

Third Report on Voluntary Commitment for India first made in Feb 2015, endorsed at Sendai and registered in UNDRR Geneva in March 2019, covering progress made till Dec 2021

Working on DRR, and linking with SD, among agencies and practitioners in Governments at multiple levels, UN Agencies, academic institutions, NGOs and civil society organizations supported by different Government budget lines and donors in India

- Short title **Working with selected SDMAs and Partners on DRR in India**

This project report describes the work done in India over the 1.5 yr period by an implementation coalition of 3 NGOs- SEEDS India, RedR and MPN. **While the work has been negatively impacted by CoVid, there has been significant progress made in fine tuning activities and identifying potential private sector partners.** The work is being **guided** by a three-member **Advisory Committee** (as reported in the earlier report was constituted comprising senior officials of the founding NDMA, and vice chairmen of two SDMAs, guiding the three NGOs collaborating on the implementation. Voluntary contributions were made by Red R and MPN DRR Professional working a good part of their time on the project and developing/revising a brief project proposal, a budget and a list of potential private sector and other donors in country)

The revised project document (16 pages) developed By Seeds and Red R supported by MPN is entitled “**SEEDS N REDR PROJECT SUPPORTING SDMAs AND DDMA S ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RISK REDUCTION IN SELECTED STATES IN INDIA**” In this program SEEDS, Red R India and MPN are working in a coalition focussing on State Disaster Management Authorities SDMAs in selected states in India: **Uttaranchal**, and **Maharashtra** and with selected District Disaster Management Authorities DDMA S in selected districts in these states in Phase 1, and expanding to some other states in phases, through partnerships, “low cost” modalities and some voluntary inputs. The vision articulated in the proposal is “**Transforming the vulnerable into resilient and thriving communities**”, while the mission statement is “**Equipping the most vulnerable with appropriate tools and technologies, sharing knowledge and skills and promoting linkages among stakeholders to prevent loss of life and suffering.**” The proposal articulates that other states that have expressed interest and with whom a dialogue has begun are Sikkim, Bihar, Kerala and Nagaland and Tripura and Assam. Some of these states (most likely 2) are proposed for start-up in the latter half of the second year of the 3-year project.

For Phase 1 of the project, the focus has been on Commitment a) and Commitment b). The following strategies have been developed for VERVE programme to meet its commitments towards a stronger and resilient DRR network a) Development of a VERVE volunteer programme targeted towards skilled young to mid - level professionals to work in the field of DRR/CCA. b) SEEDS and Red R will lead the program of VERVE Volunteers to partner with 2 SDMAs and 6 DDMA S to provide technical support to the implementation of Disaster Risk Prevention and Reduction programs of these institutions, well started up in first 1.5 years and to continue till end of program. c) After 1.5 years (Month 19-) two more states will be added for start up

There volunteer programme targets a diverse group of individuals who are willing to volunteers or work on a payment basis and contribute in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction. Older professionals and people who are willing to volunteer to work in development studies, social work, DRR and CCA are also encouraged to apply. The focus is on bringing in emerging leaders from different fields to work in disaster risk reduction, to encourage a positive exchange of knowledge and skills with the government institutions i.e., SDMA S and DDMA S they will be engaged with during the programme.

The classification of fellows includes a) **Corporates** – Short termed assignments on a module-based approach, b) **Young practitioners** – Long term model Approach young professionals who are graduates train them for DRR and deploy them on the field. c) **Older professionals** - Experienced professionals who are in a stage where they can guide multiple activities. Full-time or part time, depending on availability, d) **Mid age career change professional:** Professionals willing to switch professions can contribute their existing expertise for DRR, may be full-time or part-time.

The VERVE programme is to be spread across three years. This ensures three batches of volunteers working in the three states initially in India. Over a period of three years, the programme can develop a repository of knowledge products, experience-based learnings as well as a network of skilled individuals who have the

experience of working with government stakeholders who run key Disaster Risk Reduction programmes in the country.

1st Year - The Start up

Volunteer work (3 – 6 months)

This model will be inclusive of mid – long term career professionals willing to volunteer in the field of DRR. The time period will vary depending on their availability and duration of assignments. They will be deployed through the mentoring organization i.e., Red-R India and Seeds.

Fellowship Model (12 months)

A Fellowship module will be developed for volunteers/recent graduates willing to partake for longer duration. A 12-month programme will be designed, divided into three phases. They will be referred to as ‘fellows’ as they are part of a longer module.

Phase I: Selection of Volunteer and Baseline Study (1 month)

The applicants will be shortlisted through a rigorous selection process. Red-R and Seeds will be involved in the selection as well as mentorship of the selected participants. They will also facilitate the deployment plan for the fellows with the respective SDMAs. A detailed base line study will be conducted by the selected fellows, on their selected states. This involves a detailed study of existing state level DRR and CCA programmes, identification of needs and interests along with building critical partnerships. SDMAs will work with the mentoring organisations to agree on actions, division of labour, scope of work and allocate districts for the fellows to work. Overall coordination, volunteer training and support will be provided by partners in coordination with the hosting government institutions.

Phase II: Deployment with SDMAs and DDMA (9 months)

Each of the SDMAs will designate the fellows to the respective districts/state authority. This will be supported by the mentoring organisations (Red-R and Seeds), for follow up and regular monitoring of work. The fellow will be expected to: a) Support SDMAs and DDMA in development of plans, programs and partnerships with Government agencies, departments and civil society. b) Report progress and results every 3 months at SDMAs, c) Evaluate effectiveness of approach and identify good working practices and where improvements are needed.

Phase III: Consolidation of Learnings and Feedback (2 months)

The last phase will include the fellows returning back to their respective mentoring organization. This is to have a de-brief along with detailed internal performance review and feedback. The lessons learned from the end of the fellowship will further inform the planning and implementation of the next two fellowships. The cost of hosting, lodging and travel of the Fellows will be borne by the mentoring organisations. (*To be discussed in context of current budget*). This will be exclusive of the stipend that will be provided to the fellows over the period of 12 months.

Year 2: Full Steam Ahead

The second year has been planned out to be the most resource intense phase of the plan which will involve major ground work from all abovementioned approaches. There will be a specific increase in requirements for multiple Project materials, Staff/Volunteers and travel expenses

Year 3: Consolidation & Expansion Period

The 3rd Year is planned out for reinforcing and stabilizing the set up worked on last two years in the two states of Maharashtra and Uttarakhand with an aim to expand to 2 more states in India. Currently these states include: Sikkim, Assam, Kerala, Bihar, Nagaland and Tripura. This however, begins in second half 2nd year itself. The resource intake shall be recalibrated and switched to a minimalist approach based on efficiency of the work done in previous two years. With the data collected in the past two years. The third year will help us pave our own sustainable and efficient approach towards establishing project mechanisms throughout the country with an aim to ensure completion of our goals in essence of time.

The overall Program coordination and volunteer identification and support is provided by a team of experienced national and regional volunteers, associated on a part time basis with MARS Practitioners Network, and the lead role in particular states and money mobilization and management at the national level will be handled by leading NGOs, **SEEDS** and **RedR**. Some technical support has been sourced from regional/national volunteer management organizations.