SOUTH SUDAN
Building climate resilience

HAITI
Five months after hurricane Matthew: Towards sustainable recovery

IRAQ
Supporting populations displaced by the Mosul crisis

Focus
Building typhoon resilience in the Philippines

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Sacks of rice being distributed by cash for workers in Lesson (Dame-Marie)

An awareness raising campaign in Torbeck (Les Cayes) and distribution of cholera prevention items
ACTED has been mobilised in the Sud and Grand’Anse departments since hurricane Matthew hit the region on 4 October 2016 to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to affected populations. In all sectors, needs reached high levels: Matthew caused terrible damages, casualties and losses, destroying houses, infrastructure and crops, and leaving 1.4 million Haitians in need of humanitarian assistance. In January 2017, after three months of unremitting emergency operations, ACTED teams launched the first recovery programmes: A review of six months of emergency operations and what comes next.

Improving access to water, hygiene and sanitation, and fighting cholera

Hurricane Matthew left some 750,000 people without access to safe water. ACTED teams rehabilitated water points and set up water treatment plants and chlorination points, especially beside rivers or stagnant waters, to prevent the consumption of water that may be contaminated and bring diseases like cholera. Also, with support from Veolia, the teams installed six Veolia water treatment units in the affected areas and trained populations on how to use them. The lack of access to safe water is one of the major causes of cholera and one of the top priorities for ACTED. Since October, the teams have been distributing over 520,000 Aquatabs for the disinfection of water as well as over 8,000 hygiene kits and some 10,000 soaps to tackle the sanitation crisis.

Heavy rains, floods and mudslides following hurricane Matthew led to new cholera outbreaks reaching alarming levels. Right after the hurricane in October, some 5,500 cholera cases were reported, up from only 2,377 in September, with half of the reported cases located in the Sud and Grand’Anse departments. ACTED cholera teams have been ramping up their activities to contain the epidemic and tackle its causes. This includes epidemiologic monitoring and investigation, rehabilitating health centres, identifying the areas of origin and vectors of cholera, improving access to safe water by testing and treating it, and raising awareness on the risks of cholera among populations to avoid the spread of the disease, changing mentalities, and ensuring best hygiene practices are established as a habit. Since October 2016, the teams rehabilitated four health centres and alerted over 60,000 people on the risks of cholera and how to avoid the disease.

Relaunching agriculture and food security

Matthew left some 806,000 people in dire need of food assistance. Beyond the destruction of crops, food prices rose by 8%, up to 14% in some areas. Since October 2016, ACTED teams have been distributing food rations to over 17,000 people in the Sud and Grand’Anse departments.

Food security remains a challenge for affected people, who still heavily rely on food assistance. “Before Matthew, the coastal areas of the Grand’Anse department were Haiti’s bread-basket. We used to grow maize, beans, bananas, cocoa, chestnuts… But since the hurricane, there is nothing left and no agriculture anymore. We need to rely on imports. And we still don’t know how long it will take until we can restart growing food”, explains an Haitian member of ACTED emergency teams. The main issue is to clear the fields and remove rubble brought by hurricane Matthew to be able to restart agricultural activities and to end food assistance interventions. Post-emergency interventions will be a decisive step towards food security. ACTED is currently launching cash transfer and cash for work programmes to clear agricultural areas devastated by the hurricane. In particular, ACTED will work with cooperatives of cocoa producers to relaunch the cocoa production, which requires time and particular care.

Sustainable solutions for more resistant shelters

Hurricane Matthew swept everything away, leaving thousands of Haitian families without a home. During the first weeks following the hurricane, affected populations received first emergency assistance like tarpaulins and other emergency shelter materials to ensure people have a roof over their heads. In total, ACTED teams distributed over 20,000 tarpaulins in the Sud and Grand’Anse departments. This emergency material offers a suitable solution to cope with the situation for some time, but still remains a temporary emergency solutions. Nowadays, many families still live in precarious shelters, and priority is now to come up with sustainable and climate-resilient shelter solutions.

With sustainability in mind, ACTED teams plan to rebuild houses according to more resistant techniques and materials, while respecting the environment and the Haitian traditions. The teams will provide families with appropriate tools and materials that will enable them to rebuild their houses while passing on messages about sustainable and resilient construction. In cooperation with IOM and the mayors of several affected cities, ACTED teams will also set up workshops where people can receive information, support and recommendations on how to build back safer or on the most appropriate materials and techniques. New natural hazards and disasters are most likely to happen and, until they happen, it is crucial to prepare families to cope with new disasters, starting with reinforced shelters.

Social progress through water pricing

Haitian populations face many challenges when it comes to finding water: it can be abundant and clean in some areas, and rare and disease-ridden in other areas. Also, access to water is unequal: in some areas, populations can simply go and take free water from water points. In other areas, they have to pay a fee to access water; but private water services are usually expensive, while there is a poor maintenance of the water distribution system, leading to even more inequalities. In Thiotte, ACTED teams installed six water kiosks equipped with water treatment systems and managed by a person in charge of monitoring the water quality and collecting a fee from each user. This fee is calculated according to the average income of the population, and will enable to pay the maintenance services. This will ensure a permanent and affordable access to clean and safe water, a first step towards empowerment of populations and local water management.
Six months after Hurricane Matthew, Haiti is about to face a food and nutrition crisis

Hurricane Matthew struck Haiti during a period of great vulnerability, after three years of severe drought, linked to the El Niño phenomenon, among other recurrent natural hazards. The food insecurity situation, already worrying in 2015 with 47.5% of the families affected in the drought zones (CNSA, 2015), has significantly worsened. Today, 1.5 million people are food insecure, and 280,000 are people severely food insecure, says the last analysis lead by the CNSA (National Coordination for the Food Security, 2017).

Hurricane Matthew had a particularly devastating impact on the food production: two thirds of the farmers underwent damages to their plots, two thirds lost at least three quarters of their stocks, and two thirds of the farm animals were lost. The massive destruction of the plants, harvest, seedling and seed stocks, of the irrigation systems and rural paths, the loss of basic equipment and the soil devaluation lead to the paralysis of Haiti’s food production systems. This is all the more worrying because the three most affected departments, Sud, Grand’Anse and Nippes, used to be the grain storage areas of the country before Matthew, and produced 85% of the corn, rice, sorghum, peas and beans national production, and almost 40% of the fruit production (CNSA, 2016).

To this must be added the consequences of Hurricane Matthew on families’ livelihood and capital, and therefore on their financial access to food. The destruction and loss of equipment had a direct impact on the populations' means of production and on the destabilization of the value chain. Most of the population in affected zones lost their sources of income, in the farming, fishing, breeding and small trade sectors. At a national scale, farming accounts for half of the jobs, up to 66% in rural zones. The consequences on the family economy also affects the remaining natural resources on which the pressure exerted threatens its sustainability and therefore the ecosystem services.

Furthermore, families have been directly affected by the increase in food prices. The Hurricane devastated the yam, banana and black pea plots, usually harvested in October / November. These seasonal products were therefore barely available after the hurricane which forced Haitians to turn to imported products, leading to price increases of 15 to 20% (CNSA and MARNDR, 2016). Almost a quarter of families spend more than 65% of their income on food (CNSA, 2017), which attests to their great economic vulnerability. This limits their capacity to access other essential products and services and to relaunch and rebuilt their means of support.

These factors have led to the current food and nutritional crisis which continues every day to spread across the nation. Even if the emergency humanitarian programs brought a temporary relief to a part of the population during this difficult crisis, the lack of long-term structural actions dangerously delays the agricultural and economic recovery of the population as well as the rehabilitation of value chains.

CNSA foresees that the crisis will last at least throughout 2017. Efforts need to be increased and focused on a consensus promoting coordination between actors and public institutions.

Today, institutions and national actors, supported by the signatories of this advocacy note, call for an immediate and collective action to quickly react to the documented gravity of the situation and to the predicted deterioration in the following weeks. All the stakeholders must come together in the immediate period to define a strategy for averting a new humanitarian disaster in terms of food and nutritional security.
In the Mount Lebanon region, people have difficulties in accessing quality, nutritious and diverse food, especially in densely populated urban areas. When agricultural space is missing, vertical gardens can be great solutions!

Vertical gardening consists in making plants grow up a wall or out of a wall, most of the time when there is not much space available on the ground – like in a crowded urban area. This is the solution provided by ACTED Lebanon teams, who settled vertical gardens in 200 households and eight community spaces, alongside with the provision of the necessary training to ensure their sustainability.

Cash-for-work: An opportunity for Syrian refugee women in Za’atari

Dressed in fluorescent orange vests, a group of Syrian women refugees walks through one of the many neighbourhoods, known as blocks, of Jordan’s largest and most established refugee camp, Za’atari. Armed with gloves and bin bags, the small group of women fans out across the streets and gather plastic bags and other litter strewn around the block. The women are part of ACTED’s cash-for-work program and provide crucial waste-collection services to the estimated 79,500 refugees calling the camp home.

Syrian refugees living in camps in Jordan don’t have the right to work in the country, and cash-for-work is the only way for them to earn an own income. Women refugees who are single mothers or heads of households have difficulties supporting themselves and their families in Za’atari refugee camp. To boost their income, ACTED created income opportunities for women by hiring them for waste-collection services.

The largest employer of women in Za’atari refugee camp

For Abdelhamid, ACTED’s project manager for solid waste management in Za’atari, the project has been a huge success. “Originally, I was very pessimistic about this project because normally we do not see women doing this kind of work in Jordan or Syria,” he explains. Indeed the programme had been challenged by community who view the work as shameful to the women. But after community discussions and mobilisation explaining the employment opportunities, the project quickly expanded and is now the largest employer of women in the camp.

Islam leads a team of eight women, all of whom are single mothers or heads of households, to ensure that the block in which they live is clean. “I am very happy with this work opportunity,” she says. With 90 women now employed under ACTED’s programme, the aim is to reach gender parity this year.

“Most of the time, we slept on the roof. After the intervention the big change was that we were given a new room separated from the other families. We have areas for children to play. We are comfortable and happy to stay here.” - Latefah, Ibb

Vertical gardening: An innovative solution to nutrition issues in densely populated urban areas in Lebanon

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“It was very strange for the community to see women doing this work in the beginning and we faced some troubles. People would say that the work we do in the streets is shameful!” - Islam, Za’atari
Military operations to retake Mosul began on 17 October 2016 and quickly resulted in the displacement of over 135,500 people in only three months. Since 29 December 2016, the military offensive has intensified, causing over 9,000 people to flee the city in the space of four days and a 50% increase in the daily displacement rate, according to OCHA.

End of February 2017, 200,000 people had been displaced by the conflict so far, and an additional displacement of up to 500,000 people could be expected, causing new needs to arise, while existing ones will most likely be exacerbated, with the winter and the depletion of existing resources.

"The single largest humanitarian operation in the world in 2017"

In addition to displaced individuals residing either in emergency camps (79%) or host communities (12%), families who remained in recently retaken areas are also highly vulnerable, as infrastructures are damaged, services have been cut, supplies are irregular, and many areas are contaminated with explosive hazards.

Operating through flexible and mobile teams, ACTED’s activities aim to address needs in a timely manner and adapt to the dynamics of a rapidly changing humanitarian situation. As the conflict persists and displacement continues daily, ACTED teams are mobilised every day to respond to the emergency, building on the lessons learned from being one of the main humanitarian actors on the ground since the onset of the crisis.

Since October 2016, ACTED has participated in the Mosul humanitarian response, addressing camp coordination and camp management, child protection, education, shelter and non-food items, and water, hygiene and sanitation needs arising from the military operations in Nineveh governorate.

ACTED is also one of the partner NGOs of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). The Rapid Response Mechanism is an emergency response modality for delivering humanitarian aid to vulnerable people displaced in crisis, by ensuring that life-saving supplies reach people when they are most vulnerable - on the move, stuck at checkpoints, caught between frontlines and in hard to reach areas. After conducting rapid needs assessments to identify vulnerabilities and gaps, and list requests, ACTED teams deploy to provide emergency kits including ready-to-eat food rations, basic hygiene kits and water to last a family for one week. This process enables to gather timely and detailed knowledge about the local situation, and adapt the response accordingly.

Immediate efforts are currently focusing on providing life-saving assistance to highly vulnerable people living in newly retaken areas, so that they will not be forced to leave their homes on the look for access to food, water, and healthcare. The objective is to have an accelerated access strategy to reach highly vulnerable populations within 72 hours from the time of their displacement or after an area has been retaken. Such a strategy developed by the humanitarian community builds on the experience of previous operations in Ramadi and Fallujah.

Refugees and Education

University scholarships for Syrian refugees in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq

"Just one per cent of refugees attend university, compared to a global average of 34 per cent", according to Bruno Geddo, UNHCR representative in Iraq.

141,000 Syrians found refuge in the governorates of Erbil and Sulaymāniyah in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq. As part of an information campaign about refugees’ rights and services they have access to, ACTED promoted university scholarships opened to Syrian refugees aged 17-29 to study at any public universities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq: the DAFI (Germany) and HOPES (EU) scholarships.

So far, 150 candidates were selected and will soon be placed in local universities!
Until recently, pastoralism has remained the dominant form of livelihood and lifestyle for the population of the Karamoja province in North-East Uganda. Karamoja is characterized by harsh arid and semi-arid land receiving 300 mm or less rainfall per annum and highly variable precipitation in volume, distribution and timing. The cattle-keeping communities living in Karamoja have developed sophisticated strategies for livestock production and movement in order to cope with the high level of risks inherent to this marginal environment.

ACTED Uganda has published an assessment report on the factors that affect pastoralists livelihoods and migratory patterns in Karamoja, with support from Dan Church Aid. The study “Pastoralism in Karamoja: Assessment of factors affecting pastoralist lifestyles in Moroto, Amudat and Kaabong” aims to provide an overview of the changing migratory habits of the Karimojong pastoralist communities, and to understand the underlying factors affecting migratory decision making processes. The report will provide development partners with vital information about the migratory dynamics within the region, thereby supporting effective programming in this nomadic region of Uganda. The report is particularly pertinent, given the ongoing drought and food security crisis in the region. Read it on ACTED website: http://www.acted.org/en/acted-uganda-and-danchurchaid-published-report-migratory-patterns-pastoralists-karamoja

Decades of conflict have displaced thousands of people and left many homeless and without hope, while reducing their capacity to cope with recurrent climate change induced natural hazards. Prolonged dry spells, unpredictable rainfall patterns causing excessive flooding, impassable roads during rainy seasons, rising market prices, limited income opportunities and continued currency depreciation affects traders’ ability to supply food and the capacity of families to feed themselves.

ACTED teams in South Sudan are mobilised to tackle food insecurity through the Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) consortium program, which enables to build the resilience of flood and drought prone communities in Northern Bahr al Ghazal, Warrap and Lake states. The program focuses on building the capacity and skills of the agro pastoralist communities to implement climate smart practices, diversify their livelihoods, and anticipate, absorb and adapt to shocks and stresses. Monica participated in a training on vegetable gardening: she received tools such as watering cans and hand hoes, and floods and drought tolerant seeds from ACTED. She planted okras, tomatoes, eggplants and other vegetables, and is now harvesting her crops that enable her to generate an own income.

In the Gledo region of Somalia, on the border with Ethiopia and Kenya, the El Niño phenomenon caused severe droughts in 2015-2016, resulting in food insecurity, lack of access to water, out-migration and death of livestock, with significant consequences on livelihoods. The drought situations ensued the poor Deyr rains, namely the seasonal year-end short rains in South Somalia, which forced water prices up by more than 300-400 percent and weakened the agriculture, in a country where the majority of the population relies on agriculture, thus contributing to the declining social and economic environment. Water was trucked to several affected villages, and the teams additionally distributed Aquatabs to ensure populations consume safe water. This intervention enabled to curb the water shortage, but remains an emergency solution: the teams are now developing strategies to build a sustainable response to recurrent drought situations, exacerbated by climate change.

ACTED sister initiative REACH published a situation overview about the food insecurity situation in Unity State, South Sudan, and is conducting more detailed assessments to map the extent of food insecurity across the region. This will contribute to identify the most vulnerable areas that most urgently require humanitarian support. ACTED teams are getting ready for first needs assessments in the region. Read more: http://www.acted.org/en/famine-south-sudan-understanding-food-insecurity-unity-state

From emergency to sustainable response in drought prone Somalia

Supporting coordination and effective response in Uganda

Famine emergency: ACTED and REACH preparing for response
In Central African Republic, ACTED supports over 1,200 displaced families returning to their home villages through the distribution of tools, construction and repair materials, complemented with training on reconstruction techniques.

Since the onset of the crisis in 2013, more than 440,000 people are still displaced throughout Central African Republic. In Kossé village in Ouham-Pendé, North-West of the country, conflicts between armed groups in September 2015 conducted to looting and destruction of many houses, therefore forcing the populations to flee. Now that the situation calmed down, families are returning to their home villages like Kossé. ACTED supports these families in rebuilding their homes and lives, through regaining a normal life after several months away from home. ACTED teams met Rachel: she tells about her return to Kossé, her home village. Rachel wears a colorful loincloth and secures her baby on her back with a scarf. She tells us how the materials, tools and technical advice provided by ACTED helped her in rebuilding her house, from manufacturing bricks to installing corrugated galvanized iron sheets for the roof. ACTED is also working to improve living conditions in these villages, by rebuilding water points and latrines, and rehabilitating schools and health centers. However, the situation in the region remains fragile, and the needs of returnees are still high. ACTED teams remain mobilised to support these families.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, one part of ACTED’s strategy to tackle food insecurity consists in organising food fairs, namely markets organised in collaboration with local merchants, where vulnerable people can exchange the food vouchers they received against diversified food according to their preferences. But when it comes to populations living in hard-to-reach areas, food supply becomes particularly challenging. In landlocked territories of South Kivu, villages are regularly looted by armed groups, thus leaving populations in dire need of food assistance. ACTED supplies local food fairs by plane, the only means that enables to reach these areas. This intervention enabled to provide food support to over 15,000 people in the area.

From June to September, in case of poor food harvest, food stocks rapidly run out and families lack food during the hunger season. Communities living in the Matam region in Senegal regularly face the daily issue of finding food for their families. These families require an urgent food, nutrition and cash assistance to meet their daily food requirements. Above all, they need to acquire the necessary skills to be able to cope with these challenges. With this aim, ACTED organised training to strengthen the food and nutritional autonomy of vulnerable families: this includes activities to improve the capacity of families to produce and maintain their capital from one year to another, by providing training and subsidies for agricultural inputs to small producers, and by supporting village initiatives for agriculture and nutrition.

In February 2017, ACTED Congo celebrated 20 years of operations! To this occasion, ACTED office in Brazzaville welcomed partners and relevant stakeholders to look back at 20 years of achievements in the relief and development sectors.
Basic water, hygiene and goods for populations who fled the Diffa region

More than 16,800 people of the Diffa region received emergency assistance in 2016 provided by the ACTED Niger field teams: vulnerable populations in the South-Eastern region of Niger have benefited from improved access to water, hygiene and sanitation, as well as essential non-food items and emergency shelters, particularly thanks to the Department for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection of the European Union (ECHO) support.

The Diffa region is facing a complex humanitarian crisis. Since 2013, recurring attacks by Boko Haram in Nigeria then in Niger since 2015, have led to massive displacements of civilian populations. Over 240,000 people had to flee their home because of insecurity. Most of them left everything behind.

While at the beginning of the crisis, local communities were able to welcome these new populations into their environment and provide them support, the constant deterioration of the situation and the increasing number of displaced people has reached the limits of local capacity, making the situation more difficult for the most vulnerable day after day.

Water and sanitation at the core of ACTED’s response

In Niger, water-related diseases are the third major cause of infant mortality, while probably being the easiest cause to treat and reduce. In 2016, ACTED set up several water facilities that enable to supply water to some 6,000 people, with support from ECHO. These facilities allow displaced populations and host communities to drink safer water and reduce the distances to collect water, thereby limiting the risks faced by people on their way to collecting water.

Before ACTED’s intervention, open defecation used to be the normal practice for over nine people out of ten, with potentially dangerous consequences like the spread of diarrhea and cholera. After the project, open defecation has been reduced, with only one person out of three continuing this practice. By supporting 280 particularly vulnerable households to build their own latrines and involving all communities, more than 400 latrines have been built by the people themselves and are now used by families.

A multisectoral and long-term response

More than 11,000 people had to flee the fertile lands of the Lake Chad islands that they had been tilling for generations, after their villages have been attacked. These farmers left everything behind in 2015 and received no humanitarian aid until November 2016, when they received support from the ACTED teams. Thanks to the support from ECHO, ACTED has been able to support some 12,000 people with cooking equipment, mosquito nets and basic household items, to enable these populations to get back to get back to some semblance of normal life. More than 2,000 women have also received dignity kits to be able to ensure minimum hygiene during their period.

In 2017, ACTED teams in the field endeavor to provide assistance and support to these vulnerable families from the Diffa region bruised by violence, who sometimes lost everything.
24-year-old Nye Day is a young man dedicated to pursuing his dreams of working in a big city. He has been living in the Ban Mai Nai Soi refugee camp in Thailand for the past five years, while his family remained in their home village in Kayah State of Myanmar. Nye Day is now pursuing an internship in Loikaw, Kayah State, to gain work experience in Mr. Dar Soe’s motorcycle repair shop.

Since January 2015, ACTED in Thailand has been running its second vocational training program for refugees in the refugee camps located in Mae Hong Son province, on the Thai-Myanmar border. The action targets refugees living in Ban Mae Nai Soi and Ban Mae Surin camps, many of whom fled Kayah State in Myanmar, located right across the border, as many as thirty years ago. ACTED’s vocational training programme provides the skills required to access secure livelihoods in Myanmar. By enabling refugees to be self-reliant, this ACTED EU-funded vocational training programme ensures preparedness of the refugees for return. So far, it has provided vocational training courses to over 1,000 refugees, complemented with life skills development courses and information sessions on the options of returning to Myanmar or resettling in Thailand or a third country. To maximize the impact of the vocational training courses, ACTED also offers eight-week internship opportunities to 150 graduates in Myanmar and Thailand with private sector employers, and provides small enterprise development grants to 150 graduates to support the start-up and development of their business plans.

Thanks to the training and this internship, Nye Day hopes to find a permanent full-time job in the city. He hopes to use his newly learned skills to find a job in which he earns enough money to support his family. The internship placement has provided development opportunities for the business and for Nye Day alike, with Mr. Dar Soe positive about continuing to take on interns in collaboration with ACTED in the future. As for Nye Day, he is thankful for the opportunity and the added skills it has given, and is determined to leave the refugee camp and to find work in the city once he has completed his placement.

“Without a latrine, you can be affected by several diseases. I have 6 children. If they become sick, I do not have enough money for their medicine. Having a latrine is one of the best solutions to avoid illnesses”

Ameera, a participant in the triggering sessions

Communities take the lead in ending open defecation!

Bad sanitation conditions and practices are the second major cause of child mortality in Afghanistan. In Badakhshan province, ACTED teams organise awareness raising sessions to promote behavioral change to make the usage of latrines widespread: communities are ‘triggered’ to build latrines independently, without any help from NGOs or government. ‘Triggering’ sessions are a highly effective methodology for behavioural change. The goal of triggering is to incite in community members shame and disgust at the sight and smell of human excrement, its presence in public areas, and an awareness of how others’ excrement can easily find its way into one’s own water and food. After these confrontations, the distaste experienced by attendees provides an immediate impetus for them to construct their own latrines.

When ACTED’s field teams went back to visit a village which had recently been triggered, the number of functional latrines had increased fourfold.

All of the 169 communities targeted by ACTED are now well on track to becoming ‘Open Defecation Free’ by mid-April 2017.
Philippines: Building Typhoon Resilience

ACTED about to complete 126 disaster-resilient houses

ACTED teams are completing a relocation project and the construction of 126 permanent shelters to be achieved to relocate typhoon-affected vulnerable families who are currently living in no build zones, by the sea. In Guiuan, each house is composed of two floors of 18 square meters each, and has been designed by ACTED in order to resist to bad weather, and particularly the winds, rains, and floods that regularly affect this disaster-prone area. In fact, the house can resist winds velocity of 350 km /h.

Promoting alternative livelihoods among Haiyan-affected people

With Alliance2015 partners Helvetas Swiss Intercoperation and People in Need, ACTED has been working on addressing underlying constraints that prevent poor farmers affected by typhoon Haiyan from benefiting from market systems. Empowering farmers to restore and improve their livelihoods through increased production, productivity and marketability of agricultural products will improve farmers’ access to livelihoods as well as increasing their resilience to future shocks and vulnerabilities. This project relies on a market-based approach designed to strengthen farmers’ linkages to markets, called Making Markets Work for the Poor (M4P). Local Service Providers (experienced and enthusiastic farmers/producers/sellers from local communities) act as the bridge between the private sector and the farmers.

Support to Nock-ten affected populations

Analyn is a strong woman. A widower, she takes care single-handedly of her four children. Her eldest, Malaya, 25 years old, requires special care, and Analyn has been taking care of her ever since. Not working as she is by the side of her daughter, it is one of her other children who works as a tindera (waitress) and brings the only income of the family. They live in Bato municipality, where typhoon Nock-ten made first landfall in December 2016. The typhoon tore her bamboo and nipa house apart, leaving Analyn and her family with only a concrete slab to remind them of their former home. Analyn received shelter repair kits from ACTED and support in rebuilding her house from local people hired within cash-for-work programmes. Efen is one of them: “We need to help one another”, he says.
Four questions to Thibault, ACTED Country Director in the Philippines

How does ACTED respond to disaster emergencies in the Philippines?

Thibault: “The Philippines face two kinds of emergencies: natural disasters, for which we have a very clear process that aims firstly at protecting the team and our equipment and materials. In case of disaster, if the actors of the emergency response are not protected, they can be impacted, thus reducing their means of action. We must be able to act as quick as possible to tackle an emergency. Acting as quick as possible means especially to assess the impacts of the disaster to have a clear idea of the needs. The other type of possible emergency in the Philippines relates to potential internal conflicts that are likely to cause population displacements to flee violent and insecure areas. Specific tools have been developed to conduct needs assessments in this type of emergency setting within tense environments. Assessing the needs is the first essential step to understand and identify the effects of disasters and define the emergency response. This enables us to advocate and mobilise funds among the international donors.”

How can ACTED prepare vulnerable populations to cope with future disasters?

Thibault: “There are two different levels of intervention: directly with the affected populations and with the community. One important activity is explaining to the communities about the different signals sent by the authorities before a natural disaster. Communities don’t necessarily know the difference between them, and are therefore unable to adjust their behavior. We work with them on that. We also work closely with the relevant administrations about disaster preparation, prevention and response. The Philippines have a risk prevention plan at national level, but its implementation at local level is hampered by the usually limited financial and human resources of municipalities. We work a lot with municipalities on this topic.”

How can ACTED contribute to building disaster resilience in the Philippines?

Thibault: “One example is the relocation project we are implementing with the Agence Française de Développement (AFD, the French development agency): we are rebuilding houses in areas with higher elevation above the sea level and more distant from the coast, which will help reducing the risks when typhoons or Tsunamis strike, in line with the “no-build zones” regulation that prevents the construction of houses within 20 meters from the coast. These activities are complemented with an essential economical support to safeguard income generating activities. In Guiuan, for example, we work with fisherman communities to facilitate the construction of boat shelters to protect fishing boats from typhoons. When typhoons are announced, usually fishermen don’t want to evacuate the area because they don’t want to run the risk of losing their fishing boat. Their boat is more important to them than their house, because without their boat, they have no revenue.”

Can you tell us about the impacts of ACTED’s activities in the daily life of beneficiaries?

Thibault: “We have been working with 5,000 farmers within our livelihoods project, and since the start of the project their sources of income have already increased by 80%. The overall objective is to develop new crops on the short and long term following typhoon Haiyan in 2013. Haiyan destroyed about two million coconut trees, which used to be a very important source of income in the region. Seven years are necessary for coconut trees to grow and give their first fruits. We therefore developed alternative crops: we invested in vegetable gardening, which offers the possibility to obtain results very quickly and is less vulnerable to disasters. We also developed a commercial approach by reinforcing the relations with wholesalers and retailers. This will enable to create local market opportunities for these farmers. Before this project, chicken in Guiuan used to come from Cebu or Mindanao, minimum 10 days drive from Guiuan. Nowadays the restaurants in Guiuan buy their food products from the local markets. This contributes to reinforcing the local economy and therefore the development of the area.”
After eight successful editions of the Convergences World Forum in Paris, on 10th March 2017 Convergences organised for the first time a World Forum in Yangon, Myanmar. 200 professionals representing the private, public, civil society, international development, academic and media sectors met, exchanged at Convergences’ first Yangon forum and worked together to define concrete solutions towards a Zero Exclusion, Zero Carbon, Zero Poverty world!

On the occasion of this first Myanmar Forum, Frédéric Roussel, ACTED’s co-founder and development director launched the global Zero Exclusion, Zero Carbon, Zero Poverty Alliance.

“We will stay one year in our respective countries to intervene in support of the projects implemented by ACTED. Young ambassadors of the European Union, we promote the commitment of youth on humanitarian issues, while making sure to disseminate the principles of the European Union: solidarity, respect for human dignity, openness, tolerance, pluralism, non-discrimination, equality between women and men.” - Gabrielle, ACTED EUAV in Haiti

Follow ACTED EUAV on Facebook: @actedeuvolunteers

 Alliance2015 partners mobilised: 6 years #SyriaCrisis

In 2016, we have supported:

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Countries where Alliance2015 is active
Le Comité de la Charte du don en confiance ("Donating with confidence")

As a licensed association, ACTED commits to transparency and to respecting the following principles:
- Statutory functioning and disinterested management;
- Diligent management;
- Quality communication and fundraising activities;
- Financial transparency.
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