

# 100 Days Agenda: One Impactful Decision

## Disaster Response Teams (DRTs) of NYKS Youth for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

### Proposal

Disasters and climate change are key focus areas of global development agenda. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) is recognized as an integral part of sustainable development programme which could be only achieved by relying on the development of resilient communities. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015 - 2030 emphasizes the vital role of volunteerism at national and local levels in accordance with legislation, national practice and educational curricula. In particular, youth volunteerism plays a pivotal role in building resilient communities by becoming “engaged actors in their own development.”<sup>1</sup>

Any disaster requires a quick response to save lives, contain the damage and prevent any secondary disasters. Affected community is always the “First Responder”. In most instances, this takes place spontaneously, outside any organized setting. Volunteers from the community play a vital role in immediate response to any disaster. National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Force and other organised services including police, fire services etc. take some time to reach the disaster sites. In the meantime, volunteer groups not only provide initial rescue and relief services but also act as link between the affected community and institutions arriving at the scene, thus strengthening response by the government actors. Volunteers also work as “force multiplier” particularly when the emergency services have to be reached to the remotest affected community.

The High Power Committee (HPC) Report on Disaster Management, India, highlighted the role of volunteer action and suggested ‘organising of a nationwide network of NGOs with an acronym VASUDEVA – Voluntary Agencies for Sustainable Universal Development and Emergency Voluntary Action with the intention of creating a bridge between the NGOs and the Government sector as also within the NGOs working in the field of disaster management’<sup>2</sup>. The National Disaster Management Plan 2016 (NDMP 2016) also strongly

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Volunteers, ‘UNV Synthesis of Evaluations: A Synthesis of UNV Evaluations from 2000 through 2009 (2010), p. 6.

<sup>2</sup>[http://nidm.gov.in/pubs/HPC\\_Report](http://nidm.gov.in/pubs/HPC_Report)

emphasizes the role of volunteers under training, capacity building and other preparedness and response activities which will be coordinated by the National Executive Committee (NEC). It is therefore proposed to establish institutional mechanism for organized and structured engagement of NYKS by creating Blok Level Disaster Response Teams (DRTs) of volunteers as first responders in hazard prone districts. It is proposed to cover such districts in India in a phased manner in collaboration with National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMA).

### **Concept**

To begin with and on pilot basis, 32 multi-hazard Districts from 28 States/UTs (excluding Chhattisgarh because NDRF has not identified a hazard prone district in that State) have been selected in consultation with NDRF (Annexure I). 295 blocks have been further selected in 32 districts. 30 youth volunteers from NYKS Youth Clubs will be selected from each Block. The pilot seeks to build the capacity of about 8,850 youth volunteers (DRTs) through 6 days customized training on disaster response at 12 battalions of NDRF including pre-disaster preparedness, community awareness, disaster preparedness planning, post-disaster response and relief activities at village/block level. Costs will be shared between DoYA/NYKS and NDRF. The costs of resource persons and partially for the lodging will be borne by NDRF. DoYA will bear cost of transportation to battalion, training consumables, boarding and partially for the lodging-amounting to Rs. 4,69,05,000/- for 8850 volunteers. Total cost per youth volunteer is Rs 5,300/- .The trained DRTs will be activated and deployed by NYKS and DDMA in the event of disasters.

Each concerned NYKS District Youth Coordinator will prepare an Action Plan in consultation with DDMA and approval of concerned DM for continued community level engagement of trained volunteers which would include deployment of trained volunteers in the District Control Rooms/Emergency Operation Centres, normal time DRR and other activities; undertaking mock drills at local levels; generating DRR awareness amongst village communities; peer education; addressing Gram Sabha meetings on DRR; encourage participation in events such as 26<sup>th</sup> January Parade etc. Activities and achievements of Volunteers would be recognized as 'NDRF-friends' and rewarded at district level. The activities would be monitored and reviewed periodically by NYKS, DDMA and NDRF. Data of

DRT's will be collated and made accessible on NYKS website. NYC of concerned district where Youth have been trained in DRR will be responsible for data entry/maintenance. Being in public domain data will be accessible to DDMA & NDRF. The database will be linked with India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN-a nation-wide electronic inventory of resources that enlists equipment and human resources, collated from districts, states and national level line departments and agencies). This inventory of trained volunteers will enable the district authorities to track, mobilize and deploy trained volunteers for disaster preparedness and response.

Linkages to be established with DDMA will be built into the design of the scheme. DG NYKS will write to Chief Secretaries and DM's of concerned States and districts informing them of the initiative. The Youth trained in DRR will undergo an Induction ritual in the District where they will be formally inducted into the district disaster response force by concerned DM.

### Objectives

- To put in place an institutional mechanism i.e. DRT's for organized and structured engagement of NYKS volunteers for DRR as first responders
- To provide/encourage platforms to trained volunteers during normal time for community awareness and preparedness
- To maintain comprehensive data base on trained DRT's for ready call/deployment

### Process & Timeline

Activity		Time Line
1.	Consultation meetings with NDRF	July 2019
2.	Secure funding (For 1st year, from NYKS program and to be followed by SFC/EFC for future years, if required)	August 2019
3.	Identifying hazard prone districts and hazard prone blocks in consultation with NDRF	August 2019 (already done)
4.	Sign MoU with NDRF for collaboration with NYKS.	August, 2019
5.	Orientation of NYKS Youth Coordinators (Department of YA & NDRF). Before it, a VC to be organized with State Directors of NYKS at NDRF office, which shall be jointly addressed by NYKS and NDRF officials on 09 <sup>th</sup> August 2019.	19 <sup>th</sup> August 2019

Activity		Time Line
6.	Based on selection criteria, select 30 youth (male and female) between the age group 18 – 29 years from identified Blocks and a total of about 8,850 youth from 28 States/UTs & form batches of 30 Youth per training (295 blocks)	August 2019
7.	Finalize training design and plans with NDRF	August 2019
8.	Finalize Standard Operating Procedures for NYKS District Youth Coordinators for Volunteer engagement during normal time	19 <sup>th</sup> August 2019
9.	Establish linkages with District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA).A letter jointly signed by DG/NYKS and DG/NDRF to be issued to respective state government and DMs by 20 <sup>th</sup> August 2019.	August 2019 onwards
10.	Conduct batch-wise customized 6 days professional training at 12 NDRF battalions.	September 2019
11.	Establish data base of DRTs Volunteers	September 2019 onwards
12.	Review at district level by NYKS, DDMA and NDRF units	Continuous
13.	Upscale to similar districts	Year wise plans

### Key Performance Indices (KPIs)

- No. of youth volunteers professionally trained by NDRF
- No. of youth mobilized for disaster response activities
- Awareness generation by trained Volunteers amongst communities

### Year Wise Plans

Year -1 (2019-2020)	Year -2 (2020-2021)	Year -3 (2021-2022)	Year -4 (2022-2023)	Year -5 (2023-2024)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Launch of the programme</li> <li>• Training to 8850 youth volunteers</li> </ul>	Upscale the training to 11,070 youth volunteers	Upscale the training to 11,580 youth volunteers	Upscale the training to 12,090 youth volunteers	Upscale the training to 12,600 youth volunteers

