



IA-Foundation Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Introduction

This policy applies to all the Board members, paid staff, funders, volunteers, students, and anyone working on behalf of IA-Foundation.

IA-Foundation believes that a child or young person should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and to keep them safe, out of harm's way. We are dedicated to practice in a way that protects them.

Policy

The purpose of this policy:

- To protect children and young people who receive IA-Foundation's services.
- To provide staff and volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding and child protection.

Legal Framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of the law and guidance that seeks to protect children, specifically: United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Definitions

- Child: In accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child is defined as any person under the age of 18 years.
- Child Abuse: Consists of anything which individuals, care givers, care takers, duty bearers, institutions or processes do, or fail to do, which directly or indirectly harms children or damages their prospect of safe and healthy development into adulthood. There are four major categories of abuse: emotional abuse, physical abuse, neglect, and sexual abuse. These categories are not mutually exclusive. For example, a child experiencing physical abuse is likely experiencing emotional abuse as well.

1. Emotional Abuse: Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of a child which can cause severe impacts on the child's emotional development. This could include making a child feel worthless or unloved, inadequate or not valued. Potential examples of emotional abuse include: persistent failure to show any respect to a child; constantly humiliating a child by shaming him or her or telling the child they are useless; continually being aggressive towards a child making them feel frightened; or acting in a way which is detrimental to the child's self-esteem.

2. Physical Abuse: Physical abuse is when a person purposefully injures or threatens to injure a child. This could include deliberately hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise harming a child. Physical abuse may also occur where someone knowingly fails to take action to protect a child from physical harm.

3. Neglect: Neglect involves the deliberate, persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health and development. As well as being the result of a deliberate act, neglect can also be caused through the omission or the failure to act or protect. Neglect may involve deliberate failure to: provide adequate food, clothing or shelter; protect from physical or emotional harm or danger; meet or respond to basic emotional needs; ensure adequate supervision; ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment; ensure that the child's educational needs are met; or ensure the child's opportunities for intellectual stimulation are met.

4. Sexual Abuse: Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in physically sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not they are aware of or consent to what is happening. This definition also holds whether or not there has been physical contact and whether or not the child is said to have initiated or consented to, the behavior. Examples of sexual abuse include: exposure to sexually explicit inappropriate language or jokes; showing a child pornographic material or using a child to produce such material; inappropriate touching; or sexual activity of any kind with a child.

- Child Protection: in the international context describes the work being undertaken to strengthen laws, policies, programs and systems, which are designed to protect children in a given country in his or her own family and community.
- Child Safeguarding: Child safeguarding is the responsibility that organizations have to ensure their staff, operations and programs "do no harm" to children and that any concerns the organization has about children's safety within the communities in which they work are reported to the appropriate authorities.
- Discrimination of the child: Any exclusion, restriction or preference which is based on any ground such as, the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, color, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status and which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise of all rights and freedoms.
- Exploitation: Child exploitation is the use of children for someone else's advantage, gratification or profit often resulting in unjust, cruel and harmful treatment of the child. It covers situations of manipulation, misuse, abuse, victimization, oppression or ill-treatment.
- Economic exploitation: The use of the child in work or other activities for the economic benefit of others. This includes, but is not limited to, child labour. Economic exploitation implies the idea of a certain gain or profit through the production, distribution and consumption of goods and services.
- Sexual exploitation: The abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust for sexual purposes. This includes profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the exploitation of another as well as personal sexual gratification.
- Child trafficking: Moving a child within a country, or across borders, whether by force or not, for someone else's advantage, gratification or profit, is a form of both economic and sexual exploitation.
- Manipulation: A type of social influence that aims to change the perception or behavior of others through underhanded, devious and unfair tactics. Manipulation can be used to exploit and abuse children.



- Violence Against Children: all forms of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation resulting in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of trust, responsibility, or power.
- Policy: A statement of intent that demonstrates a commitment to safeguard children from harm and makes clear to all what is required in relation to the protection of children. It helps to create a safe and positive environment for children and to show that the organization is taking its duty and responsibility of care seriously.

Responsibility

IA-Foundation's child-focused solutions and programs are implemented in Nigeria through the generous support of individual sponsors and donors, corporate and foundation partners, and institutional grants. Sponsorship is a wonderful opportunity to share in our work through the eyes of children and their families. To ensure that we do not allow harmful relationships to develop through the sponsorship process, we have the following safeguards and procedures in place:

- IA-Foundation staff should not take a child or children into a private place out of view of other adults. IA-Foundation staff members are encouraged to be accompanied by parent/legal guardians and/or community members on visits with children.
- IA-Foundation staff must not stay alone with one or more children who are not part of their immediate or extended family, whether in the school house, project premises, or elsewhere.
- Where possible, and practical, the "two-adult" rule, wherein two or more adults supervise all activities where children are involved and are present at all times, should be followed.

Procedures

All members of IA-Foundation management will:

- Refrain from disclosing information (including the use of children's last names and their community information, including name and location) that could be used to identify sponsored children or their families to unauthorized persons, including the general public;
- Handle with sensitivity the use of images of sponsored children on the Internet. To ensure the protection and privacy of sponsored children, IA-Foundation uses children's first names only and does not release exact dates of birth.

IA-Foundation Sponsors and Supporters

We expect our sponsors and supporters to act in the best interests of children. Should situations occur that cause us to doubt the appropriateness or the intentions of a specific individual as they pertain to the sponsorship of a child, those cases should be referred to the Operations Manager. The Operations Manager will handle these on a case-by-case basis and consult with the CEO, as necessary, to make a decision regarding the status of the sponsorship in question. If the application for sponsorship is declined or sponsorship is brought to a close, the Operations Manager will write to the individual informing him/her of the decision and the reason. All consultation and decisions will be recorded.

At the time of sponsorship, all sponsors are informed of our child and data protection policies, including the prohibition of unannounced visits to their child. Only when the sponsor is planning a field visit shall we require written acknowledgement that the



sponsor has received and understands both the Child Protection Policy and Standards and the visit policy.

Sponsor a Student

The child photos and information displayed on the "Sponsor a Student" section of the IA-Foundation website are those of real children. Once a child has been sponsored, his or her photo and information is removed from the site. Limited information is provided on the site about these children so as to protect their privacy. We kindly request that you do not copy or use these photos in any way. For questions about sponsorship, contact the IA-Foundation team at info@IA-Foundation.org

Sponsor Communications

IA-Foundation has procedures in place for ensuring appropriateness of content in communications between sponsors and children. The Internet is an uncontrolled and unregulated media.

Recognizing this, we ask sponsors to respect the privacy of the children and their families by refraining from posting personal information about their specific child on the Internet, such as the child's full name and community information (e.g., name and location). No exchange of contact details should take place between sponsors and their sponsored children during the sponsorship without written, formal consent from IA-Foundation management.

Visits to Sponsored Children

IA-Foundation management may arrange for sponsors and other IA-Foundation affiliates to visit sponsored children and families in their communities as well as to visit educational institutions to witness IA-Foundation's work in action. We have a firm policy in place to ensure that children being visited are safe. All sponsors may receive visit guidelines when they begin their sponsorship. Sponsored children and their families are also aware of the visit policy.

Prospective visitors should take note that:

- Ideally, all visits should be arranged at least 4 weeks in advance through IA-Foundation.
- Visitors must sign a statement that says that they understand and will comply with both our

Child Protection Policy and Standards and our visit policy.

- Unauthorized visits will not be allowed, and IA-Foundation's Zero Tolerance Policy will be strictly enforced.
- IA-Foundation's staff or a community volunteer must be present throughout each visit to a sponsored child.
- Sponsored children and their siblings must not be invited or taken away from their communities unless the child/children are accompanied by a parent/guardian and IA-Foundation staff member.
- IA-Foundation will not facilitate the visit of any child to a sponsor's country. Any request for such assistance will be tactfully declined.
- After every visit the field sends a report to IA-Foundation. All visits are monitored by IA-Foundation staff.

Communications About Children

- Communications about children should use pictures and language that are decent and respectful.



- We will not provide children's personal addresses or contact information to sponsors.
- We will not disclose children's personal information to non-sponsors, or disclose information that could be used to identify the location of children within their country on our website or in other mass communications. We expect the same respect for children's protection and privacy from our sponsors and supporters.
- The informed consent of a child and/or parent/guardian is always obtained before recording information or obtaining images, and the intended use(s) of such materials are explained.

Accountability

It is the responsibility of the Board and/or Chief Executive Officer through management to ensure that all IA-Foundation participants in their area of responsibility are aware of and agree to abide by this policy and applicable local procedures while working for IA-Foundation. One member of our Board is responsible for considering child protection issues in all Board decisions.

All individuals involved with IA-Foundation will:

- Familiarize themselves with situations that may present risks and learn how to deal with those situations;
 - Contribute to an environment where children are able to recognize unacceptable behaviour and feel able to discuss their rights and concerns;
 - Wherever practical, ensure that they and others meet children openly;
- Raise concerns about any case of suspected abuse in accordance with applicable procedures.
- For our development work to achieve results, it is vital that we retain the trust and confidence of the children, school administration and the families with whom we work.
 - We will not continue to facilitate a relationship knowing that it does not respect basic human rights of privacy and protection from harm.

Contact Details

IA-Foundation.

www.IA-Foundation.org

Email: info@IA-Foundation.org

We are committed to reviewing our policy and best practices annually.