

# Agency For Cooperation In Technical And Economic Development

ACTED – an Indian Section 8 company

Program strategy 2018-2022

### **ACTED's History**



#### WHO WE ARE

The Agency For Cooperation In Technical And Economic Development (ACTED), a Section 8 company, was founded in 2016 with the objective of supporting vulnerable populations of India and accompanying them in the construction of a better future.

#### **OUR BACKGROUND**

The Section 8 company was conceptualized out of the long term presence of the French INGO, ACTED, - with the two founding members of the French organization also being part of the managing board of the Section 8 company. **The INGO has been present in India since the immediate aftermath of the 2004 Tsunami**, initially providing **emergency relief and recovery** to the hardest hit areas of Tamil Nadu, Bihar, West Bengal and Assam. In subsequent years, the INGO's focus shifted more to the north of India **providing emergency intervention and preparedness activities** to vulnerable communities. In more recent years, the INGOs focus moved towards the **strengthening of civil society** in North East India.

### **ACTED's Focus**

- Emergencies and disasters
- Water, sanitation and hygiene
- Livelihoods
- Education



### Our vision and core values



### 1. Emergencies and disasters

#### OUR **GOAL**: RESPONDING TO EMERGENCIES AND REDUCING VULNERABILITY TO DISASTERS



We work hand in hand with the local populations to increase their preparedness to disasters through ecological and community-based disaster risk reduction plans. We engage the government in defining details of emergency preparedness plans in order to reduce the population's vulnerability to natural hazards. After a natural disaster, ACTED works to provide essential support for the most vulnerable households to get back to normal life.



### 1. Emergencies and disasters

- Responding to natural disasters by providing lifesaving assistance
- Training village disaster management committees on their roles and responsibilities before, during and after a disaster
- Facilitating communities to develop disaster risk management plans and their inclusion in district and state Disaster Management Plans
- Raising awareness amongst school children and communities about how to respond to potential disasters in their community
- Facilitating local authorities to access government funds for disaster risk reduction



## 2. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

#### OUR GOAL : IMPROVED HEALTH FOR ALL

We work with communities and local **authorities to improve access to safe water and sanitation facilities** including the promoting of good hygiene practices. As with all our actions, we stop and think twice about **the needs of girls and women**. For example at ACTED, we work for gender equality when constructing school and community toilet blocks, **building separate spaces for women and girls with appropriate facilities**, including water supply and receptacles for discarded sanitary pads.



## 2. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Providing access to safe drinking water in schools and public buildings
- Constructing toilets in schools and community toilet blocks, taking into consideration the specific needs of girls and boys, women and men, as well as people with disabilities
- Promoting safe hygiene practices amongst school children and communities





### 3. Livelihoods

#### OUR GOAL: MAKING LOCAL BUSINESSES GROW



To fight the imbalance between rural/urban economies, and formal/informal markets, we at ACTED work to **bring new opportunities to unskilled workers and local businesses**. In this way, ACTED is working to transform an informal workforce into **skilled entrepreneurs**, ready to meet the demands of the country. We believe in the potential of those who are often forgotten but striving to escape poverty and **encourage entrepreneurship** among those who have yet to be given a chance to reach their full potential.



### 3. Livelihoods

- Conducting value chain assessments of local markets and facilitating micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and self-help groups (SHGs) to develop individual business plans
- Supporting fish farming and kitchen gardening livelihood activities
- Promoting business registration, licensing and certification of MSMEs
- Building the business management, technical and marketing capacities of MSMEs
- Raising awareness of environmental sensitivity and equal employment opportunities amongst the private sector





#### OUR GOAL: IMPROVING ACCESS TO EDUCATION



ACTED understands that poverty can become an insurmountable obstacle to education. Vulnerable households who already struggle to have enough food every day or even a shelter to spend the night, simply cannot bear the cost of buying books, stationery, transport and meals for their children to attend school. That is why **we support the most vulnerable households** to lower down the costs of education: we **provide school kits with books**, **school bags**, **shoes and shirts** to make sure that poverty does not hindered children from reaching their full potential.



### 4. Education

- Providing school kits (bags, stationery, books) to the most vulnerable children and students
- Providing bicycles to the most vulnerable students in order to reduce barriers to school attendance
- Providing sports, arts and music equipment to underprivileged schools to promote diversified education
- Ensuring schools have access to safe water and sanitation facilities



### Our team

The Governing Body:





Parag Gupta | Promoter



Mrinal Talukdar | Promoter

#### The Board of Directors:



Marie-Pierre Caley Director



Frederic <u>Roussel</u> Director



Jagrīti Roy Managing Director





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