

Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society

SEEDS

annual report

05-06



SEEDS INDIA

Cover: The October 2005, Kashmir earthquake left 3.5 million people homeless. The most difficult task was to reach out to devastated villages in the remote mountains.

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message

The year 2005-06 has been tumultuous as humanity began recovering from one of the worst natural catastrophes in history. The Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 2004 swept away hundreds & thousands of lives, and caused irreversible damage to the natural ecosystems all along the areas it struck.

Bracing the challenge, the Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS), found itself in a position of higher expectations and performance both locally as well as globally. The Society responded to the immediate shelter needs of the traumatized survivors of Tsunami in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, while at the same time it was actively engaged in advocacy at a regional level on the need and importance of building resilience among communities at risk.

The Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) released during the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in January, 2005 serves as a useful blueprint for disaster risk reduction efforts for the next ten years. Its goal is to substantially reduce disaster losses by 2015 - in lives, and in social, economic, and environmental assets of communities and countries. Aligning itself to the HFA, the Society has identified three broad areas of activity - promoting school safety, spreading awareness and education on safe buildings, raising sensitivity and understanding among common citizens and local leaders on issues related to risk. The Society, along with its partners, has developed the GOLFRE (Global Open Learning Forum for Risk Education) pedagogy which adopts a case study based system of open learning to further its objectives under the three broad areas identified above.

While doing so, the Society would remain committed on its responsibility towards reaching out to communities that have been affected by disasters. In 2005, the Society responded by providing livelihood and interim shelter support to survivors of the Indian Ocean Tsunami and the Kashmir Earthquake. In Poonch District of Jammu & Kashmir, affected by the earthquake, the Society erected 400 interim shelters in 40 days completing the task just 3 days before the first snowfall.

The year 2005 - 06 also witnessed significant changes at national government level. The Disaster Management Act was passed by the Union Parliament towards the end of the year, which led to the formation of the National Disaster Management Authority headed by the Prime Minister. The Society has welcomed this long due institutionalization. The society has worked along with the government and all other institutions that share a common endeavor of reaching out to communities at risk. At the same time, the Society will not hesitate in raising its voice against any actions by institutions public or private that exacerbate risks.

During the year, SEEDS opened its offices in Port Blair and Bhubaneshwar while its staff strength grew from 26 to 51. We are grateful to all our donors and friends from around the world who have extended their generous support to our activities. Their support, and the overwhelming response we have received from communities we have served has further strengthened our resolve to continue our work until we are able to completely eliminate the misery caused by natural disasters.



Anshu Sharma



Manu Gupta



vision

Resilient 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.

guiding principles

- Prompt in our action
- Identify and reach out to the most vulnerable
- Facilitate community participation in decision making
- Adapt to local and cultural environment
- Non-discriminatory in our approach
- Focus on individual
- Promote excellence



A Village Disaster Management Plan (VDMP) was implemented at Thoyna village, Porbandar district, Gujarat under the sustainable community initiative by SEEDS.

The objective was to bridge the gap between several levels of district administration and villagers through an extensive exercise that simulated a cyclone situation.

The planning and execution of the VDMP included risk assessment based on local inputs, identification of human and material resources, orientation of villagers on risk and preparedness, defining roles and responsibilities of community leaders and task forces, training task forces and above all simulation of a crisis situation to evaluate both preparedness and post disaster response effectiveness.

The planning, training and exercise involved the entire village and sub-district (Taluka) administration for a period of 7 days. Two independent exercises, one for preparedness and

other for post disaster response was conducted. Every detail in terms of the information flow from sub-district, warning dissemination across the village, immediate village level actions was simulated both in terms of preparedness and response. Cyclone preparedness actions like closing of shops, switching off electricity, setting cattle free and moving individual belongings indoors was defined and enacted at the entire village level. Similarly, response initiatives like relief co-ordination, search and rescue and first aid exercises were also conducted.

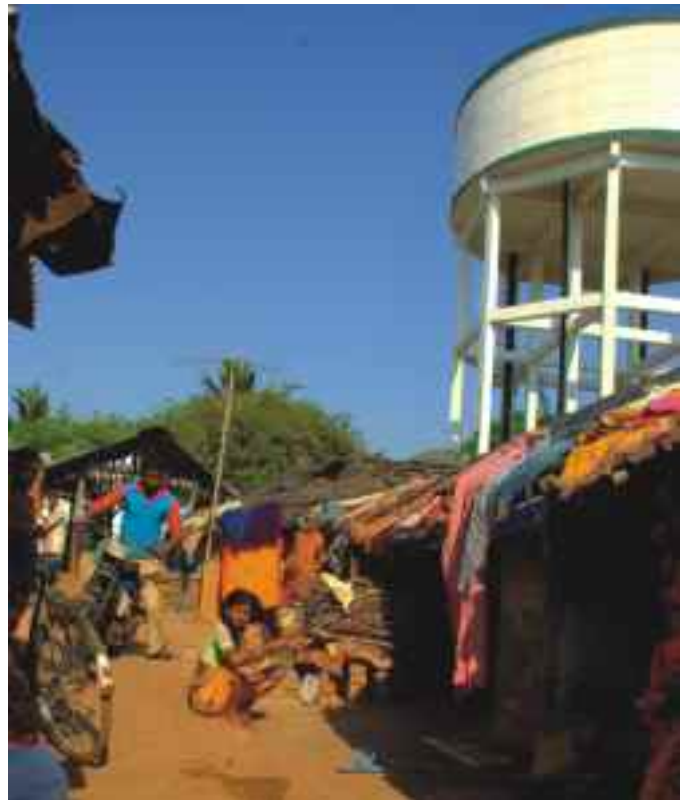
The opportunity was also utilized to educate villagers on sustainable practices like water harvesting and safe construction practices. A basic ground water recharge mechanism was also demonstrated to the farmers. Over the years the farmers have put this knowledge into practice and have been able to grow two crops a year instead of one.

ORISSA URBAN SAFETY

With the growth in population urban communities are being subjected to an ever increasing risk of natural as well as technological disasters. In such a situation, it becomes essential for urban communities to be prepared for such catastrophic situations. The Orissa urban safety initiative aimed at strengthening local capacity by assessing disaster risk, response mechanism, preparedness measures and most effective mitigation options for five of Orissa's most important and vulnerable cities.

Rather than focusing on community capacity to combat disaster risk, the project emphasized on identifying communities most at risk and building knowledge resources for the benefit of the community.

SEEDS conducted the study through sustained dialogue with all the stakeholders. A qualitative approach was essential to accurately identify the community most at risk and build a knowledge resource that remains relevant to the locals. The project was carried out in Berhampur, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Puri and Talcher.



SWAYAM - MICRO CREDIT PROGRAMME

The Indian Ocean Tsunami devastated parts of Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Of these, maximum damage was inflicted on Tamil Nadu and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The impact was felt in physical, social and economic aspects of local life. The most debilitating impact was felt on the local economy. The loss of livelihood hit everyone hard especially fishermen, farmers, small traders and informal service providers. There were no alternate trades to switch to and very few opportunities on remote islands.

Various community surveys revealed that one of the most pressing need is sources of income. SWAYAM micro credit programme was an initiative to bring the community out of the relief state towards an economic self rehabilitation. Supported by CAP Solidarites, a French NGO, Microsoft, French Red Cross and Conseil General du Val de Marne, SWAYAM aimed at reviving the livelihood for tsunami affected families. Besides being a micro credit programme SWAYAM also ensured, through insurance and training, that communities inculcate an aptitude of disaster risk reduction.



The micro credit initiative was unique in the sense, that after the tsunami free grants were a common practice. SEEDS realized that in its effort to ensure economic self rehabilitation free grant was an impediment. Also it would have made the affected families more dependent as passive recipients of relief, without any sense of self rehabilitation.

SWAYAM was the only initiative in the island that allowed petty enterprises like garment shops, stationary shops, tea stalls and fisherwomen to access capital in order to restart their livelihood. SWAYAM as a community friendly loan runs on clearly laid out principles and has been truly instrumental in bridging the gap between small enterprises and institutions like banks, insurance firms and social welfare boards. SWAYAM has so far disbursed loans to more than hundred individuals and self help groups amounting to a total of over forty two lakh rupees.





In the post Tsunami rehabilitation process SEEDS constructed intermediate shelters for 354 families in little Andaman. SEEDS was not in agreement with the interim shelter design made mandatory by the government. However, it decided to construct the houses on the island since the Tsunami affected families desperately needed some kind of shelter to survive the harsh monsoon rainfall. Besides the basic physical infrastructure, a need for community activity space was also felt.

SEEDS seized this opportunity to construct a community centre using locally appropriate bamboo and thatch technology. This became the beginning of our advocacy efforts to promote bamboo based construction for the islands as against pre-fabricated cement and steel. SEEDS engineering team carried out extensive research on bamboo construction technology and its applicability in the A&N Islands. A permanent shelter prototype with engineered bamboo products was constructed with inputs from local community on design and detailing of the house. The permanent shelter prototype and the community centre were well received by locals, construction workers, NGOs and community leaders at Hutbay.



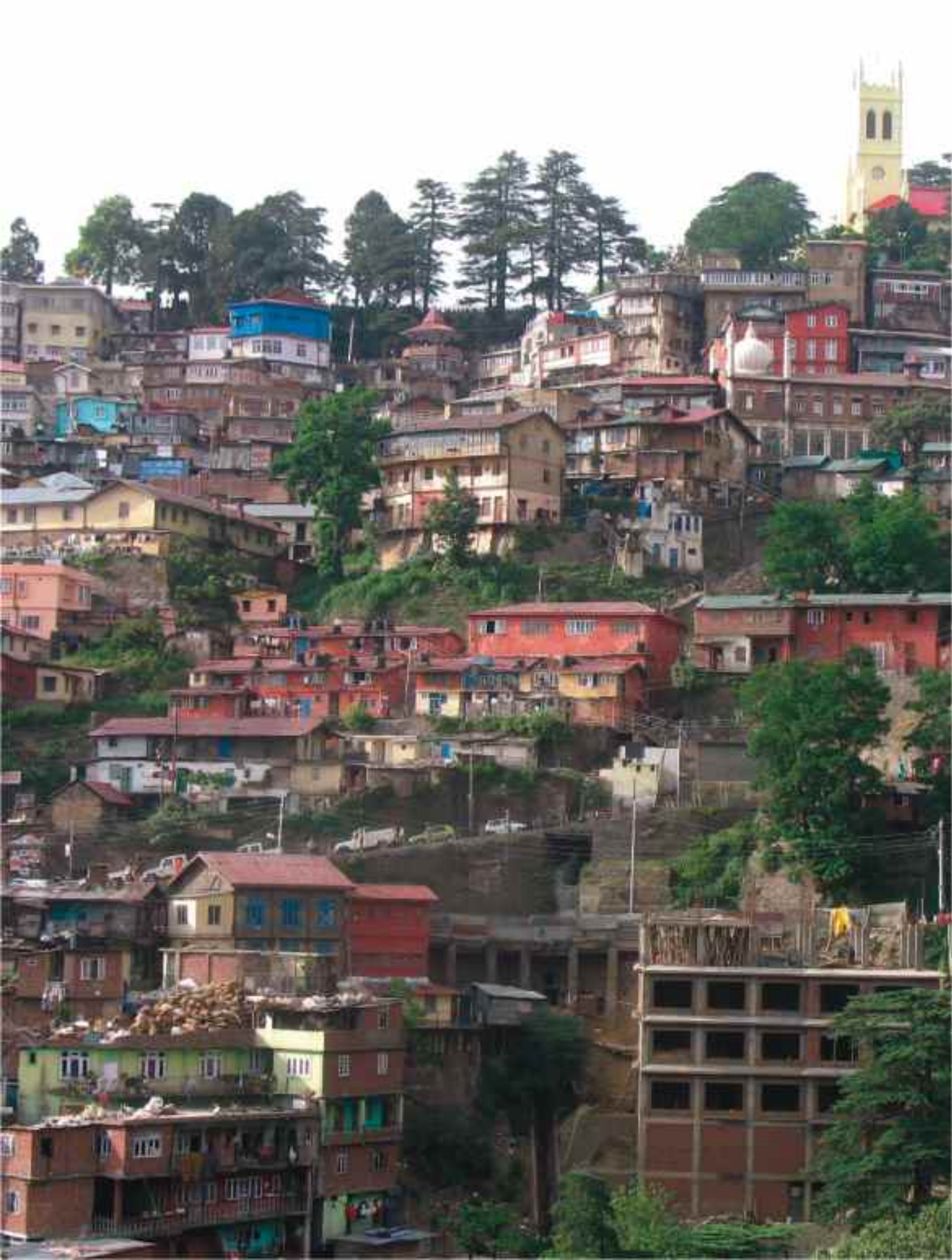
RECONSTRUCTION OF WOMEN CENTRES

SEEDS was approached by the Social Welfare Advisory Board (SWAB) of Andaman and Nicobar Islands to reconstruct Mahila Mandals that had been damaged by the Tsunami. The Mahila Mandal was primarily used for livelihood activities by women. A lot of these centres also served as pre-school.

SEEDS in its approach to promote sustainable technologies reconstructed Mahila Mandals with appropriate bamboo technology. The walls were made of bamboo split and roofs provided with bamboo purlings. In the process local women were also oriented on the need for disaster preparedness.

Today, a few Mahila Mandals also serve as village knowledge centres for disaster risk reduction. The women who work there not only understand the significance of safe shelter but also champion our cause.





Shimla is a teeming city in the north Indian Himalayas and located in an area of high seismicity. SEEDS started working in the city to identify ways of reducing earthquake risk through actions that could be carried out locally by the citizens and the government. An urban risk reduction framework was developed and tested as part of the Shimla earthquake management plan. Extensive research based on building data, soil conditions, emergency services and a host of other factors was undertaken to understand Shimla's earthquake vulnerability.

Based on the risk assessment, a mitigation planning exercise was launched. Local consultation and planning workshops were organized to deliberate upon the study results and to chalk out a plan of action. The approach taken was one of prioritizing critically vulnerable areas, identifying appropriate local or city level actions to reduce vulnerability.

It was realized that for effective and sustainable implementation of the mitigation plan, it is essential to build capacity of the local community and government. Locally imbibed mitigation will help in reducing the total loss, which in turn will reduce the resources and time required for response and recovery. The focus of the mitigation planning initiative thus has been on inculcating risk mitigation practices at local level. However, it has also included measures for enhancing local emergency preparedness. The people, on the other hand, should take responsibility of ensuring that buildings and critical infrastructure at household and neighbourhood levels are in line with the city level mitigation approach, and that local action supports a city level plan.

SEEDS MASON ASSOCIATION

A large number of practicing masons in India have learnt the trade from hands - on experience in the field. It is not uncommon to find the practice of masonry as a trade adopted by many generations within a family. Such traditionally owned practices lack in competency level. In rural areas the masons are employed not only for masonry work but also for the design and construction of houses. Such practices distinctly reflect the significance of developing competency level of masons wherein he/she is skilled not only in masonry practice but also possesses fundamental skills of other fields such as usage of sustainable materials and disaster resistant techniques.

The Gujarat Earthquake of 26th January, 2001 resulted in devastating deaths and damage of the buildings. Typically, more than 70% of deaths in the earthquake can be attributed to collapse of masonry buildings. A strong need was felt to develop competency levels for such frontline workers to ensure a holistic approach to disaster management. SEEDS, in partnership with Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA), took the initiative to mobilize and train masons on safe construction practices. SEEDS was also instrumental in developing the training modules based on training needs assessment.



Since its inception in 2004, SEEDS Mason Association (SMA) have trained 812 masons across 8 districts in Gujarat. SMA not only ensures a sustainable source of income for the masons but also facilitates quick mobilization of skilled manpower for any disaster situation. SMA has played a significant role in the reconstruction process after the South Asian Tsunami and Kashmir Earthquake. SEEDS, in its endeavor to promote safe living standards, continues to train and impart knowledge to these masons. Today SMA members have a significant presence both in Kashmir and Gujarat, two most earthquake prone areas in India.



Search &
Rescue
Task Force

Search &
Rescue
Task Force

Search &
Rescue
Task Force

SCHOOL SAFETY, ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

In the Andaman Islands, India, SEEDS held a workshop to serve as a precursor to the Andaman School Safety Initiative. The workshop was attended by about 40 participants, including representatives from the government of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the board of education, teachers, and school children, all of whom discussed the importance of disaster education for children and its integration into the school curriculum. SEEDS has been promoting this initiative in 40 schools in Andaman and Little Andaman to inculcate a culture of disaster safety in schools.

Booklets telling the story of “Inamura no Hi” were presented to school children, and an animated version of the story was shown to primary school children. They were very interested in the animated version since there were several scenes that reminded them of the tsunami disaster they experienced in December 2004. This underscores the importance of easy-to-understand material in efforts to teach future generations about past experiences and disaster-related knowledge.



DELHI EARTHQUAKE SAFETY INITIATIVE

SEEDS had been one of the key partners in “Delhi Earthquake Safety Initiative for Life Line Buildings.” The project aimed at developing an approach towards identifying and reducing the earthquake risk of lifeline buildings.

SEEDS conducted a 5 day comprehensive earthquake preparedness programme for Ludlow Castle School, New Delhi. The programme included orientation on disaster risk and preparedness, assessment of non-structural risk/mitigation measures and evacuation drill and training.

As part of the same initiative SEEDS also conducted, extensive survey and mitigation measures for Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital, New Delhi.



GUJARAT SCHOOL SAFETY INITIATIVE

School Safety Initiative is a unique venture as it aims to sensitize children and make disaster risk reduction an integral part of school based learning.

Gujarat School Safety Initiative (GSSI) is a 2 year pilot project being carried out in 150 schools across Gujarat supported by the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA).

The initiative aimed to promote a culture of disaster safety in schools. It followed a process wherein individual schools were oriented on disaster management issues relevant to school communities. Students play an active role in assessing risks and preparing their School Disaster Management Plan (SDMP). Mock drills and interactive lessons help orient the teachers and students in a participatory manner. The students are also trained in first aid, fire safety and search and rescue.

SEEDS pioneered the school safety programme as a preparedness initiative post Bhuj earthquake, 2001. The programme was carried out in three cities Ahmedabad, Jamnagar and Vadodra.

SEEDS team has already reached out to 85,000 students and 1,500 teachers across 150 schools.

Let us begin by
learning from our
children



GUJARAT SCHOOL SAFETY INITIATIVE 2

The second component of the Gujarat School Safety Initiative involves teacher training programme. The teacher training programme is seen as a tool for up-scaling and institutionalizing the activities that have been initiated in the 150 project schools.

The teacher training programme is spread across 25 districts of Gujarat. The training involved basic disaster management awareness and understanding of roles and responsibilities to steer school safety in the respective school.

SEEDS offered this training through on-ground workshops. Approximately 700 teachers were trained in 20 workshops across all 25 districts of Gujarat.

With a view to build greater sensitivity towards earthquake risks in Himachal, a pilot project by the name of School Earthquake Safety Initiative, Shimla (SEIS) was initiated in the Shimla district in partnership with Christian Aid and European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO). The initiative is also supported by the Government of Himachal Pradesh. SEIS will emphasize the need for preparedness against earthquakes. The programme aims to imbue a culture of earthquake safety through schools. Schools under the pilot programme will also serve as models of disaster preparedness for the larger community.



The programme is being implemented in 20 schools in Shimla district. It is broadly classified into ensuring safer school buildings and developing capacity towards earthquake preparedness. Education, awareness, training and non-structural mitigation will be an integral part of this initiative. 5 schools will also be structurally strengthened (retrofitted). The structural retrofitting will involve training of masons and engineers in the process.

SEEDS plans to scale the learnings from this pilot programme to 750 schools across Shimla district.

Journey So Far...



1994

An environment profile of Wazirpur industrial area, New Delhi



1998

Gujarat Cyclone: Damage and relief needs assessment



2001

Gujarat recovery and rehabilitation programme, Patanka Navjivan Yojana

1994

1999

Orissa cyclone relief



1996

National environment awareness campaign





2003

National disaster
management plan,
Afghanistan



2005

Kashmir
earthquake:
Emergency shelter
initiative

2002

Parvat Yatra: Hill
safety campaign



2004

India tsunami
response, Andaman
and Nicobar Islands





GOLFRE was officially launched at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in Kobe, Japan, on 19th January, 2005. Under Cluster 3 of the Conference, titled 'Knowledge Management and Education: Building a Culture of Resilient Communities,' a special session was organized. The theme of the session was 'Education for Sustainable Development: Towards Effective Disaster Reduction and Enhancing Human Security.' The session was jointly organized by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Kyoto University Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies (KU/GSGES), Global Alliance on Disaster Reduction (GADR), Global Open Learning Forum on Risk Education (GOLFRE) and Disaster Reduction Alliance (DRA) in Partnership with Council of Europe (CoE), International Institute of Earthquake Engineering and Seismology (IIEES) and Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC). A presentation was made on GOLFRE, and the initiative was approved as one of the three key global partnerships as part of an international initiative under the aegis of UNESCO.

Partners Meeting

A meeting of GOLFRE partners was organized in August 2005 in Chennai. Partners from UK, USA, Turkey, South Africa, Nepal and India participated in the event. Progress was reviewed and future plans finalized. Structure and content of GOLFRE courses were worked out.

GOLFRE & ADRRN

A special session was organized on GOLFRE in partnership with the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) in August 2005. The session brought ADRRN and GOLFRE partner organizations together, and areas of mutual interest were discussed. Discussions focused on teaching content and methodologies appropriate for NGO workers. Areas of cooperation between the two networks were also identified.

August 2005, Pondicherry

A field workshop was organized in Pondicherry in August 2005. The GOLFRE team traveled in the region and met NGOs as well as community groups. The MS Swaminathan Research Foundation village knowledge centres and the Auroville building centre were visited and detailed interactions held with the teams working there. Field visits were made to villages affected by the tsunami, and community meetings and transect walks were carried out. The field workshop provided inputs for designing the content and structure for GOLFRE foundation courses.

November 2005, Penang, Malaysia

An Asian Regional Learning Workshop was organized in partnership with ADRRN in Penang, Malaysia. The workshop, titled 'Disaster Risk Reduction: Learning from the Tsunami Experience', was supported by UN/ISDR, UN-OCHA, University of Science Malaysia, and Office of the Prime Minister of Malaysia. The workshop participants were a highly motivated group of

thirty-one middle level field workers, and disaster and development managers representing NGOs, Civil Society Groups, and government agencies working on rehabilitation and development issues in eleven Asian countries, namely; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Malaysia. Highly accomplished facilitators, each of whom had several years of experience in teaching, training and disaster risk reduction, assisted the workshop. The workshop was hosted by the University of Science Malaysia in its Penang campus, also called University in a Garden. The group brain stormed, lived, ate, and lived through a simulated tsunami here. Field work was carried out in tsunami affected communities in Penang, which offered a live setting and a face-to-face interaction with tsunami survivors. The methodology involved a large number of case studies, simulation exercises and field activities, and was highly appreciated by the participants.



Experiences at community level disaster management need to be shared among nations, especially in South and South-East Asia. These provide fresh inputs and learning to local organizations working with the communities.

Maldives was among the countries worst hit by the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December, 2004. Several islands in the Southern Maldives were severely damaged with extensive loss of life and property

UNDP Maldives initiated a study on developing a risk profile for the country under a broader Disaster Risk Management Programme. SEEDS carried out the social vulnerability assessment as part of the risk profile developed by RMSI, an Indian IT Company.

The people of Maldives are at risk with regard to their very existence. Low elevation of the land mass, and the small size of the islands make them vulnerable to even mild impacts from natural hazards. The remote location and thin distribution of population further escalates the risk. Yet the people of Maldives have strong built in coping mechanism evolved over the centuries. Further interventions such as specialized training in community based preparedness and response, regulation of building practices can further prevent likely adverse impacts in future.

DISSEMINATION OF NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN - AFGHANISTAN

SEEDS assisted the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to implement the National Disaster Management Plan that was developed by SEEDS in 2003. As a first step towards implementing the plan, SEEDS began with disseminating the NDMP to various stake holders. The project was funded by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). The Department for Disaster Preparedness (DDP) of Afghanistan was the government partner in the project.

The project objectives were to promote NDMP among various line ministries at national level, help provinces to develop their own DMP and create awareness on roles and responsibilities of district level authorities and community representatives.

The dissemination was carried out through several workshops and training programmes across ministries, provinces and districts. The workshop approach ensured active participation from all individuals involved in disaster management plans. SEEDS ensured that disaster management plans at province and district levels were not in isolation of national disaster management plan. Similar training programmes were also conducted for school teachers and children in Jalalabad.

SEEDS also collaborated with UN-Habitat (Afghanistan) and developed community training and awareness guidelines for earthquake resistant construction of non-engineered rural and suburban houses in earthquake prone regions of Afghanistan.

A study tour of four officials of the Department

for Disaster Preparedness of Afghanistan to India was conducted during 24-31 January, 2006. The General Director of DDP headed the delegation.

The team was exposed to several ongoing disaster preparedness and reconstruction initiatives in India. The primary objective of promoting NDMP among various stake holders across district and province levels along with training and capacity building was substantially achieved. The process also provided clarity with respect to future action to



Networking creates a broader reach for the programmes carried out by the partners. It ensures proper resource utilization and promotes coordination & collaboration among all stakeholders for better disaster reduction and response.

Community based disaster management (CBDM) by its very definition involves communities and promotes partnership and joint action to reduce disaster risks. The ACT AHEAD II international conference organized by SEEDS in partnership with UNCRD, UN/ISDR and Kyoto University was designated as a preparatory meeting for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction-Kobe with specific focus on CBDM in Asia.

The international conference was second in the series of international conferences in New Delhi, India, that began in December 2002 as an immediate follow-up of the Gujarat earthquake rehabilitation experience. 79 participants from 13 countries spent three days discussing a wide range of topics that included policies, governance, education and role of civil society with respect to CBDM. All participants shared their experiences based on their respective community initiatives. This was followed by a panel discussion in each case on the lessons learnt and challenges encountered.

ACT AHEAD II also provided a platform to devise a Plan of Action for the next 10 years based on the lesson learnt from the past. The Plan of Action provided a distinct framework to work on diverse issues like corporate partnerships, stakeholder analysis, training and research, marketing of CBDM, risk communication and role of civil society/NGOs.



ADRRN WORKSHOP

In the midst of an intensive recovery effort following the December 2004 Tsunami, a three day workshop by the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) was held in August 2005, Chennai, India. 24 NGOs across Asia participated to share their experiences and explore opportunities for joint activities in disaster hit areas within Asia.

The ADRRN regional workshop was supported by Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC) & United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) and was organized by SEEDS. Participants debated on the challenges encountered during the post-tsunami reconstruction process and the need to build capacity among NGO workers. A lot of issues like project management, disaster management tools, training and mobilization, livelihood and education, quality and accountability in humanitarian actions were also discussed in the context of Tsunami.

With participants from NGOs working all across Asia, the three day event made major strides in

terms of its mandate, mission and structure.

Examples of working together such as the simultaneous publication of the Inamura No-Hi in eight Asian languages and a safe building workshop in Aceh reflected the strength and potential of the network to make a lasting impact in building resilience at community level.





SEEDS spearheaded the task of humanitarian relief in the Port Blair region within 60 hours of the Indian Ocean tsunami. Two relief camps were established in Port Blair where affected people from different islands were being brought. In addition, a community kitchen was also put up in Jungleezhat, from where people had not moved into the relief camps. SEEDS managed these relief camps with the help of local residents who offered food, clothes and essential items to help the survivors being brought into the relief camps.

Distribution of relief was done in the form of relief kits in an organized and dignified manner. Television sets were installed in the relief camps and games distributed for children. Local volunteers stepped in to keep the people occupied and help them cope with the trauma and loss.

Interim shelter programme

SEEDS took the initiative to construct intermediate shelter for 354 families in Nanjappa Nagar area of Hutbay, Little Andaman. The approach was to avoid commercial contractors. The SMA (SEEDS Mason Association) led the initiative. SMA is a group of trained construction workers who had themselves been hit by the Gujarat Earthquake of 2001. Subsequently they worked with SEEDS in Gujarat and underwent training in disaster resistant construction. SMA trained masons are tested and certified by the government in a first-of-its-kind programme in the country. These workers could relate with what the affected families were going through. They worked away from home, with few facilities and round the clock to build 354 houses in eight weeks.

The beneficiary families themselves pitched in with manual labour. Women and men dug the foundations, carried the pipes and sheets, and helped in the erection of the houses. They were paid cash wages as per government norms. The process helped them stay occupied, earn a livelihood, and play a role in the building of their houses.

The construction process was riddled with many problems. The monsoon rains, inhospitable terrain due to low-lying tracts of forests that were available for construction, and logistic issues of transporting material and equipment to the remote areas made the work difficult, but with a collaborative approach and local support, the mission was finally accomplished.

Besides the basic physical infrastructure, a need for a community activity space was also felt. SEEDS seized this opportunity to construct a community centre using locally appropriate bamboo and thatch technology. This became the beginning of our advocacy efforts to promote bamboo based construction for the islands as against pre-fabricated cement and steel. The community centre was appreciated locally, and the approach was later incorporated into the advocacy initiative for appropriate materials and technologies for permanent shelter construction.

Reconstructing livelihoods

Sustained community interactions revealed that one of the most pressing needs is “a source of income.” It was felt that the extended relief had made the tsunami-affected people handicapped in generating their own income. With the relief phase coming to end it was time now to actually bring their life back to normal by encouraging them to restart their economic activities. Project SWAYAM was an initiative to bring the community out of the relief mode and into an economic self-rehabilitation mode. Though SEEDS has its primary skill set in the area of shelter and habitat, a livelihood programme was felt necessary since in the given context, permanent shelter construction was getting inordinately delayed and the opportunity of employing people in that was not present. Two activities were taken up under the livelihood recovery programme:

1. Micro Credit.
2. Reconstruction of Women's Centres damaged by the tsunami.

SWAYAM, a micro credit programme, was implemented by SEEDS in collaboration with CAP-Solidarites, a French NGO, with support from Microsoft, French Red Cross and Conseil General du Val de Marne.

The objective of the programme was to help the tsunami affected community in reviving their livelihoods. It was more than just a loan programme; its added value contributes to the beneficiary's self-development and helps her/him to be better equipped to reduce the risk of future disasters. SWAYAM was a community friendly loan programme, yet ran on clearly laid out principles for promoting financial discipline.



SWAYAM has so far disbursed loans to more than hundred individuals and self help groups amounting to a total of over forty two lakh rupees. Most of these have gone to groups and some to individuals. They have been used to support the restarting of various trades including fish processing and marketing, tailoring and garment related trade, motor garage, tea and grocery stalls, stationary shop, computer coaching institute etc.

The project is being implemented in South Andaman and Little Andaman, with information dissemination and application collection being done through the local offices of banks, insurance companies, social welfare board, Andaman and Nicobar Chamber of Commerce and offices of the local government.

Reconstruction of woman centers

SEEDS was approached by the Social Welfare Advisory Board (SWAB) of Andaman and Nicobar Islands to reconstruct Mahila Mandals that had been damaged by the Tsunami. The Mahila Mandals was primarily used for livelihood activities by women. A lot of these centres also served as pre-school.

SEEDS in its approach to promote sustainable technologies reconstructed Mahila Mandals with appropriate bamboo technology. The walls were made of bamboo split and roofs provided with bamboo purlings. In the process local women were also oriented on the need for disaster preparedness.

Today few Mahila Mandals also serve as village knowledge centres for disaster risk reduction. The women who work there not only understand the significance of safe shelter but also champion our cause.

KASHMIR EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

An earthquake of magnitude 7.6 hit the Himalayan region of Kashmir on 8th October, 2005. Tremors were felt upto a distance of 1000 km from the epicenter and damage extended to a radius of 140 km. Children accounted for almost half of the people who died in the giant 7.6 magnitude earthquake, and most were in school when they perished.

SEEDS fielded its first relief operation on 9th October, accompanied by a structural assessment team. Poonch though on the fringe of the affected area, was selected due to the fact that most aid teams had targeted Uri, Baramulla, Kupwara and Tangdhar. SEEDS was the first team to reach Poonch with humanitarian relief.

The initial round of distribution of 100 tents and 500 blankets was completed on 17th October. The distribution was carried out in the villages of Ajote, Gulpur, Khari, Mandi and Jhullas.

The next two weeks were spent in unimpeded aid targeted particularly at severely affected families based on ground assessments. Family kits comprising woollens, utensils, milk powder, notebooks and blankets were distributed in the most remote areas of Poonch.

Kashmir interim shelter

With the worsening winter condition, emergency shelters were of immediate priority for the affected families. With logistical support from National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India, the reconstruction process started on 19th November, 2005.

In the 40 days that followed the relief phase, SEEDS constructed shelters for families identified as priority families based on the assessment of local government as well as field verification by SEEDS team. The process further emphasized educating the local carpenters on disaster resistant structures. SEEDS Mason Association involvement ensured an informal knowledge sharing on safe construction practices.

The shelter process was carried out in full consciousness of the SPHERE standards and the International Code of Conduct.

404 shelters were completed in 40 villages a week before the first winter snowfall in Poonch. Beneficiary participation was the backbone of the design and process framework.



Over the last decade, disasters triggered by natural hazards have claimed more than 6,00,000 lives and affected more than 2.4 billion people, the majority of them in developing countries. Years of development gains have been lost, deepening poverty for millions and leaving them even more exposed to future natural hazards. Now more than ever, we must accelerate our efforts to reduce vulnerability.

The various activities carried out by us are made possible through the support of individuals and organizations. We gratefully acknowledge the financial, material, moral and technical support of the following partners.



- GeoHazards International
- Asian Disaster Reduction Center, Japan
- Christian Aid
- Cap Solidarities
- Sanofi Aventis
- Care, India
- Japan Housing Association
- The American India Foundation
- Disaster Resource Network
- NGOs Kobe
- ProVention Consortium
- Asian Disaster Reduction & Response Network (ADRRN)
- Asian Disaster Preparedness Center Foundation (ADPC)
- Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority
- National Foundation for India
- Microsoft, India
- Amazon Development Centre, India
- External Affairs Spouses Association Charitable Trust

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

LEGAL STATUS

SEEDS is a non profit organization registered in India under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 (Act No. 21 of 1860) vide registration no.25402 dated 31st January, 1994.

SEEDS has been granted registration under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 1976 (Act No. 49 of 1976) vide registration no. 231660080 dated 27th September, 2000, by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, for receiving foreign grants.

SEEDS has been granted registration under Section 12A (a) of the Income Tax Act-Exemption, vide letter No. DIT (Exemption)/94-95/S-1680/94/380 dated 21/2/95.



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The present members of the Governing body are academicians and practitioners from the development sector. They provide overall guidance and direction to various initiatives of the organization.

MEMBERS

Prof. V.K Sharma

Prof. J.H. Ansari

Prof. B. Mishra

Prof. Rajib Shaw

Prof. Rajesh Bheda

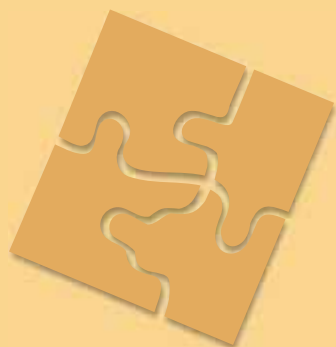
Manu Gupta

Anshu Sharma



PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The management team comprising Manu Gupta and Anshu Sharma looks into day to day operations of the organization. They lead the team of professionals in four functional areas: Structural mitigation and response; school safety; education, research and training and developmental communication (Safer World Communications). Programme monitoring and programme support are the other independent units.

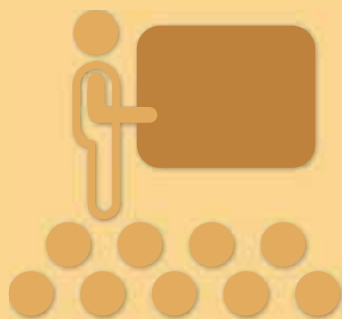


ESTABLISHMENT

SEEDS is headquartered in New Delhi with its regional offices at Ahmedabad, Bhubaneshwar, Port Blair, Shimla and Poonch. It has a strength of 51 employees across six offices.



TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING



SEEDS, as an organization, take particular interest in enhancing the capacity of its team personnel and encourage them to undergo special training through exposure in national and international workshops.

SEEDS introduced a Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) for better co-ordination and communication. PMU will not only be responsible for monitoring the project activities but also serve as a bridge between those working at field level and decision makers at organizational headquarters. Similarly a major exercise was undertaken to revise the SEEDS Accounting and Financial Management Manual. The SEEDS annual retreat of 2006 also focused on team and trust building.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

For effective programme implementation, knowledge resources and infrastructure are constantly upgraded across SEEDS offices. In the year 2005 SEEDS introduced a library at the Head Office. The library today has a collection of 2500 documents which includes books, journals, development reports & films, manuals, maps, and interactive CDs. The management is completely automated.

SEEDS continue to maintain and increase its previous repertoire of shake tables, wind tunnels, GPS equipments and training centers to reach out to a wider audience and ensure ease of operation.



ACCOUNTING SYSTEM



The accounting period followed is from 1st April, 2005 to 31st March, 2006. The software Tally is used for the accounting system. The accounting system is maintained on the accrual basis in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. General ledger adjusting entries are made at the end of each month and at the year end.

SEEDS is engaged in projects funded by various government and non-government agencies. Cost centers are maintained for different projects under the accounting system.

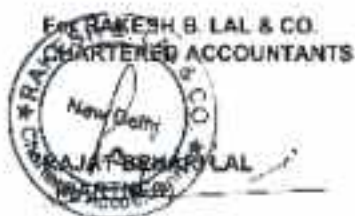
Our bankers are the Standard Chartered Bank and accounts are operated through their Delhi and Ahmedabad branches. Our auditors are R.B Lal and Co., New Delhi.

BALANCE SHEET 2005-2006

Name of Society: Sustainable Environment & Ecological Development Society
 Reg. Office: 315, Kailash Tower I, Mount Kailash, New Delhi - 110 005
 Reg. No.: S/25402 of 1994

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2006

Particulars	Schedule	Amount (Rs.)
A - INCOME		
GRANTS & DONATION	6	58,173,407.03
SURPLUS FROM SEEDS - INTERNATIONAL		1,744,028.18
INTEREST & OTHER INCOME		317,049.12
		<u>58,234,484.33</u>
B - EXPENDITURE		
EXPENDITURE ON PROJECTS	7	37,557,294.77
	(B)	<u>37,557,294.77</u>
C-EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	(A-B)	20,677,189.56
LESS: TRANSFERRED TO SPECIFIC FUNDS		12,500,000.00
BALANCE CARRIED TO BALANCE SHEET		8,177,189.56
NOTES TO ACCOUNTS	8	



Place : New Delhi
 Dated: 21 AUG 2006

For Sustainable Environment & Ecological Development Society


 Manu Gupta
 (Vice President)


 (Anshu Sharma)
 (Secretary)





SEEDS in its endeavour to build **resilient**
community has reached out to
85000 school children,
trained **200** teachers and **900** masons,
built **754** emergency shelters,
disbursed **120** small scale loans to small
enterprises & **reconstructed 4** women
livelihood centres across **5** most **disaster**
prone regions in the country.

SEEDS

D-11, Panchsheel Enclave, New Delhi-110017

www.seedsindia.org