### Quiz on coordination

Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE?

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|  | Statement | TRUE | FALSE |
| 1 | It is important to share assessment information with the relevant coordination groups in a timely manner. |  |  |
| 2 | Coordination can save lives. |  |  |
| 3 | In an emergency, it is OCHA who takes the lead to coordinate humanitarian intervention. |  |  |
| 4 | It is better if each agency performs their own analysis of the humanitarian situation and selects the geographical area for their response plan on their own because we cannot rely on others to respond the same way that we would. |  |  |
| 5 | Any person from my organisation can attend a coordination meeting, the important part is to be represented. |  |  |
| 6 | While humanitarian service delivery should be coordinated, advocacy should be done by each single agency. |  |  |
| 7 | It is important to share to the coordination platform not only the progress of my organisation’s implementation, but also any major delays. |  |  |
| 8 | The Sphere Handbook cannot be used as a coordination tool because it is not owned by any one organisation. |  |  |
| 9 | The Sphere Handbook can be used as a coordination tool, but only among NGOs. |  |  |
| 10 | While coordination mostly takes place within a specific sector, relevant information should be shared among sectors. |  |  |
| 11 | A Cluster is a group of UN agencies operating in an emergency. |  |  |
| 12 | If military forces bring particular expertise and resources – including security, logistics, transport and communication in an emergency response – there is no issue to openly coordinate with them. |  |  |
| 13 | It is important to promote good humanitarian practice with the private sector when it is involved in emergency response. |  |  |

### Answers – Quiz on coordination

|  | Answer | Source |
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| 1 | TRUE: It is also important to share this information in a format that can be readily used by other humanitarian agencies. | Commitment 6 of the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS), Key action 6.4 p 24 of the CHS Guidance Notes and Indicators |
| 2 | TRUE: ‘Effective coordination is the hidden force multiplier in emergency response. With coordination, one plus one plus one does not equal three; it equals five, or ten. It reduces duplication and competition, and allows different agencies and organizations to complement each other and give added value.’ | Valerie Amos, foreword in ‘Coordination to save lives, history and emerging challenges’ |
| 3 | FALSE: It is the affected state’s role to coordinate the humanitarian response of assisting organisations. Humanitarian agencies have an essential role to play by supporting the state’s coordination function. However, in some contexts, alternative coordination mechanisms may be appropriate if, for example, state authorities are themselves responsible for abuse and violations or their assistance is not impartial or if the state is willing to play a coordination role, but lacks capacity. In these situations, coordination meetings may be separately or jointly led by the local authorities with the United Nations or NGOs. Many large-scale humanitarian emergencies are now typically coordinated through the ‘cluster approach’, with groupings of agencies working in the same sector under a lead agency. | e-learning, Building Better Response |
| 4 | FALSE: Agency should be able to use other programme information from other humanitarian agencies to inform, analyse and select geographical areas and response plans. | Commitment 6 of the CHS, key action 6.2 of the CHS Guidance Notes and Indicators p 24 |
| 5 | FALSE: Staff representing agencies in coordination meetings should have the appropriate information, skills and authority to contribute to planning and decision-making. | Commitment 6 of the CHS, key action key 6.5 of the CHS Guidance Notes and Indicators p 25 |
| 6 | FALSE: Agencies should collaborate with others to strengthen advocacy on critically-shared humanitarian concerns. | Commitment 2 of the CHS, key action 2.1 of the CHS Guidance Notes and Indicators p 8 |
| 7 | TRUE: Agencies should regularly update coordination groups on progress, reporting any major delays, agency shortages or spare capacity. | Commitment 6 of the CHS, key actions 6.3 and 6.4 of CHS Guidance Notes and Indicators p 24 |
| 8 | FALSE: Because it is not owned by any one organisation, the Handbook enjoys broad acceptance by the humanitarian sector as a whole. It has become one of the most widely known and internationally recognised sets of standards for humanitarian response and is used as an inter-agency communication and coordination tool. The principal users of the Sphere Handbook are practitioners involved in planning, managing or implementing a humanitarian response. This includes staff and volunteers of local, national and international humanitarian agencies. In the context of fund-raising and project proposals, the minimum standards are also frequently referred to. Other actors, such as government and local authorities, the military or the private sector, are also encouraged to use the Sphere Handbook. It may be useful in guiding their own actions, but also in helping them to understand the standards used by the humanitarian agencies with whom they may interact. | Sphere, page 5 |
| 9 | FALSE: The Sphere Project has come a long way over the past 15 years, establishing itself as a force for convergence and collaboration within the humanitarian community. Starting out as a project of international NGOs and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement, it initially focused on training and institutionalising Sphere principles and standards within NGO families and networks. Over time, it earned recognition within the broader humanitarian sector. Today, the UN largely embraces the Sphere minimum standards, and governments – both donors and disaster-affected countries – increasingly turn to Sphere when looking for benchmarks of quality and professionalism in humanitarian aid. Several countries, including India and Guatemala, base their national disaster management guidelines at least in part on the Sphere indicators. This is due largely to the successful advocacy work by Sphere focal points. | [www.odihpn.org/humanitarian-exchange-magazine/issue-53/the-sphere-project-taking-stock](http://www.odihpn.org/humanitarian-exchange-magazine/issue-53/the-sphere-project-taking-stock) |
| 10 | TRUE: Meetings which bring together different sectors can further enable people’s needs to be addressed as a whole, rather than in isolation (e.g. people’s shelter, water, sanitation, hygiene and psychosocial needs are interrelated). Relevant information should be shared between different coordination mechanisms to ensure integrated coordination across all programmes. | Commitment 6 of the CHS, key actions 6.3 and 6.4 of CHS Guidance Notes and Indicators p 24 |
| 11 | FALSE: The 2005 Humanitarian Reform established the cluster approach, which is the main way humanitarian actors coordinate. Clusters are groups of humanitarian organizations (UN and non-UN) working in the main sectors of humanitarian action, e.g., shelter and health, who coordinate in order to avoid gaps and duplication in assistance to affected communities. They are created: when clear humanitarian needs exist within sectors, when there are numerous actors within sectors, when national authorities need coordination support. Clusters provide a clear point of contact and are accountable for adequate and appropriate humanitarian response. Clusters promote partnership between international humanitarian actors, national and local authorities and civil society. | e-learning: [www.buildingabetterResponse.org](http://www.buildingabetterResponse.org), which includes key modules on the humanitarian architecture and its implication for implementing actors. |
| 12 | FALSE: The military brings particular expertise and resources, including security, logistics, transport and communication. However, their activities can blur the important distinction between humanitarian objectives and military or political agendas and create future security risks. Any association with the military should be in the service of, and led by, humanitarian agencies according to endorsed guidelines. Some agencies will maintain a minimum dialogue to ensure operational efficiency (e.g. basic programme information sharing) while others may establish stronger links (e.g. use of military assets). In all cases, humanitarian agencies must remain clearly distinct from the military to avoid any real or perceived association with a political or military agenda that could compromise the agencies’ independence, credibility, security and access to affected populations. | Commitment 6 of the CHS, key action 6.1 of CHS Guidance Notes and Indicators p23 |
| 13 | TRUE: The private sector can bring commercial efficiencies, complementary expertise and resources to humanitarian agencies. Information-sharing is required to avoid duplication and to promote humanitarian good practice. Partnerships between the private and humanitarian sector must strictly be for the benefit of humanitarian objectives. | Commitment 6 of the CHS, key action 6.1 of CHS Guidance Notes and Indicators p23 |