


**Sphere India**  
National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India

**samanvay**  
Humanitarian Coordination & Resilience Building

**Bulletin: March 2025**



[www.sphereindia.org.in](http://www.sphereindia.org.in)

**Message from CEO**

Dear Readers,

As we welcome April, I take this opportunity to reflect on the impactful work undertaken in March 2025. The past month has been marked by significant progress across our programs, strengthening our collective efforts in disaster preparedness, advocacy, and humanitarian response.

March saw a series of capacity-building initiatives aimed at equipping stakeholders with essential knowledge and skills in disaster risk reduction and emergency response. Our teams conducted multiple training sessions, ensuring that stakeholders including the local organizations are better prepared to manage crises effectively.

With rising temperatures and increasing occurrences of heatwaves, we have intensified our focus on heatwave preparedness. Collaborative efforts with state agencies have helped in disseminating early warnings, raising public awareness, and strengthening community adaptation strategies. Ensuring the safety of vulnerable populations remains a key priority, and our engagement with both urban and rural communities has been instrumental in mitigating health risks associated with extreme heat.

Our Program Committees continue to drive crucial advocacy and knowledge-sharing efforts, with recent discussions emphasizing the integration of climate resilience into disaster management frameworks. Their work in shaping policy recommendations and fostering multi-sectoral collaborations is vital in building a more coordinated and effective response system.

Sphere India is in the process of strengthening Inter-Agency Groups (IAGs) and understanding their heatwave preparedness by collecting data from IAG focal persons. This effort aims to assess their current capabilities and identify expectations from Sphere India in enhancing heatwave preparedness and response. Strengthening these networks will enable more coordinated actions and ensure that localized responses are effectively aligned with national preparedness strategies.

Policy developments from government agencies over the past month have aligned with our advocacy priorities, underscoring the importance of continued engagement between civil society and policymakers.

As we move forward, I encourage all our partners to stay engaged and proactive in our shared mission. Our collective dedication and collaboration are the driving forces behind a more resilient and prepared society.

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

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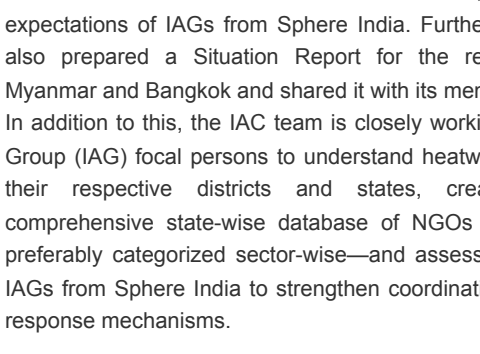
**Governance Updates**

The Quarterly Board Meeting of Sphere India was held on 28th March 2025 in a hybrid format. Key discussions included Quarterly Updates on the action checklist, progress on the Strategic Plan 2030 and Visioning 2047, program updates, and committee recommendations on HR, finance, and membership. Additionally, a meeting of the Strategic and Program Subcommittee, along with experts, was organized in March to review progress in the Strategic Planning process. The discussions provided valuable inputs and guidance to refine Sphere India's long-term vision and strategic direction.

**Program Updates**

**Knowledge and Capacity Sharing**

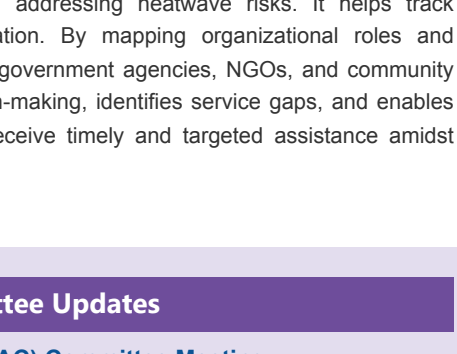
**Building Resilience: Understanding and Mitigating Earthquake Risk**



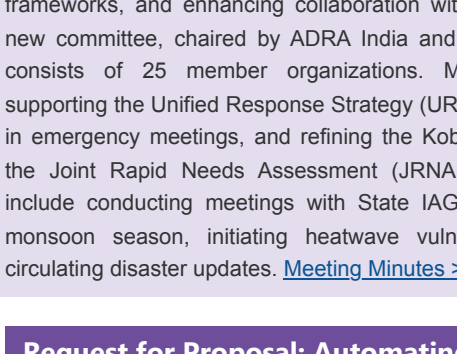
Sphere India Academy organized a webinar titled **Building Resilience: Understanding and Mitigating Earthquake Risk** on 06 March 2025, focusing on strategies for reducing earthquake risks and strengthening resilience through science, technology, and governance. Experts discussed seismic hazards, vulnerabilities, and the role of structural and non-structural mitigation, early warning systems, and community preparedness in enhancing disaster resilience, while also highlighting policy measures and collaborative approaches for effective risk reduction. [Watch here>>](#)

**Proactive Heatwave Response: Charting a Path for Anticipatory Action and Community Resilience**

Sphere India Academy, in collaboration with ADRA India and ICARS, organized a webinar titled **Proactive Heatwave Response: Charting a Path for Anticipatory Action and Community Resilience** on 11 March 2025. The session focused on strengthening anticipatory actions to mitigate heatwave impacts through early warning systems, community-led cooling centres, and multi-stakeholder coordination. Experts discussed strategies to reduce health risks and build long-term resilience by integrating evidence-based solutions with local insights. [Watch here>>](#)



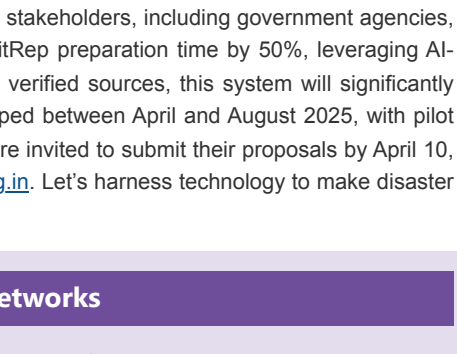
**Glacial Lake Outburst Floods: Challenges and Strategies for Risk Reduction**



Sphere India Academy, in collaboration with ICARS, organized a webinar on **"Glacial Lake Outburst Floods: Challenges and Strategies for Risk Reduction"** on 21 March 2025, where experts discussed advancements in monitoring technologies, early warning systems, and community-based preparedness to mitigate GLOF risks. The session highlighted the growing threats of climate change on glacial lakes, explored risk assessment strategies, and emphasized sustainable solutions to enhance resilience in vulnerable regions. [Watch here>>](#)

**Inclusive WASH in Emergencies: Addressing the Needs of Vulnerable Populations**

Sphere India Academy, in collaboration with ICARS, organized a webinar titled **Inclusive WASH in Emergencies: Addressing the Needs of Vulnerable Populations** on 25 March 2025. The session focused on gender-sensitive, disability-inclusive, and community-led solutions to improve WASH access during emergencies. Experts discussed strategies to address inequalities, strengthen infrastructure, and ensure dignified service delivery, highlighting policy integration and multi-stakeholder collaboration for sustainable WASH interventions. [Watch here>>](#)



**Inter Agency Coordination**

The Inter Agency Coordination (IAC) team of Sphere India has been actively responding to the heatwave situation by developing a Situation Report on India's heatwave in March, disseminating 14 heatwave alerts, and conducting an emergency meeting to address emerging concerns. Additionally, the team is coordinating with IAG focal persons to assess heatwave preparedness, create and share a state-wise database of NGOs and District IAGs, and understand the expectations of IAGs from Sphere India. Furthermore, Sphere India also prepared a Situation Report for the recent earthquake in Myanmar and Bangkok and shared it with its members. In addition to this, the IAC team is closely working with Inter Agency Group (IAG) focal persons to understand heatwave preparedness in their respective districts and states, create and share a comprehensive state-wise database of NGOs and District IAGs—preferably categorized sector-wise—and assess the expectations of IAGs from Sphere India to strengthen coordination and collaborative response mechanisms.



**Heatwave Actions and Engagement Strategy**

**Sphere India 5W Matrix to collect Heat wave Preparedness and Response Action:** As part of its Heatwave Actions and Engagement Strategy, Sphere India has initiated data collection from its network members to assess heatwave preparedness and response efforts. The 5W Matrix (Who, What, Where, When, and For Whom) is a vital tool for enhancing coordination, transparency, and efficiency in addressing heatwave risks. It helps track interventions, optimize resource allocation, and prevent duplication. By mapping organizational roles and geographic coverage, the matrix strengthens collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations. This structured approach supports real-time decision-making, identifies service gaps, and enables evidence-based planning to ensure that vulnerable populations receive timely and targeted assistance amidst escalating climate challenges. [To access the 5W Matrix>>](#)

**Program and Sector Committee Updates**

**Sphere India Inter-Agency Coordination (IAC) Committee Meeting**

The IAC Committee meeting on March 20, 2025, focused on introducing the new 2025-26 committee and outlining strategic plans for heatwave preparedness. Key topics included strengthening interagency coordination, integrating climate change data into disaster frameworks, and enhancing collaboration with state-level IAGs. The new committee, chaired by ADRA India and co-chaired by SEEDS, consists of 25 member organizations. Members committed to supporting the Unified Response Strategy (URS) process, participating in emergency meetings, and refining the Kobo tool questionnaire for the Joint Rapid Needs Assessment (JRNA). Urgent action points include conducting meetings with State IAG Convenors before the monsoon season, initiating heatwave vulnerability mapping, and circulating disaster updates. [Meeting Minutes >>](#)

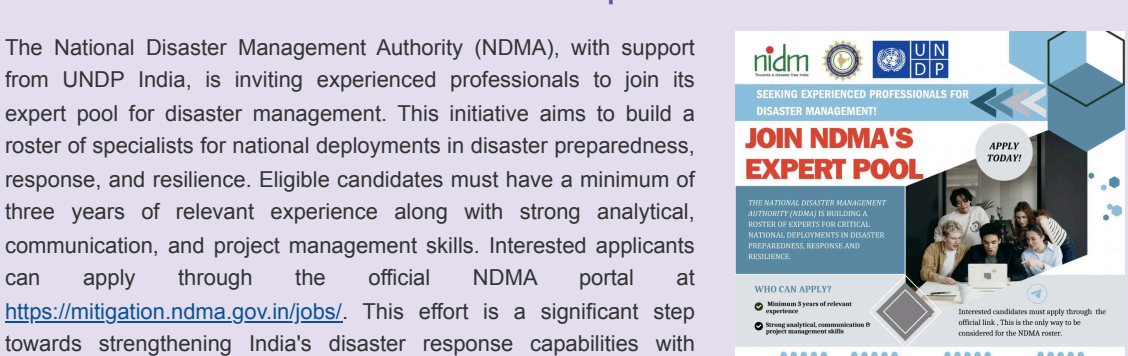
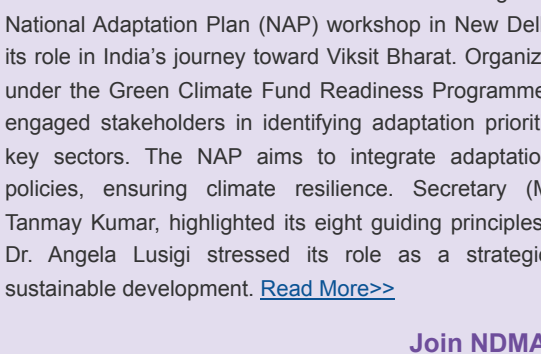


**Request for Proposal: Automating Disaster Situation Reports for Faster Emergency Response**

Sphere India is excited to announce a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the development of an Automated Disaster Situation Reports (SiRep) System to revolutionize real-time emergency reporting and disaster response coordination. This initiative aims to automate data collection, validation, and dissemination, ensuring faster, more accurate, and accessible disaster-related information for over 5000+ stakeholders, including government agencies, humanitarian organizations, and civil society actors. By reducing SiRep preparation time by 50%, leveraging AI-driven quality assessments, and integrating real-time updates from verified sources, this system will significantly enhance disaster response coordination. The project will be developed between April and August 2025, with pilot testing and live deployment by July 2025. Interested organizations are invited to submit their proposals by April 10, 2025. To learn more, visit our website or email [jobs@sphereindia.org.in](mailto:jobs@sphereindia.org.in). Let's harness technology to make disaster response faster, smarter, and more effective! [For Details>>](#)

**News from IAG/State Networks**

**IAG UP and UPSDMA Lead Collaborative Workshop on Strengthening Heatwave Preparedness in Uttar Pradesh**



On March 25, 2025, the Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (UPSDMA) and Inter-Agency Group Uttar Pradesh (IAG-UP) organized a workshop on the Role of NGOs/CSOs in Disaster Risk Reduction, chaired by Hon'ble Vice Chairman, Lt. Gen. Yogendra Dimri (Retd.). Representatives from Sphere India, ActionAid, Save the Children, and other NGOs discussed heatwave preparedness and response strategies for 2025. Dr. Kaniz Fatima, Project Director, UPSDMA, provided insights into state-level heat action plans, while Dr. Mahavir Golechha, IIPH-Gandhinagar, spoke on plan implementation. Dr. Kashif Imdad presented district-wise heat thresholds, and UNICEF's Ghanashyam emphasized women and child safety during heatwaves. IAG-UP's Raghendra Singh highlighted that 279 organizations across 54 districts are engaged in disaster preparedness. Dr. Bharu, IAG-UP Convenor, stressed the need for an integrated DRR approach. Lt. Gen. Dimri concluded by urging NGOs to strengthen grassroots awareness and early warning initiatives to mitigate heatwave risks.

**News from Members**

**Pioneering Animal Disaster Preparedness: India's First Permanent Evacuation Shelter to Be Established in Wayanad**

Humane World for Animals India, has achieved a significant milestone in disaster preparedness for animals. This month, the government approved the construction of a permanent evacuation shelter for Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), the Wayanad District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), and Kottathara Grama Panchayat, the shelter will be the first of its kind in India. Set to open in 2026, it will provide safe refuge for up to 150 animals, including dogs, cows, pigs, dogs, and cats, during disasters like floods and landslides. Designed as a model for future facilities, the shelter will feature a veterinary clinic, quarantine area, and storage space to ensure comprehensive care. Humane World for Animals India has been actively involved in disaster preparedness in Kerala, assisting over 180 animals during the 2024 Wayanad landslides and conducting capacity-building programs for communities. Additionally, the organization recently collaborated with DDMA Wayanad and Fireflies NGO for a community mural initiative to raise awareness about disaster preparedness. The three-day event featured vibrant murals at key locations, illustrating critical measures such as preparing emergency kits for animals and identifying safe evacuation routes. These efforts highlight the power of collaboration in strengthening disaster resilience for both humans and animals. [For more information>>](#)



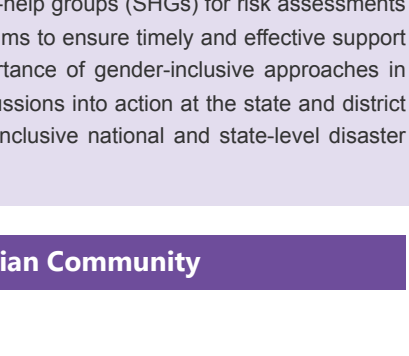
**Disaster Preparedness Workshop: Equipping Youth with Life-Saving Skills**



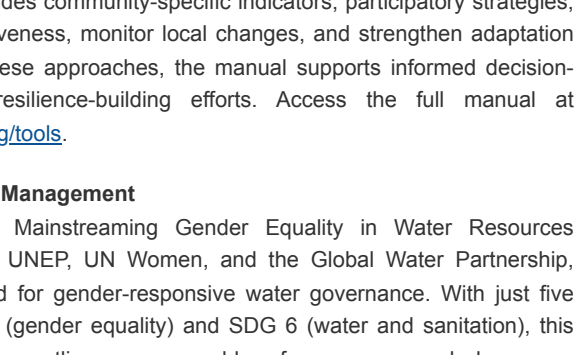
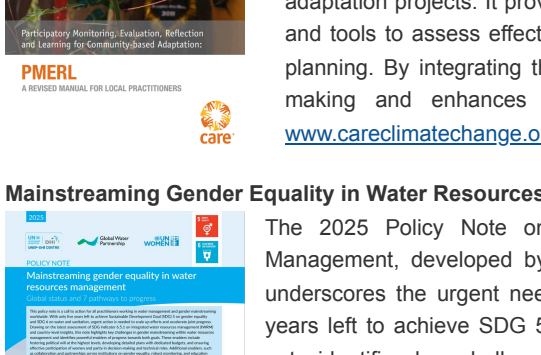
In times of crisis, disaster preparedness can save lives. To equip young minds with essential disaster response skills, Doctors For You (DFY), in collaboration with HCL Foundation and Delhi College of Arts and Commerce, organised a Disaster Management Workshop. Led by Dr. Pratikriti Kashyap and Ms. Kriti Sharma, the session provided insights into different types of disasters, their impact, and essential emergency response techniques, including CPR and first aid. The interactive discussions focused on Delhi's most common disasters like earthquakes, floods, heatwaves, and more helping participants understand the dos and don'ts during emergencies. With 25 participants, the workshop reinforced DFY's mission to build resilient communities by spreading awareness and empowering individuals with practical disaster response skills. Because in a crisis, the right action at the right time makes all the difference. Disaster preparedness is not an option - it's a necessity.

**SEEDS is listed on Social Stock Exchange**

In March, SEEDS was listed on the Social Stock Exchange (SSE). Within the regulatory framework of the Securities and Exchange Board of India in the country, the SSE lists social enterprises and voluntary organisations (both not-for-profit and for-profit) that aim to address the pressing issue of capital. This novel concept seeks to serve the private and non-profit sectors by channeling greater capital to them. SSE aims at mitigating the economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and hopes to rebuild the livelihoods of those affected.



**Civil Society Dialogue on India's NDC 3.0 Update**

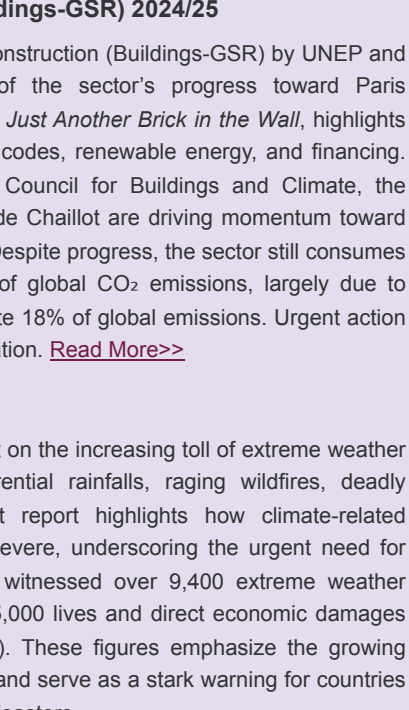


On 27th March 2025, Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA), in collaboration with Vasudha Foundation and Development Alternatives, successfully hosted the India's Civil Society Dialogue on Updating NDC 3.0 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. This consultation marked the beginning of a crucial series of submissions aimed at inputting in India's climate commitments as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement. Civil society organizations, think tanks, and policy experts engaged in meaningful discussions on India's progress on existing NDCs, potential areas for enhancement, and key sectoral targets for 2030. Participants commended the progress made so far and also highlighted the challenges in implementation and deliberated on strategies to ensure an ambitious and inclusive climate action plan. The principles to update NDC identified were historic responsibility, polluters pays principle and equity as foundation. The discussion focused on aligning India's updated NDCs with national development priorities and global climate goals. As the first in a series of planned consultations, this event set the stage for further dialogues aimed at shaping a comprehensive and progressive climate policy for the country.

**Updates from the Government**

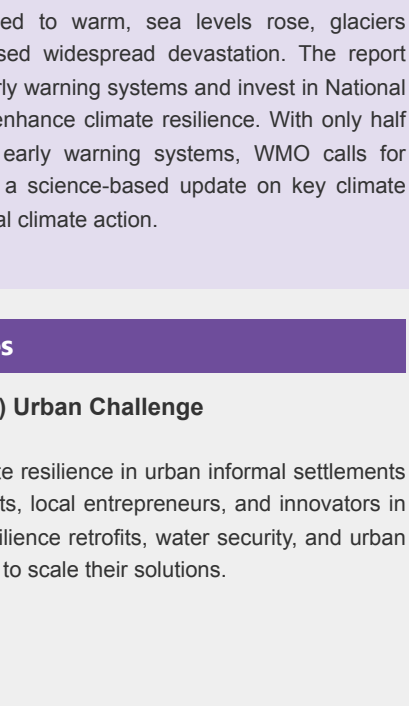
**National Workshop on India's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) on Climate Change**

Union Minister of State Shri Kiril Vardhan Singh inaugurated the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) workshop in New Delhi, emphasizing its role in India's journey toward Viksit Bharat. Organized by MoEFCC under the Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme, the workshop engaged stakeholders in identifying adaptation priorities across nine key sectors. The NAP aims to integrate adaptation into national policies, ensuring climate resilience. Secretary (MoEFCC), Shri Tanmay Kumar, highlighted its eight guiding principles, while UNDP's Dr. Angela Lusigi stressed its role as a strategic roadmap for sustainable development. [Read More>>](#)



**Join NDMA's Expert Pool**

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), with support from UNDP India, is inviting experienced professionals to join its expert pool for disaster management. This initiative aims to build a roster of specialists for national deployments in disaster preparedness, response, and resilience. Eligible candidates must have a minimum of three years of relevant experience along with strong analytical, communication, and project management skills. Interested applicants can apply through the official NDMA portal at <https://mitigation.ndma.gov.in/jobs/>. This effort is a significant step towards strengthening India's disaster response capabilities with skilled professionals.

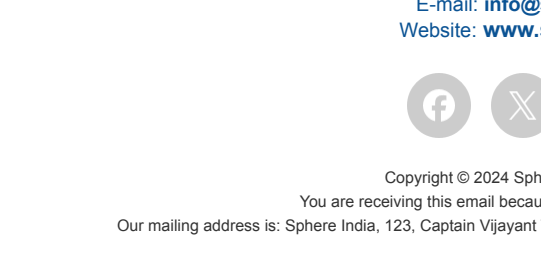


**India 2047 Building a Climate-Resilient Future Symposium**



The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), in collaboration with two institutes from Harvard University, USA, successfully hosted the symposium "India 2047: Building a Climate-Resilient Future" in New Delhi from March 19 to 22, 2025. The event brought together senior government officials, climate scientists, policymakers, industry leaders, and civil society representatives to discuss India's long-term climate adaptation strategies in the face of increasing climate risks. During the symposium, Shri Kiril Vardhan Singh, Minister of State (MoEFCC), emphasized the urgent need for collaborative, community-led action plans embedded at all levels of governance to develop long-term climate adaptation strategies. The discussions focused on mainstreaming climate resilience into national policies, strengthening institutional frameworks, and integrating science-based decision-making into climate action planning. A key highlight of the symposium was the deliberation on Adaptation Finance, which was recognized as a critical pillar for ensuring climate resilience. Experts underscored the importance of mobilizing financial resources to support local and community-driven climate initiatives, enhancing the adaptive capacity of vulnerable populations, and bridging the gap between climate commitments and implementation. The event marked a significant step towards strengthening India's climate governance framework as the nation moves towards its 2047 vision of a climate-resilient and sustainable future.

**ASDMA Hosts Workshop on Extreme Heat and Climate Resilience**



The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), in collaboration with the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), conducted a workshop on "Extreme Heat and Building Climate Resilience in Assam" at the Sirimanta Sankaradeva International Auditorium, Guwahati, on 26th March 2025. The workshop aimed to address the rising threat of heatwaves in the region and brought together government officials, climate experts, NGOs, academia, and community representatives to discuss strategies for mitigating extreme heat risks. Assam's Minister of Revenue and Disaster Management, Keshab Mahanta, stressed the importance of adopting green building codes in educational institutions and implementing local-level adaptation measures to enhance resilience. ASDMA's Chief Executive Officer, G. D. Tripathi, introduced PRKRITI, a new initiative launched on ASDMA Foundation Day, designed to encourage research-driven climate resilience solutions through data-based climate models. The event also saw the release of a booklet titled *Key Action Areas for Addressing Extreme Heat in the Asia-Pacific: Lessons from Regional Platforms*, highlighting best practices for managing heat-related challenges. The discussions underscored the urgent need for coordinated action and knowledge-sharing to strengthen climate resilience in Assam and the broader northeastern region.

**NDMA & UN Women Host National Workshop on Women in Disaster Risk Reduction**



The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in partnership with UN Women, organized a one-day international workshop on *Women's Role in Disaster Risk Reduction: Domestic and Global Perspectives* at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The workshop convened women scientists, climate and development experts, grassroots organizations, humanitarian NGOs, state and district disaster management officials, and representatives from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to discuss ways to strengthen women's leadership in disaster risk reduction (DRR). Key discussions emphasized the need to leverage decentralized technology for community-driven disaster risk data collection, enhance the capacity of women's self-help groups (SHGs) for risk assessments and preparedness, and improve shock-responsive social protection systems to ensure timely and effective support for vulnerable communities. Overall, the workshop reinforced the importance of gender-inclusive approaches in disaster resilience and response, with a strong focus on translating discussions into action at the state and district levels. The insights from this dialogue will contribute to shaping more inclusive national and state-level disaster management strategies.

**Updates from International Humanitarian Community**

**PMERL: A Revised Manual for Local Practitioners**



CARE's revised Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation, Reflection, and Learning (PMERL) manual offers practitioners, project managers, and community partners a simplified approach to tracking community-based adaptation (CBA) efforts. Based on the 2012 PMERL framework, this updated guide enhances participatory M&E, reflection, and learning, making it more feasible for short-term and localized adaptation projects. It provides community-specific indicators, participatory strategies, and tools to assess effectiveness, monitor local changes, and strengthen adaptation planning. By integrating these approaches, the manual supports informed decision-making and enhances resilience-building efforts. Access the full manual at [www.careclimatechange.org/tools](http://www.careclimatechange.org/tools).

**Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Water Resources Management**



The 2025 Policy Note on Mainstreaming Gender Equality in Water Resources Management, developed by UNEP, UN Women, and the Global Water Partnership, underscores the urgent need for gender-responsive water governance. With just five years left to achieve SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 6 (water and sanitation), this note identifies key challenges, outlines seven enablers for progress, and showcases success stories from Nicaragua, Vanuatu, Cambodia, and Zimbabwe. It calls for collective action to transform gender norms, break stereotypes, ensure equitable access to water resources, and empower women as key decision-makers in water governance. [Read More>>](#)

**Climate Corner**

**Nature Based Solutions for Comprehensive Disaster and Climate Risk Action**



The "Nature-Based Solutions for Comprehensive Disaster and Climate Risk Action" toolkit supports countries in integrating nature-based solutions (NbS) into disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA). Developed under UNDRR's CRM approach and aligned with the Sendai Framework, it promotes NbS for ecosystem services, resilience, and biodiversity benefits. The toolkit provides five key tools to help policymakers integrate ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR) into national strategies. It guides stakeholders in identifying, assessing, and implementing NbS, ensuring a sustainable, risk-informed governance approach to address climate and disaster risks effectively. [Read More>>](#)

**The Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction (Buildings-GSR) 2024/25**



The Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction (Buildings-GSR) by UNEP and GlobalABC provides an annual overview of the sector's progress toward Paris Agreement goals. The 2024-2025 edition, *Not Just Another Brick in the Wall*, highlights six key challenges, including building energy costs, renewable energy, and financing. Global initiatives like the Intergovernmental Council for Buildings and Climate, the Buildings Breakthrough, and the Déclaration de Chailloit are driving momentum toward net-zero buildings ahead of COP30 in Brazil. Despite progress, the sector still consumes 32% of global energy and contributes 34% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, largely due to materials like cement and steel, which generate 18% of global emissions. Urgent action is needed to accelerate sustainable transformation. [Read More>>](#)

**Climate Risk Index 2025: The Rising Cost of Climate Inaction**



The Climate Risk Index (CRI) 2025 sheds light on the increasing toll of extreme weather events, including scorching heatwaves, torrential rainfalls, raging wildfires, deadly floods, and devastating storms. The latest report highlights how climate-related disasters are becoming more frequent and severe, underscoring the urgent need for action. Between 1993 and 2022, the world witnessed over 9.40 extreme weather events, resulting in the loss of more than 765,000 lives and direct economic damages exceeding USD 4.2 trillion (inflation-adjusted). These figures emphasize the growing human and economic cost of climate inaction and serve as a stark warning for the countries facing both frequent and rare climate-related disasters. [Read More>>](#)

**State of the Global Climate 2024**



The State of Global Climate 2024 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) highlights alarming trends, with 2024 recorded as the warmest year ever, at 1.55°C above pre-industrial levels. Oceans continued to warm, sea levels rose, glaciers retreated, and extreme weather events caused widespread devastation. The report underscores the urgent need to strengthen early warning systems and invest in National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to enhance climate resilience. With only half of the world having adequate multi-hazard early warning systems, WMO calls for accelerated action. This publication provides a science-based update on key climate indicators, reinforcing the need for urgent global climate action. [Read More>>](#)

**Grants and Opportunities**

**Resilience Innovation through Scaling Entrepreneurship (RISE) Urban Challenge Organisation: Global Resilience Partnership (GRP)**

The RISE Urban Challenge seeks innovative solutions to enhance climate resilience in urban informal settlements across Africa, America, Asia, and Oceania. Open to non-profits, for-profits, local entrepreneurs, and innovators in ODA-eligible countries, the challenge focuses on climate risk action, resilience retrofits, water security, and urban migration. Selected winners will receive funding, mentorship, and support to scale their solutions. **Funding:** Up to \$50,000 per project **Deadline:** 11 April 2025 (23:59 GMT) [Know More>>](#)

**Upcoming Events & Plans Ahead**

**SPHERE INDIA ACADEMY CALENDAR**

**APR 2025**

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

**Upcoming Sessions in April 2025**

- 09 Apr** National Consultation on Strengthening Heat Wave Preparedness and Resilience <http://tiny.cc/heat-wave-preparedness>
- 16 Apr** Anticipatory Action for Monsoon Preparedness: Strengthening Early Response and Resilience <http://tiny.cc/monsoon-preparedness>
- 16 Apr** Promoting Transparency & Accountability in Disaster Risk Management <http://tiny.cc/transparency-in-drm>
- 22 Apr** Climate Change and Food Security - Ensuring Diverse Nutrition Needs in a Warming World <http://tiny.cc/climate-and-food-security>
- 24 Apr** Protection Concerns for Marginalized Groups in Disasters: Persons with Disabilities <http://tiny.cc/protection-in-disaster>

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