



PHOTO CORDAID

LOCALLY-LED HUMANITARIAN ACTION

An estimated 305 million people are expected to require humanitarian assistance in 2025. Natural disasters and conflict have become more frequent and severe in the 21st century. Climate change is exacerbating weather-related disasters, such as floods, droughts, and storms, leading to displacement. Meanwhile, protracted violent conflicts, increase the need for long-term humanitarian support.

Our humanitarian strategy has been renewed and is ready to contribute to alleviating changing human needs worldwide. Cordaid's approach is based on three key principles:

- international humanitarian principles,
- collaboration in networks and
- equitable, locally-led partnerships.

“Our programmes are gender-sensitive and tailored to address specific vulnerabilities”

CORDAID'S HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN DATA

(ANNUAL AVERAGE 2021-2023)



€50 M
average turnover



750,000
people reached



15
countries where humanitarian assistance is provided



30
local partner organisations annually

MAIN DONORS

Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA), Giro555, ECHO, UN, private donors of Cordaid

VAST INTERNATIONAL FAITH-BASED NETWORKS

Cordaid is a member of key global networks, such as Caritas Internationalis (present in 162 countries) and the ACT Alliance (present in 127 countries). Caritas Internationalis and ACT Alliance together rank among the top three humanitarian actors in the world. They have an extensive local and global reach. When a crisis hits, the members of these networks, from small groups of volunteers to some of the biggest global charities, are already acting on the ground. Cordaid's membership of these networks allows us to engage in international advocacy, lobbying, and humanitarian coordination efforts, enhancing our ability to respond to crises efficiently. We also work through international members of both networks if direct support to local partners is not possible.

Dutch Relief Alliance

In addition to our family networks, we are a member of the Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA), a coalition of 14 organisations funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Next to providing funds to respond to acute and protracted crises through a model of "joint responses" of cooperating local and Dutch-based humanitarian NGOs, the alliance provides opportunities for collaboration, exchange and learning with Dutch actors and their international partners. Cordaid has ample experience as the lead agency for joint responses.

actalliance

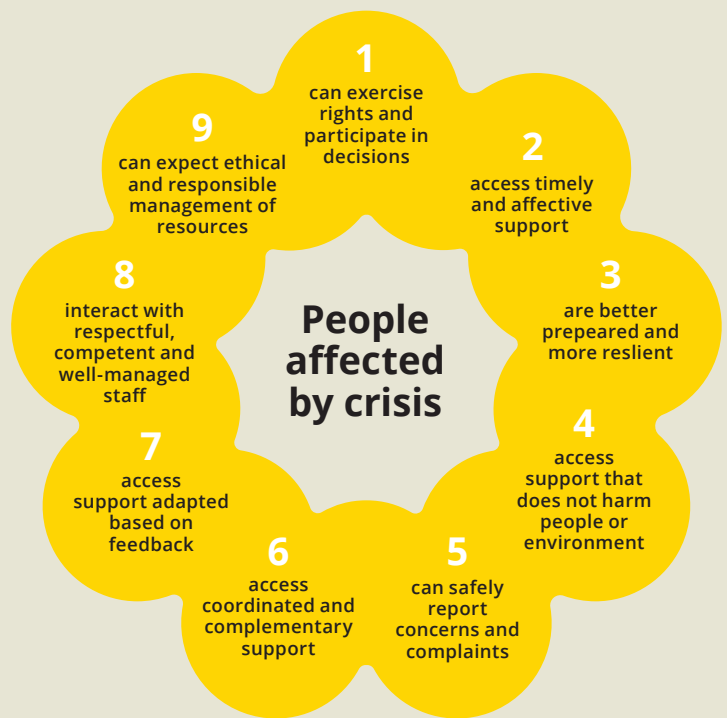
DUTCH RELIEF ALLIANCE

Caritas Internationalis

HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES LEADING

Our humanitarian efforts are firmly grounded in International Humanitarian Law and guided by key humanitarian principles: **humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence.**

Cordaid is committed to maintaining high standards of humanitarian response, including adherence to the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS). In November 2023, Cordaid was audited against the CHS with satisfactory results. Cordaid is also a member of the CHS Alliance.



> A family in Yemen receives a voucher from Yamaan, partner of Cordaid.

YEMEN LONGSTANDING CONFLICT

Cordaid has longstanding experience in working in protracted conflict in which we aim to link humanitarian assistance with recovery to help families to get back on their feet again. Yemen is an example where Cordaid in collaboration with partners provides humanitarian assistance across the country that is already for 10 years divided by civil war. To reduce dependency on humanitarian assistance Cordaid started to explore combining cash assistance with emergency livelihood recovery. For example, in rural Taiz Cordaid and partner NMO successfully applied together for funding of ECHO (EU humanitarian donor) for emergency livelihood. We provide short, focused training to men and women in skills that are in demand in the local economy, like solar panels or mobile phone repair. Men and women as well as local businesses are consulted in what are the appropriate skills that give them the chance to earn an income and reduce the dependency of their families on humanitarian assistance.

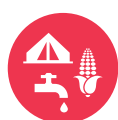
Donor: ECHO (European Union)

ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS

Cordaid is deeply committed to accountability to the people we assist. This means involving affected communities in our interventions ensuring that they understand the goals and have ownership of the outcomes. We promote open communication with partners, communities, and stakeholders, and ensure that feedback mechanisms are accessible and responsive to the preferences of the communities we serve. Our commitment to accountability also involves adhering to quality standards such as the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) in all our responses.

CASH AND VOUCHERS

In recent years, there has been a significant shift towards cash-based humanitarian responses, now accounting for 21% of global humanitarian assistance (CALP 2024). Cash provides dignity and choice to recipients and reduces logistical costs. However, cash can only be effective if the local market is functioning, and not all needs can be addressed with cash. Whenever possible, Cordaid promotes and supports cash and voucher assistance, and invests in developing the knowledge and capacity of Cordaid and its partners.



OUR HUMANITARIAN APPROACH

Cordaid works in partnership with local organisations to provide short-term acute assistance to address the immediate life-saving needs of people affected by disaster and crisis and to support their recovery. The latter includes restoration of livelihoods, and rehabilitation of community infrastructure in a way that enhances resilience to future disasters. Where possible we include climate-resilient and sustainable approaches in our interventions.

Our humanitarian assistance is guided by participatory assessments of local needs and capacities and is provided in equitable partnerships with our local partners.

The primary areas of our intervention include:

- Food security & livelihoods
- Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH)
- Shelter and non-food items
- Health, with a focus on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

Protection is mainstreamed throughout all interventions. When feasible we use cash assistance as a flexible and preferred modality, either as a stand-alone solution or integrated into other programmes focusing on livelihood recovery and reconstruction.

Our country offices and partners actively participate in national coordination mechanisms, such as cluster meetings, to promote a coordinated and complementary response with (local) governments and other actors.

“We aim to adapt interventions to the realities of climate change.”

AFGHANISTAN EARTHQUAKE

In collaboration with our local partner RRAA, we swiftly implemented relief efforts to respond to the earthquake on October 7, 2023. These included distributing 100 hygiene kits, constructing 45 durable latrines, rehabilitating 8 water supply networks, and providing multi-purpose cash assistance to 1,568 households. In total, 14,651 people were reached, including women, children, and people with disabilities. Cordaid ensures that interventions are need-based, culturally appropriate, and transparent. Despite the challenging terrain and protracted humanitarian crisis, Cordaid’s strong local partnerships and long-standing presence in Afghanistan, including an office in Herat, allowed for a quick and effective response. With EUR 491,565 in DRA funding, activities were set up to have a longer-term impact on the communities, like solar-powered water networks. This experience underscores Cordaid’s commitment to delivering locally-led, high-quality humanitarian assistance in fragile contexts.

Donor: Dutch Relief Alliance (DRA)



> Solar-powered water supply in Mohmandara, Afghanistan, realised by partners of DRA.

WORKING ON LOCALLY-LED HUMANITARIAN ACTION

Cordaid has always worked with local partners. In the past we would combine implementation with working with local partnerships. 5 years ago, we decided to focus solely on working with local partners in humanitarian response and strengthening local capacity. Due to our longstanding experience, Cordaid is fit and well-equipped to take a leading role in operationalising equitable partnerships and locally-led responses. We aim to renew and strengthen our intermediary role by:

- Providing access to quality funding and supporting grant management.
- Doing programme and proposal development and fundraising collaboratively.
- Empower partners to take on leadership roles within consortiums.
- Adopting flexible, adaptive programming approaches to meet partners' needs while supporting adherence to international quality standards
- Engaging in joint advocacy and broker access of partners to international platforms and contacts

Equitable and Fair Partnerships

Cordaid works in equitable partnership with quality funding including a fair allocation to partners for indirect cost recovery, support to organisational development and risk sharing.

Our added value to partnerships includes:

- In-house expertise in several key areas: programme and financial management, funding acquisition, monitoring and evaluation, cash and voucher programming and WASH.
- Joint risk and capacity assessments with partners and design a partner-led capacity & organisational strengthening trajectory. Our support can take the form of training, secondment, or on-the-job assistance.
- Assessing and sharing risks, ensuring robust risk management and high-quality programming.

UKRAINE WAR

Since 2015, Cordaid and Ukrainian partner organisations have played a crucial role in responding to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. The conflict has displaced millions, leading to Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II. Initially, from 2015 to 2018, Caritas Ukraine provided life-saving aid near the frontline of Donetsk Oblast, focusing on the most vulnerable populations. Since the 2022 invasion of the Russian army, its efforts have expanded and Caritas Spes stepped in to support displaced people within Ukraine, with a focus on providing food, health care, water, and livelihood support.

Cordaid's approach emphasises collaboration with these Ukrainian partners, ensuring that support is tailored to local needs and implemented effectively. With over €23.5 million in funding, Cordaid has reached more than 500,000 people across Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

Donors: Giro555, the Dutch National Appeal and other (private) donors



PHOTO MICKAEL FRANCI

> A warehouse of Caritas Spes in Lviv.

ABOUT CORDAID

Cordaid is a value-based international development and emergency relief organisation, based in the Netherlands with offices in 14 countries. We work in and on fragility and support communities in their efforts to improve health care, education, food security, and justice. Where disaster strikes, we offer humanitarian assistance.

Cordaid is deeply rooted in the Dutch society with more than 260,000 private donors. The Christian values of human dignity, justice, compassion and care for the planet guide us in our work. Cordaid is a founding member of Caritas and CIDSE, and member of the ACT Alliance.

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