Guidelines on "Hardware" and "Software" Programming

Background:

The United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) defines human rights-based approach (HRBA) to development as a conceptual framework for the process of human development that is normatively based on international human rights standards and operationally directed to promoting and protecting human rights. It seeks to analyze inequalities which lie at the heart of development problems and redress discriminatory practices and unjust distributions of power that impede development progress and often result in groups of people being left behind.

Under the HRBA, the plans, policies and processes of development are anchored in a system of rights and corresponding [obligations established by international law](#), including all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, and the right to development. HRBA requires human rights principles (universality, indivisibility, equality and non-discrimination, participation, accountability) to guide United Nations development cooperation, and focus on developing the capacities of both 'duty-bearers' to meet their obligations, and 'rights-holders' to claim their rights.

Often time, the HRBA is contrasted by the Handouts approach to development, which many development practitioners agree, encourages dependency syndrome.

Some differences between Handouts Approach and HRBA:

Handouts Approach (Especially non-strategic handouts)	Human Rights Based Approach
Involves narrow sectoral projects	Involves intersectoral, holistic projects and Programmes
Focuses on social context with little emphasis on policy	Focuses on social, economic, cultural, civil and political contexts, and is policy oriented.

Some Principles to Consider for Help a Child supported Hardware Interventions in Communities:

- Strengthen the capacity of community structures such as Self Help Groups (SHGs), Cluster Level Associations (CLAs), on community ownership and project sustainability

- Identify stakeholders aligned to various thematic interventions, e.g. Early Childhood Development (ECD), Youth and Work, and Community Resilience
- Agree on priority needs, as per the results of Community Challenge and Multi-Annual Project Plans (MAPP)
- Once the priority needs have been agreed, identify the specific ones that will be implemented with the help of Help a Child. For instance, ECD Classrooms, Ventilation Improved pit (VIP) latrines and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities in ECD centres in ECD centres, AG-tech like greenhouses, shade nets, seeds and tools etc.
- The Country Office, in consultation with HAC Global Office Management Team, will determine the proportion of HAC budget that may be committed to hardware interventions.
- Agree on the percentage community contribution.. The community contribution may be in kind or cash resources.
- The hardware support should be clearly linked to the project long term strategy as well as HAC global strategy.
- Hardware interventions should be realized on groups/community level and not on a individual level.
- As a strategy towards strengthening long-term change and sustainability, the interventions that involve hardware projects should be linked to lobby and advocacy strategies targeting duty bearers, with a view to influencing policy and practice.
- The hardware projects should as much as possible, be a reference point for lobby and advocacy, acting as centres of excellence from which the community, duty bearers and other stakeholders can draw lessons, replicate and scale up.
- All projects supported by Help a Child should be properly branded according to HAC visibility branding guidelines
- All hardware projects must be carefully designed to include capacity strengthening components that ensure strong community ownership and sustainability.
- Hardware interventions should normally not be considered after year 5 of the CCCD project cycle. This phase should focus more on phase out and strengthening sustainability.

Practical examples of this policy:

- Building an ECD center in the third intervention year: Community contribution done by providing stones/labor. Community has made a maintenance plan and schedule maintenance of the ECD including drafting a 5 year maintenance budget. Community has agreed on a mechanism how to fund the maintenance.
- Youth Groups can be assisted by with start-up kits/demo tools, either the tools are subsidized for 50% either given as a loan (depending on the context). It gives the group the ability to start the business and after a year they pay off their loan or what has been agreed upon

with them. We provide this hardware against these conditions not to individuals, but only to groups.

- Greenhouse used for demo. Ultimately, either the demo will remain at the partner level or sold to a SHG that will include it in their business plan. A realistic timeline will be negotiated between partner organization and SHG to pay back the loan for the greenhouse.