

TRAINING MODULE 4

Humanitarian Principles

Taking into account the complexity of the Afghan environment in which humanitarian action has to be carried out, the training course Module 4 *Humanitarian Principles* has been developed to support Afghan aid actors having an effective humanitarian action based on the fundamental principles of Humanity, Neutrality, Impartiality and Independence.

Access to vulnerable populations in a complex situation as Afghanistan is made fragile by a variety of factors: the dangerous blurring of the line between military and humanitarian actors; the threat of political instrumentalisation of the aid; the possible pressure by donors etc...

That's why the respect of the Humanitarian Principles is more than ever relevant in Afghanistan, in order to preserve space for neutral and independent humanitarian action. In addition to their ethical values, Humanitarian Principles are therefore operational means to secure access to vulnerable population and to enhance the effectiveness of aid.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The objective of this training course is to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of the operational importance for aid actors to adhere to the Humanitarian Principles: they are not only words but have real operational consequences.

Upon completing the course, participants will be able to:

- Understand and identify the different stakeholders acting in Afghanistan, their mandate, role, interests and potential relationship.
- Identify and understand the fundamental Humanitarian Principles (Humanity, Neutrality, Impartiality, Independence) and the different Code of Conducts (ICRC – ACBAR), their sources and their operational consequences.
- Understand the historical foundations of the International Humanitarian Law and its basic rules.
- Identify and analyse the potential dilemmas of humanitarian assistance in the field.
- Evaluate and design operational acting strategies according to the Humanitarian Principles in a complex context.
- Give a feedback to their own teams on what they would have learned and shared with the other participants during this workshop.



LEARNING STRATEGY

The module includes practical exercises and case studies which focus on the Afghan context. Each section includes a short theoretical introduction followed by practical activities.

PRE-REQUISITES

- Participants should have basic understanding of projects implementation in the sector of Humanitarian aid, particularly in Afghanistan.
- Participants should have a good level of spoken and written English.

CONTENT

This module includes **7** sections:

1. **Introduction:** The introductory section allows participants to get to know each other, course objectives and limits are clarified and the course timetable and rules are presented.
2. **The characteristics of Humanitarian aid in Afghanistan:** A brief look at participants' perception of humanitarian assistance and at the characteristics of the particular afghan context. Then, this section focus on a stakeholder analysis, in order to understand "who does what" among the multitude of actors present in Afghanistan.
3. **The Humanitarian Principles and the International Humanitarian Law (IHL):** This section analyses the fundamental Humanitarian principles, their historical foundations and their links with the International Humanitarian Law. Participants understand the importance for the humanitarian actors to subscribe to a shared ethical and operational code: the ICRC and ACBAR Code of conducts
4. **Humanitarian principles in practice: the Do No Harm approach:** A presentation of the Do no Harm approach to show that for each context of crisis, there are many elements of complexity to take into account in order to work without having any negative impact on the context. This section introduces the notion of dilemma.
5. **Sharing experiences on operational implementation of the Humanitarian Principles:** This section allows participants to think and understand how the Humanitarian Principles are implemented concretely when working in the field. It is also an opportunity to share their own experiences of operationalization of those principles.



6. **Restitution:** An introduction of how to communicate and integrate the Humanitarian Principles at the operational level and institutional level. This section can be considered as a kind of “training of trainers” on Humanitarian Principles.
7. **Course evaluation and conclusion:** Participants look back at the ground that has been covered during the course and prepare how they will apply what they have learned. Participants give feedback about the course and make recommendations for ways of improving it.

TRAINERS

Fadoi CHAOUKI is an Agro-food Engineer. She worked for several years as a Quality Engineer in a food company which produces Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods. She acted as an advisor in several countries (mostly in Africa) implementing and following up Quality Management Systems and giving courses in Quality Assurance. At Groupe URD, she provides support and advice to humanitarian organisations on the issue of quality, and develops and runs training courses on humanitarian project management and quality. She also has experience working in evaluation and institutional support in the Middle East. She has conducted many training courses in Afghanistan, within this partnership between ACBAR and Groupe URD.

Ahmadshah Massoud Mohabi is graduated of Computer Science Faculty from Mashal Higher Education Institute (Kabul). Previously, he was working as an interpreter with the American University of Afghanistan. He used to work as a Historic guide for foreign tours. He has participated on many workshops on humanitarian acts. Furthermore he is an English language and computer instructor. Currently, he is working at ACBAR as a Trainer where he carries out training courses for NGOs across Afghanistan, on several modules: Sphere, CoC and NGOs Law, as well as PCM. He is the Head of Training & Learning Department.