



# The Minimum Standards for Age and Disability Inclusion in Humanitarian Action



# Why Age and Disability?



HelpAge  
International

age helps

*Older people and people with disabilities are both overlooked and underestimated in humanitarian crises:*

**Global proportion of people with disabilities = 15.6%<sup>1</sup>**



**Global proportion of older people (e.g. >60) = 11.5%<sup>2</sup>**



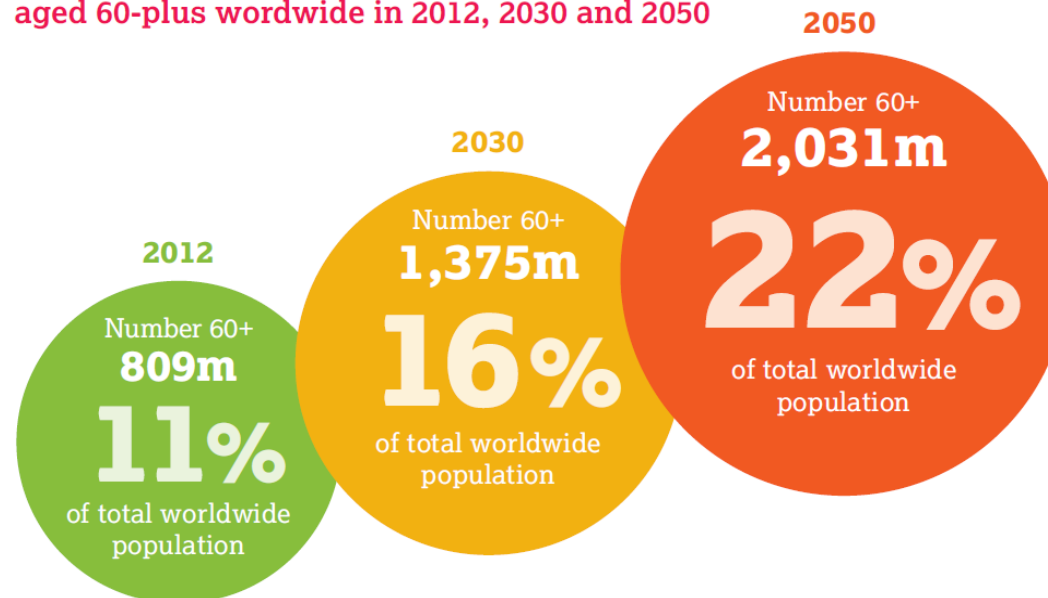
<sup>1</sup> WHO (2011) World Report on Disability

<sup>2</sup> UNFPA (2012) Ageing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

# Growing numbers in humanitarian crises

**proportion of older people (over 60s) with a disability = 46%<sup>3</sup>**  
c.f proportion of 15-59 year-olds with a disability = 15%

*Figure 2: Number and proportion of people aged 60-plus worldwide in 2012, 2030 and 2050*



Source: UNDESA Population Division, Population Ageing and Development 2012, Wall Chart, 2012; UNDESA Population Division, World Population Prospects: the 2012 Revision, 2013

<sup>3</sup> WHO (2011) World Report on Disability

# Common challenges in humanitarian crises...



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- **Worsening of pre-existing exclusion and discrimination**
- **Difficulty in accessing messages about humanitarian assistance and protection services**
- **Invisibility to humanitarian actors**
- **Lack of access to basic goods and services, including shelter, food, healthcare and water**
- **Specific needs e.g. in health and nutrition**
- **Limited recognition of capacities (employment, leadership, carer etc.)**




# Minimum Standards for Age and Disability Inclusion in Humanitarian Action



The Minimum Standards aim to address these challenges by:

- informing the design, implementation and M&E of humanitarian action
- strengthening accountability to people with disabilities and older people
- supporting advocacy, capacity-building and preparedness on age and disability across the humanitarian system

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## Where did they come from?



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- based on existing standards – CHS, Sphere and guidelines from technical agencies
- developed in consultation with mainstream and specialist age and disability actors
- now mentioned in:
  - Core Humanitarian Standard
  - DFID Disability Framework

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# Minimum Standards – structure



## **Structure:**

Eight key standards – based on the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS)

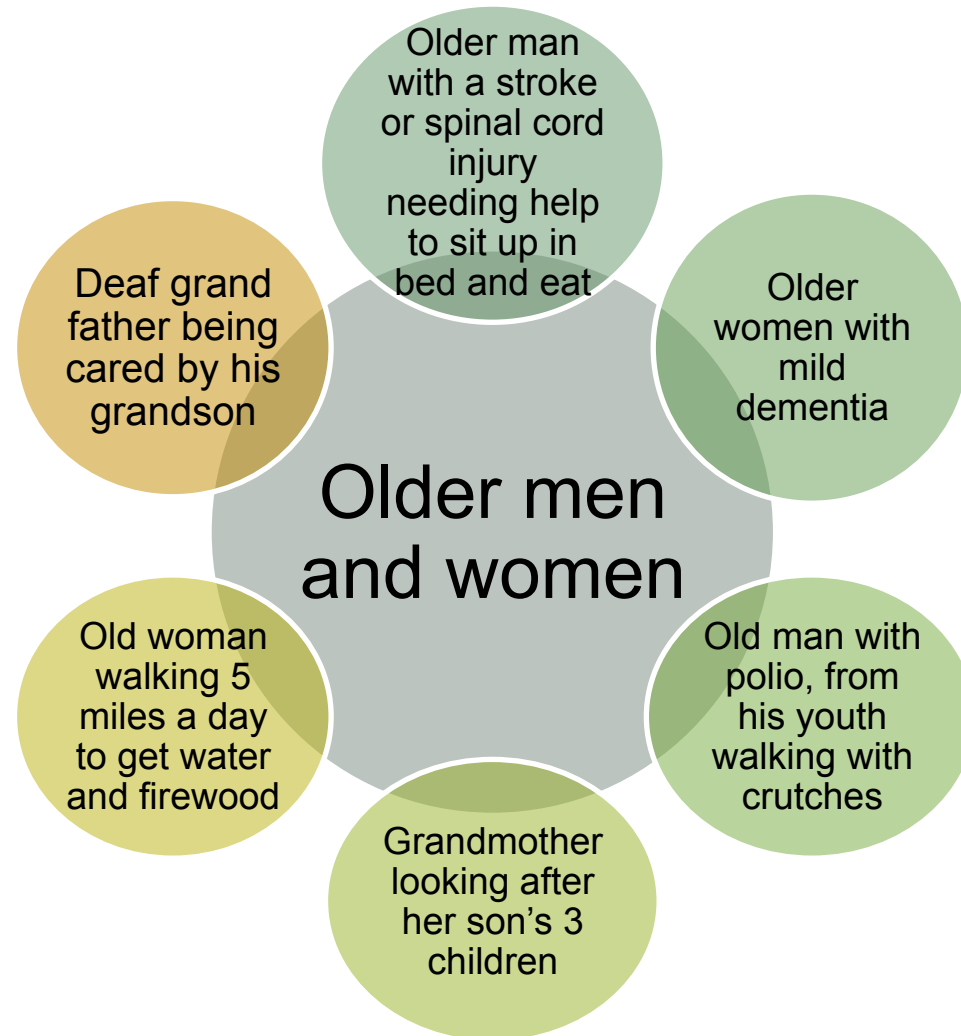
## **Sector specific standards on:**

- Protection
- Water, sanitation and hygiene
- Food security and livelihoods
- Nutrition
- Shelter, settlement and non-food items
- Education

Gender, protection and the role of carers are cross cutting themes

➤ Standards are accompanied by actions and further resources.

# What do they mean for HelpAge? How should we use them?



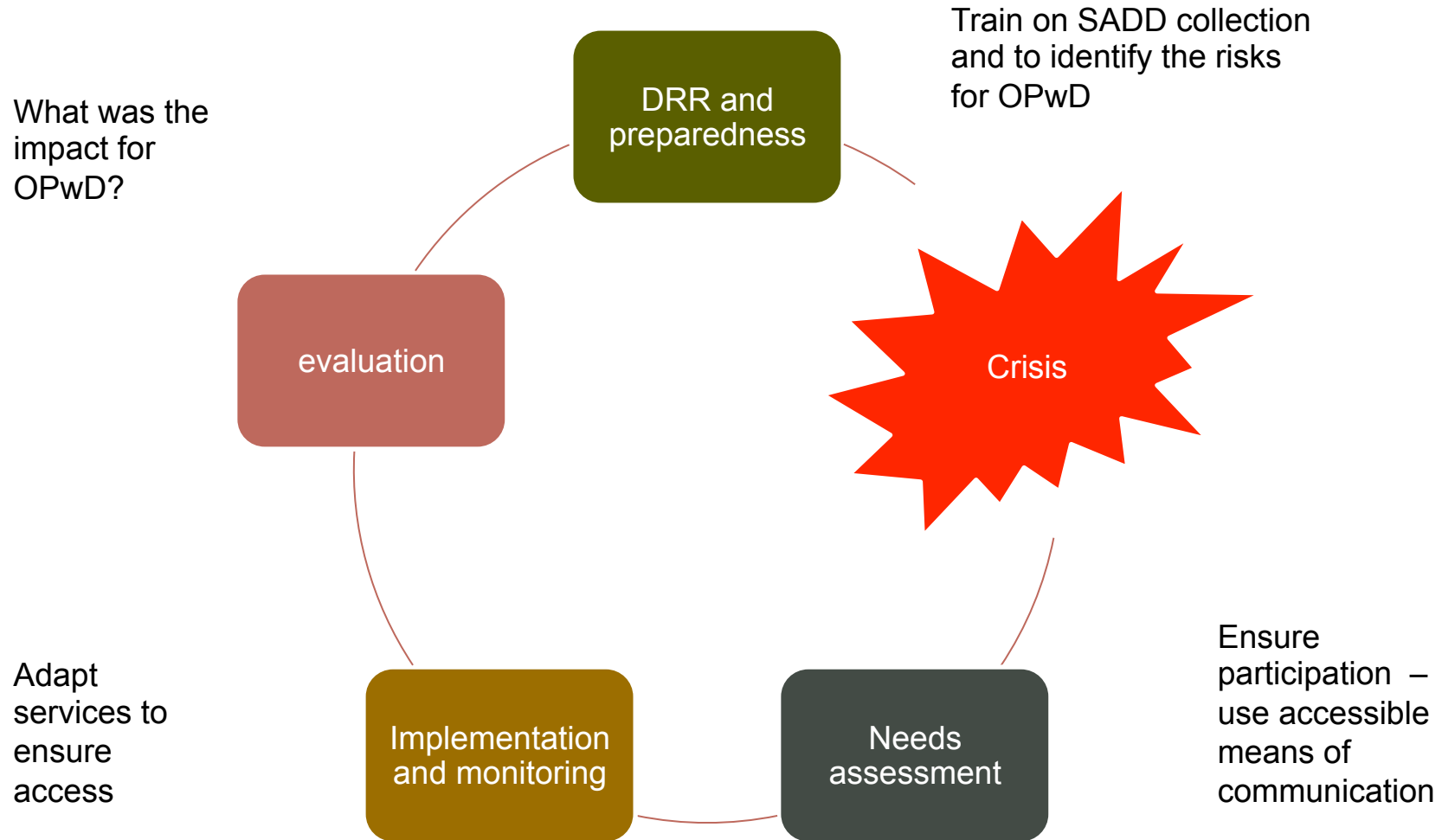


## Using the minimum standards in HelpAge programme design



1. Are our own programme activities **accessible** to older men and women with.....
  - Reduced mobility?
  - Temporary and long term impairments?
  - Crisis and non-crisis related mental health/ depression conditions?
  - Orthopedic and neurological conditions related to NCD e.g. amputees, stroke?
  - People with dementia?
  - Those with sudden or late onset blindness, hearing loss?

They can be applied at all phases of the project cycle



# Using the minimum standards as a tool for advocacy and capacity-building in emergencies



## Training & awareness

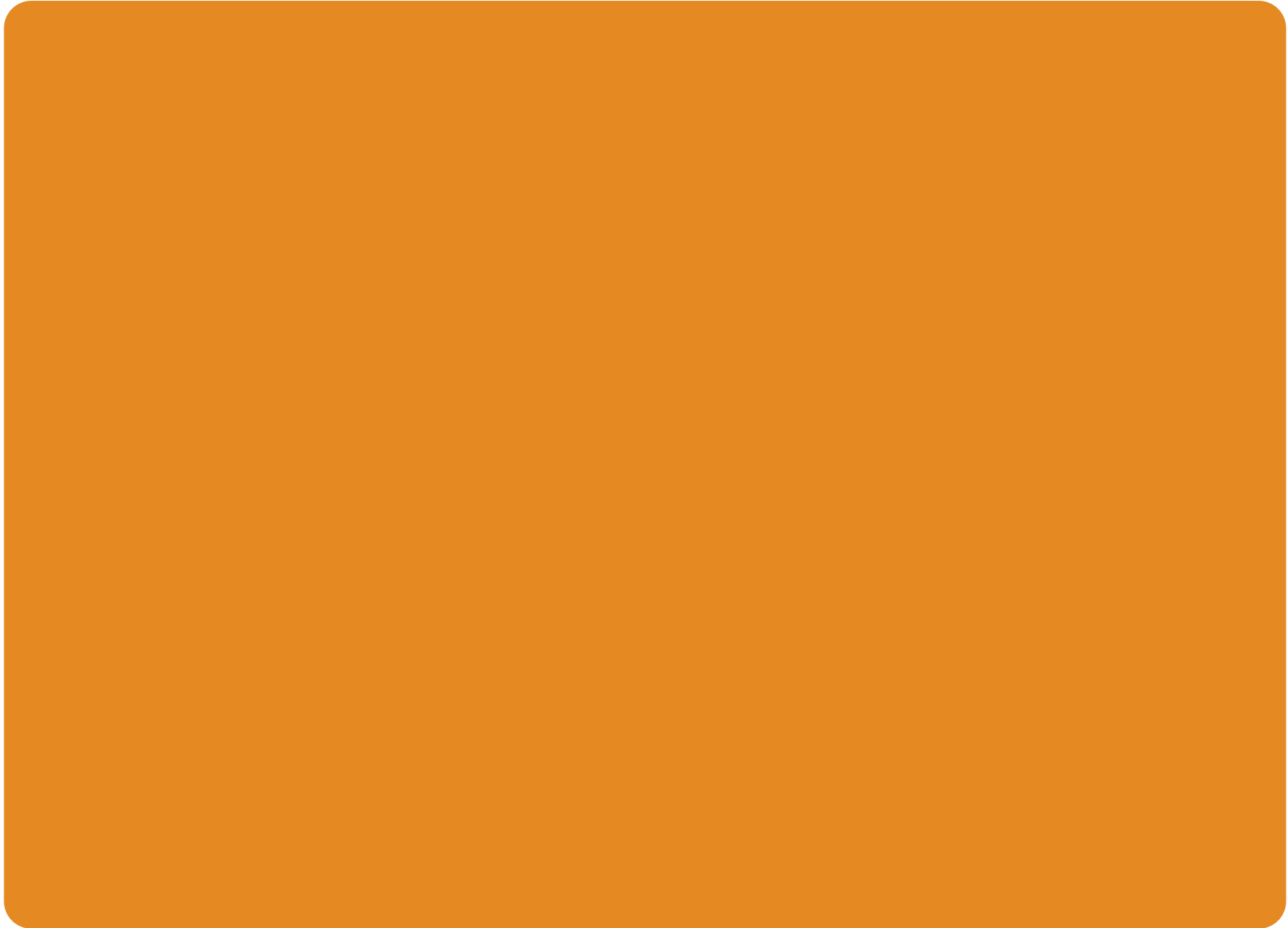
- A dedicated training package can be used to introduce mainstream agencies to the basics of A&D inclusion

## Capacity-building and support

- The minimum standards contain references and examples that can be used to support agencies on A & D inclusion

## Advocacy

- The minimum standards are a framework referenced by CHS and DFID and aligned to Sphere.



# What is ADCAP?



- partnerships with specialist and 'mainstream' organisations
- deepening our experience of disability inclusion

# A programme and an approach



## A Programme

A & D Inclusion  
Advisors



**Minimum  
Standards**

E-Learning  
& webinars

Training  
resources

## An Approach

Age and Disability



Training *plus*  
Follow-up

Mainstream  
organisations



Many will have heard about the minimum standards and the ADCAP programme over recent months.

So what are the minimum standards on Age and Disability Inclusion? What do they mean for humanitarian programming at HelpAge?

They come out of the ADCAP programme – a collaboration with leading agencies working on disability humanitarian contexts. – plus some training providers and researchers.

They focus on the common issues faced by OP and PwD in humanitarian contexts

## Why Age *and* Disability?

**ADCAP**  
Age & Disability Capacity

**HelpAge  
International**  
age helps

*Older people and people with disabilities are both overlooked and under-estimated in humanitarian crises:*

**Global proportion of people with disabilities = 15.6%<sup>1</sup>**



**Global proportion of older people (e.g. >60) = 11.5%<sup>2</sup>**



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We know that the proportion of older people and people with disabilities are both frequently under-estimated in humanitarian crises. WHO puts the global estimate at PWD at 15%; and UNFPA puts the % of older people at 11.5 + %.

The 'case-load' is frequently overlooked – as are their particular needs and ability to access appropriate humanitarian support.



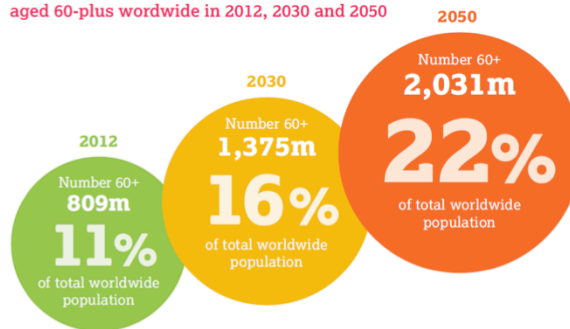
## Growing numbers in humanitarian crises

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We also know that this proportion is growing. We're talking about a doubling of % of OP before 2050.

And since older people are more likely to have a disability, especially the older old, the proportion of disabled people is also growing.

2/3 of people over 60 are in developing countries

By 2050, 4/5 of over 60s will be in developing countries

## Common challenges in humanitarian crises...

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**HelpAge International**  
age helps

- **Worsening of pre-existing exclusion and discrimination**
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They face some similar challenges in humanitarian crises.

All of these issues are familiar to us when applied to older people. But think about the experience of displacement, disruption to services, protection risks etc. and how they affect these groups.


What roles do they play, and are allowed to play in humanitarian response – OPAs, DPOs etc.

## Minimum Standards for Age and Disability Inclusion in Humanitarian Action



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The set of minimum standards were developed as a framework that could be used by all agencies to address this.

Provides technical content and answers the question ‘what does good age and disability inclusion look like?’

It can be used for reference for training and capacity support of mainstream actors, and a tool for advocacy

*The Standards are gaining a high profile:*

CHS note


Sphere interest

DFID Disability Framework

## Where did they come from?



- based on existing standards – CHS, Sphere and guidelines from technical agencies
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  - DFID Disability Framework

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### How were they developed?

- They are based on existing standards - including the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS), the Sphere Handbook, and experience and materials developed by specialist age and disability actors
- They were written in consultation with a range of humanitarian actors – including those specialised in age and disability, and actors working on different sectors of humanitarian response.

### now mentioned in:

- the CHS guidelines and indicators
- DFID's Disability Framework
- With interest from Sphere to join the Sphere Platform

## Minimum Standards – structure



### **Structure:**

Eight key standards – based on the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS)

### **Sector specific standards on:**

- Protection
- Water, sanitation and hygiene
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- Education

Gender, protection and the role of carers are cross cutting themes

➤ Standards are accompanied by actions and further resources.

### **Share copies of the Standards**

**Refer to Page 4, Key Standards section on Page 7 and Shelter/NFI example on Page 40-45**

### **See page 4**

The minimum standards are structured around a set of key inclusion standards, followed by sector specific standards.

The key standards mirror the CHS: to support humanitarian actors to apply these standards to these groups. They cover issues such as accessibility, prevention of negative impact of humanitarian assistance, provision of information to affected populations about humanitarian assistance, complaint mechanisms etc. What does it mean to implement these standards inclusive of OP and PWD? How do we communicate with these groups, ensure their access, hear complaints? What different methods and measures, adaptations does it require?

The sector specific sectors – cover sectors of the response: Protection, Water, sanitation and hygiene, Food security and livelihoods, Nutrition, Shelter, settlement and NFIs, and Education

The sector specific standards should be used alongside the key standards – not as stand alone sector standards.

All standards are accompanied by a set of suggested actions to facilitate implementation.

Gender and protection are emphasised as cross cutting themes throughout, as well

What do they mean for HelpAge?  
How should we use them?

ADCAP  
Age & Disability Capacity

HelpAge  
International  
age helps

Older men and women

- Deaf grand father being cared by his grandson
- Older man with a stroke or spinal cord injury needing help to sit up in bed and eat
- Older women with mild dementia
- Old man with polio, from his youth walking with crutches
- Grandmother looking after her son's 3 children
- Old woman walking 5 miles a day to get water and firewood

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So what?

Our humanitarian work is already focused on the needs of older people – so how does this help?

The minimum standards open up a lens on inclusion in our own work.

They help us think about individual risks and capacities – effects of the intersectionality of gender age and disability

Highlight the importance of recognising individual capacity

There are over 40 million older people in low income countries with significant hearing impairment,

32.5 million with significant visual impairment from cataracts, and

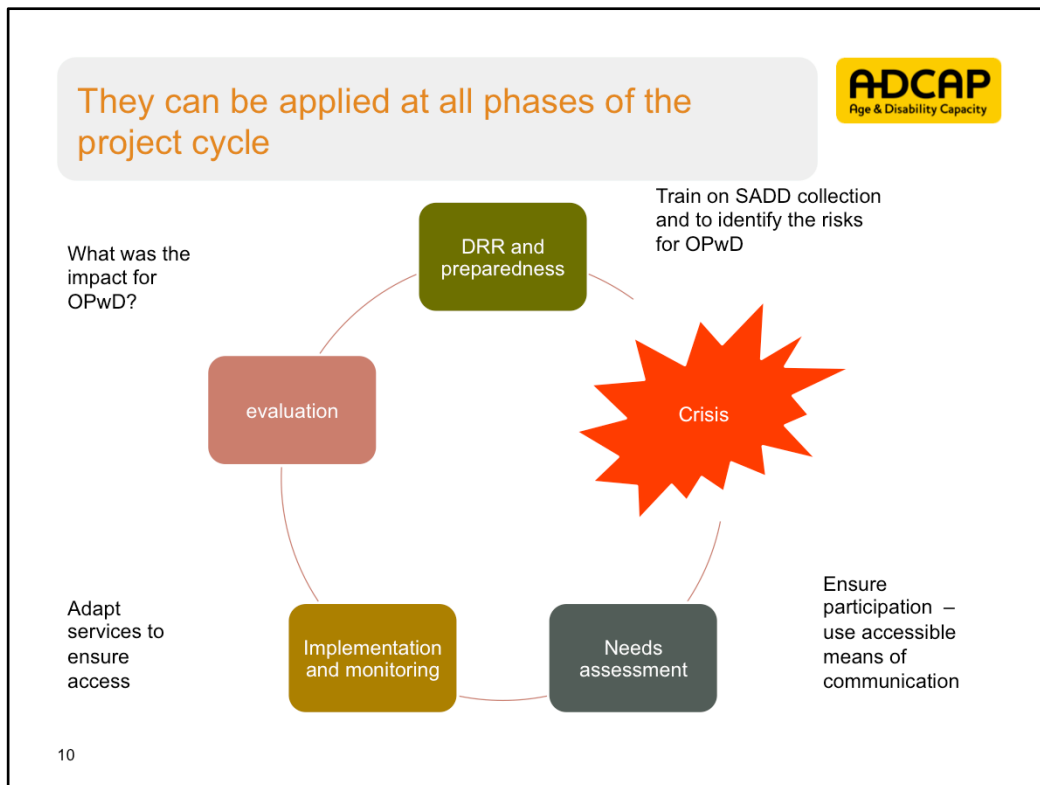
39.8 million with significant visual impairment from refractive errors

## Using the minimum standards in HelpAge programme design



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The minimum standards can be used as a checklist for inclusion and participation in our own programmes. They are a handbook of good practice in all sectors, to use when designing, reviewing our interventions



They contain guidelines on how to include older people with disabilities at all stages of the programme cycle.

They can be used at all stages of the programme cycle, starting with the planning phase (for example to budget for accessibility, needs assessment with SADD, etc), through to implementation, monitoring and evaluation (ensuring they are visible and participate).

They can also be applied to DRR and preparedness measures: e.g. to ensure people are trained on how to collect SADD and to identify existing data on likely needs and risks.

Can also be applied in protracted emergencies, during the recovery phase etc.

It may not be possible to meet all standards at all times, or they may not all be applicable all the time,

However, the standards were developed under the assumption that inclusion is possible in all contexts and sectors of response.



## Using the minimum standards as a tool for advocacy and capacity-building in emergencies



### Training & awareness

- A dedicated training package can be used to introduce mainstream agencies to the basics of A&D inclusion

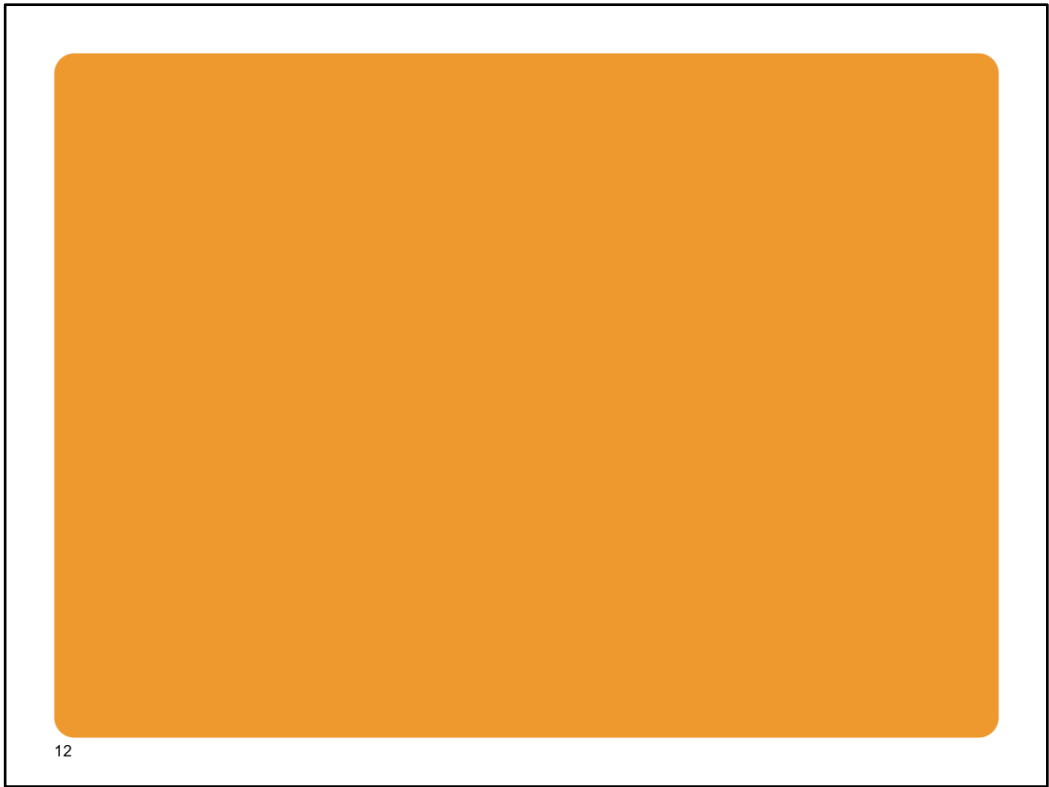
### Capacity-building and support

- The minimum standards contain references and examples that can be used to support agencies on A & D inclusion

### Advocacy

- The minimum standards are a framework referenced by CHS and DFID and aligned to Sphere.

They are for use by humanitarian practitioners, from government, NGO, UN or other relevant organisations – those developing policies or implementing programmes in the field, working in different sectors, but also people writing proposals, or to guide clusters or other coordination mechanisms, those engaged in advocacy efforts etc.



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## What is ADCAP?

**ADCAP**  
Age & Disability Capacity

**HelpAge  
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**HANDICAP  
INTERNATIONAL**

**START  
NETWORK**



**OXFORD  
BROOKES  
UNIVERSITY**

**HelpAge  
International**  
age helps

**redruk**  
people and skills for disaster relief

**christian  
aid**

**cbm**  
together we can do more



**CONCERN  
worldwide**

**disasterready**  
a Cornerstone OnDemand Foundation initiative

- partnerships with specialist and 'mainstream' organisations
- deepening our experience of disability inclusion

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