

The Application of Sphere Standards in Camp Design – a Simulation

NOTES FOR FACILITATORS

1. This exercise is suitable for the afternoon of a one-day Introduction to Sphere Workshop when the morning has been spent reviewing the Humanitarian Charter and the Technical Chapters of the Sphere Minimum Standards (SMS). (Such an arrangement provides a stimulating activity that is intended to combat post-lunch malaise!)
2. Provide a flip-chart map for each team. This will be roughly to the scale of 1cm:1 km. A reduced version is appended.
3. Provide each team with a block of Post-its of a different colour. If the square Post-it size of 7.5 X 7.5 cm is selected, each note will represent a 75-meter square containing 320 people. This will facilitate fast layout planning and a distinctive plenary presentation. (The main purpose of the exercise is to consider the Key Indicators that need to be kept in mind while implementing SMS. However, the exercise can readily be redirected to the determination of how many refugees could be accommodated within the space available while conforming to SMS)
4. The data provided are intended to reflect a 'normal' situation i.e. some is not relevant. Other information could be used to anticipate problems in the immigrant population
5. The buildings are large and could have various uses depending on the creativity of the teams. This size has been utilised for the ease of scaling. Facilitators may prefer to reduce the size of the buildings for their own exercises
6. Documentation has been kept to a minimum to allow the exercise to be constrained to three hours. There may be an advantage in circulating the document before the training day, or at the end of the morning of the workshop.
7. Participants can be allocated to teams or asked to sign up in restricted places to ensure team balance.

Aim

- to understand the importance of the Sphere Minimum Standards in camp planning and management

Objectives

- to consider the factors of significance in camp planning
- to understand how to apply Sphere Minimum Standards in camps
- to know and to practise the importance of coordination of emergency activities
- to appreciate the need for establishing longer term goals

Workshop Plan

1245 - 1330	LUNCH
1330 - 1350	Physical Planning, Tools for Management – input from facilitator
1350 - 1545	Simulation Exercise TEA can be served during this period
1545 - 1645	Feedback from Groups Lessons learned

INTRODUCTION

Any humanitarian worker can be involved with the design, management and maintenance of camps for refugees or internally displaced persons (IDPs). Your role may be as a leader or team member. A common scenario in mass migration is for hundreds or thousands of people to arrive in a new location. They may be tired, frightened, hungry, thirsty, sick or wounded, in need of shelter; and unexpected. Sometimes there is enough warning to organise the camp in advance. More often, the initial situation is chaotic and the migrant population may need to be organised or relocated into transit camps in the process of initial care and rehabilitation.

EXERCISE

In this exercise you will be involved in the relocation of refugees from another site 50 km away. This original site to the north is becoming overcrowded and conditions are deteriorating. The government will arrange the selection of refugees for relocation and their transport to the new accommodation. As the situation is becoming urgent, the government has decided that the relocation will take place within four weeks from today.

SCENARIO

1. A farmer has offered a piece of land to assist the Government with the relocation of refugees from the adjoining country of Slamland. He says he is poor and needs a donation of \$1 a square meter. The land is about 750 metres (north/south) by 500 metres (east west).
2. The land offered by the farmer is rough and infertile. It is bordered on the west by a river and on the east by a used railway track. On the northern boundary is a road link, leading to the north, in a condition suitable for lorries. To the south of the proposed plot is a further piece of land of similar size that is densely forested. It is owned and managed badly by the local authority so the existing trees are scrubby, diseased and of little value. The proposed plot has a slope from east to west of an average of 3% fall but the marginal strip about 10 metres wide adjoining the river is marshy and puddled, especially in the rainy season. In the middle of the plot is a huge pile of builders' rubbish left from the remains of earlier buildings. The site contains three buildings left from a disused railway station:
 - A is located in the north-east corner and is in good condition (75 X 150 metres)
 - B is close to A and is also in good condition (75 X 75 metres)
 - C is located on the southern border. It is a derelict shed with open sides and a leaking roof but constructed on a concrete base (225 X 75 metres). Close to the western end of the shed is a well.
3. Fifty km north of the proposed relocation site is the original camp with about 16,000 registered refugees. Rumours suggest that there are probably about 20,000 in total as others have crossed into the country and joined the camp without registration. You have been given a summary report by a government official that includes the following information:

Government Assessment Information on Existing Refugee Camp			
Type of information	Qualitative Aspects	Quantitative Aspects	Source
Population	Adults and children appear healthy from windshield survey and brief tour around central admin. block and schools	Local office official population figures show 16,450 refugees presently registered in the camp	UNHCR registration data – compiled from previous 10 years history in the camp.
Population	Refugee leaders seem to be well organized and capable.	Refugee leaders say that there are at least 20,000 refugees currently in the camp due to new influxes.	Refugee leadership
Deaths	Some deaths in children reported to be due to measles/complications	200 people have died in the last two months.	Clinics, correlated with requests for burial shrouds.
Illness	Measles outbreak reported last month.	Local public health NGO reports 50% of all medical complaints relate to diarrhoeas.	Local Public Health NGO doctor and staff.
Water	Water source is combined from small local river and shallow wells. River source is not controlled, but wells are well made and protected with a concrete apron and hand-pump. There are always long lines at the hand pumps.	Estimated 30,000 litres of water from hand-pumps available per day. River source provides potential 500 cu. m. of water per hour, actual consumption from this source not measured	Local NGO hand-pump programme director
Sanitation	Site looks clean, although numerous public latrines stink badly	650 public pit latrines have been constructed under a local programme	Sanitation/shelter NGO programme director and refugee sanitation team leader
Site area	Site looks very bare. Large areas of standing water are in and around the camp, especially near water taps and washing areas.	One square kilometre provided by Government from National Park property. Roughly one half of this is unusable due to low lying swampy areas	Ministry of Interior and aerial photography
Shelter	Most shelters are self-built with plastic sheeting used for additional protection on the roof.	Analysis of aerial photography reveals approximately 2,000 separate shelters, each approximately 12 sq. m.	Air photography, verified through on-site correlation of sample areas
Nutrition	People on the street look thin, but healthy	There has not been a recent nutritional survey, but the total food aid provided amounts to the equivalent of 1800 kcal/person/day	WFP logistician, Distribution centre officials, warehouse records

TEAMS

You will join one of the following 5 teams:

1. Public Health
2. Food/Nutrition
3. Water and Sanitation
4. Shelter, Buildings and Services
5. Coordination and Site Planning

1. Public Health

Your team will need to monitor the health of the incoming refugees and, from available data, determine the health care procedures that need to be put in place to prevent deterioration and to improve health care.

2. Food/Nutrition

Food will have to be brought in from other locations. A distribution system will need to be put in place for the refugees in the transit camp.

3. Water and Sanitation

Water is available at the warehouse from a well located at one end of the block, and from the river. You will need to design and manage the wat/san system. Two days ago an outbreak of cholera was reported at the camp to the north. The Ministry of Health is unable to help. Your team must plan for the wat/san needs of the refugees.

4. Shelter, Buildings and Services

The site where the refugees will be housed in transit is located in the middle of your country. During an earlier period the shed contained large stores of munitions. More recently the military has been leasing it to a private petro-chemical firm for storage of industrial solvents. The Red Cross/Red Crescent has agreed to make available to the relocation effort a supply of ridge tents if needed.

5. Coordination and Site Planning

Your goal is to make sure all planning activities taking place are well coordinated. You will assemble the information provided by the other groups and facilitate the regular sharing of information between the groups.

TASKS

1. Chose a facilitator who agrees to manage the discussion in your group and keep it on track
2. Choose a reporter who will record the discussion
3. Decide who will make the report to the plenary group
4. Determine how many refugees can be relocated on your proposed site with the adoption of the Sphere Minimum Standards
5. Prepare a plan and a time frame to achieve the objectives of establishing Sphere Minimum Standards to accommodate the influx of refugees
6. If you have time, consider the longer-term goals. What other issues might need to be important for the longer term?
7. Coordinate with the other teams as necessary. There are no rules – everything is negotiable.

www.networklearning.org

