

## **Effective Solutions for Disaster Management: Learning through Practice**

### **Background**

Gujarat, with its diverse geography and vibrant economy, is highly prone to various natural and human –induced hazards, including cyclones, earthquakes, floods, droughts, fire and industrial accidents. Recent experiences have underscored the importance of robust disaster response systems to mitigate risks and ensure resilience.

Local governments in India play a critical role in the maintenance and delivery of essential services in cities, such as water supply, solid waste management, sewerage management etc. Beyond their routine responsibilities, they become the front-line responders during disasters, shouldering crucial activities like the distribution of essential commodities, provision of health services, restoration of disrupted services, emergency response coordination and the return to normalcy within stipulated timeframes.

The recent floods in August 2024, resulting from unprecedented rainfall between August 26 and 30, showcased the resilience and preparedness of the state's disaster management systems. Heavy rains led to a flood crisis that disrupted connectivity, power and daily life across urban and rural areas. The state government, under the coordination of the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), prioritized rescue operations, mobilized response forces, conducted situation assessments and provided effective and coordinated response and relief. With the collective efforts of government agencies, NGOs and public participation, the situation was brought under control. Connectivity was restored, roads were made motorable, waterlogging was eliminated, and essential services resumed efficiently.

These experiences highlight the need for resilient urban systems, which are characterized by redundancy (multiple backup pathways to ensure continuous service), flexibility (the ability to adapt under varying conditions) and safe failure (minimizing impact on essential services during disruptions. This training

workshop, titled "Effective Solutions for Disaster Management: Learning through Practice", aims to equip stakeholders with practical knowledge, skills and innovative strategies to effectively manage disaster risks in the context of Gujarat's unique challenges.

## **Objectives**

- Equip participants with the knowledge and practical skills needed to effectively respond to and manage disasters, ensuring swift and coordinated action during emergencies.
- Focus on building disaster-resilient systems in urban settings, emphasizing redundancy, flexibility and safe failure to maintain critical services during disruptions.
- Strengthen the cooperation between government bodies, private sector, NGOs, and local communities, promoting a unified approach to disaster response and relief.
- Provide participants with tools and frameworks to design and implement disaster management plans tailored to the unique challenges and vulnerabilities of Gujarat.

## **Target Participants**

- Practitioners and first responders from Urban Development Department, Roads and Buildings Department, Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Limited, Water Resources Department, Water Supply and Kalpasar Department, ULBs (Municipal Corporations & Municipalities), Fire Services, etc.
- Batch Strength: 30-40

## **Mode of Training**

Residential: There is no program fee; however, a nominal charge will apply for accommodation. The nominating agency is responsible for covering travel expenses of the nominated officials.

## **Location/Venue and Date**

- **Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM)**  
B/h Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU), Raysan,

Gandhinagar - 382007 Gujarat (INDIA) | Ph.: (079) 23275823

- **Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025
- **Time:** 9.30 - 17.30

### **Course Coordinator**

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