

PROGRAMS POLICY MANUAL

Policies and Procedures (Programs)

PRO 3.5

Non- Development Policy

Applicable to	Asian Aid Organisation Ltd and its associated entities
Date of Board Endorsement	Endorsed as an Interim working Policy on 24 February 2018
Review	Annually and as required
Scope	This policy is part of the Asian Aid Organisation Ltd Policy Framework
Document Reference #	Pro 3.5
Policy Administrator	Programs Manager

PURPOSE

This statement is intended as a summary of the official organisational position on non-development activities as they relate to the work of Asian Aid.

POLICY STATEMENT

As members of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), Asian Aid is required to adhere to the nine quality principles outlined in the ACFID code of conduct. These principles describe higher level practice that, taken together, contribute to quality development outcomes and increased stakeholder trust.¹

Asian Aid is also aware of the requirements placed on Organisations such as Asian Aid, which have ‘approved Organisation statuses under the Overseas Aid Gift Deducibility Scheme (OADGS). The OADGS Guidelines clearly indicate that tax deductibility is only to be given for development activities.

As such, Asian Aid acknowledges the need to have clear separation between its aid and development activities (ACFID Code of Conduct verifier 7.3.2) and other organisational activities of a non-development nature. It reiterates a commitment to make this separation clear to partners, recipient communities and our donor community.

Asian Aid does engage in some non-development activities in the course of its work and will, at all times keep funds separately and manage activities by partners, staff or volunteers of this type separate. These activities are considered welfare in nature and do not include any religious activities or partisan politics.

DEFINITIONS

Word/Term	Definition
Child	Is defined as anyone under the age of 18 years. ²
Young Person	Usually defined as a person between the ages of 12-25 years. ³
Goal	Improve holistic outcomes for children and young people through rights based programming, designed to support them towards fulfilling their God-given potential.
Biblical Rationale	Following the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 18, Asian Aid places children in the centre of our work. We are committed to serving children as commanded in Micah 6:8.
Child Focused Approach	Children and young people are engaged, respected, empowered, equipped, protected and safeguarded with the necessary skills to make decisions that shape their own lives.
Development and Humanitarian Initiatives	Activities undertaken in order to reduce poverty and address global justice issues. In the non-government organisation sector, this may occur 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. ⁴

¹ ACFID Code of Conduct, July 2017

² UNCRC, 1989

³ Save the Children, Child Protection Policy, 2015

⁴ ACFID Code of Conduct, July 2017

Non-Development Activity	Includes activity undertaken to promote a particular religious adherence or to support a particular party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party. ⁵
Partisan Political Activities	Activities supporting a political party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party. ⁶
Proselytism Activities	Activities supporting or promoting a particular religious adherence. ⁷ Activities undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith and/or denominational affiliation to another. ⁸

POLICY IN ACTION

The following principals are regarded as fundamental to effectively achieving the separation of non-development and development activities, while at the same time staying true to the requirements of both our OADGS status and the ACFID code of conduct:

Respect for Human and Child Rights

Asian Aid respects the traditions and culture of the people with whom we work. A focus on the best practice of development rather than welfare will be key to having access to Asian Aid programs and projects. Support will be provided to those most in need in line with the priorities identified by in country partners and recipient communities. We will endeavour to preserve the dignity and independence of the people with who we work and have a firm commitment to upholding the principles outlined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child (UNCRC, 1989).

Appropriate Use of Funding

Funds or other resources designated for the purpose of relief, aid and development will be used only for those purposes and will not to be used welfare projects, religious or political activities. This will be reviewed in project monitoring and in project reports throughout the life of project activities.

Where funding is received for other purposes (that is those which are not aid and development related) separate accounts will be maintained to ensure the separation of funding the purposes of overseas relief, aid and development work from funding received for other purposes.

Transparency in Fundraising and Public Communications

Where promotional or other materials contain reference to aid and development activities and the non-development activities of the organisation, the separation of programs must be clearly articulated. Donors will be given the opportunity to select which activities they wish to contribute to.

Clear Partnership Arrangements

Asian Aid will make its stand on non-development and development available to all existing and new partners. It will ensure through its partner assessment process, that partners have a clear understanding of the requirements of this statement and that they have the capacity to effectively operationalise these principles in their work on our behalf. Partners will be required to sign off on their understanding and acceptance of principles contained in this statement.

⁵ ACFID Code of Conduct, July 2017

⁶ OADGS Guidelines, February 2016

⁷ OADGS Guidelines, February 2016

⁸ ACFID Code of Conduct, July 2017

Project Management

Project management staff will scrutinise aid and development projects at all phases of the project cycle to ensure that they are based on development principles and that they are not used to support non-development activities within our program.

Where Asian Aid undertakes both aid and development and other activities in a community, beneficiaries must be informed of the distinction between the activities and the independence of each separate project must be made clear. Efforts must be made and documented to ensure that programs are separate and not reliant upon each other.

Partisan Political Activities

Asian Aid does not engage in partisan political activities in the course of its work and will not support the engagement of partners, staff or volunteers in this type of activity.

Proselytism Activities

As a Christian faith-based organisation, Asian Aid is guided by the biblical teachings of Jesus and is committed to serving children. We operate as an independent, supporting ministry to the Seventh-Day Adventist Church and seek to empower children and communities – regardless of religious affiliation or belief.

Asian Aid will ensure funds donated for the purpose of aid and development is not used in evangelism or proselytism activities.

Our mission is to “give hope by fostering permanent, positive change in the lives of disadvantaged children and their communities”, not to convert program beneficiaries.

SCOPE OF THIS POLICY

This policy applies to:

- All Asian Aid staff, whether national, international, full-time, part-time or engaged on short-term contracts (e.g. consultants, etc.) – referred to as staff members.
- Volunteers, board members, staff and representatives of partner agencies and any other individuals, groups or organisations who have a formal/contractual relationship with Asian Aid, referred to as “partners or staff of partner agencies”.
- Donors, journalists, celebrities, politicians and other people who visit Asian Aid programs or partner offices in order to make contact with children must be made aware that this Policy applies to them while visiting our programs or offices. (During this time, they are referred to as “representatives”).
- All of the above must act in accordance with this Protocol in both their professional and their personal lives.

SUPPORTING/RELATED DOCUMENTATION

- ACFID Code of Conduct
- OADGS Guidelines
- Asian Aid Child Protection Policy
- Asian Aid Child Safeguarding Policy
- Asian Aid Child Focused Policy
- Asian Aid Child Participation Policy
- Asian Aid Residential Care Policy
- Asian Aid Family Reunification Policy
- Asian Aid Care Transition Strategy
- Asian Aid Residential Care Statement
- Asian Aid Partnership Standards
- Asian Aid Child Focused Approach Implementation Framework