

Digni 2030:

Statement of Principles

Overarching strategy for Digni

Adopted by Digni's Council of
Representatives on 29 April 2021

The vision towards 2030:

Upholding Human Dignity – Leaving No One Behind

Digni's vision is a peaceful and transformed world where human dignity is upheld, poverty is eliminated, justice prevails, no one is left behind; a world where there is responsible stewardship of creation and climate justice succeeds.

Identity

Digni is a diaconal umbrella organisation for Norwegian Christian faith-based organisations, churches and mission agencies that are engaged in long-term development cooperation and partnership. Digni is part of the global church's calling to diakonia that encompass the Christian social practice of reducing poverty, transforming society, fighting for justice and peace, empowering the marginalised and oppressed, and improve their living conditions. Motivated by the biblical principles of human dignity, justice for all, compassion, and stewardship of God's creation, Digni works together with member organisations and their partners to enhance human rights, empower people locally and reduce poverty in all its forms.

Mission

Through its member organizations and their partners, Digni is committed to work together with and empower people who live in poverty, in particular individuals and communities left behind, experiencing marginalisation, discrimination, economic deprivation, violence, hunger, consequences of climate change, social exclusion, exploitation and abuse of power. In this endeavour, we work together with people pursuing peace, justice, equity, and improved living conditions, so they can fulfil their God-given potential. This we will do by seeking partnerships and working in alliances with likeminded organisations, churches, local governments, and other partners in the global south.

Digni is committed to contribute to the global agenda of achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This SDG Agenda is a comprehensive plan of action for people, planet, and prosperity. Based on SDG 17 Partnerships to achieve the Goals, Digni, members and partners will work together to reduce poverty (SDG 1) and strengthen civil society (SDG 16). Given the strength of local partnerships, experience, and network of faith-based organisations, Digni has the potential to contribute in multiple thematic areas of the SDG Agenda such as quality education, good health, environmental sustainability and climate justice, peace, gender equality, and economic empowerment, based on the vision of leaving no one behind.

The role of Digni's secretariat: To achieve our vision and implement the goals adopted in the 5-year strategic plans, the Digni Secretariat with government funding from Norad, will support the member organisations in their cooperation with like-minded local partners, networks and alliances. The role of Digni's secretariat in cooperation with members, is to:



Upholding human dignity – leaving no one behind.

- Facilitate development cooperation, sustainable partnerships, and professional environment for diaconal development work
- Profile and make visible diaconal development work
- Facilitate and provide for competence building and learning
- Be in dialogue with relevant government development aid authorities and actors in Norway for networking and advocacy
- Apply for funding and manage the agreement(s) with Norwegian government aid authorities
- Report results, secure quality assessments and mutual financial accountability

Digni's principles for diaconal work

Human Dignity and Human Rights: Every human being is created in the image of God and has the same intrinsic value and rights. Upholding the inherent dignity and human rights of all people is the basis of freedom, justice, peace, and sustainable development in the world. The global agenda set by the SDGs represents an important opportunity for action.

Leave no one behind: In its work, Digni will prioritise marginalised, oppressed and excluded people living in poverty. Digni is committed to promote social inclusion, equity and non-discrimination for all people regardless of their age, social and economic status, gender, ability, ethnicity, and religion.

Cooperation and local ownership: Development cooperation requires real and equitable partnerships. Thus, Digni will work to enhance shared responsibility and equitable relationships between cooperating partners increasing local partners ownership and voice their priorities in development processes. The partnerships shall be characterized by mutual trust, inter-dependency, and accountability. Development cooperation must also secure the meaningful and active participation, inclusion, and ownership of project participants in needs assessments, design of project interventions, decision-making, implementation, monitoring and taking responsibility for sustainability after end of project.

Sustainability: Development cooperation needs to be able to mobilise local resources, competence and identify opportunities that exist locally,

in order to obtain lasting results. Local partners are encouraged to seek cooperation with a variety of stakeholders including local government where possible. Digni and cooperating organisations are committed to applying conflict sensitivity, environmental responsibility, gender mainstreaming and respect for human rights in the work towards sustainable development.

Rights-based approaches: At local, national, and international level, we will work towards empowering rights-holders to engage and hold powerful stakeholders to account in fulfilling human rights obligations. Depending on the issue at stake, all people have both rights and obligations towards each other, and hence upholding the principles of non-discrimination, accountability, equity, transparency, and good governance becomes paramount.

Asset-based approaches: Digni will support asset-based approaches in development. This methodology uses and mobilises the community's own assets and resources as the basis for sustainable development. It empowers people and communities by encouraging them to utilize and develop further the tangible and intangible assets available to them.

Legitimate and transparent cooperating partners: Digni, members and local partners activities are grassroot-oriented and are carried out in cooperation with legitimate actors in society. Trust and good relationship between project participants and stakeholders is fundamental, together with good leadership, democratic decision making, gender equality, strengthening of civil society, and accountable and transparent use of resources, including joint anti-corruption measures.

Commitment to strengthening civil society organisations and professionalism: Supporting organisational development of civil society organisations is an important contribution to building sustainable societies. Digni is therefore committed to nurture, facilitate, and support organisational development and mutual competence building to strengthen the Digni chain of cooperating organisations in areas such as governance, financial management, technical competence, and others according to need. Creating a culture for learning, reflection on practice, networking and building mutual contextual understanding is also part of building strong development organisations. In addition, the current standards for professionalism set by back-donors, which is required to carry out qualitative development, are high and challenge Digni, members and partners. Digni will continue the dialog with Norad regarding standards and working methods with the aim of reducing excess bureaucracy and promoting efficient and equitable partnerships.

Digni's call to action

Digni's statement of principles provides a strong basis for the development cooperation with member organisations and their partners to work towards the fulfilment of our joint vision: Digni is called to action to uphold human dignity and leave no one behind.

As a part of the global church's calling to diakonia, we will contribute to achieve the global SDG agenda.

Based on the statement of principles and overarching strategy, Digni will develop 5-year strategic plans, in which the thematic areas will be elaborated as part of applications to Norad.



Digni

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