

Proceedings of the Meeting held with the Representatives of Bal Raksha Bharat (also known as Save the Children) under the Chairmanship of Sh. D.C. Rana, Director cum Ex Officio Special Secretary (Revenue DM) to Govt. of Himachal Pradesh on 11th September, 2024, 11:00 AM in his Office Chamber, Armsdale Building, HP Secretariat, Shimla regarding a proposal on "Rebuilding Lives through Developing a Resilient Model Village".

Following were present in the meeting:

1. Shri Avinash Singh, Director, Program Implementation, BRB
2. Shri Mintu Debnath, Head, Humanitarian & Program Implementation, BRB
3. Shri Dhananjaya Rout, Manager, Program Implementation, BRB
4. Shri Naveen Shukla, Manager, Humanitarian & Program Implementation, BRB
5. Dr. Krishan Chand, Training and Capacity Building Specialist, DMC - HPSDMA

2. At the outset of the meeting, Dr. Krishan Chand, Training and Capacity Building Specialist, DMC - HPSDMA, formally welcomed the Chairman, Sh. D.C. Rana, Director cum Ex Officio Special Secretary (Revenue DM) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, along with representatives from Bal Raksha Bharat (also known as Save the Children).

3. Following this, Shri Mintu Debnath, Head of Humanitarian & Program Implementation, BRB, presented the proposal to the Chair. He briefed that Himachal Pradesh experienced one of its worst natural disasters in a century during July and August 2023. Continuous flash floods and cloudbursts severely impacted Mandi, Kullu, Chamba, and Solan districts. Gram Panchayat Bawasni, in particular, was devastated by landslides and floods, displacing hundreds of families and causing extensive damage to homes, agricultural land, and infrastructure.

4. He further explained that Bal Raksha Bharat, in collaboration with Zee Entertainment, proposes a "Resilient Model Village" for Silh Sunani village in Bawasni Panchayat, Nalagarh block, district Solan. The project, in coordination with the state and district administration, aims to rebuild Silh Sunani village of Gram Panchayat Bawasni as a model of resilience. It focuses on ensuring that the affected communities are better prepared for future disasters by addressing immediate needs, supporting livelihoods, and empowering the local population. This project will pave the way for sustainable development and long-term resilience in the region.

5. Shri Debnath outlined several expected outcomes of the project, including improved living conditions through the provision of transitional shelters, sanitation facilities, and reliable water access. The project also aims to strengthen economic resilience by offering livelihood support and diversification. Additionally, it seeks to enhance the community's disaster preparedness and response capacity, while improving educational and child protection infrastructure to create a safer and more resilient environment for children. Furthermore, the initiative is expected to increase policy support and commitment to disaster-resilient development at the village level.

Based on the presentation and subsequent discussions, the Chair provided the following suggestions and recommendations to Bal Raksha Bharat:

1. BRB should share the project proposal with the District Administration of Solan and seek their cooperation for smooth implementation.

2. While planning for on-ground execution, BRB should consider the recent investigation report and recommendations from the Geological Survey of India regarding the village.
3. It was advised to incorporate vetiver grass for soil erosion prevention and explore bio-engineering techniques.
4. Dr. S.S. Randhawa, Principal Scientific Officer, HIMCOSTE, should be consulted for guidance on the construction aspects of the project.
5. BRB should participate in the SDMA's campaign for International Disaster Risk Reduction Day, focused on promoting safe construction practices, and present their plan for the resilient model village.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



D.C. Rana, IAS

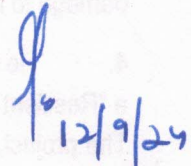
Director cum Ex Officio

Special Secretary (Revenue – DM) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

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Dated: the Shimla September, 2024

1. The Deputy Commissioner cum Chairman, DDMA Solan, H.P
2. Dr. S.S. Randhawa, Principal Scientific Officer, HIMCOSTE.



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