



BIJU BORO / ICRC

Strategy 2021 – 2025 | Global humanitarian standards for local action and preparedness

Background

Established in 1997 in response to concerns about the performance, accountability and lack of co-ordination among humanitarian actors, Sphere is now a diverse global community that brings together frontline practitioners, humanitarian agencies, community organisations, trainers, donors, policy makers, government agencies and affected communities. With this strategy, Sphere aims to reinforce its leadership role in promoting the global relevance, importance and consistent application of humanitarian standards for accountability to affected communities.

Vision

Sphere believes that people affected by crises must be at the centre of decisions about humanitarian protection, assistance, recovery and resilience. They have the right to prompt, effective and quality humanitarian assistance which enables them to survive crises, rebuild their lives and recover their livelihoods with respect and dignity.

Mission

Sphere establishes, promotes and reviews standards for humanitarian action which provide an accountable and quality framework for preparedness, resource allocation, response, monitoring and advocacy, before, during and after disasters and crises. We recognise the rights of all people affected by disaster and conflict – the rights to life with dignity, to receive humanitarian assistance, and to protection and security.

Strategic Priorities

A. Sphere Standards Our focus is to continue to promote awareness, understanding, accessibility, localisation, ownership, application and review of Sphere standards across diverse contexts globally.



B. Sphere Community and Membership

We aim to enhance the ownership and application of Sphere standards by expanding, diversifying and strengthening our global Sphere community of purpose and practice, and deepen their engagement. The Sphere community includes members, focal points, trainers, advocates, practitioners, government agencies and donors.



C. Humanitarian Standards Our role is to be a convener, thought leader and global resource on humanitarian standards. We will promote and facilitate collaboration and best practice across humanitarian standards to ensure quality and accountability in the sector and better respond to the needs of users and communities. We will seek to influence the inclusion of humanitarian standards in national, global and donor policies.



D. Accountability, Evidence, Impact and Learning

Whilst Sphere standards have global recognition and acceptance, we will promote accountability and learning, and better understand and articulate the evidence for and impact of Sphere standards.



How we work

Our work is guided by the Humanitarian Charter which provides the ethical and legal basis to the Protection Principles, the Core Humanitarian Standard and the Sphere Standards. Sphere will serve as an enabler, facilitator, convenor and advocate. We will continue to be inclusive, consultative, accountable and respectful. Our work will be guided by openness, excellence, innovation, integrity, practicality and transparency.

Reviewing progress

The success of our strategy will be reflected in wider global awareness and use of Sphere standards, an expanded and more diverse Sphere community, improved collaboration across humanitarian standards, and evidence of impact. We will measure and review progress through annual plans and reports aligned to the strategic priorities; annual collation of narratives of change and evidence of impact; and a mid-term strategy review.

Sphere's full strategy is available at:
bit.ly/spherestrategy2025