

Code of Conduct

This code sets out the Principles of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Response Programmes. The code underpins International Human Rights (IHL) and Humanitarian Law (IHL) and supports good humanitarian practice.

The ten principles underpinning the Code of Conduct:

- apply to any NGO - national or international, small or large
- seek to guard our standards of behaviour
- are voluntary and self-policing
- can be used by governments, donors, and humanitarian agencies as a yardstick against which to judge their own conduct and the conduct of those agencies with whom they work.

Disaster-affected communities have a right to expect those who seek to assist them to measure up to these standards.

1. The humanitarian imperative (*to provide immediate aid to people whose survival is threatened*) comes first.
2. Aid is given regardless of the race, creed or nationality of the recipients, and without adverse distinction of any kind. Aid priorities are calculated on the basis of need alone.
3. Aid will not be used to further a particular political or religious standpoint.
4. We shall endeavour not to act as instruments of government foreign policy.
5. We shall respect culture and custom.
6. We shall attempt to build disaster response on local capacities.
7. Ways shall be found to involve beneficiaries in the management of relief aid.
8. Relief aid must strive to reduce future vulnerabilities to disaster as well as meeting basic needs.
9. We hold ourselves accountable to both those we seek to assist and those from whom we accept resources.
10. In our information, publicity and advertising activities, we shall recognise disaster victims as dignified human beings, not hopeless objects.

Principles 1 to 4 define core humanitarian principles. The remaining six are programme principles which seek to improve the quality and accountability of humanitarian assistance. In the event of armed conflict, the Code of Conduct will be interpreted and applied in conformity with IHL and IRL.

Signatories to the Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct was developed and agreed upon by eight of the world's largest disaster-response agencies in 1994.



As at January 2017, **621** organizations were signatories to the Code of Conduct.

Additional resources on All In Diary website

Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief © ICRC (1994)

Web links for further information

<http://www.ifrc.org/en/publications-and-reports/code-of-conduct/signatories-of-the-code-of-conduct/>