



ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Acting Community Team (ACT)

“Empowering Youth, Building Resilience, Leading Change”

Location:

Hai-Aweil Jadid, Current WDG Main Office, Wau, Western Bahr el Ghazal State
South Sudan

Contact Information:

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Status: Youth-Led Community-Based Organization (CBO)

Background of the Organization

The Acting Community Team (ACT) is a youth-led Community-Based Organization (CBO) founded in June 2018 in Western Bahr el-Ghazal, South Sudan. Officially registered in September 2020, ACT was born out of a commitment to address the systemic challenges facing young people, including limited economic opportunity, social exclusion, and the impacts of conflict, by empowering them to become drivers of their own development.

Leadership & Contact

- **Executive Director:** Kleto Luka Mauro (Agronomist)
- **Contacts:** 0917015495 / 0928545637 (WhatsApp)
- **Location:** Hai-Aweil Jadid, Current WDG Main Office Wau Western Bahr el Ghazal State, South Sudan

Governance & Structure

- Eight (8) dedicated volunteer staff.
- Draft constitution with defined roles for Board and Management.
- Currently strengthening operational, financial, and M&E systems.

Mission & Vision

- **Mission:** To empower youth through leadership development, sustainable livelihoods, and community resilience.
- **Vision:** A peaceful, self-reliant South Sudan where young people lead positive change.

Act core Values

1) Youth-Centered Agency

We believe in the power and potential of young people. We listen, collaborate, and empower youth to lead their own development and shape their communities.

2) Integrity & Accountability

We act with transparency and honesty in all our work. We are accountable to the youth we serve, our partners, and the communities that trust us.

3) Resilience Through Innovation

We adapt to challenges with creativity and resourcefulness. We embrace local solutions and sustainable practices to build lasting livelihoods and peace.

4) Inclusive Community Partnership

We work hand-in-hand with communities, leaders, and stakeholders. We foster dialogue, inclusion, and collective action to ensure no one is left behind.

5) Courage to Lead Change

We encourage bold leadership and advocacy. We stand up for the rights and well-being of youth, women, and vulnerable groups, even when it is difficult.

Act overall Objectives

1. To enhance youth leadership and employability through market-relevant skills training, entrepreneurship support, and cooperative development.
2. To strengthen food security and climate resilience by promoting sustainable agricultural practices, farmer cooperatives, and efficient resource management.
3. To foster community peace and social cohesion through inclusive dialogue, conflict resolution training, and youth-led advocacy initiatives.
4. To build organizational capacity in governance, financial management, monitoring & evaluation, and sustainable resource mobilization.
5. To advocate for the rights, protection, and meaningful participation of youth and women in social, economic, and political spheres.

Specific Objectives

1) Youth Economic Empowerment

- Train 100 youth annually in vocational skills (tailoring, IT, graphic design) aligned with local market demand.
- Establish and support 5 new Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) each year.
- Launch 2 youth-led small businesses or cooperatives per year with seed funding and mentorship.

2) Food Security & Sustainable Agriculture

- Train 50 local farmers annually in climate-smart practices (drip irrigation, bee-keeping, GAB methods).
- Establish 3 new farmer cooperatives in Western Bahr el-Ghazal by 2026.
- Increase agricultural yields by 30% among participating farmers within two years.

3) Peacebuilding & Social Cohesion

- Conduct quarterly peace dialogue sessions with youth clubs, faith leaders, and local authorities in target communities.
- Train 200 community members annually in conflict resolution and mediation skills.
- Reduce reported incidents of youth-related violence by 20% in ACT's operating areas by 2027.

4) Advocacy & Protection

- Conduct 4 community awareness campaigns annually on issues such as substance abuse, girls' education, and gender-based violence.
- Engage with state-level youth bodies and ministries to advocate for inclusive youth policies.
- Increase community reporting and referral of protection cases by 40% through established youth-led advocacy networks.

Organizational Development & Sustainability

- Develop and implement a 5-year strategic plan with clear M&E frameworks by the end of 2030.
- Train all staff and board members in financial management, proposal writing, and donor reporting.
- Secure at least 3 new partnerships with regional or international NGOs/funders by 2030.

Our Approach

ACT adopts a participatory, community-centered model that begins with listening. Through research, surveys, and continuous dialogue with youth and their families, we identify local needs and aspirations. This evidence-based understanding allows us to design and deliver tailored programs that are both relevant and sustainable. Our work is built on the belief that lasting change comes from within the community, led by informed and equipped young leaders.

Core Program Areas

Our initiatives are structured around five interconnected pillars:

1) Livelihoods and Economic Empowerment

We provide market-driven vocational skills training including tailoring, IT, graphic design, bakery, and agribusiness to bridge the unemployment gap. By establishing Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and supporting youth-led cooperatives, we provide the financial tools and mentorship necessary for young entrepreneurs to build lasting economic resilience.

2) Peacebuilding and Social Cohesion

We facilitate community-led dialogues and provide specialized training in conflict resolution and mediation. Through strategic partnerships with youth clubs, faith leaders, and local authorities, we advocate for peaceful coexistence and create platforms for reconciliation in fragmented communities.

3) Advocacy and Protection

We lead high-impact awareness campaigns addressing critical social issues, including substance abuse, girls' education, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV). We are committed to amplifying the voices of youth and women, ensuring they have a seat at the table in local and state-level decision-making spaces.

4) Smart Agriculture and Climate Change

We promote climate-smart agricultural (CSA) techniques to strengthen food security and community resilience against environmental shocks. This includes training farmers in sustainable resource management, drip irrigation, and bee-keeping, while advocating for local policies that protect the environment and encourage green innovation among youth.

5) **Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) & Emergency Preparedness**

We empower youth and communities to identify, assess, and reduce the risks of natural and man-made disasters. Our focus is on building "community first-responder" capacity through:

- **Early Warning Systems:** Training youth to monitor and communicate climate and security risks to vulnerable households.
- **Hazard Mapping:** Conducting community-led assessments to identify flood-prone areas and resource gaps.
- **Crisis Resilience:** Developing emergency preparedness plans and building local capacity for rapid response and recovery to minimize the impact of shocks on livelihoods.

Recent Milestones

- 1) **Gender Equity:** Established EMAP (Engage Men through Accountable Practice) groups in Hai Matamadia and Jebel Kheir.
- 2) **Safe Spaces:** Managing a Women and Girls' Friendly Space in Hai Jebel Kheir.
- 3) **Economic Support:** Actively monitoring 10 VSLA groups with a focus on financial record-keeping.
- 4) **Partnerships:** Maintained active collaborations with CEPO, WDG, and local government bodies.
- 5) **Institutional Capacity Building:** The SUCCESS Project & ASPIRE Framework
ACT is one of 40 select Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) nationwide participating in the SUCCESS project (Supporting Civil Society Empowerment in South Sudan), a multi-year initiative funded by the European Union and led by Mercy Corps in partnership with the Institute for Promotion of Civil Society (IPCS).

Through this partnership, ACT is currently:

Utilizing the ASPIRE Tool: Engaging in Mercy Corps' proprietary Adaptive Systemic Programmatic Internal Review and Evolution (ASPIRE) self-assessment to identify and bridge gaps in internal governance and operational efficiency.

Developing Tailored CDPs: Implementing a customized Capacity Development Plan (CDP) focused on strengthening financial accountability, digital security, and strategic advocacy.

Transitioning to Financial Support: Positioning the organization to qualify for the Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) phase, enabling ACT to scale our youth-led community interventions with direct grant funding.

Our Commitment:

ACT remains dedicated to fostering an environment where youth are not only beneficiaries but

leaders, equipped with the skills, confidence, and opportunities to thrive and contribute to a more peaceful, prosperous, and inclusive South Sudan.

Motivation for Participation

ACT seeks to participate in this capacity-building program to systematically strengthen our organizational foundations, enhance program impact, and ensure long-term sustainability.

Our participation is driven by three strategic needs:

- 1) **To professionalize our operations** by developing robust systems in financial management, monitoring & evaluation, and administrative governance.
- 2) **To amplify our community impact** by refining our advocacy, campaign development, and peacebuilding methodologies to better serve youth and vulnerable groups.
- 3) **To secure our future** by building competencies in strategic resource mobilization, partnership development, and leadership succession planning.

This program represents a critical investment in our ability to deliver high-quality, accountable, and transformative services. We are committed to fully engaging with this opportunity to evolve into a more resilient, effective, and influential youth-led organization.