



Case Study

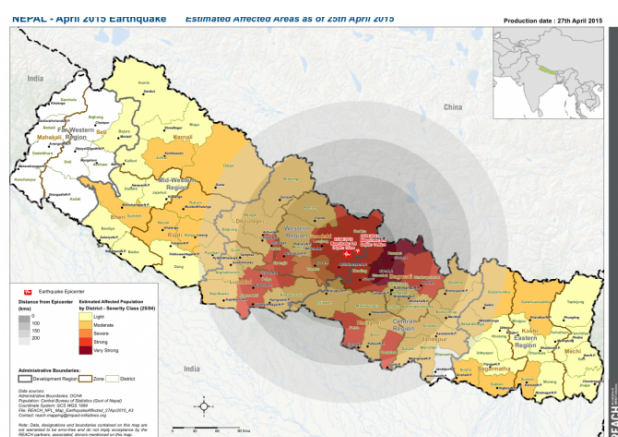
Response for children in Nepal after the 2015 earthquakes

This case study shows how two complementary sets of humanitarian standards can be used in humanitarian response, using examples from Save the Children Nepal. It is based on activities reports and staff interviews.

If you would like to share your own experience, please contact us at hsp@spherestandards.org

Background and context

On April 25, 2015 a 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit Nepal. It was the largest earthquake to take place in the country in 80 years. Less than three weeks later, on May 12, another 7.3-magnitude earthquake struck the already devastated country.



Sphere Standards and Child Protection Minimum Standards helped Save the Children Nepal design a response

Save the Children's humanitarian response provided vital aid to 580,000 people – including 352,000 children – by establishing a successful shelter program. The NGO referred to the **Sphere Standards on Shelter** to develop a shelter and settlement response plan (including early recovery where possible) in coordination with the relevant authorities, responding agencies, and the affected population. As required by the standards, Save the Children worked in concert with the local government's District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRC); together, they selected **beneficiaries living in remote mountain areas with limited** access and less local markets, responding to their immediate needs for the winter months. Through consultations with these communities, the NGO identified their preferences and created **adapted winterization kits**: warm clothes for adults and children, insulation for homes, and other winter essentials for kids – including blankets, hats, and mittens.

The Sphere Standards suggest using cash or vouchers to promote local supply chains and support **the local economy**. Save the Children worked together with local authorities to set up a cash voucher system, allowing children and their families to shop for winter items of their choice and meet individual needs.

The Sphere Standards also recommend that 'information or advice is distributed through public campaigns or local centres on how to access grants, materials or other forms of shelter support'. Along with winterization kits, cash vouchers and grants, Save the Children distributed **information pamphlets** on personal insulation materials, insulation of shelters, and 'how to use cash vouchers'.²

Save the Children aimed to strengthen its shelter response by specifically targeting children. Using the Child Protection Minimum Standards (CPMS) as key reference, the NGO created **child-friendly spaces** for children experiencing distress.³ These spaces acted as a protective area for children to be kept away from potential dangers or injuries and supported their psychosocial and physical needs. The NGO also built temporary learning facilities, providing **vital lifeline for education as well as socialization**. Thanks to these centers, children could quickly return to school and have some normalcy in their lives. Children could



² Source of information on Save the Children's activities in Nepal: Save the Children Winterisation report: https://nepal.savethechildren.net/sites/nepal.savethechildren.net/files/library/NPL-eg-15_SavetheChildren_Winterisation_report.pdf

³ Source for the picture : <https://www.savethechildren.org/us/what-we-do/emergency-response/historical-emergencies/nepal-earthquake-relief>

continue studying even during the winter months, as Save the Children helped insulate some of the temporary learning centers.

The Sphere Standards and the CPMS provided key guidance to implement these activities. Save the Children notes that their staff were frequently involved in trainings to deepen their understanding of humanitarian standards. The fact that Sphere standards were translated in Nepali helped deeply that process.

Sanjeeb Kumar Shakya, Humanitarian Manager for Save the Children in Nepal affirmed that Sphere and CPMS complement each other and allow for a more integrated response. He added: “this response has built on humanitarian standards from the early days of intervention on and through all recovery stages. Using standards allowed for more collaboration between humanitarian actors and less duplication of their work and brought better recognition.”



The Sphere Handbook presents common principles and universal minimum standards in humanitarian response. It comprises the Humanitarian Charter, the Protection Principles, the Core Humanitarian Standard, and minimum humanitarian standards in four areas: water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH); food security and nutrition; shelter and settlement; health.

To read the Sphere standards, click [here](#)



The Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action (CPMS) set out a common agreement on what needs to be achieved in order for child protection in humanitarian action to be of adequate quality. It has changed the way children are protected in the outset of an emergency and hold all humanitarian actors accountable for child protection.

To read the CPMS, click [here](#)

The Humanitarian Standards Partnership (HSP) aims to improve the quality and accountability of humanitarian action through an increased application of humanitarian standards. It comprises seven standards: Sphere, the Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies (INEE), the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action, the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards, the Minimum Economic Recovery Standards (SEEP Network), the Minimum Standards for Market Analysis (CALP), the Humanitarian Inclusion Standards for Older People and People with Disabilities (ADCAP)

For more information on HSP standards, please visit: <http://www.humanitarianstandardspartnership.org/>

