

## Country Programme Plan Eritrea

### **I. ANALYSIS**

#### **1.0 Country Context Analysis**

##### **1.1 Brief overview**

Eritrea has a population of approximately 3.6 million people and a land area of 124.300 square kilometres. The per capita GDP is estimated to be around USD 180. In terms of UNDP's Human Development Index, the country is ranked 157 of 177 countries (2006), and is one of the poorest countries in Africa. Food insecurity, driven by recurrent drought and conflict, and a generally low level of development mean that high levels of poverty plague the country.

Eritrea became formally independent following an internationally supervised referendum in April 1993. The new government pursued policies, strategies and investments to promote private sector led rapid economic growth, and the economy grew at a promising rate. This positive development set the country on a path toward sustainable development, which was disrupted by the border conflict with Ethiopia between May 1998 and June 2000. The war not only caused loss of human life, displacement of people, and huge damage to physical infrastructure, but it also reversed these earlier economic trends.

A new Constitution, drafted and ratified in 1997 has many provisions for strengthening civil society movements and human rights. However, this Constitution is not yet implemented.

Although Eritrea and Ethiopia signed the Algiers Peace Agreement in 2001, and the Boundary Commission gave its decision on the dispute in 2002, the ruling has not been implemented and the situation between the two countries remains very tense. The border stalemate, "the state of no war – no peace", has been the most important factor affecting the country's socio-economic development. This is because it has left much of the country's natural resources, along with thousands of able-bodied men and women, tied up for national service purposes. This has had severe ramifications on domestic production and may also increase the probability of another round of war, which in turn could result in a wider regional conflict. Eritrea's response to the international community's non-enforcement of the ruling of the verdict of the Boundary Commission has resulted in non-cooperation with the UNMEE (UN's peace keeping forces), still present in the country, but at a reduced level.

At present, the country faces a number of development challenges. Among these are:

- Food security and provision of safe water and sanitation
- Combating HIV and AIDS, which has reached an adult prevalence of about 2.4%
- Combating Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Harmful Traditional Practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Reconstructing infrastructure damaged during the war, rebuilding the economy and restoring social services
- Repatriate and reintegrate returning IDPs, refugees, and returnees, assisting them in reconstruction activities

The government's policy is based on the principle of self-reliance and this focuses on achieving self-support rather than increasing dependency on food aid. The government has also vowed to work in collaboration with partners who are willing to cooperate with governmental entities and to work within the government's framework. A new

proclamation for the administration of NGOs was issued in May 2005. This states that NGOs' activities are limited to relief and rehabilitation works, but may be extended to development works if an agreement is reached with the relevant ministry or government agency.

All support to the Eritrean people has to be implemented through government bodies, leaving both INGOs such as NCA and local NGOs with limited opportunities to interact directly with local communities and civil society actors. This mode of operation presents challenges in employing a Rights Based Approach (RBA) to development as it is not optimal for development interventions which aim to address the barriers that affect poor and vulnerable groups and communities. Whilst the country's political situation is a challenge, NCA follows developments in the country closely and focuses on strengthening civil society actors and emerging initiatives whenever possible.

## **1.2 Participation**

The right to participation, such as the right to participate in governance and decision making, freedom of assembly and organization, freedom of thought and religion, freedom of expression and access to information, have constrained circumstances in Eritrea, and can not be addressed until the Constitution from 1997 is implemented.

## **1.3 Equity**

Addressing equity is also difficult and only exists with a limited scope. The access to basic services, like education, health, work, clean water and food is to some extent met through meager governmental resources and its development partners.

## **1.4 Protection**

Women and children are the most affected by war and poverty.

A recent review of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Eritrea reveals a national prevalence of 89% and that more than 90% of these are circumcised before the age of one. Although this shows a slight decline from earlier reports, it also documents that this practice is deeply engrained in tradition and culture. There is however a growing awareness of the practice's harmful nature and religious leaders are now distancing themselves, and their religion, from it.

In 2006 Eritrea had over 51 000 IDPs. Whilst it is the government's policy to reintegrate them, those returning home to areas along the border are also particularly exposed to significant protection deficits.

Again, rights such as the liberty and security of persons can only be addressed when the Constitution is in place.

## **1.5 Role of civil society and NCA partners**

### **1.5.1 Role of civil society**

Eritrea's civil society exists within constrained circumstances. All attempts to carry out civil society type activities are considered to be subversive criminal acts against the state (NGO proclamation, 2005). All NGOs are instructed to work only with government agencies and within their priorities.

### **1.5.2 Role of NCA partners in civil society**

Whilst Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) can partially operate freely within their spiritual mandate, they are not allowed to work in the development and emergency relief sectors. Despite these restrictions, they may be allowed to provide some social services for the poor and vulnerable, but only under the coordination and supervision of the government.

To some extent there may also be space for cooperation with these FBOs in the form of capacity building in such areas as HIV and Aids, FGM, gender, administration and finance.

## **2. NCA's Added Value**

Norwegian Church Aid has had a presence in Eritrea since 1977 and the organisation's greatest added value lies therefore in its long relationship with the country and its people. This is a relationship that has not waned throughout the Struggle for Independence, the first years of independence, the border war with Ethiopia and the present "no war no peace situation". During these years NCA has established a partner network characterized by well-rooted faith FBOs, governmental agencies, and governmental related entities. Even though NCA's work with civil society actors and FBOs is limited, they are permitted to implement programs through governmental bodies and are in turn able to reach the people.

Although limited to working with governmental entities, NCA tries to use participatory approaches and methodologies in its projects and also trains counterparts in these.

NCA's involvement in Eritrea is rooted in the following:

- NCA's presence rests on solidarity with the Eritrean people
- Relationship and trust built with stakeholders on various levels.
- Know how on culture, staff continuity and capacity built over long time
- The present situation is a transitional period. NCA's presence is important in order to show endurance, using the operational context which exists, and being ready for quick action when needed.
- NCA's presence is wanted by the Norwegian Government, and is in line with its policy towards Eritrea.
- All NCA's core partners (Churches and other faith based groups) ask for its continued presence.
- NCA's presence is wanted by the international ecumenical bodies such as AACC, FECCLAHA and WCC.
- NCA is the only organization working on inter-religious dialogue, both internally in Eritrea, and at the regional level.
- It is important to maintain NCA representation in Eritrea as well as in Ethiopia.
- Interventions by NCA are in line with The Government of Eritrea's (GOE) development policy.
- GOE wants NCA to stay, and have indicated willingness to improve its working conditions.
- Even though the GOE does not allow civil society to take part in the nation building, NCA's presence as a civil society organization can play a role to strengthen and support the efforts being undertaken by churches, other faith based groups, small organizations and other groups working on different levels in the country.

## **II. NCA INTERVENTION STRATEGY**

### **3. Thematic analysis and priorities**

The Country Program Plan for Eritrea responds to NCA's Global Strategic Plan 2005-2009, experiences from the first 2 1/2 years of implementing the country program plan and the deficit analysis outlined in Chapter 1. The plan also responds to several project evaluations carried out over the last 2 -3 years including evaluation of the FGM Pilot Project (2005) and the evaluation of the Shebah Demas Integrated Development Project (2006). Finally, the plan takes into account lessons learned on gender, and the need to move forward on gender mainstreaming, and to the reiterated focus on environmental protection and climate change.

Eritrea is a signatory to the Millennium Declaration and various Human Rights instruments, and this constitutes a framework and a clear starting point to address rights issues. For example, the country has ratified or acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (CCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), the Convention on the Rights on the Child (CRC), the Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and two Optional Protocols to the CRC; on the involvement of children in armed conflict (CRC-OP-AC) and on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (CRC-OP-SC). They have also acceded to two African regional conventions; African (Banjul) Charter on Human and People's Rights and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.

#### **3.1 Specific rights to be addressed by the program**

The following rights claims are priorities for NCA's work in Eritrea during this plan period:

- Rights to food, clean water and sanitation, and a decent standard of living.
- Rights for women and girls to protection from domestic violence and harmful traditional practices like FGM.
- Rights for HIV and AIDS infected and affected people to get access to health facilities, to be cared for, and to be protected against stigma and discrimination.
- Rights to protection for people in conflicts and disasters.

#### **3.2 Thematic focus**

NCA Eritrea has developed six priority areas, which create the focused platform for its intervention in the country. Human rights, gender and environment are cross cutting perspectives integrated into all aspects of NCA's interventions and partnerships.

##### **3.2.1 HIV and AIDS**

Despite the fact that Eritrea has a relatively low prevalence of HIV and AIDS (2,4 %) when compared with other sub Saharan countries, the epidemic is a severe burden on health services and may impede economic and social development. The impact is increasing along with the number of HIV infected people. People with HIV and AIDS face discrimination in all spheres of life due to social stigmatization. Preventive and home-based care activities and support to orphans are needed along with general awareness campaigns. NCA has developed alliances with a number of organizations at national and regional levels (e.g., UNAIDS, UNICEF, relevant line ministries).

### **3.2.2 Sustainable livelihood, water resources and sanitation**

In Eritrea about 80% of the population live in rural areas, and make their livelihood from agriculture. The majority of people live below the poverty line and are food insecure. Women and children suffer most in such a situation, meaning that NCA will give special focus to women's awareness, participation and leadership in development processes.

Approximately one-third of Eritreans lack access to adequate clean water, and 80% are without adequate means of sanitation. Water in the rural areas is becoming very scarce because of the drought situation. The provision of safe potable water and sanitation facilities close to the villages in the rural areas will be a priority for NCA.

### **3.2.3 Gender-based violence**

In late March 2007 Eritrea launched an anti FGM proclamation to abolish female circumcision. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) prevalence in different forms is among the highest in the world representing 89 per cent of the female population. It constitutes one of the main factors contributing to maternal morbidity and mortality. This is a priority area for intervention, and NCA will seek to help partners (including the FBOs) to carry out comprehensive awareness raising and advocacy programs with both men and women as duty bearers.

Work against gender-based violence and other harmful traditional practices should result in promotion and enforcement of socio-cultural values and norms in support of women and girl's reproductive rights and of female empowerment. Promoting women's leadership and further strengthening female participation in political process should be a priority.

These groups are therefore prioritized in all NCA programs. NCA will seek to be engaged in combating gender-based violence like FGM, other harmful traditional practices and domestic violence.

### **3.2.4 Civil society and social responsibility**

Eritrea has an early history of organized social life during the British administration and the Eritrean Government in the 1950s. At present however, civil society operates within very constrained circumstances. The 1997 Constitution has many provisions for strengthening civil society movements and human rights but has not yet been implemented.

Religious organizations are by proclamation not allowed to work in the development and emergency relief sectors – only within their spiritual mandate and to some extent allowed to provide some basic social services for the poor and vulnerable. Emphasis will be placed on capacity building of churches and other faith based groups, empowering the poor through the project activities (Water Committees, Women and Youth Groups) , and improving the capabilities of the poor by providing basic services, which also is in accordance with the pro poor policy of the GOE.

### **3.2.5 Conflict resolution and peace-building**

The thirty-year struggle for independence, and later the devastating border conflict with Ethiopia, left their marks on Eritrean society in many ways. NCA and partners wish to focus their efforts on the peace and reconciliation processes at local, national and international levels. NCA will continue to facilitate peace and reconciliation initiatives amongst the religious leaders (RL) of Eritrea by facilitating and supporting inter-religious dialogue and joint religious leaders' initiatives (diapraxis). This work is based on a mandate provided by the RLs themselves.

Awareness raising around issues related to UN Res. 1325 is carried out during training sessions with partners, including RLs, and is also a theme for reflections in regular meetings. NCA recognizes how women continue to be under represented in these

contexts, and is trying to encourage RLs and other partners to include women at all levels of their organizations. This is also internally reflected amongst the NCA staff in Eritrea. Four out of seven of the senior staff are women.

### **3.2.6 Protection in natural disasters and complex emergencies**

The country's degree of food self-sufficiency has not exceeded 60% in recent years. With 80% of the population dependant on subsistence agriculture, Eritrea depicts a typical case of wide spread poverty since agricultural performance has been low at only 21% of the GDP. Moreover, prolonged drought over the last few years has severely affected both food production and the availability of drinking water.

One of the implications of the delay in the demarcation of the border between Eritrea and Ethiopia is that a significant number of those affected – including the current caseload of internally displaced people (IDP) and expellees – are unable to return to their homesteads to engage in productive agricultural activities.

NCA will endeavour to support and strengthen its core partners, as well as governmental related agencies, to be credible and relevant actors in responding to the challenges of restoring and upholding human dignity in natural disaster and complex emergency interventions. The complex emergency context makes it crucial to base the interventions on Do No Harm analysis and conflict sensitivity programming.

## **4. Strategies for rights holders and duty bearers**

Under the Country Program Plan, NCA will use well-proven strategies for engaging, and facilitating linkages between the right holders and duty bearers. These are listed below:

### **4.1 Rights holders**

NCA works primarily through partners and partners' programs/projects, focusing on marginalized, rural and urban populations, IDPs and repatriated populations whose basic needs are not met. Special consideration is given to women and children within these target groups. Other rights holders include HIV and AIDS infected people, and women and girls who are victims of gender based violence and harmful traditional practices like FGM.

### **4.2 Duty bearers**

Among the duty bearers are:

- The Government of Eritrea
- Religious leaders and faith based organizations and institutions
- Traditional elders at community level
- Mass organizations as the National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW) and the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS)
- NCA and other NGOs

## **5. Geographic Focus**

The main geographic focus will be the Northern Red Sea Region and Zoba Gash Barka. NCA will also have smaller scale operations in Zoba Anseba, Zoba Debub, and Zoba Maekel.

### III. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

#### 6. Program objectives

##### 6.1 HIV and AIDS

**Overall goal:** Enhanced HIV and AIDS prevention and care, and reduction of stigma.

<b>Specific objective 1</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
Partners have established competence and capacity for combating the HIV and AIDS epidemic through rights based and gender sensitive strategies and programs for AIDS prevention, care and reduction of stigma.	<p>Level of partner's competence and capacity.</p> <p>Level of active and effective projects and their results.</p>	<p>Partners' strategies and long-term plans.</p> <p>Individual project related survey reports on outcome.</p>	<p>Sufficient and timing funding.</p> <p>Partners' capacity to plan and implement relevant and realistic projects.</p> <p>Partners' being accepted as implementing agencies by authorities.</p> <p>Peace and stability in the country.</p> <p>Available statistics.</p>
<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
<p>Awareness building workshops and campaigns carried out.</p> <p>Rehabilitation projects for HIV and AIDS infected and affected carried out.</p> <p>Effective community based activities for care and support to HIV and AIDS infected and affected carried out.</p>	<p>Number of beneficiaries reached through workshops and campaigns.</p> <p>Number of rehabilitated beneficiaries started a sustainable life in dignity.</p> <p>Number and quality of established community based structures and beneficiaries reached.</p>	Individual project reports.	
<b>Specific objective 2</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
Partners have established contact with – and are actively participating in – relevant networks and collaborating mechanisms and through these mobilization local and international resources so as to increasingly address the social and economic plights of those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.	<p>Level of partners' active participation in available networks.</p> <p>Level of soliciting resources from relevant networks.</p>	<p>Feedback from relevant networks.</p> <p>Individual project reports.</p>	<p>Sufficient and timing funding.</p> <p>Partners' capacity to plan and implement relevant and realistic projects.</p> <p>Partners' being accepted as implementing agencies by authorities.</p> <p>Peace and stability in the country.</p>
<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
<p>Partners' participation in national, regional and international HIV and AIDS workshops and seminars carried out.</p> <p>Partners' participation in national coordination forums and workshops carried out.</p>	<p>Level of partners' participation.</p> <p>Level of partners' active participation.</p>	<p>Partners' reports from attended events.</p> <p>Reports from events.</p>	

## 6.2 Sustainable livelihood, water resources and sanitation

**Overall goal:** Food security in project areas improved; adequate and sustainable potable water and sanitation in project areas improved.

<b>Specific objective 1</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
NCA has contributed to an expansion and just distribution of arable land, and food production is enhanced through improved agricultural knowledge for people involved in food production.	<p>Level of expansion of arable land in project areas.</p> <p>Level of improved food production, in terms of yield per hectare .</p>	<p>Statistics from the Ministry of Agriculture.</p> <p>Households surveys.</p>	<p>Sufficient and timing funding.</p> <p>Partners' capacity to plan and implement relevant and realistic projects.</p> <p>Active participation by local communities.</p> <p>Peace and stability in the country, particularly for some border localities.</p> <p>Available statistics.</p>
<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
<p>Local community participated in the expansion of arable land carried out.</p> <p>Local community participated in securing mechanisms for just distribution of arable land carried out.</p> <p>Farmers trained in improved agricultural practices.</p> <p>Women trained in home economics.</p> <p>Required material inputs provided.</p>	<p>Level of expansion of arable land.</p> <p>Permanent participatory mechanisms in place to secure just distribution.</p> <p>Level of farmers trained.</p> <p>Level of women trained.</p> <p>Appropriate and timely delivery of materials.</p>	<p>Statistics from the Ministry of Agriculture.</p> <p>Individual project reports.</p>	
<b>Specific objective 2</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
NCA has contributed to the development of local markets and micro enterprises with a focus on stronger involvement of women as well as persons infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.	<p>Level of sustainable new enterprises established.</p> <p>Number of women and HIV and AIDS infected/affected beneficiaries reached.</p>	<p>Statistics from the local administration in the project areas.</p>	<p>Sufficient and timing funding.</p> <p>Partners' capacity to plan and implement relevant and realistic projects.</p> <p>Active participation by local communities.</p> <p>Peace and stability in the country, particularly for some border localities.</p> <p>Available statistics.</p>

<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
Local markets improved and expanded.  Micro enterprise credit scheme established and operating.  Effective local community mechanisms in place, prioritised for women and HIV and AIDS infected/affected	Level and quality of local markets.  Number of sustainable micro enterprises established.  Number of women and HIV and AIDS infected/affected beneficiaries reached.	Statistics from local government.  Individual project reports.	
<b>Specific objective 3</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
NCA has supported local communities in building, managing and maintaining sustainable and easily accessible water resources and sanitation facilities.	Level of quality and capacity of Partners' intervention.  Number of functional local community water and sanitation structures.	Partners' plans and reports of intervention.	Sufficient and timing funding. Partners' capacity to plan and implement relevant and realistic projects. Active participation by local communities. Peace and stability in the country, particularly for some border localities.
<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
Partners' capacity to plan and implement water and sanitation projects improved.  Potable water and sanitation provided for local communities.  Local community structures established to manage, maintain and operate water sources and sanitation facilities.	Quality of plans and budgets.  Number of communities provided with potable water and sanitation.  Number of functional local community structures.	Plans and budgets provided.  Individual project reports.	

### 6.3 Gender-based violence

**Overall objective:** Combating gender-based violence, harmful traditional practices (HTP) and female genital mutilation (FGM) enhanced through nationwide campaigns and effective commitment from religious institutions. Improved enrolment in and completion of secondary schools by girls.

<b>Specific objective 1</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
NCA has actively contributed in combating violence against women and children, with focus on gender-based violence and FGM/HTP – and worked with religious institutions to enhance their role in effectively reducing gender-based violence.	Improved community awareness against gender-based violence.  Improved involvement and commitment by religious institutions to reduce gender-based violence.	Partners' strategies and long-term plans.  Individual project related survey reports on outcome.	Sufficient and timing funding. Partners' capacity to plan and implement relevant and realistic projects. Local communities receptive to promotion of behavior change. Peace and stability in the country.

<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
<p>Awareness building through nationwide workshops and seminars for targeted audiences carried out.</p> <p>Awareness building through nationwide campaigns aimed at the general public carried out.</p> <p>Appropriate studies to determine strategies, methodologies and interventions results of nationwide activities carried out.</p> <p>Awareness building workshops and seminars for religious institutions implemented.</p> <p>Technical assistance provided to identify long-term plans and strategies.</p> <p>Training of staff in religious institutions provided.</p>	<p>Number of nationwide workshops and seminars and their attendance.</p> <p>Number of nationwide campaigns and population reached.</p> <p>Findings of the studies on nationwide activities.</p> <p>Number of workshops and seminars for religious institutions, and their attendance.</p> <p>Level of completed plans and strategies by religious institutions.</p> <p>Number of staff trained from religious institutions.</p>	<p>Individual project reports.</p> <p>Studies reports.</p>	
<b>Specific objective 2</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
<p>Partners have facilitated girls' enrolment in and completion of secondary school.</p>	<p>Level of girls attending and completing secondary schools.</p>	<p>Statistics from Ministry of Education.</p>	<p>Sufficient and timing funding.</p> <p>Partners' capacity to plan and implement relevant and realistic projects.</p> <p>Local communities receptive to promotion of behavior change.</p> <p>Peace and stability in the country.</p> <p>Available statistics.</p>
<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
<p>Awareness building workshops for targeted audiences implemented.</p> <p>Awareness building nationwide campaigns for the general public carried out.</p> <p>Direct support to individual girls, as found appropriate and effective, carried out.</p> <p>At the end of the NCA planning period, a</p>	<p>Number of workshops and seminars and their attendance.</p> <p>Number of campaigns carried out.</p> <p>Level of support given to girls under education.</p> <p>Conclusions and recommendations of the</p>	<p>Individual project reports.</p> <p>Study report.</p>	

comparative study carried out to determine the effectiveness of the program.	study.		
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#### 6.4 Civil society and social responsibility

**Overall objective:** Partners strengthened to become constructive actors as civil society organizations (CSOs) at national level.

<b>Specific objective 1</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
NCA has carried out appropriate organizational development for partners and assisted them in developing methods to enhance their role as CSOs, including institutional capacity building and appropriate training for both partners' and NCA Staff.	<p>Numbers of partners and CSOs with improved capacity.</p> <p>Level of methodology and commitment from partners as CSOs.</p> <p>Level of improved staff performance.</p> <p>NCA country office performance.</p>	<p>Individual project reports.</p> <p>Partners adopted methods and plans.</p> <p>NCA country office's plans and reports.</p>	<p>Sufficient and timing funding.</p> <p>Partners' capacity to plan and implement relevant and realistic projects.</p> <p>Peace and stability in the country, particularly for some border localities.</p> <p>Government restrictions on the role of civil society.</p>
<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
<p>Organizational development (OD) processes carried out.</p> <p>Workshops and seminars arranged for partners.</p> <p>Partners participated in regional and international workshops and seminars.</p> <p>Material and documentation provided.</p> <p>Staff skills training implemented.</p> <p>Required materials provided.</p> <p>Joint planning meetings between partners and NCA carried out.</p> <p>Partners presented improved project plans and budgets.</p>	<p>Number of OD completed.</p> <p>Number of workshops and seminars arranged.</p> <p>Number of partners attended regional and international workshops and seminars.</p> <p>Relevant and timely provided material.</p> <p>Number of staff trained.</p> <p>Level of materials provided.</p> <p>Effectiveness of joint planning meetings.</p> <p>Quality of project plans and budgets.</p>	<p>Individual project reports.</p> <p>Partners' reports from workshops and seminars.</p> <p>Individual project reports.</p> <p>Notes and minutes from joint planning meetings.</p> <p>Project plans and budgets.</p> <p>Individual activity reports.</p>	
<b>Specific objective 2</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
NCA has improved communication and networking with national forums and has promoted the development of national HIV and AIDS and FGM/HTP forums.	<p>Level of participation in relevant networks.</p> <p>Level of coordination of HIV and AIDS interventions.</p> <p>Level of coordination of FGM interventions.</p>	<p>Feedback from relevant networks/forums.</p> <p>Minutes from the national HIV and AIDS coordination forums.</p> <p>Minutes from the national</p>	<p>Sufficient and timing funding.</p> <p>Partners' capacity to plan and implement relevant and realistic projects.</p> <p>Peace and stability in the country, particularly for some border localities.</p>

<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
NCA and partners participated in available and relevant national forums.  NCA and relevant partners participated constructively in the National HIV/AIDS coordination forums.  NCA and relevant partners participated constructively in the formation and function of the national FGM coordination forums.	Level of participation in available and relevant national forums.  Level of appropriate coordination of HIV and AIDS interventions.  Level of appropriate coordination of FMG interventions.	FGM coordination forums.  Feedback from national forums.  Minutes from the national HIV and AIDS coordination forums.  Minutes from the national FMG coordination forums.	Government restrictions on the role of civil society.
<b>Specific objective 3</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
NCA has improved its own and partners' international networking, with particular focuses on Norwegian communities and congregations, through friendship links, youth exchange and Peace Corps projects	Level of activities between Norwegian and Eritrean counterparts.  Level of international network contacts.	Individual project reports.  Feedback from international networks.	Sufficient and timing funding. Partners' capacity to plan and implement relevant and realistic projects. Government restrictions on the role of civil society.
<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
Friendship links have worked properly.  Youth exchange projects implemented.  Peace Corps projects implemented.  International networking has functioned.	Level of Friendship link activities.  Number of exchange programs.  Number of Peace Corps projects.  Level of international networking.	Individual project reports.  Feedback from international networks.	

## 6.5 Conflict resolution and peace-building

**Overall Goal:** Religious institutions constructively involved in conflict resolution and peace-building.

<b>Specific Objective</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
NCA has worked with Religious Institutions to enhance their role in dealing with violence and conflicts, and is directly involved with them in Peace and Reconciliation processes where deemed appropriate.	Level of progress made.	Individual reports.	Sufficient and timing funding. Partners' capacity to plan and implement relevant and realistic projects. Religious institutions' willingness to work together on the issue. Peace and stability in the country. Government restrictions.

<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
Interfaith seminars to bring together representatives of various religious groups on their roles in peace building and conflict transformation carried out.  Support given for the interaction between religious leaders in Eritrea and Ethiopia.	Number of seminars conducted with active participation of all faiths.  Level of progress made.	Individual reports.	

## 6.6 Protection in natural disasters and complex emergencies

**Overall objective:** Improved emergency preparedness and response.

<b>Specific objective 1</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
NCA has strengthened ACT Forum Eritrea to develop and coordinate emergency plans. Particular attention given to the security of women and children in emergency situations.	ACT Forum Eritrea's effectiveness in preparedness and planning.	ACT Forum Eritrea's emergency preparedness plans.	Sufficient and timing funding. Partners' capacity to plan and implement relevant and realistic projects.
<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
Capacity building in emergency preparedness carried out within the ACT Forum Eritrea.  Awareness workshops carried out with ACT Forum Eritrea on security for women and children in emergency situations.	ACT Forum Eritrea's quality of emergency appeals and plans.  Level of inclusion of security concerns in emergency plans.	ACT Forum Eritrea's emergency preparedness plans.	
<b>Specific objective 2</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
NCA has assisted ACT Forum Eritrea in providing timely, proactive and holistic response in emergencies.	Level of timely, coordinated and appropriate emergency support given through ACT Forum Eritrea.	ACT Forum Eritrea reports.	Sufficient and timing funding. Partners' capacity to plan and implement relevant and realistic projects.
<b>Expected result</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions and risks</b>
Timely, coordinated and appropriate emergency response carried out, through ACT Forum Eritrea.	ACT application and response.	Individual project reports.	

## 7. Rationale for choice of core partners, resource organizations and strategic alliances

NCA and other NGOs are by proclamation obliged to work only through governmental entities and not through faith based groups and other civil society actors.

The partner categories of NCA Eritrea are:

- Core partners: Eritrean Orthodox Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea and Mufti office. These organizations are restricted to work only within their spiritual mandate. Even though NCA is not allowed to work through these partners at the present, its presence in the country, as a civil society organization, can play a certain role by supporting and strengthening them to some extent.
- Resource partners: Our main partners are line ministries like Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Land Water and Environment / Water Resource Department, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Local Government; and governmental related mass organizations / entities like National Union of Eritrean Women, and National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students. All NGOs in the country have to work through governmental entities.
- Strategic alliances: Current strategic alliances are with organizations and networks like Lutheran Word Federation, World Council of Churches, All African Conference of Churches, FECCLAHA and Action by Churches Together.

<b>Name of Partner</b>	<b>Eritrean Orthodox Church (ErOC)</b>
<b>Year of foundation</b>	1991
<b>Mission / mandate</b>	Evangelism
<b>Constituency</b>	Followers of the Church
<b>Thematic focus</b>	HIV and AIDS, competence building, FGM, inter faith dialogue
<b>Geographical focus</b>	National
<b>Strategies</b>	Awareness raising
<b>Role/strength in civil society</b>	Strong
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	Good
<b>Partners other than NCA</b>	Not known

**Eritrean Orthodox Church (ErOC):** Founded in 1991 with the mission of evangelism amongst followers of the church. It has a national outreach in areas of HIV and AIDS, competence building and awareness raising, and is also involved in inter religious dialogue. It has a strong role in the religious sector of the society.

<b>Name of Partner</b>	<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea (ELCE)</b>
<b>Year of foundation</b>	1860s
<b>Mission / mandate</b>	Evangelism
<b>Constituency</b>	Followers of the Church
<b>Thematic focus</b>	HIV and AIDS, competence building, FGM, inter faith dialogue
<b>Geographical focus</b>	National
<b>Strategies</b>	Awareness raising
<b>Role/strength in civil society</b>	Strong
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	Strong
<b>Partners other than NCA</b>	Many – mainly from Evangelical Churches in Sweden

**Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea (ELCE):** Dates to the 1860s, with a mission of evangelism. In 2006 the Evangelical Church of Eritrea and the Lutheran Church of Eritrea merged and founded the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea. A key focus area today is to reach followers of the church with HIV and AIDS and gender programming, competence building, and inter religious dialogue. It has a national outreach and an important voice in the religious sector of the society.

<b>Name of Partner</b>	<b>Mufti's Office (representing the Muslim community)</b>
<b>Year of foundation</b>	1995
<b>Mission / mandate</b>	Proclaiming the Muslim faith and interests
<b>Constituency</b>	The Muslim Population
<b>Thematic focus</b>	HIV and AIDS, Gender, FGM, inter faith dialogue
<b>Geographical focus</b>	National
<b>Strategies</b>	Awareness raising
<b>Role/strength in civil society</b>	Strong
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	Good
<b>Partners other than NCA</b>	Not known

**Mufti's Office:** The Mufti Office, which represents the Muslim community, became a new NCA partner in 2007. The office has a national outreach and has started to establish a regional nationwide structure supported by NCA in order to be more involved in programs related to gender, HIV and AIDS, inter religious dialogue and competence building. It has an important voice in the religious sector of the society.

<b>Name of Partner</b>	<b>Ministry of Agriculture (MOA)</b>
<b>Mission / mandate</b>	Responsible for agricultural activities
<b>Constituency</b>	Government agency
<b>Geographical focus</b>	National
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	Strong
<b>Partners other than NCA</b>	Many

**Ministry of Agriculture (MoA):** Governmental agency responsible for agricultural activities. It has a national outlook and a strong relationship with NCA.

<b>Name of Partner</b>	<b>Ministry of Health (MOH)</b>
<b>Mission / mandate</b>	Responsible for health activities
<b>Constituency</b>	Government agency
<b>Geographical focus</b>	National
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	Strong.
<b>Partners other than NCA</b>	Many

**Ministry of Health (MoH):** Government agency responsible for health activities. It has a national outlook and a strong relationship with NCA.

<b>Name of Partner</b>	<b>Ministry of Land, Water and Environment (Water Resource Department)</b>
<b>Mission / mandate</b>	Relevant to NCA activities: Responsible for water and sanitation
<b>Constituency</b>	Government agency
<b>Geographical focus</b>	National
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	Strong
<b>Partners other than NCA</b>	Many

**Ministry of Land, Water and Environment – Water Resource Department:** Governmental agency with a wide range of responsibilities. Those relevant to NCA activities are water and sanitation. It has a national outlook and a strong relationship with NCA.

<b>Name of Partner</b>	<b>Ministry of Local Government (MoLG)</b>
<b>Mission / mandate</b>	Relevant to NCA activities: Responsible for water and sanitation at local level
<b>Constituency</b>	Government agency
<b>Geographical focus</b>	National
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	Strong
<b>Partners other than NCA</b>	Many

**Ministry of Local Government:** Governmental agency with a wide range of responsibilities. Those relevant to NCA activities are water and sanitation and rehabilitation. It has a national outlook and a strong relationship with NCA.

<b>Name of Partner</b>	<b>National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW)</b>
<b>Year of foundation</b>	1991
<b>Mission / mandate</b>	Women / gender issues
<b>Constituency</b>	200.000 members – affiliated with the movement (PFDJ)
<b>Thematic focus</b>	HIV and AIDS, gender equality, domestic violence, FGM
<b>Geographical focus</b>	National
<b>Role/strength in civil society</b>	Strong
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	Strong – since 1993
<b>Partners other than NCA</b>	Many

**National Union of Eritrean Women (NUEW):** Focuses on women and gender issues, NUEW has 200.000 members nationwide. It is affiliated with the party and the government and is an important NCA partner in areas of HIV and AIDS, gender equity, domestic violence and FGM. It has a national outlook and a strong role in the society.

<b>Name of Partner</b>	<b>National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS)</b>
<b>Year of foundation</b>	1991
<b>Mandate / mission</b>	Youth rights, democratisation, constitutional issues, gender leadership
<b>Constituency</b>	135.000 Members – affiliated with the movement (PFDJ)
<b>Thematic focus</b>	Health, HIV and AIDS, gender, FGM, girls education, leadership
<b>Geographical focus</b>	National
<b>Role/strength in civil society</b>	Strong
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	Strong – since 1999
<b>Partners other than NCA</b>	Many

**National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS):** Affiliated with the party and the government and counting some 135.000 members, NUEYS focuses on youth rights, gender and FGM, and democratization and constitutional issues. It has a national outlook and a strong role in the society.

Core partners		Global Programs and other Thematic Priorities							
Partner Name	Abbreviation	HIV and AIDS	Food Security	Water and Sanitation	Civil Society and Accountable Governance	Gender based Violence	Conflict, Peace and Religion	Protection in Natural Disasters and complex emergencies	Social Responsibility of People and churches
Eritrean Orthodox Church	ErOC	X			X	X	X		X
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Eritrea	ELCE	X			X	X	X		X
Mufti Office		X			X	X	X		X

Resource partners		Global Programs and other Thematic Priorities							
Partner Name	Abbreviation	HIV and AIDS	Food Security	Water and Sanitation	Civil Society and Accountable Governance	Gender based Violence	Conflict, Peace and Religion	Protection in Natural Disasters and Complex Emergencies	Social Responsibility of People and Churches
Ministry of Land, Water and Environment	WRD			X				X	
Ministry of Agriculture	MOA		X	X					
Ministry of Health	MOH	X				X			
Ministry of Local Government	MOLG		X	X				X	
National Union of Eritrean Women	NUEW	X			X	X			X
National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students	NUEYS				X	X			X

Strategic alliances		Global Programs and other Thematic Priorities							
Partner Name	Abbreviation	HIV and AIDS	Food Security	Water and Sanitation	Civil Society and Accountable Governance	Gender based Violence	Conflict, Peace and Religion	Protection in Natural Disasters and Complex Emergencies	Social Responsibility of People and Churches
Lutheran World Federation	LWF			X				X	
World Council of Churches	WCC						X		
All African Conference of Churches	AACC						X		
Fellowship of Christian Councils in the Great Lakes and the Horn of Africa	FECCLAHA						X		
ACT Forum Eritrea	ACT	COORDINATION OF INTERVENTION IN EMERGENCIES							

## **8. NCA contributions**

NCA's contribution is primarily to build competence with its partners on program management, monitoring, and on certain issues related to the thematic focuses. The aim is to build sustainability in terms of partners capacity to develop, carry out and follow own initiatives. In the implementation of programs NCA will seek to foster local acceptance for an integrated approach.

There will be some critical and challenging points working with governmental partners. NCA contribution will focus on the following issues:

- Encourage the governmental entities to make use of the competence which NCA's core partners possess.
- To ensure local participation and ownership
- To work in an integrated manner with our resource partners, including gender, FGM, HIV and AIDS, and environmental issues in food security and water and sanitation projects

Other categories of contributions includes:

- Support to build networks for exchange of information and experiences among its partners and other agencies and organizations working on similar issues.
- Strengthen and develop the integration of ACT International and ACT Development through active participation in ACT Forum Eritrea.
- Assisting partners to link up with alternative funding sources and coordinate the interventions with other agencies and organizations in order to secure optimal use of available funds.
- Facilitate links to Norwegian and/or regional recourse organizations that can assist to build competence for core partners on central thematic issues
- An updated Personnel Safety Plan will ensure both NCA staff and partners have maximum focus on security issues, particularly in the field and in areas with high risk level.
- Assist NCA staff and partners to focus on Code of Conduct of NCA and ACT in the daily work and in all program implementation.
- As far as possible try to make use of analyses related to Do No Harm, Gender Sensitivity, Conflict Sensitivity, and a Right Based Approach in the programs.

## **9. Monitoring and evaluation**

The working conditions in Eritrea are very challenging, and are characterized by scarcity of fuel and difficulties for expatriate travel. Although this situation severely restricts opportunities for follow up, monitoring and evaluation, NCA is working together with partners and government agencies to establish an operational space, so that these processes can be carried out according to professional standards.

NCA Eritrea will also seek alliances with the Government of Eritrea, UN agencies and other organizations to develop monitoring and follow up schemes which secure that funds are used as planned. Monitoring systems will focus on strengthening both preliminary planning and reporting procedures. Logical frameworks will be used as the basis for project cycle management. In light of increased requirements from donors, it has also become apparent that staff capacity on monitoring and follow up procedures needs to be further developed.

Measures are taken to secure maximum security focus when working in the field.

## **10. Assessments**

### **10.1 Assessment of relevance of programme to national plans and priorities**

HIV and AIDS, FGM, water development, food security, and emergency preparedness and rehabilitation are all areas that are central to the development plans of the Government of Eritrea, which also gives priority to rural development. The NCA programs in Eritrea is thus in accordance with the priorities outlined in the government plans.

### **10.2 Assessment of relevance to Norwegian development objectives**

NCA's Eritrea program is also in line with the Norwegian government's overall policy for providing development assistance, also with the *Action Plan on Women's Rights and Gender Equality in Development Cooperation (2007)*, and *The Norwegian Plan of Action for the Implementation of the UN SC resolution 1325 on women, peace and security*, *Action Plan for Women's Rights and Gender Equity in Development Cooperation*, and *Norwegian Action Plan for Environment in Development Cooperation*.

### **10.3 Assessment of risks**

The risks are mentioned under chapter 6, Program Objectives per thematic focus area.

### **10.4 Assessment of sustainability**

Working with partners we know well, and who have the experience and capacity to implement projects is important for securing the sustainability of the activities. Strengthening the partners' capacity and involving target groups in planning and implementation of projects are other important factors, as well as follow up and monitoring on side of NCA.

## **11. Budget Estimates for 2007-2009**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008 (estimates)</b>	<b>2009 (estimates)</b>
<b>Amount (NOK)</b>	<b>16 million</b>	<b>16 million</b>	<b>16 Million</b>