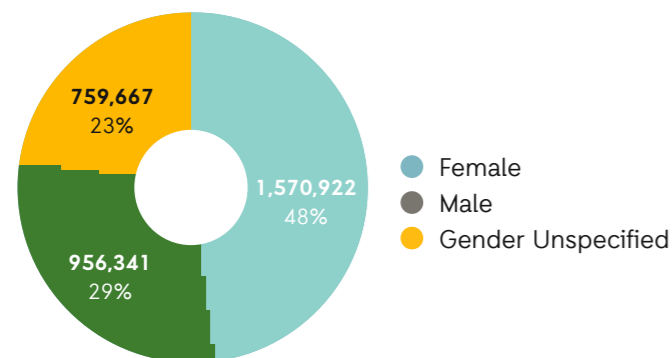
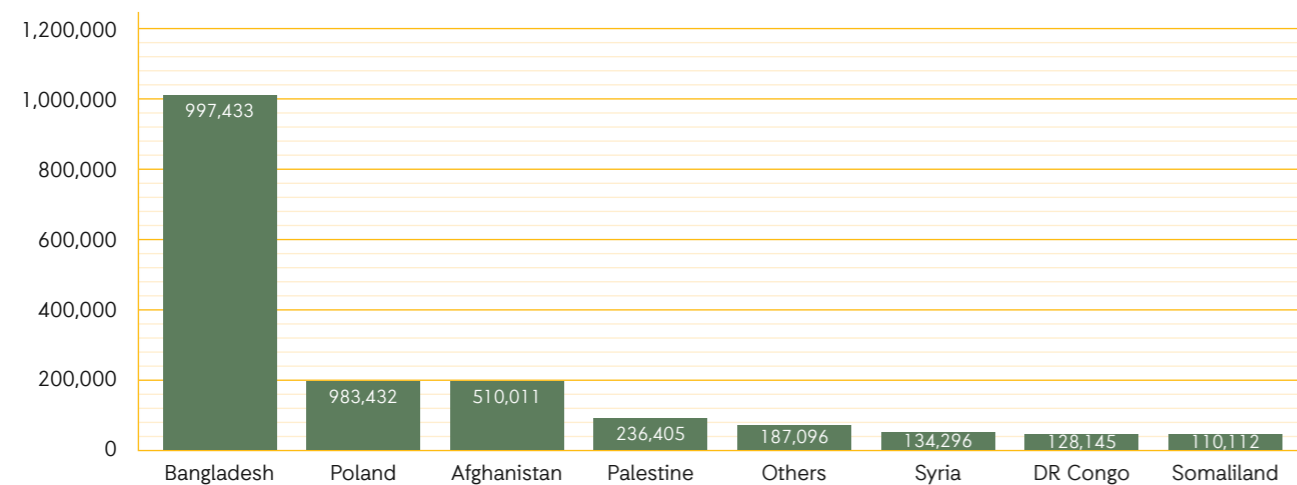
In 2024, Alianza por la Solidaridad / ActionAid with partners ran workshops reaching 4,500 women with information on their rights. They trained 900 young people on gender, sexual and reproductive rights and the right to a life free from violence, and improved political participation for over 800 young women. Their communication campaigns reached over 240,000 people, including through 20 articles in the press. National influencing also included training public officials and the School of State Prosecutors which resulted women's experience being better acknowledged in legal cases, and a growing relationship with influential research institutes to enhance research capacity.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSES, RECOVERY, RESILIENCE BUILDING, & INFLUENCING

Humanitarian Resilience and Response

A wide range of humanitarian support was delivered, addressing both immediate needs and long-term recovery and resilience building. This included the provision of farming inputs and multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) to support livelihoods and economic resilience. Essential items such as dignity kits, food packages, hygiene kits, non-food items (NFIs), and ready-to-eat food were distributed alongside tents and shelter support to meet basic living requirements. Health services, including hospital and clinical care, were offered, complemented by WASH services to ensure sanitation and hygiene. Psychosocial support, protection services, and awareness-raising initiatives helped promote safety and mental well-being. In addition, educational support, recreational activities, and skills and livelihoods training empowered individuals, especially women and youth to further deepen their knowledge, skills and resilience in the face of prevalent climate and economic shocks. Efforts also extended to nutrition support and leadership training, particularly for young women, to strengthen community resilience and foster inclusive recovery.

People supported by Humanitarian Responses



Humanitarian Advocacy

In August 2024, the global team collaborated with the Global Platform, ActionAid Denmark, the Feminist Humanitarian Network (FHN), and ActionAid Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe to support the participation of young people from the three Countries in the 44th SADC People’s Summit. The young people highlighted key impacts of the El Niño drought in the region through a side event and policy brief.³ The brief offers key recommendations for adaptation by SADC member States.

ActionAid in 2024 joined INGOs working in the East and Central Africa regions, under the Interagency Working Group (IAWG), to call for the international community to take immediate action to prevent further suffering in Sudan. The group called for the international community to increase funding for all humanitarian actors, including local and mutual aid groups, strengthening diplomatic pressure to push for the provision of unconstrained humanitarian access, elevate efforts to address violations against civilians, defend the role of local responders, and enhance diplomatic and donor coordination in Sudan and the wider region.

In March, the FHN supported a diverse group of women to attend the 68th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) week in New York, U.S.A. The women involved took part in a series of side events, promoting the advocacy of young women’s agendas and intergenerational collaboration and mentorship. ActionAid continues to partner with women rights organisations from the Global South, alongside the wider membership of the network both as a [member](#) and host of the FHN.

In East Africa, ActionAid Ethiopia, Kenya, Somaliland/Somalia and International Humanitarian Action and Resilience Team (IHART) engaged to influence the AidEx conference where they shared the federation’s feminist approaches and humanitarian signature. In October, a representative from ActionAid Alianza was on the panel in the main AidEx Geneva workshop under the theme of ‘Empowering Women in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Areas’.

In 2024, we continued to be active in alliances such as the Friends of Gender Group, Grand Bargain (GB), NGO Constituency Group, the FHN and [Charter for Change \(C4C\)](#) working groups seeking stronger accountability for the Localisation agenda. ActionAid’s participation in these spaces ensures that the federation remains accountable as a signatory to global commitments, and connects with like-minded INGOs. ActionAid Uganda represented the federation in the annual Grand Bargain meeting held in Geneva, and showcased their national level efforts partnering with a wide range of humanitarian actors and their partnership with CEFORD Uganda, the NGO hosting the global C4C secretariat. ActionAid continues to apply the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) alongside our humanitarian signature.

We celebrated some successes in 2024, including:

- In the occupied Palestinian West Bank, a group of young people raised around US\$300K in donor funding to support Gaza workers displaced to the West Bank following attacks, and to hold aid agencies accountable. According to the Humanitarian Youth Group (HYG) the youth group gained recognition after facilitating rapid needs assessments with technical and financial support from ActionAid’s federation-wide Gaza appeal.
- In Nigeria’s North-East Borno State, young people in 2024 made significant progress in supporting inclusive reconstruction and peace-building programmes among victims of the Boko-Haram insurgency. Evidence from communities in Borno state has been used in national and global advocacy spaces.

3. This is an internal link, please contact Hachangu.Hakalima@actionaid.org to get a downloaded version.



PHOTO: MIDDLECHILD PRODUCTIONS

Centring young people in humanitarian spaces

Hanatu Monday works with ActionAid partner Hallmark Leadership Initiative (HALI) which supports young people's peacebuilding efforts. The organisation ensures that young people are part of the crisis response and reconstruction. Their efforts have resulted in building resilience, community reintegration, and improved mental health outcomes among young people.

Hanatu says: "I work for the Hallmark Leadership Initiative, in Maiduguri, Nigeria [which was affected by flooding]. I was so emotional when I saw a lot of this happening. It was really heartbreaking... this is an experience that we can't explain. HALI has organised us to the best of our ability. We have girls in a safe space ... there are phones, there are places for them to interact, we build relationships, and they feel comfortable, they get better".

In Borno State, this youth-led advocacy is already making tangible impact. Stories and voices - like those from HALI - have helped shape the Borno State Climate Action Plan, ensuring that the realities of young people; especially those affected by conflict and climate shocks - are reflected in climate policy.

At a national level, young people's stories have been instrumental in increasing support for young women, for example getting more girls into school, and engaging young people in governance. 68 young people addressed local governments within the region, influencing the establishment of further programmes to connect young people and decision makers.

Through ActionAid and partners, stories from Nigeria, Palestine and Lebanon are shared in advocacy and influencing spaces at every level, including the UN Cluster systems, which now include young people's perspectives.

ActionAid stands in solidarity with the people of Palestine

During 2024, the crisis in Gaza escalated into a severe humanitarian emergency, with extensive civilian casualties, widespread displacement, and critical infrastructure destruction. The destruction of healthcare facilities, schools, roads, and farmland left millions without access to essential services, compounded by acute shortages of electricity, food, and medical supplies. The West Bank also faced escalating violence and increasing fatalities. The deteriorating humanitarian conditions, particularly for displaced families, remains a significant concern.

Since October 7, 2023, ActionAid and its partners have directly supported over 435,134 individuals in Gaza with humanitarian relief, including food, cash assistance, and protection efforts. Advocacy efforts are focused on improving aid access, amplifying calls to maintain a ceasefire, and upholding Palestinian rights.

ActionAid remains committed to monitoring the crisis closely and supporting affected communities, including safeguarding training for youth groups in Gaza and the West Bank, psychosocial support and youth initiatives to support farmers during olive harvest.

ActionAid stands in support with the following initiatives designed to draw attention to the reality in Gaza, and demand a ceasefire.

- *Joint call to the European Union Support* to suspend its Association Agreement with Israel and to adopt targeted sanctions against those responsible for the unprecedented number of journalists killed, and other press freedom violations by the Israeli authorities since the start of the war with Hamas.
- *Joint INGO Directors public statement: Rafah, Gaza: Urgent statement* from Chief Executives of humanitarian agencies and human rights organisations ([public statement](#)).
- Support to [Artists4Ceasefire](#) joint letter to President Biden.
- *Joint national and international NGO public statement: ActionAid-led joint statement* against the mass forced displacement of Palestinians ([public statement](#)).
- *Al Mezan, ActionAid, and Oxfam joint paper: Media briefing note* on forced displacement in Gaza.
- *Joint Brussels NGO private statement: EU Member States must sustain funding to UNRWA* ([private statement](#)).
- *Joint Brussels NGO open letter: Open letter with trade coalition and Oxfam* asking European Union (EU) officials to suspend the EU-Israel association agreement.



ActionAid partner the Palestinian Wafaq Association facilitates psychological support sessions with women and children in Gaza.

PHOTO: ACTIONAID



Psychological support sessions given by an ActionAid partner the Palestinian Wafaq Association in Deir Al Balah, Gaza Strip.

PHOTO: ACTIONAID



ActionAid Palestine supports Palestinian farmers during the olive harvest in villages in Bethlehem, in the south of West Bank.

PHOTO: ACTIONAID

Horror in Haiti

During 2024, an escalation in violence in Haiti led to gross violations of human rights, especially against women and girls. The violence disrupted food production and livelihoods, and the UN estimated that over 4 million people suffered from acute hunger, with 1.4 million people requiring urgent assistance to survive. ActionAid's survey showed that 99% of families were skipping meals because they can't afford food. This can lead to women and girls being at risk of further violence as they are forced into unsafe employment or travel to work.

ActionAid provided cash transfers and agroecology interventions to support long-term sustainability of food production. Kathia is one of 200 women in Haiti who were trained in 2024 in grafting, where the root of one plant is attached to the shoot of another to make it more productive and resilient. She says, "when a woman learns these techniques, it is very good for them". Being a single parent means she is solely responsible for providing for her children, and having a successful small farm will help.

ActionAid is also standing in solidarity with young women in Haiti mobilising for change. Angeline Annesteus, Country Director of ActionAid in Haiti, describes their movement:

"The women and girls I meet every day are not hiding. They are fighters. With support from ActionAid, young girls are using community radio to speak out about their rights. Just last week, 200 displaced women and girls held a sit in to demand the protection of their rights, after an awareness-raising day we held with them. These women are mobilising in their communities and offering hope for a future free from violence. They are the backbone of Haiti, but they cannot do it alone.

"Survivors of violence and abuse need medical care, safe houses and psychological support. But funding for these critical protections has fallen dangerously low. The safety of women and girls in Haiti is non-negotiable. As well as stepping up efforts to address the gangs, the international community must prioritise funding for women-led organisations to provide medical care, safe shelters, and justice for survivors of their brutality.

"Of course, there will be no end to the horrors faced by Haitian women and girls until there is an end to the gang violence. But, considering the past failures of UN international security and peacekeeping missions in Haiti, the Kenyan-led UN intervention will not offer a solution if it just a short-term remedy and is not backed by a clear, well-funded plan to address the structural causes of violence, in particular, gender-based violence."

As well as applying ActionAid's Humanitarian Signature, resilience framework and protection toolkit in Haiti, in 2024 ActionAid representatives in the Americas also met in Colombia to learn from each other's experiences and identify ways to work together.

At a global level ActionAid engaged in and influenced AidEx events (humanitarian aid and disaster relief events sponsored by nonprofits and private consultancy firms). For example, ActionAid successfully influenced the Nairobi AidEx meeting in June by sharing our feminist approaches and humanitarian signature that underpins our partnerships with women and young people led organisations and partners. This means that plans going forward may be more likely to address the structural causes of violence, and support women to transform their lives.



PHOTO: JEAN OSCAR AUGUSTIN / ACTIONAID

Lessons from 2024 in our Humanitarian work

Meaningful participation by local partners (especially women and youth-led organisations) in humanitarian coordination mechanisms has been crucial for effective responses and **evidence-based advocacy**; partners have better understanding of the challenges and needs of communities as compared to aid institutions.

Mainstreaming advocacy and resilience building from the onset of emergencies is key to continuous generation of evidence, building rooted individual and collective agency, and reducing reliance on aid.

Coordinating our strategies with national emergency response plans has fostered good relationships with governments. Some government plans may not highlight protection or gender/age disaggregation of impact and needs, so we can address these gaps through our approaches and advocacy messages. This was evident in the drought response in Somaliland.

Strengthening community-based protection and accountability mechanisms is crucial for sustainability. Local leadership promotes the agency of rightsholders as they engage and hold humanitarian actors accountable at all levels. The work of women and youth-led organisations as first responders in the Turkey/Syria earthquake response is an example of this.

Having clearly defined preparedness emergency response plans in place has been central to timely and effective responses, and fundraising opportunities for countries. Preparedness strategies at ActionAid Malawi and how they enabled proactive support for Tropical Cyclone Freddy is one case study of this from 2024.

Accountability

The ActionAid Group's registration in independent verification for the [Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability \(CHS\)](#) has been renewed. This means that we have been independently verified by external auditors (HQAI) of our capacity and performance against the CHS. This is a credit to us all, and particularly to the ActionAid Group members who were involved in the audit – Arab Region, Australia, Nigeria, and The Gambia.

On global accountability, we also increased engagement in national Charter for Change (C4C) working groups. This effort has resulted in successful submission of C4C Country reports during the reporting cycle ending June 2024 for Kenya, Haiti, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Uganda and Indonesia, as well as the Arab Region (Lebanon and Jordan).




STORIES FROM ACROSS THE FEDERATION



COMMUNICATION

2024 Social media performance: (Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn, YouTube, and TikTok)

New followers:	Impressions:	Engagements:	Link clicks:	Engagement rate:
55,238	13,074,855 (UP 89.2% ON PREVIOUS YEAR)	381,255	74,876 (UP 89.2% ON PREVIOUS YEAR)	2.9%

Platform	Link	Impressions	Engagement
<p>Facebook</p> <p>Families in Bangladesh are facing unimaginable challenges due to the devastating floods. The floods have affected 5.8m people, with about 540,510 displaced and sheltering in schools and emergency centres. Together with partners, our ActionAid Bangladesh team has been providing dry food, dignity kits, clean and safe drinking water to flood victims in at least 30 emergency centres in Noakhali, Bangladesh.</p>  <p>https://www.facebook.com/474198424739708/posts/909446381214908</p>		2M	181,148
<p>Instagram</p> <p>The Gaza crisis is nearing 100 days with no permanent end in sight.</p>  <p>https://www.instagram.com/reel/C19kSH5MzjT/</p>		681,408	14,467
<p>Facebook</p> <p>ActionAid reveals that the same industries fuelling the #climatecrisis are also draining public funds from Global South governments</p>  <p>https://www.facebook.com/474198424739708/videos/443867682010906</p>		345,173	14,467

Annual media performance

2024 media coverage report

ActionAid International got over **2,500** mentions in print, broadcast and digital articles.

Key moments:

Media cafés were held with over 100 Global South journalists on climate finance, resulting in more than 50 articles. Coverage included:

- [After the floods... Kenya | NATION](#)
- [Women suffer climate change crisis | Zimbabwe Independent](#)
- [Countries eye COP29 finance deal while subsidising climate damage | Context](#)
- ["L'argent du monde coule dans la mauvaise direction" translating to "Climate justice: The world's money is flowing in the wrong direction" | Bleen Media](#)

100 pieces of media during the April and September Fund Our Future mobilisations and report launch.

Over 1,400 media mentions from COP29 including from CNN, The Guardian, BBC, AFP, AP, France 24, and Politico.

Media training: Four spokespeople were trained ahead of COP29, boosting the chances of securing coverage.

Supporting the Red Alert Gaza work, with media highlights in Al Jazeera, CNN, New York Times.

Bangladesh floods story was picked up in top-tier media like Reuters, with syndication to over 80 outlets.

Haiti media support during the height of gang violence against women was covered in outlets such as BB World, France24 and Reuters:

- [Haiti's gang violence disproportionately hurts women and girls | Context](#)

Southern African Development Community in September, was covered on Euronews with syndication to over 20 outlets.

Key pieces of coverage:

CNN: Famine has spread throughout Gaza, say UN experts

ActionAid, an international campaign group, described the UN experts' statement as a "stark warning."

Al Jazeera: Is Israel using food deprivation as a war tactic? | Israel-Palestine conflict News | Al Jazeera

Israel's assault on Gaza has left hundreds of thousands of Palestinian residents facing catastrophic food insecurity.

Context: Haiti's gang violence disproportionately hurts women and girls

Opinion piece on the impact of gang violence on women and girls.

Euro News – SADC Summit: Girls in Southern Africa are being married off in exchange for food amid El Niño drought

A report by ActionAid has found that families have been forced to marry off daughters in exchange for food. The Southern African region is suffering from an extreme drought caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon.

Carbon Brief – IMF/WB Spring meetings: Q&A: Climate finance at World Bank and IMF spring meetings 2024

The IMF's approach of encouraging austerity policies so that countries can pay off debts has been responsible for "keep[ing] developing countries in a cycle of crisis", according to a statement released by ActionAid USA Country Director, Niranjali Amerasinghe.

Eureporter – EU elections: Revealed: How your favourite EU party scored on critical issues

As millions of voters prepare for the European Union (EU) parliamentary elections in June, ActionAid has launched a scorecard spotlighting key issues in the leading parties' manifestos.

African Arguments – Kenya: Climate finance: Did the IMF/World Bank spring meetings move the dial?

An expert panel give their verdict on whether the Spring Meetings offered Africa hope that climate finance will be expanded and reformed.

Context: Countries eye COP29 finance deal while subsidising climate change

Governments from the Global South are spending an average of \$439 billion a year [on fossil fuel subsidies], compared to just \$10 billion a year on renewable energy public investment, a recent report by the rights group ActionAid said.

Associated Press: Negotiators are urged to get down to business as climate talks in Baku enter second week

Teresa Anderson, the Global Lead on Climate Justice at ActionAid International, was sceptical about rich countries' intentions. "The concern is that the pressure to add developing countries to the list of contributors is not, in fact, about raising more money for frontline countries."



ActionAiders united in solidarity at a training on Public Narrative. Capacity building fostered systemic thinking and transformative leadership in order to enhance rooted campaigning. Participants included members of the GLT and country directors from Nigeria, Senegal, and Zimbabwe.

PHOTO: GODSON MUNISHI, MSTCDC / ACTIONAID

GOVERNANCE AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

Leadership Spaces

Acknowledging the climate and financial costs of hosting in-person gatherings, in 2024 many meetings were online. The 2024 ActionAid International AGM focused on Solidarity for Palestine and the Palestinian people under the theme: *Harnessing People's Power for Global Peace and Social Justice*.

Three Directors' Forums and two General Assembly meetings also hosted virtual sessions, including a powerful reflection on Palestine. In November, the International Board Vice Chair, Country Director of Ethiopia/GLT Member, and Secretary General travelled to Jordan and held face to face solidarity

meetings with our leaders in Palestine, as well partners in Jordan.

Four regional Directors' meetings remained face to face, and a Strategic Implementation Framework development meeting was held in person in June. The focus of these leadership spaces has been a balance of internal and external conversations, which have been vital in enabling the Federation to strengthen regional collaboration and progress the development of SIF3 and Fundraising and Allocation of Inter-National Resources (FAIR) framework. Members of the Global Leadership Team played a crucial role and demonstrated the value of this wider leadership group in powering the momentum of Federation processes.

Boards

The matrix on Board Liaisons on National Boards was refreshed and the concept discussed. This is an informal mechanism designed to enhance communication between National Boards and the International Board and promote ongoing collaboration between Assembly meetings.

Strategic Implementation Framework

The third Strategic Implementation Framework (SIF3) *Action for Global Justice in a Volatile World*, approved by the ActionAid General Assembly, has become a central pillar for guiding the Federation's work. Developed through a participatory process, SIF3 sets clear objectives and outcomes that emphasise system change, movement-building, and grassroots engagement, anchoring the Federation's priorities for 2025. SIF3 will run from January 2025 to December 2028 - concluding ActionAid's global strategy, [Action for Global Justice](#), which runs from 2018-2028.

Country and Global Secretariat (GS) plans for 2025 are strongly aligned with SIF3's objectives, suggesting the framework has guided the development of strategic priorities and will ensure consistency. This alignment reflects the Federation's commitment to operationalising SIF3 at all levels.

Unrestricted Funding Strategy

The challenges of maintaining and growing unrestricted income to support our strategic initiatives remain. We saw a critical internal milestone in the approval of the Fundraising and Allocation of Inter-National Resources (FAIR). The FAIR framework aligns with ActionAid's vision to become a rooted campaigning organisation with a strong base of rightsholders, partners, allies, supporters, and campaigners. It is now being operationalised to ensure more equitable allocation of international resources across the Federation, marking a significant shift towards a more sustainable and collaborative approach to resource management within the Federation, aligning closely with the principles outlined in the Strategic Implementation Framework (SIF3).

ORGANISATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

People and Culture

Global Secretariat Cost Reduction and Reorganisation: the Human Resources and Organizational Development Committee, as mandated by the Board, approved the Global Secretariat (GS) Cost Reduction and Reorganization Plan 2024/25. This reorganisation was essential to align the GS structure with the organisational priorities (income growth, external engagement, SIF3 objectives) and to ensure affordability within the GS financial envelope that was approved as part of the Fundraising and Allocation of Inter-National Resources (FAIR) framework.

Child Sponsorship

- ActionAid **Nepal** supported girls in finding their voice and addressing issues such as child marriage and gender-based violence, through girl groups and community activism.
- In **Bangladesh**, the Child Forum tackled issues children face through street drama, raising awareness in the wider community.
- In **Uganda**, ActionAid combined educational sessions on health, HIV and gender-based violence with a skills workshop crafting reusable sanitary pads.

- The child forum of Kilwa district in **Tanzania** pushed local authorities to build more latrines to improve access to education and remove barriers to girls attending school.
- ActionAid **Ghana** carried out vital community sensitisation projects, breaking down the barriers and societal norms around men and boys doing unpaid care work.
- ActionAid **Cambodia** worked with children and schools on the best practices for waste management, including the dangers of plastic inhalation and expounding on the benefits of recycling to communities and the environment.
- Community members joined with ActionAid **Sierra Leone** to launch a Backyard Vegetables initiative, bringing economic empowerment to participants in Urban Freetown.
- ActionAid **Ethiopia** facilitated the installation of a grinding mill in the Kasha District, bringing much needed efficiencies to food production in the community.
- In **Malawi**, ActionAid supported girls who stopped attending school after becoming pregnant to re-enter education.
- Knowledge Resource Centres setup by **ActionAid Association India** encouraged children to feel empowered through play and learning.

Staff Safety and Security

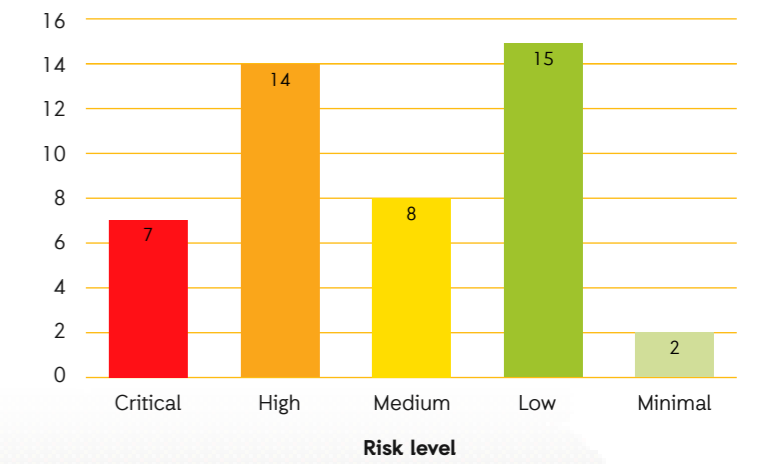
In a year marked by growing global volatility and shrinking civic space, we remained firm in our commitment to creating safe working environments for employees, including volunteers, consultants and others who work on behalf of ActionAid.

According to the Global Peace Index 2024 and Crisis24 country risk ratings, our federation operated across a broad spectrum of contexts – from low-risk environments in Denmark to critical-risk level locations including Afghanistan and the occupied Palestinian territories. Civic space remained under significant pressure, with the CIVICUS Monitor classifying most of the countries we operate in as “Repressed” or “Obstructed”.

Despite these challenges, over 90% of countries reported no amber (serious) or red (critical) security incidents in 2024. Travel related incidents were also low, despite an uptick in programme-related travel including humanitarian deployments to fragile contexts. This reflects the effectiveness and strength of our integrated, locally-led security risk management approaches that emphasise local capacities, prevention and preparedness.

The Staff Safety and Security Unit remained involved in advocacy and learning, helping to shape the dialogue around inclusivity and localisation within the broader NGO security sector. Through panel discussions, thought leadership contributions, and sector forums, they continued to promote context-sensitive, community-informed approaches to safety and security.

Cumulative external risk rating (GPI, Civicus, Crisis24) - 2024



From a magical book to real-world change: Thuézia, once a sponsored child in Pernambuco, Brazil, now stands as a powerful youth activist. Inspired by a children's story and fueled by her passion for education and equality, she's brought 52 girls back to school, interviewed Malala, and continues to lead movements for girls' rights in one of Brazil's most challenging regions. She says *'We need to encourage more Black girls. They need to know their rights and their potential. They have the right to study and to do everything they wish.'*

PHOTO: RAFAEL NEGRÃO / ACTIONAID

SHEA and Safeguarding

ActionAid is actively committed to addressing and preventing incidences of sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse (SHEA) which is carried out by staff and representatives of the organisation. ActionAid’s approach is rooted in survivor-centred and feminist leadership principles, emphasizing the importance of acting when incidents occur.

- In 2024, ActionAid marked the six-year milestone of its **Global SHEA and Safeguarding strategy**. The organisation showcased renewed commitment and political will across the ActionAid Federation.
- ActionAid continues to promote and grow support for the **SHEA and Safeguarding e-learning course**, completed by a total of 2,316 people.
- The SHEA and Safeguarding approach are actively **embedded into all Orange and Red Alert emergencies** - working in seven different emergencies in 2024.
- Recognising diverse approaches to managing complaints, ActionAid introduced the **Case Supporter Role Training and capacitation in 2024**. This role, inspired by the Doula Model of Care and the Survivor’s Advocate approach, provides confidential one-to-one support to

survivors, complainants, witnesses, and subjects of concern. Nine (9) SHEA and Safeguarding Case Supporters across ActionAid were selected and trained to join a cohort of staff providing support to those affected by SHEA and Safeguarding investigations.



Internal audit

In 2024, 19 ActionAid member countries were audited across various areas, with learning on risk management, control, and governance processes.

Implementation of the whistleblowing standard operating procedures, which started formally in 2024, is already improving the efficiency of whistleblowing case management. The team has also proactively contributed to ActionAid’s zero tolerance approach to fraud by running fraud awareness training across the federation and hosting a series of events during International Fraud Awareness Week.

Country modelling and transformation

The Country Modelling and Transformation project was initiated in 2017 as one of the critical change processes essential for the delivery of ActionAid’s International Strategy, *Action for Global Justice*. It has gone through three phases:

Phase 1 (2017-18): Consultations were held to develop our four new operating models for the federation i.e. Virtual, Satellite, Light and Full Presence models.

Phase 2 (2018-19): All countries were supported to align to the newly developed Country Operating models, by evaluating their organisational capability, contextual challenges and opportunities.

Phase 3 (2020-24): By December 2024, over 35 countries had been supported to develop transition plans to align to the new operating models. All transitioning countries have been supported through allocation of transition funds and fundraising support funds to help improve sustainability. Several countries have diversified their incomes, including some of those phasing out child sponsorship, i.e. Afghanistan, Liberia, Somaliland and DRC.

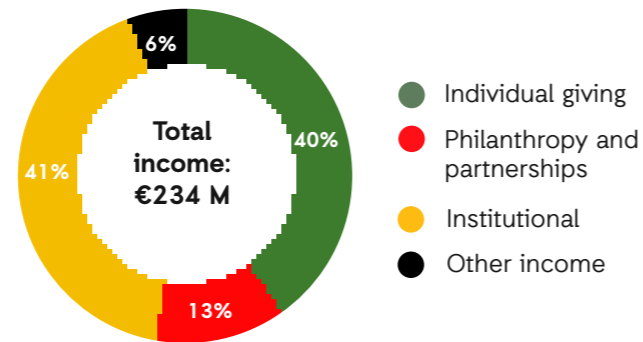
In 2024, we also focussed on facilitating greater cross-functional support for the new operating models, by implementing the shared services model from countries identified as Centres of Support. The work to follow through on the benefits of these strands will continue in the coming years. Country transformation processes will continue to support countries to self-reflect and strengthen their capability in management, governance and internal collaborations (service sharing) to enable a united and agile federation to deliver on SIF3.

Case/Incidences	Number
Categorised as incidents and responded to in line with ActionAid’s SHEA and Safeguarding Incident Management Guidelines, which embeds ActionAid’s Feminist Leadership Principle	<p>28 cases/incidents were reported through our complaint mechanisms and whistleblowing channels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 cases contained allegation for the breach of SHEA at Work Policy • 10 cases contained allegation of breaches of PSEA Policy • 5 cases contained allegation of breaches of the Global Child Safeguarding Policy • 2 cases contained allegation that classified as “others”
Incidents closed including incidents reported for 2022, 2023 and 2024	28 cases were closed in 2024, of which nine were upheld.

FINANCE & FUNDRAISING

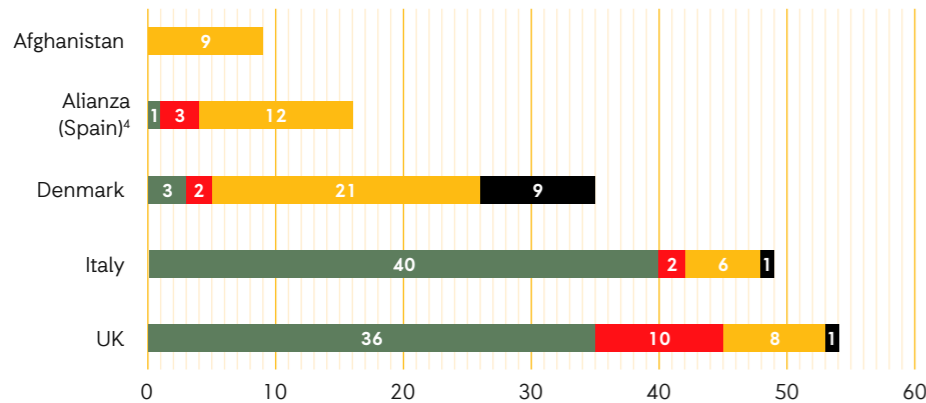
Income

ActionAid's total income in 2024 was €234million, a 3% decline as compared to 2023 (€240 million). The mix of income shows a decline in individual giving (4%) and Philanthropy and Partnerships of 19% mainly due to reduction in funding for emergencies from DEC and Appeals since in 2024 only one major appeal was active (Gaza) as compared to three in 2023 (Turkey/ Syria, Morocco and Gaza).



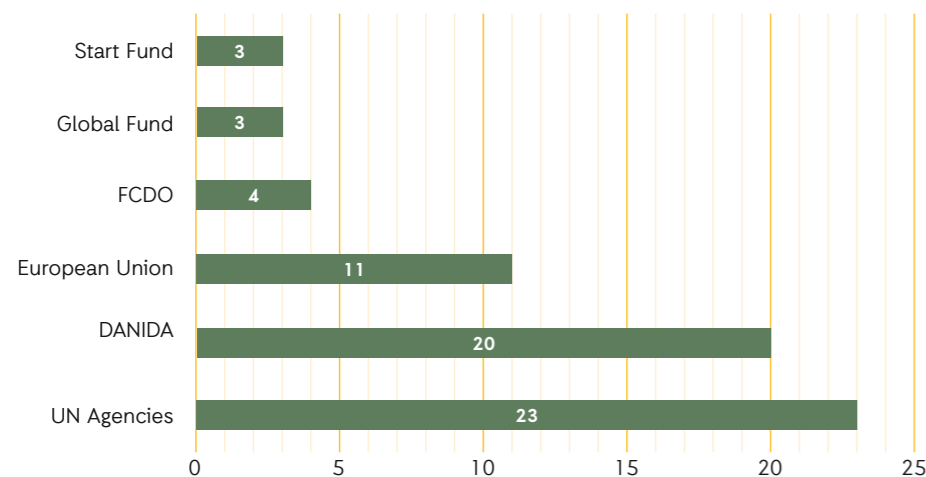
Allocations from DEC for Turkey/Syria reduced compared to prior years.

Largest country incomes (€ millions)



In 2024 70% of the Federation's total external income was generated by five countries; ActionAid Denmark, Alianza por la Solidaridad – ActionAid and ActionAid Afghanistan's incomes are predominantly from Institutional donors. ActionAid Italy and ActionAid UK raise mainly Individual Giving income.

Largest donors (€ millions)



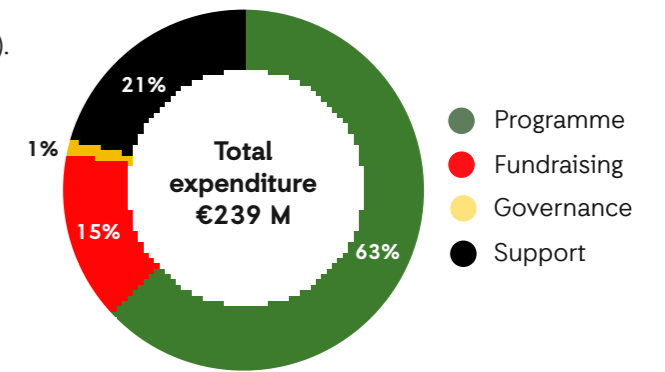
The United Nations and its Agencies were the largest institutional donors in 2024 contributing €23million of total institutional funding. The second largest institutional donor was DANIDA (the Danish International Development Agency). The rest comprises of the EU, the Global Fund, DFID and the Start Fund.

4. Alianza implements its programmes through various partners in Americas, Africa and Asia. (Haiti, Bolivia, Colombia, Senegal, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine and Jordan). Currently these costs are captured in Alianza books.

Expenditure

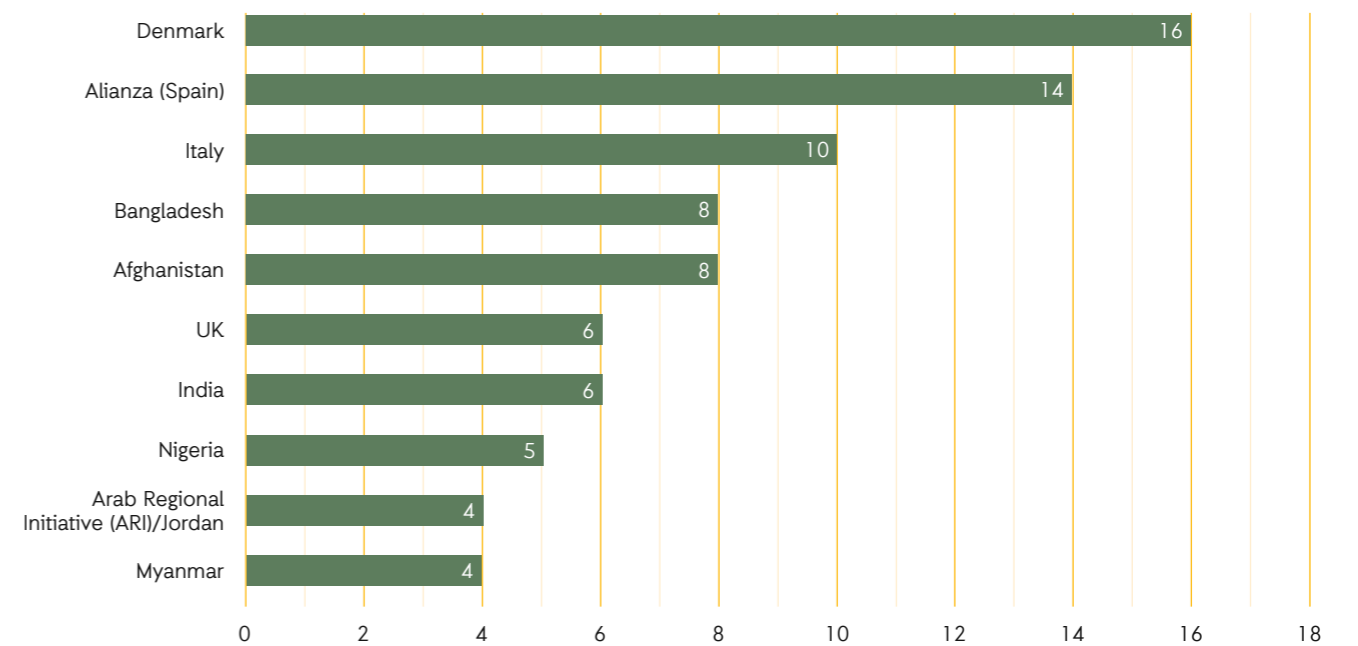
Total Federation expenditure in 2024 was €239 million. This is a 6% decrease compared to 2023 (€255 million), prior year. The decrease is mainly in programme expenditure associated with reduced funding for emergency interventions compared to 2023.

Programme expenditure comprised 63% of the total costs in 2024, a slight decrease compared to 2023. Twenty one percent of the costs are attributed to support costs while 15% and 1% are attributed to Fundraising and Governance costs respectively.



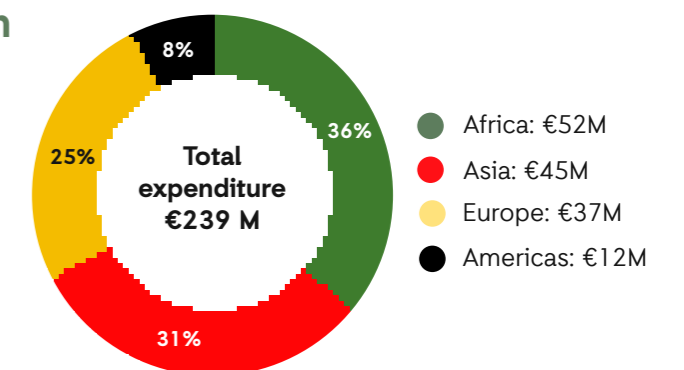
Largest country programme expenditure

Top ten programme expenditure countries (€ millions)



Programme Expenditure by Region

Africa has the highest percentage expenditure at 36%, followed by Asia at 31%. Europe's programme expenditure is driven by Denmark's training programmes, Italy's internal and external programmes, Greece's local programmes and UK grants to ActionAid partners for Turkey/Syria emergencies and the advocacy work to hold the Bretton Woods Institutions accountable.



Reserves

The reserves position remains strong, and there are strong cash balances across the Federation:

	2024 (€M)	2023 (€M)
Restricted	48.3	50.5
Unrestricted	46.3	46.6
Total	94.6	97.1

Restricted reserves are funds that are earmarked for a specific purpose and spent in strict accordance with the conditions of the respective donors, whereas unrestricted reserves are general funds and may be spent at the discretion of the organisation.

Actions for Global Justice in a Changing World

The world is no doubt changing rapidly. In 2024 ActionAid has adapting to this, reenergising its approach as articulated in the Strategic Implementation Framework (SIF3) to more focus on working with social movements to build the people power to achieve a just transition, and ensuring the federation has the systems and funding in place to support this shift. However, in order to build stronger partnerships we also need to demonstrate our impact. This is a work in progress; we must be both strategic and also reflective, working with partners, allies and movements to consider how best to achieve the change we want to see, and learning more about how to do this in a way that is feminist, anti racist and decolonial. Our vision is bold, and we are united as a federation to achieve it. We look to 2025 to understand and reflect on our transformative impact.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all our staff, partners and allies who continue to reflect, innovate and drive change alongside us; joining together in solidarity to shift power to marginalised and vulnerable people. We thank and stand in solidarity especially with those activists in crisis or conflict who are working to ensure social justice for all.

Thank you to our boards for the support you've given along the way. Thank you to the many of you who have sent data, analysis, stories and learnings for this collaboratively generated report; what is written here is only the tip of the iceberg. There is a huge amount of work going on every day across the federation and across the globe. It is seen and appreciated.

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May 2025

Cover photo: Salomey is a passionate young advocate and a member of the Young Urban Women Movement in Ghana. She says:

"I have witnessed firsthand how climate change has drastically impacted my life. The soaring cost of food in my country exemplifies this reality. Young people like me are fighting for decent jobs, and far too many are struggling to meet their basic needs because of the reckless environmental policies pushed by these banks. Their pollution infiltrates every facet of our lives. Being part of this campaign has strengthened my resolve; it has deepened my empathy and expanded my understanding of the issues at hand. I am now fully aware of the severe harm these banks are inflicting on our planet. Thanks to the initiative by ActionAid, we young people around the world are rising up to demand climate justice and accountability. I am young, and like countless others globally, our message is unequivocal: Stop Fossil Fuel Funding and #FundOurFuture."

CREDIT: ACTIONAID