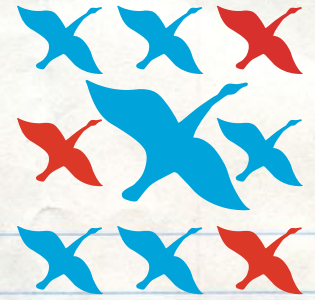


WILDE GANZEN

ONTWIKKELINGSSAMENWERKING



## PI-DOC 4: SUSTAINABILITY









Better insight in the context of the project can be used to improve its sustainability, for example by:

- using a more appropriate technology (hand pumps for water where there is no electricity);
- using locally available construction materials;
- letting women have a better say in the project and a bigger role in its management;
- searching for additional financial sources.

### 3. Use of existing structures, systems, solutions

Often new systems, procedures, solutions, materials, ways of working, etc. are introduced, mainly because they worked out well in other projects. But maybe they do not fit well in your local situation. It may be preferable to use technologies and materials that have already been tested and used in the project area.

How to find out what will work and will be sustainable? Go and talk to people that work with other organizations. Talk to all stakeholders. What is the best solution according to the other, what has been done already to solve the problem? What worked well and what did not work well? Will the solution be the introduction of a new system, structure, material, etc, then first analyze whether the system will continue to work after the project has been completed. For example, are spare parts locally available? Is there anyone that understands the system, material, technology and are they able to work with it? Has a training course been offered to learn the new technology?

### 4. Coördination of stakeholders in project activities

Projects and local organizations often deal with more than one donor showing their interest and co-funding the project. A good communication and transparent agreements among the collaborating partners are very important for the successful implementation of the project. If this is the case with your organization, you may have to comply with different requirements for each donor. For example when reporting: you may need to write a separate report to each donor. This may cause your organization lots of extra work and time, you cannot dedicate to the project itself. However, transparency to donors on who finances which part is of crucial importance.

### 5. Shared responsibility for results

Working result oriented. This is a concept that is applied more and more often. In the past the donors were only busy justifying and controlling the financial means and planned results. This led to a policing kind of relation between the project and the donor. A lot of time was wasted in justification of the financial means, while the end result was lost out of sight. Since some years this has changed. Many donors want to put more emphasis on assessing **results**. Partners agree to collectively achieve the project results and these will be monitored and evaluated. This will lead to partners feeling mutually responsible for achieving the results and both will dedicate oneself to it.

Development projects are nowadays mainly result-oriented. Donors are more interested in the end results, and less in checking (or even policing) the progress of activities and expenditures.

How to get to shared results? Your organization should define and write down the results the project will achieve, because you and the target group



*Suggestions for your project plan:*

1. Determine which results and activities need to continue after the external assistance has come to an end and define/calculate the means necessary to do so.
2. Define specific criteria that will increase the sustainability of the project. For instance, if the project is about drinking water supply: have the beneficiaries chosen the preferred location, were they included in the planning process, did they form a maintenance committee, etc.?
3. Examine every part of the project: the goal, the results and the activities, the collaboration and the budget, in order to answer the sustainability questions of this paper.
4. Decide on the basis of the answers whether:
  - results, activities and budget needs to be reformulated and/or adjusted;
  - more checking needs to be done;
  - specific recommendations need to be given to the project implementers.

*The exit strategy*

The ultimate aim of any project supported by a foreign donor is that it can continue without its financial assistance. The moment for this assistance to end is difficult to determine, because during the project implementation a situation of financial dependence arises. It is very important to prevent this dependence to be without end.

This can be prevented by conferring with your Dutch partner about a gradual exit strategy, already in the planning phase of the project. How will other sources of money be secured? What are alternatives? What needs to be done to be able to continue? What is the best way to show to all stakeholders that the project is now all theirs, and the Dutch involvement has ended?

During this discussion you can also think about what you may wish to continue doing together.

Do you want the Dutch partner to stay involved, for example by receiving information about the project, participating in the board of your organization, making publicity for the project in the Netherlands, etc.?







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