

# Child-Protection Policy for East Africa Cup

**States Parties shall protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse. (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), Article 19)**

## Introduction

Abuse and exploitation of children happens in all countries and societies. Members of the **East Africa Cup 2013 Organizing Committee, staff and volunteers** share in a commitment to prevent child abuse and to protect children from any possible harm.

This policy sets out common values, principles and beliefs and describes how the **East Africa Cup 2013 Organizing Committee and staff's** commitment to protect children will be carried out.

It applies particularly to how children are protected from abuse at the **East Africa Cup 2013 in Moshi, Tanzania**

In this document, 'children' refers to anyone younger than 18 years.

## OUR COMMITMENT TO PROTECT CHILDREN

### 1. Our values, principles and beliefs

- All child abuse is an abuse of children's rights.
- All children have equal rights to protection from abuse and exploitation.
- The situation of all children must be improved through promotion of their rights as set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other human rights instruments. This includes the right to freedom from abuse and exploitation.
- Child abuse is never acceptable.
- We have a commitment to protect children with, or for whom, we work.
- Partner agencies involved in the event must use the child-protection policy in preparatory and during the event.

### 2. What we will do

We will meet our commitment to protect children from abuse by:

**Awareness:** We will ensure that all delegates to the event, child participants, staff and partners (including government, non-government organizations (NGOs) and other delegates, translators, facilitators, guardians, local partners, volunteers, administration staff) are aware of the problem of child abuse and the risks to children.

**Prevention:** We will ensure, through awareness and good practice, that delegates to the event and others minimize the risks to children.

**Reporting:** We will ensure that all event delegates and others are clear on what steps to take if concerns arise regarding the safety of children.

**Responding:** We will ensure that action is taken to support and protect children when concerns arise regarding possible abuse.

In order to meet the above standards of reporting and responding, members of the **East Africa Cup 2013 Organizing Committee, staff and volunteers** will also ensure that they:

- Take seriously any concerns raised;
- Take positive steps to ensure the protection of children who are the subject of any concerns;
- Support children, delegates or other adults who raise concerns or who are the subject of concerns;
- Act appropriately and effectively in instigating or cooperating with any subsequent process of investigation;

- Are guided throughout the child-protection process by the principle of 'best interests of the child'
- Listen to and take seriously the views and wishes of children;
- Work in partnership with parents/carers and/or other professionals to ensure the protection of children.

### 3. How we will ensure our commitments above are met

- All delegates at the event and all supporting staff (volunteer and locally or internationally appointed) will be asked to abide by the 'rules of behaviour'.
- All local partners accept and implement the child-protection policy.
- All delegates and staff will have access to a copy of the child-protection policy.
- Recruitment procedures for key support staff for the consultation, as well as all guardians, will include checks on suitability for working with children.
- Sensitization briefing for all delegates and briefing for all staff will include child-protection issues.
- All children and staff will have the contact details, and be briefed on the role of, the child-protection focal person for the consultation. Any child-protection concerns and complaints should be reported to the child-protection focal person who will handle them in strictest confidence.
- Systems will be established to investigate possible abuse once reported and to deal with it. In Tanzania this will include activating any relevant statutory procedures.

## Rules of behavior

All delegates and staff at the event must sign up to and abide by these 'rules of behavior and **must never:**

- Hit or otherwise physically assault or physically abuse children;
- Develop physical/sexual relationships with children;
- Develop relationships with children that could in any way be deemed exploitative or abusive;
- Act in ways that may be abusive or may place a child at risk of abuse;
- Use language, make suggestions or offer advice that is inappropriate, offensive or abusive;
- Behave physically in a manner that is inappropriate or sexually provocative;
- Have a child/children with whom they are working to stay overnight in their room;
- Sleep in the same room or bed as a child (if this has not been agreed upon by their guardian);
- Do things for children of an intimate nature that they can do for themselves;
- Permit or participate in behaviour of children that is illegal, unsafe or abusive;
- Act in ways intended to shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade children or otherwise perpetrate any form of emotional abuse;
- Discriminate against, show differential treatment or favour particular children to the exclusion of others.

This is not an exhaustive or exclusive list. The principle is that delegates and staff should avoid actions or behaviour that may constitute poor practice or potentially abusive behaviour