

ACTED 2021 SDG IMPACT REPORT



ACTED

ZERO EXCLUSION
CARBON
POVERTY



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT **GOALS**

In 2021, ACTED implemented **528 projects in 40 countries** around the world, reaching **more than 18 million people** with assistance. In line with our 2020-2025 programme strategy, all of the projects implemented by ACTED globally seek to work towards a world with **Zero Exclusion; Zero Carbon; and Zero Poverty**, contributing towards the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

In order to better understand the impact of ACTED's work around the world, and the contributions made by our teams on the ground

towards the SDGs, ACTED's independent Appraisal, Monitoring, and Evaluation Unit (AMEU) collects and analyses data on every ACTED project, each year, measuring our progress against 26 standardised indicators, which are aligned to the SDGs. In this way, we can better understand the impact that our programming has on the communities that we serve, and can identify areas where we need to strengthen our focus to achieve the targets of the Goals.

This publication is a summary of ACTED's contributions towards the SDGs in 2021.

IN 2021, ACTED REACHED **18.2 MILLION** BENEFICIARIES IN **40** COUNTRIES.

SDG 1

NO POVERTY



10.1M crisis-affected people supported to cover their needs

2.18M people supported with **€55.6M** in cash and vouchers

168,000 people increased their income

8.1M people acquired access to basic services



SDG 2

ZERO HUNGER



866,000 people received emergency food aid

SDG 5

GENDER EQUALITY

9.2M women and girls supported in 2021

SDG 6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

6.5M beneficiaries of water, sanitation and hygiene activities and **26,500** WASH facilities built or restored

SDG 8

DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

2,635 micro, small and medium enterprises supported

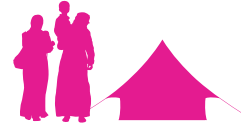
SDG 9

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

1,521 green infrastructure units built, rehabilitated and/or retrofitted

SDG 10

REDUCED INEQUALITIES



1.4M displaced people supported with camp management activities in **503** camps and sites

SDG 11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

215,300 people live in adequate shelter or housing

SDG 12

RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

102,188 people engaged in campaigns for sustainable development and on fighting climate change

SDG 13

CLIMATE ACTION

538,600 people with increased capacity to deal with climate change

SDG 15

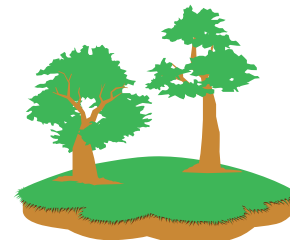
LIFE ON LAND

1,623 hectares of land regenerated

SDG 17

PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

1,518 Civil Society Organisations and government institutions supported



1 NO POVERTY



10,133,581 disaster/crisis-affected individuals supported by ACTED with relevant assistance covering their basic needs

2,179,853 individuals who obtained support in the form of cash/vouchers

250 million people around the world were in need of humanitarian assistance and protection in 2021. In the face of such overwhelming needs ACTED continued in its commitment to supporting the most vulnerable people around the world, in disaster and crisis settings. This work encompassed responding to new emergencies, such as the August 2021 earthquake in Haiti, as well as continuing to support communities living in protracted crises, such as in Syria, to meet their basic needs.

In Haiti, following the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit the west of the island in August 2021, ACTED's teams on the ground were able to pivot ongoing interventions to provide immediate support to the most affected communities. This included providing food, shelter, and access to safe water and sanitation across the Sud and Grand'Anse regions, benefitting over 907,000 people. In Ethiopia, as the crisis in Tigray intensified in 2021, ACTED rehabilitated water supply systems to ensure safe access to drinking-water for crisis-affected communities; as well as constructing latrines and handwashing facilities to cover the sanitation needs of people who had been displaced. Together, these activities supported over 39,000 people.

In protracted crises, ACTED continued to work with communities affected by longer-term issues to meet their essential needs. In Bangladesh, this work centred on displacement sites, where ACTED improved conditions



in camps, such as by protecting shelters against adverse weather conditions, and by cleaning and maintaining drainage systems. In the face of the extreme economic crisis in Venezuela, ACTED supported affected families to meet their basic needs by providing water treatment and hygiene kits, as well as by carrying out important repair works to water and sanitation facilities in community centres in Caracas. In Syria, ACTED supported over 2.6 million people affected by the 10 years' of civil war to meet their basic needs. This included projects focussing on improving WASH conditions, providing shelter support, and emergency cash.

Cash forms a key part of ACTED's programming in many crisis contexts. In line with the commitments of the 'Grand Bargain', ACTED prioritises providing cash assistance over in-kind support, wherever markets are functional, and it is safe and

feasible to do so. In 2021, this resulted in ACTED implementing Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) in 28 countries, reaching a total of 2,179,853 people with 55.6 million euros. In Yemen, for example, in order to avert famine, ACTED provided cash to over 130,000 people, through mechanisms such as Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), delivered through a Financial Service Provider (FSP), Cash for Work (CFW), and food vouchers. Similarly in Burkina Faso, ACTED provided cash support to almost 100,000 people who had been displaced as a result of the ongoing conflict, to help them meet a range of needs – including food assistance, and cash for shelter kits and non-food items (NFI). In Pakistan, ACTED distributed cash to over 112,000 people, in multiple locations across the country, including to families facing chronic food insecurity, and in the form of shelter grants to families whose homes had been damaged during flooding.



865,998 individuals obtained adequate quantity and quality of emergency food rations

In contexts of rapid onset emergencies, long-term displacement, or communities facing chronic underdevelopment issues, ensuring the food security of the most vulnerable is always a priority. To this end, in support of SDG #2 in 2021, ACTED carried out food security interventions in 18 countries, reaching a total of 865,998 people.

In Chad, where 1.8 million people live in severe food insecurity, ACTED supported over 58,000 people with emergency food assistance in 2021. This support was comprised of both in-kind distribution of food, including cereals, pulses, cooking oil, and salt, in areas where markets were not functional or accessible, and cash assistance, in places where food markets were safe and easy to reach. Alongside the distributions of cash and food, ACTED carried out awareness-raising sessions for the target communities, on good food and nutrition practices; breastfeeding; and infant and young child feeding. ACTED also carried out a targeted nutrition intervention, for babies aged between 6-23 months. Nutritionally fortified flour called was distributed to parents, and it was explained how this could be used to make a highly nutritious porridge, suitable for undernourished infants. Given the high prevalence of malnutrition among the target communities, ACTED screened over 24,000 children for malnutrition, and provided referrals to specialist services for acutely malnourished children.

In Iraq, in districts previously beset

by conflict, ACTED's teams aimed to help target communities to recover from the negative consequences of conflict and strengthen their food security in the long-term, by re-establishing essential livelihoods assets, and promoting the sustainable management of natural resources, to reduce climate risks and increase community resilience. ACTED trained farmers on climate-smart agriculture techniques, rehabilitated irrigation canals and water ponds, constructed barriers to act as flood defences for agricultural lands, and planted over 15,500 trees.

In the extremely fluid context of regular outbreaks of violence in DRC, ACTED's rapid response teams ensured they were able to provide essential food assistance to affected communities, whenever there was a spike in the conflict. Once a displacement alert was issued, ACTED's emergency response teams were deployed to conduct a rapid assessment. Whenever food needs were identified as a priority, ACTED carried out a market analysis to better understand which modalities of food assistance – cash or in-kind – would be most appropriate in each situation. In cases where the risk of inflation was too high, or where infrastructure issues, such as a lack of roads, prevented the population from safely accessing food markets, ACTED carried out direct in-kind food distributions. Alongside these distributions, ACTED provided training sessions to improve the nutritional knowledge of the local population, and to promote healthy feeding behavior and nutrition and hygiene

practices, while helping people to identify the causes and symptoms of malnutrition. In total, ACTED supported nearly 160,000 people with emergency food assistance in DRC in 2021.

In other contexts, where displacement is prolonged, ACTED worked to provide more sustainable food support. For example, in Sudan, ACTED installed five flour milling grinder machines in camps hosting refugees from Tigray, Ethiopia, taking care of all operation and maintenance, to provide families with an opportunity to grind cereals on a weekly basis, to manage their own food needs in a sustainable way.





9,268,174 women and girl supported in 2021

Women, men, boys, and girls are affected differently in crisis and conflict settings, and face different challenges in their daily lives. Women are often the hardest hit in a crisis, as they tend to have fewer economic and social resources to draw on than men, and face specific vulnerabilities in contexts where gender norms restrict access to livelihoods opportunities. Women, girls, and boys are at particular risk of violence in displacement settings. For these reasons, ACTED applies a Gender Transformative Approach (GTA) to its programming, and is committed to empowering women and girls through all of its projects.

In Uzbekistan in 2021, ACTED focused on specific vulnerabilities linked to Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). Starting at the government and legislative level, ACTED ran a series of trainings for representatives from key ministries on gender issues, including the international obligations of the Republic of Uzbekistan on human rights and gender equality, and the practical application of gender equality legislation within the country. In parallel, ACTED engaged stakeholders such as police officers, CSOs, and journalists, in a series of advocacy meetings and roundtable discussions on VAWG, including the importance of providing high-quality social and legal services to women who have suffered from domestic violence.

In Ukraine, ACTED focused its efforts on women's economic empowerment, and increased participation of women and girls in

the local economy. ACTED's teams ran an interactive high school science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) awareness campaign, as well as support for local social initiatives, including day-care centres, to ensure that childcare issues did not prevent an insurmountable barrier to women's participation in the economy. Vulnerable community members were provided with various forms of support to access economic opportunities depending on their interests and capacities, including livelihoods grants and IT scholarships.

In Myanmar, as the civil conflict intensified, and women and girls faced particular risks, ACTED and its local partners provided specific tailored support to displaced women and children in camps. This included GBV case management support; distribution of food and nutrition supplies, such as cooking oil and beans; and support for menstrual hygiene management (MHM). In this, ACTED provided

not only immediate support, in the form of providing dignity kits with menstrual hygiene items, but also trained women in camps to produce, market, and sell their own reusable sanitary pads – enabling them to generate income as well as helping them to manage their own MHM needs.

In Colombia, ACTED worked with survivors of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), providing case management services and cash for protection transfers to vulnerable and at-risk individuals. In light of the sensitivity of working on GBV issues, and the challenges in discussing such difficult topics, ACTED's teams prioritised community sensitisation campaigns, working closely with community leaders to remove stigmas around GBV, and lay the groundwork for door-to-door awareness campaigns providing information about GBV risks and prevention; sexual exploitation and abuse; and human trafficking.





6,535,789 individuals have benefited from WASH activities

SDG #6 focusses on ensuring the provision of safe water and sanitation for everyone. This is so important in ACTED's countries of operation, because there are so many people whose lives are endangered due to a lack of access to Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH) - over 733 million people live in countries with critical and high levels of water stress. To contribute towards SDG #6 in 2021, ACTED implemented WASH programmes in 30 countries, reaching a total of 6,535,789 people.

In Central African Republic, ACTED supported over 334,000 people with WASH activities in 2021, including through the construction of new water points; the construction of latrine and shower blocks; and through hygiene promotion activities. In line with ACTED's community-based approach, and to further the sustainability of the new WASH structures, ACTED created and trained water infrastructure management committees, formed of male and female community members, to be responsible for the operation and maintenance of each water point. Where ACTED constructed household-level latrines, the WASH teams distributed rehabilitation and maintenance kits to each family, encompassing cleaning materials and products as well as buckets, shovels, and other tools, to help them look after their new facilities.

In Lebanon in 2021, ACTED continued to support water governance and public water and wastewater services. This

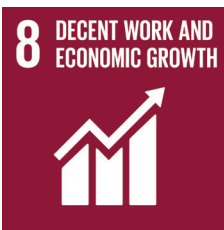
encompasses working closely with four regional Water Establishments to understand their capacities and needs and supporting the implementation of action plans to strengthen service provision. As part of these action plans, ACTED recruited hydraulic engineers to be seconded to the Water Establishments, and to lead in technical assessments of water infrastructure rehabilitation works. Based on the results of these assessments, ACTED is constructing one 7km potable water network, with household level connections, as well as rehabilitating 3.7km of stormwater networks, to reduce pressure on the wastewater network in the area; and constructing a pumping station and reservoir for an existing well.

In the drought-affected Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ASAL) of Kenya, ACTED rehabilitated 43 boreholes and shallow wells in 2021, to improve access to water for affected communities, benefitting more than 177,000 people. Alongside these water infrastructure works, ACTED coordinated with Ministry of Health Community Health Volunteers and Community Health Extension Workers to carry out a wide-ranging information campaign on water safety and hygiene, to help drought-affected communities to practice safer behaviours. This included door to door hygiene promotion sessions, covering messages such as hand washing at critical times; use of safe water; proper disposal of human waste; and personal and environmental hygiene. As part of the campaign,

Health Clubs were launched in local schools, for hygiene promotion sessions specially targeting children.

In oPt, as the lack of WASH facilities became an even greater public health risk during the COVID-19 pandemic, ACTED worked with a local partner, to improve water quality through repairs to water sources. ACTED developed a Water Sources Tool, which was used to identify water systems in need of repair works, and diagnose their specific issues, and then carried out the works through designing chlorination systems. ACTED developed a technical users' manual for the chlorination plant, and distributed chlorine test kits and sodium hypochlorite solutions to the water system operators, to ensure improved water quality for the local communities long-term.

In the Republic of Congo, ACTED worked in seven rural communities to improve hygiene practices and water safety. ACTED's teams carried out group discussions within the target communities, on hygiene, sanitation, water management, and COVID-19 risks and prevention. For those individuals who were unable to attend the group sessions, because of mobility issues linked to age or disability for example, ACTED visited their homes to carry out individual household sessions. A total of 10 new latrine blocks were constructed in the target communities, to make it easier to practice better hygiene and sanitation, and ACTED distributed hygiene kits to 1,250 people.



2,635 micro/small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) supported

Even in contexts of acute crisis, ACTED's programmes look beyond the immediate emergency, towards opportunities for longer term reconstruction of livelihoods, and sustainable development. This is because ACTED believes that all individuals have potential, and that poverty should not hold this potential back. Rather, ACTED strives to provide opportunities for financial independence and economic empowerment, to help crisis-affected people move towards self-reliance. To this end, in 2021, ACTED supported 2,635 small and medium-sized enterprises, across 18 countries.

In Thailand, for example, ACTED worked to provide economic opportunities for vulnerable young people from marginalised communities. This began with enrolling young people from

minority groups into vocational training courses, in sectors such as Cooking & Food Preparation; Welding; and Agriculture, in partnership with established local educational institutions. Graduates of the vocational training courses then had the opportunity to pursue an internship with a local business, and to participate in a Small Enterprise Development scheme, whereby they completed a two-day foundational training on business development theory, financial management, and marketing; followed by an eight-day intensive course, culminating in a "pitch day", where participants were able to seek seed funding for their small business ideas. Through this programme, ACTED provided start-up grants to 26 micro businesses, led by marginalised young people.

In Sri Lanka, ACTED supported 54 governmental Business Development Service (BDS) providers to elaborate and implement economic development plans, to support local businesses within their communities to recover from the shock of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of the strict travel restrictions linked to the pandemic, and subsequent import restrictions, MSMEs in Sri Lanka struggled to access markets and operations halted. In this context, ACTED trained BDS officers to provide business counselling to MSMEs, covering technical, skill development, and IT-based topics, to help them deliver quality services to their clients. BDSs were also provided with IT equipment and other tools, to help improve their service delivery.



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



1,431,670 displaced individuals who have benefited from ACTED Camp Management activities

ACTED is a leading actor globally in Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) programming. CCCM projects serve to meet the essential coordination and services needs of those who have been forced to leave their homes as a result of crisis or conflict. To this end, ACTED works closely with mandated authorities, with local organisations, and with other INGOs in displacement settings, to ensure the safe and coordinated provision of services to IDPs and refugees, to minimise the difficulties that displaced people face, both in camps and in urban settings. In 2021, ACTED carried out CCCM activities in 503 displacement sites, across 11 countries, benefitting a total of 1,431,670 people.

In Somalia and Somaliland, ACTED worked in over 240 displacement sites in 2021. ACTED's approach focusses on working closely with displaced communities to support them in setting up governance structures such as Camp Management Committees and Site Maintenance Committees. These local structures are trained and supported to take responsibility for topic such as camp evacuation preparedness in case of emergency; prevention of and response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) within the camps; and infrastructure rehabs and improvement works. Similarly in Syria, ACTED works through participatory governance structures in camps to identify gaps in service provision; issues with facilities and camp equipment; and opportunities for livelihoods and income generation. ACTED's



CCCM teams carry out bi-weekly meetings with sector committees to address priority issues as they arise, and ensure that the camp management is responsive and accountable to the needs of camp residents. To this end, ACTED prioritises two-way communication and information sharing between camp management structures and residents, such as through information desks; complaint boxes; and listening groups, covering topics such as tent allocations, WASH and Health services, and recruitment processes within the camps.

In Bangladesh, ACTED continued to provide CCCM Site Management Support (SMS) to 158,971 Rohingya refugees living in five camps within

Cox's Bazar. As part of this SMS, ACTED supported site residents to implement 77 Community-Led Projects (CLP), and 48 care and maintenance schemes around the sites. These initiatives were jointly designed with the site residents, through a long series of community consultations, and included the construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure such as stairs, pathways, bridges, drains, and protection walls, around the sites, as well as disaster risk reduction schemes, designed to protect shelters within the camps from flooding. Similarly, in northeast Nigeria, ACTED supported over 110,000 internally displaced people with CCCM assistance in camps across Borno state.



215,293 individuals and households living in adequate shelter and/or adequate housing as a result of ACTED's intervention

944 governmental units enabling participation of civil society in planning and management of public services

SDG #11 seeks to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. This goal speaks to multiple aspects of ACTED's global vision - of a world with Zero Exclusion; Zero Carbon; and Zero Poverty. Through ACTED's commitment to the 3Zero, our teams implement projects which seek to strengthen local governance – working with both mandated authorities and civil society, to ensure that planning and service provision within cities and settlements are accountable to the local population and representative of their needs, in a sustainable way. In emergency settings, ACTED seeks to ensure that settlements are inclusive, safe, and resilient, through providing emergency shelter support. In 2021, ACTED implemented emergency shelter activities in 20 countries.

In Central African Republic, ACTED is implementing a large-scale support programme to help local authorities improve the planning and delivery of infrastructure and services for the communities they serve, and to encourage more streamlined coordination with national and international aid actors. In each target location, ACTED has formed Local Planning & Monitoring Committees, comprised of the mayor and representatives from the sub-prefecture; local youth organisations; basic services (health, water, electricity); and minority groups. These committees act as key interlocutors with humanitarian actors in each respective location, to ensure that international and national

humanitarian actors plan and carry out their interventions in line with the planning, priorities, and principles of the local community. As part of the programme, the committees in each location were trained on their role, mandate, and responsibilities towards the communities they represent, as well as the mechanisms of the support fund, available to them through the project. To further support local authorities in their work for their communities, ACTED has implemented rehabilitation works in key public buildings, such as the town hall and sub-prefecture, and is supporting the local committees' priorities in terms of improving access to basic services, such as water and livelihoods opportunities.

In Afghanistan, despite a very volatile and rapidly changing context in 2021, ACTED continued to support over 700 Community Development Councils (CDCs) in representative and accountable local planning. CDCs were supported to develop specific community action plans through thematic sub committees, to help implement local development priorities. The communities served by the CDCs were supported to participate in local governance processes, including through Community Participatory Monitoring (CPM), using citizens' scorecards to monitor government services and evaluate the CDCs' performances, and to participate in social audit meetings. Simultaneously, ACTED provided emergency shelter assistance to over 14,500 people in Afghanistan,

including through cash for rent, and providing toolkits and cash support for shelter repairs.

In the emergency context of Chad, where over 200,000 people remained displaced as a result of conflict in 2021, ACTED provided emergency shelter support to families without a home, or whose shelter was too small for their family size. ACTED's teams recruited daily workers to build shelter structures for these families, and distributed shelter kits comprising of woven straw mats and tarpaulins to complete the structure. Similarly, in Pakistan, following extreme floods which destroyed homes, livelihoods and infrastructure in the southern province of Sindh, ACTED and partners implemented an emergency response at the start of 2021 which included the provision of shelter repair kits to families who had been evacuated as a result of the flooding. The kits included items such as trowels, axes, nails, ropes, and tarpaulins, to help families repair damages so that they could move back home.





7 countries receiving specialised support on research and development for sustainable consumption and production and environmentally sound technologies

€4,290,847 amount of specialised support on research for sustainable consumption and production and environmentally sound technologies received by target countries

102,188 individuals engaged in campaigns for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

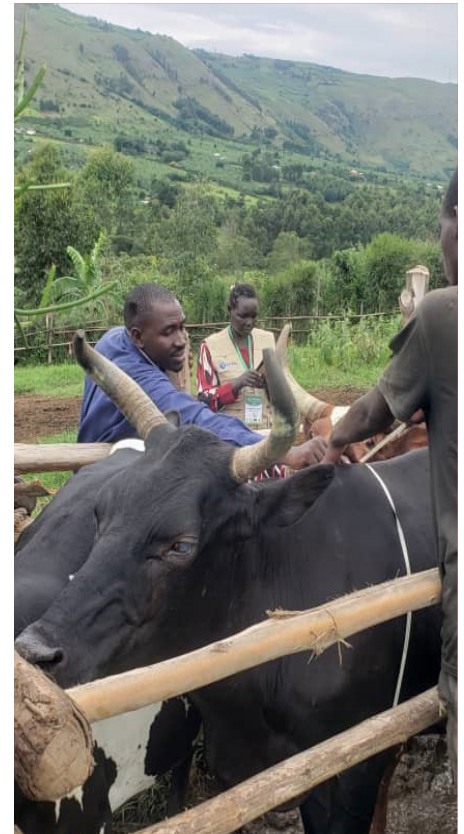
As part of ACTED's global commitment to achieving a world with Zero Carbon; Zero Exclusion; and Zero Poverty, the organisation works closely with local, regional, and national authorities, as well as local populations, to support the drive towards sustainable use and management of natural resources. In 2021, ACTED provided over 4 million EUR worth of support for sustainable consumption and production and environmentally sound technologies.

As part of a regional project in Central Asia in 2021, ACTED provided business development services and access to green finance for MSMEs working in renewable energy. ACTED's teams are working to support sustainable consumption and production by reducing the carbon footprint of the Community-Based Tourism (CBT) sector. To this end, in 2021, ACTED conducted energy audits for MSMEs in the sector, and held two Zero Carbon Fairs in Kyrgyzstan, for actors in the Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE) sector and MSMEs working in Community-Based Tourism, attended by over 3,300 participants.

In Uganda in 2021, ACTED launched an exciting new project in close partnership with the Ministry of Water and Environment - Climate Change Department, to support farmers to access new and innovative technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the beef industry. To start the project, ACTED collected data on livestock body conditions; pasture

samples; livestock waste and manure management practices; and production practices from selected farms, to facilitate the development of a comprehensive database of livestock categories in Uganda. By categorising livestock using this database, the project is developing more accurate emission calculations, to help farmers and authorities to forecast livestock GHG emissions. ACTED's partners carried out an analysis of the beef value chain, to better understand the value addition of the value chain; the past and ongoing interventions aimed at improving the beef industry; and strategic recommendations to reduce GHG emissions in the beef value chain in Uganda.

In Lebanon, ACTED and its partners are working closely with a range of technical experts to develop a series of "water-wise" trainings for local communities, to support better environmental management. Topics to be covered in the training modules include Climate Change in Lebanon and its Impact on Water Resources; Improving Water Efficiency and Use; Urban Stormwater Management; Protecting Ground and Surface Water Resources; Circular Economy; and Renewable Energy in Agriculture. In neighbouring Jordan, ACTED carried out an in-depth assessment on sustainable Solid Waste Management, to understand key market potential and investment opportunities to promote circular approaches, and identify environmental and social gains from investing in these



sectors. The research team looked into the efficiency of current solid waste management processes in Jordanian municipalities, and how these could be improved; the formal and informal waste handling and recovery schemes currently being implemented; the market potential of various waste value chains, including agricultural waste, paper, textile, plastic and used tires; and the potential for the implementation of circular credits systems. The results of this assessment are informing ACTED's environmental and economic sustainability programming in Jordan going forwards, to support municipal authorities to drive forwards positive change in sustainable environmental management.



538,600 individuals report to have increased capacity to cope, adapt and/or recover from shocks caused by (climate-change induced) disasters

ACTED's contribution towards achieving SDG #13 is centred around strengthening the resilience of communities who are vulnerable to climate shocks and disasters.

In Somalia in 2021, as consecutive failed rains wrought extreme food insecurity, ACTED worked to support agro-pastoral households to increase their capacity to cope with disasters, through agricultural assistance. ACTED distributed agricultural inputs for the upcoming planting season for 21,000 people, to increase food production and enhance food security in the face of further shocks.

In France, ACTED continued to work on the 1Planet4All consortium project, to promote climate change awareness and support youth activism on climate issues. In 2021, this included the roll-out of several interactive games and challenges, to mobilise youth around climate issues. For example, during the European Youth Event (EYE) at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, the project team led a session on 'Greening our lives - How big is your carbon footprint?', centred on an interactive game, held in groups, where participants could find out more about their carbon footprint and exchange on ways to reduce it. Through a partnership

with 'Ma Petite Planète' (My Little Planet), the project team also rolled out a three-week challenge, hosted by a dedicated mobile app, during which participants were encouraged to complete eco-friendly challenges, such as buying only local and organic fruit and vegetables; reducing their meat consumption partially or entirely; making DIY hygiene products; buying only products with recyclable packaging; and sharing information and news articles on environmental issues on their social media accounts.





1,623 ha of degraded land rehabilitated/regenerated and/or under holistic management

6 countries receiving specialized support, and amount of support for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems

ACTED's programming on collaborative and resilient ecosystem management focusses on ensuring that ecosystems and natural resources are regenerated, conserved and protected in a sustainable way, so that local populations can responsibly benefit from them, whilst conserving the ecosystems for future generations. In 2021, ACTED's expert teams supported regenerative agriculture efforts in the Sahel, in Central and Eastern Africa, and in Central Asia, as well as circular economy work across the Middle East.

In Uganda, as part of ACTED's flagship ecosystem restoration programme – THRIVE (Towards Holistic Resilience in Vulnerable

Environments) – ACTED worked with local communities to provide trainings on water harvesting through permaculture design and earthworks. This kind of regenerative agriculture technique helps communities to reduce the risk of flooding on their land, by increasing the absorption of water into the soil. This has the effect of improving soil health and nutrition, which in turn improves crop production. Similarly, as part of THRIVE programming in South Sudan, ACTED used the Farmer Field School (FFS) approach to support agricultural communities to strengthen responsible production, using sustainable climate-smart agriculture. Each FFS was formed with 30 local farmers, who are considered role

models for their communities, to demonstrate leadership in rolling out and promoting sustainable farming techniques to boost local productivity, using demo plots to “learn-by-doing”.

In Niger, ACTED worked closely with the Department of Agriculture, to support women's cooperatives. These groups were trained on management principles, and the role and mandate of cooperatives. Each woman enrolled in the programme was allocated land to work on, and was trained on cultivation techniques and soil preparation, using the Field School approach. Using these techniques, a total of 426 hectares of degraded land were recovered.





114,489 individuals who report the project had a positive impact on the peace and stability of their environment

ACTED's contribution towards SDG #16 centres around work on supporting peace, stability, and justice, through improving trust between and within communities; reducing risks of violence; preventing conflict; and promoting basic principles of the rule of law. In 2021, ACTED implemented peace and justice programming in 10 countries, supporting over 114,000 people.

In the Philippines in 2021, ACTED implemented a project to prevent escalation of conflict in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) region, through community-level peacekeeping, strengthening intercultural

dialogue, and empowering of local authorities and civil society. As part of the project, ACTED trained six municipalities and six local authorities ("barangays") of the Special geographic area (SGA) on peacebuilding; conflict management and prevention; and reconciliation, and supported them to implement quick-impact projects to positively influence peace and social cohesion within the barangay communities.

In the context of the strong risks of radicalisation facing young people in Tunisia, ACTED and its partner We Love Sousse worked together in 2021, to combat the risk of violent extremism, through youth engagement in civil society,

and in democratic processes, like elections. The project included a strong focus on debating, to help young people build soft skills in expressing and accepting different opinions, and in learning to promote their own ideas in a non-violent way. 30 debate workshops were organised, covering themes such as "Do religious leaders have a role to play in preventing violent extremism?", "Can clashes between young people and the police be a factor in violent extremism?" and, "Does financial stability prevent violent extremism?"





1,518 supported CSOs and government institutions with enhanced capacities

Supporting civil society and public institutions is a key part of ACTED's commitment to pursuing a world with Zero Exclusion - where government institutions are more accountable and responsible towards the needs of their citizens, and where citizens and civil society are empowered to participate in governance structures and the management of collective resources. In 2021, ACTED supported over 1,500 CSOs and government bodies in 17 countries.

In Mali, in the first half of 2021, ACTED worked closely with public health systems and civil society groups to support the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. ACTED directly trained 45 organisations, including 24 public health areas and public health personnel such as therapists, traditional birth attendants, and members of the district health epidemics & disaster management group. The trainings covered prevention; referral; and management of COVID-19 cases, with a focus on Infection Prevention & Control (IPC). Training participants were provided with hand-washing devices; 70% chlorine powder; soap; and gloves to enable them to carry out community awareness and prevention activities in a safe way.

In Libya, ACTED's focus on supporting the organisational capacity development of nascent civil society groups continued in 2021, with 119 Civil Society Organisations receiving support from ACTED. This encompassed both process-based trainings,



on topics such as financial management and reporting; project cycle management; and monitoring & evaluation, and thematic trainings, such as on child protection. In Benghazi, ACTED opened a Civil Society Resource Centre, to provide a safe and conducive space for CSO trainings, networking, and events, as well as free office space and internet access, to help CSOs professionalise the way they work.

In view of the critical role that civil society can play in empowering citizens to have their voices heard and holding decisionmakers to account, in Sri Lanka, ACTED worked to build the capacities of over 140 CSOs in 2021. For example, in communities facing high risks of conflict, ACTED supported "Coexistence Societies" – civil society structures which aim to promote peaceful co-existence

among diverse ethno-religious groups at the grassroots level, to build their operational capacities. Using ACTED's flagship Grassroots Organisational Capacity Assessment (GOCA) tool, ACTED assessed the specific needs of each Coexistent Society, and provided each organisation with a five day training, to strengthen their capacities in areas such as Governance & administration; Organisational management; External relations; Financial management; and Project cycle management.





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