

Message from CEO

Dear Readers,

As we step into October 2023, it's a moment to reflect on the significant milestones and noteworthy events of the past month. Among these, the G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration 2023 stands out as a crucial international development. Looking ahead, October 13 marks the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, with this year's special emphasis on the intricate relationship between disasters and inequality. It's important to recognize that inequality and vulnerability to disasters are intertwined. Unequal access to essential services like finance and insurance leaves the most vulnerable exposed to disaster risks. Conversely, disasters often exacerbate existing inequalities and push those most at risk further into poverty. G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration on DRR also stressed the need to support and increase women's participation, partnership, decision-making and leadership in climate change mitigation and adaptation, and disaster risk reduction strategies and policy frameworks on environmental issues.

This month has witnessed a significant focus on publications that provide guidance for mitigating various vulnerabilities and enhancing responses to these challenges. Of particular note is the growing emphasis on women-centric issues, with a strong emphasis on recognizing the interconnectivity of these concerns. A landmark achievement in this regard was the passage of the reservation bill in Parliament, which represents a crucial step towards ensuring gender-specific representation and shattering the glass ceiling. Furthermore, the launch of the Menstrual Hygiene Scheme by the National Health Mission has played a pivotal role in promoting awareness of women's health and overall well-being.

Sharing some of the highlights from this month, we are happy to share on our continued efforts to monitor critical global discourses, documented through multiple knowledge resources disseminated on social media. In this September 2023 issue of Samanvay, we have aimed to encompass the various events, including the Global and National Programs, in collaboration with our members and partners. This issue also features our regular updates including Program Updates through all verticals, updates from Members and IAGs as well as global and national updates and Grant Opportunities.

Herewith, I take this opportunity to thank all the members, partners, staff, and volunteers for their support and commitment. We will strive to improve our efforts to build synergies among diverse actors and will appreciate any feedback to improve our programs and this monthly bulletin.

Vikrant Mahajan
 CEO, Sphere India

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Panel Discussion on Increasing Urban Resilience in the Context of Flooding in Indian Cities

On 14th Sep 2023, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi and Sphere India co-hosted a session on Urban Flooding: Challenges and Way Forward with the increasing incidents of urban flooding in Indian cities. The speakers shared insights on the integration of traditional urban planning with adaptation and understanding the complexities of food-resilient infrastructure, including underground reservoirs and flood-resistant transport networks, which are crucial. As a way forward prioritization of green and blue infrastructure was emphasized for promoting sustainability.

Programs Update

Inter-Agency Coordination

Emergency Coordination

A total of seven national-level reports were prepared, covering various hazards, including rainfall, floods, and landslides, each related to different locations in India. Among these reports, three focused on the situation in Manipur. Sphere India also addressed flood and lightning situations in different parts of India, including Assam, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat and lightning in Odisha during this period.

In response to the recent lightning incident in Odisha, Sphere India continuously monitored the ground situation in coordination with the IAG and subsequently developed and released one situation report. As part of our efforts to strengthen the IAG in Odisha and enhance capacity, Sphere India along with Climate Resilient Observing Systems Promotion Council (CROPS) and IAG Odisha organized an awareness session on the Zoom platform.

System Strengthening Efforts through Inter-Agency Group (IAG) in Manipur

In Manipur, Sphere India facilitated district-level Inter-Agency Group (IAG) meetings in Kangpokpi, Imphal West, and Imphal East districts in September to gather updates and challenges from responding agencies. Government officials were also part of these meetings. Apart from that, we consistently updated the camp dashboard each week through continuous coordination with district coordinators. Furthermore, we conducted a thorough gap analysis by closely monitoring the real-time camp dashboard and subsequently released three situation reports.

Road Safety Device Use Case Evaluation: Engaging with Delhi Traffic Police

Sphere India has initiated a study focused on evaluating the utilization of road safety devices among road users in Delhi. As part of our engagement in this research, our team actively participated in a Road Safety event that took place on September 24, 2023, at Connaught Place.

This event was organized by the Delhi Traffic Police in collaboration with the Raahgiri Foundation. Our participation provided us with valuable insights into the initiatives undertaken by the Road Safety Department. Moreover, it facilitated meaningful connections with key authorities, setting the stage for forthcoming interviews and research endeavors.

Collaborative Advocacy

Urban Dialogue: Policy Solutions for Adequate Housing to Build Inclusive and Resilient Urban Settlements

The urban dialogue was organized by Habitat for Humanity India in collaboration with UN-Habitat India, IFC - International Finance Corporation and Sphere India. It brought together experts, policymakers, and stakeholders to discuss innovative solutions for inclusive and resilient urban housing. The Dialogue emphasized the need for inclusive and resilient urban settlements and explored policy frameworks, innovative solutions, and collaborative partnerships to create sustainable housing ecosystems.

The event commenced with the inaugural session emphasizing the importance of affordable housing, essential infrastructure, and service facilities in sustainable urban development. Key highlights included the Jaga Mission in Odisha, which aimed to empower slum dwellers by providing land rights and addressing housing gaps through Microfinance Institutions. Examples from Andhra Pradesh were also shared. Collaboration with Housing Finance Institutions was stressed, and global commitments in social inclusion and sustainable urban development were discussed.

Knowledge and Capacity sharing

Training on Disaster Response for Procurement Officers of Tata Sustainability Group

Sphere India in collaboration with NIDM and Tata Sustainability Group organized a 4-day residential training program on disaster response for procurement officers of the Tata Group. The training involved 30 participants from various Tata Group companies engaged in procurement and logistics who will be trained for deployment during various disasters. The training on Day 1 was aimed exclusively for the new cadre on Day 1 was aimed exclusively for the experienced cadre, the training was a refresher on SOPs and humanitarian principles during disasters.

Training on Mainstreaming of Animal Welfare in Disaster Risk Reduction

Sphere India in collaboration with Brooke India organized a training on Mainstreaming Animal Welfare in DRR for Brooke India's staff. This was a two-day online training for 35 participants. The training covered topics such as basic concepts of disaster management, relationship of animal welfare and DRR, techniques for animal handling during disasters, legal and policy framework for animal protection in DRR, LEGS framework, experience sharing by professionals engaged in animal rescue during disaster response, etc.

Education in Emergencies - Teachers as Catalysts for Resilient Education Systems

During times of disasters and conflicts, education often becomes the first casualty and the last to be restored. Education in Emergencies (EiE) plays a crucial role by providing stability, hope, and continuity of learning for children affected by crises, offering a sense of normalcy and opportunities for their future in adverse conditions. EiE also serves as a hub for various well-being services like healthcare, nutrition, hygiene, sanitation, and psychosocial support, benefiting not only students but also their families and communities. Recognizing the critical importance of addressing these challenges, Sphere India Academy, in collaboration with UNICEF India, organized an online session that delved into the pivotal role of teachers in education during emergencies, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed to respond effectively to the unique challenges.

Preventing Snakebite Deaths: A DRR Issue on International Snakebite Awareness Day

Snakebites are a significant public health concern in India, particularly affecting vulnerable groups like farmers and rural communities. The World Health Organization (WHO) has set a goal to reduce global snakebite deaths by half by 2030, highlighting the need for comprehensive prevention and emergency care strategies. In India, snakebite-related fatalities are underreported but estimated at around 58,000 annually, with severe consequences such as amputations and disabilities. Access to affordable antivenom is limited, exacerbating the problem. To address this issue, Sphere India Academy, in collaboration with CARN-AP and PRISM, organized a session on "Preventing Snakebite Deaths: A DRR Issue on International Snakebite Awareness Day" on September 18th, 2023. Speakers, including Dr. Anuradha Day, Prof. Farid Ahsan, Dr. Surjit Giri, Dr. Manojit Kaur Bai, and Mr. Shreyas Mitra, discussed the global impact of snakebites, mitigation strategies, and knowledge exchange to foster collaborative solutions.

Webinar: Resilience of Animals in the Face of Climate Change-Induced Disasters

Over the past decade, the frequency of disasters in India has increased, posing a significant threat to both humans and animals. India has a large livestock population, and disasters, such as floods, droughts, and cyclones, annually claim the lives of hundreds of animals. Recognizing the need for comprehensive disaster preparedness that includes animal welfare, Sphere India and Humane Society International/India organized an online discussion session titled "Building Resilience of Animals in the Face of Rising Disasters" on September 18th. During the session, Mr. Praveen S (Humane Society International/India) discussed the importance of improving disaster resilience for animals and Dr. K M Singh (Policy Perspectives Foundation) explored the effective strategies for animal inclusion in disaster management plans, aiming to promote the integration of animals in disaster management in India.

Updates from Members

Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) in collaboration with Sphere India and TERI organized "National Dialogue on Resilience: Reflecting on People Led Resilience Building" on 5th and 6th September 2023 at IIC, New Delhi. The panel discussion on "Surviving to Thriving through Change: Empowering Resilience in the Face of Uncertainty" was moderated by Ms. Lee MacQueen, Chairperson of Sphere India.

Srisht for Resilience in collaboration with SEEDS India is facilitating three days training on Humanitarian Leadership for grassroots organizations from Odisha, Bengal and Assam at Bhubaneswar. 23 leaders from 9 organisations are participating in this training. Srisht's team has developed full training package including training module, ppt and reading material for this training.

News from IAGs/ State Networks

A webinar was convened by the **MahaPECOnet Secretariat** to explore collaborative opportunities in cross-sector partnerships to establish a clear vision aligning to SDGs 1,2,4,5 and 8. Mr. Rajan Kumar, Director of the Vision Access Program at Vision Spring presented on collaboration opportunities in peacetime as preparedness for the members in Maharashtra. The event laid out beneficial for individuals actively engaged in grassroots initiatives.

On 20th September 2023, a WaSH Consultation was organised by **UP IAG** and Sphere India at the Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority. The meeting was chaired by Shri. Lt. Gen Ravindra Pratap Sahi, Vice Chairman, UPSDMA. In addition close to 30+ participants were part of the consultation. Sphere India and UP IAG mobilized participants for active deliberation on strengthening WaSH Systems during Emergencies.

Climate Corner

Carbon Pricing Metrics: Decarbonizing Pricing Approaches

This comprehensive report highlights the importance of measuring and understanding carbon pricing metrics. It emphasizes the need for international energy prices with environmental and health costs. The joint efforts of international institutions like the IMF, OECD, UN, and World Bank Group are crucial in this endeavor. The report's typography for analyzing CP metrics is a valuable tool for policymakers and stakeholders, fostering better-informed decisions. There is a growing consensus among both governments and businesses on the fundamental role of carbon pricing in the transition to a decarbonized economy. Given the size and urgency imposed by the climate challenge, a full range of carbon pricing approaches. [Read More >>](#)

Climate Action Tracker: Benchmarks for the Power System

The Climate Action Tracker (CAT) provides new 1.5°C compatible benchmarks for the power sector, for the world as a whole and 16 countries, a mix of developed and developing. These are: Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, EU27, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Morocco, Türkiye, South Africa, the UAE, the UK, and the US. Based on the methodology focus on what is needed to limit warming to 1.5°C and show how the shares of coal, fossil gas and renewables need to evolve out to 2050, and what this means for the emissions intensity of electricity generation, giving a roadmap for power sector decarbonization. Many developing countries will need significant financial support to achieve the benchmarks set out in this report. [Read More >>](#)

Nature-Based Solutions to Build Climate Resilience in Informal Areas

The huge potential of using nature based solutions (NBS) to build climate resilience for some of the most vulnerable people living in informal settlements with over 23% of the global population expected to live in cities by 2050, increasingly extreme climate effects, and a global biodiversity crisis, NBS offer a huge potential to address a range of challenges simultaneously. They can improve health and well-being, reduce heat stress, prevent erosion and reduce flooding, they can deliver ecosystem services, support livelihoods, bring back biodiversity, real world case studies and clustering them for easy access, it demonstrates what has and has not worked so far. NBS and adaptation actions need pre-pro, participatory. [Read More>>](#)

Climate Week Observed in New York City from 17th - 24th September 2023

The Climate Week was held in NYC from 17-24th September 2023, run by Climate Group in partnership with the UN General Assembly and the City of New York. Climate Week NYC took place against a backdrop of the increasing impacts of the climate crisis being felt around the world through extreme heat, wildfires and devastating flooding, and vested interests continuing to slow down climate progress. [Read More >>](#)

Updates from International Humanitarian Community

Challenges in Reporting Progress on the 2030 Agenda at Local Levels: An Assessment of the 2021 Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) through a systematic overview assessment of the contents of the 48 VLRs released in 2021, this discussion paper highlights interesting approaches taken by some sub-national authorities to implement the SDGs and report on their progress, including on one of the fundamental principles of the 2030 Agenda, namely leaving no one behind. It also provides evidence of good practices and other valuable experiences to share lessons learned and facilitate mutual learning. [Read More>>](#)

The Protection of Human Rights Defenders in the Context of Business and Human Rights: The study reveals that an inconsistent level of understanding and recognition toward the role of HRDs among government agencies and business sectors remains a major barrier, leading to a greater vulnerability of HRDs. The study also discloses that key actors in the judicial system: judges, public prosecutors and even lawyers play a critical role in the process of ensuring that HRDs enjoy a heightened degree of protection as well as appropriate access to remedial measures. The protection of human rights is vital. [Read More>>](#)

Land and Property Taxation in Fragile States: Fragile states typically cannot serve their citizens adequately, and often have weak or outdated formal systems. Conflict, violence and corruption may be widespread, and laws are authoritarian or difficult to enforce. Skilled staff are hard to recruit; equipment and records may be damaged or stolen in fighting. But local governments and municipalities must still provide services to their residents, and they need revenue to do so. One way to raise revenue is by raising their own revenue through taxes on land and property. [Read More>>](#)

Youth Needs Analysis Capacity Building towards UNFCCC Work Programmes: UNFCCC is the international negotiation process on climate change, with the annual Conference of the Parties (COP) being the key intergovernmental meeting where most major global decisions are made. The constituency has been conducting capacity building sessions facilitated by experienced constituency members since 2009 to equip members to be prepared for Conference of the Parties (COP) and the Subsidiary Bodies (SBs). In order to do this in an efficient and inclusive manner, a survey was conducted among YOUNGO constituency members to understand more about their capacity building needs. [Read More>>](#)

Promising Practices for Gender Equality: This catalogue provides a directory of 37 promising policy measures that can support countries to better respond to future crises, and to build more gender-equitable societies and economies. These measures are the most promising practices distilled among the 5,000 policy measures adopted by governments in response to the pandemic and monitored by the UNDP-UN Women COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker. In sum, the evidence here presented urges governments to boost gender responsive policy making in quieter times to ensure adequate coverage. [Read More>>](#)

Climate Ambition Summit, UN agencies and IFRC kickstart major initiative towards realizing Early Warnings for All by 2027

At the UN Climate Ambition Summit held in New York, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) announced the development of a large-scale, collaborative push to establish life-saving Early Warning Systems in some of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries. The Early Warnings for All initiative an ambitious push to ensure everyone on Earth is protected from hazardous weather, water, and climate events through life-saving early warning systems by the end of 2027.

Updates from Government

G-20 New Delhi Leaders Declaration 2023

During the recent G20 India Leaders' Meeting held in New Delhi from September 9th to 10th, 2023, leaders placed significant emphasis on the unity, addressing global challenges, and the development of a human-centric global system. Key focus areas included sustainable development, gender equality, and tackling climate change. There was a recognition of being off-track in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), accompanied by a commitment to accelerate their implementation.

The pivotal role of digital transformation in advancing the SDGs was acknowledged, along with a commitment to enhancing global food security and promoting sustainable food systems. Leaders also expressed awareness of potential macroeconomic impacts and pledged support for efforts aimed at mitigating food insecurity. Additionally, India's success in disaster risk reduction was highlighted, showcasing its early warning systems, disaster management plans, and resilient response to cyclones, emphasizing the importance of disaster resilience in the country.

PM Launches the 'Sankalp Saptah' - A week long Aspirational Blocks Programme Portal

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched a unique week-long programme for Aspirational Blocks in the country called 'Sankalp Saptah' at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. He also launched the Aspirational Blocks Programme Portal and inaugurated the exhibition showcased on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister noted the venue -Bharat Mandapam and the gathering - people who are taking care of development in the far-flung areas. "It is an indication of the government's thinking that such a gathering is taking place at the world affairs, gathered just a month ago", he said. The Prime Minister welcomed the ground-level change makers.

IGOT Training Programme as part of Karamyogi Bharat

Karamyogi Bharat in partnership with NITI Aayog, is currently imparting training on the IGOT Platform to 5000 Block-level officials across 500 Blocks as a part of the Aspirational Blocks Programme. The collaboration aims to equip Block-level officials as catalysts for grassroots movement helping transform under-served Blocks across the country. A curated collection of 10 courses has been specially created on the iGOT Karmayogi Platform covering themes such as Leadership, Mission LiFE, Yoga, Sustainable Development, and Team Building.

Climate Energy Dashboard (ICED) 3.0

NITI Aayog released the India's Climate Energy Dashboard (ICED) 3.0 - The ICED is the country's one-stop platform for near real-time data on the energy sector, climate, and related economic datasets based on government published sources. This dashboard offers more than 500 parameters, over 2000 infographics, and a number of interactive visualizations, allowing users to gain a holistic understanding of India's energy sector.

Menstrual Health Hygiene Scheme

The scheme was initially implemented in 2011 in 107 selected districts in 17 States wherein a pack of 6 sanitary napkins called "Freedays" was provided to rural adolescent girls for Rs. 6. From 2014 onwards, funds are now being provided to States/UTs under National Health Mission for decentralized procurement of sanitary napkins packs for provision to rural adolescent girls at a subsidized rate of Rs 6 for a pack of 6 napkins. A range of IEC material has been developed around MHS, using a 360 degree approach to create awareness among adolescent girls about safe MH.

Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) Campaign 3.0: Garbage Free India

Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2023 campaign themed "Garbage-Free India". This year's campaign has identified several SBM activities which include cleaning of nearly 5300 beaches, revitalizing 4300 riversbanks and waterfronts, reclaiming over 10,700 legacy waste sites, improving 2400 tourist and iconic destinations, and restoring over 93,000 public spaces. Additionally, over 12,000 water bodies have been cleaned, over 60,000 institutional buildings rejuvenated, and nearly 47,000 garbage-vulnerable sites cleaned. These numbers reflect the unwavering dedication and the power of 'Jan Andolan' to bring about rapid transformation.

Commission for Air Quality Management held in NCR and Adjoining Areas

With the aim to take strict measures to control air pollution during the winter months in Delhi, when the air pollution significantly deteriorates, Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas, CAQM held a review meeting on 26th September, 2023 with Chief Secretary Delhi, Chairperson NDMC, Principal Secretary Environment, Commissioner MCD, Commissioner, Transport and other Senior Officers of Govt. of NCT of Delhi including DPCC.

Grants and Opportunities

Thrive Together: Strengthening Communities of Lived Experience to End Childhood Sexual Violence

The grant seeks to invest in organizations, strengthening their collective and individual capacities, expanding their connections to the broader movement working to end sexual violence against children (SVAC), and removing any obstacles that impede their impact.

Organization: Jignite Philanthropy
Deadline: 17th- October - 23
[More Info>>](#)

India Opens Grant Fund

This Fund seeks to meet our strategic aim to enable vulnerable communities living in priority geographical areas to improve their lives. Many communities in India have inherent strengths which are often overlooked when modern development frameworks are used to view them.

Organization: Paul Hamlyn Foundation
Deadline: Rolling Basis
[More Info>>](#)

Call for Proposals: Palladium Challenge Fund for Emerging Organisations

The 2023 Palladium Challenge Fund: Technology for Humanitarian Action is seeking proposals from organisations with innovative solutions to humanitarian crisis – unlocking the value of technological innovation or scaling existing innovations. The fund brings in ideas from the network in over 90 countries and partnership with over 1,600 organisations.

Organization: International Journal of Climate Change Impacts and Responses
Deadline: 25-Jan-24
[More Info>>](#)

Call for Papers at the 6th World Congress on Climate Resilience

The 6th World Congress on Climate Resilience will be held in New Delhi, India, from 15-19 October 2023. The congress will focus on the theme of 'Building Resilient Communities in the Face of Climate Change'. The congress will provide a platform for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to share their latest findings and experiences in the field of climate resilience. The congress will also feature a number of side events, including workshops, seminars, and panel discussions.

Upcoming Events

Sphere India Academy Calendar

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

UPCOMING SESSIONS FOR OCTOBER 2023

- 4. Climate Resilience Future: Enriching Climate Smart Solutions in Resilient Building Process
- 10. Women's Resilience: From Surviving to Thriving
- 16. Animal Amieet Disasters
- 20. Psychological Resilience: Challenges in Emergencies: Strategies and Techniques for Effective and Compassionate Care.
- 23. Training on Disaster Response for Procurement Officers from Disasters
- 25. Unlocking the Potential of Loss and Damage Funding Strategies for Effective Allocation and Utilization
- 27. Aiding with Resilience: Psychosocial Support for the Elderly in Emergencies
- 001. Link Training on Disaster Response for Procurement Officers
- 002. Disaster: The Power of Images in Communicating the Impact of Disasters

Plans Ahead

Inter-Agency Coordination

Focal Point: Cyjo Abraham, Deputy Manager - Inter Agency Coordination
 Contact: cyjo@sphereindia.org.in

- Multi Sector Coordination
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordination
- Planning for Annual Leaders Learning Workshop
- Inter-Agency Coordination
- Humanitarian Response Efforts

Knowledge and Capacity Sharing

Focal Point: Nishel Mohan, Deputy Manager - Knowledge and Capacity Sharing
 Contact: nishel@sphereindia.org.in

- Sphere India Academy
- Knowledge Products and Documentation
- Trainings on Psychosocial Support in Emergencies
- Evidence based Research
- Communications

Collaborative advocacy

Focal Point: Ms. Hezhibah Lakshmanal, Deputy Manager - Communications and Collaborative Advocacy
 Contact: hezb@sphereindia.org.in

- Evidence Based Advocacy
- Stakeholder Focused Advocacy
- Navigating Humanitarian Development Interventions
- Communication Based Advocacy and Campaigns

Sphere India
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