

Message from CEO

Dear Readers,

With the onset of Autumn this year, the news of Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) in Sikkim and West Bengal in India is another reminder of climate mitigation and DRR preparedness efforts are required as the need of the hour. Sphere India closely monitored the situation in the two states, coordinated with multiple stakeholders, disseminating regular streps, and organizing coordination meetings with to ensure appropriate, and timely responses.

Last month, India's presidency of the G20 successfully highlighted the global agenda for DRR and resilience, and this year's IDRRR day which was observed on 13th October focused on the theme of "Fighting inequality for a resilient future". While the disaster management system in the country has become more prompt in response, it is always vital to reflect on fighting inequalities and reach out to the most vulnerable populations. National Institute for Disaster Management also organised a national workshop to observe the day, wherein significance of education, child health and skill development in creating resilience against disasters was highlighted.

As part of our ongoing Sphere India Academy initiative, we continued with the series of sessions on animal protection which concluded this month, along with regional consultation in Bangla to advocate for disaster response. The details of the sessions are available in this issue of SAMANVAY.

Apart from this, the focus for next month would be on upcoming COP 28 which would focus on fast-tracking the energy transition and slashing emissions before 2030, transforming climate finance and advancing global efforts in Paris Agreement. We would continue to explore pathways of convergence on critical emerging challenges and issues.

The issue also features other important initiatives undertaken by us, member organisations, IAGs and network groups, the government, global humanitarian dialogues. 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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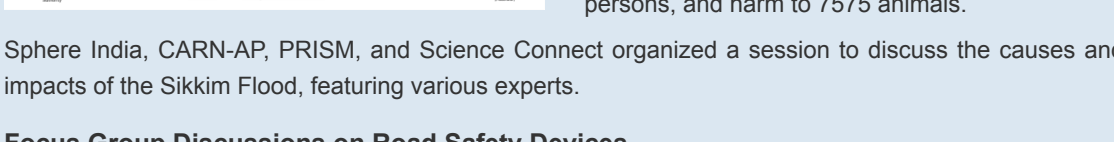
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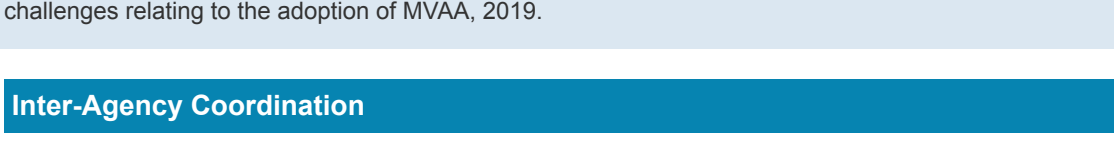
Regional Language: Consultations on Climate Resilient Future: Embracing Climate Smart Solutions in Resilience Building Process

In the final session of a 12-part series conducted in Bangla, Ms. Nitha Dhar emphasized the adoption of climate-smart solutions for resilience building. Organized by CARN-AP, Sphere India Academy, CANSAs, and others, this series focused on disaster risk reduction for local communities in Bengali-speaking regions. Phase 2, a 7-day workshop for community volunteers, is planned for March 2024, and active participation is encouraged.



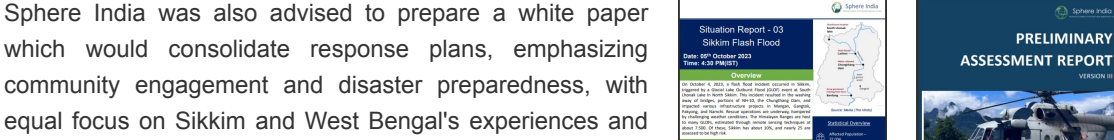
Safeguarding Animals, from School to Sanctuary, Amidst Disasters

The sessions stressed the need to safeguard both captive and wild animals in disasters. Natural and human-made disasters disrupt habitats and threaten wildlife. Additionally, it highlighted the role of schools in promoting animal welfare and disaster preparedness. Presented by Sphere India and Humane Society International India, speakers included Mr. Praveen S and Dr. Sekhar Lukose Kuriaikose.



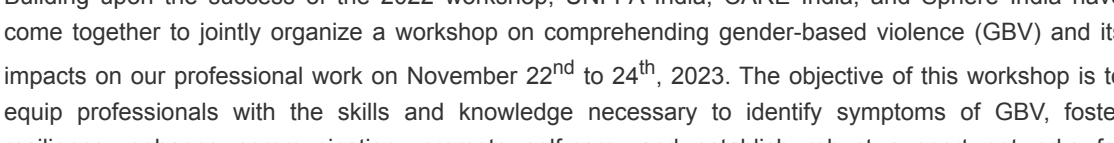
Dialogue on the Causes and Impacts of the Recent Sikkim Flood

On October 4th, a surge in the Teesta River caused catastrophic flooding in Sikkim and Kalimpong District, West Bengal, leading to extensive damage, 36 casualties, 79 missing persons, and harm to 7575 animals.



Focus Group Discussions on Road Safety Devices

As part of ongoing project, Sphere India conducted Focus Group Discussion in 5 Districts of Delhi. The study is being conducted to identify the usage pattern regarding Road Safety Devices: Seatbelts, Child Restraint System, Helmet including child helmet. Through the FGDs conducted in residential areas of Delhi, Sphere India got the opportunity to understand various aspects including the gaps and challenges relating to the adoption of MVAAs, 2019.

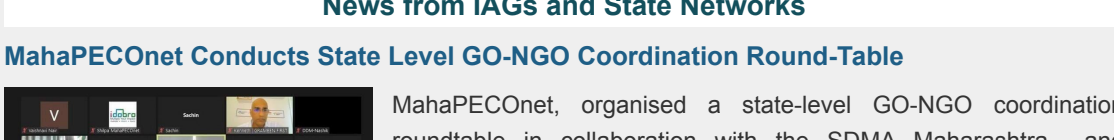


Inter-Agency Coordination

Emergency Coordination Activities in Connection with Flood: Sikkim and West Bengal

On October 4, 2023, Sphere India responded to a sudden Teesta River surge by promptly issuing three situational reports within six hours. These reports detailed the damages and impacts on infrastructure in various districts. They convened inter-agency coordination meetings, leading to the activation of a Unified Response Strategy matrix and preliminary assessment reports. These reports, combining data from responding agencies, government sources, and media, were released between October 6 and 18. A multistakeholder consultation on October 20 involved key organizations and discussed resilience-building and future disaster mitigation.

Sphere India was also advised to prepare a white paper which would consolidate response plans, emphasizing community engagement and disaster preparedness, with equal focus on Sikkim and West Bengal's experiences and challenges. Lastly, there is a strong emphasis on producing a balanced and comprehensive report that accurately portrays the impact of the GLOF and the Dam Outburst in both Sikkim and West Bengal, ensuring equal representation of the experiences and challenges.



MoMs >> Sitres >> Report >>

Gender Based Violence (GBV) Workshop:

Building upon the success of the 2022 workshop, UNFPA India, CARE India, and Sphere India have come together to jointly organize a workshop on comprehending gender-based violence (GBV) and its impacts on our professional work on November 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The objective of this workshop is to equip professionals with the skills and knowledge necessary to identify symptoms of GBV, foster resilience, enhance communication, promote self-care, and establish robust support networks for survivors. In this regard, Sphere India has undertaken the task of mobilizing Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) from Mizoram and Assam to participate in this significant initiative.

Collaborative Advocacy

Strengthening Efforts for Effective Mitigation for Urban Challenges

As part of advocacy efforts, focus this month has been on highlighting urban challenges in India through policy briefs and solutions. Capturing urban resilience centers around promoting nature-based solutions, facilitating collaborative multi-stakeholder initiatives, advocating for sustainable urban planning, and endorsing the use of advanced technologies for effective flood management have been captured from the culmination of a workshop session on Urban Flooding. On the other hand, inclusive housing solutions revolved around the development of a comprehensive policy framework for affordable housing, engaging stakeholders in inclusive urban planning, and encouraging the implementation of resilient housing designs. The ultimate goal being to create vibrant, resilient, and inclusive urban environments that drive economic growth and social progress. As a way forward, an urban inclusive housing strategy framework would be developed.

Read More >>

News from IAGs and State Networks

MahaPECONet Conducts State Level GO-NGO Coordination Round-Table

MahaPECONet, organised a state-level GO-NGO coordination roundtable in collaboration with the SDMA Maharashtra and UNICEF orchestrated 64 attendees with key stakeholders including divisional disaster management coordinators, DDMOs PMU Palladium India, GC Experts with division wise discussions which dealt with non-structural projects and training requirements.

IAG WB's Involvement in Monitoring Flood Situation and IAC Meeting

IAG WB released a situation report on the flood in October for the Kalimpong district and also participated in the IAC meeting, providing ground updates. [Read More>>](#)

News from Members

Empowering Girls: Plan India's Celebrations on International Day of the Girl Child: Plan India observed the international day of girl child by collaborating with the Norwegian Embassy in New Delhi, wherein an 18-year old girl named Firdosh was made an ambassador. The symbolic activity engaged to nudge leadership qualities in young changemakers and to create inspiring takers in the future. In addition, the day was followed by discussions on SDGs at the UN House. The day continued with lunch with other Nordic countries to further international relations.

Habitat for Humanity India: The India Urban Dialogue was held in September 2023 in New Delhi. The theme was 'Inclusive Policy Solutions for Resilient Urban Communities'. The conference was organized by Habitat for Humanity India in collaboration with UN-Habitat, Sphere India and International Finance Corporation. It aimed to foster collaboration among people, public and private stakeholders to identify key solutions and strengthen inclusive housing in Indian cities.

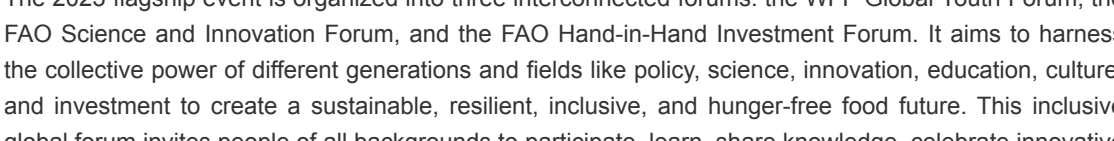
SEEDS India: SEEDS Solid Waste Management Project in collaboration with the Administration and Bokakhat Municipal Board, Assam organised a Community Cleanliness Drive in and around Bokakhat. Efforts were undertaken to bring the town a step closer to being a cleaner and greener. Self-Help Groups, local institutions and associations, Municipal Board Executive members, Bokakhat administration officials and local community members actively participated in the programme.

Source: Organisation's Social Media Handles

Updates from the Government

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Emphasizes Forest Sustainability at UNFF Meeting with Global Delegates

Union Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, Shri Bhupendra Yadav, highlighted the significance of forest fire prevention, post-fire restoration, and forest certification for sustainable forest management at the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF). This event, hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, brought together over 80 delegates from 40 countries and 20 international organizations. The discussions focused on two thematic areas: forest fires' prevention and restoration and forest certification's role in sustainable forest management.



Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launching 'Leaders in Climate Change Management'.

International Day for DRR observed by NIDM on Inequality to Empowerment for Disaster Resilience

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) hosted an event on 13th October "Inequality to Empowerment for Disaster Resilience." Shri Amarjeet Sinha, was the chief guest who emphasized community inclusion in disaster management, focusing on educating girls for positive outcomes. Ms. Maithili Thakur, another panellist emphasised on experiences from flood-prone Bihar, highlighting the importance of skill development.

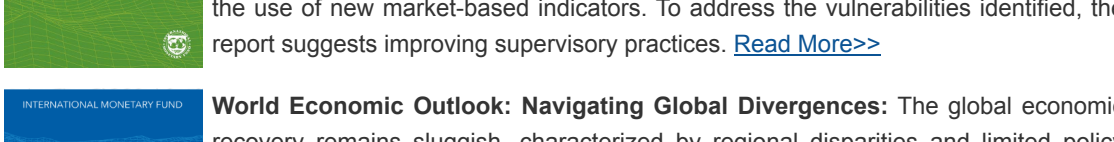
Mr. Tom White from UNICEF stressed inclusivity and the G20's commitments to disaster risk reduction. The discussions highlighted the significance of education, child health, and vocational opportunities in building resilience against disasters. These insights will guide NIDM's disaster risk reduction efforts.

Awareness Activities under Mission LIFE: October 2023

Mission LIFE (Lifestyle for Environment), launched by the Prime Minister in October 2022, focuses on promoting eco-friendly behaviors. The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change leads its implementation. As part of this initiative, awareness activities were conducted in Delhi at various locations, including CR Park, Lodhi Colony, ISKCON temple, Lotus temple, and Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium, with a significant response from people of all ages and backgrounds. More than 100,000 individuals participated, showcasing their interest in adopting sustainable practices to combat climate change and protect the environment.

Updates on World Habitat Day

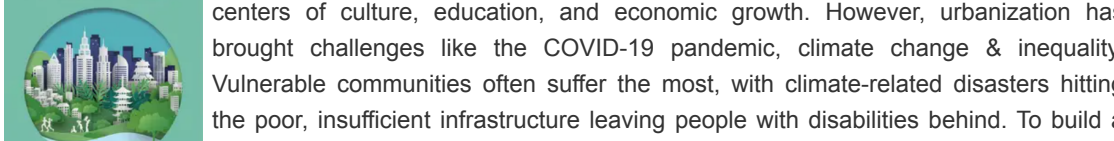
Urban Investment Surge, Urban Waste Processing Rises to 76% as highlighted by Shri. Hardeep Singh Housing & Urban Affairs Minister. World Habitat Day, held the global observance, where under the theme of "Resilient urban economies. Cities as drivers of growth and recovery," looked at how cities can position their economies to benefit residents. Aligning with the theme, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, hosted an event at Vigyan Bhawan today i.e. on 8th October 2023. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Housing & Urban Affairs, Mr. Shombi Sharng, UN Resident Coordinator, and Shri Manoj Joshi, Secretary, MoHUA attended the event.



Updates from International Humanitarian Community

Flagship Event: Fostering Collaboration for a Sustainable, Hunger-Free Food Future for 2023

The 2023 flagship event is organized into three interconnected forums: the WFF Global Youth Forum, the FAO Science and Innovation Forum, and the FAO Hand-in-Hand Investment Forum. It aims to harness the collective power of different generations and fields like policy, science, innovation, education, culture, and investment to create a sustainable, resilient, inclusive, and hunger-free food future. This inclusive global forum invites people of all backgrounds to participate, learn, share knowledge, celebrate innovative solutions, and collaborate to drive the changes necessary for food security and environmental sustainability on a global scale.



Read More >>

Global Infrastructure Resilience Report: presents a compelling case for prioritizing infrastructure resilience investments from economic, financial, & political standpoints.

A significant contribution is the Global Infrastructure Risk Model and Resilience Index, which provides financial risk metrics for every country across various infrastructure sectors and hazards. These metrics support the assessment of the "resilience dividend," highlighting the wide-ranging benefits of resilience investments. The report also emphasizes the role of Nature-based Infrastructure Solutions (NbIS) & need for knowledge sharing and standardization. [Read More>>](#)

Interconnected Disaster Risks: Humans often perceive processes as straightforward and predictable, especially in the context of essential resources like water. We turn on the tap, and water flows. However, we seldom contemplate the origin of this water or the intricate processes that precede its arrival, leaving us oblivious to the impact of our consumption on others within the system. Furthermore, we rarely consider the risk that the source of our water might one day vanish. Our world is composed of interlinked systems—water systems, food systems, transportation systems, and ecosystems, among others. [Read More>>](#)

South Asia Development Update, October 2023: Toward Faster, Cleaner Growth: South Asia is expected to grow faster than any other emerging market and developing economy (EMDE) region in 2024-25. However, for all countries, this will represent a slowdown from pre-pandemic averages. Several potential adverse events could derail this outlook, including risks related to fragile fiscal positions. Government debt in South Asia averaged 86% of GDP in 2022, above that of any other EMDE region. [Read More>>](#)

Global Financial Sustainability Report: Reports to global growth are set to stay higher for longer. It warns that if the global economy does not experience the soft landing that market participants are hoping for, cracks in the financial system could escalate into more serious issues. This assessment involves an advanced global stress test and the use of new market-based indicators. To address the vulnerabilities identified, the report suggests improving supervisory practices. [Read More>>](#)

World Economic Outlook: Navigating Global Divergences: The global economic recovery remains sluggish, characterized by regional disparities and limited policy flexibility. The baseline projection indicates a decline in global growth from 3.5% in 2022 to 3.0% in 2023 and 2.9% in 2024, notably below the 3.6% historical average. Advanced economies are anticipated to decelerate from 2.6% in 2022 to 1.5% in 2023 and 1.4% in 2024 due to tightening policies. Emerging markets and developing economies are expected to experience a modest growth dip from 4.1% in 2022 to 4.0% in 2023 and 2024. [Read More>>](#)

International Migration at IOM: Marriage-led migration or migration-led marriage was rarely discussed in public or private realms just over two decades ago. However, international marriage migration (IMM) has become a norm in today's globalised world. While a substantial body of literature deals with this growing practice, existing literature does not adequately address the role that ethnicity plays in the context of IMM. The purpose of this study is to explore the question of ethnicity in IMM in Southeast Asian contexts. It focuses on what we have called the 'predicament of ethnicity' and the negotiations around ethnicity, culture and identity. [Read More>>](#)

Crisis Resilient Urban Futures: The Future of Asian & Pacific Cities 2023: Asia & the Pacific have seen a significant shift towards urbanization, with cities becoming centers of culture, education, and economic growth. However, urbanization has brought challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change & inequality. Vulnerable communities often suffer the most, with disabilities behind. To build a sustainable future, inclusive & resilient urban planning is crucial. The UN partners have created this flagship report to highlight the same. [Read More>>](#)

Grants and Opportunities

United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security 2023: Call for Proposals

For the 2023 Call for Proposals, the UNTFHS will accept proposals for programmes to extend awareness of the human security approach and its usage at all levels, especially related to multi-dimensional risks such as climate induced on humanity. **Organization:** United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS) **Deadline:** 15 December 2023 [Read More>>](#)

Climate Change Fund: Asian Development Bank

Climate Change Fund (CCF) supports low-carbon and climate-resilient development in ADB's member countries. It plays a vital role in achieving climate targets under Strategy 2030. The fund offers financing for adaptation, clean energy, and emissions reduction in land use management. **Organization:** Asian Development Bank **Deadline:** 30th November 2023 [Read More >>](#)

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		

Sphere India Academy was launched on April 10th, 2020 (as COVID-19 Academy) as a collaborative initiative of WFP, UNICEF, WFP, WFP, Sphere India, and other organizations. The academy serves as a capacity-building program, aiming to provide training for humanitarian aid and humanitarian and frontline workers across India. Its primary objective is to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to fulfill various roles in emergency preparedness and response, as well as to support local government, administration, and communities. Over the past three years, the Academy has conducted more than 270 sessions, with approximately 150,000 participants and 684 unique resource persons delivering these sessions.

For more details, contact Ms. Hannah Kezia Jose at [hannah@sphereindia.org.in](mailto:hannah@sphereindia.org.in)

Sphere India Annual Lessons Learnt Workshop will be organised in 18th-19th December 2023 with pre consultations with multiple stakeholders scheduled in November 2023. More details will be shared shortly.

Plans Ahead (November 2023)

Inter-Agency Coordination

Focal Point: Cijlo Abraham, Deputy Manager, Inter Agency Coordination  
Contact: [cijlo@sphereindia.org.in](mailto:cijlo@sphereindia.org.in)

- Multi Sector Coordination with SDMA and Line Departments
- Emergency Response Coordination
- Annual Lessons Learnt Workshop
- Sector Committee Meetings
- Humanitarian Response Efforts

Knowledge and Capacity Sharing

Focal Point: Mishel Mohan, Deputy Manager, Knowledge and Capacity Sharing  
Contact: [mishel@sphereindia.org.in](mailto:mishel@sphereindia.org.in)

- Humanitarian leadership and Resilience building Academy;
- Knowledge Products and Documentation
- Partnership Standards
- Evidence based Research
- Communications

Collaborative Advocacy

Focal Point: Hephzibah Lakhnappal, Deputy Manager, Collaborative Advocacy & Communications  
Contact: [hephzibah@sphereindia.org.in](mailto:hephzibah@sphereindia.org.in)

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



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