



## CODE OF CONDUCT

### Preamble

This Code of Conduct has been developed by IDC Australia as an industry initiative to maintain and enhance standards of ethical conduct by private sector development practitioners.

This Code of Conduct is provided as a model to assist individuals and organizations review or develop their own code of conduct/ethics. There is no intention for an industry body to monitor and regulate an industry-wide code of conduct.

This Code of Conduct is seen as being consistent with and reinforcing principles of engagement sought by DFAT and the Australian aid program with its commercial delivery partners.

### Values

When working in Australia's aid program, Contractors should aim to build creative and trusting relationships with the people of developing countries, and meet program standards that:

- give priority to the needs and interests of the people they serve;
- respect the inherent dignity of the individual, and promote equity and justice for all persons;
- encourage self-help and self-reliance among beneficiaries and avoid creating dependency;
- involve beneficiary groups to the maximum extent possible in the design, implementation and evaluation of projects and programs;
- respect and foster internationally recognized standards of social equity and civil society; and
- are based on an understanding of the history and culture of the people served.

## Overarching principles

The following overarching principles inform the focus and practice of IDC Australia and its members:

- Deliver lasting results
- Focus on delivering value for money
- Remain transparent and accountable
- Effectively manage risk and fraud.

## Our Ethical Commitment

Members of IDC Australia commit to:

- promoting zero tolerance for the offering of bribes or other inducements to any person, in order
- to gain unfair commercial advantage;
- avoiding all real or apparent conflicts of interest;
- addressing all instances of fraud or corrupt practices as soon as they emerge;
- respecting the laws of partner countries and not view a lack of law enforcement ability, or an apparent lack of regard for a particular local law, as diminishing the responsibility for adherence to the law;
- using their best endeavors, while in partner countries, to ensure:
  - all non-citizen project staff and their dependants refrain from involvement in the political affairs and interference in the religious affairs of the country, and
  - all project staff and their dependants refrain from using information gained by their work on, or relationship to, the project in a way that could harm relations between the Australian and partner country governments.
- maintaining an understanding of the objectives, goals and nature of Australia's aid program and act in a manner to enhance its effectiveness;
- seeking to enhance the environmental and social sustainability of Australia's aid program;
- seeking to build community support for Australia's aid program;
- promoting gender equity and equality within their own organizations, and in their work on Australia's aid program;
- complying with Commonwealth Procurement Rules including requirements for ethical and accountable dealings;
- cooperating with DFAT on financial audits and project appraisals;
- promoting open and effective competition in the contracting of activities under the aid program;

- adhering to, implementing and promoting the DFAT Australian Aid program Child Protection Policy, and other policies of relevance to the aid program;
- providing information in reports, certifications, invoices or statements that is known to be accurate;
- endeavoring to continually improve their internal procedures and systems;
- identifying and resolving disputes expeditiously; and
- engaging effectively as a member of IDC Australia to support the pursuit of better development outcomes.