

COMMITMENT TO BETTER PRACTICES

GLOBAL PENTECOSTAL DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF PARTNERS

INTRODUCTION

The Global Pentecostal Development and Relief Partners is an emerging network of Pentecostal organizations involved in relief, development, and advocacy work. The purpose of the network is to nurture an environment of cooperation and flexibility and contribute to a sound, biblical and missiological basis for holistic world missions' activities. This network provides an opportunity for coordination and collaboration in crisis and development programming, sharing of information and resources, peer support, and increased visibility and efficiency through joint responses and initiatives.

Members are affiliated with various national and international Pentecostal denominations and movements who share core values grounded in the Christian faith¹. These values continually guide the work of each member organization. Each organization is committed to the communities in which they work, to stakeholders and to one another.

The purpose of this document is to express a shared commitment to uphold best practices in relief and development sectors that bring dignity and compassion to the communities with which members partner.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Commitment to Better Practices is an organizational level commitment to continuously improve and move towards best practice principles. It sets out common values, principles and commitments that give content and direction to each member's humanitarian, development, and advocacy work. It also captures the professional and ethical standards to which each member commits.

PRINCIPLES

The Commitment to Better Practices consists of three areas of principles:

- i. **Organizational Principles** focus on the foundations and structures that guide member organizations to provide effective, accountable, and inclusive programming.
- ii. **Programmatic Principles** focus on addressing inequality and strengthening the capabilities of community members through effective and inclusive program design.
- iii. **Relational Principles** focus on promoting partnerships with member organizations, community members and local partners and church bodies to increase ways to work collaboratively.

¹ PRDP, [“Theological Basis for Understanding Human Poverty and Holistic Mission”](#)

Each member commits to...

i. Organizational Principles

- Upholding high professional, ethical and moral standards of accountability and transparency, as we steward the resources entrusted to us.
- Ensuring responsible, accountable, and transparent governance of resources, such as finances, time, talents and any other resources entrusted to us, e.g. having annual audited financial statements made publicly available.
- Remaining transparent and accountable to donors, partners, stakeholders, and community members, e.g. regarding program information, outcomes, funding, etc.
- Ensuring the safety, dignity and security of our staff and volunteers.
- Ensuring relevant training, collaboration, and mechanisms are in place to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation, abuse, harassment, and other forms of gender-based violence by mainstreaming protection in every aspect of our work.
- Ensuring the highest standards of child protection measures are upheld, especially considering the needs of the most vulnerable.
- Ensuring communications and fundraising materials are respectful and honouring to community members and reflect their dignity and resilience.

ii. Programmatic Principles

Standards

- Honouring the inherent worth and dignity of every person and ensuring that we respect, empower, and protect the rights of every person we work with and show them compassion.
- Remaining impartial and serving people in need regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, ability, gender, caste, political persuasion, sexual orientation, and social status.
- Promoting efforts that foster peace, justice and reconciliation in our programming through shared values grounded in culturally sensitive practices.
- Employing a rights-based and non-discriminatory approach in programming by adhering to fundamental human rights standards, e.g., the Universal Declaration of Human Rights², Convention on the Rights of the Child³, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities⁴.
- Aspiring to uphold internationally recognized best standards in programming, e.g., Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief⁵, Sphere Standards⁶, Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS)⁷, Keeping Children Safe⁸.

² See: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

³ See: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/crc.pdf>

⁴ See: https://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/convention/convention_accessible_pdf.pdf

⁵ See: <https://www.ifrc.org/code-conduct-international-red-cross-and-red-crescent-movement-and-ngos-disaster-relief>

⁶ See: <https://handbook.spherestandards.org/en/>

⁷ See: [The Standard - CHS \(corehumanitarianstandard.org\)](http://TheStandard-CHS(corehumanitarianstandard.org))

- Advocating for and with those who are marginalized, which may include speaking out, raising public awareness or other appropriate advocacy tools, to discuss systems, conditions, traditions, and structures that perpetuate poverty, injustice, violence, destruction of natural resources and the environment, as well as the violation of human rights and dignity⁹.
- Contributing towards and complementing government policies where objectives are aligned.

Project Design

- Promoting approaches that are community-driven to build the capacity of communities, as well as strengthen existing capacity to respond to crises, sustain livelihoods and build flourishing families and communities.¹⁰
- Strengthening the capacity of churches and local actors to respond to humanitarian needs and serve as agents of change in their communities.
- Working to address the root causes of poverty, exclusion, injustice, rights deprivation, and the full scope of human poverty to see whole life and society transformation.¹¹
- Ensuring appropriate support reaches the most vulnerable within communities (women-headed households, ethnic minorities, children, etc.).
- Ensuring that community members can actively participate in designing, implementing, and reporting on programs, as well as determine appropriate self-protection and risk reduction measures.
- Ensuring community members are able to share feedback, report complaints and receive information about a program or organization.
- Having effective systems in place for planning, monitoring, evaluating, and learning in programming.

Conflict Sensitive Approaches

- Avoiding exposing people to additional risk through our actions and/or through our advocacy (“do no harm”) and understanding the impact of our work in areas of existing or potential conflicts and inequalities.
- Applying a conflict sensitive approach by understanding local contexts and working to identify and strengthen components that favour peace, mediation, and reconciliation.

Environmental Sustainability

- Recognizing the role we play in protecting and caring for God’s creation and ensuring our programs aim to limit further harm to the environment and prioritize the sustainable use of local resources.

⁸ See: [Keeping Children Safe: International Child Safeguarding Standards](#)

⁹ PRDP, [“PWF & Opportunities for Advocacy”](#)

¹⁰ PRDP, [“Theological Basis for Understanding Human Poverty and Holistic Mission”](#)

¹¹ PRDP, [“Theological Basis for Understanding Human Poverty and Holistic Mission”](#)

Gender Equality

- Promoting gender equality and equity by mainstreaming gender into all areas of programming and listening and supporting the perspectives of men, women, boys, and girls with the goal of seeing all people who are created equal by God experiencing the fullness of their rights.¹²
- Working to prevent gender-based violence and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in all aspects of programming by ensuring individuals can seek the support needed.

Marginalized Groups

- Working to ensure safeguarding measures are in place and mainstreamed into all aspects of our work to ensure the well-being of marginalized groups, particularly children and adults living with a disability, are upheld.
- Working to prevent gender-based violence and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse in all aspects of programming by ensuring children and adults living with a disability can seek the support needed.
- Working to ensure the appropriate support reaches marginalized groups, particularly children and adults living with a disability.

iii. Relational Principles

- Continually building relationships with regional, national, or international partners and organizations that support coordinated and effective humanitarian, development, and advocacy responses.
- Recognizing that we are accountable to those we work with, those who support us, one another and ultimately, God.
- Recognizing the role faith and the Church as a community that embodies the values of God's Kingdom have in achieving effective humanitarian and development outcomes.
- Recognizing the role of local actors and churches in providing spiritual care and engaging in holistic mission that addresses the full scope of human poverty.¹³
- Continuing to work collaboratively with others and learn from one another by building relationships and strengthening the effectiveness of our work as we listen, respect, and adopt different strategies.
- Striving to create an environment that draws on the rich diversity each person brings and where everyone's unique cultures, giftings, abilities and strengths are recognized and valued.

IMPLEMENTATION

Each member organization is solely responsible for the implementation of these principles, and as such, should institute policies, practices, and processes to self-evaluate, develop, and uphold its efforts and progress towards these principles.

¹² PRDP, "[Gender Equality Position Paper](#)"

¹³ See: https://live-micah-global.pantheonsite.io/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/integral_mission_declaration_en.pdf