

## Brighter Communities Worldwide Partnership Policy

### Introduction

- Since its foundation Brighter Communities Worldwide has worked as a partnership based organisation. This includes partnerships in Kenya, in Ireland and around the world.
- Brighter Communities Worldwide believes that partnerships are fundamental to the strong local ownership of all its programmes and hence the long term sustainability of interventions. To this end, Brighter Communities Worldwide has established and maintained numerous partners in the Districts where it works – with local based community groups; government Ministries and other stakeholders.
- Brighter Communities Worldwide has supported the establishment and capacity building of groups in all areas, in order to effectively work with local communities in Kenya.
- Brighter Communities Worldwide's Partnership Framework was validated as part of the partner engagement process and fed into the strategic plan of 2014 to 2017.

### Core Principles

Brighter Communities Worldwide's Partnership Framework has a number of core principles on which it bases its partnerships:

- **A shared vision of development** – Brighter Communities Worldwide and its partners believe that all citizens should have equal access to resources, services and power, with particular priority being given to the needs of the poorest, most marginalised and most vulnerable people.
- **Participation** – Brighter Communities Worldwide's partnerships are based on the participatory approach to development and are based on self-identified needs.
- **An agreed overall strategy** – partners agree this for the particular intervention that is being implemented.
- **Mutual accountability and trust** – Brighter Communities Worldwide is accountable to its partners and in turn they are accountable to Brighter Communities Worldwide. There is

full transparency in reporting and accountability to the donors and to the beneficiaries as the primary focus of the partnership. Accountability processes and tools are agreed in the beginning of a partnership and included in the Partnership Agreements. Honesty is required of all partners and of Brighter Communities Worldwide.

- **A mutual commitment to long-term change** – Brighter Communities Worldwide and its partners recognise that development is a long-term process, and significant positive change in terms of development outcomes for all involved can take years to achieve.
- **Realistic Expectations** – Brighter Communities Worldwide’s expectations of a partnership are realistic and set at a level that reflects the current capacity of Brighter Communities Worldwide and the partner.
- **Clear Roles and Responsibilities** – Brighter Communities Worldwide’s Partnership Agreements have clearly set out roles and responsibilities which are agreed by all partners. Brighter Communities Worldwide Partnership Agreements can include Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) and Contract Agreements.
- **Flexible and Adaptable to change** – Brighter Communities Worldwide recognises that the context in which it and its partner works can change significantly and often quite suddenly due to unforeseen circumstances. Allowances are made in Brighter Communities Worldwide’s Partnership Agreements to take such changes into account.
- **Organisational & Cultural Differences** – Brighter Communities Worldwide acknowledges that partners can have different ways of work or organisation, but have sufficient common ground in terms of vision, values and strategy to allow them to work together with respect to the cultures involved.
- **Delivering Positive Change** – Brighter Communities Worldwide believes that the ultimate aim of a partnership is to deliver real and lasting benefits with the intended beneficiaries of the work undertaken by the partnership.
- **Equality and Shared responsibilities** – all of Brighter Communities Worldwide’s partnerships are built on a shared contribution to bringing about change, and ensure the sustainability of the outcomes. Partner contributions may be in the form of labour, goods in kind, financial resources or expertise with mutual accountabilities. Regardless of the value of the contributions, all partners are treated equally.
- **Learning** – Brighter Communities Worldwide believes that we can all learn from working in partnership with each other. This learning can in turn be used to improve global understanding and build friendships and relationships between countries and people.



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- **Process and products** – in some partnerships, the focus is on the process of learning, sharing and building relationships rather than concrete outputs. Brighter Communities Worldwide values the processes involved as much as physical products.

## Partnership Process

Brighter Communities Worldwide has a defined **partnership process** which it follows when engaging new partners, or evaluating existing partnerships. This has four main stages:

1. **Scoping and Building** – This involves scoping out the project (need/problem/ change) that is being sought); identifying the resources needed; identifying roles; identifying structures; planning the project. The result of this phase is the Partnership Agreement. (Memorandum of Understanding).
2. **Managing and Maintaining** – This involves the implementing the project; managing the project cycle and reporting progress against agreed performance criteria.
3. **Reviewing and Revising - Continuous Evaluation** – Brighter Communities Worldwide encourages ongoing evaluation of its partnerships and is very receptive to feedback. Regularly Brighter Communities Worldwide's partners are invited to attend partnership seminars where they evaluate the impact of the partnership, and look at ways of strengthening partnerships going forward. These seminars also give partners the opportunity to meet other partners and learn from each other.
4. **Sustaining Outcomes**– from the earliest stages of identifying potential groups that may become partners, Brighter Communities Worldwide is focused on building capacity. In time, this becomes a key element of ensuring the greater overall sustainability of interventions, along with well-structured programs, shared ownership, accountability and strong leaders.
5. **Exiting Partnerships** – timelines are agreed at the initial stages and this includes a review schedule and a plan for exiting either on completion of the objectives or due to other factors.