

EXPLORING PERSPECTIVES TO SAFER COMMUNITIES

SEEDS Annual Report | 2017-18



Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society





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MESSAGE



Dear Friends,

It's been an interesting year of exploring different perspectives to safer communities.

We began a three-year programme on school safety in East Delhi, re-defining corporate partnerships for risk reduction and tailoring solutions to each of the 50 schools with which we are working. This is bringing into sharp focus how 'risk' is perceived by communities, and the criticality of integrating day-to-day stresses into all school safety programming.

The design of permanent schools in Jammu & Kashmir is underway, where we're looking not just at designing for structural safety and functionality, but also for happiness. Our initiatives continued on work around integrated risk management, working to build harmony between people and their environment. When massive floods hit this monsoon, we were able to scale up our operations, working along with local civil society organisations to respond across Assam, Gujarat, West Bengal and Bihar. This looked at aspects of health, schools and homes. Water filtration systems using the 'terafil' technology have been seeing great success in Bihar.



Building on our citizen forum initiatives and collaborating with our international partners, 2017 has seen us consistently driving advocacy and policy change initiatives, particularly around the idea of localisation.

This has also been a year of reflection. As SEEDS looks at completing 25 years of outstanding service to humanity, it is re-anchoring its approach to building resilience through innovation.

To do this, we have also been consolidating our work into four key thematic areas that are at the heart of safer and more sustainable communities: Shelter & Settlements, Education, Health and Learning & Governance. We will continue to work on practical solutions in readiness, response and rehabilitation.

We thank all our donors, partners, volunteers and friends and who have extended their generous support. It is your trust and the overwhelming response from the communities that we serve that allows us to continue empowering the most vulnerable across Asia to build a better future.

With warm regards,

Manu Gupta | Anshu Sharma
Co-Founders



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AWARDS

- CNN-IBN Indian of the year 2010 for Public Service
- Drukpa Award 2011 (for rehabilitation work in Ladakh)
- UNFCCC 2013 Momentum of Change Lighthouse award (for community-based micro climate resilience project in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh)
- 'Catalysts of Change Ladakh' awarded best film in the Climate Change Adaptation category at Asia Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016
- GuideStar India NGO Transparency award 2016 (Gold Level)
- Recognised as Sendai Target Champion for reducing disaster mortality by UNISDR (for work on affordable and safe housing)

ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS

SEEDS (Sustainable Environment & Ecological Development Society) was incorporated on January 31, 1994 as a voluntary organisation under the Societies Act 1860. SEEDS is registered under Section 12A of the Income Tax Act, 1961 of India. SEEDS also receives foreign contributions and has been granted registration under Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA). The permission is valid upto 2021, after which the renewal will be done again.

SEEDS undertakes various projects, so the accounting is done project wise. SEEDS maintains three separate set of books of accounts as: First set of books to comply with the requirements of Foreign Contributions Regulation Act and accounts for contributions & expenses on foreign contribution projects; Second set of books for local projects and office overheads and Third set of books for International Projects.

Besides compliance under various Accounting Standards issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, SEEDS also maintains its accounts as per the requirements of donor organisations. SEEDS financial year commences on April 1 of every year and ends on March 31 of the subsequent year. It follows accrual basis of accounting. We have a centralised accounting system maintained at the Head Office.

An independent auditor audits all accounts of SEEDS every year. As per law, SEEDS submits yearly statement of Foreign Contributions to the Ministry of Home Affairs. We also submit yearly Income Tax returns to the Government of India along with Balance Sheet covering all projects and activities. Close monitoring of all project budgets is done based on the monthly reporting of expenses and progress of projects.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. V. K. Sharma - President

Dr. Manu Gupta - Vice President

Dr. Anshu Sharma - Secretary

Prof. J.H. Ansari - Member

Mrs. Manjusha Gupta - Member

Prof. Rajesh Bheda - Member

Dr. Rajib Shaw - Member

Dr. R. Kuberan - Member

VISION & APPROACH



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.

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

SEEDS IS A MEMBER OF AND SIGNATORY TO:

- The Code of Conduct for The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- SPHERE Standard in Humanitarian Aid
- The International Council of Voluntary Agencies
- Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN)
- Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance (ALNAP)
- Core Humanitarian Standard (CHS) - an international certification system for quality and accountability in disaster relief.
- Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)
- Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR)
- Owner-Driven Reconstruction Collaborative (ODRC)



OUR APPROACH AND WAY OF WORKING

SEEDS enables community resilience through practical solutions for disaster readiness, response & rehabilitation - grafting innovative technology on to traditional wisdom. We empower the most vulnerable to build a better future.

Our work ranges from humanitarian response and early recovery programmes to reconstruction, training and innovation activities. All of this takes a long-term and inter-connected approach to ensure maximum impact. This is carried out with due regard for human dignity, respect for local cultures and values and accountability towards all stakeholders. We push the use of local (and where possible natural) materials and integrate modern disaster resistance techniques with traditional practices. As appropriate, this has included bamboo, wood, stone, mud, CGI sheeting, traditional grasses and often the use of salvaged material in the aftermath of a disaster. This approach of melding with the local culture, rather than importing foreign materials, helps decrease the carbon footprint and has social benefits.

SEEDS takes a participatory and community-led approach to all of its work, driven by the community or home owners themselves. All concerned stakeholders, including the local government, are actively involved, ensuring shared responsibility through the design and implementation. Adopting such an approach helps make the process meaningful, locally-appropriate and encourages longer-term behavioural changes within the community.

In doing this, SEEDS focusses on four key areas: Shelter & Settlements, Education, Health and Governance & Learning.

Shelter and Settlements

Making homes and the surrounding settlements safer are at the heart of building resilience.

In the aftermath of an emergency, we focus on emergency tents and early recovery housing as the situation demands. Related non-food items - utensils, blankets and essential hygiene items are also addressed. Perhaps most importantly, we aim to start the recovery and reconstruction process from the very first day. Rather than risking unsafe rebuilding, SEEDS' works with the most vulnerable families to



create transitional shelters. These follow cultural norms, often using materials that are local. These homes are the foundation towards permanent housing, which we undertake in the medium term. Incorporating risk reduction features and disability-friendly design as needed, these embody the spirit of building back better.

SEEDS also trains masons, construction workers and homeowners on safe construction practices. However, the house cannot be looked at in isolation. Communities face multi-faceted problems at a settlement level. The growing impacts of climate change, unplanned urbanisation and underlying risks add to this vulnerability. **Environment** plays a key role in our shelter and settlements portfolio. SEEDS is committed to empowering local communities to better withstand these risks. Pre-emptively this includes risk assessments and planning for mitigative action; early warning systems at a community level; as well as climate adaptation. In the rehabilitation phase, SEEDS works with communities on nature-based solutions, buffer plantations and site-level drainage.

Education

A school is more than a building. It's a place for children to learn, to play, to be safe, to be inspired and to grow. In the aftermath of a disaster, it is also one of the most important ways for them to heal. Yet, disasters cause disproportionately high damage to school infrastructure.

In the aftermath of a disaster, we build temporary learning centres and distribute school kits to get children back to their routine at the earliest possible. In the longer term, we rebuild permanent schools that incorporate disaster risk reduction features, and serve as models of rebuilding for the community.

Our efforts are not just to rebuild, but to upgrade school buildings. Existing school structures are strengthened through retrofitting and upgraded to serve as relief centres. For safer schools mean safer communities.

This is complemented by school safety and preparedness initiatives. SEEDS works to ensure that the school community is better equipped to respond and involves the neighbouring communities.



This includes training on life saving skills, effective response and the development of school disaster management plans. Across our education initiatives, SEEDS emphasises not just that children be safe, but comfortable and happy as well. We continue to work towards zero mortality from preventable disasters in schools.

Health

Health aspects, including awareness, access to clean and potable water and safety of health facilities, both amplify vulnerabilities in the face of a disaster, as well as affect quality of life.

SEEDS works on preventive measures, spreading awareness on water, hygiene and sanitation (WaSH). We build community water filtration systems; and develop hospital disaster management plans. SEEDS also looks at strengthening rural clinics where there is little access to medicine.

In the aftermath of an emergency, SEEDS conducts health camps to reach the most vulnerable. We rebuild and retrofit Primary Health Centres; clean and restore water sources and run awareness programmes for last-line health workers and affected communities.

Governance and Learning

The SEEDS Learning Academy is built on our years of experience as a learning system by practitioners for practitioners. It embodies the learning culture that has always been at the heart of our work. Running courses on various aspects of disaster management, risk reduction and climate adaptation, the SLA hopes to create a cadre of expert disaster management professionals.

SEEDS' programmes are also supported by strategic partnerships and innovative action research. We cooperate and network with allied groups for knowledge exchange and to reach out more broadly.

Community-led forums have brought together people from various walks of life to take up neighbourhood issues and advocate with local governments for change. These forums act as a collective learning and action hub to reduce day-to-day stresses. They also create an enabling environment to strengthen government-citizen partnership.

HONEYWELL SAFE SCHOOLS

Schools are one of the most important places for children. Yet there is still a lack of knowledge on safety measures. Developing the skills for resilience is critical to address this gap. For school safety initiatives don't just create a safer environment at school. They become the fulcrum for larger safety transformations in the community, building their capacity and addressing stresses that they face.

East Delhi is a perfect example. The area is at high risk from earthquakes and floods. Located in the Yamuna flood plains, there are few buffer zones and highly dense built up areas. Rapid and unplanned construction exists that supports around one-fifth of the city's population. Even a short rain spell submerges it in water, disrupting life and causing distress. Delhi also falls in Earthquake Zone IV, with 20 potential faults identified within a 300 km radius. Apart from the prevalent hazards in East Delhi, there are a number of day-to-day risks which add to the vulnerability.

The Honeywell Safe Schools programme was therefore conceived as an ambitious effort aimed at strengthening resilience, emergency preparedness and response capacity across 50 East Delhi schools which are highly vulnerable to disasters and climate hazards. The programme runs from 2017-2020, aiming to reach 57,000 children, 40,000 parents, and 2,356 teachers by 2020.

In a concerted effort to focus CSR initiatives on this resilience aspect, the SEEDS Honeywell Hometown Solutions India Foundation partnership breaks new ground.





Perception Surveys Threw Up Interesting Results

A pre-analysis survey was carried out to establish a baseline of the school safety scenario in Delhi. The study used spatial data analysis through Geographical Information System (GIS) tools, campus level assessments conducted by expert architects, participatory assessments by social science and media specialists, and validated data from the government. Having done so, it zeroed in on the most vulnerable area of East Delhi. Thereafter, perception surveys were undertaken in East Delhi, through various tools, including focus group discussions, transect walks, and key informant interviews. Responses from 1035 people on their perception of risk and understanding of safety measures were reflected through the analyses. This threw up interesting findings, particularly around perception of risk.

Field surveys and interactions carried out for the baseline indicate that flood, earthquake and fire hazards, though technically high, are often not recognized as priority concerns by children, parents, teachers and civic authorities. Many of these hazards relate to disasters that may happen after a huge time lag, and therefore there is no strong recall in living memory.

Instead the majority of parents feared road accidents as the greatest risk for their children. This put the spotlight on how children commute to school. Considering that the majority of children walk to school, usually unaccompanied, the fears of accidents and eve-teasing were amplified.

A summary report of this pre-analysis survey was released at the launch of the programme.

Choosing Our 50 Schools

The indicators for assessing schools safety conditions were selected from the data of school report cards provided by NUEPA. These cover key indicators of all schools, of which those related to vulnerability were chosen and a weightage system established.

Along with the rankings, selected schools had to be run by Directorate of Education, Govt. of NCT of Delhi or the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Attention was paid to equal selection of girl's and boy's schools to understand and address the gender gap.

Ground verifications were carried out of shortlisted schools. Based on the vulnerability ranking and verification from field visits, 50 schools were identified for school safety intervention. Detailed baseline assessments were then carried out for each of the schools to establish their condition and specific challenges.

Further, a cluster wise route plan was created to ensure hotspots in the region were covered. This will help ensure continuous engagement with neighboring communities (around the identified schools) from the very beginning; and look at addressing broader shocks and stresses throughout the program.



HONEYWELL SAFE SCHOOLS

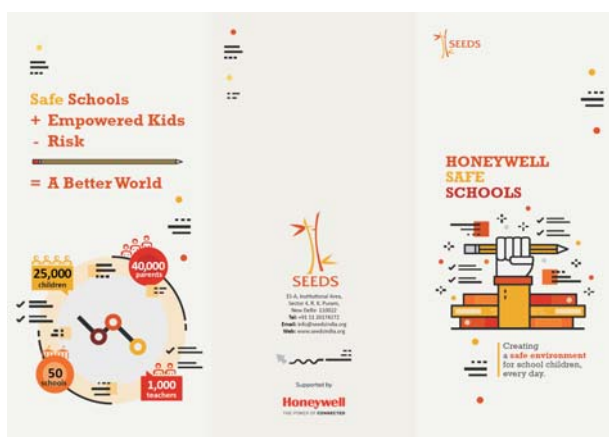
a safe environment for school children, every day

Today, July 27, 2017
New Delhi



Honeywell Safe School Launch

A launch event on 27th July, 2017, brought together 200 people including officials, schools teachers and principals, youth leaders, parents, local CBOs and media. It marked the public launch of the programme and the release of the pre-analysis summary report. Mr. Kamal Kishore, Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Mr. Kulanand Joshi, District Magistrate, East Delhi District, and Mr. Vikas Chadha, President, Honeywell Hometown Solutions, graced the event as guests of Honour.



A Comprehensive Approach to Risk

The programme takes a broader view of risk. It attempts to influence behavior and bring about a culture of safety. Feeling safe is about the physical environment, the journey to reach learning, as well as feeling prepared and equipped to deal with an emergency situation.

Mock drills and creation of school disaster management plans are preparing the schools to respond appropriately if emergencies strike. At the same time, counselling sessions at home and in schools are being regularly organised. Art-based therapy, theater and music sessions will help children overcome fear and speak up against abuse and violence.

This process adopts a Learn-Reflect-Empower approach to allow for maximum impact. Students deepen their awareness about hazards and risks. They analyse their own surroundings. They then take small but concrete action towards reducing the risks around them.

Rapid visual survey (RVS) is to visually check how we perceive the building. Check the building wear and tear, and cracks on visual basis. Detailed formats and photo documentation are used in this process. During the month of March 2018, RVS began in four of our schools.

We also began conducting non-structural mitigation (NSM) assessments across 24 schools. A set of 10 parameters and their 110 sub parameters are studied and evaluated for this. This directs us to narrow the scope down to the most vulnerable elements, in the school buildings, thus assisting in a rapid data collection inclusive of even the smallest defects.





For the purpose of going beyond conventional 'safe' schools to 'secure' school concept, the in-depth study of built environment required measured drawings. In depth study of built environments for measured drawing is being undertaken in 25 schools, beginning in March 2018.

Finally, an element of advocacy is embedded in the programme. The concept of 'risk reduction', particularly in schools, is still not mainstream in India. The attempt to bring about a culture of safety will be an incremental process that will go beyond the programme area.

Informative Education Collaterals

In a concentrated attempt to look at behaviour change, innovative tools are necessary. An entire communication campaign and set of characters are being developed that are easily-relatable. This set of family characters will guide children through learning about school safety! The process began this year with interactions at the selected schools to understand preferences and nuanced choices. Based on this research, a new set of collaterals, necessary visual aids, games, and activities are being developed.

Volunteer Engagement

A key aspect of the programme that began early on was the engagement with Honeywell volunteers. On the third Saturday of every month, excited employees joined SEEDS' staff for a dedicated session with the target communities. Over this year, focus areas included World Toilet Day, art-based therapy, road safety and Chai Charcha (discussion over tea). 24 Honeywell volunteers engaged over these events.



INDIA FLOOD RESPONSE 2017 (Assam, Bihar, Gujarat and West Bengal)

The monsoon season of 2017 wreaked havoc across the Himalyan region and northeastern part of the country. The states of Assam, Bihar, Gujarat and West Bengal were some of the worst hit.

Concerns were raised over the threat of water borne diseases, safe drinking water, shelters and food. Apart from these, women and children were facing an additional set of challenges. Due to the lack of sanitation facilities women were compelled to relieve themselves in the open and often did so at night leaving them vulnerable. Long-term challenges ranged from loss of infrastructure and economic losses and trauma.

Another major area of concern was continuation of education for children in the affected regions. With numerous schools damaged due to inundation, the education system was severely affected. School management were forced to take classes in damaged structures which were both unsafe and not conducive to learning.

Our Overall Plan

SEEDS' created an overall plan that focused on immediate relief with health camps and NFI kits; and early recovery through school, shelter and water initiatives.

Golaghat district, Assam	Saharsa district, Bihar	Banaskantha district, Gujarat	Midnapur District, West Bengal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 transitional homes • 3 bamboo Schools • 500 children's kits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2150 Hygiene Kits • 8 health camps • 12 Terra Filters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Health camp • Restoration of 3 schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100 transitional homes • Water, sanitation and health workshops





“ Many of the patients we saw here are suffering from skin diseases and gastric disorders. I had to travel on boat for one of the camp. It is overwhelming to see people go through so much of difficulty here. Our team is glad to have been able to reach out to the families most in need. ”

Dr. Thakur Mukesh Singh Chauhan, Part of the Health Camps in Bihar

Non-food item Kits

Basic hygiene kits ensure affected families can cope with dignity. SEEDS Distributed 2150 such kits across 7 gram panchayats of Saharsa district.

HEALTH CAMPS TO SUPPORT AFFECTED FAMILIES IN BIHAR AND GUJARAT

Catering to the most affected and vulnerable populations, SEEDS set up mobile medical camps in the affected regions. This mobility meant it could move daily based on the needs. Families were given free medical consultations and issued basic and specialist medicines on case to case basis.

In Saharsa, Bihar, camps covered six villages, reaching out to over 600 patients. The majority suffered from gastric disorders, skin infections, diarrhea and injuries. In Dhanera, Gujarat, the camps reached 363 people across Dhanera town, Lavara and Dughava.



ENSURING ACCESS TO SAFE WATER THROUGH TERRA FILTERS IN BIHAR!

Saharsa district of Bihar is one of the most flood-prone regions in the country. Major floods occurred in 2008 and since then the area has flooded almost every year. The monsoon season of 2017 was no exception.

The water in the region is primarily characterized by high iron content, and contamination due to extensive use of pesticides and agricultural chemicals. The harmful effects of contamination and high iron content are manifested through medical issues. Post floods, the situation deteriorates further as cases of diarrhea, dysentery and jaundice spread.

The situation called for a measure to ensure that communities have access to safe and potable drinking water, even during flood situation. A solution that would treat the excessive iron content, turbidity and contamination! Keeping all these factors in mind, terra filters were found to be a viable solution.

Last year (2016), five terra filters were built in Sonbarsa block in this district. The filters were able to significantly reduce the amount of iron content in the water and also treat the contamination, even providing safe drinking water post the floods in 2017!

This year, we decided to expand the impact with seven more in South Mahishi block of Saharsa. Here, cases of contamination of water drinking sources during floods were high. Through Knowledge-Action-Practice (KAP) surveys to look at existing problems and community consultations to identify locations within the village, SEEDS began its' design process.

The filters were designed by SEEDS in cohesion with community needs and optimum utilisation of space. Each site was uniquely designed based on the site specifics, and the present and future requirements of users. Elevated platforms were designed considering the recurrent flooding.

At the heart of the terra filter are the terra discs . These clay discs are semi-baked at low temperature to develop the perforations throughout. This also makes the discs eco-friendly as they have a very low carbon footprint. The discs were selected by a team of specially trained SEEDS mobilisers to ensure quality; and then transported in wooden containers to avoid damage.

The filters will aid in enhancing the quality of water in the region by removing turbid particles, microorganisms, iron, color & bad odor from raw water. At a height, the systems are expected to work well even during the floods, helping curtail water borne diseases.





From drinking water to safer hygiene practices

The intervention took a people centric approach throughout the process. From identifying the locations to WaSH sessions to water testing and convergence workshops, the community was at the forefront.

It is equally important to sensitise and encourage families to practice safe and hygienic sanitation practices and therefore awareness activities were also carried at community level. Women took the lead in promoting hygiene behavioral changes at family, acting as ambassadors for bringing about this change. WaSH committees consisting of women members in the community were formed at all seven locations. They were trained on the use of terra filters, as well as precautions to be taken to ensure safe water consumption.

Over the course of the programme, regular interactions and engagements were held with government authorities especially at the district level and line departments. The water samples were tested from the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) lab in Saharsa district. Further, the local health workers including Anganwadi staff, ASHA workers, National Rural Health Mission Staff were orientated on Wash and public health issues. Liaising was carried out with government on a regular basis for smooth flow of planned activities.



DESIGNING FOR HOPE

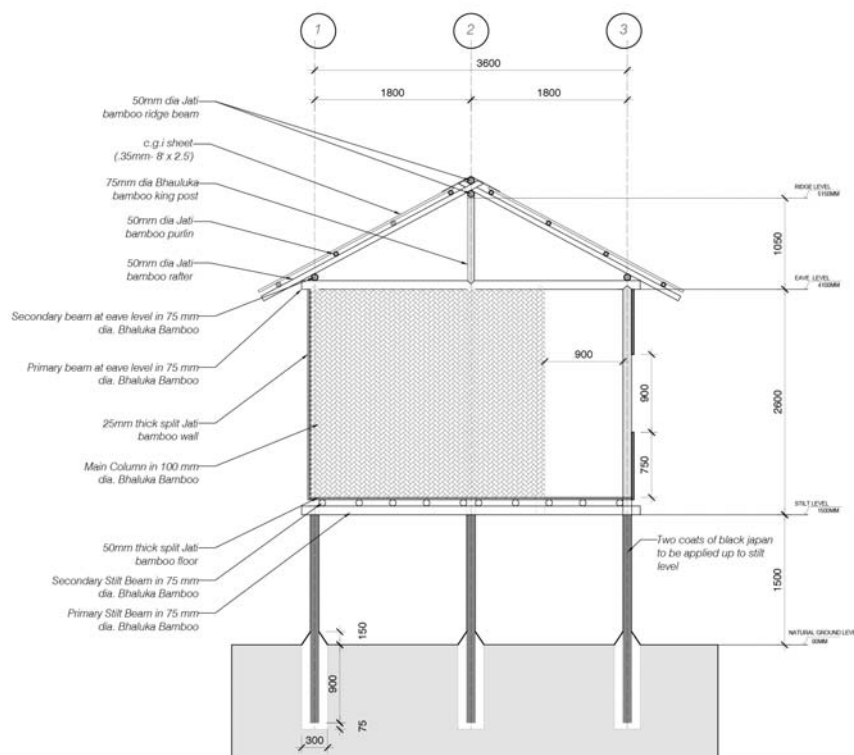
Back to Homes

During the period, SEEDS invested the majority of its focus on the community engagement process to design the transitional shelters. The design was then frozen based on their feedback and acceptance. In West Bengal, for example, it was suggested that concrete columns be used, a suggestion with both cost and procurement implications.

The key features that were used while designing and as principles to follow included:

- Innovative adjustable foundation using bamboo, which can be raised in times of flooding.
- Quick construction process
- Low-cost construction technology
- Locally available materials like bamboo and CGI roofing sheets
- Doable using local construction skills
- Acceptable and adaptable for local community
- Size of structure as per Sphere Standards
- Structural design considering seismic safety and topographical needs.

Prototyping is now underway in Ranichak GP and Nischintpur GPs of West Bengal; and Bokaghat, Golaghat District in Assam.





Bamboo schools and children's kits to continue education in Assam

During floods, education was severely disrupted, with schools buildings rendered unfit to hold classes due to inundation of rain water or severe accumulation of sludge. As a result, school authorities are seen struggling to continue education owing to lack of alternate arrangement.

SEEDS' initial designs centred around quick-to-construct, yet child-friendly and sturdy bamboo schools. They also incorporate disaster risk reduction elements such as seismic safety and flood resilience. During this period, the designing and feedback process continued and plans for a prototype were finalised to ensure clear understanding within the community.

3 such schools will be constructed in Golaghat district of Assam and 500 children kit will be distributed. SEEDS will also be providing children's kits to the students of these schools, helping ensure lack of learning materials don't lead to dropouts.

Repair and renovation of schools in Banaskantha district, Gujarat

After assessments and discussions with the Education Department, SEEDS narrowed down on three schools in Banaskantha district. These had classrooms and sanitation units which required major repair to ensure the education is unhampered. The schools will be repaired and renovated making it conducive to hold classes. It would also involve incorporation of elements so as to protect the school building from future disasters. In one of the schools, the addition of a semi-open space was proposed to run it as a multi-purpose room for the school; and repair work began this year.

JAMMU & KASHMIR FLOOD SCHOOL RECONSTRUCTION INITIATIVE

The unprecedented flooding of Jammu & Kashmir in September 2014 left a trail of destruction from which communities are still recovering. Three years hence, many school buildings still await restoration and classes continue to be held in unsafe temporary arrangements. While material destruction has had obvious consequences natural disasters such as the Kashmir floods also affect the children psyche deeply, leaving behind a trail of invisible but powerful trauma.

SEEDS is restoring 26 classrooms across three schools in Pulwama district of Jammu & Kashmir and working towards capacity building of its 500 students.

The three schools include Govt. Girls Middle School, Drangbal, Govt. Boys Upper Primary School, Lalpora (Chatlam) and Govt. Boys Upper Primary School, Bajibagh.



PRE-DESIGN WORKSHOPS AND ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNS

The pre-design workshop with students and teachers was conducted by SEEDS' team in each of the three schools. Sessions involving various activities around shapes, patterns, colours and building elements were undertaken with school students and teachers to understand their aspiration of the school building.

The pre-design workshops help SEEDS' design team to understand the psychology of students and in providing clues to start with the design process. Though all the schools will be designed with a common theme, responding to the natural and cultural context of the region, the workshops helped in understating the specific requirements of each school.

POST DESIGN WORKSHOP

As part of the participatory approach for school design, a post-design workshop was conducted by SEEDS' team with students, teachers and parents in each of the three schools separately. During the workshop, building models and drawings were presented to explain the features of the new school design, to take inputs that could be incorporated in the final design.



Through the course of these workshops, we also talked about support from the school staff, parents and neighboring community during the construction process. It was decided that a group will be formed for each site to resolve any local issue, such as transportation or space to stack material.

The students had a lot to say. Across the three schools the roof and window designs were the biggest hit. Suggestions included gardens, play areas and colours. Parents and teachers added suggestions of raising boundary walls and paved pathways.

The workshops also focused on the possible usage of the campus during non-school hours, for common purposes at community level. Several suggestions emerged including use as a training centre, tuition centre, dispensary or public library.

STRUCTURAL DRAWINGS

Structural designs and drawings for Bajibagh and Lalpora were finalised during this time. The bearing capacity of soil at Drangbal school site, however, was found to be very low and the design will undergo revision to a single story structure.



BUILDING RESILIENT ECOSYSTEMS IN KATHUA, JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Kathua district lies in the south-west of Jammu & Kashmir. After a comprehensive assessment of four villages - Buddhi, Mearth, Nanan and Nagrota recurring sustainability and resilience issues came to the fore. As one of the largest in the district Buddhi was chosen for model interventions.

Keeping inter-connected risks in mind, a two-pronged initiative was conceived. At its core was the creation of a safer learning environment through repair of school buildings and toilets and encouraging water harvesting mechanisms. Using a local government school as the fulcrum allowed for the demonstration of these techniques to the larger community, keeping children at the centre. The second was a larger awareness, mobilisation and trust building component. This engagement with the wider community helped increase knowledge on environmental sustainability.

The repair and restoration of the school buildings goes beyond physical safety of the structure alone, but can help promote overall well-being of the children. In the last phase of the initiative this year, overall well-being became a core focus.

The school had no place for students to sit and relax other than classrooms. This gave rise to landscaping and external development. Trees and flowers were planted. Small sitting spaces were created. The entire school was brightened up with paint and graphics.





While much of the school repair was done during the year 2016-2017, one block that required extensive reconstruction provided an opportunity to take this idea of overall well-being further.

Among the oldest in the school, it required re-erection of some external walls. Due to settlement in the foundation, the external wall had begun tilting outward. The timber frame of the CGI roof was broken and parts eaten away by termites. The external wall was therefore redone in cement masonry with an RCC beam foundation.

As these walls were re-erected one by one, transformational modifications were made to the design. New window openings and brick jallis (screens) were artfully incorporated. The roof was re-designed with a one-way slope that allows for better air circulation and reduces build-up of heat in the classroom. The block also houses a corridor that protects the building from heavy rains and heat. These measures have limited the need for artificial lighting and created airy, comfortable classrooms even during hot summers!

Sowing Seeds of Inspiration

The renovated Govt. High School has attracted interest from families in the community, even resulting in new enrolments for the new year. Repair and renovation of the school building has inspired school communities to set high quality standards, with other schools in the area now asking for similar interventions. Waterproofing, a previously alien concept, is now generating more interest. The project contractor has even become a certified agent for the leading waterproofing brand in the area.

The awareness initiatives and small sustainability measures incorporated into every part of the programme (ground water recharge from waste water, rainwater used in toilets, long-term cleaning of the pond through the filtration system) have sparked a broader resilience culture within the community.

DELHI URBAN RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

The Delhi Urban Resilience Project was initiated in East Delhi in February 2016, for a period of 22 months. It centred on informed citizen-led action to improve the resilience of high-risk East Delhi communities.

A vibrant citizens' forum namely 'Purvi Dilli Apda Prehari' meaning East Delhi forum for DRR, is in place. Now established as an institution, linked smaller community action groups have come up that work within specific neighbourhoods. This push has bridged socio-economic and political divides to foster a sense that risk is a collective responsibility.

The outreach of the project extended into three divisions of East Delhi- Gandhi Nagar, Preet Vihar and Mayur Vihar. Communities at high risk were chosen with the help of the Citizen's Forum (PDAP). These localities had several overlapping daily shocks and

stresses and also certain specific location-based social issues. The methodology followed was altered organically depending on the site conditions and suggestions from the Community Action Groups from the area. Presence of active youth volunteers in a community has been instrumental in engagement processes.

Over the duration of the project, the forum has been successful in building constructive engagements with multiple stakeholders including Government and Private bodies of East district Delhi. There is a visible improvement in the neighborhoods that were represented by the forum. Children and youth have ensured their voices heard and echoed in the resilience agenda.

In the last leg of the programme this year, the key activities built on the foundations that had been established so far.





AN AGENDA FOR CHANGE: CHILDREN AND YOUTH FOR SAFER CITIES

Throughout the programme, advocacy has played a key role. This has ranged from accountability workshops to trainings to use of the BeingCitizen app to advocate for municipal services and local repairs. All of this work came together in a national workshop to advocate the safety issues of children and youth, with children as the chief guests.

Five diverse interventions undertaken in different parts of India by UNICEF and its partners were shared with cities and a range of stakeholders in this conference. Close to 100 participants comprising of government officials, representatives of UN agencies, civil society members, local citizens and children gathered for two days for introspection and sharing. The conclave brought together understanding in the domains of child protection, disaster risk reduction, climate resilience building, social protection etc. which created excellent opportunity for cross learning.

The aim was to deliberate on the pathways to make our cities safe and secure for children and youth, by analysing major challenges and recommending better governance and implementation solutions. A clear 7-point action agenda emerged for child-centred urban programming!

SHOWCASING THE PROGRAMME

The last phase of this programme also focused on bringing together learning collected through the years. A Project case study document was prepared covering local actions by the multiple project stakeholders and proposing how such a model can be taken forward. A small exhibition was showcased at the UNICEF office and at the World Habitat Day in New Delhi. The key outcomes of the programme were also captured in a documentary film, bringing the voices of an active citizenship to life!

TALKING HEALTH, HYGIENE AND WATER

The Urban Resilience & Public Health Survey was designed to inquire into issues of public health. With community surveys and focus group discussions in each sub-division, it attempted to establish the health related risks and gaps in assistance to strengthen activities.

WASH activities were conducted to meet the goal of improving people's health and quality of life by building on robust principles of good behavioral practice, capacity building and appropriate technologies.

Meetings were held with members of community action group, leaders and volunteers for discussion on cleanliness and hygiene practices. A Door to door hygiene promotion was started at the Ravidas Camp where more than 128 households live in self-built structures. In order to ensure safe drinking water use and good hygiene practices at household level, the WASH team visited each house in the Ravidas camp to demonstrate safe hygiene practices, ORS preparation, critical time hand washing, and safe excreta and waste dispose. As a result, more than 70% households have adopted safe practices around these issues.

PIONEERING A TOUCH LESS TOILET

As a pilot initiative under the programme, we developed the first foot operated public toilet, minimizing the use of hands. It asks the question, can changing the experience of a toilet help change hygiene behaviour?

The women in Sonia Vihar, Mandawali, East Delhi showed stark apprehension in using public toilets due to their poor hygienic condition. In addition to this, girls who don't have decent toilets at school or near home have to defecate in the open or use unhygienic toilets, often shared with boys. Aside from the health risks, this is uncomfortable and unsafe.

Minimum use of hands in the toilet decreases the risk of being exposed to a viruses and infections.

In an attempt to address these issues, a community toilet designed exclusively for women is experimenting with minimal contact. Reduced use of hand means less exposure to viruses and infections. The first of its kind, doors, taps and flushes all work with a foot-operated system.





The toilet is also designed in way to support natural access to sunlight and ventilation. Solar panels ensure functionality of the toilet even during the night. Perforated jalli on all four sides ensures cross ventilations and reduction of foul smell whereas translucent fiber roof allows ambient and natural illumination by the sun during the day.

Built on land provided by the Municipal Corporation, the toilet will be maintained jointly by Municipal Corporation and the community members, aiming to bring about collective action and awareness.

Stigma and taboos around women and sanitation must be challenged to overcome harmful practices. The initiative aims to reposition toilets from shame to claim to fame!

REACHING OUT

The diverse aspects of the programme have allowed us to reach out to many direct community partners:

- 90 Citizen forum members
- 214 Youth volunteers
- 101 Civil construction masons
- 152 Children and youth platform members
- 140 Community action group members
- 13500 School children
- 400 Teaching and non-teaching staffs
- 144 School Management Committee members

The programme has reached out to 50,410 local residents of East District, Delhi



PARTNER FOR RESILIENCE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP (PFR)

What does risk mean in a broader sense? As part of the Partners for Resilience (PFR) programme, we're exploring the question of Integrated Risk Management, a multi-disciplinary approach combining disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and ecosystem management and restoration at the same time. This strategic partnership aims to build the engagement capacity of CSOs and target communities on specific policy, investment and practice domains as a means to enhance implementation of IRM.

During the year 2017-2018, a baseline survey carried out in seven gram panchayats of Mahishi block of Saharsa District of Bihar, both at the village and Gram Panchayat level. Further, workshops with representatives of all 7 panchayats were held to develop an IRM plan for each of the gram panchayat, its micro planning and further translating these plans into actions and prioritizing needs.

Some of the main stresses that emerged included water logging; drinking water; lack of toilets; need to establish an early warning system; and mass capacity building. Discussion also centred on how these can be solved at the community level and through establishing linkage with available developmental schemes and policies.

For one of the key aspects to the programme is the generation of strong social capital through community-based disaster management. A Citizen Forum was formed at the district with members coming from different backgrounds – professors, social workers, local administration and journalists. Going forward, the initiative will improve preparedness to prevent losses and explore the protection of natural wetlands as buffers against floods; working to build harmony between people and their environment through resilient livelihood infrastructure.





INSTITUTIONALISING SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY-BASED DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT

How do you put the right enabling environments (political, financial and social) in place to institutionalise community-based disaster risk management?

This three-year project seeks to find answers. It aims to increase the understanding of common success factors for CBDRM. It aims to increase the capacity of governments, CSOs and other key actors to co-create the right enabling environment. At the same time, it aims to increase the political commitment and accountability for institutionalisation of CBDRM.

As part of the roll out, a country report on community based disaster risk management was prepared. A best practice workshop was conducted in Manila, in Philippines from 19 -23 September 2017. The objectives of the workshop were to identify critical success factors of sustainable CBDRM and ways in which sustainable CBDRM can be scaled out and institutionalised. Also the methodology to collect good practices on CBDRM was discussed.

Further, an initiative to project best practices in CBDRM began. In all 31 case studies were submitted from India alone. These were evaluated, with cases from SEEDS, PGVS, NEADS, KJKS, Wetlands International, Pragma and Habitat for Humanity chosen as part of the final selection.

PARTICIPATORY COMMUNITY-BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION APPROACHES

In the second year of their DRR capacity building programme in Varanasi, SEEDS Asia conducted refresher trainings for the teachers of Climate Schools and the community members of the Citizen Forums set up last year. The climate schools chosen under this programme are equipped with automatic weather stations, air sampling machine and CCD cameras to promote DRR education and management in Varanasi city.

A total of 264 teachers and 196 members from community DRR committee participated in the trainings such as enhancing understanding on weather and climate, basic fire training, first-aid training, WASH-PHAST training and evacuation drill for air pollution.

It's seeing real world application! As one of the Community Forum members who undertook the first-aid training mentioned; One of my relatives was suddenly hit by heart attack when I visited them. I could save his life with cardiopulmonary resuscitation which I learnt in the training. The trainings have also resulted in voluntary initiatives made by the participants: teachers repaired vulnerable places in the school, some citizens established a warning system among the apartment residents, and also fixed the roads and planted trees.

Climate School teachers trained last year also conducted trainings with 15 Outreach Schools, benefitting 76 teachers and 901 students. Varanasi delegates also undertook a Japan study visit to learn about self-motivated DRR initiatives by schools, communities and cultural heritage sites in Kyoto city.

Finally, embedding a culture of safety means keeping the message constantly alive. An agreement with the National Disaster Response Force was signed to establish a 'Citizen DRR Activity Promotion Centre (DRR-CAP)' which is expected to be put in process next year.



Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction – **FRONTLINE PROGRAMME**

How do we capitalise on the good work done so far? In the last leg of the programme, an exit strategy workshop was organised in Senegal on 8 and 9 of February 2018. During the workshop the findings of the global evaluation were presented. Partners also presented national exit strategies in their respective countries.

Our national exit strategy consisted a few main elements. The first was continued advocacy on national DRR policy. This included training and capacity building of volunteers on advanced DRR skills, theatrical skills and protection issues as per the needs that emerged. The second was on documenting and capturing learning that has emerged from the programme so far. Finally MOUs with key stakeholders, and taking up a specific learning point for concerted advocacy.

As part of the future planning, GNDR will also be investing more on the reflection and action processes. Piloting would be done first in Tonga and Philippines and then spread further to 48 other countries.



Asian Disaster Risk Reduction Network

SEEDS is an active member of the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) and serves as its localisation hub. This year, we continued building the Asian Local Leaders' Forum for Disaster Resilience, furthering the understanding that local leadership and stakeholders are at the centre of building safer and more resilient communities. Launched in November 2016, at part of the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, ALL4DR forms part of the Asian Regional Plan for implementation of the Sendai Framework.

This year, as part of the ADRRN Annual General Meeting held in December 2017, we held a workshop around this theme. The discussion that took place as part of the 'localisation in action' dialogue looked at key questions of what is local leadership, how can we facilitate it and what the barriers are to accomplishing this. This helped build ADRRN stance on the issue. Cross-learning and skills between hubs was demonstrated, as SEEDS and the HIF-ADRRN Tokyo Innovation Hub came together for a concentrated brainstorming workshop around innovation. This looked at current and future programme ideas from an innovation perspective.

SMALL ACTS, BIG IMPACTS

Small Acts, Big Impact campaign promotes awareness and builds capacities of various stakeholders on issues related to climate change. This year, SEEDS continued working with twelve New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) schools to reduce their carbon footprint and develop a model for calculating carbon footprint based on the functions of the school.

Using this model, school specific interventions were proposed around solar energy, water purification and solid waste management. Each proposal was accompanied with a calculation of how much their carbon footprint would reduce. A pilot programme of an aerobic compost pit was set up in one of the schools. This is an extremely low maintenance technique that allows decomposition of organic waste into manure. It was an attempt to showcase and advocate zero waste management in schools!

OUR PARTNERS



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

- Alliance for Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network
- Bata India Limited
- Crisil
- CSIR-IMMT Bhubaneswar
- Give2Asia
- Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)
- Godrej
- Honeywell Hometown Solutions India Foundation
- Investigating Design
- Kajla Janakalyan Samiti (KJKS)
- Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
- Network For Empowered Aid Response (NEAR)



- North-East Affected Area Development Society (NEADS)
- Oak Foundation
- Owner-Driven Reconstruction Collaborative (ODRC)
- Pricewaterhouse Coopers India (PwC)
- Purvi Dilli Apada Prehari (PDAP)
- Quicksand
- SEEDS Asia
- Sphere India
- Unicef
- United Way of India (UWI)
- Wetlands International
- Friends of SEEDS and individual donors

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURE - BALANCE SHEET

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (Registered under the Societies Registration Act. 1860, Delhi)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2018

In Rupees

Particulars	Schedule	As at March 31,	
		2018	2017
SOURCES OF FUNDS			
Funds			
Corpus Fund	1.1	4,492,313	4,277,320
General Fund	1.2	11,793,360	5,385,092
Specific Funds	1.3	99,141,282	93,108,404
Assets fund	1.4	1,811,822	1,471,959
TOTAL		117,238,777	104,242,775
APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
Fixed Assets			
Gross Block	2	6,553,603	6,178,854
Less : Depreciation		4,741,781	4,706,896
Net Block		1,811,823	1,471,958
Investments			
	3	80,765,769	2,640,345
Current Assets, Loans & Advances			
Cash and Bank Balances	4	34,114,296	100,748,551
Other Current Assets	5	1,982,109	1,415,766
		36,096,405	102,164,317
Less: Current Liabilities & Provisions			
Expenses Payable	6	155,635	121,517
Other Liabilities		1,279,585	1,912,328
Net Current Assets		34,661,185	100,130,472
TOTAL		117,238,777	104,242,775
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes	10		

Note: The Schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Balance Sheet

In terms of our report attached.

For Rakesh B. Lal & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Firm Regn. No.: 001884N



Rajat Behari Lal
Proprietor
Membership No.: 082412



For SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND
ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

Manu Gupta
Vice President

Anshu Sharma
Secretary

Place: New Delhi
Date: 21st September 2018

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
(Registered under the Societies Registration Act. 1860, Delhi)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2018

Particulars	Schedule	In Rupees	
		For the year ended March 31, 2017-18	2016-17
A. INCOME			
Grants & Donations	7	56,822,931	135,612,792
Interest & other Income	8	6,888,591	1,448,250
		<u>63,711,522</u>	<u>137,061,042</u>
B. EXPENDITURE			
Details of Expenditure	9	32,913,637	55,006,130
		<u>32,913,637</u>	<u>55,006,130</u>
Excess of Income over Expenditure		30,797,885	82,054,912
Significant Accounting Policies and N 10			


In terms of our report attached.

For Rakesh B. Lal & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Firm Regn. No.: 001884N


Rajat Behari Lal
Proprietor
Membership No.: 082412

Place: New Delhi
Date: 21st September 2018

For SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY


Manu Gupta
Vice President




Anshu Sharma
Secretary



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