



# SKIP Research Ethics Policy

## Introduction

This policy covers all of SKIP's project research activities, Research and Development (R&D) activities, and all Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) activities. It is applicable to both project activities and those undertaken by National Committee, the Trustees, and all members of SKIP.

- It will be the responsibility of SKIP Branches to ensure that their interventions are compliant with this policy, supported by their NC Buddy and Mentor.
- SKIP's NC and Trustee research activities and their compliance with this policy will be monitored by their NC and Trustee peers.
- The policy will be incorporated into SKIP's activities, discussed at events, and utilised as a framework for the ethical development of all R&D policy.

## Principles

### Autonomy

- SKIP's beneficiaries must be free to participate in SKIP's interventions or research activities without coercion or penalty for not taking part
- Participants must be free to withdraw from either an intervention or research activity at any time without giving a reason and without a threat of any adverse effect
- Consent must be gained prior to information gathering in a focus group setting
- Adequate translation must be available to ensure that consent is sufficiently informed - Ideally a translated consent form should be signed prior to commencement of information gathering

### Beneficence

- SKIP's research must be worthwhile in itself and have beneficial effects that outweigh any risks
- SKIP's research should uphold scientific standards, including those for socio-economic research
- The methodology must be sound so that beneficial results will be yielded
- All data gathered must be analysed, and must be used for its intended purpose

### Non-maleficence

- SKIP has a responsibility to ensure its activities do not adversely impact the personal, psychological or social wellbeing of its beneficiaries or participants
- Any possible harm foreseen as a consequence of SKIP's activities must be avoided or mitigated by robust precautions
- Special care should be taken to ensure children and other vulnerable groups are sufficiently protected from potential harm
- Potential harm of interventions or research strategies should be analysed prior to their undertaking, and any potential adverse impacts discussed
- All research should comply with both the law in the project country and in the UK
- Research should be conducted in a way that is respectful for all cultures, and does not discriminate against any societal group

March 2019

Martin Gribbin, SKIP Trustee

## Confidentiality

- The right of the participant and their personal data to remain unknown to all but the SKIP research team must be respected (unless the participant agrees otherwise)
- Data should be processed in keeping with all data protection laws, both local to the project country and in the UK
- Anonymised research datasets are the SKIP gold standard - unless there are extenuating circumstances, no participant identifying information should be gathered

## Integrity

- SKIP and its volunteers must be open about any gains they makes from the research
- SKIP must present research findings openly and honestly, with a valid context, and results should be available to stakeholders
- The views of stakeholders in the research, such as the collaborating organisation, should be taken into account
- SKIP's volunteers should recognise the boundaries of their own limitations and competence, and should not attempt to undertake activities in which they have not been trained or prepared