

# Humanitarian accountability

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*Humanitarian Accountability-HAPI*

Humanitarian accountability involves ensuring the interests of donors, staff and particularly beneficiaries, are reflected in what you do, how you do it and the ultimate outcomes

*“While our individual roles and responsibilities may vary, our ultimate accountability as humanitarians is to the people we serve.....” Jan Egeland, Humanitarian Exchange, No. 30, June 2005.*

## **Accountability ensures that power is used responsibly.**

Consider:

- Who you are responsible for and who you are responsible to
- What your responsibilities are and how they will be met
- The mechanisms needed to ensure these responsibilities are met
- The processes needed to enable corrective actions where appropriate

Effective accountability and responsible use of power requires:

- Decision-making processes which involve those who will be affected by the decisions made.
- Appropriate communication systems that ensure those affected by the decisions, proposals and actions are fully informed, taking into account technology limitations and language requirements.
- Processes that give equal access and consideration to all groups in raising their concerns and seeking redress or compensation.

Seven principles of Accountability

- Respect and promote the rights of legitimate humanitarian claimants
- State the standards that apply in your humanitarian assistance work
- Inform beneficiaries about these standards, and their right to be heard
- Meaningfully involve beneficiaries in project planning, implementation, evaluation and reporting
- Demonstrate compliance with the standards that apply in their humanitarian assistance work through monitoring and reporting
- Enable beneficiaries and staff to make complaints and to seek redress in safety
- Implement these principles when working through partner agencies

*Adapted from HAPI Principles of Accountability (2003)*

## **Further references:**

*HAPI (2001) : Key elements and operational framework*

<http://www.hapinternational.org>

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HAPI (2007) Principles of Accountability poster

[http://www.alnap.org/publications/meta\\_evaluation.htm](http://www.alnap.org/publications/meta_evaluation.htm)

*Principles & Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship 2003*

[http://oxfam.org.uk/what\\_we\\_do/resources/downloads/Good\\_Enough\\_Guide.pdf](http://oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/resources/downloads/Good_Enough_Guide.pdf)

<http://www.ecbprojec.org/ourwork.html>