POLICY
Representation of Non-development Activities

Established:	May 2018	**Review frequency:**	Every three years
Prepared by:	P Simmons	**Approved by:**	Board

Purpose

To ensure accurate representation of activities to all stakeholders including our donors and the public, and to ensure funds and other resources designated for development and humanitarian aid are used only for those purposes

This policy addresses Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) compliance obligations under 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3.

Introduction

GraceWorks Myanmar (GWM) upholds the vital importance of clearly separating development and humanitarian activities from non-development activities in our objectives and work. This includes programming, expenditure reporting, communications, advocacy, partnerships and fundraising, whether from other organisations, private donors and/or the public. In addition to all GWM-led activities, this commitment extends to our partners and implementing organisations as part of two-way relationships of integrity and transparency.

Definitions

Development and humanitarian activities
Development and humanitarian activities are those undertaken to reduce poverty and address global justice issues. In the non-government organisation (NGO) sector, this occurs through various engagements including community education, community projects, advocacy, volunteer sending, provision of technical and professional services and resources, humanitarian response and emergency management, environmental protection and restoration, and the promotion and protection of human rights.

Non-development activities
Non-development activities are those specifically and intentionally excluded from the definition of development and humanitarian activities. These include evangelical and partisan political activities.

Development and humanitarian activities

GWM believes that development is about empowering people facing systemic unfreedoms, such as poverty, by helping to improve their quality of life and holistic wellbeing through sustainable programs/projects founded in self-reliance not external dependence. Humanitarian work is an extension of this, focused on meeting short-term needs to sustain life and alleviate suffering. As part of our compliance with the ACFID Code of Conduct, GWM is committed to ensuring funds and other resources designated for development and humanitarian aid are used only for those purposes.

Non-development activities

If a necessary and justifiable non-development requirement arises, it will be managed and accounted for separately to GWM's development and/or humanitarian work.

As GWM is a non-religious community development organisation, we will not engage in, or support, evangelical activities. When we partner with local faith-based organisations, it is always on the basis that program/project delivery excludes evangelising and proselytising, and strictly does not make participation conditional on conversion or adherence to any religious denomination.

GWM is also not linked to any political party. We do not provide support for partisan political activities associated with facilitating or helping specific political individuals to gain power. We may partner with advocacy organisations – always on the basis that their activities are not in support of a political party or candidate.

Clearly representing activities

We prioritise the accurate representation of our activities to the people we work with, our donors and the public. We are also committed to ensuring that funds raised for development and humanitarian activities are not used to inadvertently exploit vulnerable people and communities, and that those activities do not place any non-development conditions or obligations on recipients/beneficiaries, including religious or political outcomes. In particular, this is to ensure non-development considerations do not impact people's access to services and support on offer.

Separation in programs/projects

GWM will appraise all program/project proposals to determine whether they include non-development components. Any components that represent non-development activity, if deemed necessary for inclusion, will be tracked, managed, reported and accounted for separately to development and humanitarian components. In-country monitoring and evaluation, and broader organisational learning, will factor in this separation of development/humanitarian activities from non-development activities.

Separation in communications

Communications materials will be reviewed prior to publication to ensure the clear representation of activities, including separation of reporting and fundraising for development/humanitarian work versus non-development work. Regardless of the origins of written and visual content supplied for reporting purposes, such as articles and photos from partners, all content will be reviewed for differentiation between development/humanitarian and non-development activities.

Separation in fundraising and provision of choice for donors

Fundraising materials will be reviewed prior to publication to ensure solicitations clearly distinguish between development/humanitarian and non-development activities, if relevant. Where fundraising promotions refer to both categories, donors will be given the choice to contribute only to the development and humanitarian components. Funds raised for non-development activities will be tracked, managed, reported and accounted for separately to those raised for development and humanitarian activities.

Clarifying separation with our partners

We will provide all new partners with this policy and other relevant documentation to clearly communicate our position on the importance of accurately representing the nature of our work and the rationale behind the separation of development and humanitarian work from non-development work.

Our memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with partners will include clear definitions of development and humanitarian activities versus non-development activities. MoUs will include a requirement that funds designated for development and humanitarian purposes will not be used to fund any non-development activities. The Chief Executive Officer's (CEO) ongoing dialogue with partners will reinforce these definitions and the critical need to maintain clear separation.

References and related documents

References

◆ ACFID Code of Conduct

Related documents

◆ Communications and Media Policy
◆ New Project Assessments Guideline
◆ Principles and Practices for Project Partners Guideline

Review

Previous reviews: June 2021
Next review: June 2024