INEE Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies
Réseau Inter-Agences pour l'Éducation en Situations d'Urgence
La Red Integragencial para Educación en Situaciones de Emergencia

The Sphere Project

The Sphere and INEE Companionship

Promoting Quality and Accountability in Humanitarian Response

On the 22nd of October 2008, the Sphere Project and INEE signed a Companionship agreement, through which the Sphere Project acknowledges the quality of the INEE Minimum Standards and of the broad consultative process that led to their development. The INEE Minimum Standards are both a handbook and an expression of commitment that all individuals – children, youth and adults – have a right to safe, quality education during emergencies. They echo the core beliefs of the Sphere Project: that all possible steps should be taken to alleviate human suffering arising out of calamity and conflict, and that people affected by disaster have a right to life with dignity. An inter-sectoral approach to education is particularly vital in emergency contexts, as education offers a means of providing a sense of routine, psychosocial support, and protection against harm as well as a place for delivery of other vital services. **As such, the Sphere Project recommends that the INEE Minimum Standards be used as companion and complementing standards to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response.**

Throughout the first year of the Companionship, the Sphere Project and INEE have been working closely to ensure that education in emergencies is recognized as a necessity that can be both life-sustaining and life-saving, providing physical, psychosocial and cognitive protection. Toward this end, the Sphere Project and INEE have been working on joint initiatives and encourage all members and partners to get involved. Below are some highlights from these initiatives:

The Sphere Handbook Revision and the INEE Minimum Standards Update
Sphere and INEE are seeking to ensure as many linkages as possible between the Sphere Handbook Revision and the INEE Minimum Standards Update processes, including mutual representation and cross-referencing in the respective handbooks, along with mainstreaming of education into Sphere, and inter-sectoral approaches into the INEE Minimum Standards. In this process, INEE has produced matrices which show the linkages between the INEE Minimum Standards and the Sphere Handbook. (English) (Français)

Joint Training, Capacity Building and Tool Development
Sphere and INEE are developing a training module that explores the linkages between education and other sectors, highlighting the Sphere and INEE Minimum Standards. This module will be used in all Sphere Training and INEE Training and Capacity Building workshops to highlight these linkages.

Sphere is creating an eLearning Tool which will use help learners gain knowledge on standards and practice applying the knowledge though case studies based on real emergencies. As part of this project, INEE is contributing an education case study module which will provide an opportunity for humanitarian workers to learn about the INEE Minimum Standards and Indicators and understand the linkages between education and other humanitarian sectors.

Joint Publications, Communications and Listserv Messages
Sphere and INEE work together to produce joint listserv messages and publications. One key publication, titled 'Integrating Quality Education With Humanitarian Response for Humanitarian Accountability: The Sphere-INEE Companionship', documents the history and implications of the Sphere-INEE Companionship.

For more information visit www.sphereproject.org and www.ineesite.org/standards