



ACUMEN RESEARCH

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE



“YOUR BRIDGE TO RESEARCH AND INFORMATION”

Contact Us

Contacts: PO Box 101095 - 00101, NAIROBI
Fifth Floor, Eco Bank Towers, Muindi Mbingu
Street Nairobi
consult@acumenresearch.co.ke



Introduction

Acumen adopts a holistic approach incorporating the significant problems that afflict the people in conflict, arid and semi-arid, rural, urban, and peri-urban regions in emergency and post-emergency recovery situations.

Acumen Research Solution is a leading research consulting organization in the Horn of Africa region registered in Kenya and Somalia. Acumen researches to ensure a food and nutrition secure, healthy community with diverse livelihood options in an environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive society. Acumen adopts a holistic approach incorporating the significant problems that afflict the people in conflict, arid and semi-arid, rural, urban, and peri-urban regions in emergency and post-emergency recovery situations. The organization currently focuses its activities in Somalia but lessons from the organizational activities are shared and applied across all areas with similar socio-economic, environmental, or political circumstances in the Horn of Africa region.

Acumen is supported by professionals from the region who are motivated by the urge to generate evidence from the local communities for developing innovative approaches to address the problems that afflict communities living in very fragile physical, socio-economic, and political environments. The organization aims at addressing the major bottlenecks affecting the implementation of development programs, application of research findings and innovations, addressing policy gaps, and strengthening human and institutional capacities toward sustainable food and nutrition security and environmental conservation. Acumen provides training and technical support to private and public institutions to improve their technology and innovations adoptive and adaptive capacities. The organization is a farmer and community center where all activities are modeled in a way that ensures that local communities are the primary sources of information and the ultimate beneficiaries of the research results.

Acumen is headquartered in Nairobi Kenya and has offices in Mogadishu. Acumen taps into a wide range of experienced full-time permanent staff and a pool of professional associate consultants attached through linkages and networks who undertake a wide range of basic and applied research assignments. Acumen has worked for over 10 years with clients ranging from local/regional and national governments, community groups, local and international NGOs, and the UN organizations in diverse facets of information degeneration, innovation, policy and economic development based on environmental resources, WASH programs, livelihood projects and food, and nutrient security across the region.



Mission

To carry out high-quality scientific research for setting research, policy, and development agendas and for stimulating innovations, facilitating technology transfer, capacity building, and institutional development in the Horn of Africa region.



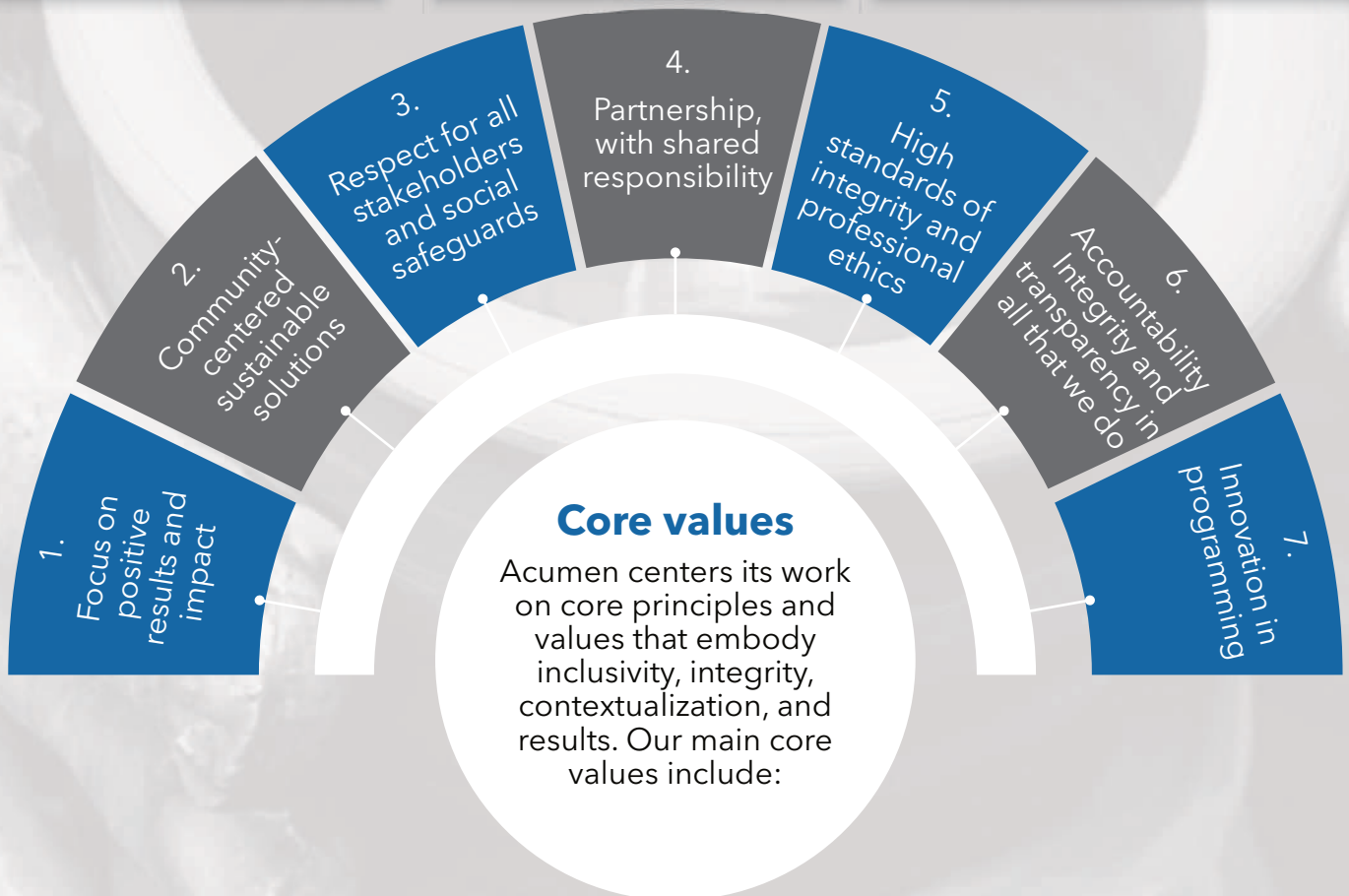
Vision

An African continent where everyone attains the full right to survival, protection, development, and participation essential to a long, decent, and healthy life.



Goal

Contribute to improving the living standard of the vulnerable communities in arid, semi-arid, and conflict regions in the Horn of Africa through community mobilization, community, and institutional (public and private) capacity building, advocacy & strengthening of institutions, policy advocacy, and dialogue, and data and information search and packaging.



Strategic Focus Areas

Food and nutrition insecurity

Value chain development

Livelihood development and diversification

Environmental and natural resource management

Monitoring and Evaluation

Whom we support

Our program and support initiatives across the Horn of Africa-comprise a mix of technical, implementation, and logistical support articulated above targeting governments, donors, implementing partners, CSOs, and communities in the Horn of Africa countries. In addition to cutting-edge research, and third-party monitoring, Acumen also specializes in project management and implementation with partners and government agencies. We have a special focus on health, nutrition, WASH, and other resilient building initiatives targeting vulnerable populations such as children, women, and IDPs in urban as well as rural and remote areas in the country. We also have a special advisory unit that provides high-level professional



Save the Children

OUR APPROACH

COLLABORATION

We work with local experienced researchers, CBOS, and line ministries that have vast experience in the work we are focusing on. To acknowledge and understand the root causes for systemic changes we join forces and form partnerships for greater impact with non-profits, private, public, and community leaders.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

We use an adaptive management system such that research expertise, learning, and evidence from farmers in the fields combined with our longstanding experience of international development are integrated to inform our processes.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Acumen adopts a sustainable approach that is need and rights-based that ensures full community involvement in all stages of the project's lifecycle.

Sustainable programs are designed in a way that mobilizes indigenous and local resources to solve local problems.

INSIGHTS

Our precise statistical analysis together with highly competent and experienced staff ensure effective and robust research, evaluation, and surveys that provide clients with insights for information-driven decision making to research and developmental questions at hand.



1. Strategic core services and areas of specialization

1. Research And Consultancy Services for Development

- a. Baselines assessment and socio-economic survey services:** These include feasibility studies for multi-sectors or disciplines in development work especially in the conflict, potential conflict, post-conflict and recovery areas, or emergency affected areas. Other areas of expertise in development research include Agricultural research and development; environmental protection and management; health, nutrition, and WASH research; good governance, peacebuilding, and conflict resolution.
- b. Project planning, reviews, evaluation, monitoring, and impact assessment:** Careful analysis of plans and objectives as well as the overall project schedule and the level of resources associated with the project ensures that project objectives and outcomes are achieved. Developing effective baselines, a detailed analysis of status as linked to the plans, goals and delivery procedures, and schedule are performed. Our extensive project management experience as well as specific functional experience across a broad range of technology-based development projects, provides the basis for an effective assessment. During impact analysis, we apply an integrated approach where we analyze both benefits and costs and address all significant economic, social, and environmental impacts of the projects.
- c. Supportive supervision and monitoring of project implementation:** Our teams of consultants can provide adequate and reliable project supervision and independent monitoring and evaluation of project activities. We also assist in the following:
 - i. Provide technical assistance needed for the project to both the donors/funders and the implementing partners
 - ii. Develop necessary project strategies for implementation
 - iii. Provide weekly, Monthly, and annual projects progressive reports
 - iv. Provide Monthly base market survey report
 - v. Make final verifications and project completion procedures



2. Institutional Capacity Development Services

- a. Institutional capacity building:** We undertake institutional capacity assessments to identify organizational and staff capacity gaps in organizations through capacity needs assessment and SWOT analysis. Based on the results we develop capacity-building strategies to increase efficiency within the organization.
- b. Strategic planning:** We support the development of strategic plans. This includes the formulation of organizational mandate, vision, mission and objectives, key strategic/result areas, activity and work plans, and resource mobilization and allocation.
- c. Financial services:** Our pool of financial consultants works with international NGOs to support in planning the financial systems and frameworks for programs and projects, to respond to specific donor and host-government regulations and requirements. The team also works closely with clients to offer personalized financial advice and provide information and guidance on topics that include taxes, investments, and insurance decisions.
- d. Translation services:** We provide translation services of scientific; technical, commercial, literary, legal, and educational documents from English to Somali or vice versa. Our consultants have the knowledge and the capacity to perform these tasks to ensure that the translated version has the full meaning of the original text.
- e. Institutional policy and procedures development:** We work with clients to design their management systems, and develop Administrative, Human Resources, and Financial policies and procedures.
- f. Organizational development support services:** Acumen has developed an innovative and all-encompassing project management cum organizational capacity development approach dubbed The Building of Effective, Efficient, Sustainable Organizations (The BEES Approach). This is a framework that looks at organizational development holistically and is used to guide the organization through key stages and components of organizational processes and project management. Through this approach, clients can deal with day-to-day challenges in their organizations. A team qualified in project and financial management and organizational development is assigned to each organization throughout the agreed period.
- g. Logistics support services:** These include the provision of specified logistics support services aimed at improving organizational efficiency and effectiveness. Acumen has competencies in the following areas:
 - i. Field project operations management
 - ii. Project logistics delivery and operations
 - iii. Third-party logistics
 - iv. Remote facilities monitoring and management
 - v. Asset and inventory management
 - vi. Database management support

3. Innovations and Technologies for Community Development

Acumen used a number a wide range of strategies to achieve community development. Cognizant of the fragile environments (in all facets) in which we work community development requires great balance between food and nutrition goals and sustainable environments. The organization takes a holistic approach to community development by developing projects and programs related to agricultural production, environmental conservation, market access, inclusive societies, and gender equality.

Acumen's program and project support services encompass the provision of technical support aimed at enhancing the organization's program delivery through support in planning, implementation, tracking results, documentation, and dissemination of lessons. Acumen supports the following program areas:

- i. Agricultural- Agricultural feasibility studies; Agricultural needs assessment; Agricultural project implementation and management; Agricultural education and training and Land management.
- ii. Technology transfer, adaptation, and adoption structures: Through this, Acumen enhances community adoption of new productive technologies through farmer training, development of extension demonstration sites, and packaging of extension information and information dissemination through radio and other programs.
- iii. Business consultancy - Involving business planning, personnel management, and estate and financial management advice for agricultural firms and market linkages.
- iv. Agronomy: Provide consultancy services for plant protection, soil and water conservation, plant ecology, animal husbandry, and veterinary services.
- v. Environment: Biodiversity conservation and stability of ecosystems; Impacts of climate change on tropical environments and ways of mitigation; land degradation; deforestation, and waste management sectors at institution or/ and country level.
- vi. Gender equality and child protection: Policy and advocacy towards gender equality and protection of child rights; community training on gender and human rights towards an inclusive society, demobilization, and reintegration; youth capacity development, training, and employment

4. Political and Economic Analysis

Acumen considers political and economic analysis as a means to translate ideas in policy and programming into agreed-upon outcomes. Acumen analysts purposefully deploy their political economy knowledge to influence relevant political actors to define and achieve policy and programmatic objectives. Acumen's effective engagement is built upon the strong relationship it has with the various political actors. This relationship has been developed and nurtured with integrity, impartiality, and credibility in approach and interactions.

Sample Projects Done

Organization	Description of Assignment	Date	Location
County Government of Wajir	Developing an M&E policy framework for the County Government of Wajir	2021	Wajir
County Government of Wajir	Preparation of Wajir County Medium Term Debt Management Strategy Framework (MTDMST)	2020	Wajir
Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA)	Development of Civic Dialogue Guidelines and Training for EISA	Aug 2019 -Jan2019	Baidoa & Mogadishu
Somali Stability Fund	End-line Assessment on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Investment in Jubaland State in Somalia Re-integration of, IDPs/Refugees Governance & Stabilization	September 2019	South-central Somalia
ZAMZAM Foundation	Final evaluation of Somalia Community Recovery Support Project	Jan 2020	Galmudug Region, Somalia
ZAMZAM Foundation	Needs Assessment on Food Security, Nutrition and Public Health in Jowhar, Adale, Balcad (middle Shebelle region); Baidoa, Buurhakaba(Bay region) and Kismayo(Lower Juba region)	June 2020	Somalia
NIWETU & Wasfairi Consulting Group	Midline Evaluation of NIWETU Countering Violent Extremism Project	Feb- March 2019	Mandera & Wajir Kenya
Danish Demining Group	Conflict Sensitive Development	Jan –Feb 2019	Mandera & Wajir Kenya
Safeworld	Police Advisory Committees from Somalia Training	Sept 2018	Nairobi Kenya
UNICEF	Editing and writing services	July 2016-date	Nairobi
DFID & Wasairi consulting group	Evaluation of DFID Kenya Improving Community Security Programme	May-June 2018	Mandera & Wajir
IOM	Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration Baseline Survey	March - April 2018	Somaliland and Jubaland, Somalia
ADESO	Mid-term Assessment for Somalia Resilience Action Consortium (Stream Consortium) Programme	Jan 2018	Lower Juba

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Assessing performance using indicators that ensure project success and sustainability

