

# CHARTER FOR CHANGE<sup>1</sup> DUE DILIGENCE PASSPORTING INITIATIVE



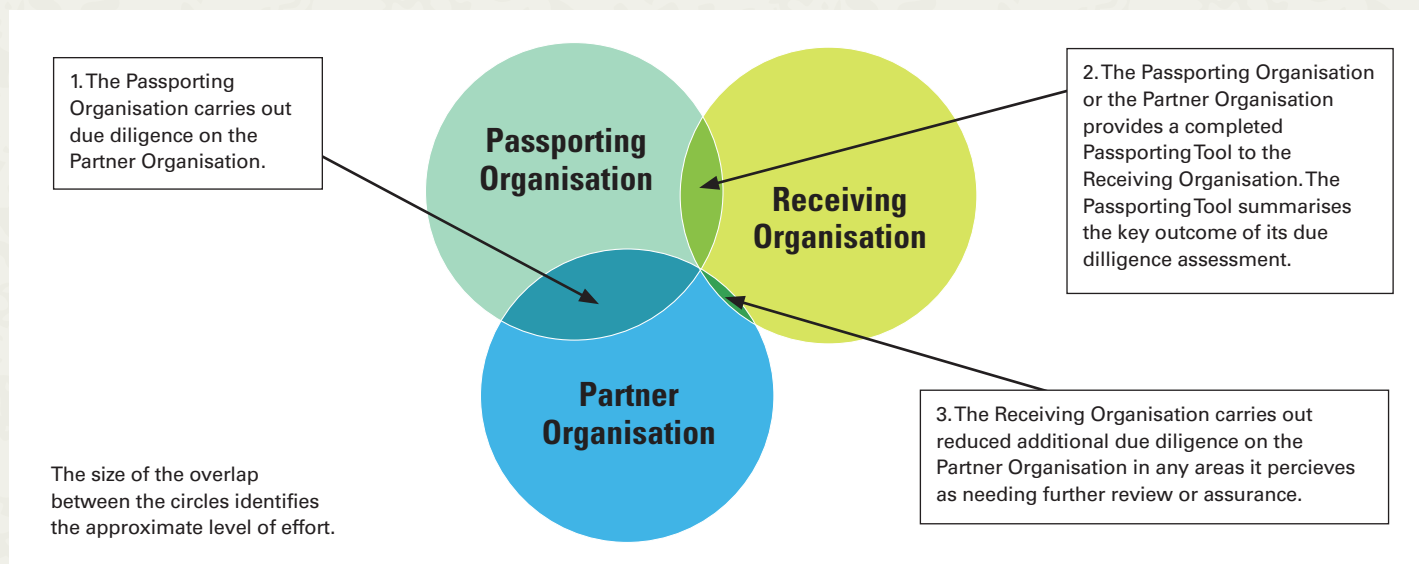
## BACKGROUND

Due diligence processes are intended to ensure accountability and are an important part of risk management. However, they are often designed for larger INGOs and can be duplicative, complex, and poorly suited to the contexts in which local and national organisations operate. These organisations are frequently required to complete similar assessments for multiple international actors. This creates a significant administrative burden that diverts time and resources from programme delivery and limits the space for more equitable and collaborative partnerships.

In response to calls from local and national partners to reduce such duplication, the Charter for Change (C4C) Due Diligence Passporting Initiative was developed by seven C4C signatories to address these challenges and foster more equitable partnerships. It aims to reduce duplication and promote mutual accountability by creating a practical mechanism for sharing due diligence information. This is achieved without compromising the commitment to responsible stewardship of resources or accountability to affected and at-risk communities.

## HOW PASSPORTING WORKS

Under this initiative, an INGO that completes a due diligence assessment with a partner using the C4C Passporting Tool—referred to as the passporting organisation—may, with the partner's consent or at their request, share the results with another INGO. The receiving INGO can choose to accept the assessment in its original form or conduct a limited follow-up. The entire process is guided by principles of transparency, consent, and trust.



## PILOT PHASE

In 2024, seven C4C signatories piloted the tool with 45 local and national NGOs across nine countries in Africa, Asia, and Europe. INGOs used three approaches:

- **Dry runs:** The tool was completed based on recent due diligence assessments already conducted by INGOs.
- **Joint assessments:** Two INGOs jointly assessed the same partner using the tool.
- **Live pilots:** The tool was used with the intention of sharing results with other INGOs for potential future partnerships.

<sup>1</sup>. <https://charter4change.org/>

## LEARNING AND IMPLICATIONS FROM THE PILOT

Although the pilot did not result in full passporting between INGOs, it generated valuable learning and laid the groundwork for wider adoption.

- **The tool is fit-for-purpose.** Participating INGOs found it comprehensive and adaptable, aligning with both rigorous and streamlined due diligence frameworks yet remains easy to use.
- **Feedback from partners was positive.** Local and national organisations described the tool as useful for identifying strengths and areas for improvement, and as a way to support more coordinated capacity strengthening with INGOs.
- **Joint assessments added value.** Completing the tool collaboratively with partners fostered transparency, trust, and better planning for support.
- **Coordinated capacity strengthening is emerging.** The tool is also enabling INGOs to share information and align their support in response to gaps identified through due diligence assessments.
- **Foundations for passporting are in place.** Partners now hold assessments that—with their consent—can be used by other INGOs, donors, multilateral agencies, or local intermediaries considering a partnership. Pilot participants agreed on the value of moving toward practical implementation.
- **Momentum is building.** The pilot demonstrated the feasibility of shared approaches to due diligence and catalysed conversations about adapting the tool to different contexts. Sector-wide collaboration will be essential to test real-time passporting, further develop the tool, and embed its use in practice.

## NEXT STEPS

The multi-INGO working group continues to take this initiative forward by identifying passporting opportunities and advocating for its uptake among donors, intermediary organisations, and networks. The working group's key priority is to collaborate with local and national actors to support locally led advocacy for the adoption of the passporting approach.

The C4C Due Diligence Passporting Tool is open-source and available for use<sup>2</sup>. INGOs, donors, and other actors committed to localisation can support this shift by adopting the approach and the related tool, aligning their due diligence processes where feasible, and participating in future pilots. Others have started engaging with the tool, but any organisations can request a briefing or express interest in participating by contacting any of the INGOs currently most directly engaged in the C4C Due Diligence Passporting initiative. Contact persons are listed below.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://humentum.org/charter-for-change-due-diligence-passporting-tool/>