



Defending rights. Promoting justice.

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. Our work is guided by a number of fundamental values and working principles, chief amongst these is our belief that people themselves are the primary actors in their own development.

Our vision for Africa is a society in which all citizens are able to achieve their rights and fulfil their responsibilities.

ACORD works in common cause with people who are poor and those who have been denied their rights to obtain social justice and development and, ultimately, to become part of locally-rooted citizen movements. ACORD has facilitated the emergence of over 2000 strong and autonomous grassroots organisations across Africa. Community owned and managed, these organisations provide access to critical services and skills such as veterinary services, micro-finance, income generation activities, and natural resource management within their communities. Many have evolved to go beyond addressing immediate needs to engage with decision-makers and represent their own interests, claim community rights and demand accountability.

Our grassroots level approach ensures that solutions are community owned and led, driving program efficacy and sustainability.

HOW WE WORK

ACORD's approach is focused on civic-driven change, that is people-centred and citizen led, and is a catalyst for holistic positive transformation in society. ACORD builds and strengthens civil society within African communities, from the local to the national level.

ACORD works with civil society organizations to strengthen their capacities and ability to engage with decision-makers and represent their own interests, claiming community rights, contributing to policy formation, and implementing processes that foster accountability.



In collaboration with communities, ACORD addresses the root causes of poverty by focusing on three core services: peacebuilding, rights and responsibilities promotion, and livelihoods resilience. We provide depth of experience and technical expertise by focusing on, and continuously improving our methods and approaches within, these three domains.

LIVELIHOODS RESILIENCE

- **ACORD works with government institutions** to facilitate local solutions through participatory development planning and building the capacity of communities to interact with these institutions.
- **ACORD works with communities** to enhance diversified climate resilient agricultural, agro-forestry, pastoral and agro-pastoral production, processing and marketing, water management systems, and social safety nets.
- **ACORD supports access and availability** to safe water for human and livestock consumption as well as agricultural production
- **ACORD facilitates the engagement of women and youth** in livelihood diversification and income generating activities, creation of village savings and loan associations, and the adoption of cooperative business models.



RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES PROMOTION

- **ACORD works to generate awareness** and knowledge of human rights and gender issues within local communities, including among traditional and religious leaders.
- **ACORD facilitates the provision of justice** and comprehensive services for survivors of violence by strengthening referral pathways and mechanisms for recording and updating rights violations.
- **ACORD builds the capacity of rights organizations** by increasing policy literacy, networking, communication, and advocacy and leadership skills.
- **ACORD works to change socio-cultural norms** by supporting women and men to develop visions for change in gender relations and improved livelihoods.



CONFLICT RESOLUTION & PEACEBUILDING

- **ACORD strengthens community structures for the management and maintenance of peace** as well as shared resources through support of inter- and intra- community dialogues, community safety plans, and risk awareness campaigns.
- **ACORD helps to increase community consciousness and participation in citizenship** in countries emerging from conflict through civic education, campaigns, and fostering the process of developing social contracts for peace.
- **ACORD supports knowledge and skill development** of local community leaders, civil society activities, and governance structures for conflict prevention, management and resolution through support for the design and implementation of community peace and recovery projects.



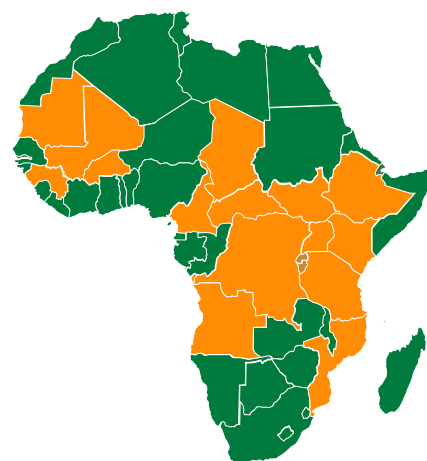
THE ACORD ADVANTAGE

ACORD provides authentic grassroots development support with the management and technical capacities of an international NGO. ACORD's approach is based on best practice approaches developed and tested through decades of work in sub-Saharan Africa. ACORD is a registered UK charity and has been a partner of choice for European NGOs for the past 40 years, enabling us to develop excellence in both financial and management processes and procedures.



WHERE WE WORK

ACORD works with some of the hardest to reach populations across sub-Saharan Africa. Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, we currently have offices in 13 countries and support programming in 4 more.



Highlights of our current programming include:

CHAD: Food Security for Smallholder Producers in the Sahel, **Caritas Suisse**

KENYA: Promoting Women's Participation and Leadership in the 2017 General Elections, Kenya, **European Union, EIDHR**

MALI: Youth Program for the Consolidation of Inclusive Peace Against Violent Extremism, **United Nations Peace Building Fund**

MAURITANIA: Strengthening Food Security and Nutrition, **ECHO**

SOUTH SUDAN: Sustainable Livelihood and Leadership for Peace, **Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Addressing Root Causes Fund**

UGANDA: Evaluation of Gender Based Violence in the Great Lakes Region, **McArthur Foundation**

ACORD'S IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS – 2015 IN REVIEW

123

Provinces that ACORD works in across Africa



67

Networks that ACORD participates in



573

Local organizations that ACORD partners with



4,050,744

Beneficiaries reached by ACORD



HOW ACORD IS CREATING SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

HADJÉ ZARA DOUNGOUS'S STORY IS AN INSPIRING EXAMPLE FOR OTHER RURAL WOMEN

"Thanks to my knowledge in Koranic Arabic, my sisters selected me to participate in a literacy training organised by ACORD in Chad for a group of ten women. The purpose was to improve our living conditions through enhanced knowledge. **At the end of the training I was able to read and write and was elected at the head of the Women of Bokoro Association Al Nour, composed of 39 women's groups. We have opened several literacy centres in our villages and managed to develop income generating activities through micro-credit loans from gender and HIV&AIDS projects.** Our financial management was good and we paid back all loans timely. Today, I am the President of the Women of Dababa Network and also a member of the inter-cantonal platform, whose constitution was supported by ACORD. My life has really changed and even men come to me to seek advice on questions of collective interest. **My next step is to defend the rights of women at the national level.**"

