

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE: CAPACITY STATEMENT

ACORD (Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development) is a Pan-African non-governmental organisation that has been working for social justice and development in Africa since 1976. ACORD's work is guided by a number of fundamental values and working principles, chief amongst these is the belief that individuals are the primary actors in their own development.



WHY ACORD WORKS FOR SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND RESILIENCE

Agriculture accounts for around 30% of Africa's GDP in low-income countries, but over 58% of all Africans are engaged in agriculture. In many countries this jumps to over 80%. Over 70% of poor Africans live in rural areas, and food production is central to their livelihoods. African governments have committed to spending at least 10% of their budgets on agriculture under the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP). CAADP has the potential to provide the legal, institutional and policy environment that will enable and provide incentives for farmers and other market actors to operate in ways that guarantee both economic growth and social gains. However, much spending has inadequately prioritized the needs of smallholder farmers. In particular, key services such as extension (advice and training) and agricultural research have often reached only small numbers of farmers, and usually the better-off, while cash crops for export have often been prioritised over food staples. In addition, insufficient attention has often been given to increasing smallholders' security over the land they farm. Even more serious is the fact that women, who comprise most farmers in most African countries and who produce most of the continent's food, have long been neglected.

Economic shocks, such as volatile commodity and energy prices, hit marginal areas more severely, as communities spend a large part of their disposable income on food and energy. Similarly, drought, floods and other natural disasters, affect the poorest and women the hardest. The future of African grasslands, forests, fisheries, and other natural resources are inherently tied to the security and sustainability of livelihoods. Deforestation rates in Sub-Saharan Africa are high and land degradation and soil infertility are

increasing. These trends are exacerbated by a lack of clear and stable land and water rights for small-scale producers and weak regulation and governance over natural resources.

ACORD works with the communities that are on the frontline of these changes to natural events and ecosystems. For these communities the plight of Africa's ecosystems and natural resources are crucial – through rain fed agriculture and pasture-fed livestock, the high use of biomass energy, and the use of natural materials for various other livelihoods activities, these communities are very dependent on natural resources. Women on average are more reliant than men on access to natural resources in Africa, in their role as small-scale farmers but also for off-farm livelihoods such as collecting firewood or forest products. This means that the impacts of resource degradation and climate change will disproportionately hit their livelihoods.

HOW ACORD WORKS TO BUILD SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

To build sustainable food systems and natural resources management, which will deliver for small-scale producers, ACORD sees engagement on the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) as an essential area of intervention for African civil society. CAADP should become the vehicle for equitable, sustainable and community-controlled natural resource management on the continent. ACORD and its farmer partners are engaging decision makers at various levels, providing concrete recommendations on national agricultural investment plans and ways of increasing the policy literacy and engagement of small holder farmers in policy implementation, budget monitoring and tracking.

Within this work ACORD will: i) Raise awareness and build the capacity of small-scale farmers in order to ensure ownership of the CAADP processes and hold their governments accountable for its implementation; ii) Lobby policy makers at the national level to ensure implementation of the *Malabo Declaration* in a participatory and inclusive process; iii) Lobby policy makers at the national level to allocate the agreed 10% of the national budget to agriculture and to ensure that these funds benefit small scale farmers especially women; iv) Work with other non-state actors (NSAs) to facilitate the participation of small scale farmers at regional and Pan Africa forums on the CAADP processes; v) Promote participation of communities in natural resources management in adapted to climate extremes in their localities; and vi) Support smallholder producers to boost rural livelihoods in marginal or degraded agricultural areas through sustainable food production using agro-ecological techniques, production and marketing.

Intimately tied to our focus on smallholder-focused sustainable food systems is that of our commitment to women's social and economic empowerment through equal access to and control over resources and opportunities. Of the small-scale farmers, women bear the brunt of agricultural production. 60% of Africa's women reside in the rural areas. They contribute 70% of the agricultural labour and 60-80% of the food processing. Moreover, ACORD is seeking to build synergies between the agricultural policy and natural resource management agendas at national and continental level. Sustainable food systems rely on

ACORD'S APPROACH

1. Strengthen grassroots/local interventions and link these to national, regional, Pan-African and global processes.
2. Enhance local capabilities to increase production and income through capacity building of farmers associations
3. Strengthen policy literacy and engagement between farmers associations and particularly women farmers and authorities at different levels.
4. Strengthen synergies between agricultural policy and natural resource management agendas
5. Produce research for evidence-based interventions.
6. Strengthen the role of advocacy and build strategic partnerships.

methods of production and institutional frameworks that support equitable access and use of resources by small-scale food producers.

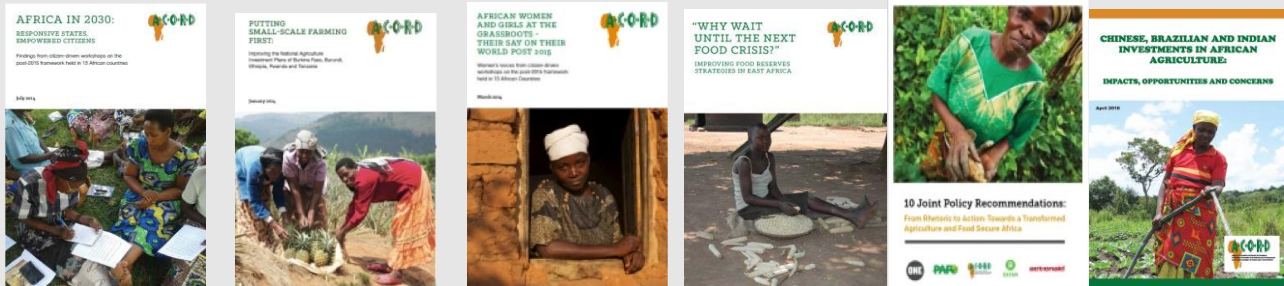
ACORD'S LEARNING AND EVIDENCE

Actions to ensure sustainable livelihoods and community resilience to climate change, disaster, fragility, conflict, disease outbreaks and other shocks in the continent require engagement with the complex nature of disasters and crises. ACORD, using various participatory methodologies, empowers communities to understand the root causes of their vulnerability and fragility, differences in coping mechanisms for various groups and the complementary roles of different stakeholders in responding to crises and disasters. This consultative process provides information for policy influencing and informing design and implementation of evidence.

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

ACORD has conducted various research and studies in the field of agriculture, natural resource management and resilience. ACORD's recent publications are available online and include:

- Putting small-scale farming first: Improving the national agriculture investment plans of Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Tanzania, 2014
- Why wait until the next food crisis? Improving food reserves strategies for East Africa.
- 10 joint policy recommendations for a transformed agriculture and food secure Africa, 2014
- Chinese, Brazilian and Indian investments in African agriculture: impacts, opportunities and concern, 2016
- Africa in 2030: Responsive States, Empowered Citizens, 2014



ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITY

As a Pan African organisation with operations across the African continent, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) has been central to ACORD's programming since 2009 with ACORD leading on a number of researches and position papers being a strong content leader within the civil society group on the African continent. ACORD is a founding member of the CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition (CNC) and a member of the Non-state actors steering committee. ACORD's credibility as a Pan African actor and member of the CNC combined with its proven administrative capabilities made it the ideal host for and fiduciary agent for the CNC Secretariat in Nairobi since 2015.

ACORD is a UK registered charity with its headquarters based in Kenya and country offices across East and Horn of Africa, Central Africa and West Africa: in Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Rwanda, Uganda. ACORD has special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN-ECOSOC), as well as with the UN Environment Programme headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya. ACORD has a framework partnership agreement with DG ECHO, the European Union's Department for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Assistance. ACORD is also a signatory to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI).

PROJECT PROFILES

Over the last five years, ACORD has implemented a number of projects relevant to the theme of Sustainable management of Natural Resources and Resilience. These include, but are not limited to:

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Title: Contribution to Social Peace and Sustainable Food Security through the Restoration of Dialogue and the Revitalization of the Livestock Sector in the Central African Republic

Dates: November 2015 – November 2017

Location: Central African Republic (Nana Gribizi and Ouham)

Funding Partner: European Union's Bekou Trust Fund for the Central African Republic

Implementing Partners: ANDE, FNEC, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Summary: In the Central African Republic, ACORD is working toward increasing food security and strengthening national level peace processes at the local level through a project whose combined approach ties together the re-establishment of inter-community dialogue on migration and access to resources including water, pastures, and livestock markets. ACORD is accomplishing this by using the CSPR model and social contract theory. The goal of the project is the development of common spaces (pasture, livestock trail, market, etc.) through which the revitalization of the governance networks of pastoralists can work in collaboration with the decentralized services of the State.

Expected Outcomes:

The overall objective of the programme is to contribute to peace and sustainable food security in Ouham and Nana-Gribizi provinces through the restoration of dialogue and the revival of the livestock sector.

GUINEA

Title: Promoting Citizen Participation in Natural Resources Management

Dates: May 2015 – April 2016; May 2016 – April 2017

Locations: Guinea (Forest Guinea Region); Upper Guinea

Funding Partner: National Endowment for Democracy

Implementing Partners: CROSC, Publish What You Pay Coalition

Summary: ACORD has been working to promote public participation in local-level natural resource management in the Forest Region of Guinea, through community dialogue and capacity-building and awareness raising on legal texts and laws related to natural resource management and on global initiatives for transparency in the extractive industries. ACORD's goals are to strengthen existing consultation mechanisms for local actors to address natural resource management issues; promote the social contract model for peaceful management of resources; and establish or further develop networks of representatives from communities, local organizations, local authorities, and mining companies to help them develop strategies for improving transparency, monitoring signed agreements between communities and mining companies, and mitigating mining-related conflicts.

Outcomes:

Outcome 1: Strengthened responsibility and transparency in the governance of natural, and in particular mineral, resources in Forest Guinea through enhanced citizen participation and dialogue between mining industry actors and local communities.

Outcome 2: Strategic partnership agreements signed between mining companies, local communities and local authorities in targeted sub-districts to ensure concerted management and use of natural mining resources.

Outcome 3: Existing consultation frameworks supported and new frameworks established in Upper Guinea, to take into account questions of concerted use of mineral resources.

Outcome 4: Signing of contracts between mining companies and local stakeholders, establishing the terms under which local actors will monitor agreements made by the mining companies, especially as they relate to the use of local development funds.

RWANDA

Title: Promoting Agriculture, Climate and Trade linkages in the Eastern African Community 2", - PACT EAC2

Dates: October 2015 to September 2019

Location: Rwanda

Funding partner: CUTS International Geneva

Objectives: The overall objective of the PACT EAC2 project is based on the established premise that gains from agriculture, which is the largest employer and income and hard currency generator in the EAC can be boosted through value addition, the project's overall objective is to build capacity of relevant stakeholders (individuals, networks and institutions) to identify and promote appropriate and holistic policies for the development of agro-value-addition in the EAC region, that is climate-friendly, trade-oriented, and contribute to food security. Through identification and promotion of such policies, the project aims to create better preconditions for people living in poverty in the EAC. More specifically, the project advocates for the agro-industrial development in the EAC countries to be conscious of challenges related to climate change, food security, and trade (CCFST). This overall objective is derived from a multidimensional view of poverty that can only be addressed with a holistic approach based on the principle that the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – work together and are mutually supportive.

Results: 400 East African national, regional and multilateral stakeholders (80 from Rwanda) pursue the inclusion of climate change, food security and trade concerns in their policy efforts to develop agro-processing in the region. National, regional and multilateral stakeholders are engaged in:

- Better understand how agro-processing development can be more climate-aware, trade-driven and food security-enhancing (2 country update notes on WTO negotiations per quarter)
- EAC delegates to the WTO and UNFCCC are better capable to promote their interests in this regard (2UNFCCC country update notes produced every quarter) and interact and collaborate more regularly with each other in this regard

By participating in bi-annual National Reference Group Meetings in each country, and guiding project activities through Research process, Training process and Advocacy campaigns, Stakeholders are: **Accessing knowledge** on policy solutions to make agro-processing more climate-aware, trade-driven and food security-enhancing (studies, papers, events, debate); **Connecting with Multilateral Negotiations:** They regularly interact with trade and climate negotiators. They not only learn from them about ongoing negotiations, but also to inform their negotiating positions. Yearly visits to Geneva are organized. ; **Getting Trained And Certified By Trapca:** Trainings on developing long-lasting policy solutions for coherent agro-processing. Trapca award certificates to successful trainees; **Strengthening their Network:** Share experiences in person and online with fellow NRG members from the government, civil society, business, media, farming, academia etc; **Hands-on experience of influencing Policies And Practice:** part of advocacy campaigns geared towards improving government policies around coherent agro-processing development.

SOUTH SUDAN

Title: Generating Sustainable Livelihoods and Leadership for Peace in South Sudan

Dates: September 2016 – August 2021

Location: South Sudan

Funding Partner: Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Addressing Root Causes (ARC) Fund

Implementing Partners: Centre for Conflict Resolution, DanChurchAid (DCA)

Summary: The *long-term goal* of the proposed project, in line with that of the ARC fund, is to address the political and socio-economic root causes of armed conflict and instability in South Sudan. Implicit in the project's theory of change is the causal relationship between conflict and livelihoods. By supporting local communities to establish new or to strengthen existing mechanisms for conflict management while simultaneously building resilience to food security and economic shocks – in essence, building trust both between and among local communities – the consortium has a better chance of addressing the root causes of both conflict and economic shocks.

Expected Outcomes:

Outcome 1: Resilient livelihoods and food security.

Outcome 2: Social Cohesion.

Outcome 3: Peaceful conflict resolution.

REGIONAL PROGRAMMES

Title: ACORD's administrative support to the CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition (CNC) interim secretariat

Dates: August 2015-March 2017 and subsequently renewed until March 2018

Locations: Africa. Secretariat located in Nairobi, Kenya

Funding Partner: Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) for Africa Lead II

Summary: Since its launch, the CNC Secretariat has been resourced through a financial grant agreement between ACORD and the USAID Africa Lead Program titled The CNC Secretariat Support Activity. Under this agreement, the USAID Africa Lead Program sub-grants ACORD in order for it to provide operational and administrative support for a smooth take-off and consolidation of the CNC Secretariat. Under the CNC Secretariat Support Activity, administrative, logistical, financial management and other operations support is being provided by ACORD to the CNC Coordinator. The role of the CNC Coordinator is to facilitate capacity building, collaboration and constructive engagement by NSAs in the CAADP process. Through this support, the CNC has built a reputation of being the foremost platform for the aggregation of NSA collective voice on CAADP implementation. The quality of engagement of NSAs with the Africa Union, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and within a number of key countries has increased and the momentum of NSA engagement in CAADP activities, since the creation of the CNC should be sustained.

Objective 1: To strengthen the CNC Secretariat to effectively facilitate NSA constructive engagement in the CAADP process by strengthening modalities and systems for effective coordination and collaboration among NSAs in the CAADP process

Objective 2: To deepen the impact of NSAs in CAADP implementation at the continental level by solidifying partnerships with Continental partners and operationalizing CNC's role in various CAADP processes

Objective 3: To Increase the involvement of NSAs in National Level CAADP processes by identifying key entry points to enhance and strengthen country-level networking/ platforms and facilitate alignment with CAADP processes

Title: Pan Africa Agriculture Programme (PAAP)

Dates: March 2010-June 2013 and post-summative evaluation published in July 2015

Locations: Burundi, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Mozambique, Mali and Mauritania

Funding Partner: Global Affairs Canada (formerly Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada/CIDA)

Summary: The objective for PAAP was to respond to the food crisis by supporting the African Union's Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP) and Pastoralists Policy Framework (PPF), for Africa. The programme enabled ACORD to increase focus on strengthening community-based groups (CBO's) and civil society organizations (CSO's) capacity to better engage in CAADP/PPF processes with their own national governments and CAADP partner platforms.

Expected Outcomes:

The three inter-mediate outcomes were: 1) Increased utilization of improved agricultural practices and access to markets by small-scale farmers and pastoralists especially women; 2) Increased representation of small-scale farmers and pastoralists organizations (CSO's) in the CAADP/PPF implementation process; and, 3) Improved functioning of ACORD's Pan-African Agricultural Program.

The Seven Immediate outcomes for the three respective intermediate outcomes were as follows:

- 1.1 Improved knowledge of livestock and crop production methods, sustainable land and water management practices, and existing agricultural policy frameworks by small-scale farmers and pastoralists.
- 1.2 Increased skills of small-scale farmers and pastoralists to access markets.
- 2.1 Increased capacity of small-scale farmer and pastoralist organizations to develop and disseminate agricultural information and practices to their members (women and men).
- 2.2 Strengthened capacity of small-scale farmer and pastoralist organizations to engage in CAADP and AU PPF processes.
- 3.1 Improved knowledge and capacity within ACORD in key management functions.
- 3.2 Improved knowledge management capacity and systems and processes of accountability.
- 3.3 Increased capacity for gender-sensitive monitoring and evaluation.

The summative external evaluation report confirmed that:

- 200,000 small scale farmers and pastoralists have improved knowledge, skills, attitude and practice in food production, processing and conservation,
- 80,000 having access to improved crop and livestock production method and,
- 70% farmers and pastoralists in target areas easily access markets for their produce
- 200 farmer and pastoral organizations conversant with the CAADP and PFPA processes at national and regional level. These organizations are not only aware of the CAADP and PFPA processes but can engage effectively at national and regional level and have confidence in their ability to develop and disseminate agricultural information and practices to their members.

External evaluation available here: http://www.international.gc.ca/gac-amc/publications/evaluation/2015/eval_paap-eval_pap.aspx?lang=eng



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