YEAR OF CRISES
THE RIGHT TO A LIFE IN DIGNITY

HUMAN RIGHTS The foundation stone of DanChurchAid’s work is rights-based development. We support poor people to fight for their rights, change the power structures and break down the barriers that keep them in poverty, hunger and oppression. In far too many countries, governments let down the poorest part of the population when it comes to ensuring their food, health and legal protection. DanChurchAid helps vulnerable groups to organise and fight for their right to food, health, education and a life with security and dignity. Despite famines and disasters, two out of three developing countries are on course for the goal of halving the poverty rate by 2015. Even so, the absolute number of people going hungry has not fallen considerably. Close to a billion people still suffer from hunger and undernutrition. Hunger is the greatest obstacle to development, growth, prosperity and peace in the world.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT Fighting hunger has been at the core of DanChurchAid’s work since 1922. We provide relief aid when war or disaster strikes. We are also committed to the long tough journey of promoting development. We help poor farmers, women as well as men, to boost their production, to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and to organise themselves so they can fight for their right to food and health. This translates into less hunger and poverty, as well as more growth and sustainable development. DanChurchAid also endeavours to strengthen democracy and human rights, to enhance equality between women and men, to combat HIV/AIDS, to support refugees and displaced people, and to remove mines and unexploded munitions so that people can go back to cultivating the land and moving around freely.

GLOBALLY AND LOCALLY DanChurchAid is affiliated to the global network ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) of over 100 ecclesiastical and humanitarian organisations dedicated to development, disaster relief and advocacy in over 120 countries. DanChurchAid and its ACT Alliance partners have strengthened their cooperation through shared field offices, programme development and disaster coordination in countries such as Cambodia, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Sudan, Zambia, and in the Horn of Africa. DanChurchAid operates through local partners and development organisations, human rights groups, health organisations and agricultural associations. This makes for local ownership and involvement, as the partnerships ensure that the aid is locally embedded and reaches the poorest. Churches and progressive popular organisations play an important role, not least when it comes to championing the cause of those who are oppressed and marginalised. We also channel our work through national and global networks that contribute to influencing politicians and decision-makers for the benefit of the poorest and their rights.
It is natural to describe 2011 as a crisis year on many ways. European economies came under pressure with the euro crisis, government austerity and rising unemployment. In the Horn of Africa, all the world’s relief agencies were once again too late to prevent a famine. The ‘Arab Spring’ plunged one country after another in North Africa and the Middle East into ferocious internal clashes and transfers of power. Yet another climate conference ended too late to prevent a famine. The ‘Arab Spring’ is probably the clearest example of crisis heralding a new development, although in the situation it looks utterly chaotic and provides few clues as to what is going to follow. As soon as NATO operations in Libya were over, we were on the ground to help remove mines and unexploded munitions. At the time of writing this, nobody knows when the Syrian people will get their spring of freedom.

Heralding Something New
There is nothing positive to say about many of these calamities. Nevertheless, they are not the whole picture of 2011. Crises are not only bad. A crisis always contains new realisations, new opportunities, new beginnings. This was the case, for example, when South Sudan was born as the world’s youngest nation state in July. The country when South Sudan was born as the world’s youngest nation state in July. The country was finally founded after a referendum, who would have thought that would become possible? However, South Sudan faces formidable challenges to bring about reconciliation and reduce poverty. Umiest north of the new border forced thousands of civilians in the Nuba Mountains to flee their homes, which has also affected our – by now quite long-standing – demining operations in that area.

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New initiatives
Here in Denmark, the crisis in the Horn of Africa led to renewed fundraising efforts. For the first time, all Danish bishops joined forces to appeal to their countrymen to support DanChurchAid’s relief operations. We forged an exciting joint fundraising venture with the daily Kristeligt Dagblad, which brought in over DKK 3 million in a few weeks. ‘Afrika Nu’ – a swiftly established cooperation between various relief agencies and the two largest Danish broadcasting corporations – secured DKK 110 million, while the Denmark Collection, focusing on young people in Africa, made DKK 87 million. Amid this intensive fundraising activity, we still managed to mobilise almost 12,000 collectors for the parish collection in March, and these thousands of volunteers raised about DKK 15 million for the work of DanChurchAid. Altogether this is remarkable, even more so in the midst of a domestic recession. In addition, our cooperation with the Bilka retail chain to collect money for health clinics in Malawi is positively thriving. In warehouses throughout the country, customers’ massive backing has exceeded expectations, prompting Bilka to double the target from two to four clinics, equivalent to donations of about DKK 14 million. Finally, over 10,000 Danes have now changed their electric supply to the environmentally friendly NØDSTROM, thus contributing over DKK 1 million to our work. DanChurchAid also received a ‘royal boost’ when H.R.H. Princess Marie agreed to become our protector.

Finance
Our internal situation was not spared the effects of the recession. Plummeting house prices and a stagnant housing market have diminished inheritance earnings in 2011, and are likely to continue to do so to the extent where we had to take some difficult decisions to secure a more balanced budget in the years to come.

Firstly, it led us to decide to close down our development programme in DR Congo, having achieved brilliant results under very difficult conditions. Nonetheless, we had to acknowledge that DR Congo is a tremendously challenging and cost-intensive country with very weak local partners. Indeed this is all the more reason to be there and work to build up these partners and the programmes. However, we also have to consider where we can make the most of the money.

Secondly, we had to close the FISK shop in Copenhagen. This was also a difficult decision, because FISK had been an important brand, serving as an inspiration to the traditional second-hand market. Nevertheless, FISK was not sufficiently profitable in its current form. In cooperation with DanChurchAid Youth, we will endeavour to reorientate the project in a different direction.

The establishment of DanChurchAid Youth was yet another important new development in 2011. For the first time, we now have a semi-independent youth section within our organisation. The intention is for this set-up to give young people room and opportunity to run awareness campaigns and take part in actions and fundraising with the aim of engaging as many young people as possible in the work of DanChurchAid.

Rights Take Centre Stage
Last but not least, 2011 became the year in which the political climate in Denmark changed, as a new government took office. The spending cuts in development aid were halted. The new Minister for Development Cooperation, who used to be International Director of DanChurchAid, has turned the spotlight on the issue of rights. In no time, he has embarked on the preparation of a new development policy strategy as well as a review of the actual legislative basis for development aid, which essentially dates back to the 1970s.

We can only be pleased that the rights-based approach is now featuring prominently, because it is the basic philosophy of the aid that we have provided for many years. Poor people must know their fundamental rights and become empowered to fight for them. This creates durable development potential, which is where we can contribute.
OBJECTIVES AND VALUES
DanChurchAid aims to empower the world’s poor people in their struggle for a life in dignity. Our work is based on a Christian view of human nature with respect for all people’s rights and equal worth. DanChurchAid is rooted in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark, but works wherever the need is greatest without consideration of religion, gender, political views, race, nationality or ethnicity, disability or sexual orientation. DanChurchAid carries out relief and development work in close cooperation with ecclesiastical and other partner organisations. DanChurchAid mobilises popular and political forces, influencing decision-makers at the local, national and global level in order to improve the conditions of the world’s poorest.

PARTNERSHIPS AND ALLIANCES
DanChurchAid is affiliated to the network ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together), which is among the major actors in international relief and development aid with a combined staff of over 30,000 people in more than 120 countries. This cooperation enables better and more efficient coordination of development, relief and advocacy efforts. DanChurchAid focuses on the fight against hunger, strengthening of democracy and rights, health in relation to HIV/AIDS, humanitarian demining and relief aid. Our work is based on partnerships and rights. Accordingly, both in Denmark and internationally, we raise awareness about the root causes of poverty and inequality, and we encourage popular and political action as means of changing the structures and policies that often lead to hunger, poverty and marginalisation.

FINANCES AND ORGANISATIONAL SET-UP
DanChurchAid is an independent organisation. Our activities are financed through Danish public appeals, private and corporate donations, private foundations, as well as funds from, among others, Danida, the EU, UN agencies and international foundations. DanChurchAid’s highest governing body is the Council composed of 44 persons who are elected for four-year mandates, representing the organisation’s popular constituencies, church communities, volunteers and staff. The Council, headed by Bishop Eric Norman Svendsen, elects a Board of Directors, which is in charge of ongoing political and financial management. The Board has a maximum of 11 members. Kirsten Lund Larsen, who is Managing Director General of YMCA and YWCA Denmark, is Chairwoman of the Board. Henrik Stubkjær is Secretary-General of DanChurchAid.

VOLUNTEERS AND POPULAR SUPPORT
In Denmark, DanChurchAid is dedicated to increasing popular support and creating scope for action for all who want to join in the fight against hunger and poverty. This takes the shape of information, fundraising and advocacy. In this work, DanChurchAid is very dependent on the solid popular support from the many volunteers; fundraising coordinators, former seconded staff, volunteers seconded to our Regional Offices abroad, second-hand shop volunteers and our youth and senior volunteer network and partner organisations.

On the streets of Danish cities, DanChurchAid’s young Face2Facer recruit regular contributors to our worldwide work. Likewise, numerous additional private donors are enlisted every year through telemarketing. Every other month, about 90,000 donors receive DanChurchAid’s publication ‘Magasinet’, which addresses development issues and reports on our work in Denmark and abroad.

WWW
Our website noedhjaelp.dk delivers news and distributes emails on a daily basis in Danish. It also shows where DanChurchAid has offices around the globe. Our international website danchurchaid.org along with our alliance partner’s website actalliance.org, offers information about the development and relief work carried out worldwide.

IN DENMARK
DanChurchAid is headquartered at 15 Narreage in Copenhagen, with 150 staff and volunteers. We have smaller offices in Aarhus, Odense, Aalborg and Kolding, which serve as the base for national coordinators, volunteers and Face2Face staff.

HIV/AIDS
A successful campaign to combat AIDS/HIV has reaped rewards in Cambodia, as far fewer people are infected with HIV or die from AIDS. The campaign has been conducted by the authorities in concert with local and international organisations, combining information, medical treatment and support for special risk groups. DanChurchAid’s HIV/AIDS interventions will be integrated into our general development work.
AFRICA

THE HORN OF AFRICA The combination of repeatedly failed rains, rising food prices and an unfinished civil war in Somalia plunged more than 13 million people in the Horn of Africa into acute hunger and famine. As early as the boreal spring 2011, DanChurchAid and Act Alliance were busy providing emergency relief. In the course of 2011, Danes donated over DKK 30 million to our work. In Somalia, through Act Alliance, we have provided water, blankets, tents and cooking kits for internally displaced people, in addition to distributing food and water in four rural districts. In Kenya, Somali refugees in the Dadaab camps have received food, clothes, shoes and hygiene products, as well as psychosocial support. Interventions in this area were troubled by assaults on and abductions of relief workers. As a consequence, Kenyan soldiers moved into Somalia in October 2011 to fight the Al Shabaab militia.

IN ETHIOPIA DanChurchAid’s longstanding effort to prevent hunger has clearly worked. Ethiopians in drought-affected areas were more inclined to stay near their villages rather than fleeing, and this improved their chances of survival. Even so, hundreds of thousands in the southern part of the country lost their means of subsistence when 80-90% of their livestock fell victim to the drought. DanChurchAid handed out food and has stepped up efforts, for instance, to improve access to water. DanChurchAid also secured water and sanitation in a large camp of Somali refugees in south-eastern Ethiopia.

IN UGANDA In the north-eastern sub-region of Karamoja, a systematic campaign conducted by DanChurchAid’s partners managed to get more women to run for office, vote in elections and take part in the political process. In the sub-region of Teso, over 700 local spokespersons were trained in ‘monitoring’. One effect of their advocacy was that many local leaders, who were considered corrupt, failed to be re-elected. As part of the ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS, DanChurchAid has set up a savings scheme, which helps the most vulnerable people acquire a means of subsistence.

IN DR CONGO, sexual assaults, in particular against women and children, have become commonplace in the conflict-ridden Province of South Kivu. DanChurchAid has finalised a 29-month project to assist victims and reduce the incidence of sexual assaults. Moreover, a campaign has raised awareness of HIV infection. This work in DR Congo is being phased out due to lack of funds.

IN MALAWI, the political situation was severely aggravated, and several DanChurchAid partners were threatened by police and bands of thugs backed by political forces. The partners affected, as well as several human rights activists, have received support. DanChurchAid organised a conference on good governance attended by 120 politicians, opinion leaders, donors and representatives of civil society. This event concluded with a joint action plan to carry out information and awareness-raising in rural districts regarding good governance and basic rights. Due to the political situation in 2011, many international donors have withdrawn their budget support from the country.

IN SOUTH SUDAN AND SUDAN About four million South Sudanese voted in January for South Sudan to become an independent nation. However, it was a rough birth for the world’s youngest country. Several million people, who were displaced during the war, have returned to a reality of vast poverty, and many local conflicts over cattle, water and grazing have flared up. In the ‘old’ Sudan to the north, armed hostilities erupted in the Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile State, while the disaster in Darfur persists. DanChurchAid and ACT Alliance work together with partners to help the most vulnerable people in both South Sudan and Sudan. Relief aid is delivered even in areas that were previously too dangerous to reach.

Severals projects, including the Bilkasponsored health centres, face the threat of being phased out due to lack of funds. In South Sudan’s new government to combat abuse and corruption, and improve their agriculture, incomes and living conditions. Local churches are assisted in the endeavour to bring about peace and reconciliation. At the same time, church leaders are trying to influence South Sudan’s new government to combat abuse and corruption, and to let excluded groups into the political process.

PHOTOS SOFIA WRABER PHOTO MICHAEL BJERRUM
PHOTOS MARTIN SCHUSTER

AROUND THE WORLD

CENTRAL ASIA

POST-CONFLICT RECONCILIATION After the violent clashes between Uzbeks and Kyrgyz people in southern Kyrgyzstan in June 2010, seven international NGOs, including DanChurchAid, and some local partners joined forces in a new alliance, called TASK (Transition Alliance for South Kyrgyzstan), aimed at coordinating urgent relief efforts. The seven organisations’ work was so effective that the EU’s European External Action Service (EEAS) subsequently asked them to carry on working together in a conflict-mitigating and preventative operation. The organisations chose ACT Alliance as lead agency in this work. In Kyrgyzstan, this is a joint undertaking between DanChurchAid and sister organisations from the UK, Netherlands and Norway. The EU has granted DKK 33.8 million to map out new potential conflicts, train local mediators, provide crisis and legal assistance, support local development projects, and educate marginalised young people. This large EU allocation offers ample opportunity for the seven international organisations and their eight local partner organisations to contribute to post-conflict reconciliation and healing in Kyrgyzstan.

REGISTRATION OF CITIZENS In October 2011, citizens of Kyrgyzstan went to the polls to elect a President. There was concern that unrest would break out again. However, the presidential election passed without incident, as the incumbent Prime Minister, Almazbek Atambae, won with 60% of votes in the first round. He thus became the first leader of the country to take office democratically through the ballot box rather than as the outcome of a revolution. The main weakness of the election was the flawed electoral register. For the registration of its citizens, Kyrgyzstan still uses the old Soviet system, which is based on permanent home addresses. Accordingly, those tens of thousands of citizens who have been driven by poverty to migrate from rural to urban areas have lost their civil status and become non-citizens in their own country. Their names no longer appear on the electoral roll, just as they have been barred from medical assistance, education, social benefits and from bringing legal proceedings. DanChurchAid continues the effort to achieve a change in this outmoded registration system, which causes many migrants to lose all their civil rights. Kyrgyzstan’s new government has listened to the criticism and has appointed a commission tasked with reforming the system. Several of DanChurchAid’s local partners are represented in the commission.

CENTRAL AMERICA

HUMAN RIGHTS AT STAKE In Honduras, the human rights scenario worsened, particularly in the Aguan area in the northern part of the country, where a series of land conflicts are being played out. Here a large number of peasant leaders have been threatened, abducted or killed. The police and judicial system has failed to investigate, let alone prosecute, those who are behind these crimes. DanChurchAid has worked to monitor and document the humanitarian scenario in Aguan. Over 1,500 people received help to be rehoused after their homes, schools and churches were burnt down, and legal assistance has been provided to some of the victims of the conflict. The alternative Truth Commission, which is supported by the international community and DanChurchAid, continues to look into the legal and humanitarian consequences of the coup d’état in 2009. Its recommendations on how to strengthen democracy and the rule of law in Honduras will be issued in 2012. In western Honduras, DanChurchAid’s partners, with support from the EU, have established a local coalition where young volunteers work alongside local police authorities and municipal governments to foster a law-abiding culture and to contain crime and violence. In Guatemala, DanChurchAid’s partners have provided crisis and legal assistance, education, social benefits and from bringing legal proceedings. DanChurchAid has worked to monitor and document the humanitarian scenario in Aguan. Over 1,500 people received help to be rehoused after their homes, schools and churches were burnt down, and legal assistance has been provided to some of the victims of the conflict. Its recommendations on how to strengthen democracy and the rule of law in Guatemala will be issued in 2012. DanChurchAid’s partners have provided legal training for human rights activists to enable them to assist women subjected to violence. Physical abuse of women springs from a culture of violence, which still prevails after more than 30 years of armed conflict.

PREVENTION AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY In the western part of Honduras, the effort to support mountain farmers carries on, so that they can become self-sufficient with food and learn to assert their own rights towards the authorities. In northern Honduras along the Caribbean Sea, disaster prevention assistance has been provided to inhabitants of small towns at risk of flooding, lying either along a river bank or the actual coast. Evacuation routes have been marked out, school children have been taught disaster preparedness, and early warning systems have been set up through radio transmitters. In October, vast areas of Central America were once again hit by floods and land- and mudslides after torrential rains. In Honduras and Guatemala, tens of thousands were evacuated or had to flee. DanChurchAid assisted thousands of them with emergency shelters, social rehabilitation, and resumption of food production. Rights Work The work in Guatemala will be continued through DanChurchAid’s sister organisations in the ACT Alliance. This work is primarily concerned with food security, indigenous people’s rights and human rights.
THE WEST BANK In 2011, the Israeli authorities intensified their illegal house demolitions in the occupied West Bank and in East Jerusalem, as a record number of Palestinian families were driven from their homes. While ever more Palestinian homes were being bulldozed, illegal Israeli settlements were expanded, and there was an escalation of violence against Palestinians committed by Israeli settlers. The Palestinian population has been completely disconnected from vital infrastructure. Water and electricity supply has not been renovated since 1967. Schools and health clinics are deteriorating, while Palestinian living conditions and chances of surviving in the occupied territories are under massive pressure. DanChurchAid’s Israeli human rights partners continue to document violations of the Palestinian population’s rights. Meanwhile, forces within the Israeli parliament insist on trying to criminalise criticism of the settlement policy and its humanitarian consequences by means of legislation that defines the expression of such views as hostile to the state of Israel.

ELECTRICITY, WATER AND CRISIS AID DanChurchAid carries on its humanitarian effort to secure water supplies in the West Bank by renovating ancient Roman water cisterns. So far, 181 cisterns for drinking water, animals and irrigation have been modernised. Two of those have subsequently been destroyed by settlers, while two others are threatened by demolition by the Israeli military, since they have been renovated without a building permit. In addition, DanChurchAid is setting up solar panels to secure electricity supply, and supports people’s struggle to keep their land.

In Gaza the crisis aid programme continues to support children and young people who were traumatised during the war between Israel and the militant Hamas movement in 2010. Likewise, the income-generating work for women and the nutrition programme targeting the 47.3% of children in Gaza, who are under- or malnourished due to the Israeli blockade, are also continuing.

HOPE OF TWO-STATE SOLUTION DWINDLING The EU, UN and other international organisations are deeply concerned about the ongoing tightening of restrictions and the worsening of living conditions in the occupied territories, stressing that, as pressure on the Palestinians is stepped up, the hope of a two-state solution is dwindling. Regardless of how the situation develops, DanChurchAid will continue to insist that all parties to the conflict must adhere to international humanitarian law, and not least that the fundamental human rights and needs of Palestinian civilians have to be respected.

MINE ACTION 2011 was a busy year for the humanitarian mine action programme. DanChurchAid swiftly deployed deminers after the end of hostilities in Libya, and continued to pave the way for development by removing landmines in Angola, DR Congo and Lebanon. A new project was started in Albania, and the first steps have been taken towards a project in Laos. However, it was also a year of financial crisis, which made it harder to obtain funds for demining projects, particularly in DR Congo.

IN LIBYA, deminers set out to work as early as May, and now people can once again safely walk the streets of Misrata. In total, 1,704 war remnants have been removed from houses, roads, schools, hospitals and fields. In addition, the new Libyan government has been advised on how to conduct weapons control among the population.

In oil-rich ANGOLA, demining teams have cleared a two-kilometre-long landmine belt in the poor eastern part of the country. In total, 1,370 deadly weapons were removed. This has now resulted in 136 acres of land being made safe for the benefit of over 30,000 people.

IN LEBANON, 817 cluster bombs were cleared in the south, while some 120 items of unexploded munitions were removed from lands around Beirut, which is turning into the main area of operation. Local personnel are being trained to take over the programme.

In the border areas of BURMA/MYANMAR, DanChurchAid has informed almost 7,000 people about the dangers of landmines, and has helped 36 landmine victims obtain artificial limbs.

IN ALBANIA, deminers have begun to clear so-called ‘hotspots’, that is, areas of high ammunition concentration. These are the remainders of a conflict in 1997, which have since injured some 700 people.

IN DR CONGO, an area equivalent to 154 football pitches has been cleared in the Katanga Province for the benefit of 70,000 people. Families have received tools, seed grain and advice on how to make optimal use of agricultural land. Deminers have taught local people how to avoid landmine danger and secured an airport to enable resumption of airborne medical deliveries.

In the southern part of SUDAN, information work has reached 30,000 people. Furthermore, 321 ammunition items were cleared for the benefit of 22,000 people, before conflict broke out in the area, and the work had to be suspended. Instead, efforts have begun to help 27,000 people in Kassala State to the east.
MORE MONEY FOR THE POOREST IN THE WORLD The total income of DanChurchAid in 2011 was DKK 528.7 million, which was 1.2 million more than in 2010. Of this, 415.3 million was spent on helping poor people all over the world, a rise of 3.6 million from 2010. The increase springs primarily from greater activity in the field of relief aid, where DKK 222.6 million was spent compared to 202.4 million in 2010. It resulted from greater activity in Africa, not least the comprehensive intervention in the Horn of Africa made necessary by the disastrous drought, which affected over 13 million people.

The increase in total income in 2011 is primarily due to higher EU grants, which rose from DKK 84.2 million in 2010 to 107.3 million in 2011. This compensates for less income from Danida (Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and for a small decrease in private donations and collections. The income from Danida, private donations and public appeals fell by a total of DKK 24.2 million in 2011 compared to 2010.

Africa continues to be the continent where DanChurchAid spends the most, and due to the vast effort in the Horn of Africa, in 2011, 45% of our spending took place in Africa against 43% in 2010. The spending on development aid was reduced to DKK 192.7 million in 2011 compared to 209.2 million in 2010. The highest development spending continues to be in Africa, totalling DKK 69 million in 2011, followed by Asia, where spending on development work amounted to DKK 50.9 million in 2011.

Given that the increase in total income was moderate, while private donations and collection earnings fell, spending on the secretariat, fundraising and information work was reduced from DKK 117.9 million in 2010 to 113 million in 2011. It is also the intention to cap the spending on such functions in 2012 and 2013 in order to dedicate the highest possible share of income to relief and development work all over the world.