

Development and Non-Development Policy

Policy no: 035

Version 2

Approved on: 27 April 2020

Approved by: CEO

1. Purpose

Health Equity Matters is committed to ensuring that it accurately represents its activities to the people it works with, including donors, and to the wider public.

This policy outlines how Health Equity Matters and its partners clearly distinguish their development objectives and activities from non-development objectives and activities.

2. Scope

This policy applies to Health Equity Matters' international activities and the AFAO Foundation.

Health Equity Matters will additionally extend the requirements of this policy to its international program partners.

3. Definitions

Term	Definition
Development activities	Refers to activities undertaken to reduce poverty and address global justice issues, including the promotion and protection of human rights and access to health services.
Non-development activities	Refers to activities undertaken to promote a religious adherence or to support a political party, candidate, or organisation affiliated to 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.
Advocacy	Refers to activities in Australia or internationally, undertaken to change the systemic and structural causes of poverty and disadvantage which may include popular campaigning, lobbying, research, policy positions, alliances and use of media.

4. Policy Statement

Health Equity Matters is committed to ensuring funds and other resources designated for aid and development purposes are used only for those purposes and are represented appropriately to partners, stakeholders, donors and the public.

Aid and development funds will not be used to promote a religious adherence, support a political party or promote a candidate or organisation affiliated to a party or platform.

Health Equity Matters will ensure it accurately represents its activities to the people its work with, including donors, as well as to the wider public.

The accurate representation of our activities reflects Health Equity Matters' commitment to accountability, honesty and transparency and supports the development of trusting relationships with communities and the public.

The separation of development activities from non-development activities will apply in each of the following areas:

- programming;
- expenditure reporting;
- fundraising;
- advocacy campaigns;
- communications;
- choice of donors; and
- partner selection.

5. Procedure

All international project proposals will be assessed at the time of development and during the life of the project by the manager with accountability for the project to determine whether it includes non-aid and development components.

Any aspects of the project that should be closely monitored over the life of the project shall be recorded to ensure compliance with this policy.

When assessing potential international development program partners, the accountable manager will identify whether the partner is engaged in non-development activities, and if so, how it will manage and account for those activities separately from the aid and development activity to which the potential arrangement with Health Equity Matters relates.

At times Health Equity Matters will partner with advocacy organisations on the basis that their activities are not in support of a specific political party or candidate.

6.1 Partners

All applicable partner agreements will include clear definitions of development and non-development activity.

The agreement will require the partner to agree that Health Equity Matters funds designated for development and humanitarian purposes will not be used to fund any non-development activity.

Ongoing dialogue between Health Equity Matters 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.

In entering into agreements, Health Equity Matters will assess risks and discuss with partners its requirements for ensuring funds and other resources designated for aid and development are used only for those purposes. Health Equity Matters will additionally include these matters in its reporting templates for grantees and ensure these matters are discussed at least annually in grantee contract management meetings.

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Who	Responsibility
CEO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote a secular, non-partisan approach to international programs that addresses the root causes of health inequities Approve updates to this policy
Principal Director, International	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversee the implementation of this policy Initiate periodic reviews and updates to this policy
International program employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adhere to this policy

7. Related Policies and Documents

Policy	Title and Hyperlink
006	Code of Conduct
025	Human Rights Diversity and Inclusion
025	Partnership Policy

8. Policy History

Date of update	Version	Key changes	Endorsed by	Approved by	Next review
29 April 2020	1	Establishment of inaugural policy.	Principal Quality	CEO	April 2023