



ACF INTERNATIONAL NETWORK
POSITIONING PAPER
RESEARCH POLICY ACF-IN





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ACRONYMS

ACF-IN	Action Contre la Faim - International Network
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IRD	Institut de Recherche pour le Développement
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document presents the research policy of Action contre la Faim – International Network (ACF-IN).

As a professional Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) involved in the **fight against hunger**, Action contre la Faim – International Network (ACF-IN) operates in the four technical areas of nutrition and health, food security, water, sanitation and hygiene and advocacy in order to help the most vulnerable populations regain food autonomy and the means to live without having to depend on outside help. Benefiting from a high level of technical expertise in the field, ACF-IN has always considered it a priority **to implement quality programmes** focusing on the welfare and needs of beneficiaries. **Technical development** at ACF has been structured in such a way as to assist its missions to constantly improve the quality and performance of their programmes in the areas of capitalization, studies and research, dissemination and exploitation of knowledge.

ACF-IN's research programme focuses on **beneficiaries and on those humanitarian actors, who are placed at the service of international networks**. The programme complies with ACF-IN's Charter of Principles, its **overall objective** being to contribute to improving the positive impact of humanitarian programmes on the most vulnerable populations, to decreasing mortality and morbidity rates, to the acknowledgment and promotion of humanitarian expertise worldwide and also to increasing and sharing global knowledge. The **specific objective** of ACF's research is, however, to improve ACF-IN's response on the ground by developing existing analytical operational capabilities and applying rigorous, effective methods. This is research which is scientific, applied, participatory and ethical. **ACF-IN conducts research** in all activities that contribute to the further development of scientific-based information within the network. This is a process that covers a wide range of activities, from problem definition right up to the application of results.

Projects implemented within this framework follow the **research project cycle that consists in:** bibliographical studies, implementation of the programme, analysis of results and exploitation and dissemination of results. All projects comply with **ethical considerations and** are drawn up and developed in collaboration with scientific partners. For instance, when defining research priorities and monitoring research projects, ACF-IN benefits from the support of an **International Scientific Council** made up of members of the academic community. As an NGO in daily contact with beneficiaries and communities in the field, ACF-IN has special expertise in the generation, use and management of knowledge. As a consequence of such privileged access the Organization is in a position to inform the international community of what is needed on the ground in terms of research.

INTRODUCTION



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Action contre la Faim – International Network (ACF-IN) is a professional, humanitarian Non- Governmental Organization (NGO) specialized in the fight against hunger in developing countries.

Today, 854 million people around the world still suffer from chronic hunger (FAO, 2006) and more than one billion people lack access to drinking water (WHO/ Unicef JMP, 2004).

In order to provide the best adapted and most sustainable interventions, ACF-IN organizes programmes in **four areas**: nutrition and health, including mental health and care practices; food security; water, sanitation and hygiene; and advocacy. When implementing programmes in these different spheres, ACF-IN has always placed great emphasis on **technical expertise** for which it has now gained international recognition.

Stimulate innovation, capitalize upon field experiences, undertake studies and research, create, exploit, share and disseminate knowledge, these are all aspects that constitute the pillars of ACF-IN's **technical development**. One part of such development - **research** - consists in **all the actions carried out both methodically and scientifically with the aim of creating new knowledge and new know-how**. The Organization has always considered research to be one of its priorities, and has long recognized it as being one of the fundamental components underpinning its action.

The aim of this document is to present **ACF-IN's global research policy**. It sets the boundaries and offers a definition of what exactly **ACF-IN research** means; it thus provides the global framework for all ACF-IN research. It guides ACF-IN staff members in implementing their research programmes. The document is divided into three parts: it first sets out the **background** to ACF-IN research activities before defining **what ACF-IN research** consists of, and concluding with a description of the **basic principles** underpinning the implementation of research activities.

I. WHY IS THERE A NEED FOR ACF-IN OPERATIONAL RESEARCH?

1. OVERALL PRESENTATION OF ACF-IN

Action contre la Faim's International Network was founded in Paris in 1979 to deliver aid to countries throughout the world. Whereas previously the fight against hunger was just one element in the more general sphere of humanitarian action (the fight against poverty, promoting better health, etc.), ACF-IN as an organization was to be exclusively dedicated to ending hunger. ACF-IN is now recognized as one of the leading organizations in the fight against hunger.



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The aim of ACF-IN is to intervene in the field to save lives, to preserve and to restore food security for populations at risk. ACF-IN contributes to the protection of populations by acting and/or advocating (giving evidence). It assists during natural or man-made disasters which threaten food security or result in famine; it acts in situations of social/economic breakdown, linked to internal or external circumstances that affect groups or individuals in extremely vulnerable situations; it is present when survival depends on humanitarian aid. ACF-IN intervenes in more than **40 countries** worldwide (Annex 1).

ACF-IN **contributes to the goals of eradicating hunger worldwide, reducing child mortality**, and improving **maternal health by the year 2015** as the first, the fourth and the fifth of the United Nations Millennium Development

Goals and has pledged to participate in all efforts to achieve these goals, in particular through diversification of partnerships (Annex 2).

In order to respond to the needs of vulnerable populations and to efficiently fight against hunger, ACF-IN's programmes focus on the four areas of **nutrition and health, food security, water, sanitation and hygiene, and advocacy**.

In carrying out its activities, ACF-IN respects the **six principles set out** in its Charter (Annex 3), which denote the immovable bases of every ACF-IN intervention: independence, neutrality, non discrimination, free and direct access to victims, professionalism, and transparency.

2. TECHNICAL INTERVENTION POLICY

Basic Principles of ACF-IN Technical Interventions

Each and every ACF-IN intervention espouses the **international humanitarian standards** set out in the Code of Conduct of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent 1994, People in Aid - Code of Conduct, The Sphere Project, The Right to Food⁽¹⁾, The Right to Water⁽²⁾.

To respond to the needs of vulnerable populations, whilst fully respecting their interests, and to ensure coherence of technical activities, whilst respecting stated national governmental strategy, Action contre la

1/ Hunger is defined as a situation in which someone cannot obtain an adequate amount of food, even if the shortage is not prolonged enough to cause health problems (President's Task Force, 1984).

2/ **Rome Declaration on World Food Security**, 1996.

"We, the Heads of State and Government... reaffirm the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to adequate food and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger." **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**, 1966 "The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living ... including adequate food ..." and agree to take appropriate steps to realize this right. Article 11(1) **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, 1948 "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food ..." Article 25 (1).

General Comment No. 15 on the Right to Water was adopted by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its twenty-ninth session in November 2002 (UN Doc. E/C.12/2002/11). The Comment provides guidelines for States Parties on the interpretation of the right to water under two articles of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights - Article 11 (the right to an adequate standard of living) and Article 12 (the right to health).

Faim – International Network has defined a number of priorities for technical intervention which are based on the following ten points:

1. to respect the dignity and health of all beneficiaries;
2. to ensure security and safety of programmes for beneficiaries and staff;
3. to prioritize life-saving activities;
4. to involve the populations concerned;
5. to develop partnerships for sustainability;
6. to ensure coherence and coordinated actions and an integrated approach;
7. to address crosscutting issues;
8. to optimize resources and ensure programme quality;
9. to promote learning and innovation;
10. to evaluate activities.

The **quality of field interventions** is also ensured via continuous reporting, programme monitoring and evaluation and the presence of highly qualified teams.

The Conceptual Framework of Malnutrition

ACF-IN's intervention strategy reflects the conceptual framework of malnutrition:

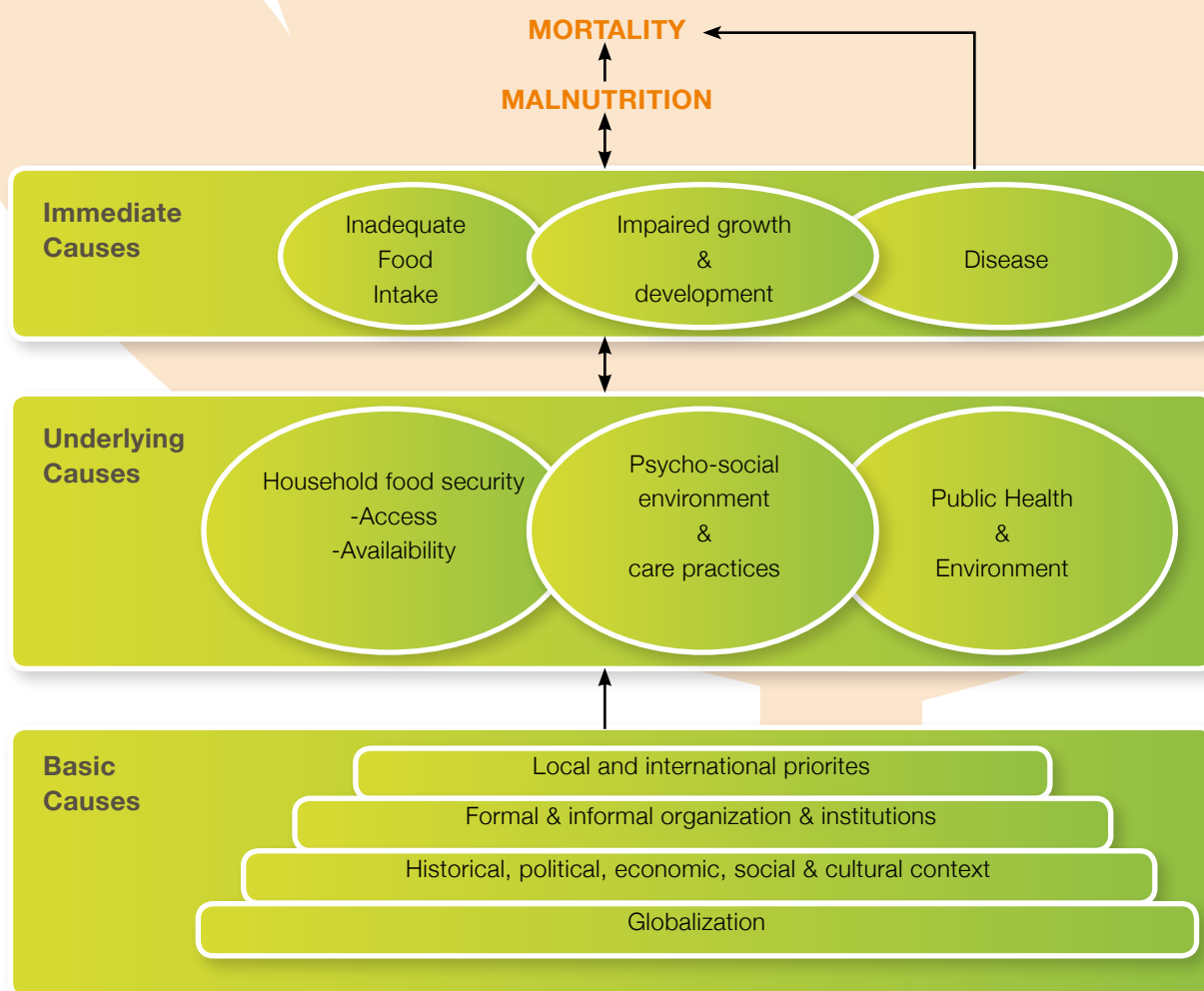


Figure 1: The conceptual framework of malnutrition

This “conceptual framework of malnutrition” was first established after a joint reflection between Unicef and NGOs in the ‘90s and adapted by ACF-IN in 2000.

The overall objective of ACF-IN is to reduce the mortality rate due to acute malnutrition. Malnutrition is the cause of more than half of infant deaths. Today, an estimated 20 million children suffer from severe chronic malnutrition (The Lancet, 2008).

Fighting malnutrition requires that the many factors at the root cause be defined before the nutritional status of an individual can be determined (presented in Figure 1). Malnutrition is a manifestation of problems occurring at three levels:

- **immediate causes:** inadequate food intake, impaired growth, development and disease and that have an immediate impact on nutrition status;
- **underlying causes of malnutrition:** household food security, care practices and mental health, public health and social environment;
- these factors are directly linked to the **basic causes** that are local and international priorities, themselves linked to formal and informal organizations and institutions, and which depend on the historical, political, economic, environmental and cultural contexts.

ACF-IN has therefore developed four main areas of programme intervention:

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Nutrition and health, including mental health and care practices: ACF-IN staff assess, prevent and treat acute malnutrition for the most at-risk populations (young children, pregnant and breastfeeding women), including people living with HIV.

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Water, sanitation and hygiene : ACF-IN activities consist in providing vulnerable populations with access to drinking water, proper sanitation and a hygienic environment

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Food security: ACF-IN food security interventions aim to ensure accurate analysis of the food security situation amongst vulnerable population in areas of intervention and to implement adapted responses to needs.

To underpin these activities, **ACF-IN has developed an advocacy programme** that aims at putting pressure on organizations and institutions, policy-makers and public opinion to ensure concrete and visible modification of a number of political or practical contexts in favour of affected populations

3. Maintaining High-level Quality of Technical Interventions

Technical development means using those technical solutions that are best adapted to the needs of a given population bearing in mind technological developments or internal and external methodologies applied in each of ACF-IN's fields of intervention. It aims at placing field teams at the centre of a logical 6-stage technical development cycle that will result in the improvement of their interventions in the field (see Figure 2).

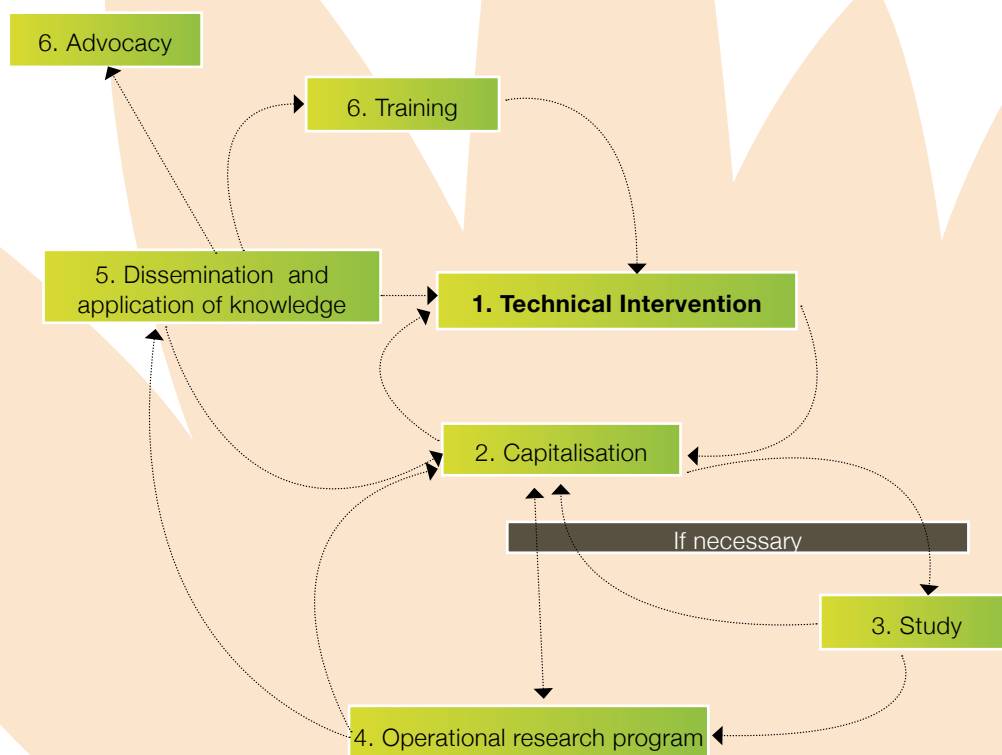


Figure 2: The technical development cycle.

Research is one stage of technical development, and contributes to improving field interventions.

1. Technical intervention: technical needs are identified as a result of problems encountered during field interventions.

2. Capitalization or experience-based learning process: Capitalization is a process consisting in evaluating, documenting and disseminating the lessons ACF-IN has learned from its own experiences with a view to improving future programmes. ACF-IN makes use of its expertise in its different areas of intervention (bibliographic abstracts, analysis of field data, analysis of evaluations, internal and external programme monitoring procedures...).

It could prove useful to commission a study or a specific topic of research to respond to an issue first raised in the field.

3. Studies and 4. Research: A **study** is an analysis or a synthesis related to a given subject. Research is a scientific process resulting in the production of new knowledge.

Notwithstanding the results obtained from a study or research enquiry it is important to offer and disseminate the results to anyone potentially interested in making use of them.

5. Dissemination and application of knowledge: New information is available at the end of any capitalization process, study or enquiry. When appropriate, this information is **disseminated, promoted, and shared** within the ACF-IN network and made available to the international community.

If results lead to the design and production of new tools, techniques and/or methods, then these will be passed on to staff members by integrating them into **training sessions**, according to the ACF-IN technical rules.

6. Advocacy : Results can be incorporated into any planned future advocacy activities.

In conclusion, since its creation Action contre la Faim - International Network has, in accordance with its moral duties towards vulnerable populations, implemented and developed research activities. Indeed, research is a tool that enables ACF-IN to respond to the principle of **professionalism that is written into its Charter** (“ACF-IN bases the conception, realization, management and assessment of its programmes on professional standards and its years of experience to maximize its efficiency”), a principle that guarantees rigour and accuracy in the development of all of ACF-IN’s technical activities.



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II. WHAT DOES ACF-IN RESEARCH ENTAIL?

1. Definition

An ACF-IN **research activity** consists in an activity that contributes to the advancement of scientifically accurate knowledge in order to improve in the interventions of the Organization.

Box 1 – What does “scientific research” mean? Some global definitions

Science could be defined as an ensemble of **structured knowledge**, in a **defined area**, universally valid, because produced by means of a **rigorous** and **reliable method**. As a consequence, **scientific research** is the process that will enable the state of knowledge in a given scientific domain to be improved and expanded upon.

Different kinds of research can be distinguished (OECD, 2002):

- **fundamental research** is experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundation of phenomena and observable facts, without any particular application or use in view
- **applied research** is also original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. It is, however, directed primarily towards a specific practical aim or objective. It consists of:
 - studying the possible applications of existing knowledge in the resolution of specific problems related to its interventions;
 - establishing new methods or tools particularly oriented to missions and/or local players, with a view to achieving its pre-determined objectives.

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2. Objectives

Overall and Specific Objectives

The overall objectives of ACF-IN research are:

- to contribute to **improving the impact of humanitarian programmes** adapting them to existing and available knowledge,
- to contribute to a **decrease in mortality and morbidity rates**,
- to contribute to the **recognition and promotion of humanitarian knowledge and expertise** worldwide,
- to contribute increasing global knowledge and sharing it.

The **specific objective** is to **improve the quality of ACF-IN's humanitarian response on the**

ground by developing operational analytical skills and rigorous and effective methods and techniques.

Secondary objectives are:

- the reinforcement of **operational** capacities,
- the reinforcement of **advocacy** capacities,
- the reinforcement of technical capacities,
- the reinforcement of **legitimacy** capacities,
- the reinforcement of **accountability** capacities.

For whom is this research intended?

Bearing in mind the above-mentioned objectives, the results of ACF-IN research are targeted at:



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Beneficiaries of humanitarian programmes

Research results are shared and circulated through international networks to civil society, the international community and operational and scientific institutions,



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Humanitarian actors

Research activities result in the creation of **operational tools** (protocols; guidelines; manuals; training tools) for humanitarian staff. They can be applications of fundamental research results, adaptations of existing tools or definitions of new ones.



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International community

ACF-IN research results are **shared and disseminated** to civil society, institutional, operational and international scientific communities through international distribution networks.

3. Characteristics of ACF-IN Research

Scientific

Results are based on a scientific approach.

Applied

ACF-IN research aims at producing tools and methods that will meet the needs of vulnerable population groups and/or humanitarian actors working on the ground.

Participatory

“Participation is a process through which stakeholders’ influence and share control over development initiatives and the decisions and resources which affect them” (World Bank, 1996).

ACF-IN leads research activities as far as possible in a participatory



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approach with beneficiaries, groups and communities. This collaborative method allows to test new ideas and implement action for change. This process guarantees quality and sustainable interventions.

Ethical

All research projects are subjected to a review of ethical needs and might thus necessitate the definition of transparent procedures that will enable agreement to be obtained from individuals, local communities and national governments who fully understand what is at stake. An official ethical authorization might have to be obtained from the authorities of the country in which the research project is to be implemented.



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In conformity with ACF-IN principles

All research activities are implemented in accordance with ACF-IN's general and technical principles.

Box 2: Relevance of research for humanitarian interventions

Research introduces innovation, replicability, reliability, forward planning and improvement of humanitarian expertise into ACF-IN's programmes and interventions



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Research stimulates innovation

Research stimulates emulation in a defined sector that can lead to an **innovation**. For ACF-IN, innovation is a process that creates something new. It covers a wide range of activities, from the development of new ideas to the dissemination to users of a new product, a new method, and a new technology.

Research makes it possible to target a greater number of beneficiaries

In contrast to a routine technical programme, a research programme serves not only the interests of the programme-targeted beneficiaries, but also the beneficiaries of any future technical programmes, even those that might fall within another context. Because they are the consequence of a scientifically based method, research results can be **reproduced**, in a specific context and/or in other contexts. Research also makes it possible to **standardize** ACF-IN interventions.

Research guarantees the reliability of an intervention

As mentioned in the definition of research, a successful research activity creates new knowledge in a specific area that is universally valid, because it is the outcome of a rigorous and reliable method. Research guarantees the **reliability** and thus the **quality** of research-produced tools and methods that it engenders.

Research makes it possible to anticipate field needs

ACF-IN monitors activities in its field of intervention from the scientific, technical and operational standpoints in order to anticipate and to define what is needed in the field.

Research permits expansion of scientific and humanitarian knowledge and skills

Research plays an important role in broadening the extent of knowledge of the field both for scientists and humanitarian actors, in specific areas.

Research enhances visibility in its fields of intervention

Research offers internal and external actors a better **visibility** and knowledge of ACF-IN activities.

4. Description of ACF-IN Research Activities

Recapitulation of Technical Activities

ACF-IN is active in the areas of nutrition and health, water, sanitation and hygiene and food security. All these areas of intervention and related activities can become the topic of research conducted by the network. They are presented in Annex 4.

Hunger Watch collects and compiles technical data that facilitate the successful outcome of these activities (Annex 5).

Box 3: Identifying research activities: some basic elements that can help (OECD, 2002)

Some innovative projects bring **new knowledge**, whilst others engender **new applications**.

- The “innovative” element is a basic criterion when making a distinction between research and other related activities.

- **Other criteria** can also be of help in distinguishing between research activities and those of a technical nature:

- links with public research laboratories or research institutions
- publication of research findings in scientific journals, organization of scientific conferences or involvement in scientific reviews
- construction of prototypes or pilot plants
- need for ethical considerations or national approval

- Examples of research activities:

- development of new methodologies and monitoring tools
- launching a prototype and/or pilot programmes

Nota Bene: ACF-IN research projects do not systematically match all the criteria mentioned above (cf chapter III). On the other hand, they do make it possible to help to identify a posteriori potential research that is the fruit of local initiatives.



Examples of current activities of research

ACF-IN has been developing activities in the following areas:



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Nutrition and Health:

- Severe acute malnutrition for children under six months old.
- Definition of standard treatment protocols for adults suffering from malnutrition
- Micronutrients, prevention, treatment and management of acute malnutrition
- Nutrition and HIV: improving protocols for the treatment of malnutrition in HIV-positive beneficiaries
- Malnutrition and the disabled
- Prevention of malnutrition in pregnant women



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Mental health and care practises:

- Compensate for mother's milk's insufficiency
- Improvement of mother-child relationships in Therapeutic Nutrition Programmes
- Psychomotor development in acutely malnourished infants



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Food Security:

- Defining alternatives to food aid: cash based interventions
- Impact of climate change on food security intervention practices
- Emergency food rations quality: improvement of micronutrients.
- Development of national social welfare systems for the most vulnerable populations
- Fight against deforestation during emergency situations



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Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:

- Development of geophysical methods for the detection of water sources
- Right to water for the most vulnerable populations and its consequences in ACF-IN programmes
- Development of emergency latrines for the disabled
- Domestic water treatment in rural areas
- Development of sanitation networks in newly constructed urban zones



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Cross-cutting issues:

- Improving and promoting an integrated approach
- New methods and better practices in assisting the most vulnerable rural populations
- Adaptation of projects linked to global warming in the Sahel
- South-south transfer of irrigation techniques for agriculture
- Use of new information technologies in humanitarian action
- Creation of an observatory for humanitarian research

Current involvement of ACF-IN in PhD:

- "Psychological Suffering, Mother's Milk Insufficiencies and Severe Malnutrition in Afghanistan", in collaboration with the University of Bordeaux (2005-2008).

- «Replicable Hydrogeophysical Study of Two Coastal Aquifers in the Region of Suratkal (India)», in collaboration with the Institut de Recherche et Développement (IRD) (2006-2009).

- "Is the Right to Water Replicable and Effective in the Transition Process of Developing Countries?", in collaboration with the Laboratoire Territoires, Techniques et Sociétés (LATTS) (2008-2011).

Typology of ACF-IN Research Activities

Research activities can be implemented according to a number of different modalities in terms of:

- **Objectives:** research can be considered to be "retrospective", in cases where the research project consists of analysing data already collected during previous operational missions (needs assessment, monitoring, programme evaluation and final reports for example) – or "prospective", if the research activity has been specifically implemented to respond to a given research issue;
- **Duration:** a research project can be implemented to respond to short- medium- or long-term needs within the framework of more global future planning within the Organization;
- **Human resources management:** external consultants, PhD or Masters students, as well as ACF-IN staff members can direct or participate in research activities;
- **Overall organization:** ACF-IN can become involved in research consortiums either as a leader or as a partner;
- **Operational results:** a research project leads to the production of applicable tools or methods that can differ according to the objective of the research project: recommendations, protocols, guidelines, information and educational documents, new materials, training tools;
- **Dissemination of results:** results are circulated by means of published scientific and technical articles and through internal and external communications. Depending upon the overall objective of the research, dissemination of results can be achieved via internal or external distribution networks;
- **Partnerships:** depending upon the subject, partners from a variety of different organizations (scientific, institutional, operational and technical) can be involved in the research project.



III. PREPARING AND ESTABLISHING ACF-IN RESEARCH PROGRAMMES: THE BASIC PRINCIPLES.

1. Defining Research Needs and Priorities

Needs are identified by the **teams** working on the ground as soon as an analysis of the situation indicates that these teams are facing problems for which no tool or methodology is directly available or applicable in their interventions. The definition of needs is, in this case, established according to a **bottom-up approach**.

Staff working at ACF-IN **Headquarters** can also identify needs during their monitoring activities. The potential research project is then proposed to and discussed with the operational field teams.

Priorities to be accorded to identify research needs are defined in line with strategic priorities and in accordance with an internal selection process.

2. Support from an International Scientific Council

The members of ACF-IN's International Scientific Council are scientific experts drawn from research institutes and universities. This Council **assists ACF's international network to define research priorities**, validates operations and **supports on-going research programmes**.

The International Scientific Council makes recommendations on research priorities, and assists in finding solutions to contemporary issues and forecasting future problems by calling upon the resources of international scientific networks.



3. Cycle of an ACF-IN Research Project

ACF-IN research programmes undertaken in ACF-IN's countries of intervention, when security conditions permit.

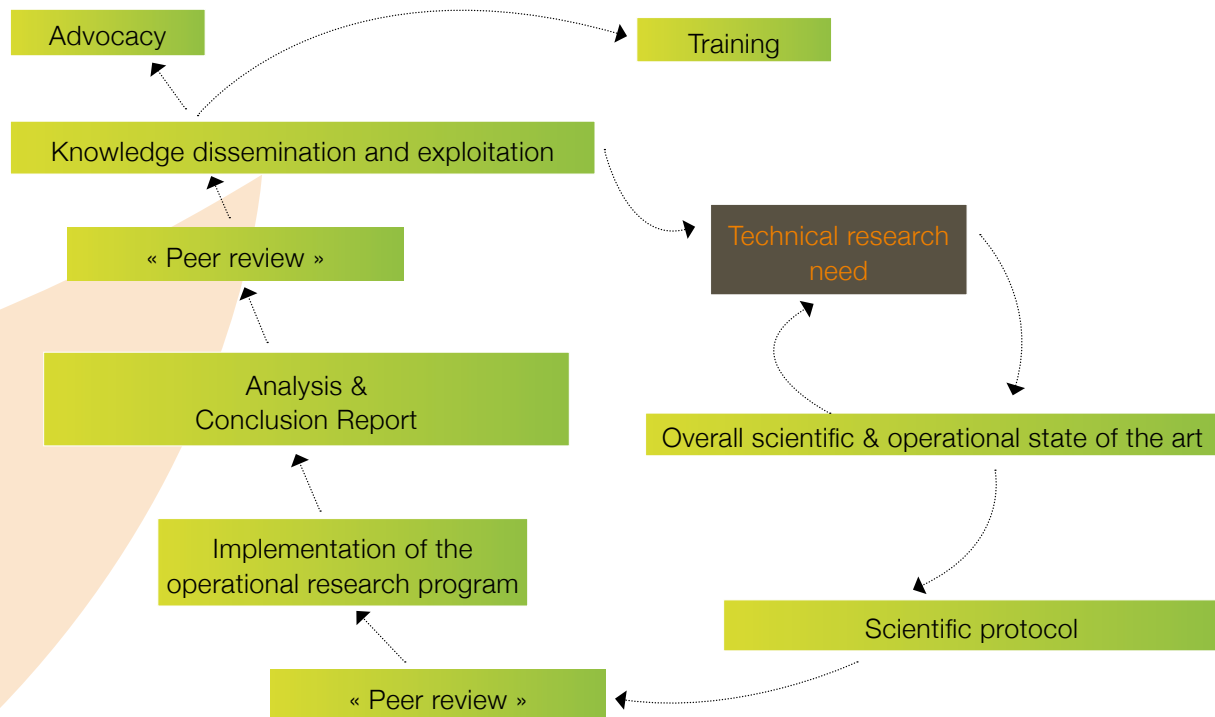


Figure 3: The research programme cycle.

All research projects must be implemented in compliance with the following cycle (Figure 3):

- **Definition of an operational need:** before any research activity begins there has to be a precise understanding both of the operational need encountered by the teams on the ground, and of what exactly they require to meet this need. This first definition phase focuses research on the specific domain, defines what research outputs are expected and identifies fields of competence (scientific, institutional and technical) required by the project.
- **Bibliographic synthesis:** an analysis of existing literature will produce a report on what scientific, technical and operational knowledge is currently available.
- **Drawing up the research protocol:** A research protocol is then drafted which is subsequently revised by a peer group (i.e. is the subject of a peer review). The protocol includes information on:
 - the preliminary hypothesis
 - partnerships with key actors, (as specified in Chapter III.4.)
 - description of the scientific methodology adopted
 - a risk analysis of the project
- **Implementation of the research programme:** the research programme is established in accordance with the previously defined protocol. In the event of change due to operational status, the protocol is revised and appropriately adapted.



- **Analysis of results and drafting the final report:** a final report is drafted to present the results of the research. It is reviewed and annotated by experts in the field concerned (combining geographical, thematic and scientific knowledge).
- **Dissemination and exploitation of results:** ACF-IN considers it essential to disseminate all research results. These are published in technical and scientific articles and utilized in compliance with ACF-IN procedures. Where appropriate, ACF-IN staff members are trained how to use any new tools and methods the research might have produced (e.g. protocols, guidelines, manuals, training tools).

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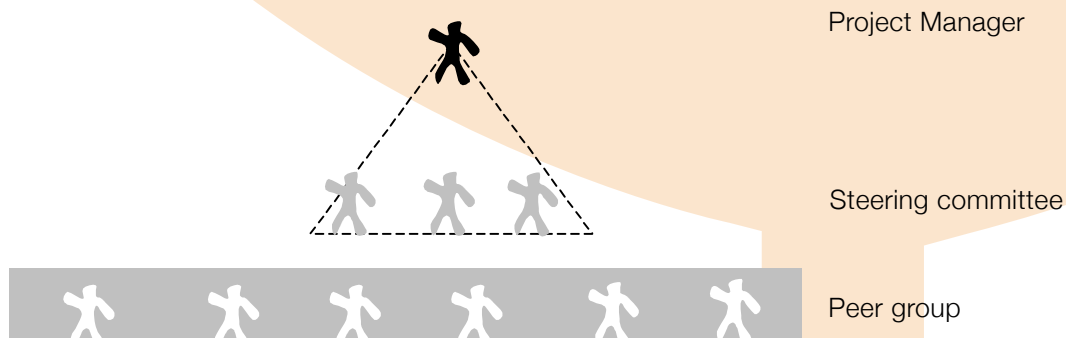


4. Partnerships for Research

Partnerships form the base for all ACF-IN research activities. A system of partnerships ensures multilateral exchange of knowledge and skills.

The different fields of competence required to carry through a research project are identified during the definition of research needs and formally set out during the drafting of the research protocol.

During the protocol-drafting phase the research project Manager sets up two main committees:



The Project Manager is responsible for supervising all aspects of the project and is accountable for it at all levels (technical, financial, strategic, communication). He or she heads up the peer group and the steering committee and calls upon appropriate partners participating in the project to guarantee the “scientific” aspects of the particular research being conducted.

The **Peer group is a** cluster of individuals coming from scientific, technical and/or institutional fields. Members of this peer group are experts whose knowledge and skills are deemed of the essence to respond to the particular research issue. There will be at least one expert from the field of science in the peer group. The group is actively involved in operational aspects of the research project. In addition, it defines the main axes of the project, monitors implementation and validates the protocol and the final

report. It can also be involved in conducting the actual research. It is equally involved in choosing new partners should this prove necessary.

The **Steering committee** is a larger gathering of personalities from research institutes, civil society, user groups, and agencies, whose role is to study and verify the protocol and the final report of the project. The committee also validates the relevance of the research and makes sure that it will be possible to apply results on termination of the project. This Committee begins work as soon as the project is launched to validate the kind of results expected upon its termination. In this way the Committee can ensure that the best possible use is made of results in the field and thus guarantee sustainability of activities undertaken consequent to the project.

All research partnerships comply with **ACF-IN's partnership policies** in terms of trust and respect, mutuality, complementarity, transparency, accountability, transfer and sharing of knowledge.

Wherever possible, partnerships with organizations and associations from **developing countries** are systematically promoted and given priority in all research activities.

ACF-IN makes every effort to invite partners from countries in which the research will be conducted to take part in the endeavour so as to enable the network to benefit from the latter's local expertise and ensure that results will remain within the national scientific community.

Note: Within consortia of institutions for research and development, ACF-IN is distinctive in that it is an operational organization, with a unique perspective in the theory and practice of emergency interventions in areas difficult to reach.

5. Ethical Considerations

All research projects comply with ethical rules and standards lay down at national and international levels.

All research proposals conform to ACF-IN's ethical principles, as well as to those of national ethics committees in the countries in which the Organization conducts its research projects.

6. Advocating for Global Research Needs

ACF-IN's advocacy and public awareness efforts target the fulfilment of the needs of the populations it serves

In acting as an interface between the groups and communities involved in its operational field programmes and the international research community, ACF-IN advocates for much more involvement on the part of the scientific community in research that will benefit vulnerable populations in developing countries.



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ACF-IN encourages the international community to focus on the need for research being currently experienced by the majority of the world's population in ways that will ensure that research at the international level will keep pace with the vital needs of the greatest number of people, the most vulnerable populations and make a significant contribution to the fight against hunger.



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ACF-IN COUNTRIES OF INTERVENTIONS (2007)





ANNEX

02

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight goals to be achieved by 2015 and which respond to the world's main development challenges. The MDGs are drawn from the actions and targets contained in the **Millennium Declaration** adopted by 189 nations and signed by 147 heads of state and governments during the **UN Millennium Summit** in September 2000.

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger,
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education,
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women,
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality,
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health,
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases,
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability,
- Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development.

For more detailed information go to the Millennium Development Goals website:
<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

THE ACF-IN CHARTER OF PRINCIPLES

ACF-IN is a non-governmental organization. Private, non-political, non-denominational and non-profit making, it was set up in France in 1979 to intervene in countries throughout the world. ACF-IN's vocation is to save lives by combating hunger, disease, and those crises threatening the lives of helpless men, women and children.

ACF-IN intervenes in the following situations:

- In natural or man-made crises which threaten food security or result in famine,
- In situations of social/economic breakdown linked to internal or external circumstances which place particular groups of people in an extremely vulnerable position,
- In situations where survival depends on humanitarian aid

ACF-IN intervenes either during the crisis itself, through emergency actions, or afterwards, through rehabilitation and sustainable development programmes. ACF-IN also intervenes in the prevention of certain high-risk situations. The ultimate aim of all of ACF-IN's programmes is to enable beneficiaries to regain their autonomy and self-sufficiency as soon as possible.

ACF-IN respects the following principles:

• INDEPENDENCE

Action Against Hunger acts according to its own principles so as to maintain its moral and financial independence. Action Against Hunger's actions are not defined in terms of domestic or foreign policies or in the interest of any particular government..

• NEUTRALITY

A victim is a victim. Action Against Hunger maintains strict political and religious neutrality. Nevertheless, Action Against Hunger may denounce human rights violations that it has witnessed as well as obstacles put in the way of its humanitarian action.

• NON DISCRIMINATION

Action Against Hunger refutes all discrimination based on race, sex, ethnicity, religion, nationality, opinion or social class.

• FREE AND DIRECT ACCESS TO VICTIMS

Action Against Hunger demands free access to victims and direct control of its programmes. Action Against Hunger uses all means available to achieve these principles and will denounce and act against any obstacle preventing it from doing so. Action Against Hunger also verifies the allocation of its resources to ensure that the resources reach those individuals for whom they are destined. Under no circumstances can partners working together with or alongside Action Against Hunger become the ultimate beneficiaries of Action Against Hunger aid programmes.

• PROFESSIONALISM

Action Against Hunger bases the conception, realisation, management and assessment of its programmes on professional standards and its years of experience to maximise its efficiency and the use of resources.

• TRANSPARENCY

Action Against Hunger is committed to respecting a policy of total transparency to beneficiaries, partners and donors and encourages the availability of information on the allocation and management of its funds. Action Against Hunger is also committed to providing guarantees of its good management.

All members of ACF-IN adhere to the principles of this Charter and are committed to respect it.



ANNEX

04

ACF-IN'S TECHNICAL INTERVENTION FIELDS AND ACTIVITIES

Nutrition and Health

FIELDS	ACTIVITIES
• Nutrition	Activity case finding /screening Health Promotion for caretakers Care practices/basic package Nutritional surveillance HIV/nutrition Capacity building / training
• Medical	Out-Patient Dispensary Mother / Child Health EPI centre Cholera Treatment Centre
• Mental Health	Cholera Treatment Centre Capacity building / training Breastfeeding Promotion Psychological support, clinical follow-up Psychological support to persons with HIV Protection and testimonies

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

FIELDS	ACTIVITIES
• Context analysis and studies	Socio-economic studies related to water KAP surveys Evaluation of existing and potential water resources Search for new water resources
• Water supply	Construction / rehabilitation of water points: - Open wells - Boreholes - Springs - River / lake catchment - CollectRainwater catchments and ponds Conservation of water sources: - Reforestation Systems for agriculture (irrigation) and livestock Installation of water-extraction systems: - Manual (e.g. rope and bucket) - Gravity - Hand pumps - Motorized pumps - Solar systems Water-quality analysis and monitoring Water treatment Distribution and storage
• Excreta disposal	Promotion of excreta disposal - Construction / rehabilitation of latrines

.....	- Composting
.....	- Sewerage systems
.....	- Sewage treatment
• Run-off and wastewater disposal	Drainage systems
.....	Protection of banks
.....	Wastewater drainage and treatment
• Solid waste management	Solid waste awareness
.....	Refuse pits
.....	Refuse collection
.....	Recycling
.....	Medical waste management
• Vector control	Risk analysis
.....	Vector-related hygiene awareness
.....	Mosquito-net distribution
.....	Insecticides, foeticides and disinfection
.....	Fly traps
• Hygiene & environmental promotion	Construction / rehabilitation of hygiene structures
.....	- Showers
.....	- Laundry areas
.....	- Hand-washing facilities
.....	Hygiene kits distribution
.....	Hygiene promotion
.....	- Basic hygiene habits
.....	- Use of water
.....	- Proper use of latrines
.....	- Hygiene and food
• Knowledge transfer and training	Strengthening of local structures and training
• Local Capacity Building	Water and sanitation committees' set-up
.....	Data collection and transfer of information
.....	Water policy development
• Risk management	Prevention
.....	Mitigation
.....	Preparedness

Food Security

FIELDS

ACTIVITIES

• Analysis	Needs evaluation (Macro/micro levels)
.....	Vulnerability assessment
.....	Nutrition Causal Analysis
.....	Nutrition beneficiary profile
.....	Surveillance systems
.....	Baseline FS survey, KAP surveys
.....	Monitoring



.....	Evaluation
.....	Geographic Information Systems
.....	Statistics
• Food Aid	Micronutrient distribution
.....	Blanket <5
.....	Canteens
.....	General Food Distribution
.....	Targeted Food Distribution
.....	Food For Work
.....	Quality control
.....	Protection ration for seeds
.....	Family rations
• Internally displaced persons Camp	Shelter
.....	Non Food Items
• Cash Based interventions	Cash Grants
.....	Vouchers
.....	Cash For Work
.....	Safety nets
• Eco Support	IGA
.....	Support to Cooperative
.....	Support to food chain
.....	Marketing
.....	Improved stoves
.....	Market rehabilitation
• Agriculture	Technical training
.....	Storage facilities
.....	Fruit and Vegetable gardens
.....	Food diet diversity training
.....	Irrigation/Water conservation
.....	Processing
.....	Pest management
.....	Compost
.....	Seeds multiplication
.....	Introduction of improved seeds
.....	Conservation farming
.....	Agroforestry/Soil erosion management/ Desertification
.....	Seeds & Tools distribution
• Fish farming	Fishponds
.....	Fishing materiel distribution
.....	Fish hatchery
• Animal	Animal breeding /husbandry
.....	Fodder
.....	CBAHW
.....	Vaccination
.....	Beekeeping
.....	Poultry
.....	Destocking/Restocking

- **Other**..... Research
- Capitalization
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Institutional Capacity Building
- Technical Advocacy
- External communication
- Local Partnership
- HIV/Malaria/Tuberculosis
- Mental health





ANNEX

05

PRESENTATION OF HUNGER WATCH

Hunger Watch is the ACF-International Network's epicentre for advocacy and policy research. Based in ACF-IN's London Headquarters, Hunger Watch contributes to reducing acute malnutrition by informing and influencing policy and practice amongst practitioners, major stakeholders and public opinion through evidence-based policy recommendations and advocacy. Its team of policy analysts and advocacy experts works to identify the causes of, responsibilities for, and responses to current food crises. Hunger Watch looks into the cross cutting factors that lead to hunger, such as conflict, volatile markets, seasonality, gender and HIV/AIDS. The team analyses linkages of such cross cutting factors with acute hunger. Hunger Watch also visits households and individuals affected by malnutrition and hunger to collect first-hand testimonies and discuss their experience of living with hunger.

Hunger Watch collects, compiles, and analyses data and findings from ACF-IN's extensive field programmes in over 40 countries. In packaging findings from day-to-day project implementation, field surveys, on-going technical research and the extensive use of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)^{4/} Hunger Watch strives to contribute to an improved understanding of global hunger and influence responses to humanitarian crises. Hunger Watch is liaising with academia to guarantee a close exchange and cross-fertilization between field investigations and scientific research and ensure that vulnerable communities have a voice in international humanitarian debates.

Hunger Watch also develops tools with which to compare the extent and severity of nutritional crises across the globe. Hunger Watch's Needs Matrix Tool provides a clear set of thresholds and a causal logic that enables the Organization to communicate more clearly and accountably about food-related crises based on rapidly accessible field evidence. Hunger Watch has also stored and organized ACF-IN and external data on hunger in its Global Needs Matrix.

Current Hunger Watch lobby and research activities:

- **Seasonality and Hunger** in resource poor rural households in South East Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. First hand accounts of recurrent cycles of hunger and malnutrition. Policy and programme responses aimed at mitigating seasonality globally. Recommendation for an "essential package" for the fight against this most neglected key factor of global acute malnutrition.
- **Mapping "hunger gaps"**: Mapping timing and geographic distribution of seasonal hunger gaps in countries with high prevalence of acute wasting, outlining policy and responses in place in these countries.
- **Local Voices**: Participative long-term investigation and advocacy projects in Zambia and Niger:
 - **warrentage** (inventory guaranteed credit schemes) advantage, changes and limitation for chronic food crises in Niger,
 - **integration of nutrition and HIV services** for households living with HIV in Kitwe / Zambia.
- The impact of **climate change** on malnutrition rates and livelihoods from a household perspective.
- Implications of **global food prices** for households in countries with an ACF-IN mission (impact on livelihoods and acute malnutrition).

Findings and recommendations are used to inform and influence humanitarian practices and policies, enabling ACF-IN to enhance its own capacities, fine-tune programme effectiveness and influence external stakeholders. Hunger Watch also adds value by distilling local perspectives from ACF-IN's extensive collaboration with local communities.

4/ PRA, or, PLA is the acronym of Participatory Rural Appraisal, (Participatory Learning & Action). PRA is increasingly taken to mean Participatory Reflection and Action. PRA is an approach used by NGOs and other agencies involved in international development, which aims to incorporate the knowledge and opinions of rural people in the research, planning and management of development projects and programmes. It always involves the "subject" of the study or programme in an interactive process where the outsider becomes the learner and the local woman, kit, farmer, etc., the expert. It is one way to connect fully with the local population and triangulate quantitative research at the local level.

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Global Humanitarian Platform – Principles of partnerships

<http://www.globalhumanitarianplatform.org>



ACF - INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

CANADA

7105 Rue St-Hubert, Bureau 105
H2S 2N1 Montréal, QC, Canada
E-mail: info@actioncontrelafaim.ca
Tel : (+1) 514-279-4876
Fax (+1) 514-279-5136
Web: www.actioncontrelafaim.ca

ESPAGNE

C/Caracas 6, 1°
28010 Madrid, España
E-mail: ach@achesp.org
Tel: 34 91 391 53 00
Fax: 34 91 391 53 01
Web: www.accioncontraelhambre.org

FRANCE

4 rue Niepce
75662 Paris cedex 14
E-mail: info@actioncontrelafaim.org
Tel: 33 1 43 35 88 88
Fax: 33 1 43 35 88 00
Web: www.actioncontrelafaim.org

ROYAUME-UNI

First Floor, rear premises,
161-163 Greenwich High Road
London, SE10 8JA, UK
E-mail: info@aahuk.org
Tel: 44 208 293 6190
Fax: 44 208 858 8372
Web: www.aahuk.org

ETATS-UNIS

247 West 37th, Suite #1201
New York, NY 10018 USA
E-mail: info@actionagainsthunger.org
Tel: 212-967-7800 Toll free : 877-777-1420
Fax: 212-967-5480
Web: www.actionagainsthunger.org

