

Child Protection Standards for Project Partners

The highest child protection risks in the work of Childaid Network concern the children in our projects. Therefore, Childaid Network contractually obliges all local project partners to have their own child protection strategy as well as child protection standards for projects, case management, and publications.

Child Protection Strategy of Partners

1. Project partners are contractually obliged to develop and implement, within the project duration, a viable child protection strategy with the following elements:
 - Adopted child protection policy
 - Self-Commitment to child protection for employees, volunteers, and other persons with access to children in projects such as contractors and visitors
 - Case management including reporting mechanisms

The existing child protection strategy with the aforementioned elements must be submitted.

Any changes to the submitted child protection strategy must be made available to Childaid Network.

2. The status of the development and implementation of the child protection strategy is communicated to Childaid Network regularly during coordination meetings and visits. If a project partner does not have a strategy or does not have a complete one, Childaid Network supports the development and introduction of the child protection strategy, e.g. through advice from external experts and training for staff.
3. Project partners ensure that their commitment is understood, signed, and followed by all employees, volunteers, and other persons such as contractors and visitors who have contact with children in projects with Childaid Network.
4. In addition, reporting mechanisms for suspected cases must be in place and communicated and made available to all members of the target groups, in particular to the children and key project stakeholders.
5. If a project partner does not have a child protection strategy with all required elements by the end of the project, Childaid Network will not conclude any further project agreement with this partner.
6. For the project with Childaid Network, project partners must conduct a risk analysis including prevention measures for child protection. The risk analysis and the corresponding measures must be reviewed annually as well as in the event of changes in the project and adjusted if necessary.
7. When recruiting staff for the project with Childaid Network, employees and volunteers must provide the partner with a police clearance certificate or—if not available locally—confirm by means of a signed declaration that they have not been involved in any crimes against children.

Standards for Case Management

In the event of suspicion of any kind of violation of their commitment, project partners are obliged to take the following measures:

- All suspected cases are taken seriously and action is taken immediately in accordance with the guidelines of their own case management.
- The welfare and dignity of the affected child have first priority, and contact with the suspected person is stopped immediately.
- Any suspicion is investigated as quickly as possible and thoroughly in accordance with the applicable legal frameworks (e.g. data protection, reporting obligations, criminal law).
- Confidentiality is maintained and information is only passed on to those who need to know.
- If necessary, experts, counseling services, or Childaid Network are consulted for advice and support.
- The Child Protection Officer of Childaid Network is informed before information about the case is published (e.g. in the media).

- Once case management is completed, Childaid Network is informed of the results in anonymized form.

Violations by Childaid Network

Project partners are informed that all employees, volunteers, and staff in partner countries of Childaid Network, as well as other persons and contractors who, through Childaid Network, have access to children in the projects, must sign the Childaid Network commitment.

If project partners or project stakeholders notice violations of the commitment, these must be reported immediately to the Child Protection Team of Childaid Network via childprotection@childaid.net or anonymously via the Childaid Network website.

Standards for publications

For the publication or sharing of photos or videos of children from projects with Childaid Network, the following rules apply:

- **Respect and dignity:** Children must be portrayed as strong and authentic individuals; stereotypes or portrayal as victims must be avoided.
- **Appropriate clothing:** Children must be appropriately dressed in accordance with local cultural norms.
- **Privacy:** Photos, audio recordings, or videos that intrude into the personal space or violate the privacy of children are not used.
- **Identification:** Only first names or pseudonyms are used for children, and references to their home, school, or workplace are avoided.
- **Geotagging:** All geotagging information is removed from files in order to protect the children's location.
- **Consent:** For all children involved in the project, written consent from parents, legal guardians or other persons responsible for supervising the children for the publication of photos and videos is obtained by the project partner in cooperation with Childaid Network.