ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT

## 3.1 Financial Aspects

On investigation by IIPA study team about the financial aspects of the project, the project investigator from CSIR-NEIST informed that the release of installments was delayed and this led to problems related to recruitment of regional coordination officer. It was also found on interaction that the states overspent on various activities (Annexure I attached). The financial management was conducted meticulously. CSIR- NEIST is a central government organization. The institute follows the relevant government regulations and rules approved by its project Management Unit (PMU) for account and fund management. The organization also subjected to statutory and CAG audits. A brief statement of account for expenditure is enclosed (Annexure III). A balance of an unspent amount of Rs. 77 lac is yet to be returned to NDMA as the host institute could not spend it due to delay in release of the installment of the grant. On the other hand, discussions with NDMA officials brought to light that the irregularities in release of the funds was a reflection of the policy changes. The midway closure of the Scheme of police modernization left a window open for unattended residual liabilities. This study project happens to be under the ambit of one of them. As a result of the closure, there was no budget granted in the financial year 2105-16 (Annexure VI)

The study team is of the opinion that the unspent amount could have been utilized in settling the accounts of the states who have overspent after due consultation with NDMA. Also it is felt by the team that the unutilized money would have been used more productively by producing fliers, pamphlets, white papers, monographs and the like for wider dissemination.

## 3.2 Administrative Aspects

While awarding such exercises in future, NDMA should have *in-house* experts to ensure close monitoring and reviewing of the progress made with the project team from time to time so that mid-term corrective action can be taken on time.

NDMA should determine the time required to transfer funds to its partner organizations considering its internal procedures and factor that in the project time line and budget to avoid delays in the progress of the project.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS OF EVALUATION

## 4.1 Findings and Discussions of Evaluation

Based on both the primary and secondary data certain recommendations and suggestions are made. The earthquake of such large scale is often disastrous, looking at the current scenario of NE India being encompassed by the ancient plate margin which is seismically very active.

**Distinctive Initiative**: The project was distinctive undertaken in the country at a multi-state level. Catering to a seismically dynamic North-East Region with the ever swelling population and the haphazard growth and development of the already fragile NE region has become more prone to catastrophes. The success of the venture essentially depended on dynamic partaking of the SDMA, DDMA, various line departments, schools, civil defense organizations, hospitals, media houses and numerous other stakeholders.

During the various stages of assessment, it was found there are a few gaps that need to be plugged in. There is a need for the states and districts to revisit their Disaster Management plans in the light of new development and along with the incorporation of IRS all stakeholders must be taken on board which would facilitate coordination thus helping in formulation action oriented implementable plans. Similarly functional EoCs, both at state and district levels must be established. A stand-alone disaster network which shall be the foundation and lifeline in disaster situations in several cases must be in place. It is observed that no state has provisioned the stand -alone disaster network.

**Value addition:** It was also observed that the capacity building should have been two -pronged first prong to capacitate NEIST and the second prong to focus on disseminating scientific knowledge to NDMA for all awareness generation activities. The real-time earthquake prediction scenario and the mirror image generated by CSIR-NEIST should have been shared with the concerned states as discussed in the consultative meet held at ASDMA.

**Highlighting Micro- Zonation**: It is recognized that micro-zonation should be adopted rather than making it a state wise activity. Well-crafted niches and urban agglomerations should be preferred to come up with a more pronounced and extensive study which would help in reflecting better preparedness.

**Fortes of Mega Mock Exercises:** It is observed that Mega Mock Exercise was mostly appreciated by most of the states. It was great opportunity for the states to understand response status and improve coordination. This was the first exercise of its kind after Delhi and Mandi State. It offered a pedestal to interact with other state disaster management authorities which helped in learning better through failures and success of each other thus such activities must be promoted. Mega Mock Exercises also pointed out a few more area pertaining to management and casualty.

**Enforcement of strict implementation of Building Code and RVS training:** The land being a priced commodity in the hands of the private owners has resulted in unplanned expansion of towns which are more prone to earthquake and landslides. Thus strict implementation of National Building Code (NBC) should be enforced which would help in regulation. Adequate number of young engineers form each district must be trained under RVS program conducted by NDMA. These trained engineers should carry out RVS of the life- line buildings and important government buildings followed by private buildings. 59% of the stakeholders felt that vulnerability assessment of buildings should be a planned activity.

**Hospital Management Exercises**: As far as the mass casualty management exercise is concerned the hospital management plans especially the evacuation plans must be more specific. The stress must be laid upon the identification of area which would support the people after mass evacuation as it has been often seen that it is not the earthquake but lack of basic infrastructure facilities which take a major toll. It is also observed that in case of mass casualty sufficient funds are not available to have enough of tents to house the victims as a result hospitals have to rely on outside vendors.

**Well-structured Hospital Exigency Plan**: It was observed in one of the consultative workshops conducted on 27th April, 2016 in ASDMA, Guwahati that under mass casualty management awareness section that all hospitals should have their hospital contingency plan and also well-structured medical plan likewise all the states must have the hospital contingency and medical plan which must be tested and validated by conducting mock exercises regularly.

**Communication:** Another sector which needs due care and attention is the communication. It is well known fact that effective communication is the soul of disaster preparedness and mitigation. It was seen during the various pre-preparatory and preparatory exercises that police communication network was used for all disaster related communication. This hampers and interferes with the routine law and order situation. Thus a dedicated disaster communication network should be in place.

**Need of Special DM module for Police Personnel**: There is a need for a special module on DM for police personnel. Well-equipped SDRFs must be raised in the North-East States with immediate effect.

**Scarcity of DM Gear**: The line department with reference to fire department has acute shortage of fire-fighting equipment. Immediate measures should be taken to access the fire-fighting capabilities and steps must be taken to fill gaps such as lack of manpower and limited assets. It is also recommended that SAR team comprising of the civil defense and volunteers must be framed and the team members should be capacitated to handle the DM equipment such as JCB, inflators, lighting tower, angle cutter etc. This was further corroborated through Goggle from survey wherein 53% of the respondents agreed that a gap exists in maintenance and procurement of DM equipment.

**Changes in logistics:** A change in few logistics can work wonders for e.g.; control room and Incident Response Team should be placed in well-equipped control room. IRT should be alerted through dedicated communication system rather that the cellular phones.

**Regularization of release of Installments’ of grant released:** IIPA study team on interaction with project investigator found that there was delay in the release of grants, due to administrative and other reasons. This should be fixed in consultation with NDMA officials.

**Graduated Incremental Benefits**: It is observed that incremental benefits graduated in Mega Mock Drill from 2014 to 2015 IRS model used for the first time. All props used for the various activities were stacked in an organized manner with a color coding scheme for quick response.

## 4.2 Response Analysis

A standard Google form was developed based on the objectives of the project and preparatory activities *viz.* CDP, RVS, Media campaign, School Sensitization Workshop conducted. This Google from was then emailed to all the stakeholders. The stakeholder list was obtained from NDMA and CSIR-NEIST. The emails were circulated in the first week of April and the participants were also telephonically informed about the evaluation and the procedure to fill up the form. The stakeholders were also given reminder mails and calls for submitting the forms (Annexure V). Summarized below is the analysis of various parameters as in the questionnaire.

**4.2.1 Efficiency of CDP**

Figure. 4.1 show that 65% of respondents accepted that CDP trainings were very efficient in enhancing their knowledge about Emergency Response Plan (ERP) and Standard Operation Procedures (SoPs). Regarding understanding of the concept of IRS only 37% felt that the program addressed this component to a good extent without doubts. 53% of the respondents agreed that a gap exists in manpower and equipment procurement.

**Figure 4.1 Level of Efficiency of the CDP**

47% of the respondents felt that area and subject coverage of the CDP was very good whereas only 24% rated it excellent and 29% found it good (Figure 4.2.). 41% felt that duration of course components was very good. There was no negative comment on any component of the program

**Figure 4.2: Rating of Components of CDP**

**4.2.2 Role of Print Media in awareness**

The question regarding publicity and advertisement in newspaper had a lot or response from the respondents 12% of the respondents accepted that these advertisements helped in generating awareness amongst the public whereas 53% negated the role of advertisement in the same (Figure 4.3).

**Figure 4.3: Awareness Generation through print media**

**4.2.3 Achievement of RVS**

In response to questions related to RVS, 59% of stakeholders felt that advance vulnerability assessment of buildings in should be conducted. The same number of respondents agreed that the old structures and lifeline buildings should be identified on a priority basis (Figure 4.4).

**Figure 4.4: Level of achievement of objectives of RVS**

Figure 4.5 clearly reflects that 47% of the respondents found the RVS training extremely relevant for the overall development present work as well as in the future.

**Figure 4.5: Relevancy of RVS training**

**4.2.4 Achievement of School Sensitization Workshop**

Figure 4.6 shows that 59% of the respondents felt that the school sensitization workshop have provided information and knowledge to a great extent. Whereas 53% acknowledged the inculcation of habit of earthquake safety through school sensitization programs. It was very pleasing to observe that none of the respondents had any doubts regarding the enhancement of knowledge of mitigation and preparedness through sensitization workshops.

**Figure 4. 6: Achievement of objectives of School Sensitization Workshop**