

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



**Health in
Humanitarian
Crises Centre**



Research for health
in humanitarian crises

elrha

SURVEY ON THE KNOWLEDGE, USE, STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF THE SPHERE HANDBOOK

FINAL REPORT

MARCH 2017

Karl Blanchet and Séverine Frison

**Health in Humanitarian Crises Centre, London School of Hygiene
and Tropical Medicine**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction	4
1.1 Background.....	4
1.2 Purpose and objectives.....	4
2. Methodology.....	5
2.1 Data collection.....	5
2.2 Data analysis.....	5
3. Results.....	5
3.1 Demographics.....	6
3.2 Knowledge and use of Sphere handbook.....	8
3.3 The Sphere handbook structure and content.....	11
Annex 1: Questionnaire	16
Annex 2: Supplementary suggestions on specific topics and essential documents	24

TABLES AND FIGURES

Table 1: Respondents number of years' experience working in the humanitarian sector	8
Table 2: Respondent's view on the Sphere handbook	9
Table 3: Extend to which respondent agree on the fact that Sections and chapters include all information/themes needed.....	11
Table 4: Extend to which respondents agree with the additional themes planned for the new edition of the Sphere handbook.....	12
Table 5: Extend to which respondent agree on the fact that in different sections, the minimum standards cover essential activities	13
Table 6: Extend to which respondent agree on the following on the key actions, key indicators, guidance notes and the handbook as a whole	14
Figure 1: Proportion of people who Know of and use Sphere Standards (n=247 and n=172 respectively)	6
Figure 2: Profession of people who have heard of Sphere Standards (n=144)	7
Figure 3: Organisation/institution of respondents that have heard of the Sphere Standards (n=143) ..	7
Figure 4: Section(s) of the handbook respondents are familiar with (n=247).....	8

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The Sphere Project is responsible for developing and periodically updating the Sphere Handbook, Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, a widely used set of common principles and universal minimum standards in life-saving areas of humanitarian response, including health. The Sphere Project has identified a set of minimum standards in key lifesaving sectors, which are in the Handbook's four technical chapters: water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion; food security and nutrition; shelter, settlement and non-food items; and health action. The Core Standards are process standards and apply to all technical chapters. Key actions, key indicators and guidance notes accompany each standard, providing guidance on how to attain the standard. In 2017, the Sphere Project is embarking on a fourth revision of the Handbook.

This survey is the result of a collaboration between Elrha, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and the Sphere Project. Funded by DIFD and the Wellcome Trust, Elrha's Research for Health in Humanitarian Crises (R2HC) programme commissioned LSHTM to document the level of empirical evidence on which the Sphere Handbook current principles and indicators are based, and to conduct a user survey to gather feedback on the Handbook content and structure. The review and survey were conducted in close collaboration with the Sphere Project, and have contributed to the process of the 2017 Handbook update.

1.2 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

The current project partnership seeks to improve humanitarian practice through the use of evidence-based interventions in the health sector. To this end, Elrha and the LSHTM will contribute to the 2018 revision of the Sphere Handbook by providing rigorous analysis of existing evidence and supporting the production of new empirical evidence where appropriate. This survey aims at identifying areas of the Sphere handbook that need to be up-dated, re-organised or changed as well as the reasons why professionals may or may not use it. It was divided into three sections: knowledge and use of the Sphere handbook; the structure and content of the Sphere handbook and; demographics.

The survey builds on and complements two earlier surveys conducted by the Sphere Project, one on the general use of the Sphere Handbook and one requesting particular suggestions for text changes. The outcomes of the survey will inform the revision process of the Sphere handbook.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 DATA COLLECTION

The questionnaire was developed by LSHTM in collaboration with the Sphere project and Elrha (see Annex 1). LSHTM used SurveyMonkey to build the survey online with questionnaires available in English and French. The survey collector was opened from the 30th of September to the 16th of November 2016.

We applied opportunistic sampling using partners' mailing lists in order to reach as many respondents as possible.

2.2 DATA ANALYSIS

Results from the English and the French versions were downloaded in an excel sheet and converted into STATA files for analysis. Due to the limited number of qualitative answers, no software was required for the analysis of the open-ended questions.

A total of 355 people (339 in English and 16 in French) participated in the survey including 247 familiar with Sphere. Out of the 247 people familiar with Sphere, almost 80% use the Sphere standards in their work (see Figure 1). That proportion reached 89.8% when looking at respondents working with international NGOs, 100% for respondents working for the Red Cross/Crescent Societies and 87.5% for respondents working for national, local or community organisations. Half of the respondents (52.6%) working for and academic institution use Sphere standards.

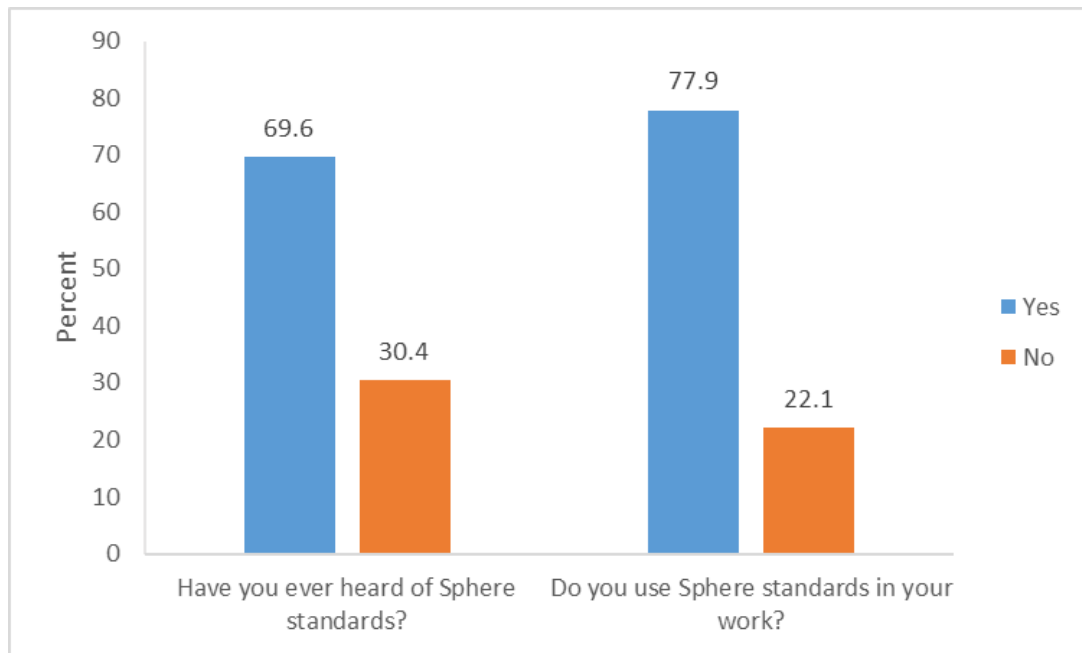


Figure 1: Proportion of people who know of and use Sphere Standards (n=247 and n=172 respectively)

3.1 DEMOGRAPHICS

Most respondents were technical, sectorial experts (39.6%), researchers (13.2%) or programme managers (12.5%) (see Figure 2) and twelve types of institutions were represented, with almost half (46.9%) of the respondents working for international Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) or the Red Cross/Crescent Societies (see Figure 3). The majority of respondents had 11 years or more experience working in the humanitarian sector (see Table 1). Respondents were based in 50 different countries with over a third (41.2%) based in Europe, 30.2% in Africa, 12% in Asia and 8% from the United States.

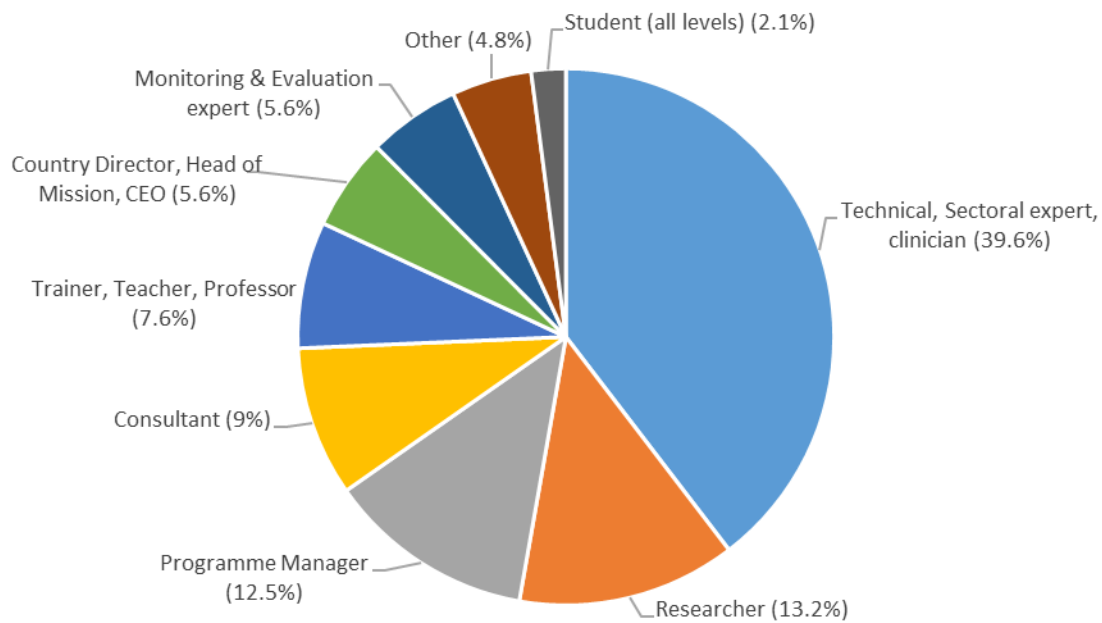


Figure 2: Profession of people who have heard of Sphere Standards (n=144)

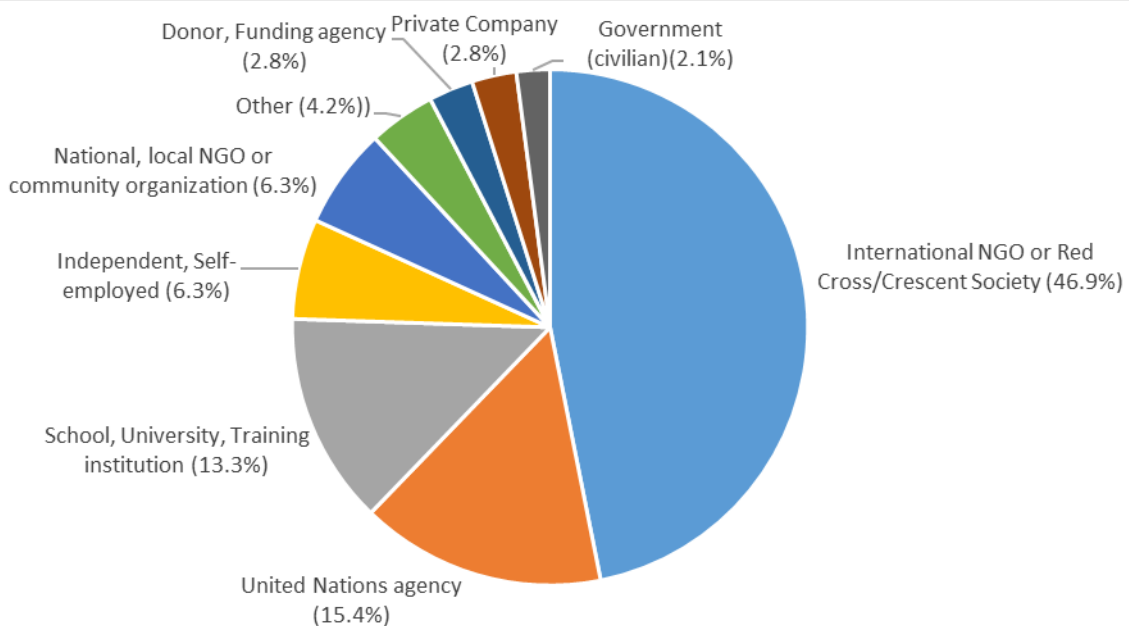


Figure 3: Organisation/institution of respondents that have heard of the Sphere Standards (n=143)

Table 1: Respondents number of years' experience working in the humanitarian sector

Number of years' experience working in the humanitarian sector	n (%)
0-5 years	34 (23.8%)
6-10 years	49 (34.3%)
11 and more years	60 (42.0%)

3.2 KNOWLEDGE AND USE OF SPHERE HANDBOOK

Respondents were most familiar with the Humanitarian Charter (44.9%), the minimum standards on food security and nutrition (44.1%) and the core standards (41.7%) chapters.

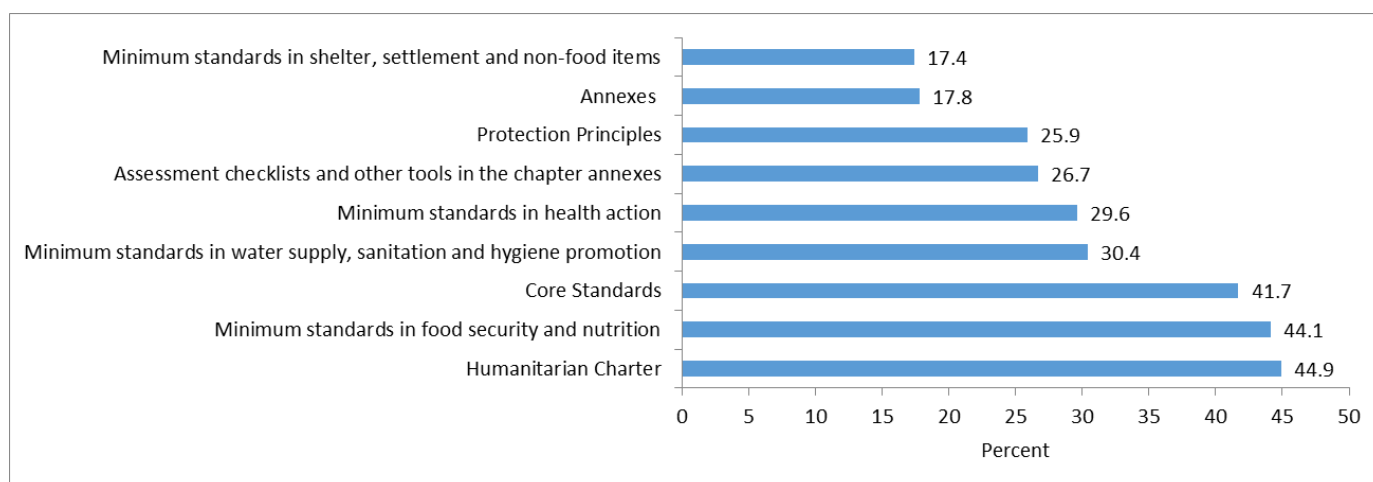


Figure 4: Handbook section(s) respondents are familiar with (n=247)

Respondents' views on the Sphere handbook were generally very positive. Over 70% strongly agreed, or agreed, that: it is a useful tool for the monitoring of projects; it is convenient source of information / advice; it is a good education tool; it is likely to improve the quality of interventions; it is a key tool for humanitarian beginners; and it is a concrete translation of humanitarian principles into practice. Over a third (43%) of the respondents did not believe it was a challenge to staff autonomy. Most respondents were neutral or disagreed on the potential impact of the Sphere handbook on the reduction or increase of the cost of implementation (see Table 2).

Table 2: Respondents views on the Sphere Handbook¹

Extent to which respondents agreed with the following statements on the Sphere handbook	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)	Don't know (%)	N
It is a useful tool for monitoring of projects	32.9	41.8	12.9	4.1	2.9	5.3	170
It is a convenient source of information/advice	45.8	37.5	6.6	3.6	1.8	4.8	168
It is a good education tool	35.9	38.3	13.2	1.8	4.2	6.6	167
It is an unbiased synthesis of expert opinion	22.2	36.5	22.8	8.4	2.4	7.8	167
Is likely to improve coordination between actors	29.8	38.1	16.7	5.4	3.0	7.1	168
Is likely to improve the quality of interventions	34.9	47.3	12.4	1.8	1.8	1.8	169
Is likely to ease implementation of programmes	21.1	42.8	19.9	8.4	3.0	4.8	166
It is a challenge to staff autonomy and creativity	8.5	19.4	18.8	43.0	4.2	6.1	165
Is likely to reduce costs of implementation	6.8	16.0	38.7	23.9	2.5	12.3	163
It is a concrete tool to deepen accountability	26.8	42.9	18.5	6.0	1.8	4.2	168
Is likely to increase costs of implementation	5.6	17.9	35.8	27.8	2.5	10.5	162
It is a key tool for humanitarian beginners	45.2	37.5	6.6	3.6	1.2	6.0	168
It is a concrete translation of humanitarian principles into practice	31.1	40.1	18.0	4.2	2.4	4.2	167

The main barriers identified by respondents to effectively use the Sphere handbook were as follows (see Figure 5):

- Humanitarian organisations do not institutionalize the Sphere standards (40.8%)
- Training opportunities are not accessible and affordable enough (37.1%)
- Practitioners are unaware of the Sphere standards (31.0%)

Unsurprisingly, the most appropriate ways identified to encourage the use of the Sphere standards (respondents could check up to two) were to have their organisation institutionalise the Sphere standards (45.3%) and have more affordable training opportunities (43.7%) (see Figure 6).

¹ Proportion of respondents

40-49%	30-39%	20-29%	10-19%

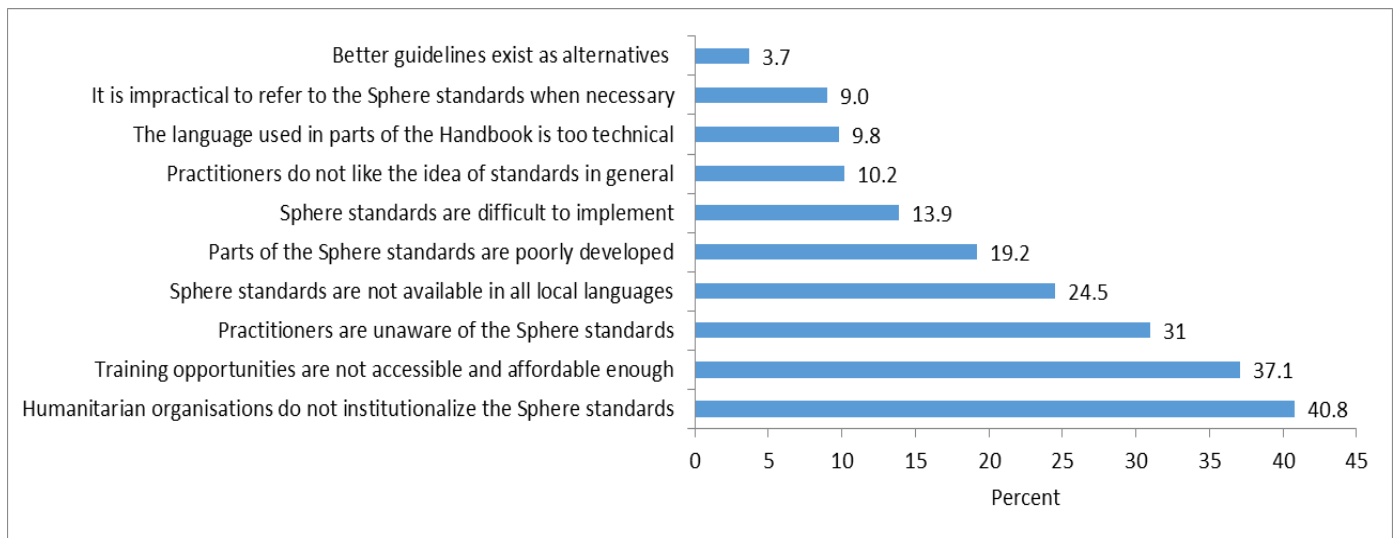


Figure 5: Potential barriers/hurdles identified by respondents to effectively use of Sphere handbook (n=245)

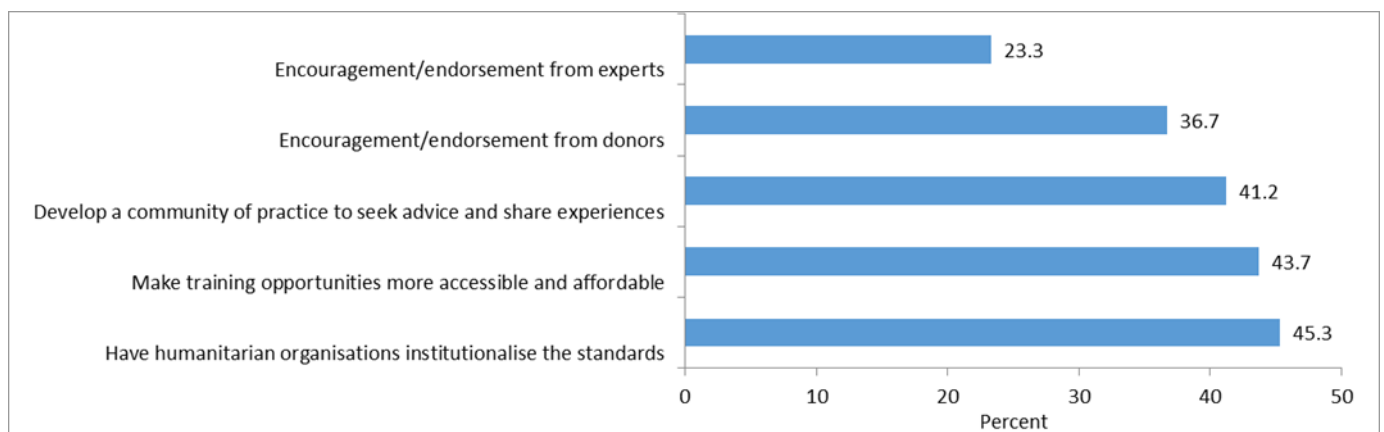


Figure 6: Most appropriate ways to encourage the use of Sphere standards (respondents could check up to two) (n=245)

Other barriers were listed by respondents:

- Lack of funding/understanding from donors
- Advocacy should target governments, local institutions and NGOs to use the Sphere standards
- Lack of evidence behind the standard and lack of transparency on “history of each indicator”
- Format issues: the handbook should include summaries, be simplified and more user-friendly
- Accountability issues

3.3 THE SPHERE HANDBOOK STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The respondents were mostly positive regarding the structure and content of the Sphere handbook. A majority strongly agreed, or agreed, that the Humanitarian Charter (64.1%), protection principles (51.7%) and core humanitarian standards (68.7%) include all information/themes needed (see Table 3).

Table 3: Extent to which respondents agree that sections and chapters include all information/themes needed²

The following sections/chapters include all information/theme needed	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)	Don't know (%)	N
Humanitarian Charter	21.8	42.3	11.3	5.6	2.1	16.9	141
Protection Principles	18.4	33.3	14.9	7.8	2.1	23.4	144
Core Humanitarian Standard	22.9	45.8	6.9	5.6	3.5	15.3	142
Cross cutting themes*	13.9	27.8	22.2	8.3	5.6	22.2	144

*Persons with disabilities; Gender; Psychosocial issues; HIV & AIDS; Environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction

Amongst the respondents who strongly disagreed with the fact that sections and chapters include all information/themes needed, 12 specified the reasons; two thirds highlighted that specific areas and themes are missing or poorly developed (e.g. protection principles, feeding children with a disability, effective management and wellbeing of aid workers); while one third emphasized the need for more practical or operational standards, the need to include beneficiaries and the need for more justification for the standards.

The Sphere Project suggests to include the following additional cross-cutting themes in the next Handbook edition: Resilience and recovery; Preparedness; Urban response; Multi-purpose cash transfers; Psychosocial; Monitoring & Evaluation; Civil-Military; logistics; Linkages to Sustainable Development Goals. Over 75% of respondents strongly agreed (41.6%) or agreed (35.9%) with the themes suggested (see Table 4).

² Proportion of respondent

40%	30%	20%	10%

Table 4: Extent to which respondents agreed with the additional themes planned for the new edition of the Sphere handbook

Extent to which respondents agree with the additional cross-cutting themes suggested ³	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)	Don't know (%)	N
	41.6	35.9	5.6	7.0	6.3	3.5	142

Fifteen respondents specified why they (strongly) disagreed. Half of them (7) did not disagree with the themes but thought it would overload/make the handbook too large and that it would be wiser to improve the existing standards. The other half included respondents who thought it could create a divide within practitioners, that it would be too complicated to define civil-military relationships, and that mentioning logistics without finance would be a missed opportunity. Two respondents raised other issues: child protection, and climate change.

Similarly, most respondents strongly agreed, or agreed, that the core humanitarian standards (61.4%), the WASH (60.8%), the food security (60.6%), the nutrition (63.6%), the shelter, settlement, non-food items (46.2%) and the health action (53.3%) sections cover essential activities (see Table 5). Thirteen respondents specified why they (strongly) disagreed. Two respondents highlighted the lack of evidence behind standards, one mentioned that the handbook includes non-essential issues and the remaining 11 found that specific sections were missing, poorly written or needed revisions (Food security (3), Management of Acute Malnutrition (1), Infant and Young Child Feeding in Emergencies (IYCF-E) (1), non-recovery for therapeutic treatment (1), Menstrual Hygiene management (1), links between Mental health and nutrition (1)).

Nearly three quarters of the respondents strongly agreed, or agreed, that the key actions were useful (73.6%). Over half of the respondents strongly agreed, or agreed, that key actions are precise/specific enough (56.3%), achievable (54.4%) and adequate (50.4%). A little over a third strongly agreed, or agreed, that key actions take into account different contexts (38.3%) (See Table 6). Two respondents who (strongly) disagreed highlighted that the key actions are incomplete and not context specific enough to be useful, or that many of them are aspirational which dilutes more essential ones.

³ Resilience and recovery; Preparedness; Urban response; Multi-purpose cash transfers; Psychosocial; Monitoring & Evaluation; Civil-Military; logistics; Linkages to Sustainable Development Goals; Cash transfer programming

Table 5: Extent to which respondents agree on the fact that in different sections the minimum standards cover essential activities⁴

In the following sections, the minimum standards cover essential activities:	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)	Don't know (%)	N
Core Humanitarian Standards	21.2	40.2	19.0	1.5	1.5	16.8	137
Water, sanitation and hygiene	21.5	39.3	10.4	4.4	0.7	23.7	135
Food security	17.5	43.1	15.3	5.1	0.7	18.3	137
Nutrition	19.3	44.3	10.0	9.3	2.9	14.3	140
Shelter, settlement, non-food items	14.9	31.3	14.2	5.2	0.0	34.3	134
Health action	16.3	37.0	17.8	5.2	0.7	23.0	135

A large majority of respondents strongly agreed, or agreed, that key indicators are useful (86.3%). Over half of the respondents strongly agreed, or agreed, that the key indicators are precise/specific enough (58.9%), achievable (54.0%) and adequate (56.2%). A little over a third strongly agreed, or agreed, that key indicators take into account different contexts (38.7%) (See Table 6). Seven respondents specified the reasons why they (strongly) disagreed. Over half of them (4) highlighted the lack of evidence to support standards and the fact that indicators are not “SMART” (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time bound); two added that indicators should be adapted to different contexts and one found that the targets were difficult to reach with the lack of appropriate funding.

Nearly three quarters of the respondents strongly agreed, or agreed, that guidance notes (GN) are useful (74.6%). Over half of the respondents strongly agreed, or agreed, that the scope of issues covered in the guidance notes is adequate (58.9%) and that the depth of treatment of the GNs is adequate (50.7%). A little over a third strongly agreed, or agreed, that guidance notes take into account different contexts (38.3%) (See Table 6). Four respondents that (strongly) disagreed specified why, mentioning that the fact key actions alone are enough, GNs were better in the previous version, and that GN should consider different contexts and are not in depth enough.

⁴ Proportion of respondent

40%	30%	20%	10%

Table 6: Extent to which respondents agree with statements on the key actions, key indicators, guidance notes, and the handbook as a whole⁵

To what extent do you agree with the following statements on the key actions?	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)	Don't know (%)	N
The key actions are useful	19.9	53.7	14.0	1.5	1.5	9.6	136
The key actions are precise/specific enough	5.2	51.1	24.4	5.9	3.0	10.4	135
The number of key actions is adequate	7.3	43.1	32.1	4.4	2.2	11.0	137
The key actions are achievable	11.0	43.4	24.3	8.1	2.2	11.0	136
The key actions take into account different contexts	7.4	30.9	30.9	16.9	2.2	11.8	136
To what extent do you agree with the following statements on the key indicators?	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)	Don't know (%)	N
The key indicators are useful	23.7	62.6	2.9	3.6	0.7	6.5	139
The key indicators are precise/specific enough	9.6	49.3	19.9	11.0	1.5	8.8	136
The number of key indicators is adequate	10.2	43.8	27.0	8.0	1.5	9.5	137
The key indicators are achievable	8.0	48.2	27.0	7.3	1.5	8.0	137
The key indicators are adapted to different contexts	9.5	29.2	29.9	21.2	0.7	9.5	137
To what extent do you agree with the following statements on the guidance notes?	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)	Don't know (%)	N
The guidance notes are useful	23.7	51.9	3.7	5.2	0.0	15.6	135
The scope of issues covered is adequate	9.6	49.3	14.7	8.1	1.5	16.9	136
The depth of treatment is adequate	6.6	44.1	24.3	7.4	1.5	16.2	136
The guidance notes take into account different contexts	9.6	34.8	22.2	15.6	0.7	17	135
To what extent do you agree with the following statements on the Handbook?	Strongly agree (%)	Agree (%)	Neutral (%)	Disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)	Don't know (%)	N
Information is easy to find	18.0	56.8	9.4	9.4	2.2	4.3	139
Information is clearly presented	19.4	57.6	8.6	8.6	1.4	4.3	139
The order of the elements within each minimum standards (key actions, key indicators, guidance notes) is sensible	16.7	58.0	13.8	4.4	1.5	5.8	138
A pocket card/pamphlet summarizing minimum standards, key actions and key indicators would be useful.	50.2	27.1	10.7	5	1.4	5	140

⁵ Proportion of respondents

50% +	40%	30%	20%	10%

Almost three quarters of respondents strongly agreed, or agreed, that this information is easy to find in the handbook (74.8%) and is clearly presented (77.0%), that the order of elements within each minimum standards (key actions, key indicators, guidance notes) is sensible (74.7%) and that a pocket card/pamphlet summarizing minimum standards, key actions and key indicators would be useful (77.3%) (see Table 6).

Twenty-eight respondents had additional comments on the handbook or suggestions for its revision. Almost half (12) of them suggested making the handbook shorter, limiting it to 5 essential standards per topic, having measurable, precise and evidence-based indicators, using a more user-friendly format, and including summaries (or short version and a pocket Mobile-Sphere). Other comments mentioned the standardisation of chapters (some chapters being better written than others); the inclusion of a unique number for each standard and indicator so people can easily find them and refer to them; to make sure the cross-cutting issues are not seen as optional; and to be clear about the target audience (useful for sector specialists but how user friendly for users with limited experience). The remaining comments refer to specific topics (See Annex 3).

Annex 1: Questionnaire

This survey aims at identifying areas of the Sphere handbook that need to be up-dated, re-organised or changed as well as the reasons why professionals may or may not use it.

The survey builds on and complements two earlier surveys, one on the general use of the Sphere Handbook and one requesting particular suggestions for text changes.

The outcomes of the survey will inform the revision process of the Sphere handbook. It is divided into three sections:

- I. Knowledge and use of the Sphere handbook
- II. The structure and content of the Sphere handbook
- III. Demographics – your profile

The survey targets Sphere users as well as non-users. Your input will be very appreciated. Taking part is anonymous and will take no longer than 15 minutes.

Knowledge and use of the Sphere handbook

1. Have you ever heard of Sphere standards?
 - Yes
 - No (if no, go to demographics)

2. Do you use Sphere standards in your work?
 - Yes
 - No

3. Which **section(s)** of the handbook are you familiar with (*Please check all that apply*)?
 - Humanitarian Charter
 - Protection Principles
 - Core Standards
 - Minimum standards in water supply, sanitation and hygiene promotion
 - Minimum standards in food security and nutrition
 - Minimum standards in shelter, settlement and non-food items
 - Minimum standards in health action
 - Assessment checklists and other tools in the chapter annexes
 - Annexes (e.g. RC/NGO Code of Conduct, etc.)

4. To what extent do you agree with the following statements on the Sphere handbook?

The Sphere handbook is:	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
A useful tool for monitoring of projects						
A convenient source of information/advice						
A good education tool						
An unbiased synthesis of expert opinion						
Likely to improve coordination between actors						
Likely to improve the quality of interventions						
Likely to ease implementation of programmes						
A challenge to staff autonomy and creativity						
Likely to reduce costs of implementation						
A concrete tool to deepen accountability						
Likely to increase costs of implementation						
A key tool for humanitarian beginners						
A concrete translation of humanitarian principles into practice						

5. Which of the following statements do you recognize as potential barriers / hurdles to effectively using Sphere? (*Please check all that apply*) [*Randomized order*]?
- Practitioners are unaware of the Sphere standards
 - Sphere standards are not available in all local languages
 - Sphere standards are difficult to implement
 - It is impractical to refer to the Sphere standards when necessary
 - Training opportunities are not accessible and affordable enough
 - Practitioners do not like the idea of standards in general
 - Humanitarian organisations do not institutionalize the Sphere standards
 - Parts of the Sphere standards are poorly developed
 - The language used in parts of the Handbook is too technical
 - Better guidelines exist as alternatives (please specify)
 - Other (please specify)
6. What do you think would be the most appropriate way to encourage the use of Sphere standards (*Please check up to two*) [*Randomized order*]?
- Encouragement/endorsement from experts
 - Encouragement/endorsement from donors
 - Have humanitarian organisations institutionalise the standards
 - Make training opportunities more accessible and affordable
 - Develop a community of practice to seek advice and share experiences
 - Disagree – staff should not be encouraged to use Sphere standards
 - Other (please specify)
7. Any further comments on factors influencing the use of the Sphere standards (write in box below)?

The Sphere handbook structure and content

8. To what extent do you agree with the following statements on the content of the handbook?

The following sections/chapters include all information/themes needed	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Humanitarian Charter						
Protection Principles						
Core Humanitarian Standard						
Cross cutting themes (Children; Older people; Persons with disabilities; Gender; Psychosocial issues; HIV and AIDS; Environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction)						

9. If (strongly) disagree, please specify the missing information

10. In addition to the cross-cutting themes mentioned in Q8 above, Sphere suggests to include the following cross-cutting themes in the next Handbook edition:

Resilience and recovery; Preparedness; Urban response; Multi-purpose cash transfers; Psychosocial; Monitoring & Evaluation; Civil-Military; logistics; Linkages to Sustainable Development Goals; Cash transfer programming.

To what extent do you agree with these additional themes?

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
-------------------	----------	---------	-------	----------------	------------

11. If (strongly) disagree, please specify

12. To what extent do you agree with the following statement on the minimum standards?

In the following sections, the minimum standards cover essential activities	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Core Humanitarian Standard						
Water, sanitation and hygiene						
Food security						
Nutrition						
Shelter, settlement and non-food items						
Health action						

13. If (strongly) disagree, please specify the chapter concerned and missing information

14. To what extent do you agree with the following statements on the **key actions**?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
The key actions are useful						
The key actions are precise/specific enough						
The number of key actions is adequate						
The key actions are achievable						
The key actions take into account different contexts						

15. If (strongly) disagree, please specify

16. To what extent do you agree with the following statements on the **key indicators**?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
The key indicators are useful						
The key indicators are precise/specific enough						
The number of key indicators is adequate						
The key indicators are achievable						
The key indicators are adapted to different contexts						

17. If (strongly) disagree, please specify

18. To what extent do you agree with the following statements on the **guidance notes**?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
The guidance notes are useful						
The scope of issues covered is adequate						
The depth of treatment is adequate						
The guidance notes take into account different contexts						

19. If (strongly) disagree, please specify

20. To what extent do you agree with the following statements on the Handbook?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
Information is easy to find						
Information is clearly presented						
The order of the elements within each minimum standards (key actions, key indicators, guidance notes) is sensible						
A pocket card/pamphlet summarizing minimum standards, key actions and key indicators would be useful.						

21. Any further suggestion for the revision of the Sphere Handbook?

22. Please add link(s) to any essential documents you think should be included for the revision of the handbook in the box below:

Demographics

23. Which of the following profiles best describe your current **job** situation?

You can choose up to two profiles from the list below to describe what you do. [Randomized order]

- Trainer, Teacher, Professor, Learning expert
- Researcher
- Consultant
- Policy/advocacy expert
- Country Director, Head of Mission, CEO
- Programme Manager
- Logistics, Procurement
- Protection officer
- Technical, Sectoral expert, clinician (WASH, shelter, food, health, etc.)
- Monitoring & Evaluation expert

- Communications, Social Media specialist, Journalist
- Fundraiser/grants manager
- Human Resources management
- Finance, Administration
- Volunteer
- Student (all levels)
- Other, specify: _____

24. Which of the following categories best describes the **organisation/institution** you work for?
[Randomized order]

- National, local NGO or community organisation
- International NGO
- Government (civilian)
- United Nations agency
- Red Cross / Red Crescent Society
- School, University, Training institution
- Private Company
- Independent, Self-employed
- Armed Forces
- Donor, Funding agency
- Unemployed
- Other, specify: _____

25. In which **country** are you currently based?

- Listing of countries

26. **How long** have you been involved in the humanitarian sector?

- 0–5 years
- 6–10 years
- 11 and more years

Annex 2: Supplementary suggestions on specific topics and essential documents

On Specific Topics:

- For nutrition more on different age groups (although evidence scarce)
- Is safe abortion during humanitarian crises covered?
- Revision should include and link to geography and climate changes
- MAMI and IYCF needs updating. The IYCF section was based on the Operational Guidance on IFE that is currently being updated. A final draft should be ready early 2017. This would be a key reference document to inform an update of the IYCF Standards (the 2007 version of the Ops Guidance formed the basis of the 2011 Sphere guidance)
- Include complete specification of suggested Non Food Items. In the book or through a link.
- Working with NNGOs and other actors – guidance; Risk Management as a cross cutting element or stronger focus within sections linking with work from Transparency International
- Follow the outline of the child protection minimum standards, which is extremely user-friendly. Must include mainstreaming of child protection
- Health in Action = 1) Make specific reference to the importance of MISP for RH 2) Expand more on Communicable Diseases Prevention Control and Response 3) Provide more details when it comes to MHPSS
- Indicators mixed nutrition-WASH
- Optimising the use of medicines is essential in any health setting so Medicines Management needs more attention and development of this section is essential
- Integration of two pages with tools of stress management
- Coverage in nutrition is very different to coverage in a programme such as vaccinations. This should be taken into consideration when evaluating programmes according to this

Essential documents

The 2007 Operational Guidance IYCF is available at (Updated version ready in Feb 2017)

<http://www.enonline.net/operationalguidanceiycfv2.1>

<http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/93/8/14-147645/en/>

http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/emergencies/field_manual_rh_humanitarian_settings.pdf

Technical resources on abortion: IAWG (2010). Inter-agency field manual on reproductive health in humanitarian settings. Inter-agency Working Group (IAWG) on Reproductive Health in Crises. (Under revision).

Woman-centered, comprehensive abortion care: Reference & Trainer's manuals (second ed.) K. L. Turner & A. Huber (Eds.), Chapel Hill, NC: Ipas. <http://www.ipas.org/en/News/2015/January/The-go-to-training-curriculum-for-abortion-care--ipas-s-newly-revised-Woman-Centered--Co.aspx>

Clinical Updates in Reproductive Health (2016). A. Mark (Ed.). Chapel Hill, NC: Ipas. (Updated annually). www.ipas.org/clinicalupdates

Safe abortion: technical and policy guidance for health systems. Geneva: WHO (2014).

http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/unsafe_abortion/9789241548434/en/

Clinical practice handbook for safe abortion. Geneva: WHO (2015).

http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/unsafe_abortion/clinical-practice-safe-abortion/en/

Health worker roles in providing safe abortion care and post-abortion contraception. Geneva: WHO.

<http://srhr.org/safeabortion/>

IASC RG Common M&E Framework for MHPSS Programmes in Emergencies

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Conflict-Catastrophe-Medicine-Practical-Guide-ebook/dp/B00HUKN7BM/ref=sr_1_fkmr1_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1476217909&sr=8-4-fkmr1&keywords=the+handbook+medical+care+of+catastrophe

IHR, Sendai Framework

New WHO recommendations on vaccines for humanitarian situations

<http://www.fao.org/emergencies/resources/documents/resources-detail/en/c/171069/>

<http://cpwg.net/minimum-standards/>

<http://allindiary.org/>

<http://www.evidenceaid.org/resources/>

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=msf.guidance&hl=en> MSF Guidance for Apple devices: <https://itunes.apple.com/za/app/msf-guidance/id896339478?mt=8>

Education in Emergency, integrated programming and fungible needs, early economic recovery

MIRA Tool – SABER tool – M&E tools

Moderate Acute Malnutrition: A Decision Tool for Emergencies (2014)

http://refbooks.msf.org/msf_docs/en/public_health_en.p