



## CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Fondazione L'Albero della Vita (FADV) is committed to keeping children safe. FADV promotes effective actions aimed to ensure children wellbeing and protection, focusing on the prevention of physical and mental abuses and all forms of violence against children.

FADV recognizes that all FADV Managers, Employees, Associates and Representatives and those of partner organizations coming into contact with children have a fundamental duty of care towards them. FADV condemns all forms of abuse and violence against children that can be perpetuated outside and inside the organization.

FADV Child protection Policy is grounded on

- FADV mission, vision and values;
- FADV Child protection Policy the UN Child Rights Convention (Art. 19);
- General Comment No. 13 (2011) of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child – the right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence;
- Keeping children Safe Coalition Child Protection Standards.

### STAKEHOLDERS

- Children involved in any FADV directly implemented as well as supported Action, in Italy, in Europe and in Developing Countries;
- FADV Managers, Employees, Associates and Representatives in FADV facilities, programmes, Italian and Country offices;
- Partner organizations' staff, associates and representatives;
- Sponsors, Donors, and visitors;
- Biological families and Foster families of children attending FADV directly implemented as well as supported Actions;
- Teachers involved in FADV programmes;
- External contractors and consultants who provide services;



## DEFINITIONS UNDER THE CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

### *Children*

In line with the UNCRC, for the purposes of the present Policy, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years. (UNCRC Article 1).

### *Abuse*

In line with WHO definitions, child abuse or maltreatment constitutes 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 responsibility, trust or power.

*Physical abuse* is defined as those acts that cause actual physical harm or have the potential for harm. *Sexual abuse* is defined as those acts where a perpetrator uses a child for sexual gratification.

*Emotional abuse* includes the failure of a caregiver to provide an appropriate and supportive environment, and includes acts that have an adverse effect on the emotional health and development of a child. Such acts include restricting a child's movements, denigration, ridicule, threats and intimidation, discrimination, rejection and other non-physical forms of hostile treatment.

### *Neglect*

Neglect refers to the failure of a caregiver to provide for the development of the child in one or more of the following areas: health, education, emotional development, nutrition, shelter and safe living conditions.

## PRINCIPLES

This policy is set up by a set of principles that are derived from the UNCRC and from the Comment No. 13 (2011) of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, and includes:

- No violence against children is justifiable; all violence against children is preventable;
- A child rights-based approach to child caregiving and protection requires a paradigm shift towards respecting and promoting the human dignity and the physical and psychological integrity of children as rights-bearing individuals rather than perceiving them primarily as "victims";



- The concept of dignity requires that every child is recognized, respected and protected as a rights holder and as a unique and valuable human being with an individual personality, distinct needs, interests and privacy;
- Children's rights to be heard and to have their views given due weight must be respected systematically in all decision making processes, and their empowerment and participation should be central to child caregiving and protection strategies and programmes;
- The right of children to have their best interests be a primary consideration in all matters involving or affecting them must be respected, especially when they are victims of violence, as well as in all measures of prevention.

## SCOPE

The Child Protection Policy applies to all FADV Managers, Employees, Associates and Representatives who must comply with its requirements. In addition, FADV Child protection policy applies to all FADV partner organizations' staff and representative, so to ensure that all children involved in Actions directly implemented or supported by FADV are kept safe from all forms of abuse and violence.

Where required by law or local practices, FADV Country Offices may enhance the standards as set out in this policy.

## OBJECTIVES

To make all FADV Managers, Employees, Associates and Representatives and Partner organizations' staff and representative aware about all aspects of child protection and all the procedure about the prevention, disclosure, reporting and responding of abuses.

To ensure that all FADV Managers, Employees, Associates and Representatives and Partner organizations' staff and representative are well supported in meeting their Child protection responsibilities and engage positively with children and communities.

To avoid and prevent cases of abuse, violence and neglect from happen in the context of any Actions directly implemented or supported by FADV, in Italy and in developing countries, and Shelter Homes.



To guarantee that safe environments for children are created in all aspects of FADV work whether fundraising or program implementation, where children are respected, protected and empowered as their capacities evolve

To contribute to generate awareness in children about their rights and the role they play in the prevention, identification, disclosure and management of abuses.

To guarantee that fair, secure and transparent reporting channels are put in place in all types of programmes that fulfill the right of stakeholders to be heard.

## IMPLICATION FOR FADV

FADV staff, associates and representatives, and all partner organizations' staff, associates and representatives are bound to the respect of FADV Child Protection Policy.

All FADV Regional and Country Directors must ensure that each FADV Country office has in place local procedures that are consistent with FADV Child Protection Policy. Local procedures have to be developed with the assistance of local advisers in accordance with local law. It should also be ensured that this policy and local procedures are made available in local languages.

By respecting FADV Child protection policy, FADV and all partner organizations working with FADV commit themselves to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote the open and free discussion about all issues related to child protection and keeping children safe from abuse and violence</li> <li>- Provide adequate information to its staff, associates and representatives about FADV Child Protection Policy</li> <li>- Adopt written guidelines for appropriate and inappropriate behavior of adults towards children and of children toward other children</li> <li>- Establish clear roles and responsibilities regarding the monitoring of the respect and the enforcement of FADV Child Protection Policy</li> <li>- Ensure that children are informed about their rights to be heard and to grow up free from all forms of physical and psychological violence</li> </ul>	<p><b>Awareness generation</b></p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Guarantee high professional standards to be applied during the selection of staff, associates and partner organizations</li> <li>- Provide adequate training to staff, associate and representative on child protection and to include child protection as regular topic in all training programmes</li> <li>- Foreseen specific supervision mechanisms for staff, associates and representatives directly working with children as a space for open and free discussion about Child protection concerns coming from any FADV directly implemented or supported Action</li> <li>- Promote a safe, free and open environment where children are encouraged to discuss their concerns and rights and to express their point of view</li> <li>- Put in place a system of partnership with families and communities that are appropriate to support the CPP</li> <li>- Never expose children to, or place them at risk of, harm. This while carrying out activities directly with children as well as when taking images/pictures or generating stories of children</li> </ul>	<b>Prevention</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide to all staff, associates and representatives clear procedures for reporting any child abuse and child protection concerns</li> <li>- Ensure child-friendly reporting mechanisms, so that children can report in confidence and safety about experienced maltreatment, abuse and violence</li> <li>- Guarantee that any child abuse/child protection concern is treated and investigated keeping the highest degree of confidence</li> <li>- Guarantee that the denouncer, potential offender and victim, all are kept safe and are provided with needed psycho-social support</li> </ul>	<b>Reporting</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investigate any concern about the conduct of FADV staff, associates and representatives – as well as partner organizations’ staff, associates and representatives – according to applicable local office procedures and FADV Child Protection Policy; investigation may result in disciplinary action for FADV staff, associates and representatives and in the immediate termination of Partnership Agreement in case of partner organizations’ staff, associates and representatives</li> <li>- Foresee all needed measures for ensuring child protection and security in case of proven child abuse and neglect and report to concerned Authorities</li> <li>- Periodically review the Policy, according to the feedback and experience</li> </ul>	<b>Responding</b>