রিসার্চ এন্ড পলিসি ইন্টিগ্রেশান ফর ডেভেলপমেন্ট (র‍্যাপিড)

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**Research and Policy Integration
for Development (RAPID)**

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Research Ethics Policy

Policy Statement

RAPID will uphold high ethical standards in conducting research. The following principles of ethical research should be adhered whenever applicable:

- Research should aim to maximise benefit for society and minimise risk and harm
- Rights and dignity of individuals and groups must be respected and protected irrespective of their status, class, and entitlement
- Participation in research shall be voluntary and appropriately informed
- Research should be undertaken with integrity and transparency
- While conducting research, lines of responsibility and accountability should be clearly specified
- Conflicts of interest should be avoided and in cases where such conflicts cannot be avoided, they should be made explicit

The following practices should be adopted to implement the abovementioned principles:

- The principal investigator/team leader will be responsible to ensure that research is undertaken following the relevant principles
- Whenever applicable, the principal investigator/project team leader will ensure that appropriate ethical review is done, and necessary ethical guidelines are followed
- The principal investigator/project team leader will ensure that necessary arrangements are in order to preserve the integrity and security of research data
- Potential risks should be assessed and suitable strategies should be deployed to minimise the associated risks.
- Research should be designed in a way that the dignity of research participants is protected and respected at all times.
- Research should be undertaken in such a way that research participants are at no stage harmed.
- Whenever applicable, necessary data protection requirement should be maintained
- When necessary, training should be provided to enumerators and field staff so that research ethics are maintained
- While collaborating with other organisation, RAPID's authorised focal point/project lead/team leader for the particular project should ensure that research ethics are followed

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Institutional monitoring

- It remains the responsibility of the principal investigator/team leader/project lead to notify the RAPID Executive Director if any ethical implications arise.
- RAPID Executive Director, in consultation with the board members, will periodically review this policy to make any necessary adjustments.
- If any significant concerns are raised about the ethical conduct of a study, RAPID's Executive Director (ED) can request a full and detailed account of the research for a further ethical review. If necessary, the ED should consult with board members, and if needed, to form a committee to address the concerns raised.

Procedures for Settling Complaints

RAPID will ensure that allegations of research misconduct are dealt with appropriate measure. Where formal investigation of a complaint or allegation is warranted, the case is going to be handled by the RAPID's Executive Director. One can notify any research misconduct by writing to complain@rapidbd.org

Interpretation

This policy cannot describe all research ethics situations that may arise involving RAPID. Therefore, RAPID employees must use sound judgment to avoid any research misconduct. Appropriate circumstances may also justify exceptions to the application of the policy. But for any confusion, clarification, and guidance, consultations with the ED should be carried out.

RAPID will provide adequate attention to implement this policy and will ensure it is communicated and understood.