

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

ACORD is a
Pan-African organisation
present in **17**
countries, working with the
poor and marginalised people
for **social justice**
and **development.**



ACORD SECRETARIAT

Nairobi Office:
ACK Garden House
P. O. Box 61216 - 00200
Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: + 254 20 272 11 72/ 85/86
Fax: + 254 20 272 11 66
E-mail: info@acordinternational.org

London Office:
Development House,
56-64 Leonard Street
London, EC2A 4LT
United Kingdom
Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7065 0850
Fax: + 44 (0) 20 7065 0851

ACORD is a registered charity
governed by memorandum
and articles of association in
the United Kingdom.

Registered Charity No : 283302
Company Registration No. 1573552



The Power of Action

www.acordinternational.org

contents

1 Message from the Chair and the Executive Director..... (1)

ACORD IN ACTION

2 Protecting and Enhancing Livelihoods

- **International:** Trade Agreements Affecting Africa and Food Sovereignty..... (2)
- **Pan African:** Accra Summit Offers Firm Resistance to Unequal Trade Partnerships (4)
- **Chad:** Community Involvement Helps Sustain Water Access..... (5)
- **Uganda:** Channeling Rainwater for Domestic Purposes..... (5)

3 Promoting Community Social Peace and Security

- **Kenya:** ACORD's Social Peace-Building Methodology in Action..... (6)
- **Guinea:** Giving Peace and Development a Chance..... (7)

4 Exploring New Frontiers in HIV and AIDS Support and Advocacy

- **Angola:** ACORD Film Honoured for Innovation in HIV Prevention, Support and Advocacy..... (9)
- **North Sudan:** Speaking out against Stigma and Discrimination..... (10)
- **Tanzania:** Engaging all Sectors in Access to Anti-Retrovirals and Service Delivery (11)

5 Advocating for Women's Rights and Protection

- **Pan African:** Conference on Ending Impunity for Gender Based Violence..... (13)
- **Burundi:** Empowering one Woman is Empowering an entire Community..... (14)

6 Financial Section..... (15)

7 Who We Are

- **ACORD's Vision, Mission and Values..... (16)**



1

Message from the Chair of the Board and the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present to you the 2008 ACORD Annual Report, The Power of Action. The report provides an overview of the main achievements and impact of ACORD's work in 2008. ACORD'S programmes were delivered together with a multitude of partners and communities in 17 African countries.

The current context is a difficult one. The impact of the food, energy and financial crisis threatens to reverse the progress some African countries were making towards improved livelihoods and social justice among their people. Many are concerned that as the crisis worsens, it will make the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals unrealistic and could lead to eight lost years of progress.

In this context, ACORD advocates for African nations and vulnerable groups everywhere to ensure they will be able to move towards food sovereignty. Many African governments face the reality of spending less on social welfare and development sectors as they try to stem and respond to the current crisis. Civil society representatives and ACORD are urging that national policies addressing the crisis should be in line with the plans for poverty reduction as well as promoting African local ownership.

The current crisis exacerbated inequalities and the most marginalised groups (women, children, people living with HIV and AIDS, and the elderly) lack fundamental support to sustain their lives and to see their rights respected. Over the past three decades, ACORD's programmes have aimed to give communities and individuals the tools, opportunities and space to improve their livelihoods, find viable solutions to prevent and mitigate conflict through peace-building, reduce the spread of HIV and AIDS and establish measures to end impunity in gender-based violence. Today these programmes are more important than ever.

In 2008 ACORD was accredited as a non-governmental organisation with special consultative status in the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. This is positive recognition of our expertise and credibility as an international Pan-African organisation. ACORD continues to strengthen its organisational and programmatic capacity to lobby policy-makers. The adoption of a new governance model consistent with ACORD's Pan-African identity enables the organisation to strategically position itself on the Pan-African scene, in the broader development sector and to nurture strategic partnerships.

We hope that you enjoy reading about ACORD's progress in 2008 and invite you to share any comments or questions you may have. With your continued support, commitment and partnership we will strive to increase the impact of our programmes across Africa and continue to work for the rights of the most marginalised and vulnerable in our quest for social justice and prosperity.

Once again thanks must be extended to all ACORD staff, board, members, donors and partners.



Kevin Teopista M. Akoyi
(Chairperson)

Ousainou Ngum
(Executive Director)

Cover photos: © ACORD International

2

Protecting and Enhancing Livelihoods and Food Sovereignty



“ Europe can play a role in creating a future for Africa’s farmers by restructuring the European Union’s Common Agricultural Policy in a way that supports family farming and production...”

International: Trade Agreements Affecting Africa's Food Sovereignty

In 2008, ACORD increased its advocacy activities around the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). In November 2007, under pressure from the European Union (EU) and the approaching World Trade Organization (WTO) deadline, many African countries were forced to hurriedly initial interim EPA agreements.

ACORD’s Pan African Program focuses on food sovereignty and tries to find meaningful solutions for African agriculture and trade that translate into long-term benefits for African communities. This has been the major push of ACORD’s stop EPAs interventions.

If the European Union succeeds in opening up Africa’s markets to EU products, it is expected that the dumping of subsidised EU imports will affect over 60% of the African population that rely solely on agriculture for their livelihood. Loss of revenue, and eventual loss of ability to sustain their livelihood are most likely to be the direct outcomes. Even worse the removal of tariffs and taxes on all goods will result in significant losses in government revenue thus directly affecting the provision of services such as health, water and education.

ACORD has therefore focused its efforts on engaging the continent’s policy and decision-makers in calling for a halt to the EPA negotiations and the formulation of a development partnership that preserves the human rights of all citizens.

In 2008, the Stop-Think-Resist EPAs campaign was particularly effective in bringing together national and regional parliamentarians as well as community based women’s groups, students and academia often left out of global trade decisions. Information dissemination and exchange amongst policy makers, implementers and local communities across Africa and Europe were key endeavors of the Pan African Programme in 2008. The programme was implemented with support from Oxfam Novib, Comité Catholique contre la Faim et pour le Développement (CCFD) and Department for International Development (DFID).

Why Stop EPAs?

The EPAs are free trade agreements negotiated between the ACP (African, Caribbean and Pacific group of States) and the EU. The EPAs require the ACP states to open their economies to duty and tariff-free goods from the EU.

EPAs hold little hope for development through reinforced regional integration. Although listing regional integration among its main objectives, the manner in which the negotiations are being carried out will lead to greater fragmentation of regional blocs. In fact, varying negotiating texts and separate liberalisation schedules suggest great disharmony in the future. Countries that have not signed an EPA will have to impose stricter border controls to guard against EU goods entering their markets through neighbouring countries leading to suspicions among regional neighbours and greater barriers to regional trade.

The EPAs have also elicited strong concerns from the African agricultural sector, especially amongst smallholder farmers. Exposing local markets to unfair competition from EU subsidised products will lead to greater food insecurity as well as a threat of rising unemployment as more and more small farmers are unable to compete. Without sufficient revenue, it is unlikely that the African governments will be able to provide social support to the rising number of hungry people.

60% Percentage of African population relying on Agriculture for their livelihood. They are certain to be negatively affected by dumping of subsidised EU imports.

A clear EU-led development commitment to meet adjustment costs is lacking. This fiscal positioning is unclear since there have not been sufficient studies predicting the impact of EPAs. Farmers, pastoralist networks, community-based organisations, churches, and even parliamentary officials have been left out of the EPA discussion.

Furthermore, several clauses within the initialed EPA texts raise serious concerns. A standstill clause requires an immediate freeze on all tariffs even though EU subsidies have not been removed; export taxes encouraging value-addition and raising revenue have now been removed; in an apparent slight to south-south cooperation, a ‘Most Favored Nation’ clause locks African countries into giving the same treatment to the EU that it gives to any other country.

Of greatest concern is the absence of a policy tool so that governments can protect their citizens’ right to food. In light of the global food crisis, this is an issue that elicits great unease. 2008 was therefore marked by developing closer working ties with ACORD’s local partners and governments, regional economic blocs such as Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Eastern African Community (EAC) and Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as well as parliamentarians in Chad, Cameroon, Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya and Tanzania.



ACORD's Pan Africa Programme is structured around the core issue of food sovereignty, underpinned by the desire to pursue and consolidate a fight for the right to and greater policy space for African states and its communities to define and develop policies and strategies for attaining its food security. A dual engagement approach on food sovereignty is ACORD's main entry point to engage on regional and Pan African processes involving:

- International trade justice with the focus of ACORD's work on Stop EPAs and EU's Common Agricultural Policy debate and;
- Engagement on the Comprehensive African Agriculture and Development Programme and the Pastoral Policy Framework.

Pan African: Accra Summit Offers Firm Resistance to Unequal Trade Partnerships

The 6th ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific group of States) summit was held in Accra from the 30th September to 4th October 2008. In attendance were Heads of State, ministers, and government officials from all 79 ACP member countries.

Alongside fellow African Trade Network (ATN) members, ACORD used its policy documents and campaign tools to successfully lobby various officials participating in the summit. ACORD's policy brief recommendation requesting African government officials to "insist that the European Commission (EC) honour its commitment to implement the provisions of the article 37.6 of the Cotonou Agreement, and propose alternatives to EPAs which ensure that no ACP country will be left worse off", was adopted into the official ACP delegates' declaration.

The policy briefs on the EPA negotiations provided clear references, and thus were a good entry point for discussions with delegates. They contributed to the final results of the conference by giving convincing arguments and strong criticism of EPA negotiations. In addition, discussions with policy makers from different African States helped to give ACORD a good insight into the different country perspectives on the EPA negotiations which will inform our future work. It is vital that the ACP be seen to continue to hold the EC to account for failing to provide alternatives. This was another example of how ACORD's lobbying leads to direct impact.

“ We were delighted to be able to bring the voices of those who are suffering most directly into to the international debate... ”

Towards a Common Agenda

During the summit 300 Ghanaian Farmers, students and civil society activists held a march along the streets of Accra. Holding ACORD's Stop EPA posters and home-made placards reading 'Stop the Recolonisation of Africa', they succeeded in sending a clear message about the need to prevent imbalanced trade deals that could negatively affect African smallholder farmers.

The protesters marched from the Trade Union Congress to the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Food and Agriculture. At each of the Ministries, trade union representatives expressed the groups concerns to officials. On meeting the Minister for Trade, the group expressed concerns with the ongoing EPA negotiations. "We hear you, we respect your concerns", said the Minister.

In just three days of petition collection, 30 student volunteers from various Accra schools garnered close to 10,000 Stop-Think-Resist EPAs petitions. The process of collecting petitions served to increase the public's knowledge about the EPA negotiations and facilitated their involvement. The ACP representatives agreed to instruct the President and the Secretary General of the ACP council to explore modalities for conducting high-level engagement with key stakeholders in the EU. Finally, the representatives agreed to instruct the council of Ministers to pursue the consideration of the creation of an ACP Free Trade Area.

One of the lessons learnt by ACORD in its campaign against EPAs showed the need for ACORD and partners to have stronger advocacy and lobby work at national level, targeting both national decision-makers as well as regional representatives, an approach we will incorporate in future work. ACORD pursued the Stop EPA campaign within the framework of our engagement with the African Trade Network to strengthen capacities of the civil society organisations and farmers' movements.

CHAD: Community Involvement Helps Sustain Water Access for Livelihood and Food Sovereignty

Communities living in the arid and semi-arid areas of Mayo Danay in Chad experience severe droughts when the rains fail. These hardships extend for months resulting in poor pasture for pastoralist communities. Water shortages create an imbalance in settlement and weaken community structures. Responding to this seasonal phenomenon, ACORD opted to sink two boreholes with the active participation of the village residents in site selection and management of the water points.

More than 300 community members (153 women and 147 men) now benefit directly from the potable water points. Water access in Mayo Danay has resulted in dramatically reduced walking distances within the larger county from an average of 8km to 2km.

Working with and through local committees, village associations and building on the enthusiasm resulting from the project, ACORD assigned the responsibility of managing the water points in terms of security, regulation and maintenance to the members of the Mayo Danay community. This enhanced the sense of ownership and a desire to preserve its effectiveness.



Local communities are the drivers of sustained development

“ Every morning, I had to wake up before sunrise just to search for water as far as 5km away. My child in primary school had to sacrifice classroom sessions to come home and collect water and firewood. However, things have changed and we have a water tank inside the compound. All our water troubles are behind us now”, says Mutungi, a resident of Endiinzi area of Uganda.



UGANDA: Channeling Rainwater for Domestic Purposes

Mutungi lives with her husband and only child in Endiinzi Sub County located in Insingiro District of Uganda. Water scarcity in the District (ranked 76th out of 78 districts) means that only 28 per cent of the population has access to safe water. The district relies solely on rain water harvesting to survive due to its remote location and poor infrastructure.

Seeking a solution to the challenges faced by Endiinzi communities, ACORD in Mbarara received support from Jersey Overseas Aid Commission to help the local communities build water harvesting and storage tanks within the sub county and to support the community livelihood activities. The water tanks were built using concrete walls and were connected using pipes that direct the water runoff from the roof.

Since May 2008, the project supported by the Endiinzi Women's Group, has secured seven water tanks. In addition, the members have built three water tanks to benefit more members as they put in savings to construct five additional tanks to ensure that every group member benefits. The participative model of the project has also significantly improved the level of ownership among its members.

The ACORD Project Officer in Mbarara believes that the Endiinzi water management initiative can be replicated in other areas within Uganda (especially in the arid regions of the North) as well as other African countries where water scarcity poses a problem to Livelihoods.

3

Promoting Community Social Peace and Recovery

KENYA: ACORD's Social Peace-Building Methodology in Action

ACORD has been working in conflict torn and post-conflict regions for the past 30 years and has a wealth of experience and developed skills and methodologies in post-conflict interventions and reconstruction. In this context, our core focus has been on protecting the rights of internally displaced people and refugees. Provision of livelihood skills in conflict situations includes economic empowerment at the grassroots level targeting displaced persons, demobilised ex-combatants, orphans, widows, and the disabled persons. Strategic interventions include awareness creation of human rights through training of paralegals, civic education on good governance and democracy, support programmes for women on legal issues, and support programmes for women and children who are heads of household.

Instability, violence and insecurity continue to blight the lives of millions of men, women and children across Africa. Nevertheless, when efforts to reconcile by communities engaged in conflicts succeed, meaningful transformation can occur.

ACORD's Community Social Peace and Recovery Model (CSPR) is one of the peace-building approaches that has been used at the grassroots level to bring communities together and negotiate a peaceful coexistence. It is a strategy that hands peace-building and negotiation over to the community and encourages them to conduct an in-depth analysis of the causes and impacts of conflict.

Following the traumatic post-election events of 2007 and 2008 in Kenya, more than 1,000 lives were lost amongst heightened ethnic tensions especially those between the Kipsigis and the Kisii ethnic communities living in the Rift Valley and Nyanza provinces. This drove ACORD to replicate its CSPR in Sotik and Borabu districts in the Western part of Kenya with support from Oxfam Hong Kong.

ACORD had previously successfully applied the CSPR methodology in Burundi to negotiate a peaceful coexistence among at least 200,000 members of affected communities. Positive relations of solidarity, gradual ownership of decision-making by the community, jointly negotiated peace projects and collective community-led approach to resolving conflict were some of the results observed. As with the Burundi experience, the communities have been guided through the peace-building methodology. This involved inter-ethnic discussion, training of peace negotiators, the mobilisation of elders to provide leadership and public awareness on the value of peace and coexistence. During the Kenya peace-building process, a community social peace and recovery contract was signed on 21 November 2008 and the communities agreed to uphold peace and tolerance among themselves.



During this reconciliation ceremony, communities from Sotik and Borabu committed to end inter-ethnic hostilities.

“A lot of people who fled their homes have returned; we work with them on a daily basis and share a lot of things. During dialogue sessions, people readily come to share their personal accounts narrating what happened during the post-election violence, and some have started offering long-term solutions.”

- Ronald Okemo, a peace negotiator from Riiontonyi in Kenya

GUINEA: Giving Peace and Development a Chance

The forest region of Guinea is known not only as the country's bread basket, it is also the commercial meeting point for the sub region. In the past, this region hosted hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing civil war in neighbouring Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and Liberia. The political crisis of 2008 followed by armed conflict in various parts of the country created tensions making this area a potential source of instability.

The additional weakness of the country's border controls, contributed to the overall deterioration of the region's socio-economic situation. Most affected by the instability were Macenta and N'Zerekore, formerly hives of agro-economic activity. The economic dynamism previously witnessed all but stopped and ripples were felt across the Guinean landscape as communities began to experience severe food shortages.

ACORD identified the link between the conflict and difficulties in access to food and basic commodities, as well as the pressure on dwindling natural resources and the environment. With time, these events had translated into complex challenges involving disintegration of the social fabric, weak economy and a disregard for human dignity and increased violence against women and children.

With support from the Comité Catholique Contre la faim et pour le développement (CCFD), ACORD invested in restoring confidence and rebuilding the local communities in Macenta and N'Zerekore through a peace-building project aimed at strengthening traditional conflict-resolution structures. This included taking into consideration the need for protection, training of local farmers and public awareness and enforcing civic duties. It was necessary to create a conflict-free environment which favoured socio-economic development activities.

ACORD provided skills in banana farming and marketing, soap production and fabric design to 135 members of 8 community groups. Members from localities of Bounouma, N'Deleou (Daro), Oremai, Koima (Seredou) and Yalenzou, including 97 women, were the main beneficiaries of the programme - made up of women who had been deported and demobilised young people.

The peace-building process capitalised on community leaders who delivered messages urging the village members to give peace a chance. ACORD also trained peace agents who were able to reach the most remote villages with peace messages, radio programmes and organise public gatherings.

“We can proudly assert that ACORD's intervention has empowered communities in Macenta to courageously engage in local development by applying the skills that they have learnt”, responded one of the beneficiaries.

By empowering community members to be economically productive, they could in turn influence the wider community and halt the escalation of destructive behaviour resulting from frustrations and limited opportunities.



A woman prepares a handful of groundnuts for her child to eat: the conflict and instability in Guinea has a direct impact on food security.
Photo - Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN)

4

Exploring New Frontiers in HIV and AIDS Support and Advocacy

ANGOLA: ACORD Film Honoured for Innovation in HIV Prevention, Support and Advocacy

Creative and innovative approaches to address the poverty aggravating effects of HIV/AIDS are critical to ensure Africa's development. ACORD received recognition in 2008 when the 24-minute documentary commissioned by ACORD in Angola won the INTERCOM Gold Plaque award during the 44th Chicago International Film Festival held in the United States.

In 2007, ACORD in Angola had taken the Stepping Stones methodology into new territory using military officers to demonstrate its relevance and effectiveness in a documentary title *Condom Commandos* produced with support from Oxfam GB.

Condom Commandos shows 'Stepping Stones' in action in Angola. The film was shot with the participation of the Angolan Army and the inhabitants of a village close to the army barracks in Matala, Huila province. On-screen, local women confront soldiers about their behaviour, and the impact on the community of troops stationed far from home who are careless about using condoms when having sex with local women and girls.

According to the UN Children's Fund, only 3.9% of Angola's population of nine million is HIV positive. However, high risk activities associated with HIV prevalence continue to be practiced.

Through the Stepping Stones methodology in Angola, ACORD has supported the socio-economic reintegration of 5,300 demobilised ex-combatants.

This film can be used with communities to help them understand the Stepping Stones methodology which integrates gender and HIV/AIDS. It also demonstrates to donors and policy-makers the power and effectiveness of the Stepping Stones process. This video is available in English and Portuguese.

Elena plays a significant role in the film encouraging other women and girls in the community to talk openly about their circumstances surrounding HIV

“ I was nervous at first about how the troops were going to react to the lessons: sitting with other men and using a banana to practice putting on a condom is not what they are used to. ”

Dr. Chimuco, the lead character in the film said during an interview with the BBC's Network Africa radio programme.

NORTH SUDAN: Speaking out against Stigma and Discrimination

ACORD understands that HIV/AIDS is an issue inextricably linked to poverty, gender inequalities, social exclusion and marginalisation, culture, conflict and governance.

ACORD in North Sudan works with a range of partners, including students, People Living with HIV (PLHIV), orphans, school teachers, sex workers, truck drivers, military personnel, community informants, educators, counselors and communicators. They collaborate on HIV/AIDS awareness raising, care and support, and advocacy for policy and practice change. With support from Oxfam Novib and other partners, ACORD is building capacity at community level to better understand the causes and consequences of the pandemic. A key strategy is also to influence policy makers, tribal and religious leaders to combat HIV and AIDS through changing negative traditional practices.

This is the story of El-Shareef, Chairperson of People Living with HIV and AIDS Care Association in Gedaref State

“ I tested HIV positive in 2003 while living in Gedaref. My relations with other members of my community were severely affected when I disclosed my HIV status. I was subjected to isolation and stigmatisation seriously affecting my self-esteem.

When I heard about ACORD's work on HIV and AIDS in Kassala 200 kilometres away, I decided to visit their offices and seek support and advice on how to live with the virus. The reaction of ACORD staff was a welcome surprise. They understood my situation and encouraged me to live positively. Their attitude led me to relocate to Kassala in order to participate in awareness raising activities and attend educational sessions on HIV and AIDS.

The People living with HIV and AIDS Care Association was formed in 2005 to reach out to other people facing stigmatisation due to their HIV status. Here, people living with HIV and AIDS could learn about the disease and get advice on how to live positively including information on proper care, diet and exercise and participation in an anti-retroviral treatment course. We received training from ACORD on how to manage our association professionally, through strategic planning, fund-raising and building our local capacities. More HIV-positive people started visiting our centre, coming out openly to seek support. This was a very positive result that motivated us to put even greater effort.

“ I have since returned to Gedaref to help my local community through awareness creation, and public dialogues. I feel that they need to understand that HIV and AIDS is not a curse and those living with the virus are not any less human. Therefore, everyone needs to be encouraged to get voluntary counseling and testing to know his or her HIV status.”



HIV Test: Fear of stigma and discrimination often prevents people in many African countries from going for testing to know their HIV status.

TANZANIA: Engaging all Sectors in Access to Anti-Retroviral and Service Delivery

Resource mobilisation is a key factor in managing HIV/AIDS among infected groups. Anti-retroviral medication, treatment of opportunistic infections and care of AIDS patients is costly.

Working with the Council Multi Sectoral AIDS Committees (CMAC) and Ward Multi Sectoral AIDS Committees (WMACs) ACORD shared lessons learnt from lobbying, advocacy and resource mobilisation tools to effectively ensure coordination of interventions on mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS within their localities. Targeting Biharamulo, Bukoba, Ilmela, Karagwe and Nyamagana, ACORD in Tanzania was able to record an average increase of 25 per cent in financial resource allocation towards HIV and AIDS. Supported by Oxfam Novib, the programme was able to reach more than 300,000 people with a multiplier effect for over 3 million people in the 7 administrative districts in North West Tanzania.

ACORD's previous research into anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs) via studies in Burkina Faso, Tanzania and Mozambique generated information that could be used for advocacy to increase equitable access to AIDS care and treatment services in African countries. The study revealed that the main problem in both public and private health facilities was the associated enormous running costs essential for a sustainable program.



“ Worldwide, stigma and discrimination associated with HIV and AIDS are the biggest obstacles to the contribution of people living with HIV to development and public action because they are often rejected by the community. They must be empowered to have a voice and to demand their rights from national policy makers and AIDS service providers.”

- HIV and AIDS Support and Advocacy Programme (HASAP), ACORD.

5

Advocating for Women's Rights and Protection

Pan African: Conference on Ending Impunity for Gender-Based Violence

Civil strife, armed conflict and natural or man-made disasters are widely experienced in Africa and they often foreshadow incidents whereby women and girls experience appalling violations of their human rights. These atrocities are often not investigated and the perpetrators do not face justice. This situation breeds a culture of impunity.

With the knowledge of the existing challenges ACORD convened the first Pan African Conference on Ending Impunity for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Nairobi from the 21st to 23rd July 2008.

Seeking to bring key players in gender and women's rights together, a mobilisation campaign was set up in collaboration with Action Aid International, Amani Forum, International Planned Parenthood Federation, together with The Kenyan Human Rights Commission, Coalition on Violence against Women and Urgent Action Fund.

The conference set out to influence national, regional and Pan African institutions to establish effective mechanisms for the prosecution of the perpetrators of SGBV, to strengthen national legal and judicial procedures to provide compensation and protection for survivors of SGBV, to reinforce national and regional accountability to monitor and report sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings.

The conference participants committed to ending impunity through activities centering on women survivors of SGBV in conflict and non-conflict situations, mobilising popular support in the fight against SGBV, securing adequate human, financial and material resources, building bridges across sectors and within movements and developing a new cadre of leadership.

Convening under the call for a move from establishing frameworks to action, it provided an opportunity to engage substantively on effective strategies to address impunity on the African continent. ACORD brought together 140 participants including parliamentarians, policy makers, legislative officials (Ministries of Justice and Constitutional Affairs), and gender activists.

Also among the participants were representatives of regional institutions including the International Conference for the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA), and Eastern Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA). There were also many participants from civil society organisations working at a national, regional and pan-African level whose goal is to influence Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Union (AU), and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). In addressing impunity for SGBV, the conference focused on the question of compensation and protection for survivors of SGBV especially within transitional justice paradigms.

ACORD is prioritising sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict societies as a focus of its gender thematic work within the Pan African context. Our goal is to facilitate the development of a culture of gender justice in the states in Africa that have emerged from or are in conflict. This conference was a continuation of this focus in alliance with like-minded human rights, civil society and pan-African organisations.



Ousainou Ngum, ACORD's Executive Director and Hon. Martha Karua, Member of Parliament from Kenya during the pan-African conference on gender-based violence held in Nairobi on 21 July, 2008

BURUNDI : Empowering one Woman is Empowering an Entire Community



Collective action by women groups in Burundi demonstrated the power of organisation and served to earn women respect and cooperation from the larger community.

In the course of 2008, ACORD was involved in strengthening the capacity of women's groups in Burundi. The aim was to empower women within the larger communities to become more productive and enhance their livelihood opportunities.

Recognising the particular situation of women, ACORD works with women groups and associations to reach women in remote areas promoting women's rights in line with its gender strategy.

In Buterere, four new associations emerged and became important centres where women could play a significant role in shaping their future. This community was known to be the most impoverished, marginalised and poorly serviced among the four villages of Bujumbura Municipality.

The associations include the Dushigikirane women's group with 15 member associations, the CAFEM group in Musaga with 23, the CAFED group from the Kamenge commune with 16 and the Kanyosha women's group with 30.

With support from United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), ACORD has helped more than 90 groups and associations to register and receive official status. With official recognition, security and respect, these women's associations have gained in confidence and size and regularly undertake income-generating activities that enhance their livelihoods. The success of these groups has inspired the establishment of additional groups in areas where there is a dire need for women to be empowered through collective action.

Women represent 90% of more than 5,000 members registered with various community groups and associations. The members received training in starting income-generating activities such as leather processing, fish preservation, bread baking, and managing micro-projects. ACORD observed that working with leather to produce commercial objects had previously been the preserve of men. But these women's groups have demonstrated that women can excel in traditionally male-dominated fields.

“My status within the home and community has dramatically improved. My husband no longer perceives me as a passive and unworthy spouse. I have earned respect as I can bring food and other resources into the home thanks to my improved purchasing power. ”
Beatrice, a member of a women's Group in Buterere Village.

6

Financial Section

ACORD Financial Statements For the Year Ended 31 December 2008

	(In GBP 000)	
	Total 2008	Total 2007
Income		
Donations and similar resources	33	289
Resources from government and other public authorities	923	7,155
Total Income	956	7,424
Expenditure		
Charitable activities - ongoing	798	6,939
Governance Costs	104	182
Total Expenditure	902	7,101
Net Income / Expenditure	54	323
Total funds brought forward	819	893
Total funds carried forward at the end of the year	873	1,216

All income and expenses arise from continuing activities. There are no other gains or losses other than shown above, therefore no statement of recognised gain and losses is presented.

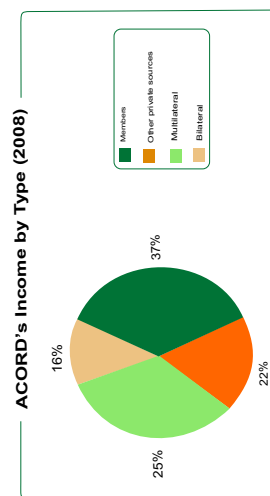
Maggie Pankhurst
Treasurer of the Board

Kevin Teopista M. Akoyi
Chair of the Board

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2008

	(In GBP 000)	
	2008	2007
Current Assets		
Tangible fixed assets	1	16
Current Assets:	2,498	1,965
Debtors	593	561
Cash at bank and in hand	(1,603)	(1,326)
Less liabilities falling due within one year	1,489	1,216
Net assets	616	397
Funds	616	397
Restricted funds	873	819
Unrestricted funds	1,489	1,216

ACORD's Income by Type (2008)



This is a summary extract of the full accounts. The full accounts are audited by Horwath Clark Whitehill LLP and are available on our website: www.acordinternational.org

7

Who We Are

ACORD is a Pan African organisation working for social justice and development. Our core mandate is to bring about social justice and rights-based development through support to the development of social movements.



Vision

A society in which all citizens are equally able to achieve their rights and fulfill their responsibilities.

Mission

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 be part of locally rooted citizen movements.

Values

We believe people are the primary actors in their own survival and development.

We work for social justice and equality, especially for the poor and marginalised.

To achieve this, we work in partnership with communities and in alliance with other organisations.

We will contribute to the resolution of conflicts affecting the communities which we work, aware that social justice and equality are the basis of meaningful peace.

To advance these values, ACORD will carry out its work with integrity and courage.

We respect and celebrate diversity, both within the communities we work with, and within our own organisation.

We seek to achieve excellence in what we do.



“ACORD’s mandate is to “Bring about social justice and rights-based development in Africa through support to the development of social movements...””



- ### Where we Work
1. Sahel I
Mali
Burkina Faso
Mauritania
Guinea
 2. Sahel II
Cameroon
Chad
 3. Northern Sudan
 4. Southern Sudan
 5. Ethiopia
 6. Kenya
 7. Uganda
 8. Democratic Republic of Congo
 9. Rwanda
 10. Burundi
 11. Tanzania
 12. Angola
 13. Mozambique

Key
Where we work

Board Members

- Kevin Teopista Akoyi - Makokha (Chair)
- Maggie Pankhurst (Treasurer)
- Ibrahim Ouedraogo
- Michael Herzka
- Molly Kane
- Betty Plewes
- Kwame Kuffour
- Mutizwa Mukute
- Gertrude Kazoviyo
- Eunice N. Sahle
- Stella Mystica Sabiti
- Sylli Gandega
- Richard Bennett

Annual Report Coordination
Editorial: Partnership Development Unit
Design and Layout: Christine Okila
Printed by: Ramco Printing Works Limited

Senior Management Team

- Executive Director**
Ousainou Ngum
- Programming Director**
Bonaventure Wakana
- Partnership Development Manager**
Kristin Seljeflot
- Human Resource Manager**
Carine Kidwingira
- Head of Finance**
Elijah Lutwama

Photos: ACORD Copyright
Translated by: Josephine Kidudi
Special thanks: Marie Aziz