

Sphere minimum standards (page 1 of 2)

Sphere Standards are set out and explained in the following format:

- **Minimum standards:** specify the minimum performance levels to be attained
 - **Key actions:** the inputs and practical activities needed to meet the standards.
 - **Key indicators:** 'signals' to show whether a standard has been attained
 - **Guidance notes:** on practical difficulties and critical and context-specific issues
- The key actions and indicators used must reflect the emergency context**

1) WATER SUPPLY, SANITATION, HYGIENE PROMOTION STANDARDS

Effective WASH programmes	1: Accountable community engagement and action 2: Sustainable solutions 3: Integrated WASH programmes
Hygiene	1: Hygiene promotion implementation 2: Identification, access, use of hygiene items 3: Menstrual hygiene and incontinence management
Water supply	1: Access and water quantity 2: Water quality
Excreta management	1: Access to and use of toilets 2: Containment of excreta 3: Excreta collection, transport, disposal and treatment 4: Management and maintenance
Vector control	1: Vector identification and targeting 2: Actions at settlement level to control vectors 3: Household and personal actions to control vectors
Solid waste management	1: Solid waste systems planning 2: Generation and management at source 3: Transportation, treatment and disposal 4: Medical solid waste
WASH and communicable disease	1: Limiting disease transmission at the community and household level 2: Infection prevention and control in care and communities
WASH and Nutrition	1: Community and household level 2: WASH in nutrition centres

2) FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION STANDARDS

Food security and nutrition assessment	1: Food security assessment 2: Nutrition assessment
Prevention and treatment of malnutrition	1: Moderate acute malnutrition 2: Severe acute malnutrition 3: Micronutrient deficiencies
Infant and young child feeding	1: Policy guidance and coordination 2: Basic and skilled support
Food security	1: General food security 2: General nutrition requirements
Food assistance	1: Food quality, appropriateness and acceptability 2: Targeting, distribution and delivery 3: Food use
Livelihoods	1: Primary production 2: Income and employment

Using the Sphere Standards in practice

Sphere plays a vital role in humanitarian response, for example through:

- Establishing the basis for humanitarian agencies to work with the affected population, and each other.
- Setting standards and providing a common basis for the design, specification and implementation of projects, goods and services.
- Use as a framework for designing and analyzing data from needs, capacity and vulnerability assessments.
- Providing a set of common indicators for measuring progress and performance in addressing priority needs and achieving the required outcomes for those affected.
- Promoting and advocating for the required quantity and quality of assistance with donors, local authorities and others.