

Visit by Munich Re Foundation, Germany to the RISK Award 2015 recipient project of AILSG

All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIIILSG) is felicitated with the prestigious global RISK AWARD 2015 for its global innovation 'Community Self-Assessment & Planning with Women's Participation for Disaster Risk Reduction of Vulnerable Communities'. AIIILSG's entry was ranked first in the world among 145 entries from 62 countries. The RISK Award 2015 is a joint initiative of The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Global Risk Forum, Davos and Munich Re Foundation, Germany. The RISK AWARD 2015 project is currently being implemented in 2 slums of Pune city (Maharashtra, India)- Mahatma Gandhi Vasti and Parvati Janata Vasahat with active participation of slum dwellers especially women & children. Building on the learnings & enriching response from these 2 slums an upscaling to 10 more slums is planned in the second year beginning April 2016.

The key pillars of this innovation are - Self Assessment & Planning (SAP) by the vulnerable slum communities to assess their disaster vulnerability and planning for its Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), gender sensitive disaster risk reduction planning by centre-staging the participation of slum dweller women who are worst affected by the disasters, catalysing participation of children by use of child friendly tools & IEC, brining on radar concerns of elderly which has hitherto remain neglected in the context of DRR, developing innovative scientific and systematic tools like 'Settlement level Disaster Risk Reduction Report' which also acts as a master reference document/ blue print for conducting Disaster Risk Assessment & Planning for its Risk Reduction by the disaster vulnerable populations in diverse contexts – urban slums, rural cum tribal areas; establishing grassroot participatory mechanisms e.g. 'Community Apex Body for DRR', 'Children's Organisation for DRR' for enabling the sustainability of the initiative.

Mr. Christian Barthelt from Munich Re Foundation- Germany visited AIIILSG in Pune, for a field visit to the RISK Award 2015 project from 25th - 28th February 2016. He visited both the project slums and interacted with the slum community. The 4 day programme also included launch of global first 'Settlement Level Disaster Risk Reduction Report', unveiling of 'Disaster Response & Rescue Kit' and 'Child friendly pictorial IEC kit for DRR' at the project slums, visit to disaster vulnerable remote rural cum tribal locations in Satara district to understand the replicability of the project in diverse contexts, launch of 'Movement of Youth for Disaster Risk Reduction' (MY-DRR) in context of Urban areas and Rural areas as an offshoot of RISK Award 2015 project with an aim to engage Youth in the DRR process.

Launch of globally pioneering innovation of 'Settlement Level Disaster Risk Reduction Report'

All India Institute of Local Self-Government (AIIILSG) launched the global first 'Settlement Level Disaster Risk Reduction Report' on 28th February 2016, Sunday in Mahatma Gandhi Vasti slum, Pune at the hands of Mr.Christian Barthelt of Munich Re Foundation, Germany and Distinguished Prof. Dr. Mukesh Kanaskar, Project Leader, RISK Award 2015 project and Director-International Center of EQUI-T, AIIILSG. This report is the first of its kind in the world and finds its genesis in a prestigious global award- 'RISK AWARD 2015'- the AIIILSG team was felicitated with at the 'Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction' at Sendai, Japan in 2015. A global innovation developed as a part of this award is taking the process of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) planning at the grassroots and empowering the vulnerable communities for undertaking Self-Assessment &



Launch of a global first 'Settlement Level Disaster Risk Reduction Report' at Mahatma Gandhi Vasti Slum

Planning for DRR. This led to development of 'Mahatma Gandhi Slum DRR Report' with intense participation of the slum dwellers. Aply the report was launched at 'Mahatma Gandhi Vasti' slum which was the venue of the program. Another crucial achievement of this initiative is catalysing participation of children in the DRR process. Acknowledging the active involvement of the slum dweller children the 'Child friendly pictorial IEC kit for DRR' was launched at the hands of Mr. Christian Barthelt at the gathering of slum dweller children in Parvati Janata Vasahat slum. This was followed by the customised 'Street Play' and 'Puppet Show' on DRR developed for this project.



Slum Community & Children enjoying 'Street Play' on Disaster Risk Reduction

Mr. Christian Barthelt interacted with the slum community, 'Community Apex Body for DRR' and the 'Children's Organisation for DRR' and appreciated their active participation in the entire process. He highlighted that in recent years the number of disasters have increased manifold and has affected the developing countries most. Among the worst affected are the poorest of the poor who have no means to cope with the distressing situation. He emphasised on the importance of engaging the local communities for building their resilience in the wake of disasters.



Mr. Christian Barthelt interacting with the slum dweller children & 'Children's Organisation for DRR' at Mahatma Gandhi Vasti slum

The interaction with the community continued with Prof. Dr. Mukesh Kanaskar, RISK Award 2015 Project Leader's address to the gathering. He stressed on building disaster resilience of the community through training akin to which the project has key thrust on developing a cadre of community volunteers cum master trainers. In the efforts towards reducing disaster risks, a Disaster Response and Rescue Kit (DRR Kit) was also unveiled at the programme which was followed by a small demonstration of the DRR kit and its use in emergency situation. It is ensured that one set of kit is available in each lane of the slum.



Mr. Christian Barthelt interacting with the slum dweller children during the display of Drawings – 'Expressions on Disasters' developed by the children at Parvati Janata Vasahat slum

Ms. Shweta Gupta, Project Manager, RISK Award 2015 project shed light on the possible disasters & risks the slum residents are most vulnerable to and stressed on the importance of slum level disaster risk reduction planning. She also highlighted the vital role slum dweller women and children have played in the entire process and how their active participation is crucial for effective risk reduction planning at the grassroots.



Mr. Christian Barthelt from Munich Re Foundation addressing the gathering of members from 'Community Apex Body for DRR' & 'Children's Organisation for DRR'

In his concluding key note address Mr. Christian Barthelt highlighted the global relevance of this initiative. He applauded the active community engagement and participation of women and children in the entire process. While appreciating the ground work done in the project he endorsed that the Settlement Level Disaster Risk Reduction planning is an important step in reducing disaster risks and building community resilience.

Visit to 'Disaster Vulnerable Rural cum Tribal Locations in Satara District'

The concept of 'Community Self-Assessment & Planning with Women's Participation for Disaster Risk Reduction of Vulnerable Communities' is replicable for all kinds of vulnerable populations and their settlements- be it urban slums, rural or tribal areas. Considering the importance of DRR planning in similar disaster vulnerable settlements in remote rural cum tribal areas, which are currently outside the radar of DRR planning, visit was paid to 'Medha' a small town situated in Satara district (in an ecologically sensitive area in the western ghats) and remote villages in the area. It is also home to one of the most primitive tribes- 'Katkari' - who are extremely marginalised and poverty ridden and currently residing at the highly disaster vulnerable location. The area is vulnerable to natural disasters like landslides, floods, earthquakes, heavy flooding due to extensive rain fall in a very short duration which also triggers landslides and cut off the remote areas from the nearest major towns thus hampering the access to emergency relief measures. Initial liaisoning is being done in the area to explore the possibility of upscaling/replicating the model of 'Self- Assessment and Planning for DRR' in the rural cum tribal areas.



Visit to one of the Primary School in rural village in Satara District

Launch of 'Movement of Youth for Disaster Risk Reduction' (MY-DRR)

An important realisation through the journey of our project is high degree of lack of awareness, ownership and participation of the youth who should be on the forefront of the DRR initiatives. This forms genesis of the Movement: "Movement of Youth for Disaster Risk Reduction" (abridged as- 'MY DRR'). Objectives of the movement are mobilizing and capacity building of youth for Disaster Risk Reduction. The movement will have vulnerable populations as a key focus.

The MY DRR movement was launched in diverse contexts of Urban areas and Rural areas as an offshoot of RISK AWARD 2015 Project. The movement is launched in two educational institutes at the hands of Mr. Christian Barthelt, Munich Re Foundation, Prof. Mukesh Kanaskar, AILSG and for Urban MY DRR launch – Dr. G. R. Rathod- Durector, Social Science Center, Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, Pune (Urban MY DRR) and for Rural MY DRR launch – Dr. Shaly Joseph, In-Charge Principal, Yashwantrao Chavan School of Social Work in the Satara (Rural MY DRR).



Urban MY DRR launch at Social Science Center, Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University, Pune.



Rural MY DRR launch at Yashwantrao Chavan School of Social Work, Satara



For upscaling of the 'MY DRR' movement the youth from developing countries like Cameroon from sub-saharan Africa, Nepal & Iran are also engaged in the process. During his address Prof. Dr. Kanaskar elucidated the genesis of 'MY DRR' and highlighted the important role 'Youth' can play in disaster risk reduction planning and bring about the change at their respective communities & countries.



Upscaling of MY DRR Movement by engaging youth from developing countries like Cameroon from sub-saharan Africa, Nepal from South Asia & Iran from Middle East.

RISK AWARD 2015 Project: Key Achievements

The major achievements of this pioneering project include-

(a) slum level disaster risk assessment & planning which encompass development of a simple pictorial 'self-assessment and planning tool' that demystifies the complex process of DRR planning and is easily decipherable by the semi-literate/ illiterate slum dweller population, gender sensitive disaster risk reduction planning which focused on active participation of women & children, community mapping & situation analysis, development of a global first 'Settlement level Disaster Risk Reduction Report' which is an outcome of the Self-Assessment and Planning conducted by the slum community to understand their disaster vulnerability, their existing level of knowledge & preparedness to cope with the disasters and actions to be undertaken for building community resilience to reduce disaster risks.

(b) building slum community's resilience to reduce disaster risks - conducting awareness generation & IEC campaign in the slum, use of creative communication mediums e.g. street play, puppet shows, awareness generation rally for communicating the importance of disaster risk reduction in an entertaining way to the community, developed a cadre of Community Volunteers-cum-Master Trainers (atleast 50% of them are women) & building their capacity through extensive training & mock drills, constituting & disseminating 'Disaster Response & Rescue Kit' to the slum community and training the community in use of it, development of child friendly pictorial IEC charts communicating do's & don'ts in case of disasters and preventive measures for reducing disaster risks, established grassroot participatory mechanisms e.g. 'Community Apex Body for DRR', 'Children's Organisation for DRR' with atleast 50% participation of women & girls for enabling the sustainability of the initiative.

(c) Initiating the 'Movement of Youth for Disaster Risk Reduction' (MY DRR) for actively engaging the adolescents and youth from the vulnerable populations in diverse contexts.