

Policy on Evangelical, Partisan Political & Welfare Activities

JUNE 2023, VERSION 2

1. Introduction

Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA recognises that its partner organisations vary in their own capacity, motivations and objectives. Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA recognises partner organisations may come from a range of religious, political and ideological backgrounds and opinions. Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA works with partner organisations to support development activities, and takes steps to ensure there is a differentiation of development and non-development (evangelical, political and welfare activities) when relevant.

2. Definition

Development activity	Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA supports development activities which address the causes of injustice and inequality, challenge structural power, build organised movements and support the building blocks of social change.
Evangelical activities ¹	Supporting or promoting a particular religion, including activities undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith and/or denomination to another, and activities which build up religious structures.
Political activities ²	Supporting a political party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGO 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; • 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.
Welfare activities ³	Welfare activities are defined as 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. Welfare activities are typically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implemented independently of other sustainable community development activities; • include no strategy for integration into broader community development programs; • provided on an individual or family basis, rather than on a community basis, and are unconnected to • emergency needs; and • implemented on a long-term basis with no clear exit strategy

3. Purpose of the policy

The purpose of this policy is to establish Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA’s position on evangelical, political and welfare activities and establish how Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA manages this in its programs.

4. Scope

¹ DFAT Australian NGO Accreditation Guidance manual 2018

² DFAT Australian NGO Accreditation Guidance manual 2018

³ DFAT Australian NGO Accreditation Guidance manual 2018

This Policy applies to all Union Aid – Abroad funded projects, campaigns and activities. This Policy should be read in conjunction with the Policy on Partnerships, Alliances and Strategic Networks.

5. Principles

Relations between Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA and its partner organisations should be equitable and demonstrate mutual respect and integrity. Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA aims to work in a manner that:

- values long term partnerships and the retention by the partner organisations of control, ownership of assets, education materials, skills development, project processes, reporting and evaluation.
- supports and involves local people in leadership roles and as advocates.
- promotes common understanding and solidarity.

In some instances, Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA and its partner organisations advocate or campaign around a range of human and workers rights issues, including advocacy with politicians from a range of Australian and international political parties. This kind of engagement in political advocacy on rights issues is not considered partisan political activity. Nor is activity designed to promote democracy and inclusion of community members in political and decision-making processes, providing that these activities are party-neutral.

6. Guidelines

In undertaking partnerships, alliances and projects Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA will aim to ensure that:

- People can benefit from and participate in activities on a non-discriminatory needs basis, irrespective of religious belief, ethnicity, ideology or political allegiance.
- Partner organisations will not undertake or resource religious evangelistic activities nor seek to convert beneficiaries or participants to any religious beliefs in any joint partner programs.
- Partner organisations will not undertake or resource any project activities of a party political nature in any Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA supported programs. Projects may encourage political and trade union participation and build the capacity of advocacy organisations or broad liberation or social change movements. Union Aid Abroad - APHEDA cannot resource projects which seek to influence participants to affiliate to a particular political party, or which are designed to benefit one particular party or particular politicians.
- Projects aim to resource and train participants from disadvantaged communities for self-reliance and self-determination, within a strategic development framework. Projects cannot provide on-going care and welfare support which will maintain individual beneficiaries in a dependent situation except in specific contexts of emergency relief interventions and programs for refugee populations.

7. External: Legislative and Regulatory Framework

- ACNC Governance Standards
- DFAT accreditation guidance.
- ACFID Code of Conduct, specifically quality indicator 7.3.2:

8. Document Control

Version	Revision Description	Approved by Board (date)
1	Original	December 2002
2	Updated into current template. Clarification and update of definitions and terms.	June 2023