

## Ethics Framework for Innovation

<b>1</b>	<b>Identify the problem</b>
	Clearly <b>identify the problem</b> you are seeking to address, and what benefit you expect the innovation to have. As stated, if this will involve human subjects or their data, Ethics Review Board oversight is generally required.
<b>2</b>	<b>Ensure that the innovation shows respect for human dignity</b>
	This is a primary principle. The focus of concern must be a respect for human beings. It is a broad concept but involves showing due respect for the multiple and overlapping interests of those affected by any innovation. As discussed above, it extends beyond a concern for physical wellbeing to include psychological and cultural integrity. It also incorporates a concern for individual privacy and a respect for the confidentiality of people's data.
<b>3</b>	<b>Involve the end user from the start of the process</b>
	Innovation should be driven by the requirements of the user. The innovation cycle should be participatory, using methods to involve relevant individuals and communities. Innovators must be sensitive to power dynamics between and within cultures.
<b>4</b>	<b>Identify and balance benefits and harms</b>
	<p>When considering innovations, a critical first step is the identification, as far as is reasonably possible, of potential harms along with the anticipated benefits. The next step involves weighing and balancing these harms and benefits.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Where reasonably foreseeable harms outweigh the likely benefits, implementation will not be ethical. Potential harms include, but must not be restricted to, physical and psychological harms to individuals. There is also need to consider potential harm to communities.</li> <li>b. Where innovation involves a favourable balance of benefits and harms, all reasonable steps must be taken to minimise the harms as far as possible. Unnecessary harms must be eliminated. Where harms are unavoidable, those affected should be informed of the nature and severity of the risks involved.</li> <li>c. Conflicted partnerships or conflicts of interest may result in reputational harm to the organisation. If these are identified, Ethics Review Board oversight is recommended</li> </ol>
<b>5</b>	<b>Consider the distribution of harms and benefits.</b>
	Innovators need to give careful consideration to the distribution of benefits and harms associated with their projects. Do the risks or benefits fall unfavourably on certain groups? If so, is it appropriate to proceed, and how can these inequalities of distribution be addressed or mitigated? Equally, it is important that the innovation takes into account vulnerable groups. Justice can entail giving particular attention to those who have particular needs. Just as we tend to give more health care to the unwell, so particular attention may need to be given to those who are vulnerable or who may not be able to protect their own interests.
<b>6</b>	<b>Have an evaluation and roll-out plan</b>
	Establish what information is required for subsequent decisions to implement or scale-up the innovation, and design the <b>evaluation plan</b> accordingly. For MSF, innovation involves the creation or implementation of new products or processes to improve quality of care. Innovation requires an acceptance of the risk of failure – not all innovation projects will achieve their desired outcome. But in all cases, we can learn and apply these lessons in the future. Given the time, energy and resources that these projects require, rigorous evaluation and sharing of lessons is itself a moral obligation. Likewise there should be a willingness and strategy for full / wider implementation of the innovation if found to be successful, and <b>commitment to ensure beneficiaries have access to the innovation</b> subsequently.