

UnitingWorld Governance Manual Section 4 – Approaches

Extract – Board Approved 28 November 2018

4.3.5 Explicit Statements regarding the Relief & Development Program Portfolio and welfare, religious witness and partisan political activity.

UnitingWorld is committed to delivering development assistance on a non-discriminatory basis.

UnitingWorld will clearly distinguish between its development work and its non-development activities, separating funding and clearly identifying each activity's DGR eligibility. Reporting to management and the Board will clearly distinguish between Relief and Development and Church Connections programs.

UnitingWorld will ensure that all its representatives, including staff and volunteers, are aware of and agree to comply with this distinction. UnitingWorld will also ensure that its promotion and education activities reflect this distinction.

4.3.5.1 Commitment on Welfare

UnitingWorld will not fund or support welfare activities using development funding.

UnitingWorld accepts the DFAT guidance on what constitutes welfare:

“...care and maintenance, 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. Welfare may be provided to an individual or family basis including home-based and institutional care programs, such as those provided by orphanages, homes for the elderly, hospices and the provision of food for those who are destitute. Exceptions to this may include situations where home-based care leads to inclusion in development and sustainable long-term change. Welfare projects are typically:

- implemented independently of other sustainable community development activities;
- include no strategy for integration into a broader community development program;
- provided on an individual or family basis, rather than on a community basis, and are unconnected to emergency needs; and
- are implemented on a long-term basis with no clear exit strategy.”

UnitingWorld clearly distinguishes between community development and welfare. The appraisal stage of programs and projects ensures that all activities reflect this distinction.

4.3.5.2 Commitment on Religious Activities

In line with the ACFID Code of Conduct, the DFAT ANCP Manual and the Church Agencies Network 2013 position paper on Proselytization and Poverty, UnitingWorld will not fund or support activities which:

- promote a particular religious belief; or
- directly or indirectly require adherence to a set of religious beliefs.

UnitingWorld's approach to community development recognises that a community's spiritual dimension is an important aspect of its general wellbeing and cannot be ignored in the process

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of transformation. UnitingWorld, however, does not impose nor permit its partners to impose religious or spiritual beliefs (or values) as a condition of participation in any of the Relief and Development projects it supports.

4.3.5.3 *Commitment on Political Activities*

UnitingWorld provides development assistance on a non-discriminatory basis; there can be no conditions based on specific political beliefs or membership of a particular political group for participation in our projects and programs. Outside project activity, UnitingWorld cannot and will not limit the rights of its partner church staff or project participants to engage in the political life of their country.

UnitingWorld clearly distinguishes between community development and “partisan political activities”. DFAT defines “political activities” as supporting a political party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party.

DFAT’s Examples include:

- NGO staff (UnitingWorld interprets this to mean UnitingWorld staff) being involved in party political activities);
- Using funds or resources to facilitate or support a specific political party, candidate or party-political organisation in a local, regional or general/national election;
- Using funds or resources to facilitate or support independence or separatist movements; and
- Using funds or resources to facilitate or support a particular politician or faction to gain power within a government or within a political party structure.