OWH Environment Policy

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1. Organizational Background

Established in Afghanistan in 2017, the Organization for Welfare and Humanitarian (OWH) stands as a non-governmental, non-political, non-profit, and independent entity. Founded by individuals motivated by shared concerns, OWH endeavors to address societal needs and challenges.

Registered with key Afghan regulatory bodies such as the Ministry of the Economy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Refugee and Repatriation, and Ministry of Public Health, OWH demonstrates its commitment to operating within the country's legal framework.

OWH actively engages in pivotal Health, Education, and Nutrition Clusters, significantly contributing to these sectors throughout Afghanistan. Since its inception, OWH has effectively executed diverse projects spanning Health, Training, Research, Pandemic/Disaster Management, Education, and other essential domains.

Bolstered by an experienced team, OWH prides itself on a successful track record of implementing projects supported by prominent international donors operating in Afghanistan. Its extensive experience spans across diverse regions of Afghanistan, enabling substantial contributions to a wide spectrum of developmental initiatives.

OWH holds a profound understanding of Afghanistan's regions and possesses extensive experience operating in various provinces, providing a comprehensive approach to addressing the country's diverse needs.

2. Vision Statement

"A Developed, Educated, Prosperous, and Healthy community, with equal access for all."

3. Mission Statement

"OWH provides quality services, blending ancient wisdom with modern expertise, for an accessible and proud community."

4. Policy Background

This policy outlines the important role that can be played by OWH in helping to tackle environmental issues.

An Environment is everything that is around us, which includes both living and nonliving things such as soil, water, animals and plants, which adapt themselves to their surroundings. It is nature's gift that helps in nourishing life on the earth.

The world's forests are being consumed rapidly. Trees are cut down for paper and wood products, for cooking fuel, to clear land for development, and to expand farming areas. The land left behind is stripped not only of its trees, but the plants, animals, and insects that lived in that ecosystem as well. With no plant roots to hold it in place, valuable soil washes away with every rainfall and ends up in the rivers and streams upon which people depend for their water supply. In extreme cases, hundreds or thousands of people lose their homes or perish in landslides when deforested slopes become unstable.

Forests also play an important part in regulating global climate. Trees remove carbon dioxide, a major greenhouse gas, from the atmosphere, while cycling oxygen back into it. When trees are cut down, however, the CO2 is released again. It is estimated that up to 25% of the total amount of CO2 going into the atmosphere every year is released from trees being cut and burned. It's clear that protecting the world's forests is an important part of solving the global climate change problem.

Every tree planted helps protect biodiversity, improves habitat, reduces erosion, cleans water, produces nutritious foods, and equips communities to own their future.

Environment plays an important role in healthy living and the existence of life on planet earth. Earth is a home for different living species and we all are dependent on the environment for food, air, water, and other needs. Therefore, it is important for every individual to save and protect our environment.

There are different types of human activities which are directly attributed to the environmental disasters, which include- acid rain, acidification of oceans, change in the climate, deforestation, depletion of an ozone layer, disposal of hazardous wastes, global warming, overpopulation, pollution, etc.

Many countries in the region are facing the profound environmental, social, and economic impacts of rapid population growth, development, and natural resource constraints.

5. OWH Environmental Disclosure

OWH highly considers the importance of the sustainable environment in the lives of the Human being and understands that OWH being and NGO can play a crucial role in helping to plug gaps by conducting research to facilitate policy development, building institutional capacity, and facilitating independent dialogue with civil society to help people live more sustainable lifestyles.

OWH understands that the Low levels of public awareness on how to maintain more sustainable lifestyles is the reason behind the continuously deteriorating environmental conditions around the globe.

Climate change, collapsing fisheries, and power shortages will not only affect economic growth and development, but also threaten social stability, business viability, and the well-being of society.

There is a Need for NGO Actors to act, while governments and businesses are beginning to take action on some of these issues, there are still many gaps.

Hence, OWH considers it as a responsibility to Facilitate independent and open dialogue with civil society on the environmental implications of growth and development is crucial.

6. OWH Methodology for the Environment Protection

OWH in all its operations strictly follows the environment friendly protocols and regularly conducts meetings with the local and regional Environmental authorities to monitor the areas under the coverage of OWH's projects.

Our staff are made aware of the environmental issues and are asked to participate in the environment friendly activities.

OWH strictly the monitors that none of the project under the OWH's implementation, cause negative impacts on environment.

OWH continues its advocacy for the need of a legal framework to recognize NGOs and enable them to access more diverse funding sources; high-level support/endorsement from local figureheads; and engaging NGOs in policy development and implementation.

The main purpose of the OWH' advocacy is to ease regulatory and legal burdens by enshrining the definition of NGOs in national law.

Legally recognizing and establishing NGOs would help them to operate more smoothly. A legal mechanism would also help to overcome bureaucratic and administrative hurdles when dealing

with different government departments such as when renting office spaces and obtaining necessary permits and papers to connect to utility and telecommunications services.

7. Funding

OWH is continuously reaching out the environment sustaining departments and agencies to support OWH, as it's crucial to ensure OWH's relevance and continuation of the function.

The funding can include philanthropic donation, pro bono skills provision, or more strategic funding for programmatic areas and activities.

7.1 High-level support and endorsement from local figureheads

Without senior level commitment from prominent local figureheads in government and/or business, OWH cannot be as successful in influencing policy, raising awareness, and raising funds. Having good links with trusted people and institutions are crucial foundations upon which OWH can thrive.

8. International Community Working for ENVIRONEMNT

OWH highly recognize the efforts of the environmental organizations and strictly follow the principles set by the institutions for the protection of the environment.

Below are the details of some of the environmental institutions and organizations;

8.1 Global Environment Facility (GEF)

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) unites 183 countries in partnership with international institutions, civil society organizations (CSOs), and the private sector to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives.

Today the GEF is the largest public funder of projects to improve the global environment. An independently operating financial organization, the GEF provides grants for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants.

8.2 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the international body for assessing the science related to climate change. The IPCC was set up in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to provide policymakers with regular assessments of the scientific basis of climate change, its impacts and future risks, and options for adaptation and mitigation.

8.3 The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is an international organization working in the field of nature conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. It is involved in data gathering and analysis, research, field projects, advocacy, lobbying and education. IUCN's mission is to "influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable."

8.4 United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

9. Message by the Management Team

OWH management team is thankful to all the employees for their effort in the finalization of the policy and for bringing the Organization to this position.

Thank you for everything you do for making OWH a successful and terrific place to work.

OWH believes that all the rules and regulation must be formed to the best interest of the Organization, the sector of its operation and to the wider population.

10. Revision of the Policy

OWH reserves the right to revise, modify any or all clauses of this policy depending upon the need of the day and after making discussion in the board meetings.

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