



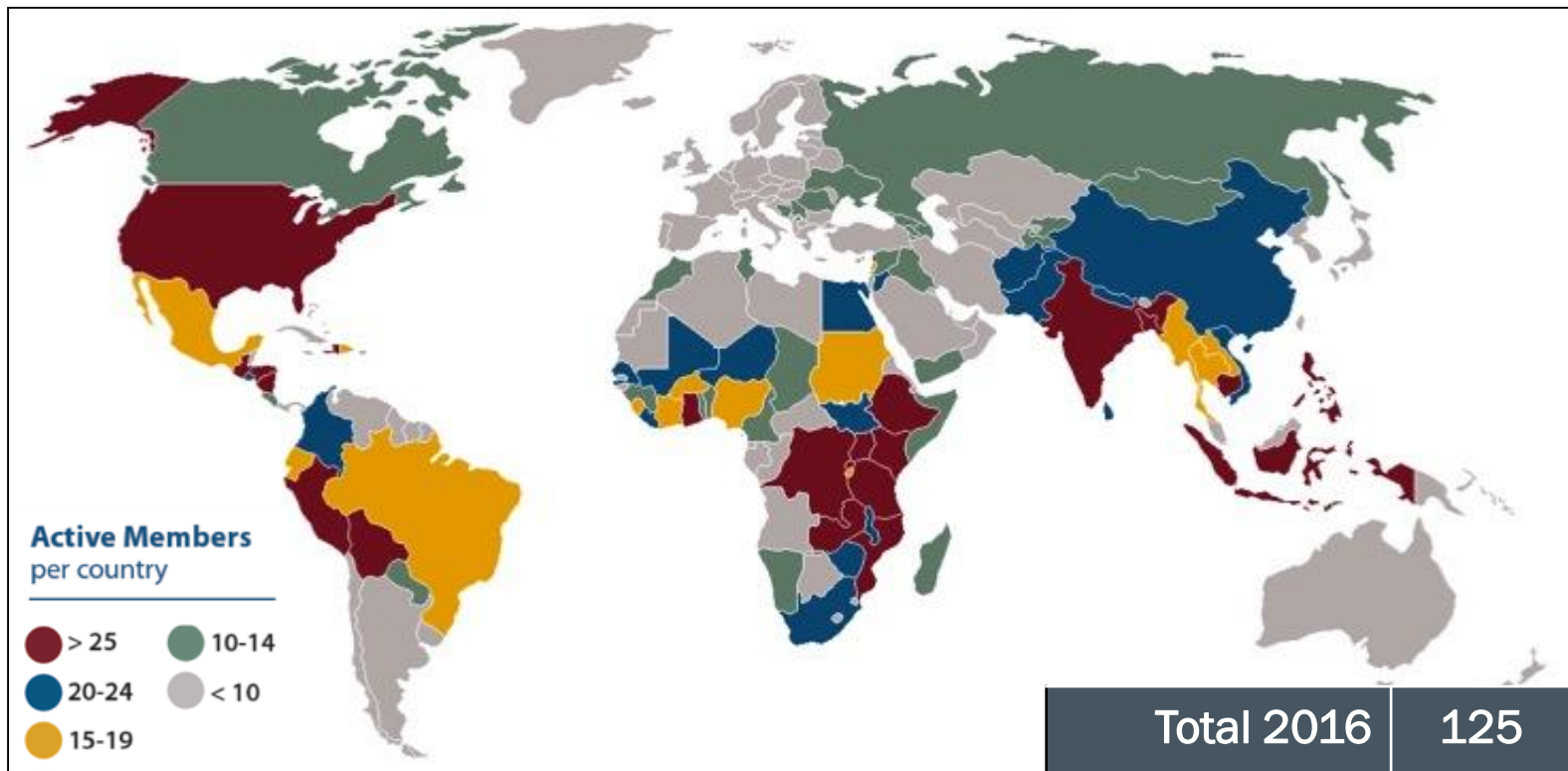
# Minimum Economic Recovery Standards



## “How Do You Like Us Now?” Soliciting Feedback for the Minimum Economic Recovery Standards, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition Webinar

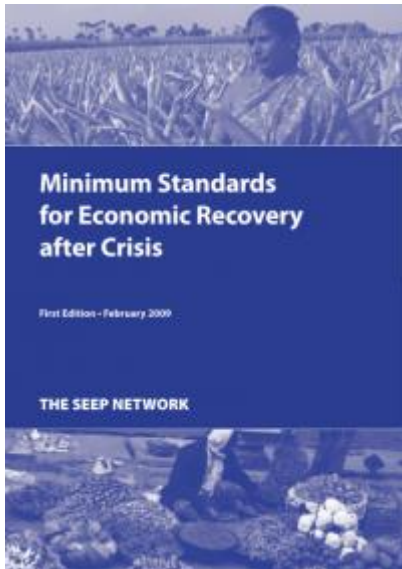
November 16, 2016

# The SEEP Network

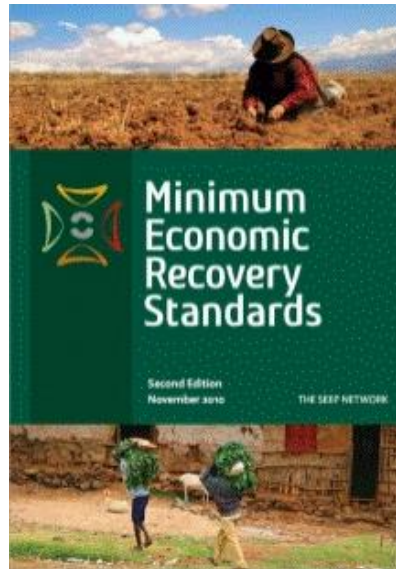


SEEP is a global network of practitioner organizations dedicated to combating poverty through promoting inclusive markets and financial systems

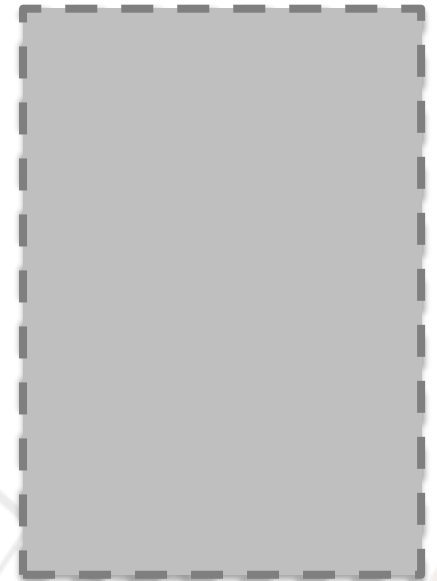
# Minimum Economic Recovery Standards (MERS)



First Edition  
2008



Second Edition  
2010



Third Edition  
2017

# What is economic recovery?

*Rapid, tailored support for livelihoods, enterprises and economies in the wake of a crisis.*

Provides people affected by disaster:

- an opportunity to earn income via employment or operation of a business
- contributes to dignity
- assists people to recover from the crisis and meet their own needs
- avoid undermining local markets and private sector actors with humanitarian aid

# Why did we need MERS?

*Goal: To improve the impact of economic recovery programming by building consensus on good practice*

**Origin (2007):** Practitioners and donors recognize that there is a need for rapid, tailored support for the livelihoods, enterprises and economies affected in the wake of a crisis, and a need for parallel efforts in an emergency efforts to meet the basic needs of affected populations

**Focus:** Strategies and interventions designed to improve income, cash flow, asset management, and growth in crisis-affected households and enterprises

**Outcome:** MERS represents a consensus across agencies engaged in economic recovery on what constitutes an effective and appropriate response to help disaster-affected populations

# Vision and Guiding Principles

## **MERS Vision**

MERS is committed to a world where disaster-affected populations can rebuild their lives and regain their livelihoods to provide for themselves and their families with dignity.

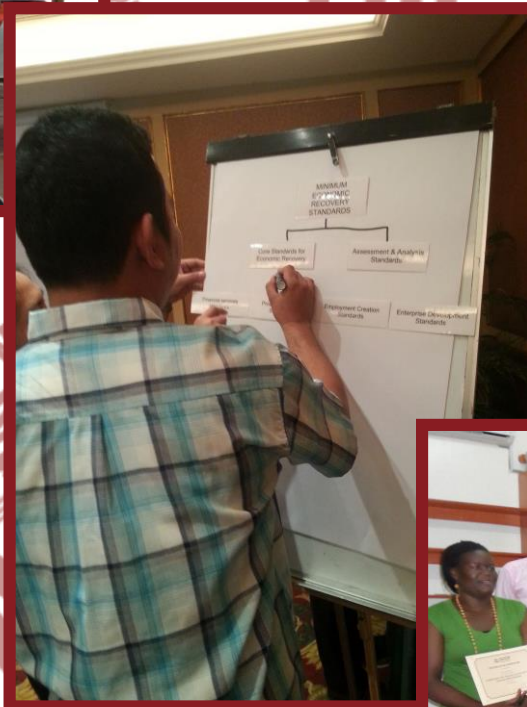
## **MERS Mission**

The mission of MERS is to mainstream early economic recovery programming into humanitarian responses by building consensus on, and promoting adoption of good practices.

## **Guiding principles**

Rights based, do no harm, dignified work, conflict sensitivity, protection from exploitative activities.

Action Against Hunger  
ACT Alliance  
Church World Service  
Mercy Corps  
Oxfam  
Business Clinics Services  
ChildFund  
International Federation of the Red Cross



# CAFOD

Catholic Relief Services  
**Chemonics**

Relief International  
Danish Refugee Council  
SPIRC  
Chinese Red Crescent Society  
Refugee Service  
n for Migration  
Food and Agriculture Organization  
Concern Worldwide

# DAISE

Women's Refugee Commission  
Lutheran World Federation  
Philippine Business for Social Progress  
African Development Solutions

Terre des Hommes

# MERS - Third Edition

Why do we need a revision of the MERS handbook?

- To capture industry advances over the last six years – MERS is a ‘living document’ that needs to reflect current thinking and practice
- Incorporate recent lessons learned and best practice
- Adapt to changing priorities of donors and implementing agencies
- Update language and terminology
- Reference new tools and latest research



# How we got to where we are now

Over the last year, the revision process has engaged more than **150** practitioners and leading experts representing over **60 organizations** in revising the six sections of standards in MERS. Some of the contributors have included national and international NGOs, UN agencies, researchers and academics, and other humanitarian actors.

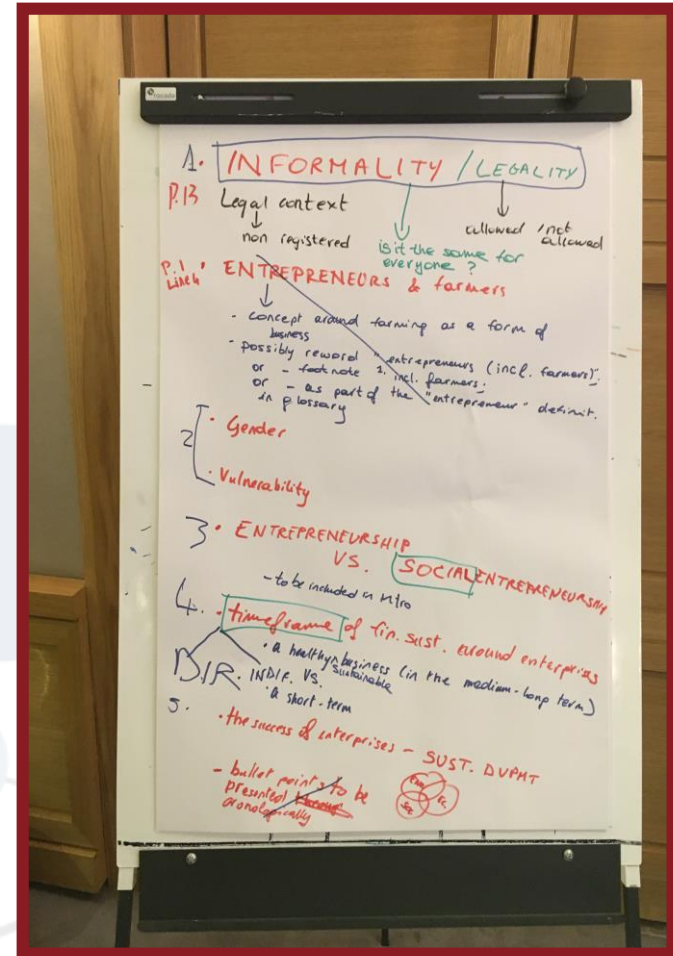
The revision process has included a series of regional consultations. These workshops have taken place in:

- Geneva, Switzerland
- Dakar, Senegal
- Panama City, Panama
- New Delhi, India
- Beirut, Lebanon
- London, United Kingdom



# Following the regional consultations:

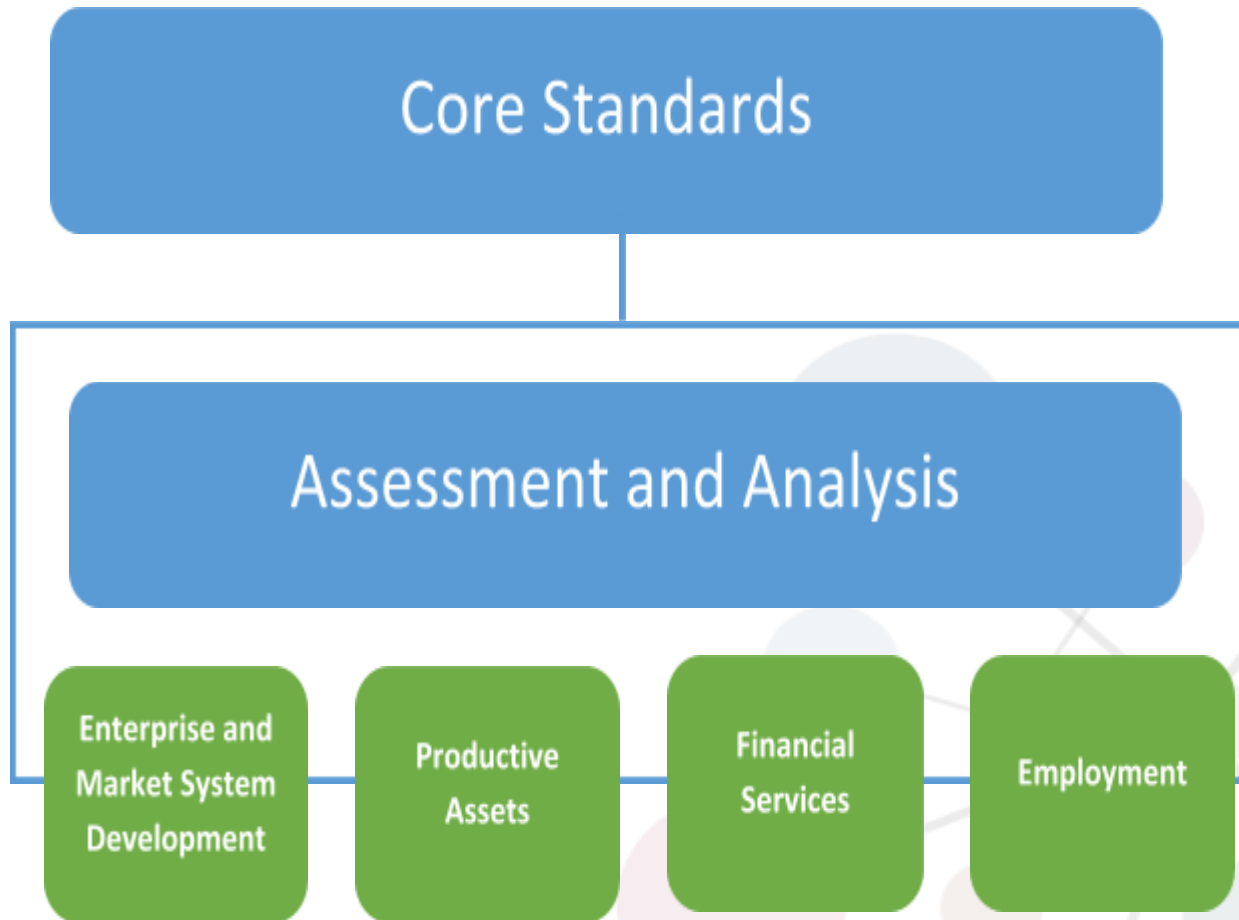
- The Technical Working Groups developed a First Draft for each of the sections;
- SEEP hosted a mini write-shop convening MERS Steering Committee and various technical experts;
- MERS Steering Committee approved First Draft
- Final round of feedback before publication and dissemination.



# Major Revisions to the Standards

- New focus on ‘market systems’ and market facilitation approaches – do not intervene in market directly, instead support existing market actors
- Include guidance on cash transfers and digital payments
- Increased focus on IDPs and Refugee populations
- DRR and Resilience as cross cutting themes
- Many new guides and updated tools and references

# Overall Standards Structure



# How do you use the standards?

## **Standards**

Qualitative in nature and specify the minimum levels to be attained

## **Key Actions**

Necessary activities and inputs to meet the minimum standards

## **Key Indicators**

Signals whether a minimum standard has been attained

## **Guidance Notes**

Guidance on tackling practical difficulties



## Core Standards

**Standard 1**  
Programs  
are Market  
Oriented

**Standard 2**  
Efforts are  
Coordinated  
to Improve  
Effectiveness

**Standard 3**  
Staff have  
Relevant  
Skills

**Standard 4**  
Do No Harm

**Standard 5**  
Intervention  
Strategies  
for Target  
Populations  
are Well  
Defined

# Assessment and Analysis Standards

**Standard 1**  
Preparedness for Assessments

**Standard 2**  
Assessments are Well Planned

**Standard 3**  
Fieldwork Processes Ensure High-Quality Data

**Standard 4**  
Analysis is Useful and Relevant

**Standard 5**  
Immediate Use of Results

**Standard 6**  
M&E Occurs Throughout the Program Cycle

# Enterprise and Market Systems Development Standards

**Standard 1**  
Deploy Market Systems Staff Immediately after Crisis

**Standard 2**  
Implement Market System Analyses Early and Adapt Frequently

**Standard 3**  
Be Adaptive

**Standard 4**  
Work with Existing Market Actors and Use Facilitation Approach

**Standard 5**  
Support Viability and Growth of Enterprises and Market Systems



# Productive Assets Standards

**Standard 1**  
All Asset  
Programming  
Responds to  
Beneficiary  
Needs

**Standard 2**  
All Asset  
Programming  
Stimulates  
Recovery  
Without  
Undermining  
Local Markets

**Standard 3**  
Assets are  
Protected

**Standard 4**  
Assets are  
Replaced

**Standard 5**  
Assets  
Expand,  
Diversify and  
Support  
Adaptative  
Livelihoods

# Financial Services Standards

**Standard 1**  
Demand for  
Financial  
Services is  
Understood

**Standard 2**  
Support  
Local  
Supply for  
Financial  
Services

**Standard 3**  
Cash  
Transfers  
Occur  
Through  
Existing  
Formal  
Financial  
Services  
Providers

**Standard 4**  
Support  
Functions,  
Rules, and  
Norms

**Standard 5**  
Consumer  
Protection  
Regulations  
are  
Followed

# Employment Standards

**Standard 1**  
Decent Employment  
is Promoted

**Standard 2**  
Interventions are  
Labor Market-based

**Standard 3**  
Job Sustainability is  
Supported

[http://www.seepnetwork.org/filebin/pdf/MERS\\_3rd\\_Edition\\_First\\_Draft\\_2016\\_-\\_FULL\\_FIRST\\_DRAFT.pdf](http://www.seepnetwork.org/filebin/pdf/MERS_3rd_Edition_First_Draft_2016_-_FULL_FIRST_DRAFT.pdf)

First Draft of the MERS 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition  
for you to review as we talk together  
- it is in the chat box

# Key Questions

- What Format would work well for you?
  - Print?
  - App?
  - Website?
  - Wiki?
- How should we get the word out to folks who need to use these?
  - Webinars?
  - Trainings?
  - Meetings?

# Key Questions

- Are the Standards Headings Clear?
  - Can you guess what they are about?
  - Are they short and direct?
  - Do you like the graphics? Should we use more?
- Examples
  - Do you have examples you would like to share?



# Staying Engaged

- Next Steps:
  - Dissemination
  - Uptake/Push
- User Feedback Loops

