Sphere India Newsletter

Greetings from Sphere India

It was our immerse pleasure to release the 8th Edition of Sphere India Monthly Newsletter. This issue covers the information from mid of December, 2014 to 15th January, 2015 which includes the key note message from EFICOR, news from member organizations, government and IAGs on their key activities, recent event of Humanitarian Network for Quality and Accountability in India, Sphere India programme news, case studies-innovations and miscellaneous section.

Key Note Message

THE EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF INDIA COMMISSION ON RELIEF

Dear members of Sphere India,

I am delighted to see Sphere's newsletters every month. Sphere India has been playing a significant role in bringing humanitarian actors/ Civil Society groups and government together in crisis management. It is praiseworthy to recognize the efforts of humanitarian groups and other partners who have been in the forefront of efforts to save lives during the emergencies. Jammu and Kashmir's emergency response was a classic example of humanitarian coordination and collective response. EFICOR has been associated with Sphere India as a member organization and as an executive member. We have learnt a lot over the past on partnerships and devised expertise in humanitarian sphere. All our efforts have enabled the communities to some extent to cope with emergency situations and live with hope and dignity. Our coordination and collation efforts should go beyond emergencies to build resilient communities. We need to work more closely and more effectively as emergencies are increasing with high intensity and frequency. In 2014, we had seen at least 4 major disasters in our country leaving millions affected.

We need to learn from lessons in the past and take stock and review those learnings. We cannot under- estimate the negative impacts of climate change that are already affecting developing nations like India, resulting in numerous extreme weather events. As members of Sphere India we must not only do good work but also aim at greater works to reduce the risk of communities in the light of climate change and its consequences. More is expected from us in a paradoxical way as the hopes of communities in finding appropriate solutions fade away. As the technology has been improved by introducing lot of coping mechanisms in the field of early warning, prevention and resilience, let us explore and implement in robust manner to save the community and planet. As members of the Sphere India, we have to respond to slow onset of emergencies/disasters; 'nutrition as emergency response' is one of such issues that we need to consistently address.

EFICOR would be interested to look at these slow onset of emergences and make considerable efforts to reduce the risk through effective participation and partnerships. Sphere India will also need to find active participation from the government side as we need to find political solutions to these issues. Let us work together for greater sense of active role to establish just society.

M. Ramesh Babu
Director, Programs
EFICOR

OXFAM India

Toilets constructed by Oxfam in Lalhar village in
Pulwama district in Kashmir

Jammu and Kashmir Floods:

IIn Jammu and Kashmir OXFAM has assisted around 75,000 flood affected people across four districts including humanitarian interventions in Srinagar. In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, our priority was to prevent the spread of disease, by providing clean water, sanitation utilities and hygiene essentials. Our urban emergency response actions included restoring water supply systems in hospitals as an emergency measure so that they were able to function immediately.

Due to extreme weather conditions in Kashmir, Oxfam has scaled down some of activities in the affected areas. The most essential assistance such as water, emergency shelter, winterisation support and cash transfer have been completed. The plan is to scale up response interventions post February with focus on livelihood restoration activities.

So far, 502 flood affected families have received cash transfer and supplementary food assistance was provided to 1401 most vulnerable households. Considering the harsh winter, with temperatures dipping below – 5 degrees C Oxfam has provided 30,000 people for winter protection NFI including heavy blankets and bedding, and thermal support in Anantanag district. Additionally, winter clothing, Pheran, is provided to 24,000 people. Transitional shelter was provided to 100 households whose houses have been washed away. Oxfam has also provided 1650 smokeless stoves as thermal support. Oxfam has supported 1214 children with educational materials. Oxfam also assisted 20 schools with winterization –NFI and minor repairing and painting work in the targeted schools.

Assam Conflict:

In response to the December 2014 BTAD violence, Oxfam is providing humanitarian assistance to 10,800 most-affected people from the violence in Kokrajhar district, Assam. Since December, 1500 families have benefitted from public health promotion support and 954 hygiene NFI kits have been distributed. Alongside with these activities, Oxfam is ensuring access to safe water with the identification, cleaning, disinfection, and rehabilitation of water points, installation of sanitation utilities including temporary latrines and bathing spaces for women and adolescent girls. 954 households have been provided with emergency shelter materials including tarpaulins, PVC foam sheets, treated mosquito nets and water storage containers. 814 households have been provided with solar lamps.

As of 19 Jan, reports state that 20 IDP camps exist with over 42,000 people who are yet to return back to their original villages. A large number of IDPs cannot return because their villages have been burnt, and given the insecurity in the area they fear that they will face violence again.

Unconditional cash transfer underway in a village in
Kulgam district in South Kashmir

Tearfund takes a comprehensive and integrated approach to disasters and disaster vulnerability, undertaking Disaster Risk Reduction, Disaster Response and Advocacy work through the activities of Tearfund partners and direct operational programmes. In India, Tearfund responds to disasters through its partners.

In later part of 2014 Tearfund responded to two major disasters in Uttar Pradesh Floods and Jammu & Kashmir floods through its partners the Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief (EFICOR) and Emmanuel Hospital Association (EHA).

UTTAR PRADESH FLOODS, AUGUST 2014:

The UP floods disaster, triggered by heavy rainfall and flooded rivers affected 14 districts in UP, killing about 89 and posing threat to 1500 villages with a population of about 8.6 lakh people.

Hundreds of families fled their homes and huddled in safer places. Eighty-year-old Bhagawat and his wife Lavangi, residents of Noukapurwa village, Bahraich district had hurriedly carried their food grains to the rooftop to keep it safe before they fled from their home. They had enough rice and wheat to last them for about two years. However, all were destroyed in the flood. Once their lives were secured, the immediate need rose for food, water and shelter.

Tearfund through its partners provided families with food supply to sustain them during their vulnerable moments. About 900 households from 8 villages of Balrampur district received ready to eat food packets. About 2500 households from Balrampur and Bahraich districts received dry ration packages, tarpaulin sheets, jerry cans and water purifying tablets. About 1500 needy families were provided with blankets. Families with children and persons with disability were given priority. As help arrived their distraught spirits were lifted with hope.

In the following weeks, open health clinics were held in six villages treating about 571 patients helping them to heal from various water borne diseases.

JAMMU & KASHMIR FLOODS, SEPTEMBER 2014:

In Jammu and Kashmir, Tearfund carried out two-month long relief operation through its partners. The relief team effectively reached out and provided food and non-food materials to about 22,394 families from 48 villages in 10 districts. The courageous work accomplished by the relief team has helped alleviate the sufferings and reduce the impact of disaster in lives of hundreds of families. It has ensured that the families like Hasina's do not have to go hungry.

Hasina Begum lives in Tachloo village of Anantnag district with her husband Gujar Mohamed and three young children. On 5th September 2014 was flooded and remained under water for at least five days. "We never had to stand in line for food but this disaster has taken away everything from us", she said. Hasina was happy to receive dry good packets for her family. "My children will not go hungry. Thank you so much for your help!" she expressed her gratitude.

In Anantnag district Tearfund partners held open health camps in 10 most affected villages and treated 3,902 patients over a month. The healthcare team reduced the misery of people suffering common morbidities and provided routine immunisation and vaccination for children and pregnant women and gave them strength needed to face this calamity.

Transitional Shelters for Flood affected families Jammu & Kashmir Flood Response 2014 – 15

Following the devastating floods in Jammu &Kashmir in September 2014, immediate relief assistance was provided to affected communities by SEEDS and many other humanitarian agencies.

However, post the emergency phase, the pressing need that arose from most of the flood affected communities in J&K was that of provision of interim shelters to withstand the harsh winters that lay ahead.

SEEDS with support from United Way of India and TATA, soon set on the task of providing transitional shelters for 192 flood affected families across 14 villages of Pulwama district.

An "all of village" approach was adopted for carrying out the intervention. According to this approach, the aim was that the intervention should benefit all families in single village. Thereby, the most destitute and families in dire need were to be provided with a fully complete interim shelter unit of 264 sq. ft. (considering SPHERE standards for average family size of 7). Rest of the affected families shall be provided with material support. Families whose house are not affected, but would have been impacted from the floods anyway, were welcome to seek any technical guidance from the SEEDS team based in the village.

Based on this, with support from United Way of India, SEEDS constructed complete shelter for 191 families and provided shelter material support to one family across 14 villages of Pulwama district of Jammu & Kashmir.
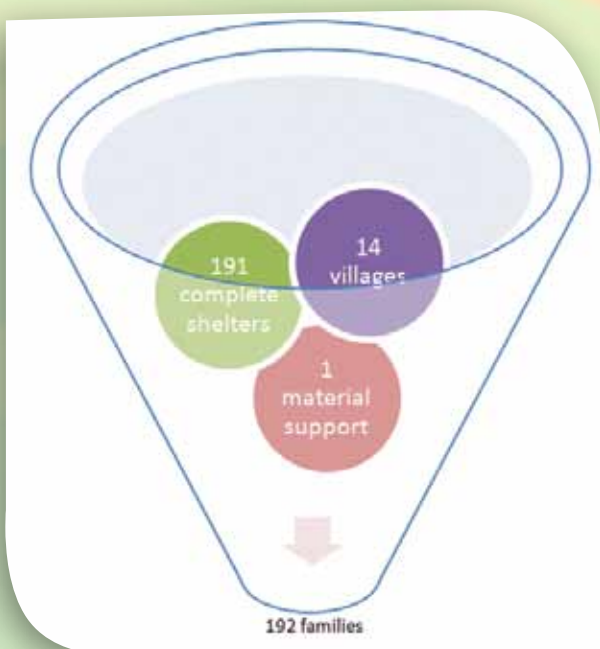

The process:

The intervention began with house to house survey across various villages of Pulwama for identifying families and determining the category of intervention required based on the impact of floods and the choice of the family on the kind of support they require.

The list developed by SEEDS during relief distribution, was taken as basis of initiating the survey. Further support was taken from the district authorities, panchayat members and local leaders to reach out to the most affected and deserving families.

SEEDS is provided assistance to 192 families across fourteen villages namely, Mohanviji, Dougham, Marvel, Sathergund, Kakapora, Khadarmuh, Kisrigam Gundibagh, Bighumbagh, Naman, Larow, Gulbugh, Banderpora and Kadlabal.

The shelter design developed was such that it ensured quick construction, use of local and low cost material, acceptable, adaptable and replicable by the community and protection from the harsh winters. Factors like snow level and seismic safety were also considered.

Inter-Agency Group Tamil Nadu

INTER-AGENCY GROUP – TAMIL NADU

The IAG-TN was monitoring the rainfall pattern to look at the action ahead in the event of any change in pattern. This becomes important as there was a less of rainfall in Northeast Monsoon in 2013 and the same continued in the Southwest Monsoon 2014. This posed a major threat of drought in the event of failure of the Northeast Monsoon in 2014. Information on this was shared with the member agencies post Southwest Monsoon and they were alerted. Further the Northeast Monsoon 2014 was monitored periodically. Interestingly the Northeast Monsoon rainfall was normal excepting 2 or 3 districts and the possibility of drought is very minimal, barring the very few districts which have had low rainfall. These analyses were done and shared with the member agencies.

The Executive Committee meeting of the IAG TN was held on 21st January 2015 at the National Office of World Vision India, Chennai. In the Executive Committee me eting the trends of disasters in the recent past viz., Kashmir Floods and Andhra Pradesh Cyclone HudHud was analyzed, where there was a stress on reviewing the preparedness and assessment mechanism, understanding the nature of impacts of cyclones and floods in the post Climate Change Scenario. Further, plans for the coming months viz., 'Workshop on Proposal Writing on Mainstreaming DRR in Development, Conference on Impact of Tsunami intervention after 10 years and developing a 3-year plan for IAG-TN was also discussed.

Inter Agency Group - Assam
unified action for dignity in humanitarianism

INTER-AGENCY GROUP – ASSAM

The Inter Agency Group Assam carried out Joint Needs Assessment on the recent Assam Conflict which broke out on 23rd December 2014 leading to the death of 81 people. In an effort to come out with a common needs assessment report, IAG-Assam in collaboration and support from Sphere India held orientation for the IAG-Assam Assessment Team on 8th January 2015 and carried out three days of Joint Needs Assessment on 9th, 10th and 11th January 2015. Orientation on the use of the assessment tools were given by Mr. Munish Kaushik from Cordaid and by Mr. Manoj Dash and Ms. Shivani Rana from Sphere India. The Joint Needs Assessment Report was released on 17th January 2015. The Joint Needs Assessment Report highlighted the gaps with regard to provision of shelter for the victims and the need for trauma counseling for the violence affected victims.

IAG-Assam has also initiated a small Study on River-basin Erosion Induced Displacement in Assam with support from Oxfam, Action Aid Association and some local organizations. In the next two months IAG-Assam would hold two capacity building programmes for the member organizations with support from Oxfam India.

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Public Administration has always implied Government when 'public' actually means community or people. In the post-colonial, post-independence paradigm of the early 1950s, Public Administration really meant providing service to the people by the State apparatus using the ground rules of justice, ethics and fair-play. This was the intention of the visionary Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru when he established the Indian Institute of Public Administration on March 29, 1954 based on the recommendations of a survey carried out in 1953 by Dean Paul H. Appleby, a Consultant with the Ford Foundation invited to advise on the subject, by the Government of India. As the Institute's first President for a decade, Prime Minister Nehru placed great emphasis on 'de-colonialising' the mind-set of administration, making it more people-oriented. And he placed a great responsibility on the IIPA to enhance the frontiers of knowledge in public policy and governance through applied research and education as well as training of administrators to serve the people of India. Enhancing leadership and managerial qualities on the one hand and developing a service-orientation on the other are the thrust areas of the Institute's education and training activities. Its faculty is involved with research work mainly to simplify procedures and suggest policy changes to ensure improved delivery of public services. As India globalizes under growing media glare, her administration and governance have to change with the times and respond to the high expectations of a society where the demographic pre-ponderance of youth, the increasing struggles of urban and rural India, the development-sustainabilty conflict and the continuing problems of poverty related malnutrition together throw up challenges that require great resilience in administration and delivery. IIPA takes the reality of Governance in transition into consideration in all its skill-development, research and knowledge management activities.

THE INSTITUTE'S OBJECTIVES ARE:

- To promote and provide for the study of Public Administration and economic and political science with special reference to public administration and the machinery of government and educational purposes incidental thereto.

- To undertake, organise and facilitate study courses, conferences and lectures and research in matters relating to public administration and the machinery of government.

- To undertake and provide for the publication of journals and of research papers and books to impart training in and promote the study of public administration.

- To establish and maintain libraries and information services to facilitate the study of public administration and spreading information in regard thereto.

- To constitute or cause to be constituted Regional Branches at convenient centers in India to promote the objects of the society.

- To cooperate with approved institutions and bodies for the purposes of helping the cause of public administration

ACTIVITIES:

The activities of the Institute are organized in four inter-related areas of Research, Training, Advisory Services and Dissemination of Information.

While the Institute undertakes research studies on current issues of public concern on its own initiative, it also conducts research in response to specific organizational need to find solutions in difficult decision-making areas. These are normally sponsored projects of Government and national / international organizations. IIPA offers advisory services in operational areas and provides the necessary hand-holding in implementation of schemes, programmes and project in both Government and private sectors. It conducts a large number of long and short-duration training programmes. Besides the Indian Journal of Public Administration, Nagarlok and LokPrashashan journals, the Institute also periodically publishes a bibliographic journal Documentation in Public Administration and a monthly Newsletter.

IIPA AND ACTIVITIES RELATED TO DISASTER MANAGEMENT:

The institute established India's first Centre for capacity building in Disaster management in 1995 'National Centre for Disaster management' which is now upgraded by Government of India as National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM). The institute still run few training programmes in collaboration with NIDM/sponsored by some Ministry or Department. In Advanced Professional Programme of Public Administration (APPPA), there is an optional stream on Disaster Risk Reduction, which is opted by 22 participants this year.

The institute is also evaluating few projects of National Disaster management Authority. At present institute is evaluating their 5 projects.

The institute has signed anMoU with National Academy of Politics, Vietnam recently for capacity building of their officers

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION:

- In view of conflict situation in Assam, a teleconference of Inter Agency Coordination Committee was held on 26th December, 2014. While taking stock of situation the committee has decided to activate the URS for Assam conflict. The telecom was attended by representatives from IAG Assam also.

- IAG Assam called an emergency meeting of core group on 27th December and 30th Dec at Guwahati and need was felt for JNA to assess the overall situation.

- IAC Committee met over the teleconference on 29th Dec and 30th Dec to plan next course of action.

- Situation report and URS matrix for mapping of agencies and resources was circulated and updated along with list of villages affected/ burned/ camps.

- Preparatory Meeting and orientation on tools was organized on 7th and 8th Jan, 2015 at Guwahati by IAG Assam with technical support from Sphere India. Team constituted from various member organizations has completed the field assessment from 9th to 11th January.

- Secondary Data Analysis Report was prepared based on the information available through media, field team etc.

- The JNA report was prepared and finalized with technical support from team formed at state level by IAG Assam and sectorial committees of Sphere India. link to JNA report https://sphereindiablog.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/jna-report-assam-conflict-final.pdf

- A digital platform on Facebook (Sphere India Volunteers) was created to maintain a roaster of volunteers. Link to page https://www.facebook.com/groups/875313545853764/

- Pictures

   1. Adivasi camp in Kokrajhar

   2. Orientation on tools organized at Guwahati by IAG Assam with technical support from Sphere India

J&K FLOOD RESPONSE:

The First Multistakeholder Consultation, was organised at **District Headquarter, Baramulla** on **8th January** after receiving request from the District Administration on providing technical support on developing the District Disaster Management Plan for district Baramulla. The main agenda for the workshop was to review the existing District Disaster Management Plan and to discuss the process for updation/preparation of improved DDMP. Sphere India also shared a presentation on usage of Google Earth software for mapping the disaster affected zones, relief and rehabilitation activities which was well appreciated. The District Development Commissioner, Baramulla felt that there is a strong need of a District specific Disaster management Plan in an multi-hazard prone district like Baramulla and conduct the vulnerability profile of the entire district to different kind of hazards. The meeting was attended by 10 Line departments and few NGOs. A District Advisory Committee was formed to take review the DDMP Processes being adopted on a regular basis.

Following the Consultation, the **DDMP Processes** were initiated in the district. A DDMP Consultant has been placed in the district. Inter-district meetings with Line Departments have been initiated and Hazard Vulnerability Capacity Analysis is also been carried out in 6 villages of Baramulla. These activities will feed into the DDMP Report of Baramulla.

A **Baseline Report for collaborative advocacy** has been initiated with an initial pilot from three most affected districts. This report gives a brief oversight on the status of access to social protection schemes and other entitlements. The advocacy tool along with the baseline report will be shared with the advocacy subcommittee for their inputs . An extensive Baseline Study will be carried out involving the local partner agencies in the target areas of their respective agencies in accordance with the processes adopted in the pilot study.

Further to the requests received by the District Development Commisioners, from **three district locations, five day** Training of Master Masons was organised in District Bandipore, Baramulla and Kulgam from 5th to 19th January in partnership with **CARE India on building disaster resilient shelters**. While Sphere India garnered logistic support from the district administration for effective implementation of this activity, Care India provided technical support for these trainings.

Outcomes of the Training:

- Creating a cadre of **60 masons** skilled in building disaster resilient shelters.

- Orientation to Masons on adhering to UNDP Guidelines(specific to J&K) on building earthquake resistant houses.

- Government to appoint these trained and skilled masons in the re-building of flood affected houses. Linkages can be established with NGOs working on shelter.

- The trained masons to impart similar training to other masons in their respective blocks and tehsils. District Commisioners to provide financial support.

- The recommendations pertaining to hazards, vulnerabilities and shelter interventions, put forth by the trainers in the training report, can feed into the respective DDMPs.

A Shelter beneficiary tool was shared with the Shelter Agencies to collect detailed information on the Shelter support provided at the district level along with geo tagged pictures for updating the Google Earth Mapping.

Collection of information on the Revised Government Entitlements under SDRF/NDRF norms for the disaster affected population. Urdu Translation of IEC Material was shared with the Collaborative Advocacy vertical. The printed material will be disseminated in the most affected districts of J&K.

Developing a Common Lesson Learning Tool/Questionarre post J&K Floods. The Tool has been shared with the Knowledge Management Committee for their insights and inputs.

Knowledge Management:

A. Development of DDMP for JK districts and Sikkim SDMP
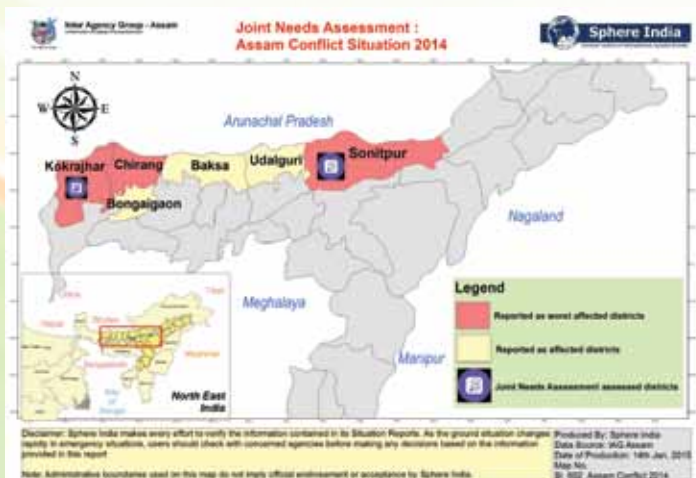
- A district consultation was held at Baramulla district in JK on DDMP and HVCA field visits was carried out at this district and Bandipore district for the purpose of consultations with various line departments

- A draft note on process timelines and man days requirement is prepared for development of DDMP in five districts of J&K, highlighting the number of days required to carry out certain key activities under various phases of DDMP development.

- A national level meeting is held having participants from Sphere India with IIPA and SDMA, Sikkim was held for finalizing the date of final state level consultation for development of model Sikkim SDDMP and for chalking out areas of support required from Sphere India in terms of organizing simulation exercise/ plan test for integration in DDMP development.

B. Development of Annual Action Plan for KM programme Committee

- A draft action plan for financial year 2015-16 was prepared, highlighting the key activities in line with strategic approaches of KMP, along with tentative timeframes. The draft plan shall be shared with new members of KM programme committee for their feedbacks, and finalize it.

C.   Development of expression of solidarity, GIS Maps and Health Report for Assam Conflict

- An expression of solidarity was developed in context of Assam conflict.

- A standard GIS maps for analysis of JNA was produced for the recent conflict in Assam.

- The rapid assessment of the situation was carried out and for the health sector, a report was drafted and finalize highlighting the situation analysis, assess the current needs and provide recommendations for short term and longer terms to address those gaps.

D. Development and release of January Edition of Sphere India newsletter and JK response bulletin

- The contents from various partners, and within Sphere India programmatic areas was collated, revised and edited for January Edition and released on the 16th of January, 2015. The key note address was provided by Mr. David, Head of Region for South Asia, DCA.

- The J&K bulletin was compiled and released on 5th January 2015.

Collaborative Advocacy:

- Developed **Advocacy Message** for Assam Conflict and shared with the Advocacy Committee for inputs

- **Collaborative Advocacy Flyer for J&K Floods** is prepared by team and shared with the Advocacy Committee

- IEC Materials on **Government Entitlements under SDRF/NDRF and Food Safety flyer** for flood affected community of J&K are developed

- Liaison with BBC Media Action for partnership between Sphere India and Media. Strategies on engagement with media houses for coordinated humanitarian action were discussed during the workshop on Lifeline Programming organized by BBC Media Action on 12th- 13th Jan 2015. Media professionals and communication experts of humanitarian agencies suggested to create emailing group for sharing of information and form a **Action Group/Committee of Experts** for developing **standards/guidelines/strategic paper on working together of both Media and Humanitarian Agencies**

- Humanitarian networks for Quality and Accountability – Asia event of 11th Nov and Humanitarian Networking Workshop report of 12th -13th Nov 2014 is finalized and shared in public

- Sectoral Advocacy: Taking a step ahead after the release of **National Report on "Malnutrition Risk Reduction and Nutrition in Emergencies** in India. Meetings were done with few Food and Nutrition Committee members for the development of Standardized Training Package on Nutrition in Emergencies in Indian Context and piloting NiE in some selected districts to showcase evidence of change

- Concept note on **Corporate Engagement and Media Engagement** are prepared, but final document is in process

- Developed micro plan of each activity for next quarter under collaborative advocacy program

- Brief note on **"Right in Crises Collaborative Advocacy Process"** is developed and shared with the advocacy committee for support and cooperation for any disasters/crises in future

- Supported IAC team in writing JRNA report for Assam Conflicts

Training and Capacity Building programme:

Annual Closure of MISP AWP 2014 Project supported by **UNFPA and EFICOR**. All the reports including the Quarterly Progress Reports, Annual Progress Reports and Financial Reports were submitted to EFICOR and UNFPA. As a follow up of the **MISP Integration Workshop** in December 2014, a follow up meeting was initiated with t**he Department of Health, Govt. Of Odisha** to discuss the follow up activities of MISP including the following

- **Official Communication** from the CDMOs to share information on the development of 12 Model Plans.

- Annual Action Plan 2015.

- **Convergence Meeting** for initiation of Model Clinic.

- Monitoring **Formats/Checklists.**

- **Budget Allocations** as per the approved Budget for MISP Activities 2015 eg, procurement of equipments etc.

- **Kit Planning,** Assembling, Procurement processes

- Support for developing **IEC Material.**

MISP Module Revision:

Sphere India with support from UNFPA and EFICOR are planning to come out with smaller versions of the MISP Modules with the following processes to be initiated

1. Initiation of the development of **Core Team of MISP Champions** for MISP Module Development.

2. **Agenda finalization** as per the duration of each Module.

3. **Session-wise Content Finalisation** as per the duration of each Module.

Please find below the details of the Core Team of MISP Champions as per their willingness and availability to be a part of the MISP Module Development

tearfund

TEARFUND INDIA

A BLIND BOY CAUGHT IN FLOOD DISASTER:

Jay Chand, 18, a resident of Lal Nagar village, Utraula Balrampur district is visually impaired from birth. He lives with his parents and five siblings.

When his house, built with mud and hay got flooded with rainwater Jay felt terrified. He could no longer touch familiar surfaces to find his way. He had no other choice but to rely on his family.

"I wanted to help my family but there I was not even able to help myself. I felt so frustrated", said Jay Chand. Jay and his family fled their home and reached a safer place. They were able to save themselves but couldn't save their belongings.

The floodwater level rose quite high and stayed for a week inside their house. It destroyed everything that they had in the house. The crops and agriculture land which is their main source of income too was affected. Jay's family was devastated.

Tearfund partner met Jay and his family and provided them with the urgent need of dry food ration, tarpaulin sheet and blankets. Jay and his family were relieved to receive food ration. It gave them strength to face their present circumstances and hopes to build their lives once again.

"You have provided my family what I would have liked to but cannot provide. Thank you so much". Jay was very grateful for the aid his family received.

JAY CHAND IN BLUE COLOUR SHIRT

It is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza viruses that regularly cause outbreaks of influenza in pigs. Influenza viruses that commonly circulate in swine are called "swine influenza viruses" or "swine flu viruses." Like human influenza viruses, there are different subtypes and strains of swine influenza viruses. The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses that infect the nose, throat, and lungs. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death.

How flu spreads:

- Flu viruses spread mainly by droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby.

- Less often, a person might also get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, eyes or possibly their nose.

Means of Prevention – 4 As, 2 Cs:

1. Avoid close contact.

Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.

2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth

3. Avoid going out when you are sick.

4. Adopt good healthy habits.

Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

5. Cover your mouth and nose.

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.

6. Clean your hands.

Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.

Most vulnerable Individuals:

- High risk, low-immunity cases including pregnant women,

- Children below five years,

- Elderly people above 65 years, and

- Those suffering from chronic ailments such as diabetes, hypertension, kidney disorder, chest ailments such as TB and asthma and those using steroids

Developed by Sphere India, Health & Knowledge Management Team

Miscellaneous:

Upcoming Events:

Date:	Programme:	Event:
1. 03.02.15	KM	DDMP consultation at Poonch
2. 04.02.15	KM	State Level Workshop to Finalize Model State Disaster Management Plan, Sikkim
3. 04.02.15	IAC	IAG GB Sikkim Meeting
4. 19.02.15	IAC	Program and Steering Committee Meeting
5. 20.02.15	CA	Corporate, Media & Academic consultation
6. 21.02.15	IAC	Sphere India Day Event

Modalities for selection of Sphere India newsletter contents:

Key Note Message	SI member organization	Every month a member organization is approached for providing the key note message (Who's who) in alphabetical order (SI members' database)
Updates from SI member organization	SI Member Organizations	Every month the first 7-10 members are approached (database of Sphere India members-arranged alphabetically) for sharing their contents/highlights of preceding month with photographs. On first come first served basis, the first 3 contributions are considered for publications and left over got considered for next publications. Word limit of max 250-300 words/1 pager note max will be accepted from each member-total 2 pages
Updates from IAG's	State/District IAG's	Every month IAGs at state/district levels are approached for submitting their write-up on programmatic updates/key highlights in 300 words (1 page)- All IAGs may be approached. The first 3 contributions are considered for publication.
Inputs from Government	Government Office (NDMA, NIDM, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industries)	Every month, all concerned government agencies may be approached for sharing their write up. At least a write up from one of the government agencies in 250-300 words with photo graphs/caption is considered for publication.
SI Programme Update	Sphere India	All the programme managers are approached to submit their previous month activities, process & achievements in one pager- max 300 words (half a page for each programme with 1-2 photographs along with caption)
Case studies and voices from the community	SI Member Organization	Member organizations are approached for sharing their case studies and voices from the community from their respective intervention area (1 page each- total 2) along with photographs/captions

Sphere India
National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India

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