

# INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

## Purpose

The purpose of this International Development Policy is to outline Transparency International Australia's (TIA) commitment to implementing effective, inclusive, and sustainable development initiatives.

This policy provides a comprehensive framework for addressing social, economic, and environmental challenges, emphasising the empowerment of vulnerable populations, the promotion of equity, and the fostering of long-term resilience.

It is aligned with TIA's mission and adheres to international best practices, ensuring that our development efforts contribute to the reduction of poverty, the advancement of human rights, and the fight against corruption.

## Scope

This policy applies to all international development projects and programs conducted by TIA, including those implemented directly by TIA staff, volunteers, or in partnership with local organisations, governments, and communities. It encompasses all geographic regions where TIA operates and all phases of program implementation, including planning, execution, monitoring, and evaluation.

### Development activities include:

- Programs and projects that aim to reduce poverty and inequality, and strengthen governance, transparency, and accountability.
- Initiatives that promote human rights, equity, and social justice.
- Capacity building, education, and training activities that empower communities to drive their own development.
- Activities designed and implemented with the meaningful participation of local stakeholders, ensuring they respond to community-identified needs and build local capacity.
- Projects with lasting, sustainable benefits that continue beyond the period of direct TIA involvement or funding.
- Environmental protection and sustainability initiatives that mitigate climate impacts and strengthen community resilience.
- Advocacy directly related to development objectives such as anti-corruption reforms, protection of civic space, and good governance.

### This policy does not apply to non-development activities, which include, but are not limited to:

- Internal operations: administration, governance, HR, ICT, financial management, and expenditure reporting.
- Fundraising and revenue generation: campaigns, events, corporate partnerships, sponsorships, and fee-for-service activities that are not tied to development outcomes.
- Public communications and marketing: promotional campaigns, media releases, newsletters, and website or social media activity undertaken for profile-raising or brand awareness.
- Donor engagement and management: reporting, stewardship, or relationship-building activities aimed at donor relations rather than programmatic outcomes.

## Definitions

- **Anti-Racism:** An active and intentional process that involves consistent, targeted action and attention to dismantle systemic, institutional, interpersonal, and individual forms of racism. TIA's anti-racism efforts focus on addressing and eliminating systemic racism, as defined by the Australian Human Rights Commission.

- **Development initiatives:** Activities aimed at reducing poverty and addressing global justice issues. This may include community projects, community education, advocacy, volunteer deployment, provision of technical and professional services and resources, environmental protection and restoration, and the promotion and protection of human rights.
- **Do no harm approach:** a set of principles and practices aimed at ensuring that interventions do not unintentionally cause harm to the communities they are intended to support, emphasising the need for international actors to consider the broader social, economic, political, and environmental contexts of the areas where they work, to avoid exacerbating existing problems or creating new conflicts.
- **Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI):** An approach that integrates gender equality, disability rights, and the inclusion of socially marginalised groups throughout all stages of program development, implementation, and evaluation.
- **Human Rights:** Legal principles recognised by the international community affirming the equality and dignity of all individuals. This encompasses civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as international human rights treaties and their optional protocols.
- **TI:** Transparency International, the global movement of which Transparency International Australia is a chapter.

## Principles

TIA's international development work focuses on addressing the root causes of inequality and poverty. By tackling corruption, TIA addresses the underlying causes of social and environmental injustice, including poverty and the barriers to sustainable development and the realisation of human rights, underpinned by the following principles:

**Do no harm approach:** TIA's international development initiatives adhere to a Do No Harm approach, which prioritises avoiding unintended harm and promoting positive, sustainable outcomes. Comprehensive context analysis is undertaken prior to engaging in any development activities, ensuring a thorough understanding of local dynamics, including social, political, and economic conditions.

**Human Rights, Inclusion, Racial justice:** TIA ensures that development initiatives are accessible to and inclusive of marginalised and vulnerable groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and other underrepresented populations. TIA is committed to upholding the fundamental human rights of all individuals, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, disability, gender, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, or other factors.

**Participation and locally-led action:** TIA prioritises engaging local partners and TI chapters in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of its programs. This participatory approach empowers communities and ensures that their needs, perspectives, and aspirations are central to the development process.

**Accountability and transparency:** TIA maintains transparency in its operations by sharing program information and resources with stakeholders. The organisation is accountable to the communities it serves, its partners, and its donors, ensuring integrity and transparency in all actions.

## Program Development and Implementation

TIA commits to developing and implementing initiatives which are inclusive of:

**Strategies for protecting primary stakeholders:** TIA will ensure that all development programs include specific and contextually appropriate strategies to protect primary stakeholders from discrimination, violence, abuse, exploitation, or neglect. Strategies must include:

- i. Conducting TIA's context-specific risk assessment, and where relevant, using TI chapters' risk assessments to identify potential threats to safety and well-being, including protection from sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (PSEAH), child protection risks, or other forms of exploitation.
- ii. Establishing safeguarding mechanisms such as secure reporting systems for beneficiaries, staff, and volunteers to report incidents of abuse or exploitation safely and confidentially.

- iii. Developing response protocols to address any incidents of harm or violations of human rights, ensuring timely and appropriate action that prioritises the safety and dignity of survivors.
- iv. Ensuring that staff and partner organisations have access to appropriate safeguarding training and are required to adhere to TIA's Child Protection Code of Conduct.

**GEDSI Integration:** TIA will integrate Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) considerations at every stage of program development and implementation, in line with TIA's GEDSI statement, through:

- i. Including GEDSI analysis and considerations during the program design phase to ensure the specific needs of women, children, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+ individuals, and other marginalised groups are identified and addressed.
- ii. Ensuring that program objectives and activities are designed to promote the equal participation, representation, and leadership of marginalised groups, actively seeking their input and collaboration throughout the program cycle.
- iii. Embedding disaggregated data collection by gender, age, disability, and other relevant factors in monitoring and evaluation frameworks to measure and track the program's impact on marginalised populations, in line with TIA's Design, Monitoring and Evaluation Policy.

## Environmental sustainability

TIA is committed to environmental sustainability and reducing its impact on the planet. Recognising human-driven climate change as a critical threat to diverse communities, including vulnerable groups, TIA upholds principles of good governance, transparency, and integrity to promote sustainable development across its programs. Our approach includes:

**Commitment to sustainability:** Recognising the urgent need to address human-induced environmental impacts, TIA strives to improve environmental practices, reducing our footprint and advancing sustainability across all operations.

**Supporting the energy transition:** As the world moves toward decarbonisation, TIA advocates for a fair, transparent transition that prevents undue harm to impoverished and disenfranchised communities and avoids risks such as corruption, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation.

**Community impact analysis:** TIA helps communities assess the environmental and social impacts of mining and infrastructure projects.

**Strengthening governance:** We support communities in collaborating with companies and governments to enhance integrity and transparency, mitigating corruption risks through improved governance in the mining and infrastructure sectors.

## Monitoring and evaluation

In line with TIA's Design, Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, frameworks are employed which:

- Assess the effectiveness of development initiatives in addressing the needs, rights, and inclusion of marginalised and vulnerable groups.
- Demonstrate evidence of progress towards reducing poverty and inequity, incorporating GEDSI assessments throughout program cycles.
- Ensure that program design frameworks consistently include risk management and context-specific strategies to protect and empower primary stakeholders.

## Accountability and compliance

TIA is committed to ongoing evaluation and improvement of its development policy. All activities and programs are assessed for compliance with this policy and ACFID standards, ensuring that they meet the required standards of ethical and effective development practice.

Regular internal and external audits will be conducted to ensure transparency and accountability in all of TIA's development initiatives.

## Related documents

This policy is to be read in conjunction with:

- Design, Monitoring and Evaluation Policy
- Risk Assessment Framework
- Code of Conduct
- ACFID Code of Conduct
- GEDSI Statement and analysis framework
- Procurement Policy
- PSEAH Policy
- Child Protection Policy and Child Protection Code of Conduct

## About this Policy

This Policy is to be reviewed as needed and at least every 2 years.

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