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HAITI and THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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1 CONTEXT ANALYSIS FOR HAITI AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

For the Strategic Planning Period 2011 – 2015, the work of NCA in Haiti and the Dominican Republic is guided by an integrated programmatic strategy, with a clear focus on Haiti and Haitian migrants and their descendants in the Dominican Republic. While official relations between Haiti and the Dominican Republic can be characterized as stable and good, driving causes of continued tensions at various levels between the two countries and its inhabitants remain largely unaddressed. Two of the most challenging issues, migration and cross-border trade, continue to fuel “localized” conflicts, and the risk of spill over to the national level remains latent. At the same time, the two countries both face considerable challenges in domains of strategic importance to NCA, such as climate change, management of natural resources and gender-based violence. In this perspective, NCA maintains an integrated programmatic strategy for the period 2011-2015, and from 2013 onwards, both countries will be managed from the NCA Haiti representation office in Port-au-Prince.

January 12th 2010 earthquake

January 12th 2010 a major earthquake struck Haiti and left more than 200 000 people dead and over a million people without shelter in Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas. Haiti was ill prepared for the quake, being the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere and the only Least Developed Country (LDC) in the Americas, with most of its population living on less than 2 dollars a day. The effects of the disaster were severely aggravated by the fact that emergency preparedness and risk reduction had not been prioritized prior to the quake, and that the Haitian society was highly centralized, in and around Port-au-Prince. In an already difficult situation, the earthquake further weakened the state, pushing it down from 11th to 5th place in the global overview of failed states. The capital and a large number of ministries in ruins, massive numbers of homeless / internally displaced and a huge influx of often poorly coordinated aid were among the key challenges facing the country in the wake of the disaster. The effects of the earthquake will in all likelihood impact the degree of vulnerability and the overall development in Haiti for the next 5-10 years, possibly beyond.

Haiti was facing serious challenges before the earthquake, and even though the situation has deteriorated, the key developmental challenges in Haiti remain more or less the same, with an even more acute need for land reforms and housing. It has been argued that the increased focus on aid to Haiti could represent an opportunity for reform, and an impetus to move towards a more just and equitable society, but this can only happen if the basic challenges in Haitian society are addressed:

Power and conflicts lines

Haiti has been characterized by recurring conflicts during its entire history. The country has a large poor black majority and an affluent mulatto dominated minority elite. However, in more recent years, the political discourse has only partly addressed the key question of distribution of resources. Political parties develop and adhere to political programs only to a limited extent, and the many conflicts at the political level – which periodically throw the country into crisis – are often more about political personalities and their individual access to power and resources than about diverging views on how to solve key problems in Haiti.

On the bi-national level, current relations between Haiti and the Dominican Republic are rooted in a long history of conflicts and tensions, as well as collaboration and solidarity on the local level. Mutual suspicion and prejudice is relatively common. On one hand, Dominican migration policies and harassment by Dominican officials of Haitian migrants and traders in the border area fuel Haitians’ mistrust towards Dominicans, despite the

fact that Dominican-Haitian relations at grassroots level in the border area are mainly characterized by peaceful interaction.¹ On the other hand, the large socio-economic gap between the two countries fuels a constant flux of Haitian migrant workers, needed by the Dominican economy. By many, this influx is perceived as an invasion of scroungers who put pressure on already overstretched Dominican public services, in particular the health and education system. Prejudices against Haitian migrants, fuelled by both media and nationalist political movements, facilitate administrative and legal discrimination as well as economic exploitation of the migrants.

In this context, the January 12 2010 earthquake was thought to represent an opportunity for a positive change in the bi-national relations, as the Dominican state and civil society were the first to respond to the tragedy. The Dominican population at large engaged in a wide range of solidarity actions. Unfortunately, there is little to indicate any real lasting improvement in Haitian-Dominican relations. There is hope that the government-level Bilateral Mixed Commission will meet for the first time in many years in 2012, but it remains to be seen whether such a meeting will have any impact on the situation of the vulnerable groups in the two countries, and whether the core issues of migration and cross-border trade will be addressed.

The situation of women

Women are traditionally at the lower end of Haiti's hierarchical society structures. The position of women in Haitian society is weak with regard to representation in elected structures and in decision-making bodies, as well as in formal employment. About 50% of Haitian families are supported exclusively by female headed households; most of these women work in the informal sector of the economy, whereas in the formal sector, women frequently earn less than half of men's wages. In 2009, only 4,1% of seats in the Haitian parliament were held by women, whereas in the 2011 elections, only five female MPs (5,05%) and one female Senator (3,33%) were elected. There are signs that the recently adopted 30% female quota provision in the amended Constitution can easily be "watered down"; no female candidate has so far been proposed for the powerful Permanent Electoral Council even if the quota provision should normally extend to all areas of power and decision-making.

Sexual and gender based violence constitutes a widespread problem and it tends to increase in periods of crisis and unrest. In fact, Haiti has one of the highest rates in the world of women being affected by violence: The World Bank estimates that 70% of Haitian women have been affected by violence either in domestic or public.² Although legislation, public policies and training of police forces to combat sexual and gender based violence have improved, there is a lack of consistent implementation and allocation of financial resources to support these efforts. In 1996, Haiti created a ministry for women's rights and plans for establishing gender focal points in all ministries were developed, but the plans were never implemented. Both before and after the earthquake, there has been a lack of systematic documentation of incidents of gender based violence, and although there has been progress in collecting and documenting such cases within the Haitian National Police, the judicial system is still poorly equipped to handle the caseload. Very few cases of sexual and gender based violence lead to actual convictions of the perpetrator in the courts.³

¹ Murray, G. (2010): *Fuentes de Conflicto a lo largo y a lo ancho de la frontera Dominico-Haitiana*. Report produced for the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF). <http://nuestrafrontera.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/Fuentes-de-Conflicto-a-lo-largo-y-a-lo-ancho-de-la-frontera-Dominico-Dr.-Gerald-Murray.pdf>

² <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/EGUA-83CNYS?OpenDocument>

³ <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AMR36/004/2008/en/f8487127-b1a5-11dd-86b0-2b2f60629879/amr360042008eng.pdf> , <http://www.ecosalon.com/sexual-violence-escalates-in-post-earthquake-haiti/>

Haitian migration to the Dominican Republic includes a growing proportion of women who in 2010 represented 41% of the total migrant population⁴. From accompanying or joining their husbands who had preceded them, this new feminization of migration means that women migrate independently to seek new opportunities or to escape poverty, gender based violence, or both⁵. Haitian migrant, in-transit and displaced women are in risk of facing different types of violence, including sexual violence, in all the different phases of their migration experience: the border crossing (official or irregular), the work situation in the Dominican Republic (e.g. at bi-national markets or as domestic workers) and during deportation.⁶ Lack of knowledge about their own legal rights, including right to protection, combined with widespread discrimination, absence of support and insufficient understanding of issues such as sexual and gender based violence and other forms of harassment on both sides of the border, all contribute to increasing the vulnerability of these groups (see section 1.1). Efforts to advocate for regulation of the border trade / markets and better protection of both countries' respective nationals have so far not lead to any lasting improvement. There is a notable lack of cross-national co-operation at the government level to address the situation of the vulnerable groups, even if civil society organizations are increasingly co-operating across the border.

In the Dominican Republic, gender based violence is a serious problem and the number of femicides per year is increasing. While 190 women were reported killed in femicide in 2005, 230 women became victims of femicide in 2011⁷. The majority was categorized as intimate femicides, that is, the victim and perpetrator were related, lived together or were in an intimate relationship. Research shows a complicated interplay between personality, cultural and environmental factors as causes of femicide, and underlines that a normalization of violence in an individual's life is a key risk factor of becoming perpetrator of femicide.⁸ Cultural discourses on masculinity and state power contribute to legitimize the use of violence in Dominican society⁹ and can be seen to feed into the normalization of violence at society level. This cultural context makes it challenging to address the problem of gender based violence. In a 2007 report, survivors of gender based violence reported dissatisfaction with and lack of trust in the police and the judicial system, and many reported not denouncing incidents of gender based violence or withdrawing the denouncement.¹⁰ There have been several initiatives from Dominican authorities to address the situation, notably by changing the legal framework and putting in place relevant policies¹¹. However, civil society actors still point to weaknesses in the

⁴ Riveros, N./Observatorio Migrantes del Caribe (2012): *Informe sobre la Cuestión de la Migración Internacional en la República Dominicana para el año 2011* Santo Domingo: Editora Buhó
http://obmica.org/noticias/resena/b896d7_Informe_Anuar_Obmica_2011.pdf

⁵ *Women, migration and rights activism: the Dominican Experience*, Bridget Wooding, FLACSO, Dominican Republic.

⁶ Petrozziello, A. and Wooding, B. (2011): *Famn nan fwontyè, Fanm toupatou: Making visible the violence against Haitian migrant, in-transit and displaced women on the Dominican-Haitian border*. Santo Domingo: Editora Buhó.

http://obmica.org/noticias/resena/fd561c_Petrozziello_Wooding_2012_Famn_nan_fwontye_Violence_against_Haitian_migrant_women.pdf

⁷ Procuraduría General de la República (2012): *Informe sobre: Los feminicidios en República Dominicana*.
http://www.colectivamujerysalud.org/files/boletines/feminicidios_2011.pdf

⁸ Procuraduría General de la República, Fiscalía del Distrito Nacional, Centro de Intervención Conductual para Hombres (2012): *Factores psicosociales en hombres internos por feminicidios en el Nuevo Modelo de Gestión Penitenciaria en República Dominicana*

⁹ Krohn-Hansen, Christian (2001): *Det vanskelige voldsbegrepet. Politisk liv i Den dominikanske republikk og andre steder*. Oslo: Pax Forlag A/S.

¹⁰ Profamilia (2007): *Ruta Crítica de las Dominicanas Sobrevivientes de Violencia de Género*.

http://www.observatoriojusticiaygenero.gob.do/documentos/doctrinas/lib_ruta_critica_violencia_genero.pdf

¹¹ Procuraduría General de la República, Fiscalía del Distrito Nacional, Centro de Intervención Conductual para Hombres (2012): *Factores psicosociales en hombres internos por feminicidios en el Nuevo Modelo de Gestión Penitenciaria en República Dominicana*.

legal framework and in the implementation of these policies, and underline that a cultural change is needed.¹²

Environment, agriculture and natural disasters

Over 50% of Haiti's population lives in rural areas¹³, and most of them are engaged in agricultural activities. However, Haiti is widely deforested and lacks vital infrastructure, competence and agricultural inputs for effective agricultural production. Only 3.8% of the country is covered by forest¹⁴. Deforestation is largely caused by an intensive usage of charcoal and the need for timber for construction, in addition to the lack of access to renewable energy sources. In some areas there is a scarcity of water resources and many areas suffer from poor soil quality, partly due to widespread erosion caused by deforestation. Furthermore, the escalating environmental degradation in rural areas in Haiti is likely to further push migration from Haiti to the Dominican Republic, and a larger influx of migrants would further complicate the relationship between the two countries.

The Haitian countryside has largely been neglected both by Haitian authorities and the international community for many years. After the earthquake, there seemed to be a renewed interest in a process of decentralization and a greater emphasis on rural development.¹⁵ This is particularly important, as many IDPs fled Port-au-Prince after the earthquake for rural areas where resources were overstretched. However, as limited help and opportunities were available, many returned to the metropolitan area. Although decentralization is an important element of the Action Plan for the Reconstruction and National Development of Haiti, the political will and capacity of the Haitian government to implement decentralization measures are unclear. Situations of rising prices and food insecurity have previously stirred unrest in Haiti, and continue to do so, which reinforces the need for sustainable agricultural development in rural areas as a conflict prevention measure in the Haitian context.

Haiti is located not only in an earthquake zone, but also in a hurricane zone. The country is very vulnerable to damage caused by strong winds and heavy rains due to the widespread deforestation, poor and non-regulated constructions and weak capacity in terms of emergency prevention and response. The agricultural sector is easily affected and food security is strongly affected by natural disasters.

In the Dominican Republic forest coverage is estimated to 39.7% in 2012, an increase by almost 8% from 2004. The improvement is attributed to a decrease in forest fires, strengthened reforestation efforts, slash and burn agriculture becoming less common and a general increase in the Dominican population's awareness on forestation issues.¹⁶ However, at the same time Dominican NGOs report increasing challenges related to small scale agricultural production and link this to climate change. Rural communities perceive that they are experiencing more recurrent and severe droughts, and in this situation small farmers' agricultural plots do not render sufficient production. As a result, they report a growing tendency to revert to slash and burn agriculture in the hillsides, with deforestation and increased vulnerability in situations of heavy rains as longer term consequences. The adaption to and consequences of climate change are perceived as

¹² See for example:

http://www.colectivamujerysalud.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=151&Itemid=234

¹³ According to projections for 2012 by IHSI:

http://www.ihsi.ht/pdf/projection/DOC_POPTLE18_MENEST2012.pdf

¹⁴ 3.8% —or about 105,000 hectares—of Haiti is forested as of 2005 (Mongabay). Other sources mention only 2% original forest cover left.

¹⁵ http://www.haiticonference.org/Haiti_Action_Plan_ENG.pdf

¹⁶ <http://www.funlode.org/Noticias/Detaildelart%C3%ADculo/tabid/82/smId/370/ArticleID/1561/reftab/135/Default.aspx>

insufficiently addressed by the authorities, particularly because they are not seen to focus on small scale farmers.

Poverty, migration and absence of public services

Poverty is widespread both in rural and urban areas. Haiti is ranked 159 out of 187 countries in UNDP's 2011 Human Development Index, with an average life expectancy of 62.1 years. According to May 2010 statistics from UNICEF, more than 42% of the population had no access to improved drinking water sources, and approximately 81% has no access to improved sanitation facilities.¹⁷ Corruption is widespread. Haiti is rated as 175, at par with Iraq, out of 182 countries in Transparency International's 2011 Corruption Perceptions Index. The GDP growth (annual %) in Haiti was last reported at 5.59 in 2011, according to a World Bank report published in 2012, reversing the negative trend from the year of the earthquake 2010, and picking up from the 2009 growth rate of 2%, according to ECLAC¹⁸. At the same time, the Government-enacted reforms to improve the business and investment climates in the spirit of the "Haiti is open for business" slogan have so far had limited effect in light of Haiti's pervasive corruption and inefficient judicial framework

Most public services do not respond to people's needs. The functioning of the public sector is greatly hampered both by a lack of financial resources and by the brain drain internally in Haiti to international NGOs, the UN system and other international actors, and externally to the US, Canada, Dominican Republic, France etc. During the earthquake, 13 out of 15 ministries collapsed, key public officials and high-ranking public servants were killed, and the whole system was overwhelmed by the magnitude of the disaster, making the challenge of (re)building a sustainable public sector even greater. Still, an improvement in the functioning of some public services and ministries had been noted in the pre-earthquake years, and the Government has recently launched an initiative which could open the way for a more constructive collaboration with non state actors in order to improve the level and quality of services offered.

In rural areas, most people survive on agriculture-related activities. The crisis in the agricultural sector from the 80s and onwards has led many to migrate to urban areas hoping for a better life. Urban areas in the capital as well as in some of the other major cities have seen the growth of big shanty towns with very bad living conditions – lack of access to potable water, improved sanitation facilities, solid waste management - and high unemployment levels. These areas have played a key role in the periods of popular unrest, and armed groups in the shanty towns have been known to maintain links to various political parties (or rather individual political players). 60% of the prison population in Haiti escaped as a direct or indirect consequence of the earthquake, among these 4 188 prisoners from the national penitentiary. Some of these were former gang leaders and have re-established themselves in slum areas in Port au Prince.¹⁹ Securing stability in these areas is a key to stabilization in Haiti.

In addition to internal migration, many Haitians leave for other countries. Remittances from Haitians living abroad constituted 20% of the GDP (1 222 million USD)²⁰ before the earthquake, which is more than the aid received by Haiti. Haitians migrate overseas and to the Dominican Republic in search of employment possibilities and improved living conditions. Large groups of Haitians are regularly deported from the Dominican Republic and returned to Haiti.

¹⁷ 18.05.2010: http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/haiti_statistics.html

¹⁸ Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean • 2009: <http://www.eclac.org/publicaciones/xml/3/38063/Haiti.pdf>

¹⁹ http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/latin-america/haiti/32_haiti_stabilisation_and_reconstruction_after_the_quake.ashx

²⁰ http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/HDR_2009_EN_Complete.pdf

In the Dominican Republic, corruption is also widespread, and increasingly well documented.²¹ The country ranks 129 out of 183 countries in Transparency International's 2011 Corruption Perceptions Index, and budget openness is considered "scant or none", by the same entity in 2010.²² This tendency is particularly preoccupying in a situation where extractive industries are gaining strength in the country's economy. Metallic and non metallic exploitable resources have been found in a wide variety of localities²³, and there are exploration processes going on in environmentally vulnerable areas. Neither Haiti nor the Dominican Republic are members of Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI).

1.1 Analysis of Main Rights Deficits

Haiti has been suffering from unstable and undemocratic governments which have impacted negatively on the implementation and monitoring of human rights conventions and legislation adopted and ratified by the country. The human rights situation in Haiti further worsened in the aftermath of the earthquake and in mid-2012, according to IOM, there was still about 400.000 individuals living in temporary settlements. One of the main deficits in Haiti is the lack of access to housing and basic services like water and sanitation. In the Dominican Republic, NCA will focus mainly on the lack of (respect for the) rights of Haitian migrants and their descendants, in addition to the lack of protection from sexual and gender based violence for women and children.

1.1.1 Protection

Climate Change is expected to affect Haiti considerably and Haiti is facing this potential negative impact in a situation of dramatic vulnerability, created by a combination of factors including; environmental degradation; large poor populations living in vulnerable areas with a low capacity to adapt to climate change due to lack of resources; poorly developed national and local institutions; and inadequate infrastructure. Climate change has the potential to irreversibly damage the natural resource base on which rural communities depend, with significant consequences for the right to food. As rural livelihood systems come under increasing climatic stress, patterns of migration and urbanisation will also gain considerable momentum. It should be noted that a 2010 World Bank study found a strong, positive correlation between a city's annual rate of growth and the murder rate. Given that Haiti is still mainly a rural society the potential risk of rapid urbanization could further increase the level of urban violence.

Vulnerability to climate change also affects the Dominican Republic. In rural communities which are dependent on small scale agricultural production, droughts and natural disasters negatively affect the agricultural production, with consequences for food security.

Child trafficking, forces prostitution and sexual and gender-based violence in urban areas such as in Port-au-Prince, but also on the border with the Dominican Republic represent serious protection challenges in Haiti which have not lessened with the earthquake. Violence against women is widespread in relation to migration to, work in and deportation from the Dominican Republic. Also male migrants are vulnerable to human rights abuses, particularly during deportation, and to violence at community level, often in the form of retaliation from Dominicans for alleged crimes committed by Haitians. Furthermore, Haitian migrants, both women and men, often work under poor conditions, with little respect for labor rights.²⁴ It is positive that the rules of procedure of the 2004 migration law entered into force in June 2012, making the legal framework for migration

²¹ See for example investigative journalist Nuria Piera's webpage for sample cases:

<http://www.nuria.com.do/casos.php>

²² http://transparency.org/country#DOM_DataResearch_SurveysIndices

²³ <http://www.dgm.gov.do/fiscalizacion/archivos/concesiones.pdf>

²⁴ Riveros, N./Observatorio Migrantes del Caribe (2012): *Informe sobre la Cuestión de la Migración Internacional en la República Dominicana para el año 2011* Santo Domingo: Editora Buhó http://obmica.org/noticias/resena/b896d7_Informe_Anuar_Obmica_2011.pdf

clearer. However, the practical implications of the rules of procedure remain unclear, as the requirements for e.g. contracting temporary workers are so cumbersome that the new procedures are seen to potentially contribute to an increase in illegal immigration and contracting of Haitian workers.²⁵

Restavek children²⁶ also lack protection, and face forced labor or slavery. Street children often become delinquents and join urban gangs. Protection of children became an even bigger challenge after the earthquake as many children lost or were separated from their parents.

The rate of sexual and gender based violence, sexual, physical and psychological abuse, also within the family, remains consistently high, in the face of insufficient support services, and the need for reform in the application of the legal framework to assist the victims of sexual abuse, who often face discrimination and stigmatization.²⁷ In the Dominican Republic, in a large 2007 survey, 20% of women report having experienced physical violence in their adult life, and 10% report having been exposed to physical violence the last year. The perpetrator was in more than 80% of the cases their partner or ex partner. 10% of Dominican women report having been exposed to sexual violence.²⁸ Civil society organizations point to a need to reform state policies on prevention, protection and care for victims, as well as prosecution of perpetrators, in addition to the need of a deep cultural change.²⁹

The risks of unrest and violence, particularly in urban areas, are often due to power conflicts at the micro level and require the protection of vulnerable people. Relief-induced violence and relief-induced economic regression also occur for example in the downscaling of massive employment programmes (so-called "cash-for-work" and "work-for-cash") in the aftermath of the earthquake.

Even though Haiti ratified the Kyoto protocol in 2005 and the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1996, it suffers from severe deforestation and related erosion, vulnerability to flooding and to mud slides. The effect of natural disasters is heightened by the fact that there is a lack of an efficient government to handle disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response. Vulnerability within urban and rural communities is important and currently not sufficiently addressed by the authorities and international community.

1.1.2 Participation

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights has been an integral part of the domestic legislation of the Republic of Haiti since 6 May 1991 when it came into force, but the informal hindrances to participation are numerous and relate to class, ethnicity, age, gender, social belonging and education.

²⁵ Boletín informativo OBMICA, Año 2, No 1, Marzo 2012, República Dominicana: http://obmica.org/noticias/resena/d58445_Boletin_observatorio_ene_mar_2012.pdf

²⁶ A *restavek* is a child who is sent by its parents to work for a host household as a domestic servant because the parents lack the resources required to support the child.

²⁷ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women is worried about the fact that "there is no specific legislation criminalizing violence against women, including domestic violence, although it notes the State party's plan to draft such a law in the course of the year 2009". The Committee further "recommends that the State party introduces and implements gender-sensitive training on violence against women for public officials, in particular the police, the judiciary and health-service providers, so as to ensure that they are sensitized and can respond effectively to all forms of violence against women. (CEDAW/C/HTI/CO/7)".

²⁸ Centro de Estudios Sociales y Demográficos (CESDEM) y Macro International Inc. 2008. *Encuesta Demográfica y*

de Salud 2007. Santo Domingo, República Dominicana: CESDEM y Macro International Inc.

<http://www.measuredhs.com/pubs/pdf/FR205/FR205.pdf>

²⁹ See e.g. <http://www.primerahora.com/emergencianacionallaviolenciadomesticaenrepublicadominicana-583668.html> and http://www.diariolibre.com/noticias/2012/07/04/i342539_feminicidios-drama-que-cesa-republica-dominicana.html

Large numbers of Haitians, in particular in rural communities do not have a birth certificate and/or ID papers; it is not uncommon for the local and central administration to lack the necessary means to issue valid ID cards and related documents. In the Dominican Republic, children born of Haitian parents are not considered Dominicans by the Dominican authorities. Dominicans of Haitian descent face many of the same prejudices and discrimination as Haitian migrants, but is also in risk of statelessness. Until 2010 the Dominican constitution gave children born in the Dominican Republic the right to Dominican citizenship³⁰, and many children of Haitian parents did in fact get Dominican identity papers. However, since 2007 Dominican authorities have been systematically negating Dominicans of Haitian decent the right to Dominican nationality, even withdrawing previously issued identity papers. A new element of the 2010 revision of the Dominican constitution is that the right to a Dominican nationality has been restricted to children born in the Dominican Republic who have at least one Dominican parent with legal resident status.^{31, 32} In several cases, these children's parents do not have identification papers of any kind and as a result, the children become stateless and face a series of potential human rights violations. For example, they are denied education and will later in life not be able to vote, marry or travel abroad – a situation many Dominicans of Haitian descent are already facing.³³

In order to ensure participation of citizens in the society and the freedom of thought, expression, assembly etc., rights-holders need to be informed of their human rights, including the rights of children. This information and awareness-raising is still lacking in Haiti. There is a concern that children's opinions are not given sufficient consideration and are not respected in the society at large³⁴.

1.1.3 Equity

Haiti is a deep-rooted patriarchal society and this influences the different roles and responsibilities of men and women in the family, at work and in the society, impeding gender equality. Women are poorly represented in elected bodies and in public administration. The stereotypical views of women's role in society are an obstacle to women participating and in finding their place in political and public life. Special measures should therefore be adopted by Haitian authorities to increase the number of women in committees, decision-making bodies, etc. in accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to which Haiti has been a party since 1981. According to the CEDAW, women are discriminated against in the labor market as they are faced with a higher rate of unemployment than men. Women often occupy informal positions and perform low-income activities where they face violence and sexual harassment.

Regarding inequality suffered by children, this is especially the case for children from the most vulnerable groups such as girls, restavek, children from poor families, street children, children with disabilities and children living in rural areas who do not fully enjoy their rights (Committee on the Rights of the Child, CRC/C/15/Add.202 18 March 2003).

³⁰ With the exception of those children born of parents "in transit", an exception which with time was increasingly applied to illegal immigrants.

³¹ Riveros, N./Observatorio Migrantes del Caribe (2012): *Informe sobre la Cuestión de la Migración Internacional en la República Dominicana para el año 2011* Santo Domingo: Editora Buhó http://obmica.org/noticias/resena/b896d7_Informe_Anuar_Obmica_2011.pdf

³² In situations where children born in the Dominican Republic do not have access or right to another nationality, the Dominican Republic is however still obliged to provide these children with Dominican nationality, in accordance with international human rights conventions.

³³ Riveros, N./Observatorio Migrantes del Caribe (2012): *Informe sobre la Cuestión de la Migración Internacional en la República Dominicana para el año 2011* Santo Domingo: Editora Buhó http://obmica.org/noticias/resena/b896d7_Informe_Anuar_Obmica_2011.pdf

³⁴ According to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, CRC/C/15/Add.202 18 March 2003

In addition, Haiti faces challenges of inequality related to the unjust distribution of resources such as wealth, land, services, jobs and a lack of priority until now in the development of rural areas and its income-generating activities such as agriculture.

1.2 Role of local civil society and FBOs (in the context of state and market)

Haitian civil society has for years struggled to create a more just distribution of power and resources in the country. Despite periods of great personal risk related to denouncing the abuse of power by the state and private actors, civil society has not been silenced, and has an important watchdog-function in Haitian society, denouncing abuse by state actors and advocating for a broad participation in the decision-making processes. Civil Society in Haiti is also a key in mobilizing communities and in raising awareness. In addition, due to the weaknesses of the public system, civil society plays an important role in service delivery, particularly in the education sector.³⁵ After the earthquake, this function has become even more important, although many civil society actors were also severely struck by the earthquake, loosing employees and key infrastructure. The number of NGOs working in Haiti after the earthquake has skyrocketed, creating challenges in terms of the availability of qualified local staff, the level of salaries, and coordination between the various NGOs.

The churches play a key role in Haiti – both at the spiritual level and as a service provider. Haiti is the country in Latin America with the highest percentage of people regularly attending religious gatherings (81.6%)³⁶, and the church is thus extremely important as a potential agent for change. However, many churches tend to be fragmented and are often led by one or two pastors who monopolize decisions. Indeed, many civil society organizations face challenges with regard to the weakness of their structures, lack of expertise and capacity, individual leadership and personal agendas, as well as internal and external conflicts. There is a great diversity in terms of agenda, degree of local ownership, competence, capacity, representativeness, size and perspective. Lack of mutual confidence is widespread in all parts of Haitian society and there is rarely coordination and collaboration between the various actors. Voodoo religion is an important social, cultural and organizing force in the communities. It is deeply rooted in the Haitian society and the history of the Africans who came as slaves to Haiti from Western and Eastern Africa. Voodoo and other religious communities play a central role in the lives of people and must be taken into account in all work within the communities.

1.3 NCA's comparative advantages in Haiti and the Dominican Republic

NCA has been supporting activities implemented through local partners in Haiti and the Dominican Republic since the 1980s, focusing mainly on emergency response and long-term development. NCA has a relatively broad network of contacts, especially within the civil society sector. After the earthquake of 12 January 2010, NCA decided to open an office in Port-au-Prince. This was primarily to reinforce the organization's presence in the country and to strengthen the work with local and international partners, within and beyond the Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance.

NCA sees our primary role as contributing to developing a strong civil society. Our added-value lies first and foremost in the quality of our partners' work and how NCA is able to contribute to reinforcing their institutional structures, their capacity and the activities they implement on the ground. At the same time, NCA recognizes that the capacity of most local partners (existing and potential) to respond to the widespread

³⁵ 92% of schools in Haiti are private, run by a mix of for-profit and non-for-profit actors:

<http://www.fafon.org/pub/rapp/10070/10070.pdf>

³⁶

http://sitemason.vanderbilt.edu/files/iTuxqs/REPORT_2008_DR_Report_version_12_Mar25_format_v3f_revised.pdf

basic needs in the domain of water, sanitation and hygiene is relatively limited, a fact which was clearly highlighted during the 2010/2011 cholera epidemic. Given NCA's expertise in WASH at a global level, there is a clear rationale for assisting the local population directly in improving their access to secure water sources and improved sanitation, while piloting environmentally friendly solutions such as biogas systems. The latter also represent an alternative source of energy which could constitute an important alternative to charcoal in Haiti. In addition to stand-alone programmes, NCA will also offer its services in the domain of WASH and biogas to other partners (primarily within the ACT Alliance) implementing reconstruction and livelihood projects, to secure overall access to housing and basic services.

As a church-based organization, NCA has a particular advantage and relevant experience when working with the churches, and this potential shall be further explored in relation to religious leaders and inter-religious platforms.

The collaboration within the ACT Alliance and the ACT Forum Haiti, which currently counts 12 international and two local members, represent a clear added value, with obvious synergies and potentially improved impact of our work with local partners. The synergies are furthermore apparent in the field of Climate Justice and WASH, though among other joint programming; in support to faith-communities and inter-religious platforms; and in the domain of advocacy, an area which shall be further explored from mid-2012 onwards. Holding the position of Chair of the ACT Forum in 2011, NCA remains a key player in the Alliance and is set on driving key processes forward, for example in the field of emergency preparedness planning and response.

Norway has a particular role to play in Haiti as it is largely perceived as an actor without a hidden agenda. Norway is among the five biggest donor Governments to Haiti and has previously been represented in the now defunct Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission (which the Government has proposed to replace by the Committee for Aid efficiency, under the leadership of the Haitian government). NCA aims at playing a role in reaching out to other Norwegian-funded initiatives to explore potential collaborative efforts and synergies (example: Norwegian Red Cross, Norwegian Police Contingent/ UNPOL, IDEA, NDI etc.) while also channeling the concerns of the international and local NGO community and Churches / faith-communities to the Norwegian Government. This latter would aim at raising awareness among Norwegian stakeholders, and possibly influence the agenda in bilateral talks between Norway and Haiti.

1.4 Relevance in relation to development priorities

1.4.1 Relevance to national policies, plans and priorities

NCA's planned programmatic priorities are very much in line with the Action Plan for the Reconstruction and National Development of Haiti (PARDN), with particular relevance to the following areas:

1. Territorial rebuilding:

- Reconstruction (land tenure issues, supporting reconstruction through WASH)
- Decentralization (agriculture & environment, WASH in rural communities)
- Urban renewal (community violence reduction, access to basic services, biogas)
- Emergency preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

2. Social rebuilding

- Social protection (protection from sexual and gender-based violence)
- Health / hygiene, food security and nutrition, water and sanitation (hygiene promotion; sanitation; hand-washing; showers, etc.)

3. Institutional rebuilding

- Democratic institutions, transparency (strengthening civil society, religious leaders/ communities, HAP)
- Justice and security (collaboration with MINUSTAH and local police, trainings with police; community brigade, report mechanisms on GBV, etc.)

Sustainable rural and urban development through community violence reduction and climate change mitigation related activities will be two of the main strategic priorities in NCA's future work in Haiti. Within the area of climate change mitigation, there will be a special focus on access to water, sanitation and hygiene and to alternative energy sources in urban and rural areas.

The new national development strategy in the Dominican Republic also underlines the importance of collaboration with Haiti on environmental and climate change questions.

1.4.2 Relevance to Norwegian development objectives

NCA programs in Haiti and the Dominican Republic are highly relevant to Norway's policies in relation to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security: Focus on safe neighborhoods in urban areas, including local peace agreements where women's participation is emphasized; Contribution towards strengthening the gender perspective in rule of law; Combating sexual and gender-based violence in areas with high level of community violence through support and capacity building.

NCA priorities are also in line with Norway's white paper 11 (2007-2008) On Equal Terms: Women's Rights and Gender Equality in International Development Policy and Norway's Action Plan for Women's Rights and Genders Equality in Development Cooperation (extended for the period 2010-2013) which has the following four priorities:

1. Women's political empowerment
2. Women's economic empowerment
3. Sexual and reproductive health and rights
4. Violence against women

The NCA strategic priority on the right to peace and security includes the protection of women and children in relation to gender based violence but also overall reduction of community violence and small-arms control.

Following the earthquake, the Norwegian authorities changed their approach and degree of involvement in Haiti. The following priorities for the post earthquake efforts 2010-2013 were identified³⁷:

1. Disaster Risk Reduction and sustainable rural development, including agriculture, reforestation, watershed management and alternative energy, with a priority given to providing decent jobs and sustainable livelihoods for the poor, especially women.
2. The protection of women and children from violence, sexual abuse and trafficking
3. Political dialogue and confidence building

NCA's planned efforts are largely in line with all three priorities, with the inclusion of gender perspectives and human rights in all activities. We will also continue to be involved in political-level dialogue through advocacy efforts and work with faith-communities and peace building.

In the field of disaster risk reduction, NCA's approach will be two-fold: one, continue to develop the joint emergency preparedness planning and response of the ACT Forum Haiti

³⁷ Norway's statement at the International Donors' Conference Towards a New Future for Haiti, speech by State secretary Ingrid Fiskaa, New York 31.03.2010

and seek the inclusion of our local partners and own staff in joint preparedness and response exercises (including simulations and trainings); two, seek to mainstream a minimum of disaster risk reduction approaches in our own and partners' programmatic activities, recognizing that we may need to rely on the expertise and experience of other ACT partners to fully implement this goal. Lessons learned from the period following the earthquake of January 12th 2010 will be taken into account. As expressed in the Norwegian government's white paper Nr. 9 (2007-2008) on the prevention of humanitarian disasters, Norway will contribute actively in this field and highlight the importance of reducing the vulnerability of local people to natural disasters or in other words, increasing their capacity to tackle such challenges themselves.

NCA's focus on climate justice and peace and security with an emphasis on women and youth in Haiti and the Dominican Republic reflects the concerns expressed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in their Report No.13 to the Storting (2008-2009) entitled "Climate, Conflict and Capital. Norwegian development policy adapting to change" This report recognizes the important role played by NGOs in strengthening civil society in developing countries and in providing services ensuring the fulfillment of people's rights, in addition to delivering aid in response to humanitarian disasters.

Finally, it should be mentioned that, in line with the Norwegian Government's policies and plans, NCA is preparing for a certain gradual reduction in the overall financial support to Haiti, by ensuring that the projects and organizations currently receiving support achieve a high degree of sustainability, and by attempting to link our partners up with other donors. One of NCA's main desired outcomes for the remaining programme period is to have established multi-donor Consortium structures around all our key local partners, for more coordinated support and better impact.

2 MAIN INTERVENTION STRATEGIES

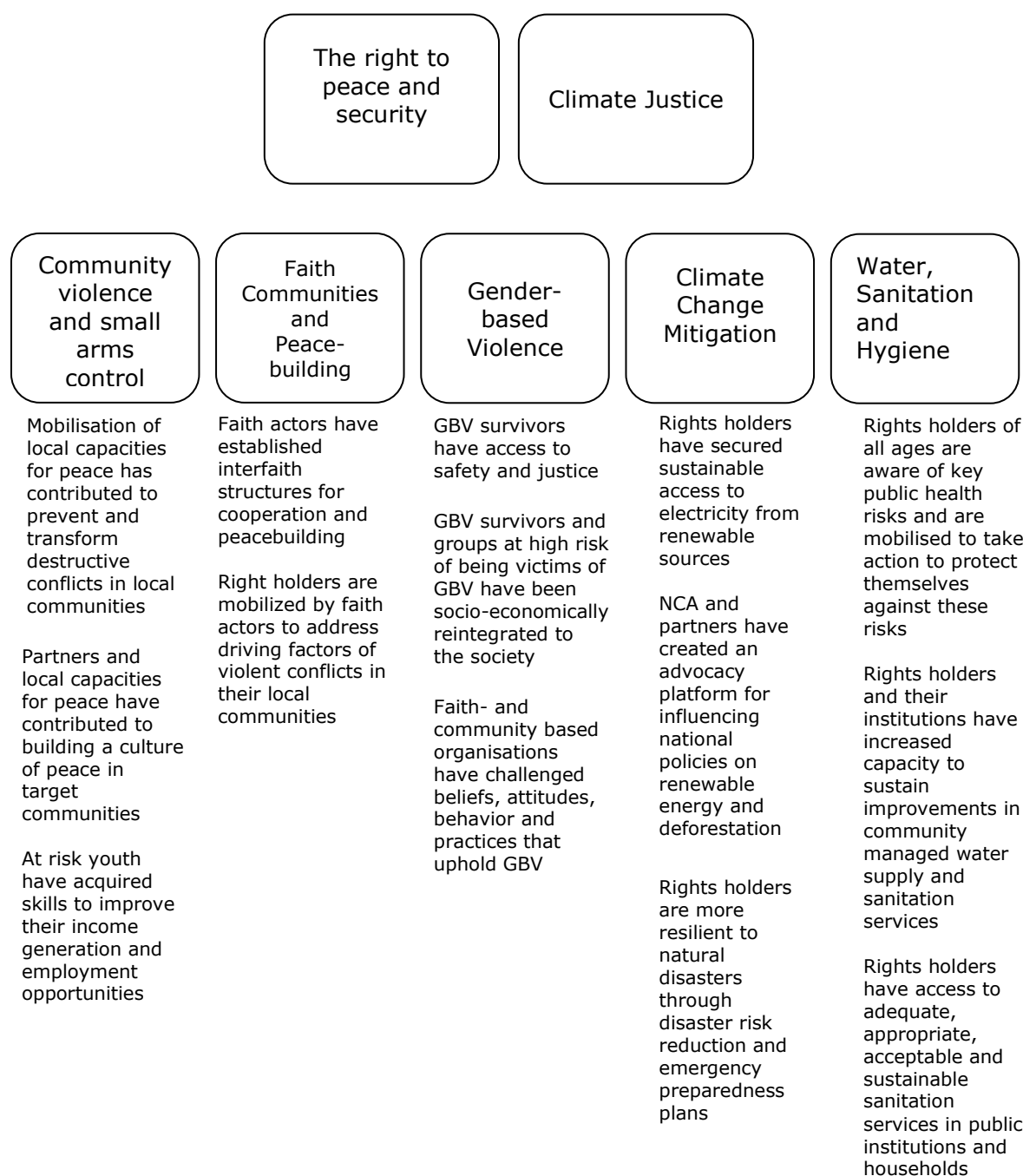
NCA's Haiti and Dominican Republic program aims to have an impact on different levels of the national and international society:

- a) At the grass root level
Reinforce the capacity of the organizations supported by NCA, while ensuring that they maintain firm roots in the constituencies / communities they work and that they contribute to strengthening participation, raising awareness, empowering the citizens and increasing mobilization to claim their rights. When relevant, NCA will facilitate contact, punctual and/or programme co-operation and the forging of strategic alliances between organizations operating in related areas.
- b) With faith-based actors
NCA aims to strengthen its collaboration with Haitian faith-based actors and focus on the churches as potential change agents. The Haitian chapter of Religions for Peace "Religions pour la Paix Haiti" could be a possible platform for mobilizing all faith leaders, whereas NCA will also maintain a particular focus on the Protestant Churches, not the least to build tolerance and understanding for other religions such as Voodoo among the Protestant / evangelical communities.
- c) With public officials / administration
In particular in service delivery projects, such as NCA's WASH interventions, engaging with national and local authorities is necessary to ensure sustainability. The aim is to ensure a degree of ownership and sense of responsibility while supporting the authorities in fulfilling their function towards the right-holders. In other rehabilitation and long-term development projects, the aim is primarily to ensure that our projects are aligned with local and national development plans, and that the authorities are being made aware of this fact, to increase their

understanding of how NGOs can contribute to overall development. NCA and partners will also take on an advocacy role vis-a-vis national and local authorities on issues of importance to NCA and partners, in line with our overall strategy.

- d) With international actors
Coordination with other actors, e.g. through the UN cluster mechanisms, the (I)NGO coordination groups (CLIO and CCO) or the local "Table Sectorielles" in Haiti, is key. Within the ACT Alliance, NCA will seek to strengthen the collaboration towards local partners, for better coordinated and integrated support; within key thematic priorities (Right to Peace and Security, in particular Faith-Communities and Peace Building, and Climate Justice), and for improved emergency preparedness and response, both in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. NCA aims to influence Haitian and Norwegian authorities and relevant international actors through our international network.
- e) Between NCA partners
In line with the Global Strategic Plan, NCA aims to move from a pure project focus to a stronger focus on comprehensive programs where the work of individual partners contributes to a common objective. In most cases, this does not mean that NCA partners will collaborate directly or jointly implement projects, as their target group, constituency, and geographical focus area often render such collaboration impractical, and non-effective. However, global programming will increase the scope for sharing of information, experiences and expertise, and it will also increase NCA's ability to provide advice and value-added input to the partners.
- f) With other NCA offices and good practice partners elsewhere
NCA aims to further explore the potential for South-South collaboration, starting with NCA partners and networks in the region. Cuba and Brazil are particularly interesting, among other in the domain of disaster risk reduction, access to alternative sources of energy (biogas) and community violence reduction.
- g) With new core and resource partners
Although NCA plans to continue working with the same key core and resource partners we had at the start of the strategic planning period, and to strengthen the framework for support around these partners, certain adjustments will be made in our partner portfolio, taking into account our revised Global Programmes and corresponding Outcomes. This includes the possible gradual phasing out of certain non-core partnerships, and the initiation of new partnerships after thorough mapping and assessments of relevant actors, risks and results to date.

Strategic Priorities and Programs



Rationale for choice of strategic priorities and programs:

The two strategic priorities are closely interlinked, particularly in two aspects: First, environmental issues such as climate change (both climate change mitigation and adaptation) are increasingly important in the relationship between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and sustainable management of resources and income generation in Haiti in general and in the border area in particular are key to preventing conflicts between the two countries as well as local land conflicts. The extreme vulnerability of the population and the catastrophic consequences of a combination of climate change (more frequent rains/storms) and man-made vulnerability (soil erosion, deforestation, charcoal use) point to the need for climate change mitigation programs, with an adaptation-perspective being mainstreamed in all NCA-supported programmes, to ensure that right holders are more resilient to natural disasters.

Secondly, the situation in rural areas in Haiti with regard to food production and migration tends to affect the overall political stability in Haiti. Food insecurity in urban areas tends to lead to unrest, increased community violence and sexual/gender-based violence, and political instability. Poor education, employment and income generating prospects facing the very young Haitian population³⁸ tend to fuel the downwards negative spiral.

The chosen strategic priorities for our work from 2011-15 reflect the needs that were present before the earthquake, and which were simply exacerbated by the earthquake and by other emergencies like the cholera outbreak or the 2012 hurricanes / tropical storms ISAAC and SANDY. Emergency response activities initiated in 2010 have been phased out gradually; protection and psychosocial support have been included primarily in the Global Programme to combat GBV, and secondly, in the Global Programme to reduce Community Violence. Although NCA recognizes that it is particularly challenging to ensure access to sustainable livelihood for urban, marginalized youth, education for peace and tolerance, as well as basic literacy and vocational training, combined with sport/art/cultural activities providing non violent alternatives to criminal gangs and delinquent behavior, are important stepping stones in upholding the right to peace and security. In the revised strategy, there is increased emphasis on the responsibility of Faith-Communities to engage in Peace-Building (Global Programme), both at the level of senior religious leaders, and within the individual (religious) community, at the level of local congregations, Church-operated schools, and individual Church-organised activities, for example in the domain of sport and culture. Another area which is reinforced in the revised strategy is Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, which is closely linked to the work on Climate Change Mitigation – biogas systems cannot operate without access to water and sustainable sanitation solutions. However, WASH also represents a Global Programme in its own right, not the least in relation to the urgent need to raise awareness of key public health risks among rights holders of all ages in communities, and mobilize these groups to take action to protect themselves against relevant risks. Overall, NCA in Haiti and Dominican Republic will mainstream disaster risk reduction and emergency preparedness capacities in all our programmes, partners and communities where we operate, to decrease the vulnerability over time, and enable a more efficient and effective response when the next disaster will occur. The goal of our new strategy is to mitigate vulnerability and prevent disasters while ensuring social and environmental sustainability in both an urban and rural context.

Geographical focus:

In the strategic period from 2011-2015, the NCA program for Haiti and the Dominican Republic will focus on the metropolitan areas (Bel Air, Cité Soleil) of Port-au-Prince plagued by widespread violence and poverty, as well as vulnerable communities in the border area, such as Fond Parisien and Plateau Central. Climate justice programmes will target particularly fragile areas such as Macaya (Grand'Anse), potentially the border area and potentially islands like La Gonave. The region of Les Palmes, the epicenter of the 2010 earthquake, in the Western Department of Haiti, stretching from Gressier to Petit Goave, will remain the centre of NCA's operational intervention in the domain of WASH, climate change mitigation (biogas system) and overall rehabilitation efforts. In the Dominican Republic, the program will focus on areas bordering Haiti. Certain advocacy issues, for example related to climate justice, gender-based violence or indeed migration may address the island as a whole, even if the framing of the issues will be different depending on the country context.

³⁸ Around one third of the Haitian population is between 15-29 years old and especially the qualified/ educated youth have challenges finding employment.

2.1 Strategies for strengthening local civil society from a rights based approach

Mobilizing communities for social change

All NCA partners in Haiti and the Dominican Republic work closely with community based groups/organizations and/or local churches, with the intention to strengthen these groups and tailor their work to address the needs at the grass root level. Focus on concrete services (such as biogas systems or latrines) provides an entry point for collaboration, empowerment and capacity development of the whole community. In this strategy period, NCA will work systematically to increase the participation of right-holders at various levels of program development, implementation and evaluation, using internationally-known frameworks and mechanisms like Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) and Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS).

Mutual capacity development

The institutional assessments finalized by NCA and approved by the partners in 2012 will constitute the foundation for capacity developments plans for the remaining strategy period. The assessments contain clear recommendations and the partners are invited to prioritize areas of requested support from NCA. Certain capacity building measures will target all partners equally, but there will be a strong focus on individually tailored solutions and yearly milestones for each partner. The institutional assessments will be updated yearly. Use of local and regional resource persons and mutual learning between partner organizations will be encouraged whenever feasible. In the period 2010 -2012, the NCA Haiti office has focused primarily on building the capacity within the organizations to meet financial and reporting requirement, including setting up functional PME and financial management systems, and on streamlining and consolidating administrative structures. For 2013 onwards, there will be a stronger focus on the contents of the individual projects (including involvement of right holders), as well as on advocacy and fund-raising, which are expected to increase in importance towards the end of the strategy period. Developing fundraising strategies will be an important part of the overall capacity development, aiming to make partners less dependent on NCA and NCA less dependent on a limited number of back-donors.

Multiple lines of communication will be developed between the relevant staff (directors, programme staff, finance / administration staff) in the NCA Haiti office and our partners. Whenever possible, resource persons for specific areas such as DRR or HAP will be sought identified. Whereas exchange meetings between NCA partners will be held on a regular basis, one of the main instruments for ensuring a more coherent approach to the institutional and programmatic developments of NCA partners will be to seek the establishment of more formalized structures (Consortiums) for information sharing and pooling of resources between the donors to the local organisation. Even in the event where a formal Consortium structure cannot be put in place, NCA will take a lead in exchanging information with all relevant donors, and seek the alignment of capacity building efforts and requirements imposed on the local partner.

Regional collaboration and synergies between the countries in the Caribbean (Cuba), in Central/ Latin America (Brazil) and in francophone Africa (DRC) will be planned whenever practically feasible, in relation to climate change mitigation, disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, community violence reduction and gender-based violence programming. Collaboration and synergy will be sought through and between ACT Forums in the region, as well as from one NCA partner to another throughout the region. The aim with this regional collaboration is to develop the capacity of NCA partners, share experiences and lessons learned and include regional collaboration in the country specific emergency preparedness plans and responses.

2.2 NCA Integrated Approach

Long term development is the main point of entry in NCA's Haiti and Dominican Republic program. However, emergency preparedness, response and disaster risk reduction (DRR) will be integrated in the long term work as part of overall mainstreaming of such perspectives.

Whenever feasible, support will be provided to partners who take on a more public advocacy role, particularly with regard to issues of participation, gender based violence, migration, climate change, and issues of special importance for NCA's strategic priorities, such as the role of religious communities and leaders in building peace and promoting tolerance. NCA will participate actively developing an advocacy working group within the ACT Forum Haiti, which may support local partners with information and position papers to advance their advocacy efforts.

On the international level NCA will also seek to work through or with the ACT alliance on issues of special relevance to NCA's strategic priorities in Haiti: climate change mitigation and adaptation, civil society participation in the reconstruction process in Haiti, migration etc. Even if NCA is fronting advocacy efforts vis-à-vis for example the Norwegian authorities, we will attempt to include our sister organizations and local partners in information exchanges, fact finding exercises and other aspects which will serve to reinforce the quality of our advocacy work.

2.3 NCA Accountability Commitments

NCA will during this planning period focus on developing and assuring our accountability towards our own staff, the right-holders, host communities, partners, local and national authorities and other stakeholders, based on the HAP accountability and quality managements standards [1]. HAP capacity building for partners and own staff will to the extent possible be coordinated with other ACT members. Focus will be on the provision of information, securing the participation of partners and right-holders and developing systems for feedback and complaints, focusing on right-holders and host communities during all phases of project and program implementation. Clear commitments to and expectations of accountability in our relationship with partners will be developed and adapted to the specific partnerships both in terms of long term development work, emergency preparedness and advocacy. It should be noted however that due to the lack of democratic traditions on the island, the implementation of HAP and especially its complaint mechanism pose a considerable challenge for NCA and partners.

2.4 NCA Commitments to mainstreaming development principles

2.4.1 Gender equality

NCA applies the guiding principles of gender-sensitive planning and implementation. As member of the ACT Alliance, NCA is also committed to promoting gender equality as a common value and gender mainstreaming as a method of work to achieve gender equality through the ACT's Gender Policy Principles (<http://www.act-intl.org/manual.php>). The Policy Principles outlines how this should be done in humanitarian action, long term development and advocacy.

The NCA Haiti office will attempt to undertake gender analysis in the second half of the strategic planning period order. This is meant to ensure that gender relations and their

^[1] HAP :Humanitarian Accountability Partnership. The HAP Accountability and Quality management standards: [http://www.hapinternational.org/pool/files/hap-2007-standard\(1\).pdf](http://www.hapinternational.org/pool/files/hap-2007-standard(1).pdf)

implications are clarified and that gaps and challenges can be further addressed in the next strategic period.

2.4.2 Conflict sensitivity

In its Statement of Principles and Global Strategy, NCA has committed itself to Conflict Sensitive Programming. External aid will always impact the context where it is provided. An intervention can facilitate or hinder long-term peace and development. Conflict Sensitive Programming is about how assistance should be provided in conflict settings in order to help local people disengage from the violence that surrounds them, and begin to develop alternative ways of addressing the problems that underpin the conflict, rather than feeding into and exacerbating the conflict.

NCA's methodology for conflict sensitive programming is drawn from the Do No Harm Framework (DNH), which is coordinated by Collaborative for Development Action in Boston USA (www.cdainc.com).

Key NCA programme staff will be provided with the introductory DNH training in the mid/second half of the planning period. NCA may also facilitate training in DNH - or equivalent conflict sensitive programming - for the program staff of implementing partners.

2.4.3 Environmental sustainability

As a basis for our programming, NCA applies the guiding principles on Climate Change for the ACT Alliance. NCA is committed to promote justice and rights for women, men and children affected by climate change. The Guiding Principles on Climate Change for ACT Alliance programs outlines how this should be done in humanitarian interventions, long term development and advocacy.

NCA will aspire to the following environmental standards in the next strategy period:

- Address environmental concerns and climate change in strategic planning in all aspects of the project cycle
- Identify the impact that climate change is having on the lives of right holders targeted by our activities by using the rights based criteria in program development in order to foresee risks and take action in order to protect the right holders
- Plan for the effects that future climate change will have on the same right holders
- Support adaptation, mitigation and emergency response measures that do not have a negative impact on the environment.