



**Disaster Management
Community**



Decentralization Community



Solution Exchange for the Disaster Management Community

Solution Exchange for Decentralization Community

***FOR COMMENTS: Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in
Disaster Management-A Suggestive Framework***

Compiled by [G Padmanabhan](#) and [Joy Elamon](#), Resource Persons and [Nupur Arora](#) and [Tina Mathur](#), Research Associates

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**From [S K Singh](#), Centre for Panchayati Raj, National Institute of Rural
Development, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad**
Posted 27 November 2008

Greetings from the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD)!

Panchayats as a constitutional grassroots unit of governance in India can play a prominent role in managing disasters at the local level. Moreover, they can be an effective institutional arrangement to deal appropriately with the emergency responses within its jurisdiction. Panchayats can certainly strive to manage disasters efficiently because of their proximity to the local communities and better information of local issues.

In view of this UNDP has recently carried out a study to formulate a suggestive framework to incorporate a suitable provision for managing disasters at the local level in the State Panchayati Raj Acts. (To view the framework click: <http://www.solutionexchange-un.net.in/drm/cr/res25110801.doc>. (Doc; Size: 166 KB). In sequel to this study, NIRD will be soon organising a consultation of experts to review the document.

Contents of the Document:

- Background, Introduction, etc (ten sections)
- Devolution of power regarding disaster management in select state panchayat acts
- Suggestive framework
 - Standing committee on disaster management
 - Insert a clause in the respective panchayat acts.

- Activity mapping for disaster management

With the above background, I request members of Disaster Management and Decentralisation Communities to kindly **share their comments on the document and areas of improvement, specifically on the 'Suggestive Framework' (Page No: 17) part.** The framework includes two major suggestions, first to have a *Standing Committee at all three tiers of Panchayats dealing exclusively with the subject of Disaster Management.* Or, this work could be assigned to any *existing Standing Committee*, such as, Finance and Planning Committee, in case States are not opting for a separate committee. Another alternative for consideration would be to insert a clause in the respective Panchayat Acts. This insertion would be common for all the three tiers of panchayats and for all States. **Please comment if there are any other suggestions that can be added here.**

Looking forward to useful comments.

Responses were received, with thanks, from

1. [Nirmala Sanu Goerge](#), SDC-CapDecK, Thiruvananthapuram
2. [Ashok Kumar Pathak](#), GoI-UN Joint Convergence Programme, Uttar Pradesh
3. [Ikbai Hussain Laskar](#), UNDP, Morigoan
4. [Zeenat Niazi](#), Development Alternatives, New Delhi
5. [P P Balan](#), CRRID, Chandigarh
6. [Gopal Sharma](#), Additional District – Magistrate, Shimla
7. [Bidyut Mohanty](#), Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi
8. [Arun Jindal](#), Society for Sustainable Development, Karauli, Rajasthan
9. [Prasad Sankpal](#), GOI-UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme, Kolhapur
10. [Vinod Kumar P](#), Maithri, Kerala
11. [K Rajasekharan](#), Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), Thrissur
12. [T.Gangadharan](#), KSSP, Kerala
13. [K. Arup Kumar Patro](#), Focus Humanitarian Assistance India, Mumbai
14. [Himadri Maitra](#), Department of Disaster Management, Kolkata

Further contributions are welcome!

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Summary of Responses

The query sought comments on the 'suggestive framework' prepared to incorporate suitable provisions for managing disasters at the local level in the State Panchayati Raj Acts. Members shared their comments on the suggestive framework and provided existing documents prepared to guide and strengthen panchayats to manage disasters.

Respondents highlighted the pivotal role of PRIs in disaster management and mentioned that due to their grassroots presence, they can assess communities' risk and vulnerability and thus mitigate disasters at local level. They agreed that Local governments are the right kind of

intuitions to take care of the primary level responsibilities of disaster mitigation, in tune with their capabilities or entitlements.

Members pointed out that currently Panchayats focus more on development and service sectors and are less involved in activities like of disaster management planning. Also, panchayats do not have adequate manpower for this important task. They outlined that immediate response to disasters need strong leadership and coordination capabilities and strongly suggested inculcating disaster management culture among Gram Panchayat officials and community and to make Disaster Management Committees and Teams at Gram Sabha level.

Overall, members felt that since efficient operation of these committees is a challenge, therefore they recommended amending the act, rather than providing provision of separate committee on disaster management.

Discussants felt that adding more committees at Panchayat level may not be the ideal step for strengthening disasters. They pointed out that at panchayat level there are committees formed for almost the flagship programmes and therefore adding more committees will might add more burden. Rather, members suggested strengthening of already existing standing committees like the planning committee to handle disaster management and setting up temporary committees as and when required.

They felt that strengthening the existing committees will help in capacity building of the panchayat representatives, who can proactively take lead on disaster management at the local level. Members supported it by highlighting that having good futuristic plans, proper regulations and effective responsiveness in governance, the occurrence or frequency of disasters can be minimal.

Discussing the preparation of Village Development Plan, members agreed that disaster mitigation activities should cross cutting of all line department plans and so suggested integrating village disaster management plans with the village Development Plan. In [Andhra Pradesh](#), an NGO supported in preparing Village Development plans for 15 villages in consultation with the Gram Sabha and imparted different training to PRI members as well as different stakeholders.

On the "Suggestive Framework" members provided their suggestions on the structure and role of the standing committees.

On the structure of Standing Committees, members suggested:

- Having clear cut demarcation of the functions of various standing committees,
- Appointing Chairpersons of Zila Parishad, intermediate panchayat and Gram panchayat as ex-officio members of the respective standing committees,
- Constituting a separate working group for plan preparation and monitoring of Disaster Management at all levels

In the roles that Standing Committees can play, members suggested the following activities:

- Undertake activities to develop required skills necessary for disaster management and organize training courses, workshops, seminars and exercises for general and specific target groups on subjects identified by National High Power Committee on Disaster Management.
- Ensure the interface of indigenous knowledge and scientific methods to combat the impacts of disasters

- Make efforts for developing Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) to provide data needs
- Protect lifeline resources like key infrastructure, medical resources schools, heritage sites, communication networks, key economic assets etc.
- Pays proper attention to land use control measures and zoning regulations for comprehensive planning and management in disaster prone areas
- Focus on public awareness drives, information campaigns, building code enforcement etc
- Involves volunteers in disaster management activities
- Lay special emphasis on Women Members for gender mainstreaming

Finally members concluded by saying that today in India, disaster mitigation and management activities need a lot of attention and Panchayat Raj System is the key system to take care of that.

Comparative Experiences

Andhra Pradesh

Planning for Disaster Management through Gram Sabha (from [K. Arup Kumar Patro](#), *Focus Humanitarian Assistance India, Mumbai*)

Under the Andhra Pradesh: Relief to Development Program (APR2D) in 15 villages, the village Disaster Management Plans were developed by the community through participatory methodology and PRI involvement. The Plans were ratified through Gram Sabha. Not only was the disaster planning undertaken with PRI participation, but they were also involved in capacity building of the community. [read more](#)

Orissa

Women Panchayat Representatives help in Relief and Rehabilitation, Jagasinghpur District (from [Bidyut Mohanty](#), *Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi*)

After the Orissa super cyclone in 1999, elected women representatives promoted collaborative action for relief and rehabilitation. They went door to door and identified beneficiaries for the Indiar Awas Yojana, agitated against irregularities in distribution of low cost shelter and aided NGOs in building shelters for use in case of future disasters. The EWRs played a significant role in disaster relief and rehabilitation.

Related Resources

Recommended Documentation

Managing Disasters-An Introductory Guide for Panchayats from a Panchayat (from [Nirmala Sanu George](#), *SDC-CapDeck, Thiruvananthapuram*)

Handbook; Trust for Village Self Governance (TVSG); Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu; September 2007
Available at <http://www.solutionexchange-un.net.in/drm/cr/res25110802.pdf> (PDF; Size: 4 MB)

Describes steps towards panchayat disaster management plan including building support mechanisms, roles and responsibilities, facing disaster and rehabilitation measures

Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Post-Tsunami Reconstruction and Rehabilitation (from [Zeenat Niazi](#), *Development Alternatives, New Delhi*)

Workshop Proceedings; basin South Asia, Regional Knowledge Platform; New Delhi; April 2005
Available at

<http://www.devalt.org/da/tsb/basin/basinsouthasia/events/docs/Panchayati%20Raj%20Institutions%20in%20%20Post%20Tsunami%20Reconstruction%20and%20rehabilitation%20.pdf> (PDF; Size: 293.58 KB)

Documents lessons from a workshop o understanding strengths of panchayats in disaster response and bottlenecks faced by agencies in involving them in relief and rehabilitation

Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Disaster Management- A Suggestive Framework (from [S.K. Singh](#), Centre for Panchayati Raj, National Institute of Rural Development, Rajendranagar Hyderabad)

Paper; National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad; 2008

Available at <http://www.solutionexchange-un.net.in/drm/cr/res25110801.doc> (Doc; Size: 166 KB)

Suggests a framework for disaster management by Panchayati Raj Institutions including the role of Standing Committees and suitable amendments to State Panchayat Acts

From [Tina Mathur](#), Research Associate

Disaster Management through Panchayati Raj

Book; by Dr. Kamal Taori; Concept Publishing Company; New Delhi; 2005

Available for purchase at <http://www.flipkart.com/disaster-management-through-panchayati-raj/8180692159-6v23f9sc4o>

Examines the role of Panchayati Raj in disaster management and provides operational guidelines for the same

Recommended Organizations and Programmes

Trust for Village Self Governance (TVSG), Thiruvallur, Tamil Nadu (from [Nirmala Sanu George](#), SDC-CapDeck, Thiruvananthapuram and [Zeenat Niazi](#), Development Alternatives, New Delhi)

397/1, Padur Road, Kuthambakkam South, Poonamallee Block, Thiruvallur District, Tamil Nadu-602107

Set up to undertake all Panchayat related activities in Tamil Nadu, has developed a Handbook on managing disasters for Panchayats

basin-South Asia Regional Knowledge Platform, New Delhi (from [Zeenat Niazi](#), Development Alternatives, New Delhi)

Development Alternatives, B-32, TARA Crescent, Qutab Institutional Area New Delhi - 110 016; basin@devalt.org; <http://www.devalt.org/da/tsb/basin/basinsouthasia/>

Regional network for developing knowledge and promoting collaboration within South Asia to enable access by poor to sustainable habitat and livelihoods

From [Tina Mathur](#), Research Associate

Centre for Disaster Management, Bihar Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development, Patna

Walmi Complex, Phulwarisharif, Patna 801 505; Tel: 0612-2452585; Fax: 0612-2452586 ; support@bipard.org ; <http://www.bipard.org/home.htm>

Part of the apex training institute on public administration, conducts training and capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions for disaster management

Centre for Management of Environment and Disaster, AMR-Andhra Pradesh Academy of Rural Development, Hyderabad

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500030; Tel: 040 - 24015337; Fax: 040 - 24018656; comm_apard@ap.gov.in ; <http://www.amr-apard.gov.in/Centres/med.htm>

Provides training, research and documentation services on disaster management to all levels of government functionaries including Panchayati Raj Institutions

Related Consolidated Replies

Disaster Management Tool Kit for PR Functionaries, from Parimita Routray, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Bhubaneswar (Advice; Examples). Decentralization Community and Disaster Management Community,

Issued 31 December 2007. Available at <http://www.solutionexchange-un.net.in/drm/cr/cr-se-drm-decn-18110701.pdf> (PDF, Size: KB)

Highlights good practices, references and resources to be included for developing a tool kit for PRIs in disaster management

National Disaster Management Act and Local Bodies, from V. R. Raghavan, Oxfam GB, Kolkata (Examples; Experiences). Decentralization Community,

Issued 26 March 2007. Available at <http://www.solutionexchange-un.net.in/decn/cr-public/cr-se-decn-17020701-public.pdf> PDF, Size: 468 KB)

Looks for experiences from across states about the roles built in for panchayats and urban bodies in the National Disaster Management Act 2005

Role of Panchayats and Municipal Bodies in Tsunami and Disaster Relief and Recovery, from A. Kalamani, Centre for World Solidarity, Secunderabad (Advice; Experiences) . Decentralization Community,

Issued 07 February 2006. Available at <http://www.solutionexchange-un.net.in/decn/cr-public/cr-se-decn-19010602-public.pdf> (PDF, Size: 197 KB)

Examples and considerations on the mandated, actual and recommended roles for local bodies in the Tsunami (and disaster) relief and rehabilitation

Responses in Full

[Nirmala Sanu Goerge](#), SDC-CapDeck, Thiruvananthapuram

I wish to share with you a simpler version of a handbook prepared for the same by The Trust for Village Self Governance (TVSG), an initiative of the Kuthambakkam Gram Panchayat in Tamil Nadu. They have prepared a guide titled 'Managing Disasters - An Introductory Guide for Panchayats from a Panchayat' prepared as part of the project on 'Strengthening of Panchayats in Self Governance, Disaster Management and Livelihood Creation' supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). The Handbook is available at <http://www.solutionexchange-un.net.in/drm/cr/res25110802.pdf> (Size: 4 MB).

Those who require hard copies may write to:

Trust for Village Self Governance (TVSG)
397/1, Padur Road, Kuthambakkam South
Poonamallee Block, Thiruvallur District
Tamilnadu - 602107

[Ashok Kumar Pathak](#), GoI-UN Joint Convergence Programme, Uttar Pradesh

In my view, addition of more committees for all three tiers of Panchayati Raj is not a solution to any problem. There are already committees formed at the Panchayat level for almost all the

flagship programmes apart from already existing standing committees. Strengthening of already existing standing committees of the panchayats is more important as these are legitimised by the constitution. Also this will help in capacity building of the panchayat representatives, especially the members. Their active participation is needed to be ensured. Formation of new committees for disaster management is not required. Rather we should try to strengthen one of the existing committees to focus proactively on disaster management at the local level and we can delegate the responsibility and leadership to panchayat members to take on the responsibility.

Ikbal Hussain Laskar, UNDP, Morigaon

The role of PRIs in disaster management is pivotal. Due to their grass root presence, they are in better position to assess the risk and vulnerability and able to take the step to mitigate the disaster at the local level.

In GOI-UNDP programme it is observed that due to the proactive role of these institution especially in Morigaon district in various aspects of disaster management, has brought greater participation of the local communities not only in disaster preparedness but also in disaster mitigation by voluntarily. This is the first time community itself has recognised their vulnerability and decided to take action which is sustainable in nature leaving behind the efforts of the organised system in the district.

So, in this regards,(1) the PRIs should be given comprehensive capacity building training on DRR.(2) The PRIs should be given the power to manage the situation by their own by supplementing the funds at the local level.(3) The GP and Village Disaster Management Committee should be made activated with administrative level.

Zeenat Niazi, Development Alternatives, New Delhi

In continuation of the inputs from [Nirmala](#) below, **basin-South Asia** Regional Knowledge platform with one of its thematic focus that addresses issues of local governance in habitat delivery had organized a workshop on the subject **Role of Panchayati Raj institutions in post tsunami reconstruction and Rehabilitation**.

The workshop was attended by many panchayat leaders from Tamil Nadu and Kerala and also NGOs and panchayats from Maharashtra who had supported reconstruction initiatives after the Latur earthquake and from Bihar who have been working in areas of regular floods were present to share their experiences.

The workshop was organized at the site of the Trust for Village Self Governance in Tamil Nadu. TVSG is a **basin-South Asia** member.

The workshop sought to:

1. Enhance the understanding on the strengths and capacities of PRIs for undertaking disaster response and future mitigation.
2. Facilitate a link between agencies supporting reconstruction and rehabilitation and local Panchayat institutions
3. Promote a dialogue on bottlenecks faced by internal and external facilitating agencies in involving PRIs in habitat development and livelihood rehabilitation at the village level and how these can be addressed.

The lessons from the workshop would be useful for the discussion here. The proceedings are available at the **basin-South Asia** web site at the following link:

<http://www.devalt.org/da/tsb/basin/basinsouthasia/events/docs/Panchayati%20Raj%20Institutions%20in%20%20Post%20Tsunami%20Reconstruction%20and%20rehabilitation%20.pdf>

P P Balan, CRRID, Chandigarh

Sharing the views with Mr. S. K. Singh that how the Panchayats can become effective instruments in tackling disasters, let me add some more suggestions to the **suggestive**

framework:

- There shall be a clear cut demarcation of the functions of various standing committees
 - The chairmen of Zila Parishad, intermediate panchayat and Gram panchayat shall be the ex-officio members of the respective standing committees
 - The committees shall undertake activities to create awareness and develop required skills necessary for disaster management, a variety of training courses, workshops, seminars and exercises shall be organized for general and specific target groups on subjects identified by National High Power Committee on Disaster Management
 - A separate working group may be constituted for plan preparation and monitoring of Disaster Management at all levels
 - The committees shall ensure the interface of indigenous knowledge and scientific methods to combat the impacts of disasters
 - The committee shall make efforts for developing Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) to provide data needs
 - The committee shall take steps in protecting lifeline resources such as key infrastructure, medical resources schools, heritage sites, communication networks, key economic assets etc.
 - Proper attention should be given to land use control measures and zoning regulations for comprehensive planning and management in disaster prone areas
 - The Gram panchayat level standing committees shall focus on public awareness drive, information campaigns, building code enforcement etc
-

Gopal Sharma, Additional District – Magistrate, Shimla

Disaster management is the recent word in the dictionary of decentralised community. We are lagging behind in this programme, which is of utmost concern for the community. If we do not sensitise the community on this aspect, there could be large scale disaster as has happened in 2004 Tsunami. Tsunami was not very known word in the dictionary of common man before 2004, had we educated the masses on Tsunami before thousands of lives could have been saved from this disaster. People rushed to seas before Tsunami as the sea level fell down. Had they been warned that before Tsunami the level of water falls in the oceans, people would not have ventured in to seas in hope catching fish and other valuables from the bottom of seas, out of curiosity.

So no programme can succeed until and unless the people for whom it is meant are not involved. So, I highly recommend that community should be involved in this important task, and then only the disaster mitigation can take place.

Bidyut Mohanty, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi

During the super cyclone of Orissa in 1999 elected women representatives of panchayats particularly in Jagatshinghapur District did a marvelous job. Just after the cyclone they visited from door to door and consoled the other women who had suffered from the cyclone. They helped in identifying the real beneficiaries of Indira awas which got distributed in

large numbers. One woman sarpanch sat on dharana since there was some irregularities in distribution of the low cost shelter. Other NGOs were also being helped in distributing the blankets and food items to the needy people by the women members of the panchayats. They came together and started working in renovation a pond in order to get some income in the affected villages. Finally they helped the Care India in getting a plot of land to build a big shelter to protect the villagers from the similar kind of disaster in future.

Arun Jindal, Society for Sustainable Development, Karauli, Rajasthan

My suggestion on suggestive framework would be:

- "Amendment in act would more useful, rather provision of separate committee on disaster management". We can see that committees are not functioning well.
 - Activities should be in time frame and office bearer should be held responsible if they are unable to complete action on time. Like development of plan, information or warning on time should be placed within stipulated time period. If they will not be held responsible they will not do anything, because disaster management comes in their last priority.
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Prasad Sankpal, GOI-UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme, Kolhapur

Panchayat Raj System in India is the key of development. Each and every kind which we proposed for development of society can not be completed without the cooperation of Panchayat raj. In Maharashtra we have this three tier system District, Taluka and Village Zilla Parishad at district, Panchayat Samiti at Taluka and Gram Panchayat at village or root level.

In Kolhapur district we have a good tieup with this system for Disaster management we have conducted Orientation, Sensitization programme for this ZP, PS and GP members. Though they are the key people if you need the Community Participation you should take them with you then only we can implement the programme of Disaster management successfully.

Also special emphasis should be given to Women Members for gender mainstreaming and proper output of programme. Only these system can motivate the community to take part in DM.

Vinod Kumar P, Maithri, Kerala

Let me present few observations based on the document, experiences in Kerala and discussions held so far:

- There is no doubt that the Panchayat Raj Institutions should play a major role in Disaster management.
- But Panchayats are focussed more on development and service sectors and not involved in activities similar to DM, like vigilant systems, continuous trainings and updating of DM plans etc.
- So they do not have the manpower with the right aptitude and attitude and there is a tendency to skip responsibilities if somebody else is doing it.
- The immediate responses to disasters need strong leadership and coordination capabilities. In our governance culture this is bestowed upon the District Collector and revenue/police departments.
- In Kerala at the Gram Panchayat levels, the Village officer is the key player for DM even though the GP leadership is far more resourceful and able. This was evident in the post tsunami days.

- The unique advantage of GP is that it is the only agency capable of building a community based DM system. But to make it functional capacity building at the grass root level is required. Inculcating the culture of DM among masses is required along with formation of Disaster Management Committees and Disaster Management Teams at the Gram Sabha level and equipping them in an appropriate manner.
- These do not require transfer of existing officials to GP s but activity mapping of GP with existing line departments. The better choice may be removing Village officer of revenue department from the scene of disaster management.
- The GP s do not have a culture of involving volunteers in activities of sustained nature. This has to change and the incorporation of competent volunteers in to the GP level DM systems is essential.
- The community based DM will certainly lead to host of developmental issues and suggestions. These suggestions have to be fed in to the developmental scenario effectively.
- A separate standing committee of Disaster is required at the GP level but its constitution, culture and functioning has to be radically different to capture the above discussed features.
- At the higher level – intermediate and District- the role of Panchayats in DM may be limited to mitigation through development. Here the existing standing committee on development can handle the role of DM as well.

K Rajasekharan, Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), Thrissur

Local governments are the right kind of intuitions that can be entrusted with the primary level responsibilities of disaster mitigation, in tune with their capabilities or entitlements. Disaster management should not become an everyday affair like handling solid waste or water supply services. Hence it doesn't require an exclusive committee. If we have good futuristic plans, proper regulations and effective responsiveness in governance, the occurrence or frequency of disasters will be minimal. So the planning committee is the right committee to handle disaster mitigation. The Proper systems of governance and the failure of those systems are the two inseparable sides of the same coin. Disaster management should not be viewed as a separate fragmented thing.

Disaster, in majority of cases, occurs due to our failure in planning, poor regulatory framework or improper maintenance of systems. A committee for disaster management may not have enough tasks always, if the governance is proper. A committee which remains idle normally may not develop proper strength or dynamism to rise to the occasion on the sudden outbreak of an occasional disaster. Disaster management should always graduate itself into positive corrections in future planning with a long term perspective so as to minimize the possible re-occurrence of the same kind of disasters later. So planning committee is the appropriate agency for disaster management.

A saying goes like this - if you don't want to do anything, constitute a committee and entrust the responsibility to it. Having more committees than essentially required, may lead to lack of unified actions and working at cross purposes. So it is better to have less or optimum number of committees. But we should make them vibrant.

As well, the disaster management has become a celebration or a public show to gain political mileage for political executives. Ministers swiftly move to the spot of disaster leaving his space or role vacant and causing embarrassment to the systems or people there at work on disaster spot and causing additional security burden. Political executives should set the policies early based on which the officers should work on the disaster site. We should not replicate that kind of disaster management at the lower tier governments. That is more important than the structure of the committee.

T.Gangadharan, KSSP, Kerala

Of course, disaster mitigation and management needs more attention than today and no doubt, the LSGIs have to play a good role in this. But a permanent committee form for this is not necessary and also I would say, it is against the concept of self governance. The system of establishing different committees has a bearing on the administrative structuring of a permanent nature. There are provisions for temporary committees in various names as and when contexts require. It is the right and privilege of the LSGIs to or not to form committees to respond to such situations. The LSGIs should have the sense of doing this meaningfully and I believe, they have it.

Given all this, there are certain places where disaster events are quite usual and mitigating this requires permanent systems. Many places in Bangladesh are example for this. There is a permanent sub committee structure is meaningful.

K. Arup Kumar Patro, Focus Humanitarian Assistance India, Mumbai

Greeting from FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance !!!

Whis You Advance Happy Christ Mass and Prosperous Happy New Year- 2009

Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Disaster Management this is very important and vital issue present context.

To see the present three tire structure in PRI. This is OK in structure wise. But during action existing stature is not working properly. For that we need strengthening system through create awareness and providing different capacity building activities.

Now the regarding suggestion for instated of forming other or parallel committee for Disaster management , better allow to work same committee on DM. But again it need awareness and capacity building of present committee as well as line department and other stakeholder in the area of Role of PRI in DM-DRR / Disaster Management 2005 Act in different phase. This will help ovoid confuses on Disaster Management-DRR in PRI system.

2nd suggestion all During the developing of village Development Plan all line departments plan should integrated with village Development Plan . As we all are agree Village Disaster Management plan should part of the Village Development Plan. Disaster Mitigation activities should cross cutting of all line department plan.

In context of my experience FOCUS Humanitarian Assistance (affiliated by Aga Khan Development Network –AKDN) after Tsunami 2004, AKDN Initiated program called the Andhra Pradesh: Relief to Development Program (APR2D) for a three year at 15 village of Nagayalanka Manda of Andhra Pradesh where frequent natural hazards leading to a high vulnerability quotient and the suffering of the people are a part of life. Nagayalanka Mandal of Andhra Pradesh situated in the southern most mandal along the coast located at the tail end of the Krishna River. The goal of the program is to enhance the state of disaster resilience and preparedness among coastal communities affected by the Tsunami.

In the project on objective is developing Village Disaster Management Plan . So as per this is one our activities we developed 15 village level Disaster Management Plan by the community through participatory methodology with different stakeholder. We involved PRI members in all our institutional building like VDC/CERT-Community Emergency Response Team/RART-Rapid

Assessment Response Team/CRC-Costal Resource Centre etc. Finally during 2nd Oct 2007 and 2008 we ratified all our Village Disaster Management Plan through Gram Shaba. Same time project imparted different training to PRI members as well as different stakeholders. Not only create awareness on role of PRI on DM ,DM act 2005 as well as different component of Disaster Management like Relief Camp Management/Logistic/ Shelter management/Disaster Management Planning/Stakeholders analysis etc.

Finally I want to say to all members, this strategy well worked in our operational area. Now there is no other plan except Village Development Plan at village level, because this Village Disaster Management Plan integrated with village Development Plan. Presently as per development plan all line department carried out all activities from same plan. For your information Mandal Office had mobilize good amount resource from Panchayat Raj Department this current financial year. Slowly now they are coming for ward to take responsible and ownership of programme.

Himadri Maitra, Department of Disaster Management, Kolkata

There is already a committee formed at the Panchayat level named as 'Nari O Sishu Unnayan Janakalyan O Tran' for Tran (Relief). The term 'Tran' may be replaced by Disaster Management. One Disaster Management Officer at block level is normally selected as Secretary of this committee. Strengthening of these existing standing committees of the panchayat towards disaster Management is more important. Also this will help in capacity building of the panchayat representatives, especially the members. Their active participation is needed to be ensured.

Formation of new committee for disaster management is of course strengthening the cause, but care should be taken to account dev. issues. Rather we should try to strengthen the existing committees to focus proactively on disaster management at the local level and we can delegate the responsibility and leadership to panchayat members to take on the responsibility. If the Secretary, i.e. officer in charge of disaster management is included in the standing committee for development, the integration of Disaster Mitigation and Development can be solved.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this query!

If you have further information to share on this topic, please send it to Solution Exchange for the Disaster Management Community in India at se-drm@solutionexchange-un.net.in or se-decn@solutionexchange-un.net.in with the subject heading "Re: [se-drm] FOR COMMENTS: Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Disaster Management-A Suggestive Framework. Additional Reply."

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