

Emergency Action Fund



Up to 300 million people worldwide are affected by emergencies caused by natural disasters and armed conflict every year, and climate-related disasters such as floods and food crises are increasing in frequency and intensity. People living in poverty suffer the most - especially women and children. With your support, we can help communities prepare for disasters and survive them when they do occur.

Funding Need: starting from € 500,-

The impact of crisis

Over the last 20 years, almost two in three people worldwide have been badly affected by natural disasters and violent conflict. These events are devastating for the lives of women and children already living on the brink of survival.

Those living in the poorest places are the most vulnerable, living in precarious housing or in areas more prone to flooding and drought. This is why building people's ability to cope with disasters and devise sustainable solutions is such an important part of ActionAid's humanitarian response strategy.

Ready to respond

Knowing how crucial it is that we respond within the first 72 hours of a disaster, the Emergency Action Fund was created to enable us to do just that. While emergency public appeals raise significant funds, it can take days before money can be sent. Without this source of immediate funding, we simply cannot provide life-saving relief to those who need it most, when they need it. This is especially true of 'silent' emergencies which escape media attention and receive little public funding.

ActionAid has been responding to emergencies for over 40 years. Helping people cope during and after emergencies is one of our top priorities and since 2008, we have responded to over 100 natural disasters and 38 conflict-related emergencies. And because we respond in countries where we have existing projects and relationships with local organisations and communities, we can make the greatest impact when emergencies strike.

Our local staff provide immediate relief and work long term to rebuild communities, and strengthen their resilience. Local women are in charge, often advising what their communities need, and oversee the distribution of aid, to ensure fairness and transparency.

ActionAid's emergency approach

We take a human rights based approach in all of our work. During emergencies, this means that we:

- Work to ensure that the basic needs of disaster survivors are met. We distribute items such as food, water and shelter materials through community networks.
- Support initiatives to ensure people living in poverty can protect themselves against future emergencies and empower them to address the root causes of crisis.

- Focus on the most vulnerable and excluded and endeavour to protect and promote their safety and dignity.
- Ensure that those affected participate in and lead the process of response and recovery – particularly women.

How your donations are spent

When you support the Emergency Action Fund, you enable us to respond at the most critical time during emergencies - saving lives. You also help communities to reduce the impact of future crises, and support them to demand better protection from their governments.

50% on response: ensuring vital supplies like food, water, shelter materials and basic medical supplies reach the most vulnerable people as quickly as possible.

35% on preparedness: ensuring communities are ready for emergencies and that our expert staff are ready to respond.

15% on policy: supporting communities to lobby governments and institutions to protect rights violated during emergencies.

Training women emergency leaders

Sabita is a member of a small community close to the Bangladeshi coast. The area is affected by disasters including flooding, cyclones and droughts, which are becoming more frequent and more severe due to climate change. In 2013, Sabita undertook training with ActionAid's support to equip her to lead her community-based disaster response and disaster risk reduction.

Sabita, who has three children, says: "I am constantly thinking through disaster scenarios in my head: where we will run to the next time a disaster hits, and how I would reduce the risk of the disaster to myself, my family and my neighbours. I always try to help those who are poor, who don't have food and have great need.

"Each time there is an emergency I contact everyone in my network to tell them that the disaster is coming and I give suggestions and advice about what steps to follow and who should do what. Everybody respects me. I am creating change! I am so proud of how far I have come and everything I am able to do now."



Contact

For more information about the Emergency Action Fund, please contact Anika van den Bergh, Deputy Director of ActionAid Netherlands. By e-mail: anika.van.den.bergh@actionaid.org or by phone: 020-5206210.

Together we have the power to change the future.

Join us!