



DEVELOPMENT AND NON-DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY POLICY

Last updated 16 Nov 2021

Purpose of this Policy

The purpose of this policy is to guide the REACH for Nepal (RFN) Foundation and our partners to make a clear separation between aid and development, and non-aid and non-development objectives and activities. This policy addresses RFN's ACFID compliance obligations when communicating with or soliciting donations from private donors and the public, including fundraising from aid agencies, sponsors and the general public for RFN's community development work.

Background

RFN's vision is to improve the lives of Nepalese people through projects that enable villages to become more self-sustaining and to provide children with opportunities for quality education, good health and the opportunity as future leaders to improve the livelihood of coming generations.

The purpose of the foundation is directly linked and guided by its objectives which are encapsulated in the acronym of the name of organisation - **R**ebuild, **E**ducate, **A**ssist, **C**hildren/**C**ommunities (giving) **H**ope for Nepal.

The RFN Foundation undertakes two types of projects namely Development projects and Humanitarian (or Aid) projects.

Development projects include:

- Build and rebuild of schools
- Provision of access to clean water to villages, and
- Shelter and supplies for vulnerable people

Humanitarian (or Aid) projects include:

- Education on health and hygiene
- Pandemic, earthquake and flood relief (emergency management)
- Individual crisis response (emergency management)

Policy Statement

- RFN has universal values and principles and has no affiliation with any political or religious system.
- RFN will only undertake aid or development activities. Any potential projects or programs considered to be non-development activities will not be undertaken by the RFN Foundation.
- RFN is committed to ensuring that funds and other resources designated for the purpose of aid and development are used only for these purposes.

When delivering aid projects, RFN is committed to and guided by humanitarian assistance principles of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality as defined in the [Core Humanitarian Standard](#) on Quality and Accountability:

- RFN recognises that effective humanitarian responses require collective action. RFN will share information and knowledge with other stakeholders, and participate in joint planning and integrated activities whenever possible, including national and local authorities, without compromising humanitarian principles.
- In determining its humanitarian response, RFN commits to work with local communities and local organisations wherever possible, recognising they are the first to respond, better positioned to respond and often, last to leave.

Definitions

Aid and Development:

Aid and Development refers to activities undertaken in order to reduce poverty and address global justice issues. In the non-government organisation sector, this may occur through a range of engagements that includes 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. (ACFID Code of Conduct Guidance 2018).

Non-development activities:

Activities that are not aid and development activities, and includes evangelism, partisan political activities and welfare activities.

- Evangelism (also called Proselytism and Missionary Work) Activities - Any activity or practice associated with attempting to convert people from one religion or faith to another
- Partisan Political Activities - Activities that are political in nature, including lobbying or advocacy activities that are carried out in support of a particular political party, candidate for public office, or organisation affiliated with a political party or candidate for public office, and
- Welfare Activities - Activities which provided direct assistance to individuals because of a long-term need. Welfare means assistance to maintain individuals in a particular condition on a long-term basis such as institutionalised care programs. Welfare activities are implemented independently of other sustainable community development activities, and there is no strategy for integration into a broader community development program. Welfare activities are implemented on an ongoing, long-term basis with no clear exit strategy.

Assessing and Communicating the Policy

This Policy will be available on our website and shared with our personnel. All personnel affiliated with, and working for, the Foundation will be notified of and made aware that they are required to follow the terms outlined in this Policy..

Reviewing this Policy

We are committed to the continuous improvement of our policies, procedures and practices. This Policy will be reviewed at a minimum of three years to ensure it is working in practice and reflects current legislative principles.

This policy is administered by the Manager Policy, Compliance and Legal.