

4.2 Sphere and Health

Trainer's Note

Session at a Glance:

Content	Activity	Time
1 Introduction	Brief Oral Presentation	15 minutes
2 Review of Sphere standards and indicators	OH presentation with facilitated plenary discussion and short questions and answers regarding indicators	60 minutes
3 Conclusions	Brief Oral summary of main points	15 minutes
Total Session Time: 90 minutes		

Required Materials: 4.2 OH set, well-marked Sphere book (chapter 5), flipcharts,

Trainer's Notes:

1. Introduction

If you are not a doctor (or otherwise trained health professional), try to find someone else to make this presentation. It often works well to work as a team, with a facilitator setting the pace and asking key questions of the doctor, and letting the doctors answer questions in depth and provide color to the presentation with their experiences. If you do not have a doctor to help with this session, you will need significant background reading, review, and interviews, if possible with those who have organized emergency health programs.

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 not a complete health program guide, but rather a consensus of some of the key features of health programs common in refugee and other large displacement emergency camps. Even so, the information here would also serve to advise in the design of public health programs and projects in other non-camp situations.

The best way to introduce this session is to conduct a quick brainstorm of what the participants feel constitutes an emergency health program. Collect activities or services of the program and list them on a flip chart. After collecting several points, ask who is responsible to provide each of the services listed. The point of this exercise is to build the understanding that most health problems resulting from disasters and mass displacement emergencies are actually best "treated" or avoided by better basic services such as water, sanitation, shelter, and food. If these are adequately addressed, the primary mission of health services is to address individual cases and conduct immunization services.

2. Review of Sphere Standards and Indicators

This part of the session is designed to "walk the participants through" each of the standards as well as the key indicators 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. In many cases there is explanatory material provided to better explain some of the reasoning behind the indicators used. **Remember that this session is designed to provide a basic understanding of emergency health program issues to non-specialists, not a professional training for doctors or nurses.** As such, providing a general understanding is good enough for our purposes. In any situation it is useful to have a doctor, nurse, or other skilled professional available to help with the presentation of this session.

3. Conclusions

Review any questions or problems participants may have found in the chapter. Remind the group that the intent of the session is primarily to familiarize non-specialists with the basics (and basic terminology) of health services for disaster response. The final OH in the prepared series provides a concise review of the main points of the session.