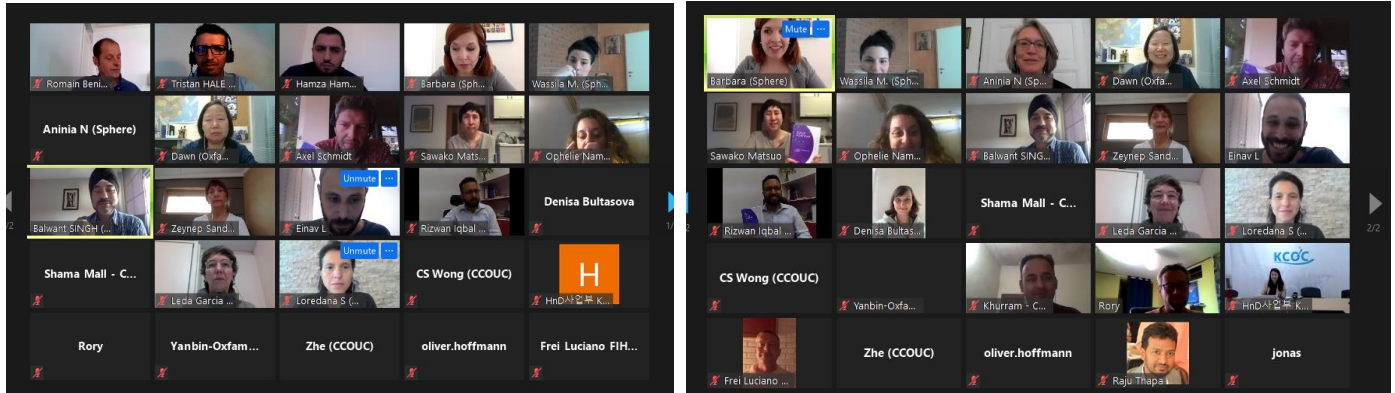# 26 May 2020 – Global Focal Points Meeting

09:00-11:00 GVA time *(12:30 - 14:30 New Delhi, 16:00-18:00 Tokyo)*

Agenda

Time	Item	Speaker(s)
09:00 - 09:10	**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION** – Opening remarks and meeting objectives	**Balwant Singh**
09:10 – 09:40	**WHERE ARE WE: SPHERE UPDATES** – Growing network, focal points' role and yearly workplans – New training tools/resources – Sphere and HSP standards joint activities	**Wassila Mansouri** **Tristan Hale** **Aninia Nadig**
09:40 - 10:00	**Q&A**	
10:00 - 10:05	**COVID-19 AND HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS**	**Romain Benicchio**
10:05 - 10:20	**DISCUSSION ON COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS**	
10:20- 10:25	**POLL TO DECIDE ON ONE ISSUE TO DISCUSS IN DETAIL**	
10:25-10:45	**PLENARY DISCUSSION ON SELECTED ISSUE**	**Chair tbc**
10:45 –10:55	**NEXT STEPS**	**Romain Benicchio**
10:55 -11:00	**CONCLUSION**	**Balwant Singh**

Background

Over the last few years, Sphere has been actively working to strengthen the country-based focal points network which now encompasses 56 Sphere focal points covering over 50 countries worldwide. In late 2017, Sphere hosted his first ever global Focal Points meeting. Building on this dynamic, Sphere has successfully organized a second edition of this meeting through videoconference in May 2020[1].

An invitation to take part in the meeting was sent to all Sphere focal points, representing various organisations and individuals. The invitation was extended to several Sphere trainers who have demonstrated continuous involvement with the Sphere secretariat.

Objectives

- Build on the dynamic from the previous Global Focal Points Meeting
- Update focal points on Sphere's latest developments
- Discuss issues put forward by the network through the online survey
- Identify opportunities for mutual collaboration and support
- Decide next steps (Global face to face meeting vs. regional face to face meetings)

Participation

Participation was high with twenty-three Focal Points joining the meeting in English, while another Focal Points meeting was held in Spanish in early July for country focal points based in Latin America and Caribbean countries to address more region-specific issues.

The first session was led by the Sphere Secretariat with the purpose of providing an update on the most recent developments regarding Sphere, namely the Focal points network, new training tools and resources as well as further information on the Humanitarian Standards Partnership (HSP). The following Q&A and plenary sessions allowed for further discussions on Covid-19 implications as well as regional coordination.

Despite the cancellation of this in-person event, the 2-hour video meeting provided an excellent opportunity to stay engaged with the Sphere network while discussing future work. The aim was to build upon this momentum and strengthen the Sphere secretariat exchanges with follow up meetings on the same model. The meeting was also helpful in identifying opportunities and challenges faced by focal points and how the Sphere secretariat could support the network.

Finally, some information on our COVID19-related activities were shared with participants, including on upcoming regional webinars on humanitarian standards in the COVID-19 response. Contribution from focal points to these webinars, planned between May and November 2020, was also discussed.

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[1] This 3-day meeting was initially planned to take place face-to-face in Panama during the last week of May, but due to the global pandemic it was moved online.

Online Resources

Below a few online resources that were shared in the chat room by some Focal Points during the meeting:

Aktion Deutschland Hilft (ADH)
The Core Humanitarian Standard in the Sphere Handbook 2018:
https://spherestandards.org/resources/chs-handbook-2020/

Bioforce
COVID-19 online training: https://www.bioforce.org/en/download-stop-covid-19/ (freely accessible in French, English and Arabic)

Community World Service Asia
Booklet on Q&A for PMC: https://communityworldservice.asia/booklet-on-quality-and-accountability-for-project-cycle-management/ (Also available in Arabic on CWSA website)
Other resources:
https://communityworldservice.asia/promoting-quality-and-accountability-in-pakistans-covid-19-response/
https://communityworldservice.asia/covid-19-response/
https://communityworldservice.asia/quality-accountability-hub/

The Israeli School of Humanitarian Action
Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in the Aid Sector: https://spherestandards.org/wp-content/uploads/PSEA-policy-paper.pdf

Sphere
Sphere Training Package 2018 edition: https://spherestandards.org/resources/sphere-training-package-2018-english/ (Also available in French, Spanish and Arabic)
"How to be a Sphere Champion" https://learning.spherestandards.org/ (Also available in French, Spanish and Arabic). A 1-hour learning which is up to date for the 2018 Handbook. It includes practical guidance on how to grow adoption of Sphere within your organisation and your network. *Note*: If you would like to translate this into your language, please get in touch.
Sphere Interactive Handbook: https://handbook.spherestandards.org/
Sphere COVID-19 guidance: https://spherestandards.org/coronavirus/
Thanks to the efforts of our network, the guidance is already available in 13 languages. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to translate it into your own language.
Other courses can be found here: https://spherestandards.org/online-courses/