



# Report

## Inception Meeting – Virtual Cadre Training Programme

### **Organized by**

Kerala State Disaster Management Authority & UNICEF  
in association with All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)

### **Participating Departments**

Panchayath, Fisheries, Education, Civil Supplies, Ground water and Tourism

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**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 3pm – 4.20pm**

## **Introduction**

To strengthen the disaster management capacity of the nodal departments, Government vide G.O (Rt) No: 56/2017/DMD; dated 25th November 2017 had initiated a project called Virtual Cadre for disaster management. The goal of the project is to mainstream disaster risk reduction into sectoral departments; thereby mitigate the risk of disasters in each sector. The virtual cadre is to be formed in 26 departments of the state.

The government order has clearly laid out the roles and responsibilities of the virtual cadre officers as mentioned above.

The salient features of this cadre are as follows

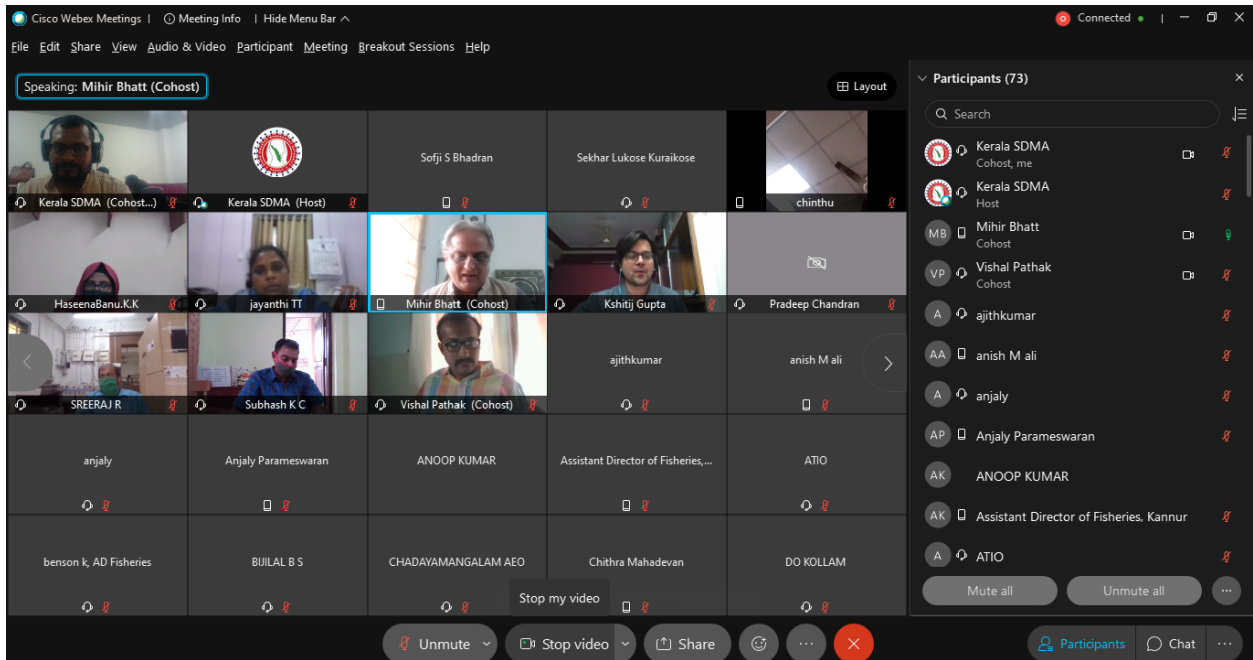
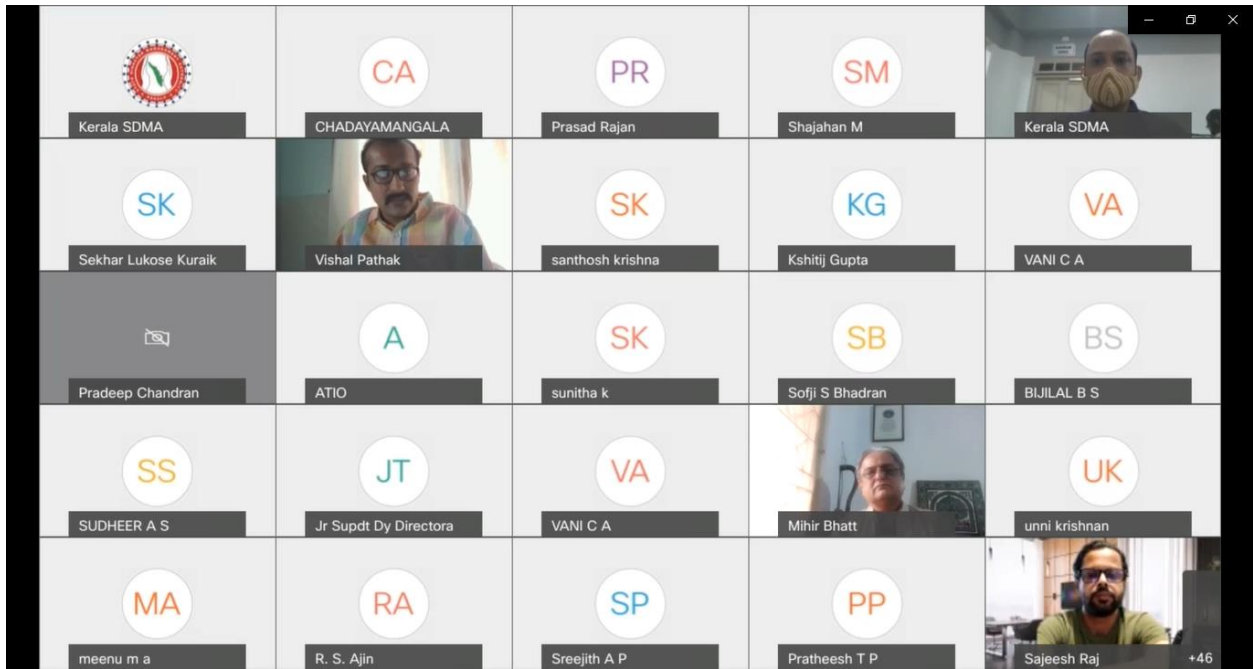
- The virtual cadre will be 15 nominated officials by the H.O.Ds of the respective departments (one each in every district and one at the State level) with at least 20 years more of service.
- The members of this cadre shall be representing the respective departments for disaster risk reduction activities of that particular department.
- The virtual cadre officials are expected to facilitate preparation of departmental disaster management plans and also provide input in the annual plan of the departments.
- The officials are also expected to support State/District emergency operations during the time of emergencies.
- The officials will also support the State and District Disaster Management Authorities as and when required.
- The virtual cadre officers will play a major role in prevention and mitigation phases of disaster management.

The virtual cadre officers will be the champions of disaster management in the department despite of their transfers and other compelling tasks. Thus, this is a long term engagement towards a disaster resilient state.

In the current year, KSDMA in collaboration with UNICEF will render the officers from Panchayath, Civil supplies, education, tourism, ground water and fisheries

departments basic and advanced training in disaster management which will be appropriate for each department. Training needs analysis through questionnaires, interviews and discussion, online training sessions and handholding support to virtual cadre members during the preparation of department specific DM plan are the specific activities under this programme. KSDMA is collaborating with All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) for the module preparation and execution of this programme.

As an initiation of the programme, an inception meeting was conducted online on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2020 from 3pm to 4.20 pm in which virtual cadre members from all six departments participated. A total of 81 officials from different departments, KSDMA and AIDMI attended this online meeting. The meeting started with the introductory remarks by Dr Sekhar L Kuriakose, Member Secretary, KSDMA. In his introductory remarks he gave an overview about the background and relevance of the formation of virtual cadre for disaster management in departments and need for continuing these activities. This was followed by a special address by Shri Mihir Bhat, Founder Director AIDMI in which he focused the linkages in a departmental framework and also other cross departmental linkages with other departments. He also commended the efforts taken up by KSDMA in mainstreaming DRR activities. This was followed by a presentation by Shri Vishal Pathak, Senior Coordinator and Kshijit Gupta, DRR Officer - Knowledge Management from AIDMI in which they described the TNA tool which has to be filled by the virtual cadre officials before 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020. The presentation also covered the key actions, timeline, related process and expectations from virtual cadre members of the six departments. TNA tool will be shared with the virtual cadre members on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2020 via a google form as well as in word format. The TNA tool explanation was followed by a Q&A session moderated by Dr Pratheesh Mammen, Programme Coordinator UNICEF - KSDMA and the concluding remarks along with vote of thanks was proposed by Shri Joe John George, State Project Officer, KSDMA. The meeting was concluded by 4.20 pm.



Participants - Virtual Cadre Training - Inception Meeting 24-11-2020.

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