

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Swisscontact is an independent non-profit development organisation established in 1959 by individuals from the Swiss private sector and civil society. We are politically and denominationally neutral.

## OUR MISSION

We unleash the potential of private initiative to foster sustainable development and shared prosperity in developing and emerging economies.

## OUR BELIEFS AND VALUES

### Private Initiative and Systemic Change

We view private initiative as a key source of innovation and opportunity creation. We therefore support systemic change that encourages those innovations that have the potential to trigger sustainable and inclusive development and increase resilience.

### Locally-Led Development

We are committed to empowering local actors by strengthening their capacities and giving them decision-making power through long-term partnerships that are based on shared values.

### Quality

By tapping into our international experience and engaging our partner network, we develop and apply innovative and scalable solutions that maximise the impact and outreach of our work.

### Equal Opportunities

We protect and advance the perception and fulfilment of rights to equality and non-discrimination. We strive to provide all individuals with fair and impartial access to opportunities.

### Integrity

We have an unwavering commitment to ethical behaviour, maintaining the highest standard of compliance in every aspect of our operations. We exhibit zero tolerance for non-adherence to laws, regulations, policies, and standards.

### Transparency

We are transparent in everything we do, communicating openly about our achievements and collecting insights from the challenges we encounter along the way. We share our learnings for the benefit of all, thereby strengthening our credibility and the trust of our partners.

### Empowerment

Our people are our most valuable resource. We empower our employees, create space for individual initiative, leadership and innovation, and strive for a climate of trust.

## WHAT WE DO

- We strengthen the competencies of people by promoting employment and generating income opportunities.
- We increase the competitiveness of enterprises to enable growth in their business.
- We foster inclusive social and economic systems by developing sustainable, resilient and scalable innovations.

## WHAT WE OFFER

- Project design, development and implementation
- Advisory, training, and applied research services
- Monitoring, evaluation and learning systems

## OUR WORKING PRINCIPLES

### Systemic Thinking

Acting as trainers, facilitators and enablers, we apply a systemic approach that empowers local organisations and partners to achieve sustainable impact at scale.

### Private Sector Cooperation

We cultivate and expand partnerships with local and international businesses to strengthen the impact of our work. We attach particular importance to promoting respectable work conditions and honest and fair communication.

## **Evidence-Informed Adaptive Management**

We manage our projects with an evidence-informed and adaptive management approach, using a standardized monitoring and results measurement system that allows for informed decision-making and timely corrective action.

## **Learning Culture**

We continuously develop and embed new learning methodologies. In close collaboration with our partners, we strive to increase our collective knowledge, competence and performance to co-shape the future of international development work.

## **OUR SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY**

### **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion**

We promote gender equality, striving for the social inclusion of all people, with a particular focus on youth and marginalised groups. We are committed to a Human Rights approach that embraces empowerment, equality, non-discrimination, and accountability.

### **Environmental Responsibility**

We use the planet's resources carefully, always considering the environment. We are committed to achieving net zero in our decisions and actively explore ways to reduce our organisation's footprint. We enhance the resilience of individuals and communities to deal with climate change, developing and promoting solutions for the efficient and sustainable use of resources.

## **Good Governance**

We practice and promote the principles of good governance. We commit to decision-making that follows the rule of law, is participatory and consensus-oriented, accountable, transparent, responsive, effective and efficient, equitable and inclusive.

## **OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SDGs**

The 2030 agenda provides the target framework for our activities. We are committed to aligning our engagement with all partners, who work towards the achievement of these goals. We contribute directly to no poverty (1), zero hunger (2), quality education (4), decent work and economic growth (8), reduced inequality (10), sustainable cities and communities (11), responsible consumption and production (12), combating climate change (13), life on land (15), peace, justice, and strong institutions (16) and partnerships to achieve the goals (17).

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