

PMU's Policy for civil society

Focus: Establishing and strengthening of relationships and cooperation between different individuals, communities and institutions to stimulate diversity and vitality of life.

Central values: cooperation, integrity, responsibility, unselfishness, faithfulness and generosity

"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house." (Matthew 5:14-15)

"When you come together, everyone has a hymn, or a word of instruction, a revelation, a tongue or an interpretation. All of these must be done for strengthening the church." (1Corinthians 14:26)

Background and purpose

Society can generally be divided into three arenas each with its own focus: the state or governing body with focus on the political situation, the business sector with focus on the use of resources, and civil society with focus on culture and basic values. PMU sees the importance of keeping civil society separate from the other two arenas and that it is strengthened by carrying out various social processes that includes active and engaged dialogue. Civil society is particularly characterised by the interaction between individuals and groups within a diversity of cultures and perspectives. PMU will contribute to strengthening the possibility for civil society to give opportunity for these individuals and groups to take initiatives in advocating for their own and other's rights, interests and vision for the future. Contributing to a dynamic and active civil society is a necessary condition for reducing poverty and strengthening trust within the various social levels. A dynamic civil society is also necessary for influencing the other two arenas, the state and business sector, to be aware of and embrace the values that are a part of people's everyday lives.

The Policy

Society's central functions (finance, education, distribution of resources and power etc.) should fuel its driving force from people's everyday lives (culture, interaction and spirituality). Relating development processes to experiences from everyday life maintains balance in society.

- Civil Society can be divided into both private and public spheres. Both these spheres are important but in different ways. The private sphere should be kept separate enabling people to prepare themselves for involvement in the public sphere without undue stress. The public sphere is where people come together to cooperate with each other as individuals and groups.
- Civil Society is recognised by people organising themselves for their own or others benefit with the purpose of contributing to maintaining a well functioning society for the common good or to introduce a better system. The process of cooperation should be characterised by diversity, respect, mutual agreement, transparency, learning and be of a lasting nature.
- PMU desires that its work in strengthening civil society should lead to individuals, families and communities being more actively engaged in the development of society. Cooperation between groups and various actors within civil society is the central focus that collectively enhances people's rights, capabilities, capacity and the possibility of taking responsibility for their own welfare.
- PMU will promote pluralism and diversity in working for a strong civil society.

Scope of the Policy

The policy applies to all projects supported by PMU. As it is a comprehensive policy, it is therefore a basis for all PMU's work in designing its interventions.

Implementation of the policy

Implementation of the policy takes place in all stages 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:

- Individuals and groups carry out activities publicly.
- Active dialogue is carried out within civil society itself and between the other two arenas.
- Groups of people organise themselves to act according to their own agenda.
- Involvement in networks and joining in solidarity with others for maintaining good relationships between people