

DCA Principles of Engagement with the Private Sector

DanChurchAid (DCA) works to empower the world's poorest in their struggle for a dignified life. Our global goals are to save lives, build resilient communities and fight extreme inequality. We want to secure the right to food, active citizenship, and income of people living in poverty by working for a just distribution and sustainable use of resources. Working in partnerships is our most important asset in making the changes we wish to see in the world, both with local civil society organisations, international organisations, governments and local authorities, resource institutions, private sector, and other actors.

DCA's work derives from Christian values and the humanitarian imperative. We show active compassion, and share with the world's poorest. We help those in need, regardless of race, religion and political affiliation. We act courageously when injustice is committed, and speak up when human rights are violated.

DCA is a member of the Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance. We are certified in accordance with the Core Humanitarian Standards. DCA is a signatory to the UN Global Compact, and a member of the multistakeholder alliance, the Danish Initiative for Ethical Trade.

The following principles establish the principles for DCA's engagement with private sector actors:

1. DCA is an independent non-profit organization.
2. As a human rights-based organisation, DCA is committed to ensuring that human rights and gender equality are an integral part of all our work. DCA works from a human rights-based approach through the five PANEL principles (Participation, Accountability, Non-Discrimination and Equality, Empowerment, and Legality).
3. DCA's aim of engaging private sector actors is to promote respect for human rights and sustainable development. DCA works in accordance with international human rights and labour standards, such as the UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and ILO Core Conventions. DCA also supports the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
4. DCA expects business enterprises and their suppliers to respect human in line with these international minimum standards. Corporate Partners are expected to be committed to actively prevent, address and mitigate any actual or potential negative impacts on human rights in their own operations, and with their suppliers. Part of this responsibility involves policy commitments and operational management systems in place to ensure respect for human rights.
5. DCA recognizes that ensuring respect for human rights is a continuous improvement process, and not a quick fix solution. DCA therefore engages constructively with business Partners to exchange knowledge and learning on practical ways to ensure proper human rights due diligence. In return, DCA expects the engagement to be based on the principles of mutual trust, accountability, transparency, and commitment to take action.
6. DCA will continuously monitor and evaluate Partnerships and outcomes of our engagements with corporate actors, and may at any point of time decide to initiate concrete dialogue on interventions of the company, which might have a negative social or environmental effect, or discontinue the engagement.