Updating Sphere implementation guidance:
Sphere for urban settings

Call for Proposals
Deadline: Friday 1 August 2019

Background

Sphere's flagship publication, the [Sphere Handbook](#), is one of the most widely known and internationally recognised sets of common principles and universal minimum standards in humanitarian response.

The Handbook underwent a thorough revision process in 2017-18. The updated Handbook includes stronger guidance on contextualization, including for the choice of modalities and adaptation of the Sphere indicators to different – in particular urban – settings.

The Sphere technical indicators, previously formulated as outcome statements, have been thoroughly re-formulated to ensure their easier integration into humanitarian processes. In addition, the Sphere Core standards have been replaced by the Core Humanitarian Standard, which means that the themes covered in that chapter have evolved. The Handbook introduction chapter [What is Sphere?](#) provides a good overview of these new and reinforced elements.

Based on these changes in presentation and focus, existing implementation guidance for Sphere needs to be updated.

Sphere for urban settings

This consultancy will update the guide [Sphere for urban settings](#).

The text needs to be updated to reflect current references to urban contexts in the 2018 Sphere Handbook. This will include the following activities (non-exhaustive list):

- The introduction should reflect Sphere's stronger focus on contextualization, present urban settings as one particular context, distinct from other settings such as camps, communal settlements etc.;
- A general review of the existing document to determine which sections can be used
- Update any reference to the Handbook, ensuring a good understanding where urban content was added to the 2018 Handbook and ensure it is properly reflected in the guide.
- New elements will include, in particular:
  o A discussion around the use of Sphere standards in contexts of urban slums and extended urban poverty;
  o Cash and markets in urban contexts (both themes also updated in Sphere)
  o Stronger focus on inclusion in urban contexts

- Particular attention to simple language and focus on using various design elements to avoid and break up continuous text and ensure easy readability.
- Find updated example/mini case studies where useful

The consultants will be supported by an **advisory group** consisting of urban and Sphere experts for commenting and supporting the drafting process and for contributing concrete examples.

If possible, the final guide should not exceed 10,000 words (this number can be revised if needed).

The consultant is expected to have excellent knowledge of English, expertise in humanitarian work in urban settings, and solid knowledge of Sphere.

Deliverables and timeline

This is a consultancy of 10-15 days.
Application deadline: 1 August.
Starting date: early-mid August.
Delivery of final draft: 20 September.

The drafting period of 1.5 months includes two rounds of review and feedback from the advisory group.

Interaction with Sphere team and with the advisory group: an estimated 3 calls with Sphere (no calls foreseen with the full advisory group), discussion with the group as issues arise, integration of written comments on Outline and Drafts 1 and 2.

To apply

Please send your CV and cover letter to recruitment@spherestandards.org.
Make sure you specify in the subject line: "**Sphere for urban settings**".

Deadline for applications is Friday 1 August 2019.

Please note that consultants based in Switzerland need to be registered as such.