

Cordaid 2007

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Any form of resistance is severely punished

Chouchou Namegabe; journalist and human rights activist



Militias and rebels who put child soldiers in the front line, murder whole villages and rape women. Forms of violence that surpass even the imagination and defy description... Unfortunately, this is how east Congo often appears in the news. News? Hardly. Outrage? Less and less. Too politically complex, too far away and for too long languishing at the top of a long list of horror stories to really cause any kind of stir these days. Rwanda, oh yeah, now that was truly horrible. But wasn't there a movie? Didn't that one win an Oscar?

There have been an estimated four million victims of violence in the Congo over the past ten years. Invariably an estimate, for counting is simply impossible. Four million. Stop for a moment and ponder that figure: visit Amsterdam, Utrecht, The Hague, Rotterdam and every town and village in between. You see not a living soul. Violence comes in waves. From 1998 to 2003: it was one long and sustained gulf. The first more or less democratic elections in 2006 offered a glimmer of hope. Vain hope. 2007 saw the fire reignite, due in part to the renegade general Paul Nkunda's troops refusal to fall in behind

Court for recruiting child soldiers, but unfortunately not for the extreme violence against women, which he and his troops have become infamous for. In the mean time he carries on with his campaign of murder in north Kivu. The question is; for how long? Perhaps someone else will replace him. In all these years, only one element remains constant: the systematic and sexual abuse and violence against women.

Keeping yourself and your battered family together in an equally battered village ruled by fear... an impossible task in itself. Sticking your head above the parapet together with the other villagers in an effort to turn the tide, now that is something quite different. But it is increasingly happening and often on the initiative of women.

It is what you could tentatively describe as the first stirrings of a people's movement; an alternative roadmap to peace amid an extremely complex and hellish conflict. A conflict which seems impossible to resolve by neither the international politicians nor the local fighters; neither the men in the flashy suits nor the khaki fatigues.

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HIJ GELOOFT IN ZIJN TOEKOMST U OOK?

GELOVEN DAT HET KAN

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Afghanistan: Us and Them [5]

It is difficult for Cordaid to force the agenda with the newspapers regarding Afghanistan. The inconvenient, nuanced and fascinating story of the Afghans and their development and reconstruction programme unfortunately does not really sit comfortably with the Kamp Holland version.

The best kept secret or... what is Catholic about Cordaid? [8]

Does identity change with the wind? Certainly not, according to Piet Kuijper. Cordaid has a solid tripartite underpinning: Catholic Social Thinking, long term tradition and spirituality.

Violence in Sri Lanka What can I say about 2007? [16]

...perhaps I should write about the social workshop we organised? At least 10 of my 35 staff tried to embark on their life story, and all they could really do was cry...Or...

Manuela Kemp, singer and DJ, ambassador for Cordaid Mensen in Nood [17]

We strive always to help people in need, whenever or wherever that need arises. With emergency aid of course, if no other possibility exists, but certainly with the required structural aid. Button holing people for donations is not a problem for me.

Monique Lagro, Health and Well-being [19]

"I'm proud that we stubbornly keep trying to end the shortage of local health staff. There are no quick fixes here. The pressure to continue sending Dutch doctors is enormous, but there is much more we could do with the money."

Entrepreneurs: For the first time travelling together [23]

Dutch entrepreneurs on a fact finding trip together with aid workers? Unthinkable just ten years ago. Today though, Cordaid and entrepreneurs have really discovered their common denominator; micro credit.

Cordaid in the Netherlands [26]

Everyone you meet on the periphery of society has a similar story to tell on exclusion and stigma, often resulting in shame and humiliation. It's way too simple just to say 'hey...it's your own fault, you deal with it'.

Take action [27]

Tom van der Colk, a dentist from The Hague, has for the last ten years put in on average two days per week carrying out voluntary work for a small training clinic in Kigali, Rwanda. This clinic has been built stone by stone with the help of the fADA organisation and Cordaid. What drives Tom?

Tsunami: Reconstruction almost complete [4] [17]

In total, Cordaid has spent in excess of fifty million euros on post-tsunami reconstruction. Find out all about the results and the lessons learned.





In the autumn of 2007, the Dutch translation appeared of the much talked-about book by the ex-World Bank economist William Easterly: 'White Man's Burden. Why the West's Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good'. In the book, Easterly fires off a broadside at all the grand schemes imposed upon countries from above. In his eyes, these plans are doomed to fail as

everyone, and therefore by extension no one, takes responsibility.

The planners, ensconced in their offices in the capitals of the West, are not called to account when their plans fail. Indeed quite the opposite, they just continue on thinking up new plans. Easterly pleads for a development process in steps, based on own initiative, to be scaled up if it actually works.

Cordaid considers the 'White Man's Burden' a significant book and takes the criticism seriously on board. Easterly's critical analysis connects closely with our belief in the power of people. We believe that it's possible. Cordaid worldwide supports many organisations, trying to improve upon a situation and often under very challenging and complex circumstances indeed: health care, reconciliation, the supply of credit etc. Whether this is successful or not can

Let the poor assess development aid Results are often difficult to measure

best be measured by the improvement of the well-being of the poor: health, security, income, food, political rights etc. It is the poor who should decide whether the results of development aid are worth anything. Unfortunately in practice this is often not the case. It is the planners and policy makers in the West who decide which results are important. They do this on behalf of the poor, but without any redress by the poor.

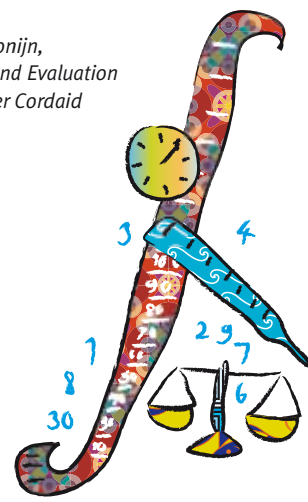
Blueprint

Cordaid welcomes the increased focus on the results of development aid, however we remain critical of the fact that it is the donors who decide which results are key and not the poor. The international donors have placed the millennium objectives central. These objectives are fine in themselves, but they must not be used as a blueprint for measuring results, as is now the case. The donors' efforts to make 'their' results more visible, lead to oceans of paper, drowning the views of the poor in the process. We are firmly convinced that development aid fails to be any more effective even with the publication of league tables.

Of course we cannot speak about 'the poor' with such a broad brush. Each set of circumstances is unique and 'the poor'

often make up a very diverse group. At the core of the fight against poverty is the element of enabling the poor to direct their own lives; permitting them to take things into their own hands. And the same applies when considering the results of aid. Aid is effective if and when the results achieved are recognised as significant by the poor. In 2007, Cordaid invested heavily in the measuring of results. In three countries - India, Ghana and Peru - we collaborated with the University of Nijmegen, together with the people involved on the ground, to research whether projects had achieved adequate results.

Peter Konijn, Policy and Evaluation Manager Cordaid



Concerns over climate change

Cordaid is truly concerned about the effects of climate change in the South. Already in east Africa droughts are recurring more frequently, with all the accompanying problems these herald; water shortages, death of dairy cattle and the accelerated efforts required simply to stay alive. And the other side of the coin? Well, when it does rain, often the volume of water is so great that flooding occurs. The rain cycles have altered. Rain no longer falls during expected periods, but is often unpredictable, wrong footing farmers who are no longer able to gauge when to prepare their land for planting. Cyclones and floods increasingly occur in Bangladesh. Temperatures are rising, devastating both livestock and crops, promoting illnesses and pressurising food supply.

These patterns can be observed in a worldwide context and are not confined to the rural regions, but also affect the urban centres. Cordaid works together with local organisations in eleven countries in Africa, Central America and Asia on adapting to climate change and on adjusting to the changing circumstances, by supporting their efforts to reduce the risks from disasters which may result directly from these changes.

We consider the worst case scenario and then look closely at what people can do to reduce the risks by putting additional

protection measures in place. Climate change is only one of a number of possible threats we consider. In the urban centres, local organisations are supported in their efforts to reduce their CO2 emissions. With some partners in the South we work on bio fuel production in such a way that it will not have a negative impact on the food supply or the environment, among other things.

Whilst helpful, these measures are no solution for addressing the root cause of the problem. Even if today the emission of greenhouse gas were reduced world wide,

the negative effects will still be felt in the South for many years to come, and these may even increase. A solution needs to be sought in the countries responsible for our changing climate.

For this reason Cordaid works both on adaptation to climate change in the South and on the further prevention of climate change here in the Netherlands. In the Netherlands, Cordaid is also working towards making our office climate neutral and we use 'Green Seats' for example if we have to travel by air. In close cooperation with HIER (a cooperation of social organisations), we campaign in the Netherlands for limiting climate change and for taking steps to adapt to the changing climate, both here and in the South. In addition Cordaid, together with members

of the Catholic international Cidse and Caritas networks, is preparing to launch a worldwide campaign for the introduction of a balanced climate policy.

June saw Cordaid signing the Schokland agreement on climate change adaptation, where we agreed to work together with knowledge institutes, banks, nature and environmental organisations and development aid organisations, in seeking out new means of handling change to our climate. In the autumn, a collective workshop was organised, to gain insight into each other's experiences regarding climate change adaptation. Cordaid officially recognised the significance of climate change in 2007 and we have recently appointed a climate coordinator.



Remaining allies

I was surprised and saddened in equal measure - as I'm sure many of you were also - by the disturbances which broke out in Kenya after the 27 December elections. These images from Africa in the closing days of 2007 were anything but a cheery sight to end the year on. A country viewed as stable, suddenly and rapidly descending once more into chaos, with hundreds of thousands of people fleeing for their lives. Another illustration, if one was needed, of just how tough and difficult working in development aid sometimes is. It's all a bit like Echtermach's jumping procession: three steps forward and two back. Eventually, you will have achieved something, but the sensation is of going backwards. It's this kind of disruptive and discouraging reality that our partners are unfortunately frequently faced with. Kenya's story also demonstrates something else: the results of development aid can only really be sustainable in the longer term if society and politics become and are seen to be fairer. If, as Kenya illustrates, due to election fraud certain groups are excluded and prohibited from participating in their country's government, inward investment in education, health and entrepreneurship can evaporate overnight. At Cordaid therefore, all our programmes have twin objectives. First, we have a desire to

ensure that people actually experience practical and tangible improvement: good health care, increased security, reconstruction after a conflict or disaster, an improved income. Secondly, we also want people to feel that they belong, that they are not excluded. This applies to the relationships between men and women, AIDS patients, and politics. The existence of an accessible forum for the expression of your views and being part of the decision making process is of vital importance to further development. This permits people to shape and hone their future whilst putting an end to dependence. Cordaid's partners tirelessly work towards achieving this. Your support here is critical. For our partners are only too aware of this; it underpins their belief that they truly have friends and allies in the Netherlands, and that in the global perspective they are certainly not excluded. Our annual Cordaid report should give you a good overview of the work our partners have managed to achieve together with your invaluable help. We sincerely hope that this year they can once again count on your support.

René Grotenhuis, General Director Cordaid

Dutch businesses and Cordaid together for slums

The Housing, Communities and Integration Minister Ms Vogelaar made € 600,000 available to Cordaid in October, for the improvement of slum dwellers' living conditions. She announced this at the World Habitat Day 2007 in The Hague. The money is to be earmarked for making efficient use of the knowledge base of Dutch companies, organisations and institutes working in the field of urban regeneration in developing countries.

Cordaid and its partner organisations have wide experience with urban programmes. Minister Vogelaar's contribution makes it possible to involve more parties in Dutch society in the problems of slum dwellers. To this end, Cordaid wants to create a network of organisations in developing countries and in the Netherlands, which will bring together both expertise and financial means to focus on improving the quality of life in the urban environment. Businesses, building corporations, governments, knowledge and education centres will all be involved. And concrete; in the cities of Kisumu (Kenya) and Johannesburg (South-Africa) pilot programmes are scheduled to be set up. Together with local organisations and with the involvement of local residents we will, among other things, be working on the supply of clean drinking water, refuse collection and improved accommodation.



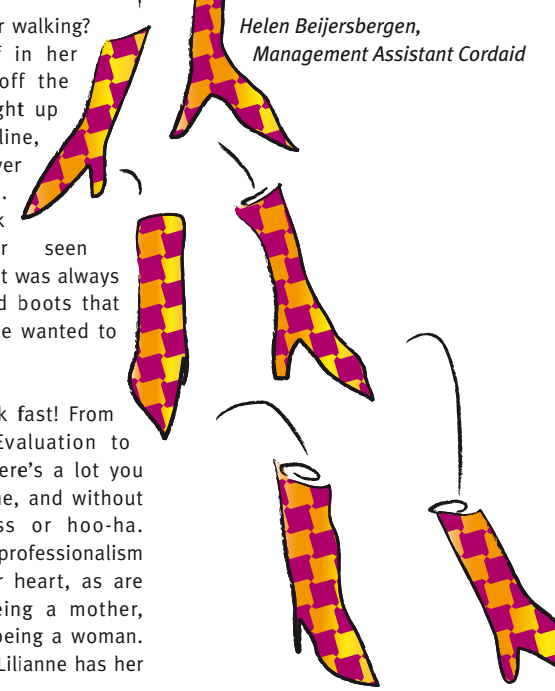
'These boots are made for walking...' Au revoir to Lilianne Ploumen



occasional bad hair day, requiring an emergency hairdressers' appointment. So, I always tried to shoehorn space into her very full diary.

'These boots are made for walking, and that's just what they'll do...' When I hear the Nancy Sinatra song, I always think of Lilianne. For years I was her personal assistant. I have seen how she stamped her mark on Cordaid, and how in almost everything she touched she wanted the interests of women in the South put firmly on the agenda.

position of Chair of the PvdA, the Dutch Labour party. These boots will take her anywhere she wants to go...



Helen Beijersbergen, Management Assistant Cordaid

So why these 'boots' for walking? One day she sets off in her high heels. Stepping off the pavement she got caught up in an Amsterdam tramline, unfortunately keeling over and breaking her ankle. She was unable to walk for months. I've never seen her in high heels since; it was always her sensible low heeled boots that carried her wherever she wanted to go.

And my... does she walk fast! From Head of Policy and Evaluation to Director at Cordaid. There's a lot you could learn from Lilianne, and without any of the usual fuss or hoo-ha. Development work and professionalism are things close to her heart, as are the combination of being a mother, working hard and just being a woman. And like everyone else, Lilianne has her



National Postcode Lottery helps refugees return home

Based on an evaluation of their joint working it has been decided to extend the cooperation between the National Postcode Lottery and Cordaid Memisa by five years. This means that Cordaid Memisa can depend upon a contribution from the

lottery of €0.5 million each year. Cordaid Mensen in Nood received an additional € 1 million to the regular contribution of € 2.5 million during the National Postcode Lottery's 'Goed Geld Gala', for participation in the project 'Safely at home in Southern Sudan', which is a joint venture with Free Voice, Stichting Uthchteling and the UNHCR. Due to the peace agreement in the south of Sudan and the increasing violence visited upon Darfur, tens of thousands of displaced people are returning to their place of birth; an area wasted by twenty years of civil war and where hardly anything is left standing. Our efforts are concentrated on providing help with the transport home; distribution of household goods and agricultural aid; construction of wells and sanitary facilities; and the improvement of primary health care.



Cordaid signs up for a climate neutral office

On Wednesday 18 April 2007, 40 leading social organisations signed up for the new 'HIER, the Netherlands climate neutral' campaign on the Museum Square in Amsterdam. In addition, these organisations all signed a pledge to make their own offices climate neutral before the end of the year. During the event 7,000 balloons were released into the air, symbolising the amount of CO2 an average person is responsible for ending up in the atmosphere every week.

Van Heteren new director of Cordaid



Godelieve van Heteren (1958) was appointed the new director of Cordaid in March 2008, following in the footsteps of Lilianne Ploumen. From 2002 through to 2006, van Heteren was an MP for the PvdA, the Dutch Labour party. In parliament she was mainly focused on health care and disaster management policy, in addition to holding the Chair of the permanent committee for European Affairs. 'I really am looking forward to my new job. It will be a pleasure and a privilege to contribute towards a better world as a director of Cordaid.'



Farewell to Jos Brink

As a well known television personality, preacher, but above all as a motivated chairman of the Bond Zonder Naam (BZN); this is how Cordaid after the merger came to know Jos Brink.

Jos, a real people's person

Jos Brink died last August after a short illness. 'It feels like I've lost a friend' was the general shocked reaction I often heard after Jos's unfortunate death. Jos could have stepped right out of the television screen into your living room and join you for a cup of coffee or a drink. Jos belonged. He was a people's person, who put his very heart and soul into his work. As a performer, thespian, writer, painter and preacher, he had the gift and enormous talent for making people happy. 'An amuser' as he himself would have it. To us, at the Bond Zonder

Naam, Jos was 'our' chairman and even after the merger with Cordaid he stayed on, fulfilling his role of ambassador. And not only as an honorary functionary, he indeed took the position sincerely, taking things seriously on board. "Despite a busy and hectic life, he always managed to read what was required for the meeting", remembers Mieke van der Maaten, another former member of the board. "But when the discussion turned to reviewing the annual accounts, when endless sheets of figures would pass around the table, he wouldn't play ball. A part of the job he found difficult to hide his boredom with and one he had no particularly desire to understand either." It was always obvious that Jos wanted to give. He desired to make happy those who, for whatever reason, had fallen on difficult times. Fearless of death, Jos in one of his last interviews affirmed he had every intention of 'putting my destiny in the hands of my Creator'. And He seemed to want Jos as quickly as possible beside Him. A real loss for all of us who remain behind, but just think about the fun they will be having in the Hereafter.

Marjolein Altena
(excerpt from Krant Zonder Naam)

Breakthrough regarding inheritance laws in Uganda

April 2007: Due to ruling handed down by the Ugandan courts, the illegality of adultery in Uganda has been stricken from the statute books, as it conflicts with the constitution and discriminates against women. The old law threatened women with a jail sentence of up to ten years or fines, whilst men were able to behave with impunity. Men's organisations reacted with disappointment and now accuse this verdict of inciting women to commit adultery. The court has also determined that a man is now able to bequeath his possessions and property to his wife. A major breakthrough, for previously these would automatically be transferred to his relatives upon death. The verdict was a successful milestone for the National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL), who are (which is) dedicated to achieving equal rights for women. Due to the war situation, the organisation, founded in 1974 by a group of female lawyers, was unable to move towards being established as a fully professional organisation promoting women's and human rights until the end of the eighties. Cordaid has been supporting NAWL for some considerable time.

Tsunami reconstruction almost complete

In total, Cordaid has spent in excess of 50 million euros on post-tsunami reconstruction. Of this, 38 million came from the SHO (Cooperation of Aid Organisations) campaign; of which 17 million was spent in 2007. Other important donors were the International Caritas organisations and the Asian Development Bank. Cordaid has spent 74% of its income on projects for building houses and schools, 14% on small scale income activities (fishing boats etc.) and micro-credit, 9% on health care and education and 3% on strengthening local organisations. The projects have been carried out by 43 partner organisations; sixteen in India, sixteen in Sri Lanka and eleven in Indonesia. Of the 4,182 houses planned, Cordaid together with the help of its partners and residents

managed to construct 3,600 in 2007. The remaining 582 houses are due for completion in 2008. On the island of Simuleu in Indonesia, Cordaid has built 65 earthquake resistant schools. Evaluation of the various Cordaid post-tsunami activities clearly demonstrates that it is important first to spend time in close consultation with the survivors, thoroughly assessing and researching the real needs. In India there are many good examples of self-help groups, where reconstruction post-tsunami has contributed to sustainable social improvement and an increased sense of community. These communities are now better prepared to meet possible future disasters.



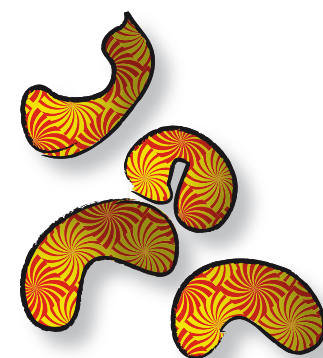
"Fair" nuts

The international market for nuts is dominated by a small number of conglomerates. Particularly in Africa, nuts bring little rewards for the grower; the real profits are generated further down the line. Small producers try to add value to their product; despite this they are still unable to access the export market.

The Liberation Foods Community Interest Company is heralding change to these conditions, by the establishment of a 100% Fair Trade Company, where nut producers constitute 33% of the co-shareholders. The nuts are purchased directly from growers' organisations. Liberation has a unique structure; being registered as a Community Interest Company it has small producers, social investors and alternative businesses as its shareholders.

Over 50,000 nut growers benefit from better prices via Liberation; indirectly, this initiative also leads to improved living standards for the 200,000 immediate family members.

Cordaid has played a direct and important role in the establishment of Liberation. With business funding in 2006 and a capital injection in 2007, Cordaid has smoothed the path for participation by other interested social investors. This permitted working capital to be put in place for the financing of stock and export. For Cordaid, Liberation is particularly important, as it presents a model for the setting up of a supply chain to deliver southern agricultural products. Experience with Liberation will also be utilised for the building of a knowledge base to share with partner organisations and others.



'Stichting Mondiale Samenleving' trains new Dutch citizens

On International Migrants Day (18 December), the Jajasan Peadjuan dan Penguatan Hubungan Organisation won the first prize in the ideas competition for migrants and development cooperation. The organisation, founded by migrants from Ambon, won 10,000 euros for their contribution towards the reconciliation of Christians and Muslims.

The ideas contest is a combined initiative by Oikos, Cordaid and the Stichting Mondiale Samenleving (SMS: Global Society Foundation), aimed at new Dutch citizens who have a desire to do something for the peoples in their country of origin. The prize winners were presented with a training weekend organised by SMS for two representatives per organisation, offering intensive training entitled: 'from idea to project'.

SMS, established in 2002 by refugees and supported by Cordaid, continues to contribute towards the integration and social-economic participation of refugees

at all levels of Dutch society. SMS trains, mediates and coaches refugees' organisations and their staff. Currently, SMS supports more than 150 organisations of new Dutch citizens, ranging over more than forty ethnic and religious groups based in the Netherlands, with or without a refugee background.

Among other things, SMS organises training courses and conferences for refugee and migrant organisations, with themes varying from staff training and increasing capacity through to development aid, European issues, volunteer work, health care, culture and the environment. This satisfies a desire among many refugees to remain involved in the rebuilding and development of their country of origin, whilst participating fully in Dutch society. In addition, SMS operates a helpdesk, where refugee and social organisations and (local) governments can turn to for information, support and coaching.



A new first name for all funds

Cordaid, Friday 9 June 2007: I walk around Cordaid's service desk a little nervously; the moment of truth had finally arrived. Today a letter will drop onto our donors' doormat, containing the following message: "We've changed, but for you nothing will change". This letter explains our reasons why all Cordaid funds from this point onwards will receive a new first name; "Cordaid". I am really curious to discover what our supporters think of the change. Will they applaud it or withdraw their support, because their familiar and trusted "Memisa" has acquired a new, unfamiliar look? "Kinderstem" ("Child's voice") has only recently become an independent fund; will it withstand a change of name so quickly? I am preoccupied with these and other thoughts. The first phone calls roll in; mainly queries, many shows of support and yes, unfortunately a few cancellations. By the end of the day I begin to relax: our supporters will remain true. Of course, not everyone agrees with us, but on the whole I'm not displeased by the reaction... I slept a whole lot better that night.

Now the further development of Cordaid can start in earnest, with and by the various funds. Cordaid, Cordaid Memisa, Cordaid Mensen in Nood, Cordaid Kinderstem, Cordaid Bond Zonder Naam, Cordaid Microkrediet and of course the annual Vastenactie-campaign (the campaign

organises collections for the Third World throughout the Netherlands during Lent). It is with pride I look up at the names and the images on the side of our building with the Cordaid logo and our slogan: 'Believe that it's possible'. For it truly is possible. I saw this on a recent visit to the pastoralists in northern Kenya where I experienced for myself what, with dedication and passion, can be achieved in difficult to reach and almost forgotten areas. All made possible thanks to our donors. We have achieved excellent results, providing inspiration and courage. To be honest, we sometimes need these virtues: for example whenever that frustrating and perennial 'siphoning-off' story is once again exhumed and picked over by the media. Despite accounting for every penny the donors put our way, we never seem able to pin this one down once and for all. However, we will persevere. In the near future our donors will be hearing all about our concerns for the preservation of a healthy and sustainable climate and the strengthening of (development) aid as an answer to terrorism.

It is certainly shaping up to be a wonderful new year.

Ingrid Tuinenburg,
Marketing and Communication Manager
Cordaid



(Us and Them): No easily digestible political viewpoints in Afghanistan



There it was, for almost every day in 2007, high on the agenda of every Dutch newspaper; Afghanistan. And the reason? 'Our boys and girls in Uruzgan'. The Dutch media have spent a year on their toes delivering it from every angle: on the spot atmospheric impressions, the words of NATO top man De Hoop Scheffer the very moment he uttered them, from Kamp Holland in Brussels and all points in between. Due to the coverage of the military casualties and the government's decision to lengthen the Dutch commitment by another two years, every person living

in the Netherlands has surely heard that 'we' are making 'a contribution' towards the safety and, to use that other hackneyed term, 'redevelopment' of this particular part of the world. Cordaid also does this. Long before the Dutch military descended, we were supporting a number of organisations in Afghanistan and will continue to do so. Our partner organisations are involved in health care, education and agriculture, whilst at the same time striving to improve the position of women. One such partner is the Noor Education Center (NEC); you can discover more about them on page 12.

Due to our efforts in Afghanistan, Cordaid occasionally played a part in the public debate in the Netherlands. Again in 2007, it turned out to be difficult to interest anyone in our partners' experiences. The story of 'development from bottom up', taking place on the initiative of local communities, and the obvious complexities inherent in this long term process, hardly makes for a racy commercial copy. A story for the most part drowned-out by the megaphone media scum which feeds upon incidents, political viewpoints and visible results. Given the security angle, our partners are

unfortunately unable to drip feed the media machine with instant, sound-bite sized political viewpoints. Indeed some have no desire to get involved with Western media at any level. Journalists have an additional problem in obtaining original information on the developments in Uruzgan. In essence, as a journalist you are faced with a stark choice; either be 'embedded' with the Dutch military, or wander out under your own steam; a risky, strongly advised against option and not unwarranted given the prevalence of kidnappings and killings. Therefore, you choose to be 'embedded'.

The result? Every newspaper story, with a few positive exceptions, toes the line of the view from Kamp Holland. It is therefore difficult for Cordaid to force the agenda with the newspapers regarding Afghanistan. The inconvenient, nuanced and fascinating story of the Afghans and their development and reconstruction programme unfortunately does not really sit comfortably with the Kamp Holland version. During 2007, this area of tension would occasionally frustrate both Cordaid and some of the journalists involved.
Karen Mol, Press Officer Cordaid

Vastenactie: Live Plainly

'Vastenactie' is an annual Lenten campaign run by Cordaid on behalf of the 'Stichting Bisschoppelijke Vastenactie Nederland'. The campaign organises collections for the Third World throughout the Netherlands during Lent. 2007 saw the Dutch religious communities' 47th solidarity campaign expressing their appreciation of the development aid work carried out by the churches and religious organisations in the South. The age of 47 is a beautiful age to be, giving everyone the opportunity to enjoy our surprising modern side.

New face

The 2007 Vastenactie campaign presented a completely new face. Gone were the usual Third World images and gone were the appeals for support for small scale concrete projects which Cordaid funds with the proceeds of the campaign. For many supporters, these images have come to symbolise the campaign. For 2007 however, we decided upon a format highlighting the key values of Lent as a time of preparation for Easter: austerity, spirituality and solidarity; the essential elements of the Vastenactie campaign. Developments in the Catholic religious life of the Netherlands provided the backdrop for the new presentation. Many Dutch

Catholics no longer come into contact with the Vastenactie whilst attending Sunday mass. The main body of people who feel and describe themselves as Catholic are in fact non-practising members. They do remain however irrepressibly open and enthusiastic about the Vastenactie's mission and objectives. An alternative means of reaching out to this constituency needed to be considered. Taking this as a starting point for 2007 and by intentionally operating outside the confines of its own box, the Vastenactie campaign is seeking to touch its natural public where they are actually to be found, in a language that is both attractive and appealing. Of course all this is in tandem with the traditional and trusted ways, such as with the liturgy.

Live Plainly

The 2007 'Live Plainly' campaign appealed to peoples' Christian values, keying directly into their motives for contributing to the work of Vastenactie. The familiar Third World images on posters and advertising were replaced with portraits and expressions of ordinary Dutch people. For example 'I choose God, not money', is an easily recognisable testimony from a practicing Vastenactie supporter. However, 'I don't have much, but when I can give I feel rich', expresses a sentiment directed more towards the non-practising Catholic. In addition, the Vastenactie in cooperation

with its Belgian sister organisation 'Broederlijk Delen', has introduced a new initiative: the Coffee-stop. An accessible, non-church format permitting people to come into contact with the work we do and support; and of course enjoy a free cup of coffee. In almost a hundred locations throughout the country, our helpers organised a Coffee-stop; a tentative, and on occasion a trifle shaky, start to a new activity, which hopefully in the coming years will grow in strength and develop into a new and modern show piece for the Vastenactie.

Excellent results

This newly chosen format was certainly effective, as the results clearly demonstrate. The Lent campaign yielded almost six million euros, a staggering figure crowning Vastenactie's 47th year of existence. In addition, awareness of the campaign also increased from 53 to 62 percent. With younger Dutch people the figures were even more impressive with a doubling of awareness from 20 to 43 percent. Vastenactie has certainly got people talking again.



'Every week I put 1 euro aside from my pocket-money, for people in the poorer countries.'



'My income is twice the national average.

I can afford to donate some.'



www.cordaidpartners.com 'Where Cordaid partners meet'

In July 2007 the moment finally arrived: our new Cordaid website for partners went 'live'. The site makes it possible for the partners to exchange experiences, knowledge and lessons learned, in addition to enabling them to make new contacts. Space is also available for announcing conferences, events, workshops and news.

Online contact

From their own pc, partners can now view everything happening at Cordaid including the latest policy developments, but most important of all they can also discover who the other Cordaid partners are and which projects they are involved in together with Cordaid. Using a handy search tool, partners can quickly find each other based on key words, country, continent, Cordaid programme or sector. Partners who via the internet would like to become a 'virtual member' of Cordaidpartners.com, can easily do so by opening an account. Once logged on, a partner can for example describe a project or upload documents regarding the project. By doing so partners

contribute towards their own 'web space' on the site, raising their profile for the benefit of other interested partners and parties.

Enthusiastic reactions

By the close of 2007, approximately 80 partners had already opened accounts with the site. Here are some of their enthusiastic comments: "I easily updated said content", "The partner website is looking good!", "Brief but concrete information", "It seems simple to use and clear and that will be half the battle in terms of usage!"

Take a look

Take a look at our site and discover that we have new partners joining daily, helping us put a face to the projects. Good examples are the MRC organisation from Sierra Leone, the Ujima Foundation or a project by the INADES organisation from Cameroon.

Future: online cooperation

Due increasingly to ideas and questions of cooperation via the internet, the site is bound to quickly change and develop. Collaboration Groups: without ever having to meet in 'real life', partners from different parts of the world can, in a protected online environment, hold discussions or exchange documents regarding themes and topics of common interest.

See you at Cordaidpartners.com!
Nos vemos en Cordaidpartners.com!
Nos encontramos em cordaidpartners.com!
A plus tard sur www.cordaidpartners.com, le site des partenaires!

*Kathelijn Hendrikse,
Marketing and Communication Officer*



'I believe. Therefore I give.'



'I choose God, not money.'



'I don't have much, but when I can give I feel rich.'



Signatures against poverty on Schokland

Last summer on the stages of beautiful Schokland, Cordaid joined a group of colourful associations, organisations and enterprises, in making firm commitments for bringing the millennium development objectives closer. A total 37 agreements were signed, Cordaid having co-signed twelve. These are all agreements in which various ministers, local governments, companies and social organisations could find common ground.

Due to the distances between each of the stages, Cordaid's Director of Projects Lillianne Ploumen had to be transported

from one ceremony to the next in a ministerial bus. Lillianne also appeared on the eight o'clock news that night. Various Cordaid representatives had to stand in for her on a few occasions, committing Cordaid to some very important agreements covering a range of issues. These included the foundation of a platform for meso-financing, Security and Development, a proposal for setting up a Knowledge Network for Peace and a plan to reduce the death rates of women during childbirth. There was also an agreement signed whereupon the Groene Woud region (the towns of Best, Boxtel and Den Bosch),

Oisterwijk local council and Cordaid will work together on sustainability both here and in the Philippines.

Special attention was given to the signing of an agreement between Cordaid and the Samenwerkende Moslim Hulporganisaties (SMHO: Cooperation of Muslim Aid Organisations), for their unifying efforts around Ramadan and the Feast of Sacrifice. The signing of the agreement was celebrated by music and a dance group. Mesmerising whirling dancers deeply impressed Minister Ella Vogelaar who looked on in fascination. It was particularly encouraging

to see business, social organisations and government coming together in this way to make some fairly solid mutual agreements. Now the work can really begin. And not least for Cordaid, which signed a total of eleven agreements. For these agreements should not be shunted into the side line of mere good intentions. The real challenge lies beyond Schokland, with putting these agreements into practice.





The best kept secret or... what is Catholic about Cordaid?

←Bishop Muskens
You would expect the Coordinator of Catholic Identity at Cordaid to supply you with the definitive answer to that one. Em... well no. That 'no' contains one of the core features of Cordaid's Catholic identity.

Cordaid is an organisation with an open view of the world; a world with many variations in religions and beliefs together with equally wide interpretations of each of these. Cordaid's Catholic identity in the first instance is dynamic and is in a state of continuous development, possessing an open outlook onto the world around us. Then the identity simply changes according to how the wind blows? No, firm anchoring points exist to prevent the identity from drifting off with the first change in the weather.

The first of these anchoring points is Catholic Social Thinking – the best kept secret – as this tradition is sometimes referred to. Explored and described in an archive of documents, Catholic Social Thinking which has existed for over 100 years, is a body of thought and ideas outlining the responsibilities of Catholics and Catholic institutions in the social arena. It is all about core values, such as human dignity, subsidiarity (devolving responsibility to where it can be taken on board and stimulating people to step forward and actually accept their responsibilities), in addition to bonum commune (responsibility for the communal good).

We are not there yet though. Catholic Social Thinking is more than a mere roadmap. You need to start working with it, connecting it to your working practice, continuously testing your experiences against these core values.

A second stabilising point is the tradition from which Cordaid springs. A tradition which also informs Mensen in Nood,

Memisa and the Vastenactie campaign and which all build on the missionary tradition. Lose sight of your tradition and you lose sight of yourself.

Spirituality is the third of these three anchoring points. For me, spirituality means that a person feels involved in his environment, with the people who inhabit his or her surroundings. Identity also expresses itself in spirituality. Consider Cordaid's objectives, think about our connections with Catholic Social Thinking, look at the way Cordaid is centrally sited in the secular environment and observe the way we conduct our relations with our ideological partners in the South. And take a look at the focus we give to inter-religious dialogue.

Spirituality and culture are inextricably intertwined. Respect, solidarity, entrepreneurship; for me these are expressions of the Cordaid spirituality. Spirituality should have the opportunity to grow from our staff. Through a variety of forms, such as Christmas celebrations or a reflective meeting on Maundy Thursday, a connection will spark between individual spirituality and Cordaid's common identity. At the end of 2007, Bishop Muskens opened a Place of Silence in Cordaid's office building, where people are welcome to make some space and time for contemplation and to experience their own spirituality.

On a personal level I am deeply attracted by Benedictine Spirituality. Benedictine in this sense does not refer to Pope Benedict, but rather the monastic order of Benedictines. The core of this form of spirituality is located in the notion of offering your full attention to the given moment and to whatever it is you happen to be doing. Are you speaking to a colleague, then give him or her your full attention. This may sound a shade banal, but I would recommend you

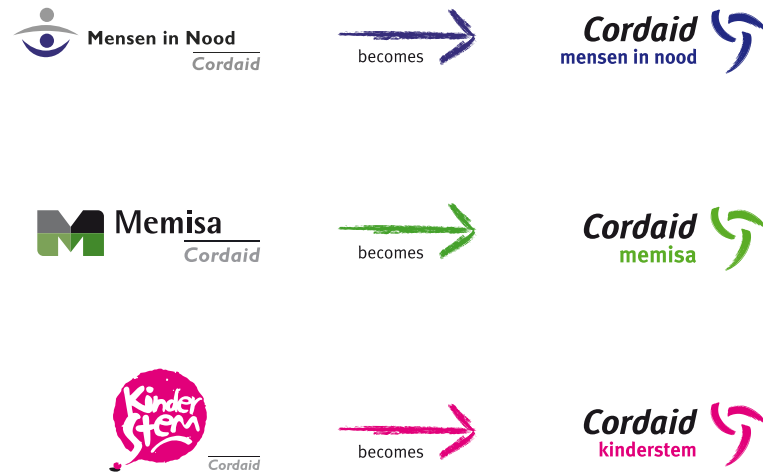
try it. Try having a phone conversation at work without simultaneously looking into your mailbox or rummaging through the papers on your desk. For me Benedictine spirituality includes other facets which make it invaluable. It endeavours to locate a balance between work, rest, silence, contemplation and prayer. In a monastic order you can actually build in these facets, but at Cordaid this is surely impossible? Or is it?

Piet Kuijper, Coordinator Identity Cordaid

Cordaid:

Believe that it's possible...

In 2007 Cordaid altered its branding strategy and by extension its corporate identity. Cordaid's corporate identity expresses a distillation of both the collective and the diversity of the funds which together form Cordaid; Cordaid Memisa (structural health care), Cordaid Mensen in Nood, (emergency aid and reconstruction), Cordaid Kinderstem (focused on slum children), Cordaid Microkrediet (small entrepreneurs) and Cordaid Bond Zonder Naam (countering poverty in the Netherlands) and Vastenactie (small scale projects). All these funds have their individual objectives. But together they all believe that it's possible.



With the increased recognition of Cordaid and its funds, we pool our strengths. We are convinced that regard for Cordaid and recognition of its branding will continue to demonstrate strong growth in future years. With this in mind, from June 2007 the individual funds' names and identities will be drawn together by using Cordaid as a common identifying first name: Cordaid Memisa, Cordaid Mensen in Nood and Cordaid Kinderstem. Cordaid and all funds (with the exception of Vastenactie) utilise the same maxim: Geloven dat het kan.

Cordaid's origin

Cordaid stems from the Memisa, Mensen in Nood and Vastenactie organisations. It is an identity with a background, a history. From the starting point of Catholic Social Thinking and its vision on society, Cordaid believes heart and soul in better times ahead, where each individual person is valued, where injustice and poverty have been banished and where there is social and economic justice for all. Cordaid is

convinced that every single one of us has the ability to make positive changes to our lives. Each and every one of us harbours our own personal ideals and dreams.

Corporate branding

An important part in Cordaid's identity strategy is corporate branding. Inspiration, as a core value at the very heart of our identity, was taken as a starting point to invest meaning in the Cordaid brand. Translated, inspiration is now expressed in our maxim: Geloven dat het kan. In 2007 we developed and produced a TV commercial, a billboard campaign and a variety of corporate ads / media. In addition, we assessed the confidence in Geloven dat het kan; a belief that a better world is actually achievable.

Together with local partner organisations

Cordaid, together with local partner organisations (both Catholic partners and other denominations), helps

underprivileged peoples with a little support, enabling them to make a start with caring for themselves and to work towards a brighter future. Here, Cordaid has chosen not to help remotely, but rather to play an immediate active role, directly influencing the situation through local partner organisations. This requires considerable effort and perseverance, but more than this it requires imagination; the imagination of positively focused people, who are able to envisage situations the way they could be. Who possess the deep rooted conviction that they possess change things for the better, enabling the dreamed-of future to come within reach.

For more than 90 years now, Cordaid has been supporting the underprivileged in their struggles. We believe in the inherent strength of people and support them worldwide in their struggle against poverty and inequality; with heart and soul. We supply emergency and reconstruction aid.



At the same time we are active in many structural programmes, for example in improving health care, offering prospects to children in slum dwellings or supporting small entrepreneurs and enterprises. Time and again in the villages and towns where we work we discover that people are indeed capable of turning their situation around. We believe strongly in their optimism; in their power and capability for redirecting their future.

Cordaid's internal and external communications have now acquired a univocal, recognisable and identifiable image, fitting with the organisation. An image informed by Cordaid's identity, based upon their mission, values and vision.

Over the last few years, Cordaid has been increasingly developing into a knowledge broker, collecting and collating experiences and making these available for the benefit of a wide variety of users, such as politicians, ministries, professionals and its partners in developing countries.

What does Cordaid do?

Cordaid organises its work into four sectors, where worldwide 10 themed programmes have been identified and brought together. This contributes towards a global increase in themed knowledge, permitting both Cordaid and partner organisations to learn from each other's experiences.

Participation

1. Supporting discriminated against minorities, such as Papua's, Dalits, nomads and Indians, to boost and encourage their struggle against prejudice.
2. Struggling together with slum dwellers in the pursuit of their rights to decent housing, clean water, medical care and education; stimulating young people into making positive contributions for the benefit of their communities.
3. Supporting women who have become the victims of abuse, violence and traffickers, to break free from the spiral of poverty and violence.

Emergency Aid and Reconstruction

4. Disaster prevention and emergency aid; for preventing calamities and preparing people for risky situations. In the event of a disaster the distribution of food, clothes, medical care, clean water and shelter.

5. Reconciliation and reconstruction in countries enduring continuous internal conflict, such as the Sudan, around the Great Lakes of Africa, the Palestinian areas, Afghanistan and Haiti.

Health and Well-being

6. Better access to health care by good staffing policies, medical training, sustainable financing systems and more influence for patients. Particular focus on women, pregnancy and sexual health care.

7. Care for vulnerable groups with a focus among other things on street children. Help is offered in care, schooling and reintegration. Lobbying for children's rights and the active legal pursuit of the perpetrators of abuse. Support for parents who due to the AIDS crisis have become responsible for numerous grandchildren and other extended family members.

8. A focus on preventive HIV/AIDS action for women and younger people. Support is also offered for churchgoing volunteers who care for AIDS patients.

Entrepreneurship

9. More opportunities for small producers via technological innovation, access to markets and financing; lobbying for an economic level playing field. Stimulation of sustainable production, a focus on female entrepreneurs.

10. Micro financing for little known groups and market segments. The package also contains health care insurance and help with housing (mortgages).





In Sri Lanka Cordaid supports programmes which are focused on creating a climate in which each and every citizen can live

No peace without equal rights for every citizen

during the years of the cease-fire agreement between the Singalese majority government and the LTTE separatist movement (Tamil Tigers). From a starting point of no peace without equal rights and opportunities for all, independent of their identity, Cordaid's partners in Sri Lanka worked towards the restoration of trust and the development of relationships between the different groups (Singalese, Tamils, Muslims). Various peace initiatives for reconciliation, respect for diversity, respect for human rights and justice have evolved from this process.

The relative peace at the beginning of the cease-fire, which gave the social organisations space to manoeuvre, unfortunately is now only a distant memory. There was a marked increase

in the violence in 2007, resulting in an abandonment of the cease-fire agreement from the beginning of January 2008. Room for social organisations to pursue their work has become notably reduced, both in its physical limitations (travel limitations) and by for example the restrictions exerted upon freedom of the press and freedom of speech.

Flexibility is vital in the context of such violence. Social organisations need to anticipate and assess quickly on a daily basis the continuously changing situation. To do this, Cordaid's partner organisations have set up new initiatives. Internal contacts between organisations have for example been strengthened; it is imperative that partners do not work isolated from one another, but rather

underpin, reinforce and support each other. In addition, cooperation between Sri Lankan organisations and the international community has been reinforced. A good example of this was the visit made by a delegation of prominent Indians to Sri Lanka to see how they could contribute in any way to the peace discussions. Whilst 2007 saw an end to the cease-fire, it was also the year which stimulated a start to new initiatives. The resilience of the organisations is remarkable; to see people working and living under such impossible pressure, yet remaining hopeful for the prospect and setting up of a peaceful future society, one founded upon equal opportunity for all.

Frederique van Drumpt,
Programme Officer Cordaid

Extra training for Imams regarding women's issues

Cordaid's partner organisation the Noor Education Center (NEC) fights discrimination against Afghan women. The NEC among other things will (from an Islamic perspective) introduce training, to help 170 Afghan Imams in Jalalabad and Ghazni to become more aware of women's rights. The NEC has also endeavoured to tackle sexual intimidation of women at the University of Kabul.

This has resulted in concrete guidelines regarding the equal treatment of women and the setting up of a widely respected behaviour code for all Afghan universities. The NEC actively focuses on the underlying causes of domestic violence, organises (political) awareness campaigns for women, encourages and promotes the increased participation of women in various professions through training and supports women in their struggle to achieve economic independence.

The NEC was founded in 2001 by a local order of nuns and is staffed almost entirely by local Afghans. There is however still a great deal to be achieved.



'Vagina Monologues' bring unrest to Nigeria



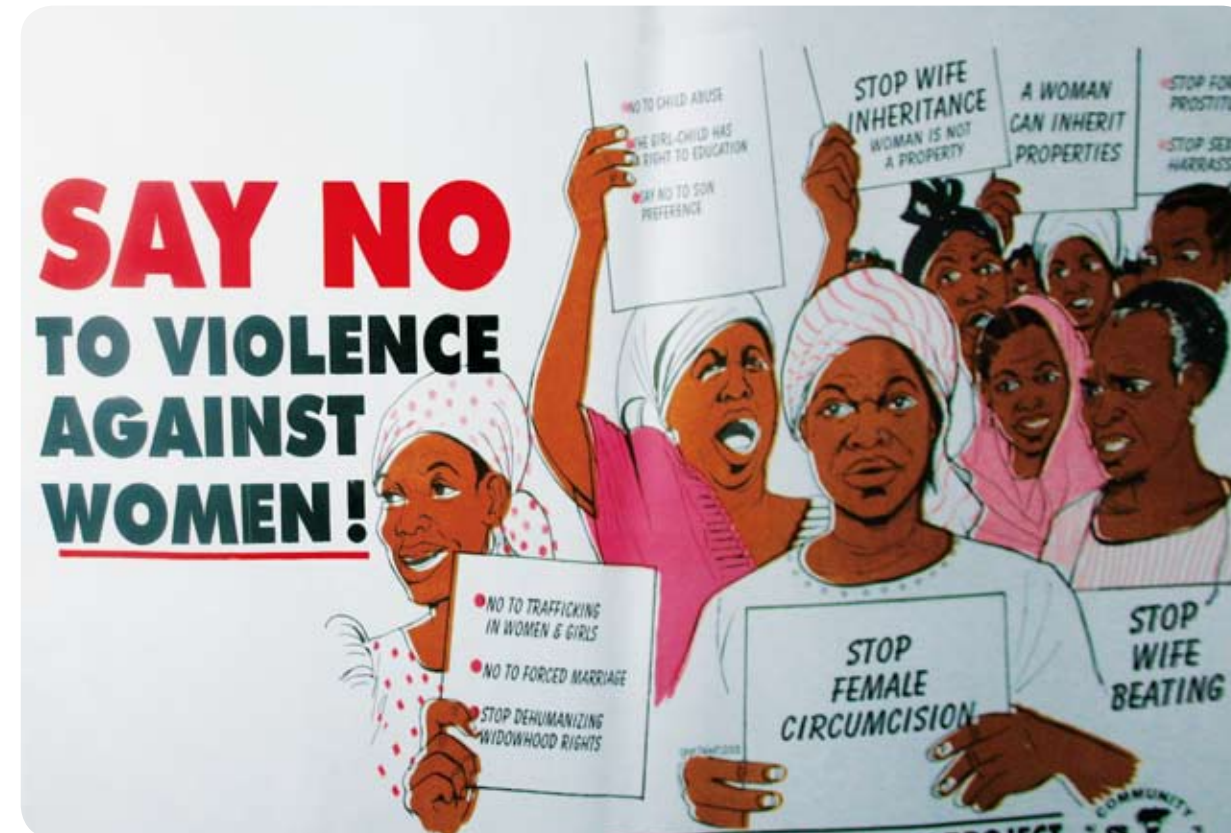
Poor or rich, influential or otherwise, Muslim or Christian, the rights of Nigerian women are often ignored. Even among the higher educated the subject is still considered taboo. KIND (Kundirat Initiative for Democracy), a Cordaid partner organisation, aspires to break down this barrier and has chosen to use the internationally acclaimed theatre piece 'The Vagina Monologues' as a vehicle for delivering its message.

A controversial piece which caused quite a stir when it played in the Netherlands,

now by being staged in Nigeria is evidence alone of attitudes changing. The audiences included a large proportion of men, for many of whom the play came as quite an eye-opener; they had failed to realise how the daily reality for women looked so bleak. The stir generated by the piece, both in the press and on national television, stimulated further public debate and discussion. KIND and the actresses received support from all levels of the population. All proceeds from the production went to the Sophia care home, which shelters women and their children fleeing domestic violence.

Animated by this success, KIND and other Cordaid partners are now collaborating on a new theatre piece, based on the 'Veiled Monologues' by the Dutch actress Adelheid Roosen.

One in three women faces violence



Worldwide, one in three women is faced with violence. Whether it is war or on the domestic front; women are often the first victims.

The problem is an immense one, encompassing the obvious, visible forms of violence including systematic sexual violence as a weapon of war and women trafficking, in addition to more hidden kinds such as domestic violence, female circumcision and murder in the name of family honour. These latter forms in particular are often rooted deep in the culture. In many of the countries where Cordaid works, women are still regarded as second class citizens. An image perpetuated by discriminatory laws and customs, and by harmful traditions. In many instances talking openly about these problems is simply not the done thing. By doing so and reporting the problem, a woman runs a risk of attracting reprisals and the retribution of her husband, with the additional risk of being cast out from her family and home environment.

A time of fear and repression

A year of development work in Sri Lanka reviewed

In the war torn north of Sri Lanka, Packiyam reflects on the past year. Packiyam is the director of an aid organisation which works towards development, peace and reconciliation. She describes how violence and repression have entered deep into the lives of every Sri Lankan. 'Do I worry because my life is in danger?'

2007 is behind us and 2008 already in full swing... When I'm asked about my desires or intentions for the future, or for my conclusions based on the past year, I can barely give a balanced answer. Stories, faces and incidents just keep springing to mind...

Should I mention a good friend who got shot a few months back? He leaves behind a disabled wife and two children. What can I do...?

Or

...should I talk about the physiologically traumatised woman whom we came upon, wandering around close to one of the army camps? Shouting and raving she was tearing off her jewellery and tossing it away, completely engulfed in a fit of insanity. With a lot of patience and care, two of my staff and I finally managed to get her to a hospital. It turned out that she was more than two months pregnant and also had a two year old son. Via the hospital I discovered the whereabouts of her family. Her relatives had been searching for her for a long time and had all but given up hope. They broke down and cried when I told them where she could be found. The gratitude they showed, the pain of their vulnerability, their helplessness...

Or

...maybe I should mention one of my staff, who was forced to steal away from his home like a thief under the cover of darkness, abandoning everything he ever possessed? I never got the opportunity to hear his story or share in his suffering. He just grabbed what he could carry and vanished...

Or

...about a female member of staff and good friend, who from pure distress swallowed a handful of tablets ending it all? She could no longer take the brute violence of her husband. Four children are now motherless.

Or

...then again should I talk about the friend who received threatening phone calls? His choice? Cough up an enormous sum of money to a total stranger or die.

Or

...about someone else, who begged me to try, with whatever means at my disposal, to have a meal delivered to his hiding place, even if it was only once a day. He was hiding from his ex-colleague, who was now fighting with one of the militia groups deeply involved in the weapons trade and other shady deals...

Or

...about the woman who came to our office one day and told us about her husband: he and five others were murdered by total strangers. She asked for our help in obtaining a death certificate and for a little money to eat. She was three months pregnant.

Or

Oh the painful irony... Whilst writing this overview of 2007, I hear that the Sri Lankan government is breaking the current cease-fire agreement, is ceasing all attempts at meaningful dialogue and proceeding once again with their rigorous approach to terrorism...

Should I laugh ...? Should I cry...? Should I worry because my life is in danger, as friends keep insisting? Where do the priorities lie?

(Ms Packiyam is a director of a human rights and development aid organisation in the war torn north of Sri Lanka. For security reasons we have withheld her real name, nor do we mention the name of her organisation)

What should I say? What can I say?

Or

...perhaps I should write about some donor organisations who whine when they don't receive our progress reports on time?

Or

...should I talk about the two young men who cruise the space between two local check points, stopping each vehicle in turn and forcing the occupants to buy their party leaflets. If not, you're 'invited' to pick a different route next time...

Or

...about the evening when armed men arrived in front of our house on a motorcycle, stopped and hung around for ten minutes before disappearing into the dark? The feelings and fear at that moment...

Or

...what about the heavy bomb exploding just 500 meters from our office? Eight people wounded, a ten year old boy among them?

Or

...should I try to paint a picture of how, together with other organisations, we were invited to a workshop and conference in Europe to see what we could do about pushing human rights issues further up the agenda of the international community?

Or

...maybe I should touch on the fact that a gentle and considerate head of an international non-governmental organisation was 'kindly requested' to leave the country within 24 hours?

Or

...that we received a 2am phone call at the office, demanding we have a large sum of money ready within two hours or else...

Or

...that on another night a white van pulled up adjacent to the refugee camp where we were working. The occupants jumped out, violently forced the doors of three nearby houses and dragged away four people. All four are still missing...

Or

...perhaps I should write about the social workshop we organised? At least 10 of my staff of 35 tried to embark on their life story, and all they could really do was cry...

Or

...should I say something about one of my staff who recently got married? Her husband was picked up during one of the regular military checks in Colombo. Is he in Boosa prison? Will we ever find out...



Tsunami silver lining for women in India

Strolling around Nadukuppam, a fishing village on the Indian coast, little remains to remind you of the tsunami; or perhaps everything does... The village is very clean and boasts new brick houses. Nadukuppam has really benefited from reconstruction. But does a new house or new boat truly help victims? Or is something else required to help them rebuild their lives? Working together with Cordaid Mense in Nood, local aid organisation Kalvi Kendra does more than just hand out boats and nets. Kalvi Kendra has set up self-help groups for women. The women save a

little money to enable them after some time to apply for a bank loan. This is then invested in a small business start-up, helping them along the path towards financial independence. This emancipation process has made an even bigger dent than the new boat. Or, as one of the women would have it: "The tsunami was the best thing that happened to us."

Kalvi Kendra fishermen no longer need the moneylenders

One village hit by the tsunami in Tamil Nadu, on the coast of India, is home to around 90 families which make up the fishing community. Here, all the fishermen suffered from high debts; money having been borrowed to replace or repair damaged nets. Having no access to regular bank accounts, they were dependent solely on local moneylenders for loans, moneylenders who charge exorbitant rates of interest; 60 to 120 percent is not uncommon. And frequently these loans come with grinding conditions attached. For example, loans to be repaid

in shrimp rather than hard cash. It can take a very long time indeed to pay off your debts in shrimp. Cordaid Mense in Nood's partner, Kalvi Kendra, has organised the fishermen into collectives. Working as a group enabled the fishermen to become eligible to apply for regular loans. The local moneylenders with their outrageously high interest rates quickly became superfluous to requirements with the fishermen now working together. Purchase of nets for example is now a pooled activity.

Earthquake proof schools in Indonesia

Simelue is an island approximately 120 kilometres off the west coast of Atjeh, in one of the most seismically active parts of the planet. Simelue is also home to 80,000. Tsunami damage in this region was considerable. Cordaid Mense in Nood has constructed 65 earthquake resistant schools on the island, helping teachers and pupils to create a safer school environment. Teachers and pupils are also offered basic building maintenance training to help them look after the

fabric of their school, with pupils taking care of cleaning whilst their teachers see to the repair work. To facilitate this, the schools have been provided with tools and cleaning materials. Both teachers and pupils are now totally involved and committed to their school. By carefully considering the adjacent planting and the furnishing of the school terrain, the schools have also become much more child friendly.

"My first introduction to Cordaid Mense in Nood was long before I became closely involved. It was in the mid nineties and I was in Africa for some time on behalf of Dutch TV broadcaster KRO, working on a report entitled 'Different Africa'. It was a series of 13 episodes looking at Africa from an alternative viewpoint. Here in the west our inclination is to observe only what is pushed in our face; AIDS, war, poverty and endless disasters. Our idea was to show that this amazing and truly beautiful continent has many other faces to show the world. Africa is home to a wealth of friendly, wonderful, energetic people, who work and fight tirelessly to better their lives, despite the enormity of their setbacks.

We travelled from Egypt to South-Africa where we observed so much good, drawing strength from the incredibly warm and hospitable people we met along the way. Cordaid Mense in Nood accompanied me throughout the journey and I was able to see with my own eyes how they support an inspiring number of vital projects. What impresses is the manner in which the organisation works with local partners; they are not calling the shots from behind a wagging finger. This permits the people on the ground to be fully aware of their accomplishments, whilst not blinding them to what still needs to be achieved. A few years ago I was in Kenya during a period of severe drought, which ground the entire country to a complete standstill. I found it distressing seeing people do



Manuela Kemp Ambassador of Cordaid Mense in Nood 'My suitcase stands ready...'

their utmost just to stay alive. Most of the animals had already died. And many of the people were just a footstep away from going the same way. Last year an earthquake hit Peru. Again I travelled out there to report on the work of Cordaid Mense in Nood. On this occasion it was about reconstruction, which at that moment was totally dependent upon emergency aid. We strive always to help people in need, whenever or wherever

that need arises. With emergency aid of course, if no other possibility exists, but certainly with the required structural aid. Button holing people for donations is not a problem for me. Irritating? No. You owe it to your fellow humanity. I recognise the organisation as a diverse team of driven people, strong and warm at heart. I am exceedingly proud to be a part of this team. My suitcase stands ready packed for the next call."





MIJN SCHOOL.

Wereldwijd leven 100 miljoen kinderen in sloppenwijken. Elke dag moeten ze vechten om te overleven. Hun situatie lijkt uitzichtloos: ze eten slecht, gaan niet naar school, werken in fabrieken of steengroeven, of moeten stelen om aan geld te komen.

Cordaid Kinderstem helpt deze kinderen. Maar daar hebben we uw steun wel bij nodig. Help kinderen in sloppenwijken. Steun Cordaid Kinderstem.



www.cordaidkinderstem.nl

Cordaid Kinderstem

Help the slum children!

Life on the street is hard. Very hard. Each day the crushing task of trying to survive begins anew. Many slum children are quite alone in the world; they have no family to look after them. Cordaid Kinderstem directs its focus on the most fundamental necessities of life; these include a daily nourishing meal, a safe place to sleep and schooling. Our starting point is that we do not just do something for the children, but work together with them on building a future. Projects are always carried out together with our local partner organisations. Cordaid Kinderstem has had an exciting and very successful year. Exciting? It certainly was with the introduction of our new image and the Cordaid Kinderstem logo. 2007 also saw us successfully reaching many people, boosting our donation coffers and best of all, managing to help a great many slum children in need in the process.

'Super Sale' campaign

In 2007, Cordaid Kinderstem was promoted

on the theme of a 'Super Sale'. We took all the needs of the slum child and put them symbolically up for 'Sale', giving a clear demonstration of how cheap it actually is to help. On the website www.supersale.nu people were able to indicate which things they would like to 'purchase' for the children, by means of a one-off donation. This 'Super Sale' campaign reached over 7.5 million via the internet and radio.

Child Labour Day

For Child Labour Day on 1 May Cordaid Kinderstem turns the spotlight on the rights of the child. Cordaid Kinderstem firmly believes no child should undertake dangerous work of any description. Work should not interfere with school attendance. 2.5 million people were made more aware of the problems of child labour in developing countries by an eye-catching but moving TV-commercial, broadcast over the television networks and on the internet.

Donor's panel

In spring 2007, the Kinderstem News ran a feature asking donors to help us by thinking

along with us in discussing the aims and objectives of Cordaid Kinderstem. In the autumn, jointly with the donor's panel, we discussed campaign choices, projects and how to attract additional donors.

Activities with other organisations

Cordaid Kinderstem is in favour of combining strengths with business and is always seeking successful joint ventures. Together we can mean a lot to slum children. 2007 saw a variety of cooperative initiatives including those with: Tamini ice-cream parlours, Eeko, ASN Bank, Kindercare greeting cards and the Telecom Gala of the Year.

Donations

By the end of the year, Cordaid Kinderstem could count on 65,626 donors, most of whom are donating on a regular monthly basis. And the good news is that around a third of these have upped their donations since 2006. In total you have donated more than 6 million euros to Cordaid Kinderstem. And for that we and the slum children of the world extend to you a heartfelt thank you!



Cordaid in Kinshasa, the Congo: large-scale AIDS programme

This figure excludes the value of the drugs and materials which were distributed throughout the population with the help of our partner organisations.

Cordaid is held in high regard in DRC and enjoys an excellent reputation. Jointly, with our eighteen Congolese partners, we ensure that the 3,800 HIV/AIDS patients

receive antiretroviral drugs and will continue to do so in the future. We have carried out 12,000 HIV tests, distributed 11 million condoms, disseminated information among 600 community leaders, and given 162 employees further training. The project has in addition broadcast 264 radio and 62 TV programmes on AIDS prevention and treatment.



Isa Hoes Ambassador for Cordaid Kinderstem 'When I think of children, carefree is the first word that springs to mind

Isa Hoes is known to many for her part in the TV series 'Goede Tijden, Slechte Tijden' (Good Times, Bad Times); she currently works in both theatre and television.

In 2007, Isa visited the work of local partner organisation La Chaines des Foyers de Saint Nicodemie in Cameroon. In one of the organisation's open houses she came across little Ludovic, a boy of 7. Ludovic already has quite a life story. "Thanks to Cordaid Kinderstem, Ludovic goes to school again. He was very pleased with himself and even more pleased with his school uniform. Street kids who have been excluded by everyone, are being taught to once again take a little pride in themselves. And that's just wonderful to see," according to Isa.

"When I think of children, I think of their innocence, happiness, naivety, and most of all their carefree spirit. I think children have a right to a future, one which is as carefree as possible. Children need to be able to be just that: children, to be in touch with their dreams, wishes and hopes. Cordaid Kinderstem really connects to this," reflects Isa.

Leontine Borsato Ambassador of Cordaid Memisa 'Do what you can'

newspaper. After my first trip for Cordaid Memisa, I became a donor. I also relate my experiences in a developing country such as Cameroon to my own children.

By doing so I try to make them aware of what's happening in the world and of the necessity of helping others whenever you can. I hope I can bring on board

other donors, by being a pair of eyes for all those Dutch people who are unable to experience this first hand and by raising awareness in the media of health problems, such as malnourishment and malaria. I'm deeply impressed by the work of Cordaid Memisa and the solutions they provide. And I'm also equally impressed by the strength of women I have met in the developing countries."



Cordaid in the heart of the Congo: Better health care

In the Kasai region in the heart of the DR Congo, Cordaid has opened two offices in the past year and a half. One in Kananga, capital of the west Kasai province and one in Kabinda, which will become the capital of the new province of Lomami. This region is one of the central conflict areas of the Congo; the frontline of the 1998-2003 war ran right through the centre. Almost everywhere you look there is digging for diamonds, but the local population extract little benefit from the profits of this activity. Corruption has a deep grip at all levels of society; neglected cities, crumbling infrastructure, a dearth of agricultural activity in the fertile regions.

Prices for consumer goods here are three times higher than elsewhere in the Congo. The number of undernourished children is staggering.

The logistics of getting there to work is a challenge in itself. The area can only be reached by aircraft. The 450 km trip from Kananga to Kabinda is a 20 hour car journey. All the Cordaid office buildings are in need of serious repair. The water and electricity supply is not-dependable. Due to the history of trouble and corruption, the population is deeply cynical and trusts no-one and the gossip mill has a tendency to strangle any new project at birth.

Still, hope exists. The democratisation process is slowly beginning to bear fruit. Each province is to get its devolved parliament and government; delivering more attention to local problems. There is electricity again in Kananga. Corrupt officials are being identified and indicted by the peoples' courts and removed from their positions. Criticism of governmental organisations is being increasing credence. Public servants are in receipt of their salaries once again.

Co-financed by the European Union and other large donors and in cooperation with local partners, Cordaid undertakes

large health projects in the very heart of the Congo. Our local presence is vital. We are here for the long haul, long enough to have an influence on running affairs: better structures and systems will stimulate more transparency, better management and more consideration for the very poor in forging the government's health policy.

Cordaid Kananga coordinates and manages health programmes and projects for a population of three million with a team of five people. Performance of these programmes on the ground is contracted out to local partner organisations such as the archdiocese of Kananga's health coordination.

The Cordaid Kabinda team consists

of 13, which include four doctors and experienced nurses. They contribute directly to the improvement of health care of approximately two million people. In addition, Cordaid Kabinda makes use of its extensive expertise and its means available to make health care more accessible to the poor and vulnerable.

Cordaid is renowned for its support of this community which lives totally isolated from the rest of the world. Teams have been trained to work in the most challenging circumstances. This has allowed the numbers of people reached in Kananga by the health organisations to double in six months.



Cordaid Memisa

With our motto 'Believe that it's possible', Cordaid Memisa strives to make health care available to everyone in the poorest countries. The training of local (para-) medics and dissemination of information is essential to put in place a structural solution. Cordaid Memisa strongly believes in the strength and optimism of people, their ability to change their circumstances and to turn situations around for the better.

Four action periods

'Care for the blind in Bangladesh' was the theme of the February initiative. In Bangladesh, approximately one million people are unnecessarily blind from lack of access to health care, due to their impoverished circumstances. Our local partner RDRS has for many years placed this group central to their efforts. This initiative has been exceedingly successful, also with our traditional church attending donors during collections.

Actress Leontine Borsato provided the face of the May campaign's struggle against malaria and attracted a great deal of media attention. Coverage together with a fund raising appeal was also featured in the Kinderen and Margriet magazines. Leontine talked about her experiences with Cordaid Memisa in Sierra Leone in the fund raising TV special, Aperitivo. In addition, the campaign received a mention in Story magazine, the Telegraaf and Spits newspapers, radio and TV guides and in talk shows such as CAZ-radio, Trouw, the Dutch daily newspaper, ran an article on a factory producing malaria pills, with the cooperation of Cordaid's Sector Entrepreneurship.

'That we're becoming immune to AIDS doesn't mean that she is'. With this eye-opening headline potential donors were asked to donate €19 to prevent a child in Ethiopia from dying of AIDS. This September initiative, after the move from Memisa Cordaid to Cordaid Memisa, was

less successful than hoped for. In December the initiative was themed around mother and child care in Suriname. An extra mailing focusing on the health problems in Malawi was also sent out in December, in an effort to counter the disappointing September response.

The annual objective for private donations was more than achieved, against the obligatory cost percentage of 15.4 percent. Income sources from inheritances and legacies also exceeded expectations, positively affecting the annual target. In total, more than 14 million euros was donated for the structural improvement of medical care worldwide.

Contact with donors

Each of Cordaid Memisa's 150,000 donors receives our donor's magazine every quarter. In 2007 the magazine was given a makeover and featured the new Cordaid Memisa logo with the title being changed to 'Gezondheid! Samen delen' (Health! Share together). Our website was also restyled, and now presents all the current news and information in an attractive format.



HET MOOISTE GEBAAAR
DAT U KUNT MAKEN...

VOOR €20,- GEEFT U IEMAND
IN BANGLADESH ZIJN
GEZICHTSVERMOGEN TERUG...

Geef de oogartsen in Bangladesh de kans om hun patiënten weer te laten zien waar zij voor leven. Zij kunnen het. Zij willen het. Zij doen het. Als u het hen mogelijk maakt...

Gezondheid samen delen GIRO 5 6 5 7



Non-Timber Forest Products: entrepreneurship, development and respect for nature...



Non Timber Forest Products (NTFP's) are products which are harvested from the forest by hunting, collecting or 'growing', without damage to the eco system and without logging. Honey, resin, medicinal plants and rattan are the most familiar. Lesser known examples are the grasses and flowers collected for making baskets, bags or liqueurs. For a large number of Asians, NTFP's are an important (and often sole) source of income. Cordaid in Asia supports various local organisations and regional networks which concentrate on boosting the market positioning of these natural products.

Biologic forest honey now in Jakarta's supermarkets

Handmade and exclusive

In addition to honey, Cordaid partners in the Philippines work with materials woven from natural fibres among other things. Using both traditional patterns and modern designs, these partners produce cushion covers, desk-top sets, clothes and bags which can be seen on the local, regional and international markets. Reaching the market though is not always straightforward and simple. International companies regularly show an interest in the handmade products, such as placemats made from wild grasses. However, one placemat can be a full days' work for one person (very often in addition to other work), therefore a short order for 10,000 placemats is simply impossible to fulfil. For this reason, the

focus is shifting towards more exclusive markets (small boutiques etc.) where the orders for high quality products can be delivered in smaller quantities.

Cordaid supports initiatives in India, Indonesia and in the Philippines, putting local markets first. Cordaid also invests in 'Be in Balance', a Dutch initiative which wants to introduce NTFP products and their stories onto the Dutch market, using vehicles such as Christmas hampers and promotional gifts.

*Roos Cieremans,
Head of Programmes Cordaid*

cotton filters. The resulting honey is processed whilst maintaining respect for the natural environment. Previously honey for example was a profit-poor product. However these remote groups in India, Kalimantan and on the Philippines have been brought into contact with each other and are now pooling their knowledge. This has resulted in a marked improvement in the quality of their product and now the honey from inner Kalimantan can be found on the supermarket shelves of Jakarta marketed as 'biological forest honey'. The 'trick' was an adaptation of the traditional production process. The freshly collected honey is no longer squeezed from the combs, but rather the combs are now cut open and the honey sieved through



Cordaid Nederland Solidarity and the struggle against poverty in our own country

The Cordaid Nederland division has supported private initiatives for development aid being self generated within Dutch society for over five years. Cordaid would like to contribute towards the struggle against poverty and to prevent vulnerable groups both in developing countries and in the Netherlands from being excluded. The activities of Cordaid Nederland should also contribute towards a broader public support of development aid and international solidarity in the Netherlands.

In 2007, Cordaid Nederland supported 568 projects, with a total amount in excess of 8.5 million euros. This included 240 projects where 1 million euros was distributed for (individual) help on behalf

of Cordaid/Bond Zonder Naam. Projects supported were drawn from a wide variety of groups and organisations, and numbered foundations, clubs, schools and missionaries. More than 340 projects were small scale private initiatives receiving up to a maximum of 20,000 euros per project. A third of these small scale projects were financed within the framework of Cordaid's participation in the Linkis programme.

The Cordaid Nederland programme focuses its support particularly on initiatives run by migrants' groups and organisations. In 2007, more than one hundred initiatives by migrant organisations were supported, which included nine network organisations. Support for the network organisations was not only focused on projects in the

South, but also used to strengthen the power of organisations in the Netherlands. The objective is that ultimately they will function as independent authoritative organisations in the sector of development aid.

In 2007, Cordaid again organised activities in cooperation with migrant networks in the field of integration. SMHO (cooperation of Muslim aid organisations), the Van Harte restaurants and a Turkish migrant network once again joined forces with Cordaid to distribute food during Ramadan and the Feast of Sacrifice. In addition, Cordaid and SMHO focused on the 'year of multi-cultural and multi-religious tolerance', as 2007 was proclaimed by Unesco in celebration of the 800th birthday of Mevlana, the mystic. The Schokland agreement saw a combined declaration signed by Cordaid and SMHO regarding their contribution to the millennium objectives. The signed declaration was presented to the Minister for Housing, Communities and Integration, Ms Ella Vogelaeur.

Involvement of migrant organisations in international cooperation and integration was once again high on the agenda in 2007 during the fifth annual migrants' ideas contest. This event initiated a debate, from the viewpoint of migrants who support developing countries, on the questionable quality of private development aid cooperation; an issue on which last year a number of critical observations surfaced as a result of research carried out by Lau Schulpen in Malawi and Ghana.

crystallising together into networks, which are in turn supported by Cordaid Nederland, which is itself focused particularly on breaking the 'isolation' of these private initiatives. Regular meeting days are arranged with these network organisations and Cordaid Nederland's separate partners. The quality of the projects and the how and why of support for development aid cooperation are always high on the agenda. With a view to supporting migrant organisations, Cordaid Nederland organised a number of meetings for private initiatives, held under the auspices of Linkis and within the church network. The annual migrants' ideas contest is also partly intended as a quality injection for projects and is seen as a strengthening of the capacity and structures of the organisations. It enables the winners and the runners-up to work on project improvements and capacity strengthening with help and coaching from SMS (Stichting Mondiale Samenleving, Global Community Organisation).

Improvement in evaluation and reporting quality is a continually under review in view of cooperation. It is part of both the coaching process for the various organisations and the assessment for approval or the continuation of project support. Over the past two years numerous evaluations have been carried out on Cordaid's support for private initiatives in India, Suriname and Ghana. These evaluations do not paper over the weaknesses in programmes. They do however demonstrate that most of the projects in fact deliver concrete tangible results for the target groups. And, no less important, that real results are being achieved in our efforts to introduce quality improvements into projects and organisations.

Criticism of the 'DIY sector' too easy

Does Lau Schulpen see what really happens?

It has been estimated that currently in the Netherlands exist more than ten thousand private development aid initiatives. The principal thrust of the 'DIY-ers' argument is that being smaller scale they are able to work in a manner which is more direct, effective and efficient than the large development aid organisations such as Cordaid. In their own eyes the direct contact that many of these 'DIY-ers' have with the target group in the developing country is a guarantee of an increased and higher quality of help.

Lau Schulpen of the Centre for International Development Issues (Cidin) at the Radboud University in Nijmegen performed the first research into the effectiveness of private initiatives in development aid. His findings have been set out in the report 'Development in the Africa for beginners'. Schulpen carried out his research in Ghana and Malawi, as these are the countries which present the greatest number of private initiatives. The report's key three conclusions are:

Any attempts by 'DIY-ers' to strengthen the partner in the developing country are inadequate (insufficient build-up of capacity).

The work many of these private initiatives perform, sometimes based solely on family bonds or friendship, is too isolated from other aid organisations operating in the same region.

Each project adopts its own individual framework, which sometimes replicates work and often with a minimum of cooperation with others.

'DIY-ers' spend too little time learning and evaluating. Reporting is also often

inadequate, preventing assessment of results. In short according to Schulpen: there exists a lot of scope for improvement with those who 'would like to do a bit of good'.

Cordaid Nederland and the organisers and participants of the annual Migrants' ideas contest regret the way in which Lau Schulpen's report 'Development in the Africa for beginners' has been presented. It appears to have become just one more stick for the media, who often thrive on such negative stories, with which to beat an already beleaguered development aid sector. The principle would seem to be; "See? Nothing with development aid ever works actually". Unfortunate really, for within society the objective of development aid is a delicate concept, easily shattered, and one for which the public spirit and support needs to be continuously renewed.

Cordaid takes the view that the three key conclusions are in themselves fine. However, the research has not flagged up that for some time now quite a few initiatives have been put in place to strengthen up the weaker junctures with the 'DIY-ers', migrant organisations and other private initiatives. According to Cordaid, this could have been put across more prominently in Lau Schulpen's report.

For example, Cordaid Nederland finances private initiatives via the Linkis 'counter', in addition to working together with migrant organisations on strengthening their structures and durability; something which Lau Schulpen's report singles out as noticeably lacking. Private initiatives are

enable us to answer all applications faster. Last year also witnessed a candid debate, where the development experts expressed weighty disapproval of private individuals setting up or wishing to set up their own projects. Personally, I did not take a particularly strong line against the storm of criticism; something I now regret. I believe that it can only be viewed as a positive thing that so many people in their own way are showing involvement and a desire to help others. It's certainly different and new, and something the 'self contained' world of development aid still has to get used to. This year will be different, I promise. I would like to organise useful and inspiring meetings for all those private individuals who apply for project support, as strength comes from working together."

It was unfortunate, we believe, that Schulpen did not focus more on these evaluations.

*Ronald Lucardie,
Policy Officer the Netherlands Cordaid*

Joep van Zijl Head of Cordaid Nederland 'I would like to see more useful and inspiring meetings'

"My most important intention for 2008 is to achieve more balance in juggling the balls and crystals of work and life. And yes, to look beyond Cordaid, beyond the office and all its inevitable bureaucracy and to come into direct contact with others. I don't very often find the time to attend events or meet new people. Ironic perhaps, as this is the very place where I could probably find renewed inspiration: so many people are taking the initiative to work with others in solidarity towards a better world and give this their own interpretation through their testimony, both close by and in the South.

I'm proud that only a short time ago we were able to transfer our project 'Mediation Agency for Return' (where we helped migrants successfully return to their country of origin) to a European joint venture. This has delivered marked improvements for the help received by those migrants wishing to return.

Last year also threw up its frustrations: my own department for example experienced an avalanche of work with too few people to do the shovelling, not helped by a confusing bureaucracy. My intention going forward is to make my staff more aware of their own responsibilities. I would also like to improve the external services, to

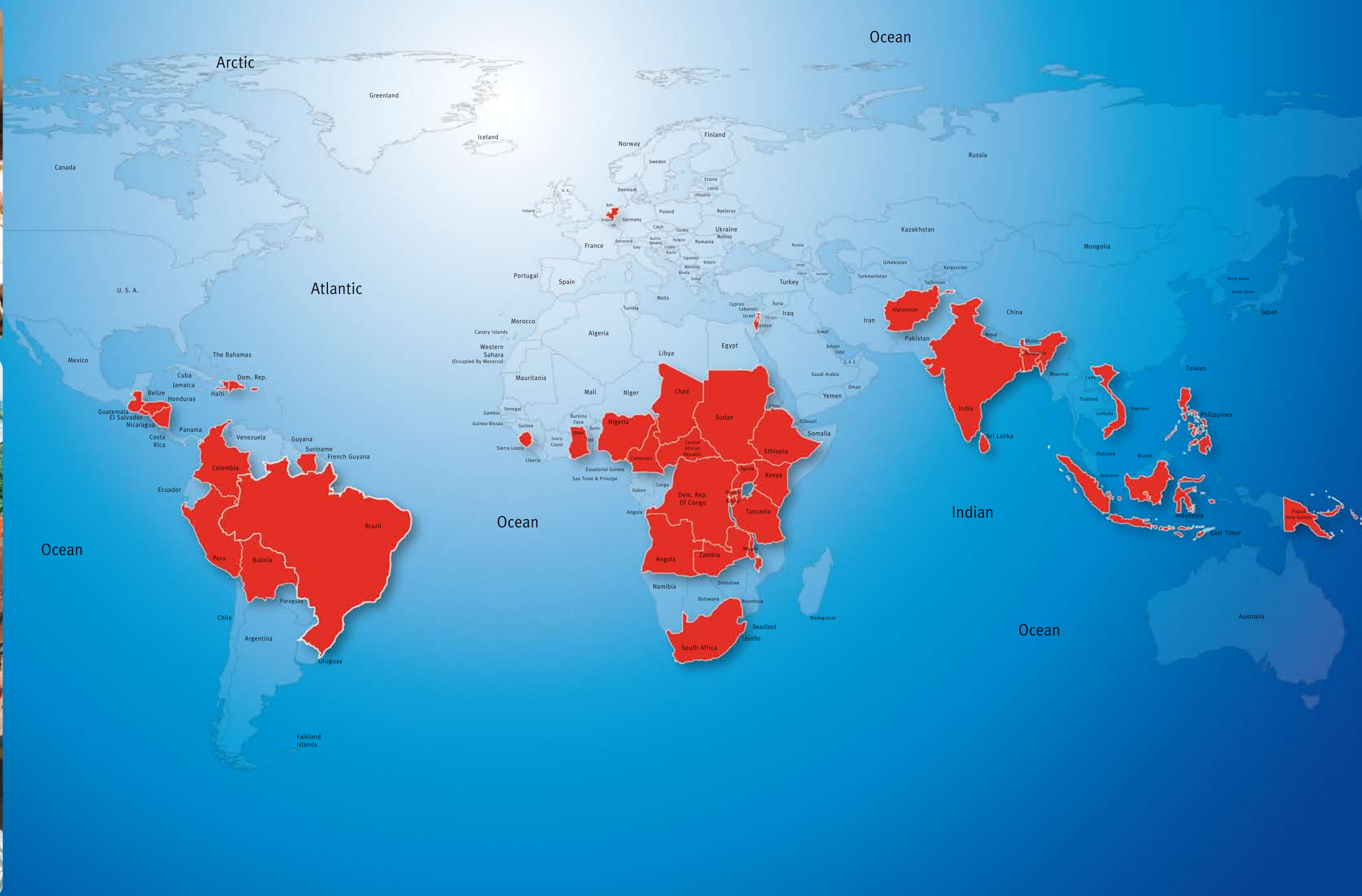
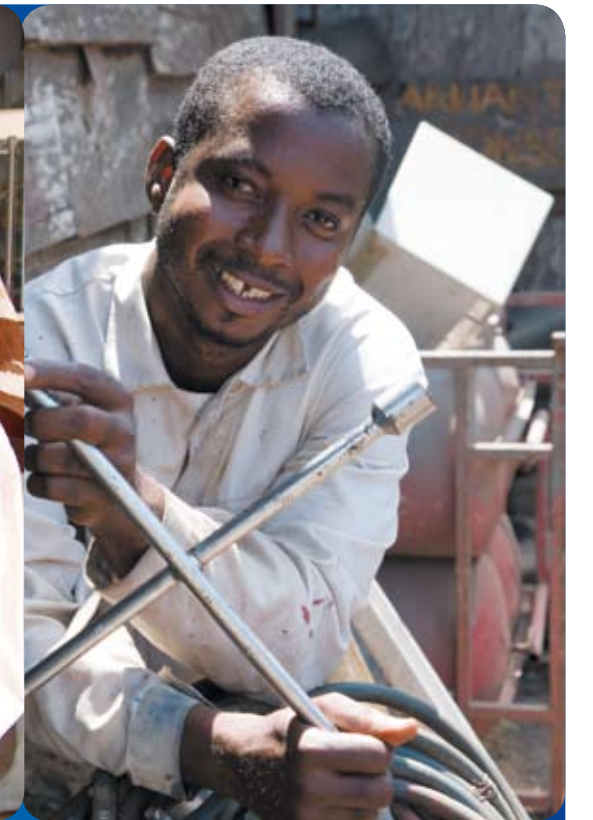




Expenditure per continent in 2007

Africa	74.4 million (45%)
Asia	43.0 million (26%)
Latin-America	21.5 million (13%)
The Netherlands and Worldwide	26.4 million (16%)

This is Where Cordaid Works



Donors' Frequently Asked Questions

If you have any questions about Cordaid, please feel free to contact our Service Desk. Our five staff members receive on average forty telephone calls and fifty e-mails daily from donors to the following funds; Memisa, Mensen in Nood, Kinderstem, Microkrediet, Bond zonder Naam, Vastenaktie and Cordaid Nederland. This team also takes care of written answers to queries, processing inheritances, sending out letters thanking donors and handling complaints. And the kind of questions they get?

I read a great deal in the media about 'rake-offs', in reality how much money is lost in this way?

Cordaid's funds reinvest part of their income from the fund in activities to raise additional capital. Cordaid has received approval to use the Central Bureau for Fund Raising (CBF) quality mark, awarded for responsible fund raising. The CBF's standard for fund raising costs is a maximum of 25 percent. At 15 percent in 2007, Cordaid is quite a bit below this.

Cordaid also incurs costs for the appropriate management and checking of the programmes we finance in developing countries and for the ancillary support work carried out within our own organisation. For 2007 these costs were approximately 8 percent. It speaks for itself that we try our utmost to work as efficiently and effectively as possible, but it is equally vital to take a professional approach to our work, which will also invariably incur costs.

Why is 'Mensen in Nood' now called 'Cordaid Mensen in Nood'?

Since they merged, Memisa, Mensen in Nood and Bilance/Vastenaktie have used the Cordaid name, but never as a prefix for the funds. From 13 June 2007 all funds have been given the matching 'first name': Cordaid. By expanding their presence and making the Cordaid funds more easily recognisable, we are also more able to utilise their collective strengths.

When I make a donation to Cordaid Memisa, is it really spent on health care projects, or is it just added to one large, central 'Cordaid pie'?

Only the name and logo have changed. Each fund has its own individual objectives and way of utilising its funds; this has not changed. Money donated to Cordaid Memisa will be spent in exactly same way as it always has been: on the structural improvement of health care in developing countries. Cordaid Mensen in Nood remains the specialist in Emergency Aid and Reconstruction. Donations for example to Mensen in Nood still go directly to immediate disaster relief and post-disaster reconstruction projects. Cordaid Kinderstem helps children in slums. The Cordaid Kinderstem projects include caring for street kids, offering them medical care and the opportunity to go to school.

Why does Cordaid send me so much mail?

Because the funds all now have the same first name it may look like you are receiving more mail from Cordaid. For example if you donate to Cordaid Mensen in Nood and to Cordaid Memisa, you will receive information and invitations to donate from both funds. However, in total you will not be receiving any more mail than before.

I'm worried about the high level of salaries charity directors receive. How does this work at Cordaid?

Income of employees and directors are in accordance with the Dutch Welfare collective employment agreement. Cordaid recognises the code for good management of charity organisations. This code states that salaries of directors of charity organisations should be a combination of idealism and professionalism and that they should be tuned to equate with senior civil servants at a similar level. For 2007, the salary of Cordaid's General Director was € 7,820 gross per month. This remuneration was comparable with the salary of the most senior executive post in the civil service; the Secretary General grade.

Bond Zonder Naam now is part of Cordaid. I would like very much to order a calendar, will I automatically receive one if I'm a member of Cordaid Bond Zonder Naam?

No. The calendar will not automatically be sent to you when you are a member. If you would like to order a Cordaid Bond Zonder Naam calendar, you can do so by completing the order form which is sent to you twice a year if you are a member. This will include a one off bank authorisation for €8 per calendar. The calendar will then be sent out to you around September/October.

A while ago someone came to my door and invited me to make out a monthly standing order for donating to Cordaid Kinderstem. I really would like to give something, but not on a regular monthly basis, perhaps one donation per year. But the canvasser apologised and said that I could only sign-up for a monthly donation. Why is this?

Door to door canvassing of donors has been outsourced to an external bureau. There are of course costs involved in this. These costs are calculated per 'monthly standing order' collected. To 'earn back' these costs, the canvassers at the door will only offer you the one (monthly) option. However if you would prefer to donate once a year or perhaps make just the one-off gesture, you are welcome to contact us directly at Cordaid's Service Desk, where our staff will be pleased to help you and ensure that everything is dealt with smoothly.



Colophon

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© Cordaid, June 2008.

Cordaid is a Dutch development aid organisation which works with heart and soul to reduce poverty in more than 40 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin-America, the Middle East, Eastern Europe and the Netherlands. Cordaid is the driving force behind Memisa, Mensen in Nood, Vastenaktie, Kinderstem, Cordaid Microkrediet and Bond Zonder Naam.

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Copies of the annual report can be ordered from the Cordaid Service Desk:
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0031 (0)70 313 63 33

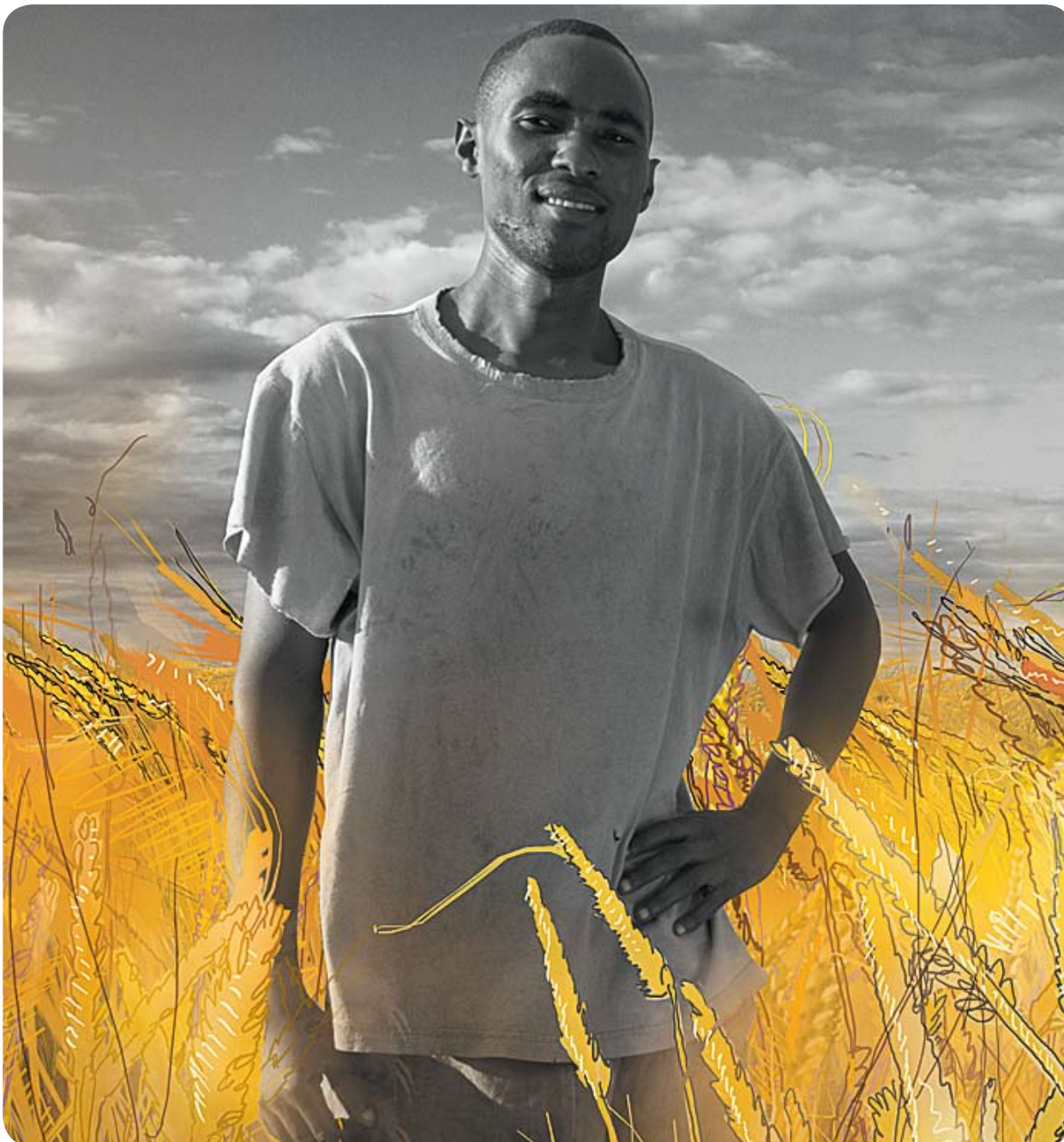
You are also welcome to download the annual report from:
www.cordaid.nl

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An appeal to you!

With our Cordaid annual report we have endeavoured to keep you up to date with our successes and challenges. We have introduced you to a number of our remarkable partners in the developing countries and the vital work they carry out. Do you have any questions or remarks, or would you like additional information about any of our funds? Then please complete and return the form below.

Reply Form

My details:

name _____
Street _____
Town and Postcode _____
Telephone _____
E-mail _____

My reaction to this annual report is:

I would like more information on:

- Cordaid 
- Cordaid bond zonder naam 
- Cordaid kinderstem 
- Cordaid memisa 
- Cordaid microkrediet 
- Cordaid mensen in nood 
- VASTENAKTIE 

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The Hague 2501 WB The Netherlands