

CHS DRAFT 1 for Consultation:

Summary of Key Changes, Current Emphasis and Continuity

Following an extensive stakeholder consultation process, an updated Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality & Accountability (CHS) is being proposed for the next round of consultation. This Draft 1 draws on the feedback from thousands of stakeholders across the world, including communities, local actors and national authorities.

Draft 1 strengthens the CHS to reinforce the leading role of people and communities in shaping and influencing actions and decisions that affect them and addressing power imbalances through more equitable, inclusive relationships between stakeholders. It gives greater prominence to areas identified as needing more emphasis, such as supporting locally led responses, the environment and the nexus of humanitarian and development work. At the same time, the draft maintains the primary focus on quality and accountability towards people and communities.

To ensure greater accessibility and user-friendliness, Draft 1 uses less jargon and more accessible language. It reduces duplication, while maintaining rigour. Meanwhile, continuity with the existing Standard remains a critical factor for building on the strong and growing relevance of the CHS. The content of this version is an update of what is already being used by many organisations for monitoring and verification purposes. The suggested revision also remains the foundation for technical standards such as Sphere and the Quality Compass, ensuring linkages with global initiatives such as the Grand Bargain.

Finally, while maintaining its focus on humanitarian response, Draft 1 seeks to address the diversity of organisations who are involved in supporting people in crisis, specifically local and national actors.

Through these shifts, current emphasis and elements of continuity, Draft 1 is in line with the six CHS revision criteria:

1. Reaffirm and reinforce the Standard as a people-centred framework for quality and accountability;
2. Address the most important issues that affect quality and accountability;
3. Clarify concepts, simplify language, and make it more accessible for users and stakeholders;
4. Reinforce the measurability of the Standard;
5. Reinforce coherence and alignment with existing quality and technical standards and good accountability practices; and
6. Have the potential to increase adoption and use of the Standard by a wider number of stakeholders, particularly local and national actors.



The sections below outline how the feedback, learning and the revision criteria is reflected in Draft 1.

To reaffirm and reinforce the Standard as a people-centred framework for quality and accountability:

- Commitment 4 moved up to feature as Commitment 1. This has been done to reinforce the importance of active and inclusive participation, engagement and influence of people and communities in actions and decision-making processes that are central to them.
- Strengthened language throughout the CHS to be more people-centred. For example, this has been done as the revised Commitment 1 focuses more strongly on two-way communication with people and communities. Commitment 7 now has more references to learning and adapting based on people's feedback.

To address some of the most important issues that affect quality and accountability:

- Commitment 3 split into two distinct commitments to focus more on the following two themes:
 - Commitment 3 emphasises local leadership and sustainability.
 - Commitment 4 focuses on do no harm, addressing and preventing risks to people and their environments.
- Strengthened language on environmental impact. This has been developed in Commitment 4 and other commitments.
- More inclusive language to ensure that the CHS applies to all actors responding in situations of crisis.

To clarify concepts, simplify language, and make it more accessible for users and stakeholders:

- Key Requirements focusing on the most important issues to meet the commitments proposed, instead of Key Actions and Organisational Responsibilities. Key Requirements now formulated in a way that better recognises and accommodates organisations and their wide range of ways of working to consistently meet the CHS requirements.
- General System Requirements replace the former Organisational Responsibilities, reducing overlap and duplication. This section now describes the enabling conditions required to successfully apply the CHS throughout an organisation's ways of working.
- Shortened introductory sections to the Standard to reduce repetition and removal of sections for inclusion in guidance notes.



To reinforce the measurability of the Standard:

- Ensured continuity with current version with further guidance to be developed to support transition to the revised Standard.
- Carefully developed Key Requirements for measurability and clarity on what elements will be measured.
- Reduction of complexity.
- Removal of duplicative requirements.

To reinforce coherence and alignment with existing quality and technical standards and good accountability practice, the CHS will:

- Continue to be one of the foundation chapters for Sphere and the humanitarian standards grouped in the Humanitarian Standards Partnership.
- Continue to contribute to alignment and coherence on how stakeholders can improve quality, effectiveness and accountability across their ways of working.
- Continue to be the foundation for Groupe URD's Quality Compass.
- Remain a critical global reference for quality and accountability processes, as well as system initiatives such as the Climate Charter and the Grand Bargain, including on the participation revolution and localisation.

To increase buy-in and support from a wider range of key stakeholders while maintaining the focus on humanitarian response, supported by humanitarian principles:

- Inclusive language to accommodate the diversity of organisations which are involved in supporting people in crisis.
- Stronger focus on locally-led response.
- Clearer linkages between work on preparedness, risk reduction and the humanitarian-development nexus.
- Stronger reference to key cross-cutting themes like inclusion and climate.

For more on the CHS Revision, visit: <https://corehumanitarianstandard.org/chs-revision>