

APPROVED

**by the Decision of the Director
of the International Research Hub Public Foundation
10.12.2025**



**SUSTAINABILITY POLICY
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)
of the International Research Hub Public Foundation**

Astana, 2025

1. General Provisions

1.1. This Sustainability Policy on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (the Policy) establishes the principles, approaches, and strategic directions governing the activities of the International Research Hub Public Foundation (the Foundation) with the objective of integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the Foundation's statutory, project, research, and institutional activities.

1.2. This Policy has been developed with due regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations, as well as other internationally recognized standards and best practices relating to sustainable development that are applicable to non-profit organizations.

1.3. This Policy applies to all activities of the Foundation, including the development and implementation of projects, research activities, and cooperation with public authorities, donors, partners, and other stakeholders.

1.4. The implementation of this Policy shall be carried out in accordance with the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Foundation's Charter, and other internal policies and procedures of the Foundation.

2. Principles of Sustainable Development

2.1. The Foundation integrates sustainable development principles into its activities by taking into account economic, social, environmental, and governance considerations in the planning and implementation of projects and programmes.

2.2. The Foundation conducts its activities in accordance with the principles of good governance, including transparency, accountability, integrity, and responsible decision-making.

2.3. The Foundation applies a risk-based approach in the implementation of its projects, taking into account potential social, legal, environmental, institutional, and reputational risks.

2.4. The Foundation promotes equality, inclusion, and non-discrimination and seeks to ensure equal opportunities for all individuals and stakeholder groups.

2.5. The Foundation incorporates Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles into its activities to the extent appropriate to the nature of its projects, programmes, and available resources.

3. Priority Areas for the Implementation of the SDGs

3.1. The Foundation integrates the Sustainable Development Goals into its activities through projects and programmes designed to achieve measurable outcomes aligned with the relevant SDGs.

3.2. The Foundation's priority areas of activity are aligned, inter alia, with the following Sustainable Development Goals:

1. Quality education and human capital development;
2. Strengthening the rule of law and improving access to justice;
3. Institutional development and enhancement of public governance;
4. Digital innovation and technology-driven solutions;
5. Reducing inequalities and supporting vulnerable and marginalized populations.

3.3. The Foundation's priority areas shall be determined with due regard to its statutory objectives, the national development priorities of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and emerging international trends in sustainable development.

4. Integration of the SDGs into Project Activities

4.1. When designing and implementing projects, the Foundation shall ensure that project objectives, activities, and expected outcomes are aligned, where appropriate, with the Sustainable Development Goals.

4.2. Projects shall be developed in accordance with the principle of results-based management, including the establishment of measurable indicators for assessing the project's contribution to the achievement of the SDGs.

4.3. The Foundation shall ensure traceability between the resources utilized and the outcomes achieved, including, where appropriate, the ability to demonstrate and verify the impact of its projects.

4.4. Cooperation with donors and partners shall take into account applicable sustainability requirements, provided that such requirements are consistent with the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

5. Social Responsibility and Inclusion

5.1. The Foundation shall conduct its activities in accordance with the principles of social responsibility.

5.2. In implementing projects and programmes, the Foundation shall take into consideration the interests of diverse stakeholder groups, including vulnerable populations, and shall seek to ensure equitable access to project outcomes and benefits.

5.3. The Foundation is committed to promoting gender equality and preventing discrimination on any grounds.

6. Ethical and Professional Standards

6.1. The Foundation shall conduct its activities in accordance with internationally recognized ethical and professional standards, including academic integrity, research integrity, methodological rigor, and responsible use of information sources.

6.2. The Foundation maintains a zero-tolerance approach to plagiarism, research misconduct, and the intentional misrepresentation or distortion of research findings.

6.3. In its engagement with public authorities, international organizations, diplomatic missions, and other stakeholders, the Foundation shall observe the principles of neutrality, professional integrity, independence, and the avoidance of undue influence.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

7.1. The Foundation shall monitor and evaluate the contribution of its activities to sustainable development.

7.2. Monitoring and evaluation shall be based on indicators determined in accordance with the nature of the relevant projects and applicable donor requirements.

7.3. The results of monitoring and evaluation may be used for reporting to donors, partners, and other stakeholders.

8. Cooperation with Donors and Partners

8.1. The Foundation shall ensure transparency in its activities and maintain readiness to provide information concerning project outcomes and their contribution to sustainable development.

8.2 The Foundation shall take into account the sustainability requirements of donors and international organizations, provided that such requirements are consistent with the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

9. Allocation of Responsibilities

9.1.

The Director of the Foundation shall provide overall oversight of the implementation of this Policy and make decisions on the basis of the information and materials submitted.

9.2.

Project implementation, data collection, monitoring, and the preparation of reports shall be carried out by designated personnel within the scope of their respective responsibilities.

9.3.

Responsibility for compliance with this Policy shall be allocated according to each individual's actual role and participation in the relevant activities and processes.

10. Final Provisions

10.1. This Policy shall be approved by the Director of the International Research Hub Public Foundation and shall enter into force on the date of its approval unless otherwise specified in the approving decision.

10.2. Any amendments or additions to this Policy shall be adopted in accordance with the same procedure applicable to its approval.

10.3. This Policy shall be interpreted and applied together with the Foundation's other internal policies and procedures.

10.4. Any matters not expressly governed by this Policy shall be regulated by the legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Foundation's Charter, and applicable international obligations relevant to the Foundation's activities.

PROJECT–SDG ALIGNMENT MATRIX

No.	Project Title	SDG	SDG Target	Description of the Project's Contribution	Indicators	Data Source	Responsible Person

Guidance for Completing the Matrix

1. Specify the relevant Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) (e.g., SDG 4, SDG 8, SDG 16).
2. Where applicable, specify the corresponding SDG Target.
3. Describe the project's contribution in terms of specific, measurable outcomes rather than broad or generic statements.
4. Indicators should be measurable, verifiable, and appropriate for assessing the project's contribution to the relevant SDG.
5. The data source should provide sufficient evidence to substantiate the reported results during monitoring, evaluation, or audit.

PROJECT ALIGNMENT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

Projects shall be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Relevance

The project shall address a clearly identified issue that is aligned with one or more Sustainable Development Goals. The relationship between the project and the relevant SDGs shall be evidence-based, clearly justified, and demonstrable.

2. Justification

The project shall be supported by a clearly articulated problem statement and demonstrate a logical relationship between the identified need, project objectives, planned activities, and expected outcomes.

3. Measurability

Project outcomes shall be expressed through measurable quantitative and/or qualitative indicators that enable an objective assessment of results and contribution to the relevant Sustainable Development Goals.

4. Feasibility

The planned outputs and outcomes shall be realistic and achievable, taking into account the available financial, human, technical, and organizational resources, as well as the proposed implementation timeline.

5. Traceability

The project shall provide a clear and verifiable link between the resources utilized, the activities undertaken, and the results achieved, allowing effective monitoring, evaluation, and audit.

6. Impact

The project shall demonstrate measurable or reasonably substantiated social impact, including tangible benefits for its target groups and contribution to sustainable development outcomes.

7. Inclusion

The project shall promote equality, inclusiveness, and non-discrimination by taking into account the needs and interests of diverse stakeholder groups, particularly vulnerable or marginalized populations.

8. Compliance with Donor Requirements

The project shall, where applicable, comply with donor requirements relating to sustainable development, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, accountability, and results management.



KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs) FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

1. Overall Performance Indicators

1. Number of projects implemented that contribute to the achievement of one or more Sustainable Development Goals;
2. Percentage of projects incorporating measurable impact indicators;
3. Total amount of financial resources allocated to SDG-related projects and programmes.

2. Results Indicators

1. Number of beneficiaries reached;
2. Number of analytical, research, policy, or educational outputs produced;
3. Number of recommendations, solutions, or initiatives implemented;
4. Percentage of project objectives achieved.

3. Quality Indicators

1. Level of participant satisfaction;
2. Level of engagement of target groups and stakeholders;
3. Independent expert assessment of project outcomes and overall quality.

4. Institutional Indicators

1. Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into the Foundation's strategy, programmes, and projects;
2. Existence and effective implementation of a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system;
3. Compliance with applicable donor requirements relating to sustainable development, reporting, and accountability.

1. General Information

Implementation Period:

Funding Source: _____

Responsible Person:

Relevant SDG(s): _____

Relevant SDG Target(s): _____

Description of the Project's Contribution to the SDGs:

Project Goal:

Project Objectives:

4. Description of Activities Implemented

5. Results Achieved

Actual Results:

Comparison with Planned Results:

6. Performance Indicators

Indicator	Target	Actual	Variance	Comments
1.1.1.1	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.2	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.3	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.4	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.5	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.6	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.7	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.8	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.9	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.10	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.11	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.12	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.13	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.14	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.15	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.16	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.17	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.18	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.19	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.20	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.21	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.22	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.23	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.24	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.25	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.26	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.27	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.28	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.29	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.30	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.31	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.32	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.33	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.34	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.35	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.36	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.37	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.38	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.39	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.40	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.41	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.42	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.43	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.44	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.45	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.46	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.47	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.48	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.49	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.50	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.51	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.52	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.53	100%	100%	0%	
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1.1.1.62	100%	100%	0%	
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1.1.1.64	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.65	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.66	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.67	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.68	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.69	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.70	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.71	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.72	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.73	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.74	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.75	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.76	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.77	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.78	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.79	100%	100%	0%	
1.1.1.80				

7. Social Impact

Description of the Project's Impact on Target Groups and Beneficiaries:

8. Resource Utilization

Summary of the Use of Financial and Other Resources:

9. Risks and Constraints

10. Conclusions and Lessons Learned
