

The [Avoidable Deaths Network's project](#) – led in collaboration with 14 organisations - aimed to identify, map and assess the feasibility of context-specific, key stakeholders to bring them into a **knowledge-exchange network (KEN)** platform to foster i) dialogue and discussions within and across three Indian states; ii) coordination, cooperation, and communication amongst responders for resource-sharing and response at local levels; iii) identify scope for transformative research that combines social, medical and space sciences; and iv) improve the capacity of local stakeholders. Furthermore, we explored the feasibility of the KEN platform under the ambit of the Sendai Framework's Target A, D, E and Sustainable Development Goals 3.8 and 3B-D, which are consistent with the World Health Organisation's Snakebite Envenoming Strategy for Prevention and Control ([Nuñez et al., 2019](#)).

To achieve our objectives, the qualitative methods of stakeholder mapping, interview, focus group discussion, consultation, symposium, and high-level round-table meeting were used. Findings from these methods were triangulated to increase the reliability and validity of our data.

To map stakeholders, we developed two **stakeholder mapping tools** which were implemented from January to June 2023 primarily in Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Assam, with over 10% of the sample taken nationwide. A model of one district, one-sub district and one-village was used.

127 stakeholders were identified and were invited for a virtual consultation on 25 May 2023. There were 21 participants. The stakeholder mapping led to the development of six evidence-based emergent stakeholder categories (local communities, health care, venom and anti-venom, public awareness, emergency services and snake profilers). During the consultation, feedback was given and each category was further refined.



Organised by the [India Hub](#), the [Two-Day Symposium](#) (20 – 21 June 2023) in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, commenced with a Brainstorming Workshop focussing on the nitty-gritty of the context-specific KEN platform and was attended by 41 people. The second day – Experts' Presentations - featured 15 experts who shared their perspectives on the issue of snakebite from the six emergent categories of stakeholders. The Experts' Presentations event was attended by 128 participants in person with 120 views



on the [YouTube livestream](#).

Following the Two-Day Symposium, a half-day [High-Level Round Table Meeting](#) was held on 23 June 2023 to orientate key stakeholders in New Delhi, about this project. The event was organised by Climate Resilient Observing Systems Promotion Council and welcomed 28 participants.

Our seven-month feasibility study, for a pioneering KEN to reduce avoidable snakebite deaths, engaged with more than 100 stakeholders who agreed that there is a need for a KEN which should be piloted in Odisha, where the project was conceived by the India Hub.



A [Proceedings Report](#) was prepared upon request from the Honourable State Minister of Rural Development, Skill Development and Technical Education Odisha, Mr Pritiranjana Gharai, and provides actionable recommendations to reduce avoidable snakebite deaths in Odisha with relevance for other high-burden snakebite states. To date, the project has been featured in [15 news articles](#).

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