



Partnership Policy

1. Objective

The purpose of Mahboba's Promise partnerships is to empower communities to lift themselves out of poverty through establishing best practice, participatory partnerships with like-minded individuals and groups. We are committed to building the capacity of the local development agencies with whom we partner, in order to ensure their development activities are as sustainable and effective as possible. We participate in partnerships of mutual accountability, in which all parties have clearly articulated obligations and responsibilities.

Accountability to the local people Afghanistan is our highest priority as any partnership has the ultimate goal of assisting in the development of Afghanistan. By using the following criteria, it is hoped that MP will be able to achieve far-reaching development outcomes within Afghanistan.

2. Scope of the Policy

The Policy covers all partnerships undertaken by Mahboba's Promise in Australia and overseas.

3. Policy

Prior to commencing a new partnership, Mahboba's Promise must ensure that the individual or organisation it is partnering with is committed to the same principles, values and goals as Mahboba's Promise. Mahboba's Promise must also determine the potential partner's capacity to conduct activities in a manner that is compliant with Australian and Afghan laws, ACFID and ACBAR Codes of Conduct and the determined funding agreement. To determine this capacity, the following criteria must be addressed, either through a written agreement or interview and relevant background search. If a partner is unable to accept and perform these criteria to an acceptable level as determined by Mahboba's Promise, then Mahboba's Promise will be unable to enter into a professional partnership with them.

Assessment of potential partners

There are many examples of experienced and sophisticated formal and informal partnerships, networks and alliances (hereon referred to as 'partnerships') operating within Mahboba's Promise. These partnerships are characterised by a high degree of integration and collaboration with regard to the planning, management and provision of services, and as a vehicle for driving initiatives.

A partnership is defined as a joint working arrangement where three partners:

- are independent bodies;
- agree to cooperate to achieve common goals;
- create a new organisational structure or process to achieve outcomes;
- accept shared responsibility for decision making and the delivery of actions and outcomes;
- plan and implement a jointly agreed plan with joint resources; and
- share relevant information, pool risks and rewards.

Mahboba's Promise is committed to ensuring our partners, including prospective partners, are operating in accordance with standard notions of good practice and international norms. Our procedure to ensure this commitment is guided by the ACFID Due Diligence Assessment Tool Kit which we have adopted as our standard process subject to half yearly audit and compliance with operative partnerships at the time.

In addition to this, Mahboba's Promise continually refers to and has adopted the ACFID Guidance on Collaboration and Partnerships document to underpin our Partnership policy.

The following questions should be asked of any potential partner prior to beginning a working relationship:

- Is the partner supportive of a holistic approach to development in Afghanistan?
- Are they able to make a long-term commitment to MP and/or development work in Afghanistan?
- Is the partner willing to undergo monitoring and evaluation of their work both internally and by MP to ensure that activities undertaken by the partner are in line with the agreed upon objectives, relevant laws and Codes of Conduct?
- Does the partner have the capabilities and knowledge to undertake the work needed? - If not, is it possible to build on the capacity and knowledge of the potential partner to ensure they can effectively achieve the development outcomes?
- Does the organisation have a proven track record of effective child protection work?
 - If there is any doubt in the capabilities of the partner to promote child protection at all times the partnership will not be possible
 - The Partner must read, understand and sign the Mahboba's Promise Child Protection Policy and Code of Conduct and agree to adhere to the CPP at all times.
- Is the potential partner, or any parties they engage with, affiliated with any terrorist organisation or linked terrorist activities? -They must denounce terrorism in any form and sign and actively uphold the Mahboba's Promise Counter Terrorism policy in their work
- Do they have mechanisms in place to appropriately manage the financial aspect of the project if necessary? How will they do this? Report any fraud, corruption, money laundering and violation of Australian Government sanctions and fully comply with Mahboba's Promise Control of Funds Policy
- Can they guarantee funds will be used for the agreed purpose only and will not be used for non-development work? How do they plan to demonstrate this during the partnership?
- Can they disclose to Mahboba's Promise the names and details of any sub-partners they plan to use during the partnership period? If not, why not?

Partners must also agree to the following:

- The partner will not in any way discriminate access to the work/program/project – access will be prioritised to ensure that those who are most in need.
- They will support MP's vision and mission for Afghanistan.
- They will adequately document relevant information and produce this to MP when necessary to assist in evaluating the effectiveness of development work.
- The partner agrees to focus wholly on development work during the partnership contract unless otherwise directed to do so.
- Promoting any agenda (religious, political or other) will not be tolerated by MP.

- The partner will implement development work in a legal manner; this includes funding and tax laws.
- Partners will strive to maintain transparency in all work with MP.

Related Documents:

- Counter Terrorism Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Child Protection Code of Conduct
- Complaints Resolution Policy
- Control of Funds Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy