

A Two Day Residential Classroom-based Training Program

on

STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF POLICE FOR DRM

21-22nd April 2022

Organized by



Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management

1. Background

COVID-19 pandemic has impacted a huge population all over the world. The rapid spread of the disease worldwide and uncertainties as to its evolution demand a global response in which law enforcement services including police personnel play a crucial role in contributing to the effort to control the disease and promote safer communities.

Police personnel is among the frontline workers performing duties to implement lockdown orders and government guidelines for containing the spread of the disease. Since they have to interact with the public on a daily basis, they are more vulnerable to the corona virus disease (COVID-19). Instances have been noticed of high number of police personnel getting infected.

To implement effective policing in building a culture of resilience, it requires to anticipate the impact of mitigation and recovery measures across different age groups, by applying effective Disaster Risk Governance, which addresses *Priority 2: Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Managing Disaster Risks*. Keeping in view of greater engagements of these forums, GIDM has planned to organize a 2-Day Residential Classroom-based Training Program on “**STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES OF POLICE FOR DRM**” scheduled from **21-22nd April’ 2022** at GIDM campus.

2. Rationale

With the advent of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (**SFDRR 2015 – 2030**), there has been a paradigm shift from ‘**Managing Disasters**’ to ‘**Disaster Risk Management**’. Along with this, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (**Sustainable Development Goals**) is steering our world towards sustainable development as an overarching agreement amongst all the nations. GIDM, through its capacity building programs, is fostering the concerted ideology of Risk Informed Planning and Disaster Resilient Sustainable Development.

Since long and according to the conventional and contemporary understanding, police force has been seen as a crucial player in Disaster Response and Pre-Emptive Response measures, but, undoubtedly the role of police in the overall gamut of DRM is something that needs to be looked into.

The Indian Police Force has been on the forefront to maintain law and order, support the health system, guide the public and are on the battlefield as intrepid COVID warriors. There had never been any such crisis before, yet, the police personnel have been able to deal with the situation with energy, efficiency and, in most cases, with empathy. Hence, it is heartening to see how the

police rose to the occasion and not only met the expectations of the people but, perhaps, went beyond the call of duty.

GIDM has initiated various capacity development activities on the subject targeting various levels of stakeholders from across the State. Policy makers in local and National Governments, International Organizations and concerned Organizations, must be encouraged to ensure that DRM is pursued in such a way that it reduces the Risk(s). Prevention, Mitigation and Preparedness for any probable disaster are essential and proactive steps to deal with any emergency. Each stakeholder needs to develop and enhance its systems, skills and resources to enable the department to perform their respective roles and responsibilities on the onset of the disaster.

2.1 Aim and Objectives

The aim of the program is to identify existing knowledge and skills in the State with regard to Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery, keeping the existing practices of DRM, so as to develop the long term capacity development plan with reference to effective policing. Under this, the following specific objectives will be pursued -

- To understand what Disaster Risk is and how it is a function of existing / new hazards, different dimensions of Vulnerability and the Exposure of the people / assets at large;
- Basics of COVID and analyzing the uncertainty created by the pandemic;
- Response to COVID and illustrate various hazards / risks involved for Police force during COVID pandemic;
- To understand the role of police in the whole gamut of DRM, stimulating them to actively participate in capacity building and preparedness phases, which includes being a part of assessment of risks and vulnerabilities at the local level, make action / contingency plans for an emergency / extreme event;
- Protective measures and health safety protocols for the Police force engaged in various duties during COVID pandemic and more specifically in the new paradigm;
- Representative examples / Best practices / Case studies from across the State;
- Bring the participants and their individual perspectives to discuss impediments & enablers in the system and lay down a way forward in DRR and not merely Disaster Response.

Key Words: COVID Warrior, Communities, Risk Management, Policing

2.2 Legal Mandates

On the occasion of an event of disaster, sometimes the State & District level authorities cannot afford to wait for response of specialized forces, like NDRF/Armed Forces/SDRF. Moreover, on many occasions, it might not be advisable or feasible to obtain/deploy specialized armed forces and NDRF/SDRF. At the same time, due to police's proximity to the incident sites, familiarity with the local terrain, wider reach and better knowledge of background of the locality and culture, established communication system, they are one of the first and best responders to help manage any crisis situation. Hence, Gujarat Police machinery must gain expertise in effectively handling disasters through carefully designed training programmes.

The *Gujarat State Disaster Management Act, 2003* has broadly defined the Role of Police in Disaster Management: (a) giving of warning; (b) carrying out search and rescue operations, and (c) carrying relief and rehabilitation operations. In addition to these, *other general functions as specified in the State Disaster Management Plan* as directed by the Collector at the time of an event of disaster in particular are: (a) Ensure that the communication system is in order, which shall be made available, free of charge, for being used for transmission and receipt of messages in connection with a disaster; (b) Identify the personnel and provide adequate training for the purposes of disaster management so that the services of such personnel are readily available; (c) Conduct disaster management drills periodically and; (d) Provide such assistance to the Authority, the Commissioner and the Collector and take such other steps as may be necessary for disaster management.

With the above-mentioned mandate stating the vital role of the Police in various phases of management of a disaster, it is important that appropriate time is given for capacity building at various levels of the department. This gradual up-gradation of skills and technical know-how of the Gujarat Police will gradually make the State better prepared for disasters by reducing gaps between controlled and uncontrolled crises.

The police force can play an integral role in the development of local DRR strategies, however, they are mostly relegated to be used only during the response phase. Thus, this training program would stimulate the involvement of police in the process of disaster risk management and not merely be at the forefront of the response.

3. The Need for Capacity Development

Keeping the greater engagement of these forums, there is a need to train police about how to effectively handle disasters and their Roles and Responsibilities during disasters as mandated in

GSDM Act and Plan. Considering the role of police in various phases of the DRM Cycle, the following roles have been assigned:

Prevention and Mitigation

- Hazards, Risk, Vulnerability, Capacity Assessment (HRVCA);
- Emergency Traffic Plan
- Detailed Communication Plan
- Identification of Building, Security Plan, Resource Mapping
- Capacity Development Activities

Preparedness for Effective Response

- Surveying the affected Areas;
- Ensuring adequate deployment of the Police force to handle the situation;
- Cordoning of the Area and Restricting Entry of the People close to Disaster Site;
- Establishment of Communication with various stakeholders through HF/VHF sets;
- Initiation of Search and Rescue Operation;
- Assisting and coordinating with other Emergency First Responders.

Response to Alerts

- Establishing contact with Disaster Police Control Rooms, SEOC, DEOC and other Control Rooms;
- Ensuring coordination with other First Responders viz. Fire Brigade, Health Services, Dist. Administration, NDRF etc;
- Assessing the Air Operations;
- Coordinating Mobilization/Transport of Specialized Equipment and Machinery to the Affected Areas;
- Issuing an Alert to the Police Force in the surrounding Dist. and Advise them to be in the State of Readiness for Deployment, if Needed.

Evacuation and Law & Order

- Evacuating and Shifting the Affected people to pre-identified sites (Forces Evacuation, if needed);
- Ensuring smooth transportation of injured to the Hospital;
- Traffic management to allow the Rescue and Relief agencies to function;
- Crowd management to avoid cases of Stampede and other Issues;
- Providing security and maintaining Law and Order in affected areas and affected sites, Relief camps and Temporary shelters to avoid cases of Human/Child Trafficking, Thefts etc;
- Ensuring security arrangements for VIP visits;
- Providing security to warehouse/storage spaces and Transportation of Relief material.

Dead Body Management

- Identification of Dead Bodies;
- Ensuring proper documentation of dead and missing along with Photographs, etc for compensation and Ex-gratia;
- Ensuring collection of Finger Prints, Identification Marks, DNA sampling etc for Forensic purpose;

- Protection of Dead Bodies and belongings of dead bodies to avoid theft cases and false claim of compensation.

Management of Relief and Reconstruction

- Assisting dist. administration in distribution of Relief materials to the affected population;
- Assisting dist. administration in setting-up Field Hospitals and Transporting Victims;
- Assisting dist. administration in establishing Temporary Shelters for the Affected Populations;
- Providing security to the officials distributing relief material and maintaining Law & Order during the Relief activities;
- Providing security to sites under Reconstruction;
- Helping the distr. Administration in Addressing issues of Encroachment;
- Reconstruction of Police Buildings;
- Addressing Law & Order related issues;
- Ensuring Rehabilitation and Psycho-social support for the affected police personnel and their families.

As per the terminologies of NDMA Guidelines on Incident Response System (IRS), the Police Dept. level of functioning is given below:

- Members of Planning Committee with Dist. Collectors – SP
- Response branch director – DySP
- Division Supervisors – Inspectors at each Police Station
- Single Resource Unit Leader – S-I/Ass.t Sub. Inspector at each Police Station

4. Targeted Participants

The target group for this program will be the L2 level of stakeholders (around 45 nos.) from *Uniform Services*, viz. Police Force (DySP/PI/PSI), SDRF/SRPF (DySP/PI/PSI) from across the State.

References

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2. The Gujarat Police Act, 1951 and Police Manual
3. PM's 10 Point Agenda
4. Training Module on Understanding Disaster Risk Management, GIDM 2019
5. Participants Handbook on Role of Police for Disaster Risk Management
6. All presentations
<https://gidm.gujarat.gov.in/>