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Cordaid Regional Office Nairobi

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Together with Kinderstem, Memisa, Mensen in Nood (Caritas Netherlands) and Vastenactie (Dutch Lenten Campaign), Cordaid is one of the biggest international development organizations in the world. Supported by half a million people in the Netherlands, Cordaid works with over a thousand counterparts worldwide towards achieving a dignified existence for the poor and for those deprived of their rights.

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Cordaid: The World Belongs to Everyone

Everyone has the right to a dignified existence without poverty. For that reason Cordaid devotes itself to people who are poor and deprived of their rights in over forty developing countries. We do that together with over a thousand local organizations working on one of Cordaid's four key thematic areas: 'quality of urban life', 'access to markets', 'health and care' and 'peace and conflict'. Special attention is paid to HIV/AIDS, a disease with devastating consequences for society as a whole, especially in Africa.

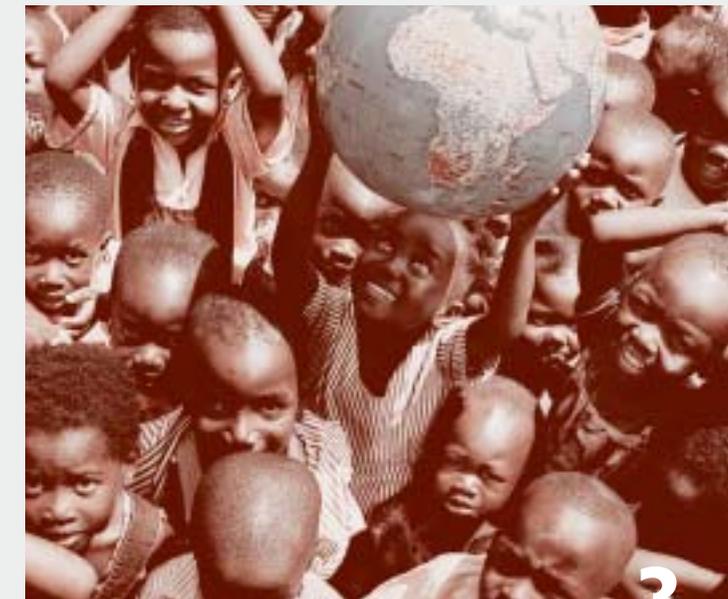
Cordaid is the driving force behind Kinderstem, Memisa, Mensen in Nood and Vastenactie. In the Netherlands we can count on more than half a million donors who support our work via these funds. Partly thanks to them, Cordaid is able to spend some 150 million euro annually on projects in developing countries.

In our work we are inspired by the Catholic social teaching. We believe that everyone has the right to a dignified existence, irrespective of income, sex, inclination, origins, religious belief or political conviction. In addition, we believe in the individual power of people: what the local population can do for itself, we must not do on its behalf.

We are also active in the Netherlands. We want to support our counterparts in developing countries so that their voice can be heard together with ours. For that reason we oppose political decisions and developments that stand in the way of justice. For example we do not want the aid

budget to be used for export credits. We also believe that the debts of poor countries must be reduced. We make sure that our voice is heard not only in Dutch politics, but also in the European Union (EU) and in the United Nations (UN).

In order to do that effectively, we need strong support. Otherwise our voice counts for nothing. With many donors, thousands of volunteers and scores of local groups, Cordaid has a large support base in the Netherlands. We also work with various groups in Dutch society, such as governments and civil society organizations as well as with the private sector and with the financial sector in order to create access to markets for the poor and to encourage corporate social responsibility and entrepreneurship.



The World Belongs to Everyone

Cordaid Regional Office Nairobi

In 2000 Cordaid established a regional office in Nairobi with the aim of increasing our relationships with partner organizations, improving networking and strengthening our partner organizations through capacity building. Three countries, namely Kenya, Sudan and Ethiopia are covered by the regional office. Authority on decision making, dialogue with partner organizations, approval and follow up of programmes has been fully delegated from The Hague to the Nairobi Regional Office.

Funding provided by Cordaid is targeted towards competitive partner organizations in Kenya, Sudan and Ethiopia. These organizations focus mainly on direct poverty reduction, civil society building and lobby / advocacy. Most initiatives are financed through grants while micro finance activities are financed via loans, by the Finance Department at Cordaid The Hague (The Netherlands). Emergency interventions are funded by the Emergency Department in The Hague. In addition, special funds are available for innovative programmes or projects. Most funding is provided to organizations for longer term plans (maximally three years per contract). Some funding is available for short term projects. There is intense competition for these funds and consideration is based on how the initiative fits within Cordaid's policies and themes within the geographical area of focus. The quality of the applying organization, and of the proposal itself are also considered. Integration of gender equality both in organization and programme is a prerequisite for funding of new organizations.

Kenya

In Kenya, Cordaid focuses on the themes Quality of Urban Life, Health and Care and Access to Markets. Geographical focus lies on the cities Nairobi and Kisumu and on the Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASAL).

In Nairobi and Kisumu support goes to partners active in the slum areas working on:

- housing, security of tenure;
- environmental issues;
- social cohesion and diversity;
- improving incomes of the urban poor.

Cordaid advocates for social justice and protection of the urban poor who are vulnerable and overburdened by the already difficult urban life. Women form a large percentage of the urban poor and initiatives that uplift their well-being are given priority.

Under the theme of Health and Care, we mainly target community based health care, reproductive health with HIV/AIDS as a key component in both semi-arid and urban areas.

Geographical focus for the theme of Access to Markets is on Arid and Semi Arid Lands (ASAL). The programme focus is on increasing the income and livelihood assets of the poor and most vulnerable groups. In particular, we aim to increase the quality and quantity of products and services of these groups, and improve their access to markets and access to financial means. In these ASAL areas, Cordaid's work targets regions which are prone to

periodic droughts and their resultant negative impact. To reduce the vulnerability of communities to such calamities, Cordaid employs the drought cycle management model under which drought is taken into account while planning projects and programme activities. These activities are planned to fit in the drought cycle stages of mitigation, preparedness, emergency and recovery.

Cordaid believes that civil society, government, and the private sector have a significant role to play in poverty reduction and thus stimulates its partners to engage, network and collaborate with these groups.

Case study in Kenya, Quality of Urban Life

Water and sanitation for Kisumu

Kisumu, a city of one million inhabitants on the shores of Lake Victoria in western Kenya continues to grow very fast. The development of the city cannot keep pace with the increase in population and this has resulted in all kinds of problems, for example poor infrastructure, lack of clean drinking water and sewerage, high levels of unemployment, poor medical facilities and wide-ranging health care problems, including an explosive growth in HIV and AIDS. Cordaid is offering its support to SANA (Sustainable Aid in Africa), a young organisation, which has entered into collaborative partnerships with other community-based organizations and the local council in order to improve the living conditions of its most underprivileged citizens. Recently, SANA invested in clean drinking water supplies

A water kiosk in a slum in Nairobi, Kenya, where people are able to buy clean water. The kiosk is run by a women's committee with assistance from Cordaid.



and sanitation in neighbourhoods which until now have been devoid of such facilities. Its work was funded partly by SANA itself and partly via financial support from Cordaid.

The project in Kisumu is a good example of cooperation between different community-based organizations and government. SANA does not work in isolation on its own projects, but also comes to the aid of other organizations which require help. Its projects often tie in with initiatives undertaken by the local authority to improve the position of slum dwellers.

Sudan

In Sudan, our focus theme is Peace and Conflict. Cordaid supports conflict transformation including reconciliation processes and grassroots peacemaking initiatives. Cordaid also supports civil society building and church related justice and peace initiatives, human rights programmes and programmes to increase the advocacy on Sudan on the international agenda.

Areas of focus include, among others:

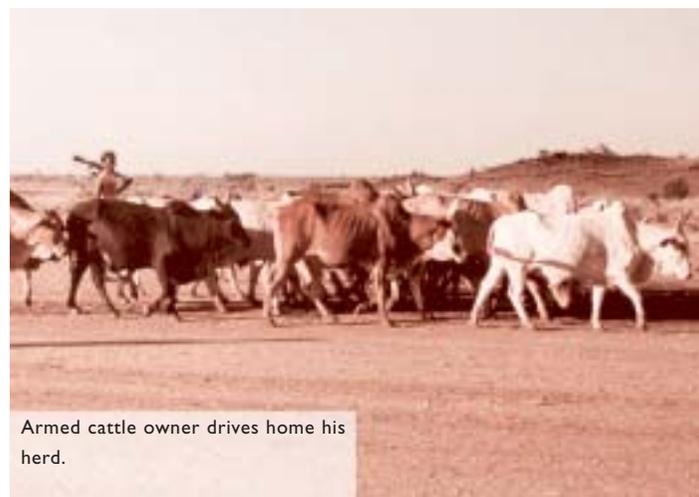
- supporting grass roots peace initiatives;
- reconciliation, rehabilitation and development processes;
- supporting upcoming civil society to play an active role in the rebuilding of Sudan;
- providing social services as means to sustaining peace.

Geographical areas of focus have been Eastern and Western Equatoria. In addition, Cordaid's support gets to other regions through regional umbrella organizations. These organizations work in all areas in the south of Sudan including the marginalized areas, with both church and non-church partners.

Case study in South Sudan, Peace and Conflict

Supporting a collaborative approach in Eastern Equatoria, South Sudan

Besides the decennia old war between North and South Sudan that ended with the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement in January 2005, resource based conflicts and fighting among different tribes have posed serious challenges to communities in South Sudan. In most cases, violence rather than dialogue has been resorted to as a way of resolving differences. Lots of lives have been lost, property destroyed and justice denied.



Armed cattle owner drives home his herd.

The Eastern Equatoria region of South Sudan is inhabited predominantly by pastoralists and cattle-keepers. Conflicts over cattle are not uncommon and cattle-raiding is part of the people's culture. However, this activity has turned deadly as small and big guns are used instead of the spears, bows and arrows previously used in earlier times.

Cordaid has worked with three organizations in Eastern Equatoria to provide veterinary as well as other basic services to communities of that area. It was soon realized that some of the work could not be carried out amid hostility and conflict. It therefore became necessary to work with the communities to manage and in some cases, resolve the conflicts before focusing on provision of services.

Cordaid has supported the Catholic Diocese of Torit (CDoT), Vétérinaires Sans Frontières Germany (VSF-G) and Toposa Development Association (TDA) in this complex environment to provide the people with veterinary services but also to facilitate dialogue at the grassroots, aimed to transform conflict situations. Together with the three organizations, various activities are carried out to promote peace in Eastern Equatoria. Through this collaboration, it has been possible to mobilize communities for peace meetings, strengthen community animal health workers' activities like vaccination of livestock and to train communities on better management of their livestock. These activities not only provide an opportunity to bring different tribes together to talk peace but also to understand each others' way of living and hence promote tolerance across tribes.

Ethiopia

Cordaid has been actively engaged in addressing structural poverty in Ethiopia through the support of initiatives focused on the themes Quality of Urban Life and Access to Markets. Through a network of 30 partner organizations, Cordaid aims to improve the living conditions of the poor and marginalized small holding farmers in the Southern and Western parts of the country. In addition, we support pastoralist community groups in the Southern Nations Nationalities Peoples Region (SNNPR) and Afar region in the eastern part of the country. Urban programmes are concentrated in DireDawa, Awassa, Bahir Dar and Addis Ababa targeting slum dwellers and communities identified to be the poorest of the poor.

Cordaid cooperates with partner organizations in Ethiopia and supports programmes that work at different levels within our focus themes. In the years ahead, Cordaid will adopt an increasingly facilitative role with the aim of harnessing the energies, skills and knowledge of the poor. In addition, Cordaid will undertake a mix of grassroots actions and local anti-poverty initiatives aimed at improving the lives of the poor - particularly the elderly, children, women, people living with HIV/AIDS and the disabled. Cutting across these initiatives will be a focus on institutional capacity building, networking and partnership development, gender equity, policy research and advocacy.

Case study in Ethiopia, Access to markets

Nomadic herdsman in Ethiopia

Around 12% of Ethiopia's 58 million inhabitants are nomadic herdsman. These people occupy a marginal position within Ethiopian society in both the social, economic, political and religious sense. They use more than half the land in Ethiopia, often extremely dry lands which are not suitable for intensive agriculture. These are the *Arid and Semi Arid Lands* (ASAL). These lands are currently being put to very profitable and effective use. The cattle breeding activities of the nomadic herdsman have considerable economic value for the local economy, partly due to meat export revenues. These people's existence is under threat because their habitat is being restricted. For centuries they have managed to adapt to changing circumstances, but their access to land and water is now under pressure due to the sharp population increase and the introduction of intensive agriculture. This leads to tensions between different population groups. In recent decades the changes have been so radical that the herdsman can no longer maintain a balance with their habitat. Their relationship with the government is problematic. The government wants them to settle permanently but the often marginal land is not suitable. The herdsman do not form a homogenous group, which makes collective action to defend their interests difficult. Without outside help they will not be able to survive as herdsman. *The Ethiopian Pastoralist Project* (EPP) is trying to call a halt to this by supporting the herdsman. The aim is

to preserve the herdsman's way of life and promote food security in the long term. The herdsman will have a greater say and will develop a vision of agricultural development. EPP focuses on increasing productivity and improving production systems with special attention being paid to the position of women.

Regional initiatives

In addition to our country specific programmes, Cordaid also supports regional initiatives focusing on the theme of Peace and Conflict. Conflict is viewed from a regional dimension and as such, Cordaid is exploring ways to promote cross border initiatives in the regions covered by the regional office. Other countries may be included in future. We also provide support to regional organizations involving Access to Markets and Quality of Urban Life at a regional level.

Waiting to sell milk at a cooperative
in Ethiopia.



Countries covered by the Cordaid Regional Office Nairobi

