



**SIGHT  
FOR ALL**  
A SHARED  
VISION

# Partner Engagement & Collaboration Policy

## 1. Scope

Sight For All is committed to ensuring that we engage with governments and organisations to achieve mutually agreed objectives in aid and development activities (this may include affiliates). The equal relationship with these partners will be characterised by mutual respect, transparency, accountability and by a commitment and openness to two-way learning and support.

The purpose of this policy is to guide Sight For All and our partners on the expected nature of our engagements with other organisations. This policy addresses our ACFID compliance obligations when initiating and maintaining partnerships and joint collaboration for the purpose of achieving Sight For All's Mission.

This Policy is intended to apply to all Sight For All partnerships.

This policy applies to all Sight For All Board Directors, staff and volunteers and extends to Sight For All partners and associated implementing organisations within Australia or overseas.

## 2. Partner Engagement

Sight For All forms in-country partnerships with governments, medical institutions, eye health care organisations and NGOs to achieve our aim of eliminating avoidable blindness in collaboration with partner communities.

Working in partnership with local organisations and communities enhances our capacity to effectively facilitate relevant and sustainable programs and projects focussed on research, education, infrastructure development and health promotion. Through partnerships and collaborative relationships, we harness existing knowledge and expertise to enhance capacity for community needs to be met locally.

Rather than act simply as a funding agency, Sight For All regards partnerships as mechanisms for realising positive, constructive change and will ensure all activities are carried out responsibly, honestly and with transparency. Sight For All expects the same of partner governments and organisations.

Sight For All's partners must comply with certain standards set by the ACFID Code of Conduct and may be required to comply with contractual obligations to DFAT. Wherever relevant, Sight For All will document how partners are held financially accountable, accountable for the protection of children and accountable for ensuring that funds do not reach terrorist organisations. Sight For All will also document that partners are responsible for ensuring any subcontractors comply with those obligations to DFAT. Partners must document in written agreements with subcontractors how they will manage the subcontractors' financial accountability.

Sight For All works in accordance with principles of alignment and harmonisation determined at international aid effectiveness forums (Rome 2003, Paris 2005, Accra 2008 and Busan 2011). We see value in donor countries building coordinated partnerships where there is mutual accountability and a focus on development results. We also aim to deepen engagement with civil society and promote a culture of zero tolerance for corruption.

Sight For All management and staff will:

- support carrying out adequate research to be confident that the potential partner organisation is suitable. Research will verify that the organisation is financially viable and:
  - has appropriate procedures to minimise the potential for fraud
  - has appropriate processes to prevent transmission of funds to terrorist organisations
  - shares Sight For All Australia's objectives and understands Sight For All's vision, mission and values
  - is considered legitimate, locally
  - has an accountable and democratic organisational structure and is financially transparent
  - is open to being monitored by Sight For All and will be responsive to recommendations. Sight For All must also be open to being monitored by the partner
  - does not discriminate based on age, gender, religion, ethnicity, physical or intellectual ability or political affiliation
  - will not engage in evangelising or proselytising
  - has sufficient human and financial resources to achieve desired partnership outcomes
  - is accountable to communities and donors
  - is not on the DFAT and National Security Australia lists of terrorist organisations and proscribed persons or entities
  - abides by Sight For All child protection requirements including signing the Child Protection Code of Conduct
  - promotes greater equality within staff and community

- promotes equal participation of people with a disability or marginalised groups
  - promotes gender equity
- formalise relations with partners, clearly identifying roles and responsibilities in a mutually accountable and respectful manner
  - ensure that partner contributions and mutually agreed outcomes are adequately documented and monitored
  - build partners' capacity so they can sustain their work in all areas of eye health care and where partners do not have the capacity to meet organisational commitments for partnership we will support them to strengthen their systems and procedures to ensure that they meet national, and where relevant international, good practice standards
  - ensure that partner organisations comply with relevant policy requirements in any DFAT agreements
  - only enter partnerships that are compatible with local cultural needs and values, and which are aligned with Sight For All's purpose and values
  - clearly identify roles, responsibilities and guidelines to ensure the partnership remains mutually beneficial and effective in achieving agreed outcomes and take responsibility for ensuring roles, responsibilities and guidelines are agreed and documented when partnerships are established and that these are reviewed and adapted as partnerships evolve
  - Ensure that partner organisations maintain environmental sustainability through safe practices which are in line with country guidelines
  - Complies with all requirements of the ACFID Code of Conduct as required from time to time.

### **3. Collaborative Relationships**

Collaboration is one of Sight For All's values, ensuring participation of all stakeholders. In addition to collaborating with partners to develop projects, Sight For All also collaborates with other non-government organisations where possible and appropriate, and is a member of relevant blindness prevention organisations. Such organisations include: International Association for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB), Vision 2020 and the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology.

### **4. Partner Capacity Assessments**

Sustainability is one of Sight For All's values, fostering self-reliance through comprehensive evidence-based projects. Prior to the commencement of each project, Sight For All conducts a partner capacity assessment. The assessment ensures that the project to be conducted is meeting the needs of the partner country and partner organisation. The assessment also ensures that the project will address cross cutting issues such as gender, people with disabilities and child protection. The information gathered through the capacity assessment is used to develop the project design.

### **5. Reviews**

Throughout each project opportunities are available to review project activities, implement recommendations and make changes to future projects. This review allows for ongoing collaboration and reflection by all partners.

## **6. Grievances**

Sight For All recognises the rights of individuals and partner organisations to lodge a grievance and have it resolved quickly and fairly. To enable Sight For All to conduct an investigation into a grievance, the organisation is reliant upon the in-country contact to liaise with the individual lodging the grievance. The involvement of an in-country contact in this process ensures the matter is handled sensitively and comfortably in line with cultural sensitivities. The in-country contact liaises with the Sight For All Executive Officer who (in line with the Grievance Policy) compiles a report and makes a recommendation to the Board.

## **7. Resources**

ACFID Code of Conduct Quality Principle: Development and humanitarian responses enable sustainable change through the empowerment of local actors and systems.

ACFID Code of Conduct Commitments 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3

Sight For All Constitution

Sight For All Mission Statement

[www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au)

## **7. Review**

The Sight For All Partner Engagement Policy is reviewed on an annual basis.

## **8. Related Documents**

Sight For All Grievance Policy

Sight For All Sustainability and Capacity Building Policy

Sight For All Code of Conduct Policy

Sight For All Non-Development Activity Policy

Sight For All Partnership Capacity Assessment Procedure