

Child Safeguarding Policy

Child safeguarding is of utmost importance for any organization working with children. As an NGO working in rural parts of Kenya focusing on education, we recognize the need to protect children from all forms of abuse, exploitation, and neglect. This child safeguarding policy outlines our commitment to safeguarding children and sets out the procedures that we will follow to ensure that all children associated with our organization are protected.

Definition of Child Safeguarding:

Child safeguarding refers to the set of measures and activities designed to protect children from all forms of abuse, exploitation, and neglect, and to ensure that children's rights and dignity are respected.

Policy Statement:

THI is committed to promoting the safety and well-being of children associated with our organization, and we will take all necessary measures to prevent abuse, exploitation, and neglect of children. We recognize that child safeguarding is the responsibility of every member of our organization, and we will ensure that our staff, volunteers, and partners understand their roles and responsibilities in safeguarding children.

Scope of the Policy:

This policy applies to all children associated with our organization, including students, participants in our programs, children of our staff, and children in the communities where we operate.

Prevention of Abuse, Exploitation, and Neglect:

We will take the following measures to prevent abuse, exploitation, and neglect of children:

a. We will ensure that all staff, volunteers, and partners are carefully selected and screened, and that they undergo training on child safeguarding.

b. We will establish clear codes of conduct for our staff, volunteers, and partners that set out expectations for their behavior and interactions with children.

c. We will ensure that all children associated with our organization are informed about their rights and about the behavior that is expected of adults who work with children.

d. We will establish clear reporting mechanisms for concerns or allegations of child abuse, exploitation, or neglect, and we will take appropriate action to investigate and respond to such concerns or allegations.

e. We will ensure that all children associated with our organization are provided with safe and secure environments, and that appropriate measures are taken to protect them from harm.

Responding to Concerns or Allegations:

We will take the following steps to respond to concerns or allegations of child abuse, exploitation, or neglect:

a. All concerns or allegations will be taken seriously, and a designated child safeguarding officer will be responsible for investigating and responding to them.

b. We will ensure that any child who discloses abuse, exploitation, or neglect is listened to, believed, and supported, and that their safety and well-being are prioritized.

c. We will ensure that appropriate action is taken to protect the child and to prevent further harm, which may include contacting the relevant authorities and providing support to the child and their family.

Monitoring and Review:

We will monitor the implementation of this policy and review it periodically to ensure that it remains relevant and effective. We will seek feedback from staff, volunteers, partners, and children to inform our monitoring and review.

Communication:

We will communicate this policy and our commitment to child safeguarding to all staff, volunteers, partners, and children associated with our organization. We will also make this policy available to the public on our website.

Implementation:

We will ensure that this policy is implemented throughout our organization and that all staff, volunteers, and partners understand their role and responsibilities in safeguarding children.

By implementing this child safeguarding policy, we aim to create a safe and protective environment for all children associated with our organization. We will work towards preventing abuse, exploitation, and neglect, and will respond appropriately to concerns or allegations.