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Foto: Akopp/Welthungerhilfe

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Precondition for achieving sustainable development

Welthungerhilfe, one of the biggest German NRO for developing cooperation and humanitarian aid, focuses on food security and poverty reduction. The poor suffers the most from disasters. The mayor factors influencing disaster risks are human and social vulnerability. Vulnerability to hazards depends on many factors: e.g. poverty, food insecurity, inappropriate natural resource management, poor governance, gender injustice and climate change. Disaster risk reduction aims at mitigation of the impacts of natural hazards and extreme weather events by reducing vulnerability and improving society's resilience. Only by linking the strategies of poverty reduction and disaster risk reduction sustainable development can be achieved.

Common ground of all Welthungerhilfe operations is the participatory approach: the close cooperation with local communities and national NGO complemented by coordination with governmental organizations on local, departmental and national level, and international stakeholders – implement-

ing operations on grassroots level but with incidence on national level looking for replication and wider impact.

Implementing community based DRR operations in Nicaragua, Peru, Kenya, Mozambique, Tajikistan and India, Welthungerhilfe has learnt the following lessons:

- Community ownership for DRR process is key to sustainable development.
- Local committees for DRR, integrated into national DRR policies and structures, are critical to ensure community involvement.
- Frequent interactions between governmental departments and local communities help to create mutual understanding.
- Strategic coordination with research institutions, governmental organisations and private business is essential for achieving proper outcomes and replication.
- Trained and aware communities are active in advocating and asserting their rights.

Principles and approaches of Welthungerhilfe DRR operations

- community based
- low-tech and cost-effective technology
- helping people to help themselves
- free choice of local partners
- gender justice
- linking relief, rehabilitation and development
- do no harm
- linking communities to other stakeholders
- outcome and impact orientation

Institutional cooperation and international partners

Board Member of German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV)
European Commission
German Federal Foreign Office
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development
USAID



India: Dike protection



Nicaragua: Rescue exercise

India – Disaster Risk Management

The community based Disaster Risk Management operation in West Bengal and Orissa increases the disaster response and mitigation capacity of civil society organizations by public awareness and situation assessment, capacity building and networking, involvement of primary schools as well as small scale research on indigenous knowledge.

Kenya – Rock Rainwater Harvesting and Storage

In the dry and drought areas in Kitui District, Welthungerhilfe started this operation in 2006 to increase the capacity of the most vulnerable communities to withstand recurring droughts by improving access to drinking water. Rainwater harvesting and storage, particularly via rock catchments, is an advantageous option for supporting water supply, especially in arid and semi arid areas.

Peru – Incorporating DRR into Education

Schools are strategic allies for promoting actions to reduce risks and creating a disaster risk reduction culture among the population. Based on a framework agreement with the Regional Education Office in the department of San Martin, experts, teachers and students are preparing the school as a platform for increasing the awareness of vulnerable communities. Disaster risk reduction was incorporated into the standards and guiding instruments of the Ministry of Education.

Nicaragua – Strengthening local DRR capabilities

Welthungerhilfe started its first disaster prevention operation in 2001 in one municipality, replicating the experience meanwhile in other areas in the north of Nicaragua. Main components are local disaster risk managements groups, river flow monitoring system, rescue brigades in rural communities as well as local and municipal emergency plans. A new component is the computer aided System for Preparedness and Response to Emergencies (SIPRE) which will enable the users like municipal authorities, national and regional offices to access consultation on existing resources.

Tajikistan – Capacity building and mitigation

The Welthungerhilfe DRR operations in central Tajikistan consist mainly of developing guidelines, decisions models and standards for disaster preparedness as well as training of local disaster response groups. Further part of the programme is investigating the potential of private investors related to needed technical components. Welthungerhilfe cooperates with GTZ, IFRC and German Red Cross.

Currently Welthungerhilfe is mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction including adaptation on climate change into relief and development policy and practice, based on the study "Disaster Risk Reduction as a principle in Rural Development" commissioned in 2006 to Humboldt University Berlin.

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