Overall operational Strategy

ACF STRATEGY
BANGLADESH
2010

Bangladesh
SUMMARY

WHO WE ARE

Our mission
Our Charter of Principles
Our funding
Our programmes areas
ACF in Asia

ACF IN BANGLADESH

Context
Overview of our activities
ACF national strategy
Recent achievements
Current activities
OUR MISSION

Founded in 1979, ACF International (Action Against Hunger) is an international humanitarian organisation that delivers programmes in over 40 countries. Recognised worldwide as a leader in the fight against hunger, our mission is to save lives through the prevention, detection, and treatment of malnutrition, especially during and after emergency situations and conflicts. From crisis to sustainability, ACF tackles the underlying causes of malnutrition and its effects. By integrating our programmes with local and national systems, we further ensure that short-term interventions become long-term solutions. With head offices in France, the United Kingdom, Spain, the United States and Canada, our international network shares its combined resources, breadth of experience and technical expertise in pursuit of a world without hunger. In 2008 ACF-France intervened in 19 countries and helped 1,980,189 people thanks to 230 expatriates, 2514 national staff, and 142 employees in Paris head office.

OUR CHARTER OF PRINCIPLES

By carrying out our activities, all members adhere to a charter of principles that founds our humanitarian action:

- Independence
- Neutrality
- Non-discrimination
- Free and direct access
- Professionalism
- Transparency

OUR FUNDING

About 40% of our funding are collected from private donations (individuals, partnerships, events and campaigns) whereas 60% come from grants, principally provided by institutional donors. The most important of them in contribution to ACF activities are:

- ECHO (Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission);
- EuropeAid (European Commission cooperation office);
- USAID (US cooperation);
- DFID (British cooperation);
- The French Government;
- UN agencies.
OUR PROGRAMME AREAS

Nutrition
ACF’s nutrition programmes treat and prevent acute malnutrition in those most vulnerable, including young children and women who are pregnant or nursing. The core components of these programmes include an evaluation of the community’s nutritional needs, the treatment and prevention of malnutrition, and technical training for local and national staff in charge of nutrition and public health.

Care practices
People we help evolve in stressful environments and are often affected by a breakdown of social and familial structures. In these circumstances, ACF develops programmes that include care practices, activities for children, and advice in breastfeeding for pregnant and lactating women.

Food Security
ACF combines emergency relief with programmes that contribute to develop dependable sources of income. By providing agricultural inputs such as seeds, tools, vocational training and income generating activities, we help vulnerable people regain their self-sufficiency for the long term.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)
A community’s nutritional well-being requires a lasting supply of clean water and the knowledge of how to use and care for it properly. We provide access to safe drinking water by tapping springs, drilling wells and installing water systems, and to sanitation facilities. We also teach the importance of water, sanitation and hygiene in preventing disease and train communities to maintain water and sanitation equipment.

Disaster risk reduction (DRR) / Climate change adaptation (CCA)
ACF works towards an integrated approach to treatment and prevention of malnutrition joined with an integrated approach to disaster risk management and environment change adaptation, noting that this overall approach would serve as a key precursor or enabling factor for successful and sustainable development.

Advocacy
ACF conducts advocacy activities and deliver public campaigns to improve policy that is designed to respond to emergencies or ongoing food crises. We also highlight acute crises and urge stakeholders to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition by engaging widely with policy makers, practitioners, academics and students.
ACF IN ASIA

Overall operational Strategy - ACF STRATEGY BANGLADESH 2010
Since its independence from Pakistan in 1971, Bangladesh has faced famines, natural disasters, widespread poverty, and political turmoil. It is one of the most populous and densely-populated countries in the world, as well as one of the poorest. Despite aid programs implemented by the government as well as by NGOs, the 2007 climatic shocks and the 2008 food price crisis have slowed the progress in reducing poverty the country had made in the last decade.

In this context, malnutrition and food insecurity remain major concerns in Bangladesh. According to the World Food Programme (WFP), one household out of four is food insecure, 2 million children aged 6 months to 5 years suffer from acute malnutrition and half a million from severe acute malnutrition. Infant and child feeding practices are prime factors for this nutritional situation, with insufficient breastfeeding and dietary diversity. Barisal and Rajshahi divisions present the highest acute malnutrition rates, exceeding the World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold of 15%.

If the major part of the population lives in rural areas, urbanization has been rapid and slums have been growing for the last decades in important cities, with a consequent development of draining and flooding problems, high mortality rates, food insecurity, malnutrition, improper care and hygiene practices. The situation is alarming in Dhaka where the number of slum dwellers is expected to reach 8 million people over the next decade. Socio-economic conditions are not always better in the countryside where landless households are particularly affected by malnutrition and food insecurity. Considering education and gender issues in the country, children and women are the most at risk populations. Besides, Cox’s Bazaar district hosts an important number of Rohingyas, a stateless Muslim minority originating from Myanmar where it is subject to discriminatory policies. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that about 28,000 Rohingya refugees live in official camps and about 200,000 of them are settled in makeshift camps in Cox’s Bazaar district. Bangladesh geography makes it prone to natural disasters, such as floods, droughts, cyclones and occasional earthquakes, which create regular and local humanitarian needs, especially along the coastal belt. Environmental issues, like arsenic-contaminated water, river erosion or soil infertility, are also recurrent. Besides, a low-lying delta and a typhoon-prone location make the country particularly vulnerable to climate change, whose impacts could be: sea level rise, changes in precipitation during monsoon and dry season, increase in cyclone intensity. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), about 30 million Bangladeshis are expected to become environmental refugees by 2050.

---

2. WFP in Bangladesh Report, March 2009: http://one.wfp.org/bangladesh/?ModuleID=184&Key=89
3. Icdem.
OVERVIEW OF OUR ACTIVITIES

ACF launched a programme in Bangladesh in 2007 to rescue the populations affected by floods and by cyclone Sidr. Since 2008, ACF is additionally working in Cox’s Bazaar district. In the coming years, ACF Bangladesh will concentrate its efforts towards hardly accessible or forgotten populations or regions, and focus on its core competency of malnutrition (treatment and prevention). ACF Bangladesh will therefore especially target five vulnerable populations: malnourished children, urban poor, rural poor (especially those landless or living outside of the embankments), refugees and populations living in remote areas of the most vulnerable districts of the country.
ACF will develop together with the National Nutrition Working Group and the Institute of Public Health and Nutrition (IPHN) a Community based Management of Acute Malnutrition (CMAM) strategy, and strengthen acute malnutrition prevention - through care practices, Wash and food security activities - in the country.

ACF will contribute building vulnerable population’s resilience to shocks and disasters, and enhance their livelihoods and adaptation mechanisms to climate change. DRR activities and an integrated programming comprising all ACF fields of expertise will be implemented; contingency and emergency preparedness plans will be set up.

ACF will increase its coverage, its impact and the sustainability of its programmes through systematic partnerships with national and local partners.

ACF Bangladesh will design and implement a technical advocacy strategy, especially on climate change and CMAM issues.

**RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Floods emergency response and recovery in Shariatpur District**
From August 2007, ACF implemented programmes in Shariatpur district to help flood-affected communities:
- 5,610 households obtained access to safe water, 2,150 to family latrines and 9,236 received hygiene kits.
- 3,886 households received kits and attended trainings for home gardening, 1,444 benefited from cash for work activities and 390 obtained access to raised houses.

**Cyclone Sidr emergency response and recovery in Barguna district**
Since November 2007, ACF is supporting vulnerable communities in Barguna district that was severely hit by cyclone Sidr:
- 6,282 family latrines were built or rehabilitated, 10,670 households obtained access to safe water and 5,939 received hygiene kits.
- 3,800 households received cooking kits, 6,655 benefited from cash for work activities, 350 received cattle, vegetable kits and appropriate training.
- 30 fishing boats are under construction for 300 households.
- 473 houses were built or rehabilitated.

**Assistance to refugees and host communities in Cox’s Bazaar district**
Additionally, ACF has worked in Cox’s Bazaar for nearly one year in official refugee camps, in unofficial refugee camps and in nearby villages:
- 5,441 beneficiaries, including 2,861 under-five children, were admitted to supplementary feeding centres and 255 under-five children to therapeutic feeding centres.
- 1,982 people received psychosocial support.
- 4,577 beneficiaries received food aid, 900 households received kitchen gardening kits and trainings and 40 benefited from income-generating activities.
- 25,000 people benefited from water and sanitation programmes.
CURRENT ACTIVITIES

IN BARGUNA DISTRICT

Food security
- Construction and distribution of boats for fishermen.
- Distribution of fishing nets.
- Distribution of cattle.
- Distribution of home garden kits to households.
- Trainings on fishing activities, on animal husbandry and on vegetables gardening.

Shelters
- Houses building and rehabilitation through cash for work activities.
- Trainings on storms and floods resistant housing and building techniques.

IN COX’S BAZAAR DISTRICT

Nutrition
- Supplementary feeding programmes for moderately malnourished under-five children, pregnant and lactating women.
- Outpatient therapeutic programme for severely malnourished children and a stabilisation centre for children with complications.
- Pushtika (sprinkle) distribution programme for under-five children, adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women.
- Anaemia control programme.
- Trainings for health workers on anaemia and malnutrition detection, prevention and control.

Food security
- Distribution of tools and gardening kits.
- Kitchen gardening trainings.
- Food distribution.
- Income-generating activities.

Water and sanitation
- Construction of latrines with hand washing facilities.
- Distribution of basic hygiene kits.
- Hygiene promotion activities.
- Drainage improvement around homesteads.
- Cleaning and construction of tube wells.

Care practices
- Creation and promotion of community psychosocial support groups.
- Recruitment and training of a team of psychosocial workers.
- Dissemination of messages on child development and breastfeeding.
- Implementation of breastfeeding corners for lactating women and peer group support for breastfeeding.