



The Australian Council for International Development

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ACFID is an independent national association of Australian Non Government Organisations (NGOs) working in the field of international aid and development. ACFID administers a Code of Conduct committing members to high standards of integrity and accountability.

Vision

ACFID is committed to achieving sustainable human development in which people are able to enjoy a full range of human rights, fulfil their needs free from poverty and live in dignity.

Purpose

The purpose of ACFID is to foster an effective aid and development NGO sector in Australia by:

- acting as a focal point for information, coordination and dialogue on policy and practice;
- developing and promoting standards of ethical and effective practice;
- representing the views and interests of members to government and other key stakeholders.

Guiding Principles

The ACFID membership is guided by a Code of Conduct to build creative and trusting relationships with people of developing countries and to meet program standards which:

- give priority to the needs and interests of the people they serve;
- encourage self reliance and avoid creating dependency;
- are based on the authentic participation of people in programs that affect their lives;
- respect and foster human rights, both socio-economic and civil-political;
- seek to enhance gender equity; and
- understand and respect the history and culture of the people served.

ACFID Relationships

The relationships which define ACFID are the relationships amongst member organisations. These are based on mutual interests and shared commitments to poverty reduction and the promotion of human rights. ACFID members develop and maintain these relationships through a range of formal governance and policy development forums as well as informal networking and coordination opportunities.

Other Key Relationships

ACFID engages with a diverse range of external stakeholders and networks including:

- The Australian Government, particularly AusAID, DFAT and their portfolio ministers;
- Members of Parliament and the staff and advisors of parliamentarians;
- Australian media on issues related to international aid and development;
- Australian NGO networks such as the National Round Table of Nonprofit Organisations;
- Australian development contractors and the academic community;
- International NGO networks such as organisations similar to ACFID around the world;
- United Nations agencies and multi-lateral organizations such as the World Bank and WTO.

Where have we come from?

ACFID formerly the Australian Council for Overseas Aid (ACFOA) was formed in 1965 to better coordinate the voluntary aid and development effort to other countries, in cooperation with Australian government agencies. From an original membership of 12 Non Government Organisations (NGOs), the membership of ACFID has grown to 80 NGOs encompassing a variety of Australian community expertise and areas of focus.