



ऑक्सफैम इंडिया

Oxfam
India



Reducing **Risks** Securing **Lives**

Building Community Resilience - An Initiative

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Front Cover Image : A Search & Rescue trainer runs off to save a person from drowning from a mock drill. By Sam Spickett.

Back Cover Image : A women works on a hand loom machine at Assam. By Sam Spickett.

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Photo Credit: Sam Spickett

'All people facing real or potential humanitarian crises in India will be assured both the protection and assistance they require to prepare for, and cope with shocks, regardless of who they are or where they are affected, in a manner consistent with their human rights.'

Oxfam India Humanitarian and DRR Goal Statement

This document is intended to reach out to organization, institutions, government departments, communities and individuals to share Oxfam's experience in preparing communities for natural disasters and thereby protect their lives, livelihood and the social infrastructure. This document portrays experiences from four states of Eastern India under Oxfam's Eastern India Regional Office encompassing examples of resilience with respect to protecting vulnerable livelihood, improving public health and building capacities to respond to emergencies. There are sections that also depict the processes evolving credible institutions of people and linking them to key institutions. Finally, the document voices the manner in which Oxfam puts women and vulnerable populations at the core of all its interventions.



About Oxfam India

Oxfam India is a result of the merger of the different Oxfams that have been operating in India for the last sixty years as separate entities : Oxfam Trust, Oxfam GB, Oxfam Novib, Oxfam Australia, Oxfam Hongkong and Intermon Oxfam (Spain). It undertakes all the activities of an Oxfam affiliate : International and National rights based programming, advocacy and campaigning, humanitarian response and fund raising. Oxfam India aims to be a role model for promoting gender equality and diversity. It came into being on September 1, 2008.

Oxfam India's vision is to create a more equal, just, and sustainable world by empowering the poor to demand their rights, engaging the non-poor to become active and supportive citizens, advocating for an effective and accountable state, and making markets work for poor people. The overarching vision of Oxfam India is **“right to life with dignity for all”**.



Oxfam India Vision

“Right to life with dignity for all”

It is clearly visible that India is one of the most disaster prone countries in the world. Oxfam India’s strategic steer focuses a great deal on major humanitarian events in India, particularly floods, in the Indian context given their increasing frequency, and the regular experience accumulated in responding to these. Yet within the last 10 years, four other crises, all pivotal humanitarian events globally, have hit India – the Orissa super-cyclone 1999; the Gujarat earthquake 2001; the Tsunami of 2004; and the Kashmir earthquake 2005.

India’s Calamity Count: Some of the defining disasters during the decade 1999 – 2009

1999 Orissa Super Cyclone, 2001 Gujarat Earthquake, , 2004 South Asia floods, 2004 Asian Tsunami, 2005 Mumbai Flood, 2005 Jammu and Kashmir Earthquake, 2007 South Asia Floods, 2008 Kosi Floods, 2009 Cyclone Aila, 2009 South India Flood and the recent Ladakh Flood Response 2010.

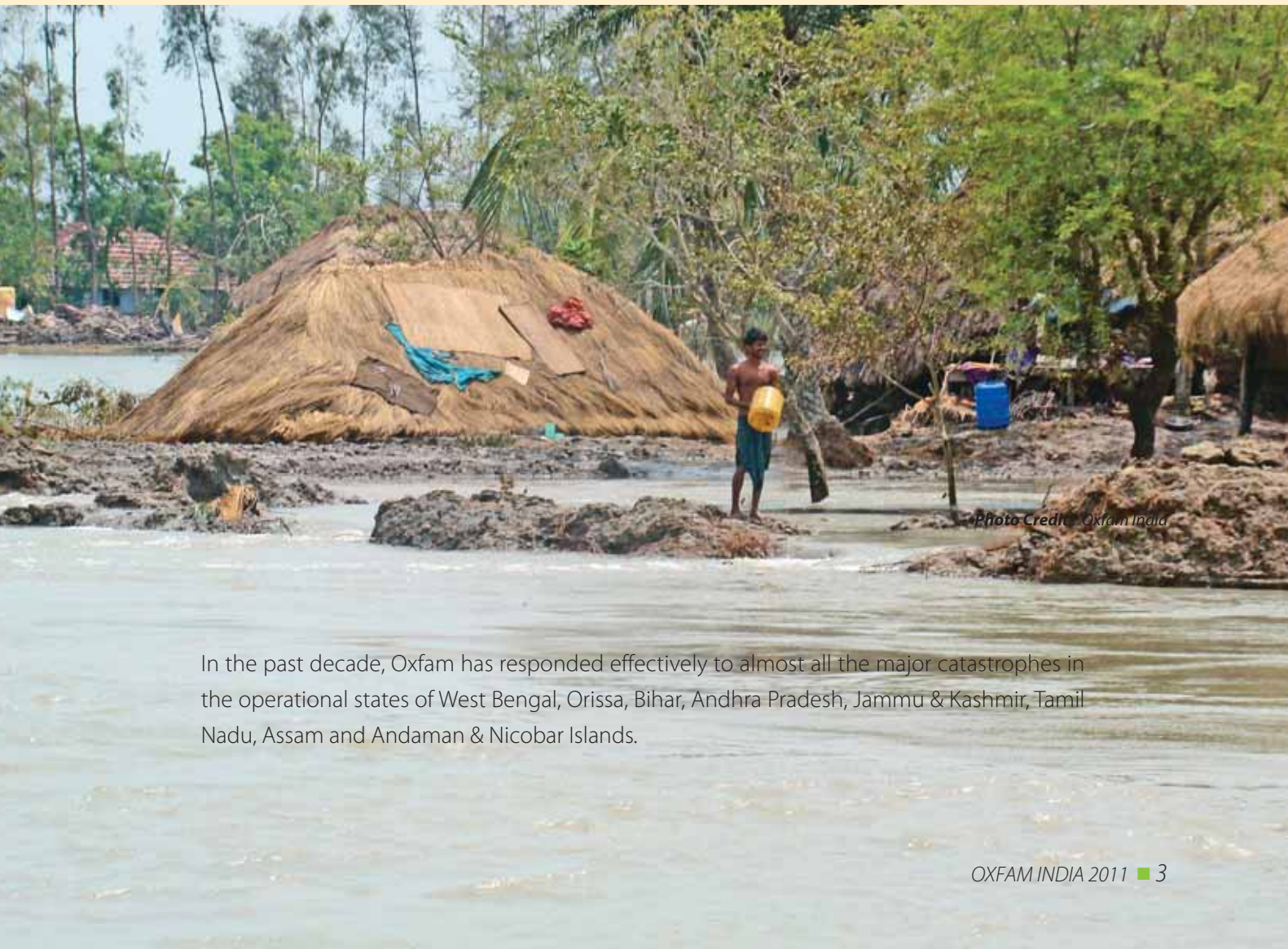


Photo Credit: Oxfam India

In the past decade, Oxfam has responded effectively to almost all the major catastrophes in the operational states of West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Assam and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.



Photo Credit : Oxfam India

Vulnerability Context of East India

Unpredictable weather conditions, rising water levels, floods and the regularity of tropical storms and cyclones emanating from the Bay of Bengal make the eastern states of India particularly vulnerable to the natural calamities. On an average, five-six tropical cyclones originate in the Bay of Bengal, most of them making landfall in the eastern states. Oxfam India is implementing Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) programmes in four states — Orissa, Bihar, Assam and West Bengal. The hazard focus is on floods and cyclones.

Between 1999 and 2009, some of the major natural disasters to hit the four states include the Orissa Super Cyclone 1999, South Asia Flood in 2004 and 2007, Koshi flood in 2008 and Cyclone Aila 2009, all of which were responded to by Oxfam, making humanitarian intervention and the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) program of Oxfam India, imperative requirements in this region.

In each instance of disaster, Oxfam India has rushed with immediate relief to the affected people, supporting them with food aid, temporary shelters, water, sanitation and hygiene followed by early recovery response focussed on livelihood restoration, water, sanitation and hygiene through strengthening community institutions. The focus has always been on socio-economically backward and vulnerable populations, especially women and children. While deaths caused by natural disasters have decreased over the last decade due to the efforts of civil society organizations, government and affected communities themselves, the number of people affected, the volume of economic losses and other vulnerabilities have increased significantly.

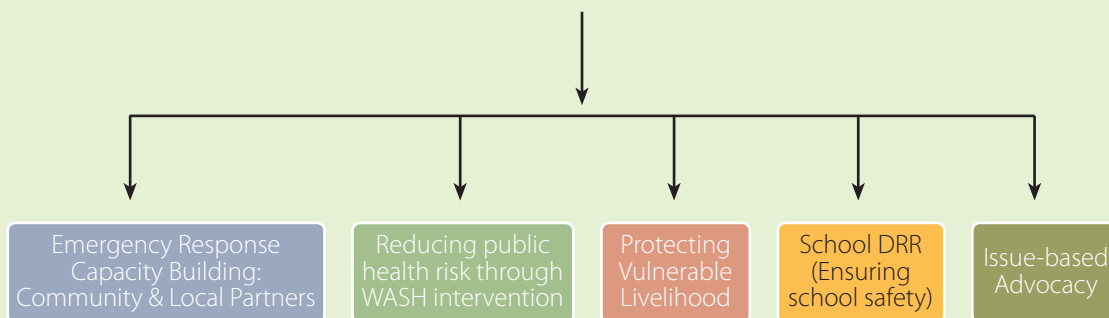
Overall Eastern India DRR Programme Goal Statement

Increase resilience of vulnerable women, men and children living in four recurrent disaster prone states of Eastern India through promoting appropriate disaster risk reduction and adaptation measures, addressing policy implementation gaps in collaboration with State and non State stakeholders.

DRR Program Overview in East India

The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) program is spread across 18 districts of the four states and involves almost 210 rural villages. The current phase of the program which began in 2008-09 has 10 partners in four states supported primarily by Oxfam Great Britain (OGB) and Oxfam Hong Kong (OHK). In 2009-10, Oxfam Australia and Oxfam NOVIB also supported in humanitarian capacity building programme for partners & Oxfam staffs. The DRR Program was designed after incorporating learning of earlier River Basin Program, implemented in Assam, Bihar and West Bengal. The premises of these interventions are to increase people's self dignity and confidence by acknowledging their traditional knowledge, strengthening people's skills so that vulnerable families can adapt measures to utilize available and accessible assets like land, water, forest, livestock and their labour power to increase their resilience. From 2009, eastern India office has also started a climate change adaptation program in Bihar being supported by OHK, which provided learning opportunity for Oxfam and partners on impact of climate change and adaptation practices at community level.

DRR Program Components



Cross Cutting: Gender and Diversity, Environmental Sustainability

Some of the key interventions under each sector :

Emergency Response Capacity Building

Key Intervention

- Provisioning of contingency fund and prepositioning contingency stock of life saving non food items at partner level for timely response incase of emergency.
- Developing and regular Updating of Organisation Level Disaster Preparedness Plan (OLDP).
- Capacity building of field staff and volunteers in firstaid, rescue, rapid need assessment, Public Health Promotion, logistics, finance, code of conduct/ SPHERE standards, gender mainstreaming.
- Equipping partners for rapid response to save lives through prepositioning of high speed FRB boats, country boat (at community level), life jackets, mega phones for disseminating early warning information.
- Coordination and net working with district administration and Inter Agency Group (IAG) at state level.
- Periodic partner capacity assessment and capacity building support for quality and timely humanitarian response.
- Formation and strengthening of Community Based Organisation : Village Disaster Management Committee (VDMC), Volunteer Forum and theme based task forces. Linking them with relevant departments.



Protecting Vulnerable Livelihood

Key Intervention

- Support Farmers from vulnerable families in developing context specific crop packages and promoting improved agricultural practices with support from Research Institute and Government Line departments.
- Pre-flood paddy cultivation, Systemic Rice Intensification (SRI), System of Wheat Intensification (SWI), promoting zero tillage, promoting vermi compost, vegetable cultivation in sand inundated lands.
- Promoting grain banks in selected locations
- Safe storage of seeds and food-grains.
- Pre-monsoon Livestock vaccination in collaboration with Animal Husbandary Department.
- Formation and strengthening of Farmer's Club and linking them with Agricultural Department, Banks etc.
- Promotion of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC).



School DRR

Key Intervention

- Formation and strengthening of school DRR committee in selected schools.
- Trainings of teachers and members of school DRR committee on first-aid and public health.
- Development of School Safety Plans for each targeted school.
- Sanitation and hygiene message dissemination through students.
- Organizing school level events on DRR and Public Health. Special education for the adolescent's girls on personal hygiene.
- Engage with relevant Government Departments at State and district level in improving water and sanitation facilities in the schools.
- At village level facilitate interaction among school and non-school going children on disaster preparedness.



Key Intervention

- Develop pilot models of flood resilient safe drinking water sources (raised hand pump), bathing cubicles and household level sanitation facilities in vulnerable locations.
- Educate communities on safe Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) practices for reducing public health risks.
- Formation and strengthening of village level WASH committee and linkage with National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).
- Sensitize village NRHM committees on disaster preparedness, their roles and responsibilities during a disaster situation.
- Pilot initiation of village health information centre (Orissa).
- Identification, knowledge and capacity building of Public Health volunteers at village level (Volunteer Forum).
- Hygiene messages and campaigns on safe water handling, hand washing, safe disposal of waste, women personal hygiene and care and reduce environmental contamination.
- Village level awareness generation and campaign to promote safe defecation practices.
- Linkage with Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) for flood resilient water sources, Individual Household Latrines (IHL) under total sanitation campaign.
- Promote womens Self Help Group involvement in sanitary production centres.



Advocacy

Focus :

- Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into development programming (into decentralized development plans : by linking evidence and experiences from the field).
- Collaborative engagement with state and non-state actors for effective implementation of Disaster Management Plan in vulnerable district and states.
- Support selected communities in vulnerable locations for accessing services under different Government schemes and flagship programs.



East India DRR Program Spread and Partner Organisations



State	District	Partners
Assam	Dhemaji, Morigaon and Lakhimpur	Rural Volunteer Centre Morigaon Mahila Mehfil (Contingency stock)
Bihar	Madhubani, Sitamarhi Muzaffarpur	Bihar Sewa Samiti (BSS), Abhigyan Disha, Integrated Development Foundation (IDF), ADITHI
Orissa	Balasore, Jajpur, Jagatsingpur, Cuttack, Puri	Unnayan, India Red Cross Society (IRCS)–Orissa State Branch, Pallishree, SOLAR
West Bengal	Jalpaiguri, Murshidabad, South 24 Parganas, East Midnapore	SPADE

Good Practice Caselets

Vulnerable Livelihood: Promoting zero-tillage technique for wheat cultivation

"I have also adopted the method of 'zero' tillage for wheat production, which leaves the soil undisturbed, promotes 'life' in the soil and prevents soil erosion."—

Badyanath Kushwaha, Mointol village, Bihar

Badyanath describes the difficulties he used to have while working a labourer and agriculture student; namely financial instability and food security for him and he's wife. This has become something of the past as Badyanath is now a successful organic farmer, earning nearly double what he used to earn. In 2004 Oxfam India came to Mointol and offered training and workshops on vegetable cultivation; the new and successfully adopted Vermicomposting, camp management and issues that encompassed hygiene promotion and awareness.

Sustainable Rice Intensification, a method that maximises yield using very little output that is also cost effective; a process that involves daily tilling of the land and offering maximum space between each rice sapling. Badyanath has also adopted the method of 'zero' tillage for wheat production, which leaves the soil undisturbed, promotes 'life' in the soil and prevents soil erosion; both methods are proving successful and his produce is regularly sold at market for a good price.



DRR : Children Disaster Preparedness Committee (CDPC)

"This can only further our capacity to cope in an emergency situation."

— **Bharati, Sardachuk, Assam**

Every Sunday morning, Bharati gathers children from all around the village to practice mock emergency drills and explains that this is now an integral part of village life Sardachuk. 'Risk reduction and the associated activities make us much more confident in the face of an emergency, but it is usually the children that suffer the most and that is the reason that the CDPC came about.'

The children have learnt lessons from their peers that were taught to them by local partners, when they identified the vulnerabilities the community had in the face of a disaster. Training workshops were provided that covered disaster risk reduction (DRR), search and rescue, best hygiene practices, camp management and first aid and supplied resources like life jackets, first aid box and library content with a strong emphasis on DRR.

Bharati explains that this education is not taught as part of the children's school curriculum and feels



compelled to fill this gap and is always keen on learning new skills that she can teach the children, but she says, with a smile that she feels 'left out' at times because she observes that the children are teaching other children, which is great because they are demonstrating competency and understanding and ultimately this can only further our capacity to cope in an emergency situation.

Protecting Vulnerable Livelihood: Amar Bazaar—an income generation initiative by women

“Rural Volunteer Centre’s market linkage initiative has given a sustainable livelihood option for women”—

Matri Amar Bazaar Kendriya Samiti, Dhemaji district, Assam

Amar Bazaar concept promoted by Rural Volunteer Center (RVC) of Dhemaji district of Assam is a practice of market linkage that empowers women in the flood-affected Upper Brahmaputra River Basin. The objective behind Amar Bazaar was to develop a market mechanism for sustainable livelihood by mobilizing women Self Help Groups (SHGs) to adopt 'market to production mechanism'. Hereby, the business will also be guarded against natural disasters and exploitative middlemen, thus ensuring producer's control over price.

Implementation process involved organizing and educating women on market dynamics like demand and supply, product quality and market linkages. Existing skills were identified and improved upon and the women were provided options for income generation activities. Being a zero-budget effort, so far 50 Amar Bazaars have been set up by 200 women SHGs and almost 1000 vendors are involved. Their earnings from Amar Bazaar has encouraged flood-affected women to plan for less vulnerable livelihood measures and live a dignified life.

Public Health : Flood Resilient water sources



Hand pump — constructed on raised platforms in the flood plains of Upper Brahmaputra River Basin in Assam and in vulnerable areas in Bihar and Orissa. The objective was to eradicate water borne and faecal-related diseases through promotion and provision of safe water source round the year. In raised flood shelter location it was also meant to develop an elevated and integrated water and sanitation system.

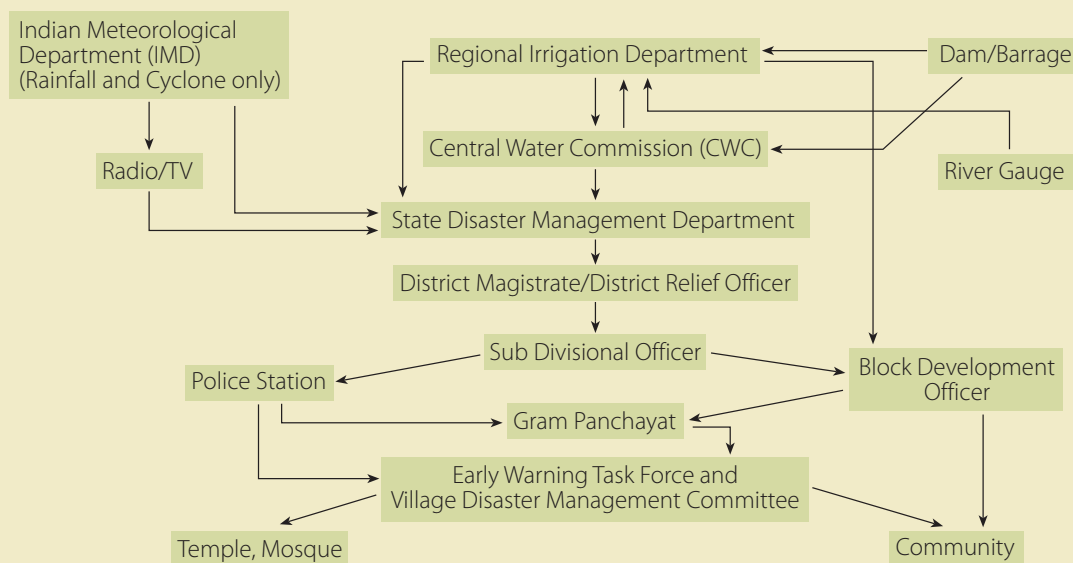
This has facilitated the communities to have access to safe water sources during flood period and post-flood period. Water user group members (both male and female) were also trained on minor repairing of hand pumps. It helps reducing recurring expenses for repair and maintenance of hand pumps. Income generation has been facilitated through community involvement in masonry works and installation of these facilities.

Emergency Response Capacity Building: Early Warning System for DRR

The system, facilitated by partner organization SPADE in Nadia, Murshidabad and South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal falls under the DRR component Emergency Response Capacity Building . The Early Warning System is a mechanism developed to prevent hazardous events from turning into major humanitarian disasters and is based on risk knowledge, monitoring and warning service, dissemination and communication and response capability.

The objective is to detect the hazards, measure the destruction potential, disseminate message to end users to minimize loss. Villagers have benefitted by learning to read signs of hazards and have helped them to interpret the destructive capability of hazards. Training and awareness at institutions level have the potentiality to further reduce the probability of damage.

Ensure proper co-ordination mechanism between Govt., Panchayat and the Local Community for effective last mile communication of decoded Early Warning Messages.



Early Warning System Process Flow (SPADE, West Bengal)

Public Health / Livelihood: Sanitary Napkin Production Centre through SHG

*“We no longer have to depend on our husbands for financial support” —
Sujata Sahoo, Haripur village, Puri district, Orissa*

Before Oxfam India offered training on livelihoods, couple with workshops on gender and hygiene promotion, women like Sujata were making low-quality sanitary napkins from old and dirty material. With support from Oxfam India, SOLAR a local NGO set up a Sanitary Napkin Production Centre by involving women Self Help Group being promoted by them. Many other women in the village benefited from the organisation’s support. The successful business model has generated sales amounting to Rs 9 lakhs. From the previous monthly income of Rs. 300, the women now earn as much as Rs. 2000 per month after the intervention.



Photo Credit: Sam Spickett

Working together, The women have forged strong bonds among themselves and the sanitary napkin production centre has facilitated the process of empowerment. The Production Centre has been linked with village ASHA workers, woman of neighbouring villages and also with the Woman and Child Development Department.

School DRR: School Disaster Risk Reduction Committees



The local partners took a comprehensive approach while introducing DRR in schools. The objective was to have children prepared before any disaster; reduce risk through their own initiative and lessen the chances of shock and trauma, especially considering that children are often the worst victims of disaster and so far very little focus has been laid on children's disaster preparedness. Only few schools have introduced "Disaster" in their curriculum and a lot more needs to be done on disaster preparedness amongst children. Thus the idea of Sishu Duryug Pratirodh Samiti (SDPS) in the villages and the

School Disaster Risk Reduction Committees in the school was conceived.

Teachers in schools oversee the functioning of the school DRR committee and have identified task forces on early warning, first aid, rescue and public health. Each member of the task force has clearly defined roles. Skill and vulnerability mapping, contingency planning, capacity building, mock drills and need based linkages with the education department, water and sanitation mission and Social Welfare Department are some of the areas of concentration of the school DRR program.

Emergency Response Capacity Building: Volunteer Management, Orissa

Orissa is among the most disaster-prone states in India, where 80 percent of the geographical area and 90 percent of the population is vulnerable to disasters. Oxfam India in partnership with Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Orissa, started organizing the community and the youth as Emergency Response Volunteers since 2006 in Orissa. The objective was to enhance the capacity of vulnerable communities to learn to live with disasters and mitigate effect of disaster by capacitating the volunteers on life saving techniques.

350 volunteers from 52 blocks of 5 disaster prone districts were trained on lifesaving techniques like first aid, search & rescue and public health. Due to the strong linkage with the district and block administration, the representations from all vulnerable Panchayats were well ensured. To strengthen the volunteers' forum, IRCS has developed volunteers management manual and pocket handbook with dos and don'ts of humanitarian response. Volunteers are also involved in the regular DRR work through educating people on different aspects of disaster preparedness. In the past the volunteers responded spontaneously during several disasters within the state and outside. 20 volunteers from Orissa were engaged in Kosi flood response in Bihar in 2008. They have also come up with a volunteer management handbook under the Oxfam support. The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) Orissa State Branch maintains the database of the volunteers which is accessible by the government and other agencies.



Protecting Vulnerable Livelihood: Sustainable Organic Farming

"I was initially suspicious. Now, I want to increase the size of my land under organic farming" —

Pitabas Baral, Alibad, Orissa

Oxfam India's objective behind introducing organic farming methods was sustainability and higher profits for farmers. After overcoming his initial scepticism, and after being guided through proper training, Pitabas started to incorporate the concept of 'vermi compost', which provided a viable and environmentally-suitable alternative to chemicals. His requirement of seeds per acre of land came down considerably. Method of cultivation has also been changed as he initiated systemic rice intensification method being promoted by the local NGO like SOLAR and Pallishree. Now, Pitabas is an organic convert and the significant leap in production and improvement in his livelihood has encouraged other local farmers to follow suit. Pitabas has been only too willing to share his traditional knowledge coupled with newfound methods at the Farmers' Club that has been set up in his village as well as in the neighbouring villages.



Photo Credit: Sam Spickett

Promoting Public Health

"I'm proud to belong to a village where jaundice and other water and hygiene related disease have been reduced considerably" —

Rita Devi, Kesswatol, Madhubani district, Bihar

Since 2006 the number of water and vector borne diseases have been going down in Kesswatol village; thanks to the effective hygiene promotion and awareness training offered by Bihar Sewa Samity (BSS), a partner of Oxfam India. Like Rita, WASH volunteers campaigned for healthy behavior in these villages, displaying best practices through role play, street art and demonstrating proper hand-washing methods, personal hygiene, the demonstration of ORS (Oral Rehydration Salts) and maintaining cleanliness of the surroundings of the house holds. Social attitudes have also changed as people are more aware about issues linked with the emergency and non-emergency environment, especially with the integration of Oxfam India training programmes on DRR that includes good public health promotion.



Photo Credit: Sam Spickett

Village infrastructure, like raised hand pumps and latrines was also established in the village under the DRR program.

Models

Raised Hand Pumps with concrete platform

"During 2007 flood, our hand pumps got submerged and it was hard to find safe drinking water. Now the raised tubewells have saved us from water crisis especially during the flood season." —

Bidyut Hazarika, No.1 Pithyal Village, Dhemaji district, Assam

Context

Submergence of hand pumps in flood-prone villages of eastern India is one of the main reasons for water-borne diseases among people who are forced to use the unsafe contaminated water for consumption. Scarcity of safe water also forces people to travel long distances by boat in search of drinking water and women and children often suffer the most. Economic constraints prevent villagers from constructing/repairing water sources every year. Almost 70 percent families cannot access safe water from hand pumps during flood time.

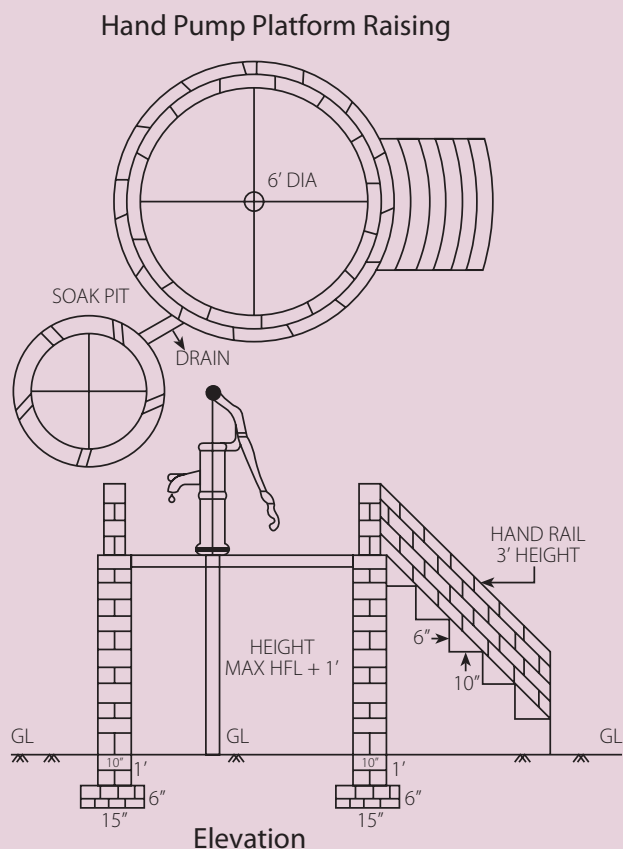
Oxfam India's Intervention

In the given situation, Oxfam India and the local partners intervened with flood-resilient model of raised hand pumps in Assam, Bihar and Orissa. The system facilitates provision of safe drinking water and proper discharge of waste water through improved drainage system, which prevents its seepage into the source.

Technical Aspects/Design

Initially the platform was cube shaped. Subsequently, to avoid erosion at the edges due to high velocity current of flood water, the design was modified to cylindrical shaped raised platform. The earlier height was also inconvenient for pregnant women and disabled persons; it was thus reduced the based on previous flood level in that locality. Handrailings are provided at both side of the stair case for easy access.

Hand pump height is decided based on highest flood water height. Each hand pump platform is covered with 2½ ft parapet. This was made to provide privacy to women and also it is a safeguard for children, elderly people for falling from height. All the hand pump staircases are attached with handrailing support to help pregnant women, elderly people to climb the platform. Also all the hand pumps are attached with drainage and soakpit to avoid water stagnation in the surroundings.



Materials and Quantity for bathing cubicles with hand pumps on raised platform

Sl. No.	Details of materials/ items	Quantity/ Unit
1	Bricks in Nos	3200
2	Cement in Nos	14
3	Sand (in cubic ft)	125
4	Steel (6-8 mm)	15
5	Stone chips (1/2 inch) in cubic ft.	15
6	Local Sand (filling) in cubic ft.	160
7	Labor (Skilled) in persondays	16
8	Masson	12
9	G.I. Pipe	4
10	G.I. Socket	1
11	Visibility Board	1

Bathing cubicle

"After 2007 flood our latrines were destroyed and our hand pumps submerged. We suffered from unhygienic sanitation conditions. But we now have a safe place to take bath and safe water to use even during flood " —

Pramila Debi, Madhubani, Bihar

Context

Bisfi block of Madhubani district in Bihar is characterized by heavy flood. Latrines and hand pumps in low lying areas get submerged in flood water. People face severe problems in finding a safe and hygienic place for bathing and drinking water. Without adequate privacy it is difficult for women and girls to take bath everyday and to maintain proper personal hygiene which results in increased incidence of diseases. during the recurring disasters. Construction and repairing of these assets every year is an uphill task due to dearth of funds.



Oxfam and Partner's Intervention

Oxfam India visited the flood-hit villages and discussed the issue with village women. The organization then thought of supporting its partners and motivated them in construction of bathing cubicles with hand pumps on raised platform in the flood vulnerable villages.

Technical Aspects

Feasibility study was carried out with participation by the women of flood affected villages, Village Disaster Preparedness Committee (VDPC) members and technical team of partner organization. Engineers from Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) were consulted for layout of design of bathing cubicle with hand pump on raised platform. The height of the structure was decided on the basis of the last highest flood level of that area. Bathing cubicles were constructed and hand pumps were installed. Channels were constructed for drainage of used water.

The purpose of constructing female bath complex with water supply system is to ensure clean, private space for women to maintain their personal hygiene. As the rural community prefers going for open bathing which particularly more problem for young women.

Materials

Materials required for female bathrooms

S.N.	Details of materials/ items	Quantity/ Unit
1	Bricks in Nos	7000
2	Cement in Nos	38
3	Sand (in cubic ft)	350
4	Stone chip (CIT.)	50
5	GC Sheet (3 inch by 6 inch)	8
6	Door	4
7	Steel (kg)	45
8	Door clamp	8
9	Local sand (CIT)	1000
10	Labour	45
11	GI Pipe	4
12	GI Socket	1
13	Visibility Board	1
14	Mason	40

Contingency Planning at Oxfam India and Partner level

Contingency Planning is a process, in anticipation of potential crises, of developing strategies, arrangements and procedures to address the humanitarian needs of those adversely affected by crisis.

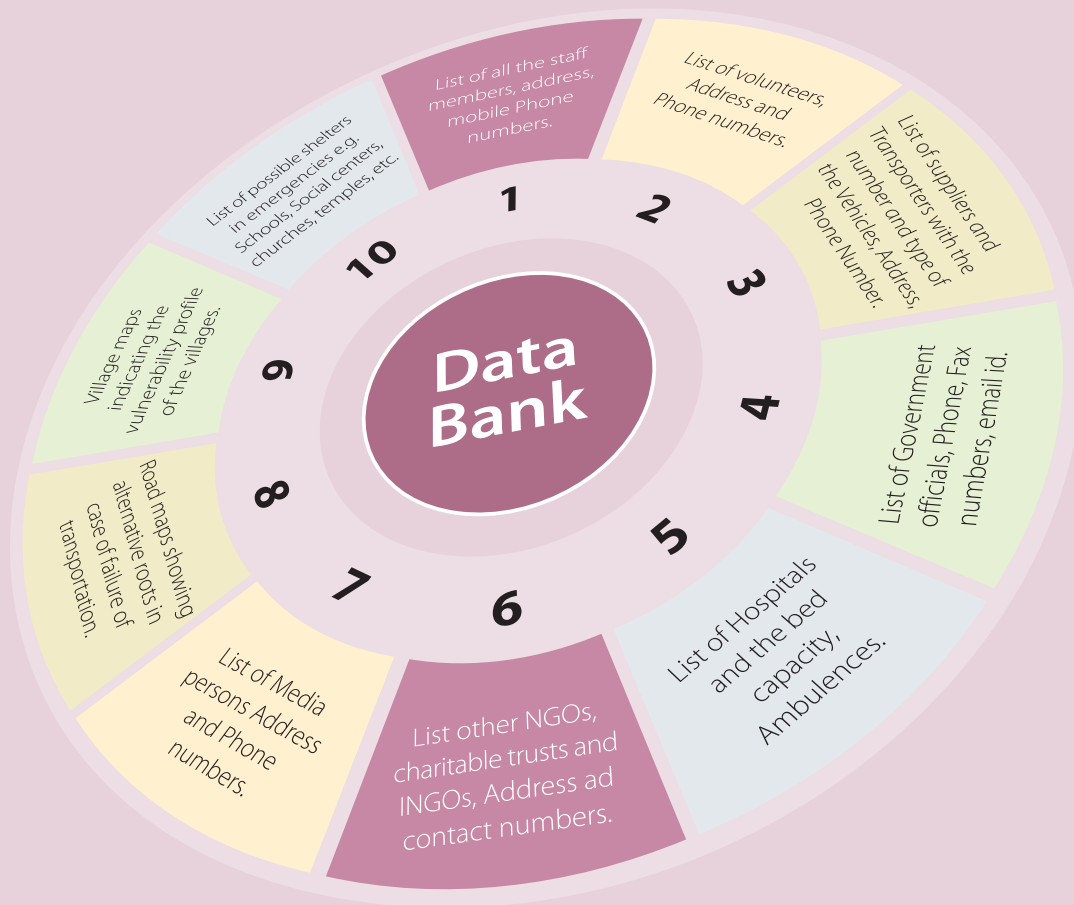
At its most basic, contingency planning means making a plan to respond to a potential crisis or emergency. This includes developing scenarios (anticipating the crisis), determining the objectives of an organisation or group of organisations in these situations, and defining what will be needed to reach those objectives. Contingency planning is used for many types of situation, including natural disasters, conflict and economic collapse. It can also often be used to deal with specific operational constraints, such as a bottleneck in a supply chain. Partners have to prepare their organization level contingency plan before monsoon and submit to respective regional offices of Oxfam. Then Oxfam regional offices prepare the contingency plan for the region/ office. Clubbing together all the regional contingency plan Oxfam prepares the Country level contingency plan for the organization.



Contingency Planning Steps



These steps also enables Oxfam and Partners to understand the areas, disaster history, the specific hazards and the vulnerability, along with the available resources and capacities.



Design : Ikonet

Advocacy and constructive influence



The East India DRR intervention was a model based programming. This programme try to advocate how to incorporate DRR approach in the different existing Govt. developent programmes specially in vulnerable locations. Instead of doing advocacy as a seperate activity, it was incorporated in all interventions.

The following are the key areas defined for consideration of humanitarian advocacy work in India, with most activities being within the focus states of Oxfam India.

Recognising that many good quality policies in risk reduction and response exist in India but that actual implementation is the challenge, Oxfam India works primarily with civil society organistaions, private sector and Govt. to achieve desired results in identified issues and policies.

Oxfam India will also engage with Govt. Departments at State and National level to ensure that a viable Relief and Rehabilitation Policy is in place in focus states under the overall disaster management policy of Govt. of India with specific recognition for vulnerable and ultra-poor populations.





Photo Credit: Sam Spickett

Advocate with state-level agencies for improved resourcing and management of early warning systems. Work closely with civil society and the Govt. to ensure how State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) could become more functional, including influencing improved coordination among different stakeholders and adoption of SPHERE standards in all aspects of humanitarian response.

Recognising that within India there is sufficient resources to meet the needs of those vulnerable to, or victims of, disaster, Oxfam India will seek to influence government and other actors that they transparently meet commitments and ensure that aid is targeted where needs are greatest.

Across all its humanitarian advocacy work, Oxfam India will draw on the programme experience of its own and others in order to highlight good practice and viable models and approaches to better of the people in need.

Working with others

Oxfam India's advocacy messages will be more effective if carried out in alliance with other agencies. The obvious starting point in most states is the Inter-agency Group (IAG) that comprises local and international NGOs, UN agencies and agencies championing quality standards such as SPHERE India. The level and frequency of activities undertaken varies from state to state and Oxfam India will focus on multi-stakeholder alliances and strengthening the IAG in focus states.

The other established relationships are the partners Oxfam India works with. As a starting point, response and risk reduction work will have important elements of institution building within the Indian humanitarian sector (including development of core skills of pre-identified partners in programme management, WASH, Emergency Food Security & Livelihood and risk reduction across the country). This will build a ready-made network of organisations with which to work at the local level.



Climate Change Adaptation Program

Overall goal is to build understanding on climatic variability, impacts of climate change in increasing vulnerability of poor and marginalized communities of flood-prone north Bihar and define long-term strategies for mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation in Disaster Risk Reduction programmes

Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) have very similar aims in terms of seeking to build resilience in the face of hazards, especially for hydro meteorological disasters. Both focus on reducing people's vulnerability to hazards by improving methods to anticipate, resist, cope with and recover from their impacts. Interventions for DRR are based on the risk being experienced by the communities and adaptation practices are based on anticipated risk or based on future estimates due to the impact of the changed climate.

Shift from coping to the adapting mode as coping is more in terms of risks experienced by the community and adapting is more in terms of risks that have been experienced or anticipated in the future.

In the case of models on climate change adaptation, there is a potential risk for communities in failing to get desired results from the application of any practice as they are based on future estimates which may not be accurate on all occasions.

Both CCA and DRR seek to build resilience to hazards in the context of sustainable development. The effectiveness of both are limited if they are not viewed with broader context of Sustainable Development. It has also been observed that ongoing Disaster Risk Reduction work is being "Repackaged" and presented as climate change adaptation.

Therefore, this is the right time to visualize the DRR programme through the Climate Change

perspective. Instead of working in isolation it's very much needed to identify the impacts of Climate Change in increasing disaster risk and work in a mutual approach. It is necessary to conduct detailed studies to establish existing linkages between CCA & DRR and at the same time to develop a long-term strategy on Climate Change Adaptation.

Recommendations from a study conducted in North Bihar, 2009-10 :

- Broadening Disaster Management to include adaptation practices in context of flood basins.
- Extend agricultural and veterinary research to the locations of vulnerable livelihood.
- Enhancing efficacy of safety nets like NREGS, PDS, institutional credit, crop and weather insurance to reach vulnerable populations.
- NRHM to identify outcomes of climate change on health (health surveillance at periodic intervals to record changing patterns and magnitude of diseases).
- Managing impact from drought - implementation Famine/ Disaster Relief code.
- Use of data on climate variability for designing adaptation practices.
- Social monitoring of safety net programmes like Mid Day Meal, National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Integrated Children Development Services and National Rural Health Mission.
- Sensitization of NGOs and others on social exclusion issues.



Photo Credit : Sam Spickett

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