

THE FGG ALLIANCE: FAIR GREEN & GLOBAL

POWERING VOICES OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES ALL OVER THE WORLD

ActionAid believes strongly in the value of partnerships. Therefore, we are very proud to be part of the Fair, Green & Global (FGG) Alliance, since its establishment in 2011. Together with BothENDS, Clean Clothes Campaign, the Samdhana Institute, Friends of the Earth, IT for Change, TNI and SOMO, we power voices of people and communities all over the world. We aim to expand civic space, stimulate movements and invest in mutual capacity development. Together we collaborate with over a thousand partner organisations in countries where people and nature are under constant pressure. Thanks to a strategic partnership with the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs we can make a difference for people across the world.



THE NEED FOR A FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE SYSTEM

The power of capital over people and planet is preventing the realisation of fair and green trade and value chains. This power asymmetry is embedded in the global context underpinning trade and value chains, which contains features that incentivise constriction of civic space, and that are irreconcilable with human rights and Sustainable Development Goals. Governance gaps enable corporations to avoid accountability for human rights and environmental abuses. Corporations dominate policymaking spaces, where they advance agendas to protect their privileges and impunity. Trade rules give rights to foreign investors, while restricting regulatory space for governments to fulfil societal obligations, including climate action. Domestic markets are subject to global capital and competition such that people engaged in sustainable production, often women, are pushed out, rural economies wither, and opportunities for youth diminish.

Unsustainable growth, production and consumption is destroying ecosystems upon which people's livelihoods depend. Those most affected by the adverse consequences of globalised trade and value chains – women, youth, workers, Indigenous and local communities – have the least say in it. Many have experienced eviction from ancestral lands, destruction of biodiverse forests and farmland, abusive working conditions and hunger wages. Economic interests are often behind shrinking civic space, evidenced by severe repression of human rights defenders. Alongside familiar problems are seismic shifts driven by emerging technologies, Big Tech, the energy transition, and geographic reconfiguration of globalisation. Civil society lacks the information for navigating these changes, exacerbating inequality and exclusion.

OUR APPROACH

The FGG Alliance addresses these problems by increasing the power and decision-making influence of organised, mobilised and informed civil society, especially women, to advance fair and green trade and value chains. Our systemic approach focuses on the global architecture of trade and the value chains of sectors with the highest risks of negative human rights impacts and characterised by extreme corporate power, including the extractives, agriculture, garments and tech sectors. FGG strengthens transnationally-networked civil society actors to gain access and influence over decision-making on trade and value chains. FGG partners and members cooperate and build momentum with grassroots actors worldwide – from factory workers to Indigenous communities to rural women to fisherfolk – to link local experiences to global processes. We build diverse movements united around a common vision of fair and green trade and value chains that: prioritise people's rights over profit, public needs over corporate power, healthy ecosystems over unbridled consumption, and transform social relations so that the voices of women, Indigenous peoples, ethnic and religious minorities and young people are heard and heeded.

OUR ACTIVITIES

Our collaborative activities include:

- Research, knowledge development and exchange
- Facilitating, strengthening and providing small grants for fair and green practices
- Monitoring and signalling impacts of policies and business conduct
- Supporting grievance cases to address business-related rights abuses
- Supporting (women) labour and environmental/land defenders
- Organising, networking and movement-building, from local to global levels
- Outreach and campaigning
- Lobbying and advocacy

Achieving our strategic objective requires a systems-based approach grounded in local experience. This necessitates cooperation with partners across a global-local spectrum. At one end, FGG members and some 1000+ partners from 100+ countries cooperate at international and regional levels via diverse networks/movements.

OUR OBJECTIVES

FGG focuses on four interlinking result areas – the preconditions for ensuring that people’s voices are heard and fair, green trade and value chains thrive. We contribute to:

1. Improved protection for human rights and environmental sustainability in trade and investment regimes, and key policies that affect trade arrangements (e.g., climate, land, finance policies).
2. Improved regulation of business, both in general and in targeted sectors, to close governance gaps and recalibrate the balance of power between corporations and civil society.
3. Action by private sector actors to respect rights and environmental sustainability. Until rules for business can be widely adopted and implemented, corporations, including financiers, have a responsibility to conduct their business to the highest human rights and sustainability standards in line with UN principles.
4. Expanded space and (financial) support for fair and green trade and value chains – sustainable, socially and gender-transformative systems and practices that serve the public good.

ACTIONAID’S PROJECTS

Within FGG, ActionAid's role is to increase the voice of civil society in countries in the Global South and strengthen civil society, especially women, in countries in the Global South, to advance fair and green trade and value chains. We do this by harnessing the power of local civil society organisations working in the fields of human rights, corporate accountability, sustainability and the environment. ActionAid runs projects in a number of countries. We support women and communities in Bangladesh, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Guatemala. In the Netherlands and internationally, we lobby and advocate for improved policies and legislation to hold companies accountable for protecting women's rights in their value chains. We also run awareness-raising and public pressure campaigns.



Women in Raxruhá, Guatemala are successfully standing up against water pollution by the palm oil industry. ActionAid has provided training and support for women’s groups, and is lobbying for better legislation.

Elizabeth is a member of the Movement of ‘Communities in Defense of Water’ standing up for the right to water.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like to know more about the FGG Alliance and ActionAid’s projects, please contact us at:

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