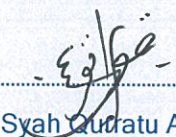
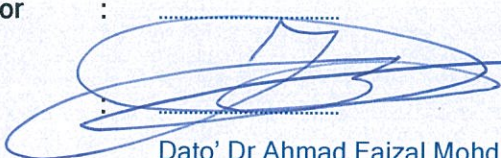




## MALAYSIAN MEDICAL RELIEF SOCIETY

PROTECTION POLICY		Document No:
<b>Distribution:</b> All Holders		
<b>Summary of Changes:</b>		
Originator	:  Syah Qudratu Aini Sahrani	
General Manager	: .....	Issue : 01
Executive Director	: .....	Effective Date : 8 Jan 2016
President	:  Dato' Dr Ahmad Faizal Mohd Perdaus	Effective Date : 8 Jan 2016

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<b>MALAYSIAN MEDICAL RELIEF SOCIETY</b>	<b>Document No:</b>
<b>PROTECTION POLICY</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b>

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Overview**

In the humanitarian and development contexts, protection refers to the preservation of the human rights of affected persons in order to prevent causing them further harm or injury. Communities and survivors of disasters and conflicts deserve to be protected with dignity and integrity. The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) describes protection as “all activities aimed at obtaining full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and spirit of the relevant bodies of law, including human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law”.<sup>1</sup>

## **KEY ELEMENTS OF PROTECTION**

### **Safety**

MERCY Malaysia recognises that Effective protection activities ensure that affected persons in any given humanitarian or development context stay safe. The organisation appreciates that prioritising safety in such situations provides clear protection goals in its programmes which subsequently facilitates compliance monitoring during the duration of projects.

### **Dignity**

MERCY Malaysia recognises that agencies must preserve the dignity of affected persons in the implementation of humanitarian and development projects. Any kind of misconduct, violation or abuse is an attack on the dignity of an affected person. The organisation is committed to ensuring its projects do not undermine the dignity of affected persons.

### **Human Rights**

MERCY Malaysia recognises that the preservation of the human rights of affected persons in humanitarian and development contexts must form the basis of its projects. The organisation is committed to ensuring that the human rights of affected persons are acknowledged, respected and protected by all staff members and volunteers.

<b>MALAYSIAN MEDICAL RELIEF SOCIETY</b>	<b>Document No:</b>
<b>PROTECTION POLICY</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b>

**MERCY MALAYSIA PROTECTION PRINCIPLES AS ADAPTED FROM THE SPHERE PROJECT HUMANITARIAN CHARTER AND MINIMUM STANDARDS IN HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE AND THE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR CHILD PROTECTION IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION. <sup>2</sup>**

**Protection Principle 1: Avoid exposing people to further harm as a result of your actions**

All activities under MERCY Malaysia will avoid or minimise any adverse effects in particular the risk of exposing people to increased danger or abuse to physical hazards, violence and other rights abuse.

MERCY Malaysia shall ensure its protection efforts do not undermine the affected populations capacity or self- protection.

MERCY Malaysia as a humanitarian agency will manage sensitive information in a way that does not jeopardise the security and safety of the informants or those who may be identifiable from the information.

**Protection Principle 2: Ensure people's access to impartial assistance**

MERCY Malaysia will ensure that its projects will deliver impartial humanitarian assistance that is appropriate to the needs of affected persons without any form of discrimination.

**Protection Principle 3: Protect people from physical and psychological harm due to violence or coercion**

MERCY Malaysia will ensure that the affected persons it serves are protected from experiencing any form of violence, being forced or induced to act against their will and the fear of such abuse.

MERCY Malaysia staff will ensure that it's projects not subject affected persons to any forms of violence, either by dealing with the source of such threats or by helping people to avoid the threat.

MERCY Malaysia will ensure that activities under MERCY Malaysia regarding the affected population is not subject to coercion, i.e. forced or induced to act against their will in ways that may cause them harm or violate their rights.

MERCY Malaysia will ensure that its activities support the affected population's own efforts to stay safe, find security and restore dignity including any existing community self-protection mechanisms.

<b>MALAYSIAN MEDICAL RELIEF SOCIETY</b>	<b>Document No:</b>
<b>PROTECTION POLICY</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b>

**Protection Principle 4: Assist with rights claims, access to remedies and recovery from abuse**

MERCY Malaysia will ensure its projects will empower affected persons to recover by providing community-based and other psychosocial support.

**Protection Principle 5: Strengthen Child Protection Systems**

MERCY Malaysia will ensure that its projects can provide an opportunity to develop and strengthen existing national child protection systems of the affected State, including ones that are community-based.

**Protection Principle 6: Strengthen Children's Resilience in Humanitarian Action**

MERCY Malaysia will ensure that its projects will strengthen protective factors that increase the resilience of children, and to address those that expose children to risk.

**Good Conduct of Working with Children**

1. MERCY Malaysia staff will always work with children in an open environment, avoiding one to one contact.
2. MERCY Malaysia staff will always plan activities that involve more than one other person being present, or at least within sight and hearing of others.
3. MERCY Malaysia staff will maintain a safe and appropriate distance with children, avoiding physical contact of any kind with a child unless it is an emergency or the parent has given permission i.e. providing immunization to the child.
4. MERCY Malaysia staff should treat all children equally, with respect and dignity regardless of age, gender, race or ability.

**Child Labour**

MERCY Malaysia will ensure that its projects are free from any form of child labour, in particular those related to or made worse by an emergency. In any cases where, children are involved in any kind of child labour in MERCY Malaysia's projects, a report must be submitted to the Programme Officer in charge or the Head of the Relief Operations Department for further action (which will be punitive).

<b>Issue No: 01</b>	<b>Page 4 of 6</b>
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<b>MALAYSIAN MEDICAL RELIEF SOCIETY</b>	<b>Document No:</b>
<b>PROTECTION POLICY</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b>

## **ENSURING A QUALITY PROTECTION RESPONSE**

### **COORDINATION**

MERCY Malaysia will work together with responsible authorities, humanitarian agencies, civil society organisations and representatives of affected populations to coordinate its protection efforts in order to ensure an appropriate, efficient and timely response.

### **PROJECT CYCLE MANAGEMENT**

#### **Assessment and Identifying issues of protection**

During needs assessments, MERCY Malaysia will make efforts to understand existing formal and informal mechanisms that protect the affected population its aim to serve. The organisation will ensure that protection issues are considered and included in rapid assessments as well as multi-sectoral assessments. In on-going situation monitoring activities, assessment teams will ensure that the affected/targeted population is disaggregated by sex, age, ability and geographical location.

#### **Programme design and Implementation**

In designing projects, the officer in charge will ensure that it will meet the needs that cannot or will not be met by the affected state or population while considering marginalised groups and prioritising life-saving action.

MERCY Malaysia will also ensure that its projects will consider all protection issues raised by the target communities during the design and implementation phases. MERCY Malaysia will ensure communities are included in project design and implementation and will welcome any feedback or complaint relating to issues of protection.

#### **Monitoring and evaluating protection related activities**

MERCY Malaysia will carefully monitor its projects to ensure that protection remains to be an integral component and will document best practices to enhance future programming.

<b>MALAYSIAN MEDICAL RELIEF SOCIETY</b>	<b>Document No:</b>
<b>PROTECTION POLICY</b>	<b>Effective Date:</b>

## **MAINSTREAMING PROTECTION**

MERCY Malaysia will integrate all commitments stated in this policy document into all of it's, especially in the implementation of projects. The organisation assures that all its staff members and volunteers understand, are trained in and guided on the ways in which this policy document is operationalised.

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1. Protection of Internally Displaced Persons, Inter-Agency Standing Committee Policy Paper, New York, 1999, <http://www.brookings.edu/fp/projects/idp/iascprotectionpaper.pdf>
  2. Protection Principles 1 - 4 refers to protection principles in the Sphere Handbook meanwhile Protection Principles 5 and 6 are adapted from Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action

