



Message from CEO

Dear Readers,

The month of July has been both challenging and rewarding, marked by our continued commitment to strengthening disaster response and resilience across India. Sphere India, in collaboration with our Inter Agency Groups (IAGs) and partners, has played a crucial role in addressing the pressing needs emerging from natural disasters.

Throughout July, we focused on providing timely and coordinated responses to multiple hazards across the country. Our team supported IAG Assam in conducting a Joint Rapid Needs Assessment (JRNA) for the floods in the region. We also disseminated 29 alerts and 16 situation reports (Sitreps) on critical events, such as floods in Northeast India, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra; cloudbursts in Himachal Pradesh; heavy rains in Uttarakhand; heatwaves in Kashmir; and landslides in Wayanad, Kerala.

Recognizing the urgency of these situations, Sphere India activated the Unified Response Strategy (URS) for the Northeast Floods and Wayanad Landslides, and coordinated six emergency meetings to ensure a collaborative and efficient response.

Our Inter Agency Groups have been equally proactive. IAG Assam conducted the JRNA for the floods, while IAG Uttar Pradesh organized mock drills for 44 sensitive districts in the state. Additionally, IAG Madhya Pradesh conducted a three-day orientation training on Sphere Minimum Standards in Disaster Response and Relief.

In our Collaborative Advocacy efforts, we issued an Expression of Solidarity for the people affected by the Wayanad Landslides on 31st July 2024. As we move into August, our focus remains on monitoring disasters across the country and providing support to the affected communities, especially in Wayanad.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our members and partners for their unwavering support and dedication to our shared mission. Together, we continue to enhance synergies among diverse stakeholders, ensuring that our network remains robust and prepared for effective disaster response.

As always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions to further improve our programs and communications. Your insights are invaluable in helping us serve you better.

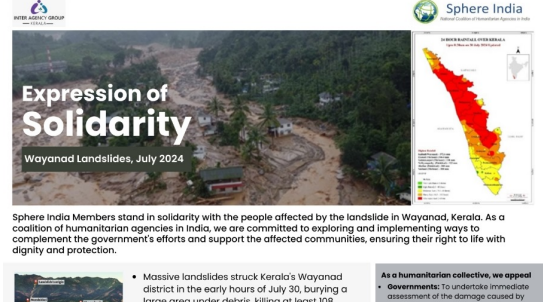
Warm Regards,
Vikrant Mahajan
CEO, Sphere India

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Expression of Solidarity - Wayanad Landslides

Sphere India Members stand in solidarity with the people affected by the landslide in Wayanad, Kerala. As a coalition of humanitarian agencies in India, we are committed to exploring and implementing ways to complement the government's efforts and support the affected communities, ensuring their right to life with dignity and protection.



Massive landslides struck Kerala's Wayanad district in the early hours of July 30, burying a large area under debris, killing at least 108 people, and leaving 128 injured. The death toll is expected to rise as many people are still missing. Many people are still trapped under the debris.

Key humanitarian concerns, as reported by the government, include:

- Massive landslides struck Kerala's Wayanad district in the early hours of July 30, burying a large area under debris, killing at least 108 people, and leaving 128 injured. The death toll is expected to rise as many people are still missing. Many people are still trapped under the debris.
- Huge boulders rolled down the hills, hindering the rescue workers' path. Despite heavy rains, rescue workers continued shifting the dead and injured into ambulances.
- Several hilly regions in Wayanad district, including Mundakkai, Chooralmala, Attamala, and Noolpuzha villages, have been affected by a series of landslides, with the most significant impact observed in Mundakkai and Chooralmala.

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Till 31st July, 93 bodies have been found. The public can provide information to the 24-hour control room at the phone numbers - 9497900402, 0471 2721566. The control room functions under the direct control of the State police chief.

Emergency items: Medical Aid (respirator facilities, ambulances, and Shelter Tents), Essential Non-Food Items (clothing, hygiene kits, blankets, solar light with charger, water purification tablets, freshwater, glucose tablets, emergency lamps, torches, toothbrushes, slippers, and food bowls).

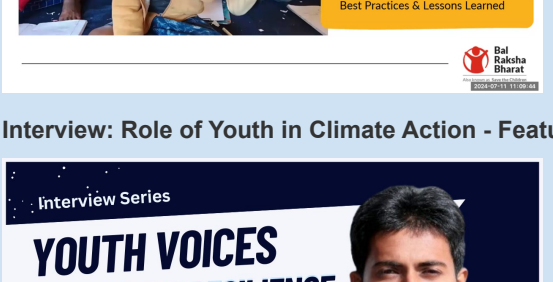
45 relief camps have been opened in Wayanad and a total of 118 camps across the state, accommodating 5,531 people. The fire force, NDRF, and police are working together.

Program Update

Knowledge & Capacity Sharing

Sphere India Academy has launched an extensive series of sessions aimed at enhancing heatwave preparedness and awareness across various sectors. The initiative, held throughout May 2024, featured five core sessions, each focusing on different aspects of heatwave impact and mitigation strategies. These sessions were conducted in collaboration with the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Centre for Disaster Health (CDH), All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), and Vardhman Mahavir Medical College (VMMC).

Education in Emergencies: Best Practices and Case Studies from India | 11th July 2024



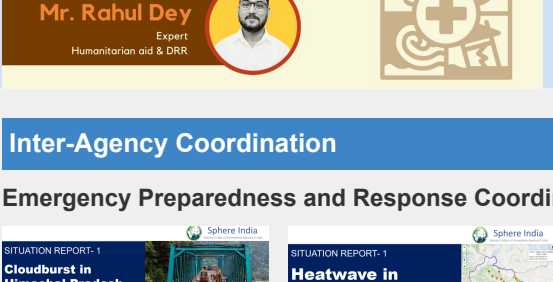
Sphere India Academy, along with Bal Raksha Bharat and the Sphere India Education Sector Committee, organized the third session in the Education in Emergencies series, titled "Education in Emergencies: Best Practices and Case Studies from India."

Interview: Role of Youth in Climate Action - Featuring John Paul Jose | July 2024



Continuing our interview series, Sphere India Academy featured Mr. John Paul Jose, a young climate activist, discussing strategies and initiatives for climate action. In this interview, John also shares his experiences collaborating with UN organizations and others and recollects the moments that sparked his activism, shares fascinating incidents from his journey, and highlights the critical role of youth in building a sustainable and resilient future.

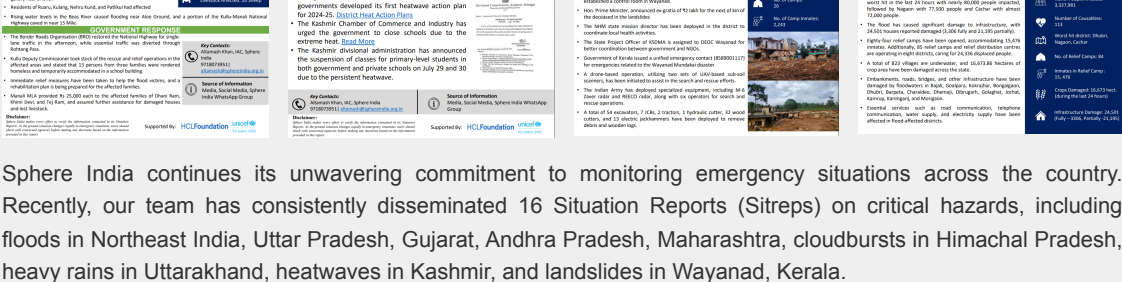
Cash Voucher Assistance: A Tool for Continuing Education in Emergencies | July 29th 2024



The third session in the Education in Emergencies series focused on "Cash Voucher Assistance: A Tool for Continuing Education in Emergencies." Led by Mr. Rahul Dey, an expert in humanitarian aid and disaster risk reduction, the session explored how CVA can support educational continuity during crises.

Inter-Agency Coordination

Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordination



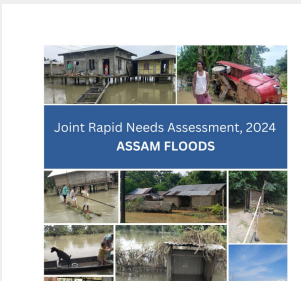
Sphere India continues its unwavering commitment to monitoring emergency situations across the country. Recently, our team has consistently disseminated 16 Situation Reports (Sitreps) on critical hazards, including floods in Northeast India, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, cloudbursts in Himachal Pradesh, heavy rains in Uttarakhand, heatwaves in Kashmir, and landslides in Wayanad, Kerala.

In addition to these efforts, Sphere India has demonstrated a proactive approach by issuing over 29 alerts within our network, ensuring that key stakeholders remain informed and prepared. By diligently monitoring essential sources such as the IMD and NDMA, we aim to keep our partners abreast of real-time developments.

Furthermore, Sphere India has activated the Unified Response Strategy (URS) for the Northeast Floods and Wayanad Landslides, convening a total of six Emergency Coordination Meetings. These collaborative efforts are instrumental in equipping stakeholders with the necessary information and resources to address emerging threats effectively and efficiently. Together, we strive to enhance preparedness, foster resilience, and ensure a coordinated response to the challenges posed by natural disasters across the nation.

News from IAGs and State Networks

Joint Rapid Needs Assessment - Assam Floods



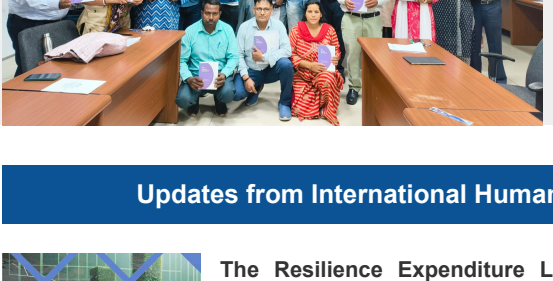
The state of Assam has faced severe floods, worsening the region's challenges due to their timing, intensity, and size. Continuous heavy rain since May 2024 caused these floods, leading to widespread damage across the state. Sadly, over 109 people have died due to storms, landslides, and flooding, affecting 30 out of the 33 districts in three waves of flooding.

The Joint Rapid Needs Assessment (JRNA), conducted by the Inter-Agency Group of Assam, aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of the situation. While we get the quantitative figures of impact and damage in the ASDM Sitreps, the JRNA Report captures the qualitative elements raised by the community. This report compiles the voices of the community across seven thematic chapters: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH); Shelter; Food Security & Nutrition; Health; Education; Protection & Inclusion; and Livelihood & Social Protection. This collaborative effort highlights the urgent needs of affected communities.

IAG-UP's Active Role in Mock Drill for Sensitive Districts of Uttar Pradesh

The Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (UPSDMA) successfully organized a comprehensive mock drill on July 25, 2024, across 44 sensitive and highly sensitive districts. IAG-UP members played a crucial role in this initiative, actively participating in the orientation session held on July 16 and the table-top exercise on July 23. Their involvement ensured robust preparedness and coordination at the district level, contributing significantly to the success of the mock drill.

Orientation Training of Sphere Minimum Standards in Disaster Response



Bhopal, July 03, 2024 – The Disaster Management Institute (DMI), Bhopal, in collaboration with Sphere (Geneva), UNICEF, Home Guards & SDERF, Inter-Agency Group MP, and Jan Abhiyan Parishad successfully conducted a three-days training on "Minimum Standards in Disaster Response" from July 1 to July 3, 2024. This pivotal training aimed at enhancing the collective capacity to respond effectively to disasters within Madhya Pradesh, was conducted under the leadership of Dr. Gopal V. Joseph, Joint Director, DMI.

Updates from International Humanitarian Community: Climate Action

The Resilience Expenditure Landscape offers a comprehensive overview of public spending on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA). For the first time, it classifies expenditures based on their DRR and CCA objectives, utilizing a budget tagging system developed by UNDRR. The report enables users to track the progress of country initiatives in budget tagging, review trends in DRR and CCA spending, and identify financing needs and gaps. It also explores how budget tagging can complement existing efforts and shape DRR and CCA policies at both national and international levels. [Read More>>](#)

How to apply the checklist on scaling up disaster risk reduction in humanitarian action: The guidance emphasizes the Checklist on Scaling Up Disaster Risk Reduction in Humanitarian Action as a crucial tool for humanitarian, development, and peace actors, providing comprehensive direction to reduce risks and integrate risk reduction into planning and programming globally and at country levels. It outlines key steps for applying the checklist effectively, such as implementing risk-informed planning, raising awareness, customizing for national contexts, facilitating workshops, promoting collaboration, and utilizing additional resources. Following these steps enables actors to bolster risk reduction efforts, enhance response capabilities, and foster resilience in humanitarian contexts. [Read More>>](#)

Nature-based solutions for comprehensive disaster and climate risk management: Toolkit for integrated planning and implementation of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation: The CRM-NbS Toolkit is designed to help countries integrate nature-based solutions (NbS) into their both disaster risk reduction and climate risk management (CRM) strategies, considering both disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change. It offers a practical checklist for monitoring progress through the sequence of tools outlined in the toolkit, guiding users in planning NbS as a systematic set of actions for CRM. Additionally, the toolkit emphasizes the importance of aligning national and subnational agendas to foster resilience and adaptation across various governance levels and sectors. [Read More>>](#)

Extreme Heat Adaptation and Mitigation Programming: Lessons from the Affected Population: As extreme heat events intensify in South Asia due to climate change, vulnerable populations face severe health and socio-economic risks. This issue highlights the need for urgent action, emphasizing the role of governments, civil society, and stakeholders in implementing heat adaptation strategies. It explores urban planning best practices, community-based resilience, and local governance in heat action plans, while showcasing successful interventions across the region. Collaboration is key to protecting the most vulnerable and building long-term resilience against extreme heat. [Read More>>](#)

Harnessing the Power of AI for Climate Change Impact Assessment: The Compendium of Innovative and Good Practices and Lessons Learned presents the programmatic learning and impact generated by the implementation of Spotlight Initiative from 2018 to 2023. It documents Spotlight Initiative's unique approach in operating and delivering comprehensive and rights-based programmes on ending violence against women and girls. Presenting a suite of more than 50 case studies across six outcome areas and cross-cutting themes, the Compendium provides policymakers and practitioners with knowledge that is innovative, high-impact, sustainable and localized. [Read More>>](#)

Addressing the Protection Gap – Human Mobility and the Climate Crisis in International Frameworks: In the report, the growing issue of global migration and displacement is highlighted, with many individuals facing exploitation and human rights challenges. Despite existing legal and policy tools, their inconsistent application leaves significant protection gaps, particularly concerning climate-related mobility. The report calls for tailored, rights-based, and gender-responsive approaches, emphasizing the responsibility of high-polluting nations to address these challenges and close the protection gap. [Read More>>](#)

Global Seasonal Climate Update - Target Season: August-September-October 2024: This report highlights significant changes in sea-surface temperatures (SSTs). The Pacific Niño SST index in the eastern Pacific dropped further into below-normal levels, while the central and eastern Pacific remained ENSO-neutral. The Indian Ocean Dipole is predicted to stay near-normal, and SSTs in the tropical Atlantic continue above-normal. La Niña is favored to develop during this period, affecting global climate patterns. The report provides crucial insights into upcoming climate trends. [Read More>>](#)