

OPS-004 Non-development Activity Policy

Applies to:	All PWDA Board, employees, volunteers
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Contents

Purpose.....	2
Scope.....	2
Background.....	2
Guiding Principles	3
Aid and Development Activities	3
Non-aid and Development Activities	4
Definitions	5
Compliance	5
Procedure	5
Related Documents.....	6

Purpose

- To guide PWDA and our partners to make a clear separation between development and humanitarian and non-development objectives and activities.
- To address PWDA's obligations to accurately represent our activities within our programs and expenditure reporting:
 - to the people we work with
 - 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.
- To address our Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct 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 the general public.

Scope

This policy applies to all PWDA operations and activities and all PWDA workers and volunteers:

- all Board Directors, employees, independent contractors, subcontractors and consultants (collectively “workers”)
- all volunteers and students (collectively “volunteers”).

It also extends to PWDA partners and associated implementing organisations.

Background

PWDA is a national disability rights and advocacy organisation and operates within the human rights framework.

We provide advice and information; individual, group and systemic advocacy; training and education; and a representative voice of people with disability nationally and internationally.

PWDA is apolitical, non-denominational and does not engage in or support any evangelical activities. We are also a not-for-profit, non-government organisation.

PWDA may partner with local faith-based organisations providing that participation in their programs is not conditional on conversion or adherence to a particular religious denomination.

From time to time PWDA also partners with other advocacy organisations on the basis that their activities are not in support of a political party or candidate.

PWDA's activities are funded primarily by State and Commonwealth Governments for specific activities and projects within Australia, including advocacy for disability inclusive development within Australia's aid program.

Guiding Principles

PWDA supports and is committed to ensuring:

- accurate representation of our activities to the people we work with, collaborative partners, donors and the public
- funds raised for aid and development purposes are not used to exploit people and communities who are vulnerable
- no conditions or obligations are placed on recipients in terms of non-development, religious or political outcomes that would affect their access to services being offered.

Where there are components of partner programs which involve evangelical or partisan political activities, these will be promoted and accounted for separately.

Aid and Development Activities

Aid and development refers to the activities undertaken in order to reduce poverty and address global justice issues via direct engagement through community projects, 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.

The concept of aid and development activities can be distinguished by the following principles:

- strengths based approaches which encourage people and communities to create solutions for themselves
- processes that seek to address the causes of poverty
- processes that seek to empower rights holders to claim their rights and ensure duty bearers exercise their duties
- supporting systems and structures which enable people to move out of poverty
- emergency relief, disaster recovery and meeting the immediate needs of refugees
- and internally displaced peoples.

Development activities seek to address the root causes of the need identified and in doing so, make a contribution to reducing that need in the long term.

Non-aid and Development Activities

Partisan politics – are activities that are associated with facilitating or supporting specific political activities to gain power. 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.

Evangelical or proselytising activities – are those 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.

For the purposes of making a distinction between aid and development and non-aid development activities as required by the ACFID Code of Conduct, any activity whose objectives include the promotion of religious adherence will be considered as a non-aid and development activity and will be managed and accounted for separately.

Definitions

Development - seeks to improve the conditions of communities in a sustainable way. It is based on working with communities, rather than on behalf of communities. Development is a process where a community of people work together to break the cycle of poverty and dependence so that their fundamental needs are met and the quality of their lives is enhanced.

Evangelical – belonging to a church or Christian group that has a high regard for the bible, and believing the teaching of the gospel and encouraging others to join them is extremely important.

Proselytising – are those 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.

Compliance

This Policy provides a framework for PWDA compliance with the ACFID Code of Conduct:

Commitment 7.3 – We are accountable to our stakeholders.

Compliance Indicator 7.3.2 – Member development initiatives consistently demonstrate the separation of development activities from non-development activities.

For all funding, PWDA abides by funding guidelines and reporting requirements and demonstrates that we have achieved the stipulated outcomes for the funded activity/ies.

Procedure

We ensure that PWDA and our partners can differentiate between development and non-development activity and communicate this appropriately to stakeholders, donors and the public:

- PWDA will appraise all project proposals to determine whether they include non-aid and development components

- appraisers will record any issues, which must then be followed up to ensure that the policy requirements are satisfied before the project is approved
- partner capacity assessment processes require PWDA to identify whether a partner is engaged in non-development activities, and if so, how it is able to manage and account for these activities separately
- in-country project monitoring will include, where relevant, monitoring of the separation of non-development activities from aid and development activities
- communications materials are reviewed prior to publication to ensure separation of reporting and fundraising for development and non-development activities, e.g. statement on international aid and development in audited financial statements published in our Annual Reports
- where fundraising solicitations include reference to both development and non-development activities, they will be reviewed to ensure that donors are provided with the choice of contribution to development activities only
- funds raised for non-development activities will be tracked, managed, reported and accounted for separately to those raised for development activities
- ongoing communications with PWDA partners will reinforce the definitions of development non-development activities.

PWDA is committed to ensuring that funds and other resources designated for the purpose of aid and development are used only for those purposes.

Related Documents

Legislation, regulations and standards

- Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct

PWDA Policies

- Partner Engagement and Collaboration Policy.