REPORT

Workshop on Networking for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation For IAG members – State & District level

**Organized by
Kerala State Disaster
Management Authority,
UNICEF & Sphere India**

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Background

The specific objective of Unicef-KSDMA partnership project is to mainstream DRR into development planning. The project is of participatory in nature and ensures participation of different stakeholders in all phases of project execution to strengthen their institutional capacity. Inter-Agency Groups (IAGs) are multi stakeholder coordination platforms at state and district levels in India. The purpose of IAG includes, ensure coordination among NGOs/INGOS/Govt agencies during emergency and peace time, avoid duplication of works, prevent human suffering, promote and facilitate collaboration and coordination among various actors and agencies working with communities in a state before, during and after emergencies. Varying from state to state, they also engage and collaborate with Govt., Corporate, Academia, Media and other key stakeholders. Under KSDMA-Sphere India partnership programme, IAG as a coordination forum was formed in all the 14 districts of Kerala during the second quarter of financial year 2019-20.A total of 395 NGO's and other organizations are currently part of the IAG. Strengthening of IAG and its structure is under process and need handholding support. The proposed one day training programme for state and district level IAG members is intended to impart clarity on institutional mechanism of DM, the roles and responsibilities of various actors in the DM process

There were three primary objectives of the consultation workshop:-

- To familiarize with DM Act 2005, institutional mechanisms in Disaster Management
- To gain input on role of civil society organisations in disaster management
- To develop recommendations and actions for Inter Agency Group institutionalisation.

Workshop on Networking for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation for IAG members was held on 07, March 2020 at Hotel Appolo Dimora, Trivandrum. The meeting was attended by Dr Sekhar L Kuriakose, Member secretary, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority and Dr.K.B Valasala Kumari, IAS (Rtd). Representatives of district and state level IAG member organisation were also present. Resource Persons included Mr. Siji. M. Thankachan, Chief Manager, KSDMA, Mr. Joe John George, programme officer, KSDMA, Mr. Pradeep G S, HRA, KSDMA, Dr. Dr.Pratheesh C.Mammen, Unicef India, Vijeesh. P, SPO, Sphere India.

Opening Remarks

The Opening Remark to the workshop was given by Dr. Sekhar L Kuriakose, Member Secretary, KSDMA. He welcomed the participants and presented a brief about KSDMA structure and activities, post flood initiatives and importance of civil society organisations in disaster management. Dr. Sekhar. L. Kuriakose apprised the members about the Unicef and Sphere India

Figure 1 Dr Sekhar L Kuriakose delivering opening remarks

partnership projects, He also explained that in IAG coordination, initial phase is to create a resource data base with the available data at district. Dr.K.B Valsala Kumari, gave a presentation on the status of the ongoing Unicef- KSDMA partnership project and detailed IAG structure, functions and scope of work, followed by participant discussion on the same. The session was moderated by Dr. Sekhar. L. Kuriakose. The major discussion points includes institutionalization of the district level IAG, IAG capacity Building for emergency response and challenges faced during the emergency coordination.

Figure 2 Technical session by Dr. K. B Valsala Kumari

Presentation and Key Discussion

Session I: IAG – Concept & Overview

Vijeesh. P, Sphere India presented a brief overview of the IAG. The presentation focused on IAG structure, annual plan, IAG secretariat and IAG charter. The presentation also concentrated on the following issues: role of IAG in emergency and piece time, resource shearing during emergency. There is need to develop Standard operation procedures to deal with civil society organisations. In the same presentation, different documents on IAG defined; IAG practices in other Indian states, process of civil society consultation for DDMP revision were also given.

Figure 3 Technical session by Vijeesh.P

The discussions and questions involved was the importance of mainstreaming DRR and Institutionalising IAG. Mr. Manoj. M P, District IAG convener, Palakad, brought up institutional linkage between district administration and district level IAGs. The discussions also lead to few questions on how to bring IAG into sharing data for the disaster management planning process. The session also spoke about the importance of identifying local level resources for IAG capacity building.

Session II: Institutional & Legislative Framework in DRR

Mr. Siji. M. Thankachan, Chief Manager, KSDMA presented the major features of Disaster Management Act 2005. The aim of the session was to describe rules and sessions of the act and the various roles and responsibilities of NDMA, SDMA and DDMA. He

Figure 4 Technical session by Siji. M. Thankachan

emphasised that the DM Act, 2005 provides the legislative back-up to enable collaborative mechanisms at all levels for participation and joint/coordinated action by Government and NGOs in disaster management planning. The presentation was followed by open discussions on the topics of NGO- Government coordination during emergency, Role of NGOs for PWDs during response phase, typical first phase NGO response in specific Scenarios, GO-NGO collaborative sectors in disaster response , It further discussed the NGO response to needs of the vulnerable groups

Session III:

Familiarization of KSDMA projects and activities

Figure 5 Technical session by Joe John George

During this session Joe John George, Programme Officer KSDMA sheared projects and activities of KSDMA, he emphasised on school safety programme, inclusive DRR and community based DRR. The session discussed various subjects like resource data base, NGO accreditation ect. The presentation was followed by group discussion,

Session IV
Group Discussion

The discussion was based on questions. Consequently, the participants were divided into different groups with a chairperson and a rapporteur in each group, following a brief orientation, the groups were invited to discuss the following questions:

1. **?** What in your view should be an institutional mechanism to coordinate the humanitarian activities of various NGOs in normal times and in emergencies and how will the links with DDMAs/SDMA be ensured on a sustainable basis?

2. **?** Various Agencies have various skills (for instance, medical, engineering, nursing, swimming, transporting etc to cite a few skills

Figure 6 Group Discussion by participants

required in emergencies) that may be put to good use in disaster rescue, response and rebuilding. Various skill sets are required during emergencies. How can you match both at the shortest possible time and effectively so that there is no duplication of efforts and the efforts /resources are directed at the right/needy people without wastage?

3. **?** How may resources be mobilised for the proper functioning of IAG both during normal times (which is a time of preparedness) and during emergencies?

4. **?** What are the training needs of IAG in view of climate change and increasing frequency of extreme events?

The group discussion lasted for about one hour. After the discussion of each topic, the group leader briefed their results respectively to the plenary. The constructive insights were thus collected and presented as the following.

District level coordination with DDMA/DEOC for DRR actions

1. Capacity building programme to be designed in a manner wherein IAG member organizations are kept engaged during peace time for preparedness activities. Periodic review and monitoring meetings to be conducted by using new human resource structure at state and district level.
2. Sector wise interventions like – livelihoods, shelter management, inclusive DRR, climate change and bio-diversity, trauma care and psychosocial support can be systematically implemented at districts by linking with IAG Member organisations.
3. Sector specific research and advocacy programme to be taken up in the field of disaster risk reduction by IAGs at district and State
4. To develop interactive mobile application for IAG member organizations for disaster response
5. District administration to issue identity card to all IAG member organisations
6. IAG shall meet once in a month under the chairmanship of district collecter. Joint meeting with DDMA to be conducted to familiarize the aims and functions of AIG

IAG Database

1. It is essential to develop and update NGO/ civil society data bank at state and district level. Resource management is crucial in emergency operations.
2. District administration to call of the agencies at taluk level / village level meeting with representative from panchayat to form local platform to IAG. This will help them out to carry the sectoral mapping of all the recourses/skills available in the district.
3. It is essential to develop Emergency ROSTER at state and district level. Emergency Roster is a detailed document of volunteerism and willingness certificate issued by an individual who commit himself / herself to work in emergencies

IAG Capacity building

1. It is essential to assess training need of IAG member organizations Based on the findings of the training need assessment, sector wise capacity building training programme for IAG member organization s to be developed.
2. Conduct evaluation and documentation of IAG coordination
3. seek the continued support from all government departments e.g. KSDMA, DDMA, Department of Revenue, Local self government, Police, Fire and Rescue service ect
4. Organize documentation and publicity on the IAG interventions; newsletters, video documentations ect.

Financial resource for IAG

1. It is essential to develop annual work plan with financial provision for IAG related activities at state and district
2. To mobilise Corporate Social Responsibility funds from private and Public sector companies.

The training workshop concluded with Dr.Pratheesh C.Mammen thanking all participants and resource persons for their active participation and engagement

Annexure 01: Participation list

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Prepared by

Vijeesh.P   Pratheesh . C. Mammen

SPO, Sphere India-KSDMA Partnership   Coordinator, Unicef-KSDMA Partnership