TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD

NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID'S STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES



APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL 30 MAY 2008





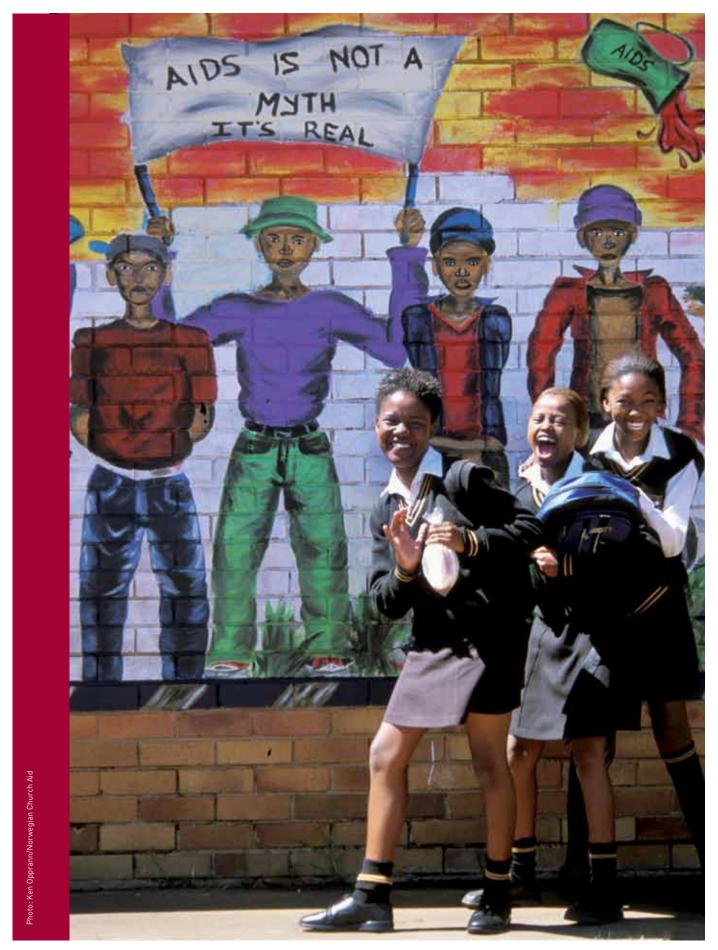
Former street child Alex de Souza captures the audience's attention with his circus skills. Street children can take part in various activities, vocational training and circus artist training in a centre run by Norwegian Church Aid's partner Se essa rua fosse minha ('If this street was mine').

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Cover photo: Women in Bangladesh build foundations for their houses that can withstand flooding. The project is supported by Norwegian Church Aid and our partner RDRS. Photo: Jens Aas-Hansen/Norwegian Church Aid

MISSION AND VISION





HIV and AIDS is a huge threat to the black population in South Africa, but the children hope for a bright future. They are given the opportunity to go to school. This is Tlakula Secondary School close to Johannesburg.

1. NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID'S GOALS - MISSION AND VISION

1.1 MISSION

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) is a diakonal organisation working for global justice. This mission has been given to us by churches and Christian organisations in Norway, and is expressed as follows:

Norwegian Church Aid shall manifest God's love in the world by upholding human dignity and protecting the integrity of Creation. Norwegian Church Aid shall:

- Protect the dignity of the destitute, poor and oppressed, and join hands with them in their struggle for basic rights.
- Challenge the powerful and those with authority to uphold the rights of the destitute, poor and oppressed and to respect their human dignity.
- Demonstrate compassion by participating in and building inclusive communities.
- Combat selfishness and greed, indifference and apathy among those who live in wealth and overconsumption.
- Promote sustainable management of natural resources and protection of the global environment.
- Strengthen the hope of liberation and peace with justice among those who struggle against destitution, poverty and oppression.

1.2 VISION

Together with our constituency and our partners, Norwegian Church Aid commits itself to the vision:

Together for a just world

2. THIS IS NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID

Norwegian Church Aid is an ecumenical and diakonal organisation for global justice.

The diakonal mission of Norwegian Church Aid is anchored in the Church's faith in the Holy Trinity: God is the Creator who sustains the Creation and the dignity of human beings, Jesus Christ reconciles and

liberates us from sin and the forces of death, and the Holy Spirit calls us to fellowship, gives us the strength to struggle for justice and pray for the coming of God's Kingdom.

As a church and a faith-based organisation, Norwegian Church Aid is part of civil society both in Norway and internationally.

2.1 AN ECUMENICAL ORGANISATION

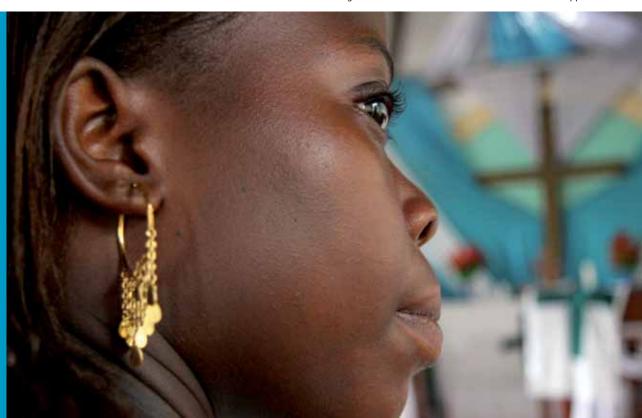
Norwegian Church Aid is anchored in a communion of churches and Christian organisations in Norway. As owners and constituent organisations, they meet in the Council, which is the highest governing body of Norwegian Church Aid. The Council approves the organisation's Policy document, elects the board and approves the annual reports and accounts.

Norwegian Church Aid is accountable to its constituency and their appointed representatives. We will actively engage with our constituency members and assist them to develop practical actions to strengthen their work for global justice. Together with Norwegian Church Aid, the constituency commits itself to the vision of a just world.

Norwegian Church Aid is part of the global Church and its endeavours to promote global justice. We draw support from the fellowship of the ecumenical movement. Our work is locally rooted and global in scope. We affirm our ecumenical commitment through participation in the World Council of Churches, cooperation with Christian world organisations and membership in the global alliance, Action by Churches Together (ACT).

In Tanzania young people of different religions cooperate in order to solve problems in their local community. Ashura Kayupayupa and the other activists in Peace Caravans use music as a tool to inform and encourage young Tanzanians to speak out against injustice and poverty.

Norwegian Church Aid and Conscious Music Network support this work.





Results are finally achieved in Northern Thailand: People living with HIV are less stigmatized. In Mai Sai, HIV positive and HIV negative people walk side by side during the celebration of King Bhumibol's 60th anniversary.

2.2 A DIAKONAL ORGANISATION FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE

Norwegian Church Aid is part of the specialised diakonal ministry within the overall mission of the Church. Diakonia is Christian faith translated into action, and is expressed through compassion, inclusive communities, responsible stewardship of creation and the struggle for justice. This ministry is performed by Christian churches, organisations and communities all over the world, but is not limited to those who belong to a Christian church.

The work of Norwegian Church Aid is based on the belief that all human beings are created in the image of God, with the same intrinsic value, and with fundamental rights and obligations. We are all part of a global community, in which we are dependent on each other and on the nature that surrounds us.

All human beings are embraced by God's love, irrespective of religion, culture, gender, sexual orientation, age, functional abilities, ethnicity or political persuasion.

It is our belief that God identifies especially with destitute, poor and oppressed people (The parable of the rich man and Lazarus, in Luke 16). To serve God is to serve people who suffer from hunger and thirst, who are naked, who are strangers, who are sick or in prison (The final judgement, in Matthew 25). When we join our fellow humans in their struggle for justice, liberation and security (The true fasting, in Isaiah 58) their dignity is affirmed and protected.

2.3 A FAITH-BASED ORGANISATION IN CIVIL SOCIETY

Norwegian Church Aid is rooted in Norwegian congregations and local communities through our constituency. Our church-based, faithbased and value-based partner organisations are similarly rooted in their home communities.

We are inspired by the parable of the Good Samaritan (in Luke 10), and perform our service together with people and organisations that share our values. Our assistance is provided unconditionally and without any intention of influencing people's religious affiliation.

As a civil society organisation, Norwegian Church Aid is independent of both state and market actors.

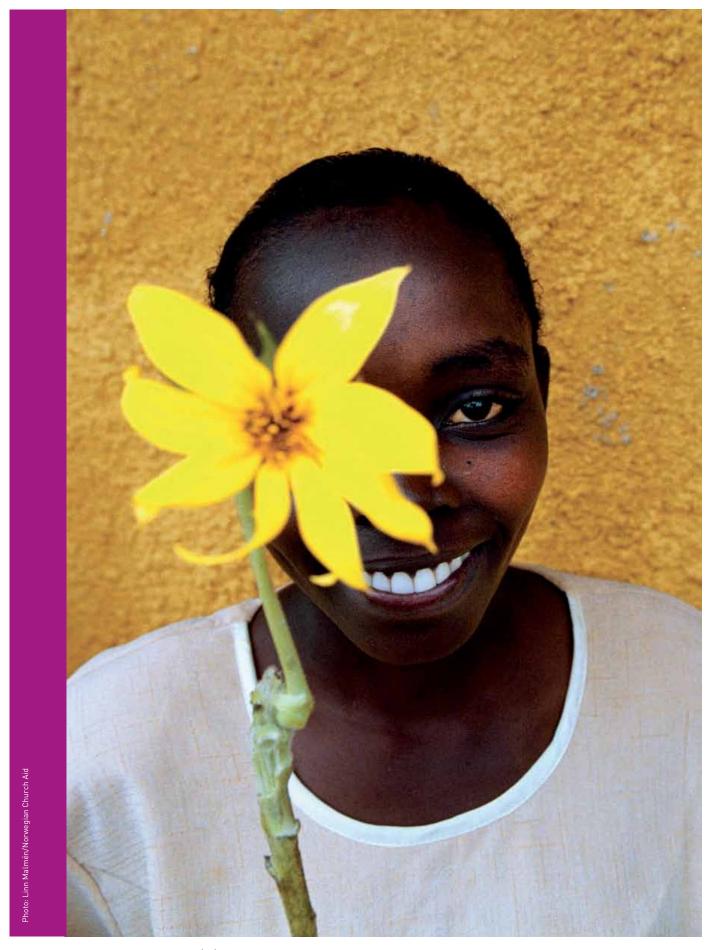
As a faith-based organisation, Norwegian Church Aid shall develop relationships with organisations of other religious faiths than Christianity, and together with them, struggle for global justice and draw on the resources in faith that help people in their lives.

Religious faith can be a source of life and a power to achieve change across religious boundaries. Religion can also be abused to justify violence and harassment. We will help people identify and strengthen those forces within their own religion that affirm justice and reach out to protect the oppressed and the destitute.

As part of Norwegian civil society, Norwegian Church Aid will promote global justice by challenging individuals, institutions, corporations and public authorities to support its work for political and economic change that upholds the rights of the poor and vulnerable.

In order to reach its goals, based on a commitment to its identity, mission and values, Norwegian Church Aid will work actively with Norwegian authorities, governmental and intergovernmental organisations, other civil society organisations, professional networks, institutions and business.

► VALUES





Winfred Kavutha (19) from Kenya lost her parents to AIDS. She is part of Norwegian Church Aid's partner Mully Children's Family (MCM). Winfred and other orphans make sunflower soap and oil in order to generate income.

3. VALUES

Norwegian Church Aid's values are the foundation for all the activities of the organisation: the direct work to fulfil our mission, our relationships to partner organisations, the ongoing development of our organisation and the formation of our leadership. These values are anchored in our Christian faith and the belief in the Creation as described in the Bible.

The Integrity of Creation

All life is created by God and all Creation has inherent value, which we are called to protect. All that is created has been entrusted to humanity for responsible stewardship, cultivation and protection. Norwegian Church Aid shall actively engage people in the responsible stewardship of nature and challenge those who abuse, exploit and damage Creation.

Human dignity

Human dignity is a gift from God, and encompasses all humanity from the beginning to the end of life, irrespective of class, gender, religion or ethnicity. God takes a special interest in those who experience poverty, oppression or exclusion. Therefore these women and men, children and young people are at the focus for Norwegian Church Aid's work.

Global justice

All humans have the right to life, health, shelter, education, work, the free practice of religion and equality before the law. These rights also

comprise participation in social institutions and processes that influence peoples' lives. Norwegian Church Aid shall work to ensure that the destitute, the poor and the oppressed receive their fair share of the world's available resources.

Inclusive communities

As humans we are dependent on each other, with rights and responsibilities for our common life.

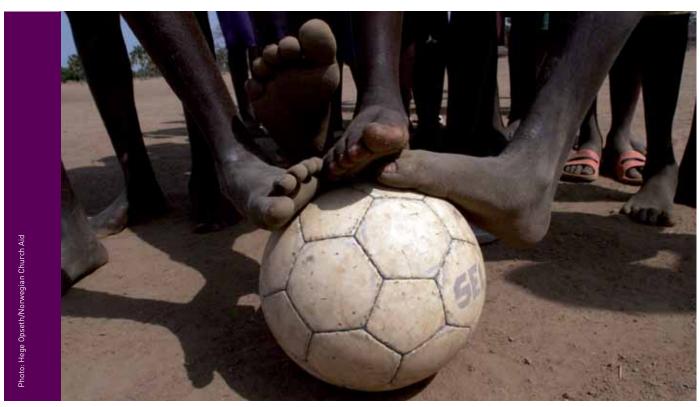
Norwegian Church Aid shall combat all forms of discrimination and promote inclusive communities where everyone has a voice and is shown respect. We shall seek cooperation with people and organisations that work for common solutions to social challenges, across geographical, cultural, political and religious boundaries.

Compassion

Compassion means recognising God's image in every human being and acting accordingly, not out of coercion, but from an understanding that to love one's neighbour is to love God. This love transcends borders and shall not be restricted by geographic, cultural or religious lines of division. Norwegian Church Aid shall work to transform indifference into solidarity and service in communities in Norway and beyond.

The leaders of the Marial Ajiith refugee camp in Sudan explain the importance of education for children. Education is the key to a bright future.

Norwegian Church Aid supports several educational and sports projects for children in Sudan.



4. STANDARDS AND COMMITMENTS

The mission and values of Norwegian Church Aid are shaped in the encounter with a reality where destructive forces threaten human dignity and damage Creation. We uphold the vision of a just world in the belief that injustice and evil can be opposed, both within us and around us. All Norwegian Church Aid's work, alone or in partnership with others, shall bear witness to the organisation's values. This mission and these values are realised through our choice of strategies, partners and practical approaches.

In our daily work to promote global justice we have translated our values into standards of practice that should be integrated into our international programmes as well as into our work in Norway. Norwegian Church Aid has identified five standards that we are committed to translate into practice. They express self-imposed obligations, organisational priorities and professional ambitions.

In Utooni village in the Eastern part of Kenya the community has constructed more than 300 sand dams. These sand dams ensure that the local community has a constant supply of water. The project is supported by one of Norwegian Church Aid's local partners.





The Dalit women Kalabai Nikalje and Yashodabai Waghmare fight for their right to clean water. The women receive aid and support from Norwegian Church Aid's Indian partner CASA.

4.1 A COMMITMENT TO RIGHTS

Poverty is inseparable from wealth and greed. All Norwegian Church Aid's work shall therefore be characterised by efforts to empower the poor and to hold the rich and the powerful accountable.

People are poor and oppressed mainly because they lack the power to influence and to change their situation and to gain access to society's common resources. They become systematically excluded and discriminated when decisions are made and opportunities and resources are distributed. Charity cannot change unjust and oppressive structures. The activities undertaken by Norwegian Church Aid to empower the poor and challenge the powerful must therefore be based on an analysis of power relationships, in which those who have legitimate claims (rights holders) and those who have the responsibility to honour these (duty bearers) are identified.

Rights holders are people who are entitled to have their rights fulfilled, as these are expressed in, for example, the UN Declaration of Human Rights and its associated conventions. Duty bearers are persons and institutions holding power and/or resources, and thereby also an obligation to fulfil basic human rights and to create a better life for the

poor, the needy and the oppressed. The obligations held by duty bearers are based on a legal as well as a moral foundation.

In its effort to challenge the rich and the powerful, Norwegian Church Aid will challenge government institutions and market actors, primarily as legal duty bearers. Moral duty bearers comprise individuals and institutions having the power and/or the resources necessary to influence people's lives. Churches, church-based organisations and other religious organisations should be called upon in particular to act as moral duty bearers in Norway as well as in our international work.

In Norway, Norwegian Church Aid has a particular responsibility to expose the relationship between our wealth and the poverty of others. Norwegian Church Aid shall support actions that aim to end consumerism and policies that threaten human dignity and damage Creation.

4 2 WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND GENDER FQUALITY

The work of Norwegian Church Aid, internationally and in Norway, shall reflect our obligation to promote women's rights and gender equality.

Norwegian Church Aid shall contribute to a deeper understanding of gender-based injustice and power relations that affect the different roles and positions of men and women in families, local communities, national decision-making structures, religious, political and other organisations.

Gender equality requires change in the distribution of power between men and women, and a redistribution of resources and esponsibilities. Women and men are rights holders with a claim to fulfilment of equal rights irrespective of gender. A particular challenge lies in the fact that the persons and institutions that bear the legal and moral responsibility for fulfilling such rights most often are male, or are dominated by men.

Changes in men's priorities, attitudes and practices as well as a positive mobilisation of their resources are crucial if gender equality is to be achieved. This represents a special challenge in church-based or faith-based contexts, in which patriarchal attitudes and

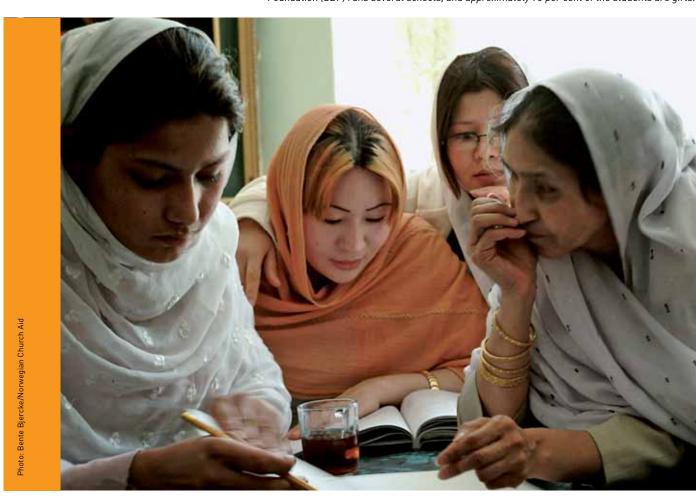
practices often dominate. Men must be challenged to work creatively on masculinity and male roles.

Harmful traditional practices can be used to justify gender-based violence. Norwegian Church Aid shall support locally-based initiatives that seek to transform such practices.

War and conflict lead to increased violence against girls and women and threaten their right to protection. Gender-based violence is a gross violation of human rights and a challenge to all humanitarian actors, including Norwegian Church Aid, in our capacity as a duty bearer. Discrimination against girls and women undermine peace and development. The exclusion of women from peace processes and conflict resolution weakens the legitimacy and the sustainability of these efforts. Norwegian Church Aid shall actively promote the rightful participation of women in these processes, especially through ecumenical networks and inter-faith cooperation.

Norwegian Church Aid shall support targeted efforts to promote the participation of girls and women in decision-making processes at all levels of society, to enhance women's control over their own lives.

Many girls and women in Afghanistan do not have the opportunity to go to school. Norwegian Church Aid's partner Sanayee Development Foundation (SDF) runs several schools, and approximately 90 per cent of the students are girls.



4.3 PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

All of Creation has an inherent value that should be respected and preserved. As part of the natural world, human beings are both dependent and vulnerable. Human ignorance and greed cause irreparable damage to the environment. The rich and powerful must reduce their own level of consumption. A more just and sustainable distribution of resources is required to enable people to rise out of poverty and destitution. Natural resources must be managed for the common good of all humanity and for the benefit of future

The work of Norwegian Church Aid shall contribute to ensuring a sustainable livelihood for poor people, without harming the environment. This includes efforts to protect biodiversity, sustainable management of natural resources and political initiatives to ensure that environmental considerations are incorporated into the policies of international trade and finance institutions.

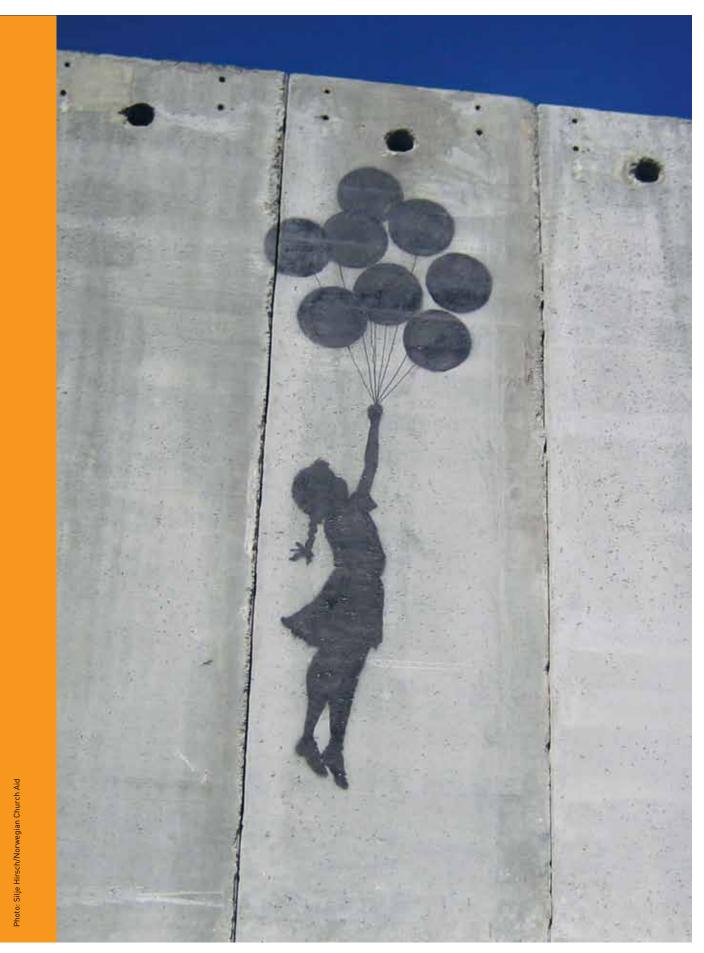
Human-induced climate change is one of the most dramatic environmental crises of our time. Its negative consequences will particularly affect the poor and marginalised. Indigenous peoples, minorities and poor women are especially vulnerable.

Norwegian Church Aid shall give priority to assist poor and vulnerable groups to adapt to climate change. At the same time, we shall advocate for rich countries to lower their emissions of greenhouse gas and to bear the costs of ensuring that poor and vulnerable communities gain access to renewable and climate-friendly energy. Norwegian Church Aid believes that Norway, as a rich oil and gasproducing country, bears a particular responsibility in this respect.

Due to climate change there has been an increase in the frequency of droughts in Kenya. Norwegian Church Aid's local partners grow trees to keep the soil moist and prevent erosion.



> STANDARDS AND COMMITMENTS



4.4 PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

Violence and armed conflicts threaten human dignity, damage the environment and destroy communities. Lack of security is often based on structural conditions that marginalise vulnerable groups and restrict their access to resources and their ability to control their own lives.

Human development is hindered by violence and armed conflict. Through the UN, the world community has a responsibility to intervene, when necessary also by use of military force, when states are unable or unwilling to protect their own citizens. Norwegian Church Aid shall support efforts to seek non-violent solutions to existing conflicts. However, conflict resolution initiatives should not undermine constructive social conflicts that have a legitimate place within democratic processes.

Religious leaders and faith-based communities can and should be mobilised to promote non-violent conflict resolution and

reconciliation. By virtue of their position and their faith, religious leaders can facilitate dialogue and reconciliation between parties in conflict. However, religion can also be used to provoke or intensify conflict. Norwegian Church Aid shall give priority to cooperation with religious organisations that act as moral duty bearers across lines of conflict and that influence combatants to engage in non-violent conflict resolution with a view to achieving peace with justice.

In implementing its activities, Norwegian Church Aid shall use conflictsensitive approaches to ensure our activities do not instigate or intensify conflicts. Humanitarian aid and long-term development cooperation provide external resources to local communities that may feed into existing power relationships or give rise to new ones. In this respect, humanitarian efforts and aid can become a source of conflict. In all its work, Norwegian Church Aid shall use methods that seek to reduce tensions and establish frameworks to ensure security and participation.

4.5 ACCOUNTABILITY

Based on our identity, our mission and our values, Norwegian Church Aid perceives itself a duty bearer with moral and legal obligations in accordance with human rights, statutes, regulations and revered ethical principles.

As a duty-bearer, Norwegian Church Aid is committed to principles of accountability, transparency, non-discrimination, equality and respect for our fellow humans. A sustainable and conflict-sensitive approach should characterise our activities. All employees are obliged to respect internationally recognised ethical guidelines for humanitarian organisations, often known as Codes of Conduct 1.

Norwegian Church Aid strives for open and honest communication about our activities, where and how we carry out our mission and how financial and human resources are utilised. We aim to communicate openly with the public both at home and abroad, donors and authorities, our constituency, partners, individuals and groups that become involved and engaged.

5. STRATEGIC CHOICES

Norwegian Church Aid's vision, mission, identity and values shall influence our practices and inform the approach to the tasks that we undertake.

Norwegian Church Aid aims to promote and uphold human dignity through efforts to ensure human development, human rights and human security. Development, fulfilment of rights and security are necessary and inseparable preconditions for humans to live in dignity.

Human **development** means that people acquire the necessary socioeconomic opportunities that liberate from the struggle for daily survival. It means opportunities for growth and the release of inherent potentials in a manner that does not harm others or damage our common environment. Development presupposes *participation* in the processes that influence our own living conditions as well as those of others. This happens through interaction, organisation, mobilisation and participation in political processes.

Human **rights** means the protection of fundamental freedoms and basic rights that are granted by the UN Declaration of Human Rights and its associated conventions. For these rights to be fulfilled, human *equity* must be recognised and common resources must be distributed to ensure a livelihood also for those who are most vulnerable.

Human **security** means freedom from fear, and presupposes *protection* against physical and mental abuse, violence and torture. Preparedness and assistance in natural disasters and protection of civilians in war and conflict are central to Norwegian Church Aid's work to promote human security. Security also comprises protection against ruthless exploitation of natural resources and destruction of the environment.

5.1 AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

Norwegian Church Aid's work on global justice and protection of human dignity implies the use of various working methods that are mutually interrelated:

Emergency preparedness and assistance

Norwegian Church Aid works to save and protect women and men in disaster situations. This involves an effort to promote the right of all humans to enjoy protection and security. We are committed to provide necessary aid at the right time, offering the assistance that is most needed. At the same time, we shall strengthen the capacity and ability of local communities to prevent and cope with crises.

Long-term development assistance

Norwegian Church Aid supports initiatives that empower poor and vulnerable women and men and enable them to improve their living conditions, defend their equal status and claim their rights.

Advocacy

Norwegian Church Aid shall address the root causes of destitution, poverty and oppression. To this end, it is necessary to influence the attitudes held and decisions made by the powerful and those who control resources. We address individuals, churches, local communities, national authorities, international institutions and multinational corporations.





Left: Norwegian Church Aid's partner CHAM distributes food to school children in Malawi. Right: One in six people in the world lacks access to clean drinking water. Water is essential for good health. This water pump in Sudan is installed by Norwegian Church Aid.





Left: Every year 30,000-40,000 people of all ages go door-to-door to raise moneyas a part of Norwegian Church Aid's Lenten Campaign. Right: "Don't forget Kyoto!" 20,000 signatures on 16,000 green ballons were handed over to Minister of the Environment Helen Bjørnøy in spring 2007 as part of the Lenten Campaign's advocacy campaign.

5.2 LOCAL AND NATIONAL FOUNDATION AND MOBILISATION

All humans - irrespective of whether they live in wealthy Norway or in poor countries in the South – possess valuable resources that can be shared. Norwegian Church Aid therefore shall mobilise individuals and local organisations for practical action. In Norway, we shall challenge and engage people through local congregations and provide concrete opportunities for our constituency, people in Norway and Norwegian business, to get involved in the struggle for global justice.

Internationally, we shall support local and national partner organisations and churches in order to strengthen their capacity to

improve the living conditions of poor people and to act as agents for change in their own societies. Such organisations reach out to poor and vulnerable people, strengthen their rights and influence national policies and key decision-makers. Cooperation with local partner organisations is the foundation for the international work of Norwegian Church Aid, and ensures our relevance, legitimacy and local ownership.

5.3. BUILDING ALLIANCES

Norwegian Church Aid recognises that we can contribute to change only through cooperation with others. Norwegian Church Aid shall support initiatives that analyse power relations and access to resources. We challenge key actors on various arenas, with the aim of influencing their decisions or entering into cooperation with those who share our convictions. We do this by building relationships and facilitating cooperation between actors in the ecumenical family, organisations and institutions of other faith, people and civil society organisations as well as governmental and market institutions.

Our main strategy for alliance-building is to identify the relevant actors, develop strategies for cooperation and then define Norwegian Church Aid's core contribution to these relationships.

In the struggle for global justice we face destructive forces that threaten human dignity and harm God's Creation. Norwegian Church Aid shall cooperate with actors who share our vision and values in order to affirm the signs of hope and to reinforce our conviction that injustice and evil can be opposed. For Norwegian Church Aid it is especially important to prevent discord and contribute to dedicated cooperation within the worldwide community of churches.

6. NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID'S CONSTITUENCY

The following churches and Christian organisations comprise Norwegian Church Aid's constituency. Through their appointed representatives they constitute Norwegian Church Aid's Council.

CHURCH OF NORWAY

One member from each diocesan council and seven members elected by the General Synod, a total of 18.

NORWEGIAN CONGREGATIONS OR CHURCH-BASED GROUPS:

The Pentecostal Movement in Norway, with two members.

The Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Norway, The Free Evangelical Congregations, The Baptist Union of Norway, The Mission Covenant Church of Norway, The Salvation Army, The United Methodist Church in Norway, with one member each.

NATIONAL CHRISTIAN ORGANISATIONS FOR YOUTH AND EVANGELISM:

The Norwegian Sami Mission,
The Domestic Seamen's Mission,
Norwegian Universities and Schools Christian Fellowship,
Norwegian YWCA-YMCA,
with one member each.

OBSERVER ORGANISATIONS:

Global Aid Network
The Norwegian Council for Mission and Evangelism (NORME)
Christian Council of Norway





Left: The money raised through selling water to those who can afford it finances the running and maintenance of this water pump in Gahtelai in Eritrea. The poor in the area may use the pump for free. The water pump is a part of Shebah-Demas integrated development program, which is supported by Norwegian Church Aid.

Right: Berthe Misabiko was raped by several men and left to die. Panzi hospital in Bukavu in the Eastern part of Congo provided her with care and trained her in nursing skills. Now Berthe wants to help other girls who have had similar traumatic experiences.

Norwegian Church Aid struggles together with people and organizations across the world to eradicate poverty and injustice. We provide emergency assistance in disasters and work for long-term development in local communities. In order to address root causes of poverty, we advocate for just decisions by public authorities, business and religious leaders. Norwegian Church Aid is an ecumenical diakonal organisation for global justice. Our work is carried out with no intention of influencing people's religious affiliation. To ensure efficiency and create results, Norwegian Church Aid is a member of the ACT Alliance, one of the world's largest humanitarian alliances. The alliance consists of church-based organisations throughout the world and cooperates with organisations across religious faiths.

Norwegian Church Aid - together for a just world!







