Sphere India
National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India

samanvay
Humanitarian Coordination & Resilience Building

Bulletin: August 2024

www.sphereindia.org.in

Message from CEO

Dear Readers,

August 2024 has been a month of focused action and thoughtful planning for Sphere India, as we continue our journey to strengthen disaster resilience and climate adaptation across the country. Our approach has been both proactive and responsive, ensuring that we stay ahead of emerging challenges.

Throughout August, we closely monitored and shared vital information on significant events, including the Wayanad Landslides, cloudbursts in Himachal Pradesh, and severe floods in Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tripura, and Uttarakhand. In response to the Wayanad Landslides, Sphere India in collaboration with IAG Wayanad conducted an Initial Rapid Needs Assessment and organized a Multistakeholder Consultation, bringing together various agencies for a collective response. To enhance coordination, our team was deployed to the District Emergency Operation Centre, strengthening the collaboration between government and non-government organizations. We also held six Emergency Coordination Meetings to address the needs and strategies for the Wayanad Landslides response.

For the Gujarat Floods, we convened an Emergency Coordination Meeting and swiftly activated the Unified Response Strategy (URS), enabling a coordinated effort among our partners. Similarly, for the Tripura Floods, we organized four Emergency Coordination Meetings and initiated the URS, providing a platform for key stakeholders to work together and ensure effective relief operations. Additionally, a Joint Rapid Needs Assessment in Tripura was launched to identify immediate needs and guide our response.

In our continued efforts to strengthen GO-NGO collaboration, Sphere India has initiated the documentation of experiences, models, and best practices on Government-NGO coordination from various agencies. This initiative seeks to develop effective and timely emergency coordination mechanisms by exploring collaborative models between governments and NGOs at different levels, with the aim of preparing common guidelines for state-level application. We have also conducted Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with IAG representatives from Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh to gather insights and lessons cross-learning among national and state-level stakeholders.

As we move forward, our focus remains on enhancing disaster preparedness and resilience, particularly in relation to the ongoing monsoon season and lightning risks.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all our members and partners for their continued support in our collaborative efforts. We are committed to improving our coordination, and we welcome your feedback to help us refine our programs and communications. Your insights are crucial as we strive to deliver relevant and impactful updates to our network.

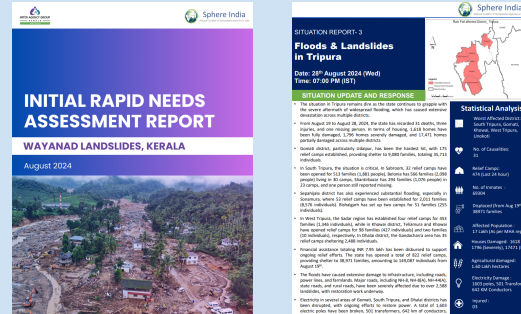Warm regards,

Vikrant Mahajan
CEO, Sphere India

In this Issue

Programs Update

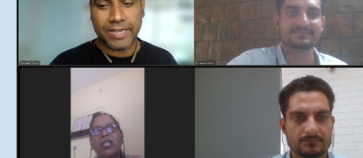### Inter-Agency Coordination

Emergency Coordination

Sphere India's Inter-Agency Coordination Vertical has been actively monitoring and responding to emergency situations across the country. In August, the team disseminated regular Situation Reports (Sitreps) covering critical hazards, including the Wayanad Landslides, cloud bursts in Himachal Pradesh, and severe floods in Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tripura, and Uttarakhand. Over six alerts were issued to stakeholders, with constant monitoring of key sources such as the IMD and NDMA, ensuring timely updates and preparedness measures.

In response to the Wayanad Landslides, Sphere India successfully completed an Initial Rapid Needs Assessment and hosted a Multistakeholder Consultation, gathering insights from various agencies. To further enhance coordination, Sphere India deployed staff to the District Emergency Operation Centre, enabling stronger GO-NGO collaboration. The team also organized six Emergency Coordination Meetings to address the needs and response strategies for the Wayanad Landslides.

For the Gujarat Floods, Sphere India organized one Emergency Coordination Meeting and promptly activated the Unified Response Strategy (URS), streamlining efforts among partners for a swift response. Similarly, for the Tripura Floods, Sphere India held four Emergency Coordination Meetings and activated the URS, providing a collaborative platform for key stakeholders to align efforts and ensure effective relief operations. Additionally, the Joint Rapid Needs Assessment in Tripura was initiated to evaluate immediate needs and guide response efforts effectively.

[Wayanad Landslides News Bulletin]

Wayanad Landslides Response - Updates from Members
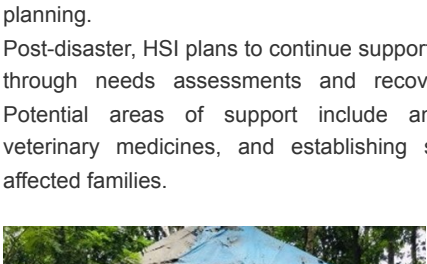

Humane Society International

During the Wayanad landslides in August 2024, Humane Society International (HSI) swiftly responded by supporting affected animals. Collaborating with local authorities and organizations, HSI provided relief and treatment to 186 animals, including cattle, buffaloes, dogs, cats, and poultry. Stranded animals received food, medical care, and, where necessary, adoption or relocation. They also supported the setup of an Animal Husbandry Help Desk, providing essential feed and medicines, and played a key role in long-term recovery planning.

Post-disaster, HSI plans to continue supporting animals through needs assessments and recovery efforts. Potential areas of support include animal feed, veterinary medicines, and establishing shelters for affected families.

EFICOR

During the Wayanad Landslides in August 2024, EFICOR played a crucial role in the emergency response and relief efforts. Collaborating closely with the District Administration, EFICOR provided essential relief materials, including back-to-home kits. Items distributed included food supplies, clothing, and essential household items. EFICOR also conducted a KOBO survey to identify the needs of 420 affected families, with 15 volunteers involved in the assessment process. The organization provided financial assistance worth ₹5,000 to 103 families. With an overall expenditure of ₹8.65 lakhs so far, EFICOR's efforts focused on the most vulnerable, including women-headed families, the elderly, people with disabilities, and school-going children.

ADRA India responded swiftly to the Wayanad landslides in August 2024, providing essential relief to affected communities. They distributed tarpaulin sheets and dry food ration kits to 293 households across four panchayats. From September 2024, ADRA plans to support 150 households with multipurpose cash assistance and provide over 100 back-to-home kits. Additional efforts will focus on supporting ICDS centres and biodiversity restoration.

In August 2024, ADRA supported flood and landslide victims in Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, and Andhra Pradesh, providing food, shelter kits, and cash assistance.

News from IAGs/ State Networks

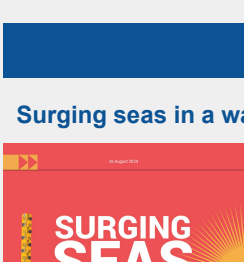### UPSDMA reviews Draft SADMP to be prepared by IAG Uttar Pradesh

On 2nd August 2024, a significant review meeting was convened under the chairmanship of the Vice President of the Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (UPSDMA) to discuss the preparation of the Uttar Pradesh State Agriculture Disaster Management Plan. This plan, currently being developed by the Inter Agency Group Uttar Pradesh (IAG UP), was presented in its first draft by Dr. Bhanu, Convener of IAG UP and Advisor to UPSDMA. The Vice President suggested that the draft be shared with all group leaders and the Agriculture Department for further inputs. A committee will be formed to finalize the document.

IAG Gujarat activates URS for Floods in Gujarat

On 28th August 2024, Inter Agency Group (IAG) Gujarat convened an Emergency Coordination meeting in response to the severe floods impacting Vadodara. The meeting brought together various IAG members to assess the overall flood situation, share updates, and identify immediate needs on the ground. After thorough discussions, it was decided to activate the Unified Response Strategy to streamline efforts and ensure a cohesive response. Additionally, IAG Gujarat was tasked with leading a Joint Rapid Needs Assessment to evaluate the most critical requirements of the affected communities. This assessment will guide the coordination of relief activities and resource allocation among member organizations, ensuring a timely and effective humanitarian response.
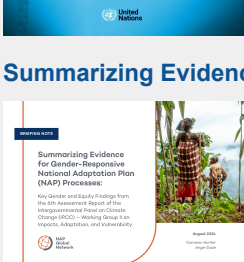
Climate Corner

Surging seas in a warming world

This technical brief discusses the latest science on sea-level rise (SLR) and its impacts, highlighting the alarming acceleration since the IPCC's 2021 report. It reveals that SLR, driven by human-induced global warming, is unprecedented in at least 3,000 years and may increase more rapidly than previously anticipated. The brief focuses on both global and regional effects, particularly on major coastal cities in G20 countries and Pacific Small Island Developing States. It underscores that SLR is currently disrupting coastal communities and low-lying nations, emphasizing the crucial role of upcoming climate actions in mitigating future damage.
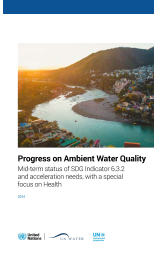Read More >>

Summarizing Evidence for Gender-Responsive National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Processes

This briefing note highlights key findings from the IPCC's 6th Assessment Report (AR6) on gender, equity, and justice in climate adaptation. Unlike previous reports, AR6 extensively references these aspects, underscoring their critical role in effective and sustainable adaptation planning. The note emphasizes that integrating gender and equity into National Adaptation Plan (NAP) processes is vital for achieving equitable outcomes and avoiding maladaptive results. By addressing how exclusion and discrimination heighten vulnerability for various social groups, such as women and Indigenous Peoples, it advocates for including diverse perspectives in adaptation strategies and showcases approaches for doing so. Read More >>

Updates from International Humanitarian Community

UN-Water's new report on water quality reveals that only 56% of monitored water bodies globally have good quality, a 4% decrease from 2020. With just 3% of data from poorer nations, 4.8 billion people could face risks by 2030 without improved monitoring. However, there is hope: initiatives like integrating citizen science, as seen in Sierra Leone and Zambia, and using earth observation data are underway to address gaps and enhance water quality reporting. Immediate action is needed to restore water bodies and protect global health.
Read More>>

This report is in response to General Assembly resolution 78/233, which supports the Secretary-General's initiative to ensure global early warning systems within five years. The Secretary-General was requested to conduct a comprehensive study with the least developed countries, involving UN entities and other stakeholders, to assess existing systems, identify gaps, and share lessons learned. The report summarizes key findings and recommendations from this study, based on available data and consultations with relevant parties.
Read More>>

The latest issue of southasiadisasters.net focuses on "Extreme Heat Adaptation and Mitigation Programming." It addresses the urgent need for proactive measures to protect vulnerable populations in South Asia as extreme heat events increase due to climate change. The issue discusses best practices for urban planning, community-based resilience, and local governance in heat action plans. It highlights successful region-specific interventions and policies, underscoring the importance of tailored solutions to mitigate the impacts of extreme heat on health and socio-economic conditions. Read More>>

The study explores developing and using an anticipatory governance approach to disaster risk management (DRM) and climate adaptation by local and regional authorities, with a focus on extreme weather events and climate-related disasters. It provides an overview of regional vulnerabilities in Europe, summarizes the current state, and examines the benefits and challenges of adopting an anticipatory approach. The study also derives lessons and best practices from local governments that have successfully recovered from past disasters and strengthened resilience through the UNDRR principle of "building back better."
Read More>>

Updates from Government

The Disaster Management Amendment Bill 2024

Introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 1, 2024, the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 aims to revise the Disaster Management Act, 2005, originally enacted in response to disasters like the 2004 Tsunami, the 2001 Gujarat Earthquake, and the 1999 Odisha Super Cyclone. The Bill proposes several significant updates. It establishes a national and state-level Disaster Database to track assessments, fund allocations, expenditures, and preparedness plans. It empowers the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) to formulate and review disaster plans, with national plans to be updated at least every five years. The Bill also introduces the Urban Disaster Management Authority for major cities and state capitals, provides statutory recognition to the National Crisis Management Committee and the High-Level Committee, and allows states to create State Disaster Response Forces to bolster their disaster response capabilities.

Grants and Opportunities

Zendesk Tech for Good Impact Awards
For nonprofit organizations looking to use Zendesk software to enhance their services, increase outreach, and create a positive impact in fostering community, promoting resilience, or developing career pathways into tech.
Organization: Zendesk Foundation
Deadline: 31-Sep-2024

[More Info>>]

Urban Climate Research and Extreme Events Call for Proposals
For researchers and institutions focusing on urban climate challenges, aiming to develop strategies for resilience, adaptation, and sustainable urban development in India. Key areas include extreme heat, urban flooding, air pollution, public health, and biodiversity loss.
Organization: Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India
Deadline: 19-Sep-2024

[More Info>>]

Upcoming Events & Plans Ahead

SPHERE INDIA ACADEMY CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2024

Upcoming Sessions in September 2024 >>

- **02 Sep** Best Practices on Data Protection and Management for Humanitarian Sector
  https://tiny.cc/DA-DataProtection
- **11 Sep** Assessment, Analysis and Design in EiE
  https://tiny.cc/Education_in_Emergency
- **18 Sep** Climate Change and its Impact on Children and Youth
  http://tiny.cc/Children_Youth
- **25 Sep** Integrating Indigenous and Local Knowledge systems for Disaster Risk Reduction
  https://tiny.cc/Indigenous_Knowledge

For more details, please contact Ms. Mishel Mohan at mishel@sphereindia.org.in

Sphere India
National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India

Sphere India Secretariat
123, Caliph Vijayant Thapar Marg,
Arun Vihar, Sector 37, Noida, Uttar Pradesh
(Near Brahamaputra Market Metro Station)
Email: info@sphereindia.org.in
Website: www.sphereindia.org.in