Turning humanitarian principles into action

The Sphere Project
Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response

The **Sphere Handbook**, *The Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response*, is the humanitarian community's flagship set of standards.
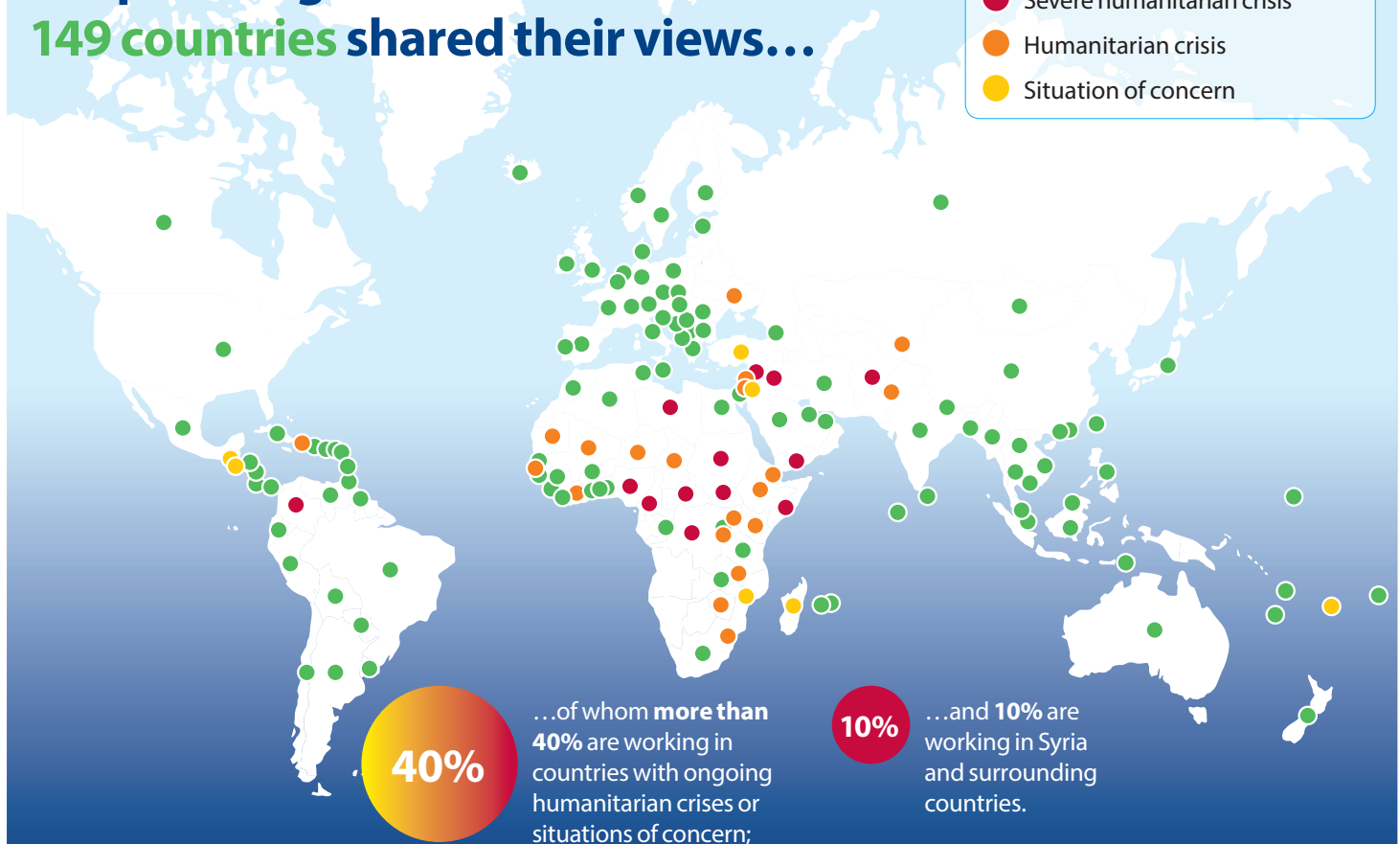
Founded on humanitarian principles, human rights, and evidence, Sphere standards enable professionals and volunteers to deliver quality assistance and protection to crisis-affected communities, upholding their fundamental right to life with dignity.

In April 2016, we asked people to tell us more about how they are using the Sphere Handbook. This is what we learned.

We reach nearly **80,000 practitioners** around the world with tools, support, training and learning. Sphere **focal points** are working in **38 countries**.

## People using the Handbook in 149 countries shared their views…

- 🔴 Severe humanitarian crisis
- 🟠 Humanitarian crisis
- 🟡 Situation of concern

40% …of whom **more than 40%** are working in countries with ongoing humanitarian crises or situations of concern;

10% …and **10%** are working in Syria and surrounding countries.

2,800 users took the survey.

Nine out of ten find the Sphere Handbook useful in their daily work.

Six out of ten volunteered to contribute to the next Handbook revision.

When is it used?

Response: 66%

Recovery: 33%

Preparedness: 60%
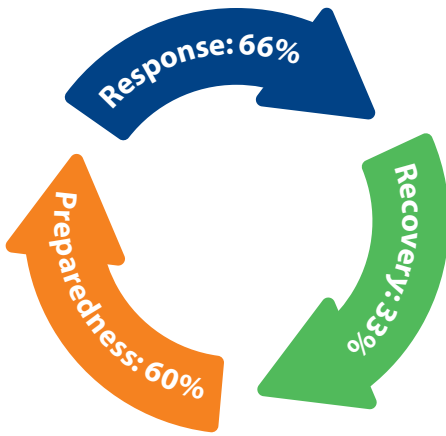
- Most use it to guide assessment, design, delivery and evaluation.
- Capacity-building and training run a close second.
- Other uses are policy development, negotiations, advocacy, and research.
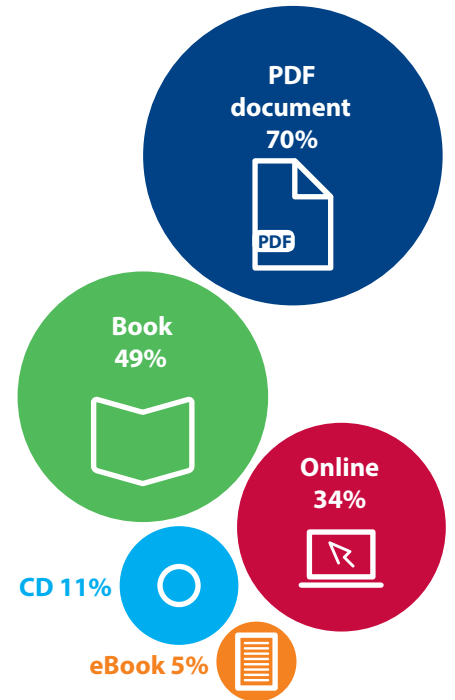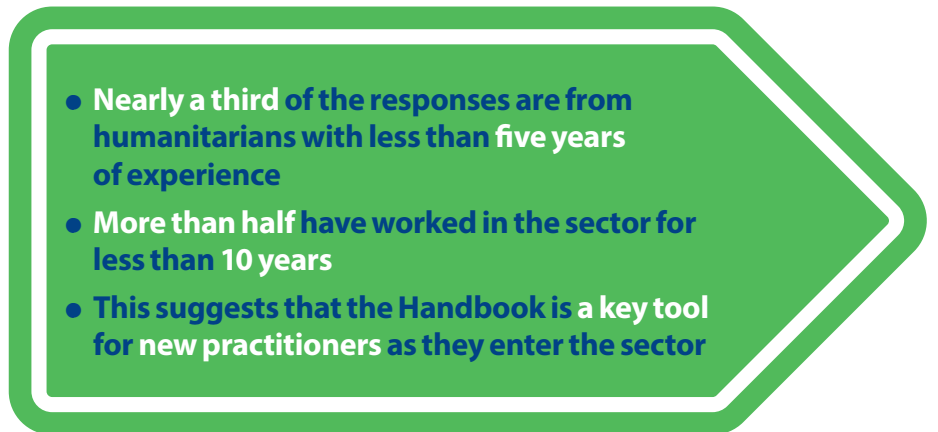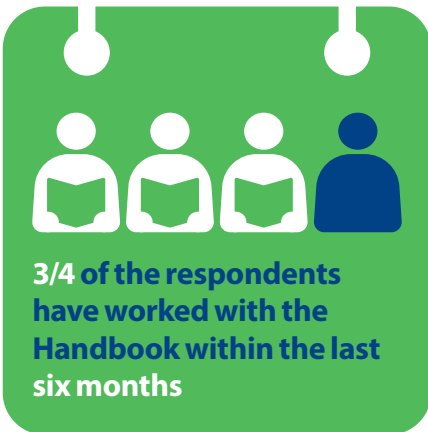
Who uses it?

36%

23%

8%

11%

22%
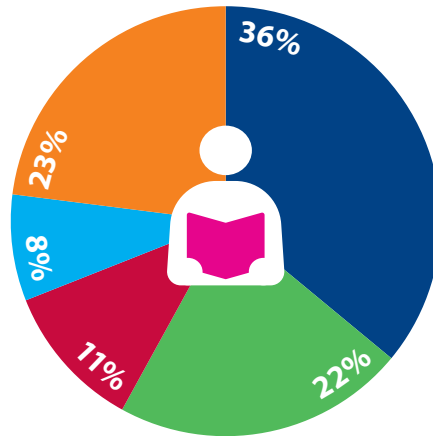
Respondents to the survey work for
- International NGOs
- National/Local NGOs and Red Cross/Red Crescent
- Government, civil defence and national service providers
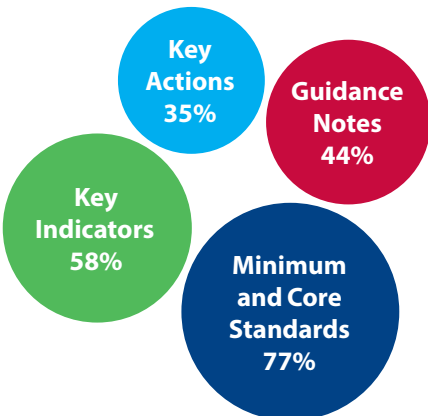- UN and intergovernmental agencies
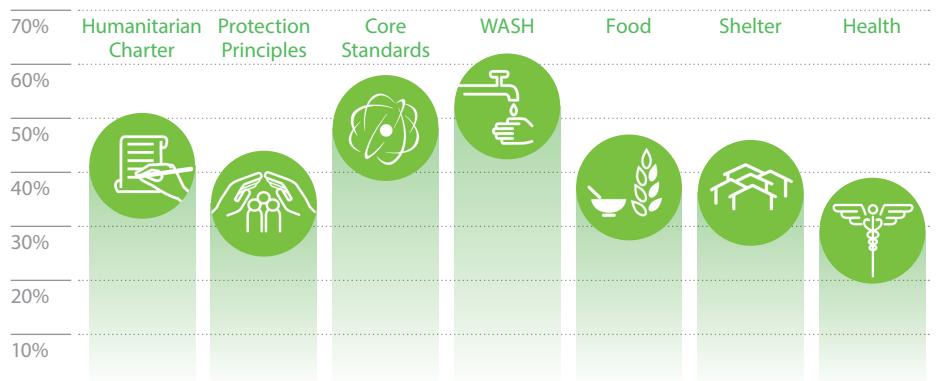- Other

How do they access it?

PDF document 70%

Book 49%

Online 34%

CD 11%

eBook 5%

- The Handbook is currently available in 28 languages.

3/4 of the respondents have worked with the Handbook within the last six months

- **Nearly a third** of the responses are from humanitarians with less than **five years of experience**
- **More than half** have worked in the sector for less than **10 years**
- This suggests that the Handbook is **a key tool** for **new practitioners** as they enter the sector

What elements are used the most?

Key Actions 35%

Guidance Notes 44%

Key Indicators 58%

Minimum and Core Standards 77%

What chapters of the Handbook are used the most?

	Humanitarian Charter	Protection Principles	Core Standards	WASH	Food	Shelter	Health
70%							
60%							
50%							
40%							
30%							
20%							
10%							

These findings will contribute to adapting the Sphere Handbook to evolving needs for a growing range of users. Review and revision will start in 2017, with planned publication of the fourth edition in 2018.

Read a full report on how the Sphere Handbook is being used across the world at SphereProject.org/HB_usage