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**Integrated Service on Health and Development Organization**

**ISHDO**

**Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance (PLGHA) Policy**

**June 2020**

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# BACKGROUND

Integrated Service on Health and Development Organization (ISHDO) former Integrated Services for AIDS Prevention and Support Organization (ISAPSO), which was established in October26, 1997 & registered by Charities and Societies Agency, has been implementing various projects on HIV /AIDs prevention, RH/FP in selected areas of Addis Ababa & Dire Dawa City Administrations, selected woredas and zones of Oromia, SNNPR, Amhara, Afar, Benshangul gumuz and Gambela Regions since its inception..

# Overview of Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance (PLGHA)

## What is PLGHA?

* United States Government(USG) policy aimed to restrict USG funds to foreign organizations “that perform or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning in other nations”
* PLGHA prohibits foreign non-US NGOs and commercial entities who are USG fund recipients from the following, regardless of funding source:
* Performing or actively promoting abortion as a method of family planning
* Providing advice or information (including counseling and public campaigns) on abortion as a pregnancy option or the availability of abortion services (including referrals)
* Advocating or lobbying a foreign government to legalize or make available abortion
* Providing financial support to any other non-US NGO that conducts these services
* Abortion as a method of family planning” includes but is not limited to
* Abortions performed for purpose of spacing births
* Abortions performed for the physical or mental health of the mother
* Abortions performed for fetal abnormalities
* Menstrual regulation
* “To actively promote abortion” includes but is not limited to
* Operating a service-delivery site that provides, as part of its regular program, counseling, including advice and information regarding the benefits and/or availability of abortion as a method of family planning
* Providing advice that abortion as a method of family planning is an available option or encouraging women to consider abortion (excluding passive referral)
* Lobbying a foreign government to continue the legality of abortion as a method of family planning
* Conducting a public information campaign in foreign countries regarding the benefits and/or availability of abortion as a method of family planning

## Historical Background

* Precursor known as Mexico City Policy (MCP)
* Announced by President Reagan in 1984 at the UN International Conference on Population held in Mexico City
* Previously impacted ~ $600 million in family planning aid
* The application of this policy is determined by the currently serving President of the United States

• President Obama – repealed

• President Trump – reinstated

**General Information**

* Signed into Executive Order January 23, 2017
* Affects all global health assistance, including funding from US State Dept.; USAID; CDC; and Dept. of Defense
* Includes President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR)
* Excludes multilaterals such as The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria and GAVI, as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (including refugee-assistance activities)
* Applies to non-US NGOs and commercial entities only (such as ISHDO (however ISHDO is ensuring compliance since it is implementing USAID Projects previously and currently and also will ensure with other NGO partners)
* Does not apply to US NGOs,
* Does not apply to foreign governments, including ministries of health

## EXCLUSIONS

* Under PLGHA, non-US NGO USG-fund recipients **can**:
* Provide referrals for abortion as a result of rape, incest, or if the life of the mother would be endangered if she were to carry the fetus to term
* Provide post-abortion care (PAC) services
* Provide "passive" responses (location only) for abortion services **if all criteria are met**:
* The women is already pregnant and specifically asks the question of where abortion services are available
* She clearly states that she has already decided to have a legal abortion
* The provider believes the country's medical ethics require a response regarding where safe and legal abortion services may be obtained
* PLGHA **does not apply** to actions by an individual acting in his/her own capacity unattributed to an organization with which the individual is associated IF:
* The individual is not on duty or acting on the organization’s premises,
* **And** the organization does not endorse or provide financial support for the action
* **And** takes reasonable steps to ensure the individual does not improperly represent that he is acting on the behalf of the organization.
* Affirmative Duty of Health Care Provider
* If local law **requires** the provider to provide counseling about or referrals for abortion as a method of family planning, compliance with such law does not trigger a violation of the policy.
* This exception does not apply where the provider is allowed, but **not required**, by local law to provide such counseling or referrals.

## UNDERSTANDING RESTRICTIONS

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| PLGHA | Helms Amendment\* |
| Executive branch policy | Executive branch policy |
| Can be lifted by executive order | Can be lifted by bill (Congress) |
| Restriction on non-US NGOs | Restriction on all recipients of USG funds |
| Pertains to counseling, services, referrals,  and advocacy for abortion | Pertains to abortion services only |
| In effect since 2017; versions (MCP) have historically been in effect during Republican administrations | In effect since 1973 |

\* Helms Amendment: “No foreign assistance funds may be used to pay for the performance of abortion as a method of family planning or to motivate or coerce any person to practice abortions.”

## UNDERSTANDING RESTRICTIONS

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Service example for Non-US NGOs receiving  USG funding | Prohibited by | |
| Helms  Amendment | PLGHA |
| USG-funded abortion services (including procurement of MVA equipment) | √ |  |
| Non-USG-funded abortion services |  | √ |
| Counseling on abortion services as a pregnancy option |  | √ |
| Referral for any abortion services |  | √ |
| Advocacy for legalizing abortion locally |  | √ |
| Provision of or referral for any post-abortion services | No restriction | No restriction |

## MONITORING PLGHA COMPLIENCE

* ISHDO and/or any authorized representative of **Non - USG entity** may at any time and unannounced:
* Conduct PLGHA assessments (including documents and material review, observe implemented health activities, consult with health care personnel, etc.);
* Externally audit NGOs; and
* Collect information about and monitor **other non-USG** funded health and population activities.

# ANNEX: 1 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND ACCEPTANCE



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**Integrated service on Health and Development Organization (ISHDO)**

**Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance (PLGHA) Policy**

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ certify and acknowledge the following:

* I have received a copy of the ISHDO’s PLGHA Policy.
* I understand this policy is subject to change or may be revised by ISHDO.
* I understand that it is my responsibility to read and comply with this policy, and any revisions, and that I am bound by the provisions contained within.
* I understand that my continued employment or engagement with ISHDO is contingent on compliance with this policy.

**Print Name:** ‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐‐

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