

Building Resilience for All: Lessons from Assam for Asia



Photo: AIDMI.

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ABOUT THIS ISSUE

A disaster or extreme event precipitates when hazards interact with existing vulnerabilities. This truism is particularly apt for the Indian state of Assam which is exposed to an array of hazards and is highly prone to disaster and climate risks. In response to the state's enhanced vulnerability, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) routinely takes up various initiatives to build the resilience of Assam and its citizens to such risks. The All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) along with UNICEF has partnered with ASDMA on several such initiatives.

This issue of *Southasiadisasters.net* highlights some of the major initiatives taken up by ASDMA and UNICEF in Assam. Titled 'Building Resilience for All: Lessons from Assam for Asia' this issue focuses on the various areas on which ASDMA and UNICEF have worked in Assam such as children in emergencies, school safety, community based disaster preparedness, traditional coping mechanisms, etc. The good work done by ASDMA and UNICEF offers a lot of lessons in resilience building for Asia, which suffers massive loss and damage due to disasters annually.

The challenges and opportunities in all these areas have been highlighted. The breadth and scope of all such initiatives bear testimony to ASDMA's commitment to making a safe and resilient Assam. ■

- Kshitij Gupta, AIDMI

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Chief Secretary



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PREFACE

This issue of *Southasiadisasters.net* on "**Building Resilience for All: Lessons from Assam**" brings out the initiatives that are currently ongoing in the State of Assam for building a 'safer and disaster resilient State'. The Government of Assam is committed to create a more disaster resilient and safer Assam, and in this perspective a road map is being devised which also encourages a wide range of organizations to unite together for the development of Assam.

This issue has meticulously summarized recent projects that were conducted by leading organizations such as UNICEF, AIDMI, OKDISCD in partnership with Assam State Disaster Management Authority. These projects have been immensely helpful in understanding complex issues regarding resiliency and the need for a multi-pronged approach in Disaster Risk Reduction.

This issue is a call for attention to making Assam safer and I am sure that all the stakeholders will be ready to unite and give their best to build a path towards a better and safer Assam.

Date: 19th May, 2016

(V. K. Pipersenia)



Photo: AIDMI.

Community based disaster risk reduction in action, Assam.

Situational Analysis of Children and Women in Assam, 2016



Photo: AIDMI.

This two day consultation was organized with the objective of developing a visionary country program for UNICEF for 2018-2022.

UNICEF's current country program in India will end in 2017. The preparations for the next country program are on the way. This consultation was organized so that critical issues pertaining to women and children can be discussed and debated among the CSOs and academia bringing a blend of intellectual theories and practical changes.

On day 1, the sectoral presentations started with a change in agenda which allowed child development and nutrition to be the first presentation by Dr. Sameer Manikrao Pawar, Health specialist, UNICEF office for Assam. In his comprehensive presentation, he started with concepts like stunting, wasting, under-weight etc. and explained the priorities of UNICEF in the context of child development and nutrition.

Ms. Sweta Patnaik, WASH Specialist of UNICEF made a brief presentation on Water and

Sanitation. She focused on the UNICEF's programming around WASH, key concepts, priorities and highlighted certain key data and figures on water and sanitation in the state, progress achieved and way forward.

Education was the most discussed presentations made by Ms. Chaya Kunwar, Education Specialist of UNICEF office for Assam. She presented the overall scenario of Education in Assam based on the DISE statistics. Though her presentation she showed figures indicating enhancement on overall educational growth in terms of infrastructure, enrolment, reduced drop-out ratio etc.

Child Protection in Assam was very nicely and elaborated by Mr. Vedprakash Gautam, Child Protection Specialist of UNICEF's office for Assam. His presentation highlighted certain figures which indicated high prevalence of child abuse, child labor, sexual trafficking and other child protection issues through various data sources.

Aspects of Poverty in Assam, was the next presentation being made by Dr.

Joydeep Baruah of OKDISCD. He emphasized upon the concepts of poverty such as absolute and relative poverty concepts and measuring multi-dimensional poverty. His presentation used the NSSO data and the data from a primary survey conducted by OKDISCD to estimate poverty. He highlighted poverty patterns based on regions, social groups etc in the state and highlighted the need for region specific interventions.

Dr. Mainisha Chawla presented reproductive and child health issues based on facts and data. She indicated that though there has been a decline in the IMR, MMR and other indicators, but this is not as per desired rate and the state will have to move at much faster rate if it needs to achieve the sustainable development goals.

Social Protection specialist from UNICEF's Delhi Office, Ms. Antara Lahiri presented the social protection issues in India. Her presentation was based on certain best practices on social protection programming in countries like Bangladesh, Mexico and South Africa. She advocated certain

programming aspects like unconditional cash transfer, tracking and creating umbrella social protection schemes to individual beneficiaries in order to measure progress and ensure comprehensiveness.

This was the last presentation of day after which participants were grouped into six themes as follows for group work:

1. Children and Women affected by Violence in Assam (Facilitated by Indranee Dutta, OKDISCD and Chaya Kunwar, UNICEF)
2. Tribal and Sixth Schedule Areas in Assam (Facilitated by Joydeep Baruah, OKDISCD and Soumen Ray, UNICEF)
3. Hard to Reach Areas Including Riverine Islands (Facilitated by Arunima Deka, OKDISCD and Manisha Chawla, UNICEF)
4. Children in Urbanized Assam and Evolving Issues (Facilitated by Saswati Choudhury, OKDISCD, Sameer Pawar and Tahseen Alam)
5. Natural Disasters and Climate Change (Facilitated by Monojit Borthakur, OKDISCD and Sweta Patnaik, UNICEF)
6. Issues Specific to Children and Women in Tea Gardens (Facilitated by Kalyan Das, OKDISCD and Vedprakash Gautam, UNICEF)

The proceedings of the second day started with a presentation by Mrs. Vandanaben Chauhan of All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, Ahmedabad on urban resilience aspects of children in Guwahati. Her presentation was based on secondary study and consultation with stakeholders.

Followed by the presentation, the groups continued the discussion on their respective thematic issues and completed preparing group wise presentations which were presented after tea as follows:



The first to present was the group on 'Children and Women affected by Violence in Assam'. The groups came up with a very strong evaluation of two conflicts in Assam in the BTAD between *Bodo* and Bengali Muslims and between *Bodos* and *Adivasis*. The group highlighted the issues including relief camp situations, child marriage from relief camps, and use of schools by armed forces and as relief shelters etc.

The second group presented was addressing the issue of 'Natural Disasters and Climate Change'. The group came out with strong analysis of changing hazard scenario in the state particularly with climatic disasters, identified some strong issues including early warning mechanisms, strengthening rehabilitation, child centered planning and response, improving disaster reporting to include concerns of women and children, producing a 'Children Disaster Report', strengthening risk transfer mechanisms and community multi-hazard resilient shelters etc. were among the issues and recommendations made.

This was followed by the group dealing with the theme 'Hard to Reach Areas Including Riverine Islands'. It was again a very comprehensive presentation which first defined the different hard to

reach areas like hills, riverine islands, border areas etc.

This group was followed by a presentation on 'Tribal and Sixth Schedule Areas in Assam'. The group highlighted specific situation of different sixth schedule areas of Assam and addressed the development support needs.

The group on the theme 'Children in Urbanized Assam and Evolving Issues' also presented many useful arguments highlighting needs of children in rapidly changing urban landscape. Here again issues like child labor, unsafe migration, sex trafficking, lack of child friendly policies and programs etc. were highlighted and debated.

The sixth and the last group presented the 'Issues Specific to Children and Women in Tea Gardens' which generated lively interaction. The issues highlighted were large in numbers including low wages, poor education scenario, social problems like alcoholism, domestic violence, child abuse and prostitution etc.

The summing up was done by Dr. Tushar Rane, Chief, UNICEF office for Assam. He described the consultation as highly informative and thanked all the participants for their lively participation. ■

School Safety including SDMP and Mock Drills: Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

In the Indian state of Assam, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) is the leading agency to make the state safer from the impacts of disasters. The second leading agency in the state is UNICEF, which works on safeguarding children and their schools.

School Safety Audits were undertaken in the districts of Assam with the objective of evaluating school safety levels and to help the schools develop safety measures and spread awareness about these matters to concerned agencies and stakeholders. Some of the aspects that were assessed during these audits were the schools' infrastructure, health and hygiene in the schools, the levels of awareness and training, disaster preparedness measures and hazard risks. The findings of this assessment should now be incorporated into state and district level disaster management plans.

AIDMI discusses following challenges and opportunities based on its work with ASDMA and UNICEF to make Assam safer. These are also aligned to the theme of 'Reducing vulnerability and managing risk' of the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit.

- Assessment of the schools in terms of safety is an important task. But, what matters the most is implementation. It is extremely important to implement the findings of such assessments in order to make the schools and the children safe.
- A consolidated centre, especially on disaster risk reduction (DRR) is urgently needed. AIDMI proposes that the state administration should plan to establish a resource centre on DRR where all the information and material on DRR is available.
- ASDMA has already invested a lot of efforts and resources to

train the school teachers on disaster preparedness. But, what is next after the trainings? There is no follow up on this. AIDMI recommends making a network of all the trained teachers in order to further use them for more trainings to other teachers those who are not trained. Also, such a group of trained teachers can also advise time to time on what is needed in the state in terms of disaster preparedness.

- Mockdrills or evacuation exercises need to be organized routinely.
- The hazard of fire and preparedness measures against it (use of fire extinguisher) needs to be further taken up.
- Carrying out the implementation of necessary preparedness measures, such as checklists on safety and security features in the schools, data collection and record-keeping systems. ■



Photo: AIDMI.

Committed training participants ready to impart their knowledge of school safety and DRR to resilient community.

Community based Disaster Preparedness: Challenges and Opportunities Ahead

The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) is the nodal agency in Assam working on building the resilience of communities to various hazards. Similarly, UNICEF also works closely with ASDMA on child protection and safety in Assam.

Communities are the first responders to disasters at the local level. For this reason, it's important for them to be aware, proactive and involved in disaster preparedness and to develop coping mechanisms to reduce their vulnerabilities. This would greatly help them reduce the adverse impacts of disasters on life, property and the environment.

The consultations leading to the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) also underscore the importance of 'empowering communities for locally owned and led

approaches' to gain traction in DRR. AIDMI highlights the following challenges and opportunities based on its work with ASDMA and UNICEF to make Assam safer.

- Providing training to the community leaders themselves during and post disasters is essential. ASDMA could conduct capacity building trainings with the community on the do's and don'ts for various emergencies. Also, through these activities, the ASDMA can identify what are the needs of the communities in terms of disaster preparedness.
- The response institutions and assistance information for the people needs to be shared in the community. AIDMI proposes that the state should work towards developing risk and community maps, which will include medical facilities,

evacuation routes, temporary shelters, etc. and which should later be made publically accessible to all. There should also a clear assignment of roles to organizations, agencies and individuals, in order to know who to turn to in an emergency situation.

- ASDMA with the help of UNICEF, could develop initiatives to empower children and women, for them to better prepare and respond to disaster situations. In addition, these interventions should be registered and followed up.
- Strengthening disaster preparedness information to access all sectors of the community and the most vulnerable groups is an indispensable aspect of community based disaster preparedness. ■

Integration Disaster Risk Reduction with Climate Change Adaptation

The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) is the nodal in Assam that works on disaster risk reduction (DRR). DRR includes disaster management, disaster mitigation and disaster preparedness, and it aims to reduce the damages and impacts caused by natural hazards, through systematic efforts of agencies, authorities and communities. Since climate change is increasing the incidence and severity of disasters, ASDMA has

also started working on climate change adaptation (CCA). UNICEF helps ASDMA to achieve seamless integration between DRR and CCA by linking them together in humanitarian contexts. The consultations leading to the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) 2016 also focus on the importance of convergence of DRR and CCA. Understanding climate risk better would help in better understanding and addressing disaster risk.

AIDMI highlights the following challenges and opportunities based on its work with ASDMA and UNICEF to make Assam more resilient to climate and disaster risks.

- In adopting climate change adaptation measures, it's important to prioritize them based on the needs of the district. This will help implement them correctly and avoid the dangers of wrong adaptation. ASDMA could assess the current and most urgent

needs of the district in order to put into action adaptation measures. The adaptation strategies must be contextualized.

- Adaptation is the adjustment of natural or human systems in response to current or expected climate change. In this process many actors from different

sectors are involved. ASDMA and UNICEF should promote the implementation of adaptation measures in the public and private sectors.

- Research and evaluations on the costs of impacts of climate change adaptation and mitigation in Assam should be carried out and shared for the

preparation of climate change adaptation plans at the district level. Correspondingly, this information should be shared among the involved sectors.

- The connection of new technologies and the promotion of their use in companies should be explored. ■

CHILD CENTERED DRR

Children in Emergencies

In the State of Assam, Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) is the primary agency responsible for safeguarding its citizens from various hazards. With regards to children in emergencies, UNICEF plays an essential role in Assam too. UNICEF'S mandate is to protect children from the immediate and long-term effects of emergencies, preventing them from being harmed, monitoring the violations of their rights and developing programmes to respond in situations in which they are at risk or have been subjected to violence or abuse.

Children have inalienable rights in all circumstances, especially in disaster situations in which they are most vulnerable. They are directly and indirectly affected by the impacts of disasters and many times their rights are violated in the process. The upcoming World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) also emphasizes 'reducing vulnerability and managing risk' by giving the community of children a voice in the risk reduction processes.

AIDMI has worked on a number of projects for children in emergencies. Based on this work with ASDMA and UNICEF, AIDMI discusses following challenges and opportunities.

- In Assam children are exposed to multiple threats and



Participants were busy in drawing the evacuate route of the school map during training at the Tinsukia District, Assam.

disasters, which have both physical and psychological impacts on them. AIDMI proposes to develop proper research on the vulnerabilities that affect children in Assam, and based on this data, propose functional response measures to improve child protection and safety in the state.

- Some impacts disaster situation have on children are difficult to prevent, and even if they are they can still scar children with deep rooted emotional trauma. It is important to identify post-disaster mechanisms for children, such as psychological assistance, group activities with other disaster affected children,

etc. and set up a platform to share this information with the communities.

- It is important to strengthen the protection and safety measures for children in Assam. In this sense, advanced trainings and infrastructure should be provided to the police, home guard and social welfare departments to better respond in an emergency situation.
- A clear definition of roles for the departments, agencies and authorities is crucial. In an emergency situation in which a child is at risk, the response measure will be more effective when the roles are clearly delineated. ■

Public Health in Emergencies

In the State of Assam, the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) plays an important role in spreading awareness on public health for the communities especially in disaster situations. Likewise, UNICEF plays a critical role in public health in emergencies regarding children. The health of a significant number of people is affected by emergencies every year and the ASDMA can work to curtail the spread of epidemics.

Health professionals face numerous challenges in responding to emergency events. The list of public health emergencies constantly increases, and these emergencies are aggravated by other risk factors such as high population density, threat of terrorism, emerging infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance, etc. For this reason, the public health professionals need to

have an integral training and preparation for these health contingencies. Understanding public health implications of disasters is aligned with the theme of '*Reducing vulnerability and managing risk*' of the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit (WHS).

AIDMI discusses following the challenges and opportunities based on its work with ASDMA and UNICEF to make Assam more prepared in public health in emergencies.

- In an emergency situation, several agencies and individuals take part in the response stage. Consequently, it is important to have well defined roles and responsibilities among them, and that the health professionals maintain regular communication with partner professionals in other agencies

involved in emergency response.

- An essential factor to consider for the smooth functioning of the public health system in emergency situations, is assessing the available resources, equipment and manpower the district has to respond. AIDMI proposes to conduct a capacity assessment on resources available in the public health system and those available through mutual-aid agreements with other related agencies.
- Participate in continuing education to maintain up to date knowledge in areas relevant to emergency response
- Carry out an update and alignment of plans, procedures, and guidelines for the departments and agencies, and share the information in a public domain. ■

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Traditional Coping Mechanisms

For years, people in several districts of Assam have been witnesses to devastating floods that caused damage to lives, property, crops and houses, and have dealt with them with the traditional indigenous strategies and knowledge of the community, which consequently made them more resilient to the impacts of floods. Some of these strategies are the building of houses on stilts, planting more flood-tolerant crops and developing social support

systems. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority has an essential role in documenting these strategies and sharing the information with all the communities.

In the recent years, the floods have increased and carried more virulent impacts on the communities, making the traditional coping mechanisms less effective. Utilizing the traditional strategies along with new coping mechanisms will help the communities build their capacity

and resilience in a more effective way. The upcoming World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) speaks of similar locally driven and community led response and preparedness mechanisms to disasters as well.

AIDMI highlights the following challenges and opportunities based on its work with Assam State Disaster Management Authority to make Assam more resilient to disasters.



Photo: AIDMI.

Mock Drill at Darrang, Assam.

- Cultural norms play a significant role in determining how the communities adapt to the impacts of floods and other water related disasters. No agency has documented the strategies utilized by indigenous communities in coping with these disasters, based on their cultural norms. AIDMI advises the ASDMA to take the lead in this process, investigating the traditional coping mechanisms and documenting them in a general document to be shared in the state.
- Identify new opportunities to link traditional coping mechanisms with new coping mechanisms in the districts, and train the community members, in order to build their capacity from and within the households.
- Need of training farmers in innovative agricultural techniques proven to be of less impact to the lands in disaster situations.
- The Importance of raising awareness and building the sensitivity and capacity of the communities to adapt to the changing environment. ■

STRUCTURAL DRR

Earthquake Engineering

Earthquake Engineering covers the investigation and solution to problems caused by damaging earthquakes, and the work involved in the application of these solutions to work towards the management of earthquake-resistant structures and facilities.

Earthquakes can have significant impacts on the communities, causing huge loss of life and property. There are multiple factors that determine the vulnerability of buildings in Assam, from the design to the construction phase. Therefore, it is essential to work on the problem of improving construction practices and earthquake resistant built structures.

Earthquake Engineering covers the investigation and solution to problems caused by damaging earthquakes, and the work involved in the application of these solutions to work towards the management of earthquake-resistant structures and facilities. The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) has tried to enforce building bye-laws towards this end.

The upcoming World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) 2016 has 'Humanitarian Effectiveness' as one of its themes. All efforts to promote proper earthquake engineering practices also fall in the ambit of this theme as they help in making disaster response and preparedness better and more informed.

AIDMI discusses the following challenges and opportunities based on its work with ASDMA to improve the earthquake engineering system in Assam.

- Information on earthquake resistant constructions, comprehensive guidelines and advice with clear illustrations, images and graphics is valuable for the design of buildings and post-disaster scenarios in Assam. An assessment and research could be carried out by the ASDMA to identify the practices to utilize-based on the composition, geographical characteristics and exposure to earthquakes of the district. These considerations could be synthesized in a publicly available document for the community.
- Special considerations in the lower levels (villages and towns) and vulnerable communities have to be taken. Collaboration with outside entities to demonstrate testing of strengthened constructions and potential results for the communities in Assam is desirable. Also, the possibility of exploring the implementation of simple building technologies to improve seismic resistance.
- In Assam there is still a need of communicating the importance of building earthquake resistant structures as building by-laws are normally overlooked. Initiatives to raise awareness on the importance of safer construction materials and practices is essential. ■

The Journey of Assam Jatiya Bidyalay in Ensuring Safer Learning Environment to Children

Children are the most precious assets of a society or a nation. They are powerful agents of change and development. But they are vulnerable to the threats passed by natural hazards. Therefore it is essential to equip them with the knowledge to face any disaster.

The theme of 2011 for "International day for Disaster Reduction" was "Disaster Risk Reduction Begins in School". It highlights the need to keep our children safe and aware of do's and don'ts in case of a disaster. Its primary emphasis is on making schools safe for the students.

With a view to meeting this target the school management committee of Assam Jatiya Bidyalay took necessary measures way back. The school boasts of having a large number of mitigation measures; an outcome of the foresight of the management committee. Basic amenities like water storage, sand buckets, hose pipe, fire extinguishers, first aid kits, etc. have always been the part and parcel of the school. Moreover the human resource in the school is in abundance. Most of the teaching and non-teaching staff are quite equipped with the knowledge of first aid and disaster management.

It was in the year 2013 when the school geared itself for a new horizon in disaster management. Under all India Disaster Mitigation Institute and with the helping hands from Assam State Disaster Management Authority the school prepared itself for a safer and healthy learning environment for the students. It needs to be mentioned here that the school was recognized under the "Pilot SDMP



under Model school approach" project supported by ASDMA. According to the guideline note of NDMA the school prepared School Disaster Management Plan. Preparation of the plan was just the first step of the perspectives of the Management Committee. The plan identified potential threats in and outside of the school, vulnerabilities inside the campus etc. The plan also includes the preparedness activities through deciding certain steps and allocating appropriate man power.

The plan was just the bud which has become a massive tree under which all the children take shelter. The school Management left no stone unturned to create a safer learning environment. It would not be enough when it is said the school has a very scientific and up-to-date infrastructure. The school has one of the strongest buildings in Guwahati. The school can be proud of having more than 20 fire extinguishers located at different points. The school, under the guidance of the

AIDMI, has a awe-inspiring 10 Nos pipes. It must be said here that the school has four (4) giant water tanks at the top floor of two buildings. Besides the school has one (1) pond, three (3) reservoirs and two (2) boring for water in case of emergency. The school has recently done remarkably excellent works. On every floor there are two and three evacuation. Map and indications of steps for emergency evacuation. The school has recently installed fire Hydrants Systems in both buildings.

The school management is quite vibrant and dynamic. The management is more than willing to go to any extent to give a safe ambience to the students. The school always believe that the parents have great faith in the school for their wards. And the school takes this faith to a next level in terms of disaster Management. In a recent earthquake the students (1400+) evacuated the building according to the guidelines given to them. Thanks to the

countless evacuation drills conducted every year. The management regularly conducts reviews and reformation along with reconstruction of the school and the appliances and other things inside the campus. The management gives high priority to conduct training and capacity building of the students and the staff members.

Although the journey of Disaster Management in the school is short but it has taken a new dimension. Written this short period the school has set holistic perspectives. The school management has set new goals in ensuring a safe and healthy environment for the student fraternity. ■

- **Dilip Kumar Dutta Choudhury**,
President and Treasurer, Management
Committee and **Gopen Barman**,
Teacher, Assam Jatiya Bidyalay,
Assam

HOSPITAL SAFETY

Hospital Safety Audit

The Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) is the chief government agency responsible for protecting the citizens of Assam against the adverse impacts of disasters. Its efforts are complimented by UNICEF, which works extensively on extending welfare services to children and their care givers in the state.

Hospital safety audits are among the plethora of activities undertaken by ASDMA to build the resilience of the people and institutions in Assam to disasters. The objective of these audits was to evaluate the safety levels in hospitals and assess the soundness of health facilities. The aspects assessed during these audits included general safety considerations, command and

control, security, logistics, fire evacuation, ventilation system, electricity, water & food, medical gases, waste treatment, hygiene and human resources, among others. Such hospital safety audits are of extreme importance as they can help hospitals to significantly improve their safety level through the implementation of mitigation and preparedness measures and through increasing awareness among hospital staff. These activities are also aligned to the theme of 'Reducing vulnerability and managing risk' of the upcoming World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) 2016.

AIDMI highlights the following challenges and opportunities based on its work with ASDMA and UNICEF to make Assam safer:

- Assessment of the hospitals and health facilities in terms of safety is an important task. However, implementation of the findings of these audits is indispensable.
- Relevant training of health personnel and staff with clear demarcation of duties during emergencies should be taken up. AIDMI encourages the ASDMA to take the lead in this aspect. The trained groups can also advise on what is needed in their facilities in terms of disaster preparedness.
- Developing guidelines for staff and new incoming personnel on necessary preparedness measures, emergency evacuations and general safety considerations is essential. These guidelines should be made publicly accessible to staff.
- Strengthen the implementation of preparedness procedures, such as checklists on safety and security features in the hospitals, data collection and record-keeping systems. ■



OCHA and Tudor Rose are collaborating to publish a book in 2016 for the World Humanitarian Summit (Istanbul, 23-24 May 2016). This innovative public-private partnership has been formed to combine OCHA's mission to bring together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies and the professional publishing and marketing skills of Tudor Rose. It will enable both organisations to advance their shared commitment to the importance of finding better ways to meet the needs of millions of people affected by conflicts or disasters now and in the years to come. Since 1999, Tudor Rose has worked on 28 publications for the United Nations, including ISDR (Know Risk, Risk Wise, Risk Returns) and UNCSO (Future Perfect for the RIO+20 Summit). ■

for more information:
<https://consultations.worldhumanitariansummit.org/node/516552>

Report on Commemoration of Child Protection Day in Assam



Photo: AIDMI

On 9th May, 2016, His Excellency, Shri Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya, Honorable Governor of Assam launched the Report on Commemoration of Child Protection Day in Assam, 2016 in presence of the Chairpersons Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (ASCPCR), Director, Social Welfare Department, Director of State Child Protection Society of Assam and Chief of UNICEF office for Assam along with some other eminent personalities and dignitaries at the Conference Hall of Raj Bhawan (Governor's House). The report included chapter (Chapter 5) two days state level conclave on '**Impact of Disasters on Protection of Children in Assam**' where AIDMI provided technical support in facilitation and documentation. ASCPCR and UNICEF with support of AIDMI are in process of taking the recommendations forward by working upon issues related to child protection in emergencies in the state and beyond. ■

Note: This issue of Southasiadisasters.net is prepared by AIDMI with major contributions from Vandana Chauhan, Kshitij Gupta, Manish Patel, Anand Prokash Kanoo, with leading contributions from Isabella Johnston.

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