

### Finding a Child-Safe Partner: A Check List for Churches

- ❑ **The organization is registered with the government.** It is important to partner with organizations that are legally established, registered and authorized to carry out the work that they are involved in. Partnering with appropriately registered organizations provides more assurance that they're operating within the standards and accountability frameworks of the country they work in.
- ❑ **The organization has and enforces comprehensive child protection policies and procures.** The safeguarding of children from violence, exploitation, abuse, and neglect must be prioritized. Partners should conduct thorough screening and background checks for all staff and volunteers interacting with children as well as training staff on codes of conduct and reporting mechanisms if child mistreatment is discovered.
- ❑ **The organization supports families and communities to care for children.** The most helpful way to care for vulnerable children is through supporting and empowering their families, communities, and the systems that will care for them long-term. Seek out partners who empower vulnerable families so they can better care for their children, encourage reintegration of children into families and transitions of residential care centers to family care, and support alternative family care models for children who are unable to live with their birth families.
- ❑ **The organization has a clear vision, mission and values for long-term, sustainable care of children.** Understanding an organization's vision, mission and values, and the degree to which they adhere to them, will provide insightful information about an organization. Working with people who have a compatible vision, mission and values is a key to successful partnerships.
- ❑ **The organization has the capacity to carry out its work with high standards.** Staff should have the proper training, skills and experience to carry out their work in the community to a high standard. While at times this may be difficult in a developing country context, organizations should prioritize hiring qualified staff and investing in their professional development. The right staff will help ensure that the projects are in line with best practice and prevent unknowingly doing harm in communities.
- ❑ **The organization has adequate risk management including financial controls.** To minimize the risk of wrongdoing, corruption, fraud or other financial impropriety among its governing body, paid staff, contractors and volunteers, it is important to actively seek out and ensure that an organization has put adequate controls in place.
- ❑ **The organization has a good reputation.** It can be challenging to fully survey the organization, based solely on what the organization share about themselves, or through a short-term visit. Getting a sense of whether the organization have a good reputation from the community they work within, the local government, as well as other reputable civil society groups is another helpful step in finding a child-safe partner.

(Adapted from ACCI's International Relief [Due Diligence Guidelines](#)).