Gender equality is a fundamental aspect of both ACTED’s values and strategy. We recognize gender equality and inclusion as key drivers for sustainable development, community-wide resilience and peace.

ACTED knows that the only way to create sustainable development and build long-lasting peace in a country of intervention is to engage the whole community. Instead of excluding individuals due to their gender, disability, age, etc., ACTED celebrates the multiple identities that shape the experiences and lives of our beneficiaries. As part of the Global Alliance for a Zero Exclusion, Zero Carbon, Zero Poverty world, we believe that gender equality and inclusion are essential elements to any programming.

Whether through disaster relief, civil society initiatives or sustainable development programming, gender equality features strengthen the long-term impact of any intervention. Women often face the most significant barriers to exercising their rights among excluded or vulnerable groups, leaving them more exposed to threats like climate change, conflict, gender based violence and economic disempowerment. This is why ACTED is seeking to include gender equality features in all aspects of our programming. Wherever we work, ACTED seeks to engage and empower women and girls through education, access to health care, WASH services, economic opportunities, constructing effective governance and more.

ACTED’S GENDER STRATEGY

GENDER EQUITY

One part of a strategy to achieve gender equality is gender equity. A gender equity approach is the deliberate process of being fair in order to produce equal and measurable outcomes. Gender equity results in fairness of treatment for women and men, according to their respective needs.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Gender mainstreaming is the integration of the gender perspective into every stage of the project cycle management - design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation - and within the organization. Gender mainstreaming is not a goal in itself but rather a means to achieving equality. Similarly, it is not concerned only with women, but in improving the relationship and power dynamics between women and men for the benefit of both.

INCLUSION

Inclusion is the process of all persons participating equally in the economic, political and social fabric of society without disadvantage based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability status. This requires understanding and addressing the root causes of exclusion. Inclusion involves improving the opportunities available to those who are vulnerable and excluded on the basis of the social groups they identify with or are associated with. Fully functional inclusion means that all persons and groups are valued equally.
MAKING PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY

While some forms of discrimination against women and girls are diminishing, gender inequality continues to hold women back, depriving them of basic rights and opportunities. Empowering women requires addressing structural issues such as unfair social norms and attitudes, as well as developing progressive legal frameworks that promote equality between women and men. As part of ACTED’s 3Zero Agenda for 2020, we are striving for Zero Exclusion and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 5, gender equality and the empowerment all women and girls.

WHO estimates that one in three women worldwide will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. Domestic violence is one of the biggest threats to women’s physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health and accounts for nearly 40% of female homicides.

In Uzbekistan, this threat against women is still considered culturally as a personal affair, and not as a crime or public health crisis. In response, ACTED is implementing an EU-funded project to enhance women’s rights through increased protection and self-employment. A pilot assessment is measuring vulnerability to domestic violence in different rural communities across the country. Through this assessment, ACTED hopes to identify the regions where women are at the greatest risk while defining the risk factors themselves.

ACTED Pakistan has launched a pilot project to promote sustainable solutions for women’s empowerment, through trainings in a not so traditional sector for Pakistani women: solar energy. ACTED’s 54 trainees have become the first female solar technicians in Pakistan, and 18 have already secured employment in the solar energy sector.

The training not only provides women with new and better opportunities, but also supports the community with increased energy access.

With their new technical skills, women are empowered to engage in a number of trades and earn their own money. Trainees believe that they can inspire other women to learn and achieve more.