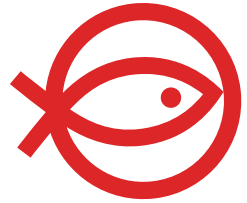


DANCHURCH AID
AYUDA DE DCA
DENMARK

act alliance



PROGRAMME POLICY

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HUMANITARIAN ACTION

INTRODUCTION

This policy provides a strategic framework for Danchurchaid's (DCA) support under our humanitarian programmes and projects. DCA programme staff is to use the policy when developing country specific strategies and assessing projects, partners can use it for inspiration, and the policy serves as documentation of DCA's focus and approach to the public and back donors. The policy is valid from 2013 and will be revised in 2018 at the latest.

The policy contains:

- Background information,
- DCA's policy goals for humanitarian action,
- Overview of our strategic and thematic focus,
- DCA's commitment to partnerships and a list of partners and networks,
- A case story illustrating the results of our work in practice.

The world is facing unprecedented challenges in human history. Climate change is affecting the frequency, intensity and patterns of natural hazards that develop into disasters and erode people's livelihood systems in both the short and long term. The growth and changing age composition of the world's population and the accelerating urbanisation increases pressure on natural resources. This pushes impoverished people into unsustainable livelihood practices in many developing countries and contributes to the increase in disasters both in numbers and scale. Finally, forced migration due to violent conflict has also grown in the last decades. States that have the responsibility to afford protection are often either unwilling or unable to do so. Non-state armed actors have gained power through the spread of small arms and light weapons and ever more fuel the violence that leads to forced migration. The increasing complexity and unpredictability of violence and conflict accentuate vulnerability and diminish the scope for protection.

States have the responsibility to fulfill the rights of their citizens when disaster strikes, but many states are hampering

humanitarian organisations' abilities to respond to the needs of conflict and disaster-affected people. Organisations' ability to remain neutral, impartial and independent, and fulfill the humanitarian imperative has been impeded by the increasing pressure from the Global North to use humanitarian aid to pursue military and political goals. New humanitarian actors from the private sector, military and civil protection forces, and non-traditional donor countries threaten to further erode respect of humanitarian principles. The international humanitarian actors and networks have to face these unprecedented challenges and the uncertainties involved, making the dawn of the 21st century the most complex and difficult period to date.

Alongside these challenges a number of significant opportunities are emerging. DCA is improving our ability to actively involve and promote the participation of those affected by disaster or conflict. They are the first and often the most important actors in their own survival, protection and rehabilitation. By providing rights-based humanitarian assistance we build on affected populations' own capacities and priorities to enhance their resilience. Cash transfer programming offers a range of advantages in many contexts one being a more empowering approach to secure the right to life with dignity. It can also contribute to a more successful transition from emergency response to early recovery.

DCA is a faith-based organisation working with a rights-based approach. We are committed to the Sphere Project and is a certified HAP member.

Partnership is a founding principle for DCA. Partnership is not only a way of working but fundamental to DCA's values and identity, and it is our most important comparative advantage for achieving our goals, including greater sustainability, local ownership and cultural sensitivity. At the global level, and with our strategic alliances and networks, we seek opportunities through the relevant advocacy processes to address political and structural factors that impact on disaster risks and conflicts.

POLICY GOALS

DCA's overall humanitarian action policy goal is that marginalised and vulnerable women and men, boys and girls have increased resilience to anticipate, withstand, and recover from disaster and conflict; and that they, when disaster strikes, enjoy equal access to accountable humanitarian assistance and protection of their life and dignity. DCA, with our partners, will work towards the following goals:

1. Disaster and conflict affected women and men, boys and girls have equal access to assistance and protection, building on local capacities and protecting livelihoods.
2. Vulnerable and marginalised groups in communities exposed to conflict and natural hazards are engaged in and influence decision making processes that affect their exposure to risks, the response provided during disasters and the opportunities for sustainable recovery.
3. Governments, institutions and humanitarian and development organisations systematically address the risks from natural hazard, climate change and conflict in an inclusive manner. Governments take on their responsibility for providing timely assistance according to international standards ensuring protection of those affected.
4. DCA and our partner organisations are transparent and accountable and have enhanced capacity for disaster response, protection of rights, and mitigation of risks from natural hazards and conflict.

INTERVENTION CRITERIA:

In the countries, where DCA has a longer term strategic engagement, we will always seek to respond to a humanitarian crisis building on our partners' and our own contextual knowledge. In these countries, we will work with partners - preferably partners from our global network, the ACT Alliance - to ensure local response capacity. Where possible and relevant, we will link the humanitarian response to our development interventions to protect achievements made, enhance synergy, and promote disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

In countries, where DCA or our ACT partners do not have a long term strategic engagement, we will engage in response to major humanitarian crises if there is an established need for DCA's capacity, our accountability and thematic competencies, and if DCA has funding opportunities including for example significant Danish public funding and support.

BENEFICIARY'S INFORMATION

This voucher gives you right to (SSP 800) per family. This voucher is free of charge and should not be taxed.

If you encounter any problem with this voucher please contact any official working in this project

هذه البطاقة تمنح أسر تكتم الحق بصرف مبلغ صافي وقدره ثمانمائة جنيه (800 جنيه). الرجاء مقابلة أي مسئول يعمل في هذا المشروع لأي إستفسار في حالة مواجهتكم لأي مشكلة أو صعوبة.

STRATEGIC AND THEMATIC FOCUS

DANCHURCH AID'S GENDER EQUALITY AND RIGHTS BASED COMMITMENT

DCA is committed to gender equality and rights based approaches in our international work. The Sphere Project: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, and the HAP benchmarks set out clear guidelines and indicators which DCA systematically works toward. In addition, the principles listed below guide our action:

- **PARTICIPATION:** DCA will support meaningful participation of crisis affected men and women in the decision making processes that affect their exposure to risks and insecurity and their access to assistance and protection. We will ensure participation in all aspects of the project/program cycle, and facilitate disaster exposed women's and men's own efforts to prevent, mitigate, prepare for and respond to disasters and the effects of conflicts.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** The state carries the primary role and responsibility to provide timely humanitarian assistance to those affected by crisis, to ensure its citizens' protection and security, to support their recovery, and to prevent and mitigate future disasters. However, states are often either

unable or unwilling to take on this responsibility. Where relevant and possible, DCA will support partners' advocacy and capacity building of government authorities to enable them to meet their obligations. DCA will particularly support the role of community and faith based organisations and their leaders in protection of people at risk, and in mitigation of conflicts that expose communities to threats of violence, abuse and displacement. We will support efforts to influence decision makers through international advocacy provided that this does not have security implications for the local population and partners. Throughout our actions and in recognition of our own accountability responsibilities, DCA will continuously strive to enhance our accountability to rights holders, partners and other key stakeholders.

- **NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUALITY:** All DCA's humanitarian efforts will build on the principle of non-discrimination. DCA will support strategies and initiatives that address discriminatory and gender blind practices in humanitarian action. We will work to ensure that the rights and needs of discriminated and vulnerable groups are addressed. Conflict

and disaster effect women and men, boys and girls in different ways. Disasters, conflicts and forced population movements typically coincide with an increased risk of sexual and gender-based violence, targeting mainly women and girls, but also affecting men and boys. DCA will address the risks of exploitation and abuse through systematic operationalisation of accountability principles, inter alia complaints mechanisms. We will work with disaggregation of data and information according to gender, and, where relevant, other identities such as age, ethnicity and caste, as part of the analysis, implementation, monitoring and reporting of projects and programmes.

- **EMPOWERMENT:** DCA will support activities that help build self-esteem, skills, and knowledge of vulnerable and marginalised women and men to facilitate their access to protection and assistance. We will support awareness-raising on rights, responsibilities and risks. Where relevant, we will facilitate the organisation of groups in disaster affected communities to enable them to build resilience through informed choices, and capacity to hold authorities and other actors to account during emergencies, the recovery phase as well as in the longer term.

- **LINKING TO RIGHTS:** The rights of people affected by disaster and conflict are reflected in the provisions of international humanitarian law, human rights and refugee law. These rights are summarised in the Humanitarian Charter as the right to life with dignity, the right to receive assistance and the right to protection and security. In countries in conflict and/or under occupation, DCA will draw on the Geneva Convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war and Additional Protocols I and II, and on the Oslo Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief, where relevant. DCA will adapt strategies to local contexts and based on regularly updated risks assessments. DCA will promote coordinated, principled and informed humanitarian action through active participation in the development and promotion of quality standards in humanitarian response.

THEMATIC PRIORITIES

Local preparedness and capacity are critical for a timely humanitarian response, and contextual knowledge of local conditions is crucial for an appropriate response. In recognition of this, DCA build our humanitarian action around long term partnerships. Our key priority is to work with partners to strengthen their preparedness and capacity for fast, effective and accountable humanitarian response to crisis, and reduction of risks from natural hazards and conflicts. We will pursue the communities' priorities and build on their own capacities to strengthen resilience, be it towards risks from natural hazards or threats from violence and conflict. Where appropriate, DCA will promote cash transfer programming as a methodology with flexibility to meet a variety of needs and at the same

time enhance disaster and conflict affected people's possibilities to exercise their own choice regarding needs and priorities. Where relevant and possible, DCA will link our humanitarian action with Mine Action interventions and our Right to Food programmes.

■ FAST AND EFFECTIVE RESPONSE TO ACUTE NEEDS:

Based on the preparedness and response capacity developed with our local partners and the national ACT Fora, DCA will respond to acute crisis. Our immediate response will be based on the affected populations' needs and priorities independent of technical sectors, but building on the specific competencies of partners and the national ACT Fora. DCA will always seek to link the humanitarian response to our development interventions to protect achievements made, enhance synergy, and advance longer term disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. In countries, where DCA does not have a long term strategic engagement, we will engage in response to major humanitarian crises if there is an assessed need for DCA's capacity, or for our accountability and thematic competencies, and if DCA has funding opportunities including for example significant Danish public funding support. In these countries exit strategies will be based on linkages to the development efforts of the ACT Alliance or other development actors.

Examples of activities:

- Life-saving initiatives in the immediate aftermath of a disaster addressing basic needs in terms of food, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene.
- Unconditional micro grant activities enabling small and informal community groups to respond quickly and according to their own survival and protection priorities and capacities during emergencies
- Facilitation of capacity and skills building for vulnerable and marginalised women and men during displacement and promotion of their participation in decision making fora and committees in camps for refugees and displaced.
- Activities that build awareness on gender roles, human rights and responsibilities, facilitate self-organisation of displaced women and men, and strengthen capacity, leadership and accountability of their organisations.

■ SUSTAINING LIVELIHOODS IN PROLONGED CRISIS SITUATIONS:

In prolonged crisis situations, DCA will in particular focus on improved food security of vulnerable and marginalised groups, addressing the components of food availability, food access, and utilisation with the aim of strengthening sound coping mechanisms and livelihood strategies. DCA will support partners' educational activities that address acute malnutrition, chronic malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. However, therapeutic feeding programmes and other activities requiring medical and technical health expertise are outside the range of this policy. Where mines and other remnants from armed violence are posing a threat to people's lives and livelihoods, DCA will strive to ensure that these threats are reduced

or fully removed through our mine action programme. In areas, where DCA has a long term Right to Food programme, we will link the humanitarian response with that programme to contribute to effective recovery and minimise negative effects on sustainable livelihoods. In areas where DCA is not engaged on a long term basis, we will ensure linkages to the development efforts of the ACT Alliance or other development actors.

Examples of activities:

- Cash transfer programming to sustain livelihoods including market assessments to assess availability of goods, market absorption capacity, price control mechanisms and rights holders' access to markets. Support to continued monitoring of markets during cash transfer interventions to assess effectiveness of cash transfers and appropriate follow up actions.
 - Interventions strengthening coping mechanisms and livelihoods strategies such as vegetable gardening and agricultural production, livestock restocking, support to small husbandry, and veterinary health to increase food availability and enhance the nutritional value of the diet.
 - Skills- and vocational training activities; income generation; and saving & loans groups.
 - Interventions aimed at reducing nutrition related morbidity and mortality rates among disaster affected populations while at the same time supporting local institutions to (re) build capacities to manage.
 - Nutritional education of parents and promotion of breastfeeding to address malnutrition and anemia in children while combined with support to small scale income generating activities.
 - Mine risk education and other humanitarian mine action activities in order to sustain communities' livelihood strategies, where relevant.
 - Activities that build awareness on gender roles, human rights and responsibilities, facilitate self-organisation of disaster affected women and men, and strengthen capacity, leadership and accountability of their organisations.
- **SUPPORTING LOCAL PROTECTION CAPACITIES:** During crisis, people at risk mostly rely on their own individual and communal survival and protection strategies rather than protection provided by their government or the humanitarian community. These strategies are intimately interconnected with their livelihood options and the 'social capital', leadership, values and tradition of their families and communities, as documented for example in the DCA led research project, "Local to Global Protection". Civil society can and should not take over the state's responsibility for protection but can enhance protection by supporting measures that reduce the threat and negative impact of violence or conflict – and are designed to protect livelihoods. DCA will promote and support protection of conflict affected and disaster exposed populations building on people's own capacities and protection and response strategies while employing wider advocacy with national and international duty bearers. Included in this will be promotion of awareness on gender

roles and human rights to address the specific risks related to gender and any discriminatory practices during disasters and conflicts. Where relevant, DCA will link our interventions under this policy with mine action and mine risk education to enhance protection and facilitate recovery from humanitarian crisis.

Examples of activities:

- Systematic documentation and subsequent dissemination of relevant locally known survival and self-protection strategies and activities before, during and after a major emergency
 - Organisation of cross learning on survival and self-protection strategies between different communities faced with threats of a similar nature
 - Prioritisation of livelihood activities which improve affected peoples' survival and protection options before, during and after emergencies
 - Support to improved preparedness for self-protection through supporting good local organisation, leadership and a shared threats and opportunities analysis by communities themselves ahead of major emergencies.
 - Mine risk education and other humanitarian mine action activities in order to strengthen communities' protection strategies, where relevant.
 - Support to faith based and community organisations' efforts to mitigate conflicts that expose communities' to threats of violence, abuse and displacement, through for example strengthening local leaders' capacities for mitigation, facilitation of peace dialogues,
 - Facilitate linking of local conflict mitigation efforts to wider advocacy at national and international levels.
- **STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE THROUGH DISASTER RISK REDUCTION:** Throughout our humanitarian action, we will seek opportunities to address underlying risks and threats and include measures that reduce risks in the longer term. We will ensure inclusion of risk reduction and preparedness and climate change adaptation measures when working to strengthen local response capacities, and as early as possible after a disaster. Disaster risk reduction is particularly critical to early recovery programming in disaster prone areas and environments subject to stresses from climate change. DCA will support partners' rehabilitation and recovery interventions based on assessments of current and future risks using methods identifying exposure, vulnerabilities and capacities in order to build resilience. DCA will promote understanding of disaster and climate related risks and risk reduction options among affected populations to enable them to build resilience through informed choices, and to hold governments and other actors to account during recovery and in the longer term. DCA will ensure that findings and lessons from risk assessments, emergencies and recovery processes inform our development programming in the areas where we have a long term engagement to contribute to enhancing overall resilience.

Examples of activities:

- Participatory capacity and vulnerability analysis with affected populations; facilitation of community based organisations and structures that address risk reduction, preparedness, early warning mechanisms, local response capacity and more sustainable natural resource management.
- Capacity building of local government authorities to enable them to work with early warning systems and contingency planning and to enhance their ability to integrate disaster risk reduction measures into longer term planning
- Interventions that restore lost productivity, promote sustainability and enhance resilience of pastoral livelihoods through improved management of pastures, rangelands and water resources.
- Activities that support the recovery of lost productivity, promote sustainability and enhance resilience of farmers' livelihoods through improved soil management, and risk management measures such as diversification of crops and livestock, and credit and savings groups.
- Rehabilitation of basic social infrastructure in the aftermath of a disaster including restoration of more risk resilient infrastructures, such as raised shelter, latrines, and wells.
- Advocacy actions that address government authorities' responsibility to ensure that disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into broader development planning

■ **BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITIES AND PREPAREDNESS FOR ACCOUNTABLE, HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE:** In countries, where DCA has a long term commitment, we will systematically work to strengthen local capacities for emergency preparedness, response and risk reduction with partners, local governments and communities. As a rights-based organisation, DCA will focus on strengthening the local capacities to apply international standards in humanitarian response and to advance the rights of disaster and conflict affected people, including advocacy with local authorities on their responsibilities. Likewise, DCA will use our experience as a

HAP certified organisation in supporting partners to ensure accountability principles and benchmarks in their organisational structures and practice. Finally, DCA will work with partners before and during emergencies to ensure the basic technical skills necessary in the planning and management of disaster response. This will be based on an analysis of how DCA can best contribute to partners' operations in a way that responds to the needs of partners and priorities of affected communities. In the disaster prone areas where we implement a Right to Food programme, we will ensure integration of appropriate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation measures into that programme.

Examples of activities:

- Training in humanitarian standards as developed by the SPHERE, LEGS (Livestock Emergency Guidance and Standards), INEE (Education in Emergencies) and others, integration of accountability measures in humanitarian interventions, among others through development of complaints mechanisms, and provision of adequate information for rights holders and other stakeholders.
- Deployment of resource persons in crisis situations to strengthen accountability measures and humanitarian standards.
- Training of partners in key technical skills, such as needs assessments using participatory methods, security risk management, logistics & procurement, cash transfer programming, and humanitarian coordination, to build organisational response capacity.
- Deployment of resource persons to strengthen technical aspects of partners' crisis response during emergencies.
- Support to partners' and local authorities development of early warning systems and contingency plans
- Build capacity with partners to develop and implement disaster risk reduction measures building on participatory capacity & vulnerability assessments.



PARTNERSHIPS, NETWORKS AND ALLIANCES

PARTNERS

DCA will work with our partners to establish mutually agreed frameworks and benchmarks for reliable assessment of performance, and for increased transparency and accountability. In humanitarian action, DCA will identify key humanitarian response partners, and in particular seek to involve partners from the Right to Food programmes to promote risk reduction in long term development. We will enhance local preparedness and build on these partners' contextual knowledge while strengthening their response capacity before emergencies.

NETWORKS AND ALLIANCES

DCA will work with the national ACT Fora and their local partners to address disasters and build local capacity. Among the International ACT members, we will prioritise the development of strategic relations with ACT members with specific competencies and capacities and other international networks and alliances.

DCA will prioritise certain advocacy organisations (such as VOICE, APRODEV and CONCORD); specialised ACT working groups, such as the Advisory Groups on Climate Change Advocacy and on Accountability; and certain UN coordination mechanisms such as the Protection and Food Security Clusters. With these strategic networks and alliances, we will seek opportunities to influence relevant global advocacy processes such as the Post 2015. Through our participation in the Cash Learning Partnership, DCA will contribute to the improvement of the quality of emergency cash transfer programming across the humanitarian sector. To live up to DCA international commitments and ensure quality, accountability and improvements in our work, DCA will actively participate in and contribute to the Sphere community and the Humanitarian Accountability Partnership.

LIST OF INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

ACT ALLIANCE (Action by Churches Together) is composed of more than 130 member organisations working in long-term development, humanitarian assistance and advocacy with members in 140 countries. DCA is a member of the ACT Alliance.

APRODEV is the Association of World Council of Churches related Development Organisations in Europe. The main objective of APRODEV is to influence decision-making processes in the European Union institutions as these affect developing countries, in order to promote justice and peace, and the eradication of poverty.

CaLP (Cash Learning Partnership) is headed by a steering committee of Oxfam GB, the British Red Cross, Save the Children, the Norwegian Refugee Council and ACF International. The partnership supports capacity building, research and information-sharing on cash transfer programming as an effective tool to help deliver aid in times of crisis.

CONCORD is a network of 27 European networks representing about 1600 European development and humanitarian organisations. Its primary objective is to influence policies within the EU in order to promote development, social justice, gender equality and human rights.

HAP (Humanitarian Accountability Partnership) is a multi-agency initiative with the mission to make humanitarian action accountable to its intended beneficiaries through self-regulation by its members. DCA is a certified member of HAP.

THE FOOD SECURITY CLUSTER (FSC) was established in 2011 under the co-leadership of FAO and WFP to enhance cooperation and partnerships on food response in emergencies. The FSC works directly with its partners and stakeholders that include international NGOs, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, other cluster lead agencies, UN organisations, governments and donors.

THE SPHERE PROJECT is a voluntary initiative that brings a wide range of humanitarian agencies together around the aim of improving the quality and accountability of humanitarian assistance. The Sphere project is governed by a Board composed of representatives of global networks of humanitarian agencies.

VOICE (Voluntary Organisations in Cooperation in Emergencies) is a network representing 82 non-governmental organisations active in humanitarian aid worldwide, who are based in 18 European countries. Seeking to involve its members in advocacy, common positioning and information exchange, VOICE is the main NGO interlocutor with the European Union on emergency aid and disaster risk reduction.

CASE STORY

DUK AND TWIC EAST COUNTIES IN JONGLEI, SOUTH SUDAN are home to approx. 150,000 people, and are found along the swamps of the river Nile. This part of South Sudan was severely affected by the war and much of the population fled to Kenya during the decades long war that left South Sudan shattered and extremely impoverished. It is an area with a very harsh climate – up to 50 degrees Celsius in the dry season and risks of flooding in the four months rainy season. The annual flooding may destroy the harvest, take the lives of livestock, and is a serious threat to health. Some years the flooding reaches life threatening proportions and displaces thousands of people.

Before the war, the communities in Duk and Twic counties were protected by a system of dykes along the river, but the lack of maintenance during the war left the dykes disintegrated. Besides the problems all of South Sudan faced after the devastating war, the communities in Duk and Twic East were also threatened by the annual flooding from the Nile – a problem that became more and more pronounced as the refugees returned from Kenya and needed land to rebuild their lives after years in exile.

In 2008, DCA and partners began to work with the communities along the river Nile to support the resettlement of returnees and the recovery of food production. However, communities soon raised the issue of flooding as a critical risk that had to be addressed before tangible results in food security could be reached. **Local leaders and flood task forces whose members were selected by community representatives were mobilised** and trained to work with risk assessments, risk management, early warning, flood mitigation and dyke repair and maintenance. However, the technical and financial requirements needed to rehabilitate the main dyke were beyond the capacity of the communities and the support that DCA and partners could provide.

Representatives from the 10 flood task forces – representing the communities closest to the river - **formed a network that could raise the interests and concerns of the communities with the local authorities**. In 2010, the network succeeded in convincing the local authorities to contribute financially to a major rehabilitation of the main dyke with additional support from DCA and partners.

By the end of 2011, **27 km of the main dyke was rehabilitated benefitting directly the population of approx. 65.000 living closest to the Nile**, and indirectly the whole population of the two counties that no longer will have to host those that are displaced during the annual flooding.

Protected by the main dyke, the communities and their task forces can now concentrate on improving the **36 km. of minor secondary and tertiary dykes** within their homesteads as a means of further mitigating and controlling rain water.

The fundamental benefit of the dyke system is of course the safety it provides the communities. Beyond this, **the safety provides space for strengthening food security and livelihoods and the communities report increases in crop and livestock productivity**. However, with the devastation during the war and the challenges the new nation of South Sudan faces, there is still a long way to go to secure sustainable livelihoods. In the years to come, DCA and partners will continue working with the women and men in the communities along the Nile to strengthen their livelihoods and ability to prepare for and manage risks.



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