

Earthquake Safety Initiative, Himachal Pradesh

From School to Community Safety

UPDATE
JULY 2008



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ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

School Safety at State level

Model School demonstrated in Solan District

- The SEEDS technical team based in Himachal, along with the State Education Department (SED), selected schools in Solan to become model school. Assessment and Rapid visual surveys were conducted in five schools previously shortlisted by the SED. The Government Boys Senior Secondary School, Solan was selected to become a model school for the Solan district. The school was selected on the basis of its vulnerabilities, accessibility and visibility.
- The school is situated within the heart of the city with a total strength of about 850 students. School has got a large campus with a big assembly ground. There are about 5 building blocks in which 2 are old and 3 are new constructions. New blocks have been constructed very close to each other, thus making the alleys and stairs somewhat congested.
- Three day programme was successfully implemented in the school in collaboration with the Education Department and Civil Defense. The School Disaster Management Committee (SDMC) was constituted to implement the plan. Orientation and awareness on natural disaster was conducted for all the students and teachers of the schools. Do's and don't and duck cover and hold were practice by all. Training was provided to the task forces on Search and Rescue, Evacuation, First aid and Fire safety by Home Guard and Civil Defense officials.
- On the third day, a mock drill was conducted. The Deputy Director Elementary Education (Solan) participated in the event. The Deputy Director appreciated the effort of the project and motivated the students to spread the message to other school students and community. He instructed the principal of the school and other teachers to continue this effort and train all the coming new batches. He also emphasized on the importance of conducting such mock drills at least once in a year.
- The school safety event was covered by three local TV channels and newspapers.



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- A training of trainers workshop was conducted in Solan from 23rd to 26th July, in which 31 teachers and community representatives participated. The workshop was inaugurated by Mr. K. R. Garg (Deputy Director Elementary Education, Solan) and Mr Harish Hoshi, (Principal DIET). The Master Trainers, trained in Shimla in the month of May, participated as resource persons.
- The trained teachers visited the Solan model school, where they discussed about the School Disaster Management Plans, and shared their views on how to replicate the same in their respective schools.



School Disaster Management Plan for schools with visually and hearing impaired disabilities developed.

- A draft Disaster management Plan for Dhalli school, with visual and hearing impaired students has been finalized. The plan addresses the special need of students and teachers in a friendly manner and easy to use. The draft plan will be tested in the school for the period of two month where students and teachers views will be incorporated to the final format.



Disaster Management Plans at community level

- A sensitization workshop of all 45 GP Pradhans' was organized at Mashobra block office on 3rd July 08. A total of 40 participants participated in the workshop including 29 Pradhans. The dates for 16 cluster workshop have been finalized in different clusters through discussion with the participants.
- Cluster level workshops for making Community Based Disaster management Plans of 45 GPs of Mashobra block started this week and till date 11 workshops were completed covering 18 Gram Panchayats.
- Identification of hazards, resources, key stakeholders and preparation of base maps for a18 GPs have been finalized.



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26th July 2008
Disaster Workshops will be held at GP level

Awareness trainings on pre and post disaster situation are being conducted by SEEDS with the support of the European Commission and Christian Aid.

Till date, 12 GPs have formed their own Disaster Management Committees and six task forces groups have been created.

State Disaster Management Plan

SEEDS requested by Government to assist in State and Shimla District Disaster Management Plans.

- The planning process is taking place smoothly. Special efforts are being put on ensuring the implementation of the National Disaster Management Act. The plan is presently being developed in the lines of the NDMA Guidelines for the preparation of State Disaster Management Plans.
- Presently, preparedness and mitigation measures at State level are being discussed and a detailed stakeholder analysis is being carried out in order to identify the roles and responsibilities of the government departments towards the implementation of such measures.

Visibility and Advocacy

- The partnership with the State and District authority is giving high visibility to the operation as all government departments are being informed and exposed to the project activities.
- During the month of July school and community level activities have been covered by local TV channels and newspapers.
- Meeting with Mr. Takayuki Nakamura of Japanese Government and Dr. Rajib Shaw of Kyoto University regarding application of school safety concepts in education for school teachers. Mr. Nakamura took great interest and took SESIS material, and provided relevant material for taking school safety to the strategic level as has been done in Japan. Discussion was held on taking the school safety lessons to a greater depth in the GOLFRE and other higher learning courses.
- Talk on the school safety concept and SESIS at School Learning Event Organized by Climate Change Advocacy Group in Collaboration with Christian Aid UK on July 14, 2008, at Chennai. The talk covered the aspect of school communities taking a lead on the area of disaster reduction in society. Over 500 school children, teachers, NGO staff and government officials participated in the event and heard the talk.

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Calendar of Activities for the next month

Month	Week	School safety at State level	Model Block Disaster Management Plan	State Disaster Management Plan
August	1	<p>Selection of model school in Shimla district in collaboration with the Deputy Director Higher Education.</p> <p>Preparation of School Disaster Management Plan in Model school in Shimla</p>	Organizing 10 workshops at cluster level covering 21 GPs for making CBDMPs.	<p>Finalization of State Disaster Management Plan Structure, identification of roles and responsibilities, and mitigation and preparedness measures at State level.</p> <p>Initial meetings with the district authorities of Shimla</p>
	2	<p>Rapid visual assessment of model School in Shimla</p> <p>NSM activity in the model School in Solan</p> <p>Finalization of list for enrollment under GOLFRE</p>		<p>Template for making district disaster management plan</p> <p>Mobilization of Masons at District Level</p> <p>Data collection from line departments and inputs for district plan</p>
	3	NSM activity in the model School in Shimla		District risk profile
	4	TOT workshop in Shimla district Implementation of SDMP in school for children with disabilities		District level workshop to discuss the draft plan