

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for

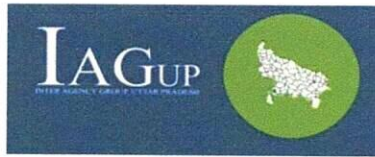
Strategic Partnership

Between



Sphere India

And



Uttar Pradesh Inter-Agency Group

And



Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (the "MoU") is entered into as of **23 November 2023** by and between

Sphere India, Flat No. 123, Sector 37, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh, 201303, a National Coalition of Humanitarian Development and Resilience Actors in India. The strategic outreach of 155 full members includes key nodal organizations from UN, INGOs, National NGOs, CSR, Academic Institutions, Sector Networks, Expert Individuals, and State IAGs/Networks.

AND

Inter Agency Group- Uttar Pradesh, a coalition of of CSOs, NGOs, CSRs and other stakeholders in Uttar Pradesh working together to enhance outreach for emergency preparedness, response, mitigation and resilience, having its office at Picup Bhawan, B Block, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh 226010 (hereinafter called the "UP-IAG" which expression unless repugnant to the context and/or expressly excluded, shall include its successors, administrators and assigns)

AND

Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority, (hereinafter to be referred to as 'UP SDMA'), having its office at Picup Bhawan, B block, Vibhuti Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh 226010, an apex institution in the State for planning, co-ordination and monitoring for disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and management. It was established with aim to build a safer and disaster resilient Uttar Pradesh by developing a holistic, pro-active, multi-disaster, technology-driven and community based strategy for disaster management through collective efforts of all Government Agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations.

WHEREAS this MoU outlines the nature of engagement and sets forth direction for both partners for long-term engagement for better responsiveness to local humanitarian and DRR needs and more strategic use of resources.

WHEREAS Parties shall remain compliant of Statutes, Rules/Regulations of India.

1. Purpose

The parties, whilst recognizing integrity, interests, vision, mission and values of each other, agree to work together, in spirit of partnership, towards achieving common goals and interests with regard to strengthening disaster risk reduction and resilience in the State.

2. No Legal/ Financial Obligations under this MoU

The Parties agree that provisions contained in this MoU do not create any legal obligations. The Terms of this MoU are statements of intent only and are intended only to provide the general principles and key term for initial cooperation, understanding and negotiation between the Parties. This is not a binding agreement between the parties (except for the clauses 6, 8 & 9, as detailed below for the terms agreed expressly in this MoU) and does not contain all matters upon which agreement must be reached in order for any transaction between the Parties to be consummated. This MoU does not constitute an offer, binding commitment or obligation on either Party, nor shall it be construed as creating a contract or deemed to be a contract of any nature and under no circumstances it be construed as legally binding agreement until all parties have negotiated, prepared

and executed separate individual written agreement(s) establishing the binding obligations of the Parties as approved by each Party's management and legal entities.

This MoU lays foundation for long-term strategic partnership - where parties agree to bring their strengths to empower each other. This MoU does not reflect any financial commitment for and from parties. For any and all financial commitments/undertakings/ transactions between the parties, separate agreement(s) shall require to be signed between the parties.

3. Period of the MoU:

This MoU shall remain valid for a period of one year from the date of signing and is subjected to revision annually on mutually agreed consent of the parties 30 (thirty) days before completion of the duration of MoU.

4. Areas of Engagement- roles and responsibilities

Broad objectives of MoU:

- To develop and implement training programs to enhance the capacities of stakeholders involved in disaster management, including government agencies, civil society organizations, local volunteers and local communities, with a focus on DRR, CCA, and emergency response.
- To identify and address gaps in mainstreaming DRR and CCA across various sectors, such as education, WASH, Agriculture, Health, and Education.
- To promote climate-smart and DRR integrated agricultural practices, and community-based disaster risk reduction measures.
- Establish a collaborative platform and consortium of stakeholders, including government agencies, academic institutions, NGOs, and community representatives, to foster innovation, resource sharing, and knowledge exchange.
- To develop plans/guidelines/action plans/SOPs at district/block/gram panchayat level and across all sectors of development.
- Collaborate in research and innovations.

Responsibilities of Parties involved:

1. Sphere India

1.1. About Sphere India

Sphere India is a National Coalition of Humanitarian, Development and Resilience Actors in India. The strategic outreach of 155 full members includes key nodal organizations from UN, INGOs, National NGOs, CSR, Academic Institutions, Sector Networks, Expert Individuals, and State IAGs/Networks. The local outreach is evolving with 805 associate members as Sphere India Locally Empowered Organizations Network (LEON) and 1,80,000 community volunteers (CDRF -Community Disaster Response Force) mapped for varied capacities all over India. Sphere India facilitates multi stakeholder coordination, knowledge & capacity sharing and collaborative advocacy for enhancing accountability to affected and at-risk population.

The network approach of Sphere India addresses systematic gaps at various levels through system strengthening and has brought a significant shift in sectoral approach and multi sector coordination leading to development of guidelines and sector strategies for WASH, Protection, Education, Health, Food & Nutrition and Shelter Committees for Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience Building.

- Sphere India has been working on **Strengthening Governance for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation** by supporting Central and State Government Authorities, Ministries and Flagship programs through technical capacities to meet national and global goals. Sphere India has been providing system strengthening support to Uttar Pradesh through Human Resource Support to State Inter Agency Group for capacity building and coordination initiatives.
- Sphere India in collaboration with *National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)* have developed **Emergency Coordination Handbooks (EPR Guidelines)** for 7 core sectors through a multi-sector and multi stakeholder consultative process for enhanced engagement and consensus on approaches to sectoral emergency programming for disaster preparedness. The 6 Sector trainings were also organized in Uttar Pradesh to capacitate the Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience for multiple stakeholders including CSOs, CBOs, Local Volunteers and Government Officials.
- Identifying the need for a platform in India to ensure knowledge exchange and deliberations specially in response to the emerging needs of frontline workers and Humanitarian actors, who were not clear on their roles and responsibilities, COVID-19 Academy was initiated by Sphere India with support of HCLF along with UNICEF, WHO and NDMA to build capacities of front line workers, civil society volunteers and organizations etc. The academy initiative continues to build capacity and facilitate knowledge exchange among various stakeholders with Expert Resource Persons. Recently, a regional workshop was also organized covering various states across Northern India, which saw participation of UP SDMA officials, UP-IAG and various NGOs and CSOs across the state.

1.2. Proposed Activities

- Develop and finalize the Training Module on DRR/CCA for volunteers, ensuring its effectiveness, relevance, and alignment with national and state guidelines.
- Collaborate with UP SDMA and IAG UP to establish a framework for aggregating volunteers from NCC, NSS, NYKs, and Civil Society Organizations, ensuring their training and engagement in disaster management activities under the leadership of SDMA.
- Conduct outreach programs and awareness campaigns to promote volunteer training and encourage participation from diverse segments of the population.
- Support the development of a comprehensive Training and Capacity Building Strategy for strengthening the WASH system and capacities in Uttar Pradesh, considering both pre and post-emergency scenarios.
- Provide technical expertise and guidance in identifying gaps and challenges in mainstreaming DRR and CCA across sectors such as Education and WASH.
- Contribute to the development of training support packages, good practice documentation, and contextualized solutions for Education and WASH sectors in Uttar Pradesh, including sub-contextualization for Purvanchal and Bundelkhand sub-regions.
- Support the establishment and coordination of a Consortium of Capacity Building in the state, collaborating with relevant stakeholders, sharing resources, and facilitating knowledge exchange.
- Design a strategy for integrating DRR and building resilience in agriculture and farming practices in Uttar Pradesh, through a state level workshop with the objective of developing a State level Action Plan/Roadmap.

2. Uttar Pradesh Inter-Agency Group (IAG)

2.1. About UP IAG and Rationale

Inter-Agency Group, Uttar Pradesh believes that voluntary organizations have a grassroots level reach, yet since they lack effective communication & coordination with the government, maximum benefits have yet not been reaped. Hence, IAG-UP has been intending to connect the voluntary organizations with the state level authorities, line departments and ministries, block and panchayat level officials of the area with the objective to reach out to the unreached for emergency preparedness, response and mitigation.

Last year, a series of meetings took place with the aim of fostering collaboration between IAG, the government, and other stakeholders. Such meetings fostered channels of collaboration and involvement of IAG-UP, voluntary organizations in UP, and various Ministries to increase the focus on flood risk reduction, sustainable development, and the establishment of a network of human resources and knowledge partners in the flood-affected districts in UP.

Uttar Pradesh (UP) recently organized a joint celebration of World Environment Day in collaboration with UP SDMA, IAG-UP, and Save the Children. The event, inaugurated by Honorable Vice Chairman Lt. Gen. R.P Sahi, aimed to raise awareness about environmental issues. Additionally, IAG-UP held a meeting with UP SDMA and the State Coordinator on June 19 to address the heat wave situation in UP, which has resulted in the unfortunate death of nearly 100 people in the Ballia district. Another significant development was the IAG Core Group meeting on April 13 at UP SDMA, where discussions centered around disaster risk reduction collaboration, district-level IAG formation, member organization verification, and proposed initiatives for the upcoming financial year. Taking the initial step towards establishing district-level IAGs, a Whatsapp group comprising conveners from 25 selected/elected districts was created.

The objective is to foster collaborations between grassroots-level voluntary organizations, CSOs, and disaster management agencies, while seeking effective guidance and support from the government in the areas of flood management and preparedness.

2.2. Proposed Activities

- Collaborate with Sphere India and UP SDMA to ensure effective coordination and implementation of the volunteer training program on DRR/CCA, mobilizing volunteers from NCC, NSS, NYKs, and Civil Society Organizations.
- Contribute to the development of the Training and Capacity Building Strategy for strengthening the WASH system and capacities in Uttar Pradesh, considering the specific needs and challenges of the state.
- Participate in the identification of gaps and challenges in mainstreaming DRR and CCA, particularly in education and WASH sectors, and provide inputs for developing training support packages and contextualized solutions.
- Actively engage with the Consortium of Capacity Building, collaborating with other stakeholders to share knowledge, resources, and expertise to enhance disaster management capacities in the state.
- Provide support in the development of strategies to empower farmers, including the dissemination of practical knowledge, tools, and resources for building resilience in agriculture and farming practices.

3. Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (UP SDMA)

3.1. Rationale

The Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (UP SDMA) serves as the primary agency responsible for coordinating and implementing disaster management activities to mitigate the impact of natural and man-made disasters and is guided by the National Disaster Management Policy, which provides a comprehensive framework for disaster risk reduction and response at the national level. UP SDMA ensures a coordinated approach towards disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery, resilience and capacity building in Uttar Pradesh. It actively incorporates the National Disaster Management Policy principles and objectives into its planning and implementation processes.

With the objective of aligning UP SDMA's work with the PM's 10 point agenda on DRR, a strategic pathway needs to be laid in areas such as the integration of technology for effective early warning systems, promoting research and development for disaster management, and enhancing the capacity of response agencies.

Adhering to Agenda number 8 of the Prime Minister's 10 Point Agenda for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), which emphasizes building on local capacity and initiatives to enhance disaster risk reduction, the tripartite arrangement between Sphere India, UP-IAG, and the UP SDMA proves to be a strategic approach. This arrangement allows for the effective implementation of disaster risk management principles, as stated in Agenda number 1, which highlights the need for all development sectors to incorporate these principles.

The UP SDMA brings its expertise in disaster management at the state level macro management facilitating its grass root execution. UP-IAG acts as a platform for coordination and collaboration among various stakeholders involved in disaster response and risk reduction. By collaborating with Sphere India, a humanitarian organization focused on promoting humanitarian principles and standards in disaster response, the UP SDMA and UP-IAG (Inter Agency Group) can tap into their expertise and resources to strengthen local capacity and initiatives for disaster risk reduction. Collective guidance and support in implementing planned activities for DRR and humanitarian response will ensure that the efforts undertaken by the three parties are aligned with best practices.

By leveraging the strengths and resources of each entity, the tripartite arrangement enables the development and implementation of effective strategies and initiatives that imbibe the principles of disaster risk management across all development sectors in Uttar Pradesh.

3.2. Proposed Activities

- Provide leadership and guidance in the implementation of the volunteer training program for Aapda Mitras, volunteers from NCC, NSS, NYKs, and Civil Society Organizations.
- Support the development of the Training and Capacity Building Strategy and Trainings for strengthening the WASH system and capacities.
- Contribute to the identification of gaps and challenges in mainstreaming DRR and CCA and optimize resource utilization.
- Facilitate the development of health protocols/guidelines for non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and nutrition in emergencies, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.
- Provide leadership and guidance for establishment and functioning of the Consortium of

Capacity Building in the state.

- Contribute and provide inputs in designing the Workshop on DRR in Agriculture and other areas with specific view on Climate Change.
- Provide administrative and logistical support for the organization of State Level Workshops/Seminars on DRR in Agriculture and other areas.
- Share inputs in the Final Action Plan/Roadmap for DRR and building resilience in agriculture and farming practices.

5. Confidentiality:

Either party may receive confidential information of the other party in connection with the performance of this MoU. Neither party shall disclose the other party's confidential information to any person or other third-party or make use of such confidential information for its own purposes at any time without the owner's prior written consent; provided, however, that confidential information may be disclosed to government authorities if the disclosure is required by law and the disclosing party has provided the owner notice and, if practicable, a reasonable opportunity to defend against such disclosure.

During the term of this MoU and five (5) years after the termination of such, parties to this MoU shall not disclose to any third party any data set forth and classified as "confidential" or "proprietary" for the purpose of execution of this MoU, unless:

- i. Have obtained written consent from all the other parties;
- ii. Mandated by law or regulations;
- iii. Order by a court of proper jurisdiction as required by the legal procedure; or
- iv. The confidential information has become publicly available, but not due to the violation of the confidentiality obligation as specified under this MoU by employees from any of the parties or its affiliated companies, parent company or related companies.

6. Expenses

Except as specifically set forth in this MoU, each Party will be responsible for its own expenses in connection with all matters relating to this MoU. In no event shall any Party be liable to the other parties for any damages of any kind whatsoever (even if such Party has been advised of the possibility of such losses or damages) based upon or arising out of either Party's performance of or failure to perform the activities described herein, except for any damages arising from any breach of the non-disclosure provisions herein.

7. Dispute Resolution

This MoU has been signed to document the understanding and willingness of working together and to institutionalize the relationship. The MoU has no legal binding on any of the parties. Any dispute or difference in understanding of this MoU shall be resolved through open discussion between head of both organizations.

8. Termination

This MoU can be terminated by either of the party by providing at least 30 (thirty) days' prior notice in writing to the other party.



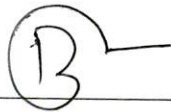
9. Contact Details

Sphere India. Uttar Pradesh IAG and UP State Disaster Management Authority will inform each other in case of any change in their mailing address during the period of engagement so that there is no communication failure while delivering the committed services as part of this Agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each party's authorized signatory has set his or her hand as of the date set forth below.

Signature and seal of the parties

For Uttar Pradesh Inter-Agency Group



Name: Dr Bhanu Pratap Mall
Designation: Convener
Date:
Place: Lucknow, India

For Sphere India



Name: Vikrant Mahajan
Designation: CEO, Sphere India
Date:
Place: Lucknow, India

For Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority



Name: Lt. Gen Ravindra Pratap Sahi
Designation: Vice Chairman
Date:
Place: Lucknow, India