



Sphere



Introduction to Sphere,
Romania,
3&4 April 2023

Timetable



Time	Contents
09:00 - 10:00	Welcome – Creating a good learning atmosphere – Why are we here
10:00 - 10:30	Brief introduction to Sphere and Ukraine and Eastern Europe Programme
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee/Tea break – fresh air
10:45 – 11:45	Deep dive into the Sphere handbook – Technical Chapters: WASH, Health, Food Security, Shelter
11:45 – 12.15	Structure of the Sphere Handbook
12:15 – 13:00	The Humanitarian Charter
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break – fresh air
14:00 – 15:15	Scenario: Applying the Sphere Approach
15:15 – 15:30	Coffee/Tea break – fresh air
15:30 – 16:15	The Core Humanitarian Standard
16:15 – 16:45	The Protection Principles
16:45 - 17:00	Certificates and evaluation

Learning objectives

By the end of this session you will be able to:

- Explain the philosophy of Sphere
- Use the Sphere Handbook to deliver people-centred and accountable humanitarian assistance

Ground rules

- Phones set to “silent”
(please take emergency calls outside)
- Laptops closed
- Ears and minds set to “open”
- Chatham House Rules apply
(what is said in the training room stays in the training room – so speak your mind)
- Let the facilitator know if anything is too fast, unclear, or if there are too many acronyms



**“What has been most important to you
in the last year?”**

Introductions

Who are we, and where are we in relation to people who need humanitarian assistance?

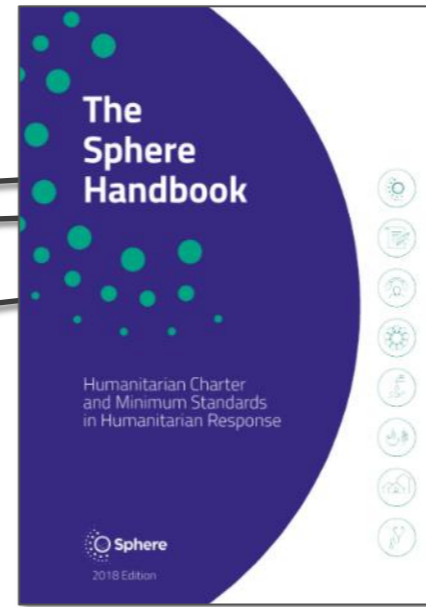
Instructions:

- Stand up
- Walk to the location of your day-to-day life relative to people needing humanitarian assistance

Place yourself in the room based on how close you are to those in need



Move again: How close are you to Sphere?



I use it almost every day

I occasionally use it

I've heard of it but never really looked at it

It's completely new to me

The Sphere movement

- Started in 1997 by NGOs and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- Developed a Humanitarian Charter and humanitarian standards to be applied in humanitarian response.
- The Sphere Handbook is a primary reference tool for national and international NGOs, volunteers, UN agencies, governments and donors.
- Sphere is a worldwide community working to improve the quality and accountability of humanitarian assistance.

How it all began...



Susan Purdin

Sphere Project Manager, 1997-1998

The Sphere philosophy

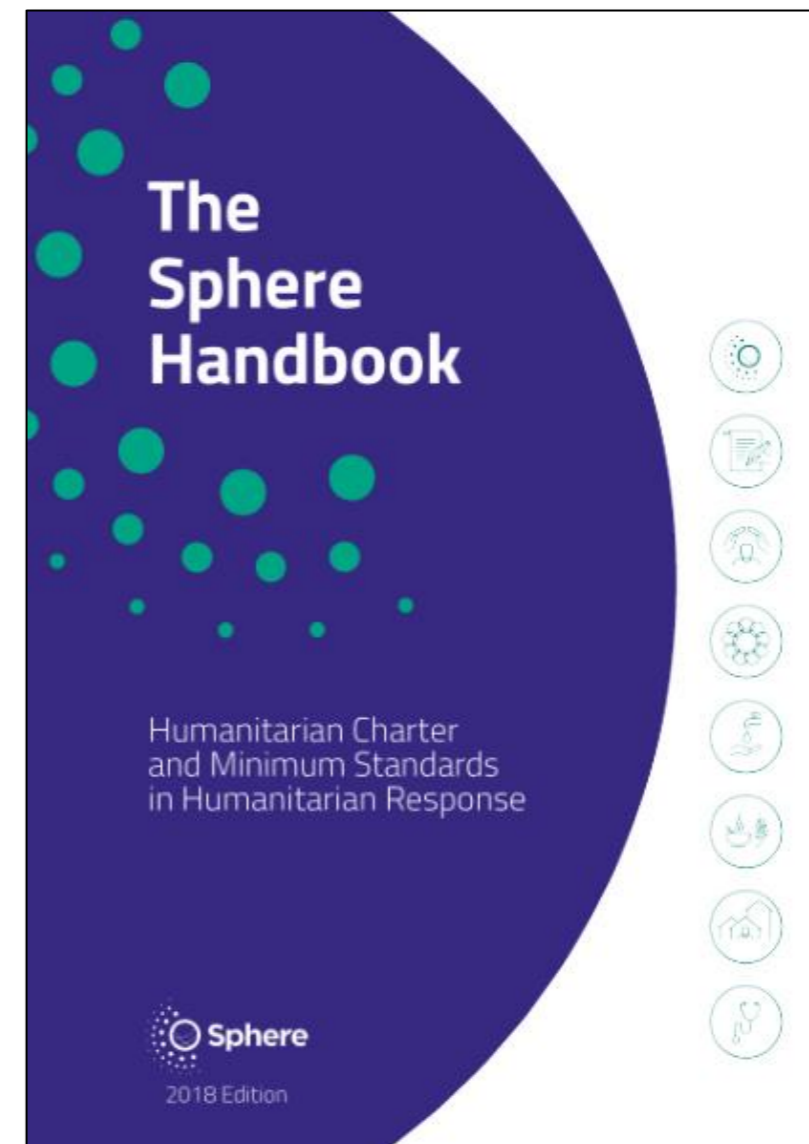
The Sphere philosophy is based on two core beliefs:

1. People affected by disaster or conflict have **the right to life with dignity** and, therefore, the right to assistance.
2. **All possible steps** should be taken to **alleviate human suffering** arising out of disaster or conflict.

What is in the Handbook?

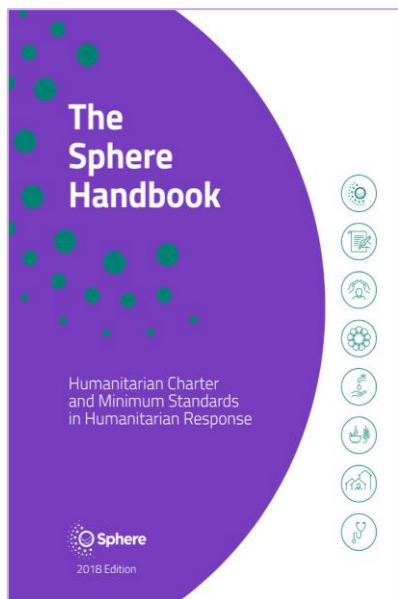
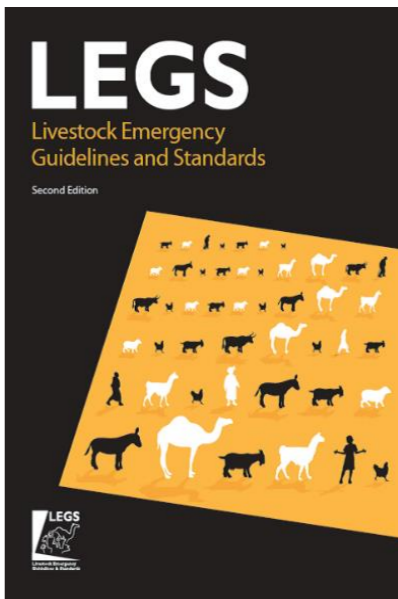
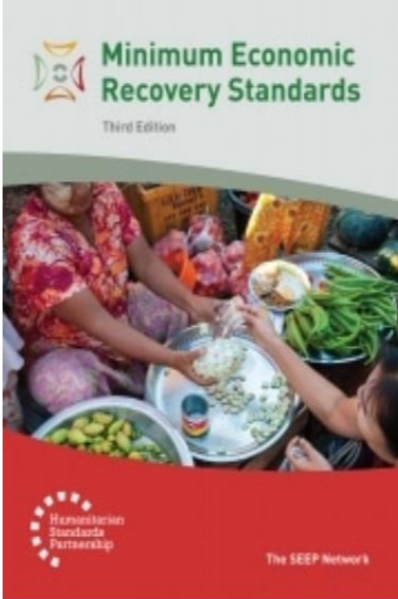
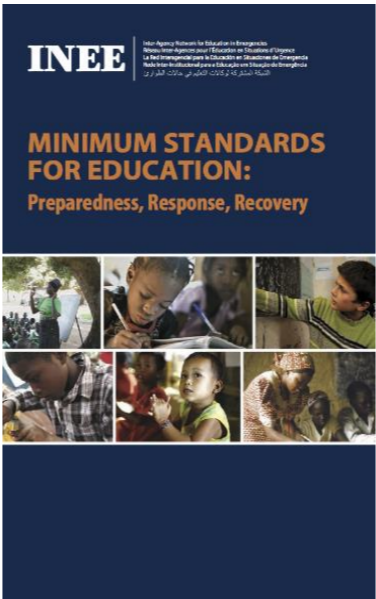
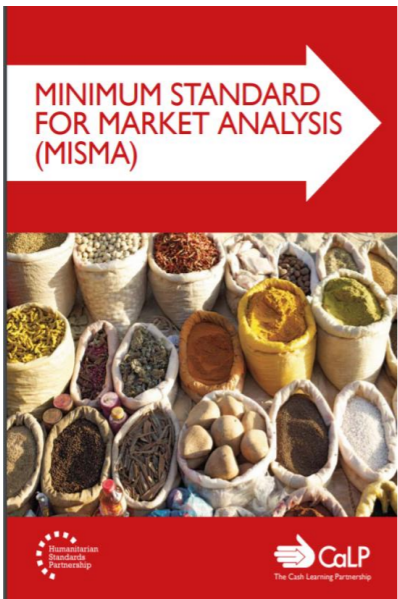
The Handbook is Sphere's flagship publication. It includes the **Humanitarian Charter**, the **Protection Principles**, the **Core Humanitarian Standard**, and **Minimum Standards** in four vital areas of response:

- **Water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH)**
- **Food security and nutrition**
- **Shelter and settlement**
- **Health**



Links with other standards

Partner organisations have developed standards in several sectors, based on the same philosophy and commitments as Sphere's. These are available through Sphere, the Humanitarian Standards Partnership and the partner organisations' own websites.





SPHERE'S PROGRAMME FOR UKRAINE AND EASTERN EUROPE

Victoria Kononchuk

3-4 April 2023, Bucharest

Sphere's Programme for Ukraine and Eastern Europe

Largest humanitarian crisis in Europe since WW II

8,173,211 - Refugees from Ukraine recorded across Europe (as of 28.03.2023, UNHCR)

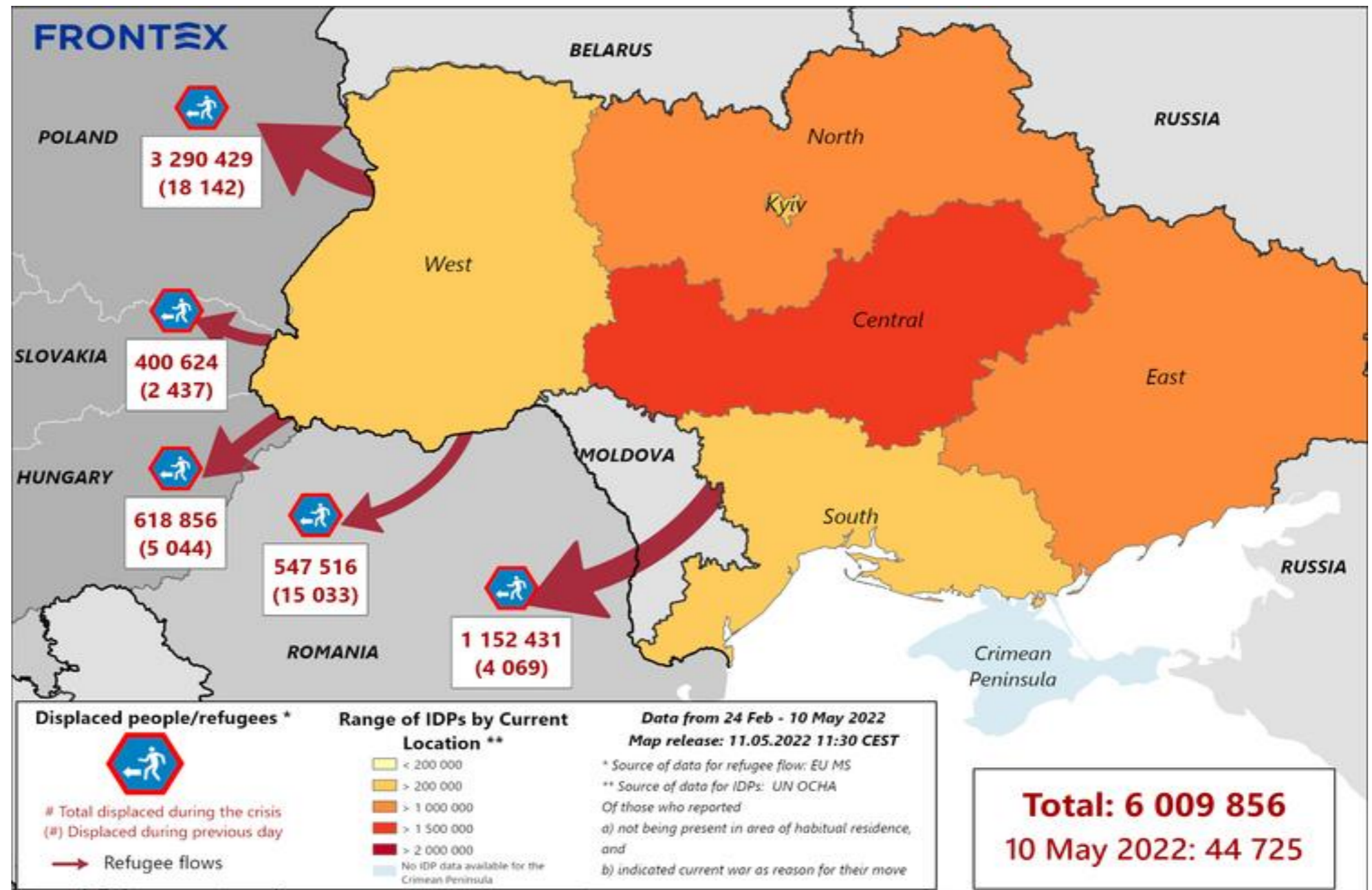
90% of Ukrainian refugees are women and children

Millions of IDPs

Frontex map, December 2022



SLIDE



Sphere's Programme for Ukraine and Eastern Europe

- Launched in mid-2022 in response to the war in Ukraine
- Clear need to learn about and apply humanitarian standards – not a single trainer or focal point in this part of Europe (with some exceptions)
- **5 countries:** Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Moldova – most affected by displacement
- **4 languages** for the new
- Network building
- Trainings



Sphere Handbook Translation

It is important to ensure high-quality translation - in general as well as concerning terminology specific to humanitarian sector.

But it is also very hard 😊

Перше ~~пілотне робоче~~ видання Посібника було ~~видачено-опубліковано~~ у 1998 році, а у 2000, 2004, 2011 і ~~тепер~~ у 2018 ~~році роках до нього~~ було ~~видано~~ ~~внесено~~ змін ~~ені~~ та доповнені ~~версії~~ ~~Посібника~~ та ~~доповнення~~. Під час кожного перевидання проводилися консультації з представниками всього гуманітарного сектора із залученням окремих осіб, неурядових організацій (НУО), урядів та ~~установ~~ ~~інституцій~~ ООН. Наведені в ~~посібнику~~ ~~Посібнику~~ стандарти й керівні принципи ґрунтуються на доказах і відображають 20 років польових досліджень, які проводилися фахівцями з усього світу.

Четверте видання присвячене 20-й річниці публікації Посібника ~~проекту~~ «Сфера» і відображає зміни в гуманітарному секторі, які відбулися ~~протягом цього часу~~ ~~відтеді~~. Видання містить нові настанови щодо роботи в міських умовах, дотримання мінімальних стандартів під час тривалих кризових ситуацій та надання допомоги через ринки ~~з-як спосіб~~ ~~методу~~ дотримання стандартів. Усі технічні розділи відображають поточну практику, а узгоджений Основний гуманітарний стандарт замінює попередні Основні стандарти.

Чотири ~~основоположні розділи~~, ~~присвячені базовим стандартам~~, ~~таі~~ чотири ~~технічні розділи~~

-Посібник відображає ~~прихильність~~ ~~відданість~~ ~~проекту~~ «Сфера» принципам гуманітарного ~~реагування~~ ~~допомоги~~, ~~що, яке~~ ґрунтується на захисті прав людини. Він ~~ґрунтується~~ ~~базується~~ на глибокій повазі до права людей брати ~~повну~~ ~~активну~~ участь в ухваленні рішень щодо ~~їхнього~~ відновлення.

Чотири ~~основоположні розділи~~, ~~присвячені базовим стандартам~~, ~~окреслюють~~ ~~розділи~~ ~~окреслюють~~ етичне, правове та практичне підґрунтя гуманітарного ~~реагування~~ ~~допомоги~~ і лежать в основі всіх технічних розділів та програм. Вони описують зобов'язання та процеси, які забезпечують ~~якість~~ ~~не~~ надання гуманітарної допомоги і заохочують організації, які надають ~~це~~ ~~таку~~ допомогу, бути підзвітними перед населенням, на яке впливають їхні дії. Ці розділи забезпечують ефективне застосування мінімальних стандартів у будь-якому контексті. Якщо читати технічні розділи, не ознайомившись із ~~основоположними~~ ~~розділами~~, ~~присвяченими базовим стандартам~~, можна пропустити важливі елементи стандартів.

~~Основоположні Розділи~~ ~~це~~ ~~з~~ ~~базовими~~ ~~стандартами~~:

Network building

Members: organizations and individuals - a special membership procedure - participation in the decision of strategic issues and the right to vote, etc.

Focal points – representatives of countries - contact persons and promoters of Sphere on the ground

Trainers – professional trainers of Sphere standards

Most of them are volunteers and cooperate with Sphere because they BELIEVE in it!



Sphere

SLIDE

Yellow- more than 120 trainers; Black and blue – members (47) and focal points (63)



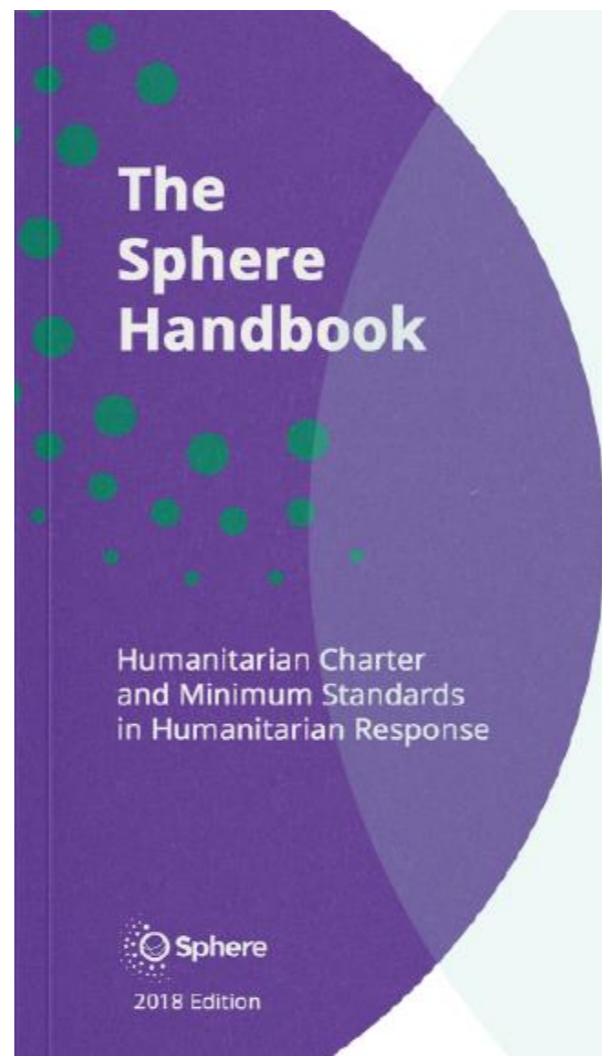
Caritas Moldova joined Sphere's focal point network in December 2022.



The **Society Development Institute (SDI)** and the **Asociácia samaritánov Slovenskej republiky (AS-SR)** jointly became **Sphere's focal point for the Slovak Republic** in March 2023.

Trainings

- Romania
- Poland
- Moldova
- Slovak Republic
- Ukraine (online)



How to use

the Sphere Handbook

redr uk
people and skills for disaster relief

The infographic features a central illustration of a person sitting at a desk with a laptop. Above them is a dashed purple circle containing an open book icon and a horizontal row of four checkboxes, with the first two checked. To the right of the person is a vertical column of eight circular icons representing different humanitarian sectors: a globe, a document with a pencil, hands holding a heart, a gear, a hand holding a plant, a house, and a medical cross. Below the icons is an illustration of three diverse people: a woman in a brown dress, a man in a suit, and a woman in a green hijab and dark dress.

Sphere's Programme for Ukraine and Eastern Europe

Resources for Ukraine response



Programme for Ukraine and Eastern Europe



Переглянути цю сторінку [Українською](#).

On this page, you will find **resources** provided by the Sphere community and its partners which are relevant to the response to the conflict in Ukraine, as well as **news** and information about Sphere's **network** in Eastern Europe and past and upcoming **events**.

Thank you!

victoria.kononchuk@spherestandards.org

- 1) What was most important in your work last year?**
- 2) What do you think will be most important in the coming year?**

Deep dive into the Sphere Handbook

Your team has been asked to work on converting an old school into a reception centre. You are asked for advice on the following issues:

- **Organising the living space in the shelter**
- **Promoting good hygiene practices in the shelter**
- **Protecting the shelter's most vulnerable residents**
- **Ensuring residents can participate in decisions that affect them, and give feedback**

Find **10 references** in the Sphere Handbook that will help you find the answers.

You have 20 minutes.

Deep dive into the Sphere Handbook

- Find 10 references in the Sphere Handbook
- List the references on your whiteboard, including which section of the Sphere Handbook you found them in.
- Work with your group for 20 minutes, present your discussion in 5 minutes

4 ways to access the Handbook

- As a printed book
- As a PDF

<https://www.spherestandards.org/handbook-2018/>

- Online via the Interactive Handbook

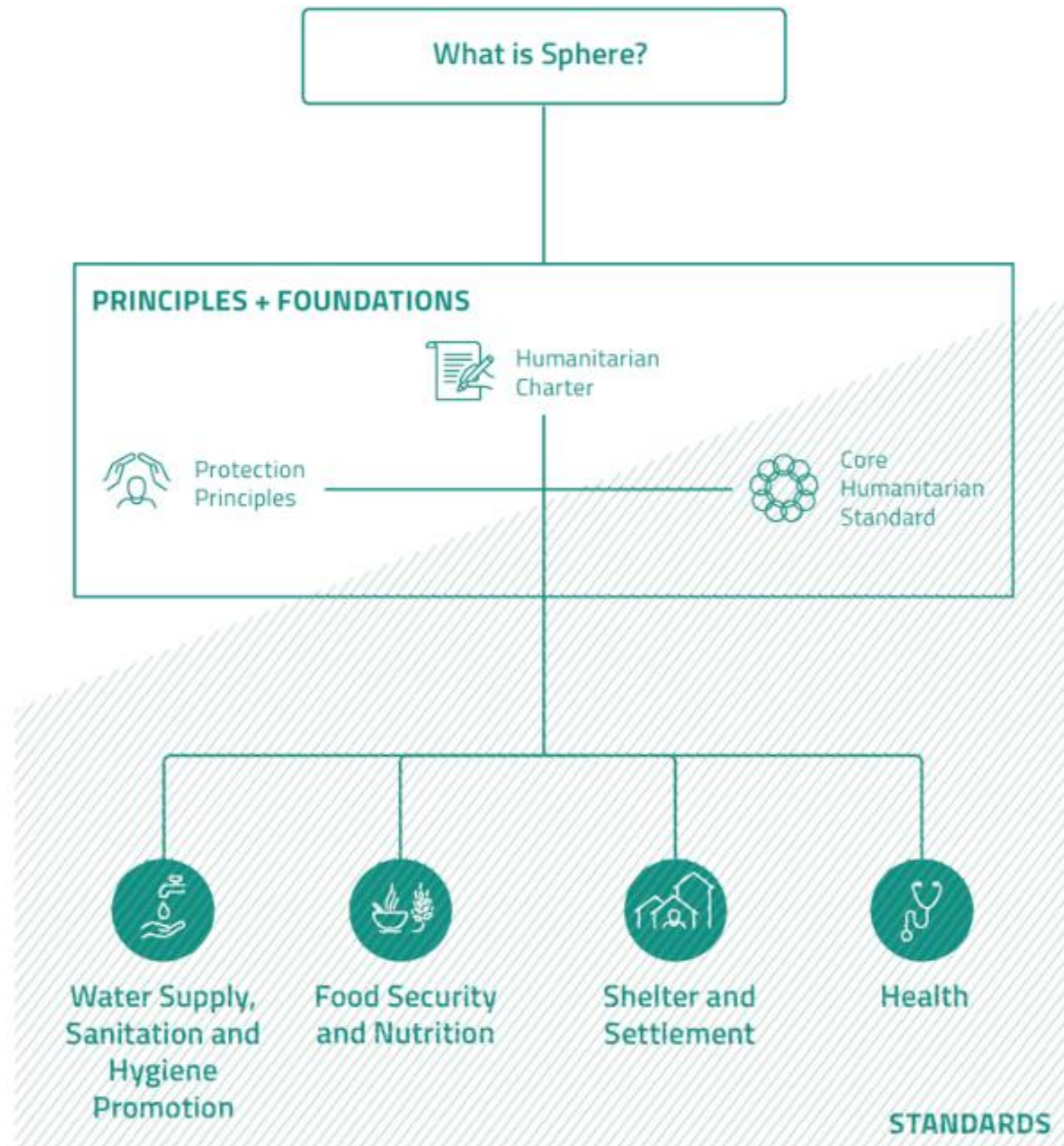
<https://www.spherestandards.org/handbook-2018/>

- Via the HSP App on your phone

<https://hspstandards.org/handbooks/#section-3>

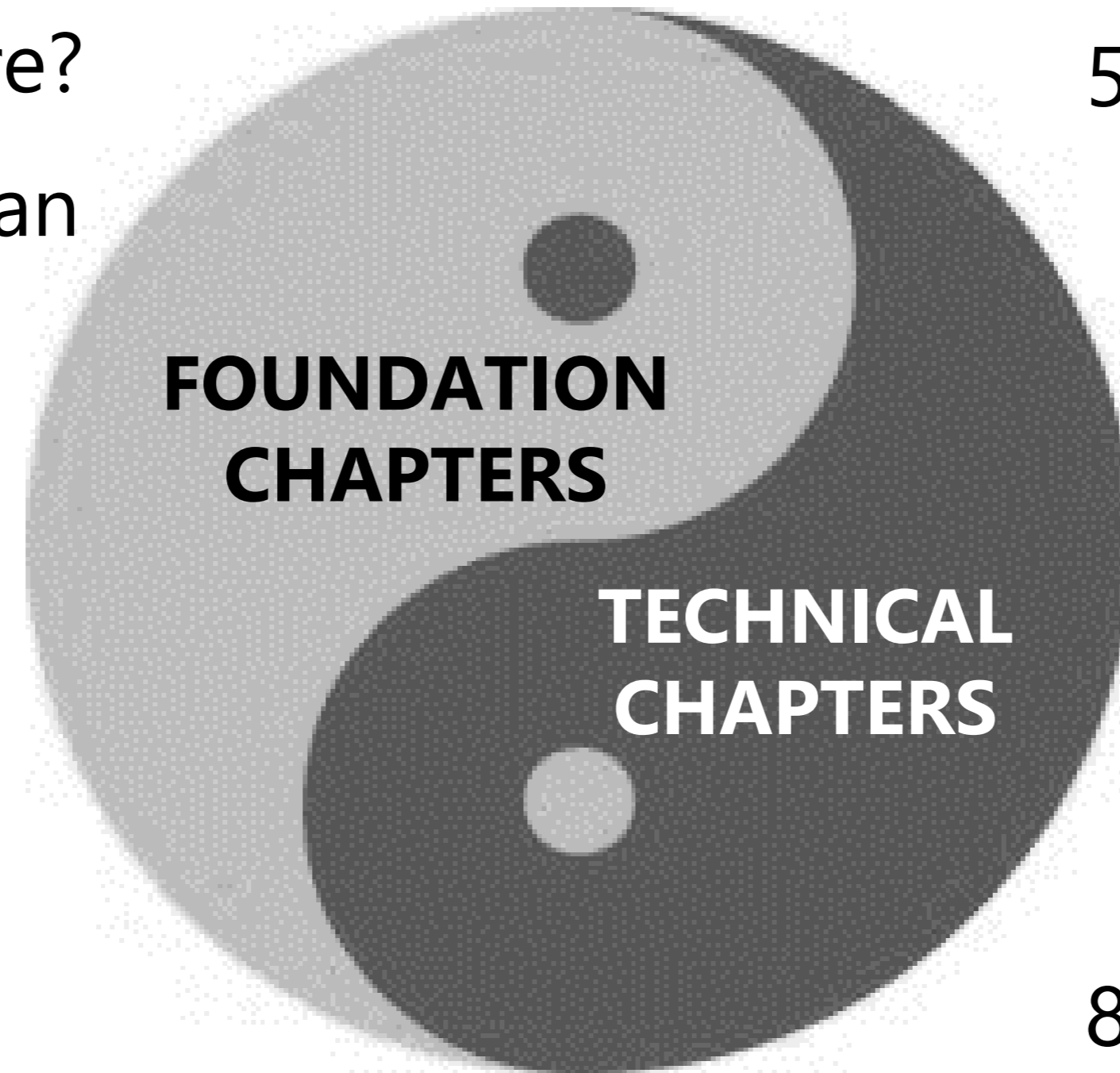
Structure of the Sphere Handbook

Puzzle exercise



The Sphere Handbook – eight interdependent chapters

1. What is Sphere?
2. The Humanitarian Charter
3. Protection Principles
4. Core Humanitarian Standard



5. Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH)
6. Food Security and Nutrition
7. Shelter and Settlement
8. Health

A holistic approach

Why?

The **Humanitarian Charter** establishes the ethical and legal framework for humanitarian action, applying humanitarian principles, and draws on the RC/RC/NGO Code of Conduct

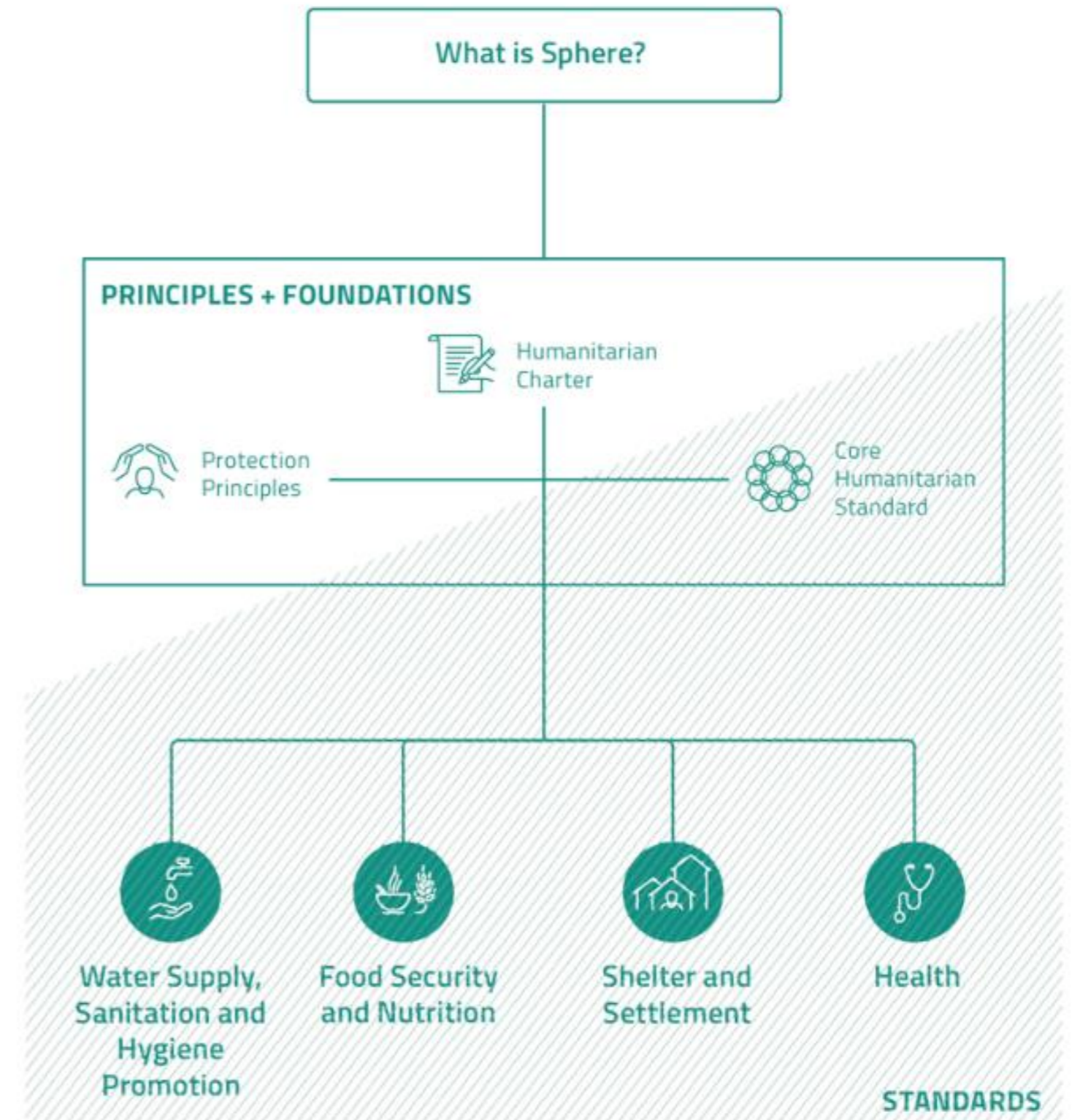
How?

Protection principles translate the legal framework into strategies and actions so that assistance and protection are equal pillars in any response

Core Humanitarian Standard provides the framework for organizational responsibilities and fundamental accountability

What?

Minimum standards in four key sectors give quantitative and qualitative indicators, actions, and guidance based on evidence and expert practice.



General structure of the Sphere Standards

Introduction
including “essential concepts”

THE STANDARDS

Key
actions

Key
indicators

Guidance
notes

Appendices

References and further reading

The Humanitarian Charter...

Take 5 minutes to read the HC, Split room into 3 groups. Give each group 2 cartoons to analyze.

- What is happening in the cartoon?
- Which part of the Humanitarian Charter does it relate to?
- Do you agree with the Charter and can you and your organisation subscribe to it?



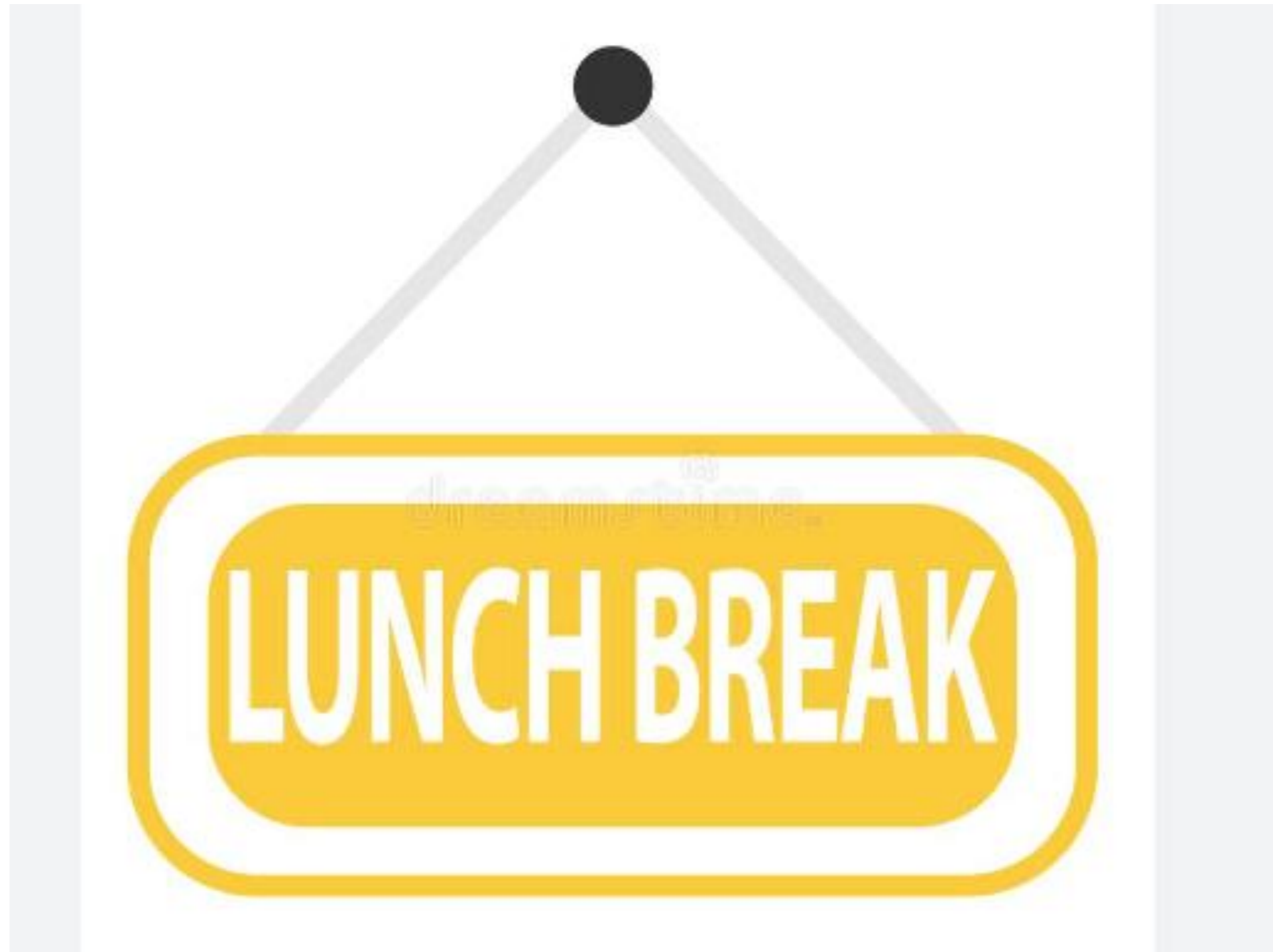
See pages 27–32

The Humanitarian Charter...

- is the cornerstone of the Sphere approach;
- recognises that people have a **right to protection and assistance with dignity**; and
- provides the ethical and legal foundation for the Protection Principles, the Core Humanitarian Standard, and the Sphere Minimum Standards.



See pages 27–32



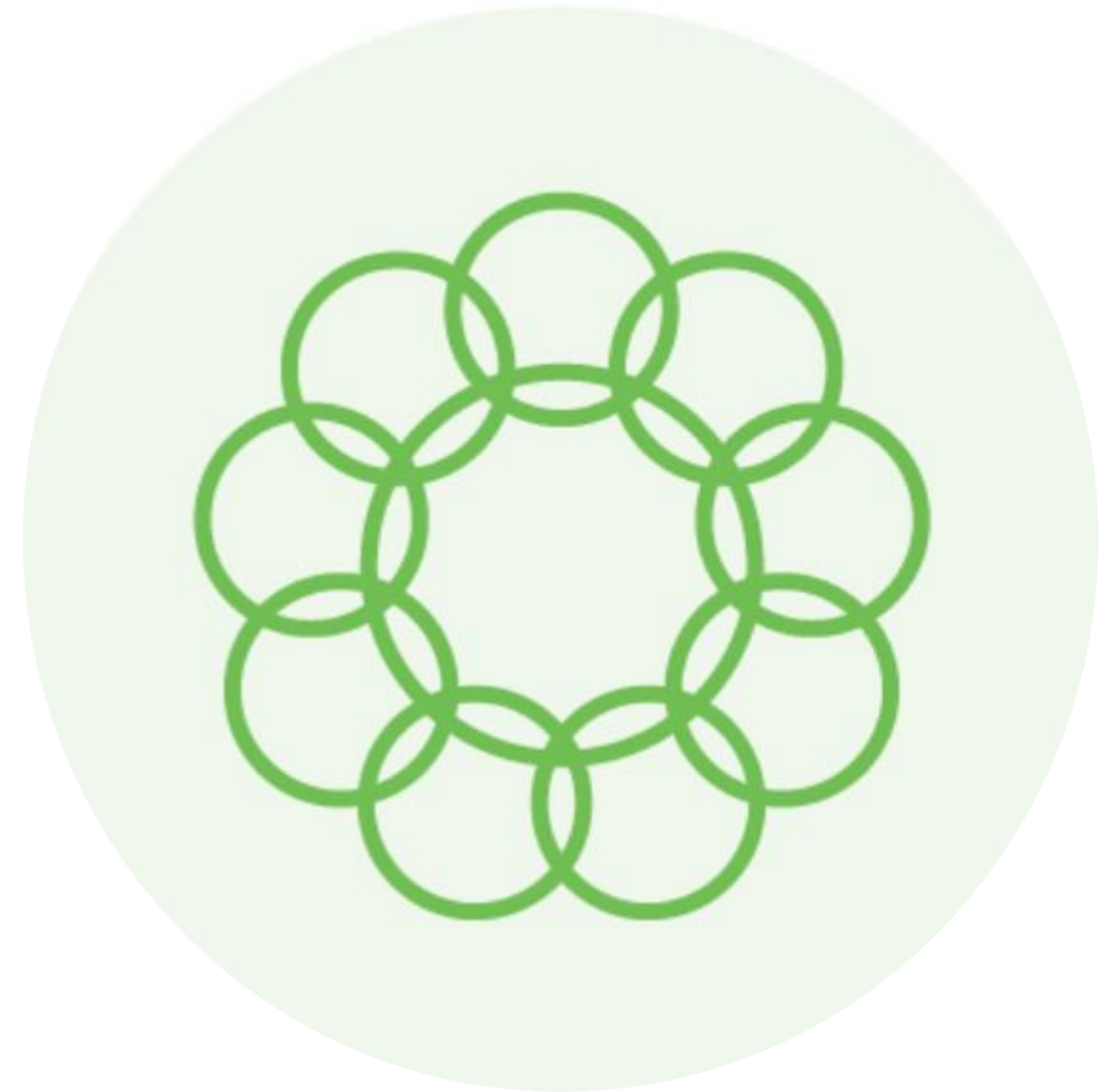
Case Study

- 20 minute to work in 4 groups
- One group will role play play the local charity operating the shelter and will join the meeting with aouthoreties
- The facilitators will play the role of the local authority and the large national charity
- The other participants will observe.
- 10 minutes role play
- 10 minutes debrief



The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS)...

- describes essential organisational responsibilities for quality and accountability in humanitarian response.



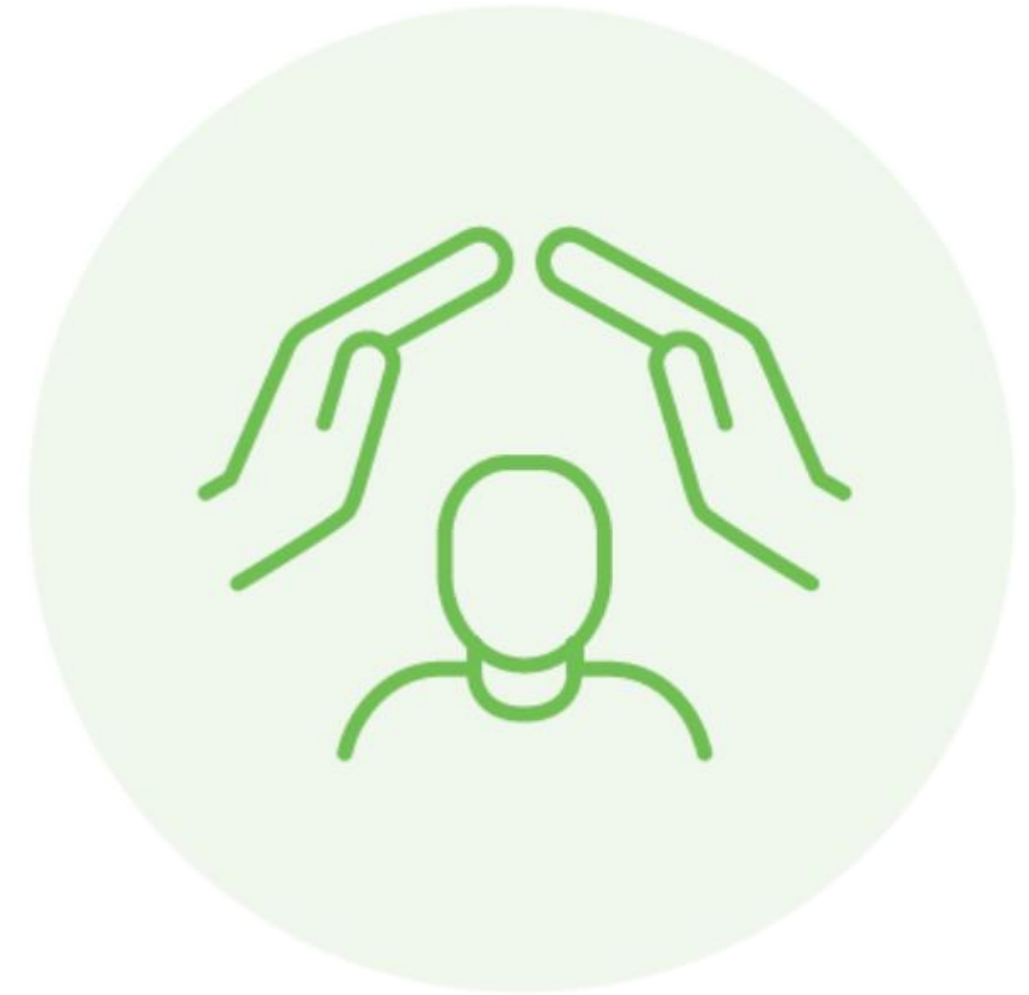
See pages 49–88

[link](#)

Protection Principles

A practical translation of the Humanitarian Charter into four principles to guide humanitarian response:

- 1. Enhance** people's safety, dignity, and rights and avoid exposing them to further harm.
- 2. Ensure** people's access to impartial assistance, according to need and without discrimination.
- 3. Assist** people to recover from the physical and psychological effects of ...
- 4. Help** people to claim their rights.



See pages 33–47

Key actions

Key actions outline practical steps to attain the Minimum Standard. These are suggestions and may not be applicable in all contexts. Users should select those most relevant to the situation.



Key indicators

Key indicators serve as signals to indicate whether the standard they support is being attained.

Specific numbers (targets) are only included where there is sectoral consensus or scientific evidence.



Guidance notes

Guidance notes provide additional information to support the key actions, with cross-references to the Protection Principles, the Core Humanitarian Standard, other standards in the Handbook and other standards of the Humanitarian Standards Partnership.



Kenya, 2017. Lutheran World Federation

Using the indicators

The Sphere key indicators are a way to measure whether a standard is being achieved; **they should not be confused with the standard itself.** The standard is universal, but the key indicators, like the key actions, should be considered in light of both the context and phase of the response.



Bangladesh. Lutheran World Federation

Standards v. indicators

- Pursuing indicators rather than standards is to assume that everyone is born with **equal needs, rather than equal rights**, which is a potentially harmful error.
- Always consider the **context**, including the needs, capacities and vulnerabilities of the people you are trying to assist.
- People affected by crisis should **participate actively** at every stage of the response.

