

HELVETAS' Quality Criteria for Partnerships (Version Oct 2018)

HELVETAS has developed a set of quality criteria that guide our partnerships. The criteria are valid for all partnerships of HELVETAS, including partnerships in programme countries, international INGOs, consulting firms and corporates. Before starting a new partnership, HEVETAS assesses prospective partners against these quality criteria. The assessment is conducted during initial partnership discussions and is reviewed on a regular basis.

Type of Criteria	Description of the Criteria
<p>Match criteria assess convergence and complementarity of partners. This is a prerequisite for effective cooperation.</p>	<p>The partnership <u>match</u> is best if...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ... the value basis of the partner and of Helvetas are convergent. - ... the expertise and capacities of the partner and Helvetas optimally complement each other.
<p>Development criteria* cover management capacities that are important to ensure a good performance. In case of weak or medium capacities, Helvetas offers support for strengthening capacities of the partner.</p>	<p>The management <u>capacity</u> of the partner is optimal if...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ... the partner has relevant and adequate subject-matter and methodological capacity. - ... the partner organisation is governed according to good governance principles. - ... the partner has adequate operational and financial systems and capacities in place to take on the planned role in the partnership.
<p>Risk criteria cover ethical and legal aspects that a partner may be exposed to. In case of low or medium risks, Helvetas offers support for strengthening the capacities of the partner. In case of high risks the partnership is not possible (see exclusion criteria below)</p>	<p>The partner's exposure to <u>ethical and legal risks</u> is minimized if...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ... the partner has the legitimacy and reputation to be active on behalf of the poor or disadvantaged. - ... the partner does not tolerate any form of fraud & corruption and is well prepared to prevent fraudulent & corruptive behaviour. - ... the partner takes adequate measures to prevent money laundering and any other financing of criminal activities (e.g. financing of terrorism). - ... the partner has code of conducts for ethical behaviour and is committed that its staff adheres to them. - ... the partner demonstrates coherence between mission and activities and a culture of openness and transparency.
<p>Exclusion criteria represent a legal and ethical minimum standard that Helvetas sets for all its partnerships. If a prospective partner does not fulfil these criteria, a partnership is not possible.</p>	<p>A partnership is <u>not</u> possible if...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ...the organisation is in any form involved or complicit to Human Rights abuses (e.g. child labour); - ...there is any involvement in money laundering, organized crime or financing of terrorism or other forms of illegal activities; - ...the organisation is associated to weapon, extractive industries, water or land grabbing; - ...the reputation is damaged due to involvement in any big scandal.
<p><i>*Development Criteria are usually only assessed in partnerships in our programme countries where capacity development is part of the partnership relations.</i></p>	