

This Charter was written in 1980 and has remained unchanged since.

Inter Aide Charter

The organisations signatory to this Charter aim to provide support to the most deprived populations of the Third World by giving them the desire and the capacity to take charge of their vital needs and by opening up access to development. To this end, they are exclusively dedicated to the implementation of development programmes.

These non-profit organisations undertake to respect the following principles in their field activities, as well as in their management of human and financial resources and in the information provided to their financial partners:

(1) Limiting their actions to the implementation of development programmes which underpin the purpose the organisation, which implies:

- a. To define specific programmes in response to beneficiaries' needs, before seeking the necessary funding.
- b. To devote the core of their activity to the implementation of the programmes, with each programme having a provisional budget submitted to specific funding bodies, and not to engage in media campaigns to raise funds or disseminate information to the general public.
- c. To cover the bulk of the organisation's overheads as integrated across the programmes' funding, as without the programmes, the organisation would have no purpose.

(2) To adopt a pragmatic and professional approach to the solutions proposed to populations in difficulty, which implies:

- a. To act according to professional and non-ideological criteria, knowing that the primary objective is not to solve the problems of a country or a region but to help groups of families to meet better their basic needs, in a given context.
- b. To assign highly qualified professionals to carry out the programmes.
- c. To guarantee high quality and assurance in programme implementation and financial reporting to the donor organisations.

(3) To act with the strictest religious and political neutrality, and with respect for the beliefs of the beneficiaries.

(4) To seek always to reach the most deprived families, close to the absolute poverty level.

(5) To do everything possible to ensure beneficiaries take responsibility for meeting their basic needs, which means:

- a. To strive to involve the beneficiaries by avoiding any intervention of assistance which could render them dependent and delay them taking ownership of their responsibilities, and therefore to avoid presenting a pitiful image of the beneficiaries.
- b. To carry out training and organisation of beneficiary communities, which aims to increase their autonomy; alongside concrete actions remaining the priority, and meeting their core needs being the primary objective.
- c. To give priority, as far as possible, to productive activities and those which provide access to employment.
- d. To give priority to finding or establishing a local partner who can be the point of contact to support the programme, and ultimately to whom the programme can be handed over.