

Charity and Non-Profit Organisations Risk Taxonomy

Risk Name	Risk Description	Potential Impact	How it Could Materialise	Potential Control and Remediation
Financial Risk	The risk of financial loss due to inadequate funding, mismanagement of funds, or unexpected expenses.	- Loss of funds - Inability to continue operations - Damage to reputation	Misallocation of budget Reduction in donor contributions Unforeseen expenses	 Regular financial audits Maintaining a reserve fund Diversifying income streams Stringent budget controls
Operational Risk	The risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people, systems, or external events.	- Service disruption - Increased costs - Inefficiencies.	- Staff errors - System failures - Process inefficiencies	- Implementing standard operating procedures - Regular training for staff - Investing in reliable systems - Continuous monitoring and evaluation - Business Continuity Planning - Crisis Management Framework - Disaster Recovery Planning
Compliance Risk	The risk of legal or regulatory sanctions, financial loss, or damage to reputation due to non-compliance with laws, regulations, or internal policies.	- Legal penalties - Fines - Feputational damage	- Failure to adhere to legal requirements - Lack of knowledge about regulatory changes or new regulations	Regular compliance audits Staying updated with regulatory changes including horion scanning Implementing robust compliance policies
Reputational Risk	The risk of damage to the organisation's reputation due to negative public perception.	- Loss of donor trust - Reduced donations - Loss of partnerships	Negative media coveragePublic scandalsService delivery failures	- Effective communication strategies - Transparency in operations - Swift response to negative events - Maintaining high ethical standards
Strategic Risk	The risk arising from adverse business decisions, improper implementation of decisions, or lack of responsiveness to industry changes.	- Failure to achieve objectives - Loss of competitive edge.	Poor strategic planning Failure to adapt to changes in the external environment	Regular strategic reviews Stakeholder engagement Flexible and adaptive planning processes
Cybersecurity Risk	The risk of financial loss, disruption, or damage to the reputation of an organisation due to failure of its information technology systems.	- Data breaches - Loss of sensitive information - Operational disruption.	 Hacking Phishing attacks Inadequate IT security measures	Implementing robust cybersecurity measures Regular IT audits Staff training on cybersecurity awareness Having a response plan for data breaches
Fraud Risk	The risk of financial or reputational loss due to fraudulent activities within the organisation.	- Financial loss - Legal consequences - Reputational damage	- Embezzlement of funds - False reporting - Misuse of assets	- Regular financial audits - Whistleblower policies - Strong internal controls
Safeguarding Risk	The risk of harm or abuse to individuals within the organisation's care or service.	- Harm to individuals - Legal consequences - Reputational damage	 Inadequate supervision Lack of safeguarding policies Failure to report incidents 	- Comprehensive safeguarding policies - Regular training - Clear reporting procedures
Conflicts of Interest Risk	The risk of decisions being influenced by personal interests rather than the best interests of the organisation.	- Biased decision-making - Loss of trust - Legal consequences	- Personal relationships influencing decisions - Lack of transparency - Undisclosed interests	- Conflict of interest policies - Regular disclosures - Independent decision-making processes
People Risk including Key People Dependency	The risk arising from dependency on key personnel and issues related to staffing.	- Disruption in operations - Loss of key skills and knowledge - Decreased morale	 High turnover of key staff Insufficient staff training Lack of succession planning 	- Succession planning - Staff development programs - Adequate staffing levels
Governance Effectiveness Risk	The risk of ineffective governance impacting the organisation's performance and compliance.	- Non-compliance - Inefficient operations - Reputational damage	- Lack of board oversight - Poor leadership - Inadequate policies	- Regular board evaluations - Clear governance structures - Effective leadership training
Access Control and Data-Security Risk	The risk of unauthorised access to systems and data, leading to data breaches or loss.	- Data breaches - Loss of sensitive information - Operational disruption	 - Weak password policies - Lack of access controls - Phishing attacks 	- Strong access control policies - Regular security audits - Staff training on data security