

DOKUMENT			SIDA
Åtaganden och mål för ansvar och kvalitet (Accountability framework)			1(4)
UPPRÄTTAT AV	DATUM	DOKUMENTBETECKNING	VERSION
Verksamhetsledningen	2012-04-24	Måldokument	1.0

## Accountability Framework 2012-2013

### Scope

This document is relevant to Church of Sweden's International cooperation related to Church Relations, Development Cooperation, Humanitarian Assistance and Advocacy that Church of Sweden's International Department (CoS)<sup>1</sup> support with churches and organisations worldwide. Furthermore this document relates to the CoS Partnership Policy, Information Sharing Policy and Policy on Complaints and Response Mechanism. Attached to this document and the Information Sharing Policy is a list of policies and information that we define ourselves as accountable to. A list of affiliations is also attached.

### Purpose

Church of Sweden's accountability framework states our commitments to the people we aim to assist, partners, staff and other stakeholders. By stating our commitments, Church of Sweden encourages our stakeholders to review and monitor our work, and to hold us accountable if we fall short of our commitments. *The purpose of the accountability framework is to increase the quality, effectiveness and impact of our work.*

### Church of Sweden and Accountability commitments

**Church of Sweden is committed to work in partnership and mutual accountability in accordance with CoS programmes, policies and guidelines**

**Church of Sweden is committed to staff competency**

**Church of Sweden is committed to the ACT Alliance's Code of good practice and the Swedish requirements under the Swedish Fundraising Council<sup>2</sup>, the Swedish Fundraising Control<sup>3</sup> and the Swedish Principle for Transparency**

**Church of Sweden is committed to participation**

**Church of Sweden is committed to transparency**

**Church of Sweden is committed to handling complaints**

**Church of Sweden is committed to be a learning organization**

*Church of Sweden strives to meet our commitments in all of our work, however this is not always possible and each situation where we engage in work must be assessed individually. If Church of Sweden cannot meet each of the commitments in a specific situation, the senior management will assess whether or not to continue with the work using our risk management strategy.*

<sup>1</sup> This also includes the fundraising and communication work from CoS' Information department that relates to the International department

<sup>2</sup> FRIL = Frivilligorganisationernas insamlingsråd (The Swedish Fundraising Council)

<sup>3</sup> Svensk insamlingskontroll (The Swedish Fundraising Control)

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## Church of Sweden, International work 2012-2013

Church of Sweden carries out international mission and diaconal work through its International Cooperation. In this work, Church of Sweden engages in theological education, and church to church collaboration, long-term development and advocacy, disaster prevention and response. Departing from our theological ground and values, Church of Sweden works towards the vision of sustainable and fair societies, freedom and dignity for all human beings and a whole, healed and reconciled world. Our faith requires that we work to overcome those conditions, structures and systems that perpetuate poverty, injustice, abuse of human rights and destruction of the environment. Striving for a world free from hunger, poverty and oppression, the Church of Sweden is committed to the people it aims to assist and empower. This commitment is based on the belief that every human being is created in the image of God and that as a result, human dignity is sacred.

The direction of the international work of Church of Sweden is outlined in the Strategic Plan 2010-2013 and put into practice through four programmes; Christian Community, faith and life, Democracy, peace and security, Sustainable development and Quality and learning, through which we plan, monitor and evaluate our work.

During 2013 Church of Sweden will enter into a strategic planning process for revising the global strategic plan and thereby also the different programmes within the international work. Therefore this AF is dated 2012-2013, given that we might want to revise some of our commitments after further consultations with partners during our strategic planning phase.

## Accountability statement

Accountability is a fundamental aspect of Church of Sweden's governance, strategy and operational implementation. Church of Sweden defines accountability as a mutual commitment, by Church of Sweden, our partners and other stakeholders, to hold ourselves and each other accountable to the people we aim to assist by abiding to our policies, values and mutual agreements, while also assuring quality in all our work. Church of Sweden strongly believes in close dialogue and openness in order to learn from each other. Furthermore in order to ensure quality, the participation of rights holders / target groups or the people we aim to assist, in programmes/project is at the core of Church of Sweden's understanding of accountability and quality<sup>4</sup>.

The church ordinance is guiding our work for a holistic mission and diakonia, encompassing all aspects of our work; from theological education and church to church collaboration to meeting humanitarian needs, long term development work and rights based approach to addressing structural inequalities with advocacy and mobilisation as expressions of the church's contribution to change.

Church of Sweden focuses on improving the quality of our partnerships and together with our partners develop good accountability mechanisms between us and towards the people we aim to assist. Church of Sweden is committed to accountability in all our work, capacity development as well as

<sup>4</sup> This needs further elaboration on HOW participation is best achieved. This will be outlined in CoS supporting documents for partners, see footnote below.

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organizational support to our partners and in the monitoring of partners' work. CoS will make available information to partners outlining how CoS work with partners, different requirements<sup>5</sup>.

As a member of the ACT Alliance we have signed up to ACT conditions for Membership, Policies and Guidelines within ACT alliance which Church of Sweden abides to are outlined in the ACT Accountability Framework, and ACT Code of Good Practice as well as ACT staff Code of Conduct <http://www.actalliance.org/resources/policies-and-guidelines/codes-of-conduct>. Church of Sweden is also committed to the 2010 HAP Standard in Accountability and Quality Management and will work to improve our accountability towards our all stakeholders.

In the Swedish context our voluntary membership in the FRIL, Swedish Fundraising Council Code of Conduct, and the SFI, Swedish Committee on Fundraising Organizations are expressions of our accountability. Moreover the Church of Sweden follows the Swedish Principle of Transparency (*Offentlighetsprincipen*) which otherwise only applies to public authorities. This is described in our policy for information sharing, which is also available on the website for further reference on how CoS want to share information with partners and stakeholders and ultimately the target groups and right holders.

## Stakeholders

The Church of Sweden is committed to ensuring efficiency and accountability towards all of our stakeholders; with priority given to the people we aim to assist. CoS has accountability mechanisms in place for the Swedish stakeholders and the public however within this context, AF 2012-2013, CoS is accountable to: Staff and Representatives; our Partners; the people we aim to assist in within our own programmes or in collaboration with partners; our private and institutional donors<sup>6</sup>. At the community level, CoS promotes accountability of its partners towards communities with whom partners and CoS work and the people we aim to assist.

The international work of Church of Sweden is partly financed by donors such as Sida, ECHO, Europe Aid and Radiohjälpen, whereas the major part of our funds come from individual donations and fundraising within our local congregations and dioceses and among the general public.

## Partnership

In our international collaboration, Church of Sweden cooperates with partner organizations worldwide. Working in partnership is at the core of our existence. As a church we are in constant relationships – often expressed as the world-wide community of Churches. Church of Sweden collaborates with churches and church related bodies, other faith based organizations, secular organizations, community-based membership organizations and umbrella bodies, consortia and networks. Church of Sweden is committed to working in partnerships based on mutual respect and accountability as well as continual improvement. Rather than imposing our accountability commitments on our partners, we aim to share our standards and to facilitate support to partners who share our commitment to good practice and improvement. We focus on improving the quality of our partnerships and together with our partners developing good accountability mechanisms towards the people we aim to assist. To ensure adherence to this commitment, Church of Sweden has a Partnership

<sup>5</sup> Currently (in 2011) the requirements and process for financial support from CoS is described in the document; "Guidelines for financial support". This instrument will be further developed during 2012 in place for the new Church of Sweden Programme period 2014-2016.

<sup>6</sup> In our strategic planning process Church of Sweden's international work is committed to work closer to congregations and volunteers in Sweden, including defining our mutual accountability, however this work will continue to be defined during 2012-2013.

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Policy that defines how we work with partners, criteria for selection of partners and types of partnerships.

Being a part of the worldwide church community and the global ecumenical movement, Church of Sweden is a member of the [ACT Alliance](#), the [Lutheran World Federation](#), and the [World Council of Churches](#).

## Learning organisation

Learning is defined as a process we do together with partners, stakeholders and other actors that are involved in our work. This process is also a result of a will to actually learn and develop as an organisation. This will is structured so that the learning can be systematized and used throughout the organization. Thus learning needs to be an active and dynamic process.

## Validity and follow-up

The accountability framework was approved by the Commission on International Mission and Diakonia on 24 April 2012 and the implementation is the responsibility of the senior management as detailed below. This framework will be revised at the latest by the end of 2013 in order to relate to changes that might occur during our strategic planning process taking place under 2013.

## Accountability Framework Matrix

Church of Sweden's accountability framework states our commitments to the people we aim to assist, partners, staff and other stakeholders. By stating our commitments, Church of Sweden encourages our stakeholders to review and monitor our work, and to hold us accountable if we fall short of our commitments.

The Annex attached is a matrix of the accountability framework with targets. The matrix also outlines the management processes we will develop/use to implement our commitments.

## Annex: Matrix for Accountability framework