



Acted 2022 Sustainable Development Goals Report




acted



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

GOALS



In 2022, Acted implemented 596 projects in 42 countries around the world, reaching 17.8 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 Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Accountability (MEAL) unit collects and analyses data on every Acted project, each year, measuring our progress against 28 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 2022.

2022 SDG Achievements



SDG1: NO POVERTY

11.6M crisis-affected people supported to cover their urgent needs

3.1M people supported with **€134M** in cash and vouchers

7.3M people acquired access to basic services



SDG2: ZERO HUNGER

1.16M people received food aid



SDG6: CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

5M beneficiaries of water, hygiene and sanitation activities

20,300 water, hygiene and sanitation facilities built or restored



SDG7: CLEAN AND AFFORDABLE ENERGY

6,500 Kilowatt peak of solar panels installed



SDG8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

11,500 micro, small and medium enterprises supported



SDG9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

933 sustainable infrastructure units built, rehabilitated and/or retrofitted



SDG10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

2.3M displaced people supported with camp management activities in **1,364** camps and sites

87% of individuals who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive



SDG11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

486,300 people supported to access adequate shelter or housing

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



SDG12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

117,500 people engaged in campaigns for sustainable development and on fighting climate change

5 countries received specialised support on research and development for sustainable consumption and production, as well as environmentally sound technologies, with an overall amount of **2 million EUR**

27 entities substantially reduced waste generation through reduction, reuse, refurbishing, repairing, and recycling.



SDG13: CLIMATE ACTION

74% of people interviewed have increased their capacity to cope, adapt and/or recover from shocks caused by disaster (including climate-change induced)



SDG15: LIFE ON LAND

2,967 hectares of land regenerated

195,000 tree seedlings planted

9 countries received specialised support in the amount of **3,734,777 EUR** for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems



SDG17: PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

1,454 CSOs and government institutions supported



SDG16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

93% of individuals report the project had a positive impact on the peace and stability of their environment

1 NO POVERTY



11.6 million disaster/crisis-affected individuals supported by Acted with relevant assistance covering their basic needs
3.1 million supported with **€134M** in cash and vouchers
7.3 million acquired access to basic services

Acted and partners help financially stressed families facing the drought in Somalia through cash assistance and food vouchers

In 2022, global humanitarian needs were at record level. **360 million people worldwide needed humanitarian assistance** – an increase of 30% compared to 2021. More than 110 million people were forced from their homes and more than 260 million people faced acute food insecurity, with some at risk of famine.

The underlying causes for these stark humanitarian needs have not changed: **Global economic woes**, started by COVID-19 and aggravated by the worldwide impact of the war in Ukraine are hitting the most vulnerable the hardest. **The climate crisis** continues to worsen, having contributed to the deaths of thousands of people over the past year - and the displacement of millions - most visibly perhaps through drought in the Horn of Africa, and severe flooding in Pakistan.

The war on Ukraine and resulting inflation plunged many Ukrainians into extreme poverty in 2022. As such, **Acted Ukraine supported more than 200,000 individuals with 44 million EUR in cash** - the affected populations' preferred modality of humanitarian assistance, and that most adapted to the Ukrainian context. Cash for heating was also provided as a form of assistance, helping people disconnected from the grid to buy solid fuel and cover their utility costs.

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 2022, this resulted in Acted implementing Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) in 32 countries, reaching a total of 3.1 million people, with over 134 million EUR of assistance. **In Afghanistan, Acted provided over 20 million EUR to almost 844,000 people**, following the political crisis of 2021, which led to cessation of humanitarian aid, job losses and economic deprivation with the gross domestic product contracting by over 20%. **In Somalia, Acted transferred over 8.5 million EUR to almost 275,000 people**, where human-caused climate change has increased the frequency and severity of droughts; decades of conflict have significantly eroded the country's institutions; and the combined damage to Somalia's domestic food production have made the country dangerously reliant on imported

grains—specifically from Ukraine and Russia.

In 2022, **Acted implemented more than 100 projects to improve and extend access to basic services** and ensure populations' basic needs are met. Basic services are the provision of fundamental needs such as water; food; electricity and energy; shelter; sanitation; healthcare; and education, to improve people's lives. In **Yemen**, for example, **Acted constructed and rehabilitated critical community assets** such as water points, water distribution networks, health facilities and roads – reaching over 800,000 people with improved access to essential services, and building community resilience. The rehabilitation work was done through cash-for-work schemes which also injected much-needed cash into the local communities.

2 ZERO HUNGER



1.16 million individuals obtained adequate quantity and quality of emergency food rations

At the beginning of 2022, the world was already facing the **worst hunger and humanitarian catastrophe in more than 70 years**. The economic aftershocks of the 2019 coronavirus pandemic, persistent and escalating conflicts, and the rising number and scale of extreme weather events – such as the monsoon in Pakistan and the most severe drought ever experienced in the Horn of Africa – all combined to take a huge toll on people whose livelihoods were already fragile. As the year progressed, the economic situation deteriorated dramatically, with the conflict in Ukraine pushing global food, fuel, and fertiliser prices to record highs, and sparking the worst refugee crisis in a decade. The 2022 Global Hunger Index shows that after decades of global hunger reduction, progress has nearly come to a halt. By the end of the year, the number of children, women and men facing starvation had risen to the highest level in nearly two decades, and **a record 349 million people were acutely hungry**.

Against this backdrop, in 2022, **Acted provided emergency food assistance to almost 1.2 million people** in conflict, post-conflict or disaster situations, in 17 countries. For example, in **Ukraine** and **Moldova**, **Acted provided hot meals to almost 100,000 people** fleeing their homes following the Russian invasion, as well as to populations living near the frontline, and who are faced with recurring and prolonged power cuts. In response to the devastating 2022 floods in **Pakistan**, **Acted provided 43,000**

flood-affected families over a period of 3 months with wheat flour, peas, oil and salt ensuring basic food needs were covered and thus facilitating the recovery of these families from the disaster. In Syria, Acted provided vouchers for food commodities to almost 72,000 vulnerable individuals on a monthly basis – with the voucher value linked to the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB).

With a longer-term view to ending food insecurity in line with SDG #2, Acted also works on increasing agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers - in particular women; indigenous peoples; family farmers; and pastoralists. Acted's approach seeks to **promote sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices**, which support local cultivators to adapt to climate change and extreme weather events. For example, in **Niger** in 2022, **Acted improved the food security and livelihoods of crisis-affected farmers and pastoralists** by turning degraded lands into cultivated land, thus enabling farmers' production. Acted also provided training on agro-ecological techniques to protect the environment in which the communities live and to improve yield quality and quantity.

Katsina (Nigeria) and Karamoja (Uganda) have experienced deadly intercommunal conflicts over the past decades. At their root, both of these crises derive from long-running competition over access to land and water resources,

between sedentary farmers and seminomadic pastoralists. As a response, in 2022, Acted worked to improve the food security, dietary diversity, and nutritional intake for over 20,000 people in the immediate, medium and long term through two parallel modalities, namely permaculture design and regenerative agriculture.



Acted, in partnership with civil society organisation Save Peace, distributes food in a village of Eastern Ukraine

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



5M beneficiaries of water, hygiene and sanitation activities
20,300 water, hygiene and sanitation facilities built or restored

In Lebanon, members of the technical team installing Rainwater Harvesting systems on greenhouses.

Access to water, sanitation and hygiene is a human right, yet billions of people are still faced with daily challenges in accessing this most essential service. Approximately **three out of ten people across the world still lack access to safely managed drinking water** services. Two billion people lack access to basic sanitation services, such as toilets or latrines. Water scarcity affects more than 40 percent of the global population, and is projected to rise due to climate change. To contribute towards SDG #6 in 2022, Acted implemented Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) programmes in 31 countries, reaching a total of **5,075,283 people with over 20,000 WASH facilities** built, rehabilitated or restored.

In 2022, the Somali region of **Ethiopia** was faced with a severe drought, while occasional heavy rains caused flash floods, leading to loss of lives and livelihoods, disease outbreaks and damage to infrastructure. **Acted and one of its Ethiopian partners provided life-saving WASH assistance** and supported local communities' resilience throughout the dry season. In parallel to the delivery of safe drinking water through water trucking, Acted rehabilitated and solarised boreholes which were then handed over to local authorities, in collaboration with locally led water management committees. **Over 60,000 drought affected people benefitted from this intervention.**

In rural areas of the Surkhandarya region of **Uzbekistan**, many pre-schools struggle with outdated



and dysfunctional infrastructure, including kitchens, water supply systems and sanitation facilities. To improve educational enrolment and offer pre-school children a quality learning environment, **Acted constructed and rehabilitated kitchens and WASH infrastructure in 35 preschools.** About **4,500 children benefitted from this action.** To complement the rehabilitation works, Acted also conducted a health and hygiene awareness campaign aimed at reaching a wider audience of pre-school children and their family members.

In the face of the public water service shutdown in **Lebanon** in 2022, **Acted supported equitable water access** through a comprehensive approach. By partnering with water authorities, Acted improved the supply of safe water in high-stress regions by enhancing infrastructure and building local capacity benefitting 75,000 people. Additionally, Acted engaged citizens, academia and civil society to advocate for

reforms and implement projects that safeguard and efficiently manage water resources, enabling them to be drivers of Lebanon's economic recovery.

In **Mozambique's** northern conflict-affected Cabo Delgado province, Acted restored access to safe water and sanitation in Mocimboa de Praia district, an area, previously decimated by conflict, struggling with inadequate sanitation facilities and limited access to clean water. Acted **rehabilitated 18 latrines and constructed 145 new latrines, rebuilt, and repaired 18 water points and launched eight hygiene promotion campaigns.** In collaboration with local authorities, Acted established and trained eight sanitation committees to improve the health and well-being of local communities, and to strengthen their resilience to prevent and respond more effectively to disease outbreaks. Approximately 10,000 people benefitted directly and over 22,000 indirectly from this intervention.



6,500 Kilowatt peak of solar panels installed



Solar panels installed by Acted in Ar-Raqqa, Syria

Just under 1 billion people around the world do not have access to electricity. Without electricity, vulnerable individuals – and most frequently women and girls – have to spend hours each day fetching water; many school children cannot do homework at night; clinics cannot store vaccines; and people cannot run competitive businesses. Overall, the lack of access to energy supplies is a constraint to human and economic development. For many decades, fossil fuels have

been a major source of electricity production, but burning carbon fuels produces large amounts of greenhouse gases which cause climate change and have harmful impacts on people's well-being and the environment. As part of our 3ZERO vision, Acted promotes access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy, and in 2022 we installed more than 6,500 kilowatt peak (kwp) of solar panels in 10 countries of intervention.

In **Syria, Somalia, South Sudan, Ethiopia and DRC, Acted installed solar technology in boreholes to provide renewable power for these water points.** The use of solar energy reduces fuel costs and the maintenance cost of diesel generators by at least 30% annually, in addition to safeguarding the environment.

In **Lebanon**, a country which is facing an electricity crisis, **Acted equipped seven Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and cooperatives with**

63 kwp solar systems to support energy needs essential to their business continuity. In **Yemen**, Acted solarised the outpatient clinic at the Dhamar General Hospital. This supports the health facility in continuation of essential health services and aims to ensure equity in healthcare service provision with quality during the extensive electricity cuts prevalent in the country.

In addition, in order to reduce its own carbon footprint, Acted has been solarising its field office network. In **Pakistan, Acted installed a 34 kwp solar system to meet the energy needs of the Islamabad office.** Since the installation, petrol and electricity consumption has been reduced to almost zero. The investment in the system is expected to pay for itself within 18 months. The system will have a positive impact on the environment, contributing to zero emissions and reducing Acted's carbon footprint.

ZOOM: our work in Jyrgal's Yurt Camp in Kyrgyzstan

Jyrgal Omurakanova has been running her family yurt camp for eight years after she brought the very first tourists to Kol-Suu lake. Now, an area people did not believe could be suitable for tourists – given severe weather conditions, border controls and a population focused on animal breeding – has more than 50 yurts, 20 of which belong to Jyrgal.

Jyrgal has been actively participating in Acted's 'Sustainable Energy for Tourism' project. She was selected to receive a solar power system for power and hot water supply, making her own financial contribution as well. Jyrgal and her employees also had an opportunity to improve their knowledge and networks by taking part in several trainings on topics such as eco-standards, renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies, responsible borrowing and green investments.

Jyrgal's yurt camp has been fully revamped and is up and running for the 2023 season and beyond. Made from ecological materials, it can accommodate up to 36 guests and will be powered by solar panels year-round.



11,500 micro/small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) supported

The COVID-19 pandemic sent shock waves through the world economy and triggered the largest global economic crisis in more than a century. The impacts were especially severe in developing and emerging economies, where income losses caused by the pandemic revealed and worsened some pre-existing economic fragilities. In addition, the war in Ukraine has been weighing on global economic activity since early 2022, undermining post-pandemic recovery. Both crises had a dramatic impact on global poverty and inequality. **In 2022, global poverty increased for the first time in a generation,** and disproportionate income losses among disadvantaged populations led to a rise in inequality within and across countries.

Acted strives to provide opportunities for financial independence and economic empowerment, to help crisis-affected people move towards self-reliance. Acted promotes sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all in its countries of intervention. To this end, in 2022, **Acted supported almost 11,500 MSMEs, across 20 countries.** Acted believes MSMEs do more than create employment: they are also engines of economic growth and social development.

In 2022, **Lebanon** was strongly affected by an economic crisis, political instability, and the long-lasting impact of the COVID pandemic and the Beirut blast. As the monetary crisis grew, access to economic opportunities

became a priority for the Lebanese population. **Acted supported women's economic empowerment** through the promotion of income generating activities in the menstrual hygiene sector. Acted also actively worked with employers, supporting an inclusive and open employment process, as such contributing to social cohesion. **In Jordan, Acted provided financial support to 10 social entrepreneurs working with migrants and refugees,** to support their economic integration and encourage the provision of new and inclusive economic opportunities. **In Iraq, Acted supported 165 MSMEs,** providing financial support to 110 youth-led start-ups as well as to 55 MSMEs for business expansion to support the creation of new jobs in the disputed district of Sheikhan. Many of these businesses were part of the potato and dairy value chains, which have a high economic potential in the area and also benefitted from expert mentoring to enhance their business management skills and

improve their sustainability.

In Sri Lanka, Acted supported 318 COVID-19 pandemic-hit enterprises to develop business recovery plans and engage in e-commerce. Conditional grants were established which provided much needed cash injections to MSMEs, helping them get back on track with their expansion and growth plans, contributing to sustainable economic development. **In Uzbekistan,** Acted launched a new project to support civil society organizations to effectively advocate for and **raise awareness of labour rights for women and other vulnerable groups in the country** and increase their active engagement with government stakeholders, media and the private sector to promote equal treatment of women and vulnerable groups in the workplace.

In the Philippines, Acted organised a pop up market, helping 20 women led-cooperatives to showcase and promote their products





933 sustainable infrastructure units built, rehabilitated and/or retrofitted



In Bangladesh, Acted conducts slope protection works near the biggest refugee camp in the world (Cox's Bazar)

Basic infrastructure like roads, information and communication technologies, sanitation, electrical power and water remains scarce in many developing countries. Transforming the structure of economies so they are inclusive and sustainable depends on the right infrastructure, industries and innovations. Economies with a diversified industrial sector, strong infrastructure and access to technology sustain less damage during crisis times and experience faster and less complex recovery.

With regards to sustainable and resilient infrastructure, **in Pakistan, Acted built infrastructure to minimise the effects of flooding.** These structures are designed to retain, divert and store excessive water flows, thereby ensuring the resilience of communities to flooding. In addition, Acted focused on strengthening retention and detention basins to reduce flooding and conserve water, implementing alternative water supply systems,

building ponds and roads. Another crucial initiative has been the rehabilitation and construction of raised community platforms, providing emergency evacuation options in the event of flooding.

In the world's largest refugee camp, Kutupalong, **Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, Acted built an all-season road which allows aid agencies and local authorities to provide better services to refugees** residing in the camp, while allowing camp residents to more easily access services such as an ambulance in case of a medical emergency. **In Ubari, an oasis town in southern Libya,** Acted rehabilitated one of the main roads through a cash-for-work approach leading to a revival of the local economy.

In order to increase access to financial services and markets of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, Acted, through its affiliated microfinance group Oxus, **provided financial services to almost 40,000 clients in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan** with a gross open loan portfolio of 31 million EUR. Among others, green loans were

provided to retrofit businesses active in the tourism sector and make them sustainable with increased resource use efficiency (e.g. insulation of buildings) and greater adaptation of clean and environmentally sound technologies (e.g. solarisation). This will lead to lower carbon emissions among such businesses. Acted also supported universal access to information and communications technology.

Acted partnered with DOT **Lebanon**, a youth-led movement of daring social innovators who have the tools, knowledge, and networks to create opportunities and transform their own communities, **to provide training to women-led cooperatives to use digital technology to support their entrepreneurial initiatives.**

In **Libya**, Acted supported Tech Spark, a non-profit promoting technology and programming skills. Acted provided financial assistance and technical support which allowed Tech Spark to develop innovative solutions to address social and economic challenges in their community. Young people in Libya are in need access technology and digital skills. Tech Spark has set-up a technology hub providing programming (SCRATCH, HTML & CSS, C# & SQL) training to youth, with several successful startups emerging from its programmes. This has led to a significant improvement in education, employment, and income in the community Tech Spark serves.



2.3M displaced people supported with camp management activities in 1,364 camps and sites
87% of individuals who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive

The war in Ukraine, alongside conflict elsewhere and climate-driven crises such as those in the Horn of Africa and Pakistan meant more people than ever remained uprooted from their homes in 2022. At the end of the year, **the number of people displaced stood at a record 108.4 million**, up 19.1 million on a year earlier - the biggest ever increase in displacement. The war in Ukraine created one of the largest refugee crises in recent memory. At the same time, an ever-greater number of people feel forgotten by their political system and unable to shape the decisions affecting their lives. The recent increase in protests worldwide can be understood as a manifestation of the disillusionment many people feel in the responsiveness of their governance systems.

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. Acted works closely with authorities, local organisations, and with other INGOs in displacement settings, to ensure the safe and coordinated provision of services to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees, to minimise the difficulties that displaced people face, both in camps and in urban settings. In 2022, **Acted carried out CCCM activities in over 1,350 displacement sites**, across 14 countries, **benefitting a total of 2.3 million people**.

In **Ukraine and Moldova**, Acted

Focus group on gender-based violence with women returnees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



set up a mobile CCCM capacity in several of its operational areas to support the local actors managing collective sites – from volunteer groups, to civil society organisations, to local authorities. These were often not prepared or equipped to cope with the mass influx of population triggered by the Russian invasion. As part of its CCCM interventions in 2022, **Acted worked alongside site management actors across 827 sites** in those countries to ensure minimum standards were met and to implement best practices regarding accountability, protection mainstreaming and the mitigation of risks such as gender-based violence. Through small infrastructure works, for instance the rehabilitation of latrines and showers, Acted could also contribute to **improving the living conditions and access to**

basic services of almost 60,000 displaced persons.

Acted also works on expanding the space for civic engagement and developing ways to provide people with a more direct role in setting agendas and shaping the public decisions that affect them as an important factor for more inclusive and responsive governance. In **Libya**, for example, **Acted worked in 25 municipalities and promoted a better cooperation between civil society actors and local authorities** to better address local needs with improved service delivery. Acted organised dialogue fora between CSOs and local authorities to increase coordination and planning in terms of inclusive service delivery to vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, youths, migrants and IDPs.



486,300 individuals and households living in adequate shelter and/or adequate housing as a result of Acted's intervention

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

Half of humanity—almost four billion people—live in cities today, and this number will continue to grow to five billion by 2030. Because the future will be urban for a majority of people, the solutions to some of the greatest issues facing humans—poverty, climate change, healthcare, education—must be found in city life. 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 achieving a 3ZERO world, 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 2022, **Acted implemented shelter activities benefitting almost 500,000 people in 19 countries** such as Pakistan, Syria, Haiti, Ukraine, Niger and Yemen. In **Yemen**, for example, Acted **rehabilitated shelter and provided rental subsidies to help integrate almost 10,000 internally displaced persons into host communities.** In **Haiti**, Acted contributed to improving access to dignified and safe housing by rebuilding earthquake- and cyclone-resistant houses, and training local craftsmen

to improve local construction techniques while using Build Back Safer methodology. In **Ukraine**, Acted facilitated the repair of houses damaged by the conflict, which included provision of new doors, windows and roofing materials benefitting over 30,000 people. **Following the 2022 Pakistan floods, Acted provided emergency shelter solutions to over 200,000 people** impacted by severe weather conditions.

In **East Amman, Jordan**, Acted rehabilitated public recreational places, planting trees and installing solar lighting systems. Circularity was integrated into the rehabilitation works, including prioritising recycled materials during procurements, upcycling old tires for asphalt, or using low carbon concrete.

In **Southern Lebanon**, Acted **worked with 10 municipalities to promote gender responsive local development planning.** This process started with a gender audit followed by gender cafés and workshops around access and control to resources, and finally the identification of issues and priorities for women economic participation in the municipalities' development plans. It resulted in the economic planning of the municipalities and there is a newfound understanding that income-generating activities focusing on women should allow them to reach financial independence.

In the communes of Bobo Dioulasso and Banfora,

Burkina Faso, Acted worked with authorities, vulnerable communities, and civil society representatives to anticipate and prepare for the possible arrival of IDPs as the security situation continued to worsen along the nearby borders with Mali and Cote d'Ivoire. **Over 235,000 persons benefitted from this programme which aims at mitigating the impact of IDP arrivals on access to basic services** in the second largest city of Burkina Faso and neighbouring regional capitals.

In Niamey, Niger, Acted built a bioclimatic school, open since October 2022





Five countries received specialized support on research and development for sustainable consumption and production, as well as environmentally sound technologies, with an overall amount of **2 million EUR**
27 entities substantially reduced waste generation through reduction, reuse, refurbishing, repairing, and recycling.
117,500 people engaged in campaigns for sustainable development and on fighting climate change

Our planet has provided us with an abundance of natural resources. But we have not utilised them responsibly and currently consume far beyond what the planet can provide. Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are root causes of the triple planetary crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Sustainable growth and development is possible, even whilst protecting natural resources and minimising waste and toxic pollutants in production and consumption processes.

Acted promotes a transition to a circular model to reduce waste, conserve resources, and mitigate the negative effects of linear economic models. To respond to these dynamics, in 2022, Acted worked closely with the private sector, governments of countries where we work, and consumers, to facilitate this economic transition. Alongside these partners, Acted recognises the joint opportunities that a circular economy can bring, including job creation, cost savings, and innovation.

In **Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan**, Acted supported the community-based tourism (CBT) sector to adopt sustainable consumption practices and 'go green'. Acted worked on both the supply and the demand side, providing capacity building support to CBTs, MSMEs, and renewable energy and energy efficient companies, and created mutually beneficial market linkages between them. Additional technical assistance, energy audits and targeted joint investment

Field visit to one of the farms involved in the SIRGE project (Uganda) to measure methane emissions produced by cattle.



is helping leading CBT MSMEs to transition to cleaner and more efficient energy, demonstrating the cost-saving and branding benefits of "going green" while setting an example for the wider tourism sector to follow.

Additionally, Acted supported private sector actors to absorb waste, prevent it from reaching landfill, and minimising the impact of private sector activity on natural resources. In **Jordan**, Acted supported vulnerable artisans to utilise a wide variety of waste materials in the production of high-end handicrafts. In **Sri Lanka**, Acted launched a **strategic four year project to facilitate plastic waste minimisation and management**, by facilitating the integration of over 100 SMEs into a greener value chain, enhancing SME economic viability as well as environmental sustainability. In **Syria**, Acted worked with local agro-pastoralists to **replace the**

practice of using agricultural waste directly on the farm, which often decomposes into putrefied matter with low bioavailability, by transforming the biomass into fertiliser with higher nutritional availability which enhances soil fertility, thus improving crop yields. Acted also supported the production and distribution of biomass briquettes to meet domestic heating and cooking needs. In **Lebanon**, Acted mobilised students and community members to participate in its interactive "water wise" sessions to raise awareness on responsible water consumption and management. In **Uganda**, Acted continued to work closely with the Ministry of Water and Environment, and Climate Change Department, as part of a **programme aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and negative environmental impacts of the beef industry**.



74% of people interviewed report to have increased capacity to cope, adapt and/or recover from shocks caused by (climate-change induced) disasters

Climate change is now affecting every country on every continent. It is disrupting national economies and affecting lives - costing people, communities and countries dearly today and even more tomorrow. People are experiencing the **significant impacts of climate change**, which include **changing weather patterns, rising sea levels, and more extreme weather events**.

Climate change is especially affecting the poor and vulnerable, as well as marginalised groups like women, children, and older people. **In 2022, Acted implemented almost 90 projects across 17 countries to strengthen the resilience of communities who are vulnerable to climate shocks and disasters.**

In both the Middle East and Africa, Acted worked to promote climate-smart practices in agri-business. In **Iraq**, for example, **Acted trained farmers on azolla cultivation** (a plant that can be cultivated for livestock feed, and which only requires minimal water input, making it ideal for harsh climates, including arid and semi-

arid lands) and permaculture practices. All project participants received either azolla planting units or permaculture kits, to help them practice the new techniques they learnt during the pilot. **In Jordan, Acted trained agricultural businesses on permaculture**, including techniques that aim to better manage water resources and move away from chemical fertilisers to improve soil quality in an environmentally friendly manner. **In Mali, Acted worked with Farmer Field Schools (FFS) to promote climate-sensitive agricultural practices**, including providing trainings to FFS groups on biological pesticides. These trainings highlighted the benefits of biopesticides and biofertilizers over chemical alternatives, and focused on promoting the use of natural fertilisers and natural control methods against plant pests and diseases. Acted's trainers provided technical information to participants on how to ensure efficient crop growth, as well as safety for humans, when using these methods.

In **the Philippines**, as part of the Learn2Lead project, Acted **trained**

30 business professionals on sustainability management.

The training sought to enable participants to analyse the complex relationships between the environment, society and the economy; to use this knowledge to develop a sustainability action plan for their organisations; and to influence stakeholders within their organisation, towards more responsible and sustainable business practices. The six-week online course included both theoretical and practical aspects of sustainability management, though modules such as Sustainable Urban Development; Circular Economy; and Climate Change.

In France, as part of the 1PLANET4ALL project, **Acted reached over 13 million people with a campaign on climate awareness**, including awareness raising events at four universities across France. The project included the development of a mobile app, which aims to inform young people about climate issues through a gaming approach, which was launched on the Play Store and App Store in June 2022.



Permagardens established in Northern Jordan, with the support of Acted



9 countries received specialised support in the amount of 3,734,777 EUR for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems
2,967 hectares of degraded land rehabilitated, regenerated and/or under holistic management
195,000 tree seedlings planted

Forests cover nearly 31% of the earth's land area. Around 1.6 billion people depend on forests for their livelihood. **Almost 75% of the world's poor are affected directly by land degradation.** Acted supports the realisation of SDG #15 through its work on collaborative and resilient ecosystem management which focusses on ensuring that ecosystems and natural resources are regenerated, consumed and protected in a sustainable way, so that local populations can responsibly benefit from them, whilst conserving the ecosystems for future generations. In 2022, Acted's teams supported ecosystems management efforts in the Sahel, in Central and Eastern Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia.

In **Tajikistan**, Acted worked on the nexus between disaster risk reduction and natural resource management in the Tajik Syrdarya Basin watershed, one of the most densely populated areas of the country, by **combining ecosystem restoration with the promotion of sustainable livelihoods.** More concretely, Acted contributed to the rehabilitation of degraded pasture land by supporting the sowing of seeds and perennial fodder plants with high productivity and resistance to environmental stress factors. This measure not only allows to restore soils with key nutrients and prevent soil erosion but also fodder production for livestock. Additionally, Acted showcased agroforestry solutions through the planting of orchard trees in demo plots. This serves as an erosion-

control measure and as a source of non-timber forest products to be processed and/or marketed by local farmers. Finally, Acted introduced water-saving methods as well as rainwater harvesting techniques for maximising water reserves during the spring and utilising them as an additional source of irrigation for farms. Overall, since 2014, **the project rehabilitated almost 5,000 hectares of degraded land** and put 1,100 hectares under water-saving irrigation techniques.

In the drought-stricken **Horn of Africa**, 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 retain the limited rainwater they receive, and increase the absorption of water into the soil. This has the effect of improving soil health and nutrition, which in turn improves the revival of vegetation and crop production. **Almost 1,500 hectares of degraded land was made productive again through these measures.**

In **South Sudan**, Acted trialled the **use of goats to clear land**, based on the 'holistic land and livestock management (HLLM)' approach to farming, which focuses on maintaining the health of the land, animals, and communities. As natural browsers, goats prefer to eat a wide variety of plants,

including weeds, shrubs and trees. By using goats to clear land instead of intensive hand clearing, farmers save money and avoid damaging the soil and disrupting the natural ecosystem of the land. In addition, the goats' natural fertilisation of the soil with their manure can help to improve soil health and promote healthy plant growth. Goat keepers 'rent' their flock at a nominal amount to farmers, who can clear land in record time, and regenerate previously abandoned agricultural land.



In Tajikistan, monitoring of the condition of seedlings in a tree nursery established and developed through Acted's support



93% of individuals who report the project had a positive impact on the peace and stability of their environment
1,020,369 individuals satisfied with their last experience of public services



In the Philippines, Acted assesses the needs of CSOs working on peacebuilding

clans. The conflict was managed and a reconciliation ceremony was celebrated.

The world is witnessing the largest number of violent conflicts since 1946. A quarter of the global population lives in conflict-affected countries, and **more than 100 million people have been forcibly displaced worldwide**. In 2022, Acted worked across 17 countries towards implementing lasting solutions to reduce violence, deliver justice, and support national and local institutions to be accountable to deliver services to communities equitably.

In **the Philippines**, Acted's peace, stability and justice work is focused on the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) region. This year, **Acted ran six trainings, for 43 women and 78 men, on subjects including the principle of conflict prevention and mitigation**, and fundamentals of conflict mediation. The impact of these trainings was clear when there was an armed clash between clans in one of Acted's project areas. The next day, a local leader initiated essential peace dialogues between the warring

In **Mali**, Acted led a consortium project which seeks to contribute towards conflict prevention in the Gao region, through communal infrastructure projects. A series of studies and workshops were held to assess conflict dynamics in the target locations, and to identify opportunities to promote peace by bringing different groups together around infrastructure projects. Following the participatory selection of infrastructure initiatives, construction and rehabilitation works were launched for six initiatives, including the installation of an electricity system; the construction of community latrines blocks; and drilling works.

In **Sri Lanka**, Acted continued to drive forward its peace, stability and justice work with local authorities and Co-existence Societies (CS) – multi-faith, inclusive civil society structures, which aim to **promote peaceful co-existence among diverse ethno-religious groups** at the grassroots level. Acted employed a "Training of Trainers" approach, working with Master Trainers to

run regular workshops for 36 CSs in interreligious collaboration, conflict mitigation and early warning systems, as well as in leadership, communication and mentoring. The CSs were further supported to develop their skills through exposure visits to districts in different provinces of the country, where they were able to learn about models of religious collaboration and peaceful coexistence.

Acted also works with government institutions to deliver more equitable and accountable services to their constituents. In **Burkina Faso**, Acted contributed to the organisation of four regional trainings for local authorities in the Est, Centre-Nord, Nord and Boucle du Mouhoun regions. These trainings aimed to improve the capacity of local institutions to provide accountable and equitable services to their constituents. The training topics included, for example, governance and maintenance of temporary IDP sites; mitigation of gender-based violence; protection from sexual exploitation and abuse; site coordination and civilian site management; and provision of equitable access to basic services for IDPs and host communities. In **South Sudan**, technical capacity building of local authorities was used to reinforce WASH and protection service provision in refugee hosting communities. In **Lebanon**, local authorities were strengthened to manage water and wastewater services, and in Mali, local health and nutrition authorities were supported to address malnutrition.



1,454 supported CSOs and government institutions with enhanced capacities

Strengthening multilateralism and global partnerships are more important than ever to solve the world's problems - ending poverty, battling inequality and paralysing global warming. Multistakeholder partnerships bringing together governments, civil society, scientists, academia and the private sector are crucial to leverage the inter-linkages necessary to accelerate progress in achieving the Goals.

Throughout 2022, **Acted joined forces with citizens, local authorities, businesses, the media, the private sector, academics, the tech world, the sport sector and the youth to implement initiatives in line with the SDG #17 objective.** Acted launched the **"Convoys for Ukraine" operation** alongside companies, local authorities and individuals, only a few hours after the Russian invasion. Coordinated by Acted, 106 trucks departed France, transporting over 2,000 tons of essential supplies towards cities as close to the frontline as Bakhmut and Severodonetsk. French regions, city councils and other local authorities which have been engaged with Acted's work for many years came together with fire brigade associations and several thousand citizens to contribute to the success of this all-out mobilisation. The art and tech sectors were also mobilised to contribute to the response in Ukraine. Startup 'WeWard', for example, helped fund Acted's activities via its app, which turns 'WeWarders' footsteps into donations, while Suben Art Management and Tate Ward

Inauguration of the 3ZERO House in Dushanbe



Auctions organised the sale of street work by the artist Pejac to contribute to this collective effort. **After helping to launch Babyloan, a solidarity lending platform, in 2022 Acted invested in its successor, Lendahand,** to enable the general public in Europe to finance impact businesses in emerging markets. In this way, Acted is helping to strengthen structures that support populations excluded from the traditional financial system, promote the ecological transition and create jobs locally. As of today, Lendahand invested over €140m, avoided 300,000 tonnes of CO2 and created 10,000 jobs.

In Dushanbe, **Tajikistan**, in 2022, **Acted opened the doors to its second 3ZERO House** - following on from the success of the original 3ZERO House in Manila. The house is a collaborative space, developed with the goal of connecting and empowering different stakeholders to work towards the objective of a 3ZERO world. It provides a local ecosystem for actors to multiply and accelerate partnerships, innovations, and solutions. An exciting and diverse list of partners

are on board, including Climate-KIC, a global Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC); the Tajik Community-Based Tourism Association (TCBTA); PEAK, an initiative to support inclusive private sector development in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan; the Bactria Cultural Centre; microfinance institution Oxus; and Korvoni Umed, an NGO running a social coffee shop.

In Manila, **the Philippines**, Acted organised the **3ZERO Southeast Asia Forum, to promote sustainable and inclusive agriculture systems in the region.** The three-day forum, hosted at the 3ZERO House Manila, was an opportunity for dialogue, network and advocacy among all stakeholders involved in the development of sustainable and inclusive agriculture systems and value-chains in Southeast Asia. The Forum included 10 sessions in different dynamic formats, live interpretation and sign language to enable participants to collaboratively identify concrete solutions for the achievement of the overall objective.





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