

Cash for work UNHCR perspective

Livelihoods and Inclusion Working Group meeting
28 March, 13:00

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Agenda

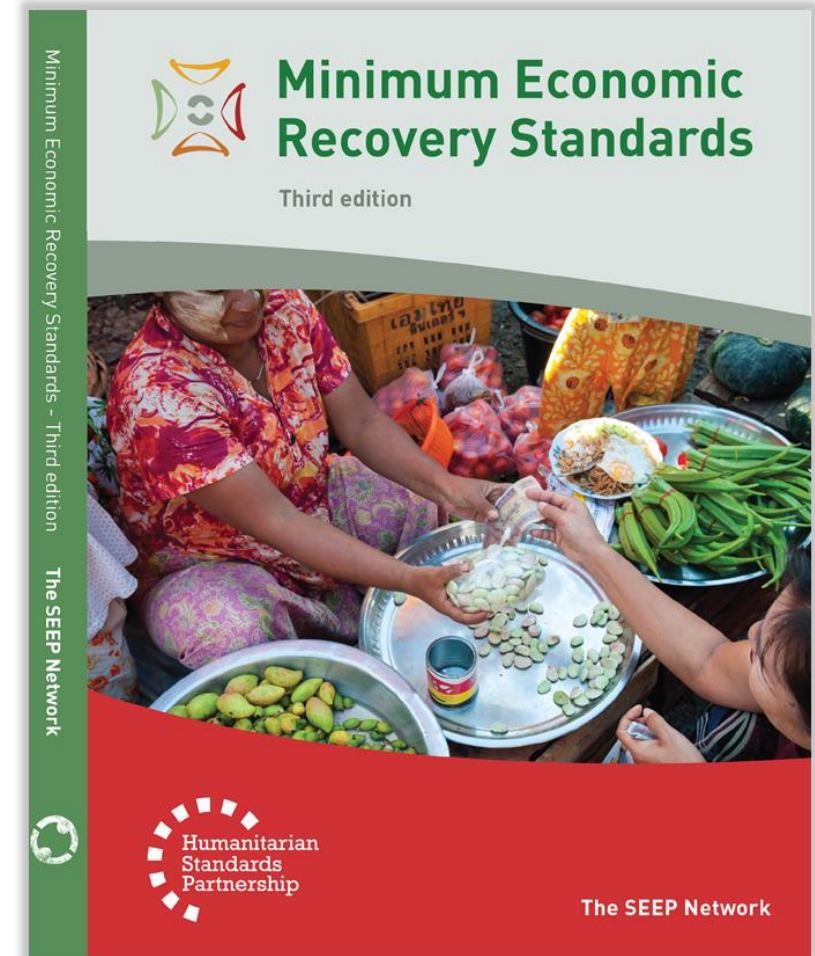
- Minimum Economic Recovery Standards
- UNHCR's market systems approach model
- Inclusion challenges, barriers and risks

Minimum Economic Recovery Standards (MERS)

What are the standards?

- Industry consensus on economic recovery for the humanitarian sector
- Accessible and adaptable solutions for multiple contexts
- Help disaster-affected populations gain fair access to viable economic opportunities and regain their livelihoods
- Market-based approaches for responding effectively are emphasized throughout
- Provide practical guidance

<https://spherestandards.org/resources/minimum-economic-recovery-standards-mers-english/>



The Six Categories of Standards – market systems approach

Core Standards

Assessment and Analysis Standards

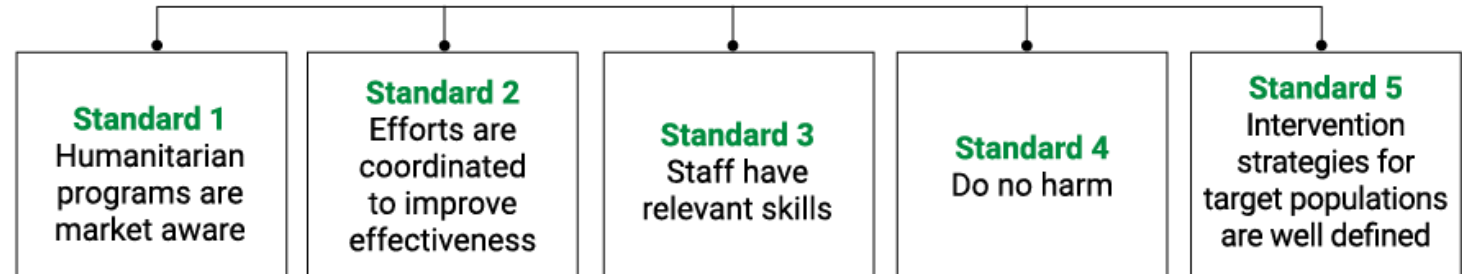
Enterprise and Market Systems Development Standards

Asset Distribution Standards

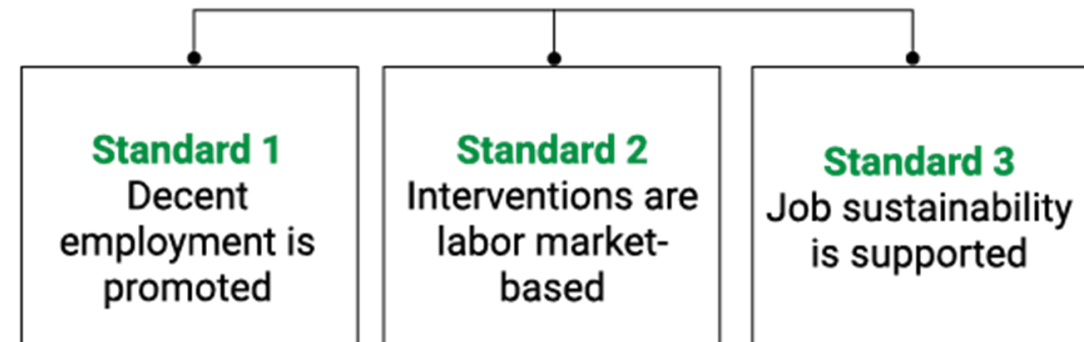
Financial Services Standards

Employment Standards

Core Standards

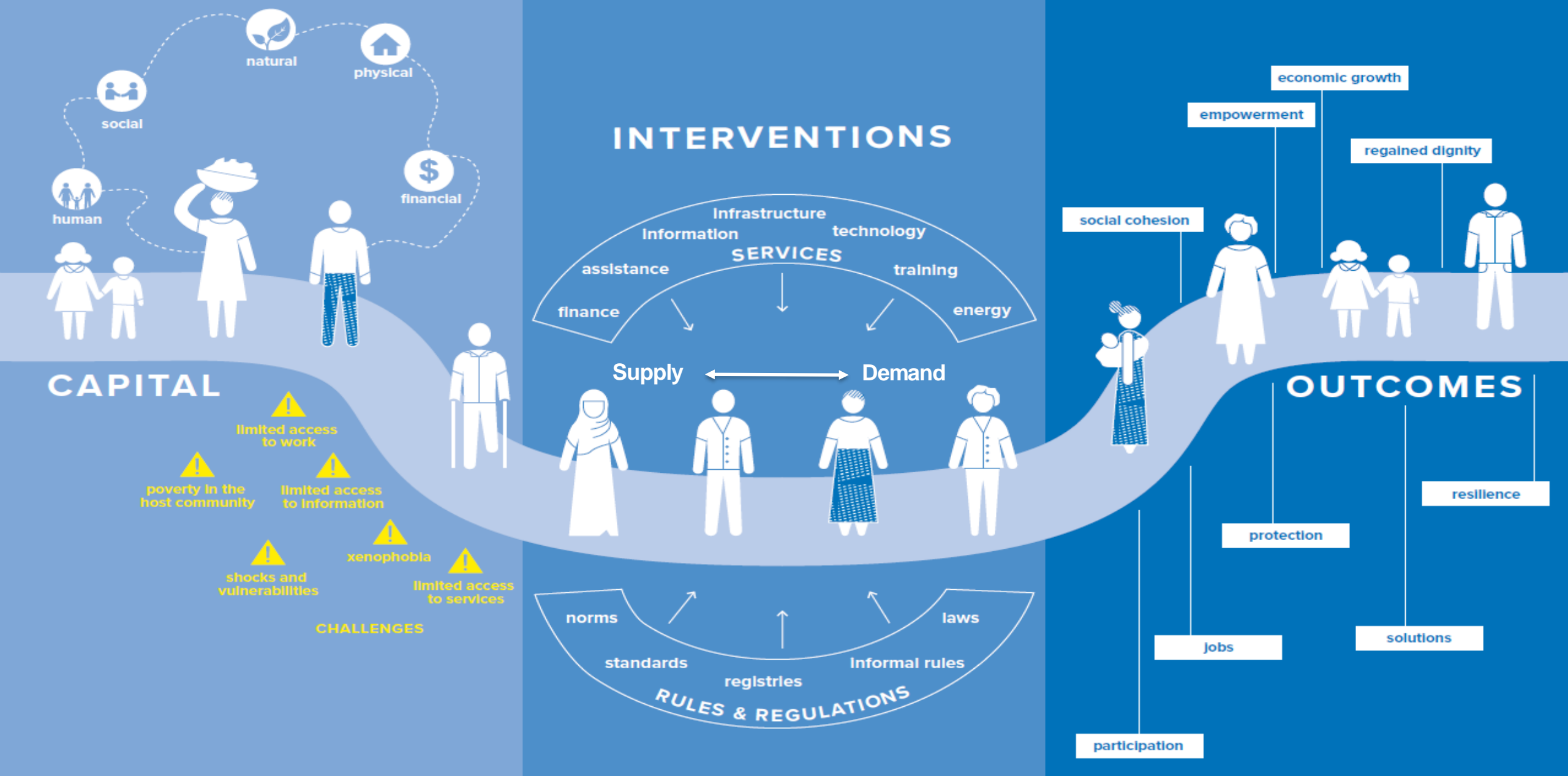


Employment Standards



MERS recommendations on Cash for work

- May be used **in crisis environments** to rebuild or protect community assets
- Enable **temporary** income while rebuilding infrastructure when jobs are scarce
- Aim should be for vulnerable groups to **be reabsorbed in the market system**
- Wages may **not disturb the market system**
- Close **cooperation with authorities** and market actors



Inclusive market systems approach

Inclusion barriers, challenges and risks

- Data from [Lives on hold #3: Intentions and perspectives of refugees from Ukraine](#):
 - Only 17% of refugees from Ukraine employed
 - Informal work higher than formal 10 % vs. 7 %
 - Self-employment / Business owner: < 1%
 - Underemployed: 56%
 - Unemployed 25%
 - Full-time caregiver: 29%
 - Lack of decent work opportunities: 8%
- Skills mismatches depreciate existing capacities and limit refugees' contributions
- Limited access to services (including compulsory education and social protection) requires holistic approaches
- Language training, upskilling and childcare required
- Systemic challenges – national systems require further strengthening
- Documentation and intentions (legal uncertainty for the private sector)

Sexual and gender-based violence – key messages

Always assume that SGBV is occurring. In emergencies, SGBV is exacerbated, with some groups that may be more vulnerable to harm than others.

Livelihoods interventions can facilitate recovery and enhance protection, yet new opportunities for women and girls can increase exposure to SGBV.

Livelihoods interventions must identify, mitigate and monitor risks of SGBV and coordinate with SGBV experts and Protection WG to design and implement programs that are safe, inclusive and do no harm.

THANK YOU
