The Principles Framework: 20 Principles for Good Technical Assistance

This framework was developed by co-creation teams in the DRC and Nigeria and later updated based on additional insights from the Inter-agency Working Group co-creation process as part of the Re-imagining Technical Assistance project.



1 Focus on the System as a Whole	2 Foster Country Ownership	3 Nurture the Existing System	4 Cultivate Trust	5 Prioritize Equity
1.1 Start with a realistic, timely plan	2.1 Ensure the government is in the driver seat and openly listen to country voices	3.1 Adjust budgets to reflect realities on the ground	4.1 Move from a competitive to a collaborative environment	5.1 Engage diverse community representatives, including gender experts
1.2 Adopt a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach	2.2 Balance external expertise with local knowledge	3.2 Prioritize sustainability and longer term thinking	4.2 Create space to iterate: learn from best practices and failures	5.2 Design for equity, including ensuring feedback mechanisms
1.3 Step up coordination to minimize gaps and duplicative efforts	2.3 Leverage & strengthen local capacity	3.3 Strengthen state accountability mechanisms	4.3 Inform future priorities through community feedback loop	5.3 Prioritize collection and use of gender-specific and sex- disaggregated data for decision making
1.4 Ensure continuous funding to core priorities	2.4 Co-create with local stakeholders to define the problem and interventions and avoid a one size fits all approach	3.4 Invest in existing structures and use local resources and capacities	4.4 Build reciprocity in the evaluation and change the culture of data	5.4 Allocate more resources to enable gender transformative programing
1.5 Rethink incentives structures to maximize overall impact on the system	2.5 Follow local protocols and adjust cadence accordingly	3.5 Re-examine the implications of structures and requirements imposed on grants/programs	4.5 Design for learning and adaptation to adjust to shifting needs or learnings	5.5 Openly discuss and address power and privilege
1.6 Prioritize system strengthening	2.6 Move from donor/funder dependence to a self- generating funding model	3.6 Align with and promote national priorities and strategies	4.6 Acknowledge and openly discuss power and privilege (e.g. in money and decision making)	5.6 Expand partnerships and engagement with civil society organizations, including local women's group