



International Cooperation and Human Rights Development

Human Rights Diplomacy

The ROC wishes to be a fully contributing member of international society, to respect and abide by accepted international values, and to participate broadly in cooperative international affairs. The nation's basic beliefs that human rights are at the foundation of economic and social development underpin its active international cooperation and collaborative foreign aid work and the "human rights diplomacy" espoused by the ROC government.

The Scope of Human Rights

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) states that human rights are based on the principles of equality and the "inherent dignity of all members of the human family." Apart from commonly acknowledged rights of citizenship, political participation, freedom of speech, security and equal protection under the law, the scope of human rights should also comprise the economic, social and cultural rights of individuals. These include the right to work, the right to a basic standard of living, and the right to education. Further, the Declaration on the Right to Development, issued by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, states, "The right to development is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development."

This Declaration charges nations with "the duty to take steps, individually and collectively, to formulate international development policies with a view to facilitating the full realization of the right to development." The means by which nations may fulfill this mission include the formulation and implementation of policy, legislation and other necessary measures. These admirable documents make clear that eliminating poverty, establishing good governance, maintaining equality of opportunity, protecting disadvantaged groups, and promoting full participation in society are all key preconditions to the attainment of human rights.

Human Rights and Development

To coin a phrase, there are no human rights where there is no development, and there can be no sustainable development when there are no human rights. Thus, international development organizations are promoting economic development as a means of advancing human rights. The principal step in economic development is the alleviation of poverty. Poverty, of course, results in intolerable problems such as inadequate public health care, high levels of infant and child mortality, the menace of illegal or immoral child labor, deficient educational opportunities, and insufficient community and national infrastructure. Terrible in their own right, these problems in turn intensify inequality, diminish economic opportunity, and erode human rights. A multitiered

- ① Grain development extension training in Malawi
- ② ICDF alumni visited the Youth Welfare Art Village in Panchimalco, El Salvador



strategy is necessary to alleviate poverty and its concomitant conditions:

- Implementation of rural and agricultural development to provide the basic requirements for life and to increase economic productivity.
- Provision of better educational opportunities to strengthen human resources.
- Improvement of medical care and facilities to minimize threats to health and nutrition.
- Availability of micro-credit to resolve problems of unequal opportunity.
- Strengthening of government institutions through capacity building, modernization and personnel training.

With this strategy in effect, children in underdeveloped countries will be safer and healthier, the hardships borne by women and other disadvantaged groups can be reduced, an educated workforce can emerge, businesses can grow upward from the foundation, and governments can become more efficient and effective. The end result can be widespread poverty reduction—the primary step in economic development and resulting human rights.

ICDF Promotion of Economic Development and Human Rights

In its efforts to alleviate poverty in partner nations and foster human rights, the ICDF has designed and executed development projects that incorporate the strategies and principles outlined above. Below are some of the aims and results of these projects.

Poverty Alleviation

Rural and Agricultural Development

Cooperative agricultural technology projects are at the heart of the ICDF's mission. In consideration of limited natural resources and the need for sustainability, ICDF agricultural projects place balanced emphasis on production and the appropriate use of resources. Grain output enhancement projects in Africa have made full use of local human and material resources, adapted plans to local environmental conditions, employed and developed the most appropriate agricultural technologies, and worked systematically to resolve Africa's agricultural problems. ICDF projects developing rice—the world's most important staple food according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization—have had extremely beneficial effects in Africa. Other key agriculture and rural development work in Africa, Central and South America and Asia has included:

- Livestock and aquaculture development have introduced valuable new industries and products such as pork, shrimp and fish, that were previously unavailable in different countries and regions.
- Fruit and vegetable projects have helped farmers raise their incomes and achieve self-sufficiency. High-value crops such as tomato, chili pepper, watermelon, garlic and melons have been introduced, and flowers have also proven to be valuable cash crops.



① Orphans in El Salvador help collect vegetables
 ② Farmers harvesting crops in Malawi

- Water supply, irrigation development, land reclamation and forestation have taken place in areas with fragile or degraded land and water resources.
- Cooperative Production Marketing Teams have more efficiently brought the fruits of ICDF projects to market, and created strong new working relationships within and among communities.

Educational Development

The ICDF has numerous education projects that are preparing citizens of all ages for more productive employment, as well as enabling them to better contribute to their local and national polities, thereby strengthening human rights. The ICDF is conducting scholarship programs in the Eastern Caribbean region, Africa and Mongolia, offering scholarships to primary and middle school students. In conjunction with educational reform projects conducted by other international organizations, the ICDF is also promoting and developing systematic vocational education in many Central American countries.

Medical Care

The ICDF has medical service missions in many African nations, and is helping nations in the Eastern Caribbean region improve medical facilities, make available medical services in remote areas, and provide essential medicines.

When disasters and crises occur, the ICDF dispenses initial emergency aid,

followed by post-disaster reconstruction projects. These efforts have helped affected communities survive, rebuild their homes, and restore normal lives.

Equal Economic Opportunity

Many commercial banks in developing nations are unwilling to lend to socially and economically disadvantaged groups, such as women, micro-enterprise owners, and small farmers. To ease the difficulties these people face in obtaining lending, international development organizations have created rural savings and loan and micro-credit institutions to help individuals and small enterprises obtain funds to launch new businesses or expand existing ones. To enable people to create and expand employment opportunities, and earn sufficient incomes, the ICDF now views the development of micro-, small and medium enterprises as one of its most important goals. Consequently, the ICDF now cooperates with many financial organizations and NGOs to help individuals, small farmers, farmer's associations and small enterprises in the Eastern Caribbean region, Central and South America, Asia and Europe obtain financing to create and grow businesses. Re-lending and micro-credit projects now account for 53 percent of the ICDF's financing budget. To maintain the availability and sustainability of appropriate financial services, ICDF lending projects are designed to strengthen financial and organizational systems in the nations it cooperates with.



Protection of Disadvantaged Groups

In order to improve the economic and social status of women, the ICDF is conducting vocational training projects that are helping women in Central and South America and Africa participate in handicrafts production and sewing projects, and subsequently to obtain lending and gain employment or start businesses. Additionally, ICDF social and community infrastructure development includes water supply projects that reduce the amount of time women must spend carrying water, giving them more time to care for their families and engage in productive activities. As noted above, ICDF education projects increase educational opportunity, which aids many disadvantaged groups, perhaps most importantly, girls.

ICDF agricultural and environmental projects improve the quality of life of disadvantaged groups, as well as the overall development of their communities. Nutritious foods and the production and sale of new farm products are being developed, and in areas with fragile or degraded land and water resources, the ICDF helps local governments with tree propagation, erosion prevention or water use planning.

Government Capacity Building

To improve efficiency and effectiveness, governments must not only draft beneficial policies and projects, but also establish able, transparent implementing organizations and personnel with sufficient administrative

expertise. The ICDF is providing equipment and consulting services enabling governments to reform and strengthen their agencies and personnel. Annual government policy seminars and projects provide training to foreign government officials while sharing the ROC's economic development experience. Using an established method that other international organizations have employed during the planning and implementation of such seminars and projects, the ICDF emphasizes active contributions by project participants. In one major example, these varied approaches and methods are coming together in the ICDF's participation in an ambitious project to increase the capacity and modernize the Dominican Republic National Congress and the Office of the Comptroller General.

Working with NGOs

The growing impact of NGOs, and their unique and useful grassroots ability to extend the positive results of development projects, has been noted. NGOs have become some of the most influential actors in the global move toward extended democratic participation for all citizens, and thus working with them encourages the spread of human rights everywhere. Currently, the ROC government cooperates with over 900 international NGOs. As well, numerous NGOs have set up headquarters or secretariats in the ROC, and Taiwanese organizations have hosted or participated in many NGO



meetings and activities (information from the ROC Ministry of Foreign Affairs). In its projects and programs encouraging human rights, the ICDF will continue to establish

cooperative relationships with Taiwanese and international NGOs, as well as NGOs located in nations the ICDF cooperates with.

ICDF Project Human Rights Issues and Objectives

Measure	Human Rights Issues	Objectives	Projects
Economic development	Equality of economic opportunity	Employment expansion and equitable income distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private sector development • Micro-credit projects • Agricultural projects
		Increase of financial services recipients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial system strengthening • Micro-credit projects • Small farmer lending projects • SME financing
		Sustainable utilization of natural resources and environmental conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water supply projects • Environmental protection projects
Social development	Equality of social opportunity	Elimination of gender biases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women's micro-credit projects
		Human resources development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education projects • Vocational training
		Improved child welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's scholarship programs
		Improved quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water supply projects • Tree-planting projects • Health and medical services • Grain output increase projects
		Community development and self-reliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-disaster reconstruction • Agricultural development • Rural development • Hydraulic engineering planning • Water supply projects
Government capacity building	Preservation of citizens' rights and equality of opportunity	Establishment of government transparency, improvement of administrative efficiency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parliamentary modernization • Government personnel training • Government agency improvement projects



- ① A Malawi market
- ② Farmers harvesting crops



ICDF Project Benefits and Human Rights Issues

Project Type	Human Rights Issues	Project Benefits
Small farmer lending/micro-credit projects	Equality of economic opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty alleviation • Increased employment
Women's micro-credit projects	Equality of economic opportunity; improved quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty alleviation • Increased employment • Improvement of women's status
Financial organization strengthening	Equality of economic opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty alleviation • Economic growth • Improvement of financial services
Agriculture projects and grain output increase projects	Equality of economic opportunity; improved quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty alleviation • Improved health and nutrition • Economic growth • Increased employment
Medical projects	Improved quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty alleviation • Improved human resources • Improved health and nutrition • Protection of underprivileged groups
Education/vocational training and children's scholarship programs	Equality of educational opportunity; improved quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty alleviation • Improvement of human resources • Increased employment
Water supply projects	Improved quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty alleviation • Environmental protection • Improved health and sanitation
Environmental protection and tree-planting projects	Improved quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty alleviation • Environmental protection
Post-disaster reconstruction and relief projects	Humanitarian relief; improved quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disaster relief • Poverty alleviation
Agricultural area and rural development projects	Improved quality of life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty alleviation • Increased employment
Government capacity building and parliamentary modernization projects	Preservation of citizens' rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved government efficiency • Expanded opportunities for citizen participation
Government personnel training projects	Preservation of citizens' rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved government efficiency