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Renewing our Voice

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Executive Summary

This Code sets out a number of **Guiding Principles** (in **Chapter 2**), which apply a human rights approach to the range of HIV/AIDS-specific health, development and humanitarian work undertaken by NGOs responding to HIV/AIDS. These principles provide a common framework applicable to all NGOs engaged in responding to HIV/AIDS, and are embodied within good practice principles, which guide both how we work as NGOs (**Chapter 3 – Organisational Principles**) and what we do (**Chapter 4 – Programming Principles**). **Chapter 5** includes **Key resources** such as tool kits and manuals that can assist in putting the principles into practice. It also includes information about the process of ‘signing on’ to the Code and about implementation of the Code.

Guiding principles

- We advocate for the meaningful involvement of PLHA and affected communities in all aspects of the HIV/AIDS response.
- We protect and promote human rights in our work.
- We apply public health principles within our work.
- We address the causes of vulnerability to HIV infection and the impacts of HIV/AIDS.
- Our programmes are informed by evidence in order to respond to the needs of those most vulnerable to HIV/AIDS and its consequences.

Organisational principles

Chapter 3 provides good practice principles to guide how we do our work.

Involvement of PLHA and affected communities

- We foster active and meaningful involvement of PLHA and affected communities in our work.

Multi-sectoral partnerships

- We build and sustain partnerships to support coordinated and comprehensive responses to HIV/AIDS.

Governance

- We have transparent governance and are accountable to our communities/constituencies.

Organisational mission and management

- We have a clear mission, supported by strategic objectives that are achieved through good management.
- We value, support and effectively manage our human resources.
- We develop and maintain the organisational capacity necessary to support effective responses to HIV/AIDS.
- We manage financial resources in an efficient, transparent and accountable manner.

Programme planning, monitoring and evaluation

- We select appropriate partners in a transparent manner.
- We plan, monitor and evaluate programmes for effectiveness and in response to community need.

Access and equity

- Our programmes are non-discriminatory, accessible and equitable.

Advocacy

- We advocate for an enabling environment that protects and promotes the rights of PLHA and affected communities and supports effective programming.
- We plan, monitor and evaluate advocacy efforts for effectiveness and in response to community need.

Research

- We undertake and/or advocate for adequate and appropriate research to ensure responses to HIV/AIDS are informed by evidence.

Scaling up

- We work to scale up appropriate programmes while ensuring their quality and sustainability.
- We develop and maintain community ownership and organisational capacity to support scaling up of programmes.
- We monitor and evaluate programmes that are scaled up.

Programming principles

Chapter 4 provides good practice principles to guide:

- HIV/AIDS programming, including HIV prevention; voluntary testing and counselling; treatment, care and support; and addressing stigma and discrimination; and
- mainstreaming HIV/AIDS within development and humanitarian programmes.

The principles in Chapter 4 relate to services, programmes and advocacy work (the term 'programmes' is used to encompass all three). Given the wide diversity of programming work undertaken by NGOs, different good practice principles will be applicable to different organisations.

HIV/AIDS Programming

Cross cutting issues

- Our HIV/AIDS programmes are integrated to reach and meet the diverse needs of PLHA and affected communities.
- Our HIV/AIDS programmes raise awareness and build the capacity of communities to respond to HIV/AIDS.
- We advocate for an enabling environment that protects and promotes the rights of PLHA and affected communities and supports effective HIV/AIDS programmes.

Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT)

- We provide and/or advocate for voluntary counselling and testing services that are accessible and confidential.

HIV prevention

- We provide and/or advocate for comprehensive HIV prevention programmes to meet the variety of needs of individuals and communities.
- Our HIV prevention programmes enable individuals to develop the skills to protect themselves and/or others from HIV infection.
- Our HIV prevention programmes ensure that individuals have access to and information about the use of commodities to prevent HIV infection.
- We provide and/or advocate for comprehensive harm reduction programmes for people who inject drugs.

Treatment, care and support

- We provide and/or advocate for comprehensive treatment, care and support programmes.
- We enable PLHA and affected communities to meet their treatment, care and support needs.

Addressing stigma and discrimination

- We enable PLHA and affected communities to understand their rights and respond to discrimination and its consequences.
- We monitor and respond to systemic discrimination.
- We enable communities to understand and address HIV/AIDS-related stigma.
- We foster partnerships with human rights institutions, legal services and unions to promote and protect the human rights of PLHA and affected communities.

Mainstreaming HIV/AIDS: development and humanitarian programming

- We review our development and humanitarian programmes to assess their relevance to reducing vulnerability to HIV infection and addressing the consequences of HIV/AIDS.
- We work in partnerships to maximise the access of PLHA and affected communities to an integrated range of programmes to meet their needs.
- We design or adapt development programmes to reduce vulnerability to HIV infection and meet the needs of PLHA and affected communities.
- We ensure that our humanitarian programmes reduce vulnerability to HIV infection and address the needs of PLHA and affected communities.
- Our programmes for orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS (OVC) are child-centred, family- and community-focused and rights-based.
- We advocate for an environment that supports effective mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS.
- We advocate for an enabling environment that addresses the underlying causes of vulnerability to HIV/AIDS.