Non-Development Activity Policy

Policy Statement

This Non-Development Activity Policy ("NDA" Policy) provides clear guidance for Good Neighbours Australia ("GNAU") and its implementing partners in making a clear separation between development and non-development objectives and activities.

The policy addresses GNAU's obligations to accurately represent its activities within its programs and expenditure reporting, to the people it works with, and when communicating with or soliciting donations from the public, including fundraising for restricted and unrestricted purposes from aid agencies, sponsors and supporters, and fundraising from the public.

The policy aligns with ACFID's Code of Conduct (Compliance Indicator 7.3.2: Commitment 7.3 - ACFID) that requires that members maintain a policy document that consistently demonstrates the separation of development activities from non-development activities in programming, expenditure reporting, fundraising, advocacy campaigns, communications, choice for donors, and partners.

Scope and Purpose

This Policy is intended to apply to all GNAU activities. The Policy is applicable to all employees and volunteers. It also extends to GNAU partners and associated implementing organisations.

As part of GNAU's compliance with ACFID Code of Conduct, GNAU has committed to ensuring that all funds and other resources designated for the purpose of aid and development will be used only for those intended purposes and will not be used to promote a particular religious adherence or to support a political party, or to promote a candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party and or other events, or to support activities which are deemed as welfare in nature.

Guiding Principles

GNAU supports and is committed to abiding by the following principles:

- To ensure accurate representation of our activities to the people we work with, donors, and the public
- To ensure that funds 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 offered services
- No part of partner programs involve evangelical or partisan political activities
- Distribution of funds for development and aid aim to build capacity and reduce the impact of further disasters, while striving to address the root cause of vulnerabilities.

Humanitarian and Development Activities

Development activities are defined by ACFID as *"activities undertaken in order to reduce poverty and address global justice issues..., through a range of engagements that includes community projects, humanitarian response and emergency management, community education, advocacy, volunteer sending, provision of technical and professional services and resources, environmental protection and restoration, and promotion and protection of human rights."*

Development activities should improve the conditions of communities in a sustainable way by working with communities, rather than for or on behalf of communities.

Consistent with ACFID's definition, GNAU's development activities seek to address the causes of poverty through working with local implementing partners – supporting systems and structures which enable people to move out of poverty - by providing funds and capacity-building systems and tools to people living in poverty, facing injustice and marginalisation, in order to attain self-determination, and the transformation of their families' and their communities' future in a sustainable way.

Non-Development Activities

GNAU takes a holistic approach to the development and this includes support for all aspects of human transformation both materially and socially. For the purpose of making a distinction between aid and development and non-aid and development activities as required by the ACFID Code of Conduct, any activity undertaken to promote a particular religious adherence or to support a particular party, candidate, or organisation affiliated with a political party will be considered as a non-aid and development activity.

GNAU does not provide support for partisan political activities which are those that are associated with facilitating or supporting specific political individuals to gain power. Partisan political activities are those that are associated with facilitating or supporting a specific political party or candidate to gain power or to support an organisation affiliated with a political party. 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.

GNAU does not fund welfare-only activities, instead recognising that people and communities are active participants in their own development, rather than passive beneficiaries. When responding to emergencies, initial aid is considered ancillary to core development programs which seek to build community capacity and resilience so they are more prepared should disaster strike again.

Compliance

This Policy provides a framework for GNAU's compliance with the Commitment to accountability to our stakeholders in the ACFID Code of Conduct, in particular Compliance Indicator 7.3.2 which states that Members' development initiatives constantly demonstrate the separation of development activities from non-development activities.

To be compliance with this indicator, members are required to have in place:

- Policy, statement, or guidance documentation that addresses the separation of development activities from non-development activities in programming, expenditure reporting, fundraising, advocacy campaigns, communications, choice for donors, and partners.

Development initiatives that consistently show evidence of the separation of development and non-development activities.

Controlling Procedures

GNAU's approach to the separation of development and non-development activities is covered by the following commitments and control procedures:

Project Appraisal and Reporting

- GNAU will appraise project proposals to determine if they include non-development components during due diligence activities.
- Components of projects that include non-development activities must be managed, reported, and accounted for separately to development activity components, including expenditure reporting.
- Project monitoring will include ongoing, regular monitoring, and reporting of the separation of non-development activities from development activities.

- For projects that include non-development components, this separation will be clear in all fundraising, programs and other activities, in public communications and in all reporting including annual reports and expenditure reporting.

Fundraising and Communications

- Fundraising materials are reviewed prior to publication to ensure solicitations make a clear distinction between development and non-development activities, and if needed donors can choose to support development activities only.
- GNAU will ensure that any such separation in fundraising, programs, and other activities, in public communications and reporting, extends to its implementing partners, and is documented.
- Communication with new implementing partners will clearly state GNAU's position on treatment for non-development activities.
- Funding Agreements or their equivalent will include clear definitions of development activities and non-development activities. They will require implementing partners to agree that financial or other support provided by GNAU will not be used for non-development activities, including welfare, religious activities, and political activities These agreements will require implementing partners who undertake non-development activities to make a clear separation of development activities and non-development activities in related program, expenditure reporting, fundraising, advocacy campaigns, public communications and reporting.
- GNAU's implementing partners' self-assessments will verify that the implementing partners have the 'necessary and sufficient' financial systems and internal controls in place to mitigate risks and meet the terms and conditions of the agreements.

External Sources

- ACFID Code of Conduct
- Opportunity International: Non-Development Activities Policy 2024.pdf (opportunity.org.au)

Review and Monitoring

This Policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier when necessary.

Content and Version Control Table

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