Sphere India
Humanitarian Coordination & Information Sharing

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Bulletin: January 2026

Message from CEO

Dear Readers,

As we step into 2026, we reflect on the collective efforts toward strengthening disaster resilience, addressing humanitarian challenges, and fostering collaboration across the country. Our work, engaged in meaningful discussions on preventing losses, ensuring migration, air pollution, and risk communication. These dialogues highlighted the importance of integrating science, policy, and community action to build a safer and more resilient future. Our role in risk communication is broader management.

In 2026 and beyond, Sphere India envisions a future where our members, along with Sphere India's program updates and highlights from the government and international humanitarian community. Additionally, it includes upcoming events, training opportunities, and resources to support your professional development. As we look ahead to the future, we are excited about the upcoming milestone in the Sphere India Academy and Humanitarian Standards 100 years of excellence. Additionally, India's biennial Sphere Award was submitted to UNFCCC, showcasing the dedication of our members to humanitarian excellence. We encourage you to explore the various sections of this bulletin and engage with the resources and opportunities it offers.

Your feedback is essential to us, and we welcome your suggestions to improve this bulletin and make it more valuable to you. Please feel free to share your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions to enhance this platform.

Furthermore, a free edition we have shared information on various grants and opportunities available to our members, including funding for research, training, and capacity building. We hope that these resources will help you achieve your goals and make a positive impact in your field.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere appreciation to our members, partners, staff, and volunteers for their unwavering support and dedication to our mission. Your efforts have been instrumental in our success. Moreover, we remain committed to fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders to address humanitarian challenges and promote sustainable development. We look forward to working with you to create a more resilient and equitable future for all.

As we look ahead to February we are excited about the upcoming initiatives by the Sphere India Academy and Humanitarian Standards 100 years of excellence celebrations and ongoing partnership. Let us continue working together toward a more resilient and sustainable future.

Vikrant Mahajan
CEO, Sphere India

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Program Updates

Knowledge & Capacity Sharing

Sphere India Academy

Migration and the Role of Climate Change: Examining Displacement and Vulnerability

On January 15, 2026, Sphere India conducted a session on "Migration and the Role of Climate Change: Examining Displacement and Vulnerability" with Dr. Rajib Shaw, Chairman, Disaster Management Institute, Shoolini University, Himachal Pradesh, as the resource person. The session was attended by 25 participants from various organizations. The session was conducted in a hybrid mode. [Watch Here>>]

Rising Air Crisis: Exploring Solutions for a Sustainable Future

On January 29, 2026, Sphere India conducted a session on "Rising Air Crisis: Exploring Solutions for a Sustainable Future" with Dr. Sarath Guttikunda, Director, IQAir. The session was attended by 30 participants from various organizations. Dr. Guttikunda explained the causes, impacts, and solutions to air pollution in India. He also highlighted the role of policy interventions, technological advancements, and citizen engagement in tackling air pollution. [Watch Here>>]

Innovating the Healthcare of Tripura Road 2024

Sphere India, in collaboration with the Tripura Disaster Management Authority (TDMA) and the State Health Services, organized an insightful workshop titled "Innovating the Healthcare of Tripura Road 2024" on January 29, 2026. The workshop, held at the Tripura Disaster Management Authority (TDMA) Auditorium, Agartala, brought together key stakeholders from the healthcare and disaster management sectors to discuss innovative solutions for enhancing healthcare delivery along Tripura's challenging road networks. The event, hosted in collaboration with the Voluntary Health Association of Tripura (VHAT) and the State Blood Transfusion Council, Tripura, aimed to address the unique challenges faced by healthcare providers in these terrains. Dignitaries attending the workshop included Shri Kiran Gitte, Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief and Rehabilitation Department (DMR&R), Shri Jishnu Barkataki, Joint Secretary, DMR&R, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Director, Health Services, Tripura, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director, Medical Education, Tripura, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Director, Health Services, Tripura, Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director, Medical Education, Tripura, Dr. Kishore Debbarma, Director, Tripura Institute Consent, Ms. Tanya Debbarma, Director, Tripura Tribal Welfare Research Institute.

Sphere India Participates in the Tripura Road Accident Meet

Sphere India participated in the Tripura Road Accident Meet organized by the Tripura Disaster Management Authority (TDMA) on January 29, 2026, at the Agartala Police Ground. The meet was attended by around 1,000 participants, including students, teachers, and representatives from various government departments. We would like to extend special thanks to the Revenue Department/Tripura Disaster Management Authority (TDMA) for their kind invitation and participation in the TDMA road safety meet and for extending the strengthening of safe driving habits through the Sadak Suraksha Jeevan Raksha campaign.

Accountability to Affected Population

From Alerts to Recovery: Communication as a Catalyst in Disaster Management

Sphere India, in collaboration with Sphere Maharashtra, conducted an 18th session on 28th January 2026 as part of the Sphere India's Accountability to Affected Population and Participation Standard. The session focused on communication and its role in disaster management. The session highlighted how communication can be leveraged as a strategic tool to enhance preparedness, response, and recovery, emphasizing its role in proactiveness and recovery while fostering trust and accountability among communities. The session also highlighted the importance of digital technologies. [Watch Here>>]

News from Members

Humanitarian Aid International (HAI)

The Global Report on the Status of Frontline Humanitarian Workers was published by Humanitarian Aid International (HAI) and released in conjunction with the Regional Humanitarian Partnership Week 2026. The report, which was drawn on first-hand data from 1,000 frontline humanitarian workers, provides a rare, evidence-based assessment of the conditions, risks, and resilience of those delivering humanitarian assistance in some of the most vulnerable environments in the humanitarian system. The report highlights the critical role that frontline humanitarian workers play in delivering assistance in some of the most vulnerable environments, while also risk their lives and serve communities with little recognition. The study aims to bridge this gap by providing [Read here>>]

Air India Disaster Mitigation Institute (ADMI)

The India research team at Climate Extremes' Network for Fingerprinting and Attribution Action, explores the escalating climate crisis and its impact on human lives. The study examines the relationship between these impacts, blaming the 150th anniversary of the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The study highlights the importance of IMD's data and research in understanding and addressing these challenges. The study also emphasizes the need for collaboration between climate scientists, communities, especially women and marginalized groups. It calls for inclusive, community-driven approaches to climate action, recognizing the unique vulnerabilities and strengths of these groups. The study concludes that integrating scientific knowledge with on-the-ground realities. The study's findings have significant implications for policymakers, urging them to prioritize climate justice and inclusive, equitable strategies to address the region's mounting climate challenges, with India playing a pivotal role in advancing these efforts. [Read Here>>]

Innovation 2025 - Social Norms 1 Gender Equity 1 Climate Action

YPSI India recently held its annual [Read Here>>]

Mahatma Phule Seva Mandal's (MPSSM) Initiative to Empower Widowed Women

Mahatma Phule Seva Sangh Mandal (MPSSM), led by Mr. Pramod Zagade, has initiated significant efforts to empower widowed women in rural areas. Recognizing the challenges faced by these women, including social stigma, economic hardship, and limited access to resources, MPSSM has implemented a range of programs to support their livelihoods and promote inclusive community environments. A key component of MPSSM's initiative is the establishment of self-help groups (SHGs) for widowed women. These groups provide a platform for mutual support, financial literacy training, and collective action. [Read Here>>]

MS Jharkhand's Sustainable Forestation and Disaster Management Model in the Arrival Husbandry Department

MS Jharkhand has a significant step towards enhancing disaster preparedness and resilience in Jharkhand's arrival husbandry sector. The initiative, led by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, aims to mitigate the impact of natural disasters on livestock and the livelihoods of farmers. The project addressed the unique challenges faced by the state's livestock, including the vulnerability to floods, droughts, and other extreme weather events. [Read Here>>]

Updates from Government

India Submits 4th Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC

India has submitted its Fourth Biennial Update Report (BUR-4) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), submitted on 30th December 2025. The report highlights India's progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and its efforts to combat climate change. India's greenhouse gas emissions in 2020 compared to 2016, marking a key achievement in India's climate action. The report also highlights India's progress in reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 36% over the same period, exceeding its 2020 voluntary goal of reducing GDP emissions by 33% over 2005 levels. [Read Here>>]

India Meteorological Department Celebrates 150 Years of Excellence

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) celebrated its 150th anniversary on January 15, 2025, marking a significant milestone on January 14, 2025, as it commenced operations in 1875. Over the past 150 years, IMD has played a crucial role in advancing meteorological science and services in the country. The event was graced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who launched the "Mission Mausam" a comprehensive initiative aimed at enhancing India's weather and climate-related efforts. The mission is also continually upgraded its technological capabilities, with

India's NDCH Innovations Bring at World Economic Forum 2025

At the World Economic Forum 2025 in Davos, India's National Disaster Communication Hub (NDCH) and its partners showcased innovative technologies aimed at enhancing disaster resilience and communication. The NDCH, a key initiative of the India Portfolio, was graced by Shri C.R. Patil, Union Minister of Jal Shakti, and Shri Ajay Bhadoo, Secretary, Ministry of Jal Shakti. The delegation also included Shri Sreenath Bharat Mission (SBM) and Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), who highlighted the importance of public awareness and water access in rural areas. India's progress, including increasing access to safe drinking water, improving sanitation infrastructure, and promoting water conservation practices. The NDCH's innovations, developed in collaboration with various partners, including the UNDP, Datawheel, and other organizations, highlighted India's role in global water sustainability. [Read Here>>]

Updates from Urban Affairs

Key points from the Report

1. **Urban Population Growth:** India's urban population is projected to grow significantly, reaching 50 % 877 lakh by 2036 and 600 million by 2050, a substantial increase from the current 377 million.
2. **Practical Use of Scenarios:** It offers actionable guidance on integrating climate scenarios into decision-making processes, including urban planning, infrastructure development, and disaster management.
3. **Carbon Budget Management:** Explores the importance of staying within the carbon budget and reaching net-zero emissions by 2070 to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C.

Key Points from the Report

1. **Current and Future Job Creation:** The global field alcohol industry supports 85.6 45 million jobs and has the potential to create 14 million more by 2030, with significant growth expected in Asia and Africa.
2. **Job Opportunities in Key Sectors:** Significant job creation is expected in sectors such as agriculture, forestry, and fishing, manufacturing, and construction, with varying levels of growth across regions.
3. **Skills and Training Needs:** The report highlights the need for training programs and policies to bridge gaps in technical expertise, workplace transition, and climate-related challenges.
4. **Shift in a Source of Employment:** The industry is expected to shift from a source of employment in high-income countries to a significant employer in low- and middle-income countries, with Asia and Africa driving much of the growth.

Key points from the Report

1. **Increasing Risk Exposure:** Global exposure to climate hazards is rising, with 58% of the world's population and assets exposed to at least one hazard, and 36% exposed to multiple hazards.
2. **Economic Impacts:** Climate-related disasters have caused significant economic losses, with an average annual loss of $202 billion between 2000 and 2019, and losses are increasing faster than GDP growth.
3. **Vulnerability and Inequality:** Climate risks disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including the poor, women, children, and indigenous communities, exacerbating existing inequalities.
4. **Adaptation and Resilience:** The report emphasizes the need for adaptation and resilience-building measures, including early warning systems, climate-resilient infrastructure, and nature-based solutions.
5. **Financing Gaps:** There is a significant gap between the current financing for climate adaptation and the estimated needs, highlighting the urgent need for increased investment and innovative financing mechanisms.

Special Issue of the Journal of Nature-based Solutions

A Special Issue of the Journal of Nature-based Solutions, titled "Nature-based Solutions for Climate Change Adaptation in Urban Areas," has been published, featuring a collection of research articles that explore the role of nature-based solutions in addressing the challenges of climate change in urban areas. The special issue, edited by Nadhirah Binti Ab Hamid, Nurul Nadiah Abdul Hamid, and Nurhidayah Binti Ab Hamid, brings together experts from around the world to share their knowledge and experiences on how nature-based solutions can be used to mitigate the impacts of climate change, such as heatwaves, flooding, and air pollution, while also providing co-benefits, such as improved biodiversity, enhanced human well-being, and increased resilience. [Read Here>>]

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Report 2024 provides a comprehensive overview of progress toward achieving the 17 SDGs by 2030. The report highlights the urgent need for accelerated action to address multiple crises and improve the lives of people around the world. The report includes chapters on each of the 17 SDGs, providing in-depth analysis of progress, challenges, and opportunities for each goal. The report also includes a chapter on the interlinkages between the SDGs, highlighting the importance of a holistic approach to sustainable development. The report concludes with a call to action, emphasizing the need for urgent and transformative action to address the challenges facing humanity and the planet. [Read Here>>]

Global Risks Report 2025

The Global Risks Report 2025, published in January 2025 by the World Economic Forum highlights a fragmented global landscape, with escalating geopolitical tensions, economic uncertainty, and environmental challenges threatening to undermine progress. Towards the top risks for the next decade are environmental, with extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, and natural resource shortages dominating the list. The report also highlights the risks associated with rapid technological advancements, including artificial intelligence, and the potential for misinformation and disinformation to exacerbate societal divisions. The report emphasizes the need for global cooperation and collective action to address these complex challenges, including the development of new governance models, increased investment in climate resilience, and enhanced international collaboration. [Read Here>>]

IASC Standards for Collective Feedback Mechanisms

The IASC Operational Guidance on Collective Feedback Mechanisms (CFMs) provides practical guidance for humanitarian organizations on establishing and implementing collective feedback mechanisms in humanitarian settings. Built on extensive consultation and field experience, the guidance addresses key challenges in CFM implementation, including Accountability to Affected People (AAP), Accountability to Affected People (AAP). They are complemented by practical tools, templates, and examples to support implementation. The guidance is designed to be flexible and adaptable, recognizing the diverse contexts in which humanitarian actors operate and the need for tailored approaches. It aims to create more accountable, responsive, and effective humanitarian action by empowering communities and enhancing the quality and relevance of humanitarian assistance. [Read Here>>]

Grants and Opportunities

Applications Open for Global Innovation Action Facility Projects 2025

The call opens from 15th November 2024 seeks ambitious and feasible projects addressing critical challenges in transport, energy, and digital technologies. The program aims to support innovative solutions with long-term climate strategies. Applicants must be registered in a World Bank Borrowing Country. **Organization:** Mitigation Action Facility **Deadline:** 19th February 2025 [More Information>>]

FY 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity

The Notice of Funding Opportunity Announcement (NOFO) for the Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program for FY 2026 is now available. The program offers $178 million in funding to support fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations. This initiative aims to enhance the safety of both first responders and citizens during emergencies through law-enforced laws. **Organization:** Federal Emergency Management Agency **Deadline:** 30th September 2025 [More Information>>]

Call for Nominations: 2025 Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) is now accepting nominations for the prestigious 2025 Sasakawa Award, under the theme "Connecting Science to People: Leveraging Technology for Disaster Risk Reduction." The award recognizes outstanding contributions to disaster risk reduction, with a particular emphasis on the role of science and technology in this field. The deadline for nominations is 28 March 2025, and the winners will be announced on 8 June 2025 during World Oceans Day. The award ceremony will take place in September 2025, coinciding with the Sendai Framework Mid-Term Review. **Organization:** United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) **Deadline:** 28th March 2025 [More Information>>]

Upcoming Events

SPHERE INDIA ACADEMY CALENDAR — Sphere India

FEB 2025

Upcoming Sessions in February 2025

- Managing Loss & Damage: Pathways to Sustainability and Resilience
- Mitigating Microplastic Pollution in Marine Ecosystems and Coastal Communities
- Enhancing Disaster Resilience: Leveraging Technology and Community Engagement
- Climate Risk Assessment: Understanding Vulnerability and Building Resilience
- Building Safer Schools: Promoting Child-Centered Approaches and Strategies for Resilience

Do you have a training, webinar or workshop you would like to share with the community? Please write to us at info@sphereindia.org.in

Sphere India Secretariat
123, Sphere Vidyapeeth Marg
Arun Vihar, Sector 37, Noida, Uttar Pradesh
Pincode: 201303, India
E-mail: info@sphereindia.org.in
Website: www.sphereindia.org.in

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