



**Minutes of Meeting of Consultation on Multi- Hazard Emergency Response
Preparedness (ERP) Approach to the COVID-19
2pm -4:30 pm on 4th May 2020
(Zoom Platform)**

Background

As the monsoon season is almost to set in India, there is need of preparing for worst scenario and need to be clear, strategic and focused on our role to reducing human suffering and preventing life loss by strengthening the Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) through Network Approaches to supplement the government efforts in amid of the COVID 19 outbreak.

In this regards, the Consultation on Multi- Hazard Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) Approach to the COVID-19 was organised from 2pm -4:30 pm on 4th May 2020 (Monday) @zoom meeting room with the following session topics agendas

- **Session topic I:** COVID 19 response and coordination challenges being faced and lesson learned
- **Session topic II:** Multi – Hazard ERP Approach: preparing for monsoons, drought, heat waves and other hazards in view of COVID 19
- **Session topic III:** Panel discussions and way forwards

The session topic I on sharing from six state IAGs leaders from Assam, Bihar, MP, Maharashtra, Odisha and Kerala was moderated by Dr. Bhanu Mall (Chair of UP IAG, Vice Chair Sphere India). The session topic II on sharing of sector specific Multi –Hazard ERP by Sphere India sectors leads i.e. Food Security and Nutrition by WFP, WASH by Oxfam India, Shelter by Habitat for Humanity India, Health by WHO & Doctor for You, Protection by NCDHR and Education by Save the Children India was moderated by Mr. Pankaj Anand (Director Programs Oxfam India and Member Sphere India Executive Committee). The list of participants is attached as Annexure 1.

The PPTs from session I & II of the IAGs leaders and Sphere India sectors Committees leads can be accessed at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PIVy9jrTaLJI8_RyfXAgIzElffFKDEk/view?usp=sharing

Key discussions:

Session topic I COVID 19 response and coordination challenges being faced and lessons learned

- It was shared that the coming days and the current period is most challenging as the humanitarian agencies are already stressed with COVID 19 and monsoon related hazard is on its way. Problems like lightning, crop failure, water borne disease and epidemics.
- The humanitarian organisations in India should visualise how CSOs response will be towards these monsoon related hazards as well as COVID-19. We cannot ignore these hazards amid COVID 19.
- States which are most vulnerable to monsoon such as Bihar, West Bengal, Kerala, Assam and North East states must be emphasised in our response.
- The urban flood nowadays is also impacting the densely populated metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Chennai, Srinagar and Delhi. The agencies must prepared for responding to such dimensions in view COVID-19
- Another important point to consider is that COVID-19 pandemic has become slow this time but it is not going to get over soon. Hence, agencies need to understand the mitigation steps and process.



- There is a need to analyse and understand that when the schools reopen, how will the scenario be with the same size of students and same space of classroom. How CSOs will go in blending with the government.
- Community based activities and faith based activities need more attention. Our talking points and narrative in addressing the both.
- Health action needs serious attention of CSOs during this coronavirus outbreak and also multi-hazard situations.
- IAG Assam has been working since 2006 in the state. Assam annually faces the disaster of flood and most of the administration is prepared to counter it.
- During COVID-19, the condition of Assam has been not that bad as compared to other states. IAG has been involved in a lot of community awareness programs in local language and Assam has a diverse community. Local language translation has been done to reach out to the last mile.
- This state of Assam has difficult topography and hence reaching out for ration distribution was a challenge but measures were made for this. The Liveliness aspect was also paid attention.
- IAG Assam was regularly advocating with ASDMA on liaising with stranded migrants to address their needs. As a collective effort of IAG members have reached to 23 districts, more than 2000 villages, 29800 households in the state.
- IAG Odisha is helping and coordinating with the state govt in rapid testing. We have activated Go-NGO coordination in all 30 districts and meetings are happening by following norms of social distancing.
- Govt has launched a dedicated website where IAG Odisha played a crucial role. Presently 600 CSOs have registered and 10330 volunteers have also registered.
- Our partner agencies are proactively working on ground to supplement the effort of government especially in addressing the issue of migrant workers.
- IAG Odisha has completed joint rapid need assessment in 30 districts of Odisha covering all sectors in JRNA and very soon joint detailed need assessment will be initiated.
- In Maharashtra, the overall medical service is so weak that it is not adequate to the need which COVID-19 has given. The overall expenditure in the medical department needs to be at least doubled to cater to regular needs of the population.
- The state government has asked for help from corporates but has not approached CSOs.
- More than coronavirus, lockdown has imposed a larger challenge as migrants are left without a job and now they are forced into poverty.
- In Kerala there have been no cases in the past 48 hours and we are progressing towards a flattened curve. IAG Kerala have database of 400 NGOs and 20,000 volunteers working day and night to support the administration
- IAG Kerala held an Emergency level coordination meeting with district collectors and awareness generation through various campaigns and multilingual materials.
- In Kerala, call centres are activated for migrant labourers to address their issues and feedback to district level administration. IAG has a great level of coordination with DDMA. The members were also involved in thermal screening with the government.
- IAG MP in coordination with the government has rolled out IITT strategy – I – Identification of Suspected cases, Hotspots and clusters, I – Isolation and Quarantine of suspected cases and containment zone, T- Tracing of contacts and testing of high-risk cases and T- Treatment of suspected and confirmed cases.
- Orientation on infection prevention and control of COVID-19 for IAG MP Members and staff have been already organised.
- More than 25 districts in MP have been affected by recurrent drought like situation in the state for the last 10 years and the situation may worsen in times to come.
- BSDMA has asked BIAG to help them with bringing back the labour from different states.



Session topic II: Multi – Hazard ERP Approach: preparing for monsoons, drought, heat waves and other hazards in view of COVID 19

- In his opening remarks, Chair Mr. Pankaj Anand, highlighted that the issues of food shortage, loss of livelihood etc. are as a result of poor policy-making and low expenditure on EPR, and therefore, in view of COVID-19 – preparedness should be strengthened to face upcoming disasters. He also shared his apprehensions regarding the paucity of funds to tackle upcoming natural disasters given diversion of funds to COVID response.
- For the Food and Nutrition Security Sector, Ms. Pradnya Paithankar shared that the existing precarity of food and nutrition security in India is worsening due to climate change and natural disasters, and the COVID pandemic is bound to exacerbate the situation by doubling the number of acutely food and nutrition insecure population from the earlier estimate of 135 mn to a re-estimated 265 mn people worldwide.
- During the Social Protection sector, Ms. Lee Macqueen emphasized the importance of upholding the humanitarian principle of ‘leave-no-one-behind’, and therefore called for inclusion of the affected population in the decision-making process while strengthening communities and approaching the various government agencies for similar advocacy efforts.
- Mr. Mintu Debnath noted that given the uncertainty regarding opening of educational institutions, the focus of the sector should be on developing and supporting government efforts in providing learning material and tools at household level.
- For the shelter sector response to multi-hazards in a COVID-19 environment, Mr. Justin Jebkumar highlighted the importance of addressing health, hunger and hygiene needs as an immediate priority, followed by creation of safety net through provision of alternative shelter, WASH facilities, mental health services, and financial security and inclusion of affected population, while the long term focus should be on providing permanent housing, community empowerment and risk mitigation in housing ecosystems.
- Sharing her views on the WASH-sector response to COVID-19, Ms. Angom Delhi Rose stated that the present circumstances provide an opportunity to bring about behavioural change and promote handwashing in rural areas, along with strengthening WASH infrastructure in this country.
- Representing the health sector, Mr. Sunny Borghain stressed on the need to review all emergency response procedural guidelines through a pandemic-perspective so as to make response across sectors viable for the multiple-hazard situation.

Key Issues:

- Food and Nutrition Security sector: It was noted due to the restriction of movement of labours and logistical supply-chain, the demand and supply of food and nutrition has been majorly disrupted. This has also caused large-scale loss of livelihood, and has exacerbated pre-existing vulnerabilities. Therefore, it was asked upon the sector committee to discuss resource pool for efficient use of resources.



- The vulnerable population, including the Dalit's and marginalized communities, women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, the migrant and daily wage labourers, the nomadic and the homeless people, are further at risk due to intersectionality of their vulnerabilities, and therefore, disaggregated data be collected during the relief activities across the various sectors so as to develop programming that address their differentiated needs.
- The development of ICT-based education interventions are not accessible to all children, and therefore temporary learning centres with social distancing policy need to be eventually started, which shall also help in reducing risk of child labour.
- It was noted that those residing in urban slums are currently the most affected in terms of shelter sector, and therefore, post-COVID, it was urged that the government facilitate rental-property to returning migrants while upgrading the existing housing infrastructure to meet minimum standards.
- Providing water for handwashing facilities in drought-prone regions is a challenge, and substitute for the same should be explored.
- From a health and safety perspective, it was suggested to ensure additional COVID-monitoring teams in the existing emergency response activities, and relief activities be designed based on the zones identified in COVID-response
- Members are urged to undertake re-positioning of stocks and relief material by following the basic safety guidelines, even during this COVID environment.
- It was suggested that the COVID situation be leveraged to increase coordination and collaboration with government authorities at various levels such as collaboration of Sphere India and Members with NITI Aayog and line-Ministries, coordination of IAG with SDMAs, and also at the district-level by advising administration with multi-sector response plans.

Key suggestions:

Immediate term actions:

- Sphere India invites organizations to a working group for adapting the SOP for URS to COVID-19 response context in India.
- Review various hazard-specific assessment tools and adopt them to suit the COVID-19 context.
- Sphere India also invites organizations to share their institutional guidelines in place for protection of personnel so that a standard guideline can be developed and widely disseminated.
- Develop state/region specific food baskets so as to ensure minimum standard of nutrition during the ongoing relief efforts, and for future reference.
- Develop surveillance and monitoring systems to identify gaps in the food and nutrition supply chain, and also in social protection measures so as to further strengthen the government efforts.
- Identify and map schools prone to drought and flooding over several years so as to develop targeted education interventions.

Medium term actions:

- Develop guidelines for reopening of schools and ICDS centres.
- Develop advocacy strategy and an Ask for differentiated measures for the different vulnerable sections of affected population.



- Urge government to provide income security and sustenance allowance for those who have suffered loss of livelihood
- Engage and strengthen the role of government agencies and constitutional bodies in emergency preparedness and response.
- Revisit school safety and school disaster plans across the various states.

Long term actions:

- Advocate for increase in budgetary allocation to social protection measures and simplify administrative procedure so as to increase its reach to include all vulnerable populations.

Annexure 1: List of registered participants

Name of the participants	Name of the Organisation
Dr. Bhanu Mall	PGVS (Chair IAG –UP)
Mr. Pankaj Anand	Oxfam India
Shiviraj Sharma	IAG -MP
Sanjay Bhattacharya	World Vision India
Rushabh Hemani	UNICEF India
Akhilash Bakshi	RedR India
Mozart	PHIA (CA)
O.P. Bhatia	IAG Himachal Pradesh
Prof. Vinod Menon	Founder member NDMA , Senior Advisor Sphere India
Chen Yang	IAG Sikkim
Banku Bihari Sarkar	UNICEF India
Prabir	IAG Chhattisgarh (State Health Resource Chhattisgarh)
Kirti Mishra	CRS (Vice Chairperson IAG Odisha)
Vijayalakshmi Arora	CRS
Sarbjit Sahota	UNICEF India
Sinu	RedR India
Jeevan Kennady	IAG Tripura
Abhilash K	Sphere India Focal Point for AP & Telengana (from Plan India)
Arundhati Sridhar	WaterAid India
Lalrama	IAG Mizoram
Joseph Sahayam	IAG Tamil Nadu
Jayanti Shukla	United Way Mumbai
Kusum Ghildiyal	Inter-Agency Groups - Uttarakhand
Paulami De Sarkar	Terre des hommes Foundation
Madhukar Sanap	Aga Khan Agency For Habitat, AKDN



Lee Macqueen	NCDHR-National Dalit Watch
Sunil Gokavi	Independent - formerly EHA
Sanjay Bhattacharya	World Vision India
Dr Anurag Mishra	Maulana Azad Medical College
Punita Kumar	IAG Chhattisgarh (State Health Resource Chhattisgarh)
Dr. Abner Daniel	UNICEF India
Shatarupa Kashyap	CARE India
Seema Rajput	CARE India
Tanaji Sen	RedR India
Dr. Antaryami Dash	Save the Children
Mintu Debnath	Save the Children
Tanaji Sen	RedR India
Rajan	ADRA
Abha Mishra	UNDP
Vijay Rai	WHH
Vijay Shankar sahu	ACTIONAID
Pawan Daniel	World vision India
Deepti Ameta	SOS Children's Villages of India
JIJITH KUMAR G	SOS Children's Villages of India
Hara Prasad Mahapatra	SOS Children's village
Deep Ranjan Guin	TINI- Tata Trusts
Rama Rao	ChildFund
Vivek Virendra Singh	UNICEF India
Hamzah Hassan	ActionAid
Meghna Goyal	Save the children India
Sunny Borgohain	Doctors For You
Susanta Sahoo	
Santaram Nanda	ChildFund India
Dr. Ajil Abdulla	IAG Kerala
Ajay	RIGHTS
Mintu Debnath	Save the Children
PRASHANT SHIRSATH	SOS Children's Villages of India
Bartholomew J Basumatary	SOS Children's Villages of India
Karuna Kar Pani	SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE
JOSEPH MATHEW	SOS CHILDREN VILLAGES OF INDIA
Mahesh MV	SOS Children's Villages of India



Mr. Alope Kr. Ghosh	State IAG West Bengal (from CASA)
Mr. Debojyoti Chakraborty	State IAG West Bengal
Pradnya Paithankar	World Food Programme
Justin Jebakumar	Habitat for Humanity India
Raghvendra Singh	PGVS
Anoop Singh	SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES OF INDIA
Pathan Riyaz Hussain Khan	SOS Children's Villages of India-Alibaug
Angom Delhi Rose	Oxfam India
Manoranjan Behera	IAG Odisha
Sweta Patnaik	UNICEF India
Shem Raomai	EHA
Shyam Dave	UNICEF India
Tejas Deshmukh	UNICEF India
DILIP C.S	Indian Red Cross Society, Karnataka State Branch
Krati Jain	UNICEF India
Dr Sujeet Ranjan	The Coalition for Food and Nutrition Security
Jagriti Roy	ACTED India
Kirit	IAG Gujarat (from UNNATI)
Kyra Marwaha	Terre des hommes Foundation
James Pochury	ActionAid Association
Ravinder Singh	Actionaid Association
Maya Nair	ECHO
CBM	Ravi
Kamini Katiyar	UNICEF India
Aekta Chanda	ChildFund India
Fr. Biju Luckose	IAG Manipur (DSSS Imphal)
Aditi Sharan	UNNATI
RUCHI PATHAK	ACTIONAID ASSOCIATION
Anchal Purbey	The Coalition for Food and Nutrition Security
D Das	United Way Kolkata
Harish Chand	World Vision India
Mahesh Kamble	IAG Maharashtra (Sphere India Focal Point from TISS)
Preeti	ActionAid
Ghanshyam Mishra	
Rajan	Plan India



Mrinal	IAG Assam
Ajay M	WVI
Dr. Ritu	WHO
Anand	UNICEF India
Fr. Varghese Velickakam	IAG Assam (from NEDSSS)
Enakshi	IAG Assam
Kamini	IAG Manipur
Sanjay Pandey	IAG Bihar
Parismita	IAG Assam
Subir	IAG Jharkhand
Milan	IGSSS
Manish Michael	United Way India
Ajay Govale	United Way Mumbai
Vikrant Mahajan	Sphere India
Eilia	Sphere India
Anushyama Mukherjee	Sphere india
Naveelah Ishteyaque	Sphere India
Paritosh	Sphere India
Saikhom Kennedy	Sphere India