

## ANNEX VII

### MRM Guiding Principles

#### Humanitarian principles and what they mean for monitoring, reporting and response:

The table below suggests some ways in which humanitarian principles guide the MRM's activities.

Principle	Definition	Implications for the MRM
<b>Best interests of the child</b>	In all decisions affecting children, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.	→ In all aspects of the MRM, the best interests of the child must be a primary consideration.
<b>Humanity</b>	Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found. The dignity and rights of all people must be respected and protected.	→ Monitoring, reporting and response must be conducted for the principal and sole purpose of alleviating human suffering, wherever it is found, and not for any other political purposes. → Monitoring, reporting and response must be undertaken in a way that protects and respects the dignity and rights of victims. For example, by respecting the dignity of victims during interviews and in the recording and reporting of violations.
<b>Neutrality</b>	Humanitarian action must be carried out without engaging in hostilities or taking sides in controversies of a political, religious or ideological nature	→ Monitoring, reporting and response must be undertaken in an unbiased, objective manner without taking sides in political or ideological disputes. These activities must make every effort to report on violations against CAAC <u>by any and all parties</u> to the conflict. → Monitoring and reporting should not be undertaken to support or advance the political objectives of any one party to a conflict.
<b>Impartiality</b>	Humanitarian action must be carried out without discriminating as to ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political opinions, race or religion. Action must be guided solely by needs and priority must be given to the most urgent cases of distress.	→ Monitoring, reporting and response must be undertaken without discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin, gender, nationality, race, religion or any other factor. For example, practitioners must not limit monitoring and reporting to violations affecting victims from any one particular group.
<b>Operational independence</b>	Humanitarian actors must retain full control of their operations. Agencies must ensure that their operational independence is respected at all times. Humanitarian action must be conducted separately and clearly distinguished from military-led relief operations.	→ MRM practitioners must at all times retain operational control and direction of monitoring, reporting and response activities. MRM practitioners should not, for example, agree to restrictions by parties to the conflict on the type or scope of monitoring of violations against children.
<b>Respect for culture and custom:</b>	It is important to understand and respect local customs and traditions and to appreciate local values. While local culture and customs vary, human rights are universal and applicable to all human beings, regardless of cultural setting, and must be paramount.	→ Monitoring, reporting and response should be undertaken with due regard and respect for culture and custom. For example, monitors should be particularly sensitive to cultural views on sexuality and gender when monitoring and reporting incidents of sexual violence. Some interventions require particular sensitivity to local customs. For example, in dealing with survivors of rape, it is important to

		be aware of how rape and survivors of rape are perceived in the local community in order to best respond to their needs.
<b>Do no/less harm</b>	Humanitarian actors must strive to 'do no harm' or to take steps to minimize the harm, due to their activities.	→ Monitoring, reporting and response must be conducted in such a way as to do no harm to those whom practitioners seek to assist and protect. For example, by gathering information within a particular community on child rights violations, monitors should not expose the victims, community, witnesses or staff to further risks, including any risk of retaliation.