



## Annex 4: AusAID Safeguards and Cross-cutting Issues

NGOs funded under the Community-based Climate Change Action Grants Program must adhere to all AusAID safeguards and cross-cutting policies.

### An overview of AusAID safeguards and cross-cutting issues

To ensure the Australian aid program is not exposed to any major risk that may adversely affect the effectiveness of the aid program or the reputation and integrity of AusAID, a number of safeguard and cross-cutting policies and processes have been put in place. They relate to:

1. Environment management
2. Child protection
3. Disability inclusive Development
4. Displacement and resettlement
5. Gender Equality and the empowerment of women

Safeguard and cross-cutting policies and processes are designed to ensure that aid program activities 'do no harm' to communities, the environment and indirectly to AusAID's reputation. They also can promote good development practice and pro-poor outcomes.

Outlined below is a summary of each of the five issues, including key issues and policy references.

### 1. Environment management

"AusAID is bound by the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth), which applies to all aid activities. The Organisation must:

- (a) ensure that environmental requirements specified in the Scope of Services are implemented, monitored and reported, including:
- (i) assess and manage all actual or potential environmental impacts, both direct and indirect, to avoid or mitigate negative impacts and promote positive impacts;
  - (ii) report regularly on any such impacts as required by the Scope of Services;
  - (iii) notify AusAID promptly if the Contractor becomes aware that the Project could have a significant negative environmental impact; and
- (b) comply with all relevant environmental laws and regulations of the Partner Country."

Policies: > Outlined in AusAID's Environment Management Guide 2011, available at <http://www.ausaid.gov.au/keyaid/emguidelines.cfm>

Key issues: > Legal obligation under the Australian Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act) for any activity under the foreign aid program to be screened for potential environment impacts. If a significant negative impact on the environment is likely to arise anywhere in the world referral to the Minister of the Environment is required.

## 2. Child protection

- Policies:
- > Child Protection Policy
  - > Child Protection Procedures Manual
  - > Child Protection Code of conduct  
Available at [http://www.aisaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/child\\_protection.pdf](http://www.aisaid.gov.au/publications/pdf/child_protection.pdf)
- Key issues:
- > AusAID has a zero tolerance approach to child abuse and child pornography. The organisation must have regard to and operate in accordance with the child protection compliance standards at Attachment 1 of AusAID's *Child Protection Policy*.
  - > *Mandatory* reporting of child abuse and child pornography by AusAID funded staff both in Australia and at Post. All concerns and allegations must be reported immediately.
  - > NGOs & Contractors funded by AusAID to implement aid activities must meet AusAID's child protection compliance standards.

## 3. Disability Inclusive Development

- Strategy:
- > *Development for All: Towards a disability-inclusive Australian aid program 2009-14*  
Available at <http://www.aisaid.gov.au/keyaid/disability.cfm>
- Key issues:
- > The *Development for All – Towards a disability-inclusive Australian aid program 2009-2014* strategy was developed to guide the Australian aid program in meeting the needs and priorities of people with disability. The strategy is aligned with the Australian Government's national social inclusion agenda and reflects the commitment to extending the benefits of development to all and to promoting the dignity and well-being of people with disability.
  - > Australia has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). This means that the needs of persons with disabilities must be considered in all AusAID funded programs.

## 4. Displacement and resettlement

- Policies:
- > Office Procedure Circulate No 16 of 1996 on Displacement and Resettlement issues
- Key issues.
- > AusAID recognises that, where displacement and population resettlement occur as a result of development activity, there is significant risk that vulnerable groups may be materially and socially impoverished unless appropriate measures are carefully considered and carried out. Safeguarding the interests of vulnerable people is a key outcome for AusAID.
  - > Key principles that underpin AusAID's approach to project-related displacement and resettlement include:
    - Avoid resettlement where feasible
    - Minimise resettlement where population displacement is unavoidable
    - Ensure displaced people receive assistance so that they would be at least as well off as they would have been in the absence of the project
  - > AusAID is updating guidance on these issues in consultation with Multilateral Development Banks and Australian NGOs

## 5. Gender Equality and the empowerment of women

- Policies:
- > Gender equality and empowering women are Australian Government and AusAID priorities.
  - > Australia's international commitments include the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security.

- Key issues to be aware of:
- > There are four key areas where AusAID focuses this work:
  - > Gender Equality in health and education; women's economic empowerment; women's leadership; and ending violence against women and girls at home, in their communities, and in disaster and conflict situations.