

Report on

WHAT'S NEW IN THE 2018 SPHERE HANDBOOK?



The Sphere Handbook is a standout amongst the most globally perceived arrangements of basic humanitarian standards. It is known as the guidelines for conveying the quality of humanitarian response especially to the disaster-affected population so that they can live their life with dignity, protection and assistance in terms of the crisis. It is the oldest initiative, practiced over 20 years and updated with regular interval according to the changing humanitarian needs over the world.

The new edition (Fifth including the draft edition) of 2018 sphere handbook has launched on 6 November 2018 to fulfill demand of the time. To mark the launching of the new edition of the Sphere book 2018, Foundation for Disaster Forum in collaboration with SCB (Sphere Committee Bangladesh) and Caritas organized a two hours long interactive session on "What New in Sphere - 2018" on December 18 at the central office of Caritas Bangladesh. About twenty participants (Humanitarian Response Managers and Trainers) from different National and International Organizations participated. Editor of Bengali Sphere book and founding convener of Disaster Forum facilitate the session.

Participants: The name of the organizations of twenty participants in emergency sector are-

1.Help Age International , 2.Gana Unnayan Kendra 3.ADD International 4.Films 4 peace Foundation
5.NGO Forum for Public Health 6.Helvetas Swiss Interco operation 7. Bangladesh Red Crescent Society ,
8.Save the Children in Bangladesh 9.Centre for Disability in Development-CDD 10.Caritas Bangladesh
11.BRAC International 12.Coast Trust 13 .13.Action Aid Bangladesh 14. Christian Aid Bangladesh

Experience sharing & offering new ideas through discussion:

The participants who attended the program are involved in the humanitarian crisis sectors for a long time. For that reason, they have specified knowledge about the sphere book. All of them have expressed their opinion regarding the new features and the accessibility of these updated things to the trainers who will be in charge of delivering the scheme to the local people. The summary of the discussion is as follows:

1. According to their commentary, they have said to improve the previous training module because the training module is in its previous versions for that sometimes it becomes difficult for the new practitioners.
2. A proposal has given to the participants to engage with the translation process of the book in local language so that the trainers and the people who will get the training can understand the topic easily. Different practitioners are expert in different sectors. If they can connect their work with the parts of the sphere a better result can be derived for the vulnerable people in different areas.

3. The participants have emphasized the importance of publishing pocket book of sphere handbook 2018.
4. Some changes has come in the standards of sphere but the changes should comes into local context than the international context. Along with these, how everyone will understand the principles and guidance is also discussed.
5. To include the practitioners into inspirational values have discussed. The participants proposed to use the experience to specific the training module in context. To take the challenges out of the box can be helpful for a better result in the emergency sector.
6. Sometimes it has been seen that the trainers don't give the importance the people who will be trained. But to understand their views are very necessary. That's why adaptation is needed in training module.
7. But there should be some extra research about the food habit and food package for the vulnerable people.
8. Sphere is the ethical code of the humanitarian response process. It helps to measure the maintenance of the humanitarian actions so that in future the success and failure level can address.
9. All these actions can succeed if the commitment levels of the practitioners are strong. Along with the international standards, the national standards need to be maintained.

On 2018 Sphere edition / Changes

How to popularize and monitoring the use of the book has been discussed on the initial part of the program. For wide spreading the popularity of the book, practitioners expressed their opinion to emphasize the sectors, which are newly approached in the sphere book by highlighting with the Bangladesh perspective case studies as well as the protection context. This goal can accomplish to one-step ahead by spreading the importance of the sphere handbook in humanitarian crisis to the trainers in country context. Besides this, for documenting the learning in using the book, the necessities of connecting the area of expertise with the sphere sectors are also addressed in the discussion.

Comparing to the previous editions, the new sphere handbook standards are more outcome-oriented and reformulated indicators with concise guidance notes. Applying the standards in the specific context, understanding the vulnerabilities and capabilities, providing assistance in fundamental shifts, Implications for protection, accountability and quality monitoring and community engagement and accountability are the new dimensions where the sphere book 2018 gives there centre of attention. Along with these, new standards are added in the WASH, Food security and nutrition, Health and Shelter & settlements sectors to reduce the issues of the vulnerable people in emergency as well as to develop their capacity.

Next Step:

Through the whole discussion on the new edition of the sphere book-2018, the future steps are highlighted for building a better humanitarian response system. Decisions have taken on next step-

1. For translating the Sphere Handbook 2018 into easy and simple language for practitioners, Disaster Forum will form a committee and communicate with the respective sector and organizations.
2. Disaster Forum will develop a new training module on Sphere 2018.
3. Simultaneously DF will organize ToT, Foundation course on Sphere 2018.