

AUSTRALIAN DOCTORS FOR AFRICA

Policy: CHILD SAFETY

Date approved: 03/19

Date of next review: 03/22

Approved by: Board of Management

1 Rationale

It is an ACFID requirement for ADFA to have a child safety policy in place and ADFA endorses the requirement. This is in keeping with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and the guiding principle of sharing responsibility for child protection.

This policy reflects the minimum professional standard expected by ADFA staff and volunteers when dealing with children in the communities within which we work and provides a framework for managing and reducing risks of child abuse or harm in the context of ADFA's international medical trips.

The policy provides guidelines for maintaining professional boundaries that serve to protect everyone from misunderstanding by promoting transparency and accountability and to protect children from any form of harm, particularly arising from child abuse or neglect.

2 Scope

This policy applies to all ADFA office bearers, staff and volunteers. It also applies to individuals related to ADFA's international medical trips including observers or partners.

3 Definitions

Child Abuse: all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.

Child: any child or young person under the age of 18 years.

4 Guiding Principles

It is acknowledged that all personnel working with children on medical trips are health professionals and receive on-going training from their parent organisation and will be aware of the critical need for and strategies to address child safety. In addition, when working in a foreign country, all ADFA staff, volunteers and associates working with children are required to:

- 4.1 Read and abide by the ADFA Child Safety Code of Conduct, including the use of visual images, and sign and return the *Child Safeguarding - Professional Behaviours* document.
- 4.2 Raise any concerns of child abuse or other concerns immediately, both verbally and by completing ADFA's Child Safety Incident Form.
- 4.3 Take seriously any concern raised by a child and follow the ADFA Child Safety Code of Conduct.
- 4.4 Provide a current "Working with Children" certificate.
- 4.5 Ensure MOUs or similar reflect ADFA's commitment to the safeguarding of children.
- 4.6 Conduct child safety training formally and informally for medical trip personnel through-out the year.

Prior to medical trips ADFA's stance on child safety is well promoted in materials sent to volunteer medical team members and highlighted with Team Leaders. During medical trips, Team Leaders are attentive to appropriate conduct by all ADFA representatives.

This document is supported by the Child Safety Code of Conduct.