

BRIDGIT WATER FOUNDATION

DEVELOPMENT AND NON-DEVELOPMENT POLICY

INTRODUCTION

BridgIT Water Foundation (Herein BWF) provides suitable, accessible and sustainable water solutions to rural, peri-urban and small, remote villages in developing countries. Our vision is to better the lives of those in developing rural communities without access to clean and safe water by empowering them to have responsibility for the planning, implementation, monitoring, training and sustainability of their water resource.

BWF is committed to the realisation of human rights for all people regardless of race religion, ethnicity, indigeneity, disability, age, displacement, caste, gender, gender identity, sexuality, sexual orientation, poverty, class or socio-economic status. In particular, our work seeks to contribute to the realisation of the Human Right to safe drinking water and sanitation [ICESCR art. 11] through the provision of potable water and training of local engineers to ensure suitability and sustainability of water supply.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to guide BWF and our partners to make a clear separation between development and humanitarian and non-development objectives and activities.

This policy addresses our ACFID 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 fundraising from the general public.

SCOPE OF POLICY

This Policy is intended to apply to all BWF activities. The policy applies to all board members, associated implementing agencies and partner community-based organisations, donors and volunteers.

BACKGROUND

BWF is an Australian non-denominational, non-profit organisation dedicated to providing suitable, accessible and sustainable water solutions to rural, peri-urban and small, remote villages in developing countries through community-led water projects.

In some instances, BridgIT partners with local faith-based organisations on the basis that their delivery is without evangelizing or making participation conditional on conversion or adherence to a particular religious denomination. It also partners with advocacy organisations from time to time on the basis that their activities are not in support of a political party or candidate.

DEFINITION OF AID AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Aid and development refer to the activities undertaken 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.

BWF is committed to ensuring that funds and other resources designated for the purpose of aid and development are used only for those purposes. The concept of aid and development activities can be distinguished by the following principles:

- a) Strengths-based approaches that encourage people and communities to create solutions for themselves.
- b) Processes that seek to address the causes of poverty.
- a) Supporting systems and structures that enable people to move out of poverty.

DEFINITION OF NON-DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

BridgIT Water Foundation is a nondenominational organisation and does not provide support for evangelical activities and partisan political activities.

Evangelical 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.

Partisan political activities are those that are associated with facilitating or supporting specific political party, candidate to gain power or to support organisation affiliated with a political party. 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.

COMPLIANCE

This policy provides a framework for BWF's compliance with the Commitment to accountability to our stakeholders in the ACFID Code of Conduct, in particular Compliance Indicator 7.3.2 which states that Members development initiatives constantly demonstrate the separation of development activities from non-development activities.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

BWF supports and is committed to abiding by the following principles: [SEP]

- to ensure accurate representation of our activities to the people we work with, donors and [SEP]the public [SEP]
- 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 .

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

CONTROL PROCEDURES

BWF Board ensures that we and our partners can differentiate between development and non-development activity and communicate this appropriately to stakeholders, donors and the public.

This list of procedures is an example of the way the BWF Board approaches implementation.

PROGRAMMING & PARTNER ASSESSMENT

1. BWF will appraise all project proposals to ensure they are sustainable development projects.
2. BWF will record any issues, which must then be followed up to ensure that the policy requirements are satisfied before the project is approved.
3. BWF will record any aspects of the project that should be closely monitored over the life of the project to ensure compliance with this policy.
4. Partner assessment processes require BWF to identify whether the partner is engaged in non-development activities, and if so, how it is able to manage and account for them separately to aid and development activity.
5. 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. [SEP]

EXPENDITURE REPORTING

1. When relevant, components of projects that represent non-development activity will be managed, reported and accounted for separately to aid and development components.

FUNDRAISING

1. Fundraising materials will be reviewed prior to publication to ensure that solicitations make a clear distinction between aid and development and non- development activities.
2. Where fundraising solicitations include references to both development and humanitarian and non-development activities, they will be reviewed to ensure that donors are provided with the choice of contributing to aid and development activity only. [SEP]
3. BridgIT will ensure its partners are aware of the separation of development and non-development activities by including a section in partner MOUs and agreements

Development and Non-Development Policy

COMMUNICATIONS AND ADVOCACY MATERIALS

1. Fundraising materials will be reviewed prior to publication to ensure that solicitations make a clear distinction between aid and development and non- development activities.
2. All communication materials published will adhere to BWF's *Ethical Communications Framework*

PARTNERS

1. Members partners will receive a copy of this policy
2. The partner agreement Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or equivalent will include clear definitions of development and humanitarian activity and non-development activity. [SEP]
3. The partner agreement (MoU) will require the partner to agree that the Members funds for development purposes will not be used to fund any non-development activity.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

- This policy will be reviewed by the signatory and the board every two years
- Confirmation of internal compliance with this policy will be undertaken at least once annually
- The policy will be provided and explained to all new staff during induction and training

RESOURCES

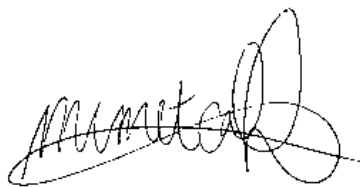
Code of Conduct and Good Practice Toolkit for Compliance Indicator 7.3.2

Member's Ethical Communications Framework

Member's Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework

DFAT OAGDS Guidelines

AUTHORISATION



Signature of Board Secretary

BridgIT Water Foundation

Date of approval by the Board: - 8th May 2018