un mondo di solidarietà

Basic Requirements for Providing Humanitarian Assistance

SPHERE standards

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HUMANITARIAN INTERNATIONAL LAW

Geneva Conventions

4 treaties + 3 Protocols (two in1977 and last one 2005)

ICRC

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Humanitarian Community

Humanitarian Assistance and IDPs

HUMANITARIAN INTERNATIONAL LAW

From post 2nd World War

To nowadays complex emergencies the world had changed a lot

The Geneva Conventions were made mainly thinking to a “classic war” between two Nation-States

Today the humanitarian crisis consist mainly in civil conflicts and natural disasters

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Humanitarian Assistance and IDPs

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HUMANITARIAN INTERNATIONAL LAW

Remains the LEGAL basis and framework for any humanitarian intervention

BUT

A set of operative tools are needed in order to guarantee protection to people affected from a disaster

The two recent Humanitarian crisis that have affected a lot the International Community have been Balkan crisis and Rwanda war in the ‘90

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

The big challenge today is to assure IDP (Internal Displaced Population) protection and assistance in civil conflict and natural disaster

Humanitarian Assistance and IDPs

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The lack in the international law and UN system was (is) mainly on IDPs protection and assistance

In 1998 an UN team of international legal experts developed and presented to the Commission on Human Rights ***The Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement***

The 30 articles of the GPs tackle the specific vulnerability of internally displaced persons who do not benefit from the protection of international refugee law because they have not crossed international borders.

International attempts to assist IDPs are often hampered by a lack of security, by physical and political obstructions, and by the very size of IDPs.

It is very difficult to get accurate figures for IDPs because populations are constantly fluctuating or inaccessible: some IDPs may be returning home while others are fleeing, others may periodically return to IDP camps to take advantage of humanitarian aid; some return home temporarily but come back to their place of displacement, or move elsewhere.

Humanitarian Assistance Tools

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PRIORITIES IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION

COORDINATION among humanitarian actors (UN system, donors, NGOs, ICRC, etc.)

Accountability of humanitarian aid

Different tools have been developed in order to support the International community in successfully managing disasters: MSF and Oxfam guidelines, UNICEF protocols, etc.

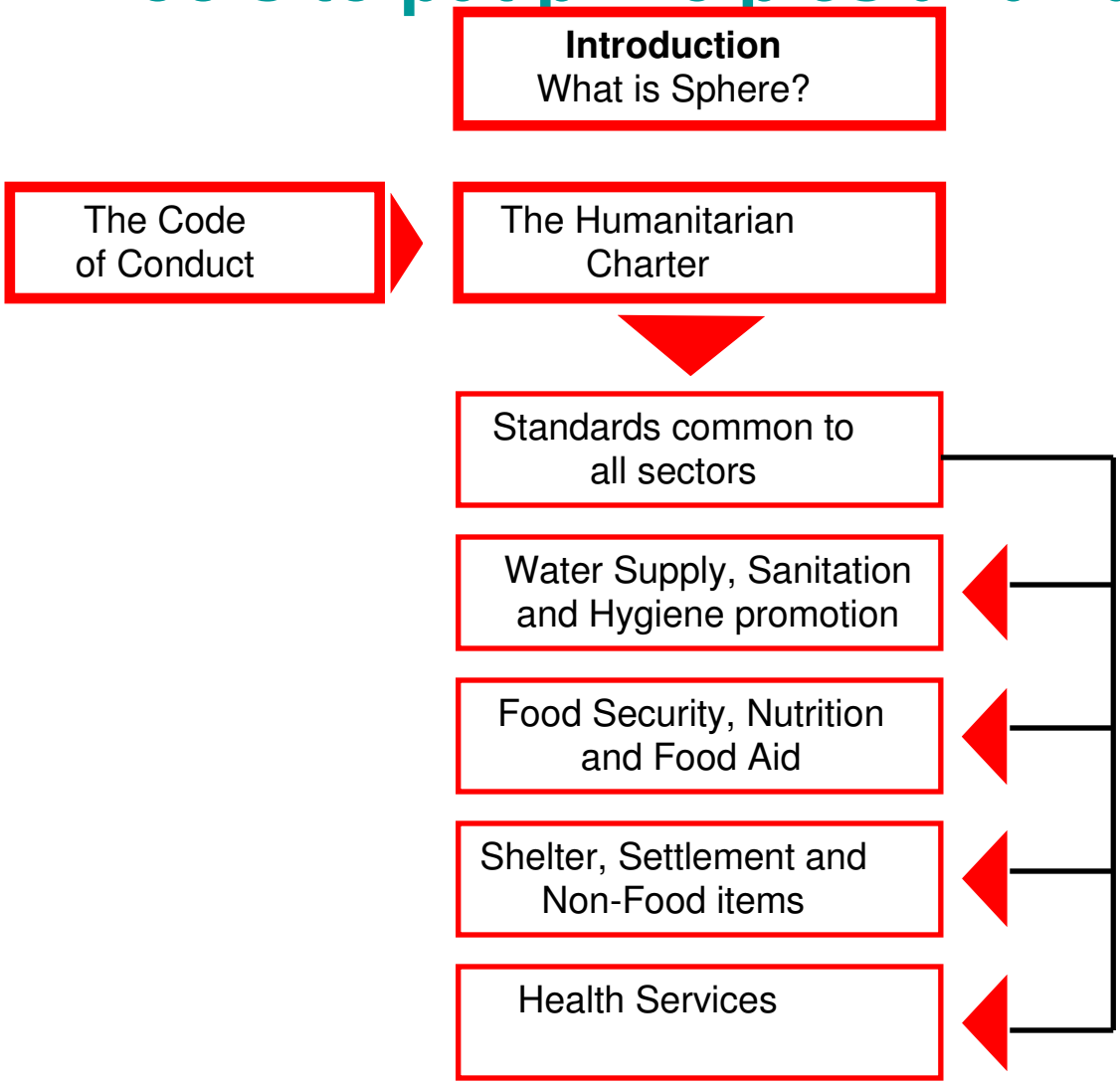
And SPHERE PROJECT that attempt to unify the sartorial approach



The Sphere Project

Executive briefing on the Sphere Project

Tools to put principles and values into action



2004 Edition

Each Chapter includes

- **Minimum standards**
- **Key indicators**
- **Guidance notes**

Why is the Sphere handbook needed?

- **NGO concern with quality and accountability**
  - has been ongoing
- **Historic practice no longer sufficient**
  - Increasing complexity of disasters
  - Numbers of disasters increasing
  - Changing nature of humanitarian community and increasing diversity
  - Increasing number of actors with different measures of success
- **Post- Rwanda 1994**
  - Multi-donor evaluation “Unnecessary deaths”

Sphere process

- Make argument for universal assistance
- Obtain agreement on core principles and actions
- Achieve consensus on technical indicators

Humanitarian Charter: Sections

- **Commitment to promote**
  - observance of fundamental humanitarian principles
  - appreciation of our own ethical obligations
- **Statement of humanitarian principles**
- **Description of roles, duties & responsibilities**
- **Commitment to consistently achieve the minimum standards**
- **Acknowledgement that our fundamental accountability is to those we seek to assist**

Standards, key indicators and guidance notes

Minimum standards:

- Minimum level (of service) in humanitarian assistance

Key indicators:

- Signals that show whether a standard has been attained
- Measure and communicate

- impact, result, process or methods used

- Qualitative or quantitative

Guidance notes:

- Disseminate experience
- Illuminate areas of controversy
- Help use indicators properly in context

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In conclusion

- Declaration that populations affected by conflict and calamity have a right to assistance
- Commitment towards a defined and measurable level of competence and delivery
- Distillation of current global knowledge and experience into a practical tool for:
  - individuals
  - their organisations
  - the humanitarian community
- Challenge to all actors in the humanitarian community for increased accountability and quality

In conclusion

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Thank you for your attention

Stefania Piccinelli