

ACORD 1999 IMPACT REPORT

1. Executive Summary

The following report on the impact of ACORD's work in 1999 is based on annual reports written by each of ACORD's programmes. The report defines *impact* in terms of the longer term effects to people's rights (economic, social and political) arising from *outcomes* for which the programmes are directly responsible. While recognising the considerable methodological issues involved in trying to measure the impact of our work it is clear from the findings that ACORD has provided real help to more than half a million people in some of the most marginalised and economically deprived communities of Africa.

Through its 45 programmes ACORD, working in a variety of ways, reached 570,000 people (of whom 49% were women) living in remote and inhospitable areas or in rapidly burgeoning slums in 17 countries in Africa. ACORD's wide range of support has enabled these individuals to improve their own circumstances and has facilitated the emergence of stronger grassroots organisations within their communities.

ACORD spent £7.7million or £14 per head. This reflects the costs of delivery incurred in working in remote and marginalised areas. Whilst ACORD has projects which directly address the causes and consequences of conflict, chronic insecurity and the HIV/AIDS pandemic, these are also factors which can increase the costs of providing support in many situations.

Broadly speaking, ACORD's work falls into five categories - Material support (through support to livelihoods including micro-finance and basic services), Organisational support, HIV/AIDS, Gender and Rights. An analysis of how resources were allocated to these strategic directions compared to that stated in the 1997-2001 Strategic plan is to be found in Annexe1.

1.1 Material Support

ACORD provided support to improve the livelihoods of 170,000 people (48% females) at a cost of £3.8m, or £22 per person.

- Major impact
 - Increased status for women and marginalised groups.
 - Increased capacity to cope with natural disasters and conflicts
 - More resources for social responsibilities and assisting the poorest

ACORD provided support to 141,000 people (55% females) who benefited from improvements in basic services (water, education, health, shelter, roads and bridges) at a cost of £1.98m, or £14 per person.

- Major impact

- Healthier people
- New sustainable micro businesses
- Increase in social cohesion

1.2 Organisational Support

ACORD provide support to 12,084 people (43% females) to develop their organisational management skills. A further 57,000 people (40% female) received information on the role of CBOs and the responsibilities of membership. This was achieved through mass meetings, theatre, workshops and special training events.

- Major Impact
 - Increased involvement of women in CBO management.
 - Enhanced group cohesion through better financial management and documentation
 - Increase in community driven change.

ACORD provided training to 54,783 people (48%female) in gender awareness, peace building, rights and social exclusion in order to challenge CBOs' own assumptions of themselves and to encourage CBOs to expand their roles.

- Major Impact
 - Changing attitudes to girls' education
 - Reconciliation between communities

In addition organisations received training in advocacy and opportunities were provided to facilitate networking and linkages to the wider civil society

- Major impact
 - CBOs seen by a range of development actors as partners rather than groups who must be mobilised to implement projects.

1.3. HIV/AIDS

Working in marginalised areas where conditions are conducive to the HIV/AIDS pandemic ACORD is aware of the increasing devastating impact on individuals, communities, economies and society.

ACORD was involved in providing information on the transmission and effect of the HIV/AIDS virus to 112,538 people (50%female). This was targeted to isolated communities, to young people and others at high risk such sex workers.

Item 16

- Major impact
 - Noticeable changes in practices and behaviour in Youth

ACORD trained 22,321 people (47% female) to be counsellors

- Major impact
 - Reduced stigmatisation of people with AIDS (PWAIDS)

In acutely affected areas ACORD gave tangible support to 3,231 people (56% female) affected by AIDS to establish an income.

- Major Impact
 - Positive living prolonging life

Many of these activities are accompanied by research – usually Action Research – that is used to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the activities. This research is increasingly being used for other purposes such as informing local and national debate.

1.4. Gender

ACORD provided training in gender awareness to 39,184 people (48% males) the cost of which is calculated to be £521,497.

1.5 Advocacy and Rights

As yet there are only three programmes significantly working on rights issues in Namibia, Gulu northern Uganda and Gambos southern Angola. The pilot 'Total Child' programme in Namibia has had such a positive impact that it is to be scaled up nation wide. The Peace conference in Gulu in September 1999 had a very positive conclusion, which contributed to an atmosphere conducive to peace. In Angola work on land rights with traditional land users led to negotiated favourable outcomes for traditional cultivators; a successful verdict in a major land dispute for local land users and the creation of a land forum for land disputes before they go to court.

2. Impact of ACORD's strategic directions as set out in the Strategic Plan 1997-2001

2.1 Support to livelihoods

The two major strategic directions for supporting livelihoods are resources and technology and improving access to financial services. These are discussed separately.

2.1.1. Resources and technology

The aim of this strategic direction is to:

- support people to increase production, productivity, or income;

- stabilise existing livelihoods and survival strategies
- help people protect their environment and natural resource base to safeguard and promote sustainable subsistence

A rights based analysis is being introduced to determine on whom to focus support and it is particularly targeted to those who experience discrimination in accessing resources and technology, for example women, PWAIDs, poor pastoralists, etc. However in all cases it is directed at people who can utilise these resources.

INPUTS £1.703 million

OUTPUTS

During 1999 ACORD provided grants, technical assistance and supported improvements in infrastructure to 78,619 producers and business people (43% female). This covered a wide range of activities encompassing irrigated crop and rain-fed crop production, livestock, grain banks and storage, fishing and the breadth of micro entrepreneurial niches found in the informal sector. In addition 20,670 people (57% female) received training in vocational technical and entrepreneurial skills. At the same time 41,929 people (40%female) were supported in a variety of projects to protect the environment. Primarily this was tree planting and the introduction of improved stoves for cooking. This was at a cost of £14 per head.

OUTCOMES

- Most programmes reported increases in production or income but given the nature of the support this is not surprising. It is estimated that 70% of all producers and businesses increased in prosperity and it is estimated that more than half are women and young people.
- Improvement in food security. Despite drought, 3 communes In Cankuzo, Burundi managed to feed themselves and prices remained relatively stable compared to elsewhere in the province partly as result of adoption of ACORD sponsored better farm practices.
- In Cankuzo 20% of 260 producers who benefited from improved drainage were landless youth who as a result now cultivate their own land.
- Increases in milk production were recorded in the Red Sea Hills, Sudan. This is seen as especially important for children and old people, given the absence of vegetables in the diet.
- More regular meals for poor people in Kidal
- A wider range of goods were available in the market due to increased local purchasing power in Kidal, Mali
- A reduction in cattle and goat mortality of 40% and a doubling of milk production as result of easier access to veterinary services was reported from Biharamulo, Tanzania.
- In Rwanda a group of 5 women successfully trained and became builders and are competing in a traditional male occupation earning 25 to 35,000 Frw (£50)per month
- Improved transport and storage of crops in Rwanda and Chad.
- The construction of donkey carts reduced the workload for 177 women in Chad although there is no certainty as yet that this is a commercial proposition.

- Stoves and other fuel technology
- In Karagwe 68% of the 8,162 households in the programme area had utilized a mud fabricated fuel-efficient stove. In Mbarara less wood use meant less time collecting fuel and a considerable reduction in the time spent cooking.
- Improvements in hygiene and health were also noted due to less smoke in the kitchen.
- The frequency of collecting firewood reduced to once a week from 2-3 times was reported from Karagwe and Biharamulo, Tanzania, and from Kidal, Mali.
 - In Biharamulo 45% of households have the knowledge and skills to start nurseries and there had been a decrease in the number of destructive bush fires. The growing role of women in conservation and natural resource management is increasingly being recognised. Also 72% of households now have access to trees and the price of tree seedlings is rising as demand expands.
 - The reinforcing of state veterinary structures in Mauritania has meant a decline in livestock losses and a subsequent increase in milk supplies as well as an increase in meat production.

IMPACT

- Many programmes reported that a significant part of the increases in income was used to pay school fees.
- People were coping with 1999 drought better in Cankuzo and Mutara, Rwanda than in previous droughts and as compared to the surrounding areas.
- Introduction of oxen in Gulu lessened women's workload at ploughing time though there was no comment on their workload at weeding time.
- In Kidal the extra cash was used for social responsibilities and to buy medicines.
- Increasing status for women as result of creating their own income in the Red Sea Hills Sudan. There was no longer need to sell assets in times of hardship as other reserves had been built up. Also marginalised groups who had low status were increasingly being accepted as their incomes increased.
- Improvements in nutrition and in health as evidenced by physical appearance in Biharamulo, Tanzania were cited as the impact of increases in production.
- Stoves and other fuel saving technology
- Mauritania reported less pressure on the natural resource base.
- The price of fuel fell from 1,000 Shs to £500 Shs in three years and there had been a reduction in incidences of child fire accidents in Karagwe.
- The extra time women gained was used for family affairs and for involvement in income generating activities.

2.1.2. Financial Services: Improving Poor Peoples Access To Finance

Under appropriate conditions ACORD tries to encourage poor people to save and to develop micro credit schemes. During 1999 ACORD implemented 15 programmes that involved the provision or development of credit systems. Five programmes focused almost exclusively on

micro-finance, of which two programmes hope to become self-sustaining organisations while a third has the ultimate objective of facilitating a network of village banks. The remaining two are working to strengthen and develop community-based micro-finance capacity. The other ten use micro-finance with other strategic directions in an integrated manner. One micro-finance approach is to encourage CBO credit provision through grants, training and advice. The other uses a revolving fund mechanism. Initially grants are provided to communities to finance specific activities and these eventually become revolving funds to finance other community initiatives.

INPUT £1.28 million

OUTPUT

During 1999 ACORD was instrumental in providing 15,496 loans of which 61% were to women. The average size of loan was £50. In Port Sudan 65% of all loans to women went to female headed households. All programmes target their funds to the most vulnerable (who must nevertheless be credit worthy) but who are excluded from all but the most exploitative credit systems. All community based micro-finance systems are susceptible to inflation and conflict. ACORD tries to take this into account and design robust, sustainable, locally manageable systems. In the last report worries were expressed concerning the future of ACORD's micro-finance programme in Eritrea. In the event these proved unfounded as ACORD alone among international NGOs was allowed to remain. The fact that it was facilitating the emergence of a successful credit system was a key factor in ACORD's survival. In northern Uganda ACORD is planning to organise credit to returning ex-rebel combatants.

OUTCOMES

- Five programmes in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, Sudan, and Uganda reported that as a result of improved access to credit - in situations where previously there was little opportunity to borrow or where rates were exorbitant – there was change of attitude to credit and people become more prepared to borrow.
- In Timbuktu there was a reduction in the requests for grant assistance as a result of credit being provided.
- An increase in income generation activity was reported by most programmes: In Eritrea the success rates of borrowers in improving livelihoods varied according to the nature of the loan. 75% of those who took agricultural loans increased income, as did 91% of loan takers in the trade sector and 50% of borrowers in the service sector. The main cause of non-repayment of agricultural loans was animal deaths and hailstorms. The service sector was hit by the war and especially conscription of the youth that led to a fall in demand for services.
- The Port Sudan evaluation reported that 97% of clients experienced positive effects such as an increase in capital, working capital and stabilisation of business while 3% were worse off as result of receiving a loan.
- In Port Sudan 45% of clients graduated to receiving loans from banks.

- In Kassala the impact research reported that on average incomes increased by 50-100% after a loan. In detail:
 - 70% clients reported incomes increased significantly
 - 20% clients reported incomes maintained
 - 10% clients reported incomes declined
- Improvements in income, increases in household food consumption and improved food security were reported from Dire Dawa, Ethiopia, Burundi, Mozambique, Mali, Uganda and Rwanda.
- Credit to petty producers and traders meant a wider variety and better quality of goods and services were available in Mbarara.
- Many programmes reported an increase in the awareness of the importance savings/investment. A study in Kigali Rwanda showed that within two months of receiving credit, 37% of women in addition to repaying the loans had started to save and had already accumulated savings equal to 10% of the funds they had borrowed.
- Also in Kigali increased confidence resulted from growing group savings and managing bank accounts and adult returnees established or expanded businesses which have provided income.

All these micro- credit initiatives have to cope with difficult financial situations such as inflation and political uncertainty and to a large extent they do. However high or hyper inflation or official intransigence can present constraints that cannot be dealt with even by the most innovative of approaches. The Entendikwa Credit Scheme in Gulu on which ACORD advised was a failure.

IMPACT

- All programmes reported improvement in economic status and living conditions
 - expansion of business opportunities
 - establishment of new businesses
 - increase in enterprise and decrease in dependency mentality
 - increase in savings and payments into social insurance schemes
- Improvement in the status of women and the refusal of women to play second fiddle to men was reported in Mauritania
- The paying of school fees and medical fees and expenses was widely reported.(Burundi, Rwanda, Ethiopia Mozambique, and Uganda)
- Increased ability to meet social obligations reported in Kidal, which also claimed a reduction in the poverty gap between the most and less poor. There was increased economic power for youth.
- Improvement in housing was reported in Sudan
- Studies in Sudan showed that profitable economic activity allows:
 - more time for community matters and better governance
 - more support for the vulnerable population
 - less local disputes
 - increases in employment opportunities

- increase in quality of life for 90% of clients
- increased self-reliance, status, and mobility.
- For adult returnees in Uganda there is a remarkable change in behaviour. People have regained confidence and abandoned heavy drinking and anti social behaviour.

However there were instances of negative impacts

- Increases in indebtedness
- Longer hours worked (especially for women)
- Male dependency on female income.

The micro-finance schemes in Burundi, Sudan, Eritrea, Dira Dawa and Addis, and Mbarara are all expected to continue after ACORD support has phased out.

2.2 Organisational Development

Training runs through all the strategic directions of ACORD's programme. This component relates only to training that is specifically dedicated either to strengthening the management of local organisations or to facilitating them to play new roles or increase representativeness. Such training is provided either within formal workshops, meetings and seminars or through lectures, gatherings, or the use of mass media (such as booklets, videos, theatre, etc.)

Such training covers: leadership and management of CBOs; gender awareness and tools for gender analysis; organisational development; strategic planning; management; rights and legal matters pertaining to CBOs as well as literacy, numeracy and financial training for poorer people in the community. It also involves conflict resolution and peace building.

INPUT £1,639,490

OUTPUT

During 1999 ACORD provided

- Management and management related training for 5374 CBO leaders (36% female) at a cost of £71,519 or £13 per head.
- Information to 27,592 people (44% female) on the role and functions of CBOs at a cost of £367,206.
- Information to 28,733 people (40% female) on the benefits of membership and the rights and responsibilities of members at a cost of £382,391.
- Literacy and numeracy training provided to 6710 members of CBOs (58% female)
- Gender awareness training to 39,184 people(52%female) at a cost of £521,477
- Support to 12500 people (41%female) in their efforts towards peace and reconciliation at a cost of £166,355.

- Training and support to 3099 people (23%female) in understanding and exercising their rights at a cost £41,243.
- It is estimated that altogether the leaders and managers of some 2,000 CBOs received support in managing their organisations and affairs.

OUTCOMES

- Increasing attendance in meetings was widely reported.
- Programmes that provided training and workshops on human rights, reduction of conflict, peace building and the AIDS pandemic are having a positive impact on the community and the management of the CBOs and lead to enthusiastic support for action.
- More skills, knowledge, experience and better leadership observed in Kidal, Mauritania and Gulu.
- Better leadership and management of CBOs was observed in Addis Ababa and Biharamulo.
- In Ethiopia members thought that the enhanced organisational, managerial and institutional capacity of CBOs/CBOAs meant more was being done.
- Ethiopia programmes observed Greater interest in gender and family planning.
- In Kidal there was more involvement of women in CBOs
- In Juba CBO members who are already earning a livelihood influence others to develop entrepreneurial attitudes.
- CBOs grouped themselves into four unions in Timbuktu.

IMPACT

- 3 schools and 2 health centres were built in Juba through community self help without external assistance.
- In Kidal changing attitudes to girls' education was observed.
- Improvements in CBO leadership, financial management, documentation and recording have enhanced group cohesion in Addis Ababa and Biharamulo.
- Dire Dawa reported improved networking and co-operation among CBOs, the community, local institutions and NGOs
- In Ethiopia CBOs are increasingly being seen by the government as partners rather than implementers. This is crucial in a situation where the space for civil society is restricted. Both government and non-governmental institutions are recognising CBOs as important actors in development, involving them in small infrastructure projects and allowing them to access government grants. In addition the government is allowing CBOs to become more involved in service provision such as support to aged, disabled, orphans and in preventing spread of HIV/AIDS, housing and consumers' co-operatives.
- In Kidal CBOs were better able to play a role in decentralisation and other local political changes. This was especially important in resolving disputes between local factions and historical divisions so as to ensure smooth local decision taking.
- In Kidal:

- Restoration of herders' co-operative has led to more cohesion.
- reconciliation of two communities after 13 years of disputes and fighting
- More participation in local politics following the dissemination of information in 18 communities of the rights and responsibilities of individuals. The training was in a local language.
- In Mauritania CBOs accessed external funding
- Rwanda reports that tensions within the community between the survivors of the genocide and those who witnessed it are lessening. ACORD's work in conjunction with the authorities has seen rapprochement evidenced by increased interaction between the two communities in Kigali, leading to mutual assistance. ACORD helped resolve conflict in the village of Kimironko when local tensions threatened to become violent.

2.3. Basic Needs

ACORD supports basic social services only where there is a strongly expressed need and no possibility of support forthcoming from elsewhere (e.g. the state or private sector). While maximising local contributions, ACORD will assist in financing and, if necessary, be involved with the construction of any infrastructure but it will also use the opportunity to build local capacity to manage, maintain and save for future capital refurbishment. Special attention is placed on developing the relationships between the communities and those responsible for such services e.g. local government, private companies. ACORD subscribes to the proposal of spending 20% of its resources on basic services, as this is a benefit that usually reaches the most vulnerable. Also ACORD recognises the special problems faced by women when basic services fail or are curtailed. ACORD provided a wide range of services providing water, health, sanitation, and emergency shelter and housing for displaced, refugees or returnees.

INPUT: £1.886 million

OUTPUT ACORD strengthened services to meet in part the basic needs of 140,752 people (55% female) in four sectors: water and sanitation; health; education and infrastructure.

2.3.1. Water and sanitation

ACORD assisted in the building or renovation of 130 wells, reservoirs and water points providing water for 26,179 people (52% female) at a total cost of £663,837. In addition 655 people (46% female) received training in managing and maintaining water supplies. The calculated total cost of providing water per person is £25 per head. Five programmes were involved in sanitation building more than 200 latrines benefiting 2906 people (49% female) and 296 people (52% female) were trained in their construction and maintenance.

OUTCOMES

- Ready and easier access to clean water; especially important in Sablaale Somalia where flooding had damaged water supplies.
- A reduction in the incidence of water borne disease.
- Cheaper water.
- Travelling distance and queuing for water collection was reduced. In the case of Mbarara, Uganda the average distance was reduced from 5kms to 2kms; in Tanzania from 4 –8kms to 1-4kms; and in Rwanda from 1-2kms to 100-500meters. This is a saving of 2 to 6 hours a day. Most programmes mentioned women made significant savings in time and labour.
 - In Luanda as a result of training of the local water committees there was a reduction in over crowding and in the poor management of water points
 - In Somalia an outbreak of cholera in a neighbouring area in 1999 did not spread into the programme area as it has done in past.
 - 75%reduction in disease in the Major Tongping displaced camp, Juba

IMPACT

- The reduction in water borne diseases was seen as a major benefit by the water projects in Ethiopia, Uganda, Angola, Somalia and Sudan.
- Improved household sanitation and personal hygiene.
- Increase in time and energy for other tasks.
- New opportunities for jobs: mud block makers, market gardens, and livestock.
- Less flood damage
- In Uganda there was an influx of people from neighbouring areas who came in search of water because of drought and water was taken by tankers to neighbouring drought affected areas.
- Group spirit developed while constructing water projects has been carried forth to other community initiatives and income generating projects.
- Increase in social cohesion as water managed as systems maintained

2.3.2. Health

ACORD rehabilitated three health centres and financed the capital costs of a peripatetic clinic for 37,473 people (50% female). ACORD co-ordinated a public health awareness campaign targeted at 14,839 people (50%female) in Burundi. It also supported community participation in a vaccination campaign in Angola, 12,750 people (50%female) as well as providing training to 7,654 people (70% female) on a wide range of health issues, including nutrition, family planning, trauma therapy and midwifery. Total cost £967,735 at a cost of £13 a head.

OUTCOME

- Increased access to health care.
- Reduction in time travelled to health centre; in the case of Southern Angola this was previously a 26 kilometres walk.
- 6,422 children vaccinated against cholera in the programme area in Somalia.
- Reproductive health discussed at a community level, especially important in places like the Red Sea hills

IMPACT

- Reduction in number of people contracting cholera
- Healthier people
- Community discussions on Harmful habits (FGM)

2.3.3 Provision and Rehabilitation of Infrastructure

Four bridges were constructed and a road was upgraded benefiting 12,310 people (48%female). A community centre and two stores were built benefiting 254 people (46%female). Total Cost £170,123 at £13.5 per head.

OUTCOME

- Road and bridge projects provided easier access.
- Improved drainage systems
- Increased opportunities to trade

IMPACT

- Increased accessibility for emergency services in two programme areas (Dira Dawa & Cankuzo)
- Transport costs reduced in Somalia
- Improved access to town centre, markets and services mentioned by all programmes
- Drainage systems lessened risk of flooding.
- A reduction in looting was seen as important in Cankuzo

2.3.4 Education

Four schools built or repaired for 5591 (55%female) pupils and adults

OUTCOME

- Increased access to better educational activities
- Conducive environment for learning

IMPACT

- Girls going to school

2.4 HIV/AIDS

The strategic response to HIV/AIDS is on three levels: it is seen as a development, poverty and gender issue. Ten programmes have major components dealing with the Impact of AIDS and programmes in Ethiopia and Southern Sudan began interventions in 1999. Malaria and rampant TB reinforce the deadly impact of the AIDS virus. The pandemic disrupts programmes as activities and meetings have to be re-scheduled because of the impact on the lives of people. AIDS continues to have a major impact on programming through the loss of economically active people who have family and community responsibilities.

There are three main approaches

- Providing information on causes, transmission and impact.
- Facilitating the emergence of informed local activists and counsellors to reinforce people's capacity to change behaviour.
- Providing economic assistance to those families where productive labour has been lost because of the virus

INPUT: £452,615

OUTPUT

ACORD was involved in providing information on the transmission and effect of the HIV/AIDS virus to 112,538 people (50%female). This was targeted to isolated communities, to young people and others at high risk such sex workers. This was done through films, videos, theatre, school campaigns, distributions of leaflets and booklets, posters, newsletters and mass meetings and workshops.

ACORD also trained 22,321 people (47%female) to be counsellors and peer group educators. People trained included community leaders and representatives, carers of AIDS orphans, elected local government representatives, members of the community, youth peers and teachers, AIDS volunteers and peer educators, religious leaders, traditional birth attendants, traditional healers, condom distributors and retailers district and local government health workers, partner NGOs and staff.

In acutely affected areas ACORD gave tangible support to 3,231 people (56% female) affected by AIDS and orphan carers in the form of grants and credit funds on an individual basis.

OUTCOMES

- Increasing discussions within all groups targeted.
- In Karagwe an evaluation in May 99 showed awareness of HIV transmission and prevention at 97.7% of total pop as compared to 81.6% in 1996 and in the ACORD programme area in Bujumbura it is claimed that all programme partners are aware of transmission and prevention of AIDS

- In Karagwe the commercial selling points for condoms doubled to 46 in 1999. Gulu reported regular demand and availability of condoms. There was increased testing for the virus before marriage.
- In Kigali people are testing for HIV status.
- Increase in the number of peer group educators and counsellors
- Many community events – drama groups, community AIDS educators- being organised by CBOs and members of the community themselves Gulu
- Open air community awareness raising was backed up training counsellors and community activists from all ethnic groups which has raised awareness of transmission and prevention throughout the population (especially the displaced) in Juba.
- A greater willingness to care for people with Aids established by through evaluation in these three programmes.
- Early indications of income support suggest that 50% of clients saw incomes increase.
- In Orichinga the parish organisations of Orphans Carers manage the AIDs Support Fund themselves enabling carers to meet the basic needs of orphans improving their health and well being. For instance 527 out of the 1000 orphans supported by orphan carers are in school.

IMPACT

- Noticeable changes in practices and behaviours in Youth
- In Tanzania it was reported that women were now regularly buying condoms.
- In general it is reported that there is now a consistent use of condoms.
- Reduced stigmatisation to PWAIDs was observed in Karagwe, Orichinga and Gulu.
- Karagwe there is less 'inheriting of widows and no longer are cutting and piercing equipment shared. In Gulu there was a reduction in 'harmful' cultural practices
- Better quality of support and care for PWA was noticed in Juba as well as increased interaction and solidarity with AIDs sufferers.
- Referral systems to health centres had been adopted by traditional healers
 - All programmes reported that positive living has prolonged the life of most people living with AIDS

3.2.5. Gender

The recommendations of the annual report from the Gender Audit were incorporated into this year's reporting guidelines. There was some improvement with only two countries – Eritrea and Mali – not providing an adequate sex-breakdown of beneficiaries. However there is still considerable scope for improvement and for clearer presentation of figures regarding who was targeted, who benefited and whether this was directly or not. Also there is still confusion as to whether reference is to individuals or households. However it has been possible in all but one case in this report to give disaggregated figures.

INPUT £521,477

OUTPUT

Gender awareness training was provided in all but 14 programmes, although some of these programmes consider a gender awareness focus to be incorporated into all aspects of training and so do not provide specific gender training. Altogether ACORD provided training in gender to 39,184 people (48% male). In the discussions on the different strategic directions reference has been made to gender. However in general, as required by the Strategic Plan, it does appear that more emphasis is placed on gender and most programme annual reports suggest this. However while evaluations may agree with this statement it is often with the rider that more needs to be done for ACORD to reach poor and vulnerable women and more again if it is going to have a significant impact on their lives.

OUTCOMES

It is calculated that women composed 49% of all people reached by ACORD.

Women are especially targeted in the micro-finance sector and they comprise 66% of the total number of people ACORD supported. They received 61% of all loans. However research has shown that they borrow less than men and for shorter periods so that the effect of the loan may be less in monetary terms. In addition they have higher repayment rates which may mean they repay even if the loan was not successful.

Also in the provision of basic services it appears that 55% of the beneficiaries were women, and they benefited particularly in the areas of health and education. 56% of the direct support to people with AIDs went to women.

However in the support to livelihoods through grants and technical assistance they accounted for only 44% of the people reached, and were under represented (40%) in environmental management – they were limited to fuel efficient stoves. An area of particular concern is human rights where women accounted for only 23% of people trained.

The outcomes and impact of individual programme activities on women are to be found in the relevant sectors above. It is hoped that the gender policy adopted in 2000 will give a further boost to ensuring that women are well represented in all of ACORD's activities.

Particular emphasis is being given in situations of conflict to ensure that support is focussed on the ways that conflict affects women as compared to men. This includes support to women victims of violence, involving support for hospital treatment re wounds and mutilations, facilitating improved support and solidarity from each other, loans leading to sustainable incomes enabling families to look after themselves, and cleansing through customary practices which it is hoped will provide effective psychological healing. Also it is hoped that women victims have taken up active roles in sensitising the public about the effects of war and need for peace.

It is too early to look for impact.

3.2.6. Rights

As already mentioned training in rights was provided to some 3,000 people that and women constituted less than a quarter of this number.

Activities were only initiated in 1998. By 1999 rights work was being undertaken in a minority of programmes. This consisted of distributing 200 books on rights in Burundi and workshops and meetings to discuss upholding rights involving some 1,500 households in Rwanda. In Namibia a programme has been launched in five schools to establish and uphold the rights of children enshrined in the constitution. The first indications are very promising. A Peace conference organised by ACORD in Gulu had very positive outcomes though it remains to be seen what will be the impact.

East Africa work on rights with people who are HIV positive or who have developed AIDs and with the wider community have contributed to a reduction in the stigma and discrimination people face.

One programme that has had impact with its work on rights has been in Gambos, Southern Angola. It has involved working with local communities on land rights and access to land. Conflicts over land between commercial farmers and the traditional producers were successively resolved in favour of traditional cultivators. A training session on land law strengthened political resolve to the point where the local population negotiated - citing articles of law - and eventually won a major land dispute – much to surprise of those wishing to enclose land and government officials. In addition the process created self-esteem, dignity, and self respect, as well as social cohesion and solidarity among the population in almost the area. The real impact was the creation of a Land Forum to deal with land disputes before they go to court.

4. Conclusion and Observations

Information from the programmes provides evidence both of the substantial scale and breadth of outcomes and impact that have been produced as a result of ACORD's programming. It is clear that ACORD's programming has brought real benefits to more than half a million people in some of the most marginalised communities in Africa. The range of activities reflect the range of ways people create livelihoods for themselves, access basic services and cope with vagaries of conflict, insecurity, climate change and the AIDS pandemic. Trying to capture the outcome and impact of ACORD's multifaceted work is like watching someone trying to hit a cue ball to cannon another billiard ball on to another ball – in a room full of dense smoke.

Documenting these results is fraught with methodological issues, which include:

- a) how you avoid double counting when a multi-faceted programme is making a number of complementary interventions in one area
- b) how you compare the significance of different intensities of intervention (e.g. a one day training course and a one year course would be counted the same)
- c) how you attribute any observed impact to the work of ACORD rather than to other external factors

As a starting point we have used the guidelines that NOVIB has formulated for those it works with so that there is at least consistency in how the counting is done and a basis for improving methodology in the future.

What the figures do allow us to consider are further questions that could be useful for our programming to address:

1. How can we increase the impact that arises from our programme outcomes? Outcomes do not necessarily produce impact, for example when someone is trained but for a variety of reasons might not use the training. How could we work with the people we train to overcome the external constraints that prevent them from exploiting the potential created through that training?
2. How does the evidence of outcomes and impact produced by ACORD's programming compare, in terms of the nature of:
 - the impact, the gender and social make-up of those affected and in cost effectiveness:
 - across Africa in different ecological, social, cultural and political contexts
 - between strategies of interventions
 - between agencies
 - across time (i.e. from year to year)

Responding to these issues will feed into our future programming and reporting.

Annexe

OVERVIEW

During 1999 ACORD implemented 45 programmes. Of these, 29 programmes had completed their first cycle. These worked with over 2000 CBOs and directly with some 90,000 households of which 46% were either female headed or ACORD's contact with the household was female. The total cost of the support from these programmes was £5.3 million, which is distributed across each strategic direction as indicated in the following table¹

Table 1: Expenditure in 1997 and 1999 compared with Strategic Plan targets

	Resources & Technology	Organisational Development	Financial Services	Basic Services	Total
Strategic Plan target (97-2001) % total expenditure	40	30	10	20	100
Expenditure by Strategic Direction 1999 (£K)	1.703	1.438	0.88	1.297	5.318
Expenditure by Strategic Direction 1999 (% total expenditure)	32	27	16	24	100
Expenditure by Strategic Direction 1997 (£K)	2.314	1.507	1.178	0.938	5.936
Expenditure by Strategic Director 1997 (% total expenditure)	39	25	20	15	100

A year on year comparison with expenditure in 1997 – the first year of the current strategic plan – reveals the following:

¹ This table's figures are based on 29 programmes that have completed their first programme cycle and so will differ from total figures published in the 1999 Annual Report and elsewhere

- Expenditure on resource and technology fell by 18%
- Expenditure on organisational development increased by 7%
- Expenditure on financial services was reduced by 16%; and
- Expenditure on basic services rose by 54%

A comparison can be made from the above table of the pattern of resource allocation at the end of 1999 and the targeted allocation at the end of the current plan in 2001:

- Basic services have increased more than planned and are now 25% over the strategic plan target
- Organisational development has increased but is still 10% under its target
- Financial services although declining are consuming 52% more than the target; and
- Expenditure on resources and technology has declined instead of increasing and is 20% below target

These changes reflect underlying changes in the direction the programmes are taking.

Support to livelihoods through both resource and technology and financial services accounts for 49% of all ACORD expenditure. Despite the fact that expenditure fell by almost 16% on financial services since 1997 – mostly accounted for by three major credit programmes being in their ultimate phase – there has been a reallocation of resources from grants and technical training to microfinance as a way of encouraging sustainable livelihoods. Micro credit operates in fifteen programmes. There is an underlying shift from grants and subsidies to credit.

Basic services have surpassed its target of 20% expenditure. In the main this is through rehabilitation of infrastructure following war and insecurity.

Almost three-quarters of ACORD expenditure goes to address material poverty. However all this is spent through participatory methodologies that encourage and promote community-based organisations.

Spending on organisational development is increasing as a proportion of overall expenditure and this reflects increasingly the work ACORD is doing to promote peace, support human rights, empower women and combat stigmatism concerning AIDS. Also there are attempts in several programmes to relate CBOs from within the programme area to the wider civil society.