



# District Disaster Risk Management Plan

2017



District Disaster Management Authority

Poonch, Azad Jammu & Kashmir

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## Acronyms

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>AC</b>        | <b>Assistant Commissioner</b>                |
| <b>AD</b>        | Assistant Director                           |
| <b>ADB</b>       | Asian Development Bank                       |
| <b>AJ&amp;K</b>  | Azad Jammu & Kashmir                         |
| <b>CBDM</b>      | Community Based Disaster Management          |
| <b>CBO</b>       | Community Based Organization                 |
| <b>CD</b>        | Civil Defence                                |
| <b>DC</b>        | Deputy Commissioner                          |
| <b>DDMA</b>      | District Disaster Management Authority       |
| <b>DEOC</b>      | District Emergency Operations Centre         |
| <b>DFO</b>       | District Forest Officer                      |
| <b>DM</b>        | Disaster Management                          |
| <b>DRM</b>       | Disaster Risk Management                     |
| <b>DRR</b>       | Disaster Risk Reduction                      |
| <b>DRU</b>       | District Reconstruction Unit                 |
| <b>EOC</b>       | Emergency Operations Center                  |
| <b>ERC</b>       | Emergency Relief Cell                        |
| <b>EWS</b>       | Early Warning System                         |
| <b>GoP</b>       | Government Of Pakistan                       |
| <b>GSP</b>       | Geological Survey of Pakistan                |
| <b>HVCA</b>      | Hazard Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment |
| <b>INGO</b>      | International Non-Governmental Organization  |
| <b>LoC</b>       | Line of Control                              |
| <b>LG&amp;RD</b> | Local Government & Rural Development         |
| <b>MC</b>        | Municipal Committee                          |
| <b>NDMA</b>      | National Disaster Management Authority       |
| <b>NDMC</b>      | National Disaster Management Commission      |
| <b>NDMO</b>      | National Disaster Management Ordinance       |
| <b>NGO</b>       | Non-Governmental Organization                |
| <b>PHED</b>      | Public Health Engineering Department         |
| <b>PMD</b>       | Pakistan Metrological Department             |
| <b>PRCS</b>      | Pakistan Red Crescent Society                |
| <b>SDMA</b>      | State Disaster Management Authority          |
| <b>SOPs</b>      | Standard Operating Procedure                 |
| <b>SSP</b>       | Senior Superintendent of Police              |
| <b>SW&amp;WD</b> | Social Welfare & Welfare Department          |
| <b>UC</b>        | Union Council                                |

## Message by Secretary, Relief, Disaster Management & Civil Defence

The devastating earthquake of October 2005 brought about an acute awareness among government institutions and communities of the critical need of disaster risk management. The tragedies in shape of natural and man-made disasters not only play havoc with life but also expose the extent of vulnerability and inability of the respective communities don't possess appropriate legislation and efficient institutions, which leads towards comprehensive disaster preparedness, response and rehabilitation initiatives. Keeping in view the frequency, intensity and magnitude of need for establishing Disaster Risk Management and response mechanisms to mitigate effects of natural and man-made disasters on human life, infrastructure, livestock, economy and health, we need a collective approach to face upcoming disasters in a most organized manner.



In its commitment to safeguard the lives, properties, livestock, crops and livelihoods of the vulnerable communities of the State of Azad Jammu & Kashmir, a comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Plan has been devised for district Poonch. The DRM Plan highlights the mechanism of joint efforts of different stakeholders in collaborative and coordinated way to direct our efforts with unidirectional approach and it incorporates strategies to enhance the capacity of all departments / agencies / organizations to more effectively prepare and respond to disaster situations. This can be achieved through the systematic processes of hazard, vulnerability and risk analysis, which facilitates in getting a more real rational base of information upon which to frame operational plans and procedures. This Plan identifies the risk environment and outlines the key institutional and programming components related to effective disaster risk preparedness, management, emergency response and recovery.

All the district officials and departments, civil society and professional experts who extended their cooperation in this whole process are dully thanked. The preparation of the Disaster Risk Management Plan is only the first step towards achieving the broader objective of reducing disaster risks. We are committed to extend all possible support and provisions of resources for effective implementation of this Plan in district Poonch.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zaheer Ud Din', written over a light blue background.

**Zaheer Ud Din**  
Secretary/Director General,  
Relief, Disaster Management & Civil Defence, AJK



## Message from Deputy Commissioner



The tragedy of October 2005 earthquake is unprecedented in the history of Azad Jammu & Kashmir. An optimistic outcome of 2005 earthquake is the increased sensitization about strengthening disaster risk management capacities at all level. The challenge we face is that of saving lives and properties making them more resilient to disaster in the future.

Keeping ourselves aligned to future priorities related to disaster risk management and to achieve objective of making people more resilient against future disasters, we have been able to develop District Disaster Risk Management Plan for District Poonch, which is indeed outstanding achievement. This Plan is result of an extensive literature review, series of meeting with various officials in district Poonch, consultative workshop with stakeholders and technical review by the disaster management experts.

The Plan clearly defines roles and responsibilities in pre, during and post disaster of all stakeholders at the district level. It also outlines Standards Operating procedures(SOPs) for ensuring efficient and coordinated emergency response, Importantly, it provides medium and long-term strategies and measures for disaster risk management. In short, the plan aims to save lives and reduce vulnerabilities of people ; and protect livelihood and infrastructure.

I am grateful to the team of State Disaster Management Authority especially Honorable Director General, SDMA and other professional experts who involved in the formulation of such a substantial and valuable document. I hope that all the stakeholders would follow the strategic direction given in the plan to make Poonch district safer from disaster risks.

Name: Tahir Mumtaz Khan



Deputy Commissioner  
Poonch at Rawalakot

## Acknowledgement

This document has been developed through an extensive process of consultation with district stakeholders. Acknowledgment is due to the following district administration officials, departments and stakeholders who participated in the consultation process for the development of this plan.

| <b>Name</b>                   | <b>Designation</b> | <b>Department</b> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Sardar Tariq Khan</b>      | A.D.C              | Revenue           |
| <b>Sardar Wajid</b>           | D.F.O              | Forest            |
| <b>Mr. Pervaiz Iqbal</b>      | A.D                | Civil Defence     |
| <b>Mr. M. Zafarullah Khan</b> | Drug Inspector     | Health            |
| <b>Mr. Shahid Sadiq</b>       | S.D.O              | LGRDD             |
| <b>Mr. M. Shabbir Khan</b>    | S.D.O              | PWD               |
| <b>Mr. Arsalan Ahmed</b>      | Assistant          | Revenue           |

# Vision, Mission and Objectives

## **Vision**

Enhance disaster resilience in the District Poonch, AJ&K

## **Mission**

To reduce vulnerability of human life, property and the environment to natural as well as man-made disasters through awareness, mitigation, preparedness and coordination.

## **Objectives**

- To contribute achievement of sustainable development through minimized human suffering, loss and damage to the economic infrastructure by promoting and strengthening District level capacities for disaster management.
- To localize disaster risk management to the maximum extent possible so as to minimize the impact on life, livelihood and environment
- To enhance institutional capacities at District level including those related to technology, training and human and material resources

## Chapter I: District Profile

Poonch was ruled by a number of different Rajas and Maharajas from time to time. First it was ruled by Muslim Rajas of Loran then fell to Raja Talab Khan of Rajori, then in 1846 under the treaty of Amritsar it came under Maharaja Gulab Singh. The Dogra dynasty always found it difficult to establish their rule in Poonch. At the time of Indo-Pak partition in 1947 the people of Poonch started an armed struggle against the Dogra regime and the Indian armed forces and liberated the area and decided to be the part of Pakistan.

Poonch is one of the three divisions of the State with 04 districts Bagh, Haveli, Sudhnoti and Poonch itself. Furthermore, district Poonch has 04 sub-divisions in it Rawalakot, Hajira, Thorar and Abbasspur having 53, 44, 07 and 18 revenue villages respectively with 26 union councils all together. Sudhan, Gujjar, Mughal, Kashmiri and Awan tribes are predominant in this district. Gujjars / Bakerwals (nomads) reside deep in the wilds on the slopes of the mountains.

Total area of district Poonch is about 855 sq. kms. and shares 6.4% of the state of AJ&K. Rawalakot is headquarter of district Poonch and is situated in the heart of district Poonch, also known as Pearl Valley. The altitude of this saucer-shaped beautiful valley is 1615 meters above sea level and is one of the most scenic areas of the state of AJ&K.

The Poonch River flows in the district that originates in the western foothills of Pir Panjal range. It is called 'Siran' in this area. It flows northwest and enters Mangla Lake near Chomukh. District Poonch is bestowed with numerous scenic tourist spots like Tolipir, Ghori Mar, Shaheed gala, Banjosa lake and Tatta Pani etc. All of these places along with many other places reflect dense green conifer forests and calm environments with the facility of comfortable rest/guest houses.

### I.1. Location

The district headquarter of Poonch (Rawalakot) lies between 33.5112°N latitude and 73.4505°E longitude and the elevation of the area is about 5374 feet above sea level. Poonch borders Indian Occupied Kashmir in the east, district Bagh in the north, Pakistan in the west and district Sudhnoti in the south.

Rawalakot is accessible from Muzaffarabad via Kohala and also linked with Rawalpindi and Islamabad via the neighboring localities of Azad Pattan and Dhalkot, Goyain Nala and Tain roads. Via Kotli Satiyan and Kahuta. It is also linked with Rawalpindi via Sudhnuti. It is 103 kms from Muzaffarabad via Kohala and 113 kms from Rawalpindi via Azad Pattan. Rawalakot is approximately 76 kilometers (47 mi) from Kahuta and about 120 km (75 mi) from the city of Rawalpindi, Pakistan. It is also linked with Rawalpindi via Sudhnuti.

Line of control is 15 Km from Hajira and 43 Km from Rawalakot.

## **I.2. Terrain / Physical Features of the Area**

Poonch district is a totally hilly area barring few-low lying valleys with an average elevation of about 2000 meters above sea level. The mountains in the district are part of the Pir Panjal range. Tolipir is the highest peak in the eastern mountain regions of the district. The Jhelum River flows from north to south and makes the western boundary of the district. The Poonch River originating from the Pir Panjal range in the occupied Jammu and Kashmir, flows along the south eastern boundary of the district. Kehan nalla, Goin nalla, Ranger nalla, and Hajira nalla are notable streams which are mostly flood streams.

## **I.3. Climate**

Poonch features a subtropical highland climate under the Köppen climate classification due to high altitude. Climate of the district varies with the altitudes of the area. North-eastern part of the district is very cold. However, the lower valleys have cold winter and hot summer. Weather is quite erratic in Poonch. The climate of Poonch can be divided into four seasons, namely spring, summer, autumn and winter. Poonch has mild to warm temperatures during the spring and autumn, humid temperatures during summer and cold to snowy during the winter. The mean maximum and minimum temperature during the month of January is about 7 c and 1 c respectively. In summer during the month of June it is about 16 c and 26 c respectively. The temperature can rise as high as 38 °C (100 °F) during the mid-summer months and drop below -15 °C (5 °F) during the winter months. Monsoon season prevails from April to September. The average annual precipitation of the district is about 1800 millimeters Snowfall occurs in December and January, while most rainfall occurs during the monsoon season stretching from July to September. Snowfall starts in the month of December and ends in January or by the mid of February. These weather conditions, lush green environment, colorful flowers especially roses and easy access makes this district an outstanding tourist destination.

| Climate Data                    |                |                 |                 |                 |                 |                 |                  |                  |                 |                 |                 |                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Month                           | Jan            | Feb             | Mar             | Apr             | May             | Jun             | Jul              | Aug              | Sep             | Oct             | Nov             | Dec             | Year              |
| Record high °C<br>(°F)          | 25.6<br>(78.1) | 32.9<br>(91.2)  | 34.4<br>(93.9)  | 41<br>(106)     | 45<br>(113)     | 46.6<br>(115.9) | 43.2<br>(109.8)  | 40<br>(104)      | 39.4<br>(102.9) | 39.9<br>(103.8) | 33.3<br>(91.9)  | 28.9<br>(84)    | 46.6<br>(115.9)   |
| Average high °C<br>(°F)         | 17.3<br>(63.1) | 19.8<br>(67.6)  | 24.7<br>(76.5)  | 30.6<br>(87.1)  | 36.3<br>(97.3)  | 38.1<br>(100.6) | 34.8<br>(94.6)   | 33.5<br>(92.3)   | 33.2<br>(91.8)  | 30.4<br>(86.7)  | 25.2<br>(77.4)  | 19.7<br>(67.5)  | 28.63<br>(83.54)  |
| Average low °C<br>(°F)          | 3.8<br>(38.8)  | 6.7<br>(44.1)   | 11.1<br>(52)    | 15.9<br>(60.6)  | 21<br>(70)      | 23.8<br>(74.8)  | 24.3<br>(75.7)   | 23.6<br>(74.5)   | 21.1<br>(70)    | 14.8<br>(58.6)  | 8.8<br>(47.8)   | 5<br>(41)       | 14.99<br>(58.99)  |
| Record low °C (°F)              | -2.6<br>(27.3) | 0<br>(32)       | 2.8<br>(37)     | 3.3<br>(37.9)   | 10<br>(50)      | 13<br>(55)      | 12<br>(54)       | 12.7<br>(54.9)   | 13<br>(55)      | 1.9<br>(35.4)   | 0<br>(32)       | -3.3<br>(26.1)  | -3.3<br>(26.1)    |
| Average rainfall<br>mm (inches) | 24.9<br>(0.98) | 30.8<br>(1.213) | 31.2<br>(1.228) | 20.1<br>(0.791) | 14.4<br>(0.567) | 44.1<br>(1.736) | 112.8<br>(4.441) | 136.3<br>(5.366) | 43.8<br>(1.724) | 15.7<br>(0.618) | 14.5<br>(0.571) | 19.1<br>(0.752) | 507.7<br>(19.987) |

## I.4. Language

Majority of people speaks Parahi / Rawalakoti and Gujjars / Bakerwals speak Gojri, whereas Urdu is the official and well-understood language throughout the district Poonch.

## I.5. Population

According to the 1998 population census, District Poonch had a population of 0.411 million, which has grown to 0.599 million in 2015. The population has grown at 2.24% annually during last decade. The population is spread over 855 sq. kms. with population density of 701 persons per sq. kms. (2015). This compares to average population density of 336 persons per sq. kms. in the State as a whole. The average household size in the district is 6.8 members per house hold compare to 7 at the State level, living mostly in extended/joint family structures. The population of the district mostly lives in the rural areas comparatively and 100% population is Muslim.

**Population Features 2015**

|  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| Projected population of Poonch. (2015) | 0.599 million             |
| Male population (2015)                 | 0.302 million             |
| Female population (2015)               | 0.296 million             |
| Average Family Size                    | 6.8 Members (MICS2007-08) |
| Growth Rate                            | 2.24 %                    |
| Population Density 2015 projected      | 701 Persons/Sq.Km.        |
| Literacy Rate                          | 81 %                      |
| Religion                               | Almost 100% Muslims       |

Projected on the basis of 1998 Census

Source: i. Population Census Organization, Islamabad.

ii. PSLM 2014-15 Survey

**Area, Population, Density, Growth Rate & Household-Size  
(Projected on the basis on 1998 census)**

| Area<br>(Sq.Kms) | Population Census 1998<br>(million) |                | MICS 2007-08       | Projected<br>Population<br>2015 (million) | Density in<br>2015(Persons/<br>Sq.Km) |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
|                  | Population                          | Growth<br>Rate | House-hold<br>Size |   |                                       |
| 855              | 0.411                               | 2.24%          | 6.8                | 0.599                                     | 701                                   |

**I.6. Health**

The lapse in the medical facility can be easily accessed by the fact that for the scattered population of 599,000 over the area of 855 sq. kms. of the district Poonch there are only 02 hospitals with 300 beds capacity, 07 RHCs with 84 beds capacity and only 32 BHUs/dispensaries with 64 beds capacity, altogether 448 beds averaging one bed for 690 people.

**Number of Hospitals, Beds, RHCs and Dispensaries**

| Hospitals |      | RHCs |      | BHUs/Dispensaries |      |
|-----------|------|------|------|-------------------|------|
| No.       | Beds | No.  | Beds | No.               | Beds |
| 02        | 300  | 07   | 84   | 32                | 64   |

Source: Directorate of Health, Muzaffarabad

**Health Institutions**

| CMH Hospitals | THQ Hospitals | TB Hospital | RHCs | BHUs | Dispensaries | FAPs (Approved) | FAPs (Un Approved) | MCH Centers | TB/Leprosy Center | Unani Dispensaries | Dental Centers | EPI Centers | Malaria Centers | Teaching Inst. |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|------|------|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 01            | 01            | --          | 07   | 32   | --           | 29              | 16                 | 28          | 06                | --                 | 07             | 38          | 22              | --             |

Source: Directorate of Health, Muzaffarabad

**I.7. Education**

District Poonch has the highest literacy rate in the state of AJ&K that is 81% as compared to 77% of the state of AJ&K and 55% when compared to Pakistan. To address the educational needs of the residents of the district government has established 13 intermediate colleges, 07 degree colleges, 02 postgraduate colleges, Poonch University and Poonch medical college to serve their residents. An extensive network of schools is present in the district at each level. There are 307 primary, 81 middle, 56 high and 5 higher secondary schools for females while 112 primary, 68 middle, 50 high and 5 higher secondary schools for boys across the district.



**Details of Schools**

| Gender | Mosque | Primary | Middle | High | Higher Secondary | Industrial School | Literacy Centre | Village Workshop | Total |
|--------|--------|---------|--------|------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------|
| Female | -      | 307     | 81     | 56   | 5                | -                 | -               | -                | 449   |
| Male   | 142    | 112     | 68     | 50   | 5                | -                 | -               | -                | 377   |

**Details of Colleges**

| Post Graduate |        |              | Degree |        |              | Intermediate |        |              | Total |
|---------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------|--------------|--------------|--------|--------------|-------|
| Male          | Female | Co-Education | Male   | Female | Co-Education | Male         | Female | Co-Education |       |
| 01            | 01     | -            | 03     | 04     | -            | 04           | 09     | -            | 22    |

Source: Directorate of Education Colleges, Muzaffarabad

## I.8. Economic Features

### Agriculture

The agricultural aspect and trend of the district is somewhat identical to the rest of north AJ&K. The residents of this district also cultivate their farms and land to fulfill their own domestic and culinary needs.

The annual cropped area of the district Poonch is around 52624 acres out of which 49160 acres are non-irrigated and only 2091 acres are irrigated. Surveys of the district has revealed that the people of this district prefer to grow maize over wheat and rice as maize is cultivated on 26408 acres, wheat on 12269 acres, rice on 340 acres and vegetables and some grams only on 1214 acres of land.

In addition to these crops the district Poonch is also well known for its good quality apples. Apples are grown on commercial basis but in the conventional way. Traces of pears can also be found in the district. Fruit trees include walnut, apple, and wild pear. Fruit and vegetables have great potential of increase in production and marketing. The largest industry for Poonch is the harvesting of popular trees, which are harvested and transported to Pakistan for manufacture of sporting goods.

### Area under Cultivation of Cultivar

| Unit  | Annual Cropped Area | Non-irrigated Area | Irrigated Area | Area Under Maize Cultivation | Area Under wheat | Area Under Rice | Area Under Jawar | Area Under Millet (Bajra) | Area Under Gram | Area Under Vegetables |
|-------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Acres | 52624               | 49160              | 2091           | 26408                        | 12269            | 340             | 0                | 0                         | 0               | 1214                  |

Source: Agriculture Department Muzaffarabad.

### Livestock & Poultry

In the district Poonch cattle, buffalos and sheep and goats can also be spotted in mostly every house other than those in the cities of bazaars. These animals are reared to meet the domestic dairy and meat requirements along with their utilities in the farms. Poultry birds are also reared for egg and white meat.

To maintain the good health of these assets of the people of the district Government has established 07 veterinary hospitals, 05 veterinary dispensaries, 11 first aid centers and some other local veterinary units. Mules and asses are also reared to meet the load carrying jobs especially by the people living on the hill contours.

### Number of Animals/Poultry Birds

| Cattle | Buffalos | Sheep | Goats | Camels | Horses | Mules | Asses | Poultry |
|--------|----------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|---------|
| 41722  | 56996    | 19288 | 88016 | -      | 279    | 436   | 462   | 342257  |

### Veterinary Facilities

| Civil Veterinary Hospitals | Veterinary Dispensaries | First Aid Centers | Tehsil Level Extension office | Extension Centers | A-I Centers | Labs | Livestock Dev. Res. Centre | Poultry Multiplication Centers |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 05                         | 05                      | 19                | 2                             | 21                | 10          | 01   | -                          | 01                             |

Source: -Livestock Department, Muzaffarabad

## Forest

Out of 1.007 million hectares of the state of AJ&K 0.050 million conifers are standing tall in the district Poonch. On top of the hills, kail, fir, chir and oak trees are commonly found. Robinia, poplar, and alimthas are grown by people on their farms. In the low land areas mulberry, shisham trees and small bushes are found.

Jackal, fox and hare are commonly found in the forests. In thick forests, birds like wild cock, cuckoo, murghzareen, chakore, shaheen and moned pheasants and dove are found. These forests are also home to many wildlife animals like leopard, jackal, black bear, fox, musk deer and monkey.

### Area Under Forests (million hectares)

| Coniferous | Irrigated Plantation | Riverine Bela Forest | Scrub Forest | Coastal Forest | Range Lands | Total |
|------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------|
| 0.050      | -                    | 0.003                | -            | -              | 0.013       | 0.056 |

Source: AJ&K Forest Department, Muzaffarabad

## Industry, Trade and Commerce

Residents of the Poonch district have diverse but limited means of livelihoods including farming, livestock, poultry farming, government service (both civil and military), and business and overseas employment. Industry is minimal in terms of contributions towards livelihoods. In-country seasonal migration for employment is very common.

As per 1998 census report there is no large scale industry in the district. Cottage industry caters for domestic use only. There is furniture industry on small scale which caters for only 5% requirements of the district. Some domestic handlooms can be found for the domestic use only.

## 1.9. Physical Features

### Roads

Poonch district is connected with other districts of AJK and Pakistan by road. Total road network (as per 1998 Census Report/pre-EQ) was as under: i- Metalled road: 322 km ii- Fair weather road: 300 km

According to 2005 statistics, there were a total of 1822 km of roads in district Poonch city with a break up of 617 km of metalled and 1205 km of fair weather roads. Presently the arterial network consists of the four major connections to Rawalakot from the neighboring cities Muzaffarabad, Bagh, Hajira, Kotli, Thorar (Mang) and Rawalpindi. Regional arterial road network includes: Goin Nulla Road, Mang Road, CMH/Muzaffarabad

Road, Hajira Road, and Bagh Road through Shujaabad, Sangola Road, Eastern Bypass and Western Bypass. Rawalakot is connected to Rawalpindi (Pakistan) through two road networks: 1- Rawalpindi – Kahuta- Azad Pattan Road (117 km) 2- Rawalpindi- Lehtrar-Dhalkot Road.

| (i) Metaled Roads (Km) |             |            |       |       | (ii) Fair-Weather Roads (Km) |       |       | G. Total (i+ii) KM |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|-------|-------|------------------------------|-------|-------|--------------------|
| PWD                    |             |            | LG&RD | Total | PWD                          | LG&RD | Total |                    |
| Double Lane Roads      | Major Roads | Link Roads |       |       |                              |       |       |                    |
| 143                    | 314         | 632        | 118   | 1207  | 69                           | 1148  | 1217  | 2424               |

### Airport

Civil Aviation Authority of Pakistan with collaboration of the Govt. of AJ&K in has established a small airport about 10 kms away from the Rawalakot city. But due to some technical reasons its operation has been suspended till date.

### Power

The district is linked with Pakistan's national grid system, however, the responsibility of distribution lies with the Electricity Department of AJK. According to DCR 1998 overall 79.66% of the district area enjoyed the benefits of electricity as the source of lighting. In rural areas percentage stood at 76.94% and for urban it was 98.70%. As per 2005 statistics there were total 47374 electric connections in the district with a break up of 43622 domestic, 3686 for commercial and 66 for industrial purposes. Presently almost all the villages and even the separated hilly houses enjoy the facility of electricity

## Chapter 2: Hazards, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment

Being hilly and mountainous, district Poonch is highly vulnerable to certain natural and man-made hazards like landslides, avalanches, seasonal and flash floods, cloud burst, drought, lightening, wild fire, road accidents and cross border firing incidents. But prior to the dreadful earthquake on 08th Oct 2005 Govt. and all other relative technical agencies were either inactive or were taking these hazards lightly. But the earthquake led them to take these hazards very seriously and hence efforts and policies were made to tackle these hazards. These disasters resulting in death or injury to the human lives and damages to public and private infrastructure like buildings, communication network, agricultural land and natural environment of the district.

### Year Wise Disaster Losses

| Year | Event              | Death | Injured | Houses Damaged |           | Shops | Cattle | Water Mill | Any other Losses               |
|------|--------------------|-------|---------|----------------|-----------|-------|--------|------------|--------------------------------|
|      |                    |       |         | Fully          | Partially |       |        |            |                                |
| 2010 | Flood              | 0     | 1       | 170            | 661       | 7     | 0      | 0          | 2 House Hold Items             |
| 2012 | Heavy Rains        | 8     | 11      | 68             | 0         | 0     | 0      | 0          | 0                              |
| 2013 | Heavy Rains        | 6     | 2       | 0              | 0         | 0     | 0      | 0          | 0                              |
| 2014 | Heavy Rains        | 6     | 13      | 755            | 3694      | 22    | 45     | 43         | 0                              |
| 2015 | Heavy Rains        | 8     | 3       | 5              | 2         | 0     | 1      | 0          | 0                              |
|      | Indian Army firing | 4     | 4       | 0              | 0         | 0     | 0      | 0          | 0                              |
|      | Earthquake         | 0     | 0       | 0              | 1         | 0     | 0      | 0          | 0                              |
| 2016 | Heavy Rains        | 3     | 2       | 46             | 105       | 0     | 0      | 0          | 1 car                          |
|      | Indian Army firing | 3     | 26      | 2              | 11        | 0     | 9      | 0          | 1 Ambulance, 2 cars, 1 coaster |

### 2.1. Methodology for Hazard & Risk Assessment

The consultation undertaken for developing District DRM plan has resulted in prioritization of risk faced by area. The hazard matrix was prepared by considering the likelihood of occurrence, extent of impact and its consequences. Beside extensive discussions with the stakeholders, a range of methodological tactics was also adopted to assess the risks that included analysis of spatial and temporal disaster patterns with future trends. The primary and the secondary data were collected for developing hazard matrix and their geographical extend.

District Risk Assessment Matrix, drawn after consultation gave an overview of risk assessments associated with different hazards across Poonch. Earthquake was ranked the

most threatening natural hazard followed by the floods as those occur almost every year in the monsoon season. The below given table shows the severity of the hazard to which Poonch is prone to;

**District Risk Assessment Matrix**

| Natural Disasters        |            |            |              |                              |             |           |            |         |           | Man Made Disasters |                |           |           |          |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|--------------|------------------------------|-------------|-----------|------------|---------|-----------|--------------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| Geo Metrological Hazards |            |            |              | Hydro Metrological Disasters |             |           |            |         | Other     |                    |                |           |           |          |
| Earthquake               | Landslides | Avalanches | Flash Floods | Seasonal Floods              | Cloud Burst | Windstorm | Lightening | Drought | Epidemics | Firing along LoC   | Road Accidents | Wild Fire | Terrorism | Drowning |
| Red                      | Green      | Blue       | Red          | Red                          | Yellow      | Yellow    | Blue       | Blue    | Blue      | Red                | Green          | Yellow    | White     | Blue     |
| Extreme                  |            |            | High         |                              |             | Moderate  |            |         | Low       |                    | Nil            |           |           |          |
| Red                      |            |            | Green        |                              |             | Yellow    |            |         | Blue      |                    | White          |           |           |          |



## 2.2. Risks Associated with Natural Hazards

### Earthquake

The October 8th, 2005 earthquake affected almost all aspects of socio-economic life of the people along with the physical infrastructures both in private and public sectors. The loss of human life in Poonch district was 1120 whereas 1883 persons were injured. A total of Rs 873.115 million has been paid as compensation for death and injury cases in Poonch district (uptill March, 2007). This includes Rs 746.815 million for the injured, Rs. 111.4 for single death cases in a family and Rs. 13.9 million for multiple death cases.

The district has suffered a significant loss due to the Oct 2005 earthquake. The 83% of the private houses were fully damaged with 15% were partially damaged. The damage to education sector was 95% as 923 schools were damaged in both public and private sector. In health sector, 213 health facilities were fully or partially damaged. There were Rs 8492.3 million direct and Rs 4217.6 million indirect losses in the agriculture sector. There were Rs 203 Million damage to WATSAN sector. In the Environment and Forest sector there were 20 offices and buildings which were damaged due to earthquake. The road infrastructure, 45.4 km mettaled and 507 kms of link roads with 4 bridges of 311 meter were damaged.

As per ERRAs reports in Poonch district, private housing sector suffered a great loss to the extent that 83% (39190) housing structures were totally destroyed whereas 15% (7209) were partially damaged. The remaining 2% were with negligible damages and thus in a livable condition. As compared to Bagh and Muzaffarabad, Poonch district got relatively lesser damages in private housing because of being located at greater distance from epicenter. However, some parts of the district relatively got more damaged than the rest. The cause was both the comparative nearness to the fault line as well as structural design weaknesses in those areas. Again the slope constructions were shocked heavily than the plain area housing units. For example, union councils Ali Sojal, Dhamini, Pakhar Serrarai suffered greater losses than the rest area on these accounts

### Underlying Earthquake Risks

The risk analysis of district Poonch suggests that following sectors & people are at most risk because of earthquake hazard:

- a) Partially damaged houses & public infrastructure (after earthquake in 2005) still in use for living, offices and public services especially like schools.
- b) Communities living on edges and steep slopes.
- c) Communities settled in far-flung areas and those on high altitude are at higher risk of not receiving immediate relief in case of earthquake.
- d) Energy and communication distribution links/network



### **Vulnerability & Risk Factors**

Cognitively whole region is characterized by generalized pattern of common institutional, social and cultural vulnerabilities, which are applicable across different hazards and groups. The general vulnerabilities are as follow:

- a) Absence or weak implementation arrangement of policies, legal instruments and codes (such as building codes) for risk conscious development planning.
- b) Availability of limited safe land with increasing growth of settlements in non-safe areas.
- c) Illiteracy, poverty and limited access to social services for communities and financial constraints for public agencies to improve access to services.
- d) Absence of contingency or departmental emergency preparedness plans.

### **Landslides**

Landslides have already ruined the developmental gains of decades and posing threats for further aggravating the situation. These landslides were triggered by 2005 Earthquake and are being worsened by human activities mainly carried out for reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Poonch badly faces the risk of landslides, which has been worsened after the earthquake 2005. Due to the weak geological structures (limestone, silt and clay), steep slopes, tectonic uplift, intense rainfall; district Poonch has become highly susceptible to landslides. Prior to earthquake of 2005 the mountains and the earth were comparatively compact but the 2005 earthquake loosened the soil formation rendering it prone to slides more than ever before. Now even a small jolt of an earthquake can trigger a massive landslide. These landslides are not only seismic shock reliant but also many other natural and man caused activities like torrential rains, human vibratory factors (blasting) during road making or for any other developmental activity. For example, widening of the road from Rawalakot to Islamabad through Goin Nalla has made various locations prone to land sliding. Any failure of these continuous landslides series may cause blockage of road to Rawalakot and Islamabad and local movement of people.

Another major cause that aggravates the situation is deforestation that makes the mountains bald and barren leaving slopes highly susceptible to landslides. Landslides not only pose threat to the human lives but also are dreadful for the roads and other networks, resulting in road blockade, electrical and communication especially to the peripheral areas of the district Poonch effecting mobility, supply and relief works suffer badly. In Feb 2007, fourteen people, 10 of them women, were killed and five others were critically injured in Poonch district after a public transport vehicle heading towards Bangoin village from Rawalakot carrying 17 passengers was buried under a landslide, near Sanadi Nullah Rawalakot.

Some of the examples of land sliding are on Goin Nala road, Ali sojal and at Datoot. These are the slides, which are visible and accessible for being on the main roads whereas there are many other slides which, not being easily accessible, are unnoticed. The geological, geomorphologic, and hydro geological structures of the area are major contributing factors caused landslide activity and affected the local inhabitants and the environment of the area. These landslides not only threaten the human lives but also hamper the communication network. Mostly roads become temporary blocked causing mobility issues for the inhabitants of the area. Other consequential impacts are houses, buildings and infrastructure collapse.

### **Vulnerability & Risk Factors**

The risks associated with landslide hazards within the vulnerability context of these areas suggest that life, livelihoods and built infrastructure are all at risk owing the combined effects of hazard and vulnerability context of the region. The key risks associated with set of hazards are as following:

- a) Life, livelihoods and property risks to communities settled at steep slopes (in potentially avalanche & landslide zones).
- b) Communication network like roads, bridges linking the main road arteries to the remote destinations of district Poonch.
- c) In-accessibility to cut off communities resulting in delayed rescue, evacuation & delivery of relief supplies.
- d) Limited institutional capacity for landslide clearance and rebuilding emergency communication and civic amenities.

### **Floods**

Poonch is severely exposed to the variety of hydro-meteorological disasters. Flash, Seasonal floods, Cloudburst & Lightening are rain-induced hazards, which have been grouped together as they are inter-linked at times in terms of occurrence and impact. Intense/heavy rains, catchment bursts, steep slopes, soil texture and unguarded deforestation induce severity to their destructions. The flash floods at times turn into hill torrents and wreck havoc with settlements and infrastructure that comes in their way. Often flash floods trigger secondary hazards like land/mudslides, soil erosion and sometimes avalanches.

Over the past decade hydro meteorological hazards have damaged district Poonch from time to time. Since 2010 these hazards have claimed 31 human lives and have injured 32 people in district Poonch. The devastation of these rain induced hazards have been more critical and severe on the property of the residents of the district as 1044 houses were

completely damaged and 4462 houses were partially damaged since the year 2010. In addition to these losses these floods also washed some shops, cattle and many water mills away.

**Flood risk enhancing factors:**

Land encroachments along the rivers banks and nullahs beds in the urban and semi-urban areas.

- a) Most of the losses (life and property) occurred as a result of unchecked massive encroachments and intrusion of population along riverbanks and different Nallahs, partly along the flood prone hill blocked and heavily encroached drainage systems of settlements also played a major role in inundation and consequent destruction. The district administrations and other Authorities are obligated to initiate coercive measures for clearing natural water flowing channels and outlets and to put a stop on illegal occupation of land exposed to natural floods and hazards.
- b) Unplanned construction of rural roads in particular, without strictly adhering to the geomorphologic parameters i.e. wildly cutting of hills toes/slopes.
- c) Large scale deforestation and insufficient reforestation/afforestation.
- d) Use of vulnerable and marginal lands for inhabitation purposes.
- e) Massive Environmental Degradation.

**Vulnerability & Risk Factors**

The risks associated with activation of flood hazards in given vulnerability context are as follow:

- a) Life, livelihoods and property risks to communities settled at steep slopes (In potentially flash flood zones); also communities settled in and around river channels.
- b) Limited access for immediate rescue and relief due to wider dispersion of settled population.

**Wind Storms and Droughts**

The earthquake of 2005 not only effected the population of this district Poonch along with all other districts directly but it also effected the environment. It has even altered the frequency, intensity and impact of windstorms in the recent times. Though no scientific explanation is available to substantiate the statement, most of the environmentalists term

deforestation, extreme weather and temperature variations as causative factors for windstorms.

Drought is an insidious hazard of nature, although it has scores of definitions. Drought originates from a deficiency of precipitation over an extended period of time, usually a season or more. This deficiency results in water shortages for limited livelihood activities.

District Poonch also remained in the grip of prolonged drought between the years 2000 to 2004, which caused extensive damage to rain-fed crops. It affected the orchards and livestock also, which added to the economic woes of drought. The drought 2000-2004 is associated with regional climatic change processes whereby the whole region remained in the grip of Elnino effect (source reports of Pakistan Meteorological Department).

### **Vulnerability & Risk Factors**

The peculiar vulnerabilities of people from windstorms and droughts are outlined below:

- a) Residents of makeshift shelters with CGS sheets as rooftops
- b) Communities and families living at mountain tops and slopes
- c) Drought related vulnerabilities are loss of livelihoods, land and land degradation.
- d) Loss of potable water because of drying of springs

### **Epidemics**

In post-earthquake 2005 scenario, incidences of localized epidemics have registered a steady increase in the district mainly for reasons such as unsafe potable water, poor sanitation and changed housing/living pattern. The urbanization trend of the population of Poonch together with weak institutional arrangement for immunization and field-based surveillance of disease trends are key vulnerabilities. All such conditions make district Poonch prone to acute respiratory infections and water borne diseases like diarrhea/dysentery, enteric fever, hepatitis A&E and worm infestation. There are occasional reports of scabies and rabies epidemics in certain areas.

## **2.3. Risks Associated with Human Induced Hazards**

### **Road Accidents**

Road accidents are proving deadlier than the other types of incidents in region. Road accidents frequently occur in AJK, and are blamed more due to reckless and negligent driving and unfit vehicles rather than the dilapidated roads Accident is defined as an unfortunate incident that happens unexpectedly and unintentionally, typically resulting in damage or injury. These are considered as manageable emergency events but not the

disasters. The cumulative impact of accidents is not considered because natural disasters are of sudden occurrence and attract people by the force of their immediate consequences whereas accidents taking toll of human lives and economy are often unreported, unnoticed and the victims of these accidents are ill compensated. Roads in the district Poonch are of single lane and are with blind corners other than the city hence the road accidents occur frequently. There are multiple reasons of the accidents in the district like rash driving, sharp and blind curves, dying condition of the vehicles, bad condition of the roads and overloading. All of these causes attribute towards the accidents in the district. Whereas the Govt. of AJ&K has followed nearly all the possible SOPs needed to prevent accidents.

Road accidents are increasing day by day with the increase in the number of vehicles and heavy traffic movements due to certain developmental activities in the district Poonch. Furthermore, many roads in the remote areas are not black topped making the transportation extremely difficult on the steep sloppy roads. Overloading is also another cause of the accidents. The vehicles are inadequate when compared to the number of passengers travelling towards the peripheries of the district, so the passengers are more inside and at the top of vehicles exceeding the load bearing capacity of the vehicle causing acute imbalance to the vehicle.

In conclusions road accidents in the district is one of the biggest problems that aggravate the disastrous situation in the district.

### **Firing Along the LoC**

Kashmir, the unresolved agenda on UN Security Council since independence of sub-continent is the continuous and tickling cause of confrontation between Pakistan and India, poses an immense threat to the residents of the state. This cause leads to cross border-firing most of the times. Cross-border firings are sadly routine in the India-Pakistan relationship. They are marked by a relentless regularity, immune to ceasefires or diplomatic breakthroughs. They happen because there is nothing to stop them from happening. In 2015, a rocky year for bilateral relations, there were over 400 ceasefire violations across other parts of the boundary between the two countries. In 2012, there were less than 80 LoC violations and 114 total violations. India committed nearly 130 ceasefire violations over just a two-month period in 2015. This year, border violence skyrocketed amid soaring bilateral tensions. LoC violations cannot be ignored, and it is undoubtedly an immediate concern for disaster management organisations.

Being on LoC and bordering Indian Occupied Kashmir the residents of district Poonch are vastly prone to this man caused havoc. The population of about 85853 of 27 revenue village of district Poonch is exposed to horrible man-made hazard of cross border firing along LoC. This population residing along the LoC of district often suffers the grave consequences of border skirmishes and Indian firing in terms of life losses, permanent injuries and disabilities, property and livelihood losses. However, the rest of the district is out of this hazard.

### **Wild and Forest Fire**

Wild fires have been identified as predominantly urban hazard. However, forest fire has been rated as pressing hazard for regions with high forest coverage. The discussions revealed that often the urban/wild fire occur because of short circuiting, gas leakage and stockpiling of inflammable materials in residential areas. Forest fires though happen because of negligence of nomads, communities settled in forests and at times are used as cover up for illegal wood-cutting.

Wild fires are more of risk in urban areas but the chances of this hazard touches its maximum during winters as the people mostly burn wood and other means of fire to keep themselves warm against tough winters. Though the impact is often localized, however it came out as a relatively important hazard during consultations.

### **Vulnerability & Risk Factors**

The peculiar vulnerabilities and risks associated with wild and forest fires are:

- a) Unregulated stockpiling of hazardous/inflammable materials in the houses without any precautions.
- b) Improper and heavy load on domestic electric connections/wiring resulting in short-circuits.
- c) Lack of fire extinguishing/brigade services
- d) Inappropriate design for commercial and industrial buildings with no evacuation routing Inaccessibility of cluttered urban housing (especially in old city areas) by fire brigade Inadequate health facilities for fire victims
- e) Litter & temperature extremes during summers for forest fires
- f) Lack of public awareness and training as how to deal with fire
- g) Un-controlled forest/pasture regenerative practices by communities having grazing rights for forests
- h) Weak communication system and inadequate capacity for forest fire control with forest department

## Chapter 3: Challenges and Opportunities for Disaster Risk Management (DRM)

Although disaster management related institutions have been set up at State and District Level under the legitimate cover of State Disaster Management Act 2008. The District Disaster Management Authorities have been notified but there is desperate need to build the capacities of this tier of disaster management to make those fully functional. Major challenges for steady progress are limited financing available for the DRR interventions both at State and district level. Besides, there is need to put more emphasis on addressing the underlying causes of vulnerabilities, such as poverty, unplanned urbanization and environmental degradation. This is of extreme importance to have a well-established and robust DRM system in AJK as the State faces frequent natural disaster. Moreover, other challenges include lack of coordination among the response institutions, advocacy campaigns, insufficient research in DRM, no proper hazard risk assessment and mapping and no mechanism for risk transfer and risk insurance. To alleviate the suffering of people, an efficient Disaster Risk Management (DRM) System is of utmost importance at the district level in the AJ&K especially after the devastating earthquake of 2005. But unfortunately there are numerous challenges those are directly or indirectly averting the disaster resilience to achieve. These challenges can be categorized as following:

- Institutional Challenges
- Operational & Capacity Challenges
- Planning & Policy Challenges

### 3.1. Institutional Challenges

- Re-active approach has remained pre domination way of dealing with disasters before devastating earthquake of 2005 in the State and disaster situations were mainly dealt with calamity Act of 1958.
- The Earthquake 2005 exhibited the need of disaster management institutional arrangements in the region. After promulgation of the State Disaster Management Act 2008, although State & District Disaster Management institutions have been established, but capacity of these organizations is yet to build in terms of human and capital resources.

- Dedicated District Disaster Management Officials at DDMA level to assist the deputy commissioner in disaster risk management related activities.
- Lack of skilled manpower, resources and enough capacities including financial resources to deal with the disaster/emergencies.

### 3.2. Operational & Capacity Challenges

Scarcity of technical operational resources and lack of trained human resources hinders the development of disaster risk management at district level. Inadequate capacity nearly in every sector is another challenge to the disaster risk management system.

- Limited operational resources and technical capacities to mainstream disaster risk management into development planning and practice.
- Inadequate financial support for preparedness, disaster risk reduction e.g. pre-positioning of stocks, emergency response toolkits and lack of emergency response funds etc.
- Limited trained human resources to coordinate and plan relief, recovery and reconstruction phases in post emergency situations.
- Challenges posed by the climate change and global warming result in observing abnormalities in the monsoon rainfall pattern and weather system.
- Duplication of efforts and influx of resources by the donors and I/NGOs.
- Lack of capacities of the government organizations to plan and execute projects.

### 3.3. Planning & Policy Challenges

- Need to strengthen the weak coordination mechanism among the lead stakeholders to deal with disaster situation.
- Absence of budgetary allocation dedicated for disaster risk management in development plans.
- Lack of awareness and resources to mainstream disaster risk reduction interventions into planned developmental activities.
- Absence of multi hazard, vulnerability and risk assessment which acts as foundation for the development practices.



- Absence of sectoral contingency response plans to deal with the sector specific emergencies.
- Lack of simulation exercise involving all district level stakeholders so an effective emergency response should be ensured.
- Reliance on external resources and dependency on donors leading towards latent/lethargic response.

### 3.4. Strengths and Opportunities for Disaster Risk Management

New DRM system was introduced in the State after the establishment of Disaster Management Authorities at State and District level in 2008. From then to on, significant capacities have been built-up to cater for various aspects of the DRM, however, the capacity is yet to be fully harnessed to address all aspects of the Disaster Risk Management. There is a dire need to invest in disaster risk management and mainstream DRR into development.

Although the Government of Azad Jammu & Kashmir has been instrumental in putting together its efforts and resources in order to increase the capacities of all the stakeholders involved in DRM system, it has been realized that there is still a lot to be done for making the hazard prone communities resilient to disasters.

Following are some of the strength and opportunities which provide window opportunity to fully functionalize the disaster risk management system.

- Disasters provide development opportunities and there is lot to learn from the recent disasters that happened one after another in the State.
- Paradigm shift approach from re-active to pro-active and as a result institutions are in place to more focus on preparedness and mitigation and well-coordinated emergency response.
- Heightened awareness and commitment at all levels and most importantly amongst decision makers about disaster risks and vulnerabilities.
- Hands on experience and lot to share with International communities in the form of built back better after the devastating 2005 earthquake. Massive flood response, recovery rehabilitation and reconstruction experience.
- Influx of resources and I/NGO investments on community mobilization/organization combined with technical expertise in certain sectors offer potential for enhanced

community capacities to contribute to disaster risk management and effective response.

- Availability of trained and experienced human resource both in Public sector agencies and I/NGOs for future DRM work.
- Communities are more proactive and eagerly take part in DRM and other development activities.

## **Chapter 4: Institutional Systems for Disaster Management in District Poonch**

### **4.1. District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA)**

District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) have been established in all the ten districts of AJ&K in accordance with the AJK Disaster Management Ordinance 2007, later on became AJK Disaster Management Act 2008.

The DDMA is the focal organization and authority in the conduct and implementation of activities and actions on disaster management in District Poonch. In pre, during and post disaster stages the DDMA holds primary importance. Basically along with its Town / Tehsil and UC tiers, the DDMA is responsible for three main objectives.

- Pre disaster preparedness
- During the disaster immediate response
- Post disaster rehabilitation activities

The DDMA is a coordinating mechanism for all government agencies and non-governmental organizations operating in a district and have functions which are important for disaster risk reduction as well as disaster response.

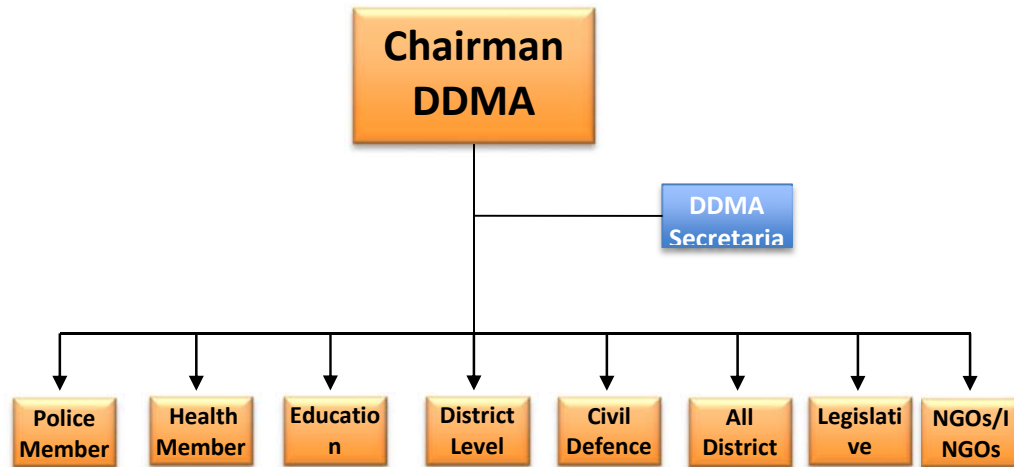
If the scale of disaster is limited, DDMA need to handle everything by themselves, however, if the scale of disaster gets larger and several districts are affected at once, SDMA need to coordinate their activities. However, DDMA's are the most forefront organizations so that enhancement of their organization is one of the most important activities to be implemented at the earliest possible time.

#### **4.1.1 Composition of District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA)**

As per section 13 of AJK DM Act 2008, the Deputy Commissioner of Poonch will serve as the chairman-ex officio of District Disaster Management Authority, Poonch along with following members of the Authority for effective disaster risk management planning and implementation:

- Member of the legislative assembly from the respective constituency, ex officio - advisors
- Senior/Superintendent of police of the district, member ex officio

- District Health Officer, member, ex officio
- Assistant Director Civil Defence, member, ex officio
- Such other district level officers, to be appointed by the government

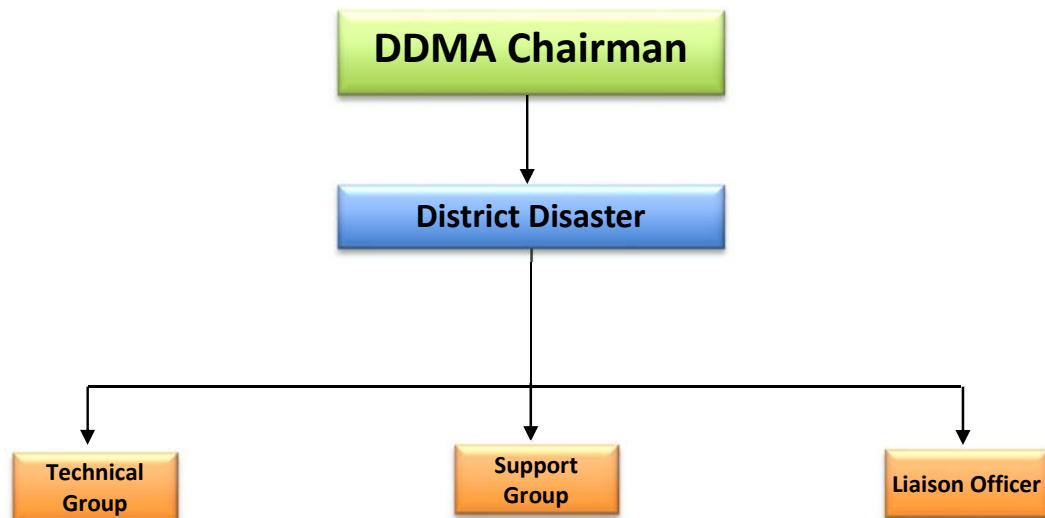


DDMA members will include designated representative of all line departments and NGOs/INGOs operating in the district.

#### 4.1.2 The Office / Secretariat of the District Disaster Management Authority Poonch

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) is the head of the District Disaster Management Authority. To assist the Deputy Commissioner, a secretariat is proposed to support the day –to-day operations of DDMA. A District Disaster Management Officer (DDMO), qualified and experienced in disaster risk management, is proposed to appoint who will provide administrative support and will work directly under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner of Poonch. DDMO should have a dedicated team of minimum three staff members who will be incharge of three vital tasks i.e. technical support (Training & Education), operational support and Finance and admin support so that the DDMA works efficiently throughout the year.

The number of required staff, procedures and ToRs of the secretariat will be developed by the DDMA.



#### 4.1.3 Functions of DDMA

##### **Powers of Chairperson of District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA)**

The Chairperson of the District Authority under section 14 of AJK DM Act 2008 shall, in the case of an emergency, have power to exercise all or any of the powers of the District Authority but the exercise of such powers shall be subject to ex post facto approval of the District Authority.

##### **Powers and functions of District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA)**

Subject to the provision under sub-section (1) of section 15 in AJK DM Act 2010, The District Disaster Management Authority shall be the district planning, coordinating and implementing body for disaster management and take all measures for the purposes of disaster management in the district in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Authority.

As per sub-section (2) section 15 of Act, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions, the District Authority will perform following functions.

- a) Prepare a disaster management plan including district response plan for the district.
- b) Coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Policy, and Plan.
- c) Ensure that the areas in the district vulnerable to disasters are identified and measures for the prevention of disasters and the mitigation of its effects are undertaken by the departments of the Government at the district level as well as by the local authorities.

- d) Ensure that the guidelines for prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response measures as laid down by the Authority are followed by all departments of the Government at the district level and the local authorities in the district.
- e) Give directions to different authorities at the district level and local authorities to take such other measures for the prevention or mitigation of disasters as may be necessary.
- f) Lay down guidelines for preparation of disaster management plans by the departments of the Government at the districts level and local authorities in the district.
- g) Monitor the implementation of disaster management plans prepared by the Departments of the government at the district level.
- h) Lay down guidelines to be followed by the Departments of the Government at the district level.
- i) Organize and coordinate specialized training programmes for different levels of officers, employees and voluntary rescue workers in the district.
- j) Facilitate community training and awareness programmes for prevention of disaster or mitigation with the support of local authorities, governmental and non-governmental organizations.
- k) Setup, maintain, review and upgrade the mechanism for early warnings and dissemination of proper information to public.
- l) Prepare, review and update district level response plan and guidelines.
- m) Coordinate with, and give guidelines to, local authorities in the district to ensure that pre-disaster and post-disaster management activities in the district are carried out promptly and effectively.
- n) Review development plans prepared by the Departments of the Government at the district level, statutory authorities or local authorities with a view to make necessary provisions therein for prevention of disaster or mitigation.
- o) Identify buildings and places which could, in the event of disaster situation be used as relief centres or camps and make arrangements for water supply and sanitation in such buildings or places.
- p) Establish stockpiles of relief and rescue materials or ensure preparedness to make such materials available at a short notice.
- q) Provide information to the Authority relating to different aspects of disaster management.
- r) Encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations and voluntary social-welfare institutions working at the grassroots level in the district for disaster management.
- s) Ensure communication systems are in order, and disaster management drills are carried out periodically; and

- t) Perform such other functions as the Government may assign to it or as it deems necessary for disaster management in the District.

For the purpose of assisting, protecting or providing relief to the community in response to any disaster, the District Authority has additional mandates as follows;

- a) Give directions for the release and use of resources available with any department of the Government and the local authority in the district.
- b) Control and restrict vehicular traffic to, from and within, the vulnerable or affected areas.
- c) Control and restrict the entry of any person into, his movement within a disaster area.
- d) Remove debris, conduct searches and carry out rescue operations.
- e) Provide shelter, food, drinking water and essential provisions, healthcare and services.
- f) Establish emergency communication systems in the affected area.
- g) Make arrangements for the disposal of the unclaimed dead bodies.
- h) Direct any Department of the Government of the AJK any authority or body under that Government at the district level to take such measures as are necessary in its opinion.
- i) Require experts and consultants in the relevant fields to advise and assist as it may deem necessary.
- j) Procure exclusive or preferential use of amenities from any authority or person.
- k) Construct temporary bridges or other necessary structures and demolish structures which may be hazardous to the public or aggravate the effects of the disaster.
- l) Ensure that the non-governmental organizations carry out their activities in an equitable and non-discriminatory manner.
- m) Take such other steps as may be required or warranted to be taken in such a situation.

## 4.2. Local Authorities

Section 19 of AJK Disaster Management Act 2008 sets functional responsibilities for local authorities. Subject to the directions of District Authority, the local authority will perform following functions.

- a) Ensure that its officers and employees are trained for disaster risk management.
- b) Ensure that resources relating to disaster risk management are so maintained as to be readily available for use in the event of any threatening disaster situation or disaster.
- c) Ensure that all construction projects under it or within its jurisdiction conform to the standards and specifications laid down for prevention of disasters and mitigation by the Authority and the District Authority.

- d) Carry out relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in the affected area in accordance with the district plan.

The Local authority may take such other measures as may be necessary for disaster management

In case of any unfortunate disaster communities always are the first to act with the support of basic administrative units like Tehsil Disaster Risk Management bodies, Union Council DRM bodies and Community Organisations. So it is of prime importance to strengthen these bodies in every way including basic and required knowledge and skills and have access to adequate physical, technical and financial resources to plan and manage disaster management activities well on time. These bodies are the actual tools of any Management Authority without which the risk management is nearly impossible. These grass root level management bodies work under the platform of three levels:

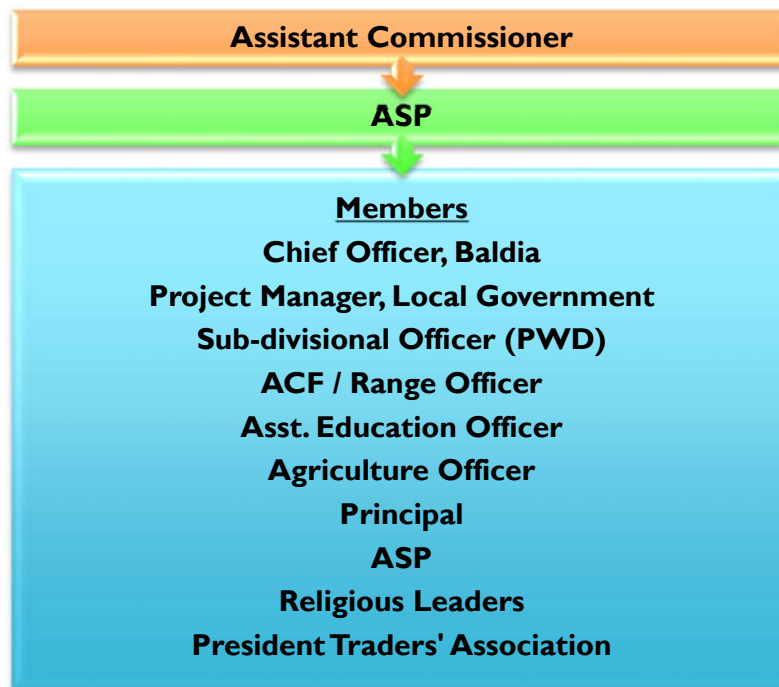
- a) Tehsil Disaster Management Committee/ Body.
- b) Union Council Management Committee/ Body.
- c) Community Organisations.

#### **4.2.1 Tehsil Disaster Management Committee (TDMC)**

Committees at this level are the frontline of disaster risk reduction and response. Tehsil Authorities play a prime role in organizing and delivering emergency response and relief before, after and during the disaster. This is the lowest administration level for many of government departments where they directly interface with communities. Extension workers of agriculture, education, health, police, revenue and other departments can play vital role in risk reduction, awareness raising, damage assessment, loss of life and recovery need assessment. Chairperson Tehsil DM committee will lead the risk reduction and response operation with the help of other members in consultation with DDMA. For Tehsil Level Disaster Management Committee, it is proposed that Assistant Commissioner may be proposed as Chairman along with the Instructor Civil Defense and Project Manager Local Government as members of Tehsil Committee.



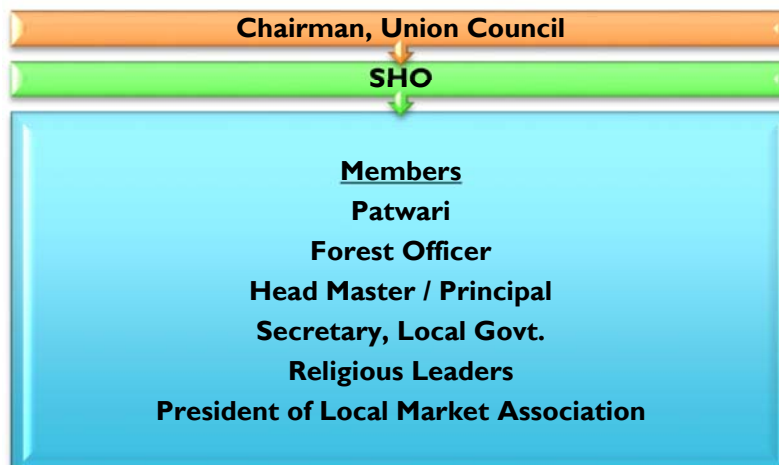
**Proposed Organogram of TDMC**



**4.2.2 Union Councils Disaster Management Committee (UCDMC)**

Union Councils are the lowest tier in the governance structure. At Union level, Union Councils Disaster Management Committee (UCDMC) will be established responsible for coordination and implementation of disaster management activities. It is recommended that Secretary of UCs may be designated as Chairman of a UC level Disaster Management Committee along with Patwari, Field Assistant from Livestock & Agriculture departments, Health representatives at UC level as members of UC Disaster Management Committee.

**Proposed Organogram of UCDMC**



### 4.2.3 Village Disaster Management Committee (VDMC)

The Village Disaster Management Committee (VDMC) will play a pivotal role being the first responder to any eventuality. VDMC will act as forefront line entity against disasters.

It will be responsibility of DDMA to constitute VDMC and bring these in corporal shape. VDMC can be comprised on Headmaster of village level school as chairman along with Imam Masjid, Lady Health Worker and prominent residents of respective village as members of this committee. The formulated VDMC will be registered with DDMA and SDMA accordingly.

For selection of VDMC members from village/volunteer the following Terms of Reference ToRs can be adopted.

- a) Member should be the permanent resident of the respective village.
- b) Only one member from one household should be designated as member of VDMC.
- c) Preferably should be literate.
- d) Should possess the willing to take active part in capacity building initiative and relief work.
- e) In VDMC representation should must be given to women, vulnerable groups and person with disability.
- f) Notable, educated and enthusiastic personal could be preferred.

### 4.2.4 Community Based Organizations (CBO)

Community Based Organisations are the non-governmental bodies created from within the community. Tehsil level authorities develop and promote the capacity of CBO in order to reduce risk and damage. CBOs will be trained about local early warning system, evacuation, first aid, search and rescue, firefighting etc. Linkages would be developed between CBOs and relevant local agencies; e.g. agriculture, banks, health and veterinary services to promote disaster preparedness. Skills and knowledge of CBO leadership will also be developed in financial management, people management, resource mobilization, interpersonal communication and presentation and negotiation skills. The provision of Citizen Community Boards (CCBs) in Local Government Ordinance (LGO 2001) provides a good opportunity to organize communities and mobilize resources for issues like local level disaster risk management.

## 4.3. Individuals

The basic principle of the disaster management practices is to save an individual at the time of disaster. And that is the time when the closest of all is the individual himself of his family or neighbor hence it naturally understandable that until and unless an individual is not educated and trained about the disasters and counter measures against disasters every

effort in the way will go fruitless. One well-trained individual can educate a community, a village, which could minimize the losses and damages at the time of any disaster. Therefore, to promote effective disaster management skills, individuals need to participate in disaster management drills and trainings.

## Chapter 5: Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders

The key disaster management activities that all the line government departments, NGOs/INGOs and other relevant stakeholders operating in district, required to perform at each stage of disasters have been compiled in this section in consultation with respective agencies. The roles to be performed at each stage of disaster by all district line departments and organizations have been prepared with objective of making concerned departments understand their duties and responsibilities regarding disaster management at district levels. All departments and agencies will prepare their own action plans in respect of their responsibilities for efficient implementation.

Generally, government departments should integrate the following set of common activities in relation to disaster risk management and response being the institutional members of DDMA:

- a) Designate one Liaison Officer in the Department as the Disaster Management Focal Point to ensure the active participation in disaster-related activities and meetings organised and coordinated by DDMA.
- b) Allocate funds in annual budget for implementation of disaster risk management activities in hazard prone areas within the District in relation to their sub-sector.
- c) Establishment of Emergency Centre in their own departments for the coordination with DDMA and for timely response in case of any emergency.
- d) Map out all technical and material resources available with the department that can be utilized /deployed for disaster preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation phase.
- e) Availability of standby skilled trained and qualified staffs that have the capacity of deal with any type of disaster.
- f) Develop linkages and partnership with humanitarian organizations/NGOs working in district to have their support for disaster related activities e.g. training, institutional support for response & recovery.
- g) Prepare and update departmental specific contingency plans.
- h) Restoration of all the functions of department and bring those back to the normal after disaster.

In addition to common disaster management activities, each department/organization will focus on undertaking following specific activities in relation to disaster risk management as per their own mandate and jurisdiction:

## 5.1. District Disaster Management Authority

The DDMA is the focal organization and authority in conducting and implementing activities and action on disaster management in district Poonch. In the event of emergency situations, the deputy commissioner (chairperson DDMA) will coordinate among district level officers of different departments, international and non-governmental agencies working in district. In order to demarcate roles and responsibilities in disaster management, DDMA is the most frontline organizations to deal with disasters in disaster management and response.

The DDMA will perform the following duties:

### **Before Disaster (Normal Times)**

- a) Prepare District Disaster Management Plan including district response and contingency plan and disseminate to different departments, agencies, volunteers and community groups working in the district.
- b) Coordinated, ensure and monitor the implementation of State and District level plans.
- c) Ensure the nomination of Liaison Officer as the Disaster Management Focal Point from each Department and organisation has been received.
- d) Ensure District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC) has been equipped with all necessary gadgets and operationalized.
- e) Disaster risk reduction measures are undertaken by the government departments, local authorities and general public. Ensure proposed DRR measures are focused on highly vulnerable and social excluded groups.
- f) Give directions to different department/authorities as the district and local level to take at the district and local level to take such other DRR measures for the prevention or mitigation of disaster as may be necessary.
- g) Identify high risk areas and populations and prepare vulnerability profiles, resource profiles and contingency plans for them.
- h) Ensure state of readiness and operational status of facilities designated to serve as shelters.
- i) Establish stockpiles of relief and rescue materials or ensure preparedness to make such materials available at a short notice during any emergency or disaster.
- j) Organize and coordinate specialized DRR related training programs for different levels of officers, employees and voluntary rescue workers in the district.
- k) Facilitate community level DRR trainings and awareness programs for prevention of disaster or mitigation with support of local authorities, government and non-government organizations.

- l) Take support of the Civil Defence, PRCS and non-governmental organizations to establish UC and Village level DRR Communities and ensure that they are properly trained and selection criteria for the committees are in place.
- m) Ensure preparation and maintenance of updated inventory of personnel, aid/relief material and equipment.
- n) Develop pool of volunteers and their database for effective emergency response with the support of PRCS, non-governmental organizations and voluntary social welfare institution working at the grass roots level for disaster management.
- o) Set up, maintain, review and upgrade the mechanism for multi hazard early warnings, dissemination and education of proper information to public.
- p) Ensure availability of communication and transport facilities for delivery of warnings and relevant material to field personnel.
- q) Ensure training of teams of volunteers for disseminating disaster warnings to the field level and also for evacuation, search, rescue, relief and rehabilitation operations.
- r) Ensure drills on disaster preparedness by the people of disaster prone areas for acquiring knowledge and consciousness of such preparedness in coordination with concerned departments, local administrative agencies and civil defense department.
- s) Organise survey of buildings and installations for using as shelters/relief centres during disaster times.
- t) Ensure basic facilities for personnel who will work at district level for disaster response.
- u) Review the preparedness level in the district twice a year and advice corrective steps in case of any weakness.
- v) Arrange sufficient medical assistance for post-disaster medical treatment and control of contagious diseases and ensure stock of essential medicines.

### **Alert and Warning stage**

- a) Maintain contact with forecasting agencies and gather all possible information regarding the alert.
- b) Ensure that all concerned in areas likely to be affected by imminent disaster receive warning signals and respond accordingly.
- c) Inform members of District Disaster Management Authority.
- d) Maintain contact with SDMA and State EOC.
- e) Instruct all concerned to remain in readiness for responding to the emergency.
- f) Advice concerned officials to carry out evacuations where required, and to keep transport, relief and medical teams ready to move to the affected areas at a short notice.

### **During Disaster**

- a) Convene meeting of DDMA on Disaster Management.
- b) Conduct Rapid Assessment and launch Quick Response.
- c) Keep SDMA and State EOC informed of the situation and develop flash report for assistance and report to SDMA and other relevant stakeholders.
- d) Active the District Emergency Operating Centre (DEOC) as early as possible after a disaster occurs.
- e) Mobilize UC, village level DM Committees, PRCS, non-governmental organizations and voluntary social-welfare institutions for effective response. Extreme care to evacuate or take care of the highly vulnerable and specially excluded groups.
- f) Provide shelter, food, drinking water and essential provision, healthcare and services establish emergency communication system in the affected area.
- g) Remove debris, conduct search and carry out rescue operations. Make arrangements for the disposal of the unclaimed dead bodies.
- h) Demolish structures which may be hazardous to public or aggravate the effects of the disaster.
- i) Take such other steps as may be required or warranted to be taken in such a situation.

### **After Disaster**

- a) Organise initial and subsequent technical assessments of disaster affected areas and determine the extent of loss and damage and volume and nature of relief required.
- b) Keep the District Disaster Management Authority and the SDMA/ State EOC informed of the situation.
- c) Ensure supply of food, drinking water, medical supplies and other emergency items to the affected population.
- d) Request SDMA for assistance if the District Disaster Management Committee deems the situation to be beyond the capacity of the district to manage.
- e) Visit and coordinate the implement of various relief and rehabilitation programmes.
- f) Coordinate the activities of NGOs in relief and rehabilitation programmes.
- g) Review the DDMA and Contingency Plans in light of lesson learn and improve the response mechanism.

## 5.2. Department of Agriculture

District office of the Agriculture Department Poonch, headed by Deputy Director (Ext.) has a role in assessment of damage to agricultural crops and impact of possible fertility loss. Their main role is to provide seeds and necessary planting material and other inputs to assist in early recovery.

### Before Disaster

- a) Undertake vulnerability and risk analysis for food and agriculture hazard-prone areas, particularly in relation to floods, droughts, and erosion.
- b) Identify areas likely to be affected by any anticipated hazard.
- c) Arrange for keeping stocks of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides. Create community seed banks at the Union Council level to support the small farmers with minimum seeds requirements.
- d) Ensure sustainable livelihoods in areas of recurrent climate risks (i.e., flood and drought prone areas) by promoting supplementary income generation from off-farm and non-farm activities;
- e) Promote effective insurance and credit schemes to compensate for crop damage and losses to livelihoods due to natural hazards;
- f) Coordinate with DDMA and jointly identify appropriate actions for reducing vulnerability of food and agriculture to disaster risks;
- g) Coordinate with DDMA, and research institutions to establish warning systems for identification of risks to food and agriculture sectors;
- h) Develop disaster risk management plan to deal with hazards and disasters with relation to department's mandate and assets;
- i) Promote contingency crop planning to deal with year to year climate variations and crop diversification including use of hazard resistant crops, to deal with shifts in climate patterns;
- j) Develop capacity and raise awareness of staff of departments at State levels, local extension workers and farmers on disaster preparedness for food and agriculture sectors;

### During Disaster

- a) Assist in saving crops, agricultural land and livestock in disaster situation.
- b) Monitor damage to crops and identify steps for early recovery
- c) Ensure adequate availability of food stocks in disaster situation;
- d) Organize distribution of seeds, seedlings fertilizers and agricultural inputs for affected farming community.



### **After Disaster**

- a) Quantify the loss and damage within the quickest possible time and finalizes planning of agriculture rehabilitation
- b) Prepare detail report of damages/losses to agriculture sector, assess the need and submit it to DDMA office for onward transmission to SDMA
- c) Make available inputs like seed plant, fertilizers and agricultural equipment to victims of disasters on credit basis;
- d) Organize ration depots at location required by the local authorities;
- e) Restoration of flood damages to agricultural fields, and link roads during emergency
- f) Provision of agricultural machinery to farmers on subsidized rates for harvesting and threshing of wheat and paddy.
- g) Ensure availability of adequate supply of seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural implements to the affected farmers
- h) Document the lesson learnt and revise the departmental contingency and DRR plan accordingly

### **5.3. Animal Husbandry (Livestock) Department**

The livestock plays very important economic, social and cultural functions for rural households in Poonch. Livestock helps on food supply, family nutrition, family income, asset savings, soil productivity, livelihoods, transport, agricultural traction, agricultural diversification and sustainable agricultural production, family and community employment, ritual purposes and social status.

Impacts of disasters are high on the weaker sections of the community. Many of the poor are landless or small holders in Poonch. This section largely depends on animals, for livelihood. It is apparent that even though animals are the main source of livelihood to the poorest of the poor in the State, disaster management of animals do not figure anywhere in preparedness, mitigation or rehabilitation. There is a significant participation of women in conventional animal husbandry system where a large array of indigenous breeds of domestic and semi-domestic animals live in absolute harmony with man and nature; a situation that can prevent at least some disasters.

### **Before Disaster**

- a) Undertake vulnerability and risk analysis for food, livestock sectors in hazard-prone areas, particularly in relation to droughts and locust;

- b) Promote contingency planning to deal with year to year climate variations and that trigger and exacerbate drought
- c) Develop disaster risk management plan to deal with hazards and disasters with relation to department's mandate and assets;
- d) Coordinate with DDMA and jointly identify appropriate actions for reducing vulnerability and risk exposure to livestock,
- e) Coordinate with DDMA, and research institutions to establish warning systems for identification of risks to livestock sector;
- f) Develop capacity and raise awareness of staff of the department at all levels, local extension workers and farmers on disaster preparedness for livestock sectors;
- g) Ensure sustainable livelihoods in areas of recurrent climate risks (i.e. flood and drought prone areas) by promoting supplementary income generation from off-farm (e.g. animal husbandry) and non-farm activities; provide market outlets for the products of rural farmers.
- h) Provide early warning information to livestock farmers regarding drought.
- i) Select and earmark highlands for use as shelter for livestock during flash floods.
- j) Prepare schemes for supplementary arrangements for rehabilitation of livestock and recouping their loss.
- k) Programme for vaccination for protection of livestock against contagious diseases.
- l) Take up schemes for procurement of animal feed on emergency basis for distribution in the affected areas.
- m) Establish fodder bank schemes as security against fodder shortage for livestock due to disasters in order to ensure fodder security to the rural livestock economy
- n) Provide veterinary services to the livestock farmers

### **During Disaster**

- a) During floods assist the response agencies for operations relating to the rescue and shifting of stranded livestock and poultry.
- b) During floods arrange for the quick vaccination and treatment of livestock and poultry at shelter places (emergency animal vaccines during outbreaks of animal diseases).
- c) During prolonged droughts and in times of other extreme bad weather arrange emergency animal feeds for sustainability of livestock population.

### **After Disaster**

- a) Dispatch Veterinary Teams with appropriate equipment and medicines to aid affected livestock.

- b) Establish emergency medical camps
- c) Arrange a rapid survey to assess the loss.
- d) Arrange for disposal of dead bodies of animals.

## 5.4. District Forest, Wildlife and Fisheries Department

Forests are an integral part of the livelihoods and ecosystem in District Poonch. The Forest Department is responsible for the development and promotion of forest and soil conservation activities, watershed management, wildlife conservation and Fisheries. The department takes care of the protection of the forest, wildlife and the aquatic resources. Forest department can play significant role in mitigating the harsh impact of hazards like landsliding, flood, soil erosion etc.

### Before Disaster

- a) Aggressive enforcement of Forest & Environmental Laws
- b) Establish a landslide Management and investigation cell
- c) To develop a disaster risk management plan in line with the broad mandate of the department and build the capacity of departmental staff on disaster risk management.
- d) Publish materials for communities and other stakeholders about seasonality of hazards and risks in areas of grazing for pasture and water
- e) Plantation and appropriate engineering measures to mitigate the landslide hazard at the identified landslide affected areas in the State.
- f) To provide technical advice for rangeland planting and the development of tree nurseries for forestation and reforestation programmes particularly in landslide area.
- g) Coordinate with relevant agencies to gather information about hazards and risks prevalent in rangelands that may lead to desertification and land sliding.
- h) Supply of drought resistant seeds of tree species to farmers and communities.
- i) Control grazing of animal to rangeland areas that have endangered tree species and may trigger land sliding.
- j) Develop recreational facilities in a sustainable manner in the rangeland areas.
- k) Ensure a pollution free livable environment in the areas of mandate.
- l) Offer forestry educations to institutions and schools.
- m) Management of fisheries resources
- n) Conservation of fish stock and Development of fisheries potential

### **During Disaster**

- a) Immediately, start interacting with DDMA/DC office for coordinating emergency response activities.
- b) Coordinate emergency response activities through DDMA and make resources available to DDMA upon the receipt of disaster situation reports.
- c) Make available all the technical and material resources to be made part of relief efforts.
- d) Depute the field staff/inspectors during flood to look upon the floating logs.
- e) Help other relevant departments in establishing relief camps in safe places.

### **After Disaster**

- a) Prepare detail report of damages/losses to forest sector, assess the need and submit it to office of the Chief Conservator Forest and DDMA office for onward transmission to SDMA.
- b) Depute the field staff/ watchers at main points along the banks of river to make count and control of wood logs came down in the flood.
- c) Constitute a Disaster Management Unit.

## **5.5. Food Department**

The responsibility of this department was to purchase and distribute commodities on subsidized rates in AJ&K and Northern Areas. Ministry of Kashmir Affairs was controlling authority. In 1976 the AJ&K Food Department was separated from Northern Areas and was established as independent department under the AJ&K Government. At beginning the Food Department was also providing Sugar, Salt, oil and other commodities. With the passage of time when Private market started to flourish and able to caters the need of the people of AJ&K, the Food Department reduced itself to only wheat and wheat flour.

The main functions in relation to disaster risk management are:

### **Before Disaster**

- a) Timely procurement of wheat
- b) Proper arrangements for storage of commodities
- c) Timely food dumping in vulnerable areas
- d) Quality control and price check.
- e) Proper inspection of stored items to avoid deterioration

- f) Monitoring of Flourmills regarding wheat grinding and to ensure standard quality of wheat flour.
- g) Training of human resource on warehouse and humanitarian supply chain management
- h) Necessary arrangements to protect perishable items in the warehouses

### **During Disaster**

- a) Supervision and distribution of wheat and wheat flour through prescribed dealers
- b) Quality control and price check.
- c) Special arrangements for the distribution of Food commodities during emergency and natural calamities.
- d) Provision of quality wheat flour to the affected population.
- e) Maintain efficient supply chain of food items to avoid secondary hazards
- f) Ensure security and safety of the warehouses

### **After Disaster**

- a) Rebuild / repair the damaged storage facilities located in disaster affected areas
- b) Maintain sufficient inventories of required food items
- c) Stock taking of entire warehouse item

## **5.6. Health Department**

The Health department is responsible to provide health services and deals with all matters related to regulating the health sector in the light of health policies and programs in the district. District Health Department has a responsibility in the reduction and prevention of suffering during natural and man-made disasters, as well as in the investigation and response to outbreak of communicable diseases.

The main functions in relation to disaster risk management are:

### **During Disaster**

- a) Carry out and disseminate vulnerability and risk evaluation of the population health related issues;

- b) Conduct hazard based mapping of all health care facilities across the district, including vulnerability assessment (infrastructure and organizational setup) and integrate hazard resilience measures;
- c) To ensure pre-positioning of Emergency Health Kits and Personnel.
- d) Develop a disease surveillance system to identify hotspots for communicable disease in the District;
- e) Establish and operate an early warning system for health threats based on the routine health information and in collaboration with other departments.
- f) Enhance disaster management capacities of health work force (all cadres at all levels) in collaboration with other district departments;
- g) Prepare protocols and guidelines to address all priority public health issues as part of preparedness, response and recovery plans;
- h) Integrate disaster preparedness and response capacities into all existing and future health programs at district level;
- i) Build effective linkages and coordination with all health agencies/ stakeholders;

### **Preparedness**

- a) Develop disaster risk management plan to deal with communicable diseases, injuries following mass causality accidents, cross border firing and disasters with relation to department's mandate and assets;
- b) Train volunteers on emergency preparedness programmes such as first aid and preventive measure against diseases in disaster prone areas and in areas along the LoC.
- c) Assess likely health impacts and share with Disaster Management and relevant agencies for planning Purpose.
- d) Prepare a list of medical and paramedical personnel in disaster prone areas and disseminate it to concerned administrators.
- e) Coordinate with DDMA and jointly identify appropriate actions for reducing vulnerability to health risks
- f) Prepare disaster risk management plan for each level of health care facilities, including management of mass casualties, epidemics and submit this plan to the DDMA for better coordination of efforts;
- g) Provide technical support in all health related areas to DDMA's.
- h) Device strategies for community involvement in all aspects of emergency preparedness, response and recovery plans with regards to health sector;

- i) Stand by arrangements to meet any medical needs during and after the incident and stocking of sufficient medicines in all hospitals/medical centres.
- j) Establishment of temporary team to provide vaccination and medication when required.

### **During Disasters**

- a) Establish emergency health operation to ensure better coordination and mobilization in emergency/ disaster situation at all levels;
- b) Mobilise medical teams and paramedical personnel to go to the affected areas as part of the Rapid Assessment and Quick Response Teams.
- c) Provide medical assistance to the affected population
- d) Receive casualties and injured in case of a major incident.
- e) Provide mobile medical services and ambulance service with medical facilities to affected areas.
- f) Carry out technical assessment on health infrastructure availability and need
- g) Set-up medical camps and mobilize emergency health teams including mobile
- h) Arrangement of patients' beds and earmarking of patient wards to meet any emergency/crisis needs.
- i) Provide blood transfusion facilities and motivate the people to donate blood.

### **After Disaster**

- a) Start carrying out the detail damages and losses in the health sector.
- b) Regular and vigilant health risks monitoring is immensely important to deal with post-disaster diseases / epidemics.
- c) With available resources, start repairing the damaged health infrastructure in order to cater health needs of the affected population during early recovery and rehabilitation stages.
- d) It is important for the health officials to make sure that the drinking water is not contaminated. Similarly, proper dumping of hospital waste is necessary to be taken care of.
- e) Regularly monitor and supervise Early Recovery and Rehabilitation activities in the Health sector.

## **5.7. Communication and Works (C&W) Department**

The Communication & Works department plays a significant role in the development of District as it provides services in developing physical infrastructure like roads, bridges and

other modes of communication to support developmental activities. The office of the District Executive Engineer C&W department has an important role in providing and restoring communication links during disasters.

The main functions in relation to disaster risk management include:

### **Before Disaster**

- a) Carry out survey of condition of all roads network/ systems at State level.
- b) Develop model designs of various facilities and infrastructure (bridges, roads) for safer construction in hazard-prone rural and urban areas.
- c) Formulate guidelines for safe construction of public work.
- d) Prepare list, with specifications and position, of heavy construction equipment, debris/ road clearance Machinery available in the District.
- e) Ensure that builders, contractors and masons use safer construction methods as per the international best practices;
- f) Allocate funds for promoting safer construction practices;
- g) Monitor construction of road infrastructure in hazard prone areas of district to ensure that safer construction techniques are followed;
- h) Incorporate disaster risk assessment in the planning process for construction of all roads and bridges;
- i) Prepare a disaster risk management plan with relation to Department programs, infrastructure and mandate.
- j) Organise periodic training of engineers and other construction personnel on disaster resistant construction technologies.
- k) Instruct all officials at construction sites to keep manpower and materials prepared for protection and repair of damaged road site.
- l) Direct construction authorities and companies to preposition necessary, machinery, workers and materials (search & rescue facilities) in or near areas likely to be affected by disaster.

### **During Disaster**

- a) Send information to other district departments on road conditions especially regarding blocked or impassable roads after a disaster.
- b) Ensure draining the flood water from roads and remove debris from under the bridges for smooth flow of water.



- c) Monitor disaster situation (in case of flood and landslide) with regard to roads and coordinate with other district departments for transporting relief items to affected areas.
- d) Organize immediate rehabilitation of roads and other infrastructure for restoration of public transport routes after disaster.
- e) Provide assistance to the damage assessment teams for survey of damage to roads infrastructure.
- f) Take steps to clear debris and assist search and rescue teams.
- g) Collate and disseminate information regarding operational and safe routes and alternate routes, fuel availability etc. to personnel operating in the field.
- h) Launch repair missions for damaged critical infrastructure and routes.
- i) Take steps for prompt removal of uprooted trees on the roads.

### **After Disaster**

- a) Undertake a detailed assessment of damages to government buildings, roads infrastructure including bridges, culverts, etc.
- b) Prepare a report of damages to be shared with the district and provincial authorities along with budget requirements for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged / destroyed infrastructure.
- c) Take steps to ensure speedy repair and restoration of transport links.

## **5.8. Physical Planning and Housing / Public Health**

Physical Planning & Housing Sector comprises Buildings and Public Health Engineering. PP&H is mandated to design, prepare and implement Public Sector schemes besides deposit works. The department of Physical Planning and Housing has a vital role in provision and maintenance of vital public infrastructure of the district. The department plays an important role in developing appropriate national building codes and byelaws and their proper implementation. In the post disaster phase, the department will take adequate steps to undertake building damage assessment and promote reconstruction.

### **Before Disaster**

- a) Take precautionary steps for the protection of government property against possible loss and damage during disaster.
- b) Undertake vulnerability and risk assessment of department's assets, infrastructure and services.

- c) Formulate guidelines for safe construction of public works.
- d) Prepare a disaster risk management plan with relation to Department programs, infrastructure and mandate.
- e) Prepare list, with specifications and position, of heavy construction equipment available in the District.
- f) Ensure the implementation of building codes for safer construction of houses, buildings and infrastructure in hazard-prone areas for multiple hazards; e.g. earthquakes, floods, landslides etc.
- g) Ensure that builders, contractors and masons use safer construction methods as per the international best practices;
- h) Promote safer construction practices and implementation of disaster risk management activities in relation to access of safe drinking water;
- i) Monitor construction of government buildings and infrastructure in hazard prone areas to ensure that safer construction techniques are followed;
- j) Incorporate disaster risk assessment in the planning process for construction of new buildings, roads and bridges;
- k) Retrofitting of all government buildings present in district which do not comply with the disaster resilient construction techniques, including, residential and non-residential government buildings, dak bungalows and circuit houses etc.
- l) Improvement of sewerage system and sanitary conditions to control flood risk.
- m) Maintain and update records of all water supply schemes using Management Information System (MIS).
- n) Coordinate with SDMA / DDMA's and jointly identify appropriate actions for reducing vulnerability of infrastructure and services.
- o) Organise periodic training of engineers and other construction personnel on disaster resistant construction technologies.
- p) Instruct all officials at construction sites to keep manpower and materials prepared for protection and repair of public works.
- q) Direct construction authorities and companies to preposition necessary workers and materials (search & rescue facilities) in or near areas likely to be affected by disaster.
- r) Identify and plan for rehabilitation locations for those living in disaster vulnerable areas.
- s) Make available piped water, in adequate quantity, for drinking and house-hold purposes.
- t) Prepare technical design for mitigation of risks to the newly identified schemes.
- u) Protection of water sources from contamination by continuous water treatment and stream pollution control

### **During Disaster**

- a) Conduct damage and loss assessment to infrastructure and housing sectors.
- b) Provide sites for rehabilitation of affected population.
- c) Create access route for emergency response following major disasters
- d) Carry out detailed technical assessment of damage to public works.

### **After Disaster**

- a) Assist in construction of temporary shelters.
- b) Organise repairs of buildings damaged in the disaster
- c) Prepare detailed programmes for rehabilitation of damaged public works.
- d) Arrange technical assistance and supervision for reconstruction works as per request.

## **5.9. Local Govt. & Rural Development Department**

LGRD is one of the main departments in the District that has the mandate to implement vulnerability reduction projects to alleviate poverty and improve people's livelihoods. The Local Government and Rural Development (LG & RD) has access to communities at the grassroots level. The LG & RD handles small scale projects at the ground level such as water supply, dug wells, sanitation, small roads and community infrastructure.

### **Before Disaster**

- a) Encourage disaster resistant technological practices in buildings and infrastructure.
- b) Develop disaster risk management plan.
- c) Undertake vulnerability and risk analysis for rural populations.
- d) Coordinate with DDMA to build community resilience to disaster.
- e) Undertake vulnerability analysis of local government infrastructure in hazard prone areas.
- f) Orient department staff in hazard prone areas on disaster risk assessment
- g) Encourage the people in earthquake prone areas to adopt earthquake resistant technologies.
- h) Prepare maps showing population concentration and distribution of resources.
- i) Report activities in periodic meetings of the District Disaster Management Authority convened by the Deputy Commissioner.
- j) On the basis of its developmental responsibility, liaise with other line departments and agencies for a coordinated mitigation approach.
- k) Alert all concerned about impending disaster.

- l) Ensure safety of establishments, structures and equipment in the field
- m) Ensure formation of committee for rescue, relief and rehabilitation work and local volunteer team.
- n) Make available piped water, in adequate quantity, for drinking and house-hold purposes.
- o) Prepare technical design for mitigation of risks to the newly identified schemes.
- p) Protection of water sources from contamination by continuous water treatment and stream pollution control

### **During Disaster**

- a) Activate Disaster Management Focal Point.
- b) Ensure information flow from affected area and maintain regular contact with State and district EOC (24hrs).
- c) Coordinate the response activities of District Disaster Management Authorities.
- d) Ensure availability of drinking water at times of need.
- e) Provide necessary infrastructure to carry out relief works.
- f) Assess initial damage and quantify the loss/damage.
- g) Organise reconstruction of damaged houses on self-help basis with local assets and materials received from the response organisations.

### **After Disaster**

- a) Arrange repair of link roads, water supplies and cleaning of canals.
- b) Take up repair/reconstruction work of infrastructure damaged by disaster.
- c) Equip and develop the capacities of emergency response

## **5.10. Department of Education**

A very powerful correlation exists between the discipline of education and disaster management for attaining of goals aimed at building the resilience of communities.

### **Before Disaster**

- a) Conduct MHVRA for all education facilities and identify structural vulnerabilities such as hazard prone location, dilapidated condition and other secondary threats that may cause danger to educational facilities in wake of any disaster.
- b) Implement actions to reduce the vulnerability of infrastructure in education sector in hazard-prone areas, e.g. retrofitting, renovation, rebuilding etc;

- c) Ensure that construction of all educational institutions in earthquake zones is earthquake resistant
- d) Arrange for training of teachers and students about the steps to be taken at different stages of disaster and organise them, through coordination with SDMA/DDMAs, as volunteers and inspire them for rescue, evacuation and relief works.
- e) Implement school, college and university level activities to enhance the awareness of students and to promote preparedness in educational institutions through conducting drills, reducing vulnerability etc;
- f) Locate new schools, colleges, universities and other educational buildings located in hazard-prone areas to higher standards of hazard resilience;
- g) Provide safety measures and instructions on safe and friendly ways of using electric power.
- h) Develop a disaster risk management plan for the Department covering aspects of risk reduction, preparedness and response and curriculum development on disaster risk education in schools and learning institutions;
- i) Conduct drills for various disaster situations like earthquake, fire, terrorist attacks etc.
- j) Encourage local educational authorities and teachers to prepare school disaster response plans and their implementation;

### **During Disaster**

- a) In the event of a disaster, education institutions and their buildings can be used as emergency shelter and relief centre if necessary.
- b) Students and staff can provide local voluntary assistance for distribution of relief material and assistance to special needy people in the locality.
- c) Provide provisional assistance on education in periods of disaster to ensure the continuity of learning
- d) Determine the extent of loss in educational institutions and prepare plans for their rehabilitation.

### **After Disaster**

- a) Undertake a detailed assessment of damages caused by disaster to educational facilities
- b) Capacity building activities including preparedness, trainings, drills awareness campaigns and celebration of 8th October commemoration day in educational institutional be ensured.

## 5.11. Department of Civil Defence

The Civil Defence is a key entity to assist the DDMA in disaster management and DRR related activities.:

### Before Disaster

- a) Standardize and specify Civil Defence equipment and fire appliances for Fire Brigades, industries and other institutions;
- b) Provide First Aid, fire safety and rescue training to communities, individuals and organizations;
- c) Improve community awareness on public safety;
- d) Recruit/induct operational staff for search and rescue;
- e) Enhance capacity of the existing search and rescue teams;
- f) Organize volunteers, train them in rescue and relief and first aid
- g) Ensure the provision of trained rescue workers / Razakars and First Aid staff;
- h) Educate and train volunteers on first aid and emergency evacuations and protection procedures against poisonous gases, chemical/biological/radiological explosions or attack;
- i) Participate in emergency drills with other stakeholders;
- j) Specify, coordinate and enforce Fire Protection measures in urban and commercial concerns and in other premises considered critical.
- k) Organise Warden Service in classified towns and train its volunteers for civil defence services.
- l) Inspect Municipal Fire Brigade and fire protection measures in industrial/commercial.

### During Disaster

- a) Search and rescue activities
- b) First aid and psycho social support to injured and traumatized
- c) Evacuation of damaged buildings/structures and demolition
- d) Emergency first aid and transport;
- e) Assist in debris clearance and restoration of essential services;
- f) Identification and diffusion of unexploded bombs;
- g) Provide emergency rescue equipment.
- h) Work with the Fire Brigade in rescue and first aid operations
- i) Liaise with the armed forces on matters relating to Civil Defence

### After Disaster

- a) Provide assistance, render advice and impart training in bomb detection and disposal
- b) Assist in relief and camp management

- c) Security and management of relief stores, warehouses and distribution
- d) Training of other organizations like police etc in rescue, relief, first aid, psycho social support

## 5.12. Emergency Service Rescue 1122

AJK Emergency Services known as Rescue 1122 is established in AJK with the aim to maintain a state of preparedness to deal with emergencies and provide timely response, rescue and emergency medical treatment to the victims. Rescue 1122 emergency service has recently established and operational in Poonch.

### **Before Disaster**

- a) Maintain a state of preparedness to deal with emergencies.
- b) Establish a system for rapid communication, exchange of information and quick response to combat or deal with an emergency.
- c) Arrange for a universal toll free emergency dial-in number to be used throughout District. Establish community emergency response teams through enlistment, training, coordination and supervision of volunteers to assist the Service in safety promotion and management of emergencies.
- d) Impart training and grant certificates to rescuers, volunteers and other private persons for due performance of emergency management duties.
- e) Establish direct contact with local and international organizations and training institutions to maintain the Service according to international standards.
- f) Play a lead role and coordinate the working of other organizations or agencies which have lawful authority to respond to an emergency. To register and ensure minimum standards and code of conduct to be followed by rescue vehicles, ambulances and patient transportation services.
- g) To establish and maintain well trained and equipped water rescue teams
- h) To perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the Emergency Service to achieve the purpose of AJK Emergency Service Ordinance 2014.

### **During Emergency/Disaster**

- a) Arrange transport where necessary for carrying persons require emergency medical treatment from the emergency area to the nearest hospital or health care unit having arrangements for emergency medical care and treatment.
- b) Search and rescue activities

- c) First aid and psycho social support to injured and traumatized
- d) Evacuation of damaged buildings/structures and demolition
- e) Emergency first aid and transport;
- f) Assist in debris clearance and restoration of essential services;
- g) Identification and diffusion of unexploded bombs;
- h) Provide emergency rescue equipment.

### **After Disaster**

- a) Collect, compile, maintain and analyse emergency response data and statistics relating to emergencies and to use it for research and prevention of such emergencies.
- b) Suggest measures for the prevention or mitigation of hazards endangering public safety on roads, public parks and other public places with regard to public safety provisions
- c) Encourage, facilitate and train staff of non-governmental organizations and educational institutions for emergency management.

## **5.13. Home Department / Police**

This is one of the main departments to provide support to the disaster management organisations in dealing with disaster situation. The role of Police is very crucial in terms of public safety and security in daily life and in times of emergencies and disaster situation.

Following are the overall Roles and Responsibilities of the Police Department:

### **Before Disaster**

- a) Identify the 'High Risk' and 'Risk' areas for different disasters and instruct the existing police installations located in those areas for keeping themselves in readiness for undertaking emergency rescue, evacuation relief operations.
- b) Coordinate the wireless frequency of Police with the wireless network of other departments.
- c) Establish the Disaster Control Room at District level.
- d) Maintain communications with the police installations in the areas likely to be affected by disaster.
- e) Instruct all concerned to accord priority to disaster related wireless messages if required by appropriate officials.
- f) To effectively monitor law and order and any crisis situation in the State and ensure efficient, coordinated and timely response at appropriate levels



- g) Ensure law and order during any disaster situation in the affected areas.
- h) Aid and cooperate with other agencies for the prevention of destruction of public property by violence, fire or natural calamities.
- i) To ensure smooth and speedy flow of information by collecting, analyzing, processing and disseminating information to all concerned.
- j) Every year before the advent of monsoon season prepare operations plan in consultation with SDMA/DDMAs.
- k) Repair and replace damaged / defective equipment to ensure complete preparedness.
- l) Impart training to the members of Police Force in first aid, evacuation, rescue and relief operations.
- m) Train volunteers from among citizens, voluntary organizations
- n) Arrange drills for fire extinguishing, rescue, evacuation and transportation of injured persons and prepare coordinated Action Plans in cooperation with concerned local agencies.

### **During Disaster**

- a) On receipt of directives from the DDMA for evacuation - organise personnel and equipment for evacuation and undertake evacuation operations
- b) Provide necessary help in evacuation of casualties from the affected area and arrange traffic cover.
- c) Carry out search & rescue operations.
- d) Set up emergency evacuation shelters, and transport affected people to the shelters
- e) Carry out firefighting operations
- f) Provide reflective lights / reflectors around the scene of incident at night, to facilitate the working of rescue workers, fire-fighters and to indicate the troubled area.
- g) Provide assistance to victims of road accidents
- h) Prevent harassment of women and children during any emergency.
- i) Ensure security measures at evacuation points, in evacuated areas, at relief centres and godowns.
- j) Protect resources and equipment required and being used at the scene of incidence /rescue.
- k) Ensure easy access for emergency rescue vehicles to disaster sites.
- l) Arrange sufficient space for the deployment of emergency vehicles by managing traffic signals.

### **After Disaster**

- a) Maintain law and order, especially during relief distribution.
- b) Protect life, property and liberty of citizens.

- c) Preserve and promote public peace.
- d) Prevent public nuisance.
- e) Keep close watch for any criminal and anti-state activity in the area.
- f) Arrange security of government property and installations damaged in a disaster.
- g) Participate in damage and need assessment.
- h) Coordinate with other offices for traffic management in and around damaged areas.
- i) Assist the local administration in putting a stop to theft and misuse in relief operation.

## 5.14. Media & Information

The most critical role of Media is broadcasting / disseminating warnings to communities before a disaster occurs. It also has to play a major role in education and awareness programmes for better organised preparedness and response at government and community levels.

Other functions in relation to disaster risk management may include:

### **Before Disaster**

- a) Develop the understanding of Disaster Management concepts, issues and policies for necessary action by mass media on reporting disasters.
- b) Launch information programme for quick dissemination of disaster warnings to appropriate agencies and community groups.
- c) Provide information to communities about precautionary measures they can take to avoid loss of life and property from hazards.
- d) Inform the public with timely and factual information about the extent of disaster, losses caused and the current situation of hazard.
- e) Inform communities about any impending hazard and disseminate early

### **During Disaster**

- a) Disseminate warning messages to at-risk communities in an easy to understand language through multiple channels, while being sensitive to people's access and timing issues.
- b) Ensure that the news to be broadcasted reflects the true and clear presentation of the actual position and does not create panic in the minds of the people and also advises them to desist from taking unreasonable steps.

- c) Advice public about measures to be adopted during the emergency period in order to avoid further losses; e.g. evacuation, unsafe areas, water purification techniques.
- d) Inform about actions being taken by authorities/aid groups to save lives and property.
- e) Relay messages concerning welfare of isolated or trapped groups for the benefit of families, relatives, friends and rescue teams
- f) Facilitate communication among affected people and their relatives, friends, families in other parts of the country or world.
- g) Highlight needs of survivors to make sure that all groups of people affected by the disaster receive appropriate aid, irrespective of their social, ethnic, political status.
- h) Highlight the need for application of minimum standards to ensure that minimum needs of disaster survivors in terms of water, sanitation, shelter, food and health are met.

### **After Disaster**

- a) Communicate about potential secondary risks to minimize further loss or damage
- b) Communicate about rehabilitation and reconstruction plans of authorities, UN and NGOs, others in the affected areas.
- c) Encourage survivors' participation in recovery through conducting surveys and communicating the opinions of public to authorities.
- d) Take steps for publicity of news and directives relating to the situation issued by the SDMA/DDMAs.
- e) Curtail normal programmes to broadcast essential information on disaster if requested by the SDMA.
- f) Arrange visit to the affected area by the local and national journalists in the interest of publication of accurate and true report in the news.
- g) Arrange dissemination of information of the short and long term measures of different ministries, Departments/Agencies for relief and rehabilitation of the affected people.
- h) Influence for integrating risk reduction in rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes

## **5.15. Social Welfare Department**

Social Welfare Department is a vital and pivotal sub-sector of the National Development. It motivates voluntary efforts on the basis of self-help and mobilization of both human and material resources to supplement and coordinate governmental efforts and accelerates development and relief /voluntary social programmes. Welfare activities are the most needed thing in deprived, poor and neglected communities /sections of our society where financial and technical resources are scant.

The functions in relation to disaster risk management include:

### **Before Disaster**

- a) Creation of special awareness by motivational methods
- b) Professional and financial assistance to registered voluntary Social Welfare agencies
- c) Socio-economic development of people especially vulnerable groups
- d) Training and Rehabilitation of the under-privileged and neglected sections of society such as orphans, widows and destitute etc
- e) Training and Rehabilitation of people with physical or mental disabilities and chronic diseases
- f) Eradication of social evils
- g) Promote and support volunteerism in society
- h) Provision of opportunities and training to poor's in urban and rural areas to help them stand on their own feet
- i) Co-ordination with Local Government and Rural Development Department for social welfare oriented schemes out of its funds

### **During Disaster**

- a) Relief and rescue services during calamities and national emergency
- b) Eradication of social evils
- c) Psycho-social support to affected people
- d) Engage volunteer groups for rescue and relief activities

### **After Disaster**

- a) Psycho-social support to affected people

## **5.16. Women Development Department**

The department has an important role in disaster management as women are more vulnerable to disasters due to their socio-cultural status. The department will take special steps to reduce vulnerability of women in disaster prone areas in District. The main mission of the department is to eliminate gender discrimination against women, help women achieve equal status to that of men in all walks of life. The department will also arrange for protection of manpower and organize special camps for the disabled, widows, children and other vulnerable groups. It will also provide necessary help and assistance for socio-economic rehabilitation.

The functions in relation to disaster risk management include:

### **Before Disaster**

- a) Sensitization of disaster managers related to gender issues in disaster management.
- b) Prepare special projects for socio economic uplifting of women towards disaster risk reduction.
- c) Make necessary arrangements for involvement of women in disaster risk management at district level
- d) Organize health camps for regular medical checkups of women and aid to the needy.
- e) Assist in provision of drinking water facilities near settlements.
- f) Organize training programs for women to cope with disaster situations.

### **During Disaster**

- a) Involve the Health Ministry in catering to special health needs of women.
- b) Establish relief camps for women and ensure fulfillment of basic needs of women in general relief camps.
- c) To take steps for safety of women and girls in disaster affected areas.

### **After Disaster**

- a) Ensure that needs of women survivors are addressed in post disaster situations during the relief rehabilitation and reconstruction phases
- b) Prepare special programmes for the rehabilitation of women.
- c) Ensure separate sanitation facilities for women in relief camps.
- d) Introduce special vocational training programs for women.
- e) Facilitate participation of women in the management of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities.
- f) Support post-disaster rehabilitation of livelihoods of women survivors, which is mostly in the informal sector and is ignored many times.

## **5.17. Special Communications Organization (SCO)**

Mainly SCO is involved in providing IT and Telecom facilities in Azad Jammu & Kashmir including District Poonch. The SCO can play an important role in providing communication links during disasters.

The functions of SCO in relation to disaster risk management include;

### **Before Disaster**

- a) Take steps to ensure power back up for communication systems during possible emergency situations.
- b) Take proper and adequate security steps for the protection of own installations and properties.
- c) Provide support to the District Disaster Management Authority and ensure unsuspended links with SDMA.
- d) Deliver early warning information to the agencies and communities requiring them.

### **During Disaster**

- a) Ensure to operate communication systems round the clock (24 hours).
- b) On request, provide additional communication lines for emergency communication.
- c) On request, establish communication links in the affected areas.
- d) Provide measures for satellite and other wireless communication from the area affected by disaster and are out of cellular coverage.
- e) Provide mobile communication facilities to the Rapid Assessment and Quick Response Teams in the remote areas.
- f) Assess damage to telecommunication infrastructure and immediately take steps to restore it.

### **After Disaster**

- a) Take steps to fully restore and rehabilitate any damaged communication infrastructure. (SoPs for such damage assessments and restoration of communication networks are already in place by SCO)

## **5.18. Pakistan Army**

The Pak Army has an important role of providing search and rescue assistance, security, logistics, and if necessary, assistance in distribution of relief items and provision of equipment for emergency response. Army can provide trained personnel with specialised skills such as in road and debris clearance machinery, communication technology for placement in isolated areas, and can provide specialized transportation systems.

In relation to disaster risk management Pak Army can assist the DDMA by carrying out following functions;

### **Before Disaster**

- a) Prepare operational Plan for providing the assistance during disaster.
- b) Establish the Disaster Control Room.
- c) Issue cautionary instructions to all concerned.
- d) Organise task forces for working of disaster control units. Each unit should be composed of, engineers, doctors with medicines and nursing assistants.
- e) Earmark a reserve task force, if needed.

### **During Disaster**

- a) Send task forces to disaster affected areas.
- b) Assist DDMA in search & rescue operation where needed.
- c) Move task forces to the convenient positions, if needed.
- d) Evacuate people to the safer areas and evacuation centres.
- e) Install temporary bridges where appropriate to ensure mobility of affected population and transportation of relief items.
- f) Provide logistic back-up to DDMA in terms of trucks, boats, Helicopters etc if needed
- g) Distribute emergency relief material to the affected people.

### **After Disaster**

- a) Conduct survey in affected areas and assess requirements of relief and rehabilitation.
- b) Assist local administration in removing the dead bodies and debris in affected areas.
- c) Set up field hospital if required.
- d) Provide assistance in reconstruction /repair of road and bridges where needed.
- e) Participate in reconstruction and rehabilitation operation if requested.

## **5.19. Pakistan Red Crescent Society**

The Pakistan Red Crescent Society AJK plays a vital role in elevating the suffering of affected people across the State. The society works as an auxiliary to the government to ameliorate the suffering of the most vulnerable people in distress. The PRCS AJK branch

can assist the DDMA in crises, emergencies and disasters but do not replace their responsibilities.

### **Before Disaster**

- a) Conduct MHVRA in close coordination with DDMA according to the standard procedure.
- b) Develop disaster management plan at all level and share with DDMA for coordination and implementation.
- c) Provide all necessary trainings, conduct drills/ exercises and provide necessary equipment to DRR committees with close coordination of DDMA.

### **During Disaster**

- a) Conduct rapid need assessment in devising the response strategy.
- b) Provides ambulance and search and rescue service.
- c) Assist DDMA in establishing relief/evacuation camps, food distribution to displaced persons, providing health services.
- d) Establish information management centre at evacuation/relief camps with close coordination of DDMA.

### **After Disaster**

- a) Mobilize disaster affected communities for early recovery and rehabilitation efforts.
- b) With the support of DRR committees conduct damage need assessment and incorporate it in DDMA's data.
- c) Prepare village level early recovery / rehabilitation plans and mobilize resources for their implementation.
- d) Work on community based disaster risk management plan.

## **5.20. Community Based Organizations**

In order to promote community level disaster risk management activities, the capacity of existing community organizations needs to be strengthened. CBO numbers will also be increased where necessary. CBOs should be trained in local early warning systems, evacuation, first aid, search and rescue and basic firefighting. Linkages should be developed between CBOs and relevant local agencies. The capacity of CBO leadership will also be developed in financial management, planning resource mobilization and negotiation skills.



## **Chapter 6: Standard Operating Procedures for Emergency Response**

### **6.1. Establishment and functioning of District Emergency Operations Centre**

District Emergency Operation Centre (DEOC) plays a vital role during any emergency operation. It coordinates the flow of information with respect to activities associated with relief operations. DEOC works as a centre for decision-making and help flow of information horizontally and vertically to and from the respected departments for smoother relief operations

In the event of a disaster, the DDMA shall activate the DEOC and take operational lead for the district response. The DEOC will act as a state of the art resource centre specially designated centralized facility where officials meet twenty-four hours a day to respond to disaster and control the recovery efforts in support of field operations. It will be physically located within the premises of the DC office and will be looked after by the DDMA under the direct supervision of the Deputy Commissioner.

During the normal times, DEOC will maintains a systematic database of the resources available, important phone numbers, name and addresses of important government and non-government officials, international bodies, NGOs, CBOs VOs and other Civil Societies Organizations.

#### **Functions of District Emergency Operation Center (DEOC)**

Emergency response procedures are a series of actions taken on different levels by different agencies on different occasions those act as a lifeline at the time of a disaster.

In the pre disaster scenario the DEOC will be responsible for gathering and managing data from different aspects. This information should also be shared by all other relevant agencies on the regular basis. The importance of the DEOCs during and after the disaster can be of prime importance. All the information at the high time of disaster can be achieved from these DEOC centers within no time over which will base the estimations of casualties and damages. In post disaster scenario DEOC will again play a pivot role in the relief and even in rehabilitation procedure of the district. The information will also be of a great help for the national and international donors during and after the disaster.

**DEOC shall perform in pre disaster scenario**

- Collect information of all the vulnerable areas in its jurisdiction.
- Monitor emergency operations and evaluate emerging secondary threats
- Coordination for preparation, mitigation and response with all the district level stakeholders
- Conduct the survey of vulnerable areas on regular basis and any sort of variation or change should be upgraded accordingly.
- Keep their record actively accessible for the relevant higher officials of the district and the state level.
- Coordinate other tehsil and town officials for other awareness programmes.
- Communicate the database with all policy-making bodies on regular basis.
- Share the information with the media and residents on demand.

**DEOC shall perform during and in post disaster scenario**

- Receive and communicate disaster alerts to community.
- Monitor emergency operation.
- Ensure that the government and the communities are alert and aware of evolving situation.
- Carrying out assessment of damage and needs in disaster prone areas.
- Maintain and acquire records in pictorial and in written forms.
- Pointing and indicating emergency medical needs and reliefs.
- Coordinate on spot situations with tehsil, district and state level offices.
- Deliver facts and figures to the general public and media.

**Needs of a DEOC**

DEOC should be well equipped with the latest gadgets and equipment's of communication.

A Central operation area preferably in the premises of DDMA/DC office with following distribution / facilities for smooth functioning of emergency operation centers

- a) Planning Area
- b) Workstations for liaison personnel/committee room
- c) Display boards to allow for the display of current information
- d) Effective communication
- e) Emergency power supply

- f) Conference/media room
- g) Rest area
- h) Kitchen
- i) An appropriate level of security

For effective and efficient response, the DEOC should be fully equipped with the communication gadgets include:

- a) Satellite phones
- b) Phone Units connected to WAN
- c) Hot line communication line with National/provincial EOCs
- d) Wireless/VHF central unit
- e) Handsets (walkie-talkie)
- f) Television set
- g) H.F Radio Set
- h) Video conference unit (to be compatible with NEOC/PEOC video conferencing network)
- i) Inverter for power back up
- j) Portable Generator set
- k) Overhead Projector /LCD Panel/Project Screen
- l) GPS Unit (Hand Held)
- m) Camera both still and movie.
- n) Desktop with attached printer, Scanner, (Multi utility machine)

### **Communication network of DEOC**

The DEOC of District Poonch must be directly connected with NEOC at National, SEOC at State Level and DEOCs in all other districts of AJK. Down at the district level, DEOC will further connected to the Tehsil/Town/UC level disaster management set-up for quick access to information and devising response accordingly.

DEOC will function on 24x7 basis and will be functional round the year.

### **Operational staff structure**

During peace time, the DEOC shall function with the minimal staffing, however, in case of impending threat or shortly after the disaster has struck the structure may expand to have representation of other departments as well. The proposed structure in disaster situation is as under;

### **Coordinator DEOC**

To Coordinate and manage emergency operations in accordance with Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) already set for different stages of disasters under the direction of Deputy Commissioner concerned.

### **Administrative, Logistics and Security official (ALSO)**

The Administrative, Logistics and Security Official will be responsible for effective and smooth functioning of the DEOC in administration and procurement related matters. He will also responsible to manage the organize/facilitate meetings, seminar and workshops. To look after the administrative related issues e.g. vehicle control, field visits etc will also be the important component of his duties.

### **Media Focal Person**

A media focal person must be designated by chairman DDMA who will devise communication strategy for the media and public. He/She will provide support to coordinator DEOC and Chairman DDMA in organizing media briefings, holding conferences/ press releases, maintaining contacts with media persons etc.

### **DEOC Assistant**

- Responsible for data entry, functioning and maintenance of all the equipment for ensuring smooth and effective information flow.
- Assist the DEOC Coordinator in coordination, planning and logistics.

### **Standard Operating Procedures- Activation procedure for DEOC**

An efficient system of command and control is an essential pre-requisite to the successful coordination of resources in emergency response operations. Operations are based on three (3) phases: ALERT, ACTIVATION, STAND DOWN.

| Phase  | Action   |
|--|--|
| <p><b>On Receipt of Alert (Standby-stage 1)</b></p>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>DEOC management receives information –on potential threat from an early warning centre/SDMA/Tehsil/town/UC administration</b></li> <li>- <b>DEOC management advises the Chairman DDMA to seek alerts/activation approval</b></li> <li>- <b>Upon the approval of alert phase, DEOC management informs relevant Primary and Support Departments/Agencies at district and below district level.</b></li> <li>- <b>Management puts DEOC on Alert if warranted</b></li> <li>- <b>Put everything ready and functional in DEOC</b></li> <li>- <b>Coordinate with key departments and other stakeholders and update those about the situation.</b></li> <li>- <b>Closely coordinate and consult with SEOC</b></li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>On Receipt of Warning (stage 2) Activation</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Notification for full activation of the DEOC</b></li> <li>- <b>Place DEOC fully operational at 24/7 basis</b></li> <li>- <b>The chairperson DDMA will inform concerned departments, SEOC, humanitarian organization, UN, I/NGSs, and Media regarding the potential untoward event</b></li> <li>- <b>DDMA management activates appropriate response mechanism</b></li> <li>- <b>Level of response to be proportional to the hazard</b></li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Stand Down Procedure (stage 3)</b></p>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>After reviewing situation and consultation with tehsil/town and UCs administration Coordinator DEOC will debrief chairperson DDMA about stand down.</b></li> <li>- <b>Chairperson DDMA will approve it and issue s notification.</b></li> <li>- <b>Chairperson disseminates notification to the relevant department and other stakeholders.</b></li> <li>- <b>Final report on the emergency operations will be circulated to key stakeholders</b></li> <li>- <b>Inform SEOC for stand down</b></li> <li>- <b>Primary and Support Agency personnel are debriefed and complete final tasks</b></li> <li>- <b>Final reports completed and distributed by various agencies in accordance with relevant Standard Operating Procedures</b></li> <li>- <b>Evaluation of response</b></li> </ul> |

It will be at the discretion of the Chairperson DDMA to activate the appropriate action as the conditions and resources may dictate.

### **Operationalization of DEOC**

In case of full activation of DEOC, person incharge of DEOC will be responsible to fully equip the DEOC and provide all facilities to the representative of departments who will be present in DEOC during disaster time. Stock of emergency food, office supplies, satellite phone sets, generator, logs status boards, maps and material and necessary equipment must be available. It is to be ensured that briefing room is equipped with all maps, screens and multimedia projectors and other necessary material.

## **6.2. Simulations and Drills**

### **Responsibility for organizing drills**

Periodically the DDMA will plan exercise or drills on various scenarios to assess the procedure in this document and those form contingency plan for district and departments. Agencies and department shall also conduct drills based on the hazard scenarios, sectoral response plans.

The following are proposed table top exercises that can be undertaken in drills.

- A major earthquake in District Poonch (Area to be identified)
- A major flooding caused by monsoon depression
- A Landslide incident

### **Schedules for Organizing drills**

There should be at least one/two drills in a year lead by DDMA which shall combines and coordinate the sectoral and contingency response regions. Lesson learned from the drills and those from the past disasters should be incorporated into this DM Plan as appropriate. Each department may organize their sectoral drills at realistic and convenient schedules. It is further suggested that simulation organized on their eve of commemoration day of 8th October Earthquake will leave better impact.

### **Resources for organizing drills**

The DDMA is to contribute partly to the exercises or drills. Each participating agency is advised to set aside funds for sectoral or contingency exercises both for coordinated DDMA drills and individual department drills.

## Chapter 7: Strategies and Policies

This section gives comprehensive district policies and strategies for disaster risk management to be accomplished during forthcoming years in District Poonch. The district policies and strategies are long-term orientations to establish efficient and effective disaster management systems. During the pre-disaster stage, the DDMA is expected to undertake selected mitigation activities to make it ready for the onset of any disaster. The appropriate activities to be undertaken during and post disaster time are also illustrated. In this instance, activities are suggested to be accomplished on short term and long term time frame. The strategies and priority activities proposed in the plan in hand are aligned with NDMP 2012-2022 and NDRMF.

### 7.1. District Disaster Management Policies and Strategies

The following district disaster management policies are identified to establish a more efficient disaster management system in district Poonch. The strategies shall be implemented through the various actions shown in the table at the end of each priority area.

#### 7.1.1 Strategic Priority Area I- Strengthening the district level institutional and legal system for disaster management

One of the priority areas in disaster risk management is the institutional and legal arrangements, which are intended to establish the administrative base for disaster management. Section 13, 14 and 15 of AJK Disaster Management Act 2008 regulates disaster management organization at districts levels and defines the roles and responsibilities of DDMA. Although State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) at State level has been established and being strengthen but still at the district, the institutional set up of disaster management needs to be completely functionalized and dedicated staff to be provided to work for disaster risk reduction at district level. At present the DDMA are operating on ad-hoc arrangements by putting additional responsibilities and burden of DM portfolio on the shoulders of deputy commissioners besides their own prime responsibilities.

**Actions to be implemented in 2016 – 2020**

| Action to be taken   | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | Responsible Organization           |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------------------------------------|
| I.1 Strengthen the district disaster management Authority by appointing dedicated staff to assist the deputy commissioner in disaster risk related interventions.  |      |      |      |      |      | Govt. of AJK/SDMA                  |
| I.2. Functionalized DDMA at district level. Set up the office, secure equipment and design and install office systems (e.g. Disaster Management information System)  |      |      |      |      |      | Govt. of AJK/SDMA /DDMA            |
| I.3 Issue of gazette notification to establish DDRM focal points in each District Department (Institutional Member of DDMA).   |      |      |      |      |      | DDMA/All District line Departments |
| I.4 Establish effective coordination mechanism by conducting regular meetings of DDMA members. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct the first interagency coordination meeting for familiarization with the DDMA set up and its operation system.</li> <li>• Call the first Multi Sectoral Meeting with NGOs and voluntary agencies, introduce the DDMA , discuss</li> </ul> |      |      |      |      |      | DDMA                               |



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| coordination points and SOPs   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1.4 Build-up District Emergency Response Team and stockpiling of essential commodities.  |  |  |  |  |  | DDMA,Rescue1122,Police, Civil Defense      |
| 1.5 Formulation of Disaster Management Committees at Union Council and village level. (Start with the pilot case of 10 selected UCs) |  |  |  |  |  | DDMA/LG&RD and other relevant Stakeholders |

**Outcome /Key target set for Strategic priority area I**

- District Disaster Management Authority has been strengthen/established and dedicated staff for carrying out DRM activities in district have been appointed.
- DDMA is fully functional and essential equipment have been installed.
- Coordination mechanism has been established for effective implementation of DRM activities in coordinated manner.
- District Emergency Response Team has been raised and stockpiling of essential commodities has managed.

**7.1.2 Strategic Priority Area 2- Prepare Disaster Management Plans at various level**

According to DRM Act 2008, each department will formulate their own disaster risk management plans and sector specific response plans. They will strengthen the capacity of DDRM focal point in each department declared as institutional members of DDMA. No serious effort has been made yet by the concerned organizations to develop sector specific disaster risk management plan, primarily due to lake of awareness, knowledge/technical know-how, resources and commitment. Under this component sector disaster management operational plans in each department will be prepared with recommended interventions range from district level initiatives to community level activities. While formulating such plan specific roles and responsibilities of each level disaster management organization will be recognized.

**Actions to be implemented in 2016 – 2020**

| <b>Action to be taken</b>  | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> | <b>Responsible Organization</b>  |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| 2.1 Formulate sectoral disaster risk management plans in each department and strengthen the capacity of DDRM focal point designated in each. |             |             |             |             |             | DDMA/All District line Departments with technical assistance of SDMA/consultants       |
| 2.2. Develop Tehsil Level Disaster Risk Management Plan  |             |             |             |             |             | Tehsil Authorities/DDMA with technical assistance of SDMA/consultants                  |
| 2.3. Develop UC Level Disaster Risk Management Plan  |             |             |             |             |             | DDMA, Tehsil Authorities & UCDMCs with technical assistance of SDMA/consultants        |
| 2.4. Develop Village Level Disaster Risk Management Plan   |             |             |             |             |             | DDMA, Tehsil Authorities, UCDMCs & VDMCs with technical assistance of SDMA/consultants |
| 2.5 Design a web based system/ web Portal for planning and management of DRM related activities and information.                             |             |             |             |             |             | DDMA, SDMA, IT department.   |

**Outcome /Key target set for Strategic priority area 2**

- All the district line departments, institutional members of DDMA have their own sector specific DRM plan aligned with District and State DRM plan and strategies.
- Disaster risk Management Plans exist at all level i.e. Tehsil, UC and Village level.
- Modern web based IT system available with DDMA for planning and management of DRM related activities.

**7.1.3 Strategic Priority Area 3- Conduct Multi-Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (MHVRA)**

Although lot of work on disaster risk management have been carried out by various agencies after 2005 earth quake in Poonch but the information on hazard risk, specific to vulnerable areas and at various levels (districts, tehsils, UCs and village) is still limited. Due to lack of such information, areas vulnerable to disasters are not clearly identified, which causes difficulty to establish disaster management policies and decision making for disaster risk reduction. Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (HVCA) needs to be undertaken at all levels because any effective disaster risk management planning and implementation requires specific, accurate and up-to-date information on hazard, existing vulnerabilities and the potential risks associated with communities, infrastructure and livelihood.

Hazard specific risk mapping, modeling and zonation of the prioritize cities with respect to earthquake, landsliding, flooding and climate change will be prerequisite to use it for planning and development.

Village, UCs, tehsils, and then a consolidated districts level maps should include analysis on vulnerability of settlements, housing stock, important infrastructure and environmental resources

This component aims to prepare district hazard specific risk catalogue by conducting micro level multi-hazard, vulnerability and risk assessment and profiling of the districts (both urban and rural) in phases.

**Actions to be implemented in 2016 – 2020**

| Action to be taken   | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | Responsible Organization            |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|-------------------------------------|
| 3.1 Conduct detail micro level Multi-Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment |      |      |      |      |      | DDMA/Land Use & Planning department |

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| of district Poonch at appropriate scale of 1:100,000 or as per requirement   |  |  |  |  |  |   |
| 3.2 Conduct UC level Multi-Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment in selected disaster prone UCs at appropriate scale of 1:10,000 or as per requirement |  |  |  |  |  | Tehsil Authorities/DDMA with technical assistance of Land Use & Planning department           |
| 3.3 Develop risk profiles with reference to the past disastrous events of the districts. Assess element at risk per hazard type.                           |  |  |  |  |  | DDMA, Tehsil Authorities & UCDMCs with technical assistance of Land Use & Planning department |
| 3.4 Generate hazard specific maps, indicating the location of various hazards with zonation of risk levels, e.g., low, moderate and severe                 |  |  |  |  |  | DDMA, Tehsil Authorities, UCDMCs with technical assistance Land Use & Planning department     |
| 3.5 Utilize Hazard and Risk Atlas of the District for the purpose of MHVRA studies at district level.  |  |  |  |  |  | DDMA, SDMA, University & Research Institutions  |

### **Outcome /Key target set for Strategic priority area 3**

- District and UCs level map/atlas including classified hazard/risk maps exist with the DDMA
- Risk profile indicating vulnerable areas are identified at all level i.e. Tehsil, UC and Village level.
- Detailed risk assessment data available for Poonch on high resolution for planning and implementation of development practices
- Village level hazard and risk maps exist with VDMCs and UCDMCs.
- Historical records and maps of the predominant hazards are available for research and planning purpose.

#### **7.1.4 Strategic Priority Area 4- Establish/strengthening Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Evacuation Systems**

The multi-hazard early warning consists of collection, consolidation, analysis and dissemination of impending hazard and risk. The early warning information is crucial in making informed and timely choices around evacuation and issuing public warnings and alerts which offers immense potential to contribute in mitigating disaster impact.

A comprehensive early warning system usually consists of four key elements:(1) prior knowledge of the risks, (2) presence of a monitoring and warning service, (3) multi-layer information timely actions. If one part fails, the entire system can collapse, resulting in innumerable damages, if one of the elements fails, the whole system can be failed and losses will be encountered.

Disaster historic profile of Poonch is full of huge damages like EQ 2005 and series of floods 2010,2011,2012,2014. The affects of such damages cause a vicious cycle in AJK, the disaster cause huge economic loss that becomes a setback in the effort to eradicate poverty, and the lives of the people become worse. A multi-hazard early warning system is an important tool to break out of the vicious cycle and it has become a major consideration in AJK.

Furthermore, communities are not aware of EWS and lack knowledge of disaster prevention measures as a whole. Due to difficult mountainous terrains and scattered population in the upper areas of District, hazard monitoring and institutional arrangements are either weak or ill-equipped to deliver timely and reliable information. However recent technological advancement in monitoring hazard, cheaper modes of communication and availability of mobile technology in remote areas made it possible to monitor hazard and take appropriate action by evacuating public to safer areas.

Local media's role will be reviewed, enhanced and utilized to improve dissemination of warnings. Community Based EWS will be established and linking communities with warning agencies would be an essential component. Initiatives will be taken to build capacities of communities in early warning by connecting them and by providing necessary equipment.

**Actions to be implemented in 2016 – 2020**

| <b>Action to be taken</b>  | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> | <b>Responsible Organization</b>   |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---|
| 4.1 Develop clear SoPs for community based multi hazard early warning system   |             |             |             |             |             | DDMA/Police & Revenue department  |
| 4.2.Coordinate with PMD for establishment of river flood forecast and warning system with real time rainfall and water level observation by river gauge installation |             |             |             |             |             | PMD , DDMA/Police & Revenue department  |
| 4.3. Establishment of flash flood forecasting and warning system including local flash flood forecasting system.   |             |             |             |             |             | DDMA, Police & Revenue department Tehsil Authorities & UCDMCs                     |
| 4.4. Enhance community understanding on EWS through scheduled training, simulation exercises and drills & Launch awareness campaigns related                         |             |             |             |             |             | DDMA, Police & Revenue department, Civil Defense, PRCS Tehsil Authorities, UCDMCs |

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| to early warning through engaging electronic and print media  |  |  |  |  |  |   |
| 4.5. Develop linkage between upper and downstream communities and with relevant govt. departments for effective EWS       |  |  |  |  |  | DDMA Police & Revenue department, Civil Defense, PRCS Tehsil Authorities, UCDMCs          |
| 4.6. Formulate community level sub committees for early warning dissemination system                                      |  |  |  |  |  | DDMA, Police & Revenue department, Civil Defense, PRCS Tehsil Authorities, UCDMCs & VDMCs |
| 4.7 Establish SMS alert system, authorized by DDMA, and install wireless system and flood gauges at appropriate locations |  |  |  |  |  | DDMA ,PMD & Revenue department, Police  |

**Outcome /Key target set for Strategic priority area 4**

- Standard operating procedure exists to operationalize the EWS during any emergency
- The EWS has been designed with Multi-Hazard approach and guidelines
- EWS are fully aligned with the PMD, Police department and other stakeholders at district level
- Equipment are installed and fully operationalized
- Local authorities and committees are fully involved in creating awareness and wide dissemination of the EWS
- Communities at up and down stream have understanding on cooperation and exchange of information

- Identification of safe evacuation places by involving the UC/VDMCs. Evacuation sites has capacity to accommodate number of people as per requirement of the affected population.

#### 7.1.5 Strategic Priority Area 5-Disaster risk management through training, education and awareness

The purpose of DRM training, education and awareness activities is to enhance the capacity of professionals in relevant organizations and the general public to be able them to conduct disaster management activities in an effective and efficient manner. Training, education and awareness are important non-structural component which can create significant changes in behavior of the disaster affected communities and among other stakeholders. Recent natural and human induced disasters highlight the importance of public awareness, and stress the need of enhancing capacities through awareness, training and education in disaster risk management. Training, education and awareness have come up as an important strategic priority especially in the aftermath of earthquake 2005.

Since 2005, may I/NGOs, UN organizations and CSOs are actively engaged in creating awareness through imparting trainings and education in disaster risk management to change the mindset of the people. However, still more need to be done to reach at each village and UCs that are prone to high risk and vulnerabilities.

#### Actions to be implemented in 2016 – 2020

| Action to be taken   | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | Responsible Organization             |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|--------------------------------------|
| 5.1. Constitute an expert board of Ministry of Education, education specialists and DRR professionals to developing and initiation DRR/M curriculum at Colleges & school level |      |      |      |      |      | Education Department, DDMA, and SDMA |
| 5.2. Development of  |      |      |      |      |      | Education Department, DDMA, and SDMA |



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| school safety curriculum for class middle and above   |  |  |  |  |  |   |
| 5.3. Conduct regular drills and simulation exercises & TOTs for teachers on Colleges & school based DRM and school safety |  |  |  |  |  | Education Department, Concerned DDMA's, PRCS and Civil Defense              |
| 5.4. Implement phase wise Colleges & school safety programme  |  |  |  |  |  | Education Department, DDMA's, PRCS and Civil Defense                        |
| 5.5. Launch phase wise DRR campaign at all level and continue for the forthcoming phases                                  |  |  |  |  |  | SDMA, DDMA's, TMA's, Mass Media, Rescue 1122, Civil Defense, I/NGOs, UCDMCs |
| 5.6. Develop close liaison with mass media for promoting public awareness campaign during emergencies and peace time.     |  |  |  |  |  | SDMA, DDMA's, TMA's, Mass Media, Rescue 1122, Civil Defence, I/NGOs, UCDMCs |
| 5.7. Conduct series of departmental seminars/workshops/meetings and training programmes for govt. officials on DRR        |  |  |  |  |  | SDMA, DDMA's, TMA's, Mass Media, Rescue 1122, Civil Defence, I/NGOs, UCDMCs |

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| 5.8. Observe 8 <sup>th</sup> October, 2005 earthquake commemoration day as “Disaster Awareness Day”                                     |  |  |  |  |  | SDMA, DDMA, TMAs, Mass Media, Rescue 1122, Civil Defence, I/NGOs, UCDMCs, Civil societies |
| 5.9. Training and awareness programme on Child and PWD focused DRR  |  |  |  |  |  | SDMA, DDMA, TMAs, Mass Media, Rescue 1122, Civil Defence, I/NGOs, UCDMCs                  |
| 5.10. Training and awareness programme through health practitioners including involvement of community health workers against epidemics |  |  |  |  |  | SDMA, Health Deptt. DDMA, TMAs, Mass Media, Rescue 1122, Civil Defence, I/NGOs, UCDMCs    |

**Outcome/Key target set for the priority area 5**

- DRR subject has been introduced at various educational institutions.
- Proper training Need Assessment has been carried out the training need identified.
- Develop pool of volunteers and potential trainers for community level trainings and awareness.
- Celebrating the commemoration day on each 8<sup>th</sup> October through active involvement of the schools, CSOs and government department.
- Media involvement are encouraged and trained on playing active role, before during and after the disasters
- Specialized tailor made training courses have been arranged for PWDs and marginalized communities with inclusive DRR approach.

**7.1.6 Strategic Priority Area 6-Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction (DRR) & climate change adaptation measures into development**

An important issue that needs to be integrated into government procedures is to promote adoption of risk sensitive approaches in development planning and programming in all sectors. The purpose of mainstreaming efforts is to ensure that all development

infrastructures in hazard prone areas are built to higher standards of hazards resiliency; e.g., schools, hospitals, roads, bridges, dams and telecommunications infrastructure etc.

After the devastating earthquake disaster in 2005, there has been increasing recognition of the need to mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development planning – that is, to consider and address risks emanating from natural and human induced hazards in the sector and in the design of individual projects.

In District Poonch, the need for mainstreaming can be felt mainly due to gradual upward rise in reported disaster losses during recent decade. Primarily due to the increasing vulnerability to natural and human induced hazard events of economic and social assets and the wellbeing and livelihoods of population.

### Actions to be implemented in 2016 – 2020

| Action to be taken  | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | Responsible Organization                                |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|---|
| 6.1. Establish District level DRR &CC adaptation mainstreaming working group  |      |      |      |      |      | P&D Department, Climate Change Center, DDMA's, and SDMA |
| 6.2. Conduct trainings of district government departments on integrating DRR into sectoral annual development plans |      |      |      |      |      | P&D Department, DDMA's, and SDMA                        |
| 6.3. Implement a small pilot infrastructure project in regard to mainstreaming DRR                                  |      |      |      |      |      | PPH, DDMA's, LG&RD                                      |
| 6.4. Review the development programme by  |      |      |      |      |      | P&D Department, DDMA's, and SDMA                        |

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| the criteria set by Planning Commission of Pakistan & ensure the implementation of DRR Checklist |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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**Outcome/Key target set for the priority area 6**

- Risk conscious development is ensured
- Engineers and other technical teams orientated on how to integrate DRR into development planning and implementation
- Utmost care for PPH while designing development plans. Engineers, development practitioners and planner are aware on designing plans for PWDs and vulnerable segments.
- Allocate funding for the pilot studies for physical infrastructure

**7.1.7 Strategic Priority Area 7-Strengthen DRM system through awareness raising programme for disaster resilient communities at local level**

The local communities, local infrastructure and local economy are directly affected by disasters. A “Community and Local Level Risk Reduction Programme” is the heart of disaster risk reduction. Local communities and authorities are the first player to respond to any disaster. Communities, being first responders to the disasters, have an important role to play in reducing hazard risks, effective preparedness planning and mounting rapid response in order to save lives and assets.

The community engagement and participation in risk reduction planning is critical and essential for successful disaster risk management. The investment in building capacities of communities in risk reduction planning and management came up as strategic area of intervention. The training and capacity building of local officials, communities, civil society could contribute in risk responsive development planning with effective community preparedness could help reduce the human and material losses due to impending disaster.

Considering this characteristic of the disaster situation, it is important that disaster risk reduction programmes are implemented for awareness and capacity development at the local level, including local government officials, communities and civil society organizations. Local level disaster management plans at the village, UC, Tehsil and district are vital in disaster risk reduction.

Under the one UN joint programme, the State of AJ&K in collaboration of UNDP initiated Community Based Disaster Mitigation projects in several districts. The main theme was to introduce and strengthen CBDRM initiatives in the District to make DRM activities more sustainable.

### Actions to be implemented in 2016 – 2020

| Action to be taken   | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | Responsible Organization   |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|--|
| 6.1. Develop curriculum and plan CBDRM related training programs and selection of DMCs                         |      |      |      |      |      | DDMAs, SDMA, UCDMCs, LGRD, PRC,AJKRSP, Social Welfare, I/NGOs and other CSOs |
| 7.2. Building capacities of the Disaster Management Committees (DMCs) through TOTs and CBDRM related trainings |      |      |      |      |      | DDMAs, SDMA, UCDMCs, LGRD, PRC,AJKRSP, Social Welfare, I/NGOs and other CSOs |
| 7.3. Develop standard DMC structure and TORs for the executive and general members of the committee            |      |      |      |      |      | DDMAs, SDMA, UCDMCs, LGRD, PRC,AJKRSP, Social Welfare, I/NGOs and other CSOs |
| 7.4. Define operational areas for the DMCs in pre, during and post disaster phases                             |      |      |      |      |      | DDMAs, SDMA, UCDMCs, LGRD, PRC,AJKRSP, Social Welfare, I/NGOs and other CSOs |
| 7.5. Small scale Mitigation  |      |      |      |      |      | DDMAs, SDMA, UCDMCs, LGRD,   |

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| measures for community DRM are incorporated in local government development programme & CBDRM activities. |  |  |  |  |  | PRC,AJKRSP, Social Welfare, I/NGOs and other CSOs                            |
| 7.6 Develop database of the volunteers and trained staff of the DMCs                                      |  |  |  |  |  | DDMAs, SDMA, UCDMCs, LGRD, PRC,AJKRSP, Social Welfare, I/NGOs and other CSOs |

**Outcome/Key target set for the priority area 7**

- CBDRM pilot projects carried out with the support of I/NGOs and CSO segment of the communities.
- Community are fully involved in the process with focus on disaster resilient communities
- Different drills are organized by CSOs and other relevant departments on safer evacuation
- Safe evacuation routes and sites are identified in case of any emergency
- Inclusive DRR approach is adopted during drill/exercises on safer evacuation
- Media is involved for wide dissemination and publicity of the campaign

**7.1.8 Strategic Priority Area 8-Infrastructure development for disaster risk reduction**

A well-distributed and safe infrastructure is vital for disaster risk management. In urban parts of district, however, the vulnerability of the population to natural hazards has increased due to ill planning in disaster prone areas. In addition, inadequate management of infrastructure has caused damages to population. Many villages are remote and isolated due to mountainous terrain. Strengthening of physical infrastructure is vital for mitigation of underlying risk factors and effective response during disasters. It is essential to execute evaluation of physical infrastructure, especially transportation, traditional mud houses and communication facilities.

The Urban & Rural Vulnerable Building Assessment Committees are working to access the vulnerable infrastructure present both in Urban and Rural areas. With vast experience of build back better after the devastating earthquake during 2005, the building code need

to be adopted and replicated for safer infrastructure development. Detail risk assessment of existing and new infrastructure will play important role. Risk assessment will highlight the preferred mode of construction retrofitting to of schools and health facilities.

**Actions to be implemented in 2016 – 2020**

| <b>Action to be taken</b>   | <b>2017</b> | <b>2018</b> | <b>2019</b> | <b>2020</b> | <b>2021</b> | <b>Responsible Organization</b>                    |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| 8.1. Preparation of guidelines for new public buildings construction in the areas vulnerable to disasters in district |             |             |             |             |             | SDMA,LGRDC, DDMA, Education & Health Departments   |
| 8.2 Structural vulnerability evaluation for schools and hospitals in District   |             |             |             |             |             | SDMA,LGRDC, DDMA, Education & Health Departments   |
| 8.3. Retrofitting works of important public facilities (schools, hospitals)   |             |             |             |             |             | DDMAs, PPH,LGRDC, Education & Health Departments   |
| 8.4 Preparation of guidelines for housing construction in the areas vulnerable to disasters                           |             |             |             |             |             | DDMA,PPH, Pearl Development authority .            |
| 8.5. Conduct detail survey of old buildings in districts  |             |             |             |             |             | DDMAs, Civil Defense, TMA's PPH,LGRDC              |
| 8.6 Policy formulation regarding demolishing of dangerous buildings,  |             |             |             |             |             | DDMAs, PPH, LGRDC, TMA's Revenue Deptt. P&D Deptt. |

|   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| alternate accommodation and compensation policy |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|

**Outcome/Key target set for the priority area 8**

- Structural interventions are in place with the community involvement in rural areas.
- Non-structural interventions are introduced to raises resilience.
- Retrofitting and necessary structural adjustment are carried out in schools, hospitals and other critical district facilities.
- Internal and external risk assessment conducted and dilapidated health and school facilities are identified with proper survey.
- Detail land use maps are available with TMAs to future planning and management.

**7.1.9 Strategic Priority Area 9-Strengthening of the emergency response system at district Poonch**

The purpose of the emergency response system is to enhance the district authorities and DDMA capacities to manage local level disasters using a comprehensive State/national response approach. To achieve this, the DDMA will incorporate all disaster management activities form preparedness to response. The DDMA will devise a framework for emergency response at different levels in the district. To mount an effective response system, it is of paramount that organization roles and coordination mechanism is strengthened. DDMA will Identify the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, and lays down coordination mechanism for activities with UN, I/NGOs, civil society, the news media public and private sector, and local philanthropists to bring together a full range of local capabilities to manage any disaster. Enhancing the coping capacities of the response organizations (Rescuee1122, DDMA's etc.) with the provision of the Hi-tech response equipment along with the trained human resource and operational vehicles are crucial to meet any eventuality. For effective emergency response, strengthening and establishment of emergency operation centers, warehouses, Rescue 1122 services, capacity building programmes for government officers and volunteers and the development of all hazard specific contingency plans are quite urgent t district level.

**Actions to be implemented in 2016 – 2020**

| Action to be taken | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | Responsible Organization |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------------------|
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------------------|



|   |  |  |  |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|---|
| <p>9.1. Equip already constructed storage facilities/warehouse, with designated staff, relief material relevant to the prevailing hazards and geographical settings and communication means</p>                       |  |  |  |  |  | <p>SDMA, DDMA, WFP, Donor agencies</p>                            |
| <p>9.2 Develop/revise the contingency plan</p>  |  |  |  |  |  | <p>All district line departments and DDMA</p>                     |
| <p>9.3. Establish DEOC to deal with emergencies at district &amp; provide all necessary equipment/fixtures for the DEOC</p>   |  |  |  |  |  | <p>SDMA, DDMA, P&amp;DD, Donors, NDMA</p>                         |
| <p>9.4 Enhance the coping capacities of the response organizations (Rescuee 1122, /DDMA etc.) with the provision of the hi-tech response equipment along with the trained human resource to meet any eventuality.</p> |  |  |  |  |  | <p>AJK Govt., Federal Govt, P&amp;DD and Donor agencies.</p>      |
| <p>9.5 Conduct Government Officers Emergency Response Exercise (GOERE) to focus on disaster contingency</p>   |  |  |  |  |  | <p>SDMA, NIDM, DDMA, TMA, State and District line departments</p> |

|   |  |  |  |  |  |                                  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|----------------------------------|
| planning and simulation exercises at district level, aligned to vulnerabilities of district with respect to various disasters |  |  |  |  |  |                                  |
| 9.6. Develop pool of emergency responders/ volunteers at UC/Village level   |  |  |  |  |  | DDMA, Civil defence, PRCS, & CSO |

**Outcome/Key target set for the priority area 9**

- Revise/update contingency plan by each department. The contingency plans are aligned with DM Plan of the District Poonch as well as departmental DM Plan. Inclusive approach applied in the contingency plan.
- All the relief stock (food, medicine, relief supplies and rescue equipment) is prepositioned in Warehouse established at Poonch.
- UCDMC are fully equipped with necessary life saving items to be used during any emergencies. DM communities are properly trained in equipment utilized during emergencies
- DEOC are fully functionalize and have the human resources capacity to work 24/7 during emergencies
- Training workshops are organized on Damage and Needs Assessment. Conduct regular drills and exercises to fill format before disasters
- Pool of emergency responder is available and professionally trained at local level.

# Annexures

## Annex-A: Important Contact Numbers

| <b>Designation</b>                      | <b>Contact Number</b> |
|---|-----------------------|
| <b>Commissioner</b>                     | 920050                |
| <b>Deputy Inspector General, Police</b> |                       |
| <b>Deputy Commissioner Poonch</b>       | 920052                |
| <b>Senior Superintendent Police</b>     | 930001                |
| <b>AC Rawalakot</b>                     | 920057                |
| <b>AC Hajira</b>                        | 920228                |
| <b>AC Thorarr</b>                       | 921312                |
| <b>AC Abbaspur</b>                      | 921009                |
| <b>DFO</b>                              | 920132                |
| <b>XEN Operations Electricity</b>       | 920111                |
| <b>SE Highways</b>                      | 920138                |
| <b>XEN Highways</b>                     | 920144                |
| <b>DDS</b>                              | 920027                |
| <b>DHO</b>                              | 920046                |
| <b>DEO Male</b>                         | 960017                |
| <b>DEO Female</b>                       | 960019                |
| <b>Administrator Baldya</b>             | 920178                |
| <b>District Food Controller</b>         | 920155                |
| <b>AD Civil Defense</b>                 | 920160                |

## Annex-B: Pictures of Consultative Process







## Annex-D: Azad Jammu & Kashmir Disaster Management Act, 2008

**AZAD GOVT OF THE STATE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
Law, Justice, Parliamentary Affairs and Human Rights Department  
\*\*\*\*\*

'Muzaffarabad'  
Dated: 27.06.2008

No./LD/Legis./ 437-51 /2008. The following Act of Assembly received the assent of the President on 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2008, is hereby published for general information.

**[Act I of 2008]**

An  
Act

to provide for the establishment of a Disaster Management System for  
Azad Jammu & Kashmir

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for an effective disaster management system  
and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto;

1. **Short title, extent and commencement.**- (1) This Act may be called the Azad Jammu & Kashmir Disaster Management Act, 2008.  
(2) It extends to the whole of Azad Jammu & Kashmir.  
(3) It shall come into force at once.
2. **Definitions.**- In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-
  - (a) "affected area" means an area or part of the Azad Jammu & Kashmir affected by a disaster;
  - (b) "disaster" means a catastrophe, or a calamity in an affected area, arising from natural or man made causes, or by accident which results in a substantial loss of life or human suffering or damage to, and destruction of, property;
  - (c) "disaster management" means managing the complete disaster spectrum including-
    - (i) preparedness;
    - (ii) response;
    - (iii) recovery and rehabilitation; and
    - (iv) reconstruction.
  - (d) "District Authority" means the District Disaster Management Authority established under Section 13;
  - (e) "District Plan" means a Disaster Management Plan prepared for a particular district under Section 16;
  - (f) "Government" means the Azad Government of the State of Jammu & Kashmir;
  - (g) "Authority" means the Azad Jammu & Kashmir Disaster Management Authority established under Section 8;
  - (h) "Plan" means the plan for disaster management for the whole of the territory of Azad Jammu & Kashmir prepared under section 10;
  - (i) "Commission" means the Disaster Management Commission established under Section 3;
  - (j) "Director General" means Director General of the Authority appointed under Section 8(3) of this Act; and



(k) "Prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

## CHAPTER II

### **THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

3. **Establishment of Disaster Management Commission.**-(1) As soon as may be after the commencement of this Act the Azad Government of the State of Jammu & Kashmir may, by a notification in the Official Gazette, establish a Commission to be known as the Disaster Management Commission.
- (2) The Commission shall consist of:-
- (a) The Prime Minister of Azad Jammu & Kashmir who shall be the Chairperson, ex officio;
  - (b) Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly;
  - (c) Senior Minister;
  - (d) Minister for Communication, works, reconstruction & rehabilitation;
  - (e) Minister for Health;
  - (f) Minister for Relief & Rehabilitation;
  - (g) Minister for Social Welfare;
  - (h) Minister for Forest;
  - (i) Minister for Civil Defense;
  - (j) Minister for Planning and Development;
  - (k) Chief Secretary, Azad Govt. of the State of Jammu and Kashmir;
  - (l) Senior Member Board of Revenue;
  - (m) Inspector General Police, Azad Govt. of the State of Jammu & Kashmir;
  - (n) Secretary Finance, Azad Govt. of the State of Jammu & Kashmir; and
  - (o) Representatives of civil society or any other person appointed by the Prime Minister.
  - (p) Such other member or members as may be appointed by the Prime Minister in consultation with the Leader of opposition.
- (3) The Director General, appointed under sub-section (3) of section 8 shall act as *ex officio* Secretary of the Commission.
4. **Meetings of the Commission.**-(1) The Commission shall meet as and when necessary and at such time and place as the Chairperson of the Commission may think fit.
- (2) The Chairperson of the Commission shall preside over the meetings of the Commission.
5. **Appointment of officers, and other employees of the Commission.** The Government shall provide the Commission with such officers, consultants and employees, as it considers necessary for carrying out its functions.

6. **Powers and functions of Commission.**- (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Commission shall have the responsibility for laying down the policies, plans and guidelines for disaster management.
- (2) Without prejudice to generality of the provisions in sub-section (1), the Commission may-
- (a) lay down policies on disaster management;
  - (b) approve the Plan for territory of Azad Jammu & Kashmir;
  - (c) approve plans prepared by the Departments, Divisions & Districts;
  - (d) lay down guidelines to be followed by the Government;
  - (e) arrange for, and oversee, the provision of funds for the purpose of mitigation measures, preparedness and response; and
  - (f) take such other measures for the prevention of disaster, or the mitigation, or for preparedness and capacity building for dealing with disaster situation as it may consider necessary.
- (3) The Chairperson of the Commission shall, in the case of emergency, have power to exercise all or any of the powers of the Commission but exercise of such powers shall be subject to *ex post facto* ratification by the Commission.
7. **Constitution of advisory committees by the Commission.**-(1) The Commission may constitute an advisory committee or committees as required, of experts in the field of disaster management.
- (2) The members of the advisory committees shall be paid such allowances as may be prescribed by the Government.
8. **Establishment, of the Azad Jammu & Kashmir Disaster Management Authority.**-(1) The Government shall, immediately after issue of notification under sub-section (1) of section 3, establish an Authority to be known as Disaster Management Authority (hereinafter referred to as the Authority) for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
- (2) The Authority shall consist of such number of Members as may be prescribed and shall include the Chairperson and the Director General.
- (3) There shall be a Director General of the Authority, to be appointed by the Government, on such terms and conditions, as may be prescribed.
9. **Powers and functions of the Disaster Management Authority.**- The Authority shall-
- (a) act as the implementing, coordinating and monitoring body for disaster management;
  - (b) prepare the Plan to be approved by the Commission;
  - (c) implement coordinate and monitor the implementation of the policy;
  - (d) lay down guidelines for preparing disaster management plans by different Ministries or Departments.

- (e) provide necessary technical assistance to the Governments Districts Management Authorities for preparing their disaster management plans in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Commission;
  - (f) coordinate response in the event of any threatening disaster situation or disaster;
  - (g) lay down guidelines for, or give directions to the concerned Ministries or Departments and District Management Authorities regarding measures to be taken by them in response to any threatening disaster situation or disaster;
  - (h) for any specific purpose or for general assistance requisition the services of any person and such person shall be a co-opted member and exercise such power as conferred upon him by the Authority in writing;
  - (i) promote general education and awareness in relation to disaster management; and
  - (j) perform such other functions as the Commission may require it to perform.
10. **Plan.**-(I) There shall be drawn up a plan for disaster management for the whole of the territory of Azad Jammu & Kashmir.
- (2) The Plan shall be prepared by the Authority having regard to the policy and in consultation with the expert bodies or organizations in the field of disaster management, and approved by the Commission.
- (3) The Plan shall include-
- (a) measures to be taken for the prevention of disasters or the mitigation of their *effects*;
  - (b) measures to be taken for the integration of mitigation measures in the development plans;
  - (c) measures to be taken for preparedness and capacity building to *effectively* respond to any threatening disaster situations or disaster; and
  - (d) roles and responsibilities of different Ministries or Departments of the Government in respect of measures specified in clauses (a), (b) and (c).
- (4) The plan shall be reviewed and updated annually.
- (5) The Government shall make appropriate provisions for financing the measures to be carried out under the plan.
11. **Guidelines for minimum standards of relief.**- Subject to directions of the Commission, the Authority shall lay down guidelines for the minimum standards of relief to be provided to persons *affected* by disaster which shall include,-
- (a) the minimum requirements to be provided in the relief camps and *affectees* in relation to shelter, tents, food, drinking water, medical cover and sanitation;

- (b) the special provisions to be made for vulnerable groups;
  - (c) *ex gratia* assistance on account of loss of life as also assistance on account of damage to houses and for restoration of means of livelihood; and
  - (d) such other relief as may be necessary.
12. **Relief in loan repayment, etc.**-Subject to such directions as the Commission may give, the Authority may, in cases of disasters of severe magnitude give directions regarding relief in repayment of loans or for grant of fresh loans to the persons affected by disaster on such confessional terms as may be appropriate.

### CHAPTER III

#### **DISTRICT DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY**

13. **Constitution of District Disaster Management Authority.**-(1) The Government shall, as soon as may be after issue of notification under sub-section (1) of section 3, by notification in the Official Gazette, establish a District Disaster Management Authority for every district.
- (2) The District Authority shall consist of such number of members, as may be prescribed by the Government, and unless the rules otherwise provide, it shall consist of the following members, namely:-
- (a) Deputy Commissioner of the District who shall be Chairperson, *ex officio*;
  - (b) SSP/SP of the District, member, *ex officio*
  - (c) the District Health Officer, member, *ex-officio*;
  - (d) the Assistant Director Civil Defence member, *ex-officio*;
  - and (e) such other district level officers, to be appointed by the Government; and
  - (f) Member of Legislative Assembly of Azad Jammu and Kashmir from the respective affected area.
14. **Powers of Chairperson of District Authority.**-(1) The Chairperson of the District Authority shall, in the case of an emergency, have power to exercise all or any of the powers of the District Authority but the exercise of such powers shall be subject to *ex post facto* approval of the District Authority.
15. **Powers and functions of District Authority.**-(1) The District Authority shall be the district planning, coordinating and implementing body for disaster management and take all measures for the purposes of disaster management in the district in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Authority.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions, the District Authority may-
- (a) prepare a disaster management plan including district response plan for the district;

- (b) coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Policy, and Plan;
- (c) ensure that the areas in the district vulnerable to disasters are identified and measures for the prevention of disasters and the mitigation of its effects are undertaken by the departments of the Government at the district level as well as by the local authorities;
- (d) ensure that the guidelines for prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response measures as laid down by the Authority are followed by all departments of the Government at the district level and the local authorities in the district;
- (e) give directions to different authorities at the district level and local authorities to take such other measures for the prevention or mitigation of disasters as may be necessary;
- (f) lay down guidelines for preparation of disaster management plans by the departments of the Government at the districts level and local authorities in the district;
- (g) monitor the implementation of disaster management plans prepared by the Departments of the government at the district level;
- (h) lay down guidelines to be followed by the Departments of the Government at the district level;
- (i) organize and coordinate specialized training programmes for different levels of officers, employees and voluntary rescue workers in the district;
- (j) facilitate community training and awareness programmes for prevention of disaster or mitigation with the support of local authorities, governmental and non-governmental organizations;
- (k) setup, maintain, review and upgrade the mechanism for early warnings and dissemination of proper information to public;
- (l) prepare, review and update district level response plan and guidelines;
- (m) coordinate with, and give guidelines to, local authorities in the district to ensure that pre-disaster and post-disaster management activities in the district are carried out promptly and effectively;
- (n) review development plans prepared by the Departments of the Government at the district level, statutory authorities or local authorities with a view to make necessary provisions therein for prevention of disaster or mitigation;
- (o) identify buildings and places which could, in the event of disaster situation be used as relief centres or camps and make arrangements for water supply and sanitation in such buildings or places;
- (p) establish stockpiles of relief and rescue materials or ensure

- preparedness to make such materials available at a short notice;
  - (q) provide information to the Authority relating to different aspects of disaster management;
  - (r) encourage the involvement of non-governmental organizations and voluntary social-welfare institutions working at the grassroots level in the district for disaster management;
  - (s) ensure communication systems are in order, and disaster management drills are carried out periodically; and
  - (t) perform such other functions as the Government may assign to it or as it deems necessary for disaster management in the District.
- 16. District plan.**-(1) There shall be a plan for disaster management for every district of Azad Jammu & Kashmir.
- (2) The District Plan shall be prepared by the District Authority having regard to the Plan as prescribed in Section 10.
- (3) The District plan shall be reviewed and updated annually.
- 17. Additional Powers of District Authority.**- For the purpose of assisting, protecting or providing relief to the community, in response to any disaster, the District Authority may-
- (a) give directions for the release and use of resources available with any department of the Government and the local authority in the district;
  - (b) control and restrict vehicular traffic to, from and within, the vulnerable or affected area;
  - (c) control and restrict the entry of any person into, his movement within and departure from, a vulnerable or affected area;
  - (d) remove debris, conduct search and carryout rescue;
  - (e) provide shelter, tent, food, drinking water and essential provisions, healthcare and services;
  - (f) establish emergency communications systems in the affected area;
  - (g) make arrangements for the disposal of the unclaimed dead bodies;
  - (h) direct any Department of the Government or any authority or body under that Government at the district level to take such measures as are necessary in its opinion;
  - (i) require experts and consultants in the relevant fields to advise and assist as it may deem necessary;
  - (j) procure exclusive or preferential use of amenities from any authority or person;
  - (k) construct temporary bridges or other necessary structures and demolish structures which may be hazardous to public or aggravate the effects of the disaster;
  - (l) ensure that the non-governmental organizations carry out their activities in an equitable and non-discriminatory manner;
  - (m) take such other steps as may be required or warranted to be

taken in such a situation.

#### CHAPTER IV

#### **MEASURES BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

18. **Government to take measure.**-(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Government may take all such measures as it deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of disaster management.
- (2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions, the measures which the Government may take shall include measures with respect to all or any of the following matters, namely:
- (a) coordination of actions of the Ministries and departments of the Government, Authority, governmental and non-governmental organizations in relation to disaster management;
  - (b) cooperation and assistance to Governments, as requested by them or otherwise deemed appropriate by it;
  - (c) requisition and deployment of armed forces, civil armed forces or any other civilian personnel or foreign contingents required for the purposes of this Act;
  - (d) coordination and mobilization with the United Nations agencies, international organizations and governments of foreign countries specially in disaster prone areas, for the purposes of this Act;
  - (e) establish institutions for research, training, and developmental programmes in the field of disaster management; and
  - (f) such other matters as it deems necessary or expedient for the purpose of securing effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.
- (3) The Government may extend such support to other countries affected by major disaster as it may deem appropriate.

#### CHAPTER V

#### **LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

- 19 **Functions of the local authority.**-(1) Subject to the directions of the District Authority, a local authority shall -
- (a) ensure that its officers and employees are trained for disaster management;
  - (b) ensure that resources relating to disaster management are so maintained as to be readily available for use in the event of any threatening disaster situation or disaster;
  - (c) ensure that all construction projects under it or within its

jurisdiction conform to the standards and specifications laid down for prevention of disasters and mitigation by the Authority and the District Authority; and

(d) carry out relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities in the affected area in accordance with the Plan and the District Plan.

(2) The local authority may take such other measures as may be necessary for the disaster management.

## CHAPTER VI

### **STATE INSTITUTE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT**

20. **State Institute of Disaster Management.**- (1) With effect from such date as the Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette appoint in this behalf, there shall be established an institute to be called the State Institute of Disaster Management.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the State Institute of Disaster Management shall be responsible for planning and promoting training and research and developing core competencies in the area of disaster management, documentation and development of national level information base relating to disaster management policies, prevention mechanisms and mitigation measures.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions, the State Institute, for the discharge of its functions, may-

(a) develop training modules, undertake research and documentation in disaster management and organize training programmes;

(b) formulate and implement a comprehensive human resource development plan covering all aspects of disaster management;

(c) provide assistance in state level policy formulation;

(d) provide required assistance to the training and research institutes for development of training and research programmes for stakeholders including Government functionaries;

(e) provide assistance to the Governments in the formulation of State level policies, strategies, disaster management framework and any other assistance as may be required by the Governments for capacity-building of stakeholders, Government including its functionaries, civil society members, corporate sector and people's elected representatives;

(f) develop educational materials for disaster management including academic and professional courses;

(g) promote awareness among stakeholders including college or school teachers and students, technical personnel and others associated with multi-hazard mitigation, preparedness and



response measures;

(i) undertake any other function as may be assigned to it by the Government.

## CHAPTER VII

### STATE DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE

21. **Establishment of State Disaster Response Force.**- (1) There shall be established a State Disaster Response Force for the purpose of specialist response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster.  
(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the force shall be constituted in such manner and the conditions of service of the members of the Force shall be such as may be prescribed.
22. **Control, direction, etc.**- The general superintendence, direction and control of the State Disaster Response Force shall vest in, and exercisable by, the Authority.

## CHAPTER VIII

### FINANCE, ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT

23. **State Fund for Disaster Management.**- (1) The Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a Fund to be called the State Disaster Management Fund for meeting any threatening disaster situation or disaster.  
(2) The State Disaster Management Fund shall be financed from the following sources, namely:-  
(a) grants made by the Federal Government;  
(b) grants mad by the government;  
(c)loans, aid and donations from the national or international agencies; and  
(d) donation received from any other source.  
(3) On commencement of this Act, the following Funds shall become part of the State Disaster Management Fund, namely:-  
(a) Prime Minister's Disaster Relief Fund;  
(b) any other Fund relatable to natural calamities established at State level as the Government may determine;  
(4) The State Disaster Management Fund shall be kept in one or more accounts maintained by the Authority, in local or foreign currency, in any scheduled bank and shall. be operated in accordance with the directions of the Authority.  
(5) The State Disaster Management Fund shall be administered by the Authority towards meeting the expenses for emergency preparedness, response, mitigation, relief and reconstruction.
24. **Allocation of funds by the Governments.**- The Government, in their annual budgets, make provisions for funds for the purposes of carrying out the activities

and programmes set out in its disaster management plan.

25. **Emergency procurement and accounting.**- (1) Where by reason of any impending disaster situation or disaster, the Authority or District Authority is satisfied that immediate procurement of provisions or materials or the immediate application of resources are necessary for rescue or relief it may authorize the concerned department or authority to make the emergency procurement and in such case, the standard procedure requiring inviting of tenders shall be deemed to be waived.

(2) A certificate about utilization of provisions or materials by the controlling officer authorized by the Authority or District Authority, as the case may be, shall be deemed to be a valid document or voucher for the purpose of accounting of emergency procurement of such provisions or materials.

#### CHAPTER IX

#### OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

26. **Punishment for obstruction. etc.**- Whoever, without reasonable cause,
- (a) obstructs any officer or employee of the Government or a person authorized by the Authority or District Authority in the discharge of his functions under this Act; or
  - (b) refuses to comply with any direction given by or on behalf of the Government under this Act;
- shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine, or with both, and if such obstruction or refusal to comply with such directions results in loss of lives or imminent danger thereto, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.
27. **Punishment for false claim.**- Whoever knowingly makes a claim which he knows or has reason to believe to be false for obtaining any relief or assistance for repair, reconstruction or other benefits consequent to disaster from any officer of the Government, the Authority or District Authority, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years or with fine or with both.
28. **Punishment for false warning.**-Whoever makes or circulates a false alarm or warning as to disaster .or its severity or magnitude leading to panic shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to one year or with fine.
29. **Failure of officer in duty or his connivance at the contravention of the provisions of this Act.**- Any officer, on whom any duty has been imposed by or under this Act and who refuses to perform or withdraws himself from the duties of his office shall, unless he has obtained the express written permission of his official superior or has other lawful excuse for so doing, be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine.

CHAPTER X  
MISCELLANEOUS

30. **Prohibition against discrimination.**- While providing compensation and relief to the victims of disaster, there shall be no discrimination on the ground of sex, caste, community, descent or religion.
31. **Power of requisition of resources, provisions, vehicles, etc. for rescue operations, etc.**- If it appears to the Authority, District Authority or any officer as may be authorized by it in this behalf that-
- (a) any resources with any authority or person are needed for the purpose of prompt response;
  - (b) any premises are needed or likely to be needed for the purpose of rescue operations; or
  - (c) any vehicle is needed or is likely to be needed for the purposes of transport of resources from disaster affected areas or transport of resources to the affected area or transport in connection with rescue, rehabilitation or reconstruction;
- such authority may, by order in writing, requisition such resources or premises or vehicle, as the case may be, and may make such further orders as may appear to it to be necessary or expedient in connection.
32. **Payment of compensation.**- Whenever any authority requisitions any premises there shall be paid to its owner compensation the amount of which shall be determined by taking into consideration the rent payable in respect of the premises, or if no rent is so payable, the rent payable for similar premises in the locality.
- Provided that any owner of premises being aggrieved by the amount of compensation so determined may Within thirty days make an application to the Government.
- Provided further that where there is any dispute as to the title to receive the compensation or as to the apportionment of the amount of compensation, it shall be referred to the Government.
33. **Direction to media for communication of warnings, etc.**- The Authority or a District Authority may give direction to any authority or person in control of any audio or audio-visual media or such other means of communication as may be available to carry and warnings or advisories regarding any impending disaster situation or disaster, and such authority or person shall comply with such direction.
34. **Annual report.**- (1) The Authority shall prepare once every year, in such form and at such time as may be prescribed by rules, an annual report giving a true and full account of its activities during the previous year and copies thereof shall be forwarded to the Government which shall lay it before the Azad Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly.
- (2) The District Authority shall prepare once every year, in such form and at such time

as may be prescribed by rules, an annual report giving a true and full account of its activities during the previous year and copies thereof shall be forwarded to the Authority.

35. **Bar of jurisdiction.**- No court or tribunal shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceeding in respect of anything done, action taken, orders made, direction, instruction or guidelines issued by the Government, Authority or District Authority in pursuance of any power conferred by, or in relation to its functions, by this Act.
36. **Indemnity.**- Officers and employees of the Government, Authority or District Authority shall be immune from legal process in regard to any warning in respect of any impending disaster communicated or disseminated by them in their official capacity or any action taken or direction issued by them in pursuance of such communication or dissemination.
37. **Action taken in good faith.**- No suit or prosecution or other proceeding shall lie in any court against the Government or the Authority or the District Authority or local authority or any officer or employee of the Government or the Authority or the District Authority or Local Authority in respect of any work done or purported to have been done or intended to be, in good faith, done by such authority or Government or such officer or employee or such person under the provisions of this Act or the rules made thereunder.
38. **Delegation of powers to the Authority.**- The Commission may, for effective implementation of the policy on disaster management, by general or special order delegate to the Authority any of its powers or functions under this Act subject to such conditions as it may think fit to impose.
39. **Act not to derogate from other laws.**- The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of any other law for the time being enforce.
40. **Power to make rules.**- The Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.
41. **Removal of difficulties.**- If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make such order, not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, as may appear to it to be necessary or expedient for the removal of the difficulty.
42. **Repeal.**- The Azad Jammu and Kashmir Disaster Management Ordinance, 2008 (Ordinance V of 2008) is hereby repealed.

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**(Raja Zulqarnain Khan)**  
President  
Azad Jammu & Kashmir

**(Sajid Amir Suddozai)**  
Section Officer (Legislation)

