

Annual Activity Report 2019 -2020

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Resilience

Kerala State Disaster Management Authority & UNICEF partnership



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for every child

1.0 Introduction

Kerala being the narrow strip of land between the Western Ghats in the East and the Arabian sea in the west with heterogeneous and diversified land use-land cover(LULC) characteristics determined also by the undergoing rapid socio-economic transformation from an agrarian society to a highly urbanized consumerist society has transformed as a multi-hazard prone state in due course of time. The Hazard profile of Kerala state is frequently and periodically ravaged by the disastrous consequences of numerous hazards and the climate change impacts at the local level act as risk escalation factors.

KSDMP identifies 39 phenomena with potential to cause disasters requiring L2attention that the state is susceptible to and they are grouped under two categories based on the major triggering factors, they are being Naturally Triggered Hazards (Natural Hazards) and anthropogenic triggered Hazards (Anthropogenic Hazards). Not all these hazards turn into disasters that are 'beyond the coping capacity of the community of the affected area'. There are state specific disasters such as lightning, coastal erosion, soil piping, heat wave, strong wind less than cyclone which causes damages to life and property.

For Kerala, floods are the most common of natural hazards that affect people, infrastructure and natural environment in Kerala. Earlier to the 2018 Kerala monsoon, the 1924 floods had similar impact. The Kerala 2018 floods caused severe devastation in 9 districts. The floods led to a massive destruction and loss of life - 433 fatalities, which includes 67 children (Post Disaster Needs Assessment report 2018), affected 5.4 million people including estimated 2,5 million children. About 1.4 million people had to be shifted to relief camps at the height of the crisis. The worst affected districts were Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Ernakulum, Thrissur, Wayanad, Malappuram, Kottayam, Pallakad and Idukki. Along with floods, the continuous rains, triggered landslide and landslips in many places. Several landslides happened across the state, especially in Wayanad and Idukki districts, adding to the impact of floods. Many lives were lost, and houses were fully damaged, and even agricultural lands were severely damaged due to landslide.

The floods and landslides damaged an estimated 317,000 shallow wells, affecting availability of drinking water to nearly 20% of the population and water contamination is another issue that continues post disaster also. Over 95,000 household latrines have been substantially damaged affecting nearly 400,000 people. A total of 1613 schools was affected by the floods and 1700 schools were used as relief camps. In addition, 1148 toilets and 842 urinal facilities and about 34,251 m of compound walls were damaged. Floods affected teaching and learning instructions in almost all the districts with institutions being closed from 2 to 23 days, to more than 2.5 lakh school going children. It is estimated that 71,927 school students lost their uniforms and 86,634 students lost their textbooks, notebooks, school bags, noon-meal plates and tumblers. The floods hindered the regular functioning of the AWCs leaving 1219 centers fully and partially damaged, which deprived women and children from getting their regular nutrition supplements, health check-ups and regular services, besides affecting the pre-school education of children aged 3-6 years. (PDNA-Kerala Floods 2018).

Focusing on three priorities of Sendai framework on Disaster risk reduction namely (i) Understanding disaster risk; (ii) Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk; (iii) Investing in disaster reduction for resilience, KSDMA launched a project in partnership with UNICEF in 2019 titled “Mainstreaming Disaster risk resilience”. The thrust areas of the project were Child Centered Risk Informed Planning, School Safety Programmes and Strengthening Inter Agency Group activities.

The project activities of UNICEF in the year 2019 were centered on Child Centred Risk Informed Planning, School Safety Programmes and Strengthening Inter Agency Group activities.

1. School Safety programmes
2. Child Centred Risk Informed Programming (CCRIP)
3. Training for Networking DRR – Strengthening IAG State and district level
4. Visit s – Flood ravaged areas, SCERT core group meeting

Activities under KSDMA-UNICEF partnership project commenced under the experienced leadership of Dr. K B Valsalakumari as the Consultant - DRR of this project. The first programme under the project was the State level consultation programme on School safety conducted on 22-06-2019.

2.0 School Safety Programmes

In a time of increasing events of disasters, child focused disaster risk reduction activities including school safety can impart the culture of disaster preparedness to the future generation. It is estimated that about 175 million children per year will be affected by natural disasters attributed to climate change. Every year between 2000 and 2009, 65 million people on average in India were affected by disasters. Every year, 8.45 million children under five years of age are affected by disasters; of these, 1.25 million children are malnourished.

Integration of disaster risk reduction into education is a long-term process which aims to ensure that knowledge about hazards, risks and appropriate safety behaviour is deeply embedded within

communities, with children as “agents of change”. To achieve this there is a need to promote knowledge of disaster management and behavioural change with regard to disaster risks. As a beginning, it is important to make the schools a safe place and extend this to other children centric spaces. ‘School Safety’ has been defined as the creation of safe environments for children starting from their homes to their schools and back. This includes safety from large-scale 'natural' hazards of geological/climatic origin, human-made risks, pandemics, violence as well as more frequent and smaller-scale fire, transportation and other related emergencies, and environmental threats that can adversely affect the lives of children.

2.1 State level Consultation on school safety 2019-2020

In this context, a one-day consultation on school safety was held on 22nd June 2019 at Mascot Hotel, Thiruvananthapuram under the organizations of KSDMA, the General education department of Kerala state and UNICEF. The meeting was conducted as three sessions commencing from the inaugural function and continued the sessions with the topic discussions. The inaugural ceremony of the meeting commenced at 10.00 am. Mr Parvathy, Hazard and Risk analyst, KSDMA formally welcomed the dignitaries. Dr. Sekhar L Kuriakose, Member Secretary, KSDMA, briefed about the importance of the topic in his presidential address. Inaugural address was delivered by Mr A Shajahan IAS, Secretary, General Education Department, Kerala.



Mr K Jeevan Babu IAS, Director of Directorate of General Education gave the keynote speech defining the risks that have to be monitored periodically to safeguard the health and well-being of children. Felicitations were made by Dr Valsalakumari IAS (Retd), DRR Consultant, UNICEF and Mr Job Zachariah, UN Recovery Coordinator, Kerala. Mr Pradeep G S, Hazard analyst, KSDMA delivered vote of thanks to all dignitaries on and off the stage and thanked them for gracing the occasion by their solemn presence.

There were two sessions in the programme. First session exploring the national and state perspectives on school safety, briefing the various activities taken up by the state and also at the

national level including the integration of disaster management elements in the curriculum. The resource persons and the topics are given below

1. School Safety- National perspective: Ms. Vandana Chauhan, UNICEF
2. Existing mechanism of ensuring School Safety in the state: Dr Girish Cholayil, DPI
3. Guideline on the safety and security of the school going children: Mr P Vijayan IPS, Police Department
4. School Safety- Measures taken at the State level and gaps (2018-19): Mr Joe John George, KSDMA
5. Curriculum on School safety: Mr. Vineesh T V, SCERT



The second session explored and discussed best practices and way forward in relation to the school safety activities. The following resource persons guided the discussions.

1. Mock Drills in school: Mr Harikumar K, Geohazards International
2. Best practices in School Safety: Mr Mahendra Rajaram, UNICEF
3. Best practices in School Safety: Mr Ramesh Krishnan, FDA
4. School Safety Guideline, template on School Safety Plan, School Safety Committee, Annual Action Plan: Mr Ronu Mathew, KSEOC

Finally in the group and general discussion sessions were following points were discussed and decided for proceeding with school safety activities across the state:

- a) There is a need to appoint eligible candidates for Disaster Management training. Detailed, concentrated sectoral training may be planned.

- b) Initiatives must be taken to generate awareness about Basic First Aid and CPR, among school students.
- c) Training needs to be provided to school students.



- d) Include Disaster Management and Civics in curriculum. Good civic awareness should be created in students. SCERT shall take lead.
- e) All schools should constitute School Safety/ School Disaster Management Committees according to the stipulated norms before July 31st.
- f) Every school should formulate School Safety/ School Disaster Management Plan in the prescribed format before August 31st.



- g) Education Department shall send the Quarterly report to SDMA immediately after the completion of every quarter to ensure onward submission to NDMA before 10th of subsequent month.
- h) All School buildings shall comply with the statutory norms for fitness. No school shall function in unsafe buildings.

- i) KSDMA should have an active kids zone in the website in order to create Disaster Management awareness among KIDS.

Ms Anupama, Hazard analyst, KSEOC delivered the vote of thanks to all the dignitaries and participants for their input.

2.2 School safety training programme at the district level

In continuation to the state level consultation on school safety, regional training programmes on School Safety were conducted at the district level in association with Directorate of General education. More than 200 schools in 12 districts have been selected for the training programme based on the multi hazard zones and 2018 flood affected area. These district level awareness programmes were organized clubbing two or more districts. Education department officials, teachers from different disaster affected schools attended these programmes organized throughout the year starting from October 2019.

District level trainings will aid the schools to initiate the process of forming School safety committee and formulating School Safety plan. It will also help the education department officials to internalize the importance of School safety and its connection to Community based disaster risk reduction. These programmes will eventually help the society in large to develop and nurture resilience. As an outcome of this programme, School safety action plan will be formulated in all the engaged schools, and they will be monitored subsequently.

2.2(a) School safety training for Pathanamthitta and Kottayam districts at DIET, Thiruvalla

The first regional training program on school safety started on **Saturday, the 26th of October 2019** at DIET(District Institute for Education and Training), Thiruvalla. The officials and students of **Pathanamthitta and Kottayam districts** participated. The DDE of Pathanathitta district, the DEOs and AEOs of the two districts participated in the training apart from the Headmaster, the focal point teacher, a girl student and a boy student from

each of the selected 14 schools each of the 2 districts. A total of 146 participants attended.



Former Principal secretary and UNICEF consultant DRR, Dr K B Valsalakumari IAS, DDE - Quality Improvement Programme from the office of the DPI Mrs M. Sugatha, DDE of Pathanamthitta district Mrs P A Shanthamma and Principal of DIET Mrs Lalykutty P addressed the gathering.

This was followed by presentations by Mr. Pradeep G S, hazard analyst, KSDMA and Dr. Pratheesh C Mammen, Programme coordinator, UNICEF-KSDMA partnership.

The training had two interactive sessions in which the trainees were divided into 8 groups and each group was asked to list out issues and components related to school safety and multiple hazards. The schools who attended the workshop are expected to submit their report on school safety activities.



2.2(b) School safety training for Alappuzha, Kollam and Eranakulam districts at District Planning Office, Alappuzha

The regional training program on school safety for the Alappuzha, Ernakulam and Kollam Districts was conducted on **Saturday, the 1st of**

February 2020 at District Planning Office, Alappuzha. The Education department officials and teachers of **Alappuzha, Kollam and Ernakulam districts** participated. The DDE of Alappuzha district, the DEOs and AEOs of the two districts participated in the training apart from the Headmaster, the focal point teacher of the selected schools. A total of 122 participants attended.



Dr. K B Valsalakumari, Former Principal Secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management and Consultant DRR - UNICEF delivered the introductory remarks. Alappuzha DDE delivered felicitations and stressed the need for having school safety action plans in all schools of the district. The introductory session was followed by a lecture on the Overview of disasters, governance mechanism, legal framework by Dr K B Valsalakumari and a session on School safety, School safety action plan and the roles and responsibilities of different stake holders in school safety activities by Mr. Sinoj Xavier, District programme coordinator, Sphere India.



In the post lunch session, participants were divided into 10 groups and were given an exercise wherein each group was given the map of a school with the building plan and they were asked to draw the evacuation route. In the feedback session some of the teachers pointed out the importance of

conducting continuing programmes in order to disseminate the relevance of school safety programmes. Some of them stressed the importance of giving awareness to the LSG representatives, Parent teacher association members etc.

2.2(c) School safety training for Idukki district at Idukki collectorate conference hall

The regional training program on school safety for the Idukki District was conducted on **Saturday, the 1st of February 2020 at Idukki Collectorate Conference Hall**. The Education department officials and teachers of **Idukki district** participated..The DDE of Idukki district, the DEOs and AEOs of participated in the training apart from the Headmaster, the focal point teacher of the selected schools. A total of 96 participants attended the training programme.



The programme was inaugurated by the District Collector H Dineshan IAS. He pointed out the need of School safety programmes for a high range district like Idukki where floods and landslides are frequent and periodical. He reiterated the fact that due to climate change, the frequency and intensity of the climate extreme events are on a rise. Idukki DDE

Mrs. Mini T K delivered felicitation and stressed the need for having school safety action plans in all schools of the district.

Inauguration was followed by a session on the Overview of disasters, governance mechanism, legal framework by Mr Pradeep G S, hazard Analyst, KSDMA and a session on School safety, School safety action plan and the roles and

responsibilities of different stake holders in school safety activities by Mr. Abdul Noor, former UNDP-KSDMA project District coordinator. In the post lunch session, participants were divided into 10 groups and they reviewed the school safety plan template submitted by them which was send to them earlier. They shared their concerns and pointed out the mistakes in the submitted reports. Most of them commented that the review session was an eye opener towards formulating a foolproof school safety plan.



2.2(d) School safety training for Palakkad and Thrissur districts at Govt. Polytechnic College, Shoranur

The regional training program on school safety program for the Palakkad and Thrissur districts was conducted on Saturday, the 8th of February 2020 in the Govt. Polytechnic College, Shoranur, Palakkad district. The DEOs and AEOs of the two districts participated in the training apart from the Headmaster or the representative from each school with a total participation of 76 persons out of which 46 were teachers in charge or head teachers of schools. DDE Palakkad Mr. Krishnan P and DDE Thrissur Mrs. Geetha N attended the training and delivered felicitations.



Dr.K B Valsalakumari IAS (Retd.), Consultant, DRR, UNICEF and Mr.Praveen S, District Project Coordinator, Sphere India had facilitated the workshop.

The program started with an introduction to the Basics of Disaster Management by Mr. Praveen after an icebreaking session where participants could lay down their point of view and also understand the institutional mechanism of Disaster Management in India



Later Dr. K B Valsalakumari IAS (Retd.), consultant, UNICEF delivered a detailed lecture on the Comprehensive School Safety and the role of the participants in building resilience and capacity towards Disasters. The afternoon sessions were concentrated on the review of School DM plan templates, Group Discussions, evacuation plans among the schools and follow up mechanisms.

2.2(e) School safety training for Kozhikkode and Wayanad districts at Mar Baselios Hall, Eengappuzha

The regional school safety training programme for the Kozhikkode and Wayanad districts was conducted on Saturday, the 8th of February 2020 at the Mar Baselios Hall, Eengappuzha, Thamarasserry. The DDE of Kozhikkode District Mrs Mini V P, DDE in charge of the Wayanad Dist., DEOs and AEOs of the two districts participated in the training apart from the Headmaster or the representative from each school. 58 persons

attended the programme out of which 43 were teachers from different schools in the two districts.

Mr Fahad Marzook, Hazard Analyst (Meteorology), KSDMA and Mrs. Ashwathy P, Hazard Analyst, DDMA, Kozhikkode facilitated the workshop. The program started with an introduction to the basics of Disaster Management by Mr. Fahad Marzook after an icebreaking session, where participants could lay down their point of view and also understand the institutional mechanism of DM in India. He also pointed out the frequenting climate related extremities which affect the vulnerable sections of the society disparately.

Later on Mrs. Aswathy P delivered a detailed lecture about the Comprehensive School Safety programme and the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in the education sector in building resilience and capacity towards Disasters.

2.2(e) School safety training for Malappuram district at the District Panchayath Hall, Malappuram

The regional training program on school safety for the Idukki District was conducted on **Saturday, 8th February 2020 at District Panchayath Hall, Malappuram**. The Education department officials and teachers of Malappuram **district** participated. The DDEs, DEOs and AEOs of Malappuram district participated in the training apart from the Headmaster, the focal point teacher of the selected schools.

A total of 57 participants attended. The programme was inaugurated by the DDE, Malappuram District.



The inauguration was followed by a session on the Overview of disasters, governance mechanism,

legal framework by Dr Shreeja M U, Hazard Analyst, KSDMA and a session on School safety, school safety action plan and the roles and responsibilities of different stake holders in school safety activities by Dr Pratheesh C Mammen, Programme coordinator, UNICEF-KSDMA programmes



In the post lunch session, participants were divided into 6 groups and they reviewed the school safety plan template submitted by them which was send to them earlier. They shared their concerns and pointed out the mistakes in the submitted reports.

This was followed by another exercise wherein each group was given the map of a school with the building plan and they were asked to draw the evacuation route. Two members from each group presented their findings followed by a discussion. Dr Shreeja facilitated the discussion and detailed the coordination possibilities at the ground level. Some of the DEOs and AEOs suggested the possibility of school safety training given through the teachers training programme during the summer holidays.



2.3 State Level consultation on School safety 2020-2021

School safety related issues are increasing day by day, reiterating the need of school safety initiatives in all the schools. To ensure safety of children in school and its surrounding areas, it is critical to implement comprehensive school safety programme which includes preparation of school safety plan, formation of school safety committee, hazard hunt exercises and mock drills.

Due to various incidents happened in the passing academic year such as school bus accidents, snake bites and drowning deaths, various stakeholders were involved in multiple activities and awareness programmes related to school safety. In the past, Education Department, Police Department, the Samagra Siksha Keralam(SSK) and KSDMA took initiatives to publish various guidelines & manuals related to school safety. Kerala SDMA in association with UNDP and UNICEF has organised many activities with active participation and support from the Directorate of General Education to impart the culture of School safety in the passing academic year. UNDP focussed on individual schools, two from each district and 28 schools were considered and individual attention was given in preparation of School safety plan, School safety committee and also a system in place to address the safety issues. UNICEF organised district level orientation/training programmes for teachers, DEOs and AEOs of 11 districts in 6 locations covering about 230 schools (1100 individuals).

In order to review the efforts taken by KSDMA and other stakeholders and also to identify the gaps and formulate the future plan, a consultation meeting was conducted covering the following departments and government organisations on 2nd March 2020 at Hotel Central Residency, Thampanoor, Thiruvananthapuram. The following were the broad objectives of the programme

1. Review the activities and programmes organised by various stakeholders and identifying the gaps and challenges



2. Explore the possibilities of expanding the school safety programme to all schools across Kerala and devising a strategy of action
3. Possibility of utilising the school safety app in integrating and collating the information from different schools
4. Strategy for disseminating messages about child safety and school safety through various available mass media.

The meeting started with a formal inaugural session. KSDMA chief manager Mr. Siji M Thankachen, welcomed the dignitaries and participants followed by introductory remarks by Dr K B Valsalakumari IAS, former Principal secretary & DRR consultant UNICEF. She pointed out the relevance of the school safety activities in the current context of changing climate and disasters. Dr. Sekhar L Kuriakose, Member secretary, KSDMA inaugurated the meeting He reiterated the legacy of Kerala in incorporating safe schools concept in the Education rules which was executed decades ago and the need to press on to the goal of safe schools.



He outlined the activities started by KSDMA to ensure imparting the culture of safety in schools and the importance of the involvement of stakeholders in the effectiveness of these activities.

Keynote address by Mr Jeevan Babu IAS, Director, Directorate of General Education which followed, focused the need for coordination and the relevance of school safety activities in the context of changing environment and increased use of technological aids.



He also stressed on the practical difficulties in implementation and scaling up of the school safety activities but pinpointed the expansion of these activities so that all schools across the state are involved.

Dr Muralee Thummarukudy, Operations Manager, UNEP also raised the issues related to school safety and he focused on the need to implement school safety in a bigger way and also pointed out the activities he initiated in Wayanad districts post snake bite incident in the school.

The discussions were centered on the following

1. Need of an approving authority and a mechanism to vet the school DM plans
2. Need for an integration of different stakeholders at the district level or local level
3. Technological interventions related to up scaling the school safety efforts
4. Integration of school safety and disaster management in different syllabus
5. Mock drills to be conducted in a routine basis and possibility of making those mandatory

6. Teaching essential life skills to students which can be useful as part of cultivating disaster resilience to the future generation.



3.0 Child Centred Risk Informed Programming (CCRIP) – State Level Consultation

Disasters are affecting us at an alarming rate, the types of disasters are also becoming varied. The impact of disasters is not felt uniformly by all segments of society. The effects are felt differentially and invariably the most severely affected are the most vulnerable sections of the population. This includes children especially disabled children, women, especially in poor circumstances, socially marginalized sections like scheduled castes, and scheduled tribes.

According to the Disaster Management Act of 2005, every department is mandated to prepare its disaster management plan and update it annually. The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) in collaboration with UNICEF has prepared a draft of child risk impact assessment (CRIA) report highlighting the potential risks in each sector and how it impacts the vulnerable sections of society especially children.

In order to discuss the draft and to enable departments to integrate risk informed planning in development plans, a two day state level workshop on 'Child centred risk informed programming' was jointly organized by KSDMA and UNICEF at Central Residency Hotel, Thiruvananthapuram on 16th and 17th of December 2019.



Participants of the workshop included dignitaries like Dr B Ashok I.A.S, Secretary, Water Resources Department, Smt Latha I.A.S, Commissioner Land Revenue and Dr. P Pugazhenthil IFS, Director ST development, Dr. M P Antony, member Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, Smt. Anita Damodaran, Secretary of Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, officials from various departments of the Government of Kerala including Social Justice, Scheduled Castes Development, Scheduled Tribes Development, Women and Child Welfare, General Education, office holders of UNICEF, UNDP, KSDMA, SPHERE, NGOs and students who presented their views and experiences.

Dr. Sekhar L Kuriakose, Member Secretary, KSDMA welcomed the dignitaries and participants. He gave a brief account of the present scenario of disaster management in the state and requested the representatives from various departments to ensure their active participation in sharing their experiences and opinions for increasing inclusivity.



Hon. Chief Secretary of Kerala Mr. Tom Jose IAS inaugurated the function and emphasized the problems faced by the vulnerable sections of the society especially children during disasters and post disaster stress and trauma experienced by them and the importance of such workshops. Dr. Biju Prabhakar IAS, Special Secretary in charge of the Department of Social Justice commented on the need for child centred vulnerability analysis.



He suggested that disaster management should also focus on the trafficking attempts of children which happened in some of the relief camps in Kerala during the deluge of 2018. He recommended that Government jobs should not be offered to convicted sex offenders. Institutionalised cares for children like child care homes are creating a dependency syndrome which prevents children from becoming self reliant or self confident. Hence de-institutionalisation should become one of the focus areas of those working for the welfare of children.



After the inaugural session, Dr. Pugazhenthil IAS, the Director of ST Development Department drew the attention of the participants to the affairs related to tribal population in the state. Talking about the hardships that tribal population had faced during the recent calamity, he stated that social calamities are more frequent than natural calamities and reiterated the fact that preventive-mitigate among tribes is essential. He highlighted the unscientific land use pattern in Idukki and Wayanad. Regarding tribal women and children he stated that health and nutrition are major risks.



In the following session, Mr Sarbjith Singh Sahota, Emergency Specialist & OIC DRR Section, UNICEF India, gave an overview of the concept and approaches of Child Centred Risk Informed Programming (CC-RIP). He began the session by appreciating the level of work done by people of Kerala in camps during the flood of 2018. The spectacular manifestation of the social capital of Kerala during the floods was particularly noteworthy. He gave an outline of Risk Informed Programming (RIP) defining Risk Informed Programming - as the adjustment of routine development practices through situation analyses, planning design, implementation, monitoring and tracking of results with respect to intensity of hazards, seasonality of shocks and stresses, prevailing vulnerability of different population groups and long-term patterns/predictions. Risk is multi-dimensional, and it depends on factors like hazard, shock, exposure, vulnerability and capacity. He highlighted the need for making every part of

the respective sector's or group's programme/ project cycle, risk informed.

Following this presentation, the participants were divided into groups and there were given the task of exploring the risks faced by the vulnerable sections of the society especially children, considering the different age classes during and after disasters focusing on the thematic areas Water and sanitation, Health sector (Public health, reproductive health, child health, immunization and safety), Educational sector, Nutrition and Child Protection (Psycho-social care). Dr.K.B Valsalakumari IAS (Retd.), DRR consultant UNICEF who delivered a session on the shocks and stresses the state faces/may face and its various disaster management perspectives such as capacity, vulnerability and exposure, pointed out the significance of the workshop in the context of the guiding principles of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk reduction and also the Paris agreement on climate change. She requested the delegates from departments to make necessary adjustments in their plans by integrating the issues of children as well as the other vulnerable sections of the society. All disasters, she said, will have to be viewed in the context of climate change that aggravates the situation.



Highlighting the significance of inter departmental convergence of services she pointed out that, that will accomplish better results in all aspects of disaster management. Ensuring the safety of

children, not only during disasters but also during normal times is important.

A likelihood-exposure graph was then introduced to the participants for discussions in groups and also for a general awareness on the theme. She mentioned about the child risk analysis study that has been conducted by KSDMA at panchayat level, which was then explained by Dr.Pratheesh C Mammen and Mr.Sathyakumar C J, Hazard analyst, KSDMA.



Mr. Xavier Thomas, UNICEF led the post lunch session detailing the terminologies (hazard, exposure, stress, vulnerability etc.) and their connectedness in disaster management. He stressed that the districts of Kerala are prone to various disasters; hence there are huge differences in their exposure and likelihood. An exposure-likelihood graph was then displayed to be discussed in groups and the groups were asked to prepare similar graphs based on the data and information that they have about various disasters of Kerala.

An interactive session with different school going children was organised following this session and Dr. Pratheesh C Mammen moderated the session pointing out the necessity to hear from them as they are a vulnerable group in the society and hence should be consulted for making effective plans for them. The major problems faced by them were scarcity of water especially drinking water, spread of diseases during monsoon season, waste disposal problems especially plastic waste, problem of road

accidents and lack of signals in certain schools adjacent to the main roads, dehydration during summer season, dizziness while in the assembly etc. The final discussion was moderated by Mr. Sarbjit Singh with the observations from within the groups. The discussions ended with a consensus identifying the major disasters in Kerala and represented in terms of their likelihood and impacts. Mr. Xavier Thomas, UNICEF started the second day by a brief recap of the previous day's discussions and asking the participants about the feedback of the previous day. The usefulness of the workshop in programme planning was discussed. Many suggested the need for district specific evaluation of risks and impacts as they are affected by disasters differentially. Several sector specific group discussions followed this exploring the risks and quantifying them in order to integrate child centered 'the risk element' in the departmental development plan.

- The workshop rendered information on how they should relook at some of their plans, how they can make the most vulnerable as the important stake holder in the process.



Way Forward - suggestions from the workshop

- Development of a definite protocol for the vulnerable population of society is a necessity.
- Ensuring the existing relevant Acts and rules are not violated but are strictly enforced.
- Action should be taken for inter-departmental coordination and for ensuring that the message of risk informed programming reaches every department and is integrated in every phase of planning.
- The gaps existing in the implementation of schemes for vulnerable sections need to be addressed



Feedback from the participants

- Participants were all of the same opinion that the workshop was very relevant in the present situation of increasing atrocities against children.
- Everybody agreed to the fact that when a disaster strikes it impacts the different sections of society differentially depending upon their vulnerabilities and capacities.
- They said that discussions regarding the fund utilization for most vulnerable sections (differentially abled, senior citizens etc.) gave clarity for planning in the future.
- Workshop enabled them to interact with various line departments.



- A protocol should be formulated to address the vulnerable sections of each department at the disaster phase and normal situations.

the roles and responsibilities of various actors in the DM process

Objectives of the consultation workshop:-

- To familiarize with DM Act 2005, institutional mechanisms in Disaster Management
- To gain input on role of civil society organisations in disaster management
- To develop recommendations and actions for Inter Agency Group institutionalisation.

Workshop on Networking for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation for IAG members was held on 7th March 2020 at Hotel Appolo Dimora, Trivandrum.



In the opening remarks, Dr. Sekhar Kuriakose, Member Secretary, KSDMA welcomed the participants and presented a brief about KSDMA structure and activities, post flood initiatives and importance of civil society organisations in disaster management. He also explained that in IAG coordination, initial phase is to create a resource data base with the available data at district. Dr. K B Valsala Kumari, UNICEF, Consultant - DRR gave a presentation on the status of the ongoing Unicef-KSDMA partnership project and detailed IAG structure, functions and scope of work, followed by participant discussion on the same. The major discussion points include institutionalization of the district level IAG, IAG capacity building for emergency response and challenges faced during the emergency coordination. This was followed by a

session in which Mr. Vijeesh. P, Sphere India presented a brief overview of the IAG.



The presentation focused on IAG structure, annual plan, IAG secretariat and IAG charter. The presentation also focused the following issues: role of IAG in emergency and peace time, resource sharing during emergency etc. In continuation to this session, Mr Siji M Thankachan, Chief Manager, KSDMA presented the major features of Disaster Management Act 2005. The aim of the session was to describe rules and sections of the act and the various roles and responsibilities of NDMA, SDMA and DDMA. He emphasised that the DM Act, 2005 provides the legislative back-up to enable collaborative mechanisms at all levels for participation and joint/coordinated action by Government and NGOs in disaster management planning.



The presentation was followed by open discussions on the topics of NGO- Government coordination during emergency, Role of NGOs for caring vulnerable sections of the society during response

phase, typical first phase NGO response in specific scenarios etc. Joe John George, State Project Officer, KSDMA detailed about projects and activities of KSDMA and emphasized on school safety programme, inclusive DRR and community based DRR. Various subjects like resource data base, NGO accreditation etc. were discussed in this session.

This was followed by a group discussion centred on the subjects like practical difficulties of IAG coordination and coordination with the district administration, IAG database, IAG coordination and financial resources for IAG. Everybody actively participated in expressing their views.

5.0 Visits

During the project period two visits were done for awareness creation and ground truthing

5.1 Visit to flood & landslide impacted areas

UNICEF-KSDMA team comprising of Dr. K B Valsalakumari, Mr. Pradeep G S, Hazard Analyst in charge of School safety and Dr. Pratheesh C Mammen, Programme Coordinator, UNICEF-KSDMA programmes visited the flood and landslide affected areas in Malappuram and Wayanad districts on 21st and 22nd November 2019. The team visited Kavalappara landslide area of Nilambur first which coincided with the visit of Sri M A Yusuff Ali to Kavalappara. There was a crowd of women and men waiting to receive him. The team reached there as soon after he left.



Therefore we could interact with the crowd that gathered there. Rajesh Dominic who is residing in Kavalappara and who is a witness to the landslide and attendant tragedy informed us that there were indications of impending landslide. The cattle became very restless and started crying loudly; the dogs were also howling severely, turbulent water with small pieces of debris started rolling gradually. These sights made Rajesh un-tether his five cows and all ran to safer places. There were around thirty dogs in Kavalappara; after the landslides only one dead body of dog was recovered.



It also informs us that humans have to be vigilant to minor changes in nature like vibrations of the earth, small landslips, intense rainfall and also the behaviour of animals. The local people informed us that prior to the deluge of 2018, a landowner had brought a hitachi, to plant rubber saplings and the slope of the hill was disturbed and earth was destabilised. We then visited a nearby Bhoodanam-Kavalappara anganwadi no 106. There were about 12 children, there were having noon meal when the team visited the children. This was an erstwhile tribal balawadi now converted to anaganwadi which is located at the foot hills of Kavalappara. There is no proper exit route from this anganwadi to the main road. A very narrow exit connects to the main road. According to a parent they are living in constant fear of another landslide.



Our next visit was to Chembra colony. On our way we found relics of a concrete walkway across the river(Punnappuzha) at Shanthigaramam and now there is a makeshift bridge made of wood and rope. We were also shown innumerable scars of landslides close to this location. A local resident said that there are about 381 visible minor landslides and mud slips. Chembra colony is occupied by tribes known as Kattunaikkars. There are 36 families in the colony. We were told by Raghu, the teacher of the alternative school there, that the children of the colony are not attending schools. There are 15 drop outs from the school; out of this five of them are girls.



So we requested the teacher to call the parents over to the alternative school. Two parents, two youngsters and four dropout children also gathered. Children said that they had dropped out because they had no money to go to their residential schools. One version for the reasons for drop out

was parents were reluctant to send their children to schools fearing that the parents may not be alive when the children returned. This fear was transmitted to the children also and therefore psycho social support may be required to persuade the children to go back to school.

We went on to visit the Higher Secondary School at Edakkara. This school was very badly affected in the last flood. Water level had risen two feet above the first floor. The library was completely damaged. No books could be retrieved from the mud. They managed to rebuild better the library with larger number of books using public contribution. The laboratory equipment was badly affected; bottles and test tubes were also destroyed. But they have made the lab operational although at a reduced level. The computer lab was very badly affected. Six projectors and about seven UPS were all found lying on the floor in a damaged condition.

On day 2 we met Mr & Mrs Augustine who were the residents of Puthumala in Wayand. They stated that they have lost 8 acres of land with Coffee, Cardamom and Arecanut. They opined that the proposed compensation (5 cents of land with a house in it at Kalladi) is too inadequate to make good the loss that they sustained. We then proceeded to Puthumala where a massive landslide occurred which claimed 17 lives. The main reason for the landslide appears to be that the primary water channels have been obstructed due to construction activities. The land use patterns were detrimental to the stability of landmasses. Initially the water flow was through a culvert and it was a small rivulet, when the landslide occurred coupled with heavy raining the river found its own room bringing along with it huge boulders and debris from uphill. We met Mr Chandran, the ward member who was full of voluntary spirit. Had it not been for his timely action (i.e. announcing an impending danger and helping the local residents to evacuate quickly) the number of fatalities would have been much higher. Many people have deserted their homes and the vicinity looks more like a ghost town.



According to Mr.Chandran and others, on August 7th 2019, the process of landslide had started to happen. Since it was raining heavily and continuously for three days (In the words of Mr. Chandran, “the precipitation that normally happens within a period of 6 months, happened within a small period of three days”) mud and small particles of rock started rolling down the hill and one huge boulder came and fell on the back side of one of the houses. The house owner rang up ward member Mr. Chandran past midnight and he rushed to the spot to see the condition of the house. The ward member realised that it was no more safe for people to stay back in their houses. Mr.Chandran went from house to house announcing the dangers of continuing there and managed to convince them to move out to a school building at Kashmir. On seeing the water level rise up and at the request of the people, they were shifted again to the forest building at Mundakkai. The anganawadi that is functioning in Puthumala was relocated to Kashmir but due to fear of repetition of landslide, parents do not send their children to that Anganwadi. People have been relocated to various places and the panchayath has arranged monthly rent of ₹3000 per family through sponsors.

Next visit was to Varambetta School in the vicinity of Banasurasagar dam. This was a school which was repeatedly affected in 2018 and 2019 by floods. The school is situated by the side of Panamaram River which is a tributary of Kabani River.

When the water level in the dam reaches a critical level water is usually released from the dam when it rushes into the school compound and inundates the school building. The building that houses the assembly hall was completely damaged and it is currently standing in a precarious condition. We were told by the PTA president that KIFB has given administrative sanction to the tune of ₹1 crore for the reconstruction of the building but they have not yet received the funds.

The team made following suggestions/ recommendations following this visit

1. At the policy level, there is an urgent need to frame a comprehensive policy regarding land use and its enforcement very strictly.
2. When a disaster happens, special focus should be given to children specially by way of providing timely psycho social support through trained counsellors.
3. We need to train people to observe cues from nature for impending disasters and take quick action to reduce the impact of those disasters. These cues from nature for various disasters can be documented in our training materials.
4. We recommend strongly that a memorial wall be erected at the site of the tragedies at Puthumala and Kavalappara with the names of all people who have

lost their lives in the recent flood engraved on it. We insist on this because future generations will be reminded of the disaster that happened due to anthropogenic interferences and will be persuaded to take precautionary measures to prevent repetition of disasters and reduce risks.

5.1 Visit to SCERT - Core Group for Syllabus preparation

A visit was made to SCERT on 12th February 2020, for presenting the School Safety related legalities and issues to the core group members of the syllabus preparation. Executive Director Dr. J Prasad, introduced Dr K B Valsalakumari to the teachers in the core group and reiterated the need for executing school safety activities in an urgent manner since safety issues concerns related to school going children are on a rise. This introductory remarks was followed by a brief presentation by Dr K B Valsalakumari, Consultant DRR,UNICEF on school safety.



She began her presentation outlining the various initiatives done till date by KSDMA in connection with the school safety. She explained that ensuring school safety is a coordinated intervention involving various stakeholders at different level involved in different specific activities starting from children to police, fire force to LSG engineers. She also pointed out the need of educating children and inculcating the behavior of resilience in the context of climate change and plummeting disaster events. She concluded her talk saying that equipping a future generation with increased resilience and response capabilities should be our ultimate aim.



JULIE AND COMPANY

Chartered Accountants

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Unicef

Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Resilience

We have audited the attached Statement of Expenditure on UNICEF- Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Resilience under State Disaster Management Authority, which comprises a detail of fund allotted and various expenditures incurred for the said purpose.

Management's responsibility for the Financial Statements

It is the responsibility of management to prepare the Statement of Expenditure that gives a true and fair view of the financial position, financial performance and the cash flows of the project in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India. The responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give true and fair view and free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. Those Standards require that we comply with the ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the Financial Statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and the disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Company's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of the accounting estimates made by the management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion

Findings

Notes forming part of the accounts:

1. Period of Audit considered is 01-04-2019 to 31-08-2020.
2. The total fund allotted by UNICEF under the project Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Resilience was Rs.52,66,070.00/-. Which include Rs.9,92,610.00/- for the period after 31.08.2020. Amount received after 31-08-2020 will be audited next year.
3. An amount of Rs.26,01,874.00/- had been returned to UNICEF.
4. The above fund of Rs.52,66,070.00/- had been credited in State Bank of India Maruthamkuzhy Branch- A/c No 38389428465. The said A/c was opened specifically for the UNICEF- Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Resilience project.
5. Fund related to COVID-19 amounting to Rs.20,00,000.00/- was also credited to the same bank account, which was not considered for the audit. Bank balance as on 31.08.2020 was excluding the COVID-19 fund. The audit for the COVID-19 fund will be conducted by next year.
6. Total Project cost including bank charges as on 31.08.2020 was Rs.16,74,500.96/-.
7. Depreciation for the fixed assets not provided since it was purchased on June 2020.
8. An amount of Rs. 2374.00/- dated 03-07-2020, credited to bank account, was adjusted against the bank charges.

Opinion

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the statements annexed to it give the information required in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India.

- i) In the case of the Income and Expenditure A/c as at 31-08-2020.
- ii) In the case Balancesheet as at 31-08-2020.

For M/s Julie And Company,

Chartered Accountants

FRN 018391S

For JULIE AND COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS TRIVANDRUM
Firm Reg. No. 018391S

Julie G Varghese
Julie G Varghese B.Com, FCA, DISA (ICAI)
Proprietor M. No. 232722



Julie G Varghese, B.com, FCA, DISA

Membership. No: 232722

Place: Trivandrum

Date: 22-12-2020

UDIN: 20232722AAAABS8216