Environmental Defenders Office

EDO Non-Development Activity Policy

Introduction

The Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) is committed to ensuring that we accurately represent our activities to the people we work with, our donors, and the public. EDO is committed to ensuring that funds and other resources designated for the purpose of aid and development are used only for those purposes.

EDO is a community legal centre specialising in public interest environmental law. Our vision is a world where nature thrives. We seek to achieve this vision by delivering legal solutions for peoples, nature and our climate.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to guide EDO and our partners to make a clear separation between development 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.

This policy provides a framework for EDO'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.

Scope

This Policy is intended to apply to all EDO activities. The policy is applicable to all EDO employees and volunteers. The policy is also relevant to EDO partners and its partner organisations.

Background

EDO is a secular organisation and does not engage in or support any evangelical activities and is not linked to any political party. In some instances, EDO may partner with local faith-based organisations on the basis that our joint work does not involve evangelising or making participation conditional on conversion or adherence to a particular religious denomination. EDO 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.

Definitions

Aid and development: Activities to reduce poverty and address issues of global justice through community projects and education, emergency management, advocacy, volunteering, the provision of technical and professional services and/or resources, environmental protection and/or restoration and the

promotion and protection of human rights.

Evangelical activities: 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.

Non-development activity: Includes activity undertaken to promote a particular religious adherence or to support a particular party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party.

Partisan political activities: activities 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.

Partner Organisations: Partner Organisations of EDO are any organisation either in Australia or overseas with which EDO jointly delivers international projects or programs, including organisations where EDO workers or program participants are sent or placed.

Policy principles

EDO supports and is committed to abiding by the following principles:

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

- 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.

Procedures

Separation of development and non-development in programs and projects

1. The International Program Manager (Program Manager) will appraise all relevant project proposals to determine whether they include non-aid and non-development components.

2. The Program Manager will record any issues, which must then be followed up to ensure that the policy requirements are satisfied before the project is approved.

3. The Program Manager 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. EDO's partner organisation capacity assessment processes will include identification of whether the proposed partner organisation 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. Where relevant, components of projects that represent non-development activity will be managed, reported and accounted for separately to aid and development components.

6. Where relevant, in-country 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.

Separation of development and non-development in communications – including advocacy materials

1. EDO does not engage in non-development activities and accordingly does not require guidelines for separating development and non-development activities in respect of its communications.

2. Where relevant, articles written by overseas partner organisations or photos supplied by partner organisations for reporting materials are reviewed for differentiation between development and non-development activities.

3. Where relevant, communication materials are reviewed prior to publication to ensure separation of reporting and fundraising for development and non-development activities.

Separation of development and non-development in fundraising and provision of choice for donors.

EDO does not engage in fundraising for non-development activities and accordingly does not require any processes in respect of this section.

Extending the separation of development and non-development activities to partner organisations

1. Communication with new partner organisations will state EDO's position on support for non-development activity.

2. EDO's partner organisations will receive a copy of this policy.

3. EDO's agreements with partner organisations (Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or equivalent) will include clear definitions of development activity and non-development activity.

4. EDO's partner organisation agreements (MoU or equivalent) will require our partner organisations to agree that EDO funds designated for development and humanitarian purposes will not be used to fund any non-development activity.

5. Ongoing dialogue between the EDO and its partner organisations will reinforce the definitions of development and non-development activity and the need for a separation between development and non-development activity.

6. EDO requires partner organisations to address the separation of development activities from non-development activities in programming, expenditure reporting, fundraising, advocacy campaigns, communications, and choice of donors.

Approval, Implementation and Review	
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