

Message from CEO

Dear Readers,

April 2024 has been a month of steadfast action and strategic planning for Sphere India as we continue our mission to enhance disaster resilience and climate adaptation across the nation. Our efforts have been marked by a comprehensive approach, ensuring that we are not just responsive but proactive in addressing emerging challenges.

In April, we proactively monitored and disseminated crucial information on prevailing hazards, including heatwaves in Southern and Western India, storms in Eastern India, and the concerning issue of land subsidence in Jammu and Kashmir. We also facilitated knowledge and capacity sharing through multiple sessions of the Sphere India Academy, covering topics such as education in emergencies, psychosocial support, climate crisis, and NGO roles in resilience.

Looking ahead, our focus remains sharp on enhancing disaster relief and resilience systems and we will continue our focus of Emergency Preparedness, focused on Heatwave and continue our series of sessions on Education in Emergencies. We will also announce the Annual Learning and Planning workshop along with preceding consultations and announcements.

I want to thank all our members and partners for their support in all our collaborative endeavours. We're dedicated to improving synergies and value your feedback to enhance our programs and bulletins. Your input is invaluable as we strive to improve our communication's quality and relevance for our network.

Warm regards,

Vikrant Mahajan
CEO, Sphere India

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Program Update

Knowledge & Capacity Sharing

Psychosocial Support Series: Introduction to PSS in Emergencies - South Region

The Regional Training on Introduction to Psychosocial Support in Emergencies - South Region, held from April 22nd to 24th, 2024, in Hyderabad, Telangana, convened 31 participants from diverse organizations across South India, including NGOs/CSOs and government agencies. Organized collaboratively by the National Institute of Disaster Management, Sphere India, and AmeriCares India Foundation, the training aimed to deepen understanding of psychosocial support in emergency contexts. Led by expert panels and trainers, sessions covered a spectrum of topics, from disaster management basics to specialized care for vulnerable groups like women, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly. Discussions on ethics, self-care for caregivers, and advanced psychosocial techniques were also featured, culminating in action planning for real-world scenarios. Gratitude was extended to the trainers for their invaluable contributions, with an emphasis on continued efforts to integrate psychosocial support into disaster response plans for the benefit of communities across the South Region.



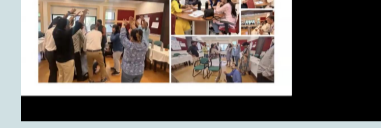
Education in Emergency Sensitization Session

On 4th April, Sphere India's Education Sector Committee, along with Bal Raksha Bharat, launched a series of sensitization sessions on education in emergency. The first session, "Series 1: Fundamentals of Education in Emergencies," was conducted by Ms. Rachael Fermín, Technical Advisor at Save the Children International.



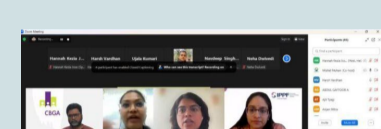
Orientation for Regional Training on PSS

On 5th April, an orientation session on regional training for psychosocial support in emergencies was held for trainers. The session focused on effective training methodologies and techniques to equip trainers for the upcoming regional event, emphasizing hands-on simulations and interactive workshops to enhance learning outcomes.



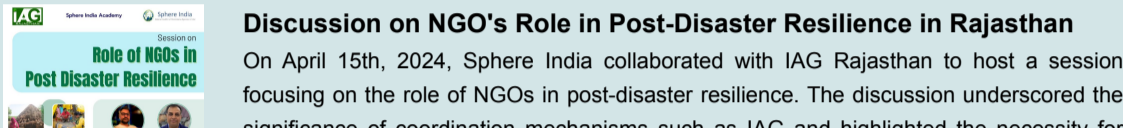
Consultation on Climate Crisis & Public Health

On April 10th, 2024, in collaboration with Sphere India's Health Sector Committee and Academy Platform, a consultation was held to explore the impact of climate change on public health. This session gathered health experts to discuss the implications of climate change on various health aspects.



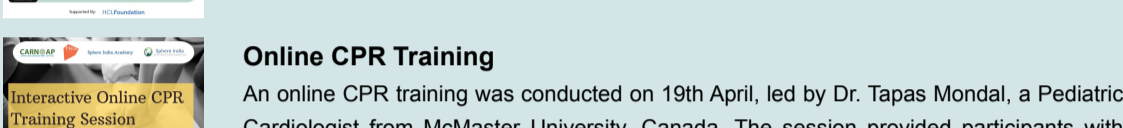
Discussion on NGO's Role in Post-Disaster Resilience in Rajasthan

On April 15th, 2024, Sphere India collaborated with IAG Rajasthan to host a session focusing on the role of NGOs in post-disaster resilience. The discussion underscored the significance of coordination mechanisms such as IAG and highlighted the necessity for enhanced organizational collaboration in disaster response efforts, emphasizing the need for shared resources and expertise to build stronger resilience strategies and foster a more integrated approach to disaster management.



Online CPR Training

An online CPR training was conducted on 19th April, led by Dr. Tapas Mondal, a Pediatric Cardiologist from McMaster University, Canada. The session provided participants with essential skills to respond in emergency situations, emphasizing the importance of life-saving techniques. Dr. Mondal also shared insights into the latest advancements in CPR procedures and discussed best practices for managing cardiac emergencies, enhancing participants' knowledge and preparedness for critical situations.



Inter-Agency Coordination

Emergency Coordination Activities in Connection with Heatwaves in India, Severe Storm in Eastern India and Land Subsidence in J&K



Sphere India has been steadfastly monitoring emergency situations across the country, consistently disseminating training reports (Sitreps) on prevailing hazards such as heatwaves in India, storms in Eastern India, and the concerning issue of land subsidence in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Moreover, the Sphere India team has demonstrated proactivity by distributing over 15 alerts within their network, diligently monitoring key sources like the IMD and NDMA. This ensures that pertinent stakeholders are thoroughly informed and equipped to effectively address emerging threats. Additionally, a state-level emergency coordination meeting was held on 30th April 2024 regarding the Jammu and Kashmir Land Subsidence, as well as other isolated incidents of flooding, inundation, and landslides in the state, further reinforcing the organization's dedication to comprehensive disaster management. These efforts underscore Sphere India's commitment to promoting resilience and ensuring the safety of communities across the nation through proactive monitoring, rapid response, and effective communication.

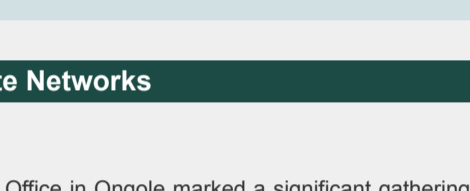
News from IAGs and State Networks

Inter Agency Group, Andhra Pradesh

The IAG AP annual meeting held on April 19th at the IAG Central Office in Ongole marked a significant gathering for stakeholders involved in disaster risk reduction efforts. The discussions revolved around a crucial aspect of disaster management: the implementation of Child-focused Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) initiatives. The meeting involved exploring various approaches and best practices in child-focused DRR, such as education programs, community drills, and incorporating child-friendly elements into disaster planning and infrastructure. It also included discussions on partnerships, resource mobilization, and the integration of child-focused DRR into broader development agendas.

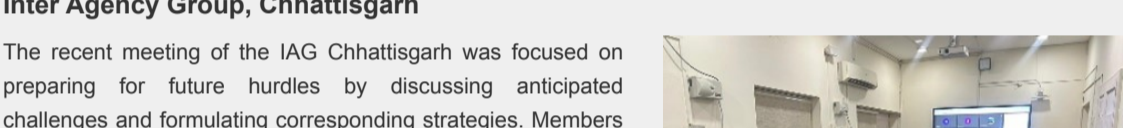
Inter Agency Group, Chhattisgarh

The recent meeting of the IAG Chhattisgarh was focused on preparing for future hurdles by discussing anticipated challenges and formulating corresponding strategies. Members engaged in thorough deliberation to ensure proposed solutions were comprehensive and effective. Additionally, attention was given to refining the organization's charter to better reflect current objectives and align with evolving needs. Furthermore, the review of the membership form aimed to enhance its effectiveness in efficiently capturing essential information from potential members, thereby facilitating smoother administrative processes.



Inter Agency Group, Uttar Pradesh

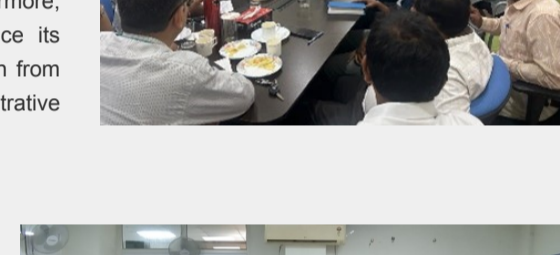
In April 2024, Uttar Pradesh hosted two pivotal meetings focused on community development and disaster management. The first, chaired by Dr. Bhanu of IAG-UP and attended by Sphere India's CEO Mr. Vikrant Mahajan, aimed to strengthen Inter-Agency Groups (IAGs) by linking educational and corporate sectors with local networks, releasing quarterly newsletters, and revising the IAG Executive Committee. The second meeting, in collaboration with UPSDMA, Sphere India, and IAG UP, discussed disaster risk management strategies, including enhancing urban disaster management, improving inter-departmental coordination, training guardians for child rescue, and promoting financial literacy among women in self-help groups, emphasizing community involvement through village-level action plans and emergency contact numbers.



Updates from the Government

PM addresses 6th edition of International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

The Prime Minister of India addressed the 6th edition of the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure via video message on 24th April, 2024. The Prime Minister emphasized, "We must invest in resilient infrastructure today for a better tomorrow." He stressed that resilience must be factored into new infrastructure creation while also being a part of post-disaster rebuilding. "To achieve shared resilience, we must support the most vulnerable", the Prime Minister remarked.



The Prime Minister pointed out that the focus should shift towards resilience in infrastructure once relief and rehabilitation are carried out after a disaster strikes. The Prime Minister recalled the formation of a new Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group with financing at the heart of its discussions during India's G20 Presidency and said that such steps will take the world to a resilient future.

Updates from International Humanitarian Community

State of the Climate in Asia 2023

The WMO State of the Climate in Asia 2023, is the fourth edition of climate reports published annually for this region and has involved National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), WMO Regional Climate Centres (RCCs), and several research institutions, as well as United Nations agencies, international and regional organizations. The report provides the status of key climate indicators and latest data and information on impacts, risks and policy in United Nations agencies. It addresses specific physical science, socio-economic and policy aspects that are relevant to Asia and responds to Members' needs in the fields of climate monitoring, climate change and climate services. [Read More>>](#)

Ensuring Safety and Health at work in a changing climate

Climate change is endangering workers worldwide, impacting their safety and health significantly. Despite facing heightened risks, workers often have little recourse but to keep working in hazardous conditions. Global occupational safety and health (OSH) features are failing to adequately address these evolving risks, leading to increased worker fatalities and illnesses. This report highlights the urgent need to address the impact of climate change on occupational safety and health to mitigate the global health risks faced by workers. Key Issues: Excessive Heat | Ultraviolet (UV) Radiation | Extreme Weather Events | Workplace Air Pollution | Vector Borne Diseases | Agrochemicals [Read More>>](#)

Anticipatory Approach: A Child Centred Guide

Anticipatory Action (AA) as acting ahead of a predictable hazard to prevent or reduce the impacts on communities before they fully unfold. Anticipatory Action offers the potential to address potential humanitarian crises in a way that is proactive rather than reactive, to save lives and protect livelihoods. The model facilitates dynamic thinking about risk, improves linkages across disaster risk reduction, humanitarian, development, adaptation and peacebuilding sectors and recognizes the agency of communities and children. Save the Children's aim for AA is to prevent and reduce the impact of predictable crises on children so that they can survive, learn and be protected. [Read More>>](#)

UNTAPPED: Collective Intelligence for Climate Action

UNTAPPED: Collective Intelligence for Climate Action. This publication explores the transformative potential of 21st-century collective intelligence, combining people's expertise, data, and technology to address climate change. Analyzing 100+ initiatives across 45 countries, it highlights communities' capacity to contribute to climate efforts. The research aims to illuminate practical strategies for fully harnessing this potential, emphasizing the importance of participation and innovative data utilization in climate adaptation and mitigation. [Read More>>](#)

2024 Climate Risk Landscape Report

The 2024 Climate Risk Landscape Report is a comprehensive guide for financial institutions, offering tools to assess and mitigate climate risks. It includes best practices, case studies, and recommendations for navigating the climate risk tools market. The report also covers evolving regulatory frameworks and recent market trends, building upon the work of UNEP FI's Climate Risk and TCFD Programme. It targets banks, insurers, and investors aiming to enhance their capabilities in climate risk management and support sustainability. [Read More>>](#)

Guide for Adaptation and Resilience Finance

The Guide for Adaptation and Resilience Finance outlines the parameters of such financing, providing a practical roadmap and listing over 100 investable activities. These activities span climate-resilient crops, public hospital infrastructure, and mangrove conservation. The guide details various investable activities, encompassing vertical farming, flood protection, water conservation, renewable energy storage, and mangrove conservation. Additionally, it offers indicators to evaluate the impact of investments on adaptation and resilience. [Read More>>](#)

Early Action: The State of Play 2023

Early Action: The State of Play 2023: The State of Play reports offer insights into global, regional, and national investments, commitments, and activities related to early warning and action. This year's focus is on REAP Partners' efforts, aligning with recommendations from the 2022 report. It identifies upcoming and longer-term issues, with opportunities for addressing them and an overview of activities contributing to REAP's 4 Targets. Key findings emphasize integrating anticipatory action into disaster risk management, grounding policy debates in implementation realities, and clarifying early warning initiatives, partnerships, and networks. [Read More>>](#)

Systemic Risk

Systemic Risk: This Briefing Note offers an integrated perspective on systemic risk, encompassing climate, environmental, and disaster risk science and practice. It explores the evolution of systemic risk concepts and identifies commonalities across different contexts. Key attributes are outlined without prescribing a single definition, and essential information and data requirements are discussed for a better understanding. Opportunities to bridge research and policy for addressing systemic risk are highlighted, along with recommendations for future work. This synthesis is informed by insights from expert workshops, literature review, and expert input. [Read More>>](#)

Assessing the Materiality of Nature-Related Financial Risks for the UK

Assessing the Materiality of Nature-Related Financial Risks for the UK: The publication reveals alarming findings about the UK's natural environment. Led by the GFI and supported by various entities including Defra, HMT, TNFD, and the FCA, the report highlights that the degradation of natural ecosystems could result in a 12% loss to GDP, surpassing the impacts of the 2008 financial crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite this, nature-related risks are often overlooked in financial decision-making, posing significant threats to the economy and financial sector. The report underscores the urgent need for integrating nature-related risks into financial strategies. [Read More>>](#)

Grants and Opportunities

Early Stage CSOs | Azim Premji Foundation

Azim Premji Foundation invites grant applications from early-stage, not-for-profit organisations working in Anagachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttarakhand, and districts in northern Karnataka (Bagalake, Ballari, Bidar, Kalaburgi, Koppala, Raichur, Vijayanagara, Vijayanagar and Yadgir).

Organization: Azim Premji Foundation
Deadline: 31st May 2024
[Read More>>](#)

Youth4Climate Call for Solutions

The Government of Italy and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in collaboration with a range of climate partners and youth constituencies, have set out to identify, support and scale youth-led climate breakthroughs through the global Youth4Climate initiative.

Grant Amount: upto US\$ 30,000
Organization: Govt. of Italy & UNDP
Deadline: May 26, 2024
[Read More>>](#)



CALL FOR ENTRIES!

Compendium on Untold Himalayas

13th May 2024



CALL FOR ENTRIES!

Photo-Story Competition

22nd May 2024

Upcoming Events and Plans Ahead

SPHERE INDIA ACADEMY CALENDAR

MAY 2024						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

- Emergency Preparedness session on Heat Wave 2024**
Link: <http://tiny.cc/heatwave24>
- Brainstorming Workshop on Strengthening Disaster Relief and Resilience Systems**
Venue: New Delhi
- Building Resilience to Heat Waves: Safeguarding Informal Economy Workers**
Link: <http://tiny.cc/indmhbhndia-SEA-webex>
- The Role of Youths in Building a Climate-Resilient India: Strategies and Initiatives**
Link: <http://tiny.cc/SEA-Youth Outreach>
- Mitigating Heatwave Impacts: Infrastructure, Environment, and Technological Solutions**
Link: <http://tiny.cc/indmhbhndia-SEA-53>
- Series 2: Best Practices Education in Emergencies**
Link: <http://tiny.cc/SEA-EIE-2>
- Heatwave Preparedness: Education and Safety for Schools and Children**
Link: <http://tiny.cc/indmhbhndia-SEA-54>
- From Awareness to Action: Strengthening PSEA Protocols in Humanitarian Operations**
Link: <http://tiny.cc/SEA-PSEA-24>

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