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## 1.0 Background

MSI Asia Pacific (“MSIAP”), its partners, are specialist sexual and reproductive health, non-governmental organisations (NGO) working in Asia and the Pacific to improve the sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) of all people.

Our mission is **children by choice, not chance**.

When a woman is able to control when, or whether she has children, her opportunities for education, to work, or to spend time with the children she already has increases. This policy defines the principles and objectives of MSIAP’s development approach to support local communities where MSI works and operates, through the provision of sexual and reproductive health, and family planning services.

## 2.0 Principles

MSIAP is a not-for-profit development NGO, with no political or religious affiliations. We work for the improvement of the health and quality of life of all people and their families, helping them to exercise their right to enjoy sexual and reproductive health, and have children by choice, not by chance. MSIAP and its partners are committed to life saving work through reproductive health care and do this through:

- Providing quality, confidential, client-centred reproductive and family planning health services
- Sustainable service provision
- Advocacy

MSIAP does not allow any of our funds to be used for welfare, partisan political or evangelical purposes. MSIAP ensures its operations and activities are implemented on a risk-based approach in which relevant counter terrorism checks and anti-fraud and corruption mitigations are streamlined.

MSIAP provides all people with reproductive choice, and we are dedicated to delivering high-impact services that meet the need of the individual. MSI’s Client-Centred Strategy forms the basis of MSIAP’s approach which puts clients at the centre of what we do. To ensure that services remain client focused we will:

- Listen to what clients want, and fully understand their unique needs and challenges
- Support our country programs, as primary implementing partners, to deliver services according to what our clients need.
- Meet the needs of clients in the most convenient way possible to the client.
- Recognise that our clients come first.
- Ensure equity, affordability, respect and non-judgemental service.
- Ensure we promote and invest in locally led sexual and reproductive healthcare.

### 3.0 Objectives

To ensure that MSIAP, its entities and partners' development work complies with:

1. International Conference on Population and Development principles and commitments
2. MSI Global 2030 Strategy
3. DFAT and ACFID requirements

### 4.0 Definitions

<b>Aid and development</b>	Aid and development refers to activities undertaken in order to reduce poverty and address global justice issues. In the non-government organisation sector, this may occur through a range of engagements that includes community projects, emergency management, community education, advocacy, volunteer sending, provision of technical and professional services and resources, environmental protection and restoration, and promotion and protection of human rights.
<b>ACFID</b>	Australian Council for International Development (an independent association of non-government overseas aid and development agencies).
<b>DFAT</b>	Australian Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade.
<b>Non-aid and development activities</b>	Non-aid and development activities includes activities undertaken to promote a particular religious adherence or to support a particular party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party
<b>Political Activities</b>	Political activities are defined as supporting a political party, candidate or organisation affiliated to a political party. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BGO staff being involved in party political activities;</li> <li>• Using fund or resources to facilitate or support a specific political party, candidate, or party political organisation in a local, regional or general / national election;</li> <li>• Using funds or resources to facilitate or support independence or separatist movements;</li> <li>• Using funds or resources to facilitate or support a particular politician or faction to gain power within a government or within a political party structure</li> </ul>
<b>Religious Activities</b>	Religious activities are defined as supporting or promoting a particular religion, including activities undertaken with the intention of converting individuals or groups from one faith and/or denomination to another.
<b>Sustainable development</b>	Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (ACFID Code of Conduct definition).

**Welfare**

Welfare activities are defined as care and maintenance activities, that aim to maintain people in a particular condition on a longer-term basis. Substantial and broad impact on social and economic conditions in the community is not normally expected from welfare programs. Welfare may be provided on an individual or family basis, including home-based and institutional care programs, such as those provided by orphanages, homes for the elderly, hospices and the provision of food for those who are destitute. Welfare activities are typically:

- Implemented independently of other sustainable community development activities;
- Include no strategy for integration into broader community development programs;
- Provided on an individual or family basis, rather than on a community basis, and are unconnected to emergency needs; and
- Implemented on a long-term basis with no clear exit strategy.

## 5.0 Policy

### 5.1 **MSIAP and its partners commit to respecting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of local people, and those directly affected by development activities.**

MSIAP, its entities and partners are committed to upholding internationally recognised human rights principles in all development activities. MSIAP supports and advocates for the right to reproductive and sexual health for all, regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, indigeneity, disability, age, displacement, caste, gender, gender identity, sexuality, sexual orientation, poverty, class or socio-economic status.

Emphasis is placed on ensuring an inclusive approach to ensure rights and needs of vulnerable and marginalised people, including children, ethnic minorities, indigenous peoples, those who identify as LGBTQIA+ and people with a disability are central to all that we do.

In recognition of the importance of protecting the safety and best interest of children and vulnerable adults, who are in contact with our development activities, MSIAP has developed the MSIAP Child Safeguarding policy and the MSIAP Adult safeguarding and preventing sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment policy to address risk.

### 5.2 **MSIAP and its partners recognise the importance of non-discrimination and the incorporation of gender equality and disability inclusion into development activities.**

Improving women's lives and opportunities through increased access to a range of family planning choices and sexual and reproductive health is implicit in our work. To achieve this, programs must incorporate gender and disability issues through a twin track approach, including engaging with men, discussing the role of men in sexual and reproductive health and engaging with OPDs (Organisations of People with Disabilities). As an organisation, we expect this commitment to equity to underpin our own internal operations (as is reflected

in our recruitment and team development policies). Further, our commitment to equity is reflected in project activities, which we design and implement directly and with our partners, with an intersectional approach.

### **5.3 MSIAP and its partners commit to pursuing sustainable development of our activities.**

Sexual and reproductive health and family planning are effective and efficient interventions that support sustainable development and are shown to impact the health and well-being of clients and their children.

MSIAP endeavours to work in a sustainable way to ensure continuity of access to services, by building financially and operationally sustainable implementation partners, providing a mixture of fee and free service delivery that is appropriate to the context, and developing partnerships with governments and other health providers, to build local capacity in the countries in which we work.

We endeavour to engage clients and project participants in the planning, implementation, and evaluation stages of our development programs. This is conducted through several avenues including Focus Group Discussions, Client Exit Interviews etc. We seek to work in partnerships with NGOs, governments and other relevant stakeholders to deliver programs that are both effective and efficient.

### **5.4 MSIAP and its partners commit to promote environmental stewardship and sustainability.**

MSIAP considers the environmental sustainability of our actions and seeks to ensure that our operations as a support office and our development activities are informed by, and implemented with, an understanding of their environmental impact.

MSIAP and its partners are committed to improving environmental sustainability. This is achieved by committing to continuously reducing direct and indirect environmental impacts by using the following principles: do no harm; access and management of environmental risks; transparency; and working with partners and local teams to embed environmental safeguards towards improving environmental outcomes.

### **5.5 MSIAP and its partners commit to applying a quality approach to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of our activities.**

MSIAP values evidence-based decision making to improve programs. We strive to deliver and expand high-quality services and programs to millions of people through innovative and sustainable health service delivery models, so that we can improve access to equitable and efficient family planning, and comprehensive abortion and post abortion care.

Using evidence-informed decision making and transparent practices, we are committed to regular monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and research, to promote and further our mission, and document our public health impact. Our clients are at the centre of our work, and as such are integral to our metrics system. Their rights are addressed throughout the MSI results-based framework, which measures four key pillars: access, equity, quality and efficiency in reproductive health service delivery.

MSIAP also maintains a focus on maintaining strong equitable relationships with our partners, local organisations and local communities in the countries in which we work.

## **5.6 MSIAP is committed to promoting and investing in sustainable, locally led reproductive healthcare.**

MSIAP and its partners commit to strengthening the capacity of local teams and ensuring that local people, and those directly affected by our activities, are at the centre of all that we do.

MSIAP and its partners believe that the best people to design and implement programs are nationals of the country concerned, and that our processes must consider and be shaped by the needs and rights of local people and those who are directly affected by our activities.

Consequently, as an organisation, we are strongly committed to the strengthening of national capacity and working with national teams. We also emphasise institutional strengthening and capacity strengthening in our projects and operations.

MSIAP is committed to ensuring sustainable access to healthcare services in the countries in which we work. This is delivered in part through MSI's Public Systems Strengthening initiatives in which we work hand in hand with local governments. MSI supports public sector providers to deliver high quality and locally led reproductive healthcare to clients.

In addition to this, MSI globally is committed to exploring and investing in social business models. The role of social franchising at MSI is to scale our core service offering (including long-acting methods and safe abortion services) through private partnerships while maintaining our focus on quality. This approach promotes a more sustainable, at scale approach to achieving locally contextual development outcomes.

## **5.7 MSIAP and its partners will not participate in or conduct welfare services or activities.**

MSIAP does not participate in, nor use any funds to conduct welfare services or activities. MSI provides SRH education, information and services including contraception and safe abortion services (where legal). The nature of these services, their impact and approaches to service delivery contribute to long-term and broad social and economic change in the communities that we work. SRH education and demand generation activities produce long-term change in the knowledge of individuals and their communities. Services provided directly by MSI are voluntary, preventative health services. MSI activity works to ensure that a suitable range of contraceptive methods are available including long-term and permanent methods which continue to provide benefits to individuals long after the service is received. MSI uses various approaches to service delivery in response to the context in which we operate and to ensure sustainability of service availability. Such approaches include fee for service, integration with government health services and health systems strengthening with private and public sector providers.

MSIAP ensures separation of development and non-development activities robust risk mitigation activities including: awareness raising and training delivered to our Country Programs and local downstream implementing partners throughout the project cycle.

### **5.8 MSIAP and its partners commit to undertaking activities without religious or political affiliations.**

MSIAP, its entities and its partners have no religious affiliations and do not participate in, nor use any funds to support or conduct evangelistic activities.

MSIAP and its partners have no political affiliations. MSIAP has not in the past, nor will seek to be, engaged in or fund partisan political activities.

### **5.9 MSIAP is committed to addressing power imbalances**

MSIAP is committed to promoting equitable approaches to partnership. This includes by ensuring that local actors are the primary decision-makers in development processes which affect them. MSIAP aims to address power imbalances through assessments conducted at project design, through an intersectional approach identifying barriers to access associated with gender, sexual identity, disability, ethnicity, indigeneity and power dynamics.

MSIAP is committed to promoting more equitable ways of working by playing the role of a Support Office to Country Programs where its funds are implemented. This includes promoting local knowledge and expertise within project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation processes.

MSIAP understands the importance of supporting the organisational development of local downstream partners and commits to capacity strengthening initiatives to support local partners (where relevant), in collaboration with Country Programs and MSI Regional Support functions.

The MSIAP Team is in place to provide support to its country programs and downstream implementing partners and ensure that our projects comply with the above standards throughout all phases in the development program cycle. This is detailed through the Project Management Guidelines.

Internal mechanisms, including appropriate checks and reviews, are in place to ensure development projects are delivered as agreed. These are documented in the Monitoring and Evaluation Policy. Team members, particularly those involved in supporting the development of proposals and funding decision-making, should be made aware of the above policies during their induction process, and should endeavour to apply these philosophies in their roles.

## **6.0 Related Policies**

MSIAP Partnership Policy  
MSIAP Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) Policy  
MSIAP Monitoring and Evaluation Policy

## **7.0 References**

ACFID Code of Conduct  
Australia's International Development Policy, DFAT 2023.  
[MSI's Client-Centred Strategy](#)  
[MSI Global 2030 Strategy](#)