

Towards HFA 2: Emerging Insights from the Grassroots



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The Role of Civil Society in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Lessons Learned from India

With the post-2015 development agenda on the table, the international community has focused efforts on parsing the way forward. Submissions have been made by several governments, organisations, agencies and groups considering the key issues that should be taken into account and integrated into the new framework. Particularly active in the discourse is the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), a non-governmental organisation dedicated towards bridging the gap between policy, practice and research surrounding disaster mitigation. Through its activities and initiatives, AIDMI embodies the role that civil society should play in DRR and disaster mitigation. The grassroots NGO has invested heavily in various projects that are geared towards building societies that are resilient to hazards and are capable of achieving sustainable disaster recovery. Since its inception, following the 1987-89 Gujarat droughts, AIDMI has grown to significant heights. From building risk management approaches across all its activities, to successfully implementing the Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management approach. Covering nine types of disasters in twelve areas in India and now eight countries in Asia, AIDMI exemplifies what dedication and hard work entails for furthering a cause.

In the post-2015 development agenda talks, AIDMI has been a profound and active voice in shaping the design of the new framework at varying levels and continues to advocate for policies that are closely aligned with various UN agencies. Internationally, AIDMI has submitted proposals to the Civil

Society Dialogue with the High-Level Panel on the post-2015 development agenda. The report comprised varying lessons learned as a result of working with India's poorest, disaster-prone and most vulnerable regions. Some of the key concerns raised was the need to develop a more comprehensive and holistic framework at the global level that incorporates the social, environmental and economic implications of disaster risks. AIDMI advocates for a framework that provides an enabling and inclusive environment for the adoption of a multi-hazard approach to addressing disasters, one that internalizes not only disaster risks but all other types of risks. As the way forward, the organisation envisions a framework that adopts a cross-sector, multi-stakeholder approach in activities whereby all parties share the responsibility of making communities more resilient and less vulnerable to disaster risks. Through the implementation of such approaches, AIDMI believes that more collaborative efforts would become the norm ensuring that disaster risks are carefully and effectively integrated across the development agenda.

At the regional level, AIDMI raised valid concerns to the Global Thematic Consultation on DRR underscoring the issues facing the poor and vulnerable communities across Asia-Pacific. The overarching theme of the report submitted advocated for a paradigm shift whereby communities view DRR, mitigation and preparedness as a fundamental Human Right that must be sustained

in order to secure their livelihoods and wellbeing. Other suggestions emphasized the importance of ensuring that small and medium enterprises (SME) are addressed more effectively in recovery projects and have greater access to small business loans and insurance policies under the post-2015 development agenda. Some of AIDMI's considerations were closely aligned with the Global Assessment Report 2013 that robustly made the business case for DRR. AIDMI's national level inputs to the Government of India at the National Workshop on post-2015 Framework for DRR narrowed in on areas that require attention such as promoting risk reduction innovations through the linkage of disaster risks to agriculture, energy sources, natural resources and other sectors. Additionally, AIDMI underscored the significance of analyzing the potential value added of public-private partnerships through the promotion of private investment in risk reduction and mitigation projects.

With the post-2015 development agenda under implementation, AIDMI's efforts and activities are helping to shape the scope and direction of the post-2015 development agenda. AIDMI's group of leaders are making a difference and crafting sound examples of the role NGOs can play in achieving the goals and objectives outlined in the HFA. AIDMI's initiatives highlight potential avenues for and the benefits of bottom-up approaches under the new framework. ■

– Sanny Ramos Jegillos,
UNDP

Submission to The Civil Society Dialogue with The High-Level Panel on The Post-2015 Development Agenda

Introduction

In January 2013, the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) made a submission to the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda's ('High-level Panel') civil society consultations on how the future development framework should take shape. The High-level Panel, co-chaired by President Bambang Yudhoyono (Indonesia), President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (Liberia), and Prime Minister David Cameron (United Kingdom), was instructed by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to prepare, by May 2013, a 'bold yet practical' development agenda which builds on the Millennium Development Goals, strengthens accountability mechanisms, reshapes the global partnership for development, and ensures economic growth, social equality and environment sustainability.¹ Almost 800 responses were received globally and a number of AIDMI's key contentions were included in the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service's report to the High-level Panel for its third meeting in Liberia. This was held from 30 January to 2 February 2013.

This briefing note highlights the central arguments made in the submission. Essentially based upon all of the organisation's experience in working with India's poorest, disaster-prone/disaster-affected, and most vulnerable communities, AIDMI contends that:

- (a) Much more attention needs to be given to addressing disaster risks concurrently with other social, environment and economic agendas, programmes, schemes and activities - ultimately it should be that disaster risks are a standard, default, inherent consideration in any activity that is being carried out.
- (b) There needs to be a greater appreciation of the dynamic relationship between poverty, vulnerabilities (social, economic, environmental, and political) and disasters.
- (c) Disasters should not be conceptualized as singular catastrophes which are 'freak' events of nature, but as shock and stress factors on social, economic, environmental and political systems.
- (d) A development framework that enables disasters and other types

of risk to be internalized, absorbed, adapted to, reduced, mitigated, and responded to is urgently needed.

Addressing all these issues would pave the way towards securing an economically, environmentally, and socially-resilient future for all individuals, communities, societies and nations. The next part of this briefing note discusses these contentions in further detail.

Key Issues in Designing The Post-2015 Development Framework

Throughout its years of operation, at both the policy and practical level AIDMI has worked on critical issues faced by India's disadvantaged communities, some of whom are located into the remotest and most underdeveloped of areas. Some of these are: human rights protection, child safety, inequality, disempowerment of vulnerable groups, poverty, discrimination (caste, religion, gender and income-based), abuse, environment degradation, climate change, livelihood security, disaster risk, and inaccessibility to essential health, sanitation, water, and education facilities. In the course of doing so the organisation identified the following issues:

- (a) **The 'How' question is unanswered:** Strategies, frameworks, policies, plans, and goals for disasters and development abound at the international and domestic levels, but they contain little detail on how they should be implemented at the ground level



Until unless specified all photographs of this publication are by AIDMI.

¹ <http://unfccc.int/2860.php>

so that they have an impact in the local communities whose interests are most at stake. These communities are the ultimate beneficiaries and stand to benefit or lose the most from development frameworks.

AIDMI encountered this issue while developing pro-poor and inclusive DDMPs for the districts of Madhubani in Bihar (flood and earthquake-prone), Puri, Odisha (cyclone-prone), and Leh/Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir (multiple disaster risks). It knew very well that one of the targets under Millennium Development Goal 7 was to halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation, but how should it go about fulfilling and implanting this goal in areas where there already are deep-rooted systemic failures in water supplies? How should it secure this goal during and after disaster situations, where a whole complex set of challenges are involved? As another example, the Hyogo Framework for Action calls for disaster risk reduction to integrate gender perspectives and 'take into account cultural diversity, age, and vulnerable groups', but how exactly should this be carried out in the highly complex communities that AIDMI works with? Too often high-level directives are being issued without any form of guidance or support in implementation; too often grassroot organisations with limited resources are left to figure out for themselves how these frameworks should be fulfilled.

- (b) **Strategies, frameworks, policies, plans and goals must be made locally relevant and have locally-achievable benchmarks:** The difficulties with implementing strategies,



frameworks, policies and goals in communities indicates that much more work needs to be made in making them relevant and enforceable in local contexts. Consideration has to be given to whether scale compromises effectiveness, and whether broad overarching goals, strategies, frameworks, and policies devised at the international and national levels, supplemented with complementary goals at the community levels, would enable disaster management and development objectives to be achieved.

- (c) **Poor and vulnerable people want help so that they can help themselves:** AIDMI has observed that in addition to securing the basic essentials of life namely education, nutritious food, clean water, shelter, decent work, and good sanitation, poor and vulnerable people place the utmost value on empowerment and security. They want to be able to take control of their own lives and overcome the political, economic and social barriers which prevent them from achieving their full potential. They do not want to be seen as helpless victims, as objects of aid, or dependent on others. They

want to be viewed as agents of change and action; they want their fundamental human rights to be upheld, and they want to be guaranteed the security and freedom to do so.

In short poor and vulnerable people want help so that they can help themselves. AIDMI has identified that access to clear and accurate information, participation in decision making processes (whether it be community projects, government policies, or personal life decisions), a consciousness of one's basic human rights, and the ability to make choices for one's self are essential means for achieving this. Self-Help Groups and other collective groups can be a useful means of empowerment as they foster a sense of solidarity and united voices are always far more effective than just one alone. Livelihood security is also essential as it enables a person to gain economic and consequently, social independence.

- (d) **Disasters are the sum of all our crises:** Disasters are typically viewed as singular catastrophic events of nature. In AIDMI's experience though, disasters only

become a crisis when people are unprepared for such eventualities. Earthquakes, floods, cyclones, cloudbursts, landslides – they are only disasters because they suddenly exacerbate prior social, economic, and political problems to such an extent that is beyond society's means to respond adequately. A key example can be found in Haiti, where continuous political instability, high levels of chronic poverty and extremely low levels of socio-economic development (for instance 18.9% of the nation's children under five years old are underweight and the nation's literacy levels stand at 52.9%), rendered the nation's population extremely unprepared for and unable to recover from the 2004 hurricanes (Tropical Storm Fay, Hurricane Gustav, Hurricane Hanna and Hurricane Ike), and the country's worst ever earthquake in 2010.

- (e) **Disaster risks must therefore be integrated across the social, environmental and economic domains, with environmental resilience being the unifying thread:** While responding to local communities' calls for assistance following the 2008 Kosi floods in Bihar, the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, the 2011 Cyclone Thane in Tamil Nadu, the 2009 Cyclone

Climate-Related Disasters in Asia and the Pacific

Natural disasters are on the rise worldwide. However, in the region of Asia-Pacific, natural disasters have been particularly severe having alarming consequences for human welfare. The increasing severity of disasters in Asia-Pacific may be attributed to the changing climate in the region.

This paper points out the incontrovertible links between climate change and the increase in the intensity and frequency of natural disasters in Asia-Pacific. In a regression analysis within a model of disaster risk determination, the most significant association is between the increase in natural disasters and population exposure, represented by population densities. The paper also suggests that there is a link between increasing natural disasters in Asia and the Pacific and man-made emissions of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The paper also highlights a notable association between climate-related hazards and the frequency of intense natural disasters in Asia and the Pacific and its sub-regions during 1971-2010. ■

Source: <http://www.adb.org/publications/climate-related-disasters-asia-and-pacific>

Aila in West Bengal, and the 2012 floods in Assam, AIDMI found that the dynamics between poverty, vulnerabilities, environmental conditions, and disasters showed that they all had to be managed in an integrated manner, rather than as separate domains. Moreover, it found that environment resilience was a fundamental precondition for human resilience as there exists a symbiotic relationship between them. Contrary to common understandings, the 'twain do meet together.

To achieve this risk management has to be built into all activities, and one

method which AIDMI has successfully used to unite environmental, social, disaster, and economic considerations together is the Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management approach. This was carried out in the coastal villages of Odisha, which stand to come under much greater risk of cyclones and floods due to climate change. Consciousness of human rights and environment protection is an essential first step.

Recommendations

AIDMI recommends the following actions be taken in developing a resilient post-2015 development framework:

- a) That the High-level Panel works with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to integrate disaster risks across all aspects of the development agenda
- b) That the High-level Panel ensures policy coherence and integration by adopting a cross-sector, multi-stakeholder approach in all its work and consultations. For instance, in addition to the consultations on the Millennium Development Goals, it should also have regard to the concurrent consultations on the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Rio+20 framework. ■



Disaster Risk Reduction and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Agenda for the Asia-Pacific

This short discussion note was written in early February for the Global Thematic Consultation on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, to be held by the Government of Indonesia in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) from February 19-20, 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia. Its purpose was to draw attention to the local and grassroots issues faced by poor and vulnerable communities across the Asia-Pacific region which may not otherwise reach the post-2015 development agenda consultations. Rather than repeating the issues already in discussion from the GAR process in Geneva and the fifth Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, this note adds and augments the other valuable contributions to the post-2015 development process. It was prepared by the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) based upon its work with local partners at the ground level in India and in the Asia-Pacific region.

1. Right to Human Rights:

Disaster-prone and disaster-affected individuals are, just like any other human being, vested with basic rights by international human rights instruments and in some countries, domestic constitutional laws.¹ In addition



to the usual 'survival' rights such as the right to food, shelter, clean water, sanitation facilities and livelihood, they also have the rights to safety, disaster risk reduction, relief, recovery, preparedness and mitigation for these go towards protecting their lives and wellbeing.

Although the relationship between human rights and disasters is being increasingly discussed and debated by stakeholders involved in disaster management (for example government departments, disaster management authorities and NGOs), the actual implementation and institutionalisation of human rights-centred disaster management practices at the local, national, regional and

international levels still lags far behind. For instance, upholding the disaster victim's and vulnerable person's right to work is extremely important for recovery, preparedness, and developing his or her overall resilience to disasters, but this is not being addressed in DRR agendas. For a number of years AIDMI has worked with poor communities, in particular women, affected by the 2010 cloudburst in Leh/Ladakh (Jammu and Kashmir), the 2008 Kosi floods (Bihar), the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami (Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Odisha, Tamil Nadu), and frequent cyclones (Odisha, Tamil Nadu) to provide them with stable, disaster-resilient livelihoods. Not only has this provided recipients with a source of income, it has

¹ For instance, in India Article 21 of the Constitution of India guarantees all its citizens the right to survival.

also given them a sense of confidence and independence. The organisation's ongoing work with the National Human Rights Commission in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has also often highlighted the poor levels of understanding on disaster-prone and disaster-affected persons' rights to safety and disaster risk reduction.

2. **Natural Resources as Mitigation**

Assets: The majority of disaster-affected and vulnerable persons are poor and depend heavily on the land for their everyday needs. Having access and ownership over natural resources such as land, water, and forests is thus essential for mitigating the impacts of and preparing for disasters. However, as these persons typically do not have formal ownership rights (and even if they did these rights may not be properly documented), it is often extremely difficult for them to gain assert any sort of ownership claim over natural resources. Disasters can exacerbate such difficulties due to the depletion and/or deterioration of natural resources, delayed administrative processes, and general confusion especially in the aftermath of disasters.

Ownership of natural resources is an issue often overlooked in disaster risk reduction efforts and the other stages of disaster management, especially disaster relief and recovery. Who owns the natural resources? How should limited/depleted resources be allocated following disasters? How should the poor be assisted with formalising and strengthening their rights over natural resources? Who decides the use of natural resources? What is the impact of non-local

ownership of natural resources on disaster risk? Who will monitor the ownership and use of natural resources? In its projects across India, AIDMI has observed how disaster victims have no say over the use of natural resources following floods in forests and droughts affecting arable land in high altitude regions. Its work with the National Institute of Disaster Management, the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) and the Climate Change and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) has also drawn attention to the need to study in greater detail how natural resources such as lakes, swamps, and wetlands can be used as disaster mitigation assets.

3. **Increased Support for Small and Micro-Businesses:**

Small and micro-businesses, especially those run or owned by dalits, tribals, minorities, youth farmers and women are a major source of employment and income to people recovering from a disaster. Small and micro-businesses can also help with ensuring their resilience to disasters, reduce their dependence on external support, and improve their own and their communities' living conditions. In India however, these businesses are almost always the first to be affected by disasters and yet are typically the last to be addressed in recovery projects. A very small proportion of resources for recovery reaches them. AIDMI is presently working with the UNDP (India) to show the nature and extent of this issue.

4. **Over Monetised Risk Reduction?:** Cash transfers and employment guarantees are possible poverty and disaster

reduction solutions insofar as citizens are included in financial services. AIDMI's ongoing work with Concern Worldwide India in Odisha and West Bengal shows that cash transfers can be an effective means of reducing disaster risks. In a Bay of Bengal consultation with local partners from India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh, participants observed that the focus on money in Asia's local economies is growing, and that it is being seen more as a buffer to absorb the shocks of disasters and other crises. It was also pointed out that humanitarian actions in Asia are in general becoming more and more monetised. Whether or not there is now an over-reliance on cash, and what the limits of its effectiveness are, are questions which require further analysis. How to expand the poor's access to financial services is another issue that urgently needs consideration.

5. **Democracy and Disasters:** The post-2015 development agenda needs to incorporate strategies for making humanitarian institutions and government authorities more democratic in their administrative processes, work practices, and community development projects. Although consultations with local communities are slowly becoming standard practice in project management, on the whole organisational structures still remain rather rigid and utilise top-down methods of working. This is especially the case in disasters. In India for instance, disaster management authorities have been set up at the national, state and district levels through parliamentary processes but their activities and modes of engagement are administrative and are not citizen-based. AIDMI is working

with the National Disaster Management Authority of India's taskforce on CBDM to address this issue.

6. Coordination for Results: Inter-agency coordination is critical for improving the effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian aid and disaster response efforts. While the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's development of the Transformative Agenda to improve coordination structures amongst humanitarian responders has been an important step forward, the agenda can be further enhanced by ensuring that results, not just procedures, are coordinated, and that a proper multilateral coordination system is in place. The development of such a system should be made part of the post-2015 development agenda.

7. Data Transparency in Risk Reduction: Data transparency, monitoring mechanisms, and accurate reporting of activities and finances by all parties working with disaster-prone and disaster-affected communities are essential for keeping disaster risk reduction, recovery, and all community development efforts on track and ensuring that they result in tangible, positive, and effective outcomes for the intended beneficiaries. This principle was vividly demonstrated by the recovery efforts in Haiti, where studies have shown that the poor tracking of aid money and documentation of how the money was spent had considerably lengthened the nation's road to recovery.² AIDMI's efforts with the Asian



Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to develop a Disaster Risk Reduction Portal (essentially a database of disaster risk reduction projects across the world) also drew attention to the need for open data on disasters.

While there are data transparency tools such as the International Aid Transparency Initiative, Publish What You Fund and the Humanitarian Aid Partnership, their uptake has been rather limited and much more work on promoting their use is required. The ISDR is also encouraging greater information flows on disaster risk reduction, but while reports are being shared and circulated within across countries, data from their disaster risk reduction projects on critical issues such as the amount of money spent and the number of beneficiaries, are not always included. Moreover,

most disaster risk reduction data is scattered across authorities, agencies, NGOs, and other bodies working with local communities. How can open data on disaster risk reduction make lives safer? How can data management practices be made more transparent? How can project monitoring methods be improved and made much more robust? Monitoring is an issue which is all too often ignored and indeed, has been identified as one of the reasons for why many of the Millennium Development Goals have not been fulfilled.

8. National Budgets and Risk Reduction: Although governments across the Asia-Pacific region are becoming extremely conscious of disaster risks and are increasing the spending of public finances on disaster risk reduction measures, a multitude of questions remain, these being: what proportion of national budgets should be

² See Vijaya Ramachandran and Julie Walz, 'Haiti's Earthquake Generated a \$9 bn response - Where did the money go?', 14 January 2013, Available at: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/poverty-matters/2013/jan/14/haiti-earthquake-where-did-money-go>

allocated to disaster risk reduction and disaster management generally? Are, and how should, the budgets of statutory disaster management authorities, be made more open to public scrutiny? How can these budgets be made accessible to other government departments, local authorities, civil society, and most importantly, disaster victims? In its work with the Planning Commission of India on the Twelfth Plan, AIDMI identified the need to monitor the spending of national budgets on disaster risk reduction in a systematic manner.

9. **Urban Sanitation, Water Security, and DRR:** AIDMI's scoping work with SNV and IRC in Bangladesh pointed to the need to make past and upcoming investments in sanitation

(especially urban sanitation) and rural drinking water supplies safe from disaster risks and climate risks. These risks are especially great in coastal cities and areas across Asia. Further studies on the impacts of disasters on water supplies and urban sanitation are needed, as are discussions on what are appropriate risk reduction measures.

10. **Children, Youth and Risk:** The International Convention on the Rights of the Child provides children with the right to participate in the life of the community and in decisions which affect them. It also guarantees them with fundamental human rights like their adult counterparts. At present however, the practical fulfilment of child/youth rights and child/youth participation,

especially within the context of disasters, remains quite limited. The role of youth and children in Disaster Risk Reduction thus needs more focus and attention in the post-2015 development agenda. Who are these youth? What can they do to reduce risk? What role can the corporate sector play in encouraging children to be involved in disaster risk reduction? Steps have already been taken to address these questions, for instance, UNICEF has started to work with adolescents in India, a national platform for child-centered disaster risk reduction was launched in Delhi with NGOs in 2011, and similar platforms are set to be launched in many of India's states such as Bihar. Much more though needs to be done to involve children and youth in disaster risk reduction. ■

INPUTS

Inputs to National Workshop on Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

This is a short note to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, and the Resident Representative for the United Nations Development Programme, India, about key areas which require attention in the Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Drawing upon its extensive work experience in India's most disaster-prone areas and with vulnerable communities, AIDMI also recommends several strategic actions for addressing these areas of concern.

- Disaster risks to agriculture and natural resources need far greater attention. From its district disaster management planning and resilience-building of ecosystem-based livelihoods in

West Champaran, Bihar, AIDMI suggests that integrating disaster risk considerations into drinking water and river basin management should be undertaken.

- Improving access to finance through mechanisms other than micro-credit and micro-insurance is needed. In its case study with the UNDP on the impact of disasters on micro, small and medium enterprises in Puri district, Odisha, AIDMI found that difficulties in obtaining small loans and insurance policies was a significant barrier to the community's recovery from and preparation for disasters. Indeed,

such difficulties can exacerbate their existing vulnerabilities and thrust them deeper into poverty. AIDMI suggests that the strategic action taken should be promoting private investment in risk reduction and mitigation projects.

- Energy – that is addressing disaster risks to energy sources, and in turn using energy to develop disaster risk reduction measures – is a much neglected area. AIDMI identified this need in the course of its work in Odisha with the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA), the UNDP, Intercooperation Social Development (ICSD), and the

UK-based Institute of Development Studies, to implement the Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management approach across environment sustainability, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and community development projects across the state. Using solar power in disaster risk reduction and protecting solar power plants from earthquakes, floods, and cyclones, are just some of the strategic actions that can be taken.

- Disaster risk to education and children have received attention mainly through the National School Safety Programme. Based on its work with the Government of India to implement the programme in thousands of schools across India, child rights campaigning, and district-level work with children in Leh/Ladakh, Bihar, and Assam, AIDMI recommends that coherent disaster risk reduction frameworks for higher education bodies and training teachers in mid-level disaster risk reduction skills should be developed.
- Although key national and state-level authorities involved in disaster management have received support and attention to carry out risk reduction activities, overall the public sector's management of risk can be enhanced. The suggested actions are governance and capital development initiatives. AIDMI makes this recommendation based upon the OSDMA's work on self-assessment.
- Disaster risks intersect with social, economic, and environmental issues. They also involve a multitude of stakeholders. As



this has only been recognised recently, multi-sector areas need more scoping and mapping in coming years. Drawing upon its experience in reviewing disaster management plans for cities in Assam and its community resilience work in Odisha with ECHO and Concern Worldwide, AIDMI suggests that strategic actions around developing operational pilots for building green (or greening) cities, promoting partnerships with poor communities, and developing regional multi-level, multi-sector public (and private) investment frameworks are needed.

- Health needs in disaster situations have received attention but this has mainly been limited to creating safer hospitals through trainings and drills. Greater attention must be given to service delivery and one way to achieve this is to enable the effective spread of emergency health services in districts and cities. AIDMI bases this recommendation upon its district disaster management

planning activities in Bihar, Odisha and Leh/Ladakh, as well as its work in conducting urban mock drills and emergency management exercises in Mumbai, Chennai, Guwahati, Delhi and Jorhat.

- Ensuring the resilience and delivery of water and municipal infrastructure services, especially in rural and poor areas, are issues that need more attention. Following its scoping study on urban sanitation in Bangladesh and its convening of the National Round Table on Sustainable Drinking Water with the Government of India and state governments, AIDMI recommends that measures to promote risk reduction innovations in wastewater management, urban sanitation and drinking water are needed.

The above key areas and strategic actions are not exhaustive but indicative. It is hoped that a national task force is set up to steer post-2015 scoping activities for India. Perhaps the UNDP and NDMA will take a lead? ■

Shaping Post-2015 Development (HFA) Agenda Bottom-up

AIDMI Statement of Contributions to HFA During 2012-13

All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) is a registered non-governmental organisation based in Gujarat, India. It is a community-based action planning, research and advocacy organization, working towards bridging the gap between policy, practice and research related to disaster mitigation. Established after the 1987-89 Gujarat droughts, AIDMI has expanded its work over the years to cover nine types of disasters in twelve areas of India and beyond to eight countries in Asia. AIDMI strives to link local communities to national and international levels of risk reduction, relief and long-term recovery policies and programmes. As an operational and learning organization, AIDMI works towards promoting disaster risk mitigation and adaptation to climate change risk by supporting, capturing, processing and disseminating disaster related information, lessons and innovative

ideas as well as conducting stakeholder round tables, trainings of trainers, reviews, evaluations, and pilot projects.

The Hyogo Framework for Action

The World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) convened in Kobe, Japan in 2005 identified five priorities in its action plan the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA):

1. Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation;
2. Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning;
3. Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels;
4. Reduce the underlying risk factors;
5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

AIDMI Statement of Contributions to HFA During 2012-13

The principles of global post-2015 development agenda of UN are inherent in AIDMI's organizational vision and mission. The vision of the post-2015 development agenda of the UN builds on the principles of respect for human rights, equality and sustainability. AIDMI's work is aligned to these principles. Striving to be 'a peoples' organization', in the field of disaster and risk reduction through action research, AIDMI works towards achieving a safer life for all human beings, especially the poor and vulnerable. Since 1989, AIDMI works with India's poorest and most vulnerable communities. The following statement offers a brief overview of how AIDMI's humanitarian and risk reduction initiatives and their results contributes to the HFA goals and how it can help shape post-2015 development agenda bottom-up.



AIDMI Statement of Contributions to HFA During 2012-13

HFA	AIDMI role	Sector and key issues	Examples of compliance	Key outcomes	Key messages to policymakers	Priorities for DRR investment
P1. Governance	Advocate to make disaster management plans inclusive	Disaster Management Plans: Most district/provincial DM planning processed experience constraints of necessary knowledge, skills and resources and still remain top-down and single-time exercise.	Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir and Odisha: AIDMI launched a national campaign on making district/provincial DM plans inclusive with Cordaid, Netherlands in India.	Enhanced focus of local DM plans in India on risk faced by the poor and excluded.	National Disaster Management Authorities and UNOSSC: Process of local DM planning is hardly shared between two districts and countries of the global South. There is a need to establish Southern link on local DM planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The initiative is replicable in other states of India and neighbouring countries. An international event on “DM Plans and Southern Challenges” is planned during July 2013.
	Advocate to include DRR in development policies and recovery planning	DRR mainstreaming: Opportunity for mainstreaming DRR into development planning and sustainable recovery and reconstruction in Asia, usually remain a missed opportunity.	National: AIDMI developed training manual on long-term recovery and reconstruction strategies for senior policy makers and programme managers for NIDM.	Improved focus on converging DRR with recovery in decision making.	National Disaster Management Institutes and UNDP: Integrating DRR into development require sensitization of policy makers. But, relevant teaching materials and effective training methods for them are in a short supply.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The training manual is suitable for launching an on-line course for policy makers. Piloting of the manual is planned with suitable disaster management authorities.
	Enable communities to participate in DRR processes	Child-centred DRR: Children remain most vulnerable and at risk and suffer the most when a disaster strikes. Still, they often remain excluded from disaster management and adaptation planning processes.	Bihar: AIDMI launched a state platform on Children and Child Centred DRR – the first of its kind in India – with the Bihar Inter-Agency Group, the Bihar State Disaster Management Authority and UNICEF India.	Improved participation of children in activities targeting them.	UNICEF and Child-centred agencies: State-level children's platforms can be effective advocacy tools for child rights and child-centred disaster risk reduction. They provide rare opportunities for children to voice their concerns directly with decision makers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIDMI is planning to expand the approach in other states of India. An international event on “Southern Perspectives on Children, DRR and Climate Change Adaptation” is planned.
P2. Risk identification	Promote innovative risk assessment approaches	Auditing school safety: Commonly regarded as temples of learning, schools in India are often located in vulnerable areas and unprepared to respond to emergencies.	Six states of India: With support from NDMA and SDMA, AIDMI has covered 608 schools; 1, 53,210 students; and 3741 teachers under school safety audit.	Greater awareness on risk exposure of schools and children.	UNICEF and Child-centred agencies: Widely acknowledged as temples of learning and potentially “safe havens” against disasters, assessment of risk faced by schools needs to be emphasized in DRR.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIDMI is planning to cover more states in India. The process of school safety audit is relevant and replicable in other neighbouring countries.
P3. Knowledge	Support information sharing and cooperation	DRR networking: Weak coordination among agencies and authorities continues to be a major challenge for effective DRR and emergency response.	South Asia: with the <i>DuryogNivaran</i> , AIDMI contributed India country profile for the ISDR Asia Partnership on regional stocktaking and mapping DRR interventions.	Greater availability of information for planning and decision making.	Multi-lateral and bi-lateral donors: DRR portal promotion efforts can effectively answer: who is doing what and where and thus helps to identify gaps, increase cooperation and improve planning on DRR.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIDMI plan to document and contribute good practice case studies from India. Support is sought to develop state level information portals.
	Facilitate training and learning on DRR	Safer schools: Examples across the globe show that children are more vulnerable to disasters and unsafe schools make them even more vulnerable to disaster risk.	Assam: With Assam State Disaster Management Authority, AIDMI conducted 40 trainings covering 1682 participants from 25 district of Assam.	Improved standards of safety in targeted schools.	National School Safety Programmes: Lessons from school are often conveyed to the home. Thus, schools can be effectively used as a medium for creating wide-spread awareness on disaster risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is planned to carry out safety audits in trained schools. Pilot project for implementing risk mitigation measures is under consideration.
	Promote DRR research and its application	Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs): India's 26 million MSMEs are among the worst sufferers of disasters. Still, limited knowledge exists on how disasters affect them and what measures can make them resilient.	India: With support from UNDP's BCPR, AIDMI prepared the India case study on MSMEs and disasters. This study is a part of UNDP's larger study on MSMEs and disasters.	Improved knowledge on impact of disasters on MSMEs for decision making	UNDP BCPR, UNIDO and SME authorities: The first responders after a catastrophe are often MSMEs. Continuity of their businesses is crucial for promoting a speedy and lasting community recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIDMI has planned to develop more knowledge resources on MSMEs and disasters in India. The livelihood relief fund of AIDMI is gearing-up to support MSME recovery across India.

HFA	AIDMI role	Sector and key issues	Examples of compliance	Key outcomes	Key messages to policymakers	Priorities for DRR investment
		WASH: Access to clean drinking water and sanitation still remains an unfulfilled promise in many areas affected by disasters.	Bangladesh and India: With SNV, a WASH scoping study to explore areas for investment in small towns and a round table on sustainable drinking water for everyone with IRC organised in India.	Improved knowledge on extending safer WASH facilities in vulnerable areas	UNICEF and WHO: The progress on MGDs – ‘The proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation...’ can be sustained and accelerated by integrating DRR.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan to launch child’s right to improved WASH campaign. Support networking and knowledge sharing at national and international levels with south-south links in mind.
		Emergency response and early recovery: Recurrent flooding causing massive loss of life and property on annual basis is a major challenge for DRR in India.	India: AIDMI documented lessons from 2011 flood response by the ECHO partners (ACTED, Action Aid, ADRA, CARE, CONCERN, DCA, PLAN and Save the Children).	Better response and recovery planning for flood hazard	Humanitarian Agencies: Response to rapid on-set disasters such as floods in India requires investment in learning from past experiences to inspire systemic improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIDMI plan to carryout national review on potential of cash transfers in India. A round table on the national Food Security Bill is planned.
P.4. Reducing underlying risk factors	Integrate DRR strategies with CCA and development	Climate smart DRR: Integration of CCA approaches in DRR and development is not widespread. DRR, CCA and development initiatives continue to remain separate areas in policy making.	Odisha: With Inter Cooperation Social Development India and IDS, Sussex in UK, AIDMI assessed institutional barriers and lacunae in integrating CCA in DRR and Dept.	Better links between DRR, CCA and development initiatives	UNEP and IUCN: Environment resilience is a fundamental pre-condition for human resilience. Climate smart DRR is a way of achieving development that is resilient to both hazards and impacts of CCA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIDMI is trying to forge greater links between DRR and CCA, with like-minded agencies. AIDMI aims to integrate this theme with its training and advocacy events.
	Support community-based risk transfer mechanisms	Risk transfer: Micro-insurance can be a potentially viable option for protecting assets of the poor against disasters but is often unavailable to them.	India: AIDMI continued covering the poor households and vulnerable schools with <i>AfatVimo</i> (disaster insurance) schemes as an effective mean of climate friendly DRR.	Transfer of individual risk to financial markets	National Livelihood Missions, ILO, IFAD, the World Bank and ADB: Convergence of livelihood support and micro-insurance with mitigation measures can effectively reduce financial risk of individuals and communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch a national campaign on disaster micro-insurance. Refine and promote <i>AfatVimo</i> as national disaster insurance scheme and lessons around it.
P.5. Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response	Build institutional capacities for disaster response	Disasters and human rights: Mandated to respond in case of crisis, emergency response services often lack sensitivity towards human rights issues and necessary skills of dealing with the affected.	Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar islands: With NHRC, AIDMI conducted trainings on human rights and disasters covering 100 officers from police, railway and health Dept.	Better sensitised emergency response teams for protecting human rights in emergencies	National Authorities: Nation-wide and inter-regional initiatives on enhancing capacities of emergency response teams of key government departments to protect human rights in crisis are needed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIDMI has planned to conduct such trainings in 6 states of India with NHRC. It is planned to institutionalise rights perspective in National Disaster Response Force SOP.
	Promote South-South Cooperation as a 'Centre for Excellence'	South-South cooperation: While Southern approaches are more relevant for DRR in the global South, most DRR agendas remain dominated by the global North.	Asia & Pacific: With UNOSSC and UNDP, AIDMI organised the Sixth academy on using cash transfers for recovery and DRR covering 33 participants from Asia & Pacific.	Greater South-South Cooperation for knowledge sharing on DRR	UNOSSC: Establishing South-South links on DRR takes time and resources but can be more effective interims of impact and cost-effectiveness in a medium to long-run.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2013, two knowledge exchange events are planned. Draft proposal for South-South Disaster Management Facility is being finalized with UNOSSC.
	Support contingency planning and emergency drills	Emergency management exercise: In a country such as India, covering all vulnerable locations and stakeholders under such exercises remains a huge challenge.	AIDMI provided technical support for the Guwahati Emergency Management Exercise 2012 and conducted city wide school safety Trainings and mock drills.	Improved preparedness levels for emergency response	National Authorities: Continuity and evaluation of emergency management exercise will be crucial to ensure effective and well-coordinated response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AIDMI plan to develop innovative tools for covering wider populations. Advocacy efforts are planned to institutionalise this in SDMAs.

Contributors to HFA During 2012–13 Effort

International Organisations

Adventist Development and Relief Agency, India

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre

Brooking-Bern Project on Internal Displacement

Caritas India

Climate and Development Knowledge Network

Commonwealth Foundation, United Kingdom

Concern Worldwide India

Cordaid, The Netherlands

Duyog Nivaran, Sri Lanka

ECHO

Harvard Humanitarian Initiative

HelpAge India

Holdeen India Programme

IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre, Netherlands

Link Emergency Aid and Development

Save the Children, India

Tag International, UK

UN Disaster Management Team

United Nations Development Program

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia (UN-ESCAP)

United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation

United Nations Children's Fund

Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs)

Action for Food Production Organisation

Association for Stimulating Know How

Bihar Inter-Agency Group

Center for Environment and Education (CEE) Himalaya Secretariat

Centre for Sustainable Development and Food Security in Ladakh

Centre for Youth and Social Development

Coastal Development Planning Centre

Foundation for Public Interest

Inter Cooperation Social Development of India

Kalvi Kendra

Leadership for Environment and Development

Mahila Vikas Ashram

National Dalit Watch

Nari Gunjan

Rural Development and You

Rural Education and Action Liberation

Rural Uplift Centre

Sabuj Sangha

Society for Women Action Development

West Bengal Voluntary Health Association

Private Sector

Ahmedabad Management Association

Life Insurance Corporation of India

United India Insurance Company Ltd.

Universities and Research Centres

Academic Staff College, Saurashtra University, Gujarat, India

India Habitat Centre, Delhi, India

India International Centre, Delhi, India

Institute of Development Studies

Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Science, Mumbai, India

Sardar Patel University, Vallabh Vidhya Nagar, Gujarat, India

Saurashtra University, Rajkot, Gujarat, India

Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India

Governmental Organisations

Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation

Andaman and Nicobar Education Department

Assam State Disaster Management Authority

Bihar State Disaster Management Authority

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Government of Tamil Nadu

Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council

National Disaster Management Authority

National Human Rights Commission

National Institute of Disaster Management

Networks

Action Learning Network for Accountability and Performance (ALNAP)

American Centre, New Delhi

European Evaluation Society

Indo-Dutch Business Centre, Ahmedabad

International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA)

National Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction, Delhi

National Knowledge Commission, India

People in Aid

Sphere India

The Royal Commonwealth Society

World Conservation Union (International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN))

Capacity Building for HFA: Taking Stock and Moving Forward

Lessons from experiences of disasters in the past few decades have highlighted the inter-linkages between natural disasters and human development. That disasters hinder progress towards the MDGs is as widely accepted as the fact that development processes can increase disaster risks. This recognition has encouraged a shift in disaster management approaches from response to preparedness, and more recently, towards building resilience. The Hyogo Framework for Action (2005) has been the lodestar for this shift, emphasizing that¹ "efforts to reduce disaster risks must be systematically integrated into policies, plans and programmes for sustainable development and poverty reduction, good governance and supported through a multitude of stakeholder partnerships".

Implementation of the action plan set out by the HFA has been



Courtesy: Red R India.

Working towards HFA priority five through exercises like the WASH Cluster Simulation in Nepal.

accompanied by capacity building initiatives, often evolving in sync with the disaster management approaches. As we move forward towards envisioning the post-HFA agenda, it is also important that we take stock of our capacity building

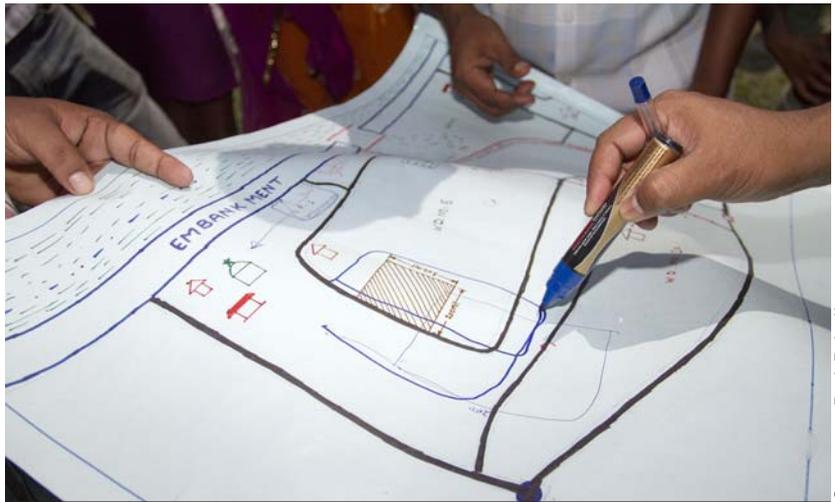
efforts and the emerging needs for the same. Completing 10 years as a capacity building organisation, RedR India looks back on its experiences of capacity building towards the HFA action plan, and explores focus areas for the future.

HFA Priority	RedR India's training and technical support
Priority 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training: Courses for SDMA officials, line departments, district administration on essentials of humanitarian practice, sector-specific disaster risk reduction, public health/flood preparedness • Technical Support: Capacity assessments of line departments e.g. PHED, development of sector-specific DRR modules for PRIs, support to SAARC summit and DRR conference
Priority 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training: Disaster Risk (Hazard, Vulnerability, Capacity) Analysis is an integral part of all DRR training courses • Technical Support: Child Rights Situation Analysis, Participatory Disaster Risk Analysis Manual for Field Workers
Priority 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support: DRR programme planning, project design and implementation, contingency planning, contextual analysis and reviews for mainstreaming DRR
Priority 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RedR India's approach to its capacity building and projects takes communities and stakeholders through a reflective experience of engaging with changing patterns of vulnerability and hazards, along with training in basic skills of disaster response. Technical support: Research studies, process packs e.g. school safety pack
Priority 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training: Community Emergency Response Teams and Task Forces (early warning, first-aid, camp management, search and rescue, WASH, nutrition etc.) • Technical Support: contingency plans and organisational disaster preparedness, operationalising standard operating procedures, simulation exercises

¹ UNISDR (2005)

Going forward from here, RedR seeks to keep the following existing and emerging capacity building needs in mind:

1. Strengthening local institutions like the district disaster management authorities, PRIs and urban local bodies with both knowledge of the disaster management institutional context, and skills for planning and implementing
2. Merging traditional knowledge and technological developments for risk analysis through participatory processes; building knowledge and skills for risk-informed development planning
3. Developing evidence-based tools and aids for disaster risk reduction, including disaggregated data about different groups in disasters



Courtesy: Red R India.

Enabling local actors to undertake risk-informed planning emerges as one of the key capacity building needs in the post-HFA agenda.

4. Helping capacity building efforts be informed by a capacity building framework, consolidating the current DRR

needs and the learning cycle approach. ■ **- Sheena Arora**
Coordinator - Knowledge Management and Learning, RedR India

A Brief Note on Hyogo Framework for Action

The Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) was the logical culmination of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan 2005. This framework chalked out a ten year plan for the duration of 2005-2015 to build up the resilience of nations and communities to disasters on a hitherto unprecedented scale.

The risks posed by disasters have been well known for long. However, in recent times this problem has been exacerbated by the interplay of various undesirable phenomena such as indiscriminate urbanization, environmental degradation, climate variability, geological hazards, the scare of epidemic outbreak, etc. Thus, to mitigate the increased disaster risk emerging out of the aforementioned factors, the HFA has devised a strategic and systematic approach.

In doing so the HFA has drawn heavily from the Yokohama Strategy of 1994. The Yokohama Strategy is a seminal work that provides effective guidelines on reducing the risks and impacts associated with disasters. As a build up to the WCDR, a review of the progress made in the implementation of the Yokohama Strategy was done. Such a review was necessary to assess the lacunae that preclude systematic action in the context of disaster risk reduction to achieve sustainable development. This review identified specific gaps in the following five main areas:

- Governance: Organizational, legal and policy frameworks
- Risk identification, assessment, monitoring and early warning
- Knowledge management and education
- Reducing underlying risk factors
- Preparedness for effective response and recovery.

Having identified these gaps, the WCDR then devised its strategy for

HFA to address the issue of disaster risk reduction in a concerted manner. With the view of achieving the outcome of 'substantial reduction of disaster losses, in lives and in the social, economic and environmental assets of communities and countries', the HFA has identified the following five priorities of action:

- Ensure disaster risk reduction is a national and local level priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
- Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning.
- Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.
- Reduce the underlying risk factors.
- Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

All the interventions suggested by HFA are aligned to the aforementioned priorities of action. ■ **- Kshitij Gupta**

Developing Concrete Action on South-South Cooperation in Asia Pacific Region

Building on the Outcomes of Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction Platform was held in Geneva over 21-23 May 2013. Over 3,500 participants from 172 countries participated. Keeping the needs of women central in Disaster Risk Reduction, the session also recognised private sector as an actor and partner in disaster risk reduction. Business resilience should be the top agenda for future disaster risk reduction. Need of holistic and comparable methodologies to assess the risks was realised. It was suggested that while leading at local levels, the important focus is to ensure that schools and hospitals are disaster resilient. There was a consensus during the conference that HFA2 should introduce the necessary innovations to address the challenges of an increasing risk over the next 20 to 30 years. The session called for the focus into implementation of the HFA2 as well.

In doing so, it is expected that HFA2 will recognize the need to govern disaster risk reduction and resilience with clear responsibilities, enable local action, address climate risk and recognize a central role for science. Specific focus should be on addressing the causes of risk, including the roles and contributions of stakeholders. UNISDR will lead the platform working on developing targets and indicators to monitor disaster risk reduction. Consultations for 2013-14 to discuss specific features of HFA2 were planned. The Session welcomed the Government of Japan's announcement to host the World Conference in Sendai, Japan. It will become the turning point for the implementation of the HFA2. The outcome of the World Conference will build upon the foundations of the 1989 International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction; the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action of 1994; the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction of 1999; and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015.

The following note is based on the Chair's Summary Fourth Session of the Global Platform:

Key messages from the 4th session of the Global Platform

Risk assessment: Drought prone areas subject to desertification, where food security and livelihoods are directly at risk, and in small island developing states, where exposure is high.

Targeting the root causes of risk: To date, countries report least progress on Priority 4 of the Hyogo Framework for Action: addressing the underlying sources of disaster risk.

Engaging communities achieves results: Inclusiveness, participation and empowerment have been identified as a means of ensuring lasting impacts on risk reduction.

Leading at the local level: Rapid urbanization in areas subject to both natural and technological hazard can result in significant potential risks, but also significant opportunities to transform approaches to resilient development.

Recognizing the private sector as actor and partner: Companies are not only exposed to natural hazards, but also often contribute to increased disaster risk while driving economic growth.

Strengthening risk governance: There is strong evidence that empowerment of communities and local governments to identify and manage their everyday risks is a sound basis for building strategies, programmes and budgets.

Strengthening scientific and technical support: Integrating disaster risk management into higher education curricula spanning the range of social and natural sciences should be a priority.

HFA2: Consultations that drill down on specific features of the HFA2 are planned for 2013 - 2014, through the regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, national level dialogues and intergovernmental meetings, and special studies. ■

- Gautam Bhut and Mehul Pandya

SEI Invests in Enhancing Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change in Asia



Recognising the increasing demand for improved knowledge, methods, and tools for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation, Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) is establishing a new program on disaster resilience and is building the capacity of its Asia Centre in Bangkok. The recent recruitment of two Senior Research Fellows (Dr Frank Thomalla and Dr. Bernadette (Babette) P. Resurrección) has bolstered the Centre's ability to conduct applied research to support policy and practice on disaster resilience, with a particular focus on the politics and gender aspects of disasters.

This strategic investment builds strongly on SEI's existing capacities that include research on vulnerability and adaptation, technical support on adaptation, capacity-building for adaptation planning and vulnerability assessment, and national and regional-level adaptation policy.

Several SEI researchers are authors of the recent IPCC Special Report, *Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX)*. The contribution by SEI highlights the importance of addressing socio-economic factors that compound vulnerability to disasters and climate extremes. The report also shows that stronger international efforts will not necessarily lead to substantive and rapid results at the local level, because there is a need for greater integration. There is also a pressing need to integrate adaptation with socio-economic development, both within the UNFCCC and in individual countries.

In another project, SEI conducted an analysis of the progress of 121 Local Governments towards the priorities for action of the Hyogo Framework

for Action (HFA). This included the development of a strategic multidisciplinary outlook to inform the future HFA2. The work was presented at the Global Platform as part of the UNISDR campaign Making Cities Resilient, which has the goal to achieve resilient, sustainable urban communities. A growing number of local governments are taking actions to reduce the risks to disasters, and the campaign provides common standards and tools. A longer-term objective is to empower local governments with stronger national policies to invest in risk reduction at local level, as part of urban and regional development plans.

SEI's WASH and RESCUE project focuses on the preventive actions needed for WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) systems in Resilient Cities. Human health and security in urban areas are increasingly under threat from extreme waters, e.g. floods and droughts. The aim of the project is to develop a risk assessment method that includes a more holistic approach, taking into account broader social and environmental factors. Another goal is to investigate effective social learning mechanisms between stakeholders (political decision makers, NGOs, INGOs, experts and researchers, the public, etc.) to speed up adaptation for infrastructure, building standards, regulation, urban planning, education, management of ecosystem services and land use in river basins.

In upland villages of Vietnam and Thailand, SEI studies how development policies influence the capacities of local actors to adapt to climate change. This research demonstrates that policies aimed at supporting the commercial production of rubber and maize on forestland can increase the risks connected with storms and flash

floods. Frequent losses caused by such events undermine livelihoods and create debts. Farmers and other local actors argue that cultivated areas should be located within the forest in order to protect crops better from natural hazards and to allow for an expansion of forest cover. However, such a method for cultivation is not possible within the existing policy frameworks.

In Europe, SEI is involved in the EU-sponsored emBRACE project (Building Resilience Amongst Communities in Europe). It is developing models and indicators to understand how resilience to natural disaster can be improved in local communities. Case studies are in the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Poland, Switzerland, Turkey, the UK and range from large scale flooding and earthquakes to extreme heat events. Project partners are from Belgium, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the UK and in each case we are working with local NGOs and local governance agencies.

SEI plans to develop its work on disaster resilience and climate adaptation with a view to determine different perspectives of what disaster resilience should look like, and to identify factors contributing to the success and failure of resilience building efforts in different contexts. Ultimately, we aim to provide concrete recommendations to policymakers and practitioners based on extensive review and analysis of the literature and existing case studies from Asia and globally. ■

- Frank Thomalla, PhD

Senior Research Fellow, SEI, Bangkok, Thailand

For more information on these projects and other SEI activities in Asia and globally, please visit www.sei-international.org

Protecting School Children From Heat Waves in Ahmedabad

The Indian Institute of Public Health Gandhinagar (IIPHG) of the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) in partnership with the Natural Resources Defence Council (NRDC) launched the first of its kind Heat Action Plan¹ (HAP) for Ahmedabad, India. This is based on a series of research studies done in Ahmedabad² to assess population vulnerabilities and suggest appropriate adaptation measures. School children are an effective entry point for reaching households with health messages.

Our studies show³ that those of particular susceptibility to heat related illnesses are children and the elderly. The HAP places considerable importance on raising awareness of the dangers of high heat to these age groups and those groups. To this end, schools can ensure that children are aware of the dangers of high heat, the necessary precautions and the

appropriate measures that need to be taken should any of the school community succumb to a heat related illness. Ensure that teachers modify or suspend normal school activities during excessively hot days. Postpone any outdoor or sporting activities during heat wave conditions. Increase access to the coolest areas of the school for lessons or other activities. Ensure students with special needs (specific medical conditions/multiple impairments) are appropriately supervised including the monitoring of their hydration. Facilitate and encourage students to eat lightly, drink plenty of water and stay away from the sun. Raise awareness of and undertake proper first aid procedures in the event of a student/staff member suffering from heat related illnesses and make arrangements for the student to be sent home. Prepare communication strategies for the school community after being informed by the appropriate

authorities that a heat wave is imminent. And, if possible, bring about school closures during forecasted high temperature days.

In view of the increasing periods of extreme temperatures due to climate change, these simple measures can be effective in reducing excess death and sickness. Although heat waves have killed more people than any other natural disasters they are yet to receive due attention. We urgently need to include heat adaptation as a part of disaster management and planning. ■

– Dileep Mavalankar,
Gulrez Shah Azhar,

Priya Dutta and Ajit Rajiva for the
Ahmedabad Heat Action group

1 www.egovamc.com/downloads/HealthCare/healthpdf/heat_action_plan.pdf

2 www.nrdc.org/international/india/extreme-heat-preparedness/

3 mdpi.com/1660-4601/10/6/2515

Local Disaster Management Planning and Post-2015 Development Agenda

- Local Governance: HFA2 must emphasise on local governance such as empowerment for local line departments, local organisations, community, local associations i.e. youths, and small businesses etc.
- Inclusion of Political persons such as MPs and MLAs and build their understanding on DRR.
- Focus on Child Centred Disaster Risk Reduction to promote children's participation.
- Local level Disaster Management Planning must be done through inclusive process.
- HFA2 should also focus on issues related to management of information i.e. Crisis Information Management.
- HFA2 must focus on empowerment of small and medium size businesses. Their participation, their empowerment, recovery etc.
- HFA2 should also emphasise on issues related to protection of rights of the people in disasters and its awareness among the right holders.
- HFA2 should highlight Humanitarian Accountability. Awareness of Humanitarian Accountability at national, state and local level.
- HFA2 should focus on institutionalising audit mechanism to assess the level of preparedness.
- HFA2 should focus on establishing monitoring mechanism to assess the implementation of preparedness plans.
- HFA2 should focus on mainstreaming disasters as essential component of the development agenda in policy making. ■

– Vandana Chauhan

EVENT

First Session of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction



The first session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) was organised from May 13-14, 2013 at Delhi. AIDMI shared experience with focus on risk transfer through insurance as an opportunity for humanitarian workers and participation of children for effective results.

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