



Locally-Led Action

ACFID Code of Conduct Topic Guide

This guide outlines the requirements in the ACFID Code of Conduct related to Locally-Led Action. Additional guidance can be found in the online [Good Practice Toolkit](#).



QUALITY PRINCIPLE 2: LOCALLY LED ACTION AND INCLUSION

COMMITMENT 2.1 We seek to reduce power imbalances and invest in locally-led development and humanitarian initiatives.

Compliance Indicators

Verifiers

2.1.1 Members demonstrate an organisational commitment to locally-led action.

- Policy, statement or guidance document that commits the member to locally-led action.
- Evidence of naming and addressing power imbalances in organisational relationships relevant to the member's development and humanitarian initiatives.

2.1.2 Members contribute to locally-led action in their development and humanitarian initiatives.

- Evidence of the voices and decision-making of local actors is consistently captured in:
 - o Design or planning framework, tools, templates or approaches.
 - o Monitoring and evaluation framework, tools, templates or approaches
 - o The allocation of resources (time, funds and people) throughout the project cycle
 - o The design and evaluation of feedback and complaints mechanisms

2.1.3 Members have mechanisms in place to ensure primary stakeholders can contribute their ideas and feedback and influence decision-making about the initiatives that affect them.

- Development and humanitarian initiatives consistently show evidence of the influence of primary stakeholders in planning, decision-making and evaluation.

For a selection of compliance indicators and verifiers, Members are required to ensure they have appropriate mechanisms to assess, manage and mitigate the risks when working with partners.

This requirement relates to the following compliance indicators:

- Child Safeguarding (1.4.1, 1.4.2, 1.4.3)
- Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (1.5.1)
- Transparency (7.3.1)
- Separation of development and non-development activities (7.3.2)
- Complaints handling (7.3.3)
- Prevention of Financial Wrongdoing (8.2.1)



QUALITY PRINCIPLE 4: QUALITY AND EFFECTIVENESS

COMMITMENT 4.2 We analyse and understand the contexts in which we work.

Compliance Indicator

Verifiers

4.2.3 Members undertake research and establish their own ethical guidelines for research.

- Ethical guidelines for research.
- Research plans and results are shared with those who are involved in or impacted by the findings.

This indicator and its verifiers is relevant only to members which undertake research



QUALITY PRINCIPLE 5: COLLABORATION

COMMITMENT 5.3 We invest in the sustainability and effectiveness of our collaborations and partnerships.

Compliance Indicators

Verifiers

5.3.1 Members invest time and resources in supporting the sustainability of local partners, including their broader mandate, strategy and capacity.

- Development and humanitarian initiatives consistently show evidence of listening to and responding to local partners' priorities for organisational strengthening.
- Regular partnership meetings take place where open feedback and dialogue is facilitated.

5.3.2 Members assess the effectiveness of their collaborations and partnerships.

- Documented evidence of the periodic and joint review of the effectiveness of key collaborations and partnerships.



QUALITY PRINCIPLE 6: COMMUNICATIONS

COMMITMENT 6.1 We are truthful in our communications.

Compliance Indicators

Verifiers

6.1.1 Members' public materials accurately describe the organisation and its work.

- Public materials reflect the perspectives of primary stakeholders.

Good Practice Indicators (not required for compliance)

COMMITMENT 5.2

- Active steps are taken to collaborate with other INGOs and donors to reduce the resources required by local partners to manage compliance obligations.

COMMITMENT 5.3

- The effectiveness of capacity strengthening initiatives is periodically reviewed.
- A formal process is used to enable partner feedback on the member's performance and the partnership itself.

Definitions

Local Actors

Describes a wide range of individuals, organisations and institutions, who have the knowledge and expertise to understand and respond to the needs of their communities. This can include local and national governments, local and national NGOs, civil society organisations, community-led organisations and communities.

Locally-Led Action

Locally-led development and humanitarian action recognises, respects and strengthens the leadership and decision-making of local actors who are best placed to understand and respond to the needs of their communities. By its nature, this will look different in each country context, and even within countries or programs. Successful locally-led action recognises how power imbalances influence development and humanitarian initiatives. It is facilitated by strong and equal partnership, quality direct funding, transparency and mutual accountability, and diversity and empowerment in staffing and leadership.

Partner

Organisations, individuals and other parties we work jointly with, who have defined roles and responsibilities for achieving common goals.

Primary Stakeholders

The term used in the Code of Conduct to refer to those whom we seek to support, work with and directly benefit through development and humanitarian initiatives. All individuals who are participants in, and are directly affected by, development and humanitarian initiatives. They may also be known as beneficiaries or local people.

ACFID Resources and Communities of Practice

ACFID Locally-Led Action Toolkit - available at learnwithacfid.com

ACFID Locally-Led Action [Resource Hub](#)

[Join](#) the ACFID Locally Led Action Community of Practice.