Disaster Management Community

Community Update

In this Issue   No.135: 31, August 2015.

From the Resource Team| Community News |Member Postings

From the Resource Team

Dear Members,

The torrential rains in Assam in the second half of August 2015, caused overflowing of Brahmaputra and its tributaries causing floods across 19 districts of Assam and affecting nearly 600 thousand people. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), Indian Army and NDRF worked round the clock to evacuate people from flooded areas to relief camps and providing relief measures. Due to preparedness efforts of ASDMA, the number of fatalities was limited to 14; Relief operations have reached to most of the affected population. According to the ASDMA report, the losses are indicated only to extent of inundation of agricultural land and its impact on crops. Data on loss of livelihood, especially of traders, industries (SME) and loss to the market is yet to be assessed.

Accounting of loss due to disasters in secondary and tertiary sectors is not well established, due to various factors. In the workshop held on 24th Aug 2015 on "Enhancing Private Sector Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction", a case study of Thailand floods -2011 was presented, where it showed that losses to the private sector during disasters is around 80% and in case Thailand Floods nearly 30% of SME entrepreneurs had to shut their units after the disaster. This impacted livelihood of the employees and their families. The workshop organised was to bring in the concept of Disaster Risk Reduction and the need for risk sensitive investment planning in business and industries to disasters, so as to enable business continuity operations even after disasters. The workshop flagged number of issues that needs further deliberations and follow-up. Two key issues that were flagged are Risk reduction measures are to be applied for business continuity both at local and national level for reducing supply chain loss and most importantly creating a national database of small and medium enterprises as nearly 70% them don't have enough capacity to access any government incentive to be bailed out after disasters.

On 27th August 2015, the cabinet announced 98 SMART Cities for implementation across the country. The purpose of the Smart Cities Mission is to drive economic growth and improve the quality of life of people in Urban areas by enabling local area development and harnessing technologies that leads to Smart outcomes. The identification of smart cities was based on 10 key infrastructure development indicators, the details can be viewed at http://smartcities.gov.in/writereaddata/SmartCityGuidelines.pdf. In the smart city mission statement and guidelines there is hardly any mention of Disaster Risk Reduction, rather a passing remark to disasters. Whereas, the suggested infrastructures for Smart Cities are vulnerable to different kinds of hazards and it is very important for Special Project Vehicles to identify DRR components to be mainstreamed into Smart Cities Mission, for the purpose to be accomplished. The economic growth can be sustained only, if the damages to infrastructures during disasters are minimal and if the private business units which hold key to economic growth does not suffer huge losses and damages during disasters.

We thank members for their contribution to the community updates and for their inputs to discussion topic New Education Policy. Look forward for further inputs in strengthening Disaster Management Community of Practice (DM CoP).

With warm regards,

G. Padmanabhan and Mahendra R,
Resource Team, DM CoP,
UN Solution Exchange.

Members Postings

Recently Held - Workshops and Conferences

From, Mahendra. R, UNDP, New Delhi.

"Enhancing Private Sector Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction"

The Ministry of Home Affairs, UNDP, USAID and FICCI, jointly organised 1 day workshop on "Enhancing Private Sector Partnership for Disaster Risk Reduction" on 24th August 2015 in New Delhi. The main objective of the workshop was to develop better understanding of the need for risk sensitive investment planning in business and industries. The workshop was inaugurated Mr. Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs, India and Chief Guest for the occasion was Ms. Ms. Margareta Wahlstrom, SRSG, UNISDR. The workshop deliberated on the following topics:
Business Continuity Planning & Disaster Risk Reduction
- IT Sector and Disaster Management: Challenges and Opportunities
- Disaster Risk Reduction in Real Estate/ Housing Sector : Challenges and Opportunities
- Challenges and Opportunities in Infrastructure Sector for Disaster Management
- Supply Chain, Manufacturing and Disaster Management

Upcoming Events
Conference

The Adhiyamaan College of Engineering (Autonomous) is organising Conference on "Exploration of Computation and Information Technology for Disaster Management - A Multidisciplinary Conference (ECITDM15)" on 11th and 12th of September 2015 at its campus, with the support of Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology and ISRO, Department of Space, Government of India.

The conference aims to focus, outline and highlight the common pre-disaster and post disaster issues which need to be addressed to bring out salient features for disaster recovery planning. The Conference is also expected to throw light on the benefits of disaster planning and the understanding requirements before and after a disaster occurs.

For more details of the conference, please visit the site http://ecitdm.in/ . You can also contact Dr. Sunitha Abburu at drsunitabburu@yahoo.com or director_mca@adhiyamaan.ac.in . call at 91-9600507590 or 8050594248

Workshops
The Second World Congress on Disaster Management (2nd WCDM) is planned to be held at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India during 19-22

Community News

From Our Partners
National Institute for Disaster Management, New Delhi is conducting number of training programs, events and online courses. For more details please visit http://nidm.gov.in/default.asp

UN News for India and Bhutan
The UNIC August 2015 newsletter covers news related to Sustainable Development Agenda, its financing and also about sustainable energy for all; Action against illegal wild life trade , advocating youth happiness with drugs and alcohol, women safety and many more. For more information click on the site http://www.unic.org.in/items/Newsletter_August2015.pdf

Update your Profile!
Request members to share the latest contact details to enable us to be in contact. Please click here to update your contact **(Your Name, Organisation, Email Id and Mobile Number).**

Membership

We request members to spread word within your network, Disaster Management professionals and practitioners about Disaster Management Community of Practioners, UN Solution Exchange and request them to become members of the community or write to: se-drm@solutionexchange-n.net.in

Job Opportunities
From Jiji Bhattacharji, UNDP, New Delhi

Research Associate, GS-7 -UNESCAP

For more details about the Vacancy Announcement please click on the below link
https://inspira.un.org/psc/Research_Associate_G7

Announcements

From Narendra Mishra, UNDP, India

United Nation's Volunteers, UNDP and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports,

November 2015, in collaboration with Government of Andhra Pradesh and various local, national, regional and international organizations, six years after the First Congress. This would be the largest Congress on disaster management organized by a non-governmental organization. The Congress would deliberate on all possible aspects of disaster risk management in as many as 28 Thematic Sessions, structured around 10 Clusters. The Congress would highlight the need for coordinated research and action involving all stakeholders for holistic management of disasters, in all its cycles - during pre-disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness; on disaster response and relief; and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction. The Congress would debate on the process of implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

More details about the WCDM can be viewed at http://www.wcdm.info/. For those who are interested to present papers, please view for details at http://www.wcdm.info/callforpapers . The organisers can be contacted at convenorwcdm2014@wcdm.info or drsanandababy@wcdm.info or call at 91-040-23305263 to know more details.

Trainings

From Dibyashree Datta RedR India, Pune.

RedR training Announcement

We request you to participate and/or consider nominating participants from your organization for the below mentioned courses. Also request your kind support to share this information with people and organizations who you think would be interested and can benefit from attending these training courses. Please feel free to contact us for any clarifications. For more details on our trainings and training calendar, you can visit us http://www.redr.org.in/ or call Dibyashree Dataa at 020-32912532.

#	Name	Start date	End date	Days	Venue
1	Engineering in Emergencies	22-09-15	28-09-15	7	Pune
2	Emergency Needs Assessment	22-09-15	25-09-15	4	Guwahati

Resources

From Saikhom Kennedy, Inter Agency Groups (IAGs), Sphere, India.

The Joint Needs Assessment Reports (JNA) on recent floods situation in West Bengal and Assam is released and available through the below links

JNA Report of Assam Floods, 2015: This report contains the compilation of the JNAR Phase -01 actions in the state of Assam, India in the aftermath of the incessant rains from April 17th and the subsequent embankment breaches caused massive floods affecting 19 districts of Assam, affecting around 600 thousand people and 14 fatalities reported, as on 22nd August, 2015.

JNA Report of West Bengal Floods, 2015:
This report contains the compilation of the JNA –Phase 01 actions in the state of West Bengal, India in the aftermath of the incessant rains in the month of July'2015, Cyclone Komen that hit the State on 30th of July'15 and release of huge quantum of water from Damodar Valley causing floods in 236 blocks of 14 districts and this impacted nearly 1.06 crore people. Water logging is reported from North 23 Paraganas as on 27 Aug 2015.

Government of India are initiating a new project titled "Strengthening Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National Service Scheme (NSS)" to promote youth volunteerism in India. One of the activities in the project is to help Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India in implementing the National Youth Policy 2014 by preparing Action Plans (with focus on youth volunteerism). Please find the links, seeking for experts /consultant for preparation of action plans on National Youth Policy 2014 of Government of India.

- Youth and Social Entrepreneurship http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=59411
- Youth and inclusion http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=59410
- Youth and Gender justice and equality http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=59409
- Youth and Environment and Disaster Management http://jobs.undp.org/cj_view_job.cfm?cur_job_id=59402

For any further clarification, please write to narendra.mishra@undp.org

From Ajit Tyagi, New Delhi.

GnY Climate
A fortnightly online magazine on Water, Weather and Hazards is shared by member for wider circulation. The August edition provides information monsoon and floods. To view the magazine please click on the link below

http://www.geographyandyou.com/images/pdf-folder/GnYClimate

*From **Harjeet Singh,** ActionAid International, New Delhi*

"**What India should do to tackle climate impacts**" with the DRM and Climate lists. The article tries to influence the climate action plan that government is developing in the run up to the Paris Climate Summit in December this year, it can be read at link: http://www.downtoearth.org.in/blog/what-india-should-do-to-tackle-climate-impacts-50724

News from around the world

Boat Capsizes killing refugees

At least 105 people have been killed and more than one hundred others are still missing after a boat, reportedly packed with refugees bound for Italy, capsized and sank off the Libyan coast. According to the head of Libya's Red Crescent in Zuwara, 105 bodies have been recovered and nearly 200 others have been rescued.

The UNHCR, the UN Agency for refugees, in a statement, released on Friday, said there were about 500 people on board.

Sources told Al Jazeera that many of the dead had been trapped in the cargo hold when the boat capsized on Thursday.

http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/08/200-feared-dead-libya-refugee-boat-disaster-150828062813429.html

Tropical Storm Erika devastates Dominica Island

Flooding and landslides kill at least 20 people and leave more than 50 missing in Dominica (Caribbean Island) after tropical storm Erika whipped the island for more than 5 hours on Wednesday (26th Aug 2015), with strong winds and intense rain causing floods and landslides. Hundreds of homes have been destroyed.

"Access by road to these communities is impossible," said the prime minister, Roosevelt Skerrit. These towns "are cut off from the rest of the country".Skerrit appealed for international aid and estimated that damage from the storm could set the country's development back two decades. (the Guardian 31st Aug 2015 http://www.theguardian.com/aug/31/tropical-storm-erika-dominica