



# **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY**

## **Rural Education and Environment Development Center (REED) Nepal**

<b>Policy Owner:</b>	Chief Executive Officer
<b>Approved by:</b>	Executive Committee of REED Nepal
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## 1. BACKGROUND

REED Nepal focuses on sustainability and the empowerment of the vulnerable and marginalized people of Nepal. Its goal is to help the most disadvantaged meet their priority needs through integrated improvements in education, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and the environment (including climate change adaptation). It recognises that aid programs are more likely to be sustainable and effective when they are aligned with partner priorities, supported by local people, and involve beneficiaries in design and implementation.

## 2. GUIDELINES

All REED work will be guided by:

- **Strong partnerships** – Taking a participatory approach with program partners and communities to understand issues from their perspective and, in partnership with them, work to deliver the outcomes they need most.
- **Empowerment** – Engaging and empowering people in the communities where REED works so change is sustained.
- **Alignment** – Working closely with national authorities to align to their policies and priorities. REED will strive to ensure that delivery partners have established, and have the capacity to further develop, associations with government agencies in the interest of sustainability. This includes: integration of program activities into existing government and community systems; and encouraging involvement of government authorities at national and district levels in designing and implementing program activities, as well as in capacity development opportunities.
- **Harmonisation** – Working with other stakeholders/partners to reduce the minimising opportunities for duplication and fragmentation of external assistance. Improved coordination and partnerships can also provide opportunities for leveraging additional support for programs. REED Nepal will particularly ensure that its work complements inclusive quality education and poverty reduction efforts under based on the available resources from the funding agencies.
- **A long-term view** – Sustainability of efforts will not become evident for some time given the entrenched development challenges and capacity constraints facing the Nepal. A long-term view will build a basis for systemic change at community level in working towards helping people achieve their development goals. The concept of sustainability does not necessarily mean the discontinuation of development activities, but rather that the benefits are appropriate, owned by the stakeholders and supported on an ongoing basis with locally available resources.
- **Inclusion** – Ensuring that those most in need contribute to and benefit from development opportunities through: mainstreaming a gender and social inclusion approach across all REED work; and ongoing development of specific approaches for strengthening the inclusion of girls and women, the most vulnerable young people in communities, and people with disabilities.

- **Quality** – Continuous strengthening of monitoring, evaluation and learning of operations and programs to ensure they are: evidence-based and relevant; delivered efficiently and are cost effective; and incorporating learning into ongoing programming delivery and operational decisions. This approach will enable better assessment of sustainability issues and guide the phase-out stages of individual projects.
- **Leveraging the Local Resources:** REED Nepal will focus on best utilization of resources with the exploration of local resources; and promote the sustainability with the collaboration with local government and like-minded agencies.

### 3. PROGRAM OPERATIONS

All REED projects stem from the **needs of local communities**. To maximise the chances of meeting project goals for communities, NGO project managers will involve, and gain the support of, all members of the local community to ensure ongoing grassroots ownership of all projects.

Activities will continue to be developed and managed in collaboration with **partners/stakeholders** with a strong track-record in community development. This approach will help ensure that local communities are empowered and equipped to manage and support activities in an inclusive and sustainable manner. REED recognises the specific qualities, attributes and valuable role of NGOs in: mobilising public support; forging strong links with community groups; providing expertise to meet people's basic needs where quick and flexible responses are essential; promoting accountability; strengthening the voice of and empowering communities to address their needs; promoting stronger links and transparency between governments and their citizens; and advocating for the most vulnerable members of society including the poor, women, children, people with disability and minority groups.

Inclusive **project design and implementation** arrangements will be established and managed to ensure that local NGOs/CBOs and communities are empowered and equipped to manage and support projects sustainably and inclusively. Appropriate strategies for ensuring that operations and maintenance resources can be identified to ensure that any assets contributed by the project can be continued beyond the period of program support. Activities that build on local initiative and capacity will have much better prospects for sustainability as they are more likely to have local support and can draw on community capacities both during implementation and beyond. Activities that provide scope for local stakeholders to participate meaningfully throughout the project cycle are also more likely to produce benefits that are sustainable as this fosters local stakeholder ownership and commitment. As well, enhanced multi-sectoral efforts will improve access to services and income earning opportunities in isolated communities through: linking education, income generation, health and environmental (and climate change adaptation) outcomes and operations in the communities in which REED works. This will build on established relationships with and the capacity of local communities and district authorities.

Through **assistance with administration, project management, capacity development, monitoring and risk management**, REED will ensure that program and project design and delivery is based on community and participant capacity and leverages their contributions, wherever possible, to enhance sustainability and local ownership. REED's risk management approaches highlight outcomes in terms of sustainability, effectiveness and efficiency. REED's *Organisational and Program Risk Management Framework* identifies and ranks a number of

internal and external risks for ongoing assessment and management as part of annual planning and review processes.

At a broader level, REED's *Strategic Plan 2015-2021* reflects and supports the achievement of the international **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and National Priority of Nepal.

***Related Documents***

REED Strategic Plan

REED Gender Equality Policy

REED Disability Inclusiveness Development Policy

<b>ALIGNMENT OF REED STRATEGIC PLAN TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)</b> <sup>1</sup>	
<b>(SDGS)</b>	<b>REED PROGRAM FOCUS</b>
1. End poverty in all its forms	<b>Mission</b> - To improve the quality of life of the people most in need in remote areas of the Nepal.
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	<b>Goal 3.</b> Improve environmental outcomes and adaptation to climate change <i>Outcomes:</i> Improved conservation efforts and community-based responses to the effects of climate change
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being at all ages	<b>Goal 2.</b> Improve health outcomes <i>Outcomes:</i> Strengthened primary health care with a focus on maternal and child health mixing modern and traditional approaches
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	<b>Goal 1.</b> Increase education levels <i>Outcomes:</i> Continued strengthening and development of teacher training and education programs in Nepal and Bhutan
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	<b>Goal 5.</b> Strengthen gender equality and social inclusion <i>Outcomes:</i> Ensuring that those most in need contribute to and benefit from development opportunities
6. Ensure availability and sustainability management of water and sanitation for all	<b>Goal 3.</b> Improve environmental outcomes and adaptation to climate change <i>Outcomes:</i> Improved conservation efforts and community-based responses to the effects of climate change
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable sustainable and modern energy for all	<b>Goal 3.</b> Improve environmental outcomes and adaptation to climate change <i>Outcomes:</i> Improved conservation efforts and community-based responses to the effects of climate change
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment	<b>Goal 4.</b> Integrate community development <i>Outcomes:</i> Enhanced multi-sectoral efforts to improve access to services and income earning opportunities in isolated communities
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation	<b>Emergency response (under Goal 3)</b> – Supporting community-based responses to natural disasters, as appropriate

10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	<b>Goal 5.</b> Strengthen gender equality and social inclusion <i>Outcomes:</i> Ensuring that those most in need contribute to and benefit from development opportunities
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	N/A
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	N/A
12. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	<b>Goal 3.</b> Improve environmental outcomes and adaptation to climate change <i>Outcomes:</i> Improved conservation efforts and community-based responses to the effects of climate change
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	N/A
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems	<b>Goal 3.</b> Improve environmental outcomes and adaptation to climate change <i>Outcomes:</i> Improved conservation efforts and community-based responses to the effects of climate change
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and provide access to justice for all	<b>Goal 4.</b> Integrate community development <i>Outcomes:</i> Enhanced multi-sectoral efforts to improve access to services and income earning opportunities in isolated communities <b>Goal 5.</b> Strengthen gender equality and social inclusion <i>Outcomes:</i> Ensuring that those most in need contribute to and benefit from development opportunities
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development	<b>Goal 9.</b> Improve monitoring, evaluation and learning <i>Outcomes:</i> Strengthened monitoring, evaluation and learning of our operations and programs