



Development for Humanity -DEH- CAMEROON, officially registered as a nonprofit organization under the Cameroon law with registration No. 05/E.29(1111) vol.8/APPB of 23 September 2008

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# Child Protection Policy for Development for Humanity – DEH Nongovernmental Organization

## Introduction

Development for Humanity – DEH is a legally nonprofit organization with its headquarters in the North West region of Cameroon. It was created in 2008 to promote sustainable rural and urban development through sustained agriculture and economic growth, social justice especially for underprivileged and gender-discriminated groups, enhanced ecological development (Sustainable Natural Resource Management, and promoting carbon footprint – and climate change mitigating technologies, and sustainable livelihoods improvement through demand-driven capacity building, outreach, and development – oriented research ([www.dev4humanity.org](http://www.dev4humanity.org)).

This Child Protection Policy outlines our commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people involved in our project. Based on the UN 1989 Convention General Assembly resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, and other related instruments such as the Geneva Declaration of the Rights of the Child of 1924 and in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child adopted by the General Assembly on 20 November 1959 this policy document sets the blueprint and provides guidelines for staff, volunteers, and DEH partners, and a guide to ensure the safety and well-being of DEH's endeavors and partnerships relating to children.

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We align our thoughts and actions with UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights, proclaimed and agreed that everyone – particularly Children is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

### **Objectives of DEH's Child Protection Policy**

- To clarify terms of collaboration with partners working on projects and activities related to children's welfare
- To ensure the safety and well-being of all children and young people involved in the project.
- To provide clear procedures for staff, volunteers, and partners to follow to protect children from harm.
- To promote a culture of awareness and responsibility regarding child protection.
- To stimulate children's participation in globally challenging issues such as climate change and conflict resolution.

### **Scope**

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, and partners involved in the project, including coaches, facilitators, administrators, and any other individuals working with or in proximity to children and young people.

### **Definitions**

- **Child:** Any person under the age of 18.
- **Abuse:** Any form of physical, emotional, sexual harm, or neglect inflicted on a child.

### **Principles**

- **Best Interests of the Child:** The welfare of the child is paramount in all considerations.



- **Zero Tolerance:** There is zero tolerance for any form of abuse or exploitation of children.
- **Equality and Non-Discrimination:** All children have the right to protection from abuse regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, or any other status.
- **Confidentiality:** Information regarding child protection concerns will be handled with the utmost confidentiality and shared only with those who need to know.

### Code of Conduct

All staff, volunteers, and partners must:

- Treat all children with respect and dignity.
- Maintain appropriate boundaries and avoid any behavior that could be misinterpreted.
- Refrain from physical punishment or aggressive behavior towards children.
- Avoid being alone with a child in a secluded area; ensure that another adult is present or the interaction is visible to others.
- Report any concerns or suspicions of abuse immediately to the designated Child Protection Officer.

### Procedures for Reporting Concerns

1. **Recognize:** Be aware of the signs of abuse and neglect.
2. **Respond:** Listen to the child, take their concerns seriously, and reassure them.
3. **Report:** Immediately report the concern to the designated Child Protection Officer.
4. **Record:** Document the concern in detail, including the child's name, date, time, and description of the incident or disclosure.

### Child Protection Officer

The designated Child Protection Officer (CPO) is responsible for:

- Receiving and responding to reports of child protection concerns.
- Ensuring that all reports are documented and investigated appropriately.

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- Liaising with local authorities and child protection agencies as necessary.
- Providing training and support to staff, volunteers, and partners on child protection issues.

### **Training and Awareness**

- All staff, volunteers, and partners will receive training on child protection policies and procedures.
- Regular refresher training sessions will be conducted to ensure ongoing awareness and understanding.
- Information about child protection will be disseminated to all participants, including children and their families, to ensure they are aware of their rights and the procedures in place to protect them.

### **Monitoring and Review**

- The Child Protection Policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness and relevance.
- Feedback from staff, volunteers, partners, and participants will be considered in the review process.

### **Key areas of intervention**

1. Organize annual events to celebrate the Universal Children's day on November 20<sup>th</sup>
2. Provision of identity (e.g. birth certificates) to underprivileged children.
3. Use sports and other extra-curricular activities as instruments to reach out to children, and proclaim/protect the rights of children, and educate them on their rights.
4. Carry out special events (training, drama, campaigns) and capacity building on the rights of the child.
5. Support underprivileged children to acquire education, and to live decent (drug-free) lives
6. Initiate, undertake and follow up income generation and livelihood activities especially for vulnerable, out-of-school youths.

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7. Encourage participation of children in climate change mitigation, and resilience building, and conflict management.
8. Support children in conflict situations to reduce psychosocial trauma, and active participation e.g. as child soldiers and all other forms of exploitations, including sexual abuse.

## Conclusion

We are committed to creating a safe and supportive environment for all children and young people involved in our project. By adhering to this Child Protection Policy, we aim to protect children from harm and ensure their well-being throughout their participation in our activities. This policy allows DEH to make a modest contribution to the goals on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to provide hope to hopeless children in Cameroon.

Done in Bamenda, on the December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

  
Peng Ernestine Neje

Director

