Lucerne, March 2016

Principles for supporting developmental cooperation and emergency aid for children, women and families in the Holy Land

Preamble
Children’s Relief Bethlehem (CRB) is a Christian aid organisation. It finances the Caritas Baby Hospital in Bethlehem and provides help for children, women and families in the “Holy Land,” which the CRB takes to mean Israel, the occupied Palestinian territories (the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem), Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Iraq.

Within the scope of its mandate and its financial possibilities, the CRB, acting in accordance with the association’s intentions and Articles of Association Art. 5 sub-paras. b-e, uses its Development and Emergency Aid project funds to support independently active and locally-based partner organisations.

In its work, the CRB is guided by the following principles:

- The CRB ensures that support is provided by the partner organisations without regard to origin, religion, nationality, political convictions or any other distinguishing characteristics.
- The CRB ensures that the way the partner organisation/lead partner provides its services preserves each person’s dignity at all times. In the long term, independent aid and organisation should be facilitated and the vulnerability of those in need as a result of crises should be reduced.
- The CRB promotes sustainable and independent development. Where the need is great, short-term aid for survival and reconstruction aid can be provided. Support from the CRB must not lead to long-term dependence.
- The money entrusted to the CRB is managed in accordance with the general principles of transparent bookkeeping, as laid down for the international Caritas network in the Caritas International Management Standards. The partner organisations must also respect these principles.
- The CRB ensures compliance with the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and, in the case of emergency aid projects, the Core Humanitarian Standards.
- The CRB places its partner organisations under an obligation to comply with the Caritas Code of Conduct and the UN Standards for the protection of children and adolescents from sexual abuse and exploitation.
I  Fundamental principles governing project support
The following fundamental principles are followed whenever support for projects is provided:

- **Option for the poor**
  Supported measures must primarily address persons and groups of persons (women/mothers and their children) who, for social, economic, ethnic or religious reasons are disadvantaged, excluded or vulnerable.

- **Partnership-based actions and interconnectedness**
  In planning and implementing projects, the CRB relies on the local lead partners' tried and tested local experience, knowledge of the culture and anchoring within the community. Cooperation entails respect and mutual trust. Great importance is attached to drawing on local knowledge and exchanging experience.

- **Reinforcing the potential for self-help**
  Project support from the CRB helps to strengthen the personal responsibility of individuals, families, groups and communities, to encourage their self-reliance and to enable them to develop strategies for improving their situation.

- **The subsidiarity of aid**
  Project support from the CRB does not substitute the obligations for which a State is ultimately responsible. At most it complements these. State institutions are not released from their responsibility to provide social welfare, nor are their duties in this respect undermined.

- **Continuity and sustainability**
  Support from the CRB aims at continuity. Sustainable problem-solving strategies and developments that do not lead to long-term dependence are promoted.

- **Professionalism and transparency**
  The CRB ensures that its plans are implemented with professionalism and that its use of its financial resources is transparent and economical.

- **“Ownership”**
  In terms of “ownership”, lead partners, implementing parties and the beneficiaries make a clearly visible contribution of their own that should be measured not only in material terms.

II  Areas of support and target groups
The following areas and target groups are supported

**Social projects**
- Projects for the co-financing of health and rehabilitation institutions that help families in need, in particular women/mothers and children, to improve their health and social position;
- Projects that embolden women who are disadvantaged or have been threatened with violence to take up their political, economic and social role in society;
- Projects that improve the situation of socially endangered and disadvantaged children and adolescents on an on-going basis through measures for social rehabilitation and economic integration by offering them training and education;
Projects that improve the overarching social, economic and legal conditions in which women and children live.

Emergency and reconstruction aid projects
- Projects in cases of natural catastrophes and/or war that help disadvantaged families or families in need to survive, preserve their health and find shelter;
- Projects that, following emergency situations and catastrophes, support the victims, helping them to get back on their feet socially and economically.

Reconciliation and self-determination projects
- Projects that help to educate disadvantaged families and those in need towards a violence-free, peaceful future, thereby helping to foster acceptance amongst the various population groups.

Projects that are not supported or only supported on an exceptional basis
- Formal schooling projects
- Support for holiday and summer camps
- Projects entailing social welfare, except in emergency situations (natural catastrophes, the turmoil caused by war or civil war and general extreme economic need) can only receive support for limited periods
- Placing funds at the partner’s disposal can only be considered if concrete agreements have been concluded with the project partner about maximum limits for individual projects, the duration and nature of projects, the allocation and accounting procedures and about the participation of the beneficiaries.

III Those entitled to apply
Those entitled to apply are:
- CRB, Caritas Switzerland, German Caritas association in each case for their local partners;
- Local and international organisations that have not formed partnerships with those mentioned above;
- Individuals.

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