

Humanitarian standards for everyone

Sphere is a global movement that sets minimum standards for principled humanitarian action and promotes quality and accountability.

Sphere brings together people and communities affected by crisis with volunteers and aid workers in front-line roles, as well as humanitarian organisations, community groups, trainers, donors, policy makers, academics, UN agencies, government actors and more.

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Above: Relief distribution operation in Quezon Province where communities were severely affected by Super Typhoon Noru (known locally as Karding), Philippines, September 2022.

Cover illustration based on photos from Community World Service Asia: Women headed households were among the priority group for the hygiene distribution component for the flood affected population in Sindh. Community World Service Asia partnered with Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D) and Canadian Foodgrains Bank to implement a Humanitarian, Early Recovery and Development (HERD) program to support drought and climate change impact communities with food provision and sustainable agricultural inputs.

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1. Annual priorities

Sphere's priorities for 2022, which are aligned with its 2021-2025 Strategy:

A. Sphere Standards

To promote increased awareness, understanding, accessibility, localisation, ownership, application and review of Sphere standards across diverse contexts globally.

B. Sphere Community and Membership

To enhance the ownership and application of Sphere standards by expanding, diversifying and strengthening our global Sphere community of purpose and practice, and deepening their engagement with locally led response.

C. Humanitarian Standards

To be a convenor, thought leader and global resource on humanitarian standards. To promote and facilitate collaboration and best practice across humanitarian standards to ensure quality and accountability in the sector and better respond to the needs of users and communities. To influence the inclusion of humanitarian standards in national, global and donor policies.

D. Accountability, Evidence, Impact and Learning

To promote accountability and learning, and better understand and articulate the evidence for and impact of Sphere standards.

2. Context

Following two years of disruption due to COVID-19, life started to return to normal – or a new normal – for some people in 2022. However, the pandemic was still ongoing at the end of 2022 and its impacts were still being felt in many contexts where COVID-19 overlaid other pre-existing and emerging crisis risks as humanitarian needs remained at historically high levels.

On Friday 24 February 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

In the words of Jan Egeland, secretary general of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), "There is no sensible humanitarian group who would say that they are not, at the moment, fully funded for Ukraine. And none of them would say that they have enough funding for, say, Somalia". While Sphere worked to ensure the application of minimum humanitarian standards in Ukraine and Eastern Europe, it was careful to maintain a global focus, supporting initiatives in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and the Middle East.

Sphere has advocated over many years to increase the efficiency, localisation and accountability of humanitarian assistance, and while Sphere is rooted in the humanitarian sector, it recognises the importance of building bridges with development, peace and environment actors.

Sphere is committed to compiling and sharing evidence of the positive impacts of applying humanitarian principles and standards to humanitarian programming, and will make progress towards this objective during 2023. In the meantime, this annual report includes a new section, **Sphere Network Updates**, which provides some evidence of such impacts through the testimonies of various members of the global community.

3. Progress on annual priorities

A. Sphere Standards

i) In response to the conflict in Ukraine, Sphere initiated a **programme for Eastern Europe**, including translating the Handbook into Ukrainian, Polish, Slovak and Romanian; and disseminating the minimum standards in Ukraine and neighbouring countries.

ii) Handbook translations initiated by the Sphere global community are an indicator of the continued relevance and demand for Sphere standards. **Lingala, Congo Swahili, Tshiluba, Kikongo**, Hungarian, Dari and **Traditional Chinese** Handbooks were completed, further supporting local uptake of the standards and bringing the total number of 2018 Sphere Handbook translations to 21 (including English). A further ten new language translations are in progress.

iii) Sphere supported its trainer and focal point networks to deliver Sphere Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes in **South-Eastern Europe**, the **Republic of Ireland** and the **Republic of Korea (ROK)**.

Photo: Sphere trainer Uma Narayanan leads a Sphere ToT in the Republic of Korea.



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iv) Sphere delivered the first ever French-language **Sphere in Practice Massive Open Online Course (MOOC)** connecting over 1,000 learners mostly from Francophone Africa.

v) Sphere created a new **Thematic sheet: Engaging National Disaster Management Authorities (NDMAs)** in response to demand from the Sphere network. This guide presents best practices on how to engage with government agencies and local authorities around humanitarian standards and quality and accountability issues.

vi) Sphere engaged network members in LAC to develop and test a new **training package for working with NDMAs** to accompany the Thematic sheet. This was developed in Spanish and subsequently translated into English, French and Arabic (abridged versions).

vii) The two new NDMA products were launched in a bi-lingual Spanish and English webinar.

viii) Sphere launched the Sphere in Practice self-paced 10-hour online course in **Arabic** – to join the English, French and Spanish versions. Demand for self-paced online Sphere learning remained strong with 5,662 new registrations on Sphere’s learning platform during 2022.

ix) In collaboration with the Sphere **trainer community**, a new **online Sphere training package** was developed and released in English, French and Spanish.

x) Sphere worked with the German Red Cross to develop a new Sphere for Urban Settings training package. Sphere trainer **Aya Yagan** was supported to lead pilot workshops and present the project at the German Risk Reduction Conference. The training package will be launched in early 2023.

xi) Following a **web content accessibility audit** at the end of 2021, Sphere resolved 75 issues on the **Sphere website** resulting in a more accessible platform.

B Sphere Community and Membership

i) Sphere welcomed two additional focal points – in Haiti (**Christian Aid**) and Moldova (**Caritas**) – to its growing global network.

ii) Sphere organisational membership expanded with seven new member organisations including **PALPER asbl** (Democratic Republic of the Congo), **International Blue Crescent** (Turkey), **Solidarite des Femmes pour le Bien-être et le Progrès** (Burundi), **SHIFA Welfare Association** (Pakistan) and **DPNet-Nepal**. Sphere also had around 40 individual members in 2022.

iii) Twelve new trainers – from Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, France, Switzerland, Turkey and Venezuela – were welcomed to the community of **listed Sphere trainers**.

iv) Following elections in late 2021, Sphere co-opted four additional members into its **Governing Board** to increase diversity of experience and expertise.

v) Sphere continued to support local ownership of standards by providing grants, guidance and technical assistance to locally led focal point activities, including:

- a regional meeting of Asia Sphere focal points in Bangkok in December, hosted by **CWSA**;
- workshops for government officials in the Democratic Republic of Congo in Goma in **June** and **July** and one for 80 representatives of people displaced by conflict, organised and facilitated by **BIFERD**;
- a workshop on localising Sphere training materials in Indonesia, followed by four online Introduction to Sphere workshops; and
- A series of **online meetings to celebrate 20 years of Sphere in LAC** in collaboration with several focal points in the region.

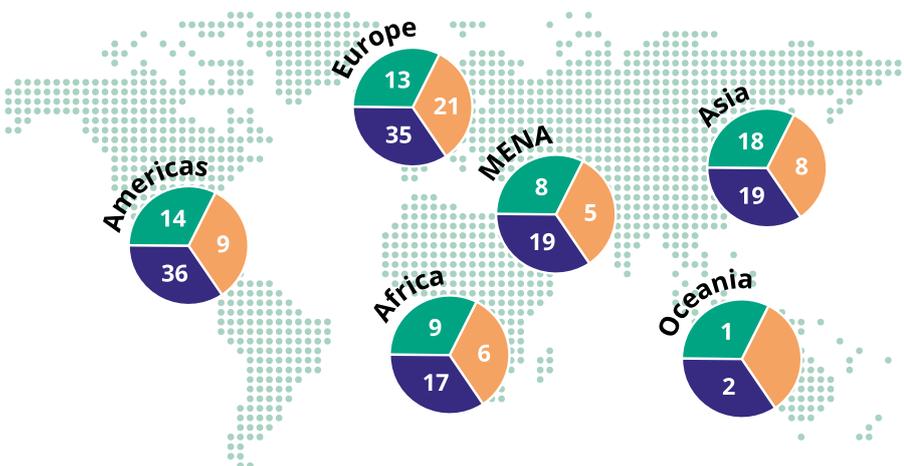
vi) Sphere supported the emergence of a locally-led initiative – the **Africa Humanitarian Standards Network (AHSN)** – with a view to better coordinating humanitarian quality and accountability activities while promoting Sphere and other humanitarian standards across the African continent. In May 2022, the AHSN was officially launched in a **hybrid event** that gathered over 130 participants from 25 African countries.

vii) Sphere advanced discussions with a partner organisation in Europe which is expected to be granted Sphere Regional partner status in early 2023 – to join AHSN in Africa and Community World Service Asia (CWSA) in Asia.

viii) The Sphere network submitted 156 Sphere-related events to the **Sphere Calendar**, demonstrating the power of the network – notably focal points, trainers and members – to disseminate Sphere standards around the world.

ix) Sphere trainers participated in an online networking “**open space**” event using the wonder.me platform.

x) Sphere maintained its relationship with SIMEX, the largest humanitarian simulation in the United Kingdom, by offering **in-person and online workshops** facilitated by a local trainer and recent graduates of the **2021 Sphere ToT in Mozambique**.



■ Focal points
 ■ Organisational members
 ■ Trainers

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C. Humanitarian Standards

i) As one of the three copyright holders of the Core Humanitarian Standard, Sphere worked with Groupe URD and CHS Alliance to plan, launch and manage the revision process. Sphere worked with its network to organise online and face-to-face revision consultations in Burkina Faso, the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the **LAC region**, the Middle East and North Africa (**MENA**) region, **Niger** and **Zimbabwe**, as well as a global pilot event led from **Geneva**.

ii) Sphere continued to lead and coordinate the Humanitarian Standards Partnership (HSP), convening regular meetings with partners and promoting collaboration.

iii) The HSP gained one new member in 2022: SEADS Standards (standards for supporting crop-related livelihoods in emergencies) and launched the first HSP website.

iv) Sphere contributed to the European launch of the SEADS handbook which took place during the Food Security Cluster (FSC) annual global partners' meeting in Rome. Sphere subsequently joined the FSC as an associate member and entered the agriculture working group.

v) Sphere onboarded the LEGS (Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards) "Gender Module" self-paced online course to its **Learning Management System** (LMS) and rebranded the platform for the HSP.

vi) Led by Sphere, the HSP launched the **HSP Navigation tool**. Integrated into the **Interactive Handbook**, the tool provides thematic entry points called "Mapped themes" into the portfolio of HSP minimum standards.

vii) During 2022, the **Interactive Handbook** – the online home of humanitarian standards – was consulted 78,034 times. With thirteen additions during the year, the platform now hosts 35 documents: **Sphere** in 11 languages; Minimum Standards for Camp Management (**MSCM**) in 6; Minimum Economic Recovery Standards (**MERS**), Child Protection Minimum Standards (**CPMS**), and Humanitarian Inclusion Standards for Older People and People with Disabilities (**HIS**) in 4 each; and Minimum Standard for Market Analysis (**MISMA**), Livestock Emergency Guidelines (**LEGS**), Minimum Standards for Education (**INEE**), Standards for Crop-related

Livelihoods in Emergencies (**SEADS**), and 2 **Mapped themes** in English only.

viii) The usage dashboard on the Interactive Handbook was further enhanced to provide usage data disaggregated by language to help HSP partners better understand usage and demand.

ix) Sphere engaged with several initiatives which are developing additional humanitarian standards or guidance for users of humanitarian standards. As the HSP grows in recognition, more organisations seek to tap into Sphere's expertise and platforms. Sphere authored a document of best practice to guide conversations with potential new HSP partners.

x) Sphere worked with a cross-networking group consisting of the IFRC, the

Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR), **IUCN**, Friends of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (FEBA) and the Environment and Humanitarian Action (EHA) Network on "Nature-based solutions (NbS) for climate-based resilience in humanitarian action: a Sphere Unpacked Guide". The **new guide will be launched** during the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (**HNPW**) 2023.

D. Accountability, Evidence, Impact

i) Sphere practitioners shared their success stories, including from **Bolivia, Ecuador, Zimbabwe, Ukraine, Burkina Faso**, and **Nepal**, where Sphere focal point DPNet worked with the government of Nepal to offer Sphere training to more than 19,000 people between 2019 and 2022. Further testimonial evidence of the impacts of Sphere is presented in the **Sphere Network Updates** section below.

ii) Sphere started work on a **new case-study video** – filmed partly on location in Haiti by **Sphere's focal point in Germany** – to be added to the **Sphere in action** series in early 2023. The videos in this series demonstrate practical uses of Sphere, provide impact evidence, and are useful for Sphere training courses and workshops.

iii) The Sphere secretariat starting using the Salesforce Non-Profit Success Pack (NPSP) during the first half of 2022. The system will be increasingly used for Constituent Relationship Management (CRM), grant management, programme management, budgeting, and financial planning, resulting in more efficient internal processes, and a structured and accessible institutional memory.

iv) Through consultations with its network and desk research, Sphere started to gather and compile country-level information on where Sphere is embedded in the policy documents of national – including disaster management authorities and other ministries – and sub-national/local government actors.

v) Sphere's Head of Policy and Advocacy was replaced with a Head of Policy and Impact and Sphere secured earmarked funding for Impact Evaluation and Monitoring & Evaluation. These deliberate actions set the stage for advances in Sphere's ability to define, measure and provide evidence of impact from 2023 forwards.

Sphere resources published in 2022

NEW: National Disaster Management Authority (NMDA) Thematic sheet (in **English, French, Spanish** and **Arabic**)

NEW: NDMA Training pack (in **Spanish**, with abridged versions in **English, French** and **Arabic**)

NEW: Sphere online training package (in **English, French** and **Spanish**)

NEW: HSP website (in **English**)

NEW: HSP Navigation tool with Mapped themes (in **English**)

TRANSLATED: The Sphere Handbook (in **Lingala, Congo Swahili, Tshiluba, Kikongo**, Hungarian, Dari and **Traditional Chinese**)

TRANSLATED: Sphere in Practice self-paced online course (in **Arabic**)

TRANSLATED: Sphere in Context and for Assessment, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (in **French**)

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4. Communications and representation

4.1. Sphere continued to disseminate information, resources and materials on humanitarian standards and to advocate for their application globally. Sphere remains committed to producing most of its content in at least English, French, Spanish and Arabic, and encouraging and supporting the Sphere network to produce further translations and localised materials.

4.2. During the year, the **Sphere website** was visited 240,410 times by 169,969 unique users. The **HSP website**, launched during the fourth quarter, made a positive start, attracting 2,664 unique visitors by the end of the year.

4.3. Sphere added 17 articles to its **news feed** of which the most popular – read over 1,300 times during the year – was related to the **launch of the Core Humanitarian Standard revision**.

4.4. Sphere continued to engage with its global community through social media platforms, reaching 19,221 followers on Facebook (9.1% growth), 10,203 on Twitter (5.0% growth), 6,772 on LinkedIn (38.3% growth) and 4,650 on YouTube (15.1% growth).

4.5. Sphere added 15 public videos to **YouTube** during 2022 – including five unique items and 10 translations – which between them attracted over 1,400 views. In addition, the **French Sphere MOOC** generated 6 webinar recordings and 2 unique videos. In total, Sphere's YouTube channel had 41,121 views during the year.

4.6. Sphere ran seven mail campaigns during the year and continues to reach almost 98,000 subscribers.

4.7. The **Sphere Handbook** was downloaded from the Sphere website 34,364 times during 2022. There were 16,099 downloads of other documents from Sphere's **resource library**. Download figures are one indicator of global interest in Sphere products.

4.8. Sphere staff and **Governing Board** members were invited to present, join panel discussions and facilitate workshops on Sphere and the HSP, including for University of Colombo (Sri Lanka), **World Food Programme**, **KUNO** (Netherlands), **Arbeiter Samariter-Bund Haiti**, **USU F. Herbert School of Medicine** (USA) and **GCHS** (Switzerland).

Sphere in numbers

During 2022 there were:



172,633

visitors to the **Sphere** and **HSP** websites



78,034

consultations of the **Interactive Handbook**



50,463

downloads from the **Sphere website**



41,121

views on the **Sphere YouTube channel**



5,662

new registrations on the **learning platform**



156

Sphere-related events added to the **Sphere Calendar**



124

accessibility issues resolved on Sphere platforms

As of 31 December 2022, Sphere has:



97,712

Sphere newsletter subscribers



40,846

social media followers



132

listed trainers



58

focal points



48

full members



35

documents on the **Interactive Handbook**



9

partners in the **Humanitarian Standards Partnership**

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5. Featured activities

Sphere Ukraine response

Sphere secured a supplemental earmarked grant in June and initiated a one-year Programme for Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

The programme components were:

- 1) translating the Sphere Handbook into Ukrainian, Polish, Romanian and Slovak;
- 2) growing the Sphere network in Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic and Moldova;
- 3) organising pilot workshops in each of these five countries.

The Sphere network has grown steadily and organically over the last 25 years, and apart from Sphere's core languages (English, French, Spanish and Arabic), Handbook translations have typically been led by established focal points. Rapid and significant funding in response to the conflict in Ukraine enabled Sphere to employ a dedicated programme coordinator and quickly increase application of Sphere principles and standards in Eastern Europe – a model which Sphere will look to replicate elsewhere in 2023 and beyond.

The Sphere Handbook was enthusiastically received by workshop participants across Eastern Europe, though one common feedback was that they wish they'd known about it *before* the crisis. Despite Sphere being one of the best-known sets of humanitarian standards, there is evidently more work to do in terms of growing awareness.



Photo: Participants in a **Sphere workshop in Warsaw**, Poland, in December take part in an interactive activity to explore the structure of the Sphere Handbook and discover the other sets of standards in the HSP.

New regional partner for Africa

The Africa Humanitarian Standards Network (AHSN) was officially launched in Harare on Africa Day, 25 May 2022, marking 59 years since the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) was established, and 20 years since the OAU was succeeded by the African Union (AU).

The AHSN is a regional initiative established and led by a group of Sphere and other **Humanitarian Standards Partnership** (HSP) focal points in Africa. The project started in response to requests from Sphere's network of members, focal points, trainers and practitioners for regional mechanisms to facilitate knowledge exchange and joint projects. The **launch of the AHSN** is an important milestone for Sphere.

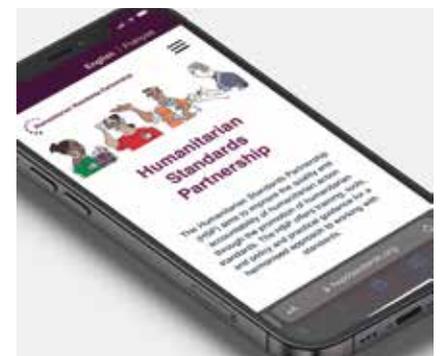
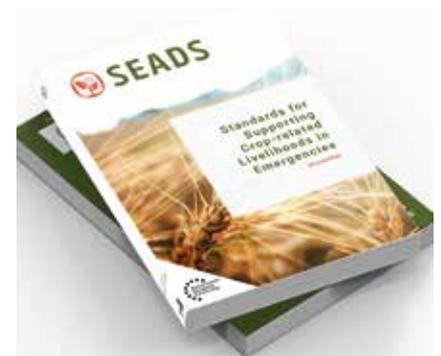


Photo: Sphere workshop participants in Maputo, Mozambique, at one of many training events in 2021 organised by the Centre for Humanitarian Analytics (CHA) which helped create the conditions and appetite for the birth of the AHSN.

HSP expands to include standards for crop-related livelihood responses and gets new website

Recognizing that **standards on effective crop-related crisis responses are highly relevant to supporting livelihoods in crises**, the HSP welcomed **SEADS Standards** – with their **Standards for Supporting Crop-related Livelihoods in Emergencies** – as a new partner in October 2022.

As with all HSP handbooks created or revised since 2018, the new handbook was “born digital” on the Handbook Digital Platform and, as such, was available even before launch as a draft document for public comments via the **Interactive Handbook**.



Led by Sphere, the first **HSP website** was **launched during 2022**. The new website (hspstandards.org) is a portal to products and services provided by the HSP and individual HSP partners. This site was audited for accessibility during the design process, and 49 out of 51 issues were resolved before launch making the site **highly accessible**.

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6. Reflections and insights

6.1. In 2021, the Sphere network identified working with NDMAs as the most important area on which they would like further guidance and discussion. Consequently, in 2022, Sphere oversaw the authoring of an **NDMA Thematic sheet** and an **NDMA training guide**, and organised a follow-up forum on this topic. A key realisation is that a focus on NDMAs is probably too narrow, as it is equally important for the Sphere network to work with local government and other decision makers, as well as civil protection actors.

6.2. Consultations in early 2023 will identify the latest most important themes for the Sphere network. Early indications are that small grants from the Sphere office to focal points are highly appreciated. This activity was piloted in 2021 and continued in 2022. Grants are typically below \$10,000 and cover less than 100% of focal point-led activity. Grantees reported that having a proportion of the funding secured from Sphere opened doors for them to raise the remaining funds. Into 2023 and beyond, Sphere would like to cautiously increase the number of grants, though is conscious of not fundamentally changing its operational model from a public service provider to a donor.

6.3. One of Sphere's focus areas in 2023 will be climate change. Specifically, in partnership with IFRC, IUCN, PEDRR, FEBA and EHA, Sphere will release a new **Sphere unpacked guide** in April titled Nature-based solutions (NbS) for Climate Resilience in Humanitarian Action. This guide is designed to introduce humanitarian professionals, notably Sphere practitioners, to NbS. During 2022, Sphere convened a cross-sector (humanitarian and environment) working group around the development of the guide. Sphere plays the dual roles of providing guidance and managing a community which links humanitarian and environment experts. In addition, Sphere expects to make progress in 2023 towards new standards and/or guidance for sustainable energy in humanitarian (and development) contexts.

6.4. The activities of focal points in relation to Sphere are typically translation, dissemination, capacity-building and advocacy. There was an increasing awareness during 2022 that these activities are closely linked. For example,

a short pilot workshop in a country with little Sphere presence generates appetite for longer workshops... which creates the conditions for a ToT... from which local trainers and focal points emerge... who translate materials and organise more workshops... which they use to advocate with decision makers like NDMAs... and once Sphere is referenced in disaster preparedness and response plans, the national Sphere network continues to work with the government and other organisations on nationwide dissemination.

6.5. From early 2022, Sphere has the means (Salesforce) to store data about network activities in a more structured and accessible format. This allows Sphere to better map and understand where focal points and national Sphere networks are in their journeys and to be more intentional about supporting and enabling them.

6.6. Beyond working with national focal points, one way that Sphere attempts to reduce power imbalances in the international humanitarian sector is by supporting regional partners. **CWSA** became Sphere's first regional partner in 2011. **AHSN** became the second in 2022, and Sphere will announce a new regional partner for South-Eastern Europe in 2023. Sphere's sights are firmly set on LAC and MENA to identify organisations that can unite the existing focal points and other partners, and further expand the Sphere networks in these regions.

The Sphere Approach

1. Always strive to do the best you can with the resources you have available.
2. Explain what your programme achieved, what you learned and what still needs to be done.
3. Advocate for more action and more resources.
4. Ensure that affected populations actively participate at all stages of your programme.
5. Be guided by the Sphere Handbook and related resources as you undertake actions 1 to 4.

6.7. Sphere discovered in 2022 – though discussions with its regional, national and local partners – that the Sphere Approach (see below) resonates particularly well with local and national humanitarian actors. They can apply the Approach in every context, including in settings where meeting standards, targets or other requirements presented in the Sphere Handbook is impossible (in the short term at least) for reasons beyond their control.

6.8. 2022 marked the **25th anniversary of the Sphere Project**. The 2018 edition of the Sphere Handbook was available, at the end of 2022, in 21 languages, and with ten more translations in progress, is set to break the record for the most-translated edition – a record which has been held by every previous edition in its turn. The rising number of locally-led translations is an important indicator of the popularity and continuing relevance of Sphere and the Sphere Handbook.

6.9. The foundation chapters – the Humanitarian Charter, the Protection Principles and the Core Humanitarian Standard – are key components of the Sphere Handbook. The ongoing CHS revision aims to bring the standard up to date in response to significant changes in the global context and policy environment since 2015. The revision will occupy plenty of Sphere's time during 2023, and the launch of the new version is set to be a highlight of the year.

6.10. The Sphere team is grateful to Sphere's President, Rita Rhayem, and the Governing Board for managing the Executive Director transition in the second half of 2022, and for supporting the secretariat through a period of high staff turnover. Sphere's small team of seven dedicated people, who support the Sphere network around the world, is feeling optimistic heading into 2023 and looking forward to new challenges and new opportunities.

6.11. One such opportunity is in the use of technology. Sphere committed in early 2022 to being an **advocate for accessibility**. In 2023, Sphere will step up its technology advocacy activities, noting that significant accessibility and sector-wide learning gains can be made by combining simple interfaces with cutting-edge technology.

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7. Sphere network updates

The pages above present the activities in which the Sphere secretariat played an active, supporting or enabling role. Because of the open-source and organic nature of the Sphere movement, Sphere-related activities are mostly locally-led with minimal assistance from the Sphere office.

The Sphere secretariat has not (yet) found a way to be aware of – let alone capture details of – most Sphere activities, but always welcomes stories from its network.

For the following pages, Sphere invited its members and focal points to submit a

memorable Sphere-related achievement or a summary of their activities during the year. This handful of submissions is not an exhaustive account of global Sphere activities, but rather presents some of the kinds of activities which are happening around the world every day.

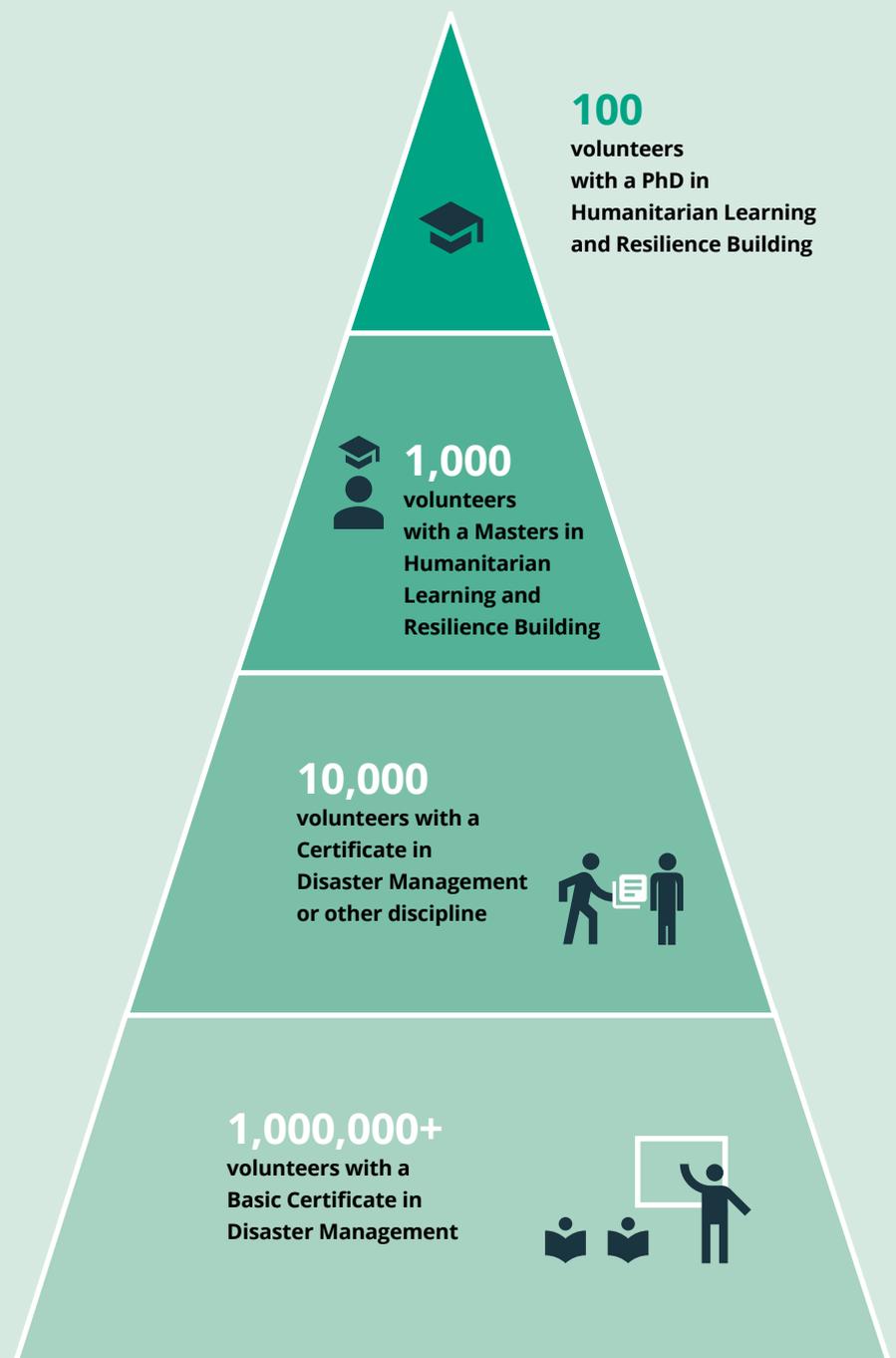
Sphere capacity-building at grand scale in India

Sphere India is a national coalition of humanitarian, development and resilience actors in India, including:

- **38 government partners:** 17 state disaster management authorities (SDMAs) and 21 ministries and government departments
- **155 Full members** including UN agencies, NGOs, academia, sector networks, state inter-agency groups and expert individuals
- **805 Associate members** form Sphere India's Locally Empowered Organisations Network (LEON)
- **150,000+ participants** in COVID-19 academy workshops between 2020 and 2022 (270 workshops; 13 languages; 59% male, 39% female, 2% other)
- **180,000 community volunteers** in the Community Disaster Response Force (CDRF)

Sphere India has an amazing vision for a cascading capacity-building programme to bring Sphere training to 1 million volunteers by 2025 and 3 million by 2030.

At the top of the pyramid, 100 volunteers complete a PhD in Humanitarian Learning and Resilience Building offered by Sphere India and the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), an initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.



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Asia

Regional partner for Asia applies Sphere standards in response to Pakistan floods

Community World Service Asia (CWSA) focused on health, WASH, food security, and the integration of quality and accountability in its response to the Pakistan Floods in 2022 and other crises in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Key actions and indicators from Sphere were applied throughout the different phases of programming especially during emergencies; including during assessment and analysis, project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Needs, capacities and vulnerabilities were assessed, and the priorities of affected communities were kept in mind as well as protection threats and dangers, access, and relationships with

district authorities adhering to the Sphere Minimum Standards.

As both a Sphere regional partner and country focal point, CWSA hosted a regional Sphere Focal Point Forum for Asia in December during the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week (RHPW) in Bangkok. This provided an opportunity for all Asian focal points to exchange experiences; collectively share their approaches to Sphere; interact with various stakeholders, particularly the government; and build on prior knowledge.

In collaboration with the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development

(ACBAR), CWSA conducted a workshop on Sphere standards for local NGOs in Afghanistan. Two Q&AAP (Quality and Accountability to Affected Populations) trainings were conducted for local organisations in Sindh (Pakistan) in partnership with Concern Worldwide. As a result, 87 organisations received assistance in developing or revising their Codes of Conduct (CoCs) and Complaint Response Mechanisms (CRMs).

From Palwashay Arbab, Head of Communications & Gender Justice Focal Point, CWSA, and Sphere focal point representative (CWSA)



Photo: A total of 1,125 drought and COVID-19 affected families have been provided with six monthly food packages under the HERD project.



Photo: Community World Service Asia, with the support of Amity Foundation distributed hygiene kits to flood affected families in Mirpurkhas.



Photo : Affected community members received professional health care and free of cost medicines at CWSA mobile health centres.

Photos credit: CWSA Communications Team

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DRR actors in the Philippines apply Sphere in Typhoon Rai response



Photo: a female member of a Shelter Roving Team (SRT) in Barangay Urok, Surigao City provides an orientation on BBS in Shelter Construction during a community meeting. On the right (foreground) of the image is a scale model of a proposed shelter.

Members of the **Disaster Risk Reduction Network Philippines** (DRRNetPhils) that engage in humanitarian interventions are guided by Sphere standards for their programmes in various sectors. Maintaining knowledge of the standards, notably how to adapt them for local contexts and cultures, is considered critical for ensuring the quality of life-saving humanitarian programming.

For example, DRRNetPhils partners applied Sphere standards for implementation and monitoring of shelter repairs in communities affected by Typhoon Rai¹ in the Province of Dinagat Islands and Surigao del Norte.

The shelter response interventions not only provided quality shelter repair kits but

also invested in strengthening the skills and capacities of community members on *Build Back Safer (BBS) in Shelter Construction* principles and techniques. Mobile shelter teams composed of skilled carpenters and community volunteers, including men and women, were trained and mobilised to provide technical assistance in the communities as people started repairing and rebuilding their shelters.

From Amor J. Tan Singco, Lead for Policy Advocacy, DRRNetPhils

¹ Typhoon Rai, known in the Philippines as Super Typhoon Odette, was the second costliest typhoon in Philippine history behind Typhoon Haiyan in 2013. Rai was a powerful rare tropical cyclone that struck the Philippines in December 2021.

Plan International promotes Sphere across Asia and beyond

During 2022, Plan International Asia-Pacific (**PIAP**) advanced Sphere – its values, principles, standards and practices – and those of the HSP within Plan by organising workshops for 150 people (55% female) in response teams in Nepal, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Bangladesh and Laos; and promoted humanitarian standards with country directors and senior leaders in Nepal, Indonesia and several Pacific islands (Fiji, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea).

Plan International piloted the “Ready to Respond” approach across eight countries in four regions – the Middle East and Eastern and Southern Africa (MEESA), West and Central Africa (WACA), Asia-Pacific (APAC) and Rest Of Asia (ROA) – to improve the readiness of Plan to respond to future emergencies.

Plan presented and represented Sphere at various events including:

- a special Sphere briefing for international disaster risk reduction (DRR) actors as part of the Global Dialogue on Advancing Humanitarian Action in Woking, U.K. (December);

- the Global Platform for DRR, which was attended by government officials from Indonesia, Nepal, the **AHA Centre**, Indonesia’s Society for Disaster Management (MPBI) and a number of DRR network and consultancy agencies based in Indonesia;
- the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on DRR in Brisbane, Australia (September); and

- Plan’s side events to the Asia Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week (RHPW) in Bangkok, Thailand (December).

From Vanda Lengkon, Head of Disaster Risk Management, Plan International Asia-Pacific, and Sphere Governing Board member

Photo: Introducing Sphere standard and HSP in an Emergency Response Team Workshop, Nepal, June 2022, © Plan International



Sphere Annual Report 2022

Europe

Johanniter renews commitment to Sphere

Johanniter International Assistance is a medium-sized organisation that aims to respond to the complexity of global challenges with an integrated yet flexible approach in their core programme areas of health, livelihoods, and emergencies – often in hard-to-reach places.

“Johanniter International Assistance implements international standards for humanitarian assistance and development cooperation – in particular the Code of Conduct of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the Sphere Standards, including the Core Humanitarian

Standard.” (From Johanniter’s **International Assistance Strategy 2027** which is being implemented since 2022.)

From Oliver Hoffmann, Sphere trainer and focal point representative (Sphere focal point Germany)

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)

Twenty years of Sphere in LAC

While the global Sphere movement reached its quarter-century in 2022, the Sphere network in LAC organised a series of five regional conferences to commemorate 20 years of Sphere philosophy in the region.

Red Esfera Bolivia

Red Esfera Bolivia (Bolivia Sphere Network) was formed in 2003 with the participation of national NGOs, volunteer groups and individuals. Working from offices in La Paz and Cochabamba, the network seeks to empower local authorities at district and sub-district levels throughout the country.

Disaster management professionals lead international Sphere workshop

In May 2022, the Association of Professionals in Disaster Risk Management – Bolivia (APGRD), formed an international training team – Cesar Álvarez (Ecuador), Alejandro Castañeda (Colombia) and Juan José Dorado (Bolivia) – along with guest speakers, Kevin Quelal and Daniel Arteaga (Ecuador), to deliver a 3-day online Sphere course for people responsible for disaster risk management.

Participants included representatives of the Vice Ministry of Civil Defence in Bolivia, the Autonomous Municipal Government of La Paz, the Bolivian Red Cross, Riobamba Municipality, Acéptame Foundation, Habitat for Humanity Bolivia, **CECI Bolivia** (La Paz and Ribalta offices), and **HELVETAS Bolivia**.

From Juan José Dorado, focal point representative (Red Esfera Bolivia, La Paz)

Bolivia Sphere Network trains government actors

At the request of the Ministry of Health, Bolivia Sphere Network provided Sphere training for 320 first responders across 13 workshops as part of a national health disaster risk management programme. In May, the Network partnered with ADRA Ecuador and the National Secretariat for Risk and Emergency Management in Ecuador (SNGRE) to organise two workshops – in Quito and Guayaquil – to validate the **new NDMA training package**. A third workshop for ADRA staff was organised in Santo Domingo.

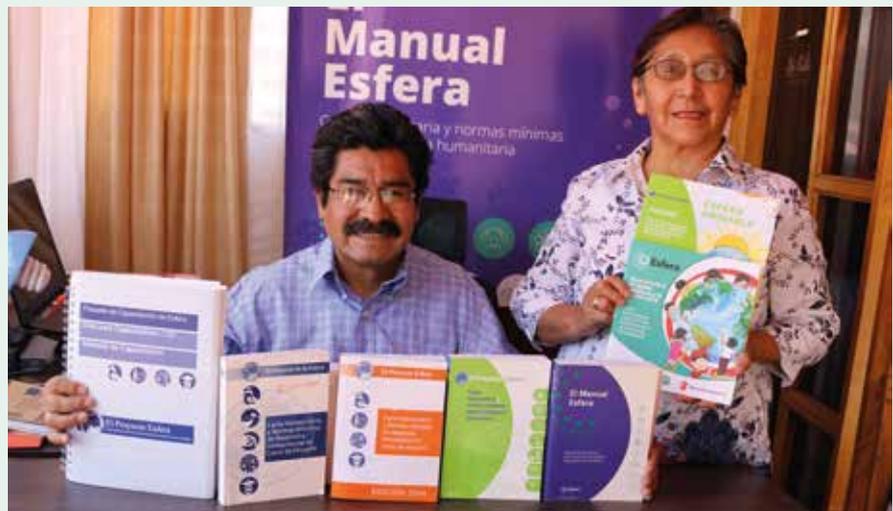
Between August and October, the Network partnered with Save the Children and the Ministry of Education (MoE) in Bolivia to deliver a Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies (INEE) ToT in La Paz – attended by participants from the MoE,

education directorates from 7 departments, the **Viceministerio Defensa Civil** (VIDECI), **UNICEF**, World Vision and **Estrella del Sur**.

In October, 39 participants – including from the Cochabamba Governor's Office, the Departmental Secretary of Health, the La Paz branch of the Bolivian Red Cross, Oxfam, World Vision, Hospital San Roque, **CEMSE**, Habitat for Humanity, **CECI** and **PROCASHA** – met in Cochabamba for **a combined Sphere workshop and Core Humanitarian Standard revision consultation**.

From Magdalena Medrano and Martín Villarroel, focal point representatives (Red Esfera Bolivia, Cochabamba)

Photo: Martín and Magdalena with the pilot and all four editions of the Sphere Handbook and two editions of the Manual Esfera Amigable (Friendly Sphere Manual).



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Sphere trainers in Colombia update national risk management manual

Aydée Marín and Hugo Sánchez – Sphere trainers and Sphere focal point representatives – led the update of *Manual de Estandarización de la Ayuda Humanitaria* (MEAH) en Colombia (Manual for the Standardization of Humanitarian Aid in Colombia).

The MEAH – which from its inception is based on Sphere principles and standards – was carefully reviewed. The MEAH highlights the government's responsibility to "protect the constitutional rights of the affected people" (Law 1523, 2012), and recognizes risk management as "an essential development policy to improve the quality of life of communities at risk".

Twenty-two people, including humanitarian actors, members of the humanitarian architecture in the country, and staff of the *Unidad Nacional para la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres (UNGRD)* (National Unit for Disaster Risk Management), attended a Sphere Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop.

A two-day event was attended for twenty-five officials from both the UNGRD and the *Unidad para la Atención y Reparación Integral a las Víctimas (UARIV)* (Unit for Comprehensive Care and Reparation for Victims), which was both an introduction to Sphere and a focus group consultation for the MEAH revision.

Assisted by frequent Sphere training interventions, there is a general acceptance of Sphere principles and standards by government and humanitarian actors in Colombia. Many trainers are spreading the Sphere message, including its philosophy, its foundations (the Humanitarian Charter, Protection Principles and Core Humanitarian Standard), and the minimum standards.

From Aydée Marín, Sphere trainer and focal point representative (Colombia Sphere trainers)

Photo: UNGRD staff participate in a Sphere workshop



Sphere standards help protect people affected by disasters and conflict in Ecuador

The *Secretaría de Gestión de Riesgos* (SGR) (Secretariat for Risk Management) within the government of Ecuador was recognized as a Sphere focal point in 2013. Since, and even before, this date, the SGR has been strengthening the capacities of humanitarian actors, including those in the *Sistema Nacional Descentralizado de Gestión de Riesgos* (SNDGR) (Decentralized National System for Risk Management) through Sphere workshops, courses, Training of Trainers (ToT) programmes, induction programmes and seminars.

As the governing body for risk management in Ecuador, the SGR mandates the use of Sphere by SNDGR institutions through disaster management public policies – for example, *Lineamientos para la gestión de los bienes de asistencia humanitaria* (Guidelines for the management of humanitarian assistance assets) – and provides technical assistance for the application of Sphere principles and standards to both public and private sector organizations, including non-governmental organizations that implement humanitarian programmes in Ecuador.

SGR also provide an online platform and app, **NutrirEC**, for calculating and planning the nutritional content of food assistance – for example, kits or menus in emergency contexts and social programmes – which is based on information in the Sphere Handbook.

During 2022, the SGR provided training opportunities for 186 individuals from 27 organisations across 7 courses.

From Daniel Rojas Merchán and Emerson Benítez, focal point representatives, Secretaría de Gestión de Riesgos, Ecuador)

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Statement of Income and Expenses

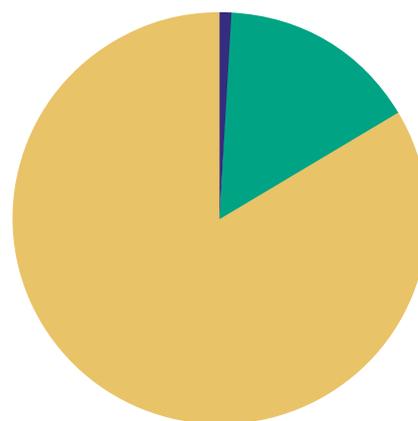
from 01.01.2022 to 31.12.2022

With comparative year figure in Swiss francs

	2022	2021
INCOME		
Board contributions and donations		
Membership Fees	189,056	183,600
Denmark - Ministry of Foreign Affairs	-	70,156
Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs - (FDFA)	150,000	150,000
German Ministry of Foreign Affairs	248,522	369,218
US Department of State, Bureau of Population and Migration (PRM)	288,743	220,810
USAID - Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA, ex OFDA)	120,196	375,700
Disasters Emergency Committee	188,197	-
Aktion Deutschland Hilft	15,842	-
Other general grants and donations	6,000	7,187
Total Board Contributions and Donations	1,206,555	1,376,671
Other Income		
Handbook Sales	4,145	5,108
Miscellaneous Income	-	34
Other Income	4,145	5,142
TOTAL INCOME	1,210,700	1,381,813
EXPENSES		
Handbook direct sales expenses	-18,148	-8,136
Personnel expenses	-851,212	-828,469
Premises charges	-42,736	-34,567
Administration and office costs	-9,134	-15,493
IT expenses	-19,788	-12,654
Professional fees	-52,156	-75,281
Consultancies & Development fees	-240,447	-327,069
Travel, Representation & Meetings	-2,988	-1,152
TOTAL EXPENSES	-1,236,607	-1,302,821
NET OPERATING RESULT	-25,907	78,992
Financial Income	4,147	9,698
Financial Expenses	-14,707	-16,509
NET RESULT BEFORE CHANGES IN RESTRICTED FUNDS	-36,467	72,181
Allocation to restricted funds	-861,499	-1,035,883
Use of restricted funds	806,263	1,085,883
NET RESULT BEFORE ALLOCATIONS	-91,703	122,181
Allocation to Operational Reserve and specific project balances	-6,000	-45,318
Use of Operational Reserve and specific project balances	22,425	-
NET RESULT FOR THE YEAR	-75,277	76,863

Percentage of income 2022

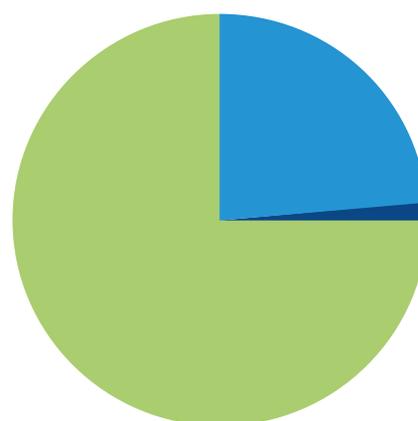
■ General grants 0.84% ■ Membership 15.62%



■ Institutional donors 83.55%

Percentage of expenses 2022

■ Programmes 23.66% ■ Handbook direct sales expenses 1.47%



■ Operations 74.87%

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Management, governance and donors

Sphere team

Romain Benicchio
*Partnerships (to October) and
Acting Executive Director
(from October)*

Felicity Fallon
Learning and Events

Frédéric Genoud
*Finance and Operations
(from April)*

Tristan Hale
*Communications and
Learning Services*

Brook Lauten,
Policy and Impact (from April)

Wassila Mansouri
*Membership and Network
(to December)*

Daria Pistriak
*Coordinator for Ukraine and
Eastern Europe (contractor)
(from August)*

Olivia Mettler
*Finance and Operations
(April to June)*

Aninia Nadig,
Policy and Practice (to April)

Loredana Serban
Finance and Operations (to March)

Dr Balwant Singh
Executive Director (to September)

Photo: Sphere trainer and focal point representative for **Nirengi Association**, Zeynep Sanduvac, facilitates a Sphere ToT for IHH Humanitarian Relief Foundation, October 2022, Istanbul, Turkey

Sphere Governing Board

ACT Alliance (Niall O'Rourke)

Caritas Internationalis (Rita Rhayem, President)

Community World Service Asia (Ayesha Hassan)

Elrha (Jessica Camburn)

Fast Rural Development Program (Fozia Rajput)

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (Nelson Castano, Treasurer)

Friar Luciano (Fraternity International Humanitarian Missions)
(Individual member)

Mercy Malaysia (Normaliza Mohd Nasir)

Christian Modino Hok (CBM Global Disability Inclusion)
(Individual member)

Plan International (Vanda Lengkong)

RedR International (Kirsten Sayers)

Save the Children (Casey Harrity) *(from September)*
(Cat Carter) *(until September)*

Turkish Red Crescent Society (Alper Küçük, Vice President)

World Vision International (Daniel Wanganga)

Sphere Donors

Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)*

German Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration

U.S. Agency for International Development, Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance

Aktion Deutschland Hilft

Sphere full and individual members

Humanitarian Standards Partnership (partners)

*The DEC grant was funded by a consortium of Emergency Appeals Alliance (EAA) members comprising DEC, Aktion Deutschland Hilft, Swiss Solidarity and Japan Platform, led by DEC.





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LinkedIn: @spherestandards | YouTube: TheSphereProject

Report of the statutory auditor

on the limited statutory examination to the General Meeting of

SPHERE ASSOCIATION

Geneva

As statutory auditor, we have examined the financial statements (balance sheet, statement of Income and Expenses, cash flow statement, statement of changes in capital and restricted funds and notes of SPHERE ASSOCIATION for the year ended 31 December 2022. As permitted by Swiss GAAP FER 21 the information in the performance report is not required to be subject to the statutory auditor's examination.

These financial statements prepared in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER, Swiss law and the association's articles of incorporation are the responsibility of the Association Board. Our responsibility is to perform a limited statutory examination on these financial statements. We confirm that we meet the licensing and independence requirements as stipulated by Swiss law.

We conducted our examination in accordance with the Swiss Standard on the Limited Statutory Examination. This standard requires that we plan and perform a limited statutory examination to identify material misstatements in the financial statements. A limited statutory examination consists primarily of inquiries of association personnel and analytical procedures as well as detailed tests of association documents as considered necessary in the circumstances. However, the testing of operational processes and the internal control system, as well as inquiries and further testing procedures to detect fraud or other legal violations, are not within the scope of this examination.

Based on our limited statutory examination, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not give a true and fair view of the financial position, the results of operations and the cash flows in accordance with Swiss GAAP FER. Furthermore, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the financial statements do not comply with Swiss law and the association's articles of incorporation.

PricewaterhouseCoopers SA



Marcello Stimato
Licensed audit expert
Auditor in charge



Adéline Todorova

Geneva, 28 April 2023

Enclosure:

- Financial statements (balance sheet, statement of Income and Expenses, cash flow statement, statement of changes in capital and restricted funds and notes)

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