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NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
#We4Resilience

A TOOL FOR EMPOWERING COMMUNITY
AND STRENGTHENING NETWORKS

**Conference
Booklet**

October 13-14, 2022
India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

Caritas India promotes Community-led actions toward linking relief and rehabilitation to development (LRRD) and focuses on nutrition-sensitive initiatives as thrust areas. 'Global Programme India', one of Caritas India's cluster programmes, aims at improving the lives of marginalized population by focusing on resilience to natural disasters, enhanced nutritional and food security, social inclusion, and strengthening civil society learning. Through a multi-sectoral approach, Global Programme facilitates the initiatives at micro, meso, and macro levels, interconnecting these developmental themes towards resilience building at community and institutional levels. The programmes benefits reach out to over 3 Lakhs population in 260 villages of 17 districts of four Indian states of Assam, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal.

As a step towards resilience-building education and awareness, the #We4Resilience campaign started in October 2021 and the year-long campaign brought significant impacts such as proactive engagement of volunteers, effective multi-stakeholders dialogues leading to development, strengthened civil society networks, and GO-NGO coordination and collaboration. The campaign events such as “3 days in a village,” Community Samvad (Dialogues), and district and state-level consultations have not only brought in awareness but also brought out the people's aspirations and community solutions towards a resilient, nutrition-sensitive, and inclusive society. These solutions have been discussed through state-level consultation workshops in partnership with Government departments and Civil Society Networks.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Caritas India at the national level is organising a two days national conference in partnership with UNICEF and the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) on 13-14 October 2022 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The conference aims to create an interface between community representatives, policymakers, and humanitarian actors to develop coherence and integrate national-level strategies and solutions under the guidance of technical experts and development practitioners. The event also will be a platform to observe the International Disaster Risk Reduction Day 2022 with a focused session on Risk-Informed Gram Panchayat Development Planning.

There will be panel discussions, presentations, and sharing by experts, representatives from national and state Governments, UN agencies, civil societies, partners, and community leaders. This will promote cross-learning between GOs, NGOs, CSOs, network leads, and inter-agency members by reflecting upon Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, system strengthening approach in “Poshan Abhiyaan” and community-based best practices.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen networks working in the areas of resilience-building to natural disasters, enhanced nutritional and food security, and social inclusion, and hence promote strengthening civil society learning.
- Create the knowledge hub, to exchange ideas and scale up good practices of resilience building.
- Strengthening effective partnership with government departments at state and national levels.
- Discuss and derive possible joint initiatives for GO-NGO coordination.

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Archbishop Sebastian Kallupura

CARITAS INDIA



CHAIRMAN

I am extremely happy to welcome you to the National Conference on #We4Resilience: A Tool for Empowering Community and Strengthening Networks. The year is a remarkable for the entire Caritas India family as we celebrate our Diamond Jubilee with series of events reflecting the saga of the humanitarian and developmental interventions of the Catholic Church in India.

Resilience-building initiatives have been the key strength of Caritas India. Promoting community-led actions toward linking relief and rehabilitation to development (LRRD) and focusing on nutrition-sensitive initiatives are the two key thrust areas of Caritas India. The art of dialoguing is an important aspect that Caritas India has built in her programmes and bringing multi-stakeholders into a single platform to reflect the learnings is identified as a significant strategy. In this connection, Global Programme India acts as an instrument to interconnect the human-centered designs and community learnings towards redesigning the empowering community strategies with GO-NGO coordination.

The National Conference is an event to jointly reflect the Civil Society Learning process in partnership with Government and UN organizations. The year-long innovative #We4Resilience campaign approach could bring significant impacts such as proactive engagement of volunteers in Disaster Risk Reduction, Nutrition, and Food Security-focused system strengthening, effective multi-stakeholder dialogues leading to development, reactivated civil society networks, and enhanced GO-NGO coordination and collaboration. The event also will be a platform to observe the International Disaster Risk Reduction Day 2022 with a focused session on Risk-Informed Gram Panchayat Development Planning.

By highlighting several important conceptual and operational models that are currently being practiced by developmental actors, we hope that scientists, policymakers, and other stakeholders will be able to not only converge their ideas and practices but also realize the role of communities as change agents in the development spheres: Disaster Risk Reduction, Nutrition, and Food Security, Social Inclusion that emphasized by Caritas India's Global Program.

I sincerely take this opportunity to thank all the participants for taking out their valuable time to be with us in this endeavour of perceiving resilience building as a tool for empowering communities and strengthening stakeholder relationships.



Fr. (Dr.) Paul Moonjely

CARITAS INDIA

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The impact of climate change on building resilience is of utmost significance in ensuring the availability of food and livelihood. Extreme weather events, such as floods, cyclones, and droughts, place significant restrictions on the sustainable yield of crops. As a result, disaster risks rise along with farm earnings, debt levels and unemployment rates.

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) aims to make the globe more resilient to both natural and man-made catastrophes. While avoiding and lowering catastrophe risk is primarily the responsibility of each nation, the global community must nonetheless participate and work together to fulfil the goals and ambitions outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the SFDRR. It is well known that calamities affect the impoverished more severely and is true because of this those who are poor are more inclined to live in risky places, are less knowledgeable of ways to reduce or manage risks and are less likely to have the resources to begin with to finance such precautions. However, building communities' awareness and capabilities to prepare for and manage disaster risk is increasingly important nowadays because they serve as important first responders in the event of any crisis or disaster.

The long-term goal of establishing disaster-resilient development can be attained by "localising" preparedness as they are the first line of defence when any crisis strikes. They are best positioned to put local plans into action that aim to reduce casualties, limit damage to property and begin a prompt and effective recovery.

To develop coherence and integrate national & international level strategies and solutions under the direction of technical experts and development practitioners, this two days National Conference is being organised with the goal of creating an interface between local Government officials, policymakers, and humanitarian actors.

We warmly invite our distinguished resource individuals, panel discussions, presentations, and exchanges by experts, representatives from national, international, state governments, UN agencies, civil societies, partners and community leaders to kindle that flame of action in all of us and help us to identify and cross share the models, lessons, and resilience-building techniques.

Fr. (Dr.) Jolly Puthenpura

CARITAS INDIA



ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On 3rd October 2022, the Caritas India Family has lit the lamp for celebrating its Diamond Jubilee Year. This year is very special to us, just as special as your graceful presence today. So, I feel privileged to extend my warm welcome to you to the National Conference on #We4Resilience: A Tool for Empowering Community and Strengthening Networks.

Disaster Risk Reduction, Social Inclusion and Nutrition and Food Security are the thrust areas of our programme in Caritas India. Not only that the relevance of these themes has been elevating, but they are closely connected too. Hence, with targeted outcomes to tackle the complexities of each of the issues, our aim is to bring about holistic development and we are happy that our efforts are being channelized towards the most marginalized communities in the specific contexts.

We believe in the power of connection, communication and collaboration. With this National Conference, we aim to strengthen networks that seek to support resilience which as a result facilitate enhancing civil society learning, establish a knowledge hub to channel ideas and maximise resilient-building best practises. We also intent to enhance a productive cooperation with the national as well as the federal government agencies and consult to develop potential collaborative efforts between government and non-governmental organisations.

Resilience is the best form of strength. The ability to bounce back from adversities determine the future of the communities. Hence, resilience building has been of utmost importance to us. As the national conference is a collective of promising development practitioners, government stakeholders, policymakers, civil society and community members, we hope the spring of convergence towards catalysing for resilient communities and strengthening institutions in the areas of disaster preparedness, community-based nutrition management and social inclusion is achieved.

I express my sincere thanks to one and all present here today for this insightful event. I believe you would experience the aura of Caritas India as we rejoice our 60 years of contributing to the society and stay connected in the unity of our social commitment



Martina Appuhn

CARITAS GERMANY

NETWORK FACILITATOR

Multi-stakeholder engagement is the key

The determinants of disaster risk reduction, food and nutrition security, and social inclusion are interconnected and are identified as the key attributes for enhancing people's well-being. The increasing frequency of natural hazards and adverse impacts of climate change have become major challenges in achieving sustainable development. Civil Society Learning and Network strengthening are the two important aspects of resilient building initiatives.

This Global Program India is a community-led partnership model of Caritas India being implemented in the states of Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, and Odisha with the support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Govt. of Germany, and Caritas Germany.

The program aims at improving the lives of marginalized populations by focusing on resilience to nature, enhanced nutritional and food security, social inclusion, and strengthening civil society learning. Through a multi-sectoral approach, Global Programme facilitates the initiatives at micro, meso, and macro levels, interconnecting these developmental themes towards resilience building at community and institutional levels.

The program is facilitating the emergence of community-driven models and modules on disaster risk reduction, and food and nutrition security which can be upscaled or replicated.

As a step to promote resilience-building education and awareness, the We4Resilience campaign started in October 2021 to bring significant impacts such as proactive engagement of volunteers, effective dialogues leading to development, strengthened civil society networks, and Government and NGO coordination. I hope that the national conference will be an interactive platform to discuss and learn the community solutions and macro-level stakeholders' engagement on a larger scale.

Wishing everyone all the best in this National Conference as this brings along new challenges and goals that cannot be achieved without the contribution of everyone.

Mr. Arjan de Wagt

UNICEF



DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE

“All child centred services have great opportunity to contribute to disaster-risk-resilience agenda in the country. UNICEF is committed to work with Government, partners and frontline workers for accelerating implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction within social sector service delivery systems.”

All child centred services have great opportunity to contribute to disaster-risk-resilience agenda in the country, UNICEF is committed to work with Government, partners and frontline workers for accelerating implementation of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) within social sector service delivery systems.

I suggest all development and humanitarian organizations to align their effort along the 4 priorities of SFDRR:

- Understanding disaster risk: All sectors (social and productive sectors) should invest in capacity to quantify locally the damage and losses due to disasters and then systematically understand the drivers and determinants of risk within your sector, which will help roll-out risk-informed development planning and programming.
- Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk: Define roles and responsibilities within all social sector-line department to guide, encourage and incentivize sectoral development action to address disaster risk.
- Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience: Public and private investment in disaster risk prevention and reduction through both structural and non-structural measures are essential to improve the continuity of social-sector services during emergencies. Such comprehensive actions are cost-effective and instrumental to save lives, prevent and reduce losses and ensure effective recovery and rehabilitation.
- Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction: All development functions from national to local level should be prepared to launch timely and at-scale response, recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction. Such organized national/state/district level planning is an opportunity to «Build Back Better» through integration of disaster risk reduction measures.

I convey my heartiest greetings to everyone on this occasion and wish the event a grand success.

TECHNICAL SESSION 1

Sendai Framework, “all-of-society approach” action for India





**Shri Gyana Ranjan
Das, IAS**
Executive Director
OSDMA

Resilience building, risk identification and measures undertaken by Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA)

Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) is the first State Disaster Management Authority in India and its objective is to build the capacities of First Responders for effective response, reduction of damage due to natural disaster and make the state Zero Casualty.

Cyclone, Drought, Tsunami, Earthquake, etc are natural hazards but there is nothing “natural” about disasters. Often natural hazards are the reasons for disasters. However, the severity of disaster depends on the impact of a hazard on society and the environment or in the other words the exposer, vulnerability, and preparedness of society.

UNDRR defines “Disaster Risk Reduction is aimed at preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk, all of which contributes to strengthening resilience and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development”. This further explains that “disaster risk reduction is the policy objective of disaster risk management, and its goals and objectives are defined in disaster risk reduction strategies and plans”.

OSDMA focuses on preparedness, capacity building & inculcating risk informed programming strategies in key departments to increase the resilience of state, departments and communities. Practices integrating disaster risk reduction measures into the restoration of physical infrastructure and societal systems and into the revitalization of livelihoods, economies and the environment using recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phases after any disaster. Hence the magnitude of a disaster is result of the complex choices we make for our lives and for our environment. These choices relate to the nature of food security systems, how and where we build our homes, how our financial system works and even what we teach in schools. The decision and actions we take make us more vulnerable to disasters or more resilient to them. Hence to address this complex interlinked issue OSDMA aims at Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities to build Resilience of system and the community with a goal to reduce the damage caused by natural hazards, through a principle of prevention.

It is known that Odisha State and OSDMA have set their own benchmark in disaster response in the country, having remarkable experience in responding continuously to various disasters efficiently. Now the state has embarked to excel further and move from the culture of reactions and believe in creating a culture of prevention and achieving resilience through critical tools like Risk assessments, Education, Coordination, Supporting Policies, Laws, Good Governance, Risk informed Programming, Early Warning Systems, Contingency plans, Information sharing, Sustainable development, etc.

Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES): The State Government has taken up various initiatives for strengthening the early warning systems by implementing latest technologies and building partnerships with international agencies to curb the rising number of death tolls due to various disasters. The State Government has entered into a collaboration with the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES), Thailand on development and pilot implementation of decision support systems. RIMES Thailand, is a UN registered international and inter-governmental institution, owned and managed by its 48 Members and Collaborating States for building capacities in the generation and application of user-relevant early warning information. In India, it has collaborated with the government of Tamil Nadu through establishment of a long-term collaborative programme to enhance Early Warning System for all natural hazards. There are 122 automatic Early Warning Systems are in place and provide real time early warning messages to the most vulnerable groups.

Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force: In the post-super cyclone reconstruction and preparedness phase in the late 1999, it was felt necessary to constitute a professionally trained group equipped with state-of-the-art emergency equipment to assist the civil administration in search and rescue operation and relief line clearance for effective management of disasters in the event of natural as well as human induced disasters. Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF) is the first of its kind in the country having a force of 22 units carved out of the Orissa Special Armed Police (OSAP), Armed Police Reserve (APR), India Reserve (IR) Battalion and Specialized India Reserve (SIR) Battalions. With only about 50 personnel per unit of ODRAF, it is structurally a lean organization but its fitness and agility in responding to disaster situations make it a formidable force in disaster management. The highly trained manpower of the ODRAF is capable of handling multifarious disasters. The rank and file of the organization follows the military type of training in saving human lives and reaching out to the helpless population affected by disasters.

Multipurpose Cyclone / Flood Shelters: In post-Super Cyclone Odisha government release the need of safe shelters, actual needs for cyclone shelters basing on vulnerability of the population and socioeconomic condition of the locality have been assessed by independent and impartial studies conducted through a reputed institution like IIT, Kharagpur. With the objective to identify

the villages within 10 Km belt of coastline and to suggest exact locations, IIT Kharagpur (Bhubaneswar Ext. Branch) was engaged in the year 2000 to conduct a study and submit its report. The team of experts of IIT, Kharagpur mapped the entire area and suggested 512 vulnerable locations keeping in view the storm surge, where the cyclone shelter could be setup. Currently 817 cyclone shelters are functional in Odisha. Several shelter equipment's have been provided to each shelter, which will be used at shelter level during disaster. The equipment includes generator sets, inflatable tower lights & telescopic tower lights for night-time disaster management, power saws, search and rescue equipment, first-aid kit, free kitchen utensils, totalling more than 50 items. All shelters are having trained task force members. Regular training and mock drills are being conducted to make them practice the skills and ensure all equipment's functional before the disaster season.

Community Based Disaster Preparedness: More than 23000 villages had community-based preparedness from 16 districts under UNDP/MHA DRM programme from 2002 to 2009 and recently OSDMA also initiated VDMPs in few coastal districts and Tsunami preparedness plans are going on in 381 coastal villages.

Mock Drills: Annual mock drills are being carried out in all villages on 19th June of each year, since the year 2000 to ensure that the preparedness is intact at district and block levels at an annual basis and table-top exercises are also carried on 18th June of each year.

Observation of Disaster Preparedness Day: Odisha Disaster Preparedness Day and National Day for Disaster Reduction is observed every year on 29th October to commemorate destruction brought by Super Cyclone 1999 and to prepare ourselves for future disasters. Each year there are State level programmes, which are carried out in the forms of photo exhibitions, demonstration of equipment's and mock drills in collaboration with CSOs.

Resilient Housing: In the post Phailin scenario, World Bank Mission visited Odisha during October-December-2013 for assessment and need of the post-Phailin impact i.e. specially on life, property and livelihoods of the affected areas in the districts of Ganjam, Khordha and Puri. Due to Government of India intervention, the World Bank, based on the findings of their visit, agreed to extend assistance for disaster recovery and future risk reduction. Around 30,000 disaster resilient houses have been taken up under ODRP within 5 KM from the High Tide Line (HTL) in Ganjam,

Khordha and Puri districts. For the purpose, a policy guideline and ToR has been adopted for Owner Driven Construction of Houses (ODCH) for construction of about 300 sq. ft house (One bed room, one drawing-cum-bed room, kitchen and toilet) having other facilities like electricity and water supply facilities.

State Disaster Management Institution: Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) recognized the need to establish an Institute with Training, Research and Design facilities, so that more personnel may be adequately trained to support the community during times of such disaster, for a faster swifter and effective Disaster Response & Management. The proposed State Institute of Disaster Management is being developed by OSDMA for capacity building, as a part of the World Bank funded ODRP project.

Go-NGO Coordination: Non-Government organizations play critical roles in all phases of Disaster Management like relief, response, rehabilitation, reconstruction, recovery, preparedness and mitigation. Recent trends with respect to management of natural disasters have highlighted the role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as a vital stakeholder in the relief and response efforts especially with respect to facilitating communication and coordination between the administration and the affected community. NGOs have grass-root presence and strong linkages with the communities and can readily respond to the needs of the affected community. The Disaster Management Act, 2005 defines the roles and responsibilities of different government bodies and recognizes the prime responsibility of the state to be prepared for disaster response and the role of the humanitarian agencies and NGOs is to supplement the efforts of the government to help communities in coping and providing effective recovery from the disaster. “The 35 (2) of chapter V in DM Act 2005 says In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of subsection (1), the measures which the Central Government may take under that sub-section include measures with respect to all or any of the following matters, namely:— (a) Coordination of actions of Ministries or Departments of the Government of India, State Governments, National Authority, Governmental and Nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in relation to disaster management. The National Policy on DM 2009 also mentions that Non-Governmental Organizations will be encouraged to empower the community and generate awareness through their respective institutional mechanisms. In the context, regular GO-NGO coordination meetings are being held between OSDMA and the Inter Agency Group (IAG). The

IAG is the consortium of NGOs, Civil Societies and UN and International Agencies. NGOs and Civil Societies organizations played important role in management of Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm “FANI”. Series of coordination meeting were held between OSDMA and IAG members before, during and after the Cyclone “FANI”.

Gram Panchayat- the lowest Administrative Unit for taking decision on Disaster Management: Odisha government made disaster management an obligatory function of Gram Panchayats in Odisha, it means more community participation will ensure delegation of responsibility and authority for risk reduction and risk reduction can be part of Gram Panchayat Development Plan.

“We believe every decision can make us either more resilient or more vulnerable.” – UNDRR





**Mr. Pravin
Kumar**
*Project Officer
Bihar State Disaster
Management Authority*

Risk Informed Sustainable Development: Opportunities and Challenges

Risk informed approach is supplementary to sustainable development. Among the various types of risks, disaster risk is utmost important to consider during planning and policy mechanism. As we know that disaster and development are part of society where disaster causes destruction and gives challenges to build back better the path of development. Such challenges explore opportunities.

In India, Bihar, a multi-disaster-prone state may be an example of these two dimensions. Bihar's topography is marked by several perennial and non-perennial rivers causing floods in Bihar. Approx 73 percent of the total land area (94160 sq km) in Bihar is vulnerable to floods. Out of 38 districts, 28 districts are flood prone and 15 districts are highly flood prone. Annual flooding in Bihar accounts for about 30-40% of the flood damages in India.

Like the high flood vulnerability, the state is also highly vulnerable to earthquakes. It is located in the high seismic and has six sub-surface fault lines. According to Earthquake hazard zoning map, out of the 38 districts, 8 districts fall in seismic zone V (very high damage risk zone) while 24 districts fall in seismic zone IV (high damage risk zone) and 6 districts in seismic zone III (moderate damage risk zone). It has experienced the worst earthquakes in the year 1934 in which more than 10,000 people lost their lives. Again, the state witnessed earthquakes in 1988 and in 2015.

Apart from the floods and earthquakes, the state is also prone to other disasters in which the cases of lightning and drowning are alarming. Such challenges require a multi-disciplinary approach to deal with such scenario and such approach requires an active participation of various stakeholders from government to non-government, local to global with a continuous and integrated process of planning, organizing, coordinating and implementing measures that are necessary for different aspects of disaster risk reduction & mitigation.

To deal with the above challenges, the year 2004 appears as a clear marker in the state's disaster management history in which state experienced one of the worst floods followed by severe floods in 2007. The 2007 flood was followed immediately by a breach in the embankment at Kusaha (Nepal) on the Kosi River in 2008 causing vast damage to infrastructure and loss of lives and property. These disasters provoke a number of actions towards institution building and system strengthening for disaster management in Bihar and such actions require multi-disciplinary approaches.

Political will to reduce or prevent disasters effectively led to Department of Relief and Rehabilitation renamed as Department of Disaster Management, (2004) and adoption of the National Disaster Management Act in 2005, followed by establishment of institutions like Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA-2007), District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMA-2008), State Executive Committee (SEC-2008), State Disaster

Response Force (SDRF-2010) with clear mandates for different aspects of disaster management. It was an inception journey of paradigm shift in the state from relief to management. Besides the government institutions, lessons learnt from the 2004 flood the Bihar Inter Agency Group (B-IAG), comprising civil society organizations and UN agencies, was formed in 2004 to better coordinate disaster risk reduction & mitigation as well as response measures along with Government of Bihar.

To perform in an integrated and effective manner, the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on flood disaster management, drought, fire, crowd management, drinking water crisis, fire safety in hospitals and guidelines on fire, lightening and drowning prevention along with various training modules (Hindi) were developed in the State.

Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA), together with Disaster Management Department of Government of Bihar and other stakeholders have been undertaking various initiatives towards capacity building of various stakeholders and awareness generation about disaster risk reduction and its mitigation measures. These are some of the key initiatives:

- Training of Bihar Administrative Service (BAS) & Bihar Police Service (BPS) and other officers.

- Mukhyamantri School Safety Programme (MSSP)
- Hands on training of Masons at block level, and Training of Engineers & Architects at district level for earthquake resistant construction techniques.
- Training of PRIs representatives.
- Training of Boatman, Boat owners and boat surveyor about boat safety operation.
- Training of community volunteers by State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)
- Construction of multi-disaster safety clinic and free advisory centre at Engineering College/Polytechnics in each district.
- Establishment of Bihar Seismic Telemetry Network (BSTN).
- MoU with technical institutions such as
 - o IIT Patna for development of Rapid Visual Screening (RVS) norms
 - o NIT Raipur for development of earthquake shake table
 - o IISC Bangalore for developing flood forecast model for the Kosi River basin

To consider the above challenges and potential opportunities, Bihar is continuously moving towards its vision of “Disaster Resilient Bihar” and it welcomes the other stakeholders to be a part of the State's vision.





**Dr. Jaison
Varghese**
*Senior Programme Lead
Global Programme, Caritas India*

Caritas India's Global Program: A Localised Approach to Achieve Sendai Goals

How can we address the needs of the community who have been traumatized by recurring natural calamities and its impacts? How can those needs be addressed in totality? What are the factors that a community feels proud of while facilitating disaster response, recovery, and rehabilitation actions and consolidating the learnings for upscaling and replications?

Being a process-oriented exercise, Disaster Risk Reduction occupied a significant space in the development sphere. The paradigm shifts from charity to empowerment, relief to resilience building, need-based to right-based, and activity or inputs oriented to result-driven are considered pivotal milestones in the social animation process which emerged over a period.

Caritas India, the organization looking at community learning and people-led impacts, has thought of how a compact and synergized approach can be integrated through the Global Programme and how civil society learning can be strengthened through a systematic people-led approach that brought learning flows from village to district, state, and national levels, and then it flows back to the village with validated ideas and policy recommendations. In this connection, the #we4resilience campaign has emerged.

Sendai Framework 2030

With its seven targets and four priorities, Sendai Framework interconnects policies and actions toward building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters. The Sendai Framework calls for the design and implementation of safety-net mechanisms to strengthen the resilience of the poor to the impact of disasters. The Sendai Framework recognizes that reducing the risk of disasters is a fundamental aspect of climate change adaptation and sustainable development.

The Sendai Framework guides civil society organizations to come up with innovative strategies to reduce disaster mortality and damages through community resilient building initiatives. In order to be in accord with the targets and priorities of the Framework Goals, humanitarian and DRR-focused civil society organizations are encouraged to promote inclusive baseline assessment to ensure the inclusion of marginalized groups and to streamline risk assessment and planning and promotion of participation of children and women. The Sendai Framework has also given priority to the initiatives to make local self-government more accountable and to strengthen the state and national forums composed of relevant stakeholders for the implementation of instruments and mechanisms relevant to disaster risk reduction. The framework also stimulates the developmental actors for enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to “Build Back Better” in recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction.

Sendai Targets and Global Program

The increasing frequency of natural hazards and adverse impacts of climate change have become major challenges in achieving sustainable development. The Global Programme India is a community-led partnership model of Caritas India being implemented in the states of Assam, Bihar, West Bengal, and Odisha with the support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Govt. of Germany, and Caritas Germany. The program aims at improving the lives of marginalized populations by focusing on resilience to nature, enhanced nutritional and food security, social inclusion, and strengthening civil society learning. Through a multi-sectoral approach, Global Programme facilitates the initiatives at micro, meso, and macro levels, interconnecting these developmental themes towards resilience building at community and institutional levels. The program is facilitating the emergence of community-driven models and modules on disaster risk reduction, and food and nutrition security which can be upscaled or replicated. These initiatives are contributing towards achieving SF 2030 targets and priorities and Sustainable Development Goals: 2 (End hunger), 10 (Reduced inequality) and 13 (Climate action). The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 outlines seven targets.

Sendai targets 1&2: - Substantially reduce global disaster mortality & substantially reduce the number of affected people globally

The Global Program aimed at reducing the vulnerability of the population to disasters and the number of victims and extent of damage caused by disasters by improving the disaster management system at the national, state, and local levels. The program supports the State disaster management plans and facilitates its interconnection with local plans.

Sendai targets 3&4: - Reduce direct economic loss in relation to global GDP & Substantially reduce disaster damage to critical infrastructure and disruption of basic services

The program includes support and technical assistance for particularly vulnerable households and settlements to demonstrate environmentally friendly, disaster-resistant, and climate-adaptive solutions to secure livelihoods and protect infrastructure integrated into official DRR plans. These community infrastructure models are intended to demonstrate how civil protection can be further developed with both traditionally proven and innovative procedures. This includes planning to ensure basic services in emergencies.

Sendai target 5: -Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020

Global Program provides technical support, tools, and training to relevant local and regional actors for the development and implementation of integrated risk management plans. The plans cover the entire disaster management cycle, from prevention to preparation, and improvement of response capabilities to future protection through improved post-disaster reconstruction strategies. The plans at the municipal level are also related to the predetermined strategies at the district and state levels. Global Program supplements the state government initiatives to Develop District Disaster Plans and strengthen Civil Society Networks such as Inter-Agency Groups to make the DRR process more participatory and discussion oriented.

Sendai Targets 6: -Substantially enhance international cooperation with developing countries

The program identified multi-stakeholders' engagement at the national and international levels in the areas of disaster preparedness and food security, as well as social inclusion. The cooperation will be improved through systematic and regular exchanges, workshops, studies, and further education from specialist and higher education institutions, and accordingly, the channels for knowledge transfer are institutionalized. The program aims to make the positive results accessible to a wider audience on national and cross-border projects in neighboring regions. The program organizes exchange meetings and conferences to systematically exchange knowledge and experience with stakeholders from neighboring countries such as Nepal and Bangladesh facing similar challenges.

Sendai Target 7: Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk reduction information

Community-based early warning systems are institutionalized with the support of local community organizations in the selected villages. The Disaster Management Committees and the emergency response team are identified and trained to be capable enough to access the multi-hazard early warning and disseminate the disaster risk reduction information. For instance, in Sanpatha village of Baneniya Panchayat and Dholi village of Dholi Panchayat, Supaul district in Bihar, the members of the Disaster risk reduction committee built the community-based early warning system. The DRR committee set up measuring pillars at Sanpatha and Dholi, two points on the Koshi



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Children as agents of Change in the Risk Reduction Process

Links between vulnerability and deep structural inequalities in societies were not acknowledged and disasters were still seen as 'unfortunate' events rather than 'symptomatic of poverty and political crises' (Macrae, 2012).

Triple Nexus: Humanitarian – Development – Climate Change

It is undeniably recognized now, more than ever, that the intrinsic link between humanitarian crises, development and climate change is much more real and cannot any longer be ignored.

The statistics of humanitarian crises are staggering. Joint report of ADB and IDMC said that over 225 million have been displaced in Asia-Pacific Region between 2010 and 2021¹. Food insecurity has descended to abysmal levels not only due to Covid; but more specifically due to Ukraine War and other humanitarian Crises². However, our approach to resilience has been more tactically linked to disasters; and not dedicated to the efforts of development and climate change adaptation. As Steet's (2011) highlights, the concept of resilience building has been used with varying emphasis to mean one of three things:

- 1) the early application of development principles in emergency / 'humanitarian crises' settings - FRONT LOAD RESILIENCE (Early Recovery through Cash Transfers is a good example)
- 2) a 'smooth transition' from emergency aid to sustainable interventions on the ground.
- 3) the integration of prevention and DRR elements in development cooperation. Strategic importance of its intersectionality needs much more emphatic commitment at the level of policy, investment resources and implementation. The intersectionality between humanitarian crises, development and climate change adaptation is no longer an option; in fact, it is the essence of the way we must be implementing.

I wish to suggest that to realize “all of society approach”, it is important to focus on cultural aspects that have ability to harbour resilience in an uninterrupted and unbroken manner. This immediately drives us to focus on children and youth, who are going to be, nay, already, the sustainers of resilience.

Researchers have developed resilience models of three main types: “compensatory,” “protective,” and “challenge” models. Two additional concepts are resilient reintegration, in which a confrontation with adversity leads

¹Joint report of ADB and IDMC

²Food Security Update - 15 September 2022

individuals to a new level of growth, and the notion endorsed by some educators that resilience is an innate quality that needs only to be properly awakened.

The review suggests five areas for future research with an emphasis on youth: 1) studies to improve understanding of what makes some youth respond positively to risk and adversity and others not; 2) case studies providing empirical confirmation of the theory of resilient reintegration among youth; 3) more comparative studies on the role of culture as a resource for resilience; 4) studies to improve understanding of how youth, especially urban youth, who do not live in self-governed communities with strong cultural continuity can be helped to become, or remain, resilient; and 5) greater involvement of researchers who can bring a nonlinear world view to resilience research.

The term “cultural resilience” is frequently used to denote the role that culture may play as a resource for resilience in the individual. We focus on this term as it applies to whole communities or entire cultural systems. For this, a useful definition is that supplied by Healy (2006): community or cultural resilience is the capacity of a distinct community or cultural system to absorb disturbance and reorganize while undergoing change so as to retain key elements of structure and identity that preserve its distinctness.³

Voices of our Youth:

Satyajit Mohanty-Child Champion:

2011 is the year that I started to participate in the disaster related action. I was not fully aware of the Vulnerability and how to deal with it. I was given to understand about how children are vulnerable; and how it impacts children differently. I came to know how VDMC (Village Disaster Management Committee) and Task force activities were important to understand the risk reduction and how to reduce vulnerabilities. Early Warning, Search and Rescue, First Aid, Psycho-Social etc. - 3 types of warnings were useful to reduce risks. Idea was also to create friendly environment to children. Ideas of children must be recognized and respected. Exposure to other places and programs gave me new learnings. DRR - Development issues such as Education, were also addressed.

As a youth, I would like to train other children and communicate this knowledge to other villages around me. We engaged with Local PRI sarpanch and negotiated for helping people to build stronger houses, so that due to disasters, homes are not destroyed. This should be replicated everywhere, where risks of floods, cyclones and other disasters is likely to happen.

³<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2956753/>

Jyotsnarani Mohanty-Child Champion:

I began to participate in DRR activities since 2014 & when I was in 9th standard. Our area is highly disaster-prone area; but I had no idea about how to protect myself, my family and my village. By participating in DRR activities, I have learned a lot - from first aid, restart / continue education, etc. I also learned how to deal with adolescent girls' issues such as menstrual hygiene, health condition, etc. If you have developed yourself, you can develop your family and your village and society will also be developed. In the last 8 years, my village has developed. We have to understand and work further on issues such as malnutrition and climate change. We need a chance to share our understanding; and help others to others. My demand is that, in our efforts for risk reduction, we have to include everyone, children, youth, men, women and elderly. New Generation must get opportunities to learn and practice. I will use my knowledge and experience in all situations. Issues such as education, nutrition and gender issues are always important issues.

Treading a new pathway Forward:

When Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015 - 2030) has eloquently proclaimed that (ii) Children and youth are agents of change and should be given the space and modalities to contribute to disaster risk reduction, in accordance with legislation, national practice and educational curricula (SFDRR 2010 - 2030 #36.a.ii - page 22), the focus is very clear. Recent colloquy does not evidence this visibly.

It is critical to note that:

01. Participation of Children and Youth in Resilience and Adaptation need to go beyond 'tokenistic approach to deeper levels of engagement in an inclusive, consistent, long-term, sustainable manner, enabling Children and Youth to emerge as “Guardians of the Planet”.
02. Establishing a National and sub-National platforms for Children and Youth in Resilience and Adaptation: The role of Children and Youth in policy level dialogue needs to happen by design, and not by default; nor through ad-hoc event-based mechanisms.
03. Children and Youth have a “right to be heard”! In addition, Resilience and Adaptation must progressively be included as their right!

TECHNICAL SESSION 2

Risk-Informed Gram Panchayat Development Plans for Sustainable Development





**Mr Kirit
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Promotion Of Risk Informed Gram Panchayat Development Plan (Ri-Gpdp) And The Processes Of Mainstreaming

The 73rd Constitutional Amendment 1992 added Part IX to the Constitution titled “The Panchayats” covering provisions from Article 243 to 243(O) and a new Eleventh Schedule covering 29 subjects within the functions of the Panchayats. Article 243G of the Constitution focuses on the functions of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) which incorporated for economic development and social justice. Gram Panchayats (GPs) are responsible for delivery of basic services to local citizens and address vulnerabilities of the poor and marginalized. This can only be achieved through tracking the reach of the services and schemes and enabling the front line service providers. Besides this Gram Panchayat works towards equitable distribution of drinking water, access to sanitation, maintenance of public resources like water bodies, grazing land, etc. Disasters often deepen the vulnerability of the communities. The preparation of a Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP), therefore, becomes extremely significant incorporating local developmental issues, improving delivery of public services and minimizing the adverse impact of disasters including adapting to disaster risks.

Over the last two decades several initiatives have been taken by the State and the Central Government to encourage participatory planning process at the grass root level. However, due to various challenges like resource constraints, increased emphasis on physical activities and less on maintenance of public resources, inadequate people's participation, facilitation, convergence with different programs and schemes, recovery of damages and losses caused by the disasters, the pace of decentralized development has been hindered. The guideline developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) for the preparation of GPDP is an ideal guide to make holistic and comprehensive plans. Multiple rounds of trainings have been organized by the government to effectively formulate the plans. The Director of UNNATI being a National Monitor for MoPR for capacity development of PRIs on GPDP, observed that along with capacity development, the Gram Panchayats require a template and framework for GPDP formulation. In this context with the support of Unicef, UNNATI has been working with Gram Panchayats on preparation of GPDP incorporating the development and disaster concerns. During last two years, Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM) has been planning to mainstream Risk Informed GPDP by involving the Panchayati Raj Department and UNNATI.

The resources allocated under the 14th and the 15th Finance Commission is a significant source of funds available with the panchayats. In addition to it, convergence with various other schemes under MGNREGA, and other developmental schemes constitute a large resource envelope to address the local issues in a decentralized manner. Hence, the planning should be done in accordance with the needs and issues being faced by the communities and vulnerable groups. For example, activities related to issues of health, may be addressed through available resources

from NRHM and schemes under the health department. Similarly, other sectoral programs like education, water resource development, etc. should be taken into account while planning for GPDPs. The more decentralized a plan, the more sensitive and accommodating it is to the local context.

The situational analysis has to be done in a resilience framework considering all the various major and minor local risks and developmental issues. For instance, snakebite is one of the most neglected public health issues in tropical countries like India which has led to WHO formally listing snakebite a high priority neglected tropical disease in June 2017. There is a high human loss owing to lightning. There are impacts of major disasters like droughts, forest fire, insect attack on the crops, flooding, cyclone and earthquake on the community. The aim shall be to understand the different kinds of risks – not only from the perspective of big disaster events but risks that exist in this particular GP. Another common process is that the disaster recovery efforts are mostly designed by external organisations with little input from the affected community and are controlled and managed by those who have little knowledge of the area and its practices. As a result, many of the solutions offered are unsustainable or unsuitable for the community and its priorities. After Cyclone Tauktae in 2021, for example, the coastal community's requirements were expected to include house repair and not large-scale reconstruction. Communities comprise a heterogeneous mix of groups based on occupation, caste, gender, socio-economic capital, age, physical and mental health, etc. Hence, the development plans must address the existing inequities and prevailing social marginalization and economic vulnerability.

Purpose of RI-GPDP

RI-GPDP is an approach and a lens through which informs about risks and its impact on the development of a community. Through this process the communities identify and understand the disaster risks, monitor and respond to disaster risks including mitigation and coping, and thereby, enhancing their capacities and resilience.

Post the 2001 Gujarat earthquake, Village Disaster Management Plans were made in every Gram Panchayat and developed a cadre of capable human resources at the GP-level for better disaster response. These plans are not covered with the development plans. By converging development and disaster risks, one plan can comprehensively redress both issues. For example, a pond excavation plan under MGNREA can also address the issues

of moisture retention and choice of drought resistant crops. In the coastal area development of mangroove not only provides employment but also build a barrier to cyclonic wind. Since there are multiple provisions already exist, the consolidation of these provisions will lead to improving community-level disaster risk management.

Step by Step activities in formulating RI-GPDP

i. Understanding Risk and Situation Analysis

The disaster is most detailed at the micro level and its impact is most visible at the community level. It is important for the community to understand all the risks related to disaster and other hazards in a GP. Situation analysis comprises a Hazard, Risk, Vulnerability and Capacity assessment of the GP, which allows for the identification of major and minor risks. This should include the risk perception by the local communities since they are the ones who have been facing the impacts of the disasters.

ii. Identification of Practices, Systems and Knowledge on Disaster Preparedness, Response and Recovery

Community-based adaptation is critical to the process of addressing risks emerging from disasters and climate change. The adaptive capacity of the community are location specific. The traditional knowledge needs to be conserved and disseminated to the relevant stakeholders which can only happen if the community is a part of planning process. For example, in Majuli island in the Brahmaputra river basin, the communities have developed very sound coping mechanisms.

iii. Inclusion of Risk Reduction Agendas into Development Planning

If GP-level plans are made in a way that they address household level needs, the specific vulnerable groups will automatically be addressed. It is possible to incorporate household level issues of poverty and disparities. For example, the social housing programs shall incorporate housing safety in the construction, drinking water program can take up activities to protect the community water resources which can contribute to flood and drought proofing.

iv. Establishing Governance Mechanism and Capacities (capacity to respond and capacity to mainstream DRR into development planning)

Apart from planning for development and disaster response, preparedness and mitigation local capacities need be built by regular trainings and orientations of the Village Disaster

Management Committee, Response Task Force, PRIs, and functionaries of critical village institutions such as schools, anganwadis, PHC, CHC, Sub-Centres and other health infrastructure.

v. Reducing Vulnerability and Building Coping Capacity

Reduction of vulnerability and building coping capacity can be viewed at three levels: i) preparedness, ii) mitigation and iii) prevention.

To improve preparedness at the community-level for better response, basic disaster management mechanisms need to be established at the community level.

To enhance mitigation for reducing the impact of the disaster, linking short term and long-term mitigation actions with development plans can be done.

For prevention, such actions can be determined which will divert the risk from the community. Communities must build collective capacity apart from individual capacities through village institutions such as farmer groups (FPO), self-help groups (SHG), and other village institutions, as this will build their social capital.

vi. Practicing Principles of Inclusion

The socio-economic capacity of households contribute to either reducing or increasing their vulnerability and coping capacity. Due to decades of generational discrimination, special vulnerable groups are often ignored, while those having social, economic, political capital are often seen receiving protected first. Therefore, it is important to have the involvement of local stakeholders and communities for proper identification of the vulnerable and those whose needs should be prioritised. The inclusive approach must also be built into the role of all functionaries and outside responders.

vii. Convergence of Departmental Plans at GP-Level

Each sector and department have their own plans, at the Gram Panchayat, Taluka and District levels. For example, Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP), Village Disaster Management Plan (VDMP), School Development Plan, School Disaster Management Plan, Village Health Plan, Village Water Security Plan (VWSP), Village Land Use Plan, etc. needs to be covered as much as possible. The community-based plan must be accepted not only by the GP Functionaries but also by the departments. GPDP and other such plans can be the means for linkage between the sectors.

GP level plan must integrate department level and disaster mitigation and preparedness measures so that disasters do not adversely impact the development process.

Key Action Areas

In order to incorporate community-based participatory GP level planning, and disaster risk, a clear approach and guide needs to be articulated by the State Government instructing all stakeholders. In Gujarat, GIDM has taken the lead in involving the Panchayati Raj Department to promote RI-GPDP. It has also developed guideline and template for preparation of RI-GPDP. GIDM also trained officials to support the GPs in preparation of the plans.

RIGPDP template comprised of following segments

Chapter 1: Gram Panchayat profile including demographic details and community composition of GP

Chapter 2: Comprised of Sector Specific Gaps and Needs for Water, Power and Electricity, Road and Connectivity, Health, Women and Child Development, Education, Housing, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Labour and Artisans, Social Welfare and Protection, Public Distribution System, GP level and other Programmatic Committees

Chapter 3: Hazard Risk Identification Hazards and its Impact and actions for response, mitigation and for DRR

Chapter 4: Implications of Climate Change Risk and actions for local adoption

Chapter 5: Consolidation of Action Plans and Resource Envelope

Some of the important steps are mentioned below.

- I. Developing a RIGPDP Framework, incorporating key elements from climate change adaptation, disaster risk management, and convergence with departmental and GP level plans
- II. Identification of relevant stakeholders at the GP, taluka and district level, and defining their roles and responsibilities to achieve Disaster Risk Management.
- III. Identification of gaps in comparison to the current GP Development Plan and MoPR Guideline,
- IV. Situation analysis and case studies of community-led/initiated DRM actions addressing disaster risks, agro-climatic vulnerabilities, etc.
- V. Developing a mechanism for coordination and convergence between departments and stakeholders

- across all sectors in the government and community.
- VI. Increasing the role of citizen and their participation in general governance mechanisms of the GP, and orientation of the GP and department functionaries in inclusive approach.
 - VII. Regular orientation of outsiders (other functionaries) in behaviours which enable and promote participatory and GP-led planning.

- VIII. Use of technology to improve the planning the monitoring mechanism at GP through- mapping and database management and digitization of all maps and databases, planning documents, etc.





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Disaster Clinics Through Local Governance: Communitization Of Building Resilience

Panchayati Raj Institutions have been considered as the most accomplished, systematic, and well-organized structure of governance within the Indian Democracy. Governance, of and by the people, is what, Panchayati Raj affirms. This structure goes a long way in accelerating and augmenting the voice of the communities for improved development. Panchayats can work as a catalyst for social mobilization and bringing a symphony of local indigenous wisdom together with modern knowledge, technology, and practice.

The Panchayat mechanism can be a very strong platform to advocate, liaison and exuberate a facilitative role in disaster management. As representatives of the local communities on the ground, they represent the traditional knowledge, wisdom, changing patterns of risk within the local environment. Unfortunately, this local governance structure is only perceived as another government structure to handle administrative and economic concerns of the ground.

At Caritas India, Animation as practiced by communities across the country has become an effective strategy for enabling local knowledge systems, community institution building, local self-governance, increased self-esteem and appreciation for indigenous wisdom. One of the most credible and genuine ways to accelerate community participation and mobilization is through the window of Panchayati Raj Structures. This has a manifold impact, as it not only amplifies community engagement and involvement in risk resilience measures but also steers the local governance structures to be exposed to the socio affiliated ground challenges and potentials for better functioning and sustainability.

Prompted and guided by this insight, one of the prime breakthroughs that Caritas India has been able to make is “Disaster Clinics”- a cornerstone that aims to create risk information, care and support available and accessible at the grassroots level amongst communities that are frequently prone to calamities of different magnitude and intensity. These Disaster clinics are affiliated to the local governance structures that help in articulating community needs for drafting community led preparedness plans, activating community led disaster management and contingency plans, formation of task forces and community led response mechanisms on the ground.

Caritas India in collaboration with the local panchayats and wards, facilitates a series of knowledge & capacity building activities to set up Disaster Clinics with formation & strengthening of response/preparedness task forces from amongst communities. These clinics are chaired by the Ward Disaster Management Committee. Through this intervention, Caritas India aims to foster a decentralized bottom-up approach to disaster risk reduction and

building risk resilience through participatory and community managed micro-interventions (that will also analyse and assess development risks) at the local ward level pertaining to all sectors that are related to sustainable development (health, education, livelihood to name a few). Therefore, through disaster clinics, the resilience building of the selected community will focus on tackling risks within the community by the community to mitigate/reduce disaster shocks on livelihood, property, finance, education to name a few.

Another important aspect of accelerating local governance is through volunteering, one of the strategic initiative of Caritas India. She has mobilized thousands of volunteers and placed their services in bringing support, consolation, and resources for the people in distress. Caritas India remains committed to promotion of volunteering as a value, as a goal and as a strategy as well. As a community resilience and preparedness initiative, Caritas India in collaboration with the local panchayats has contributed towards serving her mandate of saving lives and securing the health of the general population at large. Having created a pool of trained 34304 volunteers in 31 states/UTs, these volunteers are working as extended hands of the Panchayats/Wards in the form of community resource person and Caritas Samaritans who are willing to offer their services towards any given crisis or cause. Caritas India aims to create a social capital of volunteers, formally trained, and capacitated. This army of volunteers will work as the social capital of the local panchayats and wards, organizing and leading awareness programs across the districts/states and facilitate community mobilization and engagement towards strengthening the risk resilience measures and creating a community led wholistic mitigative and preventive plan for sustainable and impact development.





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Making Risk Informed GPDPs is a Four-Fold Challenge

People everywhere are experiencing climate change along with climatic and health related stresses, shocks and disasters in one or the other form. Poor and marginal farmers, fisherpersons, artisans, street-vendors, laborers in rural areas and others living on the margins are most vulnerable to such risks. The need to support these vulnerable communities by providing relief and increasing preparedness is increasingly felt at the international, national and regional levels by a range of development organizations and governments. Though climate change is a global phenomenon the nature of its impact varies from one location to the other and therefore there are limitations to centralized planning for addressing climate change induced risks. On this backdrop, the constitutional mandate for villages-the smallest administrative unit of development in India - to make sustainable development plans known as Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) becomes a valuable space to facilitate climate change risk reduction and sustainable development. However, making risk informed GPDPs is a fourfold challenge. In the following sections I will briefly discuss these challenges.

Firstly, although the global consensus that 'climate change is an emergency' is growing and people everywhere on the planet are called for coordinated climate action; the communities at the grassroots are still largely uninformed about this crisis and ways to deal with it. They are faced with risks, they are affected by climate shocks and stresses, and they are struggling to figure out how to cope with these. Over the period they have accumulated some important observations and have developed some adaptive practices using tacit knowledge. However, they are not able to see the pattern of this change. Through my work on popularizing systems thinking, I have realized that being able to see a pattern of change helps people refine their mental models. It improves one's understanding of system structures causing the change and ability to visualize possible future scenarios. The village level GPDP making processes therefore need to be broad based, more participatory and systemic in approach. Moving beyond preparing a list of development works to be carried out in the village, which is sometimes influenced by a few influential people, the GPDP need to focus on: sensitizing people about climate change, informing them about potential risks and ways to reduce/adapt them, and understanding interplay between local social-natural systems as a basis for planning.

The second challenge is institutionalizing deliberations on climate change risk reduction in particular and sustainable development in general. The GPDP as an intervention is still evolving. The GPDP preparation is mostly a demand list that is put together by a select few from the village. It is more of a onetime task rather than a process. The evidence base and consultations with various sections of the village are largely missing that was envisaged while initiating GPDP under the 14th Finance Commission. This space can be opened to more people, especially the

vulnerable ones, and made more deliberative. Activating Gram Sabhas and facilitating periodic discussions on climate change risk reduction, adaptation and sustainable development would be immensely valuable. I remember, as a child, I would accompany my grandfather to a village meeting in the early morning of Gudi-Padava (the first day of the year in the Marathi calendar) where most villagers would come together, and my grandfather would read Panchang (almanac) to them. Then they would collectively discuss possible weather scenarios and how to respond to them. Elderly people from the villages of India would still be able to recall such traditional practices. Processes like GPDP could be appropriately grafted on such traditional institutions.

Development of village infrastructure, improving schooling and health facilities are some of the most common activities proposed under GPDP. These tangible activities are necessary and could very well be aligned with the risk reduction/sustainable development agenda. However, sensitizing local communities about climate change adaptation and resilience can unfold several other equally, if not more, important but intangible activities such as making reliable weather information available, providing crop

advisories to farmers, early warnings to fisherpersons, regulating use of local natural resources and soil and water conservation initiatives etc. Incorporating such potential demands in a GPDP will require systems that integrate local-traditional knowledge, administrative data gathered by a range of functionaries as well as the IMD/satellite data. The third challenge in making risk informed GPDPs is visualizing and designing such systems by fostering collaborations and innovations.

The fourth challenge of preparing risk informed GPDP is in forging convergence among various government functionaries, datasets and planning processes at the Gram panchayat level. This would be possible if GPDP becomes an umbrella for all the various sector-wise village plans i.e NREGA plan, Health plan, Forest working plan, disaster management plan, watershed plan, climate resilient agriculture plan etc. Given increasing incidence of climate change in its effects at village level all these plans are bound to have components of climate change risk reduction. An effective compilation of the village plans, by studying overlaps and gaps in incorporating climate change risk reduction concerns, will help in making effective use of funds at the village level.





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Need for Risk Informed Planning in the Kerala Context

The heavy monsoons of 2018 is the worst Kerala had seen in nearly a century, triggering devastating floods and landslides. It impacted more than 5 million people, mainly in the Pamba River Basin. The wounds of the 2018 floods had not fully healed when disaster struck Kerala again in August 2019 in the form of floods, landslides and debris slide. Extreme rainfall on account of climate change, unscientific quarrying, irresponsible tourism in the hills, unscientific constructions at the slopes, wrong agricultural practices, encroachment of canals and rivers and many more such reasons contribute to Kerala's present vulnerability.

Better strategies and planning interventions must be formulated to deal with these natural disasters. Even though post disaster activities are important, thrust shall be given to enhance preparedness and resilience of the State towards any disaster. This can be achieved also through Risk Informed Spatial Planning. Risk Informed Master Plans have to be prepared for Local Bodies which are vulnerable to disasters initially. The key goals of embedding the element of risk in spatial plans are as follows:

- to ensure that development is protected from the impacts of disaster and climate change.
- to ensure that development does not increase existing and future levels of climate change and disaster risks.
- to promote development to reduce vulnerability to disaster hazards and promote adaptation to climate change.

Rebuild Kerala Initiative

Under the Rebuild Kerala Initiative one of the major projects taken up was “Nammal Namukkayi” – a people's consultation program to seek inputs and insights from people – across geographies, sectors and professions – on key themes which influence the approach to be adopted by the Government towards enhancement of the State's resilience to natural calamities and climate change.

The Rebuild Kerala Development Programme had two broad components.

- i. Extensive campaign with the active participation of the people to identify the required policy changes to ensure resilience.
- ii. Preparation of Disaster Management Plan at every local self-government institution.

Local Self-Government Department, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) and Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA) jointly engaged in the 'resource-intensive, time bound, pan-Kerala grassroots-level



consultations' for developing the DM plans at local level. Kerala in its 14 districts has 941 Gram panchayats, 87 Municipalities and 6 Corporations. It was directed by the Government that disaster management plans are to be formulated for all these local bodies in the State. Thus, first of its kind, in the country, an extensive disaster prevention/response programme at the local level was initiated. This formed a base data on risk for planning.

Govt. of Kerala initiated reforms laid out in the RKDP and this included risk-informed master planning for cities and towns. Prior Actions (PAs) of Amendment to Kerala Town and Country Planning Act 2016 to mainstream Risk Information in land use planning was done in February 2021 and the two pilot Risk Informed Master Plans for Chengannur and Mananthawady towns were prepared and published in June 2021.

Under the Programme for Results within Rebuild Kerala Initiative, a comprehensive set of activities have been proposed to be taken up. These are strategic initiatives ranging from policy to planning and capacity development of the key sectoral institutions and a wide range of associated stakeholders and actors with critical roles in making both urban and rural communities resilient.

The most affected region during the floods was Pamba – Achankovil – Manimala River basin. It was planned to prepare risk informed master plans for the 10 urban local bodies in this basin in the first phase. As a part of this program training for all the people representatives both in urban and rural areas are planned. Climate models are downscaled and the information is provided to all LGs state wide. All the LGs including panchayats in this basin districts have integrated climate information into the local DRM Plans.



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Emerging Opportunities to Drive Risk Resilience Agenda (WASH) through GPDP

With the Government of India prioritizing the Swachh Bharat Mission phase II, that focuses on maintaining open defecation free status ODF status of communities, and operating Solid and Liquid waste management services in all villages; and the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) that aims to provide Functional Household tap connections to every household; there is now large budget allocations to both schemes, to the extent of about 100,000 crore for SBM G II, and over 350,000 crore for JJM over 5 years. Another 28,000 crore is available as tied grants every year for rural local bodies for the basic services of (a) sanitation and maintenance of ODF status, and this should include management and treatment of household waste, and human excreta and fecal sludge management in particular and (b) supply of drinking water, rainwater harvesting and water recycling. Such large amounts of resources from government are being used to create infrastructure for water and sanitation. Once built, the infrastructure is handed over to PRIs for operation and provision of WASH services to the public.

All this needs planning at the GP/village level, with participation of line departments. While this remains a difficult task in many places, there is an increased participation of line department officials in Gram Sabha's during 2019,2020 and 2021 where they shared the information about departmental schemes related details, resulted in better distribution of activities planned in the GPDPs. Specifically, during disasters and emergencies, important activities where the role of the Panchayats is major are ensuring drinking water supply, and health and sanitation measures. The formation and activation of the Village Health, Nutrition and Sanitation Committee is also critical in this endeavor. Most GPs in disaster prone areas prepare disaster contingency plans in December/January every year depending on the rainfall status and water availability in reservoirs etc. In view of the increased incidences of climate change vagaries, there is a need for practical consultative Water & Sanitation Plans developed in every GP. During disasters safe sanitation facilities and services in households or community or camps and safe practice for its usage is critical.

The role of CSOs, and partners remains to strengthen the environment to enable support to PRIs to make cost-effective, climate resilient and disaster responsive WASH plans as part of Village Sanitation Plan (VSP), VAP (Village Action Plan) and Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP), that can be monitored and reviewed.



Mr. Bala Prasad
Ex-Special Secretary
Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Govt. of India

Integrating Disaster Management and Sustainable Development into Gram Panchayat Development Plans

Panchayati Raj System of India is unique system of local self governance in rural areas. The 73rd Amendment of the Constitution of India introduced uniform structure of three tiers of Panchayat viz. (i) Gram Panchayat at village level, (ii) Intermediate Panchayat (IP) at Block / Sub-Division / Taluk / Mandal level, and (iii) District Panchayat (DP) at district level for rural area. These Panchayats have been preparing the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP), Block Development Plan (BDP) and District Panchayat Development Plan (DPDP) of their respective area. BDP and DPDP are based on GPDPs of their respective areas. Disaster Management Planning and Localizing Sustainable Development Goals are critically important requisites to be institutionalized and seamlessly integrated into the GPDP, BDP and DPDP.

The community based disaster management plan needs to be prepared in participatory, modified bottom-up and socially inclusive process. Strengthening disaster mitigation and enhancing, preparedness, emergency response, recovery and reconstruction are very purpose of this plan. Village Disaster Management Plan (VDMP) may be prepared for every village for addressing disaster in the area by a Village Committee on Disaster Management supported by Gram Panchayat. The VDMPs should be integrated into the Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP) through a dedicated Working Group on Disaster Management of the GP by preparing Disaster Management Plan (DMP) of Gram Panchayat incorporating needs and activities for addressing every stage of Disaster Management Cycle viz. Mitigation (Prevention & Risk Reduction), Preparedness, Response, Recovery and Reconstruction. Further, DMP of Block may be prepared on the basis of collation of data and information about needs and activities for managing disaster from DMP of GPs after adjusting the activities proposed to be undertaken in GPDP. Similarly, DMP of District may be prepared by collecting data and information regarding disaster from each GPs and adjusting with the activities to be undertaken in the respective GPDP and BDP and integrated into District Development Plan for rural areas.

The role of Panchayats is critically important for achieving SDGs through localization. For localizing SDGs through Panchayats, most relevant SDGs may be covered through following nine themes as identified by an expert group of Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India. Panchayats may relate SDGs through those themes with Local Targets aligned to the National Targets:

Theme 1: Poverty Free Village (SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13 and 15)

Theme 2: Healthy Village (SDGs: 2 and 3)

- Theme 3: Child-Friendly Village (SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5)
- Theme 4: Water Sufficient Village (SDGs: 6 and 15)
- Theme 5: Clean and Green Village (SDGs: 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 and 15)
- Theme 6: Self-Sufficient Infrastructure in Village (SDGs: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 11)
- Theme 7: Socially Secured Villages (SDGs: 1, 2, 5, 10 and 16)
- Theme 8: Village with Good Governance (SDGs: 16)
- Theme 9: Women Friendly Village (SDGs: 1, 3, 4, 5 and 8)

Integrating Disaster Management and Sustainable Development into GPDP, BDP and DPDP would be useful

for addressing disasters and achieving SDGs in comprehensive manner in their area. All groups of stakeholders of Panchayats including elected representatives and functionaries of Panchayats would participate in planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of these plans. Further, these plans would ensure a participatory planning process for DMPs and localising SDGs and thereby would initiate new era of community and developmental needs based disaster management and achieving SDGs in convergence and collective action with programs and schemes of different Departments / Ministries.





**Mr. Sarabjit Singh
Sahota**
WASH Specialist
UNICEF

Hyphenating ESG-CSR-GPDP

Climate change and other long-term vulnerabilities have increased the frequency, magnitude, and severity of hydro-meteorological hazards such as droughts, flashfloods, cyclone and heatwaves. All systems and organizations are facing the disruption due to climate change induced extreme disasters, may it be business or governments or social sector services. For any given context, the list of impacted systems is long yet also points towards solution spaces to advance the risk-resilience agenda especially with respect to children.

Business propelled by the planetary emergency and the drive for transparency, global sustainability reporting standards and Environmental, Social and Governance(ESG) disclosure regulations has created one of the biggest organized efforts to move the needle of the risk-resilience agenda. The Global Sustainable Investment Alliance's latest investment review shows that global sustainable investment now tops US\$35 trillion—up 15% in two years, and in total equating to 36% of all professionally managed assets.

Gram Panchayats, the local self-Government system of cluster of villages have similarly recognized the role and responsibility to manage disaster risk. Ministry of Panchayati Raj has recently taken a policy decision to deliver on their role and responsibility by developing a policy Disaster Management Plan. Gram Panchayat Development Planning (GPDP), a constitutionally enabled annual planning process that offers extensive opportunity to advance the risk-resilience agenda using safe-Child-Environment lens.

There are compelling arguments for business with the ESG agenda and Panchayats with the agenda of Risk-informed Gram Panchayat Development Planning (Ri-GPDP) to come together and create a value from local to global level and back to local. Connecting RiGPDP and ESG agenda can create widespread opportunity to drive the Safety & sustainability agenda for Children. Civil Society organizations (CSO) have capacity and capability to support such a convergence of ideas and agendas. Number of other initiatives such as setting-up of standards for CFO-CSR collaboration for DRR and linked certification regime are being developed by IICA.

To create this ecosystem and to address growing number of interlinked challenges – from rising inequality to environmental collapse, climate change driven extreme disasters impacts all sectors. UNICEF invites you along with leaders from corporate, panchayat and civil society to come together on Rise World Summit platform in 2023 to develop collective vision and organizational and institutional support to inspire solution providers/seekers and at-risk communities to participate in solving the risk-resilience challenge continuously and achieving results at-scale. Results from implementation of Risk Informed Gram Panchayat Development Plans (RiGPDP) will feeding into ESG reporting and industry and communities will benefit from Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES).



**Ms. Karon
Shaiva**
*Chief Impact Officer
MAHAPECONET, Mumbai*

Mahapeconet: A Case Study of Collaboration based on Vision, Passion and Patience

At the onset of a disaster, the need of the hour is rapid response and recovery involving several stakeholders across geographical regions affected by the disaster. And while people naturally gravitate towards a collective during disasters, there is a need for new models and relationships in the sector if we are to truly multiply our impact. Models that go beyond the donor—implementer—vendor relations to one that is based on respect and shared values.

The call is for planned interdependence and collective learning in order to respond to the uncertain and emerging crisis the world faces to meet the divergent yet interconnected requirements. Organisations must be mapped to understand their strengths in confronting the issues, so as to develop a coordinated, integrated response that is also documented for future review and learning.

MAHAC19 PECONet was formed during Covid by over 65 partners convened by UNICEF, Maharashtra. The Partners supported with resources to scale interventions, Enterprises provided solutions and innovations and Citizen groups and volunteers helped to gain on-ground traction for impact.

Guided by the SENDAI Framework and the Global Grand Bargain, the following pillars have been germane to sustain the continuous churn of the ground situation and the dynamic response of the Maha PECONet:

- **Inter-agency and Platform:** Efforts need to be invested in forging new relationships in order to collectively and comprehensively understand and tackle the range of issues emerging during a disaster while strengthening GO-NGO Coordination for long term planning and mitigation.
- **Governance:** Regular meetings to establish shared goals and objectives and ensure that all stakeholders understand each other and are in sync with decision making
- **Communication:** Creating institutional approach to documentation, case studies and SOPs for learning and replication
- **Harmonize and simplify reporting requirements:** Technology tools such as KoBo, a custom built app and an interactive Dashboard system enabled real time reporting which was integrated into the MahaPeconet website: <https://mahac19peconet.org/co-marg-dashboard/>. This also increased the accountability of all members as each and every intervention including supplies and procurements were tracked till the end user
- **Enhanced engagement between humanitarian and development actors:** GO-NGO platform with a hub and spoke model of partnership enabled a multiplier effect and impact
- **Improved, Joint and Impartial Needs Assessments:** JRNA experience during the flood and cyclones and

RNA for Covid. In addition, local CSO's, clubs, colleges were also given a platform to participate for more unbiased and contextualized assessment

- **Participatory Revolution:** Include people receiving aid in decisions which affect their lives. Strong focus on community feedback, testimonials, volunteers from affected communities
- **Transparency:** Respectful collaboration with non-competitive approach to utilize each other strengths and bridge gaps
- **Hybrid mode of functioning:** Active WhatsApp

group providing partners with regular positive reinforcement and support on a timely basis, so that everyone feels the benefits of the alliance.

- **Secretariat function:** Co-ordination and communication, supported by comprehensive documentation and technology tools for knowledge management. Branding and packaging on interventions helped amplify our work.



The pandemic has clearly demonstrated the need to link humanitarian response to a wider agenda and enhance engagement between humanitarian and development actors. In order to sustain this movement and ensure the long-term impact of the platform, the informal Maha PECONet has realigned into a formal structure of a General Body led by a Governing Council and facilitated by a Secretariat.

To further deepen the mandate and manage diverse needs of the population across wider geographies, 4 thematic areas were established:

- Housing and Basic Services
- Social Protection, Rights and Entitlements
- Skill development, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Livelihoods
- Climate Change Adaptation and Community Resilience

RISE Infinity Foundation as the nodal UNICEF partner first and later as the Secretariat of the coalition, provided a strong operational framework based on the PECON Model to ensure effective co-ordination and collaboration.

A PECONet defines the actors (Partners, Entrepreneurs and Citizens who Own a common cause) and the capacity of a network to come together for 'mutual or reciprocal activities', while emphasizing that the choice and nature of association is determined by the concerned party, i.e., voluntary and recognizing autonomy. Yet collectivization offers the potential for several types of co-ordinated activities which are determined by the structure and intention of forming a network.

Our model of partnership based on values and principles, helped us face multiple disasters that have been documented to provide relief to over 7 million people in distress and together multiplied our impact.

Thanks to the vision of UNICEF, responsiveness of partners and the flexibility of donors, despite the uncertainties and constraints, the coalition continues to march on!

TECHNICAL SESSION 3

Localisation Agenda: Futuristic Approach for Humanitarian Action and DRR



#We4Resilience



**Mr. Anjan
Bag**
*HA DRR, Lead
Caritas India*

Localisation Agenda – Futuristic Approach for Humanitarian Action and DRR

The vulnerability aspect in different risks and calamities is drastically evolving with emergence of new forms of risks and hazards. The recent pandemic, considered as the worst health crisis has set the benchmark of vulnerability to a completely different level. The Humanitarian need is constantly on the rise with millions being affected by either covid, conflicts, internal displacement and much more. These components have undermined development gains

Disaster risk is increasingly of global concern. Its impact and actions in one region can have an impact on risks in another, and vice versa. In the past two decades, large number of people have been affected by disasters. The last decade showed a tremendous increase in the annual events of natural hazards. These hazards increasingly have an impact on the livelihoods of vulnerable people, more specifically on their economic situation, their food security and health situation. They also have triggered the pinch for the scarcity of natural resources (water, pasture, and land) and there by conflicts to get control over them. Having been abated with back-to-back calamities, there is a need to recognize and facilitate the leadership by local authorities and local civil society in humanitarian action in order to widen our reach and address the needs of the affected population.

The localization process in India is an initiative to bring together local, national and international humanitarian agencies operational in India, with a purpose of reflecting, mobilising and acting in ways that has never been done before and is beyond the scope and culture of the current humanitarian architecture. This would result in Disaster preparedness and response calibrated to hyper local needs using cutting edge technology in tandem with local wisdom and innovativeness. Active and equal role of local civil society organisations in humanitarian action, in a fair manner that provides them space alongside international and national agencies. Ready funds at national and sub-national levels, available for deployment at short notice through most appropriate agencies for reaching the neediest populations, and having ability to replenish through multiple channels. Very rapid response to humanitarian situations, as a result of the above actions. A connection with the global humanitarian system that enables us to tap into international resources when required, and contribute when the need arises in other parts of the world.

In the Grand Bargain, many humanitarian donors and agencies have committed under the umbrella of “more support and finding tools to local and national responders, towards establishing an organized principled humanitarian action as relevant to the local and international context, while acknowledging the role of all the stakeholders.

Given the local knowledge, being embedded within the communities and with full access to the ground reality, localization promotes development cooperation with humanitarian preparedness. However, this requires enhancing and reinforcing skills and knowledge through a structured yet flexible process within the realm of disaster management.

With series of calamities leading to potential vulnerabilities and risks, there is a need for investment in the response procedures, creating response planning framework for improved humanitarian response. There is a need to create more working partnerships between international and local stakeholders to harness mutual learnings, new knowledge and create pool of funds in order to increase the effectiveness of response in the given context.

Having country level working groups will enhance information flow between communities at risk and the responders. Some of the community led risk resilience initiatives can be affiliated to these working groups to improve the resilience strategies and addressing the needs of the vulnerable. There is a prominent need to assert the relevance for localisation of the Disasters and Emergencies Preparedness Programme in order to create an open platform strengthening different local and national capacities, as components of an eco-system.



Mr. Joseph Sahayam

Emergency lead, CASA

Lead Moderating team IHH

We have been used to the saying "Think Globally, ACT Locally", are we correct in following the same now? Perhaps No, and Why No? It's simply because we have been used to this saying, which has led to the Global Understanding on Humanitarian Aid being adapted to our local context with a jargon "Contextualize" or "Contextualizing". In so saying we have only let our capacities adapt to the capacities given to us by those involved in developing these understanding on global Humanitarian Aid, in other words the Global North. So what it means to go the other way, "Think Locally, ACT Globally". Think Locally and Act Globally, means that we need to build on our existing / evolving local capacities, in other words Global South and strategize the same to build an understanding on global Humanitarian Aid. It would mean trying to contextualize or contextualizing the other way around, from South to the North. The India Humanitarian Hub, tries to build on this with the pillars of innovation, localization and new financing, paving in more ways for the local actors to access resources and build in a system of acceptance, recognition and trust with transparency and accountability.



**Mr. Sanjay
Pandey**
*Convenor
IAG Bihar*

Localization means boosting international investment and giving respect to the local leaders for their responses during disasters while realizing the goal of outreach, effectiveness and accountability of the humanitarian actions.

Undoubtedly, localization hones specific skills, and improves knowledge, access, and the ability to understand and adapt to the local context in catering to the beneficiaries. The local actors are aware of potential threats they face and their consequences and the actions that help in proper Disaster Risk Reduction. At last, we are looking forward to giving more teeth to the local actors. Certainly, this kind approach will widen the ambit of localization in true sense.

In an effort of strengthening BIAG local agencies members, a series of thematic specific trainings is being imparted to the local actors such as district, block and panchayat-based humanitarian agencies as well as frontline workers. Till recently, the JRNAs being conducted by national and international agencies are now being carried out by our block and panchayat level humanitarian agencies. Now, the BIAG developed JRNA app through which volunteers belonging to the local agencies working in several districts of Bihar are being trained. In future, the volunteers from other districts and blocks would also be imparted with

insightful training. They would be in better position to respond to the disasters effectively. The BIAG is also planning to train them on water sanitation, health, child protection, disability issue in disaster response. This is what we can term journey of BIAG starting with coming together of all local agencies working in Bihar on DRR. Now, we are also pondering over to empower local agencies on DRR, capacity building, responses, preparedness, understanding of climate change so that they would be addressing them not only through DRR but also through integrating other programmes being implemented in the intervention areas.

To empower core capacity of local humanitarian agencies, the BIAG is in process of collaborating with international networks such as START NETWORK. BIAG Convenor-cum-Yuganter Executive Director Shri Sanjay Pandey is going present detailed outlines regarding it in the forthcoming annual assembly to be held at Barbie Can, London, UK for catalyzing a new era of locally-led humanitarian actions. Yuganter is very thankful to Caritas India, HAI, CASA and Seeds India for providing their insightful suggestions to be incorporated in the said outlines. The BIAG is not only developing thematic competency of the local agencies but also improving the compliance capacity to various laws and by-laws of the nation.

TECHNICAL SESSION 4

Poshan Abhiyan: Scope and Strategies for better Nutrition and Food Security



#We4Resilience



Dr. B Dayakar Rao

*Principal Scientist
Indian Institute of Millet Research
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Robust Convergence Mechanism through interdepartmental collaboration

Poshan Abhiyaan 2.0 brings together the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)—Anganwadi Services, Supplementary Nutrition Programme, Poshan Abhiyaan, Scheme for Adolescent Girls and National Crèche Scheme which aims to reduce malnutrition, through a lifecycle concept by adopting a synergised and result-oriented approach.

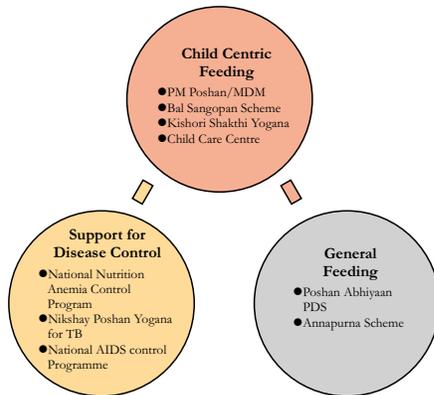
The convergence pillar under the Poshan Abhiyaan 2.0, through the convergent nutrition action plans at state, district and block levels, promotes coordinated and cross-sectoral efforts involving all critical line departments that contribute to nutrition. Cross-departmental collaboration aims to put in place mechanisms to overcome the lack of synergy through robust convergence mechanisms

Ministries are working on Poshan Abhiyaan 2.0

Programme	Ministries & Departments
ICDS	Women & child development ministry
Sabla- Adolescent girls programme	Women & child development ministry
Immunization programme	Health & Family welfare ministry
Mid-day meal programme	Ministry of HRD
Vit.A supplementation programme	Health & Family welfare ministry
National Nutritional Anaemia control	Health & Family welfare ministry
National Iodine deficiency control disorder	Health & Family welfare ministry
National rural drinking water programme	Ministry of drinking water and sanitation
Total sanitation campaign	Ministry of rural development

The network of Anganwadi Centres (AWC) and Anganwadi workers (AWW), Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM), are discharging frontline roles in nutrition and health delivery under the Abhiyaan to emphasize the importance of integrating millets, on diversifying the local diet with local produce.

Government feeding programs



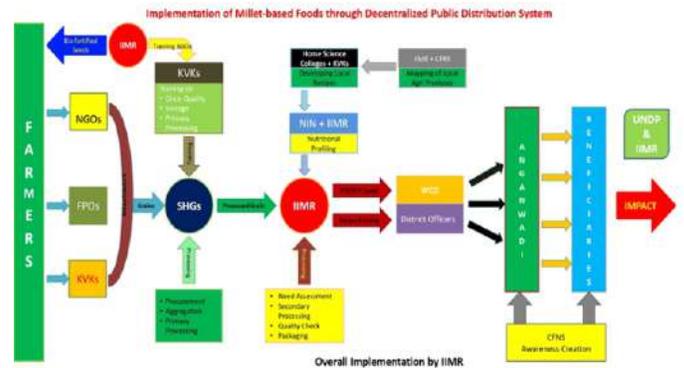
Dietary Diversity

Poshan 2.0 also aims to promote diet diversity, and food fortification, leveraging traditional systems of knowledge along with promotion of millets. Nutrition awareness strategies aims for sustainable health and well-being through regional meal plans to bridge dietary gaps. Correlation of dietary diversity with the quality of diet and household food security, and higher socio-economic status in terms of maternal education and employment and also building of demonstration and experience centre for millets for promoting millets

Inter-Ministerial Convergence under Poshan Abhiyaan

MoWCD & MoHFW currently use different approaches to tracking common beneficiary populations to assess ways in which poshan tracker and MCTS/RCH can be interoperable to ensure even stronger service delivery convergence. Convergent effort of MHRD, MWCD & MoHFW is evident during Poshan Maah, highlighting the importance of convergence in Poshan Abhiyaan and converting it into a Jan Andolan for effective implementation and desired reach. In addition, many activities were initiated through audio video material at schools, awareness campaign for adolescent girls: awareness regarding use of millets, nutrition, good health, kitchen 86 gardens, cleanliness, balance diet may be carried out in convergence with MWCD & MoHFW.

Implementation Strategy at ICAR-IIMR:



Importance of Millets as nutrition

Millets are highly nutritious, and full of important minerals and vitamins, like Vitamin B, Calcium, Iron, Potassium, Magnesium, Zinc. It is also gluten-free and has a low Glycemic index (GI), making it suitable for diabetics, weightwatchers, people who can't digest wheat.

The central government and NITI Aayog requested to introduce millets under the PM POSHAN Scheme. ICAR-Indian Research Institutes of millets working on projects such as ICDS, MoFPI, APEDA, NFSM to promote millets nationally and internationally. Akshaya Patra Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding with ICAR-IIMR, NutriHub to include millets in midday meals.

The Breakfast Revolution (TBR) and state WCD will take an active role in the Awareness Creation on millet-based nutrition and health benefits. Given that nutritional outcomes are impacted by multi-dimensional factors, successfully tackling malnutrition requires a systems approach wherein multiple agents align their actions through cross-sectoral convergence. It requires setting up governance structures that enable contextualized planning at each level of implementation process and information flows that enable real time feedback to continuously improve supply side responses



Dr. Saju MK
Program Lead
Saksham, Caritas India

Culturally Appropriate Models of Food and Nutrition Resilience

Cultural factors are often, and rightly so, held responsible for reducing access and availability of food and nutrition thereby spiking up the rate of malnutrition of children. As seen in Adivasi communities, there exists a clear nexus between the debilitating physiological state of malnutrition and the aggregate of cultural beliefs and practices. Food and feeding habits of a community are not just influenced but as well are determined by the culture of that community because food system is a sub-system of the culture of that community. In many communities traditional beliefs and practices have proven to be stiff impediments to children's access to food and nutrition notwithstanding the availability of food and nutrition. Beliefs and rules relating to food and feeding practices have stout roots running deep into community's culture and traditions. Hence it is imperative, while working on increasing availability and diversity of food and nutrition sources, to remove the socio-cultural barriers so that the malady of malnutrition can be systemically and systematically addressed.

For the last six years, Caritas India and her partners have been working with Korku community in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh to fight off the ghost of endemic malnutrition. One of the strategies that Caritas India had successfully employed for the food and nutrition security of the Korkus was to increase food availability in a culturally appropriate way and to remove cultural barriers to food and nutrition access, particularly of children.

Revival and popularisation of traditional crops: Korkus have historically been inhabiting the undulating and less fertile terrains with limited farming possibilities by adapting their farming systems to suit the local agro-climatic conditions. Over centuries Korkus had developed a locally suitable crop system, chiefly comprising millets, that offered them food and nutrition security. The farming system of Korkus underwent significant changes in the last three decades and traditional crops including millets were reduced to marginal crops. Even though Korkus had identified millets as ritually, nutritionally, and palatably more appropriate, the attraction of mainstreamed crops like wheat, paddy, soybean and cotton was economically irresistible for them. With the crop system altered in favour of the mainstreamed crops, the overall food availability diminished and chronic hunger and malnutrition started afflicting Korku community. Caritas India helped Korkus not only revive millet cultivation but significantly increase the cultivation area of millets as well.

Millets enjoy a special place in Korku culture. Korkus believe Mahadev, who they consider as their creator, had given them seven grains for their nourishment and sustenance. Hence Korkus call these seven grains as 'Devdhan' or the grains personally bestowed by their deity. This also explains the ritualistic significance that Korkus attach to millets. The Devdhan comprises Kodo millet, Kutki (little millet), Sawa (Indian barnyard millet), Rala (foxtail millet), Ragi

(finger millet), Bajra (pearl millet) and Jwar (Sorghum). Caritas India had revived the cultivation of three millets (foxtail millet, pearl millet and Indian barnyard millet) which had disappeared from the Korku region. The following measures were initiated to popularise millets and reintroduce millets as the mainstay of food system of Korkus;

- Functionalising community-managed seed banks and grain circulation of millets.
- Making available improved millet seeds from Indian Institute of Millet Research.
- Developing Millet cultivation package of practices and popularising the practice.
- Organising food festivals which featured millet delicacies prepared by communities.
- Submitting memoranda to government demanding inclusion of millets in Public Distribution System (PDS). The Leader of opposition in Maharashtra assembly himself recently raised the demand for millet promotion measures in Maharashtra assembly.

Giving dignity to uncultivated food: Korku community, like other tribal communities, relies on forest for their food needs especially during the spells of food distress which occasionally extends for more than five months. Korku community's Knowledge of forest-based food had witnessed a gradual decline and there has been a general disinclination of Korkus towards the forest-based food or uncultivated food. Forest-based food was seen and projected as less fashionable and less dignified. Thus, this important source of food and nutrition, which once fed communities during distress times, lost its appeal among the Korkus. Caritas India conducted mapping of uncultivated food including mushrooms, bamboo shoots, vegetables, yams, seeds and tubers. Community conscientisation sessions on the significance of uncultivated food were organised and food festivals were organised. Campaigns were organised to inform communities about the nutritional importance of uncultivated food and to give 'dignity' to uncultivated food. Community education programmes were also conducted to remove community reluctance and food prejudices associated with the uncultivated food. Intergenerational dialogues, which involved wisdom exchanges between community elders and the young, were organised on the merits of uncultivated food. Community elders were engaged to identify edibles in forest, forest fringes and on communal land. Exhibitions were organised to spread awareness on the food and nutrition value of uncultivated food and to display the dishes and delicacies prepared with uncultivated food. The campaign yielded encouraging results

which was evident from the greater food diversity, particularly vegetables, during the rainy season when communities frequently face food shortage.

Reviving traditional dishes & nutrition mixes: Korkus have a rich wealth of knowledge on preparing nutrition mixes and delicacies which are useful solutions for fighting malnutrition. Unfortunately, the food wisdom of Korku community gradually waned and communities started depending more on market which offered readymade solutions in return for the hard-earned money of Korkus. Caritas India conducted intensive participatory community analysis to identify local nutrition mixes of Korku community. Many traditional solutions, which are healthy and affordable, were thus identified and were brought back into practice. One such solution was 'Sattu' a nutrition mix that Korku mothers have started preparing with jaggery, wheat flour, gram flour, cumin seed, ground nut and dried ginger. Regular feeding of 'Sattu' was found to be immensely helpful for the nutrition recovery of moderately malnourished children. Hundreds of mothers learnt preparation of various types of 'Sattu' and started feeding their children. It is now a commonplace to see a plastic container filled with Sattu in the kitchen of Korku families. As a measure to prepare the next generation mothers, adolescent girls were trained on preparing Sattu. The nutrition benefit of Sattu was however not exclusively available for children but it was also enjoyed by pregnant women, nursing mothers and adolescent girls. Communities were also helped to prepare other nutritionally useful delicacies including groundnut chikki, mixture with dried moringa leaf, Chyavanprakash etc.

Engaging traditional healers and priests as community catalysts: Korkus trust their traditional healers and priests more than the doctors of Primary Health Clinic (PHC) in their vicinity. Traditional healers and priests, who are locally known as Bhumkas and Padiyars, enjoy reverence of community and are always consulted for religious, health, family and political matters. Korkus accept their counsel without a grain of doubt. Bhumkas and Padiyars are also community opinion makers with significant community following. Until recently Bhumkas and Padiyars used to treat all illnesses of Korkus including conditions of malnutrition with prescriptions that were largely inconsequential or detrimental. Hence the district administration had proscribed their treatment and threatened to arrest them if they were found to be treating any case of malnutrition. Naturally therefore, Bhumkas and Padiyars went underground but continued to secretly treat malnourished

children thus triggering further aggravation. Recognizing the reverential position of Bhumkas and Padiyars and the necessity and urgency to positively change their treatment system, Caritas India engaged them as community catalysts. Bhumkas and Padiyars were given the confidence that their traditional position in the society will neither be changed and challenged nor their services to communities will be criminalised. They were educated about the reality of malnutrition with its causative factors, manifestations, scientific diagnosis, and treatment. Once the positive behaviour change happened among Bhumkas and Padiyars, they started asking parents to admit their malnourished children at Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres (NRCs). Remarkably, they stopped treating children who were diagnosed as severe cases. Ever since Bhumkas and Padiyars started advising parents on right child feeding habits, vaccination, dietary diversity, enrolling children in Anganwadis, treatment of malnourished children and accessing government health and medical services, the grim malnutrition situation of Korkus changed for better.

Removal of myths surrounding malnutrition: Korku community has several cultural beliefs and practices that aggravate malnutrition particularly of children. There were deep-rooted fears and superstitions related to vaccination, breastfeeding, pregnancy, birth spacing, menstrual hygiene, cooking, feeding etc. Caritas India organised series of community reflections and consultations for demystifying malnutrition and creating a scientific understanding on child health and malnutrition. The awareness campaign, which evolved as a conscientisation movement, contributed to shaping of a community-led initiative to wipe out the bane of malnutrition.

Malnutrition is indeed a multi-dimensional reality which needs to be approached, understood and addressed with an integrated approach. Before embarking upon a strategy to erase this blemish, a comprehensive understanding of the cultural roots of this health crisis needs to be generated. Because malnutrition in itself is not a sickness, but it is a manifestation of the hunger syndrome that becomes chronic in a community due to multiple factors all of which needs to be addressed.





Dr. Haridas V R

Thematic Lead

Climate Justice

Food Safety and Climate Resilient Practices

Many traditional farming communities and indigenous people have over generations developed agricultural systems that are productive and ecologically sustainable. Such traditional farmers domesticated thousands of crop species and millions of plant varieties, mostly grown without harmful chemical fertilizers and pesticides. While traditional agricultural knowledge and practices have in many places been lost or atrophied, such small, diversified farming systems offer promising models for promoting biodiversity, conserving natural resources, sustaining yield and food safety, providing ecological services and lessons for resilience in the face of environmental and economic change. Agriculture sector remains the main source of livelihoods of majority of the families in India but faces the challenges of Climate Change. Extreme weather conditions, high intensity rainfall, uneven and untimely rainfall are more frequent which is affecting the farmers especially small holders. Smallholder Farmers/Landless Labors/Fishermen are directly dependent on climate, since temperature, sunlight and water are the main drivers of crop growth. For food safety and climate resilience, it is important to ensure soil health/soil fertility/soil moisture content, and enhanced soil carbon content, reduce the external dependency for farm inputs (such as external seeds, chemical fertilizers, pesticides, weedicides etc.), promote high yielding local seed varieties, crop diversity etc.

It is the high time to follow the aspects of Food sovereignty as it emphasizes ecologically appropriate production, distribution, consumption and ensuring local food systems considering socio-economic justice as ways and mean to tackle food safety, hunger and poverty. Food security does not distinguish where the food comes from and what are the conditions under which the food is produced and distributed. Dependency on food coming from faraway places, lack of choice on food, consumption of food with the attitude of taste only matters, toxins involved in the food we eat etc. are the serious matters to think of whether we need to promote safe to eat food at home. Integration of livestock with vegetables, cereals, pulses, medicinal plants etc. can bring back the culture of food habits.

The overdose of chemical fertilizers and pesticides to the crop initially increase the crop yield but deplete the soil structure and contaminate the crop, soil as well as the groundwater. Affecting our health is yet another problem due to the consumption of chemical/pesticide residues. Enhanced by the initial increased productivity from modern methods of farming, improved seed varieties and concomitant use of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, the farmers had lost their own traditional system of sustainable agriculture. Eventually, however, some of them have realized that despite their hard toil, the productivity of the land had gradually decreased while investment had increased. The forms of nitrogen provided by chemical fertilizers are readily transformed in the soil, resulting the emission of nitrous oxides into the atmosphere. The scientific findings have confirmed that these nitrous oxides are 300 times more damaging than CO₂ in contributing to greenhouse gas emissions.

Organic system has got a great contribution to the sustainable agriculture, as it establishes an honorable relationship with nature. Awareness among farmers is important in various aspects of integrated organic farming such as the measures to improve the fertility of soil through mulching, organic manure, growth promoters, pest management through mixed cropping, intercropping, crop rotation, pest traps and applying pest repellents. Demonstrations of such practices and constant accompaniment help farmers in building their confidence as the cost of external input is reduced and net income is increased. When designed and managed with agroecological principles, farming systems become more diverse, productive, resilient, and efficient. Agroecological initiatives aim at transforming industrial agriculture partly by transitioning existing food systems away from fossil fuel-based production towards an alternative agricultural paradigm that encourages local/national food production based on local knowledge, innovation, resources, and solar energy. This implies access of small-scale farmers to land, seeds, water, credit and local markets, partly through the creation of supportive economic policies, financial incentives, market opportunities and agroecological technologies.



Grow and Eat.... Not Import and Eat: Thousands of miles some food is shipped leads to a big carbon footprint. Localization of the food we cultivate, cultivate food that we consume are important to ensure its safety and to reduce the food miles. Farmers who follow organic and sustainable cultivation practices with local resources minimize their food's environmental impact. Local food is fresher and tastes better than food that has been trucked or flown in from

thousands of kilometers away. These benefits are enjoyed by everyone in the family or the local community. Money that stays in a local community, instead of supporting large-scale industrial agribusinesses thousands of miles away, encourages growth in that community. The land owned by each family keeps their land as active farmland of diversified crops and livestock.

Carbon Sequestration: We should commit ourselves to live simple with simple food, less travel and sharing resources with others in need. Plant multispecies trees and nurture them since trees can directly remove carbon dioxide. 1 mature tree of 15 years will absorb 21 Kg carbon per year and give 118 kg of oxygen. Grow our food and eat...to avoid transportation of food and hence reduce pollution. Improve soil health through promoting Organic Farming. e need to engage our team efforts to establish climate justice. We should have an extra burden to come together, pray together and act together for climate justice and to solve the climate crisis. Turn off lights and unplug devices when we are not using them.



Root Zone based Fertigation System (RZFS): A method for the faster growth of plants: Usually, trees are grown through providing surface irrigation practices such as drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation, pitcher pot irrigation systems which absorbs water to a depth of maximum one foot. This innovation of root zone-based fertigation practice provides water and manure to a depth of 1.5 to 2 feet which is difficult in surface irrigation methods. This technique involves creating permeable zone around root zone of the plant providing a favourable environment in the Rhizosphere (the plant- root interface) by facilitating fertigation (water and nutrients) is being transferred to the root zones at different



levels. Water use efficiency will be ensured through this technique and help in reducing evaporation as the water and nutrients are given directly to the sub surface root zones. The growing roots will get nutrients and water in this process and hence the fast and healthy growth of the plants. The perforator materials (husk, straw, dry leaves) along with manures (dry cow dung, compost) to be added to the pit along with neem cake powder, bone meal, pseudomonas, Trichoderma, and charcoal. It is beneficial to add groundnut cake too after adding groundnut cake in water for 2 or 3 days. Neem cake is a perfect form of fertilizer, it has NPK nutrients and has azadirachtin to keep the soil away from pests. Bone meal provides calcium which improves the root growth.

Pseudomonas/Trichoderma promote plant growth by suppressing pathogenic micro-organisms, synthesizing growth-stimulating plant hormones and promoting increased plant disease resistance. Adding charcoal in soil increases above ground and below ground biomass growth and soil carbon content.

Garden of Eden to ensure household food safety: Garden of Eden is a way of promoting Family Farming. Demarcate a rectangular plot of 4 ft width and 8 ft Length.

Remove 4-inch soil and put it on both the side. Divide this plot into 4 small plots of 2 ft length. Take out soil from the first plot (0.5 ft) and put it outside and fill dry leaves in the first plot. Take out soil from the second plot and put it in the first plot. Then fill in dry leaves in the second plot. Take out soil from the third plot and put it on the second plot. Then fill dry leaves in the third plot. Take out soil from the fourth plot and put it on the third plot. Then fill dry leaves in the fourth plot and fill the soil which is taken from plot 1. The 4 inches topsoil to be mixed with 50-kg dry cow dung, 2-kg charcoal, 1 Kg neem cake powder, 1 Kg Pseudomonas, and 1 Kg bone meal and jeevamrutham.

Well Recharging for improving groundwater potential:

Rainwater is considered the best source of drinking water especially in the area where water is not conserved and, in the area, where water is polluted and intruded with saltwater. It should not be too late to realize that water is a liquid gold. It is the high time for everyone to promote well recharging structures with the active involvement of the community. The objective behind well recharging is to collect the rainwater falling on the roof surface to the wells with appropriate filtering systems. This simple method will conserve rainwater received during rainy months instead of allowing them to runoff.



Mr. NM Prusti

Vice Chair

Nutrition and food security alliance

Nutrition Security and Resilience to Disasters: Interconnectedness

Malnutrition has been dubbed as India's Silent Emergency and threatens to impact productivity and economic growth. On September 29, 2022, the Central Government submitted a report to the Supreme Court stating “69% deaths of children under 5 years is due to malnutrition and malnourishment in the year 2022. Number of hungry Indians go up from 19 crore to 35 crores now.” The country has the world's highest number of malnourished children with about 5.7 crore children below five years affected by severe wasting (UNICEF, Deol, 2022).

The alarming figures bring into focus the serious threat malnutrition poses to the health and wellbeing of Indians, and the economic output of the nation. It urges us to focus on the deep inequities and policy gaps that continue to worsen these indicators and create roadblocks towards achieving nutrition-security, and the sustainable development Goal (2) of zero hunger.

As per Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey (CNNS)-2016-18, more than half (53%) of preschoolers and more than one-third of school-age children and adolescents (38% each) belonging to Scheduled Tribes (STs) are anemic. STs have the highest prevalence of underweight (42%) as compared to Scheduled Castes (36%), Other Backward Castes (33%), and other groups (27%). As per CNNS, micronutrient deficiency is all pervasive. Among the STs, 9% of preschoolers and 15% of school-age children and adolescents have Vitamin D deficiency.

Despite running the world's largest Supplementary Nutrition Program through ICDS, the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) figures also show that the percentage of malnourished children has marginally increased in the last three decades from 18% to 19.3% (NFHS-1, 1992-93 to NFHS-5, 2019-21). The pandemic has compounded the situation and impacted nutrition delivery systems. The latest NFHS-5 shows that severe wasting, a form of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) has increased from 7.5% to 7.7% (children 0 to 6 years) from NFHS-4, 2015-16. Between National Family Health Survey 4 and 5 (2015-16 to 2020-21) anemia in children (6 months to 5 years) has increased from 58.6% to 67.1%. In women (19 to 49 years) the figures have risen from 53.1 to 57% and in adolescent girls (15 to 19 years) from 54.1% to 59.1%.

Malnourished, wasted and severely wasted children are at high risk of morbidity and mortality, and may grow up into physically and intellectually compromised young adults who, in the absence of interventions, will further perpetuate the intergenerational cycle of malnutrition. It will amount the defeat of our ambition to benefit from the demographic dividend being one of the youngest nations. Who knows we will be dubbed as the Country with highest young but sick population. It is Risk that has compounded during the COVID 19 pandemic and a long drawn collective fight is being fought to help build a Resilient and Resurgent India.

Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) as a form of under-nutrition among children, also known as severe wasting (low weight for height), develops as a result of rapid weight loss or a failure to gain weight, usually associated with starvation and/or disease. Wasting is calculated as weight-for-height of a child with a reference population of well-nourished and healthy children as per World Health Organization's guidelines on Child Growth Standards. Children who suffer from growth retardation as a result of poor diets and/or recurrent infections and children with prevalence of severe wasting (weight for height < -3 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization's Child Growth Standards) have increased risk of death, but treatment is possible.

The degree of acute malnutrition is classified as either moderate or severe, and often used to assess the severity of emergencies because of the increased vulnerability to disease

and risk of death among children with severe acute malnutrition.

Tribal community face the brunt of the problem

The tribal population in India's Aspirational districts are particularly vulnerable and most at Risk. India's 10.5 crore-strong population from about 705 distinct Scheduled Tribes represent 8.6 per cent of the population, and national surveys show that the tribal community in certain geographies are particularly vulnerable, with higher incidence of malnutrition. Various studies have reported the prevalence of malnutrition among the tribal population is higher in comparison to the national average. All indicators of stunting, wasting, severe wasting, and anemia in women and children and under 5 deaths are worse in the tribal population, as compared to the general population.





**Mr. Samanjit
Sengupta WBCS**
*Joint Secretary, P & R Dept.
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Empowering Communities through Inclusive Approaches

Social Inclusion for building community resilience in disaster preparedness is a critical topic. A matter which affects our day-to-day life for community development and rural development; our national progress; and all the development works that we do. Social inclusion is the process by which efforts are made to ensure equal opportunities – that everyone, regardless of their background, can achieve their full potential in life.

We may celebrate 75 years of Independence. But have we successfully taken the disadvantaged sections with us in our stride of Nation Building to full effect? Does just creating laws and reserving posts in the power space ensure that the disadvantaged will automatically realize their full potential? These are the questions that now merit introspection for purpose of plugging in the gaps and constraints for sustainable community-based development and resilience to disaster situations.

Social Inclusion in the true sense is not only about making affirmative action laws, and modern infrastructures like roads, hospitals, and schools. It's also about behavior modification. The two tables below sourced from Niti Ayog's published reports in 2019 will give an idea of some areas where still Social Inclusion is needed in India. There are many more such sectors where Social Exclusion is still high.

Table 1- Status of Deprivation in India

S. No	Category	2005-06	2015-16
1	Deprivation of nutrition	44.3 %	21.2%
2	Child Mortality Rate	4.5%	2.2%
3	Deprivation of cooking fuel	52.9%	26.2%
4	Deprivation in sanitation	50.4%	24.6%
5	Deprivation of safe drinking water	16.6%	6.2%
6	Deprivation of electricity	29.1%	8.6%
7	Deprivation of housing	44.9%	23.6%
8	Deprivation of assets	37.6%	9.5%

Table2- Rising Inequality & consequent Social Exclusion in India

1	India's top 10 percent of the population holds 77.4 percent of the total national wealth, while the top 1 percent holds 52.53 percent of the wealth.
2	The bottom 60 percent who constitute the majority of the population, hold merely 4.8 percent of the national wealth.
3	In 2018, the wealth of the top 1 percent of India's population increased by 39 percent, whereas the wealth of the bottom 50 percent increased by a dismal 3 percent.
4	Scheduled Tribes and Muslims, despite the largest reduction in poverty, continue to have the highest rate of poverty
5	Every third Scheduled Caste person is poor
6	50% of Scheduled Tribes continue to remain poor with every second Tribal being poor
7	31% of Muslims continue to remain poor, with every third of Muslims being multi-dimensionally poor
8	As per the report, 8.6% of the country's population lives in "severe poverty"

Source: Oxfam (2019), Public Good or Private Wealth? Oxfam Inequality Report the India Story; Global Multidimensional Poverty Index - 2018 by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Understanding Social inclusion

Social Inclusion is the process of improving the terms on which disadvantaged, or left-out segments of society take part in society. So it's not just about giving space, but also about giving dignity, respect, and equal importance. Social Inclusion is achieved broadly by improving the ability of those disadvantaged; giving them back their dignity, and giving them opportunities and levelled playing fields by empowering them to overcome their handicaps to play in that field. Social Inclusion is the Right Thing to do both morally and economically. As Mahatma Gandhi had said in 1948 just before his death in his famous Talisman Directive to Indian Public Administrators and Development workers "Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him".

To ensure full Social Inclusion we need to see that the 3 Domains of Society and Development are affirmative and enabled for social inclusion and that the disadvantaged segments are present with due and proportionate representation. In fashion, it is a recognizable part of the Domains. What are these Domains? Markets, Services, and Spaces(Source: www.shareweb.ch).

General Strategies for Social Inclusion

Since the excluded disadvantaged segments dropping out of Services, Markets and Spaces cost both the society and the economy and not just the excluded segment in long run, we need to remove the perceptions of exclusion too. The World Bank's' twin goals for Social Inclusion are ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity. And the

Government of India's goals, in addition, are so by strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions and excluding people's participation in development. The broad strategies include identification of the excluded, capacity building of these sections, participatory planning, redressing deep-rooted systemic inequalities, and creating opportunities for all. The focus of development should follow Gandhiji's Talisman and be on the disadvantaged people- listening to their voices, needs, and aspirations and handholding them to participatory development.

Communication strategies for Behaviour Modification at the micro level for disadvantaged segments, and those segments that need to help to remove the factors of disadvantage. Integrating Government, Civil Society, Producer Associations and Corporate Social Responsibility requires a holistic approach. Simultaneously endeavors to remove barriers to social inclusion should be done by shifting from the Top-Down Approach to Bottom Up Approach; developed by participatory rural appraisal and not an ad-hoc way. And eradication of social rigidity and age-old maladies like caste barriers, untouchability, suppression of women's progress, disabled friendly society.

The 3 major ways to Social Inclusion in India as broadly practiced

In India, we see 3 major trends in efforts to Social Inclusion.

The first is by way of law and enacting affirmative actions. The Constitution provides an elaborate mechanism for the

protection, safeguarding, and upliftment of SCs spanning Articles 17, 46, 335, 15(4), 16(4A), 338, 330, and 332. Protection of Civil Rights Act 1955 enacted in furtherance to Article 17 of the Indian Constitution is a punitive legal provision for checking the illegal practice of untouchability and is implemented nationwide. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities Act) 1989 as amended in 2016 provides a legal safeguard against any crimes and atrocities by the general population against SC/STs. The Constitution provides safeguards and protection to OBCs through Articles 15(Clause 4), 16(4), 340, 38(Clause 1), and 338 (Clause 10). In 1979, the Second Backward Classes Commission, known as Mandal Commission, was constituted under Article 340. Article 41 of the Directive Principles of State Policy of the Constitution mandates the State to make provision for securing the right to work, education, and unemployment in the case of disablement amongst other disadvantages. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (PwD) Act 2016 laid down various principles for the empowerment of PwDs including non-discrimination, accessibility, full and effective participation in society, equality of opportunity, respect for and acceptance of PwDs within the larger society, and, most importantly, “respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy, including the freedom to make one's own choices, and independence of persons”.⁹⁶ The Act is a transformative shift from a welfare-driven approach to a rights-based approach in addressing this challenge.

The second major pathway practiced in India for Social Inclusion is by building, expanding, and improving rural people's self-government through Panchayat Raj Institutions. This has been enshrined in the Constitution and expanded by laws and government executive orders. The basic units of the system are the Gram Sabhas comprising all adult villagers who are voters.

The Third approach to Social Inclusion is using strengthening and organizing women's self-help groups through National Rural Livelihood Mission. The NRLM way has specific protocols and activity plans for Social Inclusion—

1. By sending skilled Community Resource Persons on rounds to map the villages and poverty, and mobilize the vulnerable;
2. Presenting the status of SHGs and disadvantaged to Gram Sabha;
3. Facilitating Panchasutra and Revolving Fund rotations, access to Community Investment Funds, and smooth Credit Linkages amongst all inclusively;
4. Help the poor and disadvantaged in inclusion, Prioritization, microplanning, livelihoods, and credit handling.



Further Trends in Social Inclusion in India

Social Inclusion can be made more effective by increasing better people engagement approaches in both the PRI approach and the NRLM approach. The enabling factors need to be enhanced. Like access to information by all, capacity building to enter and stay in the 3 domains of Social Inclusion- Markets, Public Spaces, and better access to Services. The engagement approaches are 1. Consultations. 2. Collaborations. 3. Data processing. 4. Good Grievance Redressal mechanisms 5. Citizen-led monitoring. 6. Use of Information Communication Technology to reach each section of society.

In Disaster prone areas the focus should be brought back to Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction instead of increasing dependence on government or NGO-given relief operations.. To make the Total Sanitation Campaign “Swacha Bharat” fully successful we should not just focus on creating toilets but simultaneously on a positive open defecation-free mindset too.

References:

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**Dr. Ambika Prasad
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Climate Change, Food Security and Malnutrition

Climate change is now a scientifically established fact. Scientific communities are making million attempts to predict the exact impact of the greenhouse gases but not able to be as specific as the interference of anthropogenic impact are not always the same. Human behavior keeps on changing based on the realities and are beyond the predictability of any knowledge stream. The exact impact of greenhouse gas emission is not easy to forecast and there is a lot of uncertainty in the science when it comes to predictive capability. However, it is felt in everyday life and has been adequately documented by the social science researchers. It has started impacting on the lives of millions of people and no more categorized as a distant threat. In another sense it can be said that it is the most defining development issue before humanity.

Development action and activities are targeted about expanding human potential and enlarging human freedom. It is about people, developing the capabilities that empower them to make choices and to lead lives that they value. Climate change threatens to erode human freedom and limit choice. Change in the climate is pushing millions of poor people across the globe towards abject poverty by rubbing them off their limited resources. Increased exposure to drought, intense and frequent cyclone, sever flood and environmental distress is holding back the effort of the poor people to build a better life for themselves and their children. The poor people of the present generation are bearing the brunt of climate change that is going to be faced by the humanity as a whole in future.

Global warming induced climate change is currently expressed in the forms of change in season and unfolding of disasters like flood, cyclone, drought, hurricane, heat wave, cold wave and spread of new diseases. This is evidently affecting millions of poor people across the globe. Vulnerability to withstand change in season is with respect to erosion of capacity and capability of poor people. This is further enhanced by the unpredictable onslaught of disaster. Consequence is people are forced in to the vicious circle of abject poverty. Continuous change in season and happening of disaster corrode the capacity and capability of the poor people to march towards the path of development. They along with their children are forced into the miseries of starvation, suffering of health and leading a disrespectful life for them. Climate shock erodes long term opportunities for human development, undermining productivity and eroding human capabilities.

Reduction of the access to variety of food basket affects the nutrition of the human society. Nutrition has a prominent position in person's health and wellbeing. It increases the immune system, delays the aging process, provides energy to do multiple works, reduce the risk of chronic diseases and expands the life span. However, disaster by affecting the family income, assets, and food security leads to the condition of under nutrition. Under-nutrition is a stage that occurs when important nutrient like protein, fiber, vitamins & minerals, iron and clean



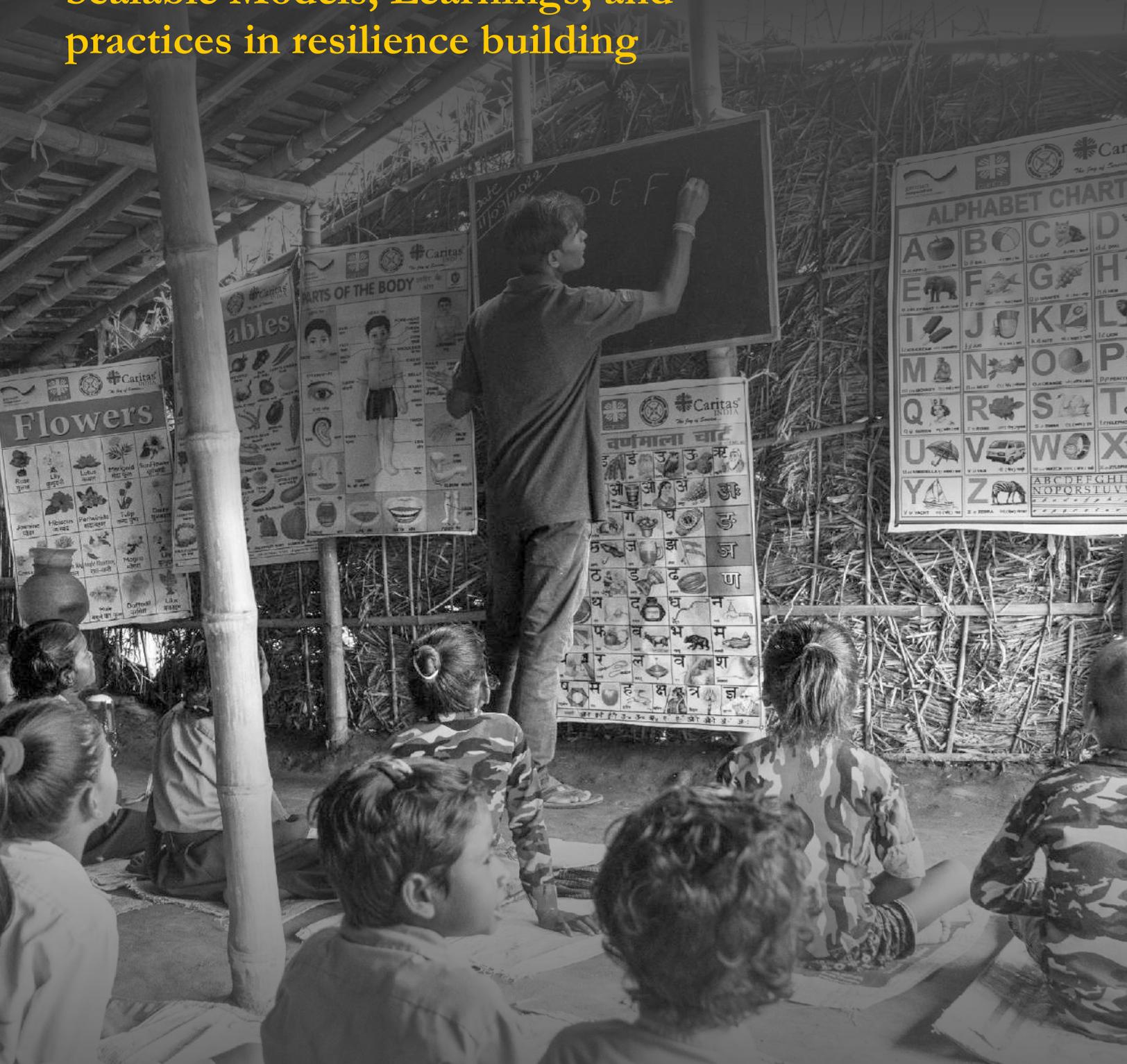
drinking water are not consumed in correct quantities or are not properly absorbed by the body. This deficiency of nutrition has a long-lasting impact on the growth and development of a person especially on the children.

Malnutrition has a harmful impact on the children restricting their future growth prospect. The crucial first two years of child's life affected by malnutrition damage the physical and cognitive development which is largely irreversible. Death is the worst and extreme outcome of malnutrition, but it is not the only one, rather it is followed by number of sufferings. Children, who survive under nourishment grow up to become adult with increased vulnerabilities to multiple infection and diseases, early aging process and permanent risk of health hazards. The children's sufferings from under

nourishment develop stunted growth in terms of physical and cognitive skill. It impacts on their school performance and directly hampers the future earning abilities. Malnutrition in early age of life enhances the hold of poverty trap to overcome in future. The cause of malnutrition is a combination of complicated multiple factors, but the prominent are poverty, climate change related frequent disasters, food insecurity, unequal status of women, poor sanitation and contaminated water. The long-lasting impact of under nutrition is that it increases the vulnerability to diseases, delay the development process and stunt the growth of physical and cognitive skill. This needs comprehensive approach to address issues of climate change, so that it ensures food security for each and every one of us to lead a dignified life.

TECHNICAL SESSION 5

Scalable Models, Learnings, and practices in resilience building



#We4Resilience



Mr. Sosi Bordoloi
Community Leader
Assam

Sustainability of Community Institutions: DRR Models in Assam

A Journey of Task Force Member to POOHAR Argo Producer Company Limited

With its major rivers the Brahmaputra and Barak, which have more than 50 tributaries, the state of Assam is prone to floods and erosion. Low-lying areas remain submerged for as long as 2 to 3 weeks after flash floods. More than 30 lakh hectares, or almost 40%, of total land in the state is flood-prone, according to the Rashtriya Barh Ayog (National Flood Commission). This includes about 4,75,000 hectares of cropped land, most of it devoted to rice cultivation, out of a total of 28 lakh hectares cultivated in the state.

Impact of flood is a major problem of the district. Government records say that every year floods damages about 90% of crops, 20% of houses and 40% of livestock in the district. In flood prone areas, water level of the river rises due to heavy rain and overflow of the water from the River Brahmaputra to Udari Lake, Kolong river, Sunai River, Sunduba/Salmara Beel. The flood water enters the villages, and the water level rises from 5-15 feet.

With this given situation, Caritas India had initiated Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP), Community and Family Disaster Preparedness (CFDP), and Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) project in the year 2004 to 2013 in Morigaon district Assam to reduce the vulnerability and risk of the community. The project was implemented through Women Development Centre (WDC), Guwahati. The project had constituted farmers' clubs consisting of 11 members to move a step closer to the government schemes and support.

Farmers' Clubs (FCs) promoted by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) are grass root level informal fora organized by the rural branches of banks, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), etc. A total of 13 farmers' clubs had registered under NABARD in Morigaon in 15 project villages under CMDRR project in 2011. These farmers' clubs act not only as a bridge between the villages and the government but also function as a Task Force Group in responding the emergency. Apart from trainings, the farmers' club performs another significant – preparing the plan of Action (POA). As per 2011 census Morigaon district has 632 villages and 85 Panchayats. In this context, a farmer's club becomes a decentralised structure of taking the concerns of the villages to the Gram Panchayat. Farmers' club meets regularly once or twice a month and as and when required and discusses their issues together with the rest of the village. Women are an integral part of the process. “We discussed our issues in regular meetings in the village and prepared this plan of action, exclaimed one of the farmers' club members. “Prior to the farmers' club, we never made plan of action, but the panchayat did it. Now, we can put forth our local issues and have understood the method of approach”, he added.

The club, in the POA proposed various development works for the village like vaccination for animals before and after floods, construction of community hall, construction of village roads, raising of embankment etc. and integrated in Gram Panchayat Development Plan. In Rajabori and Bhekahubori the Farmers' clubs had prepared the plan, submitted, and implemented. Not only are the people now confident but also have a vision for sustenance. "We now see a path, even after the project is over, the staff will continue to facilitate the process of upgrading farmers' club to Farmers' Producer Organisation and we are confident on it", said Mr. Sosida Nand Bordoloi program coordinator of CMDRR.

Committed to his statement and his dedication to his work towards humanitarian aid he continues to facilitate the farmers' clubs formed under CFDP project in 2009 to 2011 and CMDRR project in 2011 to 2012. In 2013 the project team under the leadership of Mr. Sosida Nanda Bordoloi had registered farmers' club as POOHAR Farmers Producer Organisation in April 2015, consequently POOHAR Farmers Producer Organisation was registered as POOHAR AGRO PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED on 2nd December 2019. The office is based in Borchala Patuakata Morigaon district Assam.

This initiative was the first ever in Morigaon where Task Force Members and staff jointly registered Producer Company Limited after phasing out the project as a strategy of community sustainability. This initiative was started by 11 members including with the project staff and now the company has 425 farmers shareholders. Of which 49 farmers from 4 villages are from Global Program India areas. Shareholders of FPC now offering a proven pathway to successfully deal with a range of challenges that confront farmers today, due to frequent flood and small producers in Morigaon District. They are acting as the humanitarian aid workers and warriors of promoting flood resilient paddy seeds in Morigaon district and across the state of Assam. This initiative has been appreciated by the community and government institutions for making the lives of the farmers more resilient to Flood.

Initial Initiatives in Flood Resilient Seed Production

- POOHAR started Flood Resilience and Short Duration Paddy cultivation Seed Production in 2017 under the guidance of KVK, Morigaon.
- In 2019, POOHAR, in collaboration with KVK, Morigaon and other line departments-initiated cultivation on flood resilient paddy varieties Ranjit-Sub1, Bahadur-Sub1 and Swarna-Sub1.

Sl No	Total Land for paddy seed Production	Average production of paddy / Bigha (KG)	Total Production
1	1250 bigha (166.67 ha)	480	600000 kg (600 MT)

Seed production Under APART Programme In 2021/2022

In 2021 our FPC POOHAR have been selected for seed production under APART program along with two other FPC's- Tetelia and Shankar Azan.

Total area

Our Total Area	45Ha
Ranjit Sub 1	30Ha
Bina 11	5HA
Total Production	33 Mt
Ranjit -sub1	23 MT
Bina 11	10 MT
Swarna – SuB1	800 KG



Present Scenario of POOHAR Argo Producer Company Limited

Annual turnover – In 2019 - 2020 is RS -250000/-, Total farmers 527 share Holders and 825 General Member from 17 villages

Our Little Success Story

- Supply of 27200 KG Paddy Seed to AAU @42.62/KG= 1159264 /-
- Supply of 2880 KG Certified Ranjit-Sub1 Paddy seed to a local FPC @35/KG (Excluding Transportation)
- Supply of 600 KG Swarna- sub1 to Supply of 2500 KG Ranjit-Sub 1 Paddy Seed to a Local NGO @ @35/KG (Excluding Transportation)

Way forward – Future action plan

- Promotion of flood resilient paddy seed in flood prone areas of Assam and Sustainability of community institutions in other areas
- Replicating in Global Program areas in Assam
- Installation of a seed Processing Plant approximately 60 Lac Budget. Which will be sensations in this Month under APART / AAU /Govt.of Assam support
- Installation of a 2 MT/H Rice Mill approximately 75 Lac Budget. Which will be sensations in this Month under APART / Govt.of Assam support



Mr. Bisram Kende
Tribal Healer, SABAL

Tribal Healers as Catalysts of Change

“On 12 November 2020, two years old Sarika was brought to me for performing the folk rituals. Her condition was very severe. She could hardly respond to my diagnosis. However, to keep the belief of the parents I chanted some mantras and tied a holy thread on her right arm. Followed to it, I advised the parent to immediately take Sarika to the hospital for treatment as her situation requires immediate attention.”

Hearing the suggestion for seeking medical assistance the unsatisfied parents threatened Bisram Kende of being ineffective of treating their daughter and wanted to approach another folk healer for treatment.

Usually, the community members never refuse the advice of their holy ones, but Sarika's parents were tough to convince even for Bisram. “Looking at the situation slipping out of my hands and considering the child's situation, I immediately called out to Manglesh, Field Facilitator and Rahul Kasde, Community Facilitator of Sabal for help.”

The trio along with Anganwadi worker and Auxiliary Nurse-Midwife (ANM) went to Sarika's house and counselled Sharda (mother of child) to seeking medical facilities else she will lose her daughter. The father of Sarika, Jayram was still adamant and continued to refuse to the advice of the team. Considering his stubbornness, Bisram angrily warned him of listening his advice or his family will be restricted from participating in all the future ceremonies of the community. His actions convinced the parents to take their child to NRC for 21 days.

“Sarika is now leading a normal life and I am very happy to see her growing healthy” – Bisram expressed happily. This was one of the most challenging cases Bisram narrated since he joined the Sabal programme.

Early in 2018 before joining Sabal, Bisram Kende, 62-year-old resident of Devalikala would perform religio-magical rites and addressed malnutrition cases of the children by chanting mantras and tying threads around the wrist. The community offered goat, chicken and other valuable things to the priest as a gesture to please God.

During one of the meetings organized by Sabal team, Bisram participated and expressed his interest in joining Sabal for learning sustainable agriculture practices. He joined the farmers group and actively practiced the trainings provided on farming. Rahul also insisted Bisram to join as health volunteer of Sabal to address the malnutrition and anaemia issues of his community.

“I was always happy to be part of Sabal farmers group. I could not refuse the proposal from Rahul to join as a health

volunteer to fight the chiti-rog (malnutrition) problem of my village” – Bisram said.

Soon Bisram was equipped with Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tape and received training on assessing the degree of malnutrition among the children who were brought to him for treatment by the parents. He was instructed to follow the three-colour indication viz. red, yellow and green of tape.

“I was directed by Sabal team that if the child is in green condition appreciate the parents and encourage them to take good care of the child, if the tape indicate yellow, I caution the parents about the health condition and motivate them to pay good attention on child and if needed seek medical support. But as soon as it indicates red colour, I instruct the parent to reach the child directly to health centre.” – confidently shared by Bisram.

“I also immediately inform the Sabal team to take necessary actions to ensure the child is taken to the health centre” – he added.

In the last four years with his association with Sabal, Bisram has referred more than 36 children to NRC, encouraged 40 mothers for institutional deliveries and more than 50 people to seek medical support.

“I do not disappoint my community members if they reach out to me. I continue to recite the mantras and tie knots to uphold their faith in me and God. Whenever they call me to conduct any rituals, I never refuse my presence. However, I always encourage them to seek medical facilities during their illness” – Bisram said with a satisfied smile.

Bisram contributions in fighting the malnutrition is a perfect example of a balance between faith and scientific temperament.





Ms. Manda Kamal Jawarkar

Woman Farmer, SABAL

Organic Farming: Preferred Choice of Women Farmers

Manda Kamal Jawarkar from Satti is a small land holding farmer with 2 acres of irrigated land along with 3 acres of rainfed land. Due to adequate irrigation facility available all-round the year, her family was only doing cash crop cultivation in farmland. During the Kharif (monsoon) season she cultivated cotton, soybean, and maize and during Rabi (winter) season wheat and gram.

“We did not knew about organic farming and have been broadcasting synthetic fertilizers and pesticides over the crops. The farming inputs costed us heavily and the production was low leading us with meagre profit in our hands” – Manda expressed in a low voice.

The use of overpriced synthetic fertilizers costed a lot with meagre profit from the harvest leading her family in a position of heavy debt from local moneylenders. In one of the meetings, she requested Sabal community facilitator for her participation and expressed her interest on learning organic farming practices which was very much welcomed. Traversing through the farmland and analysing the locally available resources of Manda, the community facilitator recommended her for practicing vegetable cultivation and shifting to food crop cultivation using multi-cropping technique.

“Sabal walo ke sahayog se maine jaivik dawa banana seekha jis karan mujhe bahar se dawa lane ki jarurt nhi padi (With Sabal support I learned to prepare organic solutions and I did not have to purchase any solutions from outside)” – Manda shared.

Manda bought vegetable seeds and cultivated in her 2 acre of land. She bought fenugreek, spinach, carrot, radish, beetroot, tomato, and chilli and treated the crops solely with organic nutrition and pest solutions. From the harvest she was able to earn a profit of ₹ 15,000 excluding the cost of input for preparation of solution which was only one-fourth of what she spent on market purchases. Additionally, she also earned profit of ₹ 8,000 from the harvest of chillies.

“Pichle char saalon me humne bazaar se kabhi sabzi nhi khareedi kyu ki sabhi humne khet se uplabh ho jati hai (In the last 4 years we haven't bought any vegetables from the market as it is available from our own field)” – happily shared by Manda. Manda also cultivates millets like kodo, little millet, Indian barnyard millet, Sorghum and lentils and pulses through mixed farming approach. Manda is the lead farmer of Sabal women farmers group and timely motivates other women of the community to opt for organic farming practices.



Ms. Saubai

Woman Farmer, SABAL

Volunteering for Change

Mujhe mere logo ko madad karna aur unka gyan badhana achha lagta hai (I love to support and sensitize my community people) - Sau Bai said happily.

Sau Bai is one of the oldest members of Sabal women farmers group. She has been working with Sabal for the last 5 years and actively supports all the interventions and initiatives of the programme.

Inspired by the concept of Sabal and motivated to work for her own community, the 38-year-old from Gram Inderakheda joined Sabal and took the challenge to transform her community situation which is majorly infamous for malnutrition prevalence.

Sau Bai never fails to contribute her time in the Sabal initiatives to support the front-line worker Ms. Laxmi Minj – Community Facilitator. She holds interaction meeting at the village square with other women farmers sensitizing them on the nutritional values of the millet and motivate them to cultivate millet in their farmlands. She regularly shares about the various initiatives that have been started by Sabal and how the programme helps the farmers to grow the millets like Kutki, Kodo, Jowar etc by supporting them in mobilizing the seeds from the seed banks strategized at the cluster level.

She also helps the health worker on regular profiling of the children and distribution of the nutrition supplements to the severe children. She keeps a check of the families with young infants and toddlers who come back from migration and inform the community facilitator about such families so that the child is immediately linked with the Anganwadis for regular entitlement. Timely nutritional counselling of the mothers, support to the Anganwadi workers and referrals of critical child cases to nutrition rehabilitation centre (NRC) are few other contributions of Sau Bai.

“During the monsoon season, I had setup nutrition garden and was regularly supplying fresh vegetables to the households with 6 malnourished children and 4 pregnant mothers” – Sau Bai proudly shared.

“It gives me a lot of happiness when I support the needy families with whatever I have” – she added.

Sau bai is one of the key change agents of Sabal and is instrumental in working actively for the development of her village community.



Ms. Manisha Lodhi

Woman Farmer, SAFBIN

Diversification of nutritional menu has improved my family's health

Women in the agricultural sector, whether through traditional means or as an agricultural labourer, represents a significant role. As key players in the field of agriculture and those in charge of ensuring adequate nutrition for their families, rural women are at the centre of this challenge.

Action is the foundational key to success' finds resonance with Manisha Lodhi, a resident of Shaasan village of Shahgarh of Sagar in Madhya Pradesh. Living in a small house with her family who barely met their food requirement 3-4yrs back. Having 1.5acres of land with the conventional farming system in rain-fed conditions, it was not so easy to have sufficient food for all year round. Manisha was among to suffer not only from economic poverty but also from information poverty. Based on their culture and custom, she had to work silently and struggled to get household duties completed from dawn to dusk. Every year, her family used to take loans from people/market to buy costly hybrid seeds, fertilisers, and pesticides to have good production. To meet their food requirements, her husband migrates to a nearby town in search of labour works, while she remains herself alone with her children.

On initiation of Strengthening Adaptive Farming in Bangladesh India & Nepal (SAFBIN), Udayabhan Lodhi (her husband) shared with Manisha (his wife) about the concept and they both went to discuss their challenges and expressed interest to become members of smallholder farmers collectives. Over the period, Manisha silently learnt the procedure and practices from her husband carefully. They took on-farm trial on wheat where they got remarkable production i.e 80Kgs of wheat out of mere 250gms of seeds. Manisha joined women's Self-Help Group 'Sri Ram Swayong Sahayata Samoh' and became their secretary. She used the platform to cross-share learnings and good practices. While sharing, she realised how to start a nutritional garden that can be managed along with her domestic work. Now, she is harvesting more than 12 varieties of vegetables in her small garden and in last season, she sold almost 300kgs with an income of INR 15500/- per month.

Not buying any vegetables from outside for home consumption has helped her to save a considerable amount of money. Now, she feels more confident and looks forward to many more profitable seasons though, kitchen garden did not provide enough means to step out of poverty, yet the boom of vegetables in her garden provided her with the much-needed self-confidence and helped her to meet some of the immediate needs of her family.

“I do admit that there is an improvement in the nutrition status of my family, though it is not possible for me to measure the same at this stage. However, the diversification of the menu in my family and the regular intake of green & fresh vegetables have improved our health”, says Manisha.



Ms. Rekha Patel

Woman Farmer

SAFBIN program helped a woman farmer to become self-reliant

“SAFBIN helped to change my way of agriculture and made me realised with low-cost localised solutions not only to diversify our food basket but also double the production and capacity to cope up under the new realities of climate change”.

Rekha Patel, a smallholder farmer of Hanumantora village from Sagar in Madhya Pradesh, India owns 1.5 acres of land and vegetable cultivation is one of her main sources of livelihood. Earlier she was harvesting only black gram and now after being associated with SAFBIN program of Caritas India, she is harvesting 21 varieties of seeds and vegetables like cereals, millets, pulses, oil seeds and vegetables round the year which she never expected.

Introducing herself as one of the smallholder farmers' collective (SHFC) members in Smallholder Adaptive Farming and Biodiversity Network (SAFBIN) a Smallholder led Initiative of Caritas India, made her to realise and reflect on her present practices and started recycling the existing farm waste/resources and invests made in her small homestead.

She plucks 2100 radishes and sells it in the nearby market for @ Rs 3.00 per radish and earns Rs. 6300.00 (Six thousand rupees) per week. Similarly, she earns Rs. 300.00 from tomatoes and Rs. 250.00 from chillies.” She has raised her income up from Rs. to Rs. 2,40,000/- per annum by selling vegetables and by following the low-cost good agriculture practices (GAP) learnt from Caritas India and managed to reduce the input cost efficiently to almost 30% - 40% in a year.

My sincere thanks to SAFBIN and Caritas India for guiding me through various trainings and input support to ensure my family's food and nutritional requirements.



Ms. Bonani Das

*Program Coordinator, TSSS
Global Programme India*

Flood-tolerant seeds transform lives of struggling farmers

With 75% population employed in the agrarian sector, the state experiences an annual deluge in the Kharif season exposing farmers to severe risk of crops and property loss. Like millions of farmers in Assam, Bidhan Tiru lives on a small plot of land for his survival.

Bidhan lives in Dhekiajuli revenue village in Karunabari Block of Lakhimpur district in Assam, vulnerable to flooding. The village is situated almost 33 KM away from district headquarter North Lakhimpur with a population of 2176 peoples. Every year during Kharif season, Bidhan faces frustration and repeated failure of crops and sometimes he feels like giving up. Like him, there are many people in his village who are under the vicious cycle of floods due to rains and the rivers that flow from Arunachal.

In Lakhimpur district, every year a huge amount of agricultural land gets brushed away and crops go underwater through sedimentation and inundation caused by the floods and erosion. With an increasing number of hazards and vulnerabilities, people need to develop a coping mechanism for their own survival. The frequent floods not only destroy the homes but also snatch away their source of livelihoods and lands which are very close to their hearts. Even though the flood waters inundate the paddy fields 2 to 3 times during monsoon season, still farmers take the risk of paddy cultivation without knowing whether they can reap its harvest.

In Kharif season the area produces crops like peas, mustard, and other vegetables besides rice, but the shrinking agricultural land due to frequent floods and erosion affects the lives of those who rely on agriculture very badly. With the intervention of Caritas India, now the farmers of Dhekiajuli village of Lakhimpur are adapting good practices on how to build resilience of the local people to disasters.

Tezpur Social Service Society (TSSS), one of the implementing partners of the Global Programme India in Assam is intervening in 10 villages in the Lakhimpur district. Identified farmers have been imparted trainings and linkages got developed between them and the staffs of TSSS and KVK. The connection became more stronger when the KVK specialists visited the field areas and decided to establish a demonstration plot in the field area.

Bidhan Tiru along with three farmers Matias Barjo, Asab Boral and Santosh Tiru was selected for setting up the demonstration plot. Technical training from KVK was provided on 19th May 2022 in the village. On 13th June 2022, the nursery bed preparation was completed and accordingly the transplantation was done on 5th July 2022. As on 25th September 2022, the paddy seedlings were seen to be stabilising erectly in soil with healthy growth of almost

3 feet in height. Proper growth and about 40 tillers are noticed per hill of paddy seedling. This is the active tillering stage of the paddy.

Similarly, several other farmers from nearby villages were also trained to develop the plot and practice the cultivation of paddy through a machine and the System of Rice Intensification (SRI). A total of 46 farmers were grouped and supported with 4 varieties of paddy seeds namely Ranjit Sub-1, Bahadur Sub-1, Mussorie and Bina to cultivate their land.

“Initially, most of the experienced farmers laughed and mocked at us for adopting this flood resilient paddy and transplanting it with machines in the field,” shared Bidhan Tiru. “This is because the paddy tillers from seedlings looked unhealthy facing downwards in the initial period. This made me angry and sad as I thought that I have made the wrong

decision in transplanting the paddy with machinery. But after 15 days, when the saplings took shape and are seen to be growing healthy and faster than other fields, I gained confidence that I will succeed.”

The farmers in the area are now very happy and excited to get engaged in the cultivation of the flood-resilient paddy and established a strong relationship with KVK. This time they are hopeful to get a good harvest. In future, it is also planned to cultivate black gram by the farmers in collaboration with KVK.

Smallholder farmers often face similar challenges to climate change such as floods and heavy rains. This type of adaptation and multi-stakeholder partnership can help to provide a sustainable solution. Instead of fighting the flood, we can use flood water to cultivate crops.





Mr. Prem Prakash
*Program Coordinator, PGVS
Global Programme India*

NFS Program with partnership of Prayas Gamin Vikas Samitee

“Improved AWW services & Enable community to participate in the planning and take collective action to improve nutrition status among mother & children”

The Prayas Gramin Vikas Samiti (PGVS) was founded in 1985 and registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860. PGVS aims to build a just society in which marginalized communities are empowered to participate in government and policy welfare and development programs. PGVS advocates the right to education, dignity, self-service, health, land rights and the needs of women and children of Dalits communities.

Entitlements and rights of the deprived and the marginalized Dalit. Later, several efforts were made for the rights and entitlements of the Dalits in the state, and they were quite successful. Today, Prayas Gamin Vikas Samitee is a leading organization for the cause of Dalits through the Dalit Adhikar Manch in 28 districts of the state. It is also linked at the national level with various networks.

The Global Programme on Poverty Reduction and Food Security, addressed the need of marginalized & Mahadalit communities through Village level Development Plan which covered Nutrition & food security, community health & Hygiene issues, legal documentation drive, Capacity building, Strengthening of CBO's (VHSNC & SMC and Mahila Mandal) and convergence in ICDS, PDS & MDM services.

PGVS has been involved in Nutrition Sensitive Micro planning with community members, PRI members, AWW & ASHA to ensure decentralized planning process with the participation of every community member.

Process of Nutrition Sensitive Micro planning

- The planning involved, Identification of the resources and problems of the village.
- Mapping the houses of the malnourished children and screening process initiated by AWW and referred sick SAM children in NRC.
- Home based cared also been initiated by AWW, ANM and ASHA for SAM children
- Prioritizing Nutrition– The community driven micro planning transformed the face of MNREGA plans from being solely infrastructure focussed to giving nutrition its due accord.

During resource mapping the families with malnourished children were identified first for PDS services, AWW and ANM services and Take-home ration.



Mr. Rajendra Singh

Thematic Lead NFS

Global Programme India

Seed Tray: A nutrition security model for Musahar's

In Bihar, 96.3% of Musahars (one of the lowest of the Dalit groups) are landless and 92.5% work as farm labourers. The nutrition level of the musahar families is very poor due to their socio-economic condition. By and large, the community lives in very unhygienic conditions because of poverty which leads to malnutrition and several diseases.

The problem of landlessness among the poor is steadily increasing in the state aggravating poverty and retarding the development of agriculture. Moreover, the concentration of marginal landholdings (up to 1 hectare) of Dalits and Adivasis in Bihar is very high as is the number of families facing complete landlessness.

Caritas India Global Program in Bihar is working to capacitate the households to improve nutrition security. The program has supported the most marginalised and deprived families with quality seeds along with tools and techniques to prepare kitchen gardens in their backyards where land is not available.

In 2021, Caritas India and Bihar Dalit Vikas Samiti (BDVS) took the initiative to empower the excluded communities, especially the Mahadalits, to fight for their nutritional rights and other related services. The organisations under the Global Program selected 15 villages of Tarapura and Tetiya Bambar block in Munger District of Bihar to address the undernutrition. Malnutrition problems in children are very common in Mahadalits families there are several reasons behind it, and landlessness is one of them. They are dependent on rations from Public Distribution System (PDS), and due to one kind of food eating habits, their family members face problems of nutrition deficiency.

Caritas India and BDVS started working towards reducing malnutrition, access to Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) services and promoting supplementary nutrition solutions for impoverished communities. The programme team has promoted Kitchen Garden to enhance their nutrition sufficiency. The community was supported with seeds of various vegetables, tree saplings etc. for the Kitchen Garden but the major challenge arises from the unavailability of land.

Seed Tray Model provide fresh vegetables in next to their doorsteps

Musahars community of Tarapura and Tetiya Bambar, majorly landless and for the Kitchen Garden major challenge arises from the unavailability of land. By observing that the women consumed hardly any vegetables, BDVS and Caritas India (GPI) started the campaign for landless kitchen gardens. As the villagers do not own land where they can grow vegetables. despite lack of water and land availability. The Global Program has devised a way out by



introducing the seed tray model to resolve the issue.

Benefits of Kitchen Garden through seed tray model

The families were supported with a variety of seeds and seed trays to start their kitchen garden. With landless kitchen gardens, Women have started to use diverse vegetables in their diet. With resources, at a minimum cost of Rs 10 to 50 for the seeds, families have multiple vegetables daily for their consumption. The women also used compost and soil (landless families) and choose to grow bitter gourd, ridge gourd, bottle gourd, tomatoes, pumpkin and other vegetables.

Access to vegetables in the diet means better health & Nutrition status, though a proper study to measure the impact of the vegetable consumption is yet to be done. But for now, women are happy and grateful that they are getting vegetables in their diet at almost no cost. Some women have gone further and set up nurseries and sell plants and vegetables at the market.



Mr. Azaj Alam

*Coordinator, MDSSS
Global Programme India*

Community Based Early Warning

The Koshi River's unpredictability has an impact on human life, means of subsistence, and livestock in Bihar every year. Nearly 76% of the people in North Bihar always fear for disastrous floods. The rivers flowing from the Himalayan region experience flood because of the significant rainfall in Nepal's catchment area. The rivers in Bihar, particularly the Koshi, breach their embankments, resulting in floods. To manage the flow of the river, embankments were built on each side in 1954–1955. This slowed down the pace of the water, but gradually the siltation began. 2008 saw a devastating flood hit Bihar, which resulted in 412 Panchayats, 993 villages, 493 fatalities, and 3,500 unaccounted-for persons. Despite the construction of embankments, the unexpected and uncontrollable nature of floods brought on by changing weather patterns and an increase in the frequency of strong rainfall events could not be stopped.

This year, things were different; when the flood arrived, no one was killed since there had been a head start on preparation and evacuation, thanks to early warnings of the increasing levels. In Sanpatha village of Baneniya Panchayat and Dholi village of Dholi Panchayat, district Supaul Bihar, the members of the Disaster risk reduction committee built the community-based early warning system. Following the debate, the DRR committee set up measuring pillars at Sanpatha and Dholi, two points on the Koshi riverbank, to gauge the water level. Members of the community installed a measuring pillar, a 30-foot-tall bamboo, and deployed white, yellow, and red flags to alert the neighbourhood of the water level. It is a component of the contingency plan created by the neighbourhood under Caritas India's global programme, which was started in June 2022 and will last through the flood season.

To inform the Panchayati Raj members, DRR committee, Taskforce members, PRS, Kisan Salahkar, and Panchayat secretary as Government officials and project workers on the state of the water level, the community formed the WhatsApp group "Koshi Early Warning Group". Through this group, members regularly share discharge readings from the hydrological station in Chatar, Nepal (available at 6:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 2:00 PM, and 6:00 PM from the website of the Nepal Hydrological Department at <http://hydrology.gov.np/>). Based on the data, task force members used to measure water levels in the villages, save the data in a register, and exchange the information in a WhatsApp group. The data is analysed by a Taskforce team, who then utilise the right flag to broadcast the warnings to the community by mobile messaging and loudspeaker.

In 2022, on August 1st, 40 villages in the Beninya and Dholi panchayat received early warning messages from the community early warning system. Closed monitoring started with the rise in catchment levels and the release of water from the Koshi Barrage. Based on the reading in the first week of August, the community issued an evacuation warning after analysing the situation. The neighbourhood was able to evacuate without panic because of timely information. The water is currently receding, and the situation is under control.



Mr. Ghanshyam Jethwa

Head of Programme

Caritas India

Replicable Models in Resilience Building

Introduction

Resilience, simply put, is the capacity to recover quickly from setbacks or shocks. The setbacks may be personal in individual life as well as for the whole of society, country or even the world, as seen recently in form of shocks from Covid-19 and climate change effects. On the one hand, various organisations and institutions strive to achieve development, and on the other, the shocks wipe out the same. The Covid-19 pandemic wiped out poverty eradication gains achieved in more than four years, pushing 93 million more people into extreme poverty (United Nations, 2022). This is not a good demonstration of resilience, provoking thoughts on what and how we can do better.

This brief article describes why resilience is important, followed by sharing of some of the effective resilience approaches demonstrated by Caritas India that can be replicated and scaled up. The article sums up the way forward on how scaling up can be achieved.

Importance of Resilience Building

Building resilience in all the Emergency Response (ER), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and development programs is important so as to protect the positive impact achieved through those programs. If the programs are not implemented with conscious efforts of building resilience, there are three major threats that wipe out the positive impact: pandemic, climate change effects and wars (e.g. current Ukraine war).

First, the pandemic not only wiped out more than four years' poverty eradication achievements, but also disrupted and considerably weakened the health and education services. Life saving immunisation witnessed a drop in coverage, and schools remained closed for long time, resulting in disruption of learning for 24 million students around the world (United Nations, 2020).

Second, the climate crisis has been posing existential threat to the people, as visible in the form of increased cyclones, droughts, floods, heatwaves, wildfires and so on. These hazards are causing irreversible damage to Earth's ecosystem - oceans, land, soil and water - as well as the species (including humans) dependent on these natural resources.

Third, Ukraine-Russia war has resulted in crisis of three Fs: food, fuel and fertiliser, as prices of these commodities are skyrocketing in multiple countries, and has threatened global food production and supply. It has also displaced many people across the borders.

Though all the people get affected by these major threats, the most affected ones always include children, women and other vulnerable groups such as people living with disability, socio-economically and politically marginalised communities and similar other community groups. What are the solutions? There is a need to identify and scale up the sustainable models by the government, non-government, corporate and other organisations engaged in ER, DRR and development programs. Let us see what Caritas India has to offer, and other organisations are also encouraged to share the same.

Effective Approaches and Replicable Models

Caritas India has demonstrated some of the practices that have emerged as replicable models organically. These practices are related to community-led DRR, sustainable agriculture practices that raise farmers' incomes for future shocks, and community-led health programs. Caritas India programs have been operational in multiple states of India. Some of the replicable models, supported by various national and international donors, are as follows:

- Strengthening Community-based Organisations (CBOs), especially of women, linking them with local governance - Panchayats - for joint DRR planning and implementation. Community-based task forces have been created and trained in search and rescue as per the Guidelines of the State Disaster Management Authorities and in coordination with the District Disaster Management Authorities. Participatory Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) at the village and ward level and building local capacities in rapidly conducting the same have been some of the key strategies.
- 'Disaster clinics' is a replicable model established by Caritas India in Kerala. These centres act as data and information exchange hubs for disaster management. These local institutions have been equipped with 310 Emergency Response kits (life jacket, torch (solar-enabled), First Aid Kit, raincoat, whistle with tag, nylon rope 30 metres, rucksack – 60 litres capacity, gum boots, safety goggles and DM plans. Thus the disaster clinics have been capacitated to deal with any emergency, reduce the negative impact of the disasters, and help communities to be more resilient.
- Other set of Caritas India programs relate to climate adaptive agriculture and food sovereignty, building farmers' resilience to disasters and adverse impact of climate change. Some of the examples include promoting use of organic manure, encouraging food crops over cash crops (optimally balancing both), promoting use of traditional seeds as more resilient crops in local conditions, promoting natural farming, soil and water conservation initiatives, promoting kitchen gardens and fruit plants, and use of edible forest

produce in tribal areas, and building community organisations such as Farmers Producers Organisations (FPOs) for sustainability. All these are resulting in positive impact in terms of doubling the farmers' incomes, improving soil quality in their farms for longer term, and overall resilience building of not only the communities but also the natural resources - especially land, water and forest.

- In health sector, cancer care campaigns in southern states of India have demonstrated multi-crore funds being raised locally, and networking with the hospitals for addressing the needs of the cancer patients. This is a replicable model awaiting scaling up in many states of India. To combat Covid-19 with Build Back Better approach, hospital network across India was strengthened with supply of 405 oxygen concentrators, 27 ventilators, and 3 oxygen plants and 250 oxygen cylinders. This has made many hospitals more resilient and prepared for any health crisis in future.

Way Forward and Conclusion

Considering the limited space of this article, it is not possible to include detailed information of the above resilient models. However, detailed information is available on request from Caritas India. At the same time, Caritas India will be happy to learn from other such effective practices, and take up as replicable models. As the world is becoming more and more digitised, there are many opportunities to create digital platforms, where such models are not only deposited or stored, but made radically interactive, interesting and therefore usable. Importance of working together with various stakeholders at all the levels - from the grassroots to the global - can hardly be over-emphasised. Only together "we can".

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Speakers of National Conference



Most. Rev Sebastian Kallupura
Chairman, Caritas India

His Excellency Most. Rev. Sebastian Kallupura is the Chairman of Caritas India. He served the Archdiocese of Patna as Parish Priest in various parishes, as Assistant Treasurer, Director of the Archdiocesan Social Apostolate and Director of the Bihar Social Forum. Bishop Sebastian is also a Governing Board member of Caritas India and has been part of many state and national level programmes in Bihar. He takes the legacy of Caritas India ahead with his dynamic personality and leadership



Fr. Dr. Paul Moonjely
Executive Director, Caritas India

Fr.(Dr). Paul Moonjely is the Executive Director, Caritas India, is a high performing strategic thinking professional with more than 23 years of experience in the social sector. His core area of competence is NGO management, financial management and systemic organizational development, rural energy entrepreneurship and program formulation. Some of his notable positions are, the Country Coordination Member (CCM), Global Fund, with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, member of the Health Task Force of Caritas International.



Fr. Dr. Jolly Puthenpura
Asst. Executive Director, Caritas India

Fr.(Dr). Jolly Puthenppura, is the Assistant Executive Director, Caritas India Fr. Jolly has 14 years of experience as Executive Director of Amravati Diocesan Social Development Society as well as Forum Director of Western Regional Forum covering Maharashtra, Goa and Gujarat. He holds a doctorate for research in Catholic Social Teachings on the theme of “The Principles of Catholic Social Teachings; their Relevance and Influence on the Catholic NGOs of Maharashtra”. He was instrumental in making Jeevan Vikas Sanstha NGO of the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra. He was also a consultant to various social sector organisations in Maharashtra



Mr. Arjan de Wagt
Deputy Representative, UNICEF

Mr. Arjan de Wagt is the UNICEF India Deputy Representative, Programmes and Chief of Nutrition. A national of the Netherlands, Arjan has over 28 years working experience, and has been with UNICEF for 21 years. He holds a master's degree in nutrition from Wageningen University in the Netherlands. Arjan has worked in the area of nutrition across six countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa as well as UNICEF New York headquarters. Prior to coming to India, Arjan worked as Chief Nutrition in UNICEF Nigeria managing the nutrition emergency crisis due to the Boko Haram insurgency.



Gyana Ranjan Das, IAS
ED, OSDMA

Mr. Gyan Ranjan Das , Executive Director, OSDMA is a Disaster Management professional working in Odisha government in various positions such as Emergency Officer to District Collector. Since 2001 he has been working with OSDMA and promoting disaster risk reduction of the state. He has immensely contributed to formulate various policies for the risk reduction process of the state as well as supported in the effective implementation of policies. He believes in the community participation for disaster preparedness and risk reduction. Through OSDMA he emphasizes on building the resilience of communities.



Prof. Santosh Kumar
Professor and Head, NIDM

Prof. Santosh Kumar, Head of Governance, Public Policy, The National Institute of Disaster Management was Former Director SAARC Disaster Management Centre in Jaipur, Rajasthan and was associated with World Bank, New Delhi as Disaster Management Specialist for several years. As an economist and DRR practitioner, he has gained more than 25 years of experiences towards ensuring continuum in the returns on development investment while minimising the impact of disasters and climate change on people, economy and environment



Mr. Pravin Kumar
Project Officer, BSDMA

Mr. Pravin Kumar, as the Project Officer of Bihar State Disaster Management Authority develops and undertakes research, projects activities, policy studies and analysis in the area of disaster management and accordingly suggests strategies. Currently, he is working on various disaster risk reduction and mitigation projects like masons and engineers training on earthquake resistant building construction, flood mitigation and action plan, fire safety activities etc. in the State. He has worked as Research Officer and Senior Research Officer (Disaster Management) at Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA) Gurgaon, an apex institute of Government of Haryana.



Dr. Jaison Varghese
Senior Programme Lead, GPI

Dr. Jaison is the Senior Programme Lead of the BMZ Global Programme India at Caritas India. He effectively steers towards the impact in DRR, Nutrition and Food Security, Social Inclusion and Civil Society Learning. He is best known for his leadership, management, execution and decision making. Prior to Caritas India, he had worked as Programme Coordinator of Centre for Environment Education of GEF-UNDP-Small Grants Programme at Centre for Environment Education(CEE). He has a close association with the Northeast as part of his professional journey.



Mr. Ray Kancharla
Independent Consultant

Mr. Ray comes with a very rich and profound experience. He has more than 25 years of experiences in the development sector, humanitarian, media and has approximately 15 year's experiences in Child Rights Programming, Strategic Planning, DRR and Climate Resilience. He has worked on various issues related to Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Community Based Adaptation, both at the program and policy levels. His pioneering initiative with the National Disaster Management Authority - Government of India is on Child Centred Resilience and Adaptation.



Mr. Sarabjit Singh Sahota
Emergency Specialist, UNICEF

Mr. Sarabjit Singh Sahota, Emergency Specialist, at UNICEF is a highly accomplished, results-driven leader with more than 25 years of progressive experience in the domain of 'emergency preparedness for response', 'disaster risk reduction', climate change adaptation, urban DRR planning and safe construction. He brings practical skills in development-diplomacy, organizational-development, policy advocacy & communication, risk-aware-development-planning, resource mobilization, result-oriented-monitoring, evaluations and teaching-learning design.



Dr. Krishna Vatsa
Member, NDMA

Dr. Krishna S. Vatsa is at present Member, NDMA. He has worked in the area of disaster risk reduction and recovery for the last 27 years. Dr. Krishna Vatsa joined the Maharashtra Emergency Earthquake Rehabilitation Programme in the state of Maharashtra, India in 1995 and implemented a large-scale earthquake recovery programme during the next four years. He also served as Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra, Relief and Rehabilitation from 2003 to 2006. Since 2007, he worked with UNDP in various advisory capacities in Manila, New Delhi, New York, and Nairobi. Dr. Krishna Vatsa has a Doctor of Science in Disaster Risk Management from the George Washington University, Washington, DC.



Mr. Mintu Debnath,
State Head, Delhi NCR, Save the children

Mr. Mintu Debnath, is a development professional with 20 years of experience working with the government as well as international non-profit organizations. His association with the sector is mainly planning, designing, implementation and monitoring of large-scale Disaster Risk Reduction Program and Humanitarian Response in India. He has worked across a range of social and cultural environments, as part of several disaster response in India, from the West Bengal Flood of 2000 to the recent 2021 COVID 19 humanitarian response



Mr. John Peter Nelson
ED, IGSSS

Mr. John Peter Nelson is the Executive Director of Indo-Global Social Service Society with a demonstrated history of working in the non-profit organization. He is skilled in Programme Governance, Capacity Building, Strategic Planning, Program Evaluation, and Program Development.



Mr. Animesh Prakash
Chief DRR, CARE India

Mr. Animesh Prakash is currently the Chief of DRR at CARE India. He has previous work experiences at World Food Programme, UNDP and Oxfam India. He is a Humanitarian Professional with hands on experience in Disaster Response, Disaster Risk Reduction & Climate Change Adaptation



Mr. Jayakumar K.A
Director, Strategic Alliance, World Vision

Mr. Jayakumar K.A is the Director, Strategic Alliance at World Vision. He has been working at World Vision for a period of 31 years. He is an expert in non-profit organisation management, operations management, networking and strategic partnerships and leadership



Mr. Sanjay Pandey
Convenor, IAG Bihar

Mr. Sanjay Pandey, Convenor, IAG Bihar is a professional with experience in collaborating with government agencies to undertake disaster management, relocation and rehabilitation program. He has previously worked as State Coordinator DRR at Department of Disaster Management, Govt of Bihar. He has also provided technical assistance to Government administration, Corporate groups and NGOs in post disaster relief and rehabilitation in Srinagar and other flood effected districts of J& K after the devastating J&K floods of September 2014.



Ms. Karon Shaiva,
Chief Impact Officer, MAHAPECONET

Ms. Karon Shaiva Chief Impact Officer & Managing Director of IDOBRO Mumbai and Managing Trustee of Rise Infinity Foundation, is an award-winning social entrepreneur, writer, speaker and trainer on social innovation, Partnerships for the SDGs, Shared Values and Peace. She was awarded the “Most Inspiring Social enterprise” at the hands of Dr. (late) C. K. Prahlad. She was recently featured in SHE IS: 75 Women in STEAM, by the office of the Principal Scientific Officer to the government of India. Karon has over 20 years of experience in Asia and the USA in technology, education, finance, gemology and development sectors.



Mr. Kirit Parmar
UNNATI, Gujarat

Mr. Kirit Kumar is a development professional of about thirty years of experiences in the areas of participatory planning, Community mobilization, Institutional development and research in Natural resource management, community development and Disaster Risk Reduction. Since the year 2008, he has been associated with an organization name Unnati at Ahmedabad. He was one of the working group members in drafting guidelines on Community based Disaster Management (CBDM) for NDMA in the year 2013 & developed framework and guidelines of Gram Panchayat, Taluka and District level Disaster Management from the year 2012 to 2022.



Ms. Babita Pinto
Chief Program Lead, Caritas India

Ms. Babita is a skilled professional in the field of communications, disaster management and Environment. She is a communications specialist dealing with Grant Management, Partnerships, and Knowledge Management. With over 19 years of experience in the social sector, she serves as the Operations Manager at Caritas India.



Mr. Kalyan Tanksale
SwissAid, Maharashtra

Over the past 15 years, Mr. Kalyan Tanksale has worked with governments, philanthropic organisations, NGOs, academic and research institutions as well as tribal, rural and urban communities. These works has resulted in co-creating systems which have touched 5 million lives. He is currently the Tribal Livelihoods Officer at SWISSAID India. Now, he is on a mission to enable sustainable and equitable development of ten million people by 2030; by designing systems of (1) data-driven planning, implementation and evaluations, (2) evidence-based policy making for climate action and sustainable development, (3) transforming young change-makers.



Mr. Rajesh Ananthapuri
Planning Department, LSG, Kerala

Mr Rajesh PN is an Engineer by profession and has worked on various transportation projects in India. As a planner, he has been involved in the preparation of various Development Plans and Detailed Town Planning Schemes in the state of Kerala and has given approval of many layout plans for industrial areas, residential areas, commercial layout etc. Currently, he is serving as a Senior Town Planner, Office of the Chief Town Planner, LSGD Planning, Thiruvananthapuram since Nov 2017.



Mr. Joseph Sahayam
Emergency lead CASA - IHH

Mr. Joseph P Sahayam is a disaster management professional working with CASA as Additional Emergency Officer HQ, and has anchored disaster responses of varied magnitudes contributing to strengthening the Humanitarian Architecture in India. He holds an MBA degree from Bharathiar University and has done a course on Damage Assessment with National Institute of Disaster Management and World Bank Institute. Besides this he also holds a PG Diploma on Ecumenical Youth Work from YMCA Training Centre. He has extensive national and international exposure and has been actively involved in the process of networking and localization.



Dr. Chandra Sekhar IAS
AS, MoPR

Dr. Chandra Sekhar IAS is the Additional Secretary of Ministry of Panchayati Raj in Odisha. He belongs to the 1992 batch of IAS. Dr Chandra Sekhar IAS is an alumnus of the Harvard University and has done his PhD from Cornell University, New York. He believes in the role of technology in rural development and strongly advocates improving engagement with the citizen for development



Mr. Sujoy Mojumdar
WASH Specialist, UNICEF

Mr. Sujoy Mojumdar, Senior Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) specialist providing programmatic and technical support to Government of India's Swachh Bharat Mission (G) at the national level and in 15 states. He was the Director of the flagship National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), in the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Govt of India, where he contributed immensely in the revision of the NRDWP guidelines. He was also the Director, Swachh Bharat Mission where he was intrinsically involved in the preparation of the concept of the Swachh Bharat Mission and the finalization of the Mission guidelines and planning its subsequent rollout.



Mr. Anjan Bag
HA DRR Lead, Caritas India

Mr. Anjan Bhag is the thematic head of Humanitarian Aid and DRR unit at Caritas India. He is also the Thematic Lead for Disaster Risk Reduction under the Global Programme India.



Mr. N M Prusty
Vice Chair, Nutrition and Food Security Alliance

Mr. N M Prusty is a renowned Mentor Advisor of Social Development and Humanitarian Services. He has a distinguished career spanning over 45 years in Government, Non-government, Corporate and International Development Agencies. He is a recipient of Global Best Practice award for Innovation in Social Housing from UN Habitat, 2002, Prabshi Odisha Ratna award from POVS, 2022 and finalist for the NASSCOM Foundation's Tech for Social Good innovation award 2021, the Jury round candidate for the Ramon Magsaysay Award 2002.



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Dr. Ambika Prasad Nanda

Dr. Ambika Prasad Nanda is a strong developmental advocate of empowering communities to address the inequalities and bring about sustainable development solutions. Currently the Head of CSR, Tata Steel, Odisha, he has a career journey of working at the UNDP as the State Programme Officer for Odisha for 6 years, State Director for Rural Development Institute Odisha and Programme Manager for Action Aid for a period of 12 years. He has national as well as international publications on development and sustainability.



Dr. Dayakar Rao B

Dr. B Dayakar Rao currently serving as a Principal Scientist ICAR-IIMR and Director/CEO, Nutrihub TBISC is a renowned agricultural scientist credited with development of Value Chain on Millets with having a rich experience of more than three decades. Dr Dayakar has been instrumental in establishing a dedicated Technology Business Incubator, NUTRIHUB-TBI hosted at ICAR-IIMR to help Nutricereal start-ups grow in a streamlined fashion. He has contributed immensely to replicating successful millet value chain ecosystem in 10 states of India.



Mr. Samanjit Sengupta

Mr. Samanjit Sengupta is currently serving as OSD to B.R. Ambedkar Institute of Panchayats and Rural Development and Joint Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Panchayat and Rural Development Department. In his 25 years of civil service, being a field administrator and development manager, Mr. Samanjit Sengupta has professional expertise in rural development, governance, crisis management, disaster management and skills building. Some milestones of his career as a civil servant of the Government of West Bengal are Deputy Magistrate, District Youth Officer & District Self Help Groups Officer, Sub Divisional Magistrate, Project Director of District Rural Development Agency & NRLM and Joint Secretary in Consumer Affairs Dept and then Sundarbans Affairs Department.



Dr. Haridas V. R
Thematic Lead, Climate Justice

Dr. Haridas holds a doctorate in Water Resources, and is the thematic manager for Climate Adaptive Agriculture and Livelihoods in Caritas India. He co-ordinates the Sustainable Agriculture programme of CARITAS ASIA for South Asia region including India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. He has authored several books on organic farming, including the 'Pollution Free Poultry Farm', 'Family Farming', 'Rice: The Golden Grain', and 'Soil and Water', among others. Besides, his articles have been published in many national and international journals and publications. He is also the recipient of the Harith Varsha Award bestowed by the Kerala Social Service Forum in 2011



Mr. Ghanshyam Jethwa
Head of Programs, Caritas India

Mr. Ghanshyam Jethwa is the Head of Programs, Caritas India. He is a senior leader for 12 years with a total 28 years of experience. He has mentored and managed multidisciplinary teams of more than 500 personnel: leaders, managers and technical experts in three countries. He has led and facilitated Strategic Plans and partnership with over 200 organisations, contributing positive impact on 100 million children, women and men.



Dr. Saju M.K
Programme Lead, Sabal, Caritas India

Dr. Saju holds a doctorate for his research on rural women entrepreneurs and an MPhil degree in sociology of development. He also has postgraduate diplomas in rural development and management. Before entering development sector, he had four-year stints in journalism and academics. For the last sixteen years, he has been working with several development agencies including Caritas India where he works now as a zone manager. He has contributed significantly to community mobilization, water governance, sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty, good governance and strategic planning of organizations.



Mr Sosi Bordoloi
Community Leader, Assam

Mr. Sosi Bordoloi, a Community Leader from Assam has been awarded by Morigao District Administration as a best farmer and Social activist in 2020. He has also been nominated as a local Hero by Caritas India on world Humanitarian day. He has worked as Programme Coordinator - Assam Disaster Risk Reduction Programme, Consultant at Caritas India Rehabilitation programme, Secretary at POOHAR which was supported by NABARD, and has closely associated with the Government Women Development Centre.



Mr. Bisram Kende
Tribal Healer, SABAL

Mr. Bisram joined as health volunteer of Sabal to address the malnutrition and anaemia issues of his community. He was equipped with Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) tape and received training on assessing the degree of malnutrition among the children who were brought to him for treatment by the parents. In the last four years with his association with Sabal, Bisram has referred more than 36 children to NRC, encouraged 40 mothers for institutional deliveries and more than 50 people to seek medical support



Ms. Manda Kamal Javarkar
Woman Farmer, SABAL

Ms. Manda Kamal Jawarkar from Satti is a woman farmer who strongly advocates organic farming. In her 4 years association with Sabal programme, Manda has been working as the lead farmer of Sabal women farmers group. She timely motivates other women of the community to opt for organic farming practices.



Ms. Saubai
Woman Farmer, SABAL

Ms. Sau Bai is one of the oldest members of Sabal women farmers group. She has been working with Sabal for the last 5 years and actively supports all the interventions and initiatives of the programme. Motivated to work for her own community, the 38-year-old from Gram Inderakheda joined Sabal and took the challenge to transform her community situation which is majorly infamous for malnutrition prevalence. Ms. Sau bai is one of the key change agents of Sabal and is instrumental in working actively for the development of her village community.



Mr. Pradipta Chand
Thematic Lead \approx CAAFS, Caritas India

Mr. Pradipta Chand is the Lead - Climate Adaptive Agriculture and Food Sovereignty at Caritas India. He has experience in climate resilient agriculture, integrated farming system, smallholder-led on-farm research models, smallholder-led value chain for small-farm-agri-food, and community managed food and nutrition model with a career spanning of 18+ Years in India.



Ms. Manisha Lodhi
SAFBIN Representative

Ms. Manisha Lodhi now is the president of Hariyali smallholder farmers collectives (SHFC) and nominated as secretary of District Farmers Forum (DFF) of Sagar District. Manisha is a good community (women) mobiliser and trainer. She is also nominated as President by National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) for the Saigarh Block and managing 43 Self-help groups by providing support in book-keeping, banking, credit linkages. She has been cultivating vegetable in her 0.5 acre of land through Integrated Nutrient Management and Integrated Pest Management.



Ms. Rekha Patel
SAFBIN Representative

Ms. Rekha Patel, considering her knowledge and capacity to adopt and replicate the recommended smallholder-led package and practices, is a member of the Santoshi Smallholder Farmers Collectives (SHFC) and providing her accompaniment support to 5 women self-help groups and equal number of SHFCs on improved vegetable cultivation, diversification of crops and importance of nutrition garden. She is popularly known as “Seed Saver” having restored more than 16 types of climate resilient (indigenous) seeds and also nominated as “Poshan Mitra” by the district authority, Sagar



Ms. Bonani Das
Global Programme, TSSS

Ms. Bonani Das is a Programme Coordinator in Tezpur Social Service Society in Assam. She is currently engaged with TSSS in Global Programme India. She has also worked with Indo-Global Social Service Society as Field Coordinator and Officer in the districts of Assam. Strong community works in components of disaster risk reduction (DRR), WASH, children and youth development (skilling), enterprise establishment and development, networking and utilizing optimum resource are the major strengths of Ms. Bonani.



Mr. Prem Prakash
Global Programme, PGVS

Mr. Prem Prakash from Prayas Gramin Vikas Samiti is the District Co-ordinator of Global Programme for Nutrition and Food Security and Social Inclusion at Saharsa. He is a post-graduate in social work and has been working for the upliftment of the most marginalized communities of Scheduled Caste for the last twelve years. He also works as an active partner in the Dalit Adhikar Manch.



Mr. Azaj Alam
Global Programme, Coordinator, MDSSS

Mr. Azaj Alam, Program Coordinator (Disaster Management), MDSSS is responsible to implementing the Global program India projects at Supaul Bihar. Currently under the Global program India, he is working on disaster risk reduction and Social inclusion like training of community and farmer, coordination meeting with PRI member government officials, capacity building of marginalized community, to help community prepare flood mitigation and action plan, public campaign etc. He is actively working in project planning, execution, implementation, documentation, resource Mapping, IEC Materials and supervision & monitoring.



Mr Rajendra Singh
Global Programme, Thematic Lead NFS

Mr. Rajendra Singh is the Thematic Lead for Nutrition and Food Security. He possess 15 years of managerial experience in the domains of mother & child health nutrition, family planning, adolescent health, education, Sustainable livelihood women empowerment, and disaster management. He is passionate about strengthening the association between local organizations, lobby & influence policy for the betterment of the underserved community, especially for children. He has previously worked with World Vision India, Emmanuel Hospital Association, ChildFund India & Piramal Foundation.



M. Rucha Thakkar
Global Programme, Lead N and D

Ms. Rucha is the Consultant Lead – Networking & Dialogue of Global Programme India at Caritas India. She is a development professional with 20 years of experience in social development sector across India. Her professional commitment extends to working on disaster management; rights-based approach, livelihood and entrepreneurship development, engaging with communities, and duty bearers.



Mr. Vikrant Mahajan
CEO, Sphere India

Mr. Vikrant Mahajan is the CEO of Sphere India. He comes with 26 years of versatile professional experience having worked across sectors with Government, UN, NGOs, Corporates, Academia and Armed Forces. He is a passionate humanitarian and have been on the frontline of most disasters in India and the region over nearly two decades. He also been very active on the Global and National policy forums and represents on several inter agency forums and board of many organisations. He comes with a multi-disciplinary background in Engineering, Public Administration, Organisation Behaviour and Law.



Mr. Sudhanshu S. Singh
CEO, Humanitarian Aid International

Mr. Sudhanshu has worked with several international organisations at the global level. Until 2015, Sudhanshu was based in Geneva. He was involved in managing responses to almost all major disasters in the Asia-Pacific region during 2001 - 2015 while being in employment with INGOs in India and abroad. Sudhanshu has been closely engaged with key global processes including Agenda for Humanity, Grand Bargain and Charter for Change. He is member of the steering group of World Humanitarian Action Forum (WHAF).



Mr. Robin George
Programme Lead, Sabal

Robin George is a dedicated professional with 8+ years of experience working in social development sector under varied thematic including RMNCHA, food & nutrition security, WASH, sustainable agriculture, natural resource management & organizational development. Currently working as Programme Lead – Food & Nutrition Security (FNS) for Caritas India organization and experienced in strategic planning and effective project implementation.



**Dr. Bala Prasad,
Ex Special Secretary, MoPR, GOI**

Dr. Bala Prasad has the deep knowledge and profound expertise in Panchayati Raj System; Disaster Management; Forest, Environment and Climate Change; Sustainable Development Goals etc. He has brilliant academic career with Doctor of Philosophy in Forestry and triple Post Graduations. He has authored many papers / reports e.g. “Guidelines for preparation of Gram Panchayat Development Plan 2018”, “Disaster Management Plan of Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India” etc. He has diverse work experiences such as Special Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj; Managing Director, TRIFED, Ministry of Tribal Affairs; PCCF and Head of Forest Force, Manipur etc.



**Ms. Jyotsnarani Mohanty
Child Champion**

Ms. Jyotsnarani Mohanty is a child champion of resilience and adaptation.



**Mr. Satyajit Mohanty
Child Champion**

Mr. Satyajit Mohanty represents active community participation and engagement



**Dr. Senthil Kumar Gurunathan
Executive Director, CRS**

Dr. Senthil, is highly professional and has the eye for detail. He served as the Executive Director for Program Operations and Quality Learning with Care India and also served as the Technical Director of Economic Development Unit with Care. He holds a Doctorate in Philosophy from Jawahar Lal University. He specialized in Program Management, Quality and Learning as well as on Child rights. He currently is serving as the Executive Director of CRS since 2019



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