

## Discussion on the function of the “Humanitarian Principles” and their importance in the practice of humanitarian relief

<b>Short description</b>	The participants exchange views with an expert from SDC Humanitarian Aid or the relevant national Red Cross or Red Crescent Society. In this way they will have a first-hand opinion as to why respect for and observance of humanitarian principles is essential for the success of humanitarian actions.
<b>Topics</b>	Humanitarian Principles, humanitarian contexts, humanitarian actions
<b>Learning objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of the function of applied humanitarian principles</li> <li>• Recognition of the importance for the practical provision of humanitarian aid</li> </ul>
<b>Setting</b>	Unlimited, whole group
<b>Time frame</b>	120 - 180 min.
<b>Materials</b>	Poster with groups' interpretations, personal project diary
<b>Instructions</b>	<p>Subsequent to the above activities, aimed at bringing into sharper focus the principles developed so far in only a provisional manner (exercise 3.2), the principles will now be commented upon from the viewpoint of a person with experience. The participants have the opportunity to take advantage of the professional experiences of a specialist and in this way to obtain a true picture of the many challenges involved in the application of the humanitarian principles. In this exercise the focus is not only on those affected by disasters and crises but also on humanitarian workers and their employers, the humanitarian organizations. The invited expert will also answer questions prepared beforehand by the class. Finally, the interpretations of the principles expressed in the participants' own words will be completed with the help of the insights gained in this sequence. It will then be up to the participants to decide on the form the complementary material will take in the existing posters of the small groups (exercises 1.4 and 3.2). The product developed in the three learning steps, representing the nominal definition of the humanitarian principles, is of great importance for the entire learning process. Thanks to the largely independent development in several steps, the participants have arrived at interpretations of the principles that are comprehensible and easy to apply. They have had the benefit of a variety of perspectives on humanitarian contexts and principles, which was necessary to ensure the substantive quality of the result. Appropriate safeguarding of the results is essential.</p>