



## Child Protection Policy

### RISK ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK TO THE EXTENT THAT ICLAIM WILL ENGAGE DIRECTLY AND/OR INDIRECTLY WITH CHILDREN

**1. Introduction** ICLAIM recognises that safeguarding children requires a proactive approach to identifying and mitigating risks. This Risk Assessment Framework is designed to systematically assess our projects' potential risks and ensure effective implementation of child protection measures. Also see ICLAIM Safeguarding Policy Statement <https://www.icclaimcentre.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Safeguarding-Policy.pdf>

#### 2. Key Risk Areas

- **Direct Contact Risks:** Risks associated with direct interactions between children and staff, volunteers, or external stakeholders.
- **Online Safety Risks:** Potential threats arising from digital engagement, including cyberbullying, online exploitation, and data privacy concerns.
- **Institutional Risks:** Gaps in policies, inadequate training, or failure to report safeguarding concerns.
- **Community Engagement Risks:** Cultural or societal barriers that may prevent effective child protection.

#### 3. Risk Mitigation Strategies

- **Screening & Training:** All staff and volunteers undergo rigorous background checks and child protection training.
- **Monitoring & Reporting:** Clear protocols for identifying, reporting, and addressing risks in a timely manner.
- **Child-Friendly Mechanisms:** Accessible reporting channels for children to voice concerns safely.

**4. Review & Evaluation** This framework will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness and updated based on emerging risks as needed.

### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

**1. Policy Integration** ICLAIM ensures the Child Protection Policy is embedded in all organisational activities. This includes:

- Training sessions for all staff, volunteers, and partners.
- Integration of child protection standards into project design and execution.

## **2. Monitoring & Compliance**

- Regular audits and evaluations to assess adherence to child safeguarding measures.
- Establishment of a Child Protection Committee responsible for oversight and policy enforcement.

## **3. Capacity Building**

- Mandatory child protection training for all personnel interacting with children.
- Development of educational resources to promote awareness and best practices.

## **4. Stakeholder Engagement**

- Collaboration with government agencies, NGOs, and community leaders to enhance child protection measures.
- Regular consultations with children to incorporate their perspectives into programs (provided all consents obtained as well as sensitive personal data protected as per our data protection policy).

# **CHILD PARTICIPATION STRATEGY**

**1. Principles of Child Participation** ICLAIM is committed to upholding the right of children to be heard and actively involved in decisions affecting them, as per Article 12 of the UNCRC.

## **2. Participation Methods**

- **Advisory Panels:** Establishment of child advisory groups to provide input on relevant projects.
- **Workshops & Forums:** Regular sessions where children can express their policy and program development views.
- **Surveys & Feedback Mechanisms:** Collection of children's opinions through surveys, focus groups, and interviews.

## **3. Safeguards & Ethical Considerations**

- **Informed Consent:** Ensuring children and their guardians fully understand the purpose of their participation.
- **Safe Spaces:** Creating environments where children feel comfortable sharing their opinions without fear.
- **Privacy Protection:** Adhering to strict confidentiality protocols when handling children's information.

#### 4. Implementation & Monitoring

- Establishment of monitoring systems to assess the effectiveness of child participation initiatives.
- Regular reporting on how children's input has influenced decision-making within ICLAIM.

The most current official version of this ICLAIM's policy is published on the ICLAIM's website which is regularly updated. If you have any comments or questions about this policy, feel free to contact us at [info@icclaimcentre.org](mailto:info@icclaimcentre.org)

All those in scope of the policy are responsible for adhering to the requirements of this policy and provide periodic reporting to the board of directors of the Centre on its compliance with this policy.

This Policy is subject to all the laws, rules and regulations that the Centre is governed by. In the event this policy allows the exercise of discretion, such discretion must be exercised within the confines of the Centre's statutory obligations and shall not contravene any of its legal, accounting or other regulatory requirements.

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