



BULLETIN: AUGUST 2022



Message from CEO

Dear Readers,

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

Martin Luther King Jr

These words are relevant and relatable to every humanitarian’s life. As humanitarian actors, we find more meaning in our own lives by bringing hope and meaning to others’ lives. While some of us acknowledge ourselves as humanitarian actors and professionals, there is a large section of society who work for humanity in crisis without even realizing they are also a part of the Global Humanitarian Community.

This year’s World Humanitarian Day, which was celebrated on August 19th, was dedicated to recognizing all those unsung heroes and sheroes who work for humanity far from the headlines and out of the spotlight. It’s a much-needed recognition for all who upheld the spirit of humanitarianism. By conducting a one-day event in the national capital and running a campaign to salute the humanitarians among us, Sphere India also joined the celebrations of World Humanitarian Day.

The September issue of SAMANVAY features the details of the World Humanitarian Day Event along with other webinars and programs held in the month. Alongside this, it depicts important events and initiatives undertaken by our network, the government, and the global humanitarian community.

For the benefit of our readers, we have tried to incorporate as much informative content as possible in the newsletter and we appreciate readers’ feedback.

Vikrant Mahajan

CEO, Sphere India

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Governance Update

Independent Election Committee of Sphere India approved the final list of candidates for the elections of office bearers and executive committee of Sphere India on 18th August 2022. We congratulate and welcome the new Executive Committee Members and look forward to their contribution and guidance.

Sphere India Executive Committee Members

World Humanitarian Day Event

On the occasion of World Humanitarian Day, Sphere India organized a one-day event at India Habitat Centre in New Delhi to celebrate the spirit and collective efforts of all humanitarian actors. Representatives from UN agencies, NGOs, INGOs, government, academia, media, CSR organizations, and faith-based organizations took part in the deliberations held as part of the event. They shared the stories of change and exemplary works and deliberated on ways to strengthen cooperation, collaboration, and coordination between various stakeholders for strengthening humanitarian action. The hybrid event, attended by over 150 people, also turned into a platform for the release of the pocket reference book for working with a displaced population in India, and a Compendium of the COVID-19 response by Sphere India members and others. The curtain raiser for the India Humanitarian Award was also held at the event.



(Left) Inaugural session of the World Humanitarian Day Event. (Right) Compendium of the COVID-19 response by Sphere India members and others being released.

Inaugural Session

Setting the context for the event, Mr. Vikrant Mahajan, CEO of Sphere India, commemorated the humanitarians who lost their lives in a bomb attack in Baghdad in 2003. He emphasized the significance of World Humanitarian Day as a day dedicated to celebrating the spirit of humanitarian workers across the globe. Delivering the opening remark, Mr. Rajendra Singh, member of NDMA, Govt of India, said Martin Luther King Jr's words "What are you doing for others" are still relevant. Prof Anil K Gupta, Head ECDRM, NIDM, said the passion and compassion of humanitarian workers and those who support them should be turned into professional competence. Kiri Atri, Assistant External Relations Officer, UNHRC India, used the platform to congratulate the Government of India for extending humanitarian support to other countries. He also emphasized the importance of humanitarians being sensitive and kind to survivors and people in distress. Sudarshan Suchi, CEO of Save the Children, underscored the necessity to bolster a culture of humanitarianism in this fragile society to iron out divisiveness.



Sessions of the World Humanitarian Day Event

Plenary Sessions

Two plenary sessions on Multi-Stakeholder Approach for Stakeholder-specific Guidelines and Multi-Stakeholder Approach for Sector-specific DRR and CCA Mainstreaming Guidelines were held as part of the event. At the sessions moderated by Dr. Henna Hejazi, Senior Manager, Programs, Sphere India, expert panelists from NGO/INGOs, academia, media, government, UN agencies, CSR organisations, and faith-based organizations provided their valuable inputs to a set of pertinent questions. They explained the roles stakeholder groups/sectors they represent play during humanitarian crises, DRR, climate change, and resilience building; the level of mobilization and coordination among the stakeholder groups/sectors they represent and external stakeholder groups/sectors, and ways to improve coordination and mobilization.



Offline participants and panelists of the World Humanitarian Day Event

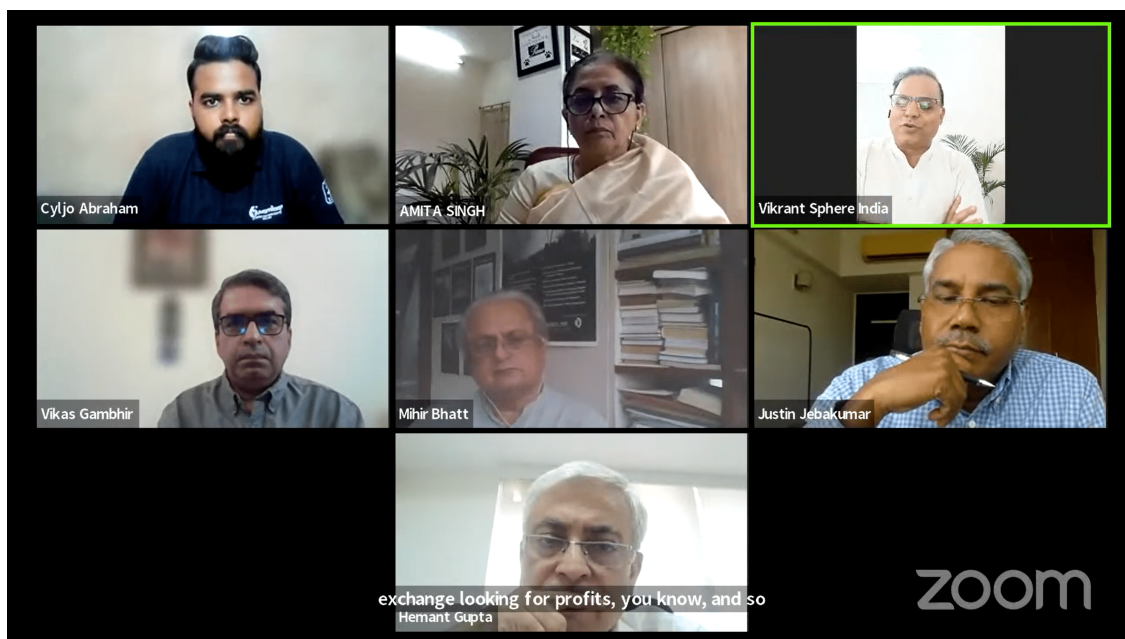
Program Update

Knowledge & Capacity Sharing

Sphere India Academy

Webinar on Demystifying Social Stock Exchange: Unfolding Provisions and Opportunities

The recent decision of SEBI to notify the Social Stock Exchange(SSE) Framework is a watershed moment for the developmental sector in India. At present, approximately 31 lakh NGOs exist in India and the main source of funds for them are government grants, CSRs, and foreign contributions or individual funding. But, this is not often sufficient to meet the requirements. SSE is offering a new avenue for social enterprises to raise funds. Recently, Sphere India conducted a webinar to demystify the social stock exchange. At the session, expert panelists from different fields shared their perspectives and understandings on the subject.



Sphere India Academy session on Demystifying Social Stock Exchange: Unfolding Provisions and Opportunities.

[Watch Here >>](#)

Webinar on Flood Situation in India – Challenges, Lessons, and Innovations

Flood risk management requires coordination of numerous activities such as planning of development, land management, flood warning, community involvement, and effective use of existing infrastructure to reduce risk and improve resilience. To discuss in detail the innovations for integrated flood risk management and review the present status of floods, challenges being faced, and lessons learned, Sphere India organized a session on August 5. Representatives from academia, NGOs, CSOs, IAG, and INGOs took part in the session.

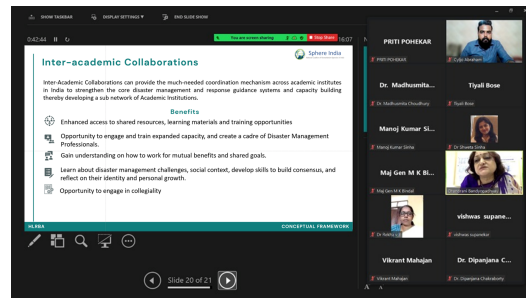


Panelists of the Sphere India Academy webinar on Flood Situation in India – Challenges, Lessons, and Innovations for integrated flood risk management held on August 5.

National-level Consultative Meeting with Academic Institutions

While academic institutions of late have very actively been participating and supporting the emergency interventions, the short response window of disaster preparedness and its constituent challenges desires more proactive involvement in the entire disaster management cycle.

Towards this, Sphere India organized a national-level consultative meeting with the academic institutions for understanding the challenges and opportunities they face while getting engaged in Disaster management and engage our knowledge partners in more constructive collaborative discussions and partnerships. The discussions helped in identifying strategic methods for building better coordination and in ideating innovative ways of knowledge sharing, skill development and knowledge management.



National-level consultative meeting with the academic institutions

Development of Guidelines for Mainstreaming DRR in SDGs

In 2015, the global community adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR); all of which have substantial areas of overlap and clear convergence of objectives related to strengthening resilience, fostering sustainable development and reducing vulnerability to climate change and disasters. There is a need for successful integration between the objectives and intentions of SDGs and Disaster Risk Reduction to achieve holistic resilience and enhanced efficiency in meeting the SDGs. Sphere India has initiated work to formulate Guidelines for mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in SDGs. Nominations are invited for authors with relevant technical know-how to contribute to the development of the SDG-specific guidelines and series of meetings of author groups/committee is planned in September 2022.

Feasibility Study for Humanitarian Leadership and Resilience Building Academy Initiative

To understand the magnitude of effectiveness of Humanitarian Leadership and Resilience Building Academy initiative (HLRBA), and to objectively & rationally uncover the strengths and weaknesses of the proposed venture, Sphere India has initiated a feasibility study of this initiative. The study intends to provide a well-founded basis for the further development of the project concept, in which the prerequisites, opportunities and risks have all been clarified. A Core Committee of 8 members have been formulated to oversee the process of transition of Sphere India's COVID 19 Academy to HLRBA. The committee is also overseeing the process of feasibility study of HLRBA, and is providing qualitative inputs on final feasibility study report by conducting periodic interface for updates & consultations with other committee members and Sphere India secretariat team. A core committee meeting was held on 29th July 2022, wherein multiple key parameters were discussed and key action points were identified to be delivered.

Collaborative Advocacy

Expression of solidarity for the people affected by Floods, Flash floods and landslides

EXPRESSION OF SOLIDARITY
#Floods and Landslides in India
August, 2022

Sphere India Members express solidarity with the people affected in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand & Odisha by Floods, Flash floods and landslides. As a coalition of humanitarian agencies in India, we started to explore ways in which humanitarian agencies and civil society groups will complement the government's efforts and assist the affected population in fulfilling their right to life with dignity and protection.

As a humanitarian collective, we advocate to:

- Government:**
 - Undertake immediate assessment of the damage caused by floods, flash floods and landslides and provide adequate resources to the affected people. With special consideration for the vulnerable groups like women, elderly, disabled, and children.
 - Ensure gender, age, and other vulnerable group specific disaster relief data and information available to the affected community.
 - Facilitate the provision of assistance, relief, shelter and psychosocial support to the affected population.
 - Support the local administration in resource mobilization.
- Non-Governmental Organizations:**
 - Conduct a rapid needs and impact assessment in the affected areas.
 - Coordinate resources to address the emerging needs of the affected population.
 - Allocate resources for identifying and assisting the affected people.
- Donors (Institutional, Corporate, Individual):**
 - Provide resources to address the emerging needs of the affected population.
 - Allocate resources for identifying and assisting the affected people.

Continuous heavy rainfall has caused severe flooding, flash floods and landslides in the States of the Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand & Odisha, resulting in number of casualties and damage. The death count from rain-triggered flash floods and landslides rose to 31 in the two neighboring Himalayan states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

In the state of Odisha, government has launched a drive to evacuate over one lakh people from low-lying areas in Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts. In Jharkhand, about 10,000 people across three districts of Kolhan division were affected by rain and floods.

Disaster management teams were working round-the-clock in challenging conditions to provide relief and rescue people stranded or washed away by the floods. Over 200 roads, including the Bhubaneswar-Chambal-NH-34 and the Tanakpur-Champawat-Ghat highways, were closed.

In Himachal, According to initial estimates, the state PWD and water department suffered damages worth Rs 700 crore and Rs 483 crore.

Emerging Needs: The affected and vulnerable population in many states are severely affected and will need humanitarian assistance in the form of Shelter, Food & Nutrition, WASH, Health, Psychosocial Support, Protection, Education, Livelihood and Animal Protection interventions to bring lives to the normal.

Sphere India is a National Coalition of Humanitarian, Development and Resilience Actors in India. The strategic outreach of 155 full members includes key modal organizations from UN, INGOs, National NGOs, CSR, Academic Institutions, Sector Networks, Expert individuals, and State-level Networks. The local outreach is evolving with 800 associate members in Sphere India Locally Empowered Organizations Network (LEON) and 1,60,000 community volunteers (COP - Community Disaster Response Force) inspired for varied capacities all over India. Sphere India facilitates multi-stakeholder coordination, knowledge & capacity sharing and collaborative advocacy for enhancing accountability to affected and at-risk populations.

On behalf of Sphere India Members:
Vikrant Mahajan, CEO, Sphere India

For further information regarding coordination efforts of Sphere India:
Mr. Abhinav Khosla, Program Coordinator, Inter-Agency Coordination | M: +91 9873873551 | E: abhinav@spheerindia.org

Sphere India released an expression of solidarity for the people affected in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand Odisha by Floods, Flash floods and landslides. As a coalition of humanitarian agencies in India, Sphere India also started to explore ways in which humanitarian agencies and civil society groups can complement the government's efforts and assist the affected population in fulfilling their right to life with dignity and protection. The EoS captured key advocacy messages for various stakeholders like Government, Humanitarian Agencies, IAGs, FBOs, Media and Donors.

Stakeholder wise guidelines for DRR and Emergency Coordination

Sphere India along with partners has initiated work with various stakeholders from Media, CSRs, Faith Leaders, Academic Institutions and Youth Groups for developing specific stakeholder wise guidelines for Emergency Preparedness and response. These guidelines will be a ready reference document for these stakeholders listing activities and strategies for various phases of Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Webinar on Role of Youth & Voluntary organizations in Disaster Risk Reduction

On 30th August 2022, Sphere India Academy organized a webinar on Role of Youth & Voluntary organizations in

Disaster Risk Reduction. At the session, panelists from national youth-based organizations deliberated on how to mobilize young people and engage them in the DRR and Resilience building at the community level. The session saw participation of 200+ youth and other stakeholders.



Webinar on Role of Youth & Voluntary organizations in DRR

[Watch Here >>](#)

Inter-Agency Coordination

Joint Rapid Needs Assessment on Flood in Madhya Pradesh

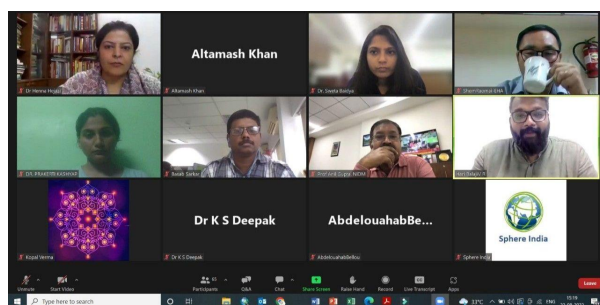


Joint Rapid Needs Assessment being conducted in MP using the Kobo Collect App

In the wake of flood in Madhya Pradesh, Joint Rapid Needs Assessment was conducted using Kobo tool. As part of the initiative, orientation on kobo tool was provided to volunteers on August 23rd, data was collected from the field on August 24th and 25th and the initial report was prepared on August 27th 2022. As many as 596 people responded through Kobo Collect App in 7 affected districts.

Training on multi-sector coordination for response and resilience in Assam

Sphere India in association with National Institute of Disaster Management conducted a three day online training on multi-sector coordination for response and resilience in Assam from August 22 to 24. Sectoral experts from various organisations delivered these sessions and made deliberations and provided recommendations for improvement and guidance for better performance. Stakeholders from Government and CSOs joined this training.



Training on multi-sector coordination for response and resilience

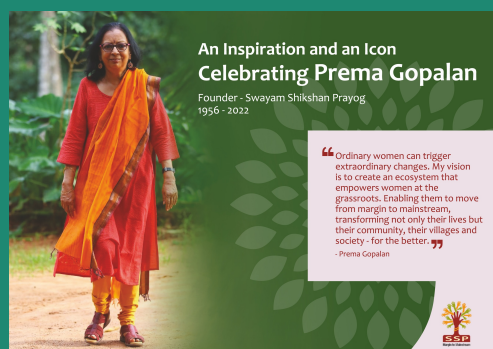
Sitreps on Floods in India, Sri Lankan Crisis

In response to Sri Lankan crisis and floods in various parts of India, SitReps were prepared and disseminated. In addition to this, daily and weekly alerts were issued after observing IMD, CWC, and INCOISE website.



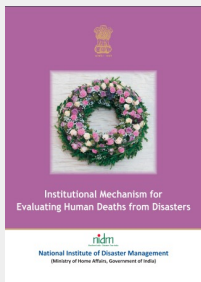
Coffee Table Book to Pay Respect to Ms Prema Gopalan

To mark the fifth month since Founder and Executive Director of Swayam Shikshan Prayog Ms. Prema Gopalan's demise on 29th March 2022, the organisation published a Coffee Table Book titled "An Inspiration and an Icon: Celebrating Prema Gopalan". A firm believer in the power of women to shift boundaries and mindsets, Prema inspired thousands of rural women to embrace their identities as entrepreneurs, farmers, and community leaders. As the Founder and Executive Director of Swayam Shikshan Prayog, she nurtured it to the organisation's present form over the past 25 years.



Updates from Government

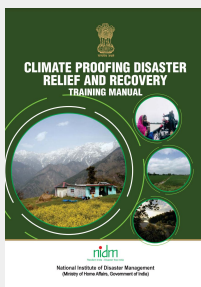
Report on Institutional Mechanism for Evaluating Human Deaths from Disasters Released



National Institute of Disaster Management has released the report on Institutional Mechanism for Evaluating Human Deaths from Disasters. India adopted Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 in 2015 which has seven targets and four priorities for action to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks. The first target aims to substantially reduce disaster mortality by 2030. The study, a timely step, will help India remain on track on the first target of SFDRR on reducing disaster mortality, significantly.

[Read More >>](#)

Training Manual on Climate Proofing Disaster Relief and Recovery Published



National Institute of Disaster Management in collaboration with Sphere India has published a training manual on Climate Proofing Disaster Relief and Recovery. Disaster response and relief can have various impacts on the surroundings and ecosystems. Mainstreaming climate change adaptation into the field of disaster relief and recovery is an emerging and urgent issue that needs to be accounted for at various levels. The provision of in-depth knowledge of climate proofing, its various terminologies, and the inter-relation of it with disaster and sustainability is one of the prime focuses of the training module.

[Read More >>](#)

2 days IRS training organized by UPSDMA at SIRD, Lucknow



उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण द्वारा 02 दिवसीय राज्य स्तरीय ईसिडेंट रेसपायस सिस्टम प्रणाली विषय पर प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम का हुआ शुभारंभ

आज रात को उत्तर प्रदेश राज्य आपदा प्रबंधन प्राधिकरण (UPSDMA) द्वारा 02 दिवसीय राज्य स्तरीय ईसिडेंट रेसपायस सिस्टम प्रणाली विषय पर प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ हुआ। इस कार्यक्रम में 200 से अधिक अधिकारी और कर्मचारी भाग ले रहे हैं।

On 30 August 2022, the Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority launched a 02-day State Level Incident Response System training program for 200 participants from all 75 districts of the state at Deen Dayal Upadhyay State Institute of Rural Development.

Updates from Global Humanitarian Community

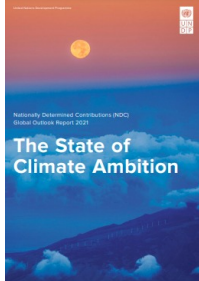


Beyond Borders: Satellite Applications for Humanitarian Emergencies August 2022: The report published by the UK Humanitarian Innovation Hub provides a consolidated view on the current use of satellite applications in humanitarian settings. Satellite applications are digital services and products that serve several functions for society, the environment, and the economy. UKHIH selected a consortium of organizations to author this report, including Caribou Space, Satellite Applications Catapult (SAC), and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). [Read More>>](#)

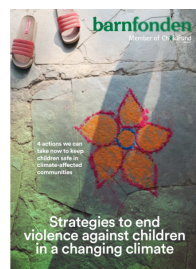


Multilateral Development Bank Support for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure Systems: The publication of the Asian Development Bank highlights opportunities in three areas: risk-informed planning, financing assistance, and knowledge building through regional and global networks. Examples from around the world illustrate some of the successes that have been achieved so far. The publication draws on a literature review, insights from stakeholders in developing member countries of the Asian Development Bank, and input from specialists in eight MDBs. [Read More>>](#)

State of Climate Ambition: This new UNDP report explores how the world is progressing on climate ambition – *Who is leading the way? And who is falling behind?* – through a unique perspective that assesses global intentions and also draws on data and evidence from more than 120 developing countries. Despite many challenges, it demonstrates that there are also reasons to be hopeful for the future.



The number of countries that have enhanced their NDC or intend to do so- by strengthening greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and/or adaptation goals- rose from 75 countries in 2019 to 178 in 2021. [Read More>>](#)



Strategies to End Violence against Children in a Changing Climate: This white paper assesses a select number of strategies in moving towards the goal of ending violence against children amid climate change. It is aimed at the authorities concerned and the development practitioners – those working with communities and national and global structures to address the effects of climate change and environmental degradation, as well as those working on issues related to ending violence against children. [Read More>>](#)



Taking Nature-based Solutions up the Policy Ladder-From Research to Policy Action: The brief provides an overview of the nature-based solutions (NBS) knowledge gaps resulting from an analysis by Network Nature of a large number of research publications, an online consultation and strategic dialogues with key stakeholders. This can support policymakers in better understanding the research needs which can strengthen the implementation of NBS. The analysis shed light on important opportunities to move the NBS agenda forward. [Read More>>](#)

News from IAGs and State Networks

IAG Coordination and Emergency Meetings

Emergency Meetings - Emergency Coordination meetings were organised by State IAGs in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Madhya Pradesh on account of floods.

Grants and Opportunities

Application Invited for Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize

At \$2.5 million, the Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize is the world's largest annual humanitarian award presented to nonprofit organizations judged to have made extraordinary contributions toward alleviating human suffering. The Prize is presented not to an individual, but to a nonprofit organization.

Organization: Conrad N. Hilton Foundation

Deadline: 28 Sept 2022

[Read More >>](#)

Application Invited for Social & Behavioral Research Grants

Sabin is launching its fourth funding cycle of the Social and Behavioral Research Grants program. Successful applicants will be awarded funding for projects to conduct research and implement solutions for up to 18 months beginning in March 2023. Sabin intends to make awards of up to US\$70,000 per funded project.

Organization: Sabin Vaccine Institute

Deadline: 31 Oct 2022

[Read More>>](#)

Minor Foundation for Major Challenges Grants

The Minor Foundation for Major Challenges (MFMC) is a Norwegian foundation that supports communication projects which advance the transition to a low carbon economy. MFMC supports projects that support urgent, large-scale transformation, with a focus on changing policies and practices in public or private institutions

Organization: UNIFOR

Deadline: 14 Oct 2022

[Read More >>](#)

Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 2022

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Sphere India COVID-19 Academy was launched on 10th April 2020. A collaborative initiative of WHO, UNICEF, WFP, HCLF, Sphere India, and other organizations, the COVID-19 Academy is a capacity-building initiative with a mission to enable humanitarian aid and frontline workers across India to fulfill various roles in emergency preparedness and response and support local government, administration, and communities. In the past two years, we conducted more than 270 academy sessions through the COVID-19 academy, which saw around 1.5 Lakh participants and 684 unique resource persons who delivered these sessions.

Supported By:  

UPCOMING SESSIONS IN SEPTEMBER 2022

- 09 Sep** Promoting a lifelong First Aid learning: to commemorate World First Aid Day
Link: <http://tiny.cc/CA-090922>
- 16 Sep** Convergence and linkages: SDGs, SFDRR & CCA in Indian Context
Link: <http://tiny.cc/CA-160922>
- 21 Sep** Developing a Humanitarian - Development-Peace Nexus to commemorate the International Day of Peace
Link: <http://tiny.cc/CA-210922>
- 30 Sep** Delivering Disaster Risk Reduction by 2030: Pathways to Progress
Link: <http://tiny.cc/CA-300922>

For more details, contact Mr. Cyljo Abraham at cyljo@sphereindia.org.in

Plans Ahead (May 2022)



Accountability to Affected Population

Focal Point: Dr. Henna Hejazi- Senior Manager, Programs
Contact: henna@sphereindia.org.in

1. Tool kit on Minimum Standards for Relief.
2. Developing a conceptual document on CHS and AAP Technical Standards to set out the approach and methodology for developing the AAP Indicators
3. Approach & Methodology: PSEA Mechanism.



Inter-Agency Coordination

Focal Point: V. R. Hari Balaji- Program Manager, Inter Agency Coordination
Contact: haribalaji@sphereindia.org.in

1. Multi Sector Coordination Trainings in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu
2. Support to IAGs as required
3. Cash Transfer Training in Assam and Tamil Nadu
4. Humanitarian Logistics Hub Planning and Coordination
5. Guidelines for Cash Transfer practices
6. Emergency Coordination and Assessments
7. DRR Coordination
8. Financial Tracking and PFM for HA in India



Knowledge and Capacity Sharing

Focal Point: Nupur Tyagi- Program Manager, Knowledge and Capacity Sharing
Contact: nupur@sphereindia.org.in

1. Digital Release of Compendium of COVID-19 Response
2. Planned Session for Sphere India Academy
3. Planning for Knowledge Forum on DRR and Resilience
4. Feasibility Study for HLRBA
5. Guidelines for Mainstreaming DRR in SDGs
6. Conceptualisation of Humanitarian Wiki
7. Engagement with Academic Institutions
8. Regular Updates on Social Media and Website



Collaborative Advocacy

Focal Point: Nitish Barole- Coordinator: Youth Resilience & Engagement
Contact: nitish@sphereindia.org.in

1. Planning for Youth Parliament for Climate Change and DRR
2. Stakeholder focused guidelines for DRR and Emergency Coordination
3. Partnerships coordination for advocacy for Parliamentary Committee for DM&DRR and Climate Budgeting,
4. Release of Animal Protection Guidelines
5. Virtual Plenary Sessions for CEFM



Sphere India

National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India

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