

## Pakistan Humanitarian Forum Code of Conduct<sup>1</sup>

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### **Introduction**

The Pakistan Humanitarian Forum has developed this code of conduct for its membership that establishes, maintains and promotes humanitarian principles and values.

The Code of Conduct lays down principles which all members must adhere to in their work. The code of conduct is signed by all members.

It is expected that in signing this code, members are committed to ensure their conduct in the course of their work, lives up to these principles.

### **The humanitarian principles**

Humanitarian principles are central to establishing and maintaining access to affected populations whether in the context of a natural disaster, an armed conflict or a complex emergency.

A fundamental basis for PHF members is to respect and advocate for the beneficiaries right to receive humanitarian assistance.

Members shall strive to maintain and uphold humanitarian principles and values, as fundamental foundations for humanitarian action:

- *Humanity*  
Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found. The purpose of humanitarian action is to protect life and health and ensure respect for human beings.
- *Neutrality*  
Humanitarian actors must not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.  
Aid will not be used to further a particular political or religious standpoint.  
Humanitarian assistance will be given on the basis of need and need alone.
- *Impartiality*  
Humanitarian action must be carried out on the basis of need alone, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress and making no distinction on the basis of nationality, race, gender, religious belief, class or political opinions.

- *Operational independence*

Humanitarian action must be autonomous from the political, economic, military or other objectives that any actor may hold with regard to areas where humanitarian action is being implemented.

Members shall not implement the policy of GoP except where it coincides with our own independent policy. We will not knowingly – or through negligence – allow ourselves or our employees to be used to gather information of a political, military or economically sensitive nature for governments, nor will we act as instruments of foreign policy of donor governments.

### **Accountability**

PHF members are accountable towards beneficiaries. Members will strive for beneficiary involvement at all stages of the project cycles and ensure that vulnerable and marginalized groups are involved in the decision making process for issues that impact them and their families/communities. Genuine attempts will also be made to ensure that two-way communication strategies between all stakeholders are put in place to improve overall service delivery to program participants.

### **Right based approach**

Members shall strive to address vulnerabilities and inequalities; by doing so respecting the basic rights of everyone for life in dignity.

Members should recognize everyone as a member of society with the right to be equally supported and empowered.

Members will choose strategies based on values of respect, equity, solidarity and justice.

Members will avoid strategies that potentially stereotype, sensationalize or discriminate against people, situations or places.

Signed by Member Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from the following:

- [http://ochanet.unocha.org/p/Documents/OOM\\_HumPrinciple\\_English.pdf](http://ochanet.unocha.org/p/Documents/OOM_HumPrinciple_English.pdf)
  - International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Response
  - International NGO Safety and Security Association (INSSA) Code of Conduct.
  - Humanitarian Accountability Practice Standards, 2010
  - A guide to understanding and implementing the Code of Conduct on Images and Messages, Dochas
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