



**SIGHT
FOR ALL**
A SHARED
VISION

Non-Development Activity Policy

1. Scope

Sight For All is accountable to our stakeholders and as such is committed to ensuring that we accurately represent our activities to the people we work with, our donors and the public.

Sight For All recognises the importance of ensuring that the funds and resources designated for a project or purpose are used for that project or purpose and not for the promotion of or adherence to a religion or political party.

Sight For All is not a religion-based organisation, nor is it associated with any organised religion. Sight For All does not align itself with any political party in Australia or other countries.

This policy is intended to apply to all Sight For All activities. Its purpose is to guide Sight For All and our partners to make a clear separation between aid and development and non-aid and development objectives and activities.

This policy addresses Sight For All's ACFID compliance obligations when communicating or soliciting donations from private donors and the public, including fundraising for restricted and un-restricted purposes from aid agencies, sponsors and supporters and fundraising from the general public.

This policy applies to all Sight For All Directors, staff, medical and non-medical volunteers. The policy also extends to Sight For All partners and associated implementing organisations.

2. ACFID Code of Conduct

As a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, Sight For All complies with the obligations of the Code.

Sight For All adheres to the ACFID Code of Conduct Principle B.1.5 across all activities. This principle states:

“Funds and other resources designated for the purpose of aid and development will be used only for those purposes and will not be used to promote a particular religious adherence or to support a political party, or to promote a candidate or organisation affiliated to a particular party.”

3. Background

Sight For All is committed to ensuring that funds and other resources designated for the purpose of aid and development will be used only for those purposes and will not be used to promote a particular religious adherence or to support a political party, or to promote a candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party.

Sight For All promotes social justice and fights poverty by working with ophthalmic communities in partner countries to improve the provision of eye health services and thereby reduce the prevalence of blindness. Sight For All projects are largely teaching activities and the supervision and guidance of fellows in their delivery of ophthalmic care. Another key strategy for Sight For All is the provision of infrastructure. This is coordinated as part of the fellowship projects and includes training in the use of the equipment provided.

4. Definition

Aid and Development

Sight For All is guided by ACFID’s definition of aid and development:

“Aid and development refers to the activities undertaken in order 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.”

Welfare Activities

In understanding the difference between aid and development and welfare activities, Sight For All has referenced DFAT’s ANCP Guidance Manual. With regards to welfare activities, this manual states:

“Welfare is defined as care and maintenance, other than in refugee or emergency situations, which aims to maintain people in a particular condition on a longer term basis. Substantial and broad impact on social and economic conditions in the community is not normally expected from welfare programs.”

Sight For All 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 by Sight For All can be distinguished by the following principles:

- a) Evidence-based approaches that seek to inform the decision making process of partner organisations
- b) Strengths-based approaches which encourage partner organisations to drive the planning and prioritisation of the nature of engagement
- c) Processes that seek to address the causes of visual impairment and blindness and their relationship with poverty
- d) Processes that seek to empower ophthalmic and public health professionals in partner countries through collaborative research, education, infrastructure support and health promotion
- e) Supporting systems and structures which result in the reduction of blindness and enable people to move out of poverty
- f) The provision of education to fellows ensures that project outputs are educational activities and the supervision of fellows in their delivery of medical treatment.

5. Definition of Non-Aid Development Activities

In understanding non-aid and development activity, Sight For All refers to the definition used by ACFID

“Non-Aid and Development Activity: Includes activity undertaken to promote a particular religious adherence or to support a political party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a particular party.”

Sight For All is a secular organisation and does not provide support for evangelical activities and partisan political activities.

Evangelical activities are those 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 individuals to gain power. 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.

6. Sight For All Activities

Sight For All takes due care during project identification, design and implementation to ensure that funds and resources are used only for the purpose for which they are intended. Sight For All adopts the following strategies to assist in ensuring this:

- Project appraisals conducted prior to the commencement of projects to identify any issues;
- Project and financial management undertaken during the project cycle through monthly operations meetings and regular finance committee meetings;
- In-country project monitoring via communication with fellows, heads of eye units and through Visionary reports.

Sight For All has a Partner Engagement Policy which assists in ensuring new partners are carefully selected prior to projects commencing. In most cases, Sight For All has a

long history with partners who are largely government-based organisations. When forming partnerships with other institutions and non-government organisations, Sight For All does so with those who share similar objectives and outcomes for local communities. Sight For All will partner with governments and other in-country stakeholders to ensure that activities are aligned with the national plans of the country and needs of the community.

7. Compliance

This policy provides a framework for Sight For All'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 from non-development activities.

8. Guiding Principles

Sight For All 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.

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

9. Control Procedures

Sight For All ensures that our Board, staff, Visionaries, volunteers and partners can differentiate between development and non-aid development activity and communicate this appropriately to stakeholders, donors and the public.

This is achieved in the following ways:

- This policy is distributed to Board Directors, staff and volunteers, including Visionaries to ensure they have a clear understanding of the difference between aid and development activities and non-aid and development activities.
- This policy is distributed to partner countries via Ophthalmic Country Officers and as an attachment to Head Agreements.
- Sight For All projects are appraised in line with the 'Project Design and Appraisal Procedure' to ensure they do not include non-development activities.
- New partners to Sight For All are engaged based on the 'Partner Engagement and Collaboration Policy'.
- Project and financial management is undertaken throughout the project cycle via monthly operations meetings and regular finance committee meetings.
- In-country projects are monitored via communication with fellows and heads of eye units and through Visionary reports.

- Sight For All does not undertake any non-development activities.
- Funds raised by Sight For All, such as through major events are, in most cases, done so for specific projects. This is communicated in promotional material in the lead up to events, in post event communication and via newsletters.
- Newsletters to partner countries, Vision 1000 Members and Visionaries include detail about how projects have been funded.
- Communication materials are reviewed in line with the Published Material Quality Assurance Procedure.
- Sight For all does not engage in any non-aid and development activities and as such there is no promotion undertaken to that effect.
- New staff and Board Directors are provided with a copy of the policy.
- Sight For All staff and Board Directors engaged in activity in-country will liaise with eye unit heads/hospital directors and Ophthalmic Country Officers during in-country visits or when Ophthalmic Country Officers are in Australia.

9. Resources

- ACFID Code of Conduct 7.3.2
- ACFID Policy Template 'Non-Development Activity'
- DFAT ANCP Guidance Manual
- DFAT OADGS Guidelines
- Sight For All Constitution
- Sight For All Mission Statement
- Sight For All Partner Engagement Policy
- Sight For All Published Material Quality Assurance Procedure
- Sight For All Project Identification, Design and Appraisal Procedure

8. Review

The Sight For All Non-Development Activity Policy is reviewed on an annual basis.