

Guide to Core support proposals

The following guide for core support proposals outlines definitions and key areas to be covered in an application process.

Policies and commitments of the ACT Alliance and Act Church of Sweden¹

Irrespective of areas of work, it is mandatory for all partners to have a Code of Conduct and an Anti-corruption policy. If the organisation does not have their own Code of Conduct and Anti-Corruption policies, the ACT policies can be adopted:

- ACT Code of Conduct for the prevention of misconduct including fraud, corruption, exploitation and abuse (including sexual) and to ensure child safeguard
<http://actalliance.org/documents/act-alliance-code-of-conduct/>
- ACT Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy
<http://actalliance.org/documents/anti-fraud-and-corruption-policy/>

The ACT Alliance believes in an end to gender inequality and injustice, gender-based discrimination and violence, and in closing the gender gap and address unequal power relationships for the promotion of human dignity for all. Gender equality and justice should therefore also be underpinning the work of partners. If the organisation doesn't have their own gender guidelines and policy, inspiration can be sought from the ACT Gender Justice Policy <http://actalliance.org/documents/act-gender-justice-policy/>

The commitment to human rights-based approach (HRBA) to development is shared among the ACT Alliance members. To overcome discrimination and the lack of entitlement facing people living in poverty, a HRBA is an important approach for organisations to address some of the root-causes of poverty and exclusion, empower the rights holders and advocate towards duty bearers. The HRBA principles² should underpin any project intervention supported by the European ACT members.

International standards underpin the work of ACT members. All members have signed up to adhere to ACT Code of Good Practice³, committed to work with the Istanbul principles for development effectiveness⁴ and the principles in the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS)⁵.

Core support

According to the Act CoS [Guidelines for partner collaborations.pdf](#) (2015) **core support** is the preferred funding modality.

Financial support can be given to a partner in the form of core support, programme support or project support, depending entirely on the situation. Where the right conditions exist, core support can be one step in strengthening organisations to work in their own right and promote aid

¹ Applicants to Act Church of Sweden will find additional information and relevant documents and templates for partner and project support on our website – <https://www.svenskakyrkan.se/act/partner-collaboration-and-project-support>.

² Participation, Accountability, Non-discrimination and equality, Empowerment, Link to Human Rights (PANEL).

³ ACT Code of Good Practice <http://actalliance.org/documents/act-alliance-code-of-good-practice/>

⁴ <http://actalliance.org/documents/cso-istanbul-development-effectiveness-principles/>

⁵ <https://corehumanitarianstandard.org/the-standard>

effectiveness. In cases where core support is not deemed possible or relevant, but where Act Church of Sweden supports several related actions of a partner, a broader programme support may be considered.

The new Guide for Core support management prepared by the Sida Strategic Partner Organisations (2020), similarly underscore core support as a preferred funding modality and presents a definition.

Core support means unrestricted funding to a CSO's overall strategic plan and operations. This is opposed to funding through project or programme support, which is earmarked for a certain set of limited objectives and activities. // As core support is a funding modality supporting a CSO's overall strategic plan, it shall not be interpreted as earmarked funding only to the "core costs" of an organisation, such as overhead costs, institutional costs, administrative costs etc., as this is only one component of a strategic plan. Core support funds the entire strategic plan, including but not limited to;

- Results focused programme implementation as defined by the CSO;
- Results focused advocacy and influencing initiatives as defined by the CSO;
- Continuous institutional development/capacity building;
- Institutional costs (general costs of running the organisation, including staff costs)

All components of a partner organisation's strategic plan are planned for and included in a comprehensive institutional budget for the whole organisation. They are accounted for in results based annual reports, consolidated annual financial statements and through annual institutional audits. Monitoring of implementation of activities and its results is performed by the partner organisation according to its internal procedures and reported to management and the Board.

Applying for core support

A core support proposal to Act CoS should include the following:

1. Basic partner criteria fulfilled – proposals for core support are accepted from established Act CoS partner organisation with no reporting backlog or pending complaints.
2. A complete up-date of the Capacity self-assessment and Due diligence must be submitted. In addition, the Organisation is encouraged to share any recent external capacity assessment with Act CoS. A partnership capacity dialogue must then be carried out and a corresponding partnership plan developed, including the decision on the suitability of core support funding.
3. A formal application (free format) should be presented as part of the annual application process to Act CoS, including the following documents:
 - a. Strategic plan of the Organisation or equivalent governing document (covering at least the length of the proposed funding period).
 - b. A description of the programmatic priorities of the organisation and their relevance vis-à-vis the Act CoS Regional programme, and how results can be included in the annual reporting of the Organisation.
 - c. A description of sub-implementing partners and how the Organisation works to select and assess capacity of the Implementing partners. How is the cooperation set-up including third party agreements? (if relevant).
 - d. A budget, annual and for the complete funding period.