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Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management in Action

Photos: AIDMI.

Institutionalising CSDRM Approach: Towards Effective Results to Cope against Climate Change

There are increasing amounts of evidence to show that India's coastal states are being affected by climate change and that vulnerability which is already high is set to rise further. Moreover, the frequency and severity of natural hazards will increase people's vulnerability and exposure. In order to equip the community to lead with the impacts of climate change, both agencies and community must involve in various adaptation intervention.

Various agencies at governmental and nongovernmental level are proactively involved in disaster risk reduction and are now involved in climate change concerns. However, given the complexity and range of issues involved with disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and development; it has become apparent that a lot more needs to be done to support and strengthen the efforts especially at the ground level. Understanding the threats posed by climate change and disaster risk, Society of Women Action Development (SWAD), a humanitarian organization based in Puri district, Odisha agreed the implementation of Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management Approach (CSDRM).[1] CSDRM approach is one such tool that can be used by community based organisations to tackle disasters, poverty and adaptation through improved integration. With the support of Climate Development and Knowledge Network (CDKN); Intercooperation Social Development (ICSD), Institute of Development Studies (IDS) and All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) together researched on how CSDRM approaches can be institutionalised.

> "*The priorities and needs of the both rural and urban communities, and the projects implemented by the governmental and non-governmental organizations must be aligned and that main focus should be on creating a climate smart livelihood resilient society in Odisha. This is important and we want to institutionalise the CSDRM approach at our organisation*".
>
> **– Ms Binapani Mishra,**
> Secretary of SWAD

The CSDRM approach has been developed and co-created by more than five hundred practitioners, policymakers, scientists and academics from climate change, disasters and development communities in ten 'at-risk' countries across Africa and Asia. CSDRM approach is an '*integrated social development and disaster risk management approach that aims simultaneously to reduce risks, adapt to climate change and development*'. CSDRM is a process-oriented approach that provides guidance to stakeholders to systematically address climate change, disaster risk reduction and development not only at policy level, but also at the implementation level. The approach draws out different routes through three central pillars that are divided into 3 main silos (below) that have 12 action points (see figure 1):

1. Tackle Disaster Risks and Uncertainties
2. Enhance Adaptive Capacity
3. Address Poverty, Vulnerability and Their Structural Causes.

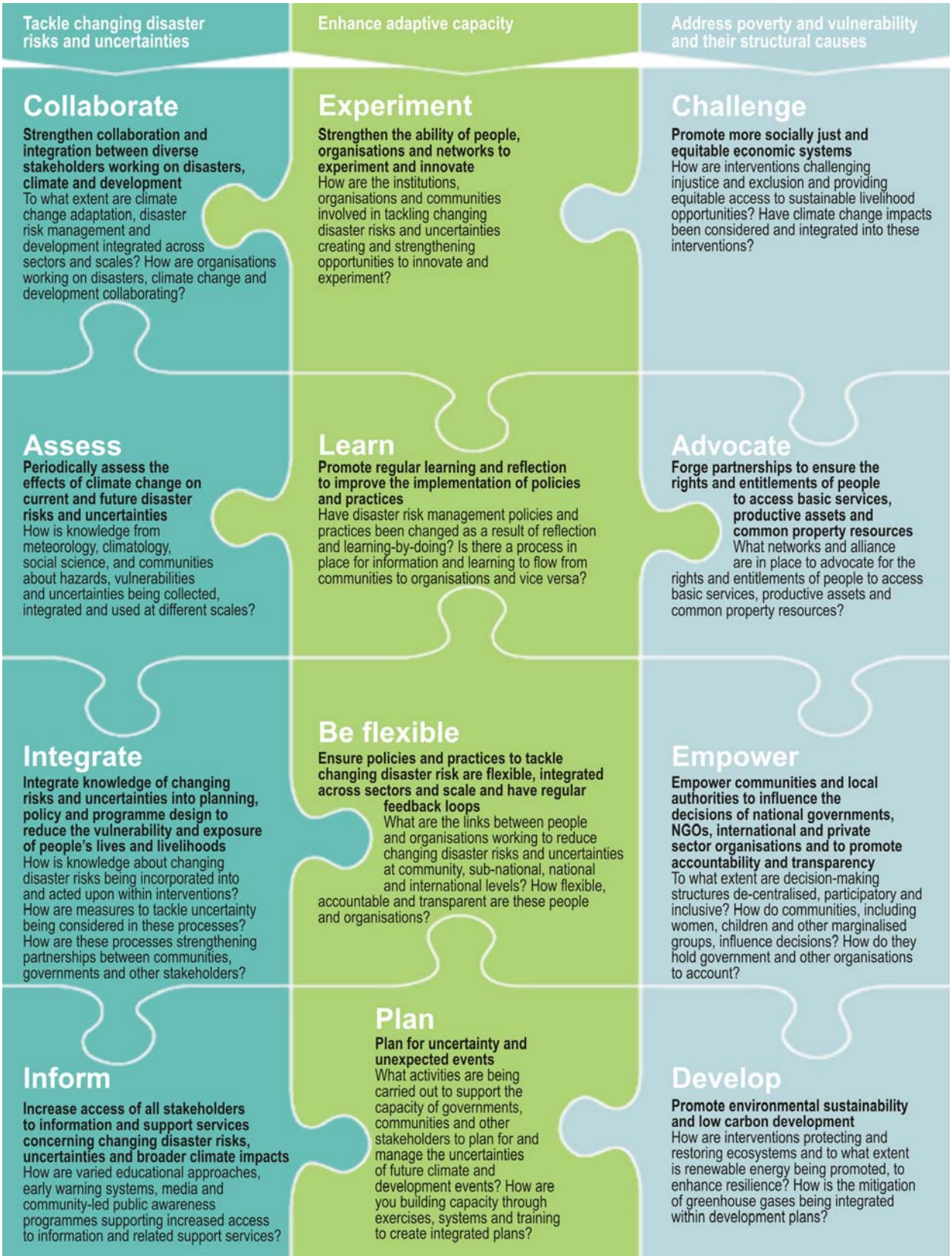
SWAD team decided to choose a strength as one of their entry point as they believe that they would be able to build on the activities better. SWAD has a lot of experience and expertise to spread awareness and information about the disaster risks, response and recovery uncertainties, government policies and climate change impacts. SWAD works as a facilitating organisation between

Steps used to conduct Climate Smart Disaster Management Approach of institutional level

Steps	Actions
Step 1&2: *Where are we now?*	• Self Assessment Exercise (Reflecting back on organization's activities, capacities and limitations through)
Step 3&4: '*Where do we want to be?*' and '*What do we need to do differently?*'	• Identifying potential entry points to apply the CSDRM approach • Map out integration pathways • Develop action points and • To select indicators to measure progress.
Step 5: *The CSDRM Journey* - '*Are we moving towards integration?*'	• Monitoring & Review of the progress • Understanding the internal and external factors that enable or constrain integration efforts.
Step 6: *Looking back* - '*What has changed, why and how?*'	• Evaluations • Reflections for way ahead

1 Harris, K., Seballos, F., Siva Villaneuva, P., and Curmi, P., Changing Climate, Changing Disasters: Pathway Towards Integration (2012) Strengthening Climate Resilience, Brighton, IDS.

Each pathway links the action points within the three CSDRM pillars and as the actions are inter-related, they need to be taken together. Figure 1 sets out the overall CSDRM approach with its three core pillars. Each puzzle piece consists of an action point with key indicators. Integrated pathways can be charted by choosing any of the pieces as an entry point and following the corresponding sequence of puzzle pieces.



technical agencies from different states and local people. They have conducted many trainings for spreading awareness, sharing information, knowledge building. Disaster risk information is made available in the assessment of potential risks and for planning at community level. SWAD aims to focus on to enhance the community resilience to climate risks and to practice community based approach by encouraging discussion spaces to inform about policies and programs. Thus, the entry point chosen by SWAD is Inform.

SWAD built on what has already been done which enhances their ability to address challenges. They re-use the concepts and techniques that government and the working bodies are already familiar with such as empowerment of local community. In addition, SWAD improved the present ways of working by including 'climate-smart' in each of its future and current activities.

CSDRM approach provides a guide to SWAD for strategic planning, programme development that should be used to assess how 'climate smart' are the existing disaster risk management policies, projects and programs. SWAD invested its staff and involved community members to flexibly adapt technical innovation. A favourable environment was created for the implementation of CSDRM approach so that information sharing and decision making can be transparent and favourable in and with the community. In addition, the efficiency of these interventions varies in terms of the ability of different communities and economies to address the climate change risk through projects like Community Based Disaster Preparedness. SWAD has been constantly monitoring and evaluating its efforts so that its efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability are guaranteed. CSDRM approach can be institutionalised at different levels that are responsible for managing disasters (directly or indirectly) at national, state and local level. ■ **– AIDMI Team**

QUOTES

India's Commitment to CBDRM


Photo: ndma.gov.in

"NDMA is engaged with the Planning Commission from the 10th plan period onwards on how DRR can be mainstreamed into development planning. The Approach Paper to the 12th Five-year plan was titled "Faster, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth". To achieve this we have to fully realise that when disasters strike it's the poorest of the poor who suffer the most, Therefore, DRR assumes paramount importance. Planning for inclusive growth is crucial in DRR. Large amount of money and efforts will be invested by the public and private sectors during the next five years; thus DRR must be mainstreamed appropriately."

M. Shashidhar Reddy, Vice Chairman, NDMA, First National Platform for Disasters Risk Reduction, May 2013, New Delhi.

"Over the years the trend of hydro-meteorological disasters is increasing along with the climate induced extreme weather events. Although, the number of human lives lost has been reduced, the economic losses are escalating."

M. Shashidhar Reddy, Vice Chairman, NDMA at the Meeting with Planning Commission, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi, April 26, 2013.

"We need to focus on climate change, extreme weather events and large-scale urbanization, which will pose tremendous challenge to all of us."

M. Shashidhar Reddy, Hon'ble Vice Chairman at the World Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction at Sendai, Japan.

"Urbanisation, industrialization and unplanned development in high-risk zones seriously increases vulnerability to disaster risk. Climate Change adds a different dimension to the whole thing."

M. Shashidhar Reddy, Vice Chairman, NDMA, First National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction.

"Nothing more serious could have been witnessed. It is an example of extreme weather events we all are concerned about. We need to make serious efforts to understand the implication of such disaster to which south Asia is vulnerable. The pace at which climate change is taking place... we need to focus on some key areas. A detailed assessment of climate change is needed."

M. Shashidhar Reddy on Uttarakhand Disaster, South Asia Regional Consultation on Climate Change Adaptation (Jun 24, 2013)

Conference of Parties in Warsaw: What It Hesitated to Discuss?

The Conference of Parties (COP) was held at Warsaw from November 11 to November 22, 2013. The purpose of this COP was to explore the opportunities in an incipient green economy in the backdrop of a global economic slowdown. The COP initiated substantial and profound discussions on the loss and damage caused by climate change to individuals as well as to natural and manmade assets. Discussions on this agenda was a follow up action to the previously concluded International Conference on Adaptation, Loss and Damage Adaptation and Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change in the Asia Pacific: Integrating Scientific Aspects, Bangkok, August 30-31, 2013 organised by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Bangkok, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) of Japan, Ministry of Environment, Japan, and Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN).

The loss and damage attributable to climate change are not easy items to discuss, for the fear that discussing these things would lead to more inconvenient questions of compensation and liability. But fear ought never to be a reason for inaction. Loss and damage associated with climate change must be discussed in a constructive and cooperative manner at Warsaw. In fact, the Conference of Parties provided an opportunity to discuss some important aspects of this pressing problem.

The debate on the loss and damage associated with climate change was not initiated at the Conference of Parties (COP) at Warsaw. It hesitated in focusing attention on the following three aspects:

1. The loss and damage associated with climate change in terms of its adverse effects on human health is an important yet difficult area to address.

   There is a dearth of work done by health service providers such as doctors and hospitals and health service shapers such as health researcher's on assessing and documenting the impacts of climate change on people's health. Even health insurance data falls woefully short of providing any reasonable estimate of the impact of climate change on human health.

   Against this backdrop, the recent heat wave preparedness work done by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) in India in the summer of 2013 as a pilot to assess the impact of climate change on human health is a welcome step. The novel work done by the AMC finds vindication in the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) which suggests that heat waves are not only here to stay but will also increase in intensity and frequency in the coming decades.

2. There is a gross mismatch between the loss and damage suffered by women as a consequence of disasters and the safeguards against such disaster losses accorded to women by law. The most important reason behind this mismatch is the varying and disempowering nature of women's rights to property from country to country. This mismatch may lead to situations where the losses suffered by women may not be fully accounted for and subsequently not rightfully compensated during contingent times. This dismal fact has been observed by AIDMI working in different parts of India such as the flood affected areas of Bihar, the delta areas of West Bengal and the high altitude regions of Sikkim.

3. The loss and damage associated with climate change is not easy to measure. It is even harder to assess the extent of damage and loss that children may suffer as a consequence of climate change. It is due to this difficulty in estimation that there is a mismatch between the priorities of the community and the authorities when it comes to formulating strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change on children. The focus on children is an oft repeated priority of the communities with whom AIDMI works. For instance, the teachers from the schools in the Mahanadi delta with which AIDMI has worked identified children as the most vulnerable group to the adverse impacts of climate change. More interestingly, those teachers discussed the potential threats of climate change on the coming generation with more vigour than they had on their present generation. This points out to the fact that the climate change debate is undergoing a transition of a longer term time frame of reference.

Thus, initiating discussion on the loss and damage associated with climate change on human health, on women, and on children was a good way to take ahead the climate change debate at the Conference of Parties (COP) in Warsaw. An opportunity was lost. ■

– AIDMI Team

SPEECH

National Commitment to Minimise the Negative Impact of Disasters

Photo: ndma.gov.in

"I welcome you all to the 5th meeting of the National Disaster Management Authority.

We have witnessed two major disasters recently in our country - the tragedy of Uttarakhand and cyclone Phailin which affected Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The rains and floods in Uttarakhand resulted in large scale devastation and severely tested the efficacy of our disaster response mechanisms. There are important lessons to be learnt from the experience gained from the rescue and relief operations that were carried out. I sincerely hope that all the concerned agencies of the Central and State Governments will utilize the experience of Uttarakhand in better management of disasters that we may face in the future.

Our response to the more recent cyclone in Orissa and Andhra Pradesh has been encouraging. I am happy that the NDMA played a significant role in this response through close engagement and coordination with various Central Government Agencies, the State Government and even the District administration. It was only because of collaboration between different agencies that the daunting task of evacuating nearly 10 lakh people in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh was accomplished in a timely manner and with minimal loss of human lives.

Our response to cyclone Phailin also underscores the importance of measures taken in the past for disaster preparedness, including sentisization of stakeholders and mock exercises. I am informed that the sustained guidance provided by NDMA over the last 8 years proved to be very useful and enabled government departments to respond quickly and systematically to the disaster. Collaboration between NDMA and the Odisha Disaster Management Authority in the pre-disaster phase of preparation of Disaster Management plans and formulation of Standard Operation Procedures; construction of a large number of cyclone shelters etc. resulted in positive outcomes. I am also informed that the mock exercise organized in Srikakulam District on 25th-26th April, 2013 and public awareness messages published in that area on 8th and 9th October 2013 helped both the district administration as well as the community in executing a disciplined and quick response to the cyclone.

We are aware that the world over, extreme weather events are on the rise. Such events impact the poor and marginalized people in a disproportionate manner. Even as we meet here the people of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha are suffering from very heavy rains in the past few days and the resultant floods.

It is therefore all the more necessary that we quickly improve our disaster management capabilities. Every rupee spent on disaster preparedness is a saving of expenditure on post disaster relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction measures. Disaster Risk Reduction strategies therefore need to be mainstreamed into our developmental programmes and policies. This is an area on which the NDMA and the key Ministries of the Central Government should lay greater stress.

Our early warning systems and response mechanisms should be strengthened further so that we are able to minimize the negative impact of disasters. In this context, NDMA`s efforts to strengthen community preparedness for disaster events and its engagement in activities related to disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness need to be continued with greater intensity.

I now look forward to your constructive suggestions for further enhancing the capabilities of our disaster management mechanisms." ■

Dr. Manmohan Singh,
Prime Minister and Chair Person, NDMA
(Source: http://pib.nic.in)

How can Communities Help Unravel the Adaptation Finance Web?

More financial support for climate change adaptation is available than ever before but despite commitments made in the UNFCCC negotiations, dispersed funds fall well short of what is needed by developing countries – and what has been promised by developed countries. Moreover, it is not clear how much of this finance is actually reaching the most vulnerable. For adaptation initiatives to be most effective they need to be directed toward the local level so that they can address the context-specific nature of vulnerability and localised impacts of climate change. Local institutions are therefore pivotal in directing resources to the poorest and most vulnerable.

Adaptation finance in action – reaching the most vulnerable in Karamoja, Uganda.

The Adaptation Finance Accountability Initiative (AFAI) is a collaborative research and advocacy project bringing together Oxfam, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and the World Resources Institute (WRI), together with Clean Energy Nepal (CEN), Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (iCSC, Philippines), Climate Action Network Uganda (CAN-U) and the Zambia Climate Change Network (ZCCN) to examine how climate finance is delivered at the local level to improve accountability.

Phase I of AFAI looks at the institutional environment for climate change adaptation in Nepal, the Philippines, Uganda and Zambia and tracks international-to-national adaptation finance flows in these countries. Inclusion of local government representatives in national decision-making bodies on adaptation issues is key to promoting more decentralised delivery of adaptation finance and in all of the countries studied, with the exception of Zambia where the institutional structure has yet to be agreed upon, representatives of local government are included in national climate change councils and bodies. In Nepal, the Minister for Local Development is a member of the Climate Change Council and the coordination body (MICCICC) has three local government representatives.

National governments were found to be the largest initial recipients of international adaptation finance in each country. In 2010 and 2011, the national government in the Philippines received more than 60% of adaptation-relevant funding from international sources, while in Zambia, Nepal and Uganda the share of funding going to national government was lower at 30%, 33% and 42% respectively. Other important recipients included donor organisations based in these countries, which handle the money before distributing it. The data provided by donors is however often incomplete and can be improved upon. In particular, the lack of information on both recipients and geographic location in the OECD CRS database makes it difficult to start unravelling the national adaptation funding web.

Phase II of the AFAI project will involve tracking funds to see where they end up and examining the local institutional environment that determines how they are allocated. Critically, this work will be carried out by civil society organisations. These stakeholders are best placed to detect information gaps, advocate for greater transparency in public financial management systems and for improvements in the quantity and quality of adaptation projects. These stakeholders also ensure that money with an adaptation label is actually reaching those who are most vulnerable to climate change. ■

– Emily Wilkinson,
Research Fellow, Climate and Environment Programme,
Overseas Development Institute, UK

Coping with Disaster – Home Truths from the Cyclone *Aila*

The relentless recurrence of natural disasters has ensured a certain amount of immediacy in disaster response. With the media glare on climatic catastrophes being increasingly intense, international aid agencies waste little time in rushing to do their bit in the event of a natural disaster.

But what about some time after when the storm has abated and the brouhaha has died down? When a lot of 'help' has been handed out and a semblance of normalcy has returned? It is then that the survivors of the disaster are left absolutely alone to deal with the near irreversible damages to life and livelihood wreaked by a sudden cyclone or a spell of bad drought. The 'silent killers' are on a rampage but international agencies have long returned to their snug offices, the government has pulled out, and the media have turned to more 'happening' things.

Let's zoom into the case of *Aila*, a devastating cyclone that swept across Southern part of West Bengal India on the wee hours of 25th May 2009, particularly the deltaic Sundarbans killing people, their livestock and rendering thousands homeless. The very next day islanders were found lined up on the embankment pleading, shouting and jostling with each other trying to grab relief and aid that came their way. And many others having lost their land, houses, and also their family members already started to migrate out of the Sundarbans in search of an uncertain future in Kolkata.

The West Bengal State Government and many non-governmental orgnisations responded by providing aid and relief on a war footing. However, relief and aid materials were short in supply to meet the needs of the victims. And secondly, even when relief materials were available in plenty they never reached the people who needed them badly. In other words, the story of aid and relief could provide insight into how politics was played out at the local level.

In a land marked by ecological uncertainty, food insecurity, risky agriculture and the absence of industries, people's livelihood needs became pressing with limited options. Even the pursuit of these limited livelihood options is now viewed by many experts as detrimental to the conservation of the bio-diversity of the delta and many traditional livelihoods such as fishing are subjected to restrictions and bans. Not surprisingly, migration over the years has grown to become a key livelihood strategy for many. Cases abound of entire families including women leaving the area. There are whole tracts of deserted and devastated lands which can be justly termed as 'the land of the old and those in the footsteps of death'. A substantial portion of it is disguised: a steady but unmistaken caravan of women of marriageable age is forced or is coerced to become domestic help in the cities or worse is being sucked into prostitution. For these girls life is an unending yo yo of uncertainty.

The story of embankment protection in the Sundarbans is one of continuous land acquisition without any comprehensive policy of relocation

A mother with her kids in front of her home in the Sundarbans after the devastation wrought by Cyclone *Aila*.

Brothers standing on the temporary embankment and surveying the approaching Hataniya-Doyaniya river in Sundarbans.

Photo: Shibaji Bose

or compensation offered to the people. The ring embankment proposed by the erstwhile left government in the aftermath of *Aila* has ran into problems with the villagers who are owners of the adjoining fields refusing to hand over their lands due to the poor track record of the successive governments in providing compensation at market price or for that matter any compensation at all. The government has put up a temporary structure and true to its tradition has not paid the labourers / farmers who toiled to put up the structure. The term 'ostityahin' or close to 'exclude' has time and again come up in conversations with the islanders particularly those living in the vicinity of the river or the sea.

Aila that struck the Sundarbans is formally over and emergency relief and aid has nearly stopped. The electronic and print media are no longer interested in *Aila* and the Sundarbans and are now focussing on the next disaster. However, almost four years on from *Aila*, people are still living in tents and on embankments and their farmlands have been destroyed by saline water. Natural disasters like *Aila* cannot be prevented, but what can be prevented is the longstanding impact of such disasters. In the face of high and increasing uncertainty, it is important to enhance the resilience of such areas. Also it is clear that adapting through incremental changes is not sufficient and to tackle such extreme shocks also requires social transformation which include radical change, innovation and experimentation as well as addressing power imbalances, beliefs and values.

The recent occurrences of cyclone Phailin in Odisha and Hurricane Haiyan in the Phillipines have demonstrated that climate shocks and stressors may be on the rise. These are examples of uncertainties that planners, resource managers and local people in the global South are confronted with regularly. However, in many cases, experts and policy makers are ignorant of how climate change and uncertainties are experienced and understood by poor and marginalized people who usually bear the brunt of climatic shocks and stresses. The project 'Uncertainty from Below' (LINK) is seeking to understand how climate change and uncertainty are conceptualized from 'below' and 'above' and aims to bridge the gap between expert and lay perceptions of climate change and uncertainty. It is critical to address issues of resilience, long term transformation, politics and imbalances of power because as we have seen in the case of *Aila*, people bearing the brunt of disaster and climatic shocks usually live in areas such as the Sunderbans which are characterized by ecological uncertainty, poverty and extreme government neglect. ■

– Shibaji Bose, Upasona Ghosh *and* **Lyla Mehta**, and are working together on the STEPS Centre project Uncertainty from Below and Above, UK

INFORMATION SHARING

CIVIL SOCIETY and the STATE: Turkey after the Earthquake

On 17 August 1999 Turkey was hit by a massive earthquake. Over 17,000 lives were lost and there was extensive damage to Turkey's heartland. How did various public and private institutions, (including the state, NGOs, and the media) respond to the needs of earthquake survivors?

Evidence shows that NGOs were extensively involved in the relief efforts immediately after the disaster. It also shows that state response to the disaster went through several phases - from a period of ineptitude to effective management. The credit goes to the media and the NGOs for acting as advocates for survivors and forcing changes at the state level.

As this research and other studies have shown, disasters are political events for they challenge the dominance of institutional powers. While the earthquake revealed the vibrant nature of Turkish civil society, it also showed the restraints imposed by the state on both its relief and adversarial activities. However, for Turkey to be well prepared to respond to future earthquakes, the cooperation between the two parties is essential. Evidence from both developing and developed countries has repeatedly shown that no government in the world can provide immediate, effective disaster relief without community participation. Countries need to develop innovative ways to foster synergy between state and society so that disasters become a predictable and manageable feature of there environment. An ideal response system, which fully addresses the needs of victims, can only be based on state-civil society relations that are both collaborative and adversarial.

This is a summary of an article published in the journal of DISASTERS (vol. 26 #2:120-139). ■

– Dr. Rita Jalali, Middle East Technical University, Turkey

Innovations in Green Economy: Top Three Agenda

The transition to a green economy has reached a crossroads: while multilateral global initiatives have been long-running and complex, the idea of a green economy still seems fragile and achieving it far from certain. In the face of the ravages of the global economic crisis that has raged since 2007/2008, countries are now trying to roll back their green pledges or slow the pace of transition.

This exposes a dilemma: a perception that a green economy is in conflict with economic growth, prosperity and the advance of human development, particularly in developing countries seeking to make rapid gains in reducing poverty and building a middle class, consumer society.

Three things need to be foremost in the minds of those who care about creating a global green economy in the 21st century: innovation in design, in market prices and in business models. I think these three factors will be the deciding elements in whether green technologies are taken up quickly and used by large numbers of people to improve their lives.

The green option needs to always be the more appealing, cheaper option that also improves living standards. Happily, many people are doing this all around the world - you just may not have heard of them yet (unless you are reading Southern Innovator magazine that is).

As editor of the magazine Southern Innovator since 2011, I have had the privilege to meet, interview and see first-hand green economy innovators across the global South and profile them in the magazine. What has stood out for me is this: the ones who have achieved sustainable success have put a great deal of effort into design - how the technology is made, what it looks like and how it is used, how efficiently it is made and distributed - while also thinking through the business case for their work and how to make it appealing to others.

We have tried to apply this thinking to the magazine as well, by using clear and modern design with bright, eye-pleasing colours, and by choosing to use 100 per cent renewable energy (much of it from geothermal sources) for the magazine's design and layout and to have it printed on paper from sustainable forest sources.

The fourth issue of Southern Innovator (www.southerninnovator.org), on cities and urbanization, launched in October at the Global South-South Development Expo 2013 in Nairobi, Kenya. It profiles many practical initiatives and innovators that are currently building green homes, communities and even whole cities. The magazine's fifth issue will focus on the theme of waste and recycling and hopes to be a one-stop source of inspiration to better use the finite resources of planet earth. ■

– David South, Editor, Southern Innovator, UK

***Southern Innovator*'s fourth issue on Cities and Urbanilization, shows how innovators are handling the largest migration to urban areas in humanity history.**

Further Resources:

1. Southern Innovator Magazine Issue 4: Cities and Urbanization http://www.scribd.com/doc/133622315/Southern-Innovator-Magazine-Issue-4-Cities-and-Urbanization
2. Development Challenges, South-South Solutions e-newsletter www.southerninnovator.org
3. Mongolian Green Book http://tinyurl.com/p4szr9l
4. Environmental Public Awareness Handbook: Case Studies and Lessons Learned in Mongolia http://tinyurl.com/obuf2xz

Reducing Mismatch in CSDRM Priorities

Is there a missing link between the disasters and the response given to local people by humanitarian agencies? Is there a mismatch between the priorities of humanitarian agencies and those of local people? If yes, why so? How much do cultural and social issues influence the preparedness and risk perception?

These are a few questions that are answered through the research study under the project. We have strived to get a closer understanding of what is required by the people of the state. Through this exercise partners and stakeholders aim to put forward the voice of the people to the institutions so the gap in priorities of local people and humanitarian agencies is reduced.

The mismatch between the humanitarian agencies and local people can be seen as an opportunity. Disasters test the reactivity of the systems, especially the capacity of different actors to work together. They demand solution that includes government, civil society, military and humanitarian agencies amongst others. In normal conditions they have a very little incentive to work together, however when a disaster strikes, they are all forced to work together and combine their capacity to reduce human suffering. It has been observed that the lack of clear coordination at the national and departmental level has led to ineffective systems of management. This is often reflected in the poor responsiveness to dealing with disasters, and mixed signals from sources of expert information[1].

Humanitarian agencies implement the risk reduction activities that will build a resilient society. However, as most of the humanitarian organizations are project based, they get involved in other project. Thus, no one is there to help the community when they struggle with the new methods and ways, and thus they stop using it. It is essential to take into consideration that withdrawal strategy plays a key role during and last stage of the program. An efficient strategy should be flexible which will reduce the gap between these two groups and build ownership and sustainability. It is essential that monitoring visits after the completion of projects are conducted so that they can see the actual situation. However, some of them tend to impose their own agendas and become self interested at the expense of people they are helping.

Further, it has been observed that the differences between relief and development become difficult in practice. The relief and development agencies are not same; relief agencies reach first and provide help to the survivors of the disaster and once the suffering has been relieved to a certain extent, another set of agencies that work for development arrives to organize a better functioning society. In the changeover between these different sets of agencies, there is an exodus of local knowledge. Development agencies have to remake contacts and build a new rapport and earn trust with local people, to implement the activities.

The nature of work done by the two set of agencies are different; and so is the response from people. The provision of water, basic health and sanitation services by relief agencies makes people's lives more pleasant on a day-to-day basis. But development is about creating a fully functioning society with opportunities for people within a framework of rights and freedom from oppression. Therefore, the line between relief and development is extremely blurred, and of course development is inconceivable if people are struggling to survive.

Difference in perception of need and demand increases the gap in the priorities of humanitarian agencies and local people. The main priority for local communities is usually related to livelihood security and income generation; whereas technical agencies have their focus on development and long term aspects.

Lastly, it is important to make the DRR strategies compatible with cultural aspects of the communities to strengthen community's coping capacity towards disasters. The integration of local knowledge with appropriate scientific knowledge in an effective way can make the disaster affected communities' resilience against natural disasters. It is essential to note that understanding and studying culture only on surface will not lead to be successful. Proper engagement with culture is therefore, a vital part if we are to utilize culture towards effective DRR activities and vice-versa.

Each organization involved in development sector will have different capacities and resources to bring to disaster-prone area. Each organization has something important to contribute; some bring technical skills while others equally essential more generally applicable community based knowledge and skills. All we need is streamlining the efforts by using a process whereby various voices are heard early, a dialogue can be initiated and differences worked out before, rather than during a hazard response. ■

– Vishal Pathk *with* AIDMI Team

1 http://www.fig.net/pub/uruguay/papers/ts07a/TS07A_nabutola_6401.pdf

Livelihood Diversification: Reducing Climate Dependency

An inordinate amount of people in India are dependent on farm based livelihoods. Farming is still of central importance, but is unable to provide a sufficient means of survival in rural areas due various factors including population growth and thus increase in involvement in agriculture sector, technical development and climate change. This makes the 'climate dependent' population particularly vulnerable to the debilitating impact of disasters. In order to promote the issue of livelihood security, the research study undertaken by Intercooperation Social Development; Institute of Development Studies, UK; and All India Disaster Mitigation Institute with the support from Climate Development and Knowledge Network (CDKN) that focused; on the possible need for and role of the Rural Non Farm Economy (RNFE) and challenges and; to understand if the existing knowledge on RNFE and livelihood diversification provide basis for reducing climate dependency in rural India

A Patachitra artist post cyclone Phailin (2013) in Rajgopalpur, Odisha stressing on the idea that reducing climate dependency is key to sustainable development.

The fact that climate change has exacerbated the frequency and severity of disasters (IPCC, 2012) has in turn increased the vulnerability of farm based livelihoods. In this light, the promotion of non-farm based economic activities is seen as a survival strategy of rural households (in India). Livelihood diversification plays the role to mitigate the effects of disasters; and seeks to offer protection to communities who lose their livelihood on account of the disruption caused due to disaster. However, such diversifications are also subject to the local natural endowments, geography and policies prevalent. There is a positive correlation observed between livelihood development and diversification which can be worked upon to develop disaster resilient livelihood practices.

Cyclone Phailin provides a strong evidence that it is inevitable to promote and strengthen livelihood diversification in rural (coastal) India for a balanced income at family level, as a strong adaptation strategy and for safer recovery options. It was observed that those involved in climate dependent activities were sustainable post disaster.

While witnessing increasing impact of climate change in Odisha, livelihood diversification should be seen as an opportunity rather than a challenge to cope with climate change impacts. Resilient development may require reducing the number of people (especially those in rural and

Small enterprises are most vulnerable to disasters; The increasing frequency of flood every year coupled with inadequate hardly mitigation measures create a devastating impact on be village economy. The capital should reach to the lowest level, to the end user, to the affected small businesses.

– Dhirendra Behra,
Grocery Shopkeeper,
Balapur Village, Puri, Odisha

agricultural livelihoods) who are heavily 'climate dependent'. Awareness of this will lead to increased interest in the diversification of rural livelihoods, and will significantly help in poverty reduction. In order for the RNFE to develop, it is important that the policy makers focus on alleviating poverty and strengthen both rural supply and demand side policies. The following areas should be considered for future actions:

1. Both income and nonfarm employment must be growing if nonfarm growth is to contribute effectively. This growth in non farm economy will require investments in productive activities and infrastructure. For development of rural non farm sector, it is inevitable to develop good transport and communication system that will open up many avenues for both marketing of goods and services produced by rural enterprises and procurement of raw materials.
2. Upgrading the traditional techniques of production that is used by the rural population will reduce the dependency on the climate and natural resources; and would improve the efficiency of rural enterprises and agriculture.
3. Improvement in the quality of goods will boost sales.
4. The government must provide employment opportunities in the rural areas; and ensure that the posts are filled by rural populations.
5. Post disasters the conditions of the people in the rural areas are usually very bad; government must ensure that training programs are held to develop new skills to reduce the dependency on climate.
6. Greater focus on improving educational standards in rural areas which can help the principle players understand the challenges and therefore adapt.

'Acute and frequent floods cause migrations; My husband migrates every year during monsoons due to lack of livelihood opportunities here. I joined a Self Help Group to support my family. The SHG gives me strength. We are many. Our strength lies in our unity and numbers. For what a group can do an individual can hardly do.

– Shavitri Parida,
Coir worker,
Madhuban Village, Puri, Odisha

It is the onus of policy makers to design policies and investments that help local/rural economies to adjust and take advantage of the new situation. Putting roadblocks for medium or large scale firms to enter rural areas is not going to help rural areas much in their growth, it will just isolate them. Production sector policies will play a key role in spurring equitable RNF sector development — which is frequently a missing part in the policy debate. Also important for facilitating such participation are institutional and infrastructure development policies that level the playing field for smaller companies, reduce transaction costs for those in the hinterlands and raise the skills of the poor. It is important to help poor overcome their constraints and ensure that they are able to participate and benefit from RNF activities. ■

– Khyati Halani *with* AIDMI Team

CASE STUDY

Empowerment through Self Help Group

15 years back, women were isolated and were not allowed to take part in village planning and decision making. A ray of hope was seen when community-based organisation SWAD (Society for Women Action Development) entered the village and started an SHG with collecting rice. This gave us a chance to be a part of pali-sabha and gram-sabha; and thus participated in community decision-making process.

Our SHG group had 12 members who contributed money to buy a piece of land for cultivation; which will help us to support our families. Today, we have more than 1.5 lakh in our SHG account.

Other than that, we have also started fish cultivation, pond renovation and plantations. We are exploring more methods for diversification of livelihood for security and development.

– Rashmi Rekha Naik, Deulipuri, Puri District in Odisha (Female, 46 years)

Significant Accomplishments of GSDMA in 2013

Gujarat is vulnerable to manmade as well as natural hazards. The state has experienced destructive disasters caused by cyclones, floods, and earthquake in past, and is also susceptible to industrial accidents. Taking lessons from Gujarat Earthquake 2001, the Government of Gujarat passed Disaster Management Act, by which Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA) was formed with a focus on reducing disaster risk through proactive policies, capacity building and education of communities. GSDMA has been proactively working for enhancing preparedness and resilience. As one of the steps towards it, Hazard Risk Vulnerability Atlas was prepared in the year 2005 by which the vulnerability of different districts to various natural and man-made disasters was mapped. The Disaster Risk Management activities conducted by GSDMA in all the districts aims at preparing the communities and administration to face various probable hazards are based on this study. Moreover world class fire safety equipments and vehicles have also been distributed to Municipalities and Municipal Corporations and adequate training is being imparted to the fire staff for using these for tackling industrial accidents.

Photo: GSDMA.

Water bowsers dousing fire at Hazira, Surat, Gujarat.

The trainings and capacity building activities have been useful in various instances which can be depicted from the following:

Photo: GSDMA.

Evacuation and Rescue work in Bharuch District, Gujarat.

1. One of the nine tanks at IOCL's Hazira terminal caught fire on January 4, 2013 and 2 adjacent tanks came very close to exploding due to the domino effect. GSDMA coordinated with nearby fire brigades to deploy massive resources in a short period of time. As a result, 71 fire tenders procured by GSDMA for different municipalities were mobilized for fire fighting and it successfully doused the fire in two days. Gujarat's response to fire at Hazira was spontaneous with minimum lead time.

2. Gujarat received unprecedented rainfall in 2013 affecting 14 districts of south and central region. GSDMA played a key role in supporting and coordinating the rescue efforts. Over 1,58,244 persons were evacuated to safer places and 5, 31,595 food packets were distributed. District disaster management plans updated each year by GSDMA helped in rapid

evacuation of affected citizens to preidentified evacuation points. GSDMA equipment such as portable lighting towers and boats proved to be crucial in saving lives in the worst affected districts of Bharuch, Surat and Vadodara. GSDMA's online State Disaster Resource Network (SDRN) helped in quickly getting emergency contact details of key government officials and providing them early warning of impending floods. The disaster impact was substantially reduced due to the flood specific mock-drills and training provided to community on a continuous basis by GSDMA. Based on this experience, GSDMA is further refining and improving the district level disaster management plans.

3. Heavy rainfall in the catchment area of Narmada River in MP and Gujarat caused a major deluge in the Bharuch district leading to severe soil erosion in Narmada River. About 150 meters width of Narmada river bank was washed away upto a depth of 13-14 meters. Reliance and GAIL pipelines ruptured under the severe stress and there was the danger of a spillover affecting other pipelines. GSDMA's GIS based oil and gas pipeline software prevented a major disaster by identifying all the major oil and gas pipelines passing through the Bhadbut village in Bharuch district and shutting them down to prevent the possibility of further damage.

The above incidents are the recent examples of how GSDMA has been able to use its capabilities and resources for the prevention and response to some of the recent incidents that could have magnified to major catastrophes. But due to interventions by state authorities, the damages sustained and losses incurred were minimal. ■

– Dr. R. Bannerji (IAS), CEO of Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority, Govt. of Gujarat, Gandhinagar.

EXPERIENCE SHARING

Making a Case for Political Economy Analysis of Disaster Management

Over the years there has been increasing evidence that power relations, governance gaps and institutional factors influence Disaster Management (DM) policy, including prioritization of actions, allocation of resources, and practice. The evolution of the DM policy and practice frameworks in South Asia is yet to be systematically analysed from the political economy lens despite the increasing aid investments on disaster response as well as risk reduction in the region. RedR India hosted a panel on this topic at the World Conference on Humanitarian Studies, held in Turkey in October 2013, for building an understanding of the political economy of DM in South Asian countries. RedR India got an opportunity to present its (yet to be published) paper titled 'Disaster management decision-making: how riskinformed is policy and practice?' at this panel.

The paper analyses the determinants behind decision-making for disaster management, specifically, the role of disaster risk analyses and political economy factors. The locus of analysis for this paper was the disaster management landscape in Bihar, India. This was analysed using a political economy approach since it emerged in the initial stages of research that disaster risk analysis was not the primary determinant behind disaster management decision-making. As analysed in detail in the paper, the emerging determinants of disaster management related decision making included:

- Political incentives based on the decision makers' short-term horizons, emphasis on visibility of actions, patronage and rent-seeking behaviour, political costs and political geography related calculations.
- Non-emergence of a political constituency around disaster risk reduction amongst the key constituents (viz. disaster-affected) and limited collective advocacy around risk reduction issues.
- Persisting exogenous imaginaries of disaster and consequently, of disaster management.

It was thought relevant to explore this relationship in light of the shift in discourse from stand-alone disaster management to risk-informed development planning. While the interaction of disaster risks and development processes has been globally recognized for over a decade now, there is now a greater push for incorporation of disaster risk management in development planning in the post-2015 agenda. As we revisit our successes and shortcomings towards the MDGs and the HFA, this is an opportune time to take stock of the current determinants of disaster management decision-making and learn from them.

The political economy approach enables this through an analysis of the political and economic factors influencing individuals' and institutions' interests, incentives, interrelationships, and interplay in policy and practice. The rising interest in such an analysis for disaster management can also be attributed to an increasing realization that despite the expressed commitment to reducing disaster risks, this is not reflected in policy direction, resource allocation or citizen demands. The political economy approach, thus, offers an appropriate gateway for addressing these questions, where quasi-technical approaches are unable to do so. ■

– Kaustubh Devale *and* **Sheena Arora**, RedR India

Understanding Disasters Differently

A very innovative area where 'Getting Climate for Disasters' focused was on the Reverse Engineering of disasters. Everybody is aware of the scale of death and devastation visited to the places where disasters are struck. However, the specific reasons as to why was damage was so massive are yet to be uncovered.

The main objective of the research is to examine the behaviour of relevant institutions in relation to recent disaster, through a process of "reverse engineering" to assess interplay of various factors natural, social, economic and political that exacerbated the severity of the impact of the disaster on the vulnerable people. To understand what needs to be done in the future; we should step back and reflect what was done and achieved. Keeping this in mind, the research was conducted using FORensic INvestigations (FORIN) of Disasters that investigated the events that have occurred in the past with less serious or high consequences to accumulate evidence of good practices (IRDR, 2011). The examination of good practice with low impacts was compared with bad practices and high impact to improve future activities.

We chose Cyclone *Aila* (2009) as our case study; where we assess the availability and quality of data, reports and other resources related to cyclones in order to analyse the disastrous effects of the cyclone; its root causes and impacts; its preparedness measures and; finds ways to reduce the after-math of disaster by having programs that can reduce the adverse effects. Specific socio-economic causes that increased the vulnerability of the people of the area to the debilitating impact of Cyclone *Aila* (2009) will be revealed through this reverse engineering.

Coastal states of India and Bangladesh has to cope with a wide range of environmental threats from sudden onset events such as cyclones and floods to slow-onset processes of environmental change and degradation. In combination with these factors, the people are not prepared well to deal with these shocks and thus are highly vulnerable. There have been several problems to establish the disaster management model in effect. Due to absence in broad based ownership of the disaster risk reduction action plans, every stakeholder implements a different strategy to overcome risks. The government must aim to establish a mechanism that coordinated disaster related activities on all levels; however in most of the cases these were non-functional. Further, many people are not aware of the information about polices that hinders them from implementing them at national level.

The actual damage caused by *Aila* was much more than the threat perceived by the communities. Since, the intensity was much lesser than the previous Cyclone Sidr (2007), the community did not take the warnings very seriously and hence the level of preparedness was low. The community believes that although Aila did not take away many lives it took away most of their livelihoods. Thus, the recovery will take a longer time than anticipated. Further, risk transfer mechanism should be promoted at large scale in relation with recovery. For example, introduction of micro-insurance against disasters for the poor will help them to recover their losses quickly. Without insurance, the poor who are also the most vulnerable are forced to use all their savings or have to take up new loans at higher rates of interest. Micro-insurance will help to break this cycle by providing them with the post disaster liquidity. Lack of such efforts in Aila has made the communities vulnerable and unprepared for future disasters.

On the other hand, efficient planning of preparedness activities before cyclone *Phailin* in Odisha state, India is perhaps the greatest reason behind the **minimal loss and damage in any disasters especially climatic extreme events**. Other reasons include the constant monitoring of weather patterns and warnings, clear instructions to district authorities, positioning of relief materials and teams well in advance, coordination with the central government for defence and other agencies' assistance, and most importantly, the evacuation of a large number of vulnerable citizens to safe locations. ■ **– Vishal Pathak** *and* **Khyati Halani**

Photo: AIDMI.

RISK REDUCTION

Ecosystem based Disaster Risk Reduction in Ganga, Brahmaputra, and Meghna Rivers: Key Challenges

Ecosystem based disaster risk reduction is the way to go if Kyoto commitments are to be met and sustainable development is to be achieved. No where else this ecosystem based disaster risk reduction is more needed than in the delta areas of Ganga, Brahmputra, and Meghna rivers. AIDMI's ongoing work in this delta area suggests following key challenges.

- Slow Knowledge Sharing and Servicing among actors.
- Need to set up Ecosystem Monitoring including impacts on Wildlife buffer and Critical habitats.
- Scoping Water Management and Irrigation Systems Rehabilitation including Monitoring.
- Reviewing Investments in Regional Roads Corridors.
- Studing Impact of Development of Secondary Cities.
- Unavailability of Key Ecosystem Indicators. ■

– Vishal Pathak

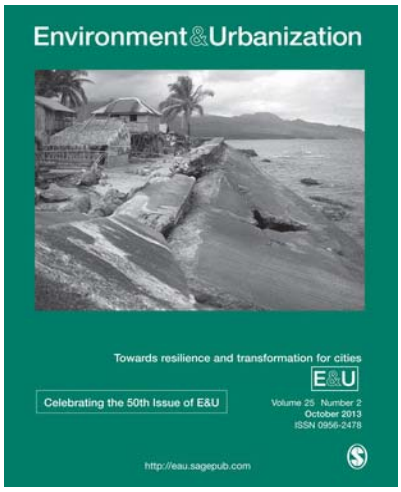
Photo: AIDMI.

BOOK

Environment and Urbanization

A twice yearly journal 'Environment and Urbanization' aims to provide an effective means for the exchange of research findings, ideas and information in the fields of human settlements and environment among researchers, activists and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in low- and middle-income nations and between these and researchers, international agency staff, students and teachers in high-income nations. E&U is prepared by the Human Settlements Programme of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and published by Safe Publications with support from Sida, DANIDA and UK Aid from the UK government. It is a sister journal to Media Ambiente y Urbanization, published in Spanish by the IIED-America Latin and to E&U Asia published by Sage Publications India.

The current issue titled "Towards resilience and transformation for cities" released in October 2013 is the 50th issue of E&U, Volume 25 and Number 2. The issue contains:



- Urban environmental challenges and climate change action in Durban, South Africa, (Debra Roberts and Sean O'Donoghue)
- The constraints on climate change adaptation in a city with a large development deficit: The Case of Dar es Salaam (Robert Kiunsi)
- Incorporating climate change adaptation into planning for a liveable city in Rosario, Argentina (Jorgelina Hardoy and Regina Ruete)
- Experiences of integrated assessment of climate impacts, a daptation and mitigation modelling in London and Durban (CLWalsh, D Roberts, R J Dawson, J W Hall, A Nickson and R Hounsome)
- The political underpinnings of cities' accumulated resilience to climate change (David Satterthwaite)
- Shared learning" for building urban climate resilience - experiences from Asian cities (Sarah Orleans Reed, Richard Friend, Vu Canh Toan, Pakamas Thinphanga, Ratri Sutarto and Dilip Singh)
- Governing urban climate change adaptation in China(Bingqin Li)
- Addressing flooding in the city of Surat beyond its boundaries (G K Bhat, Anup Karanth, Lalit Dashora and Umamaheshwaran Rajasekar)
- Flood disaster vulnerability in informal settlements in Bursa, Turkey (Murat Tas, Nilüfer Tas, Selen Durak and Gül Atanur) ■

For more information:
http://www.iied.org/eandu

Cyclone Phailin

Photo: AIDMI.

As the country heaves a collective sigh of relief at the minimal loss of life in the aftermath of Cyclone Phailin, certain disconcerting questions need to be answered. Among these inconvenient questions is the one that speculates on the impact of climate change on the intensity and frequency of cyclonic storms.

As of now the impact of climate change on the intensity and severity of cyclonic storms is yet to be understood fully and proved conclusively. However, there have been certain studies that tangentially point towards this end. For instance, a study published in *Nature Geoscience* in 2010 states that greenhouse warming will cause the globally averaged intensity of tropical cyclones to shift towards stronger storms, with intensity increases of 2-11 per cent along with 34 per cent decrease in the average frequency of tropical cyclones by 2100[1].

The science behind cyclone formation also sheds some light on the issue. Cyclones are low pressure systems that form over warm tropical oceans. They derive energy from the warmer waters and do not form unless the temperatures are over 26.5 degrees Celsius. The recorded temperature in the Bay of Bengal where Phailin developed was 28-29 degrees Celsius with very high heat content[2]. Further, sea surface temperature variations over the Bay of Bengal show a warming trend over the last few decades[3].

In fact, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) an influential think tank has ranked India as extremely vulnerable to the risks of extreme weather disasters, in its new report titled '*Geography of poverty, disasters and climate extremes in 2030*'[4]. Thus, there is a very high likelihood of the recurrence of extreme events like Cyclone Phailin in India.

This increased vulnerability of India points to an urgent need for having a legislative and policy infrastructure in the country that is dynamic enough to respond to the threats posed by climate change. Political action vindicated by academic research will be needed to mobilize resources to be expended to counter the threat of climate change in India. The administrative apparatus at the behest of the government has indeed done a commendable job in saving lives during Cyclone Phailin. Such efforts can now be taken forward by making climate change adaptation as a priority and an indispensable part of their agenda as well. ■

– AIDMI Team

1 Cyclone Phailin and climate change, http://www.downtoearth.org.in/content/cyclone-phailin-and-climate-change
2 Phailin and Climate Change, Connecting the Dots, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/chaitanya-kumar/phailin-and-climate-change_b_4096231.html
3 Variations of Surface Air Temperature Over the Land Areas in and Around the Bay of Bengal, http://link.springer.com/article/10.1023%2FB%3ANHAZ.0000023368.81668.e3
4 The geography of poverty, disasters and climate extremes in 2030, http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/7491-geography-poverty-disasters-climate-change-2030

Gender and CSDRM Approach: A Social Science View

On December 07, 2013, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute hosted a group of 15 students of Social Work discipline of the famous Karve Institute of Social Science in Mumbai along with their faculty Mrs. Anjali Maydeo Ambedkar. The event featured a presentation on AIDMI's work and current projects; and explored ways to include an aspect of gender in the Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management (CSDRM) approach. The presentation was followed by an enriching discussion on ideas about adopting innovative, inclusive and community based approach to climate smart disaster risk reduction. Mihir R. Bhatt encouraged the students to further explore the ways to integrate gender in CSDRM approach and; reinforced AIDMI's commitment to involve more and more young people in AIDMI's disaster risk reduction efforts. The social science view found that impact of climate change risk and women must be better understood, plans for adaptation must start with the focus on women; and women's livelihood are most important link to both family's economy and the local economy. ■

Photo: AIDMI.

– Khyati Halani

READ WRITE RESILIENCE RISK ACT THINK

All India Disaster Mitigation Institute has published the 100th issue of its newsletter Southasiadisasters.net. Ever since its inception in May 2005, Southasiadisasters.net has received contributions from our 345 authors belonging to 188 organizations from India and 33 countries, covering 13 disasters, spanning over 30 themes and 11 important national and international policy discourses. The uniqueness of Southasiadisasters.net can be highlighted in the following points:

1. Southaisadisasters.net has a rich repository of knowledge on themes that address all the 5 priorities of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA 1).
2. Southasiadisasters.net has comprehensively covered a total of 13 disasters since 2005.
3. Southasiadisasters.net has made considerable in roads in shaping the discourse on 11 policies related to disaster risk reduction at national and international level.
4. Southasiadisasters.net has been enriched by contributions from that have come majorly from action oriented and local level implementation agencies. The Southasiadisasters.net has been fortunate enough to receive contributions from distinguished researchers and academics.
5. Southasiadisasters.net espouses a truly global perspective to the policies and practices related to the field of disaster risk reduction. But it is rooted in down to earth. It has received contributions from individuals and organizations from 33 countries.
6. In advocating better and improved disaster risk reduction policies and practices, Southasiadisasters.net has collaborated with a total of 188 national and international organizations that range from governments departments to educational institutions to United Nations System's and from international NGOs to the private sector.

Thus, the hitherto published 100 issues provide over 17,000 readers with a rich repository of knowledge covering a wide range of issues and themes related to disaster and climate risk reduction. ■

for more information: bestteam@aidmi.org, www.aidmi.org

southasiadisasters.net

PRESS RELEASE

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim Outline Plans to Mobilize Financing for Sustainable Energy for All

NEW YORK, November 27-United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim announced a concerted effort by governments, international agencies, civil society and private sector to mobilize financing to deliver universal access to modern energy services such as lighting, clean cooking solutions and power for productive purposes in developing countries, as well as scaled-up energy efficiency, especially in the world's highest-energy consuming countries.

"*Energy powers growth and opportunity,*" *said the* ***UN Secretary-General****.* "*We count on all actors to lead by example in scaling up and accelerating action that will provide clean, efficient and sustainable energy for all. Today's many announcements are a testament to the resolve of partners to chart a path forward.*"

Among these announcements, **Brazil**'s "Light for All" program reached the milestone of 15 million beneficiaries, resulting in over 99 percent of the population having access to electricity. **Norway** has committed to support renewable energy and energy efficiency activities with about NOK 2 billion in 2014. **Bank of America** announced that its Green Bond, the world's first of its kind, has raised $500 million for three years, as part of Bank of America's 10-year $50 billion environmental business commitment. The **OPEC Fund for International Development** announced a $1 billion revolving fund for energy access. The **United Nations Development Programme** announced the creation of a Hub for Bottom Up Energy Solutions to advance energy access at country level. The **World Bank Group's Energy Sector Management Assistance Program** has launched a City Energy Efficiency Transformation Initiative covering 50 cities worldwide.

The two leaders also announced that energy assessments have been launched in 42 countries, which account for 361 million people without access to electricity. "*Financing is the key to achieving these objectives,*" said **World Bank Group President Kim**. "*To reach our goals for access to energy, energy efficiency, and renewable energy, we need to mobilize an additional $600-$800 billion a year from now to 2030*".

President Kim also said that the SE4ALL Advisory Board pressed for rapid action to scale up energy efficiency improvements, especially in OECD countries which include the world's largest energy consumers. Denmark and the United Nations Environment Programme have launched an energy efficiency hub to support this process.

Kandeh Yumkella, the Secretary-General's Special Representative and Chief Executive for Sustainable Energy for All, pointed to widespread support for not only Sustainable Energy for All from numerous partner, but for energy to be at the heart of any negotiated outcomes on a Post-2015 Development Agenda. ■

(source: http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2013/11/27/secretary-general-ban-ki-moon-world-bank-group-president-jim-yong-kim-outline-plans-mobilize-financing-sustainable-energy-for-all)

Do you wish to receive this publication regularly? Write to AIDMI (bestteam@aidmi.org). The publication will be sent by E-mail. Your comments help *southasiadisasters.net* remain an effective and informative resource for regional issues of disaster risk management. Please contribute comments, features, reports, discussion points, and essays about your work. Today!

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