

USAID Supported GoI-UNDP Climate Risk Management Project

Report of the inception work of GoI-UNDP Climate Risk Management Project in Urban Areas through Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation

Venue : Hotel Mascot, PMG Junction,
Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala
Date : 14/12/2012
Time : 10.45 AM

1. Introduction

UNDP with financial assistance from USAID is implementing a national flagship programme called “GoI-UNDP Climate Risk Management Project in Urban Areas through Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation” project in six medium cities of India namely; Gangtok, Shimla, Thiruvananthapuram, Madurai and Vijaywada for a period of three years starting from October 2012 to September 2015 within the overall framework of GoI-UNDP-Disaster Risk Reduction Programme.

Before formally launching the project in the State of Kerala, UNDP country office in association with The Department of Revenue and Disaster Management, Government of Kerala has organised a city level Inception Workshop on the 14th of December 2012, to deliberate on the objectives, expected outcomes, activities, implementation mechanism and guidelines. The workshop was presided over by Dr. Nivedita .P. Haran (IAS), Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Kerala / Director IMG Thiruvananthapuram and were attended by thirty (30) other officers representing offices like; UNDP, The Department of Revenue and Disaster Management, Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, LSGD, District Administration, Centre for Earth Sciences Studies, The Department of Environment and Climate Change, HVRA Cell, IMD, Urban Affairs, Kudumbasree, NGO’s like Centre for Environment and Development and Kerala Social Service Forum, Kottayam.



The workshop started at 10.45 am with a self – introductory round and a welcome speech was delivered by Smt. Anjana. M, Assistant Secretary of KSDMA- Kerala State Disaster Management Authority. In her speech, she mentioned about the role played by UNDP team in supporting KSDMA in implanting various disaster management programmes in the state of Kerala. She also spoke on the relevance of Climate Change programme by connecting to the city of Thiruvananthapuram.

2. Opening Remarks



Opening remarks was delivered by Shri G. Padmanabhan, Emergency Analyst and Officer-In-Charge of Disaster Management Unit of UNDP Country Office. In his deliberation he mentioned that UNDP has selected only six medium sized cities of India based on a couple of criteria's like; the cities which showed interest to execute the programme, presence of national flagship programmes - JNNURM and KSUDP and the percentage of fund utilized under the currently running UNDP-DRR programme.

Towards the end of the opening remarks he also shared the implementation methodology of the project.

3. Overview of UNDP's initiatives in Kerala

Shri Ajith Chacko – State Project Officer UNDP made a presentation of UNDP's initiatives in the state of Kerala with special focus on the capital city of Thiruvananthapuram from the year 2007 onwards. He shared that the State of Kerala has received a total fund of Rs. 13.5 crores from UNDP for building the capacities of the Government institutions, local communities and other stakeholders of disaster management. He said that the State of Kerala is now focusing much on preparedness activities rather than just providing mere relief assistance, which itself is a symbol of “Paradigm Shift” in the field of disaster management. He mentioned that UNDP's DRM programme has facilitated the State to establish KSDMA – Kerala State Disaster Management Authority and District Disaster Management Authority in the entire 14 districts of Kerala, State/District EOC's and District DM Plan's. Under DRR programme, the State of Kerala was provided with critical HR support in 5 Municipal Corporation's and three districts and facilitated SDMA/DDMAs to become functional to a certain extent and a shift their focus from response & relief to preparedness/mitigation. He mentioned the outcome of the UNDP's intervention in Kerala which are as follows;



- DRR Staff provided an institutional /technical base for KSDMA
- State DM Policy brought out. State DM Plan Profile – Road map to State Plan developed
- Facilitated preparation of DM Plans at various levels (Districts, Cities and Dept. DM Plans)
- Initiated formation of HVRA Cell in the State
- State Disaster Mitigation Fund created
- Kerala Municipal Building Rules Amendments – Expert Technical Committee formed

- 12'th Plan – Succeeded in getting Plan Funds for SDMA
- Awareness Generation/IEC – A multi-media campaign in association with Manorama. State/District/City levels programmes for creating awareness on IDR Day
- DRR Staff supported 'Surakshaayanam 2012' – International Workshop & Exhibition
- Interventions in Mullaperiar – DRR Team facilitated CBDRM and School safety Programme
- Key Stakeholders such as DDMA Members / HODs of line depts. / Revenue Officials / NGOs & NGOS Staff, NYKS Members, PRI Members / Schools s/ Vulnerable communities sensitized and oriented in DM.

Towards the end of his deliberation, he mentioned the quantum of work done/initiated in the city of Thiruvananthapuram under UNDP-URR programme which is mentioned as below;

- City Disaster Management Cell – First initiative towards DM Preparedness
- Formed DM Coordination Committee - Project Implementation Committee of URR - chaired by Worshipful Mayor, where the Deputy Mayor, Chair persons of all standing Committees, Corporation Secretary, Additional District Magistrate (ADM), Add. Secretary, Corporation Engineer, Revenue Officer, Health Officer and Executive Engineers are members.
- Organised City Level Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction for Councilors
- Implemented UCBDRM - Urban community based disaster management programme in 25 vulnerable wards
- Implemented School Safety Programme in 35 vulnerable schools
- Conducted one day programme on "Safer construction practices" in 4 zones for members of RWA's.
- Conducted Safety Audit of a building of Medical College
- Did Climate Related Disaster Resilience Index in 24 wards of the Municipal Corporation
- Conducted Tsunami mock drill at Valiathura in association with various department and Coast Guard
- Prepared City DM Plan (first draft)

4. Overview of GoI-UNDP-USAID supported "Climate Risk Management in Urban areas through Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation"



Shri G. Padmanabhan, Emergency Analyst and Officer-In-Charge of Disaster Management Unit of UNDP Country Office made a power point presentation focusing on the broad objectives and vision of the new project on Climate Risk Management in Urban areas through Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation. He said that reducing the risks originating out as a result of climate change and climate variation will be the key focus of the project.

At national level a Programme Management Board which was set up under DRR programme with the Chairmanship of Secretary Border

Management, MHA and co-chaired by UNDP will oversee the deliverance and achievements of the project. He said that a Project Steering Committee (PSC) with representatives of MHA, UNDP, USAID and participating states/cities will be constituted and be chaired by NPD to oversee the project management and be accountable for the achievements of anticipated results/outcomes.

At state level, a State Project Steering Committee (SPSC) shall be constituted with senior level officers from the government side and Municipal Corporation. The SPSC shall meet in a quarter period to evaluate and assess the progress achieved and shall ensure inter departmental linkages and coordination to facilitate mainstreaming and achieve sustainability. The new project will be routed through Kerala State Disaster Management Authority for the overall strategic guidance and oversee the actual implementation of project in the city of Thiruvananthapuram. The Municipal Corporation shall open a new bank account in the name of the project possibly in the month of January 2013.

Towards the end of his deliberation, he shared that in many states where Last Mile Connectivity – Early Warning Systems are established are not fully functional and have gaps in the selection of technology. Under the new project focus is also given on early warning system, but as of now UNDP cannot commit huge funds on the head, as the system required for establishing Early Warning is quite expensive. UNDP will help the Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram to design a scientific project and assist in identifying donor/s.

5. Presidential Address



Dr. Nivedita .P. Haran (IAS), Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Kerala / Director IMG Thiruvananthapuram made the presidential address. She started her deliberation by thanking UNDP for continuing its services in the State of Kerala, by selecting the city of Thiruvananthapuram for the new project which focuses on climate change and disaster preparedness. She made some remarkable contribution for the effective implementation of the new project.

She suggested that, the State Project Steering Committee (SPSC) shall have members from the Department of Revenue and DM, LSGD, Environment and Climate Change, Irrigation, PWD, Law, CESS, HVRA Cell, ILDM and Mayor/Secretary Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram. Under SPSC a “Core Project Management Team (CPMT)” shall be constituted under the overall supervision of Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA). Below mentioned are the points suggested by her with regard to the administration of the new project.

- Establishment of a ‘Single Filing System”
- Strategic plan for the project shall be made with monthly, quarterly and yearly targets
- The CPMT shall meet one in a month to evaluate the progress made
- Quarterly meet of the State Project Steering Committee (SPSC) is advisable
- Roles and responsibilities and deliverables shall be neatly written and agreed
- Climate Disaster data base shall be made and decide what data shall be collect (examples like; rainfall, wind speed, precipitation etc.)
- If possible a digitized rain gauge in Thiruvananthapuram shall be established

Towards concluding part of her deliberation, she emphasized that the Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram shall optimally use this as an opportunity and make a scientific City Master Plan including a proper land use plan and a vision document which says, how the city of Thiruvananthapuram look after a decade period.

6. Special Address

Shri T.O. Sooraj, Secretary Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) made a special address. He shared some points which were of an introspective in nature. He started his deliberation by thanking UNDP for selecting the city of Thiruvananthapuram for Climate Risk Management Programme. He said that the project shall have an introspection of what we have, what are the problems likely to be faced, assess the scenario and make a concrete project. There are many projects



which were made and are in bookshelves and not implemented due to the lack of coordination among various sections within the departments and also intra departments/agencies. The city shall evolve a disaster risk management plan and shall make city master plan. He emphasized th importance of people’s participation and involvement for making the new project a success. The ways, means and methods to bring community into the picture shall be meticulously designed. He said, another area where focus shall be given is the institutional strengthening by way of imparting trainings to the officials on the theme of climate change adaptation. In the concluding part of his speech, he requested the key officials of the Municipal Corporation to give a very serious thought on the execution of the new project with an approach of introspection.

7. Special Remarks



Shri E. Devadasan Secretary Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram thanked UNDP for selecting the city of Thiruvananthapuram for the new project on “Climate Risk Management”. In his speech, he mentioned that the Master Plan of Thiruvananthapuram city is prepared and is in the process of approval. He enquired whether experts from UNDP can provide technical comments on the master plan for its updation. He offered all his cooperation and support for the implementation of the new project. As

concluding remarks he said that already the staffs of the Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram are overburdened with their regular jobs/works, thus their assistance in implementing the project will be difficult to ensure. He requested UNDP to provide more HR support in the form of clerical staffs and technical hands for effective implementation of the project.

Dr. K. Santhosh, Director IMD Thiruvananthapuram in his deliberation provided his full support and cooperation for the smooth implementation of the new project. He said that IMD has data of the last 100 + years and can share data with this new project subject to approval from IMD Delhi.

8. Open House Discussion

The open house discussion was facilitated by shri. Chiranjeet Das, National Project Coordinator-Climate Risk Management Programme. His presentation and facilitation was focused on the key activities of the project. Following are the first point discussed in the workshop.

8.1. HVRA – Hazard Vulnerability Risk Assessment

Shri Chiranjeet Das, National Project Coordinator enquired how HVRA activities are presently undertaken in the state of Kerala. Dr. Sekhar .L. Kuriakose- head of HVRA Cell attached to Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) said that 70 wards in the Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram are covered under HVRA research programme. HVRA Cell have cadastral map of the city with foot prints. The disaster data base of the city and of the block are being collected by the staff of HVRA Cell



based on the compensation/relief assistance/ex-gratia released by the Government of Kerala. The Cell has also started the flood returns data of the rivers and stream flowing in Thiruvananthapuram. He

said that the data are being collected from a multi-hazard point of view. At present the Cell is not focusing on anthropogenic disasters and social vulnerabilities. Shri E. Devadasan Secretary Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram said that, data of disasters where compensations are not given also shall be included in the research. Shri. G. Shankar, scientist of CESS – Centre for Earth Sciences Studies said that CESS has a very excellent data bank especially the hazard profile and foot prints of the Thiruvananthapuram city. Dr. Nivedita .P. Haran (IAS), Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Kerala / Director IMG Thiruvananthapuram enquired whether a standard format for all the cities selected for the implementation of the Climate Risk Management programme can be made, but at the same time it shall be a space of customization. She asked Shri Chiranjeet Das, National Project Coordinator to prepare a standard format. She further said that, while doing HVRA of the city, public



land including green land need to be assessed. Shri. Vinod T.R., Programme Director, Centre for Environment and Development, Thiruvananthapuram shared that the concept of disaster shall be defined in a very simple way, which can be easily understood by the community. Data sharing, coordination and networking with agencies are found as a major hurdle. The State Steering Committee of the Climate Risk Management project shall leverage agencies and departments to share data for planning purpose. The new project shall be

people oriented and shall have adequate provisions of training and capacity building programmes. Shri G. Padmanabhan, Emergency Analyst and Officer-In-Charge of Disaster Management Unit of UNDP Country Office enquired, how the Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram are presently benefiting from the service being delivered by HVRA Cell. Dr. Sekhar .L. Kuriakose- head of HVRA Cell as reply, said that one project fellow is attached to the Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram and a disaster data bank is in the process of development. Dr. Nivedita .P. Haran (IAS), Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Kerala said, the Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram shall demand data and its analysis for undertaking strategic planning. Shri E. Devadasan Secretary Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram opined that whatever the data and its analysis part shall be in a readable format easily understood by the officials of the Municipal Corporation.

8.2. City Disaster Management Plan

Second component which was discussed were on the preparation and status of the “City Disaster Management Plan” of Thiruvananthapuram. Shri Ajith Chacko – State Project Officer UNDP said that under UNDP-URR programme a draft City Disaster Management Plan was prepared, which only speaks about the general administration part of the MC, a resource inventory and hazard profile and a history of past disasters. Shri G. Padmanabhan, Emergency Analyst and Officer-In-Charge of Disaster

Management Unit of UNDP opined that the present CDMP can be reviewed, gaps need to be identified and it can be updated with all technical inputs. Dr. Nivedita.P.Haran (IAS), Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Kerala requested UNDP country officials to liaison with MHA and shall ensure that the data of IMD reaches the cities.

8.3. Action plan to strengthen Early Warning

Third component which was discussed were on “Early Warning” and on it’s strengthening part. Shri Chiranjeet Das, National Project Coordinator enquired how early warning is disseminated in the city of Thiruvananthapuram. Do people get warning communication, what is the last mile connectivity established in Thiruvananthapuram. Does early warning issued from the district administration lead to actionable step and evacuation. Shri E. Devadasan, Secretary Municipal Corporation



of Thiruvananthapuram said that at present there is no proper means to disseminate early warning to the community. He requested UNDP to support for the establishment of a better early warning and dissemination system in the Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram. Anjana. M, Assistant Secretary of KSDMA- Kerala State Disaster Management Authority said that after 2004 tsunami VHF radio systems were established in the State of Kerala, but at present the system is not functioning properly due to technical problems of the “repeaters”. At present, revenue officials are sending daily reports as fax messages and some time on mobile.

8.4. Capacity Building

Fourth component which was discussed were on the “Capacity Building and Training part”. Shri Chiranjeet Das, National Project Coordinator enquired how the capacity building is done, what are the methods adopted. Dr. Nivedita .P. Haran (IAS), Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Kerala said that the conventional and traditional way of class room lectures type trainings shall have to be avoided and a more interactive and participatory method of training curriculum need to be developed.

8.5. Mainstreaming DRR and CCA in sectoral programmes

Fifth component which was discussed were on the “Mainstreaming DRR and CCA in sectoral programmes”. Shri Chiranjeet Das, National Project Coordinator enquired whether any efforts were taken by the Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram to integrate disaster management in the development plan and is there any example of development leading to disaster. Shri E. Devadasan, Secretary Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram said under RAY programme some efforts are taken, but it is not from the DRR point of view. Dr. Nivedita .P. Haran (IAS), Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Kerala said that, in 1980’s the city of Thiruvananthapuram was not affected by urban floods, the district administration and the Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram used

to clean the storm water drainage before the onset of monsoon. But after 1980 – 85, the scenario has changed, many new development project were undertaken, high rise buildings were constructed in the city, without considering the land use pattern, natural drainage systems were blocked, resulted in urban flooding in the city of Thiruvananthapuram.

8.6. Knowledge Management

Fifth and the last component which was discussed were on “Knowledge Management”. Shri Chiranjeet Das, National Project Coordinator enquired how knowledge management is done in the state of Kerala. The participants share that, data sharing among various departments and agencies are not smoothly done. A new and better way of knowledge sharing system and a new platform need to be evolved.



9. Closing Remarks

Shri G. Padmanabhan, Emergency Analyst and Officer-In-Charge of Disaster Management Unit of UNDP in his closing remarks said the new project on “Climate Risk Management Project in Urban Areas through Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation” will be formally launched in the month of January 2012. He requested the Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram to make preparatory work for a smooth landing of the project.

10. Decisions Taken

- The project will be launched in January 2013
- Constitute State Project Steering Committee (SPSC)
- Opening of bank account for the project in a nationalized bank
- Two additional technical staffs (multi-tasking job) can be taken for the project

11. Vote of Thanks

Shri. Ramesh Krishnan, Programme Coordinator, UNDP-URR thanked all the participants who actively participated in the half day workshop with valuable inputs and comments. The workshop ended at 1.40 PM.

-End-