

## FIND's commitment to the protection of children and vulnerable groups

FIND's vision is a world where diagnosis guides the way to health for all people. FIND works to bridge gaps in research and development of essential diagnostics for diseases of poverty, and also focuses heavily on the delivery of these diagnostics in low- and middle-income countries.

As stated in our Code of Conduct and Ethics, FIND respects the rights of all people and strives to safeguard vulnerable groups such as children, women and adults who are unable to take care of or protect themselves. Most of the projects and programmes that we support using donor funding are carried out in low- and middle-income countries and target vulnerable populations. While we do not provide medical care or facilities directly to patients, we work closely with partners that have direct access to patients. All personnel who are engaged in FIND projects are required to complete a subject-specific training module to ensure that the clause in the Code regarding the safeguarding of vulnerable groups is fully understood.

All studies that are sponsored or supported by FIND are subject to the ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects. We ensure that FIND personnel and all study-related professional staff treat children with respect and protect all child rights, regardless of the child's race, colour, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, ethnic or social origin, disability, birth or other status. Our protocol on the protection of human subjects requires that no child be forced for any reason to participate in a FIND-supported or sponsored study and that no exploitation of children is involved in any form or manner whatsoever. If children are to be recruited for a clinical study, a simplified consent form for minors provides a clear explanation of the study. Study staff will work with the child and parent, guardian or legally authorized representative to explain the study clearly to ensure informed consent for participation.

In cases where photographing or filming of children is needed for the study or other work-related purposes, it is required to:

- ◆ Assess and comply with local traditions or restrictions for reproducing personal images.
- ◆ Obtain informed consent from the child and parent or guardian of the child before photographing or filming a child. As part of this exercise, a precise explanation for how the photograph or film will be used must be provided.
- ◆ Ensure that all photographs, films, videos and DVDs present children in a dignified and respectful manner and not in a vulnerable or submissive one. Children should be adequately clothed and not filmed or photographed in poses that could be seen as sexually suggestive.
- ◆ Ensure all images are honest representations of the context and the facts.
- ◆ Ensure file labels, meta data or text descriptions do not reveal identifying information about a child when sending images electronically or publishing images in any form.

There is international recognition that adults who have a formal role in working with or supporting children are in positions of trust and authority. FIND has zero tolerance of exploitation or abuse of children. If exploitation is observed or suspected, we will ensure that proper authorities are notified and will end all alliance with the partner. FIND will not work with any organization where exploitation or abuse of children is suspected or confirmed.