

Dear Readers,

February 2025 has been a month of action, dialogue, and collaboration, reinforcing our commitment to building resilience in the face of emerging climate and disaster risks. From commemorating Sphere India Day 2025 to advancing preparedness for extreme heat events and strengthening multi-sectoral coordination, this month's engagements reflect the collective efforts of our network to drive meaningful change.

The commemoration of Sphere India Day 2025 served as a crucial platform for dialogue on emerging priorities and collaborative strategies for Viksit Bharat 2047. Bringing together experts, policymakers, and practitioners, the discussions emphasized multi-stakeholder coordination in disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and sustainable development.

With rising temperatures and extreme heat events becoming a growing concern, Sphere India's Heatwave Engagement Strategies 2025 laid the groundwork for preparedness and response. Consultations with key stakeholders, awareness campaigns, and early warning dissemination have been at the forefront of our efforts. The session on Mitigating Heatwave Impacts in Kerala underscored the need for localized heat action plans, early warnings, and community-led cooling solutions to protect vulnerable groups.

Our Program and Sector Committees have been restructured to drive collective action more effectively. These committees will play a key role in guiding humanitarian response, strengthening technical expertise, and ensuring that resilience-building efforts remain inclusive and community-driven. Additionally, capacity-building sessions this month focused on Loss and Damage, Disaster Inclusion, and Youth Engagement in GIS and Remote Sensing for Resilience, fostering knowledge-sharing across diverse sectors.

We also take pride in the contributions of our members, including ADRA India's landmark study on Heatwave Anticipatory Action, Doctors For You's cold wave relief efforts, and AIDMI's work on climate-induced displacement. Such initiatives highlight the power of collaboration in strengthening India's disaster response ecosystem.

At the policy level, India's participation in the 1st BRICS Disaster Management Working Group Meeting and the launch of the National Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Risk Mitigation Project reaffirm the government's commitment to disaster resilience and risk reduction.

As we move forward, our focus remains on amplifying community voices, advancing locally-led solutions, and fostering multi-sectoral partnerships. Together, we can shape a future where resilience is at the core of sustainable development.

Warm regards, **Vikrant Mahajan** CEO, Sphere India

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updates

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Sphere India Day 2025



On Sphere India Day 2025, 21st February 2025, a commemoratory webinar was hosted on "Identifying Emerging **Priorities** & Strengthening Collaboration for Resilient India Visioning 2047." The consultation policymakers, together experts, brought practitioners, and community representatives across the humanitarian, climate change, disaster risk reduction, and development sectors. The discussions focused on emerging disaster resilience, priorities in climate adaptation, and risk-informed development-key pathways towards building a climate-resilient, risk-ready, and inclusive Viksit Bharat 2047.

Emphasizing multi- stakeholder collaboration and the principle of "Leave no one behind," the session highlighted the need for collective action to strengthen community resilience and ensure sustainable development in the face of growing risks. <u>Watch here>></u>



Heatwave Actions and Engagement Strategy

Sphere India Heatwave Engagement Strategy 2025: The Inter Agency Coordination (IAC) and Collaborative Advocacy (CA) teams at Sphere India are developing Heatwave Engagement Strategy 2025 to strengthen heatwave preparedness, response, and resilience in collaboration with multi-sector stakeholders. Planned from March to July-August, the draft strategy focuses on stakeholder consultations, social media campaigns, early warning dissemination, emergency coordination, and joint needs assessments. The engagement aims to enhance coordination among government agencies, humanitarian actors, and community-based organizations while prioritizing the needs of vulnerable populations. The plan is currently under discussion, with further consultations and collaborative actions in the pipeline.

IMD issued a Yellow Alert for heatwaves in Thane, Mumbai City, Mumbai Suburban, Raigad, and Ratnagiri districts for 25th and 26th February 2025, signaling rising temperatures and potential health risks. In response, Sphere India, in collaboration with MahaPECONet, developed and shared IEC materials to raise awareness on heatwave risks and safety measures. The materials explain what heatwaves are, their impact on health, environment, and livelihoods. It also provides practical safety tips, dos and don'ts, and emergency response measures to help communities protect themselves and stay resilient during extreme heat conditions. <u>Read here>></u>

Program Updates

Inter Agency Coordination

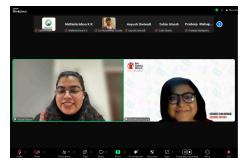
Mitigating Heatwave Impacts in Kerala: Challenges and Strategies for Resilience (Regional Webinar)

Sphere India, in partnership with Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), organized an online session on Mitigating Heatwave Impacts in Kerala on 11th February 2025. The discussion highlighted the increasing risks of heatwaves, especially for vulnerable communities like outdoor workers, elderly, and children, emphasizing the need for localized heat action plans, early warning systems, and community-based cooling solutions. It called for heatwave classification as a notified disaster to strengthen preparedness and ensure dedicated resources for long-term resilience. <u>Watch here>></u>



Knowledge and Capacity Sharing

Managing Loss & Damage: Pathways to Sustainability and Resilient Futures



Sphere India Academy in collaboration with Bal Raksha Bharat, organized a webinar on "Managing Loss & Damage: Pathways to Sustainability and Resilient Futures." The session explored the critical intersection of climate change-induced loss and damage and environmental sustainability, bringing together experts, practitioners, and youth advocates to discuss the growing challenges faced by vulnerable communities. The webinar highlighted innovative strategies and best practices for addressing loss and damage while ensuring that sustainability and equity remain at the core of climate resilience efforts. <u>Watch here>></u>

Disaster Management and Inclusion: Empowering Persons with Disabilities for Resilient Communities

Sphere India Academy, in collaboration with Humanity and Inclusion India (Handicap International), organized a webinar on Disaster Management and Inclusion. The session brought together experts, practitioners, and stakeholders to discuss the unique challenges faced by Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) during disasters. It focused on inclusive, scalable strategies to ensure equal access to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery services. The importance of accessible early warning systems, community support networks, and policy frameworks to build more resilient, inclusive communities was highlighted. Watch here>>



Role of Youth in Remotely Sensed Data and GIS Analytics to Strengthen Resilience Building



Sphere India Academy, in collaboration with PRISM, Climate Action Resources Network – Asia Pacific (CARN-AP), YOUTH CONCLAVE - Warriors of GREEN, SAADRI, and IEEE GRSS BIT Mesra Student Branch Chapter, hosted a webinar on "Role of Youth in Remotely Sensed Data and GIS Analytics for Resilience Building". The session explored how youth could leverage GIS and remote sensing for disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and sustainable development. It emphasized capacity building, real-time data analysis, and decision-making for resilience.

Collaborative Advocacy

Crisis to Care: Enhancing Sexual and Reproductive Health in Disaster Management

On the occasion of Sexual and Reproductive Health Awareness Day, Sphere India, on behalf of the Health Sector Committee, organized a webinar on enhancing SRH services during disasters. The session highlighted the importance of timely delivery and prepositioning of MISP kits, dignity kits, and other essential supplies to address immediate SRH needs. Experts emphasized the need to integrate SRH into disaster management plans, strengthen community networks, and ensure safe spaces for survivors of gender-based violence in emergencies. <u>Watch here>></u>



Program and Sector Committee Updates

Restructured Sphere India Program and Sector Committees: Driving Collaborative Action for Humanitarian Response and Resilience

As part of our commitment to enhancing multi-stakeholder coordination and collective action, the Program and Sector committees are restructured to align with the Strategic Plan (2023-2027) and Annual Plan 2025. The Program Committees will guide thematic initiatives across Inter-Agency Coordination, Collaborative Advocacy, Capacity Building, Information & Knowledge Management, and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) — offering technical expertise, strategic direction, and policy inputs to strengthen disaster preparedness and resilience-building. The Sector Committees, on the other hand, will focus on core humanitarian sectors such as Health, Protection, WASH, Shelter, Education and Food Security & Livelihoods, providing sector-specific guidance and supporting coordinated response efforts during emergencies. The restructured committees has Leads and Co-Leads from within the network, working alongside technical experts and member organizations. The committees will soon convene to finalize their Terms of Reference (ToR), set priority action plans for 2025, and strengthen collaborative efforts for disaster risk reduction, humanitarian response, and resilience-building. <u>View more>></u>

News from Members

ADRA India Releases Landmark Report on Heatwave Anticipatory Action



ADRA India, in collaboration with the NDMA and ICARS, has launched a comprehensive study titled "A Landscape Study of Diverse Climatic Zones on Anticipatory Action in Heatwaves: Indian Community Perspectives". Officially unveiled at NDMA's" CoDRR 8: International Workshop on Heatwave 2025", the report highlights the rising intensity of heatwaves in India, which recorded 536 heatwave days and 459 casualties in 2024, the hottest year since 1901. The study explores opportunities for strengthening forecasting, infrastructure, and financial safety nets while showcasing community-led solutions such as cooling centers and anticipatory assistance. It underscores the importance of early warning systems and stakeholder collaboration to enhance preparedness and protect vulnerable communities. <u>Read here>></u>

Humane Society International Evolves into Humane World for Animals

For over 70 years, Humane Society International has been dedicated to creating a better world for animals under the names - Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society International. Now, looking at the future, they evolve into *Humane World for Animals*. This transition reflects their global approach, working across borders to address the root causes of animal suffering. The new identity strengthens their ability to reach more people and create lasting change for animals worldwide, while their commitment to the mission remains unwavering. The new globe-shaped logo, featuring animals in motion, symbolizes their vision for a kinder world and marks a significant step in their journey to make a meaningful impact for animals everywhere. For more>>



Battling the Chill: Cold Wave Response in Gautam Budh Nagar



Doctors For You (DFY), active in humanitarian healthcare since 2007, focuses on aiding vulnerable communities during crises. Over the past two years, DFY has supported cold wave relief in Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P, distributing nutrition kits, blankets, and establishing temporary shelters. These efforts have mitigated the cold wave's impact on the most vulnerable. In December 2024, DFY, in partnership with HCL Foundation, addressed urgent needs in areas like HCL Uday and Noida, distributing over 1800 blankets, and 1,500 winter kits. Beyond immediate relief, DFY educated communities on cold weather safety, aiming to build resilience and empower individuals. Looking ahead, DFY aims to focus on sustainable solutions, such as improving housing conditions, health education, deploying community health workers, and advocating for policies addressing vulnerability. By shifting from short-term relief to long-term solutions, DFY aims to create lasting positive impacts for vulnerable communities.

The All India Disaster Mitigation Institute started its programme work on displacement and mobility in the light of 2025 and published "Towards COP30: Key Action Areas for Displacement in the Context of Climate Change" as a first step to enlist steps and collaboration in its upcoming programme. The activities include key policy interventions with local partners and a pilot in urban areas of India with most vulnerable displaced people to build on AIDMI's work in 2023 with Sphere India and World Food Programme on India's Humanitarian System." This issue highlights displacement as a pressing consequence of climate change. It delves into migration, planned relocation, and involuntary movements driven by extreme weather events and slow-onset disasters like sea-level rise. It emphasizes the need for equitable climate finance, rights-based policies, and integrated planning to reduce vulnerabilities, protect affected communities, and strengthen climate resilience. Read here>>



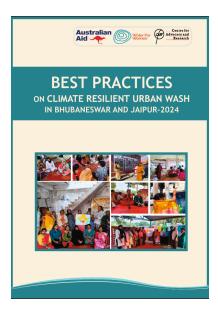
Bridging the Urban-Rural disconnect: Awareness and Action for Assam floods



Every year, floods in Assam wreak havoc on thousands of homes, livelihoods, and communities — a crisis that is intensifying with climate change. Despite the growing devastation, the response to these recurring disasters remains largely reactive. The need of the hour is to shift towards anticipatory action and community-led resilience measures. To foster a more proactive approach, Goonj is hosting a webinar titled "Bridging the Disconnect: From Reactive to Proactive Disaster Response" on 6th March 2025, from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM. The session will bring together experts and community voices to discuss urgent solutions, practical strategies, and actionable steps to enhance preparedness and resilience. This dialogue aims to transform awareness into action and build a more engaged approach to disaster risk reduction. <u>Register here</u>

Climate-Resilient WASH Knowledge Resources by CFAR

The Centre for Advocacy and Research (CFAR) organized a Dissemination Meet on Building Climate-Resilient Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) for Climate-Impacted Vulnerable Populations on February 3, 2025, at the India International Centre, New Delhi. The dissemination meet brought together policymakers, experts, practitioners, and community representatives to share key findings from urban WASH interventions in Bhubaneswar and Jaipur. Discussions focused on climate-resilient WASH systems, gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI), and the role of community voices in shaping inclusive and sustainable services. Following this, CFAR curated a range of knowledge resources that capture insights, best practices, and community-based approaches shared during the discussions. The collection includes case studies, research studies, training curriculums, planning tools, and audio-visual materials that highlight innovative solutions for strengthening WASH systems and enhancing community resilience to climate change. The collection serves as a comprehensive toolkit for policymakers, practitioners, and community organizations working towards inclusive, accessible, and climate-resilient WASH services. Know more>>



Updates from the Government

India Participates in 1st BRICS Disaster Management Working Group Meeting



India participated in the 1st BRICS Disaster Management Working Group Meeting held virtually on 20th February 2025, under the BRICS presidency of Brazil. Officials from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) represented India in discussions focused on strengthening disaster resilience, enhancing cooperation mechanisms, and promoting knowledge sharing among BRICS nations. The meeting highlighted the importance of collaborative action to address disaster risks, especially in the face of climate change and emerging threats.

BRICS is a prominent alliance of emerging economies comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, with recent expansions to include Saudi Arabia, UAE, Egypt, Ethiopia, and Iran. The group works towards fostering economic cooperation, sustainable development, and global South partnerships, while promoting a more inclusive and equitable global governance system. Brazil's BRICS presidency in 2025 will focus on 2 priorities- (i) Global South Cooperation and (ii) BRICS Partnerships for Social, Economic, and Environmental Development, in 6 core areas including Climate change and Multilateral Peace and Security Architecture - driven by the motto "Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance"

Report on Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States 2024 Released



Union Minister of State Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel released the "Status of Devolution to Panchayats in States – 2024" report in New Delhi, highlighting the performance of States in empowering Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The report, prepared by the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), shows an increase in devolution to rural local bodies from 39.9% in 2013-14 to 43.9% in 2021-22, indicating progress in strengthening local governance. Karnataka secured the top rank, followed by Kerala and Tamil Nadu, while Uttar Pradesh made a remarkable improvement by jumping 10 spots from 15th to 5th position due to its enhanced accountability framework and transparency initiatives. The report evaluates States across six dimensions – Framework, Functions, Finances, Functionaries, Capacity Enhancement, and Accountability – with notable improvements in Capacity Enhancement (from 44% to 54.6%) and Functionaries (from 39.6% to 50.9%) after the launch of the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) in 2018. The findings emphasize the importance of empowering Panchayats to foster holistic, inclusive, and sustainable rural development, aligning with the vision of Gram Swaraj and Viksit Bharat.

Ressummit 2025- National Consultation Workshop, ICARS, IIT-Roorkee



The RESSUMMIT 2025 – National Consultation on Disaster Management & Infrastructure Resilience in Changing Climate & Environmental Risks, hosted by ICARS, IIT Roorkee, brought together key stakeholders from Government agencies, policy institutions, international organizations, and academia to advance India's climate resilience agenda. The two-day consultation focused on critical themes such as the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), disaster risk reduction strategies, green growth through Nature-based Solutions (NbS), capacity and training needs for disaster preparedness, and industrial safety and health. The discussions underscored the importance of aligning India's disaster management and infrastructure resilience frameworks with global commitments like the Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement, and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), paving the way for collaborative action towards a climate-resilient future.

National Glacial Lake Outburst Flood Risk Mitigation Project

The Central Government has approved the National Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) Risk Mitigation Project (NGRMP) to be implemented in four states — Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Uttarakhand — with a financial outlay of Rs. 150 crore, of which Rs. 135 crore will be contributed by the Central Government from the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF), and Rs. 15 crore by the states from their own resources. The project aims to reduce risks associated with GLOF events, which pose significant threats to life, livelihoods, and infrastructure in high-altitude regions. The NGRMP has four key components: GLOF hazard and risk assessment through standardized methods and lake inventories, early warning systems involving remote sensing and community-based monitoring, mitigation measures through site-specific interventions combining technical expertise

and local involvement, and awareness generation and capacity building to strengthen scientific, technical, and institutional capabilities at local levels. The project also emphasizes the use of indigenous knowledge alongside scientific measures for effective risk reduction. The first instalments of Rs. 1.83 crore to Arunachal Pradesh and Rs. 8.35 crore to Sikkim were released in October 2024 under the project.

Updates from International Humanitarian Community

Successfully Scaling Humanitarian Innovation



A new paper by the Centre for Humanitarian Action (CHA) explores why some humanitarian innovations succeed in scaling while others remain limited in impact or disappear after pilot phases. Titled "Successfully Scaling Humanitarian Innovation" (February 2025), the paper outlines critical success factors for scaling innovations that create long-term impact across different contexts. Key findings highlight that successful scaling requires flexible resource models, agile management, inclusive stakeholder engagement, and visionary leadership that encourages collaboration, knowledge sharing, and risk-taking. The paper draws insights from innovations like Cash and Voucher Assistance and Anticipatory Action, which have significantly transformed humanitarian responses. <u>Read more>></u>

Healthcare Electrification in Humanitarian settings

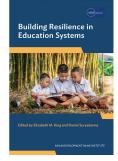
Access to reliable energy is essential for delivering effective healthcare services, yet one billion people globally seek care from facilities with unreliable or no electricity, especially in fragile and displacement settings. A new briefing by the Global Platform for Action (GPA), supported by NORCAP and UNITAR, highlights the urgent need to address the healthcare electrification gap in humanitarian contexts. The report identifies key barriers such as short-term humanitarian funding cycles, limited financial and technical capacity of government partners, and the exclusion of humanitarian facilities from national electrification plans. It emphasizes the role of distributed renewable energy sources, particularly solar energy, in bridging this gap and ensuring sustainable healthcare services. <u>Read here>></u>



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Building Resilience in Education Systems



With disasters, pandemics, and conflicts increasingly disrupting education, building resilient education systems is more critical than ever. A new report by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) highlights how crises like the 2022 Bangladesh floods and the COVID-19 pandemic have significantly affected students, causing learning losses and limiting future opportunities. The publication presents 13 chapters offering insights for policymakers and practitioners on strengthening education systems across Asia, Africa, and Latin America. While solutions vary by context, the report emphasizes that every country can leverage its resources to protect education services and ensure continuous learning during crises. Investing in disaster preparedness, digital learning infrastructure, and community-based interventions will be key to safeguarding students' futures in an increasingly uncertain world. <u>Read more>></u>

Climate Corner

How Can India Make its Health Sector Climate Resilient?



Climate change is increasingly impacting India's healthcare systems. A new report, developed with UNICEF, presents a Climate Health Risk Index assessing how extreme events like heatwaves, floods, and cyclones affect over 200,000 healthcare facilities across the country. More than 40% of Indian districts face high climate risk, with vulnerable regions concentrated in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Odisha. The report introduces a risk assessment framework aligned with the IPCC AR5 model, helping authorities prioritize facilities for climate risk assessments into health planning is key to safeguarding communities and ensuring equitable access to healthcare in a changing climate. <u>Read more>></u>

Protected Planet Report 2024

The Protected Planet Report 2024, released by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), assesses the global status of protected and conserved areas under Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The report highlights that 17.6% of terrestrial and inland waters and 8.4% of marine and coastal areas are currently protected — progress that must accelerate to meet the target of 30% coverage by 2030. While protected areas are expanding, only 8.52% of land is both protected and connected, and one-third of Key Biodiversity Areas remain unprotected. Equitable governance by Indigenous Peoples and local communities remains limited, with only 3.95% of protected areas governed by these communities. Strengthening connectivity, management effectiveness, and equitable governance is vital to achieving the 2030 target and safeguarding ecosystems and livelihoods globally. <u>Read here>></u>



Grants and Opportunities

Innovate with GolStats Hackathon: Data-Driven Insights for Viksit Bharat

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), in collaboration with MyGov, is organizing the "Innovate with GolStats" hackathon to empower youth in generating data-driven insights for evidence-based policymaking. The hackathon invites students, researchers, and data enthusiasts to explore official datasets such as Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), Household Consumer Expenditure Survey (HCES), Annual Survey of Industries (ASI), Consumer Price Index (CPI), and GDP to create innovative data visualizations supporting the vision of Viksit Bharat.

Theme: Data-Driven Insights for Viksit Bharat

Duration: 25th February 2025 – 31st March 2025

Eligibility: Students pursuing undergraduate, postgraduate, or research programs

Prizes (for the Top 30 entries): 1st Prize ₹2 Lakhs I 2nd Prize (2) ₹1 Lakh each I 3rd Prize (2) ₹50,000 each I Consolation Prizes (25): ₹20,000 each Know More>>

Upcoming Events & Plans Ahead								
SPHERE INDIA ACADEMY CALENDAR Sphere India								
MAR 2025 Upcoming Sessions in March 2025								
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT 01	06 Mar	Building Resilience: Understanding and Mitigating Earthquake Risk http://tiny.cc/Mitigating_Earthquake_Ris
02 09	03 10	04	05 12	06 13	07 14	08 15	11 Mar	Proactive Heatwave Response: Charting a Path for Anticipatory Action and Community Resilience http://inv.cc/Heatwave_Action_Response
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	18 Mar	Climate Change and Food Security: Ensuring Diverse Nutrition Needs in a Warming World http://iny.cc/Food_Security_
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29	21 Mar	Glacial Lake Outburst Floods: Challenges and Strategies for Risk Reduction
Academy) Sphere Ind building pi humanitari to equip th roles in en	Sphere India Academy was launched on April 10th, 2020 (as COVID-19 Academy) as a collaborative initiative of WHO, UNICEF, WFP, HCLF, Sphere India, and other organizations. The academy serves as a capacity- building program, aiming to provide training for humanitarian aid and humanitarian and frontilm evokers across India. Its primary objective is to equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to fulfill various roles in emergency preparedness and response, as well as to support local government, administration, and communities.							http://tiny.cc/GLOF_Risk_Reduction Inclusive WASH in Emergencies: Addressing the Needs of Vulnerable Populations http://tiny.cc/WASH_in_Emergencies Promoting Transparency & Accountability in Disaster Risk Management http://tiny.cc/Accountability_in_DM
For any inquiries, please feel free to contact our Sphere India Academy team 🔀 siacademy@sphereindia.org.in 🔇 +91 8920780209								

For more details, please contact Ms. Mishel Mohan at mishel@sphereindia.org.in



123, Captain Vijayant Thapar Marg, Arun Vihar, Sector 37, Noida, Uttar Pradesh (Near Botanical Garden Metro Station)

E-mail: info@sphereindia.org.in Website: www.sphereindia.org.in

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