

ENTREPRENEURS
du Monde

Charter

Entrepreneurs du Monde

Charter updated September 2012

This charter sets out the association's mission and defines the values and principles which guide Entrepreneurs du Monde's actions.

I. Mission statement

Since its creation in 1998, the French NGO, Entrepreneurs du Monde, has been working with communities in developing countries. The organisation enables thousands of women and men living in extremely difficult circumstances to improve their living conditions: it provides support for their **own economic initiatives** and helps them gain access to products offering significant health, economic and environmental benefits. It helps these people to **be successful, which in turn enables them to make economic and social progress.**

The organisation now focuses on **3 main areas:**

Social microfinance which provides market traders, dressmakers, hairdressers, farmers and other people working in the informal sector with financial services (loans, savings, insurance, etc.) and socio-economic services, including training programmes, individual counselling, referral to other specialised agencies, etc. This allows beneficiaries to develop their businesses and improve their daily lives.

Social entrepreneurship which encourages the distribution of products offering significant health, economic and environmental benefits: gas stoves and improved wood or charcoal cook stoves, solar-powered lamps, spirulina, and housing designed to suit the constraints and meet the needs of the local population. This area of operation serves as an incubator for social and environmental innovation which benefits the families supported by Entrepreneurs du Monde. It enables the development of a local network of independent social enterprises, managed by local entrepreneurs who, with our help, have already developed their skills.

The creation of very small businesses (VSB) and access to employment in the formal sector so as to, on the one hand, encourage artisans and basic-service providers to develop very small businesses (VSB) and, on the other, support a number of young people in their search for employment.

The **families whom we support** have difficulty in securing basic services such as capital, savings and training and also have only limited access to health care, education, energy, drinking water, decent housing, etc.

The **areas** of operation are the slums and insalubrious districts of big cities or remote areas in Africa, Asia and Haiti.

2. Methods

The association acts as an incubator for programmes or provides support for local partners.

Technical support: it advises them and provides them with the means to diversify their services, implement the most suitable microfinance methodologies, use appropriate management tools and strengthen and measure their social performance. It also helps them to choose an appropriate legal structure, to improve their governance and seek funding.

Financial support: the association covers the operating deficit of the programme or partner until it reaches financial sustainability, which takes on average 5 years.

3. Guiding principles

The teams and local partners are committed to the following guiding principles:

- To always endeavour to reach the most impoverished families.
- To work as closely as possible with, and supported by, teams recruited locally.
- To adopt a pragmatic and professional approach: responding to the needs of both our partner organisations and our beneficiaries in a responsive and appropriate manner; recruiting qualified professionals, and adopting rigorous, effective and flexible management procedures.
- To act with the strictest religious and political impartiality and in a socially responsible manner in all areas of operation.
- To make provision, from the planning stage, for the long-term sustainability of the programmes at three levels:
 - organisational: by setting up an autonomous local team, implementing operational procedures and providing management and monitoring tools
 - institutional: by creating a locally registered legal framework
 - financial: by becoming self-financing
- To help to disseminate good practice through experience gained from our own programmes and from our work with our partner organisations.
- To promote transparency in our dealings with our beneficiaries and donors by providing them with information which is complete and which has been externally audited.

This charter guarantees compliance with Entrepreneurs du Monde's mission statement. It is communicated to all parties involved in carrying out the association's mission (members, trustees, employees and volunteers), who must undertake to respect it, as well as to donors, partners supported by the association and Entrepreneurs du Monde UK.

The Charter will be subject to periodic review in order to ensure that its contents are always consistent with the aims and principles of the association. The Charter will be reviewed at least once every two years.