

PMU's policy for partnership

Focus: Partners who plan and work together

Key words: relationship, operation, policy, strategy, structure, mutual understanding, transparency, interdependence

"And here is my advice about what is best for you in this matter: Last year you were the first not only to give but also have the desire to do so. Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means. For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have. Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. Then there will be equality." (2Corinthians. 8:10–14)

Background and purpose

For civil society to become an arena for strengthening people's rights in a dynamic way, it is necessary for the various actors to cooperate in order to reach both joint and individual goals. From a Christian perspective, partnership is likened to being branches of a tree that is a symbol for Jesus Christ. This means a relationship that contains spiritual, cultural and social dimensions. PMU has defined its concept of partnership as *"the relationship between two or more national churches/organisations, that share a common involvement within a specific area of interest. The relationship is based on the understanding that all parties have equal status and are agreed on the same values and respect for one another that incorporates trust, responsibility and openness. Jesus Christ is the foundation to which all parties are joined, making them equally important and complementing each other's strengths and weaknesses."* PMU will therefore actively promote conditions where individuals and organisations endeavour to establish partnerships as well as responsibly and passionately be a voice for people living in poverty. PMU has a long history of engaging in partnerships, paving the way for possibilities to cooperate in developing new relationships that can embrace various aspects of ideology, strategy and methodology.

The Policy

This policy is linked to those human rights concerned with people's right to voice their opinions, have control over their own lives and have access to a fair proportion of resources, power and influence. Where the voice and role of women is suppressed in certain contexts, their position should be strengthened in all partnerships.

- Partnership is the fundamental working method within all PMU's work.
- Partnership is based on relationships characterised by trust and common values and goals.
- The purpose of partnership is to cooperate in areas of common interest for mutual development, increased efficiency and effectiveness and to attain sustainability with a long-term perspective. A partnership should both contribute to strengthening each other and to fighting poverty by increasing its cooperation using a rights-based approach.
- PMU's partnerships should always be characterised by understanding and respect. PMU strongly believes that communication is worth both time and resources and that dialogue is carried out under the same conditions for all parties. It is expected that all can share their experiences, are open and honest and show a willingness to change. This is linked to having a clear division of responsibilities between parties as well as contributing resources and competence.
- God created people equal in their relations with each other. Every initiative taken towards cooperation between people must strive to strengthen the understanding and content of partnership in its identity, role and development of vision and strategic goals.

Scope of the Policy

The policy should direct how cooperation and organisational structures and systems are formed and how priorities are made within interventions carried out by PMU's partners both in Sweden and globally.

Implementation of the policy

Implementation of the policy takes place within both the organisations' and the networks' "inner life" as well as in all stages of project development from project idea, contextual analysis, project design and follow-up and evaluations. The policy should also portray PMU's process of learning and networking with Swedish and global partners.

Responsibilities and Execution

All sections of PMU as an organisation are responsible to make sure regular updates of the policy are received and to reflect over how the policy is practically implemented.

Follow-up and evaluation of the policy

Execution of the policy is continually followed up by PMU's Leadership Team or a person appointed by the Team. This is carried out annually in the form of a workshop.

Indicators:

- Joint vision och policy
- Joint strategic plan
- Governance, transparency and mutual participation
- Type of relationship and cooperation
- Division of resources.
- Equality and ownership
- Rights and impact are common to all Interventions