

Nordic Aid - Humanitarian Policy

Nordic Aid wants all stakeholders to have confidence in our work. The activities must be transparent, responsible and go to its objectives. We follow some principles for this to be fulfilled, including The Red Cross's international principles for NGOs: 'Codes of Conduct', and CHS Alliance standards. We are constantly working to improve our internal control. Below are our principles regarding our humanitarian policy, accounting standards and Swedish collection control.

Nordic Aid - Codes of Conduct

Nordic Aid intends to follow the Red Cross 'Codes of Conduct' for a good standard in humanitarian work. Nor does Nordic Aid cooperate with organizations, authorities or companies that do not follow these principles.

1. The humanitarian imperative comes first

Nordic Aid is working to provide humanitarian reinforcement where needed. Our Aid is never politically or religiously bound.

2. No gender or nationality discrimination may occur

Nordic Aid's humanitarian aid does not support any specific group, race, nationality or gender. We defend everyone's humanitarian needs and rights in the areas where we work.

3. Assistance or humanitarian aid will not be used for political or religious positions

Nordic Aid is a political and religiously independent organization and subsequently works in all our areas of activity. Everyone's humanitarian needs in the areas where we work are thus equally important.

4. We work freely from state involvement

Nordic Aid is not a "tool" for states to use in aid, we and our partner organizations are independent and apply our own development strategies in the areas in which we operate.

5. We respect cultures and traditions

Nordic Aid's work respects local traditions and cultures.

6. We use local capacity to build disaster response

Strengthening the local community in which we work is important for Nordic Aid. Therefore, all purchases are made for our various projects locally, our project coordinators and field

employees are local and the trade exchanges that take place are through local companies and contractors.

7. We involve the target group in our projects

Nordic Aid and our partner organizations always involve some part of the target group in project planning, management and implementation of the aid activities. We never force anyone to participate in the projects; the projects are prepared at grassroots level by our partner organizations and a pilot group to adapt to the needs that exist. We use a bottom-up perspective on our projects and our work.

8. We strive to reduce long-term vulnerability

Nordic Aid's projects always strive to strengthen the local community. Our projects are adapted so that they do not "make a mess" for the long-term development aspects and our work is characterized by the rights perspective and not by the needs perspective to facilitate this work. Organizational development for the local organizations is an important part of our work as this reduces the long-term vulnerability for the local population in our business areas. We do not carry out any projects that have a high risk of destroying long-term development strategies.

9. We are responsible for those we Aid (the target group) and for those who give us funds / grants

Nordic Aid is a link between those who want to aid in disasters and those who need to be aided, which is why we are responsible for both parties. Nordic Aid also strives for transparency and openness in its aid operations, as well as our partner organizations work. We openly report our results. We at Nordic Aid are ultimately responsible for all projects and all humanitarian activities.

10. In our campaigns, the target group should be reflected as worthy people, not as helpless

We believe it is extremely important (in our advertising and information brochures) that we aim to aid are not pictured as helpless. Instead, we want to focus on people's capacity and dignity.

Nordic Aid and Swedish Collection Control

Swedish Collection Control monitors aid organizations and ensures, among other things, that money collected through a 90 account goes to the purpose without unreasonable costs. Only the non-profit associations, foundations and religious communities that have been approved as 90 account holders by the Swedish Collection Control and reviewed by them can get a seven-digit 90 account from PlusGiro or Bankgirot. 90 accounts may be used for fundraising among the public by the foundations, non-profit associations and faith communities approved by the Swedish Fundraising Agency.

Swedish Collection Control has as a requirement that a maximum of 25 percent of total revenue goes to collection costs and administration. Nordic Hjälp uses 90 accounts to gain greater control over the funds collected.

Nordic Aid and GIVA (former Frii)

Nordic Aid is part of the Voluntary Organizations Collection Council (GIVA) together with just over 130 other organizations

GIVA is a branch organization for fundraising organizations that works for ethical and professional fundraising. We also work continuously on the basis of FRII's quality codes.

Nordic Aid and Sphere Standards

We support Sphere's basic norms and the humanitarian imperative: that everyone affected by disaster or conflict has the right to a life of dignity and thus the right to assistance; that every conceivable step should be taken to alleviate human suffering arising from disaster or conflict, and the right to protection and security.

We are also convinced of the importance of incorporating the affected population and the local and national authorities into the consultation process, which is also part of Sphere's basic philosophy. Quality and responsibility are some of our keywords, completely in line with the Sphere initiative. Nordic Aid fully supports the Humanitarian Charter and the Principles of Protection, as well as the rights-based attitude about man at the center.

In cases where we consider that we do not meet Sphere's standards, we still act in accordance with Sphere's recommendations; we report and evaluate the differences between Sphere's indications and those we have achieved in practice, we explain the causes of what happened and explain what needs to be improved, we assess the negative consequences for the affected population, and we take appropriate risk mitigation measures to minimize the damage that caused by these consequences.

In cases where living conditions have been significantly worse than minimum standards before our actions, we may consider it more important to provide basic facilities to a large group afflicting than achieving the minimum standard for a fraction. This too is in agreement Spheres standard.

Nordic Aid and the CHS Alliance

Nordic Aid is a member of the CHS Alliance, which means that we have signed their standard principles; humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, participation and informed consent, duty of care, witness, offering of restoration, transparency and complementarity.

The first four principles above basically come from the basic principles of the Red Cross, and the latter are primarily relevant for accounting, some coming from the CHS Alliances Responsibility Principles.

We also support the CHS Alliance's benchmarks: establishing and delivering agreements, establishing and fulfilling their commitments, staff competence, sharing information, participation, handling complaints, learning and continuous improvement. We attach great importance to the association's responsibility towards all employees, cooperative organizations and recipients of aid.

CHS Alliance standards apply to: organizations that provide direct assistance to people affected by a crisis; organizations that provide financial, material or technical support to others, organizations that do not directly participate in providing assistance, and organizations that combine both of these methods.

Since an organization that works with partners does not meet the CHS Alliance standard in the same way as an organization that provides direct assistance, an organization that works with partners needs to identify appropriate ways for them to meet the CHS Alliance standard in relation to the people they aim to assist. To this end, each benchmark in the CHS Alliance standard includes additional requirements for organizations when working with partners, enabling their partners to meet the requirements relevant to direct assistance. Nordic Hjälp works actively to meet these requirements, among other things by having regular follow-up talks with all partner organizations. We regularly review our agreements with partners and cooperate only with organizations that have committed to follow the Red Cross codes and who report with approved auditors, in accordance with the CHS Alliance standard.

Nordic Aid is qualified according to the CHS Alliance's quality assurance certification system. That means an organization

1. formally declared non-profit in the country or countries where it is legally registered and operating;
2. Meets the requirements for financial accountability under the law of the country or countries where it is legally registered and operating, and has a reliable system of internal control to ensure that funds are used properly; and
3. reports within the framework of the public, has reviewed its position in accordance with its responsibilities and has a plan to continuously improve its results vis-à-vis the public.

4. The CHS Alliance Standard Commitment

The CHS Alliance Standard Commitment recognizes that the core responsibility is to respect the needs, problems, capabilities and situation of the people they aim to Aid; is responsible for their actions and decisions before these people and other stakeholders; respects international humanitarian law, international asylum law, human rights and other relevant international agreements and national laws; reaffirms the primary responsibility of states for all persons in their territories and their obligation to provide support and protection to people in need; it upholds the right of people who need support and protection because of their informed consent, and everyone's right to offer assistance appropriate to people's needs;

recognizes the duty of care shared by all who participate in humanitarian efforts for well-being, the people they aim to Aid, and also recognizes that responses to the humanitarian imperative can take different forms, and can be influenced by external circumstances.

Nordic Aid also supports the CHS principles of accountability

Nordic Aid: Governance, Control and Accounting

Nordic Aid supports the CHS Alliance's vision of a world free from corruption, in governments, politics, civil society and in people's daily lives. We support the CHS Alliance's standard in Accountability and Quality Management and Transparency International's core values: transparency, responsibility, integrity, solidarity, courage, justice and democracy.

Our auditors are authorized and perform audits in accordance with the latest version of ISA (International Standards on Auditing), which is checked annually by the Swedish Collection Control Board.

“Don't aim for a higher budget, more assets, higher visibility and increased prestige. Instead, aim for a higher level of participation, joint effort, better communication, better service, greater impact, long-term impact and higher credibility. The rest comes automatically. ”

Steven Muncy, Executive Director, Community and Family Services International, November 2009.

Nordic Aid
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