



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

# Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme

Eligibility Criteria

February 2016

# Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme (OAGDS)

## Eligibility Criteria

The OAGDS approval process provides confidence that an approved organisation has the capacity to effectively deliver and manage overseas aid activities in partnership with in-country organisations, having appropriate safeguards and risk management mechanisms in place for child-protection and countering terrorism funding. Further information on meeting the criteria can be found in the accompanying *OAGDS Guidelines*.

### Pre-eligibility

In order to apply for OAGDS, your organisation must:

- › have a voluntary governing body, and
- › be a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), conforming to the ACNC Governance Standards.

### Criteria 1: The organisation delivers overseas aid activities.

The organisation will implement development and/or humanitarian assistance activities in developing countries.

Development activities will:

- › demonstrate fair distribution;
- › be informed by local people; and
- › deliver sustained or lasting benefits, such as through capacity-building and/or an exit strategy.

Humanitarian assistance activities will:

- › be in response to a humanitarian crisis;
- › meet an immediate need; and
- › have an exit strategy.

Where an organisation supports activities that are ineligible under OAGDS (such as partisan political or proselytism), the organisation will demonstrate its ability to separately manage these activities, such as through separate budgets, expenditure reports and communications with supporters.

### Criteria 2: The organisation has the capacity to manage and deliver overseas aid activities.

The organisation will demonstrate its ability to manage and deliver its aid activities. This includes:

- › Planning and appraisal – activities are documented in a project plan or similar, and critical review is carried out to determine whether activities go ahead.
- › Budgeting – activities have a budget, and plans and budgets are reviewed before approval for support is made.
- › Implementation – dialogue with and support for project partners throughout activity implementation is undertaken and changes to plans are made as needed.
- › Monitor and tracking of progress – implementation is monitored; progress is reported and reviewed periodically.
- › Financial management – activity expenditure is reported and reviewed periodically.
- › Assessment – the success or otherwise of activities is assessed, lessons are learned and shared appropriately.

The points provided above are examples of good activity management, and the assessment of organisations will be based on the relevant context, including scale and complexity of activities and operating environment. Evidence of capacity will generally take the form of a track record of successful activities.

Applicants that have partnership arrangements with other Australian organisations will provide sufficient information on their respective roles to allow for an assessment of the applicant organisation's capacity.

### Criteria 3: Overseas aid activities are delivered in partnership with in-country organisations, based on principles of cooperation, mutual respect and shared accountability.

The organisation will demonstrate how it works with developing country partner organisations or groups, not just individuals. The organisation and the project partner will both contribute and add value to the delivery of aid activities, with shared values and objectives for aid activities.

The organisation will demonstrate how it cooperates with in-country partners to plan, implement and track progress of the aid activities. Documented arrangements will exist outlining the objectives of the partnership, the roles of each party, reporting requirements and financial management arrangements.

The organisation will demonstrate regular communication between the project partner and Australian organisation, and partners will be aware of the Australian provenance of the funds and support.

### Criteria 4: The organisation has appropriate safeguards in place and manages risks associated with child protection and terrorism.

#### 4a) Child protection

The organisation will have a child protection policy and procedures in place that promote child protection and child safe practices. Those who have direct contact with children will undergo Australian Federal Police (AFP) criminal history checks. Where there is direct contact with children or the project and partners are working with children with disabilities or children in institutionalised care, additional child safe practices are expected including:

- > that the organisation has discussed child protection risks and management procedures with project partners; and
- > project partners have procedures in place to promote child protection and child safe practices including child safe recruitment practices, criminal history checks or equivalent, supervised visits involving children, etc.

#### 4b) Counter terrorism and sanctions

The organisation has a counter terrorism and sanctions policy and procedures in place that manage the risks associated with terrorism and sanctions. Funds do not support terrorism or individuals and entities subject to sanctions. The organisation screens developing country partners, key individuals and entities receiving funds against the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Consolidated List and terrorist organisations listed under the Criminal Code. The organisation will discuss terrorism risks and management procedures with project partners and will verify that its project partners undertake terrorism screening of key downstream partners or suppliers receiving funds against the DFAT Consolidated List and terrorist organisations listed under the Criminal Code.