The Sphere Handbook

3rd edition (2011)
Humanitarian Charter

Conflict- or disaster-affected populations have

• A right to life with dignity
• A right to receive humanitarian assistance
• A right to protection and security
the gold standard for humanitarian assistance . . . continue to be taken up and implemented by the widest possible range of humanitarian actors.
Standards & Indicators

• Standard
  ✓ Qualitative
  ✓ Universal & applicable in any disaster situation

• Indicator
  ✓ A ‘signal’ – has the standard been attained?
  ✓ Measurable

• All people have safe and equitable access to a sufficient quantity of water for drinking, cooking and personal and domestic hygiene . . . (Water supply standard 1: access and water quantity (p.87))

• Average water use . . . is at least 15l/person/day
• Maximum distance . . . to water point is 500m
• Queuing time . . . no more than 30 minutes
Sphere companion standards
What humanitarian workers say?

“I’ve worked with the three of them.”
(A humanitarian worker from Honduras)

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The Sphere Project

Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards
in Humanitarian Response

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