

# Building Resilient Communities

## Linking Climate Change and DRR in Action Plans



Photo: AIDMI.

- 2 Training Needs Assessment for DRR and CCA
- 4 Climate Change and Child Rights: An Assessment
- 5 BRACED: Building Resilience in Myanmar
- 7 Rural Development: Multisector Engagement for Disaster Risk Reduction
- 9 Linking State Climate Change Action Plans and SDMPs to Enhance Risk Reduction Implementation in India
- 10 Are we Building Back Better? Lessons from South Asia
- 11 Integration of DRR and CCA: Training and Capacity Building

*The views expressed in this publication are those of the author.*

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## ABOUT THIS ISSUE

Disasters are often seen as extraordinary events that occur suddenly to cause widespread loss of life and property in the communities they strike. However, there are underlying causes of vulnerability that keep on incrementally increasing the exposure of a community to a disaster over time. Thus, resilience building is an exercise of systematically identifying and reducing these underlying causes of vulnerability to build resilient communities.

This issue of *Southasiadisasters.net* focuses on the theme of 'Building Resilient Communities' and highlights important areas for resilience building across different levels. Not only does this issue highlight the existing underlying causes of vulnerability but the emerging ones as well. For instance, climate change has had a profound impact on the exposure of communities to 'climate induced disasters'. In this respect, this issue highlights the integration between adaptation to climate change and building resilience to disasters.

Another important theme explored is how climate change impacts children and what role can they play in adaptation to climate change. Poverty is often considered to be the greatest underlying cause of vulnerability, therefore the role of poverty alleviation and rural development for risk reduction have also been explored here. Blending the ideas from researchers and practitioners alike, this issue highlights all the important aspects of building resilient communities in India and beyond. ■

- Kshitij Gupta, AIDMI

## DRR AND CCA

# Training Needs Assessment for DRR and CCA

### Background, Purpose and Output of the Study

Disasters are very frequent in Andhra Pradesh (AP), making it a stupendous task to mitigate extensive losses to humans, livestock and physical infrastructure. River Krishna Flooding (October-2009) and Hudhud Cyclone (October-2014) provide examples rare severity. Perhaps due to Climate Change (CC), disasters are viewed as extreme weather events; and, many perceive CC is having a direct impact on the prevalence and seriousness of disasters; besides, causing them more frequently. Most Mandals (sub-district units), in all the districts of Coastal and Rayalaseema regions are perennially drought-prone. Consequently, disasters that strike the State not only compound the problem but pinpoint the lacuna in stakeholders' capabilities to address disaster preparedness, emergency relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction. One of the ways of countering disasters is to prepare the stakeholders comprising officials, elected leaders, Civil Society and Communities through continuous capacity building.

Training programs are being conducted on disaster preparedness for functionaries of key departments. Yet, their capabilities are inadequate during pre-and-post-disaster phases. Meanwhile, the concept and practice of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) has been evolving rapidly. DRR is an all-embracing concept generally understood to mean the broad development and application of policies, strategies and practices to minimize disaster risks.

Lately, Climate Change (CC) and its Adaptation (CCA) have become dominant themes; and, there are increasing efforts to mainstream DRR

and CCA into development. The Government of AP (GoAP) has recognized that mainstreaming DRR and CCA has not been fully accomplished by key State departments. Further more, training programs conducted on Disaster Management have not been need-based. Training in CC-related areas apropos the National Missions on Climate Change is yet to take off. So, GoAP has decided to conduct a Training Needs Assessment for DRR and CCA, under the aegis of GoI and UNDP titled: "Enhancing Institutional and Community Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change." The overall purpose of TNA is to review the present capabilities and identify Training Needs apropos DRR and CCA.

### Methodology

As referenced earlier, the purpose of TNA Study is to examine the current arrangement and capabilities of identified departments about DRR and CCA; and, to suggest relevant Training Need Areas though.

1. SWOT Analysis of the identified departments;
2. Information gathered from the participants of workshops conducted at the two project districts, Krishna and Visakhapatnam and Dr. MCR HRD Institute;
3. Responses received through canvassing a questionnaire;
4. Individual and Group interactions; and
5. Feedback received from participants of Validation Workshop.

### Study Findings

The Study was concerned with various departments that are involved in the pre-during-and-post-disaster activities. As several counter-disaster staff trainings have been conducted on DRR. Hence, it is

imperative that all the key departmental functionaries, down to the grassroots should be associated with DRR activities; and, are supposed to be familiar at least with Disaster Management Act-2005 and State/Department/District/Disaster Management Plans. Considering the importance gained overtime, the departmental functionaries should have been familiar with DRR and basic skills to initiate actions to minimize the vulnerabilities and disaster risks.

Currently, CCA became a leading theme drawing worldwide attention. The GoI identified Eight Missions under CC at the National Level to be implemented in a Mission Mode. Accordingly, all the State Governments have replicated these eight Missions, and the officials should have developed acquaintance with National/State Action Plans and ought to have been capable of mainstreaming DRR and CCA into developmental plans.

Rooted in the information provided by stakeholders, significant knowledge gaps were found among numerous functionaries associated with almost all mitigation activities of their departments: DRR implementation strategies; concept of CCA; National Missions on CC-activities and targets; National/State Action Plans on CC; Mainstreaming DRR and CCA into development planning. Some department-specific gaps in skills encompassing Integrated Soil and Water Management; Environmental Impact Assessment; Building Disaster and CC Resilient Infrastructure; Urban Disaster Management; Green Building Strategies for mitigation of CC effects; Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment; Solid Waste Management, etc., were well-known. Thus, it was baffling to note that many functionaries even lack basic knowledge on initiatives regarding DRR and CCA of their own departments.

By now, all the key departments should have had an exclusive cell on



Validation Workshop at Dr. MCR HRD Institute, Hyderabad.

DRR and CCA at the State and District levels. But, most of the departments do not have such a cell/wing at the State and Districts. Therefore, a specific Training Policy, particularly for enhancing Knowledge and Skills on DRR and CCA, is missing in a majority of government departments. On the other hand, it was established that disaster mitigation competencies were slightly better than adaptation competencies, which may be due to the fact that CCA has received greater attention only recently. Conversely, CCA is a new and complex phenomenon, mostly based on Environment Science, an area where capacity development is quite limited for now.

#### Study Propositions

The Study has suggested Training Needs Areas related to DM, DRR and CCA, which are: (1) common across all the departments; and, (2) specific to some departments:

#### Some of the Training needs Common to all Departments

- Implementation of DM Act 2005 – Departments' Role and Responsibilities;
- DRR implementation strategies;
- Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment; and
- Mainstreaming DRR and CCA into development planning.

#### Training needs Specific to some of the Departments

- Sustainable Dry Land Agriculture for Food Security and Rural Livelihoods;
- Integrated Water Resource Management in response to Climate Change;
- Environmental Impact Assessment; and
- Urban Disaster Management.

#### The Road Ahead

Following the lead set out by the Sendai Framework, GoAP will have to strengthen disaster risk governance by organizing counter-disaster and CCA-centered capacity development programs for all stakeholders by identifying appropriate "Training Needs" areas. Pursuant to this, the recommendations of GoI-UNDP's endeavor must be sincerely put into practice. Moreover, the GoAP is supposed to take initiatives for sensitizing officials and other stakeholders for mainstreaming DRR and CCA to sustain disaster mitigation, with a larger human purpose, in order to promote a disaster resilient State, which may serve as a model for other States in the country. ■

– Dr. K R Sastry, Formerly, Professor,  
Disaster Management,  
Dr. MCR HRD Institute, Hyderabad

# Climate Change and Child Rights: An Assessment



Children playing in agriculture field, in Odisha.

In 2009, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) issued a report on climate change and human rights which emphasized the threats that climate change poses to the human rights of children, including to their right to health<sup>1</sup>. Children represent 30 percent of the world's population and compared with adults, children are physically more vulnerable and bear the brunt of the impact of climate change. Natural disasters, food crises and changing rainfall patterns threaten a wide spectrum of children's rights, including their basic rights to education, health clean water, and the right to food<sup>2</sup>. Amongst children who migrated to cities to escape neglect and abuse, loss of parent, to escape conflict of

natural disaster and other reasons are have added vulnerability.

According to climate change vulnerability index 2014 children under 15 year of age currently live in the 20 countries are at extreme risk of negative impact of climate change. Out of those 20 countries 7 are from Asia and India is one of them with more than 350 million children below 15 years.<sup>3</sup> It is estimated that over the next decade, approximately 175 million children will be affected by climate-related disasters per year<sup>4</sup> and by 2050 twenty-five million more children will be undernourished as a result of climate change<sup>5</sup>. All these assessments are indicating that in the oncoming years the respect of the Convention on the Rights of the

Child (CRC) adapted by UN general assembly in 1989 is going to be the most affected Convention by the adverse consequences of climate change on children. Due to that, the majority of the countries may not be able to fulfill their commitments to the CRC and generations of children could suffer now and in the future may be the denied their rights in the future. It is evident from several studies that child rights are at risk but most affected rights from climate change related hindrance are-

- **Right to survival and development** - Child right to survival is directly confronted by increasing climate related disasters, and by the increased risk of disease and hunger as a result of climate change.

1 OHCHR (2009). Report on the relationship between climate change and human rights. UN Doc. A/HRC/10/61, 48-50.

2 UNICEF United Kingdom (2013). Climate change: Children's challenge. London: UNICEF UK. Available at [www.unicef.org.uk/Documents/Publication-pdfs/unicefclimate-change-report-2013.pdf](http://www.unicef.org.uk/Documents/Publication-pdfs/unicefclimate-change-report-2013.pdf)

3 Maplecroft (2014): Climate Change and environmental Risk Atlas (2014.) Maplecroft.

4 'The Legacy of Disasters', Save the Children, 2007. [savethechildren.org.uk/en/docs/legacy-of-disasters.pdf](http://savethechildren.org.uk/en/docs/legacy-of-disasters.pdf)

5 Nelson, G. C., M. W. Rosegrant, J. Koo et al. (2009). Climate change: Impact on agriculture and costs of adaptation. Washington DC: International Food Policy Research Institute.

- **Right to Protection**—Climate change is leading to increased migration from areas that is renders dangerous or uninhabitable. In 2015, there are over 52 million refugees and displaced people worldwide<sup>6</sup>.
- **Right to health**—Child right to health is directly and indirectly threatened by climate change. Many of the major cause of death like diarrheal diseases, malnutrition, malaria and dengue are highly climate sensitive. And are expected to worsen as the climate changes<sup>7</sup>. Estimates

indicate that more than 85% of the global disease burden occurs in children under 5 due to climate change<sup>8</sup>.

To minimize the risks and fulfill CRC commitments it is important to integrate climate change in child right policy processes. While in current scenario most of existing climate impact assessments and policies are developed without attention to child rights issues and required response are remain overlooked. However in order to combat climate change impact on child rights there is need

to develop interconnectedness between climate change and key child rights issues, and to elevate the CRC as a vital framework and mechanism for protecting child rights in a changing climate. This could also help to avail new opportunities for Asian countries to fulfil their CRC commitments by concretely linking CRC implementation to other government processes for mitigating and adapting to climate change. ■

– Dr. Vijai Pratap Singh,

Founder, Kalhans Education and Environmental Development Foundation, Basti, Uttar Pradesh

6 UNHCR (2015): <http://www.unrefugees.org.au/#aboutrefugees>

7 WHO (2013): Climate change and health. Fact sheet N°266. Reviewed November 2013.

8 WHO (2009): Global Health Risks. Mortality and burden of disease attributable to selected major risks. WHO, Geneva 2009.

## RISK REDUCTION

# BRACED: Building Resilience in Myanmar

Myanmar, the second most vulnerable country to climate extremes globally, is at a moment of unprecedented institutional, economic and social change.

Since Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar in 2008, the country has made significant progress in supporting communities to plan and be better prepared for natural disasters and climate change. Lessons from the Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) programme are highlighting the need for increased harmonization between planning for community development to support rural development and poverty reduction efforts and those looking to strengthen resilience to shocks and stresses that may affect the development pathways of communities.

The BRACED Myanmar Alliance is a partnership between international agencies, national implementing agencies, and research agencies

focused on furthering the resilience agenda in Myanmar. The Alliance members include the lead agency Plan International, Action Aid, BBC Media Action, World Vision, the Myanmar Environment Institute and UN Habitat. The Alliance additionally coordinates with a number of technical and collaborative partners, recognising partnership and collaboration as a building block to strengthening resilience.

### Finding out what people need to be better able to cope with climate extremes

What are the underlying drivers of vulnerability in communities and what kinds of climate extremes and disasters (i.e rapid and/or slow onset) are communities exposed to?

A "Community Resilience Assessment and Action Handbook<sup>2</sup>" has been developed by BRACED to explore these questions. The assessment looks at how different people (men, women, boys and girls) are affected by understanding the

different sensitivities within the community.

The assessment tools identify both disaster and climate related sensitivities as well as highlighting the wider shocks and stresses the community are vulnerable to including conflict, unplanned development and environmental change. In addition the tool also helps assess capacities within communities identifying existing strengths that can be built upon such as existing disaster plans and strategies. This data is then used to identify and prioritise actions for strengthening resilience to disasters and climate change.

The assessment and accompanying handbook are currently being implemented in 155 communities across different climatic zones of Myanmar.

1 The Global Climate Risk Index 2016

2 <http://www.braced.org/resources/i/?id=127f0e24-a44a-4468-abca-96db853f6558>

### Community needs and BRACED response

Improvements in access and understanding of climate and weather data, forecasts and predictions means that communities can base decisions on current understandings in what is known as evidence-based decision making. Improving communities' access to accurate climate and weather information will help them plan their seasonal planting, diversify their livelihoods options, and better prepare for disasters such as flooding by protecting their assets on time.

### Prioritising solutions

The BRACED target communities have prioritised and implemented key resilience measures comprising soft skills and capacity to be better able to anticipate shocks stresses harder disaster mitigation and climate change adaptation measures to support that at the same time they will support strengthening community resilience in Myanmar.

In the township of Mawlamyine in the southern coastal area of

Myanmar, community prioritisation resulted in building canoes and protecting water sources from flood water and pollution! The communities prioritised the construction of canoes to be better prepared for annual flooding whilst building retaining walls around community ponds to protect water resources which ensured access to safe drinking water for over 300 families for all months even during floods. Access to canoes can save lives during floods and improve access to water and food for communities during these events. A simple, local solution to a complex, global climate and weather hazard can be done.

### Lessons learned:

- Collaboration and coordination among population are key to strengthening resilience. A strong and effective working relationship between communities, external agencies and government stakeholders takes time to build to ensure trust between all the partners and develop effective ways of working in place.

- Community resilience begins with meeting immediate disaster resilience needs and only then do community members begin to identify and address issues that will take effect over a longer period.
- Resilience building is a continuous effort. So sustained activities and interventions need to be implemented within communities building on new knowledge and information. This requires leadership ownership by the community over their development activities and ongoing risk assessment.
- Measuring resilience is challenging because vulnerabilities are contextual and disaster related shocks are uncertain. Setting up a system with context specific composite indices support by the longitudinal panel surveys along with post disaster panel surveys are useful tools to measure resilience both in normal and uncertain context. ■

- **Jeremy Stone**, BRACED .Alliance  
Coordinator, Plan International,  
Myanmar



Community Based Organisation members showing the newly constructed Canoes in Mawlamyine township.

# Rural Development: Multisector Engagement for Disaster Risk Reduction

## Introduction

India is a vast country covering 3.29 million Sq. km., a coastline of 7,500 km and a population of 1.25 billion, 68% of those who live in the rural areas of the country contribute 14% of the national GDP. In view of the diverse topography and climatic variations of the country, droughts and floods are regular occurrences in addition to Cyclones and earthquakes.

## Rural Vulnerability

While occurrences of the disaster do not differentiate between Urban and Rural, Rural areas are more vulnerable in view of the fact that large percentage of population depends on agriculture which is predominantly rainfed and the resultant lack of coping mechanisms. Of the country's total 142 m ha of cultivated land, 85 m ha or 60% is rainfed. Rainfed agriculture supports an estimated 40% of the population and has a large share of cropped area under rice (42%), pulses (77%), oilseeds (66%) and coarse cereals (85%). Rainfed areas also harbour about 78% of cattle, 64% of sheep and 75% of goats in the country. High natural resource fragility and risk, low and highly oscillating productivity, production, and farmers' income, poor investment and capital formation, high vulnerability and volatility of product markets, poor access to credit, insurance and markets, and higher concentration of poverty and hunger are characteristic features of the rain fed areas.

## Climate Change and Disaster Risks

Climate change is also likely to further exacerbate the ongoing stress due to yield stagnation, competition for land, water and other resources, and globalization that the Indian agriculture is going through. India

has experienced increase in mean temperature by 0.60°C in the last 100 years. Reduction in crop productivity, especially wheat and paddy due to increased temperature, reduction in rainy days and consequential water stress are some of the negative impacts reported. It is projected that in the medium-term (2010-2039), yield reduction will be to the tune of 4.5 to 9%, posing challenges to food security and livelihood.

## Institutional Mechanisms

Both the concluded Hyogo Framework and the present Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction stress on the need for multi-stakeholder engagement with respect to Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. While the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 adopted at The World Conference on Disaster Reduction held from 18 to 22 January 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan stresses on the need to make disaster risk reduction a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation and Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan stresses Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk and Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction. This is also echoed in India's own National Disaster Management Plan.

## Issues for consideration

However Disaster Risk Reduction planning cannot be fully realized if mainstreaming of the plans and procedures evolved is not done at

various levels and in various sectors. Development works and initiatives of all departments' concerned need to reflect the various parameters of risk reduction and incorporate the same into project plans during the formulation stage itself. This has been flagged by our Prime Minister during his address to the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk reduction on 3 November, 2016. Mainstreaming at the planning Stage indicates that implementation must be multisectoral and involve Public sector, Private Sector and Civil Society for effective impacts.

Another aspect that needs been consideration from the focus of Disaster risk reduction as well as a Climate Change Adaptation is vulnerability analysis. Several tools exist for assessment of vulnerability. While the National Initiative on Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) has produced a national vulnerability atlas, more specific and detailed assessments at the District level and even village level are required if disaster planning is to be done effectively. An effective Vulnerability analysis enables decision makers to prioritize funding and mobilise resources effectively.

Capacity Building of vulnerable communities is another area which is not given its due importance in disaster management planning. Efficient Disaster Management Drills involving all key stakeholders needs to be conducted scrupulously. The usage of advanced methods for quick information dissemination during times of disasters have to be fine-tuned with maximum publicity and involvement of different media including Print, TV and Radio. The use of public volunteer services like Ham Radio cannot be



Photo: Patrick Jasper.

*Watershed Development Works in a village in Kasaragod District of Kerala.*

overemphasized and need to be effectively harnessed.

Adequate and fast compensation of loss in life and property. While Life Insurance and property insurance is now well established, Agricultural Crop insurance is still in the fledgling stages and is plagued by improper loss estimation, high claims and poor settlement. The latest Prime Ministers Fasal Bheema Yojana has tried to take the experiences and issues of past agricultural insurance schemes and it is considered to be holistic in nature. Agriculture Insurance acts as a buffer for the small and marginal farmer and enables him to "Bounce Back" in high risk disaster scenarios in the fastest possible time.

#### **Role of NABARD in Climate Change Adaptation**

The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is facilitating the growth of climate-smart agricultural businesses that aggregate thousands of small-scale farmers can break cycles of rural poverty and environmental degradation. Over the past 3 decades, NABARD has supported millions of small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, women and other weaker sections, employing sustainable

approaches such as watershed development, tribal development, agro forestry, natural resource management projects, rainwater harvesting, organising and financing producer organisations, micro finance initiatives, skill development and micro enterprise development, solar lighting and energy harvesting using renewable sources of energy, organic production etc. Scaling up these and other climate-smart practices at the smallholder level can maintain the integrity of valuable landscapes while creating more prosperous and climate-resilient livelihoods for farmers, their families

and the society. NABARD has been implementing several developmental projects with an objective of promoting sustainable livelihoods through Natural Resources Management (NRM) such as watershed development, sustainable livelihood for tribal communities, Umbrella Programme for Natural Resources Management (UPNRM) etc. These projects have helped in building climate change resilience and adaptive capacities of rural communities. ■

– **Patrick Jasper**, Asst. General Manager, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

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4. Climate Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Social Protection, *Mark Davies, Katy Oswald and Tom Mitchell (IDS)*.
5. Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, *www.unisdr.org/wcdr*.
6. Strengthening disaster risk management in India: A review of five state disaster management plans, *Aditya Bahadur, Emma Lovell and Florence Pichon, July 2016*.
7. National Disaster Management Plan, 2016. *A publication of the National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India. May 2016, New Delhi*.
8. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, 18 March 2015.
9. Prime Minister's address at Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, *Press Information Bureau, Government of India, 03-November-2016*.



# Linking State Climate Change Action Plans and SDMPs to Enhance Risk Reduction Implementation in India

In August 2009, the Prime Minister of India asked all states to develop State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs). As of November 2016, nearly all States and Union Territories in India have prepared SAPCCs which put forward their vision and proposed actions for tackling climate change<sup>1</sup>. This represents one of the world's largest exercise in climate change planning.

The cascading policy framework for SAPCC's is similar to the policy framework for Disaster Management Planning, which was undertaken in 2005 as part of the Disaster Management Act. Both require state level action plans with a list of priority actions, and both require mainstreaming into sectoral policies and plans.

The overlap between state level disaster management plans and Climate change action plans which could and should be exploited to help advance implementation of both the climate change resilience and disaster management agendas, if strategically linked. In particular, **implementation of climate change action plans could help filling the gap between disaster risk management and disaster preparedness that exists in many state disaster management plans in India and beyond.**

Climate Change Action Plans and State Disaster Management plans are

already being functionally linked in a number of different ways. For instance, the Bihar State Climate Change Action Plan calls for the implementation of the Disaster Management plan as a priority activity, and includes disaster management as a key stand-alone sector in the state action plan, alongside within sectors such as water resources and agriculture<sup>2</sup>.

The state of Odisha, on the other hand, in its second Climate Change Action Plan integrates disaster management with coastal management and articulates a very comprehensive set of priority activities, to improve coastal resilience<sup>3</sup>. The State of Assam illustrates a third approach, wherein disaster management activities are woven throughout a range of sectoral priority actions, such as in agriculture, one priority measure is providing farmers with "training on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction packages of practices for different agro-climatic zones."<sup>4</sup>

The Disaster Management community in India should seize on these functional linkages to advocate for greater financing and implementation of SAPCC's. Unlike the disaster management plans, project funding is available to support implementation of SAPCC's through the National Adaptation

Fund, which has had two tranches, totalling 350 crores. In addition, funding is available from international sources, such as the \$100 Billion Green Climate Fund<sup>5</sup>. Moreover, the strong overlap between development objectives and climate change objectives provides the opportunity to mainstream climate change into sectoral budgeting. For more information on this approach, see Financing State Action Plans on Climate Change in India<sup>6</sup>

Both SAPCC's and State Disaster Management Plans (SDMPs) seek to mainstream risk reduction into sectoral policies, plans and programmes, with mixed degrees of success. **Joining forces to achieve greater mainstreaming would strengthen the overall risk reduction agenda.**

And finally, both lack an accountability framework for monitoring and evaluation of actions and investments. **Development of an integrated accountability framework would help strengthen both agendas, and aid with compliance with Sendai Framework commitments as well as fulfilling India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).** ■

– Cristina Rumbaitis del Rio,  
Regional Programme Manager, Action  
on Climate Today, New Delhi

1 <http://envfor.nic.in/ccd-sapcc>. Accessed November 1, 2016

2 <http://www.moef.gov.in/sites/default/files/Bihar-State%20Action%20Plan%20on%20Climate%20Change%20%282%29.pdf>

3 <http://www.moef.gov.in/sites/default/files/CCAP-Odisha-2.pdf>

4 <http://www.moef.gov.in/sites/default/files/Final%20draft%20ASAPCC%20document.pdf>

5 <http://www.climatefundupdate.org/listing/green-climate-fund>

6 <http://www.actiononclimate.today/act-on-information/financing-state-action-plans-on-climate-change-in-india/>

# Are we Building Back Better? Lessons from South Asia

Building Back Better (BBB) is a critical part of disaster recovery that has to address structural improvements as well as the underlying drivers that lead to the risk at the on-set. However, a little over a decade of attempting to apply the principles of BBB has shown numerous challenges and contradictions. A host of contextual challenges that compound the application were identified by stakeholders during the consultations leading up to the formulation of the Sendai Framework: poverty, growing urbanization, lack of institutional mechanisms, lack of predictable financing, and secondary hazards from industrial units, political instability- to name a few.

The Sendai Framework's Priority 4: enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" re-affirms what has been said and experienced over time as BBB, but does not offer reasons why these principles were often difficult to apply. The South Asia Disaster Report (SADR) 2016 aims to analyse cases from Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka to understand why and how something approximating the BBB recommendations of Sendai Framework were or were not delivered. The SADR 2016 will present learning from the region and examine realistic ways of operationalising the BBB principles.

The SADR 2016 will aim to critique:

1. How the BBB recommendations of Sendai Framework will hold up against the institutional, resource, capacity aspects in the countries / context of South Asia
2. The capability, intent and interest of the existing mechanisms and systems of recovery and reconstruction to deliver on BBB principles and recommendations upheld in the Sendai framework
3. The role of capital, development agents and other interest groups in operationalising BBB
4. How meaningful the BBB recommendations are in relation to prevalent institutional and

policy, political interest scenarios in South Asia.

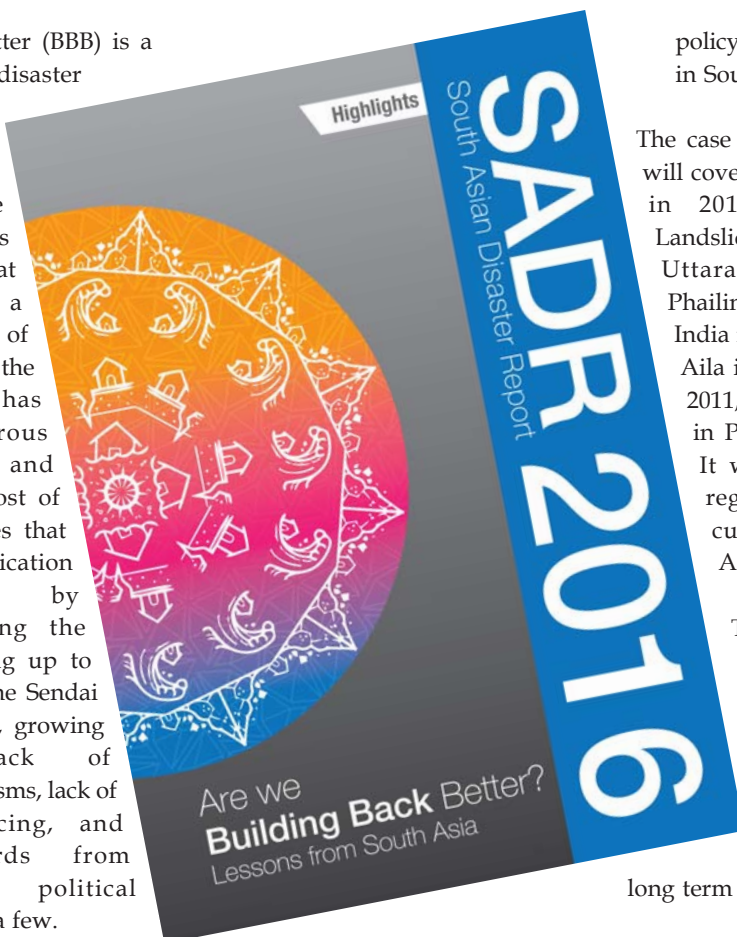
The case studies focussing on BBB will cover the Earthquake in Nepal in 2015, the Meeriyabedda Landslide in Sri Lanka in 2014, the Uttarakhand Floods, Cyclone Phailin and Cyclone Hudhud in India in 2013, Cyclone Sidre and Aila in Bangladesh in 2007 and 2011, and the monsoon floods in Pakistan in 2012 and 2013. It will also look across the region at reducing risks to cultural heritage in South Asia.

Through the critique it hopes to draw out some practical means to connect BBB with long term development and present some ideas on applying the BBB principles for building long term resilience in South Asia.

The SADR 2016 is a product of Duryog Nivaran, a research, training and advocacy network committed to promoting disaster risk reduction in South Asia at policy and community level. It strives to build the knowledge base of stakeholders by sharing research findings, information, experiences and insights on emerging issues of disaster management.

This summary of the SADR 2016 presents some insights from the report with a special focus on recovery in Nepal. ■

Source: Duryog Nivaran  
For more information contact:  
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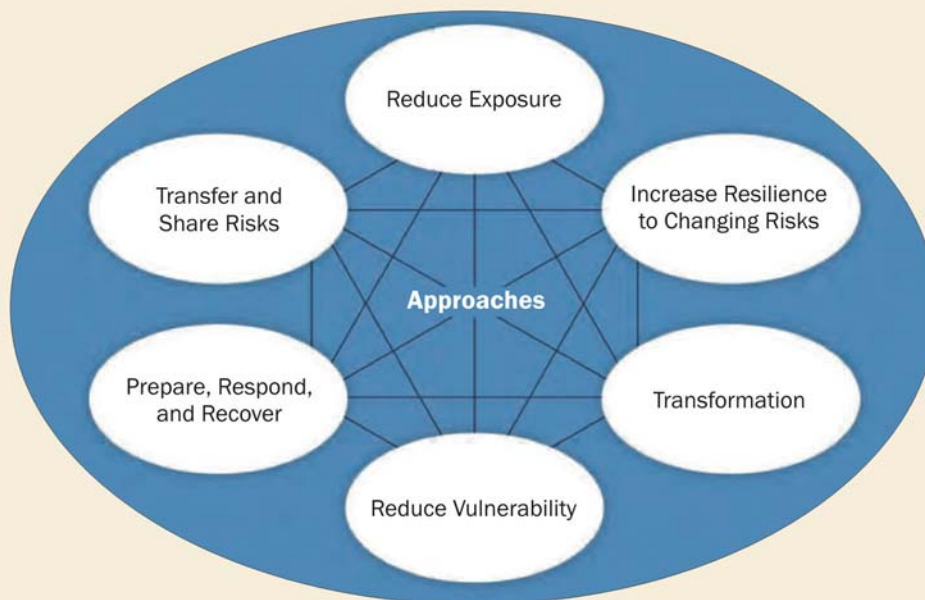
# Integration of DRR and CCA: Training and Capacity Building

## Background

The capacity building for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) integration should ensure several minimum information and knowledge across several areas. The following points reflect such areas during implementation, particularly with training and capacity building actions. Later on, the monitoring mechanism can find the areas of improvements by developing indicators based on these minimum levels of DRR CCA integration related inputs. The training and related institutions in the state can update this based on the progress and sector requirements. The training and capacity building inputs targeting middle and ground level officials and stakeholders:

- i. The audience becomes aware of changes in weather patterns of the local and state level area. The ability of audience to convey their stakeholders about some weather-related risks in the future and what are likely different from the past.
- ii. The audience ability to understands locally available weather information and able to convey their stakeholders for appropriate actions at local levels when climatic hazard approaching.
- iii. The audience informed with the necessary details about institutional mechanism and key information resources related to disaster and climate related risks and risk reduction, such as District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), India Meteorological Department (IMD), weather station, fire, medical, police, District Disaster Management Plan (DDMP), State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCC), etc. The ability of audience to inform their stakeholders about the institutional setup and related planning in a simplified version. The audience can be supported or generate with informative resources (for example, key findings of SAPCC, DDMP, the meaning of key terms, sector specific climate change data and about key hazards).
- iv. The ability of audience to conduct vulnerability and risk assessments. The depth of assessment can be decided as per

## Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management Approaches for a Changing Climate



The SREX report assesses a wide range of complementary adaptation and disaster risk management approaches that can reduce the risks of climate extremes and disasters and increase resilience to remaining risks as they change over time. These approaches can be overlapping and can be pursued simultaneously. [Source: SREX (2012); IPCC.]

- the level of audience and scope, however some basic areas have to be confirmed such as the observed changes in weather, seasonality and hazard patterns and uses the information to develop local action plans and in relation to a particular sector/s that audience belongs to.
- v. The audience is having knowledge of existing educational resources that developed by agencies such as UNITAR; UNDP; UNICEF; UNEP; UNISDR; and government institutions such as National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and other particular sectoral institutions in the state. This is to inform interested individuals and institutions to access existing and quality resources to further enhance their knowledge for integration of DRR and CCA.
  - vi. The audience is able to develop basic monitoring and evaluation mechanism to measure the progress and areas of improvements. The existing tools can be used such as - must be basic - Climate smart disaster risk management (CSDRM) approach, SMART indicators, participatory M&E mechanism, etc.
  - vii. The audience is sensitized to the importance of integration of DRR CCA in development efforts. The ultimate result of this sensitization is for linking and advocating for the adaptation.
- Similarly, the training and capacity building inputs targeting institutions and key officials should ensure following areas as a result. These points are in addition to the above-mentioned points.
- i. The audience is with the knowledge on changing climate risks, and able to use in the institute to adjust work plans and strategies. This is also about flexibility and knowledge of so far progress and plan in the state.
  - ii. The audience is able to initiate the capacity building effort within the institute to facilitate stakeholder engagement for risk reduction and adaptation.
  - iii. The audience is able to initiate and build the focal point within the institute that able to guide stakeholders (service receiver group) on preparing action plans and linking with the ongoing actions. Similarly, the knowledge management services that ensure the documentation of community/ stakeholder level intervention related to risk reduction and adaptation.
  - iv. The audience is aware about the different ways of utilizing the capacities and resources that institute have for reducing local/ sectoral risk related to disaster and climate change.
  - v. The audience is aware about the importance of integration exercise within institute to improve the institutional services and able to prepare the institute against risks. ■
- Vishal Pathak, AIDMI**

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