



Message from CEO

Dear Readers,

Floods are the most common natural disaster in India. From the July 26, 2005- Mumbai floods to the ongoing situation in Assam, the country has witnessed many water-related catastrophes over the years. Preventing floods is impossible but reducing its impact is quite plausible. Central & State governments across the country have been engaged in numerous evacuation processes, opening of relief camps and distribution centres and providing relief to the affected community through distribution of essential items like Food, WASH, shelter materials, etc as well as sector specific assistance and aid from non-governmental agencies. Various other stakeholders have been engaged in relief activities, setting up temporary shelters, providing water & food, etc. in the affected areas. With a similar conviction, Sphere India has been making coordinated efforts from the past few months along with its member organisations and support from the government. However, as floods and landslides induced by heavy rainfall have been escalating the crises in several areas of the country, we need enhanced efforts and collaborative approach towards mitigating the crises.

Our work in the month of July kick-started with a national-level webinar to review flood situation across the country. The webinar helped in getting a better understanding of the changing patterns of floods, assessing affected communities' needs, and chalking-out strategies for flood management. For effective and coordinated responses in the flood-hit areas, Sphere India also initiated emergency preparedness and coordination processes across various states. The details of these programmes can be read in this issue of SAMANVAY.

Apart from this, the July issue features other important initiatives undertaken by us, our member organizations, the government, and the global humanitarian community. We have tried to make the newsletter as informative and useful as possible and we are looking forward to readers' feedback.

Vikrant Mahajan

CEO, Sphere India

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Webinar on Flood Situation in India – Status, Needs, Response, and Pathway

Floods are the most common natural disaster in India. As a result of torrential rains, many areas which are not traditionally flood-prone across the country are inundated this year. The coping capacity of people in such areas is low. Exacerbating the crisis, the humanitarian agencies find it tough to reach out to those in remote pockets. Taking this grim situation into account, Sphere India conducted a much-needed and timely national-level webinar on 'Flood Situation in India-Status, Needs, Response and Pathway' on 1st July 2022. Expert panelists from the UN, CSOs, and IAG, who took part in the session, shared their learnings from the past and present experiences, explored possible channels of collaboration for a robust preparedness mechanism, and discussed ways forward.

Key Recommendations: Reviewing the status of the flood situation across various states in India, the panelists of the webinar, with their vast and wide experience in managing flood situations, made an assessment of the affected communities' needs and recommended ways to chalk out more effective response strategies. Some of the important recommendations came out during the discussions are making DDMA as broad-based as possible, tapping the potential of technology effectively, strengthening IAGs and GO-NGO coordination, ensuring effective implementation of the DM Act at ground level, and ensuring community engagement at ground level.



Program Update

Knowledge & Capacity Sharing

Sphere India Academy

In July, Sphere India Academy organised three sessions on critical topics such as Youth Engagement in Resilience, Mainstreaming Biodiversity, and Assessing Flood Situation in India. Through these sessions, we could reach out to around 400 participants, who received key facts, information, and action points from 17 expert resource persons from different sectors.

National-level Webinar on Engaging Youth in Resilience and Climate Action

Sphere India organized a national-level webinar on 'Engaging Youth in Resilience and Climate Action' to commemorate the International Day of Parliamentarism on July 5. The session, attended by around 200 people, also turned a platform to raise awareness among young people on DRR and the climate crisis. At the webinar, expert panelists from Govt, CSR, INGO, NGO, and Media deliberated on how young people can be chipped into the youth parliament on DRR and climate crisis, and how their engagement in conversations about DRR and climate crisis be used to build a Resilient India.

The participants also shared their ideas, concerns, and plans related to the topics. Stressing upon the importance of tapping youth's potential for disaster risk reduction and climate action, the expert panelists of the webinar made some key recommendations to attain that.



Panelists of the webinar on Engaging Youth in Resilience and Climate Action.



Watch the Full Session>>

Mainstreaming Biodiversity: A Pre-Condition for Achieving Sustainable Development

As per the UN Biodiversity Outlook report, released in 2020, a vast number of species are under the threat of extinction. By conducting a webinar on Mainstreaming Biodiversity: A Pre-Condition for Achieving Sustainable Development on July 14, Sphere India tried to emphasize the need for mainstreaming biodiversity and how it plays a role in achieving SDGs. Biodiversity experts from NGOs, CSRs, and academic backgrounds discussed about the multi-level institutional policy framework that governs bio-diversity laws in India, SDGs-Goal 14 and 15, Post 2020 Global Bio-Diversity Framework, different elements of biodiversity and shared measures for conserving biodiversity.



Guidelines for Mainstreaming DRR in SDGs

While effective response is important, much more crucial is to be proactive in approach and pave our way to be ready for any emergencies or disastrous events. This means understanding and embracing the need for Disaster Risk Reduction and its grounded implementation. As a result, currently, Sphere India is preparing guidelines for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Action in SDGs aligning with the priority sectors. The objective is to understand the importance and guide the mainstreaming and strengthening (existing) connections between resilience building and SDGs.

Development of Knowledge Products for Wider Dissemination

Knowledge sharing and communication team of Sphere India has been working on developing knowledge products, including training manuals on various thematic areas of emergency preparedness and response, along with knowledge products and factsheets on various important thematic areas and important takeaways from Academy Sessions. Communication team is also continuously disseminating Dos and Don'ts for various disasters-Heatwave, Floods and Landslides.



Sphere India's Academy transition Humanitarian Leadership and Resilience Building Academy

Sphere India has opened up various consultative processes for assessing the feasibility of developing a Humanitarian Leadership and Resilience Building Academy (HLRBA) with a vision to create a space for continued capacity building of humanitarian aid workers and other relevant stakeholders in the humanitarian ecosystem on the relevant subject and most pressing needs of the sector. Core Committee Meeting was also organised on 29th July 2022 with various experts to guide the whole transition process.

Inter-Agency Coordination

Emergency Coordination with Assam, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Telangana, AP and MP

With deteriorating flood situations in several states of India, Sphere India has initiated emergency coordination with affected states and Inter-Agency Coordination (IAC) committee on the possibilities of activation of URS Processes in those states. During the process, state IAGs and volunteers are being oriented on the SOP of URS processes. On 15th July, the IAC team oriented colleagues of Mahapeconet. Sphere India is also supporting IAG – Assam with releasing of wave 1 JRNA report and is planning for conducting a Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) exercise with support of NIDM and NDMA.

Sri Lanka Humanitarian Crisis: Virtual Emergency Coordination Meeting Conducted

In view of the ongoing economic crisis in Sri Lanka and rising humanitarian needs, Sphere India as a humanitarian collective in India organized a virtual emergency coordination meeting on 12th July. All the interested member organizations were invited to discuss the prevailing issues and concerns of the



neighbouring country and plan for a unified response strategy. Sphere India is also seeking meeting appointment with Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Gol; Mapping organisations who want to collaborate and respond to the multi-dimensional crisis in Sri Lanka.

Collaborative Advocacy

Inter-Faith Humanitarian Alliance Session held in Rajasthan

Inter-Faith Humanitarian Alliance Sessions: Sphere India in collaboration with UNICEF and World Vision India started the series of Inter-Faith Humanitarian Alliance sessions on "Universal Appeal for Peace and Solidarity".

The session was rolled out for Rajasthan on 15th July 2022. Faith Leaders from different religions came together for the webinar. They gave the message of peace and harmony, love and unity, especially during difficult times. Jasbir Singh, Former Chairman, SGGS chair for National Integration & Sikh Studies University of Rajasthan, Fr. Norbert Herman, Director, Divine Word Society,Dr. Abdul Rashid Agwan, President, Institute of Policy Studies and Advocacy and B.K Lavanya, Coordinator, Brahmakumari Centre – Eluru, were the expert panelists of the session.



Inter-Faith Humanitarian Alliance sessions held in Rajasthan on June 15

Cash Working Group (CWG) Committee Meeting

Sphere India conducted the Cash Working Group Committee Meeting on 21st July 2022. The meeting was organised to discuss the best delivery mechanism for Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) for the Assam floods. The members from IAG Assam along with the partners currently responding to the Assam flood situation attended the meeting. The members shared their experiences and learnings from the field. The meeting ended with the resolution that the delivery mechanism should be chosen by the partner on the context-specific to that very area and current situation.

Collaborative Advocacy Committee Meeting

Sphere India organised its Collaborative Advocacy Committee meeting to share the updates on the work done since the last meeting in May and to deliberate on the further course of action. Mr. Prasad Sevekari and Ms. Lee Macqueen chaired the meeting sessions. The SI team shared the progress report and presented the budget based on the advocacy note shared prior to the meeting. Climate Budgeting and Parliamentary Committee on DRR are the major focus of the advocacy plan 2022-23.

Read More>>

News from Members

Assam Floods: EFICOR Provides Relief Materials to 2975 Families

EFICOR is in full swing with relief operations in flood-ravaged Cachar district of Assam. The relief materials distributed in the targeted blocks of Lakhipur, Silchar and Barkholla in Cachar district. So far out of the targeted 3255 families 2975 families were provided with relief materials comprising food items and non-food items.

In April, EFICOR also initiated relief activities in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan in response to heatwave. The organisation has also done a commendable job in response to COVID 19. Apart from the responding to the emergency needs of communities affected by disasters in India, EFICOR is striving to facilitate effective implementation of disasters management and climate change adaption plan in collaboration with government and humanitarian networks.



(Left) EFICOR's relief activities in response to Assam floods and (Right) the organisations activities during the heatwave in Madhya Pradesh

Updates from Government

'Indian model of SDG Localisation: Towards a full implementation of the 2030 Agenda' Launched



Indian model of SDG Localisation: Towards a full implementation of the 2030 Agenda 'was launched at the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at UN Headquarters. The report documents subnational experiences in localising the SDGs and the lessons learned

'Indian model of SDG Localisation: Towards a full implementation of the 2030 Agenda 'was launched at the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at UN Headquarters in New York in the second week of July. "In this Decade of Action, we must identify models which have produced results. We do not have the luxury of time to develop solutions from scratch and perhaps the Indian model of SDG localisation is relevant," said NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson Suman Bery addressing a special India side session at the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Read More >>

Assam State Action Plan on Climate Change (2.0) Gets State Cabinet Approval

Assam cabinet approved the Assam State Action Plan on Climate Change (2.0). The new version of the action plan has been drafted as the earlier version of the plan ended in 2020. The action plan has been developed by the Government of Assam to address the changing climatic conditions. It has flagged important issues which require attention. The state action plan highlights key sectoral concerns and strategies for action in order to lead the way. The action plan emphasizes on mainstreaming climate change concerns across all the sectors for achieving the objectives of sustainable development. It tries to integrate the concerns of Climate Change into policies and ensure ultimate objective of sustainable development with inclusive growth.



Framework for Social Stock Exchange Notified by SEBI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has notified the Framework for Social Stock Exchange. The social stock exchange will provide social enterprises with an additional avenue to raise funds. Under the new rules, SSE will be a separate segment of the existing stock exchanges, according to the three separate notifications issued by SEBI. Social enterprises eligible to take part in the SSE will be entities-non-profit organizations and for-profit social enterprises-having social intent and impact as their primary goal.

Updates from International Humanitarian Community

Oceans Conference Ends with a Call to Scale Up Actions to Address Dire State of Oceans

Recognizing a "collective failure to achieve Ocean related targets", world leaders at the UN Ocean conference held in Lisbon, Portugal, from June 27 to July 1 renewed their commitment to take urgent action and to cooperate at all levels, to fully achieve targets as soon as possible. Among the challenges the Ocean faces are coastal erosion, rising sea levels, warmer and more acidic waters, marine pollution, overexploitation of fish stocks and decrease of marine biodiversity. Calling for transformative change, leaders stressed the need to address the cumulative impacts of a warming planet, on the ocean, including ecosystem degradation and species extinctions.

Acknowledging that climate change is "one of the greatest challenges of our time", and the need to "act decisively and urgently to improve the health, productivity, sustainable use and resilience of the ocean and its ecosystems", top politicians gathered in Lisbon stressed that science-based and innovative actions, along with international cooperation, are essential to provide the necessary solutions.







Integrating the SDGs in Urban Project Design: Recommendations from the Global Future Cities Programme provides a handbook on how to design SDG-oriented urban projects guidance in collaboration between the public sector, private sector and civil society through an iterative method that goes beyond the "business as usual approach" to sustainable urban development. It is based on experiences from the Global Future Cities Programme, a three-year \$106.8 million multi-partner initiative funded by the United Kingdom. The Programme supports 31 transformative projects in 19 cities across 10 emerging economy countries. Read More>>





The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022 provides a global overview of progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, using the latest available data and estimates. It tracks the global and regional progress towards the 17 Goals with in-depth analyses. According to the Report, cascading and interlinked crises are putting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in grave danger, along with humanity's very own survival. The Report highlights the severity and magnitude of the challenges before us. <u>Read More>></u>



Addressing the cost-of-living crisis in developing countries: Poverty and vulnerability projections and policy responses: The publication estimates the potential effects of food and energy inflation on global poverty and vulnerability and simulates the welfare loss mitigation potential of two policy options: blanket energy subsidies and targeted cash transfers. The results suggest that soaring food and energy prices could push up to 71 million people into poverty, with clear hotspots in the Caspian Basin, the Balkans, and Sub-Saharan Africa (particularly in the Sahel). <u>Read More>></u>



Government responses to COVID-19: Lessons on gender equality for a world in turmoil. This report from UNDP and UN Women shows what governments can do now to prevent further rollbacks and recover lost ground, while enhancing resilience and preparedness for future shocks. Examining nearly 5,000 measures adopted by 226 countries and territories from the UNDP-UN Women COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker, the report finds that overall, government responses paid insufficient attention to gender dynamics. <u>Read More>></u>



World Population Prospects 2022 is the twenty-seventh edition of the official estimates and projections of the global population that have been published by the United Nations since 1951. They form a comprehensive set of demographic data to assess population trends at the global, regional, and national levels. This report provides an overview of the global population trends focusing on the period from 1950 to 2050 and presents a summary of key demographic prospects during the second half of the present century. <u>Read More>></u>



UNDP- Asia Pacific Regional Snapshot 2022-State of climate Ambition. This Snapshot explores regional NDC submission, ambition and quality status while assessing progress on key systems and architecture for NDC implementation. It also looks at areas of past and future Climate Promise support, showcasing regional champions and providing insight on emerging trends and opportunities. Of the 41 countries, 11 are high emitters, 11 are Least Developed Countries, 17 are Small Island Developing States and nine are considered fragile states. <u>Read More>></u>

News from IAGs and State Networks

Orientation and Training of IAG – Madhya Pradesh on URS, JRNA and Kobo toolbox

In view of the heavy rainfall in Madhya Pradesh in last few weeks in July, IAC team of Sphere India with support of UNICEF – M.P, organised two virtual training cum orientation sessions for the members of the Inter-Agency Group (IAG) – Madhya Pradesh, as well as volunteers of Child Rights Observatory (CRO), M.P. The two technical sessions that took place on 7th July and 12th July were focused on Joint Rapid Needs Assessment (JRNA) and

SOPs for Unified Response Strategy (URS) processes and Kobo collect toolbox. Dr. George V. Joseph, Joint Director, Disaster Management Institute (DMI, Bhopal) also delivered a special address for the participants.



(L)Dr. George V. Joseph, Joint Director, Disaster Management Institute (DMI, Bhopal) speaking at the training and orientation sessions for the IAG members . (R)Participants of the session

Grants and Opportunities

Applications Invited for Minority Serving Institutions Humanitarian Fellowship Program

USAID/BHA is soliciting applications to support and implement the Minority Serving Institutions Humanitarian Fellowship program. This program is designed to benefit the broader humanitarian community, and will enable organizations to better reflect the beneficiaries the humanitarian system serves, as more diverse voices and perspectives are brought into the system.

Organization: USAID

Deadline:16 September 2022

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Proposals Invited for engagement as Strategic Grantees

Notice inviting organizations (NGOs/CSOs/CBOs) to submit proposals for engagement as Strategic Grantees under the Seventh Operational Phase of UNDP - GEF Small Grants Programme in India. Interested organizations can download the complete Request for Proposal (RFP) document.

Deadline:10 August 2022

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Rohini Nayyar Prize for Outstanding Contributions to Rural Development

Rohini Nayyar Prize for Outstanding Contributions to Rural Development recognizes the exemplary contributions of young Indians(under the age of 40) to improving the lives of people in rural India. Individuals, who have worked for at least five years, in CSOs, government, rural enterprises, and academia , engaged in work in any aspect of rural development, including agriculture, education, health, water, sanitation, enterprise development, women's empowerment, child development, micro-credit, and related activities, will be eligible for consideration : Read More>>

Microsoft Invites Applications for AI for Accessibility Grant

Microsoft invites applications from developers, NGO's, academics, researchers, and inventors to accelerate their work for people with disabilities.Al for Accessibility grants support projects that use Al to empower people living with disabilities. Applications are evaluated on their scientific merit, innovative use of Al technology, and potential for scalability.

Organization: Microsoft Deadline: 10 August 2022 Read More >>

Nominations Invited for Subash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Praskar



Upcoming Events

Sphere India Academy									Sphere India National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India		
AUGUST 2022									UPCOMING SESSIONS IN AUGUST 2022		
	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN				
	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	05	Flood Situation in India: Challenges, Lessons, and Innovations for Integrated Flood Risk Management		
	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	Aug	Link: http://tiny.cc/CA-050822		
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		Demystifying Social Stock Exchange: Unfolding		
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	09 Aug	Provisions and Opportunities Link: http://tiny.cc/CA-090822		
	29	30	31						Promoting Youth led Community Disaster Response		
phere India COVID-19 Academy was launched on 10th April 2020. A								12 Aug	Force to commemorate International Youth Day Link: http://tiny.cc/CA-120822		
olla	ollaborative initiative of WHO, UNICEF, WFP, HCLF, Sphere India, and ther organizations, the COVID-19 Academy is a capacity-building initiative								Celebrating Real-Life Heroes to commemorate World Humanitarian Day Link: http://tiny.cc/CA-180822		
with a mission to enable humanitarian aid and frontline workers across ndia to fulfill various roles in emergency preparedness and response and support local government, administration, and communities. In the past								18 Aug			
									Human Rights Related to Freedom of Religion or		
wo years, we conducted more than 270 academy sessions through the COVID-19 academy, which saw around 1.5 Lakh participants and 684 inique resource persons who delivered these sessions.								23 July	Belief to commemorate International Day for the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief Link: http://tiny.cc/CA-230822		
									Delivering Disaster Risk Reduction by 2030: Pathways		
								30	to Progress		
A HELFOONDATION								Aug	Link: http://tiny.cc/CA-300822		

For more details, contact Mr. Cyljo Abraham at cyljo@sphereindia.org.in

World Humanitarian Day Event: 19th August 2022 at IHC, New Delhi

Each year, World Humanitarian Day is celebrated on August 19th, to honor the humanitarian aid workers all over the world. The theme for World Humanitarian Day, 2022 is **#ItTakesAVillage.** This year's WHD theme seeks to bring the world together to rally support for people affected by humanitarian crises, as well as pay tribute to the humanitarian workers. From people with disabilities, to the elderly, migrants, and journalists, all civilians caught in conflict need to be protected. It is imperative that humanitarian partners shall come together to reaffirm support for civilians caught in conflict. On this occasion Sphere India is convening an Event on **World Humanitarian Day Event on 19th August 2022, at the India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.** More details to follow.



Coordination with India delegation for APMCDRR, 19th-22nd September 2022, Australia

Sphere India, as a National Coalition of Humanitarian, Development and Resilience Actors in India, will be coordinating the efforts of India Delegation through a series of consultative processes and highlight the work of its network and member organisations through Sphere India's exhibit at the APMCDRR Marketplace, at Brisbane, Australia from 19th – 22nd September 2022. More details to follow.



Plans Ahead (July 2022)



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> Accountability to Affected Population Focal Point: Dr. Henna Hejazi- Senior Manager, Programs Contact: <u>henna@sphereindia.org.in</u>

- 1. Tool kit on Minimum Standards for Relief.
- 2. Approach & Methodology: PSEA Mechanism.
- 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. Futuristic partnership and collaboration with Sectoral Ministries on DRR and CCA.

Inter-Agency Coordination

Focal Point: V. R. Hari Balaji - Program Manager, Inter Agency Coordination Contact: haribalaji@sphereindia.org.in

- 1. Emergency Coordination and Activation of URS Process in flood affected states of India.
- 2. Sri Lanka Crisis coordination: Establishing locally led coordination in Sri Lanka.
- 3. Partnership with SDMAs and support to IAGs
- 4. Multi sector coordination Trainings.
- 5. Humanitarian Logistics Hub Planning and Coordination
- 6. DRR Coordination Matrix
- 7. Training on Cash and Voucher Assistance



Knowledge and Capacity Sharing

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

- 1. Documentation of COVID 19 Response of Sphere India Members
- 2. Consultation with Academic Institutions
- 3. Regular Sessions on Sphere India Academy
- 4. Development of Training Portfolio
- 5. Transition Planning for Humanitarian Leadership and Resilience Building Academy
- 7. Guidelines for mainstreaming DRR and CCA in SDGs



Collaborative Advocacy

Focal Point: Nitish Barole, Coordinator, Collaborative Advocacy Contact: <u>nitish@sphereindia.org.in</u>

- 1. Climate Budgeting Log Frame
- 2. Developing Training Modules on Child Early & Forced Marriage (CEFM), Gender-Based Violence (GBV),
- Leadership in Girls, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)
- 3. Coordination Guidelines for Media and FBOs.
- 4. Planning and launch of Youth Parliament for DRR and Climate Change
- 5. Planning for Resilience Index in India



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