

GOOD NEWS JAIL AND PRISON MINISTRY TANZANIA - EMBEDDING SAFEGUARDING IN ALL ACTIVITIES

This safeguard emphasizes the **proactive and integrated nature** of safeguarding within the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry Tanzania's work. It moves beyond simply listing safeguards to highlight the underlying principles and the continuous commitment required.

GOOD NEWS JAIL AND PRISON MINISTRY TANZANIA: A COMMITMENT TO INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDING IN ALL ACTIVITIES

The Good News Jail and Prison Ministry Tanzania is deeply committed to ensuring the safety, well-being, and dignity of all individuals we serve and with whom we interact. Safeguarding is not a separate activity but an **integral principle** that underpins our mission, vision, and all our activities. We strive to create an environment where everyone feels safe, respected, and protected from harm.

Our overarching commitment to safeguarding is built upon the following core principles:

- **The Best Interest of the Individual:** We prioritize the safety and well-being of all individuals, especially children and vulnerable adults, in all our interactions and activities.
- **Prevention of Harm:** We are proactive in identifying and mitigating potential risks of harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- **Respect and Dignity:** We treat all individuals with respect, compassion, and dignity, regardless of their background or circumstances.
- **Accountability and Transparency:** We are accountable for our actions and maintain transparency in our operations and safeguarding practices.
- **Continuous Improvement:** We are committed to ongoing learning, reflection, and improvement of our safeguarding measures.

To operationalize this commitment, we implement the following interconnected safeguards across all our activities:

1. Establishing a Strong Safeguarding Culture:

- **Leadership Commitment:** Our leadership actively champions and promotes a culture of safeguarding throughout the organization.

- **Shared Responsibility:** All staff, volunteers, partners, and anyone acting on our behalf are responsible for upholding our safeguarding principles and reporting any concerns.
- **Open Communication:** We foster an environment where individuals feel safe to raise concerns without fear of reprisal.
- **Regular Reflection and Learning:** We regularly review our practices and learn from experience to strengthen our safeguarding measures.

2. Robust Policies and Procedures:

- **Comprehensive Code of Conduct:** A clear Code of Conduct outlining ethical behavior, professional boundaries, and commitment to well-being applies to everyone associated with the organization. This includes specific guidelines on anti-corruption, conflict of interest, and respectful interactions.
- **Thorough Staff and Volunteer Screening:** Rigorous background checks, including criminal record checks where appropriate and reference checks, are conducted for all individuals working with vulnerable populations.
- **Strict Child Protection Policy:** A robust Child Protection Policy with clear procedures for preventing, identifying, and reporting any form of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children is strictly adhered to. Regular training on this policy is mandatory.
- **Data Privacy and Confidentiality Protocols:** Clear policies and procedures ensure the secure collection, storage, and use of beneficiary data, respecting privacy and confidentiality in accordance with Tanzanian law and ethical best practices.
- **Accessible Feedback and Grievance Mechanism:** Confidential and accessible mechanisms allow beneficiaries to provide feedback, raise concerns, or file grievances, which are addressed promptly and fairly.
- **Transparent Financial Management:** Transparent financial records are maintained and subject to regular independent audits, ensuring responsible use of funds and clear reporting to stakeholders.
- **Clear Partnership Agreements:** Formal agreements with partners clearly outline roles, responsibilities, and shared commitment to safeguarding principles.

3. Continuous Capacity Building and Training:

- **Ongoing Safeguarding Training:** Regular and mandatory training is provided to all staff and volunteers on safeguarding principles, ethical conduct, relevant policies, and reporting procedures.
- **Activity-Specific Training:** Tailored training addresses the specific safeguarding risks and considerations within each area of our work (e.g., working in prisons, supporting children, counseling).

- **Promoting a Culture of Awareness:** We continuously raise awareness about safeguarding issues and promote a culture of vigilance.

4. Proactive Monitoring and Evaluation:

- **Integration of Safeguarding Indicators:** Safeguarding indicators are integrated into our monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assess the effectiveness of our measures and identify areas for improvement.
- **Regular Audits and Reviews:** We conduct regular internal and external audits of our safeguarding practices to ensure compliance and identify areas for strengthening.
- **Learning from Feedback and Incidents:** We actively learn from feedback, concerns raised, and any incidents that may occur to improve our safeguarding response and prevention strategies.

Specific Safeguards Integrated into Each Activity:

(The specific safeguards listed in the original document for each activity – In-Prison Pastoral Care, Support for Children of Prisoners, Ex-Inmate Empowerment, Bible College for Outreach, Orphan and Street Children Support, Pregnancy Support and Counseling, and Victim Support and Counseling – are considered integral components of this overarching safeguarding framework and remain essential.)

By embedding these principles and safeguards into every aspect of our work, the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry Tanzania strives to be a beacon of hope and support, ensuring the safety, well-being, and dignity of all those we serve in Tanzania. This is not just a policy; it is a fundamental commitment to our values and the people we are called to serve.