



humanitarian healthcare ethics
reflecting on ethical practice

HHEAT: Humanitarian Health Ethics Analysis Tool

1. Identify/Clarify Ethical Issue:

What is at stake and for whom?

2. Gather Information:

What do we need to know to assess the issue?

3. Review Ethical Issue:

Does information gathered lead us to reformulate the issue?

4. Explore Ethics Resources:

What can help us make a decision?

5. Evaluate & Select the Best Option:

What options are possible and which is the “best” under the circumstances?

6. Follow-Up:

What can we learn from this situation and what supports are needed?

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Humanitarian Health Ethics Analysis Tool

1.	Is it really an ethical issue? What is at stake and for whom? How is the issue perceived from different perspectives? When must a decision be made? Who is responsible for making it? What has been done so far?
2.	What information is needed to deliberate well about this issue and enable us to make a well-considered decision? What constraints to information gathering exist? Consider: a) Resource Allocation and Clinical Features b) Participation, Perspectives and Power c) Community, Projects and Policies
3.	Does the process so far reveal new aspects of the ethical issue or suggest the need to reformulate or redefine the issue? Have our biases/interests affected how we see the issue?
4.	What values and norms ought to inform our decision making? Consider: professional moral norms and guidelines for healthcare practice; human rights and international law; ethical theory; local norms, values and customs.
5.	What options are possible in this situation and what ethical values support each option? What consequences might result from each option? Can consequences, values and obligations be reconciled?
6.	What can we learn from this situation? What support do those involved need?

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