

WHAT IS ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS (AAP)?

Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) is an active commitment by humanitarian actors to use power responsibly by taking account of, giving account to, and being held to account by the people they seek to assist.

“Use power responsibly”: IOM recognizes that there is often an inherent power differential that tilts towards aid and service providers in the course of interactions between IOM staff members and the people they are tasked to assist. When left unchecked, this fundamental imbalance fosters abuse of power and an environment conducive for undermining the rights and dignity of people that IOM commits to aid and protect.

“Taking account of, giving account to, and being held to account”- AAP requires humanitarian actors and organizations to be transparent and to involve people affected by crisis in decision-making processes by engaging with all diverse groups of the population especially those most vulnerable aimed at assisting them in the most appropriate, accountable and effective way.

WHO ARE THE “AFFECTED POPULATIONS”?

“Affected populations” is understood as mobile populations and host community members who IOM seek to assist. IOM is involved in a broad spectrum of activities in aiding people, from emergency assistance, to transition and recovery through to development.

AAP takes accountability beyond the limited practice of accountability to “beneficiaries” as it reaches out to people unintentionally excluded from receiving assistance which often happens to marginalized groups including people with disabilities, older persons, and LGBTI groups. Moreover, the commitment to AAP differs from the traditional accountability to donors (only). It requires humanitarian actors to place people at the core of the response fostering their right to be involved in the decision-making processes that affect them and inform programming to be appropriate and responsive to their needs.

WHY ARE WE COMMITTING TO AAP?



RATIONALE

AAP is founded on two operational principles in humanitarian programming:

- 1) rights-based approach
- 2) aid effectiveness

Being accountable to affected people reaffirms our obligation to respect, fulfil and protect human rights and dignity, and achieving our commitments is essential for quality programming.

MANDATE

The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals endorsed the commitments to accountability to affected people and agreed to incorporate AAP into the policies and operational guidelines of their organizations and promote them with operational partners, within UN/Humanitarian Country Teams and amongst cluster members. As a member of the IASC and a signatory to the Grand Bargain, IOM commits to achieve the commitments to AAP.

IOM AAP FRAMEWORK

The institutional AAP Framework is designed based on good practices from IOM humanitarian response programmes. The Framework encompasses a Statement of Commitments which serves to strengthen a systematic approach to AAP throughout the Organization.



The statement of commitments includes:

1. *Leadership*
2. *Information-sharing and Transparency;*
3. *Participation*
4. *Complaints and Feedback Mechanism*
5. *Partner Coordination*

The Framework supports important IOM policy documents such as the IOM Humanitarian Policy – Principles for Humanitarian Action, IOM Standards of Conduct, IOM Gender Equality Policy, IOM Policy and Procedures for Preventing and Responding to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and the Guidance note on the mainstreaming of humanitarian protection principles.

The December 2011 IASC Principals meeting endorsed five Commitments to Accountability to Affected Populations and agreed to incorporate the CAAP into the policies and operational guidelines of their organizations and promote them with operational partners, within Humanitarian Country Teams and amongst cluster members.

LGBTI is the acronym for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex people.

The IASC is an inter-agency forum for coordination, policy development and decision-making involving the key UN and non-UN humanitarian partners, including United Nations agencies, Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the International Organization for Migration, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), NGO consortia, and the World Bank. IOM has been granted full membership in the IASC as a result of its joining the UN system on 19 September 2016.

IOM is signatory to the “Grand Bargain” agreement made between major donors and humanitarian organizations in the margins of the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016. The Grand Bargain’s commitment to include people receiving aid in making the decisions which affect their lives otherwise known as “participation revolution” reinforces the IASC commitments on AAP and the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability

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