

Accountability to affected people (AAP) Policy

Prova Society



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Approved by: Executive Committee (EC)
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Prova Society

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Accountability to affected people (AAP) Policy of Prova Society

Introduction:

Prova Society is a nonprofit non-government organization aiming to contribute to a gender-equal world where all people achieve their rights, through implementing high-quality, gender-equitable programs. Prova Society engages with a wide range of stakeholders, and communities, including affected populations, to whom the organization we hold ourselves accountable. Prova Society developed this Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) Framework to articulate and provide guidance around our approach to accountable governance and programming. The purpose of this framework is to ensure that affected populations are able exercise their agency, including through contributing to our learning and influencing our program approaches and organizational strategies.

Definition and necessity of AAP for an organization:

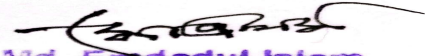
Accountability to Affected Populations is an active commitment to use power responsibly by taking account of, giving account to, and being held to account by the people humanitarian organizations seek to assist.

AAP requires humanitarian actors to use their power responsibly, to provide effective and quality programming, and to recognize and respect the dignity, capacity, and ability of the affected communities to be independent.


The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) launched AAP in 2012 as part of its Transformative Agenda, which aimed to make humanitarian programming more accountable to affected people. AAP requires humanitarian actors to:

- Identify and address the needs and vulnerabilities of affected communities.
- Recognize and harness the capacities, knowledge, and aspirations of affected communities.
- Empower affected communities to be equal partners in the humanitarian response.

Prova Society is a humanitarian organization that is committed to AAP. We believe that affected people are the experts in their own lives, and we are committed to listening to their needs, perspectives, and priorities. We also believe that affected people should be involved in all stages of the humanitarian response, from planning to implementation to monitoring and evaluation.



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Chairman
Prova Society



Enamul Kabir
Executive Director
Prova Society

There engages the need of maintaining AAP for these following facts:

- **Improving Protection & Solution**

Prova Society ensures accountability to affected people within the broader protection and solutions work of the organization that aims at the satisfaction of all human rights by persons of concern. Accountability mechanisms are instrumental in this process and for the achievement of this goal.

- **Putting People First**

The rights, needs, dignity and perspectives of persons of concern define and shape our work. Prova Society has long recognised the importance of immediacy to persons of concern and understanding of, and responsiveness to, the diversity within communities. Accountability mechanisms help us to provide the best possible protection, assistance, and solutions programmes, which also consider the capacities of the individuals and communities of concern.

- **Executing the Rights-Based Approach**

AAP is an integral component of a rights-based approach to programming. It supports multiple rights, including the right to dignity, the right to protection, and the right to be heard and participate in decision making. Participation in decision-making is a right, and the rights-based approach is founded on the principle of participation and working with communities to promote change and respect for rights. These cannot be achieved without accountability mechanisms.

Being able to demonstrate a commitment to AAP is increasingly becoming a necessity to qualify for humanitarian funding. In addition, to deliver on donor commitments Prova Society needs to be able to show how communities were meaningfully engaged throughout all stages of a project.

Dimensions of AAP

Taking account: Giving people the opportunity to influence decisions which need to be made at different phases of the Prova Society, considering the diversity of the community and the views and opinions of the most vulnerable being equally weighed. Vulnerability analysis being conducted to include universal factors such as sex and age and other issues such as ethnicity, religion, disability, and race which have enormous influence on a person's visibility, opportunities, and power. This means actors should go to the community to solicit opinions and thoughts from a broad spectrum of women, girls, boys, and men of different age groups. It is an active exercise, where agencies are responsible to give an opinion to the community, where it ensures that everyone has the same freedom of expression which we know to be untrue.



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Giving account: Refers to actors providing information to the community through-out the Prova Society and outlining what plans and commitments are and how and why decisions were made and what the process was. It includes what beneficiary selection criteria are, how these were agreed, but also what programmatic objectives are and how these were set.

Being held to account: Allows affected people an opportunity to assess the quality of the response of an agency and how relevant activities have been, to assess how these activities have been implemented and to provide feedback on how well the activities have been addressing their needs; as communities are rarely in a position where they have the agency or power to select the organisations which will support them, nor the type of support they will get, at least initially.

Sexual exploitation and abuse will also be addressed by Prova Society as the most serious breach of accountability, and the affected populations will be able to raise complaints and call for protection measures against such abuse, and they will be informed of the results of investigations on those complaints.

In December 2011, the IASC Principals endorsed the following five commitments:

Leadership/Governance: Strengthen leadership and systems to embed good practices within the organization's management structures and ensure compliance of Prova Society's staff and implementing partners.

Transparency: Women, men, boys and girls of diverse backgrounds in all operations have access to timely, accurate, and relevant information on (i) their rights and entitlements, and (ii) the programmes of Prova Society and its partners. Prova Society will facilitate communication and dialogue between its partners, and persons of concern at key stages throughout the operation's management cycle. Information will be shared in the communicative languages, formats, and media that are culturally appropriate for, and accessible to, all groups in a community.

Feedback and complaints: Actively seek the views of affected populations to improve policy and practice in programming, ensuring that feedback and complaints mechanisms are streamlined, appropriate and robust enough to deal with (communicate, receive, process, respond to and learn from) complaints about breaches in policy and stakeholder dissatisfaction.

Participation: Women, men, boys, and girls of diverse backgrounds are able to engage meaningfully and are consulted on protection, assistance, and solutions. Prova Society ensures the arrangements that permit meaningful participation at all stages of the operation's management cycle (assessment, planning, design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation).

The arrangements should be accessible to all groups in the community. Particularly it will ensure that potentially marginalized groups are included, such as minorities, people with disabilities, and people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities.



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Design, monitoring, and evaluation: Design, monitor and evaluate the goals and objectives of programmes with the involvement of affected populations, feeding learning back into the organization on an ongoing basis and reporting on the results of the process.

This policy approved by the Executive Committee meeting held on 04/08/2023.

 Md. Enadul Islam Chairman Prova Society	 Enamul Kabir Executive Director Prova Society
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