

Strengthening of Emergency Operation Centers in Bihar



17 February 2012 at Hotel Gargee Grand, Patna

WORKSHOP REPORT



building a culture of preparedness in bihar

Summary of the Workshop

A core committee shall be formed consisting of Govt. officials and representatives from Bihar IAG including EOC experts.

The imperative of EOCs functioning and strengthening is to provide linkage and flow of informations at state, districts, blocks and panchayat levels.

Need to ensure the sustained functioning and strengthening of emergency operation centers in the state.

Disaster response and preparedness should be carried out in view of definition of Disaster, given in Disaster Management Act 2005.

It is imperative to update the necessary databases and maps of basic life support services on regular basis at EOC.

Involvement of BIPARD for providing training on EOCs in view of imparting operational technicalities of EOCs to the officials accountable for the functioning of EOCs in the districts.

Workshop for ADM, Disaster Management of all the districts of the state in view of ensuring their effectiveness and accountability in disaster management process.

Coordination, operations management; information gathering and record keeping, public information and resource management etc. are the key functions of Emergency Operation Centers.

GIS based decision support system at EOC which works under the control of state nodal department.

**Joint Workshop on
Functioning of State Emergency Operation Centre (EOC)
in Bihar**

Date: February 17, 2012 Venue: Hall Gautam, Hotel Gargi Grand
0930-1000: Registration

1000- 1130: Inaugural session		
1000-1005	Welcome address and background of the workshop	Department of Disaster Management / BIAG
1005-1010	Inauguration of the workshop	
1010-1025	Opening remarks	Shri Vyas ji, IAS, Principle Secretary, Department of Disaster Management , Govt of Bihar
1025-1035	Address	Mr Anil K. Sinha, Hon'bl Vice Chairman, BSDMA
1035-1045	Address	Mr A.S.Arya, Hon'bl Member , BSDMA
1045-1055	Address	Mr S.C. Jha, Hon'bl Member , BSDMA
1055-1115	Inaugural Speech	Ms Renu Kumari Kushwaha, Hon'bl Minister, Department of Disaster Management, Govt of Bihar
1115-1145	Concept and evolution of EOC and its importance in effective Disaster Management	Mr Krishna Vatsa, UNDP , South Asia
1145-1200	Tea break	
1200- 1300 Business session-I		
1200-1300	Set-up and management of State EOC and experiences in DM activities	Mr P. G. Sarpotdar, Expert
1300-1330	Questions and answers	
1330-1415	Lunch break	
1415-1600 Business session –II		
1415-1445	Address on steps to enhance effectiveness of State EOC	Mr. Sarbjit Singh Sahota, , Emergency Specialist, Unicef,Delhi
1445-1515	Views of Line Department Representatives/ District Administration.	Representatives
1515-1545	View on last mile linkage of State EOC	P. G. Sarpotdar
1545-1600	Tea Break	
1600- 1700 Business session-III		
1600-1650	Panel discussions on best practices in setting-up of EOC and plans of individual states	Chairperson:
1650-1700	Vote of thanks	Department of Disaster Management, GOB/BIAG

LIST OF DELIGATES

1. Dr. Renu Kumari Kushwaha	Honorable Minister, Department of Disaster Management, Govt. of Bihar
2. Anil K. Sinha	Honorable Vice Chairman , Bihar State Disaster Management Authority
3. Vyas Jee	Principal Secretary, Department of Disaster Management, Govt. of Bihar
4. Krishna S. Vatsa	Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor, UNDP-BCPR, New Delhi
5. P. G. Sarpotdar	Consultant on Early Warning System, Delhi
6. Sarbjit Singh	Emergency Specialist, UNICEF, Delhi
7. Satya Narayan	Additional Secretary, Bihar State Disaster ManagementMr Authority
8. Ramesh jha	P.A. to Vice Chairman , Bihar State Disaster Management Authority
9. Gagan	OSD, Department of Disaster Management, Government of Bihar
10. Sandeep Kumar	OSD, Department of Disaster Management, Government of Bihar
11. Binod Kumar	Instructor, Civil Defense(HQ), Department of Disaster Management
12. Shanker Kumar	Commandant, Bihar Home Gaurds, Patna
13. Manoj Kumar	District Commandant, Bihar Home Gaurds,
14. S.S. Gularia	Commandant, NDRF, Patna
15. Tanuj Kumar	Assistant Commandant, NDRF, Patna
16. 1Nivedita Ray	Deputy Director, Urban Development Dept., Government of Bihar
17. Dr. Devendra Kumar Gupta	Nodal Officer, Health Department , Disaster Management Cell , GoB
18. S.M. Abbas	ADM Relief, Bhagalpur
19. Anil K. Arya	S.D.C. Madhubani
20. Aditya Kumar Saini	District Project Officer, DDMA, Patna
21. Md. Yunus Ali	District Head Quarter, Paliganj on Magistrate duty
22. Arun Kumar Singh	Instructor, Civil Defense , Patna
23. Chaman Prakash Sinha	Director, Training, Testing and Research Institute, R&D, Patna
24. Rajeev Ranjan	Project Head, BSEDC, Beltrawn Bhawan, Patna
25. Ramesh Chandra	State Fire Officer, Patna, Bihar
26. Abhishek Kumar	Senior Officer, BEST/ Beltran, Patna
27. Ram Bilas Choudhary	ADM Disaster Management, Supaul
28. B.B. Sarkar	UNICEF, Bihar Office
29. Pravind Kr. Praveen	OXFAM, Bihar Office
30. Yudhisthira	Save the Children, Bihar Office
31. Girish Peter	CARITAS, Bihar Office
32. Rajeev Ranjan	Aide Et. Action, Bihar Office
33. Pankaj Swetabh	Programme Officer, Action Aid, Bihar Office
34. Amit Prakash	UNDP-DRR Programme, BSDMA, Patna

35. Vishal Vasvani	Consultant, BSDMA, Patna
36. Wasi Alam	Mission DRR, Patna
37. Kapileshwar Ram	Dalit Adhikar Manch, Patna
38. Rinku Kumari	Dalit Adhikar Manch, Patna
39. Palak	Yuganter, Patna
40. Toukir Alam	PCI, Patna
41. Bhasker Mishra	Yatharth, Ara District, Bihar
42. Shrawan Kumar	Red Cross, Patna
43. Shahabuddin	Red Cross, Patna
44. Asif Saheb	Red Cross, Patna
45. Jeevan Kumar	Bihar IAG
46. Soma Sinha	Bihar IAG
47. Bhardwaz Gagan	Bihar IAG
48. Sanjay Pandey	Bihar IAG

REPORT



A one day joint workshop on "Strengthening/operationalisation of Emergency Operation Centers in Bihar" was organised on 17 Feb 2012 at Patna by the Department of Disaster Management, Govt. of Bihar and Bihar Inter Agency Group with support from UNICEF. Dr. Renu Kumari Kushwaha, Honorable Minister, Disaster Management, Govt. of Bihar inaugurated the workshop. Sri Vyas Jee, Principal Secretary, Department of Disaster Management, Govt. of Bihar expressed the opening remarks. The event drew together the participants from the State Govt. line Departments, Govt. representatives from hazard prone districts, EOC experts, members from Bihar Inter Agency Group, INGOs and NGOs.



L-R Mr. Gagan, Mr. Krishna Vats, Hon. Anil K Sinha, Hon. Dr. Renu Km. Kushwaha & Mr. Vyas Jee

The functioning and strengthening of Emergency Operation Centers is a joint initiative of the Department of Disaster Management, Govt. Of Bihar and Bihar Inter Agency Group, through which policy makers and experts have shared technical expertise in view to build early warning system within the disaster prone areas of Bihar.



Mr. Vyas jee addressing the workshop, on dais (L-R) Mr. Krishna Vats, Hon. Anil K Sinha, Hon. Dr. Renu Km. Kushwaha & Mr. Sarabjeet Singh

Sri Vyas Jee, Principal Secretary, Department of Disaster Management, Govt. of Bihar in his opening remarks expressed that the purpose of workshop is to ensure the sustained functioning and strengthening of emergency operation centers in the state. He gave a brief background on the way the state and the district administration used to respond during any emergency situation before the revolution in the field of information technology. He shared his experience of working in emergency situation before this revolution in the information technology field. Basic landline phones were the fundamental ways of communication at official/non official level. Even today, the main arrangements in the control rooms are wireless phones and mobile phones. He however talked about his experience during the earthquake of September 18th 2011 where mobile phone

networks failed for nearly 2 hours after the earthquake. Even with the advancement in information technology, coordination still remains a big challenge. He said that there is a need to emphasize on the outcomes of these Emergency Operation Centers in the view of how these EOC will help improvise the existing information system. The outcomes should be clear and should focus on the information dissemination mechanism and also how the operationalizing of EOC will help in integrating the other systems, and how will it cater to the needs of the people. Handholding will be very important part in the whole task of making the EOC functional.

Further, he emphasized that the discussion would revolve around upgrading of existing emergency operation centers, finding gaps in existing system and services. He said that the importance of EOCs functioning and strengthening would be to provide linkage and flow of informations at state, districts, blocks and panchayat levels.



Sri Anil K. Sinha, Honorable Vice Chairman, Bihar State Disaster Management articulated that disaster response and preparedness should be carried out in view of definition of Disaster, given in Disaster Management Act 2005. He spoke that any major disaster includes total destruction, not only it destroy life but also all life support systems. He expressed that the planning should be done by keeping in view the worst case scenario.

He stated that EOC is a main instrument of response and command; it coordinates the flow of information with respect to associated activities. He also elaborated about the design of an EOC model which includes houses for almost all the

Emergency Support Functions (ESF). In view of providing quick and efficient informations, he expressed the need for updating the necessary databases and maps of basic life support services on regular basis. He also talked about the redundancy of EOC system; it requires ensuring the role of EOC during normal time.

Further he also advocated for involving BIPARD while conducting training on EOCs in view of imparting operational technicalities of EOCs to the officials, accountable for the functioning of EOCs in the districts. (Detailed presentation attached annex-1)

Dr. Renu Kumari Kushwaha, Honorable Minister, Department of Disaster Management, Govt. of Bihar in her presidential address appreciated the concerns of Sri Vyas Jee and Sri Anil Sinha for their painstaking disaster mitigation efforts in the state.

She expressed her concern over increasing human population posing pressure on natural resources, which also need to keep in mind while planning for execution of any programme. She stated that all the line departments have accountability to respond the disaster situation along with generation and utilization of resources within a definite time period. To measure the efficacy of the programmes at field level evaluation should be done from time to time.

She opined for conducting a workshop for ADM, Disaster Management of all the districts of the state in view of ensuring their effectiveness and liability in disaster management process.

She appreciated the relevance of Department of Disaster Management Standard Operating Procedures on flood in distribution of relief measures to the victims in an appropriate manner. She suggested for opting flexible approach while considering the people utmost needs besides the rules mentioned in guidelines.



Dr. Renu Kumari Kuswaha, Hon. Minister, Disaster Management, Govt. of Bihar, addressing the workshop



Sri Krishna S. Vatsa, Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor, UNDP-BCPR, New Delhi, gave a presentation on Setting up an Emergency Operations Centre in Bihar. The important points of his presentation covered about the concept of EOC, its objectives, key design features like survivability, redundancy, communications, flexibility and security , key functions and steps for commissioning etc.

He expressed that coordination, operations management; information gathering and record keeping, public information and resource management etc. are the key functions of Emergency Operation Centers.

He also deliberated about the facilities and specifications of Emergency Response Command Centre, Tehran and EOC of a National Park, USA. (Detailed presentation attached _annex-2)



Mr. Sarbjit Singh addressing the workshop

Sri Sarbjit Singh, Emergency Specialist, UNICEF, Delhi, said that this is the emerging phase of EOC, a time will come when NGOs and sectoral stakeholders would be the part of EOCs.

Sri P. G. Sarpotdar, Consultant on Early Warning System, Delhi gave a presentation on set-up and management of state emergency operations centre (EOC). He defined that EOC is a coalition of various systems on a common platform. He talked about GIS based decision support system at EOC which works under the control of state nodal department. He presented about different

communication networks and operational models being practiced at EOCs in other states of India. He also deliberated about critical components of EOC, communication equipment set-up at state and district EOCs, equipment setup in operation rooms and incident management system interconnections etc.

Further he expressed about those important activities like planning for equipment and facilities, allocation of powers and accountability and collection of data at state resource network etc. for setting up of an EOC.

He also talked about VSAT applicability and success at village level in Gujarat. It is being used as common service centre with video connectivity for multipurpose utility and Govt. Schemes are linked to it. (Detailed presentation attached _annex-3)

In the open session Sri P.G. Sarpotdar addresses the questions raised by participants on various aspects of EOC functioning and applicability in local field situations.

Mr. Sandeep and Mr. Gagan OSD, Department of Disaster Management, Govt. of Bihar Mr. Satyanarain, ADM, Disaster Management, Muzaffarpur, Mr. Abhishek Kumar, Seiner Officer, BEST, Beltron, Mr. Wasi Alam, Coordinator, Mission DRR and Mr. Aditya Kumar Saini, District Project Officer, DDMA, Patna raised questions



Mr. P. G. Sarpotdar is being welcomed

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