

The Sphere Challenge

Prepared by Veronica Foubert

Modality: on-line, using Zoom (or similar)

The main objective of this game is for participants to reinforce their familiarity with the structure and content of the Sphere handbook.

Make it fun but focus on the **learning** (i.e. take the time to correct mistakes – ideally by the group that designed the questions, and reinforce key messages)

This exercise is designed for 30 minutes for one round of questions (all teams, 3 types of questions) but it can be turned into a full 60- to 90-minute session depending on the number of rounds, the difficulty of the questions (for which you could allow more time to answer) and the debriefing of each answer (where the presenter provides a correct answer, and the facilitator reinforces messages and/or corrects further).

1) Explain the exercise (share your screen and use the visual aids below):

The Sphere challenge will be a contest between teams. (Share an image of a challenge, e.g., the rafting boat.) Each team has a team leader in charge of facilitating and capturing the group work. You will be divided into 4 groups, i.e.: Humanitarian Charter, Protection Principles, CHS, Technical Chapters, and should prepare as many questions as you can but at least one of each type:

- *True or False question*
- *Multiple choice*
- *Open question*

Make sure:

- *Your questions are **challenging** and generate the need to **OPEN** the handbook*
- ***YOU** know the answer :-)*

Questions should be challenging, but so not too hard that your colleagues turn their rafting boats around!

2) Give an example of each type of question and of the way the contest will be run (model what you want them to do):

True or False: The Sphere Handbook has 3 foundation chapters and 4 technical chapters

Multiple choice: These are technical chapters in the Sphere Handbook:

- a) The code of conduct*
- b) Food Aid and Security*
- c) Humanitarian Charter*
- d) Protection Principles*
- e) Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion*
- f) Food Security and Nutrition*
- g) Education in Emergencies*

Open question: What is an indicator?

N.B Adapt the questions depending on the level of the participants and what messages you want to reinforce, e.g.:

“If your programme is able to provide 15 litres of water per person per day, are you meeting the water quality and quantity standard?”

3) Break into groups – and move between the groups to ensure the exercise is understood and that the questions are captured. Let groups work for at least 10 minutes (and more depending on the number of rounds you are planning to conduct).

4) Bring the group back to plenary and explain how the game will be played

How to play:

- The facilitator will call on a group to ask a question to all (by rounds of type of question, taking turns from one group to the other, instead of one group asking all their questions in a go).

For each question:

- Make sure everyone understood the question. (Ask the presenter to send the question in the chat and to read it out loud.)
- Give participants 10 seconds (clock in hand) to think about the answer or to open their handbook if need be. (At this point, don't allow for hands to be raised.)
- Then count down from three for participants to raise their hands (first come, first served).

Suggested rules:

- To ensure broader participation (and depending on time and number of participants), each individual can only respond once during the whole game. (They can chat privately within their team if they want to help other team members – although this is not supported by Zoom so they would need to use a different platform like WhatsApp.)
- Before raising their hands, everyone should wait until the question has been stated, the thinking time has elapsed, and the facilitator gives the count-down.
- Points are allocated to the group of the person who responds correctly.
- For True and False questions you could allocate extra points to correct explanations justifying the answer.

5) Play the game and give the winning team a very valuable prize! 😊 (In face to face I use chocolate gold coins. On-line I send them a funny certificate – see below.)

Tips for the facilitator:

- Make sure you have a hard copy of the groups and group members so you can mark who has answered.
- Have someone help you with the scoring
- Have fun!

The Sphere Challenge



Prepare at least one:

- True or False question
- Multiple choice
- Open question

Make sure:

- Your questions are challenging and there is need to OPEN the handbook
- YOU know the answer :-)

Samples

TRUE OR FALSE

The Sphere Handbook has 3 foundation chapters and 4 technical chapters

Multiple choice

These are technical chapters in the Sphere Handbook

- a) The code of conduct
- b) Food Aid and Security
- c) Humanitarian Charter
- d) Protection Principles
- e) Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion
- f) Food Security and Nutrition
- g) Education in Emergencies

Open ended

What is a Standard?

Congratulations

Rima

Cecilia

Mohammad

Malek

Ali

for winning the Sphere Challenge!

**Super
Prize!**

*The Sphere
Trainers*

