

equitas

THEORY OF CHANGE

ULTIMATE OUTCOME

Equitas human rights education programs contribute to the empowerment of groups subject to discrimination, exclusion and other forms of human rights violations, in particular women, children and youth

RESULTS



Strengthened leadership in community life



Strengthened human rights movements



Improved practice of human rights educators to engage and influence decision-makers

ACTIONS

KNOWLEDGE & CAPACITY BUILDING



FACILITATING COLLABORATION

POLICY DIALOGUE & ENGAGEMENT WITH DECISION MAKERS



PRINCIPLES & APPROACHES

Human rights are universal & indivisible

Human rights-based approach

Intersectional approach

Gender equality

Participation

Partnership

PRINCIPLES & APPROACHES

International human rights standards are **universal, indivisible and interdependent**. They reflect the common aspirations of humankind and provide the foundation for living a life in dignity. There is no hierarchy of human rights and the violation of one right impedes the ability of a person to enjoy their other rights.

A **human rights-based approach** (HRBA) is a conceptual framework that:

- equates development to the realization of all human rights for all
- is based on international human rights standards
- views development as human development and socio-economic development
- emphasizes a holistic, participatory and accountable process
- identifies rights holders and duty bearers and their capacities
- reinforces progress towards gender equality

Gender equality refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities of women and men, girls and boys or any person whose appearance or behavior fails to conform to traditional male and female gender norms. Gender equality is both a human rights issue and a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable people-centered development.

An **intersectional approach** considers diverse identities (ethnic group, gender, sexual orientation, age, class, etc.) recognizing different types of discrimination that result from the set of these identities. It tackles the way racism, patriarchy, class-based oppression and other systems of discrimination create inequalities for women and any person whose appearance or behaviour fails to conform to traditional gender norms. It considers historical, social and politic contexts and recognizes individual experiences that are the result of the convergence of different identities.

Meaningful **participation** is both a means and a goal of human rights education. It is a key ingredient in achieving both empowerment and the realization of all human rights. Assuring meaningful participation implies fostering a climate that encourages the free expression of opinions and ideas, giving full consideration to the ideas of others, creating opportunities for participation and building the capacity of those who face barriers to participation.

Lasting change comes through collaboration and equitable **partnership**. Equitable partnerships are based on a shared vision and priorities and are sustainable and mutually beneficial. Partners recognize and respect each others' knowledge and experience and provide a forum for mutual learning. Equitable partnerships require investments of time and energy and open dialogue is critical to acknowledge and address power dynamics within these relationships.

The **empowerment** of women and girls requires opportunities for them to: (1) learn about their human rights; (2) be able to express the issues that are important to them and be heard; (2) understand and challenge power relations, particularly with regard to gender roles in society; (3) engage with others around strategies for transformation; and (4) mobilize for action to claim rights.