

The Core Humanitarian Standard and the Sphere Handbook

Since November 2015 the harmonized Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS) replaces the Sphere Core Standards in a community-wide effort to strengthen organizational standards for quality and accountability.

The CHS is a voluntary standard which resulted from a collaboration between the Sphere Project, Groupe URD, HAP International and People in Aid (now merged as CHS Alliance), and of a global consultation process within the humanitarian sector.

It makes an important contribution to greater coherence and coordination in the humanitarian sector by combining and harmonizing well-known core standards and principles.

The CHS will be fully integrated into the next revision of the Handbook (2017-18). Until then, we are providing a supplement to the printed Handbook to introduce the standard as well as how it can be used along with the other components of the Sphere Handbook.

For more information:

www.sphereproject.org/CHS

www.sphereproject.org/about/companionships



Sphere, a holistic approach and comprehensive tool

By integrating the CHS with the Humanitarian Charter, Protection Principles and minimum technical standards, the Sphere Handbook offers a comprehensive tool and a holistic approach to guide humanitarian response. None of these elements stand on their own, but should be understood as a fundamental package to support principled, accountable, and quality response.

WHY Humanitarian Action is essential:

The Humanitarian Charter outlines the humanitarian principles, rights, legal and ethical foundations of humanitarian action.

HOW Humanitarian action is conducted:

The CHS and the Protection Principles provide the framework (processes and approaches) which underpins organisational approaches and technical standards.

WHAT Humanitarian action delivers:

Sphere technical standards (along with companion standards and other sectoral quality standards) spell out the practical steps for humanitarian response to fulfil the right to assistance with dignity. They should be informed by the CHS, the Protection Principles and the Humanitarian Charter.