

**AIWASI**

Australia India Water Security Initiative

**CHILD PROTECTION  
& SAFEGUARDING  
POLICY**

## Child Protection Code of Conduct

### Introduction

This Child Protection Code of Conduct reflects the AIWASI (Australia-India Water Security Initiative) project's **Zero Tolerance** approach to child exploitation or abuse across its consortium partners. AIWASI project consortium partners recognises that it is the shared responsibility of all project participants to ensure that the AIWASI project does not result in child exploitation and abuse. This includes identifying risks and documenting the steps being taken to reduce or remove these risks. This policy applies to all personnel involved in the AIWASI project.

### Definitions

- a. **Child** or Children: Anyone under 18 years of age.
- b. **Child Exploitation**: One or more of the following:
  - i. committing or coercing another person to commit an act or acts of abuse against a child;
  - ii. possessing, controlling, producing, distributing, obtaining, or transmitting child exploitation material;
  - iii. committing or coercing another person to commit an act or acts of grooming or online grooming; or
  - iv. using a minor for profit, labour, sexual gratification, or some other personal or financial advantage.”
- b. **Child Abuse**: The main categories of Child Abuse are physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect/negligent treatment and sexual abuse/sexual exploitation, each of which are defined below:
  - i. **Physical abuse**: The use of physical force against a Child that causes actual or likely physical injury or suffering (e.g., hitting, shaking, burning, female genital mutilation, torture).
  - ii. **Emotional abuse**: Any humiliating or degrading treatment of a Child such as bad name calling, constant criticism, belittling, persistent shaming, solitary confinement and isolation.
  - iii. **Neglect/Negligent treatment**: The failure to meet a Child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, for example by failing to provide adequate food, clothing and/or shelter; failing to prevent harm; failing to ensure adequate supervision; or failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.
  - iv. **Sexual Abuse/Sexual Exploitation**: All forms of sexual violence against a Child, including incest, early and forced marriage, rape, involvement in pornography, and sexual slavery. Child sexual abuse also may include indecent touching or exposure, using sexually explicit language towards a Child and showing Children pornographic material. Sexual exploitation is any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically

from the sexual exploitation of another. This includes exchange of assistance due to children benefiting from AIWASI Project's interventions. The sexual exploitation of a child who is under the age of consent is child sexual abuse and a criminal offense.

*Note: the above includes a child or children being present (hearing or seeing) while a parent or sibling is subjected to any of the above*

## **Responsibilities**

During the course of performing their project duties, all project personnel will:

- treat all Children with respect;
- not use language or behaviour towards Children that is inappropriate, harassing, abusive, sexually provocative, demeaning or culturally inappropriate;
- not discriminate against any Child because of age, gender, social, economic and cultural background, disability, religion, vulnerability and/or sexuality;
- not engage in any form Child abuse;
- wherever possible, ensure that another adult is present when working near Children;
- not invite unaccompanied Children into private residences, unless they are at immediate risk of injury or in physical danger;
- not sleep close to unsupervised Children unless absolutely necessary, in which case the supervisor's permission must be obtained, and ensuring that another adult is present if possible (noting that this does not apply to an individual's own children);
- never use any computers, mobile phones, video cameras, cameras or social media to exploit or harass Children, or access child exploitation material through any medium;
- not use physical punishment on Children;
- not hire Children for domestic or other labour: which is inappropriate given their age or developmental stage; which interferes with their time available for education and recreational activities; or which places them at significant risk of injury;
- comply with all relevant Indian legislation, including labour laws (as per Indian legislation) in relation to child labour;
- immediately report concerns or allegations of Child Exploitation and Child Abuse and violation of this policy in accordance with appropriate procedures;
- immediately disclose all convictions of an offence that relates to Child Exploitation and Child Abuse, including those under traditional law, which occurred before or occurs during association with the AIWASI project to the Project Lead ([samrat.basak@wri.org](mailto:samrat.basak@wri.org)); and
- be aware of behaviour and avoid actions or behaviours that could be perceived by others as Child Exploitation and Child Abuse.

These behaviours are not intended to interfere with normal family interactions.

**When photographing or filming a Child or using Children's images for work-related purposes:**

- take care to ensure local traditions or restrictions for reproducing personal images are adhered to before photographing or filming a Child;
- obtain informed consent from the Child and parent or guardian of the Child before photographing or filming a Child. An explanation of how the photograph or film will be used must be provided;
- ensure photographs, films, videos and DVDs present Children in a dignified and respectful manner and not in a vulnerable or submissive manner. Children should be adequately clothed and not in poses that could be seen as sexually suggestive;
- ensure images are honest representations of the context and the facts; and
- ensure file labels, meta data or text descriptions do not reveal identifying information about a child, including full name, when sending images electronically or publishing images in any form.

**Zero Tolerance Approach Implementation Process**

WRI's Zero tolerance approach implementation process include:

- WRI will incorporate flow down contractual obligations including criminal record check and child protection in all contracts for downstream partners;
- committing to prevent a person from working with Children if in WRI's reasonable determination they pose an unacceptable risk to Children.
- Through training and sensitization programs, WRI and other consortium partners will ensure that every project personnel are aware of and has had an opportunity to read this Code of Conduct.
- WRI and other consortium partners will ensure that all project personnel have signed a Statement of Commitment as presented below.
- WRI takes all concerns of potential abuse and exploitation seriously. Any concerns of potential endangering of a child due to practice or activity of any project personnel/ community member/ organisation that is in violation of the above-mentioned responsibilities shall be brought to the attention of the Project Lead ([samrat.basak@wri.org](mailto:samrat.basak@wri.org))/ DFAT ([childwelfare@dfat.gov.au](mailto:childwelfare@dfat.gov.au)) as appropriate by submitting a written complaint (*Annex A*).
- Staff may also report concerns anonymously through the WRI ethics reporting hotline at [www.wri.ethicspoint.com](http://www.wri.ethicspoint.com).
- The Project Lead/ DFAT will follow all appropriate protocols (*Annexure-WRI, Jocelyn*) laid down by the law in the redressal of said matter.

- Consistent with WRI policy of no retaliation, WRI will not retaliate against any individual who in good faith raises a concern or complaint of potential Child Abuse or Child Exploitation violations.
- WRI will record and act quickly, fairly and transparently on complaints of Child Abuse or other serious complaints made by a Child or their parent/guardian.
- WRI/ DFAT will take appropriate action against any member of its organisation who is found guilty of any form of Child Abuse or violation of a Child's rights; and
- WRI/ DFAT will ensure that records are securely managed and stored in accordance with our privacy policy and relevant legislative requirements.

**Statement of Commitment**

I \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ have read and understand AIWASI Project’s Child Safety and Wellbeing Code of Conduct. I am fully aware of my responsibilities to adhere this code of conduct and I confirm that I will abide by the responsibilities contained therein.

<b>Signed by</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Organisation</b>

**Annex-A**  
**REPORTING FORMAT**

**(This is a confidential document)**

1. The incident has been reported by \_\_\_\_\_  
(child / staff / community member (please tick as appropriate))

2. Details of the child

Name of the child \_\_\_\_\_

Male/Female \_\_\_\_\_ Age (approx) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Details of incident:

a. Date, time and place of incident \_\_\_\_\_

b. Date when the incident came to my notice \_\_\_\_\_

c. Name of the alleged abuser \_\_\_\_\_

d. Is s/he staff, partner NGO staff, donor, volunteer, supporter, vendor, supplier, contractor  
(please tick)

e. Nature of allegation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Personal observation of person completing report.

4. What did you see?

Injuries, child upset, other – please specify \_\_\_\_\_

5. Were other people or children involved? Yes/ No

6. Is this a repetitive incident the child is receiving? Yes/ No

7. Was the child hospitalised or receive any medical treatment (physical & non-physical)?  
Yes/ No

8. Is there any other information you wish to provide?

Signature of person reporting incident \_\_\_\_\_

The logo for AIWASI, featuring the acronym in a bold, white, serif font. The background of the entire page is a solid blue color with several thin, white, wavy lines that create a sense of movement and depth, resembling water ripples or a stylized landscape.

Australia India Water Security Initiative

For further information, visit our website  
[www.aiwasi-cdp.wrcitiesindia.org](http://www.aiwasi-cdp.wrcitiesindia.org)