

Accessing the HSP standards

Users can read the standards in a variety of formats. They are available in hard copy and PDF versions, and via a mobile app and an interactive digital platform.

The HSP mobile app: standards at your fingertips

The “HSPapp” allows practitioners to consult the full set of standards on their smartphones, wherever they are. Developed especially for fieldworkers on the move, it works even without an internet connection. Users can simply browse the content or search by keyword. The app can be downloaded free of charge from Apple, Google and Microsoft.



→ Download the app: humanitarianstandardspartnership.org

The Interactive Handbook: browse online and share your comments

Some HSP members’ initiatives are also available via an online platform called Interactive Handbook. Users can browse various sets of standards in different languages, search for specific keywords and resources, and jump from one chapter to another. The platform also provides quick and easy access to other learning resources and references.



Starting in 2020, Interactive Handbook users can share their experiences of working with standards. They can upload new evidence and case studies, and discuss issues with other users in an online forum. These developments mean that over time the handbook will become a tool for collaboration and a repository of ongoing changes in practice and knowledge.

→ Read the handbooks: handbook.spherestandards.org

The HSP case studies

HSP has produced a series of case studies that illustrate how standards are applied in practice. Developed on the basis of reports and interviews with humanitarian practitioners, they can be used for self-learning, training and awareness raising.



→ Read the case studies: spherestandards.org/hsp-case-studies

Seven humanitarian standards handbooks guiding you in delivering high quality, accountable humanitarian assistance

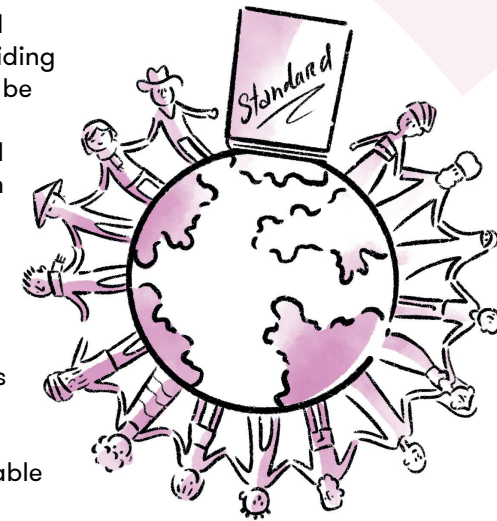
What are humanitarian standards?

Humanitarian standards describe the actions needed so that people of all ages, gender and diversity affected by crisis are able to exercise their rights – specifically, to receive protection and assistance and to live in dignity.

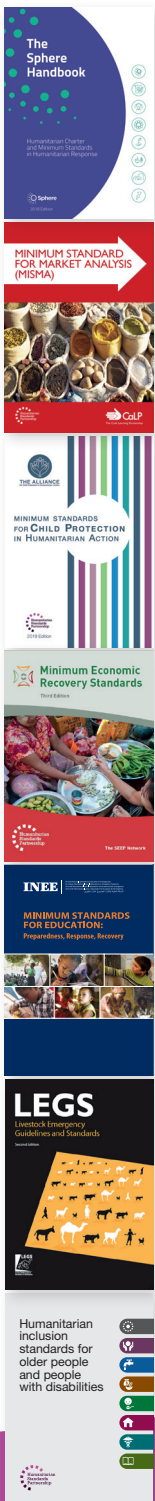
Humanitarian standards are developed by practitioners of different backgrounds, based on available evidence and their own practical to management experiences. Because they reflect what the humanitarian community identifies as the current best practices, they are revised regularly to incorporate new developments, global trends and learning across the sector.

Humanitarian standards are a useful resource for anyone involved in providing assistance and protection. They can be used to prepare before crises strike, better identify basic needs, plan and implement an inclusive humanitarian response or evaluate it. Affected communities can refer to them to understand their own rights and call for better assistance.

Humanitarian agencies and workers make a commitment to quality when they apply standards in their work. They also make themselves accountable to the populations they serve.



→ Learn more: spherestandards.org/humanitarian-standards



What is the Humanitarian Standards Partnership?

The Humanitarian Standards Partnership (HSP) is a coalition of initiatives, all of which share a similar approach. They see humanitarian standards as an expression of human rights developed via inclusive consultation processes with a wide range of practitioners, and which create a broad consensus on best practices.

The HSP aims to harmonise different sets of humanitarian standards and promote their implementation. It also supports practitioners looking to learn more with training opportunities, outreach and advocacy activities.

The HSP currently consists of seven sets of standards:

- **The Sphere Handbook** developed by Sphere
- **Minimum Standards for Market Analysis** developed by the Cash Learning Partnership
- **Child Protection Minimum Standards** developed by the Child Protection Working Group
- **Minimum Standards for Education** developed by the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE)
- **Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards** developed by LEGS
- **Minimum Economic Recovery Standards** developed by the SEEP Network
- **Humanitarian Inclusion Standards for older people and people with disabilities** developed by the Age and Disability Capacity Programme

→ Learn more: spherestandards.org/hsp

Ethical and legal bases

All HSP members' standards share a common framework of principles and foundations.

• The Humanitarian Charter

Drafted by practitioners in 1997, the charter expresses a commitment to humanitarian action and provides an ethical and legal framework for it.

→ Learn more: spherestandards.org/humanitarian-charter

• The Protection Principles

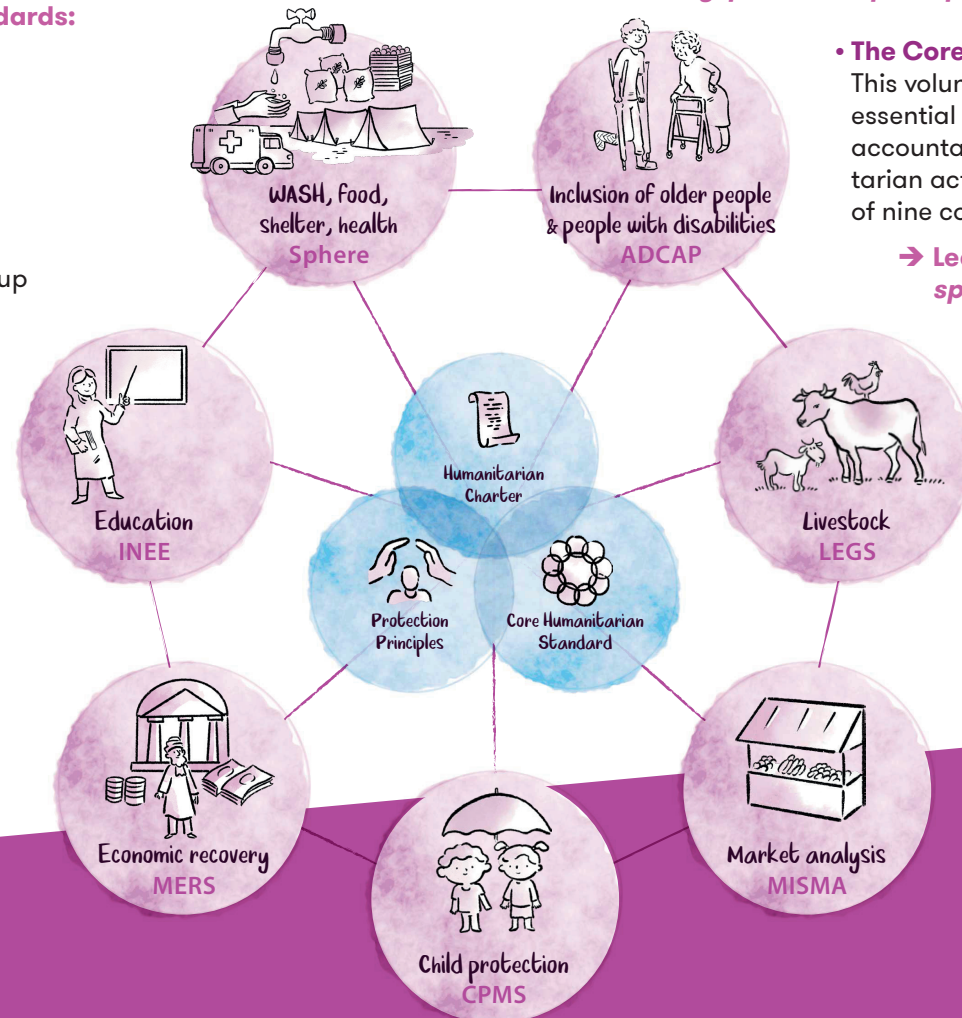
Four principles remind practitioners that humanitarian assistance should protect people from violence, avoid causing harm, ensure access to impartial assistance and support people's recovery from abuse.

→ Learn more: bit.ly/protection-principles

• The Core Humanitarian Standard

This voluntary code sets out the essential elements of principled, accountable and quality humanitarian action, articulated in a set of nine commitments.

→ Learn more: spherestandards.org/chs



Areas and topics covered by the partner standards

HSP members' initiatives provide guidance on different but complementary areas of humanitarian response.