

SPHERE INDIA NEWSLETTER



Sphere India

National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India

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NEW YEAR GREETINGS FROM SPHERE INDIA

At the outset, I wish all the readers a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year. It's my pleasure to release the 7th issue of the Sphere India Monthly Newsletter. This Newsletter aims at disseminating information on initiatives, programs, and concerned events of stakeholders representing humanitarian community in India. We hope to issue this Newsletter every month and would like to invite your feedback and suggestions to improve the Newsletter on any aspects. Your regular feedbacks and invaluable contributions on various sections of upcoming editions would immensely help in expanding the outreach and scope of this Newsletter.

We hope this initiative will enable us in synergizing and consolidating initiatives to promote quality and accountability in humanitarian action in India and in the process to build disaster resilient India.

-VIKRANT MAHAJAN,
CEO, SPHERE INDIA

SPHERE INDIA TEAM WISH YOU A HAPPY, PROSPEROUS AND PEACEFUL NEW YEAR, 2015!

KEY NOTE MESSAGE



Dear friends and colleagues,

It is a real delight to welcome and wish all our readers a Very Happy New Year 2015! The work of Sphere India as a coalition body has been able to effectively respond well to humanitarian crisis in the past 10 years through coordination and collaborative efforts of member agencies. Member like DCA collaborates with Sphere India on national/regional humanitarian coordination, advocacy, capacity building, knowledge management (research) including its quality& accountability initiatives. We are especially happy that Sphere India is a network which has been able to respond immediately after an emergency occurs - coordinating, organising and leading Rapid Joint Need Assessments and producing reports to be shared among the humanitarian community in India. We are also happy to work with Sphere India in a few regional level initiatives especially in the area of capacity building and Quality and Accountability Initiatives.

We look forward that Sphere India and the members can bring up the concept of Digital Humanitarian Network using artificial intelligence tools, which aims to leverage digital networks in support of Humanitarian response. DCA, as an organization will make collaborative efforts to build the Sphere network at South Asian level stronger with all the Humanitarian actors and relevant stakeholders. We are happy and committed to support Sphere India initiatives in advocating on behalf of the most vulnerable disaster affected people in the region and in India in particular.

DCA works with local civil society organizations for implementation of its humanitarian response and development programmes in South Asia (India, Nepal and Bangladesh and Pakistan).

DCA is committed to ensuring quality and accountability throughout its projects and programmes. DCA collaborates with SPHERE India on national/regional humanitarian coordination, advocacy, capacity building, knowledge management (research) including its quality& accountability initiatives.

-DAVID SMITH
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE
DANCHURCHAID, SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL OFFICE

NEWS FROM SPHERE INDIA MEMBER



THE EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP OF INDIA COMMISSION ON RELIEF

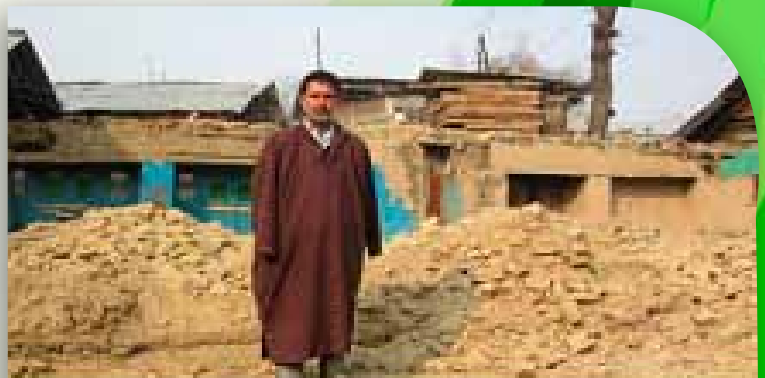
J&K FLOOD RELIEF- A MILESTONE TO EFICOR

Summary: EFICOR with its dedicated team has reached to 30000 households in Jammu & Kashmir that has been devastated by one of the worst floods in 106 years. EFICOR has its teams in 7 districts (Rajouri, Pulwama, Srinagar, Anantnag, Poonch, Sophiyan and Kulgam) to provide food and non-food materials to the affected and selected 38350 families. It has also extended its support so far to Poonch and Sophiyan districts as per the request of the local district administration and IAG allocations during the coordination meetings. Forty two of EFICOR's experienced staff and eighty local volunteers are involved in relief operations in various districts. Access to local communities has been major bottleneck in the relief operations. It has not been possible to reach all the affected places by one mode of transportation like trucks to cross water logged areas as one need to wade through waters to reach the affected areas. As some places situated near the Lake or on the bank of river Jhelum can only be reached by boats.

EFICOR's intervention: EFICOR has selected 9 most affected districts of Jammu and Kashmir and deputed its twenty-five senior staff from various projects to speed up the relief operations. So far 38350 families have been provided with food and non-food items in 9 districts covering 20 blocks in Rajouri, Shupiayan, Anandnag, Poonch, Pulwama, Kulgam Bandipore, Baramulla and Srinagar. The Relief materials were distributed to the different beneficiaries based on their prioritized needs.

Story of Gulam Khabir Mir from Melvora village:

Melvora is a fairly large village with different 'mohallas' (colonies). The river runs near the village and the village community refer to it as a 'stream'. The village has over 600 homes. The whole village was inundated by the flood waters and even 2 months after the flood the roads in the village are still covered in mud and stone.



This section is contributed by Sphere India Members and each Issue of Sphere India newsletter shall include stories from other Member on basis of first come first served.

Ghulam Kadir Mir is from this village. He owns land where he cultivates rice. He lives with 8 other family members, his grandparents, wife, 3 children and 2 brothers. He said that it often floods in the village but the flood this year has been the most severe. When the flood waters came his family fled to his sister's house on higher ground on a boat. They were not able to save anything. All his agricultural land has also been destroyed. He received food provisions and clothes (pherans) and blanket from EFICOR. The government has given a compensation of INR 75,000 for his house and they are also getting rice from the government for 6 months which has been promised to all flood affected in the state. They have so far received 50kgs of rice from the government.

Apart from the Government's support and EFICOR Ghulam says no other organization has come to support them. He said, "This flood is a punishment from God. I have never seen so much flooding. We all helped one another. The mosque was not able to help anyone as it was also damaged in the flood. The materials that EFICOR gave us were very good. You are the only people who helped us." At present he is living in a temporary shelter which is near the local school and he will live there till he is able to rebuild his house.

Reaching out to a Gujar family affected by the floods:

Zainab lives with her husband and their 5 children in Mati Bidhad village, which is located 25 kms from Anantnag town. Zainab belongs to the Gujar community, which is one of the poorest communities living in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. The family is completely dependent on agriculture for their livelihood, and cultivate maize in 3 canals (1 canal = 5445 square feet or 1/8 of an acre) of land. But the recent floods have washed away her home (which was situated on the banks of the river) and her agricultural field, leaving the family homeless and with no source of food and income. Zainab expresses her helplessness on losing her land and her house while not receiving any support from the government to cope with the numerous challenges posed by the floods for her and her family. But she adds to say that a few people have helped her in getting tents from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), but apart from that no one else has come to help them. The family now lives in tents under extreme weather conditions, which is bound to get worse with the approaching winter season.



ZAINAB BANU AND PART OF THE RELIEF ITEMS GIVEN BY EFICOR



ZAINAB AND TENT DWELLERS IN MATI BIDHAD

The blankets and food items provided to the family will sustain the family for a while. Zainab expresses her joy on receiving the material saying *"thank you so much for coming... for your help and for your support in this time of need. These materials will really help us a lot in the coming days but more than materials, thank you for coming and visiting us and spending time with us. That itself is a source of comfort for us..."*



ONE OF THE 9 HOUSES DESTROYED BY THE FLOOD IN MATI BIDHAD

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On 26 December, a 9.1 magnitude earthquake off the northern coast of Sumatra triggered a deadly tsunami that swept across the Indian Ocean, killing over 226,000 people and causing massive destruction in 14 countries. One of the affected countries was India, with the southeastern coast and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as hardest hit. Over 16,000 people perished in the tsunami and some 2.79 million people were affected.

During the relief phase, India's government stated that, while deeply appreciated the offers of assistance from foreign government and international agencies, it had capabilities and resources to deal with the aftermath of the disaster through its own national effort. As an auxiliary, the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) worked closely with the authorities. The IRCS State Branches responded by mobilizing financial and volunteer resources, providing cooked food and basic healthcare to the affected population. Around 10,000 volunteers were engaged in relief distribution, psychosocial support, and tracing and family links, reaching over 500,000 people.

Given the impact on the coastal areas, the fishing communities were hugely affected. Over 5,000 fishing vessels were damaged, along with other fishing equipment. Since the fishermen and people living in the fishing communities were relatively poor and came from low castes of the society, they became subject for interventions by the government and humanitarian organizations. With time it became apparent that one group remained neglected: The Fisherwomen.

The fisher woman plays a critical role in processing and marketing of fish but with limited facilities, knowledge and skills on hygienic post, harvesting method, and access to fish markets.

The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) together with Spanish Red Cross therefore introduced a livelihood project in the four coastal districts of Nellore, Prakasam, Srikakulam and East Godavari in Andhra Pradesh. Identifying the livelihood needs of the fisherwomen, the project, which runs up to March 2015, introduced locally viable and sustainable technologies, such as ice boxes, fish curing tubs, smoking bins, fish drying platforms and dry fish storage sheds, and auto rickshaws. Up to now 8,141 from 141 coastal villages have directly benefitted through the projects.

The successful impact of the project has been well documented; a paper is also pending with the WHO for publication.



"It's essential for the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement to publish the scientific impact of programmes conducted in peer review journals. Else this approach goes unnoticed by the scientific community," says Dr. S.P. Agarwal, Secretary General, IRCS. These documents can be downloaded from the website: <http://www.indianredcross.org/publications.htm>

Moreover, the tsunami significantly increased the involvement of Canadian Red Cross Society (CRC) in supporting the IRCS's initiative especially the post-tsunami development programs in two major tsunami-affected Indian States: Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Through the Integrated Program for Community Development (IPCD) in Tamil Nadu and the Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) program in Andhra Pradesh, IRCS/CRC have been working in 61 villages, aiming to reinforce the resilience of these communities. The two interventions covered a total of 29,500 households, focusing on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and, in Tamil Nadu, also on improved health and livelihoods, as well as violence prevention. The Tamil Nadu program also covers approximately 30,000 students from 79 schools with an integrated and age-specific curriculum of Health, DRR and Violence Prevention.



LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST CASE STORY – CYCLONE ‘PHAILIN’ RESPONSE PROGRAM, GANJAM, ODISHA (JANAKI FOUND NEW SHELTER)

Janaki Das – a Dalit woman lost her thatched house, her backyard poultry and other household materials during cyclone ‘Phailin’ that caused on 12th October 2013. It was unprecedented situation for Janaki to face and cope with disaster situation incurring heavy loss not only of her house but livelihood too. The three children and her husband never thought to leave on the road at the aftermath of cyclone in view of their damaged house.

Biripur village is situated very close to river Rusikula under Karapada Gram Panchayat, Ganjam Community Development Block in Ganjam District. The history revealed that, in view of the huge production of black gram in this village, farmers used to get buffer yield which they not only make consumption as part of food stuff but also sold in the market and earned good income. Hence, Biri in Odia language means Black Gram. In this perspective the forefathers have named the village as Biripur (the house of Black Gram).



The poor woman Janaki Das, wife of Sri Ramesh Das, is a daily labourer who depends on her livelihood on daily wage earning either in her own village or neighbouring village. More often she use to walk for miles together and make herself available in other villages to

work as daily laborer. She lives with her husband, three sons (eldest is in Class - II, second is about 5 years old and third is about of 3 years old) and her father-in-law who is bed ridden with 70 year old. The landless and illiterate Janaki faced the plight of cyclone when she lost all her belongings including her house. She was totally shocked and broken down to see her destroyed house caused by cyclone Phailin upon her return to the village at the aftermath of cyclone. During cyclone period Janaki and her family members took shelter in the village school as it was safe and permanent structure. Looking at the plight of the situation, Gram Panchayat authority provided the plastic sheet just to put up as temporary shelter. In such situation it was never possible for Janaki to rebuild her house with her little money which is available with her that she had earned from daily wage labour.



In this crisis situation, LWSIT came forward to support Janaki by providing necessary support to construct the house which is permanent in nature and would withstand to any natural hazards like floods, cyclone or earthquake. Entire family was engaged in house construction by providing their helping hands to the mason and other workers those engaged at work. With criteria being established by LWSIT, the selection of this right holder was done in democratic process during village development committee in Biripur village. Upon completion of the construction, Janaki – the key right holder and her family members could stay in their newly built house and they were overjoyed to own their house. With great appreciation she expressed her thanks to LWSIT. In her language, “this LWSIT has ensured our living under a permanent Umbrella and we all will take care of this, maintain this and worship in this house. We are very sure that, God will not take away our permanent Umbrella”.

JANAKI WITH HER KIDS AT NEW HOUSE

NEWS FROM INTER AGENCY GROUPS



BIHAR INTER AGENCY GROUP (BIAG)



Launch of Bihar Disaster Information Centre (BDIC)

BDIC is a customized software based information exchange system to record incident information received over phone from community and other sources. The BDIC team enter the information in the system as well as audio record the information. The BDIC thereupon disseminate the information to the concerned pre identified agencies and govt. departments through automated SMS, e-mails or by making call if required.

BDIC information system encourages openness, inclusiveness and sharing to strengthen relations, trust and coordination among all stake holders

The 10 Principles of BDIC functions:

1. Accessibility
2. Inclusiveness
3. Inter-operability
4. Accountability
5. Verifiability
6. Relevance
7. Objectivity
8. Humanity
9. Timeliness
10. Sustainability



Review of SOP for mass causality management and hospital safety”

“Preparation of SOP for Mass Casualty Management and Hospital safety” was organized by Dept of Disaster Management, Dept of Health, and Govt of Bihar and BIAG, technical support by NDMA in Collaboration with UNICEF, and Oxfam India,.

The participants of training included Govt doctors from different disciplines, medical officers connected in field of health, and BIAG members. It was organized to bring awareness about the overview of disaster management in India, hospital disaster management planning and other related issues.

Review & consultation of SOP on Hospital fire safety

The purpose of the meeting was finalization of the SOP on Fire safety through discussions and obtaining inputs from NDMA. The inputs were incorporated and the convener was asked to prepare the final draft on SOP on hospital fire safety. The meeting was concluded and the recommendations would be submitted to the Cabinet through Principal Secretary, Health Department.

Consultation on Draft SOP for Drought Management

A one day consultation program was held at AN, Sinha Institute, Gandhi Maidan, Patna. The participants of session included Govt officers from different departments, NGOs/INGOS representatives and media partners. The session was organized to discuss the Draft SOP on Drought Management.



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Review of Draft SOP for Earthquake Response in Bihar

A one day consultation program was held at the Disaster Management Department, Govt. of Bihar. The participants of session included Govt officers from different departments, NGOs/INGOS representatives and media partners. The session was organized to review the draft SOP by the Line Departments on Earthquake Response in Bihar.



INTER-AGENCY GROUP MADHYA PRADESH



NCA INITIAL WORKSHOP: NUTRITION EXPERT AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE DECIDING UPON HYPOTHESES.

IAG MP is mainly focusing on the food and nutrition security and its related work in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Recently IAG MP have done research on causes of malnutrition in Jhirniya block.

In the month of November we organized Initial Stakeholder workshop for Nutrition Causal Analysis (NCA). In that IAG members were invited to participate. Participants experts from the field of nutrition, WASH and human rights and nutrition program were present in this workshop to provide their inputs on draft report of NCA. The objective of workshop was to develop hypotheses related to malnutrition in Jhirniya block of Khargone District of Madhya Pradesh. In month from November to December, 2014 the whole NCA survey was conducted in 4 villages of Jhirniya block of Madhya Pradesh. It took around 25 days to conduct the survey in the field area.



NCA INITIAL WORKSHOP: NUTRITION EXPERT AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE DECIDING UPON HYPOTHESES.

In December, IAG organized a Final Stakeholder Workshop to present the report and validate the findings. One of the major findings was that there was no specific awareness program conducted regarding the definition of malnutrition. Though the rate of vaccination and institutional deliveries have improved from the past years, but still the maternal health is of grave concern. The WASH practices are poor in this study area. This workshop gave a new insight to the existing gap to be filled up to lower the malnutrition rate through addressing the root causes.

NEWS FROM GOVERNMENT



NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Appointment of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) Members

The Central Government has approved the appointment of Mr. Kamal Kishor, a disaster reduction expert at United Nations Development Programme, Lt. General N C Marwah (retired) and D.N. Sharma, Director of Safety and Environment Group at Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC), as members of NDMA.

(Source: Times of India: Dec 22, 2014, 01.10 AM IST)



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Participation in IITF in New Delhi

NIDM has been participating in India International Trade Fair (IITF) regularly for the last three years. During the year 2014, NIDM stall was placed at Hall No.12 along with NDMA and NDRF. NIDM stall at IITF had more than 30 awareness materials for distribution and number

of books and other publications for display. In addition to this, the stall also had a shake-table showing earthquake liquefaction during earthquake and various models to demonstrate how to construct safe buildings in earthquake prone areas. Models also show various retrofitting techniques for earthquake resistant building construction. The stall was inaugurated and visited by Dr. P. K. Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary, PMO on 14th November, 2014 in presence of Secretary (BM), DG, NDRF, Secretary, NDMA and Joint Secretary, NDMA



Publication of Leaflet on E-learning Self Study Programme on Disaster Management

NIDM offers e-learning self study programme on disaster management for general public as well as government officials and other stakeholders who have role and responsibility in managing disasters. The aim of e-learning self study programme on disaster management is to create interest and raise the level of knowledge, skill and awareness on disaster management. These self study programmes on disaster management could be accessed by anyone from anywhere globally as per users' convenience in flexi-time free of cost.





Organized roundtable meetings on Innovations in Technologies for Disaster Rescue Efforts

NIDM organized roundtable Meetings on Innovations in Technologies for Disaster Rescue Efforts amongst ASEM countries: Inauguration of the Virtual Knowledge Portal (VKP) and meeting of the 24x7 POCs of the EAS member countries at Vigyan Bhawan on 4th & 5th December 2014, New Delhi. EAS-ERR web portal is designed to disseminate, share and exchange knowledge, information and experiences related to disaster risk reduction with particular focus on earthquakes. To achieve this, EAS-ERR aims at facilitating multilateral coordination and communication, primarily among multilateral responders and the affected countries through the 24x7 PoC of each country and the provision of a common web platform for structural and multilingual information exchange between responders and coordinators.

HON'BLE MINISTER OF STATE, HOME, SHRI. HARIBHAI PARATHIBHAI CHAUDHARY AND OTHER DELEGATES DURING THE INAUGURAL SESSION

New Executive Director of NIDM, and Director, SAARC Disaster Management Center, New Delhi

Prof. Santosh Kumar, a Disaster Risk Reduction, Policy Planning and Capacity Development expert with 25 years of experience in different positions in the Development Planning and DRR Sector. A PhD. in Economics, he studied Gender & Development in IDS, Sussex UK and got professional training in Disaster risk Management. Backed with International exposure at World Bank and Government exposure in different capacities working at the national and state levels, he is an experienced hand in designing, Planning and implementing mitigation and long term disaster recovery plan and projects.

SPHERE INDIA PROGRAMME NEWS

INTER AGENCY COORDINATION

URS Closure for Cyclone HUUHUD:

Cyclone HUDHUD made landfall on the 12th of October 2014, between 12h00 and 13h00 near Vishakhapatnam with sustained wind speeds of 170-180 km/h, and gusting to 195 km/h (GDACS reports gusts of up to 212km/h). The intensity of cyclonic winds prevailed for 6 hours after landfall. Heavy rainfall affected west and east Godavari, Vishakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam of North Andhra Pradesh and Ganjam, Gajapati, Koratpur, Rayagada, Nabarangpur, Malkangiri, Kalakhandi, Phulbani districts of South Odisha. Inter-Agency Coordination committee activated the URS for Cyclone HUUHUD and technical support was provided to IAG Andhra Pradesh for emergency coordination and Joint Rapid needs Assessment. URS for Cyclone Phailin was formally called off by Inter Agency Committee on 8th of December, 2014.

MOU between Sphere India and IAGs is in process:

Based on initial discussion with Uttar Pradesh IAG and Uttarakhand IAG, it is agreed to sign a MOU with Sphere India to strengthen common understanding between Sphere India and respective IAGs. A Core Committee to work on MOU is formed by Uttar Pradesh IAG and it is in process in Uttarakhand IAG.

J&K FLOOD RESPONSE:

The First Multistakeholder Consultation was organized at **District Headquarter, Bandipore** on **6th December** after receiving request from the District Administration on providing technical support. The main agenda for the workshop was to review and give suggestions on the existing DDMP and to discuss the process for updation/preparation of improved DDMP. During this meeting it was also proposed that Sphere India would facilitate trainings on usage of Google Earth software for mapping the disaster affected zones, relief and rehabilitation activities. The Geo tagging and referencing of the affected houses and village infrastructure could be complemented by pictures. Information can be compiled at the levels of district, block, village and individual households.

A **Shelter Group Meeting** was organized at EoC on 2nd December and was attended by few Agencies working on Shelter in Srinagar and Pulwama districts. Each Agency came up with their Identification process, criterion for selection of beneficiary, shelter design, shelter cost, timeline and donor. CARITAS India and SEEDS came up with their Shelter prototypes. Sphere India also circulated the Shelter Beneficiary Tool among the Shelter Group, for providing details of beneficiaries who are/will be supported with Shelter Units (by the month of December). The shelter units in the affected districts will be captured through Geo-tagged images for Google Earth Mapping. Sphere India has started a baseline study to develop an initial precedence for the collaborative advocacy and will commence after a pilot in the selected districts of the State.



The District Development Commissioner Bandipore proposed the development of a Model Village in Bandipore, during a GO -NGO Coordination Meeting at the district headquarter, to set a unique example of coordination between government and non- government agencies. In this regard a Study Tour to one of the most affected village, Zurimanz situated along the Wular Lake, was organized by district administration on 6th December. A Matrix was developed highlighting the sectoral needs and gaps in this Model Village in Bandipore. All Agencies are invited to share their interest in providing support after going through the Need Analysis Sheet



Main-streaming Disability Lessons Learnt Workshop

Emanuel Hospital Association (EHA) with support from CBM and Sphere India organized a Workshop on Main-streaming Disability-Lessons Learnt from the current massive floods in Jammu and Kashmir, on the 17th of December 2014, at Centaur Lake view Hotel, Srinagar.

The workshop was attended by representatives from Government (Department of Social Welfare, JKSWB, Deptt. of Health), Humanitarian Agencies and other stakeholders. The discussion, during the workshop, was focused on three areas:

- Plight of persons with disabilities during disaster- need for special attention
- Visible gaps on reaching persons with disabilities during disaster response
- Existing schemes- Rights of persons with disabilities

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME



MISP INTEGRATION WORKSHOP:

An integration workshop was organized from 16th to 19th in Bhubneshwar, Odisha on integrating MISP in 12 district health and disaster management plans.

Objectives of the workshop:

- To develop capacity of MISP resource person in developing the district disaster management plans and health micro plan.
- To develop a roadmap for the initial planning of the integration of MISP in district micro plans in Odisha.
- To identify and activate the district teams who will take the MISP integration forward in the 12 districts of Odisha.
- To prepare a logistic plan for procurement of MISP Kits at the district level.
- To integrate MISP in district disaster management micro-plans, health plans and district disaster management plans in 12 districts of Odisha.

Outcome:

- Enhanced capacity of 48 Resource persons from 12 districts in developing health and disaster micro plans.
- Preparation of 12 district disaster management plans and health micro plans.
- MISP Annual Action Plan included in the 12 district micro plans.
- MISP integrated in district disaster management and health plans of 12 districts.
- Enhanced capacities for implementation of MISP in targeted 3 districts of Odisha

DISTRIBUTION OF DIGNITY KITS:

EFICOR and Sphere India has provided 2000 Dignity kits to the most needy adolescent girls and women in Pulwama and Srinagar Districts of Kashmir in Phase 2. The dignity kit has been contextualized as per the local needs of women and girls. With the onset of winter womenfolk affected by floods require woollen clothing. 2000 more dignity kits will be distributed in Bandipore, Baramulla and Kulgam districts with provision of woollen clothing as per the need and requirement.

COLLABORATIVE ADVOCACY PROGRAM



“National Convention on Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction”

The National Dalit Watch of NCDHR has been advocating the recognition of caste induced vulnerabilities /discrimination into the Disaster Management (DM) Act 2005 and guidelines, based on the consistent monitoring of disaster response efforts of the government since the time of Tsunami, and in a more specialized way from 2007-08 Bihar floods.

In continuation of the ongoing efforts and to chart out the way forward for inclusive disaster risk reduction, **National Dalit Watch in collaboration with Sphere India, Cordaid and Oxfam had organized a “National Convention on Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in New Delhi on 18th and 19th December 2014”.**

The objectives of the consultation were as follows:-

- reflect on the efforts so far;
 - hear from the experiences of the frontline personnel (from across the states of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Rajasthan, Odisha, Karnataka, Jammu And Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat) and experts on the issues and current scenario for DRR/ DM processes in India thereby strategizing Dalit inclusion agenda;
 - identify the areas and actions for future interventions; and
 - hold a policy dialogue with the parliamentarians to strengthen the inclusion aspects in the Disaster Management Act and the NDRF/ SDRF compensation norms in the future (on 19th December)
- On this occasion we shared our collective strengths and experiences, in order to strengthen our future focus and interventions on inclusive DRR. Representatives from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, UNDP, Cordaid, Rural Volunteers Center (Assam), HRFDL (Human Rights Forum for Dalit Liberation) Karnataka, Uttarakhand Samta Andolan, All J&KSC/ST Welfare Association, Dalit Resource Center Western Rajasthan, Dalit Bhajun Shramik Union, Social Awareness Society for Youths (SASY), UNNATI and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) were part of the consultation.

Honorable Parliamentarians Oscar Fernandez- INC, Dr. Dharma Vir Gandhi – AAP and Baishnab Charan Parida- BJD attended the consultation and were very encouraging in their response towards the issue of addressing caste based discrimination in Disaster situations/DRR and has promised to raise this issue in the parliamentary session.

Along with discussion and future strategy planning the photo essay "SHUBODAYA" on Dalit led movement for inclusion in DRR- Karnataka (Sarika Gulati) and "DISASTER DIVIDE" film by Srijan Nandan, Jholawala films on NATIONAL DALIT WATCH JOURNEY were inaugurated.



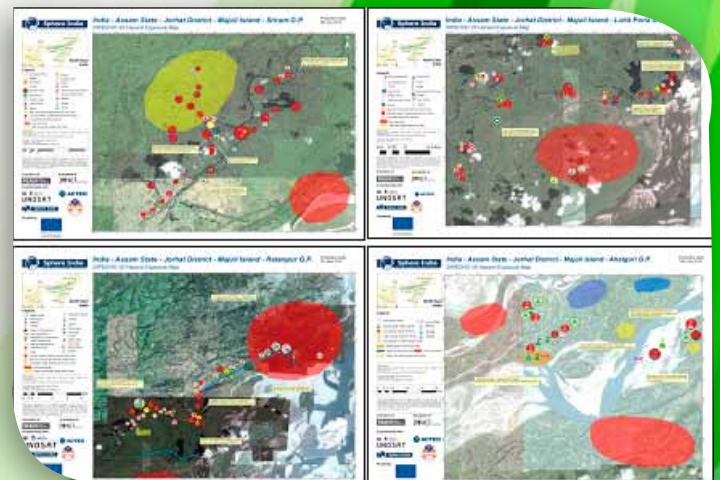
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Development of SOP for SI newsletter:

The SOP for Sphere India Newsletter, which is being published on monthly basis, has been developed for setting protocols for quality and timely delivery of Monthly Newsletter through contributions from Sphere India Member organizations, government agencies and IAG including Sphere India programmatic updates and highlights. The newsletter shall consists of contents such as key note message, updates from SI members, updates from IAGs, SI programme updates, case studies from fields, upcoming trainings and events etc. A timelines with clear cut roles and responsibilities of nodal staff for coordinating with agencies/members and guidelines on nature of updates, word-limit etc. are provided in detail in the SOP.

Updation of Hazard Exposure Maps

A total of ten (10) Hazard Exposure Maps having sizes A1 and A3, for 5 targeted Gram Panchayat's (GP) were developed for Majuli, District Jorhat, Assam. This map can be used for internal purposes only (as a reference map) during the DRR implementation part for the 5 targeted GPs.



Developed proposal /Action plan for DDMP, for J&K

A proposal was developed for preparation of District Disaster Management Plan for Jammu & Kashmir state, for duration of five months (Jan-May 2015) with an estimated budget of nearly INR 11 lakh. The proposed project will adopt a holistic, inter-sectoral departmental consultations and coordination including relevant NGOs/CBOs, PRIs, key professional associations etc. through a participatory and bottom up approach, taking into account the district specific hazard vulnerability profiling and gap analysis.

District Disaster Management Plan, District Bandipore (Jammu & Kashmir State)



The ground work and process for preparation of District Disaster Management Plan (DDMP) was initiated in the month of December, 2014 with a Multi-stakeholder coordination meeting held on the 6th December at DC Office, Bandipore. Followed by the study on gap analysis of district disaster management plan, preliminary meetings with respective line departments of district were conducted. Total 27 meetings were conducted as of mid December and a model draft SOP for Education Department was also developed and shared within the team for inputs and subsequent finalization. Similar exercise shall be carried out for other line departments, once the SOP is finalized and budget is allocated for taking up these activities for the rest of prioritized districts in J&K state.

Publication of article in Journal of Evidence based Medicine (JEBM) ISSN 1756-5391

An article titled "Minimum initial service package (MISP) for sexual and reproductive health in disasters" got published in JEBM 7 (2014) 245–248. This paper is based on a presentation given by Dr. Suchitra Lisam (author), Sphere India at the Evidence Aid Symposium, held on 20 September 2014, at Hyderabad, India. The paper provides background about how the sexual and reproductive health (SRH) got conceived as a humanitarian health response that adopts human right approach, based on core principles driven by needs of adolescent girls and women, and having respect for their values, ethics and morals.

Updation of GIS Map: State Level Inter-Agency Groups in India

An updated and revised map for the Inter-Agency Groups in India at the state level was produced. The states of Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Sikkim are the newly initiated State IAG's across the country. The maps depicts the color coded old IAGs that were formed earlier prior to 2014 and new ones, which got constituted in current year



CASE STUDY

CASE STUDY: 1

Humanitarian Assistance to Flood Affected People in Jammu & Kashmir 2014

Case- let by Oxfam

Name: Hospital Staff

Intervention: WaSH Support

Location: Lalladed Government Hospital, Srinagar

District: Srinagar

"It was horrifying to see Jhelum water entering from three sides of hospital building. And within 7-8 hours first floor of hospital was completely under water. I never felt so helpless in my life. We shifted all our patients to other hospital building at midnight but with increasing water level situation was getting completely out of our hands" Hospital Staff, Lalladed Government Hospital and Medical College

Lalla Ded hospital, located right on the river bank of Jhelum, is the largest hospital within the Kashmir valley with 700 beds facility. Hospital was supporting 100 patients and 200 hospital staff on 3rd Sept'2014, when hospital building got submerged with 17-18 ft. flood water. Hospital staff and patients got completely cut off from rest of the city within few hours. As shared by the hospital staff, they managed to receive some food and water support from few volunteers on the next day. All patients were discharged or shifted to other functional hospitals of the city on the 5th Sept'2014, with continuous increase in flood water level and damaged support system of hospital.

Lalladed hospital was completely non functional for almost 15 days with damaged water and electricity supply, medical equipments and support services. *"It was a very difficult situation for us to make hospital functional again, especially water supply system, as it was completely non functional due to mud deposition."*



Oxfam initiated flood response in Srinagar from 13th Sept'14, with major focus on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Srinagar city. Under this response, Oxfam extended its support to Lalladed Hospital in cleaning up of water filtration units and making it functional to resume drinking water supply. The hospital has two large plate settlers for filtering the turbid water and to provide 14000 ltr of clean drinking water per day. The filter was badly covered with mud after the flood. It took about 12 days for 5-13 labourers to work continuously to clean up and make the filter fully functional by 10th Oct'14. In addition to restoration of safe drinking water facility, Oxfam also undertook the cleaning up of the underground water sump used for supplying water for the purpose other than drinking. Oxfam also provided technical guidance to hospital staff to maintain the units in a better way in future.

"Oxfam's service is a very unique service. With Oxfam's support, we managed to resume our services for our patients in such a short span of time. We really appreciate all the support and guidance we received from Oxfam to make our water supply units fully functional." Senior staff of Hospital.

CASE STUDY: 2

Relief to a women headed household in Hillar
Led By: EFFICOR



On 4th September 2014, heavy and continuous rainfall raised the water levels of the river in Hillar village which inundated and overflowed destroying agricultural lands, houses and infrastructure like roads. **Musrat Jan (18 years)** lives in Hillar village in Anantnag District of Kashmir with her mother and 2 other siblings. Due to the demise of her father in 2008, Musrat and her sister **Nusrat (24)** Damaged homes in Hillar village. The house with the yellow and purple walls belong to Musrat and Nusrat

started working as daily wage laborers in people's fields in order to meet the family's needs. As daily wage laborers, they earn about INR. 150 – 300 in a day, which is barely able to support the family. The floods worsened her situation as it swept away Musrat's family home and further aggravated their difficulties by leaving them homeless. The family presently lives in tents pitched on the banks of the river, and take shelter in their neighbors' homes when it becomes too cold.



IN CONVERSATION WITH MUSRAT (IN BLACK SCARF) AND
NUSRAT (IN WHITE SCARF) IN THEIR BROKEN HOME

Construction of a new house before the arrival of the harsh Kashmiri winter is not a viable option for the family as they do not have sufficient finance and time to rebuild their home. But apart from their dire need for shelter, the family is faced with the immediate challenge of being unable to meet their food requirements. Musrat's family was able to receive some relief from EFICOR, which she believes is going to help her and her family. She says *"...it has become very difficult for us, as we have no place to work now and no food or income to sustain our family. We have not received any help from the government or anyone else and we are very happy to receive these food materials, utensils and blankets provided by you (EFICOR)".*

The immediate relief provided by EFICOR through the provision of food items, hygiene kit, utensils, pheran (kind of warm clothes like apron used in the area) and blankets will provide some relief to the Jan family before proper provisions are kept in place by the government to rehabilitate the people living in the village.

MISCELLANEOUS:

UPCOMING TRAININGS:

1. 12th - 16th January 2015; ToT Programme on **"IRS - Planning Sections Chief"** at NIDM
2. 19th - 23rd January 2015; Training Programme on **"Gender Issues in Disaster Risk Management"** at NIDM
3. 19th - 23rd January 2015; Training Programme on **"Comprehensive Landslide Risk Management"** in collaboration with **Geology Deptt., Delhi University** at Delhi University

VACANCIES:

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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



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



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www.sphereindia.org.in

Saikhom Kennedy

Programme Associate- Knowledge
Management
kennedy@sphereindia.org.in
Mobile: +91-8285221559

Dr. Suchitra Lisam

Advisor -Public Health (SRH/HIV)
Focal Point for Knowledge Management
suchitra@sphereindia.org.in
Mobile: +91-9958558272

Pooja Rana

Coordinator-GIS & Digital Platform
pooja@sphereindia.org.in
Mobile: +91-9717043530