

Principles for Locally Led Adaptation Action

Commitment Form

Name of Organization or Government: Near East Foundation

Type of Organization or Government: Non-profit organization

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Date of Commitment: 7 November 2021

Short Commitment Statement:

Please specify how your organization intends to implement, use, or deliver on the Principles for Locally Led Adaptation in 100 words or less. Note this text may be listed on webpage.

The Near East Foundation (NEF) has long been committed to supporting locally led development and to strengthening local institutions related to resource governance, livelihoods, and peace. We will use the LLA principles to challenge ourselves to (1) do more through our programming and operations to empower local counterparts and to fully engage local communities in program strategy, design, implementation, and monitoring; (2) to advocate for programs, policies, and funding streams that are consistent with the LLA principles; and (3) to hold ourselves accountable across the full spectrum covered by the 8 principles.

Detailed Commitment Narrative

Please describe in more detail what changes will be made or current practices strengthened to better incentivize or support adaptation that is driven by local stakeholders, to deliver on these principles.

Please add rows and additional pages if needed. Note this is voluntary, but highly encouraged.

Principle Number	Detail of Implementation
1. Devolved decision-making	NEF currently supports local decision-making through its organizational structure – in which local staff lead on programming strategy and technical decisions – and through our programs, which include, e.g., decentralized climate finance for public goods investments and community-based revolving funds that support entrepreneurship. We commit to (1) prioritizing scaling these programs to increase local access to finance; (2) investing in and prioritizing local partnerships, local decision-making, and locally led actions in these and other programs; and (3) strengthening capacities of local staff, partners, and institutions.
2. Addressing structural inequalities	NEF is committed to building economic, social, and climate resilience among vulnerable and marginalized groups, prioritizing women and youth, smallholder farmers, people with disabilities, and conflict-affected people, displaced persons and their host communities. NEF will continue to direct its programming towards mitigating structural inequalities that limit these groups' voices in decision-making and knowledge sharing, their access to economic opportunity, and their access to and control over natural resources.

3. Governance and predictable funding	NEF supports the long-term development of local governance processes, capacity, and institutions for direct access to climate finance. This includes through capacity-building, natural resources governance institutions, and decentralized climate funds that enable communities to prioritize and implement adaptation actions. NEF will continue to promote these modalities where there is local support for them and will advocate for these mechanisms with international communities of practice. NEF similarly will seek to scale locally controlled revolving funds that support adaptation and resilience in the private sector, including in conflict-affected communities.
4. Investing in local capabilities to leave an institutional legacy	NEF invests in local institutions that can continue and evolve resilience programming, including local governance institutions, economic associations and services, locally controlled revolving funds, and civil society. NEF will work consistently with such institutions to identify and promote systems, revenue streams, and policies that ensure their longevity and effectiveness.
5. Building a robust understanding of climate risk and uncertainty	NEF has made an organizational commitment to mainstream and integrate climate risk management across <i>all</i> NEF programs. We will do this by integrating climate risk and uncertainty into assessments (e.g., climate-sensitive value chain and market assessments) and supporting adaptation decisions among local stakeholders (e.g., through agricultural extension, business development, and resource management). We will engage local stakeholders to surface and amplify their priorities and existing strategies and solutions for managing variability. As we work in conflict-affected communities, NEF also will expand approaches that respond to the significant overlap between communities' exposure to climate- and conflict-based risks to address interrelated vulnerabilities associated with conflict, climate, and poverty.
6. Flexible programming and learning	NEF's programming will engage local stakeholders (institutions, partners, individuals) in program strategies, design, monitoring and evaluation and will engage them to lead in evidence-based adaptive management strategies that ensure programming is tailored to local needs, supports locally led decision-making and implementation, and results in sustainable outcomes and institutions that increase resilience
7. Ensuring transparency and accountability	NEF regularly engages local stakeholders in steering committees and engages local stakeholders on needs assessments, market assessments, and resilience assessments. We will expand these practices, ensure they are inclusive and offer meaningful participation to a full range of stakeholders, will support capacity building for local counterparts on monitoring and evaluation, and will share evidence with local stakeholders to ensure our programs are more transparent and accountable.
8. Collaborative action and investment:	NEF's work focuses on individuals with multi-faceted vulnerabilities; it therefore operates at the nexus of sustainable development, climate action, humanitarian assistance, and peacebuilding and stabilization. NEF will continue to work across sectors and advocate for multi-sectoral solutions that are grounded in locally led action and actors and we will work with local counterparts to encourage multi-sectoral approaches that break down silos, address root causes, and result in mutually reinforcing resilience solutions.

Authorization

By submitting this form, my organization agrees to have its logo publicly listed as endorsing the Principles for Locally Led Adaptation and commits to being part of a learning community of practice on locally led adaptation action. I certify that I am authorized to make this commitment on behalf of my organization.

Signature:



Please send this form and a hi-resolution logo in .ai or .eps format to locallyledadaptation@wri.org