

ANNUAL LEARNING AND PLANNING WORKSHOP

2023-24



OUTCOME REPORT

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
Background	2
Objectives of the Workshop:	2
Expected Outputs	3
Participants	3
SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF DAY 1: 25th June 2024 (Tue)	4
Welcome, Inaugural, and Keynote Address:.....	4
Panel Discussion: Maximizing Impact: Effective Relief in Lifesaving Humanitarian Sectors	6
Group DISCUSSION: Maximizing Impact: Effective Relief in Lifesaving Humanitarian Sectors II	10
Panel discussion: Collaborative Action: Enhancing GO-NGO coordination for Effective Response	12
Group Discussion: Strengthening Inter-Agency Groups	13
WAY FORWARD (DAY 1 – 25TH JUNE 2024 (TUE))	14
SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS – DAY 2: 26TH June 2024 (WED)	15
Panel Discussion: Data for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEAL)	15
Panel Discussion: Need Assessment and Linking JRNA to PDNA	16
Panel Discussion: Reinforcing Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) for Risk-Informed Sustainable Development	18
India Launch of Core Humanitarian standards (CHS) and adapting CHS for India	21
Valedictory Session: the Annual Learning and Planning Workshop	23
WAY FORWARD – DAY 2: 26TH JUNE 2024 (WED)	25
ANNEXURES:	27

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND

India, a diverse and dynamic nation, is regularly confronted with a spectrum of natural and man-made disasters. The impact of climate change has amplified the frequency and severity of these crises, giving rise to heatwaves, flash floods, cyclones, avalanches, landslides, conflicts, and more. India's resilience is further tested by conflicts and accidents, adding another layer of complexity to disaster management. These calamities have not only caused significant loss of life, damage to property, and harm to ecosystems but have also underscored the vulnerabilities in our preparedness plans

In response to the ongoing challenges in the country and building on the outcomes of the 2022 Workshop and NPDRR 2023, Sphere India in collaboration with National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Integrated Centre for Adaptation, DRR and Sustainability, IIT-Roorkee- GNEC, Greater Noida and other partners planned to organize a consultative **Annual Learning and Planning Workshop scheduled on 25th and 26th June 2024**, in New Delhi. The two-day workshop aimed to engage with various stakeholders at National and Sub-National Level to reflect on:

Day 1: The focus was on Relief Standards, and Logistics Hub with discussions covering all life-saving sectors. This included a thorough examination of current standards and logistics system, identification of gaps, and strategies for improvement to ensure effective and timely delivery of relief. The key outcomes focused on setting up a district level logistics and coordination hub.

Day 2: The emphasis shifted to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), resilience building, and the use of data for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEAL). Translated version of the Core Humanitarian Standards also launched on Day 2. The key outcomes to focus on Enhanced DRR strategies, robust accountability and MEAL systems integration for better disaster preparedness and response.

Through this workshop, it was aimed to foster a collaborative environment where ideas and experiences can be shared, leading to actionable insights and strategies that will enhance the country's disaster management capabilities. This workshop also served as the culmination of several pre-events and consultations that were organized, contributing significantly to the final learning documentation aimed at enhancing our preparedness and response strategies.

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP:

The key objectives for the Annual Learning and Planning processes were:

- To conduct multistakeholder consultations on emerging critical priorities and themes related to disaster management and resilience building.
- To explore innovative and collaborative strategies for joint planning with State IAGs and SDMAs/DDMAs, to strengthen disaster response and resilience building efforts.
- To focus on the establishment of district-level logistics and coordination hubs, improving the efficiency and effectiveness of relief delivery and logistics management.
- To document the challenges, accomplishments, outcomes, and insights derived from the disaster experiences in the year 2023.
- To spotlight exemplary stories and best practices from the sub national and local stakeholders.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- Comprehensive documentation summarizing 2023 achievements, challenges, and learnings;
- Framework for setting up district level logistics and coordination hub;
- Documented strategies and best practices for preparedness and response;
- Collaborative resource mobilization plans and improved coordination among stakeholders;
- Comprehensive Multi stakeholder Annual Plan

PARTICIPANTS

- Representatives from NDMA and NIDM
- Sphere India members and network stakeholders
- State IAG Conveners/Coordinator
- SDMA and DDMA representatives
- Varied Stakeholders including but not limited to UN Agencies, International/National/Local NGOs, CSRs, Academic Institutions, Youth Groups, and FBOs

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF DAY 1: 25TH JUNE 2024 (TUE)

WELCOME, INAUGURAL, AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

The first day of the Annual Lessons Learnt and Planning Workshop began with a warm welcome, an inaugural address, and keynote speeches from Ms. Nupur Tyagi from Sphere India, **Ms. Lee Macqueen**, Chairperson of Sphere India (joining online), and **Mr. Vikrant Mahajan**, CEO of Sphere India. These addresses highlighted the importance of collective learning and planning to achieve common goals, reviewed past achievements and challenges, and set the stage for strategic planning.

In her keynote address, **Ms. Lee Macqueen** emphasized the growing diversity within the network and the expansion of thematic areas and knowledge over the years. She highlighted the importance of interactive two-day learning and planning sessions to reflect on past discussions, current status, and new challenges. Lee discussed contributing to the National Disaster Response Fund norms with NDMA, with a focus on integrating disaster risk reduction and recovery within immediate relief norms. She stressed the need for climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction, addressing the funding deficit in these areas, and empowering grassroots organizations, especially those led by women and marginalized communities, to promote social inclusion and reduce inequalities. Lee encouraged leveraging contacts with local and state governments to build a collective agenda and emphasized the adoption of the revised Core Humanitarian Standards with a people-centered approach. She underscored the importance of collaboration and strategic planning, urging the development of a comprehensive five-year action plan with specific annual goals. Additionally, she highlighted the need for accountability within the network, referencing the twenty-year impact evaluation of Sphere India, and called for fostering collaboration among members to build a collective stance on national and global initiatives.



Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta, Head of ECDRM Division, NIDM emphasized the need to learn from past disasters and address the differential needs of vulnerable groups like women, children, and transgender people in disaster response. He highlighted the importance of preparedness, root cause analysis, and overcoming challenges in healthcare, such as disease spread and resource coordination. Prof. Anil stressed the integration of local resources and private healthcare systems into standards and encouraged continued collaboration among organizations.

He emphasized the significance of documentation of disaster data and shared about the Annual Disaster Report initiative taken up by Sphere India jointly with NIDM and ICARS- IIT Roorkee. He also advocated for a collaborative strategy for localization and effective action, focusing on climate adaptation, policy, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and securing necessary funding. Prof. Anil suggested developing a real-time app to connect and benefit state governments. Lastly, he proposed reevaluating and improving relief systems in India, emphasizing sectoral coordination, local capacity building, and shared monitoring and evaluation exercises for effective data analysis.



ACTION POINTS

- Review key learnings from past disasters.
- Include the needs of vulnerable groups in response efforts.
- Enhance standards to incorporate local resources and private healthcare systems.
- Strengthen IAG collaboration and integrate standards with technological developments.
- Develop a collaborative strategy for localization and effective action, focusing on climate adaptation, policy, and DRR.
- Create a real-time app for state governments to improve coordination.
- Reevaluate and improve relief systems, emphasizing sectoral coordination and local capacity building.

PARTICIPANTS' INTRODUCTION AND EXPECTATION:

Participants introduced themselves and shared their expectations from the workshop, which were compiled into the following categories:

Categories	Expectations shared by Participants
Coordination and Networking:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for better coordination of Inter-Agency Groups (IAGs) in all states and prepare common guidelines. • Network with humanitarians from different states. • Understand how Sphere India will enhance emergency responses and mitigation plans post-workshop. • Build a good coordination mechanism for timely and effective emergency response. • Explore collaboration between government and NGOs from the bottom to the top level.
Learning and Knowledge Sharing:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn from the inputs and success stories of various states. • Understand state experiences in mainstreaming IAG activities. • Cross-learn on timely effective emergency response. • Incorporate principles of effective teaching and micro-teaching practices. • Discuss case studies and explore participants' experiences in relief work.
Capacity Building:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for capacity building of volunteers. • Develop strategies to build the capacity of partners at state and district levels on standards and various schematic verticals. • Engage in collaborative brainstorming, learning, sharing, and capacity building. • Improve skills in on-field rescue and disaster management.
Needs Assessment and Relief Management:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address challenges in beneficiary selection for relief distribution. • Effectively conduct needs assessments during emergencies. • Manage relief operations efficiently.
Policy and Frameworks:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand how Sphere and local NGOs can make a sustainable impact on vulnerable communities. • Gain an overview of humanitarian policy. • Align international frameworks with local and traditional contexts. • Learn about early warning systems, evacuation protocols, shelter handling, and legal sensitization. • Discuss the legacy of the Disaster Management Act of 2005.
Innovative Strategies and Development:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand innovative strategies and policies for better disaster response. • Take into account emerging means and development. • Learn about the latest approaches and innovations in disaster response.
Specific Areas of Interest:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate new ideas and conservation actions. • Explore programs and workshops for at-risk groups.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on energy conservation and sustainable actions. • Learn about Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA).
Personal Development:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrich knowledge and learn how others respond to disasters. • Gain more knowledge and skills during the 2-day workshop.

PANEL DISCUSSION: MAXIMIZING IMPACT: EFFECTIVE RELIEF IN LIFESAVING HUMANITARIAN SECTORS

The first panel discussion of the day focused on maximizing the impact of relief efforts in lifesaving humanitarian sectors. The discussion centered around the identification of emerging gaps and needs, development of innovative approaches and strategies, strengthening coordination mechanisms, and enhancing preparedness and response plans. The panelists shared presentations on the current relief systems and standards in their respective sectors in reference to learning from past disasters.

Prof. Chandrani, Associate Professor at the School of Planning and Architecture, discussed shelter-related challenges and strategies. **Mr. Vijay Rai**, Program Manager at Welthungerhilfe, addressed issues concerning Food and Nutrition Security (FNS). **Mr. Tushar Kanti Das**, Program Coordinator at Plan International (India), highlighted key points regarding education and child protection. **Rohini Wadhawan**, Assistant Director of Donor Relations at Doctors For You, provided insights into health sector challenges and solutions. **Ms. Punita Kumar**, IAG Convenor from Chhattisgarh, focused on protection mechanisms. **Mr. Arjun K**, Specialist in WASH from WaterAid, discussed water, sanitation, and hygiene issues. **Dr. Apurva Rastogi**, Program Advisor (AoC) for the South Asia Region at IPPF, along with **Dr. Amit Kitukale**, Project Manager at FPA India, elaborated on gender and sexual reproductive health (SRH) concerns. The panel was moderated by **Dr. Eilia Jafar**, Founder and Trustee of Tanyak.



CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED

- **Emerging Gaps and Needs:** Identifying and addressing new challenges in disaster response.
- **Coordination:** Strengthening coordination mechanisms among various sectors.
- **Preparedness and Response:** Enhancing preparedness and response plans to be more effective and inclusive.
- **Community Engagement:** Involving local communities in planning and implementation.
- **Technology Integration:** Utilizing advanced technologies for better data management and real-time monitoring.
- **Policy and Funding:** Ensuring policies are up-to-date and adequate funding is available for disaster response.

AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT

- **Infrastructure Development:** Upgrading and maintaining existing facilities to meet safety standards and ensuring climate resilience.
- **Technological Integration:** Implementing real-time monitoring systems and using GIS for optimal resource placement.
- **Community Empowerment:** Developing community-owned shelters and providing training for local populations.

- **Protection and Inclusivity:** Ensuring shelters and health facilities are accessible to all individuals, including those with specific needs.
- **Sustainability:** Using eco-friendly materials and renewable energy sources for building shelters and health facilities.

SECTORAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. SHELTER

a) Upgrade and Maintain Shelters

- Regularly assess and upgrade schools and community centers to meet safety standards.
- Invest in durable temporary shelters for harsh weather conditions.
- Design shelters that can expand to accommodate more people and adapt to disasters.

b) Use Technology for Safety

- Implement real-time monitoring systems for shelter management.
- Develop mobile apps to help residents locate shelters and get updates.
- Use GIS mapping for optimal shelter placement.

c) Empower Communities

- Create community-owned and managed shelters.
- Offer training programs for constructing and maintaining shelters.
- Involve the community in disaster preparedness activities.

d) Ensure Safety and Accessibility

- Implement safety measures to protect against violence in shelters.
- Make shelters accessible to differently-abled individuals, elderly people, and those with specific health needs.
- Design shelters to be universally accessible.

e) Promote Sustainability

- Use eco-friendly and locally-sourced materials for building shelters.
- Incorporate renewable energy sources like solar panels and wind turbines.
- Manage environmental impacts and invest in climate-resilient infrastructure.

2. HEALTH

a) Enhance Infrastructure Resilience

- Upgrade health facilities to withstand climatic conditions.
- Mandate the use of renewable energy for remote health facilities.
- Incorporate climate resilience into the planning and construction of health facilities.

b) Strengthen Intersectoral Coordination

- Improve coordination between health, water, and energy sectors for integrated disaster responses.
- Develop disaster action plans with local and state agencies.
- Strengthen EWS and information dissemination.

c) Improve Financial Management

- Allocate funds transparently and efficiently for disaster preparedness and response.
- Secure long-term funding for climate-resilient health initiatives.
- Conduct participatory energy and water audits to optimize resource use.

d) Enhance Preparedness and Training

- Conduct regular mock drills and training sessions for disaster response.
- Train health professionals on climate-sensitive disasters and epidemics.
- Develop scenario-based disaster management plans with health facility staff and local communities.

e) Engage and Empower Communities

- Involve local communities in decision-making and integrate their knowledge and skills.
- Engage communities in preparedness activities and resource planning.
- Promote health equity and strengthen connections between survivors and their communities.

3. FOOD AND NUTRITION SECURITY (FNS)

a) Enhance Data Management and Technology Integration

- Improve data collection methods for timely, accurate data using digital platforms and mobile apps.
- Implement advanced technology in data management systems with dashboards for better monitoring and decision-making.

b) Strengthen Policy Implementation and Enforcement

- Ensure effective implementation and enforcement of existing policies like the National Disaster Management Act and the National Food Security Act.
- Regularly update policies to address emerging challenges and integrate new technologies and climate change adaptation practices.

c) Build Capacity and Focus on Early Recovery

- Develop capacity building modules for preparation, early recovery, and long-term rehabilitation using online platforms.
- Shift focus from immediate response to include early recovery and long-term resilience building.

d) Increase Financial Preparedness and Sustainability

- Ensure adequate funding for disaster response and long-term rehabilitation.
- Develop financial strategies that support sustainable and climate-resilient food security programs.

e) Promote Community Engagement and Traditional Knowledge

- Engage communities in planning and implementing food security initiatives, leveraging traditional knowledge.
- Encourage community participation in response activities and develop programs for maternal and vulnerable groups, child feeding assistance, and community-led nutrition supplementation.

4. EDUCATION & CHILD PROTECTION

a) Develop Comprehensive Child-Centered Plans

- Ensure disaster preparedness and response plans address the educational needs of children, including continuity of learning and child protection.
- Integrate psychosocial support services within educational settings to help children cope with trauma.

b) Strengthen Coordination and Community Engagement

- Establish clear leadership and multi-stakeholder platforms for coordination among agencies, NGOs, and communities.
- Involve local communities in planning and implementing educational interventions to ensure cultural appropriateness and effectiveness.

c) Enhance Data Systems and Technology Use

- Implement robust systems for collecting, analyzing, and sharing data on affected children to guide relief efforts.
- Use technology to support distance learning, track educational progress, and communicate with affected populations.

d) Build Resilient and Inclusive Educational Infrastructure

- Ensure schools are designed and retrofitted to withstand disasters, and that temporary learning spaces are quickly set up post-disaster.
- Develop strategies to ensure that educational interventions address the needs of all children, including those with disabilities and from marginalized communities.

e) **Implement Capacity Building and Advocacy Initiatives**

- Train teachers, school staff, and community leaders on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery with a focus on children's educational needs.
- Advocate for policies prioritizing educational continuity in disaster management plans and secure dedicated funding for educational responses in emergencies.

5. WATER AND SANITATION HYGIENE

a) **Build Infrastructure Resilience**

- Design water supply and sanitation systems to withstand extreme weather events and natural disasters using durable materials and advanced engineering techniques.
- Develop emergency preparedness plans stockpiling essential WASH supplies and training local communities on emergency response protocols.

b) **Utilize Data and Technology**

- Use remote sensing and satellite imagery to predict WASH needs and identify contamination sources and flood risks.
- Implement mobile apps and digital tools for real-time monitoring of water quality, availability, and sanitation facilities.

c) **Engage and Empower Communities**

- Involve local communities in planning and implementing WASH interventions to ensure cultural appropriateness and sustainability.
- Use social media and local influencers to promote targeted hygiene campaigns during emergencies.

d) **Ensure Resource Utilization and Coordination**

- Allocate and utilize dedicated funds for disaster risk management (DRM) from state budgets and other sources.
- Foster public-private partnerships and integrate WASH with health, nutrition, and shelter responses for innovation and resource sharing.

e) **Innovate and Adapt**

- Deploy portable and scalable water treatment units and solar-powered water pumps to ensure safe drinking water and continuous supply during disasters.
- Develop strategies and design adaptable infrastructure to address changing weather patterns and ensure long-term sustainability and resilience.

6. GENDER & SRH/PROTECTION

a) **Integrate SRH/MISP into Policies and Legislation**

- Incorporate the Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health into national and subnational health, disaster risk reduction (DRR), and emergency health policies, strategies, and legislation.
- Regularly monitor and update policies to include SRH needs in emergencies and ensure timely revisions.

b) **Address Emerging Challenges and Gaps**

- Acknowledge and address the gender-specific impacts of disasters, ensuring SRH services meet diverse needs.
- Secure funding and expand SRH services for marginalized and vulnerable groups.

c) **Develop Innovative Approaches and Strategies**

- Create inclusive SRH preparedness strategies that cater to all populations, especially marginalized groups.
- Include MISP in the education and training curricula for health professionals.

d) **Strengthen Coordination Mechanisms**

- Foster collaboration among agencies and sectors to enhance SRH preparedness and response.
- Ensure effective coordination from national to local levels for a cohesive SRH service delivery network.

e) Engage and Educate Communities

- Develop and implement programs that educate and engage communities on SRH issues.
- Actively involve community members, particularly marginalized groups, in planning and implementing SRH services.

GROUP DISCUSSION: MAXIMIZING IMPACT: EFFECTIVE RELIEF IN LIFESAVING HUMANITARIAN SECTORS II

Following the first panel discussion on maximizing impact, the group work session focused on enhancing the effectiveness of relief efforts across various humanitarian sectors. This session, facilitated by Sphere India, aimed to generate actionable recommendations and a collaborative action plan, with contributions from all participants. The discussion emphasized the importance of rapid market assessments, customized relief programs, and innovative solutions to address the unique challenges posed by disasters. Key areas such as water management, sexual and reproductive health, and urban planning were also highlighted to improve disaster resilience and preparedness.

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:

- 1. Development of Actionable Recommendations and Collaborative Action Plan:** The group aimed to create practical recommendations and a collaborative action plan tailored to each humanitarian sector.
- 2. Rapid Market Assessment and Cash Flow Analysis:** Emphasized the need for rapid market assessment and cash flow analysis to identify livelihoods and trade differentiation, which can streamline services during relief efforts.
- 3. Training for Architecture and Engineering Students:** Highlighted the importance of training students in urban planning and disaster management to develop resilient city scenarios.
- 4. Collaboration in Jharkhand:** Mentioned the 66-district nodal agency in Jharkhand working with the Inter-Agency Group (IAG) to address emerging needs.
- 5. Shelter Repair and Service Improvement:** Stressed the importance of repairing existing shelters and improving services to enhance disaster resilience.
- 6. Water Management Issues:** Discussed the significant water management challenges in Indian cities, including the transportation of water over long distances and the wastage of Non-Revenue Water (NRW). Gujarat's initiative of covering raw water collection pumps with solar panels was noted as an innovative solution.
- 7. Cash Transfer Programs:** Advocated for the implementation of cash transfer programs and customized



relief measures to better meet the needs of affected communities.

8. **Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and MISP:** Emphasized the importance of prioritizing SRH and the Emergency Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) by promoting collaboration between departments like NIDM and the AIDS Control Society, and prepositioning reproductive health kits in disaster-prone locations.
9. **Customized Relief and Innovative Solutions:** Highlighted the need for customized relief programs and innovative solutions to maximize water usage and aid distribution during disasters. Integrating signage and GDP into disaster management plans was suggested to improve aid distribution.
10. **Urbanization and Water Scarcity:** Discussed the impact of urbanization on cities, focusing on water scarcity and the emerging needs for effective water management.

ACTION POINTS:

1. **Develop and Implement Collaborative Action Plans:**

Create actionable recommendations tailored to each humanitarian sector. Formulate a collaborative action plan involving all participants.

2. **Conduct Rapid Market Assessments:**

Perform rapid market assessments and cash flow analyses to identify livelihood opportunities and streamline services.

3. **Train Architecture and Engineering Students:**

Incorporate disaster management training into the curricula for students of architecture and engineering.

4. **Strengthen Local Collaboration:**

Enhance collaboration between nodal agencies and Inter-Agency Groups (IAG) in regions like Jharkhand to address emerging needs.

5. **Repair and Improve Shelters:**

Focus on repairing existing shelters and enhancing services to increase disaster resilience.

6. **Address Water Management Challenges:**

Implement measures to reduce Non-Revenue Water (NRW) wastage and explore innovative solutions like solar panels for water collection systems.

7. **Implement Cash Transfer Programs:**

Develop and deploy cash transfer programs and customized relief measures for affected communities.

8. **Prioritize Sexual and Reproductive Health:**

Advocate for the inclusion of SRH and MISP in regional disaster management plans, promoting interdepartmental collaboration and prepositioning reproductive health kits.

9. **Integrate Customized Relief Programs:**

Develop customized relief programs that address the specific needs of different sectors and individuals.

10. **Enhance Urban Planning for Disaster Scenarios:**

Address urbanization impacts and water scarcity in city planning, incorporating disaster management strategies and innovative solutions.



PANEL DISCUSSION: COLLABORATIVE ACTION: ENHANCING GO-NGO COORDINATION FOR EFFECTIVE RESPONSE

The session was designed with specific goals in mind: identifying best practices and success models, implementing joint planning and decision-making frameworks, and strengthening accountability and transparency.

The panelists included **Dr. Pratheesh C**, State Programme Coordinator for the KSDMA and UNICEF Program; **Dr. Ajil Abdulla**, IAG Convenor from Kerala; **Dr. Bhanu Mall**, IAG Convenor from Uttar Pradesh; and **Ms. Deborah**, IAG Coordinator from Assam. The session was moderated by **Ms. Nupur Tyagi** from Sphere India.

During the session, they shared their experiences regarding Government-NGO coordination in their respective regions. These discussions brought forward some interesting and innovative models, which have been planned to document and present to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) for further consideration. Here are a few highlights:

KERALA:

- Kerala stands out as the first state to officially notify the Inter-Agency Groups (IAG) in all 14-districts through an order from the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSMA).
- Additionally, Kerala has established a State Disaster Management Group, which includes convenors from all district IAGs, Sphere India, and heads of various line departments. This model demonstrates a strong example of structured government-NGO coordination.



ASSAM:

Assam has created a dedicated desk for the Inter-Agency Group within its State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA). This integration within the SDMA showcases Assam's commitment to strengthening NGO involvement in disaster management.

UTTAR PRADESH:

In Uttar Pradesh, Dr. Bhanu Mall, who serves as the convener of the Inter-Agency Group, also holds the position of advisor to the UP SDMA. This dual role facilitates a robust linkage between NGOs and government authorities.

JHARKHAND:

Discussions in Jharkhand are focused on setting up District Nodal Agencies (DNA), similar to District IAGs, across all districts. These DNAs would be formalized through MoUs and partnerships with the government, fostering better collaboration.

ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS:

The key takeaway from these experiences is the importance of cross-learning and improving our practices based on the successful models implemented across various states.

1. **Document Best Practices:** Compile and document the experiences, models, and best practices related to Government-NGO (GO-NGO) coordination from the different states.

2. **Share Documentation:** Share the compiled document with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of India, and all State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) for further action and implementation.
3. **Facilitate Cross-Learning:** Encourage cross-learning among states by disseminating the documented best practices and fostering an environment of continuous improvement in GO-NGO coordination efforts.
4. **Inclusion in IAS Training Modules:** Sphere India and the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) can advocate and facilitate incorporating the topic of Inter-Agency Groups (IAGs) and NGOs into the training modules for IAS trainees. This will ensure that when these officers are posted to districts, they are already aware of the existence, functions, and importance of IAGs, facilitating better coordination and understanding at the district level. This recommendation emphasizes the importance of educating future district-level officers about the role and significance of IAGs, ensuring smoother coordination and collaboration between government and NGOs.

These steps will help in institutionalizing successful coordination models and improving disaster management practices nationwide.

GROUP DISCUSSION: STRENGTHENING INTER-AGENCY GROUPS

The group discussion on strengthening Inter-Agency Groups (IAGs), facilitated by Sphere India, focused on fostering collaboration and enhancing effectiveness among participating representatives. The session aimed to achieve several key outcomes:

1. **Identification of Challenges and Gaps:** Participants engaged in identifying prevalent challenges and gaps within their respective IAGs. Discussions revolved around issues such as coordination hurdles, resource constraints, and communication gaps that hinder efficient collaborative efforts.
2. **Self-Review of Previous Activities:** A critical component of the discussion involved a comprehensive self-review of activities conducted by IAGs in the preceding year. This review aimed to assess the impact of past initiatives, identify successful strategies, and pinpoint areas needing improvement.
3. **Strategies for 2024-25:** Building upon insights gained from challenges identified and the self-review process, participants formulated strategic approaches for the upcoming period of 2024-25. Strategies encompassed enhancing communication channels, leveraging available resources more effectively, and expanding collaborative partnerships.
4. **Joint Program Planning:** The discussion culminated in collaborative program planning sessions where representatives from different IAGs explored opportunities for joint initiatives. Emphasis was placed on aligning priorities, pooling resources, and developing cohesive action plans to address shared humanitarian challenges.

Overall, the session provided a platform for IAG representatives to reflect, strategize, and commit to enhancing their collective impact in disaster management and humanitarian response efforts. The outcomes will serve as a foundation for fostering stronger inter-agency collaboration and improving resilience in the face of future challenges.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **Guidelines for District IAGs:**
 - Kerala IAG may lead the development of comprehensive guidelines for maintaining district-level IAGs.
 - Integrate experiences and best practices from other state IAGs into these guidelines.
 - Sphere India can provide technical support for the formulation and implementation of these guidelines.

2. Sector-Specific Leadership:

- Assign a specific sector, such as Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), to be led by another state IAG.
- Encourage this state IAG to develop and implement best practices, strategies, and programs within their designated sector.
- Share learnings and successful approaches across all IAGs to foster cross-sectoral improvements and collaboration.

WAY FORWARD (DAY 1 – 25TH JUNE 2024 (TUE))

1. **Documentation and Policy Brief:** Sphere India to document the different models of district and state-level Inter-Agency Group (IAG) coordination mechanisms across states and prepare a policy brief for the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on leveraging these existing structures.
2. **Guidelines and Handbooks Development:** IAGs to lead the development of guidelines or handbooks on establishing and maintaining district IAGs, incorporating inputs from other states' experiences.
3. **Funding for Capacity Building:** Sphere India and IAGs to advocate for allocating a portion of the State Disaster Mitigation Fund for the capacity building of IAGs.
4. **Harmonization of Standards and Tools:** Sphere India and IAGs to work towards harmonizing different standards, frameworks, and tools for disaster management across sectors and stakeholders.
5. **Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction:** Sphere India and IAGs to emphasize the integration of disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and ecosystem restoration in disaster management plans and activities.
6. **Transparency and Accountability:** Sphere India and IAGs to advocate for transparency, accountability, and open communication in disaster management processes, including data sharing and decision-making.
7. **Inclusive and Gender-Sensitive Approaches:** Sphere India and IAGs to promote inclusive and gender-sensitive approaches in disaster management, ensuring the participation and leadership of marginalized groups.
8. **Collaboration with Academic Institutions:** Sphere India and IAGs to collaborate with academic and research institutions to integrate disaster management concepts and practices into educational curricula.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS – DAY 2: 26TH JUNE 2024 (WED)

The second day of the workshop began with a recap of Day 1, where participants shared key takeaways and insights. It was followed by a series of panel discussions during the day along with the release of a compendium of stories of courage by Reliance Foundation; India launches of Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS), and Valedictory session.

PANEL DISCUSSION: DATA FOR MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING (MEAL)

The second day of the Annual Learning and Planning workshop 2023-24 commenced with a panel discussion focused on "Data for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEAL)" in disaster management and humanitarian response. The session aimed to explore enhanced frameworks and practices for data utilization, the importance of disaster databases, learning through data adaptation, and the role of big data and artificial intelligence (AI) in disaster resilience.

Panelists:

1. **Mr. Sudhanshu Sekhar Singh** - Founder and CEO, HAI
2. **Ms. Michel Mohan** - Program Manager-KCS, Sphere India
3. **Ms. Divya Gupta** - SEEDS India

Mr. Vikrant Mahajan, CEO of Sphere India, moderated the session, guiding the discussion towards comprehensive insights and actionable outcomes.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

Challenges in Data Collection (HAI): Mr. Sudhanshu Sekhar Singh highlighted the critical need for comprehensive data collection at the national level for the humanitarian sector in India. He emphasized challenges in acquiring accurate data and introduced HAI's "Dashboard for Aid Transparency & Accountability (DATA)," aimed at enhancing financial transparency in humanitarian funding and tracking resources reaching grassroots organizations.

Importance of Transparency and Accountability (Sphere India): Sphere India underscored the significance of transparency in international aid distribution and introduced a new platform designed for NGOs responding to disasters in India. Discussions covered the challenges in needs assessment and projected increases in humanitarian budgets for 2030. The session also addressed salary discrepancies among frontline workers and emphasized the pivotal roles of local and national entities in India's humanitarian landscape.



Innovative Ideas for Data Collection (SEEDS India): Ms. Divya Gupta from SEEDS India presented an innovative digital infrastructure initiative for climate resilience in India. The project facilitates affected families to report losses and damages through various mediums, transforming these inputs into actionable data for recovery efforts.

ACTIONABLE RECOMMENDATIONS:

The panel and participants shared actionable recommendations and provided a roadmap for integrating data, technology, and governance to achieve transparent, efficient, and inclusive disaster management practices:

1. **Development of a Centralized Disaster Database:** Establishing a comprehensive disaster database to improve data collection, storage, and accessibility across all stakeholders.
2. **Implementation of MEAL Frameworks:** Integrating MEAL frameworks into disaster management practices to enhance monitoring, evaluation, learning, and adaptation.
3. **Utilization of Big Data and AI:** Exploring and implementing big data and AI to predict and respond to disasters more effectively.
4. **Support for Local and National Actors:** Increasing support for local and national actors as primary responders in disaster situations.
5. **Enhanced Financial Transparency:** Promoting platforms like HAI's DATA to ensure transparent distribution of humanitarian funds to grassroots organizations.
6. **Capacity Building:** Investing in capacity building for local actors to improve data utilization and response capabilities.
7. **Addressing Salary Disparities:** Working towards equitable compensation for frontline workers in the humanitarian sector.
8. **Inclusive Need Assessment:** Improving the inclusivity of need assessments to support all vulnerable populations adequately.
9. **Role Definition for Local and National Actors:** Clarifying and strengthening roles of local and national actors to improve coordination in disaster response.
10. **Information Management Systems:** Developing robust systems for emergency coordination to facilitate data sharing and decision-making.
11. **Feedback Mechanism:** Establishing a feedback mechanism for stakeholders to provide input on collaborative action plans.
12. **Innovative Data Collection Methods:** Implementing innovative methods like digital infrastructure for climate resilience to enhance data accuracy and detail.
13. **Collaborative Action Plan with Financial Tracking:** Developing action plans linked to financial tracking to ensure efficient resource allocation and gap identification.

Conclusion: The panel discussion on MEAL underscored the importance of data-driven approaches in disaster management. It highlighted the necessity for enhanced frameworks, innovative technologies, and collaborative efforts among stakeholders to strengthen disaster resilience and response capabilities in India.

PANEL DISCUSSION: NEED ASSESSMENT AND LINKING JRNA TO PDNA

The panel discussion on Need Assessment and Linking Joint Rapid Needs Assessment (JRNA) to Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) explored crucial aspects of disaster response and recovery. The session delved into the methodologies and challenges associated with JRNA and PDNA, emphasizing the role of data, technology, and community participation in effective disaster management.

Panelists:

- **Mr. Kirit Parmar**, IAG Convenor, Gujarat
- **Mr. Debojyoti**, IAG Coordinator, West Bengal

SUMMARY OF KEY DISCUSSIONS:

The session began with an overview of the importance of need assessment in disaster response, highlighting how JRNA and PDNA methodologies play complementary roles in disaster recovery. Panelists discussed the use of big data and artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance the efficiency and accuracy of assessments, underscoring AI's role in analyzing large datasets to predict disaster impacts and streamline response efforts.

A case study from West Bengal's response to Cyclone Remal illustrated the challenges faced during JRNA, including rapid training of civil society organizations (CSOs), coordination issues, and the integration of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) practices at the grassroots level. The discussion highlighted the need for standardized data collection processes and improved coordination among stakeholders to address these challenges effectively.



The session also reviewed the complexities of PDNA, emphasizing its role in informing long-term recovery and reconstruction strategies under the "Build Back Better" principle. Challenges discussed included data accuracy, comprehensive assessment coverage, and aligning assessment findings with community needs.

Emergency Response in Cyclone Vayu: A Case Study of Mangrol

Cyclone Vayu posed a significant threat to Gujarat's coastal regions in June 2019, prompting an urgent need for effective emergency response in Mangrol. Early warnings from the India Meteorological Department were disseminated through multiple channels, leading to successful community mobilization and evacuation efforts. Local authorities, community leaders, and volunteers facilitated the evacuation, ensuring the safety of vulnerable individuals and the transportation of residents to designated shelters equipped with essential amenities. The role of Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) was crucial, involving risk assessments, capacity building, and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods to enhance resilience. Effective coordination among government agencies, NGOs, community leaders, and international organizations was instrumental in the smooth execution of the evacuation plan and relief efforts. The proactive planning and integrated CBDRR initiatives significantly mitigated the impact of Cyclone Vayu, underscoring the importance of community participation, early warning systems, and coordinated response in disaster management.

ACTION POINTS:

1. **Standardized Data Collection:** Advocate for standardized data collection processes across disaster response initiatives to ensure consistency and accuracy.
2. **Capacity Building:** Invest in training and capacity building for volunteers and CSOs involved in JRNA to improve readiness and effectiveness during rapid assessments.
3. **Integration of Technology:** Promote the integration of AI and big data analytics in disaster management practices to enhance predictive capabilities and streamline response efforts.

4. **Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR):** Strengthen CBDRR initiatives to empower communities with risk assessment skills, capacity building, and sustainable livelihood practices.
5. **Enhanced Coordination:** Improve coordination among government agencies, NGOs, community leaders, and international organizations to ensure a cohesive and efficient disaster response and recovery process.

PANEL DISCUSSION: REINFORCING COMMUNITY-BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (CBDRR) FOR RISK-INFORMED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The panel discussion on Reinforcing Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) focused on the pivotal role of local communities in promoting sustainable development through effective disaster risk reduction strategies. Hosted by **Reliance Foundation**, the session highlighted inspiring case studies and discussions on key resilience factors, community engagement, and the integration of CBDRR into national and local disaster management frameworks.



The session commenced with the launch of a compendium showcasing inspiring case studies of courage during disasters, underscoring the critical role of CBDRR in the Prime Minister's 10-point agenda for disaster management. Participants shared stories from diverse regions of India, highlighting the mobilization of health workers and youth in building community resilience and capacity.

Community representatives from Odisha and other regions shared their experiences of empowerment facilitated by Reliance Foundation during the COVID-19 pandemic and cyclones. These narratives illustrated the impact of community-driven initiatives supported by CBDRR principles.

Key panelists, including **Mr. Senthilkumaran** from Reliance Foundation, **Mr. Sarbjit Singh Sahota** from UNICEF India, **Ms. Juhi** from CFAR, and **Mr. Luit Goswami** from the Rural Volunteer Centre, emphasized various aspects of CBDRR. Discussions revolved around empowering communities through capacity building, integrating local knowledge into

disaster preparedness programs, and fostering inclusive approaches that consider gender, disabilities, and marginalized communities. **Mr. Vikrant Mahajan** of Sphere India highlighted the importance of convergence among stakeholders and the need to review and adapt laws and policies at the grassroots level to enhance CBDRR effectiveness.

The discussion was moderated by **Mr. Animesh Kumar**, Head – Disaster Management, Reliance Foundation.



1. **Drawing from Local Knowledge** CBDRR emphasizes utilizing local knowledge to address disaster risks effectively. Participants highlighted the importance of identifying critical community experiences and linking them to educational institutions. Engaging school children in learning from their communities about safety, security, and other practices fosters a shared role in disaster risk reduction.

Challenges:

- **Engaging Community Knowledge:** It is essential to allow community members to share their knowledge and experiences without imposing external agendas. Understanding and respecting local assumptions of risk and integrating them with scientific assumptions can enhance the effectiveness of CBDRR.
 - **Overcoming External Agendas:** Participants discussed the need to refrain from overpowering community understanding with external perspectives, ensuring that community voices are heard and valued in the planning process.
2. **Empowering Communities** Ms. Juhi Jain from CFAR emphasized the importance of starting from scratch and developing programs based on community knowledge. Building community capacity to advocate for themselves and prepare for disasters is critical.

Steps for Empowerment:

- **Evidence-Based Development:** Programs should be developed based on the community's existing knowledge.
- **Capacity Building:** Enhance community capacity to advocate for their needs and participate in disaster preparedness.
- **Disaster Preparedness:** Establish mechanisms for resilience and social mobility, enabling communities to recover and prepare for future disasters.



Case Study: In Assam, a convergence of education, gram panchayat, and NGOs led to effective disaster preparedness and response. This collaborative approach demonstrated the importance of integrating various stakeholders for successful CBDRR implementation.

3. **Enhancing Convergence and Coordination:** Mr. Luit Goswami highlighted the need for anticipating all risks and achieving convergence in disaster management plans. The session discussed the challenges of coordination between gram panchayats and district disaster management authorities.

Examples of Successful Convergence:

- **Assam's Child-Friendly Spaces:** The establishment of child-friendly spaces in refugee areas has become a policy, showcasing successful convergence and community engagement.
- **Collaborative Efforts:** Examples from various regions highlighted the importance of collaborative efforts between local governments, NGOs, and community members to achieve effective CBDRR.

Conclusion

The session underscored the importance of community-based approaches in disaster risk reduction. By drawing from local knowledge, empowering communities, and enhancing convergence and coordination, CBDRR can significantly contribute to risk-informed sustainable development. The discussions emphasized the need for a bottom-up approach, respecting and integrating community knowledge, and fostering collaboration among various stakeholders.

ACTION POINTS:

- **Integration of Local Knowledge:** Promote the use of local knowledge in disaster risk reduction strategies, linking community experiences to educational curricula and local governance.
- **Empowerment through Capacity Building:** Develop programs that empower communities to advocate for their needs and participate actively in disaster preparedness and response.
- **Enhanced Convergence and Coordination:** Foster collaboration between gram panchayats, district disaster management authorities, NGOs, and community organizations to achieve effective CBDRR outcomes.

- **Inclusivity in Disaster Preparedness:** Ensure gender-sensitive and inclusive approaches in CBDRR initiatives, considering intersectionality and the specific needs of marginalized groups.
- **Documentation and Knowledge Sharing:** Encourage ongoing documentation and sharing of success stories and best practices in CBDRR through platforms like Sphere India's networks.

The session concluded with a commitment to promoting CBDRR as a cornerstone of sustainable development, ensuring resilient communities capable of mitigating and responding to future disasters effectively.



INDIA LAUNCH OF CORE HUMANITARIAN STANDARDS (CHS) AND ADAPTING CHS FOR INDIA

The session witnessed the India launch of the Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS) and adapting CHS for India. This session aimed to increase awareness and understanding of CHS, foster commitment to its implementation, build capacity among humanitarian stakeholders, and develop a strategic roadmap for widespread adoption of CHS in India. The session was moderated by **Ms. Mishel Mohan** from Sphere India and featured esteemed speakers: **Mr. Bonaventure Gbétoho Sokpoh** (Policy & Outreach Senior Advisor, CHS Alliance), **Ms. Debadrita Sengupta** (Bal Raksha Bharat), **Dr. Bhanu Mall** (Convenor, IAG U.P), **Mr. Kirit Parmar** (Unnati), and **Mr. Mihir Bhatt** (AIDMI).



KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

MR. BONAVENTURE SOKPOH, POLICY & OUTREACH SENIOR ADVISOR, CHS ALLIANCE

- **Inclusivity:** Emphasized involving diverse stakeholders beyond NGOs, including UN agencies, governments, and the private sector, in shaping humanitarian standards like CHS.
- **Accessibility:** Ensured the revised CHS is globally accessible and applicable, including translations into local languages for effective implementation.
- **Community Engagement:** Highlighted the involvement of crisis-affected communities in shaping the CHS's 9 commitments, making them meaningful and relevant.
- **Ethical and Transparent Practices:** Stressed ethical resource management, transparency in operations, and responding to community feedback to ensure no harm in humanitarian actions.

MR. KIRIT PARMAR, UNNATI, GUJARAT

- **Current Challenges:** Discussed the limited implementation of CHS in India, noting the scarcity of ready-to-eat food packets outside specific locations.
- **Localization and Community First Response:** Emphasized the crucial role of local organizations and community-based groups as primary responders, often compromising on standards due to resource constraints.
- **Perception of Affected Communities:** Addressed the misconception that affected communities are mere recipients of charity rather than rights holders entitled to humanitarian assistance.
- **Complexity with Donor Agencies:** Highlighted the challenges from diverse monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of donor agencies.
- **Education and Capacity Building:** Stressed the importance of educating and building capacity among various stakeholders on CHS principles and practices.



MS. DEBADRITA SENGUPTA, BAL RAKSHA BHARAT (SAVE THE CHILDREN)

- **Climate Crisis as a Present Reality:** Emphasized the ongoing nature of the climate crisis and its immediate impacts on all sectors.
- **Multifaceted Impacts:** Highlighted diverse impacts, including extreme weather events, resource scarcity, food insecurity, displacement, and ecological degradation.
- **Intersection of Crises:** Recognized the climate crisis's intersection with health issues.
- **Holistic Approach Needed:** Advocated for integrated responses addressing interconnected crises.
- **Quality and Accountability:** Stressed quality-focused interventions that uphold accountability, transparency, and respect for dignity and rights.
- **Community Participation:** Promoted community participation in designing and implementing humanitarian responses.
- **Educational Efforts:** Highlighted the need for educating communities about their rights to ensure they can demand dignified aid.

DR. BHANU MALL, CONVENOR, IAG – U.P

- **Humanitarian Principles and Human Dignity:** Emphasized respecting human dignity in all humanitarian actions, acknowledging the holistic nature of individuals.
- **Understanding the Soul and Energy:** Suggested honoring the spiritual and energetic aspects of humans in humanitarian actions.
- **Process and System in Aid Distribution:** Highlighted the importance of structured processes and systems in aid distribution.
- **Challenges with Current Approaches:** Critiqued traditional philanthropic approaches lacking systematic processes.
- **Core Humanitarian Standards (CHS):** Advocated for adopting CHS as a framework for systematic, dignified, and respectful humanitarian responses.
- **Collaboration with Government and Local Systems:** Stressed the importance of integrating humanitarian principles into broader developmental efforts, including disaster risk reduction.

- **Transition to Risk Reduction:** Emphasized evolving from immediate response to long-term risk reduction strategies.

MR. MIHIR BHATT, HEAD, AIDMI, GUJARAT

- **Evolution of Standards:** Highlighted significant changes and reaffirmations in the revised Sphere standards, making them more inclusive and forward-looking.
- **Core Principles:** Reaffirmed fundamental principles like equity, inclusiveness, and collaboration.
- **Challenges and Consensus:** Acknowledged challenges in reaching consensus on humanitarian standards.
- **Operational Clarity:** Praised the new standards for their simplified structure and clear language.
- **Future Orientation:** Emphasized that the standards are responsive to current and future humanitarian crises.
- **Green Humanitarianism:** Noted the emphasis on environmental sustainability in the standards.

ACTION POINTS:

1. **Inclusivity and Accessibility:** Involve diverse stakeholders in shaping and implementing CHS; Translate CHS into local languages for global applicability.
2. **Community Engagement and Education:** Engage crisis-affected communities in shaping CHS commitments; Launch education campaigns about CHS standards and community rights; Shift community perceptions from charity-based to rights-based approaches.
3. **Ethical Practices and Transparency:** Promote ethical resource management and transparency; Implement the CHS verification framework and Commitment Tracker.
4. **Capacity Building and Training:** Conduct CHS training for local responders, community leaders, and organizations; Advocate for government adherence to CHS in disaster response protocols.
5. **Holistic and Integrated Approaches:** Foster integrated responses for interconnected crises; Collaborate across sectors for disaster and climate resilience planning.
6. **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Continuous Learning:** Establish frameworks for CHS monitoring and evaluation; Encourage continuous learning and adaptation in humanitarian practices.
7. **Systematic and Process-Driven Aid Distribution:** Implement structured processes in aid distribution; Ensure dignity, fairness, and effectiveness in humanitarian actions.
8. **Policy Advocacy and Partnership Strengthening:** Advocate for sustainable, inclusive, and rights-based policies; Strengthen partnerships with governmental, non-governmental, and community-based organizations.

VALEDICTORY SESSION: THE ANNUAL LEARNING AND PLANNING WORKSHOP

The valedictory session marked the conclusion of a two-day annual learning and planning workshop focused on collaborative disaster management efforts in India. Hosted by Sphere India, the session was attended by 55 participants representing 25 states, including focal points for GO-NGO coordination. The event was honored by the presence of esteemed guests **Dr. Rajendra Singh**, HoD & Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and **Lieutenant General Yogendra Dimri**, Vice Chairman, Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (UPSDMA), who joined online. The workshop aimed to enhance sectoral coordination, improve rapid need assessments, and promote community-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR).

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:

Overview of the Workshop:

Mr. Vikrant Mahajan, CEO of Sphere India, provided an overview of the workshop's key highlights and discussions:

Participant Insights: Representatives from across India shared experiences and lessons learned in disaster management.

Agenda Focus: Emphasis on refining the relief system to ensure timely and effective response to vulnerable populations within critical timeframes, highlighted state-specific models of GO-NGO Coordination; focus on six life-saving sectors – WASH, sanitation, and hygiene promotion, Food and nutrition, Shelter and non-food items, Social-protection, Education, Health. Experts reviewed sectoral coordination challenges and proposed improvements in guidelines.

VALEDECTORY ADDRESS: **LIEUTENANT GENERAL YOGENDRA DIMRI**

He highlighted initiatives in Uttar Pradesh:

- **Heat Resilience and Climate Change:** Strategies for combating extreme heat across urban areas, including the development of urban heat action plans.
- **State Agriculture Disaster Management Plan:** Preparation of the State Agriculture Disaster Management Plan involving civil society organizations.
- **Professional Development:** Advocated for skilled disaster management stakeholders and resource management.

VALEDECTORY ADDRESS: **SHRI. RAJENDRA SINGH**

He outlined a people-centric approach and team India strategy:

- **People-Centric Approach:** Advocated for programs benefiting communities directly and leveraging technology for enhanced disaster response capabilities.
- **Team India Approach:** Emphasized collaborative efforts across agencies, robust communication networks, and resource prepositioning.
- **Preparedness-Centric Strategy:** Urged continuous updating of emergency plans, community education, and integration of early warning systems.



KEY ACTION POINTS

1. **Urban Heat Action Plans:** Prepare and implement heat action plans for all cities in Uttar Pradesh, starting with Lucknow; Expand these plans to cover other cities in the state by next year.
2. **State Agriculture Disaster Management Plan:** Collaboratively finalize UP's State Agriculture Disaster Management Plan with experienced civil society organizations; Ensure the plan addresses specific challenges of the agricultural sector in disaster scenarios.
3. **Professional Development and Resource Management:** Enhance the skills and knowledge of disaster management stakeholders through targeted training programs; Focus on proper maintenance and utilization of resources and infrastructures.
4. **Process Improvement:** Develop robust structures, standard operating procedures (SOPs), and guidelines for effective disaster management; Ensure documentation and accessibility of these processes to all relevant stakeholders.

5. **Future Directions:** Integrate disaster and climate resilience into urban governance and policy planning; Encourage collaborative efforts among government, civil society organizations, and communities to enhance disaster management practices.
6. **Documentation and Sharing:** Document workshop discussions and key learnings comprehensively; Share the documentation with NDMA and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) to inform future actions and improvements.
7. **Implementation of People-Centric Initiatives:** Ensure effective implementation of the National Database on Emergency Management; Conduct regular community-level workshops on risk assessment and disaster preparedness; Monitor and evaluate the impact of people-centric programs on reducing mortality and property damage.
8. **Enhancing Team India Collaboration:** Strengthen communication networks across agencies and ensure seamless coordination during emergencies; Update and expand the equipment inventory database to facilitate quicker response times; Foster partnerships between government bodies, NGOs, and local communities to enhance collaborative efforts.
9. **Promoting Preparedness at All Levels:** Continuously update and revise state and district-level disaster management plans; Conduct training sessions for community leaders and volunteers on early warning systems and disaster preparedness; Monitor the implementation of preparedness measures and evaluate their effectiveness in reducing disaster impacts.



The valedictory session concluded with a commitment to implementing the discussed strategies and fostering ongoing collaboration for effective disaster preparedness and response across India. The workshop's outcomes aim to strengthen India's resilience against future disasters through coordinated, inclusive, and proactive approaches.

WAY FORWARD – DAY 2: 26TH JUNE 2024 (WED)

Moving forward, the two days' workshop highlighted several ways forward actions:

- Finalization of Annual Disaster Report, documenting the inputs of the outcomes and recommendations from the Workshop. The Report will include comprehensive data regarding the disaster response of Sphere India Network Members and Government Stakeholders.
- Need for ongoing collaboration and strategic planning to address the identified challenges and implement the recommended actions effectively. Stakeholder engagement to be crucial in implementing long-term solutions, enhancing data-driven decision-making, and building resilient communities against future disasters.
- Integrate lessons learned from JRNA and PDNA methodologies into national disaster management frameworks, emphasizing continuous learning, adaptation, and preparedness in disaster response efforts.
- The need for sustained efforts in integrating CBDRR principles into national and local disaster management policies.
- Continue advocating for climate and disaster-inclusive planning, building on the momentum generated by community-driven resilience initiatives.
- Increasing awareness and understanding of CHS among stakeholders.

- Building capacity among humanitarian stakeholders for effective implementation.
- Developing integrated and holistic responses to humanitarian and climate crises.
- Continuously monitoring, evaluating, and adapting CHS practices to ensure relevance and effectiveness.
- Fostering collaboration and partnership to leverage resources and expertise for comprehensive responses.
- Promoting ethical, transparent, and community-focused humanitarian actions that respect human dignity and rights.
- Urban Governance and Policy Planning: Mainstreaming disaster and climate resilience in urban centers.
- Collaborative Efforts: Continued partnership between government, civil society, and communities to enhance disaster management practices.

ANNEXURES:

GALLERY







FLYER

Resilient India - Disaster Free India

National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India

ANNUAL LEARNING AND PLANNING WORKSHOP

2023-24

JOIN US

25th and 26th June, 2024

09:30 AM - 05:00 PM

http://tiny.cc/ALPW_25-26June2024

Supported by: