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Development and Non-Development Activities Policy

Document History

Version	Date	Description	Next Review
1	10/6/2024	Created and updated as per ACFID requirements	Before annual board meeting

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Purpose

This policy is designed to ensure that FAIRACTION International maintains a clear and consistent distinction between development activities and non-development activities. By defining these activities explicitly, FAIRACTION upholds its commitment to transparency, enhances accountability, and meets the expectations of our donors and regulatory bodies. This clear distinction ensures that all resources are strategically allocated to maximize impact toward achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6.1 - to ensure universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

Scope

This policy encompasses all aspects of FAIRACTION International's operations, as well as those of its subsidiary organizations, ensuring a comprehensive and clear separation between development and non-development activities. This inclusive approach is designed to maintain consistency and integrity across all operational areas and geographical locations where we operate, both now and in the future.

Background

FAIRACTION International is a development organization dedicated to tackling one of the most critical global challenges – access to safe and sustainable water access. Our mission is to advance sustainable water solutions that ensure universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6.1.

FAIRACTION's projects are focused on research and development of innovative water technologies, implementation of sustainable water infrastructure projects, community engagement, and educational initiatives to empower local communities with the knowledge and tools to sustain their water infrastructure assets. Through these efforts, we aim to make significant strides in eliminating extreme water poverty in vulnerable communities around the world.

As a secular organization, FAIRACTION operates independently of any religious or political affiliations. We do not engage in or support evangelical activities, nor are we linked to any political party. This stance ensures that our work is guided solely by the needs of the communities we serve, based on principles of equity, transparency, and scientific evidence.

Our commitment to secularism upholds our dedication to social justice, allowing us to serve diverse populations without bias or preference.

Definition of Aid and Development Activities for FAIRACTION

FAIRACTION is committed to ensuring that funds and resources designated for the purpose of aid and development are used exclusively for these purposes. Our aid and development activities are defined by the following principles, which align with our mission to provide sustainable access to clean drinking water:

1. **Strengths-Based Approaches:** Encouraging communities to create solutions for themselves, leveraging their local knowledge and capacities to foster sustainable water management practices.
2. **Addressing the Causes of Water Poverty:** Engaging in processes that tackle the root causes of water scarcity and inadequate access, focusing on long-term sustainability rather than just temporary relief.
3. **Empowerment of Rights Holders:** Ensuring that communities are empowered to claim their rights to clean water and that duty bearers – whether local, national, or international entities – are held accountable for their roles in providing these resources.
4. **Supporting Infrastructure and Systems:** Developing and reinforcing infrastructure and systems that enable communities to improve their water management, thus helping them move out of water poverty.
5. **Emergency and Disaster Response:** Providing support for emergency relief, disaster recovery, and meeting the immediate water needs of refugees and internally displaced people in crisis situations.

Definition of Non-Development Activities for FAIRACTION

FAIRACTION is a secular organization and does not provide support for activities that fall outside the defined scope of development activities. Specifically, FAIRACTION does not support:

- **Evangelical Activities:** Those activities that promote a particular religious adherence or are undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith and/or denominational affiliation to another.
- **Partisan Political Activities:** Activities associated with facilitating or supporting specific political individuals to gain power. This exclusion does not extend to general advocacy efforts aimed at influencing water policy or legislation, provided these efforts are intended to enhance community access to clean water without promoting partisan political objectives.

FAIRACTION strictly ensures that all activities, projects, and programs are aligned with the above definitions of development activities and does not support or engage in activities not covered by these definitions. This commitment is integral to our organizational integrity, ensuring transparency, accountability, and the effective use of resources towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6.1.

Compliance

FAIRACTION International does not solicit donations or support for non-development activities. Consistent with our mission and ethical guidelines, FAIRACTION does not engage in any non-development activities and adheres strictly to a policy of not providing support for such activities as outlined in the above definitions.

In the event that FAIRACTION International undertakes non-development activities in the future, a robust framework will be implemented to ensure:

1. **Clear Separation of Objectives and Activities:** There will be a distinct and transparent separation between development and non-development

objectives and activities. This separation will be clearly articulated in all organizational documents and communications to ensure transparency and accountability.

2. **Transparency in Communications:** This separation will be explicitly stated in all fundraising campaigns, program operations, and other activities, including public communications and annual reports. This ensures that all stakeholders, including donors and partners, are fully aware of the nature of the activities they are supporting.
3. **Donor Choice:** FAIRACTION will provide donors with clear choices when options exist to contribute to either development or non-development activities. This choice will be clearly communicated during fundraising activities to ensure donors can make informed decisions aligned with their values and interests.
4. **Partner Alignment:** The principles of separating development from non-development activities will also be extended to any non-commercial partner organizations involved in FAIRACTION's operations. This does not include any subsidiary entities that do not receive public donations but are integral to our operations.

Should FAIRACTION International decide to incorporate non-development activities, these steps will be rigorously implemented prior to initiating any such activities or fundraising efforts related to them. This proactive approach ensures that all facets of compliance are addressed and maintained, safeguarding the integrity and focus of our mission towards achieving sustainable water solutions for all.

Guiding Principles

FAIRACTION International is steadfast in its commitment to the following principles:

- **Accurate Representation:** We are dedicated to providing a truthful and precise representation of our activities to the communities we work with, our donors,

and the general public. This commitment ensures transparency and maintains trust across all interactions.

- **Ethical Use of Funds:** FAIRACTION ensures that funds raised for aid and development are used solely for those purposes and are not used to exploit or manipulate the communities we serve. We uphold the highest standards to ensure that our interventions do not place any conditions or obligations on recipients that could influence their access to the services offered, particularly in terms of non-development, religious, or political outcomes.

Control Procedures

To maintain the integrity of our development initiatives and ensure clear separation from non-development activities, FAIRACTION International implements the following control procedures:

- **Differentiation of Activities:** We ensure that all FAIRACTION personnel and our partners are fully capable of differentiating between development and non-development activities. This distinction is clearly communicated in all our engagements, whether internal or external.
- **Stakeholder Communication:** This differentiation is consistently communicated to stakeholders, donors, and the public to ensure there is no ambiguity regarding the nature and purpose of our activities. We use a variety of communication channels and materials to clarify these distinctions, including detailed descriptions in fundraising appeals, project reports, and public disclosures.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Regular monitoring and reporting mechanisms are in place to verify that activities classified as development adhere strictly to the defined criteria. This includes periodic audits and reviews both internally and with partners to ensure compliance with these guidelines.

By adhering to these guiding principles and control procedures, FAIRACTION International ensures that all operations not only align with our mission but also respect the dignity and autonomy of the communities we aim to serve. These measures are crucial for sustaining our commitment to ethical practices and operational transparency.

Resources

- ACFID Code of Conduct and Good Practice Toolkit for Compliance Indicator 7.3.2
- ACFID Code of Conduct: Definitions