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## What we believe in

Poverty, exclusion and injustice are the greatest enemies of progress and happiness. As a result, initiatives are paralysed, relationships are undermined, talent is ignored, pride is stripped away. This puts millions of people in a disadvantaged position. The extreme situation of poverty and exclusion takes away human dignity.

Fortunately, there are civil society organisations (CSOs) working together with social changemakers who take action in their neighbourhood and village. With a small, smart project, together with the community, they create crucial improvements that set positive developments in motion.

Those social change makers collaborate with the community on the basis of equality with eye for diversity and inclusion. Those social change makers have eyes and ears in the community to understand what they need. And they facilitate that, not top down, but bottom up. And this equal approach motivates, connects, inspires people to join and to become a social change maker themselves too. All people count in this approach and this recognition makes people proud and responsible to engage jointly in the change. Being connected and together in the fight against poverty, exclusion and injustice makes that people come up with their own solutions. Not as victims but as active change makers.

The intended **impact** is:

**A world in which people living in poverty can, in their own strength, improve their situation and their future.**

We believe we can contribute to this change by adopting the following three strategies:

## Strategies

### 1. We support sustainable projects supported by local communities

It is important that people organise and work together equally to fight poverty, exclusion and injustice. Changes are more sustainable if **communities\*** are closely involved in the creation and continuation of relevant **basic services\*** such as education and health care. Also, developments are more enduring if locally there are powerful, independent organisations which represent and support them, that can handle setbacks and that are (partly) independent of foreign aid.

- That is why we **fund small-scale, humane projects by civil society organisations\*** for **sustainable\*** access to relevant basic services.
- Therefore we also **strengthen CSOs in their participatory work\*** together with stakeholders and communities. In this approach communities themselves identify problems, needs and rights and translate these into solutions for which they themselves take (co)responsibility. CSOs facilitate them in a participatory way. We encourage civil society organisations in this through training coaching and education.
- We support CSOs **to operate autonomously and resiliently\***. With training, coaching and match funding, we strengthen their capacity to raise funds in their own communities, to think critically about rights, and to hold **authorities\*** accountable for fulfilling their obligations.

Ultimately, we believe that supporting these CSOs will lead to **well-organised and resilient communities that have control and access to relevant, quality basic services.**

## 2. We create an enabling environment for input from local civil society organisations

We encourage donor organisations (including private development initiatives) and governments to create more space for participation of local partners in decision making processes. Given the #shiftthepower debate (more) equality and balance of power is needed between donor organisations and partners. After all, many problems require local solutions where input from people, represented by local partners, is a requirement.

- It is important for **donor organisations\*** to support their partners in their **autonomy\*** and **resilience\***. We therefore call on them to reflect on their practices and to make sure that the CSO and not the donors are owning the change processes. Therefore we facilitate training, coaching and mutual learning between CSOs and their donors. In doing so, we aim to raise awareness about both harmful and empowering practices and contribute to change.
- In addition, we also **defend and expand the space for civil society**. We do this by strengthening the capacity of organisations to make their voices heard towards the government and stand up for their rights. In this way, they claim the space to continue doing their work. We also support initiatives to advocate at **authorities\*** for less restrictive legislation for civil society.
- Finally, **we support initiatives to lobby for favourable framework conditions for local philanthropy**, for example encouraging legislation for 'giving' or support for emerging philanthropic foundations. Local philanthropy strengthens the autonomy of civil society organisations. Also, with a local constituency, they are stronger if they stand up for the rights of the people they represent.

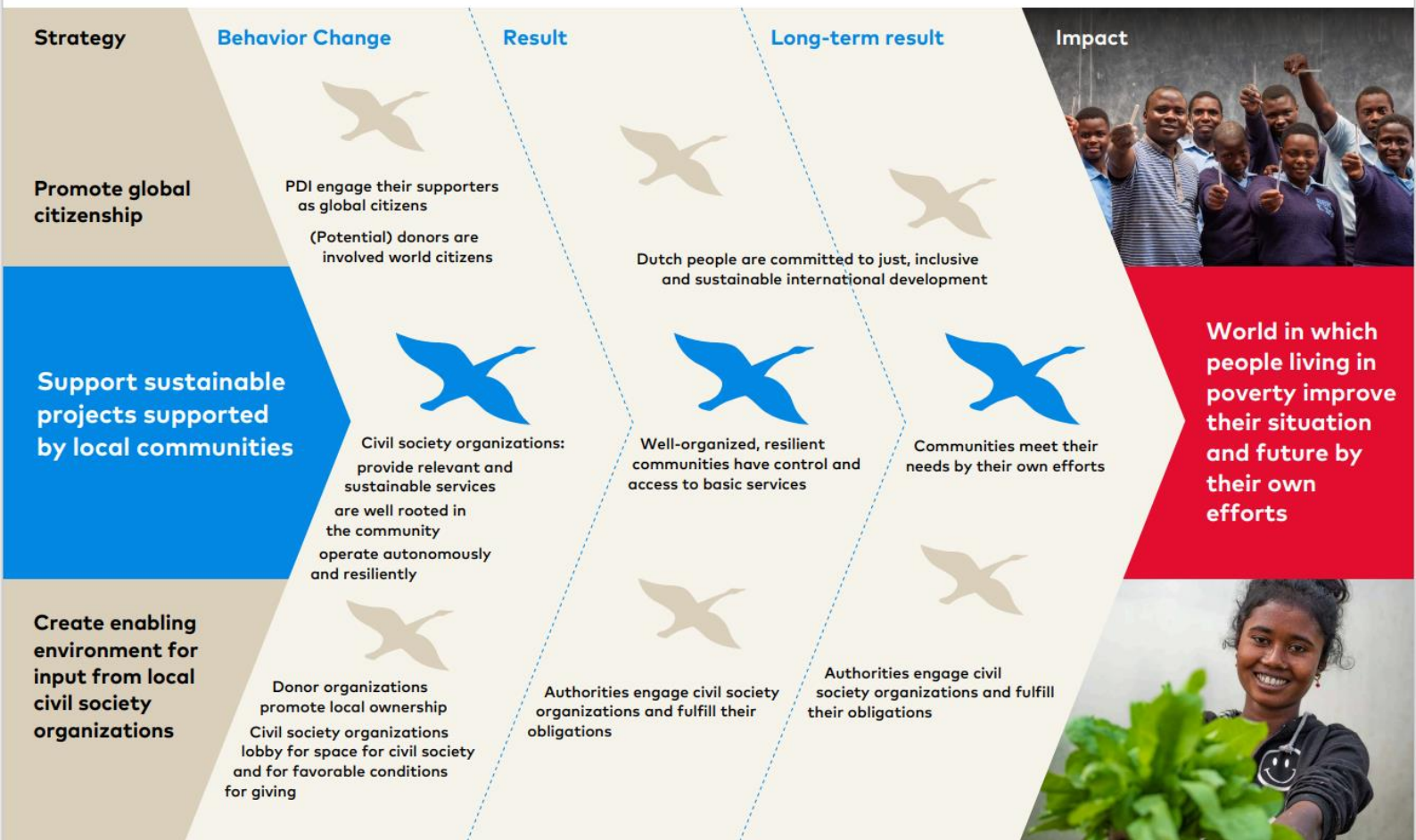
As a result, **governments are more likely to engage with CSOs and fulfil their obligations.**

## 3. We promote global citizenship

As global citizens, people are members of a greater whole that does not stop at the boundaries of their own local or national community. We believe it is important that people grow into **global citizenship\*** and thus:

- learn about local, global and intercultural issues
  - understand perspectives and world views of others
  - engage openly with people from different cultures
  - act towards collective well-being and sustainable development
- We **encourage people in the Netherlands to become global citizens**. We provide positive stories of people and their organisations tackling poverty together with concrete action perspectives for sustainable development.
  - We also encourage **private development initiatives (PDI) in the Netherlands to engage their supporters as global citizens**. We do this in the Netherlands and if possible elsewhere in Europe through funding, training, knowledge exchange, campaigns and events.

This strategy converts the challenges of globalisation into concrete action perspectives in the Netherlands. The idea is that **citizens engage internationally for a just, inclusive and sustainable society.**



## Definitions in our Theory of Change

★ **Autonomous:** Steer your own change. Not too dependent on financial or managerial support from foreign entities, and (for example) able to make its own choices in terms of spending resources, based on diversified revenues.

★ **Authorities:** Those who have an obligation or bear a responsibility in respecting, protecting and fulfilling of rights.

★ **Basic services:** Basic health care, clean water, food, shelter, proper sanitation, basic education and employment (fundamental human rights).

★ **Civil society organisations:** We refer to actors in low- and middle-income countries such as community organisations, movements, informal groups and human rights defenders (including their supporting networks).

★ **Community:** People, organisations and agencies that have a common interest in the initiative.

★ **Donor organisations:** Funds, bi- and multilateral donors, international NGOs or small-scale private development initiatives (PDI) that provide financial support to organisations in DAC countries.

★ **Global citizenship:** Behaviour that does justice to the following three principles: interdependence (1) and equality (2) of people worldwide and thus a shared responsibility (3) for solving global issues.

★ **Participatory:** Stakeholders are involved in all phases of the change process. This approach tries to avoid the pitfalls of imposed change by enabling individuals to reach agreement, and feeling jointly responsible for solutions. It is based on collective decision-making.

★ **Resilient:** Able to cope with setbacks with little outside help.

★ **Sustainable:** Long-term and positive change.

## Assumptions in our Theory of Change

- All communities have the power to make their desired change happen BECAUSE they have the resources (finances, skills, knowledge, networks etc.) that can be deployed to address their needs.
- Realising community involvement in development of basic services – also (partly) externally funded-, ultimately lead to communities that stand up for their rights. BECAUSE communities become motivated when they see results, and can address other needs independently.
- Greater capacity of civil society organisations to strengthen their local support base and mobilise domestic resources will make their work become more relevant and sustainable. BECAUSE there is more trust and engagement between organisations and their constituencies - because they become less dependent on foreign support – they can better safeguard their community's priorities. If they do not do this then their constituencies will forgo support and money.
- Greater capacity of civil society organisations to strengthen their local support base and mobilise domestic resources also leads to stronger civil society organisations that are better able to stand up for their rights towards the government. BECAUSE the constituency has a stake in the organisation, organisations have more legitimacy; they cannot be put away as foreign organisations. (Source: INTRAC research link mobilisation of domestic resources and social space).
- Changing behaviour among the Wilde Ganzen constituency reaches a small but motivated group. This leads to a stronger call for fairer international development. BECAUSE the supporters do not only donate but is also commanded to act.