

## Country Programme Plan Area: Eastern Europe

### **I. ANALYSIS**

#### **1.0 Country Context Analysis**

##### **1.1 Brief overview**

Norwegian Church Aid has been working in this region for long time with focus on the following countries in the Eastern Europe: Russia - the Northwest and the Moscow regions, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova and Armenia. More than 100 million people live in an area that, although marked by a wide variety of political, economical, social, geographic conditions share a common historical background; being part of the former Soviet Union.

All the above-mentioned countries are ranked as medium development countries according to the UNDP's Human Development Index 2005. Partly due to this none of them has been categorized as focus countries in Norwegian Church Aid's long term plans. Another element is the rather limited funding possibilities through the Norwegian Government. Country plans will therefore not be developed, but NCA will have a regional approach to the involvement in the region.

##### **The Russian Federation**

The Russian Federation is a democratic federal state and has a total population of 144 million inhabitants, though the number is slightly decreasing. The ranking in Human Development Index is 62 and GDP per capita is USD 9 230 in 2003. The economic situation in the country has slowly been improving over the last few years, especially in the central areas like Moscow and St. Petersburg. More remote areas like Arkhangelsk and Murmansk oblast are still suffering after the economic collapse in the mid nineties. One third of the population is living under the poverty line.

The social security system is not able to provide necessary services to the population, and services that used to be free are now being charged, partially or in full. The spread of TB, HIV and hepatitis, has increased dramatically. More than 700 000 children are kept in orphanages, and a great number of them have parents who are not able to feed them or take properly care of them, for shorter or longer periods.

Women only possess 8% of the seats in Parliament, and have far lower income than their male colleagues. As a result of lack of opportunities for paid work, many Russians are seeking employment abroad. In terms of trafficking Russia is considered as a country of origin, as well as a transit country.

Civil society is developing, and a number of NGOs are working in different fields, like social development and human rights. At the same time the new NGO law, which came into effect in April 2006, has introduced harsh restrictions towards NGOs. Freedom of press is limited and it has become increasingly difficult to work on human rights issues, which address the state in a critical way. The churches are actively involved in social work, but they appear more reluctant to get involved in advocacy issues at the political level.

With regard to the growing AIDS pandemic, the Russian Federation is among the worst affected countries in Eastern Europe. The estimated prevalence of HIV cases among adults between 15 to 49 years is 1,1%. (UNAIDS, 2006), and the prevalence continues to grow. There is a dominance of young people among reported HIV cases, and most of them are injecting drug users. A more resent pattern is that women account for an increasing share of newly diagnosed HIV cases. One consequence is a sharp rise of the

virus in mother-to-child transmission. These children are often abandoned, and left to hospitals or orphanages. This indicates the raise in the heterosexual way of transmission.

The Northern Caucasus in particular Chechnya, is a forgotten humanitarian disaster hard hit by war and conflict, Instability within Chechnya has affected neighbouring republics, particularly Ingushetia and Dagestan, where the frequency of violent incidents has increased in recent years. The whole North Caucasus remains fragile and vulnerable to human rights violations. Difficult socio-economic conditions across much of the region, together with widespread corruption, ethnic and clan tensions and religious divisions, continue to fuel this instability.

### **Belarus**

Belarus has a total population of 9.9 million, and the growth in population shows a slight decrease. The ranking in Human Development Index is 67 and GDP per capita is USD 6 052. Belarus is facing a situation of socioeconomic hardship, which undermines the health system. 32,2% of the population is living below the poverty line. The official unemployment rate is rather low, however, the grey economy, form a substantial part of the national economy.

Women hold 18.4% of the seats in Parliament and the ratio of income for women compared to men is quite low.

The decrease in population is partly caused by emigration of unemployed, though many Byelorussians have seasonal work abroad. An increasing number of women and girls are being trafficked abroad.

The situation of civil society has become even more difficult after the elections of 2006. Belarus is often called the "last dictatorship in Europe", as press freedom is strictly limited and human rights are continuously violated. Most of the NGOs are operating unregistered and those, which have succeeded to register, are strictly controlled by the state and face the constant threat of being closed down by the authorities if they do not comply with the requirements. Churches are also involved in different social programs, but due to the political situation, it is difficult to keep a high profile in advocacy work, especially with regard to political issues.

Though it is rising, the prevalence of HIV and AIDS is still relatively low in Belarus, compared to some of the neighboring countries. According to UNAIDS, Belarus has made a significant progress in addressing the epidemic by integrating HIV and AIDS as a crosscutting theme into the broader development agenda. However, restraints and conditions in external development cooperation allocations limit opportunities for international support to HIV and AIDS. As in the other Eastern European countries are the injecting drug users the majority of HIV cases.

### **Ukraine**

With a population of 48,4 million Ukraine is facing a challenge moving towards a market economy. The complicated political and economic transition process had social implications, including increased level of unemployment and poverty. During the last years economic growth has increased significantly, although the socio-economic conditions remain difficult. The ranking in Human Development Index is 78, GDP per capita is USD 5 491.

After the elections of 2004 Ukraine has come more forward towards establishing sound democratic institutions and practices. However, the media, civil society organizations, political parties and other civic associations are still in an early stage of development and many social service providers remain inefficient. At least 30% of the population lives under the poverty line, and major reforms are required to improve the pension and health care system. The slow pace of reform has led to an erosion of the overall quality

of life, particularly for the most vulnerable members of the society: the elderly, women, children and large families.

A high number of NGOs is active in Ukraine. Local authorities, in particular, show increasing interest in NGO activities aimed at helping the poor, children and disabled. Philanthropy and voluntarism remain nevertheless insufficiently developed for a country with the size of Ukraine. The registration process for NGOs involves multiple steps and is constantly changing. The church situation in Ukraine is extremely complex, with a number of churches and religious organizations officially registered. There is an ongoing struggle between the two main Ukrainian Orthodox Churches, under the Moscow and the Kyiv patriarchates, respectively. Also the Catholic Church is represented both by the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and the Roman Catholic Church. Orthodox, as well as Catholic and Protestant churches are involved in social projects, but are so far less involved in advocacy work.

Ukraine is one of the countries in Eastern Europe most involved in trafficking, both as a country of transition and a country of origin. However, a national plan to combat trafficking has been developed.

Despite the significant progress in the national efforts to fight the epidemics in the last years, Ukraine remains the country with the highest prevalence of HIV among CIS countries (as estimated 1,4% of the adult population). Since 1995 the virus has spread dramatically, mainly due to HIV transmission among injecting drug users. At the same time the proportion of sexually transmitted HIV cases is increasing alarmingly.

### **Armenia**

Armenia, with a population of 3 million people, is facing an economic crisis that places a large segment of the population under extreme socioeconomic pressure, with considerable unemployment and migration of the workforce. The ranking in Human Development Index is 83 and GDP per capita is USD 3 671. A substantial part of the income is coming from the Armenian diaspora. Only 4,6% on the members of Parliament are women, and their salaries compared to men's rates at 0,69.

Due to the low number of registered test results, the estimated number of people living with HIV and AIDS is currently 3016, however the real number is probably considerably higher. Still, Armenia is at an early stage of the epidemic. Even if the Armenia is moving in the right direction with regard to democratization, the pace is rather slow. In many instances the country comes short of in meeting internationally accepted democratic principles. The numbers of NGOs are growing, but have limited influence in the society.

The Armenian Apostolic Church is the majority church in Armenia, and plays a significant role in representing the national identity of the Armenians. The Armenian Apostolic Church together with other churches has been involved in diaconal and social programs for a number of years. Many of the programs are coordinated with state programs i.e. in the educational and agricultural field.

Trafficking is considered to be a problem also in Armenia. It is a country of origin, as well as a transit country. Poverty and lack of job opportunities are main root causes to trafficking.

### **Tajikistan**

Tajikistan with an population of approx. 7 million people, is a mountainous landlocked country in Central Asia, bordering to Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgistan and China. Tajikistan received its independence in 1991, but was plunged almost immediately into civil war allegedly backed by Russia and Iran, fighting one another. By 1997 the war cooled down and a central government began to take form with peaceful elections in 1999. The ranking in Human Development Index is 122 and GDP per capita is USD

1,388. Although the economy grew substantially after the war, the country is still poor. Drug trafficking is a major source of income. Despite its poverty, Tajikistan has a high rate of literacy with an estimated 98% of the population having the ability to read and write. Most population follows Sunni Islam, although a sizable number of Shia's are present. NCA has been supporting projects addressing HIV and Aids, water and sanitation through the ecumenical consortium ECCA.

For NCA it is important to analyse the situation in the countries of Eastern Europe through the perspective of human dignity for the countries' most vulnerable citizens with regard to the participation, equity and protection.

## **1.2 Participation**

Although situation in each of the Eastern European countries is specific, generally the years of the Soviet Union and communism have left the participation of the citizens on the governance on a quite low level. The unequal distribution of resources has created large gaps between different parts of the society, large gap between the rich and poor. In most of the countries (excl. Belarus) there are a large number of nongovernmental organizations registered; however their influence on decision- making is rather low. The freedom of press is still not applied in majority of the countries.

The participation deficit of the vulnerable groups is observed and needs to be addressed in this region. The lack of information on their rights leads to lack of involvement in decision-making and active participation in the public life.

The HIV-positive people for example are excluded from the health care, workplaces, social and public life in the communities. The lack of participation and lack of information leads in this case to stigmatisation and discrimination of the HIV-positive people.

The involvement of women in the decision-making and governance is weak; both a result of patriarchal system of the Orthodox society and traditional thinking of woman dependent on men. Women are in many communities economically dependent on men and occupy a subordinate position. Their sexual behaviour is often influenced by poor negotiation skills and unequal power relations in society. Gender-based violence exposes women to HIV infection, and fear prevents them from protecting themselves. Stigmatisation leads to isolation from the community, and they have reduced access to education, employment, health services and information. In a vulnerable situation women are more at risk of trafficking or violence.

The approach to gender inequalities needs to involve both men and women. Many men are not aware of women's rights and specific aspects to their vulnerability. Especially social care and healthcare are, in many cases, typical female employment activities, although they require both physical and psychological strength. In order to obtain a gender balance, it is important to encourage the participation of men in the programme. Men need to share responsibility for the health of their community.

## **1.3 Equity**

The break up of the Soviet Union, economic downfall and political situation has created a large gap between the rich and poor in the Eastern Europe. In majority of the countries, where NCA has its partners, one third of the population lives under the poverty line. Especially the rural areas are suffering by lack of income opportunities.

The poor people, vulnerable groups and minorities do not have guaranteed equal access to the health care, education, social services, as well as other systems (f.e. water and sanitation). This leads to even more deepening of poverty and low standard of living.

People living with HIV and AIDS suffer discrimination by workers in healthcare institutions and are not given the care and support they need during the terminal stages of the disease. Unfortunately, we note that cases of rejection of treatment or care to PLHIV are still not exceptional and conditions in hospitals and inpatient wards are very often unacceptable. The spiritual and psychological factors of the disease are not seen to be important. PLHIV are also often refused the right to work.

Women are particularly an object to equity deficit. The traditional role of women in the patriarchal societies makes it difficult for women to reach leadership position, if they have the possibility to work. The unemployment and poverty in the rural areas make women especially vulnerable to domestic violence, sexual exploitation and trafficking.

#### **1.4 Protection**

The legislation system of the countries of Eastern Europe is not sufficiently ensuring the rights of the vulnerable and poor, as well as equal distribution of resources. The national laws and action plans to combat HIV and AIDS epidemics, domestic violence and trafficking and poverty are in most of the countries in place; however the application of the plans in real life still remains a challenge. The system does not have the capacity, skills and lacks necessary information. The traditional system makes it difficult to stand for the rights of the vulnerable. The role of the religion plays here a crucial role.

There is a large deficit in protection of people living with HIV and AIDS. This is among others result of the fact that the epidemic is in the region quite new, though large and the society lacks the necessary information. Among others, the right to work, to privacy and property are the most violated. The lack of information and knowledge leads to a large extent to stigmatisation and discrimination.

Situation in regard to the gender based violence, domestic violence and trafficking is similar. The domestic violence is quite spread phenomena in this countries, being hidden as a strictly "family matter". The trafficking is a result of the overall situation of women, their position in the society, which make them more vulnerable and more difficult to defend their rights. The victims of both, domestic violence and trafficking, are unaware of their rights and fail to exercise them to large extent.

The same situation occurs with the poor, victims of natural disasters and other vulnerable groups.

In addition to national NGOs the international society plays here an important role by challenging the local and national authorities to protect the vulnerable groups, approve necessary legislation and to establish safety nets, as well as by informing the vulnerable about their rights and empowering them to take the action.

#### **1.4 Role of Civil Society and NCA Partners**

##### **1.5.1 Role of Civil Society**

Civil society has been developing since the fall of the Soviet Union in Eastern Europe. More and more organizations are working in the social field, rather moving from humanitarian aid towards long term development programs. The position of the government towards the NGOs differs from country to country. While in Russia, the NGO law approved in spring 2006, the government is more controlling and restrictive, in Ukraine it is more opened, though not always participative.

In part due to the fact that religion plays an important role in these societies, the governments are opening larger space for involvement of churches themselves, church- and faith-based organizations in the policy development, charitable and social work.

The vulnerable groups are still underrepresented in the civil society organizations, though many specialized organizations emerged in the past years. The women's groups and organizations are remaining to be a weak part of the civil society. Exceptions are the organizations and groups of PLHIV which are increasingly invited to participate in the policy development to address the epidemics. This is due to the pressure from the international actors and mainly donors.

The civil society structure in the countries of the Eastern Europe is characteristic by strong participation of international organizations. This brings to the country expertise, but also dependency on funds from abroad. The majority of the national and local organizations are still too weak to become equal partners for them. This is one of the reasons, why the capacity building is so crucial.

### **1.5.2 Role of NCA partners in Civil Society**

Since the start of its involvement in the Eastern Europe NCA has been supporting church and faith based actors. The rationale for the choice does not come out only from the characteristics of NCA as faith-based organisation itself, but also from the fact that religion plays traditionally strong role in the society of these countries. The round table structures, partners of NCA, are in a strong position towards their member churches and church societies in generally. However the relation towards the other actors of civil society is rather weak.

NCA is challenging its partners to cooperate with other actors in the civil society to ensure information sharing, expertise and capacity building. The majority of the church- and faith-based partners have become more open to the cooperation with secular NGOs and authorities, but there is still a way to go and room for improvement.

In order to build and secure expertise in the program NCA has selected also several specialised resource organisations for support and participating in the programs. All those has a good position towards the government of the respective country and civil society in general.

## **2.0 NCA's Added Value**

NCA's main core partners in Eastern Europe are churches and church related organisations. NCA has a broad experience in organisational development and capacity building, particularly within the church structures and it relies on this experience in the work with local partners in Eastern Europe. Being part of regional and global networks, NCA includes partners into some of these networks. As an organisation built on democratic principles and growing out of a democratic society, NCA has substantial knowledge and experience to share with local partners.

The main component of the NCA support to the local partners in the region of Eastern Europe is strengthening of civil society at the grass root level and introducing them to new and challenging thematic programs (f.e. sustainable development, HIV and AIDS, gender based violence, trafficking, etc.).

One of the strength of NCA is the capacity to build alliances through its ecumenical network. Establishment of round table structures can be mentioned as one result. Cooperation with church-based, faith-based and value-based organisations allow reaching out to groups of the population, which are difficult to reach for secular organisations. This is a significant comparative advantage of NCA's engagement in the region, where religion plays important role in the society.

Norwegian Church Aid has been involved in capacity building and organisational development of all its partners in Eastern Europe in cooperation with World Council of Churches Eastern Europe Office and Aprodev<sup>1</sup>.

The growing AIDS epidemic in Eastern Europe remains one main challenge for NCA's work in the region. NCA has been actively involved in HIV and AIDS programmes worldwide for more than 20 years, and since 2001 also in Eastern Europe. NCA has proved in the past year in the region, that it has the expertise and experience that benefit local partners, church related, as well as, secular. The primary focus on introducing HIV and AIDS problems to the agenda of the churches and church base structures in the Eastern Europe has been successful and is replaced by challenging the partners with advocacy issues towards the national and international society. NCA is deeply involved in national, regional and global networks on HIV and AIDS, and plays a major role in networking on this issue. The gender based violence and peace and reconciliation are rather new challenges to the NCA partners and therefore the programs are mainly in the initial stage. The partners are encouraged to cooperate with resource organisations and share their knowledge in the new thematic among each other. NCA plays the role of resource, facilitator and networker.

During the last years, advocacy has become one of NCA's three main approaches. We have been and are ready to share the knowledge and experience we have gained with our partners. However, we are aware that not all partners are in a position to have advocacy as one of their main approaches, while others are interested and willing to develop their capacity with the assistance of NCA.

## **II. NCA INTERVENTION STRATEGY**

### **3.0 Thematic Analysis and Priorities**

#### **3.1 Specific rights to be addressed by the program**

A number of rights deficits emerged from the region context analysis. As NCA does not have the capacity to work effectively on all of these, important as they may be, a number of right claims has been identified below as priorities for the NCA program in Eastern Europe in the planning period. Each right is supported by normative rights frameworks such as international human rights conventions, or the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, NCA's starting point is poor people's own lived experiences of poverty and exclusion, an understanding that these rights real felt needs.

##### **3.1.1 Faith Communities Address HIV and AIDS**

The programs within this thematic priority will address the rights of the people living with HIV in generally. In particularly NCA partners will be advocating for right to work, for equal access to care and services, right to education and protection of privacy and legal provisions. (Reference to CESCR, art. 11,12,13,6-7, CEDAW, art.12)

##### **3.1.2 Men and Women Address Gender Based Violence**

The programs will address women's and children's right to protection of violence, oppression and exploitation. (Reference to CEDAW art. 4j, CRC art. 32-36)

##### **3.1.3 Communities for Fresh Water and Safe Sanitation**

This part of program will address the right for adequate living conditions for minorities and vulnerable people, as well as right to equal access to care and services. (Reference to CESCR, comment 15 on art. 11)

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<sup>1</sup> Association of World Council of Churches Related Development Organisations in Europe on Advocacy

### **3.2 Thematic focus**

The overall vision for NCA's program in Eastern Europe is to promote dignity for poor and excluded people, by supporting partners and programs that contribute to increased participation, equity and protection. On the basis of the contextual analysis and keeping in mind the capacity of the partners, NCA has selected to focus on following four thematic priorities, with relevance as listed:

- Faith Communities Address HIV and AIDS.
- Men and Women Address Gender-Based Violence.
- Communities for Fresh Water and Safe Sanitation.

#### **3.2.1 Faith Communities Address HIV and AIDS**

The HIV and AIDS pandemic is one of the most serious threats to development in our time, and a holistic approach is required to address it. It affects human dignity and raises a number of questions at both individual and social level. Human dignity is at the core of religious values. As a church based organisation, Norwegian Church Aid sees it as a special challenge to involve churches, faith communities and church-based partners in this work.

The complexity and scale of the HIV and AIDS epidemic requires close cooperation between churches/faith communities and other institutions related to healthcare, education and social services, political bodies and NGOs in order to achieve the necessary results. The churches and faith communities face a special challenge in fighting stigma and discrimination and advocating for the value and dignity of all human beings.

Some of the countries, like Ukraine and Russia, already have a significant number of HIV-positive people, while other countries in the region remain in the very initial phase of an epidemic. As a church-based organisation and with a broad experience working with HIV and AIDS, it is a special challenge for NCA to get church-related organisations involved in this issue. NCA will support local partners to adopt a holistic approach through integration of prevention, care and advocacy and to build their advocacy on the credibility gained through work with people living with HIV (PLHIV). The churches and the ecumenical network have a special challenge in upholding dignity rights of people infected and affected by HIV and AIDS, especially related to stigma and discrimination.

Educational programs and awareness raising programs on HIV and AIDS will be organised, in order to prevent stigma and discrimination of the people living with HIV and AIDS. The programs will focus on children and youth, women, clergy and church communities.

Doubtless PLHIV should be included and involved in all stages of HIV and AIDS programmes as rights holders. Not only because they can use their HIV-positive life experience in their work, but also because they alone can define the real problems. PLHIV play a significant role in advocacy towards governments and donors. Successful HIV and AIDS programmes involve PLHIV in implementation in order to achieve a high response from the community.

HIV and AIDS affect men and women in different ways. Although men also suffer rights violations, women are more vulnerable and less aware of instruments that they can use for their protection. The number of new HIV infections in the region caused by sexual transmission is growing, and the percentage of women living with HIV and AIDS is increasing. Sexual rights education and awareness-raising among women and girls is therefore crucial. Although the risk of infection is greater among girls than boys, their knowledge about HIV and AIDS, means of prevention and the right to say "no" is often very limited. Empowering women and girls together with informing men about their

rights will be one component of HIV and AIDS programmes. Other components- the prevention of gender-based violence, promotion of equal access to education, information and employment, and media campaigns.

Women are often the main care givers in society. They take a lot of the burden of taking care of themselves, their families and often others. Men will be encouraged to take a share of this responsibility.

### **3.2.2 Men and Women Address Gender-Based Violence**

Even if gender-based violence, in the form of domestic violence and sexual abuse, are major problems in Eastern European countries, this issue has hardly been addressed in the programmes of our church related partners. Churches and other faith communities can potentially play an important role in transforming their own patriarchal structures and also challenging society from a moral and ethical perspective. NCA will encourage the church-related partners to get involved in issues related to gender-based violence. During the last few years there has been an increased focus on trafficking. Another main priority for NCA is to challenge our church related partners on this issue. Considering the complexity and seriousness of the field of gender-based violence, they also link up with specialised secular organisations. With the limited financial resources available, the main emphasis will be on awareness raising, prevention and advocacy.

Other focus for this thematic priority will be awareness raising programs on gender, women's rights and specific programs of their vulnerability for youth and men.

### **3.2.3 Communities for Fresh Water and Safe Sanitation**

This thematic priority is specific for Armenia and Tajikistan. Water, especially drinking water is a problem throughout Armenia. In towns and cities drinking water is available only for several hours a day. As for rural areas their problems remain more serious. There are communities where drinking water is brought in by trucks and sold in canisters. The existing systems have not been repaired for decades, resulting in leakage and pollution of drinking water. In targeted areas, mainly women, carry water in buckets from faraway points. There is also lack of network of social services, health care and there are limited possibilities for education. The overall situation leads to migration of young people from the affected areas.

Within the framework of the NCA program, the minority communities will be provided with fresh water and safe sanitation systems. The partner organisation will be encouraged to advocate towards the government for equal access to education, health and social services for the communities. The integrated community approach will be applied, including empowerment, local governance, environment issues and income generating activities.

## **4.0 Strategies for Rights Holders and Duty Bearers**

### **4.1 Rights holders**

In NCA's rights based approach, we seek to engage with poor men and women as citizens - people who are entitled to human dignity and basic human rights by virtue of being human. NCA's rights based approach entails a two-pronged strategy. A vital component of our strategy is to resource poor and excluded groups as rights holders. By claiming abstract rights as tangible entitlement, poor people improve their lives. At the same time, we recognize that social relations and institutions (both formal and informal) within society can pose serious barriers to poor men and women who try to claim their rights. NCA's Rights Based Approach will also entail the identification of key duty bearers and strategies to engage them to transform these institutional barriers and mechanisms

of exclusion. A particular role for NCA and partners will be to facilitate linkages between prioritized rights holders and the most relevant duty bearers.

Below are selected the right holders and the intervention strategies of NCA and its partners related to the corresponding thematic priorities are listed.

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Right Holders</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
Faith Communities Address HIV and AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People living with HIV and people affected</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build capacity on HIV and AIDS, care, advocacy and project management.</li> <li>• Support activities reducing stigma and discrimination, ensuring legal protection to secure their right to work.</li> <li>• Support networking and resource mobilization.</li> <li>• Support the networks for community-based care and support.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and youth, particularly orphans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization of prevention activities, peer education and healthy life style workshops and events.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIV-positive women and women affected</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build capacity on HIV and AIDS, gender, communications and project management.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HIV-positive prisoners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support activities reducing stigma and discrimination.</li> <li>• Support organization of prevention activities and healthy life style workshops.</li> </ul>
Man and Women Address Gender- Based Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women and girls, who are or may be potential victims of trafficking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness raising on gender, CEDAW and related laws.</li> <li>• Support to the establishment of safe networks providing income generating activities and advisory.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women – victims of domestic violence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness raising on gender, STDs and HIV and AIDS, CEDAW, and related laws.</li> <li>• Support to networking and empowerment of women.</li> </ul>
Communities for Fresh Water and Safe Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community members of the targeted communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to the provision of water and sanitation systems and services</li> <li>• Empowerment of the community members by establishment of local government initiatives based on democratic principles</li> <li>• Build capacity on STDs, hygiene and healthy life style. Support organization of income generating activities and educational workshops.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and youth in the targeted communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organizing awareness raising and healthy life style programs.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women and girls in the targeted communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness raising on gender related issues, including domestic violence and trafficking.</li> <li>• Support establishment of local women networks and initiatives.</li> </ul>

## 4.2 Duty bearers

Below are selected the duty bearers and the intervention strategies of NCA and its partners corresponding to the relevant thematic priorities are listed.

Theme	Duty bearers	Strategies
Faith Communities Address HIV and AIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Churches and church-based organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness of church leaders and church societies on the issue of HIV and AIDS and related topics: stigma and discrimination, rights of PLHIV, care and support.</li> <li>Build capacity on HIV and AIDS programming, mainstreaming, project management and resource mobilization.</li> <li>Support organizing HIV and AIDS awareness programs in the theological academies and institutions.</li> <li>Ensure the networking and involvement of the right-holders, health authorities and the secular non-governmental organizations.</li> <li>Mobilize human and financial resources.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialized organizations and organizations of PLHIV</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support networking with the churches and church based organizations, state and other relevant actors.</li> <li>Build capacity on mainstreaming, project management and resource mobilization.</li> <li>Mobilize human and financial resources.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State, health and prison authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate against stigma and discrimination, against violation of rights of PLHIV and for sustainable services.</li> <li>Ensure the networking and involvement of the right-holders, the churches and church based organizations and civil society</li> </ul>
Men and Women Address Gender- Based Violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Churches and church-based organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Challenge patriarchal values and norms in religion.</li> <li>Build capacity on gender based violence, mainstreaming, project management and resource mobilization.</li> <li>Support organizing awareness programs in the theological academies and institutions.</li> <li>Ensure the networking and involvement of the right-holders, state authorities and the secular non-governmental organizations.</li> <li>Mobilize human and financial resources.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specialized non-governmental and international organizations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support networking with the churches and church based organizations, state and other relevant actors.</li> <li>Build capacity on mainstreaming, project management and resource mobilization.</li> <li>Mobilize human and financial resources.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Men as main actors of violence against women</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raise awareness on gender issues, problematic of domestic violence and trafficking.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>State institutions and law enforcement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support initiatives for building capacity of law enforcement on the domestic violence, trafficking and methods of investigation and counseling.</li> <li>Ensure cooperation and networking with non-governmental sector, churches and church societies and right holders.</li> </ul>

Communities for Fresh Water and Safe Sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community leaders in the targeted communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build capacity on democratic governance and leadership.</li> <li>• Assist in creation of local government initiatives.</li> <li>• Support mobilization of financial resources.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church based and secular organizations, civil society groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build capacity on project management, mainstreaming, fundraising and income generating activities.</li> <li>• Mobilize human and financial resources.</li> <li>• Ensure networking with the community and state authorities and right holders.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State and health care authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for equal access to primary health care services.</li> <li>• Challenge them with poverty reduction and follow up of the national plans.</li> <li>• Ensure networking with non-governmental sector.</li> </ul>

## 5.0 Geographic focus

### Russia

Emphasis will continue to be on Moscow region and Northwest Region. The cooperation with the Russian Orthodox Church through Moscow Patriarchate on the HIV and AIDS program will hopefully continue to have an impact on the general policy and activities initiated by the Russian Orthodox Church throughout the region. The new thematic issue-gender based violence- will be presented to the partner in 2008. An assessment of possibilities to start up programs to support indigenous people in the North Russia will be done in 2007/2008. The HIV and AIDS programmes in the Northwest Russia (Murmansk, Arkhangelsk, St. Petersburg) have been supported by Norwegian Ministry of Health since 2006. The programmes will be continuing only under the availability of the external funds. The activities in North Caucasus were terminated in 2005 and will be re-established if conditions allow.

### Belarus

NCA has supported Belarus Round Table, which is a national structure since 1999. From the beginning the support was mainly directed towards development of Belarus Round Table structures and their diaconal work. HIV and AIDS has been included in the budget from 2001. The general support for diaconal programs will be scaled down during this long-term planning period. Since BRT has established good contacts with other and secular international organizations with possibility for funding of HIV and AIDS programs, it is planned that NCA will phase out from supporting programs in this field in Belarus in 2008. The programs in the field of empowerment of women and trafficking will be continuing only if external funds available.

### Ukraine

In 2006 NCA has phased out the support to church based programs on HIV and AIDS, due to low effectiveness and transparency of the use of funds. However since 2004 NCA is supporting the HIV and AIDS programs of the All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS. The Network is also serving as a resource organisation in this field. Program in the thematic priority of gender based-violence is also implemented by specialised non-governmental organisation, La Strada. Both programmes will continue until the end of this planning period.

### Armenia

NCA has supported the ecumenical structure for social diakonia in Armenia, Armenia Round Table Foundation since 1995. HIV and AIDS has been introduced to be partner in 2005. The support is planned to continue in 2007/2008, but will be scaled down in 2009. The new thematic priority-Religions for Conflict Transformation and Peace Building- has been introduced in Armenia in 2006, with focus on "forgotten" conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan on Nagorny-Karabakh. The support to peace and reconciliation activities of Armenian Round Table will continue through out this planning period. Thanks to the support from Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was NCA able to introduce another new thematic priority to Armenia- Communities for Fresh Water and Safe Sanitation.

### Tajikistan

NCA has implemented a small programme in Tajikistan through the Ecumenical Consortium for Central Asia (ECCA). This programme has addressed HIV and Aids and Water and Sanitation issues. NCA has agreed to be the lead agency on HIV and Aids and will hence have a special role and responsibility on capacity building and networking on this thematic area. The programme in Tajikistan will continue or even expand, on condition that funding will be available and that the capacity of the partners has been strengthened.

### Georgia and Azerbaijan

A more regional approach to South Caucasus is preferable, related to involvement in HIV and AIDS, water and sanitation and peace and reconciliation. Possibilities to expand in this region will be looked into during 2008. The current NCA partners in the region will be involved in the program development.

Country	Region	Thematic priority	Start up/Continue/ Phase out
Russia	Moscow region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faith Communities Address HIV and AIDS</li> <li>Men and Women Address Gender-Based Violence</li> </ul>	Continue Start up in 2008
	Northwest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faith Communities Address HIV and AIDS</li> <li>Indigenous People</li> </ul>	Continue (external funds) Assessment
Belarus	National and at community level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faith Communities Address HIV and AIDS</li> <li>Men and Women Address Gender-Based Violence</li> </ul>	Phase out in 2008 Continue (external funds)
Ukraine	National and at community level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faith Communities Address HIV and AIDS</li> <li>Men and Women Address Gender-Based Violence</li> </ul>	Continue  Continue
Armenia	National and at community level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faith Communities Address HIV and AIDS</li> <li>Communities for Fresh Water and Safe Sanitation</li> <li>Religions for Conflict Transformation and Peace Building</li> </ul>	Phase out 2009 Continue  Expand
Georgia/	National and at community level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Faith Communities Address HIV and AIDS</li> <li>Communities for Fresh Water and Safe Sanitation</li> <li>Religions for Conflict Transformation and Peace Building</li> </ul>	To be assessed. Planned start up 2008/2009
Tajikistan	Community level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water and Sanitation</li> <li>HIV and Aids</li> </ul>	Continue
Azerbaijan	National and at community level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communities for Fresh Water and Safe Sanitation</li> </ul>	To be assessed

### III. PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

#### 6.0 Program objectives per thematic focus area

##### 6.1. Faith communities address HIV and AIDS

**Overall goal:** Church leaders and church based partner organisations are actively involved in awareness raising, prevention and care related to HIV and AIDS and have contributed to the improvement of conditions of PLHIV.

<b>1. Specific Objective</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>
Awareness and knowledge about HIV and AIDS is strengthened		
<b>1.1 Expected result</b> Awareness and knowledge about HIV and AIDS among the church leaders and the church society is strengthened	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theological students have received information and knowledge on HIV and AIDS during specialised workshops</li> <li>• Issues of HIV and AIDS are addressed by the church leaders in the churches</li> <li>• PLHIV are included as equal members into the church societies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual and semi-annual reports by the partner</li> <li>• Documentation</li> <li>• Workshop reports</li> <li>• Surveys conducted by the partners</li> <li>• Resource materials produced and distributed</li> <li>• Testimonies of the PLHIV</li> </ul>
<b>1.2 Expected result</b> Awareness and knowledge about HIV and AIDS among children and youth is raised	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trainings and seminars on HIV and AIDS and healthy life style for children and youth are organised at schools, orphanages, universities and leisure clubs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual and semi-annual reports by the partner</li> <li>• Reports from peer-to peer education workshops</li> <li>• Surveys conducted by the partners</li> <li>• Resource materials produced and distributed</li> </ul>
<b>2. Specific objective</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>
Churches and church communities related to NCA partners advocate for rights of PLHIV		
<b>2.1 Expected result</b> Churches and church communities have participated in advocacy campaigns on behalf of PLHIV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church based partners organise or actively participate in advocacy campaigns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual and semi-annual reports by the partner</li> <li>• Resource materials produced and distributed</li> <li>• Surveys conducted by the partners</li> <li>• Media coverage of the advocacy campaigns</li> </ul>
<b>2.2. Expected result</b> Partners have necessary capacity and programming skills, as well as specialised knowledge to develop and carry out advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partners are organising on their own advocacy and information campaigns in transparent measure</li> <li>• Partners organise workshops and seminars on the advocacy thematic and raise the capacity of local actors</li> <li>• Partners have created networks with purpose of information and experience exchange</li> <li>• Programs and advocacy campaigns are gender sensitive and target women and children in particular</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual and semi-annual reports</li> <li>• Reports from workshops and seminars</li> <li>• Resource materials produced and distributed</li> <li>• Media coverage of the campaigns and other advocacy activities</li> </ul>

<b>3. Specific objective</b> People living with HIV and AIDS have improved access to care and services and exercise their rights.	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>
<b>3.1 Expected result</b> People living with HIV and AIDS are aware of their rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity building workshops on the PLHIV rights and rights deficits are organised</li> <li>• Several cases of violation of PLHIV rights are raised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual and semi-annual reports by the partner</li> <li>• Resource materials produced and distributed</li> <li>• Surveys conducted by the partners</li> <li>• Court decisions</li> <li>• Media coverage</li> </ul>
<b>3.2 Expected result</b> HIV-positive women are aware of their rights and ways to exercise them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops and seminars for HIV-positive women on empowerment and rights are organised</li> <li>• Information materials on women's rights and rights of PLHIV are distributed in the clinics and leisure clubs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual and semi-annual reports by the partner</li> <li>• Resource materials produced and distributed</li> <li>• Surveys conducted by the partners</li> </ul>
<b>3.3 Expected result</b> People living with HIV and AIDS are participating in the palliative aid programs together with health personnel as caregivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-professional teams for provision of palliative care have been established</li> <li>• Counselling centres have been established and provide services to PLHIV without difference in gender, status or ethnicity</li> <li>• Majority of the PLHIV in the program region are receiving counselling and care services</li> <li>• Referral system is established</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual and semi-annual reports by the partner</li> <li>• Surveys conducted by the partners</li> <li>• Statistics of the counselling centres and health institutions on the counselling and referral to other institutions</li> <li>• Resource materials produced and distributed</li> </ul>

**Assumptions:**

- The church leaders and church societies are committed to continue to address the issue of HIV and AIDS.
- Partner organisations are willing to take the challenge of including advocacy into their agenda.
- The capacity of the partners improves and organisational development remains positive. The organisational structures become more stable and their programs coherent. The program implementation is transparent and accountable.
- The major stakeholders are willing to cooperate and establish networks.

**Links between Partners and Program Objectives:**

<b>Core Partners</b>	<b>Type of Organisation</b>	<b>Geographic Focus</b>	<b>Intervention</b>
Russia Round Table/Department for External Church Relations of Moscow Patriarchate of Russian Orthodox Church ROC/DECR	Diaconal Round Table Structure	Russia Moscow region	Advocacy Policy Training

Christian Interchurch Diaconal Council of Saint-Petersburg CIDC	Diaconal Round Table Structure	Northwest Russia	Advocacy Policy Training
<b>Resource Organisations</b>			
The Belarusian Round Table for Interchurch Aid BRT	Diaconal Round Table Structure	Belarus	Advocacy Policy Training
All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS	Specialised non- governmental organisation	Ukraine	Advocacy Lobbying Provision of Care Advisory
UMCOR Armenia	Humanitarian agency	Armenia	Advocacy Training
<b>Strategic Alliances</b>			
World Council of Churches WCC	Ecumenical	Global	Advisory Advocacy
UNAIDS	Specialised	Global	Advocacy Advisory

## 6.2 Men and Women Address Gender-Based Violence

**Overall goal:** Church-based and local partners contribute to awareness raising about violence against girls and women in family, church and in the community, and in particularly on trafficking.

<b>1. Specific Objective</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>
Churches and church based partners undertake measures to diminish gender inequity in their communities and structures		
<p><b>1.1 Expected result</b> Awareness raising workshops and seminars are organised with focus on gender based violence and inequity</p> <p>There is a significant change in the policy and structures regarding gender inequity.</p>	Presence of women in the decision making structures	Policy papers and organisational charts.
<b>2. Specific objective</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>
Combating trafficking and domestic violence is included into the agenda of the churches and local partners		
<p><b>2.1 Expected result</b> Trafficking and domestic violence are visible components of the programs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capacity building workshops on trafficking, domestic violence and gender issues in general are conducted</li> <li>Projects related to trafficking and domestic violence are implemented</li> <li>Information materials are developed and distributed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategies and plans of the partner organisations</li> <li>Annual and semi-annual reports</li> <li>Reports from workshops and seminars</li> <li>Information materials produced and distributed</li> </ul>

<b>3. Specific objective</b> Awareness on domestic violence and trafficking is raised, especially among vulnerable groups	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>
<b>3.1 Expected result</b> Churches and church communities have participated in information and advocacy campaign against domestic violence and trafficking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Church based partners organise or actively participate in advocacy campaigns</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual and semi-annual reports by the partner</li> <li>• Resource materials produced and distributed</li> <li>• Surveys conducted by the partners</li> <li>• Media coverage of the advocacy campaigns</li> </ul>
<b>3.2. Expected result</b> Partners have necessary capacity and programming skills, as well as specialised knowledge to develop and carry out advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partners are organising on their own advocacy and information campaigns in transparent measure</li> <li>• Partners organise workshops and seminars on the advocacy thematic and raise the capacity of local actors</li> <li>• Partners have created networks with purpose of information and experience exchange</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual and semi-annual reports</li> <li>• Reports from workshops and seminars</li> <li>• Resource materials produced and distributed</li> <li>• Media coverage of the campaigns and other advocacy activities</li> </ul>
<b>4. Specific objective</b> Both men and women understand the consequences of gender based violence	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>
<b>4.1 Expected result</b> Both men and women are aware of the issues of gender inequity and gender based violence, as well as the support system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workshops and seminars on gender, gender based violence and its consequences are organised</li> <li>• Victims of gender based violence receive help and support and are referred to relevant authorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual and semi-annual reports</li> <li>• Reports from workshops and seminars</li> <li>• Resource materials produced and distributed</li> <li>• Statistics from the shelters and relevant authorities</li> </ul>

**Assumptions:**

- Church leaders, church and NCA partners are committed to raise the issue of gender based violence, domestic violence and trafficking in particular

**Links between Partners and Program Objectives:**

<b>Core Partners</b>	<b>Type of Organisation</b>	<b>Geographic Focus</b>	<b>Intervention</b>
Russia Round Table/Department for External Church Relations of Moscow Patriarchate of Russian Orthodox Church ROC/DECR	Diaconal Round Table Structure	Russia Moscow region	Advocacy Policy Training

<b>Resource Organisations</b>			
Churches` Comission for Migrants in Europe CCME	Ecumenical	European	Advocacy Policy
La Strada Ukraine	Specialised national Secular	Ukraine	Policy Training Campaign Advisory
<b>Strategic Alliances</b>			
International Organisation for Migration IOM	International Secular	International	Policy Advocacy Advisory
World Council of Churches WCC	Ecumenical	Global	Advisory
Churches` Comission for Migrants in Europe CCME	Ecumenical	European	Advocacy Policy

### 6.3 Communities for Fresh Water and Safe Sanitation

**Overall goal:** The living conditions in the selected communities are significantly improved.

<b>1. Specific Objective</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>
The water and sanitation conditions in the selected region are improved.		
<b>1.1 Expected result</b> Fresh water and safe sanitation systems are provided.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The local community has build or reconstructed water and sanitation systems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual and semi-annual reports</li> <li>Project visit</li> </ul>
<b>1.2 Expected result</b> Empowerment of the local communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local government initiatives are created on basis of democratic principles</li> <li>Local partners and community member have received information on democratic governance and leadership</li> <li>Local partners and community members have received training on project management, mainstreaming, fundraising and income generation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual and semi-annual reports</li> <li>Reports from meetings and trainings</li> </ul>
<b>2. Specific objective</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Sources of Verification</b>
The awareness about STI`s, HIV and AIDS and healthy life style is raised.		
<b>2.1 Expected result</b> Youth and children are informed of STI`s, HIV and AIDS and healthy life style	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trainings and seminars on HIV and AIDS and healthy life style for children and youth are organised at schools and leisure clubs</li> <li>Resource materials are produced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual and semi-annual reports by the partner</li> <li>Reports from peer-to peer education workshops</li> <li>Surveys conducted by the partners</li> <li>Resource materials produced and distributed</li> </ul>

<p><b>2.2 Expected result</b> Women and men are aware of the gender inequities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trainings and seminars on gender and gender based violence are organised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual and semi-annual reports by the partner</li> <li>• Surveys conducted by the partners</li> <li>• Resource materials produced and distributed</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Specific objective</b> Churches and local partners advocate towards the government for equal access to primary health care, education and social services</p>	<p><b>Indicator</b></p>	<p><b>Sources of Verification</b></p>
<p><b>3.1. Expected result</b> Awareness about the lack of primary health care, social services and education in the specific communities is raised</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Churches and local communities have organised meetings with government representatives on the living conditions in the communities</li> <li>• Churches and local government challenged the government by national poverty reduction plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual and semi-annual reports</li> <li>• Reports from the meetings</li> </ul>

**Assumptions and risks:**

- The local communities are committed to actively cooperate to improvement of their living conditions.
- Funds are available.

**Links between Partners and Program Objectives:**

Core Partners	Type of Organisation	Geographic Focus	Intervention
Ecumenical Consortium for Central Asia (ECCA)	Ecumenical	Tajikistan	Community Development Advocacy Aid
Armenia Inter-Church Charitable Round Table Foundation of WCC ARTF	Diaconal Round Table Structure	Armenia	Aid Advocacy Training Community development Capacity Building
<b>Strategic Alliances</b>			
World Council of Churches (WCC)	Ecumenical	Global	Advisory
Action of Churches Together (ACT)	Ecumenical	Global	Advisory

## 7.0 Rationale for Choice of Partners, Resource Organizations, and Strategic Alliances

### 7.1 Capacity of NCA Partners

Capacity building of the partners of NCA in the Eastern Europe has been the main component of the programs since the start up. The round table structures are rather new forms of organization of church societies in the region. Also the years of oppression under the Soviet Union and one communist party did not allow development of civil society.

During the past years NCA has cooperated with World Council of Churches Eastern Europe Office on capacity building program on organizational development and project management. The partners have received training in project planning and monitoring, financial management and evaluation. The program in 2006 has shown good results. The majority of the partners have gone through organizational crisis, where they needed to rebuild their strategies and way of work. An important aspect of the capacity building is to support the organizations in organizational development, so that they are not dependent on NCA funds. The sustainability of the programs is crucial in regard to the needs and rights covered.

The second part of the capacity building was oriented towards establishing knowledge about the thematic priorities. The strength of the NCA partners is that they represent the majority of the society in regard to religion. The weakness was lack of networking and cooperation with other actors in society. Therefore were partners linked to resource organizations relevant for their country and thematic priorities, networks of the partners were created in order to exchange experience and information.

## 7.2 Partnership Strategy

Norwegian Church Aid will continue to cooperate with current church based partners in the Eastern Europe. This allows more long-term achievements and better results. There will be very few new partnerships opened in this period. Selecting a new partner would require new capacity building and long-term support to the organizational development. The partners are establishing new partnerships with local, national and international actors and creating networks.

In the HIV and AIDS field NCA will strengthen the partnership with the All-Ukrainian Network of PLHIV as resource organization. The church based partners will be encouraged and supported in their efforts for networking and fundraising, in order to secure funds for the sustainability of the programs. NCA will facilitate development of closer relationship with national authorities and secular organizations. In the sphere of gender-based violence, NCA will continue to cooperate with La Strada, specialized organization in this field. The existing partnership with the Russia Round Table will be further developed in the direction of gender-based violence. Water and sanitation programs will be implemented together with Armenia Round Table and its local partners, as it has capacity and resources for the program development. New partnerships will be developed for the thematic priority-peace and reconciliation.

## 7.3 Overview of Partners

### Core Partners

<b>Name of partner</b>	<b>Russia Round Table/Department of External Church Relations of Moscow Patriarchate of Russian Orthodox Church RRT/DECR</b>
<b>Year of Foundation</b>	1992
<b>Mission</b>	Development of religious education and diakonia in the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC) through specific programs and projects. Link between international diaconal organizations and the Russian Orthodox Church.
<b>Constituency</b>	Russian Orthodox
<b>Geographic Focus</b>	Russia
<b>Thematic Focus</b>	HIV and AIDS, gender based violence, peace and reconciliation
<b>Strategies</b>	Advocacy, policy, training, education, services, networking
<b>Role in Civil Society</b>	Representing majority church in Russian Federation. Crucial actor influencing public opinion.

<b>Particular Achievements</b>	HIV and AIDS- Concept of the Fight against HIV and AIDS of the Russian Orthodox Church (ROC).
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	Highly relevant strategic partner. NCA supports financial and professionally.
<b>Start of Cooperation</b>	2001
<b>NCA's rationale for relationship</b>	Structure within the Russian Orthodox Church. Crucial role in introducing new topics into the agenda of the Russian Orthodox Church. Influential member of the network of the round table structures in eastern Europe. Geographical coverage.
<b>Planned increase; decrease; phase-out</b>	Support will continue through the planning period. New thematic- trafficking- will be introduced in 2008.
<b>Strategic Potential for Future Cooperation</b>	Yes.
<b>Partners, other than NCA</b>	Other round table structures in Eastern Europe, World Council of Churches, ACT, UNAIDS Russia, UNDP Russia, Diakonisches Werk, FinnChurchAid.

<b>Name of partner</b>	<b>Association Christian Interchurch Diaconal Council of Saint Petersburg - CIDC</b>
<b>Year of Foundation</b>	1991
<b>Mission</b>	Provision of assistance in revival and developing diakonia, support to church and diaconal services.
<b>Constituency</b>	4 Christian confessions
<b>Geographic Focus</b>	Northwest Russia
<b>Thematic Focus</b>	HIV and AIDS, diakonia, gender based violence
<b>Strategies</b>	Training, education, services, networking, campaign
<b>Role in Civil Society</b>	Representing majority confessions in the region.
<b>Particular Achievements</b>	Provision of care and services to PLHIV in St. Petersburg
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	NCA provides financial and professional support to CIDC.
<b>Start of Cooperation</b>	2001
<b>NCA's rationale for relationship</b>	Ecumenical round table structure. Geographical coverage.
<b>Planned increase; decrease; phase-out</b>	Support will only continue with external funds.
<b>Strategic Potential for Future Cooperation</b>	Yes, in terms of expertise.
<b>Partners, other than NCA</b>	FinnChurchAid, Church of Sweden, Diakonisches Werk, Danish Church Aid, other round table structures in Eastern Europe, World Council of Churches, Aprovev, CEC, UNAIDS Russia, UNDP Russia.

<b>Name of partner</b>	<b>Interchurch Mission "Christian Social Service" (former Belarussian Round Table)</b>
<b>Year of Foundation</b>	1997
<b>Mission</b>	Instrument of ecumenical sharing.
<b>Constituency</b>	Christian confessions
<b>Geographic Focus</b>	Belarus
<b>Thematic Focus</b>	HIV and AIDS, gender based violence, diakonia
<b>Strategies</b>	Policy, training, education, services, networking, campaign
<b>Role in Civil Society</b>	Representing majority churches in Belarus.
<b>Particular Achievements</b>	HIV and AIDS campaign in Belarus.
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	NCA supports BRT financially and professionally..
<b>Start of Cooperation</b>	1997
<b>NCA's rationale for relationship</b>	Geographical coverage.
<b>Planned increase; decrease; phase-out</b>	Support will be phased out in 2008.
<b>Strategic Potential for Future Cooperation</b>	Yes, expertise.

<b>Partners, other than NCA</b>	Diakonisches Werk, Church of Sweden, other round table structures in Eastern Europe, World Council of Churches, Aprovev, UNAIDS, UNDP.
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<b>Name of partner</b>	<b>Armenia Inter-Church Charitable Round Table Foundation of WCC ARTF</b>
<b>Year of Foundation</b>	1996
<b>Mission</b>	Work closely with local churches and NGOs to actively contribute to the development of civil society, in both Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh.
<b>Constituency</b>	Armenia Apostolic Church, Armenia Evangelical Church
<b>Geographic Focus</b>	Armenia
<b>Thematic Focus</b>	HIV and AIDS, gender based violence, peace and reconciliation, water and sanitation, community development
<b>Strategies</b>	Advocacy, policy, training, education, services, networking, aid
<b>Role in Civil Society</b>	
<b>Particular Achievements</b>	Integrated community development, poverty reduction.
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	Strong partner. Advisory. Networking.
<b>Start of Cooperation</b>	2002 (before 2002 emergency support)
<b>NCA's rationale for relationship</b>	Crucial actor in social church work in Armenia.
<b>Planned increase; decrease; phase-out</b>	Support will continue through the planning period.
<b>Strategic Potential for Future Cooperation</b>	Yes.
<b>Partners, other than NCA</b>	UMCOR, ICCO, Church of Sweden, CordAid, Diakonisches Werk, EED, other round table structures in Eastern Europe, World Council of Churches, ECRL, ACT.

<b>Name of partner</b>	<b>Ecumenical Consortium for Central Asia (ECCA)</b>
<b>Year of Foundation</b>	Formalized in 2002 (but in operation since mid 1990's)
<b>Mission</b>	To work for the eradication of poverty and the fulfilment of human dignity and human rights through joint efforts from the ECCA-members
<b>Constituency</b>	Consortium of NGOs (NCA, ICCO, DCA and CAID)
<b>Geographic Focus</b>	Tajikistan, Kyrgistan, Kazakhstan
<b>Thematic Focus</b>	Fair Economic Development (FED), Democratization and Widening Political Space (D&WPS), Faith-Based Social Action (FBSA), Fair Economic Development (FED), HIV and AIDS Awareness and Support, Access to Basic Services (ABS) with a rights-based approach.
<b>Strategies</b>	Advocacy, policy, training, education, services, networking, aid
<b>Role in Civil Society</b>	ECCA works only through local partner organizations and its role in civil society is linked to the role and influence of these local organizations. Some of the partner organizations operate mainly at the local level but others at district, national or even regional level. Depending on the national context local partners have a larger or smaller role and space in civil society. Where relevant, ECCA partners have formed regional networks. These also inform the lobby and advocacy activities of the ECCA member agencies in their own countries as well as with the EU.
<b>Particular Achievements</b>	ECCA provides the members with a forum for information sharing, consultation and cooperation. ECCA has resulted in joint capacity building of local partner organizations and to more stress on a programmatic approach. ECCA also allows joint decision-making, attracting and securing internal and back donor funding, promoting awareness about developments in the Central Asian region and responding effectively to emergencies in the region.
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	NCA is one of the four ECCA-members in the consortium
<b>Start of Cooperation</b>	2004

<b>NCA's rationale for relationship</b>	ECCA is the primary partner in this region
<b>Planned increase; decrease; phase-out</b>	Support will continue through the planning period.
<b>Strategic Potential for Future Cooperation</b>	Yes
<b>Partners, other than NCA</b>	ICCO, DCA and CAID

### Resource Organisations

<b>Name of partner</b>	<b>All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS</b>
<b>Year of Foundation</b>	1999
<b>Mission</b>	To enhance the quality of life of people living with HIV and AIDS by means of joint efforts of all concerned in order to offer psychological, social, counseling and legal support and to advocate accessibility of treatment and diagnostics for people living with HIV and AIDS in Ukraine.
<b>Constituency</b>	Secular specialized NGO. Network of HIVpositive people.
<b>Geographic Focus</b>	Ukraine, region former Soviet states
<b>Thematic Focus</b>	HIV and AIDS
<b>Strategies</b>	Advocacy, lobbying, provision of care an services, networking, capacity building.
<b>Role in Civil Society</b>	Main actor in the fight against HIV epidemics in Ukraine.
<b>Particular Achievements</b>	Main actor in the fight against HIV epidemics in Ukraine. Well established specialized NGO with good networking on national and international level. Good organizational capacity.
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	Resource organization in HIV and AIDS in the region.
<b>Start of Cooperation</b>	2004
<b>NCA's rationale for relationship</b>	Geographical focus, expertise.
<b>Planned increase; decrease; phase-out</b>	Support will continue throughout the planning period.
<b>Strategic Potential for Future Cooperation</b>	Yes.
<b>Partners, other than NCA</b>	Elton John AIDS Foundation, Global Fund, International AIDS Alliance, USAID, OXFAM Novib, EU/TACIS, UN agencies (several), WHO, AFEW, Policy, Path, World Bank.....

<b>Name of partner</b>	<b>La Strada Ukraine</b>
<b>Year of Foundation</b>	1997
<b>Mission</b>	prevention of trafficking in women and provision of aid and support to the victims of trafficking
<b>Constituency</b>	Secular specialized NGO.
<b>Geographic Focus</b>	Ukraine, sister organization in several countries in Europe.
<b>Thematic Focus</b>	Gender based violence- trafficking
<b>Strategies</b>	Informational campaign, lobbying, education, hot line, social assistance campaign.
<b>Role in Civil Society</b>	Specialized NGO.
<b>Particular Achievements</b>	One of the main actors in the field of combat of trafficking on the national and European level.
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	Resource organization for gender based violence.
<b>Start of Cooperation</b>	2005
<b>NCA's rationale for relationship</b>	Thematic priority, geographical coverage, organizational capacity.
<b>Planned increase; decrease; phase-out</b>	Funding will continue throughout the planning period.
<b>Strategic Potential for Future Cooperation</b>	Yes.
<b>Partners, other than</b>	European Commission, OSI, OSCE, Anti-Slavery International,

<b>NCA</b>	Fridrich Ebert Fund, several embassies, etc.
<b>Name of partner</b>	<b>UMCOR Armenia</b>
<b>Year of Foundation</b>	1994
<b>Mission</b>	To assist eradicating poverty and socio-economic development during Armenia's transition to a healthy and wealthy civil society.
<b>Constituency</b>	Profesional humanitarian agency.
<b>Geographic Focus</b>	Armenia
<b>Thematic Focus</b>	HIV and AIDS, STI`s, trafficking, agricultural project, microcredit, nutrition, distribution of pharmaceuticals
<b>Strategies</b>	Programmatic support, trainings, humanitarian aid.
<b>Role in Civil Society</b>	
<b>Particular Achievements</b>	STI`s, HIV and AIDS prevention program, microcredit, transitional programming
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	Resource organization on STI`s, HIV and AIDS in Armenia
<b>Start of Cooperation</b>	2001
<b>NCA's rationale for relationship</b>	Geographical and thematic focus, expertise.
<b>Planned increase; decrease; phase-out</b>	The support will continue with external funding.
<b>Strategic Potential for Future Cooperation</b>	Yes.
<b>Partners, other than NCA</b>	EC, UNDP

<b>Name of partner</b>	<b>Working group on Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia Association of World Council of Churches Related Development Organisations in Europe Aprodev</b>
<b>Year of Foundation</b>	1999
<b>Mission</b>	to ensure that in Eastern Europe, the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia the root causes of poverty are addressed, participatory and sustainable societies are built up, and civil society organizations are strengthened.
<b>Constituency</b>	Network of faith-based organizations in Europe, related to WCC.
<b>Geographic Focus</b>	Global, Europe
<b>Thematic Focus</b>	n/r
<b>Strategies</b>	Advocacy, lobbying, training, information exchange forum.
<b>Role in Civil Society</b>	-
<b>Particular Achievements</b>	Advocacy and lobbying, capacity building
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	NCA is member of several working groups, founding member.
<b>Start of Cooperation</b>	2003
<b>NCA's rationale for relationship</b>	Geographical coverage, partner's capacity building, advocacy and lobbying, fund-raising.
<b>Planned increase; decrease; phase-out</b>	Support will continue throughout the planning period.
<b>Strategic Potential for Future Cooperation</b>	Yes.
<b>Partners, other than NCA</b>	Christian Aid (UK), EED, Danchurchaid (DK), Church of Sweden (S), ICCO (NL), Finnchurchaid (SF), Hungarian Interchurch Aid (H).

<b>Name of partner</b>	<b>Churches` Commission for Migrants in Europe- CCME</b>
<b>Year of Foundation</b>	1964
<b>Mission</b>	Serves churches in their commitment to strangers, in order to promote an inclusive policy at European and national level for migrants, refugees and minority workers.
<b>Constituency</b>	Ecumenical organization
<b>Geographic Focus</b>	Europe
<b>Thematic Focus</b>	Migration

<b>Strategies</b>	Monitoring and influencing European policies affecting migrants, refugees and minority workers, advocacy, policy.
<b>Role in Civil Society</b>	Ecumenical organization representing European churches.
<b>Particular Achievements</b>	Lobbying and advocacy.
<b>Relationship with NCA</b>	Resource organization.
<b>Start of Cooperation</b>	1999
<b>NCA's rationale for relationship</b>	Resource organization representing European churches. Dtrong in advocacy towards European institutions.
<b>Planned increase; decrease; phase-out</b>	Support will continue throughout the planning period.
<b>Strategic Potential for Future Cooperation</b>	Yes.
<b>Partners, other than NCA</b>	Other faith based agencies in Europe, member churches.

### Strategic Alliances

Name of partner	Abbreviation	HIV and AIDS	Gender Based Violence	Water and Sanitation	Peace and Reconciliation	Peace Building	Capacity Building	Emergencies	Indigenous People
World Council of Churches	WCC						X		
European Council of Religious Leaders	ECRL				X		X		
Action by Churches Together	ACT			X			X	X	

## 8.0 NCA Contributions

NCA's main contribution is networking, thematic advisory and capacity building of the partner organizations. The aim is sustainability of the partner organizations, in order to develop and realize their programs independently on the funding of NCA and other international donors.

The capacity building of the NCA partners has been from the beginning important component of the NCA programs in Eastern Europe. In the planning period the World Council of Churches Eastern Europe Office continue to implement this component. Continuous follow up and advisory from the NCA office (program coordinator) in Oslo also contribute to the programmatic and organizational capacities of the partners.

NCA will continue to challenge the churches and church based organizations with themes as HIV and AIDS, gender based violence, advocacy, involvement of men in the social programs etc. NCA insists on active involvement and engagement of right holders, in order to prevent and decrease the stigma and discrimination and to ensure the understanding of the needs and right ways of intervention.

NCA facilitates the cooperation with resource organizations, national authorities, national and international networks relevant for the programs.

The experience exchange is another focus area, closely connected to capacity building and networking. The partner organizations that reach certain level of expertise are further organizing capacity building activities on relevant topics for the local organizations and groups.

NCA is supporting building of regional networks, information sharing and experience exchange among the partner organizations, as for example the Anti-AIDS Network of the round table structures, and is facilitating contact and establishment of relations with external actors, resource organizations and strategic alliance. During project visits meetings and workshops are organized involving both duty bearers and right holders, partner organizations and other organizations working with similar priorities.

Programs for conflict transformation and peace building will be developed in 2008. Along with the thematic work, capacity building and strengthening of organizational development of the partners will be undertaken, to make the programs as effective as possible. Potential partners will be Armenia Inter-Church Charitable Round Table Foundation of WCC (ARTF), World Council of Churches (WCC) and European Council of Religious Leaders (ECRL)

A large share of our partners are ready to be involved in emergencies, even if this is not their primary task. With the exception of North Caucasus, most of the region benefits from rather stable conditions. Though in some areas, like Armenia, where the Nagorniy Karabakh conflict remain unsolved, unrest may occur. From time to time our partners are also challenged by natural disasters like drought, flooding and earthquake, and NCA as an organisation with extensive experience as actor in emergencies will look into the possibilities to be a resource for them to draw upon in such situations

Finally, NCA will look into possibilities to develop and/or support the program related to indigenous people in North Russia during the planning period.

## **9.0 Monitoring and Evaluation**

The partner organizations are during the project year delivering two periodical and one annual financial and narrative report. The correct reporting, following the international standards, was and remains a topic of the capacity building component of the programs. The implementation of the programs and plan follow up is undertaken during the annual or bi-annual visit of the NCA program coordinator in the respective country. These visits are organized in the time period of the annual meetings of the round table structures and serve also as meeting points of all other donors and relevant involved organizations.

A global HIV and AIDS evaluation was conducted in 2006. Eastern Europe was part of this evaluation.

## **10.0 Assessments**

### **10.1 Assessment of relevance of program in relation to national plans and priorities**

Programs supported by NCA will be coordinated with national structures and relate to national plans on HIV and AIDS, gender based violence and poverty reduction.

### **10.2 Assessment of relevance in relation to Norwegian development objectives**

Programs supported by NCA should be in line with the Norwegian policy on HIV and AIDS and gender based violence.

### **10.3 Assessment of risks**

The major risks to the NCA programs in the Eastern Europe are:

- Shortage of financial resources.
- Lack of commitment of church leaders, churches and NCA partners to undertake the challenges
- Difficult political climate in terms of advocacy
- Security North Caucasus
- As corruption is widespread, the projects are also exposed to this risk.

### **10.4 Assessment of sustainability**

In most of the cases NCA is one among several donors to the partner structures. The NCA contribution is mainly threatened by lack of financial resources. In order to ensure sustainability of the programs, capacity-building programs are a fixed component of the work supported by NCA in the region (see chapter on Capacity of the partners and NCA contribution). The intention is that after NCA will phase out from the programs, the partners will be able to generate income to continue the program implementation.

## **11. Budget estimates for 2007-2009**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008 (estimates)</b>	<b>2009 (estimates)</b>
<b>Amount (NOK)</b>	<b>4 million</b>	<b>5 million</b>	<b>5 million</b>