

Development and Welfare Policy

WaterAid Australia

Document control

Document title: WAAus Development and Welfare Policy	
Scope: WAAus and WAAus managed Country Programs	
Version: 2	Author(s): Tom Muller
Responsibility: Director, Policy and Programs	
Date approved: August 2018	Document status: Approved
Effective date: August 2018	Approved by: WAAus Board
Superseded version: Version 1, November 2014	Date of next review: August 2021

Version control

Date	Version	Reason for change	Author
November 2014	1	Scheduled review and update	

1 Background

WaterAid is an international NGO whose mission is to transform the lives of the poorest and most marginalised people by improving access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Access to these services can improve the health and livelihoods of people (including women and vulnerable groups, including children and people with a disability) in the countries and communities we support.

WaterAid Australia's philosophy is derived from a belief that access to safe water, improved hygiene and sanitation is a human right. These essential services underpin human development and transform lives enabling people to overcome poverty.

2 Policy

WaterAid Australia aims to deliver sustainable programs that use a sector strengthening approach and integrate equity and inclusion into all aspects of our programming.

WaterAid Australia supports and strengthens the delivery of water, sanitation and hygiene services through working with both service authorities (national and sub-national governments) and service providers (CSO / NGO partners and the private sector).

All WaterAid Australia's programs involve the participation of local communities and/or government partners in all stages – from design, planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. It provides an important basis for enhancing local knowledge and skills; empowers local people to make decisions concerning activities in response to their own needs; and helps to safeguard the long-term sustainability of programs through ensure a high degree of ownership.

WaterAid Australia uses adaptive management and political economy strategies to design and implement programs. WaterAid Australia believes that to achieve development outcomes ongoing monitoring and adaption to context is central.

WaterAid supports sustainable WASH management models that are appropriate for the contexts in which we work. Central to this is supporting processes to strengthen the institutional, financing, strategic, planning, service delivery, and monitoring arrangements that underpin WASH services. In taking this approach, WaterAid Australia supports use of technologies that are low cost and appropriate to the local financial, cultural, technical and geographical conditions.

WaterAid Australia ensures that its programs integrate water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion which leads to long term behaviour change of individuals.

UN Sustainable Development Goal 6

WaterAid Australia's policy and programming supports government and non-government actors to primarily achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. SDG 6 establishes the following targets (and indicators) in relation to water and sanitation:

Target	Indicator
6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all	<i>6.1.1: The proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services</i>
6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations	<i>6.2.1: The proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services including a handwashing facility with soap and water</i>

3 Definitions

Aid and Development: Aid and Development refers to activities undertaken in order to reduce poverty and address global justice issues. In the non-government organisation sector, this may occur through a range of engagements that includes community projects, emergency management, community education, advocacy, volunteer sending, provision of technical and professional services and resources, environmental protection and restoration, and promotion and protection of human rights. (ACFID Code of Conduct Guidance 2018).

Welfare activities: Welfare activities are defined as care and maintenance, which aims to maintain people in a particular condition on a longer-term basis. Substantial and broad impact on social and economic conditions in the community is not normally expected from welfare programs. Welfare may be provided to an individual or family basis including home-based and institutional care programs, such as those provided by orphanages, homes for the elderly, hospices and the provision of food for those who are destitute. Welfare activities are typically:

- implemented independently of other sustainable community development activities;
- include no strategy for integration into broader community development programs;
- provided on an individual or family basis, rather than on a community basis, and are unconnected to emergency needs; and
- implemented on a long-term basis with no clear exit strategy.

4 Application of funds

All development funds and other resources raised by WaterAid Australia are used in programs to deliver water, sanitation and hygiene education.

These activities are not considered 'welfare' as the approach taken by WaterAid Australia is sustainable and ensures participation, use of appropriate technology, and commitment of communities.