

Latin America

REGIONAL INTRODUCTION

1.0 Regional Context

Latin America and the Caribbean¹ still face major challenges in terms of poverty reduction and consolidation of peace and democracy. This is despite some positive developments during the last decades in terms of the ending of dictatorships and civil wars raging on the continent. It is the extremely unequal distribution of power and resources, the lack of effective policies for wealth distribution and weak governance that characterise Latin America and create societies with high conflict potential that in turn poses a threat to continued democratisation and peace. This inequality applies to all aspects that make up the multidimensional concept of poverty.

Lack of accountable governance combined with *civil society participation deficits* is widespread in the region. Despite the fact that democratic elections are institutionalised, many countries have a long way to go in consolidating a democratic culture and securing representative civil society participation in the societal developmental processes. Corruption, drug trafficking, increased violence, impunity, lack of political will and the governments' and authorities' inability to address the inherent social, political and cultural rights of the poor and marginalized are all evident. Structural discrimination exists at all levels in society in the political, economical and social spheres, something that particularly affects the poorest segments in society. The human dignity aspects are particularly violated when it comes to vulnerable and marginalized groups such as the indigenous population, migrants, women and children, and persons affected by HIV and AIDS. The emergence of democracy during recent years represents an opportunity for civil society mobilisation, increased space for accountability-focused advocacy towards the government, and for the promotion of human rights, wealth distribution and equity. At a regional level, the challenges are to strengthen democracy, ensure equitable wealth distribution, reduce systemic vulnerability, make governments more accountable and continue promoting civil society participation. At an international level, the main challenges are related to mitigating the impacts of the economic decisions taken by multilateral development organizations and governments.

The failure of governments and societies at all levels to address the *huge protection deficits* with the *escalating trend of violence*, is one of the major challenges facing the Latin American societies today. The increasing violence is both a post-conflict syndrome, characterised by easy access to weapons, and a consequence of the precarious social and economic situation that the majority of the population is facing. Criminal gangs carry out delinquent activities ranging from petty crime to murders and hijacking, without being properly sentenced. In the same manner the lack of control of the drugs-trafficking in the region contributes to aggravate the violence. The high rates of intra-family violence in the macho-culture are alarming. Local resource conflicts related to land, water, and other natural resources may also result in violent outbursts. This situation represents an increasing threat to the development processes in Latin America. There are however numerous opportunities for addressing this violence emerging. For example the public throughout the region are becoming more active in staging demonstrations and providing input for public policy development and there has been increased social mobilisation at the community level to combat this problem. The challenge is to force governments to take greater responsibility for the protection of their citizens, and strengthen social networks and initiatives.

¹ For the rest of the document we will let the term Latin America include Caribbean.

Another important challenge for the continent is to address and face the multiple challenges of HIV and AIDS. The Latin American and Caribbean region has the second highest number of HIV positive cases in the world after Sub-Saharan Africa according to UNAIDS. There is much left to do in order to meet the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of controlling the spread of HIV and AIDS, which commonly affects the poorest and the most vulnerable population. The rapid expansion of the epidemic exposes the deficiencies of national health systems. The weaknesses of epidemiological control result in sub-registry of HIV positive cases and lack of preventive measures and medical attention. Stigma and discrimination are frequent at all levels in society. Access to medicines for HIV and AIDS control is limited due to high costs, and the governments lack adequate policies to confront the epidemic. The UN Global Fund is one initiative that represents an opportunity and facilitates a more co-ordinated and effective response of government and civil society organisations.

The lack of safe drinking water and sanitation services in combination with inequitable and unsustainable management of water resources poses a threat to the lives of millions of the most vulnerable population in Latin America. The fast reduction in the quantity and quality of water, due to the non-existence of environmental policies which respond adequately to environmental issues such as the regulation of the water resources, deforestation and pollution in key watersheds, and the inequitable access to water and sanitation services, will compromise the possibility of the region to meet the MDG goal in this area. It is considered that the lack of treatment of waste water is the main cause of watersheds pollution, so the sanitation deficit has to be solved parallel with facilitating the access to potable water. The increased socio-environmental awareness within communities and emerging civil society organizations looking for improvements in this area is an opportunity to be supported. The region faces a challenge in securing the good governance of water and sanitation services and sustainable management of water resources. The solution to this requires participation and commitment from all duty bearers and rights holders.

Natural disasters and complex emergencies are part of the recurrent situation that the population is facing, and in the context of the region has direct relation with the deterioration of environment. The vulnerability caused by poverty, the lack communities' capacity to respond in the case of emergencies, institutional weaknesses, and frequent natural phenomena contribute to aggravate the consequences. An opportunity for the region are the lessons learned from Hurricane Mitch, tropical storm Stan and other catastrophes. These will have to be taken on board before the capacity to respond to potential catastrophes will be adequate.

In most countries in the region large segments of society are vulnerable not only to natural phenomena, but also to other problems like violence, the absences of basic services, like health and education, quality water quality, and management of solid waste management and sewage. This results in a complex situation that makes the realisation of the MDGs somewhat unrealistic. The reduction of the vulnerability is a big challenge and requires necessary commitment in order to ensure positive development.

In several countries of the region the multicultural dimension is a key to understanding participation, equity and vulnerability. In Guatemala more than 70% of the poor are indigenous. In Brazil and Nicaragua the indigenous population constitutes the majority in vast geographical areas that are presently being exploited economically, and are limited in terms of infrastructure and water and sanitation services. Furthermore, migration is a phenomenon affecting the whole Latin-American region. Illegal immigrants and their children constitute a particularly vulnerable group, lacking protection from exploitation and harassment from employers, traffickers, the military and the police. This group is also often denied rights both to basic services and participation.

The region faces many other social, economic, political and structural problems. The equity, the protection and the participation deficits in the Latin American context are multiple and complex as shown above. However, the challenge of consolidating democracy, building more accountable governance, strengthening the participation and empowerment of the poor and vulnerable to claim their social, economic, political, civil and environmental rights, and hence gain improved living conditions, remains the overriding issues for the continent in the years to come.

2.0 NCA's Added Value

At present

The complexity of the challenges facing Latin America to increase equity, security, and participation encourages NCA to use a *holistic* and *integrated approach*.

NCA's thirty years of presence and experience with comprehensive development work in Latin American has meant that NCA has been recognised as a solid, trust worthy and innovative partner organisation in the region. NCA has a wide range of accumulated experience and in-depth knowledge about development trends and processes in various countries in the Caribbean, Central America and South America. The NCA Regional Office in Guatemala, NCA's Assistant Co-ordinator in Brazil, as well as NCA Head Office staff have developed special competency in capacity building towards partners. NCA can offer specific professional support to partners in the areas of HIV and AIDS, Water, Emergency, Violence, Peace and Reconciliation, Gender, Rights Based approach, Finance/Administration, as well as in facilitating training and networking for advocacy.

As a church-based organisation, NCA will respond to the multi-dimensional poverty challenges in the region by focusing on practical actions by our partners that strive to address poverty and injustice. The core value will be the upholding of human dignity in confrontation with the lack of participation in the fight for human development as well as in the deficit of access to equal rights and in the absence of security where people are threatened. The bulk of NCA's partners are churches and faith-based organisations (FBOs) that are founded on the Christian belief that all human beings are created in God's image as equals with the same basic rights and obligations.² NCA's value-based partners also share the same vision of being a prophetic voice, claiming the human rights to the oppressed people of the Latin American context.

NCA's mission is to manifest God's unconditional love in the world with emphasis on certain core values such as compassion, justice, participation, integrity of creation and peace. Jesus Christ has shown through his teaching and ministry how to serve others and how to focus on the oppressed, forgotten and poor people. NCA shares this Christian belief and hold on to that every person is created in God's image with a God-given dignity regardless of status in life, gender or race. NCA consider this to be the core of all religious values; that people are human before they are Christians, Muslims, Jewish, Buddhists, Hindus or whether they belong to another local spiritual tradition.

NCA Partner Organisations have many years of experience in long-term development work, emergency assistance and rehabilitation, and many of them have also participated broadly in networks and engaged in advocacy efforts at the local, national and regional levels. Church related partners often have a good local anchorage with an extensive grass-root based reach. NCA facilitates exchange among partners for knowledge

² As Latin America is a region where the vast majority of the FBOs are Christian the term FBOs is somewhat misleading and NCA will for the region use the terms; *churches* for structures of the official churches and *church-related organizations* for organizations that are not directly included in these structures but that are in some way related to the churches and based in the Christian faith.

dissemination and network strengthening, where partners with specific competence share their experience with other NGOs.

NCA engages in strategic alliances, relates and interacts with multilateral development and emergency organisations, such as the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), World Council of Churches (WCC), Action by Churches together (ACT), and is in addition part of many strategic networks in countries like Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Brazil. NCA also has regular contact with other Norwegian and European donor agencies in the region to coordinate efforts and maximise program impact. Emergency preparedness and response is carried out through the ACT network in local and regional contexts.

Ambitions

NCA in Latin American will in the period 2008-2009 seek to fight poverty and uphold human dignity through two main ways:

- a) Supporting partner organisations that demonstrate the ability to use a rights based approach to make sustainable positive changes in the lives of vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- b) Identifying, facilitating, and strengthening networks and alliances that will help to reinforce advocacy efforts.

This implies the following:

- Relation-building and strengthening of network capacities, in particular the areas of HIV and AIDS, water and sanitation, violence, peace and reconciliation, emergency preparedness, following up the compliance of national poverty reduction strategies (PSRP) and MDGs, and economic justice with particular emphasis on illegitimacy of debt.
- Accountability of programs to be reflected in the processes of institutional strengthening of NCA and partners.
- Improve the capacity of using a rights based approach, which implies strengthening the capacity to analyse power relations, identify and empower the poor to claim their inherit rights and duty-bearers, most often government at various levels, to comply and fulfil their duties.
- Capacity to improve gender equality needs to be strengthened and will be improved through increased focus on ability to utilise, and on results of, the Gender Empowerment Analysis Approach.
- Facilitate capacity building of partners in the area of advocacy so as to improve their ability to hold in particular governments at different levels accountable for provision of basic social services, protection, and increased equity. Resource organisations will be identified to assist in this process, and a particular focus will be given to the use of Brazilian partner organisations in other NCA program countries in areas of advocacy of PRSP, Indigenous rights, water, and small arms.

3.0 Thematic Focus

The NCA Latin American Regional program priorities have been developed and identified in line with the context analysis of opportunities, trends and challenges. The strategic plan 2005-2009 was developed in a participatory manner through an evaluation of the NCA contribution and programme in Latin America by NCA's Latin America partners (Spring 2003). The process was conducted by an external consultant, Input was also provided through partner's meetings in Brazil October 2003 and Guatemala November 2003 involving all the NCA partners. The concrete challenges identified are related to the thematic areas of violence, emergency, water and sanitation, and HIV and AIDS. In 2005

NCA carried out a global evaluation of the thematic issue "Faith based communities address HIV and AIDS" and the conclusions are integrated in the 2007 revision of the regional strategic plans.

In addition to the country programme plans for Brazil, Nicaragua and Guatemala, in 2004 NCA made four regional thematic programme plans for the period 2005-2009. In this revision, it has been decided to integrate the thematic issues in the country programme plans. The main reason for this is the ongoing geographical concentration of the work followed-up by the Regional Office in Guatemala, with specific focus on Nicaragua and Guatemala. This includes the phase-out of the Peru programme at the end 2007. At the same time, a joint country programme plan for Haiti and the Dominican Republic is under development. This means that almost all the work in the region will be covered by country programme plans. Intra-regional cooperation will however still be of importance, especially between the countries in Central America, but this will be integrated in the country programme plans.

Based on the thematic contextual relevance, the identified opportunities for societal change, partners' competencies and grass-root based thematic priorities, in combination with NCA core competency the thematic focus for the region and countries 2008-2009 is the following:

Faith Communities address HIV and AIDS

Given the high expansion rates of HIV and AIDS in Latin America, it is important for NCA to give special emphasis to the threat of HIV and AIDS in the coming period.

* NCA will in particular seek to strengthen the role and promote the social responsibility of the ecumenical bodies and churches, Protestant and Catholic, to address the challenges posed by HIV and AIDS. It is a high priority to mobilise the churches, FBOs and strengthen the HIV and AIDS networks in their efforts to deal with the issues of HIV and AIDS prevention, care taking, addressing stigma and discrimination as well as to carry out advocacy work to promote laws and policies for the protection of equal rights of people living with HIV and AIDS.

* Strategically, regional initiatives will be more efficient in the fight against HIV and AIDS than purely country specific approaches, as there are synergies in terms of experience, best case practises and resources. NCA has a good group of core partners, resource partners and strategic alliances at regional level, both within the Catholic Church, Protestant churches and organizations of PLWHA, especially related to the Central American Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS.

* NCA and partners are challenged to build better coordination between the Latin American programs of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), the Latin American Churches Council (CLAI) and global programs like the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA).

Protection from violence and insecurity

It is evident that the poor and oppressed people, in particular women, children and migrants are vulnerable to violence at all levels in Latin America, due to the lack of protection. The lack of equity, citizen participation and empowerment are equally linked to the problem.

* NCA will promote efforts directed toward strengthening the role of churches, FBOs and other NCA partners in Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in the preparation of National Plans for Violence Prevention as promoted by the World Health Organization (WHO). NCA will seek to relate these plans to LWF and the World Council of Churches (WCC) initiatives.

* Special emphasis will be given to promoting and supporting partners initiatives aimed at decreasing the prevalence of Gender Based Violence (GBV).

* Emphasis will be given to strengthening partners' competence on the issue of Trafficking in Human Beings. This involves capacity building within the organisations as well as integration of the issue in their respective projects, in order to prevent youth becoming victims of trafficking.

Religions for Conflict Transformation and Peace Building

- NCA will seek to strengthen the churches' and other partners' tradition of involvement in peace and reconciliation processes, promoting resolution of conflicts and facilitating dialog between civil society and governmental institutions.
- Following up the commitments in UNSC's resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, special emphasis will be given to secure women's participation in such processes.
- NCA will facilitate institution building in post-conflict contexts.

Communities for safe water and sanitation

Given the social and environmental impacts and conflicts caused by the lack of access to water and sanitation services and unsustainable management of water resources, it is important for NCA to develop capabilities of the churches, FBOs and other partners for networking and advocacy. These efforts will be focused on promoting equitable access and sound management of services and resources, and conflict resolution in key watershed.

Protection from natural disasters and complex emergencies

Local and national capacities for emergency prevention, preparedness and response will be strengthened by NCA, partners and alliances, ACT in particular. At local level, the communities where NCA and ACT members have a presence will be strengthened for vulnerability reduction and risk management. Advocacy for accountable governance will be carried out to improve the capabilities of the various national governmental coordinators for emergencies reduction. The participation of civil society with the national governmental coordinators will be strengthened, for the purpose of promoting decentralization and enhanced prevention and response capabilities in rural areas.

Cross cutting issues:

The cross-cutting axis will be integrated into the project planning and implementation at all level of programs in the region.

Rights-based approach

The rights-based approach offers a significant understanding for equality analysis and objectives in a particular context for each program. Clear identification regarding inequalities and discrimination based on gender, class, ethnicity, migrant status and race is important for planning, implementation and evaluation of projects.

Gender-based approach

The gender-based approach allows for the understanding of social inequalities and discriminations due to sexual identity and how it affects women and men in different ways. A particular interest will be to address churches and church-related organizations, because in almost all cases, these organizations have traditional practices and points of view that influence public opinion at large.

Civil society for accountable governance

The empowerment and strengthened advocacy capacity of all the right holders is a major aim of all the actions planned in the region. It is considered that empowerment of right

holders will allow them to claim their rights and to be involved in decision-making bodies at all levels.

Civil society mobilization, advocacy actions, and social auditing will be the main tools to promote accountable governance. The strengthening and empowering of civil society and promotion of accountable governance will be a cross-cutting axis and an integrated perspective in all the thematic focus areas of this region.

Risk management

Taking into account that poor and vulnerable people are at risk of being affected by natural and social disasters, a risk management approach will be included in all the projects. Training will be offered through national ACT Forums when necessary.

Multicultural approach

The multicultural characteristic of the focus countries in the region obligates that all development actions must consider this complex reality. The inclusion of multicultural analysis, including indigenous people rights and demands, are key in the project planning and implementation for the country programs.

Conflict sensibility and Do-no-Harm

Open and latent conflicts are an important part of the reality in several parts of the region. In such a context, NCA will stress the importance of being sensitive to this context, and Do-no-Harm will be applied as an important approach.

4.0 Geographical Focus and Presence

Focus Countries	NCA Presence and Follow-up	Professional Capacity
Guatemala	Regional Office for Central America and Cuba.	Regional Water and Emergencies Coordinator Regional Violence Coordinator
Nicaragua	Sub office under Regional Office	Regional HIV and AIDS Coordinator
Brazil	One programme coordinator at Head Office, and one consultant based in Brazil	
Haiti and the Dominican Republic	Two programme coordinators and one special advisor at the Head Office in Oslo. One external consultant based in Stavanger.	Special advisor on peace and reconciliation based in Oslo.
Other Countries of Priority		
El Salvador	Follow-up from Regional office/sub office	Regional Water and Emergencies Coordinator
Cuba		Regional Violence Coordinator Regional HIV and AIDS Coordinator
Countries with Individual Projects		
Honduras	Follow-up from Regional office/sub office	Regional HIV and AIDS Coordinator

During this planning period, NCA in Latin America has evaluated its geographical strategy and its partner strategy due to several reasons, some of them at the request of NORAD and others to do with funding availability. As a result of this evaluation, it has been concluded that the main emphasis should be the following focus countries: Guatemala, Nicaragua, Brazil and Haiti and The Dominican Republic. In addition it has been decided to give priority to some other countries that are of geographical strategic importance, like Cuba, or geographical thematic importance, like Honduras, or finally where NCA already has a long standing and important cooperation, like the one with Sínodo Luterano Salvadoreño (SLS) through Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in El Salvador. NCA will try to limit the use of NORAD funds in these additional countries.

This process has resulted in termination of cooperation with several partners in Central America and in the termination of whole country programs, more specifically the one for Peru.

A brief description of the other countries of operation is given in the next paragraph.

Other countries:

In Honduras NCA works with the partner "Puerta Abierta" in San Pedro Sula. The reason being that Honduras more specifically San Pedro Sula, is experiencing the highest levels and rise of HIV and AIDS cases in Central America. In addition Honduras is the country in the region where the Churches and government have shown most willingness to get involved in the issue of HIV and AIDS. For this partner the details are included in Annex 1 of this Regional Introduction.

Cuba has been chosen for its relevance to the thematic issue of HIV and AIDS (and potentially to the issue of Emergency), but also because NCA considers it a country with potential for further cooperation in general. The partner details are included in Annex 1 of this Regional Introduction.

In El Salvador NCA has chosen to keep working with SLS in a process of capacity building and institutional strengthening through LWF coordination. For this partner the details are included in Annex 1 of this Regional Introduction.

The Latin American Council of Churches (CLAI), with Head office in Quito, Ecuador, and member churches all over South and Central America, is considered a partner of strategic importance. The cooperation with CLAI is particularly relevant for the work towards Churches and church-related organisations under the thematic focus area *Faith Communities address HIV and AIDS*. The details for CLAI are included in Annex 1 to this Regional Introduction.

5.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

NCA Regional Office

NCA Regional Office prepares annual activity plans, in a systematic but still flexible way, that reflect the objectives to be reached during the year, and at the same time correspond with the five years strategic plans. The Regional Office reports on the activity plans three times a year in order to follow the achievement of activities and goals, and at the same time to implement corrective actions if necessary, in a proper timing. At the end of the year, the plans are evaluated to verify if the goals have been reached, what were the successful areas and which were not, and then the obstacles are identified to implement the necessary amendments in following years.

NCA Partners

NCA works together with the leadership of each partner organization to evaluate and modify their annual operational plans to facilitate the strengthening and coherence between the context analysis, objectives, activities and budget prior to signing the annual agreement of cooperation. During the year, the narrative and financial periodical and final reports are received from the partners, and monitoring and evaluation are provided during the field visits. In some cases an external evaluation is needed for the partners, which is conducted depending of the duration and amount of the support, identifying the weaknesses and strengths with the only purpose of providing institutional strengthening tools. In other cases successful experiences are systematised for institutional strengthening, validation and to share the information with other partners in the region.

External and semi external evaluations

During the last quarter of 2007 NORAD will conduct an evaluation of NCA's work in Guatemala, as a follow-up of the "Rattsoutvalget". The result of the evaluation will probably also have relevance and effect for the other programs under the Regional office, that is the Nicaraguan Country program and the HIV and AIDS program. Special attention will also be given to the conclusions from the thematic evaluation on HIV and AIDS carried out in 2006.

The period 2008-2009 will be focusing more on how we implement the conclusions from these evaluations and monitor these changes, than on doing further evaluations. Specific attention will be given to monitoring of the progress of the partnership strategies outlined in Ch 7.2 in the country and thematic plans.

In 2008 a cross cutting evaluation of the NCA Brazilian country program should be carried out to document the contextual relevance of the program, as well as poverty reduction results of advocacy work carried out in the period. The evaluation shall work as a reference for the next strategic plan.

A mid-term evaluation of the Operation Day's Work (OD) programme, involving five partners in Brazil, will also be carried out in 2008. One will seek to coordinate this evaluation in the best possible way with the general evaluation of the Country programme.

Annex 1 Overview of partners

(Partners not included in country plans)

Cuba

Name of partner	Centro Memorial Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (CMMLK)
Year of Foundation	1987
Mission	Macro-ecumenical organization of Christian inspiration. It provides solidarity and prophetic support to the Cuban people and its churches in providing education to achieve conscious, organized and critical grassroots participation that are engaged in a socially-fair project.
Constituency	Traditional church leaders and new Cuban leaders.
Geographic Focus	14 Cuban provinces and the special municipality called Isla de la Juventud (Island of Youth).
Thematic Focus	Education, communications and international solidarity.
Strategies	Education for Christian leaders under the remote study modality with training, support and academic education services.
Role in Civil Society	Recognition of the education quality in the ecumenical and non-ecumenical sector in the country.
Particular Achievements	The Chairman of CMMLK is a member of the country's Parliament and this has permitted government openness and freedom of action.
Relationship with NCA	Bilateral Institutional support
Start of Cooperation	2001
NCA's rationale for relationship	Strategic and faith-based organization.
Planned increase; decrease; phase-out	The same approx. 200,000 NOK contribution will be maintained.
Strategic Potential for Future Cooperation	To be evaluated
Partners, other than NCA	Cooperation organizations, European and U.S. churches.

Name of partner	Consejo de Iglesias de Cuba (CIC)
Year of Foundation	1941
Mission	To promote encounters, celebration, reflection and the education of churches, ecumenical movements and Christian institutions as a visible expression of the unity to which we are called upon by the Lord Jesus, in the service to our people.
Constituency	Representatives of Churches and ecumenical groups of Cuba.
Geographic Focus	Cuba
Thematic Focus	Fraternity, solidarity, union, preventive health, domestic violence, drug addiction, among others.
Strategies	Council as a commitment link among churches.
Role in Civil Society	Ecumenical movement and academic and cultural institutions.
Particular Achievements	Recognized by the State and society as an entity of official Cuban ecumenical
Relationship with NCA	Psycho social and violence
Start of Cooperation	2001
NCA's rationale for relationship	Faith-based organization.
Planned increase; decrease; phase-out	NCA support will be approx NOK 200,000 for the next two years
Strategic Potential for Future Cooperation	Could be used as a resource for psycho social training
Partners, other than NCA	Organizations of cooperation and Churches from Germany, Canada, Belgium, Spain, USA, among others

Name of partner	CENTRO CRISTIANO DE REFLEXION Y DIÁLOGO (CCRD)
Year of Foundation	1991
Mission	To raise the quality of life of the Cuban population through a process of training in relevant issues such as: social justice, gender equity, citizen participation, peace processes and reconciliation.
Constituency	Ecumenical group working in favor of the most vulnerable sectors of Cuban society.
Geographic Focus	Cuba
Thematic Focus	International relations, organic and ecological agricultural and cattle production, pastoral to support the elderly, women and children, the disabled, health, the environment, sexual education.
Strategies	Ongoing education for Church leaders, local promoters, professionals and others to strengthen local development. To collaborate from the pastoral perspective to solve different types of problems through reflection, service and reconciliation dialogue.
Role in Civil Society	Rural and peasant ecumenical groups
Particular Achievements	Recognition of the Cuban State of pastoral work.
Relationship with NCA	With a South-South exchange, NCA, CCRD and AMC Nicaragua can learn from the sum of their experience.
Start of Cooperation	2001
NCA's rationale for relationship	Strategic and faith-based organization.
Planned increase; decrease; phase-out	NCA support will be approx NOK 200,000 for the next two years
Strategic Potential for Future Cooperation	Knowledge of pastoral perspective to solve different types of problems through reflection, service and reconciliation dialogue can be used among partners
Partners, other than NCA	Brot fuer die Welt, KAIROS, Canadian Embassy, Polytechnic University of Madrid, British Embassy, German Embassy.

El Salvador

Name of partner	Sínodo Luterano Salvadoreño (SLS)
Year of Foundation	1970
Mission	The Salvadoran Lutheran Church is called upon and sent by God to denounce sin and announce the good news through pastoral and diaconal, integral, prophetic, ecumenical, transforming and liberating actions in the construction of the people of God.
Constituency	The Lutheran Church of El Salvador
Geographic Focus	Currently in 250 communities distributed along 12 departments and 60 municipalities in semi-urban, urban and rural areas.
Thematic Focus	Theology, spirituality, sustainable organization and skill development.
Strategies	Promote integral, liberating and transforming education processes; implement primary health care, promote actions aimed at sustained development, strengthen Human Rights networks, promote the growth of communities in faith and life, leadership capabilities, the dissemination of the prophetic voice and SLS strengthening.
Role in Civil Society	Recognized by some ecumenical and grassroots sectors associated to the Farabundo Martí Front for National Liberation, FMLN
Particular Achievements	To be nationally and internationally recognized for its work in the country's peace process.
Relationship with NCA	Institutional support through Lutheran World Federation
Start of Cooperation	Since 1981
NCA's rationale for relationship	Strategic and faith-based organization.

Planned increase; decrease; phase-out	The same approx. 500,000 NOK DMD contribution will be maintained
Strategic Potential for Future Cooperation	To be evaluated
Partners, other than NCA	Lutheran World Federation and support from U.S.A. and European churches.

Honduras

Name of partner	PUERTA ABIERTA
Year of Foundation	1997
Mission	To support the empowerment process for People Living With HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) and to offer integral answers to face the reality of AIDS.
Constituency	The Association of Pauline Priests of Honduras. Group of clerical men committed to fight AIDS.
Geographic Focus	Slum areas in San Pedro Sula, Honduras.
Thematic Focus	HIV and AIDS, education, pastoral support, advocacy.
Strategies	1) To provide direct support for PLWHA 2) To have an office in the sector of the city where there are more HIV-positive persons. 3) To make PLWHA participate in small financial projects.
Role in Civil Society	It is one of the 16 PLWHA support groups in San Pedro Sula. It enjoys the recognition and support of the other 15 groups that operate in the city
Particular Achievements	It is one of the few successful PLWHA care programs of the Catholic Church in Central America.
Relationship with NCA	They will be coordinated with the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance in Geneva.
Start of Cooperation	2003
NCA's rationale for relationship	Faith-based organization that cares for HIV-positive persons.
Planned increase; decrease; phase-out	NCA support will be approx. NOK 400,000 for the next two years
Strategic Potential for Future Cooperation	Will be useful to encourage other initiatives in the Catholic Church to fight AIDS.
Partners, other than NCA	CAFOD, Global Fund.

Regional

Name of partner	LATIN AMERICAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES (CLAI)
Year of Foundation	1982
Mission	The unity of God's people
Constituency	More than 150 Protestant churches plus specified Christian entities from 21 Latin-American and Caribbean countries
Geographic Focus	All of Latin America and some Spanish speaking countries of the Caribbean
Thematic Focus	Communications; Women and gender justice; Environment; Youths; Health – including HIV and AIDS; Faith, economy and society; Liturgy; Peace culture
Strategies	Promote reflection and theological and pastoral dialogue
Role in Civil Society	Networking and promoting unity and joint actions on important issues
Particular Achievements	
Relationship with NCA	Faith based organization
Start of Cooperation	1980
NCA's rationale for relationship	Strategic partner for relations to churches;, especially in relation to HIV and AIDS work

Planned increase; decrease; phase-out	NCA support will be approx NOK 400,000, for the next two years.
Strategic Potential for Future Cooperation	To reach out with information and to promote joint action towards a large network of churches on several of NCA's thematic focus areas
Partners, other than NCA	Church World Services, Fin Church Aid, Church of Sweden, World Vision, ICCO, Christian Aid, Several churches from the US and Europe.