



Disaster Management Community



Visioning Workshop
13-14 February 2008
New Delhi

Transforming Knowledge into Development Effectiveness

Action Group Concept Note

Topic: Disaster Management Knowledge Sharing: Last Mile Connectivity

Convenor:

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This proposal seeks to work over the next year with the Disaster Management Community of Solutions Exchange, United Nations. The proponents of Action Group include Tamil Nadu Tsunami Resource Centre (www.tntrc.org) and Poorvanchal Gramin Vikas Sansthan. The proposal seeks to enable disaster management knowledge networking and sharing to the grassroots through collaboration among the two proponents and the Disaster Management Community.

Background

The **Tamil Nadu Tsunami Resource Centre** (TNTRC) working for Tsunami recovery has been focusing on improved coordination among the many implementing agencies, Government and the UN for sharing information, networking knowledge, influencing policy and building capacities. To facilitate the process of recovery it has created a unique and neutral platform for the coming together of the above stakeholders. It has been providing value addition in each sector and has been able to address cross cutting issues for enhanced quality of recovery with equitable approach for the Tsunami affected population. TNTRC has been able to reach the grassroots through the **District Resource Centres** (DRC) to ensure smooth flows of information and feedback from the grassroots to state level and vice versa.

Currently TNTRC is in the process of transforming to become a Disaster Management Resource Centre (DMRC). The new entity will continue to have knowledge sharing components as its prime mandate. TNTRC is also part of the resource group established by the Solution Exchange of United Nations and has been contribution meaningfully and actively.

The **Poorvanchal Gramin Vikas Sansthan** (PGVS) is a registered voluntary organization. It got registered in the year 1987 by a group of like minded people of Gorakhpur to improve the quality of life of people of eastern Uttar Pradesh. Since its inception, PGVS continues to implement various developmental activities in various districts like Deoria, Kushinagar, Balia, Maharajganj, Basti, Mau, Ghajipur, Ambedkarnagar, Varanasi, Shravasti, Mainpuri and Firozabad. The various activities are the SMCS program, education program, RCH program, disaster management and adult education.

PGVS' mission is "Mobilization of the community to have critical thinking for understanding of developmental issues holistically i.e., physical, social and spiritual dimensions and is committed for emergency voluntary Youth in difficult situations.

The **Disaster Management Community (DM)** is a group of professionals from a wide range of organizations and disciplines concerned with preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery and rehabilitation issues with respect to disasters (natural and human induced).

Proposal

- To make the last mile connectivity active for Disaster Management knowledge and information sharing in Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand
- To provide opportunity for grassroots practitioners to benefit from Solution Exchange members and vice versa in Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand

What Do We Want to Do?

TNTRC and PCVS with their connections to the civil society and government stakeholders in various districts of Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand will connect practitioners in different regions of the two states by setting up sub-communities/e-groups to enable information exchange on **preparedness, mitigation, relief, rehabilitation and recovery**. Apart from these broad issues, the focus will be laid upon sectoral and cross-sectoral issues within the gamut of Disaster Risk Reduction.

TNTRC and PCVS will also help strengthen already existing e-group networks and connect them to TNTRC's e-group through:

- Establishing a mechanism at the grassroots level to collect the queries, translate from regional languages to English, post it on sub-communities established by TNTRC and PCVS, link it to the Solution Exchange DM Community, and visa versa
- Engaging in regular translation of the Consolidated Replies issued by the Solution Exchange DM Community and sending them out pro-actively to provide regular and steady information to grassroots level practitioners

Above is the broad concept note to be discussed during the visioning workshop of the DM Community.

Further to this, we would like to discuss during the DM Workshop:

- How can Community members contribute to the project?
- How can collaboration with Solution Exchange help in identifying and facilitating implementation of the ideas?
- Can members suggest cost effective and efficient software as well as modalities to capture and disseminate views and experiences of non-English speaking sub-groups?