Report on
IAG Annual Convention
December 23, 2022

Venue: Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA)

Program Schedule

IAG Annual Convention - December 23, 2022

Time	Session	Facilitator
09.30 am to 10.00 am	Registration, Tea & Refreshment	
10.00 am to 10.45 am	Welcome and Introduction of the Participants, and Presentation on Annual Activities	Kirit Parmar, IAG Convener
10.45 am to 11.00 am	Key note address (Response to Annual IAG Activities)	Mihir Bhatt, Founder & Director, AIDMI, Gujarat
11.00 am to 11.20 am	Understanding Urban Disaster & Climate Risk	Vivek Rawal, People In Centre Consulting, Ahmedabad
11.20 am to 11.45 am	Tea Break	
11.45 am to 12.00 pm	Felicitation of IAG Working Group Members	Binoy Acharya, Founder & Director, UNNATI
12.00 pm to 12.15 pm	Impact of Disaster & Climate Risk on Livelihood	Richard Parmar
12.15 pm to 01.15 pm	Experience Sharing "Suraksha Sathi" – Community Based Volunteers of Emergency Response & Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)	Shailesh Rathod, UNNATI Richard Parmar, UNNATI Suresh Gami, GujAid
01.15 pm to 01.45 pm	Open Discussion	Kirit Parmar, IAG Convener
01.45 pm to 02.00 pm	Summing up & Way Forward	Rafi Malik, CFD, Ahmedabad
02.00 pm	Lunch	

UNNATI conducted IAG Annual Convention in association with the support of UNICEF on 23rd December 2022 at Ahmedabad Management Association (AMA), Gandhinagar. Representatives from 78 organizations participated in the convention.

About Participants

In IAG Annual Convention 75 members participated along with IAG, Secretariat team, UNICEF Representatives and Representatives from Technical Agencies.

Kirit Parmar – IAG Convener

Kirit Parmar, IAG Convener welcomed all the guests and participants with the introduction of the programme. Then organizations gave their introduction district wise. After that Mr. Kirit Parmar presented the IAG annual activities report covering module risk, GPDP Plan in 8 locations, training of community-based volunteers in 4 districts, Sharing on MPCS study and recommendations and Functioning of IAG Gujrat.

Mihir Bhatt, Founder & Director, AIDMI, Gujarat

He talked about two points: first – the meaning of activities which have been done through IAG, and second – the need of focus in future. He discussed that IAG has worked in four ways:

- Awareness on IAG works has been increased.
- Fund has been utilized very well in terms of capacity building, knowledge building, resource building, etc.
- It is necessary to focus on Governance now.
- Challenges for development work.

He discussed that 7-8% people were left, so inclusion was necessary. Inclusion which was done to understand who are left and why they are left, that helped to reach about 1,25,000 families who were left. – so this is the awareness that this should not happen. – this is achievement for IAG.

Suraksha Sathi is very important tool, in this 120 Suraksha Sathi has been trained, that will be multiply effect for awareness. It will be helpful during disaster time.

Compensation work, after 4 years another 20000 families were added for relief. As Civil Society we have that responsibility to continue for compensation work, it's kind of investment. And other States also may learn from this lesson.

It is very necessary to build such where communities need less cyclone shelters. So investment is a need in housing construction. Construction in urban made failure resilience and risk reduction.

Development projects in coastal areas are very opposite to development. Hence, vulnerability in terms of economic, employment and communities. So it needs to focus that proper investment should be there for them.

Regarding Governance, IAG needs to focus on preparation not only on recovery but also on pre-disaster needs or preparation which is very important.

It is good that IAG has started from District to State. The work which is done at district level will increase response and preparedness.

Apart from DRR, Social protection issues should be covered. For example, pandemic.

As we see reports at national and global level, numbers, frequency and area of disaster will increase. That will be an economic loss also. So IAG can think to be alert that how IAG can work in this area.

Binoy Acharya, Founder & Director, UNNATI

Binoy Acharya talked on felicitation on IAG working group members.

Binoy Acharya reinforced the points discussed by Mihir Bhatt –

First – we need to focus on exclusion. We need to think on the people who are left out. If we work in disaster, we work in socially inclusive. Those who left out are historically excluded. So these all should be included.

Second – It is necessary to reinforce the understanding on DRR to mitigate disasters. IAG will work in development in such way that disasters will be mitigated. So IAG is a voice for that. And this voice should be spread in whole Gujarat. So more than 100 institutions who are part of IAG are voice. Hence, the organizations that are gathered here is the voice for disaster preparedness and mitigation.

Vivek Rawal, People In Centre Consulting, Ahmedabad

Understanding Urban Disaster & Climate Risk

What are Urban Disasters?

Natural hazards are events that are caused by natural processes and have the potential to cause significant damage and loss of life. Examples of natural hazards include floods, earthquakes, heatwaves, hurricanes, and droughts. When the significant damage and loss of life is in urban areas, these are Urban Disasters.

What makes Urban Disasters different?

Multiple stakeholders: Urban areas often have a large number of stakeholders, including government agencies, formal and informal businesses, individual residents, homeless and migrants, all of whom may have different perspectives on risk management issues and how they should be addressed.

Economic and Social Diversity: Urban areas tend to have a diverse population in terms of income, education, and other social and economic factors, which can make it more difficult to design risk management strategies that are effective for all members of the community.

Social vulnerabilities: Urban areas may have a higher concentration of vulnerable populations, such as low-income communities and elderly individuals, who may be more affected by disasters. Sometimes even policies exclude certain vulnerable communities.

Population density: Urban areas typically have a much higher population density compared to rural areas, which means that disasters in urban areas can potentially affect a larger number of people. For example, risk of pandemics like Covid-19

Infrastructure: Urban areas often have more complex infrastructure systems, such as roads, utilities, and public transportation, compared to rural areas. This can make it more difficult to respond and recover, as the infrastructure may be more vulnerable to damage and disruption.

Built Environment: Urban areas may be more susceptible to certain types of disasters due to the built environment. For example, a city with a high density of tall buildings may be more at risk of damage from earthquakes.

Transportation: Urban areas often have more developed transportation systems, including roads, public transportation, and airports, which can make it easier for people to evacuate or for emergency responders to access affected areas. In contrast, transportation may be more limited in rural areas, which can make it more difficult to evacuate or provide assistance in the event of a disaster.

Communication: Urban areas typically have more developed communication systems, such as telephone and internet networks, which can facilitate emergency communication and coordination during a disaster. In rural areas, communication may be more limited, which can make it harder to share information and coordinate response efforts.

Economic impact: Urban disasters can have a larger economic impact due to the higher concentration of businesses and industries in cities. For example, a disaster that damages a major port in a city could have significant economic consequences for the region.

Access to resources: Urban areas may have more resources available to respond to disasters, such as hospitals, shelters, and emergency services, compared to rural areas. However, these resources may be stretched thin during a major disaster due to the higher population density in urban areas.

Public perception: Urban disasters may receive more media attention and public scrutiny compared to rural disasters due to the higher concentration of people and the potential for a greater economic impact. This can make it more challenging to manage the response and recovery efforts in urban areas.

Risk management and response: Urban areas may have more developed disaster risk management and response systems in place, such as emergency services and evacuation plans, compared to rural areas. However, these systems may be strained during a major disaster due to the higher population density and complexity of infrastructure.

Climate Risks: Urban areas are likely to be affected by the impacts of climate change, such as more frequent extreme weather events and sea level rise.

- As sea levels rise, coastal cities are at risk of flooding from storm surges and high tides. This can damage infrastructure, disrupt essential services, and pose a risk to public safety. Coastal cities in India, such as Kolkata and Mumbai, are particularly at risk of flooding due to sea level rise.

- Urban areas are more susceptible to heatwaves due to the "urban heat island" effect, in which buildings and asphalt absorb and retain heat, raising temperatures in cities compared to surrounding rural areas.
- Climate change may lead to increased water scarcity due to changes in precipitation patterns and the increasing demand for water in urban areas. This can have impacts on agriculture, industry, and other sectors of the economy.
- Climate change can also affect air quality in urban areas, as heatwaves and other extreme weather events can increase the risk of smog and other air pollutants.
- As temperatures rise, there is a risk that vector-borne diseases spread by mosquitos, and other insects such as malaria, dengue fever, etc. can spread more widely.

What to do?

- Identifying and avoiding high-risk areas: Land use planning can help to identify areas that are prone to disasters such as floods, landslides, and earthquakes, and to avoid developing these areas or to restrict the type of development that occurs in these areas.
- Risk sensitive land use planning: This involves setting land use policies that take into account the risks and vulnerabilities of an area. This may involve designating certain areas as no-build zones, or controlling the types of activities that can take place in certain areas and restricting the chaotic development being done solely as speculative investments.
- Enhance natural buffers to ensure ecosystem's protective functions
- Improving building codes and land use regulations to take into account the potential for natural disasters and ensuring that new construction is built to withstand earthquakes and other hazards.
- Increasing investment in green infrastructure, including improving the quality and reliability of emergency services and building more resilient infrastructure.
- Enhancing community resilience by educating the public about disaster preparedness and practicing of disaster risk reduction strategies at the local level.
- Consume less energy and create less waste and hence ensuring that cities do not increase climate risks.
- Make cities more inclusive by addressing issues of homelessness, divisive instruments like the Disturbed Area Act, etc.
- Community engagement: Involving the community in the planning and implementation of risk reduction measures, and providing education and training on disaster preparedness and response.
- Establishing emergency preparedness and response plans including training for emergency responders and the development of evacuation plans.
- Implementing risk reduction measures such as early warning systems to help mitigate the impact of disasters.

Resilient Cities Campaign of UNISDR identified the following qualities in the cities.

1) Reflective: Using past experiences to inform future decisions

2) Resourceful: Identifying alternative ways of utilising available and new resources

3) Robust: Well developed and well managed mature systems, processes and institutions

4) Redundant: Drawing upon additional capacities when needed at the time of disruptions.

5) Adaptive: Flexible to change and learn new and alternative strategies to respond to changing scenarios.

6) Inclusive: Involvement and ownership of all stakeholders particularly the vulnerable and marginalised.

7) Integrated: coordinated functioning amongst various systems and institutions.

Observations and open discussions:

Rafi Malek

People in the urban face issues of basic needs. People do not know where to go and raise voice. Today in the urban people need a platform to raise their voice.

Purshottambhai from Manav Garima

Urban poor and vulnerable families suffer from many issues in urban. It is necessary to pay attention towards them. All need support from children to old age people.

Sumitraben Thakkar – Anandi

It is necessary to give focus on dalit families. They do not get housing in the villages. It is necessary to work with Panchayat in such issues.

Purshottam Parmar – RAAH

Today the major risk in the slum is fire. It is very necessary to work on it, fire safety in slum areas is very much necessary.

Mayank Joshi

Working on improvement in large urban areas will take time and investment is huge. Instead we need to focus on small urban areas and need to work there.

Secondly, it is necessary to study impact on the livelihood and health of people of unorganized sectors.

A major issue of management is – not inclusive cities. People know the issues in their areas, but they don't have space to raise their voice. There is difference in rural and urban situations. People in rural raise their voices. People in urban do not know where to raise their voices, for example people who are in labor work they do not know. In this context when we talk about disaster risk reduction, their opinions and voices are very necessary. This is a challenge.

Heat wave is increasing now. There is no proper policy on greenhouse. There are no buffer zones to balance climate. Ponds are filled up and real estate developed – there are so many such issues. As rural level disaster management plans done, need to do for urban also.

There are effects of climate change on urban poor, vulnerable families, middle class families

Fire is the major issue in slum areas.

It will take a long time to bring improvement in big cities. It is time consuming and need big investment. Besides these new cities that come up B and C class – need to focus on from the beginning that what mistakes done in big cities should not repeat in these cities. Another point is that more concern is on poor families and unorganized labors – evidence based

studies that what effects on livelihood and health. This will help to bring conviction for Government and Non-Government organizations to work on it.

No implement of 74th amendment. So as civil society we need to initiate a campaign in urban areas.

Binoy Acharya concluded the Convention by his insightful words:

Do city watch and observe structural insecurity. Make the report available to the concerned municipality. Next year we can make this urban issue entry point to work on it. After the open discussions, members of IAG Working Group were honored.

Sailesh Rathod, shared on the Suraksha Sathi, community-based volunteers of emergency response and DRR.

He discussed the process followed to train Suraksha Sathi at organizational and village level, he also discussed the contents of the training. Representatives of Partner Organization who were involved in the whole process of Suraksha Sathi also shared their experiences. Suresh Gami from GujAid shared his experience on physical aid during disaster and post disaster time.

Later Mr. Kirit Parmar opened the discussions. During this session following points were derived:

Dipakbhai – Suraksha Sathi is the better option which will be very much helpful to the community.

Sirazbhai – IAG is the good medium to provide a platform to the urban people.

Vikrambhai – There should be guideline for some of the hazards like electricity wires lying down on the street, fire, etc.

Sushilaben – during normal time it is necessary to work on preparedness so past cannot repeat.

Parshottambhai Manav Garima – It is very necessary to focus on the issues of vulnerable families who are not able to face the disasters.

Amrutbhai – It is necessary to focus on the issues of malnutrition.

At end of the IAG Convention, Kaminiben, DRR Consultant from UNICEF, Gandhinagar highlighted the main priorities to focus on at the State and at the Globe. She also discussed that organizations that work in the area of DRR along with ongoing development program, may contribute well

Finally, Rafi Malek of Centre for Development and working group member IAG summarized the meeting covering all points of discussion and extend vote of thanks to member invitees, speakers and guests.

List of Participants

Gujarat IAG Annual Convention

December 23, 2022

No.	Name	Organisation	District
1	Dhaval Chad	SETU Abhiyan	Kutch
2	Hemanigini Manek	Gram Vikas Trust	Dwarka
3	Govind V. Chavda	SDS - HDRC	Gir-Somnath
4	Boghabhai Rathod	SDS - HDRC	Porbandar
5	Sarvaiya Jitu	SDS - HDRC	Gir-Somnath
6	Sarvaiya Pooja	SDS - HDRC	Gir-Somnath
7	Solanki Vanita K.	SDS - HDRC	Porbandar
8	Dharmendrabhai	Yusuf Mehroli Trust	Kutch
9	Parmar Dhakshaben	Pochabhai Foundation	Anand
10	Mackwana Bindiya	Pochabhai Foundation	Anand
11	Maheraman Tara	Pochabhai Foundation	Anand
12	Chauhan Parvatiben	Pochabhai Foundation	Anand
13	Chauhan Himmatbhai	Pochabhai Foundation	Anand
14	Kirit Parmar	IAG-Gujarat	Ahmedabad
15	Vishakha B. Vyas	Nandi Foundation	Bharuch
16	Mehul J. Jadav	Janvikas	Ahmedabad
17	Khyati Panchal	The 4 Legs Charitable Trust	Vadodara
18	Jarshesh Gai	The 4 Legs Charitable Trust	Vadodara
19	Rafi Malek	Centre for Development	Ahmedabad
20	Rahul Bhadoria	CARE India	Bharuch
21	Aman Sikarwar	Volunteer	Banaskantha
22	Paras Soni	Edufun Foundation	Banaskantha
23	Mahesh Rathod	Shri Vikas Charitable Trust	Jamnagar
24	Roseina Khan	Safar	Ahmedabad
25	Kamini Katiyar	Unicef	Gandhinagar

26	Abhishek F	Unicef	Gandhinagar
27	Bhavesh Patel	Reliance Foundation	Himmatnagar
28	Paresh Sakariya	Saath	Ahmedabad
29	Ramesh T. Solanki	SSKK	Amreli
30	Ketan Kotecha	SAVA	Jamnagar
31	Faiyaz Barejiya	AKAH – India	Ahmedabad
32	Siraj Hirani	Mahila Housing Trust	Ahmedabad
33	Nagesh Patidar	Unicef	Gandhinagar
34	Fr. Charles	KSSS	Anand
35	Dinesh Patil	Unicef	Gandhinagar
36	Hitendra Rathod	HDRC	Ahmedabad
37	Janki Pandya	SSKK	Amreli
38	Ramesh M. Makwana	GHCL	Gir Somnath
39	Deepti R. Makwana	Volunteer	Gir Somnath
40	Binoy Acharya	Unnati	Ahmedabad
41	Tapan Patel	CFID	Ahmedabad
42	Jetsi Rathod	Lok Parab	Banaskantha
43	Amratbhai Thakor	Chaladar Panchayat	Banaskantha
44	Amratbhai Makwana	Lok Parab	Banaskantha
45	Suresh Gami	GujAid	Ahmedabad
46	Rajendra Jaiswal	Prakruti Foundation	Dahod
47	Zuber Shaikh	SAATH	Ahmedabad
48	Kanti Makwana	Dharti Charitable Trust	Surendranagar
49	Kalyan Dangar	Swadeep	Bhavnagar
50	Vivek Rawal	People in Centre	Ahmedabad
51	Mayur Joshi	Udgam Charitable Trust	Gandhinagar
52	Sardarsingh Gohil	Atapi Sewa Foundation	Bharuch
53	Loht T. Parmar	SXSSS	Ahmedabad
54	Sunil Raj	SXSSS	Ahmedabad
55	Mihir Bhatt	AIDMI	Ahmedabad
56	Dinesh Pandya	Mahiti	Ahmedabad
57	Parshottam Vaghela	Manav Garima	Ahmedabad
58	Dhiraj Vagadiya	SSKK	Amreli
59	Pravin Bhikhadiya	Utthan	Ahmedabad
60	Subodh Dave	Tribhovandas Foundation	Anand
61	Sushila Prajapati	Action Aid	Ahmedabad
62	Mayank Joshi	SLS	Ahmedabad
63	Parshottam Parmar	RAAH	Ahmedabad
64	Naresh Gohil	Red Cross	Ahmedabad
65	Sunita Thakkar	Anandi	Rajkot
66	Vinubhai Zapadiya	Janavikas	Bharuch
67	Vasudev Charupa	HDRC	Banaskantha
68	Dipak Solanki	HDRC	Sabarkantha
69	Devabhai Gambhaliya	FES	Mahisagar
70	Vikram Solanki	FES	Mahisagar
71	Shailesh Rathod	IAG Gujarat	Ahmedabad
72	Karansinh Rathod	Unnati	Ahmedabad
73	Sardarsinh Rathod	Unnati	Ahmedabad