

2019

VENRO Guidelines for Development Projects and Programmes

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The objective of these guiding principles is to outline the quality standards for project and programme work shared by the VENRO member organisations. They were adopted at the 2018 general assembly. The members of VENRO have committed themselves to base their work on these

guiding principles and the basic understanding of development policy expressed within them. The guiding principles were developed in line with the Istanbul Principles that were adopted internationally in 2010.

The eight guiding principles

Non-governmental organization (NGO) development projects are effective

1. if they develop strategies, activities, and practices that promote individual and collective human rights as well as **social justice** and take account of **human rights** principles during implementation.
2. if they practice and promote **gender equity**, take account of the concerns and experiences of women, girls, and people who suffer discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity (LGBTI people)¹, and support them in realising their individual and collective rights by enabling them to participate in development processes as self-confident actors.
3. if they support **empowerment** and **inclusive participation**, especially of economically disadvantaged and marginalised people, in order to strengthen their democratic self-determination and their agency in political structures and development initiatives that affect their lives.
4. if they develop and implement strategies that promote **environmental sustainability** for present and future generations. This includes immediate and sustainable responses to the climate crisis.
5. if they commit themselves to **transparency**, demonstrate **accountability** towards target groups and other stakeholders, and act with **integrity**.
6. if they maintain **equal partnerships** based on shared development goals and values with other NGOs and development actors. These include mutual respect, institutional independence, long-term partnerships, and mutual solidarity.
7. if they promote **exchanges of knowledge** and **learning** from personal experiences as well as from the experiences of target groups and other actors.
8. if they work together to achieve **a lasting positive impact**, especially for people living in poverty and for marginalized groups, while keeping an eye on the conditions required to ensure the durability of the these positives effects.

¹ Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people

VENRO is the umbrella organisation of development and humanitarian non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in Germany. The association was founded in 1995 and consists of around 140 organisations. Their backgrounds lie in independent and church-related development co-operation, humanitarian aid as well as development education, public relations and advocacy.

VENRO's central goal is to construct a just globalisation, with a special emphasis on eradicating global poverty. The organisation is committed to implementing human rights and conserving natural resources.

VENRO

- represents the interests of development policy and humanitarian NGOs vis-à-vis the government
- strengthens the role of NGOs and civil society in development co-operation and humanitarian aid
- sharpens public awareness of development co-operation and humanitarian issues

VENRO – Association of German Development and Humanitarian Aid NGOs

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