

## Children in Crossfire Safeguarding Statement

Children in Crossfire is committed to doing all in its power to ensure that every child and vulnerable adult associated with our partners and projects in Ireland, UK, Tanzania and Ethiopia and staff, volunteers and external bodies i.e. partners, contractors or consultants working jointly with Children in Crossfire is accessing a safe environment free from abuse and/or exploitation. We exercise our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all those listed above through a commitment to the implementation of rigorous policies, codes of behaviour and implementation procedures. We are committed to a zero-tolerance approach to misconduct breaching our policies, codes and procedures: including abuse, sexual misconduct, intimidation and other acts.

We have safeguarding, child protection, and sexual exploitation policies in place, with clear procedures for handling disclosures. We conduct regular staff training, and have a process for those affected to come forward in full confidence that their complaint will be handled with sensitivity and diligence. We have clarity around procedures for reporting disclosures to the relevant authorities, charity commission and the relevant donor. All staff, volunteers and external bodies i.e. partners, contractors or consultants working with Children in Crossfire are fully vetted prior to any contact with children and vulnerable adults. We also have a strong equal opportunities policy in place which focuses on gender equality and rights across all of our programmes, ensuring the voices of women are brought to the core of all of our work.

Through our development work in Tanzania and Ethiopia we actively build the capacity of our partners to develop appropriate policies and procedures to protect children and vulnerable adults from abuse or sexual exploitation.

We are committed to the following principles:<sup>i</sup>

- Ensuring that the culture within our organisation provides a safe and trusted environment that encourages those affected to come forward and report incidents
- Assuring the regulatory bodies that they have full disclosure of all safeguarding concerns at the earliest opportunity
- Sharing with the regulatory bodies the safeguarding policies and practices already in place, as well as how incidents and allegations are handled when they arise
- Where not done already, sharing the details of any incidents with the regulatory bodies
- Increasing investment and resources towards safeguarding and protecting the most vulnerable
- Ensuring that the highest safeguarding standards are applied throughout our programmes and that best practice is shared across the sector

Carrying out work, which is already underway in collaboration with government bodies and the NGO sector in Ireland and the UK, the Charity Commission and global bodies, to explore a system of passporting, registration or accreditation of humanitarian and development

practitioners which will be accelerated under the leadership of Irish & UK NGOs in the hope that it may influence the practice and standards of the global aid community.

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