



# Canadian Reformed World Relief Fund

## Best Practices for Relief and Development Work

### Our Best Practices for....

#### Relief Projects

CRWRF responds to disasters through Christian motivated partners who:

- have a presence in the disaster area and are equipped with adequate personnel, infrastructure and logistical capability to respond
- determine response after gathering the best available information about the situation
- ensure that assistance methods are compatible with local living conditions
- assist the victims to become self-reliant as soon as possible after a disaster, moving them from a dependent situation to empowerment over their own futures
- where possible work through local churches so that the proclamation of the Gospel is strengthened
- in disaster-vulnerable areas work with local leaders to develop plans for rehabilitation, bring longer-term solutions to recurrent problems

#### Child and Community Development Projects

CRWRF select Christian motivated partners who

- seek to address the causes of poverty, not just decrease its effects
- empower and increase people's sense of control and power over decisions and events that affect them
- increase their capacity through the development of new skills, and abilities to help the poor make future changes
- promote community-wide benefits with special concern for the most needy and vulnerable groups in society, not just privileged members
- work towards local sustainability by employing technologies that are appropriate to available economic, human, and environmental resources
- identify with the local church, embracing biblical principles in their development approach, along with a strong Christian witness through their personnel
- when possible, support word and deed activities of Christian leaders that are specifically aimed at promoting the reform of cultural practices that are in conflict with biblical truths

#### Cooperation

CRWRF works with partners that:

- cooperate and seek to complement rather than duplicate assistance by other agencies
- where possible, engage the local Church members in sharing human, material, and spiritual resources in achieving program goals

### **Program Staff**

CRWRF does not have its own personnel managing relief and development projects. However when evaluating partnership with other organizations we will strive to:

- foreign personnel working on projects are oriented in required language skills, cultural understanding and job expertise
- field positions are filled by qualified national staff whenever possible
- national staff are fairly compensated with sensitivity to local scales
- training and preparation is given to national staff in order to fill expatriate staff positions in future
- staff have adequate supervision, counsel and support

### **Host Government**

CRWRF works with partners who:

- recognize their responsibilities as "guests" of the host government and will respect and comply with national and local laws that apply to them
- where they believe the systems are unjust, they will challenge them while continuing to work within due process.
- develop programs that are compatible with national, region, and local development plans

### **Communications**

CRWRF does not actively engage in a marketing efforts designed to persuade people to give money; but believes as our membership develops greater awareness of the needs of their neighbour living in poverty, they will respond to these needs. When communicating with our constituency, we will:

- portray information accurately without exaggeration as to the nature and scope of the problem, and the methods used to respond
- promote public education methods designed to increase awareness of the issues and the facts related to poverty
- ensure project beneficiaries are not portrayed in an exploitive, or denigrating way
- provide an annual report with an explicit narrative description of the major project activities

### **Financial Accountability**

CRWRF complies with standards of Christian Stewardship, as a legally recognized charity through:

- maintaining an active and independent governing board
- providing annual financial statements
- approving yearly budget with membership at annual meeting
- keeping donors informed, respecting their confidentiality, and using their donations as directed on approved programs
- monitors financial and managerial controls of partners
- evaluating activities and programs for their effectiveness and efficiency
- following a written policies on the distribution of funds
- working through partners who also comply to these standards

(adapted from materials from AERDO, CCRDA, CCCC)