



Workshop report

Getting Climate Smart for Disasters Self Assessment Report

March 18-19, 2013, Bhubaneswar,
Odisha

Countries need a ‘Climate-Smart’ revolution. Major changes are needed in the different sectors around the world if future generations are to survive and grow. Climate change is increasingly creating an impact of our lives directly or indirectly. The adverse effects of climate change are increasing the severity and frequency of the disasters causing major losses both to economy and people. Moreover, it is realised that disaster risk reduction and climate change are closely linked.

It is important to examine the importance of self-assessments for organisations to evaluate the extent to which they are ‘climate-smart’. Self assessment is needed to tackle the climate change risks suggested one of the experts in the workshop. The increasing severity of the hazards, vulnerability of people and unexpected events such as the heat waves and lightening demands self assessment exercises.



Indian state of Odisha is adjacent to coastline and therefore experiences more cyclonic storms and tidal surges effects. It is vulnerable to multiple disasters due to long coastline, rivers and its tributaries and vast forest area; that has helped the state to earn the title **‘Disaster Capital of India’**. For over a decade, Odisha has experienced contrasting weather condition from one extreme to another: from heat wave to cyclone, from drought to flood. Over the last few years, other lesser-known disasters such as heat waves and lightning strikes have also become frequent. In the meantime, reports of fluctuating weather patterns and rising sea water levels causing coastal erosion, sea water ingression, frequent flooding, embankment failures, and the entire relocation of villages, have become more commonplace¹.

As a result, Odisha’s economy has been ripped apart. The impacts of climate change and disasters have already, and will generate, a huge amount of social, economic and environmental costs which for a state that has 57 percent of its population living below the poverty line, more than two-thirds of its population dependent on agriculture-based livelihoods, and a Human Development Index of around 0.40 – one of the lowest in India – is extremely difficult to bear.

¹ Merylyn Hedger, Ashok Singha and Mohan Reddy (2010), ‘Building Climate Resilience at State Level: Disaster Risk Management and Rural Livelihoods in Orissa’, Strengthening Climate Resilience Discussion Paper No. 5, Strengthening Climate Resilience, Institute of Development Studies, pp. 10-11

The challenge of climate change is here to stay with us for decades, if not longer and for many more generations to come. Therefore, it is inevitable to develop climate friendly policies to reduce emissions and address development concerns and simultaneously adapt to living in a world whose climate will be distinctly different from that of the last century. The Government of Odisha is very proactive in recognizing the risks that climate changes pose and taking actions to prepare for; mitigate and respond to its impact at state and local levels. Since 2011, the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) has undertaken several disaster risk reduction activities. It has worked with the World Bank, the Government of India, and the National Disaster Management Authority, to establish disaster resilient infrastructure such as cyclone shelters along the coastline and to raising and strengthening saline embankments to protect lives and agricultural property from storm surge and saline ingress.²

‘Getting Climate Smart for Disasters’ CSDRM & Self-Assessment Workshop: An Overview

Self- assessment exercises are particularly useful. It helps to identify the extent to which the organisation is climate-smart and resilient to disasters, as well as its strengths and weaknesses. This allows baselines, benchmarks, and core action areas to be established and; helps the organisation to set priorities and to develop action agendas.

Self-assessment exercises are an opportunity for organisations to step back, reflect, and appreciate what they have achieved, but their effectiveness would be further enhanced if the findings are shared with others so that learning can be a joint process. Self-assessments are not exercises in self-flagellation. Rather, they are opportunities for learning, growing, and shaping a better future for all.

The workshop

The self assessment workshop held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha was conceived out of the common realization by the conveners that disaster and climate risks were becoming greater by the day in Odisha, that they were posing a serious threat to all the advancements government authorities, NGOs, community-based organisations, civil society organisations, humanitarian and development agencies had made in improving the lives of Odisha’s people. In addition, they realised that disasters and climate risks seriously comprised the viability of their present and future disaster risk reduction, environment management, and community development projects. The workshop was in short, held out of the critical necessity to take action - fast.

The workshop was attended by representatives from following organisations (see list in Annexure)

- ICSD and AIDMI
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
- Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA);
- District disaster management officials from the coastal district of Puri

² Odisha State Disaster Management Authority, ‘National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project as on 10.03.2011’

Available at: <http://www.osdma.org/downloadfile.aspx?projid=P085>

- local NGOs

The current disaster and climate risk situation of Odisha in detail were discussed in detail. Later the participants were introduced to the CSDRM approach, who then considered at length how it could be implemented in their work and what its benefits would be. The following shows the importance of CSDRM approach perceived by each of the present stakeholder post discussions.

UNDP: Can use the CDRM approach to reduce the disaster risk of their urban and rural management project making the project outputs climate resilient.

SWAD and IWD: CSDRM approach can help them to look into their own organisational approach for undertaking various activities towards disaster mitigation and make it a climate smart approach. Further they can use the CSDRM approach for integrating climate in their WASH and rural livelihood programmes

OSDMA: Can look at their disaster management plan which is to be launched soon in August and make it climate resilient by using the CSDRM approach

District Puri: CSDRM approach can be used to look at the community aspirations and needs to become climate resilient and use the information for developing district and village level disaster management plans

One of the main achievements of the workshop was that it broke the barriers between the local organization and government; and succeeded to develop trust between the two. The suggestions and the remarks were taken well by each of the party, ensuring the consideration of each in their respective future activities. However, given the complexity and range of issues involved with disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and development; it became apparent to them that a lot more needs to be done to support and strengthen the government authorities' efforts especially at the ground level.

Annexure

List of Participants

1	Mr. Kamal Lochan Mishra	OSDMA, Odisha	kamalmishra66@gmail.com
2	Mr Sanjay Mishra	District Magistrate Puri district	
3	Dr. Ambika Nanda Prasad	UNDP, Odisha	ambika.Prasad@undp.org
4	Mr. Ajit Kumar Sahu	IWD, Gajapathi, Odisha	iwd1992@gmail.com
5	Mr. Kailash Das	RCDC	kailash@rcdcindia.org
6	Dr Indrani Phukan	ICSD, New Delhi	Formerly in ICSD
7	Ms. Shazneen C Gazdar	ICSD, New Delhi	Formerly in ICSD
8	Mr. Nakul Sharma	ICSD, New Delhi	nakul@intercooperation.org.in
9	Mr. Vishal Pathak	AIDMI, Ahmedabad	bestteam@aidmi.org
10	Mr. Mihir R. Bhatt	AIDMI, Ahmedabad	mihir@aidmi.org
11	Ms. Khyati	AIDMI, New Delhi	bestteam@aidmi.org
12	Ms. Binapani Mishra	SWAD, Puri, Odisha	swadsatyabadi@gmail.com
13	Ms. Prabhati Mishra	SWAD, Puri, Odisha	swadsatyabadi@gmail.com

Workshop announcement

Resilient Communities of Odisha Taking Climate Smart Disaster Risk Reduction: Actions and Challenges Self-Assessment Workshop March 18-19, 2013

This self-assessment workshop aims to develop capacities to use the Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management (CSDRM) approach. This will support the project Getting Climate Smart for Disasters. This project is a collaboration of All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), Inter Cooperation (IC) and Institute of Development Studies (IDS), UK with support from Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN). Together with local, state and national institutions it will find ways to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Development work for Getting Climate Smart for Disasters.

Investing in integrated and flexible institutional and policy frameworks is a first step towards creating a policy environment that can build resilience to climate and disaster risks. If organisations, policies and practices take climate change concerns into account, development interventions and disaster risk management will become more effective in reducing poverty and vulnerability to disasters. This CSDRM (Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management) approach provides policy makers and practitioners with ways to identify the processes needed to build resilience to climate and disaster risks. It identifies pathways for integrating how to tackle changing disaster risks and uncertainties; enhance adaptive capacity; and address poverty and vulnerability and their structural causes (these are the three “pillars” of the CSDRM approach) .

Using the CSDRM approach, will support the self-analysis of the institutions and assess their degree of horizontal and vertical integration of DRR and CCA with development. The exercise leads to understanding the barriers and opportunities for integration to achieve resilient development. The exercise supports the design of an action plan as the goal of the CSDRM approach, using the indicators to enable them to develop reviews and reflect on the challenges of integration.

The process for planning a new programme or policy, and to assess or monitor existing programmes or policies, involves identifying an entry point through a self-assessment exercise. A joint effort by multiple agencies at multiple level create ideal atmosphere for self-assessment. Communities of Odisha have a rich experience that supports progress for Climate Smart Disaster Risk Reduction.



Resilient Communities of Odisha Taking Climate Smart Disaster Risk Reduction: Actions and Challenges Self-Assessment Workshop- agenda

Venue: Bhubaneswar
Date: march 18-19, 2013

Time	Subject
Up to 1000	Registration
1000 to 1010	Welcome and Workshop Objectives: Mr. Mihir R. Bhatt, AIDMI
1010 to 1040	Inauguration and Keynote address by Mr. Kamal Lochan Mishra, OSDMA; Mr. Ambika Prasad Nanda, UNDP; Ms. Indrani Phukan, IC; Dr. Anil Gupta, NIDM and Mr. Mihir R. Bhatt, AIDMI.
1040 to 1120	Session 1: Background and progress on Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management and Getting Climate Smart for Disasters by Dr. Indrani Phukan, IC
1120 to 1145	Open Discussion
1120 to 1200	Session 2: DRR and CCA efforts by OSDMA – Select one/two project by Mr. Kamal Lochan Mishra, OSDMA
1200 to 1330	Session 3: Exercise for assessment on CSDRM. Facilitation by Dr. Indrani Phukan, IC.
1330 to 1415	Lunch break
1415 to 1500	Session 4: Linkages of Eco-system based DRR: Areas of exchange from National to State and State to National, facilitation by Dr. Anil Gupta, NIDM
1500 to 1600	Session 5: Open discussion based on the outcomes from exercise – specific to case of Odisha, OSDMA and theme on DRR and CCA
1600 to 1700	Closing Ceremony Way Ahead by Dr. Indrani Phukan, IC and Mr. Ambika Prashad Nanda, UNDP Odisha Conclusion by Mr. Kamal Lochan Mishra, OSDMA and Mr. Mihir R. Bhatt, AIDMI