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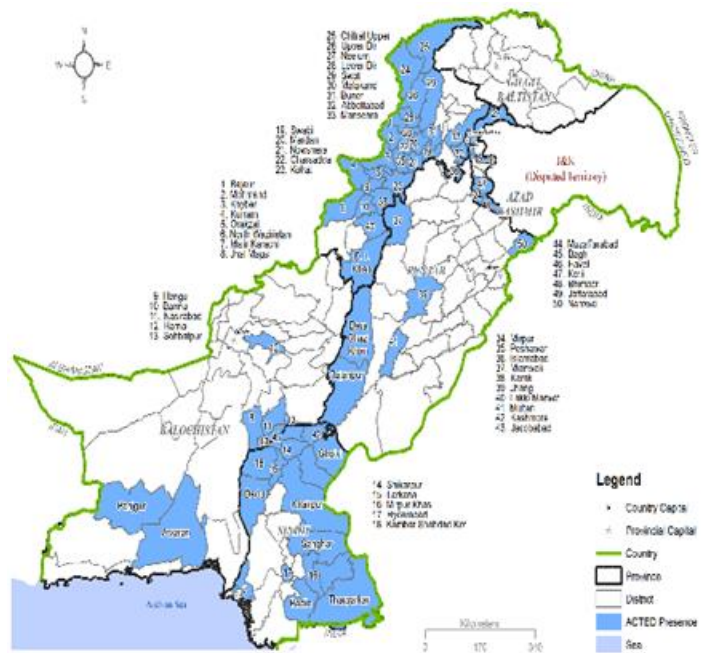
Acted Pakistan **COUNTRY PROFILE**



Organizational Overview

Acted has been actively engaged in Pakistan since 2005, providing humanitarian assistance and supporting development opportunities through a diverse range of emergency and development programs. Acted has scaled up its interventions in the country after the 2005 earthquake and, since then, Acted's programmes have ranged from **rapid emergency responses to recovery and rehabilitation initiatives - including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Education, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), Climate Change and Adaptation and Shelters and Non-Food Items (NFIs), working towards climate resilience and longer-term development objectives.**

As of 2024, Acted has reached **2.8 million households (representing over 20 million individuals)** and has implemented 210+ projects across the four provinces of the country. To achieve such reach, Acted has worked with a wide array of donors including, most notably, The Directorate-General of European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID – BHA), European Union (EU) member delegations, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Crisis and Support Centre of the French Embassy (CDCS), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations (UN) Agencies including UN Habitat, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), World Food Program (WFP), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and local governmental bodies as well.



Acted's Programmatic Strategy 2023 – 2025

Acted's Country Strategy for 2023-2025 is structured around four interlinking pillars, which together seek to address some of the most critical humanitarian and developmental needs in the country, while capitalizing on Acted's organizational strengths and expertise. These include, **Sustainable livelihoods (Pillar 1)**, **Education (Pillar 2)**, **Disaster Preparedness, Response and Resilience (Pillar 3)**, and lastly **Urban Resilience (Pillar 4)**.

Pillar 1 – Sustainable Livelihoods focuses on addressing Pakistan's extreme vulnerability to climate change



Picture 2: Tunnel Farming in Sindh (Credit: Acted)

and key socio-economic challenges to build the long-term resilience and self-reliance of the country's most vulnerable communities. Under this pillar, Acted's interventions **promote climate resilience and inclusive socio-economic development** across the country. Through initiatives such as its **global flagship THRIVE** (Towards Holistic Resilience in Vulnerable Environments) initiative, Acted supports regenerative agricultural practices and fosters a shift towards a **climate-resilient, "green" economy** by promoting sustainable on and off-farms livelihoods (i.e., climate-smart agriculture

and livestock management, and TVET) while empowering MSMEs in line with the circular economy principles.

Furthermore, drawing from its global **Enterprise Capacity Assessment Tool (ECAT)** and as a part of its sustainable livelihood strategy, Acted provides tailored support to micro- and small businesses, with a specific focus on environmental sustainability and greening their operations. Through this approach, Acted caters to capacity development and growth needs through tailored skill development training coupled with market and business linkages building initiatives with key stakeholders, including government institutions and the private sector.

Pillar 2 – Education aims to enhance access to formal and non-formal education (NFE), including early childhood education, post-primary and secondary education, and on incorporating TVET skills training for youth and women development and empowerment in districts presenting the lowest literacy rates. The Education Sector stands out as one of the most critical areas requiring attention in Pakistan. Acted has taken significant strides by implementing interventions aimed at sustainably enhancing children's access to education and safe learning environments.



Picture 3: Children Engaged in Educational Activity in Balochistan, Pakistan (Credit: Acted)

Since 2017, Acted has successfully executed more than eight large-scale and multi-year education initiatives, supported by a wide range of donors, including the European Union (EU), the Crisis and Support Center of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs (CDCS), Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), among others. Designed either as an **emergency response or a longer-term intervention**, these have contributed to enhancing children's access to education via formal and non-formal education approaches while strengthening the resilience of the education system and communities it serves through targeted technical assistance campaigns and awareness-raising.

Designed as a standalone or an integrated response, Acted's intervention strategy to foster education focuses on supporting the enrollment of **Out-of-School Children (OOSC)**, **quality formal and non-formal educational program support** for both primary and secondary levels, **innovative teacher training programs**, **basic Literacy and Numeracy** transitioned into vocational training programs, **Climate-Smart Education program**, **whole school improvement plans** (including rehabilitation of schools and WASH services), as well as integrate robust **Child Protection measures**.

Pillar 3 – Preparedness, Response and Recovery

addresses Pakistan's extreme vulnerability to climate-induced natural disasters including floods, drought, heatwaves and earthquakes among others. The core strategy for this pillar is to focus on **preparing for, responding to, and recovering from crises** and draws on Acted's long-standing expertise and field experience. Since 2005, Acted has implemented over 54 DRR interventions, reaching over 4 million beneficiaries. These initiatives ranged from working with local communities and authorities to build capacities on hazard mapping; developing disaster management and contingency plans and establishing Village Disaster Management Councils (VDMCs);



Picture 4: Beneficiaries engaged in Cash for Work Activity in District Swat, KP in 2014 (Credit: Acted)

prepositioning essential supplies; and establishing sound Early Warning Systems (EWS) to enhance local disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Acted's DRR programmatic strategy is spread throughout **all phases of an emergency cycle (mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery) to foster climate resilience at individual, community and system level**. Designed as localized or large-scale interventions, all Acted's DRR projects systematically engage all relevant key stakeholders, from national to village/Union Council (UC) level, to identify and assess specific disaster risks and vulnerabilities and deliver tailor-made and locally grounded solutions.

Over the last 20 years, Acted has been one of the first respondents in every major emergency across hard-to-reach areas in Pakistan, including most recently:

- **Earthquake Emergency Response in Kashmir, 2019**

- **Drought, Locust Attack and Heatwave Response in Sindh, 2019-2020**
- **Winter Emergency Response in Kashmir, 2020**
- **Flood Response in Sindh, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021**
- **The COVID-19 Pandemic** through an Integrated Approach (FSL, WASH, Shelter, Health, and Cash Assistance) in KP and Sindh, 2020-2022
- **Flood Response** in KP, Sindh and Balochistan, 2022
- **Floods, Drought and Heatwave Preparedness/Anticipatory Response** in Sindh, 2023 – 2024

Pillar 4 – Urban Resilience aims to address the multifaceted challenges of urban poverty in Pakistan, with around 38% of the population currently living in urban settings (World Bank, 2023). In densely populated and under-resourced urban and peri-urban areas, individuals face multilayered vulnerabilities due to overcrowding, poor sanitation, systemic exclusion and the impact of climate change, such as urban flooding.

Acted's 3Zero cities approach emphasizes an area-based strategy that engages a diverse range of local stakeholders to bolster urban resilience and build climate-adaptive and climate-resilient communities. Emphasizing local knowledge Acted works with civil society and local authorities to assess and address urban vulnerabilities, focusing on an integrated approach to poverty, carbon reduction, climate adaptation and exclusion. Acted's interventions focus specifically on improving the living conditions of the most at-risk and marginalized communities.



Picture 5: Acted's Winterized Climate-resilient Shelter Model in Karachi for an DFID-funded Initiative in 2020 (Credit: Acted)

More specifically, Acted's urban programmes strive to enhance **public services and infrastructure**, such as sanitation (drainage and waste management), while supporting sustainable and inclusive housing solutions. This includes the promotion of climate-responsive practices, including green building retrofits, energy efficiency and eco-friendly construction methods to reduce the carbon footprint and mitigate disaster risks. Another key area of intervention is **educational access**. Identifying and supporting OOSC to access education is a key priority for Acted to tackle urban exclusion, while incorporating climate education and

literacy to foster environmental stewardship among youth.

A third key component is **protection and rights awareness raising**. Acted maps risks and services in targeted neighborhoods, raising awareness about rights, particularly regarding labor exploitation in informal and domestic sectors. The aim is to link with inclusive, sustainable livelihoods approaches to offer income-generation opportunities free from exploitation. Partnering with volunteer networks and private sector actors and in line with **its 3 Zero House Flagship Initiatives**, Acted is planning to establish 3Zero Community Centres as hubs for social activism and 3Zero hubs for climate-smart entrepreneurs, providing assistance,

essential services, rights education and climate awareness initiatives to urban residents. Through collaborative and locally driven efforts, Acted’s urban resilience strategy integrates climate mitigation and adaptation measures to foster resilient and inclusive urban communities across Pakistan.

Acted’s Flagships Initiatives

Acted’s global flagship initiatives are key programmatic efforts aimed at achieving the 3Zero goals—Zero exclusion, Zero carbon, and Zero poverty. These initiatives use innovative and cross-sector approaches to tackle global challenges. By integrating various sectors, flagship initiatives promote collaborative, sustainable, and impactful solutions that address interconnected issues, driving systemic change and advancing Acted’s broader mission for a more equitable and environmentally sustainable future.

Towards Holistic Resilience in Vulnerable Environment (THRIVE)

The **THRIVE Flagship** Initiative to build holistic, climate-resilient and long-term community resilience. THRIVE addresses the growing challenges of climate change by integrating climate adaptation and mitigation strategies across its programmatic areas. Centered on the interactions between livelihoods; ecosystems; and



Picture 6: Beneficiary Showing his Seedlings in his Own Nursery in District Jhang, Punjab, in 2017 (Credit: Acted)

markets, it is comprised of three mutually reinforcing programmatic areas: **REVIVE** which champions nature-based solutions to restore ecosystems functions and productivity, **EMERGE** which builds on REVIVE to promote market- and business-development with a focus on green and climate-resilient enterprises that support sustainable livelihoods and contribute to a low-carbon economy, while **INTEGRATE** promotes social cohesion through community engagement and exchanges on resource management, incorporating climate education to empower communities to manage their resources sustainably in the face of climate challenges.

Grassroots Organizational Capacity Assessment (GOCA)

Through its **GOCA Flagship initiative**, Acted is supporting Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) across the country to strengthen governance, enhance sustainability, build institutional capacities and integrate climate resilience into their operations. This initiative ensures that local actors are empowered to lead in their communities with robust climate-adaptive strategies policies and better management practices, positioning them to address both local challenges and the impacts of climate change effectively.

The GOCA initiative provides a **structured framework to assess the strengths and weaknesses of CSOs**, enabling them to identify areas where they can improve their effectiveness in responding to humanitarian and development challenges. Ultimately, GOCA aims to build the capacity of CSOs to manage funds, sub-grants, and resources efficiently while adhering to industry standards, risk management, gender mainstreaming, and protection measures, making them credible and reliable partners for humanitarian and development initiatives.

GOCA targeted the **5 key areas of the organization**, including:

1. Governance and Administration
2. Organizational Management
3. Project Cycle Management
4. Financial Management
5. External Relations

By applying the GOCA methodology and through close monitoring, knowledge sharing, and training, Acted has developed valuable expertise in supporting its partners across its countries of intervention, including in Pakistan where it operates since 2005. To date, Acted has partnered with **18 CSOs from across Pakistan**, to jointly implement its programming. By ensuring their sustainability and effectiveness in delivering support and services to communities in need, Acted is committed to advance the localization agenda in Pakistan to leverage expertise and synergies with grassroots actors in its areas of intervention.



Picture 7: Capacity-building of CSOs under GOCA Flagship Initiative in Islamabad, in February 2024 (Credit: Acted)



Picture 8: Community Mobilization Efforts in District Swat, KP in 2013 (Credit: Acted)

The 3ZERO House

Powered by Acted, the **3ZERO House (3ZH)** is planned to be launched in 2024-2025 and will serve as dynamic, inclusive, and sustainable hubs that aim to facilitate and accelerate local partnerships, innovations, and solutions dedicated to the realization of a 3ZERO world. These spaces **foster collaboration among various stakeholders**, including local social and environmental enterprises, civil society organizations (CSOs), youth, and other changemakers.

The primary goal of the **3ZH** is to **accelerate a fair social and ecological transition** within a country for

a 3Zero Pakistan. This is achieved by integrating efforts to alleviate poverty, lower carbon footprints, and foster inclusivity, thereby promoting sustainable development in underserved local communities.

Key Partnerships

Throughout all its interventions, Acted is actively **engaging national and international humanitarian and development partners**, through national and provincial coordination forums (such as the Pakistan Humanitarian Forum (PHF) and the National Humanitarian Network (NHN), as well as with various Working Groups (WGs), including DRR, WASH, Cash, Accountability to Affected People (AAP) and Education WGs, to foster synergies and share knowledge and expertise.

Additionally Acted works closely with **government authorities and agencies** with whom Acted has built valued and long-standing partnerships from the local to the national level, as well as key partners from the **Private Sector**. These collaborations are **central to ensuring effective coordination and response** in humanitarian and development endeavors. This extensive network of partnerships and working group memberships enables Acted to drive impactful, sustainable change in Pakistan.

National Level Engagement

At the national level, Acted collaborates closely with key institutions across Pakistan to enhance the sustainability and impact of all of its interventions including: National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC), and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority (TEVTA) and the National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), National Commission for Human Development (NCHD), provincial Elementary and Secondary Education Departments, Social Welfare Departments, among others. These partnerships span provincial and federal levels, **aligning with government priorities and national development strategies**.



Acted also partners with **over 20 implementing partners and national NGOs**, including members of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), to ensure the effective implementation and sustainability of projects.

Provincial & District Level Engagement

At the provincial and district levels, Acted actively engages with key stakeholders and relevant provincial and sectoral district line departments. These departments include the Provincial Disaster Management Authorities (PDMA), District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMA), the Directorate of Education, the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Sindh Education Literacy Department (SELD), Sindh Education Foundation (SEF), KP Education Department (KP-EF), and Balochistan Education Foundation (BEF), among many others. By fostering these partnerships, Acted **strengthens institutional capacities, enhances coordination, and refines emergency response mechanisms**. These efforts ensure that Acted’s interventions are integrated within national frameworks, fostering resilience across all levels of governance.



Picture 8: MoU Signing Ceremony with the National Commission for Human Development (NCHD) in Islamabad, (Credit: Acted)

Village & Union Council Level Engagement

At the village and Union Council level, Acted collaborates closely with local authorities to ensure that **its initiatives are tailored to the unique needs and challenges** of each targeted area. By building strong relationships with UC and municipal governments, Acted customizes its interventions to **address localized risks and capitalize on indigenous knowledge**. This localized approach not only increases the effectiveness of Acted’s initiatives but also guarantees their sustainability and scalability for long-term impact.



Picture 10 9: Engaging Communities using Participatory Rural Approaches (PRA) for WASH Awareness-raising Session, District Kashmore, in 2024 (Credit: Acted)



acted

ZERO EXCLUSION
CARBON
POVERTY

Email: islahabad@acted.org

Phone: +92 (0)51 8313022 / 24

Address: House 59, Orchard Road, Orchard Scheme,
Murree Road, Islamabad, 44 000