INF Australia Quality Standards

The four Quality Standards below will be applied to all partners and projects at a level commensurate with their size and experience. Some small or emerging partners, while not completely satisfying all Standards, may be selected if they demonstrate a capacity for learning and adaptation and are progressing towards satisfaction of the Standards. Some of the Standards may not be applicable to all activities of a partner.

QS1. Partner and project fit with priorities and strategy

New partners and projects will be selected, and continuing partners and projects will be monitored for:

- The fit and alignment of their work and its expected impact with INFA vision, goals and strategy.
- A clear understanding of the expectations of INFA.
- Management and financial capacity to ensure effective utilisation of resources.
- A demonstrated commitment to continuous learning and improvement of practice.
- Their ability to comply with the requirements mentioned below in QS4.

Indicators

- Partner's own set of values articulated, well-understood and consistent with those of INFA.
- Partner staff work according to these values.
- Project plans align with INFA strategy and priorities.
- Partnership Agreements and MOUs clearly outline expectations.
- Financial audits and assessments demonstrate appropriate governance and management capacity.
- Plans and reports provide evidence of project adaptation, learning and progress.

QS2. Partner incorporates good development principles and practice

Partners must have a strategy to ensure **inclusion** and **safeguarding** of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups (for example, women and children, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, displaced people, Dalits and the extreme poor) to ensure full involvement in and equitable benefit from projects.

Partners must engage with communities in an inclusive manner, promoting the building of relationships and trust amongst all sections of the community, thereby promoting full community **participation**. In order to do this, they must understand the social, economic, cultural and environmental contexts of the community, with particular attention to the experience of marginalised groups.

Partners will assist communities to develop in such a way that it enhances the ongoing, dynamic and **sustainable** nature of their development. Rather than attaining a defined position in the development process, communities will have the ability to continually adjust

to the social, economic and environmental needs of their members and their surrounds. Partners' own exit strategies will be one aspect of that development.

Indicators

- A demonstrated understanding of project context, design, approach and intended activities and outcomes.
- Baseline studies are conducted and include gender and disability analysis.
- Annual reviews and periodic assessments demonstrate positive gender and disability inclusion outcomes.
- Environmental risks and harms are assessed and mitigated and, wherever possible, projects pursue positive environmental outcomes.
- Level of engagement with the community and stakeholders demonstrates the building of relationships which are conducive to good practice.
- Plans indicate exit process, timeline and associated outcomes, which are understood by community stakeholders. This process builds community capacity to take control of their own development and adapt to changing circumstances in their own contexts.
- Partners have a well-functioning monitoring and evaluation system.

QS3. Projects are effective

Project design will demonstrate understanding of context, development approach, and the link between intended activities, outputs and the achievement of the stated goals.

Projects will lead to learning and development of capacity, both within the project and the communities through incorporating critical reflection processes to identify and apply learnings.

Indicators

- Project design is underpinned by theory of change, logic statement or other testable narrative or analysis outlining how planned activities contribute to expected outcomes, along with risks and assumptions.
- Baseline studies and plans demonstrate that the project has consulted with the community, and particularly the most marginalised.
- Project reports demonstrate that benefits are flowing to all marginalised groups.
- Communities, particularly the most marginalised groups, are accessing the resources available to them at the local and national level.
- Communities demonstrate an understanding of local and national power relationships, and through advocacy, are able to effect change.
- Reports demonstrate outcomes of monitoring and evaluation and provide evidence of impact, learning and improvement.

QS4. Work practices are safe and healthy for all

Staff and projects promote a safe and healthy workplace and community environment through effective project design and implementation, and adherence to relevant policies and practices.

In particular, all partners and projects must:

- Ensure safeguarding of children, vulnerable persons and displaced persons. (Any projects working with Displaced Peoples must adhere to international humanitarian guidelines.)
- Maintain effective processes for receiving, recording and responding to feedback and complaints.
- Have human resource, governance, risk assessment and financial management capacity and processes to reduce and respond to risks of financial wrongdoing.

Indicators

- Organisational and project level Risk Registers are maintained.

- Project plans identify and respond to child protection and safeguarding risks and promote good practice.

- Child Protection Policy is up to date.

- Annual Child Protection self-audit and recent (last three years) field audit and response plan are satisfactory.

- Safeguarding Policy is up to date.

- Complaints Handling and Whistleblower Policies are up to date.

- Complaints Register is maintained.

- Evidence of training and refresher training in critical areas (Child Protection, Safeguarding, Prevention of Fraud and Corruption) is provided.

- Gender Equality Policy is up to date.

- Evidence of recent (last three years) gender assessment and gender equity planning.

- Disability Inclusion Policy is up to date.

- Evidence of recent disability audit (last three years) and disability inclusive planning.

- Environment Policy is up to date.

- Evidence of recent assessments (last three years) of environmental management practice.

- Anti-terrorism Policy up to date and evidence of checking against proscribed lists.