



The Minimum Economic Recovery Standards (MERS) Handbook Third Edition

A major shift has taken place in the field of humanitarian assistance. This shift includes greater awareness of the key role markets play in assisting affected populations to recover from shocks. In parallel with emergency efforts to meet basic human needs for shelter, water, food, and health services, economic recovery assistance is needed as economies continue to function during a crisis. In the past, economic development was treated as a later stage activity with little or no coordination between relief and development. Based on a consensus across a broad range of aid agencies, humanitarian actors today are promoting livelihoods support to help affected populations make a living and meet their own basic needs.

The Minimum Economic Recovery Standards, developed and revised through the joint efforts of more than 90 agencies and over 175 practitioners, represent an industry consensus on economic recovery for the humanitarian sector. The MERS have become well recognized and accepted as an industry standard providing key actions, key indicators, and guidance notes to enhance the effectiveness of organizations working to support the economic recovery of crisis-affected populations. The standards highlight strategies designed to promote enterprise and market systems development, asset distribution, financial services, and employment in areas affected by conflict or disaster.

Today, the MERS are recognized as a part of the Humanitarian Standards Partnership, comprised of Sphere and its Companion Standards, which collaboratively promote complementarity among technical standards and provide evidence-based resources in multiple areas of humanitarian response.



About SEEP

SEEP is a global learning network. We support strategies that create new and better opportunities for vulnerable populations, especially women and the rural poor, to participate in markets and improve the quality of their life. Founded in 1985, SEEP was a pioneer in the microcredit movement and helped build the foundation of the financial inclusion efforts of today. In the last three decades, our members have continued to serve as a testing ground for innovative strategies that promote inclusion, develop competitive markets, and enhance the livelihood potential of the world's poor. SEEP members are active in more than 170 countries worldwide. www.seepnetwork.org @TheSEEPNetwork.



About Humanitarian Standards Partnership

The MERS work with the Sphere Project and are a part of the Humanitarian Standards Partnership (HSP), which forms a foundation enabling humanitarian actors to be held accountable to those they service. The MERS are complimented by four other Partner Standards, which include: INEE Minimum Standards for Education, Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS), Child Protection Minimum Standards (CPMS), and the Minimum Standard for Market Analysis (MiSMA).

Key Contacts

Lead Technical Advisor
Sarah Ward, sjward2001@gmail.com

Senior Program Manager
Sonya Salanti, salanti@seepnetwork.org

To access the document online
and for further resources
and publications, visit
www.mershandbook.org

