



International Programs Non-Development Activity Policy

Policy Statement

Transform Aid International Ltd (“TAI”) is committed to ensuring that our International programming is consistent with our Vision, Mission, and Values and informed by a human rights and strength based approach. This policy outlines the distinction between development activity and non-development activity and appropriate treatment of each. Non-development activities are those which include welfare, evangelism, missionary and political components. Definitions of these terms are listed below.

Development activities are those which include the principles of participation, equity and non-discrimination, accountability and sustainability. Each of these principles is also defined below in the Definitions section below.

TAI’s commitment to supporting development activity and distinguishing it from any non-development activity is demonstrated through our membership of and signatory to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct and status as a Fully Accredited NGO of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Scope and Purpose

This policy applies to the International Programs development and disaster management projects of TAI. The purpose is to ensure that funds provided to TAI are used in a transparent manner congruent with the intent they were given and directed to activities that do not intentionally favour individuals or communities based on political or religious lines nor keep them in a state of dependence on welfare. This policy extends to TAI’s partners and implementing organisations. In our Project Agreements, TAI explicitly stipulates under lead clause 17 & 18:

Clause 17

Ensure that the funds provided by TAI are not used to pay staff and/or other people to engage in evangelism by proclamation, build up missionary infrastructure or support political activities (see “No Strings Attached” definition below).

Clause 18

Ensure funds are not used to support programs that involve welfare-dominant activities as defined below.

Policy Objectives

The objectives of this policy are:

To distinguish between those activities considered as development and non-development activities and ensure clear separation between the two in procedures and processes. Non-development activities are NOT considered to be Recognised Development Expenditure or acceptable for receipt of funding derived from Tax Deductible gifts.

To ensure development and non-development activities are clearly separated in TAI's and implementing partners' reporting and communications.

Responsibilities

Responsibility for the operationalisation of this policy lies with Director of International Programs and Director of Marketing and Communications. A review is conducted annually by the Finance Department to confirm/correct use of expenditure; the findings are communicated to the Director of International Programs as a safety check to ensure that the non-development activity definition is adhered to and any issues are addressed promptly.

TAI is committed to communicating all policy changes via QA Bulletin published monthly.

The importance of compliance with this policy to clearly distinguish development and non-development activity within International Programs will be made known to all staff as part of the induction process at commencement of their employment.

This policy will be available on TAI's intranet. This policy will be reviewed biennially, or sooner as required.

Definitions

Accountability – often human rights cannot be realised without significant changes in the structure and relationships of power in communities. TAI recognises the importance of public education and awareness-raising and international and domestic advocacy as programming tools to ensure that duty bearers are held accountable and power imbalances are corrected.

Development- 'A comprehensive economic, social and political process, which aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of benefits resulting therefrom'.¹

Equity and Non-Discrimination- TAI acknowledges that all human rights are indivisible, universal, and inalienable. There is an obligation stated in all

¹ Declaration on the right to Development, adopted by General Assembly resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986

human rights instruments that equal rights and opportunity should be given to all people.

Evangelism is the direct proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ to people who have not accepted its significance and committed their lives to Him.

Human Rights Based Approach to Development- an approach that frames development within the international human rights conventions. Social, Economic and Cultural rights are often focussed on by development agencies. Indicators of success are generally the extent of change in the fulfilment and respect of specific human rights rather than needs.

Missionary Activities include evangelism but also extend to activities designed to build up the knowledge and faith of believers. They include theological and bible training and studies.

No Strings Attached: Funds and other resources designated for the purposes of aid and development will be used only for those purposes and will not be used to promote a particular religious adherence or to support a political party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party.

Sustainability - Sustainable outcomes will seek to ensure that the benefits of any intervention continue beyond the life of the project by building the capacity of the targeted community. Sustainable development activities will "meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."²

Participation- promoting the empowerment of stakeholders in each development project.

Political Activities are those associated with the partisan political operations of political parties or governments.

Recognised Development Expenditure is the total eligible contribution that each NGO receives from the Australian community for the organisation's own development assistance, emergency relief or rehabilitation activities overseas and development education in Australia. Eligible contributions include donations of cash, gifts in kind and volunteer services. Up to half of the RDE can be for eligible gifts in kind and/or eligible volunteer services.

Strength Based Approach-an approach to development that focuses on building on the existing strengths in communities seeking to empower them to direct their own development priorities.

Welfare is assistance to maintain people in a particular condition on a long term basis, such as institutionalised care programs as provided by orphanages, homes for the elderly, support to the elderly, support to people with disability or the provision of food for the destitute. Usually it is provided on an individual basis and is unconnected to emergency needs. In the main, beneficiaries of welfare are not

² The World Commission on Environment and Development (1987).



engaged in activities which may lead to rehabilitation or to more sustainable development goals.

Related Policies and Procedures

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following: -

- Marketing Non-Development Activity Checklist
- Human Rights in TAI International Programs Policy
- Policy Development Policy
- Policy Development Procedure
- TAI International Program Strategic Framework 2012-2016

External References

This policy refers to the following: -

- ACFID Code of Conduct Program Principles B1.5-Non-Development Activity
- DFAT Recognised Development Expenditure Explanatory Notes- March 2015
- Overseas Aid Gift Deductions Scheme (AOGDS) May 2009

International Programs Non-Development Activity Policy	
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