



**ISLAMIC CHARITY FOUNDATION
FOR EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE**

ICFESW

Do No Harm and Safe Programming Policy

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DO NO HARM AND SAFE PROGRAMMING POLICY

Ensuring ICFESW programmes reduce — not increase — vulnerability and risk

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1. PURPOSE

The Do No Harm principle requires that ICFESW actively analyses and minimises the unintended negative consequences of its programmes, activities and presence. ICFESW is committed to designing, implementing and evaluating all its work in ways that prevent harm whether physical, psychological, social, economic or environmental to beneficiaries, staff, communities and the environment.

2. CORE PRINCIPLE

ICFESW's first obligation is to do no harm. No programme objective justifies knowingly or negligently placing people at greater risk.

3. DOMAINS OF HARM TO BE ASSESSED

Domain	Examples of Potential Harm
Physical	Poorly designed activities causing injury; unsafe infrastructure; health risks from inadequate sanitation.
Psychosocial	Participation in research or documentation that re-traumatizes survivors; stigmatising programme design.
Social	Programmes that exacerbate existing tensions, create divisions or exclude marginalised groups.
Economic	Aid creating dependency; market distortion; exclusion of the poorest households.
Security	Exposing beneficiaries or staff to retaliation, threats or violence due to programme activities.
Reputational	Actions that damage trust in ICFESW, partners or the communities served.
Environmental	Programme waste; deforestation; unsustainable resource use.

4. DO NO HARM ASSESSMENT PROCESS

4.1 At Programme Design Stage

- Conduct a context analysis before programme design, including identification of conflict drivers, existing power dynamics and vulnerabilities.
- Identify which groups may be inadvertently excluded or harmed by programme design.
- Consult community members including women, girls, and marginalised groups in the design process.
- Map potential negative unintended consequences and develop mitigation measures.

4.2 During Implementation

- Monitor for unintended harm throughout implementation via regular field visits and beneficiary feedback.
- Adapt programme activities if harm is identified.
- Suspend or stop activities if the risk of harm becomes unacceptable.



4.3 At Evaluation Stage

- Assess whether unintended harm occurred and document lessons learned.
- Incorporate Do No Harm findings into future programme design.

5. SAFE PROGRAMMING STANDARDS

5.1 Beneficiary Protection

- Beneficiary information is never shared in ways that could expose them to risk.
- Programmes include accessible, safe feedback and complaint mechanisms.
- No programme activity requires beneficiaries to disclose sensitive personal information unnecessarily.

5.2 Staff Safety

- Security briefings are provided before all field deployments.
- Staff travelling in high-risk areas are never required to work alone.
- Staff mental health and psychosocial wellbeing are actively supported.

5.3 Community Relations

- ICFESW maintains regular dialogue with community leaders and representatives.
- Community concerns raised through feedback mechanisms are acted upon in a timely manner.
- ICFESW respects local cultural norms while upholding international human rights standards.

6. CONFLICT SENSITIVITY

In contexts of conflict or social tension (including the ongoing humanitarian situation in the Extrême-Nord), ICFESW applies conflict sensitivity analysis to all its programmes, ensuring that:

- Assistance distribution does not fuel inter-community tensions.
- Target beneficiary selection criteria are transparent and conflict-sensitive.
- ICFESW maintains principled humanitarian neutrality and impartiality.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

- ICFESW programmes avoid activities that cause significant environmental damage.
- Wherever possible, ICFESW actively contributes to environmental restoration (in line with its environmental mandate).
- Programme waste is managed safely and in accordance with applicable environmental standards.

8. ACCOUNTABILITY

- Programme managers are responsible for integrating Do No Harm into their programme cycle.
- The Safeguarding Focal Point Reviews Do No Harm findings in the quarterly safeguarding report.
- This policy is reviewed annually.