### Summary

A specific exploration of the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief which informs the Humanitarian Charter.



### Aim

This module aims to provide a space for reflecting on the rights-based approach for humanitarian intervention.

### Learning objectives

*By the end of this session, participants will be able to:*

* Describe the rights-based approach and how it relates to both the Code of Conduct and the Humanitarian Charter
* List at least three main themes or areas covered in articles of the Code of Conduct
* Explain how the Code of Conduct provides guidance for implementing rights-based humanitarian interventions.

### Key messages

* The rights-based approach in humanitarian intervention aims to identify the rights of the affected populations and to empower them to claim and exercise their rights and to fulfill their responsibilities.
* The rights-based approach frames both the Code of Conduct and the Humanitarian Charter, which highlights the legal duty of the state as a primary duty bearer and the ethical duty of humanitarian agencies.
* The Code of Conduct provides guidance on how to behave during humanitarian interventions and includes three essential annexes suggesting roles and responsibilities for governments of disaster-affected populations, donors and INGOs.

#### Preparation & resources

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| For the facilitator | For each participant | For each group |
| * Projector, laptop, speakers for the video The Code of Conduct, to be downloaded in advance | * Sphere Handbook, highlighter * Handout ‘What is the rights-based approach?’ * Handout ‘Key facts on the Code of Conduct’ | * Colour markers, flip charts, post-its |

### You may also want to look at:

* **Module A3** – The Sphere person
* **Module A9** – Sphere and the Humanitarian Charter
* **Module B6** – Sphere and advocacy

### To know more:

* **Browse** the latest list of the organisations who are signatories of the Code of Conduct:

[www.ifrc.org/en/publications-and-reports/code-of-conduct/signatories-of-the-code-of-conduct-/](http://www.ifrc.org/en/publications-and-reports/code-of-conduct/signatories-of-the-code-of-conduct-/)

* **Do** the ‘Sphere Handbook in Action’ e-learning course:   
  [www.sphereproject.org/sphere/en/learning/e-learning-course](http://www.sphereproject.org/sphere/en/learning/e-learning-course)
* **Read** ‘A living document? The Code of Conduct of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and NGOs in Disaster Relief’: <https://icvanetwork.org/doc00004271.html>
* **Read** ‘Cracking the Code: The Genesis, Use and Future of the Code of Conduct’ by Peter Walker, Disasters 29, no.4 (2005)
* **Read** ‘Sphere standards: Radical but inevitable’ by Peter Walker:   
  [www.sphereproject.org/news/radical-but-inevitable-interview-with-peter-walker/?keywords=walker](http://www.sphereproject.org/news/radical-but-inevitable-interview-with-peter-walker/?keywords=walker)
* **See** the video ‘The Code of Conduct’: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8H4\_PTrkjU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8H4_PTrkjU)

#### Session plan

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| Activity | Description | Timing |
| Introduction  ‘Understanding the ‘rights-based approach’ | Start with a flip chart on which you have written ‘rights-based approach’. Ask participants to individually write with marker pens on post-its keywords explaining their understanding of the rights-based approach.  Let participants stick their post-its on a large flip chart on the wall. Debrief on the content, and highlight if you see any missing or inappropriate keywords. Wrap up by distributing the Handout ‘What is the rights-based approach?’. Let participants read the short paragraph and highlight words they deem essential.  Explain that this module focuses on a key text for the rights-based approach, namely, the Code of Conduct, which was drafted in 1994 and has served as a core inspiration for the development of the Sphere Humanitarian Charter. Let participants find it in their Handbook and tag the page with a post-it.  Wrap up by explaining that Sphere started as a project in 1997 to move forward with a technical elaboration of the Code of Conduct. It sought to develop a beneficiary’s charter and associated set of agency minimum performance standards. | 15' |
| Video  ‘The Code of Conduct’ 2010 | Show the Code of Conduct video.  Ask participants whether their organisation has signed it and what it means for operations. Distribute the Handout ‘Key facts on the Code of Conduct’. | 15' |
| Group work  The 10 articles of the Code of Conduct and their relation with the Humanitarian Charter | Split participants into 5 groups. Each group will focus their analysis on two articles of the Code of Conduct. They have 25’ to follow these instructions:   * Read the two articles allocated to your group * Draw on two different flip charts two images which graphically represent the meaning of each article * Write on post-its keywords or expressions that refer to equivalent content in the Humanitarian Charter and stick them on the flip chart. | 25' |
| Debrief  Exploring the role of the Code of Conduct annexes | Silent gallery walk: participants move around to look at the various pictures and keywords. They can refer to their books to read the title of the corresponding article if needed.  Ask one person to briefly share a challenging implementation experience related to an article of the Code of Conduct.  Guide participants to the annexes of the Code of Conduct, explain that they are split into three sections according to the types of stakeholders, and let them select which paragraph could help them advocate to the appropriate stakeholder. Take one or two additional examples according to the time left and repeat the same process. | 30' |
| Wrap-up | Restate the link between the Sphere Humanitarian Charter and the Code of Conduct, and stress how the rights-based approach underpins both. | 5' |

### Tips for facilitators

* Ideally, this module is a perfect follow up to Module A9 – Sphere and the Humanitarian Charter
* Code of Conduct: you need to be well prepared and know the content of the annexes well enough to guide participants.
* Video: test the sound in advance, use a loudspeaker, and download the movie on your computer before the training to ensure the video is properly displayed independently of internet quality in the room.
* Ensure that the Code of Conduct video is available in a language your participants understand, otherwise skip the movie and spend more time on participants’ examples of operational challenges.
* Should participants wonder why neutrality is not explicitly mentioned in the Code of Conduct, you can refer to the FAQ proposed in Module A9 – Sphere and the Humanitarian Charter, for more guidance on how to tackle the question.