
Resilience Against All Odds



SEEDS Annual Report 2020-2021



KEYNOTE

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The year 2020 was marked by overlapping crises, as the same restrictions which kept us safe from COVID-19 pushed millions into poverty and displacement. The strongest cyclonic storm ever recorded in the Bay of Bengal, Cyclone Amphan, hit the eastern regions, while the longest flood inundated the southern regions. Health, economy and education all stood upended by uncertainties. Millions of children missed out on learning opportunities in their most formative years. Vaccination, key to containing COVID-19, was beset with vaccine supply chain uncertainties. Meanwhile, the effects of climate change continued to accelerate.

As much as 2020 has been a year of grief, it has equally been one of strength. Necessity bred courage, innovations and, ultimately, solutions. Partnerships, research and innovation paved the way to building back better and continued to enable us to stay relevant to the needs of the people who needed it the most. True to our core principles and values, SEEDS has firmly kept its focus on the poor, vulnerable and marginal groups who have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

Volunteers, frontline workers and field workers as well as the entire SEEDS staff have shown extraordinary resilience against extraordinary difficulties. Our programmes went the extra mile to engage with new vulnerabilities – provide ration kits in remote islands cut off due to lockdown, skill training for Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) workers faced with economic crises, shelter for those displaced by severe floods, hazard mapping through Artificial Intelligence. SEEDS's focus on each case has been to explore innovations that address specific needs and have the potential for larger impacts.

The ongoing pandemic, climate change and rising inequalities have marked the start of a new decade, but SEEDS armed with the strength it derives from the people it has reached, the unbending determination of its workforce and unwavering support of its partners, will surely tackle the challenges that emerge in the future.

Manu Gupta and Anshu Sharma
Founders, SEEDS

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MISSION, VISION, CERTIFICATES & ALLIANCES

VISION

Transforming the vulnerable into resilient and thriving communities

MISSION

Equipping the most vulnerable with appropriate tools and technologies, sharing knowledge and skills and promoting linkages among stakeholders to prevent loss of life and suffering.

STRATEGY 2030

SEEDS 2030 strategy is dedicated to enabling the bottom 1% of those vulnerable to climate emergencies – helping them withstand it, secure their future potential and thereby that of the larger community. They will live in safer homes, go to safer schools and access safer health facilities. Through a growing network of partners and young ambassadors, we aim to work in 100 identified districts.

Certifications & Alliances SEEDS is certified by and is a signatory to:

- The Code of Conduct for The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) - an international certification system for quality and accountability in disaster relief
- Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)
- GuideStar India
- Credibility Alliance
- Give India

We are members of and allied to:

- Alliance for Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (AADRR)
- Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN)
- Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance (ALNAP)
- Climate Action Network (CAN) South Asia
- The International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)
- The Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR)
- The Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)
- Start Network and a member of India Hub of the Start Network
- Sphere India
- Owner Driven Rehabilitation Collaborative (ODRC)
- Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)



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SEEDS STRATEGY 2030

Our vision of *transforming the vulnerable into resilient and thriving communities* provides a central theme for SEEDS STRATEGY 2030. It describes what is referred to as the triple bottom line approach of capturing an expanded spectrum of values when planning for the future and in measuring results. It signals that we are using an approach to decision-making that produces social, cultural, economic, and environmental benefits. The phrase conveys that the people, economic welfare, and our relationship to the planet are tied together in a mutually supportive and interdependent way. Social and environmental goals cannot be achieved without sustainable livelihoods — and achieving economic stability is highly related to social well-being and environmental quality.

Millions of changed lives, hundreds of houses built, dozens of community events and workshops with the support of selfless volunteers, supportive partners and generous donors. All of this hard work from comes together to create **Strategy 2030** which seeks **to enable the bottom 1% of vulnerable to climate emergency, to withstand it and secure their future potential and thereby that of the larger community in in 100 identifiable districts.**

Strategy 2030 does not only capture our values, highlight our goals and ambitions, but also wrestles with our challenges. How do we protect vulnerable in the context of rising climate risks? How do we mitigate the compound impact of extreme weather events and the pandemic? How can we incorporate capacity building into everything we do, and ensure that everyone has access to meaningful opportunity?

Key components:

Digital Platform: To achieve scale, SEEDS will build an inclusive digital platform to enable exchange of knowledge, practices and promote learning.

Network of Networks: SEEDS will build a network of individuals, organisations, volunteers, staff to ensure implementation capacity in all 100 districts.

Funding System: A robust funding system will be set in place to power ten-year programme; funding partnerships will be established with partners organisations both local and international, who share the same vision. New forms of funding would be explored to enable access to the bottom 1%.



REWARD & RECOGNITION

Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2021 by Government of India

One of the biggest milestones for SEEDS has been the distinction of receiving the prestigious **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2021**, presented by the Government of India. To recognise and honour the contribution and service rendered by individuals and organisations in India for excellence in the field of Disaster Management, Government of India has introduced the annual award which coincides with Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birth anniversary on 23 January, in whose honour it has been instituted.

The national award recognised SEEDS's efforts in building community resilience to disasters through readiness, response, and rehabilitation, building local capacities and enabling risk reduction at the community level in different states of India. In the aftermath of earthquakes in India (2001, 2005, 2015), SEEDS had mobilised a group of building masons who are adept in carrying out disaster resistant construction. These masons have become ambassadors in local communities across several emergencies in multiple states.

The award brings to light the importance of local leaders engaged by SEEDS in capacity building to reduce the vulnerabilities in their communities; the importance of school safety by enabling community leaders and teachers in identifying, assessing, and managing risks in their own local communities; significance of citizen fora, comprising representatives of local resident welfare associations, market trader associations and local groups in the states, to serve as a bridge between district authorities and communities for joint implementation of programmes on public health and safety.

This national honour is a testament to the two decades of humanitarian work that SEEDS has been doing. As SEEDS turns a new leaf towards the strategic goal to impact over 300 million lives by 2030 across 200 climate hotspots in India, the **Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar 2021** not only serves as a reminder to the lives changed but also as a boost to the commitment of building resilient communities through innovation and community awareness. The award belongs not just to SEEDS, but to all those who have been a part of this journey.

Business World Design Award

Our focus of creating and designing a sustainable world was recognised with a prize in the third edition of Business World's Future of Design Award in the 'Space Category'. The award was created keeping in mind the massive disruption caused by the pandemic, and the need-of-the-hour design solutions created for problems that plague mankind.

The award recognises and felicitate the best prototype and finished designs by designers, architects, innovators and businesses. The acknowledgement recognises SEEDS efforts towards its build back better approach that is helping communities become resilient to disasters.

Especially in the context of working with the most vulnerable communities in Assam that are hit by floods almost every year as the monsoon brings heavy rain, the award is a badge of honour that highlights SEEDS's journey of touching human lives and making them future ready. The devastating floods of 2017 in Assam led to loss of lives and livelihood, displacing thousands. Partnerships formulated a collaborative effort to design and build 81 core houses. Architects and artisans worked together to develop disaster-resilient construction techniques. These houses have already faced three floods after construction and have successfully survived. This clearly demonstrates the relevance of integrating indigenous knowledge with contemporary building technologies.

Board Of Directors



Dr Vikas Goswami, President

Dr Goswami is an alumna of Delhi University, University of Wales and Harvard University. She currently heads the Consulting Division at Boundless Environment Resource Solutions Private Limited. Vikas chairs the Governing Board of SEEDS.



Dr Manu Gupta, Vice President

Dr Gupta is an alumnus of the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi, and Kyoto University, Japan and the co-founder of SEEDS.



Dr Anshu Sharma, Secretary

He is an alumnus of the School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi, and Kyoto University, Japan and the co-founder of SEEDS.



Dr Barsha Poricha, Director

Dr Poricha is an alumna of Delhi School of Economics, Centre of Environmental Planning and Technology Ahmedabad, Erasmus University Rotterdam and Ambedkar University and is currently Deputy Technical Cell Head at the Centre for Urban and Regional Excellence.



Mr Rajesh Bheda, Member

An alumnus of National Institute of Fashion Technology Delhi, The Manchester Polytechnic University, and Faculty of Management Studies Delhi, Mr Bheda is the Principal and CEO of Rajesh Bheda Consulting (RBC).



Ms Samhita Das Sharma, Member

An alumnus of Shri Ram College of Commerce, Kathak Kala Kendra and Indian School of Business, Ms Das Sharma is currently Regional Director Strategy and Operations at Abbott India.



Dr Lalita Menon Daikoku, Member

With a Masters in Gandhian Thought and a PhD in Peace Studies, Dr Menon Daikoku has been working with organisations such as Sarvodya International Trust to promote the ideals of truth, non-violence and humanitarian service. She is also a guest lecturer at Delhi University, and an accomplished English Language Trainer.



Dr R Kuberan, Member, Council of Advisors

He is a Disaster Management expert with many years of experience across Vietnam, India and Afghanistan. He has held the position of International Facilitator, Natural Disaster Mitigation Partnership, UNDP Project, Vietnam. He holds a doctorate in Civil Engineering from IIT, Delhi and completed his M. Tech in Geotechnical Engineering from IIT Delhi.



DISASTER RESPONSE FUND

Responding to Disasters without Delay

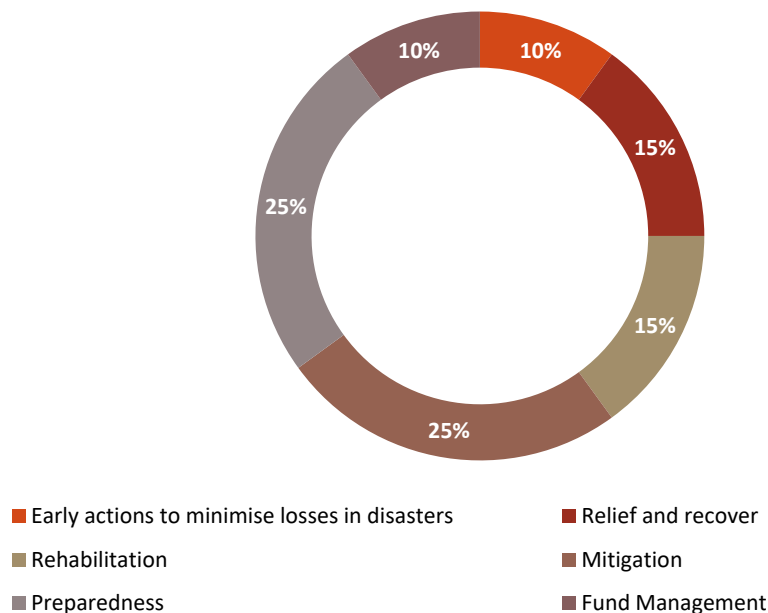
In 2001, when the Gujarat Earthquake, our phones wouldn't stop ringing and news poured in from all corners. The local community relied on us to connect donors and organise relief and respond to the crisis on the ground. SEEDS realises the need for an urgent, action-driven, transparent way of mitigating climate-induced disasters and humanitarian crises and thus seeks to create Disaster Respond Fund (DRF), a funding mechanism for responding to emergencies in an expedited manner.

DRF represents a pool of money for immediate emergency response funding. The fund is an important part of the organisation's overall disaster response capacity. The advantage of creating such a system allows the organisation to immediately act on needs from the field. This will enable SEEDS to provide for immediate and long-term community needs nimbly and effectively. Keeping accountability in mind, the funding mechanism will have an independent oversight and governance, under the SEEDS governance and policies and will be visible directly to prospective funders.

How is DRF structured?

- The use of funds would be to ensure the improvement of overall quality and effectiveness of SEEDS response to disasters and emergencies
- The funds will also be used to augment ongoing response activities
- DRF funding can be used to also support small and medium scale disasters
- Each response supported can be different in terms of the scale, scope, the needs of the affected communities and capacity of SEEDS to respond

Deployment of Disaster Response Fund





RELIEF TO THE POOREST

Creating security nets for the vulnerable

COVID-19 Response 2020

A Year Like No Other

As the world faced a crisis with the pandemic, SEEDS and its partners swung into action. The country-wide lockdown, a decision of the government, while was certainly the need of the hour, has also however led to obvious several operational disruptions. Amidst the ongoing nation- wide turmoil and crisis, SEEDS made constant endeavours to contribute as significantly as it could and to the best of its



reach and ability. In the times of such chronic crisis, with all activities on near standstill, fulfilling basic requirement of food and ensuring no one sleeps hungry was extremely critical to the efforts of SEEDS.

Replacing fear with hope



Our COVID response approach was targeted towards India's high-risk zones with high rate of infections, delivering response that leaves no-one behind, working with communities to ensure the most vulnerable and invisible groups such as farmers, migrant labour, transgenders, sex workers etc. are supported during COVID-19 outbreak and enhanced Govt infrastructure by delivering essentials equipment and medical supplies to treat people.



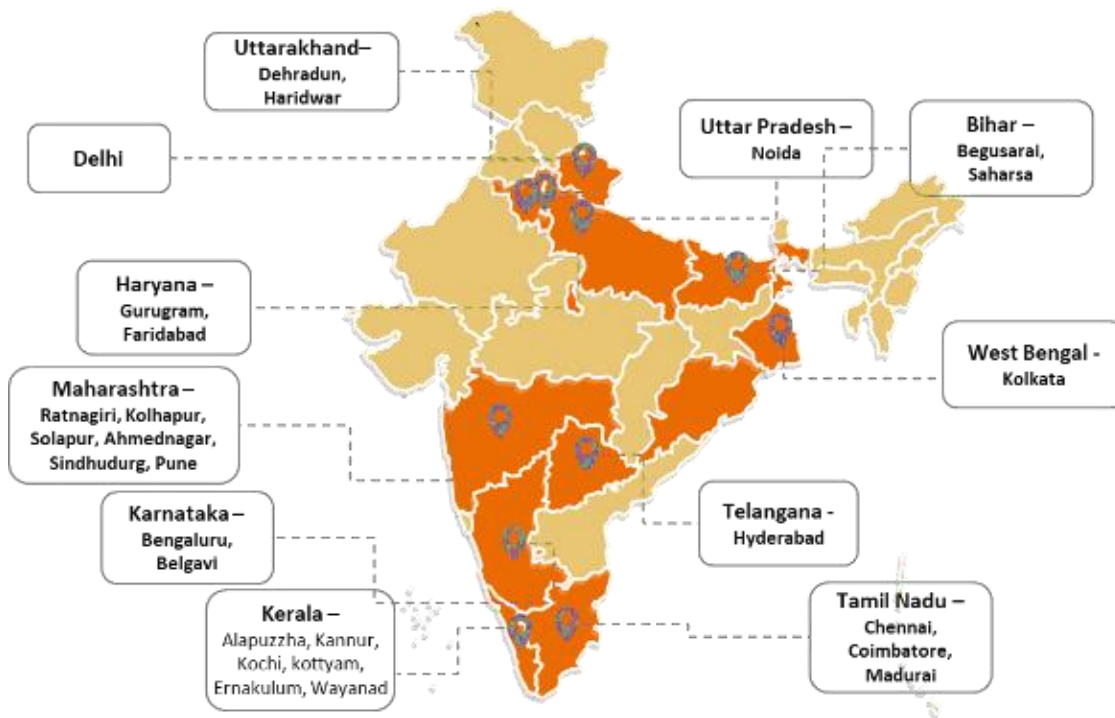
The needy were provided interim reliefs such as access to ration for a month. Continuous interactions with the administration and local government officials highlighted other concerns and issues faced by the communities and delved on ways of addressing them. SEEDS managed with its relentless efforts to reach out to the distressed even in remote locations where no aid had reached its people till then from any other organisation. The ration kits comprising essential items

and basic hygiene items were thoughtfully assembled to help families with food as well as cleanliness to fight the pandemic.

Furthermore, we observed that there was a severe shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the health sector is posing safety challenges to many frontline workers, who by nature of their work are exposed to serious repercussions of the pandemic. Lack of PPE for workers left them with no choice but to either work without the safety gears or undesirably re-use the same, hence in both the situations inviting life threatening consequences. Distributing PPE kits for the safety of the frontline warriors is the bare minimum care that we must offer to them at this hour. Their safety and wellbeing will keep them going in further ensuring the sustenance of these emergency health services to the impacted community, where the cases are at the peak.

Our teams mobilised on the ground and with the support of our partners were able to provide ration and hygiene kits to vulnerable families in Gurugram, Bengaluru, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra, Kerala, Bihar, Noida, Kolkata, Cochin, Coimbatore, Odisha, Hyderabad and Madurai. The needs of these communities were identified in advance through rigorous field surveys conducted by the team. Daily wage labourers and marginalised families were the primary focus of the distribution drive. Our team selected the best grade dry ration kit materials ranging from wheat, rice, cooking oil etc. The hygiene level of materials was checked, and the kits were marked safe for distribution.





Creating financial security for MSMEs

The impact of the Covid-19 induced lockdowns resulted in a crash of the informal sector markets impacting a large number of low-income workers comprising migrant labour and their families. Many micro-enterprises in the urban and semi-urban areas are struggling with liabilities occurred during the lockdown leaving a very large number of workers and their families with a sudden loss of even basic income. Providing a support at this stage to the migrant labours and their families to meet their daily needs, was extremely critical.



Need assessment survey through mobile application

A mobile application was developed by SEEDS technical team to digitally collect data from such enterprises. The application had questions that were very relevant in choosing the right group of enterprises for our interventions. There were also provision to collect detailed data of the enterprise owner as well as its workers. The GPS co-ordinates of each of the enterprise, images from all sides of the enterprise, of owner and its workers, assets used by the enterprise were all collected using the application. The survey was conducted door to door in Kochi as well as Patna with the support of local volunteers. An offline mode also was developed in the application to ensure that we are able to collect data even in areas where mobile network was weak. Post completion of the survey in both the cities, the data was compiled into an excel file. This data was then analysed based on the annual turnover of each of these enterprises, their digital and social marketing knowledge, number of workers depending on these enterprises etc. Weightage points were given to each of the enterprise

post analysing. Based on the weightage points, we selected a total of 64 enterprises in Kochi, 50 enterprises in Patna.

Mapping of MSME ecosystem

To provide a long-term support for the enterprises, ecosystem mapping of the MSME was carried out in the states of Kerala and Bihar. Data regarding policies and schemes under various stakeholders who will be able to support these enterprises were collected. This includes financial institutions (including banks which provide loan to the MSME units, Government financial institutions which support the enterprises etc. Government departments which have schemes supporting the units including subsidiaries, Digital marketing websites/applications, Training institutions who will be able to build capacity of the workers in enterprises, Industry or workers association etc. Post data collection from all of them, SEEDS analysed the schemes/policies of each of the institutions and providing linkages to the enterprises so that they can avail the benefits of all these schemes.

All among the selected enterprises were shut down for months during lockdown. The owners of these enterprises were unable to pay the workers their wages during these days as there was no business taking place. Even after re-opening the enterprise post lockdown, the workers are paid only half their normal salary since business is not as normal as before. This had hugely affected the livelihood of the worker families as this income was their major source of living.

Our team conducted a survey to collect the bank account details of each of the workers in the selected enterprises. From the data received from the wage support survey and through multiple levels of data verification, wage support was provided to the workers in the identified workers from Kochi and Bihar.

Training Needs Assessment

Another survey form was created by SEEDS team to collect data regarding the kind of training which each of the enterprise require. This included options regarding better marketing, digitisation, Covid-19 precautions, training required for the workers and many more. One to one discussion was done with the owners of the enterprises to collect relevant data. Each of



the questions and options were well explained to them to ensure that we receive precise data. Based on the data received, analysis will now be done, and necessary trainings will be provided to the enterprise owners as well as workers. A WhatsApp group was created with selected MSME owners, SEEDS team and a panel of experts who have immense knowledge in government schemes, registration procedure and documentations and other schemes which various financial institutions provide. SEEDS' team communicate with the owners through this platform and their queries are addressed in real time. This platform is also used to share meeting links of various discussions held regarding the issues faced by enterprises during lockdown and providing them information about various support schemes introduced by central and state governments.

Numbers at a glance



Beacon of Hope

Sujeet Kumar Sharma, a worker in a small grill factory situated in Dulhin Bazar, Patna, is the only bread earner of his family. Due to the lockdown, he lost his job and received little compensation which was not sufficient to meet the family's needs. He even took loan from moneylender on huge interest when his children got sick.



"I stand in long queues to get ration for my family but many of time I came home empty handed and there were days when we all have to sleep empty stomach. Which impact the health of my old parents as well as my children. So many times, I think about committing suicide but my responsibilities towards my family didn't allow me to do it. I even sold my wife ornaments to fulfil the basic need of food which also last for few days. It was then, I came to know about an assessment conducting by a humanitarian organisation SEEDS for the small-scale workers who usually get very few assistance from Government. It was through them I received ration and hygiene items which would be sufficient to feed my family for at least 20 days. Now I am engaged with SEEDS for enhancement of skills which may give fruitful results in future."

- Sujeet Kumar Sharma, Worker in an enterprise, Dulhin Bazar, Patna

Let's Share Bread Together!



"When my little children start crying for milk and meals, I see no other option than to hide my face to the other corner. The riots had already turned our world upside down and now, this lockdown has destroyed us, completely," said Geeta (Laxman's wife). However, after receiving the ration kit, the family looked quite happy as Geeta continued, *"This has helped us in this crisis and shall provide us with interim relief for many days to come. We are very happy and thankful to you all"*.

In the month of February, this year, the newspapers, social media platforms and rest of the sources of information were all jam-packed with the stories of loss and survival from the heart of the country. Amongst hundreds of the families who lost their home, livelihood and prosperity, one as Laxman's. Laxman, a construction worker, had been earning a meagre wage toiling day and night in a factory until the riots broke out in North-East Delhi months ago. The communal tension tore apart the family's happiness as well as means of sustenance. He had started earning half of his usual income and then as if it was not enough, the lockdown, due to the Pandemic was announced. Laxman, dwelling in Shiv Vihar, Delhi with his five children, wife and mother was left with barely any money to share bread amongst themselves.

A Ray of light

Acute poverty and no source of income forced Nathu Paswan to migrate from Bihar's Begusarai to Gurugram, Haryana years ago. With a large family to feed, Nathu went one place to another in search of a job but ended up in vain. After a rough hunt, he finally decided to pull rickshaw to earn bare minimum meal. Presently, Nathu is a Rickshaw Puller in Carterpuri, Gurugram (Haryana). He had been under lockdown like the rest of the people in the country. But for him, it has not been easy. His family had to skip meals to adjust the availability of their ration stock. For some days, he had been lucky when the neighbors turned up for help. Once the lockdown lifted, he resumed his work.

Nomads fighting hard to survive the lockdown

"I thought that situation will be normal afterwards, but I was wrong. Now, everything has changed. People are scared to ride on a rickshaw. To prevent the contamination of Coronavirus, they are avoiding public transports," said Nathu. He continued, *"I have registered to get ration for so many times but never received any."* The civil defense volunteers found him sitting in despair at the corner of a park. On enquiring, Nathu narrated his agony. Within a day, he received a call from SEEDS and came to the venue to collect food grains. On his return, Nathu said with a smile, *"I had lost hope but now, I know, humanity still exists"*.



Needless to say, Nomads were one among many communities that are worst affected by the pandemic. The complete countrywide lock down took a heavy toll on their erratic incomes which many of them in Gurugram where they earned their livelihoods through roadside ayurvedic medicines and toy shops. SEEDS identified 20 such families living in Gurugram and supported them with interim relief by distributing ration kits. Many in the community are not registered for benefits under government schemes and have not received cash transfers, while none have received any wages. Chandrawati, who is in her late 50's and belongs to a gypsy community in Chittorgarh relying upon seasonal incomes.

" We often migrate from one state to another, engaging in various occupations such as farming or other domestic works despite this, we continue to face stigma, poverty and marginalisation. Why? Our community is generally considered as outcast, but I am thankful to SEEDS and BATA, for thinking about us, reaching out and providing us with interim relief", said Chandrawati

Kerala Flood Response 2019

Rebuilding homes, Restoring lives

Unprecedented monsoons in 2019 resulted in floods that created havoc across various states in India. The rain led to the rise in the level of the Krishna River, causing flooding and landslides in several parts of Kerala. Many structures were damaged, partially, or completely, and several were declared unfit for living as their locations were in landslide prone areas. The floods of 2018 and 2019



in Kerala not only provoked severe damage to various public and private infrastructures but also rendered many people homeless. Government schools were also amongst the worst affected by floods and heavy rains rendering damages to its structure. This year, we continued with our recovery efforts with homes and school related initiatives.

Brick-by-Brick

Sugandhagiri in Pozhuthana, Wayanad, was one such location where people lost their houses as well as their land during the heavy downpour that led to landslides in 2018. The people living in the area belonged to the tribal community and were from poor economic backgrounds and rebuilding a house by themselves was not possible for them. They did not have land as well for reconstruction as they lost their land during the landslide, or their land was declared unfit for living.

Post the landslides, most of these families lived in temporary sheds either arranged by themselves or with the support of the Government, District administration and Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI). Out of the total 16 families, 7 families were identified from the 'Rebuild Kerala' list an initiative of the Kerala government to provide houses to the families who lost their shelters in floods and landslides. A sub-committee constituting Pozhuthana Panchayat President as chairman along with Vythiri Tehsildar, Tribal Extension Officer (TEO), Village Officer & ward representatives selected the remaining 9 families.



16 families who had lost their houses during the 2018 floods and landslides have now gotten better with new shelters equipped with necessary facilities in a non-landslide prone area of Sugandhagiri.

Environment Friendly Construction

It was ensured that environment friendly methods were followed throughout the construction. The rubbles used for the foundation of all the houses were those which already existed at the site and reused the rubbles of the old, demolished structures at the site. This reduced the transportation of heavy vehicles to this long hilly terrain and thereby reducing the carbon footprint.

The walls of the houses were built using compressed interlocking laterite mud blocks. Being an interlocking model, this reduced the usage of cement mortar in between the bricks as well as for exterior plaster. Roofs frames are of light gauge steel which could be recycled in future which in turn reduces the requirement for developing more construction material encouraging a greener earth. The use of natural wood was completely avoided for the construction process. The doors and windows were made using aluminium and PVC materials. This puts forward a message to avoid deforestation for the purpose of construction.

Build Back Better Approach

Being located nearby landslide prone areas, it is always necessary to ensure that the shelters being built are resistant to future hazards. Reinforced Cement Concrete (RCC) tie beams are provided at three levels for building a disaster resilient structure capable of taking better horizontal load. This also increases the structural stability of the shelters making it resistant to earthquake and heavy winds.

Sugandhagiri is one among the hilly areas which often experiences heavy winds. It was also necessary that we are following traditional roofing practice with roof tiles and not RCC. Hence, concrete roofing tiles were used, and these were screwed on to the structure so that even winds do not blow them away. The roof structure is constructed using Light Gauge Steel Framed structure (LGSF). Human causality can be minimized to a large extent as the structure is light weight and ductile if at all there is a minor chance of roof collapse.

Sujatha's Story



It is estimated that there are about 4 lakh tribal people living in Kerala and about half of this population has made the interiors of Wayanad their home. Tribal community were the original inhabitants of Wayanad region. But once the colonial era opened roads to this region and commercial plantations began to sprout, there occurred a migration of settlers to this region and during 1940s this migration enhanced tremendously displacing of the aborigines or Adivasis of the area. The tribes lost their land and dwindled in numbers and now they constitute only 20 percent of the total population of the district.

The native Adivasis of the district belong to various sects like Paniyas, Kurumas, Adiyars, Kurichyas, Ooralis, Kattunaikkans and Uraali Kurumas. Sujatha (name changed for privacy) is one among the family member from the Paniya tribe who has been living in the Sugandhagiri plantation area since a long time. Her house is in an area where there is no vehicle accessibility or neighbouring houses. She lives along with her husband and son who earn their livelihood through daily wage plantation jobs.

The heavy downpour in August 2018 affected Sujatha and her family members as they could not work during the rains. One night at around 11 pm, Sujatha heard mud falling over her house. She immediately woke up her husband and son and began searching for a safer area. There were no adjacent houses in the area. They had to rush down the hill at midnight to find shelter and could not carry any of their belongings.

Sujata and her family were finally rescued early in the morning and shifted to flood relief camps in a nearby government school. While Sujata planned to shift back to her old home post the monsoon, it remained damaged and unrepairable. Later the government declared this area as landslide prone and restrictions were made for any further construction or residence.

The panchayat authorities along with the health department permitted the family to stay in a primary health centre nearby until further provisions were made for a new shelter. This is when SEEDS identified her family with the support from the district, tribal development department and panchayat officials and helped them build a new home after months of struggle.

Education First

With the support from UWM, SEEDS completed the repair and restoration work at the Government Lower Primary School (GLPS), Panamaram, Wayanad. Interior walls of the block were painted with Low VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds). Traditional paints tend to have high amount of VOC which may cause several health issues. Considering the health of the students and teachers who spend most of their time in these school buildings, low VOC paints were used.



We were able to not only repair and restore the built environment of the school but also provide a healthy learning environment. Our efforts included promoting sustainable practices, providing safe environment, creating interactive child friendly learning elements and provision for student kits.

This benefitted 504 students learning in the institution and 28 staff members working. Our intervention will also increase the

number of students choosing this institution for their education in the coming years.

From the Headmaster's Desk

GLPS Panamaram is 108 years old and is the major institution of primary education in and around the panchayat. Around 150 students in the school belong to the tribal community. These children



are brought to the school by vehicles arranged by the Scheduled Tribes Development Department of the state Government.

The unprecedented downpour of 2018 and 2019 affected the school building to a large extent. Mangaluru tiles above the classroom blocks were broken and thereafter it was exceedingly difficult for the students to attend classes during rainfall due to water leakage. The school was also converted into flood relief camps for 2 weeks each in 2018 as well as in 2019. Usage of the bathrooms by multiple people resulted in damage of doors. The courtyard of the school was completely muddy, and it was exceedingly difficult for the students to reach the bathroom blocks during monsoon.

"The facilities of the school have now improved a lot. All our major problems were addressed, and the result is beyond what we expected it to be."

Chacko Prakash, who is the Headmaster of Government Lower Primary School, Panamaram 5 years.

Cyclone Fani Response

Steering Post Disaster Recovery in Odisha

In the wake of Cyclone Fani which hit in May 2019, several communities across Odisha are struggling to cope. The primary concern at present is that the recovery is slow. Some marginal groups may slip through the recovery nets. This means homes, schools and health infrastructure may be built in ways that are again vulnerable to the next disaster. This is a systemic problem seen after every major disaster.



In the immediate aftermath of Cyclone Fani, there was an urgent need to provide aid to the affected communities. SEEDS reached out to over 600 families in Pentakota area in Puri, which was the worst affected during the cyclone, with relief in the form of health, hygiene and home utility kits, followed by orientation programmes on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) for over 2000 people. Lastly, over 120 transitional

shelters were also constructed to rehabilitate the displaced families as part of early recovery efforts.

As a next step to accelerate rehabilitation and recovery, SEEDS and SELCO Foundation leveraged their skills for humanitarian action and sustainable energy use to design a model of green recovery for disaster resilience. The interventions were targeted at building the community's capacity to absorb shocks, recover faster and be better prepared and informed for the future. It follows a comprehensive bottom-up approach to improve the overall quality of life of people in the community especially focusing on sustainable and decentralised energy for disaster resilience.



Multi-faceted Interventions

Immediate benefits to the community included access to a safe built environment and decentralised energy. Landscaping was carried out in the school premises in the form of strategically positioned vegetation to reduce the surface heat gain and improve the microclimate. Energy efficient fixtures were also installed in both the school and the health facility to reduce the power consumption. 76 families were provided with energy access.

Other steps aimed to build awareness and effect long term behaviour change included innovative solutions such as a weather station and a carbon footprint calculator in the school. These would empower children to become sensitive to climate emergency and act as young change agents in their communities. Decentralised energy would improve energy security during disasters, ensure safety to the most vulnerable, establish ownership and wider acceptance of solar technology.

The work on field has been executed with support of partner organisation Spandan. Their team has been active in community mobilisation, conducting household surveys for baseline assessment, community meetings and design discussions with the stakeholders and supporting in monitoring and supervision of the project execution on ground.



Stories from the Ground



“Solar lighting in transitional shelters will reduce the community’s dependence on kerosene. The outcomes will be exceptionally positive. The solar lighting units will make our lives safer and easier. We will save money and no longer must search for firewood or travel to the nearest town to buy costlier kerosene.”

- Khetramoni Bhoi from Bira Balabhadrapur village



“Our house was severely damaged and communicating with people was very difficult at the time. We had to travel long distances over an hour away, paying up to Rs. 50 for the journey just to find phone charging points. The shelter we have moved to, now has solar units that can charge mobile phones. This has been a big sigh of relief.”

- Basanti Nayak, a resident of the Pratap Purusottampur Gram Panchayat

Temporary Homes

SEEDS provided 65 transitional shelters to the affected families in Puri district of Odisha. All 65 shelters were verified, oriented and the agreement was signed by the house owners. Structural frames were completed, roofing sheets placed with walling and wall-plastering till sill level. Community contribution is essential to have ownership. Door, window shutter and wall plastering with mud was part of community contribution. The material used was salvaged from damaged houses. The shelters are now being occupied by local families.



Women at the forefront

Youth volunteers, who were mostly female were heavily engaged in the project. This was done to help young people reach full social and human potential with a strong sense of civic engagement. The youth volunteers not only feel empowered but are also openly deliberating on issues and are contributing to social change.

Training and involvement of affected family members in community meetings were key components of SEEDS community-driven approach and showed the affected families their ability to deliver an increase in access to quality infrastructure and services in a cost-effective manner.



Water and Hygiene Practices

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) activities were organised towards the end of August 2020 abiding by the government guidelines wherein 20 people at a time were included in the programme. A total of 5 groups were oriented in different areas of Puri Sadar block. The total outreach was 186 participants (66 males, 81 females and 39 children). The objectives were to create awareness about safe hygiene and sanitation practices. Critical issues like preparation of ORS, hand washing practices, safe measures and practices during menstruation, use of boiled water as safe drinking water, measures to be taken while washing clothes and utensils were discussed during the sessions. Masks were also distributed amongst the participants.

Women-led-groups are strengthened to expand the space for them to participate in meaningful decision-making to further intensify to actively achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). However, it has been observed that women in Puri district of Odisha have inherent strength and capabilities to work on building the resilience for the family and their community.

Family Effort



Basanti Nayak, one of the active members of Nayak Sahi in Puri district of Odisha has involved her entire family in the process. However, their involvement in community meetings has been regular. The speed of her shelter construction has been tremendous.

Basanti mentions, "I can't measure the happiness in seeing our shelter proceeding towards the completion. We will work with more force". Further, the involvement has also resolved conflict relationships with her family members.

India Flood Disaster Response 2019

Renewing Hope, Rebuilding Lives

Unprecedented rain led to the rise in the level of the Krishna River, causing flooding in several parts of India. It severely affected and disrupted lives of thousands of people in Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra as well as several parts Bihar. The floods not only provoked severe damage to various public and private infrastructures but also left many people homeless. Government schools were amongst the worst affected by floods and heavy rains rendering heavy damage to its structure.



Transformed Institutions

With the support from UWM Qualcomm, SEEDS completed the repair and restoration work at - Higher Primary Boys School- Ankali, Karnataka, Higher Primary School and Maharashtra Higher Primary School Yadurwadi, Karnataka, Higher Primary School- Hale Yadur, Karnataka, Higher Primary School – Manjariwadi, Karnataka, Lower Primary School Borzainagar, Maharashtra, and Government Lower Primary School Thengumunda, Kerala.

Initial assessments based on rapid visual survey method was carried out to identify schools requiring interventions within the scope of repair and restoration works. Detailed assessments were conducted on the identified schools which included preparing measured drawings, carrying out non-destructive tests based on which list of activities/ interventions were mapped out.

The activities are mapped out to include infrastructural interventions, and enhanced learning space based on detailed assessment. Safety and Water, Health and Sanitation aspects were given due attention under which Sanitation facilities were repaired and schools were equipped with safety elements. Mural paintings were incorporated to enhance the learning environment.

Major themes of focus of interventions included repair and restoration of the built environment, providing healthy learning environment, ensuring universal accessibility, promoting sustainable practices, providing safe environment and creating interactive child friendly learning elements.

Report Card from Sugandha Naik, Teacher, Karnataka Higher Primary School Ankali



“Most houses in the village were flooded completely. Students and families around the village were shifted to this institution for immediate relief. Many of the students who learn here lost their houses partially and completely. This school acted as a relief camp for more than a month. This further worsened the situations here. I would like to mention that SEEDS does not compromise on the quality of works.

The team consulted with the school authorities before finalization of each works. Moreover, I appreciate the nature of SEEDS carrying out works without causing any disturbance to the ongoing classes. “

Restoring Community Safety

Kolhapur and Sangli district in Maharashtra remained worst floods affected districts. Many were rendered homeless and severe damage was caused to various public and private infrastructures in the state. To help flood affected communities get back on their feet, SEEDS with support from UWI, proposed a two phased approach towards recovery initiative: Immediate response and Recovery.

The community had lost essential hygiene and school materials to the flood and the water sources were contaminated due to the in surge of flood water making flood affected areas generally prone to waterborne diseases. To address these issues an immediate response was outlined which involved public health promotion activities, student and hygiene kit distribution and well cleaning and chlorination.

Based on initial assessments done it was observed that the anganwadis showed signs of deterioration like heavy seepage, structural and surface damages, lack of proper sanitation facilities etc. Many of these issues were due to lack of proper maintenance which was worsened by the floods. Cleaning and chlorination of water sources 45 bore wells, 14 open wells and 1 water tank were carried out. A total of fourteen anganwadis were restored.





“SEEDS came to our village and agreed to repair our Anganwadi made us take a deep relaxed breath. Even villagers are happy and mesmerized by the quality of work. They not only restored the old one but made the universal accessible by construction of the ramp. Provided the hygiene and safety materials too which we can use once the children start coming to Anganwadi. I thank SEEDS team for the wonderful work done here”

Savita Dilip Patil, Teacher, Anganwadi 10 Nagrale, Maharashtra

Jumpstarting Livelihoods

The district of Belagavi in Karnataka was majorly affected by the floods of 2019, resulting in severe damage to various public and private infrastructures and severely impacted livelihood of the families. To support the flood affected people in Karnataka with livelihood rebuilding opportunities and to ensure a long-term rehabilitation, SEEDS along with Shashwat Foundation enabled livelihood-based interventions in the affected villages. Based on the data received from various credible sources and direct field visits by the SEEDS team members, it was identified that the villages of Ingali, Yadur, Manjari and Ankali were worse affected by the floods and hence these villages belonging to Chikodi Taluk were chosen for our interventions.



Post field observations and assuring that the villages selected are the areas that can be selected for our intervention, a survey format was developed. The survey form was created to collect data regarding the effect that the floods had on each of the families and to check the interest of the people in being part of our intervention.

Focus group discussions were held multiple times at all the four villages. The leaders from the community, officials from Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRI), anganwadi workers and community members were part of the discussions held. Our plans of intervention were put forth to all these members and their suggestions and feedbacks on the same were taken into consideration.

A total of 165 flood affected families were selected for the backyard farming intervention. All of them were provided with seeds, saplings, training in preparation of organic manure and fertilisers etc. Members from SEEDS team also regularly visit the farms to monitor growth of the plants and provide support wherever necessary. A total of 80 youngsters were identified and selected for the training. Hands on practical training in masonry was also provided to all the participants. All the participants were also given certificates of participation which will help them earn better jobs. The practical session by the expert trainer involved construction of seaters for the community members. These seaters now can be used by them for various meetings and gatherings.

"I had a vegetable garden previously, but it was never organic. But now, I have not used any chemical fertilisers or pesticides. Taking care of these one-month-old vegetables have now become a family task. My family, especially my little son is very much interested in looking after them and supports in every way he can. I expect to get enough vegetables from these plants sufficient for my family. I'll also share the message of organic farming and the knowledge gained from this to my near and dear ones",



says Suresh Maruti Nigam, 38, native of Ingali village of Belagavi, Karnataka. He supports his family comprising his parents, wife and 2 children with agriculture as the only means of income. The floods of 2019 affected his cultivation badly and he lost his entire crop yield.

Public Health Promotion

A total of 2000 families were given awareness on Covid-19 precautionary measures through distribution of pamphlets. Graphic-oriented pamphlets communicate effectively with the villagers and spread awareness of corona virus and ways of its spreading. Eight sessions on water sanitation and hygiene (WaSH) and proper hand washing techniques were conducted for the students in schools and to the community living in the selected villages.

Developing Financial Instruments

Stakeholder convergence meetings were conducted in the Chikodi Taluka of Karnataka. Officials from taluk, gram panchayats, health workers, anganwadi teachers, ASHA workers etc. were part of these meetings. Eight social capital awareness building programmes were also conducted for the community members. A large number of locals, especially women were part of the sessions held. Various schemes of both central and state governments, Covid-19 awareness, need for Self Help

Groups (SHG) were all discussed in the sessions held in the villages. Additionally, 10 sessions on financial capital building were conducted for the community members. With the outbreak of Covid-19 followed by lockdown restriction, a few sessions were conducted through online communication platforms.

Rehabilitation in Bihar

Block Mahishi, Saharsa, Bihar comes under flood prone area as it falls under catchment area of Koshi basin. Due to frequent flood situation the water table of the area gets disturbed which also impacts the health of the local communities especially children. The continued torrential rain and flood water damaged the infrastructure of the villages which enabled the population to use clean water for drinking as well as other purposes.



Based on the situation of the of damage caused by the flood, SEEDS with support from Crisil

supported upgradation of damaged sanitation units and safe hygiene facilities covering four units of senior secondary schools of Mahishi village of North Mahishi GP and Thanwar village of Aarapatti GP of Mahishi block, Saharsa.

Access to drinking water & sanitation facility

Seeking permission from District Education Officer, SEEDS carried out toilet repair work and drinking water sources. Design development team initiated the process for drawing the layout and blueprint of upgrading drinking facilities as well as repairing of sanitation units. For this a detailed action plan with billing of quantities was developed with vigorous monitoring. The detailed action plan and layout of design with roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder was discussed with the school



authority, parents, panchayats and vendors under various consultative meetings for their inputs so that before finalizing the design correction, if any could be made. Based on the inputs of internal team and feedback from school authority, parents and panchayat members a design of sanitation units and drinking water was finalised and handed over to the implementation team of Bihar

Water supply system was also constructed for hand wash and sanitation purpose to maintain the hygiene of students and staff members as there was no arrangement for clean drinking. Installation of RO water filters were done.

Information Haven

A library each was established in the two targeted schools to provide the information resource to support the overall success of student by developing information research skills.

“My school had three toilets, and all were damaged, only one single toilet was working that too was in poor condition as all the staff as well as students were using it. It is not an unknown fact that adequate sanitation and toilets are necessities that ensure and promote the health of people. Therefore, intervention in this area was of utmost importance. Apart from that the drinking water facilities were also in a poor state as ground water was contaminated with excess of Iron which is unfit for drinking purpose. SEEDS with support from CRISIL foundation upgraded and retrofitted the pre-existing toilets with new design in my school while they also installed water purifier in

the campus for clean drinking water ensuring safety from disease and to maintain good health of our students and staff at work. I thank the entire team of SEEDS on behalf of all the teachers, staff and students.”

- **Ram Saran Chaudhary, Principal, Project Girls Higher Secondary School, North Mahishi**



Cyclone Amphan



Reaching the Unreachable

While the rest of the country grappled with COVID 19, West Bengal was juggling with the compound effect of the pandemic and cyclone Amphan which hit the state in May and widespread damage. The destruction in West Bengal's districts of East Medinipur, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Kolkata and Howrah were severe. There was distress in the families, but more than Amphan, that



caused breach of embankments in some areas, was lack of work forced by the lockdown adding woes to the people. In this critical time, SEEDS partnered with PepsiCo and delivered aid to the affected families. They are mostly daily wage earners such as domestic workers, laborers, rickshaw pullers, hawkers, tailors, small traders, luggage porters and members of fishing community.

The fishing community in South 24 Parganas, Patharpratima, were one of the most affected. SEEDS team

travelled by boat covering 12 km to reach the community. Most of the households were still awaiting substantial relief aids after receiving from government the tarpaulin sheet. SEEDS was the first NGO to reach 400 families on the island with hygiene and ration kits with support from PepsiCo.

Prompt Action

Immediate assistance was provided to approximately 19,670 people affected by Cyclone Amphan in form of nutritional meals, safe drinking water, and hygiene kits in West Bengal, India. Resources were rapidly deployed to ensure the safety and protection of the most vulnerable people affected by Cyclone Amphan. 2821 ration kits and 1320 family hygiene kits were distributed over the course of one month. Additionally, 80 community water filters were distributed providing safe drinking water to a population of about 5565 people. We were able to ensure 4,23,150 meals for those affected. With the support of Give2Asia we were able to provide training and educate communities from lower income groups, about the imperativeness of personal and surrounding hygiene for ensuring health and safety. The impact of this awareness education should not only be subject to the Covid times but long lasting



Lives Touched

A total number 964 people were reached through the six-day health camp organised at six different locations. 50 water filters were distributed to the affected people and a total number of 3575 people were able to access safe drinking water. 600 ration and hygiene kits were distributed. 6554 people were supported through this intervention along with 134 shelters repairment and 40 transitional shelters construction.



Road to Recovery

Rabindra Sahoo, a rickshaw puller by profession on receiving the relief kit expressed, *"I am grateful to your organisation. The kits provided serve a great purpose. It shall provide us with sustenance for a month at least. The hygiene kits will help prevent diseases and infection."*

Cyclone Amphan directly resulted in loss of shelter and public infrastructure, unavailability of food and clean water, contamination of water sources, outbreak of diseases and other health hazards. In the aftermath of the storm, to help people rebuild their lives and communities around them with support from IBM, SEEDS reaching out to the marginalised communities in West Bengal by way of distributing ration kits, hygiene kits, repairing and constructing transitional shelters, providing medical aid and safe drinking water.

Masons in Power

Following the devastation caused by Cyclone Amphan in West Bengal, recovery and rehabilitation program has been initiated to build 40 transitional shelters by incorporating several Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) features. The program engaged a committee of local masons to complete the project with a separate team providing technical support in the entire process of construction. The team organised several training and capacity building sessions for the local masons of DRR. These training sessions aimed to enhance the knowledge of transitional shelter design and techniques, giving clarity on different aspects and stages of construction and have a common understanding of quality control on shelter construction materials. Narayan Sahoo, the leading mason of Patharpratima stated, “the project has adopted an owner driven approach to ensure full control of the owner from design to execution” These masons have worked together to develop disaster-resilient construction using localized structure, materials and skills. The layout of the house is simple, supporting the lifestyle of the local community. The program is very well accepted by the community. The efforts of creating resilience among communities will help them in coping with the disasters.



Dual Impact

An ambitious evacuation effort and the weakening of Cyclone Amphan as it swirled onto land seems to have thankfully spared many lives. South Asia is no stranger to cyclones, but this one had an added challenge: protecting people from becoming infected by the coronavirus while they are packed inside emergency shelters. How challenging would the survival be once out of the emergency shelter, was the next imperative question that arose. SEEDS intervention of building transitional shelter then came as a respite to these impacted people.



Anushree Partra, who lives with her two sons and husband said, “We were in fear for several days. We still fear that anything can happen. We were so terrified that we lost hope of living”. Our cows were our major source of livelihood. After cyclone hit our village, we did not know whom to save and what to save. With the new shelter built we are extremely joyful and grateful. I have extended my shelter and made it stronger with mud plastering. This is my home, and I am going to take care of it. I have also kept space for my cows and have built a kitchen of my own”

Ashray - India Floods Response 2021

Roof for Safety

Floods in Assam are an annual occurrence during the monsoon season. The affected areas leave their population without access to even basic needs of shelter, food, water and safe sanitation. This leads to a crisis of unimaginable proportion and hundreds of lives are lost each year. As the floods leave most of the areas inundated with water, millions are left homeless and seek refuge in temporary shelters that are built post the floods. The urgent need in the state was to create shelters where the vulnerable population can save their lives at the start of the floods.



With encroachment of riverbanks, more and more people are living close to the river. Townships have sprung up across Assam without proper flood-risk management. Rampant deforestation and cutting of hills have only worsened the situation. Tribal communities in the region such as the Mising Tribe are the worst affected as they are amongst the most marginalised and do not have access to shield themselves from the ravages of the annual floods in the region. Past emergencies have shown that this is the period when the most vulnerable (and remote) families fall through the cracks. For when the disaster is no longer in the news, those on the margins are often left to recover on their own.



Plan of Action

The district of Golaghat was shortlisted in the upper Assam region since it has been observed to have been neglected over the years though being devastated by floods every year. Another reason for providing intervention in the Golaghat district is to reach out to the Mising tribal community that have been neglected by the civil society as well as the



government due to their subdued nature. SEEDS proposes to set up a community shelter in the area with the use of locally available resources such as structural bamboo and create a model of contemporary-vernacular resilient design. The rescue shelter is envisaged as a multi-purpose community space that will be operational not just during emergencies but during peace time as well.



Microsoft AI for Humanitarian Action

Artificial Intelligence for Building Disaster Resilient Communities

Urban regions harbour a multitude of complexities in terms of livelihoods, populations, inequalities, governance, thus making it tricky to detect and understand climate induced disaster risks.

Deciphering risks is difficult with the current hazard warnings as they generalise information for complete districts or cities at best. Neighbourhoods are left with little information about their specific vulnerabilities that is needed to adapt, making informed pre-emptive action by individuals/local communities almost impossible. Risk information needs to localise and easily available for the communities and stakeholders involved.



SEEDS developed Sunny Lives, an AI-powered disaster impact model that uses high-resolution satellite imagery to assess the risks of hazard at a hyper-local level. The Sunny Lives project has been executed in partnership with Microsoft and technology partner Gramener and is being supported under Microsoft's global programme 'Artificial Intelligence for Humanitarian Action'.

Through Sunny Lives, SEEDS detects building footprints and then assigns them relative risk scores as values from 1 to 5. During the application for an impending cyclone, satellite imagery is procured for Areas of Interest that are selected based on the cyclone's predicted path issued by the IMD. The Sunny Lives AI Model is then run for these areas to generate the risk scores. Microsoft's data science team and tech partner Gramener used machine learning to automate the process of identifying dwellings and their types. Satellite images of low-income, highly dense and vulnerable settlements in India were used to identify 7 different categories of dwellings including tarpaulin roofs, metal sheet roofs, double side sloping tiled roofs etc.

The Main Idea

The model was piloted for risk assessment of cyclone induced flooding during cyclone Nivar and cyclone Burevi in 2020 and showcased promising results. In 2021, we scaled the dissemination to reach out to over 50,000 families vulnerable to heatwaves (Delhi and Nagpur), cyclones (parts of Odisha and Gujarat) and monsoon flooding (Puri and Mumbai). During cyclone Yaas, we deployed the model for coastal parts of Puri and shared advisories and pre-emptive measures with over thousand vulnerable families, helping reduce their losses.





EDUCATION

Investing in the next generation

Safe School Program

Building a Better Tomorrow

Every child deserves joyful, inclusive, and quality learning opportunities. The effects of climate change and crises on children are profound and long-lasting, and the most vulnerable children are the least likely to access quality learning opportunities in safe environments. Ensuring safe education is at the heart of SEEDS' work, enabling these children to grow into active, engaged, and resilient adults capable of navigating shocks and overcoming adversity.



East Delhi is exposed with various natural and manmade hazards. Delhi falls in seismic zone IV and low line area of Yamuna belt. Non-structural falling hazards are a leading cause of injuries in mass evacuation, particularly during earthquakes. The Safe School program is to make schools, exposed to multiple hazards in Delhi, safer through comprehensive school safety approach. The program investigates various aspects of disaster management planning, assessment of

hazards, training and capacity building of teachers, students and school administration and carrying out mitigative measures for school safety. SEEDS adopted a multi hazard locally based approach seeking to empower communities through awareness generation, training and action. SEEDS follows a child centric and child focused approach and evolves an effective learning mechanism for the vulnerable students to learn, act and mitigate their own risks. The endeavour of the program is to see that the children have an enabling and safe learning environment.

Besides structural and non-structural safety measures for schools, campaigns are organized to bring attention of students, teachers and nearby community to raise awareness about school safety. Social media campaign on school safety including multi-stakeholders are run to reach wider audience.

When students feel safe, they are better able to focus on learning, which in turn leads to increased academic achievement. In Uttarakhand, the school infrastructure – structural and non-structural was focussed under this program. Water lodging in the rainy season often leads to student sitting in the wet classrooms. However, awareness about hazards and risks in schools and communities, and disaster management is sparse.



Establishing Strong Structures

Non-Structural Mitigation (NSM) activities were completed in schools which include securing, retrofitting and if required, removing the non-structural elements identified and listed out as

hazards in schools. Subsequently, school authorities have also been sensitised on the importance of developing and maintaining the school environment safe for children. In Uttarakhand, NSM has been completed in 30 schools.



The disasters give no time to contemplate; a prior planning is essential to reduce the life and property losses. An effective planning calls for some critical elements that are easily accessible. An evacuation plan, placed at prominent junctions, helps to escape a building amidst an emergency while a signage directs you to the escape

routes. Based on the technical assessment report, evacuation plans were developed and installed with respect to the existing plans of the school building.

Child Friendly Learning Environment (CFLE)

CFLE in schools were developed for promoting the friendly learning experience. It comprises different indoor and outdoor games that are installed in the school premises. The motto behind it is to enhance the learning capabilities in the children while they play with it that makes the learning process stress free and enjoyable. Some of the CFLE games developed and promoted by SEEDS are on migration, chalkboards, snakes and ladders on moral values of life, pipe phone, carbon footprint calculator, flipping stereotypes, etc.

School Management Committee (SMC) & Teachers' Orientation

Teachers' orientation was completed in 52 schools with 1550 teachers in East Delhi and 100 schools of Uttarakhand. The sessions on school safety were conducted by the team to spread awareness



among teachers on the on the concept of safe school environment and their role as stakeholders in the process. The sessions comprised orientation on both social and structural components of the school. With teacher's role as one of the primary stakeholders, they were appraised on the safety concerns, training, awareness and NSM mitigation as well. These sessions were a step forward from our previous sessions as the structural components were introduced in the orientation program to raise awareness about the importance of NSM and safe structures in

schools. SMC orientation refresher has been completed in 45 schools in East Delhi and 100 schools of Uttarakhand. To make the parents aware about our program through SMC meetings, we have identified and conducted SMC orientation in the schools.

Schools Disaster Management Plan (SDMP)

SDMP is a master plan to respond to disasters in schools. The aim was to collate all the information needed for effective management of disasters in schools, establish an emergency response system and prepare the first responders for any emergency response. The formation of School Disaster Management Committee (SDMC), which is one of the essential steps to be taken to develop and approve the SDMP, is in process. The total completed SDMP plans are 55 out of the 56 in East Delhi.

School Safety Emergency Kit

School Safety Emergency Response Kit is a survival kit which should be prepared and kept safe to get immediate relief during emergencies and disasters. The kit plays a key role in safeguarding and minimising casualties during and after disasters. It has been realised that due to the absence of survival kits and other important medicals aids, the number of casualties



increases once disaster strikes. To fight the struggle, the concept of the School Safety Emergency Response kit was introduced. To ensure disaster response in time, 78 trunks have been delivered in 56 schools in East Delhi and 100 schools in Uttarakhand. Every school has its own unique sets of merits and challenges, which is why it was essential that the intervention for every school be designed in a manner that caters to the individual needs of each school in East Delhi.

The Road to Safety

Urban Study and Interventions, Honeywell Safe Schools in Mandawali Area. The objective of Urban Study intervention was to first assess the quality of urban space navigated by children in commuting between home to school through collaborative, mixed methods (quantitative and qualitative) study conducted across user groups, spatialize or locate the zones where children feel safe and unsafe, and analyse the architectural



quality of these zones to understand factors that contribute to making that space unsafe. With the help of a mixed method strategy to diagnose, quantify and communicate the 'safety quotient' of the neighbourhood, the following methods were deployed over 8 weeks in 3 govt. schools in the neighbourhood of Mandawali, East Delhi- the teacher-student workshop and student survey, field notes and observation, mental mapping and GIS mapping and analytics.

Solid Waste Management (SWM)

The term SWM denotes the collecting, treating, and disposing of solid materials that are discarded for they already served their purpose or are no longer useful. Improper disposal of municipal solid waste can create unsanitary conditions, and these conditions in turn can lead to pollution of the

environment and outbreaks of vector-borne disease—that is, diseases spread by rodents and insects. Eleven schools recognised under Solid Waste Management customised theme have been provided with 12 Vertical Garden composters in total. If the waste collected is larger in amount that the vertical garden can take, handy bucket composters shall help. Hence, the bucket composters were distributed in 29 schools. Apart from these items, 47 schools (including those 11 schools under the theme) were provided with 58 blue, 58 green and 23 red dustbins in total to help segregate the waste and garbage released.

Individual Solutions

The virtual workshops have been completed with the teachers from 55 schools covering two customised themes under HSS: (i) psychosocial and (ii) inclusion and the report was also prepared. The workshops were planned in consideration of the pandemic and its effect on psychosocial health of people especially children and teachers. These were specially conceptualised in the form of creative workshops to emphasize on both physical and mental wellbeing of the children ensuring their overall safety.

Community Campaigns

To cultivate a sense of responsibility and accountability amongst different community stakeholders towards a child’s safety within the community, SEEDS planned a volunteer engagement activity with Honeywell volunteers, children and community members on different Child Safety themes throughout the year. The objective of this event was to identify issues and to ensure involvement of different community stakeholders to minimize risks and enable a safer environment for children. In order to same 32 campaigns were organised on (Fire Safety, Heat Wave, World Environment Day, Safety week Campaign (Be Ready Now), Combat stresses through expressive arts therapy, building awareness to curb air pollution, Mock drill, Covid-19 awareness, First Aid). In Uttarakhand, total 8 campaigns were organized.



Task Force Training



Nine task force trainings were conducted covering 10 communities, 77 parents and 158 youth, in order to build capacity of school management and youth on issues relating to fire safety and search-rescue. The objective of the training is to ensure these groups react swiftly in times of any emergency, thereby ensuring the school’s safety. Since task force can’t be formed in 18 EDMC primary schools, these clusters have been identified. 65 task force trainings were conducted in schools and communities of Uttarakhand.

Special School Intervention in East Delhi

Break Barrier, Open Doors (Basic Sign Language Course for Workplace Communication) The Beginners Level- Sign Language workshops have been completed with the teachers at Special School with 5 participants. 2 teachers have passed the graded assignment to reach to the Intermediate Level of the workshop who will now pursue the next level.

Refurbishment in Uttarakhand

Refurbishment work is carried out with an aim to repair the existing school premises and includes Deplastering of walls where there is flakiness, seepage, etc. plastering of walls, painting of walls, replacing of windows, doors, electrical switches, sockets etc, repairing of toilet blocks by replacing damaged tiles, taps, drainage pipes, ensuring brickwork in parapet walls and boundary walls, wherever required, water proofing of terrace slab.

Retrofitting in Uttarakhand

Retrofitting is carried out to strengthen the structure of schools wherever required after doing assessment in which necessary tests are conducted to check the current strength and accordingly feasible solutions are proposed and implemented. The retrofitting work involves assessment of school building through necessary tests, marking of bends where required on the walls and columns, chipping of plaster where marking is done introduction of MS bars, MS wire mesh in the bends, and junctions, paint work on the walls and columns, repair of doors, windows, taps, and electrical socket etc. They were handed over to school authorities in an event on 17 December 2020 in presence of the Chief Minister and officials of the Education department.

Facility Upliftment in Uttarakhand

Based on the findings from the baseline assessments and the inputs from SEEDS technical and social teams, up-gradation of facilities like drinking water and toilets, hand wash and sanitation, boundary walls, roof leakage have been carried out in schools. Under the facility upliftment, we are considering three aspects namely: Sanitation restoration, Safe drinking water restoration, resolving the issue of security and trespassing in schools. Intervention under this activity is complete in 07 schools of Uttarakhand (04 in Haridwar and 03 in Dehradun) in the month of March. A total of 10 schools have been completed till March 2021.

Early Warning System (EWS)

Installation of Public Address systems was done in 11 schools of Uttarakhand in the month of March and a total of 75 schools have been completed till March 2021. Installation is in process in rest of the schools. Branding of the EWS systems has been done and an acknowledgement has been received from the schools. A letter was shared with school principals from the State Education Department for the entry of EWS materials in the school inventory. We have also shared the instruction to the schools for proper utilization of the EWS services for children. Now teachers are using the PA system in day-to-day function of the schools. Now they can share the communication easily to entire school premises and following the covid guidelines comfortably like social distancing etc.

DRR awareness, psychosocial trainings, School's disaster management training and development of SDMP and Schools emergency kits distribution are the major key interventions of the year. The SDMP, psychosocial workshops engagement events have allowed the teachers and children to comprehend the concepts well and practice the same back at their communities too; especially, the psychosocial workshop after the pandemic.



“Early warnings with the help of public announcements systems, manual call point and fire alarms can keep from a huge disaster. In schools, children study in large groups together which makes it important to maintain safety standards and equipment to manage the accidents in time and keep children safe and secure.”

- Neetu Rana, Teacher, EDMC Shastri Nagar

Eco-solutions for sustainability

Energy usage and pollution is a rising cause for concern. Climate change caused by anthropogenic emissions adds to the crises. Metro cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai who have been the biggest consumers of energy and resources are now at the receiving end for criticism. The unplanned development activities and unchecked constructions have led to even more carbon emissions adding to environmental costs. The key to mitigating the risks arising out of the developmental activities lies in the efficient use of resources – which was the primary idea behind the activities implemented by SEEDS with the support of Oak foundation in 02 schools in East Delhi, India. The principle of eco-retrofitting solution related to energy conservation and reducing the carbon footprint was used to create sustainable solutions for the teachers and students at the schools. The main objective through this project was to mainstream eco-retrofitting in schools by creating awareness as well as making some improvements in the existing building structures of the schools by making them more energy efficient and reducing the carbon footprint.

Live Green, Think Green

A green school which will be environmentally sustainable and will be able to provide a healthy environment to students, teachers and others. Recycle resources as much as possible like usage of efficient lighting, renewable energy, reusable and low flow water systems and non-toxic cleaning products and solid waste management. There is still a considerable lack of implementation of energy saving measures, besides reducing CO2 emissions, and cutting fuel bills. Helping turn institutions green can lead to reduction in monthly operating costs which can be spend for well-being of the students or for the institution.

Trainings on adapting healthy green habits such as turn off the lights, fans, computers and other equipment when not in classrooms, replacing incandescent light bulbs with Energy Star bulbs, correction in earthing to reduce the consumption of the energy, replacement of fluoresce bulb to more energy efficient lighting like LED lights, rainwater harvesting, installation of solar power for electricity, vertical garden composter to reduce the food waste in the schools and awareness workshops (use of cycles, regular walks , bike sharing, using buses, carpools) – were some of the key components.

Impact Created

A total number of 1636 children and 73 teachers were reached as part of the initiative to help them understand the need to reduce carbon footprint by implementing various measures like water and energy conservation and solid waste management in schools. The school authorities also understood and realised the benefit of implementation of solar system. As a takeaway of this project, the school themselves initiated the use of solar panels and LED lighting system to save energy. One of the schools in Shankar Nagar, Delhi, approached the Delhi Government for implementation of Solar panels.



"We have a clean water to drink now, and we don't have to worry about every being thirsty again after our water bottle is empty. We can simply refill it from the new water filter."

- Chandini Verma in 3rd standard from EDMC Railway Colony, Mandawali

"You don't see Solar Panels at a EDMC school every day. We are grateful for that. During a hot summer day when the electricity went off, it was hard for us to teach and harder for students. Now that we are producing solar electricity of our own, we don't have to worry about that ever. The heat reflective paint is also very helpful in reducing the heat intensity inside the class. I am considering doing this project at my house as well. "

- Santosh, physical training cum extra-curriculum teacher in EDMC Railway Colony, Mandawali.





ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & RESILIENCE

Building a world we want

Partners for Resilience- Strategic Partnership

Growing threats of climate change demand dynamic approaches to sustainable development. Studies report that some climate induced adverse effects on development encumber achievement of SDGs relating to poverty, food security, health, water and inequality. Climate risk informed sustainable development, needs revolution in social, economic and technological actions following climate resilient pathways which combine adaptation and mitigation to manage the impacts of climate change. Incorporating climate change adaptation and mitigation plans into different strata of development can ensure a path to a climate smart nation that grows sustainably.

The general objective of the Strategic Partnership (SP) was to support the implementation of Sendai Framework of Action (SFA) and aim to ensure that the vulnerable people are more resilient in the face of climate change, and environmental degradation, enabling sustainable and inclusive economic growth. The partnership had three inter-related specific objectives: responding to policy, practice and investment gaps that limit application of Integrated Risk Management (IRM) approaches.

It involved engagement meeting with Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI), community and task force members on water conservation. Workshops with Civil Society Organisation and CBOs on Integrated risk management with PRI members, community members and task forces for the conservation of ecosystem with the aim of spreading awareness over water security and wetlands management. Participation in human chain event under Jal Jeevan Hariyali Mission also took place which was a human chain consisting of more than 10 thousand people across the project intervention area with length of more than 11 km created in Mahishi block of Saharsa district for awareness on climate change and conservation of ecosystem services through the Mega Event on social awareness for Jal Jeevan Hariyali Scheme.



Tasks Undertaken

Meeting with task force members on COVID-19 response- meetings was conducted with 368 community champions, PRI and task forces in 21 villages of all 10 GPs for COVID-19 preparedness, awareness and response work in March 2020 was also held. Based on this awareness all the PRI/task force members/champions helped spread awareness to 1239 community members, prepared a list of migrated people within their community, maintained their travel history and mobilised and promoted to self-quarantine and stay at isolation centres.

Funds leveraged for IRM based interventions under ongoing different government programmes (MNREGA, Saat Nischay Yojna, Water Resources Department) for plantation to check erosion and ecosystem rejuvenation, raising plinths of houses/roads and water bodies rejuvenation. Thirty-four people participated and got trained and disseminated information within the community. Reorientation and training were organised with Jal Prahari, task forces and local champions on early preparedness of floods, collection and documentation of river gauge data.

Pathway to Development

The economy of Saharsa district, Bihar state is majorly based on agriculture in which irrigation plays a significant role for its growth. Increasing density of population, coupled with the rapid pace of development, deforestation, change in agricultural practices included crop patterns, increased pollution, uses of fertilisers etc. have contributed to change in climate significantly.



Matsyagandha Lake is one of the heritage sites of the Saharsa district and is situated at two kilometres north-east of Saharsa. Due to the shifting precipitation, less amount of rainfall, unsustainable development developed it into waste dumped and cremation site. And as accumulation of water was not possible due to low depth and soil siltation, it had completely dried up impacting the livelihood of the local communities.

Based on the awareness programme and workshops conducted in PFR-SP, local communities got sensitised over importance of water bodies from upstream to downstream. They understood their roles in revival of water bodies and sustainable development and preservation of them. And further this issue raised by the local PRI members with water resource department. Due to which department find a solution which may be sought in using modern tools of Remote Sensing- GIS (RS-GIS) in rapid need assessment of ground water, mapping and locations of ground water sources etc.

“Adaptation of traditional water practices including revival of water bodies are one of the emergent needs in present time” - Shanti Laxmi Chaudhary, Mukhia, Aarapatti Gram Panchayat

It also emphasis on the significance of community water management and conservation with participatory Irrigation management approach to enhance the irrigation potential to the population of numerous gram panchayat such as Mahishi, Aarapatti and Telhar etc. In terms of saving the ecosystem INR 7.25 crores were sanctioned by the tourist department for the rejuvenation of the Matsyagandha lake.

Currently the department is working on removing of invasive species, de-siltation by using fibre block and plantation under the Jal-Jeevan- Hariyali Mission which covers the cleaning and maintenance of lake, as well as development of tourist facilities and infrastructure. For its hydrological connectivity, it has been connected through the canal coming from upper catchment area. Through this initiative the agricultural issues of the local communities of Mahishi, Aarapatti and Telhar gram panchayat will going to be resolved as it can provide water facilities for irrigation of fox nut and water chestnut which enhance the livelihood conditions.

Vulnerabilities Converted into Strength

Over the past decade, due to extensive rainfall in Nepal there was a frequent flood situation in Koshi region affecting Saharsa vigorously. Many deaths have been recorded during these floods from the past decade, as local population try to walk across the streams of water unknowingly or poorly assessing the risks. Unlimited damage in terms of lives, livestock as well as property due to flooding in Koshi region. Flood disaster in Saharsa is caused by two different phenomena: localised heavy seasonal rainfall and run-off which often result in river overflowing and induced flood.



“PRI members and ward members from Supaul and Madhepura district call me or asked through WhatsApp group regarding the rise in water level and its updated details” - Dev Kumar Bind- task force member

The early warning system established in Kothiya village has improved the disaster preparedness of the local communities. Established early warning system provide priority in preparedness for an effective response at ground level. The early warning system calculated by assessing the possible saving of flood damage in terms of lives and assets. These warnings were used for alerting the population, which enables them to move and remove their valuable items to safer places or to raise platforms.

SEEDS organised and facilitated capacity building workshops, awareness programmes, trainings of task forces, risk assessment workshop among local community with participation of Saharsa district administration.



Local communities are responsible for disseminating early warning and flood risk information but not ensure that people receive, understand and respond to them. Which was the major gap in response capacity earlier and due to lack of awareness, education and understanding of early warning responses, lack of understanding of vulnerability and risk within the landscape and lack of clarity over roles and responsibilities at local level. The local communities of targeted villages of Saharsa district have learned the importance of risk reduction before disaster and the enhancement

of local level preparedness. A regular monitoring of installed river gauge has been started by the SEEDS and initially formed task forces, community champions to disseminate the early warning information within the communities of affected areas. Based on these warning all the vulnerable group such as disabled people, pregnant /lactating women, widow/single women and children were transferred to the high raised places or shelter homes by the respective TFs.



Upscaling Eco-DRR India Programme

Creating a green space

Kanwar Lake Bird Sanctuary plays an important role in maintaining hydrological regimes of the region. Besides being an important water source, Kanwar buffers adjoining settlements from flood risk by accommodating significant proportion of runoff and bank flows of the river. Nearly 15,000 households living around the wetland harvest fish and aquatic plants for use as food, fodder and thatch. Due to such dynamic hydrological regimes and landscape transformations, flood is a recurring feature of the landscape. Shrinking resource base has accentuated conflict between farmers and fishers and increased their vulnerability to floods and droughts. Kanwar has gradually transformed into contested common with wetland use made subservient to conflicting sectoral and stakeholder interests.



Multi-layered Approach

Inception workshop with community, PRI members and CSOs of 6 GP and government stakeholders to orient about wetlands and Eco-DRR- Coordination with administrative department is necessary for the various schemes under agriculture and fisheries. Based on workshop meetings were conducted with forest department with respect to conservation of water bodies. Continuous changes can be seen in agricultural pattern over a period and water logging situation got worse.



Household level baseline survey of 6 Gram Panchayats were completed by the social mobilisers of SEEDS. The objective of the survey was to- Establish a baseline at Household level with details on household profile in Kanwar landscape (details on socio-demographic, economic, environmental, disaster and governance), knowledge level on Eco-DRR or IRM (DRR, CCA, and EM). Hazard-Vulnerability-Capacity Assessments (HVCA) was conducted to develop community risk profile and along with stakeholder analysis, landscape mapping was conducted in all targeted 06-gram. Conducted Ecosystem Services Shared Value Assessment (ESSVA) to assess perceptions of communities towards wetlands values in six-gram panchayat of Chiraiya Bariyarpur and Garhpura block with data of 120 sample household involving all the stakeholder.

Local Participation

Appraisal of 6 GPDP for inclusion of Eco-DRR- Appraisal of all 06-gram panchayats namely Manjhaul 1,2 and 3, Dunahi, Rajour and Khajahanpur was completed through colour coding method indicating the pre and post status of activities integrated with IRM component of their respective Gram Panchayat Development Plan and their implementation till present. It also states the scenario of gram panchayat before EcoDRR implementation.

Engagement meetings with Government and PRI stakeholder to integrate Eco-DRR into local developmental programmes/schemes- Through various meetings and workshop, we got engaged with 4 major CSO's/CBO' s that are also our stakeholders namely Jeevika, Kanwar Nature Club, Matsyajivi Sahyog Samiti and Kanwar Taal Kishan Mahasabha who can be beneficial for integrating Eco-DRR components in development programmes and schemes.



With respect to other stakeholders, we have farmer communities, fishermen communities, Forest and Climate Change department, Agriculture Department, Water and Drainage Department, Disaster Management Authority, PRI members, leaders like MLAs, MPs etc. and currently we are directly engaging with 245 farmers and 280 fishermen within the programme who will provide support during implementation.



“Women participation at village and panchayat level is almost negligible, as we do not have any power over men and they absolutely dominate us. We never got any chance to participate in any workshops, meetings, resources etc. due to which we cannot share our views over community development. Whenever there is a call for participation in any event, our husbands get involved in it as “Mukhiya pati/ward sadasya pati etc). Even during community mobilizers meetings when we try to discuss over some theme, men always dodge us by raising their voices and divert all the focus towards them. In times of such helplessness, initiative started by SEEDS for women participation under Eco-DRR programme has spread some hope among the women. To discourage this inequality between men and women the team, discusses with us separately or during meetings, and take our visions/understanding over the history of the landscape in terms of DRR, environment, and ecosystem. There is therefore a silver lining for women giving them a hope of being equally involved and consulted in matters, hence not only encouraging and boosting their self-respect and confidence but enhancing their level of both awareness and knowledge”

- Aarti Devi, 33 years, Community Mobilisers, JEEVIKA, SHG, Manikpur, Dunahi Panchayat

Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) Partnership

SEEDS partnered with the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) and worked across India to create models of sustainable institutionalising of CBDRM. The aim was to support the scale out and institutionalisation of sustainable Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) by identifying the enabling environment required (political, financial, social), building the capacity of actors to work together to put in place these building blocks, and increasing political commitment for scale out of Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR). SEEDS worked with various local partner organisations to help communities create and implement processes that would help embed Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) practices in their lives and local governance mechanisms. National advocacy workshop, national awareness campaign and a national collaboration workshop was conducted as part of the efforts.



Under the National Advocacy workshop: A series of regional advocacy workshops were conducted with Civil society organisations and DRR practitioners in five regions of India. Regional advocacy plans from 5 regions were produced which later assimilated into a National Advocacy plan. These interactions helped to generate awareness on the components of institutionalisation of CBDRM. Capacitated the regional partners and built their perspective on CBDRM. Created an understanding amongst the partners as to why their voice is important in policymaking. And it helped the partners to understand the draft guidelines of CBDRR of NDMA provide crucial inputs to help them translate at the ground level.

Under the National Awareness Campaign - The regional partners identified the development scheme in their area and analysed it integrating CBDRM components showcasing that DRR should be integrated with all sectors to reduce emanating vulnerabilities and disasters. Mass awareness was

made on the various ingredients of CBDRM within the communities. The campaign helped partners to study the local development schemes and helped them analyse them with CBDRM components. Partners were able to identify the gaps and the challenges that persist while integrating DRR components with developmental schemes. And the campaigns targeted specific stakeholders building their understanding of CBDRM components. Documentation via interviews of experts, field practitioners, case studies, blogs helped gauge the perspective about CBDRM, specifying crucial roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in knowledge exchange.

Under the National Collaboration workshop - NITI Aayog has identified 17 thematic areas and assigned the same to subgroups comprising of representatives from NDMA, civil society organisation, ministries, departments, and UN agencies to enable effective policymaking and implementation. SEEDS under the leadership of Dr Manu Gupta is leading work on effectively institutionalizing community-based disaster risk reduction in India. Several interactions between the representatives of the CSO committee and SEEDS have taken place. This has led to the sensitization of committee representatives on the various nuances of CBDRM and the need to institutionalise it effectively.

Enhancing community capacity:

Sumoni Chapori, a village of 350 odd people nestled on the floodplains of Brahmaputra River in Assam, relived the same nightmare repeatedly every year when floodwaters gushed over their homes and land, sweeping away their huts and belongings, drowning crops, killing livestock. Even before they would start to pick up the pieces of their lives and try to recover from the losses, it was time for another round of ravaging floods. The village located in Jhanjimukh, Jorhat district in Assam in India's northeast experiences torrential rain during the monsoons. The resulting floods leave hundreds of people dead in the state every year.



Seven years ago, with the guidance of local advocacy groups, residents of Sumoni Chapori designed a process to help them organise and streamline the practices they had applied for years to survive the floods and rebuild their lives in the aftermath. Sumoni Chapori's valiant effort to utilise their resources, traditional wisdom and skills to create a system that built a primary wall of resistance between them, and disasters lies in the heart of the idea of Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM). In course of

the village practising CBDRM, local non-governmental organisations like NEADS partnered with SEEDS India to help institutionalise the practices. An important aspect of the programme was facilitating easy channels of communication between the community and local government bodies so that they could work organically together to increase the village's resilience to disasters. With the process of institutionalisation of CBDRM in place, Sumoni Chapori residents built public toilets at an elevation of at least 6 feet above the ground so that the villagers — especially women and children — have access to sanitary washrooms even when the village is flooded.

The residents usually use boats to reach the washrooms during emergencies. The residents have also built hand pumps at elevated levels so that they have access to clean drinking water during floods.

Women in the village learnt professional techniques of growing food in their backyards to help them tide over financial crises. The women have also taken to learning handicraft and making household items which are sold through NGOs and other organisations to supplement their incomes. Villagers have been able to organise funds from local government bodies to build new facilities in the village. In essence, villagers and local governing bodies have distributed the work of identifying challenges and addressing them successfully.



OUR PARTNERS

Advent India
Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives
BATA
Biomerieux
Care Today
Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)
Chegg India
Cognizant Foundation
CRISIL
Give Foundation
Give India Foundation
Give2Asia
Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)
Godrej
Honeywell
IBM
Jacobs
Microsoft
Morningstar India Pvt Ltd
OAK Foundation
PwC India
Qualcomm
Selco Foundation
Shaswat Foundation
The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
United Way of Chennai
United Way of Hyderabad
United Way of India
United Way of Mumbai
Wetlands International
Wipro
Xchanging Technology Services India Pvt Ltd

Local Partners

North-East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS)
Abhivakti In Uttarakhand
Nav Jagriti In Bihar
Kajla Jana Kalyan Samity (KJKS) in West Bengal
Food Safety & Drugs Administration
Participatory Development Action Program (PDAP)

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE BALANCE SHEET

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
Address- 315, Kailash Tower-1, Mount Kailash New Delhi - 110065

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 st MARCH 2021			
	SCHEDULE	F.Y. 2020-21	F.Y. 2019-20
SOURCES OF FUND			
I FUND BALANCES:			
a. General Fund	[01]	1,39,69,155	1,37,84,882
b. Project Fund	[02]	4,08,63,533	7,61,53,211
b. Corpus Fund	[03]	46,77,711	46,77,711
b. Asset Fund	[04]	36,90,047	38,74,319
b. Disaster Response Fund	[05]	1,09,14,551	-
TOTAL Rs.	[I + II]	7,41,14,997	9,84,90,123
APPLICATIONS OF FUND			
I FIXED ASSETS			
Gross Block	[06]	1,15,14,010	1,06,81,477
Less: Accumulated Depreciation		78,23,962	68,07,157
Net Block		<u>36,90,048</u>	<u>38,74,320</u>
II. INVESTMENT	[07]	3,37,116	1,46,51,795
III CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS & ADVANCES:			
a. Loans & Advances	[08]	27,13,552	26,50,950
b. Cash & Bank Balance	[09]	7,69,23,704	8,86,41,629
c. Other Current Assets	[10]	1,35,077	5,01,679
	A	<u>7,97,72,113</u>	<u>8,17,94,257</u>
Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES & PROVISIONS:			
a. Expenses Payable	[11]	3,47,793	13,08,557
b. Other Current Liabilities	[12]	93,36,488	1,05,21,690
	B	<u>96,84,281</u>	<u>1,18,30,247</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS	[A - B]	7,00,87,833	7,99,64,010
TOTAL Rs.	[I+II+III]	7,41,14,997	9,84,90,123

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts [17]
The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Balance Sheet.

For & on behalf:
S.Sahoo & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Firm No. 3229528

CA Subhajit Sahoo, FCA, LLB
Partner
MM No. 097426

Place: New Delhi
Date:

04 DEC 2021



For & on behalf:
Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development
Society

Manu Gupta
Vice President

Anshu Sharma
Secretary



SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
Address:- 315, Kailash Tower -I, Mount Kailash New Delhi - 110065

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH 2021			
	SCHEDULE	F.Y. 2020-21	F.Y. 2019-20
I. INCOME			
Grants & Donations	[13]	21,74,77,903	19,65,90,738
Interest Income & Other Income	[14]	33,42,260	38,95,046
TOTAL		22,08,20,222	28,05,85,784
II. EXPENDITURE			
Program Expenditures	[15]		
Relief of the poor		16,48,01,923	10,40,32,898
Education		5,40,30,167	8,68,44,621
Preservation of Environment		27,55,910	31,28,002
Administrative Expenditures	[16]	2,25,90,545	21,67,872
Depreciation		10,16,805	11,10,066
Less: Transferred to Asset Fund		(10,16,805)	(11,10,066)
TOTAL		24,41,78,545	19,61,93,393
III. EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	[I - II]	(2,33,58,323)	43,92,391
		(2,33,58,323)	43,92,391

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts [17]

The schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Income & Expenditure A/c.

For & on behalf:
S. Sahoo & Co.
Chartered Accountants
FRN: 322952E

CA Subhajit Sahoo, FCA, LLB
Partner
MM No. 037426

Place: New Delhi
Date:

04 DEC 2021



For & on behalf:
Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development
Society

Manu Gupta
Vice President

Ansha Sharma
Secretary





SEEDS

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