




tool 27 Guiding Principles for Monitoring Work

Factsheet

The following principles guide all work in the human rights and humanitarian field (including protection and child protection) and are therefore also relevant to organizations implementing the MRM.

Core humanitarian principles (formulated at the 20th International Conference of the Red Cross, Vienna, 1965)	Humanity	Protect life, well-being and ensure respect for human beings.
	Impartiality	No discrimination on the basis of nationality, race, religion, class, political opinion. Ensure people's access to impartial assistance.
	Neutrality	Do not engage in hostilities or take sides in controversies of a political, religious or ideological nature.
	Operational independence	Maintain autonomy from political, economic and military activities.
Additional principles specific to protection work (See: SPHERE Standards)	Do no harm	Avoid exposing people to further harm as a result of your actions.
	Protect people from violence	Protect people from physical or psychological harm due to violence or coercion.
	Assist people to claim their rights	Assist people to claim their rights, access available remedies and recover from the effects of abuse.
Additional principle relevant to child protection work (See: Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989)	Best interests of the child	The best interests of the child are a primary consideration in all actions concerning children.
Additional principles relevant to human rights monitoring work (See: OHCHR Human Rights Monitoring Manual)	Confidentiality	In order to protect the safety and privacy of victims and witnesses, information about abuses is confidential. It should be shared only with people who 'need to know' and adequate measures should be taken to protect the identity of the source and the information itself.
	Objectivity	Consider all the facts when collecting and analyzing information and do not take sides.
	Accuracy	Reports should be based on thorough documentation of abuses, namely through fact-checking and triangulation of sources.
	Sensitivity	Be sensitive to the suffering an individual may have experienced.

related tools

-  [tool 29 – Checklist 'Confidentiality'](#)
-  [tool 28 – Sample language for a Code of Conduct](#)
-  [tool 45 – Factsheet 'Information management'](#)