

Attachment 2.8 Proselytism, Politics and Development Policy

Version 2.2

Introduction

ChildFund Australia is an independent, non-political and non-religious international development organisation that works to reduce poverty for children in developing communities.

ChildFund Australia is not affiliated with either any political party in Australia or overseas or any national or international church or religion. ChildFund Australia does not discriminate on the basis of political or religious beliefs.

ChildFund Australia formulates its own policies and does not seek to implement any government policy, except where it coincides with our own independent policy. ChildFund Australia also recognises that working closely with in-country governments and local authorities and - in some cases also religious institutions and leaders - is integral to the long-term success and sustainability of its development programs.

ChildFund Australia respects that employees and directors may have their own political and religious beliefs and does not permit discrimination on this basis before or during employment. Employees and directors engage in political and religious activity at their own discretion and in a personal capacity.

Key Principles

Impartiality: ChildFund Australia makes no discrimination as to nationality, race, religious beliefs, class or political opinions. It endeavours to provide development assistance according to the need of individuals, families and communities and ChildFund's capacity to meet those needs. We will not tie the provision of assistance to the embracing or acceptance of a particular political or religious creed.

Independence: While ChildFund Australia works with Governments and is subject to the national laws in the countries in which we work, ChildFund Australia will always maintain its autonomy.

Neutrality: ChildFund Australia may not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Respect: ChildFund Australia will endeavour to respect the culture, structures and customs of the communities and countries we are working in.

Policy Statement

ChildFund Australia is independent and not affiliated with any political party. ChildFund Australia does not proselytise (try to convert someone to a particular religion) or promote any specific form of religion. People are free to participate in, and benefit from projects and programs we support, regardless of their political allegiance or religious beliefs. ChildFund Australia does not use development assistance to further a political or religious standpoint and does not tie funding to the acceptance or embracing of a particular political belief or religious creed.

Policy Commitments

ChildFund Australia Country Office and Sydney Office senior management will:

- not accept funding that requires compliance with any political or religious ideology;

- ensure that partisan politics does not influence ChildFund Australia's actions;
- terminate partnerships that compromise ChildFund Australia's neutrality;
- not form partnerships with terrorist or extremist networks and personnel;
- ensure the organisation maintains its independence from national or international churches and/or religions;
- terminate any partnership with a religious or political organisation that compromises ChildFund Australia's ability to deliver development assistance in a non-discriminatory manner.

ChildFund Australia Country and Regional Office program staff will:

- ensure that project resources are not used for political or religious purposes;
- assess potential new partners' political and religious affiliations in order to identify whether they may compromise our independence;
- not take sides in any type of armed conflict;
- not form any link to terrorist or extremist networks;
- not implement government policy, except when it correlates with ChildFund Australia's independent policy;
- not act as instruments of foreign policy for donor governments;
- not gather information of a political, military, or economically sensitive nature for governments or organisations;
- challenge, in an appropriate and respectful manner, religious beliefs that are contrary to children's rights.

Guidance Notes

Consult the International Program Team for support documents, such as templates, resources and checklists, to assist with the implementation of this policy.

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