

UN GLOBAL COMPACT COMMUNICATION OF ENGAGEMENT 2019- 2021

REPORT BY DANCHURCHAID





Foto: Bax Lindhardt

ABOUT DANCHURCHAID

DanChurchAid (DCA) is an independent civil society organisation, working to support the poorest of the world in their struggle for a dignified life and help those whose lives are threatened. We provide emergency relief in disaster-stricken areas and long-term development assistance in poor regions – with the objective of creating a more just, equitable and sustainable world.

The situation of each individual is the starting point for our work, with respect for human rights and equality. We engage with popular and political forces and seek to influence decision makers to improve conditions for the poorest. We work closely with faith-based and other partners and break new ground in our partnerships to make the greatest possible difference in the world. We show leadership and maintain our 100 years of tradition for action and innovation.

Our work derives from Christian values. We show active compassion, share with the world's poorest, and help those in need. We act courageously when injustice is committed against people and when human rights are violated.

We cooperate with numerous local partners, other national and church organisations as well as international networks.

By experimenting and testing new ways of working with volunteers, donors and partners, we help people in poverty and distress to find a better life and have hope for a better world.

DCA's international goals are based on our vision and respond to the need for sustainable development and humanitarian action. All DCA's activities are carried out in support of one or more of these goals:

- **Save Lives**
- **Build Resilient Communities**
- **Fight Extreme Inequality**



Humanitarian action and sustainable development

DCA has significant technical expertise and experience to support our partners in achieving our three international goals. Together, through alliances, including our global ACT Alliance, we can take tangible steps towards a world without hunger, poverty and oppression.

DCA's thematic policies are Active Citizenship, Right to Food, Humanitarian Action and Safer Communities, and cross cutting policies on Gender Equity and Rights Based Approach - these are used to prioritise and organize work under the international goals. All international programmes and projects in DCA are developed and implemented within the thematic priorities of these policies.



Country Offices, partners and numerous other stakeholders are engaged in a collective endeavour to achieve the global goals and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, counteract a shrinking civic and humanitarian space and address protracted crises.

Engaging with the private sector

While working in long-term partnerships with strong national and local civil society organisations (CSOs) is a cornerstone in DCA's partnership approach, developments in recent years have seen an increase in the diversity of DCA's partnership portfolio. Partners from the private sector, research institutions, informal social movements, and social/business entrepreneurs are offering new and complementary capacities, networks, and technical skills.

Looking ahead, DCA believes that the ability to build alliances and connect stakeholders across sectors, countries, and technical skills for a shared vision will be even more essential.

DCA's engagement with private sector actors continued to flourish in 2020 with a strengthened focus on green solutions, job creation and sustainable financing models. Since 2019, DCA has added three new private sector partnerships to the portfolio, now consisting of 12 projects. DCA increasingly engages local private sector and civil society partners in multi-stakeholder consortia with Danish and international knowledge partners as a precondition for ownership and long-term sustainability.

DCA's approach to enable sustainable development is continuously assessed and redirected to ensure a cross-cutting focus on green transition and access to financing through locally-led actions. The realisation of these interventions is strongly linked to the urgent need for action on climate change and responsible investments where DCA plays a key role in bridging different actors and sectors.

As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolded, the added value of working through partnerships was demonstrated as a risk mitigation factor, enabling project partners to adapt to market changes quickly.

SDGS AS AVENUE FOR GLOBAL COOPERATION

The introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals has presented a new avenue for global cooperation. They also provide a strong global framework for holding governments accountable to their global commitments on a range of interlinked issues. Civil society and the private sector play an important role in this process; notably in clarifying how the SDGs can be implemented and measured as well as holding various actors accountable.

Governments have the primary responsibility for implementing the global goals, and all governments have equal responsibility for their realisation. Instead of the asymmetrical relationship often seen in the interactions between developed and developing countries, the SDGs present a framework for true cooperation around the delivery of global public goods and respect for human rights.

All our work will support achieving some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and from all programme goals there will be contributions to SDG 5 Gender Equality, 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and 17 Partnerships for the Goals.



Save lives

DCA works to provide immediate response focussing on protecting and saving lives. Any life is sacred, and when lives and human dignity are threatened, it is our responsibility to do what we can to assist.

This goal is directly linked to SDG 2, 10 and 11.



Build Resilient Communities

To promote a world without hunger, poverty and oppression we need to build resilient communities, which can form the basis for sustainable development and inclusive growth. This goal is directly linked to SDG 1, 2, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 15.



Fight extreme inequality

Growth and development does not benefit all, and political, social, environmental and economic inequality between people and between nations, must be addressed and transformed to achieve our vision. This goal is directly linked to SDG 1, 3, 8 and 10.



DCA PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR

1. DCA is an **independent non-profit organization**.
2. As a human rights-based organisation, DCA is **committed to ensuring that human rights and gender equality** are an integral part of all our work. DCA works from a human rights-based approach through the five PANEL principles (Participation, Accountability, Non-Discrimination and Equality, Empowerment, and Legality).
3. DCA's **aim of engaging private sector actors is to promote respect for human rights and sustainable development**. DCA works in accordance with international human rights and labour standards, such as the UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and ILO Core Conventions. DCA also supports the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
4. DCA expects business enterprises and their suppliers to respect human in line with these international minimum standards. **Corporate Partners are expected to be committed to actively prevent, address and mitigate any actual or potential negative impacts on human rights** in their own operations, and with their suppliers. Part of this responsibility involves policy commitments and operational management systems in place to ensure respect for human rights.
5. DCA recognizes that ensuring respect for human rights is a continuous improvement process, and not a quick fix solution. **DCA therefore engages constructively with business Partners to exchange knowledge and learning** on practical ways to ensure proper human rights due diligence. In return, DCA expects the engagement to be based on the principles of mutual trust, accountability, transparency, and commitment to take action.
6. **DCA will continuously monitor and evaluate Partnerships and outcomes of our engagements with corporate actors** and may at any point of time decide to initiate concrete dialogue on interventions of the company, which might have a negative social or environmental effect, or discontinue the engagement.



Mainstreaming HRBA during a global pandemic

Human Rights Based Approach

DanChurchAid (DCA) mainstreams the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) through the Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination including gender equality, Empowerment and Link to rights framework principles leading to outcomes across the humanitarian, development, and peacebuilding nexus.

All DCA Country Programmes (CPs) work with gender mainstreaming and women's rights as an integral part of the HRBA, and gender as part of the rights-based approach also cuts across DCA's resilience approach, as projects promote economic, environmental, and social rights of individuals and communities, with a focus on women and vulnerable groups. By 2022, DCA integrates use of reporting mechanisms like UPR (Universal Periodic Review) and CEDAW (Convention to Eliminate all Discrimination Against Women) to ensure nobody is left behind, and our management processes reduce risks in relation to human rights violations. As a human rights-based organisation DCA seeks to promote and advance the enjoyment of fundamental human rights for all. This includes ensuring awareness on potential human rights risks are raised and managed in all our activities and partnerships including those with private actors.

Direct support to human rights defenders (HRDs)

According to Freedom House the condition of democracy and human rights has grown worse in 80 countries since the pandemic began. Adding to an already depressing trend, COVID-19 measures restrict freedom of assembly and freedom of speech disproportionately, and this impacts almost all of the countries where DCA works, which report a further shrinking civic and political space.

In many contexts where DCA works, risks for HRDs are increasing, and DCA has prioritised developing new and innovative ways to support HRDs and CSOs under pressure and protect their ability to hold duty bearers accountable. With a specific focus on women and youth, DCA has provided direct support for at-risk HRDs in, among others, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Palestine, Uganda, and Zimbabwe. This includes training on documentation of violations, digital security, the mobilisation of inter-religious protection against hatespeech, physical security, medical and emergency support, and legal aid as well as small grants to individual HRDs.

Despite the concerning international developments with increased restrictions on most political and civic rights, there has been progress related to DCA's goal of Fight Extreme Inequality at a local level. DCA has seen significant progress and important results of strengthened capacity and empowered rights holders, increased participation in decision-making processes by rights holders, and demands for gender-equitable governance.

This has been supported by DCA's Danish and global advocacy on the promotion and protection of a rules-based global order, including cross-European high level political mobilisation in support of this. At national level, at least DCA experienced a glimpse of hope from one of the 19 countries where DCA works, with the peaceful elections in Malawi that lead the way to a much more inclusive government.

Description of Actions and Measurement of Outcomes

The following section will provide a description of the DCAs Actions related to the practical implementation and promotion of the **10 UN Global Compact Principles**.

Human Rights Policy

With the 2018 adoption of an organisational Human Rights Policy, DCA underlines the existing commitment to respect human rights in all operations, relations and engagements. The policy is developed based on a comprehensive self-assessment of DCAs sphere of human rights risks, through analysis of existing policies and practices. The policy serves a focal reference point for DCA staff globally to ensure that appropriate human rights due diligence is undertaken, and that continuous improvement in our responses to minimise risks is made. The human rights policy also addresses a distinct commitment towards the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the Ten UN Global Compact Principles.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Implementations are ensured through e.g. DCAs Quality and Accountability Framework, capacity building programmes and annual reporting processes which reports on DCAs progress in relation to the strategic objectives, goals and policy commitments in accordance with the Core Humanitarian Standard. Annual reports on DCAs performance are available on DCAs homepage.

Advocacy and Corporate Engagement in Global Compact related issues

Ensuring a human rights-based approach to sustainable development is a foundational organisational priority reflected throughout our projects and our advocacy initiatives. Awareness of the potential negative human rights impacts related to business activities is set forth to encourage corporate actors to apply a systematic and comprehensive approach to ensure appropriate human rights due diligence is undertaken. DCA also supports sister organisations and partner organisations in ongoing capacity development through webinars, face-to-face trainings and establishment of a resource platform with information and resources to support CSO engagement on corporate accountability issues.

Human rights

Principle 1

Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

Principle 2

make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.



Participation and Policies

DCA holds a long-time tradition for collective bargaining and democratic engagement with the staff union representations in Denmark.

Contracts in DCA focal countries are negotiated based on local laws but guided by the overall values and organisational policies of DCA including DCA Staff Code of Conduct, DCA Child protection policy and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation Policy.

All staff is furthermore expected to engage in DCA onboarding courses, in which the expectations and standards are presented to further accountability, induction and understanding of core policy commitments. DCA is an equal opportunities workplace and encourages all qualified and interested candidates irrespective of age, gender, race, religion or ethnic affiliation to apply for vacancies.

Complaints Handling

Staff also can also raise concerns related to staff welfare and working conditions through the staff unions, the working environment committee and the cooperation committee or by submitting a complaint to the DCAs complaints handling system

Advocacy and policy development

Labour rights are human rights, and DCA and partners work systematically to promote stronger policy frameworks and enforcement, to ensure attention towards the interlinkages and relevant standards. Enabling platforms for multi-sector dialogue is key in DCAs advocacy work, and seeks to ensure broad dialogue and debates where e.g. governments, private sector, trade unions and civil society can support development of effective policies and ensuring access to remedy for victims of violations.

Labor rights

Principle 3

Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

Principle 4

the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5

the effective abolition of child labour; and

Principle 6

the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.



Climate Change

Climate change is a growing challenge for all, and in particular for people in poor and vulnerable countries. DCA is committed to the calls for action and we will address climate change in our programmes, our engagement work in Denmark, in our advocacy work, as well as in our internal practices as an NGO.

We should make an effort to ensure that our work is in line with a development path, where global temperatures will not increase more than 1,5°C, as recommended by the climate science.

Internal climate policy

The DCA internal climate policy sets a framework for climate action within the organisation. It covers a number of areas, and is developed to help DCA 'walk the talk'. The policy will be applied from 2019 to 2021 afterwards replaced with a revised version.

Compensation for DCA air travel

DCA has taken several initiatives to reduce emissions in our programmes and operations, but it is difficult to reduce all emissions related to our activities - especially air travel. Therefore, a compensation scheme has been initiated, which compensates for all headquarter flights. DCA compensates emissions through the socioeconomic company TroFaCo's tree planting project in Uganda, which delivers climate resilience benefits to local communities, while compensating emissions.

In 2020 DCA launched a climate product (Climate Agreements) for private companies, who wishes to compensate their emissions through DCA partners while additionally contributing to DCAs climate adaptation work. The product is made for companies that already works to reduce their emissions, and wish to compensate for what they cannot reduce on the short term.

Case example: Agri-Tech Solutions

Taking a holistic approach to resilient communities and livelihoods, DCA integrates environmental sustainability considerations, adaptation to climate change and low emission development. DCA engages in the private sector partnership Agri-Tech Solutions together with the Danish company Ingemann Group, the organisation Momentum Trust and the Kenyan microfinance institute Juhudi Kilimo. The partnership introduces innovative, digital climate resilience platforms for agricultural advisory services for Kenyan smallholder farmers and credit risk assessment for financial institutions. The method is provision of access to agri-tech solutions for climate resilience and financial inclusion of smallholder farmers, and the approach is responsible and climate-friendly business models through inclusive chia and vegetable value chains.

Environment

Principle 7

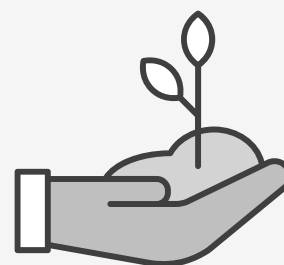
Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges

Principle 8

undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

Principle 9

encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.



Anti-corruption

It is our declared vision to help and advocate for oppressed, neglected and marginalized people in poor countries, and to strengthen their opportunities to live a life in dignity. To reach that goal,

we are entrusted with funds from a variety of donors. Therefore, DCA holds a great responsibility towards donors and beneficiaries to avoid corruption and to secure that the funds we manage are spent correctly and transparently and reaches the intended beneficiaries.

According to Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index, the countries that DCA operates in are among the countries in the world most prone to corruption. That is no coincidence, since corruption, poverty and weak public institutions often go hand-in-hand. This means, that corruption is a daily challenge faced by our staff and partners and we have to ensure, that they are all well prepared and ready to tackle that challenge.

Anti-corruption Policy

DCAs anti-corruption work is based on the following three principles:

1. We believe it is important that everyone has sufficient and specific knowledge about corruption and anti-corruption
2. We encourage an open dialogue around the dilemmas associated with anti-corruption
3. Transparency and accountability must be at the core of everything we do.

Corruption is defined in DCAs policy as "misuse of entrusted power for private (or organisational) gain".

The anti-corruption policy contains six principles that promote anti-corrupt behaviour and guidance on how to handle corruption, should it occur:

- Conflicts of interest
- Abuse of power and extortion
- Fraud and Embezzlement
- Bribery (and facilitation payment)
- Nepotism and favouritism
- Gifts and Hospitality

The anti-corruption policy is so far translated into Danish, English, French, Russian, Myanmar, Khmer and Spanish and can be accessed [here](#).

DCA Complaints Handling system

DCA has a well-established complaints handling system., where complaints and potential grievances related to DCA and DCAs partners activities can be raised. Annual reports on complaints are also developed and shared on DCAs homepage.

Anti-corruption

Principle 10

Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.





Foto: Bax Lindhardt

LOOKING AHEAD

DCA will in the coming COE period continuously prioritise to advance the UN Global Compact principles within the organisation, in new private sector project developments and partnerships and through ongoing engagements and alliance building with relevant stakeholders on responsible business conduct principles and practices.

For the coming years, DCA is committed to broaden the scope on our climate interventions in principles and practice. For DCA, this means taking further steps to demonstrate that climate change issues must be addressed through holistic and complementary approaches. In practice this means devising solutions to promote climate friendly value chain development, looking towards new technology and research to ensure ongoing compensation, mitigation and adaption of new resilient approaches to enable more just transitions for the most vulnerable groups.

