## SEEDS

Sustainable Environment and Ecological Development Society



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Annual Report 2012-2013

## MESSAGE

As with previous years, disasters continued to strike through 2012-13, causing huge losses and human suffering across the country. While our teams were still on the ground helping communities reconstruct after Cyclone Thane in Tamil Nadu (2011) and the earthquake in Sikkim (2011); they were faced with the daunting task of having to quickly restore shelters after the floods in Assam in August/September 2012.

Yet, despite the range of locations and challenges, a repeated underlying theme was of building the resilience of the affected communities. All three locations are known to be vulnerable with high hazard exposure levels. So while response in the immediate face of the humanitarian disaster continued to be of critical importance to us; we emphasised the acute need to empower communities to deal with underlying vulnerabilities and day-to-day disasters as a starting point to build resilience.

Keeping this as our focus, we mobilised several local, multi-stakeholder, citizen-led forums in other at-risk locations in the country. These forums have successfully taken off during the year. They are proactively working with local governments to identify local risks; and find possible solutions and means to address them. In March 2013 we brought these groups together for an exchange of ideas and experiences. I am happy to report that they see great strength and value in building this local level resilience. For us, the work undertaken by such forums bridges a critical gap – that of inadequate localisation. This remains the biggest impediment in achieving the goals of Hyogo Framework of Action, a global agreement by 169 countries to substantially reduce human loss and suffering due to disasters by 2015.

This year, thanks to our donors, SEEDS has also been able to invest in research and innovation. We brought together architects, engineers and other experts from around the world to discuss and strengthen concepts of resilient built space. The initiative blended emerging concepts on shelter in emergencies with the importance of traditional knowledge and practices.

As an organisation that values quality and accountability, our HAP 2010 certification was a matter of immense pride. SEEDS actually became the first Indian national NGO to be certified by Geneva-based Humanitarian Accountability Partnership International. Unique to the humanitarian sector, the HAP certification scheme recognises those organisations whose work meets the highest standards of quality and accountability.

We thank all our donors, partners, volunteers and friends who have extended their generous support. It is their trust and the overwhelming response from the communities that we serve that allows us to continue working towards a safer and more sustainable world.

Manu Gupta Executive Director

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#### **VISION**

**Resilient Communities** 

#### **MISSION**

Equipping the most vulnerable with appropriate tools and technologies, sharing knowledge and skills and promoting linkages among stakeholders to prevent loss of life and suffering.

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- Prompt in our action
- Identify and reach out to the most vulnerable
- Facilitate community participation in decision making
- Adapt to local and cultural environment
- Non-discriminatory in our approach
- Focus on individual
- Promote excellence

### SEEDS is a member of and signatory to the Code of Conduct for the:

- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- SPHERE Standard in Humanitarian Aid
- The International Council of Voluntary Agencies
- Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN)
- Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP)
- Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance (ALNAP)

#### Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP)

The Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) is an international standard of accountability for humanitarian organisations. Originally launched in 2003, the HAP 2007 Standard in Humanitarian Accountability and Quality Management was developed through extensive consultation and field tests. It is based on six main benchmarks:

- Humanitarian quality management
- Transparency
- Beneficiary participation
- Staff competencies
- Complaints handling
- Continual improvement

SEEDS is now a HAP certified organisation and has committed itself to HAP's general principles for humanitarian work.



## **CORE PROJECTS**

#### Building resilience through local citizen-led forums

In large urban areas, community-led initiatives are often the most effective in solving local problems. The 'forum' concept, initiated last year, is a microlevel, multi-stakeholder initiative that will help bridge the gap. It aims to bring the community together to identify, assess and engage with these issues. The idea is that it will create concrete links with ongoing development programmes and national policies.

Through four separate projects, SEEDS is attempting to leverage the power of the communities themselves to build resilience.

As part of the UNICEF-supported initiative in East Delhi, a Children's platform has been established. Young voices are often the greatest seeds of change in a community and the involvement of children offers a new and vital perspective. Students were selected from six schools across East Delhi. Once trained and oriented on the issues, the children's platform will play a core role in the main district forum. Disaster management plans are also being created for each of these schools; helping reinforce the government's national school safety programme.

The Christian Aid-supported project across Mussoorie (Uttarakhand), Dharamshala (Himachal Pradesh) and Neembli Panchayat (Tamil Nadu) looks at a city/cluster of villages level. It focuses on mapping key stakeholders and bringing them together under some form of a city alliance. Forums have been successfully formed in Mussoorie with Save Mussoorie and in Dharmshala with The Risk Analysis and Mitigation Preparedness Society (RAMPS); complete with byelaws and constitutions for the societies.

The Cordaid-supported initiative in East Delhi (Delhi) and Villipuram (Tamil Nadu) looks at district level alliances. The thrust is on advocacy and capacity building of various stakeholders with reference to localising the Hyogo Framework for Action. It looks at a gender sensitive, culturally viable and inclusive approach.

The Save the Children-supported project in Khagaria (Bihar), Kendrapada (Odisha) and the Sunderbans (West Bengal) also targets a district level. It looks mainly at building safer communities by promoting child protection structures during disasters.









# The Environment, Risk Reduction and Adaptation (TERRA) Mela

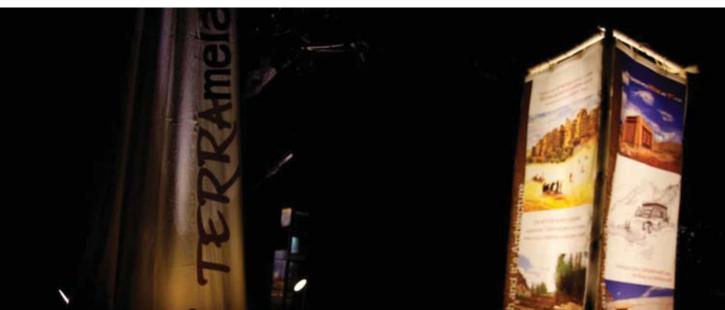
Supported by Cordaid, TERRA Mela revisited traditional technologies as an answer to the modern day struggle against disaster risks and climate change. It looked at a future that 'modern' in speed and efficiency, yet 'traditional' in approach and materials. Above all, a future that is safe and sustainable. Leading architects, engineers, masons and humanitarian agencies converged over one week to explore these solutions.

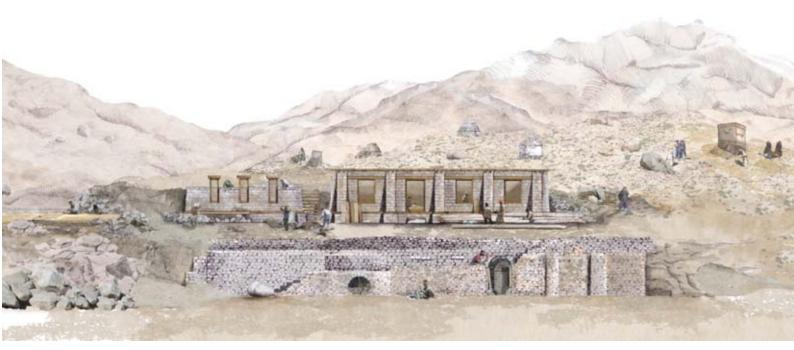
The initiative included an exhibition with a focus on earth and bamboo architecture, Himalayan indigenous building typologies and past projects. Installations of a bamboo swing and tunnel as well as a rammed earth wall helped showcase the structural properties of these materials and create the ambience. A prototype bamboo hut was also built as part of a Student Action Workshop that offered Delhi architecture students firsthand experience and technical insight.

Children explored the use of space in their neighbourhood in a children's workshop; mapping vulnerabilities, creating a comprehensive neighbourhood map and creating a model of their dream vision.

Inspiring talks and lively discussions were held with 19 national and international experts over four evenings. Speakers included leading architects, building conservationists, bamboo experts, innovators, masons and engineers. Finally the policy arena brought together personnel from various dimensions of shelter response for an animated discussion on how to improving it; incorporating climate-resilient habitats and accountability aspects.







# Leh Flood Relief - Phase III: Community Centres

Supported by Cordaid, Care Today and other public donors, reconstruction work post the 2010 flash floods continued into its third phase in Leh. However, this year, the focus shifted from individual shelters to community centres. In this region, community centres are a very important gathering point even in normal times; and act a hub during emergencies. They are an integral part of holistic village planning, offering a space to host festivals, carry out vocational training and conduct community-based programmes.

Two areas – Igoo and Sakti - were identified on the basis of their flood paths and appropriate land that would be accessible in case of an evacuation. Each community centre demonstrates a traditional ladakhi building technique; using only locally available natural resources. A large part of the emphasis was on transferring technical knowledge and demonstrating safe shelter techniques through these buildings. In both places, the community became active participants in the construction process, contributing their design ideas, time, labour and even financial resources.

In Sakti, situated between two mountain valleys, the timber-framed and stone based community centre caters to around 50 households. The Igoo centre revived traditional rammed earth techniques to increase thermal comfort and structural strength. It caters to around 45 families of poktsa mohalla, incorporating a women and child-centric approach, with spaces for weaving and handicraft activities and an open space for children to play. Both centres includes a hall and toilet blocks to ensure that upstream and lower stream communities can use it as emergency centre.







### **Restoring Shelters after Cyclone Thane**

In the early hours of 30th December, 2011, Cyclone Thane struck the coast of Tamil Nadu, devastating the coastal districts, as well as some parts of Chennai. Life came to a standstill and the accessibility was virtually cut off. While the death toll was not very large, there was heavy damage to the shelters; particularly among the most marginalised communities. Compensation by the government was offered only to those affected families with land titles (pattas); leaving out the landless, most needy ones.

Supported by Cordaid and implemented in partnership with Kalvi Kendra, SEEDS is focusing on reconstruction for landless, marginalised families in Narasingapuram Village in Poovarasum Kuppam Panchayat of Villipuram District. The idea was to build interim shelters which incorporated disaster resilient features. After thorough analysis on existing building typology, materials and nature of workmanship (not to mention, trying two or three various models); an Earth Bag Building with CGI sheet roofing was selected as the best option. This design incorporates flood and cyclone resistance, helps maintain thermal comfort and retains traditional functional aspects.

A prototype was first built in the centre of the village to impart awareness and train local labour on the technology. 22 such interim shelters are under construction. These are being done in-situ; with the SEEDS team giving technical support, making construction management plans and helping monitor the quality of implementation.

### **Building Adaptable Shelters in Assam**

The three waves of intense floods across Assam in August-September 2012 had left the communities with a trail of shelter destruction. Supported by Christian Aid and ECHO, this reconstruction project emphasised shelter restoration through material and knowledge support; adopting an owner-driven approach. While the local masons and volunteers involved in the construction were trained; active participation was also expected from the beneficiaries themselves. 300 of the most marginalised families were selected across 45 villages in five blocks of Dhemaji and Lakhimpur districts. This includes 250 fully damaged and 50 partially damaged shelters.

Integrating knowledge of shelter work in the flood plains of Bihar and Odisha; the bamboo-based design was done in a way that allowed the super structure to be dismantled. This could then be set up in a safe location as temporary structure during floods. At the same time, the plinth level was kept at a safe height and the foundations further strengthened with RCC pillars.

The coping capacity of the community was further enhanced with the distribution of a tool kit (standard equipment to dismantle and assemble the shelter); and a specially-created technical manual that explained the nuances of safe construction.











### Restoring Earthquake-Affected Schools in Sikkim

Supported by Dan Church Aid and BHEL, construction work in Sang Khola Primary School and retrofitting work in Tadong Senior Secondary School, Middle Camp Secondary School and Rhenock Tarpin Secondary School took off in full force this year. The idea was for them to serve as a demonstration to the State Education Department; and to train some of the local masons through the course of project.

Keeping this in mind, the design for Sang Khola blended traditional design with the SEEDS ideology of disaster resilient safe schools. It adapted an Ekra panel system into an RCC frame. The RCC frame is used to strengthen the structure and ensure safety and longevity. The traditional bamboo ekra infill substitutes bricks, which would have otherwise made the structure much heavier. This also helped make the structure more cost-effective; demonstrating low cost, effective and appropriate technology.

Aside from the technical aspects, the initiative encouraged community participation in other ways. Basic designs were shared with the school communities and the Gram Panchayat who facilitated the process of finding masons. The school community were also given basic awareness on disaster dos and don'ts.

#### Kosi Flood Reconstruction

Over the last three years, SEEDS has been intensely involved in the Owner Driven Reconstruction Collaborative post the 2008 Kosi floods. Instituted in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, this involved the facilitation of reconstruction hubs across Supaul, Madhepura and Saharsa, three of the worst affected districts. With the project being handed over completely to the Bihar Government this year, SEEDS took on a more advocacy role, engaging with the government on issues of long-term rehabilitation in the Kosi belt.



#### Creating Disaster Resilient Model Schools in India

Working with Plan India programme units across seven states of India; SEEDS stepped up its school safety campaign. Overall, this initiative attempts to create 2000 disaster resilient model schools across India.

The first phase included the training and capacity building of partners in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Odisha, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. It was designed to address the needs of children. While SEEDS brought in a disaster management and risk reduction perspective; conscious efforts were made to identify the key areas of integration with Plan's thematic areas.

A core component of the initiative was developing training modules. Designed to encourage interactive learning processes, the modules helped build the capacity of partners on the concepts of Disaster Management, its applicability in schools, and promotion of safety through structural and non-structural components. Mock drills, demonstration of safe schools and advocacy through the creation of 'school safety report cards' also played key roles in the initiative.

#### **Biratpur Health Centre**

In 2009, the Biratpur Health Centre was set up in Sonbarsa block, Saharsa. In a district that has an extremely high number of malnourished children and communicable diseases, there had only been one (and that too non-functional) health centre in the entire block. This new centre served over 25 surrounding villages within a 5-km radius. It provided basic health facilities, hoping to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates and promote hygiene and health education.

2012-13 was the final year of BHC's running. Over its four years, it became the nerve center of the community. It moved from being just a 'health centre' to reaching out proactively. Weekly community awareness programmes were conducted on topics ranging from family planning to immunisation. Basic disaster awareness was conducted in schools and village disaster management plans drawn up. Finally, since many pregnant women cannot even afford the minimum healthcare facilities, community representatives were taught to be 'Trained Birthing Attendants'.







#### The Catalysts of Change: From Local Forums to Shifts in DRR and CCA Policy

In India, climate change impacts are being felt through a rise in extreme weather events and increasing weather related development stressors including water shortages, losses in crop yield and rise in vector borne diseases. Communities living in fragile, climate sensitive and remote regions of India are feeling the most severe impacts. Yet, they also have limited capacity to deal with these 'new' dimensions of disasters and climate change impacts.

Supported by CDKN-START, this broad aim of this project focused on research and advocacy through multi-stakeholder groups. It aims to use these groups as catalysts to push for change in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation policies. Two primary locations were chosen for this work: Barmer in Rajasthan (a hot desert) and Leh in Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir (a cold desert). Both have faced unprecedented and devastating flash floods in the recent past. Since postdisaster situations are often considered windows of opportunity to push policy agendas; these locations could serve as good case studies for the rest of the country.

Aside from the research activities on the ground to understand the impact of climate change and disasters in the area, multi-stakeholder meetings and workshops; two pilot projects were also initiated. In Barmer, a community radio programme was attempted through adolescent girls. The idea was to provide a platform for local communities to engage in debates and discussions on core issues around climate change. In Leh, the pilot took the form of an automatic weather station and climate school set up in the village of Sakti. The idea was to use the generated data to help the local community gather information on their micro-climate and engage collectively to find local solutions to these problems.





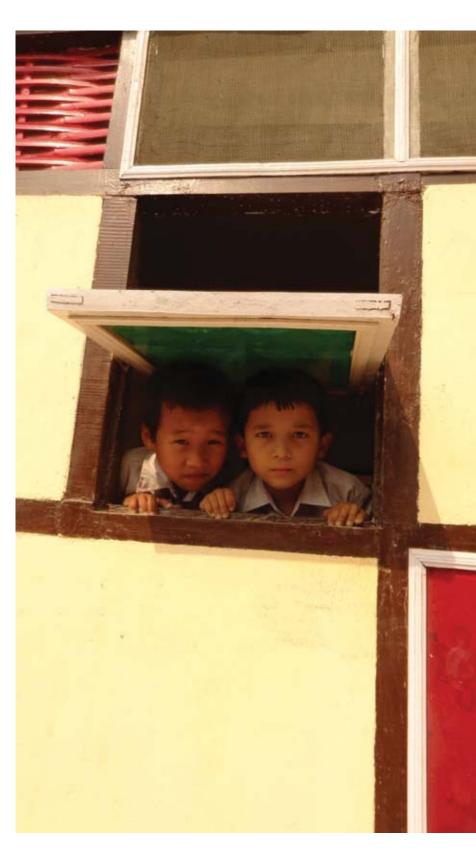
#### Curriculum Development for the National School Safety Programme, Bihar

Education, public awareness and proper training are cornerstones of risk reduction approaches. The Government of India's National School Safety Programme aims to promote such a culture of disaster preparedness in schools. Supported by UNICEF, a trainer's pack was developed as part of the National School Safety Programme (NSSP) for Bihar. The TOT is aimed at master trainers, who are then expected to cascade the knowledge to teachers and other core stakeholders. It aims to enhance conceptual understanding on various aspects DRR and school safety aspects from an inclusive perspective; enable creation of school safety plans; and enhance communication capacity and ability to implement these measures.

# Assessing progress on school safety in India

In India, progress on disaster risk reduction in schools has had a relatively late start. Post 2002, Disaster Management was introduced as a subject in the Central Board school curriculum, as well as several State Education Boards. In 2011, the National School Safety Programme was launched by the National Disaster Management Authority, covering 16 earthquake vulnerable states of India. Many non-government organisations have also been implementing school safety activities in different parts of the country. In spite of promising beginnings, there is significant amount of work to be done. Disaster risk reduction has not been integrated systematically and comprehensively with the education sector. Moreover, while a consensus is emerging on what constitutes school safety, there is no systemised methodology.

In this context, a joint study was undertaken with UNICEF to document school disaster risk reduction initiatives in India. The study aimed to capture the status of DRR in schools in India and suggest a future course of action to achieve safer schools.



## NETWORKING AND ADVOCACY

### Views from the Frontline 2013

'Views from the Frontline' is part of a global effort led by the Global Network for Disaster Reduction (GNDR). Its aim is to carry out a reality check to support the effective implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). It aims to measure the progress at the local level across developing regions. In India, 16 key members of the Alliance for Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (AADRR) – of which SEEDS is the Secretariat carried out 540 surveys across 40 districts. In addition, discussion and consultation were undertaken in the form of 4 sub-national workshops.

The most significant finding was the need to recognise and address everyday disasters. The number of people killed, injured and impoverished by these small and medium disasters is larger than that of the huge ones. Yet, these underlying risk factors are generally not given much attention, putting a massive constraint on their ability to act effectively.

# Asian Disaster Reduction & Response Network

SEEDS is an active member of the Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN). This year, ADRRN members took a leading role in the 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction. Recognised as one of Asia's most important civil society networks, members led a technical session on 'strengthening local risk governance and partnerships'; and pushed to highlight the importance of everyday disasters in the conference outcome (a key finding from community resilience surveys carried out across nine Asian countries). Advocacy on climate change adaptation in coastal areas through their 'Safe Coasts, safe communities' campaign also continued.



## **OUR PARTNERS**

Alliance for Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction (AADRR) Asian Disaster Reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) BHEL CARE Today CDKN **CENDEP** at Oxford Brookes University Change Co. Ltd. Christian Aid Cordaid Dan Church Aid European Commission Humanitarian Aid Department (ECHO) Global Network for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) Kalvi Kendra Kyoto University **MERCY Malaysia** National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) **Owner Driven Reconstruction Collaborative (ODRC)** Plan India Relief Development and You (RDY) Rural Volunteer Centre (RVC) Save the Children START UNICEF

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The various activities carried out by us are made possible through the support of individuals and organisations. We gratefully acknowledge the financial, material, moral and technical support of the following partners and all our individual donors.

## **BALANCE SHEET**

#### SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (Registered under the Societies Registration Act. 1860, Delhi)

#### BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2013

Particulars	Schedule	As at March 31,	
		2013	201
SOURCES OF FUNDS			
Funds	1 2	30,983,657	31,241,424
Secured Loans	2	234,491	367,733
TOTAL		31,218,148	31,609,157
APPLICATION OF FUNDS			
Fixed Assets	3		
Gross Block		8,483,798	8,336,351
Less : Depreciation		5,717,067	5,453,255
vet Block		2,766,731	2,883,095
Investments	4	226,000	1,726,000
Current Assets, Loans & Advances			
Cash and Bank Balances	5	27,434,682	25,960,660
Other Current Assets	6	1,156,555	1,412,444
Loans and Advances	7	329,971	18,594
		28,921,208	27,391,698
Less: Current Liabilities & Provisions	8		
Expenses Payable		28,942	38,524
Other Liabilities		666,849	353,112
Net Current Assets		28,225,417	27,000,062
TOTAL		31,218,148	31,609,157
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes	11		

Note: The Schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Balance Sheet

As per our report of even date For Rakesh B. Lal & Co. Chartered Accountants Firm Bergn. No: 001884N

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Partner Membership No.: 082412

New Delhi July 29, 2013 For SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

Manu Gupta Vice President



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#### SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (Registered under the Societies Registration Act. 1860, Delhi)

#### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2013

Particulars	Schedule -	For the year ended March 31,	
		2012-13	2011-12
A. INCOME			
Grants & Donations Received Interest & Other Income	9	43,137,780 2,273,241	37,627,914 2,087,977
		45,411,020	39,715,891
LEXPENDITURE			
Jetail of Expenditure	10	45,788,788	46,084,575
ess:Expenses transferred to Specific Funds	10000	1,466,943 44,321,845	3,531,817 42,552,758
		44,321,043	46,336,130
Unspent / (Overspent) during the year transferred to	General Fund	1,089,175	(2,836,867)
Significant Accounting Policies and Notes	11		

Note: The Schedules referred to above form an integral part of the Income and Expenditure Account

As per our report of even date For Rakesh B. Lal & Co.

Chartened Arequistants Firm Repr. No. 60,1884N

Rajac Robert Lat Partner Membership No.: 082412

New Delhi July 29, 2013 For SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT AND ECOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY

SEEDS ¢ Anshu Sharma Manu Gunta

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Manu Gunta Vice President

Anshu Sharma Secretary 5 ni



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