

CHILD PROTECTION GUIDELINE



CHILD PROTECTION GUIDELINE FROM HELP ALLIANCE

Children all over the world are at risk of being exploited. Sexual abuse, verbal abuse, physical or emotional violence are just examples of the risks children face worldwide.

help alliance gGmbH is an international development cooperation organisation based in Germany and considers itself responsible for counteracting these risks and promoting children's rights in order to protect them in the best possible way.

A central measure for putting child protection into practice is the drafting of this child protection guideline, in which the values, visions and the understanding of the scope of child protection of help alliance are defined and formulated in a binding manner.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20 November 1989 and entered into force on 2 September 1990, forms the basis for help alliance's child protection policy.

EXPLANATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UN CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UN CRC) provides a clear legal basis for the protection of all children from all forms of violence, injury, abuse, exploitation and neglect.

Children are all persons under the age of 18 (UNCRC, Article 1).

All children have the same right to protection from violence and discrimination in all its forms (UNCRC, Article 2).

3. the best interests of the child are always the primary consideration in dealing with children and young people, directly and in all decisions affecting children and young people (UNCRC, Article 3).

4. every adult has a responsibility to ensure the protection of children and young people (UNCRC, Article 19).

5. all children have the right to adequate living conditions (UNCRC, Article 27) and to education, schooling and vocational training (UNCRC, Article 28).

6. children have a right to be informed and to be involved in all actions affecting them and to have their interests represented (UNCRC, Articles 12, 13).

Children also have a right to participate in leisure, cultural and artistic life (UNCRC, Article 31).

VISION AND VALUES OF HELP ALLIANCE WITH REGARD TO CHILD PROTECTION

help alliance aims to create a safe environment for children where they can find an optimal developmental environment and grow up with self-confidence.

For this reason, help alliance actively works to protect children and takes seriously the responsibility to protect children from suffering, violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.

To ensure that this responsibility is perceived and implemented in all areas of help alliance, help alliance implements appropriate training measures.

SCOPE OF THE CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The Child Protection Policy applies to all help alliance staff as well as volunteer project leaders, volunteers and visitors. Such persons will be informed of the responsibilities and rules of conduct within the framework of the Child Protection Policy and the consequences of violating this policy.



RESPONSIBILITIES AND RULES OF CONDUCT UNDER THE CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

ALL STAFF, VISITORS AND VOLUNTEERS

- Must never exploit or abuse a child or wantonly put the child in a dangerous situation.
- Must handle children's personal data and information confidentially, in accordance with the GDPR.
- Shall treat children and their parents and carers with respect and obtain parental consent before taking pictures (photographs or videos) of children.
- Ensure that children are portrayed respectfully and with dignity in images and video footage, dressed appropriately and in appropriate posture.
- Advocate for a representation of children that portrays them with dignity and self-confidence.
- Refrain from direct contact with individual children without the presence of parents or carers.

ALL EMPLOYEES OF HELP ALLIANCE

- Conduct themselves in accordance with the GDPR in relation to children's personal data and never disclose information about the children without appropriate consent.
- Advocate for the participation and consideration of children within project activities and promote the participation of children in partner projects.
- Commit to reporting violations of the Child Protection Policy.

ALL VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

- Pay particular attention to respecting the privacy and protection of children in direct contact with the children in the partner projects.
- Should be accompanied in contact with the children by a parent or an appropriate supervisor (teacher): "two-adult principle".
- Shall refrain from physical contact with the children and shall not kiss, caress, hug or touch children in an inappropriate manner.
- Must behave respectfully and non-violently when dealing with the children.
- Must behave according to cultural appropriateness, especially in an international context.

ALL PROJECT PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

As part of the application phase, help alliance checks with all project partner organisations whether they have their own child protection policy.

ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN THE EVENT OF BREACHES OF THE CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Suspected cases must be reported immediately to help alliance (helpalliance@dlh.de) and forwarded to the child protection officer Laura Single.

If help alliance becomes aware of a suspected breach of this policy, appropriate steps will be taken to investigate the suspicion.

If such suspicion is confirmed, help alliance is obliged:

- To stop a voluntary service or visit immediately.
- Exclude the person in question from any other help alliance activities.
- To take necessary legal action against the person in question.

PREVENTIVE MEASURES

- help alliance ensures that all staff and other relevant persons are informed about and accept the appropriate child protection measures.
- help alliance ensures that volunteers and visitors who come into contact with children in partner projects through help alliance accept help alliance's child protection policy and are aware of their responsibility to protect children and comply with appropriate child protection measures.