

KEY EDITORIAL MESSAGE

Dear Readers,

Greeting from Sphere India

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome all to explore Sphere India's Monthly Newsletter, August, 2015 issue. This issue features a key note message, news from government, key activities of member organizations, updates from Sphere India programme unit and a list of upcoming events.

We intended to publish news from member agency on assistance provided to **Disaster Affected Homeless People**. Two updates are from NIDM on **India Disaster Resource Network** and from PHD chamber of Commerce on **Agriculture Insurance in India**.

Another feature article discuss the last month updates from Inter-Agency Group Tamil Nadu and Sphere India programme unit: IAC, KM, CA and TCB. And lastly it includes the upcoming events/ training in month of August, 2015.

Finally I thank my editorial team, technical team, readers and well-wishers who are promoting this newsletter.

Vikrant Mahajan,
CEO, Sphere India



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We are delighted and honored to present the key note message for Sphere India monthly newsletter. SI has been a very critical part of humanitarian response in India and instrumental in bringing together all the stakeholders involved in relief and response work and harnessing the collective strength for better relief and rehabilitation of people severely affected by the disasters especially those who are extremely vulnerable and marginalized. Such a role is indispensable in a country like India when resources are precious and damage and trauma is often extensive.

The efforts of SI in timely coordination in the recent past - floods in J&K, conflict in Assam, Hudhud cyclone in Andhra Pradesh, earthquake in Nepal has helped in initiating timely relief interventions in these areas.

It has also formulated useful tools such as Joint Rapid Needs Assessment (JRNA), Rights in Crisis Analysis etc. that has resulted in quick and comprehensive assessment of the emergency situation that is necessary for devising appropriate emergency relief and rehab interventions.

Strong collaboration with the State Disaster Management Authorities and the National Disaster Management Authority, alike has resulted in a stronger government-NGO connect and building of mutual confidence on matters such as disaster preparedness, early warnings, capacity development for better response and relief operations.

Action Aid has been an active member of the Advocacy Committee of SI and chaired it until recently. It lauds the achievements of the committee and the pro-poor agenda that it has put forth, such as, dialogues with elected representatives to influence policies on emergencies institutionalizing access to essential services and income generation during emergencies, seeking proactive engagement of corporate groups in DRR and engagement with academic institutions for including the contemporary tools and discourses in their curriculum.

We would be keen to see SI take leadership in promoting and advocating for the increased the role of women in relief operations, increasing gender sensitivity and insist on developing women led resilience and contingency plans and their increased participation to ensure a far more inclusive and better designed emergency response system.

We would be very happy to learn from such processes and contribute to them for we believe that this would address several gaps pertaining to children, disabled and the aged as well as other marginalized groups.

We hope that Sphere India continues to anchor the disaster preparedness, response and advocacy work and helps in making the most vulnerable and marginalized communities more resilient, stakeholders more responsive and inclusive and with its ever evolving standards, continues to uphold the honor and dignity of those impacted by disasters.

With best wishes,
Sandeep Chachra
Executive Director
Action Aid India

A NEW RAY OF HOPE FOR THE DISASTER AFFECTED HOMELESS PEOPLE

In 2008, IGSSS did a headcount night survey and identified 88, 410 (with the caveat that for every one person counted, there was possibility of one person being left out who might be working at night). As per DUSIB's (Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board) survey of 2014, there were 16,760 homeless residents in 269 spots, of which over 11,000 were

on the streets and 5,000 were in existing shelters. As per DUSIB, there are 275 shelters of which 55 are tents, 112 portable cabins and 92 permanent shelters. The Total capacity of these shelters is 19,764 while the struggle has been that the city provides for a range of dwelling options to suit the different categories of urban poor & homeless.

IGSSS under its programme on urban poverty is partnering with Micro Home Solution City Lab, a registered society working with the mandate for enabling self-construction housing in informal settlements in India with a vision to enable the creation of socially inclusive cities by studying, designing and creating a portfolio of viable solutions informed an interdisciplinary lens.



Through this approach of building and enabling we intend to develop innovative, viable and scalable housing solutions that meet the diverse housing needs of low-income people, especially the ones which are forced to spend their nights in the streets or in the open. Both the organizations have decided to implement a pilot project in selected pockets where IGSSS has been engaging with this homeless population. As a start of this project the members of MHS along with IGSSS team members have made visits to few localities and had interactions with the community members to understand the real need of these people.

In the first phase of the project will be a baseline survey, where the IGSSS team will be making small groups in these selected locations, through whom they will be identifying the right beneficiaries. A family card would be made for each of these beneficiaries. The second phase of the project will include the distribution of the shelter tents which is expected to take place sometime in early August 2015. During the course of the project, IGSSS will continue to monitor

and assess the entire process to study the impact and share the findings with MHS for further fine-tuning the intervention in other areas.



The implementation of this pilot project brings a ray of new hope not just to the homeless people living in the city streets but also for people who are ravaged by a disaster. In the event of a disaster where people are many a times left homeless, these tent shelters would be of help during the immediate relief situation. These tents are easy to make and can provide shelter to the disaster affected people till the time a shelter more permanent in nature is arranged for them.

MHS Team at the IGSSS Office in New Delhi demonstrating the setting of tent shelter to the IGSSS team

*Source: <http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/dusib-to-build-seven-new-shelters-for-the-homeless/article6165830.ece>



NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT, INDIA

STATE LEVEL TRAINING ON "INDIA DISASTER RESOURCE NETWORK" FOR ALL THE DISTRICTS OF DELHI ORGANIZED AT DELHI DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, 30 JUNE 2015

Training programme on "India Disaster Resource Network" has been organized for all the 11 districts of Delhi, at Delhi Disaster Management Authority, Revenue Department HQ, Delhi on 30 June 2015. Twenty Eight participants (officials from district administration) from 11 districts of the state participated in the course. The officials were introduced to the IDRN portal, its uses, workflow and administration. Besides a hands on session was organized for familiarizing the participants with the IDRN portal, user login, data uploading, various formats, data accessing etc. Participants shared their experiences and specific challenges pertaining to IDRN. The participants agreed to update data of the concerned districts and requested NIDM to provide necessary technical/administrative support. Feedback and suggestions received from the group regarding the technical issues, portal administration, data collection and data entry etc. will be used for upgrading the portal further.



PROGRESS HARMONY DEVELOPMENT
Estd. - 1905

PHD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDIA

Minister of State for Agriculture Mr. Mohanbhai Kundariya on Friday emphasized the need to explore possibilities of exchange of ideas between government and private insurance players to bring in and develop an effective, integrated and affordable insurance package for farmers across the country.

Inaugurating a Seminar on Agriculture Insurance in India: Challenges and the Way Forward under aegis of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry here today, the Minister said, "the need of the hour is to make agriculture a risk-free activity by protecting farmers from financial and crop yield risks. This calls for a relentless effort to map the bank and post office accounts of all farmers and link these to the insurance schemes. To make the agriculture insurance attractive among the farmers, there is a need to review the existing dissemination and extension mechanism". According to the Minister, the government has been implementing three major insurance schemes such as National Agriculture Insurance Scheme, Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme and Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme.

"However, due to lack of awareness among the farmers on risk mitigation effects of insurance and inadequate enthusiasm of bankers and other financial intermediaries, these schemes have not made large impact even through these insurance products have tremendous risk mitigating capabilities", pointed out Mr. Kundariya.

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture Dr. Ashish Kumar Bhutani in his address added that crop insurance has assumed importance due to uncertainty and large scale damage caused due to vagaries of weather, crop diseases and also due to pest attacks. The objective is to provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of any of the notified crop as a result of natural calamities.

In his welcome remarks President, PHD Chamber Mr. Alok B. Shriram said, “India’s failure at providing public crop insurance does not stand alone. In both the developing and developed world, governments’ crop insurance schemes have run at huge losses while not delivering an effective product. The inadequacy of such schemes is a well-established fact. On the other hand, private insurance does exist in situations where it is feasible and no subsidized insurance is offered. The farmers therefore, do not stand to benefit due to this prevailing scenario which required a serious change”.

Chairman, Insurance Committee, PHD Chamber Mr. Yogesh Logiya said that the crop insurance is one alternative to manage risk in yield loss by farmers. It is the mechanism to reduce the impact of income loss on the farmer. Crop insurance is a means of protecting farmers against the variations in yield resulting from uncertainty of practically all natural factors beyond their control.

Chairman, Agribusiness Committee, PHD Chamber, Mr. M N Kejriwal said that the agricultural insurance is a more efficient instrument and an effective institutionalized mechanism for dealing with the problems associated with farming and climatic extremes. It helps to streamline the relief efforts and reduces the direct and indirect losses of the farmers due to natural calamities.

IAGs- TAMIL NADU INTER AGENCY GROUPS-TAMIL

MEETING ON STRENGTHENING DISTRICT IAG MECHANISM

A meeting was held on Tuesday, 7th July 2015 at 2.30pm at the World Vision India, Chennai, for the members of IAG-TN, who work through Partners in various capacities in TN. This was basically to strengthen the processes of District IAG mechanism. The discussions were around strengthening the District IAG mechanism on how members based in Chennai/Pondicherry mostly Resource Partners by nature could guide and support the IAG processes at the District Level through participation, facilitation and training. This eventually was an outcome of the One Consultation on **Assessment and Response Management Systems (ARMS)** organised on 15th April 2015 @ YMCA, Vepery, Chennai to develop Assessment and Response Management System in IAG TN, where the representatives from the District IAGs felt that members from State IAG should come and participate, guide and support the IAGs at the District level.

Thus this meeting enabled to develop some understanding on how to strengthen the District IAG processes. The ways and means of extending support to IAG process at the District Level were discussed. It was felt that since this group would be an informal group basically aimed at supporting the IAG process in Districts, this group can be a Panel and it would not have any decision making authority, rather it would try to enhance the ownership of the Agencies on the District IAG Processes with a transparent and accountable mechanism. This Panel would try to look at enabling staff from their agencies mostly resource partners in nature to spend some time with the District IAGs in their regular monitoring visits, where their partners work. It was also suggested that this group could be named as **IAG-TN SAP (Supportive Agencies' Panel)**.



Further to this there were discussions on assessment and the group recommended to revisit the formats and look into the possibility of doing a 24 hr assessment, JRNA-Joint Rapid Needs Assessment and a detailed multi sectoral assessment where the multi-sectoral assessment would be based on need. Apart from this, some of the working groups updated on the progress and a discussion on the trainings on assessment to be held somewhere in August / September also formed part of the key discussion.

INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION:

SOP ON UNIFIED RESPONSE STRATEGY (URS):

As guided by the Program and Strategy Committee of Sphere India, SOP on URS with triggers & Responsibility along with timeline was developed. The document was shared with the Chair and Co- Chair of the Committee for their feedback and later on shared with the members of Committee. In the first week of July after improvising all the inputs, SOP on URS, Flowchart on SOP and Trigger mechanism was finalized and shared with members.

REVISION OF JRNA TOOL: JRNA tool at Village and District level has been revised in consultation with member agencies, State IAGs and core committee for JRNA tool. After incorporating inputs for revising tool, the final version of JRNA tool at village and district level has been shared among all the members.

TRAINING ON REVISED JRNA TOOL IN 5 MOST VULNERABLE STATES:

Training on JRNA tool has been conducted in 4 states in collaboration with State IAGs i.e. UP, Assam, Orissa and Bihar in the month of June. In West Bengal, the training conducted on 30th July. As per the way forward of this training programme, database of trained volunteers has been prepared, commitments have been taken from the members for further providing training to their local staff, group for report writing at state level has been identified.



SECOND QUARTERLY INTER AGENCY COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING:

Second quarterly IAC committee meeting has been scheduled on 13th July at Handicap International Office to update committee members on activities carried out in first half of year 2015.

ADAPTATION OF TOOL FOR DROUGHT, CONFLICT AND URBAN DISASTER:

JRNA tool for Drought, Conflict and Urban Disaster shared with core committees for Drought, Conflict and Urban disasters for getting final inputs after compiling inputs from member agencies and State IAGs in June. Further, comments from core committees have been improvised in the tool and will be shared with members soon.

PRE DISASTER SECONDARY DATA ANALYSIS REPORTS

Pre disaster secondary data analysis reports of five vulnerable states (UP, Bihar, Assam, Odisha & West Bengal) have been developed in consultation with IAC committee as well as State IAGs. Further, core committee has been formed to update pre disaster secondary reports. Reports will be shared shortly.

MASTER DATABASE

Inputs received from members for Sphere Members database and Logistics Database and further shared among all. IAG Database also initiated and team is in process to get inputs from all IAG members.

COLLABORATIVE ADVOCACY:

NEPAL LEARNING AND WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT (WHS) WORKSHOP:

The event was organized on 25th June 2015 at India International Center, New Delhi with the objectives to cross learn from initial relief/response of Nepal earthquake and to develop future plan of action, to discuss on WHS and develop roadmap for India and to strengthen cross boundary coordination and response. The workshop was attended by 36 participants including Government (BSDMA, Sikkim SDMA), UN- OCHA, Humanitarian Agencies and Corporate. The key learning's from the workshop includes



preparedness as a corner stone for better response, comprehensive logistics planning, advocacy on gender/disability and caste inclusive DRR, capacity building of local networks, documentation/lesson learnt and effective use of technology.

VISIT TO GUWAHATI, ASSAM FROM 18TH -20TH JUNE 2015: Bilateral meetings with key stakeholders including Government (Directorate of Social Welfare, ASDMA, PS – Health, MD –NRHM) and available IAGs members (WVI, Caritas India, IGSSS, CRS) were done at Guwahati to discuss on advocacy agenda. The discussion on flood management, Nutrition in Emergencies and Right in Crisis analysis to ensure linking beneficiaries with government social protection schemes was done.

PARTICIPATED IN CSO MEET ORGANIZED BY NDMA ON 29TH JUNE 2015, TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING AGENDA:

- Potential Areas of Collaboration between NDMA and CSOs
- Mapping Civil Society Resources in DRR (inventory of resources) & support towards last mile connectivity
- Support and Facilitation of Civil Society towards formulation of District Disaster Management Plans
- Innovative Practices in DRR

COLLABORATIVE ADVOCACY COMMITTEE – HALF YEARLY REVIEW MEETING: It was done on 14th July to updates on collaborative advocacy program and action taken on first quarterly CA committee meeting and to discuss next quarter - Plan of Action (July – Sep 2015).

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING:

MISP TRAINING IN JAMMU : A 3 day training was organized in collaborative partnership with National Rural Health Mission, UNFPA and Sphere India in the Regional Health and Family Welfare Institute, Nagrota. A total of 26 participants attended the training. The training was inaugurated by the Mission Director, Dr. Yashpal Sharma who welcomed the initiative by UNFPA and Sphere India for extending the requisite support and expressed his optimism in rolling out MISP in the State of J&K. Chief Medical Officers, State Trainers, District Programme Managers and Asha Coordinators participated in the training. Collective Action Plans were submitted by the participants for each cluster based on the need and vulnerability. A 2 day Integration workshop will be organized in Srinagar (ending July) which will have selected participants from Jammu and Kashmir training who will share their inputs on the activities related to MISP which can be integrated in the State Disaster Management Plan. Senior Government Officials from Health and Disaster Management are expected to be a part of this workshop.

MISP QUARTERLY REPORT SUBMISSION: Compilation and submission of MISP Quarterly Report to UNFPA. Detailed Annexures were compiled and attached with the report.

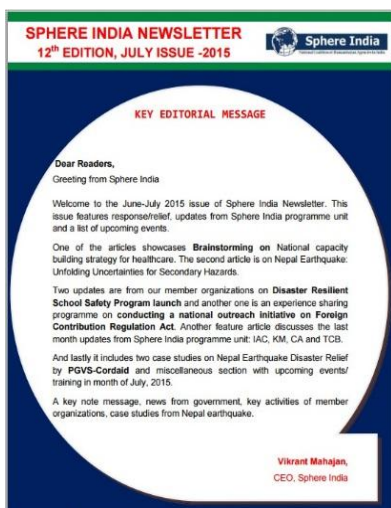
PREPARATION FOR MISP TRAININGS IN J&K: Follow up with NRHM on the preparatory planning for MISP J&K training. Logistic planning for the J&K MISP trainings was also initiated and training material was dispatched to the training locations.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT:

DISTRICT DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN, J&K: With reference to Sphere India initiatives of developing District Disaster Management Plans (DDMP) in Jammu & Kashmir, the final draft of the DDMP for Kulgam, Baramulla, Shopian and Bandipora Districts (Vol 1, 2, 3 and 4) has been completed and shared with respective District Administration. After incorporating the received inputs from various line departments and other stakeholders these plans are successfully handed over to the respective District Commissioners.



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT QUARTERLY COMMITTEE MEETING: The KM Quarterly Committee Meeting was organized on 13th July, 2015 at UNDP Office. An update of activities taken in last half year (Jan-June, 2015) activities was presented. The discussion has also been taken on next quarter plan of action.



SPHERE INDIA NEWSLETTER: The Sphere India KM team successfully released the Sphere India Newsletter- July, 2015 Edition. Which includes the news from government, key activities of member organizations, updates from Sphere India programme unit and a list of upcoming events. Please find link below:

https://sphereindiablog.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/08_sphere-india-newsletter-issue-no-12-july-2015.pdf

GLIMPSES

NEPAL LEARNING AND WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT (WHS) WORKSHOP



Mr. Asif, BSDMA sharing Cross Border Learning



Mr. Devendra, Save the Children sharing Media Experiences in Nepal Earthquake



Panel discussion on Nepal Learning and Way Forward



Group Discussion on WHS



Upcoming Events /Trainings in July 2015:

Sr. No.	Event/Training/Workshop	Date	Place
1.	Cyclone Resistant Shelter and Construction along Coastal Areas	11-13 th August	ILDm, Kerala
2.	World Humanitarian Day Programme	17-19 th August	New Delhi
3.	Gender and Disasters	17-21 st August	NIDM
4.	ToT on School Safety Disaster Management Plan	24-28 th August	NIDM
5.	ToT on Seismic safety Assessment of Buildings by Rapid Visual Survey	30 th Aug- 4Sept	NIDM



Sphere India

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