WORLD AID NETWORK (CIO)

Risk Management Policy

1. Purpose

Risk management is a core trustee responsibility under the Charities Act 2011 and the Charity Governance Code. This policy explains how World Aid Network (WAN) identifies, assesses and manages risks to its beneficiaries, people, assets and reputation.

2. Risk Appetite

WAN has a low appetite for risks affecting the safety of beneficiaries, staff and volunteers, for legal or regulatory non-compliance, and for reputational harm. We accept a measured level of operational risk inherent in delivering humanitarian aid in challenging environments, supported by robust controls.

3. The Risk Register

WAN maintains a comprehensive Risk Register categorising risks as:

- Strategic — risks to mission delivery, partnerships and long-term viability;
- Operational — including safeguarding, clinical safety, security and logistics;
- Financial — fraud, currency, funding and liquidity;
- Compliance — charity law, data protection, anti-bribery, sanctions and counter-terrorism financing;
- Reputational — including media, social-media and stakeholder confidence.

Each risk is scored on likelihood and impact, with a designated owner, mitigation actions, target residual rating and review date.

4. Safeguarding as a Principal Risk

Safeguarding is treated as a principal risk and forms a dedicated section of the Risk Register, in line with Charity Commission guidance "Safeguarding and protecting people for charities and trustees". The Designated Safeguarding Lead reports the safeguarding risk picture to the board at every quarterly meeting.

5. Responsibilities

The board of trustees holds ultimate responsibility for risk management. The board reviews the Risk Register quarterly and the trustees' annual report includes a description of the principal risks and how they are managed.

6. International and Security Risk

Specific attention is given to the safety of teams and partners overseas. WAN monitors UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) travel advice, requires partner-led security plans, and suspends operations in any area where the residual risk to people exceeds WAN's appetite.

7. Reporting Serious Incidents

Where a risk crystallises into a Serious Incident, the trustees report promptly to the Charity Commission in line with the Commission's guidance "How to report a serious incident in your charity".

8. Review

This policy is reviewed annually by the trustees and updated whenever there is a material change in legislation, regulator guidance or operating context.