

TOGETHER FOR A JUST WORLD



NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID



Norwegian Church Aid - A Presentation



NCA's work is founded on the belief that all human beings are created in God's image as equals with the same basic rights and obligations. We work to uphold humanity's basic rights regardless of gender, political belief, religion or ethnic origin. Our work is based around five core values:

COMPASSION

God's unconditional love for all people, and the teachings of Jesus Christ who calls upon people to express this love through service to others and to stand up for those oppressed and in need.

JUSTICE

All people should have access to enough food, clean water, work, health and a home – resources that are necessary to live a meaningful life. Our work is inspired by God's commandment that poor and oppressed peoples shall have their fair share of God's gifts to humanity.

PARTICIPATION

All human beings have the right to take part in building the society in which they live. This is why we fight against manifestations of power that violate human dignity and deprive people of responsibility over their own lives.

INTEGRITY OF CREATION

God has given the earth, its resources and diversity of nature to the whole of mankind. No single generation or group has the right to exploit these resources for their own greed.

PEACE

God's vision for humanity is a world in which swords are turned into ploughshares and the poor and oppressed receive justice. Compassion, justice, participation and the integrity of creation can only be achieved in the absence of violence.

Norwegian Church Aid is a church-based organisation owned by the following Norwegian church communities and congregations: Church of Norway, Norwegian YMCA/YWCA, Salvation Army, Baptist Union of Norway, United Methodist Church in Norway, Pentecostal Movement in Norway, Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Norway, The Norwegian Sami Mission, Normisjon, Mission Covenant Church in Norway, The Free Evangelical Assembly of Norway, Norwegian Fellowship of Evangelical Students, NORME and the Global Aid Network.

HUMAN DIGNITY

A starving mother in a refugee camp and an oppressed worker in a textile factory are entitled to the same human dignity as you or I. This may sound elementary, but it is more self evident to some than it is to others. Norwegian Church Aid saves lives, gives people hope and gives a voice to the oppressed. And the way we go about this is crucial. Our credibility depends upon the fact that we strive constantly to promote human dignity.

We are all created in God's image. Human dignity is therefore inherent in every human being – regardless of station in life, gender or ethnicity. We are human before we are Christian, Muslim, Jewish, Buddhist or Hindu.

Human dignity cannot be taken away from an individual, but it can be threatened or violated. People's fundamental human rights must be respected on order for them to be able to live a dignified life. Therefore we ensure that those who receive support from us get to participate in decisions and work that concerns them and their own lives, that they will not be subjected to discrimination, and that they will receive a basic level of protection against violence and war.



WORKING WITH PEOPLE

Norwegian Church Aid's task is to make visible God's love worldwide. We believe all humans are born with certain fundamental rights and duties. To create a fairer world, poor people must be *empowered* and privileged people must be *challenged to take responsibility*.

Empowering the poor

Some people are particularly vulnerable to poverty or oppression. Norwegian Church Aid has chosen to focus on working with the following groups:

Women: Experience has shown that women often lose out when resources are being distributed. This is why we work to support women in their fight for equal rights, participation and protection.

Youth: The energy and creativity of the younger generation is an essential resource in a country's development. At the same time, this energy can become a destructive force if youth are denied access to education and employment.

Indigenous peoples: Indigenous peoples and minorities are often among the most vulnerable groups in their own countries. Their traditional cultures are often intricately connected with nature and, as a result, are especially vulnerable to environmental damage. They are often at a disadvantage when it comes to voicing their own interests.

Uprooted people: those who have been forced to leave their homes and flee, either within their own country or across the border to another country, not only lack protection but also self-determination as a society, and have therefore little ability to ensure their basic human rights are upheld.

Challenging the privileged

All people and institutions with power or resources have a duty to ensure that everyone can benefit from them in equal measure. States and market actors are strongly obliged by national and international law to ensure that the rights of all are respected and fulfilled. Norwegian Church Aid fights to make sure these duties are taken seriously.



PHOTO: HÅKON LISTERUD/NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID

OUR MAIN PRIORITIES

Norwegian Church Aid's work covers a broad scale of issues. However, we have chosen to prioritise five working areas in particular: Accountable governance, HIV and AIDS, Water and safe sanitation, Gender-based violence and Conflict transformation and peace building.

We have chosen these five thematic fields because they are important issues for our main partners and strategic alliances, and because they are areas in which Norwegian Church Aid has special experience and competence to contribute.

Civil Society for Accountable Governance

Broad democratic participation among civil society and accountable governance are preconditions for healthy and appropriate social development. Norwegian Church Aid works together with churches and other civil society partners who have extensive experience both in delivering basic services and empowering the poor. We work for greater popular participation, while at the same time promoting the state's responsibility to protect the rights and interests of all citizens.

Faith Communities Address HIV and AIDS

The global HIV epidemic is a disaster for all aspects of development, and one that is closely linked to the unequal distribution of resources in the world. If the epidemic is not halted, it will continue to eradicate families and communities. Norwegian Church Aid has been committed to helping those living with AIDS since the early days of the epidemic. We carry out prevention programmes and care for both the sick and those left behind. Norwegian Church Aid is also active internationally, campaigning for HIV-positive people's rights to fair treatment and medicines.

Communities for Fresh Water and Safe Sanitation

Clean water and good sanitation are key issues in the fight against poverty, for sustainable development and in

conflict prevention. This is why Norwegian Church Aid is working to secure the rights of the poor to clean water and good sanitation. Many countries are experiencing rising demand for water despite only having limited and polluted water sources at their disposal. Norwegian Church Aid is therefore working to ensure that our contribution happens within the framework of sustainable water source management.

Men and Women Address Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence is a gross violation of women and girls' security and rights, and it hinders equal opportunities and the full participation of women in society. Gender-based violence is often closely linked to cultural or religious traditions. Therefore churches and other faith communities can play a key role by changing their own traditions and by challenging society to denounce this form of violence. Norwegian Church Aid works to give hope and new strength to victims, and to create a climate of openness around the subject of violence towards women.

Religions for Conflict Transformation and Peace Building

Violence, war and low levels of security are barriers to human development and the fulfilment of human rights. Violence and conflicts are usually structural in nature and are often rooted in unequal access to power or resources. Religion plays an important role in most societies, and, as a faith-based organisation, Norwegian Church Aid is fortunate to be able work together with religious partners in working to transform conflict and build peace.



PHOTO: OLAV A. SALTBONES/NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID

PARTNERS AND ALLIANCES

As the saying goes, "He who wears the shoe knows best where it pinches". Norwegian Church Aid believes that the poor and oppressed know themselves how their situations can be improved.

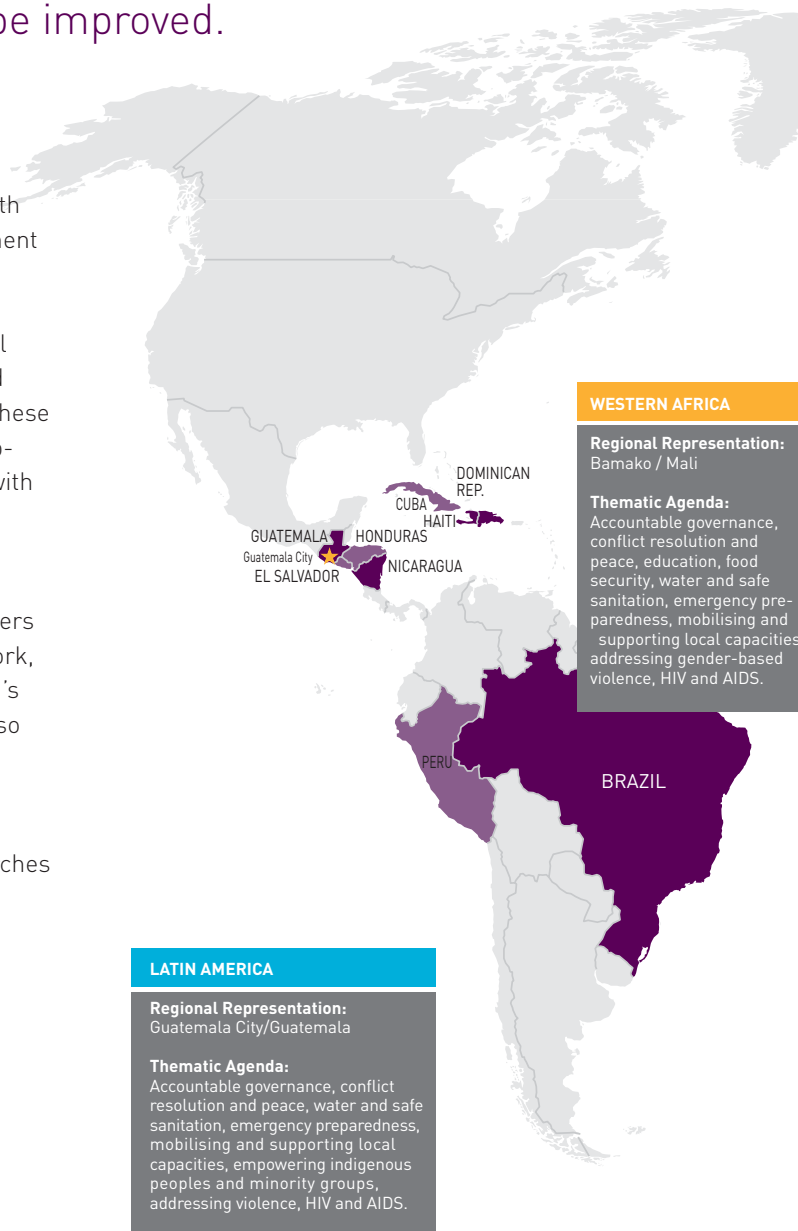
It is our task to organise and support their initiatives with the necessary resources. Only in this way can development be sustainable.

Norwegian Church Aid always works together with local partners to create change. Churches and church-based organisations are natural partners in countries where these exist. In countries where churches do not have an established place in society, we are happy to work together with other faith-based or secular organisations.

It is also important to join forces internationally. This is why Norwegian Church Aid was one of the initiative-takers in forming the Action of Churches Together (ACT) network, which works to coordinate the relief efforts of the world's Christian churches in catastrophe situations. We are also members of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, a broad network that advocates to influence political decision-making, and a part of the worldwide ecumenical family through membership of both the World Council of Churches and the Lutheran World Federation.

- NCA's Focus countries
- Other countries of priority for NCA
- Other countries with programme cooperation
- ★ NCA's regional or country office

Map as per January 2005



EUROPE

Sub-regional Office:
Pristina/Kosovo

Thematic Agenda:

Accountable governance, conflict resolution and peace, education, water and safe sanitation, mobilising and supporting local capacities, supporting uprooted people, addressing gender-based violence, trafficking, HIV and AIDS.

MIDDLE EAST, WESTERN AND CENTRAL ASIA

Country Office:

Kabul/Afghanistan and Support Office:
Peshawar/Pakistan

Baghdad/Iraq, Project Office:
Basra/Iraq and Support Office: Amman/Jordan

Thematic Agenda:

Accountable governance, conflict resolution and peace, water and safe sanitation, emergency aid and preparedness, mobilising and supporting local capacities, supporting uprooted people, addressing gender-based violence, HIV and AIDS.

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Regional Representation:
Vientiane/Laos

Regional Resource-base for HIV and AIDS:
Bangkok/Thailand

Country Office:
Hue/Vietnam

Thematic Agenda:
Accountable governance, health and education, food security, water and safe sanitation, emergency aid and preparedness, mobilising and supporting local capacities, empowering indigenous peoples and minority groups, addressing gender-based violence, trafficking, HIV and AIDS.

SOUTH ASIA

Regional Representation:
Colombo/Sri Lanka

Thematic Agenda:

Accountable governance, conflict resolution and peace, water and safe sanitation, emergency aid and preparedness, mobilising and supporting local capacities, empowering indigenous peoples, minority groups and uprooted people, addressing gender-based violence, HIV and AIDS.

EASTERN AFRICA

Regional Representation:
Nairobi/Kenya

Sub-regional Office:
Kigali/Rwanda

Country Office:
Asmara/Eritrea, Addis Ababa/
Ethiopia, Khartoum/Sudan

Thematic Agenda:

Accountable governance, conflict resolution and peace, education, food security, water and safe sanitation, emergency aid and preparedness, mobilising and supporting local capacities, empowering indigenous peoples, minority groups and uprooted people, addressing gender-based violence, trafficking, HIV and AIDS.

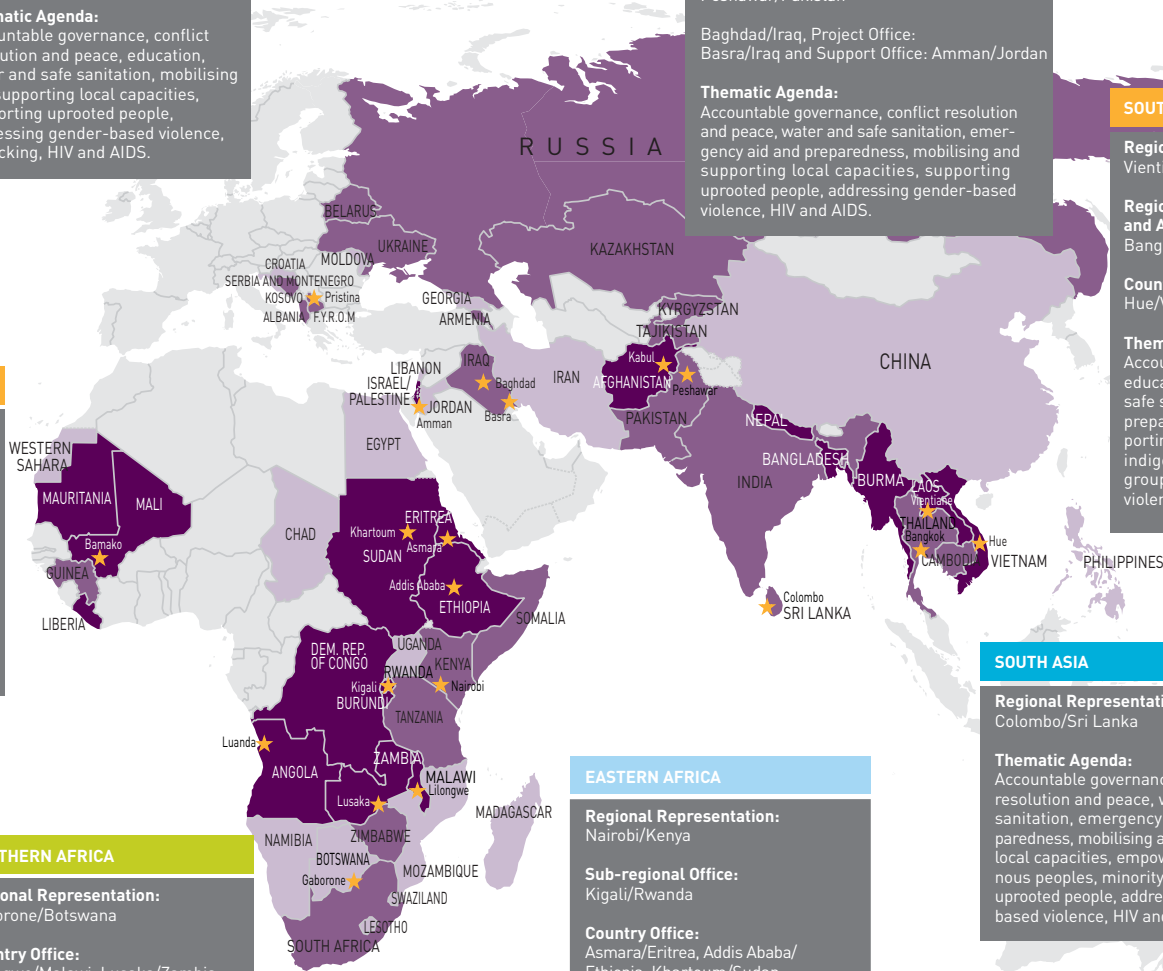
SOUTHERN AFRICA

Regional Representation:
Gaborone/Botswana

Country Office:
Lilongwe/Malawi, Lusaka/Zambia,
Luanda/Angola.

Thematic Agenda:

Accountable governance, conflict resolution and peace, health and education, food security, water and safe sanitation, emergency preparedness, mobilising and supporting local capacities, empowering indigenous peoples and minority groups, addressing gender-based violence, HIV and AIDS.



AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

The battle for human dignity and rights must be fought on many fronts. At Norwegian Church Aid we have three main working approaches and work to integrate them in all areas of our work:

Emergency preparedness and assistance

Norwegian Church Aid works to save and protect lives in disaster situations. This involves providing the necessary help and contributing to the relief effort where most required to do so at any given time. At the same time we work to strengthen the capacities of local communities to cope with disasters while preserving their dignity.

Long-term development assistance

Norwegian Church Aid works for the poor and vulnerable by giving long-term support to our local partners in their local communities. Improving human lives demands a both determined and patient contribution, and our goal is to help people to help themselves and improve their own situations.

Advocacy

Norwegian Church Aid works to influence attitudes and decisions of individuals, churches, communities, governments, international bodies and trans-national corporations. This is how we promote democracy, fight for the human rights of the poor and vulnerable and work to preserve human dignity.



GET INVOLVED

Donate

Norwegian Church Aid relies upon financial donations in order to be able to make a difference for the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. You can offer your support by making a single donation or by becoming a regular contributor. Companies, congregations, schools and other groups can also support our work in different ways.

For more information, go to

<http://english.nca.no>

Join our campaign network

It takes more than just emergency relief and aid to create a better world. The privileged must be challenged to accept their responsibility towards human rights. Members of our network receive notification every time we begin a campaign against people and organisations in power, and can take part in our campaigns and demand justice by, for example, sending e-mails or supporting a particular action.

For more information, go to

<http://english.nca.no>

NCA's Lenten fundraising campaign

Every year, Norwegian Church Aid mobilises tens of thousands to carry out a nationwide door-to-door campaign during the week before Easter. The Lenten fundraising campaign is carried out by congregations across Norway,



PHOTO: SEBASTIAN LUDVIGSEN/NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID

with roughly 35,000 confirmands and adults carrying collection boxes. The campaign is a good information and mobilisation resource for the congregations themselves, thanks to a broad selection of materials and events.

More information can be found at

<http://english.nca.no>

Changemaker

Norwegian Church Aid's youth movement, Changemaker, brings together many thousands of young people aged 13 to 30 who believe it's possible to change the world. With campaigns, courses, camps and local groups, Changemakers spend a little of their spare time speaking out against injustice and supporting the fight for a just world.

For more information, go to

www.changemaker.no



Norwegian Church Aid is a humanitarian organisation founded on the belief that all human beings are created in God's image **as equals**, with the **same human dignity**.

We work to uphold humanity's basic rights regardless of **gender, political beliefs, religion** or **ethnic origin**. Our work is based around five core values: compassion, justice, participation, peace and intergrity of creation.

Together for a just world.



Norwegian Church Aid is a member of ACT International
(Action by Churches Together)



NORWEGIAN CHURCH AID

Visitor's address: Bernhard Getzgt. 3, Oslo
Postal address: P.O. Box 7100, St. Olavs plass, N-0130 Oslo
Web: <http://english.nca.no>