



# Annual Report 2008

Thirteen year-old En Yan keeps a tight hold of her father's arm.  
- I knew how dangerous the cluster bombs were but when I saw my children playing with them I had to do something to save them, says Sam Youn Enn. It cost him his sight, both his arms and thus the ability to provide for his family.



**\* Protecting life and health**



**\* Right to land! Right to culture! Right to respect!**



**\* Rightful distribution of power and resources**

*“How do we really want people in Kragerø, Tromsø and Grue to perceive us? Whether we’re involved in meals-on-wheels for pensioners or mountain rescue, there must be something deep down that makes us proud of being part of Norwegian People’s Aid.”*



Solidarity  
in Action

## A honed organisation

During 2008, a new national strategy, forming the guidelines for Norwegian People’s Aid work in Norway until 2011, was drawn up. The national strategy is closely linked to the Core Operation Project and involves a honing of the way in which the organisation is viewed from outside. Our main areas of engagement are health and rescue, work for refugees and social inclusion, youth and international solidarity. We think the national strategy has so many interesting angles and approaches that it will be a stimulus to more activity. Hopefully, this will also result in acquiring more members than we currently have.

Over the last few years, profiling our international efforts and our youth work has led to increased recruitment, particularly from the Labour Movement. The national strategy brings clarity in relation to what we intend to do regarding racism, youth, and health and rescue. The national

strategy also makes it simpler for us to strengthen our financial position. Moreover it makes it easier to explain what we can accomplish together in our contact with LO and its local organisations.

It also emerges from the national strategy that Norwegian People’s Aid is to assume political standpoints and to be an active political player in Norwegian society. This was very apparent through our mine work in 2008 where we lead the way, both nationally and internationally, in our efforts to bring about a ban on cluster munitions.

We made good use of our political experience and intend to continue doing so in future. This does not solely concern our international work for solidarity but also our refugee and social inclusion policies at home. Among other activities, Norwegian People’s Aid is becoming one of the largest operators of refugee reception centres in Norway. The primary reason for this is that

it gives us insight into the day-to-day lives of the residents so that we can prick the conscience of the government or Directorate of Immigration if they are not doing a good job. Secondly we wish to forge links between the reception centres and our local chapters. Few funds are available to residents and resources are limited so any activities we can set up at the centres will be warmly welcomed.

Protecting life and health. Rightful distribution of power and resources. This is solidarity in practice.

FINN ERIK THORESEN,  
Chairman of the Board



## Board composition as of 31.12.08:

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
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### EMPLOYEES REPRESENTATIVES

|             |
|-------------|
| TORD LIER   |
| IVAR AAMODT |



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*“I have become acquainted with an organisation with tremendous amounts of resources, both at home and abroad, something which has opened my eyes to a wide range of opportunities and challenges.”*

## A wonderful, exciting year!

Text: Kristine Lindberg

– I have become acquainted with an organisation with tremendous amounts of resources, both at home and abroad, something which has opened my eyes to a wide range of opportunities and challenges. Such is the way as Secretary-General for Norwegian People's Aid.

Petter Eide began his job as the leader of Norwegian People's Aid in January last year, and just a small glimpse at the interviews he gave at the time shows that both his expectations and ambitions were high. One of the greatest challenges was to lead a process in which our activities and programmes were to be examined and cut back.

### The Core Operation Process

– When I first started, the organisation was operating in broad strokes with many different activities and projects and it was necessary to cut back on the use of resources. My mandate from the Board and the management group was to tidy up within this diverse range and to ensure that our activities, both at home and abroad, reflect NPA's programme of principles and values, says Eide.

This process led to what we now call our core operation, which is then sub-divided into two main areas: Protecting life and health and Rightful distribution of power and resources. Within these two areas we find various activities both on a national and an international basis.

*This work meant that some things had to be cut back. Did you receive the confidence you needed or did you have to rely on a carrot and stick approach?*

– We got both confidence and reproach, says Eide, a smile accompanying his serious look. – The latter I can cope with; that's the least one could expect. It simply shows that we have many dedicated people within the organisation who are not prepared to be



Norwegian People's Aid must have a perspective on power wherever we work. We must be political in the sense that we shall seek to change unjust power relations which maintain an unequal distribution of resources, says Eide.

picked at without good reason. Overall, I think most people are satisfied with the streamlining, not least because it means that what we do comes over much more clearly. It also makes it easier to see results. – Perhaps a few think we have gone forward too quickly, but if one is to bring about change as a new leader, one should do it before getting entangled in the organisation's unwritten laws and traditions. The opportunity of bringing about change is the privilege of the outsider, says Eide.

### National Strategy

– Our goal is to change something in Norway, so we must collectively decide what we want to do! That's why we drew up a national strategy for Norwegian People's Aid, the biggest single initiative of 2008. For this, we brought together a number of core national objectives, which in turn deliver clear guidelines as to how we can use our resources to create positive change in society. This concerns both our health-and-rescue and social inclusion-and-refugee work. At the same time, we have managed to take care of the long, proud traditions that we have in the country.

### An organisation for solidarity

– We are neither a charitable nor emergency relief organisation and we do not provide services. We must perform as an agent of change both at home and abroad – in the countries that need our support. For this reason we must have a perspective on power wherever we work. We must be political in the sense that we shall seek to change unjust power relations which maintain an unequal distribution of resources.

*But aren't we called Norwegian People's Aid?*

– Obviously there's a challenge in that our name gives associations with charity and this can be confusing for both our work partners and other interested parties. That's makes it even more important to clarify who we are and what we do, says Eide with enthusiasm. –Norwegian People's Aid is first and foremost concerned with power relations inside the countries where we are active. We wish to stimulate opportunity for oppressed groups to find a counter power strategy. This is the way to go if we are to contribute to a more rightful distribution of goods.

We simply have to dare to say that this is our mandate! Eide takes a short pause before continuing: We are the Labour Movement's humanitarian organisation for solidarity and the work we do internationally is perfectly in keeping with the Norwegian Labour Movement's long traditions. Among other things, it's to do with the distribution of goods and giving workers access to the resources they create themselves.

– This provides clear guidelines for marketing ourselves, both nationally and internationally. We also have to dare to say uncomfortable things, challenge those who help preserve an unequal distribution of power.

*NPA humanitarian mine work constitutes a considerable part of our operation. How does that fit into this profile?*

– Over recent years, Norwegian People's Aid has built up a reputation as one of the world's leading agents within humanitarian mine- and explosives clearance. Thorough preliminary analysis means that we clear mines where it is needed most. A society in which the people are safe from life-threatening mines and cluster munitions is an important prerequisite of political development. By tackling humanitarian needs, we liberate political capacity.

– Since the 90s, Norwegian People's Aid has also been a powerful political force and played a decisive role in work to bring about the 1997 mine convention and the ban on cluster munitions in 2008. The tie-up between being an active force within mine- and explosives clearance and political lobbying on a local and global level has been a recipe for success. It gives us the legitimacy we need to pursue global and national political work.

### Humility important

– We are a global organisation, something which means that we have overriding strategic priorities for our operation. This affects what we do at the national level and it's my job as leader to communicate this

task, something which isn't always that easy, says Eide.

– I've just been to a general meeting of 80 mine clearance employees in Norwegian People's Aid Kurdistan at which I had to tell them that the time had come to phase out their programme so that necessary work could be started in other areas. This is a message which directly and unhappily affects the working situation of 80 people and we have to be humble in our approach.

– First and foremost, it is my meetings with all the different individuals that I take with me as leader of the organisation, says Eide, when asked what stands out for him from the year that has passed. – Everything from the old man in Trondheim who has

given his time to health and rescue every single weekend over many years to Captain Moses on the Norwegian People's Aid freighter on the Nile in South Sudan. To sit on deck with Moses and a cold beer by the bank of the Nile and hear his stories about NPA involvement during the civil war years in the country is an education in unbelievable courage, hard work and deeprooted humanity. That makes me proud, says Eide.

– I've been in this line of work for at least 10 years now and I bear with me a constant fear of becoming cynical. Meeting such individuals is important because it helps us maintain our humility and remember what it is that we are doing.

## FACTFILE

## This is Norwegian People's Aid

Norwegian People's Aid is the **Labour Movement's** humanitarian organisation. Our vision is Solidarity in Practice. We support people so that they can protect themselves and promote their own interests.

Our work is based upon cooperation between partners of equal worth – not charity. Charity gives the donor control over the recipient whereas **solidarity** means respecting people's integrity and their right to determine their own conditions.

Norwegian People's Aid is not a politically neutral organisation. We stand up for our views in important social debates. Our goal of a more **just** world means that we often choose partners in conflict with ruling powers.

Popular participation and organisation are important measures in ensuring human rights and giving people more **influence** over their own lives and social development.

Our work in Norway carries the stamp of our members' involvement, including considerable efforts with our health and **rescue services**. Anti-racist work and the running of refugee reception centres are other important activities.

Internationally, Norwegian People's Aid is known for its extensive **mine-clearance work** and political involvement against mines and cluster munitions. The fight against mines and cluster munitions is an important tool in our work of ensuring people the right and access to land, water and other **natural resources**.

Countries attempting to rebuild after years of war or conflict require assistance in building **democratic** institutions such as a judicial system and a free and independent press. Hence this is also among NPA's international areas of involvement.

Protecting life and health is one of the two core areas of Norwegian People's Aid and embraces key activities and areas of involvement both nationally and internationally. Protecting life and health has permeated NPA activities from the very beginning in 1939.



# Protecting life and health

On the national level, protecting life and health comes primarily to view in our **rescue services and accident prevention work**. These comprise a key national activity in which thousands of volunteers are involved. Our work also has an important health policy aspect where we involve politicians and local authorities..

Protecting life and health is also reflected in many of our international activities where Norwegian People's Aid is, among other things, an important force in strengthening civilian populations' right to **protection from danger during conflict and war**. Following up and monitoring the 1997 Mine Convention – which Norwegian People's Aid helped battle for – is equally relevant as ever. Work to achieve an international ban on cluster munitions was a key concern throughout both 2007 and 2008, in December 2008, we were able to harvest the fruits of this ground-breaking labour.

Avalanche exercise prior to Easter stand-by operations.

In the middle of the morning rush hour, two underground trains collide at Frognerstøer station in Oslo. Of the 50-60 passengers on board, five are killed, ten are badly injured and many receive lighter injuries. Three passengers are declared missing and volunteer crews are called in to search for them.



## Disaster exercise in Oslo

Text and photo: Torunn Aaslund

Norsk folkehjelp Oslo får en alarm av Norwegian People's Aid Oslo receives an alarm call from the police at 9.30 in the morning. The police ask for support from volunteer crews to search in the woods for the three missing passengers. Helga Warrio, Øystein Hellund, Eva Ravdal, Kjetil Hansen and Karianne Thygesen form a search party. Their task is to search along two woodland paths between the train line and Øvreseter Road.

The search party spreads out in a line so that they are about five metres from each other. This is absolutely necessary to ensure that they do not overlook the people they are looking for, who may have fallen down a cutting or crawled under a tree. Team leader Karianne Thygesen is outermost on

the right-hand side and walks alongside the train line, while Eva Ravdal is outermost on the left. She hangs up yellow markers in the trees, which form a guideline for the right flank when they turn and walk back. If anyone encounters problems or is hindered by the terrain, they make it known and the others stop and wait. The heavens open and the rain pours down but they are prepared for this; they simply stop a moment and change into rain gear.

This is a disaster exercise which the rescue services in Oslo hold every year. It is primarily for training the professional crews of the police, fire and ambulance services. – But, says Jon Halvorsen, it was a very good exercise for the voluntary groups that participated from Norwegian People's Aid, the Red Cross and Norwegian Rescue Dogs. We were brought into the exercise at

The team lines up at intervals of a few metres. They are ready to search for those missing after the 'accident' in a densely forested area along the train line.



an early stage and the arrangers were very good at making sure that everyone who took part gained useful experience. This hasn't always been the case previously but now I think the Oslo Police District has a very healthy attitude towards volunteers, he says.

*Erlend Aarsæther who led the search effort during the exercise is also well satisfied.*

- Cooperation is the key to effective rescue services and I'd like to praise the crews who put in maximum effort despite the bad weather.

### FACTFILE

Norwegian People's Aid Health and Rescue Service is an important part of Norwegian rescue services in general. With approximately 60 health and rescue groups and around 2000 operative crews, we represent a considerable resource. Every year, crews from Norwegian People's Aid Health and Rescue take part in over 100 rescue operations across the country.

Our overriding objective is to deliver rapid, appropriate assistance to people in emergency situations. Updated training with a focus on quality means that our crews are well prepared to provide assistance under most conditions.

Norwegian People's Aid Health and Rescue is on stand-by for rescue service in many areas. The majority of our operations involve looking for missing persons. When someone loses their way in the mountains, in the forests or at sea, crews volunteer from the rescue service to save lives and limit injury.

Norwegian People's Aid Health and Rescue is also prepared for action during disasters. This means that crews can be called out to natural disasters such as floods or sizeable accidents.

## Rescue operation during glacier tour

Text and photo: Erlend Aarsæther

Eleven crews from Norwegian People's Aid Health and Rescue Service met up on Saturday, July 5th at Glitterheim in Jotunheimen. All had tents, cooking equipment and food for a week in the mountains. Participants came from Tromsø in the north to Stavanger in the south. The first hike took place in bright sunshine to the top of Ryggehøe, 2142 metres above sea level.

The good weather was not to last long however. The first surprised exclamations – oh, it's snowing – were heard in the camp as dinner was being prepared. In the course of two hours the weather had changed from bright sunshine and warmth to driving snow and a temperature around freezing. We've all heard that conditions in the mountains can change quickly, but it's always just as extraordinary to experience it in practice.

The following day we woke to several centimetres of snow. Fog too lay like a grey blanket over the landscape. The plan for the day was to climb Glittertind but, after waiting two hours for better weather, we decided to go down to Glitterheim. A cup of coffee, a trip to the toilet and, not least, an updated weather forecast were too much to resist.

### Braved the weather

On Monday, we left camp just before six in the afternoon. The fog remained thick but we found the path and the cairns towards the top. The GPS was a valuable instrument in keeping us on course. Around about 9, we stood on the summit. Temperatures below freezing and blizzard conditions ensured, however, that our stay at 2464m was a short one.

Contrary to the forecast, we woke on Tuesday to the sun shining on our tents. We packed our equipment and set off towards Glitterheim and Lom. In Lom we bought more food and repaired our cars. We didn't stay long; the swimming pool and sauna at Spiterstulen were calling.



Volunteers are gathered in the beautiful surroundings of Jotunheimen in the summer of 2008.

The Svellnos Glacier lies about two hours' hike from the Spiterstulen Mountain Lodge. At its edge we split into two groups, one for those who had never been on a glacier before, and one for those with more experience. How to use ice-axe and crampons, simple glacier rescue methods and how to find one's way through complicated ice were all gone through. After about three hours, we turned back once more towards the swimming pool.

### Alarm given

On Wednesday night we were woken by an air ambulance helicopter landing by the lodge. A couple of us went up to find out what was going on and to see if we could help. We were swiftly informed that a 15 year-old boy had gone missing during a trip over Glittertind. We talked to the police, informing them that we had eleven experienced crews standing by at their disposal. At half past eight on Thursday morning, we got the message we had been waiting for: We need you to undertake a search. Two men were requested to meet up and were given instructions and a two-way radio. Norwegian Rescue Dogs provided several teams, the Red Cross notified aid corps from the surrounding area and the police and Sea King helicopter took part in the search. We were asked to search an area close to the path from Glittertind. After six

hours' search in an area which was at times very difficult to move about in, we received the message we'd been hoping for. The boy had been found alive and well by the Sea King helicopter. He was airlifted down to Spiterstulen, where his family and friends were waiting.

A successful rescue operation could be terminated and tired crews could enjoy a well-deserved portion of sour cream porridge, sitting with their backs to a sunny wall. It felt good that the skills we have could be used when it counted.

### INTERVIEW

Name: **Lola Awoyemi**  
Age: **52**  
Local chapter: **Drammen**  
Member since: **I have been a member for four years.**



**2008:**  
*"I am very active in Women Can. I was in Beograd in 2007 and in 2008 we had Immigrant Women Can training in Drammen. We only managed one course last year, but this year we will be holding at least four."*

A ban with no exemptions, loopholes or transitional periods was the demand from almost 300 delegates from Norwegian People's Aid and the other organisations of the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) international network at the cluster munitions conference in Dublin in May.



## The fight for a cluster munitions ban

Text and photo: Øystein Sassebo Bryhni

Dublin, May 2008: The weekend before the final round of negotiations began, a stream of activists and lobbyists had already arrived in Dublin from Afghanistan, South Africa, Argentina, USA, Vietnam and Denmark. No government was able to negotiate without having met a citizen or representative from a neighbouring country in the corridor, who would explain in no uncertain terms why an international ban was important.

– The proposed agreement on the table was rock solid. The problem was to get countries like Germany, France and Great Britain on board without watering down the ban. To achieve this, it was important not to allow the group of so-called difficult countries to act as one. Great Britain was to be isolated, recalls Grethe Østern of Norwegian People's Aid and one of the leaders of the CMC board.

### Great Britain isolated

That the British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown – already under heavy pressure – was to sail into heavy weather was clear from the outset. British Landmine Action had arranged for the publication of an open letter requiring a cluster munitions ban in The Times on the very day negotiations opened. A group

of former generals from the British Armed Services and NATO called for a ban on what they called an “inhuman and outdated type of weaponry”.

One of the most controversial issues during the negotiations was the definition of cluster munitions. France, Canada and Germany, in opposition to Great Britain, intimated that they would not strive for exemptions for certain types of cluster munitions. Britain was already being isolated alongside the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Japan and Slovakia – the only countries which still required broad exemptions.

The Norwegian delegation seized upon this development the following day and put forward a proposed definition which, in reality, would ban all extant cluster munitions. In many ways, this was the diplomatic coup-de-grâce. Difficult countries such as Australia, Canada, France, Germany and the Netherlands were positive to the Norwegian proposal.

### Almost perfect

The proposal was robust. It provided firm guidelines for helping victims and clearing affected areas. It banned all cluster munitions. There was no transitional period.

## INTERVIEW

Name: **Martin Hansen**  
Age: **18 år**  
Local chapter: **Oslo**  
Member since: **18 years, since I was born.**



**2008:**  
*“What do I remember best from 2008? Was the bombing of Gaza in 2008? No, what I remember best is the cluster munitions ban. It was a good, important issue which we brought forward and which resulted in an important ban. I was part of the Facebook Group and recruited lots of my friends.”*

Norwegian People's Aid and CMC, however, would have preferred the treaty to include a clear ban on signatories knowingly or willingly assisting non-signatories in the use of cluster munitions in joint military operations. CMC lobbied intensely until the very last minute to bring this about, but without success. Nevertheless, this need not weaken the ban.

– The landmine ban clearly shows that an international ban can be effective even if large

## Against all odds

**300 activists from around the world were present during the historic signing of the cluster munitions ban in Oslo on the 3rd and 4th of December.**

– These are people that I and Norwegian People's Aid have worked very closely with since the drive towards the cluster munitions ban began in February 2007. Without the cooperation of Norwegian People's Aid partners in the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) international network, the Norwegian Government would never have been able to set up a ban. Nevertheless, the most important role was played by cluster munitions' victims. Many, Branislav Kapetanovic, for example,

participated throughout the process. Kapetanovic was himself a mine-clearance worker removing UXOs from cluster munitions after the 1999 bombing of the former Yugoslavia when he lost his arms and legs eight years ago. He has become the cluster munitions ban's foremost spokesman. Throughout the negotiating process, the victims constantly reminded us why the achievement of an international ban was so important, not just to ban the weapons that destroyed their lives but also to oblige countries to render assistance to victims, their families and local communities, says Grethe Østern, political advisor for mines in Norwegian People's Aid and one of the leaders of the CMC board.

nations, such as the USA, Russia and China are not signed up. None of these countries has dared use landmines after the ban came into force for fear of the international condemnation which would result. We will achieve the same stigmatising effect with the cluster munitions ban, says Per Nergaard, leader of the Norwegian People's Aid Mine Section.

## FACTFILE

- Cluster munitions have been killing and maiming civilians for over 40 years. Cluster munitions are spread over large areas and often affect civilians as a result. Unexploded cluster munitions remain on the ground and can take lives decades after a conflict has been resolved.
- Around a quarter of cluster munitions' victims are children. Children are attracted by the size and appearance of cluster munitions.
- Millions of cluster munitions are stockpiled in 78 countries. The cluster munitions ban prevents these from being used or sold, avoiding what could have been a greater humanitarian problem than landmines.
- 34 countries have produced over 210 variants of cluster munitions. Cluster munitions can be dropped from aircraft or launched from the ground.

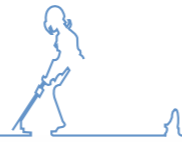
## Great concern

More than eight out of ten Norwegians know what a cluster bomb is, according to research undertaken by TNS Gallup for Norwegian People's Aid in December 2008.

– The study shows that 85.5% of the Norwegian population is able to explain what a cluster bomb is. This confirms our impression that the population is concerned about the cluster munitions issue, says Ivar Christiansen, Head of Media for Norwegian People's Aid. Almost two thousand Norwegians joined a Facebook group to support the international ban on cluster munitions.

An activist makes her point in the fight for a cluster munitions ban in Dublin.





*“Norwegian People’s Aid humanitarian mine work is not first and foremost about removing mines and undetonated cluster munitions but about people and our relationship to a mine-infested environment. Our goal is to create a society where people can live safely and where financial, social and health issues show sound development,” says Per Nergaard, leader of the Norwegian People’s Aid Mine Section.*



## Mine clearance provides development

In 2008, it was eleven years since the international agreement which put an effective stop to the use and production of anti-personnel mines came into being. 122 states participated in the signing ceremony in Ottawa, in December 1997. Today the number of signatory states totals 153.

– It is estimated that between 50 and 80 million deployed and activated mines still lie in wait around the world. As many as 15-20 thousand people are killed or maimed by these mines every year. It is likely that the real figure is much higher because many of the worst affected countries do not have any mechanisms for registering victims of these weapons. What we can assert and document are the enormous financial costs that landmines have in under-developed countries where they hinder development and tie up large areas of land and infrastructure. What we cannot document is what it does to the millions of people who have to live with the risk of being killed by a mine, unexploded cluster munitions or a grenade every day, throughout the year, says Per Nergaard, leader of the Norwegian People’s Aid Mine Section.

– The dangers posed by mines and unexploded remnants of war don’t simply disappear at the stroke of a pen at the negotiating table, and international agreements do not remove mines and explosives. This threat disappears because ordinary people put their lives at risk every day to find and remove these remnants. Many of these people currently work for Norwegian People’s Aid as Mine and UXO clearance workers.

– The Cluster Munitions Ban and the Landmine Agreement, set to become an international convention in 2009, are good news for future generations who will no longer have to live in fear of these weapons. The generations which have to continue to live with landmines deserve all

Between 50 and 80 million activated mines lie in wait around the world, claiming thousands of victims every year.

of our attention in the years to come, says Nergaard.

Norwegian People’s Aid is one of the world’s largest organisations within the field of humanitarian mine clearance. We have become specialists in finding and neutralising mines and other explosives and are currently active in 15 countries badly affected by mines and UXOs. We have 1500 mine-clearance employees who, supplemented with mine dogs and mine-clearance machines, put in a tremendous effort every day to clear mines and cluster munitions.

### Work for political influence

In addition, Norwegian People’s Aid is an active participant in the development of new policy in this humanitarian field. – Our approach is to make sure that the impressions and experiences we gain from being present where mine problems actually exist reflect the real issues when new agreements and policy are to be drawn up. In order to be able to solve the actual problems people face in mine-affected areas, political processes must be based on reality, says Nergaard. – Thus Norwegian People’s Aid, through its additional role as a political player, has been an absolutely key contributor in achieving both the Landmine and Cluster Munitions Agreements.

Nevertheless, Norwegian People’s Aid is the first to acknowledge that there is still a long way to go before people in these countries and areas will be able to move around freely and have basic protection against the dangers. The international mine agreement has delivered formidable results and saved many lives. The cluster munitions agreement recently signed in Oslo will also save many innocent lives since the millions of cluster munitions currently stockpiled will never be used. Despite the fact that these agreements

work and are of enormous importance, the greater part of the work of finding and destroying the millions of mines and explosives which continue to take lives still remains.

### Competence building

Norwegian People’s Aid mine work is largely concerned with supporting the authorities in mine-affected countries so that they can deal with the problems themselves and solve them in the long run.

– We do this by sending our experts to mine-affected countries, either to set up mine-clearance programmes led and conducted by Norwegian People’s Aid or to make our expertise available to the authorities. In this way our practical experience of planning and carrying out such work in all the countries we have worked in is made available so that the work can be executed effectively and efficiently, says Nergaard.

### FACTFILE

**Our mine section has been active in the following countries during 2008:**

- Angola
- Bosnia Herzegovina
- Cambodia
- Croatia
- Ethiopia
- Georgia
- Iraq
- Iran
- Jordan
- Laos
- Lebanon
- Sudan
- Thailand
- Vietnam
- Zambia
- Rwanda
- Sri Lanka
- Serbia

# Norwegian People's Aid in 2008

Read more on: [www.folkehjelp.no](http://www.folkehjelp.no)



20<sup>th</sup> January

## Dark and cold in Gaza City

Darkness and cold engulfed Gaza City when the only electricity supply station on the Gaza Strip had to close owing to an acute lack of fuel. Norwegian People's Aid resident representative on the Gaza Strip, Kirsten Belck-Olsen, informed the media at home about a dramatic situation for the Palestinians in Gaza. – People were badly affected after Israel closed all the border crossings and fuel and other supplies were denied entry. The UN issues a severe warning about the situation of the civilian population on the Gaza Strip.



22<sup>nd</sup> February

## From Taekwondo to NGO in Ethiopia

Previously the Union Taekwondo Club ran self-defence courses for college students in Addis Ababa. Now the club has assumed the responsibility of running the Norwegian People's Aid programme in the fight to stop violence against women in Ethiopia and changed its status from club to organisation. Its new name, HIBIR, means HARMONY in Amharic.

– *All this violence against women! It seems as if no-one is able to stop it. After having seen so much about it on TV, I began thinking how our club could help to combat it, says Mengistu*



21<sup>st</sup> March

## Diversity Year – focus on the fight against racism!

Norwegian People's Aid Youth lays down a challenge: Commemorate the UN's International Day against Racism and Discrimination on the 21st March! Seize the day! Raise the issue over lunch, reflect over what you express and your attitudes. Norwegian People's Aid Youth thinks that it is important that diversity does not drown in a sea of opinionising, that active measures are taken to fight everyday racism and that discriminatory treatment be taken seriously.



22<sup>nd</sup> April

## Sewing a future in Sudan

Agnes Avua is self-employed in South Sudan. The 20 year-old started her own little shop after having taken tailoring at Norwegian People's Aid technical school in Yei. – Now I want to take further training so I can use an advanced electric sewing machine, says Avua. The 1-year tailoring course also includes reading and writing skills and an introduction to starting one's own business. Our technical schools in Yei are an important part of our programme for rebuilding society in South Sudan. Without being able to provide for oneself and one's family, one cannot build peace



8<sup>th</sup> May

## Norwegian People's Aid in Burma disaster area

The situation is desperate in the cyclone-ravaged areas of Burma. Tens of thousands are dead, more are missing and a million people are homeless. It will take many years to rebuild the affected areas. Norwegian People's Aid have a number of local partners in Burma. One mobilised 700 volunteers to work in the worst affected areas of the delta. Many of the volunteers have experience of disaster work after the 2004 tsunami which affected the same area in Burma.



29<sup>th</sup> June

## Anything could happen in Zimbabwe

– The situation is tense, critical and unpredictable. It's on the way to becoming a humanitarian disaster, not least owing to the political violence which broke out immediately after the election of 29th March. The violence is on a steeply inclining curve and becoming more brutal. Its extent and character makes it very difficult to stop. It is quite clearly a challenge that the entire international community must relate to and help to find a solution, declares Petter Eide.



27<sup>th</sup> July

## Groundless accusations in Sri Lanka

Eight vehicles were stolen last night from the Norwegian People's Aid mine-clearance programme in Sri Lanka. – Accusations that we would willingly have handed these vehicles over to the Tamil Tigers have no grasp on reality, says Petter Eide. Sri Lanka withdrew from the cease-fire in January this year. Violence has blown up again and the security situation and the denial of entry permits to Tamil areas lead to the suspension of mine-clearance work on 5th January.



5<sup>th</sup> August

## Fisheries Minister's wedding provided 2.5km of mine-free roads to school

– Many thanks for a splendid initiative, said Norwegian People's Aid, Petter Eide, when presenting Fisheries Minister, Helga Pedersen, with a bouquet of flowers and a thank-you letter. Helga Pedersen married in July to her fiancé, Erik Brenli. Rather than presents for themselves, the couple asked for gifts to Norwegian People's Aid landmine efforts by means of the purchase of mine-free roads to school. – *The reason that I wanted to do this is that we have close family who trod on a mine back home in Finnmark during the Second World War, explained Helga Pedersen.*



29<sup>th</sup> September

## Clearing cluster munitions in Georgia

Clearing cluster munitions in Georgia Twelve mine- and explosive-clearance workers from Norwegian People's Aid are clearing cluster munitions in Georgia following the conflict with Russia. – Villages caught up in the conflict have seen sporadic, haphazard clearance work from army crews but there was little coordination with local authorities or local community representatives. This was very disheartening bearing in mind the future security of the local population and the approaching harvest, says Per Nergaard, leader of Norwegian People's Aid Mine Section.



6<sup>th</sup> October

## New constitution in Ecuador

For two decades, social organisations have protested, toppled governments and proposed change. Under the national umbrella organisation for indigenous peoples, CONAIE, one of the Norwegian People's Aid partners in Ecuador, these organisations were the first to put forward proposals which concerned the whole country rather than just their own groups. Correa's government and the new constitution, passed by referendum on 28th September, are products of this development. Today, the indigenous peoples' organisations proclaim a clear yes to the constitution and conditional support to Correa.



11<sup>th</sup> November

## Students at the Human Library

Norwegian People's Aid student group in Oslo began term with a large stand at the Student Festival in Oslo, where they organised a human library and provided information about Norwegian People's Aid voluntary work. For many it was a bit of a shock to borrow a Hindu or someone with HIV between lectures and lunch. All the same, many were persuaded to be part of this special experience, an experience which they did not regret.



3<sup>rd</sup> December

## Signing of the Cluster Munitions Treaty in Oslo

Norwegian People's Aid were a decisive contributor to the Government's work for an international ban on cluster munitions. The agreement was signed in Oslo on 3rd December. – This agreement shows what we can achieve when nations and civil society work together, says Leader of the Board of Cluster Munitions Coalition, and Norwegian People's Aid advisor, Grethe Østern. – The agreement is a victory because it provides clear obligations to countries to help victims, clear land and destroy stockpiles, so that these weapons may never be used again.

Mobilising popular involvement and participation is a key objective for Norwegian People's Aid, both at home and abroad. For this reason, the ground is laid for strengthening and developing measures which bring increased local activity.



## Rightful distribution of power and resources

Nationally, Norwegian People's Aid works to improve the rights and living conditions for **asylum seekers and refugees**.

Norwegian refugee policy is often stamped with negative attitudes and the authorities' focus on control, deterrence and tightening up. The debate is almost wholly concerned with

Norway and Norwegian needs and relations. Norwegian

People's Aid lays the foundations for local involvement concerning these issues and puts **international solidarity** on the agenda on both a national and local basis.

On the international front, Norwegian People's Aid collaborates with organisations which wish to secure national, democratic **control of natural resources**. This may be people's rights to land and water that they have administered for centuries or national control of minerals, gas and oil.

Our method is to work together with **local partners** who understand conditions where they live. Our job is to support their work for social and political change. An important way forward is to build up robust local organisations that can fight for a more rightful distribution of power and resources.

*“As a guardian of long standing, I think it’s a shame I didn’t get such a course! I needed it and can see now what I didn’t get. It’s not before time, for guardian work is important and demanding. It’s absolutely necessary for courses for guardians of long standing too.”*  
 (Guardian of eight years’ standing during evaluation 09.10.2008).



## Child asylum seekers have the right to competent guardians

Text: Åse Brandval, Klassekampen

**Norwegian People’s Aid has been running various guardian projects since 2002 and, in Autumn 2008, was able to conduct systematic arrival-phase guardian training on commission from the of Immigration (UDI) and financed by the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion (AID).**

This has resulted in an extremely competent corps of guardians, meaning a considerable difference for the safeguarding of a vulnerable group’s rights and the ability to point out the weaknesses and development opportunities of the different systems which surround the children. Guardians take all the important decisions in parents’ absence, and ensure that the children’s needs and legal rights are taken care of.

Norwegian People’s Aid are very pleased that AID’s proposal for the 2009 national budget reads: “In order to ensure that the rights of unaccompanied child asylum seekers are safeguarded, it is additionally proposed that 1.3 million Norwegian kroner be granted for the recruitment and training

of guardians”. This is the first time that training of guardians for unaccompanied child asylum seekers has been earmarked in a proposal to the national budget. It is a watershed in the work to secure rights for an especially vulnerable group and laudable of the current government. In the proposal, however, it is specified that the training should be for guardians of unaccompanied child asylum seekers between 15 and 18 years old.

### Rights for some children only?

This means in practice that unaccompanied child asylum seekers who are under 15, live in transit or in ordinary reception centres outside of the Oslo area, or who are domiciled in a Norwegian municipality, will largely get guardians who come to their task without sufficient knowledge of the guardian’s role, responsibilities, duties and opportunities.

### Criticism from the UN

The UN Children’s Committee has criticised Norway for a number of years over the lack of provision for unaccompanied child asylum seekers. Even if the authorities have introduced a few measures for some of these children, Norwegian People’s Aid sees enormous variation and great deficiencies around the country where safeguarding these children’s rights and living conditions is concerned. According to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, refugee children should not only have the same rights as other children, they also have requirements for special protection.

Unaccompanied child asylum seekers find themselves in a situation without their parents’ care, guidance and protection. They may have experienced war, violence and assault – both before leaving their home country, family and network and during an often long and difficult flight across the world with more or less well-meaning travel companions. During the asylum

seeker phase in Norway, they are often affected by feelings of loss, sorrow and longing for those they have lost – sometimes not knowing if they are still alive – and, at the same time, their future is uncertain in relation to whether or not they will be allowed to stay in the country or whether they will ever meet surviving family members again. In this vulnerable phase of its life, a child must receive particularly good care provision and be ensured good, competent guardians who can provide quality guardianship for the child’s best interests.

### The guardian situation in Norway today

Guardianship in Norway is marked by variation: variation both in the extent to which different municipal courts of protection have the competence or resources to run qualitative guardian training, and variation in relation to how individual guardians understand the guardian’s role, tasks and possibilities. Variations range from perceptions of guardians as support personnel who help with leisure-time activities for the child, ‘signature-guardians’ who simply sign the papers they are sent and barely see the



Many unaccompanied child asylum seekers need competent guardians in Norway.

child at all, to guardians who are aware of how important proper guardianship is and who work to ensure that the child’s needs and rights are safeguarded within an often complicated bureaucracy in different fields. Guardians must ensure that a child’s needs are taken care of concerning the preparation and undertaking of asylum interviews, UDI case treatment, legal support, necessary physical and psychological health provision, suitable school provision in various phases, living conditions and care, including leisure activities and networking, the settlement process, return or repatriation if applicable, and so on and so forth. It is the task of society and a national responsibility to ensure children have competent guardians. This is in keeping with both international obligations that Norway has assumed and Norwegian Law.

### Law concerning representation

A proposal for a new law concerning representation and a new representational scheme is currently being considered at AID. Norwegian People’s Aid believes that this process must be prioritised so that a long-term structure with a predictable framework will be in place as soon as possible. We also ask that the framework for training guardians of unaccompanied child asylum seekers be extended so that all children across the country receive qualitatively comparable service from competent guardians. Norwegian People’s Aid is also a part of the NGOU network which is lobbying for the Child protection Agency to take over care responsibilities for unaccompanied child asylum seekers between 15 and 18.

### INTERVIEW

Name:  
**May Kristin Aas**  
 Age: 18 år  
 Local chapter:  
**Stange Løten**  
 Member since:  
**2008**



**2008:**  
*“In 2008 we formed a youth group in Stange. There are five members so far but we plan to recruit many more. We are first and foremost planning to run health and rescue activities.”*

### FACTFILE

#### Norwegian People’s Aid Refugee Reception Centres in 2008:

Tanum Transit Centre  
 Dikemark Transit Centre

Hovelåsen Ordinary Reception Centre  
 Husebyparken  
 Kongsvinger  
 Vardåsen  
 Veumalléen

**Starting in 2009:**  
 Ringsaker  
 Øyer

### FACTFILE

#### Inclusion in a diverse society

The goal of the Norwegian People’s Aid programme for changing attitudes is to reduce prejudice and to create equal opportunities for all, irrespective of gender, age, ethnicity, religious faith and sexual preference. One of our objectives is to be a leading competence resource for inclusion work in business, sport and healthcare.

#### OUR PROJECTS:

- Racism-Free Zones
- Give Racism the Red Card
- The Human Library
- Diversity and Dialogue courses
- Immigrant Women Can



## Strengthening women's position in South Sudan

Text: Siri Baastad

**“The women are proud but shy on the first day of the course. They barely dare to introduce themselves. When they travel home again, they are not scared to speak out at meetings and hold passionate speeches. They change in the course of a week. That’s why this is so exciting,”** says **Women Can** course leader, **Siri Hov Eggen**.

The working partnership between the Labour Party and the SPLM is in full swing. ‘Women Can’ courses, hosted by the Labour Party’s women’s network in collaboration with Norwegian People’s Aid have been held in two states. Siri Hov Eggen of the Akershus Fylkesting (county council) group

Mary Appya, Advisor for Economical Affairs in Central Equatoria, hosted one of several Women Can courses in South Sudan.

has participated on each occasion. Courses are to be held in seven more states in the autumn.

### Female mine-clearance workers

Local Norwegian People’s Aid employees and partner organisations have also been through the ‘Women Can’ course. Participants from the female mine-clearance team in particular stood out as tough women. They challenge prevailing attitudes just by going to work every day.

- Despite our doing just as good a job as the men, we have a hard time getting respected by both our male colleagues and the world at large. It’s important that areas are cordoned

### INTERVIEW

Name:  
**Patrick Kabuchi**  
Age **28** år  
Post:  
**IT consultant,  
Yei, South Sudan**  
Worked for  
NPA since:  
**January 2007**



#### 2008:

*IT training in the programme was completed and shown to be effective. We have trained employees, particularly those in management posts. The purpose was to increase their IT competence in order to make the execution of their jobs easier. The training has led to increased efficiency and has eased report work considerably.*

off’ when mines are to be detonated but the men don’t always listen to our orders and create dangerous situations by not doing so, says Naima Rejoice.

Despite healthy salaries, the female mine workers do not have an easy time of it at home. Their husbands are suspicious because the women live away from home under canvas when they are working. Husbands have come several times to fetch their wives home again. Now the women want to see an end to this. At the course, they wrote a reader’s contribution to the Sudan Mirror about their situation.

- The job is difficult and stressful but we don’t want to do anything but carry out a good job – a job that we are trained to do. We want society to respect us and our husbands not to stand in the way of our important task, says Naoma Rejoice.

### FACTFILE

By the end of the year, NPA, in collaboration with the SPLM Women’s League had run ‘Women Can’ courses in all the ten states of South Sudan as well as in Southern Kordofan and the Nuba Mountains. The course were for women in the SPLM. In all, 16 instructors from the Labour Party voluntarily gave their time to run the various courses.



*“We are trying to influence matters but this is not very easy when the authorities accuse us of sedition. Putting faith in just treatment within the legal system is also hopeless as the judges are not independent and support only the rich,”* says **Rashana Bunn**.

## Fighting relocation

Text: Torunn Aaslund

**Enforced relocation of the poor is a big political problem in Cambodia, in South-East Asia. The Boeung Kak lake, north of the capital, Phnom Penh, is one of the last natural sources of water in the area.**

In 2008, as many as 800 families were forced out by dubious housing speculators. The local community reacted by mobilising strongly against these evictions. The campaign was supported by several organisations which gave training in negotiation and land laws. One such was Norwegian People’s Aid partner organisation Housing Rights Task Force.

Hok Lang had been living with her family by the lake since 1993. On the 26th November 2008, her house collapsed under pressure from large amounts of sand piled up after excavations by a Cambodian/South Korean company, in cahoots with certain individuals from the Phnom Penh Governing Council. Hok Lang had previously participated in various development programmes supported by Norwegian People’s Aid and become one of the town’s social activists.

Hok Lang decided to refuse the USD8000 compensation originally offered by the developers and the council. She spoke out on the radio and in other media and rapidly became one of the strongest voices of the resistance campaign. She continued to disregard the slowly increasing offers of compensation and their accompanying threats. In the end she settled for the much fairer sum of USD35000, which she used to buy her new home.

### Land law consciousness and training

Rachana Bunn is a law student working for Housing Rights Task Force, one of the Norwegian People’s Aid partner



In 2008, as many as 800 families were forcibly relocated from Boeung Kak Lake by dubious housing speculators

organisations in Cambodia. The organisation provides education in land laws and other legislation to poor people threatened with enforced relocation so that they understand the law actually gives them many rights. The authorities, however, do not hesitate to break the law when it suits them.

- This area is classified as public land. According to the land laws, the letting of public land for more than 15 years is forbidden but the authorities have already entered an agreement with investors for 99 years. Thus they simply reclassified the area from public to private land. Nor do tenants have the right to change an area’s function, but by forcibly relocating residents and destroying the fishing in the area, changes are already in breach of the land laws, says Rashana.

Residents around Boeung Kak Lake have been given three relocation alternatives. Firstly, they can accept compensation of USD8000, equivalent to a four square-metre house, and so move and find themselves another place to live; secondly,

they can move to a new residential area 25km out of town where they receive compensation of USD2500. The new area has no facilities, no clean water, no electricity, no schools or hospital. Nor are there any jobs there. The third alternative is to be given new housing near Boeung Kak Lake but this, the authorities say, will take seven years to become a reality and residents must find somewhere else to live in the meantime. Housing Rights Task Force works for residents to be given fair compensation, making it possible for them to buy new housing in other areas.

- We have made good use of the media and this case is now well-known throughout Cambodia. We condemn the entire lease arrangement but don’t think it is realistic to stop the building development. That’s why we are concentrating on negotiating increases in compensation. Our goal is to come to an agreement where both parties are satisfied, Rashana Bunn concludes.



*“Previously I earned 15 Birr by selling charcoal. I couldn’t afford to send the children to school. Now my crops will soon be ready for harvesting and I’m looking very optimistically at the future. The assistance and support I have received from MELCA has also inspired others to invest in vegetables. My brother has used his own money to buy seed,” says Askate.*



## Right to land! Right to culture! Right to respect!

Text: Tormod Nuland.

**In Sheka, the forest is life itself for the people who live there. The area contains rainforest which is unique in Ethiopia. But the forest is under pressure, both from the people who live there and the outside world. Norwegian People’s Aid partner, MELCA, works to help the local population to resist this pressure.**

The mud squelches around one’s boots, leaves drip, rivers churn and it is altogether chilly. In other words, quite normal for Sheka, an area rather different from the rest of Ethiopia, a country more readily associated with drought. But here it is the rainforest that counts, and even bamboo grows in some areas

- People fetch a lot of wood for fuel and for making charcoal from the forest. That takes its toll on the trees, says Fiker Alemayehu, coordinator for MELCA’s work in Sheka. The organisation is a Norwegian People’s Aid partner in Ethiopia, specialising in land rights, and teaching local people what rights they have under the law. In addition, it maps animal life, tree stocks and places of ritual or religious significance in the forest.

- Altogether, this area has nine zones we want to map. We have done three and have now started on the next ones. When I’m mapping an area, I spend a lot of time with the local population, getting to know and understand them and what is important to them. I may use weeks on end with a sleeping bag and tent in the forest villages, says Fiker.

MELCA has a small office in the town of Masha, a local centre in Sheka. Fiker also works here when undertaking fieldwork. She is joined by Keriya Yasin, who has nothing whatever against spending a lot of time in the field rather than sitting in an office or with a lap-top in the capital.

- It’s out in the field it really happens, says Keriya

### Conflicting interests

She is right, too, for there is a lot happening, both on good and bad. In Sheka, people have always lived in and off the forest. It is what they know and where they want to stay. But there are also other interests at work. Just outside Masha, for example, a large area has been cleared of forest for a tea plantation. Knowledge is required to resist when such strong interests want the land that people live from.

This is where MELCA comes in, holding courses for clan leaders and others concerning the rights they have under the law. MELCA has also helped the clan leaders register as a group so they may have greater influence, and local authorities must now take them into consideration when dealing with the different interests that affect the forest in Sheka.

- We have always protected the forest, but times change and our collaboration with MELCA means that we are better placed to understand current realities. We are now able to protect the forest in a modern way and to hand on our inheritance to the next generation, says a group of clan leaders which Norwegian People’s Aid meets at MELCA’s office. Other social bodies, such as the police and legal authorities, are also drawn in to bring about agreement within the community as to what must be done.

Another important, practical MELCA initiative is to train women in the use of special ovens which require less fuel than normal ones. They are cheap, and their easy production can be done locally. Fifty women have been trained in the pilot project and it is hoped that 1500 households may be helped.



Fiker Alemayehu, coordinator of Melca in Ethiopia.

### Broadening means of existence

Sheka lies in a province called “Southern Nations and Nationalities Peoples Region”. This part of Ethiopia has 45 different ethnic groups. In the Sheka area alone, seven are represented. One of them, the Menja, has a very limited basis for existence, living exclusively from the sale of charcoal from the forest. MELCA has a programme to ease this dependence, encouraging them, among other things, to cultivate vegetables. Our trip through Sheka’s forests takes us to Atesso, where there live more people who have received

MELCA training. Askate Desalegn is a young woman who has started growing carrots, cabbage and beetroot.

### A separate forest community

With Fiker and Keriya as guides, and help from other locals, Norwegian People’s Aid representatives moved around on forest paths, the transport arteries for the many villages which make the forest one large community. This is where people live their lives and Norwegian People’s Aid supports programmes which demand that the forest peoples be shown respect for their unique skills and that ensure they will be able to continue to live such lives without having to enter into unmanageable compromises with the outside world. The rainforest here is part of a global system which must be looked after.



Photo: This picture is taken from Lasse Berre’s 2008 photographic exhibition *Forest is more than just trees*. The picture shows a young herdsman from the Borona district of Ethiopia.



*“2008 has been a productive and exciting year, and we can look back with the feeling of having got a lot done. That’s how we’ll continue.”*



## International solidarity in the making

Text: Mari Størvold Holan

Norwegian People’s Aid Youth have now put a hectic year behind them. In 2008 we strengthened our international youth engagement considerably, especially through our active youth groups in Bergen and Trondheim. Events to mention include “Afghanistan for dummies” and the “Aid – does it help?” open meeting at which Secretary-General, Petter Eide, contributed as a speaker. We also had broad youth engagement on a national basis in relation to the signing of the international cluster munitions agreement in December.

NPA Youth used 2008 to conduct a nationwide schools campaign in collaboration with LO, focusing on Palestine and the situation in the Middle East, and we toured the country with ‘Involve Yourself’, in which school students engaged in the

situation in Gaza. NPA Youth also went on a mini-tour with the National Touring Theatre in North Norway, where we were available to young people who wished to get involved in the Palestine issue after having seen the performance “My name is Rachel Corrie”.

Our focus on anti-racism has been sharpened, both by means of the Sweep Your Own Doorstep campaign within the organisation, and by holding human libraries in several towns in Norway. We had the annual summer camp with cup competitions and international issues on the agenda, sent health and rescue youth personnel to a first-aid competition in Italy, and had many volunteer for first-aid shifts at the annual Norway Cup football tournament. We aim for 2009 to be at least as good!

Youth groups are involved with activities linked to health and rescue and outdoor pursuits, international solidarity and anti-racism.

### FACTFILE

#### NPA YOUTH:

Number of Norwegian People’s Aid members under 30: **3159**  
 Number of chapters with youth activities: **Around 30 nationwide**  
 NPA Youth leader: **Mari Størvold Holan**  
 Ages: **Between 13 and 30**  
 Website: **www.folkehjelp.no/ungdom** and **Origo.no**

#### NPA YOUTH NETWORK INVOLVEMENT

**Riv Muren** (Tear down the wall) [www.rivmuren.no](http://www.rivmuren.no)  
**Boycott Israel!** [www.boikottisrael.no](http://www.boikottisrael.no)  
**UNITED** (anti-racism network in Europe) [www.unitedagainstracism.org](http://www.unitedagainstracism.org)  
**Unge Stemmer** (International youth network)  
**SAINT Youth** (Youth organisation in Europe) [www.samariter.org](http://www.samariter.org)

## We make a difference

Text: Hanne Gustavsen, member of NPA Youth Bergen and member of the Central International Committee.

I chose to become a member of Norwegian People’s Aid because I believe in the way we work and because I think we can make a difference to many people’s lives. Since we are relatively well-off in Norway, I am most concerned about the international projects Norwegian People’s Aid runs abroad.

As an NPA member, I help support other people’s opportunities to realise the potential they have inside them. This means a lot to me. On a personal level, I get a lot back since NPA fulfils many important functions in my life. It is a social network where one meets like-minded

people but also a network where you can challenge and be challenged. I learn masses about society around me and in other parts of the world, and this is relevant for my studies and the type of work I can imagine undertaking in the future. As a student, one often learns to be analytical and objective. For me, Norwegian People’s Aid is an important counterbalance which allows me to be idealistic and take a stand about injustice without being naïve. It is particularly good to be involved in a youth group where we have lots of freedom of action and where we can focus on what we think is relevant. Not least, it makes me



Hanne Gustavsen, NPA Youth Bergen

happy and pleased and gives me a sense of competence after we have conducted a successful event – such as the Human Library or a seminar – or simply having collected money for NPA projects.

## Learnt a lot in Sudan

Text: Siri Thorson, Marit E. Gjellan, Ingrid Rostad and Ellen F. Cartridge

- In three years’ time, 202 young people from across South Sudan will have completed their nursing training at the hospital in Yei. Four students from Ringsaker Folk High School travelled to the Norwegian People’s Aid nursing school at Yei to meet some of the nursing students.

- We talked to Naima, Patricia, Christopher and Joseph. All were doing well and were clear about their objectives. They laughed when we asked if they wanted to continue their training and become doctors – it went without saying. They all had a strong desire to help in building up South Sudan after many difficult years.

- The school is concerned about organising education as well as possible for as many as possible, women in particular. Female students have, among other things, the



From left to right: Siri Thorson, Marit E. Gjellan, Ingrid Rostad and Ellen F. Cartridge.

opportunity to take their children to school with them. They live with the other students in student accommodation in the grounds of the hospital. This has led to 34% of the students being women, a very high percentage compared with other higher education in South Sudan. The students are given board, lodging and pocket money.

Naima, Patricia, Christopher and Joseph

gradually spoke more openly about their daily lives. After final examinations, they travel back to their villages to use what they have learnt for the benefit of the local population where they come from.

We firmly believe that this project will contribute to South Sudan’s development going in the right direction.





## Collaboration with the Union Movement

Work with the Labour Movement went smoothly in 2008, maintaining good contact with LO centrally and the various unions. There remains a potential for widening our collaboration on issues of importance to the development of our own society. Collaboration with LO Youth concerning Palestine and the 1st of May campaign are examples of good working relations.

By the end of 2008 we had established ongoing partnership agreements with seven LO unions and support to

programmes in Cuba, El Salvador, Honduras and Bolivia in Latin America. We also have a partnership agreement linked to our work in South Sudan. One union supports Palestine and several have shown interest in supporting Norwegian People's Aid work in the Middle East. Generous cooperation with one of the unions concerning social inclusion and diversity at work has also developed positively in the course of the year. Norwegian People's Aid looks forward to continuing this work and to useful collaboration with the Labour Movement in 2009.

### DISTINCTIONS

**Arne Panengstuen**  
Hamar, Honorary Member  
**Janne Panengstuen**  
Hamar, Honorary Member

**Martin Mikkelsen**  
Oslo, Honorary Member  
**Tage Ravdal**  
Oslo, Honorary Member  
**Willy skogstad**  
Oslo, Honorary Member

**Elin Vasstveit**  
Strand, 30 years' membership  
**Kjell Vasstveit**  
Strand, 30 years' membership  
**Frode Hansen**  
Oslo, 30 years' membership

## Thank you to our partners in 2008:

Coop, Statoil Hydro, Posten, Storebrand, Gjensidigestiftelsen, Norwegian Union of Municipal and General Workers, Directorate of Integration and Diversity.

## Appell (Appeal)

Appell was published four times in 2008. 35,000 copies of the 40,000 print run were distributed to members and support bodies.

The theme of the first issue was "Year of Diversity 2008 – together for social inclusion in Norway". Thereafter followed "Norwegian People's Aid in Ethiopia: From words to Action" with pictures from photographer Lasse Berre. Complicated long-term development projects were brought home through black and white photographs and stories of everyday life in Ethiopian villages. The theme of issue three was the build up to the signing of the International Ban on Cluster Munitions in Oslo in December and the last issue looked at the rightful distribution of resources with a focus on oil.



**Vis internasjonalt solidaritet 1. mai!**

**Gi Sudan håp**

Det er mangel på livreddende medisiner, materiell og personell på våre sykehus i Sør-Sudan. Gi ditt bidrag nå. Det haster!

Gi din støtte på kontonr: **9001 08 76000**  
eller ring vår givertelefon: **820 44 750** (175 kr)

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Solidaritet i praksis  
[www.norskfolkehjelp.no](http://www.norskfolkehjelp.no)

Money was collected across Norway for the annual Norwegian People's Aid 1st May collection: Give Sudan Hope and in aid of the cyclone victims in Burma.

## Happy to donate in May!

On the International Workers' Day of Solidarity, the 1st of May, LO, Norwegian People's Aid, the Labour Party and the Socialist Left Party undertake their annual collection. In 2008, the income was given to Norwegian People's Aid work in South Sudan.

The theme of the collection was health and educational work following the civil war and the fragile 2005 peace agreement between North and South Sudan. Norwegian People's Aid nurses' training ensures qualified health personnel in the region. Thousands of refugees have returned home requiring knowledge about crop cultivation and rebuilding houses so we offer practical education in agriculture, carpentry, brickwork and sewing. In order to give the fragile peace a chance, Norwegian People's Aid partners

participate in the long-term process of building democracy and promoting women's participation in society. These are key measures in the rebuilding of Sudan.

Norwegian People's Aid will continue to organise the 1st of May collection in collaboration with LO, the Labour Party and the Socialist Left Party.

## Media survey

2008 was a year in which Norwegian People's Aid often appeared in the media, profiling the organisation's work and political views. Research undertaken by Retriever crowned Norwegian People's Aid the Aid Organisations Media Winner of the Year by Ny Tid, with a total of 6529 entries in media. The study was carried out before the signing of the cluster munitions convention in Oslo in December and before the start of the war in Gaza between Christmas and New Year – occasions on which Norwegian People's Aid were very much in the public eye in Norway. Nevertheless, Retriever emphasises the work for a cluster munitions ban as one of the two areas where Norwegian People's Aid maintained a high profile. The other was the cyclone in Burma.

# ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE BOARD 2008

Norwegian People's Aid is the Labour Movement's humanitarian organisation for solidarity. For us, solidarity and human dignity are fundamental values. Norwegian People's Aid works to improve the living conditions of vulnerable groups and to contribute to a more just society on both a national and an international basis.

## Work areas

Norwegian People's Aid is a members' organisation with four main areas of endeavour: Youth activities, health rescue and preparedness, socially targeted work and international involvement. A large part of our activity is based on members' voluntary efforts. Key tasks for volunteers are health, rescue and accident prevention work. In addition, many members are concerned about taking social responsibility where they live, and their efforts are an important contribution over and above public provision.

## I ORGANISATION

### Members

At the end of the year, Norwegian People's Aid had 10,554 members divided into 95 local chapters. 3,159 members were under 30. Through LO-affiliated associations, Norwegian People's Aid has about 860,000 collective members.

### Composition and work of the Board

The Board consists of the Chairman, 1st and 2nd Deputy Chairmen and one representative from each of the six regions with two personal deputies. In addition come four representatives for the collective membership with two personal deputies. The leaders of the four central committees are appointed to the Board with full rights, each with two deputies. Employees have two representatives on the Board, elected by and from the employees, each with personal deputies.

Finn Erik Thoresen was elected Chairman at the General Assembly in 2007, but was at that time acting Secretary-General. He took up the post as Chairman on 1.1.2008, the date when Petter Eide took over as Secretary General. As of 31.12.2008, the Board has the following composition:

|                                |                        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Chairman of the Board</b>   | Finn Erik Thoresen     |
| <b>1st Deputy Chairman</b>     | Kjersti E.R. Jenssen   |
| <b>2nd Deputy Chairman</b>     | Atle Høie              |
| <b>Region North</b>            | Stig Ole Pedersen      |
| <b>Region Central Norway</b>   | Arne Hauan             |
| <b>Region South-west</b>       | Edvard Tungland        |
| <b>Region South-east</b>       | Harald Rundland Larsen |
| <b>Region East</b>             | Elin Skovly            |
| <b>Region West</b>             | Anne Kari Knutsen      |
| <u>Collective members:</u>     |                        |
| <b>Industry and Energy</b>     | Sonja Meek             |
| <b>Norwegian Railways Ass.</b> | Arne Drabløs           |
| <b>EL and IT</b>               | Terje O. Olsson        |
| <b>NUMGE</b>                   | Anne Grethe Skårdal    |

### Central committees:

|                                   |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Youth</b>                      | Mari Storvold Holan |
| <b>Health and rescue</b>          | Anne Mette Johnsen  |
| <b>Community Affairs</b>          | Tove Rønning        |
| <b>International</b>              | Torulf Mikkelsen    |
| <u>Employees Representatives:</u> |                     |
| <b>Elected representative</b>     | Tord Lier           |
| <b>Elected representative</b>     | Ivar Aamodt         |

The Board held four meetings in 2008. The financial control committee met four times during the year, prior to each board meeting.

### Administration

The Norwegian People's Aid Head Office is in Oslo. There are regional offices for each of the six regions, in Tromsø, Trondheim, Bergen, Stavanger, Tønsberg and Hundedalen (Gjøvik) respectively. In addition, Norwegian People's Aid has offices in 13 countries.

## II ANNUAL RESULT 2008

The Board confirms that the prerequisites for continued operations are present and that these form the basis for compiling the accounts for the period. Reference is made to information provided on equity and revenues.

Available funds in 2008 totalled NOK 704m, compared with NOK 729m in 2007.

The operating result for 2008 is NOK + 3.2m, compared with NOK - 5.9m in 2007.

NOK 13.2m was added to the distributable reserves.

As of today's date, total distributable reserves amount to NOK 56m, but the Board recommends that this amount be increased to NOK 100m in order to guarantee contractual obligations towards employees and work partners.

### Income

The Board resolved in December 2007 that the following areas of work be prioritised throughout the General Assembly period.

- Strengthening of equity
- Strengthening of collaboration with the Labour Movement

Much of the autumn's marketing efforts were aimed at strengthening work towards income. This work was focused upon three main areas: 1) The Labour Movement, 2) Businesses and 3) Private donors. Strategic marketing work in the course of time will produce results which will contribute to stable finances.

LO and the unions, union branches and associations contributed NOK 7.4m to Norwegian People's Aid in 2008. NOK 3 m of this arises from union dues for the LO-organised collective membership. In 2008, a trade union team was set up to systematise work with LO unions to an even greater extent.

Work towards the business market was particularly affected by the financial crisis in the last six months of 2008.

Gaming and lotteries brought in a total of NOK 22m during 2008. Of this, NOK 8m was compensation for the loss of previous gaming machine income. In comparison with 2007, this was a gross reduction of NOK 2.5m from gaming and lotteries. The National Lottery (Landslotteriet) remains under considerable pressure as more and more people reserve themselves against telephone sales.

Norwegian People's Aid developed a new, regular donor concept in 2007, called folkehjelper.no, and this, together with efforts made in symbolic gifts, has resulted in 2008 showing an increased income from private donors overall. In 2008, contributions amounted to NOK17.7m, an increase of NOK 3m on 2007. Few resources were set aside for marketing the regular donor concept in 2008.

A collection in aid of Burma was undertaken in 2008. The 1st May collection also brought in monies for Sudan. The latter will receive strategic work over the next few years to see if it may be given a lift and thereby increase its earning potential. This necessitates good cooperation between LO, the Labour Party, the Socialist Left Party, the members' organisation and head office in Oslo.

## III OPERATIONS

During 2008, Head Office undertook a project to define the core operation of Norwegian People's Aid. The core operation may now be divided into two main areas: *rightful distribution of power and resources* and *protection of life and health*. Within the framework of these two areas, work is done both nationally and internationally. Projects which fall outside of these two main areas will be phased out, helping Norwegian People's Aid become clearer and more visible. In the future, Norwegian People's Aid will focus on fewer programme areas and will use the new platform that the core operation gives us to become more attractive to both public and private donors.

### In Norway

In 2008, the Board adopted a national strategy for the period 2008-11. The strategy prioritises areas which fall within national challenges dealt with in our programme of principles and based upon our core operation. During the period, Norwegian People's Aid will concentrate its national activities around health and rescue services, social inclusion of minorities and work for refugees. The organisation has very extensive international involvement and the strategy emphasises greater engagement in Norway concerning international issues. The development of youth groups which work with both core areas, nationally and internationally, is prioritised.

### Health and rescue

At the end of 2008, Norwegian People's Aid Health and Rescue had approximately 2500 volunteers in 67 Health and Rescue groups. Norwegian People's Aid continues to put in considerable efforts into the business market in relation to first aid training. In 2008, our instructors taught about 12000 hours. NPA Rescue services in the period have intensified their efforts in relation to searching for missing persons. There was an annual increase in missions of approximately 10%. To increase local activity and recruitment to

the service, anumber of measures have been put in place with a view to making it easier to undertake local training.

### Social inclusion and refugee work

Many local chapters, particularly the youth sections thereof, show great interest in this area. Norwegian People's Aid has worked systematically to develop cooperation with the labour movement in this area, and Women Can courses for women from minorities in Norway are now conducted in all six regions. During the period, Norwegian People's Aid has again built itself up to be an important operator of refugee reception centres. At the end of 2008, the organisation was running eight such centres. Norwegian People's Aid was also commissioned to give training to guardians of unaccompanied child asylum seekers in the transit phase.

### International solidarity

There is increasing local engagement in international issues, particularly among our youth groups. An information campaign about the Palestine conflict was conducted with LO Youth. Other campaigns within the period have been run in collaboration with Norwegian Red Cross, Refugee Aid, Save the Children and Norwegian Church Aid (Involve Yourself). The purpose of the campaign was to make young people in Norway aware of North/South issues and Human Rights.

### International work

In 2007, the Board adopted an international strategy for the entire period of the General Assembly. The main thrust of this strategy falls within the core operation *rightful distribution of power and resources*. Collaboration with local democratic organisations is a precondition of Norwegian People's Aid international engagement in order to ensure that civil society has a voice in democratic development. In keeping with this, a NOK 435m framework agreement with NORAD was entered into. *Protection of life and health* comes primarily to the fore in our involvement, both politically and practically, with landmines and cluster munitions. Subsequent to NORAD's 2007 organisational overhaul, it was decided to bolster work with evaluation/monitoring and organisational development.

As part of the work of defining our core operations, and using the international strategy as a starting point, approval was given for the examination of country programmes with a view to evaluating the phasing out or restructuring of our activities in the following countries: Sri Lanka, the Balkans, Latin America and Mozambique.

The erstwhile international department was divided in two: a mine section and a section for foreign affairs. This led in turn to reorganisation and change within both. The new arrangement is provisional until the summer of 2009, when it will be evaluated.

In line with developments in the civil war, the work of Norwegian People's Aid in Sri Lanka faced ever greater obstacles during 2008 and the freedom to be able to carry out an effective and reasonable programme of work was gradually eroded. It was therefore decided in December that the phasing out of the programme would occur more rapidly than originally planned,

the completion of which is now expected to be during the first few months of 2009.

Cyclone 'Nargis' hit Burma on 1st May 2008, causing colossal damage. Norwegian People's Aid was the only Norwegian organisation with its own office and a small development programme in the country. We and our partners temporarily redirected our resources to set up an emergency aid programme to help in the situation. This work continued throughout the year in parallel with the long-term development programme.

At the end of December, Israel attacked Gaza with its full strength.

The war brought great suffering to the local population and Norwegian People's Aid employees at our office in Gaza bore witness to the brutality of events. As a consequence of the conflict, the emphasis of our efforts was changed towards more direct humanitarian aid to contribute to reconstruction.

The programme in South Sudan represents about one third of the total turnover in the international project portfolio. A separate strategy was adopted for the country in 2008 and a marked change in the programme commenced with reductions in the food programme and increased efforts in agricultural development. It was also decided to move the programme's support functions from Nairobi to South Sudan. Delays and hindrances continue to dog the implementation of the peace agreement and the fear of a new conflict is increasing.

Our office in Zimbabwe celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2008, with the Secretary-General among those present. The event took place against a backdrop of political violence and enormous financial and health challenges, results of recent years' political misrule.

Land rights and natural resources, as well as oil for development, are important areas of endeavour. Autumn 2008 saw two global seminars upon these issues in Dar-Es-Salaam, with broad participation from work partners, our own employees and leaders, representatives of civil society organisations and other external expertise.

In keeping with the recommendations arising from the 2007 Norwegian People's Aid meeting about women and equality in Beograd, a global meeting took place in Angola in 2008, the purpose of which was to give information about the Women Can concept to our own employees and to discuss integration of the gender perspective in budgeting.

Norwegian People's Aid has been instrumental throughout the Oslo process which led to the signing of the cluster munitions convention in December 2008 by 94 countries. Norwegian People's Aid was represented in the leadership of the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) and collaborated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in preparing for the Oslo signing. An important activity at the end of the year was celebrating the Cluster Munitions Ban with commemorations and signings in the largest cities, where members played an active role. The purpose was not simply to gather the organisation together for the celebration but also to bring the important role that Norwegian People's Aid played in the process to the public eye.

The "M85 – An Analysis of Reliability" report, prepared by Norwegian people's Aid in collaboration with the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment and Colin King Associates Ltd. is an important contribution to the work of proving that cluster

munitions with self-destruct mechanisms cannot be held outside the ban on cluster munitions.

Norwegian People's Aid clears cluster munitions in Lebanon, Georgia and Vietnam. Following efforts from Norwegian People's Aid in Malawi and Rwanda (material and personnel from Mozambique and South Sudan), these two countries have declared that they have fulfilled their obligations in accordance with Article 5 of the agreement banning landmines (anti-personnel mines).

#### Administrative matters

Where the administration is concerned, the Board has maintained its emphasis on the further development of governance- and reporting systems. The accounting system has been updated with new modules. In order to ensure sound control and quality in the financial turnover, a system of shared administrative routines has been developed and made available on our shared platform (MS Sharepoint). The focus on internal control and internal auditing was prioritised in 2008 with two internal audits in South Sudan and Angola.

In June, the leaders of both the international offices and those here in Norway were presented with the new anti-corruption regime, with its new ethical guidelines and a new, revised quality-control system specifically for finances and logistics. An action plan has been drawn up for its implementation at home and abroad in 2008 and 2009.

## IV PERSONNEL, HEALTH, SAFETY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

At the end of 2008, there were 98 employees at Head Office in Oslo, 69 at refugee reception centres, 59 on contract abroad and around 2600 locally employed workers on projects abroad.

Norwegian people's Aid management maintains close relations with employees representatives through separate committees such as the Committee for Cooperation and the Committee for Health, Safety and the Environment. The figure was higher for women (3.2%) than for men (1.2%). There were no injuries of any note or accidents reported during the period. Reports concerning absence owing to illness are presented on an ongoing basis.

A work environment study has been undertaken as well as protective inspection rounds at Head Office and at the regional offices.

## V EQUALITY

Head Office in Oslo employs 55% women and 45% men. The percentages for men and women at top and middle management level are approximately equal. 47% of full members of the Board are women. Salaries and working conditions are considered to be equally well arranged for both sexes.

Norwegian People's Aid recruitment policy intends towards positive discrimination. Persons of immigrant background and women are encouraged to apply for vacant positions. A moderate quota system is practised at all levels and in all areas of activity.

## VI EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT

Norwegian People's Aid activities have only a marginal negative influence on the external environment. In collaboration with our partners, we maintain a sharp focus on environmental, as well as social and financial, sustainability in our development work. Norwegian People's Aid engages in awareness raising about this issue in all our projects. Our humanitarian mine clearance- and cluster munitions work makes a positive contribution to the external environment.

## VII FUTURE PROSPECTS

Following the resolution at the 2007 General Assembly, the Board has appointed an organisational committee to work until the General Assembly of 2011. The committee's mandate is to go through the organisational structure and to look more closely at which organisational changes are needed to ensure that Norwegian People's Aid is an organisation keeping pace with the challenges faced by today's society.

The core operations project undertaken in 2008 with the aim of clarifying our core areas has helped make the organisation more distinct internally, in public opinion and among our work partners. The two main pillars: *Rightful Distribution of Power and Resources* and *Protection of Life and Health* constitute an important contribution in the development of Norwegian People's Aid operations within a unified way of thinking. In future work, greater emphasis will be laid on combining practical endeavours with raising socio-political issues within the framework laid down for Norwegian People's Aid work in both national and international arenas. This means that Norwegian People's Aid wishes to take upon greater responsibility as an active agent for social change.

The financial situation is difficult. For this reason, the Board resolved that revenue-generating work will be closely followed throughout the period of the Assembly in order to build up reserves that stand in relation to operations and so that the organisation acquires a better financial foundation. The Board is concerned about the breadth of our international involvement, which requires considerable financial and administrative resources. The Board therefore requested a thorough examination of our programmed activities, which was carried out in 2008, and which has resulted in a change of focus and a new national strategy. The administration makes the initiation or continuance of all projects conditional on their ability to break even.

Work with the Labour Movement came well under way in 2008 and there is good contact both with LO centrally and the unions. The collaboration is better organised but there remains large development potential in extending our work with the Labour Movement. This concerns both cooperation and financial support to our programme work and cooperation on issues of common interest.

Finally, the Board is to follow up organisational work as the third area of focus for the period of the General Assembly. In 2007, a organisational department was set up to strengthen the development of Norwegian People's Aid. The 2007 Government White Paper on Voluntary Work underlines that most organisations of similar character to Norwegian People's Aid are experiencing a certain decline. The Board notes that this is also the case with Norwegian People's Aid but is pleased to report that the percentage of members under 30 is steadily growing. Through the combined efforts of a well-run organisational department and an organisational committee with strong ties to the Board, the Board feels secure

that the organisation will be able to fulfil the expectations conveyed in the 2003 General Assembly resolution and renewed in 2007, namely that Norwegian People's Aid will be a forward-looking organisation.

Entering new countries and establishing large projects in countries and regions where we are already active may involve a degree of uncertainty. Such uncertainty may be linked with financing on the short, medium or long term. Rapid action is required particularly in relation to the clearance of mines and/or cluster munitions in the aftermath of war or armed conflict to ensure that humanitarian aid and assistance is able to get in. Uncertainty may also arise around political conditions and actual warfare as was the case in Sri Lanka in 2008.

Further work is being done to streamline the mine programmes with a view to increase both quality and cost effectiveness. The development of methods using mine dogs and other non-traditional mine-clearance methods is contributing to safe areas of land.

Changes in requirements and shifting framework conditions demand that we carry out necessary measures in relation to restructuring, competence development and new methods to achieve prioritised objectives. We must be able to fulfil our own and our partners' expectations and demands of a professional humanitarian organisation. Defensible control routines are put into action the moment we start new projects or establish ourselves in new areas.

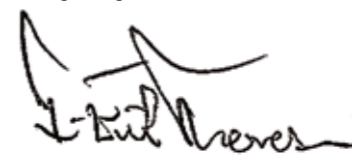
## VIII FINANCIAL RISK

Norwegian People's Aid desires to take as little financial risk as possible. The organisation has internal procedures for spreading currency risk across different projects. In addition to this, donations are maintained in the donor's currency as long as possible. All contracts with our partners contain clauses to prevent risks connected with currency.

Norwegian People's Aid is dependent on income from the market, particularly for promoting our own projects. The Board is actively working for Norwegian People's Aid to be an attractive market participant through the implementation of our new national and international strategies.

Norwegian People's Aid has no outstanding loans and the little exposure in the shares market represents little or no credit risk.

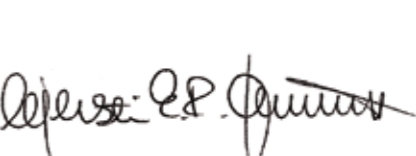
As of today's date, our reserves are somewhat low and we occasionally have liquidity challenges owing to late payments from our principals.



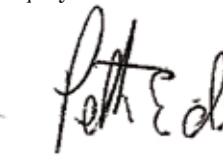
Finn Erik Thoresen  
Chairman



Atle Høie  
2nd Deputy Chairman



Kjersti E.R. Jenssen  
1st Deputy Chairman



Petter Eide  
Secretary-General

## ACTIVITY ACCOUNTS AS OF 31.12

(Figures in thousands)

| ACQUISITION OF FUNDS  | Notes     | 2008           | 2007           |
|---|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Income from membership</b>                                   |           | <b>1 417</b>   | <b>1 282</b>   |
| Public donors   |           | 569 525        | 609 257        |
| Others  |           | 17 264         | 15 239         |
| <b>Sum donors</b>   | <b>2</b>  | <b>586 788</b> | <b>624 496</b> |
| Gaming and lotteries  |           | 22 215         | 24 765         |
| Donors  | 3         | 32 988         | 21 934         |
| <b>Total collected funds</b>                                    |           | <b>55 203</b>  | <b>46 700</b>  |
| <b>Activities which fulfil NPA's objectives</b>                 |           |                |                |
| Refugee reception centres and other operations units in Norway  |           | 55 332         | 44 910         |
| Sale of advertising space in APPELL                             |           | 1 051          | 340            |
| <b>Activities which create income</b>                           |           |                |                |
| Product sales   |           | 1 651          | 1 589          |
| <b>Total accrues funds from operational activities</b>          |           | <b>58 035</b>  | <b>46 839</b>  |
| <b>Net finance posts</b>  | <b>13</b> | <b>-262</b>    | <b>4 522</b>   |
| <b>Other income</b>   |           | <b>4 032</b>   | <b>7 861</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL ACQUIRED FUNDS</b>                                     |           | <b>705 213</b> | <b>731 700</b> |
| <b>FUNDS USED</b>   |           |                |                |
| Gaming and lotteries  |           | 8 303          | 10 983         |
| Donors  |           | 6 159          | 8 600          |
| Product sales   |           | 1 080          | 1 636          |
| Artists' gala   |           | 1              | 14 311         |
| Other costs   |           | 4 081          | 3 262          |
| <b>Total costs to acquirement of funds</b>                      |           | <b>19 623</b>  | <b>38 792</b>  |
| Mine clearance  |           | 193 825        | 213 797        |
| Reconstruction, food and emergency relief                       |           | 95 772         | 144 738        |
| Society-building and rights                                     |           | 187 961        | 149 028        |
| Hospital operations and other health work                       |           | 16 802         | 21 469         |
| Attitude-changing and anti-racist activities                    |           | 3 263          | 4 538          |
| Refugee reception centres and other operating units in Norway   |           | 57 052         | 43 169         |
| Members' organisation   |           | 15 193         | 14 973         |
| Information work in Norway                                      |           | 7 717          | 5 265          |
| Other projects  |           | 64 656         | 67 112         |
| Project follow-up at Head Office                                |           | 24 021         | 20 385         |
| VAT payments  |           | -1 809         | -2 095         |
| <b>Total costs to objectives</b>                                |           | <b>664 453</b> | <b>682 379</b> |
| <b>Administration</b>   |           | <b>17 931</b>  | <b>16 517</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS USED</b>   |           | <b>702 006</b> | <b>737 689</b> |
| <b>ANNUAL ACTIVITIES RESULT</b>                                 |           | <b>3 207</b>   | <b>-5 989</b>  |
| <b>ALLOCATION OF ACTIVITY RESULTS</b>                           |           |                |                |
| Transferred to/from Equity with externally imposed restrictions | 10        | 1 249          | 443            |
| Transferred to/from Equity with self-imposed restrictions       | 10        | -11 228        | -2 792         |
| Transferred to/from other Equity                                | 10        | 13 186         | -3 640         |
| <b>TOTAL ALLOCATION</b>   |           | <b>3 207</b>   | <b>-5 989</b>  |

| ADMINISTRATIVE/OBJECTIVE PERCENTAGES | 2008           | 2008         | 2007         | 2006         |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Administrative costs                 | 17 931         | 2,6 %        | 2,2 %        | 2,6 %        |
| Costs to objectives                  | 664 453        | 94,7 %       | 92,5 %       | 93,8 %       |
| Costs to acquirement of funds        | 19 623         | 2,8 %        | 2,8 %        | 3,6 %        |
| <b>TOTAL FUNDS USED</b>              | <b>702 006</b> | <b>100 %</b> | <b>100 %</b> | <b>100 %</b> |

## BALANCE AS OF 31.12

(Figures in thousands)

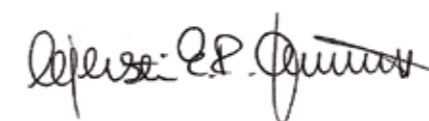
| ASSETS                                      | Notes | 2008           | 2007           |
|---|-------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Tangible fixed assets</b>                |       |                |                |
| Fixed assets                                | 4     | 11 570         | 11 998         |
| <b>Total fixed assets</b>                   |       | <b>11 570</b>  | <b>11 998</b>  |
| <b>Current assets</b>                       |       |                |                |
| Stocks                                      |       | 0              | 923            |
| Receivables                                 | 5     | 301 860        | 136 807        |
| Current asset investments                   | 6     | 19 045         | 26 553         |
| Cash at bank and at hand etc                | 11    | 191 079        | 178 704        |
| <b>Total current assets</b>                 |       | <b>511 984</b> | <b>342 988</b> |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                         |       | <b>523 554</b> | <b>354 986</b> |
| <b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>               |       |                |                |
| <b>Equity</b>                               |       |                |                |
| Other reserves                              | 10    | 31 328         | 18 140         |
| <b>Restricted Equity</b>                    |       |                |                |
| Equity with externally imposed restrictions | 10    | 2 248          | 999            |
| Equity with self-imposed restrictions       | 10    | 21 962         | 33 190         |
| <b>Total equity and funds</b>               |       | <b>55 538</b>  | <b>52 329</b>  |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                          |       |                |                |
| <b>Long-term liabilities</b>                |       |                |                |
| Pension obligations                         | 12    | 1 497          | 0              |
| <b>Total long-term liabilities</b>          |       | <b>1 497</b>   | <b>0</b>       |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>                  |       |                |                |
| Received funds re non-completed projects    |       | 347 742        | 223 492        |
| Liabilities to project donors               | 7     | 8 636          | 8 888          |
| Unpaid interest on funds received           | 7     | 1 312          | 1 654          |
| Various creditors                           |       | 57 275         | 23 316         |
| Unpaid government charges, holiday pay      |       | 23 046         | 13 606         |
| Provisions for liabilities and charges      | 8     | 28 339         | 26 362         |
| Other current liabilities                   | 9     | 169            | 5 339          |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>            |       | <b>466 519</b> | <b>302 657</b> |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>         |       | <b>523 554</b> | <b>354 986</b> |



Finn Erik Thoresen  
Chairman



Atle Høie  
2nd Deputy Chairman



Kjersti E.R. Jensen  
1st Deputy Chairman



Petter Eide  
Secretary-General

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT

|  | 2008           | 2007           |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Annual result                                    | 3 207          | -5 989         |
| Depreciation                                     | 4 803          | 6 438          |
| Gains/loss with sales of fixed assets            | -4 612         | -47            |
| Change in stocks                                 | 923            | -770           |
| Change in accounts receivable                    | -165 053       | 13 981         |
| Change in accounts payable and other accruals    | 172 870        | -11 584        |
| <b>Net cash flow from operational activities</b> | <b>12 138</b>  | <b>2 029</b>   |
| Deposits from sales of fixed assets              | 6 613          | 43             |
| Expenses from purchase of fixed assets           | -6 376         | -8 473         |
| <b>Net cash flow from investment activities</b>  | <b>237</b>     | <b>-8 430</b>  |
| Allocation of funds                              | 0              | 0              |
| <b>Net cash flow from financial activities</b>   | <b>0</b>       | <b>0</b>       |
| Net change cash flow                             | 12 375         | -6 401         |
| Balance cash at bank and in hand 01.01.          | 178 704        | 185 105        |
| <b>Balance as of 31.12.</b>                      | <b>191 079</b> | <b>178 704</b> |

## NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

(Figures in the tables are given in thousands of kroner; the text records the exact figures)

### NOTE 1

#### Accounting principles:

The Annual Accounts of Norwegian People's Aid consist of the following:

- Activity accounts
- Balance sheet
- Cash flow statement
- Notes

The Annual Accounts have been prepared by the organisation's Board and management and must be read in connection with the Annual Report and the Auditor's Report.

#### Basic principles - assessment and classification

The Annual Accounts have been submitted in accordance with the Norwegian Accounting Act and generally accepted accounting principles, including the Provisional Norwegian Accounting Standard on Good Accounting Principles for Idealistic Organisations as of September 2006. The Annual Accounts provide a true picture of the organisation's earned resources and how these have been used during the course of the year, as well as its financial position at the end of the year. The Annual Accounts have been edited and they have been presented in a summarised form. The necessary specifications appear in the notes. Consequently the notes form an integral part of the Annual Accounts.

The Annual Accounts are based on the basic principles that apply to historical costs, matching, the going concern assumption, all-inclusive income and prudence. The basic principles relating to transactions, earned income and matching have been deviated from in accordance with Section 4-1, sub-section 3 of the Norwegian Accounting Act, where such can be regarded as generally accepted accounting practice. Further details about the accounting principles appear below. When actual figures were not available/certain at the time the accounts were presented, generally accepted accounting practice dictates that the management should make the best possible estimate for inclusion in the accounts. There may be deviations between estimated and actual figures.

#### General principles

Assets intended for permanent ownership and use are classified as fixed assets. Other assets are classified as current assets. Current assets/liabilities are valued at the lower/higher of cost and their estimated value. The actual value is defined as the estimated future sales price minus anticipated sales expenses. Stocks are valued at the lower of cost in accordance with the "first-in first-out principle" and estimated sales price. Receivables have been entered at their nominal value with deductions for anticipated losses. Assets are basically valued at cost. Assets that diminish in value are depreciated. If the normal turnover value falls below the capitalised value on the date of the balance sheet, the asset in question is written down. Similar principles are also normally applied to liability items.

In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, there are a few exceptions from the general rules relating to assessment. These exceptions are commented on below. When employing accounting principles and presenting transactions and other matters, emphasis has been placed on the financial realities of the situation in question, not just the legal form. Conditional losses that are probable and quantifiable are carried to expenses.

#### Accounting principles relating to major accounting items

##### Date of revenue recognition/earnings

Income is entered on the profit and loss account as and when it accrues. For income which is not offset, e.g. gifts, such is regarded as being earned when the following three criteria have been complied with:

1. The organisation must be legally entitled to the income in question
2. It must be reasonably certain that the income in question will be received
3. It must be possible to measure the income in question with a satisfactory degree of reliability

Reasonable certainty that income will be received is based on an accounts-related understanding of probability concepts, cf. Norwegian Accounting Standard no.13 - Uncertain commitments and assets indicating a probability of 90-100%.

#### Income from members

The organisation receives voluntary subscriptions from its members. These are not offset and are taken to income on a continuous basis.

#### Operating subsidies

Subsidies that are designed to cover expenses are taken to income gross. Where the criteria for revenue recognition have not been met, such subsidies are entered as liabilities on a separate line on the balance sheet. Subsidies are entered on the accounts at the same value as that which applied on the transaction date. Large subsidies for which it is not possible to estimate a real market value are explained in the notes. Unused project funds are entered as liabilities payable to the donor at the end of the project in question.

#### Sponsor funds

Sponsor funds are accrued at the same rate as any offsets agreed. If it is not possible to undertake a reliable measurement of such offsets, linear earnings are used as a practical line of approach.

#### Income from lotteries and gaming machines

Income from lotteries and gaming machines is taken to income gross. Expenses relating to lotteries and gaming machines are entered under Expenses relating to the acquisition of funds.

#### Date when items are charged to expenses/comparison

Expenses are compared with and carried to expenses simultaneously with the activity that incurred the expenditure in question. This applies both to the expenses incurred in order to obtain funds and also to those incurred in order to realise the objective. Expenses that cannot be directly linked to activities are carried to expenses as and when they occur.

#### Division of expenses

Wherever possible expenses are linked directly to the activities to which they are related. Expenses relating to more than one activity are divided between the various activities in question in a manner that is as reasonable, reliable and consistent as possible. The following distribution keys have been employed when dividing up expenses:

#### Expenses

Wages and salaries  
Other expenses, e.g. rent and IT

#### Distribution key

Time spent per activity  
Number of years' work per project

#### Other expenses and income

Expenses and income that are regarded as being extraordinary and essential to the organisation are presented on a separate line in the activity accounts.

#### Tax

The organisation does not have any activities that are liable to taxation.

#### Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are entered on the balance sheet at cost, minus accumulated depreciation and write-downs. A tangible asset is regarded as being permanent if it has an economic life of over three years, as well as a cost price of over NOK 15,000. Tangible fixed assets acquired in order to carry out projects abroad are carried to expenses at the time of acquisition.

If the normal sales value falls below the capitalised value on the balance sheet date, the tangible asset in question is written down to its actual value. If it is difficult to determine the sales value, the cost of acquisition minus depreciation is used to determine its actual value. In cases where the basis for write-downs no longer exists, such write-downs are reversed. Write-downs, and any reversals of such are entered on the same line in the activity accounts. Write-downs are classified as administration expenses when they cannot be linked directly to an activity.

#### Depreciation

Ordinary depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated life of the tangible assets in question and based on the historical cost minus the estimated scrap value. Depreciations are regarded as administrative expenses when they cannot be directly linked to an activity.

#### Leasing

As regards leases that are not capitalised (operational leasing) rental payments are treated as operating expenses. Rental expenses are regarded as administrative expenses when they cannot be linked directly to an activity.

#### Financial investments

Market-based, bonds and other financial instruments are classified as current assets valued at actual cost if they are listed on the stock exchange or administered by a professional capital manager and if the actual value of the investments in question can be reliably measured. The profits (returns and change in value) on such investments are classified as financial and investment income.

#### Pension commitments and expenses

As of 01.03.94, the organisation's pension agreement was transferred from Sparebanken1 Livsforsikring to Statens Pensjonskasse (the Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund). The annual expenses are charged against salaries and social expenses. Norwegian people's Aid has no commitments over and above paying premiums to Statens Pensjonskasse. The funds in Sparebank1 Livsforsikring, cf Note 12, are being used to cover remaining commitments to former and current members under the old agreement and have not been included in the accounts. Three people are receiving money from this premium fund. The premium fund is considered to be adequate to cover all future commitments and has not therefore been capitalised. In addition, Norwegian People's Aid has one outstanding pension obligation with KLP for a previous employee at Kure Epilepsy Centre. The pension arrangement is contribution based and dealt with in accordance with NRS for pension costs. Pension obligations are entered at estimated value as of 31.12.08. and corrected annually.

#### Assets in foreign currency/foreign exchange gains

Assets in foreign currency are related to specific projects and wherever possible foreign exchange gains/losses are taken to income/carried to expenses for the respective projects. Stocks at the end of the year are valued at their price on the balance sheet date, and any foreign exchange gains/losses are either taken to income/carried to expenses in respect of the project in question or entered on the profit and loss account under financial income/expenses.

#### Cash flow statement

The cash flow statement has been drawn up in accordance with the indirect method of accounting. Liquid assets comprise cash, bank deposits and current asset investments that are valued at their actual value.

**NOTE 2**

| <b>The following Norwegian public donors have contributed:</b>  | <b>2008</b>    | <b>2007</b>    |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs   | 287 440        | 283 480        |
| The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD)  | 124 389        | 122 290        |
| Other Norwegian public donors   | 25 314         | 12 186         |
| <b>Total Norwegian public donors</b>  | <b>437 142</b> | <b>417 957</b> |
| USAID   | 60 447         | 105 892        |
| US Department of state  | 10 027         | 19 902         |
| FN/UNHCR  | 16 872         | 16 075         |
| EU  | 0              | 145            |
| SIDA  | 3 083          | 3 083          |
| The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs   | 13 847         | 16 693         |
| Other international public donors   | 28 106         | 29 511         |
| <b>Total international public donors</b>  | <b>132 383</b> | <b>191 301</b> |
| <b>Total public donors</b>  | <b>569 525</b> | <b>609 257</b> |
| The following other donors have contributed:  |                |                |
| Health and Rehabilitation   | 4 283          | 3 150          |
| Others  | 12 981         | 12 089         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>17 264</b>  | <b>15 239</b>  |
| Norwegian People's Aid have received NOK 52 223 177 from the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration for the operation of refugee reception centres and other units. |                |                |

**NOTE 3**

| <b>Contributions have also come from the following sources:</b> | <b>2008</b>   | <b>2007</b>   |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| Private donors  | 17 633        | 14 350        |
| Businesses  | 3 404         | 1 967         |
| Labour Movement   | 5 054         | 5 617         |
| <b>Total donors</b>   | <b>26 091</b> | <b>21 934</b> |

**NOTE 4**

| <b>Specification of tangible fixed assets</b> | <b>Sites and buildings</b> | <b>Fixtures/fittings</b> | <b>EDB-machines</b> | <b>Software</b> | <b>Other assets</b> | <b>Moving costs</b> | <b>Mov.costs Sudan</b> | <b>Total</b>  |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Procurement costs                             | 2 662                      | 2 157                    | 5 513               | 12 274          | 3 514               | 625                 | 6 077                  | 32 822        |
| Bought  | 619                        | 3 520                    | 550                 | 1 687           |                     |                     |                        | 6 376         |
| Sold  | 2 001                      |                          | 20                  |                 |                     |                     |                        | 2 021         |
| CB proc.costs                                 | 1 280                      | 5 677                    | 6 043               | 13 961          | 3 514               | 625                 | 6 077                  | 37 177        |
| <b>OB acc.depreciation</b>                    | <b>448</b>                 | <b>1 941</b>             | <b>4 372</b>        | <b>8 839</b>    | <b>2 506</b>        | <b>343</b>          | <b>2 354</b>           | <b>20 803</b> |
| Annual depreciation                           | 0                          | 176                      | 467                 | 2 126           | 1 008               | 282                 | 745                    | 4 804         |
| Acc. depr. sold                               |                            |                          |                     |                 |                     |                     |                        | 0             |
| UB acc. depreciation                          | 448                        | 2 117                    | 4 839               | 10 965          | 3 514               | 625                 | 3 099                  | 25 607        |
| <b>Value to accounts 31.12.08</b>             | <b>832</b>                 | <b>3 560</b>             | <b>1 204</b>        | <b>2 996</b>    | <b>0</b>            | <b>0</b>            | <b>2 978</b>           | <b>11 570</b> |

These fixed assets have a depreciation period of 3-5 years. Sites and building are not depreciated. Moving expenses are carried to expenses over a period of 3 years. Moving expenses to Juba in Sudan are carried to expenses over 5 years; the remaining depreciation period is 2 years. Norwegian People's Aid has a lease agreement concerning hire of computers/photocopiers. Since this agreement is regarded as an operational leasing agreement, the total rental expenses have been included under operational expenses.

**NOTE 5**

| <b>Current accounts receivable</b>      | <b>2008</b>    | <b>2007</b>    |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Donors, international projects          | 257 194        | 113 017        |
| Domestic activity, NPA chapters, others | 44 666         | 23 790         |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>301 860</b> | <b>136 807</b> |

There are no accounts receivable that fall due for payment more than one year after the end of the financial year. NOK 3 449 135 has been entered against expenses for losses on accounts receivable.

**NOTE 6**

| <b>Shares/Units</b>        | <b>2008</b>   | <b>2007</b>   |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Other investments          | 0             | 410           |
| Norwegian shares and units | 19 045        | 26 143        |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>19 045</b> | <b>26 553</b> |

Norwegian shares and units are primarily related to the Furumo/Loren fund, ref Note 10

**NOTE 7**

**Liabilities to project donors**

Projects have been completed under budget and any surpluses are being returned to donors.

**Interest owing on received funds**

Accrued interest on granted funds from donors that is to be repaid as agreed.

**NOTE 8**

| <b>Provisions for liabilities and charges</b>                        | <b>2008</b>   | <b>2007</b>   |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| Provisions for severance pay schemes at offices abroad (see note 12) | 18 466        | 12 783        |
| Other provisions for international projects                          | 4 807         | 7 738         |
| Maintenance of reception centres                                     | 0             | 1 922         |
| National conference  |               |               |
| Other provisions   | 2 415         | 1 516         |
| Provisions to project auditing                                       | 2 652         | 2 403         |
| <b>Total provisions for liabilities and charges</b>                  | <b>28 339</b> | <b>26 362</b> |

**NOTE 9**

| <b>Other current liabilities</b>       | <b>2008</b> | <b>2007</b> |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Other current liabilities              | 169         | 5339        |
| <b>Total other current liabilities</b> | <b>169</b>  | <b>5339</b> |

## NOTE 10

| Net movement in equity with restrictions               | IB 01.01      | Bought        | Used           | CB 31.12      | Net change     |
|--|---------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Other equity   | 18 140        | 13188         |                | 31 328        | 13 188         |
| Equity with externally imposed restrictions 1)         | 999           | 2 761         | -1 512         | 2 248         | 1 249          |
| Equity with self-imposed restrictions                  | 33 190        |               | -11 228        | 21 962        | -11 228        |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>52 329</b> | <b>15 949</b> | <b>-12 740</b> | <b>55 538</b> | <b>3 209</b>   |
| Specification of equity with self-imposed restrictions |               |               |                |               |                |
| Collected funds 2)                                     | 11 742        |               | 1 032          | 10 710        | -1 032         |
| Furumo/Løren 3)  | 19 137        |               | 7 885          | 11 252        | -7 885         |
| Kure Epilepsy Centre 4)                                | 2 311         |               | 2 311          | 0             | -2 311         |
|  | <b>33 190</b> | <b>0</b>      | <b>11 228</b>  | <b>21 962</b> | <b>-11 228</b> |

- 1) These are earmarked funds collected through various campaigns
- 2) These are gifts not earmarked to any special purposes, including a gift of NOK 10 000 000 from Norsk Hydro. Norwegian People's Aid has decided that the Board will be responsible for allocating the Norsk Hydro funds. In 2008, NOK 1 032 000 was used ref. Board resolutions 2007. A total of NOK 4 279 130 has been granted and transferred to projects; NOK 5 720 870 remains.
- 3) The returns on the Furumo/Løren fund will be used to benefit the disabled and other vulnerable groups with a view to improving their lives and their chances of obtaining work. The returns may also be used for attitude-building work.
- 4) Kure Epilepsy Centre was sold in 2008.

## NOTE 11

| Cash at bank and in hand etc                         | 2008           | 2007           |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Security for lottery profits                         | 4 000          | 4 000          |
| Tax deducted from employees                          | 4 474          | 2 973          |
| Other bank accounts/frozen                           | 3 832          | 3 832          |
| <b>Total frozen bank deposits</b>                    | <b>12 306</b>  | <b>10 805</b>  |
| Other restricted funds not placed in frozen accounts | 66 523         | 62 314         |
| Other restricted funds in accounts abroad            | 84 489         | 67 898         |
| <b>Total restricted funds</b>                        | <b>163 318</b> | <b>141 017</b> |
| Unrestricted funds                                   | 27 761         | 37 687         |
| <b>Total cash at bank and in hand etc</b>            | <b>191 079</b> | <b>178 704</b> |

## NOTE 12

| Pensions and other obligations on behalf of employees           | 2008           | 2007           |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Premium fund  | 1 927          | 1 882          |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>1 927</b>   | <b>1 882</b>   |
| <b>Wages and Salaries</b>                                       | <b>2008</b>    | <b>2007</b>    |
| Wages and salaries re. all employees abroad                     | 151 227        | 150 497        |
| Wages and salaries re. reception centres and projects in Norway | 26 326         | 24 416         |
| Wages and salaries at Head Office                               | 34 006         | 32 553         |
| Employer's National Insurance contributions                     | 11 464         | 10 883         |
| Pension expenses  | 1 492          | 2 677          |
| Other benefits  | 44 597         | 40 287         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>269 112</b> | <b>261 313</b> |

Total wages and salaries include those to Norwegian and foreign relief workers based abroad. As of 31.12, there were 97 persons employed at the Head Office in Norway, 63 at refugee reception centres, 2 at other operating units, 61 on contract at offices abroad and ca. 2 225 local employees working abroad.

### Pensions

The organisation has 279 employees who are covered by the regulations pertaining to the compulsory service pension. All employees are covered by a collective pension scheme that complies with the requirements specified in this legislation. Norwegian People's Aid has a pension scheme for former employees at Kure Epilepsy Centre, which covers 23 persons. The scheme gives the right to future benefits (contribution based scheme). These benefits are largely dependent on the number of years' earning, salary level at pensionable age and the size of benefit from National Insurance. This obligation is covered by a collective pension agreement in Kommunal Landspensjonskasse – Gjensidige Forsikring.

| Pension obligations   | 31-12-08         | 31-12-07         |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Gross accrued pension obligations                                 | 21 474 108       | 22 125 307       |
| Pension funds   | 16 248 622       | 17 300 831       |
| Net obligation before employer's National Insurance contributions | 5 225 486        | 4 824 476        |
| Employer's National Insurance contributions                       | 736 793          | 680 251          |
| Gross accrued obligations inc. ENIC                               | 22 210 901       | 22 805 558       |
| Net obligations inc. ENIC   | 5 962 279        | 5 504 727        |
| Estimated deviation exc, ENIC not written to accounts             | -3 942 004       | -3 469 603       |
| Estimated deviation ENIC not written to accounts                  | -523 252         | -471 741         |
| <b>Net obligations/(funds) after ENIC written to accounts</b>     | <b>1 497 023</b> | <b>1 563 383</b> |
| Financial preconditions:  |                  |                  |
| Discount interest   | 5,30 %           |                  |
| Expected wage adjustment  | 4,00 %           |                  |
| Expected minimum pension regulation                               | 3,75 %           |                  |
| Expected yield from funds in compliance with legal requirements   | 5,80 %           |                  |

### Allocations for severance pay at offices abroad

Total wages and salaries include provisions for severance pay abroad where such is a statutory requirement. Practices vary at the organisation's various foreign offices and these are dictated by the statutory provisions that apply in the programme country concerned. Norwegian People's Aid has estimated its future commitments and has drawn up a joint programme in collaboration with donors containing provisions for severance pay.

### Remunerations/pay for Board members and the Secretary General

No remunerations were paid out to Board members in 2008. Salary paid out to the temporary Secretary General was NOK 749 999 and other benefits amounted to NOK 1 679. The permanent Secretary General participates in Norwegian People's Aid's ordinary pension scheme and does not receive any other remunerations apart from an ordinary salary. Norwegian People's Aid is not obliged to make any payments to the Secretary General upon termination of, or in the event of any changes to, his/her employment contract.

### Auditor

Auditor's fees amounting to NOK 991 223 excl VAT were carried to expenses for auditing the annual accounts at the organisation's head administrative office in 2008. The organisation's donors require special certification relating to all projects. The costs of conducting audits at the organisation's offices abroad and in connection with foreign project activities amounted to NOK 3 472 824 and the cost of auditing project activities in Norway was NOK 306 603. The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration requires that all reimbursement demands be audited and the costs thereof amounted to NOK 701 305.

## NOTE 13

| Financial items            | 2008        | 2007         |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Agio                       | 4 667       | 1 155        |
| Financial income           | 2 607       | 1 423        |
| Other financial expenses   | -7 536      | 1 944        |
| <b>Net financial items</b> | <b>-262</b> | <b>4 522</b> |

## NOTE 14

| Administration and objective percentages | 2008           | 2008         | 2007        | 2006         |
|--|----------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Administration expenses                  | 17 931         | 2,6 %        | 2,2 %       | 2,6 %        |
| Expenses to objectives                   | 664 453        | 94,7 %       | 92,5 %      | 93,8 %       |
| Expenses to acquirement of funds         | 19 623         | 2,8 %        | 2,8 %       | 3,6 %        |
| <b>Total used funds</b>                  | <b>702 007</b> | <b>100 %</b> | <b>98 %</b> | <b>100 %</b> |

The objective percentage is in keeping with previous years and thus in line with expectations.

## NOTE 15

### Lawsuits/disputes

Norwegian People's Aid is involved in disputes in respect of some of its foreign activities. The necessary provisions have been made in the accounts following consultation with local legal advisors.



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