



**U-SAVED**

# SAP12. Child protection procedure

Update : 21 February 2024

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

U-Saved places human dignity and the protection of vulnerable people, including children, at the heart of its work. We work mainly in areas where people are considered to be the most vulnerable, due to their proximity to the front line. This environment can increase the vulnerability of children, multiplying the opportunities for abuse. We recognise that we have an essential duty of care towards the children we work with. We take seriously any concerns about abuse, exploitation and harassment that run counter to U-Saved's mandate, and will investigate and take disciplinary action as appropriate.

This Child Protection Policy forms the basis of the organisation's child protection working practices. This policy applies to all situations, professional or otherwise, during and outside working hours. This policy applies to full-time, permanent, contract and part-time team members, volunteers, consultants, board members, visitors, partners and visitors to our programmes.

## 2 DEFINITIONS

### 2.1 Child

A child is defined as a person under the age of 18.

### 2.2 Child abuse

Anything that individuals, institutions or processes do or fail to do that directly or indirectly harms children or impairs their prospects for safe and healthy development into adulthood.

#### 2.2.1 Physical abuse

The use of physical force that causes actual or probable physical injury or suffering (e.g. hitting, shaking, burning, torturing).

#### 2.2.2 Psychological abuse

Any humiliating or degrading treatment such as name-calling, constant criticism, belittling, persistent shaming, ostracism and isolation.

#### 2.2.3 Negligence/negligent treatment

Persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, for example by failing to provide adequate food, clothing and/or shelter, by failing to prevent harm, by failing to provide adequate supervision or by failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

#### 2.2.4 Sexual abuse

All forms of sexual violence, including incest, early or forced marriage, rape, participation in pornography, sexual exploitation and sexual slavery. Sexual abuse of children can also include touching or indecent exposure, the use of sexually explicit language towards a child and showing pornographic material to children.

### **3 U-Saved VALUES AND PRINCIPLES**

1. Strive to understand and respect children in the local context in which U-Saved operates.
2. All types of abuse or exploitation of children are unacceptable.
3. All children must be protected, regardless of their gender identity, age, sexual orientation, abilities, ethnicity, religion, socio-economic status or political views.
4. All team members are committed to creating an environment of respect and trust with children, recognising them as individuals.
5. Team members will take all concerns and allegations of child abuse, exploitation, discrimination and manipulation seriously and respond appropriately.
6. All relevant concerns expressed by children will be taken seriously by team members.

### **4 BASIC STANDARDS OF PRACTICE**

1. All members of the U-Saved team will undergo a check with the local police authorities, it being understood that their employment status may be changed depending on the results.
2. Team members must be vigilant and considerate of their own behaviour.
3. All team members must take all necessary steps to promote safe environments for children.
4. No member of the team will ever be alone with a child in a room where all doors are closed or in a space where they are not easily visible.
5. All beneficiaries, including children, will be informed of this policy and of their right to be protected.
6. All members of the team have a duty to report if they suspect that a child is in a situation where they are at risk or may be at risk to others.
7. U-Saved will not participate in any exploitative labour practices, including child labour. The organisation will make all reasonable enquiries to ensure that no supplier, sub-contractor or partner is engaged in child labour practices.
8. All local employment laws will be complied with in respect of the employment of persons under the age of 18.

### **5 RESPONSIBILITY**

It is the responsibility of the Country Manager to ensure that the policy is applied to the operations for which he/she is responsible and to ensure that all team members under his/her supervision understand the policy and are aware of their responsibilities under it.

### **6 PROCEDURES FOR SHARING PHOTOGRAPHS, VIDEOS AND INTERVIEW**

1. Always provide a clear context for the story and/or image of the child.
2. Do not provide unnecessary identifying information.
3. Ensure that children know who the photographer or videographer is, and why they are being photographed.
4. Do not act or ask a child to tell a story that is not their own.
5. Children used in our media publications are always fully clothed.
6. Ensure that the child's dignity is placed first.



## Annex

Affirmative statement for U-SAVED Staff, Volunteer, Partner or Supplier

**I hereby confirm that I have received, read, and understood the U-SAVED's Child protection policy.**

**I declare that I shall carry out my duties to comply with the abovementioned rules of behaviour and work for the implementation thereof. This, to the highest professional standards and in the best interests of U-SAVED.**

**I am fully aware that failure to comply with the Child protection policy requirements may be cause for disciplinary action, which may include contractual consequences and dismissal.**

Name:

Position:

Date:

Signature: