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e-NABLE Child Protection Policy

Introduction

This Child Safeguarding Policy sets out our common belief and principles and describes the guidelines that will be followed by e-NABLE Medellín to protect children involved in our activities.

In developing this policy we have drawn upon the Child Protection Policy from 'Family for every Child'. e-NABLE Medellín recognises the International Standards for Child Protection which provide a benchmark for agencies and organisations working with children.

Our belief

e-NABLE Medellín and its members believe that every child has a right to live free from abuse and exploitation. Annex 1 presents a detailed description of our understanding of what child abuse includes. We uphold the rights of children as defined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC, 1959) and believe that all children have a right to protection:

'...from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s), or any other person who has the care of the child.'

Everybody has the responsibility to protect children from all forms of abuse, abandonment, neglect, exploitation, violence and discrimination.

Our child protection approach

e-NABLE Medellín has adopted child protection principles to ensure that all of its staff, representatives and members, are knowledgeable about child protection risks and aware of the principles, standards and code of conduct they must follow in order to protect children in the work that they do on behalf of the NGO.

Our child protection policy, including principles, standards and code of conduct, are in line with the UNCRC definition of a child as being anyone under the age of 18 years. We act in accordance with the UNCRC; our decisions and actions in response to child protection concerns will be guided by placing the 'best interest of the child' at the forefront and the principle of do no harm.

Principles

- All children have equal rights to protection from abuse and exploitation
- Child abuse is never acceptable
- We all have a commitment and responsibility to support the care and protection of children with whom and for whom we work
- We listen to and act on the views and opinions of children
- We address all reports of actual or alleged abuse, irrespective of the nature of the referral, who the allegations are about or who the referrer is or where s/he is from
- We treat as confidential all information relating to a child protection concern
- All of our actions and decisions will be guided by the 'best interests of the child' and the principle to do no harm
- All child abuse involves the abuse of children's rights



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Standards

- We will implement all reasonable measures to ensure that the risks of harm to children's welfare are minimised, e.g.:
 - Our disabled child beneficiaries are always accompanied by their parents, during the entire process
 - Children and adolescents are never left alone during any stage of the process
 - A qualified member of staff, normally a bioengineer, oversees the entire process (design, development and production of assistive devices)
 - A qualified member of staff, usually a bioengineer, is present at all training activities
- We will ensure that where there are concerns about children and people's welfare, appropriate actions are taken to address those concerns
- We will ensure all staff and members are aware of their responsibilities to protect children and able to recognize risk factors
- We will ensure that child protection forms an integral part of all stages of the activities we undertake

Code of conduct

All individuals connected to e-NABLE Medellín and who are in contact with children **must never**:

- Discriminate, prejudge or display oppressive behaviour or language in relation to: race, culture, age, gender, disability, religion, sexuality or political views;
- Spend time alone with children away from others;
- Develop physical/sexual/exploitative relationships with children under 18 years of age, regardless of local laws;
- Hold, kiss, hug or touch children in an inappropriate, sexually provocative or culturally insensitive manner;
- Do things of a personal nature which the child can do themselves such as toileting and dressing;
- Use language, make suggestions or offer advice which is inappropriate, offensive or abusive;
- Act in ways intended to shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade;
- Condone or participate in behaviour which is illegal, inappropriate or sexually provocative;
- Or seek to deliberately or intentionally support or develop any initiatives which contravene the rights of children as laid out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Scope

The policy applies equally to all individuals carrying out work on behalf of e-NABLE Medellín, irrespective of location or activity.

'Individuals' is defined in the broadest sense of the word, for example employees, volunteers, interns, trustees and other representatives of the organisation such as consultants, journalists and photographers commissioned on behalf of e-NABLE Medellín who may come into contact with children or data concerning children. 'Activities' encompasses all activities undertaken on behalf of e-NABLE Medellín.

Founder e-NABLE Medellín

Adam Armfield

Date

01/11/2019

Signature



e-NABLE Child Safeguarding Policy

Annex 1 - Our understanding of what child abuse includes

- **Physical abuse** of a child is the actual or potential physical harm from an interaction or lack of interaction, which is reasonably within the control of a parent or person in a position of responsibility, power, or trust. There may be single or repeated incidents (WHO, 1999).
- **Sexual abuse** is the involvement of a child in sexual activity that he or she does not fully comprehend, is unable to give informed consent to, or for which the child is not developmentally prepared and cannot give consent, or that violate the laws or social taboos of society. Child sexual abuse is evidenced by an activity between a child and an adult or another child who by age or development is in a relationship of responsibility, trust or power, the activity being intended to gratify or satisfy the needs of the other person. This may include but is not limited to, the inducement or coercion of a child to engage in any unlawful sexual activity; the exploitative use of a child in prostitution or other unlawful sexual practices; the exploitative use of children in pornographic performances, internet pictures and materials (WHO, 1999). The recent use of technology such as the internet by adults, to entice children to meet or participate in virtual sex, is also an abuse.
- **Emotional abuse** includes the failure to provide a developmentally appropriate, supportive environment, including the availability of a primary attachment figure, so that the child can reach their full potential in the context of the society in which the child lives. There may also be acts toward the child that cause, or have a high probability of causing, harm to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. These acts must be reasonably within the control of the parent or person in a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. Acts include restriction of movement, degrading, humiliating, scapegoating, threatening, scaring, discriminating, ridiculing, or other non-physical forms of hostile or rejecting treatment.
- **Neglect and negligent treatment** is the inattention or omission by the caregiver, to provide for the development of the child in: health, education, emotional development, nutrition, shelter and safe living conditions, in the context of resources reasonably available to the family or caretakers. In addition which causes, or has a high probability of causing, harm to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development. This includes the failure to properly supervise and protect children from harm, as much as is feasible (WHO, 1999).
- **Sexual and commercial exploitation-** Sexual exploitation is the abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust for sexual purposes; this includes profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the exploitation of another (for example child prostitution and trafficking of children for sexual abuse and exploitation). Commercial or other exploitation of a child refers to the use of the child in work or other activities for the benefit of others. This includes, but is not limited to, child labour. These activities are to the detriment of the child's physical or mental health, education, moral or social-emotional development (WHO, 1999).
- **Abuse of children in armed conflict-** Children are affected by armed conflict in many different ways; the United Nations Security Council has identified six categories of violations: killing or maiming of children; recruitment or use of children as child soldiers; sexual violence against children; attacks against schools or hospitals; denial of humanitarian access for children; and abduction of children. Children associated with the armed groups and armed forces are defined as any person under 18 years of age who is part of any kind of regular or irregular armed force of armed group in any capacity including, but not limited to, cooks, porters, messengers and those accompanying such groups, other than as purely family members. It includes girls recruited for sexual purposes and forced marriage.

A person may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused within a family or in an institution or within their own community, by a person known to them or, more rarely, by someone they don't know.