

ACTIONAID'S WOMEN-LED EMERGENCY RESPONSE

HUMANITARIAN ACTION THAT PROTECTS, IMPROVES AND TRANSFORMS WOMEN'S LIVES

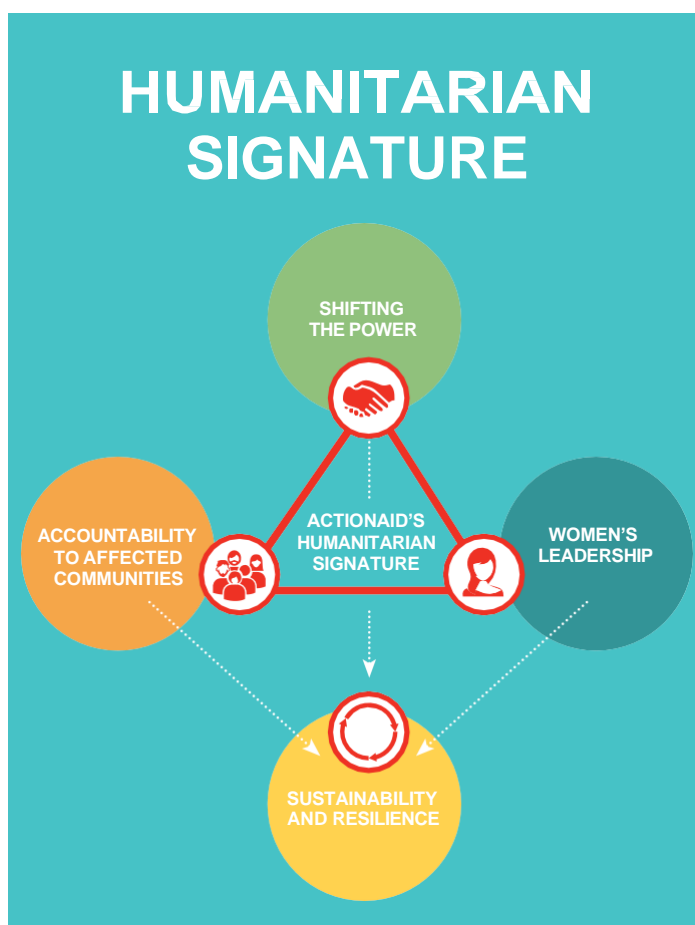
ActionAid (AA) is an international women's rights organization that fights for a sustainable and gender-equal world. In more than 45 countries, ActionAid works side by side with people who stand up against injustice and believe in equal opportunities for all. Together with partners, ActionAid wants to increase its impact and contribute to the SDGs. In humanitarian crises, ActionAid works to promote women's leadership, ensuring they are empowered to make decisions about the needs of their community. We know that women bring vital skills, resources and experience to humanitarian responses. And when crises happen, they are often the first responders, taking risks and playing critical roles in the survival of their families and communities. Women are often responsible for the care and emotional rebuilding of communities in the aftermath of a crisis. Women often have strong local knowledge and links with others in the area where they live, which is a critical resource during a humanitarian response. That's why, in an emergency, ActionAid works to ensure women are empowered to lead the response. Based on requests from women in countries where we work, we provide women with training on women's rights, leadership skills and disaster preparedness so that they are better equipped to lead their communities, and know their rights in times of crisis.

REAL CATALYST FOR CHANGE

During a disaster, women are 14 times more likely to die than men. And in any disaster or crisis, violence against women increases, just as child marriages and sex for survival. Sadly, this has also been the case for the corona crisis and recent crises such as the earthquakes in Turkey/Syria and in Morocco, which saw a shocking increase in gender-based violence. There is not one solution to this web of interlinking problems of inequality, poverty, and societal structures, but one thing that has proven to make a big difference is fostering women's leadership in crisis preparedness and response, as a real **catalyst for change**. Besides strengthening women's protection during disasters, women-led emergency response has proven to transform women's social standing and economic status in the long-term as well.

WOMEN-LED EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

ActionAid has developed a unique and award-winning signature of humanitarian work that trains women groups in (climate) disaster prone areas in emergency preparedness and response, strengthening women's protection during disasters as well as women's positions in the longer term.





We envision to focus the project on a widespread implementation of this approach. The current crises in Ukraine, Afghanistan, Syria and sub-Saharan Africa have proven once more the power of and need for women-led localized responses to protect the safety of women and combat structural inequality.

“The big challenge is that women’s leadership and agency is not recognised and adequately supported in humanitarian action. This program will definitely support us in our journey to change that”

Carol Angir, technical expert women-led emergency response at ActionAid.

HUMANITARIAN ACTION

One would think that this approach would be more widespread, but the world of humanitarian work is still predominantly patriarchal. Women, especially women from (climate) disaster prone communities in the Global South, have little or no say in the design and distribution of emergency aid or access to political spaces where the decisions are made. ActionAid’s rooted presence combined with our political expertise in countries across the world, presents a much-needed opportunity to create changes on local, national and international level and put women’s protection and women’s leadership at the core of emergency aid, be it in response to a climate disaster, earthquake, war or a pandemic.

OUR APPROACH: TRANSFORMING WOMEN’S LIVES, TRANSFORMING THE HUMANITARIAN SECTOR

ActionAid has developed a multi-layered approach to ensure that women in communities at risk are trained and equipped to respond to (climate) disasters while also building greater acceptance of the leadership role of women by engaging the wider community. In addition, women are trained and supported in lobby and advocacy efforts to make sure their voices are heard, and they are able to negotiate a seat at the decision-making tables. As an international organization we can leverage on our structure by connecting communities for mutual capacity building and joining forces to lobby and influence bodies at national and international level to incorporate a more gender sensitive approach to humanitarian work. ActionAid is a member of the CHS Alliance and we were the first member of the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) verified against the CHS Quality and Accountability.



ActionAid supports a women-led movement in Vanuatu that helps other women to prepare for disasters, strengthen their understanding of their rights, and have their voice heard in decision-making on disaster planning and response.

RECENT PROJECTS

ActionAid works in over 70 countries. We have extensive experience in a wide range of humanitarian contexts, where we work directly with women and communities to ensure that their needs and leadership are at the forefront of the activities we implement.

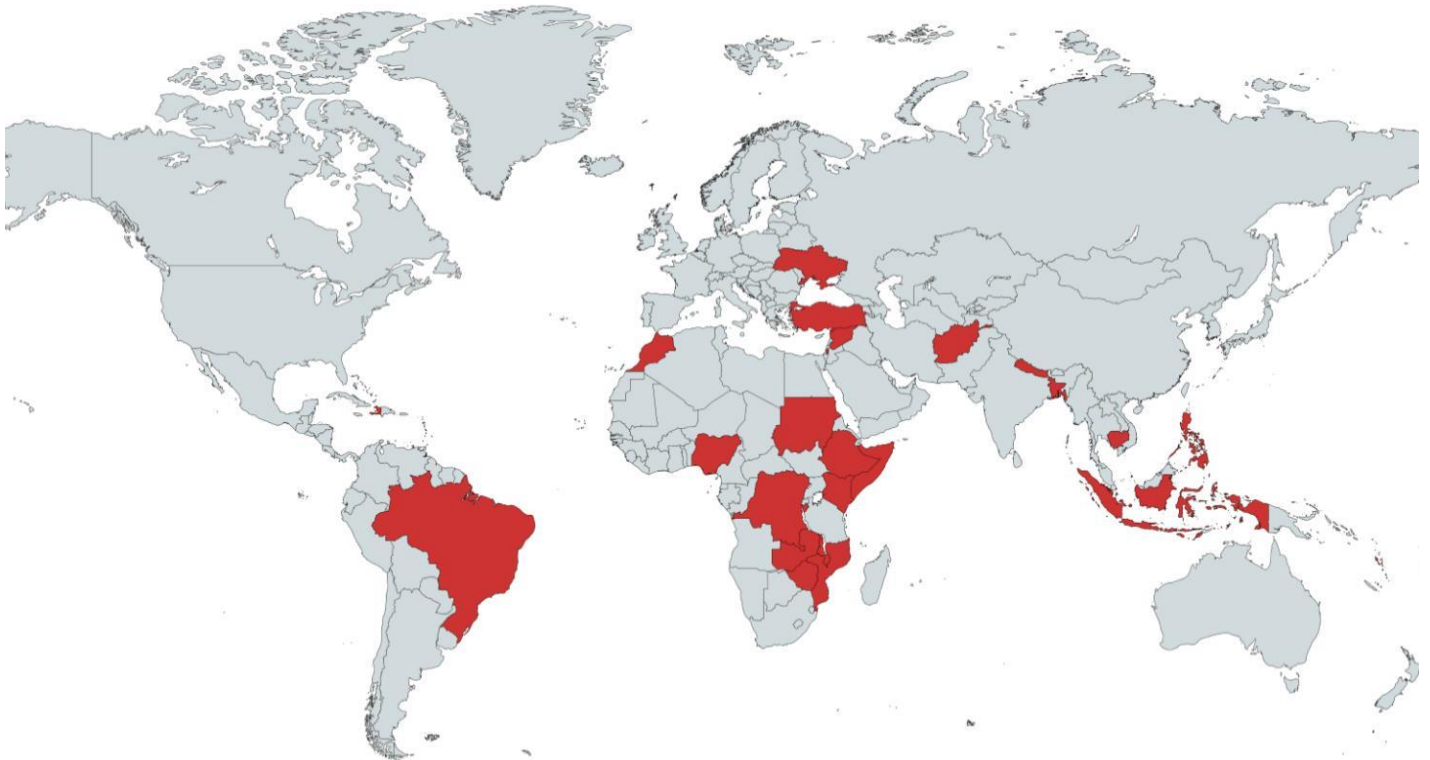
Some of our recent projects have focused on preparedness and emergency response to:

- Earthquakes in **Turkey, Syria, Morocco, Afghanistan, Indonesia** and **Nepal**
- Floods in **Kenya, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Nigeria** and **Brazil**
- Drought in **Somaliland** and **Ethiopia**
- Tropical storms in **the Philippines** and **Vanuatu**
- Cholera outbreaks in **Burundi** and **Zambia**
- Conflict and humanitarian crises in **Gaza, DR Congo, Haiti** and **Ukraine**
- Violence against women in **Sudan**
- The impact of El Niño, including in **Malawi, Zimbabwe** and **Mozambique**

PARTNERSHIP

We would love to team up to scale up this gender transformative approach to reach more women and to create bigger waves in transforming the international humanitarian sector, which will help protect women's rights and improves women's lives in the Global South. We would greatly value the opportunity to discuss this and explore whether there is a match for collaboration.

If you would like to know more about our women-led humanitarian approach or about a specific project, please contact us using the details below.



CONTACT

Laura Klokke & Anke van Gils

Partnerships and Fundraising ActionAid Netherlands

Tel: 0205206210 | E-mail: laura.klokke@actionaid.org & anke.vangils@actionaid.org

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