

Message from CEO

Dear Readers,

As we step into April, let us reflect on the significant milestones from the last few weeks. Looking at the upcoming months with the end of Spring season, there has been strides of mitigation and preparedness action with the looming heatwave across North India with alarming record temperatures. Sphere India along with AIDMI and other partners also spearheaded the Heatwave Preparedness through a Multistakeholder Consultation. On the same lines, a concerning subject is the grappling drought crisis in India, affecting 26% of its land area, more than doubling from the previous year, with 9% experiencing extreme drought. The drought situation in Karnataka is already at a critical level. The looming threat of a Super El Niño heightens concerns over disrupting weather patterns, potentially leading to heavy rainfall, flooding, and prolonged dry spells, hence reaffirming the need and commitment for Drought preparedness and response in the country.

With the plans and strategies in place for the new Indian financial year, we recognize the urgent necessity for climate resilience and disaster preparedness, especially given the forecasted heatwaves nationwide. Our dedication to strengthening resilience in at-risk areas remains unwavering and also bridging inter-sectionality that arise with it. We persist in promoting enhanced readiness and local efforts to alleviate these crucial issues. We will also be convening for an Annual Learning and Planning Workshop with focus on Monitoring, Evaluation and Leaning with focus on Data in Humanitarian context.

I take this opportunity to extend heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all our members and partners for their support, unwavering dedication, and commitment to humanitarian action and resilience building in India in the last two decades. We are committed to enhancing synergies among diverse stakeholders and welcome any feedback to improve our programs and monthly bulletin. Our aim is to ensure that our monthly bulletins serve as valuable sources of information. Your feedback and suggestions are invaluable as we strive to enhance the quality and relevance of our communications.

Warm Regards,

Vikrant Mahajan

CEO, Sphere India

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Governance Update

Sphere India Board, alongside new Board Members convened for the first quarterly meeting of 2024 on 28th March 2024. New Board members were introduced in the meeting along with regular processes, including programs and finalcial update along with Plans Ahead.

Programs Update

Inter-Agency Coordination

Emergency Coordination through information sharing

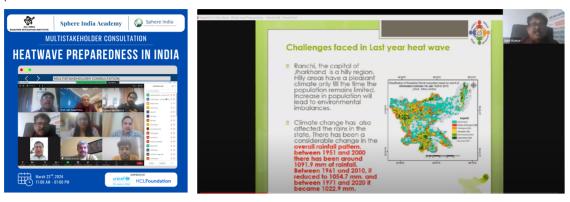


Sphere India developed a sitrep ahead of the severe drought conditions faced in several parts of India, notably impacting Kerala, Karnataka, and Maharashtra. In Kerala, while mild drought conditions are predicted, hopes for relief in April and May are pinned on anticipated summer rainfall. Karnataka grapples with critical drought, affecting 223 taluks and causing significant crop loss, exacerbating water scarcity even in urban centers like Bengaluru. Maharashtra intensifies its response, expanding the list of affected regions to 66% of administrative areas. Governments provide aid, but stress proactive measures to mitigate the crisis, including financial assistance and establishment of Telemetric Weather Stations in Uttar Pradesh.

Heatwave Preparedness in Action



The Multistakeholder Consultation for Heatwave in India, organised jointly by Sphere India and All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) on March 22nd, 2024, brought together various stakeholders addressing and gaging on the imminent challenges posed by rising temperatures. Stakeholders from diverse geographies and expertise convened to discuss past experiences, challenges, and strategies for the upcoming heatwave season. Presentations by experts highlighted heatwave forecasting, technology gaps, and the role of media in early warning dissemination especially different comparisons from urban context were also highlighted. As a way forward, enhanced stakeholder collaboration, policy reflection and raising awareness with NGOs and communitybased organisations on requisite action on the challenges surrounding heatwave, were identified as some of the priorities



Collaborative Advocacy

Master-Session on Advocacy Approaches: Learn in 10 Minutes



During our recent "Sphere India Day," we were delighted to host an invaluable session on "The Basics of Advocacy in Action." Ms. Debadrita Sengupta, Manager at Bal Raksha Bharat, Save the Children, delivered an enlightening module on "Advocacy and Organisations undertaking advocacy on Various Initiatives," emphasizing the crucial role of advocacy in driving meaningful change. The discussion highlighted

governance, accountability, and strategy as foundational pillars in the humanitarian sector.

Knowledge and Capacity sharing

Youth-Led Innovation in Disaster Management



Sphere India Academy hosted a captivating webinar today on "Youth-led Innovation in Disaster Management." The session, explored the empowering realm of youth-led initiatives in disaster management. Attendees delved into how the dynamic energy of youth can drive positive change in disaster mitigation. Reflecting on insightful discussions, participants were encouraged to foster greater youth engagement in disaster management. The webinar aimed to inspire action and spread awareness about the transformative role of youth in addressing disaster challenges. The event concluded successfully, with participants urged to continue spreading the word and inviting more youth to join future endeavors.

Sphere India Interview Series with Waste Warriors on Global Recycling Day



On Global Recycling Day, Sphere India Academy interviewed Mr. Mahesh Thakur, working at the Operations team of Waste Warriors Society, a beacon of environmental stewardship in Himachal Pradesh. The discussion allowed us to reflect on the importance of sustainable practices for a greener planet. Recycling not only conserved resources but also reduced pollution, minimized landfill waste, and conserved energy. It was a testament to Waste Warriors' leadership in sustainability.

Localisation in Empowering Communities Towards Resilience



CARN-AP in partnership with Sphere India and other collaborating partners organised a handholding training program 'Localization in Empowering Communities towards Resilience', organized from March 12th to 16th, 2024. Throughout this event, participants will delve into sessions covering the application of Kobo tools, fundamentals of GIS, and hands-on search and rescue/CPR training, among other invaluable topics.

Updates from Members

All India Disaster Management Institute (AIDMI) publishes their collection of research papers on the "Urgency of Heatwave Risk Management" for the South Asia Disaster March, 2024 Issue

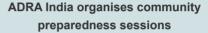


The urgency of addressing heatwave risks in South Asia is paramount as climate change exacerbates their frequency and severity. Despite their deadly consequences, heatwaves often receive insufficient attention from emergency responders and policymakers. The pioneering Heat Action Plan in Ahmedabad underscores the importance of proactive planning. Effective strategies should be collaborative, considering diverse societal impacts and responses, while acknowledging heatwaves as a consequence of human-induced climate change. Addressing this challenge demands not only technical planning but also political action and social justice advocacy.

Plan India working towards creating awareness for women in Indian cities



On International Women's Day, more than 526 individuals gathered at Public Park in South Delhi to celebrate within the Safer Cities for Girls Project. The event highlighted the significance of women's empowerment and safety in public spaces, drawing participation from various stakeholders, including government officials, legal experts, and NGOs. Notable figures like Manju Raju Nirmal (Councilor), Mrs. Sabika Ahmad (Senior Advocate), and Dr. Poonam Gulalia (Professor) shared valuable insights. Attendees enjoyed engaging activities, including games and cultural performances, showcasing the resilience of women and girls in the community.





ADRA India's team in Himachal Pradesh has been forming VDMCs (Village Disaster Management Committee) and conducting PVCA (Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment) activities across multiple communities. The VDMCs aim to strengthen local disaster preparedness and response capacities at the community level. And the PVCA activities aim to engage communities in understanding their vulnerabilities and capacities to better address development challenges. Through these initiatives, ADRA aims to build resilience in communities against various risks and disasters.

Localisation Efforts for Animal and Livestock Preparedness



In a concerted effort to localize disaster preparedness efforts, Sustainable Environment & Ecological Development Society (SEEDS), spearheaded a training with Heifer International and Sphere India. The training sessions took place in Muzaffarpur, Bihar aimed at informing local stakeholders about standards and guidelines for animal and livestock preparedness. This initiative equipped various participants with essential disaster response skills, intricately tailored to Bihar's livestock emergency preparedness context. The training, conducted with localized context and interactive activities, focused on global frameworks like the Livestock Emergency Guidelines and Standards (LEGS) framework basics, emergency planning, technical standards, and practical implementation strategies. The interactive nature of the sessions facilitated peer learning and collaboration, empowering participants to enhance disaster preparedness and response within their communities. Looking ahead, SEEDS plans to extend these efforts to community groups such as Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Village Disaster Management Committee (VDMC) representatives and subsequently to Self-Help Groups for fostering wider community engagement and resilience-building at the grassroots level.

Updates from IAGs/ State Networks

Disclaimer: Some of the Member updates have been taken from their respective social media handles and Websites



The Inter Agency Group (IAG) Gujarat's annual interventions for 2023-24 included coordinated during the responses recent Cyclone Biparjoy the and response subsequent action



The IAG meeting at UNICEF office in Raipur on March 4th. emphasized collaborative efforts and shared goals. The highlights the meeting included from improving operational functioning of IAG and furthering partnerships, while also stressing IAG as an information hub. IAG's proactive measures against environmental challenges were also highlighted. addition, In focusing on empowering domestic workers. Lastly, enhancing collaboration, inviting more NGOs to the network, defining clear objectives for unified action.



On March 14th IAG Jharkhand convened a meeting in Khunti district with representatives from various organizations. Discussions included the role of IAG in disaster management, LEADS Trust's initiatives in disaster awareness and community empowerment, and collaborative efforts to address local challenges. Plans for future engagements, including disaster activities preparedness and capacity-building technical Additionally, the meeting explored group insurance policies and establishing a WhatsApp group for members.

through, workshops on disaster preparedness, nutrition in emergencies, and community engagement. Key activities enhancing encompassed emergency response, conducting and developing consultations, utilization plans for cyclone shelters. Additionally, the IAG Gujarat facilitated capacity-building session for various stakeholders.

Updates from International Humanitarian Community



Core Humanitarian Standards: The Updated Core Humanitarian Standard, was released on 21st March 2024, which sets forth the principles and minimum standards for humanitarian response. Developed by the CHS Alliance through a two-year consultation involving 4,000 contributors from 90+ countries, it aims to enhance quality and accountability in humanitarian work, benefiting people affected by crises globally. The CHS 2024 is more people-centred, user-friendly and more accessible standard, so it can be used by any person or organisation providing support to people during crises. Read More>>



European Climate Risk Assessment: The EUCRA report builds on and complements the existing knowledge base on climate impacts and risks for Europe, including recent reports by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Copernicus Climate Change Service and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, as well as outcomes of EU-funded research and development projects and national climate risk assessments. The knowledge in this first-of-its-kind assessment is synthesised with the aim to support strategic policymaking. Read More>>



National Climate Risk Assessment: The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water, in collaboration with the Australian Climate Service, is spearheading Australia's inaugural National Climate Risk Assessment. This initiative aims to equip governments, industries, and communities with the insights needed to prepare for, adapt to, and mitigate risks posed by a changing climate. By conducting a comprehensive assessment, involving stakeholders at all levels, Australia endeavors to identify, analyze, and prioritize national climate risks Read More>>



Climate Technology Progress Report 2023: The Climate Technology Progress Report 2023 addresses the need for better understanding of the development, transfer, and uptake of climate technologies. It aims to elucidate the factors contributing to successful technology deployment and identify barriers and enablers for climate action. Serving as both a practical guide for national stakeholders and a resource for international processes like the UNFCCC's Global Stocktake, the report was developed by a team of scientists who applied a new approach to data from Asia. Read More>>



Anticipatory Action in 2022: The "Anticipatory Action in 2022: A Global Overview" report, produced by the Anticipation Hub, offers insights into the development of anticipatory action worldwide during 2022. It covers the expansion of anticipatory action frameworks, activations, and impacts, drawing on data verified by organizations in the sector. The report highlights the breadth of anticipatory actions implemented and outlines steps for future growth. It was made possible with support from the German Federal Foreign Office and contributions from various partners.<u>Read More>></u>

Extreme Heat Summit Urges Global Leaders to Act on Rising Temperatures



community resilience strategies.



68th session of the Commission on the Status of Women



The global summit on extreme heat was hosted by IFRC and USAID, online on March 28. The background being record-breaking temperatures and deadly heat waves affecting millions, the summit focused on government action and showcase pioneering efforts like tree-planting and reflective roof coverings. Notable speakers from global action driven organisations in the concerning area. The event also innovative solutions and

Launch of the Gender Action Plan: Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)

The launch of the Sendai Gender Action Plan (Sendai GAP), a crucial step in gender-inclusive disaster risk reduction, occurred on the margins of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. GNDR had contributed to the development of the Sendai GAP through member consultations, gathering feedback, and participation in the Regional Gender Expert Group in LAC, Asia, and Africa. The launch took place on March 18, from 1:15 to 2:30 pm NY Time United Nations General Assembly Building, New York.

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68) held a two-week session from 11th-22nd March focusing on accelerating gender equality and women's empowerment. Activities included ministerial round tables, general discussions, and interactive dialogues on priority themes like poverty alleviation and sustainable infrastructure. Youth representatives participated actively during discussions. CSW68 fostered efforts to strengthen gender equality through policy strategies and institutional strengthening.

Updates from Government

Coal Sector Aims to Ramp up Renewable Energy Capacity to Over 9 GW by 2030

The Ministry of Coal is spearheading a drive to boost renewable energy capacity in the coal sector, aiming to surpass 9 GW by 2030. With a focus on net-zero electricity consumption, initiatives include deploying rooftop and ground-mounted solar projects in mining facilities and reclaimed areas. Directives mandate solar solutions adoption in coal companies, targeting government buildings and de-coaled lands. Presently at 1700 MW solar capacity, the sector aims to scale up with a commitment to sustainability. This shift not only mitigates carbon emissions but also drives economic growth and job creation, ushering India towards a greener future.

DPIIT conducts stakeholder consultation on: Enabling Women Workforce Participation in

Logistics Sector



The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) organized a stakeholder consultation on "Enabling Women Workforce Participation in Logistics Sector" in New Delhi. Aimed at fostering gender diversity, the event emphasized creating a supportive ecosystem for women's involvement in logistics. Keynote speaker, Shri Rajeev Singh Thakur, highlighted the importance of gender inclusivity for industry growth.

Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat Launches Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch



the Rain 2024 Campaign

The fifth edition of the "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain 2024" campaign was launched by Union Minister for Jal Shakti, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat with the theme "Nari Shakti se Jal Shakti," the campaign underscores women's integral role in water conservation. Through a "Jal Kalash" ceremony and screenings of informative films. The campaign's interventions focus on water conservation, afforestation, and rejuvenating water bodies, aligning with the government's vision for a water-secure future.

Union Health Ministry and NDMA Issue Joint-Advisory to States on measures to prevent Hospital **Fires during Summer months**

The Union Health Ministry and NDMA issued a joint advisory to States/UTs to prevent hospital fires during summer. Hospitals are directed to conduct thorough inspections, address electrical load capacity, and obtain valid fire NOCs. They must ensure functional fire-fighting systems, conduct regular maintenance, and follow safety protocols for electrical equipment and oxygen storage. Installation of smoke detectors, control of combustible materials, and staff training are emphasized. States/UTs are urged to conduct follow-up reviews. The advisory aims to enhance fire safety measures in healthcare facilities, emphasizing proactive steps to mitigate risks and ensure the safety of patients and staff during the summer months.

Union Health Ministry launches National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming in India – An Initiative to halve the Snakebite deaths by 2030 through 'One Health' Approach



The Union Health Ministry launched the National Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (NAP-SE) to halve snakebite deaths by 2030, employing a 'One Health' approach. The plan includes measures for human, wildlife, tribal, and animal health. IEC materials like booklets, posters, and videos were introduced to raise awareness. A Snakebite Helpline will be piloted in five states. Additionally, a National Rabies Control Programme Website was launched.

Dr. V.K Paul, Member NITI Aayog launches National Birth Defect Awareness Month 2024



stakeholder collaboration, and public education.

Dr. V.K. Paul, Member NITI Aayog, launched the National Birth Defect Awareness Month 2024 with the theme "Breaking Barriers: inclusive support for children with birth defects." This campaign aims to raise awareness about prevention, early identification, and timely management of birth defects. Rashtriya Bal Swashtya Karyakram (RBSK) was lauded for its role in child health. The campaign emphasizes the need for intensified efforts to address birth defects and improve child health outcomes.

World Wildlife Day celebrated at Okhla Bird Sanctuary focusing on Mission LiFE

The Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, celebrated World Wildlife Day 2024 at Okhla Bird Sanctuary, highlighting Mission LiFE's focus on biodiversity. The theme, Connecting People and Planet: Exploring Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation, emphasized intergenerational exchange and youth empowerment. The event featured art, presentations, and discussions on digital innovations for sustainable wildlife conservation. Key figures such as Shri Pramod Kumar and Shri Amit Gupta shared insights, while Dr. G. Areendran provided expertise



Grants and Opportunities

CFAs: Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities (Shanghai Award)

The Global Award for Sustainable Development in Cities (Shanghai Award), a global initiative led by UN-Habitat and Shanghai Municipality, aims to accelerate the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and New Urban Agenda (NUA).

Organization :UN-Habitat Deadline: 15th June 2024

More Info>>

Ananya Birla Foundation Grant Program invites applications with an aim to identify gaps in information and shed light on causes, risk factors and intervention strategies related to mental health conditions through a multidisciplinary approach. They collaborate with renowned experts, academic institutions, and research organizations to conduct evidence-based research. Their focus is to create positive change, improve lives Organization: Ananya Birla Foundation

Deadline: Rolling Basis





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