

Safeguarding policy statement

The overall aim of Empowering Marginalized Communities in ASAL is to create sustainable and empowered societies in arid and semi-arid lands where education thrives, gender equality is upheld, environmental challenges are managed, and all individuals have the opportunity to lead healthy and productive lives.

Our activities to fulfill these aims include:

- Constructing and renovating educational facilities to ensure children have access to quality education.
- Promoting gender equality by providing women and girls equal access to our programs, fostering an environment where their potential can be fully realized.
- Supporting family planning by offering essential knowledge and resources, enabling families to sustainably manage their size and well-being.
- Eradicating Harmful Traditional Practices (HTP), such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and improving health, well-being, and educational opportunities for girls.
- Educating the community on environmental conservation and implementing measures to mitigate the effects of climate change, in line with the 13th SDG.
- Cultivating peaceful communities through peace education in schools and community awareness programs, instilling values of peace and cooperation essential for community prosperity.
- Constructing dispensaries and health centers to provide healthcare services.
- Providing safe drinking water for the community members.
- Assisting in the development of local businesses to empower community members.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect children and young people who receive services from Empowering Marginalized Communities in ASAL from harm, including the children and adults who use our services.
- To provide staff, volunteers, children, young people, and their families with the principles that guide our approach to child protection.
- This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Empowering Marginalized Communities in ASAL, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers, temporary workers, and students in the school managed by the organization.

Legal framework

This policy is guided by the Somali Child Rights Bill, which was introduced by the Ministry of Women and Human Rights and protects the rights of children in Somalia. The Bill prioritizes the establishment of an environment that nurtures their safety, care, and overall development.

We believe that:

- Children and young people should never experience abuse of any kind.
- We are responsible for promoting the welfare of all children and young people, keeping them safe, and operating in a way that protects them.

We recognize that:

- The welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we make.
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, guardians, and other agencies is essential for promoting their welfare.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation, have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.

We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to, and respecting them.
- Appointing a nominated Child Protection Lead for children in the organization.
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practices through our policies, procedures, and code of conduct for staff and volunteers.
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work, and one-to-one discussions.
- Ensuring children, young people, and their families know where to go for help if they have a concern.
- Using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, while appropriately involving children, young people, parents, and families.
- Using our procedures to address any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately.
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that may arise.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff, and volunteers by applying health and safety measures required by law and regulatory guidance.

For inquiries, please contact:

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Chief Security Officer

This policy was last reviewed by Ibrahim Yusuf on 31 May 2024. We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.