



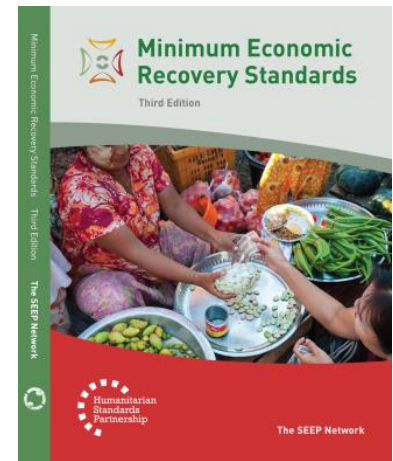
Minimum Economic Recovery Standards

Third edition

The **Minimum Economic Recovery Standards (MERS)** articulate the minimum level of activities required to support the economic recovery of vulnerable populations in the wake of crises. The MERS handbook offers tools and approaches that support practitioners, multi-lateral stakeholders, local market actors, governments and donors to support economic recovery through market-based response. The standards draw from the accumulated experience of the world's leading humanitarian agencies and economic development practitioners. The third and most current edition of the MERS represents the expertise of over 90 organizations and 175 technical professionals.

What are the Standards?

The MERS are comprised of six sets of standards that can be read in sequence or separately. The **Core Standards** outline approaches and activities that prevent and/or mitigate harm—whether physical, social, economic, environmental or otherwise and promote protection in alignment with the Core Humanitarian Standards. The **Assessment and Analysis** standards provide a road map for designing, implementing and sharing assessment results that inform effective and context-appropriate programmatic strategies. **Asset Distribution** standards guide practitioners to apply market-aware thinking to asset distribution, support activities linked to longer term-recovery and minimize disruption of local market systems. The MERS also contain standards designed to bolster livelihoods, expand financial inclusion and support self-reliance through **Enterprise and Market System Development, Financial Services and Employment**.



How are the Standards structured?

Each set of standards includes Key Actions, Key Indicators and Guidance Notes. The MERS also provide examples of good and bad programming, demonstrating to decision makers which approaches and interventions are considered best practice—enabling them to avoid mistakes from past responses. The MERS are not prescriptive. Standards can be applied in whatever combination makes the most sense and will have the most impact for the context.

Where can I get the Standards?

The MERS are available to download online, or to purchase as a hardcopy handbook. You can also use the HSPapp to download MERS, and the partner Standards, on your mobile device.



MERS and the HSP

The MERS are a member of the Humanitarian Standards Partnership (HSP) which aims to improve the quality and accountability of humanitarian action through an increased application of humanitarian standards. The partnership is comprised of six standards initiatives, which in addition to the MERS include: Sphere, the Child Protection Minimum Standards, the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards, the INEE Minimum Standards for Education and the Minimum Standards for Market Analysis.

To learn more and access the full set of standards, visit www.mershandbook.org.