

Module: Public Health Disaster Planning for Districts

Organization: East Africa HEALTH Alliance, 2009-2012

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Resource Title: Session 3.3: Introduction to the SPHERE Standards

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Introduction: A set of international standards have been set to guide agencies in planning for response to large scale disasters that involve the displacement of a large number of people. These standards can be adapted to the requirements of different mass disaster situations and can be used as a basis for planning. Agencies do not have to re-create planning standards from the scratch. They can refer to the SPHERE manual and select from a list of standards and guidelines. In this session, we shall look at the rationale, the basis and contents of the SPHERE standards book.

General Objective

The objective of this session is to familiarise participants with the SPHERE standards and how they can be used as a reference for planning for response to mass humanitarian disasters.

Specific Objectives

At the end of this unit the participant should be able to:

1. Explain the rationale for the SPHERE Standards
2. Outline the key content areas of the SPHERE handbook
3. Extract information on indicators and standards from the guidelines, for use in planning

Teaching and learning strategies

Presentation

Resources Required

Copies of the SPHERE Manual (<http://www.sphereproject.org/handbook/>)

Scenario: The All Disaster Approach

Most disasters share similar characteristics and if we plan properly for one disaster, we can achieve a good level of preparedness for all disasters. Since disasters share common characteristics, some international standards have been developed for shared aspects of disasters. Think of an international toolbox that can be used by planners at all levels to select activities for their disaster plans. How useful do you think this toolbox would be?