







# REPORT on

# One Day Lesson Learned Workshop on Manipur Floods-2015

Dated: 18<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Venue: Disaster Management Institute, Babupara Imphal- Manipur



# In Collaboration with

Department of Relief & Disaster Mangement,
Government of Manipur;
Caritas India,
Inter Agency Group-Manipur
and
Sphere India

# **Report Compilation & Coordinator:**

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## REPORT

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## Introduction:

The One Day Lesson Learned Workshop on Manipur Floods-2015 began at 10.45 a.m. Shri. Saikhom Kennedy of Sphere India welcomed Shri. AK Ranjit Kumar, Relief and Disaster Management Department, Government of Manipur and all the participants to the workshop with the objective to

- Cross learning from initial relief/ response of Manipur Floods and to develop future plan of action.
- Strengthen the local networks in GO- NGO coordination and emergency response.

This was followed by the self-introduction of the participants and a briefing of their response to the disasters (flood2015 and earthquake2016) in Manipur.



# **Opening Remark:**

The opening remark to the workshop was given by. Shri. AK Ranjit Kumar, Documentation cum Research Officer Department of Relief and Disaster Management, Government of Manipur. The acquaintance with Sphere India and Disaster Management Department began when Shri. Saikhom Kennedy of Sphere India approached the Department for training in 2015. The Relief and Disaster Management Department has developed Guidelines but the

Guidelines may or may not be very helpful when in the field. The Website of Relief and Disaster Management, Government of Manipur has provisions for Experience and Feedbacks which may be accessed and used by all the people. A draft line on Recovery after Disaster has also been published, which will be available in the website. He also highlighted the resource limitations of the Government and the importance of the role of the NGOs during emergencies or disasters. Duplications in terms of operation and activities and gaps that erupt while responding to disasters is also mentioned in the Draft line on Recovery after Disaster. An official report has been submitted for evaluation. An elaboration on the scope and view will be incorporated in the new plan. The communities should work towards being self-sustainable community groups. In emergency response, the victims are only given assistance and not compensation. Therefore, communities cannot demand for compensation. Resilient structures are envisaged with the community's own resources such as the working force groups. The Government's policy is to facilitate needs of the victims at the earliest. In transportation of the victims and supply of relief materials to the victims of any type of disasters, there are gaps due to lack of resources, minimum support and lack of Human Resources. He also mentioned that the official Report of damage and loss due to flood in the year 2015 in Manipur is INR 477 crores.

Fr. Dominic Kanmi, the convener of IAG – Manipur presented on IAG highlighting the need for GO-NGO coordination, What is Sphere India and its role in IAG formation and the role of NGOs during disasters. Under the joint effort of IAG-Manipur came up with Joint Rapid Needs Assessment Report on Manipur Floods-2015 for information sharing on emerging needs during emergencies, Unified Response matrix tools to avoid duplication and plan for maximum outreach, and extension of invitation to more agencies for maximum outreach and saving of more lives.



## Presentations on Perspective / Experience sharing by Agencies

The presentations on Perspective / Experience sharing through Power Points was done by L. Umarani, Training Officer, Emmanuel Health Association, by T. Savana Devi , District Coordinator,



ADRA India . Thangsha Sebastian , Project Support Officer of Caritas India and by Sheipu Baite, Field Coordinator, IGSSS (DRR). Distribution of Food, Non Food, Cash transfers (Conditional and unconditional) and lobby & advocacy were the main activities that was carried out by the various Organizations. The challenges that were faced during the implementation, Lessons benefits of IAG and recommendations

for GO –NGO coordination for an active IAG to respond to any emergency were also shared by them.

# Challenges

- Inaccessibility of targeted village due to: Road condition, Heavy raining & Land slides
- Bandh, general strike
- Lack of medical professionals
- Bad communication services
- Delay of intervention due to heavy rain and curfew, due to conflicts and riots in the state that lasted until the end of our intervention
- Multiple layers of coordination caused delays
- Absence of adequate information in real time for informed decision making
- Lack of a comprehensive global picture of the disaster and its consequences
- Lack of agreement on minimum standards

#### **Assessment**

- No proper data found in the villages
- Difficulty in reaching the remote villages due to the lack of proper transportation
- Lack of experienced persons working in the field of disaster management
- Communication also another big challenges (ILP & 3 Bills)
- Lack of trust between the local and unknown people

# **Implementation**

- Poor mobility to the affected villages
- Cheque payment for all the dealers were difficult
- Constant bandh, strikes and political unrest in the state
- Chief system in some of the villages resulted delay in implementation
- Lack of professional Human Resource
- Building capacity of staff in short period of time

# **Lessons Learnt**

# Community or affected people

- Feeling of oneness in times of suffering
- Spirit of team work in times of disaster
- Need to have proper data of the villages so that in any emergencies it will serve the purpose
- Majority of the villages set up Community Relief Camps
- Knowledge of the elderly people need to be recorded
- Great support from the community

#### NGOs

- Importance of better coordination during emergencies (IAG-Manipur)
- Only few NGOs are working on disaster management
- Due to the presence of DSSS Imphal in all the districts of Manipur, the implementation was easy

#### Government

- Better coordination from the government department
- Great support from government department

## **Recommendations/Suggestions**

- Looking at the Health needs of the people in the state, providing Health Support Services in rural areas for accessible, available and affordable will be essential.
- Capacity Building of IAG members in Emergency response
- Appointment of one full time State Coordinator
- Conduct Disaster Preparedness program through training and capacity building in collaboration with government, IAG (Sphere India) and likeminded organisations in the state.
- Mapping of partners in vulnerable areas and capacity building
- Make links with IAGs in high risk States in order to decide how the coordination will work
- Importance of getting beneficiary feedback on the quality of our interventions
- Decide what a realistic/ideal timeline should look like
- Establishment of DIC( Drop-in-Center) in Manipur

- Component of climate change
- Awareness on preparedness at the village level
- Study on traditional coping practices
- Link up with other state and National agency for cross learning and sharing
- MoU with State Government for resource sharing.

# Contribution/Advantages of initiating IAG Manipur

- Speedy sharing of information
- Support Needy Beneficiaries
- Avoid Duplicity of Beneficiaries
- Increase rapport and referral among the NGOs

#### **GO-NGO** coordination:

- Information sharing and data base
- Leverage tools for highlighting issues for collectively advocacy
- Exchange of knowledge and resources
- Greater transparency in resource allocation and accountability
- Monitoring and social audit of developmental work
- Drafting and review of DRR plan for effective planning and response
- The team closely worked with district administration like Deputy Commissioner (DC),
   Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) who is also the Relief Commissioner and Chief
   Medical Officer (CMO) of Chandel District and Local Bodies and other Civil Society in
   implementing the program successfully.
- The team also closely worked with the IAG coordination in the state and Sphere India in the national level

# Recommendations given by the Participants for Strengthening the Inter Agency Group- Manipur Platform through Group Exercise

The participants divided into four groups for a group exercise post lunch with two focal points of discussion

- Standard SOP for IAG in advent of a disaster.
- The IAG members to set aside one personnel for disaster management and capacity building of the IAG members (local).
- Involvement of more stakeholders including Panchayat members and college students (NSS units).
- Appointment of Government official for IAG coordination and active involvement of Government officials.





- Strengthened State Disaster Management Authority for better GO –IAG coordination.
- Networking and advocacy with Government disaster units (State and District) with regular meetings.
- Networking with NGO working on various issues relevant to the disaster affected people.
- Request for a cell/chamber/office space in the State disaster Management Institute for better communication /coordination.
- Digital info sharing and publication of news bulletins

# Suggestions for future plan of action in the year 2016-17 by the Participants

- Training on early warning, rapid need assessment, emergency response and JRNA tools.
- Capacity building for the communities, NGOs and Panchayat members.
- Programs for school and college students.
- Consolidation workshop with concerned Departments of the Government on State Disaster management plan.
- Communication dissemination to all the IAG members.

# List of participants with contact details

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		Organization		
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# Few Photographs from the Workshop

































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