



United Nations Office  
for the Coordination of  
Humanitarian Affairs

# **Humanitarian Principle and Humanitarian Update in Yobe State**

**Presented at Food Sector  
IM Training**

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# Humanitarian Principles

- In the broadest sense, humanitarian principles are rooted in international humanitarian law (Please read more online).
- In a more narrow sense, they are the principles devised to guide the work of humanitarian actors.
- These principles are widely recognized as: **humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence.**

Please visit website bellow for more reading.

<https://www.humanitarianresponse.info>

- Adherence to the humanitarian principles is what allows humanitarian action to be distinguished from the activities and objectives of other actors, and thus not considered improper interference in States' domestic affairs.

# **Humanity**

- Human suffering must be **addressed wherever it is found**. The purpose of humanitarian action is to **protect life and health** and **ensure respect** for human beings.

# Neutrality

- Humanitarian actors **must not take sides** in hostilities or engage in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

# Impartiality

Humanitarian action must be carried out on the basis of **need alone**, giving priority to the **most urgent cases of distress** and **making no distinctions** on the basis of nationality, race, gender, religious belief, class or political opinions.

# Operational independence

Humanitarian action must be **autonomous** from the political, economic, military or other objectives that any actor may hold with regard to areas where humanitarian action is being implemented.

# The Role of Civil Society organizations

- The United Nations has had a relationship with civil society since its establishment.
- The preamble of the UN Charter begins with "We, the peoples of the United Nations". This has come to mean both Member States and civil society ( see article 71 of the UN Charter).

# What the Civil Society may bring

- Knowledge of the local context (community dynamics, language, culture, relationships...) and facilitation of access.
- Experienced civil society may also be an institutional memory and key in sustainability of programs.

# **Challenges facing Civil Society Organizations in Yobe**

- Lack of experience and capacity because humanitarian program has generally been new in Nigeria.
- There has been the issue of leadership until this recent election of the new executive body.
- Funding

# Vulnerability in Yobe State

- Key humanitarian indicator in Yobe state such as access to food, nutrition status, ... are still poor.
- Even before the conflict, some of these indicators were already poor compared to the national and north east average. This was mainly due to chronic deprivation. The conflict worsened the situation.

# Response Capacity

- Humanitarian organizations response capacity is dependent on availability of funding from donors. For this reason, they may not cover all needs. This calls on targeting and prioritization based on assessed needs.
- The state government at various levels as well as the affected communities are an integral part of the response.
- Efficiency of the humanitarian operations, including targeting of beneficiaries requires the cooperation and contribution of all stakeholders.

# Coordination

- Humanitarian coordination is conducted through the sectors and Inter sector working groups.
- The sectors are led by relevant government ministries with the support of the relevant UN organization as co-leads.
- The sector working groups in Yobe State are: Food Security, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Emergency Shelter/None Food Items (NFIs), Education and Protection. In addition, there are Gender based Violence (GBV), Child protection and Access to Legal Services Sub-Sector Working Groups.
- Local Government Area (LGA) coordination is also being rolled out to strengthen coordination at the local operational level.



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