

## Eastern Africa

### REGIONAL INTRODUCTION

#### 1.0 Regional Context

Wars and ethnic conflicts have destroyed many of the given opportunities for sustainable development for the poor and marginalized peoples in the Eastern Africa region. Bi-products of the wars are the internally displaced people, the refugees, the wounded and traumatized. The dramatic spread of HIV and AIDS has had a sincere impact on the region, while recurrent droughts and other climatic change related emergencies impact especially on poor people and communities.

Some positive trends at the time of the mid term review of the five-year plan period give impetus to address the above concerns. The most important of these is the conclusion of various peace processes; the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in Sudan, the peace processes and elections in both Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi and the processes related to the Lord Resistance Army in Uganda (LRA) as well as the Darfur Peace process. Whilst these achievements are casting a more positive light over the region, the road to a lasting peace still may seem long. The situation in Somalia is, however still disturbing as well as the continued tensions between Ethiopia and Eritrea.

Some features and dynamics threaten human dignity of the majority of people in the region:

##### **Leadership crisis linked to governance**

In Eastern Africa there is a tradition for autocratic leadership. This leadership style is often based on an understanding that the people are there to serve the leader, and not the leader to serve the people. Eastern Africa would not need aid at all if the resources of the continent were sustainably managed, priced and taxed fairly and the proceeds distributed justly.

Political changes in Kenya give hope that this tradition may be broken through people-driven democratisation processes. *Increased participation is needed to make social and political change and addressing the participation deficits is of vital importance.*

##### **Low productive use of resources** (unequal distribution of resources)

Human, financial and natural resources available in the region are not being used to their potential. Lack of inclusive and responsible governance is the main constraint. *Greater extent of equity and increased participation are key to effective utilization of economic potentials.*

The effects of climate change on the environment and communities in Eastern Africa have worsened over the past few years. Some of the particularly devastating effects are prolonged droughts, floods, and unpredictable rainfall, which have compromised agricultural production and people's ways of life. Adaptation to these changes will be prioritised in the region for the remainder of the strategic period not only to protect communities from the devastation, but also to enable them to survive these effects. Advocacy on environmental issues will focus on precautionary and mitigation measures towards climatic changes. **Clean water** for human consumption is a scarce resource in most parts of the region. In large parts of Ethiopia, Eritrea, Northern Kenya, Northern Sudan and Somalia water is a scarce resource for cultivation and animals. Comprehensive and equitable management of water is just as important an issue as lack of water, and conflict over water is found on all levels from local to Nile-basin region.

*Greater extent of equity and increased participation are key to making water accessible to all.*

Many people are **struggling with their identity**. The cultural and religious identities have been put to the test of development for some years. In addition, identities related to country, geography and ethnicity are also challenging to the people caught between /struggling with multiple identities. *Greater extent of equity and inclusive participation are key to unity in diversity of identity.*

**Violence** in different shapes and forms is severely hampering human security and human development in the region. Resource conflicts (land, water, minerals and positions), cattle raiding, ethnically related conflicts (Southern and Northern Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, Ethiopia and Somalia), and political violence and civil war are all expressions of violence in the region. The serious proliferation of small arms and light weapons is allowing the violence to reach tragic dimensions. Inter-woven in this pattern is structural, institutional and family violence. Harmful practices like female genital mutilation seriously violate women. *Protection, equity and participation are key to transforming conflicts and creating a culture of peace.*

**Gender equality and women's rights have traditionally been overlooked** by countries in the region. Women do not have access to resources nor to decision-making forums. *The gender equity deficit still needs to be addressed systematically.*

Eastern Africa is one of the hardest hit regions in respect to the **HIV and AIDS pandemic**. While all countries are seriously affected, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi have a level of HIV and AIDS infected and affected which impacts heavily on the family, local community and national levels. Deteriorating health situation, adverse economic development and serious decline in governance on all levels are obvious effects of this pandemic. *Protection and participation are needed to prevent the pandemic and to give dignity to the infected and affected.*

Religions have traditionally, with very few exceptions, existed peacefully side-by-side on local and national levels. A trend towards radicalisation, particularly of Islam and Christianity, has led to emerging conflicts between religious communities. External influences, from Saudi Arabia and USA respectively, are bringing sentiments of "clashes of civilisations" into a historic setting with tribal distinctness within a wider African identity. *Inclusiveness and participation are key to preventing further conflicts between religious communities. Interfaith dialogue is needed to protect against religiously instigated violence.*

## **2.0 NCA's Added Value**

As the countries and communities of the East African region are extremely interlinked, the need for regional approaches to peace, security and development is crucial. The complexity of the challenges facing the region as described above necessitates a holistic approach. A holistic approach may, however, be drawn into the extreme by trying to do something about everything. NCA will therefore, within the holistic perspective, focus on:

- The comparative advantages of the organisation in the region based on its history and track record;
- Wide and deep partnership relations with Faith Based Organizations (FBOs) that strategically have potential to reach communities and increase levels of participation, equity and protection;
- Strengthening and further developing civil society as a key counter balance and "watch dog" for more responsive and accountable governance.

- Competence and strategic alliances within priority areas on national and regional levels.

In line with our identity as a specialized diaconal ministry, NCA relates to continental – sub-regional-national faith based organizations (including inter-religious institutions), which have infrastructure and organizational structures from micro to macro levels. NCA has worked with Faith Based Organizations, churches, church councils, regional ecumenical bodies and other partners for more than 30 years. These partners are key players in their respective civil societies, have wide constituencies, and many of them are highly respected and influential organizations within their countries with a great potential to create positive change.

The recurrent humanitarian crisis in the region, due to conflicts and natural calamities, demands a preparedness and appropriate response to emergencies with acute human suffering. NCA's entry point to the different countries in the region has been primarily through emergency assistance. In line with the need to develop this comparative advantage, priority will also be given to building competence and capacity to meet emergency situations at national/country level. ACT based emergency preparedness and response programs together with NCA Oslo preparedness mechanism represent important added value.

The complexity of the challenges in the countries of this region demands a long-term development approach in the midst of potential conflicts and emergencies. The dynamics of the region described above are realities that our partners have worked on over the years. NCA has worked with FBOs, churches and church related organizations that have been involved in service delivery, food security and water and sanitation for many years. NCA support to their long-term efforts to work on communities' participation in their own development will continue during the plan period. Their constituencies, organizations, infrastructure and human resources are strengths that can be drawn on in the pursuit of claims for the economic, social and cultural rights of the poor and marginalized.

Challenges related to governance, distribution of resources, peace and security in Eastern Africa should not be left to governments alone. Mobilizing communities and civil society institutions, not least the religious institutions, to struggle for broader participation, promotion of equity and the securing of protection for marginalized and vulnerable groups are advocacy priorities for NCA and partners. The regional programs for the remainder of the five-year period reflect this priority: gender based violence, conflict transformation and peace building, good governance with emphasis on economic justice, and water policies.

NCA has developed substantial networks on governmental and non-governmental levels that are seen as a comparative advantage in making crucial linkages between micro and macro levels. Strategic partnerships are established with All African Conference of Churches (AACC), Fellowship of Councils and Churches in Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA), Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA) and Building East African Community Network (BEACON). Strong relations have been built with UN agencies (UNICEF and UNHCR). European and North American sister organizations (like Christian Aid, Dan Church Aid, Lutheran World Federation, Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst and ICCO) play a significant role in NCA activities, not least through the national ACT forums. In Ethiopia and Sudan, several of these agencies are cohabiting/sharing offices with NCA. Further exploration is planned for developing ideas of joint planning and shared infrastructure, logistical and administrative services.

Communication as part of an advocacy strategy is crucial in order to mobilize communities and challenging decision makers. There is a specific need to improve

communication competencies and strategies within NCA in Eastern Africa, and offer support to development of strong communication capacity within our partners. Communication should not be limited to countries within the region, but include proactive interface with NCA Oslo in order to link our Norwegian stakeholders to the realities, challenges and signs of hope from this region. Organizational sustainability is a major challenge for more or less all of our partners in the region. Resource mobilization and fund-raising will continue to be given priority by NCA and partners. Capacity building in communication for resource mobilization and fund-raising will be part of the regional and country priorities.

The main NCA contribution at a regional level will be to identify resource institutions and networks, and link our partners with them. Financial and human resources will also be offered to building communication strategies according to priorities indicated above. Exchange arrangements, secondments, internships and "adoptions" should be explored to increase the impact of communication.

NCA has developed an understanding that developing strong concepts and programs **as a region** must strengthen the justification of being present **in the region**. National and regional presence is, according to NCA partners (NCA evaluation 2003), a strength in pursuing our overall aim in promoting participation, equity and protection. To simplify the line management of NCA, a restructuring of the regional office took place in 2006. The area/country offices currently report directly to the Head of Division at Head Office, and the regional representative is responsible for the regional programmes. The regional office revised role will more specifically be to:

- Provide regional analysis, a joint platform for high-level advocacy, facilitates horizontal sharing of experiences among partner organizations.
- Provides common arenas for partners to meet and interact with each other and with NCA personnel, including opportunities to influence policies of NCA.
- Provides access to technical expertise and innovative programming experiences with replication potential in neighbouring countries.
- Secures oversight quality control and technical assistance to field offices and partners.

### **3.0 Thematic Focus**

NCA's revised 5-year plan (2007-09) is the product of a careful regional analysis and needs assessment. NCA East Africa has among others chosen a holistic approach to achieve Human Dignity for combating poverty and promoting development, where a right based approach in all programs will be an integral part. NCA East Africa will continue to support and strengthen FBO's and inter-faith organizations and networks and other community-based organizations in line with GSP 6.2.

Respective country plans reflect distinct differences based on their given contexts, but they are all within the regional priorities. This regional introduction is not a summary of the country activities, but an indication of the overall regional profile and strategic priorities. To strengthen the impact of NCA Eastern Africa country programs in making a difference within this profile and priorities, the regional thematic programs are developed within:

**Gender-based violence** – Domestic violence, violence against women, Female Genital Mutilation and other harmful practices are at the heart of our Regional Gender Plan which aims to promote rights-based development for girls and women. Capacity building, training and sharing of experiences (best practices) will be the main NCA contributions throughout the region during the plan period. This is in line with the findings and

recommendations of the gender and FGM evaluations undertaken at the regional level in 2004. Capacity building of partners, and country programmes related to implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the WCC initiated Tamar campaign are examples of activities to be carried out in the remainder of the strategic period.

**Accountable governance with emphasis on economic justice**, under the auspices of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. NCA has a strategic partnership with Building East African Community Network (BEACON) on Economic Justice. Capacity building of partners has taken place since the beginning of the strategic period, is now showing results and will continue for the remainder of the period. A number of partners are now involved in advocacy at regional and national levels, for example the ongoing campaign against the European Partnership for Africa (EPA). Focus for the remainder of the strategic period will be on budget and policy monitoring from national to local community level and regional platforms have been developed for this purpose. Workshops and mobilization for high-level advocacy are key strategic elements in the action plan for NCA contributions.

**Conflict transformation and peace building** – In the area of small arms and light weapons, and within the context of human security, Fellowship of Councils and Churches in Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA), Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA) and NCA have formed a regional working group. This group is working in cooperation with the Nairobi Secretariat for the Nairobi Declaration on the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons. The issue of small arms and light weapons is closely linked to child soldiers. NCA's main contribution will be provision of network linkages, workshops, regional advocacy initiatives and sharing of "best practices" with partners where also our sister organizations will be invited to actively participate.

Direct involvement in peace and reconciliation processes, with emphasis on supporting faith-based actors will be NCA's contributions. Involvement in the Eritrea – Ethiopia and the Sudan conflicts will continue. Our participation in internal peace processes in Ethiopia, Somalia and Great Lakes is also included in these efforts. Reconciliation processes in post-conflict situations in the mentioned countries will be important. Work with All African Conference of Churches (AACC) and FECCLAHA will continue and be developed further according to their profiles and priorities. Inter-faith approaches will be preferred when appropriate, and relations with African Council of Religious Leaders (ACRL) will be further developed.

**HIV and AIDS** – Three priorities will be pursued at a regional level, in support of the activities at country programme level and in close cooperation with EHAIA:

- Contribute to national policy development and advocacy through our partners, with special focus on stigmatisation, denial and access to treatment.
- As TV-campaign funding is finished, develop and implement resource mobilization strategies with partners in order for them to diversify their resource base, both from local communities and national and international donors. Sharing of resources between NCA partners will be part of resource mobilization strategy.
- Develop competence and capacity to mainstream HIV and AIDS in NCA and partner- programs and projects.

**Water and sanitation:** Water interventions are not limited to drilling wells, although the mobile drilling rig is clearly a key element in the NCA water program. The other key strategic elements include mobilization and promotion of community driven integrated water management, alternative water methodologies, involvement in conflicts related to water (local – macro/Nile basin), and water policies as a reflection of economic and social rights. Policy advocacy initiatives need to be supported on national, regional and global levels. NCA's special contribution will be to mobilize an informal regional water group and

in particular in partnership with BEACON in order to pursue key strategic issues related to water and sanitation. The strategies will also include developing strategies to undertake rainwater harvesting and to explore suitable interventions to address climate change.

**Emergency Preparedness:** In the adjusted plan period Emergency Preparedness will be the responsibility of the individual country offices. Nevertheless, NCA country/area offices will continue to support its partners in developing suitable disaster and preparedness plans.

Regional strategic partnerships have been developed to strengthen these programs. The potentials for building synergy both thematically and geographically with the partners in Eastern Africa will be subject to considerable exploration during the remainder of the planning period. Present thinking also underlines the importance of policy-coherence. More specifically this includes coherence between policies and priorities developed at national and regional levels – and from local to national level. The role and potential of civil society involvement in policy-development and implementation monitoring is clearly recognized as key to sustainable development. Civil society is strong in some countries, while the churches are the main civil society institution in others. NCA support to continuous development of basic services as an economic and social right, coupled with potential policy-advocacy at different levels in the society, will continue in all countries in the region.

#### **4.0 Geographical Focus and Presence**

Due to the political, social, cultural and natural resource inter-linkages in the region, the five-year aim is to further develop a holistic regional intervention with appropriate focus and volume in each of the countries. While official Norwegian policy is largely focused on Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan and Somalia, NCA wants to have a broader perspective. The combined focus on the region may result in a positive impact beyond what more scattered and uncoordinated assistance would give. NCA will take advantage of this window of opportunity and place major emphasis on key strategic interventions where NCA has both a proven track record and a solid partnership alliance to allow for substantial scaling up of these efforts.

The **Great Lakes region** will be an important area of attention during this period in order to support a critical transition from conflict to sustainable peace. This means a robust involvement in all three countries (Burundi, Rwanda and eastern part of DR Congo).

**Sudan** will have a special and prominent role after the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. NCA has, since the agreement was signed in 2005, carried out a process to merge what was previously two programmes (one operated in previous government controlled areas from Khartoum and one cross border programme in areas controlled by the Sudan People Liberation Movement in South Sudan) into one joint Sudan programme. This process is now completed. The plan for the remainder of the 5-year period is described in detail in the joint Sudan Country Programme.

NCA's long involvement in **Ethiopia and Eritrea** will continue, with special emphasis on promoting accountable governance and peace building, together with a focus on HIV and AIDS, water and sanitation, gender based violence and food security/emergency preparedness and response. However, there are demanding challenges in both countries related to government policies and framework. Tensions emerging in 2007 and developments in the diplomatic relationships between Norway and Ethiopia will be followed closely. The human rights situation as well as the working environment in

Eritrea is a great concern to NCA and subject to continuous analysis and consideration. NCA has a long history of supporting the Eritrean people in their struggle for independence and democracy. At the time of reviewing the 5 year strategy, NCA has been forced to adjust its Eritrea country strategy in line with present Eritrean Government policies that are clearly outside the global strategic plan framework and overall working policy of NCA. However, as one of very few international NGOs remaining in the country, and one of the few links to the international community and regional structures for the traditional faith based partners of NCA in Eritrea, the presence and work of NCA in the country will continue as long as possible, within the given frames.

Our partners in **Tanzania** urged an upgrading of NCA's involvement in their country since they view the profile and priorities of NCA as quite relevant to the development challenges ahead. As a response to this, the NCA Tanzania programme has been developed and described in a comprehensive 5-year plan, thematically focusing on civil society and accountable governance, HIV and AIDS and indigenous people and minority rights.

**Kenya** is increasingly in focus both as a peace broker and with its new national political commitments to poverty eradication. Thematic priorities for NCA and partners in Kenya for the five-year period will be: HIV and AIDS, overcome violence (community safety, small arms control and gender-based violence), water and sanitation, civil society and good governance. It is noted that climate change induced floods, famine and droughts have become a common occurrence in Kenya, which is posing several new challenges for communities dependent on the environment, its biodiversity and available natural resources for their own survival and livelihood. NCA will therefore enter into strategic partnerships with competent resource organizations and legitimate community based organizations to explore and devise suitable interventions to address climate change, which will be included in the adjustment of the five-year plan for 2005-2009.

There is a potential to expand the program in **Somalia**, particularly if the ongoing peace process yields results. NCA has built a valuable support and experience with the local communities that can be important in a rebuilding period. NCA is working in Gedo and the Puntland regions, (as well as a limited engagement in Mogadishu) and the focus areas will continue to be education, peace building, water and sanitation and gender-based violence including FGM, together with emergency interventions. The plan for the remainder of the 5-year period is described in detail in the joint Somalia Country Programme.

**Uganda** has specific challenges related to conflict in the north and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. The competence and capacity of the Christian council and the Inter-religious council are important for a possible upgrading of involvement, and as a resource for the wider region. Thematic focus areas for the adjusted five-year period will be: civil society and accountable governance, HIV and AIDS and conflict transformation and peace-building. In an event of peace returning to northern Uganda, a special Resettlement & Reintegration program for the IDPs will be developed.

NCA's Eastern Africa Region comprises the following countries:

Focus Countries	NCA Presence and Follow-up	Professional Capacity
<b>Eastern Africa Region</b>	Representation for Regional Programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative for Regional Programmes</li> <li>• Regional Gender Program Advisor</li> <li>• Communication and Advocacy Advisor</li> </ul>
<b>Kenya</b>	Area Office covering Kenya, Somalia & Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area Representative</li> <li>• Program Coordinator Kenya/Uganda</li> <li>• Program Coordinator Somalia</li> </ul>
<b>Sudan</b>	Country representation Khartoum South entity office: Juba Darfur DERO operation: Nyala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country Representative</li> <li>• Deputy Country Representative</li> </ul>
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Country Office: Addis Ababa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country Representative</li> </ul>
<b>Tanzania</b>	Country Office: Dar-es-Salaam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country Representative</li> </ul>
<b>Eritrea</b>	Country Office: Asmara	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country Representative</li> </ul>
<b>Great lakes (Rwanda, Burundi, DRC)</b>	Area office in Kigali	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area Representative</li> <li>• Program Coordinator DRC</li> <li>• Program Coordinator Rwanda</li> <li>• Program Coordinator Burundi</li> </ul>
<b>Countries with Individual Projects</b>		
<b>Chad</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme Manager</li> </ul>

## 5.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

The country offices will conduct specific evaluations of their work and programs, while the regional office will provide overall quality assurance and support for evaluations undertaken. The Regional offices will conduct thematic evaluations related to the regional strategies. Regional evaluations on gender, FGM, HIV and AIDS and water/sanitation have already been carried out, and findings and recommendations are reflected in revised country and programme plans.

Name/ Title	Time	Type of review/evaluation				Budget Estimate (NOK)	Fin. Source
		Project	Program/ Thematic	Org.	Other		
Regional	2004		Gender 1)	X		300 000	NCA
Regional	2006		HIV and AIDS			200 000	NCA
Regional	2007		Water and sanitation	X		250 000	NCA
Regional	2008		Conflict and peace	X		250 000	NCA
Regional	2009		Economic justice	X	X	250 000	NCA