

Risk Management Framework for NGOs

OPTIVIDA Consultancy & Research Services

A Practical Framework for Identifying, Assessing, and Managing Organizational Risks

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1. Purpose of the Framework

This framework provides NGOs with a structured approach to identify, assess, manage, and monitor risks affecting programs, finances, staff, partners, and beneficiaries.

2. Types of Risks in NGOs

Risk categories include programmatic, financial, operational, governance, safeguarding, security, reputational, compliance, and environmental risks.

3. Risk Identification Process

Risks should be identified through staff workshops, audits, community feedback, partner consultations, and lessons learned.

4. Risk Assessment & Scoring

Each risk is assessed by likelihood and impact to prioritize mitigation actions.

5. Risk Mitigation & Controls

Define mitigation measures, controls, responsible persons, and timelines for each risk.

6. Risk Monitoring & Review

Risks should be reviewed regularly during management meetings and donor reporting cycles.

7. Roles & Responsibilities

Board, management, and project teams have defined responsibilities for risk oversight.

8. Risk Register Template (Example)

Risk Description	Category	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Level	Mitigation Measures	Responsible Person

Optivida Note: Effective risk management strengthens donor confidence and protects organizational integrity.