



MARY WARD INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Mary Ward International Australia Limited (MWIA) is part of the international network supporting the Loreto Sisters' justice and development work. MWIA has a particular focus on education as the means by which to achieve poverty reduction, access to health care, empowerment of communities and protection against human trafficking. Promoting the dignity of the human person, as safeguarded by internationally recognised human rights conventions, is a core value of MWIA.

Purpose

This policy seeks to provide clear definitions of development and non-development/welfare activities, as defined by the Australian Commonwealth Government, thereby ensuring that MWIA continues to deliver overseas aid activities in accordance with the Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme (OAGDS).

This policy also endeavours to ensure MWIA complies with the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct by:

- accurately representing its activities to its donors, partners and the public;
- ensuring that funds raised for development activities are not used for non-development/welfare activities; and
- making clear separations between development and non-development/welfare objectives and activities.

Scope

This policy applies to MWIA Company members, Board directors, Committee members, employees, volunteers, partners and other stakeholders who operate under the auspices of MWIA.

Policy

Development Activities

Development and humanitarian initiatives are activities undertaken in order to reduce poverty and address global justice issues. MWIA adopts the Australian Government's definition of development activities as described in the OAGDS Guidelines:

Development activities improve the long-term well-being of individuals and communities in developing countries. Eligible development activities must demonstrate: fair distribution; be informed by local people; and deliver sustained or lasting benefits.

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For a project to meet this definition, the following key criteria must be met by the project partner:

- The project seeks to improve the well-being of a community without favouritism or discrimination by race, religion, culture or political persuasion;
- The project is identified, designed and implemented in close cooperation with local people to ensure that project activities are appropriate, are in direct response to local needs, and build on local capacities; and
- The benefits which have resulted from the project are lasting, sustainable and likely to continue after the funding from MWIA has ceased.

For more information regarding these key criteria, see: [Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme Guidelines](#)

In keeping with the OAGDS Guidelines, MWIA supports development projects that:

1. Recognise the human person not as the passive beneficiary of development interventions, but as its active subject, claim-holder and participant;
2. Promote and prioritise the human rights of all beneficiaries, with emphasis on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights enshrined by international standards.
3. Are initiated as outcomes of consultation with communities and involve those affected by activities in decision making processes.
4. Are planned and executed with a view to handing control and ownership of activities over to the local community;
5. Provide ongoing benefits; and
6. Benefit whole communities without favouritism or discrimination for reasons of race, religion, culture, political persuasion.

Non-Development/Welfare Activities

Non-development/welfare activities are those which provide direct assistance to individuals because of a need. Such activities are not eligible for funding under OAGDS, therefore MWIA funds them through a separate trust.

Non-development/welfare activities generally seek to address immediate needs rather than address the root causes of those needs. Welfare activities are provided for or on behalf of beneficiaries, without a requirement for their participation in the planning and evaluation of the activity, or a requirement for the activity to be sustainable.

Activities not funded by MWIA

MWIA will not consider funding any activities which may compromise MWIA's status as an 'approved organisation' under OAGDS. Such activities include:

1. Partisan political activities (supporting a particular party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party either in Australia or overseas). This includes, but shall not be limited to:
 - MWIA personnel, representatives or partners (when using MWIA's name or resources) being involved in party political activities;
 - using funds or resources to facilitate or support a specific political party, candidate or political organisation in a local, regional or national election in any country;
 - using funds or resources to facilitate or support a particular politician or faction to gain power within a government or within a party political structure.
2. Evangelising, proselytising or attempting to convert people to another religion or faith. Activities which are undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith and/or denominational affiliation to another, or which make aid and/or development activities conditional on participation in religious activities are not supported.
3. Activities that are not covered by adequate child protection policies, including providing funds that support an individual with any conviction under the Crimes (Child Sex Tourism) Amendment Act 1994.
4. Activities that are not covered by adequate anti-terrorism policies.

Separation of Development and Non-Development/Welfare Activities

MWIA operates three trusts: Mary Ward International Australia (“Foundation”), the Mary Ward International Australia Overseas Development Fund (“ODF”) and the Mary Ward International Australia Charitable Trust (“Charitable Trust”).

The Foundation holds Deductible Gift Receipt Item 2 Status and the ODF holds Deductible Gift Receipt Item 1 Status. In compliance with the requirements of the Australian Commonwealth Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Australian Taxation Office, and ACFID, these trusts fund development activities exclusively, as defined in this policy and in the respective Trust Deeds.

The Charitable Trust funds non-development/welfare activities exclusively, as defined by this policy and stipulated in the Trust Deed.

Projects:

Projects are assessed as either development or non-development/welfare activities by the MWIA Projects and Operations Committee, according to the criteria outlined in the MWIA Project Assessment Form, which is based on the MWIA Overseas Funding Guidelines.

Some projects are a mix of development and non-development/welfare activities. In this instance, MWIA clearly identifies the activities which meet the principles of development activities and demonstrates that these activities are managed separately from non-development/welfare activities.

Project partners are provided with clear definitions of development and non-development/welfare activities and are required to agree that project funding provided by MWIA will only be used for the approved activity type.

Fundraising and donor choice:

Donors to MWIA can decide what type of project they want to support. All fundraising and relevant communication material explains the separation between development and non-development/welfare activities and provides donors with the choice of contributing to development activities only.

Funds raised for development activities are tracked, managed, reported and accounted for separately to those raised for non-development/welfare activities, in accordance with the trust structure described above.

For a full list of fundraising requirements, please see MWIA’s Fundraising and Donations Policy.

Agreement

In submitting an application for funding through the *MWIA Project Application Form*, partner organisations agree to be bound by this policy, and to ensure that funds allocated for development purposes are not misapplied or misused. The Project Application Form, together with a Letter of Approval from MWIA granting funds to the partner organisation, constitutes an MOU as per DFAT’s guidelines.

Related Documents

- ACFID Code of Conduct
- OAGDS Guidelines
- MWIA Overseas Funding Guidelines
- MWIA Project Application Form

- MWIA Project Assessment Form
- MWIA Letter of Approval
- MWIA Fundraising and Donations Policy
- Trust Deeds for Mary Ward International Australia, Mary Ward International Australia Overseas Development Fund and Mary Ward International Australia Charitable Trust.

Monitoring & Review of Policy

MWIA will undertake a review of this policy in accordance with the MWIA Policy Review Process, or sooner if required. This audit will be undertaken by the Executive Officer and reviewed by the MWIA Board of Directors.

Responsible Person	Version	Date Created
MWIA Board	V1.5	August 2014
Contact	Status	Scheduled review date
Kirstin Del Beato (Programs Manager)	Approved	November 2020
Authorisation name	Authorisation signature	Date of authorisation
Kathryn Greiner (Chair)		