



Policy Number	Effective Date	September 2025
AKFA-POL_011	Next Review Date	September 2028
	Sponsor	Country Director
	Approval/Authorisation	Board

1. Introduction

Aga Khan Foundation Australia (“AKF Australia”, “AKFA”) is a private, non-denominational development agency and registered charity with the Australian Charitable and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). AKF Australia works to tackle the root cause of poverty with the goal of creating sustainable livelihoods and building institutions that improve the quality of life for communities and individuals regardless of their religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

2. Purpose

The policy outlines the AKF Australia’s commitment to ensuring a clear separation between aid and development and non-aid and development objectives and activities.

AKFA understands that all funds and other resources designated for aid and development purposes are utilised for those purposes. Such funds and resources will not be used for promoting a particular religious adherence, partisan political activities, or welfare.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all AKFA operations and activities. It also applies to all AKFA Board directors, staff, consultants and volunteers. This policy also extends to AKFA partners including funding and development partners and associated implementing organisations.

4. Principles

One of the core values that underpins AKFA work’s is that of *Pluralism – tolerance, openness, and understanding toward other peoples’ cultures, values and faiths*. As such AKFA does not engage or support any evangelical activities and is not linked to any political party.

It is committed to:

- Accurate representation of our activities to stakeholders.
- Ensuring that development funds are not used for non-development purposes.
- Preventing exploitation of vulnerable communities and avoiding conditions that would restrict access to services based on non-development outcomes.

5. Policy

AKF Australia is committed to accurately representing its activities to the people we work with, our donors, partners and the public.

This policy sets out the distinction between development and non-development activities, indicates the appropriate treatment of each, and outlines processes for identifying, monitoring, managing, and reporting on non-development activities, including those that may arise through partnership arrangements.

6. Policy Implementation

To ensure compliance with this policy, AKFA will apply the following procedures across programmes/projects, partnerships, and communications.

- a. Programmes and Projects
 - All project proposals are reviewed to identify and exclude non-development components.
 - Any non-development elements within otherwise eligible projects are documented, managed, and reported separately.
 - Monitoring processes check that development and non-development activities remain clearly separated.
- b. Partners
 - All partners are informed of AKFA's position on non-development activities.
 - Partnership agreements define development vs non-development activities and require funds to be used only for development purposes.
 - Where partners conduct non-development activities, these are accounted for separately from AKFA-funded work.
- c. Communications, Advocacy Materials and Fundraising
 - All communications and fundraising materials must distinguish development from non-development activities.
 - Materials must comply with the AKFA Communications Policy, the ACFID Code of Conduct, and the ACFID Fundraising Charter,
 - AKFA raises and reports funds solely for development activities; non-development activities, if present, are clearly separated in communications, fundraising, and reporting

7. Definitions

Aid and development activities aim to reduce poverty through sustainable, community-centred approaches that are undertaken with communities, not for them. It emphasises collaboration, participation, and long-term self-reliance, enabling people to meet basic needs, improve quality of life, and strengthen local resources in ways that break cycles of poverty and promote lasting self-sufficiency.

These activities are guided by core principles, including:

- Promoting self-reliance through strengths-based approaches that empower individuals and communities to create and lead their own solutions
- Addressing the underlying causes of poverty rather than just responding to its symptoms
- Supporting people to understand and claim their rights, while ensuring those in power are held accountable for their responsibilities
- Strengthening systems and structures that enable sustainable, long-term improvements

Political activities are defined as supporting a political party, candidate, or organisation affiliated to a political party.



Religious activities are defined as 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.

Welfare Activities are defined as care and maintenance that aim 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 is often provided to an individual or on a 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:

- 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
- implemented on a long-term basis with no clear exit strategy.

Advocacy includes activities 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 the media. It may occur both in Australia and globally.

Partners are individuals, groups of people or organisations that collaborate with or are contracted by Aga Khan Foundation Australia to implement Aid and Development Activities

8. Responsibility

- AKF Australia Country Director
- AKFA board
- AKF Global program team members

9. References

- ACFID Code of Conduct - Commitment 7.3.2 – Member development initiatives consistently demonstrate the separation of development and non-development activities
- ACFID Fundraising Charter
- AKFA Communications policy
- DFAT ANCP Manual – section 4 - ANCP DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

10. Revision History

AKF Australia will review and update this policy every three years, unless changes are required earlier, to ensure relevance and applicability.

Date	Revision Number	Change(s)	Reference Section(s)
25 th Sept 2025	1	New Policy	