

Policy Number: **G12**

Policy Area: **Governance**

Policy Title: **Development and Non-Development Activity**



GMP is committed to accurately representing our activities to the people we work with, our donors, and the public.

1. Purpose

GMP and our partners will make a clear separation between development and humanitarian activities and non-development objectives and activities.

This policy ensures that GMP is clear when communicating with or soliciting donations from private donors and the public about the purpose of the funds being raised.

This policy also ensures that GMP is clear when applying funds to partner activities.

2. Scope of Policy

This Policy applies to all GMP activities, employees and volunteers as well as GMP partners and associated implementing organisations.¹

3. Background:

GMP is a church and faith-based agency whose philosophy is derived from biblical and theological understanding. Transformation is understood holistically, as a process of improvement in the whole of human life – materially, socially and spiritually. While we long for the complete transformation of all people GMP does not make engagement in any Christian activity a requisite for receiving the full benefits of a community development program (John 13:35).

GMP invests in life-changing partnerships in three arenas:

- COCOA (Churches of Christ Overseas Aid) supports community development and disaster response activities alongside overseas partners working as agents of change within their communities. As part of its compliance with the ACFID Code of Conduct, GMP ensures that funds and other resources designated for the purpose of International community development will be used only for those purposes and not used for Proselytisation or to promote a specific religious tradition.

¹ GMP Partners are those who have entered a formal Partnership Agreement with GMP (See R02 *Entering into partnerships*).

- ICP (International Church Partnerships) supports church strengthening, gospel outreach and welfare activities among our international church partners.
- IMA (Indigenous Ministries Australia) partners with Australian Indigenous people encouraging new directions of Christian ministry.

COCOA is a *Developing Country Relief Fund* set up under the Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme (OAGDS), which is administered by the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Tax-deductible receipts can only be issued for projects that are approved as meeting the criteria in the OAGDS guidelines.

4. Definition of Community Development Activities

GMP's community development (COCOA) activities are distinguished by the following principles:

- a. Strengths based approaches which develop the capacity of the communities in which we work.
- b. Processes that seek to address the causes of poverty
- c. Processes that seek to empower rights holders to claim their rights and ensure that duty bearers exercise their duties
- d. Support for systems and structures which enable people to move out of poverty
- e. Humanitarian and emergency response, disaster recovery and meeting the immediate needs of refugees and internally displaced people.

These activities are supported under COCOA, and identified as such in all GMP's communications.

GMP accounting procedures ensure that COCOA funds are separated from other funds. Gifts to COCOA activities are tax deductible and identified as such.

5. Policy regarding Non-Development Activities

Any activity that includes the support or promotion of a particular religious adherence² is considered a non-aid and development activity and is promoted, managed and accounted for separately to community development activities. As such they are branded as either ICP and IMA activities and are identified as such in all GMP's communications. Gifts to ICP and IMA are not tax deductible and this will be clearly shown.

GMP does not provide support for partisan political activities which are those that are associated with facilitating or supporting specific political individuals, organisations or parties.

² Overseas Aid Deductible Gift Deduction Scheme Guidelines February 2016 (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade).

Funds raised for non-development activities (ICP and IMA) are tracked, managed, reported and accounted for separately to those raised for development and humanitarian activities (COCOA).

6. Compliance

This policy summarises GMP's compliance with the Commitment to accountability to our stakeholders as part of the ACFID Code of Conduct, in particular Compliance Indicator 7.3.2. GMP consistently demonstrates the separation of development activities from non-development activities in:

- Programming
- Expenditure reporting
- Fundraising
- Advocacy campaigns
- Communications
- Choice for donors
- Partner relations

This policy summarises GMP's compliance with the Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme.

7. Extension to Partners

A commitment to separation of development and non-development activities is included in our Partnership Agreements and restated and agreed to with each financial transfer to partners.

Project Design documents and the Appraisal process ensure that non-development activities are not included in COCOA projects

Project Design documents and the Appraisal process ensure that COCOA projects are in countries declared by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade to be a developing country, and that COCOA has overall oversight of the project through input in design, approval and monitoring.

Monitoring visits to projects monitor the separation of development and non-development activities and record-keeping.

Partners' web presence and communications are reviewed for differentiation of development and humanitarian and non-development activities. COCOA will only engage global programs with international partners, alliances or affiliates, which we have assessed as complying with the OAGDS Guidelines.