The Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) Standard (2007) provides an industry standard for humanitarian accountability, and combined with the voluntary certification scheme is a breakthrough in helping humanitarian agencies be more accountable to disaster-affected populations. The scheme is the result of more than six years of extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders from humanitarian agencies to disaster survivors.

The Guide to the HAP Standard and accompanying CD-ROM, provides a detailed explanation of the requirements of the Standard and of the certification process, and also features practical advice on implementing accountability benchmarks, best practice sections, useful references, and a glossary of technical terms. The full text of the HAP Standard is also included.

The Guide is a vital tool for agencies interested in improving their accountability and quality systems and for those wishing to attain HAP certification. It will also be useful to government departments involved in disaster management, and to international bodies interested in accountability and good practice in the humanitarian sector.

HAP is the humanitarian sector's first international self-regulatory body. Their mission is to make humanitarian action accountable to its intended beneficiaries through self-regulation, compliance verification, and quality assurance certification.

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