

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY



**REACH OUT
VOLUNTEERS**

Advice on looking
after the safety and
wellbeing of the
children we work with.

The UN Convention on the Rights of a Child states that: “All children have equal rights to protection from abuse and exploitation. Everybody has responsibility to care and protect children. The duty bearers are accountable to eradicate child abuse.”



Child abuse happens in all societies. The abuser can be anyone, including those who work with and care for children.

As a volunteer organization our first priority is the safety and well-being of the children that we work with. As such ROV is committed to implementing a strict child protection policy to ensure that children are not exposed to abuse, exploitation, violence or neglect and that adults are not exposed to false accusations. The following are rules and guidelines that you should read carefully and implement fully .

1. No child is to be taken on a motorbike, tuk tuk or car without making prior arrangements with the ROV Program Leader.
2. No child is allowed to go to any ROV Program Leader, Team Leader or volunteer's guest house, hotel or accommodation.
3. ROV Program Leaders, Team Leaders or volunteer's are not permitted to socialize with children outside the areas in which we are working apart from the usual friendly hello and goodbye of normal courteous interaction.
4. No ROV Program Leader, Team Leader or volunteer is permitted to take any child to cafés, restaurants or buy them food, unless permission has been granted by the village head and the ROV Program Leader or

Team Leader has also been informed. If the children are obviously hungry, then the ROV Program Leader is to be informed immediately.

5. No presents of any kind are to be bought for the children without prior arrangement with the ROV Program Leader.
6. ROV Program Leaders, Team Leaders and volunteers are asked to be alert to and to advise of any act intended to shame, humiliate, belittle or degrade children or perpetrate any form of emotional abuse.
7. Permission must be sought from both the village leaders and the ROV Program Leader for any contact with the children outside the ROV work area.

8. ROV Program Leaders, Team Leaders and volunteers must take extreme care when interacting physically with children. They must not fondle, hold, kiss, hug or touch minors in an inappropriate or culturally insensitive way. Under no circumstance should any physical contact be or have the appearance of being sexual in any way.
9. ROV Program Leader, Team Leader or volunteers are responsible for their actions and reaction to children at all times. It is important to remember that you might be working with children who may have experienced abuse or been in a relationship

with an adult to obtain “special attention”. You must be alert to such behavior and avoid being placed in a compromising or vulnerable position. Any advance of this nature should be immediately reported to the ROV Program Leader or Team Leader.

10. Where possible volunteers should implement the “two adults” rule, where by two or more adults supervise all activities with children. If for any reason an individual conversation or counseling session is warranted with a child, another adult must be within visual contact.

Any questions or concerns?
Then don't hesitate to contact a Reach Out Volunteers member either by phone, email or Facebook and we will be happy to help.

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