

Food Security Information for Action

Establishing a common understanding with the Reader

(Annex to the lesson "Reporting for results")



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Establish a common understanding with the Reader

One way of doing this is to refer to agreed global, regional and national **targets or standards**. For example, we may be committed to achieving certain targets, such as reducing malnutrition rates. Failing to meet these targets would constitute a problem that we could all agree on.

Examples of internationally agreed targets include the **Millennium Development Goals** and the **SPHERE** standards. Meeting these targets provides an important basis for action for specific audiences.

Countries will also have their own food and nutrition policies that may include more specific and nationally relevant goals, targets and standards.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)



The eight **Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs) provide economic, social, environmental and political targets to be met by 2015. They have been adopted by all countries in the world.

The MDGs have provided a major spur towards meeting the needs of the world's poorest.

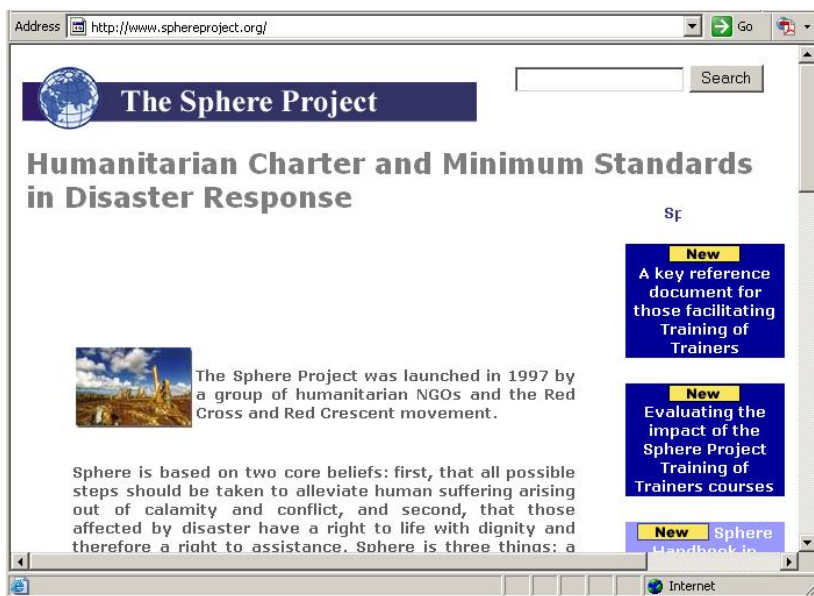
Goal One is to eradicate extreme hunger and poverty:

- To reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day
- To reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

See <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/#> for more details on the complete MDGs.

The SPHERE initiative

The **SPHERE initiative** was launched in 1997 by a group of humanitarian NGOs and the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, which framed a Humanitarian Charter and identified Minimum Standards to be attained in disaster assistance in each of five key sectors (water supply and sanitation, nutrition, food aid, shelter and health services).



Taken together, the Humanitarian Charter and the Minimum Standards contribute to an operational framework for accountability in disaster assistance efforts. A failure to meet these standards would therefore constitute a problem. The first Sphere handbook was published in 2000.