

# **AI Workflow Card: Safe and Effective Use Guide**

**A Practical Framework for Applying AI Responsibly in Humanitarian and Development Work**

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# Before You Start: Purpose, Structure and Limitations

## Purpose of This Tool

This guide provides a humanitarian staff member with a structured method to design, test, and document safe AI-assisted workflows. It is designed to help you move from "experimenting" with AI to using it responsibly for **routine text-based tasks**, consistent with your organisation's data protection standards.

## What Is In This Toolkit?

This document is divided into three practical sections:

**1. The Approved Data & System Checklist (Decision Aid)** A reflective set of questions to help you determine *before you start*:

- Is the AI tool I want to use approved?
- Is the data I want to process safe and appropriate?

**2. How to Use the AI Workflow Card (The Method)** A step-by-step guide on how to:

- Select the right task for automation.
- Build a "3-Step Prompt" (Role, Rules, Details) for consistent results.
- Verify the output using manual and automated checks.

**3. The AI Workflow Card (The Template)** A printable or digital form to document your prompt, your verification method, and your safety checks. This creates a repeatable "recipe" that you or your team can use safely in the future.

## Scope and Limitations

**This Tool Is Not Intended For High-Risk Workflows** This framework is strictly for routine, low-risk work (e.g., drafting summaries, formatting reports, editing non-sensitive text).

Do NOT use this workflow for content classified as Restricted or High-Risk. Common examples of content that must never be entered into AI tools without explicit authorization include:

- Protection or survivor information (including case management details).
- Security or access incidents (locations, movements, or specific threats).
- Sensitive HR matters (performance reviews, complaints, or salaries).
- Politically sensitive communications (donor negotiations or advocacy strategy).
- Identifiable Vulnerability Data (details about specific beneficiaries or households).

## Policy Compliance & "Default Stance"

Your organisation's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and AI usage policies are the final authority on what content is appropriate.

**⚠ Important:** The "Default Stance" If your organisation does not yet have a specific AI policy or guidance, you must treat all non-public information as Restricted. Do not input internal data into any AI system without clear, written approval from leadership.

*The ultimate responsibility for accuracy, appropriateness, and safe use of AI-generated content remains with the human user.*

# 1. Approved Data and System Checklist

*A reflective guide for humanitarian and development organisations*

This checklist supports informed, responsible decision-making when using AI systems for work-related tasks. It helps staff assess two essential questions:

1. **Is the AI system I am using approved by my organisation?**
2. **Is the content I want to process appropriate to enter into that system?**

Both conditions must be met before proceeding. This is a reflective tool, not a rulebook; organisational Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) remain the final authority.

## Understand the Nature of the Information

Before engaging an AI tool, consider both the *category* and the *sensitivity* of the information.

### A. Content Category

Ask yourself:

- What is the purpose of this information?
- Is it descriptive, operational, analytical, or administrative?
- Is this routine work content, or does it fall under a category requiring enhanced caution according to your organisation's SOPs?

Routine work content typically includes:

- Draft reports or programme updates
- Meeting notes and internal action points
- Templates, outlines, and presentation drafts
- General correspondence and email text
- Summaries and bullet points
- Non-sensitive contextual descriptions

Categories that often require additional consideration (refer to your organisation's specific guidance) include:

- Protection or safeguarding-related information
- Security, access, or operational risk content
- HR-sensitive information
- Strategic donor or partnership communications
- Case management information
- Content involving identifiable individuals or vulnerable groups

## B. Sensitivity Level

Reflect on:

- Could any part of this information identify individuals or communities?
- Does this information involve confidential, restricted, or politically sensitive issues?
- How does your organisation classify this category of content?

Content classification varies across organisations. Always refer to your organisation's SOPs and information management policies.

## Consider Who Could Be Affected

Assess who might be impacted if the AI misunderstands, simplifies, or reframes the information.

Consider whether:

- Misinterpretation could create risk or harm for beneficiaries, partners, or staff
- Omission of nuance might distort sensitive issues
- AI-generated phrasing could be misread by internal or external stakeholders
- The content involves trauma, power dynamics, cultural nuance, or contested narratives

This encourages ethical reflection. Many tasks involving safety, dignity, or sensitive decision-making require direct human judgement and should not be automated.

## Assess Organisational Policy Requirements

Most organisations classify information into categories such as *internal*, *confidential*, *restricted*, or *sensitive*. Review your organisation's policies and ask:

- How is this type of content classified?
- What does our AI usage policy or SOP state about using AI systems with this information?
- Do data protection, safeguarding, information security, or donor requirements apply?
- Are additional approvals required for this type of content?

- Have there been recent updates to AI or data policies?

If uncertain, consult your Data Protection Officer, Digital/IT team, or programme leadership before proceeding.

## Confirm That the AI System Is Approved

System approval and content appropriateness are separate considerations.

**Approved enterprise systems (e.g., Copilot 365 Enterprise, ChatGPT Enterprise, Gemini for Workspace Enterprise, Claude for Teams) operate under contractual data protection agreements. This generally means:**

- Data is processed within secure organisational environments
- Data is not used to train public models
- Routine, non-sensitive work content can typically be processed without anonymisation

Examples of routine content in approved systems (confirm with your organisation):

- Draft reports and programme updates
- Non-sensitive meeting notes
- Templates and outlines
- Email content and internal correspondence
- Summaries and bullet points
- Presentation drafts

## Categories requiring confirmation with your organisation before use

These categories often carry specific restrictions, but policies vary. Confirm before proceeding:

- Protection, safeguarding, and case information
- Security or access-related incidents
- HR-sensitive matters
- Strategic communications, donor negotiations, or political analysis
- Content involving identifiable individuals or vulnerable communities

If you cannot confirm the policy for a given content type, pause and seek guidance.

## Before using any AI system, confirm:

- The tool appears on your organisation's approved list
- You are authenticated with your official account (not a personal one)
- You have checked your organisation's SOPs or AI usage guidance for this content type
- You have consulted your supervisor or Data Protection/IT team if uncertain

If using a non-approved or personal system, organisational policies typically prohibit entering any work-related content.

## Evaluate Whether the Task Can Be Completed with Less Information

Data minimisation is good practice. Ask:

- Is the AI able to help if I generalise the content?
- Can I remove specific details and still accomplish the task?
- Would a template, outline, or description be sufficient?

For approved systems handling routine content, full text may be appropriate. For sensitive content, minimisation or abstraction may be required.

## Comparison of Approved and Non-Approved Systems

Category	Approved Enterprise Systems	Non-Approved or Personal Systems
Data Protection	Covered by organisational agreements	Not covered; data may be used for training
Suitable Content	General internal, non-sensitive text	Only anonymised or public text
Sensitive Data	Prohibited	Prohibited
Recommended Use	Routine workflows	Learning, experimentation only
Risk Level	Low to Moderate	High

### Compliance Note

Work-related content must only be processed in systems that are approved under your organisation's data protection and responsible AI frameworks.

This is a core requirement for safeguarding individuals, programmes, and institutional integrity.

## 2. How to Use the AI Workflow Card

This section explains **how to fill in the AI Workflow Card** and how to **safely use** the workflow in your day-to-day work.

### Choose the Right Workflow

Pick **one** workflow where AI can realistically help and that is:

- Text-based (writing, summarising, structuring, translating, etc.)

- Repetitive (you do it regularly)
- Appropriate per your organisation's policies (check your SOPs)
- Easy for you to check and correct

Good examples:

- Summarising weekly or monthly updates
- Drafting or rewriting parts of donor reports
- Turning rough notes into bullet points
- Drafting simple email replies
- Drafting short programme or MEAL briefs
- Preparing a presentation outline

Check your organisation's SOPs before using AI for workflows involving:

- Protection or safeguarding-related information
- Security or access incidents
- Sensitive HR matters
- Strategic donor or political communications
- Case management information
- Any content your organisation classifies as restricted

Common examples that often require additional caution or are not appropriate for AI use (depending on your organisation's policy) include:

- Protection cases or survivor information
- Security incidents
- Performance reviews or HR complaints
- Political analysis or donor negotiations

When you cannot confirm whether content is appropriate, be safe and consult your supervisor or IT/Digital team before proceeding.

You'll write the name of this task and why it matters in **Section 1 of the card**.

## Build Your Prompt Using the 3-Step Method

On the card, you'll design **one clear prompt** you can reuse for this task.

### STEP 1 – ROLE

Describe who the AI should act as, so it behaves consistently. For example:

- "You are a clear-writing reporting assistant."
- "You are a MEAL analyst who summarises monitoring findings."
- "You are a communications assistant who rewrites text in simple English."

You'll write this in the **ROLE** field.

## STEP 2 – RULES

Add a small number of copy-paste rules that tell the AI *how* to work.  
You'll write these in the **RULES** field and later copy them into your prompt.

Examples you can use:

### Format rules (choose 1–3):

- “Write in bullet points.”
- “Keep the response under 150 words.”
- “Use clear headings.”
- “Write short, simple sentences.”
- “Use a table format.”

### Tone rules (choose 1–2):

- “Use a neutral, professional tone.”
- “Write in clear, simple English.”
- “Remove jargon.”

### Safety & behaviour rules (choose 2–4):

- “Do not make assumptions or add information.”
- “Highlight missing or unclear information.”
- “Keep all content anonymised.”
- “Ask clarifying questions if the input is incomplete.”
- “List any uncertainties clearly.”

## STEP 3 – DETAILS

Prepare the input you will provide to the AI.

If using an approved system with routine content:

- You can use full content as needed for the task
- Data protection is covered by enterprise agreements

If your organisation requires extra caution for certain content:

- Use anonymised versions (placeholders like "Staff A", "Location X")
- Remove or redact specific identifiers

Partical Tip: Instead of just removing names, try to aggregate data (e.g., 'reporting on trends across three districts' rather than 'a specific incident in one village').

## Verification (Your Quality Control)

Before using AI output, you **must verify** it.  
This protects against assumptions, invented information, or tone issues.



You can verify in **three simple ways** — use one or combine all three.

## A. Manual Review (Always Required)

Check the AI's output yourself, asking:

### Accuracy Check

- Did the AI add anything that wasn't in your input?
- Did it remove something important?
- Does the text misrepresent any points?

### Tone Check

- Is it neutral, professional, and appropriate for your intended audience?

### Safety Check

- Is the content handled in line with your organisation's data protection rules (for example, anonymised where required)?
- Is anything too sensitive to include?

*If something feels "off," trust your judgement — correct it manually.*

## B. Second-AI Cross-Check (Optional but Extremely Useful)

Ask a *different AI model* (or a new chat) to check the output.

Use this **copy-paste prompt**:

"Review the text below.

List any assumptions, inaccuracies, missing information, invented content, or places where the model may have guessed.

Do not rewrite — only analyse."

Paste your output beneath it.

This catches errors the first AI missed.

### Example cross-check pairs:

- Draft in ChatGPT → Verify in Gemini
- Draft in Copilot → Verify in ChatGPT
- Draft in Gemini → Verify in Claude

## C. Structured Verification Prompt (In the Same Chat)

Use this **copy-paste prompt** to verify inside the *same* tool:

“Check your previous output for assumptions, invented details, unclear statements, or anything not supported by the input.  
List your findings clearly.”

This forces the model to audit itself.

## Combine Methods for Best Results

For low-risk tasks (summaries, rewriting, structuring):  
→ Manual review + structured verification prompt

For medium-risk tasks (donor reports, MEAL summaries, SMT briefs):  
→ Manual review + cross-check in second AI

For learning/testing workflows:  
→ Cross-check + structured verification prompt

## What You Should Document on the Workflow Card

In the **Verification & Human Oversight** section of the card, they should write:

- WHICH method(s) they will use
- WHY they chose those methods
- HOW they will check for assumptions
- WHO will review if the content is sensitive
- HOW they will finalise the output safely

### Example entry on the card:

“I will manually review the output for tone & accuracy, then cross-check using Gemini to identify assumptions or errors. Final text must be validated by me before use.”

WARNING: Only use the 'Second-AI' method if the second tool is ALSO on your organisation's approved/enterprise list. Never paste work content into a personal/free AI tool for verification.

## Test & Review Your Workflow (Mandatory Step)

*Before you use this workflow in your day-to-day work, you should run it once and check the output carefully.*

### Step 1 — Test Your Prompt Once

Take your prepared input text (in line with your organisation's policies, or a blank template) and run your full 3-Step Prompt.

This is to check if:

- The AI understands your instructions

- The format is correct
- The tone is appropriate
- The output is close to what you expected

This is **not extra work** — it is simply checking that your workflow actually works.

## Step 2 — Review the Output Critically

Ask yourself:

### Did the AI follow the *Role*?

Does it behave like the assistant you described (reporting assistant, MEAL analyst, etc.)?

### Did it respect the Rules?

- Bullet points?
- Word limits?
- Neutral tone?
- No assumptions?
- No invented details?

### Is anything unsafe?

- Did it add information you didn't provide?
- Did it infer locations or details?
- Did it include anything inappropriate for your organisation's context or intended audience?

### Is the output useful?

- Clear and easy to edit?
- Saves time?
- Meaningful improvement over your usual workflow?

## Step 3 — Adjust Your Workflow (If Needed)

If anything is off, update one or more of the following:

- The **Role** → make it clearer
- The **Rules** → add/remove instructions
- The **Details** → improve how you phrase your input
- The **Format** → headings, bullets, table, etc.

These refinements are simple and take 1–2 minutes.

You can bring your improved version to Session 2 — we'll refine them together.

## Why This Matters

This quick test helps ensure your workflow is:

- Safe
- Predictable
- Useful
- Easy to repeat
- Ready for real work

A workflow that works once → will work every week.

## 3. Template AI Workflow Card

### Team & Workflow Context

**Team / Department:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Workflow Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Purpose of This Workflow:**

**Frequency:**

☐ Daily ☐ Weekly ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ As needed

**Current Time Cost:** \_\_\_\_\_ per task

**Estimated Time Saved With AI:** \_\_\_\_\_ per week / \_\_\_\_\_ per month

**Target Audience:**

☐ SMT ☐ Donor ☐ Internal team ☐ Cluster/sector ☐ External partners

**Expected Output Format:**

☐ Bullets ☐ Short paragraph ☐ Structured brief ☐ Table ☐ PPT outline ☐ Email ☐

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### Approved AI Tool

☐ ChatGPT ☐ Copilot 365 ☐ Claude ☐ Gemini

☐ Other (approved): \_\_\_\_\_

## Build Your Prompt (3-Step Method)

### STEP 1 — ROLE

“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

## STEP 2 — RULES (copy/paste the ones you will use)

### Format Rules:

“ ”

“ ”

### Tone Rules:

“

”

### Safety & Behaviour Rules:

“ ”

“ ”

### Your Own Rule:

“

”

## STEP 3 — DETAILS (Safe, Anonymised Text)

Paste or describe your safe input:

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## Full Prompt (Copy–Paste Ready)

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## AI Output (Optional)

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### Usefulness:

☐ Very useful ☐ Mostly useful ☐ Needs improvement ☐ Not useful

### Accuracy:

☐ Accurate ☐ Minor issues ☐ Missing key info ☐ Invented information

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## Verification & Human Oversight

**Verification Method(s) I Will Use:**

- ☐ Manual review
- ☐ Second-AI cross-check
- ☐ Structured verification prompt
- ☐ Supervisor/colleague review
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**My Final Human Check Before Use:**

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**Risks & Safeguards**

This Workflow Is NOT Suitable For (per my organisation's policies):

- ☐ Protection or safeguarding-related content
- ☐ Security or access information
- ☐ Sensitive HR matters
- ☐ Content my organisation classifies as restricted
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

I have confirmed this workflow is appropriate by:

- ☐ Checking my organisation's AI usage SOPs
- ☐ Consulting with my supervisor/IT team

avoid ☐ Reviewing the Approved Data and System Checklist