



Annual Report -2020-2021

Kerala flood recovery project for system strengthening through GO-NGO Coordination.

A collaborative effort by Kerala State Disaster Management Authority and Sphere India

Submitted to
Kerala State Disaster Management Authority

Submitted by
Sphere India
B 94, B 9 block, sector 44, Noida
Uttar Pradesh, 20130



Background

This Report provides an overview of all activities and results delivered by the ‘Kerala flood recovery project for system strengthening through GO-NGO Coordination’, implemented by Sphere India & Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, between June 2020 and December 2021.

Sphere India is a National Coalition of Humanitarian Agencies in India. The members include key nodal agencies from UN Agencies, INGOs, NGO Networks and National NGOs. Sphere India facilitates Inter Agency Coordination, Training and Capacity Building, Collaborative Advocacy and Information Knowledge and Learning Management through a collaborative process for Quality & Accountability.

In March 2019, Sphere India entered into an agreement with Kerala State Disaster Management Authority for implementing ‘Kerala flood recovery project for system strengthening through GO-NGO Coordination’. Initially the programme started in 7 severely affected districts and later extended to the remaining seven districts of Kerala thereby covering the entire fourteen districts. The specific objective of the project was to strengthen disaster governance and its System through participatory inclusive resilience planning at state and district level. Vide G.O.(Rt) No.466/2019/DMD; dated 03/08/2019, Sphere India in partnership with SDMAs & DDMA's formed IAGs in all the districts of the state of Kerala. A total of 420 NGO's and other organizations are currently part of the district IAG. The project also facilitated preparing guidelines and held multilevel consultation meetings for District Disaster Management Plan revision process in all the districts. The project is of participatory nature and ensures participation of multi-stakeholders in all phases of project planning and execution to strengthen the institutional capacity of government agencies and vice-versa. Under the intervention, the partnership project implemented its activities in all fourteen districts in the state of Kerala. The project aimed to implement sustainable interventions in the Disaster Risk Reduction through building the capacity of communities, government agencies, local government representatives and other relevant stakeholders.

Activities implemented during the reporting period

Activity No I; Activities Undertaken in Kerala to contain the Pandemic in collaboration with District Level IAG

The first case of the COVID-19 pandemic in Kerala was confirmed in Thrissur on 30 January 2020. The number of active cases initially peaked at 266 on 6 April before declining. For the first time in over 45 days, there were no new cases on 1 May 2020. Following the return of Keralites from other countries and states, more cases were reported in mid-May. As of 28 May 2020, 526 positive cases are under treatment with 515 (61.39%) recoveries and 5 deaths (till 28 May 2020) in the state.. Kerala has the lowest mortality rate of 0.59% among all states in India. Early action to be prepared to deal with virus , testing facilities, structured contract tracking and counselling and proper hospitalisation were among the many steps that helped the state government in dealing with COVID-19 response. The humanitarian support contributed by the NGOs and civil society organisations under Inter Agency Group platform was commendable. Initiation of Inter Agency Groups (IAGs) with the technical support from Kerala State Disaster Management Authority is a milestone to strengthen the partnership between the NGOs and the Government. The collaborative efforts during the pandemic demonstrated the importance of coordination in disaster management. Inter Agency Groups (IAGs) are multi stakeholder coordination platforms at state and district levels in Kerala. They seek to promote and facilitate collaboration and coordination among the many actors and agencies working with

communities in a state before, during and after emergencies. They also engage and collaborate with Govt., Corporate, Academia, Media and other key stakeholders. Under KSDMA-Sphere India partnership programme, IAG as a coordination forum was formed in all the 14 districts of Kerala during the second quarter of financial year 2019-20. A total of 395 NGO's and other organizations are currently part of the IAG.

Emergency Inter Agency Coordination meetings

District and state level IAG emergency meetings were organized towards COVID 19 preparedness to mobilize volunteers and to coordinate NGO activities. The district IAG meetings were chaired by respective District Collectors/Deputy Collectors (Disaster Management). Meeting dates as follows

Hundreds of volunteers were mobilized by IAG comprising of IT professionals, medical students and others came forward to do their bit to help the district authorities to mitigate the risk of COVID -19. Many are deployed at the district call centres, ambulance desk and DISHA (COVID -19 care) helpline. The volunteers prepared the database of the passengers arriving at the airport. Three teams comprising 10 volunteers worked in shifts at the airports to collect and upload details. Many volunteers came forward to assist various departments including district medical office and district administration. Volunteers talk to the passengers arriving at the airport and hand over their details to the district administration and medical office.

Major activities performed by IAG and its member organisations :-

- 1) Volunteer mobilisation and coordination for communications & data analysis, information management and data collection
- 2) Supply of face mask, sanitizers, hygiene kits: supplied to district administration, district labor office, DHS etc.
- 3) Digital platform for quarantined patients; the purpose is to track the quarantined people via a GPS enabled mobile application.
- 4) Volunteers for migrant labor inter-state transportation and migrant labor camp management
- 5) IEC Materials produced in multiple languages inspired by the break the chain movement of the government of Kerala IEC material access [Click Here](#)



Activity No II; Webinar Series – COVID 19 Academy -Kerala – Phase I

Sphere India along with the support from Kerala State Disaster Management Authority and Kudumbashree organized a twelve - part webinar series from 29th September to 21st October. A collaborative initiative of NIDM, WHO, UNICEF, HCLF, WFP, Sphere India and other organizations, the covid 19 academy is a capacity-building initiative with a mission to enable frontline volunteers and outreach workers. Covid 19 academy- Kerala initiative is part of a series of training sessions delivered in Malayalam organized by Sphere India in association with Kerala State Disaster Management Authority and Kudumbashree (State Poverty Eradication Mission), Government of Kerala. The Academy's sessions are targeted towards participants from Kudumbashree, IAG member organizations, Aptamithra volunteers, Sanadhasena, Kerala Civil defense, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and academic institutions. Each webinar aimed to address different aspects of Disaster management and disaster risk reduction providing an overview of disaster management scenario in the Kerala state with emphasise on current covid 19 pandemic and sharing good practices and recommendations. The academy was held through CISCO Webex video conferencing tool. Twelve sessions were conducted with 2 hours per session in each day. All sessions were supported with the service of sign language interpreter from National Institute of Speech and Hearing. For this Webinar series, registration link using webex was created. The link was circulated via email invitation, and through various social media platforms.

COVID-19 Academy: Kerala - Launch Ceremony
Hosted by Kerala State Disaster Management Authority and Sphere India

Speakers:

- S. Harikishore IAS, Executive Director, Kudumbashree
- Prof. Santosh Kumar, NIDM
- Dr. Sekhar L. Kuriakose, Member Secretary - KSDMA
- Dr. C.T. Aravindakumar, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Nirmala College, Nattam
- Sarbjit Singh Sahota, Disaster Risk Reduction Specialist, UNICEF
- Dr. K.B. Valsalakumari (Rtd), Former Principal Secretary, Govt of Kerala, Former Executive Director, Kudumbashree
- Prof. Vinod C. Menon, Former Member, National Disaster Management Authority
- Mr. Nawal Prakash Mahajan, Joint Advisor, CDF, Kerala
- Vikrant Mahajan, CEO, Sphere India
- Fr. Saji Joseph, Asst. Bishop, Department of Social Work, Loyola College of Social Science
- Ravi P, Senior Programme Associate, Nutrition Co-ordinator Kerala, WFP

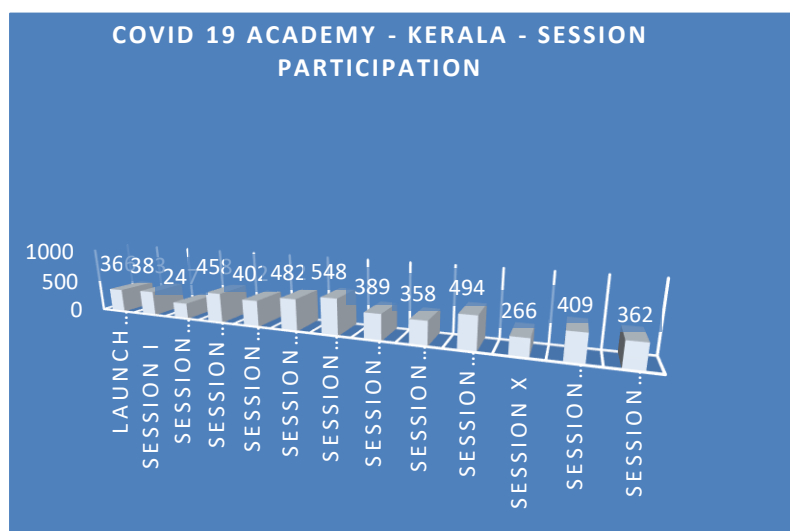
This initiative is part of a series of training sessions delivered in Malayalam organized by Sphere India in association with Kerala State Disaster Management Authority and Kudumbashree. The Kerala academy will have twelve technical sessions starting from 29 September covering diverse topics delivered through online platform (cisco webex).

Tuesday, Sep 29, 2020 | 11:00 am to 01:00 pm

Join on WEBEX platform: <https://tinyurl.com/y4dulta> Meeting number: 326 864 2558; Password: Qlwha73p38

Contact: +91 9746649929 Sign language interpretation is available for all sessions Participation certificate will be issued for all technical sessions

Supported by: World Health Organization, UNICEF, WFP, HCL FOUNDATION



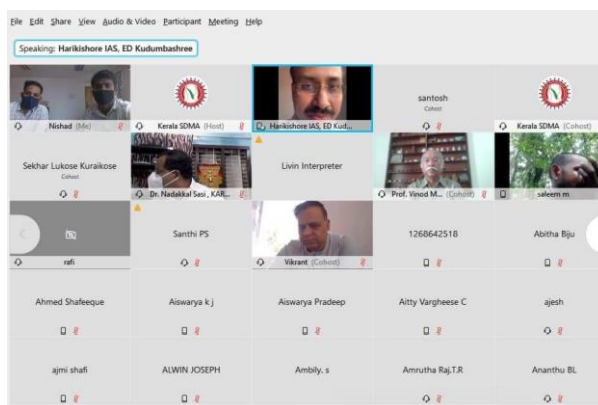
webinar series. In addition, officials from state disaster management authority and District disaster

Over five thousand participants, including government officials, officials from Local Self Governments, officials from Kudumbashree, Apta Mithra volunteers, Civil defense volunteers, Sanadhasena volunteers and students from various academics, and representatives from research institutes, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) Inter Agency Groups joined the

management authorities also took part in the programme. According to feedback from participants, the webinar was helpful for them to gain new knowledge and awareness on Disaster Risk reduction in the context of covid 19 pandemic. The webinar was also successful in providing both conceptual and policy guidelines with practical experience from both state and national experience.

The Webinar series discussed the following topics under twelve sessions:

Throughout the webinars there was engagement with questions and discussion. Additional questions on the topics specific to the participants' plants were also asked following the webinars. Post webinar support on each of the webinar topics was offered to participants, all webinar presentation materials were uploaded in covid academy website. The webinar format was a success and the timeframe of 1.5 – 2 hours appeared to be enough time to allow facilitation of discussions and cover the session theme. Session themes are as follows;



- Risk Communication & Community Engagement during Covid-19
- Personal Protection of frontline workers during Covid 19
- Mental Health and Psycho social Issues during Covid 19
- Understanding Gender, Gender Mainstreaming and Addressing GBV in Humanitarian Action
- Role of Civil Society and CBOs (CDS,ADS,NHG) in the Covid 19 Preparedness and Response
- Disaster Planning ; State District & LSG plans
- School Safety
- PM's ten point Agenda for DRR
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Climate change and extreme events
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction

Registrants and attendees came from a broad cross The below table outlines the topics covered in each webinar as well as the number of registrations and attendees at each webinar.

Session	Date	Session Title	Resource Person	No. of registration	No of Participants	Webex video recording link (password: K@academy123)
	29 September 2020	Launch Session		No registration	366	Click Here
1	30 September 2020	Risk Communication & Community Engagement during Covid-19	Dr. Aneesh, Govt Medical College, Trivandrum,	636	383	Click Here
2	01 October 2020	Personal Protection of frontline workers during Covid 19	Dr. Ratheesh K H, Govt Medical College, Trivandrum,	327	247	Click Here

3	03 October 2020	Understanding Gender, Gender Mainstreaming and Addressing GBV in Humanitarian Action	Dr. B Valsalakumari IAS (Ret.), Former Principal Secretary, Govt. of Kerala	103	458	Click Here
4	05 October 2020	Mental Health and Psycho social Issues during Covid 19	Dr.Kiran P S, State nodal officer, Mental health programme, Govt. of Kerala	569	402	Click Here
5	07 October 2020	Role of Civil Society and CBOs (CDS,ADS,NHG) in the Covid 19 Preparedness and Response	Annie George, CEO, Bedrock	684	482	Click Here
6	09 October 2020	Disaster Planning ; State District & LSG plans	G. Padmanabhan, Former Emergency Analyst, UNDP	795	548	Click Here
7	12 October 2020	School Safety	<i>Hari Kumar</i> Regional Coordinator for South Asia, Geo Hazards.	658	389	Click Here
8	14 October 2020	PM's ten point Agenda for DRR	JaimonUthoop , Policy Specialist, SDGs, UNDP	485	358	Click Here
9	16 October 2020	Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Dr. Joy Elaman, Executive Director, KILA	659	494	Click Here
10	17 October 2020	Climate change and extreme events	Dr. M.G Manoj Scientist, Cochin University of Science and Technology,	332	266	Click Here
11	19 October 2020	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)	Prof. Vinod . C. Menon, Former Member , NDMA	540	409	Click Here
12	21 October 2020	Disability Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction	Dr.MuhamedAsheel, Executive Director, KSSM	458	362	Click Here

Webinar Attendance

Kerala Academy has hosted a total of 12 webinar. The total number of people who have participated in all is 5164, 6246 people pre-registered for the webinars, so participant rates were approximately 83 % of those who registered. According to the attendee reports, webinar and broadcast attendees were from all 14 districts of the state.

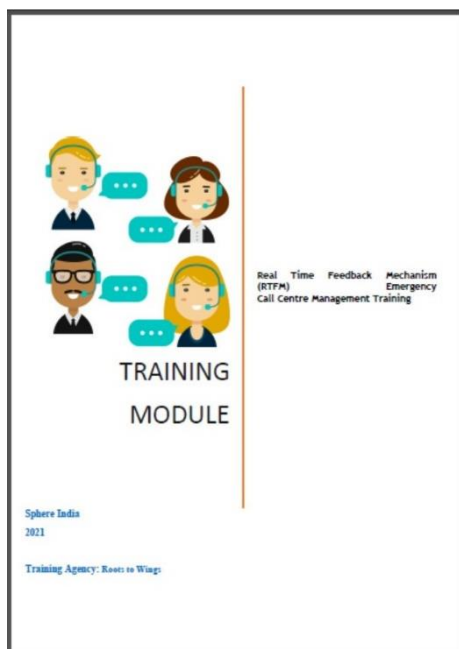
Activity No III; Real Time Feedback Mechanism (RTFM) :

Capacity building support to District Emergency Operation Centers

As a part of commitment by humanitarian actors and organisations to use power responsibly and ensure that communities are meaningfully involved in decisions that impact their lives, Real time Feedback mechanisms play a key role in transpiring issues and challenges as well as concerns and recommendations in an emergency response or recovery program. The Inter agency call centre approach ensures that vulnerable people in India can voice their concerns and access vital information and assistance in times of need, including returnees and those impacted by war and natural disasters, through a simple method. The focus shall be on ensuring a high quality of transparency and accountability in humanitarian response.

The existing system of feedback mechanism in Kerala works during the pre-disaster, disaster and post-disaster phase. The post-disaster feedbacks amount to majority of the responses received. The needs are received through toll free number 1077, postmails, online portal, etc. During the disaster organizations like IAG assist in the feedback mechanism by attending calls on reliefs, needs, etc. Rescue operations are also conducted using this mechanism. Pre-disaster phase is dealt with trainings given to volunteers. The complaints are received by different administrative bodies through written complaints and are passed to higher

administrative bodies. Disaster management committees and LSGs helps the community in raising complaints and needs as well. During Kerala floods, 2018 volunteers were able to help the district administration during the disaster phase at the call centres. Concerns and doubts on interlinking the existing system with new features were also raised during the discussion. IAGs and volunteer groups aided in addressing the concerns and needs of multi-linguals during the disaster. Experiences about Trivandrum EOC dealing the calls and giving psycho-social support were also shared. Shifting of call centres from EOC to new centres with volunteers and health department which were specifically dealing with Covid-19 related issues. The evolution of EOC into a system dealing the needs and giving support to the affected community was observed in Trivandrum. The HAM radio system was also established at the centres according to the situation and need.



Actions taken

- 1) Consultation meeting with KSDMA and IAG member organisations held on 15 February 2021
- 2) Sphere India in partnership with KSDMA developed Training module for Emergency Call center. The technical support was provided by 'Roots to Wing', an organization working in the field of Call center training and capacity building. The module can access [CLICK HERE](#)

- 3) Training to District emergency operation center officials held on 12 April 2021. Officials from all 14-district participated in the session.
- 4) Volunteer (multi linguistic call center service) data base [CLICK HERE](#)

In the second phase it is proposed to conduct capacity development training in association with 14 district IAGs to support multi linguistic call center service during emergency.

Activity No IV; Webinar ‘ Back to School’

‘Back to school’ Technical session in association with KSDMA and IAG Kerala to parents, teachers and other education workers held on 10 October 2021. The webinar was facilitated by Indu V, Architect, KSDMA and the session was taken by Dr. Anish , Medical college, Thiruvananthapuram.



Activity No V; Webinar on International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) for Inter Agency Groups (IAGs) on October 13th, 2021.

The webinar was facilitated by Mr Vijeesh P from Sphere India, and the session was taken by Job Zachariah, Chief, UNICEF office for Chhattisgarh

Civil society organizations which are part of the Inter Agency Groups, students, LSGD DM plan coordinators, officials from Virtual cadre, etc. were present for the webinar which focused on the importance of the cooperation among different stakeholders in the areas of disaster risk reduction. Since 1989, the United Nations has been celebrating October 13th as the International Day for Disaster reduction. Each year, the focus has been on one of the seven targets of the Sendai Framework agreed by UN Member States at a World Conference on DRR in Sendai, Japan. This year's theme is 'International Cooperation for Developing Countries to reduce their disaster risk and disaster losses'.

There is an increasing rise in the need of taking up scientifically and efficiently the disaster related activities



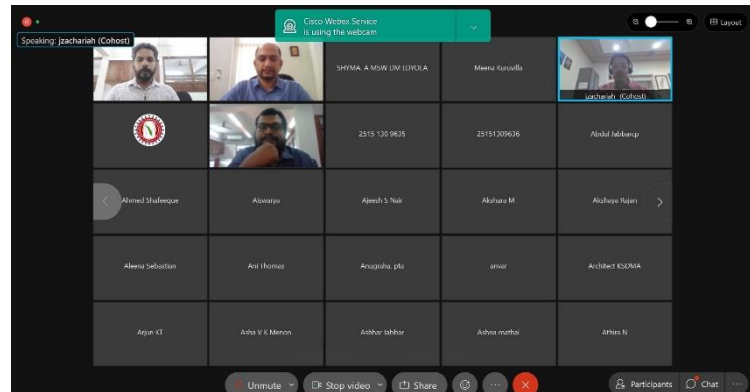
International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2021
Webinar for IAGs, NGOs & Civil Society Partners

Organised by
Kerala State Disaster Management Authority & UNICEF

13th October 2021 | 2:30 pm

Inauguration  Dr. A. Kowsigan IAS Commissioner, Disaster Management Government Of Kerala	Keynote Address  Job Zachariah Chief of UNICEF Chhattisgarh	
IDDRR Theme 2021 - International Cooperation for Developing Countries to reduce Disaster Risk and Disaster Losses		
Welcome Address  Joe George State Project Officer KSDMA	Vote of Thanks  Pradeep G S Hazard & Risk Analyst KSDMA	Moderator  Vijeesh P Sphere India
Meeting Details Platform – CISCO Webex Meeting number: 2515 130 9635, Password: Abcd		

such as mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery, etc. training and preparation in this regard is also to be encouraged at different levels starting from grass-root level to international levels. The webinar along the followed open discussion explored the different ways in which various stakeholders like IAGs can be participated in the activities related to the current issues. A thorough discussion on the school reopening in the context of COVID-19 scenario was also carried out as part of the webinar. Roles and responsibilities of general public, front line workers from various civil society organizations, etc. in the upcoming school reopening was also discussed.



Mr. Job Zachariah from UNICEF took a detailed session on the theme of this year's International day for Disaster Risk Reduction, Basic concepts related to the Disaster Risk reduction, and the importance of the Disaster Risk Reduction related interventions in the context of school reopening in Kerala.

Highlights from the Open discussion

- The urgency of organizing field level interventions like meetings which can reduce the anxiety of the parents related to the reopening of schools. Rev. Fr. Xavier from Alappuzha shared his experience of utilizing the community radio as a tool to reach out to people in eradicating the anxiety. They conduct radio sessions on each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in which experts in the field of health communicate with the general public. Dr. Pratheesh C Mammen identified the need of awareness of parents are a space for intervention by various IAGs in the form of conducting online awareness webinars for parents.
- Adolescent children are facing different kind addictions and mental health related issues. A converged intervention from the IAGs as well as the Excise officials has to be made urgently to cope up with this challenge that the society is facing. Support from the government side in organizing in tackling the addiction among the teenagers and their mental health issues should be prioritized. Joint meeting of IAGs with education and health departments can be conducted in order to plan, and implement the intervention.
- Safety of children during the reopening of schools should be prioritized, and proper communication regarding the same must be channelized through PTAs at the school level, and through IAGs at Panchayat levels.
- The presence of the representatives from the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) at various meetings with the different stakeholders such as head of the institutions, teachers, etc. is encouraged.
- The convergence of the IAGs and the Local Self Governance Institutions in tackling the anxiety of the parents regarding the reopening of schools has to be considered urgently.

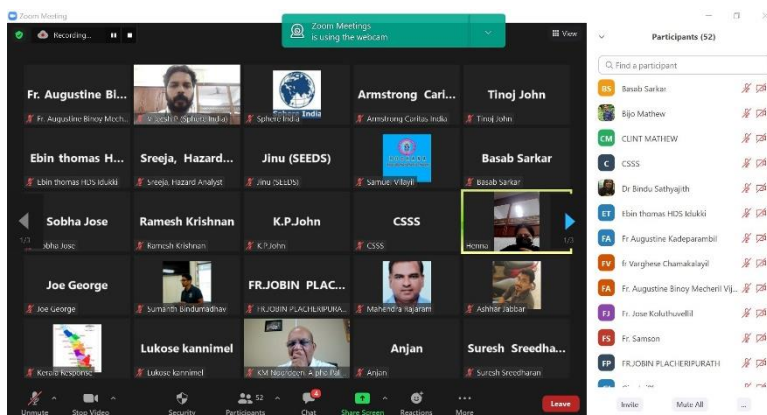
Activity No V; Emergency IAG Coordination

Kerala Rainfall Situation - Emergency Inter-Agency Coordination Meeting

17th October 2021, 03.0 PM onwards

Platform: Zoom

Kerala is facing heavy rainfall since 13th October . As a result, major landslides occurred at Kootickal village in Kottayam district killing 9 people, and Kokayar in Idukki district. The IMD had earlier issued a red alert in Pathanamthitta, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur and Palakkad. On 17th October. the IMD has declared a yellow alert in 11 districts of Kerala. Therefore close monitoring is essential for the alerted district in the coming days. At this crucial time, an Emergency IAG meeting of the IAG member organizations in four districts; Idukki, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam and Alapuzha was held on 17 October at 3 pm



Agendas are as follows;

1. District level updates on the status of IAGs and Actions planned
2. District level IAG Emergency preparedness meetings
3. Discussion on the Capacity and resources available for response
4. Way forward

Though Member Secretary in charge, KSDMA was expected to chair the meeting, due to official emergency, he assigned State Project Officer, KSDMA to convene the meeting in his absence. The discussion was initiated and moderated by Dr. Pratheesh C. Mammen, State project coordinator, Unicef. Mr. Vijeesh P, Coordinator, IAC-Kerala, Sphere India welcomed the participants and invited Mr. Baiju G, Administrative Manager, KSDMA to share the current situation in Kerala, where he appreciated the goodwill of the organisations to work together with government of Kerala to provide relief to victims. The meeting was co facilitated by Mahendra Rajaram, Disaster Risk and Resilience Officer, Unicef & Dr. Henna Hejazi, Sr. Manager Sphere India. NGO heads of 61 organisations , District level Hazard analysts, KSDMA, LSG plan coordinator, KILA , representatives of voluntary organisations participated in the meeting.

Emergency Inter-Agency Coordination Meeting – Idukki (Jointly organized by Idukki DDMA, IAG & Sphere India)

26th October 2021, 11.00 AM onwards

Platform: Online, Zoom

Idukki received heavy rainfall since 15th October 2021 which resulted in flooding and landslides. Rescue operations were conducted by NDRF, Fire force and CSOs. The DDMA conducted regular emergency meetings from 16th October along with the line departments. With the high impact due to rainfall situation, DDMA Idukki



convened IAG Emergency Coordination Meeting for a coordinated response among government and NGOs on 26th October at 11:00 AM.

Agenda are as follows:

- Overview of the situation in Idukki district due to heavy rainfall impacts,
- Stock of updates from IAG/NGOs on response and relief conducted and planned,
- Unified Response Strategy
- Way Forward

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Shyju P Jacob, ADM Idukki. Mr. Rajeev T R, District Hazard Analyst, welcomed the participants. The ADM appreciated the goodwill of the organizations to work together with the District administration to provide relief to victims. The meeting was co facilitated by Siby Thomas, IAG Convenor and Mr. Midhun P. Chandrababu, Program Coordinator, Sphere India. 23 Members from 15 NGOs participated in the meeting.

Emergency Inter-Agency Coordination Meeting – Kottayam (Jointly organized by Kottayam DDMA, IAG & Sphere India)

29th October 2021, 02.30 PM onwards

Platform: Online, Zoom

According to Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Kerala received 567 mm rain against normal fall of 290 mm between October 1 and 28 and half of this came in just two days, October 15 and 16, which caused massive landslides and flooding in Kottayam. The district administration conducted emergency meetings with line departments and conducted field visits to assess the situation and provide relief to the affected community. Rescue operations were conducted by NDRF, Fire force and the local community. With the high impact due to rainfall situation, DDMA Kottayam convened online IAG Emergency Coordination Meeting for a coordinated response among GO – NGO's on 29th October at 2:30 PM.

Agenda

- Overview of the situation in Kottayam district due to heavy rainfall impacts,
- Formation of IAG Executive Committee for one year
- Stock of updates from IAG/NGOs on response and relief conducted and planned,
- Unified Response Strategy
- Way Forward

The meeting was chaired by ADM Kottayam, Ms. Jinu P. Rose in the absence of District Collector. The ADM welcomed the participants and appreciated the goodwill of the organizations to work together with the District administration to provide relief to the affected community in coordinated manner. The meeting was co facilitated by Ms. Athulya, Hazard Analyst, Mr. Ani Thomas LSG DM Plan Coordinator and Mr. Midhun P. Chandrababu, Program Coordinator, Sphere India along with participation from 12 NGO Members.

Emergency Inter-Agency Coordination Meeting - Pathanamthitta (Jointly organized by Pathanamthitta DDMA, IAG & Sphere India)

23rd October 2021, 03.30 PM onwards

Platform: Conference Hall, Pathanamthitta Collectorate



Pathanamthitta received heavy rainfall since 11th October which resulted in flooding affecting 30 out of the 54 panchayats. More than 8000 houses were flooded and 150 camps were opened across the district. Rescue operations were conducted by NDRF, Fire force and fishermen teams and rescued more than 1500 people. The DDMA conducted regular emergency meetings from 16th October along with the line departments. Dam management meetings were conducted on 16th – 19th October. With the high impact due to rainfall situation, DDMA Pathanamthitta convened IAG Emergency Coordination Meeting for a coordinated response among NGO's at District Collectorate on 23rd October at 3:30 PM.

Agenda are as follows;

1. Overview of the situation in Pathanamthitta district due to heavy rainfall impacts,
2. Stock of updates from IAG/NGOs on response and relief conducted and planned,
3. Unified Response Strategy,
4. Way Forward

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Divya S. Iyer, District Collector. Deputy Collector, Mr. T. G. Gopakumar welcomed the participants and appreciated the goodwill of the organisations to work together with the District administration to provide relief to victims. Mr. Siji M Thanachan, Senior Clerk, who worked as a Chief Manager of SDMA and SEOC, shared the history of IAG activities and its concepts. Importance of identifying the needs of affected population before response were shared during the meeting. The meeting was co facilitated by Mr. John Richard Thomas, District Hazard Analyst along with Ms. Sreenidhy Ramachandran, LSG DM Plan Coordinator and Mr. Midhun P. Chandrababu, Program Coordinator, Sphere India. 17 Members from 14 NGOs including international organization like Oxfam India, participated in the meeting.

Emergency Inter-Agency Coordination Meeting – Alappuzha (Jointly organized by Alappuzha DDMA, IAG & Sphere India)

26th October 2021, 03.00 PM onwards

Platform: Online, Zoom

Alappuzha received heavy rainfall since 15th October which resulted in flooding affecting 4 Taluks of the district. Several road were submerged under floodwater and houses inundated. The inundation caused damage to harvest ready crops and led to agricultural damage. Damage to livestock, interruption in livelihood of the community were reported from several areas in the district. Emergency meetings were conducted by the district administration with line departments for preparedness and response activities. With the high impact due to rainfall situation, DDMA Alappuzha convened an online IAG Emergency Coordination Meeting for a coordinated response among NGO's on 26th October at 3:00 PM.

Agenda are as follows;

1. Overview of the situation in Pathanamthitta district due to heavy rainfall impacts,
2. Stock of updates from IAG/NGOs on response and relief conducted and planned,
3. Unified Response Strategy,
4. Way Forward

The meeting was chaired by A. Alexander, District Collector. The District Collector welcomed the participants and appreciated the goodwill of the organizations to work together with the District administration to provide relief to victims. The meeting was facilitated by Muhammed Shalikh N, LSG

DM Plan Coordinator and co-facilitated by Mr. Midhun P Chandrababu, Program Coordinator, Sphere India along with participation from 9 IAG Member organizations.

Activity No VI; Joint Disaster Needs Assessment – Kerala 2021

Kerala was hit hard by a succession of disastrous floods and landslides in 2018 and 2019, resulting in a large number of deaths and extensive economic, social, and infrastructure damage. Kerala was once again plagued by excessive rain in October 2021, which caused flooding and created a series of landslides. The maximum rainfall reported was 347 mm in Mundakayam, Kottayam district, and 304.5 mm in Peermade, Idukki district, on that day. Floods, landslides, and debris flow wreaked havoc in Kottayam, Idukki, and Pathanamthitta districts.

While the impact was considerable across the various sectors, the immediate requirement of damage assessment to the productive sectors and the public infrastructure was completed by the respective departments. The more nuanced damage and loss assessment in the social sectors was planned as a joint venture between Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, Government line Departments, UNICEF, Sphere India and the Inter Agency Groups (IAG).

The Joint Disaster Needs Assessment (JDNA) -Kerala is designed to assess the impacts of the disaster in six social sectors based on the available data with different departments and also through the field visits by sector level experts to the affected population/area. This assessment will build on initial and



detailed sector damage assessments undertaken by the state government and the data collected by other agencies and civil society groups. Accordingly, state-level orientation for sectoral experts was held on 16th November, followed by field visits to the disaster-affected districts. The draft report has released for consultation. The field assessment team consists of experts from six-line departments, IAG member organizations and UNICEF & Sphere India. The process



includes (i) analysis of pre-disaster baseline data to compare with the post-disaster condition to (ii) assess the disaster impacts and to (iii) determine or suggest the overall recovery and coordination strategy. Conducted through sector-level expert teams, the JDNA methodology combines quantitative data with qualitative information to analyze and to assess the social and economic impacts of the disaster from the community level to the state level. Under the IAG system, 23 experts from 13 NGOs were identified and their expertise was applied to JDNA exercise.

Social Sectors; Child Protection, Education, Food and Nutrition, Gender, equality and social inclusion, public health, WASH and other cross cutting issues were studied in the four affected districts of Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam and Idukki: Four Multi-sectoral teams were formed with representatives from: Government departments such as Department of General Education, Social Justice Department (SJD), Women and Child Development Department (WCD), Health and Family Welfare Department, Scheduled Caste Development Department (SCDD), Scheduled Tribes Development Department (STDD), Kerala State Civil Supplies Department and Department of Panchayats (under LSGD), Inter - Agency Groups, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), UNICEF, Sphere India. The field assessment teams visited affected areas, relief camps, anganwadis, PHC/ CHC etc. and held interactions with various stakeholders such as affected people, elected representatives, District Collector, officials of line departments, Kudumbashree and CSOs. Despite the fact that the JDNA was only for the social sectors, the damage to the infrastructure in the sectors analysed was also collected from the line departments. Because losses in the social sector are difficult to evaluate, the Study team concentrated on the impacts rather than the losses.