

## GoI-UNDP-Climate Risk Management Project in Urban Areas through Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation

### 1. Introduction:

**GoI-UNDP Climate Risk Management Project in Urban Areas through Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation** is being implemented in eight medium cities of India namely; Bhubaneswar, Gangtok, Madurai, Navi Mumbai, Shimla, Thiruvananthapuram, Vijayawada and Vishakhapatnam and for a period of three years starting from October 2012 to September 2015 with a total outlay of USD 6.71 million.

At national level, Climate Risk Management Project is implemented by The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India with technical and managerial support from UNDP. In Kerala, the mentioned Project is being implemented by The Department of Revenue and Disaster Management. The Department has issued Government Order (Rt.) No. 495/2013/DMD, dated 29/01/2013 which empowers Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) to act as the state nodal agency to supervise the project. The Municipal Corporation of Thiruvananthapuram will be acting as project executing agency. The Government of Kerala has also constituted a State Project Steering Committee having 13 members to guide and monitor the project.

The objectives of the project are given below:

- To reduce disaster risks in urban areas by enhancing institutional capacities and to integrate Climate Risk Reduction measures in development programmes as well as to undertake mitigation activities based on scientific analysis.
- To enhance community capacities to manage Climate Risks in urban areas by enhancing the preparedness.

### 2. Activities which will be implemented:

**2.1 City Disaster Management Plan:** City Disaster Management Plan will be prepared through a consultative process involving key stakeholders who are working in the field of disaster management. The plans will highlight Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) for various emergency support functions like; communication, search and rescue, transport, public works, casualty management, law and order, food, water and sanitation etc. and will lay down the mechanism to ensure greater interdepartmental coordination. The plan will illustrate adequate focus on disaster risk reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) measures along with timeline for its implementation.

**2.2 Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment:** This will focus on conducting Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment of Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation through an interactive and participatory process. Expert agency will be engaged to conduct study with due ownership of Government and ULB. The assessment report and outcomes will be referred to devise mitigation, preparedness plans as well as recovery strategies both for reducing disaster risks and impact of climate variability.

**2.3 Training of community volunteers to respond to disasters:** Risk and vulnerability reduction of the local community through capacity building is the prime focus of the activity. 100 wards of Thiruvananthapuram Municipal Corporation will be covered on a phased manner. Volunteers will be identified and Emergency Response Teams will be constituted in each ward. Special efforts will be made to mobilise volunteers from trade unions/head-load workers, local Youth Clubs, National Service Scheme, members of residential associations, educational institutions, sanitary workers, health workers, NGO staffs etc. Hands on training would be provided to these volunteers on basic Search & Rescue, Evacuation, First Aid/Basic Health, Fire Fighting and Shelter

Management. The trained volunteers will be attached the UBL/District Administration so that their services could be availed for disaster mitigation and response activities.

**2.4 Strengthening of early warning systems (EWS):** Strengthening of EWS is a critical measure to reduce disaster risks. It is important to ensure that the EWS at local level address the need for last mile connectivity and concerned agencies are able to disseminate warnings to the local level in time. Technical agency will be entrusted with the responsibility to undertake the analytical study. Based on the findings of the study, a detail Action Plan for strengthening EWS and Emergency Communication Network will be developed.

**2.5 Preparation of sectoral plans to Mainstreaming DRR and CCA in development programmes:** Means to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation in the on-going development programmes (Infrastructure, Urban Housing and Environment) of the Municipal Corporation will be developed through consultation with various stakeholders through a state level consultation meeting.

**2.6 Knowledge management:** The component will promote knowledge management and share activities on cross cutting across every activity areas. Workshops will be organised to share good practices and to tap in the tacit knowledge available with various experts and institutions. IEC materials and other knowledge dissemination products will be developed and distributed in the cities. Similarly in order to get views of DM practitioners, queries on various elements of the project would be posted on Solution Exchange and consolidated responses will be analysed to explore possibilities of improving the technical contents and processes while implementing the project.

**3. Inclusion of Gender Concerns:** In UNDP Programmes, attention has been given towards much greater engagement of women, their specific concerns and commitment to gender equality in the context of disasters and inclusive and suitable development. This requires a shift in our approach from recognising gender dimensions of DRR not only in terms of providing basic information on gender difference to large analysis to learn from women's experiences in disasters and factoring in these in the interventions. The project would promote the principles of equality, social inclusion and women empowerment. The HRVA studies will identify the gender vulnerabilities. Similarly the ward level response plans and CDMP's will address gender issues while planning for response and preparedness. The mitigation plan would provide adequate measures to promote gender equity and empowerment.

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