

NON-DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY POLICY

INTRODUCTION

As a humanitarian and not-for-profit organisation, Hope for Children Organization Australia Limited (HFC) is committed to ensuring that all of our activities and work are represented accurately to our stakeholders, donors and the public. We are dedicated to making sure that our programs and activities align with the core values and mission of our organisation and comply with ACFID and Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade requirements.

PURPOSE

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This purpose of this policy is to establish a clear distinction between aid and development and non-aid and development objectives and activities. This policy complies with ACFID Code of Conduct requirements regarding the communication with or soliciting of donations from private donors and the public, including fundraising for restricted and unrestricted purposes from aid agencies, sponsors and supporters, and fundraising from the general public.

Scope

This policy is intended to apply to all activities undertaken by HFC. It is applicable to all staff, volunteers, office bearers and other representatives of HFC, and extends to partners and other organisations with whom HFC works.

BACKGROUND

HFC is a humanitarian development organisation which aims to provide educational, livelihood and healthcare support to people living in developing countries. HFC is a secular organisation with a firm belief in social justice and as such aims to support all people regardless of age, race, religion, gender, sexuality, political affiliation or other differentiating factors. As part of HFC's commitment to compliance with the ACFID Code of Conduct, it does not engage in nor support any evangelical activities and is not associated with any particular political party. HFC may partner with local faith-based organisations in the course of its work, but such partnerships are contingent upon the delivery of services being free from proselytising and open to all (ie: without stipulation that beneficiaries convert or adhere to a particular religion in order to access the service). HFC may also partner with local advocacy groups, provided that their activities are not in support of a particular political candidate or party.

DEFINITIONS

Definition of Aid and Development Activities

HFC is committed to ensuring that funds and resources raised and donated for the purposes of aid and development are only used within that context.

HFC is guided by the following principles in distinguishing what constitutes aid and development activities.

HFC activities and programs will:

- empower staff and communities to take the lead in community-led development
- work to transform the lives of vulnerable children, young people and their communities
- engage processes to strengthen the life skills of young and vulnerable women and building their capacity for brighter economic futures
- engage processes that seek to empower rights holders to claim their rights and ensure that duty bearers exercise their duties
- support systems and structures which enable people to move out of poverty
- empower children and their families to lead a healthy, dignified life through a range of education, health and livelihood initiatives

HFC's core values guide our work:

- We believe in human potential and strong communities
- We strive for innovation, creativity and resourcefulness in all of our work.
- We believe the communities where we operate have a vital role to play in our decision-making processes and work.
- We believe in building trust with our stakeholders by operating with accountability and transparency.

Definition of Non-Aid and Development Activities

HFC is a secular, apolitical organisation and as such does not participate in, facilitate or support any evangelical or partisan political activities. For the purposes of this policy:

a) Evangelical activities are those undertaken with the intent of promoting a particular religious adherence, converting individuals or groups to a particular faith, or are activities where participation is contingent upon adherence to a particular faith.

b) Partisan political activities are activities associated with facilitating or supporting specific political individuals or parties to gain power. This does not include advocacy, which is aimed at persuading and influencing decision makers and opinion leaders and is not aimed at promoting partisan political objectives.

COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES

HFC is committed to ensuring the separation of development and humanitarian and non-development activity at all levels of our organisation.

Programs and Projects

- The Board of HFC will review all project proposals and will determine whether they include non-aid and development components;

- Where issues arise, these will then be followed up to ensure that the policy requirements are satisfied before the project is approved;
- Should concerns be raised about any elements of a project already underway, these will be closely monitored over the life of the project to ensure compliance with this policy;
- In country project monitoring will include monitoring of the separation of non-development activities from development and humanitarian activities.

Donations and Expenditure

- HFC Funds and Donations will not be approved for expenditure or use on Non-Development activity, in accordance with the HFC Approval of Expenditure and Donations and Fundraising policies;

Partners and Stakeholders

- All partner organisations and stakeholders will receive a copy of this policy and any MOUs will include a definition of this distinction.
- Partner capacity assessment processes will be implemented which require the signatory to identify whether the partner is engaged in non-development activities, and if so, how it is able to manage and account for them separately to aid and development activity.
- All new projects proposed by external partners will be subject to an approval process carried out by the Board of Directors to ensure support is only granted to projects engaged in legitimate development activity, as outlined in the HFC Constitution and Approval of Expenditure Policy.

Media and Communications

- HFC will refrain from public comment on issues of a political or religious nature, and will clearly articulate our commitment to the separation of Development and Non-Development activity in our communication, as per our Media and Communication Policy.

REFERENCES

Associated Documents

- Constitution of HFC
- Policy - Donations and Fundraising
- Policy- Approval of Expenditure
- Policy- Media and Communications
- Strategic Plan 2018- 2020

Reference Documents

Part of this policy has been adapted from the ACFID Separation of Non-Development Activity Policy Template.

Policy Established: 2015

Policy updated: 2019