



Message from CEO

Dear Readers, Our country, like much of the world, seems to be getting out of the COVID-19 grip. Yet, we still are grappling with the implications of a nationwide pandemic. Extra efforts and vigor is required to achieve the national goals that keep us in line with the global objectives. Against this backdrop, collaborative approaches gain more significance. In continuation with the National and Regional Consultations on Futuristic Collaboration for Collective Impact, organized by Sphere India in Collaboration with the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, the third regional consultation was organized in the month of April 2022. The event turned out to be a platform for insightful discussions on the collaborative models and saw participation from eminent speakers across Government, Private Sector and CSRs, Civil Society Organizations, Academia, and Media. The event also witnessed discussions on the CSR Exchange Platform by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, envisioning better connectivity between corporates and implementation agencies. April issue of SAMANVAY elicits details of the conferences, webinars, and various other events concluded in the month of April 2022. Additionally, we have tried to capture the important events and initiatives of our member organizations as well as the important initiatives progressed by the government of India.

As a humanitarian community of Humanitarian, Development, and Resilience Actors in India, we welcome readers' feedback to add value to the upcoming issues of SAMANVAY. Vikrant Mahajan, CEO, Sphere India

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Regional Consultation on Futuristic Collaboration for Collective Impact: Bengaluru

Third Regional Consultation in continuation with the National Consultation on Futuristic Collaboration for Collective Impact, was jointly organized by Sphere India and the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), envisioned to facilitate discussions on the collaborative models in humanitarian, development, and resilience building works in the country while promoting accountability, improving performance and collective impact is the larger aim of the consultation.



Inaugural Session

The inaugural session of the Regional Consultation on Futuristic Collaboration for Collective Impact featured perspectives from the CSR-Private Sector, CSOs, NGOs, media, and the government. The session was moderated by Mr. Vikrant Mahajan, CEO, Sphere India and was joined by distinguished panelists like Mr. Ravi Ranjanbhat, Head, Health and Disaster Response, CBM India, Mr. Mahendra Rajaram, Disaster Risk Reduction Officer, UNICEF, Dr. Garima Dadich, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Mr. Chatter Singh, Media Personality, Senior Academician, currently VC-IRU, Bangalore; Mr. Pratheesh Mammen, Coordinator, UNICEF-KSDMA project, who shared their thoughts on the collaborative model, and draft partnership framework. The panelists underscored the importance of togetherness and coherent collaborative advocacy across sectors, networks, and coalitions.



Panelists and Participants at the Regional Consultation at Bengaluru.

Impactful CSRs: Challenges and Suggestions for Larger Collaboration

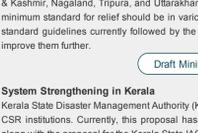
The session on Impactful CSRs: Challenges and Suggestions for Larger Collaboration was moderated by Dr. Garima Dadich, Assistant Professor, IICA. The panelists discussed about the trust deficit within a NGO sector and other stakeholders, the need for a collaborative mechanism, and a system to crack and enable smoother interactions on bridging the gap between various stakeholders and holistically work as a collaborative. The expert panel included Mr. Vivek Coelho, WFP, Mr. M Sudhakar David, Programme Manager, APTS Social Service Forum, Mr. Sandeep Otri, Rotarian; Ameen Mudassar, CIMSA Foundation. The panelists shed light on the absence of a common platform for knowledge sharing. They also deliberated on how NGOs can play a role in ensuring timely access to humanitarian action during disasters.



Panel on Impactful CSRs, Challenges and Suggestions for Larger Collaboration

Role of NGOs, Challenges Faced by NGOs and Suggestions for larger collaboration

The session on the Role of NGOs, Challenges Faced by NGOs, and Suggestions for larger collaboration was moderated by Mr. Panelist Malakar. The panelists discussed about the trust deficit within a NGO sector and other stakeholders, the need for a collaborative mechanism, and a system to crack and enable smoother interactions on bridging the gap between various stakeholders and holistically work as a collaborative. The expert panel included Mr. Vivek Coelho, WFP, Mr. M Sudhakar David, Programme Manager, APTS Social Service Forum, Mr. Sandeep Otri, Rotarian; Ameen Mudassar, CIMSA Foundation. The panelists shed light on the absence of a common platform for knowledge sharing. They also deliberated on how NGOs can play a role in ensuring timely access to humanitarian action during disasters.



Panel on the Role of NGOs, Challenges Faced by NGOs and Suggestions for Larger Collaboration

Role of Media, Challenges Faced by Media and Suggestions for Larger Collaboration

The session on the Role of Media, Challenges and Suggestions for Larger Collaboration was moderated by Mr. Onkeshwar Pandey, Editor in Chief, Indian Observer Post who led the discussions on the status of the communication systems in the country and the need for collaboration for developing a disaster reporting mechanisms. Distinguished panelists of the session were Mr. KVLakshmana, Freelance Editor, Economic Times; Mr. Sangamesh Menasinkai, Special Correspondent, The Times of India, Hubballi, Karnataka; Mrs. Richa Khandawli Bhat, Television Anchor, Producer, Mrs. Chetna S. Sengupta, Assistant Editor, The New Indian Express, Bangalore. The discussion led to multiple observations on complex humanitarian situations involving law and order, and ethnic/communal conflicts. The panelists also touched upon how we can take cues from international media to have a section for humanitarian news.



Panel on the Role of Media, Challenges Faced by Media and Suggestions for Larger Collaboration

Program Update

Knowledge & Capacity Sharing

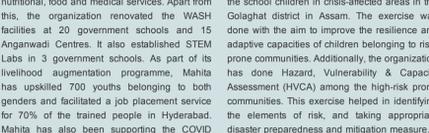
Trainings on Disability Inclusive Disaster Preparedness and Response Sphere India rolled out training on 'Disability Inclusive Disaster Preparedness and Response' with the aim of enhancing the knowledge and capacities of State and District IAG Members on Inclusive Humanitarian Contingency, Preparedness, Response-Community of Practice on Disability Inclusion. Towards this objective, two-day in-person (offline) contingency planning workshops were conducted in Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal. Around 30-40 participants, including state government representatives, IAG members, CSOs, community volunteers, etc., actively took part in this training.



Participants at the training on Disability Inclusive Disaster Preparedness and Response in West Bengal

International Humanitarian Law - Hope and Challenges

On the International Day for Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace-2022, Sphere India organized a session on 'International Humanitarian Law - Hope and Challenges', with experienced humanitarians, legal and military experts to analyze the provisions, limitations, opportunities, and challenges for global peace in the implementation of International Humanitarian Law. The discussion highlighted the limitations of the humanitarian law with respect to financial and security-based accessibility and the need to overcome them for the effective execution of the laws. The session called for collective actions at the organization level and at governmental/ judicial platforms, on matters of peace, security, and protection of human rights at times of conflicts or wars.



Panelists at the Sphere India Academy session on International Humanitarian Law: Hope and Challenges

Accountability to Affected/At risk population

Communication with Communities As part of our communicating with the communities series, testimonies on local field interventions were collected from local CSOs working across the country. For community engagement and accountability systems- AAP Reporting Matrix Presentation was developed on the AAP Matrix in consultation with AAP Committee Members. Additionally, Key Informant Interviews were conducted with various stakeholders on perspectives of strengthening humanitarian systems in the country.



Draft Minimum Standard for Relief for 5 States A review & analysis of the Minimum Standard for Relief was conducted for Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Nagaland, Tripura, and Uttarakhand. A guiding document has been prepared on what the minimum standard for relief should be in various sectors. It explains the shortcomings of the minimum standard guidelines currently followed by the respective states inclusive of a guiding note on how to improve them further.

Draft Minimum Standards >>>

System Strengthening in Kerala

Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) will be conducting a state-level consultation with CSR institutions. Currently, this proposal has been submitted to the DM Commissioner for approval along with the proposal for the Kerala State IAG Draft Charter. The final version of the Report on Joint Disaster Needs Assessment, KSDMA, UNICEF & Sphere India was approved by Kerala State Government and it will be released soon. The proposals for Virtual Co-DR Training of KSDMA were published on KSDMA Website. Earlier, a two-day training was organized on 30th & 31st March with the support of District IAGs to impart skills on knowledge on disability-inclusive DRR and Contingency Plans. State Disaster Management Plan final analysis consultation will be conducted in May in collaboration with KSDMA and IAG Kerala.

Inter-Agency Coordination

Emergency IAC Committee Meeting For Assam Sphere India convened an "Emergency IAC Committee Meeting" on April 18, 2022, to assess the situation in Assam post thunderstorm and heavy rainfall, for planning joint actions with IAC Committee Member organizations and State IAG Members. Over 25,483 people and 15,769 households were affected as of 17th April 2022, in Assam and Mizoram and 14 deaths were reported from Assam due to lightning, tree fall, and storm. Organizations such as Oxfam India, Indo Global Social Service Society, and World Vision India took part in the meeting.

Emergency Coordination In response to emergencies in the Northeast, Sphere India circulated two Situation Reports post thunderstorm & heavy rainfall in Assam and Mizoram and one SitRep in Manipur.



Cash Programming: Collaborative Advocacy Sphere India conducted its CWG meeting to prioritize the key actions in Cash Programming in India. The members shared their best practices and learnings from the field. The members of the Asia-Pacific RCWG shared international experiences. The meeting ended with the discussion on the future of Cash and Voucher Assistance processes in the country.

Committee Meeting



Read More >>>

Sessions on Inter-Faith Humanitarian Alliance Commenced in Delhi & Rajasthan

Sphere India in collaboration with UNICEF and World Vision India started a series of sessions on the Inter-Faith Humanitarian Alliance. In the month of April 2022, two sessions were conducted on "Building Preparedness and Strengthening Community Resilience through credible information sharing and humanitarian action". The first session was rolled out for Delhi-NCR on 20th April 2022, while the second session was held in Rajasthan on 27th April 2022. Faith-based leaders from different religious affiliations and customs came together for the webinar and collaboratively advocated the message of peace and harmony, especially in difficult times of the post-pandemic recovery.



Panelist at the IFHA Session for Delhi-NCR

Read Press Release Here >>>

Multi-Sector Coordination Handbook on Management of Animals during Disasters

Sphere India conducted Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with the SMEs, technical experts, VERGUS Coordinators, NIDM, WAP, Animal Husbandry Dept, and KLGs trainers to incorporate their suggestions in the Multi-Sector Coordination Handbook on Management of Animals during Disasters. Sphere India in collaborative partnership with NIDM has developed 6 Multi-stakeholder Coordination Handbooks which were launched at the National and State level in November 2021. These handbooks are envisaged to be operational guidelines for coordination during emergencies and include practical guidance and advice on how different stakeholders and sector actors (NGOs, CSOs, UN Agencies, and Government) can come together to strategize preparedness and response. Further, these guidelines will highlight the key principles of humanitarian action and how coordination and joint efforts among different sector actors can increase the effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian interventions, enable collaboration among different stakeholders, and thus mitigate the disaster risks. With a similar objective, the Multi-Sector Coordination Handbook on Management of Animals during Disasters is being developed through a series of consultative processes.

Sphere India at NDRF Annual Conference on Capacity Building

At the annual NDRF (National Disaster Response Force) Conference on Capacity Building for Disaster Response 2022, Sphere India CEO, Mr. Vikrant Mahajan, talked about the possible collaboration that CSOs and NGOs can have with NDRF and SDRF. He stressed on the need to converge the capacity building efforts of NDRF, SDRF, and NGOs to leverage the strength of communities in disaster management. "If NDRF, SDRF, and non-governmental organizations have a common training framework and collaboration to train the communities, we can go miles," he said. Mr. Mahajan also shared his vision to have one million trained volunteers by 2025. He also touched upon subjects like inclusion, standardization of modules, collaborative efforts in needs assessment, and the requirement for more women representation in NDRF.



Sphere India CEO Mr. Vikrant Mahajan speaking at the NDRF India Conference held in New Delhi.

News from Members

Mahita's Initiatives to Lift the Marginalised To educate the children of migrant construction workers, Mahita is running a worksite school for children below the age of 6 years, with nutritional, food and medical services. Apart from this, the organization renovated the WASH facilities at 20 government schools and 15 Anganwadi Centres. It also established STEM Labs in 3 government schools. As part of its livelihood augmentation programme, Mahita has upskilled 700 youths belonging to both genders and facilitated a job placement service for 70% of the trained people in Hyderabad. Mahita has also been supporting the COVID vaccination programme in 3 Government Urban Health Posts in Hyderabad and 6 Primary Health Care Centres in the Adilabad Tribal area and has completed 100% vaccination in 29 slums in Hyderabad and 84 tribal villages in Adilabad Tribal areas.

Disaster Mitigation Efforts by NEADS The North-East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS) conducted disaster risk mapping and safety planning exercises among the school children in crisis-affected areas in the Golaghat district in Assam. The exercise was done with the aim to improve the resilience and adaptive capacities of children belonging to risk-prone communities. Additionally, the organization has done Hazard, Vulnerability & Capacity Assessment (HVCA) among the high-risk prone communities. This exercise helped in identifying the elements of risk, and taking appropriate disaster preparedness and mitigation measure. It will enable community-led disaster preparedness and anticipatory action. Complementing their efforts towards DRR, an emergency rescue boat 'Sankat Mochan' was handed over to the flood-ravaged villages of Jhanjhumki, Jorhat.



A worksite school run by Mahita

Emergency rescue boat 'Sankat Mochan'

Health Initiatives of RAWSi India RAWSi India has successfully implemented various health initiatives in Madhya Pradesh, with support from the government and other organizations. In the Khandwa district, RAWSi made major strides in COVID-19 (KAVACH) vaccination with the support of SEEDS India. It has conducted a vulnerability assessment in context with health care for slums of urban Bhopal, MP. The assessment was supported by Bhopal Municipal Corporation and WISH Foundation. With the support of the National Health Mission (NHM), GMP, and RAWSi India also implemented a project on Fire Safety for Health Care facilities.

Heat Wave-hit Community relief by ELFA ELFA International organized a food distribution program for 250 families affected by the heatwave in Jammu. It also organized two major workshops on community participation & engagement in collaboration with the GGM Science College Jammu and Sher-Kashmir University of Agricultural Science & Technology, Jammu. The organization is also providing technical support to the Directorate of Samagra Shiksha, J&K for the implementation of the Comprehensive School Safety Program across the UT of J&K.



RAWSi India conducting Vulnerability Assessment

A distributor site of ELFA International at Jammu.

Villages to Mitigate SOS Children's SOS Children's Villages of India has undertaken a slew of measures to reach out to the most vulnerable families and mitigate the impact of the pandemic. Altogether 4602 families across the country were provided with dry ration support and 2712 families were provided with medical and hygiene support. Besides, 780 persons benefited from general medical checkup and medicines. As many as 701 children who lost their single or both parents in the pandemic from 382 families were provided monetary support of INR 4,250 each. Apart from this, 1245 vulnerable families were provided with income generation activities. 2274 families were linked with various social security schemes. There are also programs to address the nutritional, education and health requirements of marginalized children.

PRISM's AMRITADHARA to Ensure Safe Drinking Water at Low Cost With the strong belief that household water treatment and safe storage interventions can lead to dramatic improvements in drinking water quality, Professional Institute for Development & Socio-Environmental Management (PRISM), Kolkata, designed and implemented a strategy for the Safe Drinking Water Mission named JALSAHAYOG. The organization also designed the Social Marketing Water Safety System (SWSS) along with disseminating messages on the importance of accessibility, the organization has developed low-cost, domestic water purifier (AMRITADHARA) for safe drinking water, based on the Oxico-Flocc Sedimentation technique following the Technical Guidelines of the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Kolkata.



A beneficiary of SOS Children's Village of India's Livelihood support programme with the cow she reared from the organisation

A beneficiary of PRISM's AMRITADHARA project to ensure safe and affordable drinking water

Updates from Government

Smart Cities, Smart Urbanisation' Conference Held in Surat Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri, was the chief guest of the inaugural event and called for making the Smart Cities Mission into a people's movement. The winners of the Indian Smart Cities Award Contest (ISCAC) 2020 were awarded. While Surat and Indore received the best city awards, Ujar Pradesh bagged the best state award. Road map for strengthening and capacity building of SDRFs, civil defense, home guards, and fire services, issues related to the disaster management training.

NDRF Annual Conference on Capacity Building for Disaster Response National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) organized a two-day annual conference on capacity building for disaster response in New Delhi on April 7th and 8th. At the conference, discussions were held on the role of major stakeholders in different emergencies, strengthening of manpower and infrastructure of SDRFs, a road map for strengthening and capacity building of SDRFs, civil defense, home guards, and fire services, and issues related to the disaster management training.

State-Level Mock Exercise in Manipur National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in coordination with the Department of Relief and Disaster Management, Government of Manipur conducted State-Level Mock Exercise-2022 on earthquake scenarios on April 19 and April 21. Visiting Major General Sudhir Bahl (Retired), and Sr. Consultant (ME & IRS), NDMHA (Chaired) the Table Top Exercise held in Imphal on April 19, Sphere India local CBSOs from IPRAO, IRDSO, and DSSS members, held in IAG Manipur convenor and World Vision India, took part in the mock exercise.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurating the NDRF annual conference on capacity building for disaster response.



The mock exercise conducted by NDMA and Government of Manipur at Imphal, Manipur

Updates from Global Humanitarian Community

Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2022, published by the UN Interagency Task Force on Financing Development sheds light on how the world's poorest countries are being further pushed into poverty and debt. The report spells out other actions that can help close the existing financing gaps that prevent countries from investing in climate action, recovery, and SDGs. The report also provides the basis for discussions on creating a better international financing architecture. Read More>>>

Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction was released by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and states that human activity and the behavior are contributing to an increasing number of disasters across the world. The sixth edition of the global report, Our World at Risk: Transforming Governance for a Resilient Future, clearly highlights that we are not on track to achieve most of Sendai Framework's global targets. The report offers valuable recommendations to reduce risk and increase resilience. Read More>>>

The third part of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report was released. The report indicated that the harmful emission from 2010-2019 has never been higher in human history, which is proof that the world is on a fast track to disaster. Reacting to the latest findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change insisted that unless governments everywhere reassess their energy policies, the world will be uninhabitable. Read More>>>

News from IAGs and State Networks

IAG Kerala Coordination Meeting IAG Kerala organized a Coordination Meeting on 8th April 2022, to discuss the distress across communities caused by the heatwave and the relevant precautions, IAG good practices, way ahead, and Point of Action. The meeting was organized jointly by KSDMA, UNICEF, and Sphere India and more than 60 NGOs took part in the session. There were discussions about preparing a consolidated report of IAG activities at the district level before in a month and organizing at least 1 program at the district level before June.



Grants and Opportunities

Grant for Conducting Training Workshop Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education, public and state controlled institutions of higher education and private institutions of higher education can apply. Organization: Department of State U.S. Mission to India. Deadline: 12 June 2022. Read More >>>

Global Ecosystem Based Adaptation Fund The Global EBA Fund supports innovative approaches to Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) to climate change. All application documents must be submitted through email. Organization: International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Deadline: 15 July 2022. Read More>>>

Toyota Foundation International Grants The grant program focuses on deepening mutual understanding and knowledge-sharing among people on the ground in East Asia, Southeast Asia, and South Asia who are finding solutions to shared issues. Organization: Toyota Foundation. Deadline: June 4 2022. Read More >>>

Upcoming Events

Sessions on Inter-Faith Humanitarian Alliance As the world is dealing with emergencies frequently, preventing religion-based discrimination and following the values of peace and harmony is the need of the hour. Faith-based organizations, civil society, and religious leaders have a vital role to play in this scenario. Sphere India in collaboration with UNICEF India and World Vision India is organizing a series of sessions on Inter-Faith Humanitarian Alliance on Building Preparedness and Strengthening Community Resilience across the country



For more details, contact Ms. Mansi Kausikh at mansis@sphereindia.org.in

Sphere India Academy Sessions

Calendar for May 2022 showing dates from Monday to Sunday.

UPCOMING SESSIONS IN MAY 2022

- Disaster Responsive Reporting by Media: Challenges & Way Forward to communicate World Press Freedom Day (May 16)
Heat Wave: Preparedness and Response (May 17)
DIDR - Building a Community of Practices (CoP) (May 18)
Peace and Reconciliation with Faith Leaders to Build Resilient Metro States - Magenta Line (May 19)
Vulnerability and Resilience: Challenges and Action Strategies (May 20)
Building a Shared Future for All Life to commemorate International Day for Biological Diversity (May 22)
Voices from the Community: Highlighting the Vulnerable (May 23)
Annual Protection during Disasters (May 24)

For more details, contact Mr. Cybil Abraham at cybil@sphereindia.org.in

Plans Ahead (May 2022)

Accountability to Affected Population Focal Point: Mansi Kausikh, Manager, Collaborative Advocacy. Contact: mansis@sphereindia.org.in

- 1. Tool Kit on Minimum Standards for Relief.
2. DDMP Consultation-SDMP Analysis ToolKit Workshop in Kerala.
3. Webinar on Minimum Standards for Relief-Plan of Action for Minimum Standards in Practice
4. Plan of Action for Kerala system strengthening of District IAGs and NGO
5. Developing a conceptual document on CHS and AAP: Technical Standards to set out the approach and methodology for developing the AAP Indicators
6. FutureIs partnership collaboration with Sectoral Ministries on DRR and OCA.
7. Approach & Methodology: PSEA Mechanism.
8. Survey Questionnaire for IAGs on the AAP/CHS indicators

Inter-Agency Coordination Focal Point: Mithun P Chandrababu, Program Coordinator, Inter Agency Coordination. Contact: mthun@sphereindia.org.in

- 1. URS Matrix reforms
2. Heatwave Preparedness ToolKit
3. Prepositioning database
4. RNA Tools update
5. EPR Training in TN.
6. Assessment Guide to understand the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in Rapid and Detailed Need Assessment.
7. Intensive URS for Development & DRR Nexus covering 200 plus organization from 26 plus states
8. Multistakeholder Consultation on Resilience Preparedness
9. India Humanitarian Logistic Hub Dashboard

Knowledge and Capacity Sharing Focal Point: Mithun P Chandrababu, Program Coordinator, Knowledge and Capacity Sharing. Contact: mthun@sphereindia.org.in

- 1. Partnership Standard Guidance- Revised Draft
2. Consultation with Academic Institutions
3. Regular Sessions on Sphere India Academy
4. Development of Training Portfolio
5. Core Lesson with SDMPs on the Analytic toolkits
6. Study on Climate Budgeting
7. Training Need Analysis

Collaborative Advocacy Focal Point: Mansi Kausikh, Manager, Collaborative Advocacy. Contact: mansis@sphereindia.org.in

- 1. Climate Budgeting Log Frame
2. Reflection Report on DRR and EPR Guidelines
3. Advocacy Committee Meeting
4. Consultation on AP Guidelines
5. Advocacy Committee Meeting
6. Developing Training Modules on Child Early & Forced Marriage (CEFM), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Leadership in Girls, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MH/PS)
7. Zero Draft for Media consultation
8. IFHA Session in UP, Bihar, West Bengal, and MP