

Accessing the HSP standards

You can read the standards in a variety of formats. They are available as printed books and PDF documents, and via a mobile app and an interactive digital platform.

The HSP mobile app: standards at your fingertips

The HSP app allows you to consult the full set of standards on your phone, wherever you are. Developed specially for fieldworkers on the move, the app works even without an internet connection. You can browse the content or search by keyword. The app can be downloaded at no cost.



→ Download the app:
humanitarianstandardspartnership.org

The Interactive Handbook: browse online and share your comments

All HSP standards are available on an online platform called the Interactive Handbook. Here, you can browse the standards in different languages, and search for specific keywords and resources. The platform also provides quick and easy access to other learning resources and references.



From 2022, the Interactive Handbook includes a tool to help you navigate the handbooks. Each document in the tool is based on a theme, and tells you where to find information on that theme across the HSP portfolio.

→ Interact with 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-study, training and awareness raising.



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

Eight sets of humanitarian standards

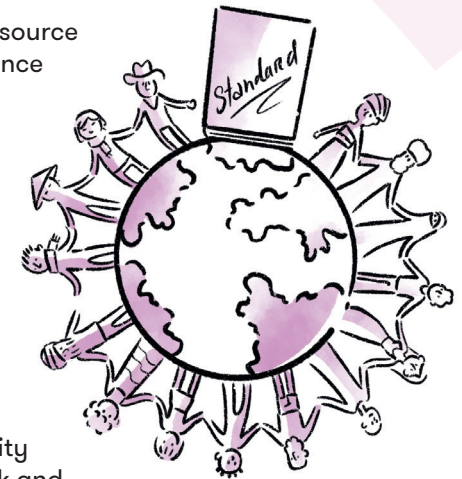
Guidance to deliver high quality, accountable humanitarian assistance

What are humanitarian standards?

Humanitarian standards describe what help and protection crisis affected people are entitled to and are therefore the minimum desired outcomes of humanitarian response. All people affected by crisis are entitled to the right to life with dignity and, therefore, the right to protection and assistance.

Humanitarian standards are developed by practitioners of different backgrounds, based on available evidence and their own practical and management experiences. Because standards 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 occur, to identify basic needs and to plan, implement and evaluate inclusive humanitarian responses. Affected communities can refer to humanitarian standards to understand their own rights, demand better assistance and hold organisations accountable.



Humanitarian organisations and individuals make a commitment to quality when they apply standards in their work and they are accountable to the populations they serve.

→ Learn more: spherestandards.org/humanitarian-standards



What is the Humanitarian Standards Partnership?

The Humanitarian Standards Partnership (HSP) is an informal network of nine standard-setting initiatives and organisations. It supports quality and accountability in humanitarian action by promoting the harmonised development and cross-sectoral use of standards. It supports practitioners with training opportunities, technical guidance and advocacy.

The HSP's eight sets of humanitarian standards were all developed in a similarly inclusive and consultative manner.

- The Sphere Handbook**
 Developed by Sphere (which also hosts the HSP). The handbook includes the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS) published by CHS Alliance, Groupe URD and Sphere.
- Minimum Standard for Market Analysis**
 developed by the CALP Network
- Child Protection Minimum Standards**
 developed by the The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action
- Minimum Standards for Education**
 developed by the Inter-agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE)
- Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS)**
 developed by LEGS
- Minimum Economic Recovery Standards**
 developed by the Small Enterprise Evaluation Project (SEEP) Network
- Humanitarian Inclusion Standards for older people and people with disabilities**
 developed by the Age and Disability Capacity Programme
- Minimum Standards for Camp Management**
 developed by the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster

The CHS Alliance joined the HSP as associate member in 2021. The Alliance promotes the Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) and offers tools and methodology for organisations to be verified against the Standard and improve over time.

→ Learn more: spherestandards.org/hsp

Ethical and legal framework

All HSP standards share a common framework of ethical and legal principles:

- 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.

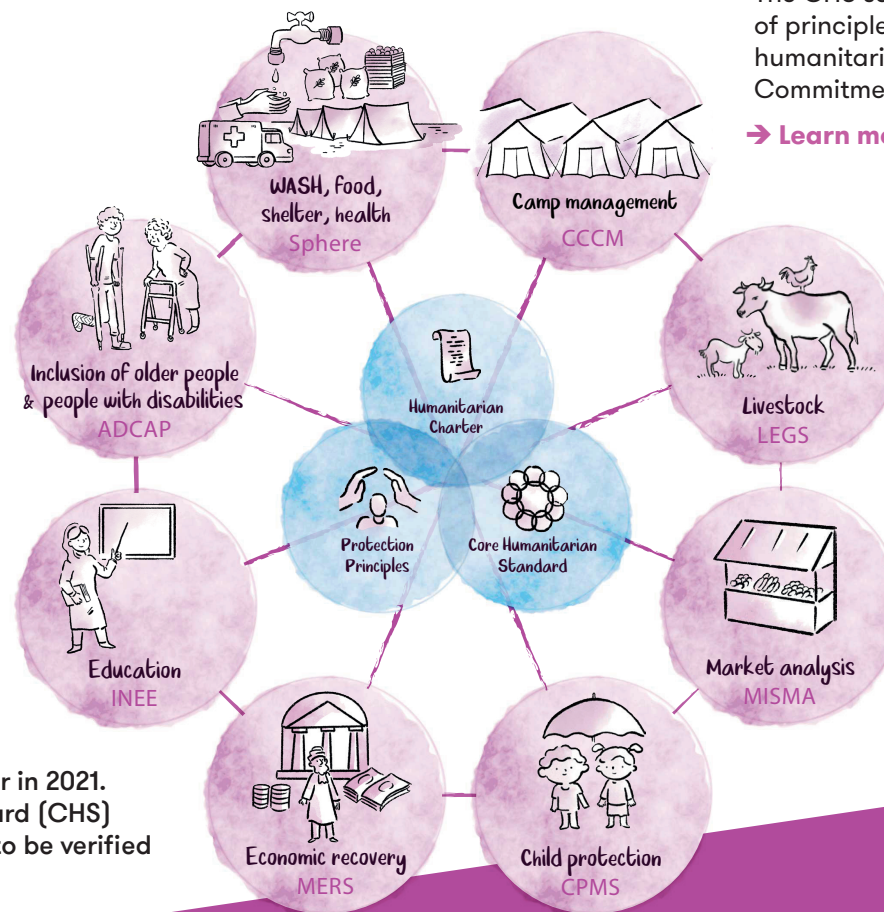
→ Learn more: spherestandards.org/humanitarian-charter

- The Protection Principles**
 Four principles form the basis for humanitarian assistance: 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 (CHS)**
 The CHS sets out the essential elements of principled, accountable and quality humanitarian action, articulated in 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.