

Mercy Corps Europe

Modern Slavery Statement – 2018-2019

Introduction

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 states that UK organisations with a turnover of £36 million or more must publish annual statements to report on the steps they are taking to ensure that modern slavery and human trafficking are not taking place in the supply chain that provide their goods and services.

Beyond this legal requirement, Mercy Corps Europe recognises its responsibility and commitment to preventing modern slavery and human trafficking within its organisation, and to ensuring that its operations, its supply chain and the programmes which it manages and supports are free from slavery and human trafficking.

Organisational Structure

Mercy Corps Europe is a registered charity, structured as a registered company limited by guarantee in the UK.

Mercy Corps Europe is part of the Mercy Corps global agency, collectively known as “Mercy Corps”, which consists of three main entities: Mercy Corps, a/k/a Mercy Corps Global (MCG), a not-for-profit organisation with headquarters in the US, Mercy Corps Netherlands, an Association organized under the laws of the Netherlands and Mercy Corps Europe, the UK entity.

Business and Supply Chain

Mercy Corps exists to alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities.

As of 30 June 2018, Mercy Corps Europe employs 130 persons and Mercy Corps globally has over 5,500 team members.

Mercy Corps’ supply chain comprises sub-grantees, partner organisations, contractors, outside experts (including lawyers), consultants, agents, representatives and any other organisation or individual that acts on Mercy Corps’ behalf or at Mercy Corps’ direction, known collectively as “Partners”.

Mercy Corps works in over 40 countries and procures a wide range of goods and services from suppliers around the world, including suppliers directly or indirectly in countries deemed to be higher risk on the Global Slavery Index.

Mercy Corps engages in partnerships with communities, government agencies, private businesses and civil society organisations. Partnering can take different forms but the most common types of partnerships entered

into by Mercy Corps are strategic partnerships, capacity-building partnerships and project-specific partnerships.

Policies and Procedures

Mercy Corps has policies in place to minimize the risk of modern slavery in its supply chain.

Code of Conduct

Mercy Corps' Code of Conduct reflects the values of Mercy Corps and details the high standards of behaviour and conduct expected. The Code of Conduct applies to Members of Mercy Corps' Boards of Directors, officers, management, employees, seconded employees, interns and volunteers, (collectively "Team Members"); Sub-recipients, partner organizations, contractors, outside experts (including lawyers), consultants, agents, representatives, and any other organization or individual that acts on Mercy Corps' behalf or at Mercy Corps' direction (collectively "Partners"); and visitors to any Mercy Corps facilities, which includes photographers, filmmakers, journalists, researchers, donors and prospective donors, and anyone else hosted by Mercy Corps or visiting Mercy Corps' implemented or financially supported programmes (collectively "Partners").

The undertakings in this code that are relevant to the prevention of modern slavery are the commitments to:

- Interact with other team members with a spirit of equality and mutual respect, refraining from behaviour which could be perceived as discrimination on the basis of race, colour, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, national or ethnic origin, disability including HIV/AIDS status, marital status, veteran status, or gender reassignment status, in keeping with Mercy Corps' Equal Opportunity and Diversity policy.
- Treat all people with dignity (including team members, participants and the populations of host countries in which Mercy Corps works) and avoiding any behaviour which could be construed as harassment or bullying. Refrain from engaging in any activity which may be exploitative or intimidating.
- For employees, any breach of the Code of Conduct may lead to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. For non-employee team members, any breach may lead to early termination of the assignment.
- Respect local laws and customs.

Mercy Corps Anti-Trafficking Policy

Mercy Corps is committed to a work environment and operations that are free from human trafficking and exploitation. Human trafficking and exploitation are wholly contrary to Mercy Corps mission. Mercy Corps will not allow human trafficking or slavery in any part of our global organisation or with any of our partners. This policy sets forth the expectations we have of our team members to avoid engagement of, complicity in, or benefiting from human trafficking.

Mercy Corps Child Safeguarding Policy

Mercy Corps has a special obligation to ensure the safety and dignity of all children it comes into contact with through its work. This policy reinforces our commitment to the best interests of children. This policy states Mercy Corps' expectations regarding team members' desirable conduct with children and what conduct is prohibited. It also states the process and procedures that Mercy Corps will maintain to ensure that team members uphold its standards and how cases of misconduct are identified, reported and addressed in an appropriate and timely manner.

Mercy Corps Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Beneficiaries and Community Members Policy

Mercy Corps is committed to ensuring that all individuals we come into contact with through our work, whether team members, host community members, participants (beneficiaries) or others, are treated with respect and dignity. We expect team members, visitors and partners to put the well-being and best interests of its beneficiaries as the highest priority, to treat all beneficiaries and host community members with respect and dignity, and to never engage in conduct that could be perceived as abusive, exploitative or harassing. We expect management and all team members to fully foster a culture that supports this standard. We will not tolerate sexual exploitation, abuse, or harassment by our team Members, visitors or anyone else receiving Mercy Corps resources.

This policy sets forth our expectations of personal and professional behaviour related to sexual exploitation and/or abuse of beneficiaries and community members and the required procedures to ensure we uphold our commitment to preventing such conduct.

Mercy Corps Prevention of Sexual Misconduct in the Workplace Policy

Mercy Corps is committed to a work environment in which everyone is treated with respect and dignity. We strive to maintain a culture of caring which looks to ensure the emotional and physical safety of our teams and anyone else we work with. We strive for a diverse and inclusive working environment and expect that working relationships are based on or built around mutual respect, professionalism, and are free from sexual harassment and/or and sexual assault. We will not tolerate sexual harassment or assault by or of team members anywhere in the world.

This policy sets out Mercy Corps' prohibitions against sexual harassment and sexual assault and the required procedures to ensure Mercy Corps upholds its commitment to preventing sexual harassment and assault by and of team members. This policy is intended to ensure that all team members around the world are held to a common minimum standard and that all allegations of violations and decisions regarding disciplinary measures are handled in a manner as consistent as possible. The policy applies globally without regard to local cultural practices or social norms.

Mercy Corps' Anti-Fraud Policy

Mercy Corps prohibits and takes a zero tolerance stance towards all forms of corruption, including fraud, theft, embezzlement, unapproved conflicts of interest, false claims and bribery. Employees who engage or assist in any form of corruption will be subject to disciplinary actions, up to termination, and may be subject to criminal prosecution. Partners will be in breach of their agreement with Mercy Corps and may have their agreements terminated, be prohibited from working with Mercy Corps in the future and/or be subject to criminal prosecution.

Mercy Corps Anti Bribery Law

Mercy Corps prohibits and takes a zero tolerance stance towards accepting or requesting any form of bribe from any person or organisation and giving, offering, promising, authorising or assisting any form of bribe to any employee of any organisation, including any government official.

Mercy Corps' Whistle-blower Policy

Achieving Mercy Corps' mission of alleviating suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities requires all of us to perform with the highest personal and professional ethical conduct. The culture we strive to create at Mercy Corps requires caring deeply and recognizing that every voice matters. This policy serves to guide team members who have specific concerns that our common commitments to ethical conduct may be at risk. It addresses how team members can report specific concerns, the protections against retaliation for reporting, and how Mercy Corps will address reports.

Mercy Corps Field Procurement Policy and Procedures (FP3)

The Mercy Corps Field Procurement Policy and Procedures (FP3) is committed to implementing and maintaining the highest standards of efficiency and integrity in the procurement of goods, services, and works. It includes, as one of its core principles, that Mercy Corps will only select suppliers that uphold basic social rights and working conditions based on international labour standards and that do not engage in human trafficking or child labour.

Mercy Corps screens suppliers against required restricted party lists, as well as Mercy Corps' Graylist using third party software as defined by Mercy Corps' Ineligibility and Compliance Checking (ICC) Policy and mandatory procedures. The Procurement department is responsible for ensuring that Mercy Corps' ICC policies and procedures are followed in the supplier selection process.

Mercy Corps' contract terms include a specific clause under which suppliers acknowledges that they must comply with Mercy Corps' and Donors' principles of Ethical Procurement, including adhering to the minimum ethical standards of the avoidance of child labour and the respect of basic social rights and working conditions based on international labour standards.

Policies and Procedures in place for working with Partner Organisations

Mercy Corps has in place policies and procedures for working with partner organisations which are designed to reduce the risk of modern slavery and human trafficking. These are compiled in the Subaward Financial Management Manual.

This Manual comprises the Mercy Corps Due Diligence process for partner organisations that contains assessments of their financial and programmatic capacity, systems and processes. These assessments include sections on Safeguarding and Ethics, HR and procurement.

Mercy Corps' sub-awards agreements entered into with partner organisations include specific clauses that ensure that they must comply with Mercy Corps' Code of Conduct and related policies and procedures.

Community Accountability and Reporting Mechanisms (CARMs)

Mercy Corps is committed to preventing all forms of exploitation and abuse. We will create accessible and effective reporting mechanisms so that our participants (beneficiaries) and the communities in which we work are able to report disturbing situations or behaviours related to our team members, partners or programmes, as well as any unlawful situations and behaviours. Community Accountability Reporting Mechanisms are an essential part of Mercy Corps' commitment to excellence and integrity.

Mercy Corps Response

Mercy Corps works in many countries that are affected by conflict, weak governance, poverty, migration and these contexts present an elevated risk of modern slavery and human trafficking. Mercy Corps takes appropriate measures to safeguard against these risks through our supply chain and recruitment procedures and through monitoring by country level teams, internal audit and external statutory audits.

Mercy Corps raises awareness of slavery and human trafficking through its policies and training. As part of the on-boarding process, Mercy Corps informs all team members about the commitment to combating trafficking-related activities and what actions are prohibited. Additionally, online and in-person training and guides on our policies are available for team members and partners. Flyers that set out our requirements on prohibited conduct and how to report it are also displayed in a visible location in all Mercy Corps offices.

This statement is made pursuant to section 54 (1) of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and constitutes Mercy Corps Europe's modern slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year 01 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 and covers all the activities of Mercy Corps Europe.

Approved by the Board on 20 June 2019



Signed on behalf of the Board by Dr Nicholas Blazquez, Chairman