



Partners in Aid

AUSTRALIA

NON-DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY POLICY

Version control & review

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1.0	<2015	Board members; website link
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4.0		

1. Background

Partners in Aid is committed to ensuring that we accurately represent our activities to the people we work with, our donors, and the public. This includes ensuring donors and Partner Organisations, in particular, are aware of the nature of the projects we support and how the different types of projects are funded.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to guide Partners in Aid and our Partner Organisations in how to make a clear separation between aid and development activities, and non-aid and non-development activities. This policy addresses our ACFID compliance obligations when communicating with or soliciting donations from private donors and the public, including fundraising for restricted and unrestricted purposes from our sponsors and supporters, and fundraising from the public.

Definitions

Development Activities

Development activities refer to those activities undertaken to alleviate poverty, improve livelihoods, advance the empowerment of women, advance the education and welfare of children, protect and improve the environment and water supply, and protection of human rights.

Non-development activities

Non-development activities include religious, political and welfare activities.

Political Activities

Political activities are those that involve facilitating or supporting specific individuals seeking political power, a political party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party. Examples include:

- using funds or resources to facilitate or support independence or separatist

- movements,
- using funds or resources to facilitate or support a particular politician or faction to gain power within a government or within a political party structure.

Religious Activities

Religious activities are defined as supporting or promoting a particular religion, including activities undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith and/or denomination to another. Activities that build up religious structures (including infrastructure, training or organisational activities) are also considered non-developmental activities, unless those structures are specifically designed to provide non-denominational development outcomes.

The Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) Manual specifies that ‘the acceptance of specific religious or political beliefs or membership in a particular religious or political group must not be a condition for receiving assistance or participating in development programs on an equal basis. The primary objective of any project needs to be clear and will determine eligibility. When there is doubt, the recommendation is that where multiple objectives are within an activity (e.g. church leaders' training including components of development training), then this should be funded from an NGO's own funds.’

Welfare Activities

Welfare activities are also considered non-development activities.

‘Welfare activities are defined as care and maintenance, which aims to maintain people in a particular condition on a longer-term basis... Substantial and broad impact on social and economic conditions in the community is not normally expected from welfare programs. Welfare may be provided to an individual or on a family basis, including home-based and institutional care programs, such as those provided by orphanages, homes for the elderly, hospices, and the provision of food for those who are destitute. Welfare activities are typically:

- implemented independently of other sustainable community development activities,
- include no strategy for integration into broader community development programs,
- provided on an individual or family basis, rather than on a community basis, and are unconnected to emergency needs, and
- implemented on a long-term basis with no clear exit strategy.¹

3. Scope

This Policy applies to all Partners in Aid activities, to all Partners in Aid members, Board members, and volunteers. The policy also extends to Partners in Aid partners and associated implementing organisations.

4. Procedures

4.1 Partners in Aid currently supports one non-development activity, the consequence of a long-term historical commitment. However,

¹ Australian Government, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2020). [Australian NGO Cooperation Program \(ANCP\) Manual](#).

no new non-development activities will be undertaken once the current one has been phased out at some time in the future. Partners in Aid will not become involved in any new non-development activities.

- 4.2 Partners in Aid is a secular organisation and does not provide support for religious or political activities.
- 4.3 Partners in Aid will ensure accurate representation of our activities to the people we work with, donors and the public.
- 4.4 Partner Organisations will be selected on the basis of their capacity and commitment to undertake development activities, without consideration of the religious or political affiliation of the project beneficiaries. Only such activities will be supported.
- 4.5 Partners in Aid will ensure that in financial reporting, programming, and fundraising, funds raised for non-development purposes are clearly differentiated from funds raised for development purposes.
- 4.6 Partners in Aid will ensure that funds raised for aid and development purposes are not used to exploit people and communities who are vulnerable and do not place any conditions or obligations on recipients in terms of non-development, religious or political outcomes that would affect their access to services being offered.
- 4.7 If Partners in Aid becomes aware that there are components of partner programs which involve evangelical or partisan political activities, these will be highlighted and not considered part of the project or funded by any Partners in Aid funds. accounted for separately.

5 Review

This policy will be reviewed after 3 years.

6 References

ACFID Code of Conduct <http://www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/files/>