



durjog darpan

July-September | 1st Edition

HIGHLIGHTS

Post flood review and rehabilitation

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Celebration

Social sector recovery planning

Urban Deluge

Community Facilitation & Resource Center

Trainign & Capacity Building

Bits & Bytes



Yubaraj Borthakur, ACS

CEO DDMA Cachar

“ Durjog Darpan, an online quarterly newsletter where reflection of activities, ideas and experiences of multi sectoral disaster risk stakeholders would be put in digital public domain for broader knowledge sharing , community resilience and devolution of Govt. development plans and programs. ”

Dear Readers,

It is with profound pleasure, humility and expectation that we launch the the inaugural issue of quarterly newsletter "Durjog Darpan". On behalf of DDMA, Cachar, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the readers of Durjog Darpan. I take this opportunity to thank all officials, volunteers, editors and reviewers who have contributed to the publishing of this newsletter.

Although this newsletter primarily focuses on sharing our events and activities related to Disaster Management. yet are not limited to only mainstream activities.

We will also publish innovative initiatives dedicated to Community involvement and Disaster Risk Reduction. Our motto is to reach more and more people and help reduce disaster risk of vulnerable communities.

We hope to hear from you soon, and we welcome your feedback!



Rohan Kumar Jha, IAS

Deputy Commissioner &
Chairperson, DDMA Cachar

A joint initiative of District Disaster Management Authority,
Cachar & Panchayat & Rural Development Department



Enhancing resilience at the last mile

POST FLOOD REVIEW



Post-flood damage assessment meeting

9th July 2022

DDMA meeting was held at Deputy Commissioners Office Conference Hall under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Smti. Keerthi Jalli, IAS to review the post-flood damage assessment of all line departments, critical infrastructure, and possible measures.



Field visit by CEO ASDMA

12th July 2022

The Flood Review meeting was chaired by Sri. G. P. Tripathi, IAS, CEO, ASDMA at D.Cs Conference Hall Silchar. The CEO, ASDMA accompanied by the DC, Cachar Smti. Keerthi Jalli, IAS, Circle Officer Smti. Minerva Devi Arambham and other Officers/Officials of the Department visited Katigorah Revenue Circle to review the flood situation. During the visit, he inspected the defunct Sluice gates over river Baleshwar which has been one of the significant reasons for flood.



Circle Task Force Meeting

12th July 2022



Circle Task Force Meeting was held in all Revenue Circles under the Chairmanship of the respective Revenue Circle Officers to examine and assess the post-flood damage assessment report of line Departments and rehabilitation measures of the flood-affected beneficiaries.

Ceremonial distribution of financial assistance



Ceremonial distribution of financial assistance as RG's to the beneficiaries under Cachar District by Hon'ble Minister Sjt. Jayanta Malla Baruah, Dept of PHED, SEED & Tourism, Govt of Assam in presence of Hon'ble MP, MLA's of Cachar District, Deputy Commissioner, Cachar and other Officials of Dist Administration on 20th August, 2022 at Gandhi Bhawan, Silchar



Deputy Commissioner Cachar in a field inspection in Katigorah Circle flood-affected areas.



Field visit by Deputy Commissioner, Cachar in erosion and flood damage embankments & dykes.



Cheque distribution under Chief Minister's Relief Fund



On 20th September, 2022, 28 Nos. Of cheques issued under Hon'ble Chief Minister's Relief Fund, Assam against the families whose houses were washed away during flood in Cachar District was handed over to the concerned beneficiaries at Gandhi Bhawan, Park Road, Silchar by the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar in presence of other dignitaries.

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV



As a part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" and to celebrate the theme of "Har Ghar Tiranga" various events were conducted in the district.

HAR GHAR TIRANGA

9th August 2022

Har Ghar Tiranga Awareness Song in Bengali was launched by Sri. Rohan Kumar Jha, IAS , DC, Cachar.

The Tableau was also inaugurated as a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The launch took place in presence of Chairman, Cachar Zilla Parishad, ADCs, all line Department Officials, media persons, and others in the Conference Hall of D.C's Office, Silchar.

Awareness Rally

11th August 2022

Awareness rally was organized in association with SMB, NULM, ASRLM, CAPF, and other line Departments in connection with the Har Ghar Tiranga program.



Quiz On Wheel

Quiz on Wheels was conducted at all Revenue Circles by involving AAPDA MITRA Volunteers. Children, ladies, and many local people participated in the quiz & small gifts were handed over to the participants as a token of appreciation,



Movie Screening

15th August 2022

A special patriotic movie screening was undertaken at Nivedita Nari Sangstha, Meherpur, Silchar for the orphan kids staying in the Centre. A singing and dancing competition was also conducted.



Cultural Evening

13th August 2022

The program was inaugurated by Shri Yubaraj Borthakur, ACS, ADC & CEO, DDMA; in presence of Shri Kishan Chorei, ACS, Assistant Commissioner, Cachar; Shamim Ahmed Laskar, DPO, DDMA; Pinku Boro, Inspector & Team Leader, NDRF Team, Silchar Camp, Dr. Rajib Biswas, I/c Blood Bank, SMCH; Dr. Rajib Gupta, Consultant, DDMA; Annie George, Technical Consultant, UNICEF followed by Lighting the lamp ceremony.

There were cultural programs on National Integrity and Diversity including various other presentations. The overall program was summed up with the gracious presence of the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar Sri Rohan Kumar Jha, IAS who handed over prizes to all the participants. The program ended with the National Anthem.

A program was organized at Gandhi-Bhawan, Park Road, Silchar.



| Cultural Events |

| Blood Donation Awareness |

| Blood Detection Camp |

| I'm the Change |

| Art Competition |

| Dance Competition |

SOCIAL SECTOR RECOVERY PLANNING

Block level training for frontline workers, PRIs & Volunteers on Social Sector Recovery Planning & data collection for preparation of report.

18th – 23rd August 2022



Block level training on Social Sector Recovery for PRI members was Organized by DDMA in collaboration with Deshabandhu Club and UNICEF at Katigorah Revenue Circle Office.

Frontline workers & PRI members

- Capacity building of assessors and frontline workers on assessment and planning.
- Coordination of assessment and data collection.
- Support for rapid assessments of damages and losses.
- To assist for Development of Social Sector recovery strategies and plans.

101

**FRONTLINE WORKERS AND PRIS
TRAINED**

Volunteers Training program on Providing Child Centric Services during Humanitarian Situation

- Training in Search & Rescue
- Relief camp management child-friendly spaces,
- Understanding and providing psycho-social support –
- Hygiene promotion,
- Who are the volunteers, & the core values of the volunteers, and the role and responsibilities of Volunteers (Group work)?

211

VOLUNTEERS TRAINED



Disaster Management

Disaster and its impact

Disasters are non-routine events that disrupt the daily routine of communities. The result is loss of lives & livelihood, communication & transportation failure, devastated infrastructure. Disasters become recurring phenomena and require adequate planned response recovery measures to bring the communities back to their daily routine with reduced vulnerabilities and enhanced capacities.

Disaster Recovery

Disasters recovery is the process of 'restoring or improving livelihoods and health, as well as economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets, systems and activities, of a disaster- affected community or society, bringing into line with the principles of sustainable development and "build back better" to avoid or reduce future disaster risk.

Measures Taken

Data collection is an important aspect of recovery planning. Front-line workers and PRIs are most knowledgeable about the people in their communities. They can collect accurate data and support community-based efforts to mitigate and prepare for disaster events.

Block level volunteer's training and Mock Drill by NDRF Team as a part of Social Sector Recovery Planning





Community Facilitation & Resource Centre



Meeting regarding introduction of Community Facilitation & Resource Centre in all GPs/Municipal Wards held at D.Cs Conference Hall on 8th September 2022 under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner & Chairman, DDMA, Cachar. This is an initiative for community engagement in DRR process in Cachar District.

Resource Mapping through PRA Exercise at Naraincherra and Chandrapur



"Conducted Resource Mapping through PRA Exercise at Naraincherra and Chandrapur Revenue Village under Borkhola Dev Block on 24/09/22 & local villagers actively participated in the exercise and shared information". Programme jointly conducted by DDMA, UNICEF & Deshbandhu Club.

IGAG meeting regarding the introduction of Community Facilitation & Resource Centre in all GP's & Municipal wards.



DDMA Cachar participated in IGAG meeting regarding the introduction of the Community Facilitation & Resource Centre in GPs/Municipal Wards in Cachar District as community engagement in DRR process. Smti Annie George and Shamim Ahmed Laskar shared details concept and implementation strategy of CF&RC & it's sustainability. Total 61 nos. of NGOs participated in the meeting.



TRAINING & CAPACITY BUILDING

Micro Mock Drill on Fire Management at Punirkhal Market

9th July 2022



An Awareness Program cum Micro Mock drill on Fire management at Punirkhal market by Dholai Fire Station in collaboration with DDMA, Cachar, Aapda Mitra volunteers, CDMC of Sonai Revenue Circle also participated in the program.

Awareness on blood donation & blood donation camp



"Awareness session on Blood Donation and Blood Group Detection Camp organised by involving 'Aapda Mitra' Volunteers at Boscotech Institute Ramnagar Silchar on 23/09/22 and 6 volunteers voluntarily donated blood in the camp. Session conducted by Dr. Rajib Biswas Asst Prof & I/c Blood Bank SMCH & Apoorva Ghosh, Blood Bank SMCH".

Mock Drill

12th August 2022

Mock drill and awareness sessions on Disaster Management were organized at JNV, Pailapool, Lakhipur in collaboration with NDRF. The program was conducted in the presence of the F.O (DM), Lakhipur, Team Commandant of NDRF Team, Camp – Silchar, Principal, JNV, Pailapool. 500 nos. of students have participated in the programme.



Aapda Mitra Volunteer's Training

Official inauguration of AAPDA MITRA Training of 3rd and 4th batch volunteers of Hailakandi District on 15th September 2022 at Boscotech Institute, Ramnagar, Silchar. Team of Resource Persons from Civil Defence, NDRF, DDMA, ONGC, SDRF/Fire Service and SMCH will be imparted training to 50 nos. of volunteers and the program organised by DDMA Cachar under the aegis ASDMA and NDMA.



Day-long Discourse on "Urban Deluge"



On 6th September 2022, a Day-long Discourse on "Urban Deluge" was held in the Conference Hall of Dept. Ecology & Environment, Assam University, Silchar. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. R M Pant inaugurated the program in the presence of Smti J. R. Lalsim, ACS, Jt. Secretary to GoA, Mini Secretariat, Sri. Yubaraj Borthakur, ACS, CEO, DDMA, Cachar, Prof Rajat Gupta, Former Director, NIT, Srinagar & Mizoram, Sr. Professors of Assam University, Sr Officials of State Govt. Dept. Program jointly organised by DDMA, Cachar and Assam University, Dept of Ecology and Environment. The inaugural session was followed by a Technical session and round table discussion on urban flood mitigation of Silchar city etc. The program ended with closing remarks from Smti J. R. Lalsim, ACS, JS, Mini Secretariat, BV, Silchar.



Training of masons on safe construction practices

Two-day training of masons on safe construction practices was inaugurated today by Sri Yubaraj Borthakur ACS CEO DDMA Cachar in presence of other officials and 50 nos of masons participated from different Blocks of Cachar District. Master Trainer of Cachar District Sri Sujit Kumar Baishnab, AEE, PWD & Pradeep Deb, JE will be imparted training to all participants.



Field visit in erosion-prone area

Field visit by Sri Ranbijoy Das, FO (DM), DDMA in erosion prone area in Ujangram village under Silchar Revenue Circle.



Off-site Mock Drill at IOCL Mainarbond Depot

On 7th September, 2022 an Off-site Mock Drill was conducted at IOCL Mainarbond Depot where NDRF, SDRF, Health Departments, AAPDA MITRA Volunteers & others actively participated. This is the first Mock Drill of this Depot which is newly setup at Cachar & is one of the biggest of its kind in the entire Barak Valley region. This Mock Drill was mainly conducted to test the Inter-Departmental Co-ordination, with a view that the involved agencies are able to handle a disaster (if any) takes place in the near future. The Mock Drill was followed by a Lesson Learnt Session where the villagers were also involved & they were briefed about their do's and don'ts & were also requested to support the depot as first responders during any sort of disaster.

The entire Mock Drill was as per IRS Principle where Incident Command Post, Staging Area, Medical Camp, etc were specifically set up & the situation of leakage in one of the Diesel Tanks leading to fire emergency was tackled.



Training on "AP 700 Water Treatment Systems"



One-day - Training of DDMA's Field Officers & Aapda Mitra Volunteers on " AP 700 Water Treatment Systems Operation, Maintenance & Water Quality Testing" held on 23/08/2022 at Prashanti Lodge, Park Road Silchar. Program organised by DDMA and Oxfam India.

Awareness session, demonstration and mock drill organised at Boscotech Institute, Ramnagar



"On 24/9/22 an awareness session, demonstration and mock drill organised at Boscotech Institute Ramnagar Silchar by involving Aapda Mitra Volunteers and the Trainees of Boscotech Institute and NDRF Team executed the program".



Aapda Mitra Volunteers participated in the NDMA Foundation Day on 28/09/2022 at Bigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Swimming Practice of Apda Mitra

on 26/09/2022: Swimming Practice and the valedictory session were conducted in connection with the 12-Days residential training of Aapda Mitra Volunteers at Dolu Lake under the



Resource Mapping through PRA Exercise at Ujan Nagar



"Conducted Resource Mapping through PRA Exercise at Ujan Nagar Revenue Village under Borkhola Dev Block on 26/09/22 & local villagers actively participated in the exercise and shared information". Jointly conducted by DDMA, UNICEF & Deshbandhu Club.

NGO-INTERVENTION IN POST-FLOOD

2-Days Training on "Child Protection on Emergency"

Inauguration of 2-Days Training on "Child Protection on Emergency" organised by Save the Children under the aegis of UNICEF, Assam at DRDA Conference Hall, Silchar. Training inaugurated by CEO, DDMA, Cachar in presence of DPO, DDMA, Asst. Commissioner, FO and the Trainers of STC.



Assistance from Tata Sustainability Group

TATA Group provided assistance in kinds to almost 1000 families in flood-affected areas under Salchapra, Borkhola, katigorah and Kalain Dev. Blocks.



OXFAM, SEEDS, and various other NGOs have provided external aid & support

ASSISTANCE FROM DOCTORS FOR YOU

Doctors For You team with the support of Walmart, Flipkart and Wipro Cares and in collaboration with District Disaster Management Authority Cachar & Directorate of Health Services Cachar under Assam Flood Response Project has benefitted flood affected - 33,000+ direct beneficiaries and approx. 1,65,000+ indirect beneficiaries in Assam by -

1. Distributing - 7000 Dry Ration Kits
2. Distributing - 7000 WASH Kits
3. Donating - 50 Water Filters in Government schools
4. Conducting 130+ Awareness sessions on Health & Hygiene - with engagement of 100+ Govt. Schools & Anganwadi Centres
5. 100+ Medical Health Camps
6. Distribution of WASH items & IEC material to Govt run 3 Residential Special Training Schools, 1 KGBV in Tapang and 1 Orphanage (NNS) in Silchar

Wash Sessions

Wash sessions are organised by NGOs to teach about the benefits and usefulness of health and hygiene.



Assistance from World Vision

World Vision provided assistance in kinds to almost 100 families in flood-affected areas under Borkhola Dev. Blocks and also organised medical camps. Further, the assistance will be provided to 3900 families as identified by NGO Team.



BITS & BYTES

Cachar flood response & relief 2022

Cachar district spread over 3,786 square kilometres is susceptible to various natural and human-induced disasters mainly floods due to its typical topographical feature of a valley surrounded by hills.



Mr Shamim Ahmed
DPO, DDMA

The recent flood affected almost 14.00 lakh people where DDMA, Cachar in co-ordination with line department and response agencies successfully met challenges of safe rescue, evacuation and providing relief to the victims. Flood water inundated over 80% of Silchar town and its adjoining areas. Strong water currents made rescue work immensely difficult and challenging. DDMA, Cachar mobilised all available resources for needful search & rescue of victims and providing immediate relief and essential commodities to the flood affected people. DDMA, Cachar provided relief and essential commodities in designated relief camps/centers and also in non camp areas. 292 relief camps and 129 relief centers were covered. Air dropping in 43 sorties were undertaken in Silchar town area and its periphery for distributing 73 tonnes of essentials to victims. Daily report from the concerned Revenue Circles and Departments were collected time to time by DDMA for real time updation of ASDMA. Supply of drinking water and other essentials to victims by Drone were undertaken by DDMA through Garuda Aerospace Chennai to cover the inaccessible locations through land and air route. DDMA leveraged GO/NGO coordination with various reputed international agencies like UNICEF, OXFAM, Reliance Foundation etc. DDMA with OXFAM provided drinking water through portable 4 sets of Aquaplast 700 CL water treatment System. DDMA deployed trained 318 AAPDA MITRA volunteers in evacuation, distribution of relief, medicines and essential items. NSS and NCC units of Assam University and many local NGOs extended their helping hand in rescue, relief and rehabilitation activities.

Urban Disaster Risk Reduction and Community Preparedness



Dr. Rajib Gupta.
Thinker, Educator
and DM Expert.

Community based disaster risk preparedness strategies are effective means by which the risks owing from natural, human induced and social factors can be prevented and aptly mitigated at inception and thus merits urgent implementation at all levels of urban community before it is too late.

Also, in this spate of unplanned and uncontrolled urbanisation of Silchar Town, disaster preparedness and capacity building can be achieved by proper land usage, wetland conservation, building sustainable infrastructure, judicious risk funding and risk awareness generation among women and youths through knowledge, religious and cultural institutions to promote a culture of tolerance, inclusivity, co-habitation and resilience. Urban Disaster Risk Reduction plans and programs tailored with best practices of community based disaster risk management are implemented by Govt. of Assam under the DRR initiatives of UNDP and GOI. But such programs appear to be more ceremonial and less functional because of sporadic involvement of communities. Many focal groups such as school students, apartment dwellers, mansions, waste generators, daily workers and many other at-risk communities exposed to flood, river erosion, earthquake, urban flood and fire are trained on response, relief, rehabilitation and recovery practice. Provision of relief, ex-gratia and compensation exhausts a major share of fund which could have been otherwise utilised in prevention and preparedness. Proper people-based disaster risk management plans and programs for urban areas in Assam can meet its purpose in principle with active involvement of community. Community based risk prevention and mitigation can be successfully implemented when taken up from the grass-root level to the national level, for that matter it may be pilot tested at district level, eventually at state level and finally at national level. Community participation, public ownership, reshaping administrative response and preparedness, awareness plans and policies can go long way in ensuring wellbeing, safety and happiness amongst people of this region.

Sneak peak of working in Disaster Management

This column is written to share the experience of working in Disaster Management.

Disaster Management in itself is a world where innumerable things take place simultaneously & no single task is by any means related to the other. This makes each task unique, intensifies the challenges and magnifies the chunk of responsibilities bestowed upon us as Disaster Managers. It is not only about rescue, relief, rehabilitation, preparedness, etc, rather it is also about the efforts that each of the team members put in. Disaster Management is a huge subject that involves aspects like Rescue, Rehabilitation, Preparedness, Mock Drills, Evacuations, Risk Reduction, and Vulnerabilities etc. Each of these has a significant role & cumulatively this adds up to form the entirety. Communication to be established with all ends is another key role which helps in developing huge network & this helps during Emergency Situation. The motto is to achieve a Disaster Resilient Community & Preparedness is the only route that leads to it. Occurrence of frequent floods/flash floods, storm/cyclone, landslides, lightning, fire incidents, road accidents, etc made us bound to critically think of how to lessen the impacts & thereon we started focusing on undertaking constant awareness programs, reaching out to maximum possible people & bring this entire aspect into a simpler form where people get started getting self-aware. More & more awareness programs/preparedness activities targeting community people, school children, mason, engineers, teachers, doctors, officials, apartment dwellers, medical staff, especially able people, etc were being conducted to reach the maximum level.

In 2020, along with the entire world our district was also hit badly by the evil named COVID-19.

We were so much unfamiliar to this unknown giant that it took us several days to understand that what should be our way ahead. We paved our way inch by inch understanding the fallouts & good work on daily basis.

We worked continuously till late hours daily, with no Sundays or holidays along with the constant fear of our family & ourselves getting COVID affected. Many of us even got affected to this virus also, not once but even more than that. But by that time we understood it well, we realized that we had to work in a mission mode to fight this disaster & nothing then stopped us from delivering our duties. In this fight to strive, we also lost a fellow colleague, some dear friends/relatives, some acquaintances, neighbors, it was all so depressing & the constant work pressure was breaking our physical strength to give the maximum output. However, neither the mental or physical weakness could stand in the path of our duty. The entire Non-Medical aspect of COVID Management was handled by DDMA, Cachar & I am proud to be a part of it. DDMA, Cachar has set up around 300 Quarantine Centers/Isolation Centers/COVID Care Centers, Migrant Management, Screening centers set up, Dead Body Management of around 400 COVID Deaths from this District, Relief Management, Human Resource Management, Transport Management, etc. It was all so spontaneous, well organized, well delivered & well managed. The only thing that helped us was proper planning, targeted implementation, priority basis solution generation & constant zeal of helping the community. This phase continued for almost 2 years, the second year of COVID Management was even more dangerous but we could successfully overcome it & land into the year 2022 through the systematic approach that we followed.

Alas, the worst was yet to come....2022 Floods just simply crossed the heights of everything. We as a team never felt so exhausted & frustrated. Almost continuous 15-16 hours of work was not enough to handle the situation that we were passing through.

We packed our bags, left our families at home, shifted to accommodation provided by our office, forgot about what were we feeding ourselves, the only thing we were soaked into were "Emergency Management".

The only mantra that we followed was to inculcate the humanitarian aspect & help maximum number of people possible & also strive to give our best by adhering to the directions given by Govt.



Mrs Monami Bhattacharjee
Field Officer

Also, what made us immensely happy was to see that we as a team did not give up or surrender, rather rendered our services in the best possible way. We again as a team gave our best, received criticism & appreciation both. At times criticism were so strong & harsh that it completely broke our morale, but self-driven motivation & understanding a simple fact that we cannot stop, kept us moving.

To sum up, I would like to say that "Rough seas make stronger sailors. Tough times build greater people". The tough phases we have seen & the hardships that we faced in dealing with disaster scenarios have simultaneously & significantly increased our knowledge & experience of handling disasters, making us stronger not only professionally but also as individuals at personal level;

CELEBRATING "INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER REDUCTION" (IDDR) 2022

Lightning Safety Messages

1. Always remember during Lightning strike:

- It is always advisable to stay indoors at home with doors and windows closed.
- Unplug all the electrical/electronic equipment such as television, refrigerator, computer, mobile phone/telephone etc.
- Don't use electronic appliances during lightning strike.
- Stay away from water body/ running water, higher place, isolated tall tree, electrical post or metallic object during Lightning.
- Do not look straight at the lightning which may affect the eye sight.

2. Do not take shelter under a lonely tree, an open house or a bus stop during lightning.

3. If you are riding a boat or swimming in the water, come quickly to the earth and take safe shelter.

4. Do not lie down directly on the ground during lightning, it may catch you as first attempt.

5. If you are in a running vehicle during lightning, then close the windows of the vehicle and park at a safe place.



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