

Second 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 June 2020

Working across silos of DRR, SD and CCA, 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 SDMAs and Partners on DRR and CCA in India**

This process of working across agendas has particular relevance in the first five years of start up of the three global agendas, namely the Sendai Framework for action on DRR adopted at the 3rd World Conference on DRR (WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan (March 2015), the post MDG Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in New York (September 2015) and the Paris Climate Agreement (December 2015). Despite calls for coherence and inter-linkage, the processes have been discrete and independent of each other.

This project describes the work being done in India by an implementation coalition of 3 NGOs- **SEEDS India, RedR** and **MPN**. 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.

MPN is the Mainstreaming Adaptation, Resilience and Sustainability into development and daily life (**MARS Practitioners Network**) is a network of primarily Southern practitioners, started up in 2012, working within and across a number of countries on issues of Sustainable Development (SD), Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction (DPRR), and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA). It seeks to deliver changes in practice, knowledge, attitudes and behavior. MPN is committed to promoting and visibilising long term, deep rooted, right paced, low/no cost action in communities, local authorities, local businesses, and sub-national governments and stakeholders in the areas of building adaptation, resilience and sustainability. This change in practice helps open up dialogue among practitioners, facilitating changes in practice and cooperative action towards breaking the silos between cross-cutting development issues namely SD, DPRR, and CCA and their mainstreaming into current development practice, as well as in people's daily lives.

MPN believe that coherence has to be built, bottom up, by connecting the movements and government departments in each of these fields with each other in patient, coordinated largely in each country in different parts of the world, at the national, sub national, city and community levels. MPN is primarily fuelled by shared heart power and seeks to work through partnerships and "No cost/ Low cost" modalities. Its members comprise of full time and part time volunteers, students, young professionals and experienced, retired practitioners, private sector workers as well as those making mid career shifts.¹

One of the three outcomes of the Sendai WCDRR, were 120 Voluntary Commitments made to implement SFDRR <http://www.wcdrr.org/preparatory/commitments>. MARS Practitioners Network developed, adopted and started

¹ Classification of volunteers -

- a) **Young students or trained practitioners** -(Duration part time 6 to 18 months): Young professionals who are graduates trained for DRR and deployed on field with tie ups with different fellowship programs - For getting volunteer
- b) **Older professionals** nearing or in retirement (part time): Experienced people who are in a stage where they can guide multiple activities full-time or part time, depending on availability
- c) **Mid age career change professional** : Professionals willing to switch professions can contribute their existing expertise for DRR, may be full-time or part-time
- d) **Corporates** - (1 to 6 months staff deployments) : Modules of tasks based approach

up two of these voluntary commitments, the **VERVE** (Volunteers Energised to Reduce Vulnerability Everywhere) **Volunteers Program** to be implemented in Myanmar and India during the SFDRR implementation decade. An updated Voluntary Commitment was submitted in February 2019, aligning it specifically with SFDRR and was among one of the 31 revised Voluntary Commitments launched in May 2019 in Geneva

In India, the program is entitled “**Strengthening Disaster Preparedness and Risk Reduction (DPRR) plans and programs of 3-6 SDMAs and selected DDMA in the start up states, and enhancing linkages with state climate action plans** through technical support”. A copy of the revised document accepted by UNDRR in May 2019 is attached, with updates till June 2020 contained in this document.

Key implementing partners include **Red R, SEEDS, JTSDS/TISS** and its graduates, and other mid career practitioners in NGOs working on a part time basis, working in close collaboration with the **state** and district authorities (to be chosen from **among Bihar, Maharashtra, Sikkim, Kerala, Nagaland and Uttaranchal** states and relevant districts therein) under the overall guidance of the NDMA and MHA.

Since Feb 2015, MPN has been in intermittent dialogue to develop partnership with relevant interested organizations and individuals in India to further elaborate the components, basis of the commitment and timelines, especially with **Red R India** and JTSDM in TISS. Discussions have been held internally in this team in **Nov 2015**, April and November 2016 on how to raise resources for some of the activities, and how to blend with the ongoing and future voluntary actions. A subsequent proposal was drafted in Sept 18 after discussions in Delhi in **May- Aug 2018** with individuals who are working/ have worked in some departments of the Government of India (MHA, NDMA), some State Governments (Maharashtra, Bihar, Sikkim, Uttaranchal, Assam, Gujarat and Orissa); some related institutions (NIDM, SIDMs where existing, some UN country offices) as well as the academic and civil society organizations (JTSDM/TISS, Red R India, and **SEEDS**). A dialogue has been established with some interested former officials of institutions on component i), while discussions with Red R, SEEDS and JTSDM/TISS on details of component ii) have continued. Planning for component iii) has more recently been initiated with Climate Change related NGOs (CANSAs, GEAG) doing similar/related work. The Oct 18 revised proposal was reviewed and modified to link with the Sendai Framework and goals as well as the related SDGs 1, 11 and 13. The revised commitment was accepted in the run-up to the Global Platform of DRR held in Geneva in May 2019 and was one of the 31 commitments mentioned in the booklet launched there. Discussions were held in Geneva with SDMAs of Kerala, Nagaland, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand. Discussions were also held with two national private sector associations FICCI and Assocham in the second half of 2019 and with LBSNAA in the last quarter of 2019. An action plan in four phases has been prepared: Phases 1 & 2 till 2022, Phase 3 till 2025 (expansion in upto 6 states) & Phase 4 by March 2029, covering routinisation & integration into ongoing work of at least 50% of SDMAs & a significant number of DDMA. Detailed plans for phase 2 till Dec 2022 are under review and finalisation.

A six-member Advisory Committee as reported in the earlier report was constituted comprising senior officials of the founding NDMA, and vice chairmen of two SDMAs, and the three member NGOs collaborating on the implementation and held its first meeting in January 2020. A key decision to mobilise resources to cover costs of participating NGOs was taken, and a dialogue with national donors, foundations and national grant giving institutions has been initiated. The budget mobilized would be supplemented by some voluntary time spent by senior specialists, whose costs on travel and out of home-base stay would be covered. A proposal seeking financial support has been prepared and offers from interested donor agencies has been sought and in some states obtained. Specific finalization of state specific needs, and agreements on the State specific SOW with SDMAs and specific partners is being prepared in the first half of 2020. The pace of work is being somewhat slowed down by COVID related new activities being initiated by the lead NGOs.

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.