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1. INTRODUCTION

Norwegian Church Aid hereby presents the 2008 narrative report to Norad, under the Cooperation Agreement / GLO 04/268.

The report format is adjusted to meet Norad's requirements as communicated in the letter of 5 February 2008, and feedback given on the 2007 narrative report. We envision that the format of this report will evolve through this framework agreement period, with a view towards finalizing a final format as we move into the first year of the new Framework Agreement with Norad in 2011. Good quality reporting of results is a mutual challenge for government as well as civil society actors, and we appreciate very much the opportunity to jointly explore the way forward together with Norad and work towards mutual agreement on good practice.

This report builds upon the existing 2008 annual country and thematic program reports which comprise NCA's own annual reporting system. We will continue to produce the detailed country and thematic program reports for our own needs. These reports are, of course, available to Norad at any time upon request. We have made some small adjustments in the formats for our own narrative reports in 2008, and will continue to improve on formats and routines as we move into our new Global Strategy period.

This report covers all NCA activities in the regions, regardless of funding source. We believe it is useful to present the total volume of our activities so to give Norad insight into how Norad framework funding, together with NCA's own funds, helps NCA to maintain both a presence and predictable aid flows to local partners in NCA priority countries. For NCA, it is also important that we are able to assess results in relation to the total resources we are able to mobilize in a given country program or thematic area. The narrative status report for 2008 is comprised of the following:

Chapter 1 provides a summary of key developments for NCA as an organisation and a brief overview of how we have responded to Norad priorities and feedback in 2008.

Chapter 2 presents, in some detail, two representative examples of our work and what we view to be good development practice.

Chapter 3 provides a status report on NCA's five global thematic priorities. Again in 2008 we aim to present a systematic global overview of programmatic focus areas, spending and number of projects within each of the thematic priorities. We have continued to focus on improving the quality of our data base and statistics related to these thematic priorities. We have identified the need to create more reliable baseline data and also a more detailed system for coding program areas within the broad thematic priorities.

Chapter 4 presents an overview of resources used on NCA's Joint Agenda for Action, with a more detailed report of activities and results in three major areas of work falling under this heading: Environment and climate change, Indigenous People and Emergency Preparedness. This chapter is a specific response to Norad's feedback on the 2007 narrative report, requesting greater insight into NCA value added and results linked to the Joint Agenda. NCA's current Global Strategic Plan has an ambition to use not more than 40% of the total budget on these activities.

Chapter 5 provides an overview of NCA results in four selected country programs. The case countries are Burma, Guatemala (where Norad conducted a major evaluation in 2007), Malawi and Tanzania.

Chapter 6 indicates priority areas for follow up in 2009 and beyond.

1.1 ADDRESSING INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL CHALLENGES IN 2008

NCA faced a number of external and internal challenges in 2008, but we have emerged strengthened as an organisation and concluded the year with evidence of good results in our international program work. Funding from private donations, contributions from the Norwegian government and international organisations (such as UNICEF and the Global Fund) increased from 2007 to 2008.

Externally we were challenged by the international recognition of the climate crisis (See Ch. 2.2 and 4.1), a deteriorating security situation, especially women who are left vulnerable to sexual violence (See Ch. 3.4. and 4.3), in many countries where we are engaged in humanitarian work, and the onslaught of the financial crisis towards the end of 2008. In 2008, Norwegian Church Aid's own operations were affected by significant security challenges in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, Sudan, Somalia and Pakistan. Increased violence against international and national humanitarian organisations from non-state militant groups and also from government actors gives cause for concern. As a result, NCA has given high priority to improved **security and risk management**. We will continue to update current systems, further develop training of staff and allocate more human resource for follow up of security and risk management in 2009.

Towards the end of 2008, the **international financial crisis** shook the globalized world, though it is still uncertain what the long term impact will be for NCA partners in poor countries and for NCA's own financial security. NCA is concerned about the impact the financial crisis can have on levels of international aid in the future. From other European ACT members, we are already seeing signs that aid will be cut as a result of the global recession. We also see that commitments to global poverty reduction, as embodied in the Millennium Development Goals, are under threat as rich donor countries focus on bail out packages for their own industries and citizens.

Internally, NCA also tackled a number of organisational challenges in 2008. There was a strong focus on the need to improve the **work environment** in NCA in 2008. Two comprehensive work environment surveys were carried out and the NCA Board was actively involved in work to improve internal working relations. As a result, elected representatives of the 4 trade unions, management and the Board cooperated to develop an extensive action plan to improve the psychosocial environment in NCA. With these major investments made in 2008 and plans to strengthen the organisation's capacity with the establishment of an Assistant General Secretary position focusing on organisational development and new Human Resources Department, we believe NCA is both strengthened and well equipped to grow and thrive.

2008 is NCA's second year with a **new financial management system** and new accounting principles. In 2008, we have rolled out Maconomy to 5 NCA country offices. The transition to a new system has been demanding and has taken longer than planned, which has been experienced as an additional burden to regular responsibilities by many NCA staff. The establishment of a new Finance Department, with a global mandate, provides NCA with a more rational organisation of the work and we anticipate will contribute to an improved working situation in 2009.

1.2 PROGRAM CONCENTRATION FOR QUALITY AND GROWTH

A central issue in the dialogue between Norad and NCA since the organizational review in 2006, has been the need for more thematic and geographic concentration in NCA's international work. This was, among other issues, mentioned in the annual allocation letter from Norad to NCA in February 2008.

NCA acknowledges that it has been a challenge to implement concentration strategies quickly in a responsible way. We have, however, definitively been working to elaborate good strategies to concentrate our work over the last couple of years, but it is a process that requires time and dialogue. Concentration strategies will be addressed and elaborated in a more systematic way in NCA's new global strategy for 2011 – 2015. A main strategy during the next plan period will be to work on an agenda of *concentrated growth*, both with regard to the number of partner relations, as well geographic and thematic priorities for our work.

NCA's program portfolio is dynamic. In 2008, we have phased out support to a number of countries and partner organizations, and we have scaled up work in countries that we intend shall remain or grow as priority countries in the future.

Since the start of the current GSP in 2005, we have phased out of the following countries: Chad, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Cameroun, Namibia, Peru, Honduras, El Salvador, Croatia and Belarus. In 2008, we took the decision to phase out of Liberia, and this process will be completed in 2009. We are also in a process of trying to reduce the number of core partners within the country programs. The aim for the future is clear: fewer focus countries and fewer core partners. With regard to thematic concentration, we remain loyal to our current Global Strategic Plan and will continue work on the five global thematic priorities throughout the plan period. We are however, convinced that the individual country programs need to focus on fewer thematic priorities, and we will pursue this strategy in the next planning period. In the next planning period, we also see the need to identify a few specific program areas within the different thematic priorities. It will be especially important to focus on program areas where NCA and partners have a clear value added.

In our view concentration is not about shrinking our programs, but rather strengthening high quality and sustainable programs in countries where NCA has a clear role, history and added value. This means we need to ensure there is a proper balance between the number of priority country programs, our ability to access diversified and predictable funding, and our capacity to follow up and add value to these programs. The extra Norad allocation to peace and reconciliation work in Mali in 2009 is a good illustration of this strategy and in line with our thinking around this issue. In 2008, we have also managed to grow our program in Somalia from an annual budget of approximately NOK 12 million to over NOK 30 million. This was mainly due to our ability to secure contracts with UNICEF, based on NCA's demonstrated competence in water and sanitation programs. This is an example of how good quality work on one of our global thematic priorities has helped us to secure new funding for an important country program.

1.3 THE NEW ACT ALLIANCE – BUILDING OUR CAPACITY TO FOCUS AND GROW

NCA remains a committed member of Action by Churches Together and has contributed tirelessly towards the merger of ACT International and ACT Development into a unified alliance. The process of unification will be concluded in 2009 with a view to launch the ***new ACT Alliance in the first half of 2010***. The ACT Alliance has national churches and church based development organizations as members. Presently, the alliance has organizations with headquarters in approximately 90 countries, with around 40,000 staff members and an annual turnover of approximately USD 2.0 billion. As NCA begins work with our own new Global Strategy, it will be a major challenge to understand the organizational consequences of our membership in the ACT Alliance, and harvest the benefits of improved division of labour and coordination among ACT members present in different partner countries. We anticipate the ACT Alliance will provide new opportunities

for concentrated growth and improved quality in our international cooperation. Facing the realities of the international financial crisis, NCA will also be looking for cost saving by working together in an alliance.

In 2008, we have seen a deepening of the qualitative work in ACT International, particularly with regard to **gender policy, climate change adaptation in emergencies and capacity development for local partners**. NCA has contributed both financial and human resources to assist with development and implementation of policies, participation in international working groups and taking the lead on alliance wide tasks. NCA has been active in global initiatives helping to better coordinate emergency response worldwide through development of an ACT International Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). In 2008, plans to develop an **ACT Rapid Support Team** concept (ACT - RST) were approved, and NCA was asked to lead this work on behalf of ACT International.

In ACT Development NCA is involved in a three year project to develop systems, globally agreed, for impact and result monitoring.

The advocacy potential of the ACT Alliance was demonstrated in the international cooperation and engagement in the **High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness**, which was held in Accra, Ghana in September 2008. NCA together with the All African Conference of Churches were named lead agencies for ACT on this initiative. Together with the Catholic networks Caritas International and CIDSE, we brought more than 40 representatives to Accra most of them African church leaders. Our main accomplishments were increased awareness among African churches on aid effectiveness issues, visibility of faith actors as major deliverers of aid in Africa and a commitment by ACT members to continue to work on an agenda of development effectiveness towards the next High Level Forum. ACT will look at how to improve our own internal effectiveness, but also advocate for democratic ownership and increased transparency on the use of aid at national and international levels.

1.4 TAKING A LEAD ON TRANSPARENCY AND ANTI-CORRUPTION

NCA has a zero tolerance policy on corruption. Measures to prevent, expose, and address corruption, fraud and financial mismanagement are part and parcel of NCA's ongoing financial management routines. NCA's approach is that we must stand up to and fight corruption, not merely avoid it.

In order to fight corruption effectively, it is crucial to foster more openness and sharing of information. In this spirit, NCA decided to publicize internal cases of corruption or mismanagement in our project portfolio in 2008. To put the issue into context, it is important to recognize that funds lost to corruption in 2008 amount to less than 0,5% of NCA's budget for the year, although it is impossible to be very precise, given the nature of some cases.

The following situations illustrate how NCA's work is subject to corruption risk, due to circumstances beyond the organisation's control. The following are illustrative examples, from both NCA's and other organisations' experience:

Collusion between a bank employee and a staff member at a partner organisation to siphon small amounts of funds over a long period of time, something that would not be visible in monitoring reports.

"Reverse charges" (kickbacks) from the supplier of services benefiting a staff member employed by a local partner organisation.

Collusion between the partner organisation's general manager and the qualified, certified auditor, leading to misappropriations and corrupt practices not being reported.

These cases illustrate how difficult it is to totally eliminate the risk of corruption when working in difficult contexts. We therefore reiterate our desire for Norwegian authorities to consider sharing this risk in the future. For more insight into NCA's strategy to address corruption, please see the enclosed Report on NCA's Approach to Fighting Corruption.

2. EXAMPLES OF GOOD DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

2.1 EARLY MARRIAGE, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN MALI

NCA has put in place a program to prevent female genital mutilation and early marriage of girls in Mali. These harmful traditional practices are a violation of human rights and have a devastating effect on the mental and physical health of women and girls. The project integrates curative components as it includes psychosocial support and fistula operations for girls who are victims of early marriage and female genital mutilation.

Local language community information, work to address key duty bearers such as parents, religious leaders, and national government are important strategies for change.



Mali ranks as number 99 of 102 countries listed in the 2009 Social Institutions Gender Index (SIGI). Ancient traditions affecting the health and integrity of women are widespread. To various degrees, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is practiced all over the country. In some areas in the South the prevalence is around 90%, while it is less common in northern parts of the country (up to 30%)¹. FGM represents a severe health risk for girls and women and, although Mali has ratified several international conventions that condemn FGM², it has not adopted a law against FGM. A sign of hope is that the issue is now discussed in public and both political and religious leaders engage in work against this harmful traditional practice.

Early marriage is another common practice in Mali. In NCA's areas of intervention in Northern Mali, early marriage is more widespread than FGM, but has received little attention from development agencies. NCA decided to conduct studies on early marriage, reproductive health and human rights in the regions of Mopti, Gao (in 2007) and Timbuktu (2008) to gain more knowledge about this practice in various ethnic groups present in Northern Mali. Our studies show that in some cases, girls as young as 8-9

¹ NCA, 2006, *L'Excision au Mali; Expériences de l'Aide de l'Eglise Norvégienne*

² CEDAW, CRC

years old are forced into early marriage. The practice can be partly explained by parents' fear of unwanted pregnancies, the prestige of getting married and the social respect this entails, as well as economic motives. Marriage of girls under 15 years old is illegal in Mali and the practice is a violation of basic human rights. Early marriage and resulting pregnancy is also a serious health risk for young girls. In addition, early marriage prevents girls from continuing their education and forces them to take on duties which are too demanding for a child.

Consequences of early marriage: A young woman's story from the Gao region

This is the Story of S.M - a young woman who was forced to marry at age 14 and as a result has developed a vesico vaginal fistula

S.M. comes from a small Songhoy village in the Gao region. After her marriage, she followed her husband to Benin, where she got pregnant at age 15. She returned to her village to deliver as the custom requires for the delivery of a first born. Her parents decided that she should deliver at home because the nearest health center was 35 km away. After four days in labor, the baby was still not born. Her parents finally took her to the health center where the baby was declared dead. The young mother had developed a severe case of fistula, which meant that she could no longer contain her urine or feces. Shortly after, she was abandoned by her husband who could not stand the smell and who did not have the money to pay for medical treatment. After a while, she was also abandoned by her parents. S.M did not give up, and several years later she managed to get to Mopti where she was helped by NCA partner Médecins du Monde. After several surgical interventions at Mopti Hospital, she was finally cured. To date, S. M. has not been able to reunite with her family. She continues to live in Mopti, where she works as a volunteer, providing sensitization and information about the risks of early marriage and fistula.

Communication for justice - local community interventions

As a follow up of the Mopti/Gao study, NCA organized a series of community dialogue meetings in 2008. Community dialogue meetings were organized in 10 of the villages and nomadic settlements where the studies were carried out to give local people the opportunity to discuss and plan short and long term actions to put an end to the practice of early marriages. The meetings gave local people an opportunity to discuss the different reasons for the practice of early marriages in their villages and its economic, social, legal, physical and psychological consequences. Girls and boys were taught about their basic human rights. For the first time, men, women, religious leaders, community leaders, boys and girls were informed about the legal age of marriage, and religious leaders were challenged to promote human rights. After a process of reflection and analysis, religious leaders began to see that human rights principles and the teachings of Islam don't differ much on these issues.

NCA's has also focused on the legal aspects of early marriage. Considerable work has been done to disseminate information on civil law, which sets the legal minimum age for marriage at 15. It has been important to make parents aware of the legal implications of marrying their daughter before the age of 15. The law has been translated into Tamasheq and Songhoy and local language booklets have been made available to the

villages and nomadic settlements of Tina Hama, Haoussa Foulane, and Forgho in the region of Gao. Three local radio programs have been produced and broadcasted on the consequences of early marriages. Public debate on the issue of early marriage is now starting in the villages and nomadic settlements.

National level advocacy to raise the legal age of marriage

Local interventions are supplemented with NCA support to national level advocacy against early marriage. A workshop was organized in March 2009 to share the findings and recommendations from the studies and from the local community dialogue meetings with representatives of national and regional authorities, UN and other international bodies as well as Malian civil society. During the closing ceremony, the representative from the Ministry for Women, Children and Families promised that the new Family Law ("Code de famille") will be adopted in the near future. This announcement was a positive surprise. The draft Family Law has been ready for several years, but has not been approved mainly because it was considered to be too controversial. According to the new law, the minimum age for marriage will be raised till 18, in accordance with the international conventions signed by Mali. In May 2008 NCA received the good news that the law has been accepted by the Malian Government and we are now hoping that the Malian National Assembly will ratify the law.

Fistula surgery and reintegration for affected women and girls

As confirmed by the studies, one unfortunate consequence of early marriage is fistula. Since 2003, NCA has been working with the French partner Médecins du Monde to build up the fistula unit at the Regional Hospital of Mopti.

96 women underwent reconstructive surgery in 2008. There are signs that the information dissemination and awareness building efforts of NCA partners about causes and effects of the fistula are starting to show results. Increasing numbers women who come for surgery are now accompanied by their husbands. There is also evidence of progress on reintegration of the women as fewer women who have undergone surgery are staying in the surroundings of the hospital and more are choosing to return to their home communities. Some women who have completed reconstructive surgery are assisting with awareness raising and with identifying other women who are in need of fistula surgery.

As part of ongoing follow up, NCA started a project at the Regional Hospital in Gao in cooperation with a national NGO, GREFFA, in 2008. The organization has started to spread information about the possibility to treat fistula at the hospital, and around 30 patients are scheduled for surgery in 2009.

Good Practice and Lessons Learned

- Work with men to promote women's rights. It is crucial to include men and especially duty bearers like the Islamic leaders and local authorities as a strategy to transform harmful traditional practices in communities and to change mind sets and behavior. In Mali, the communities follow their leaders and seldom question what they say or do when it comes to the teaching of Islam.
- Use the sacred texts as an entry point to mobilize religious leaders and local communities. In Mali, it has been useful to look at what the Koran says about the protection of women and girls and to use the teachings of Islam to fight ignorance and evil practices.
- Cooperate closely with local grass root organizations. Their legitimacy among local community members helps to secure sustainable and relevant interventions.

- Use local language radio as a channel for information dissemination, prevention, and advocacy work. And not least as a tool to question the duty bearers such as men, women, local authorities, government etc.
- Use local methods to protect girls against early marriage or early unwanted pregnancies (brigades to watch over girls at risk).
- Education is important for changing harmful traditional practices. Adult literacy for men and women, boys and girls is important under circumstances of high illiteracy. Girls' education is crucial and can be promoted, by building schools closer to remote villages. Early marriage issues should be incorporated in school curricula.
- Work holistically. Include information dissemination in order to prevent dangerous practices such as FGM and early marriages, and offer at the same time psychosocial support and fistula operations for victims of these practices.

2.2 CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND POVERTY REDUCTION IN KENYA

During the course of the past two years Norwegian Church Aid has established a partnership with local communities in Kenya, integrating climate change adaptation and social protection through improved access to affordable and renewable energy. Using pure plant oil from Jatropha seeds, local communities are able to produce the energy needed to improve agricultural production and reduce poverty.

The Integrated Jatropha Energy Project is based in Lamu and Tana Districts on the northern coast of Kenya. The communities in Lamu and Tana Districts are already experiencing the negative effects of climate change. Rains have become increasingly erratic and are often arriving too late or are too light or too heavy. These communities are particularly vulnerable due to entrenched poverty and lack of social protection, coupled with water scarcity, food insecurity and dependence on unsustainable, and often unaffordable, sources of energy.

The Integrated Jatropha Energy Project promotes sustainable energy options for these poor communities. NCA's strategy is to build the resilience of the communities through an integrated approach of local cultivation and processing of Jatropha. The Jatropha is processed locally into pure plant oil, which is a clean and affordable substitute for fossil fuels in diesel run applications. Additional components are reforestation, rainwater harvesting and awareness raising on sustainable resource management and climate change.

Access to clean energy as a key to development

One of the greatest challenges the international community faces is how to meet global energy needs and development aspirations while reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).

In Kenya, less than 5 percent of rural households have access to electricity, and 95 percent of rural households depend on firewood and other biomass for cooking and heating. There is a significant correlation between socio-economic growth and the availability of modern energy sources, especially access to electricity. Efforts to expand grid connectivity and outreach in Kenya has strained Kenya's already limited generating capacity – leading to the introduction of more diesel-based emergency generators, which

results in increased electricity tariffs and more carbon emissions. For most of Kenya, decentralised options for rural electrification appear to be the best strategy to ensure energy security and also enhance social and economic welfare.

Community mobilisation and first results

Community mobilisation has been a key strategy in this project. Introducing new agricultural crops and alternative livelihood strategies to a community, as well as a new energy source, requires special attention to the challenges associated with technology transfer, capacity development and local ownership. The social mechanisms that are fostered are thus of far greater importance than the given technological solution.

In April 2007, NCA therefore had a first round of consultation with representatives of the local farmers cooperative and the Lamu Cotton Growers Association (LCGA) together with our two resource organisations, ESD (Energy for Sustainable Development, based in Nairobi) and ZERO (Zero Emissions Resource Organisation, a Norwegian environmental foundation). In the consultations, the local farmers identified themselves not as poor but as 'energy poor', and they had very clear ideas of how access to affordable energy would help improve their situation. Based on the consultation, these key interventions were agreed upon:

- Establishment of a cooperative out grower scheme,
- Formation of the cooperative, *Lamu Tana Integrated Jatropha Energy Company*,
- Development of mechanisms for payments and operations,
- Establishment of jatropha nurseries and trial plots,
- Organizational and technical capacity development for cooperative members,
- Technical modifications of equipment (i.e. diesel generators).

The local farmers established the *Lamu Tana Integrated Jatropha Energy Company*, as a cooperative of regional farmer groups. It aims to ensure local ownership, program relevance and the sustainability. In its pilot phase, the project has engaged over 200 farmers. A further 1500 farmers will join once the trials are over in 2009. The farmers have jointly pledged 2000 acres of land to the production of Jatropha oil. To build the competence of the local farmers, NCA and ZERO have facilitated an exposure visit to a related Jatropha initiative in Arusha, Tanzania and the farmers have established technical cooperation with the organisation TaTEDO.

In the village of Kipini, a 3 km electricity mini-grid has been set up by the local community, serving over 150 households with a new diesel generator. An old generator functioning as the community back-up generator has through the technical inputs and assistance of ZERO been converted to use jatropha oil and/or bio-diesel. The Kipini back-up generator will thus serve as the first jatropha fuel-switch demonstration installation.

As the production capacity and the yields start increasing, the introduction of multi-functional platforms fuelled by an affordable energy source, will allow them to add value and improve incomes from their farming activities. The multifunctional platform can power various tools and machinery, but can also be used for conventional production of electricity.



Photo: Peris, 66 year old farmer, with her grandchildren inspecting a trial plot of jatropha plants

Integrating rights based approach and conflict sensitivity

NCA has worked to promote a rights based approach in this project, by facilitating the farmers' (rights holders) engagement with key decision makers (duty bearers) at local and national level. Representatives from the project have managed to secure a seat in the National Bio-fuels Steering Committee. This committee has been mandated to develop the National Strategy on Bio-fuels. Community representatives and their experiences from the NCA Jatropha project have informed the draft policy document produced by this Committee. In addition, the project has further been selected as the 'model' small scale jatropha initiative in the country.

NCA has also given priority to conflict sensitivity as another standard for good development practice. The coastal area, where Lamu and Tana Districts are situated, is an area where the post-independence settlement programs have contributed to underlying ethnic tensions between different communities. Settlement schemes in this area, such as Lake Kenyatta I and II, have moved a great number of mainly ethnic Kikuyus into native Mijikenda land. Within the Mijikenda communities, there is a general perception that they have been marginalized by the Kikuyus, who are seen to have been favoured historically with regard to access to both material wealth and political power.

It was of paramount importance for NCA to ensure that our involvement in the area did not further increase these tensions and perceptions of injustice. It has therefore been important to involve the Mijikenda farming communities, which were initially based in the Kikuyu-dominated settlement communities, into the program. The formation of *Lamu Tana Integrated Jatropha Energy Company* as a joint cooperative company gathering both the native Mijikenda communities and the settlements in a common organisation has been a difficult, but very successful way of addressing these concerns.

Challenges and Way Forward

The project has taken steps to ensure that the introduction of jatropha does not have a negative effect local food security. Specific regulations and mechanisms have been put in place by the farmers to ensure that no farmer abandons his or her other food crops and moves entirely into the growing of fuel crops. Through these mechanisms, the farmers are securing the production of both food crops, cash crops and fuel crops – and are thus

also securing that the real benefits of the increased energy access is harvested, by using it to process food and cash crops.

As the project moves into a phase of developing small- and medium-scale agro processing industries, the project will also step up its institutional capacity building efforts to further consolidate the newly established company which is co-owned and co-managed by farmers in the project area.

Another challenge that must be addressed is the economic viability of the initiative. Volatile international prices of fossil fuel are a real threat to the start-up phase of the project. Locally produced renewable energy also has a cost, and if the price of fossil fuel temporarily falls to a significantly lower level than today, the price of the locally produced vegetable oil might not be competitive. In the long run, there is no such viability risk – but the project will have to create mechanisms manage this risk in the short run.

3. NCA GLOBAL THEMATIC PRIORITIES

In 2008, NCA continued work to concentrate the organization’s work on projects and programs related to the five global thematic priorities. The ambition in GSP was to focus at least 60% of the organization’s development resources on these 5 priority areas. In 2008, NCA used 63% of total resources on the 5 thematic priorities and 37% on the Joint Agenda. Allocations were distributed as follows among the 5 global thematic priorities:

| Accountable Governance | Water and Sanitation | HIV and AIDS | GBV | Conflict transformation | Joint Agenda |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------|------|-------------------------|--------------|
| 14,5% | 15,0% | 6,0% | 4,5% | 23,0% | 37,0% |

These are rough estimates based on 2008 allocations. It should be noted that we are working to address issues of reliability and consistency in statistics related to thematic priorities. For example, a number of NCA field offices have categorized field office costs as Accountable Governance work, which slightly inflates this figure. Allocations to Water and Sanitation appear slightly lower than 2007, as some water projects have been identified as climate change work and are categorized under the Joint Agenda. Conflict transformation includes some major emergency relief projects in conflict areas, such as the work in Darfur. With the introduction of Maconomy, NCA’s new global financial management system, we have new potential to improve the quality of our thematic statistics. We will continue to work through out the GSP period to improve the quality of our statistics, taking a view to have more reliable statistics in place as we move in to a new framework agreement period.

3.1 CIVIL SOCIETY FOR ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNANCE

3.1.1 OVERVIEW OF NCA’S MAIN GOALS AND STATUS

The total spending on accountable governance in 2008 is estimated to be approximately NOK 92 million. NCA supported some 248 accountable governance projects in 36 countries. NCA commitment to a rights based approach in all our development work implies that projects in other thematic areas will also often address the state as a duty-bearer and integrate governance aspects in programming. At the end of the fourth year of the NCA Global Strategic Plan 2005-2009 (GSP), we see evidence that work on this

thematic priority is expanding and more specific areas of work are emerging at program level. The emerging areas of work are in line with the overall goals set out in 5.1 of the GSP and are generally contributing to the indicators of achievement, which are defined in relation to equity, participation and protection. The 5 main categories of work that have emerged during the GSP period are:

Community Development programs, with focus on sustainable livelihoods and integrated rural development as an entry point for peoples empowerment and development of participatory citizenship. These programs are most prevalent in countries with limited political space and weak civil society such as Burma, Laos, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Mali, and Angola.

Addressing local governments for access to improved basic services. In contexts like Brazil, India, Bangladesh, South Africa, and Tanzania where there is more political space partners are increasingly engaging in initiatives to empower citizens to engage in local governance and hold governments accountable for improved access to and quality of basic services.

Economic justice for the poor. This category comprises advocacy for pro-poor policies, trade, debt, corporate social responsibility (CSR) and accountable governance of natural resources, including the work of the Publish What You Pay Campaign (PWYP).

Legal frameworks, rule of law and human rights, which includes work to balance different interests, address discrimination and protect the rights of vulnerable groups, e.g. Burmese migrant worker rights in Thailand, and bonded laborers rights in Nepal.

Gender, power and governance is an important sub-category of work that cuts across all of the other categories. For example, programs to address patriarchal leadership and decision making structures and traditions within faith-based organizations and society have emerged in Malawi and Zambia.

3.1.2 SELECTED RESULTS

Nepal- Liberation and eradication of bonded labor

In a landmark declaration on 6 September 2008, the newly formed government led by the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) abolished the Haliya system, a form of bonded labor. Around 18,000 Haliya households (100 000 people) will benefit and as result are now liberated from slave-like working conditions. The Haliyas are mostly Dalits belonging to the "untouchable caste" (90%) and their population is concentrated in far-west Nepal. This declaration comes as a result of sustained mass mobilization and advocacy from the Haliya Movement, which was formally established six years ago.. The Haliya Movement has received support from LWF/WS in Nepal since 2003. LWF/WS Nepal has used a two fold strategy in their work with the Haliya households, by focusing on empowering the rights holders i.e. the Haliya Households and addressing the duty-bearers i.e. government and landowners. The new legal framework, which abolishes and criminalizes the Haliya practice, is a first important step to liberation and human dignity. It provides for the cancelation of Haliyas' debt to landowners, which gives them legal freedom from the landowners. However, equally critical are the empowerment initiatives that need to take place to strengthen the freed Haliyas to stand on their own and survive. Education, income generation activities, employment opportunities, sustainable livelihoods, land, housing, and awareness of human rights necessary for them to break out of the abusive social system of which they have been part. Without empowerment, they will fall back

into other forms of exploitation. LWF/WS has also been working with the Kaimayas, an other bonded labor group in Nepal since the mid 1990s. An important empowerment strategy has been to organize the Kaimayas and the Haliyas in groups and support them in building their own Community Based Organisations/Federations. As a result of this long-term empowerment work, two district-based indigenous organizations have emerged: KPUS (Kamaiya Pratha Unmulan Sanstha), the Kalilali-based Federation of freed Kamaiya groups and RHMS (Rastriya Haliya Mukti Samaj Federation), the Haliya Federation registered as an NGO in 2007. Both operate as federations of CBOs to which the rights holders belong. From 2008, these two indigenous organizations will become LWF/WS main program implementing partners, replacing the Nepalesi urban resource organizations, that for several years have been used by LWF/WS for competence building and program implementation. This new partner strategy requires that LWF/WS give high priority to accompaniment, leadership training and capacity development to their "new" indigenous partners. Accordingly, the LWF/WS has strengthened and enlarged its program staff considerably in Nepal to be able to respond to competence development needs of these new partners. NCA's core funding to LWF/WS comes as an important and essential contribution to strengthening the program and organizations of the Haliya and Kaimaya. NCA sister organization FinnChurchAid provides most of the funding for the operational program.



Photo: Haliya activists organized a sit-in program at a government office in Kanchanpur district, far-west Nepal. They are demanding Haliyas' liberation from bonded labor.

Ethiopia – Ground breaking use of the Africa Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights to claim gender justice

Abduction and rape are among the most common practices on Ethiopian girls. Woineshet Zebene, at the age of 13 was abducted and raped twice by the same man. Although the abductor and four of his accomplices were accused and each convicted and sentenced to 10 and 8 years imprisonment respectively, they later lodged an appeal and the High Court sitting on appeal overturned the decision of the lower court and released the five men from prison. A further appeal was lodged on behalf of the girl by two NCA partners - Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA)" and Equality-Now. Though these appeals were submitted to three different hierarchal local tribunals, the Supreme Court and Cassation Courts both at regional and federal level, justice couldn't be secured for her in

all available domestic avenues. As a result, EWLA and Equality-Now decided to submit the case to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. This is the first case made against the government of Ethiopia for failing to uphold its obligations under the African Charter through its courts. After examining the claim, the Commission accepted the case and requested the presentation of formal pleadings and responses from the Ethiopian government and the legal representatives of Woineshet. Accordingly, both EWLA and Equality-Now represented Woineshet before the Commission on its 43rd ordinary session on May, 2008 in Ezulwini, Kingdom of Swaziland. After a series of questions and clarifications posed by the members of the Commission, the Commission made the recommendation that both parties work towards an amicable solution, as the Ethiopian government has accepted the miscarriage of justice and pressed a new charge against the abductor. Welcoming the initiative made by the government, the parties are currently working closely and tracking progress for the full implementation of the Commission's recommendations. This case has set an important precedence and shown free legal aid providers that they can seek justice beyond domestic courts and take legitimate cases to the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights in the event of violation of human rights.

EWLA and Equality Now are two of several partners engaged in NCA's Program on Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance, which has received support via a strategic partnership with the Norwegian Embassy in Ethiopia. The program has a focus on promoting human rights, women's rights, good governance, democratic principles and cultures. A substantial part of this larger program has been to support partners to render pro bono legal aid services, carry out public interest litigation and awareness raising education as strategies to ensure poor and vulnerable people's access to justice. During 2008, more than 39,382 poor and vulnerable individuals particularly women and girls who otherwise would have been denied of their right to access justice were provided with free legal aid services.

Mozambique - Faith based actors mobilizing citizens for accountable local governance

This 2 year pilot capacity building program, which has been rolled out in 6 provinces in Mozambique with 33 delegates from the Christian Council in Mozambique (CCM), is starting to yield results at the local level. South African resource persons, contracted from Fairshare at the School of Governance at University of Western Cape, have trained trainers of trainers on i) National Constitution ii) Linkages between policies and budgets iii) Interpretation and Monitoring of Municipal Budgets and iv) Budget Analysis. An internal assessment carried out by NCA in 2008 shows that positive impact can be recorded at local level. Trained participants are increasingly mobilizing and engaging communities and local municipalities especially on planning and budget issues. The local authorities have increased awareness around governance issues. There is an increase in the number of local citizens now demanding information on municipal budgets and plans, previously regarded as no-go areas and only open to government authorities. "We now have to be more careful in what we do" highlighted the Mayor of Montepuez Municipality during an NCA evaluation visit in 2008. In the same town, some of the trained participants have now been officially invited by the local authorities to sit in the planning and budgeting committees to ensure that the people also have a voice in the running of matters important to their day to day lives.

Global - Natural Resource Governance through PWYP and EITI.

Strengthening institutional and regulatory frameworks, coalition and capacity building of civil society actors – linking the local to the global have been in focus during 2008. In

2008 as a result of advocacy from “Publish What You Pay (PWYP)"/NCA in Norway and other member organizations, the Norwegian Government is the first OECD country to start implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and have made it national law. PWYP Norway will represent civil society in the Norwegian EITI Committee. This is an important milestone in the work of PWYP and a step forward in setting an example for international standard for natural resource governance at a global level.

NCA, as a hosting organization for PWYP in Norway, has further strengthened its partnership and drawn on PWYP expertise to develop capacity in our own programs. With funding from Oil for Development a larger Capacity building course (PWYP/NCA/PETRAD) was carried out in 2008 in Stavanger with 27 men and 7 women from Mauritania, Nigeria, Zambia, Ghana, Uganda, Sudan, and Mozambique. During the year, substantial work was undertaken to build faith actors’ competence and stronger alliances to other actors (e.g, media, labor unions and national and international resource organizations) working for transparency on extractive industries. NCA gave particular attention to this work in Zambia, Mauritania, and Tanzania. In Tanzania, advocacy efforts through mobilizing local communities, partners and religious leaders have led to Tanzanian government and gold mining companies being addressed for their human rights violations, environmental degradation, tax evasion, poor regulatory frameworks and institutions. This work will continue in 2009. The NCA report “A Golden Opportunity?,” which highlighted the tax evasion and human rights violations within the gold industry in Tanzania, lead to the Norwegian Government withdrawal of its Pension Fund investments in the Ashanti Gold Company. (See also Ch.5.4 for the Tanzania Country report, and the separate report on NCA use of Oil for Development funds to support PWYP in Mauritania)



Photo: African CSO participants visit a petroleum exhibit in Stavanger during the PWYP Capacity Building Seminar

3.1.3 TRENDS

Implementation of rights based approaches in programs by NCA and partners have lead to increased focus on governance issues in our programs. The NCA Country Program in Tanzania, which has identified accountable governance a main priority, has become a program for learning and sharing of experience within NCA and partners. The planning for an FK exchange program between NCA and partners in Southern and Eastern Africa will further strengthen the natural resource governance work in the years to come.

Gender, power and governance in faith based organizations is further stressed by NCA partners. The agenda for change is taken up at various levels within NCA's ecumenical network, from the General Assembly of the All African Churches to the local partner organizations. Challenging patriarchal power structures requires long term commitment and a hard task that will continue in the years to come.

NCA together with other ACT members share concern over the international trend of decreasing political space for civil society, and particularly those organizations involved in promoting human rights and participatory democracy. Restrictive NGO laws and regulations make it more difficult for CSOs to operate. The Ethiopian enactment of "Charities and Societies Proclamation Act - No.621/2009, which prohibits the engagement of foreign CSOs such as NCA in the advancement of human and democratic rights, conflict resolution, gender equality, the rights of children and disabled and the promotion of the efficiency of the justice and law enforcement sector, will severely affect the program presented in section 5.1.2 of this report. Owing to such restriction imposed on foreign charities, the Norwegian Embassy has unfortunately decided to terminate the strategic partnership it had with NCA on Human Rights, Governance and Democracy beyond the end of 2009. Other countries like Eritrea have similar restrictive laws, and countries like Zambia and others are proposing and suggesting new regulatory frameworks. From our sister organizations in Latin America in particular Colombia, several organizations report an increasing trend of threats and criminalization of human rights defenders.

3.2 FAITH COMMUNITIES ADDRESS HIV AND AIDS

3.2.1. OVERVIEW OF OVERALL GOALS AND STATUS

In the reporting period, NCA has supported approximately 120 specific HIV and AIDS projects in 31 countries. In addition, HIV and AIDS initiatives have been supported on a regional level in Eastern Africa, Southern Africa, South East Asia, Latin America and Europe, and through four Global programs (Lutheran World Federation, World Council of Churches, Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance and World Young Women Christian Association), and two centrally managed programs. HIV and AIDS components have also been integrated into a number of other programs, and in some programs HIV and AIDS have been mainstreamed. However, the mainstreaming effort is an area where there is need for more follow up.

Approximately NOK 45 million was spent on HIV and AIDS projects in 2008. The HIV and AIDS program in Vietnam, Thailand and Laos had by far the largest budgets. Thailand has succeeded in getting support from the Global Fund (GFATM) and Vietnam has attracted substantial support from USAID, among others. Other major HIV and AIDS programs are found in Malawi, Tanzania, Eritrea and South Africa.

NCA HIV and AIDS main program goals are related to: awareness rising, information and prevention, work to address stigma and discrimination, care and support to people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWH), with a particular focus on orphans and vulnerable children. Other goals are related to theological reflection and advocacy issues. In some of the new programs, especially in South East Asia, sexual and reproductive health and rights have become important components. Some projects are specifically addressing commercial sex workers (CSW). This is well in line with the ambitions spelled out in the Global Strategic Plan. Most of the projects are implemented in cooperation with faith based organizations (FBOs) and address all levels of the population.

A number of staff members and partner representatives from different parts of the world participated in the International AIDS Conference (IAC) in Mexico in August 2008, as

well as in the Ecumenical Pre-Conference. Particularly Latin-America was well represented. NCA staff from Oslo conducted a workshop at the Ecumenical Pre-Conference on "Alcohol Abuse and Domestic Violence: Making the link to HIV and AIDS", which was well attended. NCA staff and Partners from Latin America participated in panel discussions and seminars in the IAC. They also had an information booth in the Global Village. The meeting in Mexico gave opportunities for competence building and networking, as well as one joint meeting for NCA staff and their invited partner representatives.

During 2008, the staffing situation at the Head Office underwent some changes. The advocacy work was scaled down and more capacity was diverted to a full time HIV and AIDS advisor in the International Department.

3.2.2 SELECTED RESULTS

Laos - Prevention program

The "Akha Woods" is a project on prevention of HIV and STI (Sexually Transmitted Infections), which has produced very encouraging results amongst Akha communities in Long and Sing Districts in the northwestern part of Laos. The project is implemented by NCA, Laos Office.

Research has shown that the Akha population is particularly vulnerable to HIV and STI due to a number of interrelated factors such as: widespread sexual networks that includes multiple partners, both within the Akha community and from other ethnic groups including lowland Lao and Chinese; young girl's active sexual life with multiple partners which also entails pre-puberty sexual intercourse sanctioned by the communities; a high prevalence of endemic STIs; limited access to health information and services (few Akha can speak the Lao language which hinders access to mainstream prevention programs).

In this challenging context, the project has through a set of carefully designed culturally sensitive interventions, been able to empower Akha communities to deal with the threatening risk of HIV and STIs.

The main project activities in 2008 included VCD production and distribution, outreach visits and STI treatment, peer volunteer work and capacity building of relevant government and village officials.

An external project evaluation conducted early in 2008 by Dr. Chris Lyttleton concluded that the project has had significant achievements towards reducing the vulnerability of HIV and STI transmissions among Akha communities and has increased knowledge amongst local Akha communities of HIV/AIDS/STI and assisted them to take responsibility for reducing local risk behaviour by creating HIV and STI resilient communities.

More specific results of the project have been that the peer education activities have raised knowledge on preventive behaviour markedly. In all villages, local men and women are now able to describe in basic terms HIV/AIDS as an infectious disease and are familiar with the modes of transmission and methods of protection.

The media produced in Akha language with local participants has been distributed widely and has been highly effective in raising awareness in local communities. Even in villages with no other activities, the videos alone have brought attention to the immediate threat local Akha communities face regarding the potential or real spread of HIV and STIs. By rising awareness on social issues, we are also able to open up some political space in very closed communities.

The promotion and distribution of condoms has also been successful with condom familiarity increased markedly. Condoms are distributed widely on a monthly basis in all of the target villages and uptake has been substantial. In villages where peer educators reside, villagers, including some young women, now regularly come to ask for condoms. STI treatment has been substantial. More than 6% of the population attending outreach campaign events has been treated for STIs; overall 637 Akha (5.25% of those attending outreach campaign events – more than 2% of the total population in Sing and Long) have been treated for STIs. To date, no Akha are known to be HIV infected.



Photo: An Akha Peer Educator summaries information on STI, HIV & AIDS before closing the evening show.

Ethiopia - Grannies are equipped for HIV and AIDS care and advocacy

In Ethiopia the number of people enrolled for the Anti-retroviral Treatment (ART) is increasing, but there is a growing concern on adherence. Generally, there is low uptake of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) and there are immense challenges to address the needs of HIV positive children. The challenge is even worse with the dual challenge faced being both an orphan and HIV positive. Youth are still the prime victims, and females in particular are disproportionately affected.

NCA, in cooperation with Organization for Social Services for AIDS (OSSA), one of our Faith Based Partners, conducted an assessment on the overall wellbeing of orphans. The findings revealed that in order to better address the psychosocial needs of orphans, empowering and supporting their care takers is found to be important. Most of the caretakers are grannies, mainly grandmothers. The majority are very poor, have buried own children, are suffering from loss, and are pressed into parenting children in old age. They are taking care of orphans who have difficulties in coping with their grief, and who in some cases are HIV positive. To empower this group NCA, in partnership with OSSA, established guardian's club which has a membership of 30 grandmothers who are taking care of 54 grandchildren. In order to better address the psychosocial needs of the orphans, grandmothers were trained on basics of child development, positive parenting,

dealing with grief, understanding childhood grief, basics of hygiene and sanitation and HIV and AIDS.

The conducive environment that was created empowered them to collectively raise their voices to the government on different issues that concerned their own life and the lives of the children under their guard. Their collective voice influenced the government to respond to their needs. The government provided them with a plot of land to engage in income generating activities. With the support from NCA through OSSA, they have established a dairy farm. They are using the income to provide care for their grand children. Moreover, they have been empowered to realize that they can work and earn money for a self sustaining life. The grannies also reported that as they have become confident that they can support the children, they are better prepared to deal with their worries on parenting the children and to deal with their own grief. More importantly, the grannies value their regular gatherings and sharing of each other's burden as it helps them to realize that they are not alone. There is always someone out there to support them emotionally.

Nicaragua: Developing network and fighting stigma and discrimination

Nicaragua is a country with a strong Christian tradition, mainly Catholic. However, on Atlantic coast of the country the majority belongs to the Moravian or other Protestant churches. In this context, NCA has formed a strategic alliance with the British Catholic NGO, CAFOD, which has worked primarily with the Catholic Church, while NCA has worked primarily with the Protestant churches.

Two partners of NCA, Christian Medical Action and Lutheran Church Faith and Hope, together with eight partners from CAFOD, implemented a joint national project. The purpose was to increase awareness among church leaders on the need to reduce stigma and discrimination of people living with HIV. This was the first Central American initiative that involved different churches in developing training and a common strategy to raise awareness and attention to people living with HIV at a national level. Joint coordination meetings were held monthly, and joint preparations were made for the International AIDS Conference in Mexico.

Through NCA partners, this project included three organizations of people living with HIV. This provided valuable information to the churches about the implications of living with HIV, and the advocacy potential that they have.

Malawi - Investigating links between gender based violence, masculinity and HIV and AIDS

In 2007 NCA embarked on a research project on masculinity, alcohol and HIV and AIDS with the aim to inspire men for active involvement in the fight against the HIV and AIDS pandemic. This was an effort to strengthen prevention of HIV by targeting a group which plays an important role in the African culture. There has been considerable progress over the last year, following two consultative meetings on the concept in 2007, where a project was developed and implementation commenced in 2008. One of the key findings of the research was that although there is not a direct link between masculinity, alcohol and HIV and AIDS, the socialization process in Malawi tolerates men in terms of alcohol consumption and extra marital sex. Further, it was found that alcohol plays a critical role as a catalyst in the commercial sex industry. When men are drunk, they easily indulge in unprotected sex. Thus, though indirectly, there exists a very strong link between what is understood to be a real man (male image), alcohol consumption and the spread of HIV and AIDS. The general conclusions of the research have been widely disseminated through various forums and are highly appreciated. It is also expected that the report

will give valuable input to NCA's faith based partners working on HIV and AIDS in Malawi.

3.2.3 TRENDS

The NCA's thematic priority of HIV and AIDS had a substantial boost during the five year period following the TV-Campaign in 2001. A number of new initiatives were undertaken. During the last couple of years, when the TV-funds were exhausted, many projects were phased out. Fortunately some countries, mainly in South East Asia, but also Russia have been able to attract funding from new sources.

NCA has given priority to work with FBOs, particularly Christians, but also Muslim and Buddhist organizations. The main focus of most FBOs has been on awareness rising and prevention, but many of the projects are linked to health programs, and have a particular focus on care for PLWH. In some countries, there has been a particular interest in gender issues. The strong link between HIV transmission and gender based violence has been addressed and there has been an increased focus on masculinity and how men can be more involved in HIV and AIDS programs.

In the years to come it is anticipated that NCA's HIV and AIDS project portfolio will reflect more specifically the fact that HIV is developing from a deadly pandemic into a chronic disease. This will create new challenges regarding treatment and care, but also on how we inform and prepare young HIV positive people for a long and healthy life, building their own families.

Another challenge will be to mainstream HIV and AIDS into other programs, particularly in emergency relief.

3.3 COMMUNITIES FOR FRESH WATER AND SAFE SANITATION

3.3.1 OVERVIEW OF NCA'S MAIN GOALS AND STATUS

Access to water is a basic human need and a fundamental human right. Each day about 5000 children die as a result of diarrhea and other diseases caused by unsafe water and poor sanitation. Ill health associated with deficits in water and sanitation undermines productivity and economic growth, trapping vulnerable households in cycles of poverty. Daily millions of women and young girls collect water for their families, a custom that reinforces gender inequalities in employment and education.

NCA is committed to make a difference in people's life, focusing on safe water, improved sanitation and "good" hygiene in emergency situations and in long-term development through service provision and advocacy. In 2008 NCA used about NOK 110 million on this thematic priority, worked in 34 countries and supported 136 projects. Geographical focus was Eastern Africa where NCA used about 52% of its sector budget on 51 projects. Other geographic focus areas were the Middle-East, Afghanistan and Pakistan where NCA used 22% of its sector budget in 37 projects. NCA's largest water programs in 2008 were in Somalia (NOK 25 million), Afghanistan (NOK 12 million), Democratic Republic of Congo (NOK 9million), Ethiopia (NOK 8million) and Iraq and Indonesia (about NOK 6 million each). NCA used about 36% of the resources for water for acute humanitarian projects and 64% for longer-term assistance including work in protracted humanitarian situations (i.e. Afghanistan, Sudan and Iraq). Categorizing this sector we can say that NCA has used about 73% of the total budget for water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion, 1.5% for advocacy for the right to water, and about 14% for water for livelihood (i.e. irrigation) and climate change adaptation (i.e. soil and water resource management) and about 11.5% for integrated projects with a water, sanitation, hygiene component.

During 2008 NCA responded to several emergency situations with relief in the water and sanitation sector and/or other sectors such as the provision of community services, food and relief items. NCA provided emergency assistance through ACT International and national partner organizations in Bangladesh after the cyclone Sidr (water supply, hygiene promotion), Burma after cyclone Nargis (water supply, relief items), floods in Southern Zambia (water and sanitation), earthquake in Balochistan, Pakistan, conflict, flood and drought situations in Somalia (relief items, water and sanitation), military conflicts in Georgia and Occupied Palestinian Territories – Gaza and the Democratic Republic of Congo. NCA's and ACT International partners' assistance was coordinated through national and/or United Nations coordination mechanisms.

3.3.2 SELECTED RESULTS

Somalia – Relief assistance in a protracted complex emergency

The situation in Somalia has deteriorated since the central government collapsed in 1991. NCA started its humanitarian relief work in Somalia in 1993 in the Gedo region. Since then, the Somalis have suffered extreme effects of manmade and natural disasters such as wars, clan-based conflict and severe drought conditions resulting in loss of human lives, displacement of people, decimation of livestock, starvation and loss of livelihood. This situation is certainly a root cause to current incidents of piracy off the Somali coast.

NCA approach to humanitarian relief in Somalia focuses on participation as a central principle of its water and sanitation projects. When entering into an agreement with NCA, the right holders participate in all decision taking processes. At the project inception stage, a community-based institutional setup in the form of a Management Committee is democratically established. Through the project, the capacity of this committee is developed and enabled to resume responsibility for the day-to-day management of the water project and to organize awareness campaigns on sanitation and hygiene.

In 2008, NCA expanded its work on water and sanitation in Somalia by securing UNICEF funding, due to the recognized quality of its water and sanitation and relief projects. NCA implemented at least 10 different humanitarian projects with a focus on provision of water, sanitation, and improved livelihood, as well as distribution of food and relief items. NCA is operational Somalia and has some few local partners. One humanitarian project was situated in the Afgoye corridor of Mogadishu where several thousand Internally Displaced People (IDPs) remained. UNICEF supplied these IDPs with water by water trucking, perhaps the maybe expensive way to provide water. NCA's project entailed the drilling of two boreholes, construction of two elevated water tanks, two generator houses, laying of 5km long pipe-lines and the construction of 23 water collection points. Additionally, NCA constructed 400 Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines. The Afgoy corridor is a very insecure area and consequently access has been very limited. As a result of this, it has not yet been possible to carry out a comprehensive investigation of project impact.

Pakistan – Earthquake rehabilitation, water supply, sanitation and hygiene

On 8 October 2005, an earthquake struck the northern areas of Pakistan. The district of Mansehra in North West Frontier Province (NWFP) was severally affected. NCA, through the ACT International and under the lead of sister organization, Church World Service, assisted with relief in the water, sanitation and hygiene during the acute phase of this emergency. During the rehabilitation phase, NCA allied with four Pakistani organizations for reconstruction of water supply schemes, sanitation facilities and hygiene education.

In August 2007, projects were started with Taraqee Foundation, Sungi Development Foundation, Pakistan Community Development Program (Pak-CDP) and Pakistan Village Development Program (PVDP) and completed in December 2008. All four organizations provided water, sanitation and hygiene education to households and schools. For instance Pakistan Village Development Program's (PVDP) working strategy was to establish a long term relationship with remote communities. In the villages, PVDP facilitated the formation of village development organizations (VDO). VDO members were subsequently trained in management of such organizations and the VDO becomes part of PVDP local network. PVDP has several female co-workers to facilitate the participation of women in the VDOs. The VDO in the village Gujar Pata decided to give priority to the construction of a gravity-fed water supply scheme. This scheme supplied water to a primary school and the village population. PVDP carried out hygiene promotion sessions in the villages and in schools using activists or teachers. PVDP follows a demand driven approach to sanitation. Since sanitation of safe excreta disposal was only a "third" priority, an extended period of sensitization is used to create demand. This sensitization is part of the HP sessions. PVDP puts to the disposition of the VDO funds for the construction of partly subsidized pour flush toilets. The HH had to apply for a subsidy at the VDO. The household were responsible for the construction of the "visible" part of the toilet, which can be in cement blocks or local materials, depending on the resources of the household. PVDP provided for an earthquake resistant and permanent part of the sanitation facility in concrete. All toilets inspected during a monitoring visit were well constructed, spacey, in use, and well maintained. They were also used for showering. In this way there were constructed 40 toilets in the village Gujar Pata and 70 toilets in another village.

NCA's Earthquake rehabilitation program established 88 community organizations, of which 50% were male and 50% female community organizations. 60 water schemes were rehabilitated or newly constructed, supplying clean water to more than 66.000 people. 46 schools received access to safe water and sanitation facilities. 879 toilets in households in communities were constructed and 2,828 hygiene promoters were trained. Nearly 80.000 people benefited from hygiene education. The impact of this program was an average decrease of water and hygiene related diseases by 46% in the target villages.



Photo: This double pour flush toilet is also used by family members for showering in the village of Gujar Pata in North-West Frontier Province, Pakistan.

Nicaragua – “No a la privatización de l’ Agua”

After Hurricane Mitch caused severe damage throughout the country in 1998, the Nicaraguan government turned to international lending institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for financial assistance for reconstruction. The IDB approved a loan package to Nicaragua which stipulated structural reforms that essentially mandated the privatization of Nicaragua’s basic services, including water supply. To comply with the loan stipulations of the IDB, the Nicaraguan government created its “Reinforced Strategy of Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction” in July 2001 which laid out a plan to privatize the state’s water resources. The government intended to release a water law “Proyecto de Ley General de Aguas Nacionales”, which is contested by the civil society. They argued that it would have many loop holes and too strong a focus on water extraction instead of water conservation and protection. Additional concerns stemmed from insufficient space granted for the participation of civil society in water management, and decision making processes at local and at national levels. Local level natural resource management has been customary for decades.

NCA’s position was to secure equal access to water and oppose privatization of resources such as water by the international private sector. Consequently, NCA supported civil society partners in Nicaragua such as the Inter-Ecclesial Centre for Theological and Social Studies (CIEETS) and the Humboldt Centre which started to work together in 2008 to strength the capacities of Local Water and Sanitation Committees (CAPS). These CAPS are “grass-root”-based organizations created to protect the rights of the communities, mainly the right to participate in decision making. The purpose of the project is to provide capacity building in order that CAPS can deal more effectively with local and regional authorities in discussions on preservation, management and access to water resources. The strategy was to take advantage of the network that CIEETS already had established and to combine it with the thematic know-how of Centro Humboldt. As a result of this work, the partners were participating in the Coalition for the Right to Water (CODA), which was a wider body of civil society organizations that were doing the advocacy towards governmental institutions and lobbying in the Nicaraguan Parliament in order to pass a proposal for a Local Water and Sanitation Committees Law (CAPS Law).

3.3.3 TRENDS

At the end of 2007, an GSP evaluation of NCA’s thematic water and sanitation sector was carried out. Throughout 2008, NCA has worked to follow the recommendations of this evaluation. Two examples of concrete results of the follow up were: Firstly, capacitating of a group of members of the Emergency Preparedness Group in hygiene promotion in emergencies. (See Ch. 4.3.2). Secondly, NCA’s Ethiopia program strengthened its’ work in the sanitation sector by the employment of a sanitation and hygiene promotion coordinator. This program also focused more on maintenance systems of water supply schemes.

3.4 MEN AND WOMEN ADDRESS GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

3.4.1 OVERVIEW OF NCA’s MAIN GOALS AND STATUS

In 2008, NCA and its partners have continued their engagement to address gender based violence (GBV) with promising results, including an increased awareness of the detrimental effect violence in all its forms has on women and men. Of the NOK 33.6 million allocated for this area, our work in the three African regions accounted for nearly

50%, focusing mainly on FGM, awareness building and GBV in conflict areas (e.g. work related to UN SCR 1325). South Asia and South East Asia follows with 14%, with Latin America and Middle East, Afghanistan and Pakistan with respectively 11% and 9%. Global programmes make up 2.4 %. Overall NCA supported 110 projects.

Projects have been started or continued in line with the ambitions of the Global Strategic Plan 2005-2009. These are a) mobilizing church and faith based communities to take action against GBV, b) reduce harmful traditional practices and FGM, c) prevention, protection and advocacy on trafficking in women and girls and d) building capacity of NCA staff and partners on UN Security Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

NCA has also been active in global and regional networks and initiatives. An important result of this engagement was the development and approval of the Gender Policy Guidelines for ACT (Action by Churches Together). Capacity development of partners on issues related to GBV has been undertaken, especially on IASCV's Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Assistance. Staff from Kenya, Afghanistan, Iraq and Guatemala took part and the capacity development efforts will be followed up in 2009. Documenting best practices has also started through an excellent production by NCA East African "Best Practice in Gender Programming" from projects in 10 countries in Eastern Africa.

An area requiring additional focus is how to mobilise partners in Norway, especially actors in the private sector to promote ethical standards and code of conducts for staff against sexual exploitations and abuse.

3.4.2 SELECTED RESULTS

Democratic Republic of Congo – raising awareness and rehabilitation of women in conflict situations

Through our work in DRC over the years, the paramount need to focus on GBV and sexual violence against women has become acutely clear. Violence against women has been used as a weapon of war, utilized by all sides of the conflict: rebel groups and national armies alike. Sexual violence is committed on a massive scale and has affected thousands of women and girls, with devastating consequences on women and their communities. It is an ongoing human security catastrophe.

As the conflict reignited in late 2008, causing new waves of internally displaced people and atrocities against the civilian population, NCA has continued and increased its focus on GBV in the DRC, despite the complex and unstable environment. Efforts on this issue have been linked to peace building and conflict transformation, with a focus on the protection of the rights of women and UN's SCR 1325.

NCA has supported activities at 'Maison Dorcas' in Bukavu, the transit center for women connected to the Panzi Hospital. This center was initiated in 2006 by NCA Great Lakes and is set to be finalized in 2009. In 2008 230 survivors of GBV have been assisted with trauma healing and training for reintegration. This has given these women a space to heal and strengthen their capacities to return as productive members of their communities. As a result of this several of the women assisted have been reintegrated into their villages and reunited with their husbands, where before they were ostracized.



Photo: Receiving literacy training, these women are better equipped to meet the challenges facing them.

Several survivors have also been assisted in other rural areas of South Kivu as members of women groups organized by 7 women organizations working on women empowerment. Empowerment of women is a crucial tool in the protection against GBV and the woman groups are empowered academically through literacy and vocational training, economically through income generating activities and psychologically through psycho social support and group belonging.

As part of ACT (Action by Churches Together) we have been involved in humanitarian assistance in North Kivu (See also Ch. 4.3). Through our involvement in several sectors, like livelihoods, nutrition, psycho social health and water, sanitation and hygiene, a constant focus is given to the protection of women and girls and women are encouraged to participate in decision making processes within the camps. Practical results are better sanitation arrangements, lighting and water delivery, that reflects both men and women's needs.

The duty bearers continue to be addressed through a gender and 1325 sensitisation projects for journalists, police, military and church communities. It has been well received by the civilians that representatives of "men in uniform", who are the main perpetrators of violence in the DRC, are now engaged advocates for women's right to participate in decision making processes in conflicts and for their protection. A study on women's traditional role in conflict management and decision making processes has also been undertaken. This study unveiled a change in the traditional structure in the society where women actually had an important role in decisions making towards women disempowerment in the current situation. The knowledge from this study will be used to improve the initiatives already in place to support women's role in the Great Lakes region.

Regional effort in Southern and Eastern Africa: Church and faith-based work on GBV

Churches and other faith-based organisations, as well as religious leaders, can potentially play an important role in challenging stereo types and perceptions that lead to GBV and through their positions promote zero tolerance to violence. In 2008 NCA has been engaged in a number of projects and initiatives that focus on the role of churches and religious leaders in effecting change. An example of this is NCA's support to the **WCC`s Decade to overcome violence 2001-2010** as well as the revision and new translations of the Lutheran World Federation`s campaign material **Churches Say No to Violence against Women**.

In 2008, a NCA supported a study, "**Audit of Gender Related Policies in Southern African Churches**", which looked into gender issues in churches in Malawi, Zambia and South Africa was completed. The study analyzed church doctrines, practices, statues and policies as they affect gender relations within the church. It found that in most churches women do not experience equality. Analysis shows that many teachings, beliefs and practices preserve a culture of inequality. Patriarchy remains dominant and interpretations of the Bible are used to maintain status quo. The study was presented at the All African Conference of Churches Assembly in Maputo in December 2008 and received a lot attention at this Pan African gathering. The study will be used to initiate discussions of strategies and advocacy within various church institutions on gender equality.

Another example of engaging church leaders was the NCA supported **pastoral conference** of religious leaders which took place in Bujumbura in November 2008. This conference involved national church councils of Burundi, Rwanda, DR Congo and Norway. Here church leaders committed to theological reflection on churches responsibility to protect women and children against GBV. This is a concrete result of dedicated work of NCA over time to raise issues of gender equality in the church and strong entry point for future work in the region.

Somalia: addressing harmful traditional practices and FGM in a conflict situation.

Somalia's social structure is deeply rooted in traditional practices that do not favor women. In this context NCA decided to take up issues related to gender inequality and it has managed, through its partners, to maintain a visibility on the issues, through regular FM radio broadcasts dealing with the issues. A gender perspective has also been included in all projects that NCA implements in Somalia.

NCA's advocacy and awareness raising project on FGM and other Harmful Traditional practices in five regions in Somalia has produced results in 2008, under circumstances made very difficult by the on-going conflict. The project has contributed to bringing gender equality in general, and women's concerns in particular, to the forefront through increased awareness of the harmful effects of FGM. This has resulted to some extent in a shift away from the worst forms of infibulations to less intrusive forms in the project areas. NCA advocates for complete abandonment of the practice, but this shift is an important step in the right direction. Through capacity building activities as well as the involvement of women in NCA planned activities, there has emerge a cadre of female opinion shapers and an existence of vibrant women groups/associations that are beginning to challenge gender inequalities in their localities. The annual peace caravan organized by women in the Gedo Region is a testament to women's agency in fighting violence against women and promoting sustainable peace as opposed to the commonly held view that women are only victims of the situation in Somalia.

Brazil: protection from trafficking and violence

During 2008 NCA continued to work with five Brazilian core partners on the issue of trafficking in human beings. The partners are working with right holders, mostly youth, who are vulnerable to recruitment into trafficking. A mid-term evaluation of five projects in Brazil, which are funded through from the students annual campaign (OD) in Norway in 2005, show that actions against trafficking of women and children raised awareness among young people of their vulnerability to exploitation from traffickers when looking for a job or migrating to another country. It found that the efforts undertaken on capacity building, dialogue and exchanges between the organizations, have turned some of the organizations into regional reference organization on trafficking. This is particularly relevant for three regions that formerly did not have any reference organisations on trafficking: The Metropolitan regions of Recife and Fortaleza (Diaconia), and the Vale do Ribeira-region in the southern part of the São Paulo state (Instituto Socioambiental). In addition, Viva Rio gave an important contribution to the establishment of a State Committee for the Combat of Human Trafficking in Rio de Janeiro.

The significant mobilization of youth on the issue has in many cases led to broad participation of the youth themselves in planning and carrying out of the organizations' further work on the issue. A new evaluation from MFA/Norad in 2009 on the results from three Actions Plans against trafficking in women and children since 2000, where NCA projects are included, will shed further light of the results achieved in Brazil.

3.4.3 TRENDS

One critical global trend is that GBV is increasing, especially in conflict and post-conflict situations. Together with the realisation that GBV is a very complex area of work, often without obvious ways to abate, halt or heal its detrimental effects, this is a challenging field where NCA must continue to strengthen its engagement.

GBV has particular negative impact on women and children in war and conflict situations, as they lack protection from sexual violence and torture. There is an alarming need for assistance to survivors of violence to secure protection, medical and psycho social treatment, counselling and legal assistance. Substantial new resources (financial and human) to these areas are necessary. The UN SCR 1325 and 1820 recognize this and are important instruments to use at national, regional and global level and in alliances to make keep governments and other actors accountable to their commitments.

New evidence from WHO on the extent and gravity of female genital mutilation show that the extent of the practice has up until now been underestimated. Positive trends are observed in legislation, but leadership – both political and religious - are still missing in implementation. A new global leader initiative, which includes Norway, has just been formed to put pressure and coordinate efforts, an entry point that NCA can use.

Engaging men and challenging stereotypical gender roles and aggressive masculinities is a growing trend, as the development community is realising that without focusing on men and their roles in women's continued oppression, few lasting results will be achieved. Especially in relation to hiv/ aids and risky sexual behaviour, engaging men in changing perceptions on masculinities, acts of violence and gender stereotypes have proven critical to effective change. Interventions here can draw on experience from a new global trend of debating the role of religion and interpretation of scripture, with a special focus on the role of women. Gender and religion has become a hot issue as women in faith societies have raised their voices against patriarchal doctrines and power structures undermining female leadership. These interpretations are today challenged

and contested more than ever before. Revision of texts and scriptures as well as abandoning the use of culture as excuses for violence and discrimination of girls and women (ex. FGM), are features in this debate. These voices need more attention and support, as they confront the status quo and its unequal power relations.

Trafficking, mainly in women and children, is now the second largest form of illegal organised crime. There is no indication of a decline in trafficking and in order to achieve results, future interventions must more systematically address its root causes and the severity of the human rights violations it presents. Still, little is known about the effect of anti-trafficking initiatives and if those who are most vulnerable to trafficking are reached. In addition to accountability mechanisms and law enforcement, more attention must go to the demand side of sex trade and forced labour, and to trafficking as a result of humanitarian crisis, war and conflict. NCA and other actors will be increasingly challenged to act and build in prevention measures in all emergency responses.

A potential new area within GBV for NCA is that of reproductive health rights. Every minute a woman or a young girl die during delivery, on a yearly basis this accumulates to at least 500.000 deaths. It is alarming that the MDG goal 5, to reduce maternal death by 2/3, show no progress, but rather the opposite. Reproductive health rights are so critical to a woman living to living a health life, that it should be at the top priority, both to reduce poverty and as a goal in itself.

The current global financial crisis is creating severe repercussions for development efforts, and will most likely affect women more than men due to their often precarious job situations and responsibilities as food providers. Increased violence against women is also likely as alcoholism and idleness will increase. Economic empowerment of women must therefore be integrated in all efforts promoting economic and gender justice.

3.5 RELIGIONS FOR CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION AND PEACE

3.5.1. OVERVIEW OF OVERALL GOALS AND STATUS

NCA was in 2008 engaged in conflict transformation and peace building in 28 countries. NCA takes a holistic approach to peace building, focusing on long term and short term activities, mobilizing local actors, linking grassroots level and policy makers, and to a large extent working through the networks of faith based partners on local, national and regional levels. The activities ranged from addressing human security and basic needs in conflict areas to facilitating change through conflict resolution and advocacy.

The bulk of the allocation was channeled to activities focusing on human security, livelihood and basic needs, including repatriation, reconstruction and addressing communal violence, in conflict and post-conflict settings. More than NOK 140 mill was channeled to these activities, with Darfur and Sudan main recipients of funds, amounting to more than NOK 80 million. The Horn of Africa, Great Lakes, Western Balkans and Haiti were other major recipients. NCA supported six projects on small arms control in Latin America and Horn of Africa, with an allocation of a little more than NOK 2 mill. The budget volume is not very high, but the impact has been encouraging in several places, committing governments to implement strict legislation on small arms.

More than 30 projects were focusing on the mobilization on religious leaders and faith communities for conflict resolution and peace building, often engaging in interfaith cooperation. These interventions take place in all regions of NCA's work, but with some higher frequency in the Horn of Africa and South Asia. Totally a little less than NOK 20

mill has been allocated for these activities in 2008. This is not the largest allocation, but it includes many activities and partners, and is representing a strategic approach for peace work, ranging from peaceful coexistence to conflict resolution and mediation.

NCA has been working on mainstreaming the implementation of the UN resolution 1325 in peace processes in each county program. This focus is also partly integrated in several of the projects mentioned above. This is also why the specific allocation of funds on this issue, less than 2 mill NOK, does not really reflect all the activities on this issue. The focus has been on capacity building, on program planning and efforts to secure the participation of both genders in the program implementation.

The issue of channeling civil society perspectives into peace processes and bringing them to the attention of policy makers is integrated into several of the activities above. As a specific activity, we have utilized less than NOK one million on this issue during the year.

3.5.2. SELECTED RESULTS

India – Interreligious dialog for conflict transformation and peace building

Interfaith Coalition for Peace, ICP, is the secretariat for an interfaith platform working on dialogue for peace in India. The platform was established in 2006 on national level. By end of 2008 the ICP had established local structures in more than 20 provinces. During the first years the focus of ICP was very much on capacity building and awareness raising, and on establishing the interfaith platform and network. ICP is by end of 2008 a strong civil society organization, representing the huge faith communities of India, with good access to actors both within the civil society structure and within government structures on different levels. This has by now put ICP in the position to initiate solid and coordinated conflict resolution interventions in conflict areas.

In 2008 ICP intervened in a violent conflict that had developed in short time in Kashmir between parties in the Hindu dominated Jammu area and parties in the Muslim dominated Kashmir valley. The source of tension was access to land. The conflict affected several hundred thousands of people. During the summer of 2008 the conflict and the various parties were covered by national and international media. ICP coordinated and led a peace delegation to Jammu and Kashmir, to analyze the situation, meet with the local communities as well as the conflicting parties and government representatives. The delegation consisted of a combination of senior religious leaders from the Muslim-, Christian- and Hindu communities, as well as famous cultural personalities and scholars, men and women. The intervention was also well coordinated with other actors in the area.

ICP was able to meet with and get the mandate for mediation from all parties. It lobbied with local governments and federal government up to the level of Prime Minister and Chief Minister. ICP managed to be instrumental in bringing the parties together for talk and to accept a joint peace agreement. Blockages were lifted, displaced could return and schools and business opened after several months of violent tension. ICP also challenged other actors, including the government, to focus on human security and livelihoods programs.

This is an example of interfaith conflict resolution, managing to connect all levels from grassroots to policy level. It is also an example of getting civil society perspectives across to policy makers. In addition, there was a significant participation of women in

the peace process, which ensured a humanitarian response that benefited both men and women.

Ethiopia – Interreligious dialog for transitional justice and reconciliation

NCA has over the last years supported and facilitated the establishment of an interreligious platform in Ethiopia. This platform was originally established in connection to the peace process between Eritrea and Ethiopia, to establish a representative body for the faith communities in Ethiopia to dialogue across the border, with a similar interfaith body on the Eritrean side, to facilitate joint efforts for a peaceful resolution of the conflict between the two countries. This process is still going on. It is now exciting to see how this platform has become an important institution in the country, and has become a place where religious leaders in the country can come together to make peace initiatives on domestic issues as well, not only related to Ethiopia and Eritrea. Whenever the government wants to address the faith communities they approach this platform, and national media also approach this platform when they want to have the views and comments of the faith leaders in Ethiopia.

When, during the fall in 2007, some radical political groups tried to create tension between the Christian community and the Muslim community, by instigating violent confrontations between the groups accompanied by burning and destruction of holy places, this interreligious platform sent joint delegations to analyze the situation, as well as to plan interventions. In 2008, with very limited contributions from NCA, the platform brought the issue up with the government to take proper action to secure protection and justice. The platform also initiated a series of community meetings, bringing the local faith groups together for dialogue and joint action to deal with the challenge of these radical groups. A series of reconciliation gatherings were initiated where the people were able to express their pain and where the community cooperated in helping the victims of the violence and destruction. These initiatives were done in cooperation by the Protestant, Catholic and Muslim Communities in Ethiopia. The government very much appreciated the contributions to reconciliation by the faith communities. The faith communities had the trust needed for reconciliation that the government in some areas did not have. This kind of coordination and cooperation between the faith communities had, according to the faith leaders, not been possible before they got this joint platform.

Haiti – Mobilizing Civil Society Actors to address gang violence in Bel Air.

NCA has contributed to South-South exchange and cooperation by supporting Viva Rio, a Brazilian NCA partner, in its work in the poor neighbourhood of Bel Air in Port au Prince, Haiti. Since the end of 2006, Viva Rio has used its experience from working with gangs, community violence and development in favelas in Rio de Janeiro, to develop a holistic program aiming to, transform conflicts, increase security and contribute to sustainable development in Bel Air. Over the last years, violence has skyrocketed and Bel Air was a stronghold during the widespread unrest in Haiti in 2004. The violence in the area has both been politically motivated and motivated by conflicts between sub-territorial groups in the Bel Air-area. In May 2007 Viva Rio facilitated a peace agreement between community leaders representing these different groups.

After a resurgence of violence in the beginning of 2008, Viva Rio managed to renegotiate and expand the peace agreement in May 2008. The agreement was, with only one exception, honoured for the rest of 2008. The agreement has an innovative design, outlining a range of positive incentives for respecting the agreement, e.g. after one month without turf-related violent deaths in Bel Air, Viva Rio organizes a "peace lottery"

where three children from each sub-area are eligible to win a one year academic scholarship. In addition, every three months – regardless of whether the accord has been respected or not – a peace party is celebrated, drawing upon local cultural resources. Both the academic incentives and the peace party contribute to create community peer pressure for peace, as well as greater optimism and community pride. These are invaluable results for a community which has for a long time been troubled by both inhabitants and outsiders. By the end 2008, the violence in Bel Air was significantly reduced. The level of violence is now comparable to or below the level of violence in other major cities in Latin America.

Viva Rio also works closely with the UN Security Forces and the Haitian Police, making sure this project contributes to overall UN and the government initiatives to address violence and conflict in the area. Together with the Haitian National Commission for Violence Reduction, Viva Rio facilitates dialogue between the community leaders and key security actors.

The work on conflict transformation goes hand in hand with development projects in Bel Air, which aim to create more dignified living conditions and to redress some root causes of violence and instability in the community.

Palestinian Areas - Ecumenical Accompaniment Program

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) works with local churches, Israeli and Palestinian rights organisations and Palestinian communities to protect the Palestinian local communities from harassment and human rights violations. Working through EAPPI, is for NCA a way of contributing to protection and showing solidarity with the local communities and a way to monitor violations of human rights and to advocate together with the churches for a just peace. The World Council of Churches and NCA were invited by the local Palestinian Churches in 2002 to assist in protecting the communities. Over 80 Norwegian Ecumenical Accompaniers have participated in the program since 2002, and 12 persons from Norway were stationed in Palestinian Areas in 2008. Totally EAPPI had about 40 accompaniers distributed in six villages and towns in 2008.



Photo: An ecumenical accompanier in conversation with a Palestinian farmer near a check point outside the village of Jayyas on the West Bank.

In a survey carried out in 2008, over 50% of the people at checkpoints where EAPPI operates confirmed that they benefited to varying extents from the programme's presence. When it comes to communities subjected to settler and soldier attacks and

harassment, villagers from the localities where EAPPI operated in 2008 clearly stated that without international presence they would not have been able to stay in their villages. A large percentage of the people asked, view EAPPI's advocacy work as particularly important, especially due to the programme's affiliation to the World Council of Churches and strength of the coordinated ecumenical advocacy work for a just settlement of the Israeli and Palestinian conflict.

3.5.3. TRENDS

NCA contributes significantly to stability through its strong focus and large expenditures on human security, livelihood and basic needs in conflict settings. However there is within this focus area, a significant room for strengthening advocacy work and addressing policy makers for change, as well as channeling civil society perspectives into peace processes. NCA did in 2008 strengthen its application of program sensitive programming, applying the Do No Harm tool. We need to further improve indicators in NCA to distinguish the general humanitarian work from strategic peace building activities. Our total allocation for this thematic area in 2008, approximately NOK 170 million, may consequently have been reduced a little.

On the implementation of UN resolution 1325, the capacity and awareness of NCA and partners are strengthened in 2008 (See also Ch 3.4 on Gender Based Violence). We do however realize that fully securing equal participation of women on all levels may in some areas take some special efforts with the kind of faith based partners NCA is working with. NCA is therefore addressing the issue from the level of theological research on patriarchal traditions to popular awareness rising. In some instances NCA is also supporting parallel activities, specifically for women, to secure as much participation as possible in peace processes.

NCA has gradually built up considerable experience in mobilizing religious communities and actors on interfaith cooperation for peace. This is sometimes a complicated tool for peace, but nevertheless a relevant and very powerful tool. We do appreciate some of our experienced partners' improved performance on interfaith peace interventions during 2008. Strengthening the coordination of these interfaith interventions with interventions by other stake holders and by diplomatic actors will make these interfaith interventions even more relevant.

4. NCA JOINT AGENDA FOR ACTION

NCA gives high priority to strengthening local democratic ownership of development programs. Our main entry point into most local contexts is through local faith based actors, who are part of the local civil society and who play a crucial role in mobilizing citizens, providing important basic services and being a watch dog of government. It has therefore been important for NCA to maintain flexible funding to respond to local country priorities. In addition, it has been important that we have flexibility to enter into Strategic Partnership Agreements with Norwegian Embassies on issues that do not directly relate to our thematic priorities, but where faith based organizations are important actors. The work with faith actors on health in Malawi and education in Zambia are two such examples. Work falling outside the 5 thematic priorities has been identified as NCA's Joint Agenda for Action. As stated in the previous chapter, about 37% of total allocations went to Joint Agenda priorities. Major program areas here include environment and climate change initiatives, work with indigenous peoples (Southern

Africa and Brazil), emergency preparedness and response (see Ch. 5.1 and the Burma Country Report), food security and integrated community development (Afghanistan, Laos, India, Nepal), health (see Ch. 5.3 and the Malawi Country Report), basic education services (e.g Zambia, Sudan), and various partner capacity development initiatives (see relevant sections of the selected Country reports in Ch. 5). The following provides an overview of scope, funding and selected results in 3 important areas of work in 2008. As we move into the next global strategy period (2011-2015) we will be reviewing some of these program portfolios to assess whether they should be lifted as future NCA thematic priorities.

4.1 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

4.1.1 OVERVIEW OF NCA PRIORITIES AND STATUS

In 2008, NCA supported approximately 55 projects in 15 countries on climate change adaptation and renewable energy. NCA also supports one regional project in East Africa on climate and water policy advocacy. Climate change adaptation and renewable energy is a new priority for NCA, and many of these projects are small and include pilot studies and seed money. NCA`s value added in its work to reduce vulnerability to climate change and secure the right to development is by working through an integrated approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation that constitutes the three approaches of emergency relief, long-term development and advocacy. NCA works with climate change adaptation and renewable energy through a right based approach that builds on local capacity and knowledge through our local partners.

There were 22 projects dedicated to renewable energy in 2008, with a total budget of NOK 15 million. Of these, approximately NOK 12 million were allocated to solar energy projects in Afghanistan, Mauritania and Mali. Approximately NOK 3 million were related to Jatropha projects in Kenya, biogas in Vietnam and improved solar cookers and pellet production in Rwanda. Climate change adaptation initiatives including disaster risk reduction (DRR) projects had an estimated budget of NOK 10 million in 2008. This includes climate change adaptation and DRR projects in Bangladesh, rainwater harvesting initiatives in Mali, Kenya, Tanzania and Mauritania. It also includes capacity and advocacy initiatives in countries like Tanzania, Haiti, Nicaragua and Sudan. It is estimated that the total spending on climate change adaptation and renewable energy amounts to NOK 25 million. As 2008 is the first year NCA is reporting on climate change adaptation in a more systematic way, the numbers presented in this chapter can only be seen as rough estimates, and may sometimes overlap with water management and disaster preparedness projects, which have traditionally be defined as emergency preparedness.

Besides the program portfolio, NCA`s policy department is involved in both global and Norwegian advocacy and policy work on climate change. NCA are together with Aprovev³ partners working on promoting the Greenhouse Development Rights Framework. This framework aims to influence the outcome of any post Kyoto Agreement in favour of the poor by emphasising social justice and equity and increased adaptation support for developing countries to participate at the UNFCCC climate change negotiations in Copenhagen 2009.

³ *Aprovev is an association of the 17 major development and humanitarian aid organisations in Europe, working closely together with World of Churches*

4.1.2 SELECTED RESULTS

Bangladesh - promoting household level adaptation practices to deal with flood and water logging

Bangladesh is one of the world`s most vulnerable countries for climatic changes like increased hydrological disasters and sea level rise. Climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction are therefore essential components to secure not only growth but sustainable growth in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BACS) is a renowned research based institution that focuses on national and international environment and climate issues. In 2007, BACS formulated in collaboration with NCA`s partner organization Christian Commission for Development Bangladesh (CCDB) a "Strategies to deal with Climate Change Related Problems in South Central Floodplain in Bangladesh". Based on this, BCAS and CCDB jointly implemented the project "Promoting Household Level Adaptation Practices to deal with Flood and Water Logging in the South Central Region" in villages in Goalgram and Gopalganj District, Bangladesh.



Photo: A boy rescues the family's livestock after cyclone Sidr

The project has reduced vulnerability to climate changes through the implementation of different measures to enhance capacity of the vulnerable households through rising of plinths, training on Baira cultivation, demonstration of various adaptation activities. It has further contributed to increased awareness on climate change related impacts, adaptation options, gender equity and rights. 25 beneficiary households, many of these female headed households, have raised their plinths above the normal flood level and fruit trees have been planted along the plinth to prevent erosion. Households have also been trained in Baira cultivation which is a floating vegetable garden that can secure food security though the flood season. Target groups of the project have received training through workshops on climate change and gender issues and on Baira cultivation. Project beneficiaries were found very interested in learning about potential climate change impacts and adaptation options. In building their capacity through relevant adaptation options they are able to minimize climate change related vulnerabilities. As a result 25 households demonstrated improved capacity to implement livelihood strategies and reduced vulnerabilities to climate change.

Vietnam - Biogas for resettled and marginalised households in Thua Thien Hue Province

This project was initiated in August 2007, building on pilot activities that were undertaken in the project area in 2005 and 2006. The biogas concept implemented is based on the technology developed by the national biogas program initiated by the Dutch development agency SNV and the Vietnamese government. The aim of the project has been to contribute to better health and a cleaner environment both locally and globally. 201 biogas digesters have been installed in the seven project areas of Ta Trach and the Tam Giang Lagoon. All biogas beneficiaries participated in practical training courses in basic use and maintenance of the biogas digesters.

The biogas systems have had a wide range of impacts. One of these is significant changes with respect to time used for housework. Elimination of time for collecting firewood amounts to 128 days per households per year, and a reduction in time required for cleaning cooking utensils and time availed through easier cooking procedures is estimated to 408 hours per household per year. All project beneficiaries reported that sanitation and hygiene conditions have improved due to proper dung management, and 83% states that their health has improved and that they are experiencing less respiratory and eye conditions, because of reduced smoke in the kitchen area. All of these impacts apply in particular to female beneficiaries, leaving them with much more time for social activities. Another positive outcome of the project is the reduction of household expenses. Each household managing a biogas digester annually save 224 USD as there is no longer any need to buy firewood which earlier accounted for 3.9 tonnes per year per household.

The use of biogas digesters also contributes to the global mitigation of climate change with measurable reductions of green house gases (GHG) emissions through reduced deforestation and reduced consumption of fossil fuels. The reduction of GHG emissions have been measured to 3.04 tons CO₂ per year per biogas plant. We are currently in a process towards registering this as a project eligible for carbon credits on the voluntary carbon market under the Gold Standard verification system.

4.1.4 TRENDS

In a short time, climate change has gone from being a concern for the few and an issue occupying mainly the environmental movement, to being a major issue on the international arena. The poor are the most vulnerable to climatic change and the debate on climate change is greatly influencing the discourse on development and aid. New funding opportunities have emerged, and guidelines to existing funding schemes have been revised. In this way working with climate change and environment constitutes both challenges and opportunities. Responding to and adapting NCA`s program activities to the consequences of climate change is therefore necessary in order to secure sustainability and the long term impact of NCA`s work.

A lot of NCA`s current work on water management in areas of water scarcity is linked to climate change adaptation and environmental degradation, as these interventions are addressing vulnerability and access to resources that are coming under increasing stress with increasing climate instabilities. Similarly, NCA`s traditional concept of "integrated rural development" includes components that have direct relevance. Identifying climate change impacts on local communities NCA through adding and strengthening program components that address climate change impacts, gives NCA a unique possibility to work with climate change adaptation and renewable energy initiatives based on local capacity and local partners.

NCA's strengthened awareness and emphasis on the challenges posed by climate change has also resulted in a reinforced focus on renewable energy and energy access. NCA believes that creating viable infrastructures for the production, utilisation and maintenance of renewable energy sources such as bio-, hydro- and solar energy in developing countries is of great importance, both to the countries themselves and to the world as such. Our combined effort to achieve CO₂-neutrality with regards to our own operations and impact has opened the organisations eyes to the opportunities and potential of the system of carbon credits. Through the verification of CO₂ emissions reductions we wish to not only become measurably CO₂-neutral through our own activities, but to also generate funds to NCA's programs and partners from an entirely new funding source.

4.2 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

4.2.1 OVERVIEW OF NCA PRIORITIES AND STATUS

Since the entrance of the Sami Church Council in NCA's organizational structure as a member of our council in 1997, NCA responded to the need to work with indigenous peoples' rights and to strengthen their own organizations and leadership.

The issue of indigenous peoples is not defined as a thematic priority in NCA's current strategy, and there are no precise objectives against which to measure the progress in this work. In the GSP, however, Norwegian Church Aid states that it will place particular emphasis on mobilizing indigenous peoples as rights holders, based on the fact that indigenous peoples and minorities suffer both economic and social marginalization, and are often among the most vulnerable in their own countries.

Indigenous peoples are rights holders in a great number of projects supported by NCA globally. Nevertheless, it is mainly in the regions of Latin America and Africa that we have programs especially developed for the promotion of rights for indigenous peoples. NCA supports both indigenous organizations and NGO's committed to indigenous rights issues, adhering to the principles of a rights based approach. In Africa, NCA works with indigenous rights in Botswana, Angola, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Latin America, support to indigenous peoples is a thematic priority in our Brazil program, while in Guatemala it is defined as a cross-cutting priority. As for Brazil, NCA considers as a priority also the *quilombos*, traditional communities formed by descendants of escaped African slaves during the period of colonial slavery. According to Brazilian law, this people has collective territorial rights similar to those of indigenous peoples, but these are currently at stake due to strong lobby activity from right-wing politicians and powerful land owners.

In numbers, the support provided by NCA to work with indigenous peoples reached NOK 10.875.000 million NOK in 2008, divided between Africa (NOK 7.015.000) and Latin America (NOK 3.860.000). Of this total, 62% was financed by Norad funds, while the rest derived from Operasjon Dagsverk (15%), NCA own funds (14%) and MFA (9%).

4.2.2 SELECTED RESULTS

Brazil – Recognition of Quilombola territorial rights in Mosaico do Jacupiranga

A major accomplishment was made by *Instituto Socioambiental* (ISA) in the Ribeira Valley Region, in the state of São Paulo. The Mosaico de Unidades de Conservação do Jacupiranga (preservation area) was created in February 2008 (Law # 12.810) with the participation of several actors, including a large number of quilombola communities (communities formed by descendants of slaves). The approval of this preservation area

was essential to São Paulo's public policies, as it brought to an end several social-environmental and territorial conflicts for the quilombolas, and managed to protect the last spots of Tropical Atlantic rainforest in the Ribeira Valley. As such, this ranks as one of the major achievements within ISA's Ribeira Valley Programme.

According to declarations from several involved actors, including public organisms, ISA's participation was crucial to establish the Mosaico do Jacupiranga reserve, especially within the three following aspects:

Technical quality and credibility to develop social-environmental policies (diagnosis, monitoring, technical capacity building, etc.);

Civil society articulation: the capacity to build alliances and act together with other actors in a wide range of themes and interests.

Dialogue between quilombola communities and the government: the activities developed by ISA, including youngsters' qualification, made it possible for these communities to interact with governmental organisms and public policies.

For the quilombola communities, the approval of this preservation area meant recognition of their territorial rights. Equally important for their subsistence was the right to maintain the practice of the *roças* (planting fields), a practice formerly considered illegal within the preservation areas. This is fundamental to ensure food security for the communities and the cultural rescue of the way in which the ground is prepared for planting.

Although there are no indigenous communities in this preservation area, this experience has made the state authorities of São Paulo want to look into similar solutions regarding the recognition of indigenous lands in other preservation areas of the state.

Southern Africa – Indigenous people as advocates for climate change adaptation:

The most interesting result from 2008 is the work *Indigenous Peoples of Africa Co-ordinating Committee* (IPACC) has done on climate change adaptation for indigenous people and their highly advanced training for indigenous peoples on climate change in general, including political issues connected to e.g. the COP15 processes. This is ground-breaking work that brings the issues of Global Warming and Climate Change down to grassroots level. The work addresses the consequences as seen from the point of view of people who to a large degree depend on nature and natural resources for their survival. Lifting the voice of Indigenous Peoples in these international debates will be increasingly important, as adaptation mechanisms for "people on the ground" must be addressed as a matter of urgency. The true recognition of indigenous and traditional knowledge about nature and natural resources will also be very important in the future, as Indigenous Peoples are in a very good position to e.g. help measure the consequences of climate change or even find ways of adaptation that could be exported to other groups of people that will be hard hit by climate change.

4.2.2 TRENDS

Regarding future challenges in the work with indigenous peoples, NCA sees the need to continue our current focus on *land rights*, including the right to water and natural resources within the indigenous territories. In many countries, the official recognition of land is increasingly obstructed. The recognition of territorial rights is a process of continuous struggle, which demands mobilization and dialogue between institutions and collaboration. It is therefore fundamental to support the communities in their process of organization and education, in the development of alternatives of sustainable

development and in their strategies for territorial management. Concerning lands that are already recognized, the challenge consists of strengthening the support for the community-based management of these.

With NCA increasing strongly our efforts on climate change adaptation and mitigation, the focus on indigenous peoples, and their response to climate change, will demand a greater attention in NCA's work in the years to come. The global climate changes have already brought, and will continue to bring, new challenges for the indigenous peoples. Both in terms of a greater vulnerability of their communities towards the impacts of the climate changes on the natural resources, and in terms of delivering environmental services, that might serve as an alternative social environmental development based on conservation. Also in this regard, it will be of great importance to continue the work seeking to consolidate the territorial rights and the development of the indigenous communities through management of the resources of their territories.

Another challenge in our work, to be considered a strategic approach on a general level, will be to emphasize where the States and indigenous peoples have common interests, in strengthening governance, improving natural resource management, sustainable harvesting of natural foods and medicines, creating qualifications for tracking and other knowledge of biodiversity - finding 'added value' of indigenous peoples for national development and democracy.

4.3 EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

4.3.1 OVERVIEW OF NCA PRIORITIES AND STATUS

Emergencies, whether natural or man-made, are part of the interlocking collection of threats that continue to threaten human security and undermine development. 2008 has again shown us that disasters associated with cyclones, floods, earthquakes and droughts impact on the lives of millions of people worldwide. Poor households, with limited access to resources for disaster prevention and inadequate capacity to cope when disaster strikes, remain those who are most adversely affected. Increases in urban populations, combined with poor city planning and limited access to adequate infrastructure and services, have contributed to increased vulnerability for urban populations, and particularly poor urban communities. Rural populations face the risk of losing the basis for their livelihoods after disasters. Rural women face additional challenges due to the additional burdens traditional gender roles place on them as main care givers for families. In many cases, women are also heads of household and are the main economic provided for the family. Women also face the increased risk of violence during and after emergencies. Evidence shows that girls and boys are increasingly vulnerable in humanitarian situations.

NCA continued in 2008 to strengthen its integrated approach to human security, justice and development by ensuring a long term development perspective in emergencies (mainly through a strong emphasis on local capacity development) and by speaking out against injustice in humanitarian situations (e.g. through sustain advocacy on small arms control and our 2008 "Bullets Campaign" calling on Norwegian munitions producers to comply strictly with Norwegian laws and mark Norwegian produced ammunition).

NCA, through our well founded partnerships with ACT International (See Ch. 1.2) and other international actors (e.g. UNICEF), conducted 20 emergency relief operations in 2008. Many of these projects were related to natural disasters (25%), while important work continues in protracted conflict areas such as Darfur, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan. A breakdown of NCA's emergency

assistance shows that 21% was provided to Africa, 30% to South and South East Asia, 46% to the Middle East and 1% to Latin America. NCA also implemented 11 projects in 7 countries aimed at improving our emergency preparedness and response capacities.

NCA continues to play an important role in the NOREPS⁴ and through our agreements with UNHRD. NCA also continues to provide technical support through our Emergency Preparedness Roster (comprised of some 80 professionals) and is still the main Norwegian provider of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in emergencies. NCA also continues to build on its expertise within psychosocial emergency interventions, ensuring the protection of women, girls and boys against gender based violence.

4.3.2 SELECTED RESULTS

Greater focus on hygiene promotion in emergencies

It has long been accepted that solely focusing on provision of clean water in emergencies neglects the primary cause of disease, which is poor sanitation and hygiene. Recent studies have shown that the greatest single factor in the prevention of disease in emergencies is hand washing. This further exhibits the need for measured, combined responses, which include not only water supply and sanitation, but also raising awareness through the promotion of good hygiene practices. The collectively term WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) highlights the combined emergency response NCA has developed through many years of experience.

NCA put theory into practice in 2008 and deployed hygiene promotion experts from our Emergency Preparedness Roster (EPR) to disaster settings in Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Zimbabwe. Before deployment, EPR members received hands on training in hygiene promotion and were equipped with a Hygiene Promotion Kit. The promotion kit, which was developed by NCA, includes a variety of materials and activities for interactive training of communities. Hygiene experts and the Hygiene Promotion Kit were used actively for the first time in our emergency operations in Goma, DRC in 2008. The hygiene promotion work ongoing in Congo builds on the existing strengths of our local partners and is an entry point for other more demanding tasks, including psychosocial assistance and the protection of women and children against violence. In addition, hygiene training has been integrated into our ongoing emergency preparedness training program and NCA has strengthened hygiene promotion in NCA's ongoing long term water programs (See also 3.3.)

Emergency Preparedness Plans in Vietnam and Guatemala

In 2008, NCA assisted our Resident Representatives in Guatemala, Nicaragua and Vietnam to develop and finalize country level emergency preparedness plans. In Central America, this was done together with the local ACT Forum, to ensure good coordination between ACT members (i.e. other INGOS who are working with the same local partners). The emergency preparedness plans have enhanced the response capacity of NCA offices in Guatemala and Vietnam, and enabled staff to identify risks and potential disasters and to formulate clear response strategies. These plans are harmonized with disaster preparedness plans of local and regional authorities and will help to strengthen NCA and local capacities for disaster risk reduction. These plans are an important step in improving the quality of risk assessment in NCA programs and integrating emergency preparedness into ongoing development work.

⁴ Norwegian Emergency Preparedness System

Protection of women, girls and boys in emergencies – Goma

The brutality related to gender based violence and sexual torture in DRC is unparalleled. NCA maintains that this form of violence is a humanitarian catastrophe and must be dealt with accordingly. In 2008, NCA's humanitarian interventions in Goma gave high priority to protecting and assisting women who were traumatized and physically devastated by this violence. Through our close cooperation with the Panzi Hospital in Bukavu and assistance given there, we have built up a response in Goma, which includes some of the same program components, but more developed for the field.

Using existing women's groups as an entry point, we are listening to the different needs related to literacy, hygiene training, skills training and health checks. The women's children have been engaged in playing, education or other activities. As rape and sexual torture still carries a stigma and is looked upon as the woman's "fault," NCA is careful to assist women in sharing their experiences in groups as well as bringing them to medical centres for health checks and eventually support. Many of the raped women are afraid that if their husbands discover they have been raped, this would jeopardize their marriage. Awareness raising on basic sexual and reproductive health rights have been included in the program in Goma and the women who need special surgery related to fistula or sexual torture have been assisted. Those who need special care afterwards receive this in a small centre constructed in Goma by one of NCA's partners.

NCA has been able to work with this very sensitive issue because of the long term relationships we have built with church leaders, who are now taking a more active role in addressing issues of gender based violence. Church leaders have a special responsibility in assisting women and young girls who have survived torture and gender based violence to be reunited with their families. They have the potential to support these women as war heroes, and combat the tendency to blame them for their fate and expel them from faith communities. In 2008, we have met cooperated with many pastors who are willing to assist and support this work and we plan to further develop this program in 2009. (See also Ch. 3.4.2 for other NCA initiatives to address gender based violence in DRC.)

4.3.3 TRENDS

Studies continue to underscore the connection between a rapidly changing environment and the hazards posed to the poor and marginalised by disasters and especially towards women, girls and boys. It is reported that changes in climatic conditions causes approximately 3 in 4 natural disasters. The realisation that natural disasters such as flooding, cyclones and drought will occur more often in the future has made humanitarian organisations focus more on prevention and adaption mechanisms. As such, so called Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) concepts (of which emergency preparedness and response is an integral part of) are increasingly gaining focus and being seen as one essential response to a more chaotic and random environment.

Promoting water and sanitation as not only a 'need', but a 'right' in emergencies is further shaping the humanitarian community as it continues to professionalise.

2008 has seen the continuing acceptance, growth and formalisation of coordination mechanisms aimed at improving both service delivery and accountability in emergencies. For NCA this has meant continued involvement in global coordination mechanisms such as the WASH Cluster. NCA and ACT International are facing the challenges posed by new humanitarian culture by further professionalising the ACT structures through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM). NCA's ACT partners have the advantage of being locally based and close to the community, but they often require assistance to deal with large event like natural disasters, and they often lack capacity in gender mainstreaming

and concrete protection work on the ground. They also need initial capacity assistance at the onset of an emergency related to assessments, administrative routines and the integration of crosscutting issues. This is why ACT International has formed a Rapid Support Team, which NCA will have the administrative control of when it is eventually finalized in 2009 and which is capable of being deployed quickly into emergencies to support our partners with thematic, administrative and coordination support. The development of such an apparatus will further professionalise NCA and our partner's emergency response operations.

5. RESULTS IN SELECTED COUNTRY PROGRAMS

In feedback received on the 2007 narrative report, Norad highlighted the need for better coherence between overall program goals and selected results. There was also interest in what we have achieved in the area of capacity development for partners. In our current planning system, program objectives are set at the country level and capacity development is very much tailored to specific country contexts. This year we have therefore decided to present four country cases which represent different geographic regions, political contexts and consequently different intervention strategies.

5.1 BURMA

5.1.1 NCA'S STRATEGY IN BURMA

NCA has been engaged in Burma since the early 1990s and works with church based, faith based and secular partner organizations. Most are based on the Thai -Burma border and implement programs in the border area and cross border into Burma. NCA also has several partners who operate from Rangoon. This partner portfolio reflects NCA's strategy in Burma, which is to work on both sides of the border. This gives NCA a foot in both camps, which is vital for maintaining legitimacy in a setting of misconception and mistrust. NCA uses this comparative advantage to link these groups of partners for networking, information sharing, capacity building and trust building. NCA's current country plan for Burma (2005-2010) focuses on four thematic areas:

- Civil Society for Accountable Governance,
- HIV and AIDS,
- Gender Based Violence
- Protection in Natural Disasters and Complex Emergencies.

Burma is currently under the rule of the military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SDPC), which systematically violates fundamental cultural, political, social and economic rights and continues to wield absolute power in the face of international condemnation and sanctions. Since independence in 1948, Burma has been the scene of the world's longest running civil war. Although several ceasefire agreements are in place, open conflict continues in Karen, Karenni and Shan States in Eastern Burma. This civil war, together with large scale development projects and denial of rights, has resulted in a large numbers of the population becoming internally displaced, whilst others have fled to neighbouring countries to either seek protection in refugee camps or to find work.

5.1.2 OVERALL PROGRAM GOALS IN BURMA AND STATUS

| | | |
|--|--|----------------------|
| NCA presence in country: | NCA's first partnership agreements for the Burma program were signed with a Rangoon based church organisation in 1993, and with the Thailand Burma Border Consortium in 1994. | |
| Administrative follow up: | Program followed up from regional office in Vientiane, Laos, by Area Representative, Regional Finance Manager and various administration and finance support staff. NCA also employs 2 full time program coordinators based in Chiang Mai and Rangoon. | |
| | 2005 | 2008 |
| Total expenditures: (NOK) | 11 113 038 | 20 265 245,60 |
| Composition of funding (% of total) | | |
| Norad frame | 10 % | 5 % |
| MFA Emergency | 82 % | 65 % |
| NCA | 7 % | 17 % |
| Other | 1 % | 13 % |
| Thematic programs (% of total expenditures) | | |
| Governance | 14% | 7% |
| HIV and AIDS | 2% | 1% |
| Water and Sanitation | 0% | 7% |
| GBV | 1% | 1% |
| Peace/Reconciliation | 1% | 0% |
| Joint Agenda (Protection in Natural Disasters and Complex Emergencies) | 82% | 84% |

While the humanitarian space opened in the Irrawaddy Delta area in the wake of 2008's Cyclone Nargis, this was not a nationwide phenomena and no changes have been registered in Eastern Burma. Despite the restrictive environment, civil society in Burma is steadily gaining strength. This has been documented through NCA's program which focuses both on further developing the capacity of partner organisations and supporting partner programs which focus on the development of other civil society organisations at different levels including community based organizations.

NCA's partnership with church based organizations within various thematic areas has meant that these institutions are now better able to function as a network and provide humanitarian and social assistance to their communities. Their involvement in Action by Churches Together (ACT)'s emergency work following Cyclone Nargis provided them with an opportunity to cooperate with international partners and work within the parameters of international humanitarian charters.

Despite the restrictions facing partners operating in Eastern Burma, their reports show they are able to reach an increasing number of rights holders each year within the areas of health and food security. NCA's partners have also worked to increase an understanding of neutrality and humanitarian principles amongst their local organizations which is vital in conflict settings. NCA has also supported capacity development on conflict sensitivity, through "Do No Harm" training. Many of the partners have found this experience to be 'liberating' and this will be presented as a case example in the next section of the paper.

NCA has continued to take an active role in the governance of the Thai Burma Border Consortium (TBBC)'s assistance to Burmese refugees in Thailand throughout the planning period. These refugees find themselves under protracted confinement in the refugee camps with no other durable solution than resettlement to a third country. The impact this restrictive environment has taken its toll on the refugee population and has manifested itself in the form of increased depressions, family problems, alcohol and drug abuse etc. To mitigate this situation, NCA has pioneered a grass roots football project for children and youth in two of these camps. This project is an example of the way NCA and partners are working to improve the quality of life of those in complex emergency situations and it will be presented in more detail in the following section through the case example *Refugee Football Fever*.

NCA's partners under the GBV program have undergone a clear professionalisation during the current planning period which has led to improvements in their service delivery and referral systems within the health sector and an expansion of their network of safe houses. Partners working with the sensitive issue of trafficking have seen an increasing openness and understanding concerning the issue at the community level, increased number of trafficking cases being reported, and strengthened cooperation with Chinese authorities.

The HIV and AIDS program has been marred by decreasing funding with the completion of TV campaign funds during the current planning period. Despite this, we continue to support church partner's HIV and AIDS work with NCA own funds.

5.1.3 EXAMPLES OF RESULTS

Refugee Football Fever

The Thai-Burma Border Football (TBBF) project aims provide opportunities for positive activities for refugee children and youth, both boys and girls, in 2 refugee camps on the Thai-Burma border. This is done in an effort to mitigate cases of depression and social problems that have manifested after many years of confinement in the camps with no political solution in sight to the 60 year old conflict in Eastern Burma.

Through cooperation with the Norwegian Football Federation (NFF) and camp sport committees under Karenni Refugee Committee (KnRC), NCA has been able to upgrade football pitches and set up and equip 24 clubs and 76 teams. This enables more than 1,700 (864 girls) participants to play football 1- 2 times per week and many more to play football outside the clubs.



Photo: Football field in Site One refugee camp, Ban Nai Soi, Mae Hong Song Province, Thailand

Despite the project having only completed the first of three years of planned implementation, the results are already impressive. For example, refugee communities have been mobilised by the project team to improve the pitches and the football tournaments and games draws big crowds. Enthusiasm surrounding the project was illustrated by a camp committee officer who complained about young kids getting up at 5am to play football by torch light in the darkness before school (no electricity in the camps). Although the social awareness- life skills component of the project was not planned to start until year two, the TBBF team was eager to move forward. Year one of the project has therefore seen the use of tournaments, special events and club meetings for information dissemination and awareness raising on HIV and AIDS and other social issues and concerns.

The project's strength lies in a combination of the following factors: a program that meets the needs and interests in the population; sound approach to management by building up local project committees that have ownership of the project; technical support to the project management from NCA and NFF; capacity building of TBBF team starting with conceptual understanding before moving onto technical training; highly qualified and committed resource persons seconded to trainings from NFF; and NCA networking and advocacy with the Thai authorities of concern. The project has given great emphasis to participation of girls and women and providing equal opportunities to both genders. This enabling and positive environment has meant that women and girls have performed superbly and become very active participants in the project.



Young women playing football at Site Two refugee camp, Mae Hong Song Province, Thailand

In addition to the successes detailed above, the project has also faced some challenges:

- The project staff's movements in and out of the camps are restricted and limit the project in terms of cooperation between the camps and with the nearby Thai villages.
- Whilst the clubs are engaged in local fund raising, securing enough funds to ensure the continuation of TBBF following NCA/NFF's exit will be a challenge.
- Resettlement to third countries is disrupting the social cohesion of the camp communities and is also starting to have an effect on some TBBF participants' motivation to continue to commit time and energy to the project.

Capacity development of partners- Opening eyes by Do No Harm Training

Over the past 1.5 years, NCA has engaged partners in Burma in a process of capacity building on conflict sensitivity programming through the introduction of the Do No Harm (DNH) framework. This has been carried out through a number of workshops, trainings, follow up visits and meetings. The DNH framework is considered relevant by partners working in all environments, including areas of open conflict, instability and relative stability.

As a result of this process, some partner organisations have analyzed their programs using the DNH framework and used this to start internal processes on DNH in their organisations. For one Rangoon based organisation, the DNH framework proved to be a useful 'lense' to review their emergency response to Cyclone Nargis. They then based the design of their rehabilitation phase on the outcome of this review. For another partner operating in areas characterised by conflict, a complex political situation and mixed administration made up of warring parties, the DNH framework has helped to reinforce their understanding of the humanitarian principles, reflect on their role and inform strategic planning processes. Engaging the partners through this DNH capacity building initiative has also helped to open up sensitive areas for discussion and sharing.

A number of lessons learned have been drawn from this process, the most important being that conflict analysis should be conducted prior to the application of the DNH framework. This provides a clear understanding of a given conflict and assists in understanding which levels DNH can be used on. Furthermore, the facilitators for both DNH and conflict analysis must understand the context well and be able manoeuvre in this throughout a training or workshop. This makes for a more effective and relevant learning experience for the participants.

Concentration of NCA program in Burma

NCA's Burma program has increased during the current planning period, both in terms of budget and number of partners. At the same time, we have given priority to sharpen the thematic focus and to develop the Rangoon side of the program further. As a result, three partners based on the Thai-Burma border were phased out of the program in 2008 and two more will be phased out during 2009. NCA is working with the partners to assist them in securing other financing sources. NCA also plans to enter into partnerships with new Rangoon based partners, both faith based and secular, during the current planning period. As detailed above, this comes at a time of a slight opening of the humanitarian space in some areas of Burma, and an increasing formal presence in the country of members of the ACT Alliance. Their presence opens a host of new opportunities for NCA in relation to sharing of resources, capacity building, and networking.

5.1.4 TRENDS, RISKS AND CHALLENGES

Despite positive developments in some areas of the country, NCA's partners' projects in Eastern Burma and Shan State remain hampered by armed conflict, militarization and limited humanitarian space. SPDC is steadily increasing their stronghold in the ethnic areas, especially in Karen State. If this trend continues, it may have dramatic consequences for the humanitarian situation and the work of our cross border partners who are already operating in a precarious environment.

It is still unknown how the 2010 elections in Burma will impact upon the situation for international and national NGOs. However it is anticipated that restrictions will increase especially for local NGOs. The capacity of these organizations to utilize creative means to strengthen their position and networks, and to carry out their work in this difficult and often unpredictable environment should, however, not be underestimated.

The government of Thailand holds the key to finding a more durable solution for refugees in Thailand. There have been positive signals from the Thai side over the last 6 months, but it is yet to be seen if these will evolve into concrete policies under the unstable political situation in Thailand

The majority of the Burmese population already faced challenges in relation to their livelihoods at the start of the current planning period with over 2 million migrant workers in Thailand seeking to etch out a better livelihood. The recent economic crisis has made this already precarious socio-economic situation worse and there are no prospects for dramatic improvements in the near future.

5.2 GUATEMALA

5.2.1 NCA STRATEGY IN GUATEMALA

The Peace Accords signed in 1996 ended 36 years of internal armed conflict. Post-conflict Guatemalan society is still characterized by violence, repression and patriarchal structures, lack of equity and democratic participation, organised crime, drug traffic and concentration of economic resources. The discrimination of indigenous people is persistent and multifaceted. There are strong, independent civil society organisations especially within the women's movement and the indigenous people's movement. However, they remain fragmented. NCA addresses this by supporting common platforms, alliances to build trust among civil society, by supporting church-based organisations to joint efforts with other civil society organisations on common issues such as violence against women, stigma of people living with HIV, the right to access of safe water and emergency preparedness.

5.2.2 OVERALL PROGRAM GOALS IN GUATEMALA AND STATUS

- Thematic priorities for the NCA Guatemala program are currently as follows:
- Protection from violence and insecurity
- Faith Communities address HIV and AIDS
- Communities for safe water and sanitation
- Protection from natural disasters and complex emergencies

The country program plan from 2005 was revised in 2007. One major change made during this revision was that "peace and reconciliation" was no longer included as a priority. This had previously been addressed under the thematic priority of "protection from violence and insecurity". In 2008, "youth and crime" was also removed as priority under "violence". The main focus was put on how to strengthen the work with gender based violence where the law on femicide was an important step and victory for the women's movement in 2008.

The table below gives some indications on the program development from 2005 to 2008. The thematic priorities have remained the same, and the variance of funding under joint agenda that stands out, is related to the emergency assistance for Stan.

| | | |
|---|--|-------------|
| NCA presence in country: | Started in year 1976 when NCA got involved after the 1976 Earthquake in Guatemala. | |
| Administrative follow up: | Regional Office in Guatemala, also responsible for Nicaragua and Cuba | |
| | 2005 | 2008 |
| Total expenditures: (NOK) | 6,293,850 | 3,815,000 |
| Composition of funding (% of total expend.) | | |
| Norad frame | 44% | 80% |
| NCA | 3% | 8% |
| MFA | 36% | 0 |
| Other (TV Campaign +Lenten +ACT) | 17% | 12% |
| Thematic programs (% of total expend.) | 2005 | 2008 |
| HIV and AIDS | 15% | 16% |
| Water | 22% | 38% |
| Emergency | 5% | 5% |
| GBV *(1) | 23% | 41% |
| Joint Agenda (Emergency Response LACE 52: Stan storm) | 35% | 0% |

*(1) The thematic issue described in the country plan Guatemala is Protection from Violence where GBV is the main component but not the only one, for instance PID 10386 is not strictly GBV. On the other hand PID 10379 is main issue Water; nevertheless it has a component of GBV.

Follow-up of 2007 NORAD-evaluation of NCA

In November 2007, NORAD conducted an evaluation of Norwegian NGOs in Guatemala and a separate sub-report for the NCA program was also made. This has, together with our own assessments, been a very useful tool for making adjustments to the program, assess and redirect our efforts. An action plan for follow-up of the evaluation has been made, and will be an essential backdrop for discussions related to the new strategy period from 2011.

Some of the major adjustments of plans that have been made based on the NORAD 2007 evaluation are as follows:

Addressing the ambitious and wide-spread agenda of the NCA program

Various efforts have been made to focus the program towards addressing violence against women and making this a selected priority for NCA. New partnerships are a result of this, and 2008 was also an important year for planning ahead to make GBV a main thematic priority in 2009 and overall cross-cutting issue. Important elements of this strategy have been to join partnership with organisations representing the women's movement in Guatemala. This has yielded important results related to legislative changes in addressing murder and violence against women, so called "femicide" (see point 3 below for more information).

Another step of NCA's strategy has been to strengthen and create new linkages between faith based communities with the women's movement. Drawing on the expertise and joint forces of the women's movement will be important in order to empower Church-based organisations and make them to stronger actors in dealing with GBV. Also, NCA has clearly added value in this context as a connector in a fragmented civil society.

Also within the area of emergency assistance, NCA has introduced gender as a cross cutting issue and has taken on the role of lead agency for gender in ACT National Forums in the region.

Strengthening the approach for working with Indigenous People As part of the internal analysis regarding the work with indigenous people in the last three years, NCA is strengthening the multicultural approach of the ethnical issue of Guatemala. To consolidate this cross-cutting approach, NCA carried out five specific actions during 2008: 1) Partnerships were initiated with two indigenous organizations: *Mayan Association Ukuxbe* and *Association Pop Noj*; 2) NCA conducted an external assessment of the indigenous people issues in Guatemala; 3) NCA's Thematic Advisor on indigenous peoples Christian Schøien visited Guatemala to do an assessment on NCA's indigenous peoples work; 4) an exchange trip between Guatemala and Brazil took place in November 2008: a delegation of six women and three men representatives of NCA partners from Guatemala visited Brazil to exchange information with local indigenous organizations and Brazilian NCA partners. Guarani and Quilombo communities were visited; and 5) a plan for 2009 to further analysis and knowledge on how NCA should work with indigenous population which also will serve as important input for the plan 2011-2015.

Improved Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Another issue that has been followed up from the evaluation has been to put more emphasis on field visit and to prioritize time for documentation and learning from this. All projects received at least 2 visits during 2008 by NCA and more emphasis has been put on documentation of results. Also capacity building of partners in implementing a rights-based approach has been addressed in 2008 and will be followed up in 2009.

5.2.3 SELECTED RESULTS

Successful advocacy for a new law against femicide

Violence against women, including domestic violence, remains a common and serious problem in Guatemala. In 2008 the Public Ministry reported that it received more than 12,269 complaints of violence against women and children, including domestic and economic violence. 72 women were killed for being women (femicide). According to the National Institute for Public Defense, over 22,737 women suffered sexual harassment last year. The impunity for crimes against women makes Guatemala one of the most violent countries in the world for women.



Photo: Women activists celebrate the passing of the new Law Against Femicide and Other Forms of Violence Against Women in Guatemala's Congress.

Social campaigns have been conducted against GBV, and NCA's partners IAPADES, FUNDESCO and especially GGM, has been main actors in the advocacy for the newly approved " Law Against Femicide and Other Forms of Violence Against Women" Bill 22-2008". Advocacy to promote change of legislation has been seen as an important element of obtaining protection from violence against women through increased attention, understanding, sanctioning and penalties.

The law is established to target the killing of women merely for being women, with harder sanctions than before. Included are also other forms of sexual, psychological and economical violence. The law addresses the commitment of the State of Guatemala to strengthen all Governmental institutions responsible for working on this issue, such as the National Institute of Forensic Sciences (INACIF), National Coordinator for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women (CONAPREVI), National Institute for the Public Penal Defense, Public Ministry (MP) and the National Police (PNC), among others. CONAPREVI was created in 2000 and is integrated by public institutions and by civil representatives from the Network No Violence. It functions as the main public institution to eradicate domestic violence and violence against women, and they

have also elaborated the National Plan for Prevention and Eradication of Domestic Violence and Violence against Women 2004-2010.

Centers and shelters for integral attention to women affected by violence were created, as well as a public prosecutor and a specific court for these crimes. The law is an important step ahead in the fighting violence against women in Guatemala, and a result of a struggle uniting the women's movement for two decades.

The first two charges of violence against women using the new law are now pending in the court system, and the outcome of this will set precedent for future cases. From these cases it's evident that there's a need to maintain focus on an integral follow up of the victims, providing legal counseling and psychosocial assistance. Secondly, there's a need to create greater awareness and knowledge about gender issues among the legal counselors. The general public also needs information about the content of the Femicide Law to ensure monitoring and mobilization for the implementation of the Law.

Capacity development of faith-based partners to address HIV from a rights-based approach

NCA's work on HIV and AIDS in Guatemala serves as an illustration for NCA's strategy of linking the knowledge-based resource partners to faith-based core partners. In the Guatemalan context where civil society is characterized as deeply fragmented, this could be mentioned as one of NCA's clearest "added value".

The Life Project (Proyecto Vida – PV) is an organization related to the Catholic Church working with HIV from an integrated approach combining prevention and attention as well as monitoring and advocacy. They cooperate extensively with the local hospital and health personnel and have done more than any other organization on ensuring the rights of people living with HIV (PLHIV) especially in relation to public health services and access to medicines in their region. The organization is managed by PLHIV and is thus a good example of an organization using rights holders as recourse and not only as beneficiaries. Their approach is holistic, working also with organisations for women in prostitution, hospices of persons living with AIDS, and organizations of Human Rights.

In Guatemala, the organizations of PLHIV have been characterized by their vulnerability towards internal conflicts and the lack of experience in advocacy and coordination. Advice from other civil society organizations has been necessary to strengthen the political role of the organisations of PLHIV. In 2008, the Life Project proved to be such an organisation. In addition to working within the Catholic Church to promote an active role related to stigma and discrimination of PLHIV, they've taken a leading role working on HIV in the Southwestern part of the country. Most importantly, they have provided capacity-building and motivation for the United People Association (Asociación Gente Unida), which is the most important organization of people living with HIV in southwestern of Guatemala.

Concentration of NCA's work

NCA's regional office in Guatemala has in the last year closed the country program in Peru and terminated country specific projects in El Salvador and Honduras. Nicaragua and Guatemala remain as the two focus countries in the region. NCA ended the partnership with 7 partners in the above mentioned countries. In addition, funding for 2 other partners in Guatemala was phased out. Although budget for the country program in Guatemala is fairly small, the NCA office plays a regional role in Central America and

is equally important for the country program in Nicaragua and the follow-up of three strategic partners in Cuba.

During this period, NCA also started partnerships with 5 new organisations in Guatemala and Nicaragua. This has been an important move in order to strengthen the two country programs in the thematic areas of Indigenous People (2 partners), gender-based violence (2 partners), and water and climatic change (1 partner). The increased focus on Indigenous People and GBV is NCA's strategy for promoting focused growth in the region, and also a response of the NORAD 2007 evaluation on Guatemala.

5.2.4 TRENDS, RISKS AND CHALLENGES

Guatemala is vulnerable to climate change and is frequently experiencing hurricanes, tropical storms and great variances in rain, and 2008 was no exception in this regards. We expect that this will continue to pose challenges to NCAs work in the region, as extreme weather can be expected to increase both in Central America and the Caribbean. NCA is working to integrate a strong gender perspective in all emergency activities, and also to ensure the inclusion of the right to water in emergency. Other challenges relate to difficulties in obtaining funds.

Increasing violence, insecurity and impunity that characterize the society, also pose serious security threats to our partners and our programme in Guatemala. The most affected partners are those working on violence against women and on the right to water. For instance have NCAs partners in Guatemala GGM, FUNDESCO, ILUGUA, Madre Selva and the Catholic bishop Ramazzini all received threats that have been considered of great concern. Strategies and working methods must be continuously considered in order to deal with these threats.

Possible deviations are also linked to NCAs strategy of building alliances between actors from the women's movement (resource partners) and the Church-based partners (core partners). As there's a long history of mistrust between the two different wings of civil society, NCA is well aware that it's a challenging task that will demand a long-term perspective.

5.3 MALAWI

5.3.1. NCA STRATEGY IN MALAWI

Malawi is an aid dependent country. Approximately 60-70% of the national budget is supported by international donors. Despite having attained debt cancellation towards the end of 2006, we see persistent cases of corruption. Transparency and accountability at the various levels of society remains a challenge. Low literacy rate, coupled with high population growth, ill health, HIV and AIDS continue to exert pressure on the meagre resources the country has, resulting in poor provision of social services.

NCA partners in Malawi are mainly churches and faith based organizations and our intervention strategy is to focus on supporting faith actors contributions to delivering on the right to health and primary health care. This is addressed through our Health and HIV and Aids Program and the Nursing Program. The Malawi Country Program is an example of how the Joint Agenda has provided the flexibility to support work on health, which is not a thematic priority, but which is relevant in the local context, and an where NCA partners have a particular value added.

5.3.2 OVERALL PROGRAM GOALS IN MALAWI AND STATUS

The thematic priorities for NCA's program in Malawi during this strategic period are:

- Health
- Faith Communities addressing HIV and AIDS
- Gender Based Violence
- Civil Society for Accountable Governance
- Emergency Preparedness
- Capacity Building

With programs starting only in 2002, NCA has a relatively short history in Malawi. NCA has several extensive programs related to strategic partnership with the Norwegian Embassy. Although NCA is involved in many areas, the main focus of the program is on Health and HIV and AIDS.

The table below gives some indications on the program development from 2005 to 2008.

| | | |
|--|--|-------------|
| NCA presence in country: | Country office established in 2002. NCA works in Malawi upon invitation by the Norwegian Embassy and holds a strategic partnership agreement with the embassy. | |
| Administrative follow up: | Country office, 20 employees | |
| | 2005 | 2008 |
| Total (NOK) | 49 621 000 | 38,508,100 |
| Composition of funding (% of total expend.) | | |
| Earmarked funds (Norad, Lenten, TV) | 12% | 13% |
| MFA/Embassy | 80% | 82% |
| Other (incl NCA Own funds) | 6% | 5% |
| Thematic programs (% of total expend) | | |
| Governance | 4% | 1% |
| HIV and AIDS | 28% | 8% |
| Water | 15% | 0% |
| GBV | 9% | 4% |
| Peace/Recon | 0% | 1% |
| Joint Agenda (Health) | 44% | 86% |

Since the beginning of NCA's partnership with CHAM in 2002, NCA has focussed on strengthening CHAM's capacity at policy level to improve support to the member units who are responsible for delivering health services to the majority of marginalized Malawians, who are in the rural areas. For the next three years, NCA has changed its implementation policy for the health program and the focus will now be on building the capacity of the CHAM member units and surrounding communities.

5.3.3 SELECTED RESULTS

The Nurse Network

The Improved Health Training Project in Malawi is funded by the Norwegian Government and implemented by Norwegian Church Aid in collaboration with Christian Health Association (CHAM). The first phase of the project was launched in 2005 and will end in August 2009. The nursing cooperation components of this project aim to improve the quality of nursing education, as well as increase and retain the number of nurses in the health care delivery systems in Malawi. Thirteen colleges were targeted for the activities on nursing cooperation where nursing colleges in Malawi are cooperating with six nursing colleges in Norway. The Colleges in Malawi include: 10 Christian Health Association of Malawi, Malawi College of Health Sciences (Zomba and Blantyre campuses) and Kamuzu College of Nursing. The Norwegian University Colleges include: Østfold, Telemark, Stord-Haugesund, Vestfold, Arkeshus and Diakonhjemmet. In addition, the Vestfold Branch of the Norwegian Nurses Association has been working on capacity building of the Malawian Nursing Association.

After three years of operation, a Mid Term Review of the Improved Health Training Project was initiated by the Norwegian Embassy in Lilongwe. The evaluation was conducted in July 2008, in order to assess the project design, project relevance and effectiveness. Results indicated that this has been a successful project. Main results included improved accommodation for the students, improved standards and an increase in the number of bed spaces at the nursing colleges and a substantial increase in intake in all the 9 Nursing colleges. A major component of the project has been construction of facilities and the following has been achieved as per 2008: Three hostels, 18 tutors' houses, 13 classrooms (4 new and 9 rehabilitated), 3 skills labs, 6 libraries, 6 administration blocks (rehabilitation and new). This has improved the living conditions of tutors and students and the classrooms have made it possible to increase the intake of students.

One area of focus has been on improving the outcomes and quality of teaching. The project has improved the capacity of the tutors to effectively implement the upgraded curriculum. One strategy was to train the tutors in new teaching methods: 120 tutors were trained in new methods such as Problem Based Learning and Reflection, 23 tutors (19 female and 4 male) were trained in clinical teaching. As a result, we see remarkable progress students' ability to analyze issues and make presentations. Two trainings were also conducted in ethics and professionalism. These were conducted in 12 colleges for a total of 25 tutors (20 female and 5 male). The tutors will in turn train their colleagues. An exchange visit was conducted and 19 Malawian tutors have gone to training colleges in Norway to enhance their leadership skills. The visit exposed the delegates to the Norwegian health and social systems. Project progress was monitored and challenges identified through a series of 8 regional meetings (3 in Malawi and 5 in Norway). Tutors have shared experiences and best practices in professional knowledge and it has increased the solidarity in the different colleges.

There is need to strengthen collaboration with other stakeholders at college and national level, and steps are being taken to strengthen project governance by putting in place steering committee at national level and also within the colleges.



Photo: Students participate in the formal opening of a student hostel at St. Lukes College in Zomba.

Capacity Development of NCA Partners working on Trafficking

One of the key needs identified in Malawi is to enhance the knowledge of the people at the community level about the concept of trafficking. Due to their strong presence, wide outreach and direct impact in the communities, the churches in Malawi have an immensely important role to play in putting an end to trafficking in women and children. Since the start of this program in 2006, several achievements have been made. One major victory was the appointment a local NCA staff member to the Law Commission for the Trafficking Bill.

In 2008, the NCA Project on Prevention of Trafficking focussed on awareness raising on the concept of trafficking, capacity development of partners, and coordination of anti-trafficking interventions in Malawi. Work was also done to document the volume and causes of trafficking in Malawi. Three NCA partners are involved in this project, and NCA provided funds to implement activities in the five main focus areas. Research and data collected in the target areas indicates that trafficking is occurring both within Malawi and across borders. Through awareness raising activities in 2008, NCA partners have reached Christian parishes, Muslim women, nuns, church counsellors, religious leaders teachers, police, traditional chiefs, and youth. A total of 6000 people have either been reached through different partner interventions. On data collection, some partners have been able to identify victims of trafficking and the need to support victims. An example is the intervention by Center for Social Concern (CFSC) which managed to identify 22 victims of trafficking, of whom 8 were men and 14 women. The men have since been trafficked to Tanzania from Malawi to work as fishermen for a certain business man. Two victims managed to escape and informed the volunteers working for CFSC who in turn alerted the police. This case is currently under investigation. It has served to expose a more widespread practice of Malawians being trafficked to work in the fishing industry in

Tanzania. NCA and partners have also raised awareness through conducting of radio programs and distributing brochures with basic information on trafficking. Various communities and sectors were reached through the radio campaigns, which were intensified in December which has proven to be the high season for migration.

NCA continued to be involved in the drafting of the trafficking bill with the Malawi Law Commission. This Bill will be finalized in April 2009. The Law commission group have facilitated several regional consultative reports on trafficking. Since the start of the work with trafficking in 2006, the Malawi Law Commission and the Malawian Human Rights Commission have been important resource partners for NCA Malawi. Through the Malawian Network against Child Trafficking, NCA is linked to the Southern Africa Network against Trafficking and Abuse of Children (SANTAC).

In brief, here is a summary of the main capacity development activities:

- 15 local organisations received in-depth training on trafficking, including reflections on the churches' role, legal frameworks and counselling.
- Selected partners were sent on a study tour to Mozambique. The focus was on learning and exchange on issues related to victim identification and cross border management.
- The local NCA Program Officer participated in a study tour to Nigeria to learn how they have implemented the Trafficking in Persons Law and how civil society and faith based actors collaborating with government ministries. This learning has been shared with NCA partners in Malawi.

Concentration of NCA work

The country program plan from 2005 was revised in 2007. One major change made during this revision was that water and sanitation was phased out as a priority. We found this work could be tackled by our main partner CHAM (Christian Health Association of Malawi) without NCA contributions. In addition, we found that other actors were providing the same services and NCA had no significant added value.

Another area of work that has been phased out is education for disadvantaged groups. In 2008, we successfully transferred the a partner organisation working with deaf and blind children from our portfolio to the Atlas Alliance, which has expertise in this area. We have also started to phase out small partners, which are not able to report on time and who are working outside our focus areas. One such example is Prison Fellowship, where a 2 year exit strategy is now in place. In future, we will continue to focus our program on health as the overall intervention, with increasing attention to maternal health.

5.3.4. TRENDS, RISKS AND CHALLENGES

In 2008 one of our main partners, the Public Affairs Committee, had a corruption case and we were forced to end our funding to them. This is the second corruption case we have had in Malawi and corruption is emerging as serious risk for our work in Malawi. We have had close collaboration with the internal auditors at the NCA Head Office and in both cases a special audits have been conducted.

The Malawi program is heavily dependent on funding from the Norwegian Embassy, and this is potentially a challenge for our work in the future.

The focus for 2009 will continue to be on health, and NCA has applied for a phase two of the Improved Health Training in Malawian Nursing Colleges Project. The future scope of

this work will depend on funding from the Norwegian Embassy. From 2009, we will also give greater focus to work with masculinity in connection with HIV and AIDS. This is ground breaking work in Malawi and we expect to see good results in the coming years.

5.4 TANZANIA

5.4.1 NCA STRATEGY IN TANZANIA

Tanzania is rich in natural and human resources, but remains poor and highly dependent on foreign aid money. There is a huge gap between the high economic growth and the percentage of people still living in poverty.

Compared to other countries in the region, Tanzania ranks high on democracy and governance standards. NCA's main intervention strategy in Tanzania is to support partners in their work to empower citizens to engage in local governance and hold governments accountable for improved access and quality of basic services. Such programs give poor and marginalized men and women first line experience in participatory democracy.

5.4.2 OVERALL PROGRAM GOALS IN TANZANIA AND STATUS

The thematic priorities for NCA's program in Tanzania are as follows:

- Accountable Governance and Economic Justice
- Gender Based Violence
- HIV, AIDS and Most Vulnerable Children (MVC)
- Interfaith Peace building
- Indigenous Communities
- Emergency Preparedness (including Water and Sanitation)

The table below gives an indication of how the program has developed from 2006 -2008.

| | | |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| NCA presence in country: | Country office established Oct 2005, after having worked for many years in Tanzania through the regional office based in Nairobi, Kenya. | |
| Administrative follow up: | Country office, 18 employees | |
| | Actual expenditures 2006 *1) | Allocation 2008 *2) |
| Total (NOK) | 7,469,795 | 21, 062,933 |
| Composition of funding (% of total expend) | | |
| Earmarked funds (Norad, Lenten, TV) | 19% | 5% |
| Norad 100% | 22% | 11% |
| MFA/Embassy | 56% | 76% |
| Other (incl NCA Own funds) | 4% | 7% |
| Thematic programs (% total expend) | | |
| Governance | 29% | 47% |
| HIV and AIDS | 10% | 11% |
| Water | 10% | 5% |
| GBV | 8% | 11% |
| Peace/Recon | 12% | 11% |
| Joint Agenda (N/) *3) | 31% | 15% |

*1) Due to the fact that NCA's representation in Tanzania opened up Oct. 2005, we have chosen to use 2006 as the figures to show progress and development of the Tanzania program.

*2) For 2008 allocation has been used in stead of the actual expenditures, since there are still some partner audited financial statements lacking for 2008 when reporting on the narrative.

*3) NCA's representation costs are the main part of the joint agenda, and should more correctly maybe have been divided on the different thematic programs – all the time it is the programs that demand NCA to have a physical representation in Tanzania. However, the full cost of representation is reported here as Joint Agenda.

As shown in the table above, the volume of the Tanzania program has increased dramatically since the NCA country office opened in October 2005. Since 2005, the Accountable Governance and Economic Justice Program has emerged as main focus area for the program.

Work on HIV and AIDs, Gender Based Violence and Interfaith Peace building have also been important. Under the Gender Based Violence program, NCA has actively used the *Tamar Campaign* to assist faith based partners to address these difficult issues. The *Tamar Campaign* builds on Bible Study as tool to help churches raise issues that have traditionally been taboo within their own institutions. As a result, several cases of gender violence have been addressed in informal tribunals where the victims can come forward

and tell their stories. Some of the victims have also been given legal assistance and been assisted to file their cases with the Courts.

The HIV and AIDS and Most Vulnerable Children programs have resulted in more openness about HIV and an increase in the number of people going for voluntary testing. The program is showing good results in reducing stigma and discrimination and in recruiting and training foster families for orphaned children.

As regards work on interfaith peace building, NCA has worked closely with the national structure of World Conference on Religions for Peace (WCRP). During 2008, the WCRP continued to transform itself into an Inter-religious Council for Tanzania. The formation and operation of Peace Clubs for children and youth has also been promoted in Zanzibar and Dar es Salaam.

5.4.3 EXAMPLE OF RESULTS

Using informal microcredit groups as an entry to public expenditure tracking

In 2007 NCA did a mid-term review of the country program plan 2005-2009 for Tanzania. Based on this review, NCA decided to focus more on citizens engagement for accountable governance and identified the following as key change strategies.

Introduction of interfaith Vicoba groups (Village Community Banks) as the main strategy to mobilize and empower rights holders at grassroots level and to promote sustainable livelihoods.

Introduction of PETS (Public Expenditure Tracking System) as main strategy to maximize rights holders' access to public services provided by local government and to expose mismanagement of public funds.

Introduction of economic justice and natural resource governance as main focus areas for the accountability and governance component of the NCA program. The main strategy is to link resource organizations with expertise in relevant thematic areas to influential religious leaders from the major faith groups. The aim is to build capacity of religious leaders to do policy advocacy and engage duty bearers for more transparency around extractive industries and more accountable governance of economic resources.

The basic idea behind the changes in the NCA Tanzania country program was that these three intervention strategies are closely linked to the three main outcomes of Tanzania's Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRSP): Livelihood, Services and Governance. This alignment ensures NCA program with Tanzania's official development goals and means NCA partners have a good foundation to do policy advocacy.

Since 2007, this change in strategy has proved highly successful, both in terms of impact and sustainability. To strengthen sustainability of the program we have created a strong focus on "what's in it for me" from a rights holder perspective. Firstly, the introduction of Vicoba groups has helped families and households to gain access to savings, finance and sustainable livelihood. This has created a strong ownership of the VICOBA groups and activities within the groups are largely "self-propelled". Secondly, the introduction of PETS has increased the rights holders' capacity to demand basic services as basic rights from local government. Groups trained on how to track public expenditure have been able to demand improved quality of public service delivery and create a sense of "internal control systems" on public expenditure at the local level.

The following provides an overview of main results. At the end of 2008, there were a total of 400 Vicoba groups with roughly 30 members in each group. These groups have generated USD 1.5 million in savings. NCA and partners only inputs to the Vicoba groups are training and facilitation. No external funds are used for accumulating capital in the groups and members have used their own savings to start a wide range of economic activities and businesses. Some activities are very basic and include small shops or poultry farming. Others are slightly more advanced and include brick making, fruit juice and jam production. Another positive impact for Vicoba members is income from interest by making loans from their savings fund.

By end 2008, 51 PETS committees were established in 15 districts. Many of the members in the PETS committees are recruited from Vicoba groups. Vicoba has provided people with economic literacy and organizational skills. The NCA resource partner on governance, HakiKazi Catalyst, has providing training which has made it possible to create PETS committees that are willing to take up difficult issues related to mismanagement and embezzlement of funds. In Ilula District, the PETS committee managed to secure universal access to clean water for the community, after exposing civil servant who gained a monopoly on public water and sold it for personal profit. In Mbulu District, the PETS committee managed to expose a head teacher who stole government funds from the school budget. As soon as the corrupt teacher was removed, it was possible to commence building of much needed classrooms. The PETS process is now supported by all our core religious partners and facilitated by resource partners HakiKazi Catalyst and TCDD.



Foto: Members of a VICOBA Group in Mbulu count their money during one of their weekly meetings

Capacity development for religious leaders on advocacy and extractive industries

Another important contribution of the NCA Tanzania program is capacity development for religious leaders in Tanzania on advocacy, governance and social policy issues. NCA's added value has been to facilitate resource organizations to share their expertise with NCA's religious partners. Religious leaders in Tanzania are highly respected by government and have the potential to influence important policy decisions. As a result of the capacity development, we see that religious leaders are confident and well-informed on important governance and social policy issues. In 2008, they used this capacity

to advocate for economic justice in the mining sector of Tanzania. By joining forces with resource organization, religious leaders have generated a lot of sound democratic pressure to change the way natural resources are governed. The advocacy done by top religious leaders on mining justice has led to many newspaper articles and much media attention. At the writing of this report, a process has been initiated to re-write the Mining Act with the aim of increasing government revenue from mining.

Concentration of NCA work

The NCA program in Tanzania is still relatively new and has experienced rapid growth both with regard to funding levels and number of partners. The main financial source for the program has been and remains a Strategic Partnership Agreement with the Norwegian Embassy. A key objective for 2009 is to consolidate the work to ensure that NCAs standards for program and financial management are observed and followed. We will continue to emphasize capacity development of partners are emphasized to make sure that they can meet NCAs requirements with regard to programmatic and financial reporting.

5.4.4 TRENDS, RISKS AND CHALLENGES

In recent years, Tanzania has undertaken major decentralization reforms that underscore the need for citizens to engage in local governance and the need for the local leaders to be responsive to the needs of the citizens. In this spirit, NCA has been supporting partners to conduct/activities that seek to strengthen good governance at the local level through Vicoba and PETS. Reluctant local government authorities are still a challenge in many districts. Local PETS facilitators have to be both encouraged and enabled to confidently use existing legislation on local government as a tool for empowerment and advocacy. Legislation on local government provide for people's participation in public expenditure tracking (PETS). Despite a good legal framework, there is still need for more advocacy to encourage local government authorities to open up their doors to the PETS committees and to allow them to do their work.

6. CONCLUSIONS AND FOLLOW UP

From early 2009, NCA kicked off the process to develop a new Global Strategy for the period 2011-2015. As a foundation for this work, NCA finalized its Declaration of Principles, which was approved by the Norwegian Church Council Meeting in 2008. This document provides the foundation for the direction Norwegian Church Aid will take over the next ten years. NCA's new Global Strategy will build on the main commitments set out in the Declaration of Principles, which carries the title *Together for a Just World*. Main messages include continuity with renewal and increased emphasis on NCA's value added as a church based and faith based organisation cooperating with people and organisations of other religious convictions to strengthen human dignity. In this document, NCA also commits to the following as principles for good development practice in all our work: rights based approach, women's rights and gender equality, environmental sustainability, peace and conflict sensitivity and accountability. This document is attached for Norad's information.

From 2009 until March 2010, NCA will be engaged in a process of reflection on lessons learned from the current GSP, reviewing our value added as a development actor and setting strategic priorities for the next planning period. The NCA Board will approve the new Global Strategy in March 2010. Before this, NCA aims to elaborate a Global Strategy that helps us to focus our work, gives clearer direction on *how* strategic priorities can be

implemented at country level, and provides a clearer basis for reporting results at global level.

Based on preliminary discussions with Norad, we have agreed that the next Global Strategy should be the basis for our next framework agreement with Norad. We look forward to a good dialogue with Norad on how we can develop a strategy that is also a good basis for the framework agreement. We began this process in early 2009, with a first dialogue meeting with Norad on documenting results.

Together with our Board, NCA has already begun work to identify our main added value. At a time, where there is increased focus on results of development and humanitarian aid and growing public skepticism to aid, we see we will need to demonstrate clearly the advantages of channeling development funds through NCA. From first discussions, we see the following emerging as our value added:

- Working with faith-based actors
- Partner-based with a rights based approach
- Integrated approach which combines humanitarian response, transformational development and advocacy
- Long term and uninterrupted presence in selected countries
- Flexibility to respond in high-risk situations and contexts
- International alliances and networks

In the next strategy period, we aim to further develop high quality programs that build on this added value. We look forward to continued dialogue with Norad, as we elaborate a new Global Strategy and a new Framework Agreement.