



# Sphere India NEWSLETTER



Issue 5

November 2014

## Greetings from Sphere India

We are happy to restart the publication of Sphere India newsletter. Broadly, this issue covers the information of last six months. It includes the key note message, updates from Member organizations, stories from Inter-Agency Groups, Sphere India programme updates, case studies-innovations and voice from community and other upcoming events and training programmes.

## Keynote Message

Dear Friends and colleagues,

URS (Unified Response Strategy)- as the name suggest initiated the purpose of coordinated and effective response at the time of disaster in year 2006. We are grateful that initial support for this initiative was provided by UNICEF and the platform was steered by SEEDS India- two pioneering agencies in the area of humanitarian response.

In its continuous journey, year 2013 witnessed the nominations for IAC (Inter Agency Coordination) committee comprising of representatives from Cordaid, CASA, Oxfam, Save the Children, UNDMT, DCA, CA, ADRA, CARE, Plan, EFICOR and Seeds. Apart from this, the Chairs of sector committees from Oxfam (WASH), Shelter (Seeds), Food and Nutrition (DCA), Health (EHA), Education (Plan) and Protection (Save the Children) were also invited to be part of IAC committee for sectoral coordination.

In year 2013-14, URS was activated in response to floods in various states including the recent floods of J&K, Odisha, U.P, Uttarakhand and Assam. Needless to mention that we have made a decent progress in past few years in making this URS/IAC as efficient and effective platform for coordinated response, but still lot more needs to be achieved. Next generation of URS/IAC is visualizing membership from private sectors as other stakeholders who are key humanitarian responders such as clubs/academic institutions.

In this direction, we could also evolve and streamline the process of "Joint Rapid Needs Assessment (JRNA)". This year, member agencies, IAGs could evolve "standard and uniform formats" for this "Rapid Assessment". These tools were developed through various consultations among different stakeholders. It is visualized that one joint rapid need assessment will avoid duplication; increase coordination and efficiency of humanitarian responders. As a major breakthrough, first time, we were able to come out with Joint Rapid Needs Assessment reports after Odisha floods, UP floods, Jammu and Kashmir floods in a well-stipulated time. Apart from this, the Phailin Response got initiated at state and districts of Odisha for efficient coordination driven by digital platform and humanitarian organizations has enable us to strengthen advocacy and accountability amongst communities and governance.

We are making all efforts to learn from experiences and convert disasters as opportunities to make an enabling system for creation, documentation, dissemination and translation of knowledge into action. We are embracing new technology and communication channels, so that core elements like timeliness, quality, accountability and uniformity of humanitarian action can be achieved. Time has come to develop sector specific multi –pronged strategies through active collaborative efforts to improve the preparedness and response mechanism.

**Munish Kaushik**

URS- Sphere India

# Changing lives

## ActionAid's livelihood restoration programme for Fisher folk in Odisha through Phailin Response

As a part of ActionAid's livelihood support for the fisher folk community affected by Cyclone Phailin, the fisher folk group has extended support in provision of Boats and Nets to regain their traditional livelihood in Ganjam and Puri district.

The fisher folk community in the coastal villages of Ganjam and Puri primarily do fishing to earn for their daily livelihood. The last year's disaster (Cyclone Phailin) destroyed their Boats and Nets.

Based on the severity of damage and destruction to their livelihood, ActionAid decided to provide support of 22 FRPs and 30 Wooden Boats along with fish nets to the most vulnerable people having very less coping capacity with the support from the EU.


Looking at the nature of their fishing practice, ActionAid decided to provide Boats and Nets support in a group. Unlike the kind of that disparate ownership, our Boats and Nets support empowered other members to gain equal status as co-owners of the property. Women too were included in the group and were recognized as a co-owner of the Boats and Nets that we are providing who generally helps the group in post-harvest period.



*The most important thing is that we partnered with the local administration and we could availed a subsidy of 50 per cent in Boats, Nets and engines which enabled us to include more beneficiaries in the support programme.*

## Recovery Support to Conflict Affected Communities in Assam and Mizoram-Tripura States of North East



 Beneficiary counting the cash after receiving the cash during Cash Transfer Programme in Kokrajhar District of Assam

Despite several repatriation efforts from the government and other authorities, there were several unmet needs that required humanitarian assistance. DanChurchAid is working with these communities to help them recover. ECHO has provided DCA with EUR 460,000 to improve the humanitarian situation of the conflict affected families in Assam, Mizoram and Tripura. The ethnic conflict in Assam and districts of Mizoram and Tripura has resulted in thousands of internally displaced people who had fled their homes and now returned back to their villages and rebuilding their lives. They are in desperate need of livelihoods, safe water and shelter.

Thanks to ECHO for supporting the livelihood of families, the project has been able to provide early recovery through access to cash, livelihood, wash and psychological interventions.

Addressing significant early recovery needs, families have improved their food and livelihood security using cash transfer and livelihood inputs. Moreover activities are helping to rebuild confidence and relations in order to prevent future conflict.

DCA's local partner in the project is [Indo Global Social Service Society \(IGSSS\)](#). The project was able to directly reach out to 18134 families in Assam, Tripura and Mizoram. The project brought us one step closer to hopeful communities where people live stress less lives with proper hygiene conditions and livelihood opportunities for everyone. After completion of 14 months, the ECHO supported project DCA is still supporting through mobilizing internal resources to recover the community through continued psychosocial interventions in Kokrajhar and Chirang districts of Assam.

## Odisha Flood Response 2014

DCA was actively a part in JRNA along with other Humanitarian partners through Sphere India coordination and responded by mobilizing internal resources of 200,000 DKK under small scale response in Kendrapara and Jajpur districts. It is a joint response initiative as a consortium with Caritas India. LWSIT is the implementing partner and the response will continue for 3 months. The intervention is Cash Transfer & WASH at HH & Community level in the existing DCA funded project area which get affected due to flood. LWSIT has its large presence in the district wherein there are two projects are currently operational – STEER (Social Transformation, Economic Empowerment and Risk Reduction Rural) supported by multilateral donors and RLSFS (Resilient Livelihood and Sustainable Food Security) project supported by DCA. Hence, this emergency response project is essentially considered as part of LRRD – Linking Relief Rehabilitation with Development and restoration the existing project.



 DCA & LWSIT interacting with the affected community.




 Flood affected community in North Lakhimpur District of Assam

## Assam Flood Response 2014

In this current flood in Assam, DCA has mobilized internal resources of 300,000 DKK (DERF) under small scale response in North Lakhimpur and Dhemaji districts of Assam with Cash Transfer, health & WASH interventions in its existing project areas which got affected. IGSSS is the implementing local partner and have large presence in these districts. IGSSS is currently operational with 5 years RLSFS (Resilient Livelihood and Sustainable Food Security) project supported by DCA. The flood response program is to support 2798 HH in 49 worst affected villages in both the districts and also to restore the RFLS project. Besides, DCA was also actively involved in Joint Rapid Need Assessment in Assam along with other humanitarian partners and Sphere India.

Being a Humanitarian platform IAG Odisha observed the World Humanitarian Day on 19th August 2014, the reason behind to observe the day was to remember the millions of people affected by war, natural disasters, sickness, and famine, and those humanitarian workers who are working to relieve their suffering. To mark the celebration, a meeting was organised by IAG Odisha in collaboration with Save the Children India at Bhubaneswar in order to bring together all Humanitarian workers and stakeholders working in the field of Disaster Management. It was attended by a wide array of professionals including Government officials, NGO's, INGO's, UN bodies, DRR experts, academia, etc. The meeting was presided by Dr. Chakradhar Panda, Honorary Secretary of IRCS-OSB and Chairperson of IAG Odisha, Dr. Ambika Prasad Nanda- Head of Odisha and Jharkhand, UNDP India, Mr. Chittopriyo Sadhu, Consortium Manager of Save the Children and Mr. Debabrata Patra of Action Aid has joined as the Guests of Honour.



 World Humanitarian Day 2014 observation by IAG Odisha

## Initiatives of IAG Odisha during Flood

- > Regular Information sharing through Teleconference emergency hot line with National Level Agencies.
- > Organised 2 coordination meetings on Odisha Floods 2014.
- > Shared 7 Situation Reports (SIT-REP) and 15 Abstract Reports on Floods with IAG Members.
- > Regular Coordination with OSDMA and SRC Office of GoO.
- > Regular Collection and circulation of URS Matrix with IAG Members and continuous follow up on response measures.
- > IAG Odisha in collaboration with Sphere India has facilitated RJNA (Rapid Joint Need Assessment) Process including field level assessment coordination, reporting with the state level training

### Rapid "Joint" Needs Assessment Training

IAG Odisha in collaboration with Sphere India has organized a half-day training programme on "Rapid Joint Needs Assessment" of Odisha Flood Situation 2014 which was held at Red Cross Bhawan, Odisha . 61 participants from 41 organizations participated in the training programme.




In 2014 the IAG-Assam held its General Body Meeting in May and the old Executive Committee was replaced by the new Executive Committee members and office bearers. The IAG-Assam Secretariat was shifted from Catholic Relief Service (CRS) to Aide-et-Action. The new Chairperson of IAG-Assam is Mr. A.K. Goldsmith and the new Convener is Mr. Pranab Jyoti Panging. While emphasizing its role in coordination efforts, the IAG-Assam carried out its first Joint Rapid Assessment in the conflict in Baksa district in June, 2014 in which 39 lives were lost. A Joint Rapid Assessment Report was published leading to intervention of Save the children in the area. The IAG-Assam conducted the 2nd Joint Rapid Assessment for the Assam-Nagaland border conflict in Golaghat district. The IAG-Assam released the Joint Rapid Assessment Report. As a follow up of report, organizations such as Caritas, Oxfam, ADRA and Mercy Corps are carrying out its intervention for the conflict affected people. Information regarding intervention by the members has been shared and efforts were made to avoid duplication. IAG-Assam carried out the 3rd Joint Rapid Assessment on flood situation in the state involving member organizations. The member organizations started its intervention following the release of the Joint Rapid Needs Assessment Report. Organizations such as Rural Volunteers' Centre (RVC), World Vision, CRS, Save the Children responded as per their capacities in the focused circles and villages in Dhemaji. CASA and ADRA have responded in Barpeta. NEICORD and ACTED have responded in their own capacities in Majourli district. The IAG-Assam is planning to carry out a 4th Joint Rapid Needs Assessment on the second wave of flood which has affected Goalpara district severely.



## NIDM Team visited Malin Landslide on 2-3 August 2014

A major landslide catastrophe occurred in the Malin village of Ambegaon Taluk in Pune district, Maharashtra on 30th July 2014. The landslide engulfed more than 150 persons. Documentation of disasters is one of the main mandates of NIDM. With an objective to do this exercise, NIDM team comprising Dr. Surya Parkash, Head Knowledge Management and Communication Division and Shri Tapas Kumar Saha Roy, Consultant visited the landslide site on 2nd and 3rd August 2014. The team conducted a ground survey of the affected area along with representatives from NDRF and local community to get first hand information about the land area affected by landslides and volume of mass involved in the movement. The team discussed various issues related to evacuation, search, rescue, relief and rehabilitation as well as the issues pertaining to community awareness, landslide avoidance, prevention, mitigation and preparedness for risk reduction.



 Dr. P.K. Mishra delivering inaugural speech during the two days training programme for Joint Secretaries

## National Programme on "DRR Strategies for Sustainable Development - Planning and Policy Instruments" 21-22 August 2014

A special training programme was organized by NIDM on DRR Strategies for sustainable development" with special focus on role of various tools and methods in disaster management planning, analysis, decision making and evaluations, etc. wherein 22 Joint Secretaries/Level officers of Ministries/organizations of Central and State Governments participated. There were four technical sessions on themes, viz. Integrating DRR into sustainable development, Tools & Techniques, Approaches and Pathways and Recent Development.

## NIDM observed "Van Mahotsava" on 21st August 2014

NIDM observed "Van Mahotsava" on 21st August 2014 with the objective of sensitizing officials about its intricate linkages with forest and DRR leading towards environment sensitive DRR planning. Dr. P. K. Mishra, Addl. Principal Secretary, PMO, graced the occasion as Chief Guest of the function. In this event a Vriksharopan programme was also organized in which many saplings were planted by chief guest, other guests and staff members of NIDM.



 Secretary, NDMA Shri. S. N. Mohanty during the "Vriksharopan" Programme planting saplings in NIDM Campus

## Training Programmes


There were a total of 8 face to face training programmes organized by NIDM and 2 online training programmes during the month of August.

## Humanitarian Response to Cyclone Phailin & Subsequent Floods in Odisha 2013

Cyclone Phailin made landfall near Gopalpur in Odisha coast at around 21:30 IST on 12th October 2013. It subsequently weakened over land and degenerated into a well-marked area of low pressure. Due to Odisha Phailin cyclone and floods, a population of 1.87 million were affected across 18 districts (176 blocks and 59 Urban Local bodies). The Government authorities evacuated 9,83,553 people due to cyclone and 1,71,083 people due to floods, which is one of the historic evacuation in the history of all disasters (Source: Government of Odisha).

SPHERE India has been the focal point of coordination between humanitarian organizations, government departments, district & state administration and others. Humanitarian organizations, like corporate social responsibility initiatives, academic institutions and research organizations working in Odisha. Sphere India is in action for efficient coordination driven by digital platform and humanitarian organizations to strengthen advocacy and accountability amongst communities and governance in the state across three districts (Ganjam, Puri & Balasore) under the ECHO funded Phailin & Flood Response Project in Odisha.



 Sphere Team's Interaction with affected community  
Khalabadia Village, Baleswar District, Odisha, India

### Major Activities done under the project

#### > Coordination:

Multi stakeholder coordination led by SPHERE amongst both consortia, district administration, state government, INGOs, local NGOs, Corporates, community based organizations and other entities in Humanitarian action.

#### > Advocacy & Accountability:

Engagement of relevant government departments on key advocacy issues and promotion of government entitlements for the targeted households led by IAG-SPHERE

#### > Digital Platform

### Outcome so far

#### Coordination

- > GO-NGO Coordination environment strengthened across the project implementation areas and response duration with Coordination Committees leading district level coordination with inclusion of district administration and State IAG linkages.
- > Interlinking of Academic institutions as Centurion University for the livelihood study for the SC consortium and other field interventions like WASH.

#### Advocacy and Accountability

- > Identified Unmet Panchayats were supported by OFDA/USAID.
- > Beneficiaries were enrolled for availing PWD certificates / pension schemes. Assistive device support availed from the Administration in the follow up camps for PWD
- > 65 Beneficiaries were enrolled for MGNREGA and 60 beneficiaries were enrolled by Sub collector Ganjam for providing various pensions
- > Government additional support to WASH intervention
- > Resource person support from Agriculture Department, GoO for imparting training on latest agricultural practices and technologies to 80 lead identified farmers.
- > Capacity development programmes delivered through convergence action plan with OLM. Agarbati, horticulture, poultry trainings were conducted with the support from district administration.

#### Digital Platform

- > Phailin Response Coordination Blog in place and managed by IAG Odisha. Till date the blog has over 3500 views.
- > Phailin Response Coordination Facebook Page in place sharing best practices and other project activities. The page is now merged with Sphere India Official Facebook Page for sustainability and circulation to a wider audience.
- > Six editions of monthly E-Newsletter (Response Bulletin) published from April 2014 – Sept 2014. Last Edition is due for Sept-2014

#### For more details visit:

<http://phailincyclonerresponse.wordpress.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/phailincyclonerresponse>

## Coordination Updates, J&K Floods

Jammu and Kashmir experienced heavy monsoon rains that began on September 2, 2014 that lead to unprecedented widespread flooding and landslides across the state. Banks of the river Jhelum, Chenab, Tawi and many other streams were burst. The worst affected districts are Srinagar, Anantnag, Baramulla, Pulwama, Ganderbal, Kulgam, Budgam, Rajouri, Poonch and Reasi. Links of Kashmir Valley were disrupted and the 300- km-long national highway was closed for vehicular traffic from the 7th September as a result of landslides and floods. As many as 60 major and minor roads have been cut off and over 30 bridges washed away, hampering the relief and rescue operations. Except for connectivity between Srinagar and North Kashmir's Ganderbal district, all other districts of the valley including Anantnag, Pulwama, Kulgam, Shopian, Budgam, Baramulla and Bandipora were cut off.



190 people and 78 people have been reported dead in Jammu and Kashmir division respectively. As per the preliminary information of Government 9,814 residential houses were fully damaged and 23,763 partially in Jammu region. The preliminary information available from Kashmir says that 103,938 pucca houses are fully damaged, 64,176 pucca houses are partially damaged, 7,372 kuccha houses are fully and 9,220 kuccha houses are partially damaged. Over 234 relief camps were installed in the state and 23,900 people were rehabilitated from the Jammu region only.

### Key Highlights of J&K Coordination

- > Activation of URS in J&K.
- > Setting up of the Health Coordination Centre and Coordination Facilitation Centre.
- > Setting up of the Emergency Operating Centre.
- > Updating the URS Response and Planning Sheet of Jammu and Kashmir Division on a regular basis.
- > Developing new coordination tools in terms of Response, Planning, Emerging Needs and Resources Committed and Planned..
- > Facilitation of orientation training on Joint Rapid Needs Assessment\ in Jammu and Kashmir respectively.
- > Joint Rapid Needs Assessment conducted in 14 most affected districts (8 in Kashmir and 6 in Jammu) by deploying 10 teams in Kashmir and 6 teams in Jammu respectively.
- > Sharing of the JRNA Report with the Divisional Commissioner and all Agencies responding.
- > Facilitation of Sector Meetings to discuss the Strategic and operating guidelines.
- > State-level Sector Group Meetings have been conducted (3 each) in each of the five life saving Sectors.
- > Shelter Strategy shared with the National Shelter Sub - committee.
- > Inputs by various sector groups for contextualization of ToRs and detailed multi-isectoral assessment.
- > Recruitment of Coordination Team in Jammu and Kashmir.
- > Induction of the Sphere India District Coordinators.
- > Sphere India District Coordinators, have collected village and household information from respective districts. District-level meetings are planned from next week for facilitating coordination at district-level.
- > Meetings with Member Agencies on a regular basis.





## Inter-Agency Coordination

- > Unified Strategy Response (URS) was activated for Uttarakhand flood, Cyclone Phailin in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh and drought in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh.
- > Inter-Agency Coordination subcommittee meeting held on 18th July, 2014 and activated the sectoral sub committees. Sphere India Sectoral Sub Committees and IAG UK initiated the multi sectoral assessment. The assessment focused on Food and Nutrition, WASH, Shelter, Protection and Education.
- > A consultation on Model State Disaster Management Plan was organized on 23rd April 2014 at Gangtok, Sikkim to facilitate IAC process.
- > First Multi Stakeholder Consultation held on 12th May, 2014 with formation of working group on revision of RNA tool, TOR and Sphere and IAG Working Relation. The second Multi-stakeholder Consultation on URS Process Revision was held on 30th of May, 2014.
- > Training on tools for partner agencies held from 4th-7th June, 2014 at Faridabad
- > Lessons Learnt workshop was organized from 3rd April to 4th April at Dehradun




 Consultation on Sphere URS process Revision held at Delhi

## Knowledge Management (KM)


### State and Sub-Divisional Disaster Management Plan for Sikkim and Majuli, Assam.

Revision and updation of the State Disaster Management Plan for Sikkim and Sub-Divisional Disaster Management plan for Majuli, Assam. The Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on Majuli Sub-Divisional Disaster Management Plan was organized in collaborations with District Disaster Management Authority (Jorhat); Sphere India, ACTED, NEICORD and WASPA on 22nd May, 2014 at Jorhat, Assam.



 State Level Consultation for SDMP, Gangtok, Sikkim on 23rd April, 2014.



 Multi-Stakeholder Consultation for SDDMP Majuli, Jorhat, Assam, on 22nd May, 2014.

### GIS Mapping and Situation Report

Prepared Emergency Maps on Floods in Odisha, U.P, Bihar, Assam and J&K including Hazard exposure maps for five targeted Gram Panchayats (GPs) for DRR implementation process for Majuli island, Assam. 12 Sitrep prepared and released for 5 states related to Landslide, Floods and Earthquake. Prepared and designed two Expression of Solidarity for UP and Odisha Floods related.

### Sphere India Monthly Newsletter and Sphere India Blog

Sphere India Blog got launched to reach out Sphere India programmes at wider platforms through existing Sphere India social sites. Publishing of 1st monthly newsletter for the year 2014 has been initiated highlighting the various programs/activities from Sphere India member organization, IAGs, Government and Sphere India secretariat.

### Strategy on Knowledge Management


A draft strategy plan on Knowledge Management was prepared that will direct the plan of actions under KM programme. The strategic plan highlights three key strategic approaches i.e. fostering an enabling environment; to create, innovate and translate knowledge into policy and guidelines and to improve access to information about disaster, risk preparedness, humanitarian response and impact.



## Collaborative Advocacy

- > Sphere India in collaboration with NDMA and member agencies had initiated the process of consultation, collation of information and bringing different stakeholders together for developing a collaborative road map of action for Malnutrition Risk Reduction and Nutrition in Emergencies in India.
- > Study conducted on Cash for Work and Accountability Tool in Odisha from 27th May – 24nd June 2014, for further advocacy with government.
- > National Report and advocacy paper on “Malnutrition Risk Reduction and Nutrition in Emergencies in India” was released on 30th –31st July 2014 at South Asia Conference on Policies and Practices to Improve Nutrition Security under the leadership of Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad, Honorable member NDMA.



 Regional Consultation on South Asian Collaboration for Disaster Management on 16th April 2014



 National Consultations on Nutrition in Emergencies, New Delhi



 11th Sphere India Day ~ February 21, 2014

## Training and Capacity Building

- > 2 Regional and 2 State-level ToTs (Training of Trainers) on MISP (Minimum Initial Service Package) for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Disasters were organised for NGOs and Government Officials in Bihar, Kolkata, Chennai and Odisha with the objective of creating a cadre of Regional (South and East India Region) and State level (Bihar and Odisha State) Master Trainers on MISP and develop capacities in SRH interventions.
- Ø A MISP State ToT was organised in Odisha with support from State Institute of Health and Family Welfare.
- Ø Technical support in MISP State ToT in Uttarakhand, with support from UNDMT and UNFPA.
- Ø A Meeting of master trainers in Odisha was organised for detailed planning of district-level trainings, MISP roll out in 12 districts in Odisha and integration of MISP in district health and disaster management plans in 3 districts of Odisha.
- Ø After two successive MISP State ToTs in district Odisha, 12 MISP roll out trainings were conducted in 12 districts of Odisha from 15th July to 8th August, 2014. A total of 238 participants attended the trainings from 12 districts. The objective was to develop additional master trainers at state level in the state of Odisha.
- Ø Training on Community based Psychosocial Care and Support for Community level Workers, at Uttarkashi, supported by CBM-EHA.
- Ø Meeting of master trainers in Odisha to review the existing disaster and health plan and formulate a roadmap for the 12 district level MISP trainings.
- Ø Training on Essentials on Humanitarian Response and Disaster Risk Reduction, supported by Compassion India from 13th to 16th January 2014.
- Ø Training on Community based Psychosocial Care and Support for Community level Workers, at Uttarkashi, supported by CBM-EHA.



 District roll-out of MISP in Odisha

## Mapping Disaster, One Intervention at a Time

Written by Kristen Zipperer, TDH consultant

Disaster management and development work often require real-time data as situations on the ground continue to evolve. Over the years, advances in satellite imaging have provided increasingly advanced cartographic data through programs like Google Earth that allows users all over the world to view detailed maps of nearly every corner of the earth. For development practitioners, these advances in mapping, when coupled with raw data and images from the ground, have created compelling, interactive ways to display and convey data about their current projects.

Dheenabandhu, from Terre des hommes- Odisha-based office, has learned to make use of technology in his work. Even in his early days, Dheena was filming and editing videos about the organization's projects, which he would later share with the TDH headquarters, in attempt to promote and share the activities that were happening in India. With help from Tapan Mahapatra at ECHO, Dheena has been one of the first development workers in the project to make such active use of current mapping technology, which is funded by ECHO, and implemented under the cyclone Phailin recovery project by TDH and Gram Utthan. In doing so, he has begun to reimagine how both practitioners and their larger audience can conceptualize information that comes from the local level.

Along with others from his team, Dheena has been recording the entire trajectory of TDH projects with a special GPS digital camera, which stores the longitudinal and latitudinal information associated with each image. He takes these photographs, and uploads them to a database that stores a number of other project details and parameters, including everything from the number of people the project is expected to reach, to the chemical composition of water at a hand pump restoration site. This database information is then linked with Google Earth imaging to produce a visual map of ongoing work. A look at the Google Earth map for the region shows the location of each project, the different types of projects (whether it is house or water pump construction), and all the corresponding project details. The images linked with each map pin can furthermore show the evolution of a specific project, as well as the images of individuals who benefit from it. The system can also determine information like how far away a project is from the sea, data that is potentially vital in a cyclone-prone area.

"It's a very critical job," Dheena said as he scanned over the map of the TDH project region. Although at times it can be a lot of effort for him to keep the database up to date, he knows that this system can convey information in dynamic ways that much of the development community has yet to fully utilize. For instance, a well-maintained system can help to make projects feel more real and tangible to donors and others interested in development and relief work, who might otherwise find it difficult to imagine what an organization's projects look like on the ground. This mapping tool can help increase transparency and accountability in action. In addition, the technology can help practitioners to design and plan their projects, as they are able to see where resources are most concentrated, and where resources are lacking. As the technology develops and is used over the span of years, it also has the potential to act as a record that shows how a project and place has changed over time. Perhaps one of the most valuable features of this mapping is that it can be packaged as a link and sent to anyone, anywhere. This means that in a disaster unfolding in Orissa can have pictures uploaded to the database in real time, and sent around the world. Relief workers have the ability to better know which areas have been most affected, and how to formulate their response. The possibilities of such technology are open-ended, and, for those who are willing to innovate, are endlessly exciting.



An image from the Google Earth database, depicting the different areas in which TDH is conducting water and sanitation projects.



Villagers participate in reconstruction efforts. This photo was taken with a GPS camera, which records the longitudinal and latitudinal location of each image.

## Fishing Happiness in Flood Water

Balesore which is situated near the sea soars of Bay of Bengal, Due to that, one can easily notice the coherence of dual cultures of Odisha and West Benge. Many times it has a powerful impact on the native citizens. Not only the exchange of cultural practices but also the living approach has profound phenomena at this part of the state. But sometimes it has its auxiliary side of consequences which is clearly visible at Kadmbini s family.

Kadambini Jena age about 40 years lives with her daughter Renuka at Kusuda Village.


Kadamini got married outside the state and after few days her husband drove her out while she was carrying Renuka. With absolutely miserable conditions Kadambini returned home and was ill for a long period of time.

After Renuka came to this world ,Kadambini decided to give all the comfort and facilities that she could not able to get during her child hood, But she did not have any other options except working at others field as well as helping them in their domestic works.

She was staying in a tiny house given by her mother. Renuka who is a student of class 8 at the nearby school tries her best to help her mother in house work as Kadambini has high blood pressure and sometimes she falls faint.

During the cyclone Phylin and heavy flood, rain water washed away everything along with the clothes and food stuffs as well as the study materials of Renuka. Kadambini was alone to achieve those and she saw everything being wasted in front of her eyes. She could not do much more as there is no other way except protecting her Child Renuka from fear and hunger.



 Kadambini Jena with her daughter Renuka

*Thanks to PECUC  
they were really humane  
and like my true brothers.  
They helped this poor lady  
to recover from this deep  
sorrow.  
Now I can have food within  
my four walls in peace.*

**Renuka**

She did not have any savings and land less too. In those circumstances she was in an immediate need of financial assistance. In due course Kadambini was chosen as a beneficiary of the Unconditional cash transfer program and assisted with Rs.7500/- with the help of Save the Children and ECHO.

Amazing happiness was there at the faces of both Renuka and her mother; they were in a need and got it in real dignity. After receiving the money she started repairing her house and in a very short period of time with the helping hands of her brother she was able to do so. A little amount was paid for her medicinal expenses and in buying study materials for Renuka.

Renuka was extremely glad after getting new books, having a long vision to go to school once again. It was clearly visible that somehow they have recovered from that depressed situation through the humanitarian help.



## Upcoming Events/Meetings of Sphere India

1. Sphere India Annual General Body Meeting – 7th November, 2014
2. Sphere India Elections- 7th November, 2014
3. Humanitarian Network for Quality and Accountability – 11th November, 2014 at New Delhi
4. Humanitarian Networking Workshop- 12th -13th November, 2014 at New Delhi

## Upcoming Training Programmes:

Sl. No	Name of Training Course	Dates	Venue
1	<a href="#">Emergency Needs Assessment</a>	10–14 November, 2014	Kathmandu, Nepal
2	<a href="#">Community-based Disaster Risk Management</a>	17-21 November, 2014	Kathmandu, Nepal
3	<a href="#">Training of Trainers</a>	24–27 November, 2014	Pune, India
4	<a href="#">Monitoring and Evaluating Humanitarian Responses</a>	1-4 December, 2014	New Delhi, India
5	<a href="#">Children in Emergencies</a>	8-12 December, 2014	Kathmandu, Nepal



Building No. 3, Flat No. 401, Sona Apartment,  
Kaushilya Park, Hauz Khas, New Delhi - 110016 - INDIA



+91 11 46070374-75



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