ADRA Australia Policies and Procedures		No. CR 000 760
Document Name		***Page 1 of 2***
Welfare and Development		
Department		**Sections** (inc. All sections where this document is located.)
Corporate Services/IP		Core Documents/IP
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CS 000 760 WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Purpose

This document describes the difference between welfare and development and offers a guideline to determine whether proposed interventions should be accepted or not on the basis of their nature and linkages to broader community development programs.

Definitions

Welfare activities are those which provide direct assistance to individuals because of a need. They generally seek to address immediate needs rather than address the root causes of those needs. Common examples of welfare are the provision of food and clothing to poor communities, and support for school fees, books and uniforms for children. Other examples include provision of scholarships to school children; assistance to individuals such as institutionalised care programs provided by orphanages; child sponsorship; hospital care programs, etc. Welfare programs include no strategy for integration into broader, community development programs and are implemented on either a one-off 'gift' basis or on a long-term basis with no clear exit strategy.[i]

Development is a dynamic process of change and growth that improves the quality of life of the participants and is generated from within the system. It is a process that helps people to remove obstacles that prevent them from achieving their full potential. ADRA's function is that of an enabler or catalyst, assisting in providing room for human growth by removing obstacles to that development.[ii]

To guide ADRA Australia in its choice of interventions, the following development principles are central to our thinking and approach. Our interventions should be:

- **Developmental** – facilitating a *hand-up*, rather than a hand-out (eg providing small sums of finance to kick-start a small business rather than making a large cash donation – the former facilitates the recipient working for themselves, the latter swamps them and causes dependency).
- **Empowering** – the intervention/assistance should enhance the potential of the beneficiaries to help themselves. Do they have the means and skills to change things? (The solutions in most communities lie *within* the communities.)
- **Community-based** – the focus should be on communities (often defined by geography but could be defined by a common characteristic) rather than individuals, which often causes envy and disaffection in a community.
- **Participative** – will the intended beneficiaries be participating throughout the intervention process – in planning, in implementing and in revising? Do they wish to have the intervention? What do they perceive as their need/s? What will be their role in the intervention?
- **Inclusive** – as Seventh-day Adventists entities we should include all regardless of religion, race, gender etc. This is a 'creedal' position of ADRA at the international and Australian levels.
- **Sustainable** – will the benefit continue after the original intervention has long gone?
- **Appropriate** – will the intervention fit in with the local culture, environment and economy?

	ADRA Australia Policies and Procedures		No. CR 000 760
	Document Name		*Page 2 of 2*
	Welfare and Development		
	Department		**Sections** (inc. All sections where this document is located.)
	Corporate Services/IP		Core Documents/IP
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- **in Partnership** – we work primarily with selected ADRA implementing partners in Asia, South-eastern Africa and the South Pacific, and occasionally with other entities in the geographic territories of these partners.[iii]

Policy

ADRA Australia supports international and national development programs that aim to make a significant contribution towards poverty and suffering alleviation. These programs/projects should be community led throughout the project cycle management.   International development programs are eligible for tax deductibility under the Australian Tax Office and the Overseas Aid Gift Deductions Scheme. Welfare activities will not be considered in the international context except when it supports development programs.

Application

The following criteria will be applied to decide program acceptance or not:

1. AusAID funds will only be used for clearly planned development and relief activities that meet government tax deductibility regulations.

2. Proposals submitted by implementing partners that have more of a welfare nature and are not clearly part of a larger community development program will be rejected.

3. If a welfare project is approved by ADRA for overseas implementation, tax deductibility will not be given to donors and expenditures will not be considered in the RDE calculation.

4. That ADRA partners be made aware of this policy

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[i] Source: Overseas Aid Gift Deductions Scheme (OAGDS) May 2009
http://www.ausaid.gov.au/ngos/pdfs/oagds_guidelines.pdf
[ii] Source: ADRA International Operations Manual
[iii] Source: ADRA Australia Partner Operations Manual – August 2008