Instructions for the facilitation of the

Humanitarian Charter Quiz

and Facilitator’s Answer Sheet

**Instructions for facilitating the quiz:** Hand out one printed copy of the quiz to each participant and instruct them to close their Sphere Handbooks. Let them know that the quiz will be timed and graded. Tell them they have 12 minutes to complete the quiz (1 minute for each question) and set a timer for **12 minutes**. Once everyone has a copy of the quiz start the timer. When the 12 minutes conclude, ask participants to put down their pens and flip over their quizzes. If for some reason, cultural or otherwise, implementing the test in this manner is not appropriate, here are other implementation options worth considering:

1. Individual test (closed or open book), followed by plenary discussion.
2. Pairs or groups of three work through all questions (open book) to find answers and then plenary discussion of answers.
3. Groups take on parts of the quiz and then present answers back to the whole group.
4. The whole group works through the quiz together in an open forum – more of a discussion than a quiz (please note that if this option is chosen timing will be a considerable factor to watch).

**Instructions for the “grading” and debrief:** Inform participants that they will collectively be responsible for grading the quiz, and that each question corresponds to the section of the Humanitarian Charter with the same number (1–12). Divide the participants into small groups (either four or six groups of no more than five people each). Assign each group a range of questions for which they are to find the correct answers (i.e. if there are four groups, group 1 will find the answers for questions 1–3; if there are six groups, group 1 will find the answers for questions 1 and 2, for example).

Inform participants that the Humanitarian Charter can be found between pages 28–32. Explain that they will have a maximum of 10 minutes to find and justify the correct answers for their assigned questions. After this time, ask each group to present the correct answers with justification based on their assigned reading.

Discuss each question (and associated section) briefly in turn to ensure that it is understood by all. You will have to monitor the time for discussion of each question closely. Most questions will only require 2 or 3 minutes to complete and clarify. As the participants provide the answers, ask them to grade their own answers **and to note the correct answers** as they progress.

**Note:** There are 4 questions that have been selected for deeper discussion, these are **questions 2, 5, 9, and 11, highlighted in red.** There are prompts on the answer sheet below to help you facilitate this discussion. The amount of time for these deeper discussions should be about 5 additional minutes each. The overall time for the debriefing is about 45 minutes.

**Question 1:** The Humanitarian Charter expresses our shared conviction as humanitarian agencies that all people affected by disaster or conflict have a right to:

1. Receive protection and assistance to ensure the basic conditions for life with dignity.

**Question 2:** The basic needs of people affected by disaster or conflict are met firstly through:

1. Their own efforts, and through the support of community and local institutions.

**Trainer’s note:** Ask the participants to expand on this.

**Potential questions:**

* What does it mean to say that the people affected by the situation will primarily work to meet their own needs?
* If this is true, what is the task of humanitarians? How does this reflect the way we design programme responses?

**Potential answers:** By understanding that people will primarily meet their own needs, it empowers them in the eyes of humanitarians. The affected population is seen less as helpless victims and more as resilient survivors. This core belief then frames the role of the humanitarian as one of helping people to help themselves. After all, it is called humanitarian **assistance** for a reason. “Aid” is used less these days as it implies hand-outs rather than hand-ups.

**Question 3:** Humanitarian agencies call on all state and non-state actors to facilitate their work by removing

1. Unnecessary legal and practical barriers, providing for their safety and allowing them timely and consistent access to affected populations.

**Question 4:** The rights to protection and assistance reflected in the provisions of international humanitarian law, human rights law, and refugee law, can be summarised as:

1. The right to life with dignity, the right to receive humanitarian assistance, and the right to protection and security.

**Question 5:** Dignity entails more than physical well-being:

B) It demands respect for the whole person, including the values and beliefs of individuals and affected communities, and respect for their human rights, including liberty, freedom of conscience, and religious observance.

**Trainer’s note:**

Ask the participants to expand on their definition of “dignity”.

**Potential questions:**

* How does dignity factor into the way in which humanitarians do their work?
* How does it influence the decisions you make in terms of programming?

**Potential answers:** Again, perception of the affected population comes into play, thinking from the perspective of fostering dignity will influence the creation of feedback mechanisms, and fuel better assessments. It may influence procurement decisions and livelihood programming or incentivise the creation of vocational training programmes so as to facilitate shelter programmes based on the people’s own efforts. Other examples may include the use of cash for work, and cash-based assistance in lieu of in-kind assistance programmes in order to facilitate preservation of the dignity of people receiving aid.

**Question 6:** The right to receive humanitarian assistance is afforded in accordance with the principles of:

1. Impartiality and non-discrimination.

**Question 7:** If a refugee or asylum seeker is being forcibly returned to their country of origin, what principle of refugee law is being broken?

1. Non-refoulement.

**Question 8:** Affected populations:

1. Should be consulted to develop assistance programmes that best suit their needs.

**Question 9:** Adherence to the Humanitarian Charter will ensure that there are no adverse effects of a humanitarian response.

1. False.

**Trainer’s note:**

Adherence to the Humanitarian Charter’s principles doesn’t guarantee anything. There are often adverse effects of assistance, but we believe it is our duty to carefully monitor for these and address issues when they arise. Ask the participants to brainstorm some of the potential adverse effects of humanitarian responses, then some of the programmes that might be created to offset or mitigate these problems once realised.

**Potential answers:** You can provide the simple example of deforestation and erosion due to an increased need for fire wood, with a subsequent replanting programme. Then put forward these two more complex examples and ask if anyone has seen a successful programme or initiative to mitigate these situations:

* Inflation or price hiking due to cash-based assistance programming.
* Resentment of an incoming refugee population based on a higher standard of living within the settlement than in the surrounding host community, etc.

**Question 10:** In all humanitarian responses, humanitarians are to act in accordance with:

1. The Humanitarian Charter and with the specific guidance in the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief (1994).

**Question 11:** The achievement of the Core Humanitarian Standard and the Minimum Standards depends on a range of factors, many of which may be beyond our control. As humanitarians:

1. We commit ourselves to attempting consistently to achieve them and we expect to be held to account accordingly.

**Trainer’s note:**

Ask the participants to expand on their definition of “accountability”.

**Potential questions:**

* What does accountability mean in the humanitarian context?
* Who are we as humanitarians accountable to?

**Potential answers:** Inform the participants that this will be the focus of the session on the Core Humanitarian Standards, thus if the discussion seems short it is not because the issue is not important – but covered in more detail elsewhere. The short answer is: we are accountable to the communities and people affected by crisis, staff, donor governments, and other stakeholders to do what we said we were going to do to the best of our abilities and with the purely humanitarian intentions.

**Question 12:** By adhering to the Core Humanitarian Standard and the Minimum Standards, we commit to making every effort to ensure that people affected by disasters or conflict have access to:

1. At least the minimum requirements for life with dignity and security, including adequate water, sanitation, food, nutrition, shelter and healthcare.

**Once the quiz review is complete, ask how many people had a perfect score. Ask if there were any answers that surprised or challenged anyone’s thinking.**