

Government of India-UNDP DRR Programme (2009-12)

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE STATE STEERING COMMITTEE CONSTITUTED UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-UNDP DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR) PROGRAMME (2009-12) HELD ON 11TH MAY, 2011 AT 10.30 AM UNDER THE CHAIRPERSONSHIP OF MS. RAJWANT SANDHU, CHIEF SECRETARY, HIMACHAL PRADESH AT COMMITTEE HALL, HP SECRETARIAT SHIMLA, H.P.

The list of participants is at Annexure – A.

Principal Secretary Revenue Sh. Deepak Sanan welcomed the Chief Secretary and other members of the committee constituted to oversee the implementation of the Gol-UNDP DRR Programme (2009-12). He gave a brief overview of the programme and its implementation and overall picture of other disaster risk reduction initiatives being taken under the 13th Finance Commission funds. After that the SPO gave a detailed presentation about the programme – its aims, objectives, deliverables and outcomes. He also briefed the meeting about the progress of implementation of Annual Work Plan 2010. Thereafter, the agenda items were taken up for discussion:-

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 IMPLEMENTATION OF ANNUAL WORK PLAN (AWP) FOR THE YEAR 2010.

2. The Chairperson reviewed progress of the implementation of the work plans for both the URR and DRR Programmes. The implementation issues were discussed. It was felt by the districts that the implementation would be speeded up once the HR support is provided by the UNDP. It was decided that the UNDP would be asked to provide HR support as envisaged under the programme at the earliest. The implementation agencies were requested by the Chief Secretary to speed up the implementation of the programme and further to ensure the utilisation of funds released to them latest by 30th June. Remaining funds due for the implementation agencies, if any, under the AWP 2011 would be released on receipt of balance funds from the UNDP and the same be utilised by July, 2011. It was also decided to request the NDMA, MHA and UNDP to release the remaining funds of AWP 2010 immediately so that the activities can be implemented timely. It was also stressed that the regular reports be sent to the State HQ in Monthly Qualitative and Quantitative Progress Report and Quarterly Progress Report proforma circulated to the implementing agencies.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2. ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2011.

3. The SSC took note of the AWP 2011 submitted under both the programmes. All the implementing agencies - DDMA's and MC Shimla – were requested to prepared perspective/activity plans for the remaining programme period too so that activities could

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be implemented in a sequential manner for better impact of the programme. The same may be submitted within two months period i.e. by July, 15th. They were further requested to make preparation for the speedy implantation of AWP 2011 so that the funds are utilised fully by 31st December, 2011. It was clarified that if funds are not utilised by the year end, the same are to be returned back to UNDP as per their policy and it would deprive the State of allotted funds.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3. CONDUCTING HAZARD RISK AND VULNERABILITY ANALYSIS (HRVA) OF DISTRICT KANGRA AND SHIMLA CITY

4. The matter was discussed. The Commissioner MC Shimla informed that the PRUDA which was earlier identified for conducting HRVA of Shimla city has not been responding. The fresh proposal for conducting HRVA of Kangra and other districts of State prepared by the HP State Council for Environment, Science, and Technology was placed before the meeting. The Principal Secretary (Revenue) informed the meeting that under the 13th F.C. GIA there is thinking to conduct the HRVA of the entire State. The matter is under consideration and TOR for conducting HRVA would be worked out and decision would be taken thereafter about the implementing/executing agency. This work in Kangra will be dovetailed into the larger frameworks.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4. AWARENESS GENERATION STRATEGY

5. The policy was considered. It was felt that immediately we need to concentrate on awareness of community and other stakeholders through available material, modified where relevant to meet specific context of the State. The printing of the awareness material be done immediately after getting the IEC material approved. The implementing agencies are to ensure the distribution of material so prepared and printed through various means including distribution of the same through Gram Sabha meetings. For this purpose appropriate master trainers be selected to impart training to field level workers who can be deputed to explain the content in such community gatherings.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5. MONITORING ARRANGEMENT AT THE DISTRICT AND MC LEVEL

6. The SSC approved the monitoring arrangement as proposed. The same may be notified.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 GO-NGO COORDINATION

7. The SSC approved the proposal. The implementing agencies i.e. DDMA's and MC Shimla to prepare the database in a standardised manner, share the same with the State HQ and work for GO-NGO coordination as per the NDMA guidelines and the provisions of DM Act, 2005.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7. INTEGRATING AND MAINSTREAMING DRR INTO DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PROGRAMMES.

8. The DRR integration points circulated be followed up with the concerned departments and may be got implemented. The DRR integration workshop be organised immediately so that the matter could be discussed threadbare and more sectors can be identified for integration of DRR.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8. ENHANCING CAPACITY OF VARIOUS STAKEHOLDERS ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, MITIGATION, AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PLANNING – IDENTIFICATION OF TRAINING INSTITUTES

9. The proposal was approved in principle. The Deputy Commandant General Home Guards informed that the 12 District BTCs and one CD Training College are available in the State for imparting practical training in disaster management such as IEC, Search and Rescue (SAR), First Aid and other aspects. These training centres are available for around 5-6 months a year to impart such training to community and volunteers. However, the capacity building of these institutes would be required to cater to the needs of training of community and volunteers in disaster management. He agreed that master trainers could be made available to conduct trainings at other locations also.

10. Special Secretary (Finance) remarked that a large number of deaths take place in our country due to disaster which is a sign of underdevelopment. The most important thing in the context of Himachal Pradesh is construction of safe buildings and lifelines. We need to look into our building bye-laws and survey the safety of life lines against disaster shocks.

11. The Chief Secretary observed that the position on building codes be reviewed immediately. The building bye-laws incorporating multi-hazard resistant features if not already adopted by the Urban Local Bodies should be done immediately. At the same time

training, orientation and capacity building of Government Officers, Engineers, Architects, Masons, Construction Supervisors, Black Smiths etc. be ensured. She also desired that the safety and stability of hospitals is very important. All the Government hospitals upto the CHC level should be got checked for structural stability. Vulnerable buildings must be identified and a proposal to strengthen them must be prepared in a time bound manner. The department of Health was also requested to look into the issue of training of doctors and paramedics in trauma counselling which is one of the most critical areas in post disaster situations.

12. She further stressed the need of training the NCC, NSS, NYKS volunteers and other volunteers in SAR and First Aid through Home Guards and Civil Defence organisation. The Deputy Commissioners should take lead in this regard. The Home Guards can also carry out these training programmes in the field too besides utilising the potential of BTCs and CD Training Centre. The need to build up a cadre of volunteers was emphasised. There is need that every building which houses a large number of people has a safety plan and mock drill is conducted to test and improve that plan. The services of Home Guards may also be utilised for conduct of mock drills.

13. The Chief Secretary further remarked that safety at schools is another important area where we need to look into. The students need to be educated about the Do's and Don'ts for natural hazards like earthquake and fire. They need to be taught practical things and frequent mock drills are required to be conducted in schools. The community also needs to be taught about safety tips.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9. DEVELOPMENT OF TRAINING MODULES AND MANUALS AND OTHER RESOURCE MATERIAL.

14. The Principal Secretary (Revenue) informed that there is a thinking that KAP studies to capture the mindset of the masses and stakeholders be done so that awareness and training programmes can be targeted and designed accordingly. The HRV analysis would also provide us deep insight into the hazard and vulnerability status of the State. This would assist in awareness generation, capacity building for disaster preparedness and risk mitigation action. Therefore, as on today, we would simply go in for the re-printing of the available training material/manuals with very obvious modification that may be required in our specific context. The SPO further informed that the UNDP has accorded permission to go ahead with the printing of the manuals with due acknowledgement to the source. It was therefore decided that the existing training material/manuals would be re-printed. The same may be translated or adapted within a short time frame.

15. The chief Secretary stressed on the need to ensure that entire Disaster Management thinking and programme moves from generalities to specifics. It should not be lost in skimming the surface but actually bring about concrete measurable results in awareness improvement, disaster preparedness and risk reduction. Awareness material, training and capacity building and implementation strategies should ensure meeting this objective.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chairperson and other members.

Special Secretary (Revenue) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh.

Annexure – A

List of Participants

1. Sh. Deepak Sanan, Principal Secretary (Revenue and MPP & P) to the Government of HP.
2. Dr. P C Dhiman, Principal Secretary (Health and Ayurveda) to the Government of HP.
3. Sh. A. N. Sharma, Commissioner, Municipal Council Shimla.
4. Sh. Rajneesh, Special Secretary Finance to the Government of HP.
5. Dr. Nagin Nanda, Director (Environment) and Member Secretary, HP State Council for Environment, Science and Technology, SDA Complex, Shimla.
6. Dr. Amandeep Garg, Deputy Commissioner Mandi.
7. Dr. Sunil Chaudhary, Deputy Commissioner Kinnaur.
8. Sh. Priyatu Mandal, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kangra.
9. Sh. S. R. Sharma, Deputy Commandant General Home Guards, Shimla.
10. D C Rana, State Project Officer-HP, UNDP.
11. Dr. S S Randhawa, Senior Scientific Officer, HP State Council for Environment, Science and Technology, SDA Complex, Shimla.
12. Sh. B S Chauhan, Executive Engineer, Municipal Council Shimla.
13. Ekta Bartarya, Project Support Associate, UNDP.