

The Code of Conduct of the Standby Task Force

As a member of the SBTF I pledge to act according to the Code of Conduct of the Standby Task Force. This code of conduct is based on best practices in the field, including the Code of Conduct of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief and OCHA's Principles of Humanitarian Information Management and Exchange.

The Code of Conduct, like most professional codes, is a voluntary one. The code is self-policing. There is as yet no international association for disaster-response NGOs, which possesses any authority to sanction its signatories. The Code of Conduct will be used by the TF to monitor its own standards of assistance in live mapping.

Disaster-affected communities and partners of the TF have a right to expect that the TF measure up to these standards.

TF Code of Conduct

As a member of the Standby Task Force (TF) I will:

Respect and promote the fundamental human rights of all, without discrimination of any kind and irrespective of social status, race, ethnicity, colour, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, marital status, national origin, political affiliation or disability.

As a member of the TF I pledge to act specifically according to the following principles:

1. **Humanity**: The humanitarian imperative comes first. 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.
2. **Neutrality**: The TF assistance is given regardless of the race, creed or nationality of the recipients and without adverse distinction of any kind. I shall endeavor not to act as instruments of government foreign policy. I must not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.
3. **Impartiality**: The TF assistance will not be used to further a particular political or religious standpoint. Aid priorities are calculated on the basis of need alone. I will carry my duties in the TF having in mind that 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 opinion.
4. **Respect and Empowerment**: We shall respect local culture and custom. I shall attempt to work by building on local capacities and to involve where possible local groups in the management of the information keeping in mind that any intervention must strive to reduce future vulnerabilities to crisis as well as meeting immediate needs. In my information, publicity

and advertising activities, I shall recognize communities and disaster victims as dignified human beings, not hopeless objects.

5. Safety: I will use as guideline principle for all my activities in the TF the DO NOT HARM principle. I will place the highest priority on the safety of the general public. I will not engage in any activity that could potentially endanger the affected populations that are source and target of reports and information during specific disaster response operation I am involved in.

6. Lawfulness: I will comply with all federal, state, local, and international laws and regulations as well as eventual TF policies. I will comply with the regulations and guidelines given to me case by case by the TF coordinators and the partner organizations.

7. Professionalism: I will act in a professional manner when representing TF. I will act in a professional manner towards the partners and the organizations cooperating with the TF, as well as towards the affected populations.

8. Responsibility: I will act responsibly and quickly in managing information in a helpful manner so as to educate the general public and those directly affected by a crisis. I will act responsibly in order to avoid spreading of panic, false information and private personal data. I hold myself accountable to both those we seek to assist and those from whom the TF develop partnerships with. I will uphold the [Principles of Humanitarian Information Management and Exchange](#).

9. Good fellowship: I will not engage in any activity or communications that creates a conflict or appears to create a conflict with the interests of the TF and with any organization in which I have a personal, business, or financial interest. I will not misuse any of the information or contacts that I have made through my work in the TF for personal or economical interests.

Specifically:

i. I will not accept payment for any services that I perform as a TF volunteer during a deployment.

ii. I will only accept an employment offer on work related to a TF deployment if this offer has been advertised to all TF volunteers, all are given an equal chance to compete for the position and the TF deployment has phased out by the time employment starts.

10. Loyalty: I will notify my team coordinator in the TF immediately should I become aware of any conflict of interest or information that could negatively harm or threaten the affected population the TF operation.

11. Integrity: I will maintain the confidentiality of all internal communications and information intended solely for TF coordinators and volunteers. I will maintain confidentiality particularly on data relative to:

i. Personal phone numbers and e-mail addresses of the sources of information

ii. Contacts with NGO, International Organizations and other partners of the TF

iii. Sensitive data related to vulnerable groups like children, women, sick people, elderly, IDPs and refugees.

CERTIFICATION OF MY COMMITMENT TO THE CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT
PLEDGE

I, _____, certify that I have read and understand the Code of Conduct and that I agree to comply with it, at all times. I affirm that, except as indicated below, I have no personal, business, or financial interest that may conflict, or appear to conflict, with the best interests of TF.

Describe any potential conflicts:

I agree that until TF approves actions to mitigate or otherwise resolve a potential conflict, I will refrain from participating in any discussions, deliberations, decisions, and/or voting related to the conflict of interest.

Name and Surname

Date
