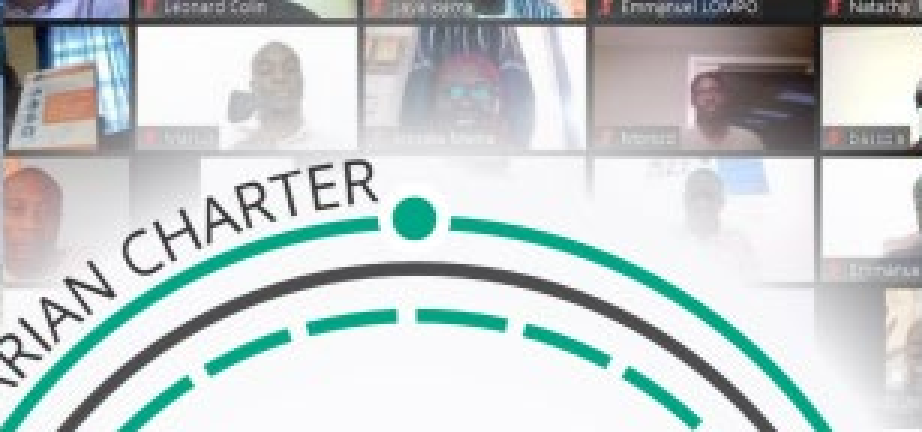


Introduction to Sphere: Placing People at the Center of Humanitarian Response

Jhpiego, Online, 30 May 2024
Felicity Fallon, Head of Learning and Events, Sphere



HUMANITARIAN CHARTER

ESTD 1997

Sphere

27 YEARS

MINIMUM STANDARDS

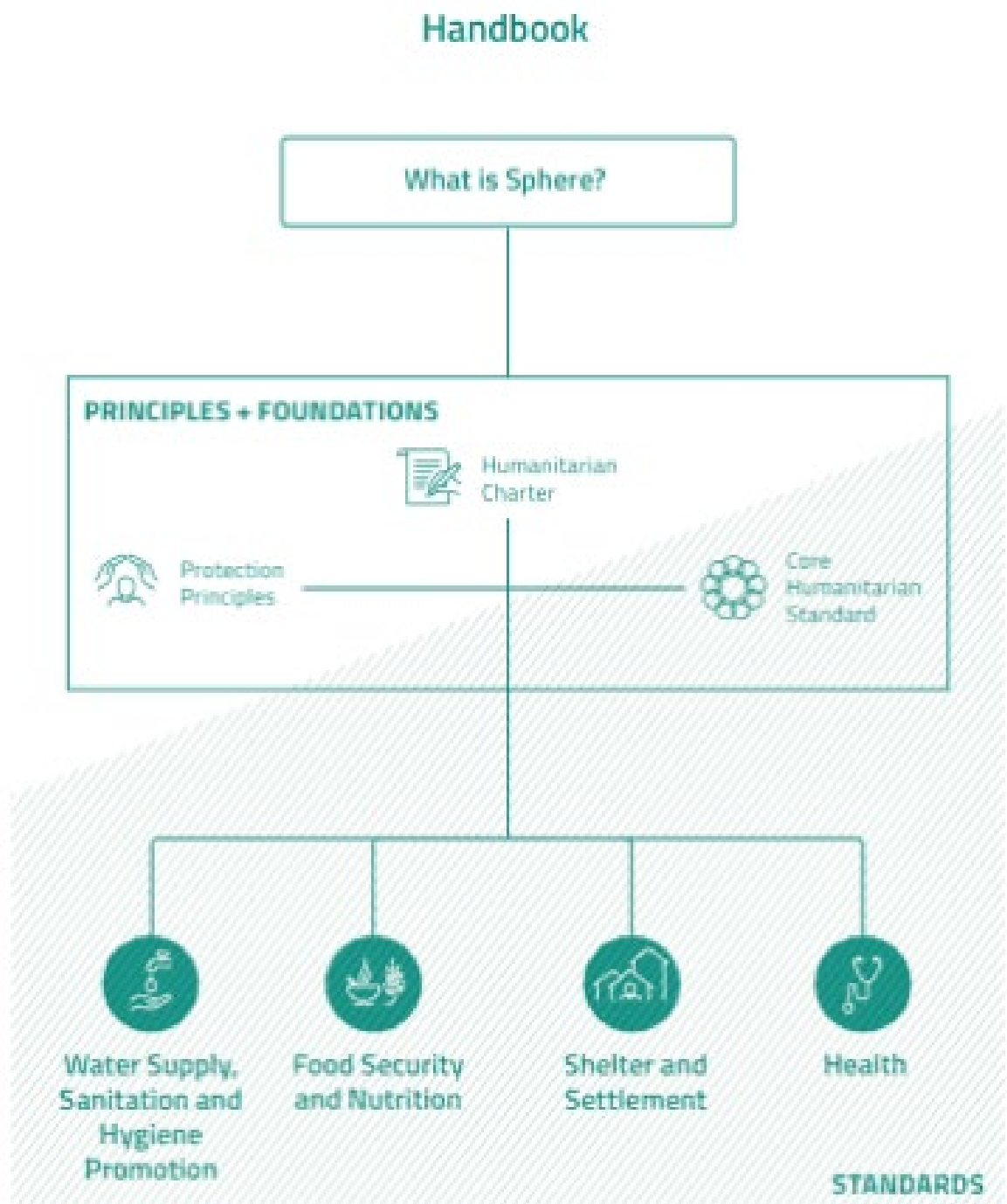


The Sphere movement

- 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 local, 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.

The Sphere Handbook

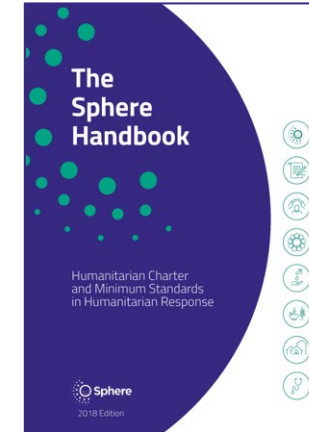
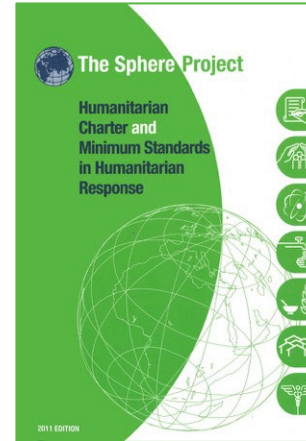
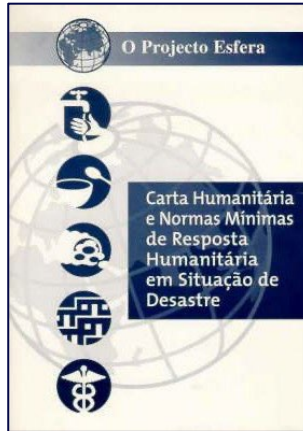
Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response



Why are humanitarian standards needed?

- ⇒ Quality: efficient, effective and appropriate
- ⇒ Accountability: answerable for actions
- ⇒ Inclusive: people affected by crisis are involved in decisions that affect them
- ⇒ Coordinated: "A common language"

Written by humanitarians, for humanitarians



CONSULTATIONS SNAPSHOT

The 2018 edition is grounded in the expertise of a diverse community of humanitarian practitioners from across the globe.

IN- PERSON CONSULTATIONS
60 events
40 countries
450 organisations
1,400 participants

ONLINE CONSULTATIONS
4,500 comments
188 organisations
65 countries

PEER REVIEW GROUPS
500 experts

2011
 300 Organisations
 650 Participants
 20 Countries

A worldwide community of 100,000+ users...



Governing board of 12 members



*Individual board member:
Friar Luciano, FIHM

Sphere Secretariat in Geneva



Amanda Moraes

Network and Membership Manager



Romain Benicchio

Partnerships Director



Felicity Fallon

Head of Learning and Events



Tristan Hale

Head of Digital and Communications



Frédéric Genoud

Head of Finance and Operations



William Anderson

Executive Director

140 + Trainers



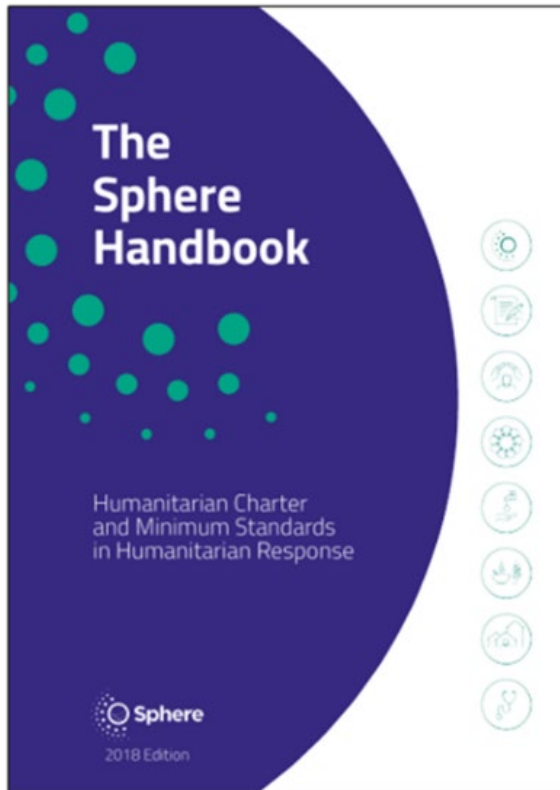
75+ Focal Points



50 Organisational members



...All using the Sphere Handbook



The 2018 Sphere Handbook is available in **24 languages**: Arabic, Bahasa Indonesia, Chinese (Standard), Chinese (Traditional), Congo Swahili, Dari, English, French, German, Japanese, Kikongo, Korean, Lingala, Nepali, Polish, Portuguese (Brazil), Portuguese (Portugal), Romanian, Slovak, Spanish, Tshiluba, Turkish, Ukrainian and Urdu.

Earlier editions of the Handbook are available in a further **25 languages**: Armenian, Azerbaijani, Bangla, Bosnian, Braille (English), Croatian, Farsi, Haitian Creole, Italian, Khmer, Kurdish, Kyrgyz, Mongolian, Myanmar, Pashtu, Russian, Serbian, Sinhala, Slovenian, Somali, Swahili, Tajik, Tamil, Thai and Vietnamese.

Discover all access options
here: <https://spherestandards.org/handbook-2018/>



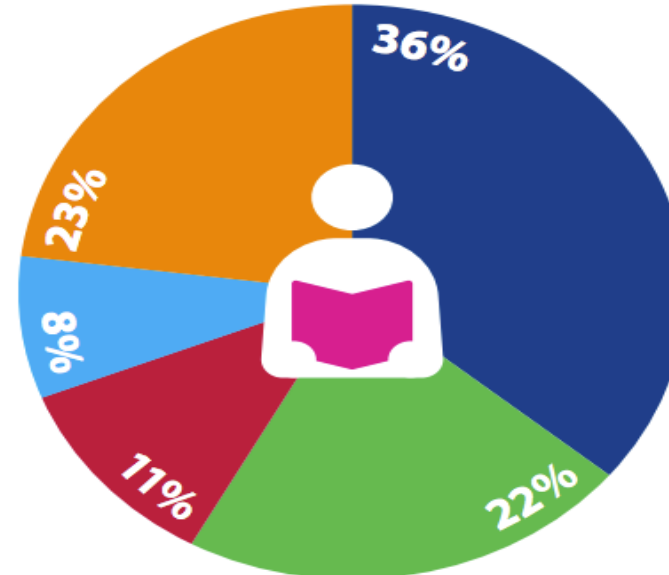
Latest survey on who uses Sphere and how

When is it used?



- Most use it to guide assessment, design, delivery and evaluation.
- Capacity-building and training run a close second.
- Other uses are policy development, negotiations, advocacy, and research.

Who uses it?

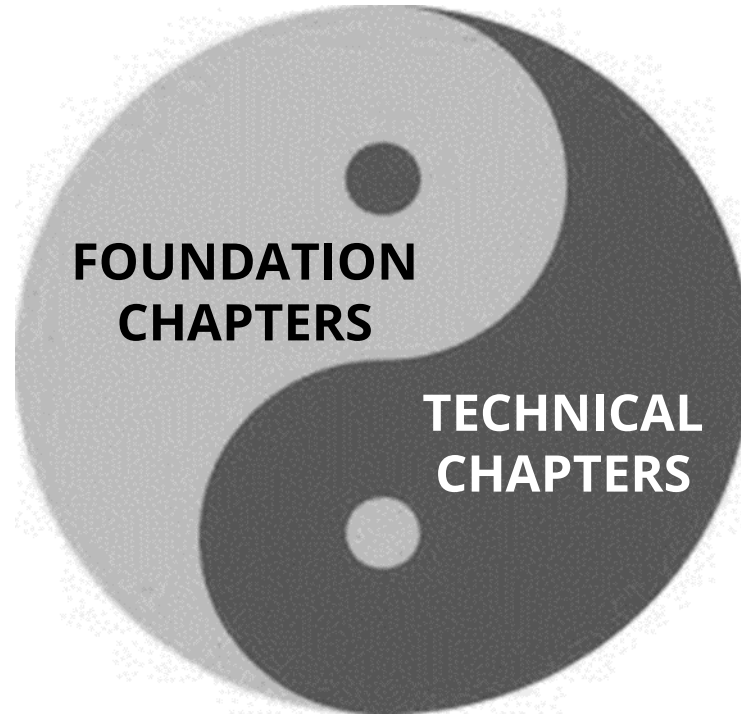


Respondents to the survey work for

- International NGOs
- National/Local NGOs and Red Cross/Red Crescent
- Government, civil defence and national service providers
- UN and intergovernmental agencies
- Other

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



The Humanitarian Charter

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

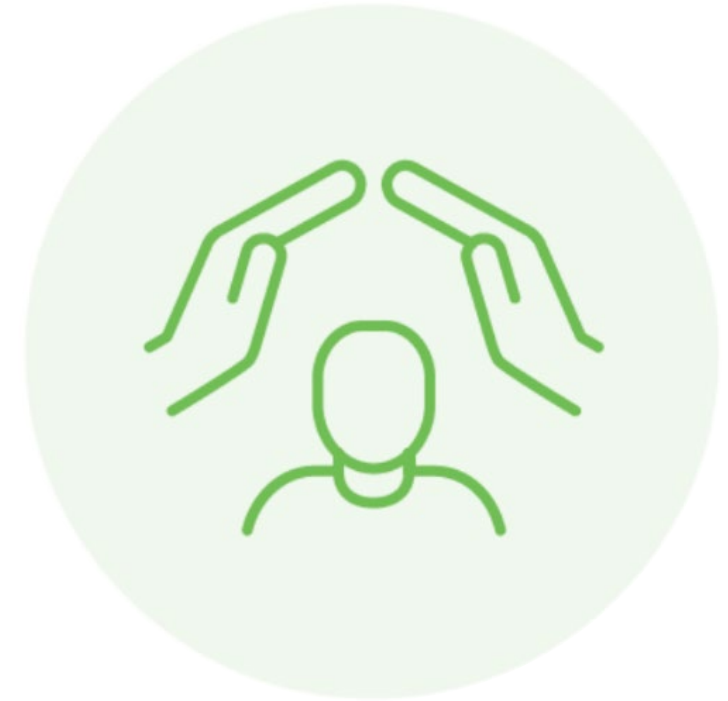


See pages 27–32

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 threatened or actual violence, coercion or deliberate deprivation.
- 4. Help** people to claim their rights.



See pages 33–47

The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS)

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



See pages 49–88

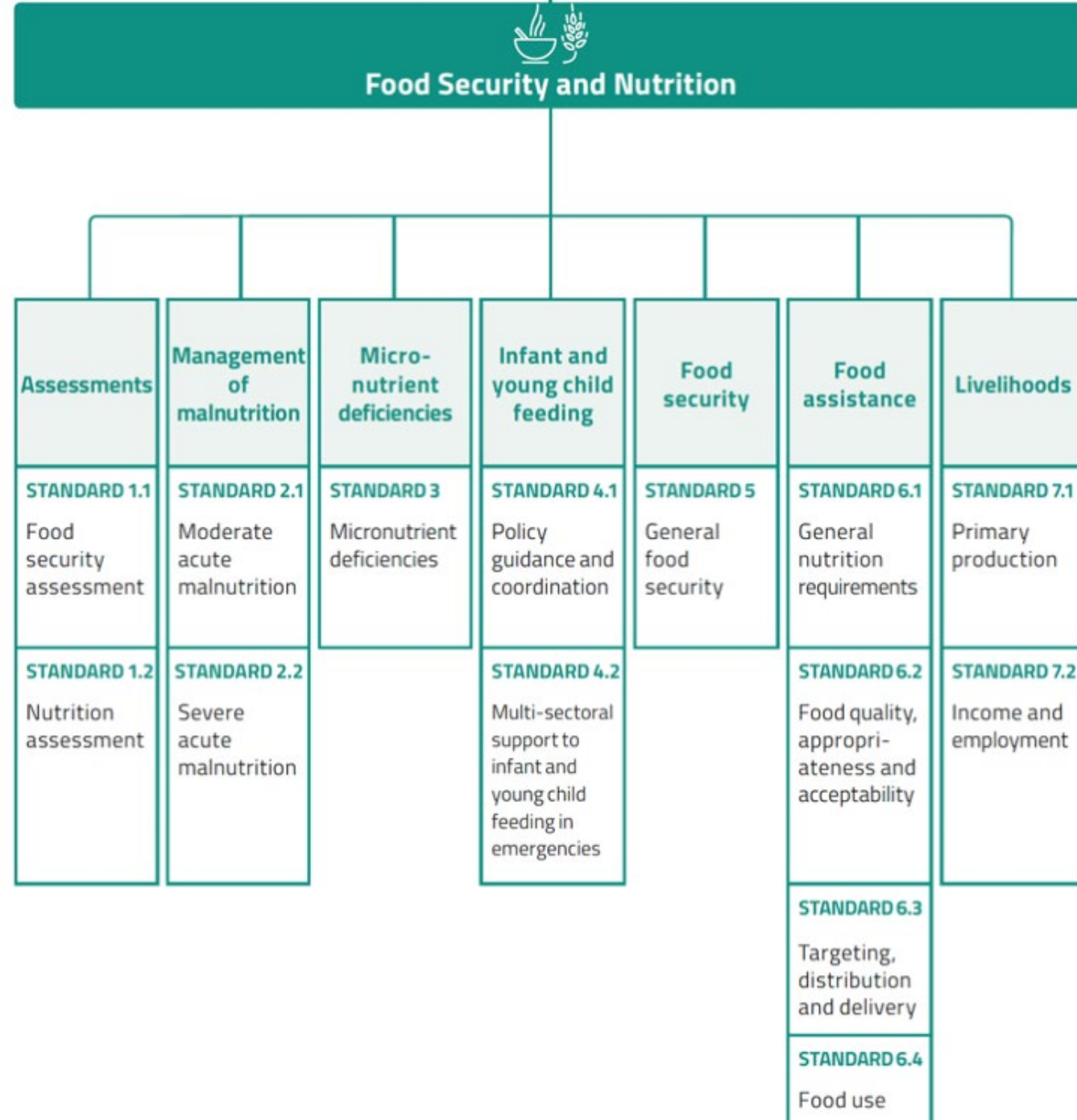
WASH standards



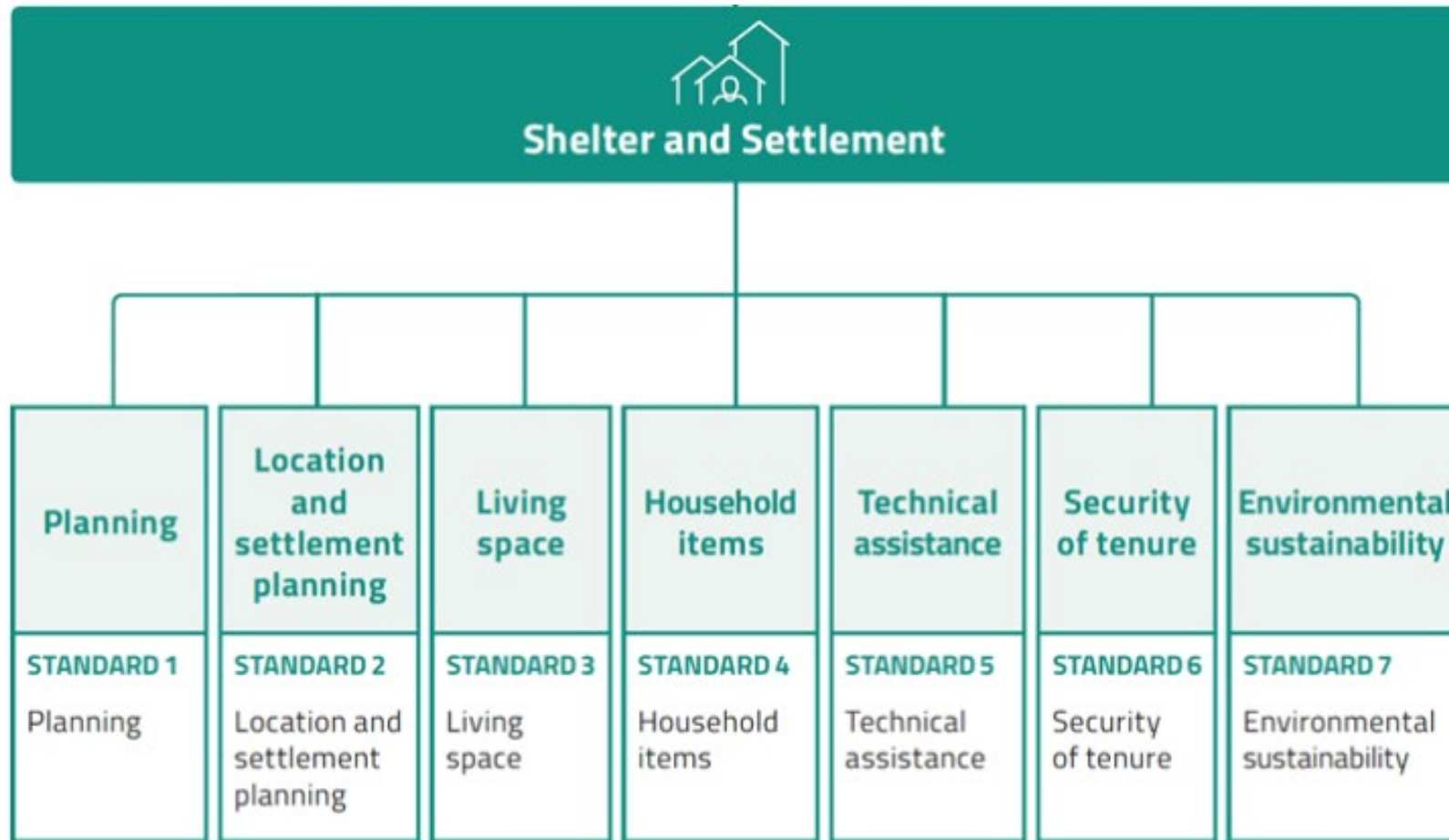
Water Supply, Sanitation, and Hygiene Promotion (WASH)

Hygiene promotion	Water supply	Excreta management	Vector control	Solid waste management	WASH in disease outbreaks and healthcare settings
Standard 1.1 Hygiene promotion	Standard 2.1 Access and water quantity	Standard 3.1 Environment free from human excreta	Standard 4.1 Vector control at settlement level	Standard 5.1 Environment free from solid waste	Standard 6 WASH in healthcare settings
Standard 1.2 Identification, access and use of hygiene items	Standard 2.2 Water quality	Standard 3.2 Access to and use of toilets	Standard 4.2 Household and personal actions to control vectors	Standard 5.2 Household and personal actions to safely manage solid waste	
Standard 1.3 Menstrual hygiene management and incontinence		Standard 3.3 Management and maintenance of excreta collection, transport, disposal and treatment		Standard 5.3 Solid waste management systems at community level	

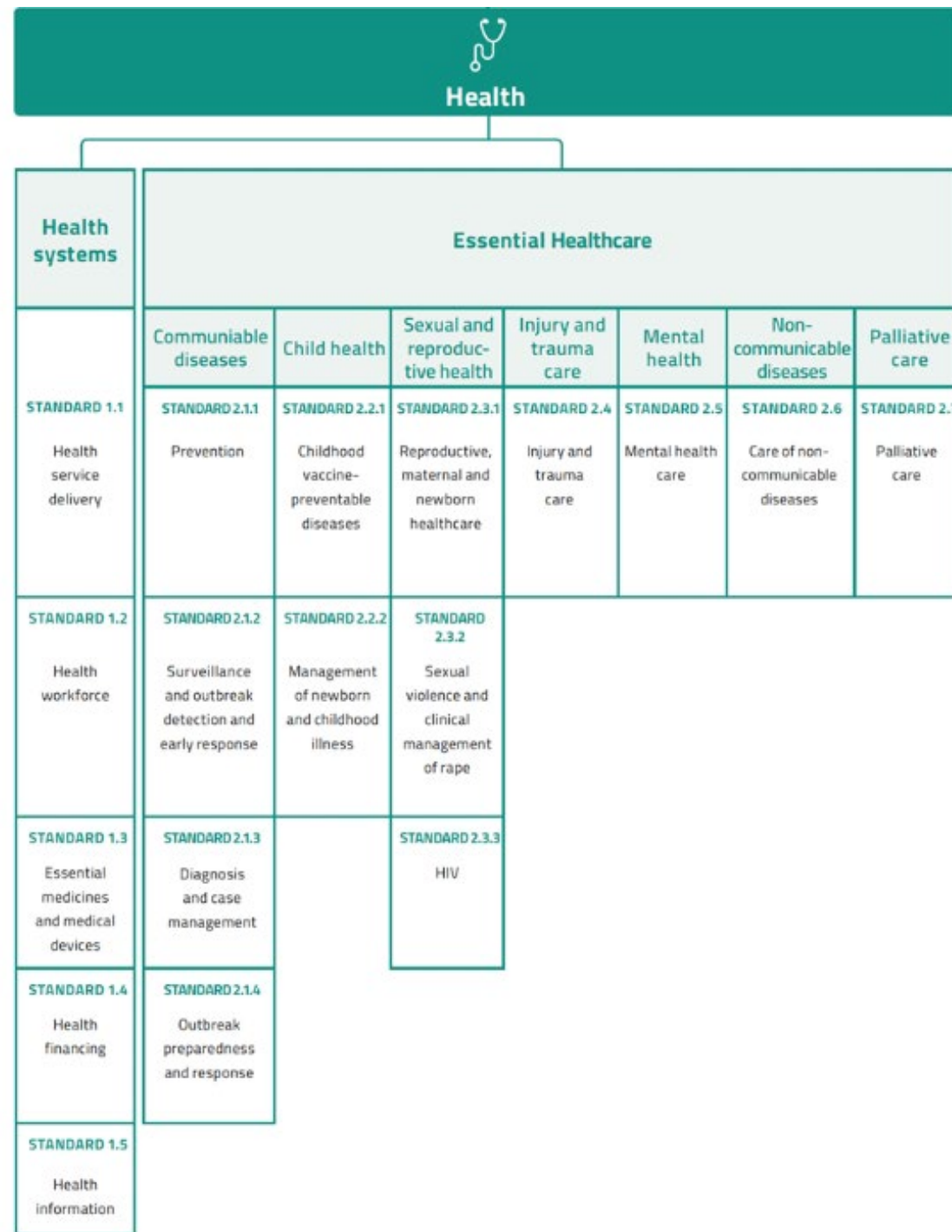
Food security and nutrition standards



Shelter and settlement standards



Health standards





The nuts and bolts: the technical standards

Water supply standard 2.1: Access and water quantity

People have equitable and affordable access to a sufficient quantity of safe water to meet their drinking and domestic needs.

Key actions

1. Identify the most appropriate groundwater or surface water sources, taking account of potential environmental impacts.
-

Key indicators

Average volume of water used for drinking and domestic hygiene per household

- Minimum of 15 litres per person per day
-

Guidance notes

Guidance Notes to Water Supply Standard 2.1

The quantity of water needed for drinking, hygiene and domestic use depends upon the context and phase of a response. It will be influenced by factors such as pre-crisis use and habits, excreta containment design and cultural habits

A minimum of 15 litres per person per day is established practice. It is never a “maximum” and may not suit all contexts or phases of a response.

For example, it is not appropriate where people may be displaced for many years.

In the acute phase of a drought, 7.5 litres per person per day may be appropriate for a short time.

In an urban middle-income context, 50 litres per person per day may be the minimum acceptable amount to maintain health and dignity.

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.



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

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.



IFRC/Alison Freebairn

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



Three types of indicators

Process indicators



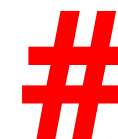
Provide observable criteria to be met (yes or no)

Progress indicators



Provide units or scales, but without benchmarks

Target indicators



Provide specific measurable benchmarks

Sphere convenes the Humanitarian Standards Partnership (HSP)



A network of standard-setting initiatives and organisations

How to become a Sphere member

- **Who can become a Sphere member?**

Members of Sphere are organisations or individuals whose core activities include assisting and protecting people and communities affected by crisis. Sphere members make no distinction in their work on the basis of nationality, race, gender, diversity, religious belief, class or political opinion.

- **Membership fees**

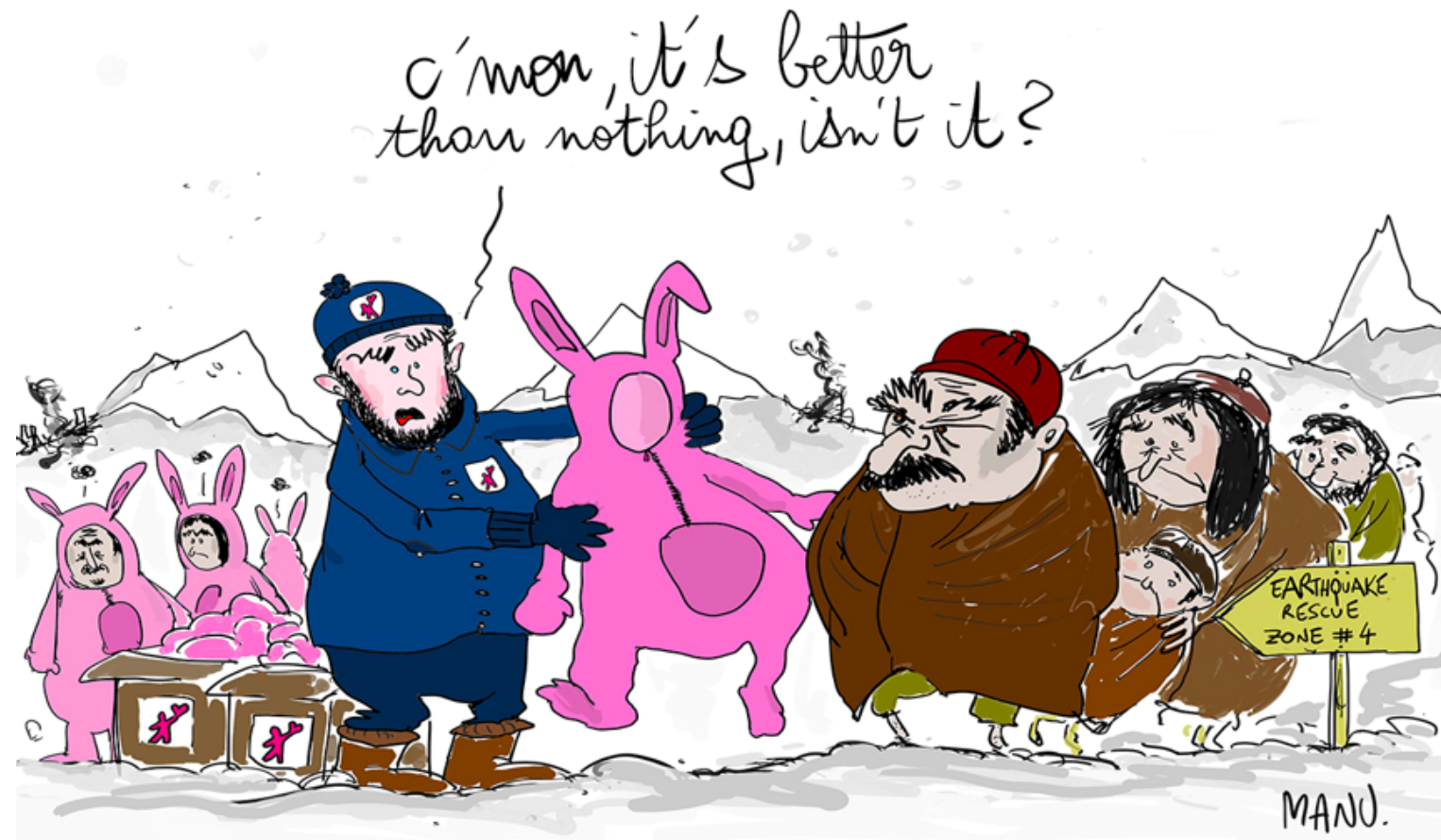
The membership fee is an investment in achieving the collective vision of Sphere. Membership fees provide essential funding for the running of the organisation, while allowing us to leverage substantial grants from major donors so we can achieve our shared vision. Sphere would not be financially viable without annual membership fees. We operate on a tight budget, overseen on behalf of members by our Governing Board.

Fees for Full Members are calculated on the basis of the member organisation's annual revenue (in CHF).

How to become a listed Sphere Trainer

- Have an excellent **understanding of Sphere and the Sphere Handbook**, and an in-depth knowledge of the latest Sphere training materials.
- Have **experience in implementing Sphere in the field** and/or good knowledge of implementation issues and dilemmas through their training work.
- Have knowledge of adult learning methods, and proven **training and facilitation skills**.
- Conduct at least **five workshops, including at least two based on Sphere** – using the latest versions of the Handbook and training materials.
- Attend an officially recognised **Sphere Training of Trainers (ToT)**.
- Provide Sphere with **references** that include peer trainers, participants and organizers of past trainings they have conducted.

Welcome to the Sphere family!



All people affected by disaster or conflict – women and men, boys and girls – have the right to life with dignity.

The Humanitarian Charter, Sphere Handbook

Please stay in touch!



Join us on social media

