

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 app¹). Timings are flexible. The first sequence is designed to get to know one other and put the participants in the mood for learning, as well as present the Sphere philosophy in an active and engaging way. The quality of the debriefing is key to the success of the ‘Deep Dive into the handbook’ sequence. Try to relate the handbook to the participants professional experience. Draw upon experience from different countries and backgrounds where possible.

Time	Description	Resources
15 mins	<p>Ask: How close are you to affected people? Place an item in the middle of the room to indicate affected people. Ask people to place themselves in the room according to how close they are to affected people in their daily life. Choose three or four people to debrief: Why did you stand where you stood?</p> <p>Replace the item with a Sphere Handbook</p> <p>Ask: How close are you to Sphere? Ask people to place themselves again according to how close they are to Sphere. Debrief: Why did you stand where you stood?</p> <p>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.</p>	Item (can be e.g. a bottle of water), Handbook
10 mins	<p>Give brief history of Sphere. The handbook is written by humanitarians, for humanitarians. Foundation chapters and 4 life-saving technical chapters. Let’s dive in!</p>	
20 mins	<p>Deep dive into the Sphere handbook. Ask participants to download handbook. Distribute paper copies if you have them.</p> <p>Task: You are working on the Polish border, on a new emergency shelter for Ukrainian refugees.</p>	A3 posters with each issue stuck to walls of classroom

¹ <https://www.spherestandards.org/handbook-2018/>

	<p>You are asked for advice on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising the living space in the shelter • Promoting good hygiene practices in the shelter • Ensuring that refugees' nutritional needs are met • Taking care of the mental health needs of staff and residents • Ensuring residents can participate in decisions that affect them, and give feedback <p>Ask students to stand near the poster with the theme they want to work on. That is their group. Ask them to note on the flipchart all the references they can find in the Sphere Handbook that will help them give advice on their issue.</p> <p>Go round the groups, helping them find references throughout the handbook, asking them to write out relevant standards in full, and to list indicators where appropriate.</p>	
20 mins	<p>Debrief: Ask each group to present their findings in turn.</p> <p>Debrief: How useful did you find the handbook? Show how their answers came from different parts of the Sphere Handbook. No one chapter exists in isolation. Technical chapters and cross-cutting themes. Explain the difference between standards and indicators. Use 15l and 3.5 m2 as examples. Discuss contextualisation.</p> <p>Key message: There is a lot of information in the Sphere handbook! Importance of contextualisation and involvement of local population.</p>	
10 mins	<p>Health Chapter: Individual Reflection p.290 Choose one Health standard that is particularly relevant to your current work. Read it. Why did you choose that standard? How useful did you find the guidance?</p>	
15 mins	<p>Questions, Discussion and Evaluation (15 mins)</p>	