NON-DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY POLICY

Document Owner	SC&P	Version	4
Supporting Team	Ops	Issue Date	December 2024
Approved By	CEO	Review By Date	December 2027

1. PURPOSE

IWDA is committed to ensuring that all of our work is consistent with our Vision, Mission, and Values, and informed by a feminist and strengths-based approach. To that end, the purpose of this policy is to guide IWDA and our partners to make a clear separation between aid and development and non-aid and development objectives and activities.In line with ACFID Code of Conduct and DFAT accreditation, it sets out our compliance obligations when communicating with or soliciting 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.

2. SCOPE

This policy is intended to apply to all IWDA activities, including our programs, expenditure reporting, communications, fundraising and campaigns. The Policy is applicable to all IWDA employees and volunteers. The policy also extends to IWDA partners and implementing partners.

3. DEFINITIONS

Development activitiesare defined by the Australian Council for International Development (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.'

Non-development activities:

a) Religious activities: activities that promote a particular religious adherence or are undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith and/or denominational affiliation to another. Activities that build up religious structures (including infrastructure, training or organisational activities) must be specifically designed to provide non-denominational development outcomes.

b) Partisan political activities: activities associated with facilitating or supporting specific political parties, organisations or individuals. Examples include:

- using IWDA funds or resources to facilitate or support a specific political party, candidate, or party political organisation in a local, regional or general / national election;
- using funds or resources to facilitate or support independence or separatist movements; and
- 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.
  This does not include advocacy which is aimed at persuading and influencing decision makers and opinion leaders (in this case advocacy includes IWDA and our partners' work to support female candidates to run for political office in the countries we work in), and is not aimed at promoting partisan political objectives.

c) Welfare Activities: activities that provide care and maintenance that aim 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 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.

4. POLICY

IWDA is an Australian-based organisation, resourcing diverse women's rights organisations primarily in Asia and the Pacific, and contributing to global feminist movements to advance our vision of gender equality for all. We are a secular organisation and do not engage in or support any evangelical activities and are not linked to any political party. IWDA supports and is committed to abiding by the following principles:

Ensuring accurate representation of our activities to the people we work with, our supporters and the public

All funds raised are for gender and development purposes and:

a) are not used to exploit people and communities who are vulnerable and
b) do not place any conditions or obligations on recipients in terms of non- development, religious or political outcomes that would affect their access to the services being offered.

IWDA partners local faith-based organisations. Using the Partnership Selection and Assessment process IWDA will only partner with women's led and women's groups within faith-based organisations (FBOs) who show evidence of a commitment to gender equality and promote women's rights. IWDA will not support programs or activities that promote a particular religious adherence.

IWDA partners with advocacy organisations on the basis that their activities are not in support of partisan political activities, a political party or candidate. IWDA recognises that unequal representation and participation of women in institutional structures and decision-making processes is both a denial of women's democratic rights and a constraint on development. As such, development activity in this instance necessitates working to support increased participation of women in civil and political life.

IWDA's Funding Orders with our partner organisations include compliance with IWDA's Non-Development Activity Policy and works to ensure partners understand the purpose of this clause.

IWDA does not discriminate against employees nor Board Directors on the basis of their political or religious beliefs. People shall benefit from, and participate in IWDA's work, regardless of their religious or political beliefs, in line with the principles of anti-discrimination and IWDA's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Workplace Behaviour Policy (part of the Human Resources Manual).

5. IMPLEMENTATION

The Chief Executive Officer, in consultation with the IWDA Executive Leadership Team, is responsible for the administration, revision, interpretation, and application of this policy.

Underlying all of IWDA's work is a commitment to gender equality for all. IWDA will only support organisations, groups and programs that promote women's rights and work towards our long term goals.

This policy provides a framework for IWDA's compliance with quality principle 7.3.2 of the ACFID Code of Conduct. This principle outlines our obligation for signatories to the ACFID Code of Conduct: *Member development initiatives consistently demonstrate the separation of development activities from non-development activities*

6. REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

This policy will be reviewed every three years and amended as needed, to ensure it remains compliant with law, relevant and effective. This policy may be amended at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

7. REFERENCES/RELATED DOCUMENTS

- ACFID Code of Conduct
- ACFID Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance: *Definitions Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme* (OAGDS)
- IWDA Position Paper: *Working with Faith Based Organisations (FBOs), Christian groups and churches in PNG & Solomon Islands*
- IWDA Partnership Assessment Criteria