



# Sphere

## IN PRACTICE



DRUŠTVO CRVENOG KRSTA/KRIŽA BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE  
ДРУШТВО ЦРВЕНОГ КРСТА/КРИЖА БОСНЕ И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНЕ  
RED CROSS SOCIETY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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# DPPI SEE

Disaster preparedness and prevention Initiative  
for South eastern Europe



# Sphere

Sphere Training of Trainers

Tirana, Albania from 13th to 17th June, 2022

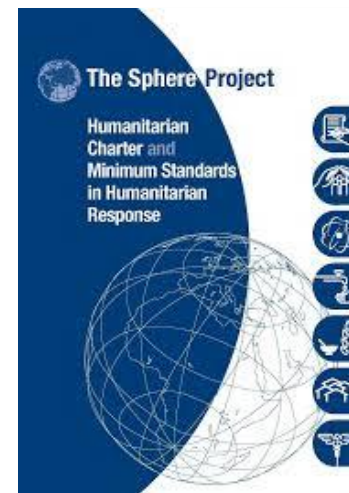


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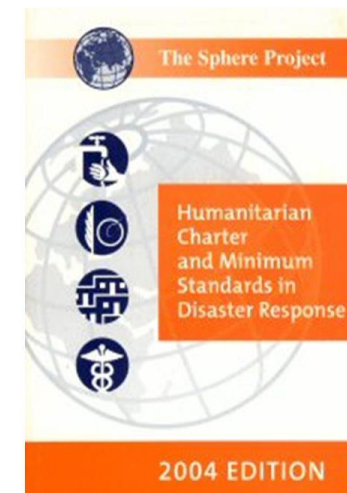
Joint Evaluation of Emergency Assistance to Rwanda (JEEAR) by Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs took place between 1994 and 1996

Section 4.6 of the JEEAR, Improving NGO performance, includes the following statement: *"...set of standards should be widely disseminated and promoted among NGOs, official agencies and governments."*

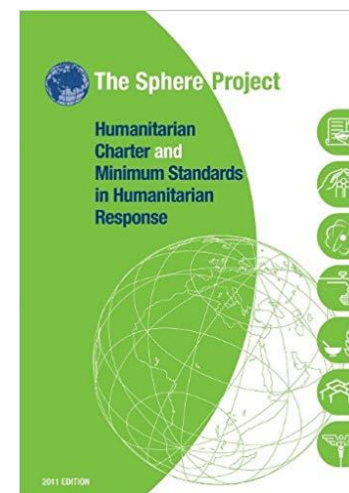
The Sphere Project was created in 1997 by humanitarian NGOs and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to improve the quality of humanitarian response and to be more accountable for their actions.



2000



2004



2011



2018



# Sphere?

**Sphere is a community** of members, trainers, focal points and practitioners who use, discuss and seek to continually improve the guidance that the Handbook provides.

**Sphere is a public service:** a resource that aims to support humanitarians to provide better assistance to those in need.

**Sphere is an approach to humanitarian assistance,** and it does not mean meeting every technical standard.



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## Adopting the **Sphere approach** means:

1. striving to do the best you can with limited resources
2. explaining what your programme achieved, what you learned and what still needs to be done,
3. advocating for more action and more resources to fill the gaps
4. involving affected populations in your work.

It does not mean meeting every technical standard.

# Sphere?



# Sphere?

“Conforming to the Sphere standards **does not mean** implementing all key actions or meeting all key indicators of all standards. The degree to which an organisation can meet the standards will depend on a range of factors, some of which are beyond their control.” (page 8)

It is an **uncomfortable truth** that no humanitarian programme will ever result in all the standards being met for all affected people.

The best humanitarian programmes improve conditions for affected populations without negative consequences for other people and the environment.



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# Sphere?

## What is Sphere Handbook?

The Sphere Handbook describes widely recognised minimum standards for humanitarian response.

The Sphere Handbook is **rights-based**. It is also **evidence-based** and **experience-based**.

Humanitarian work is characterised by having to make difficult decisions that affect the lives of people affected by crisis.

- How can the Sphere Handbook guide you to make good decisions in humanitarian settings?



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The **Sphere Handbook 2018** offers an integrated approach to humanitarian work incorporating humanitarian principles, the core humanitarian standard and technical standards.

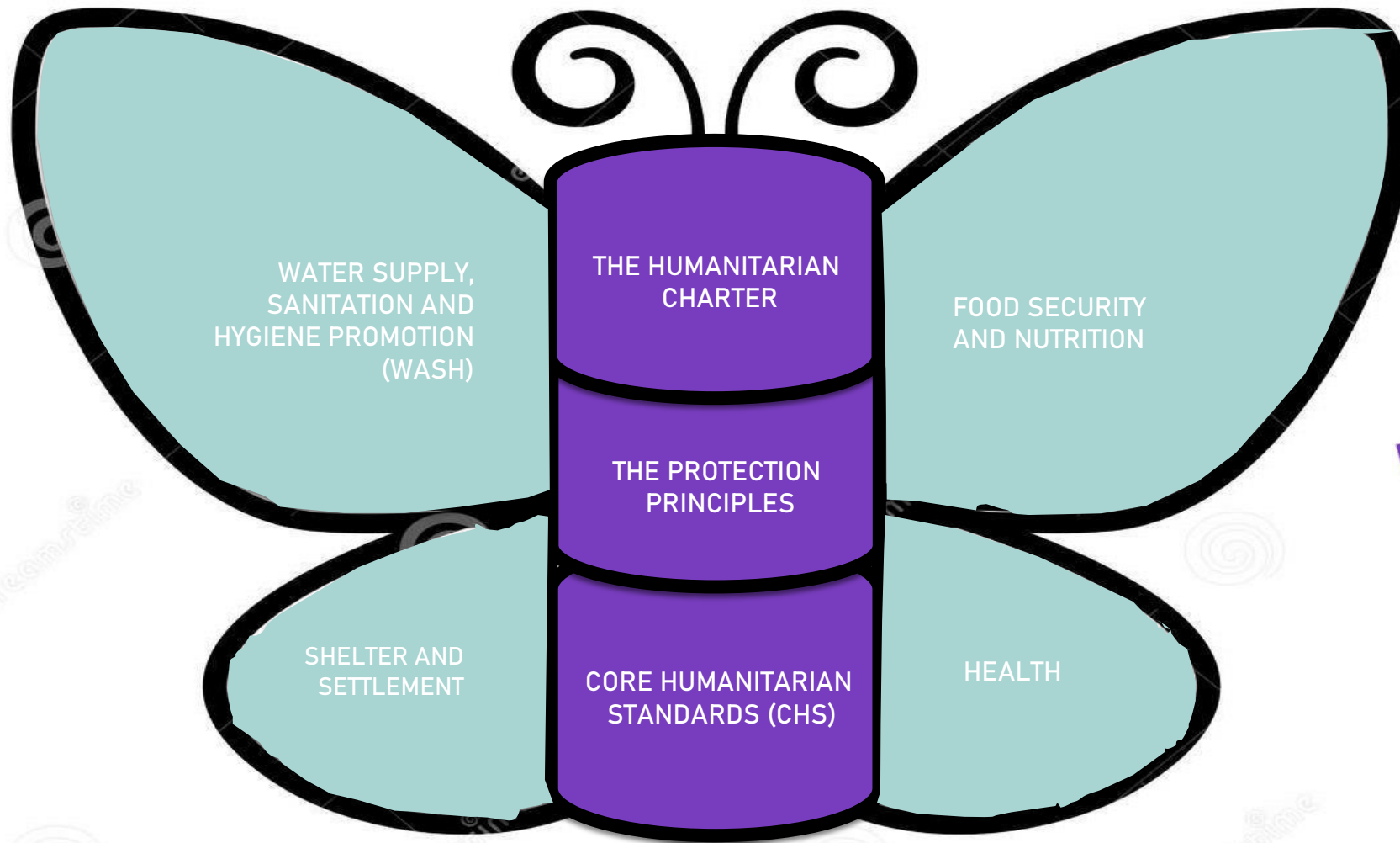
Foundation Chapters		
<b>Humanitarian Charter</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The right to life with dignity</li> <li>• The right to receive humanitarian assistance</li> <li>• The right to protection and security</li> </ul>	<b>Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS)</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Appropriateness, relevance</li> <li>2. Effectiveness, timeliness</li> <li>3. Strengthening Local Capacities</li> <li>4. Communication, Participation, Feedback</li> <li>5. Complaints Mechanisms</li> <li>6. Coordination, Complementarity</li> <li>7. Learning, Improvement</li> <li>8. People Management</li> <li>9. Resource Management</li> </ol>	<b>Protection Principles</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid exposing people to further harm</li> <li>• Ensure impartial assistance</li> <li>• Assist in recovery from violations</li> <li>• Help people to claim their rights</li> </ul>
<p><i>The Principle "Right to life with dignity" is put into practice by implementing the Core Humanitarian Standard and the technical Standards in humanitarian response.</i></p>		

Technical Chapters			
WASH	Food	Shelter	Health
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hygiene promotion</li> <li>2. Water supply</li> <li>3. Excreta management</li> <li>4. Vector control</li> <li>5. Solid waste management</li> <li>6. WASH in disease outbreaks and healthcare settings</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Food security and nutrition assessments</li> <li>2. Management of malnutrition</li> <li>3. Micronutrient deficiencies</li> <li>4. Infant and young child feeding</li> <li>5. Food security</li> <li>6. Food assistance</li> <li>7. Livelihoods</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Planning</li> <li>2. Location and settlement planning</li> <li>3. Living space</li> <li>4. Household items</li> <li>5. Technical assistance</li> <li>6. Security of tenure</li> <li>7. Environmental sustainability</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Health systems</li> <li>2. Essential healthcare               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1 Communicable diseases</li> <li>2.2 Child health</li> <li>2.3 Sexual and reproductive health</li> <li>2.4 Injury and trauma care</li> <li>2.5 Mental health</li> <li>2.6 Non-communicable diseases</li> <li>2.7 Palliative care</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

**Improving the quality and accountability of humanitarian response with a people-centered, rights-based approach**







A technical standard consists of the standard itself, key actions, key indicators and guidance notes.

**standard** itself is universal and applies in all settings

**actions** and **indicators** need to be selected, and **targets** need to be adjusted, so they are relevant to your specific context

**guidance notes** are designed to help you to contextualize actions and indicators



The minimum standard

A universal, qualitative minimum condition for life with dignity



Key actions

Suggested practical steps to achieve the minimum standard



Key indicators

Suggested things to measure to demonstrate progress towards achieving the standard



Guidance notes

Additional information to support the key actions





# SHELTER AND SETTLEMENT

consists of:

- standard,
- key actions,
- key indicators
- guidance notes



# SHELTER AND SETTLEMENT

Shelter and settlement minimum standard 3: Living space.

People have access to living spaces that are safe and adequate, enabling essential household and livelihoods activities to be undertaken with dignity

There are three suggested key actions.

Key action 1: Ensure that each affected household has adequate living space to perform basic domestic activities.

The indicators in this standard provide the following suggested targets:

- Minimum 3.5 square metres of living space per person, excluding cooking space, bathing area and sanitation facility
- 4.5–5.5 square metres of living space per person in cold climates or urban settings where internal cooking space and bathing and/or sanitation facilities are included
- Internal floor-to-ceiling height of at least 2 metres (2.6 metres in hot climates) at the highest point.”



The guidance notes tell us:

Living space should be adequate for daily activities such as sleeping, preparing and eating food, washing, dressing, storing food and water, and protecting household possessions and other key assets. It must ensure privacy and separation as required between sexes, different age groups and families within a given household according to cultural and social norms.

If you are starting a new programme and you have limited information about your population – perhaps they haven't even arrived on site yet – then the numerical targets included in this standard are excellent for budgeting and for including in your funding proposal for Phase 1.

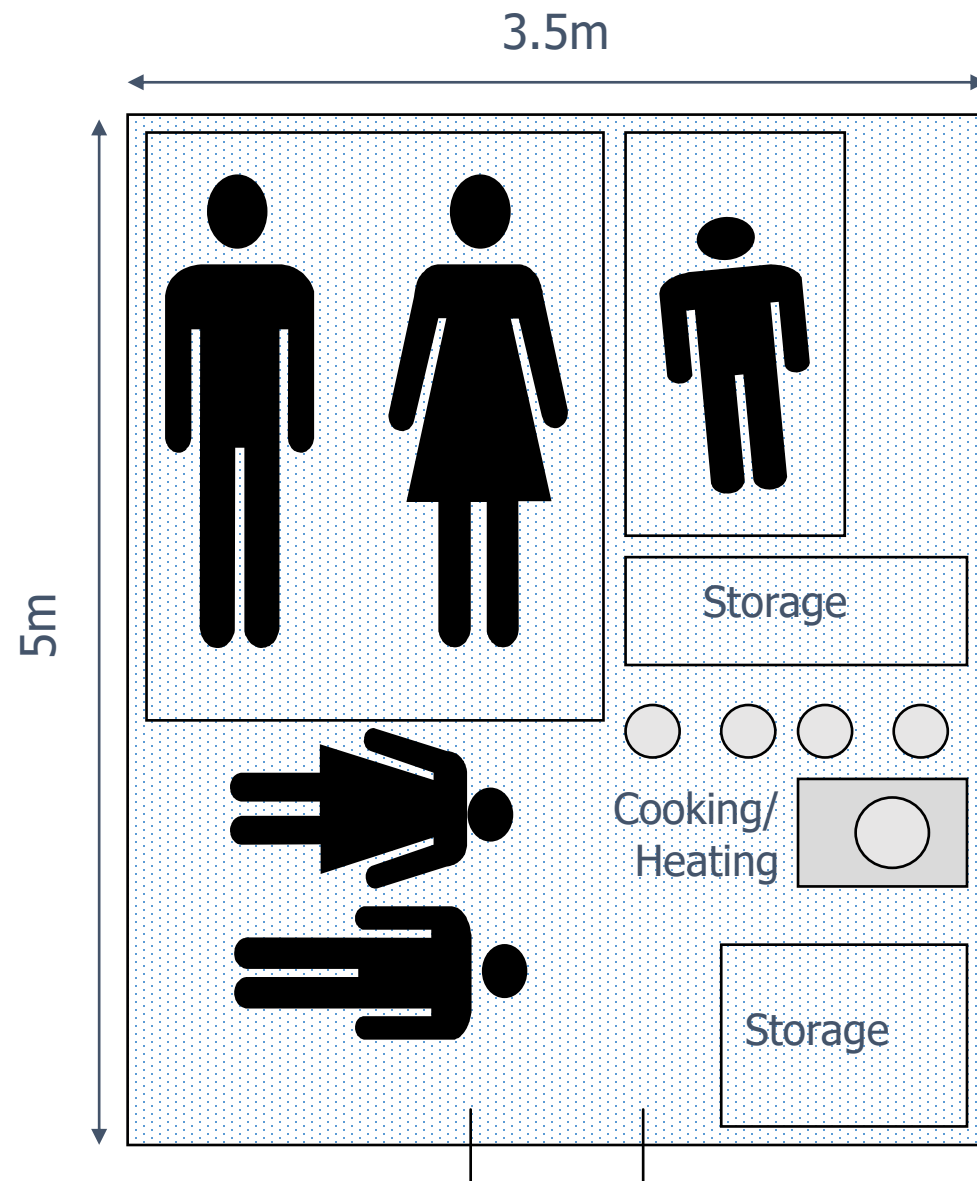
Once the programme is active, you'll need to refine what is “adequate space” for each person you are assisting



## Example - minimum shelter under roof

One tent (3.5m x 5m)  
Size = 17.5m<sup>2</sup>

Shelter space per person = 3.5m<sup>2</sup>  
(for an average family size of 5)





# WATER SUPPLY, SANITATION AND HYGIENE PROMOTION (WASH)

consists of:

- standard,
- key actions,
- key indicators
- guidance notes



# WASH

Water supply minimum 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.

There are three suggested key actions, and one of them is:

Key action 2: Determine how much water is required and the systems needed to deliver it.

- Sub-action 2.1. Work with stakeholders to locate waterpoints that allow safe and equitable access for all community members.
- Sub-action 2.2. Establish operation and maintenance systems that assign clear responsibilities and include future needs for sustainable access.



There are several suggested key indicators to measure progress towards achieving this minimum standard. One of them is:

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

Some indicators in the Sphere Handbook contain an associated target, such as:

- Minimum of 15 litres per person per day

It is critical to contextualise targets so that they are appropriate for your setting. What a sufficient quantity is depends on many factors, including:

- Environmental factors
- Societal and cultural factors
- Individual factors

Further advice on this is provided in the guidance notes.



In the guidance note section for this standard, there is information on meeting people's water needs. This is an extract:

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

The guidance notes are really important to help us interpret and apply the standard. They can help us to understand what is the most important thing to focus on and how to handle any challenges.

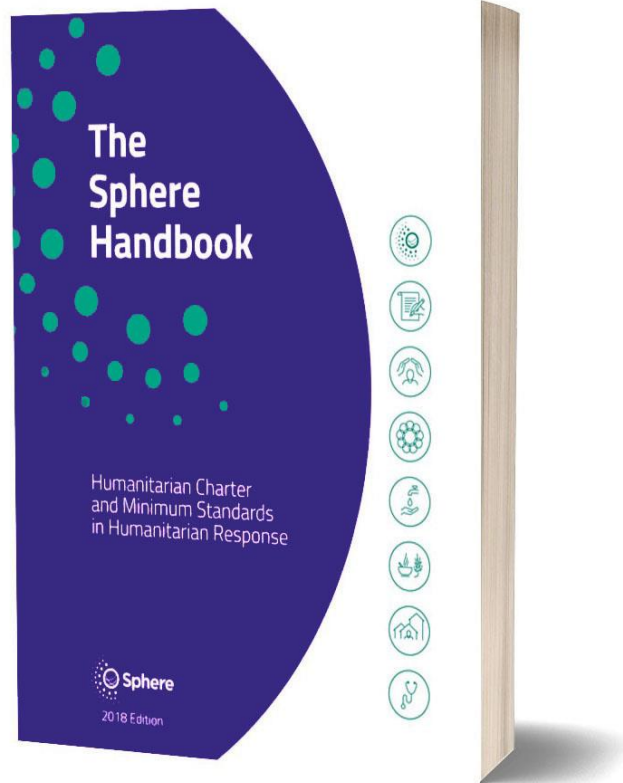


In this example, the guidance notes will help us to understand what our focus and long-term focus should be:

- The long-term objective of any and every water supply intervention must be that 'people have equitable and affordable access to a sufficient quantity of safe water to meet their drinking and domestic needs'.
- If the sufficient quantity for a target population is 25 litres per person per day then this must be the long-term target. And this target must be reviewed at intervals to ensure it is still appropriate.
- If 25 litres per person per day is impossible in the short-term (which is highly likely in a drought setting), then the target for Phase 1 of the programme will be lower, because individual time-bound programmes must have realistic objectives. In this case, your programme will not result in the standard or the target being achieved, and so you should also advocate for more resources to complete additional phases until the standard is met (or until meeting the standard is no longer a priority).



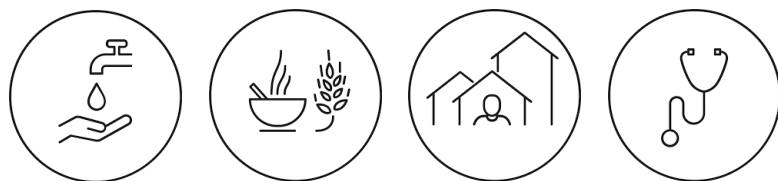




Key takeaways:

**Minimum standards** express universal statements that apply to everyone.

However, the **key actions** and **indicators** should be selected and adapted based on your specific context.



Which of the technical standards do you think will be most helpful to you in your work?



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