



Nick Sireau/Progressio

# LOOKING TO THE **FUTURE**

Progressio's vision and  
values in practice

# PROGRESSIO IS...

- an international development agency that works in countries around the world through policy advocacy and sharing skills, summed up by the phrase: *changing minds – changing lives*
- committed to tackling poverty and exclusion and to bringing about lasting change in policy and practice
- dedicated to long-term, respectful and close working relationships with partners
- working with people of all faiths and none, offering a progressive Catholic perspective independent of church structures
- an organisation with members concerned and active on issues of international justice and development

Our staff, partners, members and supporters come from varied backgrounds. Some work for development from a secular perspective, others from a faith perspective. All believe that development based on justice and empowerment is necessary for the eradication of poverty.

*Right: Fernando Ruiz is a development worker with Progressio's partner organisation CEPCU; Front panel: the chairperson of a maternal and child health clinic in Somaliland.*



# VISION AND VALUES

## Vision

**Progressio is striving for a just world where people can have life in all its fullness, where human rights are respected, where all have their basic needs met and exert control over their lives.**

## Values

This vision is underpinned by key values:

- integrity and respect
- solidarity and justice
- courage and commitment

Progressio is rooted in a radical, progressive Christian tradition, with a vision for transforming the world into one marked by justice, love and peace. Respect for human dignity and justice is a hallmark of Catholic social teaching and is shared by people of faith and no faith.

By working with people of all faiths and none, Progressio makes clear its commitment to inclusion and respect for diversity.

As well as seeking effective, sustainable development, Progressio works to promote a greater understanding of the contribution of faith based groups to development and international affairs. We encourage reflection on development issues and seek to foster tolerance and respect between such faith groups.

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*A young Haitian Dominican in the Dominican Republic. Progressio works to empower the country's Haitian Dominican community, which suffers widespread discrimination.*

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR **PROGRESSIO'S** WORK

Our values are articulated in our guiding principles, which underpin our work and are made real in our daily practice.

## **Respect for people, their cultures and beliefs**

We engage with people in a process of development, based on a meaningful partnership marked by mutual respect and tolerance. People can never be objects of development.

We work within people's social, cultural and spiritual contexts. We recognise that development must be based on a conscious respect for the whole person.

Different stakeholders have different perspectives of our organisation. When we differ, we engage in dialogue and mutual learning.

We seek to value diversity among our staff and partners, who have a right to be treated with respect and dignity. We seek to be an organisation that lives up to its values in its daily work and dealings.

## **Empowering those in poverty**

Progressio upholds the commitment to the 'option for the poor', whereby any analysis of the world is based on the perspective of the poor and excluded.

We believe that the poor and excluded – especially women, marginalised groups, those with disabilities or HIV – should be able to participate in society. Whether through direct support or by international policy advocacy, we seek to enable peoples' voices to be heard by the powerful.

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*Man from Raymah, Yemen, where Progressio places development workers.*

### Forming real partnerships

Partners work with us over a long period of time and help us to formulate plans and strategies. We support their empowerment and assist them in finding solutions that are appropriate to their needs, culture and context.

We contribute to and facilitate networks between partner organisations so that partner-to-partner learning can take place.

Development workers are recruited to share their skills with partner organisations. They recognise that they engage in a process of mutual learning.

### Seeking radical change

Poverty is not a lack of skills or effort. It is the result of unjust structures, policies, conflicts and attitudes that exclude the poor.

To tackle poverty, change is needed at many levels. It can never be eradicated without addressing power relationships within and between groups, communities and nations.

Seeing the world from the perspective of those who are poorest means that our analysis will challenge the powerful. We seek to support people to improve their social, political and economic situation and to influence policy in these areas.

We focus on long-term development. So when an emergency happens that affects our partners we will work with them to support their efforts to recover.



*Sa'ada Abdi Ahmed, a Progressio development worker in Somaliland.*

# PROGRESSIO IN PRACTICE

Mauricio Ushña



*Campaigners at the Americas Social Forum in Ecuador.*

## **How does Progressio contribute to bringing about a world without poverty? What do we mean when we talk about sharing skills and policy advocacy?**

We *share skills* by recruiting development workers to undertake specific tasks with a partner organisation. It is not the traditional concept of the 'volunteer'. Development workers will act as an additional resource to organisations, working closely with a designated counterpart for two to five years to increase the skills and capacity of the organisation in a lasting way. The focus of development workers ranges from specific skills exchange to broader organisation and capacity building.

Advocacy is a process by which individuals or groups seek a specific change in policy or practice that will make a real difference to people's lives. It requires thorough understanding and analysis of issues and offers an alternative.

Progressio's advocacy is rooted in the views, concerns and experiences of its partners. Progressio is committed to enabling the voices of partners to be heard through international advocacy work. Development workers may be involved in supporting partner organisations in their advocacy work, although they will not be engaged in political or advocacy activities themselves.

Progressio is committed to learning from the experience of development workers and partners to influence policy and practice for the better. We seek to support international solidarity among our membership and the wider development and church communities through sharing knowledge, personal encounters and other activities.

**PROGRESSIO**  
CHANGING MINDS • CHANGING LIVES

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