

# Brien Holden Foundation

## WELFARE, EVANGELISM AND POLITICAL ACTIVITIES POLICY

### POLICY

The Brien Holden Foundation (the Foundation) does not engage in non-development activities. It is an independent, international development agency that:

- does not undertake welfare activities or programs
- does not undertake evangelistic or political activities
- is not religion-based or associated with any organised religion
- does not align itself with any political party in Australia or other countries
- does not allow its Board, staff, consultants and volunteers of the Foundation to undertake, communicate or participate in Evangelism, Proselytism and Missionary Work, Political or Welfare activities during their work hours with the Foundation or when representing the Foundation

Funds and other resources raised by or provided to the Foundation for the purpose of development must only be used for the purpose of development. The Foundation will not fund or support any activity that is directed towards:

- Welfare activities
- Evangelistic activities
- Partisan political activities

The Foundation partners with other NGOs that have similar objectives and outcomes for the local communities. We partner work with governments and other in-country stakeholders to ensure our activities are aligned with the national plans of the country.

Partner organisations implementing development activities funded by, or through the Foundation must use the funds and/or resources for (a) the purpose of development and (b) the particular development activities for which the funding/resources were provided.

Partner organisations must not use Foundation funds for any activity that is directed towards:

- Welfare activities
- Evangelistic activities
- Partisan political activities

In selecting an international project or activity, the Foundation shall assure itself that the proposed work will not involve the diversion of DFAT or other funds for welfare, evangelistic or partisan political activities. Due care and consideration must be taken during project identification, design and implementation to ensure funds and resources are used, either by the Foundation or by partner organisations, only to support development-related activities.

### DEFINITIONS

#### ***Welfare***

Welfare activities are defined by the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) as care and maintenance, activities which provide direct assistance to individuals because of a need. They generally seek to address immediate needs rather than address the root causes of those needs.

Welfare activities are often very similar to gifts, as they are provided for or on behalf of beneficiaries, without a requirement for their participation in the activity or a requirement for the activity to be sustainable. Welfare is also implemented independently of other sustainable community development activities.

Welfare programs include no strategy for integration into broader, community development programs and are implemented on either a one-off 'gift' basis or on a long-term basis with no clear exit strategy.

### ***Evangelism***

Evangelism (also called proselytism and missionary work) is the practice of attempting to convert people to another religion or faith. Though the words are of Christian origin they can also refer to other religions' attempts to convert people to their religion or faith. Evangelistic activities may discriminate on the basis of belonging to a particular group or aim to persuade or develop religious beliefs and faith practices among project beneficiaries.

### ***Partisan Political Activities***

Partisan political activities include political, lobbying and advocacy activities, which are carried out for the sake of, or in aid of, a particular political party.

### ***Non-development activities:***

Includes activity undertaken to:

- Promote a particular religious adherence: *activities undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith and/or denominational affiliation to another.*
- Support a particular party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party: *Agency personnel or their representatives (when using the agency name or resources in paid time) being involved in party political activities; using 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 a particular politician or faction to gain power within a government or within a party political structure"*

## **PROCEDURE**

In initial stages of discussions with partners, the Foundation shares the values and objectives of the Foundation; both in verbal form and with written materials; and requests information from the partner organisation. These discussions include the Foundation ensuring that it is understood that welfare, evangelism and political activities cannot be part of projects that the Foundation is a partner in. This leads to a shared understanding between the parties at the outset of the partnership.

This understanding is then defined in a Memorandum of Understanding or an Agreement between the parties where these values and objectives are explicitly stated.

For staff, consultants and volunteers, this policy will form part of the induction HR process and all new employees/consultants or volunteers must familiarise themselves with this policy and complete the policy checklist after induction.

Updated By: Global Operations Support Officer  
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