

ACDI VOCA

foodsecurity

ACDI/VOCA has a 45-year history of working in food security. Our approach empowers vulnerable populations by ensuring that individuals, households and communities can meet their own basic needs, and where possible, expand into local, regional and global markets. Employing an integrated strategy, **ACDI/VOCA** works at the household and community levels to enhance food availability, increase access to safe and nutritious food, improve utilization of food and foster resiliency to shocks.

We improve crop production and post-harvest handling, increase household income, improve health and nutrition, promote savings and access to credit, and reduce vulnerability to future crises. We give vulnerable households the tools and resources they need to become and remain food secure.

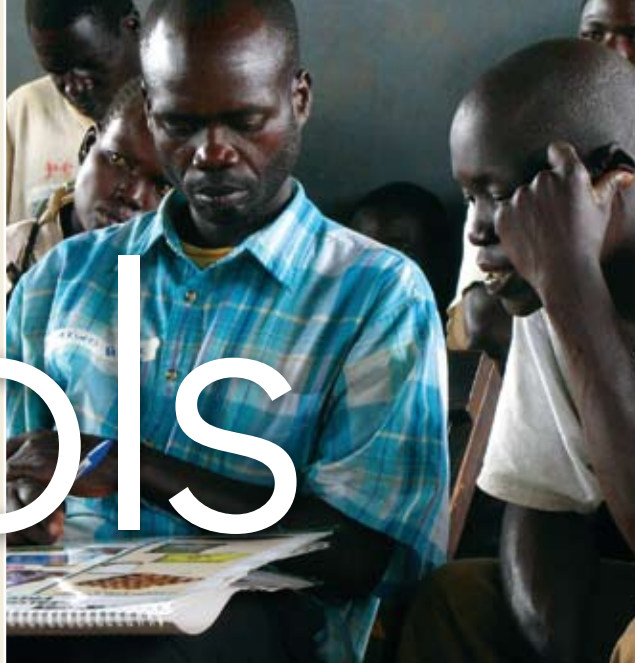
The global food crisis presents a formidable challenge, as surges in farm input and staple crop prices have helped force an additional 100 million people into poverty worldwide. **ACDI/VOCA** is addressing this global challenge with an unmatched understanding of local conditions and a proven business approach.



tools

Food Security Tools

- **Training & Technical Assistance**
ACDI/VOCA uses well-tested training models to increase farmers' knowledge of appropriate inputs, promote best agronomic and post-harvest handling practices, and teach recordkeeping and marketing to increase household income and the availability of staple crops. We provide services and training to help overcome health crises, in particular to mitigate the effects of HIV, and reduce malnutrition.
- **Supplementary Grant Support**
 Through grant programs, **ACDI/VOCA** empowers local organizations to identify and achieve their own priorities. With our support, organizations then assume financial and managerial responsibility for the grants, thus building their own capacities for future business endeavors.
- **Income-Generation Opportunities**
 We promote sustainable on- and off-farm livelihood opportunities with our market-oriented approach, and ensure that critical market linkages are made.
- **Improved Financial Systems**
 We promote increased savings among beneficiaries not only to improve resiliency, but to promote self-sufficiency and sustainability. We foster access to credit through solidarity-group lending as well as linkages to the formal financial sector.
- **Infrastructure**
ACDI/VOCA facilitates access to markets and improved natural resource management through activities such as road rehabilitation and the construction of soil and water conservation works.
- **Emergency Response**
 We boost communities' resiliency by enhancing emergency preparedness, developing early warning systems to detect food security crises and distributing emergency supplies (food, nonfood items, vouchers) to respond to natural and human-caused disasters.
- **Commodity Management**
 As a leader in monetizing commodities in low-income, food-deficit countries to finance development programs, **ACDI/VOCA** assesses local production and markets to avoid disrupting competition or pricing, identifies appropriate sales methodologies and manages logistics. We promote entrepreneurship and develop the capacity of local traders and businesses. Further, recognizing that individuals who are hungry cannot participate in the broader economy, we distribute food rations to the most food-insecure households in targeted communities.
- **Association & Cooperative Development**
ACDI/VOCA helps communities take collective action and organize into associations and cooperatives that offer their members improved advocacy, reduced input costs and improved sales margins.



Food Security In Practice

SUCCESS STORY:

In the West Bank region, **ACDI/VOCA** works to increase the competitiveness of agribusiness and farmer groups, strengthen food security among marginalized households, mitigate the effects of drought and improve natural resource management. In addition to providing direct technical assistance to farmers and cooperatives, **ACDI/VOCA** engages local NGOs through a competitive grants management program to build local capacity. During a six-month pilot project working with small-ruminant dairy farmers, **ACDI/VOCA** provided training to farmers and cooperatives; equipment for hygienic milk collection, testing, and storage; and marketing services. One particular farmer, who had owned sheep for more than 10 years, was at first skeptical about the new techniques. He changed his mind, though, and today continues to practice his new farm management skills. "As you can see, I practice everything I have been trained on. I keep farm records, I clean up after each milking to reduce contamination, and I have been able to reduce costs and increase production. I am now thinking of expanding my farm and doing more to develop production."

SUCCESS STORY:

In Uganda, **ACDI/VOCA** helps smallholder farmers increase and improve production to achieve food security and a link to markets. **ACDI/VOCA's** integrated approach provides training and technical assistance to field extension workers and lead farmers on modern farming technologies in production, post-harvest handling and marketing. To deliver this training, **ACDI/VOCA** funds local organizations that work with farmer groups. Each group has a lead farmer and a demonstration plot on which all the farmers in the group use sound agronomic practices and measure the improvements realized through the techniques taught in the trainings. The program has specifically targeted people living with HIV/AIDS. One such woman was living with her family in a tiny mud hut on a small plot. With her training, she has multiplied her income, improved her nutrition and reinvested in her farm. When staff visit her farm, she says, "Inuli mama na baba," Lugwere for "You are now my mother and father." With her additional income she built a permanent house and moved away from the mud hut.

success stories

about us



ACDI / VOCA
Improving Access to Food
and Fostering Resilience

food security programs

ACDI / VOCA

True to its mission, **ACDI/VOCA** draws upon four and a half decades of technical experience in food security, agribusiness, community development, enterprise development and financial services to promote economic growth, improve livelihoods and create vibrant communities worldwide.

With an impressive track record, qualified and committed staff, and highly developed tools and methodologies, we help communities, households, enterprises and industries create sustainable wealth. Whether we are employing value chain analysis, organizing producers for greater efficiency, providing reliable business or financial services, developing capacities, reducing vulnerability, or creating sustainable communities, we empower people to succeed.

After all, when it comes to improving lives, we mean business.



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