

## #4 - Development Policy

African AIDS Foundation

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Working with indigenous African communities, African Aids Foundation (AAF) is committed to the following philosophies:

- Apply Christian ethics, principles and values in all our dealings;
- Focus on the needs of people more than programs;
- Free choice, not coercion, in decision making and participation;
- The equality and dignity of all people irrespective of background, gender, education, or religious affiliation;
- Consultative and respectful relationships with organisations, communities, families, and individuals, which encourages trust and participation in decision-making by all stakeholders;
- Programs which provide sustainable and transferable skills;
- Programs which assist communities, families, and individuals to shape their own future;
- Cooperation with organisations that have similar values and objectives;
- Continual review and refinement of our objectives, and management structure;
- Experimentation and adaptation in problem solving and delivery of programs and services.

African AIDS Foundation together with African partners will initiate key programs and projects. AAF fosters and supports community development through provision of financial support, in-kind assistance, and the recruitment of volunteers to assist partner organisations in Africa.

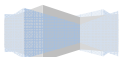
African AIDS Foundation is committed to a process of community development that is comprehensive, addressing physical, social, economic, and cultural needs. AAF encourages empowerment of communities by supporting initiatives that increase their ability to identify problems and that allow them to develop solutions with sustainable outcomes.

AAF recognises that community development encompasses a number of key areas, including:

- Prevention of disease through community education;
- Food security, water and housing;
- Hygiene and medical provisions;
- Education, vocational training and micro-enterprise initiatives;
- Community infrastructure such as buildings and transport; and
- A sense of security, well-being, hope, and purpose in life.

AAF promotes and supports development projects and programs that:

- Are holistic in nature, reducing the physical, material, social, and psychological impact of poverty and poor health on communities;
- Build on the abilities of individuals and communities to find their own solutions to problems;
- Are initiated by the stakeholders in developing local solutions to identified community needs;
- Involve local decision-making, planning and monitoring of projects;
- Are sustainable;



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- Focus on the impact of HIV/AIDS on the whole community and the need for broad development strategies, not simply disease-centric responses;
- Address the lack of material resources, confidence, justice, and information in communities;
- Assist participation in general education, and vocational training; and
- Encourage and facilitate micro enterprises and job creation.

AAF recognises that overwhelming and immediate needs arise which require emergency responses to bring about relief and rehabilitation. Such events are usually of a short-term nature, as are the measures to deal with them. Long-term and underlying needs often impact these immediate needs. Addressing these underlying needs is necessary to achieve permanent change.

Feeding programs, home-based care programs, orphanages and cluster homes are recognised as providing support given the extraordinary numbers of abandoned children, the rate of infection and death, and the sheer inability of hospital and outpatient departments to cope with patient loads. Where welfare support is provided this would be from funding provided specifically by supporters for this purpose. AAF will handle all tax-deductible gifts in such a way that they are not allocated to such programs. (Refer to the section on Finances in this Policy Manual).

Because of limited resources, AAF generally will not fund the purchase of vehicles or buildings unless they are essential to the achievement of project aims. In such cases, any funds would be allocated from only non tax-deductible donations and fundraising.

AAF will not undertake political activities in Africa. While AAF works with churches and other Christian organisations it will not support activities related to evangelism and will provide support to communities irrespective of cultural, ethno-religious or political affiliation.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the company's other policies on Partnership and Participation and Financial and Other Support.

