

Project Legal Status & Governance Statement

Clear separation between prototype claims, future funding, operational roles, and legal responsibility.

Status notice. Global Food Round is currently an informational prototype and verification-stage project. Public payments and donations are not accepted through the prototype. This document sets intended controls and launch conditions; it does not state that any supplier, distribution organization, fiscal sponsor, charitable status, tax treatment, license, insurance arrangement, public-fundraising permission, sanctions clearance, or other regulatory approval has been approved unless expressly identified as such.

1. Present status

- Global Food Round researches and tests a transparent local food-procurement and distribution model. The current website is not a donation checkout and does not accept public funds through an enabled payment function. Nothing in the prototype is an instruction to send funds outside the disabled checkout.
- Basket prices, percentages, exchange-rate references and allocation displays are examples, historical transaction references, or non-binding previews unless explicitly identified otherwise.
- The presence of humanitarian language, a map, future-funding descriptions, contact channels or a disabled payment interface is not represented as proof that fundraising or solicitation is lawful in any jurisdiction. Applicable law and the actual facts control.

2. Entity, charitable status and fund-holder rule

- Before public funding is enabled, the site and checkout must identify the actual legal entity or fiscal sponsor receiving and administering funds, the payment processor, receipt issuer, applicable fees, permitted uses, tax-deductibility status, and refund/cancellation framework.
- The project must not describe itself as a charity, nonprofit, tax-exempt organization, fiscal sponsor, fund holder, or authorized fundraiser unless that statement is legally true and current in the relevant jurisdiction.
- No current prototype statement is a representation that a future contribution will be tax-deductible.

3. Fundraising-jurisdiction launch review

- Public fundraising can trigger registration, disclosure, consumer, tax, payment-services, charitable-solicitation, or other rules based on the receiving entity, donor location, solicitation method, and destination. These must be checked for the actual launch structure before funds are accepted.
- A fiscal sponsor or fund-holding entity does not automatically eliminate obligations in every jurisdiction; responsibilities must be allocated in writing.

4. Separation of functions

- Research leads do not constitute verification or approval.
- A person who submits a supplier or distribution candidate should not independently approve that same candidate.
- Research volunteers receive no access to funds, payment credentials, administrator passwords, donor payment data, or private beneficiary datasets merely because they volunteer. Volunteer participation does not by itself create employment, agency, expense entitlement, or a representation of statutory accident-insurance coverage; legal status is determined by applicable law and the actual relationship.
- Purchase authorization, supplier documentation, receipt confirmation, sanctions/trade-control review, and distribution reporting should remain separately evidenced.

5. No implied partnership or authority

- Displaying, researching, contacting, or evaluating an organization does not create partnership, agency, endorsement, exclusivity, approved-supplier status, or authority to represent that organization or Global Food Round.
- Any operational relationship must be established by direct written confirmation and, where appropriate, a contract or memorandum defining scope, responsibilities, evidence, privacy, safeguarding, compliance, and termination.

6. Geographic and political neutrality

- Country or destination labels on an interactive map are used for geographic organization and do not constitute a legal opinion on sovereignty, borders, recognition, sanctions status, or political claims.
- Operational verification criteria should be applied consistently, while legal and sanctions requirements may differ by jurisdiction and transaction route.

7. Change control and launch authority

- Material changes to the funding entity, allocation model, payment route, privacy handling, sanctions controls, refund rules, or verification standards should be reflected in updated public terms before the affected function is enabled.
- No volunteer or researcher may activate public funding or bind the project unless formally authorized by the responsible legal entity.
- Public funding remains disabled until the Public Funding Launch Gate is completed for the actual launch structure and documented approval is given by the responsible legal/compliance authority. A website code change or verified basket is never sufficient by itself.

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This policy is a project compliance document for an early-stage prototype. It is not a representation of universal legal compliance and is not a substitute for jurisdiction-specific advice from qualified counsel on an actual person, transaction, fundraising campaign, data-processing activity, volunteer relationship, publication decision, or operational route.

Global Food Round - Prototype compliance document

Volunteer / Idealist governance addendum

Supplemental controls - volunteer / Idealist matters

Status notice. Global Food Round is currently an informational prototype and verification-stage project. Public payments and donations are not accepted through the prototype. Formal new volunteer/candidate intake is paused pending the privacy/controller controls stated below. This document does not state that Global Food Round is a registered nonprofit, charity, employer-exempt volunteer program, fiscal sponsor, insured volunteer program, or authorized fundraiser unless expressly identified as such.

Supplemental requirements

- For volunteer recruitment, Idealist's Community Group label is treated as a platform category, not a representation that Global Food Round is incorporated, a registered nonprofit/charity, an employer-exempt volunteer program, or insured.
- The label 'volunteer' does not waive or determine employment or other legal status. The factual relationship and applicable law control. Research should remain voluntary and flexible, with no mandatory hours, quotas, exclusivity, compulsory availability or penalty for declining tasks during the prototype unless separately reviewed.
- External outreach by volunteers is research/initial contact only. Volunteers may not negotiate, commit, contract, order, accept funds, promise funding, request payment instructions, or create/claim partnership, agency, endorsement or Verified status. The phrase 'possible partnership' should not be used by a volunteer unless the responsible operator has specifically authorized the communication.
- Certificates may acknowledge factual contributions only; they are not professional certification, proof of employment status, accredited hours, insurance coverage, endorsement, or verification of a researched organization. Hours are stated only if reliably supported.
- The detailed controlling project standard for these matters is document 10, Volunteer & Idealist Recruitment, Communications and Records Standard. Where this addendum is more specific, it supplements the earlier governance text.

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