1.2 The Humanitarian Charter and the Rights- Based Approach

Trainer's Note

Session at a Glance:

Content	Activity	Time
1. Intro and objectives	Brief oral presentation	5 minutes
2. Humanitarian Charter	Brief oral presentation	20 minutes
3. Rights exercise	Individual activity + Plenary review	20 minutes
4. Sphere hierarchy	Brief oral presentation	20 minutes
5. Book & tabs tour	Guided Individual Activity	20 minutes
6. Conclusion	Brief oral summary of goals	5 minutes
	Total Session Time: 90 minutes	

Required Materials: Sphere (2011 Edition) books for all participants, blank forms for the rights exercise to be written individually, 1.2 PPT set, flipcharts, tabs or small "sticky notes" for all participants to tab their Sphere books

Trainer's Notes:

1. Intro and Objectives – 5 minutes

Distribute Sphere books and tabs for marking key pages before workshop begins. There are two main parts to this session: (1) Introduction of the core principles found in the Humanitarian Charter and Protection Principles and (2) Introduction to the structure and hierarchy of the sphere book and approach. The third slide in the session set can be used during this short intro. Explain to the group that this session provides the key upon which all of the following sessions are based, so they should pay careful attention.

2. Humanitarian Charter and Protection Principles– 20 minutes

This is a straightforward presentation of the Sphere Humanitarian Charter and a very quick overview of the main international legal and moral principles on which it is based. While this session is designed for practitioners rather than lawyers, and solid preparation in the basic concepts is very useful in answering more detailed questions that may arise. The following basic documents can all be easily found and downloaded from the Internet – having a copy of each at hand is very useful:
  ♦ Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)
  ♦ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)
  ♦ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)
  ♦ Geneva Conventions (1949) and Additional Protocols (1977)
  ♦ Convention on the Status of Refugees (1951) and additional Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (1967)

Other important sources, but not specifically required for this session are:
  ♦ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)

♦ Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (1984)
♦ Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)
♦ Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement (1998)

The main message of this part of the session is that the Sphere Humanitarian Charter (HC) is nothing new. No new ideas have been put forward, nor is anything not already covered in international law introduced. The HC does extract the basic ideas from these sources and asks humanitarians to recognize these core rights as belonging to all people. The task of helping others realize these rights is seen as a responsibility for those able to respond rather than as an act of charity – this is the so-called "humanitarian imperative". The relationship of Sphere to the other current "humanitarian quality initiatives" should also be mentioned. Poll the group for their experience with these and explain that these various initiatives actually complement one another.

3. The Core Standards– 30 minutes

Distribute the handout included at the end of this note. Ask the participants to form small groups of people who have worked on the same program, project or operation. The groups may be of any size as long as the members can share experiences about the same situation. Once they are settled, review the Core standards on slides # 8 & 9. Ask the groups to quickly think about the 6 standards in this section and to rate their experience on a scale form 1-10 for each of the 6 categories. Explain that a "0" score means that the effort failed completely in this regard, and a "10" score mean that this standard was very well met. Allow a quick 10 minutes for this exercise. When the time is up, ask for those who have awarded any scores of 2 or less to explain their analysis briefly. Follow up this activity with the question…Did this failure to meet any of these "core standards" have a negative effect on the rights of those in need?

If you have time you can try the same approach for those with any Standards they judged to have been successful – for example – throw scored 9nor 10. Did these efforts yield positive results?

4. Sphere Hierarchy – 10 minutes

Us the prepared slides # 10 – 14 to work through the design and structure of the Sphere book. Explain the hierarchy of the Humanitarian Charter as the underlying key on which the rest of the book is based. It is augmented in the 2011 Edition with a set of Protection Principles and Core Standards.

The answer is that the following 4 "technical chapters" seek to give practical meaning and definition to the basic human rights in these key areas that humanitarian responders have traditionally worked in: WASH, Food Security and Nutrition, Sites, Shelter and NFIs, and Public Health. These chapters seek to convert the idealistic notion of "a right to life with dignity" into practical action. This is done in a series of hierarchical steps within each chapter.

These logical steps are:
1. To define global **standards** of "a life with dignity" in broad and generally subjective terms such as "sufficient", "adequate", or "equitable" access to food, shelter, water, health care, etc.
2. Provide advice on how these standards might be met through specific **actions** to be taken.
3. To then illuminate these standards further with objective **indicators** that may be used to measure whether or not the standards are being met
4. Finally, to provide **guidance** (guidance notes) in the usage of these indicators in practice, considering context, timing, and other conditional factors which may affect their viability as useful indicators.

This attempt to relate the basic rights, together with humanitarian responsibility, into practical actions is what the Sphere process and documents bring to the humanitarian community.

5. Book & Tabs Tour – 20 minutes

This session reinforces the previous presentation by making all participants actually open the Sphere books and begin to mark key sections with tabs, and to personalize the books for their own use. Use slides # 16-18 to deliver the instructions. Remind the participants that the Sphere document is far from perfect, yet it remains one of the best sources of its kind for practical field emergency response guidance. Furthermore it brings together experience from a very wide field of humanitarian responders from around the world. Encourage the group to read the chapters closely, to look for problems or areas that they do not understand, and to feel comfortable to raise these concerns as each chapter of the book is examined in detail later in the workshop.

6. Conclusion – 5 minutes

After tabbing and marking the books, the participants are now ready to begin a week of intense practice using the _Sphere Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response_ for a variety of problems in each of the sectors.

Quick Core Standards Evaluation Form

Consider a specific humanitarian response you and the members of your discussion group have been in or have specific knowledge about. You may choose a specific response, overall operation, or a specific sectoral project of a larger response, as long as your members have some shared experience or knowledge of the response.

Use the checklist below to quickly evaluate the response using the 6 Sphere Core Standards. Review the standard, and then rank the response in accordance with how well your group feels that the response met each of the standards. A score of 0 means that the standard has been completely unmet, untried, or un-considered. At the other end of the scale, a 10 means that the standard has been fully met. Remember that this is a relative scale and there may not be an absolute right answer". It is more important for your small group to consider each standard and then come to a quick consensus on each one. Use your own criteria for arriving at your group's ranking. Once you've agreed circle the number that reflects your rating. If you cannot agree as a group, circle the ratings individually and then take the group average for presentation of each.

Evaluating Humanitarian Response Using the Sphere Core Standards

	Low Success	Some Success	High Success
1. **People-centred humanitarian response –** see page 55	0 1 2	3 4 5 6 7	8 9 10
2. **Coordination and collaboration** see page 58	0 1 2	3 4 5 6 7	8 9 10
3. **Assessment** see page 61	0 1 2	3 4 5 6 7	8 9 10
4. **Design and response** see page 65	0 1 2	3 4 5 6 7	8 9 10
5. **Performance transparency and learning** see page 68	0 1 2	3 4 5 6 7	8 9 10
6. **Aid worker performance** see page 71	0 1 2	3 4 5 6 7	8 9 10