

Development vs Non-Development Activities Policy



1. Introduction

GraceWorks Myanmar (GWM) is committed to ensuring that we accurately represent our activities to the people we work with, our donors, and the public, and ensuring that funds and other resources designated for aid and development are used only for those purposes.

GWM and its partners clearly separate between development and humanitarian and non-development in its objectives and activities including in programming, expenditure reporting, communications, advocacy, partnerships and soliciting donations/fundraising from other organisations, private donors and the public.

This policy addresses our ACFID compliance obligations under 7.3.

2. Related policies

- Partner Policy
- Guidelines for assessing new projects
- Communications and Media Policy
- Financial policy

3. Definitions

The following definitions apply to this policy:

Development and humanitarian initiatives	Refers to the activities undertaken in order to reduce poverty and address global justice issues. In the nongovernment organisation sector, this may occur through a range of engagements that include 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 ⁽¹⁾
Non-Development Activities	Activities specifically excluded in the definition of aid and development activities, including evangelical activities and partisan political activities.

(1) ACFID Code of Conduct

4. Responsibilities and accountabilities

This Policy applies to all GWM activities and is applicable to all GWM employees and volunteers. It also extends to GWM partners and associated implementing organisations.

5. GWM's Development activities

GWM is a non-denominational community development agency that does not engage in or support any evangelical activities.

GWM partners with local faith-based organisations on the basis that delivery is without evangelising or proselytizing or making participation conditional on conversion or adherence to a religious denomination.

GWM is not linked to any political party, although it may partner with advocacy organisations on the basis that their activities are not in support of a political party or candidate. As part of its compliance with the ACFID Code of Conduct, GWM has committed to ensure that funds and other resources designated for aid and development will be used only for those purposes.

6. GWM's Non-development activities

GWM believes that development is about empowering people trapped in the poverty cycle, by improving their quality of life and holistic wellbeing through sustainable livelihood projects whereby they can become self-reliant.

Any activities outside of these objectives which may promote religious adherence will be considered a non-aid development activity and will be managed and accounted for separately.

GWM does not provide support for partisan political activities which are those that are associated with facilitating or supporting specific political individuals to gain power.

7. Procedures for separating development and humanitarian and non-development

7.1 The following GWM principles apply to this policy:

- In line with our communications and media policy, GWM ensures accurate representation of our activities to the people we work with, donors and the public.
- To ensure that funds raised for aid and development purposes are not used to exploit people and communities who are vulnerable and do not place any conditions or obligations on recipients in terms of non-development, religious or political outcomes that would affect their access to services being offered.

7.2 Separation in programs and projects

- GWM will appraise all project proposals to determine whether they include non-aid and development components.
- The separation of these activities will be monitored over the life of the project/initiative.
- In-country project monitoring will include monitoring of the separation of non-development activities from development and humanitarian activities as part of project monitoring, learning and evaluation processes. Any components of projects/initiatives that represent non-development activity will be managed, reported and accounted for separately to aid and development components.

7.3 Separation in communications – including advocacy campaigns

- All articles written by overseas project partners or photos supplied by partners for reporting materials are reviewed for differentiation between development and humanitarian and non-development activities.
- Communications materials are reviewed prior to publication to ensure separation of reporting and fundraising for development and humanitarian and non-development activities.

7.4 Separation in fundraising and provision of choice for donors

- Fundraising materials will be reviewed prior to publication to ensure that solicitations make a clear distinction between aid and development and nondevelopment activities.
- Where fundraising solicitations include references to both development and humanitarian and non-development activities, we will ensure that donors are provided with the choice of contributing to aid and development activity only.
- Funds raised for non-development activity will be tracked, managed, reported and accounted for separately to those raised for development and humanitarian components.

7.5 Separation in expenditure reporting

- Funds expended on non-development activity will be tracked, managed, reported and accounted for separately to those raised for development and humanitarian components.

7.6 Extending the separation of development and non-development activities to partners

- We will provide all new partners with our 'over-arching summary' which clearly communicates our position on supporting for non-development activities.
- GWM's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with partners will include clear definitions of development and humanitarian activity and non-development activity and a requirement that funds designated for development and humanitarian purposes will not be used to fund any non-development activity.
- We will provide all partners with a copy of this policy.
- The CEO's ongoing dialogue with partners will reinforce the definitions of development and humanitarian and non-development activity and the need to separate between development and humanitarian and non-development activities.

8. Policy review

- This policy will be reviewed every 3 years.