

CODE OF CONDUCTS

FOR MUSLIM HUMANITARIAN RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS



Proposed by

IHH HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOUNDATION

March 20th, 2009

INTRODUCTION

Help one another in acts of righteousness and piety, and do not help one another in sin and transgression. Fear Allah. Surely Allah is severe in retribution. (Quran, 5:2)

Allah created the Earth as a home for human beings, the most noble of all creatures. Until the doomsday when the good and the bad will be separated, the Earth will remain as a battlefield for the struggle between advocates of factiousness and advocates of improvement. The people who are tasked to build the Earth and who work under the title of Allah's caliph have struggled not only to save their souls but also to save all human beings.

Human beings were created as weak and needy. The dependency relationship between man and woman, the weak and the strong, the poor and the rich, the young and the old, and the literate and the illiterate has made it impossible for human beings to pursue a solitary life, and forced them to build social structures such as family, society and state. To strengthen the relationship among people, who depend on each other, Allah has made helping through zakah, fitr, sacrifice, alms giving and infaq obligatory. Muslims who pursue homage to the Creator and compassion to the created have adopted the Prophet's principle "The best of people is he who is the most useful to people."

Muslims used to hear about and share the blessings of Allah with needy people only in their villages and neighborhoods in the past when means of communication and transport were limited; however, they hear about calls of help from all peoples of the world and could reach out to all needy people, removing physical distances through modern means of transport.

Unfortunately, poverty has reached an irrepressible point in the world, where colonialism has become global. It is an obvious fact that states, which strive to survive the global crises caused by unbalanced income distribution, cannot win the fight against poverty alone. For the common future and prosperity of the humanity it is essential to revive civilization of foundation (*waqf*) and solidarity spirit as well as enhancing productivity of existing foundations and relief agencies.

We hope the following work principles prepared by the Research Department of the IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation will have a contribution in this regard.

(2)

IHH

SINCERITY / IKHLAS -

Say: "Truly, my prayer and my service of sacrifice, my life and my death, are (all) for Allah, the Cherisher of the Worlds." (Al-An'am, 6:162).

A humanitarian relief organization carries out activities only for God's sake, in accordance with principles of law and moral values. Lending a hand to people in need is not a kind of grateful gesture but a responsibility assigned to Muslims by Allah.

HUMANITY - /

"O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise (each other)). Verily the most honoured of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things)." (Al-Hujurat, 49:13)

A humanitarian relief organization extends aid to all the ones in need regardless of their religion, sect, language, ethnicity, color of skin, ideology and geography.

INDEPENDENCY -

“Therefore stand firm (in the straight Path) as thou art commanded,- thou and those who with thee turn (unto Allah.; and transgress not (from the Path): for He seeth well all that ye do.” (Hud, 11:112)

A humanitarian relief organization works freely and independently of governments, military, commercial initiatives and lobbies in its decision making and enforcement processes.

TRANSPARENCY -

"Verily Allah knows the secrets of the heavens and the earth: and Allah Sees well all that ye do." (Al-Hujurat, 49:18)

A humanitarian relief organization registers entrusted donations, its administrative and advertising expenses, and share these registers whenever requested. Besides transparency in registers, every phase of the projects of humanitarian relief organization must be able to be monitored.

RESPECT -

“Those who spend their substance in the cause of Allah, and follow not up their gifts with reminders of their generosity or with injury,-for them their reward is with their Lord: on them shall be no fear, nor shall they grieve.”(Al-Baqara, 2:262).

A humanitarian relief organization reserves personal information of donor; utilizes the donations in the mentioned time and place suitable to donors' will. Collecting donations, a humanitarian relief organization respect the will of the donor and does not agitate. In extending aid to people in need -whether they demand or not- a humanitarian relief organization behaves carefully and refrains from offending people, hurting their feelings and shows deep respect to their traditional and cultural values.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT -

“We have honoured the sons of Adam; provided them with transport on land and sea; given them for sustenance things good and pure; and conferred on them special favours, above a great part of our creation.” (Al-Isra, 17:70)

After meeting basic urgent needs, a humanitarian relief organization works for establishing long term, controllable projects in order to eliminate social injustice and enable people to survive by themselves. Carrying out long term projects, a humanitarian relief organization targets to prevent the repeat of unwanted conditions of wars, natural disasters and droughts. A humanitarian relief organization makes use of regional possibilities and evaluates local human labor and economic potentials.

COOPERATION -

“Help ye one another in righteousness and piety, but help ye not one another in sin and rancour: fear Allah. For Allah is strict in punishment.” (Al-Ma'ida, 5:2)

With the purpose of extending aid to the needy in a more efficient and rapid way, a humanitarian relief organization collaborates with national and international organizations in determining strategy and sharing information, sources and experience. This collaboration aims at increasing the capacity of local organizations and forming a database in the field of humanitarian relief. Competition among humanitarian relief organizations must have a supportive and encouraging character rather than being preventive or deterrent

EFFICIENCY -

“And in the earth are tracts (diverse though) neighbouring, and gardens of vines and fields sown with corn, and palm trees - growing out of single roots or otherwise: watered with the same water, yet some of them We make more excellent than others to eat. Behold, verily in these things there are signs for those who understand!” (Ar-Ra'd, 13:4) [See other verses on the subject: al-Nisa' 158; al-Qasas 26; Yusuf 55]

Subsequent to implementing required feasibility works, a humanitarian relief organization carries on its activities by benefiting from professional, qualified and eligible human labor, technology and local sources.

ARBITRATION -

“If two parties among the Believers fall into a quarrel, make ye peace between them: but if one of them transgresses beyond bounds against the other then fight ye (all) against the one that transgresses until it complies with the command of Allah; but if it complies then make peace between them with justice and be fair: for Allah loves those who are fair (and just).” (Al-Hujurat, 49:9).

A humanitarian relief organization takes initiatives and act as arbitrator if necessary in order to prevent possible natural or human made disasters and also to eliminate the consequences of disasters taking place already.

ACCOUNTABILITY -

"On the Day when every soul will be confronted with all the good it has done, and all the evil it has done, it will wish there were a great distance between it and its evil. But Allah cautions you (To remember) Himself. And Allah is full of kindness to those that serve Him." (Al 'Imran, 3:30)

A humanitarian relief organization is responsible to be accountable firstly to Allah, and then to laws, intra-organizational mechanisms and donors.

JUSTICE -

“(Charity is) for those in need, who, in Allah.s cause are restricted (from travel), and cannot move about in the land, seeking (For trade or work): the ignorant man thinks, because of their modesty, that they are free from want. Thou shalt know them by their (Unfailing) mark: They beg not importunately from all the sundry. And whatever of good ye give, be assured Allah knoweth it well.” (Al-Baqara, 2:273)

A humanitarian relief organization acts fairly in determining the needy people, the amount of aid and the process of aid delivery.

RAISING CONSCIOUSNESS -

“Who is better in speech than one who calls (men) to Allah, works righteousness, and says, "I am of those who bow in Islam"? (Fussilat, 41:33)

In terms of building a conscious society, a humanitarian relief organization shares knowledge and experience to spread goodness and prevent iniquity.

TIMING -

:

“Once the Prophet offered the 'Asr prayer and then hurriedly went to his house and returned immediately. I (or somebody else) asked him (as to what was the matter) and he said, "I left at home a piece of gold which was from the charity and I disliked to let it remain a night in my house, so I got it distributed.” (Sahih al-Bukhari, Volume 2, Book 24, Number 510)

A humanitarian relief organization delivers donations to their owners as soon as possible.

VOLUNTARINESS -

“And if any one obeyeth his own impulse to good,- be sure that Allah is He Who recogniseth and knoweth. (Al-Baqarah, 2:158)

A humanitarian relief organization employs voluntary people as much as possible in its projects.

SAFETY AND SECURITY –

(The believers are) those who faithfully observe their trusts and their covenants. (Al-Muminun, 23:8)

A humanitarian relief organization strictly avoids endangering relief materials, staff and the needy.