

“Climate Risk Management in Urban areas through disaster preparedness and mitigation”

A GOI-UNDP Project supported by USAID

BACKGROUND:

In view of the increasing risk exposure of the urban areas of India, often accentuated by climate change and variability, a project on “Climate Risk Management in Urban Areas through Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation” has been approved jointly by the Government of India (GOI) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with financial support from USAID. The project would be implemented over a period of three years (**Sept 2012 – 2015**) with a total budget of US\$ 1.21 million.

The key objectives of the project are to:

1. Reduce disaster risk in urban areas by enhancing institutional capacities to integrate climate risk reduction measures in development programs as well as to undertake mitigation activities based on scientific analyses, and
2. Enhance community capacities to manage climate risk in urban areas by enhancing the preparedness.

Towards these objectives the following activities have been envisaged under the project:

- i. Preparation of City Disaster Management Plan (CDMP)
- ii. Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Analysis
- iii. Building capacities of communities in disaster response through trainings
- iv. Formulation of an Action Plan to strengthen Early Warning Systems based on analytical studies
- v. Preparation of Sectoral Plans (in four key sectors) to mainstream DRR and Climate Change Adaptation in development programmes
- vi. Knowledge Management initiatives

The project will be implemented in eight cities in the multi-hazard states of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Orissa, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. The cities are: Gangtok, Shimla, Bhubaneswar, Thiruvananthapuram, Madurai, Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam and Navi Mumbai.

Six cities are presently covered under Urban Risk Reduction Project of GOI-UNDP DRR Programme. These cities have made some progress on many of the critical aspects of disaster risk management and have attempted to: prepare city disaster management plans, set up Emergency Operation Centers, create mass awareness, and build capacities of various stakeholders on disaster management. However, in most cases it is observed that the CDMPs prepared at the city level are more focused on disaster preparedness and response with very little emphasis on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. These plans are not yet further reinforced with ward level DM plans and community response teams. It is known fact that during disasters community members are the first responders and hence building capacity at the community level for disaster response is crucial to ensure disaster risk reduction.

Continuing efforts are also required to implement the City Disaster Management Plans as well as to ensure that disaster risk reduction aspects are integrated in the developmental activities of various sectors. It is envisaged that the proposed project would identify existing gaps in key disaster risk management areas/components and devise activities that would enhance disaster resilience and adaptive capacities of the identified cities and its residents. Special attention would be paid to ensure that these activities take into consideration climate change and climate variability induced hazards and other impacts on natural and built environments.

The project will be implemented at the national level by the MHA and in cities by the Municipal Corporation or district authorities depending on the recommendations of the state government.