

Message from CEO

Dear Readers,

The month of February brought in spring effect with warmer and brighter days in most part of the country which also reflects in the lives of people with respite from COVID-19 3rd wave and resumption of socio economic activity. The effect also blossomed in the Sphere India coalition with coming together of leaders from diverse member organisations and key stakeholders for Sphere India Leadership Summit 2022 on 21st Feb 2022 on the occasion of 19th Sphere India Day. The week continued with other collaborative activities, highlighting the National Consultation on Futuristic Collaborations for Collective Impact on 26th Feb 2022 to mark the occasion of World NGO Day. The event presented the Partnership Standards for consultative process, a framework being developed to harmonise good practices of Project Management Standards, ISO Standards for CSR being followed largely by Corporates and CHS & technical standards like Sphere Standards being followed largely by humanitarian, development resilience organisations. The Draft Standards being developed in collaboration with IICA (Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs) under the aegis of Ministry of Corporate Affairs) along with Sector Guidelines released for six sectors earlier in collaboration with NIDM has created a promising and enabling environment for a holistic society approach in building and strengthening our nexus of Humanitarian, Development, DRR, Climate and Peace actors. It has mobilised and energised the actors and the next few months looks exciting to lay the foundation of this collaborative initiative.

This edition of newsletter covers its regular features of updates from our Members, IAGs, Programs, International Grants, Opportunities and Plans ahead. It will be our endeavor to make to as informative and useful for our readership as possible for which your feedback and suggestions are always appreciated.

Vikrant Mahajan
CEO, Sphere India

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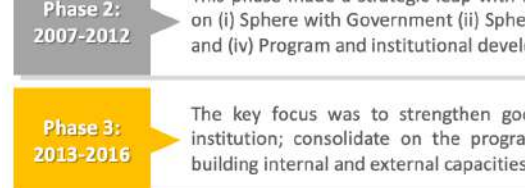
Sphere India Leadership Summit 2022: Linking DRR to Development

Sphere India convened the "Sphere India Leadership Summit 2022: Linking DRR to Development" to commemorate its 19th foundation day in Delhi. Over 100 senior leaders (CEOs/EDs/Directors) of leading humanitarian organizations, CSRs, Academia and senior officials from the Government had gathered to share, learn and plan together for collective impact in post covid realities.

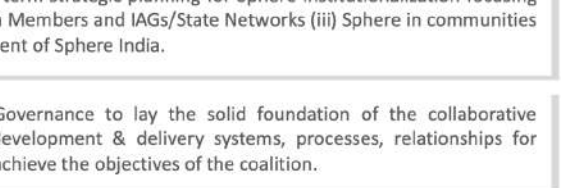
The special guest of honor for the evening was Mr. Shombi Sharp, Resident Coordinator (India), United Nations. He reaffirmed the collaborative work that has been growing from past 4 years where the UN had created opportunities to work with Sphere members to respond to disasters like cyclone Fani in 2019 and in the 2018 floods of Kerala and have gained very important lessons in the process. Mr. Sharp said that this Humanitarian Nexus is a continued effort that has given rise to different concepts like Disaster Risk Resilience (DRR), Linking Relief Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) and the resilience agenda, professing the saying that "SATH HAI TOH SAMBHAV HAI".

Mr. Mohammed Asif, Chairperson of the Executive Committee, Sphere India Lauded the quantum of work the coalition has delivered in the last 2 years specifically in response to the pandemic as an individual organizations as well as a coalition under the umbrella initiative of Covid-19 Academy, in partnership with UNICEF WHO, WFP and HCL Foundation which has conducted 211 sessions impacting 1,33,381 participants including 307 knowledge partners, 512 resource persons and 149 government partnerships.

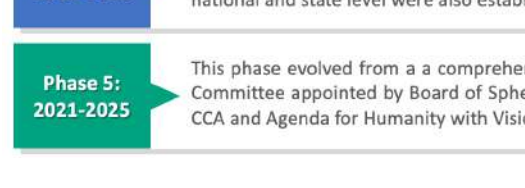
Mr. Manu Gupta, Director SEEDS India shared that we are at a stage where we need inclusivity and innovation together to take into account the accelerating demands across the country in the humanitarian sector particularly in response to COVID-19 and climate change. We need to respond in a dignified manner as well as frequency.



Ms. Henna Hejazi facilitating Mr. Shombi Sharp



Mr. Mohammed Asif, Chairperson, Sphere India



Mr. Manu Gupta, Director SEEDS India



Mr. Vikrant Mahajan, CEO, Sphere India

In the networking event, sector leaders emphasised on the need of remaining united, as a key aspect for disaster resilience, and the need to move to a stage where we respond in a dignified manner in the face of the increasing frequency of disasters as the situation demands, with a holistic approach to Disaster Risk Reduction.

21st February 2022: 19 Years of Sphere India

The 19th Sphere India Day marks Sphere India's evolution journey from Phase 1 (2003-2007) to the ongoing 5th Phase (2021-2025), shifting focus from awareness building, trainings and capacity building, towards comprehensive consultation processes with Strategic Planning, linking to the global objectives of SFDRR, SDGS, CCA and Agenda for Humanity with Vision 2030.

OUR JOURNEY

Phase 1: 2003-2007	The initial phase focused on building awareness on Sphere, mobilization of stakeholders, trainings and capacity building, initial joint assessments and coordination during South Asian Tsunami 2004-05 and J&K Earthquake 2005.
Phase 2: 2007-2012	This phase made a strategic leap with long term strategic planning for Sphere institutionalization focussing on (i) Sphere with Government (ii) Sphere in Members and IAGs/State Networks (iii) Sphere in communities and (iv) Program and institutional development of Sphere India.
Phase 3: 2012-2015	The key focus was to strengthen good Governance to lay the solid foundation of the collaborative institution; consolidate on the program development & delivery systems, processes, relationships for building internal and external capacities to achieve the objectives of the coalition.
Phase 4: 2016-2020	It also involved aligning with the changing contexts in India and priorities emerging from new global frameworks and plans. The network grew significantly in this phase and partnerships with government at national and state level were also established.
Phase 5: 2021-2025	This phase evolved from a comprehensive consultation process under the oversight of Strategy Planning Committee appointed by Board of Sphere India. The Strategy 2025 links with global goals of SFDRR, SDGS, CCA and Agenda for Humanity with Vision 2030.

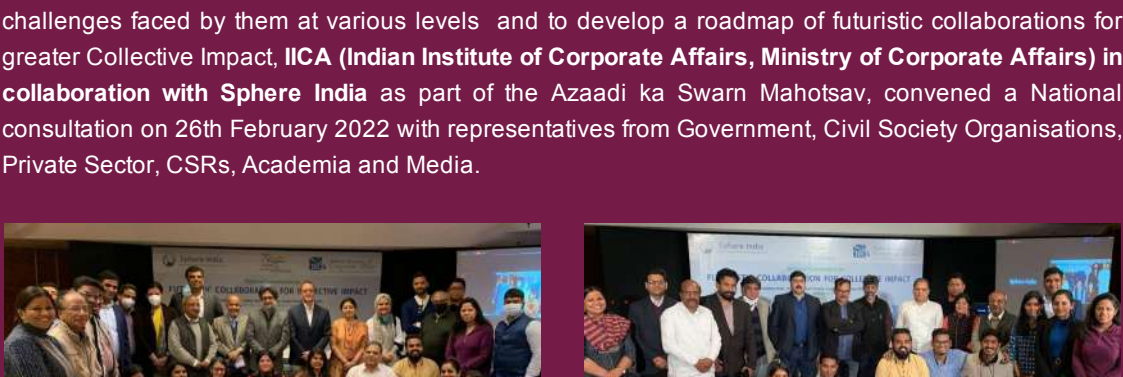


Sphere India Strategic Plan 2025
The Strategic planning for planning for 2022-25 has evolved from a comprehensive consultation process under the oversight of Strategy Planning Committee appointed by Board of Sphere India. The Strategy 2025 links with global goals of SFDRR, SDGS, CCA and Agenda for Humanity with Vision 2030.

[View Strategic Plan 2025 >>>](#)

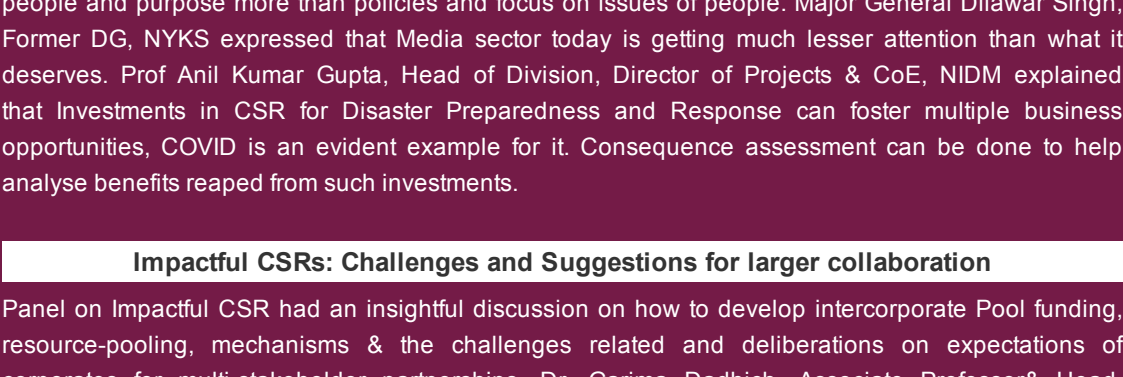
OUR EVOLVING NEXUS

Sphere India, the National Coalition of Humanitarian, Development and Resilience building actors in India has grown over time committing membership of 155 nodal organisations which include key nodal organizations from UN, INGOs, NGO Networks, National NGOs, CSR, Academic Institutions, individuals and 28 state level Inter Agency Groups (IAGs). The network also has a local outreach through 805 local organizations mapped for varied capacities all over India as associate members and approx. 1,80,000 community volunteers across India as volunteers network. Sphere India facilitates multi stakeholder coordination, knowledge and capacity sharing and collaborative advocacy for enhancing accountability to the affected and at-risk population.



MULTI-SECTOR COORDINATION HANDBOOK FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN INDIA

Sphere India in collaborative partnership with NIDM launched the 6 Multi stakeholder Coordination Handbooks at the National and State level in November 2021. Development of these Sector Coordination Handbooks marks a strong commitment between our member/partner organisations towards collaborative advocacy. These handbook are envisaged to be operational guide or manual for coordination during emergencies and include practical guidance and advice on how different stakeholders and sector actors can come together to strategize preparedness and response.



[View Handbooks >>>](#)

National Consultation on Futuristic Collaboration for Collective Impact

The outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) posed an unprecedented threat and challenges to the health, wellbeing, lives and livelihoods of people across India and the globe. The road to recovery is also an arduous journey ahead but the coming together of different actors and learnings in the process has opened a big potential to how India respond to it's disasters and also prepare, mitigate and reduce disaster risks in future through disaster resilient development. To commemorate the good work done by various actors across the country during COVID 19 Response, to document the challenges faced by them at various levels and to develop a roadmap of futuristic collaborations for greater Collective Impact, IICA (Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Corporate Affairs) in collaboration with Sphere India as part of the Azadi Ka Swarn Mahotsav, convened a National consultation on 26th February 2022 with representatives from Government, Civil Society Organisations, Private Sector, CSRs, Academia and Media.



Eminent panelist from the Inaugural session at the National Consultation



Distinguished Journalists and Senior Editors from the Media Sector at the National Consultation

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session of the National Consultation on Futuristic Collaboration for Collective Impact, featured perspectives from the CSR/Private Sector, CSO/NGO, Media and the Government. Sh. Praveen Kumar (IAS), DG & CEO IICA was the Chief Guest of the event, expressed his willingness to develop a critical framework that can foster effective collaborations between multiple stakeholders for collective impact, inculcate training, capacity building for impactful CSRs in India.

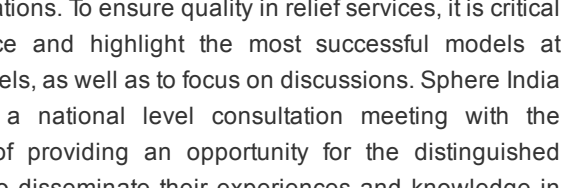
Ms. Nidhi Pundir, Director, HCL Foundation spoke of the need for all stakeholders to be equally involved & share resources. Mr. Anshu Gupta, Director Goonj talked about how we need to value people and purpose more than policies and focus on issues of people. Major General Dilawar Singh, Former DG, NYKS expressed that Media sector today is getting much lesser attention than what it deserves. Prof Anil Kumar Gupta, Head of Division, Director of Projects & CoE, NIDM explained that investments in CSR for Disaster Preparedness and Response can foster multiple business opportunities. COVID is an evident example for it. Consequence assessment can be done to help analyse benefits reaped from such investments.

Impactful CSRs: Challenges and Suggestions for larger collaboration

Panel on Impactful CSR had an insightful discussion on how to develop incorporate Pool funding, resource-pooling, mechanisms & the challenges related and deliberations on expectations of corporates for multi-stakeholder partnerships. Dr. Garima Dadhich, Associate Professor & Head, Business Environment, IICA, moderated the session with Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Head CSR, Indo Count Industries Ltd, Ms. Damyanti Bhowmik, Senior Manager CSR, Anand Automotive, Mr. Abhishek Kumar, Lead- CSR, LG, Mr. Anurag Pratap, Corporate Social Responsibility Leader, Cargemini, Mr. Antony Nellisseri, Chief- School Excellence, Bharat Foundation, Mr. Rahul Bansal, Partnerships Manager, Unicef India, Mr. Ravi Raj Arey, IICA, Dr. K K Upadhyay, Professor and Centre for Sustainability & CSR at Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH) were on the speakers panel.



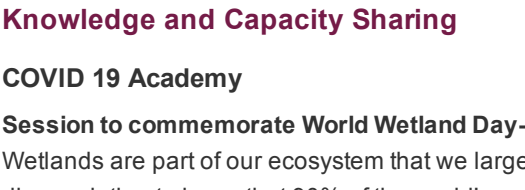
Panel on Impactful CSRs, Challenges and Suggestions for larger collaboration



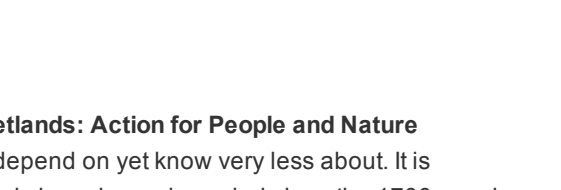
Panel on the Role of NGOs, Challenges Faced by NGOs and Suggestions for larger collaboration

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

Panel on Role of NGO made deliberations on the trust deficit that NGO sector faces, the need for collaborative mechanism, and a system to crack & enable smoother actions on complex funding. Mr. Sarbjit Singh, DRR Specialist, Unicef India moderated the session with Mr. Harsh Jaitly, Director VANI, Mr. Jayant Kumar, Chairperson Credibility Alliance and Head of Program, CASA, Mr. N M Prusty, Mentor cum Director, CDDMISS, Mr. Jayakumar KA, Director Strategic Alliances, World Vision India and Mr. Ramesh Reddy, Mahiha on speakers panel.



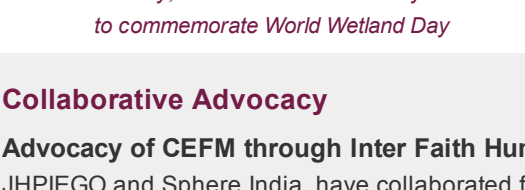
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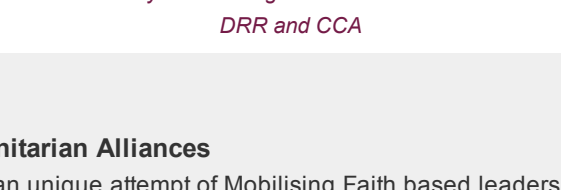
Panel on the Role of Media, Challenges Faced by Media and Suggestions for larger collaboration

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

Panel on Role of Media made deliberations on the status of the communication systems and the need for collaboration for disaster reporting mechanisms also the importance of guidelines for observations on complex humanitarian situations involving law and order, ethnic and communal conflicts and similar tension also concepts that we can learn from international media that has a section for humanitarian news, since no such mechanism is seen in Indian media houses. Mr. Onkareshwar Pandey, Editor in Chief, Indian Observer Post moderated the session with Prakash Nanda, Chairman, Editorial Board, EurAsian Times, Ajay Kaul, Editor in Chief, United News of India (UNI), Anant Bagaikar, Chief of Bureau and Senior Editor, SAKAL, Himanshu Shekhar Mishra, Senior Editor, Political and Current Affairs, NDTV, Vinod Mishra, Consulting Editor, Doodrashan, Roshan Gaur-Bureau Chief - Rashtriya Sahara, and Deepak Parvathy- Editor & Chief Media Advisor- Indian Federation of United Nations Associations on the speakers panel.



Panel on the Role of Media, Challenges Faced by Media and Suggestions for larger collaboration



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Programs Update

Accountability to Affected/At risk population

National level consultation on 'Minimum Standard for relief' organized on 18 February
Numerous national and international organisations, as well as various states, are attempting to ensure the quality of disaster relief operations. To ensure quality in relief services, it is critical to introduce and highlight the most successful models at various levels, as well as to focus on discussions. Sphere India organized a national level consultation meeting with the objective of providing an opportunity for the distinguished speakers to disseminate their experiences and knowledge in the state relief codes to enable creative interventions to put forward innovative new models in state relief codes.

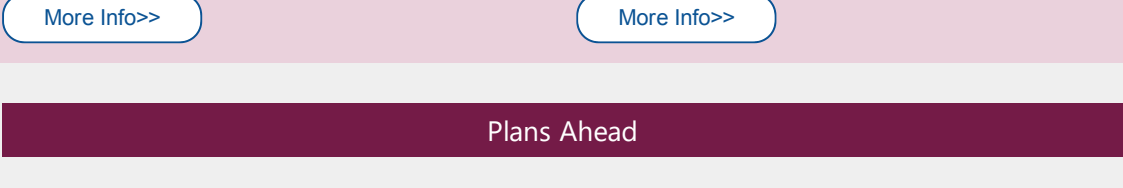


[View Photo Gallery](#)

Inter-Agency Coordination

System Strengthening Training Sessions for IAGs and State Networks

As part of the system strengthening process, IAC vertical of Sphere India is assisting our state IAGs/ State Networks by building their capacities through specialised sessions. In the month of February, sessions were organized in Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, and Mizoram. In Kerala 31 IAG Members joined the session on "Strengthening local coordination in Kerala", and Jammu & Kashmir 20 NGOs have participated in the sessions of "Reopening Schools and Psychosocial Issues among children & Parents" and "Minimum Humanitarian Standards in Emergencies" and all 8 One Stop Centres' Teams and 2 CBOs from Mizoram joined the session on "Telephonic counselling for VAWG survivors and MHPS concerns".



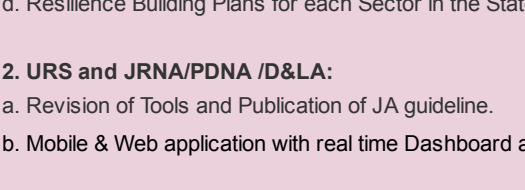
System Strengthening Training Sessions organised in Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, and Mizoram.

Knowledge and Capacity Sharing

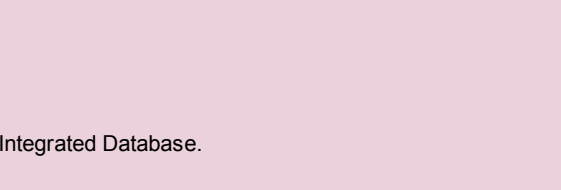
COVID 19 Academy

Session to commemorate World Wetland Day- Wetlands: Action for People and Nature
Wetlands are part of our ecosystem that we largely depend on yet know very less about. It is disappointing to know that 90% of the world's wetlands have been degraded since the 1700s, and we are losing wetlands three times faster than forests. Humanitarian actors and CSR activities can contribute a great tale in the capacity building of communities that are dependent on wetland ecosystems services also the Humanitarian actors that work at Grass-root level, can popularize and strengthen citizen science at a wide scale.

Session on Budget Review: From the Lens of DRR and CCA
The Covid-19 Academy Team had organized a panel discussion to review the Budget 2022-2023, from the Lens of DRR and CCA and on 15th Finance Commission to device advocacy points on how disastrous production and climate change adaptation can be institutionalised in the union budget to mark the shift from contingent liberty approach of public financing to risk management approach.



2nd February, 2022-Covid-19 Academy Session to commemorate World Wetland Day



14th February 2022- Budget Review- From the Lens of DRR and CCA

Collaborative Advocacy

Advocacy of CEFM through Inter Faith Humanitarian Alliances
JHFI-GO and Sphere India, have collaborated for an unique attempt of Mobilising Faith based leaders to raise awareness about Child Early and Forced Marriages (CEFM), gender based violence, legal provisions that protect girls from CEFM, social support programs for those at risk, the significance of keeping girls in school and encourage leaders to play an active role in preventing and responding to CEFM within their community.

Updates from International Humanitarian Community

The World Development Report 2022 is a practical guide to help low-and-middle-income countries develop strategies to strengthen financial markets for a more equitable and recovery from the COVID-19 economic crisis. The report assesses the financial and economic impacts of COVID-19 on households, businesses, banks, and governments, and provides recommendations for addressing fragilities as nations rebuild. [Read More>>>](#)

Global development progress does not automatically lead to a greater sense of security. Special report 2022 by UNDP, "New Threats to Human Security in the Anthropocene" states people's sense of safety and security is at a low in almost every country, including the richest countries, despite years of upwards development success. The report calls for greater solidarity across borders and a new approach to development. [Read More>>>](#)

The **PCCB toolkit** was developed to serve as a resource for developing country officials and their implementing partners in the assessment of relevant capacity needs, and in the determination of gaps, to implement the Paris Agreement. It includes examples of approaches that have been successfully adopted as well as links to additional resources that may be accessed via the UNFCCC capacity building portal. [Read More>>>](#)

Grants and Opportunities

Programme Specialist (Risk & Resilience)
Bhubaneswar, India
A minimum of five years' relevant work experience at the state or national level in programme/ project development, planning, implementation, M&E
Organisation : UNICEF
Deadline: 03-MARCH-2022
[More info>>>](#)

Response Roster, Bengaluru, India
The Response Roster Programme Director oversees/leads the Sector Director's team, including Program Officer(s), DME, Humanitarian Accountability and Information Management, Organisation, World Vision
Deadline: March 2022
[More info>>>](#)

Plans Ahead

- Accountability to Affected Population**
Focal Point: Dr. Henna Hejazi- Senior Manager, Programs
Contact: henna@sphereindia.org.in
1. Communication with Communities:
 - a. Documenting community voices through member & other resources and closing loop with communities.
 - b. Developing partnerships for two way communication with communities.
 - c. Webinars / Academy Calendar: Community Voices Sessions every month and especially during disasters
 - d. Rights in Crisis (JRNA, D&L Assessment) exercises.
 2. Establishing mechanisms for PSEA and Real Time Feedback Mechanisms:
 - a. Institutionalisation of CFM (RTFM incl of PSEA) in Inter Agency System in India.
 - b. Training and Capacity Building on CFM and PSEA of members, partners, IAGs.
 - c. New Partnerships and agreements for community outreach.
 - d. CFM Analysis Reports.
 3. Minimum Standards and Humanitarian Principles:
 - a. Establishing SI as Standard Setting body for Hum/Social Sectors in India.
 - b. Supporting States with Development of Standards for Recovery and Resilience building.
 - c. Regular trainings, capacity building on MS&HP
 4. AAP Reporting Matrix and Accreditation:
 - a. Developing a matrix and Dashboard for real time reporting of AAP Vertical, Secretariat, Sphere India membership and Humanitarian System in India
 - b. Self Governance and Accreditation Model Institutionalisation

Inter-Agency Coordination
Focal Point: Divya Gupta- Program Manager, Inter Agency Coordination
Contact: divya@sphereindia.org.in

1. Multi Sector Guidelines Institutionalisation:
 - a. Sector Networks and Guidelines is established with all stakeholders as per guidelines
 - b. Training and Capacity Building of all on Guidelines, PDNA etc along with NIDM, SDMA and Line Departments.
 - c. EPR Planning for Sectors in the States
 - d. Resilience Building Plans for each Sector in the States
2. URS and JRNA/PDNA (D&L):
 - a. Revision of Tools and Publication of JA guideline.
 - b. Mobile & Web application with real time Dashboard and Integrated Database.
3. Predictable Financial Mechanisms and Accounting:
 - a. National and State CSR mobilisation sector wise.
 - b. Public Funds for localisation, Innovations, EPR and RB
 - c. Government Funds Analysis, Coordination, technical system strengthening Support
 - d. Humanitarian and RB funds accounting and reporting
4. Humanitarian Logistics Hub:
 - a. Logistics coordination support and establishing Humanitarian logistics hub in India

Knowledge and Capacity Sharing
Focal Point: Nupur Tyagi- Program Manager, Knowledge and Capacity Sharing
Contact: nupur@sphereindia.org.in

1. Humanitarian leadership and Resilience building Academy:
 - a. Concept, Strategy, Partnership and processes.
 - b. Training Portfolio and Training Need Analysis.
 - c. Curriculum development and delivery modalities.
 - d. Academic and KCS Delivery.
2. Knowledge Products and Documentation
 - a. Need Identification.
 - b. Knowledge Resource Pool and New Knowledge Products
 - c. Documentation and Reports
3. Partnership Standards
 - a. Regional consultation for feedback collation
 - b. Release of Final Guidelines
4. Evidence based Research
 - a. Analysis of existing Research and evidence and new Research in targeted areas
 - b. Integrated Strategy Database, Dash board, big data planning
 - c. Scoping and Strategy for AI in DM (What can be done, who can do what, what new members can join)
5. Communications
 - a. Website, Bulletin, Snippets
 - b. Social Media Communications, SMOs
 - c. Wikipedia platform
 - d. Comm Support to other verticals

Collaborative advocacy
Focal Point: Vikrant Mahajan, CEO- Sphere India
Contact: ceoi@sphereindia.org.in

1. Evidence Based Advocacy
 - a. Advocacy Need Analysis.
 - b. Advocacy materials and communications.
2. System Strengthening Tech Support:
 - a. Systems Strengthening Strategy and coordination.
 - b. System Strengthening Deployments and Coordination.
3. Media Advocacy
 - a. Media Advocacy Dynamic Conceptualisation and Partnerships
 - b. Media Guidelines
 - c. Coordination of Advocacy issues to be posted to media with evidence including
 - d. FFMA Scoping for Media Programs / Production on identified
4. Stakeholder Focused Advocacy
 - a. Mid Terms and Emergency Advocacy focused on different stakeholders

Enabling and Navigating the Nexus: Humanitarian Development DRR CGA Peace
Focal Point: Sakshmi Kennedy, Senior Manager-Operations
Contact: sakshmi@sphereindia.org.in

1. Navigating the Nexus
 - a. Membership Drives and Sector Networks
 - b. Accreditation and Self Regulatory Mechanism
2. Enabling and Operations
 - a. Systems and Compliances Program Support
 - b. Enabling Sphere India Network and the Nexus