



STRATEGY 2016-2018

About NORWAC

NORWAC is a Norwegian, voluntary, independent organization. It was established in 1983 with the aim of providing humanitarian assistance to Palestinians living in Palestine and neighbouring countries. Since, the scope has been expanded to encompass other groups and countries with needs that NORWAC is particularly capable to meet. The organisation has kept a small and flexible operating model enabling it to respond rapidly to acute needs in areas prone to instability and frequent crises. Assistance shall always be based on locally identified needs and have a long-term perspective.

Vision

NORWAC shall contribute towards ensuring that entire populations, including refugees and other exposed groups, in countries and areas with humanitarian needs have access to basic, safe health services of high quality. NORWAC's work shall support national health authorities, local institutions and individual health workers' efforts to sustain the provision of necessary health services to minimise consequences of war and humanitarian crises.

Values

NORWAC's core values are solidarity, respect, equity and impartiality. Solidarity with people in emergencies is fundamental to all activities.

Approach

NORWAC's work shall be based on humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality as well as medical ethical guidelines. Local co-operating partners and beneficiaries of their services shall receive support based on needs, irrespective of ethnical, political or religious affiliation.

NORWAC's work is based on commitment and voluntarism, keeping the target groups' needs and wishes at the centre of the work. Bureaucracy shall be kept at the lowest justifiable level.

NORWAC shall support health infrastructure and training of health personnel, primarily through existing and established systems like public health services or established voluntary organisations.

The support shall have a stable and long-term perspective where building of independent communities is central even in times of emergency and crisis.

NORWAC supported projects are mainly implemented by local partners. The contents of the co-operation shall be based on local needs and initiated by local partners.

Norwegian and international experts should preferably be used in training, and only exceptionally as service deliverers.



Overall Objective

NORWAC's overall objective is to secure health services for people in need. This is achieved through provision of support in:

- Sustaining critical health services in areas of conflict and war
- Sustaining health services to refugees and vulnerable groups
- Strengthening national and local institutions' ability to provide health services

NORWAC's geographical core areas are Palestine, Lebanon and Syria. Other areas with arising needs may be eligible, provided that NORWAC is particularly well positioned to meet such needs.

Goals for each operational country vary according to population needs and their health services variably functioning infrastructure. The country-specific goals are found below.

Palestine

- Contribute to health services of high quality for the populations of Gaza and the West Bank through educational projects and equipment support.
- Contribute to retain Palestinian health institutions in East Jerusalem through educational projects and equipment support.
- Contribute to improved capacity and ability within the Palestinian authorities to provide health services.
- Contribute to Palestinian national unity through health projects.
- Foster co-operation between local partners and Norwegian and international institutions and networks.

Lebanon

- Contribute to retain and develop health services for Palestinian and Syrian refugees as well as for Lebanese citizens.
- Support education of Palestinian health personnel.
- Support activities concerned with mental health welfare for children and youth.
- Foster co-operation between all NORWAC partners in Lebanon across ethnic, political and religious divides.
- Foster co-operation between local partners and Norwegian and international institutions and networks.

Syria

- Contribute to retain health services in Syria.
- Contribute to rebuilding damaged health services and retain job opportunities for health personnel.
- Support voluntary institutions in places where public health services are non-functional.



Partners

NORWAC selects co-operating partners based on need. NORWAC's partners shall be socially and politically integrated in the communities in which they operate.

NORWAC's partners can be health authorities, local or international voluntary organisations.

NORWAC's Norwegian hospital and health institution partners offer competent staff. This makes it possible to recruit health personnel for educational and training purposes as well as emergency assistance.

NORWAC's unique contribution

NORWAC is a small and flexible organisation able to respond rapidly to emergencies. This is a highly suitable model in areas affected by frequent crises and changing circumstances.

NORWAC's established relationships with all partners across political, religious and ethnic divides provide unique access to vulnerable groups and opportunity to cover needs that no others respond to.

NORWAC and their partners base their work on intimate local knowledge and understanding of the communities in the operational countries. This ensures that the work is integrated, needed and accepted locally.

NORWAC's country directors have varying professional health backgrounds. Their experience from and affiliation to the Norwegian health sector is, together with thorough local knowledge, fundamental for NORWAC's ability to provide relevant support