

# Ethical guidelines for partnerships with the corporate sector and private foundations

### Scope:

These guidelines apply to NRC's fundraising partnerships with Norwegian and international corporate sector and private foundations.

The guidelines are not applicable in Telethons campaigns and one-off donations.

### **Framework:**

NRC's fundraising activities will be in accordance with applicable laws, NRC's vision, mission statement, and core values as reflected in the NRC Policy Paper.

NRCs market value is inseparably linked to the organization's reputation, and our partners must therefore underpin NRC's standing. Potential partnerships should systematically be assessed against the criteria below.

#### NRC conduct:

- NRC will be truthful, correct and transparent in all its communication.
- NRC's fund raising activities will be designed and implemented so as to ensure that they do not
  have negative impact on the organisation's target groups, nor be in conflict with NRC policy or in
  any way damage the organisation's reputation.
- NRC will portray our target groups as dignified individuals, and in a way that reflects the inclusive and participatory approach of NRC's work.
- NRC will contribute to broaden public knowledge and awareness of the situation for displaced persons and their rights, and towards increased corporate social responsibility.
- NRC will act and work according to the organisation's values and principles, irrespective of the political and/or economic interests of its collaboration partners.

#### NRC criteria:

- NRC will not enter into partnerships with weapons manufacturers, companies that engage in the purchasing or sale of weapons, pornography or prostitution, or any illegal activities, nor companies with main business from alcohol or tobacco.
- When selecting partners, companies' attitudes towards humanitarian law and human rights, employees rights, the environment, corruption, political involvement in conflicts, and counter terrorism measures, will be taken into account. NRC will refrain from cooperating with partners that do not respect fundamental rights and values.
- NRC will not collaborate with partners who can undermine NRCs credibility and legitimacy.

### NRC partnerships:

- NRC will not be held responsible, nor be used, for legitimising commercial or political decisions made by its partners.
- NRC will ensure that the organisation remains free to criticise partners for any injurious activity.
- If an NRC partner engages in adverse activities, NRC will seek to influence the company to show social responsibility, and optionally to discontinue a partnership when relevant.

## NRC procedure:

- Before entering into any agreement or partnership, NRC will undertake a due diligence procedure
  of potential partner based on the criteria above.
- The due diligence will be based on business and human rights overviews, web research, reviews of annual reports, direct requests for information from the partner and other relevant sources.