

National Unity Consultative Council
Humanitarian Assistance Policy
August 21, 2023

Preamble

Due to the unlawful killings, arrests, torture, oppression and control of the terrorist military junta against the nationwide public uprising and resistance as the consequences of the illegal coup attempt of the military on February 1st, 2021, many of the ethnic communities and population have experienced atrocities and suffering. According to the August 2023 data released by UN humanitarian agencies, despite some limitations to claim as accurate and comprehensive surveys, it is reported that there are more than 1.9 million displaced people in Myanmar, of which more than 1.6 million have been displaced since the February 2021 attempted military coup; it is quite concerning about food insecurity of estimated 15 million people due to the impacts of escalating conflict and inflation; on the other hand, as the situation of need continues to rise sharply, the humanitarian aid reach in 2022 was only about 22% of the planned original emergency response target. Due to the military council's violent crackdowns, as of August 30, 2023, 4,017 people were killed and 24,532 were arrested. Among them 19,970 people are currently arrested and detained, and according to the statistics, more than 75,000 homes were burned down by the military council in which Sagaing and Magway regions have the largest number of burned houses.

The current situation of the need for humanitarian assistance of Myanmar is a unique situation with numerous limitations according to international standards, international laws and the roles and responsibilities of international governments. The military junta that wants to take the form of a government that tries to seize state power illegally to oppress and govern is the main culprit and/or a major cause of the humanitarian emergencies faced by the people of Myanmar.

While confronting with various natural and anthropological disasters, if people support and assist each other with humane hearts based on sympathy, we will be able to build a disaster resilient society.

This policy is adopted as a guiding policy for humanitarian organizations in providing effective humanitarian assistance accountably and responsibly in Myanmar.

Objectives

The objectives of the Humanitarian Assistance Policy are as follows:

- (1) To effectively provide humanitarian assistance to people suffering from man-made disasters and natural disasters;
- (2) To take into account the guidelines and recommendations stated in this policy with great care and implement them while providing assistance;
- (3) To use this policy as a guiding policy for the humanitarian organizations in Myanmar to ensure compliance with; and
- (4) To engage and coordinate with understanding among the Union, Federal Units and local organizations in the course of humanitarian provision according to this policy.

Policy

- (1) Based on the situations before, during and after a disaster, arrangements must be planned to implement humanitarian assistance operations on the ground in accordance with international humanitarian standards.
- (2) Provision of this humanitarian assistance shall not be based on ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, religious faith, vulnerable groups (pregnant women, lactating mothers, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly), differences in political opinions; instead, it shall be able to promote human dignity in accordance with the basic human rights of a citizen as provided by the Federal Democracy Charter.
- (3) The existing implementation and operation of humanitarian aid organizations in the territories of Ethnic Resistance Organizations, ethnic-based and regional consultative councils must also be taken into consideration.
- (4) Information networks shall be established, and independent and transparent long-term relationships shall be established among organizations working on humanitarian delivery at Union and State/Federal Unit levels aiming to carry out sustained operations and to administer humanitarian interventions effectively.
- (5) In addition, the nine core values of the Federal Union shall be emphasized, applied and promoted in undertaking humanitarian provisions.
- (6) The focus shall be on saving lives, reduction and relief of sufferings and pains that people are facing, remaining to survive in accordance with human dignity and increasing the resilience of the community, etc.

Standards and Values

- (1) To value and adopt the International Humanitarian Law, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Refugee Laws and the nine values of the Union stated in the Federal Democracy Charter Part I.

The Nine Values of the Union

1. Fundamental Human Rights;
 2. Democratic Rights;
 3. Minority Rights;
 4. Equality and Self-Determination;
 5. Collective Leadership;
 6. Pluralism, Mutual Respect and Mutual Recognition;
 7. Unity in Diversity;
 8. Gender Equality; and
 9. Non-Discrimination (race, religion, language, literature, culture, gender, disabilities, sexual orientation).
- (2) Not to discriminate based on race, religion, political beliefs, sexual orientation, age, physical ability, diversity; and to emphasize the specific needs of different vulnerable groups (such as pregnant women, lactating mothers, young children, persons with disabilities, elderly, etc.).
 - (3) To observe the four humanitarian principles of (1) humanity; (2) impartiality; (3) neutrality; and (4) operational independence in conducting humanitarian assistance activities.
 - (4) For the aid organizations, to continuously learn and develop ways and means to improve their organization's interventions and make assistance more effective.
 - (5) To ensure equal access to humanitarian provisions among the disadvantaged and marginalized populations within diverse communities.

Guiding Principles to apply

- (1) The people in need shall receive effective and efficient support in a timely manner fulfilling their needs.

- (2) Plans shall be developed and implemented to improve the resilience of local organizations and local people in order to mitigate the negative impacts of disasters and to reduce dependency on external support.
- (3) As affected local community, they have the right to access information, realize their rights and benefits and they also have the right to provide suggestion and cooperate in making decisions on matters that concern them.
- (4) It is important to initiate and adopt a mechanism that can handle the complaints of the affected local community safely and confidentially.
- (5) Humanitarian assistance organizations should be able to reflect on their previous experiences and provide better assistance to the affected local community.
- (6) Organizations that provide humanitarian assistance should provide quality and good management to the affected local community by treating the members equally within their organizations.
- (7) To improve quality and accountability in the delivery of humanitarian assistance, the system of institution, structure and methods of operations shall always be assessed and reviewed to develop analysis and find ways to improve.
- (8) In carrying out humanitarian endeavor, the interests and safety of the affected communities must be prioritized by following the Do No Harm principle.
- (9) There shall be engagement and coordination within the relevant stakeholders in the conflict to realize conflict sensitivity and to ensure to achieve positive results.
- (10) Project activities shall be implemented in such a way that there is no exploitation by any means including sexual exploitation either of humanitarian workers or of the beneficiaries through humanitarian assistance.

Duties

- (1) Depending on the risks of the disaster, capabilities by age groups, gender (male, female and other categories), responsiveness by vulnerability shall be carefully assessed and appropriate plans shall be developed for implementation.
- (2) Needs (technology, expertise) that cannot be met by one humanitarian agency must be supported by others through collaboration with partner organizations that have the mandate and ability so that safe delivery of service could be provided without delay.
- (3) The relevant local administrative bodies are subject to develop, adopt, engage and coordinate people-centered disaster management activities together with the local

communities and local organizations in accordance with the Union (federal) level disaster management activities.

- (4) The information related to the principles of an organization, the work plans that the member are implementing and what assistance will be provided etc. must be shared with the affected population.
- (5) In developing and implementing the procedures for addressing complaints, it is necessary to resolve them in such ways that reflect the opinions and recommendations of the local population.
- (6) Practices of mutual sharing of work experiences in terms of learning and innovation between organizations with similar objectives must be in place.
- (7) The organization's procedures shall be equitable, transparent, non-discriminatory and in compliance with local regulatory frameworks and shall reflect the safety and well-being of its members.
- (8) In providing humanitarian assistance, organizations shall ensure that assistance is effectively and ethically provided to the affected people.
- (9) When extracting natural resources as needed in affected areas, the impact on the natural environment must be taken into consideration and managed to minimize the negative impact.
- (10) In receiving and distributing in-cash and in-kind assistance in accordance with the code of conduct and internal regulations, a transparent auditing system must be set up.
- (11) Corruption such as misappropriation, conflict of interests (seeking self-interest) and misuse of resources shall be prevented and avoided.

Revision, amendment and replacement of the policies

These policies, values and procedures may be reviewed, revised, amended and modified based on the evolving situations and needs.

Conclusion

These policies, values and procedures will be used as a road map to be followed by humanitarian aid organizations within Myanmar's territory during the revolutionary (interim) period.