

Inter Aide Charter

The organizations that are signatories to this charter share the same objective: to support the **most disadvantaged people** in developing countries by helping them **build their own capacities to meet their basic needs**. To this end, these organizations dedicate themselves exclusively to the implementation of development programs.

All signatories are non-profit organizations. They are committed to respecting, in their field operations as well as in their management of human resources and finances and in all reporting to their financial partners, the following principles:

- 1) **Limit the range of their activities to the implementation of development programs**, the sole purpose of said organizations, such that:
 - a) Programs shall be defined in precise response to the stated needs of the beneficiaries, before funding is sought.
 - b) The essence of all activities shall be dedicated to program implementation, each program having a projected budget submitted to specific funding organizations; thus no public fund-raising campaigns nor advertising shall be conducted.
 - c) Organizational operating costs (overhead) shall be integrated into the specific programs financed; without such programs the participating organizations would have no objective.
- 2) **Adopt a practical and professional approach** in proposing solutions to the most disadvantaged populations, such that:
 - a) participating organizations shall act in accordance with professional rather than ideological criteria, aware that the primary objective is not to solve the problems of a nation or a region, but rather to reinforce the capacities of disadvantaged communities to meet their basic needs.
 - b) Programs shall be implemented by highly qualified professionals.
 - c) Organizations that finance these programs shall be guaranteed the highest level of quality and accountability in the progress reports and financial reports from the field.
- 3) **Act in the strictest personal and political neutrality**, respecting the convictions of the beneficiaries.
- 4) **Seek to reach and assist the most disadvantaged families**; those living closest to the level of absolute poverty.
- 5) **Act always so as to reinforce the beneficiaries' own development capacities toward autonomous responsibility for their basic needs**, such that:
 - a) Beneficiaries shall be involved in such a manner as to avoid any assistance activity that could render them dependent or delay the sustainability of their own development activities; thus beneficiaries shall not be portrayed as miserable and helpless.
 - b) Training and capacity-building shall take place simultaneously with development activities so that beneficiary communities can increase the quality of their lives.
 - c) Productive activities and access to employment shall be prioritized whenever possible.
 - d) Local partner organizations shall be identified and supported so that they can become the primary actor of a given program, and eventually assume the full responsibility for the program activities autonomously.