



**MAHBOBA'S  
PROMISE**

An Australian Aid Organisation

# Sustainable Development Policy

## **Sustainable Development Policy:**

Mahboba's Promise (MP) wishes to see Afghanistan rebuild itself into a peaceful, inclusive and prosperous society. The key to realising this is utilising sustainable development practices to achieve successful results from the programs we implement in Afghanistan. The ultimate goal of Mahboba's Promise's work is to allow the Afghan population to become self-sufficient and independent in continuing the reconstruction process of their society.

To achieve sustainable development through the work MP does, the following factors are considered when designing program: Economic development and poverty reduction, social inclusion, environmental sustainability and good governance and personal security.

The policy and means of implementing each factor is as follows:

### **Economic development and Ending Poverty**

Our development projects have a clear long term goal of enabling economic independence and self-sufficiency. Not only will this benefit the communities in which we operate in as they experience economic output and income generation but it allows MP to continue developing new projects in other communities as the burden of funding is reduced.

#### **Development programs will:**

- Take into account the current needs of society through consultation to ensure programs address current economic and social needs.
- Take on a multiplier approach to development where the benefits of the program flow from the individuals involved into the broader society, improving the whole community's position rather than maintaining the status quo.
- Focus on empowering individuals and communities to become economically independent and self-sufficient.
- Provide individuals and communities with the skill and education necessary to generate income that is needed to maintain the program.

### **Social inclusion**

The poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged are often excluded from becoming active and full citizens of society due to their lack of skills and education. MP focuses development work on improving access for the most vulnerable, namely women and children. MP believes that opening up society to all members of the Afghan population will benefit the reconstruction process and improve the success of sustainable development projects.

#### **MP will ensure that development programs:**

- Promote gender equality
- Improve access to vocational skills and education for the disadvantaged.
- Provide equal opportunity to access programs for all
- Focus on capacity building to allow all involved to become contributing members of society

## **Environmental sustainability**

Afghanistan's environment has been decimated by decades of war, leaving the country with a lack of electricity, water, and infrastructure. MP believes that development work at the expense of the environment is counter-productive and will ultimately inhibit sustainable development. Therefore MP programs take a local approach to development to avoid large scale impacts on the environment. This will be done through:

- reusing materials where possible.
- rebuilding infrastructure using materials that are locally sourced when possible.
- teaching local populations about the environment and the need to protect it.
- Including revegetation initiatives in construction plans to improve the health of the environment.
- Promote locally grown produce as a source of food and income for the community.
- Engage in sustainable agricultural practices to protect the long term longevity of the land being used.

## **Good governance and personal security**

Sustainable development cannot be achieved without good governance at the national, local and civil society level. As a grass roots organisation, MP operates using a bottom up approach to development and reconstruction so we focus our efforts on good governance at the local level. MP programs seek to promote good governance both through the implementation and continuation of development work within civil society.

Personal security needs to be addressed to ensure that all members of society feel confident in their ability to engage and live as active citizens.

### **MP will ensure that programs and projects:**

- Are transparent in their operation and implementation
- develop strong partnerships in Afghanistan with civil society to empower them to take ownership of the work.
- consult with the community throughout the duration of our programs to gauge the positive and negative aspects of the program.
- Foster a safe and inclusive environment.
- Promote the leadership abilities of those participating in programs to take on an active role in civil society.

## **Sustainable development areas of focus:**

When implementing a development program, MP will ensure that one or more of the following aims are part of the end goal:

1. basic education and training
2. primary health care
3. water supply and sanitation
4. income generation
5. development of agriculture and basic services

6. capacity building of community organizations
7. assistance to prevent violence against women and children
8. good governance and promoting civil strengthening the capacities of local NGO's
9. management of the environment and natural resources on a sustainable basis
10. Renewable energy and appropriate technology.

**Related documents:**

Good Governance policy

Capacity development program