

Humanitarian accountability

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

Principles & Good Practice of Humanitarian Donorship 2003

http://oxfam.org.uk/what_we_do/resources/downloads/Good_Enough_Guide.pdf

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