

Who are we?

The Focus Area for Compassion and Ethics (FACE) is a program of the Task Force for Global Health, inspired to bring compassion and ethics to the center of global health practice. In service of Task Force programs, FACE provides a systematic and independent approach for determining the appropriate level of ethical review and oversight for each project, in compliance with the U.S. Office for Human Research Protections (OHRP). This process is called the *Research Determination Process*, and it helps our organization ensure we uphold the highest ethical standards in our work.

What is the Research Determination Process?

The research determination process is central to our commitment to protect the rights and welfare of the people we serve. All projects involving research methodologies at the Task Force for Global Health receive an internal review. As such, TEPHINET will submit your project for internal determination, and we will review the project protocol and any accompanying materials and provide a determination that will help guide the project forward – to further review by a research ethics committee or IRB, for example, or to implementation. We also offer supportive feedback and consultation, as needed.

What guides the review?

The review process is necessarily guided by institutional policies and codes of conduct, U.S. federal regulations, international human research standards, professional organization ethics codes, and local requirements including, but not limited to:

- Institutional Human Research Protection Programs
- 46 CFR 46
- The Belmont Report
- Local Laws and Regulations

Also reflected in our review is the recognition that research and public health activities have a unique impact on individuals, families, and communities. Care for human dignity and respect for ethics principles can provide the foundation needed to navigate complex problems or questions that arise. Every endeavor should be made to honor these principles, and public health initiatives should be periodically reviewed to ensure that they remain central to our day-to-day practice.

Upholding Ethics – Together

Foundational to our mission are the strong partnerships between the Task Force for Global Health and its collaborators. We emphasize the importance of ethical sincerity and transparency among all involved partners and encourage open and honest communication, allowing for the fruitful exchange of ideas, concerns, and deliberation. Our shared commitment is a collaboration in good faith, with a proactive exchange of information, to ensure that ethics principles are upheld throughout the duration of our projects and throughout our partnership.