

FOOD SECURITY AND LIVELIHOODS

ACTED supports emergency relief and recovery response with a long-term commitment to improve local communities' access to food and strengthen local capacity for disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

ACTED's core strategy revolves around ensuring that communities are self-sufficient, empowered, and have increased capacity to drive their own development. Active engagement with communities through participatory approaches enables self-identification of needs and priority actions resulting to tailored interventions.

CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMMES

Cash-based response has been at the core of ACTED's programming since 2009. To respond to immediate needs of access to food and non-food items, ACTED through its FSL programme conducts Cash Transfer Programmes (CTP) to the most vulnerable populations in both Somalia and Kenya. This is in the form of restricted and unrestricted cash, with mobile cash transfers being the most popular transfer modality in both countries. ACTED contributes to the improvement of food security by providing financial support to families who are most in need. Direct cash transfers and e-vouchers enable families to access food of their choice while supporting local markets and economies, all while preserving livelihood assets, beneficiary autonomy and dignity.

As of 2017, all ACTED beneficiaries in different regions received cash through mobile money transfer. This process enabled the implementation of projects in hard-to-reach areas, while also ensuring the safety and security of beneficiaries is upheld in areas where the constraints of traditional physical cash distribution system could put the beneficiaries and the organization at increased risk.



RESILIENCE BUILDING

Limited livelihood opportunities contribute to continued food insecurity and reduce coping capacity in the wake of recurrent and frequent climatic and economic shocks.

Through resilience building programming, ACTED works with communities to strengthen their coping mechanisms, preserve existing livelihood assets, create new livelihood opportunities, minimizing the negative impacts of shocks such as, frequent droughts, floods, disease outbreaks conflict, and a lack of essential services like healthcare, education and extension services. The impact of recurrent and increasingly more frequent climatic and economic shocks highlights the importance of sustainably addressing underlying causes of the vulnerabilities in the society. A predictable income creates the safety net/security needed to restore assets and livelihoods.

To improve resilience in the long-term, support is needed at the individual, household, community and local authority levels. This ensures communities have enhanced capacities to better manage future disasters.



LIVELIHOODS

The FSL programme seeks to prioritize and combine where appropriate, CTP and livelihood recovery support. Income generating activities (IGAs) are a source of livelihood crucial to the sustainability of interventions aimed at addressing food insecurity. While food security is enhanced through the provision of a basic income to beneficiaries, the ambition of such programs is to also provide community infrastructure which supports livelihoods in the longer-term.

Through cash for work activities, income generating activities, provision of startup grants, and capacity building activities, ACTED supports the development of the entrepreneurial capacity of households to engage in income generating businesses to sustain their livelihoods as well as diversify household sources of income. IGAs are geared towards the most vulnerable populations, which include women and non-skilled individuals.

ACTED's approach revolves around the involvement of beneficiaries through the creation of livelihood groups, community-mobilization events and active discussion with the participants.



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WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

ACTED has developed strong expertise in this field owing to years of experience (since 2008) implementing WASH programmes in both Kenya and Somalia. ACTED ensures coordination and collaboration with all the relevant stakeholders including beneficiaries, local authorities and other actors in the implementation of projects.

ACTED adheres to SPHERE standards in the design of WASH programmes, and coordinates interventions through bodies such as Somalia WASH cluster, and county governments and the Water and Environment Sanitation Coordination Mechanism (WESCOORD) in Kenya.

Emergency WASH

ACTED's goal is to provide sustainable solutions to the beneficiaries' by providing relief in critical emergency situations. Providing access to safe and affordable water and sanitation is a fundamental human right and is essential to any humanitarian response.



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Sanitation and hygiene promotion

To improve sanitation conditions, ACTED builds appropriate and affordable toilet facilities to ensure safe disposal of human excreta. ACTED ensures the facilities are sex segregated, and communities are sensitized and provided with information, materials, and guidance in order to promote good hygiene practices.

ACTED puts a strong emphasis on good hygiene practices to complement the efforts made to provide clean and safe water and sanitation for communities in need. ACTED distributes hygiene kits, and engages locally identified hygiene promoters to conduct community hygiene promotion sensitization sessions such as food handling practices, good personal hygiene practices, proper disposal of fecal matter and household water treatment and storage.

Through such interventions, ACTED contributes towards reducing the outbreak of WASH related diseases such as acute watery diarrhea, typhoid, dysentery and cholera.

Rehabilitation of water infrastructure

In line with the WASH cluster recommendations, ACTED provides reliable and sustained access to safe, clean and affordable water by rehabilitating strategic water points such as boreholes, shallow wells, berkads, water pans and water tanks to reach as many people as possible.

ACTED relies on community-based participatory targeting and selection of WASH assets to be rehabilitated. This ensures that critical assets are identified, and the intervention is contextualized to specific WASH needs of the communities.

ACTED facilitates formation and training of representative Water Management Committees who take over the maintenance of rehabilitated assets. They are provided with tool kits needed for future maintenance work on assets to ensure sustainability of safe water production.

