

September –  
October 2024

act:onaid

# NEWSLETTER



#FundOurFuture!

IN LOVING MEMORY OF EARTH  
AS WE KNEW IT.  
HERE LIES THE PAST, LET'S  
SHAPE THE FUTURE!

ACT NOW BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!

ActionAid Zimbabwe

---

CLIMATE FINANCING  
IN THE GLOBAL  
SOUTH



## THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S WELCOME REMARKS

Joy Mabenge,

ActionAid Zimbabwe Country Director.

Welcome to the September – October 2024 edition of the ActionAid Zimbabwe Newsletter. In this issue, we delve into the pressing issue of climate financing in the Global South, highlighting the urgent necessity to realign our funding priorities to effectively combat the devastating impacts of climate change.

The government of Zimbabwe is making efforts toward a sustainable future, with public policy statements firmly supporting a shift to agroecology. This year, 34% of the agriculture budget is dedicated to empowering farmers to adopt sustainable practices. However, it is critical to note that approximately 50% of this budget still subsidizes industrial agribusiness, underscoring the need to challenge this status quo. ActionAid Zimbabwe is at the forefront of advancing the agroecology agenda in support of our government's effort and as part of the Global Climate Justice Campaign under ActionAid International, advocating for transformative policies that prioritize environmental sustainability and uplift vulnerable communities especially women and youth.

This newsletter also highlights our recent Climate Action Week, a dynamic initiative that mobilised citizens, particularly youth, to demand climate justice. The impactful climate funeral we organized vividly illustrated the urgency of our environmental crisis and called for immediate reforms in climate finance. We extend our gratitude to our partners and community members who united in solidarity for this crucial cause.

As we move forward, we remain resolute in our commitment to championing sustainable practices, equitable financing, and policies that empower communities. Together, we are building a brighter and more resilient future for all.

**Happy Reading!!**



## SUMMARY OF THE AAI REPORT

ActionAid launched the 2nd report of the Global Climate Justice campaign Titled How the Finance Flows: Corporate Capture of Public Finance Fuelling the Climate Crisis in The Global South. The climate crisis is fundamentally about financial flows that currently favour destructive industries over sustainable solutions. ActionAid's research reveals that: ActionAid's new analysis of global data investigates patterns of public financing and finds that:

- Corporate capture of public finance means that each year the climate-destructive fossil fuel and industrial agriculture sectors are getting US\$ 677 billion in subsidies in the Global South. This amount could pay for primary school education for all sub-Saharan African children more than 3.5 times over.
- The industrial agriculture sector in the Global South has been receiving an annual average of US\$ 238 billion in public subsidies every year, in the years between 2016 (when the Paris Agreement was signed) and 2021 (the most recent year with available data). In 2021 this figure came to US\$ 276.4 billion.
- The fossil fuel sector has been receiving an even more shocking annual average of US\$ 438.6 billion a year in publicly financed subsidies from Global South countries between 2016 and 2023. Fossil fuel subsidies have steadily risen over this period, and in 2023 this came to US\$ 495.3 billion.
- Climate finance grants from the Global North for climate-hit countries are still grossly insufficient to support climate action and the necessary transitions. Climate finance grants amount to just 1/20th of the Global South public finance going to fossil fuels and industrial agriculture.
- The lack of real climate finance for solutions in the Global South means that renewable energy is receiving 40 times less public finance than the fossil fuel sector.
- Renewable energy public investment in the Global South comes to an annual average of just US\$ 10.3 billion each year. Even more worryingly, renewable energy investment in the Global South has been on a downward trend, more than halving from US\$ 15 billion in 2016 to US\$ 7 billion in 2021, likely due to the growing number of countries facing debt distress.
- Governments in the Global North continue to disproportionately fuel the climate crisis. Even though the Global North has just one quarter of the world's population, their annual average fossil fuel subsidies came to US\$ 239.7 billion.



This financial misallocation exacerbates inequalities and locks Global South countries into harmful development paths dictated by these extractive industries, which undermine food sovereignty and threaten human rights. As these nations face the immediate impacts of climate change, the urgency for a transition to green, people-led solutions becomes critical. However, debt obligations and the need to generate export revenues for repayment further entrench the fossil fuel and industrial agriculture sectors, limiting countries' ability to pursue sustainable

alternatives. Without a significant shift in public finance toward renewable energy and agroecology, the cycle of climate destruction and poverty will continue, threatening the livelihoods and rights of already marginalized populations.

Zimbabwe has made public policy statements in support of a shift towards agroecology. This shift is starting to show, with 34% of the country's agriculture budget this year estimated to be supporting farmers to adopt practices to help them shift away from climate destructive agrochemicals. However, Zimbabwe is still using approximately 50% of its entire national agriculture budget towards subsidising industrial agribusiness inputs such as fertilisers and hybrid seeds, signaling the industry's continued control over the sector and budget, as well as the potential to free up more public finances for public good.

Countries in the Global South and North must rapidly shift from climate-destructive fossil fuels and industrial agriculture to people-led climate solutions that ensure rights, accountability, and public participation. Public finance should be redirected toward real solutions, focusing on decentralized renewable energy systems and gender-responsive agroecology support. Wealthy nations must provide trillions in grant-based climate finance annually to Global South countries, committing to ambitious goals at COP29. Banks should be required to adopt climate transition plans aligned with a 1.5°C target, ending financing for fossil fuels and harmful agriculture. Additionally, governments must regulate the banking sector to enforce human rights and environmental standards, while wealthy countries and financial institutions implement debt cancellation and support fair global tax rules through a robust UN Framework Convention on Tax.

## ACTIONAID GLOBAL WEEK OF CLIMATE ACTION.



ActionAid Zimbabwe, in collaboration with Global Platforms Zimbabwe, held a powerful week of Climate Action during the Global Week of Action for Climate Finance and a Fossil Free Future, aimed at raising awareness of the urgent need for climate finance and support for loss and damage in Zimbabwe. This initiative emerged from the ActionAid Global Climate Justice Campaign, running under the hashtag #FundOurFuture. The campaign sought to mobilize citizens, particularly the youth, to demand climate justice and accountability from global leaders.

In a bold move, the week of action culminated in a poignant climate funeral held at the ActionAid Zimbabwe Hub in Waterfalls. This creative event highlighted the imminent death of our environment, driven by the greedy actions of neoliberalists and capitalists, while calling for urgent climate finance reforms. The message was clear: “the love of money is the root of all evil.” This event served as both a protest and a call to action, urging world leaders to address climate finance, loss, and damage ahead of COP29. The rallying cry was unmistakable: #StopUsingCapital to #StopBleedingTheWorld.

The funeral drew attendees from various organizations, including the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCCOD), Climate Action Network (CAN), Sisonke Project, and the Zimbabwe Council of Churches. These groups stood in solidarity with ActionAid Zimbabwe and Global Platforms Zimbabwe, reinforcing their commitment to the #FundOurFuture campaign.

As part of mourning planet earth, eulogies were shared by representatives from various organizations and individual climate activists. One voice was that of a survivor of Cyclone Idai, which devastated Chipinge and parts of the Eastern Highlands in Zimbabwe. Her



story served as a reminder of the real and immediate impacts of climate change on communities. She said, “I remember standing where houses once stood, now just a pool of water with bodies floating. One family of five had only one survivor, and I felt helpless to comfort

her. This tragedy shows why we must take climate justice seriously. After the cyclone, many women and girls were forced to sell their bodies to get aid. We cannot overlook the human cost of climate change any longer.”



## ACTIONAID ZIMBABWE AT THE CLIMATE AND HEALTH AFRICA CONFERENCE 2024: A COMMITMENT TO RESILIENCE AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

ActionAid Zimbabwe participated in the Climate and Health Africa Conference 2024 in Harare, committing to the urgent dialogue on the health impacts of climate change, particularly in Africa, where climate-sensitive diseases disproportionately affect communities. This event aligned closely with the findings of ActionAid’s second Global Climate Justice Campaign report and brought together leaders, experts, and stakeholders to explore the complex relationship between climate change and health, emphasizing African solutions.

The conference aimed to foster collaboration, share knowledge, and mobilise actions to mitigate the effects

of climate change on human health, ensuring a healthier and more sustainable future for the continent. AAZ’s presence highlighted the organization’s dedication to building resilience against the various challenges posed by climate change, including health-related issues.

By actively engaging in these critical discussions, AAZ strives to enhance community resilience, promote sustainable health outcomes and continues to advocate for solutions that prioritise the well-being of vulnerable populations in the face of a changing climate.

# SCENES FROM THE CONFERENCE:





## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN: CELEBRATING RESILIENCE AND EMPOWERMENT



*Chief Director of the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development, Lillian Matsika and the Minister of Women Affairs, Community, Small And Medium Enterprises Development Honourable. M. Mutsvangwa taking a tour around Muuyu-Baobab Women's Agroecological Garden*



*Rural Women Assembly women at the Baobab Women's Agroecological Garden.*

The International Day of Rural Women, celebrated annually on October 15, recognizes the vital contributions of women in rural areas to national development. This year's theme, "Rural Women Confront the Global Cost of Living," highlights the challenges they face and their critical role in communities and economies.

In Zimbabwe, over 80% of women live in rural areas, with 70% engaged in agricultural labour. These women significantly contribute to transforming agricultural food systems through farming, food processing, marketing, and natural resource management.



**ActionAid Zimbabwe Rural Women Assembly women showcasing drought-resistant grains they are producing through agroecology.**

During the annual Rural Women’s Day, ActionAid Zimbabwe’s Local Rights Programme (LRP) showcased agroecological crops from women in the Makoni district, demonstrating their resilience in the face of climate change. Women exhibited various seeds, including sorghum, millet, and soya beans, as part of their climate adaptation strategies.

ActionAid Zimbabwe is actively involved in the #FundOurFuture global climate justice campaign, advocating for resources to support vulnerable groups and promoting agroecology as a sustainable alternative to industrial agriculture.

Minister of Women Affairs, Honourable Monica Mutsvangwa during the event emphasised the systemic barriers rural women face, such as limited access to land, which hinder their productivity and economic independence. She noted, “When crop yields decline

due to climate change or economic pressures, women bear the burden to provide for their families and face food insecurity.”

ActionAid Zimbabwe empowers rural women by introducing drought-resistant agroecological crops, enabling them to withstand extreme climate conditions. Hilda Shumbahuru from Hwedza LRP shared, “The use of agroecology has uplifted us economically because it has reduced hunger. As women, we are now able to provide for our families, which I’m grateful for.”

To enhance participation in agroecology, it is crucial to strengthen collaboration with national and international partners focused on rural women’s empowerment. Encouraging Rural Women’s Associations to join empowerment movements can amplify advocacy efforts for women’s rights and improve opportunities for knowledge sharing at the national level.





*Minister Of Women Affairs, Community, Small And Medium Enterprises Development, Honourable. M. Mutsvangwa (Sen) delivering her speech at the International Day of Rural Women commemorations*

## NATIONAL OFFICE

26 Divine Road, Milton Park, Harare

+263-242-788123/5, 776127,

+263-772164449

[info.zimbabwe@actionaid.org](mailto:info.zimbabwe@actionaid.org)

[zimbabwe.actionaid.org](http://zimbabwe.actionaid.org)

[www.facebook.com/ActionAidZimbabwe](https://www.facebook.com/ActionAidZimbabwe)

[www.twitter.com/ActionAidZim](https://www.twitter.com/ActionAidZim)

ActionAid Zimbabwe



## REGIONAL OFFICE

281 Chimurenga Street, Rusape

+263-25-3537,

+263-772395967

For feedback and comments please contact

Felistas Nyamayaro, Communications and Campaigns Officer on

+263771764270 or

[Felistas.Nyamayaro@actionaid.org](mailto:Felistas.Nyamayaro@actionaid.org).