



THE HUMANITARIAN POLICY

I. INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE AND SCOPE:

Peace by Youth (PY) recognizes the devastating impact of humanitarian crises on individuals and communities worldwide. This Humanitarian Policy serves as a guiding framework for PY's engagement in humanitarian response activities, ensuring our interventions are principled, effective, and accountable.

Scope: This policy applies to all PY programs and activities undertaken in response to humanitarian crises, regardless of their origin, scale, or complexity. It complements and upholds PY's overarching mission and vision, ensuring coherence and consistency across our diverse work.

Alignment with Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS): We remain committed to the nine CHS Commitments, which serve as the bedrock of ethical and accountable humanitarian action. This policy translates these commitments into practical guidance for our staff, volunteers, and partners, ensuring our humanitarian response adheres to the highest standards in the field.

RATIONALE:

PY envisions a world where young people are empowered agents of peace and positive change. Humanitarian crises threaten this vision, disrupting lives, displacing communities, and jeopardizing human dignity. Responding effectively to these crises is not only a moral imperative but also aligns with PY's core values of compassion, solidarity, and empowerment.

IMPORTANCE OF A STRUCTURED APPROACH:

Operating in complex and often volatile environments, we acknowledge the need for a structured approach to humanitarian response. This policy provides clarity, ensures consistency, and promotes accountability throughout our interventions. It equips our teams with the knowledge, tools, and resources necessary to deliver high-quality and impactful assistance to those in need.

In the following sections, this policy will explore:

- **PY's commitment to the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS)**
- **The fundamental principles underlying our humanitarian action**
- **Our strategic approach to needs-based assistance, community engagement, and capacity building**
- **The operational framework for effective response, including assessment, partnerships, monitoring, and risk management**
- **Capacity development through training, preparedness, and resource mobilization**
- **Our approach to advocacy and influencing broader humanitarian policies and practices**
- **Mechanisms for regular review and adaptation of the policy**

By adhering to this framework, PY aims to contribute meaningfully to building a more peaceful and just world, where young people are empowered to thrive, even in the face of adversity.

II. COMMITMENT TO CORE HUMANITARIAN STANDARD (CHS)

OVERVIEW OF THE CHS:

The Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) is a globally recognized framework outlining nine essential commitments for quality and accountability in humanitarian action. Developed through extensive consultation with diverse stakeholders, it serves as a common reference point for organizations like PY to ensure principled and effective response to crises.

RELEVANCE TO PY'S HUMANITARIAN WORK:

At PY, we recognize the CHS as a cornerstone of our humanitarian approach. Adhering to its principles strengthens our credibility, fosters trust with affected communities, and ultimately allows us to deliver more impactful assistance. The CHS aligns seamlessly with PY's existing values and guiding principles, further solidifying our commitment to ethical and accountable intervention.

ADDRESSING THE NINE CHS COMMITMENTS:

Each of the nine CHS commitments finds direct application within PY's humanitarian work:

1. **Accountability to Affected People:** We actively engage communities in decision-making processes, ensuring their voices are heard and respected throughout the response cycle.
2. **Quality and Effectiveness:** We employ evidence-based practices, conduct ongoing monitoring and evaluation, and strive for continuous improvement in all aspects of our interventions.
3. **People Centered Approach:** We recognize the dignity and rights of individuals and communities, fostering their participation and leadership in shaping solutions.
4. **Using Resources Responsibly:** We ensure financial resources are managed transparently and ethically, maximizing their impact for those in need.
5. **Avoiding Harm:** We conduct thorough risk assessments, implement mitigating measures, and prioritize interventions that minimize potential harm to communities.
6. **Collaboration and Coordination:** We actively collaborate with local, national, and international partners, fostering collective action for greater impact and avoiding duplication of efforts.
7. **Learning and Sharing Knowledge:** We encourage open communication, share lessons learned within and beyond PY, and continuously adapt our practices based on evidence and experience.
8. **Humanitarian Advocacy:** We speak out for the rights and needs of affected populations, engaging with policymakers and stakeholders to influence positive change.
9. **Strengthening Local Capacities:** We support local actors and communities in building their resilience and ability to respond to future challenges.

INTEGRATING THE CHS:

This policy integrates the CHS commitments into PY's operational procedures, staff training, monitoring and evaluation systems, and decision-making processes. By upholding these principles, we strive to set a high standard for ethical and effective humanitarian action, contributing to a more equitable and compassionate response to crises worldwide.

This section outlines how PY views the CHS and explains how we translate its principles into concrete actions within our humanitarian work. Remember, this is just a starting point. You can further enhance it by providing specific examples of how PY implements each CHS commitment in its projects.

III. PRINCIPLES OF HUMANITARIAN ACTION

At the core of PY's humanitarian work lie four fundamental principles that guide our every action and decision: Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, and Independence. These principles, recognized by international law and embedded in the CHS, serve as the bedrock for ethical and effective humanitarian response.

HUMANITY:

- **Focus on Human Welfare:** Our primary motivation is to alleviate suffering and uphold human dignity in all our interventions. We prioritize saving lives, reducing vulnerabilities, and ensuring the basic needs of affected communities are met.
- **Respect for Human Rights:** We act with respect for the inherent rights and fundamental freedoms of all individuals, regardless of their background, beliefs, or circumstances. This includes protecting the rights of women, children, and other vulnerable groups.
- **Compassion and Solidarity:** We recognize the shared humanity that binds us together and act with compassion and solidarity towards those affected by crises. We prioritize building trust and relationships with communities, fostering a sense of shared responsibility for their recovery.

IMPARTIALITY:

- **Needs-Based Assistance:** We provide assistance solely based on need, without discrimination on any grounds, including race, ethnicity, religion, gender, political affiliation, or social status. Our assessments and interventions are guided by objective criteria to ensure the most vulnerable receive the support they need.
- **Avoiding Discrimination:** We actively combat discrimination in all its forms and promote equality and inclusion within our programs. We ensure our staff and volunteers are equipped to recognize and address potential biases in their work.
- **Accountability to Affected Communities:** We are accountable to the communities we serve and transparent in our decision-making processes. We actively engage communities in needs assessments, program design, and implementation, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are addressed.

NEUTRALITY:

- **Maintaining Non-Involvement in Political or Military Activities:** We remain neutral in all political, military, or religious conflicts. We avoid taking sides or engaging in activities that could be perceived as favoring any party involved in a dispute.
- **Focus on Humanitarian Objectives:** Our sole objective is to deliver humanitarian assistance and protect civilians. We avoid any actions that could be seen as supporting military objectives or political agendas.
- **Respect for Local Authorities:** We respect the legal and administrative frameworks of the countries where we operate and work collaboratively with local authorities whenever possible.

INDEPENDENCE:

- **Maintaining Operational Autonomy:** Our humanitarian decisions and actions are independent of any political, economic, military, or other non-humanitarian objectives. We prioritize the needs of affected communities above any other considerations.
- **Transparency in Funding:** We ensure transparency in our funding sources and avoid accepting funding that could compromise our independence or neutrality.
- **Accountability to Our Mission:** We are accountable to our mission of empowering young people and upholding humanitarian principles. We regularly monitor and evaluate our programs to ensure they align with our core values and objectives.

These four principles are not separate entities but rather interconnected and mutually reinforcing. By upholding them, PY strives to deliver principled, effective, and accountable humanitarian assistance that empowers young people and contributes to a more peaceful and just world.

IV. PY'S HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH RESPECT AND EMPOWERMENT

PY's approach to humanitarian action goes beyond delivering immediate relief. We strive to build resilient communities equipped to manage and recover from crises, empowered to lead their own way towards sustainable peace. This section outlines our core strategies:

1. NEEDS-BASED ASSISTANCE:

- **Participatory Assessments:** We prioritize understanding the specific needs and priorities of affected communities through participatory assessments. This involves collaborating with local leaders, community members, and youth groups to create culturally relevant and accurate needs analyses.
- **Respectful and Responsive:** We deliver assistance that respects local customs, traditions, and dignity. We actively listen to feedback and adapt our programs based on community needs and preferences.
- **Culturally Sensitive Approaches:** We recognize the diverse cultural contexts within which we operate and develop culturally sensitive interventions that resonate with the communities we serve.

2. COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS:

- **Empowering Participation:** We recognize the critical role of communities in shaping effective solutions. We create opportunities for meaningful participation, particularly for youth and women, in decision-making processes at all levels.
- **Upholding Dignity:** We treat all individuals with respect and dignity, regardless of their circumstances. We strive to create safe spaces where individuals feel empowered to voice their concerns and access essential services.
- **Transparency and Information:** We ensure open communication and provide communities with clear and accessible information about their rights, our interventions, and available resources.

3. CAPACITY BUILDING:

- **Investing in Youth:** We empower young people as agents of change, providing them with skills, training, and resources to address local challenges and contribute to building peace within their communities.
- **Strengthening Local Systems:** We collaborate with local organizations and authorities to strengthen their capacity to respond to crises and contribute to long-term recovery efforts.
- **Knowledge Sharing and Transfer:** We promote knowledge sharing and best practices among communities and organizations, fostering collaborative learning and sustainable solutions.

4. INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY:

- **Reaching the Most Vulnerable:** We prioritize reaching marginalized and vulnerable groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and minority communities, ensuring their specific needs are addressed.
- **Inclusive Programming:** We design and implement programs that are inclusive and accessible to all individuals, regardless of their background or circumstances.
- **Combating Discrimination:** We actively challenge and work to dismantle discriminatory practices within our work and the communities we serve.

By implementing these strategies, PY aims to contribute to:

- **Reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience to crises among affected communities.**
- **Empowering young people to lead positive change and build peace within their communities.**
- **Promoting respect for human rights and dignity for all individuals.**
- **Building more sustainable and equitable societies where young people can thrive.**

IV. PY'S HUMANITARIAN STRATEGY

BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH RESPECT AND EMPOWERMENT

PY's approach to humanitarian action goes beyond delivering immediate relief. We strive to build resilient communities equipped to manage and recover from crises, empowered to lead their own way towards sustainable peace. This section outlines our core strategies:

1. NEEDS-BASED ASSISTANCE:

- **Participatory Assessments:** We prioritize understanding the specific needs and priorities of affected communities through participatory assessments. This involves collaborating with local leaders, community members, and youth groups to create culturally relevant and accurate needs analyses.
- **Respectful and Responsive:** We deliver assistance that respects local customs, traditions, and dignity. We actively listen to feedback and adapt our programs based on community needs and preferences.
- **Culturally Sensitive Approaches:** We recognize the diverse cultural contexts within which we operate and develop culturally sensitive interventions that resonate with the communities we serve.

2. COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS:

- **Empowering Participation:** We recognize the critical role of communities in shaping effective solutions. We create opportunities for meaningful participation, particularly for youth and women, in decision-making processes at all levels.
- **Upholding Dignity:** We treat all individuals with respect and dignity, regardless of their circumstances. We strive to create safe spaces where individuals feel empowered to voice their concerns and access essential services.
- **Transparency and Information:** We ensure open communication and provide communities with clear and accessible information about their rights, our interventions, and available resources.

3. CAPACITY BUILDING:

- **Investing in Youth:** We empower young people as agents of change, providing them with skills, training, and resources to address local challenges and contribute to building peace within their communities.
- **Strengthening Local Systems:** We collaborate with local organizations and authorities to strengthen their capacity to respond to crises and contribute to long-term recovery efforts.
- **Knowledge Sharing and Transfer:** We promote knowledge sharing and best practices among communities and organizations, fostering collaborative learning and sustainable solutions.

4. INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY:

- **Reaching the Most Vulnerable:** We prioritize reaching marginalized and vulnerable groups, including women, children, persons with disabilities, and minority communities, ensuring their specific needs are addressed.
- **Inclusive Programming:** We design and implement programs that are inclusive and accessible to all individuals, regardless of their background or circumstances.
- **Combating Discrimination:** We actively challenge and work to dismantle discriminatory practices within our work and the communities we serve.

By implementing these strategies, PY aims to contribute to:

- **Reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience to crises among affected communities.**
- **Empowering young people to lead positive change and build peace within their communities.**
- **Promoting respect for human rights and dignity for all individuals.**
- **Building more sustainable and equitable societies where young people can thrive.**

VI. IMPLEMENTATION AND CAPACITY

BUILDING A RESPONSIVE AND PREPARED TEAM

PY recognizes that effective humanitarian action hinges on a capable and dedicated team. This section outlines our approach to building and maintaining a strong implementation and capacity framework:

1. HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TEAM:

- **Structure:** Our dedicated Humanitarian Response Team comprises experienced professionals and young leaders specializing in various areas like needs assessment, program design, logistics, security, and community engagement. The team operates under the leadership of a Humanitarian Response Director, ensuring strategic direction and accountability.
- **Roles and Responsibilities:** Each team member possesses specific expertise and clearly defined roles. This includes:
 - **Needs Assessment Specialists:** Leading rapid and participatory needs assessments in the aftermath of crises.
 - **Program Officers:** Designing and implementing context-specific humanitarian programs aligned with PY's strategic objectives.
 - **Logistics and Security Coordinators:** Ensuring the safe and efficient delivery of aid and upholding the security of staff and communities.
 - **Community Engagement Specialists:** Building relationships with local communities, facilitating participation, and ensuring interventions are culturally appropriate.
 - **Monitoring and Evaluation Specialists:** Tracking program progress, measuring impact, and conducting participatory evaluations.

2. TRAINING AND PREPAREDNESS:

- **Training Philosophy:** We invest heavily in training, equipping our staff and volunteers with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary for effective and ethical humanitarian action. Our training programs cover:
 - **Humanitarian Principles and CHS:** Ensuring adherence to the core principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, and independence, as well as upholding the CHS standards.
 - **Needs Assessment and Program Design:** Building capacity to conduct accurate assessments, design culturally relevant programs, and prioritize critical needs.
 - **Community Engagement and Participation:** Equipping staff with skills to effectively collaborate with and empower local communities.
 - **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning:** Strengthening skills in data collection, analysis, and using evidence to inform program improvement.
 - **Security and Risk Management:** Preparing staff to operate safely in complex environments and mitigate potential risks.
- **Pre-Deployment Training:** Before each deployment, we conduct specialized training tailored to the specific context and needs of the crisis. This ensures our team is well-prepared to respond effectively from day one.

3. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION:

- **Diversified Strategy:** We employ a diversified resource mobilization strategy to secure the financial, human, and material resources required for our humanitarian interventions. This includes:
 - **Grant Proposals:** Submitting applications to foundations, government agencies, and international organizations.
 - **Individual Donations:** Engaging individual supporters through online platforms and fundraising campaigns.
 - **Corporate Partnerships:** Building collaborations with private sector companies that share our values and vision.
 - **In-Kind Donations:** Securing essential material resources like medical supplies, shelter materials, and educational tools.
- **Responsible Management:** We are committed to transparent and responsible management of all resources entrusted to us. We employ robust financial

controls, regularly report to donors, and ensure resources are used efficiently and effectively to maximize impact.

By investing in our team's capacity and securing necessary resources, PY strives to deliver high-quality and timely humanitarian assistance, empowering young people and building resilient communities for a more peaceful future.

VII. ADVOCACY AND INFLUENCE

AMPLIFYING VOICES FOR A MORE JUST WORLD

PY recognizes that humanitarian action goes beyond immediate relief. To build a world where young people thrive, we must address the root causes of crises and advocate for long-term systemic change. This section outlines our approach to **humanitarian advocacy and influencing broader humanitarian policies and practices**:

1. HUMANITARIAN ADVOCACY:

- **Amplifying Voices:** We prioritize amplifying the voices and perspectives of affected communities, particularly young people, in humanitarian decision-making processes. We achieve this through:
 - **Community Mobilization:** Empowering young people to articulate their needs and demands through workshops, focus groups, and community dialogues.
 - **Media Engagement:** Utilizing various media platforms to share authentic stories and raise awareness about critical issues affecting communities.
 - **Policy Briefings:** Submitting evidence-based policy briefs to policymakers and stakeholders, highlighting the needs and rights of affected populations.
- **Engaging Stakeholders:** We proactively engage with a wide range of stakeholders, including:
 - **Humanitarian Actors:** Collaborating with other organizations to advocate for collective action and coordinated responses.
 - **Governments:** Lobbying for policies that uphold human rights, promote peacebuilding, and address the root causes of crises.
 - **Private Sector:** Engaging with corporations to encourage responsible business practices and contributions to sustainable development.
 - **International Organizations:** Partnering with UN agencies and other international bodies to influence global humanitarian policies and standards.

2. INFLUENCE AND CHANGE:

- **Evidence-Based Advocacy:** We base our advocacy on rigorous research, data analysis, and firsthand experiences from our programs. This ensures our arguments are credible and impactful.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** We build strategic partnerships with organizations and networks that share our vision and advocacy goals. This amplifies our collective voice and reach.
- **Campaigning and Mobilization:** We launch targeted campaigns and mobilize supporters to take action on specific issues, such as demanding increased funding for education in conflict zones.
- **Policy Innovation:** We actively participate in policy dialogues and propose innovative solutions to address complex humanitarian challenges.

Impact:

By combining evidence-based advocacy with strategic partnerships and targeted campaigns, PY strives to influence broader humanitarian policies and practices. This contributes to creating a more just and equitable world where the rights and needs of young people are protected, even in the face of adversity.

VIII. POLICY REVIEW AND ADAPTATION

ENSURING CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

At PY, we recognize that the humanitarian landscape is constantly evolving. To remain effective and relevant, we are committed to regularly reviewing and adapting our Humanitarian Policy. This section outlines our rigorous approach to ensure our policy stays aligned with the changing needs of affected populations and the broader humanitarian sector.

1. REVIEW PROCESS:

- **Scheduled Reviews:** We conduct a comprehensive review of our Humanitarian Policy **every two years** to assess its relevance, effectiveness, and alignment with international standards and best practices.
- **Additional Reviews:** We may conduct additional reviews if significant changes occur within the humanitarian sector, such as the adoption of new humanitarian principles or the emergence of major crises with unique challenges.
- **Internal Evaluation:** Our review process involves a thorough internal evaluation conducted by staff with diverse expertise in humanitarian response, advocacy, and policy development.
- **External Assessments:** We solicit feedback from external experts, including representatives from partner organizations, academic institutions, and affected communities, to gain broader perspectives and ensure our policy reflects diverse needs.

2. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:

- **Community Participation:** We believe that affected communities are the most important stakeholders in humanitarian action. We actively engage them in the review process through:
 - **Community consultations:** Holding focus group discussions and workshops to gather feedback on their experiences, needs, and aspirations.
 - **Surveys and polls:** Utilizing online and offline methods to collect diverse perspectives from a wider range of community members.
 - **Youth engagement forums:** Creating platforms for young people to directly express their opinions and priorities regarding humanitarian interventions.
- **Partner Collaboration:** We collaborate with our partners, including local organizations, UN agencies, and NGOs, to share best practices, exchange knowledge, and ensure our policy aligns with broader humanitarian efforts.
- **Expert Consultations:** We seek feedback from independent experts with specialized knowledge in relevant areas like human rights, child protection, and climate change to ensure our policy reflects contemporary challenges and evolving standards.

3. ADAPTATION AND UPDATES:

- **Based on Evidence:** Following the review process, we analyze all collected data and feedback to identify areas for improvement and adaptation. We ensure any changes are based on evidence, best practices, and the specific needs of affected populations.
- **Transparent Communication:** We share the findings of our review and any resulting policy updates with all stakeholders, including affected communities, partners, and the general public, through various channels like our website, annual reports, and social media platforms.
- **Continuous Learning:** We view policy review as an opportunity for continuous learning and improvement. We incorporate lessons learned from our interventions and the feedback received to strengthen our future humanitarian response strategy and ensure our policy remains responsive to the evolving needs of a changing world.

By employing this comprehensive review process with strong stakeholder engagement, PY strives to maintain a relevant and adaptable Humanitarian Policy that guides our actions and contributes to building a more just and equitable world for all.