



Core reference



Hi: Values and principles charter & Scope of activity



Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
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HI Values and principles charter¹

1. HI Values

HI's action is guided by four values that we strive to embody every day: Humanity, Inclusion, Commitment and Integrity.

1.1 Humanity

- Our work is based on the value of humanity.
- We include everyone without exception and champion each individual's right to dignity.
- Respect, benevolence and humility guide our work.

We uphold humanitarian principles, human rights and solidarity. In carrying out our actions, we are determined to do no harm, to overlook nothing.

1.2 Inclusion

- We advocate inclusion and participation for everyone, upholding diversity, fairness and individual choices.
- We value difference.

We defend equity, and diversity, antiracism, and gender-sensitive attitudes, we refute and combat discrimination, promote accessibility for all, encourage listening, open-mindedness, working together.

1.3 Commitment

- We are resolute and bold in our commitment to developing tailored, pragmatic and innovative solutions.
- We take action and rally those around us to fight injustice

We foster courage, passion, and generosity, nurture initiative and agility, and engage strongly in advocacy.

1.4 Integrity

- We work in an independent, professional, selfless and transparent manner.

We strive for rigor, to giving and deserving trust. We believe in the importance of accountability for all our actions and activities.

¹ Charter adopted by the HI Federal Board of Trustees on 11 February 2022.

2. HI Principles of reference

Mindful of the codes and practices specific to our sphere of activity, and determined to develop relevant, concrete, effective and innovative action that is adapted to the reality of the situations we encounter in the field, we conform to the Vision, Mission, and the [Scope of activity](#) of HI.



Reminder: HI Vision & Mission

Vision: Outraged by the injustice faced by people with disabilities and vulnerable populations, we aspire to a world of solidarity and inclusion, enriched by our differences, where everyone can live in dignity.

Mission: Humanity & Inclusion is an independent and impartial aid organisation working in situations of poverty and exclusion, conflict and disaster. The organisation works alongside people with disabilities and vulnerable populations, taking action and bearing witness in order to respond to their essential needs, improve their living conditions and promote respect for their dignity and fundamental rights..

Guided by our values, HI's action is grounded in the relevant provisions of texts, declarations, conventions and international treaties and other commitments relevant to our activities. In particular:

- Human rights, women's rights and children rights;
- Rights of people with disabilities, fight against all forms of discrimination, including racial, gender, age or sexual orientation;
- Humanitarian and refugee law, and texts relating to protection of civilians and disarmament;
- Agreements and conventions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and climate change.

HI is a signatory to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief. HI adheres also to the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability and is signatory of the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.

In accordance to the Do no Harm principle and committed to avoid exposing to danger the populations with whom we work, our partners and staff, we develop our activities with necessary caution, keeping in mind the need to assist and protect.

In adhering to this Charter of Values and Principles, the entities members of the HI network and their personnel undertake to respect and promote its founding components.

1. Definition of our Scope of activity

HI's scope of activity is the institutional, professional and operational space in which our action is required and possible.

Required because the action conforms to our organisation's stated purpose and constitutes our reason for being and our mission. Required because it is the undertaking to act on behalf of defined causes, populations and goals entered into with our members, sympathisers and supporters that enables us to mobilise the resources we need.

Possible because our legitimacy and capacity to implement an action is determined, in every context, by constraints, opportunities and priorities. Therefore, the possibilities offered by our scope of activities do not require us to implement, systematically and whatever the circumstances, all the actions that come within this scope. Possible, last of all, because the notion of a scope establishes, for a given period, the limits beyond which activity is neither required nor appropriate.

Our **scope of activity** is made up of coherent thematic groups of activity, designed around **beneficiary populations, intervention contexts** and professional and organisational **competencies** mobilised by sector of intervention.

To implement our scope of activity, we draw on additional sources:

- **Operational and methodological guidelines** describing approaches and methods of action specific or common to our different sectors of intervention, or in other words, how we go about designing and realising our actions.
- **A strategy** proposed by the organisation's executive management and approved by its legislative bodies. This strategy underpins our multi-annual programming which is then broken down into annual implementation plans. The strategy is regularly reviewed to ensure it remains adapted to the context and to any changes in this context.

² Adopté par le Comité de Pilotage des Opérations (CPO) en décembre 2010. Révisé à la marge en 2022, en lien avec les évolutions et cadres parus depuis 2010.

2. HI's scope of activity

2.1 Beneficiary populations

In describing the categories of population for whom our mission aims to bring about change, an improvement in their situation, the bylaws of HI's Federation state that our actions target:

- Populations at risk of diseases, violence or accidents liable to cause disability;
- Vulnerable populations and in particular disabled persons and persons living with chronic disabling diseases;
- Refugee populations, populations living in disaster areas or populations displaced by crises, conflicts and catastrophes, and especially those persons among them who are vulnerable, injured and disabled;
- Populations threatened by weapons, munitions and explosive devices during or in the aftermath of military.

Definition of these categories

The generic term of "beneficiary population" describes those categories of populations covered by HI's mission in the countries in which we operate.

Populations at risk of diseases, violence or accidents liable to cause disability

Persons or population groups who, due to personal or environmental factors, are at risk of disability. The risk is characterised by its probability and the seriousness of its effects.

Vulnerable populations

Persons or population groups who, because of their health or social condition may find themselves unable to satisfy their fundamental needs, are particularly exposed to risks and therefore require specific measures to be put in place. The generic notion of "vulnerable population" is variable according to the context. It may include persons made vulnerable by age, gender or temporary impairment, and notably includes destitute and excluded people.

Persons with disabilities³

Persons with lasting physical, mental, intellectual or sensorial impairments which, when combined with certain barriers, prevent them from participating in society on the same basis as other people and therefore call for compensation measures and work on the environment.

Persons living with disabling diseases

Persons suffering from a usually chronic disease, the consequences of which may result in functional limitations. Without treatment or appropriate care management the disease may at some stage result in irreversible physical, sensorial or mental deficiencies.

³ This definition is based on that given in the International convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

Refugee populations, populations living in disaster areas or displaced populations

Populations forced to flee or leave their homes or habitual place of residence, either because of armed conflict, violence or serious and repeated violations, or because of natural or man-made disasters. Highly vulnerable and exposed, these populations can find themselves in danger of death, disease, trauma or other threats to their integrity and development. Among these populations, our action is particularly focused on persons with disabilities and injuries.

Persons suffering from disabling injuries and trauma

Persons having suffered trauma as a result of an accident or violence, the immediate or longer-term consequences of which may result in functional limitations. Without treatment or appropriate care-management, these consequences may lead to irreversible impairments.

Populations threatened by weapons, munitions and explosive devices

In conflict zones where various kinds of weapons, mines and munitions have been employed, all persons and communities in danger of death or physical or psychological injury, or liable to suffer material injury or substantial infringement upon the exercising of their rights due to the presence of explosive remnants of war (ERW).

2.2 Contexts

The context describes the situation justifying our intervention, its environment and the conditions and difficulties encountered.

Emergency/Post-emergency

A situation of disaster of human or natural origin, the effects of which threaten the life of a community or a large group of people, their health, their safety, their living conditions, their dignity and their capacity of choice – as their basic needs are no longer covered. In complex emergencies, in addition to the direct and immediate effects of the crisis, political, economic and social institutions are weakened or collapse more or less rapidly.

Chronic crises

A situation of regular or enduring instability, generally caused by failing political, administrative and social institutions, and resulting in poverty and insecurity that, as in emergency or post-emergency situations, seriously affect the population's living conditions.

Development

Although often marked by poverty and exclusion, a stable context allowing processes for improving economic, social, cultural and political conditions to be implemented.

2.3 The goals of our action in these contexts

In these contexts, HI's action aims to achieve the following **goals**:

- To prevent invalidity, impairment and disability linked to diseases, accidents and violence.
- To ensure the service offer in our sectors of intervention is available, adapted and accessible.
- To strengthen capacities, to promote social participation and the application and exercising of our beneficiary public's rights.

In the time and space of conflicts and disasters, or in their immediate wake:

- To prevent and limit the consequences of crises and disasters on persons and communities.
- To help organise relief, provide adapted assistance and cover basic needs, with a special focus on persons who are particularly vulnerable and those with injuries or disabilities.

2.4 Areas of competence and sectors of intervention

Handicap International's employs its professional and organisational competencies in the following sectors of intervention:

- Physical and functional rehabilitation
- Safe and Inclusive Mobility
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
- Early Childhood Development
- Non-communicable diseases
- Emerging Infectious diseases
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- Mental health and Psychosocial support (MHPSS)
- Risk Education
- Land release
- Conflict transformation
- Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation
- Protection against violence and abuse
- Inclusive Humanitarian Action
- Inclusive Governance
- Shelter & Non Food Items
- Accessibility of the environment & Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
- Social development and Social protection
- Inclusive Education
- Food assistance
- Economic inclusion

- Common transportation and storage platforms
- Access civil engineering
- Logistics analysis
- Supply chain & access capacity building of humanitarian and market actors.

Different levels may be concerned by the implementation of these sectors of intervention:

- Individual and community, services,
- Systems and policies,
- Local, national and international.

In addition to its thematic or technical competencies, HI also employs **expertise in the advocacy field**, with the aim of influencing or improving national and international public policy:

- Campaigns and mobilisation of public opinion
- Testimony, violation alerts and denunciations
- International aid and development education
- Lobbying of decision-making bodies
- Participation in joint institutional bodies
- Promotion of regulatory and legal frameworks and convention-based instruments relative to Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law and Disarmament.

The **implementation of the activities described in the scope of activity** should also take account of the following documents:

- [The HI's theory of change: Access to services for people with disabilities and vulnerable populations](#)
- Abstract of HI Frameworks, approaches, methods, sectors of intervention⁴
- Technical strategies : [Protection & Risk reduction](#) / [Social & Inclusion](#) / [Rehabilitation](#) / [Health & Prevention](#)
- Operational strategies⁵
- [HI 2016-2025 strategy](#)

⁴ See [HI Library](#)

⁵ Ibid.

The beneficiaries of our actions





HI: Values and principles charter & Scope of activity

The Core reference series bring together the fundamental texts of Humanity & Inclusion.

In the first number of these series, HI proposes in a first part its charter updated, around its four fundamental values (Humanity, Inclusion, Commitment, Integrity), and around the main external references on which our organization relies to carry out its social mission. Having said this, the second part of this document reaffirm the HI Scope of activity, which defines our target populations, our contexts of intervention, the aims of our actions and our sectors of intervention.

This document therefore replaces the 2013 Institutional policy “Mission, Scope of activity, Principles of Intervention, Charter”, and is complemented by HI's Theory of change, which constitutes the second number of these series.

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