

# Tearfund Ireland

## Safeguarding Statement

Approved: |July 2020

### Nature of services

Tearfund Ireland is a humanitarian and development agency delivering life-saving and life changing interventions directly and through partners to people in some of the world's poorest and most troubled places in accordance with the biblical mandate to free the oppressed and share our bread with the hungry (Isaiah 58:6-7).

Within the Republic of Ireland, Tearfund Ireland implements Development Education Programmes, the purpose of which is to raise awareness of the root causes of poverty globally. Our activities and programmes engage with children aged up to 18 years of age in the following ways

- School talks and workshops in schools
- Church talks and workshops in churches and with church youth groups
- Workshops with youth groups held on the Tearfund Ireland premises
- Transition Year work experience programme
- Occasional volunteer workers who are under 18 years helping in the office on specific tasks such as mailings and events.
- Involvement of young people in group fund-raising activities such as sponsored walks, runs, cycles and other promotional events.
- All of the above may involve communications of information exchange via e mail or phone.

### Principles of Safeguarding Children, Young people and Vulnerable Adults from Harm

Tearfund Ireland is committed to the protection of young people with whom we work, from harm.

Promoting best practice in Child Safeguarding in adherence to the Children First Act 2015 and the principles of the National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children (2017) and Child Safeguarding A Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice. (2018) and The General Data Protection Regulation 2018

### Risk Assessment

Tearfund Ireland has carried out an assessment of potential risk of harm to Children and Young people while engaging in Tearfund Ireland activities within the Republic of Ireland. The areas of risk and the procedures identified to address these areas are as follows; (Ref, Tearfund Ireland Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment Nov 2019)

- Engagement with Children and Young People
- Reporting Procedures where abuse or interference is suspected or known.
- Recruitment and Selection of Staff or Volunteers.
- Information, Communication and Training.

### Procedures

Procedures have been developed in line with the Children First Act 2015 and The Child Safeguarding Guide for Policy, Procedure and Practice and also in line with Tearfund Ireland's Code of Conduct and staff policies, to mitigate against risk of harm. These procedures include

- Provision of and access to Child Safeguarding training and information to all relevant members of staff and adult volunteers as well as adults and young people traveling with Tearfund Ireland.
- Guidelines for management of allegations of abuse, misconduct or neglect of young people and children by Tearfund Ireland staff and volunteers involved in Tearfund Ireland activities.
- Guidelines for reporting of Child protection or Welfare concerns to TUSLA
- List of designated Liaison Person and Mandated Persons, circulated to all staff and volunteers.
- Safe practice in recruitment and selection of workers and volunteers who are working with Children and Vulnerable adults in any capacity. This includes background checks, training in child safeguarding in accordance with the Children First Act 2015 and the Guide for Safeguarding Policy, Procedures and Practice. Access to information on the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is made available to all workers.
- Procedure for appointing a relevant person.

All procedures listed are available on request.

### **Implementation**

Tearfund Ireland recognises that implementation is an ongoing process. Tearfund Ireland is committed to the implementation of this Child Safeguarding Statement and the procedures that support our intention to keep children safe from harm while availing of our service.

This Child Safeguarding Statement will be reviewed in December 2020 or as soon as possible after any material change in any matter to which the statement refers.

Sean Copeland  
Acting Chief Executive Officer



Date

13/01/2020

### **For queries please contact:**

Designated Liaison Person (DLP)

Sean Copeland (sean.copeland@tearfund.ie)

Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP)

Emma Lynch (emma.lynch@tearfund.ie)

Mandated Persons

Sean Copeland

### **Terms:-**

**Relevant person:** As defined in the Children First Act 2015 as a person employed by the provider of the relevant service who is the first point of contact in respect of the providers Child Safeguarding Policy

**Designated Liaison Person (DLP):** The person who is responsible for ensuring that reporting procedures are followed correctly and promptly and act as a liaison with other agencies (See Children First national guidance.

**Mandated Person:-** Are people who by virtue of their qualifications, training and experience are in a key position to help protect children from harm.(See Children First Act 2015 schedule 2)