

Non-Development Activity Policy

Policy Owner	Chief Operating Officer
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Approved by	Geoff Evans, Chief Executive Officer

Introduction

Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) is a not for profit organisation that repurposes military veterans, first responders and motivated civilians to deploy into disaster zones and support affected communities in Australia and around the world.

DRA does not engage in or support any religious activities and is not linked to any political party. DRA does seek financial support from the State and Federal Government in the form of Grant funding and Budget Submissions. DRA takes a bipartisan approach to seeking funding and does not align to any political party. It 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.

Purpose

DRA is committed to ensuring that we accurately represent our activities to the communities we work with, our donors, and the general public.

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

Scope

This Policy is intended to apply to all DRA activities and to all DRA Members. The policy also extends to DRA partners and associated implementing organisations.

Definition of Aid and Development Activities

DRA 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 can be distinguished by the following principles:

- strengths based approaches which encourage people and communities to create solutions for themselves
- processes that seek to address the causes of poverty
- processes that seek to empower rights holders to claim their rights and ensure that duty bearers exercise their duties
- supporting systems and structures which enable people to move out of poverty
- humanitarian response and emergency relief, disaster recovery and meeting the immediate needs of refugees and internally displaced people.

Definition of Non-Development Activities

Non-Development Activities are projects, operations and/or funding exercises that promote and support a particular religion (Evangelical Activities) or political party (Partisan Political Activities). DRA is a secular organisation and does not provide support for evangelical activities and partisan political activities.

Evangelical activities are those 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.

Partisan political activities are those that are associated with facilitating or supporting a specific political party, candidate to gain power or to support an 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.

Guiding principles

DRA 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.

Control Procedures

DRA endeavours to ensure that together with our partners, there is a distinction between development and non-development activity and communicate this appropriately to stakeholders, donors and the public.

Separation and development and humanitarian and non-development in programs and projects

- DRA members will appraise all project proposals to determine whether they include non-aid and development components
- appraisers will record any issues, which must then be followed up to ensure that the policy requirements are satisfied before the project is approved
- appraisers record any aspects of the project that should be closely monitored over the life of the project to ensure compliance with this policy
- partner capacity assessment processes require the signatory to identify whether the partner 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
- components of projects that represent non-development activity will be managed, reported and accounted for separately to aid and development components
- 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 and development and humanitarian and non-development in communications, including advocacy materials.

- guidelines are in place that address appropriate reporting in organisational promotional materials.
- all articles written by overseas project partners or photos supplied by partners for reporting materials are reviewed for differentiation between development and humanitarian and non-development activities.
- communications materials are reviewed prior to publication to ensure separation of reporting and fundraising for development and humanitarian and non-development activities.

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

- fundraising materials will be reviewed prior to publication to ensure that solicitations make a clear distinction between aid and development and non-development activities.
- where fundraising solicitations include references to both development and



humanitarian and non-development activities, they will be reviewed to ensure that donors are provided with the choice of contributing to aid and development activity only

- funds raised non-development activity will be tracked, managed, reported and accounted for separately to those raised for development and humanitarian components

Extending the separation of development and humanitarian and non-development activities to partners

- communication with new partners will state the Member's position on support for non-development activity
- DRA partners will receive a copy of this policy
- DRA partner agreement's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or equivalent will include clear definitions of development and humanitarian activity and non-development activity, where and when applicable
- DRA partner agreement (MoU or equivalent) will require the partner to agree that the Members funds designated for development and humanitarian purposes will not be used to fund any non-development activity
- ongoing dialogue between the DRA and its partners will reinforce the definitions of development and humanitarian and non-development activity and the need for a separation between development and humanitarian and non-development activity

Related Policies

- DRA Communications Policy
- DRA Memorandum of Understanding
- DRA Mission Statement, Values and Vision
- DRA Partner Engagement and Collaboration Policy
- DRA Quality and Effectiveness Policy