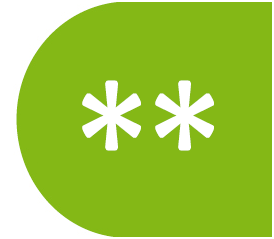
### Summary

An overview of the rights-based approach, structure and contents of the Sphere Handbook highlighting: the Humanitarian Charter, the Code of Conduct, the Protection Principles, the four technical chapters and the transversal aspects, such as the cross-cutting themes and the Core Humanitarian Standard.



### Aim

This block aims to provide essential information about Sphere’s global approach and tools.

### Learning objectives

*By the end of this session, participants will be able to:*

* Describe the rights-based approach
* Explain the Handbook structure and identify the key chapters
* Connect the technical chapters with transversal aspects such as the Core Humanitarian Standard commitments and the cross-cutting themes.

### Key messages

* Sphere is built on a rights-based approach, of which the Humanitarian Charter is the cornerstone, as well as the Protection Principles. The Code of Conduct is one of its sources.
* The Core Humanitarian Standard (which now replaces Sphere Core Standards ‘chapter) and minimum standards are the translation of the Sphere rights-based approach into universal tools for four technical chapters: Water, Food, Shelter and Health.
* The four Sphere technical sectors present the same structure:   
  Minimum standards ➙ key actions ➙ key indicators ➙ guidance notes.

#### Preparation & resources

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| For the facilitator | For each participant | For each group |
| * Sphere Handbook * Projector, laptop, speakers for the ‘Introducing the Sphere Handbook 2011 edition’ video, downloaded in advance (Sphere website/resources/videos) * Instructions for group work on flip chart | * Sphere Handbook * Review in advance the chapter ‘What is Sphere?’ of the Sphere Handbook * Handout (optional) | * Flip chart stand, paper and marker pens (various colours) * Post-it notes, small size, tabs style |

### You may also want to look at:

* **Sphere essentials**: Any module, depending on your training’s objectives
* **Module C6** – Sphere and other Quality and Accountability (Q&A) initiatives

### To know more:

* **Browse** ‘The Sphere Project in brief’: [www.sphereproject.org/about](http://www.sphereproject.org/about)
* **Browse** ‘A campaign to promote humanitarian messages with cartoons’: [www.sphereproject.org/sphere/en/news/a-campaign-to-promote-humanitarian-messages-with-cartoons](http://www.sphereproject.org/sphere/en/news/a-campaign-to-promote-humanitarian-messages-with-cartoons)
* **Do** the ‘Sphere Handbook in Action’ e-learning course, Module ‘Sphere essentials’: [www.sphereproject.org/sphere/en/learning/e-learning-course](http://www.sphereproject.org/sphere/en/learning/e-learning-course)
* **See** the video 'Humanitarian standards in context - Bringing the Sphere Handbook to life': [www.sphereproject.org/resources](http://www.sphereproject.org/resources)

#### Session plan

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Description | Timing |
| Introduction | The Sphere Handbook sets out global minimum standards to improve quality and accountability in humanitarian response. | 5' |
| Slide presentation  ‘The origins and definitions of Q&A, and the Sphere Project’ | Show the slides (2 to 14) in a very interactive manner, frequently prompting experiences, examples and questions from the group. Consider asking:   * Who can recall when the Sphere Project was initiated? * Who can state the 3 rights from the Humanitarian Charter? * Who has experience in…? * How would you imagine implementing…?   Follow the notes below the slides which will guide your questions.  Slide 10: Ask participants to individually write definitions on two post-it notes: one for quality and one for accountability. Then, prompt a few participants on one term and prompt the others on the rest. Finally, put up the next two slides (11 and 12) with definitions.  Show slides 14 to 16 recalling the origins and the key basis of the Sphere Project. | 40' |
| Individual work and slide presentation  ‘The Handbook structure’ | Show slides 18 to 19 and briefly explain the Handbook structure.  Show slide 20. Ask participants to mark the sections you review together with post-it notes. Guide the group with the page numbers.  Select and show some of the slides 21 to 27.   * Guide the participants through the Handbook structure. * Introduce key aspects of the Humanitarian Charter and the Protection Principles. * For the technical chapters: let participants explore the difference between minimum standards, key actions, key indicators and guidance notes by using the Water Minimum Standard 2, as explained in the notes below slide 26. * Introduce the CHS * Highlight the holistic structure of the Sphere Handbook(Slide 25-26) * Also refer to Sphere companion standards | 30' |
| Video  ‘The Sphere Project’ | Show the Sphere video to the group in plenary. | 10' |
| Wrap-up | Conclude the exercise by recalling the Sphere rights-based approach and the Handbook structure along with the technical chapters and transversal aspects (Core Humanitarian Standard commitments and cross-cutting themes).  Show the two final slides (28 to 29) with the key messages and the drawing. | 5' |

### Tips for facilitators

* Appropriateness: This session is particularly designed for participants who already possess basic knowledge about Sphere and who have a willingness to better understand what it is.
* Video: test the sound in advance, use a loudspeaker, and download the movie on your computer before the training to ensure the video is properly displayed independently of internet quality in the room.
* To learn more about the linkages between Sphere and the Core Humanitarian Standard that replaces Sphere Core Standards ‘chapter, please check the Annexes to the Training Package and review the following documents: ‘The Core Humanitarian Standard and the Sphere Core Standards Analysis and Comparison’, ‘CHS and Sphere Key messages’, ‘CHS and Sphere FAQ’ and the Training module on the Core Humanitarian Standard.

**Acknowledgement**: this module has been built using, adapting and complementing training materials on quality and accountability developed by Sylvie Robert with Astrid de Valon, independent consultants.