**1.5h in-person Introduction to Sphere workshop** 

Learning outcomes

By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

* Explain Sphere’s philosophy
* Navigate the Sphere Handbook
* Differentiate between Standards and Indicators
* Say why analysis of context is vital

Note for facilitators

This session requires no technology, other than access to the Sphere handbook (via printed book, Sphere website or HSP app[[1]](#footnote-2)). Timings are flexible.

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| Time | Description | Resources |
| 10 mins | **Facilitator uses a mute storytelling method** based on their own experience to demonstrate how important it is to involve affected people in decisions that affect them. In this case the facilitator used mime, a photo of a deaf person he had met in Bangladesh, as well as the following text split into A4 sheets, each with 1-10 words on them: “*Hello everyone, come a bit closer. She is a Rohingya. In 2018, I met her in a camp in Bangladesh. Some magic happened for me when we met. She is strong, and she is Deaf. Very often, I have to think of her while doing my job. Would she participate in the decision-making? Hmmmm, would someone listen to her? Hmmmm, I am in this sector to make the world a better place. You too? I often complain that “the system” is too big and too complex. Nice excuse! Therefore, I decided to make change myself. I want to push my small boundaries. I often fail. That’s okay because I keep on trying. Why have we established Minimum Standards for quality and accountability if we are not using them? Do you really know the Sphere handbook? Do you use it? The Sphere handbook is also our common language, upholding people's rights, putting people at the center. Sphere has eight Companion Standards, and Camp Management is one of them. Check it out! It also has a Disability Inclusion Monitoring Checklist. One out of five chapters is on Community participation and representation. Using the Camp Management Handbook would have helped her to be identified, given full accessibility, empowered to participate in a meaningful way, seeing her capacities, not only needs, and to have a life with dignity.”***Key message**: The approach and tools presented in the Sphere Handbook will help you get closer to affected people by actively involving them in humanitarian response.  | Photo, A4 sheets |
| 10 mins | **Car crash scenario**Facilitator asks participants to imagine that somebody close to them is in a car crash. “*What would they expect of the emergency response?”* Participants reflect on their own, then facilitator records their responses on a flipchart.**Key message**: In a car crash, we expect quick, trained, efficient, high quality, kind etc. response taking into account context and recovery. The same is true of humanitarian response, which is why we have humanitarian standards to guide us.  | Flipchart, marker pen |
| 25 mins | **“Cholera” Deep dive into the Sphere handbook.** Ask participants to access handbook, however they can. Facilitator tells participants that this is a competition and that there is a prize for the winner (e.g. chocolate, dates).Each pair needs to find five references to “*cholera*” in the Sphere Handbook. They also need to be able to say what their reference is e.g. a standard, an indicator, a guidance note, an action etc. As soon as the first pair has found five references the game stops. The facilitator asks them for all their references. As they give their answers, all participants are encouraged to look up the reference. The facilitator uses this opportunity to debrief participants on the difference between standards, indicators, actions and guidance notes. **Key message**: There is lots of useful information in the Sphere Handbook. It is a quick reference guide. It can be used in different stages of the disaster management cycle. The chapters are inter-connected e.g. Shelter with Health, Nutrition with Health, Foundation chapters with Technical Chapters.   | Handbooks, Interactive Handbook or HSP App |
| 30 mins | **Bus Stop Tour of Sphere Handbook**Facilitator splits group into four. Each group has 4 minutes to answer the question on a flipchart, before moving onto the next flipchart when the bus leaves again. By the end each group has contributed to each flipchart. Facilitator debriefs to check understanding. Flipchart questions:* *What are minimum standards?*
* *What are indicators, key actions and guidance notes?*
* *What is the humanitarian charter?*
* *Who is the Sphere handbook for?*

**Key message**: Standards are universal; indicators and actions must be adapted to context. Humanitarian Charter is the legal and ethical backgroup – the “why” of humanitarian action. The Sphere Handbook is for everyone, including affected communities who must be at the heart of all response.  |  |
| 15 mins  | **Questions, Discussion and Evaluation**  |  |

1. https://www.spherestandards.org/handbook-2018/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)