



HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES & STANDARDS



The primary objective of humanitarian aid is to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity.



Core Humanitarian Principles

The Humanitarian Imperative

Neutrality

Impartiality

THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT AND NGOs IN DISASTER RELIEF

The Code of Conduct seeks to establish and safeguard common humanitarian standards of behavior by articulating high standards for independence, effectiveness and impact. It contains the following components:

- The Code of Conduct and Principles of Conduct for the Movement and NGOs in disaster response programs.
- Three annexes describing the working environment that humanitarian organizations desire to see created by host governments, donor governments and intergovernmental organizations.

Developed in 1996 under the sponsorship of members of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response: Caritas International, Catholic Relief Services, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Save the Children Alliance, Lutheran World Federation, Oxfam, The World Council of Churches, The International Committee of the Red Cross.



THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT AND NGOs IN DISASTER RELIEF

The Code of Conduct and Principles of Conduct for the Movement and NGOs in disaster response programs:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xosu_dW7CLs

- **The humanitarian imperative comes first.**
- **Aid is given regardless of race, creed or nationality of the recipients and without adverse distinction of any kind. Aid priorities are calculated on the basis of need alone.**
- **Aid will not be used to further a particular political or religious standpoint.**
- We shall respect culture and custom.
- We shall attempt to build disaster response on local capacities.
- Ways shall be found to involve programme beneficiaries in the management of relief aid.
- Relief aid must strive to reduce future vulnerabilities to disaster as well as meeting basic needs.
- We hold ourselves accountable to both those we seek to assist and those from whom we accept resources.
- In our information, publicity and advertising activities, we shall recognize disaster victims as dignified humans, not hopeless objects.

THE CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT MOVEMENT AND NGOs IN DISASTER RELIEF

Annex I – Recommendations to the governments of disaster affected countries:

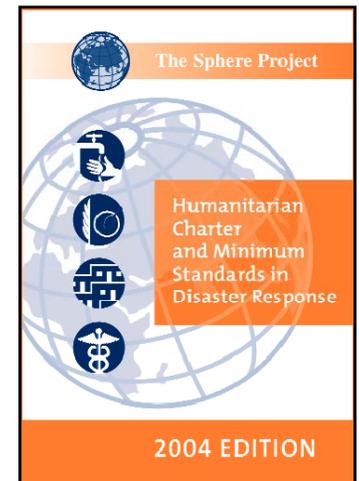
- **Governments should recognize and respect the independent, humanitarian and impartial actions of non-governmental humanitarian agencies.**
- Host governments should facilitate rapid access to disaster victims.
- Governments should facilitate the timely flow of relief goods and information during disasters.

Annex II – Recommendations to donor governments:

- **Donor governments should recognize and respect the independent, humanitarian and impartial actions of non-governmental humanitarian agencies.**
- **Donor governments should provide funding with a guarantee of operational independence.**
- Donor governments should use their good offices to assist non-governmental humanitarian agencies in obtaining access to disaster victims.

THE SPHERE PROJECT

- A handbook of humanitarian assistance.
- A broad process of collaboration between NGOs globally.
- Expression of commitment to quality and accountability.
- Intended to improve the quality of assistance provided to people affected by disasters.



400 NGOs, including the ICRC, IFRC, the Save the Children Alliance, Oxfam, Catholic Relief Service, and others from 80 countries, pooled their experience and knowledge through The Sphere Project, outlining both common and technical minimum standards for disaster assistance.

THE SPHERE PROJECT

HUMANITARIAN CHARTER

- Commitment to “act in accordance with the principles of humanity and impartiality.”
- *Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief.*
- Fundamental Principles based in international human rights and humanitarian law:
 - The right to life with dignity.
 - The distinction between combatants and non-combatants.
 - The principle of non-refoulement.
- Commitment to achieving Minimum Standards.

HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES AND STANDARDS CONFLICT WITH US ANTI-TERRORISM LAWS

CHALLENGES POSED BY US ANTI-TERRORISM LAWS:

Requirements	Challenges
General	Denying assistance conflicts with impartiality and neutrality, concept of selective assistance and banning contact with some parties directly contradicts humanitarian mandates accepted by other parts of USG, administrative costs of compliance
SDN, FTO and sanctioned country status	Perceived as acceptance of controversial political determination of who is a terrorist, conflicting lists, constantly updated
Due diligence related to SDN checks and Countries under economic sanctions	Complexity for large programs and relief distributions (recipients and local purchase challenges), common names = false positives, risk thresholds and seriousness of compliance programs create different perceptions of US NGOs in the field
Licenses	Delays in deploying or providing assistance
Material support	Vague definitions and varied interpretations
Partner and sub-contractor certifications and vetting	Precedent of US law applying to foreign partners, political consequences for local partners unacceptable, intrusive, privacy