

2022 ANNUAL REPORT

SURVIVED AND READY TO THRIVE



FOREWORD

by ActionAid International Board

We are delighted to present to you our 2022 Federation Annual Report that highlights part of our collective work triumphs, missed opportunities and lessons for the future.

At the beginning of 2022, ActionAid was in a particularly critical moment in its evolution. With both a difficult external environment and a deep restructure of its Global Secretariat, we were confronted with the prospect of progress, stagnation or even regression. Progress because of the hope ushered in after the new Global Secretariat (GS) Mandate and Structure were approved by the Assembly and International Board respectively. Stagnation because we had to lose so many staff because of restructure and it was inconceivable how the organisation would advance collaboratively with such a deep cut in personnel in the GS over a short period of time, with many leadership positions unfilled. And regression because of the huge vacuum that departing staff were to create, leading to work overload for the remaining staff and uncertainty about whether we would get the right skills set to steady the GS and provide the much-needed reconnection with countries, the wider federation, our external partners and allies.

Looking back to January 2022, we - as a board - believe ActionAid can be proud of its overall account in a difficult year. We achieved, we delivered, and we learnt from our failures. By the close of the year, we had 98% of our target recruitments in the new GS structure and a fantastic extended leadership team in place. We also started the recruitment of our permanent Secretary General and completed this process early in 2023, with the confirmation of Arthur Larok. Along with the International Board and an established Global Leadership Team we were able to galvanise a shared feminist leadership space and believe the organisation has successfully turned the corner from a difficult year. We can look to the years ahead with greater confidence.

To respond to the multiplicity of intersecting global crises, in 2022, ActionAid had to move quickly, shifting the organisation to a more external global focus. We worked in solidarity with others for change - challenging deepening austerity, restrictions on women's and marginalised people's rights, those in conflict and facing food insecurity. All these challenges have been compounded by the all-encompassing impact of the climate crisis which continues to manifest in most of the countries where we operate.

This Annual Report shows a snapshot of the federation's work in 2022, the stories and photos reflect a sample of the many times where ActionAid staff and partners have had impact despite local and international uncertainties and contexts. The report also shows how ActionAid is well positioned to thrive in external global spaces in 2023. We are all inspired by our renewed federation change vision which prioritises feminist principles and decolonising practices, strengthening ActionAid as a rooted campaigning organisation with a strong constituency base to achieve systems change for economic and climate justice. Our key externally facing International Campaign on Climate Justice, to be launched in 2023, sets the organisation on a path to make an important contribution to a crucial global burning platform of the climate crisis.

With our presence across the world, in over 45 countries, and with partners and allies, we look forward to pursuing this vision, together.

Solidarity,

Hellen Grace Akwii and Joanna Wetherborn
AAI BOARD CHAIR and VICE-CHAIR
On Behalf of the ActionAid International Board



Hellen Grace Akwii



Joanna Wetherborn

CONTENTS

CONTEXT	4
IMPACT	6
ActionAid in numbers	6
Climate justice	9
Climate justice campaign	10
Economic justice	10
Women's rights and feminist alternatives	12
Youth participation and engagement	15
Humanitarian response and influencing	16
STORIES FROM ACROSS THE FEDERATION	22
COMMUNICATIONS	28
Social media	28
Annual media performance	29
ORGANISATIONAL PRIORITIES	30
Governance and global leadership	30
Organisational effectiveness	31
Child sponsorship	31
SHEA and safeguarding	32
Internal audit	33
Country modelling and transformation	33
FUNDRAISING & FINANCE OVERVIEW	35

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all staff and partners for the work you've tirelessly put in to shifting power to marginalised and vulnerable people and to making ActionAid a place for learning, reflection and change; and thank you to our boards for the support you've given along the way. Thank you to the many, many of you who have sent data, analysis, text, partners' successes and learnings for this collaboratively generated report, what is written in 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. For external readers, some of the links are internal, do get in touch if you'd like any documents to be sent.

Edit: Rowan Dent / Design: www.NickPurserDesign.com

CONTEXT

In 2022 the multiple global crises we face have become again more tangible and visible. A military dictatorship in Myanmar, the continued brutal occupation of Palestine, a state of statelessness in Haiti, and deadly internal conflicts in Afghanistan, Syria, Nigeria, Mozambique, Yemen, and Sudan, as well as the Russian invasion of Ukraine, have prompted war mongering of global consequences. Increased military spending has profoundly altered our geopolitical order as well as prolonging reliance on fossil fuels.

Each conflict has had brutal impact on people, especially the most vulnerable, and the reach of conflict stretches far beyond any country's border. The Russia-Ukraine war for example, has created 300,000 direct victims, 8 million refugees and 5 million internally displaced people (IDP) in the region. Outside the borders, billions more are affected by a drastic increase of food and energy prices that has worsened living conditions already impacted by Covid-19 and, in East Africa, climate change-induced drought.

Across the board, climate change-induced extreme weather such as unprecedented heat and flash flooding has affected farmers' and people's livelihoods, with millions displaced in Pakistan by both. The positive reception to refugees from the Ukraine conflict has shone a light on the racist attitudes towards refugees fleeing other conflicts and climate-related disasters globally, and through everything the need to support vulnerable women and girl leaders in humanitarian contexts remains constant.

Women and girls face unequal access to basic rights and to provision of public services such as water, health, adequate nutrition and shelter. At the same time public services – already weakened by the Covid-19 pandemic – remain chronically underfunded and nurses, teachers and other public sector workers are being forced to accept what amount to pay cuts in the face of rising inflation.



Shamim Ntanda gathers with activists in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania to share experiences and organise around climate change.

PHOTO: MISPER APAWU/ ACTIONAID

Women and girls face the brunt of the impact of austerity, becoming the shock absorbers for cuts to public services. They are the first to lose access to services, the first to lose frontline public sector jobs and the first to assume the rising burden of unpaid care work that results from failing public services.

Women's rights and the struggle of women's movements faced major setbacks in 2022. The overturning of 1973 'Roe vs Wade' supreme court ruling in the US was just one high profile example of the attack on women's rights. Many women - for example indigenous and Afro-descendant women and girls in the Americas - experience multiple inequalities and face multiple forms of oppression and discrimination, for example, being less able to travel for healthcare and being overlooked in key debates around climate resilience and financing. When women counter this state backlash, as in Iran after the death of Mahsa Amini, the response is violent suppression.

Whilst world news has shifted its focus from Covid-19, discrimination and inequality in vaccine distribution and the accumulation of vast pharma profits have reinforced other injustices and inequalities. As corporate profits boom for the few, a cost of living crisis has deepened for many.

In general, our current global institutional architecture, including IMF, World Bank and COP processes, remain insufficient to respond to our present challenges. In 2022, more countries were plunged into significant debt distress, forcing them into the hands of the IMF who, despite some shift in rhetoric, continue to implement the most acute austerity policies.

Despite this, 2022 did see some glimmers of hope, particularly in terms of cooperation and collective action, and this gives us confidence that our ActionAid strategy is on the right track. Breakthroughs were made in recognising loss and damage at climate negotiations and the UN seized the power to set future global tax rules and laid out a transformative vision for financing education. This annual report notes several of the wins which featured at a global scale, including around taxation, education and climate justice.



Grassroots campaigning on women's rights in Ghana.
PHOTO: MISPER APAWU/ ACTIONAID

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 2022 were 3,375 staff (1,726 women and 1,649 men) in more than 45 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and The Americas, and a Global Secretariat of 126 (76 women and 50 men). Of our staff, 53% of our senior leaders are women, up from 2021. We also hosted 12,000 volunteers (6,068 women and 5,673 men) and worked with over 2,749 local partners, 379 social movements and 479 networks/coalitions including 767 women's rights/women led organisations and 426 organisations led by young people.

Countries reported reaching 30 million people in our campaigns, including over 14 million women, 13 million men and 3 million children.

Our Humanitarian work reached 11 million people, including 4 million women, 3 million men, 4 million children.

25

AFFILIATES

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

There are 25 Affiliate Members: Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Denmark, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sweden, Tanzania, The Gambia, Uganda, UK, and USA.

5

ASSOCIATES

Members in transition to Affiliates

There are currently five associate members: Indonesia, Zambia, Spain, Thailand, and Vietnam.

15

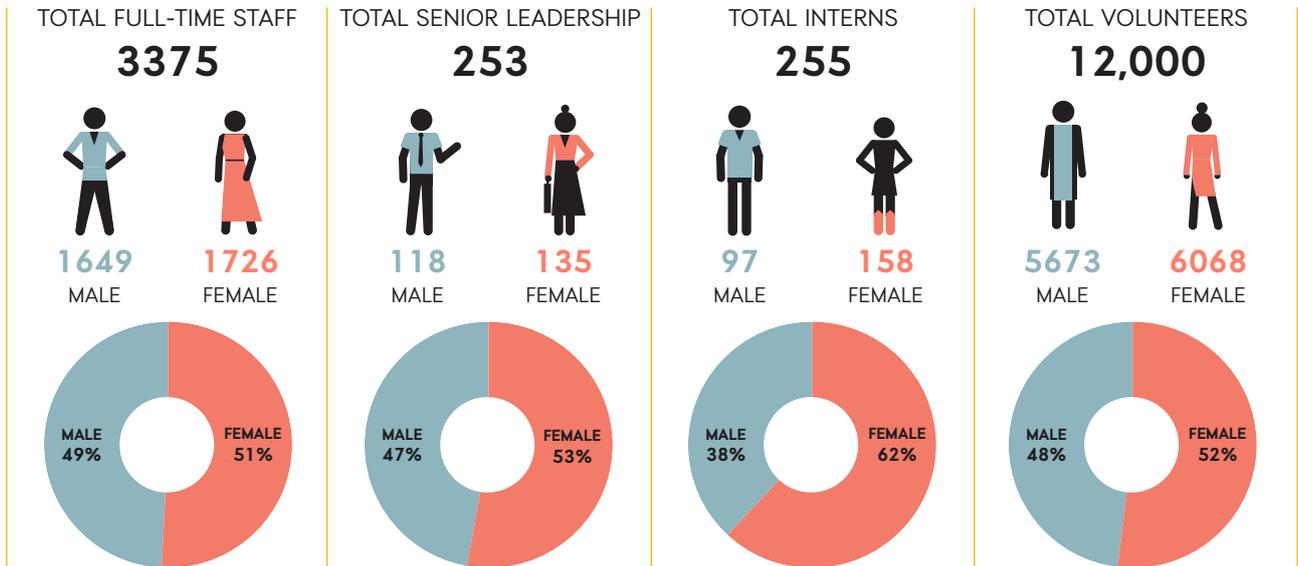
COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

Programmes with managerial oversight provided by the Global Secretariat while governance oversight is provided by the International Board

There are currently 15 country programmes: Afghanistan, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Liberia, Myanmar, Palestine (Occupied Palestinian Territories), Senegal, Somaliland, South Africa, Zimbabwe, and the ActionAid Arab Region (AAAR) based in Jordan with outreaches in Lebanon and Syria.

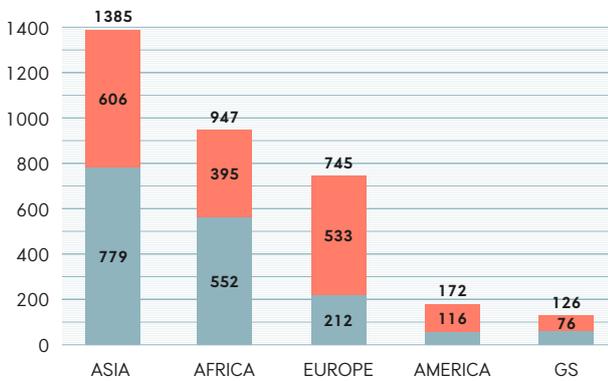
Staff

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

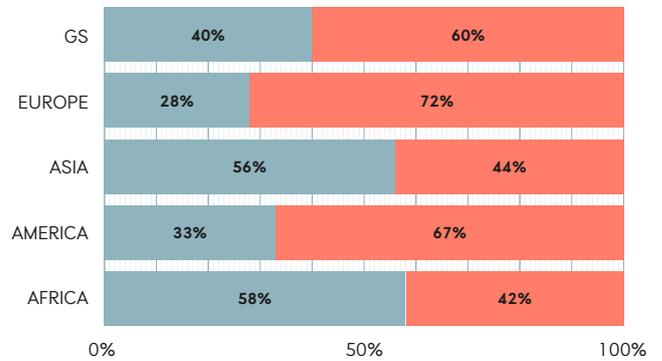


Staff division per region

NUMBER OF FEMALE AND MALE STAFF PER REGION



% OF FEMALE AND MALE STAFF PER REGION



● Male staff ● Female staff Note: GS staff as of March 2023

Partners



379

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS PARTNERS



479

NETWORKS / COALITIONS / PARTNERS



2749

LOCAL PARTNERS



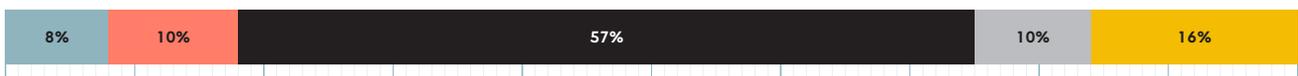
426

YOUNG-PEOPLE LED ORGANISATIONS

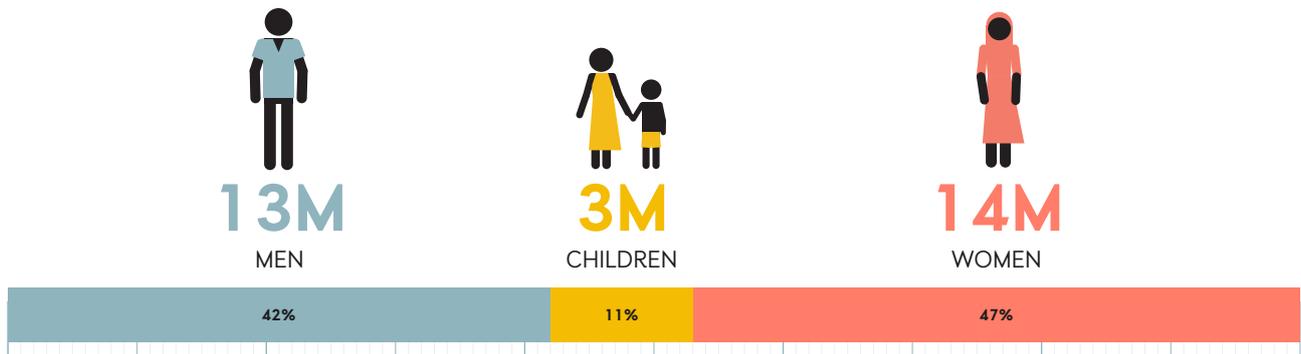


767

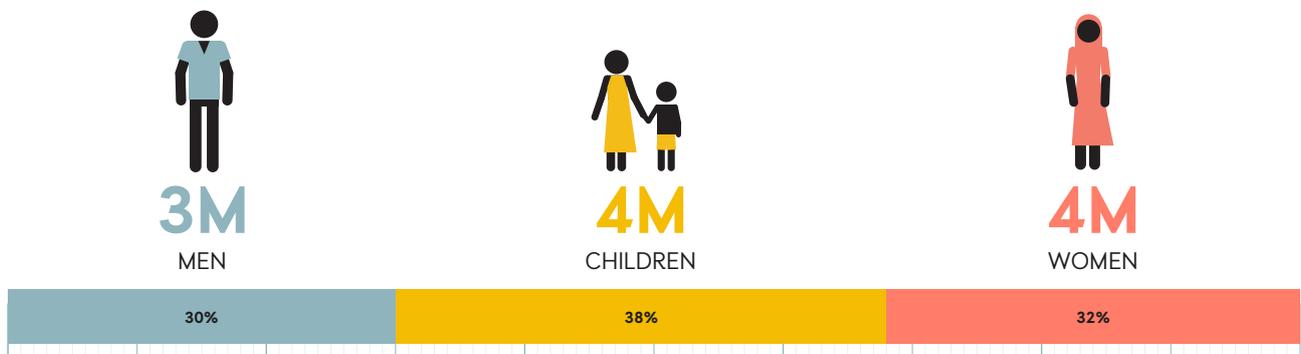
WOMEN'S RIGHTS / LED ORGANISATIONS



Reach: by campaigns



Reach: by humanitarian assistance



Reach: children targeted by empowerment activities

940,000 

Climate justice

After months of work, the 2022 Conference of Parties (COP27) took place in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. Every year COP is a major moment in the fight for climate justice, which often leaves campaigners and activists disappointed – but not this year.

Over two weeks of COP27 our amazing team of ActionAiders, women community leaders and youth activists presented powerful voices

and evidence from the ground, organised and participated in moving actions, lobbied governments, made noise in both print and social media, coordinated closely with country teams, and much more. Just when it seemed hopeless, COP27 agreed to establish a long lobbied for loss and damage fund, which will support vulnerable countries manage the damage and loss to land and livelihood caused by climate change. This is a huge win for climate justice and the rights of people harmed by climate change.



ActionAid staff and activists campaign at COP27 for a loss and damage funding facility.
PHOTO: HANNAH GURNEY / ACTIONAID

Government departments have acted in response to advocacy by the Partnership for Social Accountability (PSA) Alliance partners.

On 5 September 2022, prompted by advocacy by young SAM (Social Accountability Monitoring) mentees, the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) re-connected water to the Sianzyundu Clinic in Binga district that had gone for months without running water. In Mutoko district, Zimbabwe, the local council has agreed to pay input transporters from the Community Development Fund, after SAM committee smallholder farmers raised concerns that transporters were requesting funds from them.

In Chipata district, Zambia, the process to access (Farm Input Support Programme) FISP was previously perceived as corrupt, but community members now report that due to PSA Alliance-facilitated advocacy and engagements with the District Agriculture Officer, there is now more transparency and greater access, and the number of FISP beneficiaries rose from 59 in 2021 to 139 in 2022 in five wards of the district.

The district council in Kilosa, Tanzania has since provided permits to women smallholder farmers (SHFs) in five communities to start seed production activities, following PSA Alliance training in seed production and management.

Climate justice campaign

Significant progress was made by members in shaping the approach and focus of our global climate justice campaign. For the next five years, ActionAid will harness its collective energies and power to move billions of dollars out of climate crimes produced by fossil fuel and agribusiness, into community-led solutions. ActionAid will innovate the way INGOs do campaigning, supporting locally-rooted mobilisations led by women and young leaders and helping to build a global feminist climate movement able to challenge the powerful public and private funders who are destroying our planet.

A Campaign Steering Group was elected in June in Bologna. This group is composed of the country directors from Kenya, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, India, US, Australia, and Denmark, along with the International Leadership Team (ILT) to provide leadership and advance decisions on the Campaign. The team worked on plans for the launch during a joint retreat with the new campaigns team in the Sundarbans area of Bangladesh. This launch is set to take place in June 2023.

Momentum is building for the campaign with real excitement about the [plans for next year](#).

Economic justice

ActionAid produced and launched [The Care Contradiction: The IMF, Gender and Austerity](#) in October which documents the gendered impact of austerity policies. We organised a high profile session at the IMF annual meetings, working with feminist allies to reject the IMF Gender Strategy in a face to face public meeting with the IMF's Gender Adviser.

In 23 countries, ActionAid continues to research and advocate with Ministries of Finance on cuts to public services. Our sustained global pressure on the IMF around their coercive policy advice on public sector wage bill constraints opened the door for ActionAid colleagues to have direct interactions with the IMF Mission Chiefs in ten African countries.

We have led the preparation of, and follow up to, the financing track of the Heads of State Transforming Education Summit at the UN General Assembly. This produced a radical [Call to Action on Financing Education](#) around tax, debt and austerity to which we are holding governments and international actors to account.

Transforming Education Summit

In April 2022, ActionAid's Global Lead for Economic Justice and Public Services, David Archer, was invited by the UN Deputy Secretary General to convene the finance track for the first ever Heads of State Summit on education. Three drafts of a finance discussion paper were drafted with 193 member states of the UN, consulted on at a pre-Summit in Paris in July and then finalised for the UN General Assembly Heads of State [Transforming Education Summit](#) on 19 September. The final [discussion paper on finance](#) transformed the traditionally narrow framing of international discussions on education finance, which normally focus on the 3% of global education finance that comes from aid and loans. For the first time attention was focussed on the 97% of funding that comes from domestic resource mobilisation. The central demands were for international action on tax justice, debt justice, ending austerity and stopping [public sector wage bill constraints](#) – strongly reflecting ActionAid's global agenda.

The final [Call to Action on Financing Education](#) agreed at the Summit is now radically re-shaping the global discussions on the financing of the education Sustainable Development Goal. There is now sustained pressure on the IMF from many different sides, demanding that they review the impact of their policies on education and change their practices. It has opened the door for ActionAid to engage directly with IMF Mission Chiefs in ten African countries about their use of public sector wage bill cuts. This new agenda has also been championed by global education movements, with the November 2022 World Assembly of the Global Campaign for Education agreeing that the 2023 Global Action Week in over 100 countries will focus on Decolonising Education Financing, putting pressure on governments to deliver on this new agenda. ActionAid has also been providing capacity development support on linking tax justice and education justice to youth movements and student unions worldwide that are linked to the Global Student Forum. For the first time education campaigners are stepping out of the education bubble to take the case for education to Ministers of Finance and Heads of State.

Our [TaxEd Alliance](#) continues to do ground-breaking work in linking tax justice and education justice movements at national, regional and global levels. We worked with the Tax Justice Network on a special edition of their [Tax Podcast](#) in multiple languages and added momentum to the successful call from African Ministers of Finance for a UN General

Assembly vote to move global rule-setting on tax away from the OECD club of rich nations to a UN-based, more representative and democratic body. [Country fact sheets](#) were produced to guide national advocacy on tax and education on Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia.



A series of cartoons were produced to communicate complex ideas on education financing and tax in a simple form.
PICTURE: MDOGO / ACTIONAID

We were one of the lead convenors of a gathering of anti-privatisation movements in Chile which saw 450 activists from 100 countries defend public education, health, water, energy, transport, care and social protection. [Our Future is Public](#) built

connections across movements working for public services. We found common ground on climate justice, economic justice, gender justice and democratic ownership.

IMF austerity policies imposed in the Global South undermine progress on education

A [paper](#), published by ActionAid Ireland and four leading Irish teachers' unions on 7 November, highlights how the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) austerity policies are damaging global progress on education and undermining Ireland's overseas aid investment.

Karol Balfe, CEO, ActionAid Ireland said: "Education is a powerful tool for breaking the cycle of poverty. Educating girls specifically has enormous and far-reaching benefits, including reducing rates of child marriage, promoting healthier and smaller families, improving wages and jobs for women, and empowering women to become leaders at community and government levels. These austerity policies impact on the right to education and undermine progress made in education. Aid is important, but equally important is challenging macro-economic dogma that undermines the right to education for millions."

Women's rights and feminist alternatives

ActionAid continued to grow our core agenda on centring care in economies by collaborating with partners calling for the rebuilding of the social organisation of care and endorsing a [Care Manifesto](#) which builds on previous campaigns on women's labour and public services. Alongside our presence at the Our Future is Public convening in Chile, we incorporated it in our advocacy at the Pan African Conference on Illicit Financial Flows, which was held in Ghana. Here we drew connections between curbing illicit financial flows, increasing domestic resource mobilisation and advancing feminist economic alternatives. We also grounded our advocacy at the first ever African Regional Business and Human Rights Forum (Ghana) on the co-dependencies between the care economy and corporate accountability.

Our work to support the formation of National Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) Advocacy and Communication Coalitions in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, culminated in a sub-regional level strategy meeting of the coalitions in Nairobi in July. The hubs continue to connect with the global [WeProsper Coalition](#) – indeed, ActionAid is a founding member of its Steering Group.

Additionally, we collaborated with over 10,000 young women across urban areas in India, Ghana, Kenya,

Malawi and South Africa (with programme support from ActionAid UK) through the twin 'Young Urban Women' and 'Valuing Women's Work' programmes. Recently, these programmes have developed a focus on the 'gig' economy, and examining the idea of a 'wellbeing economy' as an alternative measure of success to Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Reports on these two areas are due to be launched mid-2023. For the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic, we were pleased to have ActionAid Ghana host an in-person Global Convening of Young Urban Women Movements with representatives from 22 cities across the five programme countries.

Work to combat modern slavery and advance decent work progressed in Ghana and Ethiopia with global advocacy focused on greater uptake for the ratification of International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 190 (C190), on violence and harassment in the world of work. We also continued in close partnership with the Feminists for a Binding Treaty (F4BT) coalition to support efforts to create an international, legally-binding instrument to regulate the activities of transnational corporations. Together with our partners, we sent a delegation to the most recent session of the intergovernmental working group of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, to prioritise the incorporation of a gender justice lens in the negotiations on the content of the treaty.

How ActionAid and partners are working to tackle human trafficking and modern slavery in Ghana

Human trafficking in Ghana affects adults and children, both within the country and across borders. The impacts of the pandemic as well as climate change have exacerbated poverty and rendered vulnerable people, including children, even more vulnerable to exploitation. People are being trafficked in a range of sectors, including fishing, domestic service, gold mining, quarrying, herding, agriculture and sex work.

As a part of the Norad-funded Combatting Modern Slavery in Ethiopia and Ghana project, ActionAid Ghana and the Ghana Agricultural Workers' Union have been working to tackle human trafficking as part of a broader programme of work aimed at reducing the prevalence and scale of modern slavery. This included working closely with government ministries, departments, and agencies as well as businesses and communities in 12 districts across the country to raise awareness on the forms of modern slavery, identify gaps in policy, legislation and provision and support survivors and vulnerable groups.

This collaborative approach is vital. As noted by Chief Superintendent Mike Baah, Director of the Ghana Anti-Human Trafficking Unit: "You know with trafficking you can't do it alone. You need to work with partners, social welfare, the gender ministry, you need to work with other partners such as GAWU, ActionAid and others both domestic internal and external actors because it's also a cross-border crime."

Unfortunately, the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit is only present in 12 out of Ghana's 16 regions and a lack of government funding, resources, facilities, or land and marine vehicles for anti-trafficking law enforcement operations, combined with a lack of shelter facilities in most regions means investigations are often delayed. Chief Baah highlights the impact of the collaboration with ActionAid Ghana:

"With support from ActionAid under this very project we are trying to establish a regional human trafficking office in Dambai, the regional capital of Oti, where they will be able to handle their own cases, go to court and only give us the statistics. Very soon, we are almost done, we will go and train them and then establish an office for them. We want to replicate it in other areas where we don't have those offices, so that when the offence occurs they will be able to handle it."

In 2022, ActionAid Ghana and the Anti-Human Trafficking department supported the reunification of 28 survivors of modern slavery with their families. This included providing support for their basic needs whilst at the Great Mission International Shelter and PACCODEP. Sarah, from Nigeria, is one of the survivors.

"I got married when I was 16 years old. My partner maltreated me and kicked me out of the house. I have three children aged 10, 7, and 5, whom I was forced to leave behind (...) I had nowhere to go, so I stayed with a friend who told me her daughter lived in Ghana and could help me find a job as a seamstress. She showed me a picture of her daughter so I would recognise her at the collection point in Ghana.

I travelled to Ghana on a bus with men and was the only woman on board. We left at night and arrived in Ghana the following day. When I arrived, the lady picked me up and took me to a hotel, and I was forced into prostitution. The lady was violent and frequently attacked me.

A young girl from the community saved me and helped me escape. She took me to a town, and while I was there, I got pregnant and had a baby. The place was dangerous, so I left and slept on the street with my newborn. To support myself and my baby, I began selling drinking water on the street."

Fortunately, Sarah was rescued by the Social Welfare Department and taken to one of the shelters, after which ActionAid Ghana was able to repatriate her to Nigeria. Sarah now works as a hairstylist and her son is going to school. The challenges inherent in tackling modern slavery, including human trafficking, remain huge. Findings in 2022 from the ILO and Walk Free indicate that numbers are on the rise, with an estimated 50m people (of which 12.3m children) reported as being forced to work against their will.²

So far, ActionAid Ghana and its partners in the Combatting Modern Slavery project have managed to rescue 34 survivors of human trafficking including adults and children forced into labour, cyber exploitation and sex trafficking.³



Police Chief Superintendent Mike Baah training media practitioners on dealing with human trafficking.
PHOTO: SAMUEL LAMPTEY, INFONI MEDIA

Supporting indigenous and afro-descendant women to know their rights

Indigenous and afro-descendant women in La Paz, Bolivia are now ready to access legal and emotional support as survivors of gender-based violence, thanks to a project initiated by Alianza por la Solidaridad, a member of the ActionAid federation. This project was created in coordination with the Center for the Integral Development of Women (CDIMA) with the support of the Government of the Balearic Islands. The women also took part in workshops and solidarity building activities to help realise their rights to contribute in local political processes.

Alicia Canaviri, former Director of CDIMA said: “The workshops are essential to build self-esteem and know your rights’. Carmen Angola Campos, a Community Promoter in the Municipality of Coroico added: ‘It seems to me that when there are these opportunities to empower... to be able to take hold of something to free yourself from something else. I think it is important to do it and make the decision without thinking. Make the decision to be able to work on yourself so you can then work together with others.”⁴



Alicia Canaviri
PHOTO: ALIANZA POR LA SOLIDARIDAD

Youth participation and engagement

With half the world's population under 25 years of age and 85% residing in developing countries;⁵ younger generations are poised to play an important role in transforming and shaping more just, equitable and sustainable societies. As part of ActionAid's youth engagement strategy in 2022, ActionAid has aimed to support young people in their innovative mobilisations in the face of injustice across the world.

- For example, ActionAid Bangladesh launched a youth-led climate coastal hub to connect 19 coastal district youth networks and youth leaders to raise awareness on climate change and convey their messages to national and international arenas. In coordination with UNDP Bangladesh, it organised a campaign for Climate Idea Innovation Challenge with the Daily Star engaging 250 young people. ActionAid Bangladesh also participated

in a youth-led global climate strike and mobilised 723 young women and men from 15 districts linking young activists with influential people and government officials.

- ActionAid Haiti developed a new model to ensure economic resilience for women and youth. ActionAid Haiti's partners developed a mixed crop-livestock kit comprising of seedlings, livestock and training together with financial resilience through establishment of community bank / mutual solidarity credit initiatives. This led to establishment of 10 micro-enterprises for women and youth in agro-processing, fishery and carpentry.
- ActionAid Mozambique worked to strengthen the organising capacity of women and young people resulting in submission of a position paper to the Secretary of State for Youth and Employment outlining their challenges, and recommendations.

The rise of the social movement, Youth4Parliament (Y4P)

ActionAid supports Youth4Parliament, started by two young people in Lusaka. Through mentoring, trainings, and provision of flexible funding, there is now an award winning structured national movement with 60,000+ members. In 2022, MOVE (the Global Social Movement Centre) got involved and supported Y4P to get young people involved in politics and to establish a Y4P presence in all university student unions in Zambia.⁶

Y4P considers money a symbol of the corruption they are fighting against and the flexible and accountable funding system provides in-kind support through ActionAid Zambia's Global Platform including space, facilities and logistics. This ensures the continued independence and integrity of Y4P.⁷

Y4P has 'shaken the political landscape' by bringing in young men and women in the mainstream politics, and ensuring, through a youth caucus, that young candidates have a space to engage with each other and keep the ruling party accountable to their youth agenda.

"Our model was now that if your next-door neighbour does not know who Y4P is, then you cannot call yourself a member of Y4P."
Thompson Luzindi, Y4P organiser.



Youth4Parliament activists reaching out across the country.
PHOTO: Y4P/ACTIONAID

Humanitarian response and influencing

Humanitarian influencing

The humanitarian system has two purposes: to provide direct response to support people in crisis and long-term support to vulnerable people. ActionAid and allies worked to ensure that the humanitarian system ensures change, lobbying in key spaces such as the World Food Programme annual partners consultation and the Global Food Security and Nutrition cluster meetings in Rome. Here, our core message was that addressing the global food crisis, especially dire in East Africa, requires structural change in the food and agriculture system and the humanitarian system, as well as a new loss and damage facility to respond to extreme climate events.

In other spaces the following outcomes were seen:

- Following the **Pan Africa Humanitarian-Protection-Resilience Learning & Exchange Workshop** ActionAid and allies will: set up regional hubs and stronger delegation mechanisms to ensure better learning, undertake capacity building and knowledge sharing, update the Resilience Framework from a community-led perspective and strengthen fundraising and communications.
- **The Interagency Standing Committee (IASC)**, which governs the international humanitarian system and which ActionAid has continued to co-lead with UN Women the Gender Reference Group has successfully lobbied UN directors so that UN Women become a full member of the IASC and engages in its governance.
- ActionAid's and partners' research was presented at **the Women, Peace and Security Week (WPS)** in New York from 17-21 October. Alianza por la Solidaridad (a member of ActionAid Federation), ActionAid UK, IHART and partners from Myanmar, Poland and Romania were present and organised meetings with the permanent representations of Ireland, Spain, UK, Netherlands and Australia to showcase Humanitarian action: Women responding, but outside the system, and to prelaunch 'Leading the Way: The Nexus through a Feminist Lens'.
- Barriers to partnering with women's organisations were reduced through the

Feminist Humanitarian Network (FHN) which is helping ActionAid better support feminist organisations. Through this, we are also meeting ActionAid's commitments to the Charter for Change and the Grand Bargain.

- ActionAid leaders such as Sudipta Kumar, Country Director for ActionAid Afghanistan, met donors, politicians, journalists and the public to raise funds, awareness and lobby decision makers.

Humanitarian response

ActionAid was very active in 2022, due to multiple ongoing crises. ActionAid's response continued to protect the rights of the most vulnerable women and girls and build their resilience. Below we have outlined how we supported vulnerable people in seven of the year's major crises.

East Africa Food Crisis

East Africa is experiencing one of the worst droughts on record. Up to 36 million people in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are facing severe hunger, chronic water shortages and limited access to healthcare.

In the months following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, global food and energy prices have also reached record highs. Some of the world's poorest communities are seeing prices of essentials double, triple and in some cases nearly quadruple. The drought is likely to continue to mid-2023.

In Somaliland, ActionAid's response prioritises Sool, Sanaag and Togdheer regions which are currently in acutely food insecure. In October, ActionAid reached around 18,693 households in one month, the biggest number reached by one agency.

In Ethiopia, over 800,000 people have received humanitarian assistance in Oromia and Somali regions while the Kenya response has reached over 12,196 households in hard to reach and underserved areas of Garissa, Baringo, Kilifi and Isiolo. These areas are arid and semi-arid and have a high prevalence of conflict between humans and wildlife. They also have the highest proportions of people suffering from malnutrition.



When ActionAid visited Somaliland in March 2022, we interviewed rural women Fadumo, Halimo, Amina, Maryan, Hinda and Sagal to learn how they are being affected by the severe drought, conflict and skyrocketing food prices. The 8-min film, [Perfect Storm](#), won Gold in the Longform £20m+ category at the UK Charity Film Awards 2023.

PHOTO: DANIEL JUKES / ACTIONAID

Ukraine crisis (Orange Alert)

ActionAid was able to respond rapidly to the Ukraine crisis through partners Sphere, Insight, and Legalife, and support the most marginalised persons affected by the conflict, with focussing on women and girls whose safety and mental health is largely forgotten. ActionAid’s response continues to provide relief to refugees in Poland,

Romania, Moldova and internally displaced persons (IDP) inside Ukraine. So far, ActionAid has reached over 1,597,811 people with food assistance, multipurpose cash assistance, hygiene kits and medical items, among other forms of support. In addition, 1,365,182 people accessed key information on legal services, gender-based violence (GBV) protection and livelihood support.



One year on from Russia’s invasion: Veronika, herself an internally displaced person from Kharkiv, Ukraine, volunteers with ActionAid partner Insight NGO.

PHOTO: ANASTASIA VLASOVA / ACTIONAID

Ethiopia conflict (Orange Alert)

In November 2022, the Ethiopian Government and Tigrayan authorities declared a cessation of hostilities, allowing aid to reach stricken civilians. The conflict has resulted in over 2.6 million internally displaced people, over 240,000 returnees and more than 97,000 refugees and asylum seekers in the Afar, Amhara and Tigray Regions. ActionAid's response activities include setting up water structures to support communities with sustainable water schemes. ActionAid Ethiopia has so far reached over 80,000 people.

Afghanistan crisis (Orange Alert)

Afghanistan continues to face severe drought, soaring inflation, and overwhelmed health services and hospitals. Close to half of the population are facing acute hunger. ActionAid works in 15 provinces across Afghanistan on long-term programmes that focus on strengthening children's education, agriculture, protection, humanitarian works and food security, with a focus on women and girls. Over 4,425,108 people (1,015,860 women, 2,353,036 children and 1,056,212 men) have been supported with essential items to help

families keep warm in winter, including blankets, winter clothes, gas for cooking and heating their homes, food packages, hygiene kits and cash grants to enable families to meet their basic needs. ActionAid also provided families with psychosocial and protection support. In addition, following steps taken by Afghan authorities to limit Civil Society – including banning women from working in NGOs – ActionAid is endeavouring to protect women's rights. For example, we are retaining female employee's contracts and providing facilities for female staff to work from home. At the same time, ActionAid has advocated with all possible agencies to secure exemptions either through local negotiations or through a Government Directive.

ActionAid UK has been lobbying the UK government to better support the people of Afghanistan via a network of British and Irish NGOs working inside Afghanistan. Their demands include improving the life of women and girls and dealing with levels of poverty and food insecurity due to the international financial restrictions and climate change.

ActionAid Earthquake Shelter Reconstruction Response in Paktika, Afghanistan

Afghanistan is experiencing complex emergencies which are a combination of prolonged drought and conflict. The 5.9 magnitude earthquake of 22 June 2022 also caused widespread destruction and disruption to services to an already highly vulnerable population across Khost, Paktika and Paktya provinces. The earthquake took lives of over 1,000 people and injured approximately 3,000.

Guided by ActionAid's Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) as well as Humanitarian Signature, ActionAid Afghanistan, with funding and technical support from UNDP, supported earthquake survivors through psychosocial counselling and rebuilding houses. This reconstruction effort was made in collaboration with local people, using local labour, with the owner sourcing materials. The owner would receive cash from the programme at certain milestones to pay for labour and purchase materials. ActionAid Afghanistan also conducted a participatory rapid need assessment in the program area of Paktika Provinces, Barmal district covering 168 households and selecting 50 households to be supported with rebuilding. The process was led by ActionAid and Community Development Councils (CDC – local institution) to ensure community participation and accountability.

Mr. Sayeed Rahman, a father of 11 children (six sons and five daughters) and a person with disability, was one of the 50 beneficiaries. Sayeed says: *“My house measuring 72 square metre was completely damaged by the earthquake. I was left with no home, no food and income, and savings to feed my family. I have never been in this desperate situation. As a parent I must make difficult decisions on which of my 11 children do I have to feed? Do I send the children look for casual labour or let them starve?”*

“ActionAid’s support was very helpful; I was able to reconstruct my house with 2 bedrooms now measuring 65 square metres along with a courtyard. ActionAid engineer supported in incorporating and enhancing local knowledge in building techniques. I received AFN 354,000 (GBP 3226 approx.) in three instalments as per the project plan.”

ActionAid HRBA and Humanitarian signature advance shifting power to local institutions such as Community Development Councils (CDCs), which have promoted women's leadership and accountability in Paktika.



Sayeed (at the centre) with local labourers doing a layout for his construction. PHOTO: AHMED NAIEM PARDIS / ACTIONAID AFGHANISTAN

Myanmar (Orange Alert)

Following the military takeover of the government in 2021, Myanmar's civic space is controlled by the government. Recently, CIVICUS, a global alliance of civil society organisations, has reported Myanmar's civic space as 'closed'. Women, youth, labour unions, artists, journalists, CSO leaders and human rights defenders are not free to engage in activities concerning human rights. The regulations implied by the government on CSOs have affected several rights organisations in the country.

Repealing the earlier Organisation Registration Law (ORL) 2014, in October 2022, the State Administration Council (SAC) enacted a new ORL requiring all I/NGOs and other local organisations to sign Memorandum of Understanding with relevant government departments for their business operations – deviating from this can lead to strict criminal penalties. ActionAid Myanmar is refining its programmes and approach to better suit with the government regulation and continues to deliver the same impact to communities.

Hostilities and soaring inflation continue to impose security and protection risks on affected and displaced people. More than 1.3 million people remain displaced across the country, of whom more than 1 million were displaced since the 2021 military takeover.

ActionAid is lobbying the UN to ensure that activists can continue to support vulnerable people in Myanmar, and working to address issues on the ground such as protection from gender-based violence. To date, ActionAid has assisted over 974,000 with emergency food, cash support and non-food items. This includes over 4,000 people who have been reached through gender-based violence and child protection campaigns and provided with cash assistance and dignity kits.

Rohingya refugee crisis (Orange Alert):

Over 980,000 Rohingya refugees and forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals (FDMN) – including 483,395 children – are temporarily sheltered in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. ActionAid's response covers 32 Rohingya camps out of the 33 in Cox's Bazar and has so far reached 747,323 people with humanitarian assistance including 657,843 Rohingya refugees and 89,480 host population. Over 5,000 safe spaces for women have been created, and 90 emergency tents, 15,786 blankets, 40,000 food packages and 5,250 dignity kits have been distributed.

The response continues to undertake activities to support and promote women and girls' leadership, especially in WASH committees. We are also empowering local actors by working with national NGO, Young People for Social Action (YPSA), to implement some of the projects in the camps.

Advocacy for fair and equitable access to Covid-19 services

ActionAid and the **Peoples Vaccine Alliance – Asia** (PVA-Asia) partners have continued to advocate for fair and equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines, diagnostics, and treatment. We contributed to strengthening and broadening a strong civil society support to shift attitudes away from vaccine nationalism and to push for decentralising the global manufacture of Covid-19 vaccines and treatment for future pandemic preparedness.

Through PVA-Asia Alliance we exposed and challenged the greed of pharmaceutical companies that are using the global intellectual property systems to perpetuate vaccine monopolies, preventing vaccines from being universally accessible. The Alliance also mobilised to shift the positions of vaccine producing country governments who are opposing a proposal championed by India and South Africa in the World Trade Organization (WTO) to waive patents on Covid-19 vaccines, diagnostics, and treatment. Although the final outcomes of the WTO's 12th Ministerial Conference were very limited, PVA's collective advocacy and campaigning contributed to shifting positions of countries such as Australia, France, Greece, Italy and Norway. These countries who were previously opposed to Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver proposal shifted their positions and joined 115+ countries supporting key messages advocated by PVA.

In addition to advocating against inequities across countries, through PVA-Asia we also advocated for inequities in Covid-19 vaccine and treatments within countries, through various research and campaigning that highlighted marginalisation of most vulnerable communities.

- ActionAid India reached around 700,000 people through its vaccination programs that ranged from awareness campaigns to advocacy with local, state and national governments to influence and support them to access full vaccination ensuring vaccine equity with emphasis on remote areas and marginalised communities.
- ActionAid Nepal conducted research highlighting the situation of marginalised communities in Nepal, organising roundtable events for policy advocacy, and organising activities to strengthen mobilisation of civil society organisations with a focus on youth.
- ActionAid Vietnam undertook research on the effects of austerity policies on the health sector. This highlighted the impact of Covid-19 on sustainable health financing policy in Vietnam with emphasis on affordability and accountability aspects of vaccine inequity. The research also highlighted the marginalisation issues being faced by women, children, disabled people, migrant workers and older people.
- ActionAid Myanmar carried out research highlighting the intersections of the political situation in Myanmar, its impact on public health system and vaccine access issues.
- ActionAid Palestine's research and mobilisation showcased multi-layered vulnerabilities exacerbated by vaccine inequality in Gaza strip in light of the prolonged blockade and inadequate health systems.



Communities in Nepal demand equitable access to Covid-19 vaccines and treatment. PHOTO: ACTIONAID NEPAL

STORIES FROM ACROSS THE FEDERATION



Glaucivania da Silva Nascimento from Agoa da Jurema-Guarujá, municipality of Quixadá, Ceará, Brazil is the treasurer of the Guarujá Association. She is also part of the Collective of Young People and Women of the Union of Rural Workers, Agriculturists and Family Farmers (STRAAF) of Quixadá, assisted by ESPLAR, in partnership with ActionAid. She regularly meets together with young leaders from 15 communities around the town of Quixadá to discuss how to ensure that young people from rural communities can better articulate the challenges that they face locally and the marginalisation they face when seeking livelihoods opportunities in the town. Empowerment and solidarity activities supported by ActionAid have had huge personal impact; Glaucivania says, "When we started participating in these projects, our vision changed completely!" She also reports that farmers' organising at a community level has resulted in better prices for produce in the city.

PHOTO: NEUMA MORAIS / ACTIONAID

Bound by blood: the reconciliation of women caught up in the genocide in Rwanda

Twenty-eight years on from the genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, two women on opposite sides of the conflict have spoken about reconciling their differences, thanks to support from ActionAid.

The survivor's story: Immaculee

According to some estimates, over one million Tutsi, Twa and moderate Hutu people were murdered by ethnic Hutu extremists from April to July 1994. Immaculee Nyirampore was 20 years old when her entire family, apart from one sister, were killed. When she was young, teachers and other pupils used to laugh at her and other Tutsi children in school because of their ethnicity. She didn't always feel like she belonged in the community and could not complete her high school studies because of segregation.

When the genocide began in 1994, Immaculee remembers seeing her neighbours running out of their homes and being hunted down. Along with her siblings and mother, Immaculee escaped and hid, but her father stayed at home. He was one of the

first people to be killed. Immaculee says, "Soldiers of the government came to check on us in our hiding place, and we told them all our problems, hoping to get help. The following day they came with a large number of soldiers, who started shooting at us. Whoever tried to escape and get out of the building would be cut with a Panga (Machete). After the attack, I realised that from our family it was only I and my young sister who had survived and the rest of my siblings and mum were dead."

Immaculee was eventually rescued by Inkotanyi soldiers from the Rwandan Patriotic Front.

As part of her healing process, Immaculee joined a group led by ActionAid Rwanda. The group taught her business skills and supported her to buy a sewing machine and set up her own business. It also supported her, and the other women in the group, by providing items such as stoves, rainwater tanks, and livestock. In addition to this, she received trauma counselling from ActionAid, where she met women whose husbands were in prison for their part in the genocide against the Tutsi.

The perpetrator's wife's story: Amina

One of these women was 52-year-old Amina Mukantayomba. She recalls her husband coming home and telling her that he had been ordered to

kill Tutsi people. After he was imprisoned, she was left to look after their six children alone.

She talks of being afraid that the women whose loved ones had been killed would want to seek revenge, and being angry with them because she felt it was their fault her husband was in prison, and she was on her own.

Amina says: "After my husband's imprisonment, we lived a miserable life because of bad relationships with the neighbours whose family members had been killed by my husband. I always felt lonely. I didn't have the courage to ask for help from someone who was the victim of my husband's actions."

Thanks to the training and support from ActionAid, Amina felt able to apologise to her husband's victims, and was forgiven by them. Some of the survivors eventually even visited her husband in prison.

"Before, I had never wished to face the genocide survivors. What I am happy for now is the reconciliation training that united us," she says.

Reconciliation

Along with some of the other women they'd met through these sessions, Immaculee and Amina set

up a cooperative called Umucyo Nyanza (meaning the Light of Nyanza), using the skills, knowledge and equipment gained through the group led by ActionAid. They sew bags and clothes, and make Bible covers and aprons. It enables the women to make their own money and, in Amina's case, the money she's made from the cooperative allowed her to send her children to school. The group also helps contribute to unity and reconciliation.

Amina says, "Thanks to the cooperative, we sew our clothes ourselves, we dress well, we feed our children, we do not beg, and we are no longer as anxious as we used to be.

"Immaculee helped me a lot. She taught me tailoring, and how to relate well with others, including the women whose husbands had been killed by our husbands. I treat Immaculee as my older sister. I have siblings but they have never taught me what Immaculee did."

Immaculee adds, "If any one of us is sick or face problems, we visit them and support. This helps us to feel that we have family again. Unity and reconciliation are important because we are all Rwandans and we have the same blood, we are relatives. That's why we no longer focus on our bitter history."⁸



Immaculee (right) and Amina (left) examine their handiwork at their sewing cooperative, Umucyo Nyanza.

PHOTO: ACTIONAID RWANDA

Supporting Ukrainian, Russian and Belarusian women living in Naples, Italy

Through the **SWEET** (Supporting Women in Emergency with Environment of Trust) project, ActionAid is active in supporting people arriving from the Ukrainian emergency in various areas of Italy. In Naples, after mapping the needs of women and children, appropriate immediate support is given, such as food, early childhood kits, clothes and hygiene and personal care kits. Socio-psychological support is also offered to support survivors to overcome trauma. Thanks to the legal assistance service, we are facilitating access to public services such as healthcare, job placements, housing and schooling. Finally, linguistic-cultural mediation services and Italian courses are provided to support integration within the Italian community.⁹

Thanks to six support workers who are originally from Ukraine and Belarus – but now fully integrated into the local community – the support to refugees in Naples is a model of effective response to support the immediate needs and the protection of the rights of people fleeing conflict.

“We don’t just offer an Italian course, we offer our welcome – trying to reassure and help them understand that we are here for them. The people who have arrived here are completely lost, dealing with a foreign language and customs in an unfamiliar place. I teach the Italian language course, but in my opinion, I take care of people a little psychologically. I see they are already more relaxed, they’ve started smiling. At the beginning this did not happen,” says Tania, Belarusian support worker in the SWEET project.



ActionAid staff at the intercultural centre (Mediateca Santa Sofia) in Naples, where refugees from Ukraine are listened to and referred to local services, helped by women from Eastern European communities in the area.

PHOTO: ACTIONAID ITALY

Advocating to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Management into Vietnam's Socio-economic Development Plan

Whilst Vietnam's law on natural disaster prevention and control took effect on May 1, 2014, highlighting that disaster risk management should be integrated into national and local socio-economic development plans, there is presently no detailed guideline in place to support this integration across the country.

The situation in Tra Vinh province is a case in point as DRR was focussing on remedy, rather than prevention and adaptation. Ms. Nguyen Thi Dung, Head of the Economic Department of the People's Committee of Tra Vinh city and Deputy Head of the Development Support Program, has been a key ally. She notes: "In Tra Vinh, drought, cyclones, and saltwater intrusion are three among the most prominent types of natural disasters

causing serious damage to the people's property, lives and livelihoods. The Community Based Disaster Management Plan (CBDMP) is not integrated into country's Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP)."

With ActionAid's policy and advocacy support, allies successfully lobbied the Department of Planning and Investment. Ms Dung celebrates the win, noting that that not only did the department direct all Tra Vinh districts to integrate community disaster plans into the country's wider plan, but also that the process was then replicated – and not only at a commune level. She says: "The procedure for developing the [community disaster management plan] and integrating it into [county's social economic development plan] implemented in Tra Vinh city was documented and used as inputs for developing guidelines on integrating disaster risk management into [the socio-economic development plan] at national level to be put into use nationwide."

ActionAid supported officials and community-level Disaster Risk Reduction Pioneer Groups (DRRPG) by organising workshops and trainings to underpin their efforts in disaster preparedness.



Ms. Nguyen Thi Dung successfully advocates for integrating community-based disaster risk reduction plans into national plans.

PHOTO: GIANG PHAM / ACTIONAID VIETNAM

Redistributing unpaid care work in Nepal results in dignity and entrepreneurship

For Parbati, 38, life was once filled with a daunting 'double burden' of work that is often expected of women in her community in Nepal. Despite coming from a poor family and getting married early, she took on the responsibility of caring for her children and in-laws, while also working in the farm and doing all the household chores. Her husband believed this was solely a woman's responsibility.

But Parbati's life changed when she joined ActionAid Nepal supported women's group that provided her with training and education about women's rights. Through ActionAid-facilitated study, her husband came to realise that her workload was three times more than his, and that it was affecting her health.

With this newfound awareness, her husband began to share the household chores with her, relieving her of some of the burden.

Together, they started a vegetable farm, mushroom farming, and goat raising business, which has become a good source of income for their family. They now earn between £246 - £308 per month and can provide their children with a good education. Parbati's husband no longer has to travel to work in India or as a daily wage worker, and they have a secure source of income working as entrepreneurs.

All of this was made possible through ActionAid's awareness-raising efforts, which emphasised that care work is a shared responsibility. By supporting women like Parbati, ActionAid has contributed to the wellbeing of individuals, families, and societies, highlighting the importance of unpaid care work in economic activity and social development.



Parbati and her husband now understand and practise shared care responsibility.

PHOTO: ACTIONAID NEPAL



Run for Freedom: Supporting the rights and resilience of young people from Palestine.
 ActionAid Palestine supported over 250 young people to run the 9th Palestine Marathon. The marathon is peaceful way for young people to challenge the movement restrictions imposed by Israeli occupation. It is also an opportunity for young people to meet and run in solidarity with allies from Palestine, the diaspora and globally.
 PHOTO: ACTIONAID PALESTINE

ActionAid Guatemala is working with the Guillermo Toriello Foundation (FGT) to promote women’s rights and to raise awareness of violence against women and girls. This is to address the fact that women and young girls are marginalised and their voice unheard at family, community and national level. Changes have been seen with shifts in power between men and women at a local and community level. Reina Beatriz Cucul Tiul, Vice-Chair of the Women’s Committee and Coordinator of the Women’s Network of the South Sector says, “I started to participate in the social activities promoted by the FGT very recently... as member of the women committee I see the need to mobilize and participate in different activities... We are now participating in local councils like women committee, health committee and environment committee”.

PHOTO: EMILIA CHITAY / ACTIONAID



Girls’ rights in Bangladesh, Ethiopia and Indonesia
 17-year-old Esha, from Narayanganj district in Bangladesh, took part in the Bangladesh group of the girl-led research project, a collaboration between ActionAid Bangladesh, ActionAid Ethiopia, ActionAid UK and ActionAid Yappika (Indonesia). She’s also a member of the Children’s Forum and has attended several training sessions on leadership and life skills. Esha says:

“After coming to [the training], I saw that there are many girls of my age here. I really liked it. I like that we could talk about girls’ shyness. Girls don’t usually talk about that. I was also awkward. I could not talk. That’s why I thought... that if I stay with it, I would be able to overcome my awkwardness. I also would be able to make other girls understand, that, no, these are not things you should feel shy about.”

PHOTO: FAHEBA MONIR / ACTIONAID

COMMUNICATIONS

2022 SOCIAL MEDIA PERFORMANCE: (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram)

Impressions:	Video views:	Link clicks:	Engagements:	New followers:
4,530,475	1,905,748	73,185	160,152	56,925

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR HIGHLIGHTS:

149%

increase in the number of **followers** (256,020 total followers at end of 2022, 56,925 new followers gained) Exceeded annual KPI (271% achieved)

79%

increase in overall **engagements** (160,152) Exceeded annual KPI (156% achieved)

77%

increase in **video views** Exceeded annual KPI (148% achieved)

BEST PERFORMERS:



'That's the tweet' climate TikTok

654,633 impressions - **4,065** engagements

<https://www.tiktok.com/@actionaidinternational/video/7158719061440859397>



Perfect Storm – Our Charity Film Award nominated film

100,000+ impressions - **70,000+** views

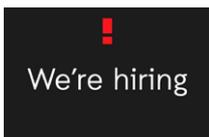
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=722TUpX-CmQ>



Twitter thread on stopping work in Afghanistan

36,300 impressions - **134** likes, **41** retweets

<https://twitter.com/ActionAid/status/1607408191184289796>



Job vacancy post on LinkedIn

30,140 impressions - **17.4%** engagement

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6919641379384037376/>



Farah from ActionAid Bangladesh at a demonstration at COP27

2,068 impressions - **2,124** video views

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CIGwE0SjTSn/>

2022 ANNUAL MEDIA PERFORMANCE

- ActionAid was mentioned in 2,950 print and online media outlets, with broadcast interviews on Al Jazeera news, TRT World and BBC World Service.
- 1,000 of these articles (out of 2,950 media mentions) were published during COP27 in November 2022 and focused on climate justice.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

GLOBAL SHIELD (COP27):

VIEW

CONTEXT by THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION: Teresa Anderson, Global Lead on Climate Justice at ActionAid wrote this op-ed during COP27 about the latest announcement on the global shield. Teresa said: "The contribution of insurance to addressing loss and damage will be limited at best. At worst, the Global Shield is a political football being used to undermine the push for a real loss and damage financing facility."

COP27 - US ANNOUNCEMENT AT COP27:

VIEW

CNN International US climate envoy John Kerry announced a controversial new plan to raise cash for climate action in the developing world – by selling carbon credits to companies wishing to offset their polluting emissions. Kelly Stone from ActionAid USA said: "The US has already repeatedly failed to meet their obligations [to provide climate finance to poorer countries]. Now is the time for the US to take responsibility for how much it has contributed towards climate injustices."

THE HORN OF AFRICA DROUGHT: THE TELEGRAPH

VIEW

Amina Jama Ismail, 40, who lives in Xidhinta village with her eight children, told ActionAid: "Previously there was plenty of rain and water, but now the climate has changed. Every time spring is expected, a drought will replace it."

FOOD AND FUEL PRICE SURVEY: DEUTSCHE WELLE

VIEW

Teresa Anderson, the Global Lead on Climate Justice at ActionAid, told Deutsche Welle that many African economies are still reeling from the pandemic, climate change, humanitarian emergencies, or political and economic unrest. The effects of the Ukraine war have exacerbated the situation, she said.

ACTIONAID AND VIOLET'S RESPONSE TO THE TURKEY/SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

VIEW

TRT. In response to the Turkey/Syria earthquake, Director of Asia and Humanitarian Response, Razmi Farook, gave an interview to TRT to outline ActionAid and partners' response.

WOMEN'S HEALTH AND COST OF LIVING

VIEW

THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION: Women are sacrificing their health to shield families from spiking costs. Wangari Kinoti, global women's rights lead at the international charity ActionAid, said all aspects of women's health were at risk: "What we see happening is women end up reducing the number and quality of meals they eat each day, and foregoing essential healthcare - such as maternal healthcare and period products - in order to buy food."

ORGANISATIONAL PRIORITIES

Governance and global leadership

Strengthening federation leadership and unity

In 2022, the board strove to unify the federation and strengthen its leadership to ensure collective power is effectively harnessed. Progress has been made to bringing the board in proximity with federation members and country programs at the leadership level by providing space for interaction and engagement to ensure the board makes informed decisions.

Established a new Global Leadership Team

ActionAid is comprised of over 90% countries in terms of our financial and human resources, our partners and allies and our mission/impact; and for the last 15 years there have been initiatives to better involve countries in running the affairs of the federation beyond the top-level oversight provided at a governance level. In 2022, we established a [Global Leadership Team](#) (GLT), the purpose of which is *'to enable the federation to more effectively harness the collective power of a diverse federation of members and country programmes to achieve the federation's mission'*. We believe this shared and collective strategic leadership space that we believe will enable ActionAid to achieve a lot more together. The formation of the GLT was conducted through a democratic process that involved elections conducted by Country Directors from across the federation. The GLT comprises eight country directors and five members of International Leadership Team (ILT). The GLT as a global management and leadership body has a direct interface with the International Board (global governance) on strategic issues that concern countries and the wider federation.

Working with Country Directors, the GLT has developed a federation change vision for the remaining five years of our global strategy, ending in 2028. This vision is **'to transform ActionAid into a rooted campaigning organisation with a strong constituency base to achieve systems change for economic and climate justice'**. From over 12 areas

of focus generated by Country Directors, GLT has prioritised three:

- a. building transformative programmes and campaigning;
- b. revamping our finance, funding and redistribution of resources within a renewed geographic footprint; and resource allocation framework;
- c. working to make ActionAid a feminist, anti-racist and decolonial organisation.

Added to these priorities were two others on developing a leadership programme for Country and International Directors, and role modelling feminist leadership in practice.

Board engagement with Country Programmes

Aware of the need to increase communication with country programmes and build greater governance connection generally, the International Board allocated Board Liaison points for all members engaging with the National Boards. In addition, recognising the commitment to strengthen Board Oversight and support to Country Programmes, three board members, Azeveli Lwaitama, Priscilla Mpundu and Steen Folke worked more closely with the GS and country programme management and the Board has a practice of interfacing with a country director at each ordinary sitting.

Implementation of Governance Review recommendations

In line with governance review recommendations, the Board agreed to include the voices of country programmes directly in the Assembly, thus a representative selection of country directors of country programmes attended the General Assembly in Spain as observers and will continue to do so going forward. Also elected to the [international board](#) in line with the recommendations to increase skills and other forms of diversity were Abdallah Mashausi, a Certified Public Accountant, and Sophia Mbeyela, a youth activist with a disability.

Recruitment of a new Secretary General

The International Board embarked on a rigorous and successful process to recruit a [permanent Secretary General for ActionAid](#).

Organisational effectiveness

People and culture

To offer strategic functions, the Global Secretariat (GS) aims to have greater agility and provide more high-value services, support and expert advice. With revenues expected to decline by around 25%, a leaner GS fulfilled a narrower scope of functions to provide most value for the federation. The People and Culture team at the GS worked to fulfil the structure envisioned for which it was able to accomplish 98% of its target recruitments by 2022.

Change management

Several workshops were held regarding the GS Change Management Process. The workshops allowed staff to re-engage, revitalise interest, and commit to the change process. The key lessons and recommendations from the workshops helped summarise key lessons from the change process, pull together recommendations for Secretariat and Federation-wide ways of working, and emphasise the importance of having ongoing conversations within teams.

We were also able to identify and come to a consensus on key actions to take forward based on our staff's inputs and recommendations, discuss and reflect on how department heads, leads and directors can collectively continue to provide active leadership in the change management process.



Abubkar and friends with their messages in Tanzania
PHOTO: AISHA IDD / ACTIONAID

Child sponsorship

Child sponsorship modernisation

Sahakom – the database

2022 was the first year countries across the federation used **Sahakom**, our new desktop system. The implementation was challenging due to resource constraints and technical issues. However, we have now set up a support system for users and are prioritising changes and bug fixes to make the system more efficient.

Mobile application

An app has been developed to complement Sahakom. This aims to improve efficiency and speed of data collection and processing and increase flexibility in creating engaging supporter communications. This was tested with good results in Ethiopia and is ready to pilot in 2023.

A year in numbers



72,146

Profiles added, updated or newly sponsored



17

New local rights programmes



341,158

Child messages added



350,512

Child photos added



377

Bulk mailings logged



21,145

Supporter correspondences logged



32,245

New links to sponsors

SHEA and safeguarding

ActionAid is committed to addressing Sexual Harassment, Exploitation, and Abuse (SHEA) and other safeguarding concerns (abuse of children and at-risk adults) through a survivor-centred and intersectional feminist approach. We are five years into #Aidtoo and the revelations of abuse of power in the INGO sector, and there is still much work to be done. We are committed to building a sustainable approach challenging injustice, creating a working environment, and working culture that is free from harm, supporting the rights of survivors and holding those responsible to account.

In all cases where the allegations were upheld, disciplinary action was taken, and measures put in place to prevent rehiring where the Subject of Concern's relationship with ActionAid was ended.

The Global SHEA and Safeguarding Team is grateful for the voices of the complainants and

survivors who have courageously spoken up to hold ActionAid to account. We also recognise the hard work and integrity of the colleagues who have worked on responses rooted in feminist and survivor-centred principles.

Cases/incidents	Number
Did not fall within the team's remit or did not constitute a breach of SHEA and Safeguarding policies	31
Categorised as incidents and responded to in line with AAI's SHEA and Safeguarding Incident Management Guidelines, which embeds ActionAid's Feminist Leadership Principles. <i>20 SHEA at work, 4 PSEA and 3 Child Safeguarding breaches</i>	27
Total reported to Global SHEA and Safeguarding Team	58
Incidents closed. <i>9 raised in 2021, 10 raised in 2022</i>	24

ActionAid Nepal's effort on bringing positive change in SHEA and safeguarding practices

Since 2019, ActionAid Nepal has led a way in implementing SHEA and safeguarding, with a team of four Safeguarding Champions providing friendly faces and exceptional technical support to colleagues and partners. In the week of 7 November 2022, ActionAid Nepal celebrated their achievements with a SHEA and safeguarding Week.

The launch of ActionAid Nepal and Partners' Safeguarding Focal Point Community was celebrated. This Community will be an empowering platform for ActionAid and partner organisations to share practices, tools, and knowledge, strengthening the development of a safe culture for all in every space where ActionAid Nepal works.

The week also saw ActionAid Nepal launch the SHEA and safeguarding e-learning package translated into their local language, provide sessions on awareness raising through social media and self-awareness on safeguarding, finishing with an inspiring town hall event 'In Unity and Solidarity for a Safe Environment'. Two Safeguarding Champions from Nepal joined the ActionAid Federation wide Investigator Network and participated in a training in November 2022 in Kigali, Rwanda. Alongside their essential work in Nepal, they will be supporting the whole federation in responding to SHEA and Safeguarding cases through investigation support.

"REMEMBER!! Your voice gives courage to the survivors!"
Shristi Poudel – Trainee, ActionAid Nepal.



A volunteer expresses her thoughts on abuse through art.
PICTURE: SMRITI THULUNG RAI, VOLUNTEER, ACTIONAID NEPAL

Internal audit

The internal audit has successfully met three-year plan targets and has conducted audits of all countries rated as high risk annually, those rated as medium every two years and some low-risk countries in line with other assurance processes. In addition, areas believed to be of high risk and or high interest to the organisation were also included, such as key projects. Emphasising ActionAid's commitment to honesty, integrity and to ensure a zero-tolerance approach to fraud and corruption, the team have updated the Whistleblowing policy and Anti-fraud and Anti-Corruption policies and have invited staff to join the team on a volunteer basis. The 2022 International Fraud Awareness Week also increased awareness of fraud amongst federation members and demonstrated commitment to embedding learning.

Country modelling and transformation

In the last two years, the country transformation process has progressed in all four strands of work;

a. Country transitions to the new operating models – Twenty-six countries are actively implementing transitions to the new operating models. All these countries have developed detailed transition plans capturing changes to their programs as per their Country Strategy Papers (CSPs), partnerships, fundraising strategies, financial sustainability, and organisational structures. Countries undergoing transitions have also been supported through allocations of country transition and fundraising funds. In terms of impact, these countries have registered increased fundraising capacity which has led to better fundraising outputs across the year. This has been exhibited in the increased number of bids and proposals submitted, multiple countries revitalising their fundraising strategies to align to CSPs, donor scoping exercises, improved cost recovery and overall income growth, particularly in countries that have dedicated

fundraising resource persons supported with the allocations. This will gradually lead to increased program impact and visibility in these countries.

- b. Child Sponsorship (CS) rationalisation** – Child Sponsorship has now been successfully phased out in seven countries, in line with Assembly decisions agreed to phase out CS in 10 countries by end of 2024. This process has contributed towards stabilisation of our CS funding by ensuring CS funds are consolidated in fewer countries to have greater impact and accountability. This has also helped improve the sustainability of all CS countries, thus reducing the reliance on GS allocated funds for managing sustainability.
- c. Accountability and performance framework** – Following a comprehensive consultation process, we have now completed the detailed design of a new accountability and performance framework and full implementation for all countries should commence after the June 2023 Assembly. This is intended to become a set of carefully designed Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that brings together programme, people, income, CS accountability, financial sustainability and operational effectiveness into one strategic view – allowing local leadership, ILT and governing boards (where appropriate) to have a more comprehensive lens on future performance.
- d. Global Centre of Support Network, a shared service model** – This has now been agreed for the federation, to be fully rolled out in 2023. This model will ensure the federation is able to operate and meet minimum standards around capacity required to operate the different operating models. We set up Centres of Support in Zimbabwe and Sierra Leone in 2022 and we expect four other countries to be set up in 2023/24, along with global roving capacity for Finance, HR and IT to boost the capacity in Centres of Support to ensure business continuity in Centres of Support is not disrupted. The roving team will also help address the issues of language barriers.

Global Centre of Support Network

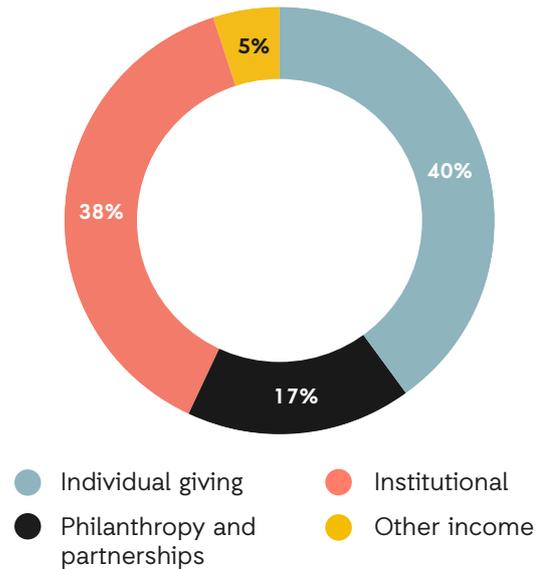


FUNDRAISING & FINANCE OVERVIEW

Income

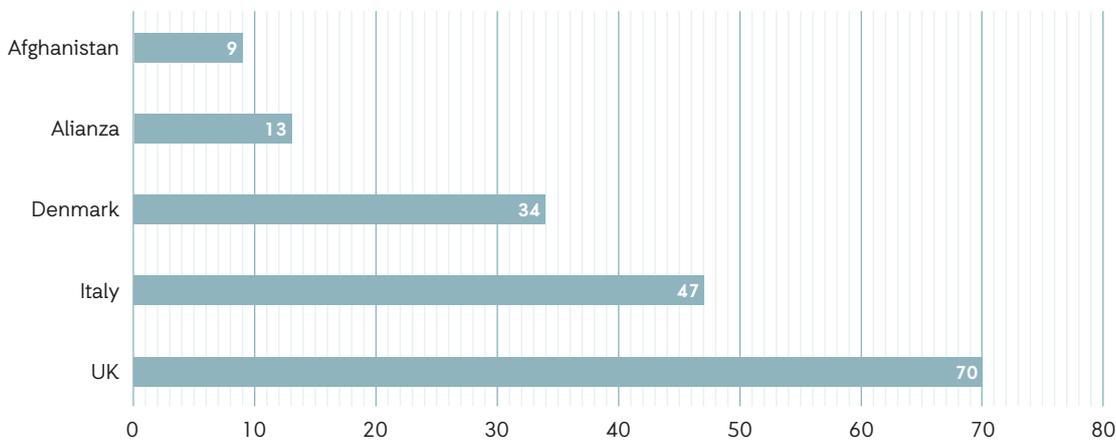
ActionAid's total income in 2022 was €255million (2021: €224 million), an increase of 14% on 2021. The mix of income shows an increase in Institutional income of 13% - the highest levels of income coming from Governments, United Nations agencies, and the European Union; an increase in Philanthropy and Partnerships of 51% - a significant proportion being the DEC funds for the Ukraine appeal as AAUK was allocated a total of €13.5 (GBP 11.5 million); increase in Other Income of 84%; - largely to trading activities in Denmark (operating a hostel for rental) which realised €8.2 million (GBP 7million). Individual Giving income remained flat in comparison with the previous year. Total unrestricted income increased by 6% to €76 million (2020: €72 million).

ActionAid Income Split by Major Category

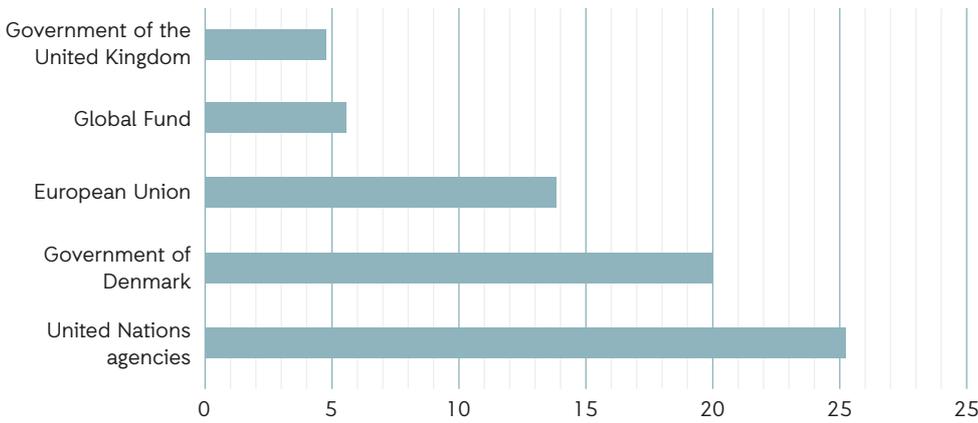


Sixty eight percent of the Federation's total external income is generated by the five countries set out in the table below. Denmark, Alianza and Afghanistan's incomes are predominantly Institutionally funded. Italy and the UK predominately receive funds through Individual Giving.

Largest Countries Income (Euros) millions



Largest donors (€ millions)

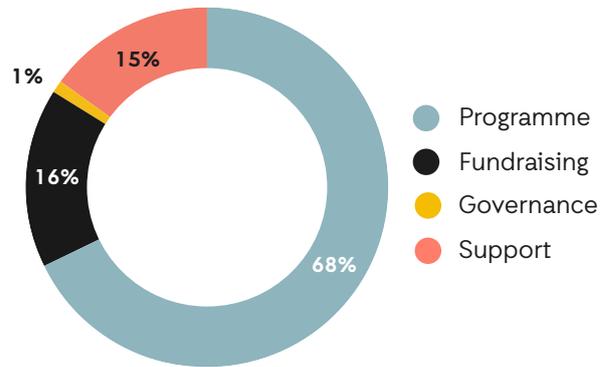


The United Nations and its Agencies were our largest institutional donor in 2022, contributing approximately €25 million (2019: €21 million). The great majority of funding from the Global Fund was to Malawi.

Expenditure

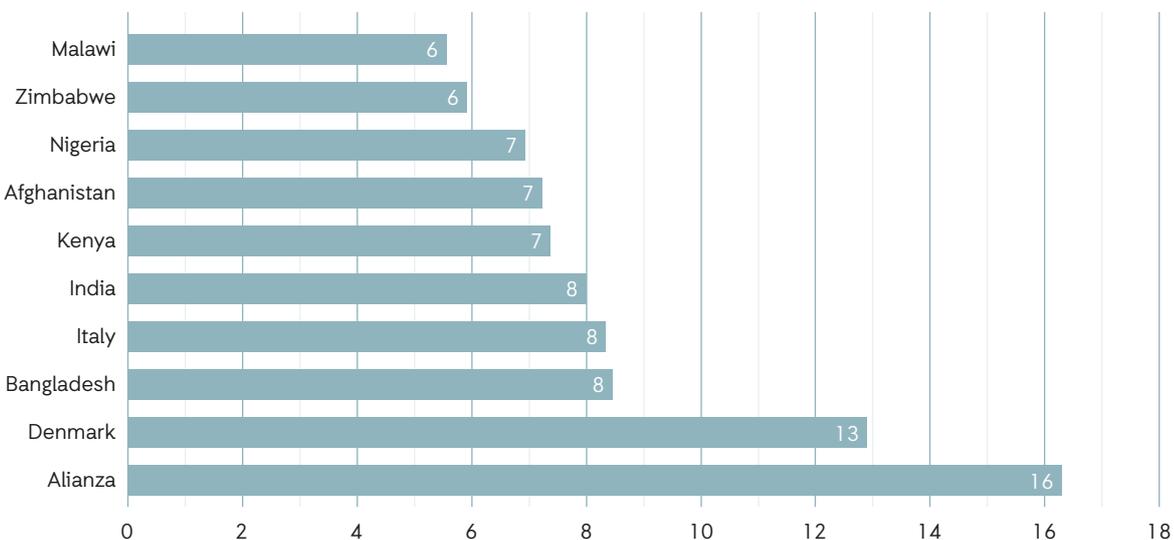
ActionAid's total expenditure in 2022 was €243 million (2021 €218 million). The increase of 11% in comparison with 2021 is due to increased spending driven by emergency response and increases in programme work as economies open post-Covid restrictions. Programme expenditure increased by 15% in comparison with 2021. Fundraising was up by 6% whilst Governance costs remained flat in comparison with 2021 (€37million and €3million respectively).

ActionAid expenditure in 2022 split by major category



Largest country programme expenditure

Top ten countries: Programme Expenditure (€ millions)



Reserves

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

	2022 (€m)	2021 (€m)
Restricted	55.9	58.3
Unrestricted	52.3	43.0
Total	108.2	101.3

Restricted reserves are those that must be spent in strict accordance with the wishes of the respective donors, whereas unrestricted reserves may be spent at the discretion of ActionAid.

Transformative Impact Fund (TIF)

The TIF seeks to catalyse the step-change in ActionAid's impact called for in the 2021 General Assembly resolution, namely:

- Increased programme impact, delivering greater tangible change for rights-holders, and scaling change through better evidence and more effective advocacy.
- Integration of community work with systematic organising, movement-building and public engagement to link local rights-holders to wider constituencies nationally and globally.

GBP 3.7 million was allocated for funding in the fiscal year, for which 20 applications were received, (16 Single Country and 4 Multi-County) and processed. Three single country (ActionAid Myanmar, Somaliland and Haiti) and two multi country applications (ActionAid Nigeria, Liberia and Senegal and ActionAid Cambodia and Vietnam) were selected for funding guided by the TIF criteria: benefits to rightsholders, strategic alignment, transformative ambition, sound management and being able to leverage on other funding resources. The countries seek to implement the fund with young people and women as key rightsholders. Major thematic areas of focus are on achieving climate justice and movement building with the rightsholders.

Endnotes

1. Our numbers based on our dashboard; <https://shorturl.at/joTV0> on 11th May, represent the minimum in each area for 2022, particularly around reach and partnerships where potential differences in data collection across countries require a conservative approach to reporting. With partnerships specifically some countries have counted youth-led organisations and women's rights organisations as separate categories, whilst for the main part, countries have looked at the number of total partners which are women and youth-led.

Beyond the Affiliates, Associates and Country Programmes which make up the ActionAid federation we also have presence - through partners, through offshoots and satellites of existing country presences with a regional remit, and through new members joining - in a further number of countries. This means the total of countries in which we have potential to have impact is 72.

2. *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage*; International Labour Organization (ILO), Walk Free, and International Organization for Migration (IOM), Geneva, 2022. See [here](#)
3. For more detail on the project see this [video](#)
4. For more detail on the project see this [video](#)
5. For more information on inequality concerning young people, see: <https://www.fightinequality.org>
6. Further information [here](#)
7. Further information [here](#)
8. For more detail on this project see this video [here](#)
9. For more detail on the project see this video (in Italian): [video](#)

International Registration number: 27264198

Website: www.actionaid.org
Telephone: +27 11 731 4500
Fax: +27 11 880 8082
Email: mailjhb@actionaid.org

ActionAid International Secretariat,
Postnet Suite 248, Private Bag X31, Saxonwold 2132,
Johannesburg, South Africa.

June 2023

Cover photo: Rosemary is an advocate for women's rights in Kenya. She runs and supports youth guidance and counselling in schools and is also the vice coordinator of Isiolo youth activist network. She is an agro-pastoralist and is living through climate change impacts such as drought. She says: *"Climate change is real, and it has brought many challenges, mainly water shortages. Our rivers are low, which were previously providing drinking water for humans and livestock, and for farming. Livestock are dying and there is no milk to sell."*

In Rosemary's community, girls drop out of school and are forced into early marriages. Domestic violence has risen due to food shortages, and women are often abandoned by men. The rising insecurity exacerbates these issues further. Rosemary works with other local leaders, the youth activist network, Isiolo voice of women network, and farmers cooperatives. With the network, she supports junior farmers' field schools' groups through planting trees and school gardening. She also works with disaster management committees to develop community disaster risk reduction plans, and teaches them climate sustainable agriculture skills as well as how to hold the government accountable in the agriculture sector.

CREDIT: MUMBI BAKARI/ACTIONAID