

## Share your dilemmas and experience in the context of humanitarian action

*- Invitation to Case Contributions -*

- *Have you ever experienced, during your work, situations that made you feel morally uncomfortable?*
- *Have you been forced by the circumstances to chose between options which did not seem right to you?*
- *Have you felt to be confronted with a moral dilemma?*

Typically, ethically problematic situations in humanitarian action and disaster relief operations emerge in the following contexts or can be the result of factors relating to contexts such as:

- Allocating limited or scarce resources
- Influence of historical, political, and social factors of the environment
- Conflicting aid agency policies and agendas of other actors
- Diverse economic interests and restraints
- Differing norms and expectations with regard to the health care personnel

Have you ever experienced such a problematic situation in your professional life? If so, please share it with our research group and let your experience inspire our work.

### **About us**

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#### *About the COST action*

The COST Action IS1201 “Disaster Bioethics” aims to improve ethical decision-making for disasters by gathering knowledge of the ethical dilemmas and issues, carefully examining them, and developing training materials and published resources to address disaster ethics. These outputs shall assist policy-makers, humanitarian organizations, healthcare professionals, researchers and the public.

The Action will benefit European citizens, organizations and States who already provide extensive resources for disaster relief. Thereby, the Action seeks to benefit those affected by disasters which disproportionately impact lower income countries and the more vulnerable within those regions.

### *Who we are*

The COST Action consists of researchers from different academic disciplines and practitioners coming from 28 European countries. All of us are working in projects related to disaster bioethics and the COST Action gives us an opportunity to connect our projects in order to achieve a common goal.

### **What we are looking for: dilemmas experienced**

In order to achieve our stated goals and to orient our research to the practical needs and the real-world challenges, we would like to learn from your experience. Let us know what the real dilemmas are in the field and in what kind of situations you most often feel moral stress.

### **Formal Aspects**

Your case summaries should have around 250-500 words. The cases should describe the context and the relevant background information on the situation. Anonymization of personal names and names of organizations should already be completed. Names of cities may also be removed or changed, but identifying the country in which the case is set might be pertinent to the context of the case.

You can either send your case and identify yourself as the author and name possible co-authors to our email [case-reports@disasterbioethics.eu](mailto:case-reports@disasterbioethics.eu) – or, you can also send your case anonymously without giving any identities via the contact form which is available at <http://disasterbioethics.eu/index.php/contact/report-cases-and-experience>

**Strict confidentiality** about the sender will be kept if you request us to do so.

### **Deadline**

As long as the COST action's working group is active, this is a permanent call with no deadline given. However, early contributions are most welcome as they would allow us to adapt our research and to take them into account.

### **Contact & Further Questions**

For any questions, feel free to contact Daniel Messelken ([messelken@ethik.uzh.ch](mailto:messelken@ethik.uzh.ch)) or Caroline Clarinval ([caroline.clarinval@ethik.uzh.ch](mailto:caroline.clarinval@ethik.uzh.ch)).

You may also visit our website <http://www.disasterbioethics.eu/> to get more detailed information about the COST Action and its current activities and goals.