



GLOBAL NETWORK OF FOUNDATIONS WORKING FOR DEVELOPMENT

Background Paper

Update and Next Steps on

the Guidelines for Effective Philanthropic Engagement

(GEPEs)

6th Steering Committee meeting of the GPEDC

9th July, New York

This Paper is submitted to members of the GPEDC Steering Committee by the Network of Foundations Working for Development (netFWD) on behalf of the philanthropic sector.

Members of the GPEDC are invited to express interest in taking part in the country pilots.

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1. What are the GEPEs?

The Guidelines for Effective Philanthropic Engagement ('the Guidelines') act as a tool that can help philanthropic organisations working with or in developing countries improve the impact of their development efforts on the ground.

The Guidelines aim to enhance collaboration between the philanthropic sector and governments on shared goals with the view of increasing the effectiveness of philanthropic contributions to global efforts to promote human wellbeing and development.

The Guidelines capture lessons learned and emerging good practice of philanthropic engagement under the headings:

- Dialogue;
- Data/Knowledge Sharing; and
- Partnering.

The Guidelines contribute to the ongoing efforts to strengthen development effectiveness and mutual accountability in the spirit of the [Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness](#) and the [Busan Declaration for Effective Development Cooperation](#). The Guidelines should be understood as a complementary voluntary and non-binding effort of self-selected, interested foundations, governments and multilateral agencies to inform their work with insights from years of collaboration efforts among development organisations, on the basis of the commitments governments have already pledged to.

The Guidelines have undergone a wide consultation process at global and national levels – 12 formal and informal events as well as webinars – with bilateral donors, multilateral agencies, the private sector, civil society and members of the philanthropic community itself taking part. More than 30 foundations from across the world have responded to an online survey on the Guidelines.

The Guidelines were developed in a task force under the leadership of the OECD Global Network of Foundations Working for Development (netFWD), together with the Worldwide Initiatives for Grantmaker Support (WINGS), the European Foundation Centre (EFC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Stars Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation.

2. Presentation and call to action at the GPECD Ministerial Meeting in Mexico

The Guidelines were presented and discussed at the GPECD Ministerial Meeting in Mexico in the plenary and in a dedicated focus session titled "Innovative and Inclusive Engagement with the Philanthropic Sector" that brought together foundation CEOs and senior government representatives to discuss how they can engage more effectively and inclusively with one another.

The Guidelines were received with great interest by participants and were expressly mentioned in the official Communiqué:

§ 17. We acknowledge the added value that philanthropic foundations bring to development cooperation. In particular, we welcome the voluntary Guidelines for Effective Philanthropic Engagement developed in conjunction with the OECD network of Foundations Working for Development and encourage continuous multi-stakeholder dialogue and cooperation as appropriate to foster their implementation and follow up.

The Guidelines task force takes this call to action very seriously and is currently exploring implementation modalities through country pilots, as elaborated below.

3. Next steps: Country pilots

From the second semester of 2014, the Guidelines will be implemented through a number of country pilots.

The selection of pilot countries will stem from demand from philanthropic actors themselves, in countries where there is both a vibrant philanthropic scene and where the government is willing to further engage with philanthropic actors. Mexico and Colombia are likely to be the first two pilots, followed possibly by the UAE, Brazil, India, Myanmar and Ghana.

For each pilot, actors involved will have to identify up to two themes of interest to domestic foundations which also resonate with national development priorities and the wider global development agenda. While not directly bound to the future Sustainable Development Goals, selected themes are likely to resonate with this new framework, such as gender equality or water and sanitation. Once the theme is identified, relevant and interested stakeholders from the public, private and non-profit sectors will be invited to join the effort.

The methodology consists of an assessment of the current level of philanthropic collaboration with other stakeholders before the pilot is launched on the basis of a set of indicators corresponding to the Guidelines' three building blocks *dialogue*, *data and knowledge sharing*, and *partnering*. This assessment, which will be undertaken through a dedicated questionnaire, will serve as a tool to identify shortcomings and areas for improvement in the collaboration of philanthropy and governments, as well as provide a benchmark against which to assess progress made after certain time intervals. A local facilitator will help convene these discussions over time and capture progress and data while linking back to netFWD to allow for the documenting of these lessons. For more information on the methodology and indicators, please contact the netFWD secretariat.

4. Involving members of the GPEDC in country pilots

It is envisioned that progress on country pilots will be reported back to the GPEDC Steering committee regularly by the philanthropic sector representative of the SC. The results of the country pilots will be presented at the next GPEDC Ministerial Meeting.

In the meantime, members of the GPEDC (governments, the private sector, representatives of civil society, etc.), are invited to express interest in taking part in country pilots. SC members are specifically invited to brief their capitals/organisations to explore interest in participating in a country pilot. The list of countries will be shared through the Joint Support Team in the coming weeks.