



Government of Odisha
Housing and Urban Development Department
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From

G. Mathivathanan, IAS
Principal Secretary to Government

To

All Collector & District Magistrates
All Commissioners & Executive Officers of ULBs.

Sub: Guidelines for implementation of Urban Wage Employment Initiative (UWEI) under "UNNATI"

Madam / Sir,

The current lockdown measures imposed in response to COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted the livelihood opportunities of the Urban Poor. It is apprehended that COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to push vast majority of informal sector workers in India deeper into poverty, with the lockdown and other containment measures affecting jobs and earnings.

In Odisha, about 1/3rd of the people in the urban areas (approximately two million) may face severe consequences especially with reduction of working hours, decrease in wages and abrupt layoffs.

In this context Government has decided to implement **Urban Wage Employment Initiative (UWEI)** for enabling the urban poor who are mostly working in the informal sector to get immediate wages by execution of labour intensive projects. This Initiative may be considered as a component under UNNATI to tackle COVID-19 situation which will be executed in all the 114 Urban Local Bodies of the State for a period of six months. Further, provision for Rs 100 Crore is made under UNNATI

for spending under this new initiative. The scopes for which the projects can be taken up are given detailed below:

Under **UWEI**, works will be identified in ULBs that will provide temporary employment for the urban poor and simultaneously support monsoon-preparedness and creation of public asset and maintenance in ULBs. Odisha receives high intensity rainfall for a short spell and the idea is to conserve rain water, prevent flooding and beautify urban areas in the state. In order to retain rain water, water harvesting structures are to be constructed that will minimize runoffs through storm water drains. The conserved water will then be used to recharge ground water sources like natural ponds and reservoirs. Added to that, de-silting and repair of storm water drains will be carried out to redirect maximum quantum of runoff water without causing localized flooding. Similarly, efforts will be taken to increase green cover by plantation drives in public lands, road side, parks, near banks of rivers/water bodies. For all of these activities, job-seekers will be identified and provided employment opportunities based on their skills. Specific activities to be carried out are as follows:

(1) Storm Water Drainage:

Solid refuse passing into drainage reduces runoff capacity as well as has environmental impacts downstream, increasing the frequency of flooding in cities.

Activities to be undertaken:

- (a) Pre - monsoon de-silting of drains, removal of silt and deposits in low-lying areas.
- (b) Installing steel grills/screen/mesh at the confluence/outfall points of the drainage channels to filter out solid waste.
- (c) Ensuring drains with covers without any gaps to avoid accidents.

(2) Rain Water Harvesting:

There is a need for systematic rain water harvesting to minimize runoff and recharge ground water in cities.

Activities to be undertaken:

(a) Construction of rain water harvesting structures/percolation tanks in public premises, parks, play grounds, and other locations as the ULBs may deem appropriate.

(b) Development of new water bodies, public parks/playgrounds based on local needs and availability of vacant government lands either in the books of ULBs/Development/Planning Authorities or any other Government Department/Agency with due approval of District Collectors concerned without transferring/alienating the land. Water bodies, parks and play grounds would be designed as public spaces, where additional features like walking tracks, street furniture, and arrangements for lighting, drinking water, toilets, garbage bins and adequate greenery would be planned. No machinery will be used for digging the new water bodies.

(c) Manual clearing of water hyacinths in existing ponds.

(3) Increase in green cover and beautification:

Monsoons are conducive for increasing the green cover due to availability of plenty of water.

Activities to be undertaken:

(a) Plantations to be done at medians, road dividers, parks, open spaces, near water bodies etc. Nurseries of the Forest Dept. & other Govt agencies may be leveraged for sourcing plants and seedlings.

(4) Sanitation

Activities to be undertaken:

(a) Clearance of Construction & Demolition (C &D) waste and processing through SHGs for recycling and reuse.

(b) Construction of Public Urinals at high footfall zones.

(5) Community centers & Open Space development:

Creation of work space and space-based development are necessary for revitalizing neighborhoods and retaining the socio-cultural character of

