

Message from CEO

Dear Readers,

As we reflect on the progress of September 2024, I am filled with immense pride at the collective efforts and strategic initiatives that have guided Sphere India's continued mission to bolster disaster resilience and climate adaptation across the nation. This month was marked by proactive measures, where our approach to emerging challenges was defined by agility, collaboration, and foresight.

In September, we kept a vigilant eye on evolving hazards, closely monitoring and disseminating vital updates on the Tripura, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, and West Bengal floods. Following the Tripura floods, Sphere India swiftly conducted a Joint Rapid Needs Assessment and convened a Multistakeholder Consultation, fostering collaboration among key agencies. In the aftermath, our team was deployed to the District Emergency Operation Centre, where they strengthened GO-NGO coordination for a more unified response. Similarly, we organized Emergency Coordination Meetings for the Bihar floods to address immediate needs and develop robust response strategies. Additionally, five coordination meetings were held in Wayanad to streamline efforts in the wake of recent landslides, further strengthening the local response.

On the learning and capacity-building front, the Sphere India Academy remained active with impactful sessions. In partnership with IOM, we facilitated a session on Data Protection and Management for the Humanitarian Sector, addressing a critical aspect of modern humanitarian work. In collaboration with Bal Raksha Bharat, we hosted the fourth session in the EIE series, focused on "Assessment, Analysis, and Design in Education in Emergencies (EiE)." Furthermore, we organized an insightful webinar on Children and Youth in Accelerating Inclusive Climate Resilience, highlighting the need for inclusive approaches to building climate resilience for the next generation.

Looking ahead to the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR) in October, Sphere India organized a pre-consultation titled "Strengthening Resilience through Multistakeholder Collaboration." This consultation aimed to ignite a dialogue among government agencies, civil society, the private sector, and academia to prioritize key emerging DRR themes, such as innovative financing mechanisms, gender-responsive governance, and the pivotal role of education in empowering youth.

As we move forward, our focus remains sharply aligned with enhancing emergency preparedness and resilience, particularly in relation to Monsoon and Lightning risks. These efforts are a testament to our commitment to building stronger systems of disaster relief and resilience.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all our members and partners for their unwavering support in our collaborative endeavors. Your feedback and insights are integral to our continuous improvement, and we remain committed to refining our programs and communications to better serve our community.

Vikrant Mahajan
CEO, Sphere India

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Program Update

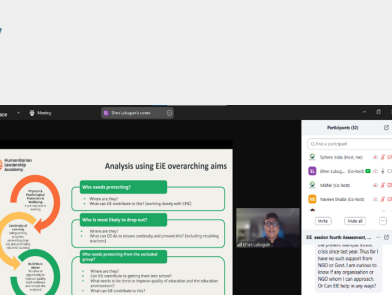
Knowledge & Capacity Sharing

Sphere India Academy

Best Practices on Data Protection and Management for Humanitarian Sector

02nd September 2024

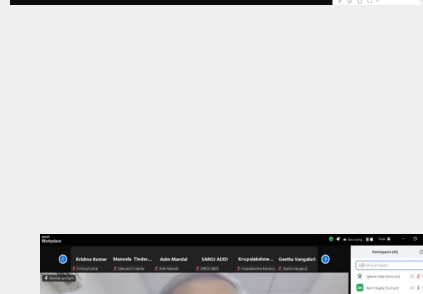
Sphere India Academy, in collaboration with IOM, organized a webinar on "Best Practices on Data Protection and Management for the Humanitarian Sector" on 2 September 2024, from 03:00 PM to 4:30 PM. The session introduced key data protection principles and their significance in humanitarian work, shared best practices from leading organizations, and explored practical guidelines for implementing data protection in field operations. Participants gained insights into effective strategies, challenges, and solutions for data protection, enhancing their capacity to manage data responsibly in humanitarian and development contexts.



Assessment, Analysis and Design in Education in Emergency

13th September 2024

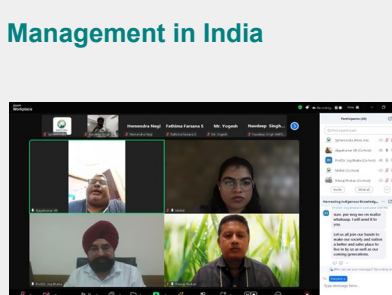
Sphere India Academy, in collaboration with Sphere India Education Sector Committee and Bal Raksha Bharat, Save The Children, hosted the fourth session in the EIE series titled "Assessment, Analysis and Design in EIE" on 13th September 2024, from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The session covered assessment approaches, types, and timing in EIE; analysis processes and frameworks, including pre-crisis and in-crisis vulnerabilities; and program design tools and processes. The session aimed to equip participants with the skills to conduct timely assessments, analyze vulnerabilities, involve stakeholders in analysis, and use tailored tools to design effective education programs in emergencies.



Climate Change and its Impact on Children and Youth

19th September 2024

Sphere India Academy, in collaboration with Bal Raksha Bharat, organized a webinar titled "Children and Youth in Accelerating Inclusive Climate Resilience" on 19 September 2024, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. The session empowered children and youth as leaders in climate resilience, addressed their vulnerabilities, and promoted inclusive approaches that integrated their needs and rights. It also enhanced partnerships among stakeholders, supported youth-led initiatives, and created a roadmap for integrating youth perspectives into climate policies. This webinar aimed to raise awareness, build capacity, and strengthen collaboration for sustainable climate resilience efforts.



Harnessing Indigenous Knowledge for Effective Disaster Management in India

19th September 2024

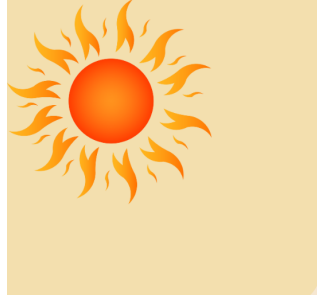
Sphere India Academy organized a webinar titled "Harnessing Indigenous Knowledge for Effective Disaster Management in India" on 19 September 2024, from 03:00 PM to 04:30 PM. The session focused on raising awareness about the importance of indigenous knowledge, documenting traditional disaster management practices, integrating these methods with modern approaches, exploring policy recommendations, and fostering collaboration between communities, policymakers, and disaster management professionals. It aimed to enhance understanding, compile case studies, develop actionable recommendations, and strengthen partnerships for incorporating indigenous knowledge into disaster risk reduction efforts.



APMCDRR Pre Event

Consultation on Strengthening Resilience through Multistakeholder Collaboration

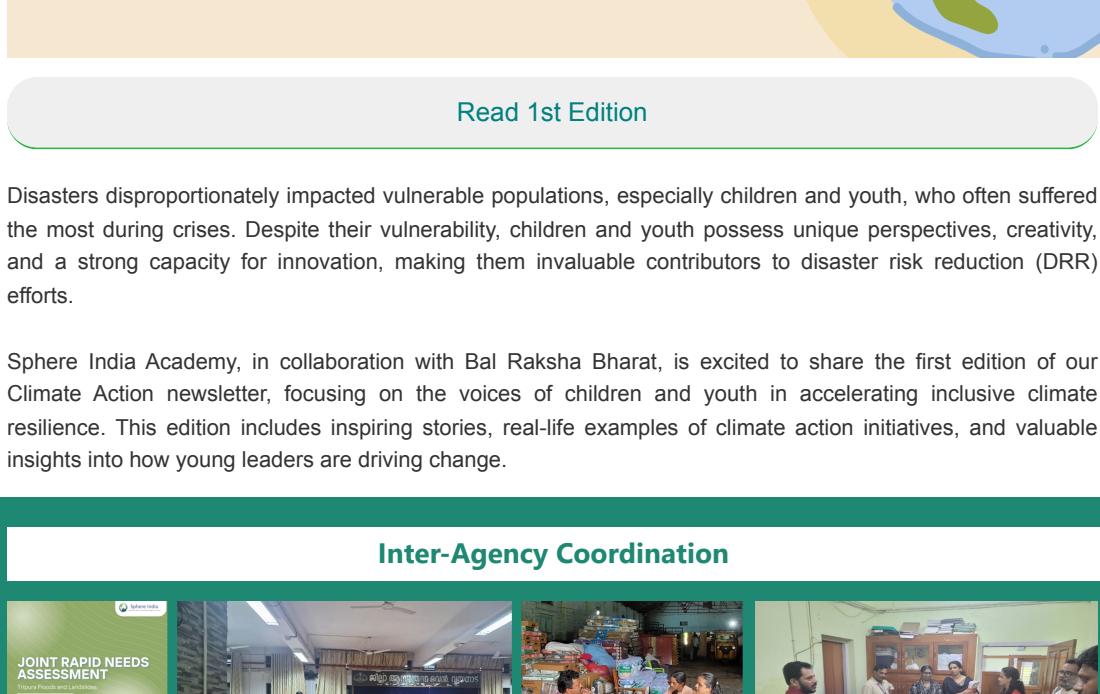
27 September 2024



Sphere India organized a consultation titled "Strengthening Resilience through Multistakeholder Collaboration" on 27 September 2024, from 03:00 PM to 04:30 PM. The session focused on fostering dialogue and partnerships among government agencies, civil society, the private sector, and academia to enhance disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts. It aimed to discuss emerging DRR priorities, including financing mechanisms and gender-responsive governance, emphasize the role of education in empowering youth

as agents of change, and identify practical localized approaches to resilience building. The consultation sought to compile case studies, develop actionable recommendations, and strengthen collaboration for effective disaster risk management in India.

Role of Youth and Children in Accelerating Climate Resilience

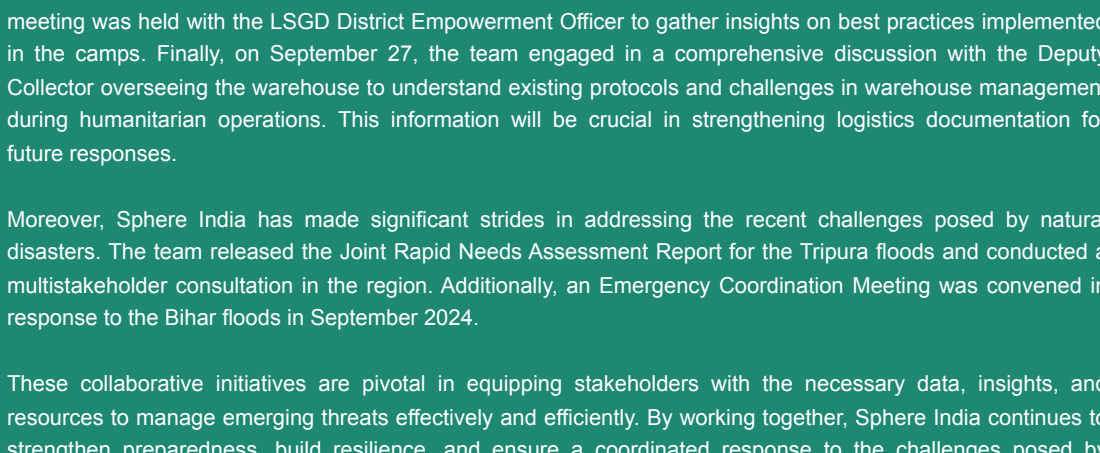


Read 1st Edition

Disasters disproportionately impacted vulnerable populations, especially children and youth, who often suffered the most during crises. Despite their vulnerability, children and youth possess unique perspectives, creativity, and a strong capacity for innovation, making them invaluable contributors to disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts.

Sphere India Academy, in collaboration with Bal Raksha Bharat, is excited to share the first edition of our Climate Action newsletter, focusing on the voices of children and youth in accelerating inclusive climate resilience. This edition includes inspiring stories, real-life examples of climate action initiatives, and valuable insights into how young leaders are driving change.

Inter-Agency Coordination



Emergency Coordination

Sphere India remains steadfast in its commitment to monitoring emergency situations across the country. Recently, our dedicated team has released 6 Situation Reports (Sitreps) on critical hazards, including floods in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar. In addition to these reports, Sphere India has proactively issued over 10 alerts to key stakeholders within our network, ensuring timely information and preparedness. By closely monitoring essential sources such as the IMD and NDMA, Sphere India aims to keep partners informed of real-time developments to foster quick and effective responses.

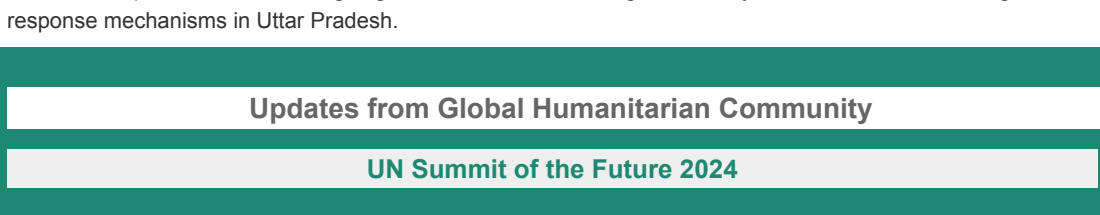
In the wake of the Wayanad landslides, the Sphere India field team actively participated in 5 coordination meetings to facilitate better response strategies, enhancing the collective efforts of local agencies. On September 3, 2024, the team met with the District Collector and the IAG convenor to discuss upcoming general body initiatives. This was followed by the IAG general body and executive meeting on September 9, where further collaboration was established. On September 12, the team engaged in a detailed discussion with the ITDP Officer Sub-Collector and TSG representatives regarding the distribution of relief kits for flood-affected tribal communities, ensuring that the kits met the unique needs of these communities. During this meeting, the team also demonstrated the use of an environmentally friendly burning stove. Subsequently, on September 18, a meeting was held with the LSGD District Empowerment Officer to gather insights on best practices implemented in the camps. Finally, on September 27, the team engaged in a comprehensive discussion with the Deputy Collector overseeing the warehouse to understand existing protocols and challenges in warehouse management during humanitarian operations. This information will be crucial in strengthening logistics documentation for future responses.

Moreover, Sphere India has made significant strides in addressing the recent challenges posed by natural disasters. The team released the Joint Rapid Needs Assessment Report for the Tripura floods and conducted a multistakeholder consultation in the region. Additionally, an Emergency Coordination Meeting was convened in response to the Bihar floods in September 2024.

These collaborative initiatives are pivotal in equipping stakeholders with the necessary data, insights, and resources to manage emerging threats effectively and efficiently. By working together, Sphere India continues to strengthen preparedness, build resilience, and ensure a coordinated response to the challenges posed by natural disasters across the nation. Thank you for your ongoing support as Sphere India strives to make a meaningful impact in disaster management and response efforts.

News from Members

Green and Resilient Affordable Housing Buildings: Global Best Practices in Policy and Finance for Government Agencies



On 19th September 2024, Habitat for Humanity India, in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh Green Housing Corporation (APSHCL) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), hosted a workshop on **Green and Resilient Affordable Housing Buildings**. Held at the APSHCL Head Office in Auto Nagar, Vijayawada, the event gathered over 50 civil engineers from various districts to explore innovative solutions in affordable housing. Ajay Jain, IAS, Special Chief Secretary of APSHCL, inaugurated the workshop and encouraged officials to leverage emerging technologies in housing while proposing pilot projects for green innovations in the state. He also invited Habitat for Humanity India and IFC to support the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, India's flagship housing scheme.

Anand Kumar Bolimera, National Director of Habitat for Humanity India, emphasized the vital role of sustainable housing in building resilient communities. Key sessions were delivered by prominent speakers, including Justin Jebakumar from Habitat India and Aatif Sayyed, South Asia Lead for Green Buildings at IFC. The workshop provided practical insights into implementing eco-friendly construction materials and energy-efficient technologies. Together, these efforts aim to foster a greener and more resilient future for India's housing sector.

Updates from Inter-Agency Groups and State Networks

IAG Strengthening in Uttar Pradesh



In September 2024, the Inter-Agency Group (IAG) Uttar Pradesh, in collaboration with UPSPDMA, played a pivotal role in flood preparedness and disaster risk reduction efforts across the state. A joint field visit was conducted from 5th to 9th September in the districts of Shravasti, Bahraich, Siddharth Nagar, and Gorakhpur, which are prone to flooding due to monsoon rains. The team assessed the impact on agriculture, infrastructure, and local communities, meeting with District Disaster Management Authorities to strengthen preparedness. Additionally, IAG-UP ensured continuous monitoring of water levels and coordinated with the Indian Meteorological Department and Central Water Commission to issue timely flood warnings. Through awareness campaigns, they addressed critical risks such as snakebites, drowning, lightning, and boat capsizing. These efforts were part of IAG-UP's ongoing commitment to ensuring community resilience and enhancing disaster response mechanisms in Uttar Pradesh.

Updates from Global Humanitarian Community

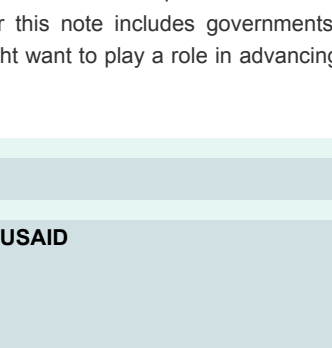
UN Summit of the Future 2024



The UN Summit of the Future, held in September 2024, addressed global challenges through multilateral cooperation, focusing on revitalizing the international system. One of the key outcomes was the adoption of the "Pact for the Future," which committed nations to stronger international solidarity and progress in peace, sustainable development, and human rights. The summit emphasized governance reform, aiming to create a fairer and more inclusive system for all countries. It also highlighted the importance of peace, digital cooperation, and climate justice, alongside mechanisms to enhance accountability and trust in global governance. The event equipped the international community to better manage future crises and opportunities.

Australian Disaster Resilience Conference 2024

The Australian Disaster Resilience Conference (ADRC) 2024, held on the 4th and 5th of September, brought together experts and practitioners from various sectors to enhance Australia's disaster resilience efforts. The theme, 'maintaining momentum: driving systemic change to create a more resilient future,' emphasized the need for a unified approach to disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and resilience in response to climate change.



The conference featured thought-provoking presentations, professional development programs, and collaboration with AFAC24 powered by INTERSCHUTZ, focusing on cross-sector engagement in emergency management. Highlights included knowledge-sharing on effective resilience strategies and showcasing innovations. Attendees also explored challenges faced by communities like Cobargo, NSW, after the Black Summer bushfires. Sydney's leadership in managing extreme heat was spotlighted as a global example, highlighting the role of pre-existing community structures in overcoming barriers to disaster recovery.

GAR Special Report 2024
Protecting People in Resilient Buildings

GAR Special Report 2024 Forensic Insights for Future Resilience: Learning from Past Disasters The report was released by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) ahead of the UN-convened Summit of the Future, as a special edition of the UN's flagship Global Assessment Report (GAR). The report presents ten case studies based on recent disasters from around the world. Each case study includes an examination of factors that aggravated or reduced the disaster's impacts, future projections of risks, and recommendations for how to bolster resilience across three spheres: People, Planet, and Prosperity. [Read More>>](#)

Urban Climate-Health Action

Urban Climate-Health Action: a new approach to protecting health in the era of climate change identifies the critical gaps in city-level responses to climate-induced health threats. The Rockefeller Foundation released a three-step roadmap to help cities around the world more effectively plan for, and respond to the global health emergency caused by climate change. While the health implications of climate change are global, cities, which are home to an estimated 5 billion people, are already bearing the brunt of the crisis. By 2050, nearly 70% of the world's population is expected to live in a city, each facing unique health risks caused by climate change. [Read More>>](#)

Digital Public Goods for Disaster Risk Reduction

Digital Public Goods for Disaster Risk Reduction in a Changing Climate This briefing note aims to promote and explore ways that digital public goods can support disaster risk reduction. It starts by providing a series of definitions and historical context, before delving into the prevailing trends and opportunities that promote the use of open resources to support disaster risk reduction. The target audience for this note includes governments, international organizations, and other institutions that might want to play a role in advancing digital public goods. [Read More>>](#)

Grants and Opportunities

Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) Activity - USAID

Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) Activity - USAID
Organisation: **India USAID/New Delhi**
The USAID/India is seeking concept papers for a Fixed Amount Cooperative Agreement from qualified entities to implement the "Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) Activity."
Programme Funding: **\$20,000,000**
Deadline: **29-October-2024**

Plans Ahead

Sphere India Academy Calendar: October

SPHERE INDIA ACADEMY CALENDAR

Upcoming Sessions in October 2024 >>

- 07 Oct Cold Wave Preparedness in India Workshop http://tiny.cc/Cold_Wave_Preparedness
- 15 Oct Consultation on Examining the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill 2024 Opportunities and Challenges http://tiny.cc/Amendment_Bill_2024
- 22 Oct Face to Face Workshop on Children and Youth in Climate Resilience
- 25 Oct Role of Local Youth in Resilience Building http://tiny.cc/Local_Youth_in_Resilience_Building
- 28 Oct IDDR 2024: Education for Resilience http://tiny.cc/IDDR_2024_Education_for_Resilience
- 30 Oct Fostering Climate Resilience in India: The Catalytic Role of CSR Initiatives http://tiny.cc/Climate_CSR_Initiatives

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