

1. Introduction

The CYTI Alliance is a worldwide network of organizations working together to provide the highest standard of direct services to marginalized urban children and youth, their families and their communities and related groups and issues.

The CYTI Alliance was initiated in 2007 and is facilitated by Friends-International. However, all CYTI Alliance members are equal partners committed to reaching the highest level of services for marginalized children and youth and related groups.

The CYTI Alliance Charter is the guide for the CYTI Alliance Members to provide highest quality of services to children/youth, their families and their communities. It defines the principles and the operating processes of the CYTI Alliance members.

2. Vision - Mission

Vision	We build best practice services so that together we can better protect marginalized urban children and youth and with them create innovative and exciting opportunities to build their futures.
Mission	The CYTI Alliance is a worldwide Alliance of organizations that provide the highest standard of direct services to marginalized urban children and youth, their families and their communities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• protect urban children and youth from all forms of abuse within the scope of the International Convention of the Rights of the Child;• reintegrate marginalized urban children and youth so they become actively involved in the development of their society;• prevent marginalized urban children and youth from engaging in risky behavior and/or dangerous situations that compromise their futures;• improve the way organizations work by promoting innovative and effective approaches with the active participation of the children and youth.

3. Logo and Tagline

“A member of the CYTI Alliance ”

“With Children and Youth, Together Transform and Improve programs Impact”

Every CYTI Alliance member decides to use or not to use the logo and tagline of the CYTI Alliance in addition to its own logo.

4. Target Groups

1- Marginalized urban children and youth (0-24 years), including (but not restricted to):

- Street living children / youth
- Street working children / youth
- Children and youth of street families
- Children / youth in slum and squatter areas
- Children who have dropped out of school
- Runaway children / youth
- Migrant/trafficked children / youth
- Children / youth affected by HIV/AIDS
- Drug using children / youth
- Children / youth in conflict with the law

2- Their families and their communities

3- Other related groups

4- Society as a whole

Each CYTI Alliance member can adopt all or part of this target group definition for its own work

Definitions used by Friends-International:

- Children: 0-18 years of age
- Youth: 15-24 years of age

(In addition: Adolescents: 10-19; early adolescence: 10-14; late adolescence: 15-19; young people: 12-24 years of age)

5. Guiding Principles

The CYTI Alliance integrates strong core principles in its philosophy of work which guides all projects. The CYTI Alliance Members are committed to respect principles on:

- Legal frameworks;
- General developmental philosophy and approaches;
- Best practice service provision to target groups;
- Statutory and non-for-profit management
- Strict financial management
- Quality of communication and funding policies
- Fund-raising
- Financial transparency

1- Legal framework:

The CYTI Alliance is committed to and bases its work on the *International Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. It therefore ensures to every child and youth and other target persons:

- The right to survival: medical care, shelter, clothing, food
- The right to protection: from all forms of abuse and neglect
- The right to development: access to education from various sources on a variety of topics, integration in the public educational system
- The right to participation: promotion of rights and responsibilities in the community

The CYTI Alliance and its Members are strictly non-political in their work and strictly non-proselytising and will not at any time promote or support any political party or religion above another. The CYTI Alliance and its Members will strive to respect the local culture at all times while respecting the beliefs and traditions of all beneficiaries.

2- General developmental philosophy and approaches:

The CYTI Alliance and its Members will ensure an *effective social integration* of all children/youth and other persons, to make them productive citizen of their community and country

- All projects are *centred* and focused around their beneficiaries;
- All decisions are taken for the *best interest of the beneficiaries*;

- Work is carried out with and for beneficiaries in full **respect of their gender, religion, ethnicity, nationality, origin, health, legal, political and social backgrounds;**
- Services are designed so as to feed a **virtuous development cycle** and break the vicious poverty cycle;
- All projects build **sustainable futures** for all beneficiaries, their communities and societies;
- Beneficiaries, teams and the organizations are effectively **protected from abuse;**
- All services are designed in the spirit of **cooperation** and to avoid duplications and will not replace or go against Government policies and services;
- All **actions are positive** in nature and promote images of empowerment, hope, and transformation;

3- Best Practice in Service Provision:

The CYTI Alliance and its Members are committed to provide **best practice** services in service delivery by ensuring:

Programming for Effective Social Reintegration:

- Programs provide for an effective social reintegration of children/ youth / beneficiaries and in a perspective of sustainable development and never support or promote the streets based / marginalized life style
- Families structures or independent living are always preferred options for the reintegration of children/youth, while institutions are always used as a last resort only;

Programming for and with the Children / Youth:

- **Best interest** of the child and other beneficiaries is at the core of programming;
- CYTI Alliance and its Members guarantee that all children/youth are treated fairly, **without any type of discrimination** of gender, race, religion, physicality, health, origin, political, legal or social background;
- Projects are designed to always be **accessible** and readily available to children/ youth, families, beneficiaries and communities;
- Projects are designed, implemented and evaluated with **full participation** of the children/youth/beneficiaries;
- Children/youth/beneficiaries have the **freedom** to make decisions about their own lives;
- Projects must allow children/youth/beneficiaries to express their **creativity** and not condone restrictions that could hinder their creative development;
- CYTI Alliance Members provide children/youth/beneficiaries the skills and

knowledge allowing them to **protect themselves** from the risks that threaten them (HIV/AIDS, drugs, reproductive health issues, and all kinds of abuse...) and to **lead a positive and productive life** (education, vocational training);

- Projects must **prevent the alienation** of the children/youth/beneficiaries by providing culturally sensitive and integrative services

Programming to respond to all the Needs of Beneficiaries:

- Programs provide a **holistic service** to the children/youth/beneficiaries either directly or in collaboration with partner services;
- Programs encourage collaboration and **networking** rather than creating new services which may cause overlap and redundancy;
- All programs and staff are directed by the principle set forth in the **CYTI Alliance Child Protection Policy**, all staff receives specific child protection training and know how to handle cases of abuse.

Programming with Clear Objectives and Outcomes:

- Services are established within a **clear strategy** and are result-focused (and avoid activities that are merely cosmetics);
- Services are **monitored and evaluated** on a regular basis;
- Projects are **flexible** and always adapting to the changing needs of the children/youth/ beneficiaries and their environment;
- Projects are **innovative and creative** so as to explore the various possible responses to the needs of the children/youth;
- Services respond to existing needs but do not replace the **role of the Governments** (local and/or national) and its responsibility to promote human development and to protect children and youth of their country. CYTI Alliance Member projects are designed to ensure maximum Government involvement (where appropriate) as a means of promoting Government responsibly towards the delivery / monitoring of programs for children and youth.

Programming for Effective Networking:

- Projects are established with a good understanding and in **coordination** with existing services;
- CYTI Alliance Members are cooperating with existing services to ensure **holistic service provision** to children and youth;
- CYTI Alliance Members collaborate to support the implementation of **developmental best practice approach** with all Network partners.

4- Statutory and non-for-profit management

Running of statutory instances

CYTI Alliance Members have clear Statutes and internal rules, which include:

- A Board
- Clear roles and responsibilities within the Board
- A general assembly holding meeting once a year

Not-for-profit management

CYTI Alliance Members are committed to respect the following principles:

- Members of the Board are not paid;
- No profits are to be distributed either directly or indirectly to Board members;
- No property and assets are to be attributed to the members of the organization or their families;
- No agreement can be made between organizations, the directors or middle persons, which could put in jeopardy the non-for-profit management.

5- Strict financial management

CYTI Alliance Members are committed to using financial management systems that allow for the optimal use of the funds it receives. They therefore strive to:

- establish procedures and monitoring systems that ensure the relevance and the efficiency of the management of all structures;
- select services providers and sellers in total objectivity and forbid any link with service providers and sellers that could put into question the objectivity of management;
- forbid to pay any type of salary / remuneration / fee to service providers that fall out of official contractual agreement;
- allocate the funds received in accordance with the agreements signed with the donors;
- control the good use of funds provided to partner organizations and sign a written agreement between itself and the beneficiary organization.

These principles are to be defined in detail in the each CYTI Alliance Member's Finance Standards of Procedures.

Commercial activities:

All commercial activities carried out by CYTI Alliance Members will remain in coherence with

their objectives and be made clearly known to all donors. All profits will be solely used for the running of the organization's projects.

A clear business accounting system is established and reporting is provided along with the organization's overall financial report.

A specific Charter regulates the organizations' income generating activities.

Working with subsidiaries

Working through subsidiaries or similar organizations (commercial or not) must be decided by the Members' Board and the Board must be regularly informed of the evolution of the work and ensure an effective supervision.

Strict management also applies to the subsidiaries. The financial report must mention the links between the organization and its subsidiaries.

Financial management

CYTI Alliance Members will not systematically seek important surplus. However, they will ensure that they have enough reserves allowing it to respect commitments.

The Boards are responsible for all financial investment, loans, guarantees and deposits and must be regularly informed of their terms of management and the risks incurred.

6- Quality of communication and funding policies

In order to allow donors to give in full confidence, CYTI Alliance Members are committed to provide to the public and the donors in particular, regular, honest, precise and objective information. CYTI Alliance Members will ensure that the information tells about the general direction of the organizations and their commitments, the choice of actions, the origins and the use of funding, the name of the directors and their general organization.

7- Fund raising

CYTI Alliance Members are committed to establish fund raising systems that respect the children, families and all beneficiaries and will not victimized children or promote "pity charity", but instead promote images of empowerment, hope, and transformation.

CYTI Alliance Members are committed to establish fund raising systems that respect the donors and the people that support it.

CYTI Alliance Members are committed to respect the legal dispositions and rules for the protection of personal information and calls for donations from the general public.

8- Financial transparency

CYTI Alliance Members are committed to:

- Establish an annual account reports and supporting documents in accordance with financial practices;
- Ensure a yearly financial audit with a reputable auditing company that will certify all accounts and provide a specific report;
- Provide the annual report, specific reports and the report from the auditor to all donors, either automatically or upon request;
- Provide all financial information upon request to any person / organization that request such information

9- Human Resources Management

CYTI Alliance Members are committed to:

- Establish contract for personnel (including Terms of References) in line with country Labor Law of the country of operation for every staff or volunteer;
- Have every staff or volunteer understand and sign the Code of Conduct in line with the CYTI Alliance Child Protection Policy;
- Have every staff trained and understand the Child Protection Policy.

6. Standards of Practice/Procedures

In order to ensure that all projects are run in accordance with the Guiding Principles, the CYTI Alliance designs Standards of Procedures (SoP) and Standards of Practice that clearly define policies, strategies and philosophies behind core projects:

- Implementation of General Management Standards of Procedures (SoPs):
 - Child protection policy and procedures
 - Accounting / Finance SoPs
 - Human Resources SoPs
 - Reporting SoPs
- Systematic implementation of Standards of Practice (SoPs) for service delivery:
 - Case Management SoPs
 - Non Formal Education SoPs

- Vocational Training SoPs
- Support to drug users (prevention, harm reduction, detoxification, rehabilitation) SoPs
- Family support for income generation (including Home Based Production) SoPs
- Outreach SoPs
- Drop In Centers SoPs
- Residential centers SoPs
- Social reintegration (family, foster care, public school, employment, citizenship) SoPs
- ChildSafe SoPs

7. Operating processes

A CYTI Alliance member is an organization that has:

- agreed with and signed the CYTI Alliance Charter;
- committed to work towards achieving the highest level of quality of service and administration;
- has a running CYTI Alliance Collaboration Agreement signed with Friends-International

Members:

- Members are NGO and IOs, associations...

Affiliated Members:

- Gos

Resource members:

- Organizations that are not providing direct service to children but who are interested in providing training / experience / tools to other network members.

Selection:

Any CYTI Alliance member can nominate an organization to join.

The candidate organization is assessed by Friends-International (in collaboration with another member or an independent body when required).

The selected organization needs to adhere to the principles set forth in this Charter and accept to implement (after possible adaptation based on local realities) of the basic Core SoPs.

Selected organizations sign the CYTI Alliance agreement that defines the objectives to become

best practice and the support required to achieve these objectives.

All members agree to provide support and share with other CYTI Alliance members to allow others to learn from their experience (expenses should be covered by the CYTI Alliance of the requesting partner)

Certification

Any organization that signs the Charter and the agreement is a CYTI Member and can use the logo and mention its participation to the CYTI Alliance . Certification is obtained once initial results are attained as set forth in agreement.

Evaluation leading to certification is provided by Friends-International (with the collaboration of an external body when required)

Certification can be withdrawn by Friends-International (and external body when required) in case of serious mismanagement and/or breach of CYTI Charter principles.

CYTI members can leave the Alliance at any time; in this case they must stop using the logo, tagline and certification.

Signed by:

Position:

Organization :

Date:

City, country:

Signature and stamp: