

INTERNATIONAL NEEDS AUSTRALIA

Board of Directors Policy

Title: 3.2 Policy on Development and Evangelism

Date of Adoption: 24th August 2001
Amended 20th November 2008
Amended 31st August 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 position regarding religious activities in development projects.

Definitions

1. Evangelism is the announcement, proclamation, and/or preaching of the Christian gospel or any other faith.
2. To proselytise is to use unethical means, material or otherwise, to try to persuade someone to change their religious or political beliefs or way of living to your own.

Policy

INA does not support proselytism or any coercion to convert from one faith (or no faith) to another. INA and our partners engage with communities on a non-discriminatory basis, and participation in INA projects will not be limited based on belonging to a particular church or faith group. No tax-deductible INA funds or DFAT funds are to be used for Evangelism, nor to build up church or ecclesiastical structures. INA may, however, use non-deductible private funding to support Christian evangelical activities of partner organisations. Such activities will always be clearly identified and segregated from tax deductible development activities, including in RDE calculations. INA will also ensure that partner organisations understand and act upon this differentiation in their delivery of such activities.

As an agency guided by Christian values, INA will seek to demonstrate positive Christian and human values in all our undertakings; we believe these are essential elements for sustainable and transformed communities (e.g. honesty and advocacy against dishonesty and corruption, inclusion versus exclusion of people with disability and marginalised people, love and care and social and community responsibility of those most vulnerable). INA and our partners will model and demonstrate these values when engaging with and working amongst communities and other stakeholders.

Development by its very nature demands a recognition of and engagement with the cultural mores of the host community (including beliefs and religion) and requires that agents of development work in concert with these informants, toward a healthy and sustainable community. In some project communities, partners may engage with the community in prayer and discussion of faith-based principles where this is appropriate to the community beliefs and faith.

INA aligns with both the ACFID Code of Conduct and the principles of the ICRC Code of Conduct and implements aid and development activities in alignment with these codes.

Cross Reference:

- Program Procedures Manual