

ICCO Alliance

Grant Application

Phase 2

MFS II

(management summary)



edukans



Partner van
ondernemende mensen

**KERK IN
ACTIE**



Zeister Zendingsgenootschap

Prisma 

ICCO Alliance

Grant Application

MFSII

Phase 2

From Aid to Entrepreneurship

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3 Management summary

A Thematic summary by country

For the Contextual Analyses we kindly refer to tab 12, appendix 1.

B Short substantive summary of the program proposal

3.1 FAIR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Introduction

Despite global economic progress, too many people in developing countries do not equally benefit from the resources and wealth that our planet provides. Globalization makes these inequalities more visible and, unfortunately, sharpens these. Small producers, workers and entrepreneurs are increasingly linked to domestic and export markets. They are faced with decreasing prices, increased competition from imported products, bad labor conditions, unfair terms of trade, fast changing market demands and growing claims for quality and quantity standards. The position of women and young people among them is even weaker and they meet even more challenges in marketing their products, generating income and securing their livelihoods. Coping with all this requires new production methods, upgrading and innovation, economies of scale as well as improved management capacities and strengthened bargaining power. The institutional environment in many countries does not sufficiently promote pro-poor inclusive growth to enable or support small producers, workers and micro enterprises with appropriate and inclusive finance, business services, market information, regulations & fair level playing field, training, promotion, etc.

Objectives & brief description of the program

By 2015 strong and vibrant civil society organizations exist which propel sustainable and replicable multi-actor models for fair economic development in 32 countries enabling socio-economic inclusion and empowerment of male and female small producers and workers in sustainable value chains.

FED takes the Value Chain perspective as its central conceptual approach. This means that we look into the socio-economic environment in and around a value chain and focus on sharing costs, values and benefits in a fair, gender sensitive and sustainable way. This approach is matched to the reality of contexts and of markets, as only by working in a market-driven way, rooted in an enabling environment, sustainable and inclusive chains are realized.

The heart of the FED program fits within the MFS2 policy theme of sustainable economic development. The FED program approaches the value chains from three angles, which makes the program a strong partner in linking the relevant stakeholders: strengthening rural entrepreneurship and producer organizations works bottom up from production to demand, inclusive value chain development works top-down from the demand to the production, while supporting financial services are crosscutting. Where possible a regional approach will be applied, as especially challenges in the enabling environment do require a joint broad approach.

The ICCO Alliance has defined 3 specific objectives, which will be worked on in a pro-poor and gender-sensitive way:

- 1 **Strengthened rural entrepreneurship and producer organizations.** By stimulating profitable participation of small producers and entrepreneurs in local and international value chains. This requires a gender sensitive business approach of the local civil society and their capacity to improve skills, mechanisms and resources of the target group in relation to the market.
- 2 **Inclusive value chain development.** Civil society will cooperate efficiently and effectively with the corporate sector (national and international) and governments towards sustainable value chains that work for the poor and include small producers on fair terms. This means that companies and other value chain actors will be accountable for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in their core business and other value chain supporters and influencers will promote a fair and sustainable enabling environment for it.
- 3 **Improved access to suitable and affordable financial services.** Access to meso and micro finance will be improved for small producers, producer organizations and enterprises, which are presently excluded or underserved. Through risk rating mechanisms and risk mitigating instruments (such as guarantees) the IA will stimulate existing (inter)national financial service providers to supply suitable and affordable

financial products to rural agricultural businesses and producer organizations with an outlook on sustainability and significant social and developmental impact (meso finance).

Intervention strategies and program activities

Within a programmatic setting, the different stakeholders determine the pace and the direction of their programmatic collaboration. The contribution of the IA is defined in four roles: Creating (bringing CSOs/other actors together which jointly undertake a problem and facilitate process management); Funding (by financing strategic (temporary) actions, actors and programmatic alliances); Learning & Development (creating an effective learning network and spaces for new solutions of common problems and Linking & Advocating (linking program alliances to relevant (inter)national players and advocating for structural reforms).

To achieve this we adopt the following intervention strategies:

- 1 **Direct poverty reduction:** making the market work more pro-poor by engaging companies in working with small producers (m/f) and social enterprises and engaging social investors and/or commercial banks in providing affordable & suitable business and financial services to value chain actors and MFIs.
- 2 **Strengthening civil society** towards enabling improved capacity in and around value chains and more effective bargaining capacity and an influencing role.
- 3 **Policy influencing**¹: realizing an enabling environment for pro-poor value chain development and inclusive growth

The strategy for the next period is based on monitoring, lessons from the research trajectories and evaluations in the current phase. To achieve the specific objectives the learning capacity of the IA and partners is strengthened by linking, learning and innovation on the following areas (1) the multi-actor approach (distinct roles for public, private and civil society actors); (2) value chain and corporate social responsibility; (3) best practices in rural and value chain finance; (4) scaling up and market based replication; (5) maximizing social, poverty and gender performance and impact

Target groups

The target groups in the country programs are small scale producers and workers (male and female) in rural areas. Ownership of the target group of the FED program is visible at four levels:

- At general level: the FED program is based on the sustainable and profitable actions of the market actors themselves; the FED program will never replace structurally market parties
- At partner level: the target group has influence on the activities and programs of partners by jointly formulating the strategy for developing their value chains;
- At regional level: partners and regional councils of the IA are consulted on IA policies in the early stage of program development, when partners actively participate in selection of value chains as well as selection of producer organizations and market actors;
- At Global level the different actors participating in international networks give input on choices to be made by the IA. The developments within these worldwide networks in relation to specific value chains are leading for the IA agenda setting on its value chain support.

Coherence with other programs

The success of the FED program is dependent on the enabling environment in and around a value chain and as consequence also on the wider social, political and economic context at local, regional or global level. That is why the different programs of the IA mutually depend on and reinforce each. Examples include securing rights to land and water (Conflict Transformation & Democratization program) strengthening sustainable agriculture production with improved access to markets (Food and Nutrition Security program) or investing in functional literacy and vocational training (Basic Education program).

Partners in the program

Partners in the country programs are diverse actors: NGOs, social enterprises, Cooperatives and other Producer Organizations, Micro-Finance Institutions, Network organizations of NGOs, cooperatives or MFIs and financial and non financial Business Service Providers. Furthermore the IA has developed partnerships with private businesses and knowledge institutions which focus on pro-poor inclusion and innovation in value chains or corporate social responsibility. The IA coordinates its program with other development stakeholders such as donors, development organizations and governments. The IA focuses on having a specific added value in making value chains more fair and sustainable because of her (international) position, linkages and learning capacity. The IA has built partnership and cooperation with a range of businesses, knowl-

1 Throughout our MFSII proposal we use both the terms policy influencing and lobby & advocacy

edge organizations, funders etc. IA members involved in the FED program are: ICCO & Kerk in Actie, Terrafina, SharePeople, Yente and ZZg, with different roles to play.

Budget

The total budget for the FED program for the period 2011-2015 is € 159,193,000 (average € 31,838,600 per year) of which € 30,334,000 is own income and € 128,859,000 are MFS II funds applied for.

3.2 FAIRCLIMATE PROGRAM

Introduction

Climate change is considered one of the most important problems of this century. Especially developing countries are severely hit by the consequences of climate change. These consequences are in a wide field: food crops with less or no yield, increased frequency of disasters (floods, droughts). Global warming is caused by developed countries, while the consequences are most difficult to handle in developing countries. The ICCO Alliance (IA) FairClimate program entails a right based approach. The right of every person on earth to use an equal share of the intrinsic capacity of the earth to sequester CO₂ is starting point ('foot-print' approach). The problem of global warming can only be tackled if rich countries reduce their CO₂-emissions substantially (at least 40% in 2020 in relation to 1992) and if they are prepared to substantially contribute to the costs of adaptation to climate change and sustainable development towards a carbon neutral economic growth of developing countries. Rising economies in the South like China, India, Brazil, have a special position in this. Developing countries should be supported in tackling the consequences of climate change.

Objectives & brief description of the program

The main objective of the FairClimate program is to achieve a capacitated civil society network which is able to mobilize international climate finance instruments for poverty alleviation and methodologies for climate adaptation and hold their governments accountable for this in 5 target countries and 13 progressing countries. This leads to pro-poor fair-trade carbon trade that enables funds to be channeled from civil society in the industrialized world to civil society in the developing world, thus rebalancing the current inequality. Additional income from pro-poor carbon trade is used to improve access to renewable energy, support rural sustainable development and alleviate poverty.

FairClimate operates within the IA framework of poverty alleviation, social justice and fair and sustainable development. The FairClimate program is a global program. In its design it builds capacity with networks in civil society in developing countries, facing the consequences of global warming and aiming climate neutral development. The program encourages people in the industrialized countries (especially The Netherlands) and in countries of rapid development (with a possible middle class civil society) to act as global responsible citizens by adopting climate neutral lifestyles, which benefit directly the rural households in developing countries.

The objectives for FairClimate are:

- 1 **Emergence of self-financing networks** of civil society groups in five countries/regions working on mitigation strategies and technology (for example: renewable energy), providing a replicable model for such networks in other regions (civil society building)
- 2 **Successful adaptation of livelihood-options** of target-communities to expected consequences changes in climate, for example through introduction of new cropping patterns (strengthening civil society)
- 3 **Consolidation of regional lobby and advocacy networks** of civil society collaborating on development friendly financial mechanisms (such as CDM, REDD+).
- 4 **Effective commitment** of church organizations and the general public in The Netherlands to climate neutral lifestyles (support to direct poverty alleviation, advocacy)
- 5 **Development of innovative mechanisms** (such as renewable energy source scan, automatic registration of energy use in households) to provide sustainable energy to the rural poor in these target-countries/regions as a contribution to direct poverty alleviation.

Intervention strategies and program activities

A programmatic approach is followed. Mitigation and adaptation, combined with financial instruments are the three central pillars of the program, supported by methodology development. FairClimate adopts the following strategies.

- 1 **Direct poverty reduction:** Gaining access to renewable energy is an important component of the FairClimate Program in the South. Energy is a central factor for development and central to poverty alleviation (UNDEP).² Strategies and approaches are applied for renewable energy interventions.
- 2 **Strengthening civil society:** In mitigation strategies, carbon credit value chains are developed. Via energy efficiency interventions or the replacement of fossil fuels by renewable energy, carbon credits are generated using CDM- methodologies or voluntary standards. Community adaptation plans are developed by farmers through an interactive process by analyzing downscaled climate change and adjusting crops planning. The IA is ideally situated to work closely together on climate neutral lifestyles with local protestant churches. Reduction in CO₂-emissions for church buildings and individual households is stimulated. FairClimate works closely together with the FairClimate Fund which will bring pro poor fair trade carbon credits on the market.
- 3 **Policy influencing**³: Regional lobby networks enable civil society in their countries to understand climate change issues, ask their political leaders to deal with local mitigation and adaptation problems in an inclusive way and to allow a policy climate in which local projects can be financed with pro poor financial instruments.

FairClimate focuses on 2 groups of countries:

- 1 5 target countries (India, Ethiopia, South Africa, Brazil and Burkina Faso), where self-financing networks on climate neutral development will be achieved with the aim to be (close to) financial independence at the end of the business period in 2015.
- 2 14 progressing countries (Ghana, Mali, Liberia, Cameroon, Malawi, Indonesia, PNG, Bangladesh, Kirgizstan, Tajikistan, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru), with the aim that climate networks are effectively working on climate change; addressing climate change problems in mitigation (such as renewable energy, forests, energy efficiency) or adaptation and are on the road to financial independence in 2015. Gender-sensitive capacity building is incorporated in the program at different levels.

Target groups

The main target groups in developing countries are rural poor communities and households⁴ and small farmers⁵. The main target groups in the Netherlands are local church organizations and people who relate to churches.

Coherence with other programs

The FairClimate program links to the other IA programs, and in particular to the Food and Nutrition Security program since investments in increased water storage or enlarged flood protection or forestation directly reduce the vulnerability of farmers and sustain their long-term production and income. Fair Economic Development provides expertise and insights in value chains of products. Lessons learned in this program are applicable to the value chain of carbon credits.

Partners in the program

FairClimate is a collaborative program of the IA and strongly rooted in the protestant church. This is a unique proposition; the program assists the 1780 constituencies of the Protestant churches in the Netherlands, to become climate neutral, through using less energy, using sustainable energy and through compensation in and support of sustainable energy programs in developing countries.

FairClimate collaborates in global networks (e.g. APRODEV, ACT International, World Council of Churches, Climate Action Network) to influence the global political agenda. It enables Southern IA partners and networks to understand, advocate and lobby in their national and in the international arena towards a climate neutral development. In developing countries, FairClimate collaborates with Christian Aid, GTZ, SNV and a wide variety of local NGOs. FairClimate is developing a advisory group of partner organizations for technical assistance, policy advice and collaboration in North and South. Amongst them are TNO, Wageningen University, ECOFYS, ENECO, GreenChoice and Oikos. A special collaborator is the FairClimateFund (FCF), established in 2009. FCF provides an instrument for compensation and uses the market mechanism to fund investment in sustainable development. FCF sells pro-poor fair trade carbon credits, currently as the only carbon trader in the market.

2 UNDP <http://www.undp.org/energy/engmdgtop.htm>

3 Throughout our MFSII proposal we use both the terms policy influencing and lobby & advocacy

4 Rural communities and households with no or limited access to renewable energy sources, which are affordable.

5 Small farmers: with 1-3 hectares of land

The FairClimate program has proved in the past few years to be highly relevant for both people and institutions in the South and the North. The major challenge in the period 2011-2015 will be the up scaling of its activities.

Budget

The total budget for the FairClimate program for the period 2011-2015 is € 32,427,000 (on average € 6,485,000 per year) of which €6,179,000 is own income and € 26,248,000 are MFS II funds applied for.

3.3 CONFLICT TRANSFORMATION & DEMOCRATIZATION PROGRAM

Introduction

Disputes over land and natural resources, exclusion of indigenous communities, making political use of ethnic or religious differences, disregard for human rights and the absence of space and mechanisms for people to voice their concerns are the main ingredients for violent conflict and state fragility. In fragile states institutions of judiciary, the police and government authorities are weak and often plagued by corruption. Atrocities of armed forces or political factions against civil groups often remain unpunished. In other countries with huge differences between rich and poor, pockets of violence and criminality exist. Young people, unemployed and frustrated, in particular are vulnerable. In the growing search for scarce natural resources such as land, water and minerals traditional and indigenous communities are faced with eviction from their land or polluting their environment. Violent conflict, human rights violations and state fragility causes human misery and suffering, the destruction of communities and cripples economic prosperity. The ICCO Alliance supports civil society and faith based organizations to be able to cope with these situations, organize communities and become strong and resilient players in the building of peaceful and just societies.

Objectives & brief description of the program

The ICCO Alliance believes that strong civil society and faith based organizations are key players in creating sustainable conditions for peace with justice, in creating greater accountability within states and societies and in creating respect for human rights standards. The Conflict Transformation & Democratization program therefore has the following objective:

In 2015 civil society organizations and coalitions in 31 countries⁶ are effectively engaged in processes building peaceful nation-states, hold governments accountable and strengthen the voice and power of citizens. By 2015, civil society coalitions are on their way towards financial independence or have reached this stage.

The ICCO Alliance facilitates its partners to address immediate concerns of affected communities, to build up resilience in these communities and to address the root causes of conflict, of exclusion of communities and of a lack of voice. Based on the vision of the ICCO-Alliance and on the strengths and weaknesses, specific result-oriented objectives of the Conflict Transformation and Democratization program are:

- 1 ICCO Alliance partners and program coalitions have created in 15 countries sustainable conditions for peace with justice;
- 2 In 8 countries, initiatives of ICCO Alliance partners have resulted in improved legislation and access to the rule of law. In 11 countries, marginalized communities have been successful in exercising their right to land;
- 3 In 20 cases initiatives of ICCO Alliance partners have resulted in greater levels of accountability of state actors and in lower levels of corruption. In 6 countries marginalized communities have influenced policies of governments and international corporations on natural resources.

Contribution to MFS objective 'strengthening civil society'

The ICCO alliance partner portfolio shows various levels of knowledge, experience and networking. In a number of countries, particularly in fragile states, civil society organizations and partners are able to address the immediate concerns but they lack the skills and unified power to address the long-term structural causes. The ICCO Alliance strengthens the organizational and institutional capacity of individual partners. It supports the creation of strong program coalitions for conflict transformation and/or human rights to overcome the problems of a weak and divided society. By making use of a linking and learning network, civil society and faith based organizations are supported in the exchange of knowledge and experience in countries, in their region and worldwide. Special attention is given in the program to the role of girls and women in conflict transformation and to the facilitation and support of human rights defenders networks.

6 Burundi, DR Congo, Sudan, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Zimbabwe, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Timor Leste, Guatemala, Colombia, Haiti, South Africa, Indonesia, Vietnam, India, El Salvador, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, Brazil, Ecuador, Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Cambodia, Nepal, Bolivia, Nicaragua

Intervention strategies and program activities

The ICCO Alliance uses the programmatic approach and building program coalitions as its main overarching strategy. This strategy brings together the most essential stakeholders with a common interest in conflict transformation and democratization. The programmatic approach links the three intervention strategies:

- 1 **Direct poverty alleviation:** The ICCO Alliance brings civil society and faith based organizations together in coalitions that are able to address the immediate needs and concerns of people in a comprehensive way. This is done for example by: Human rights organizations monitoring the situation, lawyers organizations providing legal aid, organizations helping women traumatized by sexual violence and organizations helping refugees and Internally Displaced Persons to return to their communities. The first entry point of the CT&D program is often through other programs of the IA such as on food security.
- 2 **Civil society development:** The ICCO Alliance supports partner coalitions to build strong community based organizations resilient to cope with conflict and fragility. Building up of power to create change is done within communities and in the program coalitions itself. Relations are built with other actors in society, with the corporate sector and with the government to involve them in the change process. Special attention goes to the role of faith based organizations as their leaders carry great moral power necessary to create change.
- 3 **Policy influencing**⁷: At macro level the partners and coalitions supported by the ICCO Alliance work at the more structural causes: reform of legislation, strengthening mechanisms for the freedom of press, accountability and anti-corruption, lobbying at UN human rights bodies and monitoring and influencing state policies and budgets.

Target groups

The ICCO Alliance (partners) focus on the following target groups:

- Communities affected by ethnic conflicts, refugees and Internally Displaced Persons;
- Marginalized communities in particular indigenous communities, ethnic and minority groups;
- Landless people, people with no secure title deeds to land and other people threatened by eviction;
- Victims of human rights violations and human right defenders at risk.

Special attention is given to young people and women who are most vulnerable to violence and to rural communities usually far from public and political attention.

Coherence with other programmes

Given the strong relation between violent conflict and state fragility, the exclusion of particular communities from basic services, access to land and food insecurity, and the lack of economic development, the CT&D program has a strong interaction with other programs of the ICCO Alliance. The CT&D program contributes to reach the objectives of the programs on Food & Nutrition security, on Fair Economic Development and on the programs of Basic Education and Health & HIV/AIDS. In conflict or fragile countries these programs vice versa also serve as important elements in the strategy of conflict transformation.

Partners in the program

a. Partners in the South

The ICCO Alliance works with a broad range of partners in the 31 countries where the CT&D program is implemented. Partners include Human Rights NGOs, Faith Based Organizations, Community Based Organizations, lawyers and legal aid organizations, women organizations, platforms and networks. Partners of the ICCO Alliance are selected for their community driven approach which is a strong precondition for creating ownership and sustainability. Since 2006 a number of program coalitions have been created and supported which are on their way of becoming mature and independent. In 2011-2015 these will be further strengthened while new coalitions will be established and supported on their way to independence.

b. Members of the ICCO Alliance Conflict Transformation and Democratization Program

The Conflict Transformation & Democratization program is carried out by two members of the IA: ICCO & Kerk in Actie. Through the interaction with other programs ICCO & Kerk in Actie cooperate with other members of the alliance, especially Edukans and Prisma.

Budget

The total budget for the CT&D program for the period 2011-2015 is € 159,180,000 (on average €31,836 million per year) of which € 30,332 million is own income and € 128,848,000 are MFS II funds applied for.

⁷ Throughout our MFSII proposal we use both the terms policy influencing and lobby & advocacy

3.4 BASIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

Introduction

Talent is universal; opportunity is not. Despite important progress over the past decade, 75 million children still do not have access to schools. Almost 800 million people above age 15 are not able to read and write. Many children that are enrolled in schools are facing education of low quality and do not complete school. The context analyses for the 17 countries⁸ (see chapter 4) in which the ICCO alliance (IA) carries out the Basic Education Program, describe the opportunities and weaknesses of civil society organizations and IA partners active in the education sector. The IA strengthens capacities of partners and improves current weaknesses such as insufficient co-operation, lack of strategic vision on scaling-up successful methodologies and lack of gender mainstreaming.

Objectives & brief description of the program

The IA believes that strong civil society organizations (CSOs) are needed to ensure the fulfillment of the EFA goals. The Basic Education program therefore has the following overall objective:

In 2015 CSOs and networks in 17 countries are effectively able to co-operate with governments, hold them accountable for delivering equal learning opportunities and strengthen the claim-making power of citizens to have their right to education fulfilled.

By 2015, CSOs are on their way towards financial independence or have reached this stage.

The IA facilitates its partners to tackle the root causes of poverty, inequality and injustice, particularly those partners engaged in the education sector. Specific result-oriented objectives are:

- 1 IA partners ensure achievement of enhanced quality and relevance of education in 17 countries – pupils, particularly girls, have higher completion rates and show better learning outcomes,
- 2 IA partners ensure increased and equitable access to education in 17 countries – children, youth and adults that are excluded from learning opportunities enroll in primary education, vocational and skills training and functional literacy courses (250,000 participants⁹; at least 45% are girls and women).

Contribution to MFS objective ‘strengthening civil society’

The IA supports partners, active in the education sector, to become strong and credible players in enhancing equitable access to and quality of education for all. Partners form program coalitions and build alliances to hold governments accountable for delivering equal learning opportunities. At school level they support the training of PTA’s, SMC’s, teachers and headmasters to improve school management and teaching and learning processes. At district and national level partners participate in consultative meetings where issues are discussed related to the fulfillment of the EFA goals. They ensure that education systems are more effective, leading to the achievement of the Education for All.

Intervention strategies and program activities

The IA uses the Programmatic Approach as its main overarching strategy. This strategy brings together the most essential stakeholders with a common interest in reforming their sector in a program coalition. The Programmatic Approach links the three intervention strategies:

- 1 **Direct poverty alleviation:** The IA supports partners in developing ideas and methodologies that improve equal access to and/or relevance of education. Activities include teacher training, development of learning materials (e.g. with regards to SRHR), establishment of conducive methods to keep girls in school and financing of flexible delivery modes for marginalized groups.
- 2 **Civil society development:** The IA enables CSOs to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of education in close collaboration with governments and other civil society actors. Linking & learning and networking are promoted within program coalitions and between countries. Activities include e.g. training of School Management Committees and Parent Teacher Associations, organizational assessments, learning tours and peer reviews.
- 3 **Policy influencing¹⁰:** The IA supports partners and their target groups to lobby and advocate for a more effective education system. At regional and national level IA partners are stimulated and supported to develop common strategies and join forces to make their voice heard in policy debates e.g. by participating in the national coalitions of the Global Campaign for Education. Activities include the development and consolidation of strong networks, public expenditure tracking surveys on basic education, performance monitoring and awareness raising on the right to education.

8 Fast track MDG countries: Angola, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Senegal, Uganda; Fragile countries: DR Congo and Sudan; Rapid development countries: India, Indonesia, Peru, Surinam.

9 It concerns participants from excluded groups, living in underserved areas. It is increasingly difficult to reach those marginalized groups. Estimations are based on recent monitoring data.

10 Throughout our MFSII proposal we use both the terms policy influencing and lobby & advocacy

Target groups

IA partners focus on the following target groups:

- children, excluded from or dropping out of school
- children in school that receive low quality education and having a high risk to drop-out
- youth dropped out of school
- illiterate young people and adults

Special attention is given to marginalized groups – such as girls and women, pastoralists in Eastern Africa, indigenous people in the Andes region, adivasi and dalits in India or people living with disabilities, since they are more often excluded from education of good quality.

Coherence with other programs

Education is a precondition for achieving objectives in other IA programmes. Equal opportunities to good education are a keystone to build democracies, and foster peaceful societies. Education empowers individuals, especially girls and women, gives them voice, unlocks their potential and opens pathways to self-reliance. At country level coherence is established between programs. Examples include carrying out accountability studies (in co-operation with Conflict Transformation & Democratization Program), support to Technical and Vocational Education and Training activities (in co-operation with the Fair Economic Development Program) and the development of evidence-based sexuality education in Eastern Africa (in co-operation with the Basic Health and HIV/AIDS program as well as with the SRHR Alliance).

Partners in the program

a. Partners in the South

The IA works with a broad range of partners in carrying out the education program. Main partners are CSOs in the 17 selected countries. Partners include NGOs, Faith Based Organizations, Community Based Organizations, platforms and networks. The IA (coalitions) collaborates with knowledge institutions, embassies and other INGOs to establish and consolidate a powerful force.

b. Members of the ICCO Alliance Basic Education Program

Within the IA Edukans, ICCO & Kerk in Actie, Prisma and ZZg are active in the program of Basic Education. Edukans coordinates the Basic Education program. It leads the Education Program Group in which each alliance member is represented.

Budget

The total budget for the BE program for the period 2011-2015 is: €108,980,000 (on average €21,796,000 per year) of which €20,766,000 is own income and €88,214,000 are MFS II funds applied for.

3.5 BASIC HEALTH & HIV/AIDS PROGRAM

Introduction

The last decade showed important improvements in the general health status of people worldwide. However, not everybody has profited equally. Due to weak and non-available or non-accessible health systems inequalities in health outcomes, in access to care and in what people have to pay for care have grown despite worldwide commitments such as MDGs 4, 5 and 6.¹¹ The ICCO Alliance (IA) believes that strong civil society organizations (CSOs) are needed to ensure the fulfillment of the right to health. This is based on lessons learnt in previous years like the lesson that community involvement is crucial for positive change, as is the involvement of religious leaders to promote basic care, address gender issues, etc.

Objectives & brief description of the program

The IA has therefore defined the following overall objective for the Basic Health & HIV/AIDS (BH&H/A) program:

In 2015 civil society in 22 countries¹² is able to and takes its responsibility in ensuring the realization of equal accessible and resilient health systems¹³ in rural areas, particularly for poor people, vulnerable to and living with HIV and/or with disabilities.

11 WHO, World Health Report 2008, <http://www.who.int/whr/2008/en/index.html>

12 Fast track MDG countries: Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya, Angola, Cambodia, Nepal, Malawi, Nicaragua and Bolivia; Fragile countries: Afghanistan, Haiti, Southern Sudan, DR Congo, Zimbabwe and Colombia; Rapid development countries: India, Indonesia (Papua) and South Africa, and Brazil

13 According to the WHO (http://www.who.int/topics/health_systems/en/) a health system is the sum total of all the organizations, institutions and resources whose primary purpose is to improve the overall health of the population. The four most essential functions

The IA facilitates its partners to find solutions to tackle the root causes and challenges at micro, meso and macro level including the alleviation of poverty, inequality and injustice. They play a key role in strengthening the claim making power of our target groups, hold governments accountable to the commitments made and co-operate with the government to achieve the right to health. This leads to the following specific result-oriented objectives for 2015 (in 22 countries):

- 1 Well-established accountability mechanisms in which civil society effectively calls the health system to account for the delivery of equally accessible basic health care;
- 2 Capacitated change agents through which civil society promotes effective prevention of SRH problems, HIV transmission and disabilities;
- 3 Well-designed and established accessible, affordable and sustainable health financing schemes including the most vulnerable;
- 4 Well-established HRH policies, strategies & activities that sustain the quality, accessibility and sustainability of the health system through civil society participation.

Contribution to MFS objective 'strengthening civil society'

The Basic Health & HIV/AIDS program of the IA works with existing structures and focuses on strengthening civil society in such a way that these structures can take on their responsibility in realizing equal access to quality basic health care, provided by a resilient health system. This is being done by holding relevant stakeholders like governments accountable. We are in a strong position to do so by having:

- 1 Close working relation and access to (inter)national FBOs as well as local churches which reinforce each other in their role as change agents, particular at local level as they are well embedded in the communities or part of the communities.
- 2 Partners who play a substantial role in health service provision, in complementarity to government health services. They are therefore in a position to influence national policies. At the same time they are experimenting with new approaches that contribute to sustainable, equitable health care. Such innovations could be rolled out at national level.
- 3 Earlier experience in working towards a health system that is able to structurally include excluded groups.

In this way it contributes to the overall goal of MFS II to contribute to the strengthening of capacities of the civil society in the South as a corner stone for structural poverty reduction.

Intervention strategies and program activities

The IA uses the Programmatic Approach as its main overarching strategy. It brings together the most essential stakeholders with a common interest in a programmatic coalition. By joining their skills and capacities, resources and networks they are able to build sufficient power and capacity to address the structural causes that lay underneath poverty and exclusion at all levels.

The overarching strategy of programmatic working links the three intervention strategies to improve the health sector in the 22 countries targeted:

- 1 **Direct poverty alleviation:** The IA supports partners in developing methodologies to improve health systems and increase access to health care. This includes the establishment of alternative sustainable health financing systems, enabling improved access to basic health care for the poor by assuring participation, addressing the serious lack of sufficient qualified health staff and integration of HIV & SRH services and to make these services accessible for a larger audience, e.g. young people.
- 2 **Civil society development:** The IA enables CSOs to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the health sector in close collaboration with governments and other civil society actors. The main focus is on empowerment (awareness, knowledge, skills), organizing and/or linking with others, mobilizing change agents, and HIV and disability mainstreaming. The IA puts specific emphasis on strengthening FBOs and church leaders. They are key actors in addressing health issues like HIV/AIDS, preventable disability, stigma & discrimination, and gender based violence, but often lack proper knowledge to support their followers to make informed choices about their health.¹⁴ Gender mainstreaming remains an important strategy in order to assure equal access and involvement of both genders in the programs.
- 3 **Policy influencing**¹⁵: The IA supports partners to lobby and advocate for equitable access to basic health care for all. The IA stimulates partners to understand budget allocation at national levels, to demand accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of the government and to advocate for practical solutions such

of a health system are service provision, resource generation, financing and stewardship. These functions are delivered by public, private (profit /not for profit), traditional and informal sectors.

14 Mary K. Burket (2006) 'Advancing Reproductive Health and Family Planning through Religious Leaders and Faith Based Organisations'. Pathfinder International.

15 Throughout our MFSII proposal we use both the terms policy influencing and lobby & advocacy

as cost recovery schemes that do contribute to accessible basic health care for most vulnerable like community based insurances schemes.

Target groups

For the IA working towards equal access for all means working with and for those who do not have, or have insufficient access to basic quality health care services. These people are often the same as those who are vulnerable to poor health. Most vulnerable people are those who are marginalized and/or stigmatized either due to their position in society (class, race, gender), due to a disease, HIV-infection, or disability or due to non compliance with governing moral standards (e.g. sexually active youth, unmarried pregnant girls, sex workers). Women within these groups are double vulnerable.

Coherence with other programs

Apart from health care, other social determinants influence people's health status. The health program is therefore fine-tuned and aligned with other IA programs, reflecting our comprehensive and holistic view of health. More specifically, the following links are identified:

- **Food and Nutrition Security:** Both for pregnant women, people living with HIV and other vulnerable groups the importance of good nutrition is evident. Linkages are therefore further developed e.g. in countries programs in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Uganda and South Africa;
- **Basic Education:** The IA participates in Educaids, a network working in the field of education and SRHR and HIV/AIDS. In Western Africa, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Malawi, the IA works towards frameworks for effective communication and interventions, based on the needs of young people and the integration of SRHR in curricula and extracurricular activities;
- **Conflict Transformation & Democratization:** In (post) conflict areas, Basic Health & HIV/AIDS is a major intervention when it comes to both service delivery as well as empowerment of the target groups. The-matically there are links on issues like sexual violence, e.g. in DR Congo and South Africa. Knowledge and experience are exchanged;
- **Fair Economic Development (FED):** Activities in the area of health insurance and micro insurances benefit from FED expertise. For example, possibilities of involving expertise of Achmea/Eureka in the Health Insurance programs are explored.

IA members are also involved in the WASH alliance that strives for improvement in access to clean water & sanitation. Education about water and sanitation is part of capacity building of CBOs like Village Health Teams in e.g. Uganda, Burkina Faso and Ethiopia.

Partners in the program

The IA will work in close collaboration with country or regional alliances that already have been established or are being developed. Within country programs different stakeholders are working towards one program objective. These coalitions consist of stakeholders like civil society organizations (e.g. churches and FBOs), client representations, knowledge institutes and governmental organizations. To assure good cooperation with other donor organizations collaboration is sought locally, particularly with Dutch development organizations like Cordaid, embassies and APRODEV organizations.

Within the IA, members Prisma, ICCO & Kerk in Actie are active in the Basic Health & HIV/AIDS program. Prisma is well-positioned to coordinate the BH&H/A program. Prisma staff is specialized and educated in quality basic health care, health insurance, strengthening CSOs, disability and SRHR (incl. HIV) and experienced in implementation in remote areas. Prisma has a large network of CSOs and mainly FBOs that are well motivated and strongly connected and accountable to their constituencies. ICCO & Kerk in Actie staff is particularly equipped in addressing issues such as gender mainstreaming and working on equality, Human Resources for Health, mainstreaming of HIV, integration of HIV and SRHR and gender based and domestic violence. Both members are involved in monitoring, supervising and capacity development of partners and are participating in the already existing IA Coordination Group. The Regional Councils give input at strategic level.

Budget

The total budget for the BH&H/A program for the period 2011-2015 is: € 94,230,000 (on average € 18,846,000 per year), of which € 17,956,000 is own income and € 76,274,000 are MFS II funds applied for.

3.6 FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY PROGRAM

Introduction

The international community committed itself to halving the number of hungry people by 2015: Millennium Development Goal 1 defines that target. That target no longer seems attainable. At the moment more than one billion people worldwide face hunger, the majority in rural areas and, - directly or indirectly-, dependent on agriculture. These people face a range of problems that prevent them from producing or buying sufficient adequate food and utilize it in a proper way. At micro level the main problems are: inefficient farming systems and insufficient access to productive resources, lack of income generating opportunities and lack of knowledge about good nutrition or unhealthy practices. At meso level often lack of support for small holders, soil degradation, and the position of women in society contribute to the problems at micro level. At macro level climate change and conflicts aggravates the risks for smallholders, and marginalization of some groups in society negatively influence food and nutrition security.

Objectives & brief description of the program

The objective of the IA Food and Nutrition Security Program (FNS) in line with this trend is: to contribute significantly to the emergence of strong and competent networks of CSOs committed to strengthening the claim-making capabilities of target-groups and develop innovative policy-proposals aimed at influencing public policies to realize the Right to Food.

The food and nutrition program embraces the Right to Food as the central concept and applies a right based approach to improve food and nutrition security for all.

Contribution to MFS objective “strengthening civil society”

Civil society strengthening is central to the FNS program, contributing also to poverty alleviation and lobby and advocacy. Furthermore two of the priority themes in Dutch development policy are covered in the food and nutrition program: Sustainable economic development and human rights (in this case: Economic and Social Rights: Right to Food). Sustainable economic development has a clear link with food and nutrition security as long as certain preconditions are met, such as explicit attention for women and their role in income generation as well as intra household decision taking. Whereas the Right to Food is the central tool to improve food and nutrition security, by holding governments as primary duty bearers accountable and working from the strength and dignity of target groups to take their life into their own hands. The FNS program also links with the MFS2 areas of policy intensification: Growth and Distribution of resources: Growth is related to the (economic) opportunities this program creates with smallholders and distribution is related to equal access to and control over productive resources, such as water and land.

Intervention strategies and program activities

Within a programmatic setting, the different stakeholders determine the pace and the direction of their programmatic collaboration. The contribution of the IA is defined in four roles: Creating (bringing CSOs/other actors together which jointly undertake a problem and facilitate process management); Funding (by financing strategic (temporary) actions, actors and programmatic alliances; Learning & Development (creating an effective learning network and spaces for new solutions of common problems and Linking & Advocating (linking program alliances to relevant (inter)national players and advocating for structural reforms).

The IA works in 21 countries¹⁶ to improve FNS. To achieve this we adopt the following intervention strategies:

- 1 **Direct poverty alleviation:** Strengthening local and resilient food systems is central to this strategy. Food systems include all processes involved in feeding people: From production to marketing and consumption and involves actors in all these processes. The DPA strategy is therefore divided into activities that improve farming systems and techniques, income generating activities including marketing, nutrition activities and activities that strengthen resilience against external shocks (disaster risk reduction, DRR).
- 2 **Civil society strengthening:** In a context a renewed attention for food and nutrition security by governments, international agencies and private sector a CS that takes a pro-active role in national multi stakeholder FNS alliances is essential to ensure that the voice of target groups are heard by policy makers and other actors. Moreover a strengthened CS contributes to better and sustainable results in the two

¹⁶ Fast track MDG countries: Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, India, Madagascar, Mali, Nepal; Uganda; Fragile countries: Afghanistan, DR Congo, Haiti, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sudan; Rapid development countries: Indonesia, Malawi, Paraguay, Peru, South Africa

other implementation strategies: Direct poverty alleviation and Lobby and Advocacy. The strategies leading to the CS objective take place at two levels: target group level and level of FNS alliance in countries. Activities are for example the formation and strengthening of (self help) community groups. At FNS alliance level: strengthening alliances in joint FNS analysis and planning. Capacity building as a central strategy takes place at both levels, for example training about the use of the Right to Food as a monitoring instrument.

- 3 **Policy influencing**¹⁷: At country level FNS alliances have developed policy proposals for improvement of food and nutrition security of IA target groups and hold governments accountable for the progressive realization of the Right to Food. Access to productive resources such as water and land for, as well as coherent and comprehensive policies and their implementation are key areas of (lobby) concern.

Target groups

The FNS program strengthens community (self help) groups, with equal participation of diverse interest groups, such as men, women and youth. Target households are especially small holders and female farmers, ethnic minorities and resettled IDPs (returnees).

Coherence with other programs

Food is not the only basic need of the target groups of the FNS program. In order to be really food secure farmers need to produce not only for consumption, but also for the market to ensure income for other basic needs. From the other side economic development following (micro) credit provision, can enhance food security, especially when aimed at women. In several countries (e.g. Benin) the link with Fair Economic Development program is sought and strengthened. The link with the Conflict Transformation & Democratization program is equally important in food security programs, for example where the IA strengthens the voice of target groups with policy makers and where the IA strives for inclusive policies that take the rights of target groups into account. Internally displaced people, one of the specific target groups of the program, are often part of conflict transformation activities of the IA. FNS programs must be “climate proof” and must be designed in such a way that climate change is taken into account. Therefore climate adaptation is mainstreamed in the FNS program, in those countries where agriculture is the main intervention. Basic Health & HIV/AIDS program: in order to improve nutritional situation, especially of children and women, nutrition education is not sufficient. Mother and child care, as well as basic health care are important. In several countries where the BH&H/A program is also implemented collaboration and alignment is ensured (e.g. Ethiopia). Moreover alignment with drinking water and sanitation programs (WASH alliance) is sought (e.g. in Nepal and Bangladesh) to enhance positive nutritional outcomes.

Partners in the program

In the south the IA works together with multi actor FNS alliances, bringing together NGOs, CBOs and FBOs but explicitly linking and aligning with governments, private sector, UN agencies and knowledge centers. Sometimes these actors are part of the alliances, sometimes they join the alliances on an ad hoc basis to contribute to a specific activity.

The IA members that jointly work on FNS in the North are: ICCO & Kerk in Actie and Prisma. ICCO & Kerk in Actie already joined programs in 2007, which has led to more substantial and coherent FNS programs. Prisma joins the program in 2011. Apart from specific knowledge in DRR strategies, Prisma members also bring in their network of CBOs and FBOs, where ICCO & Kerk in Actie mainly works with larger NGOs. The southern networks of the IA members are therefore complementary.

Budget

The total budget for the FNS program for the period 2011-2015 is: € 102,300,000 (on average € 20.640.000 per year) of which 19,493,000 is own income and € 82,807,000 are MFS II funds applied for.

17 Throughout our MFSII proposal we use both the terms policy influencing and lobby & advocacy