



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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## About the Code

The Code of Good Practice for NGOs Responding to HIV/AIDS was developed by non-governmental organisations (NGOs), for NGOs, drawing on the knowledge and experience gained since the response to HIV began.

**The Code sets out the key principles, practice and evidence base required for successful responses to HIV with the aim of:**

- assisting NGOs to improve the quality and cohesiveness of our work and our accountability to partners and beneficiary communities
- fostering greater collaboration between the variety of NGOs now actively engaged in responding to the AIDS pandemic
- renewing the 'voices' of NGOs responding to HIV by enabling us to commit to a shared vision of good practice in programming and advocacy

The Code can be used to inspire organisational change; provide a framework for collaborative partnerships; and inform the development, implementation and evaluation of evidence-informed programmes and advocacy.

The Code's principles are aspirational. In endorsing the Code, NGOs commit to continuous improvement and accountability.



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## Overview of Principles

Although we address different aspects of HIV and its impact, our programmes are guided by evidence and the meaningful involvement of people living with HIV (PLHIV) and affected communities.

A commitment to human rights, public health and development provide the overarching framework for our response to HIV.

While the impact of HIV is diverse and varies by context, we recognise that there are cross-cutting issues and key population groups that need to be considered in our programming.

Good governance, the efficient management of our finances and human resources, and a sound system of monitoring and evaluation ensure that we are effective in our programming and accountable to our beneficiary communities and to each other.

Our programmes are inclusive, accessible and equitable.

We advocate for an enabling environment that protects and promotes the rights of PLHIV and affected communities, and supports effective programming.

### We believe that good practice in HIV programming includes:

- providing an integrated approach to meeting the diverse needs of PLHIV
- ensuring that VCT services are voluntary, confidential and incorporate post-test support and referral
- providing multiple HIV prevention approaches
- providing comprehensive treatment, care and support
- advocating for the rights of PLHIV and fighting stigma and discrimination

Our response is strengthened by mainstreaming HIV through development and humanitarian work, and by creating an environment that not only works to reduce HIV infection, but also addresses the underlying causes of vulnerability.

## Share Your Voice

All NGOs responding to HIV are invited to sign on to the Code as a way of publicly committing to this shared vision.

Endorsing the Code means that an NGO supports ALL principles, even if it does not deliver a full continuum of services. It demonstrates the commitment to continuous improvement and movement toward best practice principles.

The Code Secretariat provides tools to help NGOs assess how their programmes measure up to Code principles and to implement the parts of the Code relevant to their work.

**To find out more about how you can endorse the Code or to download the Code of Good Practice, please go to [www.hivcode.org](http://www.hivcode.org).**

**The Code can also be purchased online through Oxfam at <http://publications.oxfam.org.uk>.**

[www.hivcode.org](http://www.hivcode.org)

### Steering Committee:

- Care International
- Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+)
- International Council of AIDS Services Organizations (ICASO)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)
- International HIV/Aids Alliance (IHAA)