

3.2 Sphere and Emergency Settlements, Shelter & NFI

Trainer's Note

Session at a Glance:

Content	Activity	Time
1 Introduction	Brief Oral Presentation	5 minutes
2 Review of Sphere standards	PPT presentation with facilitated plenary discussion	20 minutes
3 Visualizing the indicators	PPT presentation with mini-exercises	60 minutes
4 Conclusions	Brief Oral summary of main points	5 minutes
Total Session Time: 90 minutes		

Required Materials: 3.4 PPT set, well-marked 2011 Sphere book (Site, shelter & NFI chapter), flipcharts, calculators for quick exercises. If possible it is also useful to procure a standard 4X5 m piece of plastic sheeting, or even an emergency stockpile tent if possible.

Trainer's Notes:

1. Introduction

This session, like the other “Sphere and...” sessions, is intended to make participants open, read, understand, and work with the Sphere Standards and Indicators for this chapter. It is useful at this point to remind the participants that although this is a very useful tool, it is still far from perfect, and previous Sphere editions (and many other sources of information on emergency shelter) have had a fairly strong bias towards refugee camps. The 2011 Sphere edition has clearly laid out a “range of options” that are reflected now in the Standards. One way to encourage closer reading of the text and better understanding of its uses and limitations is to challenge the readers to find any shortcomings, or points that they find confusing or difficult to understand.

2. Review of Sphere Standards

This part of the session is designed to “walk them through” each of the standards in this sector. It is sometimes useful to have different participants read them out and then recompose them in their own words to ensure that they are clear and that the whole group understands the main points of each standard. In every case, challenge the group to “test” the standard to see whether or not they agree that they are in fact, universal in nature and globally applicable.

3. Visualizing the Indicators

The point of this part of the session is to make the indicators and guidance notes “come alive” for the participants. It should be very graphic - particularly for this session - since many people do not have a clear visual understanding of sizes, distances, areas, and basic physical planning measures. It is very useful to use masking tape to lay out rectangular areas on the training room floor to depict 3.5-sq. m. (minimum shelter space per person) as well as 45 sq. m. (for minimum site space per person). If you have any other props to bring to the session - particularly plastic sheeting samples or photographs of emergency camps - use them. Use the questions in the

presentation to get active participation from the group. It will be very useful to have several pocket calculators on hand for participants to work out several of the calculations involved in using some of the numerical indicators.

The exercise dealing with distribution of plastic sheeting is very rich and should be carefully dissected after completion. The message here is that math and sq. meters of plastic per person is only part of the story. The much more difficult and equally important part of shelter programs is the design of how to distribute materials in an equitable way when family sizes vary widely. The problem and the "textbook " solution are provided at the end of this note. You may want to distribute the analysis to each of the participants after they work the exercise as a handout and explanation.

The presentation on "the building block approach" is important because much of the camp planning guidance provided in Sphere is based on this model, although it is not specifically presented in the text. Note the standard about privacy as well, and challenge the group to think through ways to achieve this in a dense camp situation. Take time to walk the participants through the steps carefully. Note that the placement of latrines and water points are also in line with the Sphere indicators. Remind the group that this is only one solution and that the "building blocks" that may be used to design a large camp are many and varied. This solution is designed to show an approach only, not a "one size fits all solution". The arrangement of the clusters will depend on many factors such as family size, available shelter options and traditional shelter habits of the people. Explain that there will be an opportunity to use this approach in the final synthesis exercise of this workshop.

4. Conclusions

While not perfect, the Sphere Standards, Actions, Indicators and guidance notes provide a very useful guide for designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating emergency camps and shelter programs. In general the big points are:

- Consider all shelter options available and try to keep people in their own homes if this can be done safely.
- Provide enough interior space, so that people live in dignity - not like prisoners
- Distribute (or allocate) shelter space in ways that support the family unit, while meeting the other indicators as well as possible
- Provide enough space - to reduce crowding in emergency shelter sites and camps
- If camps cannot be avoided – site them well and take care to attend to site drainage
- Try to manage sites holistically, treat them as small cities, with completely integrated water, sanitation, and health systems, failure to adequately address these other allied sectors will result in failure.

SHELTER RESPONSE EXERCISE

If our study emergency population of 20,000 displaced has the demographic makeup described below, what programmatic impact does the information have on the provision of shelter materials to these people? You have 3,750 pre-cut plastic sheets (4m x 6m each) with metal eyelets at the edges for fastening with cord, people have access to light wooden poles. Heavy rain is possible within the next 2 weeks. Assume plenty of usable site area - no restriction.

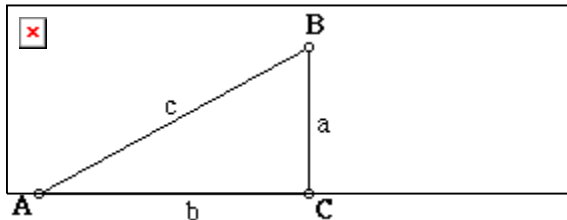
- 15,000 are in complete families, avg. fam. size = 6
- 4,000 are minority population, avg. fam. size = 8
- 1,000 are ex-fighters and child soldiers, all male, aged from 10-22 yrs. They claim no family attachment within the larger group

What Sphere guidance will help you design your distribution program for these plastic sheets? What is your basic plan?

Sphere Plastic Sheeting Exercise Analysis and Possible Answer...

1. First consider overall planning figure and assumptions for shelter space to be provided by the material you have...

3,750 sheets X (4 X 6) = 90,000 m² available plastic sheeting (but remember that the plastic will be used as a shelter roof, so assume 30° angle, therefore the usable area will be available based on a ratio determined from high-school trigonometry.



You are given c (use 1 to determine the utility ratio) and $A =$ (assume 30°). $B = 1/2 - A$,
 $a = c \sin(A)$, **$b = c \times \cos(A) = 1 \times (.866) = .866$ utility factor**

(Therefore shelter coverage is 86% of total plastic sheeting size) 90,000 X .86 = 77,400 m² of covered area.

77,400 m² / 20,000 people = 3.87 m² per person.... So that should be OK per the Sphere indicator of min. 3.5 m² per person

Now then... how to distribute these sheets to those in need.

One sheet is 4X6 and should provide $(24 \times .866 = 20.784 \text{ m}^2) / 3.5 = 5.938$ (say 6 people) That is good for the majority group of 15,000 with average family size of 6. This would mean $(15,000 / 6) = 2,500$ families for planning purposes, and therefore 2,500 plastic sheets.

For the 4,000 people in the minority group, whose average family size is 8, the question is more difficult. You need a rule to follow. For example if you give each family 2 sheets, then you need $(4000 / 8) \times 2 = 1000$ sheets.

Finally, there are the 1,000 soldiers. For this group which may be sheltered communally, not in family groups, simply divide them into groups of 6 and provide each group 1 sheet of plastic. You will need $(1000 / 6 = 167$ sheets)

So... here is the summary using this procedure....

WHO	How Many Sheets	Notes
Majority Group	2,500	Works for the average family, but families with more than 6 will be crowded
Minority Group	1,000	Works well for the average family and is conservative, so most families will be better off than the Majority families in terms of space
Soldier Group	167	Alternatively you can simply distribute this to the leadership and let them set group sizes as they wish.
	3,667	You have 3,750 sheets to distribute, so you should be safe. You have 83 sheets left over for special cases or as a reserve.

What are the weak points of this scheme? One problem is the tension that will be caused between the two groups due to all Minority families receiving 2 sheets while Majority families receive only 1. A rule would need to be established that applies equally to all groups regardless of ethnicity. For example the rule might be that all families up to 6 members receive 1 sheet of plastic. All families larger than this receive 2 sheets, up to family size of 12.