







Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India

## WEBINAR REPORT

## 'Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in Himachal Pradesh' MUNICIPAL CORPORATION SHIMLA

In Collaboration with

USAID- Government of India-United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Under the Project

"Developing Resilient Cities through Risk Reduction to Disaster and Climate Change"

## 26th December 2020

On behalf of UNDP and Municipal Corporation Shimla a webinar on 'Disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction in Himachal Pradesh' under the USAID-Gol-UNDP project entitled "Developing Resilient Cities through Risk Reduction in the context of Disasters and Climate Change" was held on 26th December 2020. The project's main aim is to reduce disaster risk, institutional strengthening and community resilience in various components of disaster management of which one is disability inclusiveness in all its programmes and policies. Over the world there are millions of disabled persons with considerable difficulties in functioning in one form or the other. Under the sustainable development Goals, Sendai framework and even PM Modi's 10-point agenda disability inclusiveness has been stressed upon at all levels of planning and within all communities. Looking into the hilly terrain of Shimla city and Himachal Pradesh, where it's difficult for normal individuals to go about their daily chores it is difficult to perceive how difficult it would be for those with some form of disability which rises from old age as well as from some physical ailments or accidents. Thus, keeping in with the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities as small sensitization webinar has been undertaken by UNDP-MC Shimla for understanding disability as a human rights and development priority.

This session was Inaugurated by the Additional commissioner Municipal Commissioner Shimla Sh Ajit Bhardwaj, he addressed the need of incorporating acts and policies in the disaster management plan related to persons with disability looking into the various Hazards of the city. He said that we are planning to make an action plan, built the capacities of the institutions and persons for addressing the special needs of the community, so that they can continually strive to enhance their opportunity and

participation at all levels of society. He talked of SDGs goal of leaving "no one behind" which recognises the need to reach to each and everyone.

First session was taken by Sh. Parul Sharma head Indian operations World Enabled and previously was the Indian representative for The Global Initiative for Inclusive Information and Communication Technologies (G3iCT) as well as for the Smart City for All Campaign and GAATES programmes. He has worked with the national and the state governments related to persons with disability. The one-and-a-half-hour session taken by him was on the various policies and programmes of the United Nations Organisations of SDGs goal, Sendai framework on DRR and prime Ministers 10-point agenda. He explained what does inclusiveness of Disability planning means, why there is need of including the acts, policies of people with disability in all disaster management plans of the state/ district / departments and city He by giving examples of various countries stressed on what needs to be done by the planners and policy makers for the inclusiveness of Persons with Disability. How disability justice can help remove the barriers that affect such people in the community. Hence better design, accessibility and positive attitudes towards such people can empower them all.

The session was followed by Question-and-answer round by the participants who were from across the country. A participant who was himself physically challenged had joined from Vishakhapatnam and asked for how other cities can join in this building capacities like in Shimla. There was a ball of questions by the participants which continued for about half an hour.

The next session was undertaken by Sh. Navneet Yadav, Associate Director at 'Doers'- a Shimla-based humanitarian organization working towards resilience and sustainability in the Himalayan region of India. He stressed on the needs and challenges of the state of Himachal Pradesh with regards to disability inclusiveness in Disaster Risk Reduction. He also recommended areas for advocacy and Action towards disability inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction.

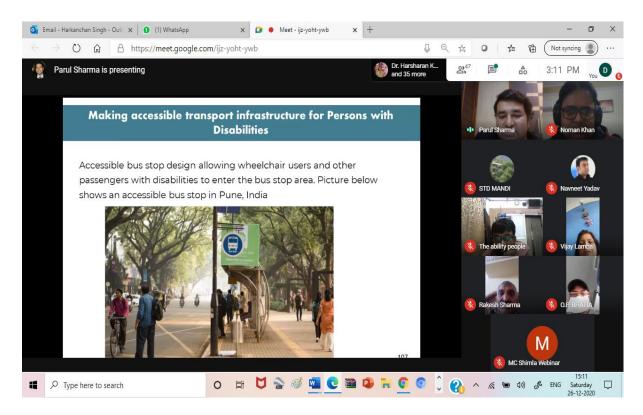
The two and a half hour session had total of 50 participants from across various organisations of the country like Vishakhapatnam, Jharkhand, Pune, Hyderabad and Delhi who support and work towards empowering the person with disability and from Mandi, Kullu, Sirmour, Kangra from Himachal Pradesh Webinar saw participants from across various streams, it included elected members of the city, departments like DDMAs., Home Guards, CORD, H.P. University, Health and NGOs across the state among a few to mention.

The session was closed with a vote of thanks from the City Project Coordinator, UNDP Dr Harkanchan Singh and a melodious song by Muskan Negi Mundiyan, the Ambassador of Himachal Pradesh for various programmes, who was also a participant in this webinar on behalf of UMANG Foundation, Shimla with regards to disability.

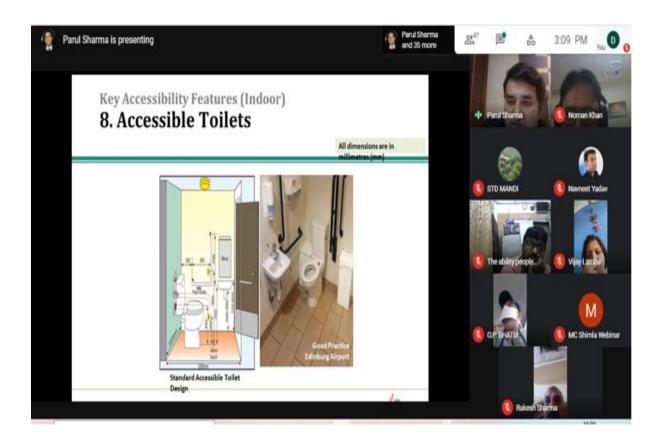
## Some Screen shots of the Webinar

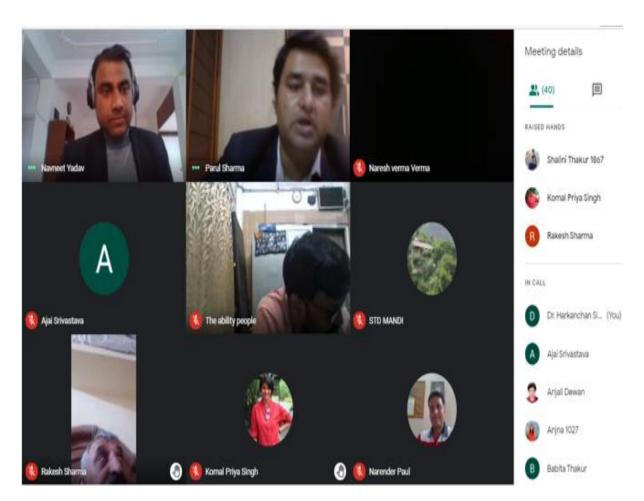


Inaugural Session graced by Additional Commissioner Shimla Municipal Corporation Sh. Ajit Bhardwaj



Session one by Sh. Parul Sharma head Indian operations World Enabled





Second session conducted by Sh. Navneet Yadav, Associate Director - 'Doers Shimla