

### VENRO-WORKING PAPER NO. 17

# Linking relief, rehabilitation and development

Approaches and financing instruments to improve the transition between relief, rehabilitation and development co-operation

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VENRO is the Association of development non-governmental organisations (NGOs) operating in the area of development. It comprises around 100 German NGOs working as executing agencies of private or church development co-operation, emergency relief and educational, public relations and lobbying activities relating to development.

This policy paper was compiled in the framework of the VENRO Working Group Humanitarian Aid, in which around 20 organisations active in the field of emergency and disaster relief co-operate.

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#### 1. Introduction

The debate on linking up relief, rehabilitation and development<sup>1</sup> was introduced in specialist literature in the late 1980s. Terms used in this debate and coming mainly from the Anglo-American language area such as "grey zone", "developmental relief", "continuum", "humanitarian plus" or "contiguum" all refer to linking up short-term relief with long-term development measures. Since the EU Commission submitted a report to the European Parliament titled "Linking relief, rehabilitation and development" (LRRD) in 1996, the debate has mainly been held under the catchword LRRD. This term implies the model notion of a fluid transition from relief to rehabilitation and then on to development co-operation. Ideally, the conceptual foundations for self-supporting, sustainable development would be laid in the relief projects. Development co-operation, on its part, should contribute to reducing vulnerability to disasters, mitigating the impact of disasters and enabling people to engage in self-help in disaster situations. The EU Commission sums up the advantages of LRRD as follows: "Better 'development' can reduce the need for emergency relief; better 'relief' can contribute to development; and better 'rehabilitation' can ease the transition between the two" (European Commission 1996:iii).

In an initial conceptual approximation, relief can be understood as aid addressing the victims of crises and disasters and aimed at saving lives and mitigating human suffering (VENRO 2003:3). In the rehabilitation phase, the focus is above all on restoring social and political stability in the countries affected by crises or disasters and on securing the livelihoods of the people affected in the medium term. Unlike relief and medium-term rehabilitation, the goal of sustainable development co-operation is to improve living conditions in the long run through co-operation oriented on promoting development among the partners. While relief, in accordance with the humanitarian principles, is performed independently of the victims' ethnic, religious and political affiliations and therefore solely in relation to the level of need, development co-operation measures can only set in successfully if favourable framework conditions for development are in place, such as stable economic policy conditions, the rule of the law, government action oriented on development, etc.. These different objectives point to an important problem in implementing the LRRD approach: in terms of concepts and operations, relief, rehabilitation and development co-operation are guided by their own subject requirements and quality standards and therefore cannot be linked a priori without further considerations being made. In some areas of assignment in which relief and development co-operation are carried out in parallel, relations between these areas may be tense, e.g. if there is a threat of famine and food aid has to be provided from outside from a humanitarian angle while from a development angle the local markets must not be destroyed through food imports.

Initial practical experience with how the different approaches in relief, rehabilitation and development co-operation could be linked up in a sensible manner is available but is as yet in its infancy. It is mainly non-governmental organisations (NROs) that apply the LRRD concept and have gathered experience in the implementation of corresponding project measures. Unfortunately, financing projects with the LRRD approach via public budget funding is complicated or even prevented through the splitting up of budgets into different budget lines. The volume of the individual relevant lines in the Federal Budget as well as the provisions belonging to them in accordance with the Federal Budget regulations (fiscal-equal-to-calendar-year principle) are not suited to promote the LRRD approach. This is why the Working Paper on hand is conceived both as a contribution to the debate among specialists against the background of operative experience with the LRRD approach and with a view to identifying and clarifying the deficits in institutional financing of LRRD by the German Federal Government's existing financing instruments.

In the first step, this Working Paper summarises the conceptual debate on the topic of "Linking relief, rehabilitation and development" and then describes experiences made by German NGOs with implementing this approach. Subsequently, the Working Paper analyses the institutional financing of LRRD and concludes with political demands on the Federal Government.

- Humanitarian aid has a wider remit than pure relief, for in chronic crisis situations, humanitarian aid measures may also last for years, or in the wake of natural disasters, they may evolve into the area of rehabilitation. Relief and emergency aid will be used synonymously in the following.
  - The humanitarian aid organisations organised in VENRO apply different approaches according to their mandate that range from pure relief to development-oriented humanitarian aid.

# 2. On the current status of the conceptual debate on the issue of "Linking relief, rehabilitation and development"

Sustainable development co-operation and relief need not be at odds with one another. A number of working approaches to promote the sustainability of project measures also exist in humanitarian aid, which is commonly held to feature short-term measures. The VENRO Working Paper of 1999 titled "Sustainability in humanitarian aid" (VENRO 1999:6) points to the following approaches to "sustainable" humanitarian aid:

- ••• humanitarian aid that is guided in principle by development as a basis for a longer term development process;
- ••• promoting or maintaining self-organisation among the population affected;
- ••• promoting people's participation in political, social and economic processes.

In turn, setting out from humanitarian aid, it is possible to reduce the threat to and vulnerability of potentially affected people through disaster prevention in development cooperation. For example, disaster prevention projects add to securing the success of sustainable development in the long run. The appropriateness of activities to the given context and hence, if necessary, transition from the relief to the rehabilitation and development co-operation phase can be described as a quality criterion (cf. VENRO 2005:11pp.).

In view of what is ideally a fluid transition from relief to rehabilitation and development co-operation, it appears justified to describe the respective phases, methodical approaches and terminologies involved. In acute events, such as natural disasters or refugee movement, the immediate goal of relief is to secure survival and provide those affected with the most vital support as quickly as possible. Salvage and rescue, shelter, protection, food aid, water supply and emergency medical care are of top priority. This stage of relief may last for a couple of weeks up to several months, and even longer in the case of what are referred to as chronic crises. Relief features a high level of improvisation and the need to make decisions on the basis of what is partly incomplete information and swiftly initiate corresponding project measures. As a rule, this is to the detriment of project planning but must not be used as an excuse not to make a needs assessment and do the corresponding project planning. In principle, participation and other elements of sustainable humanitarian aid are also feasible in the first stages of relief (cf. VENRO 1999).

Just a few weeks after the acute event and still in the stage of relief, rehabilitation aspects have to be addressed in further planning. The rehabilitation phase, which often

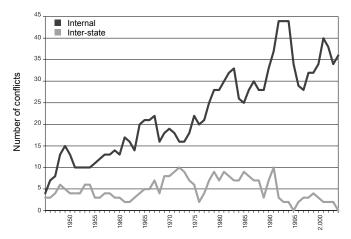
already begins while relief measures to save human lives are still in progress, covers a period of one to several years and features the active integration of local partners and the local officials into the entire planning and decision-making process (participation). At this stage, the needs and situation analyses are far more detailed and also consider possible negative impacts of aid measures. Components and targets of development co-operation, which sets in at a later stage, are already integrated in the rehabilitation phase. This approach enables an early contribution to the measure's sustainability. By training local specialists and by supporting the local structures in accordance with the situation, self-help capacities can be boosted and the population's vulnerability to crises and disasters can be reduced. The demand to integrate aspects of rehabilitation into the planning of aid measures at an early stage in particular presupposes that in addition to having competency and experience in humanitarian aid, the aid organisations are also familiar with and able to apply methods and objectives of rehabilitation and development co-operation. This is aimed at ensuring that a holistic restoring of humane living conditions is swiftly attained for the people affected. In addition, of course, further quality standards such as conflict and gender sensitivity have to be considered in project planning for relief, rehabilitation and development measures.

# 2.1 From the "relief – development" continuum to the contiguum in humanitarian aid

Given the increasing numbers of famines and natural disasters, especially in Africa, the insight asserted itself in development co-operation in the 1980s that the separate treatment of relief, rehabilitation and development aid had to be overcome. At the time, the development experts were still setting out from the assumption that humanitarian aid only needed to be offered in emergency situations and that one would subsequently continue with development co-operation. Towards the end of the 1980s, in view of the increasing number of internal violent conflicts, the United Nations suggested that humanitarian aid, rehabilitation and development co-operation be organised in temporal sequence.

The model referred to as the "relief – development" continuum describes how rehabilitation sets in after the relief phase, to be followed by classic development co-operation. Like in a relay race, the actors responsible for the respective phase enter and leave the pitch, handing on responsibility to the organisation responsible for the next phase (German Agro Action – GAA 2003:11). However, experience gathered by NGOs in project activities in Angola, Somalia or in Sudan

#### Ongoing internal and inter-state high-intensity conflicts 1945 to 2005



Source: Heidelberger Institut für internationale Konfliktforschung, Konfliktbarometer 2005, http://www.hiik.de

showed that, in many cases, a linear model is unpractical in civil war regions and that short-term and long-term aid belong together: "Whereas food is still being distributed among refugees in one region of a country and mines render large parts of the area impassable, elsewhere, already working village communities can be supported with micro-credits and agricultural extension services, or new schools can be built" (Solari and Schöninger 2005:47 - translated by MG). The concept of the contiguum was developed to describe this state of affairs, i.e. a range of simultaneous measures that have to be linked. "The contiguum approach is an attempt to satisfy acute needs and simultaneously create structures that make the people affected less vulnerable to emergency situations and help them prevent future crises" (Donner 2004:237 - translated by MG). In other words, in organising and implementing humanitarian aid, the people affected by a crisis or disaster have to be regarded as actors in "help towards self-help" or be brought into a position to perform as such actors as quickly as possible. Especially in crisis regions such as Somalia or Afghanistan, the parallelism of relief, rehabilitation and development co-operation has confronted aid organisations with considerable conceptual and operative challenges.

The shift from the continuum to the contiguum strategy is also reflected in the two EU Commission statements on LRRD of 1996 and 2001. Whereas the 1996 statements had still been based on the continuum model, the 2001 statement already set out from the contiguum model. However, in its 2001 statement, the EU Commission also noted that the decision-making processes needed to be speeded up and partners had to be determined to implement the measures and had to be provided with the corresponding financial resources in order to ensure a successful implementation of the LRRD approach. In a December 2001 resolution, the European Parliament underlined this criticism: "EU relief efforts should reinforce development, or at least not under-

mine it, and, vice-versa, development efforts should prepare people and countries to better withstand disasters and emergencies".

#### 2.2 | Changing framework conditions in humanitarian aid

Since the end of the East-West conflict, the foreign and security policy framework conditions for humanitarian aid and development co-operation have seen considerable changes. As a result of the de-ideologisation of many inter-state conflicts, a number of internal conflicts broke out, such as those in Bosnia, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone (VENRO 2003:6). At the same time, especially in the context of armed conflicts, many crises have become far more complex. Chronic or complex crises feature the interaction of economic, ecological and political crisis factors and the combination of hunger, violence and displacement, and they complicate adequate response options on the part of the international community as well as the aid organisations. The consequence of this is increasing confusion regarding the political framework conditions in which aid is performed at local level which from case to case will raise very different demands on the respective project concepts.

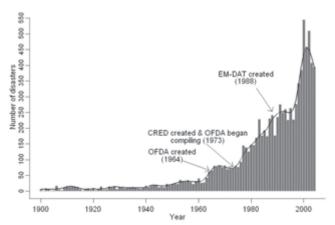
The political framework conditions saw a further shift with the terrorist attacks of September 2001. The 11th September initially brought about a focus on security (defined in military terms) as the central reference point for international politics. Since then, development politics has been faced with the increasing threat of becoming "embedded" in security policy considerations. The European Security Strategy of December 2003 regards terrorism, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, regional conflicts, failed states and organised crime as the chief threats that Europe faces and that the international community has to counter in terms of security policy. This is why, in their publication titled "Beyond the continuum", Harmer and Macrea (2004:13) point out that in the wake of the terrorist attacks of September 2001, the paradigm of orientation on development has been eclipsed by a new "security paradigm": "The findings of this report highlight that there has been a major shift in the 'linking relief and development' debate ... The deepening of engagement by development actors in situations of protracted crises is coinciding with, if not being driven by, the increasing securitisation of the aid agenda."

Since 1994, around 300 humanitarian aid organisations have already committed themselves to the independence and impartiality of humanitarian aid in the "Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief". Not only does harnessing humanitarian aid for political purposes or imposing conditions on it jeopardise its objective of helping people on all sides of a conflict, but it also represents an immediate threat to the security of the aid staff and is therefore firmly rejected by the NGOs (cf. VENRO 2003:18).

In addition to these changes in the political framework conditions of aid, the significant increase in natural disasters which has been observed as a consequence of global change in the areas of environmental degradation, population development and urban development as well as climate change in recent years has fuelled the debate on sensibly linking relief and development co-operation. Today, disaster prevention is increasingly regarded as an integral element of a coherent LRRD approach.

The changing framework conditions for humanitarian aid show that the implementation of projects following an LRRD approach depends on several external factors. During the last few years, the German NGOs have gathered a considerable amount of practical experience in implementation.

#### Total number of natural disasters reported. World: 1900-2004



FINDAT: The OFDACRED International Disaster Database - were emidial net - Université Catholisse de Louvein, Brussets - Bebrium

### 3. Experience with the implementation of "Linking relief, rehabilitation and development"

This Working Paper cannot give a detailed and comprehensive account of the entire range of project approaches. The examples of projects merely represent a small selection and stand for the work of many German aid organisations that are attempting to implement the concept of linking relief, rehabilitation and development co-operation in their project practice. Naturally, such linking will be easier to accomplish among those organisations incorporating the whole spectrum from relief to long-term development support in their "services". But the linking of measures discussed here must not be ruled out in those cases in which aid organisations operate exclusively in humanitarian aid or in development co-operation, either.

Programmes and projects meeting the LRRD objectives have to fulfil a number of the following criteria:

- ••• the measures contribute to disaster prevention / risk reduction;
- ••• rehabilitation not only focuses on restoring the status quo ante and promoting the existing potentials but also aims to achieve qualitative and sustainable improvements in the living conditions of those affected;
- ••• running and supporting the various project phases is not divided among different actors but is all in one; if it is not possible for a single organisation to implement the different phases of a project, co-ordination and co-operation with other organisations working on a complementary basis is sought;

- ••• the target groups are involved right from the beginning of planning the project measures;
- ••• self-help structures and capabilities are integrated, strengthened and developed in relief measures;
- ••• if possible, aid is provided via local partner organisations to the networking of which the projects contribute;
- ••• support is not offered to isolated individual measures (e.g. reconstruction of housing) but to integrated projects aimed at comprehensive improvements in living conditions.

Of course, the implementation of a "pure" LRRD approach will not always be successful since the framework conditions of operations differ considerably and may, in some cases, change rapidly as well. Since LRRD also represents a new challenge for NGOs, the following practical examples are not intended as accounts of best practices but instead portray the current status of learning and reflection.

Applying an LRRD approach is particularly problematic in a civil war situation. In so-called complex emergencies, the plight of the population is due to a number of factors. Projects and programmes will often address this with integrated approaches. The application of the integrated rural community development approach is demonstrated with the example of a German Agro Action project.

#### **German Agro Action:**

#### Programme to support domestic refugees and returnees in the North of Sri Lanka

Several years of civil war between the government troops (GOSL) and the so-called Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) movement in the island's north and east have resulted in the destruction of thousands of villages, and agricultural production has almost come to a complete standstill. Following the signing of the cease-fire in 2002, increasing numbers of people have been returning to their destroyed homes.

By securing food at household level, special support for attempts to reach reconciliation among the former conflict parties and strengthening social and economic networks, the programme is making an important contribution both to sustainable improvements in the living conditions of the target group and to securing peace in the region and developing civil societies. Since 1994, German Agro Action has been working together with the local partner organisation Sewalanka Foundation (SLF) in the conflict region in the country's north on a continuous basis. The Sewalanka Foundation is supporting the village communities with its "all-in-one help in one hand" for a longer period so that self-help capacities that are crucial to the sustainable success of the measures can be established on a continuous basis.

Together, German Agro Action and the Sewalanka Foundation have developed a programme to support domestic refugees and returnees on both sides of the frontline that is

being implemented by the SLF in its own responsibility. The German Agro Action experts operate in this programme in an advisory capacity at local level. The individual phases are funded both by the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Commission.

SLF/DWHH support for a village community comprises three "development phases":

Relief measures for the people who have immediately returned to their villages. These people were initially supported in setting up temporary accommodation and received basic domestic utensils as well as, when needed, food for a period of up to three months. At the same time, small farming implements and seed were distributed to initiate the growing of rice and vegetables to cover domestic requirements and wells were restored to provide clean drinking water. Already at this stage, village self-help structures were either newly set up or, whenever possible, revived.

The second phase addressed people who had already been living in their villages for approx. one year and were now attempting to start their own livelihoods. The programme supported these communities by rehabilitating village infrastructure, setting up community centres to further institutionalise self-help capacities and with intensifying and diversifying agriculture.

Now, the village communities are predominantly being supported in developing and extending their economic and social infrastructure. Some of the aspects this includes are the formation and consolidation of peasants' co-operatives, getting together to market agricultural produce and creating alternative sources of income as well as access to the local banking and credit system.

#### **Lessons learnt**

Working in a civil war context requires a particular level of acceptance and knowledge of the political climate. Stressing the neutrality of aid, supporting all sections of the population both on the government and on the LTTE side and making an effort to bring both sides of the conflict together provides crucial support to the peace process while simultaneously leading to far-reaching acceptance of the measure in the region. In addition, this programme gives an



impressive demonstration of the importance that working together with local organisations has. However, institutional consultancy and the development of partner organisations generally requires considerable staying power among all those involved.

The Sewalanka Foundation, which was newly founded in 1993, has since become a strong GAA partner with a considerable amount of professional experience in implementing projects. This experience crucially contributed to SLF's providing swift, efficient assistance in the coastal regions of northern Sri Lanka just hours after the Tsunami (December 2004). The measures initiated at the time have since also been successfully integrated into a concept of long-term rehabilitation of the affected communities in analogy to the already existing programme approach.

However, it has to be remarked critically that the success of such a programme depends on a large number of factors that cannot always be influenced. The long implementation period (5 ½ years in all) means that both relatively stable political conditions and long-term engagement among the implementing organisations as well as the donors are indispensable. In this case, too, it was much easier to raise funds for relief than for the subsequent phases although only continuous support of the target group can ensure the sustainability of the measures. Ultimately, in the course of the project as a whole, financing from five different budget items and lines had to be applied for in order to ensure the necessary funding level.

After natural disasters, relief, rehabilitation and long-term development co-operation have to be linked to contribute to disaster prevention and risk reduction and boost the popula-

tion's self-help capacity. Corresponding LRRD approaches are demonstrated in three examples of projects run by Caritas international, terre des hommes and the German Red Cross.

#### Caritas international:

#### Rehabilitation programme after Hurricane Mitch in Central America

Late in October 1998, Central America was hit by one of the worst natural disasters in the last 200 years. Hurricane Mitch and the rains accompanying it claimed around 10,000 lives, while hundreds of thousands of people became homeless. Honduras and Nicaragua, where 60 percent of the population had already been living at or below the poverty line before the hurricane, were set back in their development by several decades through the disaster. Its consequences were especially grave for the poor rural population and smallholders and small artisans. Not only had their homes been destroyed, but their livelihoods had been taken from them as well.

Right from their inception, the aim of all aid measures for the people affected by the disaster's impact had not been the mere restoration of the status quo ante but, wherever possible, sustainable improvements in people's living standards. The development and implementation of an integrated rehabilitation programme (= rehabilitation, organic farming, improvements in the health service, risk reduction, citizens' participation and human rights) with special consideration being given to making use of the decentralised infrastructure of the Church (dioceses and parish communities) was a further target. A participatory approach was applied, i.e. the population affected were given a say, involved in and supported, trained and integrated in all project measures. In collaboration with the local partner organisations, qualitative improvements in project, financial and organisational management were sought.

As a rule, natural disasters with the magnitude of Hurricane Mitch result in people becoming homeless and losing all their belongings. This is why, in the first days and weeks after the hurricane, relief measures had to focus on providing shelter, food, clothing, household goods and medical care. Already at a very early stage, planning of rehabilitation measures was started in order not to allow longer dependence on external aid to develop. Making use of the disaster as an opportunity had been the slogan right from the start. This is why the construction measures were supported by other measures. In many cases, ownership issues had to be settled before houses could be newly erected on plots. This resulted in many of those who had suffered damage enjoying the ownership of land that they could no longer be dispossessed of for the first time in their lives.

In the framework of the house-building projects, artisanal training measures were organised, creating livelihoods reaching beyond the disaster for a large number of



young people. For example, smallholders were trained to grow their crops in a more organic manner and with higher yields, and to sell their produce at higher prices. In addition, erosion protection measures were promoted to reduce the impact of possible future disasters (disaster prevention). Thus strategic development activities such as supporting local social services for special problem groups that had been started in the years before the disaster contributed to providing more effective aid in the acute emergency situation because existing self-help structures could be resorted to.

#### **Lessons learnt**

Good experience was gained with the Mitch programme in terms of the considerable readiness among the target groups to directly participate in the measures. A high level of planning security (i.e. support promised was really given) and project activities clearly oriented on previously commonly defined targets crucially contributed to the project's success. The success of the project was also positively influenced by the intermeshing of relief and rehabilitation measures and long-term development activities and their implementation not by various local actors but by project partners with whom several years of co-operation had already been experienced prior to the disaster.

Nevertheless, negative experiences were also made, e.g. in terms of a lack of co-ordination of international aid; competition among the international aid organisations as well as mutual prejudice between "relief workers" and "development experts"; rigid, conservative Church structures or attempts to politicise the Mitch aid programmes via interest groups in society.

The terre des hommes project demonstrates the link between medical relief and the medium-term rehabilitation of the patients treated as well as the strengthening of their self-help capability.

#### Terre des homes (tdh):

#### Health care/physiotherapeutic treatment for victims of the earthquake disaster in Gujarat, India

In January 2001, a severe earthquake shook the Indian Federal State of Gujarat, claiming 30,000 lives and injuring 40,000 people. The earthquake also inflicted major damage on infrastructure (roads, houses, schools, hospitals, etc.). A large number of those seriously injured had suffered bone fractures and other grave injuries to their limbs, with many amputations having to be carried out. Medical first aid was carried out in field hospitals or in partially destroyed hospitals. Often, the patients were either insufficiently or falsely treated; in the initial period after the disaster, follow-up treatment could not be guaranteed at all.

In 150 communities of the region affected with a population of around 60,000 people, the project was aimed to ensure follow-up treatment of 1,000 patients. This included physiotherapeutic treatment, the provision of material and equipment required as well as scope to perform necessary corrective surgery interventions. The project comprised both the phases of immediate relief and rehabilitation and was also oriented on imparting abilities with a more lasting impact. Training voluntary local health staff laid the foundations for longer-term follow-up effects of the activities. The executing agency operated within a broad alliance of local organisations (Kutch Navnirman Abhiyan) and conducted various lobbying activities in order to remind the government health service of its duty to care for the patients. This created a lasting awareness of problems. The executing agency developed extensive networking and an infrastructure sufficient to continue the activities even without financing via tdh.

In an initial phase, IDEAL was involved in the co-ordination of health activities immediately after the earthquake. In the second phase, 90 volunteers were trained who looked after 1,000 patients together with three physiotherapists; 1,700 patients were examined in so-called "diagnosis camps", and out of these, 200 were referred to the various hospitals for further treatment. Construction measures and the provision of auxiliary materials equipped the people with the necessary prerequisites to cope with their disablement in the long term. In the third phase, 450 Community Health Workers were trained to provide further care, and information material was produced (videos, films, printed material). Vocational alternatives were created for the victims of the disaster. In the last phase, refresher courses were run for the volunteers.

#### Lessons learnt

The project's different phases and activities resulted in lasting improvements in the situation of the target group. The people affected by the earthquake were offered livelihood prospects, and the foundations for longer-term physiotherapeutic treatment were laid for them. The executing agency itself has developed a sufficient infrastructure and a good network to be able to continue its activities with a maximum of independence.

Collaboration between the German Red Cross (DRK) and the Iranian Red Crescent is a further example of improvements in disaster prevention and disaster control. Since the earthquake in Bam late in 2003, the DRK has made an even greater effort to support its fellow organisation in the area of disaster prevention and disaster control.

#### German Red Cross (DRK):

#### Improving disaster management following the earthquake in Bam/Iran

On the 26<sup>th</sup> December 2003, a severe earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale shook the Southeast of Iran. 85 % of the City of Bam was destroyed, and more than 43,000 people were killed. The population was homeless, for given clay-building, only very few houses were still inhabitable. People required medical treatment, food and clean drinking water.

The most important long-term goal was to restore a quakeproof infrastructure. But already shortly after the disaster, it became apparent how important improved local disaster control and disaster management are, for Iran is located in an earthquake-prone region. Swift local relief measures save more lives than relief teams who have to be flown in. This was demonstrated by the dog branch of the

Iranian Red Crescent (IRC). It had already been an element of co-operation between the DRK and the IRC before the earthquake. After the disaster, the expansion of the dog branch became an important sub-target. This also included the creation of a training area. So after the earthquake, the DRK's activities were focused more on disaster control and disaster management with the aim of strengthening the self-help potential of local structures, here, above all, the IRC and its voluntary helpers among the local population, and on contributing to normalising life in the city.

As an auxiliary to the Government, the Iranian Red Crescent is the state's official partner in disaster prevention and management. So strengthening its structures has a direct impact on local self-help potentials in the event of a disaster. In the relief phase, the DRK supported the Iranian Red Crescent in looking after the people affected and trained staff in the use of relief units (hospital, water supply). In second phase, destroyed infrastructure has been restored since 2004: an orthopaedic centre, several warehouses, the Bam headquarters of the Red Crescent, a cultural centre for the city run by the IRC and a public school. These classic rehabilitation measures are elements of the programme and both directly and indirectly contribute to enhancing local structures and self-help potentials. The training components supporting the programme are to ensure the sustainability of the activities, such as the functioning of disaster prevention.

Following the completion of staff training measures, the DRK's relief units (hospital unit and water unit) were handed over to the Iranian Red Crescent and are now at the disposal of disaster management in the country, together with the trained staff. In addition, special search and rescue equipment has been procured for the Red Crescent that is available for emergency situations. Owing to the provisions made by the Government's Master Plan, constructional measures could only be commenced in 2005. However, it was possible to start with the construction of the warehouses, which are located outside the geographical area of the Master Plan, at an earlier stage, and they are now 80-percent completed. Work has also commenced on the other constructional measures, although their completion is only scheduled for 2006. In this period, the supporting training measures will be continued in parallel to boost the National Society. These measures focus mainly on the area of disaster prevention (IRC dog branch training /advanced



training for the deployment of the primary health care unit) and organisational development (including the training of IRC staff in Germany).

#### **Lessons learnt**

After a disaster has occurred, it is very important to train local staff in the initial phase relief phase and involve them in measures so that they can gain experience in the acute stages of relief measures. This is the only way to ensure that their assignment and the use of material provided at a later stage will prove effective in future crisis situations. In all cases, rehabilitation has to proceed in a co-ordinated manner and in co-operation with the respective government. All too hasty activities clashing with the notions of the local authorities ought to be avoided as far as possible, even if the official planning procedures often take more time than one would wish to accept. The swift deployment of the tracker dogs immediately after the disaster earned the Iranian Red Crescent prestige resulting in the expansion of the dog branch. The IRC has since sent its dogs to assignments in the region hit by an earthquake in Pakistan in October 2005, where relief workers were able to rescue nine buried people. Only a small number of lives were saved in relation to the overall extent of the disaster, since, just like all the other foreign teams, it was impossible for them to be on location immediately. Nevertheless, this modest success of the Moslem sniffer-dog teams can contribute to breaking down cultural barriers against dog-keeping, and this practice might be adopted by the Pakistani Red Crescent.

So far, only a small number of donor organisations have been willing to provide special support for LRRD projects. One positive example here is a medical project run by Malteser International in Cambodia that has not only been supported by the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Com-

mission (ECHO) in the relief phase but also actively proposed by ECHO for a longer-term perspective in order to bring about sustainable improvements in the situation of the target group.

# Malteser International: Establishing health care in the Province of Oddar Meanchey, Cambodia

In the wake of renewed civil war turmoil in the North of Cambodia, Malteser International took charge of health care for more than 25,000 Cambodians in two refugee camps in Thai regions close to the boarder from 1997 to 1999. In 1999, the Malteser accompanied the refugees back to Cambodia in the Province of Oddar Meanchey. After more than 20 years of civil war, the province had been newly founded and disposed of virtually no health care structures.

During the first few years, the target was to directly reduce mortality and morbidity owing to widespread diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea and tuberculosis. Then the focus shifted to strengthening and supporting the local health services and, ultimately, promoting patients' rights and self-help potentials on the part of the rural population. After the pure relief stage, health care was developed from scratch in close co-ordination with and directly supported by the responsible weak local health service. This means that measures gradually evolved from refugee aid and relief to structured co-operation in the context of setting up a provincial healthcare system, i.e. from self-implementation to supporting and advising the partner. Since the province is particularly disadvantaged, all donors and NGOs involved attached special importance to closing the gap between rehabilitation and bilateral and multilateral development assistance. ECHO actively supported and promoted this objective.

In the framework of medical relief, a malaria control programme was initially carried out in collaboration with the provincial health authority, which was as yet unstructured. Step by step, this resulted in a project with a wide range of activities to improve primary health care in the province. Constructional measures, equipping health centres and the provincial hospital as well as training and organisational support for the local specialists were also part of this package. Financial support was initially provided by the Foreign Office and the UNHCR, and later on, for several years, by ECHO. Then, from 2003 to 2004, and based on these measures, an LRRD project was carried out with ECHO aimed at a transition of the existing measures to development co-operation. Bilateral donors BTC (Belgian Technical Cooperation) took charge of further support for the health services. The Malteser accompanied this with a three-year BMZ project aimed at boosting self-help in the communities in the field of health.

#### **Lessons learnt**

In the course of the project, it was difficult to get the health authority to understand and accept that Malteser



International would completely withdraw from implementation and concentrate on consultancy. Only good co-ordination among the donors and their readiness to mutually attune their schedules for financing as well as good co-operation with other NGOs in the region enabled a true bridging of the gap between the relief and rehabilitation phase and longer-term development co-operation. In addition to avoiding any interruptions of activities, the latter were also linked in terms of contents. BTC, who ultimately became involved in the province towards the end of the LRRD project, took up and integrated essential aspects of our preliminary activities.

The Malteser will now continue their work with measures complementary to those of BTC, which focus on the level of the health authority and its institutions. With a three-year BMZ project involving a consulting expert (possibly from DED), the Malteser are to address patients' rights and community involvement in improvements in the province's health situation. In addition, a three-year EU programme has been proposed to accompany these measures in other sectors (combating poverty, education, water and sanitation measures). All sectors are to be intermeshed, e.g. via links between health education at school and water and hygiene campaigns. Here, the different representatives of the provincial government, all of whom have been involved in developing a provincial development programme initiated and moderated by the NGOs, will be brought together to work on concrete issues. All in all, this process has benefited everyone involved. With the LRRD project, which really lies beyond its mandate, ECHO has successfully closed the gap between rehabilitation and development co-operation.

Joint support of a food security programme in Ethiopia by the two sister organisations Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe and Brot für die Welt is an example of implementing the LRRD approach in a region that has been suffering from the effects of war, drought and misguided agricultural policy for decades

# Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH) and Brot für die Welt (BfdW): Supporting an integrated household level food security programme in Abergelle, Tigray (Ethiopia)

Ethiopia is one of Africa's largest, most densely populated and poorest countries. A structural food deficit has existed for decades that has a particularly dramatic impact during drought periods and quickly results in the number of people depending on food aid soaring to levels of tens of millions. In the Tigray Region, in the North of Ethiopia, there are around 4.2 million people around 50 % of whom again and again have to depend on food aid because only about half of the regional demand for food is covered by local production. In addition, this region has hardly any non-agricultural products that could be exchanged for food.

The local partner of DKH and BfdW is the Relief Society of Tigray (REST), with which both organisations have shared several years of experience in working together. They have jointly funded the integrated rural programme in Abergelle since 2004. The aim is to significantly reduce the number of households with a food deficit in Abergelle District. Food security is to be achieved at household level via increasing agricultural production and the income of individual households. This is in turn supposed to result in a better food and health situation for the people in the district.

The project comprises both rehabilitation and preventative measures which, in combination with the impartment of skills, are to effect longer-term and positive development. The target group is actively involved in all measures, each of which is aimed at covering acute (survival) requirements and, in parallel, creating options to make agricultural production more independent of drought impacts. Irrigated agriculture and horticulture are being supported, e.g. with improved seed. Soil and water conservation measures are being carried out (dam construction, erosion protection walls, terraces) as well as training in erosion protection and control methods and water harvesting, water conservation and plant production. The target group is provided with tools and equipment to carry out the erosion protection and control measures.

Over the next two years, 55,000 saplings will be produced for afforestation purposes. Training programmes will be run on managing tree nurseries, and saplings will be planted on community land. A 1,200 ha conservation area will be established for the natural rehabilitation of plant stocks. Fodder growing is being supported for livestock husbandry, improvements are to be brought about in dairy farming, and women are being trained in dairy processing. Beekeeping and honey processing as well as small animal husbandry (goats, chickens and rabbits) are being sup-



ported. Rural water supply is being improved through the construction of three wells under the technical supervision of REST. Local craftsmen are being trained in well-digging. 40 underground reservoirs for irrigation purposes and rain harvesting plants for schools and clinics are being set up. A total of 24 water committees have been appointed to see to the maintenance of these plants, and those involved are receiving appropriate training. Education and information programmes for the population on HIV/Aids are being run throughout the entire project area. Co-operation with existing Anti-AIDS Clubs is being intensified, and training courses for health workers in domestic care are being run. AIDS patients and AIDS orphans are being given special support.

#### Lessons learnt

The first project phase has already resulted in noticeable lasting improvements in the situation of the target group. The combination of conservation and rehabilitation measures with improved land use has already contributed to a significant improvement in the water balance and to an increase in the agricultural yield potential. A diversification in the range of food as well as increases in harvests are clearly recognisable. Now, water is above all regarded as a key element. Accordingly, special efforts are being made to tap water sources. Years of co-operation have resulted in REST becoming a very competent partner who is also going to be in a position to offer swift, appropriate and qualified humanitarian aid in future.

### 4. Institutional financing of linking relief, rehabilitation and development

The VENRO Working Paper "Sustainability in humanitarian aid" of 1999 already noted that the approach of sustainable humanitarian aid was facing a financing gap and that "projects comprising development-oriented components in addition to direct relief measures fall into an institutional financing gap, a sustainability gap between the Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) or between ECHO and DG VIII" (translated by MG; VENRO 1999:18). Although this was observed six years ago and financing instruments have been changed and elaborated both at Federal and at EU levels, there can still be no mention of structural and conceptual improvements in institutional financing in terms of a better linkage between relief, rehabilitation and development co-operation. The financing gap referred to above has still not been closed.

Even the "Action Plan for Civil Crisis Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Peace Consolidation" adopted by the Federal Government in 2004 notes that there are shortcomings in this area and intends to "ensure a close intermeshing of humanitarian aid and development co-operation via suitable steering of development measures" (translated by MG: Foreign Office 2004:53).

### 4.1 The German Federal Government's financing instruments

Without laying claim to completeness, relevant budget lines are listed in the following that are at the disposal of the German NGOs in this area of activity:

#### Foreign Office (AA): Individual Budget Plan 05

#### Line 687 12 Humanitarian aid:

Humanitarian aid and relief; relief abroad; disaster prevention, humanitarian mine clearance Budget estimate 2004: 41 mill. EUR

Recipients: approx. 25 NGOs + UN organisations

#### Line 687 23 Democratisation and equipment support:

Democratisation and equipment support humanitarian mine clearance

Budget estimate 2004: 18.5 mill. EUR

#### Line 687 44 Crisis prevention:

Supporting international measures in the areas of crisis prevention, peacekeeping and conflict resolution Budget estimate 2004: 13.9 mill. EUR

# Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ): Individual Budget Plan 23

#### Line 687 02 Civil peace service:

Preventing the outbreak of violent conflict in society; strengthening peaceful conflict resolution; creating peace-promoting structures

Budget estimate 2004: 14.3 mill. EUR

#### Line 687 03 Social structure support:

Selected self-help institutions in society whose projects are aimed at effecting far-reaching improvements in living conditions

Budget estimate 2004: 29.6 mill. EUR

Recipients: "selected self-help institutions in society"

(approx. 10 NGOs)

### Line 687 20 Development-oriented relief and transitional aid:

Food security; creating or restoring social and infrastructural minimum supply; strengthening self-help potentials; refugee aid.

Budget estimate 2004 (or 2005): 88.5 mill. EUR

Recipients: approx. 6-10 major NGOs as well as GTZ and

the World Food Programme

#### Line 687 of Private NGOs:

Community and organisational development, health; strengthening human rights, rehabilitation Budget estimate 2004: 29 mill. EUR approx. 150 NGOs

#### Line 896 04 Churches:

Budget estimate 2004: 161.1 mill. EUR

Recipients: Development agencies of the Protestant and

Catholic Churches

These budget lines differ not only in terms of their purpose and the duration of project financing and the volume of budgetary funds but also according to their guidelines for project financing. Neither do all aid organisations have equal access to all budget lines as far as the different BMZ financing lines open to NGOs are concerned. These lines either explicitly address a certain circle of recipients (churches, private executing agencies, political foundations) via their respective purpose, or the circle of recipients is limited on purpose by the respective allocating department.

Both budget law at German Federal level and the sometimes rigid provisions made by the Ministry of Finance regarding the allocation of public funding represent a particular obstacle to implementing an LRRD approach in project financing. In particular, tying funds to the budgetary year and the low level of flexibility in carrying on funds to the next year render the theoretical claim to improving links between project measures difficult to implement in practice.

#### 4.2 | The institutional financing gap

The Foreign Office is responsible for humanitarian aid. The Foreign Office finances humanitarian aid measures up to a maximum period of six months and generally rules out the eligibility for financing of measures reaching beyond relief aid in the narrow sense, frequently with reference to the scarce resources of the respective budget line. Usually, this line provides funds for the provision of aid such as blankets, cooking utensils, tents, medicine, etc. as well as shelter and emergency medical care. To an increasing degree, financing has also focused on disaster prevention over the last few years. This represents a welcome widening of the budget line's purpose, although in this case too, tying funds to the budgetary year considerably complicates the implementation of the measures.

The Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) is responsible for long-term development co-operation and food aid. In the case of measures lasting longer than six months and extending to rehabilitation with a longer preliminary phase, the BMZ, as the authority allocating the funds, (theoretically) logically rounds off the financing options for NGOs. In practice, however, projects comprising development-oriented components such as emergency medical care with a qualification component or the reconstruction of the health infrastructure in addition to direct relief aid drop into an institutional financing gap between the Foreign Office and the BMZ.

Until 2004, the BMZ had its own budget line for the field of food aid, relief and refugee aid with the following purpose: "BMZ food aid, relief and refugee aid attempts to ensure a gradual transition without any major interruptions or gaps from humanitarian aid to rehabilitation and sustainable development, thus laying the foundations for self-supporting development" (BMZ 2004:188). In the 2005 development

budget, a new budget line, "Development-oriented relief and transitional aid", was introduced that evolved from a merging of the line for food aid, relief and refugee aid with food security. The aim of this new financing instrument is to "act swiftly, flexibly and effectively" in the context of crises, conflicts and disasters. "The objective here is twofold," the financing concept submitted in 2005 for the new line argues. "People in need are to be helped as effectively and quickly as possible. In addition, the initial foundations are to be created for sustainable development once the acute crisis is over"2. So at least in theory, this line meets the requirements for LRRD-oriented transitional aid. "Development-oriented relief and transitional aid thus forms a bridge between humanitarian aid and longer-term development co-operation"3. The claim to serving as a LRRD line is also underscored by disaster prevention and peace-promoting measures as well as measures to strengthen self-help potentials and institutions having been included in the financing areas.

However, it is doubtful whether the theoretical claim to a comprehensive LRRD approach, which is at least reflected in this budget line, can really be implemented in practice. For one thing, given funds to the tune of 88.5 million euros minus the Federal Republic's contribution to the International Food Agreement, the mere sum of around 32 million euros is at the disposal of relief and transitional aid. Second, access to this BMZ budget line is restricted. The Federal Government ought to support institutional financing of LRRD by a considerable increase in funds for this budget line and promote its being opened up to further competent NGOs. Also, the regulations governing the line and the Federal Budget Act remain inflexible in spite of the restructuring of this area, so that in the case of a natural disaster, NGO measures can only be financed with a delay.

The notion incorporated in LRRD of a fluid transition from humanitarian aid to rehabilitation and development co-operation is counteracted by the artificial splitting up of financing into strongly subdivided individual budgets. "Since the Budget Act requires clear line regulations delimited from one another, the recipients are forced to split up their activities in accordance with financing and attempt to compensate for interruptions this leads to in the course of projects with their own funds" (German Agro Action 2003:43). At best, only the major NGOs are capable of providing interim financing via donations. Owing to donations being tied to appropriations, this can also cause problems for the aid organisations when it comes to applying donations in a flexible manner and at different stages in the sense of LRRD (cf. the focus on "Folgen der Tsunami-Katastrophe" [consequences of the Tsunami disaster] in VENRO 2005:15pp.)

<sup>2</sup> BMZ, Konzept für Maßnahmen der Entwicklungsorientierten Not- und Übergangshilfe, Berlin, 2005, p. 4.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., p. 3.

#### 4.3 | Mainstreaming LRRD in the NGOs

However, the problem of institutional financing for LRRD affects not only the donor organisations but the aid organisations themselves. For example, in the course of its restructuring, German Agro Action adapted its project department to the requirements of the LRRD approach in 1996, dissolving the previously independent organisational units for relief and development co-operation and grouping them in a new

concept according to countries and regions (cf. Solari und Schöninger 2005:49). Here, resistance within the organisation had to be overcome that resulted from the differences in organisational cultures between staff in humanitarian aid and those in development co-operation. For the NGOs too, a lot remains to be done in this area, for their own internal organisation structures do not always do justice to the claim to create closer links between relief, rehabilitation and development co-operation.

### 5. Recommendations to the German Federal Government

 Just like it proposes in the "Action Plan for Civil Crisis Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Peace Consolidation", the Federal Government ought to create better links between humanitarian aid, rehabilitation and development co-operation in the sense of the LRRD approach:

Conceptually, such intermeshing is urgently needed and has to be implemented by the Federal Government, as suggested in the Action Plan. This requires intensive dialogue and better co-ordination of transitional financing between the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation, the Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry of Finance. The NGOs organised in VENRO would look forward to co-operating with the new Federal Government in this respect.

# 2. The budgetary appropriations for LRRD financing have to be significantly increased:

Any considerations on financing LRRD are pointless without the financing required being provided to a sufficient extent and in a flexible manner. Since the 2005 budgetary appropriations for Development-Oriented Relief and Transitional Aid of the BMZ only amounted to around 32 million euros and these funds were still two million euros higher prior to the merging of the two budget lines 68708 and 68725, there can be no mention of increased financing via this instrument. The budget line for Development-Oriented Relief and Transitional Aid ought to be doubled in medium-term budgetary planning by 2009, and up to then, starting in 2006, it should be raised step by step and made accessible to competent NGOs holding proof of their expertise

The Foreign Office's budgetary appropriations for humanitarian aid ought to be raised to 100 million euros since the world-wide demand for humanitarian aid is constantly growing and financing of this budget line in Germany is disproportionately low in comparison to other donor countries.

### 3. The financing conditions for all appropriations relevant to LRRD have to become more flexible:

Given the general tight budget situation as well as the regulations for budget lines in accordance with the Federal Budget Act, the Federal Government's budgetary appropria-

tions can only be applied in a very inflexible manner and/or with a delay. In the budget lines for development measures, budgetary appropriations cannot be provided at short notice for short-term rehabilitation measures owing to the scarcity of funds and line regulations. Moreover, swift financing via funds for humanitarian aid is counteracted by regulations prescribing a limitation of financing to immediate relief aid, thus explicitly not providing for the option of LRRD.

It generally has to be ensured that the budget regulations for measures in the area of humanitarian aid are as straightforward as possible for the recipients and that dealing with them requires no major administrative effort. This is the only way to guarantee the level of flexibility and speed required to conduct measures in the area of relief. In the past, the principle of tying financing to a budgetary year has repeatedly proved an administrative obstacle in proposing or carrying out relief measures. Disasters are frequently unpredictable and often reach into the new year or exceed the budgetary year.

#### 4. Strengthening civil society during rehabilitation:

The Federal Government's decision in spring 2005 to concentrate special financing for tsunami aid on government and multilateral co-operation should not become the accepted thing. The Federal Government's planning framework explicitly states that: "German civil society institutions have a wide range of abilities and approaches at their disposal to support rehabilitation and development in the regions affected by disasters at local level and in a practical manner." Thanks to co-operation structures with local NGOs some of which have existed for several years, civil society organisations can reach the population affected most directly. NGOs operate independently of the goodwill of governments. Civil society co-operation can also reduce the risk of aid money disappearing in state apparatuses. In Indonesia and in Sri Lanka in particular, tension owing to civil war requires a conflict-sensitive, "Do no harm" approach that has to lead into long-term poverty reduction measures and measures to protect human rights. NGOs are best suited to operate in this area.

This is why in future, civil society organisations in Germany should be accordingly considered by the Federal Government when budgetary appropriations are made.

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AGEH – Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklungshilfe

agl – Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Eine-Welt Landesnetzwerke

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ILD – Internationaler Landvolkdienst der KLB

Indienhilfe

INKOTA – Ökumenisches Netzwerk

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Kairos Europa – Unterwegs zu einem Europa für Gerechtigkeit

Karl Kübel Stiftung für Kind und Familie

KATE – Kontaktstelle für Umwelt und Entwicklung – Berlin

Kindernothilfe

Lateinamerika-Zentrum

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SES – Senior Experten Service

SID – Society for International Development

SODI – Solidaritätsdienst International

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Terra Tech – Förderprojekte Dritte Welt

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TransFair – Verein zur Förderung des Fairen Handels mit der »Dritten

Welt«

VEN – Verband Entwicklungspolitik Niedersachsen

VENROB – Verbund entwicklungspolitischer Nichtregierungs-

organisationen Brandenburgs

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### The following VENRO working papers have been published:

#### Working paper No. 1: Arbeitspapier zur Zukunft der EU-AKP-Zusammenarbeit

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### Working paper No. 2: Der Internationale Währungsfonds – neuer Akteur in der Entwicklungszusammenarbeit?

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Dokumentation des VENRO-Studientages am 4.11.1998

#### Working paper No. 5: Der neue Lomé-Vertrag - Welche Rolle für die NRO?

Dokumentation des Studientages am 14.2.1998

# Working paper No. 6: Schuldenkrise vor der Lösung? Die deutsche Schuldeninitiative für den G8-Gipfel: Werden die Schulden der ärmsten nun auf ein tragbares Maß reduziert?

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#### Working paper No. 7: VENRO-Kampagne "Deutsche EU-Präsidentschaft"

Textsammlung zur Kampagne im ersten Halbjahr 1999, Juni 1999

#### Working paper No. 8: Sustainability in humanitarian aid

September 1999

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Dokumentation zum VENRO-Studientag am 18.9.2000

# Working paper No. 10: "Globales Lernen" als Aufgabe und Handlungsfeld entwicklungspolitischer Nicht-Regierungsorganisationen.

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#### Working paper No. 11: Den ärmsten Ländern neue Chancen eröffnen!

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Documentation of the Workshop on 29th July 2003 in Bonn, Dezember 2003

# Working paper No. 14: Humanitarian aid put to the test: Principles, criteria and indicators to ensure and monitor quality in humanitarian aid

August 2005

#### Working paper No. 15: Kurs auf eine nachhaltige Entwicklung

Lernen für eine zukunftsfähige Welt

#### Working paper No. 16: Selbst bestimmt oder Auftragnehmer?

Die Rolle der Nord-NRO in der Europäischen Entwicklungspolitik