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PHOTO: ACTIONAID COLOMBIA

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

PEOPLE POWER FOR JUSTICE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

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**act:onaid****HELLEN GRACE AKWII***Board Chair***GINO GOVENDER***Vice Chair*

BOARD PREFACE

It is an honour to present this report on behalf of our federation. The year 2025 was shaped by profound uncertainty and geopolitical change. The weakening of multilateral institutions, declining and shifting Official Development Assistance (ODA), rising authoritarianism, shrinking civic space, rollbacks on climate commitments, escalating energy insecurity, and enduring conflicts continue to undermine human rights, gender justice, and sustainable development, with disproportionate impacts on women and young people. For ActionAid, these realities are not abstract; they define the context in which we work. Yet they also reinforce the urgency of challenging the structural drivers of injustice and advancing alternative futures rooted in solidarity, dignity, and collective power.

Throughout the year, we witnessed inspiring examples of people-led change, from Afro-descendant women leading social enterprises in Colombia to cross-movement mobilisations for debt and climate justice in Spain. Across the world, young people continued to drive innovation, activism, and democratic participation, harnessing new technologies and organising for change. In an increasingly interconnected world, coalition building and strategic partnerships remain essential. ActionAid continued to work alongside social movements, women's rights organisations, youth groups, and civil society allies—including the women-led and women's rights organisations that represent 43% of our 3,800 partners globally.

Grounded in a feminist understanding of power and systemic change, we continued to invest in women- and youth-led movements while strengthening governance, accountability, and transparency across our federation despite an increasingly challenging funding environment. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our staff, partners, allies, supporters, and funders around the world. Your commitment, solidarity, and belief in collective action continue to make this work possible. Together, we remain committed to advancing social justice, gender equality, and a more just, equal, and sustainable future for all.



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ARTHUR LAROK

Secretary General



EXECUTIVE MESSAGE

In his book *People, Power, Change: Organising for Democratic Renewal*, the renowned organiser and author Marshall Ganz describes leadership as “accepting responsibility (self) for enabling others (us) to achieve a shared purpose under conditions of uncertainty (now).” Few ideas feel more relevant to the world we live in today. Viewed through the lens of international media, social media, and the endless flow of information that shapes our daily lives, 2025 often appeared defined by conflict, division, uncertainty, and fear. News of wars, democratic backsliding, political repression, and economic instability can at times feel overwhelming. Yet beneath these headlines, people around the world continue to organise, adapt, resist, and build alternatives. This is what inspired me during visits across Colombia, the United States, Denmark, India, Jordan, Spain, the United Kingdom, Senegal, The Gambia, and Nigeria. I met ActionAid staff, partners, activists, and movement leaders who, every day, are accepting responsibility for enabling others to pursue a shared vision of justice, equality, and dignity in uncertain times.

As a global federation working for a world where social justice and gender equality replace poverty, oppression, and inequality, ActionAid continues to play an important role as a catalyst, ally, and convener of people’s struggles. In 2025, we supported women-led movements defending land rights in Brazil, stood alongside human rights defenders facing persecution, enabled climate activists to challenge the financing of fossil fuel projects, connected climate and debt justice movements, and joined mobilisations during the UN Financing for Development Conference in Seville calling for fairer global tax and financial systems.

We also continued to advocate for peace, justice, accountability, and the rights of Palestinians living under occupation and enduring the devastating consequences of war. These are stories of solidarity over division, hope over fear, and justice over oppression. They remind us that another world is possible when people come together to challenge injustice and build collective power. This annual report captures some of those stories, and I hope it leaves you inspired by the courage, resilience, and determination of the communities, movements, and partners who continue to drive change around the world.

ABOUT ACTIONAID

WHO WE ARE

ActionAid International is a global federation working with more than 40 million people across 71 countries and territories in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas to advance social justice, gender equality, and the eradication of poverty.

We work towards a just, fair, and sustainable world where every person enjoys the right to a life of dignity and freedom from poverty and oppression. Rooted in some of the world's most marginalised communities, we support people-led struggles for rights, justice, and systemic change, with the leadership and agency of women and young people central to all our work.

ActionAid has a direct presence in 45 countries, with broader outreach through partnerships and alliances across 71 countries and territories globally. We work with more than 3,800 partners, including social movements, networks and coalitions, youth-led organisations, and women's rights and women-led organisations, strengthening collective action and locally rooted change.



PHOTO: ACTIONAID SIERRA LEONE

OUR MISSION

ActionAid International works for systemic change to advance rights, redistribute wealth and power, and strengthen resilience through four interconnected areas of work: economic justice and public services, climate justice, women's rights and feminist alternatives, and humanitarian action.

Our work challenges the structural inequalities and extractive systems that perpetuate poverty, injustice, and exclusion. Through research, advocacy, campaigning, and movement building, we work to advance fair economic systems, climate justice, feminist alternatives, and people-led humanitarian responses rooted in dignity, accountability, and local leadership.

ActionAid's humanitarian approach is guided by a feminist humanitarian signature that prioritises the leadership of women and young people, shifts power to frontline communities, and strengthens resilience, sustainability, and accountability to affected populations.

Grounded in movement politics and collective action, we continue to deepen collaboration with progressive movements and partners working towards transformative change. Through our ongoing journey to become more feminist, decolonial, and anti-racist, we seek to strengthen solidarity, amplify people-led solutions, and advance justice across the federation and beyond.

ACTIONAID INTERNATIONAL



ActionAid's global federation includes Affiliates, Associates, Country Programmes, and broader presences across 71 countries and territories. Affiliates are autonomous national members of the federation. Associates are organisations transitioning towards full Affiliate status. Country Programmes operate under International Board oversight, while presences extend ActionAid's reach through partners, regional initiatives, and affiliated networks.

25

AFFILIATES

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

5

ASSOCIATES

Indonesia, Spain, Thailand, Vietnam, Zambia.

15

COUNTRY
PROGRAMMES

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

26

PRESENCES

Bolivia, Cyprus, El Salvador, Fiji, Georgia, Kiribati, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, Moldova, Morocco, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Somalia, Samoa, San Marino, Solomon Islands, Switzerland, Syria, Tonga, Tunisia, Ukraine, Vanuatu, Vatican.

GLOBAL CONTEXT SUMMARY

Each year brings new uncertainty shaped by global political and economic forces that continue to deepen inequality, conflict, and injustice, with disproportionate impacts on women and young people. In 2025, the abrupt withdrawal of the United States from climate negotiations, the World Health Organization, and several UN agencies raised renewed concerns about the future of multilateralism and global cooperation. At the same time, the devastating and prolonged war in Gaza, alongside wider escalations across West Asia, further exposed the fragility of the international system and the human cost of political failure.

Across many contexts, resources once directed towards aid and sustainable development are increasingly being diverted towards militarisation, undermining progress on human rights, gender justice, and climate action. In the face of shrinking civic and political space, mounting humanitarian crises, and growing attacks on fundamental rights, ActionAid continues to stand alongside movements and communities resisting injustice and demanding systemic change.

“The world is going through turbulent times, with powerful forces causing deep injustice and suffering. But standing against this are millions of people organising, resisting, and building hope together — from Brazil to Bangladesh, Palestine and beyond. We choose courage over fear, community over isolation, and truth over silence. ActionAid partners with movements across the world in the relentless and unapologetic pursuit of a more just future for all.”

Across a year marked by conflict and instability including in Gaza, DRC, Sudan, Syria, Myanmar, Nepal, East Africa, Afghanistan and Haiti, ActionAid created space for bold voices of resistance, solidarity, and resilience. Our advocacy on Palestine and Gaza was reinforced through global solidarity actions and campaigns, while we continued to defend principled humanitarian action and advocate for long-term systemic solutions in increasingly constrained civic and humanitarian spaces.



PHOTO: ACTIONAID BRAZIL

In a world increasingly shaped by fragmentation and division, ActionAid continued working to connect struggles across movements and regions. Through research, convenings, campaigns, and movement-building spaces, we strengthened links between climate justice, debt justice, feminist organising, public services, and economic justice movements. From the People Power Conference in Copenhagen to convenings with African feminist movements and global justice partners, we continued to support collective action rooted in solidarity, resistance, and people-led alternatives. In challenging and uncertain times, we find hope in the courage, leadership, and activism of people organising for justice and systemic change.

CONTEXT BY REGION

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Asia and the Pacific remain at the centre of global transformation and contradiction. Home to nearly 60% of the world's population and some of the world's fastest-growing economies, the region also faces deepening inequality, democratic backsliding, and escalating climate vulnerability. While Asia is projected to contribute almost half of global economic growth in 2025, more than one billion people still lack adequate social protection. Increasing climate-related disasters, rising debt burdens, energy insecurity, and inadequate climate finance continue to weaken resilience and undermine investments in public services.

Across the region, shrinking civic space, rising nationalism, and increasingly restrictive laws are placing growing pressure on feminist movements, grassroots organisations, and human rights defenders. Women and young people continue to face disproportionate economic insecurity, unemployment, and unpaid care burdens, while declining and increasingly politicised aid budgets further weaken long-term support for civil society and public systems.

Yet amid these challenges, movements led by young people continue to emerge as powerful forces for accountability, democratic participation, and systemic change. Across the region, communities continue to organise, mobilise, and resist injustice despite increasingly difficult political conditions.



PHOTO: ACTIONAID VIETNAM

CONTEXT BY REGION

WEST ASIA

West Asia continued to face some of the world's most protracted conflicts, humanitarian crises, and climate-related shocks. In 2025, escalating violence across the region deepened civilian suffering and displacement while severe funding shortages undermined humanitarian response efforts.

In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, catastrophic conditions in Gaza intensified as relentless bombardment, destruction of civilian infrastructure, and prolonged blockades pushed millions into acute humanitarian need. Across Syria and Lebanon, renewed instability, displacement, and economic crisis further deepened vulnerabilities, while shrinking humanitarian funding and growing restrictions on aid access severely constrained relief efforts.



The erosion of International Humanitarian Law, combined with declining multilateral support & reduced humanitarian financing, continues to place millions of lives at risk across the region.

EUROPE

Across Europe, far-right and nationalist political forces continued to gain influence throughout 2025, increasingly shaping debates on migration, climate policy, development cooperation, and external solidarity. At the same time, growing geopolitical tensions and the continued war in Ukraine reinforced a more security-driven and inward-looking European policy environment.

As competition for public resources intensified, development cooperation faced increasing pressure from defence spending, border management priorities, and domestic political agendas. The growing use of Official Development Assistance for in-donor and migration-related costs continued to reduce funding available for poverty reduction and long-term international partnerships, raising concerns about the future of principled and predictable development cooperation.



CONTEXT BY REGION

AFRICA

Africa is operating within an increasingly complex and constrained environment shaped by geopolitical realignments, humanitarian crises, declining external support, shrinking civic space, and persistent structural inequality. Across the continent, democratic backsliding, restrictions on human rights, and the erosion of women's rights and social justice gains are raising growing concern.

Civil society organisations face increasing pressure through reduced operational space, declining funding for rights-based work, and a growing shift towards direct financing to governments. At the same time, traditional donor priorities are becoming increasingly inward-looking, contributing to uncertainty and instability for civil society actors across the continent.

Despite these challenges, important opportunities continue to emerge. Africa remains central to global conversations on climate, energy transition, and future economic growth, while the emergence of a more multipolar global order is creating space for new alliances and partnerships. Against this backdrop, ActionAid continues to strengthen support for social movements and collective action as critical drivers for reclaiming civic space, advancing accountability, and challenging systemic injustice.



PHOTO: ACTIONAID NIGERIA

CONTEXT BY REGION

THE AMERICAS

Across the Americas, political instability, violence, and economic pressures continued to deepen inequality and humanitarian need.

In Haiti, escalating gang violence and institutional fragility intensified displacement, food insecurity, and human rights abuses, while efforts to restore stability remained constrained by limited political progress.

In South America, political polarisation and economic instability continued to shape national contexts.

In Brazil, congressional fragmentation constrained reform efforts, while in Colombia ongoing armed violence and insecurity continued to threaten communities and human rights defenders despite peacebuilding initiatives.

Bolivia faced deepening economic crisis driven by inflation, fuel shortages, fiscal pressures, and growing social unrest, with low-income communities disproportionately affected.



PHOTO: ACTIONAID BRAZIL

OUR IMPACT IN A CHANGING WORLD

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OUR STRATEGY & COMMITMENTS

Our Strategic Implementation Plan sets out the four strategic objectives that guide ActionAid's work, ensuring that our programmes, partnerships, resources, and organisational capabilities work together to advance social justice, gender equality, and systemic change.



CORE HUMANITARIAN STANDARD (CHS)

ActionAid remains independently verified against the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), with certification valid until April 2027. In 2025, we continued to strengthen accountability to affected people through community-led feedback mechanisms, transparent aid delivery, and the active participation of women and young people in humanitarian responses across countries including India, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria, and Ethiopia, helping to build trust, inclusion, and community ownership.

OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS



1516



584



924



1652

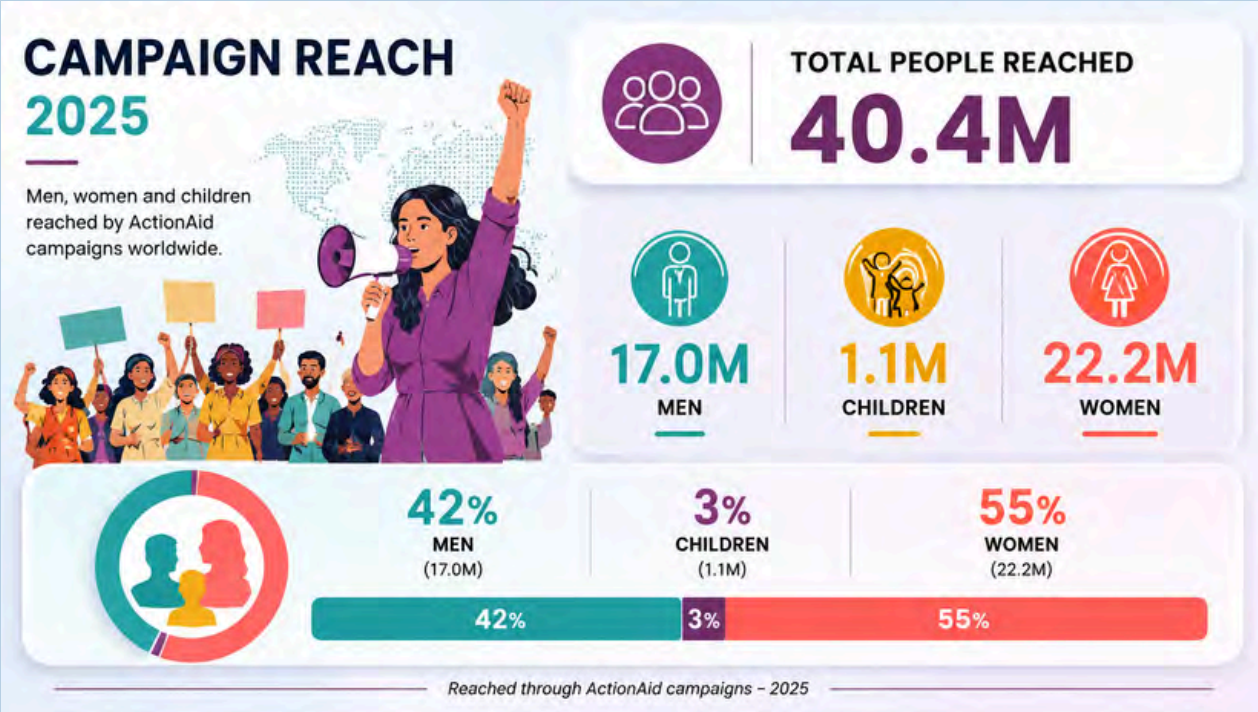
ActionAid's partnership ecosystem in 2025 reflects a deeply feminist and movement-driven approach, with women's rights and led organisations forming the largest group at 1,652 partners, followed by 1,516 social movements partners. Together, these two categories account for over 67% of all partnerships, demonstrating ActionAid's commitment to grassroots power and gender justice. The 924 young people-led organisations signal strong investment in next-generation leadership, while 584 networks and coalitions provide the coordinated advocacy infrastructure needed to drive systemic policy change at national and international levels.



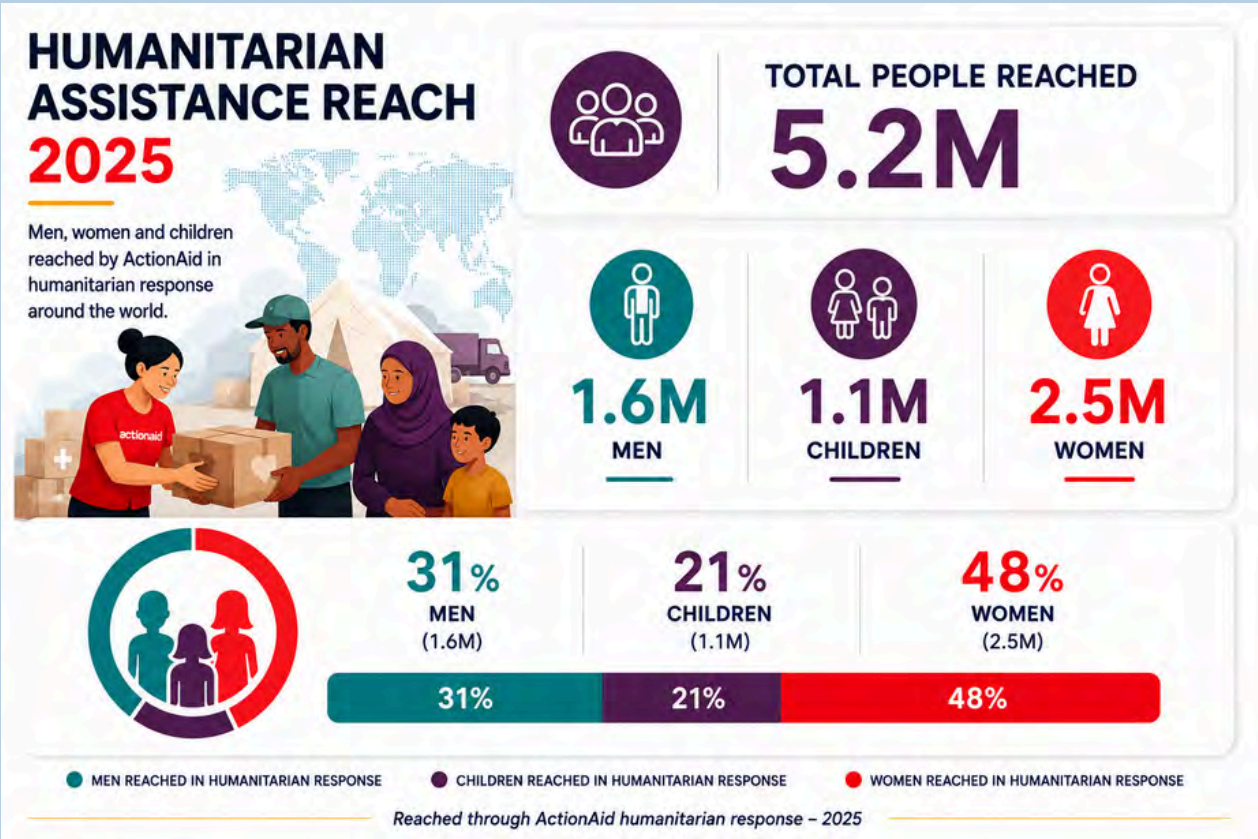
ActionAid's 3,805 partners in 2025 are overwhelmingly local (89%), reflecting a commitment to community-led development and national ownership. The 11% international partnerships provide strategic global coordination, amplifying local voices on debt justice, climate finance, and systemic reform across multilateral platforms

OUR IMPACT IN NUMBERS

ActionAid's campaigns reached 40.4 million people in 2025, with women comprising the majority at 55% (22.2M), reinforcing the organization's feminist agenda. Men accounted for 42% (17.0M) while children represented 3% (1.1M), indicating campaigns primarily targeted adult populations. This gender-inclusive reach demonstrates ActionAid's ability to mobilise at scale while centering women's participation and leadership in social change movements.



ActionAid's humanitarian response reached 5.2 million people in 2025, with women representing the largest group at 48% (2.5M), followed by men at 31% (1.6M) and children at 21% (1.1M). This gender-sensitive distribution ensures those disproportionately affected by crises receive prioritised support. The balanced demographic reach reflects ActionAid's commitment to inclusive, rights-based humanitarian assistance.



GLOBAL IMPACT OVERVIEW



PHOTO: ACTIONAID SPAIN

ActionAid continued to play a leading role in advancing economic justice, climate justice, and fair financing throughout 2025, challenging the structural inequalities that perpetuate poverty, exclusion, and environmental injustice. In February, ahead of the African Union Heads of State Summit, we launched *Who Owes Who?* External Debts, Climate Debts and Reparations in the Jubilee Year, highlighting how lower-income African countries continue to divert resources from health, education, climate action, and public services to service external debts, while wealthy nations fail to meet their climate finance obligations. The report strengthened global advocacy on debt justice, climate finance, and reparations, while amplifying the voices of communities most affected by these inequities.

Building on this work, ActionAid convened national dialogues across 20 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, bringing together social movements, civil society organisations, and policy actors to explore alternatives to debt-driven development models and identify pathways towards more just and sustainable economies. These discussions informed coordinated national and global mobilisations throughout the year and culminated at the Fourth UN Financing for Development Conference in Seville, where ActionAid joined partners and movements from across the Global South to advocate for debt cancellation, climate justice, and reforms to the international financial system. While calls for a UN Framework Convention on Debt were ultimately blocked, the conference reinforced ActionAid's role as a leading voice for systemic change, helping to connect movements, influence policy debates, and advance alternatives that place people, rights, and sustainable development at the centre of global decision-making.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS & SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

Partnerships and social movements remain at the heart of ActionAid's approach to achieving social justice, gender equality, and the eradication of poverty. We work alongside communities, activists, people's organisations, and movements to build collective power and advance social, economic, and environmental justice. In a world marked by growing inequality, climate crisis, conflict, authoritarianism, and shrinking civic space, this commitment is both more urgent and more complex.



PHOTO: ACTIONAID BRAZIL

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For ActionAid, partnership is not simply a delivery mechanism; it is a conscious choice about how power is shared, how change happens, and how solidarity is built. In 2025, colleagues across the federation reflected on how we partner and who we partner with, reaffirming our commitment to feminist, anti-racist, and decolonial partnership practices as outlined in our Strategic Implementation Framework (SIF3). This includes strengthening relationships with social movements and organisations working for systemic change, while challenging approaches that place disproportionate risk and administrative burdens on local actors.

A key driver of this work is MOVE, ActionAid's Global Social Movement Centre, which supports movement-building through six regional hubs and expanded its presence to Ukraine in 2025. Through learning exchanges, webinars, podcasts, and training programmes, MOVE continues to strengthen organising, campaigning, protection, and distributed leadership among activists and human rights defenders worldwide. Together with ActionAid's network of 129 youth-led activist schools across 36 countries, these initiatives engage and support tens of thousands of activists each year.

The Copenhagen *People Power Conference 2025*, Towards a People's Peace, brought together more than 300 participants from 30 countries, including grassroots activists, peacebuilders, civil society organisations, academics, donors, and government representatives. The conference highlighted the vital role of social movements in advancing peace, justice, and democratic participation while creating new opportunities for collaboration across sectors and regions.

Across our work, ActionAid continues to connect movements around shared systemic challenges, from debt and climate justice to gender equality and economic transformation. By strengthening solidarity and collective action across issues and geographies, we help build the power needed to challenge injustice and drive lasting systemic change.

CAMPAIGNS

Through our global Fund Our Future campaign, ActionAid continued to challenge the financial systems driving climate injustice and inequality. Working alongside social movements, women farmers, young people, and community activists, we campaigned to redirect public and private finance away from fossil fuels and industrial agriculture and towards a just transition rooted in climate justice, human rights, and sustainable alternatives.



PHOTO: ACTIONAID SIERRA LEONE

Throughout 2025, we combined research, advocacy, and mobilisation to influence financial institutions, governments, and international decision-makers. Young activists delivered a powerful message to HSBC's Annual General Meeting, calling on the bank to prioritise people over profit and end its support for climate-destructive industries. We also launched *Who Pays the Price?* The Cost of HSBC's Climate Damage, revealing that HSBC channelled £153 billion into fossil fuels and industrial agriculture between 2021 and 2023, generating an estimated £128 billion in climate-related damage.

ActionAid played an active role in major global advocacy moments, including the Fourth UN Financing for Development Conference in Seville and the Africa Climate Summit in Ethiopia, where we amplified calls for debt justice, climate finance, agroecology, and a just transition that centres women, young people, workers, and Indigenous communities. Across these spaces, we continued to challenge harmful financing models and advocate for fairer economic systems. Public mobilisation remained central to our campaigning approach. During the Global Week of Climate Action, ActionAid, Global Platforms, and hundreds of partners organised more than 650 actions across over 85 countries, mobilising thousands of people in support of climate justice and the Fund Our Future campaign. Through creative actions, public engagement, and digital advocacy, communities around the world called for polluters to pay and for greater investment in sustainable and equitable solutions. Together, these efforts strengthened ActionAid's role as a leading voice for climate and economic justice, helping to build public pressure, amplify frontline voices, and advance collective action for systemic change.



PHOTO: ACTIONAID VIETNAM

CLIMATE JUSTICE

ActionAid's climate justice work continued to strengthen women's leadership, people-powered action, and locally rooted climate solutions in 2025. Across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, we supported the expansion of agroecological approaches that improve resilience to climate impacts, strengthen food systems, and reduce dependence on costly agricultural inputs. By combining community voices, women's leadership, and evidence-based advocacy, ActionAid helped influence national and regional discussions on climate adaptation, sustainable agriculture, and climate resilience. Throughout the year, ActionAid worked with communities, movements, and civil society allies to hold governments accountable for strengthening climate commitments and increasing investment in climate action.

Our advocacy highlighted the urgent need for greater climate finance and challenged the growing reliance on debt-financed climate responses. We exposed the unequal burden faced by countries in the Global South, which continue to experience the impacts of a crisis they did little to create while carrying increasing debt obligations. We also strengthened understanding of the links between debt justice and climate justice and challenged false climate solutions, including through research and advocacy on carbon markets.

A major highlight of the year was ActionAid's contribution to the COP30 Climate Negotiations in Belém, Brazil, where our staff, partners, youth activists, women leaders, and allies helped secure a landmark agreement establishing a new Just Transition Mechanism. Working alongside trade unions, women's organisations, and climate justice movements, ActionAid used research, advocacy, public mobilisation, and media engagement to ensure that community rights, decent work, gender equality, and social justice remained central to climate action. Widely recognised as one of the most inclusive climate outcomes to date, the agreement marked an important step towards ensuring that climate transitions improve people's lives while addressing the climate crisis.

ActionAid will continue working with allies in 2026 to help shape the implementation of the new mechanism and advance climate justice globally.



PHOTO: ACTIONAID BRAZIL



PHOTO: ACTIONAID BRAZIL

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Throughout 2025, ActionAid continued to challenge structural inequalities within the global economic system and advocate for alternatives that place people, rights, and wellbeing at the centre of economic decision-making. Across this work, we strengthened collaboration between movements advancing economic justice, climate justice, gender equality, and quality public services, building a stronger collective voice for systemic change and more equitable economic futures. A key achievement during the year was the continued expansion of the TaxEd Alliance, which brought together tax justice, education, and feminist movements to advocate for a fairer global tax system through the ongoing negotiations for a United Nations Tax Convention. National research on education financing in Ghana, Nepal, Senegal, Uganda, and Zambia informed advocacy efforts, while the Education Finance Learning Collaborative united 22 education coalitions and civil society organisations across Africa to strengthen evidence-based advocacy using ActionAid's 4Ss framework.



PHOTO: ACTIONAID MALAWI

ActionAid also strengthened its evidence base on the human impact of debt and austerity. Our flagship report, *The Human Cost of Public Sector Cuts in Africa*, documented how debt, IMF-backed austerity measures, and reduced public spending continue to undermine health, education, and social protection systems, disproportionately affecting women, young people, frontline workers, and communities across the Global South. Drawing on research from Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, and Nigeria, the report provided compelling evidence to support future advocacy on gender equality, public services, and economic justice. Together with the *Who Owes Who?* report, this evidence informed advocacy throughout the year, including engagement at the Fourth UN Financing for Development Conference in Seville and the IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings. Through the SETA project and broader partnerships with civil society organisations and social movements, ActionAid also advanced its anti-racism and decolonisation agenda by promoting educational reparations and fairer access to resources across Africa. Throughout the year, we continued to advocate for fairer tax systems, increased public investment, debt justice, and reforms to the international financial architecture to build more just and equitable economies.



PHOTO: ACTIONAID SPAIN

WOMEN'S RIGHTS & FEMINIST ALTERNATIVES

Advancing women's rights and feminist alternatives remained a strategic priority for ActionAid in 2025. Across our work, we continued to strengthen feminist movements, amplify the leadership of women and young women on the frontlines of inequality and injustice, and promote alternatives to economic and social systems that perpetuate exclusion and discrimination. In an increasingly volatile context marked by anti-rights backlash and shrinking resources for women's rights organisations, ActionAid continued to place feminist leadership, collective action, and system change at the centre of its approach. A major milestone in 2025 was the convening of African feminist leaders, activists, and thinkers to explore feminist alternatives to neoliberalism. These dialogues advanced new thinking on economic justice, care, liberation, and reparations, contributing to global debates on feminist economics and system change.



PHOTO: ACTIONAID GHANA

Building on this momentum, ActionAid launched Africa Cares Together, a continental Community of Practice promoting the recognition, reduction, and redistribution of unpaid care work while amplifying African perspectives on care economies. ActionAid also strengthened transnational feminist organising through its Young Urban Women programme, mobilising more than 27,000 young women across 31 cities in six countries. Through feminist leadership, political education, and collective action, participants advanced economic justice and movement building while demonstrating the transformative power of feminist organising.

At the same time, ActionAid expanded its work on feminist corporate accountability and global policy influence. Through the rollout of the Resist Corporate Power framework and engagement in international spaces including the African Business and Human Rights Forum, UN treaty negotiations, GIMAC, and the Commission on the Status of Women, ActionAid helped ensure feminist perspectives shaped debates on corporate accountability, economic justice, debt, care, and reparations.

Women leaders from affected communities brought their lived experiences directly into these discussions, reinforcing the importance of feminist solutions to global challenges.

Throughout the year, ActionAid continued to advocate for stronger and more sustainable funding for women's rights organisations and feminist movements. This work culminated in preparations for a Feminist Funding Charter to be launched in 2026, calling for long-term, flexible, decolonial, and movement-led funding that enables women and feminist movements to lead transformative change on their own terms.



PHOTO: ACTIONAID UGANDA

TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT FUND

CATALYSING LOCALLY LED SYSTEMS CHANGE

The Transformative Impact Fund (TIF) continued to demonstrate the power of targeted, locally led investment to drive systemic and sustainable change. Across the portfolio, TIF supported communities, movements, and partners to advance climate justice, economic justice, women's rights, and civic participation while strengthening local leadership and agency. From West Africa to Southeast Asia, TIF investments influenced policies, strengthened institutions, and mobilised communities at scale, demonstrating that locally rooted solutions can deliver lasting impact.

In West Africa, TIF supported the development of national agroecology strategies in Liberia, Nigeria, and Senegal, equipping more than 261,000 women farmers and young people with climate-resilient agricultural skills and indirectly benefiting over 1.5 million households. In the ASEAN region, the P2ACE consortium mobilised 3.7 million young people through climate justice campaigns, helping to shape regional environmental and climate policy discussions. These achievements reflect TIF's role as a catalyst for long-term systems change. A defining feature of the fund has been its ability to shift power towards communities and groups often excluded from decision-making. In India, TIF supported more than 30,000 human rights defenders and reached over 463,000 women across 218 districts, strengthening community accountability and collective action. In Zambia, women farmers adopting agroecological practices increased household incomes while contributing to national biodiversity policy processes. In Brazil, Black, Quilombola, and traditional community leaders elevated concerns about human rights violations to international policy forums, helping to influence global discussions on rights and development.

The fund has also delivered results in some of the world's most challenging environments. In Haiti, TIF strengthened youth leadership, civic engagement, and economic resilience amid ongoing instability. In the Great Lakes Region, partners successfully advocated for grant-based climate finance and influenced regional climate policy while strengthening women's economic empowerment. These achievements demonstrate the resilience and effectiveness of locally led approaches, even in fragile contexts. As the portfolio continues to mature, ActionAid is strengthening how evidence, learning, and impact are captured and communicated. The results achieved through TIF present a significant opportunity to demonstrate the value of locally led systems change and mobilise greater support for approaches that place communities, movements, and rights holders at the centre of sustainable development.



PHOTO: ACTIONAID HAITI

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

In 2025, ActionAid continued to strengthen its digital presence and engage audiences around the world on issues of social justice, gender equality, climate justice, humanitarian action, and economic justice.

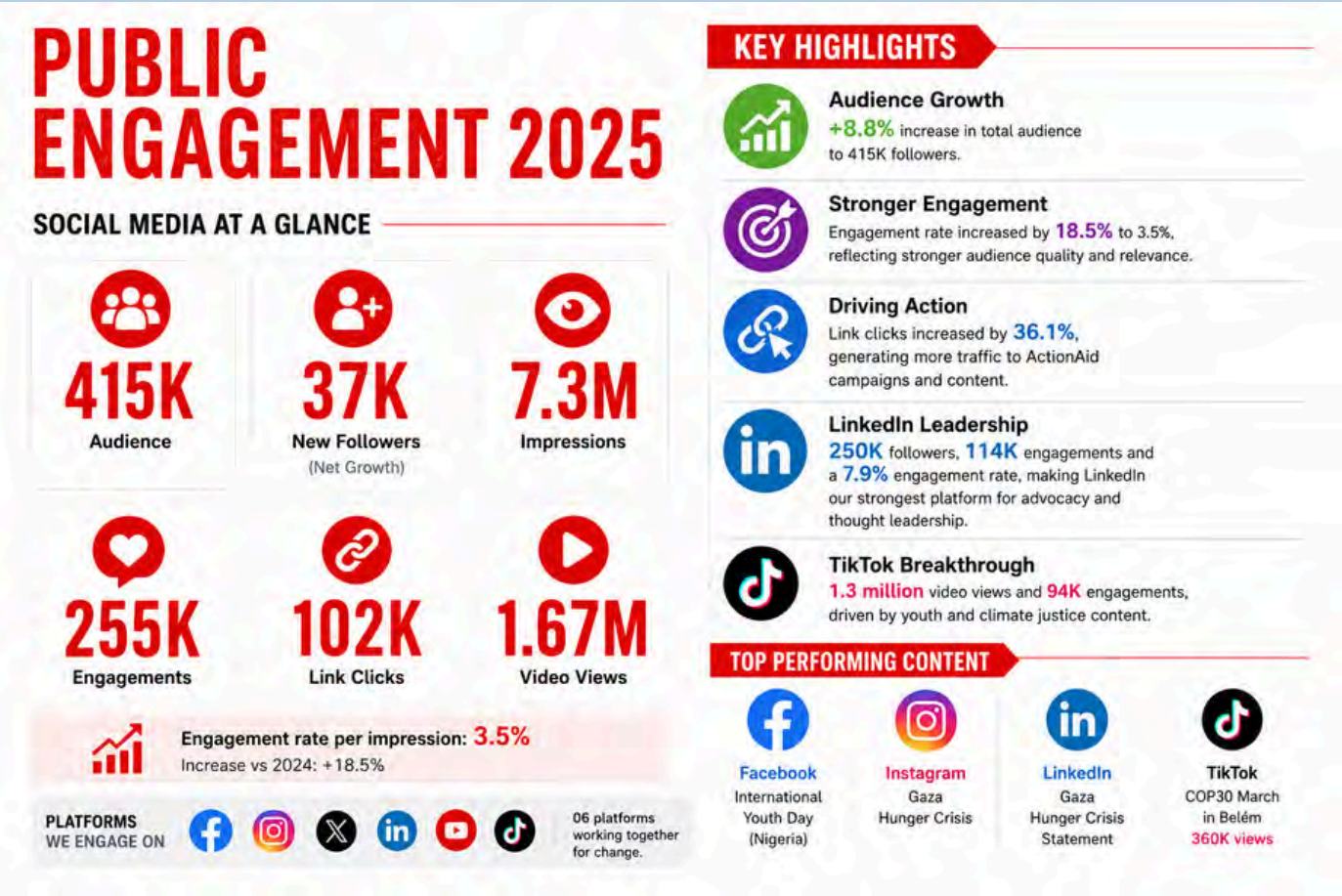
Across our global social media channels, our audience grew to more than 415,000 followers, with over 37,000 new followers joining our platforms throughout the year.

While overall impressions and engagements declined compared with 2024, the quality of engagement improved significantly. Engagement rates increased by 18.5%, while link clicks rose by more than 36%, demonstrating stronger audience interaction and a growing ability to connect supporters with ActionAid’s campaigns, research, and advocacy.

LinkedIn remained our fastest-growing platform, while TikTok generated the highest number of video views and engagements, reflecting the growing role of digital storytelling and youth-led content in reaching new audiences.

Public engagement around key issues including the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, climate justice, youth leadership, and the Fund Our Future campaign generated strong visibility and interaction across platforms.

From COP30 mobilisation in Brazil to International Youth Day celebrations and global advocacy on humanitarian access, our digital channels helped amplify frontline voices, connect movements, and mobilise public support for collective action and systemic change.



HUMANITARIAN ACTION

In 2025, ActionAid combined humanitarian response, preparedness, resilience building, advocacy, and systems strengthening across multiple crises.

Through our humanitarian work, we reached more than 1.2 million people affected by conflict, displacement, climate-related disasters, and other emergencies, while the wider federation supported 5.2 million people through humanitarian assistance.

Our responses spanned food security, cash assistance, health, WASH, protection services, dignity kits, and psychosocial support across some of the world's most challenging contexts.

Beyond emergency response, ActionAid continued to strengthen its feminist humanitarian signature by advancing women's and youth leadership, localisation, accountability, and community resilience.

Women and young people played leading roles in preparedness, protection, advocacy, and community accountability processes, helping to shape more inclusive and locally led responses.

Through initiatives such as Emergency Protection Responders in Palestine, youth-led disaster risk reduction structures in Zimbabwe, and the global #ChangeTheCode campaign, ActionAid contributed to stronger community leadership while influencing national and global discussions on humanitarian reform.

A key lesson from 2025 was that meaningful participation requires more than consultation—it requires sustained investment in local leadership, decision-making, and collective action.

As humanitarian needs continue to grow amid increasing funding constraints, strengthening locally led, accountable, and community-centred humanitarian action remains essential to building resilience and achieving lasting change.



COMMUNITY IMPACT THROUGH REGULAR GIVING

Regular giving and child sponsorship continue to play a vital role in sustaining ActionAid's long-term work to eradicate poverty, advance gender equality, and strengthen community resilience. In 2025, child sponsorship contributed 40% of ActionAid's total income, supporting programmes in 21 countries and enabling communities to drive lasting change through locally led, rights-based approaches. Across the federation, regular giving helped expand access to quality education, strengthen climate resilience and food security, advance women's economic empowerment, and support the leadership and rights of women, girls, and young people. From women farmers adopting agroecological practices in Rwanda and Tanzania, to youth and women strengthening climate resilience in Senegal, to community-led advocacy and systems change in Zimbabwe, child sponsorship funding continued to create opportunities for individuals and communities to build more secure, resilient, and dignified futures.

In Mozambique, where communities faced the combined impacts of conflict, political instability, and climate shocks, regular giving also supported preparedness, protection, peacebuilding, and resilience initiatives that reached hundreds of thousands of people. These examples reflect the power of sustained community investment and the collective commitment of supporters who make long-term change possible. Behind these connections is Sahakom, ActionAid's global child sponsorship platform, which helps manage millions of records, stories, messages, and supporter interactions. By connecting supporters with communities around the world, Sahakom plays a critical role in strengthening engagement, accountability, and the impact of child sponsorship across the federation.

41%

of ActionAid's total income generated
through child sponsorship

21

countries supported through
child sponsorship funding

77,000+

women and youth strengthened
climate resilience in Senegal

6,700+

women farmers supported through
agroecology initiatives in Rwanda

13,800+

smallholder farmers strengthened
resilience in Tanzania

110,000+

people directly reached through
ActionAid Zimbabwe programmes

430,000+

people engaged through peacebuilding
and resilience in Mozambique

LEARNING, ACCOUNTABILITY & PROGRAMME QUALITY

Learning and reflection remain central to ActionAid's approach to achieving lasting social change. Throughout 2025, we continued to strengthen how we capture evidence, assess impact, and learn from our work across the federation. New initiatives, including the development of ActionAid's first Stories Map and the launch of the ReflectionAction website and participatory methods toolkits, helped strengthen the connection between learning, accountability, communications, and programme quality.

ActionAid's Programme Quality Standards and Accountability and Performance Framework continue to provide important mechanisms for reflection, peer learning, and continuous improvement. In 2025, a peer review hosted by ActionAid Ghana identified opportunities to further strengthen thematic leadership, campaign effectiveness, and organisational learning.

Participatory Review and Reflection Processes (PRRPs) conducted across communities, partners, and country offices reinforced the continued relevance of ActionAid's rights-based, participatory approach. Across the federation, communities consistently highlighted the value of locally led decision-making, women's and youth leadership, and strong partnerships built on trust, accountability, and shared ownership.

Learning from across the federation also reaffirmed ActionAid's distinctive role as an enabler, connector, and amplifier of social movements. While balancing accountability requirements with the flexible nature of movement-building remains an ongoing challenge, our experience continues to demonstrate that locally rooted partnerships and collective action are essential for achieving sustainable systems change.



LOOKING AHEAD: PRIORITIES FOR 2026

WHAT NEXT?

LIBERATION & REPARATIONS

Building on national dialogues held across 20 countries and growing calls for reform of the global financial system, ActionAid is strengthening its focus on liberation and reparations as a unifying framework for future work.

This agenda recognises that meaningful self-determination requires more than political independence—it requires the ability of countries and communities to shape their own economic and development futures free from structural inequalities embedded in the global system.

In 2026, ActionAid will continue supporting dialogue, mobilisation, and advocacy across the Global South while strengthening alliances with movements, civil society organisations, and partners working towards economic justice, climate justice, and systemic change. Through a series of federation-wide learning and political education initiatives, we will deepen our collective understanding of liberation, reparations, and the pathways towards more just and equitable futures.

TRANSFORMING STORYTELLING

ActionAid is also committed to transforming how stories are created, shared, and amplified across the federation. Building on the development of our Stories Strategy and Anti-Racist Storytelling Principles, we will continue advancing feminist, anti-racist, and decolonial approaches that place the agency, leadership, and lived experiences of communities at the centre of every story.

In 2026, we will strengthen storytelling practices that move beyond narratives of dependency and instead highlight collective action, resilience, and people-led change. By combining authentic voices, direct experiences, and evidence-based insights, we aim to tell stories that not only inspire action but also help audiences better understand the systemic drivers of injustice and the transformative power of social movements.

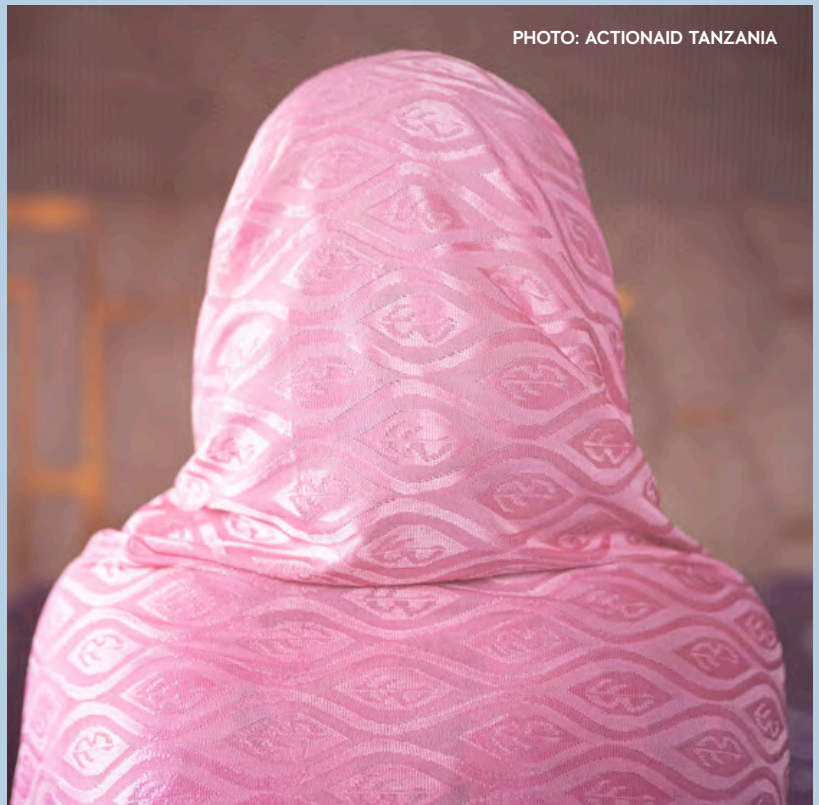


PHOTO: ACTIONAID TANZANIA

STORIES FROM ACROSS THE FEDERATION

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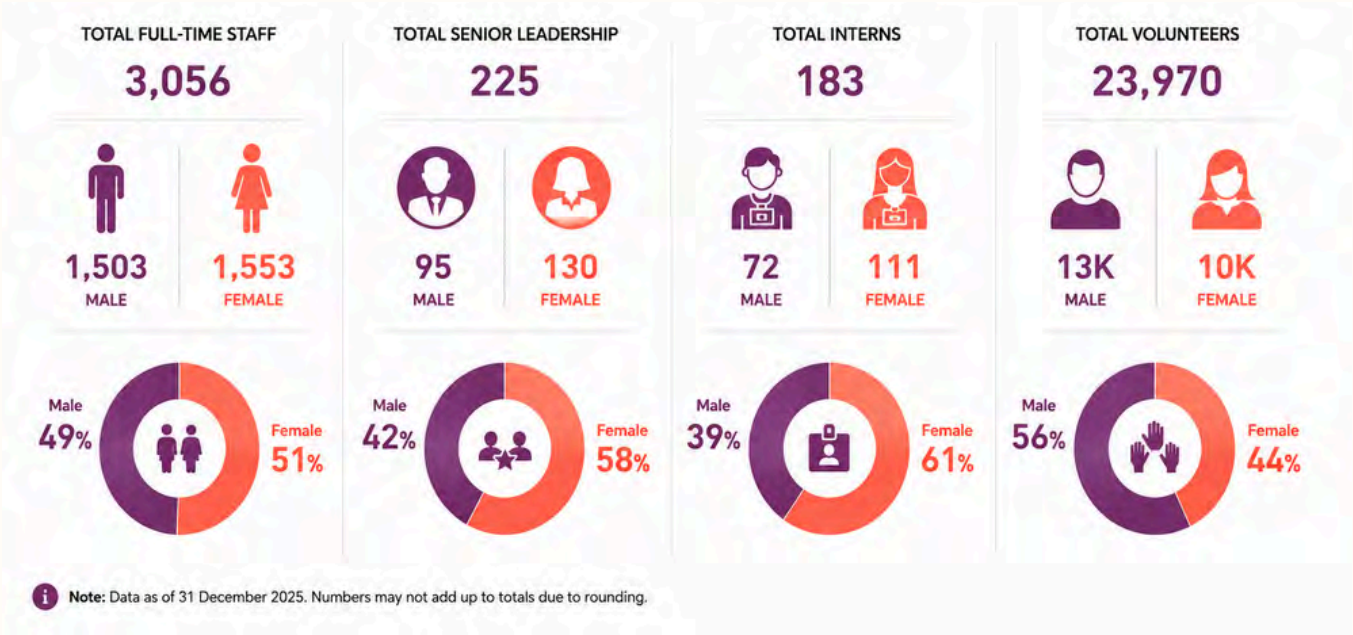
OUR FEDERATION GOVERNANCE, ACCOUNTABILITY & RESOURCES



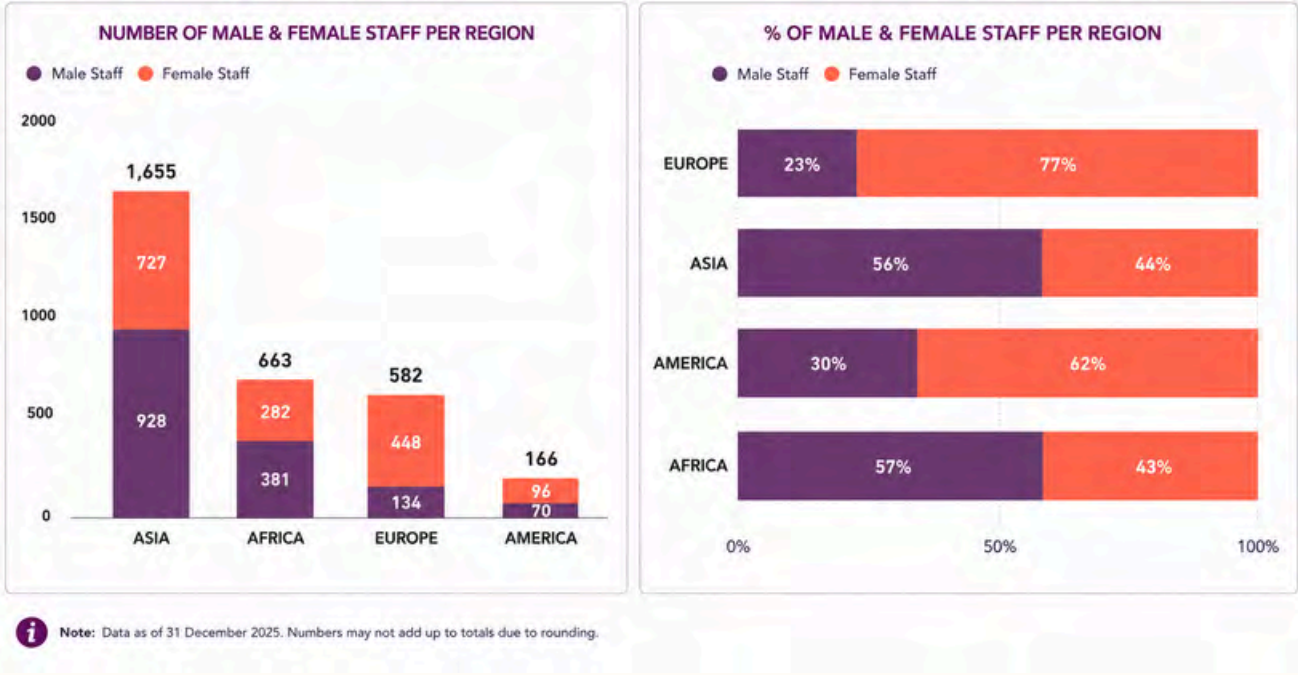
OUR PEOPLE IN NUMBERS

Our people remain our greatest strength. Across the federation, staff, interns, volunteers, and leaders bring diverse skills, perspectives, and experiences that strengthen our ability to deliver impact, while continued progress in gender representation reflects our commitment to feminist leadership and inclusive organisational culture. ActionAid’s global workforce, leadership, interns, and volunteers continue to reflect our commitment to diversity, inclusion, and feminist leadership across the federation.

OUR PEOPLE ACROSS THE FEDERATION



OUR PEOPLE ACROSS REGIONS



ActionAid’s workforce continues to reflect strong gender diversity across the federation, with women representing a majority of senior leadership positions and interns. Regional variations remain, with Europe and the Americas showing higher female representation, while Asia and Africa maintain a more balanced gender profile across staffing structures.

ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

ActionAid continued to strengthen its organisational effectiveness in 2025, ensuring that members and country programmes are equipped to deliver greater impact, remain financially sustainable, and respond effectively to an increasingly complex operating environment.

A key priority was supporting countries to adopt more agile and context-responsive operating models. This included targeted support to ActionAid Burundi as it progressed its transition towards a Virtual Operating Model, and a comprehensive organisational review in Senegal aimed at strengthening programme effectiveness, financial sustainability, and the use of shared service capabilities. In addition, 16 countries received budget support to help sustain operations and deliver strategic priorities while maintaining financial resilience.

The Accountability and Performance Framework (APF) was rolled out across the federation and is now a central mechanism for performance management, organisational learning, and risk oversight. Through training and engagement with National Boards and Country Management Teams, the framework is strengthening accountability, supporting data-driven decision-making, and fostering a more consistent performance culture across the federation.

ActionAid also completed the full rollout of its Federation Service Sharing Model through the Global Centre of Support Network. Building on successful pilot phases, Centres of Support across Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean expanded their capacity to provide services in areas such as finance, internal audit, information technology, and human resources.

More than 23 countries now access shared services through this model, helping to reduce duplication, strengthen capabilities, improve efficiency, and create greater value across the federation. Together, these initiatives are helping to build a stronger, more connected, and future-ready federation capable of delivering sustainable impact in support of ActionAid's mission.



SAFEGUARDING RISK

SAFEGUARDING

ActionAid is committed to preventing and responding to sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse and to creating safe, respectful, and accountable environments for the communities we work with, our partners, and our staff.

Safeguarding remains a core organisational priority and an essential component of our commitment to feminist leadership, accountability, and human rights.

Throughout 2025, ActionAid continued to strengthen safeguarding systems, capacity, and awareness across the federation. A total of 539 staff, partners, and representatives completed Safeguarding e-learning training, while the global network of Safeguarding Focal Points expanded its knowledge and capability through targeted learning and support.

By the end of the year, 26 countries had completed and were implementing country-level safeguarding strategies, with additional countries progressing through mapping, planning, and implementation processes.

The organisation also strengthened safeguarding data management, monitoring, and reporting systems, enabling better analysis of trends, risks, and organisational learning. Preparations for a comprehensive review of safeguarding policies commenced during the year, including the establishment of a dedicated working group and engagement of external specialists to support the review process, which will be completed in 2026.

ActionAid maintained robust incident reporting and management processes throughout 2025, ensuring that concerns were addressed in accordance with established procedures and that appropriate support, investigation, and follow-up actions were undertaken. Further investment was also made in strengthening reporting mechanisms, including the testing of a new confidential reporting platform designed to improve accessibility and support anonymous reporting. These efforts reflect ActionAid's ongoing commitment to strengthening safeguarding practice, fostering a culture of accountability, and ensuring that all concerns are taken seriously and addressed appropriately.

SAFEGUARDING AT A GLANCE – 2025

539

People Trained

75

Focal Points

11

Advanced Training

ActionAid's safeguarding infrastructure expanded significantly in 2025, with 539 personnel trained and 75 focal points ensuring accountability across the federation. The rollout of 26 country-level strategies and a new confidential reporting platform signals a maturing system designed to protect communities and staff alike.

SECURITY RISK & ASSURANCE

STAFF SAFETY & SECURITY

In 2025, ActionAid operated in an increasingly complex and volatile global environment marked by escalating conflicts, shrinking civic space, and growing risks for human rights defenders, humanitarian actors, and civil society organisations. Against this backdrop, staff safety and security remained a critical enabler of our mission, helping the federation remain present, principled, and connected to communities and movement partners while protecting the people who make this work possible.

Throughout the year, ActionAid strengthened locally led safety and security management across the federation, with a particular focus on building the capacity and confidence of its global Safety and Security Focal Point network. More than 180 support, guidance, training, review, and engagement actions were delivered, including direct assistance for over 80 requests, support for 27 high-risk travel reviews, and technical advice across more than 35 incidents and crisis situations. These efforts strengthened preparedness, improved risk management, and enabled staff and partners to continue their work in challenging contexts.

ActionAid also contributed to wider sector learning and practice through engagement with leading international security and humanitarian networks and contributions to global guidance on humanitarian security risk management.

Across all of this work, we continued to promote a feminist, decolonial, and locally grounded approach to safety and security—one that recognises local knowledge, shared responsibility, and collective care as essential components of effective risk management and organisational resilience.

INTERNAL AUDIT & ASSURANCE

In 2025, the Internal Audit function continued to provide independent assurance and advisory services across the federation, supporting strong governance, accountability, and risk management. A total of 18 internal audits were completed across country programmes and Global Secretariat functions, helping to identify control improvements and strengthen organisational effectiveness.

In addition to assurance activities, the team delivered training and advisory support to staff, Boards, and members of the General Assembly, while contributing to governance and organisational improvement initiatives.

The Internal Audit function also played an important role in advancing ActionAid's zero-tolerance approach to fraud and misconduct. Through fraud awareness training, strengthened whistleblowing processes, and support to investigations and disciplinary procedures, the team continued to promote a culture of integrity, accountability, and ethical conduct across the federation.

During the year, whistleblowing cases received through the international reporting mechanism were investigated and managed in accordance with established procedures, with the majority of cases successfully resolved or progressing through appropriate follow-up actions.

FINANCE & FUNDRAISING

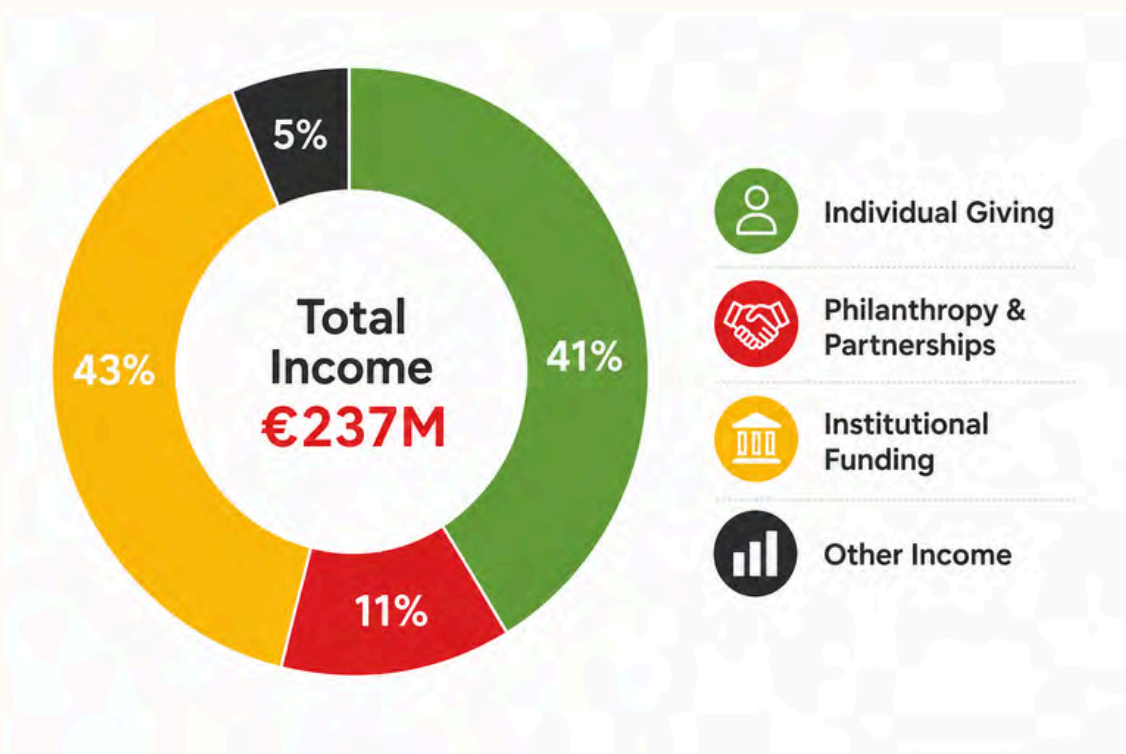
Despite a challenging global funding environment, ActionAid remained financially resilient in 2025, with total income reaching €237 million, representing a modest increase of 1% compared with 2024. Growth was driven primarily by humanitarian funding and legacy income, helping to offset continued pressures on supporter recruitment and retention in many markets.

Individual Giving remained the foundation of ActionAid's funding model, generating €98 million and continuing to provide a critical source of flexible and unrestricted income. Institutional income increased by 7% to €102 million, supported by humanitarian responses in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Palestine, Ukraine, and Türkiye. While income from Philanthropy and Partnerships declined compared with the previous year, overall funding remained diversified across public fundraising, institutional donors, foundations, and strategic partnerships.

Unrestricted income remained stable at €79 million, preserving ActionAid's ability to respond quickly to emerging priorities and invest in long-term social change. Restricted income increased to €158 million, reflecting continued demand for humanitarian and development programming across the federation. Emergency funding also grew significantly, accounting for 19% of total income, compared with 12% in 2024.

The United Kingdom, Italy, Denmark, Spain, and Afghanistan together generated more than 70% of the federation's external income, while DANIDA, the European Union, United Nations agencies, the Start Fund, and FCDO remained among ActionAid's most significant institutional partners.

Looking ahead, the funding landscape remains uncertain, shaped by ongoing conflicts, humanitarian crises, economic pressures, and evolving donor priorities. In response, ActionAid will continue to strengthen unrestricted income, deepen relationships with supporters and institutional partners, and invest in sustainable fundraising approaches that enable the federation to deliver impact, respond to emerging needs, and remain accountable to the communities and movements we serve.



FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY

HOW WE INVEST OUR RESOURCES

ActionAid remains committed to ensuring that resources are used effectively, responsibly, and in support of our mission to advance social justice, gender equality, and the eradication of poverty. In 2025, total federation expenditure amounted to €238 million, broadly consistent with the previous year.

Programme expenditure represented 70% of total spending, reflecting ActionAid’s continued focus on delivering impact through development, humanitarian, and advocacy programmes. This increase was largely driven by emergency responses across multiple countries, supported by higher levels of humanitarian funding. At the same time, ongoing efficiency measures helped reduce support costs, ensuring that resources continued to be directed towards programme delivery and mission impact. Fundraising and governance costs remained stable at 14% and 1% of total expenditure respectively, reflecting continued investment in generating sustainable income while maintaining strong oversight, accountability, and stewardship across the federation.

Geographically, Africa accounted for the largest share of programme expenditure, followed by Asia, reflecting the scale of ActionAid’s work and humanitarian responses across these regions. Programme investments continued to support communities affected by poverty, inequality, conflict, displacement, and climate-related crises, while also strengthening long-term resilience, rights, and social justice outcomes.

ActionAid’s reserves position remained strong, supported by healthy cash balances across the federation. Total reserves stood at €91.4 million at the end of 2025, providing financial resilience and helping to ensure continuity of operations, long-term commitments to communities, and the ability to respond to emerging challenges and opportunities. In line with federation policy, unrestricted reserves continue to provide a prudent level of financial stability while supporting the organisation’s long-term sustainability.

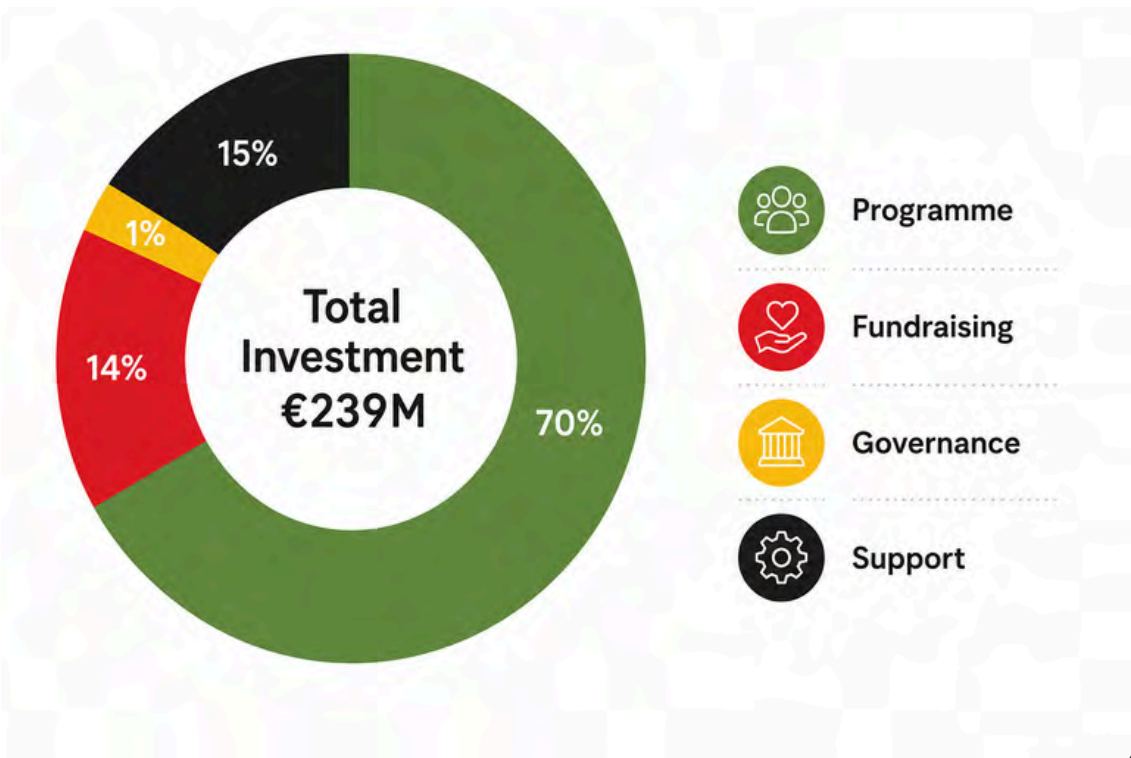




PHOTO: ACTIONAID BRAZIL

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May 2026

THANK YOU

Thank you to all our staff, partners and allies who continue to reflect, innovate and drive change alongside us; joining together in solidarity to shift power to marginalised and vulnerable people. We thank and stand in solidarity especially with those activists in crisis or conflict who are working to ensure social justice for all. Thank you to our boards for the support you've given along the way. Thank you to the many of you who have sent data, analysis, stories and learnings for this collaboratively generated report; what is written here is only the tip of the iceberg. There is a huge amount of work going on every day across the federation and across the globe. It is seen and appreciated.