

# TOWARDS A JUST ENERGY TRANSITION

Around the world, we are seeing a shift away from fossil fuels and towards renewable energy sources. ActionAid supports this trend, but not the negative impacts it is having on communities, particularly women, living in mining areas. That is why ActionAid is working with partners to promote an energy transition that is good for all people and the planet.

## The need for fair mineral supply chains

The production of the batteries needed to power wind turbines, solar panels and electric vehicles has led to increased demand for minerals such as lithium, nickel, manganese, cobalt, graphite and copper. These are often mined in countries in the Global South, where large-scale mining has a devastating impact on the livelihoods and safety of women and their communities.

In 2021, ActionAid published a report called Manganese Matters. The report found that manganese mining in South Africa violates the rights of communities. Large-scale mining depletes and pollutes drinking water. Drilling damages buildings, releasing asbestos into the air and causing health problems. Women are the most affected because they are responsible for fetching water and taking care of the people around them. At the same time, mining companies offer limited employment to women, so they do not benefit from the mines. Unfortunately, such human rights abuses are also widespread in the supply chains of other energy transition minerals.



Kgomotso is a women's rights activist from South Africa. She lives in an area affected by mining and is advocating for fair practices.

## ActionAid's approach

We believe that women and their communities can and must be part of designing and implementing a just transition that addresses the climate challenges, but also ensures social justice. The energy transition we work to achieve should address and not exacerbate existing inequalities.



Provide training and (legal) support to community members, especially women, in the Global South who are taking on governments and corporations to address abuses;



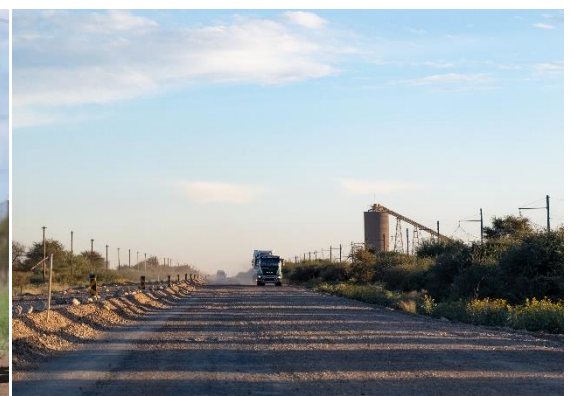
Conduct research and organise campaigns to inform consumers about the negative side effects of their products and build public pressure;



Advocate for policies that protect human and environmental rights in supply chains;



Engage and advise companies at all levels of the supply chain on gender-responsive due diligence procedures.





We campaign to raise awareness about the negative social and environmental impacts of e-bike supply chains.



Together with activists like Monica, we advocate for binding policies to protect women's rights in supply chains.

### Steps towards a just energy transition

Over the past 25 years, ActionAid has worked towards an energy transition that tackles climate challenges while promoting social justice and economic fairness.

Some milestones are:

**2000-2009:** Training of more than 700 community monitors in South Africa to document abuses in the mining industry. These reports are essential in wage negotiations with mining company AngloPlat.

**2011:** ActionAid was one of the initiators of Fairphone, now a company with over 400,000 customers.

**2014:** Establishment of the IANRA network with 150 local organisations in 13 countries. This is the first African alliance that stands up for human rights in mining areas.

**2016:** Representatives of the Dutch government and energy companies visit coal mining communities in South Africa to better understand the negative impacts of on people and the environment.

**2017:** Coal cruise in the port of Amsterdam to put a fair energy transition on the Dutch agenda.

**2018:** Wind Turbines and Human Rights Report published on the protection of human rights in the wind turbine production chain.

**2021:** The Chingola community in Zambia reaches a settlement with British mining giant Vedanta after a long-running court case over severe air and water pollution.

**2021:** Manganese Matters report published, highlighting human rights abuses of communities in manganese mining areas in South Africa.

**2023:** Launch of the Fairbike campaign to raise awareness of the negative side effects of electric vehicles. Around 3400 people sign a call to action for companies to improve their practices.

**2024:** Adoption of the CSDDD, an EU directive ActionAid campaigned for, introducing a new obligation for EU companies to address human rights abuses in their supply chains.

**2024:** Roundtable with 27 representatives from e-bike brands and battery manufacturers to identify steps downstream companies can take to map and improve their supply chains.

**2024:** Launch of the Co-Mining project and establishment of two operational support centres for 5,000 artisanal and small-scale copper and cobalt miners in Zambia.

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### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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