

# GRET's Charter of Commitments

**T**he persistence, and even the increase, of misery and poverty around the world harm human dignity and are sources of conflict. In an increasingly wealthy world, nothing can justify growing inequalities or the fact that billions of human beings are denied decent living conditions and access to essential services.

Alongside socially aware actions that aim to change the profoundly unjust rules of the international game, concrete actions for sustainable, solidarity-based development are both ethically and politically mandatory.

Solidarity is also—and GRET finds it particularly important to emphasise this—a question of relevance and know-how. Aid actions are only legitimate in the eyes of stakeholders from the South and the public opinion in the North to the extent that they meet specific expectations and bring about real and lasting improvements in populations' living conditions, starting with those of the poorest. Aid actions are also only legitimate when they are carried by local institutions and build the capacities of countries' organisations and institutions.

To give life to these convictions, GRET mobilises a team of professionals committed to the shared values set forth in our Charter of Commitments.

## Because sustainable development is, for us, a commitment and convictions

- > Our actions have one single goal: improve the living conditions of populations and reduce inequalities at every level of society, and do so sustainably.

In areas where we are active, we work with **populations** to allow them to increase their incomes, reduce their vulnerability, receive accessible and efficient basic services, and obtain economic and social rights. We also act to **build their capacity** to take full part in mastering their own development.

## Because we are convinced that sustainable development is built by and with the stakeholders concerned, in and from their concrete situations

- > We promote a long-term, concrete presence and action as close as possible to the stakeholders.
- > We inscribe our actions in their specific technical, economic, social, political and institutional contexts. In partnership with local stakeholders, we build our approaches on concrete knowledge of populations and their hopes.
- > In partnership with the stakeholders concerned, we experiment innovative development methods and build technical and organisational innovations that are pertinent, suited to the context, and sustainable.

Our actions are designed and implemented with the **wide participation** of the local populations, socio-economic and political stakeholders. They are based on in-depth field diagnoses. Our projects are whenever possible conducted in **partnership** with appropriate local organisations that seek to ensure the general interest.

## Because we are convinced that the effectiveness of development strategies is built through practice and over the long term

- > We work to build sustainable solutions that can be taken over by local and national institutions and organisations. We seek to accompany the organisations with which we work over the long term, while respecting their autonomy. We seek to foster the dissemination of successful actions and accompany their scaling up.
- > We place our know-how at the service of shoring up the legitimacy and expertise of local development stakeholders. We act so that their role is acknowledged by the State and donors.

- > We conduct a dialogue with political authorities and endeavour to contribute to the elaboration of public policies based on tools and methods that have grown out of experience.

Our actions combine **technical innovations** and institution building. Our projects are built with the aim of ensuring the **economic and institutional** sustainability of actions, know-how and methods based on practice. Training and capacity building play a major role.

### Because we are involved in collective stakes

- > We analyse and build upon our experiences and the methods we implement; we ensure that results are disseminated to our partners, development stakeholders, and policy makers.
- > We maintain a permanent dialogue of constructive criticism with our donors and the community of development practitioners, both internationally and locally; we contribute to influencing changes in aid policies. We foster cooperation with those active in research.

GRET publishes and disseminates reference documents and books on development strategies and methods based on practical experience. GRET takes part in public debates on development aid.

### Because development is our profession

- > Since 1976, we have been placing our collective experience and professionalism at the service of the actions we conduct.
- > We ensure monitoring control over our actions at every stage: design, implementation, management and assessment.
- > We hold ourselves to high standards when it comes to the quality of our work; we are committed to assessing our actions, analysing them and sharing the lessons learnt.

GRET brings together **committed professionals**. GRET's Scientific Directorate fosters critical reflection on the actions we undertake and the **lessons** to be learnt from them. Every year, in addition to assessments commissioned by donors, GRET ensures that at least one of its projects is assessed.

### Because the effectiveness of development depends on transparency

- > We are committed to acting in a transparent and honest manner throughout all our projects vis-à-vis our partners and donors; we refuse all corruption.
- > We are committed to openly reporting our project management modes, activities and the real results of our actions.
- > We act in total transparency regarding the financial management of the funds we receive.

We publish the results of our analyses. The activity reports and **assessments** of our projects are discussed with our partners and may be consulted on request. Our accounts are audited and validated by a registered auditor.

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