



## **Sphere and INEE Companionship: *A Partnership to Promote Quality and Accountability in Humanitarian Response***



The Sphere Project is pleased to acknowledge the quality of the INEE Minimum Standards for Education in Emergencies, Chronic Crises and Early Reconstruction (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 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. **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.**

Education in emergencies is a necessity that can be both life-sustaining and life-saving, providing physical, psychosocial and cognitive protection. For an effective education response that addresses children's holistic needs, coordination and close collaboration between education and other sectors is essential, particularly shelter, camp management, water and sanitation, health and hygiene, protection and food aid/nutrition. An inter-sectoral approach to education is even more vital in emergency contexts than in normal situations, as education in emergency spaces for children offer a means of providing a sense of normalcy, psychosocial support, and protection against harm as well as a place for delivery of other vital services.

The INEE Minimum Standards present a global framework for coordinated action to enhance the quality of educational preparedness and response, to increase access to safe and relevant learning opportunities, and to promote partnerships for inter-sectoral linkages with health and hygiene, water and sanitation, food aid/nutrition and shelter. The use of the INEE Minimum Standards as a companion to the Sphere Project's Minimum Standards in Disaster Response will help to ensure that these crucial linkages are made at the outset of an emergency through multi-sectoral needs assessments, followed by joint planning and holistic response. Used together, the Minimum Standards in Disaster Response and the INEE Minimum Standards improve the quality of assistance provided to people affected by crisis and enhance the accountability of the humanitarian system in disaster preparedness and response.

For more information on the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response, please go to: [www.sphereproject.org](http://www.sphereproject.org)

For more information on the INEE Minimum Standards, please go to: [www.ineesite.org/standards](http://www.ineesite.org/standards)