

A photograph of three women in a mangrove environment. The woman on the right is wearing a bright green headwrap and a green long-sleeved shirt, smiling broadly. She has several oyster shells hanging from a necklace around her neck. The woman in the center is wearing a yellow headwrap and a yellow long-sleeved shirt, also smiling. The woman on the left is wearing a red headwrap and a red long-sleeved shirt, looking down. They are standing in shallow water with dense green mangrove trees in the background. The ActionAid logo is in the top left corner, and a vertical copyright notice is on the far right.

act:onaid

Changing the world
with women and girls

**Leave a gift in your Will
and be part of something bigger**

A gift in your Will supports the fight for women's rights and breaks down barriers to education, meaning communities all over the world can build a fairer future.



Thank you for requesting more information about leaving a gift in your Will to ActionAid.

Gifts in Wills are a truly powerful way to make a lasting difference. Thanks to kind supporters like you, women's rights organisations have prevented and responded to violence against women and girls, promoted girls' access to education and fought for equal pay and social protections for women in the workplace. Gifts in Wills have also enabled partners to be where they're needed most, saving lives and prioritising women's leadership during humanitarian emergencies.

Most importantly, they enable us to plan for the future, making all this vital work possible in the uncertain years to come.

Stand in solidarity with future generations of women and girls.

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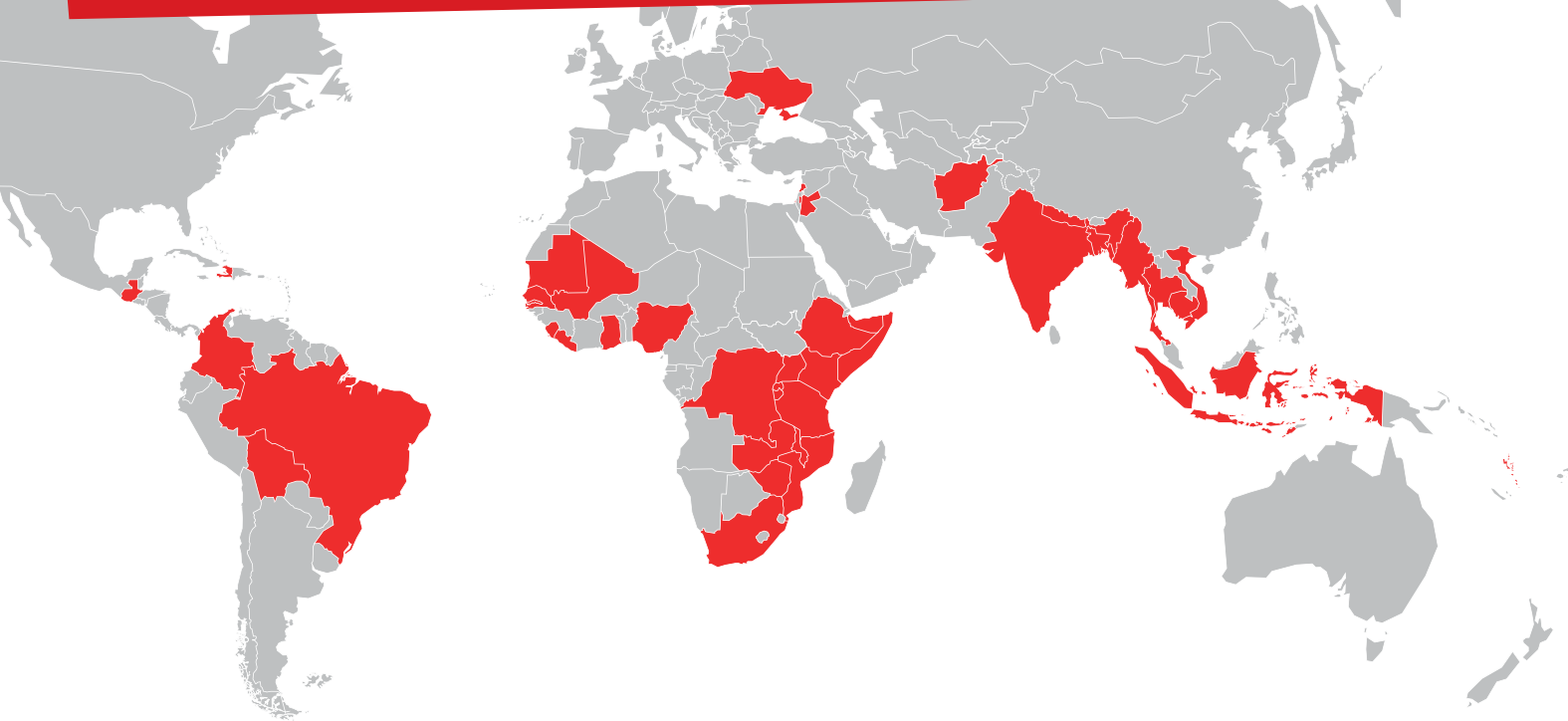
I have so much trust for ActionAid. It's nice to have confidence that my money will be going to the right place. We chose to leave a gift in our Will to ActionAid... so that you can carry on the work and look after future generations of children.

Gill Turton, Legacy Pledger

Le Thi Mong Thu is part of a local women's group in Vietnam. The group, supported by ActionAid, is helping their community find solutions to climate change.



We work in over 45 countries across the world.



In this guide we've highlighted five special stories to show how a gift in your Will could support Women's Rights Organisations and partners to create change around the world.

Collective power in Nepal

Thousands of different community groups are campaigning for inclusion, education, economic and social justice, and an end to gender-based violence.

Kishnawati is a member of two women's groups in her community. She says "The group has played a crucial role in raising awareness about our rights. We meet to discuss issues such as wage rates, child marriage, dowry and gender-based violence. We also receive training on climate justice and advocating for fair wages. **Throughout our journey, ActionAid has been a steadfast ally, providing consistent support and grant assistance.**"

Kishnawati received a grant which she used to set up a small grocery shop. "Financial independence and a stable income have brought happiness and hope to my life" she says.

A gift left in your Will can reach people like Kishnawati who are achieving life-changing work through community groups.



Women lead, communities thrive

The Community Transformation Agenda (COTA) is a women-led community organisation that supports women and girls in refugee settlements in Uganda. Nancy, pictured right, who works as a Programme Assistant highlights the significant barriers facing women and girls who are refugees, including being the main providers for their families, limited land and difficulty accessing key services, as well as a reduction in aid that specifically meets the needs of women and girls.

COTA provides leadership training, training in agroecology, so they can grow their own food, and support to raise awareness around and respond to cases of gender-based violence.

Nancy emphasises the importance of having refugee women lead in these efforts as they understand their problems best and can find the right solutions. The organisation also ensures women's voices are heard by involving them in various meetings and platforms within the area.

Nancy says she is optimistic about the transformative change brought by these initiatives, particularly in women taking on leadership roles to improve their community's well-being.



@ Immaculate Bashaba/ActionAid

A community health centre saves lives

Before the construction of the health centre in Roselyn, Faith and Prisca's community in Nigeria, pregnant women had to travel over an hour on unsafe, unpaved roads to access medical care.

"[W]e used to go all the way to a different community to access healthcare," says Prisca (pictured right in photo). "The journey was hard, especially for pregnant women. Some women didn't make it in time, and they lost their babies. Many of us had no choice but to give birth at home with no medical support."

With support from partners in the community the new health centre was constructed and the government provided housing so that medical personnel could offer 24 hour care. As a result, there has been a 90% increase in antenatal care visits, 80% reduction in birth-related complications and a 100% increase in immunisations for infants, ensuring all babies born in this community have a much healthier start in life.

Gifts in Wills can help establish health facilities and support partners to lobby the authorities for qualified health workers and affordable medicines and treatment.



@ Ugochukwu Onuoha/ActionAid

90% increase in antenatal care visits

80% reduction in birth-related complications

100% increase in immunisations for infants,
ensuring all babies born in this community have a much healthier start in life

A legacy of change

There is no gender justice without climate justice: **women and girls are 14 times more likely to die in climate-related disasters than men.** After witnessing floods that disrupted her family's ability to work and attend school, youth activist, Patience, was moved to speak out about the climate crisis and to hold major polluters, including banks, to account.

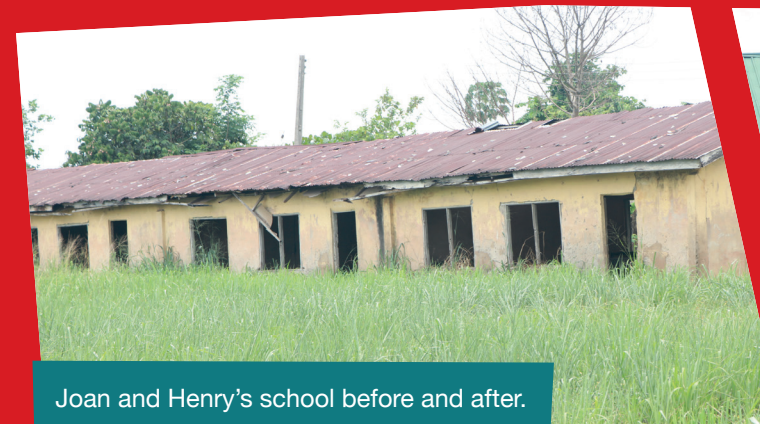
Patience is a community mobiliser with Fridays for Future Uganda, where she helps lead school strikes and coordinate local climate actions. She is actively involved with the Rise Up Movement, a pan-African climate justice network advocating for stronger and more equitable climate action.

Patience is calling on more banks to take responsibility for their role in financing the climate crisis – pointing to how the bank's tens of billions in fossil fuel and industrial agriculture funding are fuelling drought, hunger and floods in countries like Uganda.

Her activism has helped push over 40 banks to walk away from the controversial East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). Now, she's calling on other banks to follow suit and cut funding to companies behind the project, which threatens vital ecosystems, endangers Lake Victoria, and risks displacing thousands along its route.



@ Jess Midwinter / ActionAid



Joan and Henry's school before and after.



@ Ugochukwu Oruocha/ActionAid

Somewhere safe and dry to learn

Like many schools in the Delta area of Nigeria, this one, attended by primary school students Joan and Henry (not pictured for safeguarding reasons), was dilapidated and had no chairs or desks. The children had to sit on the floor which was uncomfortable and made it difficult to learn. When it rained, the roof leaked, and the children got wet. If the rains were really heavy, the children would have to go home, disrupting their education.

To ensure children like Joan and Henry receive the education they are entitled to, partners have worked with schools, parents and community leaders to improve the infrastructure and facilities in 12 primary schools.

Classrooms were repaired or rebuilt, and desks, benches and learning materials were provided, ensuring a safe and comfortable learning environment for 8,000 children. "I used to be afraid of coming to school," said Joan, aged 10. "My brother and I would cry because we didn't want to come to school where the roof leaked and we had to sit on the floor. But now I'm happy going to school. I am learning very well and enjoying my new classroom."

Henry told us: "I am happy that when the rain comes, our books and uniforms don't get wet, and we don't have to run home. We have chairs and desks to do our schoolwork, and we are comfortable."

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Impressed by ActionAid’s unstinting support for and championing of girls’ and women’s rights in the developing world, we have been faithful donors down the years. When it came to writing our Will, it was natural that our charitable donation should be to ActionAid.

Women and girls especially need support. I want to enable girls to dream and know that females can be engineers and women can run businesses. If you leave a gift in your Will to ActionAid, you will be making an enormous difference to vulnerable communities”

Linda Marsden, on her decision to include ActionAid in her Will



Mama has spent her entire life in the Niger Delta, witnessing firsthand the destruction caused by oil companies. From providing agroecology training for farmers to establishing women’s leadership and savings groups, health centres and children’s clubs, ActionAid is standing in solidarity with people adversely impacted by the environmental fallout of oil and gas operations.



FAQs

What type of gift is best?

Any gift you can give to ActionAid UK will make a difference. A residuary gift is popular with many supporters because it takes care of their family first and remains proportional to the value of their estate by keeping pace with inflation. But any gift, large or small, can make a huge difference.

Who should act as an executor of my Will?

Executors are the people who will carry out your wishes in accordance with your Will. You can appoint anyone you like – perhaps a close friend or family member – but make sure you ask them first. Some people prefer to appoint

a professional executor, like a bank or solicitor, but we advise you to be aware of the amount they'll charge for this service before you decide.

How do I choose my solicitor?

Details of solicitors in your area specialising in Wills can be found by searching the Law Society website lawsociety.org.uk or calling their general enquiries line on 020 7242 1222. When choosing a solicitor, we suggest that you ask how much they would charge for preparing or updating your Will or Codicil, and for dealing with your estate if appointed as executor.

Inheritance Tax

Inheritance Tax is a tax on money or possessions you leave when you die. It's also sometimes payable on trusts or gifts made during someone's lifetime. Inheritance Tax may be payable on an estate which exceeds the current threshold (£325,000), although no tax is payable on gifts to charities. From April 2027, unspent pension pots will no longer be exempt from inheritance tax. Instead, they will form part of your estate and be included in its overall value.

Please see gov.uk/inheritance-tax for more information.

As tax is a complex area of law, we recommend you speak to an independent financial advisor or solicitor about the Inheritance Tax implications for your estate.

A properly drafted Will can help reduce the amount of tax payable, and increase the amount of your assets to go to your loved ones and chosen charities.

Do I need to draw up a new Will?

If you do not wish to alter your existing Will other than to include a gift to ActionAid UK, you can amend your Will by preparing a document called a Codicil. We recommend that you consult a solicitor to ensure that the Codicil is valid and your wishes will take effect.

Can I save tax by leaving a gift to ActionAid UK?

A gift to ActionAid UK in your Will is tax-exempt and this may save some of the tax your executors would otherwise have to pay from your estate. However, as tax is a complex area of law, we recommend you take specialist independent advice.

Can I leave a legacy to a specific project or type of work?

The communities who most need our support change over time,

so it is helpful not to restrict gifts to specific projects. We therefore ask that you consider specifying that your gift can be used for ActionAid's general purposes. Please do get in touch if you would like to discuss this further by contacting legacies@actionaid.org or calling 01460 238000

Can I have my Will written for free?

Thanks to ActionAid's free Will offers, you can write your Will for free with a local solicitor or online in the comfort of your own home. ActionAid will cover the cost of a simple Will at a discounted rate. There is no obligation to include a gift to ActionAid in your Will, however we hope you will consider us. To take up this offer, please email us at legacies@actionaid.org for more information or call our friendly team at **01460 238 000**.

Types of gifts in Wills

Residuary gift:

The remainder of the estate once other gifts and payments have been made. This type of gift is popular because it takes care of others first and remains proportional to the value of your estate by keeping pace with inflation.

Pecuniary gift:

A fixed sum of money. The value of the pecuniary gift could decrease over time, as the cost of living increases. For example, in fifteen years, £5,000 will buy a lot less than it does today.

Specific gift:

A named item, for example a piece of jewellery or property.

We've been working with women and girls for over **50 years**. This timeline gives a snapshot of our work and how women's rights organisations and our partners are making the world a safer and fairer place for everyone.

1972



ActionAid founded (as Action in Distress) with 88 UK supporters sponsoring 88 children in India and Kenya.

1974



First overseas office opens in Nairobi; 2,000 people sign up to the child sponsorship scheme.

1975

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Name changed to ActionAid (supporting nearly 40,000 children around the world).

1985



We mass lobby parliament for fairer government aid policies and support the famine crisis in Sudan.

1993



We launch a literacy tool called Reflect which teaches five million people across 70 countries to read and write. We launch one of our largest ever emergency operations in Zaire – delivering more than 33,000 tonnes of water, food and medicines to the refugee camps.

2002



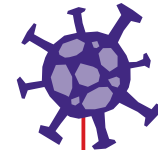
ActionAid moves from focusing on “basic needs” to “basic rights”. Rather than delivering services, we begin to work alongside people living in poverty to ensure that they receive their entitlements from the public sector.

2006



We launch our HungerFREE campaign connecting thousands of campaigners across the world, securing improved investment in food for millions of farmers and helping organise coalitions in more than a dozen countries.

2015



ActionAid works with “Mothers Clubs” in rural communities during the Ebola virus outbreak to raise awareness in hard to reach areas. We reach 108,776 women and girls and 127,474 men and boys through these community groups.

2016



Following the devastating earthquakes in Nepal, we support women in rural communities to form 16 collectives, providing training and loans to start small businesses. In 2019, we supply additional tools and equipment to help them grow and strengthen their businesses, increasing their income and resilience.

2020



By September 2020 our Covid-19 response has helped 9.6 million disaster-affected people through water, sanitation, hygiene and food, shelter, protection, livelihood support, awareness campaigns and PPE distribution.

2022



Our humanitarian work reaches 11 million people. This involves a key response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. In 2022 alone, nearly 3 million people are reached through food supplies, cash assistance, legal services and gender-based violence protection and support.

2025



ActionAid Palestine continues to work with local partners in Gaza reaching over 464,000 people with humanitarian supplies, including food distribution, hygiene kits, psychosocial support and shelter. Our partner organisation, Al-Awda Hospital, supports 558,206 people through healthcare services.

Now and into the future...

This timeline shows the wide-reaching impact of work across the last 50 years. With a gift in your Will you can be part of something bigger and help women's rights organisations and partners write their own future, standing in solidarity as they change the world.

Our work continues with you

Get in touch if you'd like to learn more about gifts in Wills

☐ I would like to receive information about gifts in Will at ActionAid

☐ I would like to speak to a member of the Legacies team

☐ I have already chosen to leave a gift in my Will

Email

Postcode

Telephone

We'd love to keep you updated about our exciting work and the ways you can help, including campaigns and events that you might be interested in. We promise to never sell or swap your details and you can change your preferences at any time. To do so, simply call **01460 238000** or email **supportercontact@actionaid.org**. You can view our privacy policy at **actionaid.org.uk/privacy-policy**

As a member of two women's groups, Kishnawati is part of a growing movement of women advocating for equality, fair working conditions and lasting change in their community.



@Angela Shrestha/ActionAid

Amy (pictured on the front page, in yellow) with her women's group, who farm oysters and are building climate-resilient livelihoods in Senegal

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Throughout our journey, ActionAid has been a steadfast ally, providing consistent support and grant assistance.

Kishnawati, Nepal

With a gift in your Will, you will be part of something bigger, a steadfast ally, ensuring women's rights movements across the world have the resources they need to create lasting change.

A gift in your Will is more than a donation—it's an investment in justice.

@actionaiduk @actionaiduk f ActionAid UK **actionaid.org.uk**

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