



Remembering Nelson Mandela's Contribution to the World

As the world mourns the loss of one of its greatest humanitarians, Acme reflects on the life of Nelson Mandela, who was a symbol of peace, freedom, and equality for people around the world. Mandela's life is an example to us all; his life not only impacted the way we should treat others, but it also impacted the way we should do business.

Mandela once said, "A fundamental concern for others in our individual and community lives would go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dream of." It is this belief that resonated with Acme's core values in the midst of a difficult time in world history.

During the height of the anti-apartheid struggle, Acme made the decision to stop work in South Africa when there was a worldwide call to boycott economic transactions with the country. The firm first began work in South Africa in the late 1970s and had not yet established a strong market position before halting its operations in the early 1980s.

"I think a powerful statement was made when Acme decided to make a decision based on how we wanted to contribute to the world, even though that decision had long-term negative business consequences," said Jean-Pierre Van Damme, head of Acme's operations in Africa. "But we are proud of that decision nonetheless."

Today, Acme continues to expand its global operations on the African continent, including recent work in South Africa. The firm served as USAID's implementing partner for the Increasing Sustainable Local Government Services Program, which was designed to improve sustainable local government service delivery in selected areas of South Africa.

"As our work continues to make positive change in our communities, and as we continue to build on the tremendous improvements we have made over the past few years," said Tom Jones, vice president of U.S. Operations, "Let us continue to remember Nelson Mandela and pattern our actions after his. He was an individual who left the world a better place, and so should we."