



Conflict



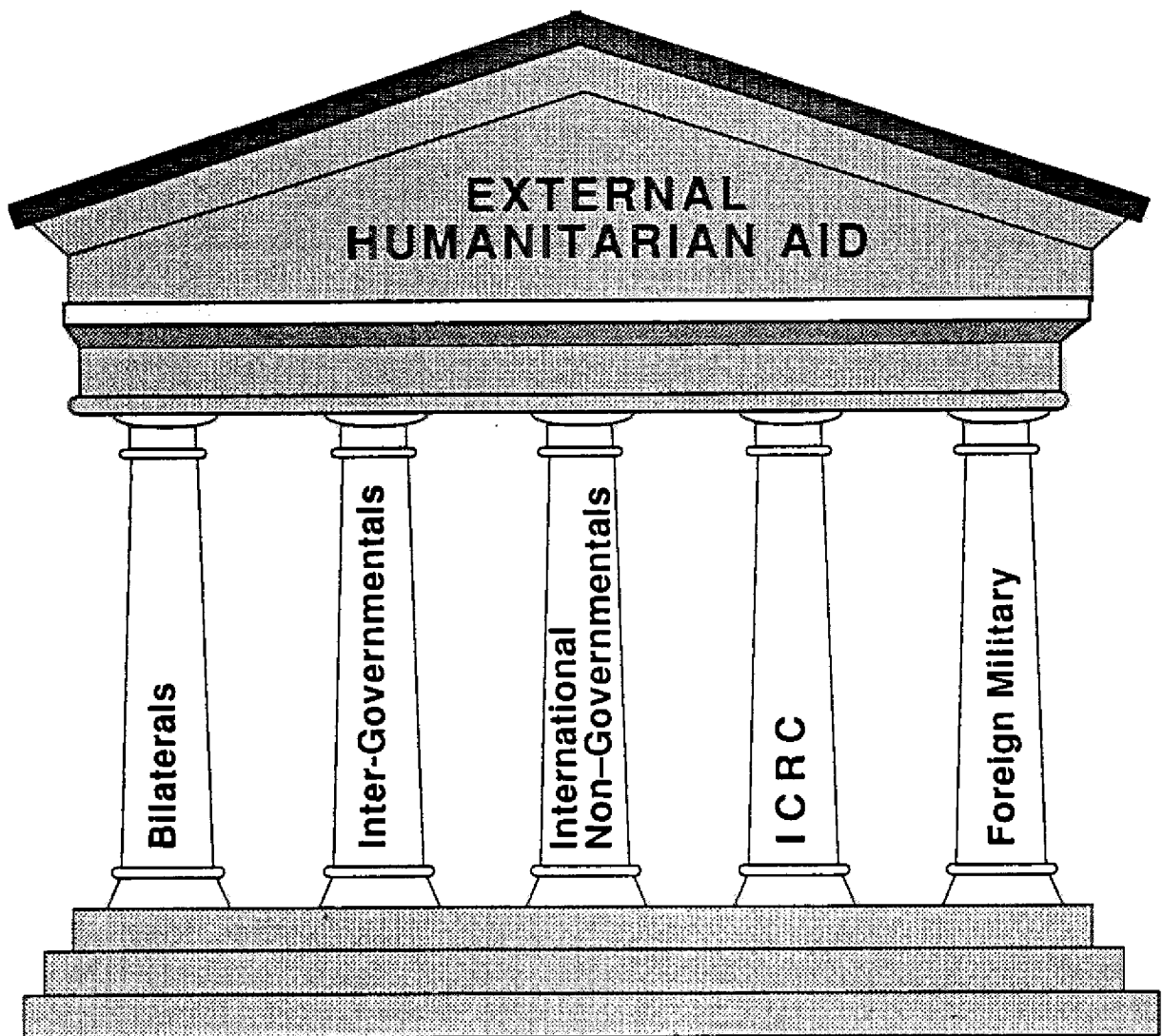


Who responds?



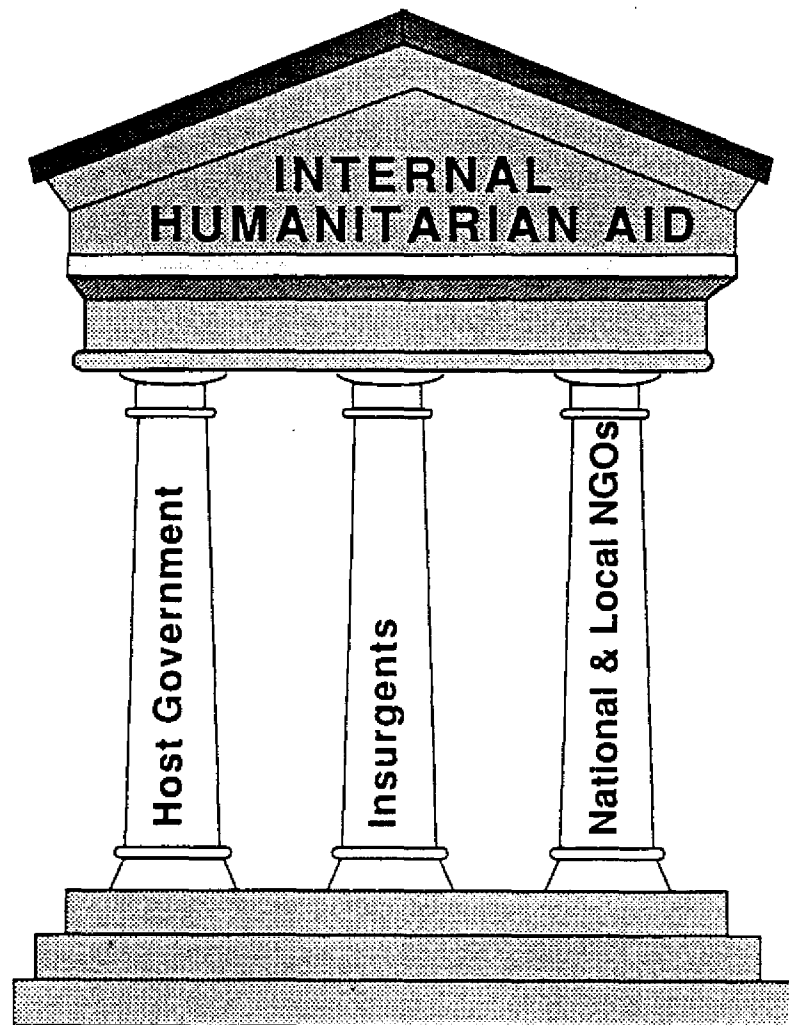


External assistance providers





Internal assistance providers





Why is involvement needed and what is the nature of the conflict?



Conflict phase



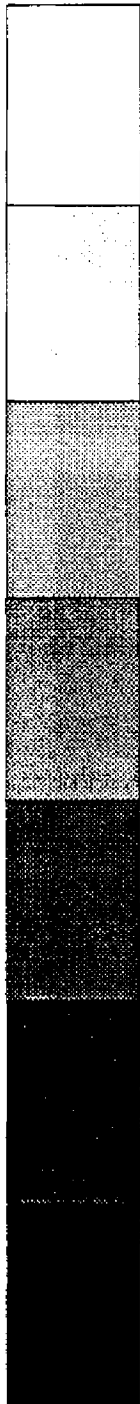


QUESTION

*How does the nature,
scope, and phase of
a conflict affect the
provision of
humanitarian
assistance?*



Spectrum of response



Immediate emergency relief

Long-term development aid



QUESTION

What are the four analytical categories that provide humanitarian organizations with a basis for making decisions about their role during conflict situations?



Principles

*List the basic principles which
you or your organization use as
guidance for the provision of
humanitarian assistance in
situations of conflict.*

**List at least five principles,
but no more than ten.
Your group should agree on
the items listed, but
prioritization is not necessary.**



Principle 1

Relieve life-threatening suffering



“Elementary as it appears, the principle that suffering requires relief, often goes unattended.”



Principle 2

Proportionality to need



“In moving toward a better proportioned humanitarian community, a more systematic approach to allocations decisions and procedures is needed. . . . Continued disproportionality in responses undercuts the basic humanitarian principle that all lives are of equal value.”



Principle 3

Non-partisanship



What are the risks and problems that arise when a humanitarian organization takes sides in a context of civil conflict and violence?

What are the potential costs of non-partisanship?

What factors or logistical operations might reveal partisanship/bias on the part of a humanitarian organization?



Principle 4

Independence



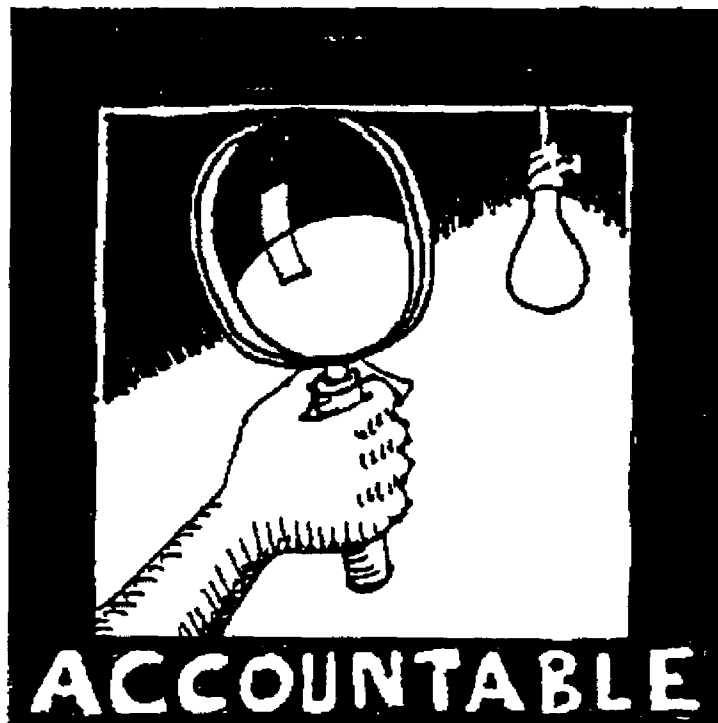
Who might seek to influence the operations and compromise the independence and even-handedness of humanitarian organizations?

What are some of the trade-offs and operational dilemmas created by a humanitarian organization's commitment to independence?



Principle 5

Accountability



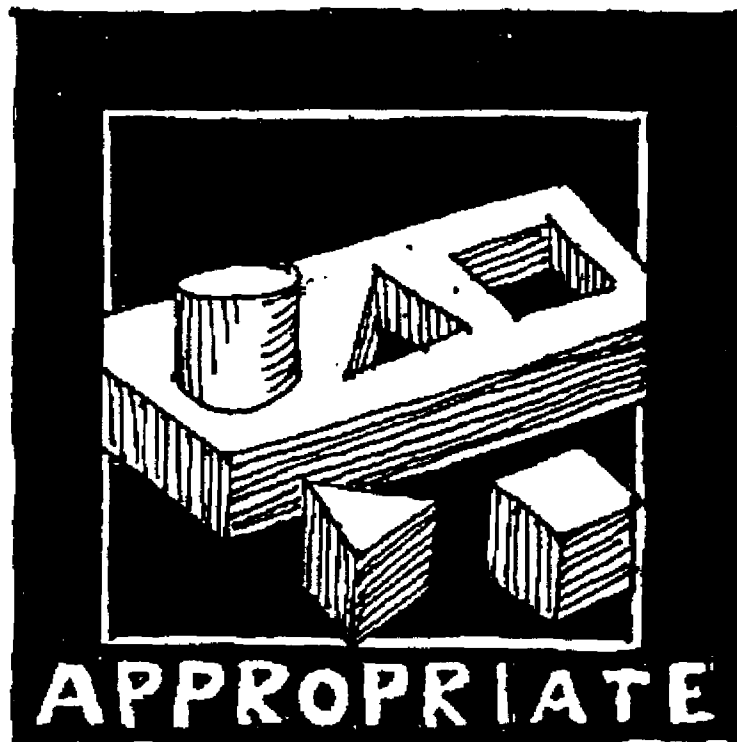
“... field representatives confront a difficult dilemma involving the principles of relieving suffering and of accountability.”

“... accountability may require acknowledging that in conflicts not all food reaches those who need it most, necessitating explanations to parliaments and constituencies as to why soldiers also benefit.”



Principle 6

Appropriateness



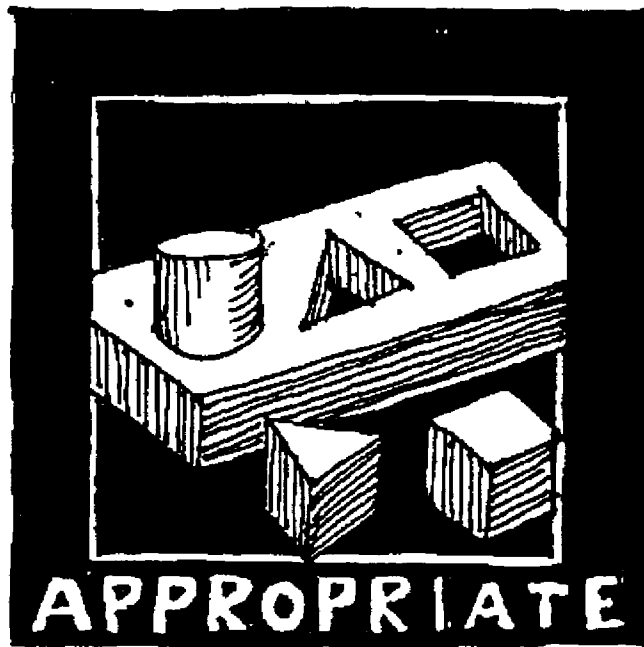
"At a common sense level, such items as food, clothing and medical supplies need to be acceptable to those for whom they are intended."

"Local cultural preferences and practices should not be mindlessly respected. Some local customs may provide an inappropriate basis for humanitarian programming."



Principle 6

Appropriateness — *(expanded)*



“Appropriateness involves not only tailoring humanitarian action to local needs but also seeking to strengthen indigenous capacities.”

“Appropriate outside help builds upon and strengthens individual and social coping mechanisms.”



Principle 7

Contextualization



“Don’t just do something. Stand there!”

“... humanitarian action in armed conflicts exposes practitioners to situations of great complexity — military and political as well as economic and social. The causes of these conflicts are often deeply rooted and the societies in which they are played out deeply riven. Therefore a comprehensive view of needs and of the likely impacts of humanitarian action by external organizations is a necessity and not a luxury.”



Principle 7

Contextualization — *(expanded)*



Traditionally, humanitarian assistance and human rights have been considered separate domains.

The principle of contextualization encourages a comprehensive view of needs and of the likely impacts of humanitarian action.

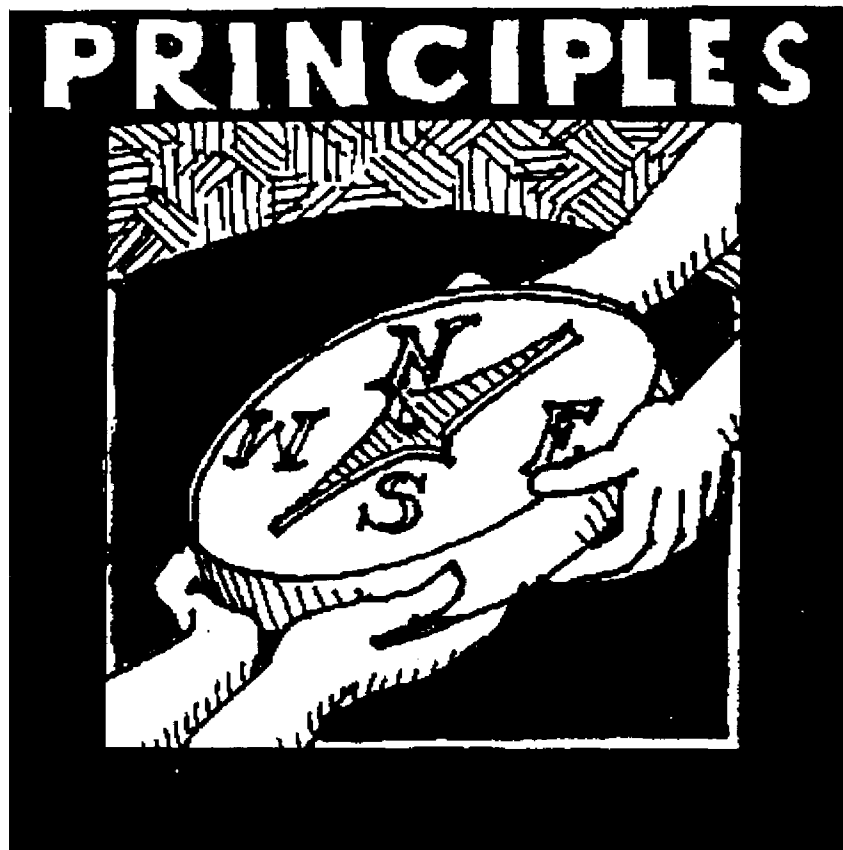
What are the implications of this principle for the work of your organization?

Is your work presently targeting a specific focus?

How would a more comprehensive view of need and humanitarian action affect your work?



Conclusion



"The principles remain fixed points on a shared compass, not course settings to be followed on automatic pilot."