

INTERNATIONAL NEEDS AUSTRALIA

Board of Directors Policy

Title: 3.1 Policy on Development and Welfare

Date of Adoption: 24th August 2001

Amended 20th November 2008

Amended 4th May 2016

Amended 25th August 2021

This policy is to be reviewed no later than 25th August 2026

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to clearly establish INA's approach to the management of welfare activities within development projects.

Policy

INA is committed to a strength-based approach in supporting communities to identify their needs, assets and goals, and map a pathway towards transformational and sustainable development outcomes. INA acknowledges that since we work in some of the poorest communities, some welfare components will be needed initially to lift some families out of extreme poverty and enable them to engage with long-term development activities. However, this will be done with clear timeframes to transition from any welfare activities to more sustainable development strategies.

Definitions

Welfare activities are defined as care and maintenance, which aims to maintain people in a particular condition on a longer-term basis. 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; and
- implemented on a long-term basis with no clear exit strategy.¹

Procedure

INA will apply the following requirements around the funding of welfare activities:

- No DFAT funds will be used for welfare activities

- Partners are to be made aware and demonstrate recognition that welfare is not in the long term best interests of communities and effective poverty alleviation strategies are those that genuinely empower communities to achieve their own development objectives.
- Where private funds are used to finance welfare activities this will be done on the basis of most need, as determined by a needs assessment.
- Welfare will be a minimal component of any expenditure of INA's funds (no more than 5%) and will integrate with development activities to work in the best interests of communities. (For example, the caregiver of a child being treated for malnutrition will participate in nutrition awareness and livelihoods programs.)
- Where this exceeds 5% in unavoidable situations, communities and partners will need approval from INA and a clear timetable and strategies to reduce such measures that will be written into the design and monitored regularly.
- A systemic and integrated approach will be applied in relation to the deduction of welfare items from Recognised Development Expenditure (as detailed in Section 10 of the PPM)
- Relief given in emergency response situations will be designed to meet immediate, short-term needs and therefore is not considered as welfare.

Cross Reference:

- 3.15 Policy on Sustainable Development
- Program Procedures Manual Section 10: ANCP Management