

Partnership Policy

1. The Partnership in Brief

As a people-centered organization with a rights-based approach, COAST believes in participation, accountability and transparency. To extend its efforts and services to the community in need and to ensure a prompt and effective response to those in crises, COAST also believes in effective partnerships with the stakeholders from different levels.

This partnership policy describes the guiding principles and approaches for the program and institutional development that support the spirit and values of collaboration.

Additionally, this document also outlines the minimal requirements for partners, working with COAST and the framework for putting this policy into practice in various contexts.

2. Definition, Scope, and Purposes

2.1: Definition of Partnership: How COAST Considers Partnership

COAST is a coastal-based organization and it offers programs and services primarily for the coastal communities. The second is advocacy on a local, national, regional, and even international scales. Along with its regular initiatives, services, and advocacy activities, COAST is also engaged in emergency responses. For instance, COAST has been working on humanitarian responses to the Rohingya crisis since the beginning of the 2017 influx. COAST must therefore collaborate with a variety of stakeholders, including the government, donors, Local and National NGOs, UN agencies, CSO networks, and local, national, regional, and global networks and organizations. Additionally, COAST collaborates with progressive individual locals, social groups, youth and adolescent organizations, etc. To work with these vast type of stakeholders, COAST needs to develop and implement partnerships with different purposes.

When it comes to partnerships, COAST considers them as legally binding with appropriate level of governance, dynamic mutual relationship with COAST and other organizations.

2.2: Scopes and Purposes of the Partnership Policy

This policy applies to all program partners including development partners. All COAST employees and representatives from the Senior Management Team (SMT) shall abide this policy. The policy will serve as the framework for COAST's partnership-building for implementing the programs/projects among the partners. The partnership can be formal or informal, financial or not, short term or long term.

The major goal of the policy is that the COAST staff need to keep in mind the policy during the formation, managing of partnerships and evaluating those partnerships. Additionally, it provides comprehensive frameworks, guiding principles, and minimal standards that show important external stakeholders what COAST thinks. The adoption of this policy is mandatory during the very first phase of entering the partnership.

3. Guiding Principles

For negotiation to enter into any partnership, to maintain and assess the established partnership, COAST will be guided by specific principles. Such as:

3.1 Shared Goals and Values:

Commitments, goals, and values of all stakeholders can't be 'same', but it is very much possible to have similarities and commonalities in these areas. For partnership shared goals and values should be in place. To achieve a specific goal COAST and partners should be agreed on methodologies to achieve that goal, standards, and values. Such shared goals, values, and agreement or understanding on methodologies can ensure stronger partnership.


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To accomplish a particular goal, COAST and its partners should agree on a few key points, such as the methodologies to use, and the standards and values to be applied when designing the activities. A dignity based relationship can be achieved by such shared goals, values, and understanding of processes.

3.2 Mutual Accountability

At the beginning of a partnership, the mutual accountabilities e.g., reciprocal rights and obligations of COAST, partners, and program participants should be established and legally agreed upon. Partners should share both credits and risks in addition to responsibilities and accountabilities.

3.3 Mutual Respect

One of the key principles of the partnership should be mutual respect. Both COAST and partners should respect each other's mission, vision, standards, values, and work approach. Partnership without such respect can't be effective and sustainable. But this respect should not be any form of control neither by COAST nor by the partner. All the partners should also recognize their respective capacities and contribution. All decisions within the partnership should be made with mutual understanding and participation.

3.4 Adherences to Bangladesh Laws-regulations, Universal Rights, and Standards

The COAST adheres to the country's laws and regulations while also upholding the country's constitution, upholds the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Along with respecting the UDHR, COAST also adheres to other development discourses, guidelines, and standards, such as the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), Grand Bargain, Charter for Change, and Principles of Partnership, Sphere standard. As a result, every partnership should comply with local laws and regulations. Before beginning any partnership, COAST should make sure that its prospective partner abides by the UDHR as well.

3.5 Clear Understanding and Openness

Openness from COAST and the partners is crucial for entering into a partnership, during the duration of the partnership, and even after. Partners and COAST should always be transparent in their communications about the true situation. Partners and COAST should take into account each other's conditions and limitations. The partnership should be established on mutually understood terms between COAST and partners.

3.6 Continuous Joint Evaluation, Learning and Action

Applying and practicing the experiences, theories, and learning should be ongoing. To reach the agreed goals of the partnership, COAST and partners should both take joint initiatives to capture the learning and to take collaborative remedial steps, as necessary.

4. Types of Partnership

4.1 Strategic Partnership

COAST prefers strategic partnership with others, where both the partners will support each other in realizing their strategic development plan. In such a partnership, each partner will support the other in capacity exchange. The partnership will be complementary and mutually beneficial to both parties.

4.2 Project/Program-Based Partnership

COAST may form partnerships with other parties to accomplish short- or long-term objectives or to solve particular program participant issues. Such a relationship may be founded on direct financial or technical support sharing or any other forms that have been mutually agreed upon.

5. Partnership Framework

5.1 Selection process:

The partnership framework starts with identifying the appropriate interest or area of work and then mapping the stakeholders/partners. Then COAST identifies the appropriate and feasible approaches for selecting the appropriate partner. The objectives of the partnership and scope of work are determined. After completing all processes, the formal partnership can be in place with signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). Then


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COAST and the partner jointly implement the agreed programs/projects. Periodically and regularly monitoring and evaluation is active and also the partnership is evaluated for future course of actions.

5.2 Capacity Development through exchange of learning:

In partnership, COAST believe in Capacity Exchange, instead of capacity development. COAST believes that, every individual or every organization has some sorts of capacities. Role of partners is to play complementarity in this regard. Considering this, COAST takes initiatives to exchange learning, exchange capacities to enhance both the parties.

5.3 Compliance for Partnership

There are some basic criteria in partnership selection It is anticipated that the partner organization will have policies and procedures in place for managing its human resources, finances, managing gender issues, preventing sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (PSEAH), procuring goods and services, protecting against fraud, enforcing its code of conduct, handling complaints, safeguarding employees' safety and wellbeing, and protecting children. If the partner organization does not currently have any of these policies, it should at the very least have the desire to do so. COAST will provide assistance in this area. If these policies are in place or if the goal to adopt such policies is clearly expressed, there will be a partnership.

5.4 Termination of Partnership

COAST believes in long-term partnerships, but if a scenario develops when ending a partnership is the only option, COAST will take the dignity of both parties into consideration.

If any party determines during the course of the partnership that the partner no longer complies with the necessary conditions and criteria, it will be formally notified the partner of its intention to terminate or cancel the partnership, stating the grounds therefor and inviting the partner to submit observations within 30 calendar days of receiving the notification. The Partner has the choice of submitting or withholding observation. In any instance, COAST will formally communicate the grounds for its most recent decision to continue or end the termination procedure. If such a termination occurs, COAST must also provide an estimate of when the required verification will be finished.

If there is a dispute between the partners, they will initially meet to resolve it amicably; if necessary, a third party arbitrator may also be hired.

6. Approved by the General Council and effective date:

The review of this policy has been approved unanimously in the 6th Annual General Meeting which was held on 6 July 2024 at COAST Principal Office, Dhaka, and be effective with no delay.

7. Review of this policy:

This policy will be reviewed by 2027 or earlier, if necessary, incorporating significant changes in national and international laws, policies, and human rights declarations.



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