

Report on Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM)

Date: 22nd December 2022

Venue: Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM)

Background of the Consultation

Community-based Disaster Risk Management (DRM) is an approach and a lens through which risk informed development of a community can be viewed. Through the mechanisms, communities that are at risk from disasters, local or general, are able to identify, monitor and address disaster risks to reduce its impact, reduce vulnerabilities, and thereby, enhance their capacities. This process allows localized action by enabling participation and decision making by the community that faces the risk themselves. It also assists in developing a mechanism which can mainstream disaster risk reduction and climate change mitigation actions with developmental actions. This helps in building a resilient community that can respond and adapt to the situation as required.

In this context, GIDM, UNICEF and UNNATI, with support of concern departments, have continuously been working on developing framework, guidelines, training module and model plans to learn, reflect and mainstream CBDRM approach to strengthen resilience at community level. For strengthening community level residence building process, discussion on approach and framework for operationalising Sendai Framework of DRR (SFDRR) Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and localising SDG has to be done with different stakeholders.

In this regard, UNNATI organized one-day Multi-Stakeholder Consultation on CBDRM in collaboration with GIDM and supported by UNICEF on 22nd December 2022 at GIDM, Gandhinagar. Deliberation was held by GIDM in which participants took part in the consultations. Participants' profile comprised of 21 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) partners who are actively engaged in rural development and working with Gram Panchayats on several development issues. Representatives from Government Department, ISRO, IMD also participated in the consultation.

Consultation began with introduction of GIDM by Dr. Chintan Pathak, Asst. Professor & Program Manager, GIDM, he welcomed all the guests and participants and shared the purpose of program of GIDM to strengthen DRR at community level planning and mainstreaming Disaster Risk Governance in the State including school safety and security with a presentation of GIDM.

Kirit Parmar – Chief of Programme Operations, UNNATI

Kirit Parmar shared the purpose of conducting the consultation. When any disaster strikes, community is a first responder. Particularly marginal sections from the community affect the most. In such disaster affected situation, communities have to manage and cope with their available local resources and capacities for weeks on end, until external assistance arrives. In this condition, the process of preparing disaster management plans was helpful to the communities as looking at past experience of 2001 earthquake. Post the 2001 earthquake in Bhuj, Village Disaster Management Plans were made in every Gram Panchayat to prepare a set of capable human resources at the GP level for better disaster response. Eventually, the

concept of School Safety and School Disaster Management Plans were also introduced, realising the importance of keeping children and related infrastructure, such as anganwadis and schools safe. Similarly, the concept of making safe housing stock and public infrastructure safe was also introduced. Lately, there has been increased focus on mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Development Planning, especially at GP level, covering multi-sectoral planning and coordination. Since provisions already exist, the consolidation of these provisions will lead to improving community-level disaster risk management.

Later the session was followed by the introduction of the representatives of different organizations and about their work related to rural development and working with Panchayats.

Special address was given by Binoy Acharya – Director, UNNATI

Following key observations discussed by Binoy Acharya:

We do not have to manage disaster, we have to reduce the risks of disasters, intervention has been done at a large level, but knowledge building in this area is new and recent.

Not India, but whole world has learnt from the past disasters such as super cyclone in 1990 in Odisha, Gujarat earth quake in 2001, and tsunami in 2004. After disasters many interventions took place.

So when Sendai Framework was prepared the first priority was make disaster as priority. When we understand about priority, it means to mainstream disaster in development programs. Earlier experience. Research of IMD and ISRO are important, but community research also is important.

The second thing is that strengthening disaster risk governance at every level. After the Gujarat earthquake, village disaster management plans (VDMP) and village disaster management committee (VDMC) were prepared. So State Disaster Management Plan (SDMP), Taluka Disaster Management Plan (TDMP) are good governance.

The third thing is that investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience. This will help to defeat the disasters. We need to build such resilient community where disaster could be defeated. After such awareness and action, death toll and damage has been reduced.

The fourth thing is that enhancing preparedness for build back better. This shows now action of recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction is in that way that you are better than before.

Odisha and Andhra Pradesh get cyclonic wind often. Earlier these states used to get support from the force for evacuation. Now the Odisha and Andhra Pradesh are good in early warning. Now Odisha has capacity to evacuate more than 2 lakhs people, Andhra Pradesh also has the similar capacity. This has reduced death toll and damage.

We need to improve our understanding on early warning, evacuation and rescue and other development mechanisms, so rescue efforts could be reduced. Looking at urban, lot of works have been done in reconstruction. But we need to create community awareness on disaster

resilient structures while building the structures. Community people should be aware about what is the right structure and what is not the right structure.

One important thing is to bring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in village development plan, so while preparing Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP), it could be prepared plan very well.

Dinesh Patil, Social Policy Specialist, UNICEF, Gandhinagar

Localization of SDGs and opportunity to integrate in GPDP

Dinesh Patil discussed about two things: first, localizing of SDGs and integrating SDGs in GPDP. There is a good scope to localize of SDGs and opportunity to integrate in GPDP. Local community should know what they need to do? They should integrate their plans (what they want to do?) in GPDP.

Every village and District have different requirements, it may be education, health or any requirement. So it is very necessary to do need assessment and based on that priorities for work could be decided. This is called localization of SDGs.

Second this is that integrating GPDP. Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) had formed a committee of experts in 2021. The committee had done research and had prepared a report in which following 9 themes were decided – poverty free village, healthy village, child friendly village, water sufficient village, clean and green village, self-sufficient village, socially secured village, village with good governance and women friendly village. It was observed that these are the common required themes in all the villages. Based on observations and recommendations from the committee, MoPR planned a conference in 2022, and signed an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and put forth in MoU that ministries, communities, civil society organizations (CSOs), Government and private organizations should involve in this development work to achieve these nine themes. MoPR has prepared a guideline and has planned various activities under each theme. Now it is necessary to decide the activities based on the list.

Shri P K Taneja, IAS – Retd, Director General, Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM), Gandhinagar

Special address was given by Shri P. K. Taneja, IAS, Director General, GIDM is associated with GIDM since last 5 years. Mainly he discussed on the ideas of risk informed GPDP and involving Panchayats into disaster management which has very deep thinking align with Sendai Framework.

He emphasized that community should be in the central when we work with the community. Good concept has been developed at national and international level, but the challenge

Good concepts are discussed at the International level, and such concepts should reach at the grassroots level. GIDM makes an effort to bridge the gap by making to reach the concepts at the grassroots level.

It is very much essential to bring changes in our practices. Disaster Management framework has given emphasis on prevention, mitigation and preparedness, along with this loing from

the development perspective, it is important to include all the risk factors in the development framework. Hence, GIDM focuses on Technology Informed Driven Gram Panchayat Development Plan, and makes efforts to integrate disaster risk reduction with development.

Kirit Parmar

Presentation on Model Plans of Risk Informed GPDP

In order to prepare Climate and Disaster Risk Informed, Child Friendly, Gender Sensitive Gram Panchayat Development Plans in 6 GPs of Banaskantha, Gir Somnath and Kutch districts, taluka level partners were identified and were formed the Taluka Resource Group. Partner organizations in the three districts have been identified with whom, the process of GPDP facilitated. TRG members who were identified have facilitated the preparation of GPDPs, and the 6 GPs where the process was facilitated as a pilot, were also been identified. Integrated development plan is very important. When focus was given on participatory water resource development at Taluka level, it came to know about importance of integrated development plan. Panchayats as institutional and executive body need to understand their role in integrating the activities in the planning.

Gujarat lies in the Agro Climatic Zone – XIII, which is called as “Gujarat Plains and Hills region. First, the main land plains extending from the Rann of Kutch and the Aravalli hills in the North to Damanganga in the South. Second, the hilly peninsular region of Saurashtra and the rocky areas of Kutch. Third, the North-eastern hill tract.

Recent cyclone Taute was struck and affected lot, so how development planning could be included the risks in the plan, since it is drought prone area, so it has been covered in the plan. Other climatic zone is Banaskantha which is semi-arid dry. The district has semi arid climate. Extreme temperatures, erratic rainfall and high evaporation are the characteristic features of this type of climate. Since the district experiences a semi arid type of climate, the rivers flowing through it are of ephemeral nature i.e. have water during monsoon only and dry up after monsoon. The planning emphasized not only on the earthquake and flood response, drought risk, but to ensure frequent flash floods in that area. The third zone is Kutch known for multi-hazard facing earthquake, cyclone, drought, increase of salinity, and then Gram Panchayats were identified with the consultation of the IAG members and the local administration.

The guideline of MoPR also emphasises to make a culture of disaster resilience in the villages. When earthquake came we knew about the disasters. The concern is that Gujarat faces multi-hazard disasters that we have experienced in the past in different parts of Gujarat.

So when we plan it is very essential to involve people at all levels. When we make plans first we need to assess, then we need to understand what could be done and finally intervention is required. When we make plan, technical support is required, and so planners at village level may help to prepare the plans. Secondly, we need to involve CBOs such as SHGs, youth groups, local committees, dairies while preparing plans. Panchayats also can make a coordination forum with different sectors such as health, education, agriculture, animal husbandry, etc. Panchayat can initiate coordination between Panchayat level functionary and community level functionary which will help in bringing out the work for planning.

Partner organizations Sinkshan and Samaj Kalyan Kendra (SSKK), Gir Somnath and Setu Kutch presented their GPDP and shared about the process of CDBP.

Pravin Solanki and Janki Pandya from SSKK presented CBDP of Luvari Moli and Sultanpur villages. Dhaval Ahir from Setu presented CBDP of Manaba village of Rapar, Kutch.

The process of preparing CBDP followed by the field visits and involving communities in the preparation.

GBDP was prepared on the base of assessing hazards at the community level.

Primary data was collected, discussed about the local issues with the community and included those information and details in CBDP.

Community people from different categories such as elders, youths, women, adolescents were involved.

Details of all the sectors such as education, health, infrastructure facilities, PDS, post office, services from Panchayats were included.

Suggestions and feedback arrived during preparing CBDP:

- All level of community people should involve in the preparation of CBDP, this brings ownership and help to find out common solutions.
- There is more need of women's participation in preparation of CBDP.
- There should be strong village level team to respond disasters.
- Village people need to understand to take immediate actions during different disasters.
- There should be convergence of different government schemes.
- There is strong need of coordination with different Government departments.

Chetan Jha from Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), Anand in his session on Technology Integration in Development Planning emphasized using technology on available data source on planning. He stressed more on using data effectively to get maximum outcomes for disaster risks and development program.

Shivani Shah and Ruchi Modi from Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) prominent Institute of India shared their presentation about how satellite and maps provide very necessary details and data and helping in reducing disasters. They discussed on different types of maps bhuvan – India Geo-Platform of ISRO, and other maps such as land use, Wastelands information, geomorphology, erosion maps, salt affected and waterlogging, water bodies information system, etc.

Anil Upadhyay from Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) shared his views that CBDRM is the major component of making our anganwadi and schools safer. He also discussed the program related to school safety and security.

Finally, there was an open discussion in which the participants put forward their opinions, suggestions, feedback and experiences. GIDM team gave a summary and vote of thanks.

Debriefing of the whole Consultation:

First, it is very much important to emphasise a focus on the concept of disaster risk in the planning and preparing risk informed GPDP.

Second, as mentioned by Shri P. K. Taneja, DG, GIDM, it is very important to use technology. Technology is not only to monitor the program at District and State level, but how community can use the technology to improve planning and implementation.

Third, it is very important to engage community in the process. So we need to see how community can be facilitated and engaged in the process of whole planning to make it participatory.

Fourth, while making development plan, concerns of other sectors also very important. Therefore, along with development planning, what are the other sectors need to be taken care of to prepare the community based disaster risk management framework.

Fifth, it needs an interface between Panchayats and District administration along with the State department to converge with different Government schemes and programs, and also an action need to be initiated for utilization of financial and technological resources from different programs.

