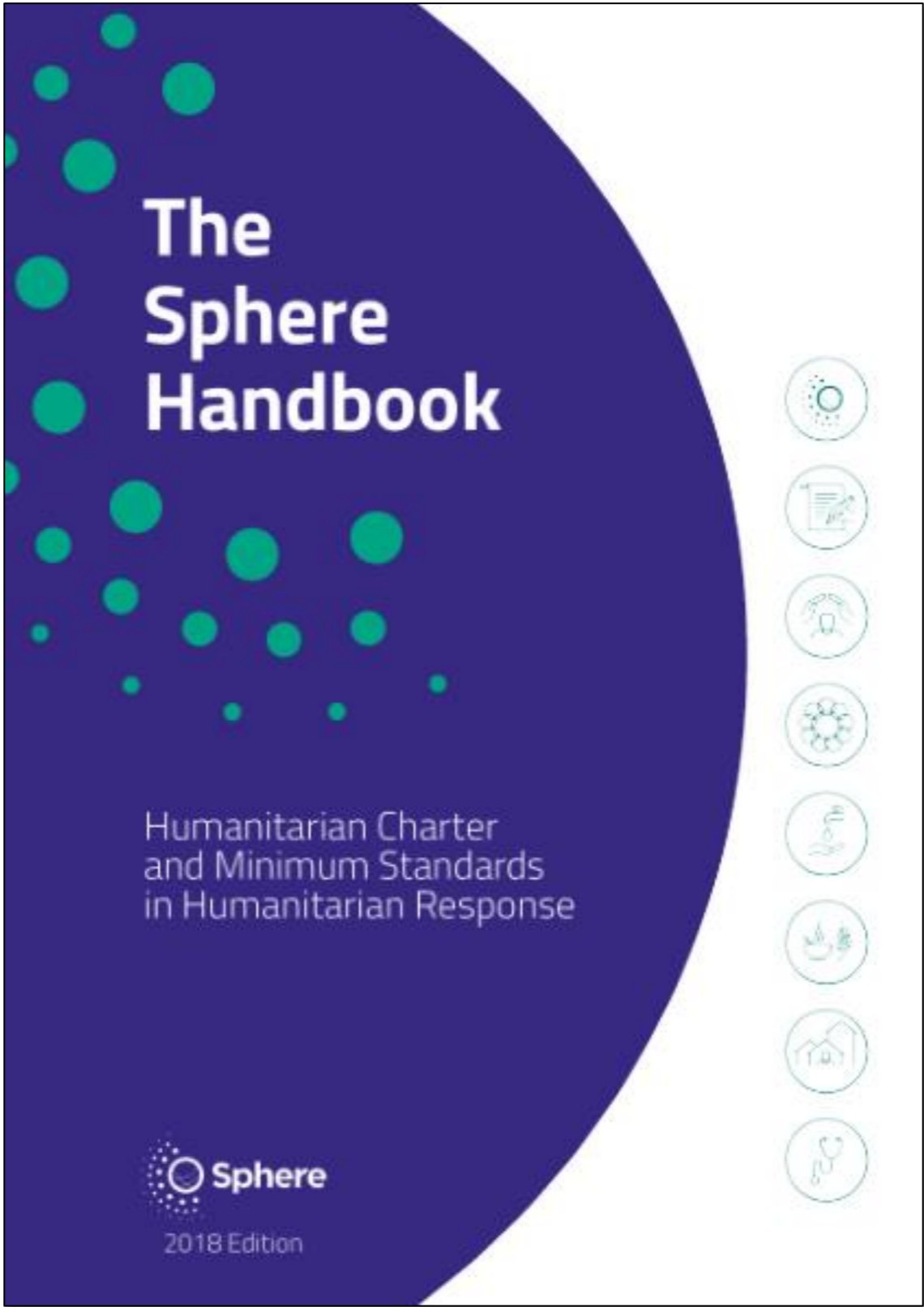




Introduction to Sphere

Centre Humanitarian Studies
8 March 2023

The Sphere Handbook



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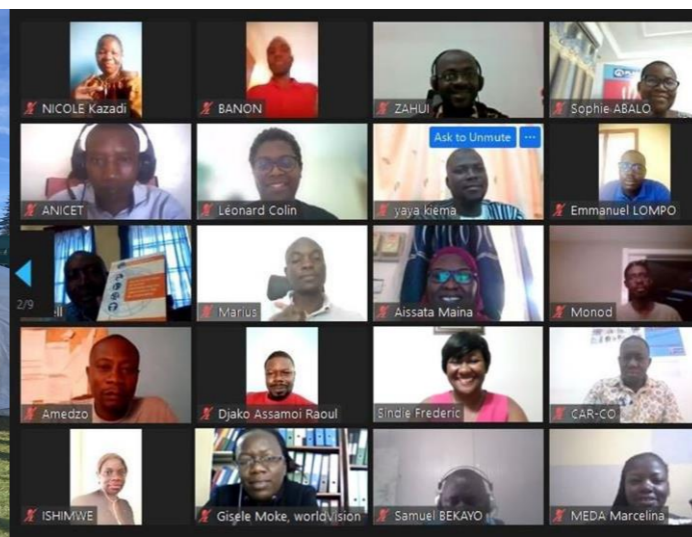
The Sphere story

- Started in 1997 by NGOs and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.
- Developed a Humanitarian Charter and minimum humanitarian standards to be applied in humanitarian response.
- Aim was to improve the **quality** of humanitarian response and **be accountable** for their actions.

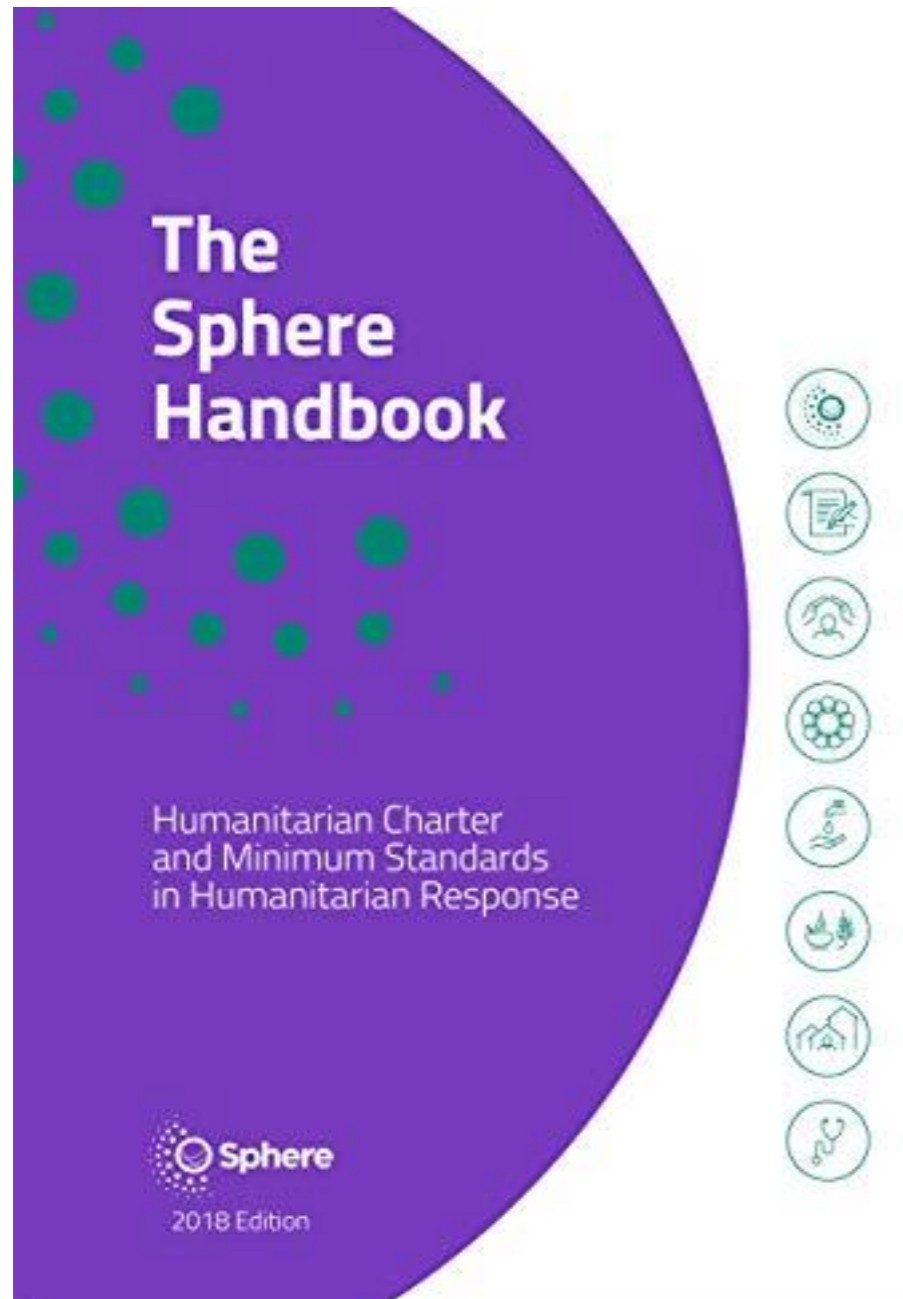


The Sphere community

- Sphere is now a worldwide community working to improve the quality and accountability of humanitarian assistance.
- The Sphere Handbook has been translated into over 40 languages, and is used by national and international NGOs, volunteers, community-based organisations, UN agencies, governments and donors.



Sphere Handbook



- Written by **humanitarian professionals** for humanitarian professional
- Includes **principles, rights, duties and best practice**
- **Foundation Chapters:** Protection Principles, Humanitarian Charter and Core Humanitarian Standard
- **Technical Chapters in 4 LIFE SAVING areas:** WASH; Food Security and Nutrition; Shelter and Settlement; and Health
- Applies in disaster preparedness, response and recovery **in any context**

The Sphere philosophy

The Sphere philosophy is based on two core beliefs:

1. People affected by disaster or conflict have **the right to life with dignity** and, therefore, the right to assistance.
2. **All possible steps** should be taken to **alleviate human suffering** arising out of disaster or conflict.

O'men, it's better than nothing, isn't it?

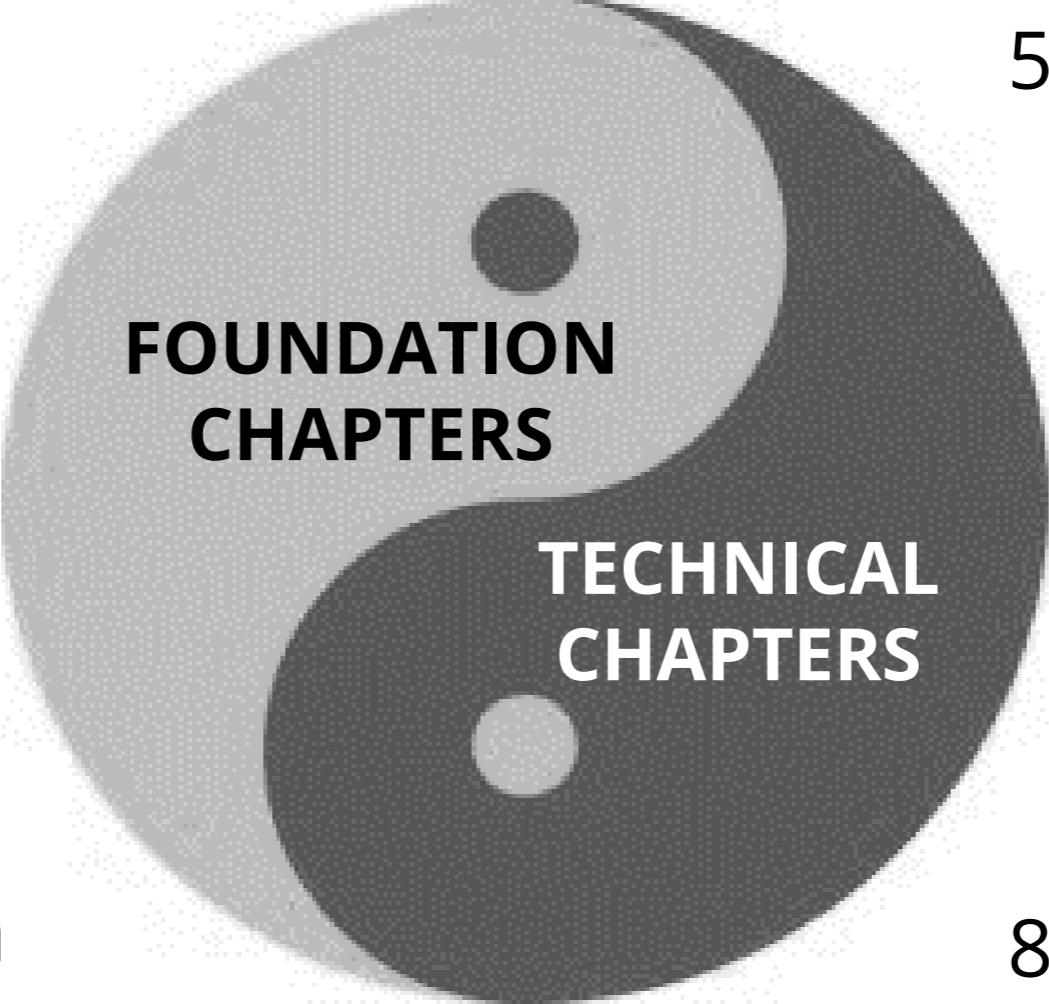


All people affected by disaster or conflict – women and men, boys and girls – have the right to life with dignity.

The Humanitarian Charter, Sphere Handbook

SphereProject.org/HumanitarianCharter

The Sphere Handbook – eight interdependent chapters

- 
1. What is Sphere?
 2. The Humanitarian Charter
 3. Protection Principles
 4. Core Humanitarian Standard
 5. Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH)
 6. Food Security and Nutrition
 7. Shelter and Settlement
 8. Health

8

The Humanitarian Charter...

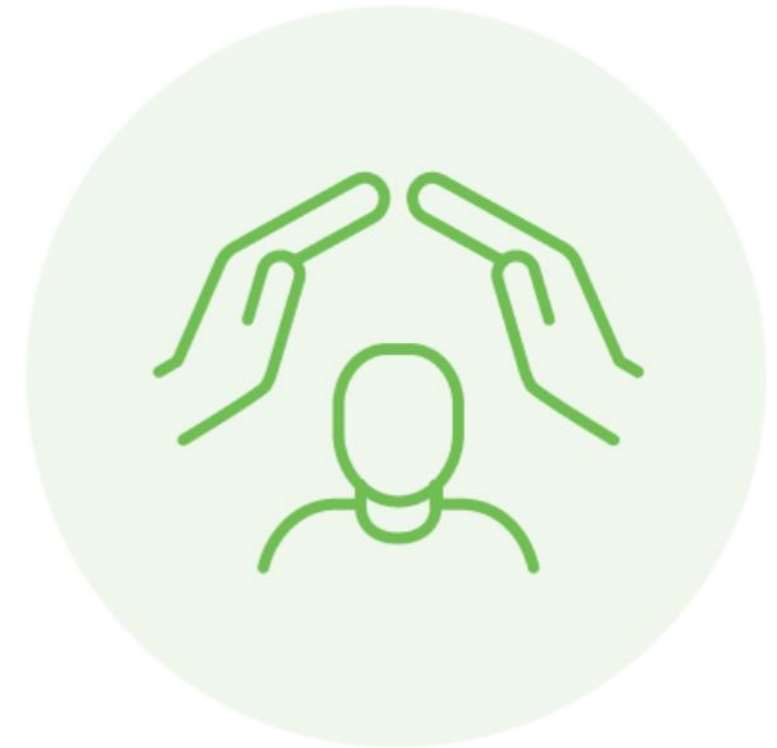
- is the cornerstone of the Sphere approach;
- recognises that people have a **right to protection and assistance with dignity; and**
- provides the ethical and legal foundation for the Protection Principles, the Core Humanitarian Standard, and the Sphere Minimum Standards.



See pages 27–32

Protection Principles

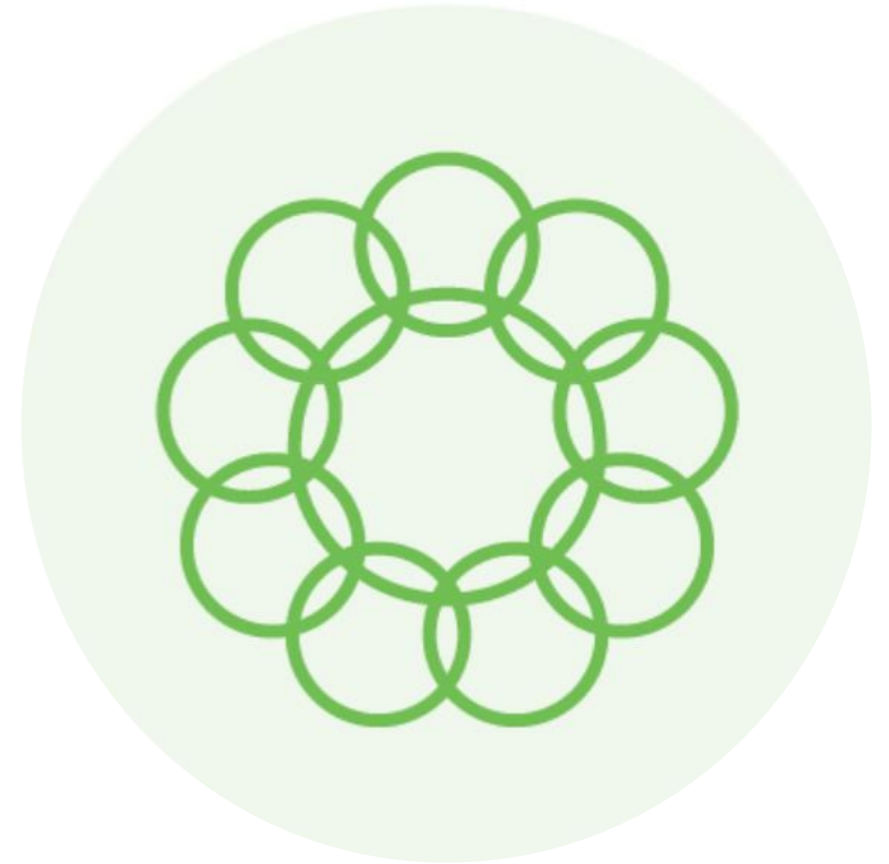
1. **Enhance** people's safety, dignity, and rights and avoid exposing them to further harm.
2. **Ensure** people's access to impartial assistance, according to need and without discrimination.
3. **Assist** people to recover from the physical and psychological effects of ...
4. **Help** people to claim their rights.



See pages 33–47

The Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS)...

- describes essential organisational responsibilities for quality and accountability in humanitarian response.



See pages 49–88

What is Sphere?

PRINCIPLES + FOUNDATIONS



Humanitarian
Charter



Protection
Principles



Core
Humanitarian
Standard



Water Supply,
Sanitation and
Hygiene
Promotion



Food Security
and Nutrition



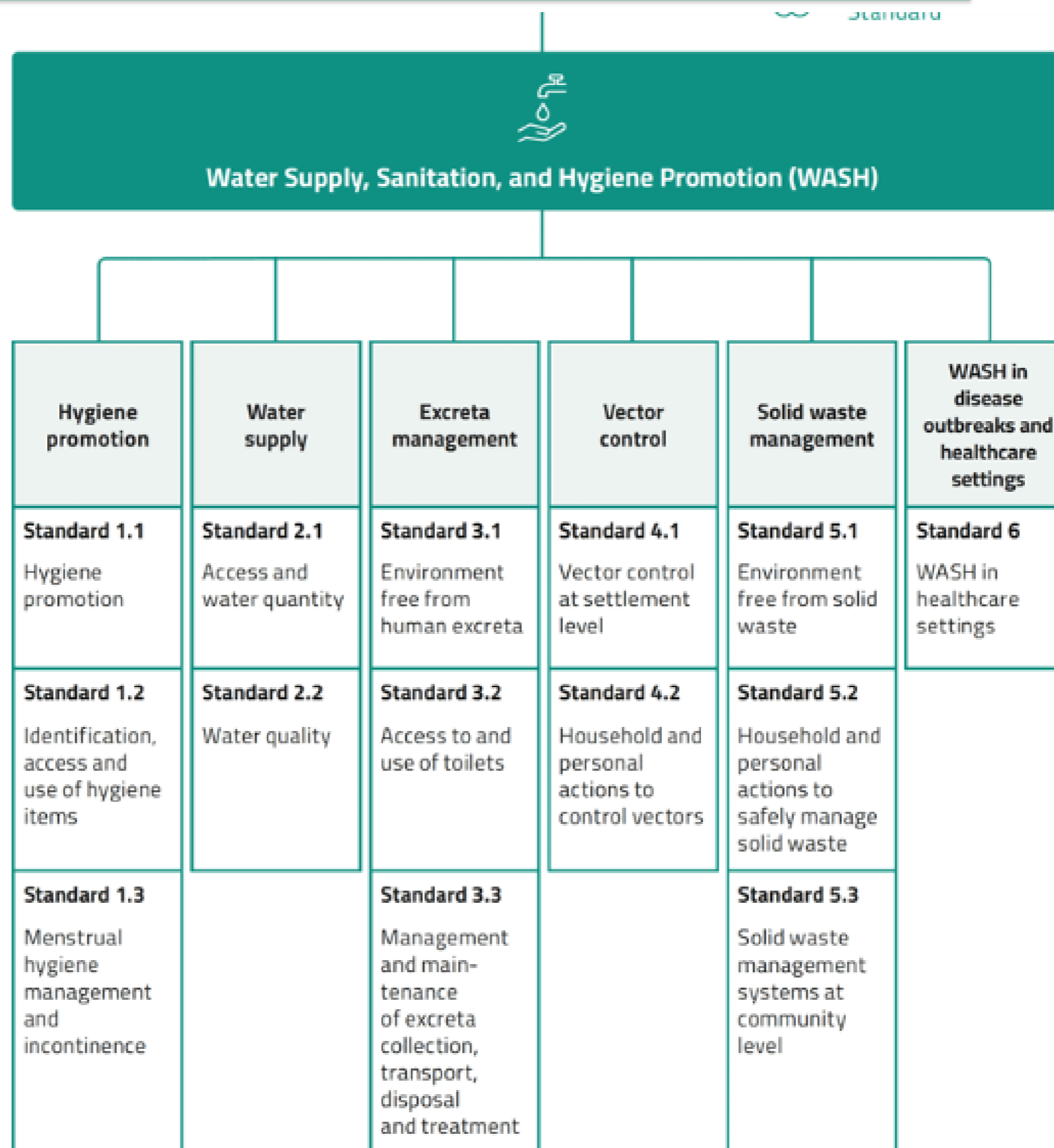
Shelter and
Settlement



Health

STANDARDS

Deep dive into a Technical Chapter: WASH



Water supply standard 2.1: Access and water quantity

People have equitable and affordable access to a sufficient quantity of safe water to meet their drinking and domestic needs.

Key actions

1. Identify the most appropriate groundwater or surface water sources, taking account of potential environmental impacts.

Key indicators

Average volume of water used for drinking and domestic hygiene per household

- Minimum of 15 litres per person per day

Guidance notes

Guidance Notes to Water Supply Standard 2.1

...The quantity of water needed for drinking, hygiene and domestic use depends upon the context and phase of a response. It will be influenced by factors such as pre-crisis use and habits, excreta containment design and cultural habits

...A minimum of 15 litres per person per day is established practice. It is never a "maximum" and may not suit all contexts or phases of a response.

For example, it is not appropriate where people may be displaced for many years.

In the acute phase of a drought, 7.5 litres per person per day may be appropriate for a short time.

In an urban middle-income context, 50 litres per person per day may be the minimum acceptable amount to maintain health and dignity.

Haiti case study



David and Delgado share with us today their experience as humanitarian workers

Groupwork

Watch Sphere in Action Video from Haiti:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QVpVrKBQc7w>

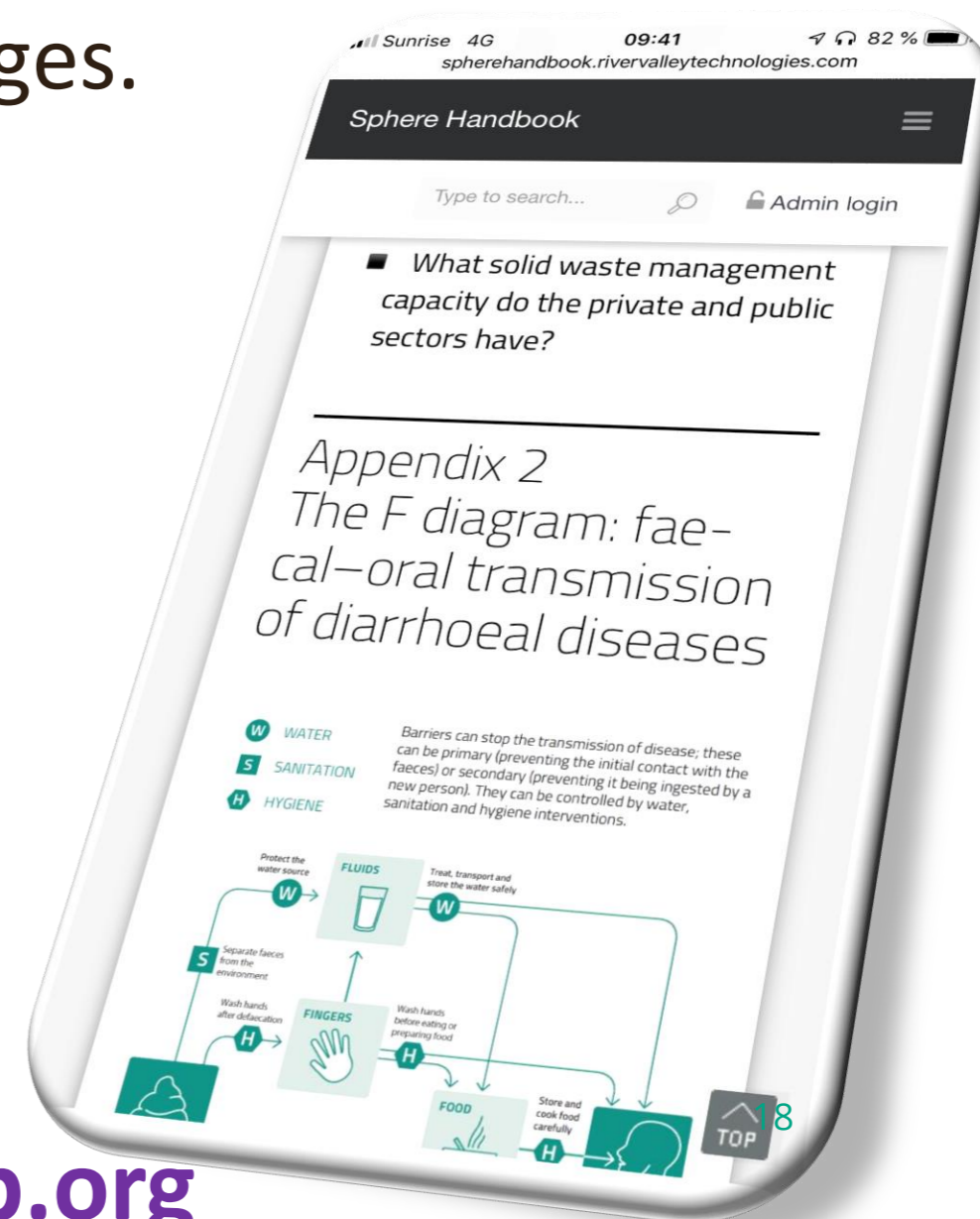
After the video, you will be put into small groups for 20 minutes to answer the following questions:

- Which parts of the Sphere handbook are referenced, **both explicitly and implicitly**, in the video?
- Which **technical standards** from the Sphere handbook can you see being put into practise in the video?
- Which CHS (Core Humanitarian Standard) **commitments** can you see being put into practise in the video?

WAYS TO ACCESS SPHERE HANDBOOK and OTHER STANDARDS

Sphere Handbook is available in **43 languages** and more are underway! Other Handbooks have also been translated into other languages.

- **Buy paper copies**
- **Read interactive handbook online**
- **Download PDF**
- **HSP Mobile application**



Download the app:
humanitarianstandardspartnership.org

Video Debrief

Humanitarian Charter:

We offer our services in the belief that the affected population is at the centre of humanitarian action, and recognise that their active participation is essential to providing assistance in ways that best meet their needs, including those of vulnerable and socially excluded people

Protection Principle 1:

Enhance people's safety, dignity and rights and avoid exposing them to further harm

- Supporting the capacity of people to protect themselves

Debrief

Sphere Handbook WASH chapter:



Debrief

Water Supply Standard 2.1:

Access and Water Quality

People have equitable and affordable access to a sufficient quantity of safe water to meet their drinking and domestic needs.

Water Supply Standard 2.2

Water Quality:

Water is palatable and of sufficient quality for drinking and cooking, and for personal and domestic hygiene, without causing a risk to health.

Debrief

Hygiene promotion standard 1.1:

Hygiene promotion

People are aware of key public health risks related to water, sanitation and hygiene, and can adopt individual, household and community measures to reduce them.

Debrief

Core Humanitarian Standard:

