



Humanitarian Relief Policy

Dedza, Malawi. Children wait in line for flour distribution at a camp for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs).

The primary goal of humanitarian assistance is to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and in the aftermath of humanitarian emergencies. Irish Aid's policy is to provide flexible and timely funding to organisations which demonstrate a clear capacity to deliver effective humanitarian assistance in a manner that is responsive to identified need and adheres to humanitarian principles.

Humanitarian Relief Policy

Preface

Humanitarian crises, triggered by natural or man made events, pose one of the greatest threats to human life and to development. Some 300 million people are affected by humanitarian crises each year. Typically, the worst affected live in countries such as Somalia, Sudan, Ethiopia or the Democratic Republic of Congo. These are the countries the names of which for many years have been synonymous with the words disaster, crisis or need. In recent years, however, the list of crisis affected countries has lengthened and now includes countries we may otherwise have associated with more positive imagery and language, countries like Zimbabwe or Sri Lanka that until recently would be more usually coupled with words like 'vibrant' or 'dynamic' but which we now think and talk of in terms of hunger, cholera, displacement or conflict.

There are clear reasons for this: persistent poverty and vulnerability coupled with the mounting pressures of conflict, climate change, rising food prices, global economic shocks, environmental degradation, rapid urbanisation, poor governance and the HIV/AIDS pandemic; the list is long. The poorer a person is, the less able they are to protect themselves from shocks such as a small rise in the price of a staple food, the death of a family member from AIDS or a flare-up in political violence.

Globally, 26 million people have been forcibly displaced within their own countries; a further 8.6 million are refugees and several million others are simply stateless. Conflict, now recognised as a key cause of world hunger, has been the reason for much of this displacement.

Some 500 million people live in what are termed 'fragile states', and thus represent some of the world's most vulnerable to humanitarian crises because of the high levels of risk they are exposed to and their limited capacity to withstand these risks due to poverty, weak institutions and poor governance.

Almost a billion people - one in seven of the world's population - do not have access to sufficient quantities of food and water necessary to meet their daily minimum requirements for a healthy and productive life. These people are either living in crisis or perched on the edge and likely to 'fall into' crisis in the near future. I recently designated the fight against hunger a cornerstone of our aid programme. Through our development efforts and processes we are working to meet the needs of this vulnerable population and to facilitate their transition towards a better future. However, too often we find that events and needs outweigh capacities, and entire communities find themselves in situations where they can no longer ensure their survival. In these circumstances humanitarian relief becomes necessary to save and protect lives.

Humanitarian relief is increasingly challenging in a world where the severity and relative incidence of humanitarian crises is on the increase. It is thus vital that any support provided is done so in ways proven to be efficient, effective and informed at all times by good practice. This policy statement establishes Irish Aid's approach and commitment to good practice in meeting the acute needs of crisis affected communities.



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May 2009

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Introduction

As Irish Aid's Humanitarian Relief Policy, this paper outlines:

- > The humanitarian context in which Irish Aid is operating;
- > The fundamental principles which underpin Irish Aid's relief activities; and
- > The resultant approach of Irish Aid in addressing acute need.

Humanitarian relief assistance forms a distinct area of response within Irish Aid's overall programme of poverty reduction. It is fully coherent with the strategies for development cooperation outlined in the White Paper on Irish Aid.

This policy document forms the basis for decision making under Irish Aid's Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Fund (EHAF). It relates to how Irish Aid allocates support for relief interventions only.

Relief interventions are part of a broader humanitarian effort which encompasses other key elements, notably:

- > Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) which is the development of capacities of preparedness in order to mitigate and, where possible, prevent humanitarian emergencies; and
- > Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) which refers to the linking process necessary to ensure that relief interventions foster development, while development programmes reduce vulnerabilities to crises.

It is Irish Aid policy to consider some elements of early recovery and some aspects of preparedness from its EHAF (relief) budget line – where they form part of a larger response to acute needs in an emergency.



The distribution of medical relief supplies in Lebanon, 2006.

Irish Aid's humanitarian commitment

Poverty reduction, characterised by decreased vulnerability and increased opportunity, is the overarching objective of Ireland's official development cooperation programme. The provision of relief assistance, necessary to protect and sustain life, forms a vital and distinct part of the poverty reduction process.

Our commitment is informed by a respect for human rights and the international legal frameworks which exist to help define and protect the rights of individuals and the responsibilities of States with regard to humanitarian relief.

In addition to the overall guiding principles as set out in the White Paper, Irish Aid's humanitarian relief programming is guided by the core Humanitarian Principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

- > **Humanity**, meaning the centrality of saving human lives and alleviating suffering wherever it is found;
- > **Impartiality**, meaning the provision of assistance solely on the basis of need, without discrimination between or within affected populations;

- > **Neutrality**, meaning that humanitarian assistance must not favour any side in an armed conflict or other dispute where such assistance is provided; and
- > **Independence**, meaning the autonomy of humanitarian objectives from the personal, political, publicity, economic, military or other objectives that any government or agency may hold with regard to areas where humanitarian assistance is being implemented.

Furthermore, Irish Aid adheres to the good practice principles and guidelines outlined in the **Good Humanitarian Donorship** (GHD) initiative.

GHD is an initiative aiming to enhance donor accountability by ensuring that the responses of donor governments are effective, equitable and consistent with Humanitarian Principles. The full text of the GHD principles and guidance notes are annexed to this document.

As a member of the European Union, Ireland is also guided by the principles enshrined in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid and is committed to its implementation in cooperation with partners.

↘ What is humanitarian need?

Humanitarian need arises when an individual or community (temporarily or otherwise) is no longer able to ensure its own security and survival. Need can arise suddenly, for example following an earthquake, flooding, etc., or gradually and as a result of the progressive erosion of coping capacities due to, for example, protracted conflict, the effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and/or environmental degradation. Humanitarian relief is the response to an identified and acute need and is intended to save and protect lives.

It includes the protection of civilians and those no longer taking part in hostilities, the provision of food, water, sanitation services, shelter, health, protection and other forms of life saving assistance.

Relief can be provided for a short period until communities and individuals stabilise, and are in a position to look to their own recovery. In many cases however, relief may need to be provided over a more protracted period, sometimes concurrently with longer term recovery and development processes.

Who implements humanitarian relief?

Local communities: Particularly in sudden on-set crises, immediate humanitarian assistance such as search and rescue and the provision of water, food and shelter are undertaken by neighbouring communities on a voluntary basis. In these communities, religious groups often play a very important role. It may take some days for organised national or international assistance to arrive in the affected areas. Local capacities save lives in the first vital hours and days.

The relevant authorities of affected States: The primary responsibility for humanitarian intervention lies with the affected State. In some situations, the limited capacity of the State, or an absence of political will, results in a situation where external intervention is required in order to preserve the lives of peoples at risk.

The United Nations: Internationally, humanitarian assistance is undertaken by a range of UN agencies. The UN, specifically the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), also has a particular role in the coordination of international humanitarian assistance on the ground.

The Red Cross: The Red Cross Movement operates with the primary objective of preventing and alleviating human suffering and protecting human dignity.

The Movement comprises:

- > The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) which protects and assists victims of armed conflicts and is the official promoter of International Humanitarian Law as detailed in the Geneva Conventions;
- > The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) which is the international coordinating body for the various national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies; and
- > National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Non-Governmental Organisations: National and international NGOs represent a key group within the humanitarian community, particularly in implementing relief operations on the ground.

Other groups including volunteers and private companies are recognised members of the humanitarian community when the assistance they provide is undertaken in accordance with the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence and where that assistance adheres to recognised standards of good practice.

Conflict Sensitivity

Many humanitarian crises occur in areas where there are protracted and complex conflict dynamics in evidence. For humanitarian workers, the ability to understand, analyse and design programmes that are sensitive to these dynamics and which are in keeping with the humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence is critical. Poor analysis and weak programming can contribute to a worsening of pre-existing conflicts – a case of the humanitarian community doing more harm than good. On the other hand, good humanitarian interventions can contribute towards the process of peace-building and the creation of an environment where recovery and growth is possible. Irish Aid is strongly committed to the need for in-depth, impartial conflict analysis and will continue its practice of supporting programmes that are conflict sensitive and 'do no harm'.



In 2008 Ireland contributed more than €23 million to the United Nations World Food Programme in support of its efforts to fight hunger worldwide.

The special role of the United Nations and Humanitarian Reform

Ireland supports and promotes the central and unique role of the United Nations in providing leadership and coordination of international humanitarian action. Adequate coordination of the response to emergencies is central to avoiding any gaps or overlap, thereby ensuring that humanitarian assistance is as effective as possible.

The UN plays an important role in building international consensus on key development and humanitarian challenges. Operationally, UN agencies, funds and programmes are important partners for Ireland and this partnership facilitates the provision of assistance to affected communities in a wide range of countries and contexts.

Ireland is supportive of the process of UN reform including reform initiatives aimed at improving the humanitarian function of the UN, for example:

- > The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) whereby donors pool resources into a single fund managed by UN OCHA, allowing for the rapid, prioritised and needs-based allocation of funds to new, deteriorating and 'forgotten' on-going crises;
- > Enhancement of the Humanitarian Coordinator system, whereby a specific individual is appointed as the overall coordinator of the international response to any emergency, including, where applicable, the use of pooled funding mechanisms to engender a more coordinated and effective response; and
- > The strengthening of humanitarian response capacity through the 'cluster approach' which nominates key agencies to take the lead role on the ground in coordinating different aspects of the overall international humanitarian response to a crisis.

Irish Aid's Humanitarian Relief Policy Statement

Policy goal

To save and protect lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity during and in the immediate aftermath of humanitarian crises.

Guiding principles

- I. Irish Aid respects and promotes the fundamental principles of **humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence**. In practice, this means that Irish Aid targets its assistance on the basis of need, and that such assistance is administered impartially and without discrimination.
- II. Irish Aid respects and promotes the implementation of **International Humanitarian Law, Refugee Law and Human Rights Law** as they relate to both the delivery and receipt of humanitarian relief.
- III. Irish Aid respects and reaffirms **the primary responsibility of the State** for upholding, protecting and fulfilling the rights of its citizens to receive humanitarian assistance. Where State capacity is insufficient to respond to humanitarian need, we are duty bound to respond to protect lives. As much as is possible and appropriate, Irish Aid will work to complement the humanitarian function of the State.
- IV. Irish Aid **respects the dignity of disaster affected communities and people**. In its dealings with these individuals, communities and affected states, Irish Aid seeks to ensure that human dignity is respected and preserved.
- V. Irish Aid supports and promotes **the central role of the United Nations** in providing leadership and coordination of international humanitarian engagement.

- VI. Irish Aid recognises the authority of **the International Committee of the Red Cross** in relation to its role as promoter of International Humanitarian Law, and supports the unique and complementary role of the Red Cross Movement.
- VII. Irish Aid supports the important role played by experienced and professional **Non-Governmental Organisations** in implementing humanitarian relief.
- VIII. Irish Aid has adopted a **mainstreaming strategy** to ensure that the important issues of Gender Equality, HIV and AIDS, Environmental Sustainability and Governance are adequately reflected throughout the programme, including in humanitarian activities.
- IX. **Conflict sensitivity** is given heightened importance by Irish Aid within humanitarian contexts.
- X. The approach of Irish Aid to the **use of military assets** in natural and complex crises is informed by:
- Guidelines on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief - "Oslo Guidelines" Revision 1.1 November 2007
 - Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets to Support United Nations Humanitarian Activities in Complex Emergencies, March 2003
- It is essential that military assets and capabilities are used only in limited circumstances in support of humanitarian relief operations, i.e. in cases where there is no comparable civilian alternative and where only the use of military assets can meet a critical humanitarian need.
- XI. Irish Aid recognises that humanitarian relief, which addresses acute need, forms part of a broader humanitarian response which takes **longer term objectives** into account and addresses the core vulnerabilities of disaster prone and crises-affected communities before and after an acute crisis.
- XII. Irish Aid recognises the requirement that the **scale of a response** should be commensurate with the scale of need.
- XIII. In responding to need, Irish Aid recognises that **individual vulnerabilities** must be taken into account. Special attention is therefore paid to the differing needs of, for example, women, children, elderly, sick or disabled people.

HIV and AIDS

During a crisis, the effects of poverty, powerlessness and social instability are intensified, increasing people's vulnerability to HIV transmission and the onset of AIDS. Migration, displacement and the collapse of social systems are all factors that contribute to increased risk and vulnerability to HIV and AIDS. In addition, military forces, other armed groups or those responding to crises can contribute to increased HIV transmission but can also be at risk due to the emotionally stressful and dangerous working conditions. People living with and affected by HIV and AIDS are amongst the most vulnerable to the effects of humanitarian crises, along with the elderly, children and those with disabilities.

Informed by its HIV and AIDS Strategy, Irish Aid will work with its partner humanitarian organisations to ensure that the importance of preventing HIV transmission and protecting those most vulnerable is fully factored into the design of relief programmes, and that efforts will be made to ensure the continuation of treatment regimes during relief interventions as well as the provision of care and support to those who need it most.



Women queuing for food in Darfur. Good nutrition is a vital component of treatment and care of people with HIV and AIDS.

Policy Objectives

- 1. Respond effectively, efficiently and in a timely manner to the humanitarian needs of crisis affected peoples.**
- 2. Promote international dialogue and consensus on good humanitarian engagement.**
- 3. Promote and support enhanced implementation capacities of our partner agencies, including a greater adherence to standards of good practice and evaluation.**

Policy Strategy

Actions to be taken in pursuit of these objectives will include the following:

1. Respond in a timely and effective manner to acute humanitarian need

- > Irish Aid is committed to the allocation of funds on the basis of acute humanitarian need. It will continue its work to enhance partner capacities to identify need, and donor capacities to allocate accordingly. Marginalised, disempowered groups such as women, children, disabled and socially excluded people represent the most vulnerable members of a crisis affected community and, as such, represent the priority target group for humanitarian relief.
 - > Irish Aid seeks to ensure that relief assistance builds upon and reinforces existing local capacities of the affected communities where possible. Effective humanitarian interventions should be informed by the priorities of, and owned by, the intended beneficiaries.
 - > Irish Aid will continue to work towards more timely, coordinated, predictable and flexible funding to the United Nations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, NGOs and other humanitarian partners.
 - > Irish Aid is committed to its policy of minimal earmarking of funds and supports decentralised needs based decision making mechanisms, including multi-donor pooled funds.
 - > Irish Aid will continue to pay special attention to so-called 'forgotten emergencies' – i.e. those situations where the crisis continues but no longer commands the attention of the world's media.
- > Irish Aid is committed to a policy of monitoring and evaluation of its own performance and the performance of its partners. This commitment is underpinned by the need for continued learning to enhance programme effectiveness and is driven by a clear and prioritised commitment to accountability to both the Irish taxpayer and aid recipients.
 - > Irish Aid is an integral part of the Department of Foreign Affairs and will continue to ensure that appropriate channels are used to inform humanitarian relief programming and advocate for humanitarian issues such as security and access for humanitarian workers or the problem of gender based violence (GBV). This will be done at a country level and inter-governmentally through the United Nations and other bodies.
 - > Irish Aid will maintain and strengthen links with key Irish Government Departments to ensure a coherent and principled approach to humanitarian issues.
 - > Irish Aid will actively engage with implementing partners for the purpose of developing and supporting innovative approaches to tackling core humanitarian problems - for example funding research or experimental projects intended to inform efforts that may contribute to an improvement in the overall efficacy of humanitarian engagement.

Gender Equality

Women and men are differently affected by crises. For example, during conflict, men and boys are often conscripted into battle or exposed to torture, while women and girls tend to be most affected by restricted movement or displacement, denial of access to food and exposure to gender based violence. It is important that interventions fully address the differences between male and female needs during humanitarian crises and that aid reaches those most in need. A significant challenge facing humanitarian practitioners is understanding and responding appropriately to the different needs of men and women in crisis situations. Irish Aid will seek from its partner organisations a clear understanding of the gender-specific needs of men and women in emergency situations. Humanitarian relief programming will be informed by the goal, objectives and strategy outlined in Irish Aid's Gender Equality Policy.

Gender based violence (GBV) refers to violence targeting women or men, girls or boys on the basis of their gender. GBV has been shown to increase significantly during times of extreme hardship such as during humanitarian crises, and particularly in situations of conflict. Irish Aid has adopted a human rights approach to tackling the issue of GBV, is an active member of the Joint Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence and is committed to a series of organisational and programmatic actions to tackle the issue.



A displaced woman and her family in Eritrea

Policy Strategy (continued)

2. Promote dialogue and consensus

- > Irish Aid will work to improve its own and encourage other donors' adherence to the principles and guidelines for Good Humanitarian Donorship.
- > Irish Aid will actively contribute to debates on humanitarian issues within the European Union and work with EU partners to effectively adhere to and implement the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid.
- > Irish Aid is committed to its participation in the International Humanitarian Reform process, in particular the UN Humanitarian Reform Agenda.
- > Irish Aid will work to improve donor coordination mechanisms, particularly financing mechanisms which improve the predictability and timeliness of funding to crisis situations.

3. Enhance implementation capacities

- > Irish Aid will continue to engage in dialogue with UN and NGO implementing partners, aimed at examining how we can further support and facilitate the development of their operational capacities.
- > Irish Aid will continue to develop its strategic partnership with the ICRC and the IFRC – including building the organisational capacity of national societies and by supporting the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).
- > Irish Aid will continue to promote the various initiatives that seek to ensure greater adherence to codes and standards of good practice both for itself and its implementing partners. Examples include Sphere and Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) standards and guidelines, and the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief.

Governance

Good governance involves the exercise of power in a legitimate, accountable and transparent way. It is also about advancing rights, promoting participation and ensuring value for money. This applies equally to governments, international organisations, and non-governmental groups involved in the provision of humanitarian assistance.

Humanitarian environments can exacerbate the problems associated with weak or poor governance at official level and in the civil society structures that complement the role of the State. This can result in extreme violations of rights, corruption, poor management of funds and inappropriate or inefficient decision making. Nevertheless, governance principles, as outlined in the Irish Aid strategy on Building Good Governance, also apply to relief programmes.

These include:

- > Participation and Partnership - women and men should be enabled to influence and share control over the decisions that directly affect them;
- > Transparency - a willingness to provide accurate and accessible information;
- > Accountability - a willingness to submit to public scrutiny;
- > Efficiency and effectiveness - institutions should meet their objectives and provide value for money in the delivery of services; and
- > Equality - equal treatment and non-discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, gender, political allegiance, religion, language or other factors.

Corruption only serves to undermine and subvert the capacity of the State and other actors to ensure the sustained and viable implementation of humanitarian relief. Funding decisions by Irish Aid will be informed by the degree to which an organisation or institution can manage and administer programmes in a transparent, effective and appropriate manner.

In order to enhance a State's long-term capacity to govern, Irish Aid will, where appropriate, align its support in a way that strengthens the role of the State. It will prioritise activities that strengthen state capacity, particularly in basic service delivery.



Election Day, Sierra Leone

↘ Rapid Response Initiative

In support of its relief programming, and recognising the important function that preparedness measures play in the overall humanitarian framework, Irish Aid will continue to develop its Rapid Response Initiative (RRI). The initiative has three pillars:

- > Stockpiling of relief materials in key UN depots;
- > Recruitment and training of a Corps of highly skilled humanitarian professionals available for deployment to our partner agencies – both UN and NGO; and
- > Building the emergency response capacities of UN agencies, the Red Cross Movement and NGOs.

Environmental Sustainability

Frequently there are complex causal links between environmental degradation, natural disasters and conflict. Climate change presents an increasing threat to environments and the populations they sustain. Changing weather patterns are likely to contribute to increased incidence and severity of droughts and floods affecting many of the world's most marginalised populations. Environmental disasters can cause major displacement of populations and population movement. Competition over natural resources can be a factor in generating or exacerbating violent conflict, while conflict itself often causes profound damage to the environment.

Irish Aid's relief interventions will take consideration of, and work to prevent, any possible negative effects of activities on the surrounding environment, in both the immediate and long term. Environmental considerations and principles for engagement, as set out in Irish Aid's Environment Policy for Sustainable Development, will inform humanitarian funding decisions and action.



Sudanese women carrying clean water

Management and Monitoring

Irish Aid's Humanitarian Relief Policy follows on from and supports the Government's White Paper on Irish Aid, the Strategic Plan of the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Irish Aid Operational Plan. It aims to build on the success to date of Ireland's humanitarian relief engagement and internationally recognised best practice, as well as lessons learned by Irish Aid itself from its work on the ground.

Irish Aid will operate a robust programme of monitoring and evaluation of its relief programme to ensure it is being implemented according to good practice and delivers value for money.

Irish Aid will also review and evaluate its own operation of this policy and performance will be measured against the stated objectives and activities prioritised in this policy document. A key tool in this regard will be Irish Aid's GHD implementation plan, which is updated on a regular basis.

↘ Protection of Refugees and IDPs

In humanitarian practice, protection has been defined as "any activity ... aimed at creating an environment conducive to the respect for human beings, preventing and/or alleviating the immediate effects of a specific pattern of abuse, and restoring dignified conditions of life through reparation, restitution and rehabilitation" (ICRC, 1999).

Refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are people who have been forcibly displaced from their homes as a result of political or religious persecution, ethnic cleansing, conflict, natural disasters, or the threat of same.

Refugees are distinguished by the fact that they have crossed an international border. Refugee law provides a protective legal framework for such populations. People that are displaced within their own national borders - internally displaced persons - do not have the same level of protection under international law. As such, IDPs are some of the most vulnerable and unprotected populations in the world and are heavily reliant upon internationally sourced humanitarian assistance.

Protecting IDPs poses particular challenges. Attempting to apply agreements such as the Geneva Conventions or rely upon national legislation can be difficult where governments have limited capacities or willingness to enforce legislation.

Irish Aid will be guided by Refugee Law and the Guiding Principles in Internal Displacement in its continuing support for the relief needs of IDPs and refugees.

Annex

Principles and Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship

Objectives and definition of humanitarian action

1. The objectives of humanitarian action are to save lives, alleviate suffering and maintain human dignity during and in the aftermath of man-made crises and natural disasters, as well as to prevent and strengthen preparedness for the occurrence of such situations.
2. Humanitarian action should be guided by the humanitarian principles of humanity, meaning the centrality of saving human lives and alleviating suffering wherever it is found; impartiality, meaning the implementation of actions solely on the basis of need, without discrimination between or within affected populations; neutrality, meaning that humanitarian action must not favour any side in an armed conflict or other dispute where such action is carried out; and independence, meaning the autonomy of humanitarian objectives from the political, economic, military or other objectives that any actor may hold with regard to areas where humanitarian action is being implemented.
3. Humanitarian action includes the protection of civilians and those no longer taking part in hostilities, and the provision of food, water and sanitation, shelter, health services and other items of assistance, undertaken for the benefit of affected people and to facilitate the return to normal lives and livelihoods.

General principles

4. Respect and promote the implementation of International Humanitarian Law, Refugee Law and Human Rights Law.
5. While reaffirming the primary responsibility of states for the victims of humanitarian emergencies within their own borders, strive to ensure flexible and timely funding, on the basis of the collective obligation of striving to meet humanitarian needs.
6. Allocate humanitarian funding in proportion to needs and on the basis of needs assessments.
7. Request implementing humanitarian organisations to ensure, to the greatest possible extent, adequate involvement of beneficiaries in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian response.
8. Strengthen the capacity of affected countries and local communities to prevent, prepare for, mitigate and respond to humanitarian crises, with the goal of ensuring that governments and local communities are better able to meet their responsibilities and co-ordinate effectively with humanitarian partners.
9. Provide humanitarian assistance in ways that are supportive of recovery and long-term development, striving to ensure support, where appropriate, to the maintenance and return of sustainable livelihoods and transitions from humanitarian relief to recovery and development activities.
10. Support and promote the central and unique role of the United Nations in providing leadership and co-ordination of international humanitarian action, the special role of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the vital role of the United Nations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and non-governmental organisations in implementing humanitarian action.

Good practices in donor financing, management and accountability

(a) Funding:

11. Strive to ensure that funding of humanitarian action in new crises does not adversely affect the meeting of needs in ongoing crises.
12. Recognising the necessity of dynamic and flexible response to changing needs in humanitarian crises, strive to ensure predictability and flexibility in funding to United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and to other key humanitarian organisations.
13. While stressing the importance of transparent and strategic priority-setting and financial planning by implementing organisations, explore the possibility of reducing, or enhancing the flexibility of, earmarking, and of introducing longer-term funding arrangements.
14. Contribute responsibly, and on the basis of burden-sharing, to United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeals and to International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement appeals, and actively support the formulation of Common Humanitarian Action Plans (CHAP) as the primary instrument for strategic planning, prioritisation and co-ordination in complex emergencies.

(b) Promoting standards and enhancing implementation:

15. Request that implementing humanitarian organisations fully adhere to good practice and are committed to promoting accountability, efficiency and effectiveness in implementing humanitarian action.
16. Promote the use of Inter-Agency Standing Committee guidelines and principles on humanitarian activities, the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the 1994 Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief.
17. Maintain readiness to offer support to the implementation of humanitarian action, including the facilitation of safe humanitarian access.
18. Support mechanisms for contingency planning by humanitarian organisations, including, as appropriate, allocation of funding, to strengthen capacities for response.
19. Affirm the primary position of civilian organisations in implementing humanitarian action, particularly in areas affected by armed conflict. In situations where military capacity and assets are used to support the implementation of humanitarian action, ensure that such use is in conformity with international Humanitarian Law and Humanitarian Principles, and recognises the leading role of humanitarian organisations.
20. Support the implementation of the 1994 Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief and the 2003 Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets to Support United Nations Humanitarian Activities in Complex Emergencies.

(c) Learning and accountability:

21. Support learning and accountability initiatives for the effective and efficient implementation of humanitarian action.
22. Encourage regular evaluations of international responses to humanitarian crises, including assessments of donor performance.
23. Ensure a high degree of accuracy, timeliness, and transparency in donor reporting on official humanitarian assistance spending, and encourage the development of standardised formats for such reporting.

Acronyms

CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
DREF	Disaster Response Emergency Fund
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EHAF	Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Fund
EU	European Union
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GHD	Good Humanitarian Donorship
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IASC	Inter Agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
LRRD	Linking Relief, Rehabilitation and Development
MCDA	Military and Civil Defence Assets
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OCHA (UN)	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RRI	Rapid Response Initiative
TD	Teachta Dála
UN	United Nations

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