

The New Humanitarian |

Principles and Due Diligence Process for Accepting Financial and In-kind Contributions

The New Humanitarian is an independent non-profit newsroom with a mission to put journalism at the service of people affected by humanitarian crises around the world.

We strive to ensure diversity in the sources of our funding and revenue to maintain our editorial independence (actual and perceived) and our long-term financial sustainability.

We seek to ensure that no individual donor or financial contribution exceeds 25 percent of our overall budget.

When considering whether to solicit or accept funding, revenue, pro-bono support, or in-kind contributions, we make the following considerations to ensure alignment with our values. These are shared with our prospective donors and shared publicly.

Alignment of values:

We believe in the importance of independent journalism, accountability and transparency, alleviating suffering, respect for human rights, environmental sustainability, and our common humanity. We seek to attract donors, sponsors and supporters who are aligned with these values.

We encourage donors, sponsors and supporters to demonstrate alignment with these values through adherence to frameworks such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria.

We may refuse donations, sponsorship and support from sources deemed by our Board of Directors to represent a challenge to our core values and mission, including sources that:

- have strong links to the manufacture or sale of armaments and weapons;
- have strong links to the fossil fuel or mining industries;
- are responsible for major and systematic environmental abuse;
- have strong links to the production of tobacco products, alcohol, or other harmful and addictive substances;
- are responsible for serious violations of international humanitarian law, human rights, labour rights or other major international conventions – as proven by a court of law or alleged, with compelling evidence, in media reports or by human rights organizations;
- are engaged in any other ethically or socially inappropriate behaviour;
- would put into question TNH's work or reputation.

Unearmarked support:

We are honest with our partners that we cannot sustainably produce independent, quality journalism without investing in our core staff, operations and infrastructure. To that end, The New Humanitarian seeks unrestricted funding as much as possible.

We consider accepting earmarked or project funding if the proposed project is closely aligned to our strategic mission; respects our declared values; does not impose terms and conditions that are disproportionately onerous on the organisation; and contributes to overhead costs at no less than 10% but ideally 20%, in recognition of what it truly takes for an organisation to execute such projects.

Editorial independence:

Our donors, sponsors and supporters acknowledge and respect our editorial independence policy, outlined below. They understand that any attempted or perceived influence over our work would threaten both parties' credibility and the impact of the work they seek to support.

We may refuse donations, sponsorship and support from sources deemed by our Board of Directors to compromise our independence or present a conflict of interest with our work.

Editorial independence policy

The New Humanitarian retains full authority over editorial content to protect the journalistic credibility and integrity of our organisation. We maintain a firewall between the newsroom's coverage decisions and sources of all funding and revenue. Our news judgments are made independently and not on the basis of donor support.

Acceptance of financial or other support does not constitute implied or actual endorsement of donors or their products, services or opinions. We do not accept funding that includes a stated or suggested commitment to avoid certain topics or to adopt or emphasize a certain perspective.

Where The New Humanitarian accepts funding to cover particular topics, we maintain editorial control over the coverage. When considering whether to accept such project-specific funds, we consider how the donor's objectives for the grant may affect the credibility of our journalism, particularly on the topic at hand.

We cede no right of review, influence or participation in the creation or distribution of editorial content to donors. As is standard journalistic practice, we offer right of reply to all individuals and organisations (including our donors) against which claims or criticisms are directly made.

Shared commitment to financial transparency:

We do not accept anonymous donations, and we publish the names of donors who give support with a monetary value of CHF 10,000 or more in a calendar year on our website, in our annual report and in any other relevant listings of donors.

Where donors or supporters prefer not to be mentioned in public communications, we respect their wish for privacy, but comply with all Swiss and other applicable laws and regulations about financial disclosures.

In addition, our annual accounts list our total funding levels and number of individual donors, including a breakdown by type of revenue.

Due Diligence Process

TNH conducts due diligence of every proposed grant, donation, pro-bono support, or in-kind contribution with a monetary value of CHF 10,000 or more.

All donations, pro-bono support, or in-kind contributions with a monetary value of 1% or more of our annual operating budget must be approved by the Finance, Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee of The New Humanitarian's Board of Directors.

For individual donations, due diligence includes:

- For the purpose of "knowing our donor," we will conduct an internet search of publicly available information.
- We may request a personal interview with the donor to gather more information if needed.
- Any concerns about editorial independence or other material risk will be escalated to the Finance, Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee of TNH's board of directors or the board's journalism committee and/or the full Executive Committee, as necessary.

For governments, foundations and corporations or any other donation internal due diligence includes:

- We will conduct an internet search of publicly available information about the funding institution, including its board members and trustees, the leadership team, sources of funding, financial situation, and media mentions.
- We will consider frameworks to which the donor has adhered, such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
- Any concerns about editorial independence or other material risk will be escalated to the Finance, Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee of TNH's Board of Directors or the Board's journalism committee and/or the full Executive Committee, as necessary.

Should The New Humanitarian learn – after receipt of a financial contribution, sponsorship or other support – that the donor, sponsor or supporter is not aligned with the principles set out here, its Finance, Audit, Risk and Compliance Committee will review the partnership and donation, if applicable, and assess whether to discontinue the partnership and whether the money can be returned (this will not be possible where the money has already been spent). We will be transparent about any funding and other support received and about how we handle the situation.