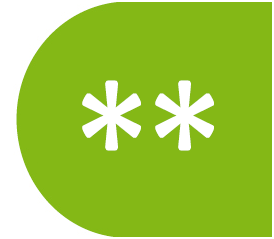
### Summary

An overview of what humanitarian advocacy is about and how Sphere can facilitate it.



### Aim

This module aims to explore what humanitarian advocacy is about and the role Sphere can play to support it.

### Learning objectives

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

* Explain what humanitarian advocacy is about
* Describe how Sphere can be used to support advocacy strategies, for both protection and assistance.

### Key messages

* Humanitarian advocacy aims to bring about change in a situation with or on behalf of others, and can focus on protection or assistance issues.
* The Sphere Handbook and its rights-based approach can be used as a powerful inspiration for advocacy messages, being one of the most widely recognised quality and accountability tools.

#### Preparation & resources

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| For the facilitator | For each participant | For each group of participants |
|  | * Sphere Handbook, highlighter * Handout ‘Case study: Sphere and advocacy – Part 1’ | * One role cut out from the Handout ‘Case study: Sphere and advocacy – Part 2: Group roles to prepare the NGO’s coordination meeting’ |

### You may also want to look at:

* **Module A5** – Sphere in your local operating context
* **Module A9** – Sphere and the Humanitarian Charter
* **Module A12** – Sphere and the Protection Principles
* **Module B5** – Sphere and coordination

### To know more:

* **Do** the ‘Sphere Handbook in Action’ e-learning course:   
  [www.sphereproject.org/sphere/en/learning/e-learning-course](http://www.sphereproject.org/sphere/en/learning/e-learning-course), module ‘Human Rights’
* **Read** UNICEF Advocacy Toolkit, especially part 3 from p.15 to p.69: [www.unicef.org/evaluation/files/Advocacy\_Toolkit.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/evaluation/files/Advocacy_Toolkit.pdf)
* **Read** OCHA Advocacy Guidelines: [www.parkdatabase.org/files/documents/2010\_OCHA-Guidelines-on-OCHA-Advocacy\_ProCap.pdf.doc](http://www.parkdatabase.org/files/documents/2010_OCHA-Guidelines-on-OCHA-Advocacy_ProCap.pdf.doc)

#### Session plan

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Activity | Description | Timing |
| Introduction and hands up | Recall the aim of the block and ask participants to raise their hands if they have already had experience using Sphere for advocacy. Let them share few examples. | 5' |
| Slide presentation | Go through slides 2 to 5, referring to slide notes. | 20' |
| Case study part 1: ‘Using Sphere to advocate on protection issues’ | Split the participants into 4 groups.  Distribute the Handout ‘Case study Part 1’ to all participants and let them use their Sphere Handbook to find out which parts could be used to develop advocacy messages. (Ideas of answers can be found in the Sphere e-learning module on human rights, from which this case study is extracted.)  After 15’, distribute to each group the additional information on their NGO’s specific approach to advocacy and let each group read it.  Let the group prepare what they will share at the coordination meeting according to their NGO’s specific approach for 10’. | 25' |
| Role play | Display the slide with the instructions for Case study Part 2.  Let the meeting take place among the 4 NGO representatives | 10' |
| Plenary debriefing | You can move away from the specifics of the case study to derive the opportunities offered by the Sphere Handbook to support advocacy on protection issues with various types of stakeholders, as well as the various attitudes of agencies towards advocacy. | 5' |
| Plenary discussion  ‘Using Sphere to advocate towards improving the quality and accountability of assistance’ | Let participants share situations in which they could have used the Sphere standards to advocate towards improving the quality and accountability of assistance/service delivery.  Be ready to explain specific examples if participants don’t come up with some by themselves. For instance:   * How can you use Sphere to decide on the number of latrines to set up in an IDP camp and ensure people’s dignity? (Refer not only to the technical chapter, but the Humanitarian Charter on the right to life with dignity, the cross-cutting issues on gender, children or disabilities, and Commitment 4 of the Core Humanitarian Standard) * How does the Sphere Handbook help you advocate with your colleagues to insist that menstrual hygiene should be in the standard hygiene kits? (Refer to the right to life with dignity, Commitment 4 of the Core Humanitarian Standard, cross-cutting issues on gender, and the technical chapter on WASH.) | 20' |
| Wrap-up | End the session by reminding participants of the key messages outlined on slide 9. | 5' |

### Tips for facilitators

* Ensure the conversation among the four NGO representatives is audible to the rest of the group (a good tip for that is to ensure they sit at a large table, a bit far from each other so that they have to raise their voices to be audible to others).
* This block will be more interesting if you prompt participant experiences regarding advocacy at every stage. It does not need to be a large and structured advocacy campaign; even smaller steps on the advocacy approach can be interesting. Try and always relate to the possibilities offered by the Sphere Handbook to support advocacy.