Focus on Fragility

Cordaid and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Security: Governance

Entrepreneurship: Financial products and services like business development, leasing, insurances and loans to fit local high-risk needs. Economic interconnectedness and decent livelihoods reduce potential for conflict.

Security + Justice: Community reconciliation through social therapy and access to justice via recognized mechanisms and institutions. Social contract in and among communities and with the state is restored.

Women's Leadership: Women's participation in decisions and actions affecting security policies and practices, as well as in official reconciliation and peace forums. The active role of women is key to lasting family, community and state structures.

Healthcare: Universal and good-quality healthcare expanded to underserved areas and populist ions via the promotion of social enterprises and performance-based healthcare systems. The realization of minimum required social services is key to peace and an accountable state.

Extractives: Communities in resource-rich countries empowered to develop and own community development plans, necessitating accountability and transparency from the state management of extractive revenues. Conflict situations reduced and the restoration of social contracts between communities and state.

Child + Education: Improved education outcomes by expanding the community ownership of child education and heightened state accountability through the delivery of performance-based education. The realization of minimum required social services is key to achieving peace and an accountable state.

Relief, Risk + Reduction: Community resilience planning reduces the scope and depth of disaster-related events and promotes cohesion through inter-community cooperation and between communities and the local government. Security and stability are strengthened.

Food Security: Value chain approaches like food and agricultural skills and organizational development, access to quality inputs, infrastructure, markets and risk-weighted finance, expansion of farm continuity and productivity. A higher volume of food production and reduced price volatility will reduce the likelihood of conflict.

Urban Matters: Integrated solutions for the rising number of urban slums, creating viable and sustainable neighborhoods with the right balance of housing, water and sanitation, electricity, public services and employment. Balanced communities are less prone to conflict.

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4. Opportunity:

Within Cordaid 10 operational business units are addressing various relevant issues. In the associated intervention logic, they take into account the reality of fragility and (post)conflict circumstances so that the relevant activities also contribute to peace building and nation building. We do this by working with communities and expanding on the social contract within and between communities, state actors and the international community.

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Cordaid is the Catholic Organisation for Relief & Development Aid based in the Netherlands with a focus on international development and collaboration in vulnerable regions and areas of conflict. Its mission is to build flourishing communities in disintegrated societies through programmes, such as health, DRR and entrepreneurship. Cordaid not only has the expertise and the experience of working in the world’s most fragile areas, but also cooperates with a wide range of actors, including local and national authorities and private sector representatives. Cordaid is supported by almost 400,000 individuals in the Netherlands.

ABOUT CORDAID

“Fragile areas that are home of the world’s most vulnerable people have yet to realize a single MDG.”

René Grotenhuis,
CEO Cordaid

Cordaid’s Approach in Fragile Contexts

The overriding challenge in fragile and post-conflict countries is in restoring trust and social cohesion, both at community level and between communities and the state. Cordaid see flourishing communities as the DNA that helps to shape to social fabric of a nation, where caring for and taking care of one another are seen as fundamental values.

Cordaid

BUIDING FLORISHING COMMUNITIES

Four Cornerstones for Building Flourishing Communities:

1. Security: protection for people, freedom from fear and the provision of justice;
2. Governance: institutions that are responsive to people’s and communities’ needs and represent their interests in a global world;
3. Empowerment: the possibility for people to speak out and participate in the decision-making processes that shape their society;
4. Opportunity: access to basic services, economic improvement and the right to earn a decent living.
Focus on Cordaid’s 2015 Vision

Cordaid envisages a world in which the old divides — between east and west, north and south, rich and poor, and even in wealthy countries — will have all shifted. Globalization, driven by new technologies and economic innovation, has changed both the geographic location and the nature of power. There are new challenges on the horizon. Our global common goods are at risk and the gulf between rich and poor, between different countries and even within countries, is widening. Consequently, Cordaid has identified three main challenges in our post-2015 new global agenda:

- Security: we want to ensure that people can live in peace and are protected by justice;
- Equity: we want to ensure that every person has a fair share in the world’s prosperity and enjoys the right to live a dignified life;
- Sustainability: we want to ensure that our planet’s wealth is shared equally and is correctly managed with respect to the needs of future generations.

Focus on Fragility

The timeframe for the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) winds down in 2015. The MDG framework has galvanized the development community towards a set of shared goals, both in terms of directing efforts and measuring the results. It cannot be denied that the lives of many have improved, but at the same time fragile contexts that are home to most of the world’s most vulnerable people have yet to realize a single MDG. These people are still living in conditions of poverty, insecurity, injustice and inequality. Unfortunately, several simultaneous and ongoing crises — of a financial or sovereign nature, or relating to resources like food, water and energy and climate — have undermined any MDG progress that had so far been realized in these fragile and conflict and post-conflict countries. More importantly, the combination of crises has exacerbated the underlying ethnic, religious, gender and socio-economic divisions among communities in fragile contexts. Traditional governance structures, meanwhile, are struggling with legitimacy and inclusion issues. Furthermore, fragility is hindering development while poverty persists in countries in which conflict divides people along the lines of ethnic or religious identity. When it comes to inequality, in terms of economic opportunity and access to common goods, women, young people and minorities are clearly disadvantaged. While Cordaid supports the crucial leadership role that women must play in upholding the security of their communities, we have identified a clear need to make them more organized and effective so they can participate with a collective voice and consolidate their influence. And while we recognize the importance of the role to be played by the local private sector in stimulating economic opportunity, we also see a persistent need to find better ways of addressing the risks posed by environments that are characterized by fractured asset bases. We cannot deny that for Cordaid the countries and regions outlined above will be hard nuts to crack in the post 2015 agenda and it’s in a world that looks down those challenges in tackling poverty and stimulating sustainability will be found. That’s why we will increasingly focus our efforts on these fragile contexts.

Focus on Flourishing Communities

For us, the overriding challenge in fragile and post-conflict countries is in restoring trust and social cohesion, both at community level and between communities and the state. This is why Cordaid is making the building of “Flourishing Communities” the essence of its mission. We see Flourishing Communities as the local community as the core in a widening dynamic for change: local to state to international.

Security

- Conflict resolution in communities
- Social trust, mutual responsibility and care
- Confidence in the police and security and justice systems
- With a special focus on the position and role of women

Sustainability

- Economic opportunity
- Access to employment
- Access to entrepreneurial needs (finance, inputs, markets)

Equity

- Diversity in representation in key decision-making and political bodies
- Transparency and accountability
- Efficient and accountable public administration, legal institutions and public services
- Legitimacy of state
- Democratic and rule of law

Funding partners

- 45
- 17
- 111
- 20
- 33
- 574
- 42
- alliances
- strategic partners
- field partners
- MNL euros of disposable funds

FACTS & FIGURES

Cordaid activities work with communities to impact security, empowerment, opportunities and governance. Ultimately, contributing to peacebuilding and/or statebuilding.

Key areas:
- Security and justice
- Women’s leadership
- Extractive
- Food security
- Slum solutions
- Child and education
- Healthcare
- Entrepreneurship
- Investments
- Relief, risk and reduction

BUILDING FLOURISHING COMMUNITIES IN FRAGILE CONTEXTS

Flourishing Communities

Our approach focuses directly on long-term issues. This makes it possible to identify contributions towards community and peace building, while gains in security, empowerment, opportunity and governance can be both measured and demonstrated. We do this by working with communities and expanding on the social contract within and between communities, state actors and the international community.

To build Flourishing Communities you have to work on social change and it also calls for a shift in the balance of power. Power imbalances in the areas of economy, security, gender and religion are obstacles to Flourishing Communities. The widening dynamics of the communities actors that have to instigate the necessary changes are what Cordaid calls “Communities of Change”. To achieve real and lasting change we need to set up coalitions that span private, public and not-for-profit actors that are willing and able to reach out to all stakeholders, including extraordinary stakeholders and even adversaries.

Within Cordaid 10 operational business units are addressing various relevant issues within the security, governance, empowerment and opportunity framework. In the associated intervention logic, they take into account the reality of fragility and post/conflict circumstances so that the relevant activities also contribute to peace building and nation building.

While absolute poverty as a percentage of the world population is declining, partly thanks to the MDG, inequality in the distribution of income, opportunities and wealth is actually increasing. Because the provision of basic social services for the poorest people is now linked to shared global resources and international economic interdependency, the responsibility for providing adequate healthcare, relevant education and meaningful work still lies with local and state actors. Yet in order to achieve and maintain their scope of influence. Those living in fragile and post-conflict areas are the most vulnerable to the externalized costs of the unsustainable use and abuse of natural resources. They will be the ones most directly impacted by climate changes and environmental disasters.