

United Nations Development Programme

Project Document

Project Number:

Project Title: Strategic Framework for Disaster Risk Management and Capacity Building after the Gujarat Earthquake

Estimated Starting Date: 01.04.01

Estimated Ending Date: 31.03.03

Executing Agency: National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) and State of Gujarat's Emergency Management Commission¹

Project Site: State of Gujarat

ACC/UNDP sector:

UNDP and Cost Sharing Financing: US\$1,000,000

Brief Description

The overall objective of the project is to reduce the disaster risks faced by the vulnerable populations, primarily in the State of Gujarat, and secondly in the States identified as the most disaster-prone in India, namely Uttaranchal, Orissa and Maharashtra, by improving risk management, disaster preparedness and emergency response capacities at the state and central levels. In doing so, the key objectives are to strengthen the state and national risk/disaster management structures and to support and facilitate local level disaster management through building capacities of local level stakeholders. The project intends to build on the lessons learned from the management of the Gujarat earthquake emergency, rehabilitation and reconstruction stages, as well as from recent major disasters such as the Latur earthquake and the Orissa Super Cyclone.

<u>On Behalf of:</u>	Signature	Date	Name and Title
UNDP	_____	_____	_____
National Executing Agency	_____	_____	_____

¹ To be appropriately named

A. CONTEXT

1. Situation – The Impact of the Disaster

Gujarat lies on the west coast of India. In addition to its coastline on the Arabian Sea, it has common borders with Pakistan and the states of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. The state consists of 25 districts and has a total population of around 41 million. Although 2/3 of the population lives in rural areas, Gujarat is India's most highly industrialised state.

The severe earthquake that struck Gujarat on 26 January 2001 flattened much of the state. Out of the 21 affected districts, those most severely hit were Kutch-Bhuj, Ahmedabad, Jamnagar and Rajkot. Within these districts more than 37.8 million people have been affected. According to official figures released by the central Government as of 6 February, the earthquake killed 16,459 people and injured 68,478. The death toll continues to rise and is currently estimated to be between 20,000 and 50,000.

The Natural Disaster Management Control Room located at the Ministry of Agriculture in Delhi reported on 6 February 2001 that 12,250 cattle had died, 228,906 houses/huts were destroyed and 397,615 houses/huts were damaged. According to preliminary assessments, the damage to buildings and infrastructure amounts close to 1.2 billion USD.

The overall situation is considered as a multiple disaster, since the earthquake is the third natural disaster striking Gujarat in four years. The state still suffers from the effects of a cyclone in 1998 and drought, which started in 1999 and is expected to continue through 2001. The persistent impact on the vulnerable population increases with each fresh disaster. Even prior to the earthquake, most of these districts are known to be highly food insecure, have a higher percentage of population who live below the poverty line and the majority of the districts are prone to disasters.

2. The Government's Response

The response of the state and national government to the Gujarat earthquake was considered by the national and international communities as aggressive and effective in its organisation and delivery of emergency supplies, purchased with its own resources, given the magnitude of the disaster. The central Government immediately launched a massive rescue and relief operation by mobilising available resources and personnel to mitigate the suffering of the victims.

The initial relief effort is centrally coordinated by the Natural Disaster Management Control Room, which works closely together with the State Government of Gujarat. The central Government provided financial assistance of USD 1 billion, food assistance and other relief items.

Several states including neighbouring Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra provided supplies, personnel and a broad variety of relief items.

The Relief Commissioner of Bhuj established an NGO coordination centre. Subcentres were to be established after a more thorough assessment of the overall situation and requirements. Over 300 NGOs were reported as involved with relief operation.

3. The Project

The present project builds on the overall UN/UNDMT experience during the emergency/relief stages of the Gujarat earthquake, as well as from the most significant recent disasters, i.e. Orissa Super Cyclone and Latur earthquake. It will benefit from the Coordination Cells established in the framework of project IND/01/... "Support Unit for the transition from Relief to Sustainable Recovery", utilising their capacity to identify local stakeholders and capacity building needs that can be addressed even in the midst of the recovery programme.

The project also seeks to strengthen the state and national organisations in managing the multiple risks that the state of Gujarat faces, ensuring that the recovery and reconstruction fully take into account such risks in order to reduce the vulnerability of the most precarious groups in the reconstruction efforts.

The **overall objective** of the project is to reduce the disaster risks faced by the vulnerable populations, primarily in the State of Gujarat, and ultimately in the most disaster-prone States of India, by improving risk management, disaster preparedness and emergency response capacities at the state and central levels in the country. In doing so, the key objectives are to strengthen the state and national risk/disaster management structures and to support and facilitate local level disaster management through building capacities of local stakeholders.

B. STRATEGY FOR THE USE OF UNDP RESOURCES

In coordination with projects IND/01/... “Support Unit for the Transition from Relief to Sustainable Development” , IND/01/... “Shelter and Housing Reconstruction Strategy after the Gujarat Earthquake” and IND/01/... “Integrated Livelihood Restoration”, the project will initiate activities with the support of the UNDMT/UNDP Coordination Cells will benefit from the GO and NGO partnerships already concreted for the emergency-rehabilitation activities.

Of particular relevance for the purposes of this project is the joint endeavour with the Disaster Mitigation Institute of Ahmedabad to launch an information and awareness campaign to inform citizens and communities on the ongoing relief effort and increase their awareness on the dos and don'ts during the first period after the disaster. This cooperation framework will be expanded to cover a more comprehensive risk-reduction and disaster preparedness early warning and general awareness programme.

The outputs identified for funding under this project can be summarized as follows:

1. *Revised nation/state risk/disaster management systems as per the lessons learned in Gujarat and relevant institutions capacitated in undertaking their responsibilities*

Workshops will be organised with the main actors in the disaster management community, at the central, departmental and local levels, to revise the existing risk and disaster management systems in the light of the lessons learned from Gujarat, Orissa and Latur, and the systems put in place such as the Disaster Management Ministry of Uttaranchal.

2. *Comprehensive Training Programme*

From the above exercise, a full-fledged training programme will be developed to increase the institutional capacity to undertake the necessary actions to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters in the most prone areas. A set of procedures, manuals and guidelines to facilitate operations will also be produced.

3. *Capacities of local stakeholders increased for disaster risk management*

In partnership with the Disaster Mitigation Institute of Ahmedabad and other NGOs in the State of Gujarat, and with reliable partners (NGOs, research and academic institutions) to be identified in the other States, awareness and training programmes will be conducted to increase vulnerably communities' awareness on their risks and how to protect their lives and properties from future disasters. Community preparedness plans will be produced and piloted, and key community actors trained in their application and permanent updating and testing. User-friendly training materials will be developed to support this activity.

C. IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES, OUTPUTS, INDICATORS AND ACTIVITIES

Immediate Objective 1

Strengthen the national and state disaster management system and capacitate the relevant institutions in undertaking their responsibilities within this framework.

Output 1

Revised national/state risk/disaster management systems

Activities

- Gujarat and previous disasters' lessons-learnt workshops and exercises
- Roles and responsibilities of relevant organisations and stakeholders agreed
- Skill-building activities in administrative, management and operational aspects of the plan
- Database on hazards, vulnerabilities and risks in Gujarat established and/or updated and maintained
- Inventory of available national and state and local resources and capacities to cope with potential risks
- Compendium of procedures, manuals and guidelines to facilitate operations at the different levels

Output 2

Comprehensive Training Programme to increase institutional capacities to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters in the most prone areas

Activities

- Design an initial training programme for key decision-making level officials at the central and state government level
- Design a programme for the exchange of experiences with Latur and Gujarat at the state and community level
- Production of training materials
- Conduction of at least 10 workshops
- Review and evaluation of the programme
- Production of guidelines,

Immediate Objective 2

To increase the capacity of local governments, community organisations and other local level stakeholders for disaster risk management

Output 3

Local level disaster risks and resources-capacities assessed and increased, with community participation.

Activities

- Awareness campaign focusing on risk reduction
- Database and inventory of risks and programmes
- Community preparedness plans
- Training of local key stakeholders in risk reduction and disaster preparedness techniques

- Development of user-friendly community awareness and training materials
- Mechanism for feedback to the state and central levels of risks and disasters established

Monitoring

The project will be nationally executed, with the “DEA” as the Central Government’s focal point. UNDP will assign a full-time project officer to oversee the operations, including field visits, spot-checking and auditing. All GOs and NGOs involved will sign subcontracts in which quarterly financial and narrative/progress reports will be established as compulsory.

C. INPUTS

The total funding requirement in support of the above mentioned activities is US\$1,000,000.

D. RISKS

No major risks are foreseen in the execution of this project, other than a shift of priorities from the key stakeholders once the impact of the Gujarat earthquake is forgotten in the daily news.

E. MANAGEMENT

The project will be executed under a National Execution arrangement with the “DEA”², which will act as the focal government institution, ensuring the participation of the involved institutions in the States of Gujarat, Uttaranchal, Orissa and Maharashtra. UNDP will designate the Emergency Officer to be recruited for Delhi as per the Coordination umbrella project, to oversee the overall operations of the project and will report to the UNDP Resident Representative on progress, achievements and constraints.

F. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The following monitoring mechanisms will be used to monitor and evaluate the project:

- A work-plan for the implementation of the different objectives
- Quarterly narrative progress report and financial statements
- Periodic field visits, spot-checks and auditing by the UNDP Emergency Officer to assess progress
- One mid-term and one final evaluations and reports
- Documentation of best practices
- Project and budget revisions as appropriate

G. BUDGET

Budget Line	Item	US\$
17.51	National consultants	200,000
21.01	Subcontracts –databases and inventories	150,000
21.02	Subcontracts – Awareness campaigns	150,000
21.03	Subcontracts – Development of materials	60,000
31.01	Workshops – central level	50,000
31.02	Workshops – state and community level	250,000
41.01	Equipment – central/state level	120,000
52.01	Publications	20,000
GRAND TOTAL		1,000,000

² To be properly spelled-out and/or defined by UNDP/CO in consultation with respective authorities