

## Message from CEO

#### Dear Readers,

October 2024 has been a month of dynamic engagement and impactful progress for Sphere India as we continue our mission to enhance disaster resilience and climate adaptation across the country. Our work has been characterized by a proactive approach to addressing emerging challenges, building on lessons learned, and coordinating efforts for effective disaster management.

Throughout the month, we have focused on key issues, including riverbank erosion in Murshidabad, West Bengal, where we gathered insights from affected communities to explore solutions and enhance resilience. Our collaboration with Bal Raksha Bharat (Save the Children) brought together youth voices for the #GenerationHope campaign, amplifying the need for youth-led climate action and capacity building. We also held a session on sustainability and resource efficiency in disaster risk reduction with ICARS-IIT Roorkee, focusing on advancing sustainable practices for climate adaptation.

In response to the Wayanad landslide, Sphere India, in partnership with IAG Wayanad and Shreyas, organized a Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) initiative. This included an orientation session and field surveys to assess the effectiveness of aid provided to affected communities. Volunteers, equipped with PDM skills, engaged directly with those impacted, ensuring relief efforts reached those who needed it most.

Additionally, our ongoing collaboration with the Inter Agency Coordination (IAC) team has been crucial in providing timely and comprehensive disaster response. We issued Situation Reports (Sitreps) on Cyclone Dana and the riverbank erosion in Murshidabad, initiated Joint Rapid Needs Assessments (JRNA) in Odisha and Post Distribution Monitoring Exercise in Wayanad, and maintained constant communication through emergency alerts and coordination meetings. These efforts reflect our commitment to fostering community resilience and ensuring effective disaster management across India.

Looking ahead, our focus remains steadfast on strengthening disaster relief and resilience systems. We will continue to prioritize emergency preparedness, with a particular focus on the evolving challenges of the monsoon season and lightning incidents.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all our members and partners for their ongoing support and collaboration. As we move forward, we are committed to further enhancing synergies across our network. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us refine our programs and communications, ensuring that we continue to provide relevant and impactful support to those who need it most.

Vikrant Mahajan CEO, Sphere India

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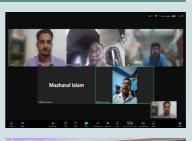
Grants and Events

# Knowledge & Capacity Sharing

Tackling recurring riverbank erosion in Murshidabad, West Bengal October 11: Sphere India Academy, with PRISM, CARN-AP, and Youth Conclave, held this meeting, to address riverbank erosion in Murshidabad, West Bengal. The session gathered insights from affected communities, discussed challenges, and explored solutions, aiming to mobilize support and enhance resilience to this urgent issue. Watch here>>

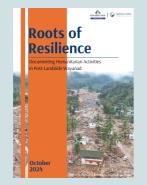
Children and Youth in Climate Resilience - Face to Face Workshop October 22: Sphere India, in collaboration with Bal Raksha Bharat (Save the Children), hosted an event on October 22, 2024, at Hotel The Suryaa in New Delhi, addressing the climate crisis's impact on children. The National Conclave of the #GenerationHope campaign amplified children's voices, featuring youth representatives who shared experiences and a Charter of Demands for policymakers, promoting commitment to youthled climate action and capacity building.

Sustainability and Resource Efficiency with DRR, Adaptation, and Safety | October 26: Sphere India, in collaboration with ICARS-IIT Roorkee, organized this session focused on sustainability and disaster risk reduction, emphasizing resource efficiency and adaptation strategies. Experts shared insights, fostering collaborative learning and discussing ways to advance sustainable practices and resilience-building. Watch here>>









Roots of Resilience: Humanitarian Response in Post-Landslide Wayanad On July 30th, 2024, a catastrophic landslide struck Mundakkai, Chooralmala in Wayanad District, Kerala, burying homes and businesses, claiming at least 231 lives, and leaving 119 people missing. The government responded swiftly, providing displaced families with housing, financial aid, and livelihood support through programs like the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA). In addition to government efforts, over 80 NGOs, CSR initiatives, and community-based organizations (CBOs) played a vital role in relief and recovery. This report highlights the critical interventions of 25 key organizations, showcasing their contributions to rebuilding lives and fostering resilience in the affected communities. Read here>>

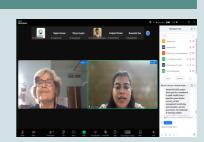
## **Collaborative Advocacy**

#### October 09th: Women's Access to Disaster Assistance and Social Protection in India

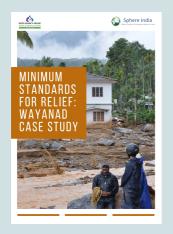
The session highlighted the challenges women face in accessing essential services like food, water, and healthcare. Strategies to strengthen support systems, including direct benefit transfers, were discussed, along with actionable recommendations to enhance inclusive disaster relief frameworks for women in crisis. Watch here>>

## October 25th: Consultation on Examining the Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill 2024 Opportunities and Challenges

This session addressed the evolving challenges in disaster management driven by climate change, with a particular focus on urban disaster management, statutory enhancements, and data-driven approaches. Experts shared critical insights on the Bill's proposed amendments, including the establishment of Urban Disaster Management Authorities, disaster data systems, and the statutory status for high-level committees. Participants engaged in discussions on gaps within the amendments and contributed recommendations for improving coordination, resource allocation, and resilience-building across diverse regions in India Watch here>>







## Minimum Standards for Relief: Wayanad Case Study

In disaster response, ensuring the protection, dignity, and well-being of affected communities is crucial. Minimum standards for relief, such as those outlined in the Sphere Standards, help guarantee access to vital needs like food, water, shelter, and healthcare. In India, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) sets these standards, which are further adapted by state authorities. During the Wayanad landslide, the district authorities effectively followed Kerala's "Orange Book of Disaster Management," which aligns with national guidelines and provides clear Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Emergency Support Functions. This report examines how these guidelines were implemented to uphold the minimum standards of relief, ensuring a coordinated and efficient disaster response in Wayanad. Read here>>

## Inter Agency Coordination

## October 07th: Cold Wave Preparedness in India Workshop

Sphere India Academy, in collaboration with ICARS-IIT Roorkee, held a workshop titled "Cold Wave Preparedness in India," focusing on the impact of cold waves due to climate change. Participants learned about scientific insights, forecasting methods, and multi-stakeholder approaches for risk mitigation, enhancing their capacity to manage cold wave events effectively. Watch here>>

#### Wayanad Landslide - Post-Distribution Monitoring

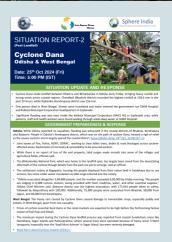
Sphere India, in partnership with IAG Wayanad and Shreyas, organized a Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) initiative following the landslide in Wayanad. On October 21st, an orientation session was held at Shreyas Conference Hall to prepare volunteers for comprehensive field assessments, focusing on the effectiveness of relief distribution and its impact on essential areas like shelter, food security, health, and livelihood recovery. Volunteers, equipped with this training, conducted field surveys on October 22nd and 24th, directly engaging with affected communities to assess the adequacy and reach of aid. This PDM initiative is crucial for understanding the ground-level impact of our relief efforts and ensuring that assistance meets the actual needs of those affected. We thank the volunteers and partner organizations who contributed their time and expertise.

#### **Emergency Coordination Efforts**

The Inter Agency Coordination (IAC) team at Sphere India has been closely tracking and coordinating responses to recent disasters across India. In October, the team issued four Situation Reports (Sitreps), covering Cyclone Dana's impact in Odisha & West Bengal and the riverbank erosion crisis in Murshidabad, West Bengal. Additionally, seven alerts were shared, including emergency alerts on a fire in Kishtwar, J&K, and updates on Cyclone Dana & the Low pressure forecast of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The team also initiated Joint Rapid Needs Assessments (JRNA) in Odisha and Post Distribution Monitoring Exercise in Wayanad, with results expected in November 2024 to guide further response planning.







Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2024



Sphere India participated in the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR2024) held in Manila, Philippines between 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2024. The conference provided a platform to address critical issues related to disaster risk reduction and climate change. During the conference, Sphere India had a dedicated exhibition booth to showcase our latest initiatives in disaster resilience. This allowed us to engage with various attendees and stakeholders, facilitating important discussions on our work and impact in the field.

Sphere India also presented on the IGNITE stage, focusing on the role of Indigenous Knowledge in enhancing local resilience. The presentation highlighted sustainable agriculture, water management, and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction strategies. Additionally, we were engaged in a meeting with Mr. Rajendra Singh, Member of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). In this meeting, we discussed the necessity of strong coordination, collaboration, and capacity building among civil society organizations (CSOs) and local governments to improve community resilience in disaster management.

The conference addressed several key issues, including the need for inclusive early warning systems, proactive funding for disaster risk reduction, and the integration of disaster risk management into private sector operations. Sphere India remains committed to these objectives and will continue to work towards enhancing disaster resilience across the Asia-Pacific region.

## Update from the Government

The 20th Formation Day inaugural ceremony of the National Disaster Management Authority

On October 28, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) celebrated its 20th Formation Day with an inaugural ceremony in New Delhi. Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, attended as Chief Guest, underscoring India's commitment to resilience through inclusive disaster risk reduction. Themed "Empowering Communities for Disaster Risk Reduction Through Awareness for Behavioral Change", this year's event aligns with Prime Minister's 10-point agenda for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). A significant highlight of the event was the release of critical Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), books and guidelines focused on advancing



disaster management across India. These documents are designed to provide structured, effective protocols for handling diverse disaster situations, supporting both preparedness and community resilience. The event also featured three technical sessions addressing key DRR areas: "Voices from the Communities Coping with Shift in Weather Patterns," "Disaster Risk Reduction - Technology for Last Mile Communication," and "Slow Onset Weather Events, Awareness on Climate Change and DRR." Participants included senior officials, disaster experts, and representatives from international agencies, bringing diverse perspectives to the forefront of India's disaster response initiatives.

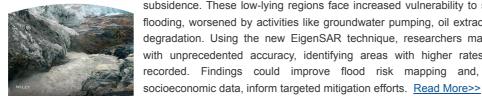
## Updates from the International Humanitarian Community



AGU **JGR Earth Surface**  methodologies to assess the impacts of slow-onset events (SOEs) driven by climate change. It evaluates the current landscape, identifying barriers and exploring potential adaptations of existing methodologies for evaluating losses and damages from SOEs. The brief highlights the potential of the enhanced disaster losses and damages tracking system being developed by UNDRR, UNDP, and WMO to improve understanding and response to SOEs over time. It emphasizes the need for further exploration of issues and opportunities, proposing a way forward through existing and new partnerships. UNDRR aims to leverage these collaborations to create a systemic framework for assessing losses and damages from SOEs effectively. Read More>>

Tracking losses and damages from slow onset events: Issues and Perspectives This issue brief addresses the challenges and opportunities in advancing

## Subtle Land Subsidence Elevates Future Storm Surge Risks Along the Gulf **Coast of the United States**

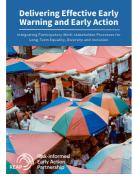


The study examines rising flood risks in densely populated coastal areas, especially along the U.S. Gulf Coast, due to an accelerated rate of sea level rise and land subsidence. These low-lying regions face increased vulnerability to storm surges and flooding, worsened by activities like groundwater pumping, oil extraction, and wetland degradation. Using the new EigenSAR technique, researchers mapped subsidence with unprecedented accuracy, identifying areas with higher rates than previously recorded. Findings could improve flood risk mapping and, combined with

## **Climate Action Guide for Urban Planners**

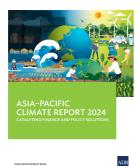


By 2050, two-thirds of the global population will live in cities, with much of the growth occurring in climate-vulnerable areas. Urban expansion, especially in the Global South, often leads to sprawling, informal settlements in hazard-prone zones. A new multilingual guide helps urban planners develop sustainable, low-carbon cities by focusing on reducing sprawl, conserving natural land, and adopting climate-conscious policies like energy-efficient buildings and better public transport. By prioritizing compact, resilient urban planning, cities can lower emissions, reduce climate risks, and improve residents' quality of life. The guide highlights global examples of planning policies that address climate challenges, preserve natural land, and support sustainable urban development. Read More>>



## **Delivering Effective Early Warning and Early Action**

This policy brief advocates for participatory, decentralized, and democratic approaches to early warning systems (EWS), urging governments, donors, and agencies to involve diverse actors, including community groups, civil society, and the private sector. It emphasizes building on existing EWS efforts, tailoring solutions to local contexts, and ensuring inclusivity through co-governance models. The brief stresses the need for diverse perspectives, especially from marginalized communities, to create equitable, effective, and adaptable systems. It highlights the importance of monitoring, feedback, and collaboration to enhance long-term resilience and relevance. Ultimately, fostering community ownership and continuous engagement will ensure EWS remain sustainable and responsive to evolving challenges. Read More>>



## Asia-Pacific Climate Report 2024: Catalyzing Finance and Policy Solutions

The 2024 Asia-Pacific Climate Report from the ADB warns that climate change could reduce GDP in developing Asia by 17% by 2070 and 41% by 2100, with the hardest-hit regions being lower-income and fragile economies. Rising sea levels and falling labor productivity are the main drivers. The report highlights the urgent need for adaptation, estimating annual investment requirements at \$102 billion to \$431 billion, far exceeding current funding levels. It emphasizes renewable energy and carbon markets to achieve net-zero goals. Public sentiment supports climate action, with 91% recognizing global warming as a serious issue. ADB stresses the importance of scaling up private climate finance to address escalating risks. Read More>>

#### **Grants and Opportunities**

#### **Climate & Care Initiative Fund Program**

Supported by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and led by a consortium including the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Oxfam Canada, and Fundación Avina in collaboration with the Global Alliance for Care

About this opportunity: This fund invites grassroots organizations, NGOs, and movements from the Global South to submit projects at the intersection of climate action and care work. The focus is on initiatives that address rising care demands due to climate impacts, promote gender equality, and integrate care into sustainable solutions. This opportunity supports projects that build evidence, foster shared responsibilities, and advance resilience in climate and care. More information>>

Programme Funding: \$600,000

Deadline:10 December 2024



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