

Residential Classroom-based Training Program
on
**Capacity Development of Talati-cum-Mantri on
Community-based Disaster Risk Management**

Organized by



Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management

A. Background

At present, there is an acute need for capacity development of panchayat functionaries to react institutionally in an effective manner to emergency situation(s) and it is the district administration, which retains the basic responsibility of handling crises situations with the Collector playing a pivotal role. Grass root/Field level responses on behalf of the government in rural areas are by the nearest police, revenue and/or panchayat functionary (viz. Talati-cum-Mantri/Talati/Sarpanchas/PRI members etc). Priority should be given to training and capacity building of these stakeholders, particularly Tatali-cum-Mantri working with Panchayat, Rural Housing and Rural Development Department, GoG to effectively implement DRR strategies at grass roots' level.

Biological hazards pose more threats than any other hazards as more people in these types of hazards are vulnerable and risk is comparatively more. The impact of a biological disaster(s) is *biological, psychological, social*, as well as *economic*. Biological disaster(s), if not attended with proper preparedness, can be an epidemic in countries like India with a huge population endangering the life of the many and putting extra pressure on the resources, finance, and governance.

The COVID-19 global health pandemic and its economic, as well as social impacts, have disrupted nearly all aspects of life for all groups in society. People of different ages, however, are experiencing its effects in different ways, while many of its implications, such as confinement-related psychological distress and social distancing measures, affect all of society. Continuing challenges of Covid, i.e. the second wave, health impacts are growing largely due to inadequate measures to reduce the risk. An inclusive response to and recovery from the crisis requires an integrated approach to public governance that anticipates the impact of response and recovery measures across different age cohorts. “Building Back Better” requires decision-makers to acknowledge generational divides and address them decisively to leave no one behind.

In the wake of COVID-19, traditional approaches to building resilience and capacity development and expansion need improvisation. Mitigation measures adopted earlier for hazards such as Cyclones, Floods, Earthquakes and Industrial-Chemical Accidents have to be modified. Disasters occurring at present are much more in magnitude, frequency and differential pattern as compared

to earlier times. In addition, due to the specific and varying characteristics of every event prohibit us to take one size fit all approach.

Communities are the first responders so it is important to build capacities of individuals as a basic unit of communities. Community-based schemes have evolved into holistic approaches to managing associated risks, which need to be embedded in concerned activities/programs. This concept note reviews various best practices/initiatives on a pilot basis for Disaster Risk Communities during COVID-19. It also presents lessons and practical guidelines in developing CBDRM investment projects, particularly highlighting community organization, financing, capacity development, gender and social inclusion, risk management, technology transfer, and cultural norms and values.

This training highlights, the flexibility and innovation required for role of Talati-cum-Mantri in DRM initiatives. Further, it underscores the need for greater engagement with people and a better understanding of their Disaster Risks and Resources.

GIDM, in association with Panchayat, Rural Housing and Rural Development Dept. and SIRD, has planned to organize this training titled “**Capacity Development of Talati-cum-Mantri on Community-based Disaster Risk Management**” at GIDM. The registration link for the training is

This program will assist the local Government officials in taking stock of the preparedness measures' initiatives on DRM, who are directly connected with the grassroots level.

B. Aim and Objectives

To build this culture of looking at a crisis, such as this, holistically and comprehensively, the Government officials must be explained how the prevalent Understanding of Disaster Risks fits into the present scenario and how the Systemic Nature of Risk would affect every sector. This training program aims to discover and promote various community-based disaster risk mitigation methodologies and how these mitigation methodologies can be streamlined as per Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction to improve their efficacy. Under this, the following specific objectives will be pursued -

1. Understand the concept of Risk Management and associated Terminologies;
2. Discuss existing CBDRM practices and mitigation approaches;

3. Methods to strengthen various Community-based Risk Management techniques in the wake of COVID-19;
4. Introduce and evaluate various participatory tools in HVCR assessment;
5. Discuss various DRM measures that can be undertaken by the communities, for the communities: Case studies and lessons learned.

C. Why Training of Talati-cum-Mantri?

The **Disaster Management Act, 2005** and **National Policy on Disaster Management 2009** provide the framework for institutional and legal mechanisms on disaster management in India. It ensures that the affected communities, relevant responders and other stakeholders including volunteers are well trained in various aspects of disaster management.

After the commencement of the Sendai Framework for Action (**SFDRR 2015-2030**), there continues to be not just a lot to be accomplished for DRM but also significantly more to demonstrate and deliver on the inter-linkages between DRM, early recovery, development, environmental protection and climate change adaptation. While there is acceleration in the implementation of DRM initiatives across the country and at the State level. In this context, there continues to be a need to build capacities innovatively, increase outreach at the appropriate levels, enhance the impact of action; all of which also require qualified and experienced professionals to assist and support government and non-government actors in coordinated, structured and timely DRR and response actions. DRM being a relatively new domain of knowledge and practice offers a key challenge in find high-quality human resources and capacity development opportunities.

The **Gujarat Panchayats Act 1993** clearly mentions the role of Talati-cum-Mantri for DRM and to build a cadre of trained manpower who can complement and supplement the efforts in different phases of the **Disaster Risk Management Cycle**.

District Emergency Operation Centres (DEOCs) have appointed qualified personnel as staff over the years and coordinate GSDMA activities at district level. They also supervise activities at the taluka and village levels through TDO and Talati.

The training includes four expected outcomes structured around the four **Priorities** for Action of the Sendai Framework. The four expected outcomes are namely, assess and update data and

knowledge of traditional approaches, dissemination, monitoring and review emerging challenges, and capacity building to highlight the best practices at all levels. The program has been designed to be in four segments:

1. The **first segment** would empower participants to think about and understand disaster risk(s), which is a step towards managing risk(s) rather than managing disasters. This section would unpack COVID-19 through the lens of DRM, beyond it being a public health concern. Thus, this section has been designed to address *Priority 1: Understanding Disaster Risks*;
2. The **second segment** would stimulate the participants to think about governing such disaster risk(s) at different levels by tinkering their preparedness for the near future through exercises of DRR Future Thinking like Scenario Based Preparedness, Scenathons etc. This segment has been designed to address *Priority 2: Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance to Managing Disaster Risks*;
3. The **third segment** would talk about investing resources of all forms, financial and human, to build Disaster Resilience. This section would underline the importance of traditional/indigenous knowledge and possible roles of communities to tackle the emergent and systemic nature of disaster risk. This section would address *Priority 3: Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience*;
4. By discussing good practices and case studies of CBDRM in the **fourth segment**, *Priority 4: Enhancing disaster Preparedness for effective Response and to "Build Back Better" in Recovery, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction* will be emphasized upon.

Key Words: First Responders, Pandemic, Capacity Building, Community, Risk Identification & Assessment, Risk Management.

D. Targeted Participants

The target group for this program is Talati-cum-Mantri working with Panchayat, Rural Housing and Rural Development Department, GoG, who are involved in activities related to planning, design and rural developmental activities. In addition, Faculty members from SIRD and PR Training institutions may also join the training.

E. Expected Outcome:

This training reviews various best practices/initiatives taken up on a pilot basis for DRM during COVID-19. It also focuses on lessons and practical guidelines developed for CBDRM, particularly highlighting community organization, financing, capacity development, gender and social inclusion, risk management, technology transfer and cultural norms and values. At the end of the program, participants would be able to,

- Identify potential Disaster Risks;

- Understand Disaster Risk Management and COVID-19;
- Prepare Communities and Practices to implement Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery actions;
- Disaster Resilient Sustainable Development and planning activities.

F. Way Forward:

The impact of disasters on people living in vulnerable areas and losses to their property can be minimized by a proactive role played by local government officials and communities at grassroots levels. DRM needs to be an integral part of development processes for sustainable development. Apart from great organizing skills, it may call for courage and leading from the front, the local government officials and community members can play a role of leadership in Disaster Risk Management at all stages.

At the village / grass roots level, the DRM Team will be constituted, which draws up the plan consists of local authorities, government functionaries including doctors/para-medics of primary health centres located in the village, primary school teachers and elected representatives of the village. Eventually each village will have a DRM Plan.

References

1. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-30
2. UNDRR Terminology
3. PM's 10 Point Agenda: India's Disaster Risk Management Roadmap to Climate Resilient and Sustainable Development
4. NDMA Guidelines: Community Based Disaster Management, 2014
5. GIDM Training Module on Basics of DRM (English/Gujarati version)
6. All presentations
<https://gidm.gujarat.gov.in/>

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