

## Do no harm

The do no harm principle, derived from medical ethics, requires humanitarian actors to strive to minimize harm they may do inadvertently by their presence and by providing assistance and services.

## Neutrality



Humanitarian actors must not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Not taking sides or being perceived to be taking part in hostilities.

Abstain from controversies.

## 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 distinctions on the basis of nationality, race, gender, religious belief, class or political opinions.

Non-discrimination

Proportionality

## 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.

Saving lives and alleviating human suffering

Inherent dignity in the human being

Primary rationale and defining characteristic of humanitarian assistance.

## Independence



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

Assistance is provided in a manner that is independent of the political, economic, military objectives of others.

Independence of spirit and decision-making. We follow our own agenda, not others.