



## NON-DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY POLICY

Version	01.1	Scheduled review	22/08/2027
Staff Consultation:	16/04/2024		
Board Approval:	22/08/2024		

### INTRODUCTION

Palms Australia is committed to ensuring that we accurately represent our activities to the people we work with, our donors, and the public.

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to guide Palms Australia and our partners to make a clear separation between aid and development and non-aid and development objectives and activities. This policy addresses 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 for Palms Australia's community development work.

### APPLICATION OF POLICY

This Policy is intended to apply to all Palms Australia activities. The policy is applicable to all Palms Australia staff and volunteers. The policy also extends to Palms Australia partners and associated organisations in relation to their dealings with Palms Australia including their shared projects.

#### Definitions

**Aid and Development Activities** means activities that are distinguished by the following principles:

- a) Strengths based approaches that encourage people and communities to create solutions for themselves
- b) Processes that seek to empower rights holders to claim their rights and ensure that duty bearers exercise their duties
- c) Supporting processes and structures that enable people to escape poverty
- d) Emergency relief, disaster recovery and meeting the immediate needs of refugees and internally displaced people.

**Non-Development Activities** are all that fall outside the definition of aid and development activities. For the purposes of making a distinction between aid and development and non-aid and development activities as required by the ACFID Code of Conduct, any activity whose objectives include the promotion of religious adherence will be considered as a non-aid and development activity.



Palms Australia will only undertake aid or development activities, including community development and education in support of these activities. Any potential projects or programs considered to be non-development activities will not be completed by Palms. Palms Australia is a non-religious organisation and does not engage in, or support, any religious proselytising activities and is not linked to any political party. In some instances, Palms may partner with local faith-based organisations on the basis that the agreed-to scope of work is without religious proselytising or making participation conditional on conversion or adherence to any particular religion. Palms may partner with advocacy organisations on the basis that their activities do not support a political party or candidate.

Palms is committed to ensuring that funds and other resources designated for aid and development are used only for those purposes. Palms does not provide support for partisan political activities that are associated with facilitating or supporting any individuals to gain political power.

## 5. Principles

Palms Australia is committed to abiding by the following principles:

5.1 This policy provides a framework for Palms Australia’s compliance with ACFID’s Code of Conduct, specifically Quality Principle 7.3.2. Member development initiatives consistently demonstrate the separation of development and non-development activities.

5.2 Ensure that Palms Australia remains a non-religious organisation and does not directly support non-development activities;

5.3 Ensure accurate representation of our activities to all stakeholders (including program participants, partner organisations, our supporters, donors and the public.);

5.4 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.

5.5 Ensure that we fulfil our obligations as stated in this Policy through our Partner Assessment and Risk Management processes.

5.6 Ensure that we provide information to all staff, volunteers, Board members, partner organisations and other implementing agencies about our respective obligations under the Policy.

## REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed from time to time in light of current good practice and applicable regulatory advice.

## VERSION CONTROL

Version	Purpose/ Change	Author	Date	Review	Date
01	Initial Draft	Jen Wiggins	17 April 2024	Soraya Kassim	28 April 2024