

Urban Health and Climate Resilience Centre

(On going project)



Lead Institution:

TARU Leading Edge Pvt. Ltd., Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC), Surat Climate Change Trust (SCCT).

Partner Institutions:

Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Government Medical College Surat, Surat Municipal Institute of Medical Sciences And Research, Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology, Centre For Social Studies, National Institute of Urban Affairs, Delhi, School of Public Health-Chandigarh, Urban Health Society of India, Gilling's School of Global Public Health - USA, University of Michigan - USA, and London School of Hygiene And Tropical Medicine –UK

Background:

Urban Health is a new arena in India as well as other developing nations on the other hand these countries are rapidly urbanizing. Climate Change is likely to posing more serious challenges in urban area. There is an urgent need to research and document Urban Health and Climate Resilience challenges and solutions as well as to design appropriate need based trainings and network of the institutions to strengthen and spread the evidence based knowledge and skill. While the situation of urban health has been attracting little attention, the health department within Surat Municipal Corporation has been continuously improving their systems since 1990's.

Surat city with 4.4 million populations (*Census 2011*) ranks 2nd in Gujarat state and 12th in India as the most populous city. Surat one of the few clean cities of India has earned several awards for initiatives in urban development, urban health, and urban environment. Today city claims to have a model urban health administration and service infrastructure.

As a response to the emerging need of urban health and climate resilience, the history of Surat with respect to its health systems qualifies it be an ideal location for the establishment of the centre in India.

Objective:

Establishing an Urban Health and Climate Resilience Centre which could help Surat and other municipalities to improve their urban health management through evidence-based research, improved surveillance, and the development of operating procedures among city lifeline services departments.

Committee:

Governing board and two committees including executive committee and advisory committee are appointed to examine the functionality, policy, administration and expenditure of the UHCRC.

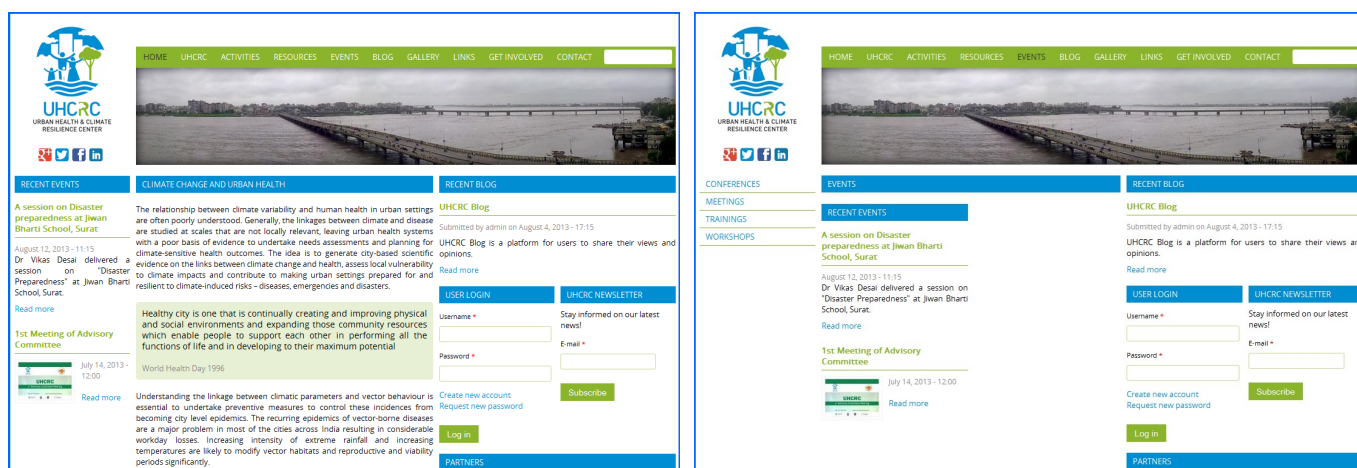
Governing Board: SCCT is Governing Board which has representatives from various institutions like Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC), Centre for Social Studies (CSS), Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SGCCI), Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology (SVNIT), Irrigation department, academic institutions and other subject experts.

Executive Committee: Deputy Commissioner, Health & Hospital, Surat Municipal Corporation chairs the Executive Committee- UHCRC. Medical Officer and Deputy Medical Office of Health, Surat Municipal Corporation, Director- UHCRC and Senior Public Health Consultant- UHCRC are the key members of Executive committee to provide technical support to centre.

Advisory Committee: Expert in Public Health, Urban Planning, Disaster Management, Environment Health from national and international institutions are the advisory committee members of centre to guide for research, advocacy and training and also to build a strong network for the same.



UHCRC Web Portal



Implementing Approach:

The main objective of UHCRC is to develop a Center of excellence in Urban Health and Climate Resilience for research, advocacy, training, documentation, networking and dissemination towards achieving the goal of “Healthier Citizens in Healthier Cities”. This is planned to be achieved through:

- Developing public health climate change adaptation strategy for city of Surat and networking opportunities to scale up activities in other cities
- Formation of a public health working group to steer the Centre’s establishment and advise on climate change scenarios and their impacts on existing public health systems,
- Developing framework to evaluate and assess urban health programs and provide technical support for Surat and other urban local bodies.
- Undertaking capacity building activities in urban health sector in Gujarat and India

Key Achievements:

- The near real-time data collection and analysis is currently helping the health department predict disease outbreaks based on number / distribution of cases across the city and enables them take prompt action to prevent further spreading.
- Better visualisation of data and integration with ongoing government programs/schemes.
- Significantly reduce the number of patients affected by malaria, dengue and leptospirosis.

Organisation Details:

TARU Leading Edge Pvt. Ltd is a private research consultancy organization with an expertise is primarily in six core sectors: Disaster Risk Management & Climate Change, Governance & Institutions, Natural Resource Management, Social Development, Urban Development, and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene. Within these sectors we undertake policy analysis, strategy development, action research, programme design, project management support, assessments and evaluations.



ACCCRN was launched in 2008 and is funded by The Rockefeller Foundation as part of their 9-year initiative aimed at building Climate Change Resilience. Climate change resilience is the capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function at an acceptable level. Simply, it is the ability to survive, recover from, and even thrive in changing climatic conditions. ACCCRN works at the nexus of climate change, vulnerable and poor communities, and urbanization.



Surat Climate Change Trust (SCCT) is a city level public trust registered under Bombay Public Trust Act 1950 (Registration No. E-7266/Surat) having its office at City Engineer’s Office, Surat Municipal Corporation, Main Office, Muglisara, Main Road, Surat, Gujarat – 395 003. Surat Climate Change Trust is promoted by Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC), which comprises of members from various institutions including Surat Municipal Corporation, South Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industries (SGCCI), Academic Institutions (SVNIT, CSS) and state level stakeholders such as NWRWS as well GSDMA etc. at Surat.



Urban Health and Climate Resilience Centre (UHCRC) established based on the results of a health sector study which was carried out in year 2010, under the ACCCRN Phase II. UHCRC also builds the knowledge and operating procedures established in Surat.

