

CREATING CHANGE TOGETHER



ANNUAL REPORT
2013-2014

Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society (SEEDS)



As SEEDS turns 20, it's a time to rejoice
As we look back at the journey we've made
The way the results of each little choice
Have come together to truly impact DRR and deliver aid

We've reached out to the most vulnerable in remote locations
With a focus on quality and respect for what the community says
We've made inroads into changing practices, policies and how the sector runs
Helping build resilience in a myriad of ways

We research, educate, create much needed plans and train
Building transformational habitats that give local materials, designs and
voices new life
We innovate communications in ways that help both the sector and
communities gain
And of course respond in varied ways to emergencies to help mitigate strife

This strength of the SEEDS Network's passion and diverse skills
And the multiple lenses through which our projects are seen
Gives insight into the role that this unique network fulfils
As we look to the 20 years ahead in 2014



MESSAGE

On 31st January, 2014, SEEDS celebrated 20 years of its existence. This important milestone comes at a time when we've firmly established ourselves as the premier agency in India involved in humanitarian work.

In June, 2013, devastating floods struck the State of Uttarakhand leading to heavy losses of lives and property. Your Society was promptly on the frontlines, reaching out to affected communities. 193 families in several remote villages of Rudraprayag District were immediately provided with tents, and other non-food household items. SEEDS staff overcame daunting challenges of accessibility to reach support and carry out relief support in an efficient manner. Our work in the State continues, as five destroyed schools and one community centre are being reconstructed.

The intervention in Uttarakhand provided an opportunity for SEEDS to go in for public fundraising calling for support from local citizens in Delhi and other Indian cities. This has led to positive results. The number of individual donors to SEEDS were the highest in a year in the organisation's history. Overall, individual and private sector donors contributed to a significant portion of the organisation's receipts for the year.

With Maharashtra suffering its worst drought in 40 years, our scope of work expanded to include response to drought as part of SEEDS' humanitarian assistance work. Drought management works were carried out in Takerwan Village of Beed District of Maharashtra. The intervention involved addressing water and hygiene components in the water scarce village. There was strong support from the community, especially women and children.

Community participation for local level disaster risk management remains at the core of SEEDS' work and approach. Five citizen forums in five different cities of the country were mobilized, oriented and encouraged to engage with local authorities, schools and other community based organisations to work on environmental sustainability and disaster risk management issues. The work with these forums continues as small scale positive changes have been regularly reported by the forums.

We thank all our donors, partners, volunteers and friends 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 working towards a safer and more sustainable world.

Manu Gupta
Executive Director

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

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)
- Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP)
- Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance (ALNAP)

HUMANITARIAN ACCOUNTABILITY PARTNERSHIP (HAP)

The Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) is an international standard of accountability for humanitarian organisations. Originally launched in 2003, the HAP 2007 Standard in Humanitarian Accountability and Quality Management was developed through extensive consultation and field tests. It is based on six main benchmarks:

- Humanitarian quality management
- Transparency
- Beneficiary participation
- Staff competencies
- Complaints handling
- Continual improvement

SEEDS is now a HAP certified organisation and has committed itself to HAP's general principles for humanitarian work.





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OUR APPROACH AND KEY PROGRAMMES

From our humanitarian response and early recovery programmes to reconstruction, education and innovation activities, SEEDS takes a long-term and inter-connected approach to all of our work.



EDUCATING FOR DISASTER PREVENTION

Education can build long-term security and resilience for communities. SEEDS' training programmes focus primarily on schools with involvement of the neighbouring communities. The respect and social position a school institution commands forms an ideal environment to cultivate the 'culture of preparedness' that is a foundation to reduce risk. Children carry information home to their families and communities, acting as messengers of awareness. SEEDS also works with frontline workers to build their capacity to deal with and respond to disaster risks.

This involves training on life saving skills and effective response; and the development of school and community disaster management plans.

This year, our work on school safety training continued across the six states in India.



RESPONDING TO AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

Asia has experienced more than half of the world's major disasters in the last 50 years, SEEDS reaches out to these affected families, helping them restart their lives and addressing immediate shelter needs. This is carried out with due regard for human dignity, respect for local cultures and values and accountability towards all stakeholders.

Disasters claim more than lives and livelihoods. In most cases, they erase generations of oral history, knowledge, practices, accumulated wisdom and the social fabric of communities. Asia, the most disaster prone continent in the world, experienced more than half of the world's major disasters in the last half century. For SEEDS, acting with urgency to save lives and help affected families get back on their feet is our overarching goal. This is performed with due regard for human dignity, respect for local cultures and values and accountability towards all stakeholders.

In its 20 years, SEEDS has responded to all the major disasters in India and, with each new initiative, its approach has evolved. From volunteering during the Gujarat cyclone of 1998 to the incorporation of indigenous technology in Barmer and, most recently, drought relief measures in Maharashtra. Through it all, SEEDS continues to contribute and advocate for better coordinated and improved quality of response at all levels.

This year, SEEDS' responded, among others, to affected communities in the wake of devastating flash floods in Uttarakhand, a massive cyclone in Odisha and the worst drought Maharashtra has seen in 40 years.



CREATING TRANSITIONAL SHELTERS

Once the immediate humanitarian response is over and the disaster is no longer in the news, communities are mostly left to recover alone. This is often a critical gap between the end of humanitarian assistance and the many months (or years) that it takes for government reconstruction schemes and compensation packages to materialise. Families cannot survive in tents alone for so long. Rather than risking unsafe rebuilding, SEEDS works with the most vulnerable families to create transitional shelters. Lasting up to two years, these follow cultural norms, often using materials that are local and can be re-used later on.

The approach is one of incorporating resilience into early recovery. In essence, it looks at the question of transitional shelters not just as a temporary solution; but as the foundation towards permanent housing.

This year, SEEDS, following the cyclone, began transitional shelter construction in Ganjam, Odisha, with a design that used local materials and technology, but was strengthened with disaster reduction features.



BUILDING BACK SCHOOLS, HOMES AND COMMUNITY CENTRES

The reconstruction process is an opportunity not just to restore what was lost, but to help the community build their resilience to better withstand future emergencies. SEEDS focuses on three core elements of infrastructure: schools, houses and community centres.



The need for long-term housing is apparent and SEEDS focuses on those who are the most in need. Our sustainable housing model refers to shelters that are culturally apt, environmentally suitable, safe and secure.

Within every community, there are institutions that carry more weight than just their normal functions. Schools are perfect examples of this. Both legally and socially, education is viewed as a fundamental right of citizens around the world. This basic premise ensures that schools occupy a special status within every community and position them to become 'safe havens'. Schools are also more than a place to learn. In the aftermath of a disaster, education services are one of the most important ways to restore the sense of routine to the community. It plays a key role in facilitating psychological healing of children and adolescents through peer interaction and a sense of normalcy.

In remote areas, with houses that are wide spread, community centres play a similar critical role of bringing people together.

Most importantly, both SEEDS' transitional and reconstruction initiatives are driven by the house owners themselves. The same goes for our school and community centre initiatives, where the community takes on ownership. All stakeholders, including the local government, are actively involved in the process, ensuring shared responsibility. Adopting such an approach during reconstruction helps make the process as meaningful as the final structure.

Continuous engagement with emerging architects and engineers on indigenous designs and technologies complements this approach. Bridging the gap between knowledge and practice, SEEDS also trains local masons and construction workers on retrofitting and safe construction practices. The SEEDS Mason Association, which began in Gujarat, is slowly expanding.

This year, SEEDS completed its work on shelters in Thane, finished reconstruction and retrofitting of earthquake-affected schools in Sikkim and followed up on post-flood reconstruction started in Assam.



HELPING COMMUNITIES ADAPT FOR RESILIENCE

Climate change will likely have lethal effects on every aspect of human life. Local communities are already facing the consequences: increased cyclones, floods and earthquakes, changing rainfall patterns and new diseases. With the negative consequences of unplanned urbanisation and growing underlying risks adding to their vulnerability, adaptation is now key to survival. SEEDS is committed to empowering local communities for adaptive solutions; making them leaders in building their own resilience.

Often, communities face multi-faceted problems that require a pre-emptive approach. Basic amenities and solutions that support disaster preparedness are required. This overall resilience perspective looks at broader risks and addresses vulnerabilities that contribute to that risk. This includes elements such as adapting for livelihood security; managing and mitigating financial and environmental risks; access to clean water; and advocacy for change.

Across India, cities are the engines of national growth. Yet, they face unprecedented challenges as well. Citizens as the first responders in any disaster are well placed to meet their own and their neighbours' immediate needs during emergencies. Leveraging the power of the individual citizen and the collective community, SEEDS builds urban citizens' forums to address local level issues. The primary aim is to sensitise communities and leverage government welfare schemes to help reduce risks. The forums act as a collective learning hub for varied stakeholders to exchange information, do joint assessments and thereby reduce day-to-day stresses in their localities. Moreover, disaster risk reduction requires sustained action that can best be carried out by local governments and informed citizenry. Citizen forums provide the enabling environment for government citizen partnership in disaster risk management.

This year, SEEDS continued to work with five citizens forums across India. An innovative resilience project initiated in the Kosi Basin in Bihar is strengthening the community's ability to cope with recurrent disasters.



PARTNERING AND INNOVATING FOR CHANGE

Understanding local knowledge and broader trends is essential to apply fresh input to on-ground projects. SEEDS' programmes are supported by strategic partnerships and innovative action research. It cooperates and networks with disaster management professionals and groups for knowledge transfer and to reach out to the largest number of people possible. At the same time, it conducts research and experiments with innovations.

This year, an action research initiative on catalysing change through multi-stakeholder forums in Ladakh and Rajasthan showed interesting cross-learning impacts for local communities in Uttarakhand. Advocacy initiatives and research projects through network partners amplified voices of civil society to a larger audience.



REACHING OUT

UTTARAKHAND FLOOD RESPONSE

Relief Phase

On June 16th and 17th 2013, a cloudburst and unprecedented heavy rains perpetrated flash floods in Uttarakhand. Twelve out of the state's thirteen districts were affected with maximum impact on Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Uttarkashi and Pithoragarh. Washing away houses, the flash floods left many homeless. Damages continued to mount due to the landslides and the river scouring the land at the foundation. Moreover, basic public amenities such as roads, bridges, schools, health centres and other essential infrastructure were either severely damaged or cut off, leading to problems of accessibility.

In view of the scale of disaster; SEEDS immediately activated its emergency protocol and deployed a response team to assist affected families.

Civil society organisations and the government were supplying food items and dry rations. Common shelter places were also being identified, where communities were being housed. Much of this effort was uncoordinated, making it difficult to assess actual needs. However, SEEDS identified two key areas where humanitarian assistance was urgently required. One, the communities were facing problems in the common shelters provided by the government, especially in terms of women's privacy. Second, while dry rations were being provided, these families did not have the required kitchen utensils to cook their food.

Supported by Christian Aid, SEEDS therefore took on the task of providing family tents and utensil sets to 193 most vulnerable and needy families. Since a majority of school buildings in these areas were also affected, continuing education was another priority. Five such schools were provided with tents to function temporarily and sets of utensil to continue mid-day meals.

With roads washed away, transportation was an issue and often access to the distribution sites had to be done by headload. Despite these challenges, the distribution was done in an accountable and coordinated manner which was well-appreciated, based on community requirements and in association with the local government.



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| Objective | Humanitarian support to families in Rudraprayag district who were affected by floods in June 2013 |
| Activities | Distribution of family shelter kits (with tents, bedding, utensils and hygiene items) |
| Budget | INR 5,484,800 |
| Funded by | Christian Aid and individual donors |
| Outreach | 193 families |

Relief Phase



In the late evening hours of 12th October, 2013, Odisha was hit by a severe cyclonic storm. The category 5 Cyclone Phailin ripped through towns and villages at wind speeds of over 200 kms per hour, destroying everything that came under its wrath. 6 out of 30 districts in Odisha were severely affected and left thousands homeless. Ganjam was in the eye of the storm.

Supported by Christian Aid, SEEDS provided direct relief to 1000 of the most affected and marginalised families in Ganjam district. Communities themselves were involved not only in the distribution process, but in assessments and identification of required supplies. The kit included tarpaulins, mosquito nets, floor mats, blankets and plastic ropes. Moreover, water purification kits were installed in 25 villages to ensure that these affected villages could access clean drinking water.

Close coordination with the local government and accountability standards were ensured. A real-time monitoring system through SMS was very helpful in tracking daily progress of distribution; though it posed challenges in a few areas with no network and low mobile phone penetration.

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| Objectives | To provide relief materials to cyclone-affected families in Ganjam district of Odisha |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of beneficiaries • Procurement and distribution of relief material • Monitoring & Evaluation • Awareness building • Complaint response mechanism |
| Budget | INR 6,832,700 |
| Funded by | Christian Aid |
| Outreach | 1000 households |

GANJAM AASHRAY YOJANA: RESTORATION PHASE FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS AFFECTED BY FLOODS AND CYCLONE IN ODISHA

The devastating Cyclone Phailin badly affected the coastal and inland areas in its path resulting in large scale loss of property, primarily individual houses. The majority of these were thatched houses belonging to marginalised families living on the coast and low-lying areas of inland villages.

SEEDS' Ganjam Aashray Yojana is facilitating shelter rebuilding in 11 villages across 4 blocks of Ganjam district; constructing 50 houses and repairing 250 houses. The initiative is supported by the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO).

The approach is one of incorporating resilience into early recovery. In essence, it looks at the question of intermediate shelter not just as a temporary solution; but as the foundation towards permanent housing.

To make the houses both affordable and acceptable, the shelter was designed using local materials and technology which communities have been using for a long time. However, this was strengthened to better withstand major threats of floods and cyclones. Enhanced features included tin-can concrete foundation, raised plinths, tying techniques, diagonal bracing and 4-way slopes.

Along with shelter reconstruction and repair, livelihood and capacity building are also being addressed. Hands-on carpentry and masonry training is allowing for skill enhancement and cash-for-work components are helping project benefits extend to the broader community.

The entire initiative is also being executed through an owner driven process; implemented and monitored through village development committees set up in each of the eleven villages.



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| Objectives | To ensure humanitarian and early recovery needs of the cyclone and flood affected communities in the four worst hit districts of Odisha through a multi-agency and multi-sector coordinated approach |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey and field verification of the most vulnerable households • Finalisation of shelter beneficiaries and statutory approval from government • Repair and construction of disaster resilient shelters through material and technical support • Capacity building of local masons / carpenters on disaster resilient housing and village community on DRR |
| Budget | INR 6,349,171 |
| Funded by | Christian Aid / ECHO |
| Outreach | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 250 houses repaired [partially damaged] • 50 houses reconstructed [fully damaged] • 13,720 man days created under Cash For Work @Rs.164/- • 100 masons /carpenters trained on safe construction using local building materials. • 11 Village Development Committees formed • 2 prototype houses constructed • Construction manual developed and disseminated |



RESTORING SHELTERS AFTER THANE CYCLONE

In 2011, Cyclone Thane left the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu marooned. The cyclonic impacts were worst for those living in low lying settlements; and many of those shelters belonged to landless families. Though they had lived there for more than 60 years, they were left out from the government relief packages, since they were designated as “landless” as per official records. In a 30-month project, SEEDS and local partner Kalvi Kendra built 22 shelters in Narsingpuram and Chinnakupam villages of Vilipuram district. These suited the aspirations of the local community without compromising on the government norms for permanent housing. Innovative solutions had to be found, ‘permanent’ enough to cater to needs yet of a ‘semi-permanent’ nature to cater to the fact that these were landless families. Hence materials such as earth bags were used along with timber and G.I. sheet to build a design that drew from local architecture.

Moreover the owner driven construction infused a sense of accountability amongst the families and the community was mobilised to contribute to the construction. In the process, 60 masons were also trained on safe construction practices.



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| Objective | Repair, retrofit and reconstruct affected shelters along with sanitation units |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of model houses • Repair of shelters • Training and capacity building workshops |
| Budget | Fund received during financial year 2012-13 |
| Funded by | SEEDS Asia |
| Outreach | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five model houses and 50 shelters • Training workshops conducted on DRR for the community |



Maharashtra faced the worst drought it has seen in the last 40 years. Drought has been a perennial problem of the 17 districts of Maharashtra; which are primarily a rain-shadow region of the Western Ghats. The problems are more accentuated due to a variety of factors: poor water management systems, the lack of community will to adapt to this slow onset disaster, as well as the scarcity of resources owing to the growing population and unplanned development.

One of the worst affected districts was Beed. SEEDS' initiative here focused on Takarvan village. While the impact of drought was largely on livestock and livelihoods of the population, there was also a need to address the stress created due to lack of resources, optimisation and knowledge amongst the communities. This includes water distribution systems, lack of rain water harvesting and unhygienic surroundings.

Eighteen wells were connected to the nearby Godavari river, ensuring drinking water supply for the village through the drought season.

Besides bore wells, hand pumps are also used as a dependable source of water. Yet, during summer these go defunct due to very low ground water and there was no custom of tapping the rain water. The rain water ran off in the natural gradient as a total waste. Eight hand pumps were provided with two recharge pits with running water from nearby fields, homes and streams diverted to these recharge pits. With natural filter systems installed in it, the pit filters sediments and dirt from the running water.

Open defecation was another acute hygiene problem; and with the expanding population, privacy issues for women were only growing. Public health needed work both on the infrastructural and behavioural fronts. Four community toilet blocks were constructed with five units each. Located in four different corners, they are accessible to women across the village. This was supported by public health activities delivered through accredited and recognised frontline workers on personal hygiene, safe water handling and environmental sanitation. Special focus on women and children was given to infuse key behavioural changes which would help them to follow safe sanitation and hygiene practices.

At the beginning, the participation of the women was minimal. Yet, constant facilitation and awareness generation has actually turned this reluctance around with women getting involved in large numbers.

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| Objective | Work with drought affected communities in Beed district, Maharashtra, to mitigate current stresses through critical sustenance support and prevent further escalation into a full blown emergency. |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Augmentation of existing water sources and connection to the water distribution system • Community awareness workshops, campaigns and rallies on safe hygiene practices, safe water handling practices and use of toilets • Construction of community toilets |
| Budget | INR 4,491,954 |
| Funded by | SEEDS Asia |
| Outreach | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water augmentation for 18 wells and 8 handpumps • Construction of 4 community toilets • Benefits and training for 1800 households (9629 people) |





SEEDS completed construction of one school and retrofitting of three school buildings in Sikkim this year. Sangh Khola Primary school was constructed using local skills and designs such as Ikra which was then embedded into RCC frame. The focus was to construct the disaster resilient structures using indigenous knowledge. In the process, local masons were trained and their skills were enhanced.

The retrofitted and strengthened buildings of Tadong Senior Secondary School, Middle Camp Secondary School and Rhenock Tarpin School are now better equipped to cope with disasters. Their students are as well. For along with the construction, the children were given basic orientation on disaster management to enhance their decision-making ability.

The entire initiative was carried out in an accountable and transparent manner with the participation of the neighboring communities and the school management committees. Complaint Response Mechanisms were set up to address any grievances.

Through this initiative, SEEDS was able to reach out to around 3000 students!

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| Objective | Restore 4 earthquake-damaged schools in Sikkim; advocate for safe schools; and train local masons on safe construction practices through demonstration and hands-on training |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reconstruction works in Sangkhola Primary School Retrofitting interventions at Middle Camp Secondary School, Tadong Senior Secondary School and Rhenock Tarpin Secondary School |
| Budget | INR 1,033,237 |
| Funded by | Dan Church Aid and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) |
| Outreach | Direct benefit to about 3000 students from the four schools |



Post-flood reconstruction started in 2012-2013 for affected communities in Assam; and SEEDS continued to follow up the project implementation this year. An evaluation and feedback visit was done by the technical unit. The agenda was to provide further assistance to the community in case they were facing any constraints in replicating the design, feedback on the design post occupancy and a sustainability evaluation of the project. The majority of the houses were already occupied, while a few were doing some need based changes in the design in terms of architecture and orientation.

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| Objective | Provide families with shelter materials, tool kits, smart Cards and technical support to facilitate reconstruction; and improve access to cash and income-generating opportunities for flood-affected households. |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of unconditional cash transfer to the most vulnerable households, cash for work, cash for training and livelihood support • Capacity building of local masons on disaster-resilient housing • Shelter construction and technical support in 45 villages across Dhemaji and Lakhimpur districts • Sustainability evaluation |
| Budget | INR 1,319,933 |
| Funded by | Christian Aid and ECHO |
| Outreach | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to 50 days' worth of income @136 INR per day through cash transfer programme • 15% income enhancement of household income through agriculture support and restoration of livelihoods • Livelihood restoration of 1600 households • Rebuilding of 250 fully damaged and 50 partially damaged shelters • 300 mason tool kits and technical manuals distributed • Training of 311 masons and 16 volunteers on safe construction practices using local materials |

COMMUNITY URBAN RISK REDUCTION

This year, Purvi Delhi Apda Prehri (PDAP) grew to the next level. PDAP is a multi-stakeholder forum formed in 2012. Citizens were mobilised and given the required awareness and training in understanding and prioritising local disaster risk concerns. One of the key outputs was a roadmap, which helped the PDAP develop an action plan towards disasters and risk reduction. Based on the roadmap, the need to continue and scale up the initiative was strongly felt.


This year, the citizen road map was updated and disseminated, integrating participatory local risk assessments. Orientation programmes for local constituent organisations were held; the children’s platform was strengthened; a children’s workshop on DRR and child protection policy organised; and several multi-stakeholder workshops took place.

There was also improved community understanding on resilience with local citizens leading DRR/CCA awareness and action; youth volunteers trained in emergency preparedness; and masons trained on building safety.


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| Objective | Strengthening resilience of urban communities to meet the challenges of disaster and climate change impacts |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dissemination and updation of citizen road map Orientation programmes Local citizen led DRR/CCA awareness and action Training of youth volunteers on emergency preparedness Training of masons on building safety Creation of a social media platform |
| Budget | INR 552,056 |
| Funded by | United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) |
| Outreach | Direct: 15 members of citizen organisations, 6 schools, 6000 children, 60 teachers Indirect : At risk population in East Delhi |



East Delhi




East Delhi is a multi-hazard prone area which is constantly exposed to floods, earthquakes and fires; and deals with increased vulnerabilities due to its location, planning and demographics.



Finding local solutions

Purvi Delhi Apda Prehri (PDAP) was initiated by October 2010 as a district-level citizen’s forum. It has brought together local citizens, civil society and others; and has started to evolve as and has begun to evolve as a district-level DRR coordination body. PDAP aims to ensure that planned and systematic actions are taken, awareness is built, vulnerability is reduced, policies are influenced and citizens can voice their concerns.



unicef
unite for children

SEEDS

BUILDING LOCAL LEVEL RESILIENCE THROUGH CITIZENS PLATFORMS

This year, forums were strengthened further. The primary aim of the project is to sensitise communities and leverage government welfare schemes to help reduce risks. The forums act as a collective learning hub for varied stakeholders to exchange information, do joint assessments and thereby reduce day-to-day stresses in their localities.

Under the Phase I two forums were mobilized. These forums in Delhi and Villupuram have since come together as a cohesive group. Both the East Delhi Forum (Purvi Delhi Aapda Prehri) and the Villupuram Forum (Kandamanglam Disaster Awareness Forum) have established links with local government authorities and are pushing forward the risk reduction agenda. Three other forums in Musoorie (Save Musoorie), Neemeli (Neemli Disaster Management Forum) and Dharmashala (RAMPS) are also growing.



Under Phase II of the programme, SEEDS continues to engage with these groups until they reach levels of maturity at which point, we would begin our process of disengagement.

Specific activities included refresher trainings on DRR and CCA concepts to local forums, national leadership training on accountability and building of relationship between citizen forums and government line departments. This helped the State incorporate recommendations from citizen forums into policies and programmes. At the same time, there has been improved community understanding on resilience with voluntary citizen-led DRR action.

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| Objective | Strengthen resilience of urban communities to meet the challenges of disaster and climate change impacts |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresher training on DRR and CCA concepts and national training on leadership • Meetings with line departments, NDMA and other national stakeholders highlighting their role • Joint monitoring and evaluation sessions of citizens forum and private sector • Production and dissemination of policy note • Annual national workshop of all citizen forums to consolidate learning, review progress and plan next step |
| Budget | INR 547,636 |
| Funded by | SEEDS Asia |
| Outreach | Citizen forums established in 5 urban locations, with a special platform for children; with proactive engagement with key local line departments and mechanisms for joint evaluations established. |

GOVERNMENT - CITIZEN PARTNERSHIP FOR DISASTER RESILIENCE

This four-month initiative aimed to increase the resilience of urban communities to natural hazards and climate change. It was based on the realisation that citizens are the first responders in any disaster and are well placed to meet their own and their neighbours 'immediate needs' during emergencies. Moreover, disaster risk reduction requiring sustained action can best be carried out by local governments and informed citizenry. Citizen forums can provide an enabling environment for government - citizen partnership in disaster risk management.

A Citizen's Forum established in East Delhi in 2012, for example, has been successful in bringing together participants from a variety of local CBOs with a strong sense of commitment and purpose.

Building on this, joint risk assessment workshops helped work on an effective action plan to mitigate the risks and vulnerabilities identified by them in their respective localities.

Youth volunteers were trained by an expert teams from NSET (Nepal) on Basic Emergency Medical Response and Light Search & Rescue. They were then enrolled in the Civil Defense force, the second line of response for emergencies. Meetings with the Children's Platform enhanced their knowledge on various aspects of disaster risk reduction and child protection.

The project ended with a multi-stakeholder workshop that brought together 58 varied participants including children youth volunteers of PDAP, government officials, market and resident welfare representatives, politicians, media and CBOs . It resulted in the strengthening of partnerships and handholding by the government of new PDAP initiatives.

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| Objective | Improved knowledge management and information on citizen participation in decision making processes; and strengthened resilience through capacity building on DRR/CCA |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint assessment workshops • Children's platform and multi-stakeholder meetings • Training and orientation of youth volunteers on Emergency response |
| Budget | INR 1,293,870 |
| Funded by | UNICEF |
| Outreach | At risk population of East Delhi |



ASSESSING PROGRESS ON SCHOOL SAFETY IN INDIA

What is the status of disaster risk reduction in schools in India? In the last leg of this joint study with UNICEF, it looked at opportunities, challenges and the way forward. Key policy directions focussed around the right to education; building safer schools; ensuring education is not disrupted; giving children the right knowledge; listening to children's voices; and building a culture of safety.

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| Objective | Assess the extent to which school safety has been introduced in India, compile and review existing methodologies and identify good practices |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk study on implementation of HFA in schools in India & Identification of potential partner agencies • Identification of potential partner agencies and commissioned short documentation studies • Consultations with experts & key stakeholders. • Preparation of status report |
| Budget | Received in 2012-2013 - INR 1,084,000 |
| Funded by | UNICEF |
| Outreach | Research study that involved 19 organisations working on School Safety |

CREATING DISASTER RESILIENT MODEL SCHOOLS IN INDIA

Beginning in 2012, SEEDS has been playing the role of technical partner to Plan's school safety programme, bringing in a disaster management and risk reduction perspective. This included enhancing the knowledge of comprehensive school safety; demonstrating non-structural mitigation; and developing a design for retrofitting of one school in each state. The first phase of the project was successfully completed in all seven selected states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. Based on this experience, the concerned Plan Programme Units in these states have adopted school safety as an integral component of their DRR efforts. The initiative is now being taken forward, liaising with government authorities for training of trainers on school safety to allow replication in other parts of the state.

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|------------|--|
| Objective | To train and develop the skills of the Plan Partners and Staff in three states |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refresher trainings in 3 Project Units • Handholding Training in 3 schools • Development of retrofitting designs in 3 schools • Development of Non structural designs in 6 schools • Demonstration of Non Structural Mitigation in 3 schools |
| Budget | Fund received during financial year 2012-13 |
| Funded by | Plan International |
| Outreach | 300 children, 60 Teachers and 30 School Management Committee members |



BUILDING RESILIENCE OF THE COMMUNITIES: LOCALISING HFA THROUGH DISTRICT FORUMS

As part of efforts to create a district forum here, a two-day orientation workshop was held in Khagaria, Bihar. Such a forum would help meet the disaster risk reduction priorities of the district. A total of 75 participants worked for two days including NGO staff, ward members, school representatives, UNICEF, Red Cross, local leaders and CBOs and NGOs.

Over the course of the workshop, participants were informed about the conceptual framework for disaster management, the Hyogo framework for action and formation of a district forum. Participatory exercises helped them identify vulnerabilities within the district and key DRR-CCA issues. The workshop was successful in sensitisation and identification of key issues; with a working group formed for further steps.

| | |
|------------|--|
| Objective | Promote localisation and institutionalisation of HFA priorities which will lead to the creation of District Forums. The district forums would then become platforms to advocate for greater integration of DRR and CCA with development programmes and recovery projects on the ground |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial orientation/planning for HFA training Formation of District Forum in highly vulnerable and hazard prone district of West Bengal Roundtable learning workshop and HFA review workshops |
| Budget | INR 300,000 |
| Funded by | Save the Children |
| Outreach | 75 community members |





ADAPTING WITH FREEDM IN SAHARSA DISTRICT, BIHAR

The multi-faceted problems of Saharsa's vulnerable community require a pre-emptive approach. The Flood Resilient Environmentally Enhanced Disaster Management [FREEDM] used a multi-pronged approach including preparedness, risk mitigation and livelihood adaptation initiatives to build resilience of this Kosi riverbed community. Supported by Lutheran World Relief, the intervention area focused on ten hamlets across Biratpur and Atalkha panchayats in Sonbarsa block of Saharsa district, Bihar. With many branches of the Kosi river flowing through them, these were two of the worst affected panchayats during the 2008 floods.

Enhancing Disaster Preparedness: A multi-tiered disaster management system was formed, with an apex Disaster Management Committee that comprises representatives of all 10 hamlets. The DMC took the role of monitoring the activities and also facilitated assistance and support to communities undertaking them. Task forces were formed and trained on search & rescue, first aid, fire safety, evacuation and communication and on relief shelter options. The task force members included a range of age group and both men and women. Simple early warning systems were set up, which were easy to implement, comprehend and monitor at the local level. Water gauges and the flag warnings that show different levels during an emergency were installed.

Managing and Mitigating Risks: The region faces extreme ecological challenges. Repeated flooding and related environmental impacts have led to the erosion of soil and destruction of many old trees. Bioshield plantations act as a natural buffer, which can help reduce the velocity of the water and further inundation. Over 2.5 acres of bamboo buffers and 8.5 acres of banana buffers have already been planted. With expertise from Bihar Agriculture University, bamboo and banana nurseries have also been established for further promotion. Community members identified by the DMC run these nurseries.

A community disaster resilience fund was set up as a contributory joint saving by the families. Handled and monitored by the women, these funds are used for emergencies. In a similar manner, a contributory grain bank has also been established in each hamlet.

Insurance schemes were introduced for farmers, livestock breeders and most marginalised families of the communities. Linking with the government and insurance companies, the risk to major livelihoods in the area are minimised.

Adapting for Livelihood Security: Families in this area are primarily agricultural labourers. However due to lack of resources, they are forced to migrate and take up labour work. The climate variability has brought changes



to the normal farming cycles. With floods deteriorating the quality of soil, traditional farming practices are no longer viable. The alternative short term crop technique introduces is helping replenish the fertility of the soil. Considering the small size of farmer’s fields, this is also a great way to increase yield; leading to greater food security.

Reclaiming water bodies: Water is sourced mainly from the abundant handpumps and clean water availability was another major issue. Major threats for health risks such as infectious diseases, gastritis and diarrhoea as the iron content were high. Reclaiming traditional water bodies was therefore essential to long term resilience. Though wells have traditionally been a better source of clean water with less iron content; most wells lay abandoned or defunct. Through participatory planning and assessments, the community identified eight wells. With proper repair and repairs, these wells have been rendered usable again.

The project has helped to reach out to 16000 people across the 10 hamlets and women have taken the lead!

| | |
|------------|--|
| Objective | To establish community led disaster preparedness systems in Saharsa district; create resilient livelihoods; and improve access to government services and entitlements |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshops and meetings in each of the 20 hamlets • Formation of District Management Committee • Training and Sensitisation of local government members (PRI), Women, Health Care officers, Teachers and Ward members , • Creation of bamboo and banana plantations • Community training on flood resistant crops and provision of seeds, fertiliser and pesticides • Distribution of life insurance and livestock insurance |
| Budget | INR 4,065,600 |
| Funded by | Lutheran World Relief |
| Outreach | 2,910 Direct Beneficiaries & 16,000 Indirect Beneficiaries |

THE CATALYSTS OF CHANGE: FROM LOCAL FORUMS TO SHIFTS IN DRR AND CCA POLICY

Communities living in fragile, climate sensitive and remote regions of India are feeling the most severe impacts of extreme events and weather-related stressors. Yet, they also have limited capacity to deal with these 'new' dimensions of disasters and climate change impacts.

The overall 'Catalysts of Change' project attempted to look at the relationship between local multi-stakeholder forums and policy environment in post-disaster contexts. It is a research project implemented in Leh (Jammu and Kashmir) and Barmer (Rajasthan). This was supported by START and CDKN and implemented by SEEDS, RDY and Unnati.

Research activities were done on the ground to understand the impact of climate change and disasters in the area and multi-stakeholder meetings and workshops were held. Two pilot projects were also initiated. In Ladakh, the local community used an automatic weather station that was set up to gather information on their micro-climate. In Barmer, adolescent girls stepped out into the community, many for the first time, to help develop content for short community radio programmes on climate issues.

A massive cloudburst in Uttarakhand in June 2013 was the latest in a series of extreme weather events, throwing up several of the same issues that have echoed throughout this research. In a lesson transferring initiative in December 2013, the Automatic Weather Station was transferred to Bakunda, Chamoli in Uttarakhand.

| | |
|------------|--|
| Objective | Enable policy action by creating windows of opportunity at the local level; and set standards for local multi-stakeholder action to bring about greater integration of DRR and CCA. |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of DRR and CCA integration issues • Creation of a platform for inter-state collaboration for policy research and advocacy; • Research and influence on ability of local stakeholders at multiple levels to influence policy environment • Setting up of two pilot projects |
| Budget | Fund received during financial year 2012-13 |
| Funded by | START |
| Outreach | 9 district, state and sub-national workshops involving around 200 people 30 students involved in the climate school and automatic weather station 20 adolescent girls trained on community radio Outreach to Western Rajasthan population through 12 broadcasted radio programmes |



INFLUENCING CHANGE

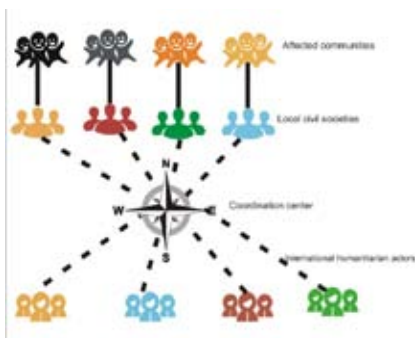
Local Level Action in Asia-Pacific

www.adrrn.net



Make communities an active stakeholder from passive observer

Make education the basis of all action to prevent, respond and recover towards building a resilient society



Right training and information helps in minimising losses from disasters

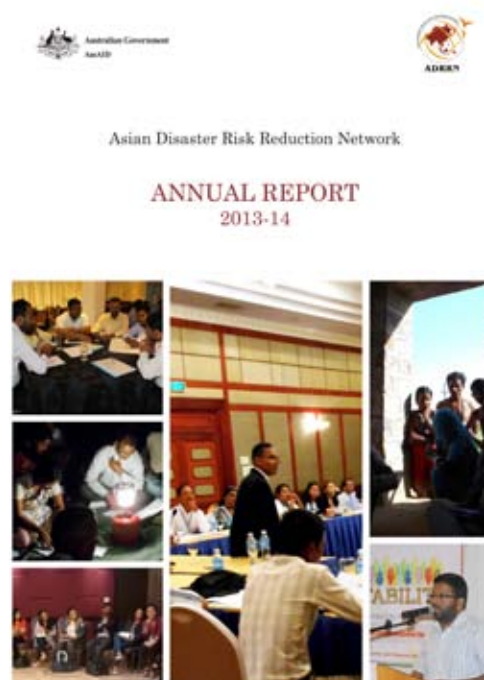
ASIAN DISASTER REDUCTION & RESPONSE NETWORK

SEEDS is an active member of the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN). Over 2013-14, ADRRN has worked to advance strategic objectives through some of the key activities below.

Promoting grassroots innovation: Indonesian and Vietnamese members worked on innovative practices to responding to threats of floods and impacts of climate change. The interesting practices were captured in a paper widely shared and submitted to the IRDR conference to motivate scientific researchers to take up action research.

Amplifying civil society voices: ADRRN members worked on a campaign in Bangladesh on factory safety to generate better awareness about the occupational hazards. As a result, an occupations safety centre was established for larger awareness and capacity building programs. ADRRN also worked closely with UNISDR and UNOCHA to record civil society views on various issues. As the leader of the CSO task force for the 6th AMCDRR, various background papers were prepared and backed by community resilience surveys in countries from the region.

Facilitating institutional and organisational support to enhance accountability: Training workshops on social accountability and use of these tools were organised for South Asian members; and CSOs in Sri Lanka came together to strengthen accountability mechanisms for their own programmes.



| | |
|------------|---|
| Objective | Provide overall management of the Network activities |
| Activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smooth running of the network and partner outreach • Documentation and coordination of the network activities • Creation of reports, proposals and other documents related to the network activities • Monitoring and maintenance of ADRRN website |
| Budget | INR 1,651,374 |
| Funded by | Mercy Malaysia |
| Outreach | Effective implementation of activities and promotion of ADRRN in the Asia region |

FACILITATING URBAN RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN HIMALAYAN TOWNS

Under this project, a town planning exercise was carried out with the local municipality in Karnaprayag. The objective was future planning of the town. GIS mapping was carried out which marked the safe and unsafe areas of existing habitation. SEEDS also organised a workshop in Dehradun to share the outcomes of the activities with other municipalities. More than 40 participants from various municipalities which were affected by floods participated and shared their concerns about their local disaster management. Solutions to retrofit Paduli Primary School were developed.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Objective | Facilitating Urban Reconstruction and Development Planning in Karanprayag |
| Budget | INR 22,27,575 |
| Funded by | Paul Hamlyn Foundation |

VIEWS FROM THE FRONTLINE

Views from the Frontline (VFL) is a research-based programme led by the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR). VFL primarily entailed collecting and sharing of views from organisations and people around the world who work on local level disaster risk reduction. By offering local views, VFL complimented the UN's first Global Assessment Report (GAR). It allowed comparisons to be made between the GAR national level findings and the views of people living and working at the frontline where disasters strike.

The VFL study was conducted by sixteen key members of Alliance for Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (AADRR) in 11 states across 40 districts in India. There were 540 respondents to the survey that involved local government representatives, community members-including women and civil society members. In addition to this, discussion and consultation were undertaken in the form of 4 sub-national workshops. The final results were compiled in the form of an India report 2013. VFL acted as a national platform for DRR bringing together multiple local organisations. These small and big CBOs and NGOs work in different corners of the country on varied issues. Bringing a unified approach to addressing issues through a national forum is vital in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction.







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 and all our individual donors.

Alliance for Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (AADRR)

Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN)

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)

Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN)

CENDEP at Oxford Brookes University

Christian Aid

Dan Church Aid

European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO)

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

Kalvi Kendra

Kyoto University

Lutheran World Relief (LWR)

MERCY Malaysia

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

Owner Driven Reconstruction Collaborative (ODRC)

PDAP

Plan India

PKPU

Relief Development and You (RDY)

Rural Volunteer Centre (RVC)

START

UNICEF

Unnati

Friends and associates of SEEDS

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

BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2014


In ₹

| Particulars | Schedule | As at March 31, | |
|---|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | 2014 | 2013 |
| <u>SOURCES OF FUNDS</u> | | | |
| Funds | 1 | 29,228,649 | 30,983,657 |
| Secured Loans | 2 | 83,182 | 234,491 |
| TOTAL | | <u>29,311,831</u> | <u>31,218,148</u> |
| <u>APPLICATION OF FUNDS</u> | | | |
| Fixed Assets | 3 | | |
| Gross Block | | 8,584,892 | 8,483,798 |
| Less : Depreciation | | 6,081,148 | 5,717,067 |
| Net Block | | <u>2,503,744</u> | <u>2,766,731</u> |
| Investments | 4 | <u>226,000</u> | <u>226,000</u> |
| Current Assets, Loans & Advances | | | |
| Cash and Bank Balances | 5 | 25,255,039 | 27,434,682 |
| Other Current Assets | 6 | 1,120,103 | 1,156,555 |
| Loans and Advances | 7 | 3,095,165 | 329,971 |
| | | <u>29,470,307</u> | <u>28,921,208</u> |
| Less: Current Liabilities & Provisions | 8 | | |
| Expenses Payable | | 26,755 | 28,942 |
| Other Liabilities | | 2,861,465 | 666,849 |
| Net Current Assets | | <u>26,582,087</u> | <u>28,225,417</u> |
| TOTAL | | <u>29,311,831</u> | <u>31,218,148</u> |
| Significant Accounting Policies and Notes | 11 | | |

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 Behar Lal
Partner
Membership No.: 082412

New Delhi
August 18, 2014

For SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND
ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY


Manu Gupta
Vice President


Anshu Sharma
Secretary



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

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

In ₹

| Particulars | Schedule | For the year ended March 31, | |
|---|-----------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| | | 2013-14 | 2012-13 |
| A. INCOME | | | |
| Grants & Donations Received | 9 | 51,457,231 | 43,137,780 |
| Interest & Other Income | | 1,483,976 | 2,273,240 |
| | | <u>52,941,207</u> | <u>45,411,020</u> |
| B. EXPENDITURE | | | |
| Detail of Expenditure | 10 | 54,696,213 | 45,788,788 |
| Less: Expenses transferred to Specific Funds | | - | 1,466,943 |
| | | <u>54,696,213</u> | <u>44,321,845</u> |
| Unspent / (Overspent) during the year transferred to General Fund | | (1,755,006) | 1,089,175 |
| Significant Accounting Policies and Notes | 11 | | |

Note: The Schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Income and Expenditure Account

In terms of our report attached.

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



Rajat Behari Lal
Partner
Membership No.: 082412

New Delhi
August 18, 2014

For SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND
ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

Manu Gupta
Vice President

Anshu Sharma
Secretary



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