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POLICY

DEVELOPMENT & NON-DEVELOPMENT

Date effective: 01/06/26
Date of next review: 02/2029
Approved by: Board

1. INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1.1 **Introduction.** This policy provides guidelines on the organisation's aid and development and non-aid and non-development objectives and activities. Brien Holden Foundation (BHF) is committed to ensuring that we accurately represent our activities to the people we work with and our stakeholders.

1.2 **Purpose.** This policy reflects accountability to all stakeholders, building trusting relationships with communities and honesty and transparency. The purpose of this policy is to guide BHF and our partners to make a clear separation between development objectives and activities and non-development objectives and activities. This policy addresses our obligations when communicating with or soliciting donations from private donors and the public, including fundraising for restricted and unrestricted purposes from aid agencies, donors and supporters, and fundraising from the public.

1.3 BHF clearly distinguishes between development and non-development activities. This distinction is crucial for maintaining transparency and accountability in our use of funds, which are intended **solely** for development purposes. The policy helps to ensure that resources designated for aid and development are not used for activities such as promoting religious adherence, supporting partisan political activities, or engaging in welfare activities. By implementing this policy, BHF can demonstrate compliance with DFAT's funding requirements and the ACFID Code of Conduct, thereby safeguarding our eligibility for continued funding.

1.4 **Scope.** This policy applies to all BHF personnel (staff, board members, consultants, contractors, volunteers, students and observers). It also applies to staff working on BHF projects who are employed by BHF's implementing partners. Jointly all of the above groups will be referred to as "BHF personnel and/or implementing partners".

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 **Aid and development.** The Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) defines aid and development as **follows**:

2.1.1 **Aid** refers to assistance provided to help improve the quality of life of people, particularly those in need, often in the form of financial support, technical expertise, or resources.

2.1.2 **Development** is a broader process that involves efforts to improve the economic, social, and political conditions of **communities** or countries. This includes initiatives aimed at reducing poverty, enhancing education, improving health, and fostering sustainable growth.

3. POLICY

3.1 BHF is dedicated to **ensuring** that funds and resources allocated for aid and development are used solely for these intended purposes. Our approach is rooted in the human rights principles of "do no harm" and the promotion of well-being. We

emphasise value for money, accountability, transparency, effectiveness, partnerships, and locally led initiatives. Our development efforts are aligned with the ACFID definition of aid and development.

3.2 BHF uses funds and **resources** designated for aid and development which are allocated to activities that promote sustainable eye health services, enhance eye health workforces, and strengthen eye health systems. These activities include building local capacity to deliver eye health services effectively and supporting the organisational strengthening of local NGOs and government departments.

3.3 BHF does not invest in non-development activities as defined by the ACFID Code of Conduct that do not align **with** the objectives of aid and development. These activities include:

3.3.1 **Religious Activities:** activities that promote a particular religious adherence or are undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith or denominational affiliation to another.

3.3.2 **Partisan Political Activities:** activities that support a specific political party, candidate, or organisation affiliated with a political party. This does not include advocacy aimed at influencing decision-makers and **opinion** leaders without promoting partisan political objectives.

3.3.3 **Welfare Activities:** long-term care and maintenance activities that aim to maintain people in a particular condition without substantial impact on social or economic conditions. These activities are typically implemented independently of sustainable community development activities and include no strategy for integration into broader community development programs/projects.

4. PROCEDURE

4.1 BHF ensures that BHF personnel (staff, board members, volunteers, consultants, contractors, students, observers) and implementing partners can differentiate between development and non-aid **development** activities and communicate this appropriately to stakeholders, donors and the public. This is achieved in the following ways:

4.1.1 this policy is distributed to BHF personnel to ensure they have a clear understanding of the difference between aid and development activities and non-aid and non-development activities;

4.1.2 this policy is distributed and communicated to implementing partners via in-country offices and teams;

4.1.3 BHF arranges awareness raising sessions on development and non-development activities with partners during the project design and planning meetings;

4.1.4 all projects are appraised during the project design and management planning to ensure they do not include non-development activities;

4.1.5 project and financial management are undertaken throughout the project management cycle via quarterly project meetings;

4.1.6 projects are monitored through quarterly project and financial management status reports;

4.1.7 BHF does not engage in any non-aid and development activities and as such there is no promotion undertaken to that effect; and

4.1.8 new staff and Board Directors are provided with a copy of the policy and procedure.