



Message from CEO

Dear Readers,

June 2024 has been a month of steadfast action and strategic planning for Sphere India as we advance our mission to enhance disaster resilience and climate adaptation across the nation. Our efforts have been marked by a comprehensive approach, ensuring we are not only responsive but proactive in addressing emerging challenges.

Throughout June, we diligently monitored and disseminated crucial information on prevailing hazards, including heatwaves across India, Cyclone Remal, and landslides in Sikkim. Sphere India, in collaboration with IAG West Bengal, also conducted a Joint Rapid Needs Assessment to effectively gauge and respond to immediate needs. We facilitated knowledge and capacity sharing through various sessions of the Sphere India Academy, covering essential topics such as "Heatwave Awareness: Impacts, Strategies, and Solutions" and "Marine Conservation in India" on World Oceans Day. Additionally, the Sphere India Academy conducted an insightful interview with Ms. Sheen Tyagi, a young climate champion, discussing the pivotal role of youth in building a climate-resilient India.

We successfully concluded our Annual Learning & Planning Workshop 2023-24 in New Delhi, which saw over 80 participants, including Inter Agency Group (IAG) representatives, sectoral experts, network organizations, SDMA representatives, and youth from 22 states. The workshop, organized in collaboration with the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and supported by partners such as Plan India, HCL Foundation, and UNICEF India, aimed to strengthen emergency response sectors, enhance GO-NGO coordination, and leverage data for effective disaster management.

Looking ahead, our focus remains sharp on enhancing disaster relief and resilience systems. We will continue our emphasis on emergency preparedness, particularly focused on the upcoming monsoon season and lightning incidents.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our members and partners for their unwavering support in our collaborative endeavors. We are dedicated to improving synergies and value your feedback to enhance our programs and bulletins. Your input is invaluable as we strive to enhance the quality and relevance of our communications for our network.

Warm regards,
Vikrant Mahajan
CEO, Sphere India

In this Issue

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Program Update

Knowledge & Capacity Sharing

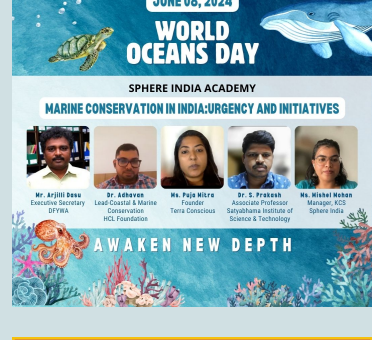
June 03, 2024: Heatwave Awareness: Impacts, Strategies, and Solutions in Hindi Language

As a continuation of the heatwave series co-organized by NIDM, Centre for Disaster and Health, and UNICEF, Sphere India Academy conducted a session on heatwave awareness in Hindi. Esteemed speakers shared insights on the impacts and strategies to mitigate heatwave effects.



June 05, 2024: World Environment Day: Marine Conservation in India: Urgency and Initiatives

On World Environment Day, Sphere India Academy organized a session titled "Marine Conservation in India: Urgency and Initiatives." This year's theme was "Generation Restoration." Eminent panelists Ms. Puja Mitra (Founder, Terra Conscious), Dr. Adhavan (HCL Foundation), Dr. Satyabhama Institute of Science and Technology, Mr. Arijili Dasu (District Fisherman's Youth Welfare Association) joined the panel, with Ms. Mishel Mohan from Sphere India moderating the session.



June 15, 2024: Interview: The Role of Youth in Building a Climate-Resilient India: Strategies and Initiatives*

Sphere India Academy started a series of interview sessions to provide a platform for young climate activists, researchers, and youth working in other domains. The first interview featured Ms. Sheen Tyagi, a 19-year-old climate champion from India, discussing the role of youth in building a climate-resilient India.



June 24- From Awareness to Action: Institutionalizing and Strengthening PSEA Protocols

In collaboration with Sphere India's Protection Sector Committee, this session highlighted the importance of robust Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) protocols in organizational settings. Eminent speakers included Ms. Sushmita Mukherjee (PCI Global), Dr. Abhijeet Nirmal (Bal Raksha Bharat), and Ms. Rashmi Singh (UNICEF), with Ms. Varsha Sharma from Habitat for Humanity moderating the session.



Inter-Agency Coordination

Emergency Coordination Activities in Connection with Heatwaves in India, Cyclone Remal, Landslides in Sikkim, Emergency Preparedness Consultation in South India

SITUATION REPORT-1
Landslide in Sikkim

Date: 14th June 2024 (Fri)
Time: 12:00 PM (IST)

SITUATION UPDATE AND RESPONSE

The area was under threat of landslides due to heavy rain. The area was under threat of landslides due to heavy rain. The area was under threat of landslides due to heavy rain.

SITUATION REPORT-2
Cyclone Remal North East

Date: 07th June 2024 (Fri)
Time: 11:00 AM (IST)

SITUATION UPDATE AND RESPONSE

1. Cyclone Remal has landed in the Bay of Bengal and is likely to hit the North East coast of India. 2. The cyclone has caused heavy rain and flooding in the North East region. 3. The cyclone has caused heavy rain and flooding in the North East region.

Situation Report 4
Heatwave in India

Date: 07th June 2024
Time: 11:00 AM (IST)

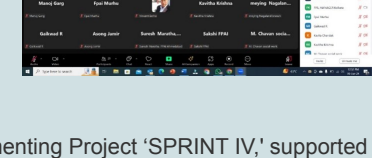
SITUATION UPDATE

Heatwaves are continuing across India, with temperatures rising to 45°C in several states. The situation is critical in several states. The situation is critical in several states.

Sphere India has been steadfastly monitoring emergency situations across the country, consistently disseminating situation reports (Sitreps) on prevailing hazards such as heatwaves in India, cyclone Remal - North East and the landslides in Sikkim. Moreover, the Sphere India team has demonstrated proactivity by distributing over 5 pertinent within their network, diligently monitoring key sources like the IMD and NDMA. This ensures that relevant stakeholders are thoroughly informed and equipped to effectively address emerging threats. Additionally, a multistakeholder consultation for Emergency Preparedness meeting was held on 13th June 2024. A multistakeholder consultation was convened for emergency preparedness in South India, with discussions focused on reviewing last year's efforts, identifying key lessons, and exchanging best practices. Experts from various states and organizations shared their reviews and experiences, with a focus on disaster management, community involvement, and the importance of focusing on vulnerable groups. The team also discussed the preparation of a volunteer's task force for the upcoming monsoon season, emphasizing the importance of training and the utilization of a centralized system for ongoing engagements.

Orientation Session for FPAI Branch Managers on Inter-Agency Coordination

On 6th June 2024, Sphere India conducted an orientation session for newly inducted Branch Managers of the Family Planning Association of India (FPAI). This session was organized at the request of FPAI's Head Office, focusing on the concept of Inter-Agency Coordination (IAGs) and the Inter-Agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises (IAGWG). The program aimed to enhance the capacity of twelve FPAI branches implementing Project 'SPRINT IV,' supported by IPPF. The orientation provided an in-depth understanding of the organogram, roles, and responsibilities of IAGs during the preparedness and response phases of humanitarian crises. This initiative is part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen FPAI's ability to respond effectively to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) needs during emergencies. The session was organized by Humanitarian Programme of FPAI.



Annual Learning and Planning Workshop 2024



Over 80 participants representing 22 states convened in New Delhi on June 25th and 26th, 2024, for the Annual Learning & Planning Workshop 2023-24. Organized by Sphere India in collaboration with the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Integrated Centre for Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and Sustainability at IIT-Roorkee-GNEC, alongside other partners, the workshop aimed to address key challenges, share experiences, and develop actionable strategies for disaster management and resilience building in India.

Updates from the Government

Disaster Management introduced as new subject in UGC-NET

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has introduced disaster management as a subject in the UGC-NET (University Grants Commission National Eligibility Test) 2024 December exam. The National Testing Agency (NTA) conducts the UGC-NET twice yearly, in June and December to determine the eligibility for the position of Assistant Professor in Indian universities and colleges, and also for awarding a Junior Research Fellowship or both.

"Based on the expert committee's recommendations, the commission, in its 580th meeting held on May 15, 2024, has decided to add Disaster Management as an additional subject from December 2024 onwards to the existing list of subjects of UGC-NET," said professor Manish R Joshi, UGC secretary in a public notice on June 13.



The syllabus of the disaster management subject includes its introduction; research methodology, legal framework, policies and governance; society; development and disasters; community-based disaster risk reduction and disaster management; health and disasters; environment, ecology and climate change aspects; remote sensing and geographic information system; information and communications technology and other emerging technologies and emergency response and management.

Updates from International Humanitarian Community

Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The UN General Assembly has officially recognized the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction as the premier global multi-stakeholder forum dedicated to reviewing the progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. This platform provides an invaluable opportunity for governments, the UN system, and various stakeholders to come together, share knowledge, discuss the latest developments and trends in disaster risk reduction, identify gaps, and make recommendations to accelerate the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

The upcoming eighth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction will be organized and convened by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). This session will be hosted by the Government of Switzerland, promising a collaborative and impactful gathering aimed at enhancing global efforts in disaster risk reduction. [Read More>>](#)

Global Humanitarian Overview 2024, Mid year Update:



In the first six months of 2024, global humanitarian needs in multiple countries intensified, while new crises hit others, causing global humanitarian requirements to grow from US\$46.4 billion in January 2024 to the current \$48.7 billion. Conflict and violence drove rising displacement and heightened suffering in contexts such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Haiti, the occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), Myanmar and Sudan, while climate shocks—including floods, cyclones and drought—caused loss of lives and livelihoods in multiple countries. New appeals and plans were launched in Bangladesh, Burundi, Zambia and Zimbabwe, with the Global Humanitarian Overview (GHO) now targeting 188 million people across 72 countries through 41 coordinated plans. [Read More>>](#)

Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2023:



The report addresses the immediate challenges facing humanitarian response within the context of longer-term trends. It highlights how humanitarian needs evolved in 2023 and the ensuing repercussions for 2024, amid escalating food insecurity, the compounding impacts of climate change, and the ongoing fallout from the war in Ukraine.

Furthermore, the report scrutinizes the flows of official development assistance (ODA) allocated for development, humanitarian, and peacebuilding responses in countries affected by crises. This includes financing aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change and funding dedicated to disaster risk reduction. [Read More>>](#)

Women in War-Leaders, Responders and Potential:



This report combines surveys, qualitative interviews, and data models using publicly available datasets to delve into women's experiences in conflict. It showcases their opinions and stories, emphasizing the critical role of their leadership in helping communities survive crises. Since 2020, the surveys have covered 20,000 people, including 13,785 women. The report uses national-level data about women and women in conflict, drawing on articles and expertise from various published sources. Additionally, the report includes a media analysis of over 7.8 million articles published about conflicts between 2013 and 2023 to understand the current narratives of conflict. [Read More>>](#)

Upcoming Events and Plans Ahead

SPHERE INDIA ACADEMY CALENDAR

Upcoming Sessions in July 2024 >>

11 July	Series 2: Best Practices Education in Emergency Link: http://tiny.cc/SIA-EIe-2
25 July	Interview Series Link: http://tiny.cc/SIA-EIe-3
July	Data Protection Link: http://tiny.cc/INCDay
29 July	EIE-based Cash Voucher Assistance Link: http://tiny.cc/EarthDay

Sphere India Academy was launched on April 16th, 2020 (as COVID-19 Academy) as a collaborative initiative of WHO, UNICEF, WFP, HCLF, 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, knowledge as well as to support local government, administration, and communities.

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