



EDUCATION

HANDBOOK OF MULTI-SECTOR
COORDINATION FOR EMERGENCY
RESPONSE IN INDIA





Foreword

In India many states are prone to natural disasters, some on an annual basis, including floods and cyclones, droughts and earthquakes. Climate change in the past years is worsening the scale of impact of such natural disasters with devastating effects on children, families, and communities living in the most vulnerable areas and our education systems. In 2020 the global COVID-19 outbreak has exacerbated existing weaknesses in service delivery; especially the marginalized communities got more exposed to natural disasters which made the education response more complex and demanding.

The impact size on multiple and complex emergencies on the most disadvantage communities has urged the education sector partners in India to enhance emergency preparedness to address the needs of affected people and to provide access to essential education services for children.

Continuity of learning after an emergency is crucial to fulfil the fundamental right of children to education. But above all these said problems, bringing children back to that sense of normalcy will play a critical role in helping them to overcome the psychological impact of disasters and isolation.

UNICEF DRR India in collaboration with SPHERE Education Committee and its partners has supported the development of the Education Sector Coordination Handbook in line to fulfil UNICEF's core commitments to children in the education sector. This handbook provides step by step recommendations and tools to facilitate coordination and to prepare and respond to emergencies.

UNICEF India is deeply grateful for the collaboration led by Sphere India Education Committee partners during the development of these materials. We hope that this Handbook will result in the improved educational services and outcomes for children in India.

Tom White
Chief DRR
UNICEF India



Foreword

The year 2020 was full of challenges, as the global health crisis brought humanity to a virtual standstill. The difficult times have changed the way organizations operate, and now we have started adapting to the new emerging socio-economic order.

The role of CSR has become more relevant than ever, as corporates played a crucial role in supporting the nation in the fight against the pandemic and other disasters witnessed this year. HCL Foundation, along with partner organizations, has been working significantly to mitigate the humanitarian crisis. Through its various flagship programmes and special initiatives, it has positively impacted 2.14+ million human lives, spanning 21 states and 2 union territories of India.

It was the commitment and resilience of our communities, teams and partners that helped us navigate through the situation, and keep our efforts sustained. Going forward, I feel that organizations must start working towards strengthening of preparedness and unified emergency response systems. At HCL Foundation, we remain committed to addressing the socio-economic concerns while focusing on humanitarian aid and assistance. Our CSR programmes have the potential to bring value to the preparedness, response, and recovery systems by aligning corporate citizenship efforts to sustainable development processes.

The formulation of ***Handbook of Multi-Sector Coordination for Emergency Response in India***, through joint efforts of Sphere India and partner organizations, shall act as an operational manual for coordination during emergencies and help improve the disaster management in the country and thus, mitigating the disaster risks.

Nidhi Pundhir

Director, HCL Foundation



From Director's Desk

The impact of natural disasters like floods, earthquakes, cyclones and droughts on education can be devastating, as each context presents different challenges. Schools are destroyed, educational infrastructure damaged, teachers and students displaced, and learning material destroyed and lost.

Following the natural disasters, restoring educational services is paramount, as it has been proven to provide critical lifesaving and life sustaining assistance for children. Any response requires a well-coordinated, multi-sector, inter- and intra-agency approach that empowers communities and nations, from relief and recovery to development; the traditional relief efforts, including search and rescue, health, food, and shelter, are increasingly complemented by what we have now come to know as the “fourth pillar” of humanitarian aid—education. Some of the most important works begin early, and we can do a great deal in the education sector to support preparedness and contingency planning at the national, regional or local level, as well as by supporting disaster risk reduction activities in schools.

To strengthen preparedness and unified emergency response, Sphere India and its members has drafted a Handbook on Education Sector Coordination for Emergency Response, which shall act as an operational manual for coordination during emergencies. This shall enable collaboration among different stakeholders in disaster management and thus, mitigating the disaster risks.

NIDM



Acknowledgement

The Handbook on Education Sector Coordination for Emergency Response by Sphere India is the result of a diverse consultation process amongst education experts in India and globally. Sphere India would like to thank CARE India, ChildFund India, Oxfam, Save the Children, UNICEF and World Vision India who have contributed their knowledge, expertise and time to make for wonderful insights. The working process to develop this handbook was coordinated by the Sphere India office via several online zoom meetings. We sincerely thank Shri Anil Kumar Sinha- IAS (retired.) for supporting and moderating these sessions. Most of the writeups were put forward by authors of their organizations, dedicating their time and effort as an in-kind contribution to the sector. Sphere India acknowledges their valuable contribution made between June 2020 and December 2020.

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About Sphere India






Sphere India is a national coalition of humanitarian agencies in India. The members include key nodal agencies from Govt. of India, UN Agencies, INGOs, NGO networks and national NGOs. Sphere India facilitates inter agency coordination, training and capacity building, collaborative advocacy and information knowledge and learning management through a collaborative process for quality and accountability.

	Right to life with dignity.
	Right to assistance and protection.
	Principles of humanity impartiality, neutrality, independence, and other principles of Red Cross Code of Conduct
	Inclusion

The above mentioned points are grounded in Sphere India’s commitment to the Article 21 of Indian Constitution on *Right to Life* and its interpretations in various judicial proceedings, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, International Humanitarian Law, Refugee Law and the associated treaties and covenants.



Composition of Sector Committees

SPHERE INDIA SECTOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS		
 WASH	 SHELTER	 FOOD & NUTRITION
Water Aid (Lead) Oxfam India (Co Lead) UNICEF India (Co Lead) CARE India Islamic Relief EFICOR Adra India IGSSS PGVS Change Alliance GIWA Terre des hommes Foundation World Vision India IPPF IRC WASH The WASH Institute Aqua Plus Water Purifiers Pvt. Ltd.	Habitat for Humanity India (Lead) Care India (Co Lead) SEEDS Islamic Relief AIDMI NCDHR UNNATI World Vision India Sadhana Raichur Karnataka HCLF Red R	WFP (Lead) WHH ACF CARE India EFICOR IGSSS World Vision India CFNS (Co-Lead) Oxfam World Animal Protection Save the Children UNICEF ADRA India
 HEALTH	 PROTECTION	 EDUCATION
WHO (Lead) Doctors for you (Co-Lead) Handicap International CARE India ADRA ChildFund World Vision India Terre des hommes Foundation UNICEF Save the Children ICRC OXFAM India PCI IPPF EHA Americares India Water Aid HCLF Cipla Limited Red	NCDHR (Lead) UNICEF (Co Lead) Islamic Relief Caritas Care India ADRA TDH UNNATI WVI Christian Aid IGSSS Save the Children OXFAM HI CHILDFUND CRS IPPF HCLF	Save the children (Lead) UNICEF (Co Lead) CARE India Caritas India ChildFund India World Vision India Oxfam RTE Forum HCL Foundation Sterlite EdIndia Foundation Bharti Foundation Red R

About the Handbook

This Education Sector Coordination handbook provides practical guidance and advise on how different stakeholders and sector actors (NGOs, CSOs, UN Agencies and Government) can come together to strategize sector preparedness and response during emergencies. It highlights key principles of humanitarian action and how coordination and joint efforts among different sector actors can increase the effectiveness and efficiency of interventions and to promote better outcomes.

Process of Drafting the Multi Sector Coordination Handbook

The handbook has been drafted under the ***Network Approach to Emergency Preparedness for Response***, after numerous consultative meetings and write shops with sector experts from local and national organizations working in the fields of education, health, food and nutrition security, WASH, shelter, and protection.

After initial consultations with sector leads, starting from the month of January 2020, the outline of the handbook was developed and discussed in the sector committee meetings of six sectors held in February 2020. Interest from sector committees and other sector experts was sought and nominations were completed by April. The inception of the handbook began in the first week of May 2020. Introductory meetings were held with each of the six sector committees wherein Sphere India presented a prototype of the handbook to elucidate the kind of chapters and content to be produced. Following this, lead authors, section authors with support from Sphere India Secretariat began drafting the handbook. Sector-wise meetings as well as multi-sector meetings were held for discussions. During the drafting of the handbook, three Multi-sectors write shops and consultations with multi-sector strategic leads were held along with 24 sector authors meetings.

Extensive research and discussions have taken place with authors of the sector before finalising the content. Inputs have been collected and collated from various experts across the field throughout the process of drafting the handbook. Further, sector wise consultative meetings were held inviting inputs from the Government and its wider membership.

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