Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

Development Principles in Global Emergency Care

v1 COR875

Document Review

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Revision History

Version	Date	Pages revised / Brief Explanation of Revision
v1	Nov-2022	Approved by the Council of Advocacy, Practice and Partnerships

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1.   Purpose and background

The Development Principles in ACEM Global Emergency Care policy ("the Policy") outlines the guiding principles for management and delivery of development activities under ACEM's Global Emergency Care (GEC) Desk and the Global Emergency Care Committee (GECCo).

ACEM's GEC Desk-managed international development projects are distinct from other international development and humanitarian activities in which College Fellows may be independently engaged.

2.   Terminology

ACEM/the College
means the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine.

College member
means a person admitted as a member of the College pursuant to the provisions of the ACEM Constitution and associated regulations.

Governing body
means the ACEM Board, the Council of Advocacy, Practice and Partnerships (CAPP), or the Council of Education(COE).

Trainee
means trainees enrolled in and undertaking the FACEM Training Program and, for the purposes of this policy, also includes Emergency Medicine Certificate, Emergency Medicine Diploma, Emergency Medicine Advanced Diploma and Diploma of Pre-Hospital and Retrieval Medicine (DipPHRM) trainees, and Specialist International Medical Graduates (SIMGs) undertaking College requirements for the purpose of attaining eligibility for election to Fellowship of the College.

Global Emergency Care

means the integration of emergency care with the field of global health. Global Emergency Care (GEC) emphasises the transnational aspects of disease and healthcare, the synthesis of public health and clinical care, and the pursuit of equity across populations. GEC practice incorporates clinical service provision, capacity building and health systems strengthening for time-sensitive healthcare, and it includes development activities as well as aspects of disaster health, humanitarian assistance and surge response.

Restricted/tied funding

means funding that is provided with a specific purpose, usually defined by the funding provider, and therefore can be used (expended) for that purpose only.

Non-restricted funding
means funding that can be used for any purpose or activity.

Development activities

means activities supported by ACEM that support development objectives. ACEM undertakes due diligence to ensure it is not contributing to non-development activities. These are defined in ACEM's *Development and Non-Development Policy*.

Low- and Middle- Income Country
Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) are countries classified by the World Bank as low, lower-middle or upper-middle income based on gross national income (GNI) per capita in current USD of the previous year. These classifications are updated annually.

High Income Country

High Income Countries (HICs) are countries classified by the World Bank as high income based on gross national income (GNI) per capita in current USD of the previous year. These classifications are updated annually.

Majority World

means those countries combined which hold most of the world's population. Majority World is the counter-term to Minority World, which refers to those countries described as 'The West'.

Equality

means each individual or group of people is provided the same (equal) resources or opportunities for participation.

Equity

means each individual or group of people is allocated the resources and opportunities needed to ensure an equal outcome. Equity recognises that each person has different circumstances and therefore requires different levels of support.

Intersectionality

means the interconnected nature of social categorisations such as race, class, gender identity, sexual identity as they apply to an individual or group. Intersectionality is regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination/privilege and disadvantage/advantage.

Emergency care workforce

means clinicians, including nurses, doctors and other healthcare workers contributing to the provision of emergency care.

Humanitarian response

means action intended to preserve life, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and in the aftermath of conflict, disasters and other humanitarian crises, as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for the occurrence of such situations. Humanitarian response is guided and governed by the key principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. This is distinct from development activities defined in ACEM's *Development and Non-Development Definitions Policy*.

Sustainability / sustainable development

means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, while ensuring a balance between economic stability, environmental care and social well-being.

3. Development Principles

The College's development principles apply to its activities promoting improved and universal access to timely and effective emergency care in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). These activities are aimed at improving the health and well-being of partner communities and contribute to poverty reduction.

3.1 Principles of Development

Development is characterised by the following principles:

a. **Participation:** Strengths based approaches which encourage and provide opportunities for people and communities to create solutions for themselves, and recognise that solutions must be appropriate and acceptable;

b. **Collaboration and partnership:** Working in equal partnership with people and communities for mutual learning and collaborative participation;

c. **Addresses the cause of structural inequality:** Seek to address social and structural determinants of health, and support systems and structures which enable people to move out of poverty; and

d. **Rights-based:** Seek to empower rights holders to claim their rights and ensure that duty bearers exercise their duties. Activities uphold international human rights and ensure dignity.

Humanitarian Response

ACEM's development activities are not intended to include humanitarian response, however the College acknowledges the existence of nexus/overlap between humanitarian and development activities. The length, scale and complicated nature of emergencies often requires a shift from reactive to more sustainable, long-term responses. The College supports surge response activities that:

— Deliver rapid systems and process development;

— Respond to urgent training needs;

— Provide disaster recovery; and

— Meet the emergency care needs of refugees, internally displaced people, and people impacted by disasters.

Where ACEM's activities overlap with humanitarian response, ACEM is committed to recognising and applying the commitments of the [Core Humanitarian Standards](#) (2014).

3.2 Principles of Delivery

ACEM's [Core Values](#) define the organisation's guiding principles and underpin the way ACEM works. These values of equity, respect, integrity and collaboration guide our work in GEC and commit us to working in mutually respectful ways.

ACEM is committed to improving the capacity of LMICs to deliver safe and effective emergency care, with a focus on the Indo-Pacific Region. The College seeks to do this by supporting locally-led emergency care capacity development that:

a. Is [sustainable](#), by ensuring activities:

— Are led by national health and development plans and priorities;

— Promote reciprocal, sustainable and mutually beneficial partnerships, with a focus on co-learning

- — Ensuring inclusion and representation of those who are vulnerable and those who are affected by the intersecting drivers of marginalisation and exclusion[1];
- — Focus on sustainable delivery of training, education and research that increases local capacity, strengthens local systems and institutions; and
- — Ensures accountability and value learning for all activity partners.

b. Adheres to best-practice in international [responsible volunteering for development](#).

c. Integrates socially and environmentally positive principles in our internal decision-making processes about partnerships that is in keeping with ACEM's *External Funding Application Policy* and *Investment Policy.*

3.3   Sustainability

3.3.1   Engagement of national partners in project management cycle

ACEM carefully considers risks to the sustainability of its initiatives at each stage of the project management cycle. Many factors that contribute to the sustainability of development activities are outside of the control of ACEM GEC. It is therefore essential that GEC partners (national governments, hospitals and national/regional training institutes) have ownership of and are engaged in each stage of the project management cycle. This ensures that ACEM GEC initiatives are aligned with the national health priorities in each country and are responsive to current and emerging emergency care needs and priorities of partner communities. ACEM is committed to enabling the participation and contribution of primary stakeholders at all stages of GEC projects.

3.3.2   Selection of personnel for training

ACEM's GEC activities deliver training, mentoring and ongoing professional development opportunities to emergency care personnel to enable them to provide safe and effective emergency care.

ACEM works in close consultation with national governments, hospitals and regional training institutions to identify appropriate emergency care leaders and personnel in country to receive training. Candidates from the public sector are actively encouraged to undertake training, to encourage equity in access to emergency care services.

3.3.3   Decolonisation and strengths-based language to promote equity and reciprocity

ACEM recognises the relevance of colonial history to the contemporary practice of global health and the need for organisations to undertake urgent action toward decolonising global health.

The College acknowledges the language used in the sector is one way to critically reflect on its history, identify hierarchies and culturally Eurocentric concepts, in an attempt to overcome the global inequities and injustice that such structures perpetuate. The list of global health terms that have historical and political problematic connotations is long and a discipline-wide approach to inclusive language is lacking. Similarly, few resources offer definitions and reflection on use, expand defined thematic areas, or critically discuss etymology.

ACEM is committed to collaboration with staff and members to enable development, and shared ownership, of such resources among the global health and global emergency care communities.

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[1] Including not restricted to race, religion, ethnicity, indigeneity, disability, age, displacement, caste, gender, gender identity, sexuality, sexual orientation, poverty, class and socio-economic status.

3.3.4 Capacity building and knowledge transfer

ACEM aims to support the sustainable development of health skills and services globally, focusing on the Indo-Pacific region, by promoting clinical mentoring, education and training of health workforces. This is facilitated through:

— On-the-job training;

— Formal and informal training workshops;

— Train-the-trainer programs;

— Peer support and mentoring;

— Providing continuing professional development opportunities; and

— Development of emergency care systems and processes

ACEM aims to increase the capacity of the global emergency care workforce to achieve their own development goals through skills and two-way knowledge transfer.

Further to this, ACEM aims to build research capacity with its partners in order to promote Majority World perspectives in global emergency care. ACEM is committed to disseminating information about the results of its GEC activities and lessons to all stakeholders, including primary stakeholders, partners and donors, and seeking their inputs and feedback.

3.3.5 Environmental Sustainability

ACEM is committed to promoting environmental sustainability and improved environmental outcomes in its development activities.

3.4 Responsible Volunteering for Development

ACEM provides support to its international volunteers, who are defined as those who travel from their permanent home (Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand) to another country to volunteer. This reflects current eligibility criteria for the volunteering programs ACEM partners with.

ACEM partners with specialist volunteer deployment organisations to ensure all skilled volunteering placements offered under the College's GEC Program adhere to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) *Practice Note on Responsible International Volunteering for Development*.

Responsible volunteering for international development involves:

a. individuals or groups of people, who

b. of their own free will, and

c. without expectation of monetary rewards,

d. participate in activities to support long-term international development priorities,

e. as identified by and progressed in partnership with members of the partner community in which the volunteers are based.

ACEM approved GEC placements focus on:

— upholding a rights- and strength-based approach and advancing social inclusion;

— ensuring programs and their priorities are locally defined and led;

— long-term sustainability;

— adapting to international contexts;

— providing volunteer assistance that secures constructive impact;

— ensuring safeguards are in place to protect communities and volunteers; and

— responsible program management.

3.4.1 Use of images

ACEM bases all image gathering and publishing processes on ethical standards, which includes an assessment of:

      a.   risk to children;

      b.   child safeguarding; and

      c.   respect for people's (including children's) rights, integrity and dignity.

This includes obtaining and documenting free, prior and informed consent from the individual or, in the case of a child, from the child's parent/guardian and, if possible, the child themselves.

Photographic images should be consistent with our approach to safeguarding and protecting children and should avoid damaging stereotypes. Collecting information, images and stories should not harm people or the environment.

Children's and patients' best interests and protection will be prioritised over opportunities for promotion and advocacy. Adherence to these standards applies to any media utilised by ACEM in the promotion of GEC.

4.   Selection of Projects

4.1   Due Diligence Processes

ACEM takes due care and consideration to ensure funds and resources are only used to support development activities. This applies to the College and its international partners and affiliates at all stages of the project cycle. Due diligence checks will be conducted prior to engagement and on an on-going basis.

In selecting projects, ACEM is committed to ensuring that funds and other resources designated for the purpose of development will only be used for development purposes, as defined in *Development and Non-Development Definitions Policy*.

The GEC Desk and ACEM Foundation have management structures in the Melbourne office to implement and monitor development activities. Development activities are governed by contracts managed within the resources of the GEC Desk.

4.2   Funding Modalities

ACEM's GEC activities are funded through a combination of grant funding, commercial contracts and the ACEM Foundation, including donations and gifts.

Donations and gifts in relation to activity funding:

    —   are defined as 'income received without providing consideration in return'[2];

    —   may be restricted or unrestricted as to purpose; which

    —   may be related to ACEM's international or domestic programs, or by major fundraising activity.

Funds and resources raised by the ACEM Foundation for development activities will be used exclusively for such activities, and conditions or obligations will not be placed on recipients in terms of non-development outcomes.

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[2] ACFID Good Practice Toolkit. Financial Definitions. Available: https://acfid.asn.au/content/financial-definitions [Accessed 18 October 2022]

4.3 Modern Slavery Prevention Mechanisms

ACEM is committed to the prevention of modern slavery within all its operations in accordance with the *Modern Slavery Act* (2018).

Modern slavery occurs when vulnerable people are exploited for personal gain or commercial profit. Practices that constitute modern slavery include but are not limited to:

— human trafficking;

— slavery;

— forced labour;

— debt bondage;

— orphan trafficking;

— forced marriage; and

— exploitation of children in institutional care settings.

ACEM acknowledges that one of the drivers of modern slavery is unequal power dynamics. ACEM is committed to taking steps to ensure that there are no modern slavery practices within the College's business, procurement and supply chains. ACEM conducts due diligence checks for contractors, subcontractors and partner organisations to ensure they are not engaged in modern slavery. The College assesses and manages modern slavery risks within GEC projects and activities, and reports risks to CAPP/ the ACEM Board.

5. Information Statement

To provide insight into and promote the principles of ACEM GEC, when appropriate the following statement will be added to promotional material, information and email communications between the College, FACEM Members, the GEC Network, GEC Partners and or other organisations:

ACEM global emergency care activities facilitate health professional education and emergency care systems strengthening without discrimination based on race, religion, ethnicity, indigeneity, disability, age, displacement, caste, gender, gender identity, sexuality, sexual orientation, poverty, class or socio-economic status.

6. Associated Documents

ACEM Constitution

Regulation A: Governance

Global Emergency Care Committee Terms of Reference (TOR380)

Gender Equity (S738)

Discrimination, Bullying and Sexual Harassment Policy (COR133)

Whistle Blower Policy (COR450)

Development and Non-Development Definitions Policy (COR874)

Sustainability Policy (COR767)

ACEM Environmental Strategy

ACEM GEC Photography/Video Informed Consent Confirmation Checklist

ACEM Diverse, Equitable, and Inclusive Language Guide

7.   References

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CHS Alliance, Group URD and the Sphere Project. Core Humanitarian Standard, 2014. Available: https://corehumanitarianstandard.org/the-standard/language-versions [Accessed 25 October 2022]

ACFID Practice Note – Volunteering for International Development. ACFID, 2018. Available: https://acfid.asn.au/sites/site.acfid/files/resource_document/ACFID%20Practice%20Note-%20Volunteering%20for%20International%20Development.pdf [Accessed 12 October 2022]

Australian Government, Modern Slavery Act 2018, No. 153, 2018. Available: https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2018A00153

ICRC's Decolonizing Global Health Toolkit designed to assist members of international collaborations evaluate and discuss the colonial legacy and power dynamics, and work towards equitable collaborations.

Khan M, Abimbola S, Aloudat T, et al. Decolonising global health in 2021: a roadmap to move from rhetoric to reform. BMJ Global Health 2021;6:e005604. doi:10.1136/ bmjgh-2021-005604 [Accessed 21 July 2021]

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Irmgard Bauer, More harm than good? The questionable ethics of medical volunteering and international student placements, Tropical Diseases, Travel Medicine and Vaccines, 10.1186/s40794-017-0048-y, 3, 1, More harm than good? The questionable ethics of medical volunteering and international student placements (jcu.edu.au) [Accessed 21 July 2021]

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