

Message from CEO

Dear Readers,

November 2024 has been an impactful month for Sphere India as we strengthen our collective commitment to disaster resilience, climate action, and inclusive development. The programs, discussions, and global engagements over the past month have brought forward meaningful insights and actions to address the pressing challenges of our time.

Sphere India Academy hosted multiple webinars this month focusing on climate resilience and social impact. Our session on "Multi-Purpose Cash Transfers & Voucher Assistance in Emergencies" brought together multi-sectoral experts to explore best practices for addressing vulnerabilities during disasters. Similarly, discussions on "Role of Local Youth in Resilience Building" and "Climate for Children" highlighted the critical need for engaging youth and children as active agents of change in addressing climate risks.

At the international level, India's strong presence at COP29 in Baku has been noteworthy. India firmly reiterated the need for equitable and actionable climate finance, calling for distinct commitments from developed nations to support the Global South. The discussions emphasized mobilizing critical financial resources to accelerate the transition to renewable energy and strengthen climate resilience.

On the national front, the Government of India continues its momentum in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and capacity-building initiatives. A significant ₹1115.67 crore was approved for disaster mitigation projects, including the National Landslide Risk Mitigation initiative. Furthermore, India's active participation in the G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group reinforced its leadership in promoting early warning systems, resilient infrastructure, and nature-based solutions on a global stage.

As we close this month, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our partners, stakeholders, and member organizations. Your unwavering support fuels our collective efforts to build a resilient and inclusive future for all. Let us continue working together to drive meaningful change and foster solutions that protect vulnerable communities across India.

Vikrant Mahajan
CEO, Sphere India

In this Issue

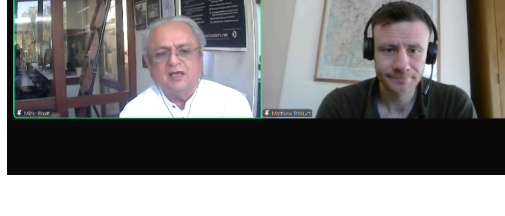
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Programs Update

Inter-Agency Coordination

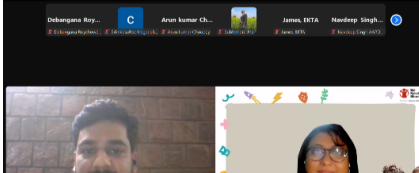
Consultation on: Multi-Purpose Cash Transfers & Voucher Assistance in Emergencies & Disasters

Sphere India Academy hosted a webinar titled "Consultation on: Multi-Purpose Cash Transfers & Voucher Assistance in Emergencies & Disasters.", on 26th November 2024. The session explored the role of CVA and MPCTs in disaster response, focusing on their impact in addressing diverse needs, empowering beneficiaries, and enhancing community resilience. It highlighted challenges, shared best practices, and fostered multi-stakeholder engagement to strengthen future programming tailored to India's disaster landscape. [Watch here>>](#)



Knowledge and Capacity sharing

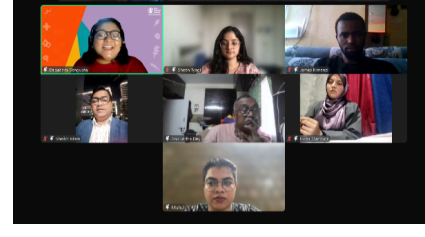
Role of Local Youth in Resilience Building – 08 November 2024



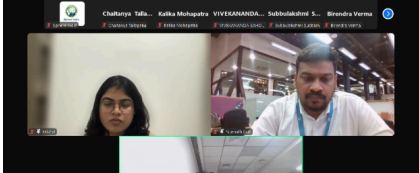
Sphere India Academy, in collaboration with PRISM, Climate Action Resources Network – Asia Pacific, and Youth Conclave, organized a webinar on "Role of Local Youth in Resilience Building." The session highlighted the pivotal role of youth in addressing challenges like climate change, disasters, and socio-economic disruptions. Through expert discussions, success stories, and actionable insights, it empowered youth and stakeholders to drive innovative, sustainable solutions for community resilience. [Watch here>>](#)

Climate for Children Building Climate Resilience with and for Children – 11 November 2024

Sphere India Academy, in collaboration with Bal Raksha Bharat, hosted a webinar titled "Climate for Children: Building Climate Resilience with and for Children". The session highlighted the vulnerabilities of children to climate change and their potential as leaders in resilience-building. By fostering child-centered strategies, the webinar empowered young voices, promoted inclusive solutions, and mobilized stakeholders to safeguard children's rights and build a resilient, climate-conscious future. [Watch here>>](#)



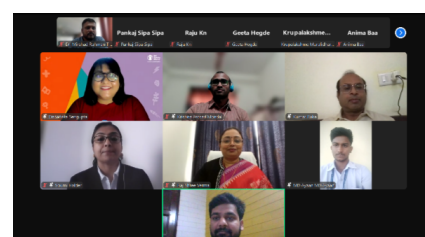
Fostering Climate Resilience in India: the Catalytic Role of CSR Initiatives -21 November 2024



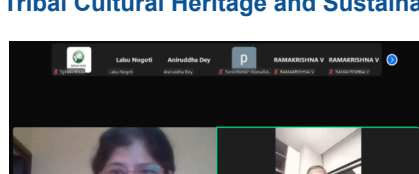
Sphere India Academy hosted a webinar titled "Fostering Climate Resilience in India: The Catalytic Role of CSR Initiatives." The session highlighted how India's CSR framework enables the private sector to drive climate resilience through projects in renewable energy, water management, sustainable agriculture, and disaster preparedness. It emphasized the role of CSR in empowering vulnerable communities, fostering partnerships, and promoting scalable, sustainable climate action to address critical environmental challenges. [Watch here>>](#)

Empowering Change: Capacity Building for Climate Resilience and Social Impact -22 Nov 2024

Organized in collaboration with Bal Raksha Bharat, this webinar titled "Empowering Change: Capacity Building for Climate Resilience and Social Impact." The session emphasized the role of capacity building in addressing climate change and social inequities by fostering inclusive, community-driven strategies, promoting gender equity, and leveraging innovation. It showcased how strengthening knowledge and skills can drive systemic change, creating equitable and sustainable futures for vulnerable communities. [Watch here>>](#)



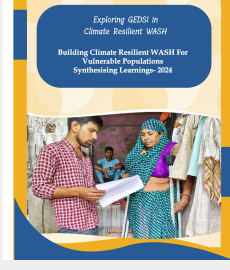
Tribal Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development -25 November 2024



In a collaborative effort with PRISM, Climate Action Resources Network – Asia Pacific, Indian Institute of Bio Social Research and Development, and Youth Conclave, we hosted a webinar on Tribal Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development. It highlighted the role of tribal knowledge in fostering disaster resilience through sustainable practices in agriculture, water conservation, and forest management, emphasizing the need to integrate these wisdom into modern disaster management frameworks. [Watch here>>](#)

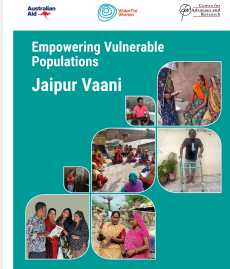
Climate Corner

Carbon Pricing Metrics: Exploring GEDSI in Climate Resilient WASH



The report "Exploring GEDSI in Climate Resilient WASH" examines the "Building Climate-Resilient WASH for Vulnerable Populations" project in Jaipur's urban slums. It focuses on integrating Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) principles into WASH governance, benefiting marginalized groups. The project improved access to water and sanitation for over 69,000 people, enhanced climate resilience, and strengthened local governance. Initiatives include menstrual health programs and traditional water management practices. While progress has been made, challenges in infrastructure maintenance and resource mobilization remain. The report offers recommendations for ensuring sustainable and inclusive WASH services in vulnerable communities. [Read More >>](#)

Empowering Vulnerable Populations - Jaipur Vaani



Jaipur Vaani is a technology-driven communication platform aimed at addressing local grievances related to WASH services in Jaipur. Part of the "Building Climate-Resilient WASH for Vulnerable Populations" project, it focuses on providing climate-resilient and socially inclusive WASH services to 74,420 people in Jaipur and Bhubaneswar. The project addresses water scarcity, sanitation, and hygiene challenges exacerbated by climate change, impacting vulnerable communities. Jaipur Vaani uses communication as both a tool for service improvement and a platform for community engagement, enhancing WASH service delivery through feedback and active participation. It empowers local populations to voice concerns, ensuring that WASH services meet their needs and are sustainable in the long term. [Read More >>](#)

World Cities Report 2024: Cities and Climate Action



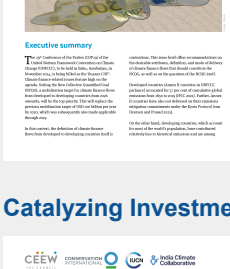
The World Cities Report 2024: Cities and Climate Action explores the dual role of cities as both significant contributors to climate change and highly vulnerable to its impacts. Urban areas, particularly large cities, are on the frontline of climate crises, facing risks like flooding, heatwaves, and storms. These challenges disproportionately affect marginalized groups, exacerbating inequalities. The report emphasizes the importance of integrated climate action that addresses both environmental and social vulnerabilities, with a focus on poverty reduction, resilient infrastructure, and improved public health. It also highlights successful, community-driven initiatives, offering examples that can be adapted to other cities facing similar challenges. [Read More >>](#)

Climate Finance: A Developing Country Perspective



The Climate Finance: A Developing Country Perspective highlights key issues and recommendations regarding climate finance, with a focus on the upcoming COP29. The report discusses the need to redefine climate finance flows, emphasizing that developed countries should provide new, additional, and actual disbursements, rather than reclassifying existing aid. It stresses that public capital, especially in the form of grants or blended finance instruments, should be prioritized, along with the private capital these mobilize. The report also outlines the financial gap developing countries face, proposing that the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) should aim to meet an estimated USD 1 trillion per year in external climate financing by 2030. [Read More >>](#)

Catalyzing Investments in Nature-Based Solutions for the Global South: Insights for the G20



The Climate Finance: A Developing Country Perspective report highlights key challenges and solutions as COP29 approaches. It calls for redefining climate finance flows, urging developed nations to provide new and additional funds rather than repurposing existing aid. Public capital, especially through grants and blended finance mechanisms, is emphasized as essential to mobilize private investments. The report also stresses the need to address the significant financial gap faced by developing nations. It advocates for the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) to secure at least USD 1 trillion annually in external climate financing by 2030, enabling crucial mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-building efforts in vulnerable regions. [Read More >>](#)

COP 29 Baku, Azerbaijan



At the COP29 negotiations held in Baku, India emphasized the critical need for climate finance to remain distinct from investment goals set by developed nations. Climate finance, which is pivotal for supporting developing countries in transitioning from fossil fuels to renewable energy, had to uphold its essence as a targeted provision and mobilization commitment, as outlined in the Paris Agreement.

"Climate finance cannot be redefined as an investment target. It is a unidirectional commitment from developed to developing nations, as explicitly mandated by the Paris Agreement," stated Naresh Pal Gangwar, India's lead negotiator, on Thursday, November 14, 2024. The statement, later made public by the Union Environment Ministry on November 15, underscored India's stance that developed nations bore the primary responsibility for mobilizing these financial resources.

Meanwhile, discussions at Baku explored the mobilization of \$5 to \$6.8 trillion in climate finance by 2030, a figure critical to advancing global climate action goals.

World Urban Forum 12, Cairo Egypt



The Twelfth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF12) convened by UN-Habitat took place in Cairo, Egypt, from November 4 to 8, 2024. Returning to the African continent after more than two decades, WUF12 centred on the theme "It All Starts at Home: Local Actions for Sustainable Cities and Communities." The forum emphasized the importance of localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and highlighted initiatives aimed at addressing global challenges such as unaffordable housing, rising living costs, climate change, lack of basic services, and ongoing conflicts.

The event attracted a record-breaking attendance of over 37,000 participants, including representatives from national, regional, and local governments, academia, the private sector, urban planners, and civil society. Discussions focused on the critical role of local actions in achieving sustainable urbanization and improving the quality of life in communities worldwide.

Updates from Government

High-Level Committee Endorses Critical Disaster Resilience Projects for States

A High-Level Committee, chaired by Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, has approved a significant allocation of ₹1115.67 crore for disaster mitigation and capacity-building projects across various states. Among the approved initiatives, ₹1000 crore will be dedicated to the National Landslide Risk Mitigation project, which spans 15 states, including ₹139 crore each for Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh, ₹378 crore for eight North Eastern states, and ₹100 crore for Maharashtra, with additional funds for Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal. The committee also approved ₹115.67 crore for the training and capacity building of civil defense volunteers in all states and UTs, aimed at enhancing preparedness and response to disasters. These steps align with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision for a disaster-resilient India, strengthening the country's disaster risk reduction system. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and the guidance of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, more than ₹21,476 crore has been released this year to support disaster management, including funds from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF), and National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF). [Read More >>](#)



India's Active Participation in G-20 DRRWG Ministerial Meeting



A high-level Indian delegation, led by Dr. PK Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, participated in the G-20 Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRRWG) Ministerial Meeting in Belem, Brazil, from October 30 to November 1, 2024. The meeting resulted in the finalization of the first Ministerial declaration on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Dr. Mishra highlighted India's proactive approach to DRR, focusing on key priorities such as early warning systems, disaster-resilient infrastructure, DRR financing, resilient recovery, and nature-based solutions. He also shared insights on the Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure (CDRI), a global initiative led by India with 40 countries and seven international organizations. In addition to his remarks, Dr. Mishra emphasized India's commitment to the Sendai Framework and called for enhanced international collaboration in disaster resilience. The Indian delegation engaged in various bilateral meetings with ministers from Brazil, Japan, Norway, South Africa, South Korea, Germany, and other countries. This participation underscores India's growing leadership role in global disaster risk reduction efforts. [Read More >>](#)

Grants and Opportunities

Paul Hamlyn Foundation, India Fund The India Fund by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation supports NGOs in implementing community-centric development programmes that empower communities to drive their own development and improve their quality of life. The fund focuses on promoting systemic change, fostering development funding for long-term impact, and enhancing the capacity of organizations and individuals working to achieve these goals.
Amount: ₹ 10,00,000 to ₹ 30,00,000
Organization Paul Hamlyn
Deadline: Rolling Application Deadline assessed Biannually.
[Know More >>](#)

Plans Ahead

SPHERE INDIA ACADEMY CALENDAR

Upcoming Sessions in December 2024 >>

Date	Topic
19 Dec	Disaster Management and Inclusion: Empowering Persons with Disabilities for Resilient Communities https://tiny.cc/4e6aemwz
20 Dec	Migration and the Role of Climate Change: Examining Displacement and Vulnerability https://tiny.cc/4e6aemwz
24 Dec	Building Resilience Against Cold Waves: Strategies for Preparedness in Punjab https://tiny.cc/4e6aemwz
27 Dec	Strategies for Managing Cold Wave Impacts in India https://tiny.cc/4e6aemwz
27 Dec	International Day of Epidemic Preparedness: Role of Healthcare Workers in Epidemic Preparedness and Response https://tiny.cc/4e6aemwz

Sphere India Academy was launched on April 10th, 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 and knowledge to fulfill various roles in emergency preparedness and response, as well as to support local government, administration, and communities.

For any inquiries, please feel free to contact our Sphere India Academy team siacademy@sphereindia.org.in ☎ +91 8920780209