act:onaid

Brand guidelines

V.3 Nov 2025

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Our logo

Primary logo versions

The ActionAid UK primary logo is the same as ActionAid International, the federation we are a part of.

On dark backgrounds the logo should be white. On light backgrounds, it should be red.

On complex backgrounds (photography or pattern), the holding rectangle can be used to ensure legibility.

act:onaid



act:onaid

Other logo versions

Strapline lock-up:

Our strapline is used to convey our mission to our audience. It should only be used on assets that otherwise do not convey our work with women and girls in either imagery or copy.

In these cases, the strapline should be applied underneath the rectangle version of the logo only.

Logo symbol:

Our exclamation mark can be used as a logo when it's already clear there is an ActionAid context.

All logo variations are available here.

act:onaid

Changing the world with women and girls

Strapline lock-up

Logo symbol

Exclusion zone

At a minimum, the empty space around either the logo or the logo and strapline lock-up should be equal to 'X', which is the height of the letter 'd' in 'ActionAid' (as detailed right).

This gives our logo space to breathe and allows it to stand out on a page.



act:onaid

X

act:onaid

Changing the world with women and girls

Size and placement

Our logo can be scaled up to an infinite size. However, to ensure legibility and impact, we have established a minimum size for both print and digital.

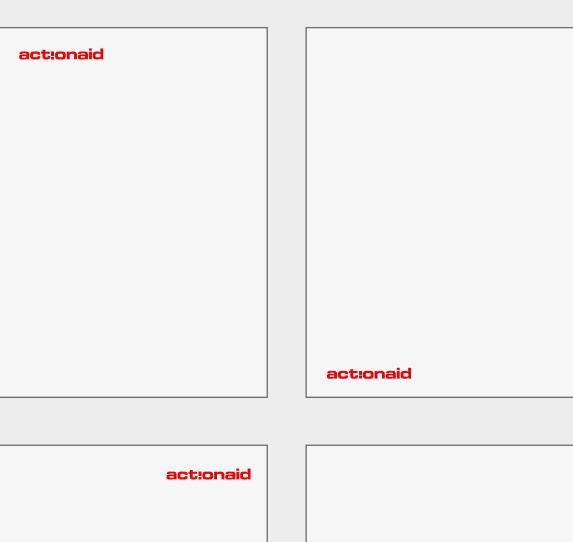
The minimum size is determined by the height of the logo.

The logo can be placed at the top or bottom left of a page. In some contexts, the logo can be placed on the right, but this is not the preferred position.





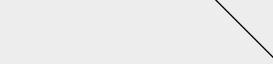
225 px 20 mm



Logo misuse

Our logo was created for brand stability, and our logo and strapline lock-up has been designed with legibility and brand understanding in mind. Therefore, neither should be altered in any way.





Don't distort

actionaid



Don't reorder logo and strapline



Don't rotate

actionaid

actionaid

Changing the world

with women and girls

Don't expand bounding box



Don't change holding shape



Don't change to any non-primary colour



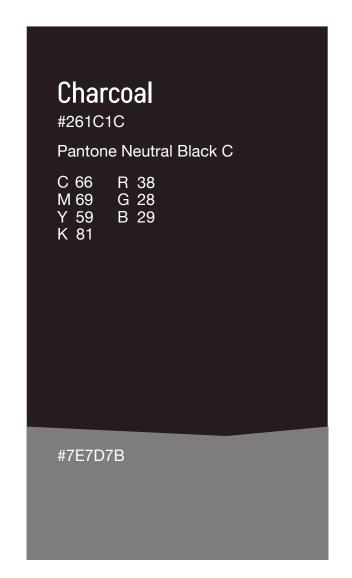
Don't add effects to the logo

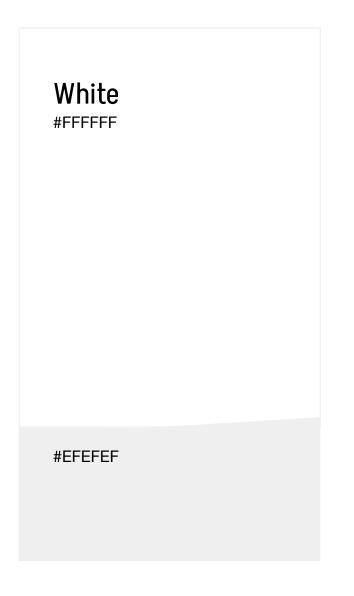
Brand elements

Colours

Our primary colours are red, black and white. All ActionAid communications should feature these. Shades of each colour can be used sparingly.



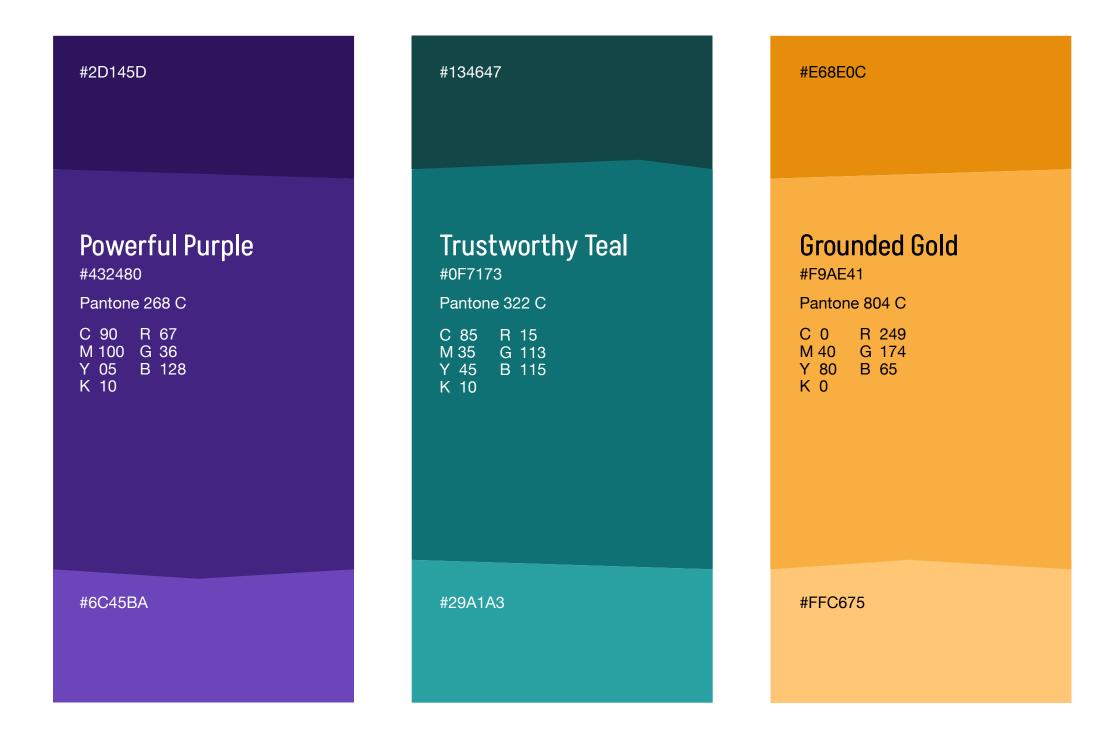




Colours continued

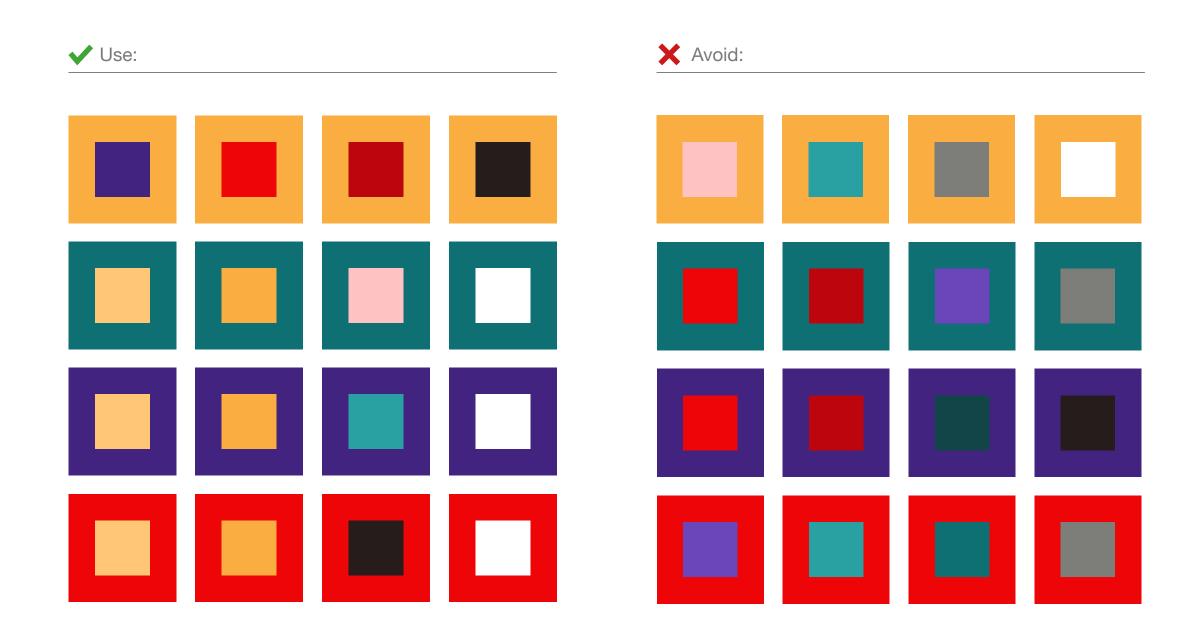
Our secondary palette can add colour and vibrancy. This is useful for longer formats such as reports where the use of red, black and white becomes repetitive or where the tone is lighter and celebratory, e.g. supporter fundraising challenges.

However, unless part of a sub-brand, they must never be the predominant colour in ActionAid piece of communication.



Colour combinations

The colours in our brand palette are designed to complement each other. However, certain combinations work better than others.



Colour and text

When using text on a background colour, keep it white or black.
See opposite for guidance on which to use on each colour and shade for the best legibility.

Text	Text	Text	Text
Text	Text	Text	Text
Text	Text	Text	Text

Typeface

The ActionAid typeface family is composed of two typefaces: Akshar and Helvetica Neue.

Akshar is our primary font and represents our brand personality. It features in our strapline and can be used in four different weights. In creative assets, it should be used for headlines, subheadings, captions, stats and quotes.

Akshar is downloadable here.

Helvetica Neue is our secondary font, chosen for its legibility at small sizes. It should be used for body copy.

For our in-house templates, Helvetica Neue is replaced by Arial, which is widely available across Microsoft applications. Primary font (available in four weights)

Akshar Bold Akshar Semibold Akshar Regular Akshar Light

Secondary font (available in three weights)

Helvetica Neue Bold
Helvetica Neue Regular
Helvetica Neue Light

Using typography

There are different ways to use our typefaces to create hierarchy make information more digestible.

See opposite for a complete outline of our typefaces and how to use them.

For more information, read our accessibility guidelines.

Headlines:

Akshar Bold in any primary colour.

Standfirsts, statement text:

Akshar Light in black or Regular in white.

Headings:

Akshar Semi Bold.

Body copy:

Helvetica Neue Regular (white text) or Light (black text). 140% Leading. Minimum 12pt for print.

Pull out quotes:
Akshar Regular for quote.
Akshar Bold for name, at 70% of quote size.

Statistics:

Akshar Bold for numerical value. Akshar Regular for stat text, at 40% of number size.

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Body copy lestium id que con rem evel magnitati debis as dolore cones nis erumquidis dipid quatem am autectota sunt facest, senit ipisimint ut aborio occullat velenitas re est ape nonseque liquam etur, seque volor auda sum dolores erspeles necus.

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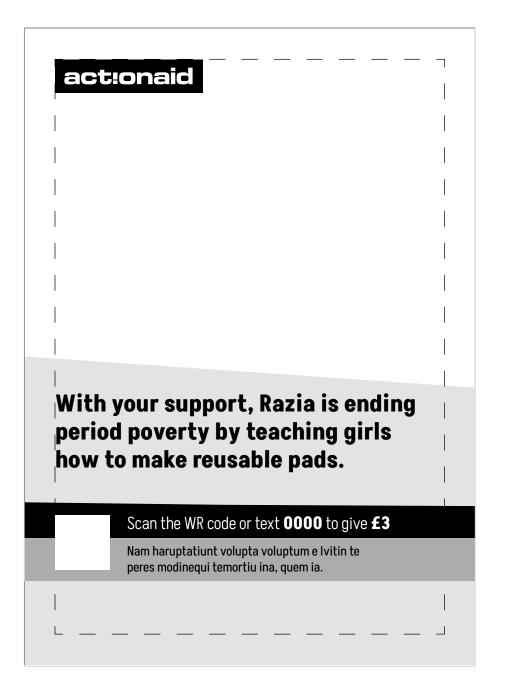
Margins

Grids, columns and margins help create consistancy across brand assets.

For posters, apply a margin size of 6% of the shortest edge.

Photography and irregular shapes can bleed off.





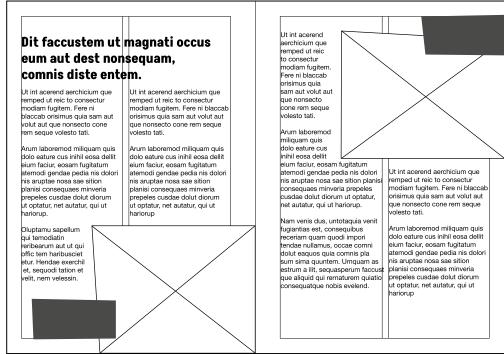
Poster

Columns

For portrait and landscape editorial pages, use two columns and maintain a margin size of 6% of the shortest edge, as with posters.

Photography, irregular shapes and captions can lay over column boundaries.





Portrait spread



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"I love changing the

lives of young girls."

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Landscape spread

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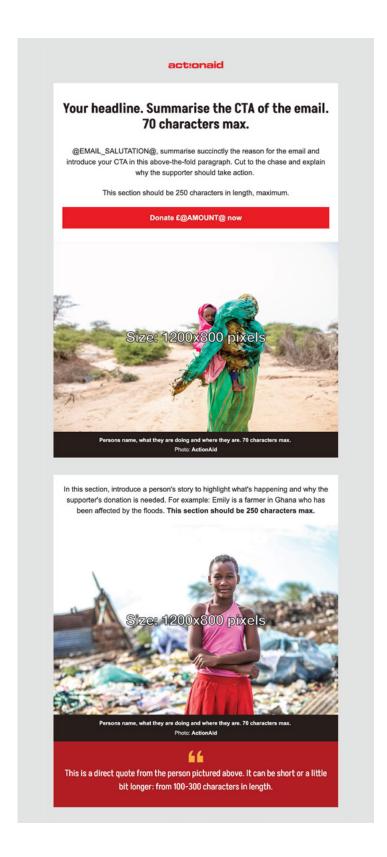
molore voloris vellorr orporis magnatet.

Digital templates

Templates for social media graphics and emails give a professional and uniform look to our content. By sticking to these templates we are reinforcing our brand look and feel, meaning that users instantly recognise our social posts or emails they receive.

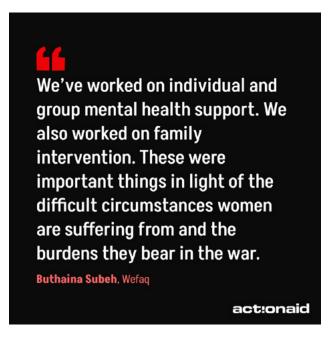
We have various templates to be used for different communication styles and formats. Each one will match the tone of the campaign and communication channel.

Email templates can be accessed via our <u>DotDigital platform</u> and social media templates found in this <u>Figma file</u>.



Email template





Social templates

Irregular shapes

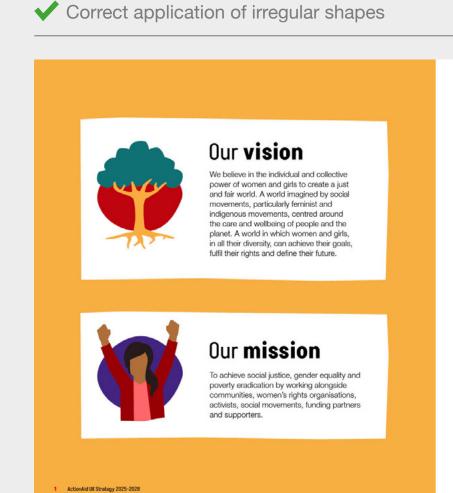
Our personality is reflected in our characteristic graphic device: irregular, organic, hand-crafted shapes and edges.

This graphic device is used across illustration and pattern, and also to help order information and add creative flair to communications.

To create irregular shapes and edges, follow these rules:

- Limit the angle of lines from anchor points to < 35° where possible.
- Avoid perfect circles.

The overall impression should be that someone has imperfectly cut out the shape from a piece of paper.



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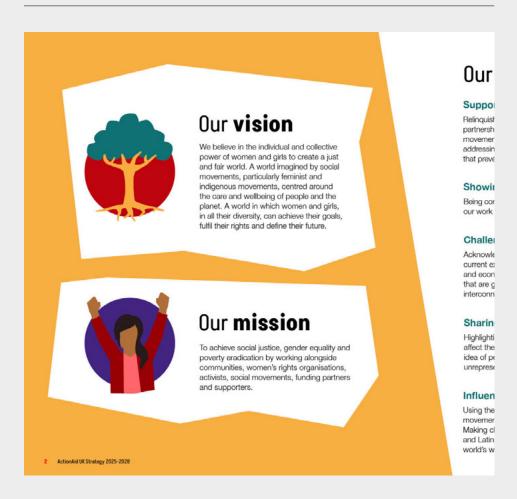
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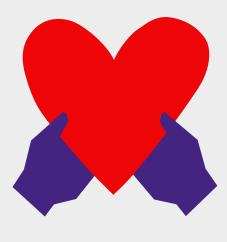
Graphics

Graphics help us convey information visually and are another vehicle of brand expression. At ActionAid UK, we often use them to illustrate statistics and shopping list items. We have a <u>suite of graphics</u> ready for use.

If creating new graphics, follow the guidance for irregular shapes on page 20. Additionally, stick to the ActionAid colours and shades wherever possible, limiting each graphic to a maximum of two different colours. Avoid the use of line art and shadows, and keep curves to a minimum.











Beehive



Blanket



Megaphone



Water

Maps

We use maps to help provide context for our audience, such as where our stories are coming from and where we are working.

The country marker is a black irregular rectangle placed on the country. The text should be Akshar Regular in White.

Any regions, towns or project locations should be highlighted with a black square. The text should be Akshar Regular in White and 70% the size of the country text.

We have <u>a suite of vector maps</u> ready for use which includes individual countries and worldwide.





Occupied Palestinian Territory

Pattern

Our brand patterns are inspired by the vibrant textiles found in cultures across the world. They can be used **sparingly** to add visual interest to communications that otherwise lack appropriate photography, illustration or other graphics.

See page 30 for an example use.



Illustration

Illustrations allow us to tell stories about the lived realities of women and girls around the world without compromising on confidentiality. They can also be used in communications where we don't have photography or when discussing broad topics.

Our illustration style is distinctive and unique to ActionAid UK. It was developed to compliment our visual identity, using flat and imperfect shapes, with added pattern, texture and shadow for a paper collage effect. All illustrations used in ActionAid UK materials **must** follow this style. For more information, view our illustration guidelines.

We have a <u>suite of illustrations</u> ready for use, covering core elements of our work. To commission a new illustration, please contact the Brand Team.



Photography

Photography is a key aspect of our brand. It creates a connection with the women and girls we work with.

We want our images to be authentic and represent the lives and experiences of women and girls worldwide. That is why we always strive to commission local women photographers who understand the context.

On top of that, by only using local photographers, with no air travel involved, we substantially reduce our carbon footprint.

Partnering with women photographers also ensures we can uphold our <u>anti-racist storytelling principles</u>.







Anti-racist storytelling

- Our photography, videography and stories must reflect agency and individuality. The communities and people involved should be consulted throughout the process.
- Our photography, videography and stories should shatter negative stereotypes about a continent, country or group of people.
- Our photography, videography and stories should depict people's lived realities with dignity and humanity.
- Our photography, videography and stories must emphasise courage and hope and not foster pity in our audiences.

Credits & captions

If context for a photo is not given in the accompanying copy, a caption should be added to the image. However, we should not rely on captions for context; instead, we should include references to the photos wherever possible in the main body copy.

Captions should sit within our characteristic irregular rectangles and be positioned in the corner of an image. The font should be Helvetica Neue Regular or Bold, and the size should be a minimum of 10pt. The length of the caption copy should be no more than 40 words.

Photo credits should be a minimum of 6pt in print and placed at the corner of an image where it is legible but not distracting. It should be formatted as follows:

© Photographer Full Name/ActionAid

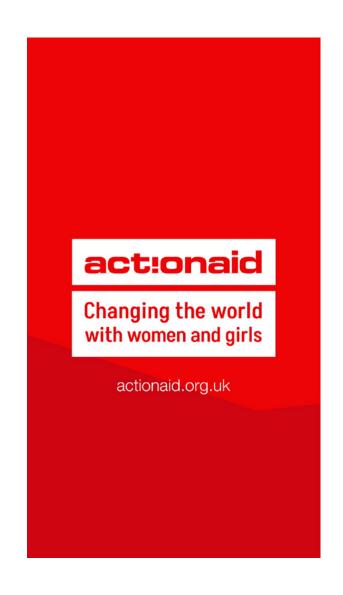


Video endslates

There are several iterations of our endslates: with and without the strapline, edits with a simplified logo and serious versions that use limited movement and are intended for more sensitive content, such as emergencies.

Choosing an endslate should be based on the context of the video and whether it is targeting cold audiences.

All <u>endslates</u> are available in 9:16, 16:9, and 1:1 aspect ratios.



With strapline



No strapline



Serious

Video editing

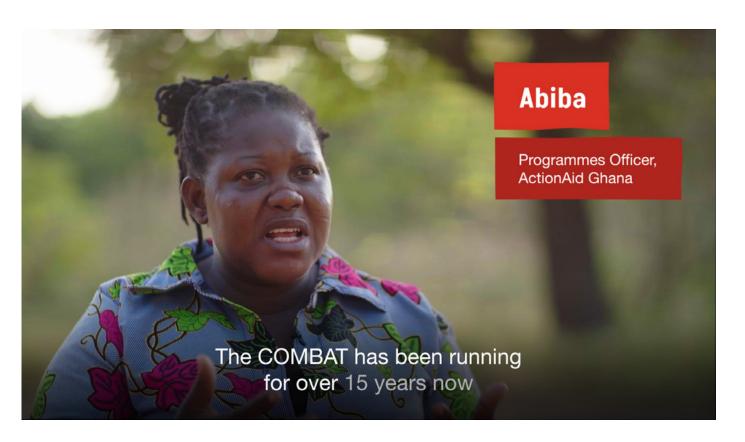
We have a suite of motion graphic templates for lower thirds, titles and subtitles. These assets are created at 24fps to mirror traditional hand-drawn animation and are intended to represent unfurling or crumpling paper.

When colour grading, our authentic storytelling approach means we always try to replicate the natural colours picked up by the eye and never apply filters or any effects that significantly change hue, saturation, brightness or contrast. Video footage should be warm, naturally bright and above all, natural-looking.

Transitions should be subtle and tasteful so as not to cause a distraction. Never fade out from a solid-coloured background into camera footage. Always be aware of the safe zones when editing videos and on different social media platforms. Avoid any text, such as subtitles, overlapping with interface elements like the video progress bar.



Colour grading



Lower Third and subtitle example

The brand in action

Direct Mail









Account Postage GB AC02162770049

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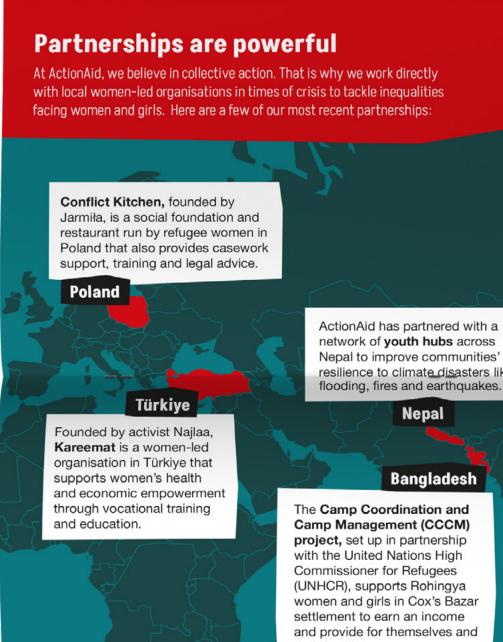
act:onaid

Mrs A B Sample 123 Sample Street Sample Town Sample City

SA1 2MP

Congratulations

You are taking action with women and girls worldwide



with local women-led organisations in times of crisis to tackle inequalities

resilience to climate disasters like flooding, fires and earthquakes.

Nepal

Bangladesh

The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) project, set up in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), supports Rohingya women and girls in Cox's Bazar settlement to earn an income and provide for themselves and their families.

Light Serious

Registered with ActionAid is a charitable company (company number 01295174). Englished Fig. 1. Englished ActionAid is a charitable company number SC045476. Registered ActionAid is a charitable company.

Reports

External context

The world is facing multiple crises that result in the violation of the rights of many people worldwide. These crises are interlinked and result from an unequal and unjust system that benefits the few and is based on the exploitation of many. This system has its roots in colonial structures and beliefs that created hierarchies linked to race and gender, among others.

Attacks on civil society and the reduction of civic space directly impact feminist movements, women's rights organisations and women human rights defenders who face threats from multiple fronts.

The climate crisis is triggering more widespread floods, droughts, heatwaves, cyclones, landslides, wildfires and other hazards, many of which become humanitarian

ActionAid UK Strategy 2025-2028

disasters, displacing millions, destroying livelihoods and oxacorbating habitat loss, species extinction and agrobiodiversity loss. Yet the wealthiest, polluting countries, corporations and banks are continuing to fuel the fire, giving huge subsidies to fossil fuel industries and industrial agriculure.

The impact of the climate crisis is exacerbating inequalities and affecting more people across the world, who are also affected by natural and political events and armed conflict. These events disproportionalely affect

women, girls and excluded people as they contribute to an increase in gender-based violence, a decrease in public services and the rollback of their rights during a crisis. The current economic model based on extractive industries threaters nature and the rights of women, girls, their families and communities and is pushing internal displacement and migration.

These interlocked crises also affect the protes of food and commodities, resulting in ost-of-living crises and high inflation rates in many countries. This situation is compounded by the deterioration of working conditions, and more people, particularly women, are turning towards the informal economy as an immediate solution. However, this leaves their rights as workers open to further violation.

Fifty-four countries are now in debt crisis, and far too many are spending more on servicing their debts than providing essential services, like education. The International Monetary Fund and World Bank (and the big three global credit rating agencies) were set up before most colonised countries achieved independence, and they often have as much influence today in shaping economic and social policies as former colonial powers. None of the institutions that make up the global financial architecture have fundamentally changed their mindset or decision-making structures over the years. They preside over and shape an extractive model that continues to invest

in fossil fuels and industrial agriculture, prioritising global private sector interests over national public sector needs, progressive tax reform and people's rights.

There is also a rise in far-right governments and mobilisations in different regions of the world, and many countries have become more polarised, resulting in attacks on the rights of the most marginalised people. This polarisation is exploited and incited by some politicians and media outlets, as seen recently in the UK. The presence of far-right actors and messages in the media has helped normalise these positions and make them more valid and palatable for the rest of society.

Nevertheless, social movements around the world, feminist and women's rights organisations in particular, have continued their fight for a just and equitable world. Social movements have the potential to create lasting change by influencing public opinion, mobilising popular support and shifting laws and policies. We are committed to partnering with them. Contents

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Our global mission and priorities

ActionAid UK is part of a global justice federation with a presence in 71 countries worldwide. As a federation, we work together to achieve social change, gender equality and to address the structural causes of poverty and injustice.

Globally, we want to see a system that is fair and just for all, that starts from a foundation of human rights, peace and security, balanced with the rights of the natural world - as there is a profound inter-dependency between people and the planet.

Our staff, partners and supporters in the UK play a crucial role in supporting the inspirational work of women's rights organisations and ferminist movements and instrugithening the programmatic and influencing work of ActionAid Federation members in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

We raise funds in the UK to support the work of ActonAid Federation member countries who are working with over 3,000 partners, including social movements, youth networks and women's rights organisations, to tackle inequality and injustice and engage our supporters, funding partners and the public in global movements for change. We also tack the root causes of global inequality and injustice by influencing UK Government commitments and policies on a range of

interlinked issues, including climate justice, decent and dignified work, fair public services, peace and security, food sovereignty and an end to violence against women and girls.

Over the past few decades, ActionAid has made significant efforts to become a champion for human rights and social justice. In the 1990s, adopting a rights-based approach led ActionAid to critically examine its own power and legitimacy as an organisation headquartered and governed from the UK. Through a series of progressive reforms, ActionAid worked across countries worldwide to decentralise power from the UK. One of the ways we did this was by creating a federated ActionAid International, with a Global Secretariat headquartered in South Africa, governed by a diverse International Board.

We are currently in a transitional stage where we are building our principles, systems and processes to become more rooted in shifting power to the women and girls we work with and supporting their movements towards justice. This includes centring the struggles and power of feminist and social movements; ensuring our programmes are led by the priorities of women and girls; working alongside donors and others to ensure they are set up to support women's rights organisations and movements; building public awareness campaigns and narratives based on solidarity, not charity; investing in internal processes and systems to align with the vision and progressive ethos of our organisation.

Gifts in Action

Farmyard Friends

In Burundi, farming is the main source of income for over 80% of the population. However, the effects of climate change have deeply impacted crops, livestock and land, especially for smallholder farmers who don't have sufficient means to cope with these changes.

ActionAid's Burundi livestock project provides women and their families with pigs and goats. These farm animals produce manure to help grow crops, which can then be eaten or sold, supporting families to achieve financial and food security. The animals' offspring can also be sold to provide another source of income.

These gifts will go towards our livestock project in Burundi and the families we work with there.



A lack of quality soil and seeds has made it difficult for families in Burundi to grow vital crops. A goat can provide high-quality manure to promote the growth of healthy crops that can be sold or eaten.



Sending a pair of breeding goats to a woman and her family can help provide financial security for years to come. The goats can produce milk to sell or drink, and their offspring can also be sold, providing a steady stream of income.





With this gift, you send a pig directly to a woman farmer and her family. Pigs generate long-term income for farmers as they produce offspring that can be sold, and their manure supports the growth of healthy crops.





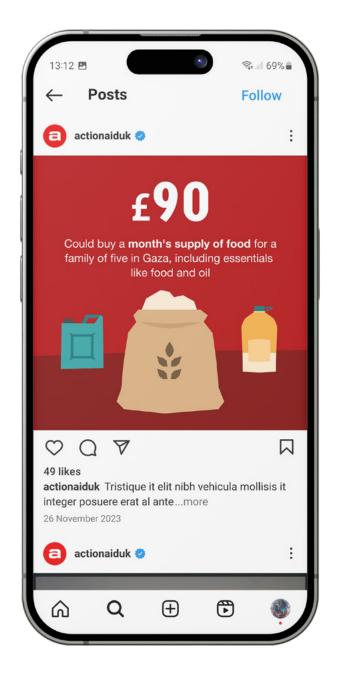
By sending a piglet to a woman farmer and her family, you are supporting them for years to come. As piglets grow, they produce more manure, which is excellent for crops that can be sold at the market or consumed.







Emergency appeal materials





Serious

Light



ActionAid Chard Business Park Jarman Way CHARD TA20 1FB

+44 (0)1460 238 000 supportercontact@actionaid.org actionaid.org.uk

Address line two POST C073

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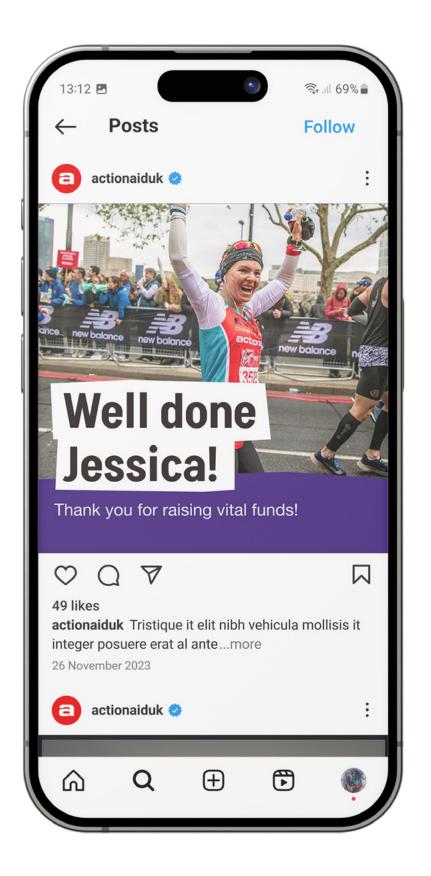
Supporter magazine



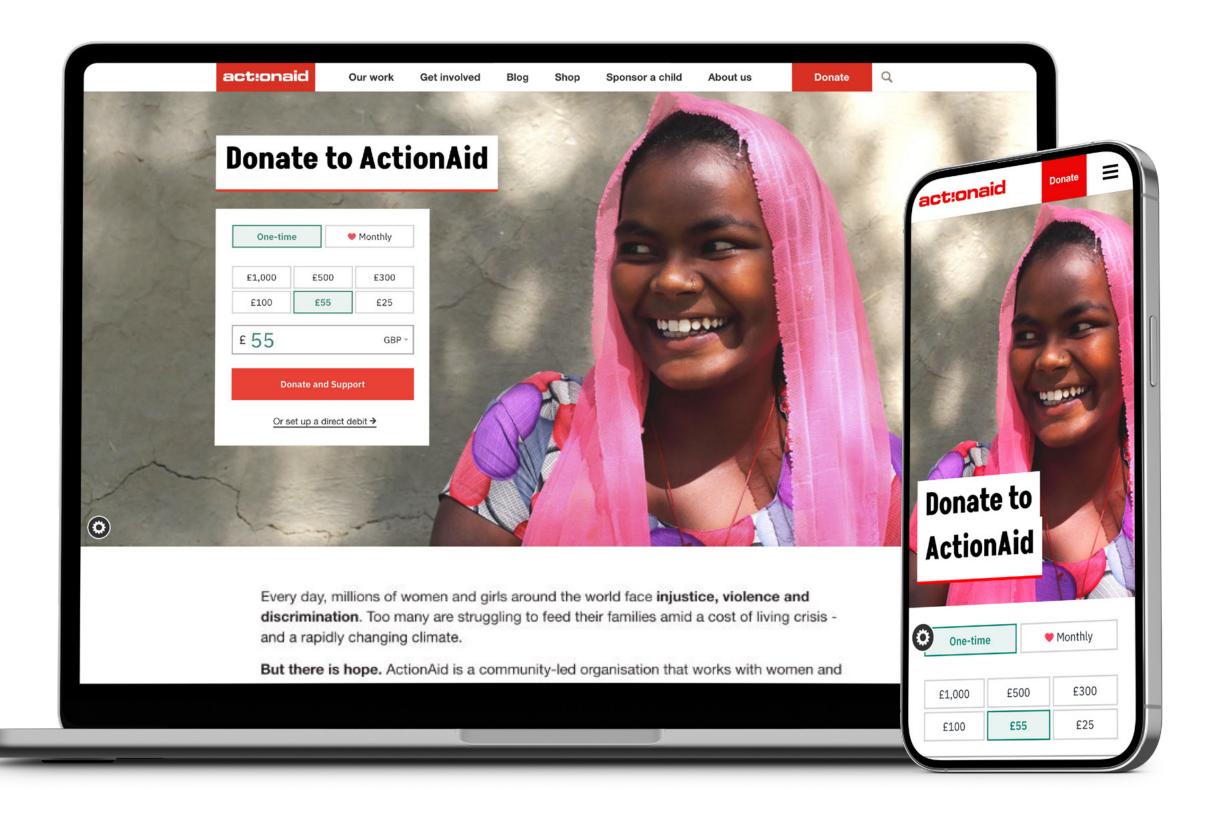


Community fundraising

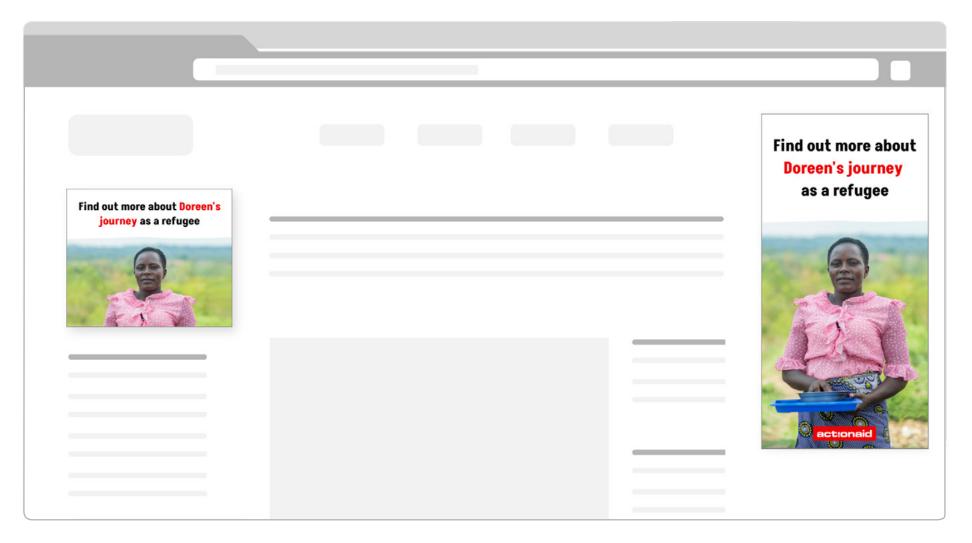


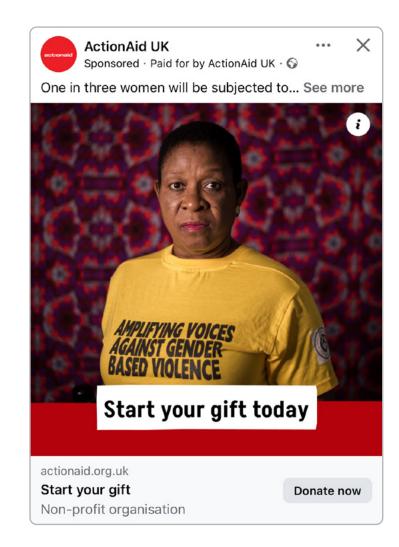


Website



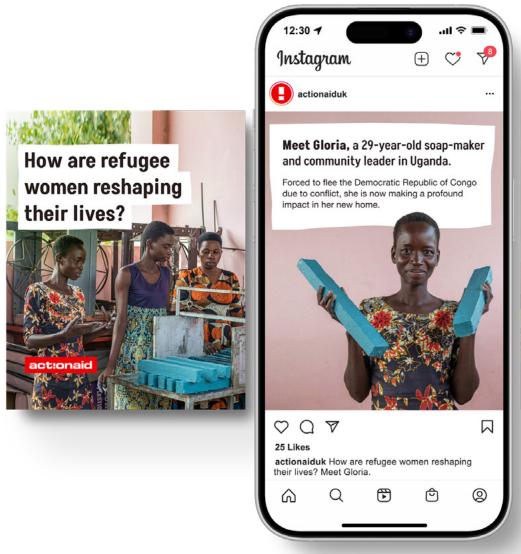
Online advertising





Display Paid social

Social









Carousel

Thank you