

A large group of smiling women and children are posed in front of a yellow building. Many of them are holding black plastic water jugs, some balanced on their heads and others in their hands. The scene is set outdoors on a red dirt ground under a clear blue sky. The women and children are dressed in colorful, casual clothing. The building behind them has a yellow facade and a corrugated metal roof.

act:onaid

ANNUAL REPORT

2024

WHO WE ARE

ActionAid Zambia (AAZ) is a part of the ActionAid Global (AAG) Federation, sharing common values and aims to drive social change towards a just, equitable and sustainable world. The ActionAid Federation builds the active agency of people living in poverty, their organisations, and movements, to address the structural causes of social injustice, gender inequality and poverty. This is in line with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which have identified the importance of addressing poverty and inequality.

AAZ was established as a country programme in 1996 following the dissolution of ActionAid International's Southern Africa Partnership Programme (SAPP). The new country programme continued to work with partners such as Hodi and implemented activities in Mumbwa, Luano and Masaiti districts.

In 2008, AAZ changed its partnership approach and a year later phased out its activities in the initial districts but broadened to implement in seven (7) provinces i.e., Muchinga, Northern and Western Provinces. AAZ was initially registered as a branch of AA UK. However, in 2010 AAZ became an associate member of the ActionAid Federation and a locally registered organisation with its own local board of directors to oversee implementation its activities.

In the same year (2010), AAI went through a merger with the Danish organisation MS which saw the two organisations becoming one entity at the national level. AAZ has undertaken various processes to establish a clear direction for our work in Zambia.

In 2010, AAZ adopted a new Interim Country Strategy Paper (ICSP) as a key document to guide the work for the period 2010 – 2012. The lessons learnt during implementation of the ICSP were documented and informed the development and implementation of AAZ's first Country Strategy Paper for the period 2013 to 2017 and ever since, AAZ has developed another CSP 2018-2022 whose lessons and impacts have influenced the new CSP 2023-2028 that was launched in April 2023.

Vision

A just equitable and sustainable Zambia in which every person enjoys freedom from poverty and oppression for enjoyment of their right to a life of dignity.

Mission

To promote Social Justice, Gender Equality & Poverty Eradication for the people Living in Poverty, Exclusion and Marginalised in Society by working with the people living in poverty their communities, organisations, Activists & Social Movements for a Just sustainable Zambia.

Values

The following values are what will guide AAZ work. Mutual Respect, requiring us to recognise the innate worth of all people and the value of diversity.

Equity and Justice, requiring us to ensure the realisation of our vision for everyone, irrespective of gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, race, ethnicity, caste, class, age, HIV status, disability, location, and religion.

Integrity, requiring us to be honest, transparent, and accountable at all levels for the effectiveness of our actions and our use of resources and open in our judgements and communications with others.

Solidarity with People Living in Poverty and Exclusion will be the only bias in our commitment to the fight against poverty, injustice, and gender inequality.

Courage of Conviction, requiring us to be creative and radical, bold, and innovative – without fear of failure - in pursuit of making the greatest possible impact on the causes of poverty, injustice, and gender inequality.

Independence from any religious or party-political affiliation

Humility, recognising that we are part of a wider alliance against poverty.

Message from the Board Chairperson

It is with great honor that I present the 2024 Annual Report for ActionAid Zambia. This year has been one of resilience, impact, and transformation as we continue to champion social justice, gender equality, and the rights of marginalised communities across Zambia.

In 2024, our commitment to empowering women, youth, and vulnerable populations remained steadfast. Through strategic partnerships, advocacy, and grassroots engagement, we have contributed to strengthening democratic governance, promoting economic justice, and enhancing climate resilience. We have also deepened our efforts in advancing human's rights, ensuring that the voices of young people and marginalised communities are amplified in decision-making spaces.

Despite the socio-economic challenges Zambia faces, ActionAid Zambia has remained a pillar of hope and action. Our programs have reached thousands of individuals, equipping them with knowledge, resources, and platforms to advocate for their rights. Through collaboration with government institutions, civil society, and communities, we have made significant strides in addressing inequalities and fostering sustainable development.

This success would not have been possible without the dedication of our staff, partners, and supporters. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the ActionAid Zambia team for their unwavering commitment to our mission. I also thank our donors, government allies, and civil society organisations for their continued trust and collaboration.



Pamela Sibanda
Board Chairperson
ActionAid Zambia

As we look ahead, we remain committed to our vision of a just, equitable, and sustainable Zambia. With your support, we will continue to challenge injustice, demand accountability, and drive positive change for those who need it most.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

Message from the Country Director

As we reflect on 2024, we acknowledge a year of resilience, impact, and transformation. Despite the challenges, our collective efforts have strengthened communities, empowered youth, and advanced social justice across Zambia.

This year, our focus on sustainable development, gender equality, and civic engagement has yielded remarkable results. We have seen young leaders emerge, women reclaim their voices, and marginalised communities gain access to essential resources.

These achievements were made possible through the dedication of our staff, partners, and stakeholders who continue to champion our mission.

As we move forward, we remain committed to deepening our impact and fostering an inclusive society where every individual can thrive. Thank you for your unwavering support in making this vision a reality.



Faides TembaTemba
Country Director
ActionAid Zambia

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ACRONYMS

AAG	ActionAid Global
AAI	ActionAid International
AAZ	ActionAid Zambia
CRC	Convention on the Rights of Children
CDF	Constituency Development Fund
CDC	Constituency Development Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
CSP	Country Strategic Paper
FODEP	Foundation for Democratic Process
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRBA	Human Rights Based Approach
ICESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
LRP	Local Rights Programmes
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
PDMA	Public Debt Management Act
PRRP	Participatory Reflection and Review Programme
PRS	Promoting Rights Schools
SAPP	Southern Africa Partnership Programme
SIDA	Swedish international Development Cooperation Agency
WDC	Ward Development Committee
ZAMSOF	Zambia Social Forum



ABSTRACT

In 2024, Zambia experienced an unprecedented drought, intensified by El Niño, slashing hydroelectric power generation by 80%. This led to extensive blackouts, heightened inequalities, severe impact on businesses and livelihoods especially on small and medium enterprise businesses here <https://shorturl.at/zOvtG>.

During the same year, transparency and accountability remained a challenge in Zambia, with new reports of misappropriation and wastage of public funds. The Access to Information Act (2023) stalled in implementation, leaving government processes, including debt restructuring negotiations, opaque. Economically, inflation surged from 15.2% in June to 16.8% in December 2024, worsening living costs and socioeconomic disparities. The Central Bank raised the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) to curb inflation which created limited fiscal space for alternatives and unrealized positives.

On the other hand, youth and women were equally impacted by rising living costs, unemployment, and reduced political representation. Shrinking civic space stifled activism association under the Public Order Act and Cyber Security laws. The judiciary's independence weakened, while inflation and economic austerity worsened poverty. Weak law enforcement heightened GBV risks, and stalled SRH policies limited access to essential services for young women and girls.

INTRODUCTION

This report details a comprehensive outlook of the activities and accomplishments of ActionAid Zambia throughout the year 2024. ActionAid continues to implement its work with commitment and dedication to empowering marginalised communities and advancing social justice.

Throughout the year 2024, AAZ undertook implementation based on the guidance of the currently running Country Strategic Paper which outlines priority areas for the period 2023 to 2028. However, during the same year AA federation embarked on reviewing its global Strategic Implementation Framework 3 (SIF) learning from SIF 2 to realign its priorities to the already changing global context.

The 2024 report will therefore bring into focus the



Source: Small-holders farmers access organic inputs

Civic participation and state accountability

In 2024, ActionAid Zambia remained committed to advancing civic participation and strengthening state accountability as fundamental pillars of a democratic and transparent society. Through targeted advocacy initiatives and civic education programs, we empowered citizens with knowledge about their rights, responsibilities, and the significance of active involvement in governance. By collaborating with civil society organisations, we worked to enhance transparency, accountability, and meaningful citizen engagement in decision-making processes. Our efforts aimed to foster an environment where citizens' voices are amplified, and public resources are managed effectively for the collective good.

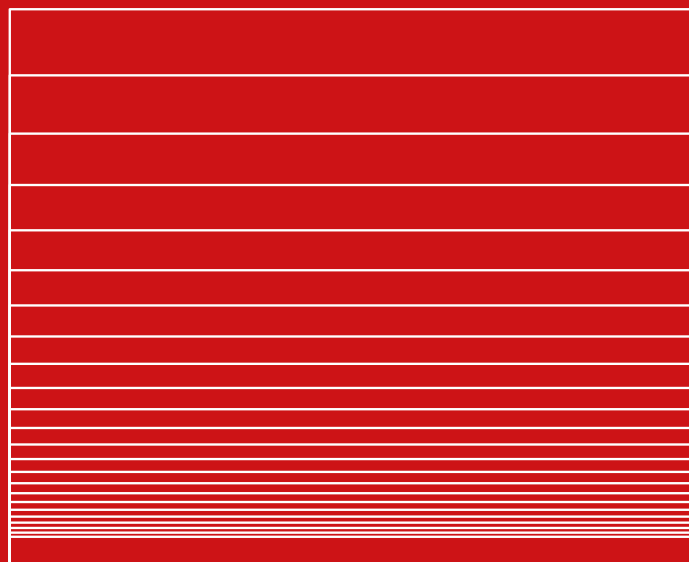
Transformative Youth-Led Engagement

Recognising the critical role of young people in driving change, AAZ placed a strong emphasis on

work done during the period, its impact and the success towards contributing to the goal of AAZ in line with the priority areas within the Zambian context and beyond.

Environmental sustainability and climate justice.

In 2024, ActionAid Zambia's Priority Area One (P1) was Environmental Sustainability and Climate Justice, which aimed to promote climate resilience, sustainable practices, and policy advocacy. The 2024 also provided an opportunity for youth and women-led solutions, it enabled communities mainly in local communities and partners to drive environmental governance and innovation, boosting resilience against climate-related concerns while promoting sustainable resource management and climate justice efforts.



strengthening its work with youths in 2024. We deepened our engagement with young people and enhanced our work with social movements, providing them with the necessary resources, skills, and platforms to amplify their voices and influence policies. Capacity building remained central to our approach, ensuring that young activists and leaders were equipped to advocate effectively and implement meaningful initiatives. Additionally, we continued to expand access to the GP, allowing a diverse range of young people to use the space to organize, mobilise, and implement their programs. By investing in social movements, fostering leadership, and promoting intergenerational collaboration, we reinforced our commitment to inclusive decision-making and long-term youth empowerment at all levels.

INTRODUCTION

This report provides an overview of AAZ's activities and achievements in 2024, focusing on our work in the three priority thematic areas. These thematic areas were identified as key priorities for our organisation in our newly launched 2023-2028 Country Strategic Paper (CSP), and our work in each area was designed to contribute to the overall mission. The following are the three priority areas under consideration in the 2023-2028 CSP.

PRIORITY AREA 1. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE JUSTICE.

Key Achievements against planned targets activities

This section highlights the key achievements/results under priority area one (P1) as highlighted below;

In 2024, 180 small-holder farmers engaged in agroecological farming in Nalolo and Sesheke after undergoing capacity building from AAZ in collaboration with Agricultural extension officers from the Ministry of Agriculture. Furthermore, in order to strengthen resilience and sustainable agroecological practices, 6 demo plots were established thereby providing a learning platform to small holder farmers. As a result, small holder farmers have planted local seeds which are climate resilient with expected or anticipated increase in yields.



Small holder farmers practising ripping in the demo plots



Demonstration on how to make Biofertiliser called Bokashi at Kamatete School in Kasempa District, North Western Province

Furthermore, ActionAid Zambia actively participated at the National Agroecology Conference held in May, 2024 to contribute to the policy discussions on influencing the government to develop a National Agroecology Policy, which will lead to enhanced support to small holder farmers. The conference highlighted the urgency for government to commit to developing the national agroecology strategy. ActionAid Zambia with other CSO's also influenced the 4th Regional Dialogue for Non-State Actors on the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) 2020-2030 in which SADC Youth Leaders and Climate Change Coalition (CCC) demanded that government addresses Artificial Intelligence, climate resilience and unemployment. The outcome of these engagements set out a road map for the Kampala Declaration for agroecological inclusion especially youths and women for 2025.



2024 Zambia Agroecology Conference



4TH Regional dialogue on RISDP in Harare 2024

In the 2024/25 farming season, 2,700 smallholder farmers, gained access to weather and climate information to support their production through extension services, farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange, and word of mouth. These strategies improved farmers knowledge in planting patterns, seed choice and farming practices amidst the drought.

In addition, 179 women and youths were informed about the role of the government in extension services, its support for agricultural production, and the importance of climate-resilient crop varieties. A total of 60 farmers, including traditional leaders, women, men, and youths, received training in advocacy and campaigns promoting agroecological practices. These engagements have improved community ownership and participation in agriculture and fisheries.



A total of 30 youths enhanced their knowledge on climate justice, enabling them to champion and raise awareness on climate justice in the fisheries sector against Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). Additionally, through advocacy and lobbying with other CSO's on accessing financial support for agriculture,

government provided K400 million (\$14.2 million) in loans to 3,000 farmers as part of Sustainable Agriculture Financing Facility.



Victim support Unit Sesheke, speaking to the fish men on dangers of sexual exploitation and abuse and offences involved.



Strengthening GBV management in the fisheries sector

Humanitarian Actions

The Global Platform Zambia with support from ActionAid Denmark provided critical support to vulnerable groups, including young women and girls, children, persons with disabilities, and internally displaced persons, mitigating the impact of drought-induced hunger and period poverty while improving household food security.

The intervention has reduced school absenteeism and dropout rates among young girls by addressing period poverty, thereby lowering their risk of infections caused by poor menstrual hygiene. Additionally, the installation of water points has not only offered immediate relief but also strengthened long-term resilience by enabling beneficiaries to engage in gardening and poultry farming, enhancing their ability to withstand future climate shocks.



Cholera Response support



Youth leadership in emergencies



2024 Drought Needs Assessment



Young Women and Women led Needs Assessment



Young women and girls supported with dignity commodities.



Humanitarian assistance to drought affected communities

Further, the Global Platform, supported vulnerable communities with humanitarian relief food, cash and water points to more than 500 households and rights holders affected by the El Nino drought in Gwembe, Sesheke and Nalolo.



Cash Assistance in emergency



Rights holders receive Cash Assistance

In collaboration with DMMU in Gwembe, three (3) youth DRR Satellite Committees were established in three Zones for humanitarian action in emergencies. These committees are helpful in monitoring, data collection and reporting disaster emergencies to aid swift and rapid intervention. Images of the DRR Committees.

AAZ through SPA II supported by ActionAid Denmark supported vulnerable communities with humanitarian relief foods, cash and water points of more than 500 households and rights holders affected by the

El Nino drought in Gwembe, Sesheke and Nalolo.



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Images of the DRR Committees



DMMU Satellite Committee for Chilamba Zone



DMMU Satellite Committee for Kalama Zone

PRIORITY TWO – CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND STATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Under this priority area AAZ conducted several activities including research, capacity building and community dialogue at sub-national, national, and international levels. The following section spotlights our key achievements:

Social Accountability Groups Demand for Improved Service Delivery in Mutenguleni – The case of the installed water point!

The Strengthening Social Accountability and oversight in Health and Agriculture project capacitated the Social Accountability Groups in

Mutenguleni, Chipata with social accountability skills which the members utilised to ensure that funds allocated towards the irrigation system revamping were effectively utilised. Transparent procurement processes and monitoring mechanisms ensured that the project received quality materials and efficient implementation.

Additionally, regular inspections and reporting mechanisms ensured that the project progressed according to schedule and budget. As a result of these advocacy efforts, the community exhibited increased understanding of the social contract – demanding improved service delivery through the installation of a water tank which will service the whole community.



One of the waterpoint at Katintha Health Facility in Mutenguleni

Lobbying for Progressive Taxation and Capacity enhancement for ZRA staff in Mining Tax Audits during the Tax Awareness Workshop

ActionAid Zambia in Collaboration with the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA), USAID, Zambia Association of Manufacturers (ZAM) hosted a Tax awareness workshop which has raised awareness on tax compliance and discuss ways to enhance tax revenue mobilisation. In attendance among others was the Zambia Revenue Authority (ZRA) Commissioner General Mr. Dingani Banda. The workshop was interactive and receptive to the recommendations made by non-state actors.

Commitments were made from ZRA to improve collaboration with other government agencies to reduce costs for SMEs, ensure tax collection is fair for all, and evasion/tax abuse in minimised. During the workshop ActionAid Zambia made a presentation on how Zambia can enhance tax revenue mobilisation and recommended for enhancing capacity of ZRA staff to audit tax compliance of mining firms.



Youths Advocate for Construction of a Staff House at Kaande Health Centre

ActionAid Zambia provided capacity building support to adolescents and young people (members) of the Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) Groups to advocate for the allocation of appropriate funds under the CDF for the construction of health staff house at Kaande health centre in Mongu. Previously, there was a shortage of accommodation for health workers which resulted in dissatisfaction among healthcare workers, affecting their performance and possibly resulting in staff shortages.

Through this capacity building support on social accountability and CDF management, the young people and adolescents successfully lobbied for CDF financing towards the construction of a staff house. A staff house has since been constructed at Kaande health centre. It is envisaged that the

improved living conditions or health workers on account of the staff house will contribute to staff retention and morale, ultimately enhancing the quality of healthcare services provision in the area.

Construction of 1X3 Classroom Block at Litoya Primary School and two Boarding Houses in Nalolo District

ActionAid Zambia handed over school infrastructure worth K1.9 million in Nalolo. The infrastructure included a 1x3 Classroom block at Litoya Primary School and two boarding houses for girls at Muoyo Secondary School and Sianda Combined School. ActionAid Zambia Country Director Faides TembaTemba handed over the infrastructure and reminded the government to ensure that children's right to quality education was guaranteed. She said the donation of the boarding houses will prevent girls from walking long distances to access education.

Nalolo District commissioner Mutandi Mupo received the donation and pledged the government's commitment to supply mattresses and beds to the boarding houses.



AAZ Country Director and Nalolo District Commissioner commissioning a Boarding House at Sianda Combined School, Nalolo District, Western Province

Strengthening Transparency and Accountability in Governance

In 2024, ActionAid Zambia made significant strides in advocating for progressive policies that enhance governance transparency and protect civil liberties. Notably, the launch of the Anti-Corruption Policy marked a milestone in reinforcing state accountability. Additionally, the publication of the research paper “An Analysis of the IMF’s Extended

Credit Facility and Austerity Impacts on Government Policy and Service Delivery” contributed to generating new evidence that informs policy decisions. Increased citizen awareness on public debt management and advocacy efforts led to a notable expansion in the national education budget, demonstrating a commitment to equitable resource allocation. These efforts collectively reinforced the push for greater accountability in public governance.

Empowering Women and Young People in Decision-Making

To further empower women, our efforts played a pivotal role in enhancing civic participation among women and young people, particularly those in marginalised communities. Through targeted engagements, participants gained deeper insights into the systemic barriers affecting access to Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services, particularly for adolescents and persons with hearing impairments. Advocacy efforts resulted in stakeholders pledging to push for disability-inclusive policies and improved legal frameworks. In addition, an orientation on Constituency Development Fund (CDF) empowered women from local NGOs, CBOs, and grassroots movements to enhance state accountability. Tangible outcomes included improved service delivery in Western Province, such as the construction of health staff housing in Kaande and the rejection of substandard construction materials in public projects.



Launch of an ActionAid Study on Austerity in Zambia



Participants in a community dialogue meeting in Kaande, Mongu District, Western Province.



AZ on a panel discussion at the Zambia Anti-Corruption Conference

Promoting Progressive Taxation and Public Finance Transparency

ActionAid Zambia remained at the forefront of advocating for progressive tax and allocation systems to enhance public finance transparency. In preparation for the 2025 National Budget, the organisation actively engaged in tax reform discussions, to ensure government prioritises equitable fiscal policies. Additionally, ActionAid participated in the UN Financing for Development (FFD4) preparatory meetings, where civil society representatives, including Zambia's delegation, contributed to discussions on domestic resource mobilisation, trade, and public debt. Notably, the organisation supported the call for the UN Tax Convention, reinforcing global efforts to combat illicit financial flows. Furthermore, ActionAid participated in an Anti-Corruption Conference panel, where key discussions centered on illicit mining activities and financial transparency in Zambia's extractive industries. These efforts underscored the organisation's commitment to advancing fiscal justice and anti-corruption measures.



ActionAid participates in the CSO Preparation Meeting hosted by CS FFD Mechanism

Strengthening Civic Participation and Leadership

To promote inclusive leadership and civic engagement, ActionAid facilitated Constituency Development Fund (CDF) orientations in Chipata and Lusaka, equipping women and community leaders with the skills to monitor and manage public resources. These engagements led to the successful formation of two watch groups tasked with enhancing transparency and accountability in CDF resource allocation. By fostering active citizen participation, particularly among women, young people, and marginalised groups, these initiatives have strengthened community leadership and ensured greater oversight in public financial management.



PRIORITY THREE

TRANSFORMATIVE YOUTH LED ENGAGEMENTS

This section highlights the key achievements/ results under priority area three (P3) as highlighted below:

Awareness raising and Access to Comprehensive Sexual Education, Health and Sanitation for Adolescents and Youths

During the period under review, AAZ in partnership with I-sanitize promoted awareness and access to comprehensive sexual education, health and sanitation for adolescents and youths. This included conducting capacity building workshops for young girls in schools in Gwembe on menstrual hygiene management and distribution of information packs to redress the knowledge gaps on SRHR and personal hygiene among young people.



A learner demonstrating the use of Menstrual Hygiene Management products during discussions with her fellow

Youths Supported to Commemorate Earth Hour and Show Global Solidarity for Protection of the Earth from Environmental Damage

Youths Supported to Commemorate Earth Hour and Show Global Solidarity for Protection of the Earth from Environmental Damage

As part of global solidarity, ActionAid Zambia, through the Global Platform (GP), mobilised over 100 youths across the country to take part in this commemoration. Earth Hour, a global movement organised by the World Wildlife Fund, is an annual event that encourages individuals, communities, and businesses to dedicate an hour to the planet

by turning off lights as a symbolic commitment to environmental action. The event highlighted the importance of collective action in building a sustainable and resilient world. By participating in this international movement, AAZ not only reinforced its commitment to environmental advocacy but also amplified the impact by broadcasting the event on social media and engaging youth with global commemorations.



Youths Commemorating Earth Hour

Swedish Embassy in Zambia and Zambia Youth Parliamentary Caucus (ZYPC) Pledges More Support Towards Youth Programming Financing and Environmental Protection Advocacy

ActionAid Zambia has been instrumental in the establishment and ongoing support of the Zambia Youth Parliamentary Caucus (ZYPC), which includes Youth MPs and is chaired by Honourable Jean Chisenga, MP for Mambilima. Committed to strengthening youth advocacy at the parliamentary level, ActionAid Zambia has provided capacity-building support on climate justice and climate financing to influence policy change. During the review period, ActionAid Zambia engaged with ZYPC to advocate for the enactment of the Climate Change Bill, the ratification of the African Union Protocol on Social Protection and Peoples' Rights, and an increase in the Environmental Protection sector's budget from 0.8% to 2% in the 2025 National Budget, with Nalolo MP pledging to push for increased climate financing in Parliament. In addition, discussions with Swedish Ambassador Johan focused on Development Cooperation support for youth climate advocacy, leading to the Swedish Embassy, through SIDA, committing to fully fund the Youth Hub Coordinator/Global Platform Coordinator position in the new SIDA project to enhance youth mobilisation efforts.



Amb. Johan Hallenborg and ZYPC Member Nalolo MP Hon. Imanga Wamunyima



Participants pose for a photo during the consultative meeting

Public Lectures on Youth Feminist Public Policies

In line with ActionAid Zambia's commitment to feminist leadership, a public lecture on Youth Feminist Public Policies was held in collaboration with other stakeholders such as UNZABECA, Stop the Bleeding Consortium, Tax Justice Network Africa, and ITUC-Africa. The public lecture aimed to discuss Africa's debt and public financing challenges, focusing on Zambia. It brought together students, activists, experts, and stakeholders, using participatory methods for easy comprehension. Successful coordination and adaptability ensured the symposium achieved its objectives effectively. Many young people appreciated the lecture and noted that they had gained knowledge of tax justice and how countries like Zambia are losing revenue from illicit financial flows.



Public lecture in Progress at the University of Zambia (UNZA)

Hands over of 1x2 furnished classes and Desks to Suulu Community School in Lukulu to improve access and quality of education for young people,

Handover of 1x2 furnished classes and Desks to Suulu Community School in Lukulu to improve access and quality of education for young people,

ActionAid Zambia handed over a newly constructed 1x2 classroom block and 50 desks, worth over K670,000, to Suulu Community School in Lukulu District, Western Province, as part of its commitment to ensuring education is a right, not a privilege. The school, with 226 learners who previously sat on a mud floor, faced challenges such as wet conditions during the rainy season, leading to high absenteeism. During the handover ceremony, Interim Country Director Jovina Nawenzake urged the government to provide teachers' housing and safe drinking water, emphasizing the state's responsibility in delivering education. Acting Lukulu District Administrative Officer Edson Mwansa commended ActionAid for addressing the school's urgent education needs.

ActionAid also supported the Lukulu community by establishing 31 self-sustaining Savings and Internal Lending Communities (SILC) groups that empower women financially.



Get Back to School Campaign Prompts (42) Young People from Gwembe to Get Back to School

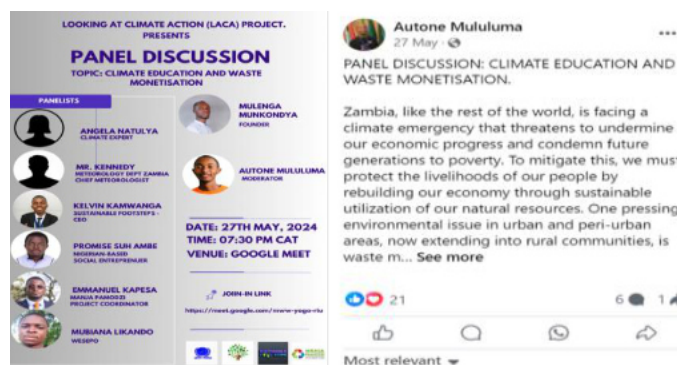
ActionAid Zambia through the Global Platform (GP) supported the Feminist Warriors Movement to conduct the Get Back to School Campaign in Sompani Zone in Gwembe. As a result of the Campaign, 42 young people from Sompani zone (29 females and 13 males) have been reported by the head teacher of the Sompani Zonal School to have been enrolled because of the campaign. Fourteen young Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) (12 females and 2 males) in Simwami zone have also returned to school.



Girls and Young Mothers Attending the Get Back to School Campaign

Youth capacity building in Digital Activism on Climate Justice

ActionAid Zambia through the Global Platform (GP) trained youths on digital activism with focus on Climate Justice. The training covered key areas around messaging for digital activism, climate justice among others. As a result of the training, youth like Autone Maluluma now presents a live radio programme on climate justice on UNZA Radio reaching over five thousand (5000) listeners. Through the radio programme, climate justice has become a topical issue with many listeners calling on government to implement effective climate change mitigation and adaption measures to lessen the devastating effects of climate change such as drought and floods.



Climate Change Radio Programme

Operationalisation of the Access to Information Law Advocacy

Following the support provided by the Global Platform to human rights defenders who called on the government to speed up the process of operationalising the Access to Information Act of 2023, the Zambian Government through the Minister of Information in June 2024, signed a commencement order for the operationalisation of the Act.



News clipping of the signed ATI Act 2023

Training on Development Cooperation in the Post-colonial era

Action Aid through the Global Platform trained eight (8) student volunteers on Development Cooperation in the post-colonial era. The training capacitated youth with knowledge and understanding of global political dynamics and how they affect development cooperation.

This resulted in the development of a recommendation framework to address racism as a challenge faced by student volunteers who are placed in Germany by Bread for the world.



Student volunteers attending training on Development cooperation

Fund our Future Campaign

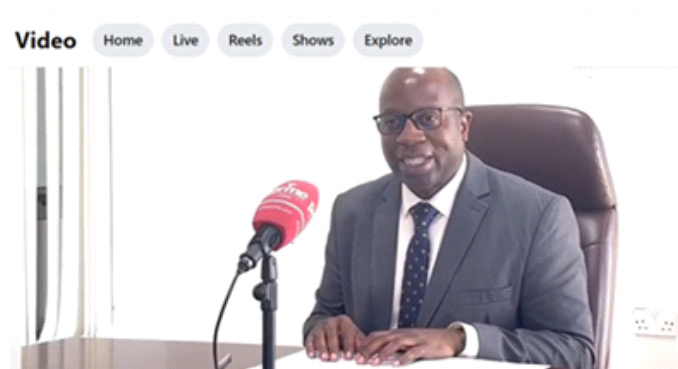
The Global Platform conducted the 'Fund our Future Campaign' through online and offline activities and achieved a total reach of 2,050 youths. The GP collaborated with social movements, individual activists, students, and youth-led organizations. The campaign employed digital organizing strategies and mobilization, utilizing platforms like X, Instagram, Facebook, and WhatsApp to mobilize and engage youth. A petition was also circulated to mobilize youth to act. The campaign triggered online conversations around climate justice, and the importance of raising awareness on environmental sustainability among young people. Environmental sustainability among young people.



Online Campaigners showing their campaign messages

Advocacy for the Enactment of the Climate Change Bill

Zambia, like many African nations, faces a worsening climate crisis characterised by severe droughts, erratic rainfall, and rising temperatures that threaten agriculture, livelihoods, and water security. Recognising the urgent need for systemic solutions, ActionAid worked with a Zambian social movement, Youths for Climate Justice (Y4CJ) that led a campaign '#HowFar' advocating for stronger climate policies which would increase commitment of all actors towards climate change mitigation, adaptation and environmental protection.



Ministry of Green Economy and Environment Permanent Secretary Dr. Douty Chibamba on the Climate Change Bill

Ministry of Green Economy responds to the demonstration by Y4C



	<i>Green Economy and Climate Change</i>	[No. 18 of 2024 281]
	THE GREEN ECONOMY AND CLIMATE CHANGE ACT, 2024	
	ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS	
	PART I	
	Preliminary Provisions	
Section		
1.	Short title and commencement	
2.	Interpretation	
3.	Guiding principles	
	PART II	
	Administration	
4.	Department of Green Economy and Climate Change	
5.	Director, climate change officers, other staff and authorised officers	
6.	Green Economy and Climate Change Council	
7.	Functions of Council	
8.	Green Economy and Climate Change Technical Committee	
9.	Functions of Technical Committee	
	PART III	
	Adaptation and Mitigation	
10.	Development of National Adaptation and Mitigation Plans	
11.	Adaptation and risk reduction	
12.	Mitigation and low emission development	
13.	Sector emission reduction plan	
	PART IV	
	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	
14.	Greenhouse Gas Inventory Management System	
15.	Sources of greenhouse gas data	

Green Economy and Climate Change Act 2024



Youths 4 Climate Justice, a Zambian social movement protests outside the Ministry of Green Economy in April 2024

SUCCESS STORIES



EMPOWERING FISHERFOLKS FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND GBV PREVENTION

For years, the fisherfolk in Mongu, Nalolo, and Sesheke districts have faced immense challenges during the annual fishing ban. Many, unable to find alternative livelihoods, remained in the fish camps illegally, exposing themselves to heightened risks of gender-based violence (GBV), harassment from law enforcement, and economic insecurity.

This cycle perpetuated dependency on fisheries resources and created unsafe environments, particularly for women and girls. However, during the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV campaign, AAZ and its partners introduced a transformative solution that tackled these challenges at their root.

Through the campaign, GBV Watch Committees emphasized safety planning for fisherfolk, advocating for a shift away from the fishing camps during the fishing ban. This message resonated with 50 fisherfolk (35 women and 15 men), who seized the opportunity to be part of a transformative farming initiative that promotes sustainable livelihoods. These individuals joined a group of 300 farmers trained in climate-resilient agricultural practices and transformative land rights, embedded in Zambia's 2021 Land Policy, which champions women's access to land. Many of these women were already members of the Women Land and Resource Rights (WLRR) platform, launched on the final day of the

campaign, further amplifying their collective voice and empowerment. Participants received drought-resistant indigenous seed inputs, such as sorghum, millet, cassava, and non-GMO maize, alongside organic fertilizers and training in sustainable farming techniques.

The initiative goes beyond providing immediate economic alternatives—it fosters long-term change. Further, each beneficiary is tasked and commits to planting five trees (two fruit trees to enhance food security and three indigenous trees to restore ecosystems), creating a positive feedback loop for the environment. This approach reduces dependence on the Zambezi River, allowing fish populations to replenish during the rainy season, while also promoting food security and economic independence for the fisherfolk.

This intervention demonstrates alternatives on how addressing GBV and environmental challenges holistically can create sustainable solutions. By empowering communities with familiar yet transformative tools, the project does not only intend to reduce GBV risks and illegal fishing practices but also ensures that communities are self-sustained, strengthened food security, environmental conservation, and gender equality. With platforms like WLRR providing further advocacy and support, these women and their communities are paving the way for long-term resilience, empowerment, and sustainable development.

SUCCESS STORIES



IMPROVED SERVICE DELIVERY AT CHIKIPULA SCHOOL UNDER FENI

Outcome Description: The construction of a Sick Bay and staff office block at Chikipula School, funded through a combination of Community and Government Constituency Development Funds (CDF), significantly transformed the school's infrastructure and service delivery. The addition of running water, alongside the employment of cleaners and watchmen, greatly enhanced the learning and administrative environment. These improvements led to a more conducive atmosphere for both students and teachers, with increased community engagement observed, as evidenced by frequent visits from education officials. The positive changes were particularly evident during the 2023/2024 period, where the impact of the improved infrastructure, hygiene, and overall school functionality was palpable. The enhancements also extended to nearby villages, contributing to better access to education and an overall improvement in education quality across the broader community. **Project Contribution to Outcome:** The project played a critical role in supporting the local community through capacity building in advocacy, lobbying, and social accountability monitoring.

The Social Accountability Monitoring (SAM) groups in Feni actively ensured that the Constituency Development Funds (CDF) were effectively allocated to improve service delivery at Chikipula School. Through the project's focus on transparent budgeting processes and community consultations, the school's most pressing needs-such as the construction of a sick bay, classroom block, and toilets-were addressed in a way that reflected the priorities of the community. Additionally, the project's monitoring and evaluation mechanisms ensured accountability throughout the implementation process, tracking the progress of the service delivery improvements and ensuring that the allocated funds were used efficiently. This collaborative approach not only enhanced school infrastructure but also strengthened the community's ability to engage in local governance and hold duty bearers accountable for delivering quality public services.

Pupils sick bay (left) and classroom block (right) started by the community members in Feni Community and completed by Constituency Development Fund used for community meetings (one room) and staff room (one room) and two other offices for the Deputy and Senior teacher.



New ablution block for learners and teachers monitored and facilitated by the SAM groups

SUCCESS STORIES

ADVOCACY FOR THE ENACTMENT OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE BILL – YOUTHS 4 CLIMATE JUSTICE

Zambia, like many African nations, faces a worsening climate crisis characterised by severe droughts, erratic rainfall, and rising temperatures that threaten agriculture, livelihoods, and water security. In 2024, the country endured one of its most devastating droughts, with rivers and reservoirs running dangerously low, resulting in food insecurity, water scarcity and energy scarcity, all of which are worsening the wellbeing and livelihoods of people living in poverty, especially women and girls. Recognising the urgent need for systemic solutions, a Zambian social movement Youths for Climate Justice (Y4CJ) led a campaign #HowFar advocating for stronger climate policies which would increase commitment of all actors towards climate change mitigation, adaptation and environmental protection. Their efforts resulted in the enactment of the Green Economy and Climate Change Act of 2024, a legislative milestone aimed at bolstering Zambia's resilience and aligning the nation with global climate commitments such as the 2016 Paris Agreement.

The Act's passage reflects years of advocacy by young activists, environmental organisations, and civil society in pushing for action.

Supported by partners like ActionAid Zambia under the SPa II project, Y4CJ amplified public awareness and pressured policymakers to prioritise the Climate Change Bill. The resulting legislation provides a robust framework for addressing Zambia's climate vulnerabilities by promoting sustainable agricultural practices, enhancing water management systems, and funding renewable energy projects. Notably, the legislation benefits marginalized communities, ensuring that are cushioned of the impacts of the adverse impacts of climate change through the financing of mitigation and adaptation measures for both managing immediate impacts and enabling long term resilience.

Today, the Green Economy and Climate Change Act has the potential to provide guidelines and the much-needed action in Zambia's drought crisis. It supports investments in drought-resistant crops, water conservation technologies, and community-based climate adaptation strategies. By fostering a transition to sustainable practices and creating green jobs, the Act is not only a response to the current crisis but also a blueprint for a resilient, low-carbon future. This achievement underscores the power of youth-led advocacy in driving transformative change and securing a sustainable path for Zambia.



Youths 4 Climate Justice, a Zambian social movement protests outside the Ministry of Green Economy in April 2024

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

INCOME		
Type of Income	2024 Amount in Kwacha	2023 Amount in Kwacha
Individual Giving - Regular	3,557,029.58	14,930,604.00
Philanthropy & Partnerships	164,623.67	6,146,581.00
Institutional	58,418,443.25	32,336,067.00
Other Income	7,480,363.43	12,168,584.00
Total Income	69,620,459.93	65,581,836.00
EXPENDITURE		
	2024	2023
Programme	55,510,238.00	46,239,132.00
Fundraising	1,968,662.72	1,347,584.00
Governance	1,805,702.36	914,432.00
Support	8,289,096.80	11,646,976.00
Total Expenditure	67,573,699.88	60,148,124.00

HIGHLIGHTS



Staff team building activity at the staff retreat



Staff team building activity at the staff retreat



Staff team building activity at the staff retreat



Staff at the annual planning workshop



Project officers conducting an activity in Senega



Youths at the 16 days of activism march-past



Launch of the Austerity Report Study



Human Rights Day commemoration in Chongwe



Int'l day of poverty eradication commemorations



Humanitarian activity in Gwembe



Distribution of drought resistant seeds in Sesheke and Nalolo



State accountability capacity building for young women



Partner learning tour in Lusaka



Partner learning tour in Lusaka



Fish camp visit with partners in Sesheke

HIGHLIGHTS



Young women and girls supported with dignity commodities.



Young Women and Women led Needs Assessment



Humanitarian assistance to drought affected communities



ActionAid Zambia staff and Board members at the staff retreat



CONCLUSION

Through the many achievements highlighted in this report, ActionAid Zambia through its priority areas, environmental sustainability and climate justice, civic participation and state accountability and transformative youth led engagements will continue to support and promote the rights of women, children and young people through various interventions. Many challenges highlighted in this report will provide a learning platform for improvement, adaptation and more evidence-based decision making. ActionAid Zambia also takes pride in nurturing and building other local CSOs and as such, the organizations will continue to work with different partners as we promote the spirit of togetherness. Thank you all and wish you the best in 2025.

APPRECIATION TO OUR SUPPORTERS



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