

H1 Connect's Policy on Partnerships

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to define the criteria and process for H1's collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGO) and other actors in humanitarian work. It aims to ensure that our partnerships are effective, ethical, and aligned with global health standards, maximizing the impact of medical missions on the communities we serve.

Introduction:

H1's mission is to connect the world to the right doctors. We are living out that mission by connecting healthcare professionals to serve on medical missions around the world. We partner with Non-Governmental Organizations (e.g. Save the Children, Team Rubicon, etc.) and other healthcare entities sponsoring these medical missions, and support them in their efforts to recruit qualified healthcare professionals for their emergency medical teams (EMT).

H1 is dedicated to upholding the highest ethical and moral standards consistent with our values, and we choose to only partner with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), governmental agencies, multilateral organizations, and other medical team entities that uphold those same standards.

This policy outlines our framework for partnering with these organizations, guided by the principles and standards set by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Health Cluster.

World Health Organization's Responsibilities:

In the realm of global health initiatives, the World Health Organization (WHO) is responsible for coordinating initiatives and response operations across diverse parties, typically NGOs. In this leadership role, the WHO stands as the pinnacle authority, establishing protocols and standards governing all parties involved in global health initiatives. The WHO works in conjunction with governments to identify health crises, and will publish requests for assistance (RFAs) to respond to those crises. The WHO will share RFAs with select NGOs that meet their strict governance standards. These NGOs will staff Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) to plan and execute a medical mission to meet the RFA requirements. The WHO established the Global Health Cluster in 2005 to promote and support collective action across EMTs at global and country levels to ensure more effective, efficient and predictable humanitarian health action.

Humanitarian Principles¹:

H1 Connect's Policy on Partnerships

H1 will only partner with organizations that strictly adhere to the WHO Health Cluster's four humanitarian principles:

1. *Humanity* - Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found. The purpose of humanitarian action is to protect life and health and ensure respect for human beings.
2. *Neutrality* - Humanitarian actors must not take sides in hostilities or engage in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.
3. *Impartiality* - Humanitarian action must be carried out based on need alone, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress and making no distinctions based on nationality, race, gender, religious belief, class, or political opinion.
4. *Independence* - Humanitarian action must be autonomous from the political, economic, military or other objectives that any actor may hold about areas where humanitarian action is being implemented.

EMT Quality of Care Standards²:

H1 partners with NGOs to help staff EMTs that adhere to the following quality of care standards:

1. *Safe Care* - Avoid unnecessary harm to patients from care that was supposed to help them.
2. *Equitable Care* - Care is equally accessible and provided to all sections of the population affected by the emergency, particularly the vulnerable and those requiring protection.
3. *Ethical Care* - Patients are always cared for in a medically ethical manner and care is based on scientific evidence.
4. *Accountable Response* - Commitment to be accountable to patients and communities, the host governments, ministries of health, their organizations and donors.
5. *Appropriate Response* - Needs driven response according to context and type of emergency, and respectful of community values and beliefs.
6. *Coordinated Response* - Coordinated response under the national health emergency management authorities and across all levels of the health system to ensure continuity of care. Collaboration with the national health system, their fellow EMTs, and the international humanitarian response community where relevant.

Implementation and Monitoring Plan:

H1 is committed to implementing this values-based policy through the following process:

- *Initial Partner Due Diligence* - Before establishing partnerships, H1 will conduct thorough due diligence to ensure the NGO's practices align with this policy.
- *Ongoing Partner Evaluation* - Partnerships will be subject to ongoing evaluation based on performance, adherence to this policy, and impact on health outcomes.

H1 Connect's Policy on Partnerships

- *Stakeholder Engagement* - H1 commits to engaging with all stakeholders, including not only NGOs, but also the WHO, healthcare professionals, local health authorities, and the communities we serve, to ensure transparent, effective collaboration, and adherence to this policy by all actors H1 associates with.

References

1. [Health Cluster Guide: A Practical Handbook, 2020](#)
2. [World Health Organization Classification and Minimum Standards for Emergency Medical Teams, 2021](#)