



Urban Disaster Risk Reduction
(Interventions in Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation)



Prepared by

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Kerala State Disaster Management Authority

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Introduction & Background

According to a study by the United Nations in 2007, by 2030, 40.7% of Indians will be urban dwellers. Urbanisation in Indian cities is accelerating at a high pace and in cities, it is very much inevitable. The contemporary development paradigm, marked by recklessness and indiscriminate use of Nature, gives rise to the risk of various disasters which wreaks havoc on life, property, and the environment. All of this is being accelerated by climate change. All of this emphasizes the disaster response capacity of the city.

The Climate Risk Management Project in Urban Areas through Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Program has been implemented in the Thiruvananthapuram Municipality since 2010 as a joint venture between the Government of India, USAID, UNDP, KSDMA and Thiruvananthapuram Corporation. This project was implemented in selected ten cities in India which included Thiruvananthapuram city. This project was implemented in the State by Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA). Under this project, the following preparedness & mitigation activities were implemented. The uniqueness of these programs is that these activities can be replicated in the remaining municipal corporations and municipalities in the State.

Disasters that affect the city

- Flood
- Drought
- Lightning
- Earthquakes
- Fire
- Biological Hazards
- Industrial Hazards
- Communicable Diseases
- Mass Gathering Events

The following are the major activities carried out under this project.

1. City Disaster Management Plan
2. Ward Disaster Management Plans
3. Hazard & Vulnerability Assessment

4. Community Based Disaster Risk Mitigation Programme
5. Early Warning Systems Plan
6. Training for Standing Committee Chairpersons & Councillors
7. City Disaster Management Committee & Cell

Captured in detail

1. City Disaster Management Plan

Proper planning must be done to avoid disasters in any city. In that respect, the City Disaster Management Plan is very important. Under this initiative, Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation prepared this document with the support from KSDMA & UNDP. The City Disaster Management Plan establishes the framework that ensures the City is prepared to deal with any form of hazards. This document was prepared after a series of consultations and meetings and this has been approved by the Thiruvananthapuram District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA). This document also identifies disaster risk areas including scientifically prepared maps were included.



Link - <https://sdma.kerala.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/TVM-CDMP-2016.pdf>

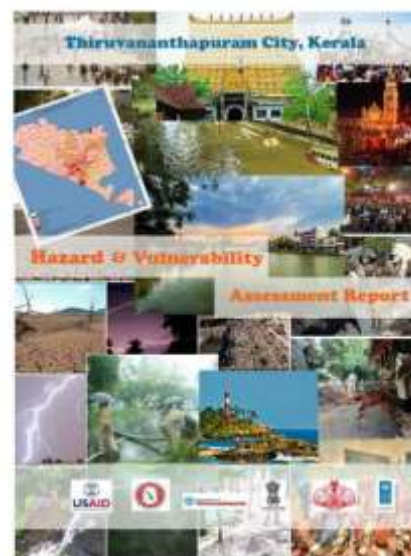
2. Ward Disaster Management Plans

Community is the first responder in the case of any disaster. There are 100 wards in Thiruvananthapuram municipality. In light of the disasters occurring in these wards, a ward disaster management plan has been prepared with available local level maps. A list of resources in each ward and details of essential items are given in the document. These plans were prepared after conducting ward level consultations and training the volunteers for disaster response. Emergency Response Teams were also formed and trained in these wards. These plans were made in the years 2016 & 2017.



3. Hazard & Vulnerability Assessment

The Hazard and Vulnerability Assessment of the Thiruvananthapuram city was carried out by State Emergency Operation Centre in the year 2015. The scope of the report is limited to the assessment of hazards and vulnerabilities of Thiruvananthapuram City to apparent disasters. The study includes an analysis of various hazards and vulnerabilities in the city and also includes various thematic maps that take into account the various disasters that occurred in the city. Vulnerability of the building was assessed by rapid visual screening method. Also, the recommendation is provided at the end of the report.



Link - <https://sdma.kerala.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/HVATvm2016.pdf>

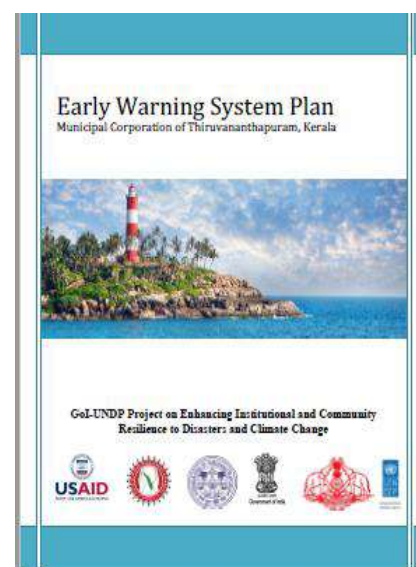
4. Community-Based Disaster Risk Mitigation Programmes

Communities are the first to experience the effect of any disaster and the first to respond to disasters too. CBDRM programme provides a systematic approach to enhance the resilience of the communities to prepare themselves against disasters.



5. Early Warning Systems Plan

Early Warning Systems (EWS) are well recognized as a critical life-saving tool for floods, droughts, storms & cyclones. Early warning is a major element in disaster risk reduction. It prevents loss of life and reduces the economic and material impact of disasters. To be effective, early warning systems need to actively involve the communities at risk, facilitate public education and awareness of risks, effectively disseminate messages and warnings and ensure there is a constant state of preparedness. With the support of the 'GoI-UNDP project on



Enhancing Institutional & Community Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change’, the Thiruvananthapuram municipal corporation has prepared Early Warning Systems Plan for the city.

Link - <https://sdma.kerala.gov.in/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/TVM-EWSP-2016.pdf>

6. Training for Standing Committee Chairpersons & Councillors

For Standing Committee Chairpersons & Councillors in municipalities, various disaster mitigation training was organised under the supervision of the State Disaster Management Authority. Through this program, awareness about disasters was created and necessary decisions were made with respect to enhancing the capacity of the people representatives.



7. City Disaster Management Committee & Cell

Standing Committee for Town Planning is responsible for disaster management at Corporation. To make disaster management continue operating in the municipality and bring it into the mainstream, City Disaster Management Committee & Cell need to be in place. To coordinate disaster relief activities, a City Disaster Management Committee if formed in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation Hon’ble Mayor as the Chairperson. This committee works in collaboration with the District Disaster Management Authority, Thiruvananthapuram.

The above activities can be done in any urban local body in Kerala. Any corporation / municipality in Kerala can carry out the above mentioned activities. For more details, please contact Kerala State Disaster Management Authority or Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation.
